

Guildhall Gainsborough

Lincolnshire DN21 2NA

Tel: 01427 676676 Fax: 01427 675170

AGENDA

This meeting will be recorded and the video archive published on our website

Regulatory Committee

Thursday, 4th December, 2025 on the Rising of Licensing Committee

Council Chamber - The Guildhall

Members:

- Councillor Jim Snee (Chairman)
- Councillor Maureen Palmer (Vice-Chairman)
- Councillor John Barrett
- Councillor Eve Bennett
- Councillor Stephen Bunney
- Councillor Karen Carless
- Councillor Mrs Angela Lawrence
- Councillor Paul Lee
- Councillor Mrs Lesley Rollings
- Councillor Mrs Mandy Snee
- Councillor Trevor Young

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Public Participation**
Up to 15 minutes are allowed for public participation. Participants are restricted to 3 minutes each.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
Members may make declarations of Interest at this point or may make them at any point in the meeting
4. **Minutes of Previous meetings** (PAGES 3 - 6)
To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2025.
5. **Public Reports for approval**
 - i) Contaminated Land Strategy - Review (PAGES 7 - 48)
 - ii) Food, Health and Safety Work Plan - Mid Year Update (PAGES 49 - 54)

Agendas, Reports and Minutes will be provided upon request in the following formats:

Large Clear Print: Braille: Audio: Native Language

Paul Burkinshaw
Head of Paid Service
The Guildhall
Gainsborough
26 November 2025

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Regulatory Committee held in the Council Chamber - The Guildhall on 5 June 2025 commencing at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Jim Snee (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs Mandy Snee (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor John Barrett
Councillor Paul Lee
Councillor Maureen Palmer
Councillor Mrs Diana Rodgers
Councillor Tom Smith

In Attendance:
Andy Gray Housing & Environmental Enforcement Manager
Natalie Smalley Democratic and Civic Officer

1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Regulatory Committee held on 5 December 2024 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.

4 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE

There were no Matters Arising to note.

5 FOOD, HEALTH AND SAFETY WORK PLAN 2025/2026

The Committee gave consideration to a report presented by the Housing & Environmental Enforcement Manager. It was explained that the report was detailed the Food, Health and Safety Work Plan for 2025/2026, as had been done in previous years, information was provided on a six-monthly basis along with a mid-year update. The Manager gave an overview of the structure of the report, as well as summarising its contents.

Attention was drawn to Section 3.1 of the report, it was noted that just under 90% of inspections had been completed for 2024–2025, which exceeded expectations based on the mid-year update from December. A total of 336 inspections had been carried out, representing a significant increase from the previous year. In addition to inspections, various other tasks had been undertaken by the service, including revisits, health and safety intervention visits, and accident investigations.

The Manager outlined future challenges detailed in Section 4.1, which provided a breakdown of premises and the frequency of their required inspections. According to Sections 4.4 and 4.5, an estimated range of between 412 and 441 inspections would need to be completed in 2025–2026, subject to fluctuations due to businesses opening or closing. It was highlighted that the projected inspection target of 441 presented a significant challenge. However, it was stated that with additional resources introduced in October 2024, confidence was expressed that the target could be met, provided those resources remained beyond their temporary period. It was confirmed that an agreement had been reached to extend the temporary contract until October 2026, with efforts ongoing to secure permanent funding for the role. The Manager explained that the additional full-time employee would be capable of completing approximately 120 inspections annually. He continued, adding that evidence indicated that increasing staffing capacity had historically been necessary to meet inspection targets, and the business case for additional resources had been reinforced through previous annual work plans and mid-year updates.

The increase in projected inspections was contextualised as it was noted that a significant number of Category E inspections had been included in the programme, involving premises such as home bakers and home takeaway businesses. The Manager highlighted that with Category E inspections, an alternative enforcement approach was typically used, but due to resource pressures following COVID-19, physical inspections had been delayed. These inspections had now been added to the workload, increasing the total potential figure to 441.

In terms of risk, it was stated that achieving 90% of inspections without additional capacity was uncertain. While the target of 100% was ideal, a realistic benchmark of 90% had been set to allow for variation in progress and delivery. The previous year had achieved nearly 100%, but challenges were anticipated for the current year, notably regarding additional responsibilities placed on Environmental Health Officers impacting their ability to conduct inspections.

According to the Manager, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) had been consulted regarding the Council's inspection plan and assurance measures. Communication from the FSA had indicated satisfaction with the current plan based on the temporary contract running until October 2026. If the temporary position were to be made permanent, further assurances could be provided to the FSA regarding the Council's ability to meet its inspection targets.

Overall, the situation had significantly improved since the last update in December 2024. While challenges remained, a positive outlook on future inspection capacity was expressed. The Chairman Cllr Snee thanked the Officer for his presentation and opened the floor to discussion.

A Member of the Committee emphasised the significance of food safety inspections due to their direct impact on public health and their role in deterring poor business hygiene practises, which was later reiterated by the Manager. Concern was expressed by the

Committee Member that failure to secure an additional staff member could result in a decline in inspection effectiveness.

In response to a question regarding the likelihood of securing a permanent staff member, the Manager stated that whilst guarantees could not be provided, a strong evidentiary trail existed to support the necessity of the role. It was explained that the contingency budget had been utilised for both agency staff and the temporary contract for several years, reinforcing the case for permanent funding. Confidence was expressed that this need was well documented.

Responding to comments regarding the importance and demands of funeral parlour inspections, the Manager discussed the broader scope of environmental health responsibilities. It was noted that Officers qualified in multiple environmental health areas but were primarily focused on food safety. The funeral director audits, previously highlighted in the mid-year update, had presented significant resource challenges. While no new information indicated that these audits would become an annual obligation, expectations were that further guidance would be received within the next 12 months regarding potential regulatory changes. Should new regulations be introduced, they would likely fall under environmental health's jurisdiction, and given Officers' prior experience with this work, securing additional capacity was viewed as essential for maintaining effective service delivery.

A question was raised by a Member of the Committee regarding whether the addition of one staff member would be sufficient, considering potential recruitment difficulties. In response, the Manager stated that Members had been supportive of the request for additional resources. He continued, adding that the budget had already been agreed as part of the pressures information discussed within Prosperous Communities Committee and Corporate Policy and Resources Committee; while specific details of the work plan were not included, there was clear visibility that funding had been allocated to this area.

A Member of the Committee acknowledged the significant improvement in inspection figures compared to previous reports and recognised the efforts of the team. A question was raised regarding the substantial increase in accident investigations, the Manager responded that accident investigations stemmed from Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) reports, which recorded workplace health and safety incidents. Certain premises fell within the Council's jurisdiction, where investigations were required for serious accidents or fatalities. The increase was attributed to a higher number of reportable incidents rather than a specific trend. Investigations were conducted based on risk assessments, and where necessary, warnings and cautions were issued to businesses. Targeted intervention visits complemented this process, allowing proactive monitoring of high-risk premises.

The Committee Member then posed a question regarding food hygiene ratings, with particular attention given to the 1.6% of businesses rated as one-out-of-five. The Manager clarified that detailed explanations of the issues observed during inspection were given to the business owners. Immediate action was required, for example, temporary closure, and follow-up visits were conducted to verify compliance. For businesses consistently failing to meet hygiene standards, formal action, including prosecution, could be pursued. Reinspection procedures allowed businesses to either wait for their next scheduled inspection or pay for an expedited visit within 12 weeks. The Manager noted that ratings

could not immediately return to a five, as a period of compliance stipulated by the FSA framework was required before regaining a higher rating. It was highlighted that most businesses recognised the need for improvement and opted to pay for a revisit to reassess their rating. Appeals could be submitted to the Council, but the majority of businesses accepted their score and took corrective action.

A question was asked by a Committee Member regarding the regulation of mobile food vendors, with concerns raised about their registration. In response, the Manager explained that food businesses register within the local authority where they are based, but they can operate nationwide. Vendors attending events such as the Lincolnshire Show were often registered with different local authorities, meaning their food hygiene ratings were issued by their respective councils. If a vendor was registered within the district, they received routine inspections and complaints were handled accordingly. For vendors not registered within the district, complaints were investigated, and inspectors could act upon findings in the interests of public safety, however, findings would then need to be reported to the appropriate local authority. It was clarified that when complaints were received about businesses registered within the district, inspections were conducted unannounced at the next opportunity. It was assumed that similar protocols were followed when reports were shared with other councils.

A Member of the Committee enquired about the prevalence of food vendors operating regularly within West Lindsey, despite being registered in other areas. The Manager responded, stating that this was not a significant issue for district. It was emphasised that food businesses relied on maintaining high standards to attract customers, consumers were noted to be discerning, choosing not to purchase from vendors that did not meet expected hygiene and safety standards. It was stressed that the existing regulatory framework enabled inspections to be conducted on vendors operating within the area, regardless of their registration location.

Members of the Committee expressed support for the report recommendations, emphasising the importance of ensuring that inspections were effectively conducted. The Vice-Chairman concluded by recognising the significant achievements of the Council in meeting inspection targets despite difficulties experienced mid-year. The importance of securing additional staffing to maintain standards was reiterated.

With no further questions or comments and having been moved and seconded, the Chairman took the vote, and it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

- a) the Food, Health and Safety Work Plan 2025/2026, as detailed in Appendix 1, be approved; and
- b) an update on progress against the plan be brought to Regulatory Committee at its December 2025 meeting.

The meeting concluded at 7.06 pm.

Chairman



Regulatory Committee

**Thursday 4th December
2025**

Subject: Contaminated Land Strategy Review

Report by:

Director – Change Management, ICT and
Regulatory Services

Contact Officer:

Andy Gray, Housing and Environmental
Enforcement Manager
Sarah Gamble, Senior Environmental Health
Practitioner

sarah.gamble@west-lindsey.gov.uk,
andy.gray@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

To provide an updated contaminated land
strategy and seek approval for this.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Elected Members are asked to:

- a) Approve the Contaminated Land Strategy Review 2025 – 2030 as
attached at appendix 1.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

Under Part 2A, Section 78 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, which came into force on the 1st April 2000. The Act introduced a duty for all local authorities to identify and remediate land where contamination is causing an unacceptable risk to human health or the wider environment. The duties were implemented by the Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006 and is supported by Contaminated land Statutory Guidance.

The Government's key objectives driving the contaminated land regime is to

- Identify and remove unacceptable risk to human health and the environment
- Seek to ensure that contaminated land is made suitable for its current use (Part 2A Regulations) and proposed use (planning regime).
- Ensure that the burdens faced by individuals, companies and society as a whole are proportional, manageable and compatible with the principles of suitable development

Financial : FIN/119/25/SSc

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Staffing :

The existing staff do have a level of experience in regard to contaminated land and ongoing work in relation to this is covered within the existing staff resource available.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

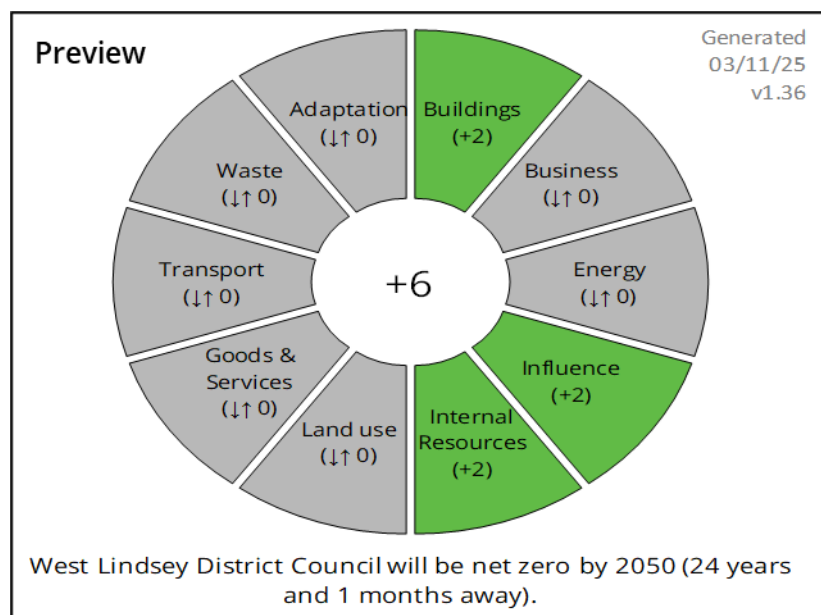
None noted.

Data Protection Implications :

None noted.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :

A CESIA wheel has been completed for the strategy below:



The main benefits to the climate that occur through the review of the strategy are that it enables potential developers to understand where contaminated land is and sets out how the Council will assist with the identification and assessment of it.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations :

None noted.

Health Implications:

Identification and remediation of contaminated land reduce the risks to human health and protects wider environment and pressures on development of greenfield sites.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Risk Assessment :

There is a statutory duty to revise and update as necessary failure to do is contrary to the regulatory obligations. In addition, there is a fundamental link with Planning Services to ensure safe redevelopment of contaminated sites. If a revised strategy is not published, the Authority could face a legal challenge if decisions are based on an outdated strategy or if specific sites are not considered.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In 2019 the Council approved its Contaminated Land Strategy, which now requires reviewing and updating.
- 1.2 In 2014 Defra withdrew the capital grant funding that was made available to Local Authorities for the remediation of contaminated land for orphan sites or where landowners (generally residents) would face undue hardship. This has left the Authority with no capital funding to inspect or remediate sites of this nature. Nonetheless, if contaminated land is identified within the District, then this may present a financial burden to the Local Authority.

2 Obligations

- 2.1 In 2019 it was determined that in order for the Authority to fulfil its obligations it is required to do the following:
- Complete the prioritisation of the Potential Contaminated Land Sites (PCLS) within the District;
 - Establish an information management system for the digital storage of information related to the PCLS;
 - Encourage, where appropriate, the regeneration and redevelopment of brownfield sites and known contaminated sites;
 - Raise awareness of land contamination issues amongst landowners, conveyancing solicitors and potential polluters and to encourage a willingness to undertake voluntary remediation.

3 Progress

- 3.1 The Strategy Review in 2019 established priorities over the next five years [2019-2024] for Housing and Environmental Enforcement, namely:
- Prioritisation of PCLS within the district.
 - Establish an information management system for the digital storage of information relating to PCLS.
 - Encouraging where appropriate the regeneration and redevelopment of brownfield and contaminated sites; and
 - Raising awareness of land contamination issues amongst likely affected landowners, conveyancing solicitors and potential polluters and to encourage a willingness to undertake voluntary remediation.
- 3.2 West Lindsey District Council has completed its prioritisation of PCLS within the district and 1,128 sites have been identified as being potentially contaminated land and requiring further consideration and, possibly detailed inspection.
- 3.3 The Council have also established an information management system for the digital storage of information relating to PCLS which is updated as new information comes to light. Whilst all these sites have been

identified as having the potential to be contaminated, it is important to note that this does not necessarily mean that they are all contaminated land or that they are listed on the public register. Many of these sites are likely to be suitable for their current use and detailed inspection would have to be undertaken first to determine whether a site meets the Part 2A statutory definition of contaminated land.

3.4 The following major developments in the district have remediated significant contamination issues during the redevelopment works:

- Redevelopment of Gainsborough Gasworks into residential apartments.
- Redevelopment of Gainsborough Steel Works into residential housing.
- Redevelopment of The Old Marshall Factory Site into retail/office space.
- Redevelopment of the Garage into a food retail outlet

3.5 In addition to these major sites many smaller sites with contamination issues have been suitably redeveloped and brought back into beneficial use with appropriate regulation in the same manner to ensure that the end users of the sites are not at risk from contamination.

4 Future Priorities

4.1 Section 9 of appendix 1 sets out the priorities for the Council from 2025 to 2030 and these are as follows:

- To continue to update new site information on a public register stored as part of the corporate geographical information system (GIS), showing the sites identified under Part 2A of the EPA; and
- Encouraging, where appropriate, the regeneration and redevelopment of brownfield and contaminated sites through the planning process.
- Offer advice to landowners, developers and the wider public relating to land contamination issues

4.2 The above priorities can be delivered within the Council's existing resources and will be reviewed in line with the 5 year time period for this. A reviewed strategy will be presented for consideration in 2030.

5 Consultation

5.1 No significant changes have been made to the strategy that require the Council to consult other parties. Once approved, a final version of the strategy will be sent to the Environment Agency.

END



CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1990 – PART 2A

Draft Version: September 2025

Report Details

Report Title	Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy Review
Date	September 2025
Previous Strategy Documents	Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy [December 2019]
Status of Document	Draft v1 - Committee Approval (Dec 2025)
Next Review	June 2030
Author	Delta Simons Environmental Consultants Ltd/ Mrs Sarah Gamble

Enquiries

Any enquiries regarding this strategy should be addressed to:

West Lindsey District Council
Housing and Environmental Enforcement
Guildhall
Marshall's Yard
Gainsborough
DN21 2NA

Tel. [01427 676676](tel:01427676676)

Email. Online Form is [here](#)

Foreword

As Chair of the Council's Licensing and Regulatory Committee I am pleased that this strategy sets out how the Council will carry out its role in relation to Contaminated Land over the next five years, 2025 - 2030. Whilst often unseen, this work is essential in ensuring that Council meets its obligations and contributes to reducing the risk to human health presented by Contaminated Land. Our varied, growing and changing district will benefit from the work that has been undertaken, and I know it will provide much needed information and support to those that will utilise it.

**Chair of West Lindsey District Council Licensing and Regulatory Committee
West Lindsey District Council**

Table of Contents

1.0	INTRODUCTION	7
1.1	Background	7
1.2	Part 2A Regulatory Context	8
1.3	Planning Regulatory Context	8
1.4	The National Industrial Legacy	9
1.5	Health Risks	10
1.6	Dealing with Contaminated Land	100
2.0	CHARACTERISTICS OF WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL	11
2.1	Geographical Location and Size	11
2.2	Population Distribution	11
2.3	Land Owned by the District Council	11
2.4	Current Land Use	11
2.5	Key Property Types and Protected Locations	13
2.6	History of West Lindsey	13
2.7	Local Geology	15
2.8	Water Resources & Protection	17
3.0	AIMS & OBJECTIVES	20
3.1	Government	20
3.2	West Lindsey District Council	20
3.3	Land Contamination	20
4.0	PROGRESS TO DATE	21
4.1	National	21
4.2	Part 2a Inspection Programme in West Lindsey District	21
4.3	Regeneration of Brownfield Land in West Lindsey District	22
5.0	ACCESS & PROVISION OF INFORMATION	23
5.1	Public Register	23
5.2	Provision of Information	23
5.3	Communication Plans	23
6.0	PART 2A INSPECTION & REMEDIATION PROGRAMME	24
6.1	General	24
6.2	Remediation	24
6.3	Funding	24
6.4	Fairness Tests, Cost Recovery & Hardship Policy	24
6.5	Land Formally or Currently Owned or Occupied by West Lindsey District Council	26
7.0	REGENERATION OF LAND	26
7.1	General	26
7.2	Brownfield Register	26
8.0	VOLUNTARY REMEDIATION OF LAND	28
9.0	LAND CONTAMINATION PRIORITIES [2019 TO 2024]	29
9.1	General	29
10.0	REFERENCES	30
11.0	RELEVANT GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS	31
12.0	EXTERNAL CONTACTS	32
13.0	CONSULTATION	34

Executive Summary

West Lindsey district has a predominantly agricultural heritage which has been subject to intensive farming. However, the district has been subject to localised industrial past uses which may have left a legacy of land contamination with major industries comprising chalk/limestone quarrying, gravel extraction, brickworks with associated clay pits. In the 19th and 20th century industrial uses including gasworks, iron works, rail infrastructure and military airfields which are known to have existed within the district.

The Council is the primary regulator for dealing with land contamination and this strategy recognises that there are primarily three mechanisms for reducing both health and the wider environmental impacts associated with land contamination which are:

1. Inspection and remediation of sites when they are re-developed e.g. through the planning regime; and
2. Inspection and remediation of land that has already been developed, using the Council's powers under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990; and
3. The voluntary inspection and remediation of land by responsible parties (polluters, landowners etc).

In the interest of transparency, the Council will promote the disclosure of information on contaminated land to the laws and regulations governing data protection, freedom of information and the provision of environmental information.

The Defra Contaminated Land Grant was formally withdrawn by central government in 2013. This was used by Local Authorities to fund remediation works where there was no formally identified polluter and whereby it could be proven that the landowner [normally residents] would suffer undue hardship if they were deemed liable to fund remedial works on their property. Hardship is assessed under the Councils Local Authority Contaminated Land Control & Decision Framework Policy.

This strategy review sets out 3 priorities to continue the strategic approach to deal with land contamination issues in the district:

1. Continue to update new sites for prioritisation of Potentially Contaminated Land Sites [PCLS] within the district using the GIS database system.
2. The regeneration and redevelopment of brownfield and contaminated sites through the planning process
3. Raising awareness of land contamination issues amongst landowners, and potential polluters and encourage a willingness to undertake voluntary remediation

This strategy review sets out measures which are intended to be implemented during the period between 2025 – 2030 and also sets out how these priorities fit into the West Lindsey District Council Corporate Plan 2023- 2027; the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2023; West Lindsey Brownfield Register 2018 and also the governments key objectives driving the Contaminated Land Regime.

This strategy should be reviewed five years following its formal adoption by the Council in line with current government guidance.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

This strategy is the fourth review of the original Contaminated Land Strategy which was adopted by West Lindsey District Council in 2001 and is produced in accordance with Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990¹. The first review of the Strategy was undertaken in 2004, and further reviews were undertaken in 2012 and 2019. This Strategy ("The Review") is intended to supersede the Contaminated Land Strategy Review [2019].

This review is intended to identify the progress made so far in implementing the Contaminated Strategy since the initial strategy in 2001 and subsequent reviews in 2004, 2012 and 2019. Progress up to the last strategy review in 2019 was as follows:

- Identification of all PCLS within the district.

The term "Contaminated Land" and "Land Contamination" referred to herein relates to land contamination issues only i.e. heavy metals/organic contamination in the soils, groundwater contamination and ground gas. The strategy is intended to deal with anthropogenic [manmade] sources only and is not intended to deal with natural/background levels of environmental hazards e.g. radon gas, heavy metals in certain geologies or diffuse pollution e.g. from intensive farming. These terms also do not relate to geotechnical risks such as landslip, heave, differential settlement, crown holes, subsidence etc.

A glossary is provided at the rear of this document.

1.2 Part 2A Regulatory Context

Part 2A (Section 78) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 came into force on the 1st April 2000. This Act introduced a duty for all authorities to identify and remediate land where contamination is causing unacceptable risks to human health or the wider environment. This document has been written as a continuation to review the Council's statutory duty whereby:

Every local authority shall cause its area to be inspected from time to time for the purpose of:

identifying contaminated land

(i) ...to decide whether land.....is required to be designated as a special site"

and

"...where the local authority has identified any contaminated land...the enforcing authority shall...serve a remediation notice...requiring the land to be remediated

Where a Remediation Notice is either not appropriate, or in circumstances where it is not complied with, the Council has the powers to carry out remediation works itself i.e. works in default. Costs can be recovered in line with the Council's Local Authority Contaminated Land Control and Decision Framework Policy².

Under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 the primary regulator for Contaminated Land is the Council with the Environment Agency being the enforcing authority for 'Special Sites'. The conditions for what constitutes a Special Site are set out in the Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006³

The Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006 set out provisions relating to the identification and remediation of contaminated land under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The 'Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance' is statutory guidance that came into force on the 6th April 2012⁴, replacing the previous guidance of 2006. The guidance sets out how Councils should decide whether land should be determined as Contaminated Land or not. This review has been undertaken in line with the 2012 statutory guidance requirement to update or replace the strategy to reflect changes in the regime since the last review.

1.3 Planning Regulatory Context

Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990⁴ where a contaminated site is undergoing redevelopment, remediation of the land shall be undertaken and implemented. However, where it appears that the remediation works will not be completed to the required standard that would prevent a determination under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and where the responsible person cannot be persuaded to submit a revised proposal, a remediation notice shall be served under the aforementioned act.

Contaminated Land is a material planning consideration when determining planning applications and the National Planning Policy Framework 2024⁵ (NPPF) sets out the overarching planning policy on Contaminated Land whereby:

Planning policies and decisions should ensure that:

- a) *a site is suitable for its proposed use taking account of ground conditions and any risks arising from land instability and contamination. This includes risks arising from natural hazards or former activities such as mining, and any proposals for mitigation including land remediation (as well as potential impacts on the natural environment arising from that remediation).*
- b) *after remediation, as a minimum, land should not be capable of being determined as contaminated land under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990; and*
- c) *adequate site investigation information, prepared by a competent person, is available to inform these assessments.*

Where a site is affected by contamination or land stability issues, responsibility for securing a safe development rests with the developer and/or landowner"

Annex 2: Glossary defines a Site Investigation Information as:

"Includes a risk assessment of land potentially affected by contamination, or ground stability and slope stability reports, as appropriate. All investigations of land potentially affected by contamination should be carried out in accordance with established procedures (such as BS10175 Investigation of Potentially Contaminated Sites – Code of Practice)

Whilst the definition of “competence” within the NPPF is not strictly defined, an example of one route to provide evidence of competence within the brownfield sector would be the National Quality Mark Scheme (www.claire.co.uk/projects-and-initiatives/nqms).

The Council, in its function as the Local Planning Authority must consider the implications of land contamination on development. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2012-2036⁶ (Adopted April 2023) sets out policies relating to the development of land potentially affected by land contamination. The following specific policies relating to land contamination are contained within the Local Plan:

Where development is proposed on a site which is known to be or has the potential

Policy S56: Development on Land Affected by Contamination

Development proposals must take into account the potential environmental impacts on people, biodiversity, buildings, land, air and water arising from the development itself and any former use of the site, including, in particular, adverse effects arising from pollution.

Where development is proposed on a site which is known to be or has the potential to be affected by contamination, a preliminary risk assessment should be undertaken by the developer and submitted to the relevant Central Lincolnshire Authority as the first stage in assessing the risk of contamination.

Proposals will only be permitted if:

- *it can be demonstrated that the site is suitable for its proposed use;*
- *layout and drainage have taken adequate account of ground conditions, contamination and gas risks arising from previous uses and any proposed sustainable land remediation*
- *and there are no significant impacts on future users, neighbouring users, groundwater*

Policy S84: Ministry of Defence Establishments:

Part One Development related to operational purposes

Defence related non-residential development within or adjoining an operational MOD site that is required for operational purposes will be supported in principle.

Development for housing or communal accommodation for MOD personnel connected to an operational MOD site will be supported provided that it satisfies relevant policy requirements in the Local Plan including but not limited to Policy S53 Design and Amenity, Policy S21 Flood Risk and Water Resources, and Policy S47 Accessibility and Transport.

Part Two: *Development affecting MOD establishments Development will not be supported where it would adversely affect military operations or capability unless those impacts can be appropriately mitigated in agreement with the MOD.*

1.4 The National Industrial Legacy

Nationally it is estimated that approximately 300,000 hectares of land is potentially contaminated. This equates to around 2% of the total area of England and Wales (Environment Agency 2007).

Industrial past activities have resulted in land becoming contaminated in a manner of ways since the onset of the industrial revolution, which in Britain, occurred some 300 years ago.

This land includes industrial land such as glass works, dye works, gas works, tanneries, chemical works etc., mining and waste disposal sites.

Some of the past contamination has already been found and dealt with, particularly during new development of previously used land, or in preparation for future development. There are very few cases within this country where land cannot be restored to some beneficial use.

1.5 Health Risks

Various industrial practices have led to substances being in, on or under land, such as fuel oils or tars; heavy metals; asbestos; organic compounds such as solvents; inorganic compounds; soluble salts, and mining materials that may pose a risk to human health and the wider environment.

In the past, landfilling of waste took place without environmental considerations such as adequate precautions against leachate entering controlled waters or the escape of landfill gases. Land in this condition, if not dealt with adequately, can pose a serious threat to the health of people living in proximity to such features or the environment, including pollution of the water environment.

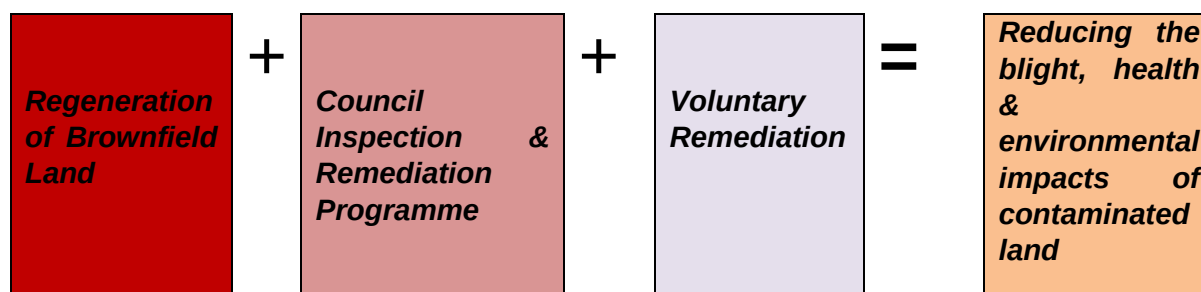
In terms of specific adverse health effects, the following is a non-exhaustive example:

- Heavy metals – carcinogens (cancer causing) and reductions in IQ [lead]
- Polyaromatic hydrocarbons - toxic, carcinogen
- Inorganics [i.e. cyanide] - toxic
- Oils/Fuels - brain disorders, pulmonary lung disorders, carcinogens
- Asbestos – Lung diseases such as Mesothelioma, Asbestosis, Lung Cancer
- Methane/Carbon Dioxide - Asphyxiant/explosive

As well as direct health or environmental problems, land contamination can cause economic and financial damage. Uncertainties about remediation requirements and land contamination liabilities can cause land blight, deterring development of brownfield land which can subsequently increase pressures on the development of Greenfield sites and adversely affect urban regeneration.

1.6 Dealing with Contaminated Land

The illustration below demonstrates the three main mechanism's for dealing with land contamination issues from the historic industrial use of land within the district.



2.0 Characteristics of West Lindsey District Council

2.1 Geographical Location and Size

The District of West Lindsey is in the northwest area of Lincolnshire between the town of Lincoln in the South and Scunthorpe in the north, with the River Trent to the west and the Lincolnshire Wolds to the east. It is a large district, covering 115,357 hectares (445 sq. miles, 1,154 square kilometres). Land use consists of predominantly open countryside, much of which is arable land, with the three major market towns of Gainsborough, Market Rasen and Caistor.

The Lincolnshire Wolds run through the east of the district and contain an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which we strive to maintain and also promote.



2.2 Population Distribution

The 2021 Census revealed that the population of West Lindsey is at its highest ever recorded having grown from 89,300 in 2011 to 95,200 in 2021. This is an increase of 6.7% which is a slightly bigger population increase than the national average (6.3%). The district's population is ageing, and this is reflected in the high levels of economic inactivity across West Lindsey (15%). Such high levels of population growth impacts on infrastructure, amenities and housing and creates high demand for services.

2.3 Land Owned by the District Council

The District Council has an Asset Register of approximately 203 council owned sites totalling approximately 90 hectares, held by its Property Services Unit. These assets vary from council offices, accommodation, commercial shops and industrial units to recreational areas, public open space and potential development land, predominately located in and around the town of Gainsborough.

The Council transferred its total housing stock of approximately 4000 properties, including all Council Estates, un-adopted carriageways, footpaths and amenity areas to West Links Housing (now Acis Group) in October 1999.

2.4 Current Land Use

Land use within West Lindsey is predominantly agricultural, which is subject to intensive farming. This includes arable farming, intensive livestock units and pastureland. The district's dependency on agriculture is more than five times greater than the national average. The high level of food production is reflected in the service sector, as the area supports a relatively high number of food processing industries.

The service sector also includes a number of engineering businesses, engaged in manufacturing and defence industries. The geographical location of businesses, other than agriculture, local services and self-employment are concentrated in the main urban areas of Gainsborough, Market Rasen, Caistor and the rural centre of Hemswell Cliff. These areas have significantly more industry than the remainder of the district. Many of the villages now support light industrial uses, offices and small businesses. Further information can be found online at <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-06/State%20of%20the%20District%202023.pdf>

2.5 Key Property Types and Protected Locations

Under the existing Contaminated Land legislation Councils are required to take action to protect important ecological and heritage sites from significant harm resulting from contaminated land. However, action can only be taken by the Council under this legislation for sites which have been afforded particular statutory protection as detailed in the Statutory Guidance (Defra, 2012).

There are 25 designated Conservation Areas covering 308 hectares of West Lindsey. These are areas of special architectural or historical interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. The Council is required to pay special attention to preserving or enhancing these areas under the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 SI 72 (1)⁷.

Within West Lindsey there are approximately 1,000 buildings, which are on a statutory list as being of special architectural or historic merit in national terms. National policy attributes significant importance to the preservation and protection of listed buildings.

There are many areas of archaeological interest in West Lindsey. Some sites are considered to be of special importance, because they are fine or interesting examples of a particular period. Such sites or structures are scheduled as Ancient Monuments of which West Lindsey has 103 in total. Regional guidance states that the aim should be to protect these sites. The Council also has a 56 historic parks and gardens, of which four have been identified and listed by English Heritage. Whilst these areas are afforded no statutory protection the Council would not wish to see these areas damaged and/or blighted.

The Lincolnshire Wolds were designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1973. They cover about 156 square kilometres (60 square miles) of the eastern part of the District to the northeast of Market Rasen and east of Caistor. The main purpose of an AONB is the conservation and enhancement of the landscape, which includes protecting flora, fauna and geological as well as landscape features.

The district also has 156 sites that are designated as Sites of Nature Conservation Importance with 152 of these sites are designated local wildlife sites and four are designated as local geological sites. These areas are protected by virtue of their flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features. In addition, West Lindsey has 42 areas of Ancient Woodland, which have had a continuous cover of native trees since 1600 or earlier. They are protected due to the unique habitat they support. English Nature has also designated nine areas of West Lindsey as being Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites.

2.6 History of West Lindsey

Rivers

At the peak of river trade between 1837 and 1841, approximately 80,000 tons of coal and lime were brought to Gainsborough, from where approximately 30,000 tons were distributed locally and the remainder exported to other UK ports. The storage and distribution of coal and other commodities increased the likelihood of localised contamination from coal dust, sulphur and possibly oils/lubricants/greases from lifting machinery and distribution vehicles. The waterways were also used to convey stone, lime and timber to aid the construction the railways. The cost effectiveness of water borne trade and lower handling charges than larger ports such as Hull, helped to maintain Gainsborough as the distribution centre for West Lindsey and surrounding areas.

The Railways

The first commercial railway in West Lindsey was the East Lincolnshire Line of the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway (MS&LR). It was opened in March 1849 and connected Gainsborough and Market Rasen to the coalfields of Sheffield and the manufacturers of Manchester, whilst providing an outlet for local agricultural produce. A second line, The Lincolnshire Loop, was opened in September 1849 by The Great Northern Railway (GNR).

A lack of local sources of raw materials needed for the construction of rail foundations and embankments may have resulted in the use of waste materials such as clinker, slag and ash from local industries such as the iron works. Furthermore, railway depots and goods sheds may have been used to store miscellaneous objects including stocks and supplies of oils, greases, ores, coal, timber, steel and bricks, which may have caused local contamination.

The construction of the railways, on a national and local scale, transformed Gainsborough from a market town to an industrial centre, and also had an effect on the rest of the area. The demand for raw materials for bridge construction and the manufacture of track and rolling stock initiated much mining and quarrying throughout West Lindsey. Much of the ironwork for the railway was manufactured at The Trent Foundry in Gainsborough.

Industrial Development

Chalk and limestone were quarried in the vicinity of South Witham and gravel was also extracted throughout West Lindsey from gravel pits such as those in Scotter, Bardney and Market Rasen.

Another mineral resource, which supported urban expansion in West Lindsey, was the availability of fire clay for the firing of bricks. During the latter half of the nineteenth century the number of brickworks in the area greatly increased and in Gainsborough clay was mined onsite at a brickworks which contributed over sixteen million bricks to local development. Some of the resulting pits and quarries may have subsequently been used for the disposal of wastes by both the local council and private enterprises.

Historically, oil was extracted from several wells within the district such as those near Sudbrooke, Scothern, Welton Cliff and wells around Gainsborough. It is possible that hydrocarbon contamination may have resulted from leaks and spillages of the oil during the extraction process. Depending on the nature and extent of any oil processing activities carried out, these sites may also contain a variety of additional contaminants.

By the early 19th Century Gainsborough had become home to a town gas works. Gasworks have the potential to produce contaminating hydrocarbon by-products and wastes such as coal tar. Other waste products of the gas works include liquids rich in ammonia, coal dust and spent oxide wastes which contain cyanides and metals.

Mineral exploitation in West Lindsey was centred around Claxby, where ironstone was mined. In 1868, Firth and Co. opened an underground pit and employed miners from the nearby towns of Caistor and Market Rasen. The ore was extracted from a 2m thick seam in the Marlstone Rock Bed and although production peaked at 70,000 tons in 1873 it closed twelve years later. The Mid-Lincolnshire Mining Company also owned mines in Claxby and adjacent areas and extracted iron ore from the Northampton Sand Bed until their closure in 1939.

In the 1850s, the local abundance of iron ore led to the construction of Marshall and Sons (later known as Britannia) Iron Works at Gainsborough. The foundry which made portable steam engines, agricultural threshing machines and hot air dryers, increased its workforce from 1500 to 3600 between 1885 and 1904 and covered a 28-acre site between the Central (MS & LR) station and the old town.

The production of iron and steel generates large quantities of waste slag, slurries and dusts, all containing contaminants such as arsenic and lead. Moreover, if the works produced its own coke, a common practice in steel works, waste tars and contaminated waste solids and waters would also have been generated.

The profitability of the iron works dominated the economy of Gainsborough in the latter half of the 19th Century and contrasted starkly with the demise of its shipbuilders, who had been so successful in the previous fifty years. These companies, who had previously constructed ships of up to 700 tons fell

into decline as the river trade began to diminish, primarily due to competition from the railways, but also as a result of poor river management.

The 20th Century

By the turn of the 20th Century the demand for iron had peaked, the rail industry no longer needed the quantities previously required for the extensive construction work and a slump in agriculture had reduced the need for the manufacture of agricultural machinery. As a result, many of the smaller rural forges e.g. Market Rasen Forge became disused, and a number of brickworks also fell into disuse /disrepair.

The small amount of industrial development that took place throughout the towns of West Lindsey in the early 20th Century frequently occurred in close proximity to the railways. At Bardney, a sewage works, and a gas works were constructed adjacent to the MS & LR line, which also serviced a sugar beet factory.

The development of the aeroplane and its use in combat, led to the construction of many airfields across the relatively flat land of the district between 1910 and 1940. The following Second World War Airfields were operated within the district:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| • Binbrook | • Hemswell |
| • Bardney | • Ingham |
| • Blyton Waltham | • North Coates |
| • Caistor | • Scampton |
| • Dunholme Lodge | • Sturgate |
| • Faldingworth | • Wickenby |
| • Fiskerton | |

In 1916 RAF Hemswell was used by The Royal Flying Corps. Although closed in 1919, it was redeveloped in 1936 and used by bomber command during World War II for the construction and flying of Lancaster Bombers. After the war the airfield continued to be used for military purposes including the housing and installation of “Thor” missiles prior to its closure in 1975. Ordnance survey maps of West Lindsey suggest that RAF Hemswell was one of the last airfields to close.

Airfield activities, such as aircraft construction and maintenance, require the storage and use of many potentially contaminating substances such as fuels solvents and lubricants. Resulting wastes may have been disposed of within the airfield grounds. Exposure to unexplosive ordnance and harmful substances (including low level radioactive residues) may have occurred as a result of munitions storage, disposal or from hostile fire.

Up until the 1960's and 1970's when there was considerable expansion of some communities such as Dunholme, Welton and Caistor, many of West Lindsey's towns and settlements had changed very little in size since the turn of the century.

2.7 Local Geology

Superficial deposits alluvium and glacial till deposits overlie the bedrock geology in many areas which were formed within the last 2 million years up to the present day. The underlying bedrock geology of West Lindsey is mainly sedimentary Cretaceous, Jurassic and Triassic formations laid down between 65 and 225 million years ago.

The geological strata beneath the district were formed in the following order (the youngest at the top to oldest at the bottom):

Geological Period	Formations	Comments
Superficial Deposits	River Alluvium Terrace Deposits (Clays, Sands & Gravels)	Deposits of River Alluvium and River Terrace Deposits are present in association with the river systems. For example, significant deposits of alluvium and terrace deposits are present in the southwest of the district as a consequence of the River Till and ancient watercourses, and also in association with the Rivers Rase, Ancholme and Barlings Eau. Alluvial deposits can comprise clay, silt, sand or gravel, or a combination.
	Glacial Till Deposits (Clays, Sands & Gravels)	The most widespread superficial deposits present over the district are of glacial origin. These are frequently present over the much of the eastern and western areas of the district. The Glacial deposit most frequently encountered is Glacial Till, which typically comprises clay, often with chalk and flint. Glacial deposits comprising sand and gravel are also present in certain areas of the district, particularly along its south-western margin. Both clay and sand and gravel deposits are likely to have been extracted within the district.
	Blown Sand	Deposits of Blown Sand (wind transported fine particles) are present within the district with the largest deposit at Market Rasen in the South and extends to Caistor Moor in the North.
Cretaceous Rocks	Flamborough, Burnham, Welton and Ferriby Chalks	The youngest bedrock in the area are of the Cretaceous age which consist predominantly of Chalks. They underlie the Far East and north-east of the district. Chalk has been quarried within the district and Lime pits are recorded in Grasby. Toward the base of the Cretaceous sequence of deposits lays the Claxby Ironstone, which has been mined between Normanby-le-Wold and Nettleton.
	Claxby Ironstone Formation	
Jurassic Rocks	Kimmeridge Clay	Jurassic rocks underlie the majority of the district. These underlie the area between Laughton Hall and Kettlethorpe in the west, and Grasby and Tealby in the east. Both the Marlstone Rock and Northampton Sand Formations have been historically mined for iron. The Jurassic deposits predominantly consist of mudstone and limestone deposits, but also contain sandstone's, ironstone beds, shale's, and an oil shale is present in the Kimmeridge Clay Formation. The Jurassic clay/mudstone deposits have also been used in the brick and tile industry.
	Snitterby Limestone	
	Lincolnshire Limestone	
	Northampton Sand	
	Marlstone Rock	
Triassic Rocks	Mercia and Penarth Mudstones	Triassic rocks are present along the district's western margin, extending approximately as far east as Laughton Hall and Kettlethorpe. They consist generally of mudstones, limestones and siltstones.

Geological Formations Period		Comments
Permian Rocks		Beneath the Triassic Rocks and completely covered (concealed) in the West Lindsey area, lie the Permian deposits (225 to 280 million years old).
Carboniferous Rocks		The Carboniferous rocks which were deposited between 280 and 345 million years ago. The Carboniferous rocks are present beneath the district at considerable depth. However, oil with variable amounts of gas has been extracted from Carboniferous sandstones beneath the Gainsborough area, and oil wells are recorded at locations near Sudbrooke, Scothern and Welton cliff.

The layers of rock generally slope gently, towards the north-east or east, and as a consequence, the oldest rocks (Triassic 195-225million years old) are present in the west of the district and the youngest rocks (Cretaceous 65-135million years old) are present in the east.

2.8 Water Resources & Protection

Legislation defines the water environment (groundwater in aquifers, rivers streams etc) as Controlled Waters. In the UK approximately 35% of the nation's public water supply is provided by groundwater. In West Lindsey the groundwater forms the region's principal source of water as much of the district is underlain by principal aquifers. Approximately 50% of the Anglian region's water supply as a whole comes from the groundwater, and all the major supplies within Lincolnshire are obtained from this source. Anglian Water Services takes water for public supply from several locations, including locations near Waddingham, Glentham, Welton and Newton-on-Trent. Groundwater is also used extensively for agricultural purposes. The Environment Agency licenses both public and commercial abstractions.

Some domestic properties are also supplied directly by groundwater, rather than public mains. West Lindsey District Council is responsible for monitoring the quality of these supplies in compliance with the Private Water Supplies (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2018⁸. Records of the locations of all private water abstractions are retained by West Lindsey District Council.

Water is also obtained from many of the rivers, streams, becks, dykes and drains within the district, including the rivers Trent, Eau, Rase and Ancholme. However, none of the licensed surface water abstractions are used for public drinking water supply with most of the water obtained from surface watercourses within the district being used for agricultural purposes such as irrigation.

Controlled waters are clearly a significant resource that requires protection and the main act relating to this is the Water Framework Directive, 2000⁹ with the main regulatory guidance document being the Environment Agencies Approach to Groundwater Protection¹⁰

Hydrogeology

West Lindsey's hydrogeology is dominated by the chalk deposits located in the northeast of the district, and by limestones which are present at shallow depth between Lincoln to the South and Kirton in Lindsey to the north. These deposits form the Principal Aquifers within the district.

Many areas of the district are underlain by Secondary Aquifers. An extensive Secondary Aquifer is formed from sand deposits between Market Rasen and Caistor Moor. Others are frequently formed by sands and gravels deposited by rivers, and by glacial processes. The main flow of the groundwater beneath the district is generally towards the east. Groundwater will often be affected by the local topography and will locally flow broadly in the direction of the surface water flow.

Groundwater Vulnerability

The vulnerability of the groundwater to pollution is dependent on the permeability of the geological strata that overlie the aquifer. These materials may allow the movement of pollution towards the aquifer (if they are highly permeable like sands and gravels) or form a barrier (if they are of low permeability for example clay) between the potential pollutants at shallow depths and an underlying aquifer and hence provide some level of protection.

The areas where the groundwater is most vulnerable are the areas where no protective clay deposits exist above the aquifer. These are primarily located in the far northeast and east of the district, in the central area between Kirton in Lindsey and Lincoln, around Market Rasen, and in the vicinity of the major rivers of the district. Where these areas coincide with land contamination or pollution the groundwater is likely to be most at risk.

The area's most likely to contain sources of pollution include the industrialised areas of urban developments such as those in and around Gainsborough. Furthermore, some of the district's pits and quarries (such as chalk quarries) may have been filled with potentially polluting materials/wastes.

Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZ's)

To protect drinking water supplies from pollution, the Environment Agency has designated Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZ) around major abstraction points, for example: the public supply abstraction boreholes near Waddingham, Glentham and Welton. These zones restrict the type of activities and development permitted within their boundaries to protect the groundwater reserves.

Within the district, almost the whole of the area underlain by Cretaceous Chalk (the far eastern and northeastern area) has been designated as a SPZ. This is a consequence of groundwater abstractions within North Lincolnshire and Northeast Lincolnshire. At Waddingham, Welton, Dunholme and Glentham, the SPZs extend westwards, in the direction that the groundwater has come from. In Gainsborough there are three small SPZs in close proximity to the River Trent, and the area to the north of Lincoln also falls within a SPZ.

West Lindsey will treat any land contamination/pollution located within a Groundwater SPZ as a high priority.

Surface waters

The district is crossed by numerous surface watercourses, ranging in size from large rivers such as the River Trent, to small streams and becks. These surface waters are not used for abstraction for major public drinking water supply within the district; however they form important local sources of water, and they can replenish the groundwater reserves. The quality of the surface waters over the district is therefore important. As is the maintenance and reduction of pollution of rivers is important. West Lindsey will treat any land contamination/ pollution contaminated land identified in proximity to rivers and streams as a high priority.

In West Lindsey springs are common where the base of Cretaceous Chalk outcrops at the surface. These springs contribute water to local streams and rivers and may also form supplies of local importance. As important sources of water, West Lindsey will consider any contaminated land in proximity to the spring lines as a priority. In addition to their vulnerability to pollution from contaminated land, springs may form pathways by which any pollution that has already entered the groundwater could be transported into surface watercourses.

3.0 Aims & Objectives

3.1 Government

The Governments' key objectives driving the contaminated land regime are as follows:

1	To identify and remove unacceptable risks to human health and the environment
2	To seek to ensure that contaminated land is made suitable for its current use (Part 2A regulation) & proposed use (planning regime).
3	To ensure that the burdens faced by individuals, companies and society as a whole are proportionate, manageable and compatible with the principles of sustainable development.

3.2 West Lindsey District Council

West Lindsey District Council Corporate Plan [2023 -2027]¹¹ relevant themes and outcomes

➤	Ensuring that economic regeneration is sustainable and benefits all of our communities.
➤	Facilitating quality, choice and diversity in the housing market, assisting in meeting housing need and demand, and delivering high quality housing related services that support growth
➤	Creating a stronger, cleaner and greener district in which to live work and socialise

3.3 Land Contamination

In fulfilling West Lindsey District Council's responsibilities with respect to implementing environmental legislation the following priorities have been identified:

➤	To continue to update new site information on a public register stored as part of the corporate geographical information system (GIS), showing the sites identified under Part 2A of the EPA; and
➤	Encouraging, where appropriate, the regeneration and redevelopment of brownfield and contaminated sites
➤	Offer advice to landowners, developers and the wider public relating to land contamination issues

4.0 Progress to Date

4.1 National

The Environment Agency issued the latest report 'Dealing with Contaminated Land' in 2016¹² which highlighted the following key figures a review of progress from April 2000 to December 2013 with Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990

1. The main priority for local councils' inspection strategies is to assess the risks posed to human health.
2. Since the Part 2A regime was introduced in April 2000, local councils have spent at least £32million on inspecting more than 11,000 sites. This has led to the determination of more than 511 contaminated land sites where remediation was needed.
3. Although significant progress has been made there are at least another 10,000 sites identified by preliminary inspection that need further investigation to establish the risks that they pose.
4. Of the 511 contaminated land sites reported to the survey, the majority were posing unacceptable risks to human health. Arsenic, lead and benzo(a)pyrene are the most common substances causing contamination.
5. Of the reported sites determined as Contaminated Land, remediation has been initiated on at least 493 sites, with work being reported as being complete at 433 of these sites.
6. A variety of remediation options have been used to clean up contaminated land, with the most common techniques reported being excavation and disposal, or capping.
7. The majority of individual remedial actions were completed within a year although a significant number of sites took more than a year to complete all the remedial actions; and
8. More than £52 million has been granted for remediation by the regulators using public monies since the introduction of the regime in 2000. Most of this was spent on making land and water safe for people to use and on cleaning the environment for communities and to support growth.

4.2 Part 2A Inspection Programme in West Lindsey District

West Lindsey District Council adopted its first Contaminated Land Strategy in 2001 and subsequently identified the majority of PCLS within the district. This was mainly in the form of capturing former industrial uses from historical maps, minerals planning files, landfill files amongst other information sources. These sites will need to be prioritised and subsequently assessed to ascertain if they meet the statutory requirements of "Contaminated Land". It is extremely likely that only a relatively small percentage of these sites will be contaminated to such a degree that they meet the statutory definitions of 'Contaminated Land'.

The Strategy Review in 2019 established priorities over the next five years [2019-2024] for Housing and Environmental Enforcement, namely:

1. Prioritisation of PCLS within the district.
2. Establish an information management system for the digital storage of information relating to PCLS.
3. Encouraging where appropriate the regeneration and redevelopment of brownfield and contaminated sites; and

4. Raising awareness of land contamination issues amongst likely affected landowners, conveyancing solicitors and potential polluters and to encourage a willingness to undertake voluntary remediation.

The above priorities were considered to be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time bound) targets.

West Lindsey District Council have completed its prioritisation of PCLS within the district and 1,128 sites have been identified as being potentially contaminated land and requiring further consideration and, possibly detailed inspection.

The Council have also established an information management system for the digital storage of information relating to PCLS which is updated as new information comes to light. Whilst all these sites have been identified as having the potential to be contaminated, it is important to note that this does not necessarily mean that they are all contaminated land or that they are listed on the public register. Many of these sites are likely to be suitable for their current use and detailed inspection would have to be undertaken first to determine whether a site meets the Part 2A statutory definition of contaminated land.

4.3 Regeneration of Brownfield Land in West Lindsey District

The following major developments in the district have remediated significant contamination issues during the redevelopment works:

- Redevelopment of Gainsborough Gasworks into residential apartments
- Redevelopment of Gainsborough Steel Works into residential housing
- Redevelopment of The Old Marshall Factory Site into retail/office space
- Redevelopment of the Garage into a food retail outlet

In addition to these major sites many smaller sites with contamination issues have been suitably redeveloped and brought back into beneficial use with appropriate regulation in the same manner to ensure that the end users of the sites are not at risk from contamination.

5.0 Access & Provision of Information

5.1 Public Register

A 'Contaminated Land Public Register' is held within Housing and Environmental Enforcement to record where notices have been served, or a formal remediation statement has been prepared in line with section 78R of the Act. The register is kept at the Council's West Lindsey District One Office and is available for view, free of charge, during normal office hours or can be reviewed online at

<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/environment-climate/environment/contaminated-land/public-register-determined-contaminated-land-sites>

The public register does not contain information on PCLS.

The charge to be made for providing hard copies of register entries should be in line with the current fees & charges scheme. An electronic copy of the public register is also available free of charge on request.

5.2 Provision of Information

The public, solicitors, consultants, owners, estate agents, developers and any other interested parties will have access to environmental information under the Environmental Information Regulations (2004)¹³ which comes under the provision of the Freedom of Information Act (2000)¹⁴. Exclusions to the provision of such data include where the data or information is deemed commercially confidential or where a report is still to be completed. Charges are levied for the provision of environmental information in accordance with the current fees and charges scheme in Housing and Environmental Enforcement. Any contentious requests should be referred to the Officer responsible for Freedom of Information/Environmental Information Regulation requests to make an assessment on whether information should be disclosed or not. However, the legislation and guidance relating to the provision of information promotes the disclosure of information in the interests of transparency, openness and freedom of information.

Provision of information should be in a timely manner with an aim to provide requested information/data within 10 workings days and a strict deadline for a response within 20 working days set out under the Freedom of Information Act. Information relating to land contamination submitted to the Council as part of a planning application including data, reports etc are generally considered to be within the public domain in line with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

5.3 Communication Plans

Officers of the Council and any appointed consultants and/or contractors may be carrying out detailed inspection of sites from time to time in order to assess if a site should be determined as Contaminated Land or not. West Lindsey Council recognise that, where this occurs on residential sites it can be a particularly stressful process for residents due to concerns about potential health risks, property value, legal action and potential costs.

Given the recognised potential for adverse impacts on stakeholders, it is recommended that an open and transparent approach should be taken during the investigation of sites, specifically where this is a residential area. In such circumstances a Site-Specific Communication Plan should be produced and adopted in conjunction with the Council's Communication Team/Officer.

6.0 Part 2A Inspection & Remediation Programme

6.1 General

The investigation and remediation of PCLS should only be undertaken by the Council through the Part 2A regime where there are no other appropriate alternative solutions and/or legislation to effectively deal with the matter. Regulation through other controls should be sought in the first instance such as Environmental Permitting, Planning, Building Control, Environmental Damage Regulations and other regimes for waste and water. The Part 2A regime is also intended to provide regulatory and legislative pressure on commercial landowners to actively clean up their land portfolios.

6.2 Remediation

Remediation of contaminated sites resulting from the application of Part 2A regulations, redevelopment through planning or via voluntary means should be steered towards more sustainable methods such as in-situ & ex-situ treatment technologies where reasonable and practical. Excavation and disposal of materials including contaminated waste at landfills should be avoided where appropriate and economically viable. Any statutory notice or voluntary action of remediation of Contaminated Land should be in line with the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2019) and the policies therein.

6.3 Funding

In 2014 Defra withdrew the capital grant funding that was made available to Local Authorities for the remediation of contaminated land where a polluter could not be found or where recovering costs from landowners, usually residents, would cause undue hardship. This left Local Authorities with a statutory duty to deal with contaminated land but with no capital funding to inspect or remediate sites, using the works in default procedures.

6.4 Fairness Tests, Cost Recovery & Hardship Policy

In the first instance, the Council will look to ensure the company/person responsible for the contamination or developer of the land [the Class A Liable Person(s)], pays the costs of cleaning up the land under the 'polluter pays principle'. However, in some cases the company has stopped trading and liability for remediation may pass to the present owner/occupier of the land [the Class B Liable Person(s)]. In cases whereby the Council funds the remediation as a works in default the Council has a duty to be reasonable and fair when recovering these costs and the Councils Local Authority Contaminated Land Control and Decision Framework Policy sets out how West Lindsey Council will implement decisions on this matter.

6.5 Land Formally or Currently Owned or Occupied by West Lindsey District Council

All PCLS are to be inspected and classified in the same manner. This includes all land in current or former ownership or occupation by West Lindsey District Council, and land where West Lindsey District Council may be responsible for the site's condition (i.e. where West Lindsey District Council may be the appropriate person).

West Lindsey District Council will review its records of land that it owns and/or occupies as part of the initial survey of the whole area. Where the records indicate that such land may have had a potentially contaminative use, the land will be added to the list of PCLS if it has not already been identified as such.

Land in which West Lindsey District Council has an interest will be inspected in the same manner as all other sites in the inspection process. Where such land is found to be Contaminated Land, this will be included in the public register and treated in the same manner as all other Contaminated Land within the area.

7.0 Regeneration of Land

7.1 General

Many contaminated sites have already been dealt with through the historical application of planning controls during redevelopment of brownfield/contaminated sites. It is expected that the redevelopment of brownfield and derelict land within the district will remain the primary mechanism for dealing with land that is adversely affected by contamination.

The planning process will effectively deal with any contamination so that the land is suitable for its intended use. The following have been / will be put into place to help implement this process:

1. The production or adoption of regional guidance for developers;
2. The review of contaminated land information and reports in relation to the redevelopment of a site, which has been sent to Housing and Environmental Enforcement for consultation comments;
3. The use of appropriate standard planning conditions for land contamination;
4. The provision of information, assessments and recommendations for dealing with contaminated land during the consultation on the Local Development Plan proposals.

7.2 Brownfield Register

Brownfield land registers are intended to provide up-to-date and reliable information on sites within each Council district that are considered to be appropriate for residential development. The statutory regulations on Brownfield Registers are set out in of the Town and Country Planning (Brownfield Land Register) Regulations 2017¹⁵. Local planning authorities will be able to trigger a grant of permission in principle for residential development for sites in their registers where developers and their advisors follow the required procedures.

Regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning (Brownfield Land Register) Regulations 2017 requires local planning authorities in England to prepare, maintain and publish registers of previously developed (brownfield) land by 31 December 2017 and Regulation 17 requires local planning authorities to review their registers at least once a year.

Registers will be in two parts as follows:

- Part 1 - will comprise all brownfield sites that a local planning authority has assessed as appropriate for residential development subsequent to having carried out any required procedures set in the regulations. This will include sites with extant full planning permission, outline planning permission and permission in principle as well as sites without planning permission; and
- Part 2 – This is a subset of Part 2 which will comprise of only those sites in Part 1 that the local planning authority has decided that the land would be suitable for a grant of permission in principle for residential development.

Registers should be published as open data to provide transparent information about suitable and available sites with a Council's district.

West Lindsey Council published their latest Brownfield Register in December 2018 which can be accessed via the following webpage.

<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building/planning-policy/evidence-base-and-monitoring/brownfield-register/>

Housing and Environmental Enforcement should be proactive in assisting any consultation or information requirements in relation to future updates of this register to allow developers access to up-to-date information on potential land contamination constraints associated with potential development sites.

8.0 Voluntary Remediation of Land

The voluntary remediation of land by responsible landowners was intended to be one of the primary aims of bringing Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 into force. Council resources e.g. officer time, should be prioritised to support landowners or polluters who are willing to work with Council and/or Environment Agency to agree and implement remedial measures of contaminated sites within the district.

In line with the Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance 2012 and Section 78H(5)(a) of the Act the enforcing authority should consider not serving a remediation notice if it is satisfied that appropriate measures are being taken by way of remediation.

To date none of the PCLS have been remediated through voluntary remediation.

9.0 Land Contamination Priorities [2025 to 2030]

9.1 General

The following land contamination priorities that have been established for Housing and Environmental

➤	To continue to update new site information on a public register stored as part of the corporate geographical information system (GIS), showing the sites identified under Part 2A of the EPA; and
➤	Encouraging, where appropriate, the regeneration and redevelopment of brownfield and contaminated sites through the planning process.
➤	Offer advice to landowners, developers and the wider public relating to land contamination issues

The Planning system has to some degree replaced the need for strategic inspections of the district, and over the years there has been considerable reduction in available resources within Housing and Environmental Enforcement. In addition, the withdrawal of central government (Defra) contaminated land grant funding programme in 2014 resulting in significant uncertainty in proceeding with Part 2A Site Investigations and remediation of orphan sites by Local Councils. Over ambitious timescales considering the amount of effort, time and funding involved in investigating and specifically remediating sites under Part 2A.

As such, sites will be reviewed through the planning process, only sites that present an unacceptable risks to either health and controlled waters and where persons deemed responsible for providing site specific ground data may be considered for further inspection.

These cases will be reviewed and authorised on an individual basis as well as the more routinely substances this will also include any new contaminants of concern, such as per-and poly fluoroalkyl. They are sometimes referred to as 'forever chemicals' because of their persistence in the environment

10.0 References

- 1 Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/part/IIA>
- 2 West Lindsey District Council, 2001, Local Authority Contaminated Land Control and Decision Framework Policy
<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/my-community/environment/contaminated-land/contaminated-land-downloads/>
- 3 The Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/1380/contents/made>
- 4 Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance 2012
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/contaminated-land-statutory-guidance>
- 5 National Planning Policy Framework 2024
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aaf8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf
- 6 The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2023
<https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire/local-plan/>
- 7 The Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/contents>
- 8 Private Water Supplies (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2018⁸
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/707/contents/made>
- 9 Water Framework Directive, 2000
https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html
- 10 Environment Agencies Approach to Groundwater Protection
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/groundwater-protection-position-statements>
- 11 West Lindsey District Council, West Lindsey District Council Corporate Plan [2023 -2027]
<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/council-democracy/how-council-works/key-plans-policies-strategies/our-corporate-plan/corporate-plan-2023-2027>
- 12 Environment Agency, 2016, Dealing with Contaminated Land in England
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/513158/State_of_contaminated_land_report.pdf
- 13 Environmental Information Regulations, 2004
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/3391/contents/made>
- 14 Freedom of Information Act, 2000
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents>
- 15 Town and Country Planning (Brownfield Land Register) Regulations 2017
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/403/contents/made>

11.0 Relevant Guidance Documents

1. British Standards Institute (2017), BS 10175: 2011 + A2: 2017 'Code of Practice for Investigation of Potentially Contaminated Sites'
<https://shop.bsigroup.com/ProductDetail?pid=000000000030362551>
2. British Standards Institute (2015), BS 5930: 2015 'Code of Practice for Site Investigation'
<https://shop.bsigroup.com/ProductDetail?pid=000000000030268443>
3. Environment Agency (2019), Land Contamination: Risk Management
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/land-contamination-how-to-manage-the-risks>
4. YALPAG (April 2019) Development of Land Affected by Contamination - Technical Guidance for Developers, Landowners & Consultants, version 10.3
5. CIRIA (2007) Assessing Risks Posed by Hazardous Ground Gases to Buildings (C665)
<https://www.ciria.org/ItemDetail?iProductCode=C665&Category=BOOK&WebsiteKey=3f18c87a-d62b-4eca-8ef4-9b09309c1c91>
6. British Standards Institute (2015), BS 8485: 2015+A1:2019 'Code of practice for the design of protective measures for methane and carbon dioxide ground gases for new buildings'
<https://standardsdevelopment.bsigroup.com/projects/2018-01306>

12.0 External Contacts

Environment Agency

Local Office:

Groundwater & Contaminated Land Team

Ceres House

2 Searby Road

Lincoln

LN2 4DT

Tel: 0370 850 6506

Natural England

Local Office:

2nd Floor, Ceres House

2 Searby Road

Lincoln

LN2 4DW

Tel: 0300 060 3900

Email: enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

English Heritage

The Engine House

37 Tanner Row

Fire Fly Avenue

Swindon

SN2 2EH

Tel: 0370 333 1181

Email: customers@english-heritage.org.uk

Homes & Communities Agency

Local Office:

Arpley House

110 Birchwood Boulevard

Birchwood

Warrington

WA3 7QH

Tel: 0300 1234 500

Email: mail@homesandcommunities.co.uk

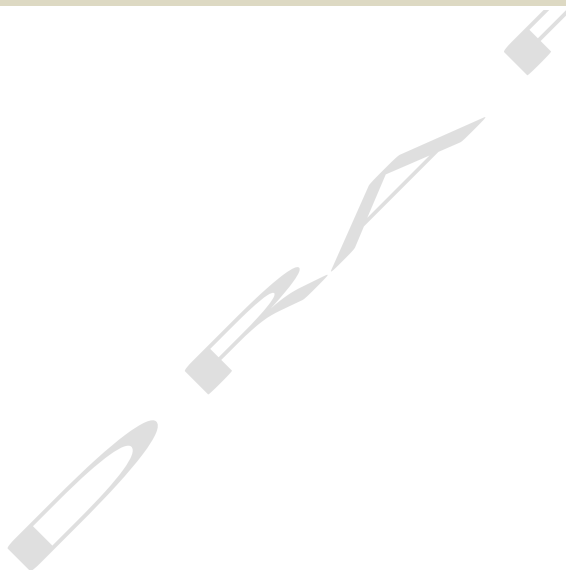
Glossary

The 'Act'	The Environmental Protection Act, 1990
The 'Regulations'	The Contaminated Land (England) Regulations, 2000
The 'Guidance'	Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance (Defra, April 2012)
Apportionment	As defined by the Act, means:- Any determination by the enforcing authority under section 78F(7) (that is, a division of the costs of carrying out any remediation action between two or more appropriate persons).
Appropriate Person	As defined by section 78A(9) of the Act, means:- Any person who is an appropriate person, determined in accordance with section 78F of the Act, to bear responsibility for anything which is to be done by way of remediation in any particular case.
Class A Person	As defined by paragraph 7.3 of the Guidance, is a person who is an appropriate person by virtue of section 78F(2) (that is, because he has caused or knowingly permitted a pollutant to be in, on or under the land).
Class B Person	As defined by paragraph 7.3 of the Guidance, is a person who is an appropriate person by virtue of section 78F(4) or (5) (that is, because he is the owner or occupier of the land in circumstances where no Class A person can be found with respect to a particular remediation action).
Contaminant	As defined by paragraph 6 of the Introduction of the Guidance, is a substance that is in, on or under the land and which has the potential to cause significant harm to a relevant receptor, or to cause significant pollution of controlled waters.
Controlled Waters	As defined by section 78A(9) by reference to Part III (section 104) of the Water Resources Act 1991, which includes territorial and coastal waters, inland fresh waters, and ground waters.
Determination/ Determined	This is a statutory legal process whereby where there is a contaminant linkage found on a site that is causing or threatening significant harm or significant possibility of significant harm of human health or controlled water, then that site should to be 'determined' as contaminated land.
Enforcing Authority	For land not designated as being a 'special site', the enforcing authority within West Lindsey District Metropolitan District is the Local Authority. For land designated as being a 'special site', the enforcing authority is the Environment Agency.

LFG	Landfill Gas - a product of the degradation of biodegradable waste (any organic matter that can be broken down by micro-organisms such as paper, wood or food stuffs.) which normally comprises of methane, carbon dioxide and other trace gases.
Local Authority/Council	West Lindsey District Metropolitan District Council
LDP	The 'Local Development Plan' is a series of documents, which contain development and land use policies that will fulfil the Council's community, economic, environmental and social aims for the district in the future.
Owner	As defined by section 78A(9) of the Act as being: "a person (other than the mortgagee not in possession) who, whether in his own right or as trustee for any other person, is entitled to receive the rack rent of the land, or where the land is not let at a rack rent, would be so entitled if it were so let."
Part 2A	Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act, 1990
Pathway	As defined by paragraph 3.8 of the Guidance, is a route by which a receptor is or might be affected by a contaminant.
PCLS	A 'Potentially Contaminated Land Site' (PCLS) is any area of land that is known or believed to have been used for an industrial activity either at present or at some point in the past.
Precautionary Principle	Article 130 of the "Treaty on European Union" places the basis for environmental protection upon the 'Precautionary Principle'. Where, in the absence of firm scientific evidence regarding the effects of a particular substance or activity, the protection of the environment should be the first concern. Furthermore, there is no need for scientific proof before preventative action is taken. In summary, the reduction of risks to the environment by taking avoiding action before any serious problem arises.
Polluter	Although a 'Polluter' is not officially defined in legislation it is considered to be a person or thing responsible for contaminating the environment with harmful or poisonous substances.
The Polluter Pays Principle	Article 130 of the "Treaty on European Union" looks to ensure that the costs of environmental damage caused by polluting activities are borne in full by the person responsible for such pollution (the polluter). The principle accepts that (i) the polluter should pay for the administration of the pollution control system, UNLESS they are no longer in business; and (ii) the polluter should pay for the consequences of the pollution (e.g. compensation and remediation).

Receptor	As defined by paragraph 3.8 of the Guidance, is something that could be adversely affected by a contaminant, for example a person, an organism, an ecosystem, property or controlled waters.
Register	The public register maintained by the Council under section 78R of the Environmental Protection Act, 1990.
Remediation	As defined by section 78A(7) of the Act, means:- • The doing of anything for the purpose of assessing the condition of (i) the contaminated land in question; (ii) any controlled waters affected by that land; or (iii) any land adjoining or adjacent to that land; • The doing of any works, the carrying out of any operations or the taking of any steps in relation to any such land or waters for the purpose: (i) of preventing or minimising, or remedying or mitigating the effects of, any significant harm, or any pollution of controlled waters, by reason of which the contaminated land is such land; or (ii) of restoring the land or waters to their former state; or • The making of subsequent inspections from time to time for the purpose of keeping under review the condition of the land or waters.
Risk	As defined by paragraph 3.1 of the Guidance, means the combination of: (a) the likelihood that harm, or pollution of water, will occur as a result of contaminants in, on or under the land; and (b) the scale and seriousness of such harm or pollution if it did occur.
Site Inspection	This normally incorporates a Preliminary Risk Assessment & Desktop Study, Site Walkover Survey and potentially limited sampling of a site.
Site Investigation	This normally would include an extensive investigation of the ground conditions at a site i.e. boreholes, trial pits etc and a subsequent risk assessment based on the findings of the investigation
Special Site	Land that has been designated as such by virtue of sections 78C(7) and 78D(6) of the Act, and that further defined within regulations (2), (3), and schedule (1) of the Regulations.
Substance	As defined by section 78A(9) of the Act, means any natural or artificial substance, whether in solid or liquid form or in the form of a gas or vapour.

Suitable for Use	The 'suitable for use' approach consists of: 1. Ensuring that land is suitable for its current use through the identification of land where contamination is causing unacceptable risks to human health and the environment, assessed on the basis of the current use and circumstances of the land, and returning the land to a condition where such risks no longer arise. The new contaminated land regime provides the mechanism to achieve this; 2. Ensuring that land is made suitable for any new use, as planning permission is given for that new use. This is achieved by assessing the potential risks from contamination, on the basis of the proposed future use and the circumstances and remediating the land before the new use commences. The Town and Country Planning and Building Control statutory provisions afford the mechanism to achieve this.
YALPAG	Yorkshire & Lincolnshire Pollution Advisory Group – Land Sub Committee is a collection of Local Authority contaminated land representatives.





Regulatory Committee

**Thursday 4th December
2025**

Subject: Food, Health and Safety Work Plan - Mid Year Update

Report by:	Director of Change Management, ICT & Regulatory Services
Contact Officer:	Andy Gray Housing & Environmental Enforcement Manager andy.gray@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Purpose / Summary:	To provide Regulatory Committee with a mid-year update on food hygiene inspections.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Management Team are asked to:

- a) Note the report and progress made.
- b) Agree that a further update is brought with the annual food, health and safety work plan for 26/27 in May or June 2026.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

The Council is required to complete a Food, Health and Safety Work Plan annually and it is completed in line with the Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement.

The Council has a statutory obligation to ensure that it meets the requirements of the framework agreement and any other such plans produced by the Food Standards Agency.

Financial : FIN/111/26/SSc

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Staffing :

The report refers to the current staffing situation within the service in terms of its ability to meet the statutory requirements.

The previous decision to convert the temporary Environmental Health Officer position to permanent leaves the service in a position to meet its statutory obligations.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

None noted.

Data Protection Implications :

None noted.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :

On completion of the annual food, health and safety work plan, which was approved by Regulatory Committee on 5th June 2025, a full assessment for the CESIA process was completed. The report can be found here:

<https://democracy.west-lindsey.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=262&MId=3855&Ver=4>

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations :

There are no direct implications within this report. In line with the Council's Corporate Enforcement Policy this work area seeks to ensure that other agencies are engaged where necessary to address specific concerns.

Health Implications:

The delivery of an effective Food and Health and Safety service has a clear and direct impact on the health of the Districts residents. The plan seeks to ensure that Food Hygiene Standards are maintained in line with legislation and that Health and Safety incidents are investigated accordingly.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Food Health and Safety Work Plan 2025/26

<https://democracy.west-lindsey.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=262&MId=3855&Ver=4>

Risk Assessment :

See section 4 of the report

Call in and Urgency:**Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?**

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

☐

No

X

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

X

No

☐

1. Introduction

- 1.1. At its meeting on Thursday 5th June 2025, Regulatory Committee approved that an update on performance against the Food Standards Agency inspection regime be submitted to the Committee in December 2025 in order that the Committee has assurance on what progress has been made. The original committee paper can be found in the background papers section of this report.
- 1.2. This report seeks to provide that update and give reassurance to committee regarding the Council's current position.

2. Background

- 2.1. The 2025/26 food, health and safety work plan identified that 290 food premises would require a physical inspection within that year, and 345 Category E premises would need to be inspected via an Alternative Enforcement Strategy. Within this 345, 64 have been allocated to have a physical food hygiene inspection.
- 2.2. Alongside the usual inspections, there is also an anticipated 20% to 30% increase on planned inspection numbers. This is due to inspections undertaken that are not part of the routine programme (i.e., re-inspection's) or because of complaints from the public or where an additional paid for visit is requested. Therefore, it is estimated that the true total food inspection programme figure, comprising of routine planned and unplanned inspections is more likely to be in the region of 412 and 441 inspections. This number of inspections has not been achieved previously by the Council.
- 2.3. The work plan also identified that with the existing resources in place there may be a challenge in meeting the level of inspections required in 24/25.

3. Current Position

- 3.1. As of the end of September 2025
 - 213 (60%) planned inspections have been undertaken. (*121 (32%) completed in the same period in the previous year*)
 - There have been an additional 84 new business registrations, and 62 businesses have ceased trading.
 - The estimated rolling number of FSA inspections now stands at 364, an increase on the 354 scheduled in April 24.
 - 127 written warnings have been issued.
 - 4 hygiene improvement notices have been issued.
 - 6 Voluntary closures have occurred.
 - 1 successful prosecution has taken place.
- 3.2. In June 2025, the work area undertook proactive food hygiene enforcement checks at the Lincolnshire Showground on the days prior

to and during the Lincolnshire Show. These were undertaken to ensure that the major catering establishments were compliant with food law and good practice. Approximately 77 spot checks were undertaken where food hygiene and health and safety issues were considered. Four of these were full inspections of West Lindsey registered food businesses. The team were delighted to report that there were no major concerns noted at any businesses during the show, which demonstrates the impact that the continued annual attendance is having.

4. Estimate

4.1. The Council normally aims to achieve 90% of the required inspections per annum from the FSA. Based on the 354 target, of which 60% have already been completed, the Council is on course to complete 100% of the required inspections.

4.2. The Council provide its performance delivery to the FSA on a six monthly basis, and the latest return was very positive. A query was made in regard to the lack of sampling that has been undertaken, and a full response has been provided on this, as the number of inspections in the first six months have not enabled sampling to occur and the Council has committed to rectifying this in the second half of the year, which the FSA are happy with.

5. Staffing Resources

5.1. Thanks to the support of this committee and Management Team an additional Environmental Health Officer post was recruited to in July 2025 and the increase in performance can already be seen in terms of the number of inspections and interventions completed.

5.2. This has meant the temporary post in place has now ceased and that there is one additional FTE within the service.

5.3. Alongside this, the support officer post within the team has now been recruited to and an officer commenced in this post in September, so the work area now has a full complement of staff.

6. Service Risks

6.1. In the report presented to Regulatory Committee on the 5th of June 2025, the following service risks were identified.

6.1.1. An inspection target of 90% may not be achieved without additional inspection capacity being agreed.

6.1.2. Additional demand on Senior EHOs reducing availability to complete inspections.

6.1.3. Inability to complete proactive health and safety inspections.

6.1.4. Service system transition to CRM.

6.2. To mitigate the risk cited in 6.1.1.

- Management Team approved the recruitment of an additional officer who commenced in their role in July 2025.
- The inspection figure is recorded monthly within progress and delivery and currently stands at 60% at the end of September.
- The additional resources within the team are mitigating this risk.

6.3. To mitigate the risk cited in 6.1.2.

- The additional officer within the team has given capacity to the senior officer to ensure that highest risk cases can be focussed upon and to enable the CRM system to be developed.

6.4. To mitigate the risk cited in 6.1.3

- The additional officer capacity is enabling health and safety inspections to occur. This will be limited in 25/26 whilst the food inspections take precedent however, these will feature as part of future inspecting years.

6.5. To mitigate the risk cited in 6.1.4

- Resources required for supporting the new system development will also be discussed internally to consider whether additional are required at each stage and identified internally to assist with this.
- The Transformation and Digital Team are supporting on all aspects of the CRM development, the change management in the service and working in collaboration with service officers to successfully influence how it is developed and to implement it together.

7. Summary and Next Steps

7.1. The service is in a positive position for 25/26 in terms of overall food hygiene inspection numbers.

7.2. A range of mitigating actions have been identified to assist with the risks that are present within the service, and these will be explored and delivered by officers accordingly.

7.3. Regular updates will be provided to the Regulatory Committee Chair's briefing and internally, the inspection measure will continue to be reported monthly via progress and delivery reporting.

END