

Environmental considerations

What is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

Lincolnshire is home to an array of valuable habitats and species, wonderful landscapes and seascapes, and sites of geological, archaeological and heritage interest.

It is vital that these and other important features are protected, and where possible enhanced. To ensure this, a full assessment of the likely effects (both positive and negative) of the Strategy on the population and environment is being carried out (see table overleaf).

This process is referred to as '**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**' which is being undertaken alongside the development of the strategy. This process ensures that we identify environmental considerations and where possible, seek to avoid negative effects and maximise potential benefits.

The key stages of the Strategic Environmental Assessment are:

- **Identifying a baseline:** We looked at features that could be affected, either positively or negatively, by the Strategy, now or in the future. We also consider how the Strategy would affect or be affected by other relevant plans and strategies.
- **Scoping the assessment:** We then identified the 'scope' of the assessment – i.e. features we must consider (In the table below). From this we formed a set of environmental objectives/criteria that we could use to assess the emerging options. The Scoping Consultation Document was prepared as a result and issued to statutory bodies and key stakeholders in September 2016 to seek their views.
- **Influencing option selection:** As the Strategy is being developed, we have considered the range of options proposed using our environmental objectives and criteria. This, together with the consultation feedback, will help us identify the preferred option(s) and the proposed strategy.
- **Assessment of the draft strategy:** We will undertake a final assessment of the draft strategy proposals where we will identify all potential effects, both negative and positive. Where significant negative effects are predicted, we will recommend actions to mitigate and monitor these effects. The results of this assessment will be presented in an Environmental Report to be issued alongside the strategy for public consultation in summer 2018.
- **Final reporting:** We will consider the implications of any feedback received on the Environmental Report plus any changes made to the draft Strategy following the public consultation. We will prepare a document setting out any actions taken in response and any changes required to the assessment.
- **Implementation:** Once the Strategy is approved and implemented, any schemes or works arising will require further detailed assessment. In addition, we will monitor the predicted effects of the strategy, to inform how best to implement the works recommended.



Examples of Environmental Features

Environmental features being considered within the Strategic Environmental Assessment	
Population and local economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population and properties at risk Tourism and recreation, including the beaches Commercial and economic activities
Material assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads and key infrastructure Long term supply of sand and other materials
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature conservation sites – designated and local Marine, coastal and land-based habitats and species Fish and shellfish
Geology and land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earth heritage sites – designated and local Contaminated land Land use
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality, including bathing waters Coastal processes and sediment movement
Air and climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change
Historic environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal heritage and the historic landscape Heritage assets and their setting
Landscape and visual amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape and seascape Views along the coast
Cumulative effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effects in combination with other plans or proposals

