

Independent Examination of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan



Hearing Statement: Matter 15

Hearing Day: Wednesday 14 December 2016

Session: AM and PM

Statement prepared by:
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LP/MB/M15

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This paper sets out our comments in response to the questions to be discussed at the Local Plan Examination under Matter 15. Some of the questions appear to be **directed at the Local Planning Authorities. In those cases, we have answered 'no comment', although we reserve the right to respond to the Planning Authorities' statements and those of other respondents on the day.**

MATTER 15 – Green Wedges, Open Space and Green Infrastructure (LP20, LP22, LP and LP24)

Issue 15a – Green Wedges – Policy LP22

1. QUESTION 1

How **were the 'Green Wedges' identified** on the Policies Map and what process was followed? What evidence-based documents were used to inform this process?

1.1. No comment.

2. QUESTION 2

Are the Green Wedge designations justified, effective and consistent with national policy? Are there any significant factors that indicate that any sites should not have been designated?

2.1. The background assessment to support the Green Wedge designation does not appear to have assessed the sites against their capacity to fulfil the role and purpose of Green Wedges as defined in Policy LP22. This appears to be a fundamental flaw in the assessment and does not justify the designation of specific sites as Green Wedge. A specific example is the Green Wedge between Dunholme and Welton, which includes all the currently undeveloped land between the settlements without analysing whether all the land serves to prevent the merging of settlements, provides a multifunctional green lung, provides a recreational resource and conserves local wildlife. Our own detailed assessment demonstrates that some of the proposed designation fails to fulfill any of the functions of the Policy and, therefore, should not be subject to the designation. Furthermore, the Submission draft local plan promotes an increase to the Green Wedge, without providing an analysis of the role that the new area would fulfil in meeting the purpose of the policy to justify the amendment.

2.2. Our experience with this particular Green Wedge would suggest the approach to the whole designation is flawed and should be revisited.

3. QUESTION 3

Are there any areas where evidence-based documents recommended inclusion within a Green Wedge that were not taken forward into the Local Plan? If not, why not? Is this justified?

3.1. No comment.

4. QUESTION 4

What is the justification for the Green Wedges identified on the Policies Map (Inset Map 1 – **Lincoln**) including **Anglian Water’s Recycling** Centres at Lincoln, Waddington and South Hykeham? How does Policy LP22 respond and relate to existing, established premises? Does it allow for the sustainable consolidation or expansion of such operations? Is it effective in this regard?

4.1. No comment.

5. QUESTION 5

What is the justification for including land between Welton and Dunholme, to include site CL1187, within a Green Wedge?

5.1. No comment.

6. QUESTION 6

What is the justification for including land at Urban Street, Bracebridge Heath (site CL416) within a Green Wedge?

6.1. No comment

7. QUESTION 7

What is the justification for including land at the University of **Lincoln’s** Riseholme Campus within a Green Wedge? Is this necessary or appropriate given the existing use of the site and existing designations?

7.1. No comment.

Issue 15b – Local Green Space and Other Important Open Space – Policy LP23

8. QUESTION 8

How are the designations of Local Green Space within the Plan consistent with paragraphs 76-77 of the Framework? Does Policy LP23 meet the tests in national policy?

8.1. No comment.

9. QUESTION 9

How were areas of Local Green Space identified on the Policies Map and what process was followed? What evidence-based documents were used to inform this process?

9.1. No comment.

10. QUESTION 10

Are the Local Green Space designations justified, effective and consistent with national policy? Are there any significant factors that indicate that any sites should not have been designated?

10.1. No comment.

11. QUESTION 11

What criteria have been used to inform the designation of land as **'Important Open Space'**? Are they justified?

11.1. No comment.

12. QUESTION 12

Is the designation of land as **'Important Open Space'** consistent with the Framework, which seeks to rule out new development on Local Green Space where the bullet-point list at paragraph 77 is satisfied?

12.1. No comment.

13. QUESTION 13

Are there any areas where evidence-based documents recommended inclusion as part of a Local Green Space or Important Open Space that were not taken forward into the Local Plan? If not, why not? Is this justified?

13.1. No comment.

14. QUESTION 14

What is the justification for including land off Wolsey Way, Lincoln (site CL4432) as part of an area of Important Open Space?

14.1. No comment.

15. QUESTION 15

What is the justification for including land to the rear of Riby Road and Woodlands Avenue, Keelby as Important Open Space?

15.1. No comment.

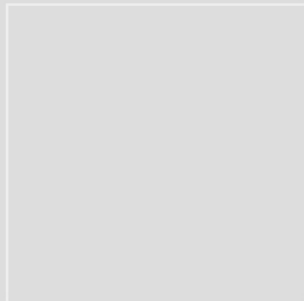
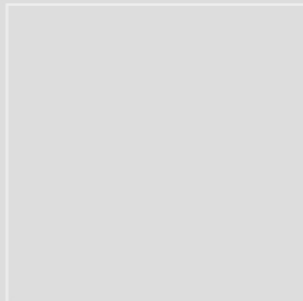
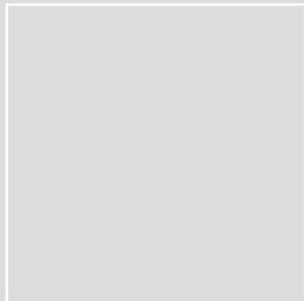
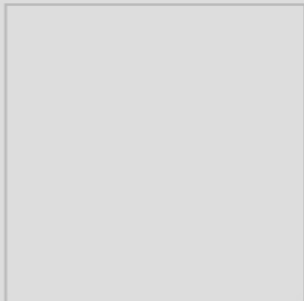
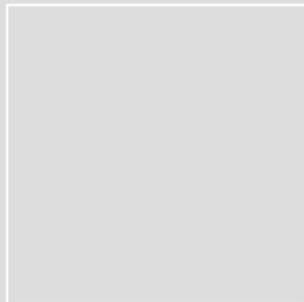
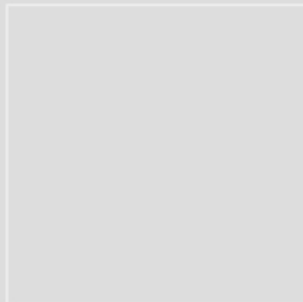
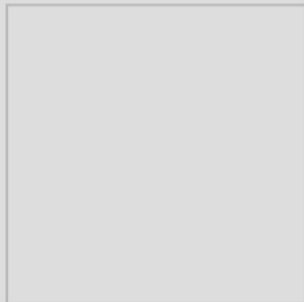
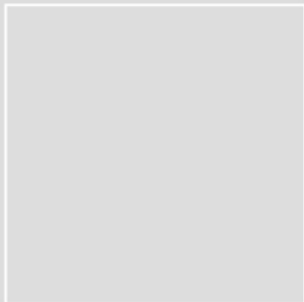
16. QUESTION 16

What is the justification for including land at Ferry Lane/High Street, Skellingthorpe as Important Open Space?

16.1. No comment.

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