

Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment – Key Sustainability Issues in South Kesteven District

SA/ SEA Topic	Key issue/problem Location	Description	Mitigation
		ENVIRONMENT	
Biodiversity (fauna and flora)	Tree protection in new developments	There is an issue that as landscaping becomes a condition of planning permission that the planting of trees is not protected. If Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) are not implemented at that time then there is no incentive for developers to retain them. Government guidance is to follow up development with a TPO but pressure of resources means that it cannot always be achieved.	Lagoons and areas used for flood alleviation are designated as open spaces, thus increasing the long term opportunity for enhancement of biodiversity.
	Biodiversity Action Plan	SKDC area contains good examples of grassland, woodland, ancient semi natural woodland, limestone areas. As a species, the White Clawed Crayfish is a feature of the River Witham. Some closed graveyards (e.g. on Manthorpe Road in Grantham) are managed for biodiversity which is maintained by SKDC. The church grounds at Long Bennington is managed also as part of the God's Acre project. Adherence to the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan is limited due to very limited budget. It is perceived that this is not a priority. There are no definitions for open countryside and the way it should be developed or worked in the existing local plan.	
	Fragmentation	There has been a reduction in the amount of local authority owned woodlands as 10 years ago it disposed of pockets of land mix of woodland. Other natural areas are maintained but there is limited resource to enhance these sites. Ancient and semi natural woodlands are not included in the existing local plan. Fragmentation is an issue. Around Bourne the redundant railways are valuable with the possibility of badgers, and sand martins using the area.	

Soil	Contaminated Land; South Kesteven District, Noise Pollution; Autumn Park, Alma Park Grantham, Springfield Road, Grantham Development	BVPI – previous assessment of contaminated land Sources of contamination: Railways – oil, fuels, asbestos, metals, coal, ash Heavy engineering and metal sites Noise pollution occurring from transportation – main trunk roads, railways, heavy industry; 24 hr can manufacturing company on Springfield Road Mixed developments would raise more problems – supermarkets loading, delivery times, traffic moving	Inspection target for contaminated land: Use BVPI 216a –determine no. of sites concerned with contaminated land then assess. Targets: In 2005 – 1036 sites (baseline) 2006 – 956 sites predicted 2007 – 866 Aim to bring approx 80-100 sites back into use each year. GIS System – monitors previous land – use Ask for a policy/ strategy to how developers are to deal with contaminated land. Ask for risk assessment – residential development.
Water		No issues were raised relating to water quality	
Climatic factors (including energy use)	Energy and council building stock	In council owned housing there was a tendency to install more insulation than was legally demanded resulting in higher efficiency buildings. New regulations make such measures unnecessary now. Refurbishment schemes include installation of air-conditioning; alternatives are proposed, but resources make this uneconomic. SKDC has no carbon emissions policy and there is no evidence of renewable energy in distinct e.g. solar panels	

Air	Air pollution from traffic; Grantham	Traffic pollution related issue - Wharf Street is an Air Quality Management Area. Anticipated that traffic related targets for air pollution will not be met unless mitigation taken. Air quality is poor in Asda area of St. Augustin Way affecting residential area, gardens present a buffer providing. The main issue is the requirement for traffic management to be designed as a key aspect of new housing schemes – higher density housing causes increased problems in air pollution.	Liaising with Lincolnshire County Council to get sustainable development on traffic management Putting together a policy to reduce pollution Through route for HGVs from St. Augustin Way back up along Wharf Road May add another AQMA outside/near Kings School, Brooks Street currently monitoring NOx Annual Review – targets set by central government. AQMA linked to residential
Material Assets (including waste)	Waste and recycling, SKDC Fly tipping, Littering Rural areas and near town	Recycling targets: 2005 –18% (green waste will achieve this as 260 tonne/wk composted) 2006 – 24% local targets Recycling depends on location: Stamford, Bourne – plastics, cans, textiles, paper, card Grantham – paper only Issues: MRF in south of district – Peterborough closed down, Cleanaway site in Grantham is only for paper, there is an opt-in scheme for green garden waste 10,000 properties do glass in south of district, although participation is poor as collection occurs every 5 weeks (total 30 tonnes) Access to terraced properties for future recycling - serious parking issues in Grantham means that deploying bins is going to be difficult in delivering targets GOPDs in Earlsfield council estate pose a serious problem in terms of waste collection as generally older people find it difficult moving bins. This is an issue in rural areas and in the towns. Wyville Road, Grantham – focus for fly tipping – 100 litter fines were	Recycling is one of the five primary aims; by 2010 every household must have kerbside recycling. EU Landfill directive includes diverting bio-municipal waste away from landfill Need to develop designs/ planning for bin lorries, bin storage Use CCTV technology and publish photos in

		issued over 3 months. 40% of street litter is cigarette related Street Scene – litter enforcement priority	papers. Enforcement staff reports on litter from cars. Staff has empowerment forces. Community support police officers issue litter fines. Litter will always be a problem unless forcefully dealt with.
Cultural assets (including archaeology and heritage)	Heritage and community involvement Conservation of heritage buildings Records of archaeology	There are 2500 listed buildings alone in the area and with buildings that are of local interest, but have no statutory significance, this makes approximately 10,000 in total . There are 46 conservation areas. Stamford as a town with much heritage, is internationally and nationally important. Influences in the district are mainly Danish around the south of the Welland, in Ancaster there are Roman remains. Government have identified the heritage importance of suburbs and although these are a characteristic of some areas in SKDC there are a marginal issue. Heritage and archaeology are important in the SKDC area and there is a need to engage with local people so that history is not lost from future generations. In the 05/06 period there will be no function to relate heritage to the community, which is an issue that impacts on the economic and social development of the area. PPG16 states that archaeological work in the planning framework should use this information to enhance the sense of identity and heritage through tourism and education – difficult to achieve, may achieve some of this through museums but depends on how they are funded. The new Conservation Area in Stamford has no listed buildings within it but there are dwellings that were constructed during times of the Enclosure Act. Typically these were terrace houses built by individuals using local materials. There are approx 300 of these types of houses. There are no written reports on archaeology – but the area consists of remains from most periods: pre-historic to the industrial age, with Danish and Roman influences in the towns, which also have medieval elements.	

	Development	Stamford Hospital is a listed building and there is concern that some proposed activities may conflict with heritage conservation of the site. Loss of archaeology due to development is not a major issue. Archaeology tends to be better preserved in rural areas where there has been little development in the past. Development of a wider area can conflict with existing listed/heritage buildings. Potential conflict with future development and future developments and heritage/ archaeology; i.e. priorities.	In some circumstances development can destroy archaeology but records are made. In large sites it is easier to retain archaeology in open spaces. Use criteria and assessment to recommend to re-design any developments, then conduct further assessment, and give advice to the planning authority about opportunities for preservation in-situ i.e. particular kind of foundations. In the future there are to be single heritage designations, which will devolve to the local level. There is an opportunity to create local employment and upskilling of trades to incorporate traditional techniques. Remedies for imposing satellite dishes have included putting them on poles in the garden, within the groove of roofs, or behind a
	Natural materials	Obtaining natural resources to restore old buildings is an issue due to their lack of availability. For example, some of the houses built in the south of the district were built of limestone and some of ironstone. In the north of the district the houses tend to be of red and buff brick. The main problem is in obtaining the Colley Weston slate traditionally used for roofing. This was mined 5 miles from Stamford and is the main material used in that area. Lack of availability results in greater costs, making it expensive to use. Therefore alternatives have to be used – mainly in non listed buildings. Many unprotected old farm buildings are being stripped of the Colley Weston slates, and being sold commercially. There is an issue over the loss of traditional skills in building restoration and repair.	
	Employment		
	New technology	Satellite dishes and new technologies can be an issue and need listed building consent in conservation areas – where its attached to a wall fronting a road, but finding suitable locations can be an issue. The introduction of renewable energy systems (solar panels etc) can cause issues over retaining character of buildings. In Stamford traffic can be a problem to the conservation of the area as there is the main Oxford/ Market Deeping trunk road. The High Street is a Georgian street, but traffic and weathering are causing deterioration of features (some features made from bath stone) and	

	Transport and erosion	dirt on the outside of the buildings.	parapet.
Landscape	Open Spaces	SKDC is approx 3640 sq miles total area Municipal parks: Grantham – 3 parks ❑ Wyndham ❑ Queen Elisabeth Park ❑ Dysart Stamford- ❑ Recreational Ground Inherited municipal parks are difficult to maintain. SKDC inherit open spaces (sports fields, gardens) from developers and it is difficult to bring these up to standard and maintain (grass cutting) as it is not seen as a high priority. There is blanket standard for the whole district, which can be difficult to follow and maintain. The government/ developers do not give people what they want instead what they think they need.	S106 agreements – open spaces
		SOCIAL	
Society	Housing	Affordable housing is an issue due to recent trends– In migration from people retiring from the south and professionals working in London along with the expansion of Peterborough has caused house prices to rise as the district is more attractive for commuters. Rail links: London to Grantham – (1 hr 15mins) Nottingham – Grantham Leicester to Grantham The average house price is now £130,000. However locals in the area have incomes which one of the lowest in the country (next to Cornwall). Reduction of housing stock at present – approx. 6500 7/8 years ago housing stock was 8000 – right-to-buy take was big due to quality. Homeless households 270/annum – takes priority therefore can only help others on the waiting list.	S106 – requires all on-site contributions for affordable homes. 31% of new developments have to supply local need. Fordhams Housing Needs Survey 2002 – currently under review – perhaps will change to 35% or even 40%. All remaining homes to meet Decent Homes Standard by 2007. 6500 on waiting list Producing more shared ownership – 4000 on the waiting list 4 years ago, now only 1,700

	Noise Pollution; Autumn Park, Alma Park Grantham, Springfield Road, Grantham Development	More migrant workers – established Chinese community and a small Turkish community. There are more Portuguese families moving to the area and their community needs will be met. Some people are working in factories i.e. Fenland Foods, around Bourne Salad and some working in the fenlands doing fieldwork. Incapacity, learning difficulties – not enough supported accommodation Noise pollution occurring from transportation – main trunk roads, railways, heavy industry; 24 hr can manufacturing company on Springfield Road Mixed developments would raise more noise problems – supermarkets loading, delivery times, traffic moving	More migrant workers – established in communities Policy of prioritising brownfield development above Greenfield, with development in rural areas being focussed upon the sustainable villages, will approve some small scale build on exception sites.
		ECONOMY	
Economy		Night time economy – Licensing Act- pubs apply for license for late opening times. This has not yet come into force, will do in Nov 2005. This can lead to change in development of town centre (local residents) Stamford was the first conservation town in England. Both towns receive tourists during the day and are vibrant at night. Stamford in particular attracts people from the military bases around Oakham	
		INTER-RELATIONSHIPS	
Inter-relationships	Environment and society: Housing and council owned buildings	Working with registered social landlord, 60 homes being developed on Springfield Road, Grantham. Earlsfield: replacing some flats with 2 and 4 bed homes with gardens. The Muir Group Housing Association are building in rainwater collection using S106 contributions. A development on Elsea Park is incorporating badger crossing, badger sett is being integrated	

		Newton Group – need to demolish some buildings but have a license to relocate bats and put bat boxes in trees, as well as in bungalows giving access in gables for bats. Health in SKDC council buildings has no natural ventilation in office buildings. In old people's communal buildings some ventilation measures were implemented which then became policy.	
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