



Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place

Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	12 January 2021
Subject:	Historic Places Team Strategy

Summary:

This report will set out the need for a first draft of a strategy for the Historic Places Team. This sets out the way in which the team, within Planning Services, ensures the County Council encourages the residents of Lincolnshire to appreciate and care for their historic environment. As the report says, it is the buildings, landscapes and stories of our past which make Lincolnshire what it is. They are what gives Lincolnshire its character and its residents a sense of place and a sense of belonging. We shall work hard to ensure the legacy we inherited is passed down to future generations in the best possible condition and is managed sustainably for the long term benefit of all for generations to come.

Actions Required:

1. That the Committee provides comments on the content of the Strategy (Appendix A to this report).
2. That the Historic Places Manager be tasked with considering the Committee's thoughts and ideas, and incorporating them into a final draft.
3. That a final draft be brought to this Committee on 13 July 2021, with a view to it being implemented soon thereafter.

1. Background

The Historic Places Team moved to Planning Services in 2019 following a Directorate review. The team runs the county's Historic Environment Record and uses the information held to promote the sustainable management of the historic environment. The Team provides advice on archaeology and the historic environment to local planning authorities and recovers the cost of providing this service.

In order to promote a wider understanding of the county's rich heritage the team runs a number of projects and is currently being funded by Historic England to produce an Extensive Urban Survey – a study of the thirty most historic towns in the historic county of Lincolnshire. The team also hosts the county's Finds Liaison Officer, a post part-funded by the British Museum as part of the national Portable Antiquities Scheme.

In the context of an ever-increasing emphasis being placed on the role heritage can play in the economy, in health and well-being, and in education, it was considered essential to set out the key objectives the team will work to. This provides the opportunity to align the team's objectives with the County Council's Corporate Plan and to respond to national policy contexts.

2. Conclusion

The Historic Places Team will adopt the strategy after the following steps:

- The Historic Places Team wants to hear the views of the Committee and will complete drafting of the strategy following the meeting's discussion of this first draft.
- We want the Committee to give its views on consulting with key stakeholders.
- We shall present a final draft of this Strategy to the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee on 13 July 2021, for immediate implementation upon full endorsement.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

The Historic Places Team works with a large number of partners and provide a service to district councils, the costs of which are recovered in full. In order to inform the residents of the county about their heritage we will need to use all sorts of media including social media and other online channels.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Historic Places Lincolnshire - Our Heritage, Our Future - A Strategy for Lincolnshire's Historic Environment, 2021-2026

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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Historic Places Lincolnshire

Our heritage, our future

A strategy for Lincolnshire's historic environment

2021-2026

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Foreword

Lincolnshire's historic environment isn't about places it's about the people that shaped them and the people who live here today. Lincolnshire faces many challenges in managing its environment to ensure it hands it on in the best possible condition to our children.

To be completed

Signed by Councillor Eddy Poll, Executive Councillor for Commercial and Environmental Management, Lincolnshire County Council

Introduction

England's historic environment is the result of many centuries of human activity as our ancestors have shaped the environment in which they live. In Lincolnshire, the quality and diversity of our historic environment is a key characteristic of the county and a major driver of economic growth as well as giving the county its sense of place.

Heritage is a unique resource which can help shape places people value and therefore want to live, work and invest in, places where quality of life goes hand in hand with aspiration. It is a resource that needs careful management. Inappropriate decisions can lead to long term harm to or the loss of valuable heritage assets. Effective promotion of the county's historic environment supports regeneration, delivering growth and economic diversification. Strengthening a distinctive sense of place can promote a more inclusive sense of ownership in the local environment and can foster its good stewardship. In turn, our historic environment, alongside positive physical transformation of neighbourhoods and improved living standards can help to reduce crime and increase mental wellbeing. Our heritage is a source of great potential and we shall seek to realise this for the benefit of the people of Lincolnshire, its businesses and all who visit the county.

Vision

Strategy Vision

Heritage in changing world – cherished, conserved and enjoyed

'The Lincolnshire County Council Historic Places Team will act as a steward of the county's historic environment, actively facilitating sustainable development while ensuring that it is sensitive towards the inherited landscape and character of the county. In so doing, we shall promote growth that is sustainable, inclusive and respectful of Lincolnshire's past. The historic environment gives the places of the county their local distinctiveness and we shall ensure this legacy is handed on to future generations. We shall work collaboratively to produce better outcomes for the people of Lincolnshire.'

Objectives

Lincolnshire County Council will fulfil its vision for the county's rich and diverse historic environment by:

- Providing a key strategic overview for all concerned in managing the wealth of heritage resources across Lincolnshire.
- Promoting the long term and sustainable management of the sites, monuments and landscapes which form our historic environment.

- Promoting community participation in the management and promotion of the local heritage resource.
- Promoting a greater understanding of the valuable role the heritage can play in education both in teaching and learning along with research into the county's illustrious past.
- Developing a wider understanding of the role our heritage can play in achieving a greater prosperity for the people who live and work in Lincolnshire.
- Promoting a greater understanding of the international links with Lincolnshire that have both shaped the county and its people but also influenced global events.
- Fostering a greater role for the historic environment in the promotion of Lincolnshire as a county with a strong sense of place and an offering to the visitor from both within and beyond the UK.
- Developing strong, county-wide partnerships between all those who care for aspects of Lincolnshire's heritage.
- Seeking funding from national and other organisations to ensure there is investment in heritage assets and projects which promote our historic environment.
- Ensuring the heritage plays its part in promoting the county of Lincolnshire as a destination for visitors.
- Being responsive to change and able to take opportunities to the benefit of the historic environment when such opportunities arise.
- Appointing a Heritage Champion to provide a strong, strategic lead for the county's historic environment.

These objectives will be met by implementing the Action Plan within this strategy.

Executive Summary

This strategy sets out how Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), through the work of its Historic Places Team and Planning Services, will work with partners to manage change in the county's historic environment. We shall work to ensure our vision for the county's rich historic environment is realised through developing strong partnerships and by working with local people.

- Lincolnshire has an historic environment which contains a rich resource of sites, buildings and landscapes from every period of our past, many of which are of national and international significance.
- Lincolnshire County Council has a role and duty to act as a steward, protecting this heritage for future generations to enjoy. In order to achieve this, we shall take a strategic approach, working with partners (e.g. Historic England, the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), district councils, etc) to ensure our heritage assets are protected and also contribute fully to the economic development of the county.
- Our historic environment has the potential to contribute to the visitor economy of the county. Heritage tourism contributes more to the UK economy than the advertising, film or car industries combined.
- Our historic environment has the potential to provide economic growth that is environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive. A vibrant cultural offer associated with heritage and tourism is vital to resolving one of Lincolnshire's most intractable economic challenges – attracting and retaining a highly skilled workforce.
- The Historic Places Team will position itself at the heart of Lincolnshire County Council's role in shaping better places for Lincolnshire and providing opportunities for local communities to engage with the stories and places of their past.

Key Goals for the Service

This strategy is intended to be a framework for service delivery. As such, we have devised three core objectives, under which specific objectives will sit. They are:

- Encouraging people to value and care for our shared heritage and the historic environment.
- Promoting heritage through education and awareness.
- Encouraging people to see heritage as an engine for change in both the economy and society.

Lincolnshire County Council's Corporate Plan

Our vision: working for a better future

In addition the County Council states:

Our ambitions go far beyond what we can deliver on our own, so you will find detailed here how we will work with public and private organisations to bring greater and lasting benefits to our county.

The Corporate Plan underpins our 'One Council' approach, which ensures all services are working towards shared goals and will help different areas of the council work together more effectively.

In 2019/20, the total cost of services Lincolnshire County Council provides will amount to £1,303m, inclusive of schools. The current capital programme encompasses planned spend of £119m in 2019/20 and a further £146m in future years.

We want to be a council that continues to offer our residents the services they need and the lifestyle they deserve, but that also shows strong leadership and speaks up proudly for Lincolnshire.

We are identifying key priorities for this council and for Lincolnshire. We are determined that in the coming years people and communities will have:

- High aspirations
- The opportunity to enjoy life to the full
- Thriving environments
- Good-value council services

Our historic environment

Lincolnshire is the fourth largest county in England, stretching from the bustling riverside town of Gainsborough in the northwest to picturesque Stamford in the south. People have inhabited Lincolnshire for over 500,000 years and, as a consequence, we have inherited a rich landscape containing heritage sites from across the millennia. Despite the intensive ways in which the land has been used over many centuries, particularly for arable farming, Lincolnshire's heritage is outstanding in both its extent and the quality of what survives. The landscape is dotted with prehistoric burial mounds, historic towns, great estates, the remains of medieval villages long since abandoned and even the remains of airfields from our role as Bomber County in World War Two.

Evidence of the long history

Lincolnshire has a long history of antiquarian interest in the relics of its past, notably from people like William Stukeley, born in Holbeach in 1687, and Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820). This antiquarian interest means many excavations and investigations have taken place across the county. Much of this work has either been based on random discoveries or the result of development. Systematic survey and analysis is the best way to achieve a more rigorous collection of data upon which to make long term management decisions. With this in mind, Lincolnshire County Council has undertaken and supported a number of projects often in collaboration with partners.

Historic Landscape Characterisation

The landscape is dotted with sites, monuments and places of historic significance. For a long time the land in between was often neglected by researchers but Historic England has developed over a number of years a programme of characterisation projects to encourage the creation of a broader perspective of the landscape of England. The county of Lincolnshire's historic landscape was studied and a report produced in 2011 summarised the findings of the project.

Historic farmsteads

In 2015 Historic England published guidance on historic farmsteads in Lincolnshire. This report followed research undertaken across the historic county to understand the resource of historic farmsteads across the county as part of a national characterisation programme.

National Mapping Programme

A key resource for archaeology is the evidence we can glean from aerial photographs. Many researchers have flown the county taking aerial photographs for reasons of archaeological prospection. In recognition of the fact that many of these photographs have not been accurately transcribed and interpreted Historic England funded what it called the National Mapping Programme. Part of the county of Lincolnshire was studied although a significant part of the south of the county remains to be done.

Extensive Urban Survey

In 2018 Lincolnshire County Council successfully obtained funding from Historic England to undertake a survey of thirty historic towns across the historic county of Lincolnshire. This project will provide a historical mapping and narrative for each town. The information will be provided to local planning authorities and other partners to provide an evidence base for planning and investment decision making. The project also has its own website: www.lincsabout.town.

Excavations in City of Lincoln

In the days of post-war redevelopment the damage done to town and city centres led to large-scale building programmes. People began to realise that archaeological sites were being put at risk. This led to a number of major programmes of archaeological work. The city of Lincoln was subject to a major campaign of archaeological excavations from the late 1960s. In the 1990s these were brought to publication with a series of academic publications. In response to this huge resource of archaeological information, Historic England funded a series of initiatives to allow for better management of this rich resource including the Urban Archaeology Database and LARA, the Lincoln Archaeological Research Assessment. These led to the development of the Heritage Connect website: <http://www.heritageconnectlincoln.com/>

The Planning System

In 1990 at a conference in Lincoln the then government launched Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning. This established the desirability of preserving archaeological remains as a material consideration in the planning process. Central to good decision making about archaeological remains was the need for local plan policies to reflect the desirability of preserving archaeological remains potentially of national importance. This was based on acknowledgement that only a small fraction of important archaeological sites were legally protected by scheduling as ancient monuments.

In the past thirty years many changes have been brought about by successive governments but the preservation of significant archaeological remains is still fundamental to national planning policy (currently stated in the National Planning Policy Framework, 2019).

Build Beautiful Agenda

The character of place and the desire to raise the quality of design is also something that various governments have tried to address. In January 2020 the government published the report of the Build Better, Build Beautiful Commission called *Living With Beauty: promoting health, well-being and sustainable growth*. The objective is to find ways of promoting high quality design for new homes and neighbourhoods.

This comes at a time when the changing nature of retail, in particular as more shopping is done online, is bringing about great change to our historic town and city centres. The government has launched a number of initiatives to try and combat

these threats and many Lincolnshire towns are benefitting from the funding available to try and address economic and social decline in the main urban centres.

Post-Covid recovery

The year 2020 was dominated by the global pandemic brought about by the coronavirus (Covid-19). The subsequent lockdown of parts of the UK economy in order to reduce transmission of the virus has had a huge impact on the viability of many businesses and these impacts may well add to the changes in our town centres particularly if one of the long term outcomes is a decline in the reliance on office working.

The Resource

Lincolnshire's historic environment is a rich resource. There are 8,095 listed buildings in the county and 536 scheduled monuments. Not only that but there are important historic landscapes too, including 193 conservation areas and 28 registered historic parks and gardens. Stamford town centre was the first conservation area designated in England. Lincolnshire is famed for its windmills and contains the tallest windmill in the country, at Moulton, near Spalding, and the only eight-sailed windmill, at Heckington.

Our heritage is not just about places. It is about the people that occupied these places and the impact they had on our county. People leave intangible traces in the way they live their life. Great thinkers like Sir Isaac Newton, Sir Joseph Banks, Alfred Lord Tennyson, George Boole and Margaret Thatcher have left their mark far beyond the county's boundaries. Lincolnshire has contributed to international history too, be it with the contribution it made to the first European settlers of North America or the mapping of the globe by early explorers like Matthew Flinders, Sir John Franklin and George Bass.

It is the traces of these lives and so many more which have shaped the county and left the remains for which we are temporary custodians.

The Historic Places Team

Set within LCC's Planning Services, the Historic Places Team consists of archaeologists and heritage professionals providing advice on the management of the county's heritage and to ensure public awareness of it. The team works with a number of partners from within and beyond the heritage sector, seeking funding where it can for projects that will enhance our knowledge of the county's historic environment and our ability to manage it.

Working in Partnership – Relationship of this Strategy to others

The Historic Places Team works with many partners in order to achieve the objectives set out below. We have partners within LCC, especially our colleagues in Cultural Services, Economic Development and Highways and Planning. We also have numerous external partners, many of whom have their own strategic plans and stated objectives. This strategy is written within the context of these.

Why we need a strategy

Below we set out areas where the historic environment and heritage of Lincolnshire can contribute to the life of the people who live in or visit Lincolnshire. We believe a strategy is needed to address the risks our heritage faces in a rapidly changing world. We set out ways in which we hope to ensure our heritage is better cared for so that by the end of the five years covered by this strategy our historic environment will be a better condition.

There is always a risk that heritage is seen as something which is nice to have rather than being seen as something which is of intrinsic value which should be treated as an essential component of people's lives. This section sets out the context in which heritage has to operate in the county, the positive reasons why we need a strategy as well as the threats we face in ensuring it is properly managed.

This strategy seeks to release the potential of Lincolnshire's heritage to contribute its fullest potential for its people and places. It is our aspiration that this strategy will seek to enable this potential to be developed in a shared and co-operative approach. The purpose of this strategy is to provide a framework and context for how we should best care for and prioritise those assets most at risk or in need of urgent focus, and promote heritage in the county.

Heritage assets are vulnerable and once harmed or lost can never adequately be replaced. Too often we look back in regret at the heritage that has been destroyed in the past; we do not want future generations to do likewise and find fault with the approach we took to handing on our legacy. In that context this strategy is both a call to action and a reminder that everyone has a responsibility for preserving our shared heritage.

Lincolnshire faces a great deal of change. Population growth brings with it a need for improved infrastructure, housing, schools and other services crucial to the economic development of the county. However, the county's heritage is strong, diverse and full of character, and should be core to the offer the county can make to residents, businesses and visitors alike.

The economic impact of heritage can be considerable. It can make a fundamental difference to how people feel and whether they want to live, work in and visit the county. Heritage is a key contributor to making a place attractive making a particular place appealing. Research in recent years has shown that heritage is a driver of prosperity, especially economic growth and employment.

The wellbeing impact of heritage is also considerable: engagement with heritage changes people's lives. Appreciation of and engagement with heritage helps people to understand the world around them – it gives them pride in their surroundings and a 'sense of place'. A shared sense of place between organisations, individuals, heritage/cultural businesses and groups supports community identity, cohesion and health and wellbeing. Research by Historic England has clearly demonstrated that visiting a heritage site improves personal wellbeing.

In developing this strategy Lincolnshire County Council has been aware of the context in which it sits. Many of the partners we work with have their own strategies and policies which influence the work we do.

The system for planning in England is established through law but is guided by the principles set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF establishes the rules by which heritage assets, whether designated or not, should be managed by the planning system clearly establishing that the government believes that development which harms or destroys the significance of a heritage asset does not fall within the definition of sustainable.

The statutory advisor to the government on the historic environment is Historic England. As well as advising the Secretary of State on the listing of heritage assets of national importance they also have a statutory function to advise on consents for works to such assets. Historic England also provides guidance on best practice within the historic environment on matters as diverse as archaeological techniques to practical conservation.

The guidance set by the NPPF is supported by Advice Notes drawn up by Historic England. These give more specific advice on what constitutes best practice within the historic environment.

Of particular importance for decision making by local planning authorities is the local plan. Each is required by law to set out the local approach to planning policy and how it will be implemented. Each local plan will set out policies for the historic environment and will set out to avoid development which would adversely affect heritage assets. There is a strong presumption in favour of development.

In 2019 LCC commissioned a piece of research which demonstrated the value which is attached to our historic environment and heritage. This demonstrated that people value its ability to provide a place of entertainment and learning but also value the way in which the heritage around them provides them with an environment which they cherish and gives them a sense of place.

Theme 1 - Valuing and Caring

Lincolnshire County Council believes that we should hand down to future generations our heritage wherever possible in a better condition than we received it. We can only achieve this by encouraging people to appreciate their heritage.

The 'Heritage Cycle' set out below demonstrates how by raising awareness of the importance of our historic environment we can encourage better guardianship of heritage assets because people value them more when they understand more about them

Heritage cycle (c. English Heritage, 2003)



Managing the Historic Environment Record

The main repository of information about Lincolnshire's historic environment is the Historic Environment Record managed and promoted by Lincolnshire County Council. The National Planning Policy Framework (2019) requires local authorities to 'maintain or have access to a historic environment record' to ensure the proper management of heritage assets through the planning system.

The Historic Environment Record (HER) is a digital and archival record of all known archaeology, listed buildings and historic sites of interest (including wrecks and battlefields) in Lincolnshire. The HER is publically accessible to all, making it a valuable resource for students and the general public alike. The NPPF requires that the HER is kept up-to-date so the evidence within it can be used to assess the significance of heritage assets which may be affected by development and it should contribute to the prediction of where previously unidentified heritage assets may be present. The Lincolnshire HER has a national reputation as one of the most accurate and comprehensive such records in the country. We wish to further develop this resource in order to make sure that it embraces new technology, continues to fulfil its

role within the local execution of the NPPF and reaches new audiences within the research community and the general public at large.

Managing Historic Sites through Planning

Lincolnshire County Council provides advice to local authorities as well as its own planning function on the impact of development upon the historic environment, particularly archaeological remains.

- Provide pre-application archaeological advice to planners, developers, consultants and others including assisting in the design and monitoring of advance fieldwork, reviewing report and so on.
- Provide direct advice to local authorities on planning applications for archaeology in line with our contract.
- Provide strategic advice to Lincolnshire County Council and where requested to district council planning authorities.
- Deliver planning advice to Lincolnshire County Council.
- Offer advice to Lincolnshire County Council's teams on our own developments and where appropriate liaise with WSP over the management of the archaeological work on these.
- Overseeing the discharge of planning requirements for archaeology through agreeing schemes of archaeological works, monitoring their implementation and standards as well as reviewing the results of the works and reporting.
- Where required, provide expert advice in planning appeals.

The prudent and well-informed management of our archaeological heritage is dependent upon the expert advice available to local authorities when making planning decisions.

Advice on the management of the historic built environment is provided by Conservation Officers based in each district council. The Historic Places Team works closely with them and attends the quarterly meetings of the Lincolnshire Conservation Officers Group.

Non-planning

There are developments of changes which can be made within the towns and countryside of England which do not require planning permission. LCC will work with bodies who benefit from permitted development rights or who have their works approved by mechanisms other than through the local planning authority. These include the statutory undertakers (providing water, gas, electricity and tele-communications), Network Rail, the Environment Agency, the internal drainage boards and others.

Advising on Agri-Environment Proposal

It has long been recognised that one of the greatest impacts upon the historic environment, especially archaeological sites, can be made by agricultural practices. In response the DEFRA-backed Countryside Stewardship has established ways in which it can encourage good management of the environment, natural and historic, to benefit this and future generations by compensating land owners and farmers for implementing less harmful management options.

Working with Partners to Improve our Understanding of the Resource

Our knowledge of the historic environment does not and should not remain static. New discoveries are being made all the time. It is a condition of planning permission that information gained in the course of development feeds into the HER thereby keeping our knowledge up-to-date. We encourage those undertaking research within the historic environment to provide us with the results of their endeavours. We can share this information with the local community.

Information comes in many forms – old photos, old maps, historic research of ancient documents, archaeological research. We value it all as it all contributes to an improved understanding of how the places of Lincolnshire have come to be how they are today.

Making Connections within our Environment

The historic environment is one element of our landscape. It cannot be managed in isolation. In managing historic buildings, landscapes and sites we will find others may have an interest in a given place. Of particular importance is to manage the natural environment and valuable habitats in such a way that wildlife and heritage can thrive alongside one another. We will work with partners to ensure pragmatic solutions to management challenges are found which will result in better management for the benefit of all interests.

Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC)

The Church of England has a general exemption from the secular planning law. It has its own system for managing its heritage assets. The Historic Places Team has a place on the DAC and will advise the Lincoln Diocese on the appropriate ways of managing its rich heritage resource.

Heritage Crime

There are many threats to the heritage and the Historic Places Team works with partners to ensure criminal activity which puts our heritage at risk is minimised or, if it does occur, is investigated. We attend the Rural Community Safety Multi-Agency Gold Group coordinated by Lincolnshire Police. While most people engage with our heritage in a respectful way some seek to make profit from it and this can range from the theft of lead from church roofs to the illicit removal of artefacts from private land. We will work with partners to reduce the risk to our shared heritage.

Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook

In the interest of ensuring that where archaeological work is required it is done so to the best possible standard, LCC maintains a handbook to provide guidance on the way in which excavations and other forms of archaeological work should be undertaken. This handbook draws upon nationally accepted standards drawn up by bodies like Historic England, the Museums Association and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

We will ensure this valuable document remains up-to-date and reflects, as well as possible, the best practice of the time.

Theme 2 - Promoting Heritage through Education and Awareness

Knowledge of our past does not stand still. New discoveries are being made all the time. All these discoveries add to our narrative of the past of the county and often can contribute to the national story. We will work with all partners in the county and beyond to ensure research into the county's past continues and its results are made available to as wide an audience as possible.

Education

Research

We will ensure that information gained about the historic environment of Lincolnshire is shared to as wide an audience as possible. We will encourage others to research the archaeology and history of the county and will ensure we work with partners, particularly the universities, to ensure the wealth of resources in Lincolnshire are studied by suitably qualified researchers.

Teaching and learning

The National Curriculum requires young people to learn about their local environment and their local history. We will work with providers to ensure that they have the opportunity to use resources to give children an opportunity to interact with their local historic sites.

Historic England

Research into the management of and conservation of heritage assets is led by the government's agency for the historic environment, Historic England. We will work with the officers of Historic England to ensure that Lincolnshire receives funding for projects within the county which can contribute to the nation's story.

East Midlands Historic Environment Research Frameworks

In recognition of the important contribution the information gained through development-funded archaeological interventions, Historic England has supported the creation of regional research strategies. Lincolnshire County Council works with Historic England and regional partners to promote these research frameworks, enhancing our understanding of the development of Lincolnshire and the wider region.

Portable Antiquities Scheme

Metal detecting is a highly popular hobby in the UK. We are enthusiastic participants in the Portable Antiquities Scheme which is run nationally by the British Museum to promote the reporting of finds. Lincolnshire is one of the most popular counties in the country for the hobby and it has led to remarkable discoveries coming to light. We will ensure our Finds Liaison Officer has the necessary resources to record all the finds that come to light and ensure that the requirements of the Treasure Act are fully complied with, including working with the Lincolnshire Coroner. Where appropriate we will encourage finders to deposit their material in a local museum, preferably with Lincolnshire County Council's Heritage Service.

Universities

Lincolnshire benefits from hosting two universities in Lincoln and each has programmes which interact with the historic environment. We will work with staff and students to ensure they can research and benefit from Lincolnshire's wealth of heritage resources. This will generate a new understanding of heritage sites and will lead to greater community engagement with the historic environment. Universities can access funds for research and we will encourage them to undertake as much research as possible on their doorstep, here in Lincolnshire.

Local Societies

Lincolnshire plays host to the country's oldest learned society outside London, the Spalding Gentlemen's Society. The Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology is a thriving county society which publishes the county's academic journal, Lincolnshire for History and Archaeology. There are many smaller societies and local groups promoting heritage and the study of local history across the county. These all offer a valuable way of disseminating information about the county's heritage to local communities. We will support them wherever we can and will participate in events they organise.

Community Projects

Working with local communities can bring rewards for us but more importantly for the local people. We can encourage people to understand their heritage better. In turn, this can encourage people to take responsibility for their local environment because they develop a sense of pride in their locality.

Work with Colleagues in Heritage Services

Other teams across Lincolnshire County Council provide ways of engaging with people and their heritage. This is particularly true of Heritage Services who run the county council's heritage attractions. These provide venues for engagement with artefacts and stories of the county's rich past. We encourage professional archaeologists to ensure their finds add to this story by depositing their archives with the Heritage Service.

Theme 3 - Heritage as an Engine for Change – Economy and Society

The Historic Environment can be a powerful engine for both economic growth and the physical transformation of the living environment. In its research published in Heritage Counts in 2019, Historic England showed that the heritage sector provides a Gross Value Added of £31 billion per annum and supports 464,000 jobs. In their report they referred to 'Heritage and the economics of uniqueness' and this is supported by LCC's enthusiasm for the creation of places with local distinctiveness.

Lincolnshire County Council is ambitious for both our communities and our local economy and we believe that the historic environment has a vital role to play in the social, economic and cultural development of the county. The ways in which this can be achieved simultaneously embraces both tangible remains of our heritage like its buildings, monuments and museums but also the intangible heritage of events and cultural activities and the special character of its places. The positive outcomes which result from careful and dynamic stewardship of our historic environment are clear: reduced crime, increased mental wellbeing, economic growth, positive physical transformation of local neighbourhoods and improved living standards. Our heritage is a source of great potential and as a service, we will seek to unlock and realise this for the benefit of the people of Lincolnshire.

The quality of the environment makes a strong contribution to an individual's sense of place and their quality of life.

Tourism

The Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership has six priority areas for growth and one of these is the visitor economy. In its strategy it states,

Home to the Red Arrows and including Lincoln Castle and Cathedral, the Lincolnshire Wolds and the vibrant coastal resorts of Cleethorpes, Mablethorpe and Skegness – the UK's fourth most popular holiday resort – the area has a rich heritage, cultural and leisure offer.

The historic environment contributes a great deal to the visitor economy. Our understanding of places can contribute to the stories we can tell to visitors and residents alike. There are many visitor attractions across the county which tell a story of history and contribute to the tourism offer of the county.

The Green Masterplan

Lincolnshire County Council is developing a Green Masterplan. This will set out how Lincolnshire will contribute to meeting the UK's climate objectives and reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2050. To reach this goal will require many changes in personal behaviour for the residents of the county. It will also require physical changes which will have the potential to impact the wider environment. We shall work with colleagues and partners to ensure the historic environment can play its part in achieving the goals set out in the Green Masterplan and deliver a safer and more sustainable future for our grandchildren.

Church of England

There is a church in every community in Lincolnshire. Many churches are in crisis as their congregations dwindle and the Parochial Church Council struggles to generate the revenue to support the maintenance of what are often ancient buildings. We will work with the Diocese of Lincoln, particularly through its DAC, to ensure this resource of valuable heritage assets continues to thrive. In some instances this may mean introducing innovative new uses into the buildings and providing wider social and community activities within them.

Social Prescribing

In recent years, as people have come to realise the critical importance of mental well-being, alongside physical well-being, the local environment can play an important part in positively contributing to a person's sense of place and purpose.

Projects

The county council will seek funding for projects which connect people with places. In recent years we have been undertaking the Extensive Urban Survey funded by Historic England as part of their national programme of characterisation projects.

Action Plan - 2021-2026

1. Historic Environment Record

We will commission from Historic England an HER Audit to allow us to benchmark our records and our systems of recording.

Purpose: to allow us to better understand the resource we curate and the ways in which it can be improved.

We will commission the creation of an online portal to our database thereby allowing people from all around the world to access the record of Lincolnshire's historic places.

Purpose: to provide wide community access to the stories the information on Lincolnshire's historic environment can tell.

We will ensure the Lincolnshire HER continues to be a national exemplar in the way it manages and presents information on the historic environment.

Purpose: to ensure we are well-placed to benefit from projects which will further enhance our record and to allow Lincolnshire to play its full part in contributing to the national story of our shared heritage.

2. Extensive Urban Survey (EUS)

We will complete the Extensive Urban Survey which was commenced in 2018 and ensure it contributes fully to the national picture of the characterisation of historic places.

Purpose: to ensure the threats to the market and small towns of Lincolnshire are well understood.

We shall seek further opportunities to utilise the skills developed as part of the EUS project in other projects both within and beyond Lincolnshire.

Purpose: to further enhance our understanding of places in Lincolnshire and to provide a regional lead.

3. Historic Pubs Project

In partnership with many groups and with funding from Historic England, we shall run a project which records the public house across Lincolnshire. We shall start with a pilot project looking at the Heritage Coast area of the county called Inns on the Edge. We are aware the public house is a resource at risk. Even before the Covid-19 pandemic village pubs were facing many economic challenges. They are a key element of many places giving a vibrancy to many rural and isolated communities. Only by better understanding the resource will we be able to better address the challenges faced.

Purpose: to provide us with the tools needed to allow better management of this threatened heritage resource.

4. Social Prescribing

Given the evidence which increasingly demonstrates the value for personal well-being of engaging with historic places and historic artefacts we shall promote the historic environment as a force for good. There is a value to mental well-being of being outdoors and experiencing historic places in their landscape setting. We will work with partners to ensure that the heritage of Lincolnshire plays its part in contributing to improvements in the physical and mental health of the residents of the county.

Purpose: to contribute towards improving the quality of life for the residents of Lincolnshire.

5. Planning Archaeology

We will ensure we provide timely, expert advice to all those who seek to make changes within the local environment which might have an impact on heritage assets.

Purpose: to implement government policy on sustainable development.

We shall update the Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook to ensure all that we work with are aware of how we expect archaeology to be undertaken in the county.

Purpose: to maintain the highest professional standards in a world of developer-funded archaeology.

Not all archaeological impacts result from change which is controlled by the planning systems. Infrastructure projects by statutory undertakers are usually permitted development and are controlled by other means.

Purpose: to ensure major construction projects in Lincolnshire play their part in avoiding unnecessary harm to the heritage of the county.

Land-use change and environmental management can bring impacts within the countryside which can have adverse impacts. The expertise of the team will ensure the transition away from EU funded measures for achieving good management of the countryside brings benefits for the historic environment.

Purpose: to reduce the impact on some of the county's less well understood heritage resources.

6. Local Listing

The government is keen to ensure that heritage assets of less than national value are better represented in the planning process. Powers exist for local authorities to make lists of heritage assets of local value and we shall endeavour to provide a central resource and focus for the county-wide drive for a consistent approach across the historic county of Lincolnshire.

Purpose: to ensure non-designated heritage assets of local value are maintained as features of our local environment.

7. Raising Awareness

We will work with universities to maximise the research undertaken in Lincolnshire on sites, landscapes and the material of the county's past.

Purpose: to provide us with even better information with which to tell Lincolnshire's story.

We will work with the education sector to develop resources suitable for young people and allowing the local historic environment to contribute to the teaching and learning of the county's young people.

Purpose: to raise awareness of the value of our heritage and to encourage greater understanding of how it needs to be cared for.

We will work with partners across the sector to ensure artefacts found across Lincolnshire are recorded and, if appropriate, donated to the Heritage Service.

Purpose: to ensure the full reporting of all historic artefacts so they can contribute to the story of the county.

Where appropriate we will develop projects to better understand sites which are reported to us and engage with local communities to help them develop the skills needed to understand the historic environment.

Purpose: to maximise the potential our heritage has to enthuse and excite people about their local history.

8. Appointment of a Heritage Champion

In line with many local authorities Lincolnshire County Council will appoint a Member with the specific brief to promote our rich historic environment and the many assets it contains.

Purpose: to ensure the Council Tax payers of Lincolnshire are fully aware that their heritage will be cared for and is in safe hands.

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