

# NORTH KESTEVEN

DISTRICT PROFILE  
MARCH 2019



**North Kesteven**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# 1. Overview

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North Kesteven is in the East Midlands, situated just over 100 miles north of London. It is located east of Nottingham and south of Lincoln. North Kesteven is one of seven districts in Lincolnshire and is in the centre of the County. It covers an area of 356 square miles or 92,000 hectares, of which 95% is classified as green space, which includes agricultural land and open space. The principal sectors of the economy include food and agriculture, engineering, tourism and construction. The emergent engineering sector has potential to grow, with a focus on engines and turbines, and sector specialisms related to medical, precision and optical equipment, and electrical machinery. There are low unemployment rates and relatively good skills levels in the District.

The District is characterised by small settlements and large areas of farmland. More than 64% of the population live in rural settlements, including villages or market towns, therefore North Kesteven has been classified as being 'mainly rural'<sup>1</sup>. North Kesteven also has a relatively underdeveloped transport and communications infrastructure. As a result, local communities have historically been self-reliant, with parish and town councils providing services, such as playing fields or play areas.

The market town of Sleaford has the potential for growth, with significant private sector investment related to renewable energy, retailing, employment, and heritage led regeneration<sup>2</sup>, whilst North Hykeham offers significant employment and economic development opportunities as a key part of the business district for Greater Lincoln. In addition, NKDC has been allocated £2m to go towards the growth and regeneration of Sleaford<sup>3</sup>.



## 2. Population

The population estimate of the District is 115,230, an increase of 1.40% on the year before, and above the England average of 0.64%. This is 74<sup>th</sup> fastest increase of all 326 English local authority areas<sup>4</sup>.

North Kesteven residents live in around 100 mainly small communities. Major concentrations are in Sleaford, with a population of nearly 18,000; North Hykeham, with around 14,000 residents; and 10 larger villages, providing a range of services, with populations of over 2,500<sup>5</sup>. Within the District, nearly a third of the population live in the “Lincoln Fringe”, the area immediately surrounding Lincoln City<sup>5</sup>.

The median age for NK resident is 46 years, an increase of 4.9 years since 2001<sup>4</sup>.

Since 2001 the population of the District has increased by 22.6%, 93<sup>rd</sup> highest increase against all 326 English local authority area. The population is projected to reach 126,900 by 2041<sup>6</sup>. The rate of growth is driven primarily from: internal migration from other parts of the UK (88%), rather than international migration (8%) or natural change in births/deaths and other factors.

Area	Mid-2017	2011 Census	2001 Census	Change 2001-11%	Change 2001-17%	All Households 2011	Average persons/ household
North Kesteven	115,230	107,776	94,012	14.6%	22.6%	46,000	2.3
Lincolnshire	751,171	713,653	646,645	10.4%	16.2%	307,000	2.3
East Midlands	4,771,666	4,533,222	4,172,174	8.7%	14.4%	1,895,600	2.4
England	55,619,430	53,012,456	49,138,831	7.9%	13.2%	22,063,400	2.4
England and Wales	58,744,595	56,075,900	52,041,916	7.8%	12.9%	23,366,000	2.4

### 3. Health and Wellbeing

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Nationally, there have been major improvements in public health over the last century, with large increases in life expectancy. However, this overall picture masks significant geographical variations and health inequality.

Life expectancy is increasing in North Kesteven, mirroring the national trend. The life expectancy at birth is now 81.0 years for males and 84.3 years for females<sup>7</sup>. This is above average when compared to other districts in England.

Although 30.9% of children in year 6 were categorised as overweight (including obese) during 2017/18, this is still better than the average for England (34.3%)<sup>8</sup>. 65.9% of adults in North Kesteven were classified as overweight or obese during 2016/17<sup>9</sup>. The percentage of overweight or obese adults has slightly decreased when looking at previous year (-2.1%) but it is still higher than both the regional and national averages.

19% of the population in NK have a disability or limiting long-standing illness<sup>10</sup>, however the health of people in North Kesteven is generally better than the England average. Household Survey (2016/17) revealed that 78% of NK residents rate their general health on an average day as good and very good, whilst 81% of NK residents rate their general wellbeing as good and very good.

#### **NK's Personal Wellbeing 2016/18<sup>11</sup>**

(324 English Local Authorities)

**Life Satisfaction:** 23rd place (Top 10%) (22 places up)

**Feeling Life is Worthwhile:** 31st place (Top 10%) (89 places up)

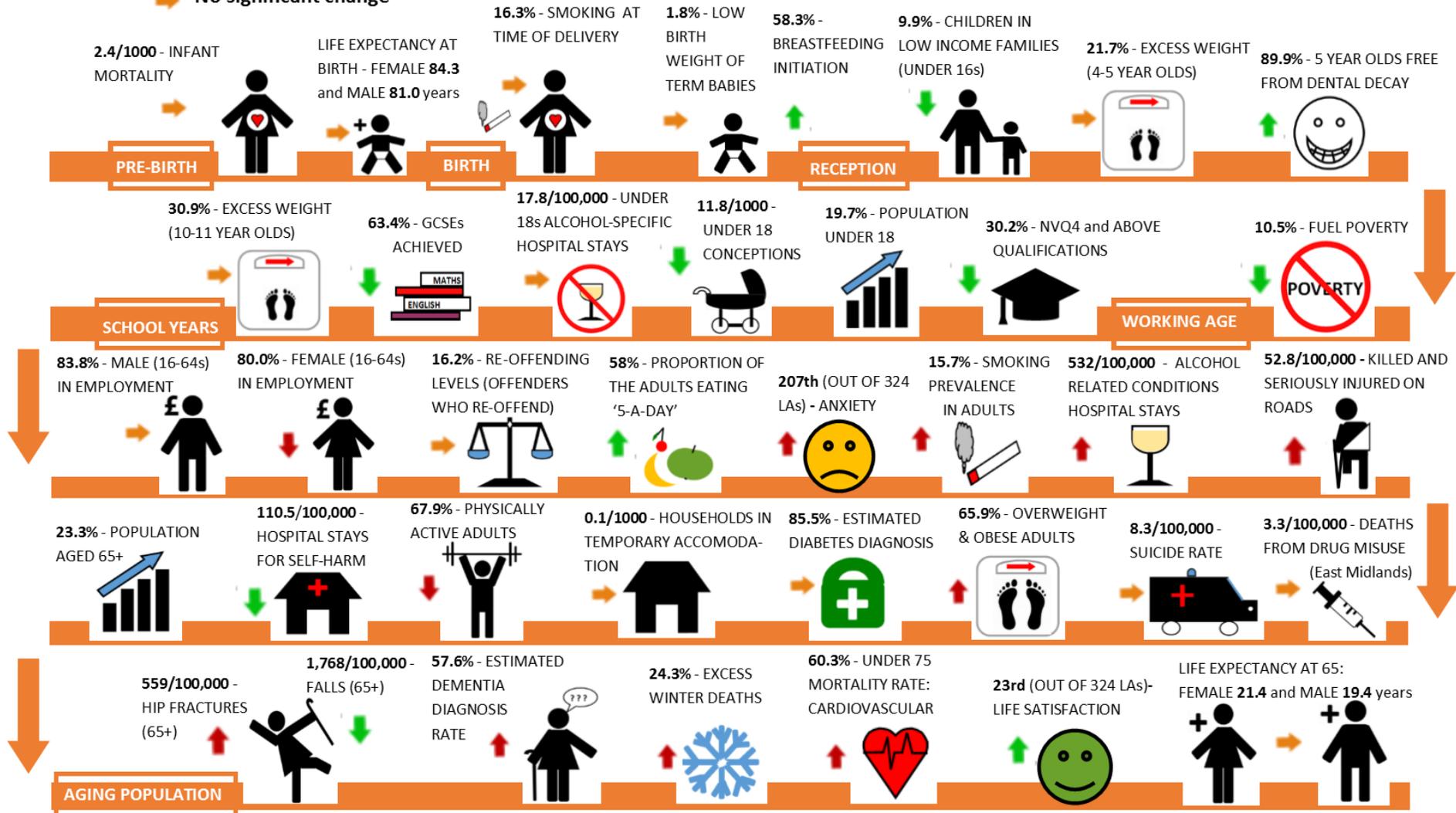
**Happiness:** 74th place (Top Quartile) (39 places down)

**Anxiety:** 207th place (for low levels of anxiety) - (3rd Quartile) (139 places down)

 Increasing / getting better  
 Decreasing / getting better  
 No significant change

## NORTH KESTEVEN - HEALTH & WELLBEING 2019

 Increasing / getting worse  
 Decreasing / getting worse



Sources: PHOF, NOMIS and ONS.

## 4. Crime Levels and Deprivation

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The North Kesteven District has ranked 1<sup>st</sup>, in terms of lowest recorded crimes per 1,000 population in Lincolnshire, for the last four years<sup>12</sup>. The District also has very low levels of anti-social behaviour and re-offending<sup>13</sup>.

In 2017/18 there were only 27 recorded crimes per 1,000 people, compared to 51 crimes recorded in Lincolnshire and 75 in England and Wales<sup>12</sup>.

Nationally, North Kesteven is in the top 20% of the least deprived local authority areas in England. The District is the least deprived district in Lincolnshire.

Full details on the Index of Deprivation and NKDC can be found on the NKDC website, accessed via the following link:

<https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/your-council/facts-and-figures-about-the-council/council-performance/the-nk-plan-2017-20/nk-plan-2017-20-background-and-evidence-base/>

## 5. Economic Performance

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The future success of an area strongly depends on increasing employment opportunities and prospectus economic productivity. Although as a rural district, North Kesteven has a small employment base, the number of people employed is higher than the majority of districts. 81.9% of people aged 16-64 in the District are in employment<sup>14</sup>.

The main centres of employment are in Sleaford and North Hykeham, of which North Hykeham is the largest. North Kesteven has 3 strategic employment locations: Teal Park (North Hykeham – Siemens, Greenray), Network 46 (Witham St Hughs - Turbine Efficiency, Frontier, Apogee, DPD) and Sleaford Enterprise Park (Bailey Trailers, SHD Composites Ltd, Kiowa).

Other major employers outside these towns include the armed forces (RAF Cranwell, Waddington and Digby), three major food processing factories - Moy Park (Anwick), Tulip (Ruskington) and Branston Potatoes (Branston), as well as Mid UK Recycling (Sleaford and South Hykeham) and Kisimul School (Swinderby). Many of the District's residents find employment in the nearby towns of Grantham, Newark and Lincoln.

In total, there are 4,025 enterprises in NK and 89.4% of them are micro enterprises (0 to 9)<sup>15</sup>.

14.7% of people in the District, aged 16-64, are economically inactive. There are approximately 3.3% of people in the District who are unemployed. In addition, only 1.1% of North Kesteven residents claim 'Out-Of-Work' benefits (January, 2019)<sup>14</sup>.

Within North Kesteven there is a significant quantity of good quality agricultural land; over 90% of the agricultural land is classified as moderate to very good<sup>16</sup>. More than 80% of farmland is used for crops, with nearly half of the area of the District being used for cereal production<sup>17</sup>. However there is also intensive livestock production, particularly chicken and egg production, within the District.

## 6. Prosperity and Wealth

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The annual median salary for a full-time employee in North Kesteven is £30,671<sup>18</sup>. This is higher than the annual median salary for the East Midlands region (£27,606) and the figure for all England (£29,869). Nonetheless, some 13% of adults (18+) in NK find meeting monthly bills/commitments a heavy burden or regularly in arrears with bills<sup>19</sup>.

Despite 9.5% (2,130) of all dependent children under 20 living in poverty in the District in 2015, this is significantly lower than regional and national averages of 15.8% and 16.6% respectively<sup>20</sup>. NK remains in the best 20% nationally for child poverty.

Measures of wealth include car ownership and the average number of rooms per household. However, these are only proxy measures because they can be affected by whether residents live in rural or urban locations. Many residents rely on private transport due to the rural nature of the North Kesteven.

The Census 2011 shows that 13% of households have no cars or vans compared to 45% who have 1 car or van; 33% of households have 2 cars or vans; 7% have 3 cars or vans; and 2% have 4 or more cars or vans. The average number of rooms per household in North Kesteven is high at 6.1, with the District ranking in the top 40% of districts in England<sup>21</sup>.

## 7. Skills and Qualifications

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One of the essentials of a successful economy of the District is human capital.

GCSE pass rates are a precursor to the future potential workforce and a measure of the quality of local schools. The percentage of Key Stage 4 pupils who have achieved 5 A\*-C including English and Maths is higher in North Kesteven, at approximately 63.4%, than the England average at 57.8%<sup>22</sup>. 30.2% of NK's residents hold qualifications Level 4 and above, 51.7% Level 3 and above and 75.2% Level 2 and above<sup>23</sup>.

The most common occupations in the District are<sup>24</sup>:

- 51.1% - Managers, Directors, Senior Official; Professional Occupations; Associate Professional & Technical,
- 18.8% - Administrative, Secretarial and other Skilled Trades Occupations,
- 16.1% - Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occupations; Sales and Customer Services Occupations,
- 14.1% - Process Plant & Machine Operatives; Elementary Occupants.

Top 10 employee jobs by industry are:

- 15.4% - Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles,
- 15.4% - Manufacturing,
- 12.8% - Human health and social work activities,
- 7.7% - Education,
- 7.7% - Construction,
- 7.7% - Accommodation and food service activities,
- 6.4% - Professional, scientific and technical activities,
- 5.1% - Administrative and support service activities,
- 4.5% - Public administration and defence; compulsory social security,
- 3.8% - Transportation and storage.

## 8. Transport and Connectivity

Transport and connectivity have a major influence on an area's ability to attract business and investment.

It takes an average North Kesteven resident 32 minutes to get to work; the highest in Lincolnshire<sup>25</sup>. Of those who travel to work, the majority drive a car or van (75%). 9% travel on foot, 5% as a passenger in a car or van, 4% by bicycle and 3% by bus, minibus or coach.<sup>26</sup>

Of those in employment, 11% of residents work mainly at or from home.

Approximately 5% of adults in NK cycle for travel at least once a week, similar to the East Midlands (5%) and England (6%).

31% of NK residents walk for travel at least once per week (for over 10 minutes), below the East Midlands (36%) and England (42%)<sup>27</sup>.

Overall train stations' passenger usage in North Kesteven has increased by 4.4% from 2016/17 to 2017/18<sup>28</sup>. The train stations have seen the following changes in their entries & exits:

Station	Entries and exits	% change, 2016/17 to 2017/18
Sleaford	309,326	-2.29%
Hykeham	143,482	33.3%
Metheringham	99,490	-0.2%
Ruskington	89,726	-1.4%
Heckington	66,576	3.0%
Swinderby	17,616	21.8%
Rauceby	9,714	-11.27%

## 9. Housing

Whilst housing affordability is a national problem, its impacts are not evenly spread. The median house price in NK is £188,000<sup>29</sup>, ranking 99th of the most affordable housing of all 326 English local authority areas and an increase of £8,000 on the year before.

Alongside this, the median monthly private rent as of 2017/18 is £595, significantly below national average of £690<sup>30</sup>.

According to the Valuation Office Agency, there are 50,880 properties in the NK District<sup>31</sup>. Those properties fall under the following Council Tax bands:

Band A	(26.6%)	13,510 properties
Band B	(24.6%)	12,520 properties
Band C	(25.2%)	12,830 properties
Band D	(13.3%)	6,790 properties
Band E	(6.4%)	3,280 properties
Band F	(2.9%)	1,490 properties
Band G	(0.8%)	420 properties
Band H	(0.1%)	60 properties

NK is one of the least deprived local authorities in Lincolnshire in terms of barriers to housing and services<sup>32</sup>.

Only 890 households were registered on the local authority housing waiting list in 2018, which has decreased from 1,103 in 2017 and 1,463 in 2016. Local authority average weekly rent as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 was £76, this is compared to £88 which was required by a private registered provider<sup>33</sup>.

In 2016, 10.5% of households in NK were estimated to be fuel poor (approx. 5,000 thousands households). This figure is lower than Lincolnshire average of 12.0% and regional average of 11.7%<sup>34</sup>.

Nationally there is a positive correlation between income and house prices. In general, the higher earnings, the higher house prices. North Kesteven scores well in regards to housing purchase affordability, with the ratio of median house price to median workplace-based earnings at 7.44, in the top 30 local authorities (England and Wales) for affordability.<sup>35</sup>

According to the HM Land Registry, £209,603 is the average price for property in NK (December, 2018)<sup>36</sup> an increase of 4.6% from December 2017.

In December 2018, the average prices of a particular type of property in NK were:

- Detached House £254,391,
- Semi Detached House £172,435,
- Terraced House £143,107,
- Flat £103,449.

Overall, Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI) per head for North Kesteven in 2016 was £16,992, 255<sup>th</sup> highest GDHI against all 326 English LAs<sup>37</sup>. The average GDHI per head in Lincolnshire was £16,853, East Midlands £17,042 and England £19,878. The highest recorded GDHI per head was £62,600 in Kensington and Chelsea. All the top 9 local authorities were located in London and 1 in the South East. Nottingham was at the bottom with just £12,232 GDHI per head.

# 10. Natural Environment

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In terms of Environment Deprivation, out of all 326 English Local Authorities, NK ranks at the 55th place and is the least deprived local authority in Lincolnshire<sup>32</sup>.

The rural composure and good air quality means that the District has good natural environment to live in. Only 2.20% of North Kesteven resident population live in areas ranked as Lincolnshire's worst 10% areas in terms of air quality<sup>38</sup>. Most recent CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per person accounted for 5.4 tonnes, the same as the national average<sup>39</sup>.

The fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution in 2017 was 4.8%, compared to 5.3% in 2016<sup>40</sup>.

The natural environment is a subjective theme because it can be assessed in terms of areas of outstanding natural beauty, green space, green belt and heritage coast alongside tranquillity and weather. The overall natural environment score for North Kesteven, which is the average of the other indicators alongside the proportion of green space, is higher than most other district areas.

## In the District there are:

- 998 Listed Buildings
- 36 Conservation Areas
- 7 Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- 132 Sites of Nature Conservation
- 65 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

The quality of the natural environment has implications for a modern economy, which is associated with decentralised geography of employment as workers try to find a good work-life balance. Indicators are heavily skewed, with towns, cities and urban areas scoring poorly and rural areas scoring well.

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# Document revision

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## August 2018:

- “5 year old children free from dental decay”, “Smoking prevalence in adults” and “Estimated dementia diagnosis rate (65+) 2018” (Page 6) graph updated to reflect the latest publication on PHOF.
- “Economic Performance” (Page 8) information updated to reflect the latest figures on NOMIS.
- “Skills & Qualifications” (Page 10) updated to reflect the latest publication on NOMIS.

## October 2018:

- “NK’s Personal Wellbeing” (Page 5) ranking refreshed to reflect publication on 26 September 2018.
- “Crime rates” (Page 7) refreshed to reflect year 2017/18.
- “Number of properties in NK by Council Tax Band” (Page 12) refreshed to reflect publication of 20 September 2018 by the VOA.
- “Average House Price – JULY 2018” (Page 13) refreshed to reflect publication of 19 September 2018.

## January 2019

- “Percentage of children in year 6 classified as overweight” (Page 5).
- “Visual map” updated to latest available figures (Page 6).
- “Economic Performance” and “Skills and Qualification” (Pages 8, 10) information updated to reflect the latest figures on NOMIS.
- “Annual salaries” updated based on latest release, 25 October 2018 (Page 9).
- “Estimates of Train Station Usage” (Page 11) added to reflect publication of the Office of Rail and Road estimates.
- “Median House Prices: June 2018” and “Private rental market statistics” updated (Page 12).
- “UK House Price Index: October 2018”, updated (Page 13).

## March 2019

- “Life expectancy” updated (Page 5).
- “Visual map” updated to latest available figures (Page 6).
- Percentage of farmland used for crops (Page 8).
- “The most common occupations in the District” updated (Page 10).
- “Journey time to work” and “Walking and cycling for travel” updated (page 11)
- “Households registered on the local authority housing waiting list” updated (Page 12).
- “Average House prices” updated (Page 13).
- “Fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution” updated (Page 14).