

2.5 Historic Environment

Key Sources of Information
Datasets as listed in Appendix A1
Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record

- 2.5.1 This audit identifies and maps historic environment assets in the Study Area related the built heritage, archaeology and historic designed landscapes.

Scheduled Monuments

- 2.5.2 Scheduled Monuments are archaeological and historical sites of national importance. Scheduled Monuments are not always ancient, or visible above ground. There are over 200 'classes' of Scheduled Monuments ranging from prehistoric standing stones and burial mounds, through the many types of medieval site – castles, monasteries, abandoned farmsteads and villages – to the more recent results of human activity, such as wartime pillboxes. There are currently about 31,400 Scheduled Monuments in England.
- 2.5.3 There are currently 210⁷³ Scheduled Monuments scattered across Central Lincolnshire (see **Figure 2.10a**), with denser concentrations within the City of Lincoln (including the Roman City walls), scattered within farmland at the edges of Lincoln, along the Lower Witham Valley (an area of archaeological importance)⁷⁴, within Sleaford and Gainsborough and also following the course of Car dyke⁷⁵ within the east of North Kesteven District and the City of Lincoln. The number of Scheduled Monuments located within each of the three sub-areas is provided in **Table 2.5a**.

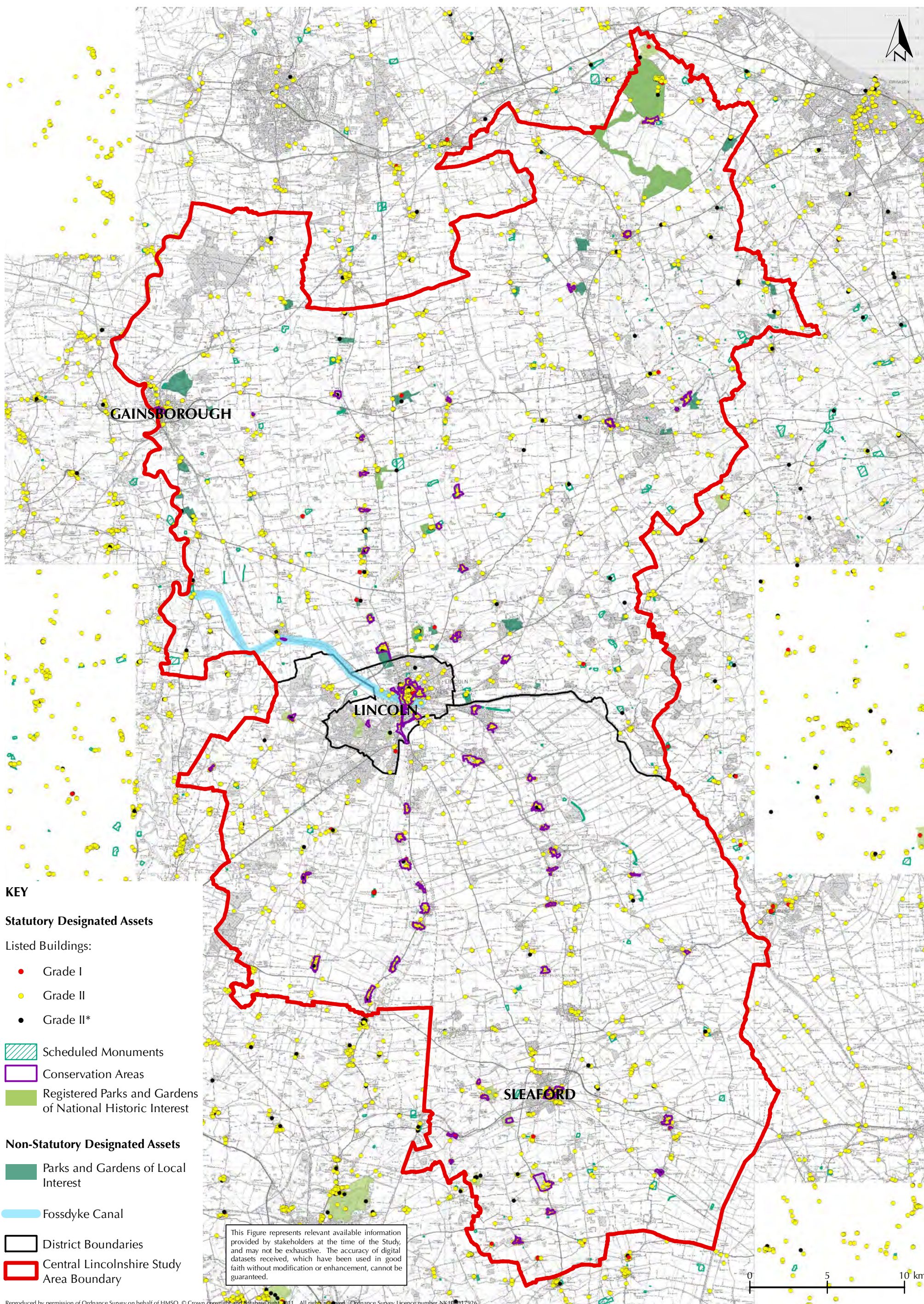
Table 2.5a: Scheduled Monuments within the Gainsborough, Lincoln and Sleaford Areas

	Number of Scheduled Monuments	Examples of Scheduled Monuments
Gainsborough Area (see Figure 2.10b)	11	Castle Hills Ringwood and Bailey at the northern edge of Gainsborough. Medieval settlement, manorial complex, moated site and priory within agricultural fields at the setting of the town.
Lincoln Area (see Figure 2.10c)	77	Large expanse of Roman Colonia, Lincoln Castle, the walls of the Old Palace and Priory Gate within the city, parts of the course of Car Dyke to the east of Lincoln - Numerous other types of monument both within

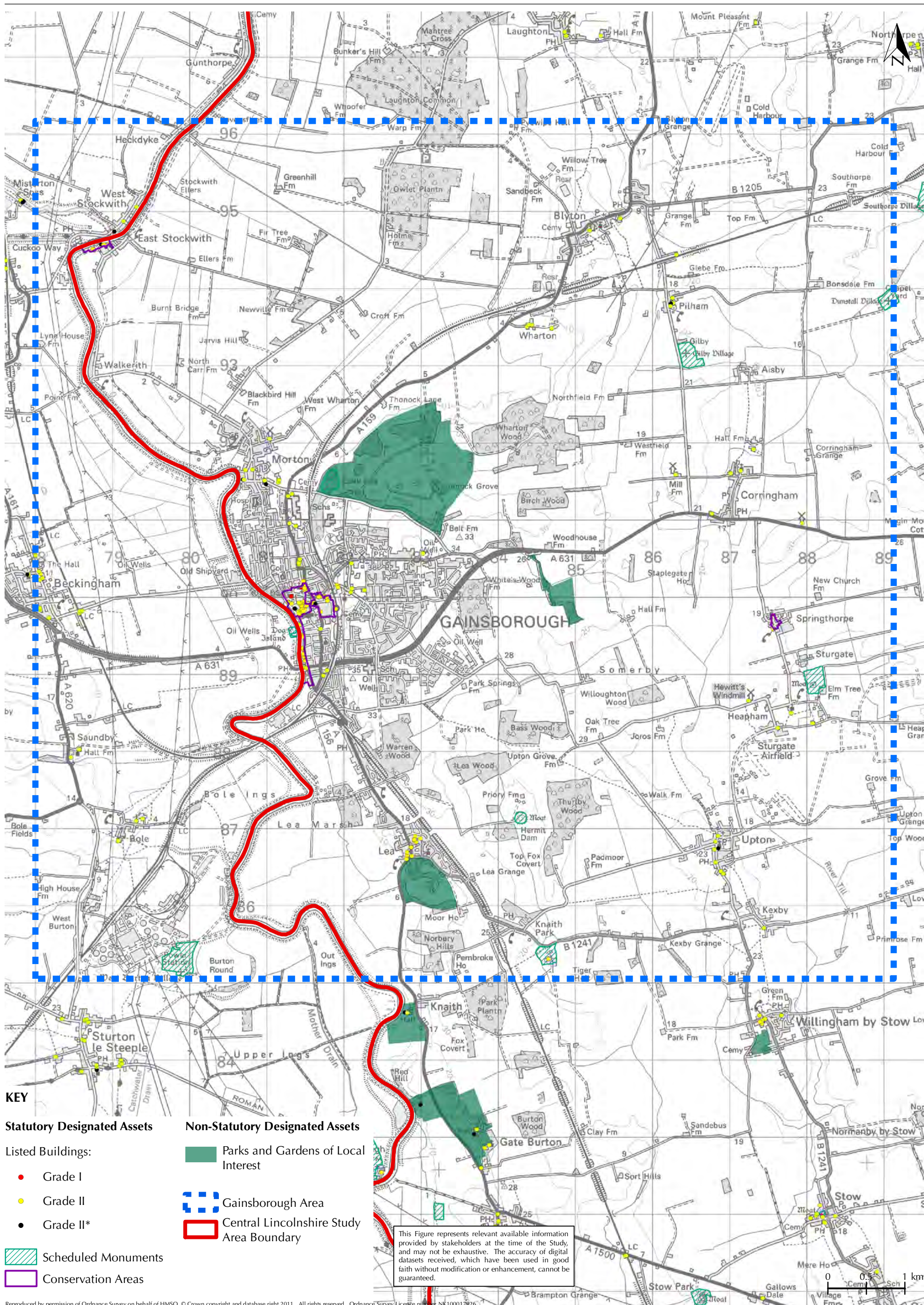
⁷³ Data from the English Heritage Scheduled Monuments GIS dataset

⁷⁴ The valley has a fascinating history with important archaeological finds dating back to the Iron Age. It includes the Witham Abbeys Scheduled Monuments, a series of medieval religious houses developed along the Witham Valley.

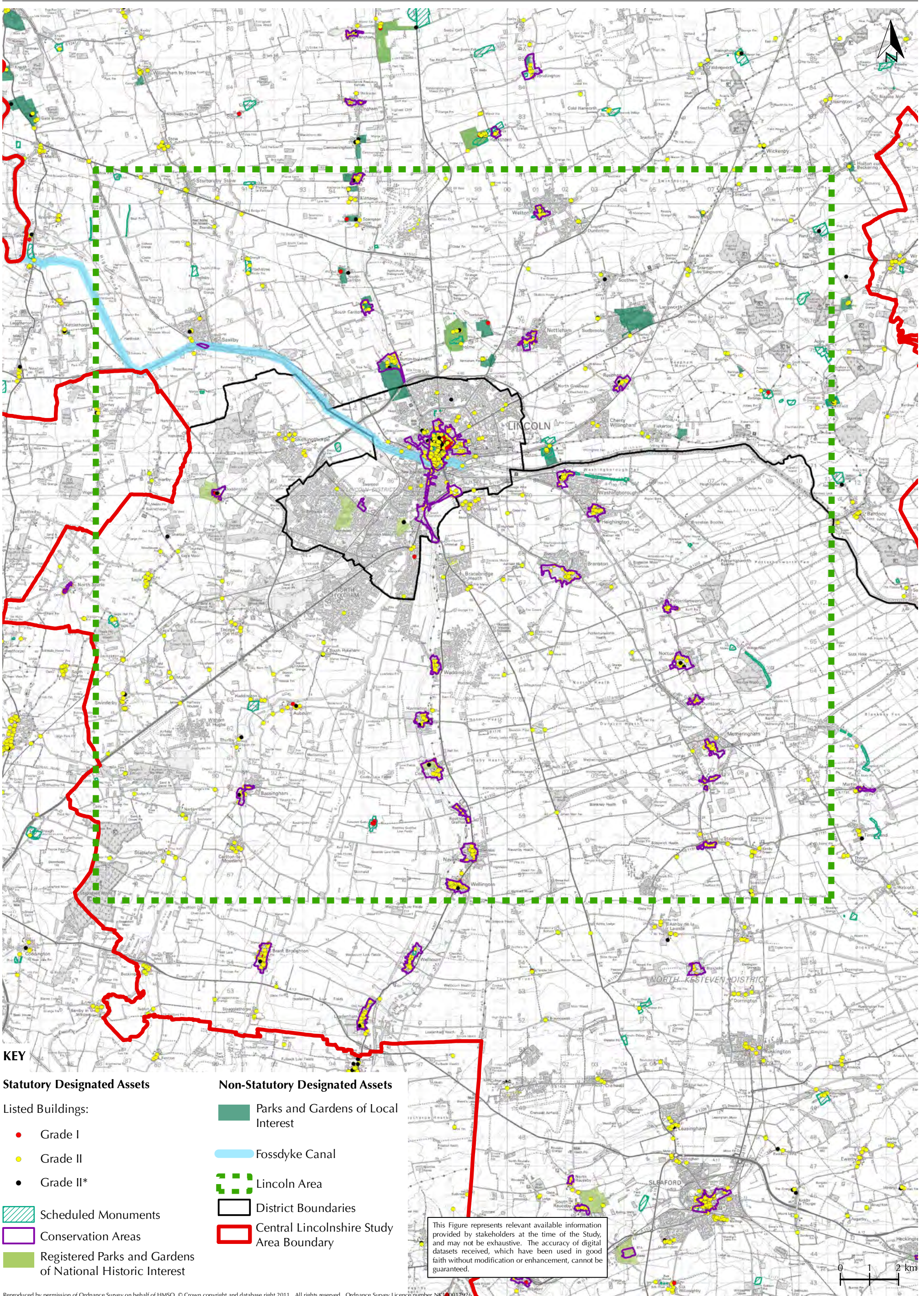
⁷⁵ The Car dyke is an artificial water channel constructed during the Roman period, around AD125, which ran along the western fen edge from Peterborough to Lincoln and may have been used for water transport



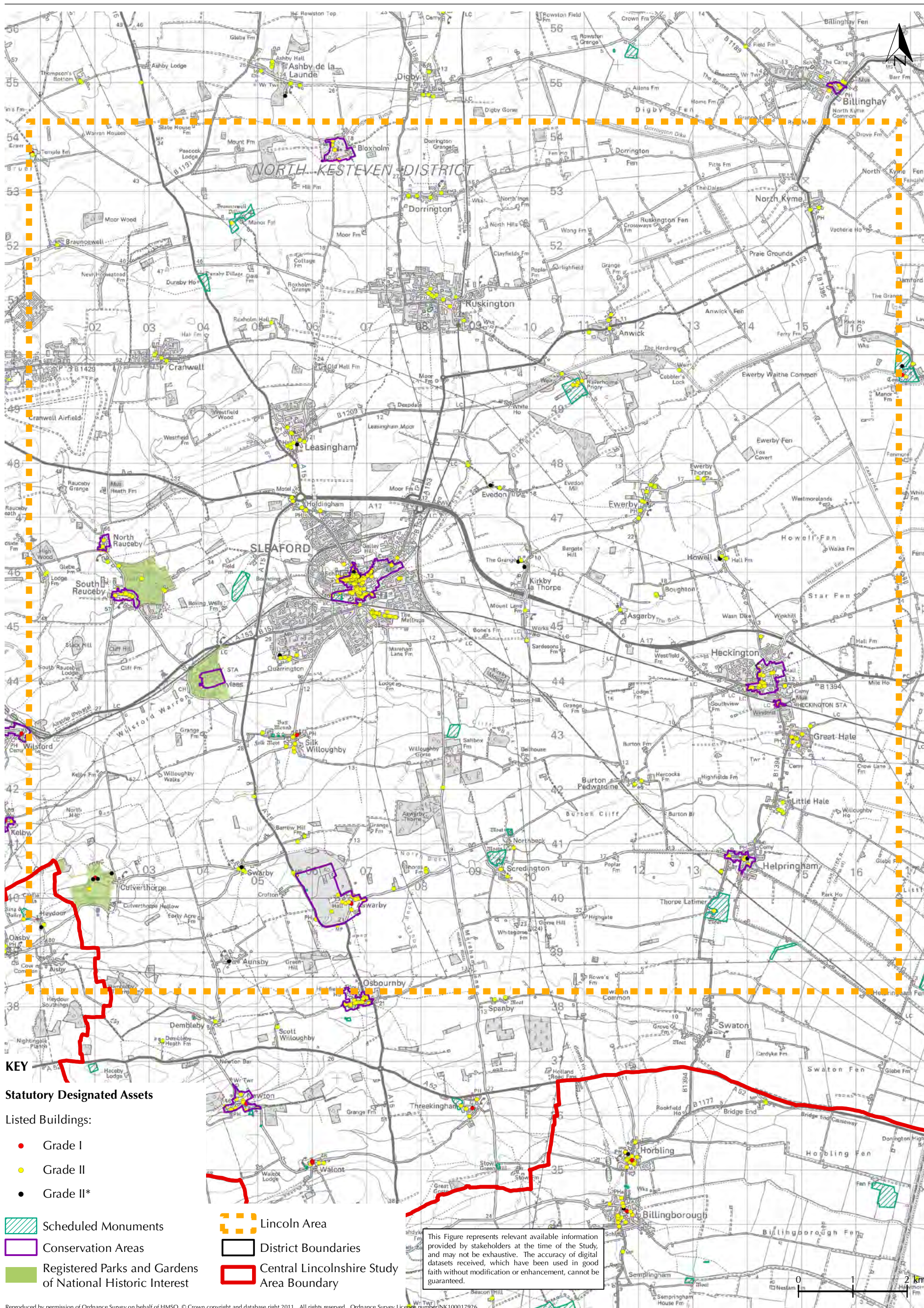
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	Number of Scheduled Monuments	Examples of Scheduled Monuments
		villages, at the edges of villages and scattered within agricultural fields that form the setting of the city.
Sleaford Area (see Figure 2.10d)	28	Sleaford Castle in the centre of the town. Barrows, priories and medieval settlements, scattered amongst the agricultural fields within the setting of the town

Conservation Areas

- 2.5.4 Conservation Areas are designated areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. There are 75 Conservation Areas within the Study Area (see **Figure 2.10a**) which vary in size and often include clusters of Listed Buildings and other features of merit such as open spaces, trees, historic street patterns and items of historic or archaeological interest. The Conservation Areas are widely distributed reflecting the historic settlement pattern of the Study Area, with the majority focussed on historic cores of settlements, including rural villages and the larger settlements of Lincoln, Gainsborough and Sleaford.
- 2.5.5 There are 5 Conservation Areas within the Gainsborough Area (see **Figure 2.10b**), with the largest centred on the historic core of Gainsborough, other parts of the town's urban fabric and within the villages in the landscape setting of the town (including Springthorpe and East Stockwith).
- 2.5.6 The Lincoln Area includes 36 Conservation Areas (see **Figure 2.10c**). The largest encompasses the historic core of Lincoln City, whilst others are situated within the numerous villages in the predominantly rural setting of the town. The location of these villages tends to follow the higher ground along the Lincolnshire Cliff scarp (running north-south from Lincoln City) and the higher ground of the Fenland edge farmlands overlooking the Fens.
- 2.5.7 Finally, the Sleaford Area contains 11 Conservation Areas (see **Figure 2.10d**), including the historic core of Sleaford, and several large and smaller villages within the landscape setting of the town. These historic villages are generally situated to the south, east and west of Sleaford.

Listed Buildings

- 2.5.8 Listed Buildings are buildings of special architectural or historic interest. Listed buildings are classified into grades to show their relative importance:

- Grade I – buildings of exceptional interest;
- Grade II* - particularly important and of more than special interest; and
- Grade II – buildings of special interest, which warrant every effort being made to preserve them.

2.5.9 There are 2364 Listed Buildings of all grades within the Study Area (154 – Grade I, 164 – Grade II* and 2046 Grade II). Particularly high concentrations of these are situated within the historic core of Lincoln City, with other clusters in the historic cores of Gainsborough and Sleaford (see **Figure 2.10a**). Within the wider Study Area, smaller clusters of Listed Buildings are centred on the numerous villages, historic halls, with others associated with scattered farmsteads. The quantity of Listed Buildings located within each of the three sub-areas is provided in **Table 2.5b**.

Table 2.5b: Listed Buildings within the Gainsborough, Lincoln and Sleaford Areas

	Total	Grade I	Grade II*	Grade II	Note
Gainsborough Area (see Figure 2.10b)	150	7	8	135	Many of these are situated within the historic core and scattered amongst the urban fabric of Gainsborough. Other clusters are located in villages within the landscape setting of the town.
Lincoln Area (see Figure 2.10c)	975	66	72	835	The densest concentration of these is situated within the historic core around the Cathedral and Close. The high number of Grade I and Grade II* Listed Buildings within this area emphasises the historic importance and integrity of the City of Lincoln.
Sleaford Area (see Figure 2.10d)	387	18	18	351	The largest concentrations of these are situated within the settlements of Sleaford, Ruskington, Leasingham and Heckington, with smaller concentrations in other villages, and associated with farmsteads within the setting of the town.

2.5.10 A range of Listed Buildings and structures are represented within the Study Area, such as stables, signal boxes, signposts, lodges, monuments, mills, farmhouses, churches, halls, post offices, bridges, village crosses, pigeon cotes, police stations, houses and cottages, inns, boundary walls, castles, sundials, ice houses and windmills.

Historic Parks and Gardens

Parks and Gardens of Local Historic Interest

- 2.5.11 The English Heritage *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England* identifies nearly 1450 sites divided into three grade bands to give added guidance on their significance. The majority of the sites identified through the Register as being of a sufficiently high level of interest to merit a national designation, are designated as grade II. Around 30% of the 1450 are considered to be of exceptional historic interest and are awarded grade II* status. A further 10% are of international importance, and are classified as grade I.
- 2.5.12 English Heritage's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England provides a listing and classification system for historic parks and gardens. There are 12 registered Parks and Gardens of National Historic Interest within the Study Area (see **Figure 2.10a**), many of which are situated within the environs of Lincoln and Sleaford. The name and Grade of each of the registered Parks and Gardens of National Historic Interest is provided in **Table 2.5c**.

Table 2.5c: Registered Parks and Gardens of National Historic Interest within the Gainsborough, Lincoln and Sleaford Areas and Outside the Sub-Areas

	Total	Grade I	Grade II*	Grade II
Gainsborough Area (see Figure 2.10b)	0	-	-	-
Lincoln Area (see Figure 2.10c)	6	-	Doddington Hall (within setting of the City)	Within the urban fabric: *Lincoln Arboretum *Hartsholme Park *Boultham Park Within the setting of the city: *Riseholme Hall *Coleby Hall
Sleaford Area (see Figure 2.10d)	3	-	-	Within the south-western setting of the town: *Rauceby Hall *Rauceby Hospital and *Culverthorpe Hall
Outside the sub-areas	3	Brocklesby Park	-	*Fillingham Castle *Hackthorn Hall

Parks and Gardens of Local Historic Interest

- 2.5.13 West Lindsey District Council has also identified 58 Parks and Gardens of Local Historic Interest. These are scattered throughout the District (within the northern half of the Study

Area), with particular concentrations at the edges of Gainsborough, Sleaford and Market Rasen (see **Figure 2.10a**).

- 2.5.14 Within the Gainsborough Area there are three Parks and Gardens of Local Historic Interest, situated to the east and south of the town (see **Figure 2.10b**). In the Lincoln Area there are 18 Parks and Gardens of Local Historic Interest, which are clustered around the northern and eastern edges of the City (see **Figure 2.10c**)⁷⁶.

Historic Environment Record

- 2.5.15 Historic Environment Records (HERs) are the major source of information for understanding the local historic environment (including known archaeological sites, finds, landscapes, buildings and other aspects of the historic environment). Within the heritage protection system, the main purpose of HERs is to inform strategic policies and decision-making relating to spatial planning, development control and land management and improve protection of the historic environment. Alongside this, HERs can advance our knowledge and understanding of the historic environment, provide a resource for conservation, regeneration, local history, education and tourism, and promote public participation in the exploration, appreciation and enjoyment of our local heritage.
- 2.5.16 The Lincolnshire HER includes three basic types of records⁷⁷: findspot records, building records and monument (also called archaeology) records. The number of records for each three types which fall within Central Lincolnshire, each of the three Districts and each of the three sub-areas is provided in **Table 2.5d**.

Table 2.5d: Number of Records held in the Lincolnshire HER Record within the Study Area and the Gainsborough, Lincoln and Sleaford Areas

	Total	Findspot Records	Building Records	Monument Records
Central Lincolnshire	7980	20	2442	5518
Gainsborough Area	328	1	173	154
Lincoln Area	2608	7	789	1812
Sleaford Area	1377	6	449	922

⁷⁶ NB: There are no identified Parks and Gardens of Local Historic Interest within the Sleaford sub-area because this falls outside West Lindsey District. North Kesteven District has not identified Parks and Gardens of Local Historic Interest.

⁷⁷ It should be noted that the Lincolnshire HER includes designated assets as designated by PPS5 (PPS5 defines designated heritage assets as including World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated as such under the relevant legislation)

2.6 Access and Recreation

Key Sources of Information
Datasets as listed in Appendix A1
2 nd Local Transport Plan 2006/7 to 2010/11: Walking and Cycling Strategy (2006, Lincolnshire County Council)
A Play Strategy for the City of Lincoln 2007-12 (City of Lincoln Council)
All to Play for in West Lindsey 2007-12 (West Lindsey paly Partnership, Final Draft)
City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey leisure webpages
Countryside Access and Right of Way Improvement Plan 2007-12 (2007, Lincolnshire County Council)
County Sports Facilities Framework (2008, Lincolnshire Sports Partnership)
Lincolnshire Cultural Strategy 2010-15 (2010, Lincolnshire County Council)
Delivering a Sustainable Future for Central Lincolnshire: Portrait of Place (April 2011, AECOM)
Leisure in Lincoln (2009, City of Lincoln Council)
Lincoln Greenways Strategy: Greater Lincoln Greenways and Quiet Roads National Demonstration Project (Lincoln City Council, 2001)
Lincolnshire County Council Countryside Access webpage (http://microsites.lincolnshire.gov.uk/countryside)
Lincolnshire Tourism Investment Opportunities Assessment (2008, Scott Wilson for East Midlands Tourism)
Lincolnshire Waterways for the Future: a Development Framework for the Lincolnshire Waterways 2009-18 (2008, Lincolnshire Waterways Partnership)
Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan 2004-09 (Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service) ⁷⁸ ()
Making Play Matter in Lincolnshire 2006-09 (Lincolnshire Play Partnership)
North Kesteven's Play Strategy 2007-12 (North Kesteven District Council)
Sustrans' National Cycle Network Plan (http://www.sustrans.org.uk/map)
Visit Lincolnshire (http://www.visitlincolnshire.com)

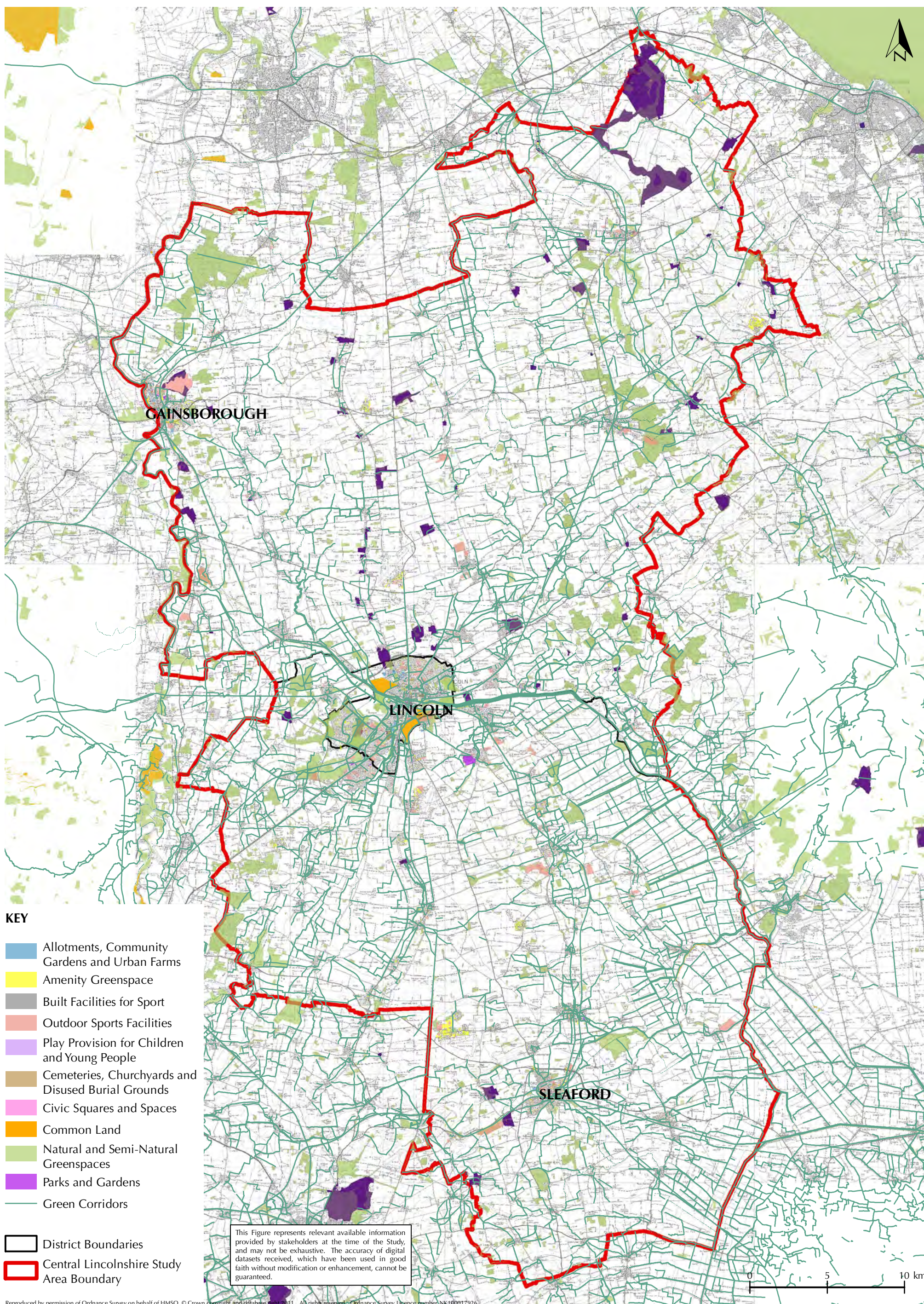
Open Space, Sport and Recreation

- 2.6.1 The spatial distribution of open space, sport and recreation sites/spaces, across the Study Area⁷⁹, is shown on **Figure 2.11a** (see **Appendix A9** for details of the methodology used to map open Space, sport and recreation within the Districts of West Lindsey and North Kesteven). Sites/spaces mapped are in both public and private ownership and have varying degrees of public accessibility. A fairly large proportion of sites/spaces have either no public access or restricted access⁸⁰. Whilst there is a range of sites/spaces across the Study Area, they are generally concentrated within and around Gainsborough, Lincoln and Sleaford. The majority of sites/spaces are categorised as natural and semi-natural greenspaces. These are also the most geographically spread-out. A breakdown of the amount of each different type of open

⁷⁸ It should be noted that The 2012-2017 Draft Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan is currently available for comment

⁷⁹ It should be noted that in some cases sites are shown outside the boundary of the Study Area as these formed part of digital datasets used to map of open space, sport and recreation sites/spaces. No sites outside the Study Area were digitised by CBA

⁸⁰ Sites which do not fall within Natural England's definition of accessible greenspace, as stated in their 2010 'Nature Nearby - Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance', are classified as having no public access or restricted access. Natural England's definition states that 'accessible greenspace are places that are available for the general public to use free of charge and without time restrictions (although some sites may be closed to the public overnight and there may be fees for parking a vehicle)'.



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space, sport and recreation sites/spaces which occur within the Study Area as a whole and also within each sub-area is provided in **Table 2.6a**.

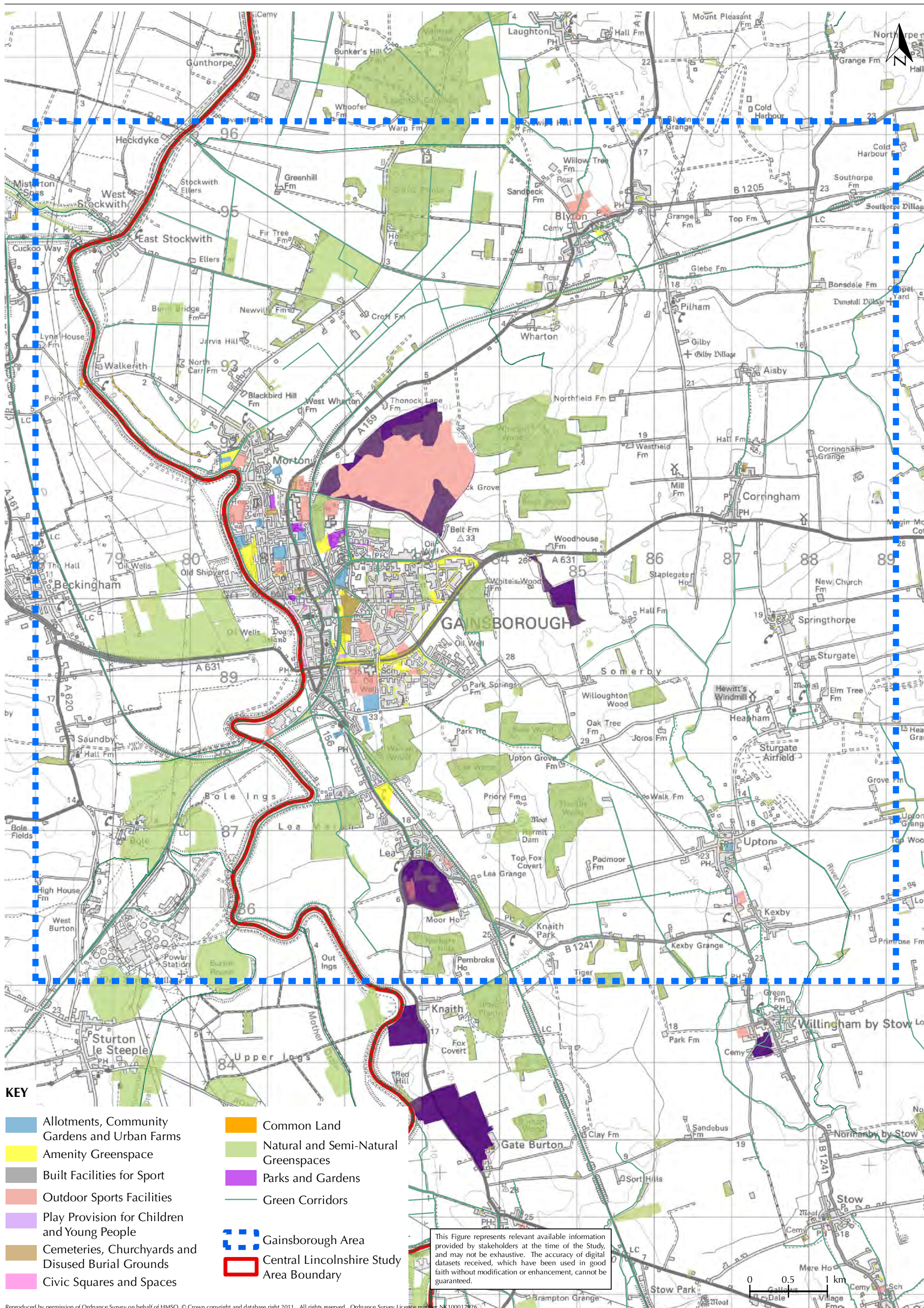
Table 2.6a: Amount of Open Space, Sport and Recreation Sites/Spaces by Type within the Study Area and the Gainsborough, Lincoln and Sleaford Areas

Type	Central Lincolnshire (see Figure 2.11a)	Gainsborough Area (see Figure 2.11b)	Lincoln area (see Figure 2.11 c)	Sleaford area (see Figure 2.11 d)
Parks & gardens	3,297ha	246ha	558ha	153ha
Natural & semi-natural greenspaces	15,234ha	850ha	4,777ha	1,107ha
Green corridors	4,053km	150km	1,561km	596km
Outdoor sports facilities	1,246ha	179ha	592ha	121ha
Built facilities for sport	12ha	2ha	5ha	2ha
Amenity greenspaces	414ha	46ha	158ha	63ha
Provision for children and young people	21ha	2ha	15ha	1ha
Allotments, community gardens & urban farms	79ha	19ha	46ha	10ha
Cemeteries, churchyards & disused burial grounds	116ha	14ha	49ha	15ha
Civic squares & spaces	5ha	2ha	3ha	0.2ha
Common land	224ha	2ha	198ha	8ha

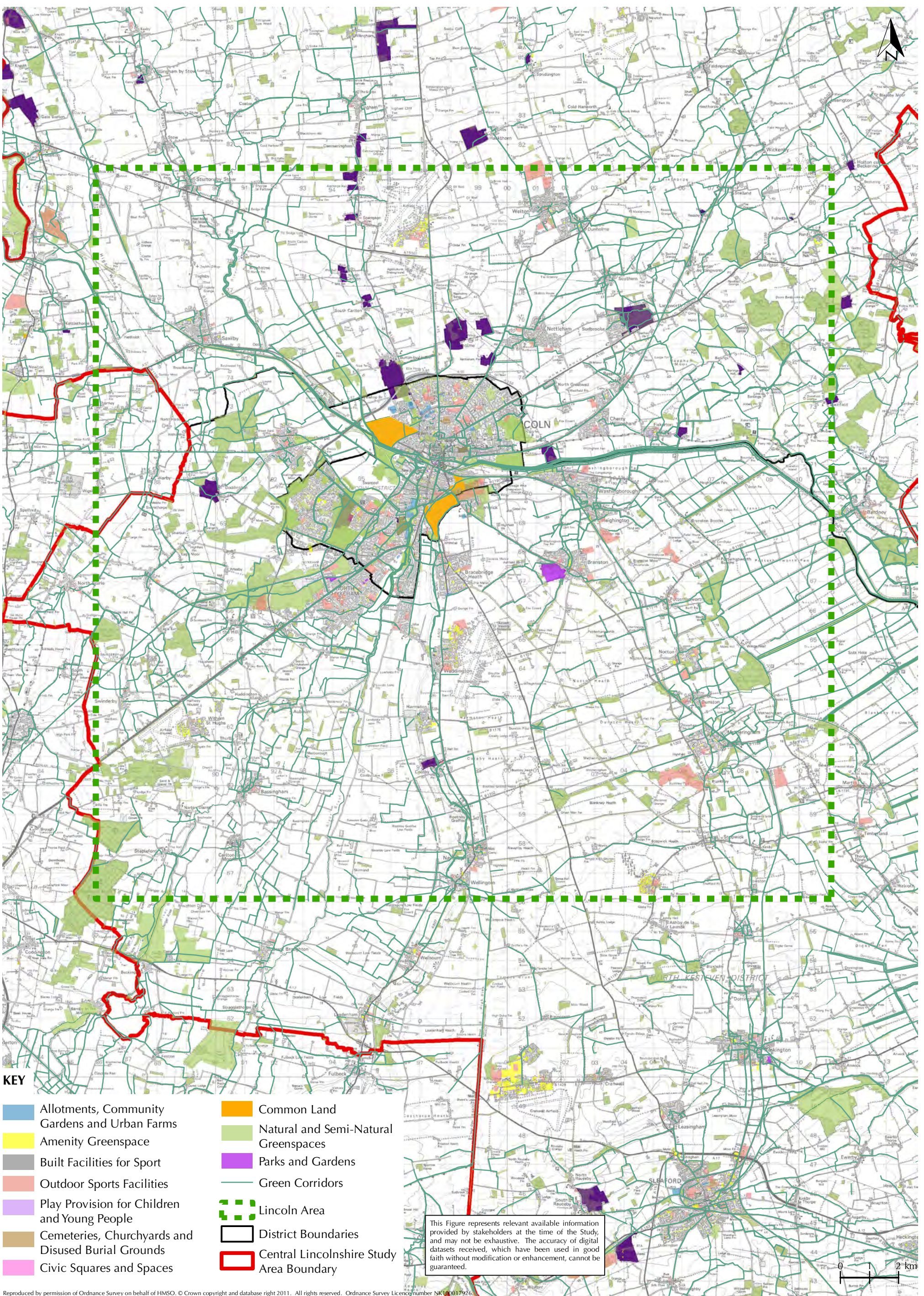
2.6.2 Within the Lincoln Area, residents and visitors have access to several large greenspaces, e.g. Hartsholme Country Park and Whisby Nature Park to the southwest, West Common to the northwest, South Common – east of the Boultham area and Greetwell Hollow Nature Reserve to the northeast. Within the Gainsborough and Sleaford Areas, residents and visitors have access to very few greenspaces close to where people live. Laughton Woods, located c.11km northeast of Gainsborough, is a key recreational greenspace site. The River Witham, Trent and Slea as well as the Fossdyke Canal all provide valuable leisure/recreational amenities within the areas. Outside of the sub-areas, the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB (a small portion of which covers the north-eastern corner of the Study Area) and woodlands within the Bardney Limewoods National Nature Reserve (located east of Lincoln) provide access to high quality natural greenspace.

2.6.3 It should be noted that none of the Districts have carried out Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessments/Studies. There is therefore currently no consistent information relating to the quality of sites/spaces, standards for levels of provision and current deficiencies (some information is available for outdoor and built sport facilities – see **Section 3.4** for details). The Report '*Delivering as Sustainable Future for Central Lincolnshire, Portrait of Place*'⁸¹ makes the

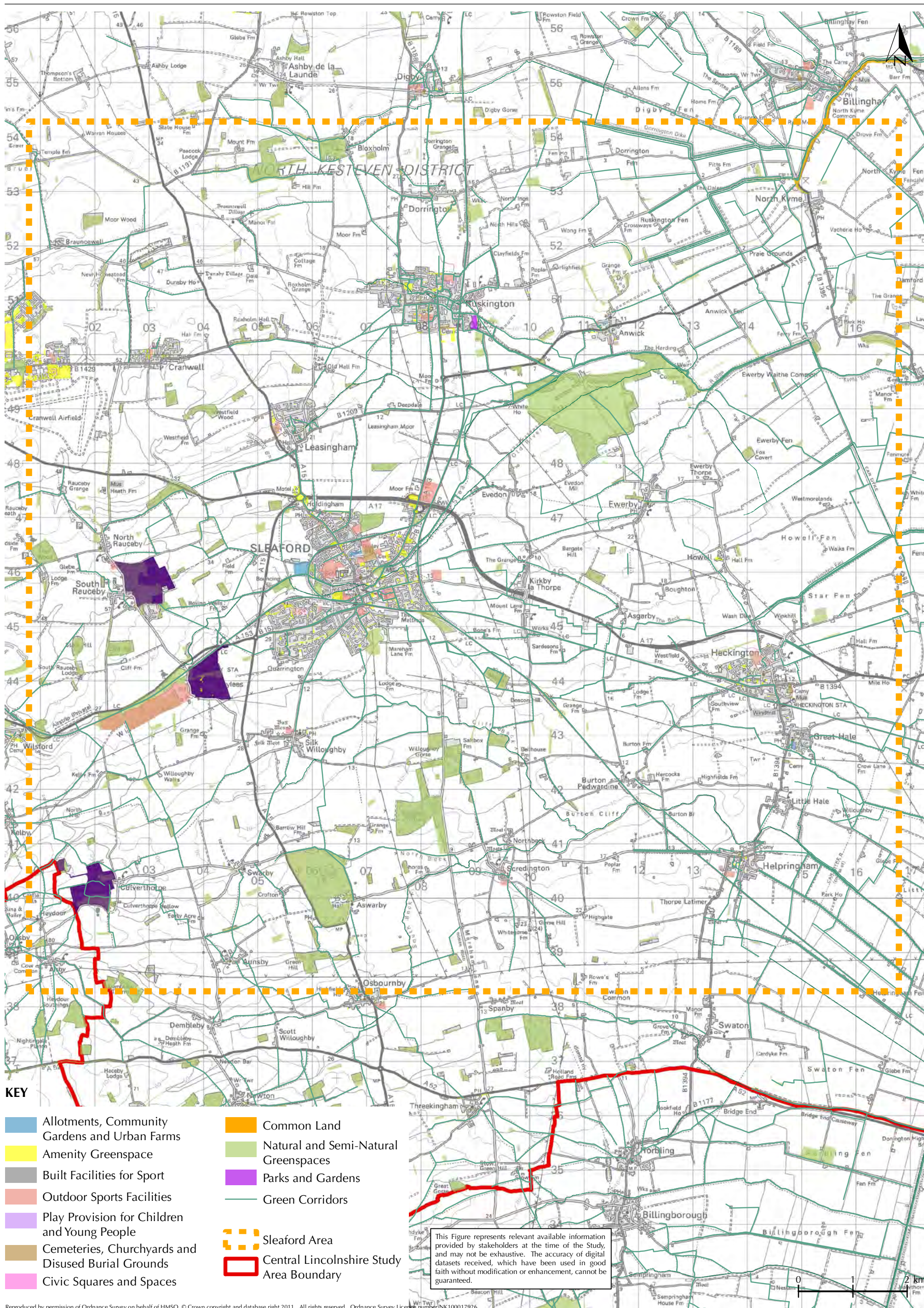
⁸¹ Delivering as Sustainable Future for Central Lincolnshire, Portrait of Place (April 2011, AECOM)



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following observations in relation to people's satisfaction of parks and open spaces in Central Lincolnshire:

'In both Central Lincolnshire and the wider county, approximately 60% of people are satisfied with the provision of parks and open spaces, the southern Gainsborough Area and Market Rasen surrounding area are significantly less satisfied with the parks and open space. On the other hand, southern Lincoln is significantly more satisfied with their provision than the Lincolnshire average. This is likely a reflection of the number of high quality managed greenspaces, particularly in the Swanpool and Birchwood area. Despite the low provision of parks across the area, satisfaction levels are still reasonable. This may be due to the proximity of the countryside across the area and the public walking routes available.'

Access Network

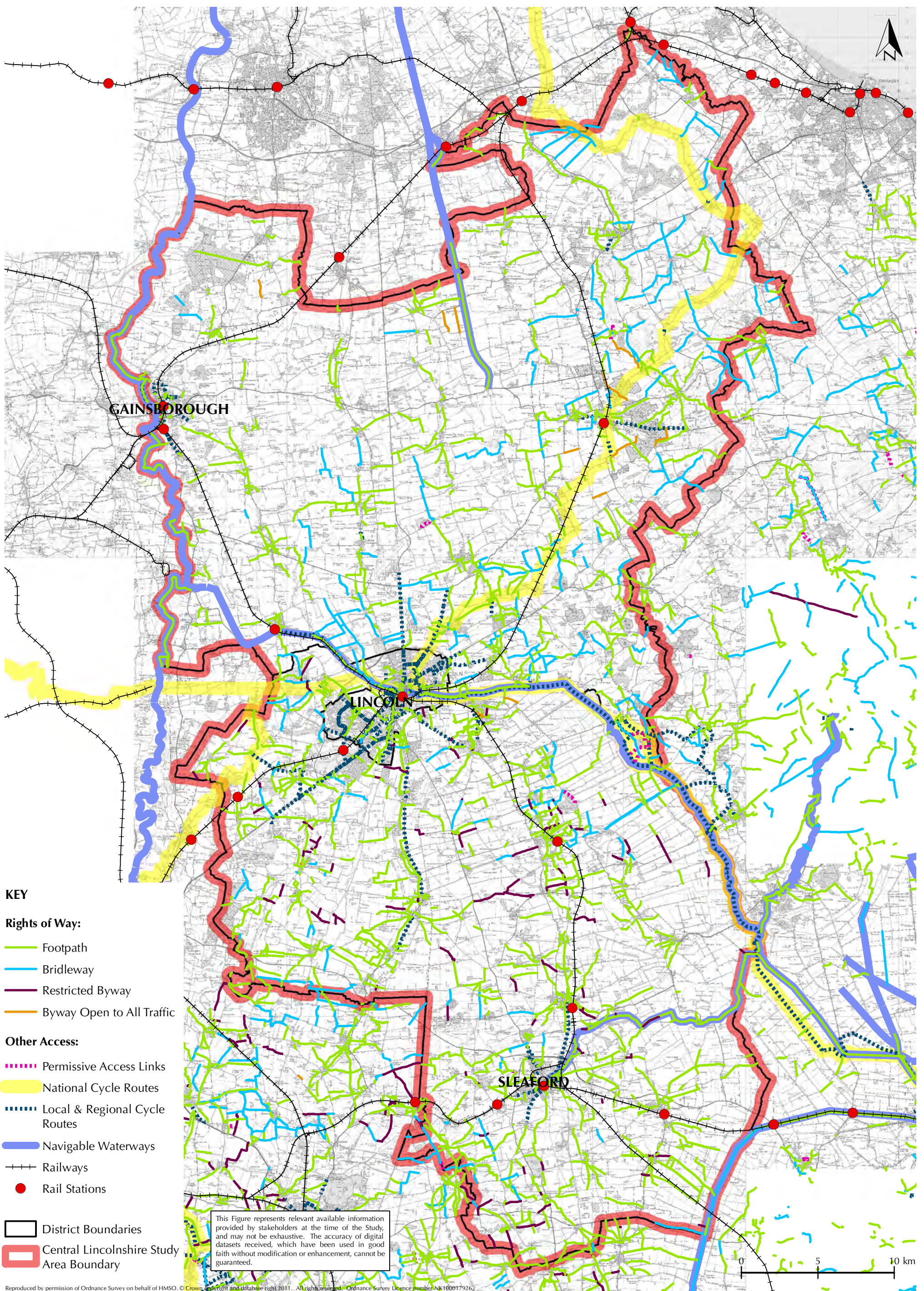
- 2.6.4 Overall, the Study Area is served by a wide range of sustainable access links. These are illustrated on **Figures 2.12a-d** and **2.13a-d** and discussed below.

Strategic Routes

- 2.6.5 There are no National Trails within the Study Area but a number of strategic long distance footpaths fall partly within the Study Area. These are:
- The Viking Way (see **Figure 2.13a**), which stretches over 235km between the Humber and Oakham in Rutland. It enters the Study Area to the south-east, traversing its southern half vertically until it reaches Lincoln. There, it follows the course of the River Witham to the east for a short distance before meandering up and then out of the Study Area, re-entering it west of Ludford, through Caistor and out north of Bigby;
 - The Danelaw Way⁸², a 95km long route which runs between Lincoln and Stamford, traversing the southern part of the Study Area;
 - The Trent Valley Way⁸³, which extends over 267km. Starting at Biddulph Moor, it follows the valley of the River Trent to Alkborough on the Humber Estuary. It runs parallel to parts of the western boundary of the Study Area – leaving the River Trent after Littleborough in a westerly loop around Gainsborough.
- 2.6.6 Sections of the following strategic cycle routes fall within the Study Area:
- The National Byway, a 6,400 km sign-posted cycling route round England and parts of Scotland and Wales, which predominantly uses the existing road network. It follows the valley of the River Trent, passing west of Gainsborough;
 - National Route 1 of the National Cycle Network runs between Hull and Fakenham, passing through Lincoln and Market Rasen. The main traffic free section of the route is known as The Water Rail Way, which follows the Lower River Witham;

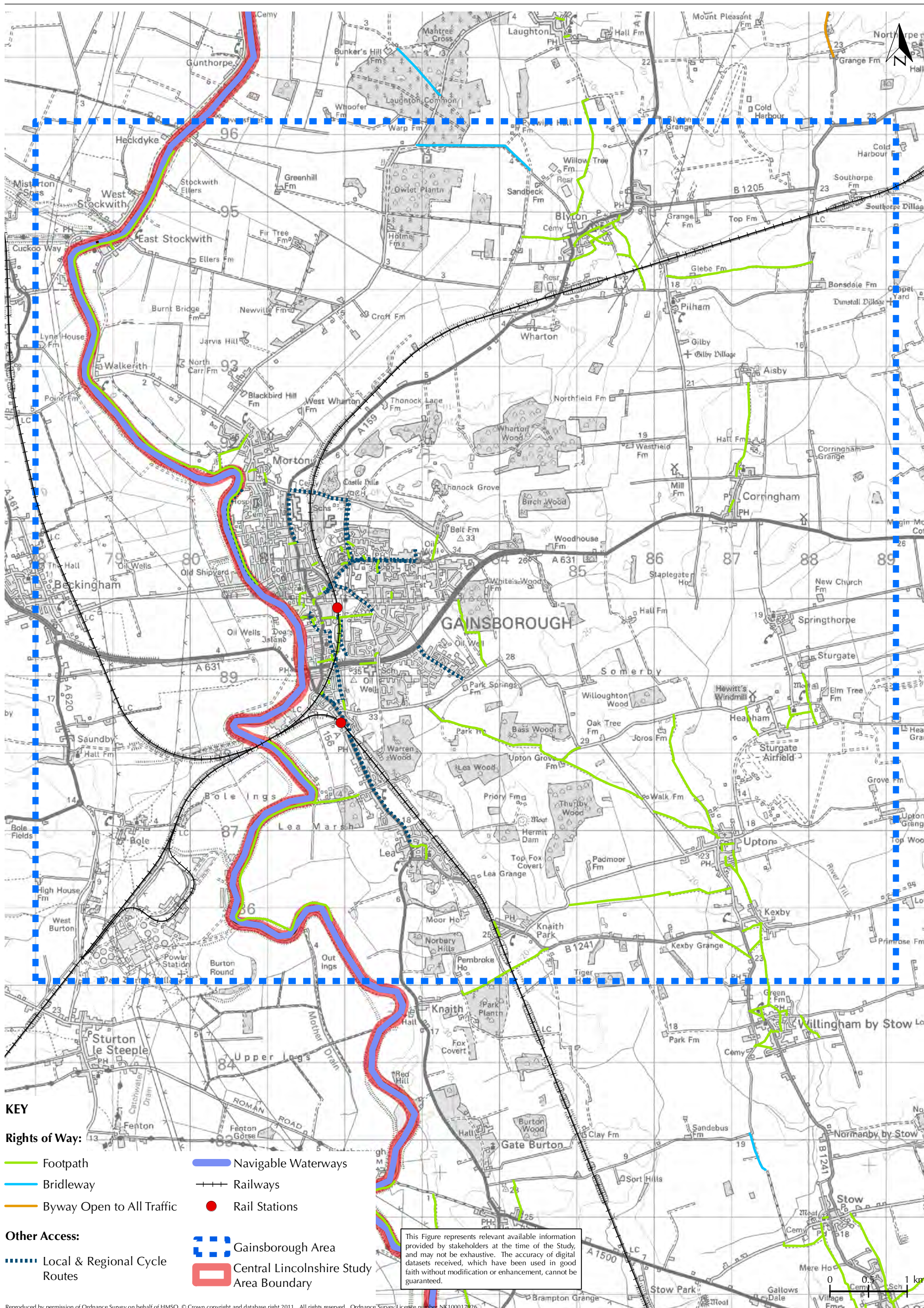
⁸² No digital dataset was available to illustrate the route of the Danelaw Way on **Figure 2.13a**

⁸³ No digital dataset was available to illustrate the route of the Trent Valley Way on **Figure 2.13a**

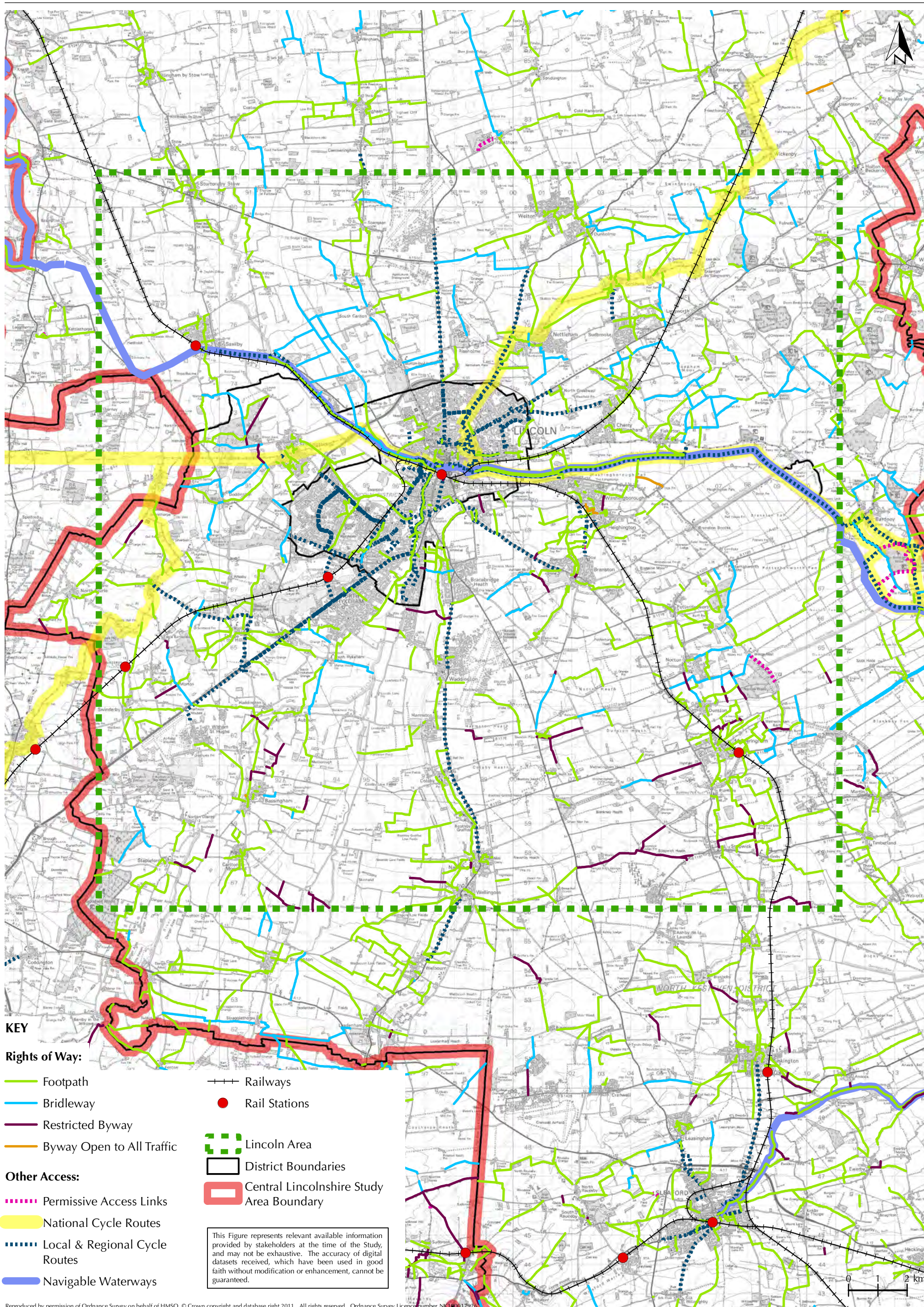


- KEY**
- Rights of Way:**
- Footpath
 - Bridleway
 - Restricted Byway
 - Byway Open to All Traffic
- Other Access:**
- Permissive Access Links
 - National Cycle Routes
 - Local & Regional Cycle Routes
 - Navigable Waterways
 - Railways
 - Rail Stations
- District Boundaries
- Central Lincolnshire Study Area Boundary

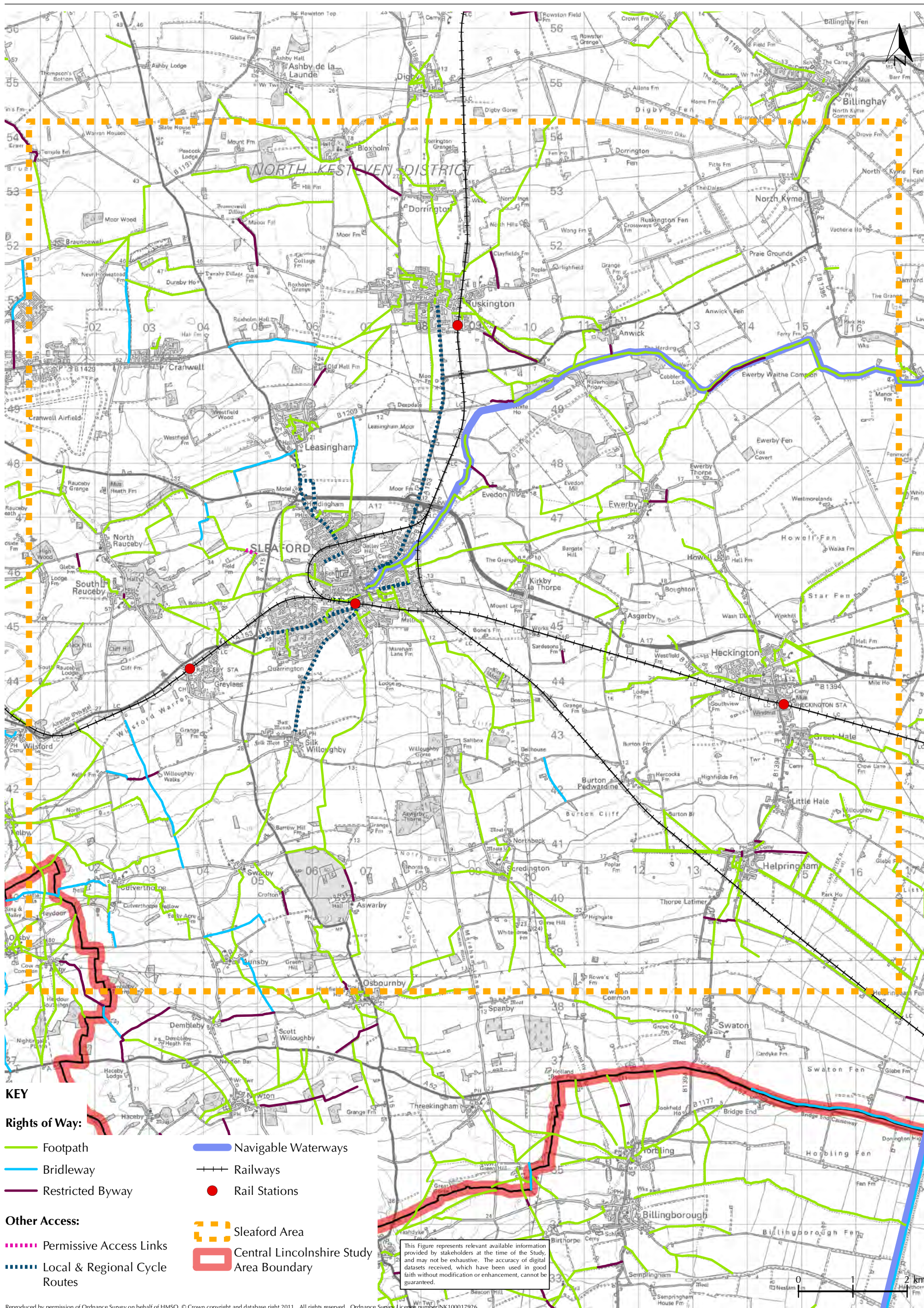
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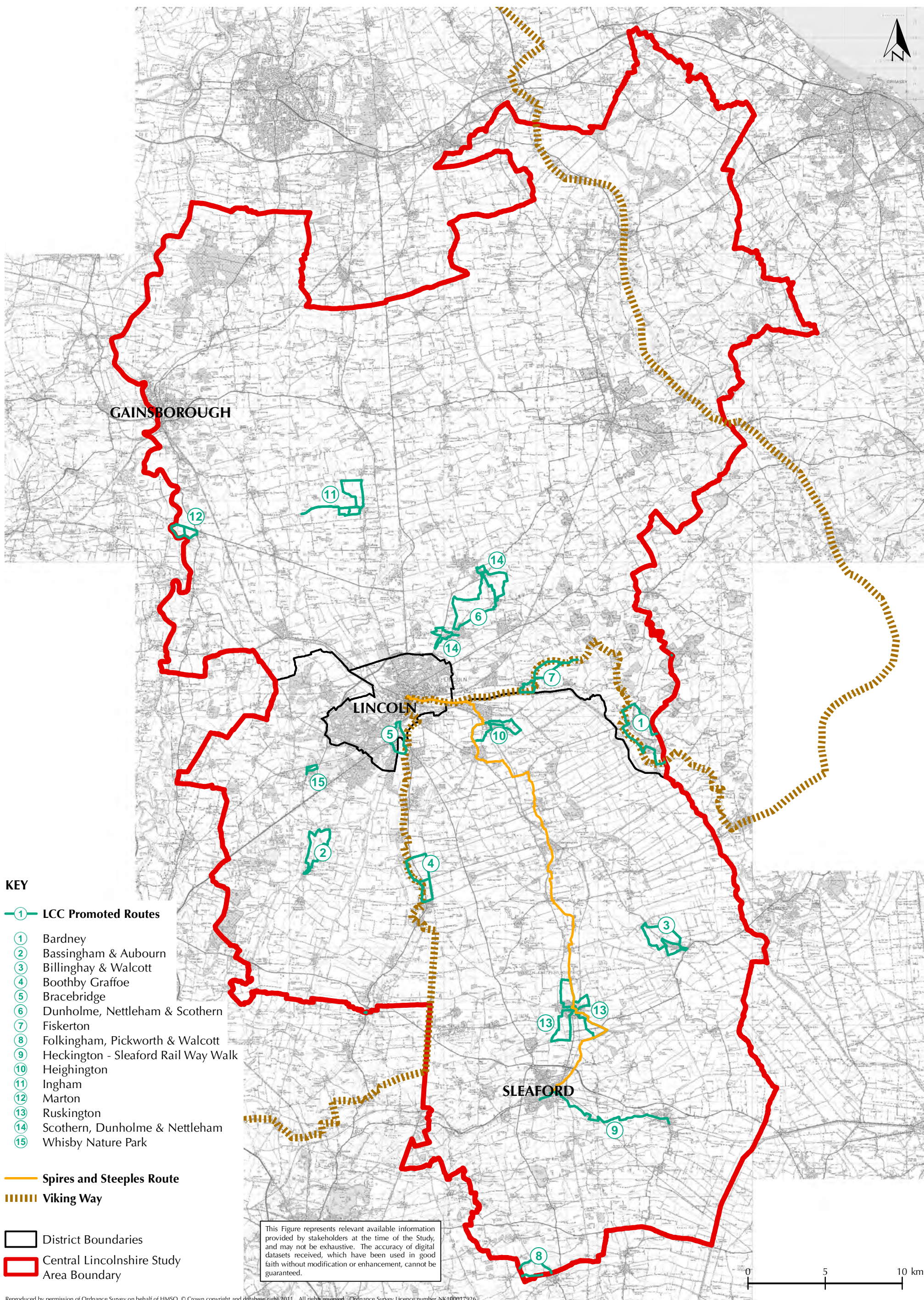


CHRIS BLANDFORD ASSOCIATES
environment landscape planning

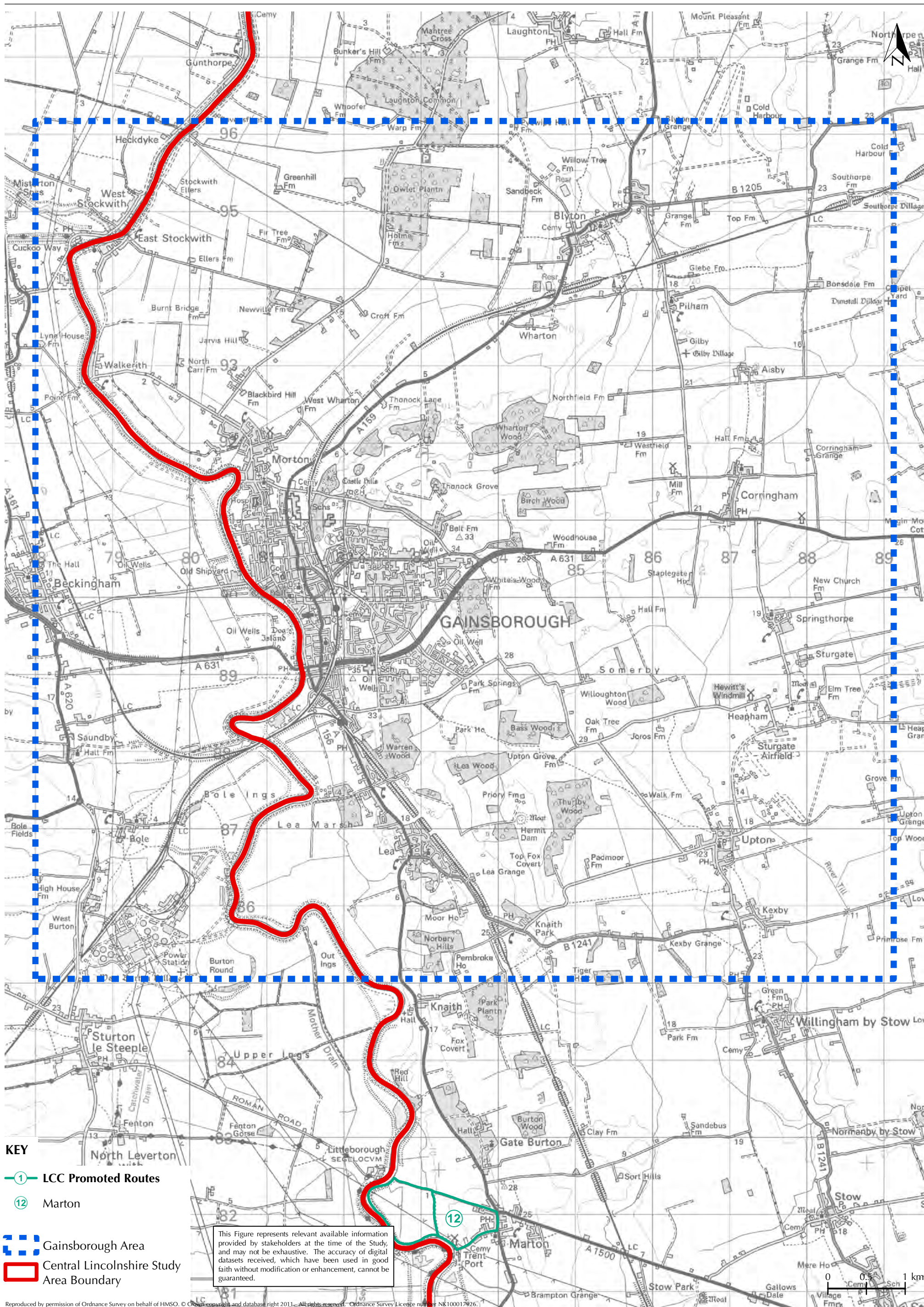
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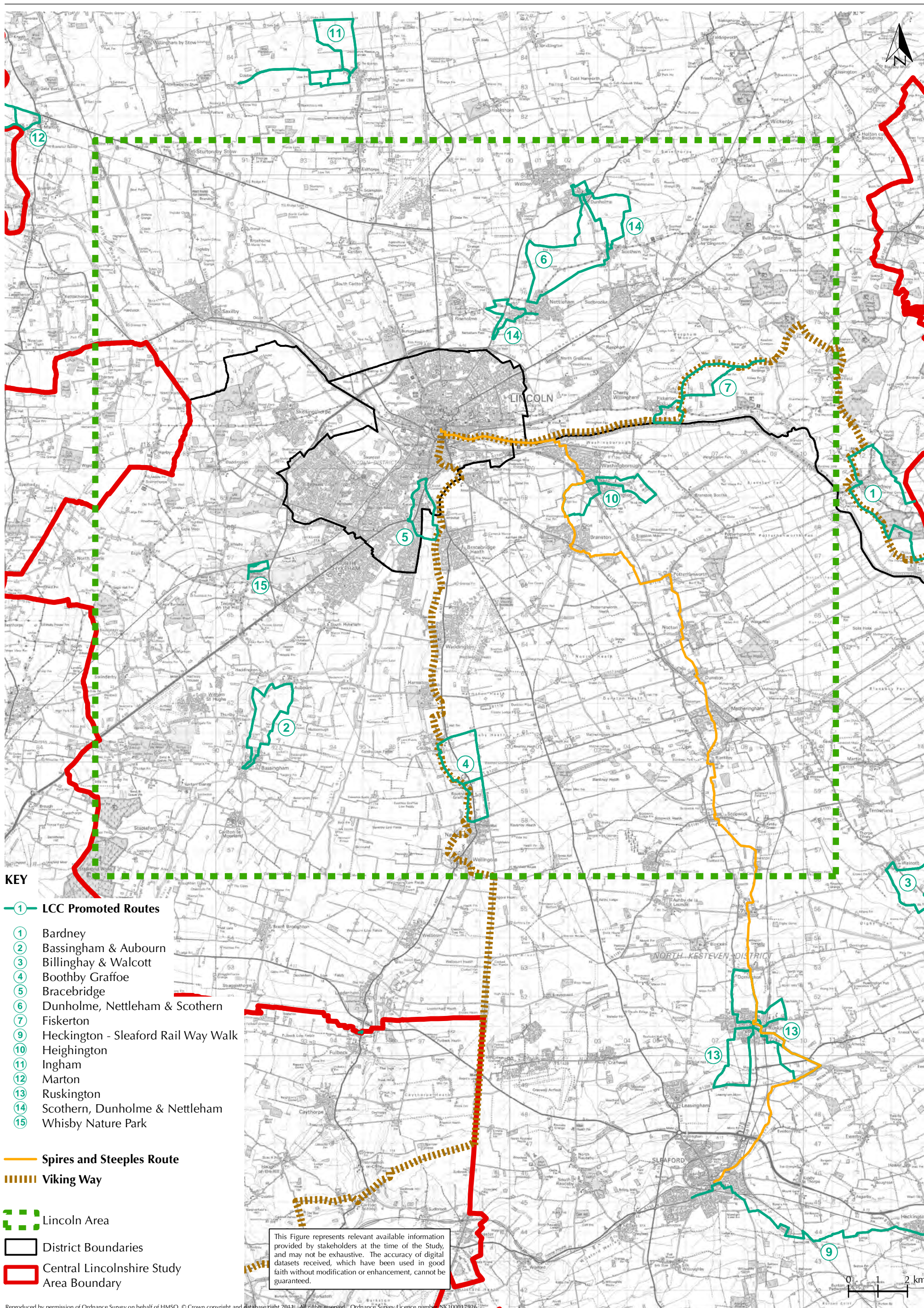
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FIGURE 2.12d
Access Network -
Sleaford Area

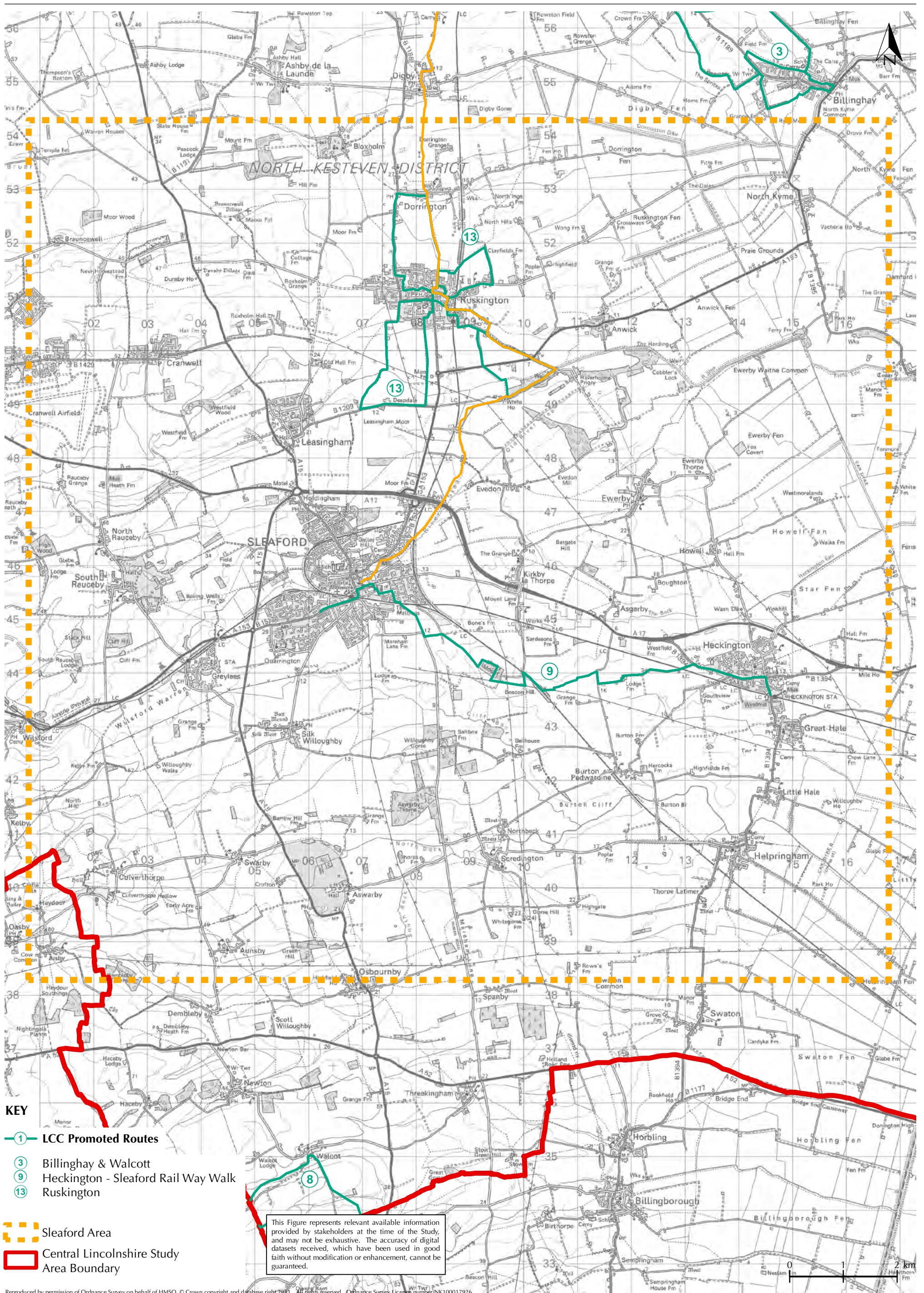


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- National Route 64 of the National Cycle Network (which will run from Market Harborough to Lincoln via Melton Mowbray and Newark-on-Trent) runs west from the centre of Lincoln, branching south at Harby towards Newark-on-Trent; and
- The Sustrans National Cycle Network Map suggests there is a proposed extension to Route 64 in the centre of Lincoln, to connect it to National Route 1. It also suggests an extension to National Route 15, linking Grantham to Sleaford and Ewerby Thorpe.

2.6.7 Despite the provision of a number of strategic routes within/close to the Study Area, none fall within the Sleaford Area.

Public Rights of Way

2.6.8 There is approximately 1458km of Rights of Way within the Study Area (see **Figure 2.12a**). **Table 2.6b** provides a breakdown of the four categories of rights of way and other types of access (shown on **Figures 2.12a** and **2.13a**) and the total amount (in kms) of each which falls within the Study Area as a whole and also in the Gainsborough, Lincoln and Sleaford Areas. The Public Rights of Way network varies in its spatial distribution across the Study Area, with a notably higher density and better connected footpath network in the southern half. There are generally very few bridleways and byways across the Study Area. The network is fragmented in places, particularly for cyclists and horse riders. The Lincoln and Sleaford Areas are better connected to the wider countryside than Gainsborough, where there are virtually no access links out of the town.

Table 2.6b: Amount of Different Types of Access within the Study Area and the Gainsborough, Lincoln and Sleaford Areas⁸⁴

	Study Area	Lincoln area	Gainsborough area	Sleaford area
Rights Of Way (see Figure 2.12a-d)				
Footpaths	1066km	395km	41km	201km
Bridleways	305km	119km	2km	14km
Restricted Byways	69km	40km	0km	12km
Byways Open to All Traffic	17km	2km	0km	0km
Other access (see Figure 2.12a-d)				
Permissive Access Links	7km	1km	0km	0km
National Cycle Routes ⁸⁵	113km	49km	0km	0km
Local & Regional Cycle Routes	215km	153km	14km	16km
Navigable Waterways	172km	57km	8km	13km
Promoted Walks (see Figure 2.13a-d)				
LCC Promoted routes	153km	73km	0km	34km
Viking Way	79km	35km	0km	0km
Spires and Steeples Route	41km	26km	0km	12km

⁸⁴ It should be noted that amounts of different types of access were calculated for access types for which digital datasets were available

⁸⁵ Includes length in km of those sections of National Routes 1 and National Routes 64 of the National Cycle Network, which fall within Central Lincolnshire

2.6.9 The Countryside Access and Right of Way Improvement Plan makes the following observations in relation to Lincoln, West Lindsey and North Kesteven:

- *Lincoln*
 - *Access out of the city to the west and east is good for walking and cycling – especially around the River Witham;*
 - *Limited access out of city to the south;*
 - *Limited links out of north Lincoln to gain access to wider countryside;*
 - *Limited provision for equestrians; and*
 - *A46 bypass causes route severance.*
- *West Lindsey*
 - *There is a good network of routes to the north of Lincoln City;*
 - *Limited access opportunities from Gainsborough;*
 - *Good network of bridleways to the east of Market Rasen and links could be improved into the Wolds Area of Outstanding natural Beauty (AONB);*
 - *The provision of routes from Caistor is limited;*
 - *Limited and fragmented network in west of district; and*
 - *Busy road crossings/route severance caused by A15, A46, A158 and A157/River Trent.*
- *North Kesteven*
 - *Good network of routes radiating from Sleaford;*
 - *Bridleway network is fragmented, so opportunities for circular rides reduced;*
 - *Route severance caused by A15 and A17 roads; and*
 - *Links could be improved into Lincoln.'*

2.6.10 It should be noted that the County Council have adopted a walking and cycling strategy, which forms an integral part of the 2nd Local Transport. The City of Lincoln also produced a Greenways Strategy in 2001, which aimed to develop a network of greenways and quiet roads within approximately 13km of the city. The Strategy was partially implemented.

Local and Regional Cycle Routes

2.6.11 In addition to the National Cycle Routes and cycle access along bridleways and byways discussed above, there are a number of local/regional cycle routes within the Study Area. These mainly occur in and around Lincoln, Gainsborough and Sleaford. In the City of Lincoln, people can access services by bicycle more easily than the rest of the country. The opposite is true in North Kesteven and West Lindsey⁸⁶. The off-road cycling network is generally disjointed with few wholly off-road routes. Cycling and a range of cycling maps/routes are promoted on the Lincolnshire County Council and City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey Districts' websites. Examples of locally/regionally promoted cycle maps/routes include: Lincoln & Surrounding Area, North Wolds and Coastal Area, Lincolnshire Limewoods, the Water Rail Way and West Lindsey cycleabout routes. The County Council also promote an

⁸⁶ Delivering a Sustainable Future for Central Lincolnshire: Portrait of Place (April 2011, AECOM)

initiative known as 'Bike 4 Life', a new bike hire scheme at four venues across Lincolnshire including Lincoln.

Other Promoted Routes

- 2.6.12 A range of walks are promoted by Lincolnshire County Council (see **Figures 2.13a-d**) and City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey Districts. Examples of promoted walking routes include: Spires and Steeples heritage trail (see **Figure 2.13a**); North Kesteven Stepping Out walks, Ancaster to Sleaford railway walk, Sleaford Riverside Trail, Wolds walks and West Lindsey's Walkabout routes. A number of walks have been developed, starting and finishing from InterConnect bus routes. Examples of promoted equestrian routes include routes listed in the book '*Lincolnshire on Horseback and the Heritage Ride*'⁸⁷ produced by LCC and the British Horse Society.

Navigable Waterways

- 2.6.13 A number of navigable waterways fall partly or wholly within the Study Area. These include:
- **The River Trent**, which runs along the county boundary (also the western boundary of the Study Area) between Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. The whole length within Lincolnshire is tidal but is navigable with care. There is currently some use of the waterway for freight;
 - **The River Ancholme**, which is currently navigable from the Humber Estuary at South Ferriby to Bishopbridge. There are a number of circular footpaths based around Brigg and the entire length of the river has a public footpath running along one or other of the banks;
 - **The Lower River Witham**, which rises at South Witham near Grantham and flows for c.48kms before reaching the Brayford Pool in Lincoln;
 - **The Fossdyke Canal**, thought to be the oldest canal in Britain. It starts at Torksey and finished at the Brayford Pool in the centre of Lincoln; and
 - **The Sleaford Navigation**, which extends for c.21kms from Sleaford to the Lower River Witham at Chapel Hill. The route is currently navigable for about 13kms from the Lower River Witham up to Cobblers Lock. The installation of a pedestrian lift bridge in Sleaford in 2008 allows access for boats throughout the top pound from the Hub to Cogglesford Lock.
- 2.6.14 The navigable waterways offer important opportunities for sport and recreation/tourism and can act as a visual amenity. They also have the potential to deliver economic, community and environmental benefits. *'Waterways are valuable community resources that cut across policy themes and support a range of government agendas including: sustainable communities; housing growth and renewal; urban renaissance; place-making and place-shaping; rural development and diversification; visitor economy and sustainable tourism; sustainable*

⁸⁷ This book contains a guide to 19 interesting circular trails in Lincolnshire and one linear route. A number of the routes fall within the Study Area – see <http://www.ride-uk.org.uk/extent/emids/lincs.htm> for further details

transport; health and well-being; climate change, carbon reduction and environmental sustainability; and social inclusion and cohesion⁸⁸. The waterways support a wide range of activities and facilities, including holiday accommodation, powered and non-powered boating (such as canoeing and rowing) for sport and recreation, walking, observing wildlife, horse riding, cycling and angling.

Public Transport, Roads and Rail Links

- 2.6.15 The Report '*Delivering a Sustainable Future for Central Lincolnshire: Portrait of Place*'⁸⁹ provides a useful overview of Central Lincolnshire's public transport network:

'Provision of travel by non-car means is an essential Eco-Towns criteria, with 50% of trips from new development set as a target. For a highly rural area, the public transport network appears to be extensive. A concentration of bus routes radiating from the main centres, namely Lincoln, Sleaford and Gainsborough, is clearly apparent. [...] Rural bus service are however more limited. Community initiatives to provide transportation in rural areas in the form of car sharing works to support the more formal network.'

In more rural areas, such as Central Lincolnshire, full transportation services are often not feasible. For this reason, Demand Response Transport (DRT) is an important service. DRT is a more flexible system where small and medium sized vehicles operate more flexible routes and schedules according to passengers' needs. The majority of the rural areas of central Lincolnshire are covered by at least one DRT area.

Lincoln compares favourably with the national average in terms of access via public transport to key destinations, whilst West Lindsey and North Kesteven fall below the national average.'

- 2.6.16 It also states the following in relation to the road network:

'Central Lincolnshire is located a substantial distance away from the main highway network, with the M1 approximately 40kms from Lincoln. The A46, with a limited dual-carriageway network, is the only trunk road in the area. Gainsborough lies at the intersection of the A631 and the A156. These routes provide access to the wider highway network and to the strategic highway network to the west. Sleaford lies adjacent to the intersections of the A15 and the A17, which essentially act as a bypass around the centre of Sleaford, which minimises unnecessary traffic through the town centre. There is a prevalence of car ownership, especially in rural areas, where 80% of households own a car compared to 73% nationally. This is perceived to be largely due to the lack of alternatives rather than a sign of wealth.'

- 2.6.17 There are 12 train stations within the Study area and four on/adjacent to its boundary. Gainsborough is served by Gainsborough Lea Road and Gainsborough Central train stations,

⁸⁸ (TCPA Policy Advice Note: Inland waterways: Unlocking the potential and securing the future of inland waterways through the planning system. TCPA, 2009)

⁸⁹ Delivering a Sustainable Future for Central Lincolnshire: Portrait of Place (April 2011, AECOM)

Lincoln by Hykeham and Lincoln Central train stations and Sleaford by Sleaford train station. Key rail services which go serve Gainsborough, Lincoln and Sleaford are listed in **Table 2.6c**.

Table 2.6c: Key Rail Services

Rail Service	
Gainsborough	Sheffield-Retford-Lincoln
	Peterborough-Spalding-Sleaford-Lincoln-Doncaster
Lincoln	Sheffield-Retford-Lincoln
	Peterborough-Spalding-Sleaford-Lincoln-Doncaster
	Cleethorpes-Lincoln-Nottingham-Leicester
	London Kings Cross-Leicester-Lincoln (one train in the morning and one in the evening)
Sleaford	Skegness-Grantham-Nottingham
	Peterborough-Spalding-Sleaford-Lincoln-Doncaster

Tourism

2.6.18 Lincolnshire's Cultural Strategy⁹⁰ states that:

'Tourist and culture industries combined contribute approximately £1.2billion of the total value added for Lincolnshire and employ approximately 25,000 full-time employees, about 10% of the total workforce.

Lincolnshire's programme of festivals is a significant contributor to the local economy of county. Their direct, indirect and induced contribution taken together generates economic benefits amounting to almost £1.5 million.

The income generated through tourism can make an important contribution to a county's economy. In 2008 Lincolnshire welcomed 17.072 million visitors (including day time and overnight domestic and international visitors), who spent a total of £958.05 millions.'

2.6.19 The Lincolnshire Tourism Investment Opportunities Assessment⁹¹ identifies six distinct destination zones within the Lincolnshire Tourism Destination Management Partnership zone⁹², each depicting a primary tourism asset or characteristic. Those of relevance to Central Lincolnshire are listed below along with a short summary of their individual core offer (as described in the Opportunities Assessment):

- **Lincoln City** – *'the premier heritage destination within the East Midlands. Described as an old and easy-paced city which is compact with a wealth of heritage that is generally easy to discover'*. Lincoln Cathedral (the primary attraction of the county) forms the focal point of a wider historic core/quarter, which includes Lincoln Castle, the arch of the medieval Exchequergate, the remains of the Bishop's Palace and other features of interest such as the Newport Gate and medieval stone houses. The cultural quarter includes the Usher Gallery and the Lincoln Drill Hall. *'The main shopping experience is based on traditional shops and*

⁹⁰ Lincolnshire Cultural Strategy 2010-15 (2010, Lincolnshire County Council)

⁹¹ Lincolnshire Tourism Investment Opportunities Assessment (2008, Scott Wilson for East Midlands Tourism)

⁹² The Lincolnshire Tourism Destination Management Partnership zone includes West Lindsey District, City of Lincoln Council, North Kesteven District, East Lindsey District, Boston Borough, South Holland District and South Kesteven District.

services within the City centre, whilst the Brayford waterside provides a setting for a number of bars and restaurants’;

- **The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB** (part of which falls within Central Lincolnshire) – ‘characterised by gentle hills and valleys and attractive villages with market traditions’. ‘It is within the Wolds that some of the more scenic walks, cycle rides and horse rides can be undertaken. The majority of the specific visitor attractions within the area are small scale lifestyle attractions’;
- **The Fens** (part of which falls within Central Lincolnshire) – ‘a people-made landscape with marshland reclaimed for agricultural purposes in the 17th century due to its nutrient enriched soils’. ‘The area is criss-crossed with waterways, cycle paths and footpaths, with the emphasis of its offer being on relaxation and discovery. Other primary assets relate to shopping in traditional market towns, its heritage and history, opportunities for informal sports and leisure activities and birds and wildlife.’
- **The Lincolnshire Countryside** – ‘the remaining countryside area is the least distinctive of the defined tourism destinations in Lincolnshire. Largely rural and agricultural land, the main attractions and assets centre on a number of towns including Gainsborough and Sleaford; Lincolnshire’s aviation heritage and its quaint villages with historic church’. ‘There is an eclectic mix of ecclesiastical buildings, each representing a different period in history and architecture’.

2.6.20 The Opportunities Assessment also identifies a number of other ‘strong tourism themes’ and ‘significant visitor attractions’. Those of relevance to Central Lincolnshire are:

- **The ‘Tastes of Lincolnshire’** promotion – based on the farming heritage of Lincolnshire, the theme draws upon the county’s many examples of organic producers, family butchers and quality restaurants and pubs selling locally produced items. Linked with this are market towns such as Market Rasen that act as venues for the Tastes of Lincolnshire Food Fair;
- **Film locations** – e.g. Lincoln Cathedral, which has provided the backdrop to TV shows and films;
- **Rivers and Waterways** – ‘there is an on-going strategy throughout the UK to re-establish the importance of the natural and man-made waterways driven by the Environment Agency and British Waterways.’ See **paragraphs 2.6.13** and **2.6.14** for further details relating to navigable waterways and **Section 3.4** for relevant needs and opportunities.
- **Hemswell Antiques Centre** – ‘Over 50 individual traders in the centre covering all manner of both traditional and modern crafts. Reputedly one of the largest antiques centres in Europe’; and
- **Rand Farm Park** – ‘a family animal fun park’.

2.6.21 The Lincolnshire Tourism Investment Opportunities Assessment recognises that ‘other attractions⁹³ are available including the National Centre for Craft & Design (Sleaford) and the Whisby Natural World Centre (south-west of Lincoln)’. A list of key leisure and tourism attractions in Central Lincolnshire, based on attractions listed on the Visit Lincolnshire website is provided in **Appendix A10**⁹⁴. The Lincolnshire Cultural Strategy⁹⁵ identifies events such as the Waddington Air Show and Lincoln Christmas Market as important tourism attractors.

⁹³ It should be noted that the Main Visitor Attractions shown on Map LN2.2 in the Lincolnshire Tourism Investment Opportunities Assessment are based on attractions listed in Visit Britain’s Visitor Attraction Trend Report only

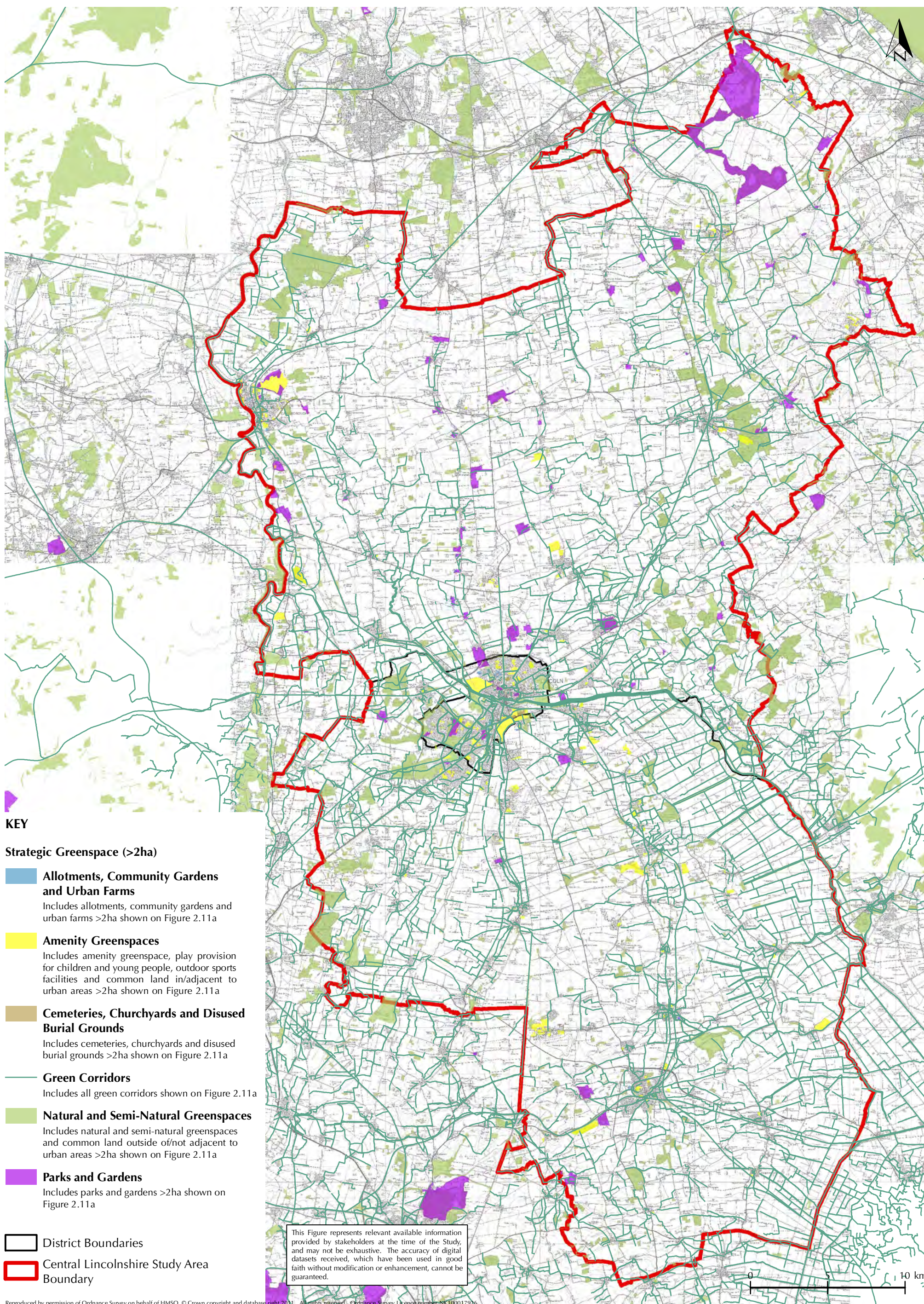
⁹⁴ These include all main visitor attractions as shown on Map LN2.2 in the Lincolnshire Tourism Investment Opportunities Assessment

2.7 Strategic Greenspace

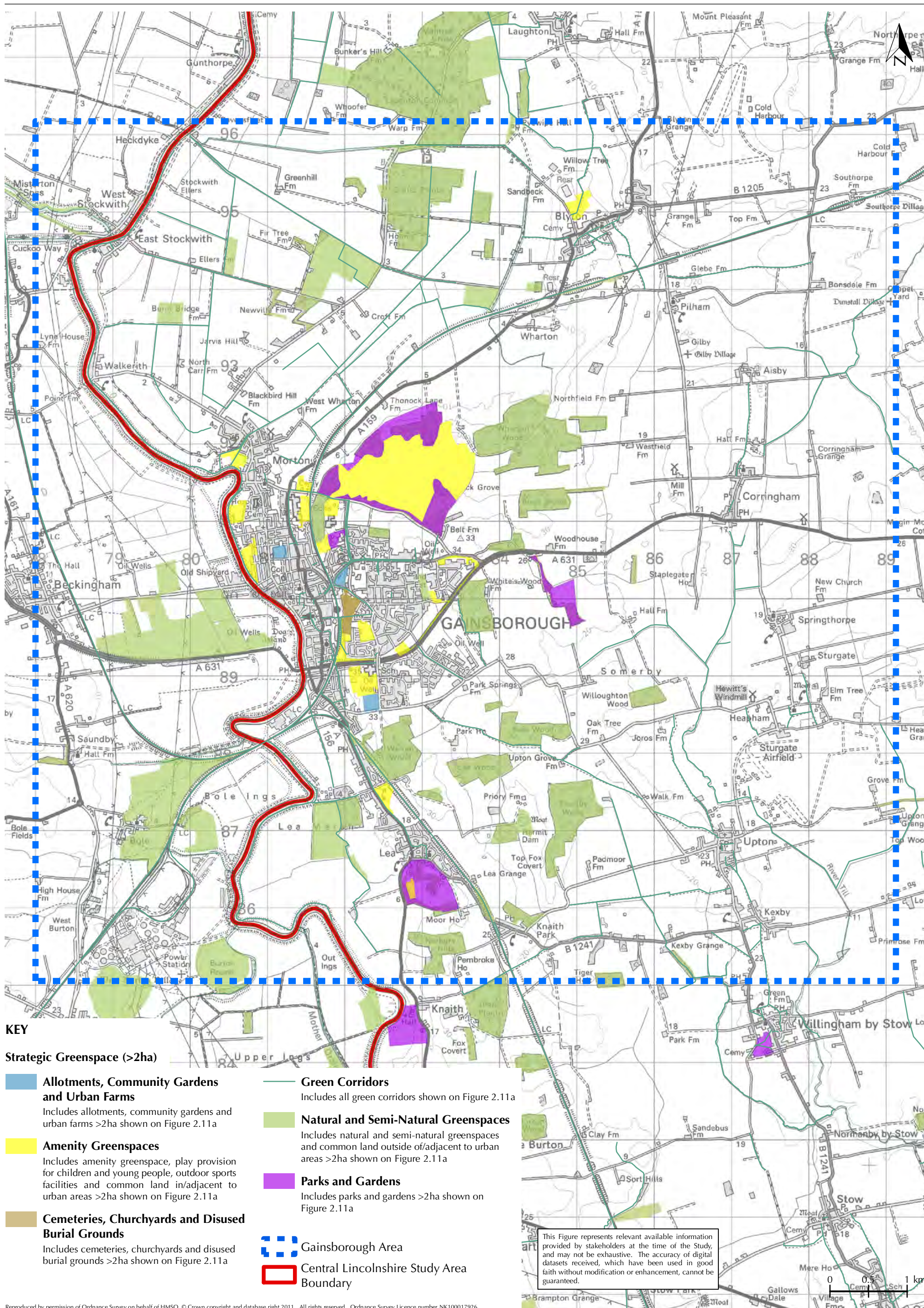
- 2.7.1 Using the open space, sport and recreation typology as a starting point, a strategic greenspace typology was developed to inform the GI Strategy. This typology is mapped on **Figure 2.14a-d**. For the purpose of this Study, 'strategic greenspace' is defined as an individual greenspace over 2ha, or clusters of smaller greenspace sites in close proximity to each other, that together create a site over 2ha in size. Strategic greenspace also includes all green corridors as mapped on **Figure 2.11a**.
- 2.7.2 Strategic greenspace within Central Lincolnshire include public and private assets, with and without public access, in urban and rural locations. Natural and semi-natural greenspaces, and green (and blue) corridors, extend throughout rural areas, connecting urban greenspaces (such as allotments, cemeteries and playing fields) within the settlements, including Gainsborough, Lincoln and Sleaford. An extensive network of green corridors provides a range of linear access routes for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders between settlements and the wider countryside (including strategic access routes such as the Viking Way and the National Byway for example), and connects Central Lincolnshire to adjacent areas. A number of navigable waterways, such as the Fossdyke Canal, are important blue corridors that provide a valuable leisure and recreational resource and are in many cases of particular natural and historic importance. Natural and semi-natural greenspaces comprise a fragmented and widely distributed network of relatively small, and often isolated, wildlife habitats, including grassland, heathland, wood pasture, parkland and woodland. There are notable concentrations of designated nature conservation sites in the Lincolnshire Limewoods, around Lincoln and Gainsborough, and to the east and north of Market Rasen.
- 2.7.3 Overall, a large proportion of the strategic greenspaces within Central Lincolnshire have no (or restricted) public access⁹⁵. Within the Lincoln area, residents and visitors have access to accessible natural greenspaces, such as that provided by West Common, Hartsholme Country Park, Whisby Nature Park and South Common. Residents and visitors only have access to very few accessible natural greenspaces in and around Gainsborough and Sleaford. Accessible natural greenspace within Loughton Wood, the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB and Lincolnshire Limewoods provide important areas that allow public access to nature for residents and visitors from Gainsborough and Lincoln in particular. A breakdown of the amount of strategic greenspace by type, which occurs within the Study Area as a whole and also within each of the sub-areas, is provided in **Table 2.7a**.

⁹⁵ Lincolnshire Cultural Strategy 2010-15 (2010, Lincolnshire County Council)

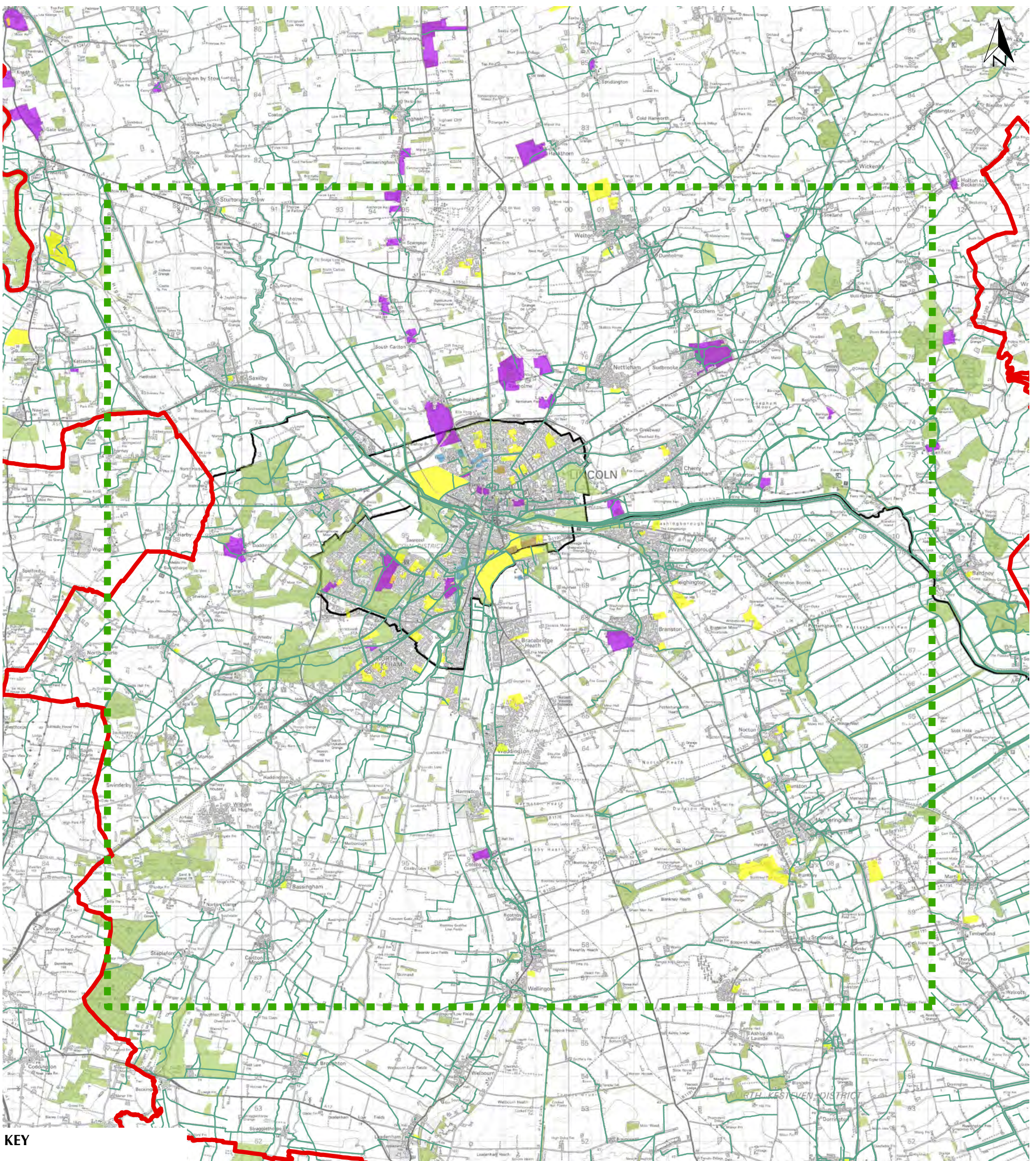
⁹⁶ Sites which do not fall within Natural England's definition of accessible greenspace, as stated in their 2010 '*Nature Nearby - Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance*', are classified as having no public access or restricted access. Natural England's definition states that '*accessible greenspace are places that are available for the general public to use free of charge and without time restrictions (although some sites may be closed to the public overnight and there may be fees for parking a vehicle)*'.



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KEY

Strategic Greenspace (>2ha)

Allotments, Community Gardens and Urban Farms

Includes allotments, community gardens and urban farms >2ha shown on Figure 2.11a

Amenity Greenspaces

Includes amenity greenspace, play provision for children and young people, outdoor sports facilities and common land in/adjacent to urban areas >2ha shown on Figure 2.11a

Cemeteries, Churchyards and Disused Burial Grounds

Includes cemeteries, churchyards and disused burial grounds >2ha shown on Figure 2.11a

Green Corridors

Includes all green corridors shown on Figure 2.11a

Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces

Includes natural and semi-natural greenspaces and common land outside of/adjacent to urban areas >2ha shown on Figure 2.11a

Parks and Gardens

Includes parks and gardens >2ha shown on Figure 2.11a



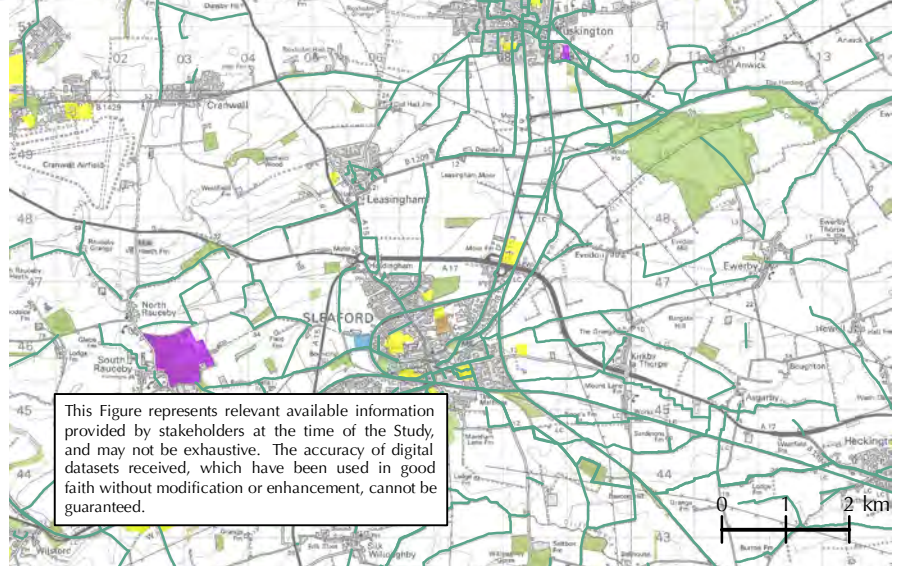
Lincoln Area



District Boundaries



Central Lincolnshire Study Area Boundary



This Figure represents relevant available information provided by stakeholders at the time of the Study, and may not be exhaustive. The accuracy of digital datasets received, which have been used in good faith without modification or enhancement, cannot be guaranteed.

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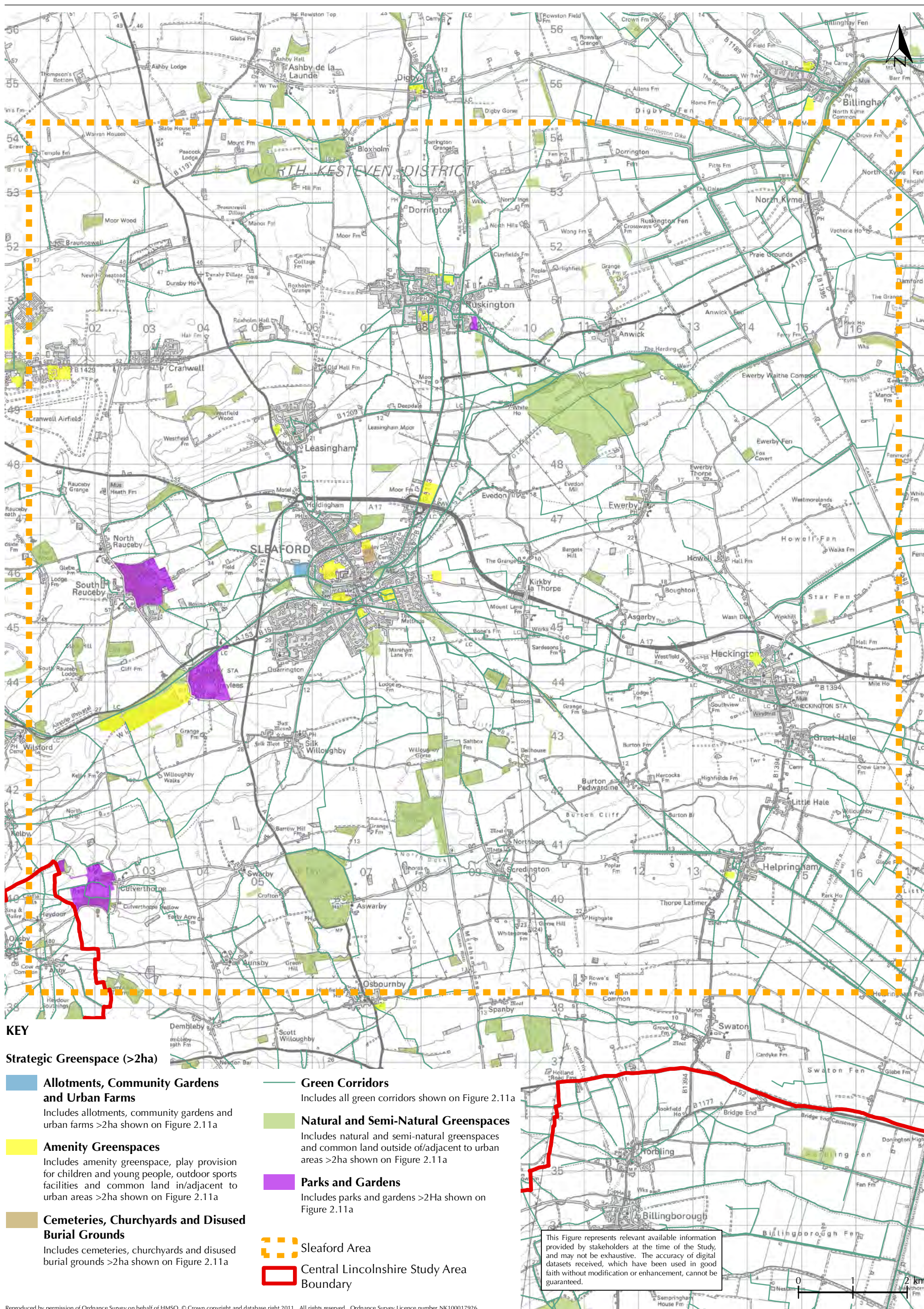


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FIGURE 2.14c
Strategic Greenspace Typology -
Lincoln Area

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Table 2.7a: Amount of Strategic Greenspace by Types within the Study Area and the Gainsborough, Lincoln and Sleaford Areas

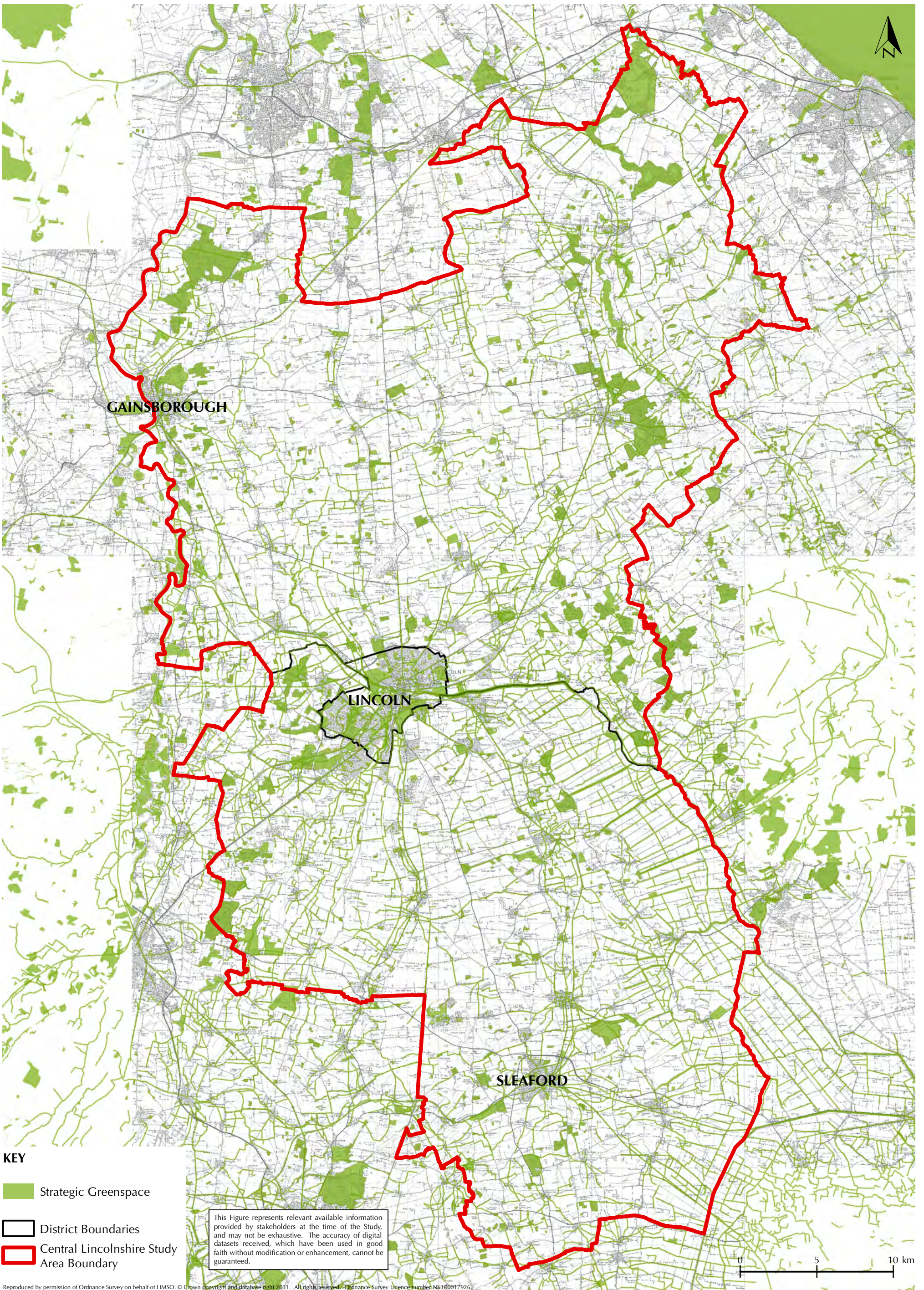
Type	Central Lincolnshire (see Figure 2.14a)	Gainsborough Area (see Figure 2.14b)	Lincoln area (see Figure 2.14c)	Sleaford area (see Figure 2.14d)
Parks & Gardens	3287ha	242ha	553ha	153ha
Natural & semi-natural greenspaces	13,899ha	801ha	4,347ha	951ha
Green (and Blue) corridors	4,053km	150km	1561km	596km
Amenity greenspaces	1386ha	195ha	676ha	117ha
Allotments, community gardens & urban farms	51ha	10ha	35ha	6ha
Cemeteries, churchyards & disused burial grounds	36ha	8ha	22ha	5ha

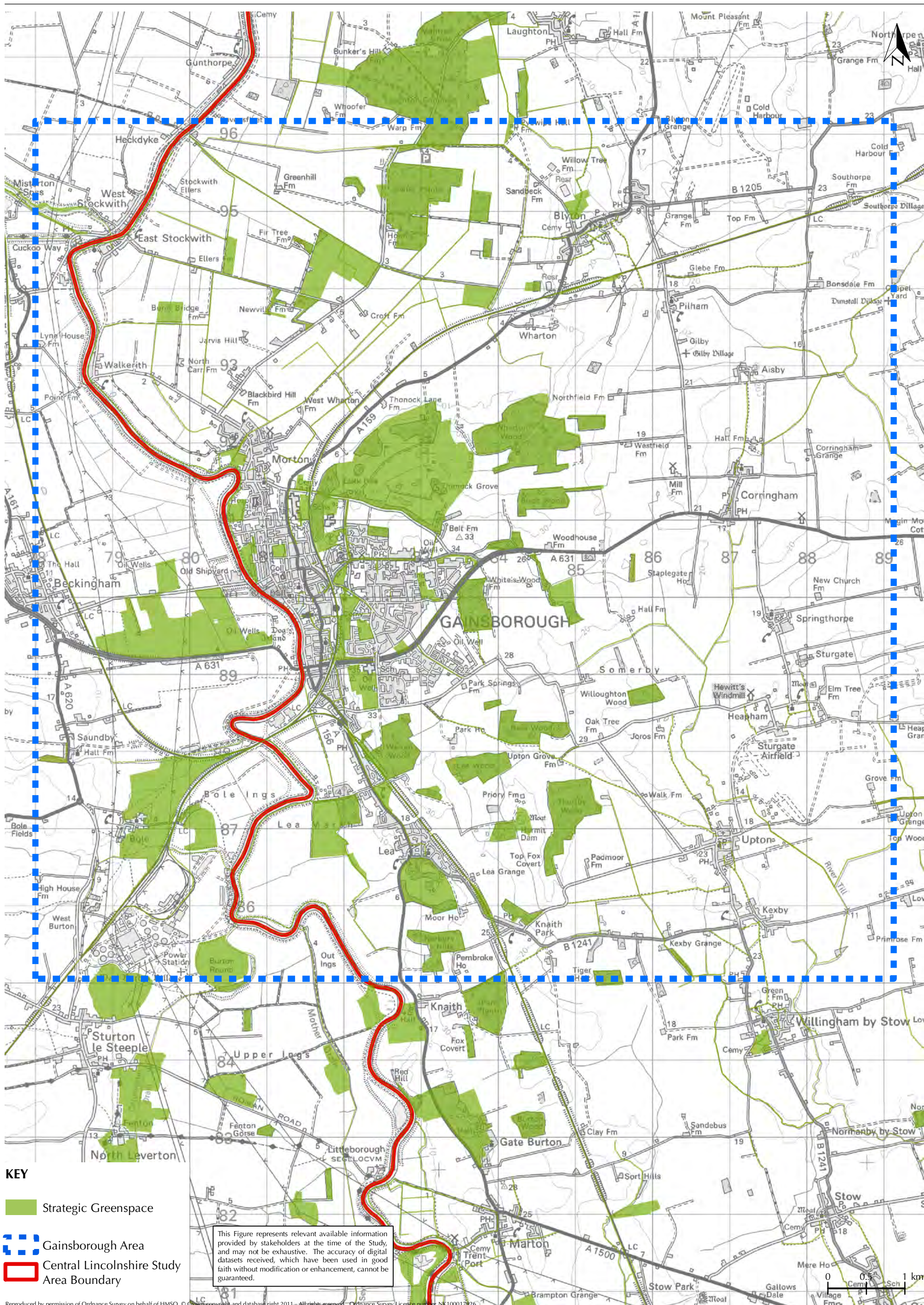
2.7.4 In comparison with the Gainsborough and Sleaford Areas, the Lincoln Area has the greatest amount of all different types of strategic greenspace. In relation to the three districts, West Lindsey District has the greatest amount of parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural greenspaces; North Kesteven District the greatest amount of green corridors and amenity greenspaces and the City of Lincoln the greatest amount of allotments, community gardens and urban farms and Cemeteries, churchyards and disused burial grounds.

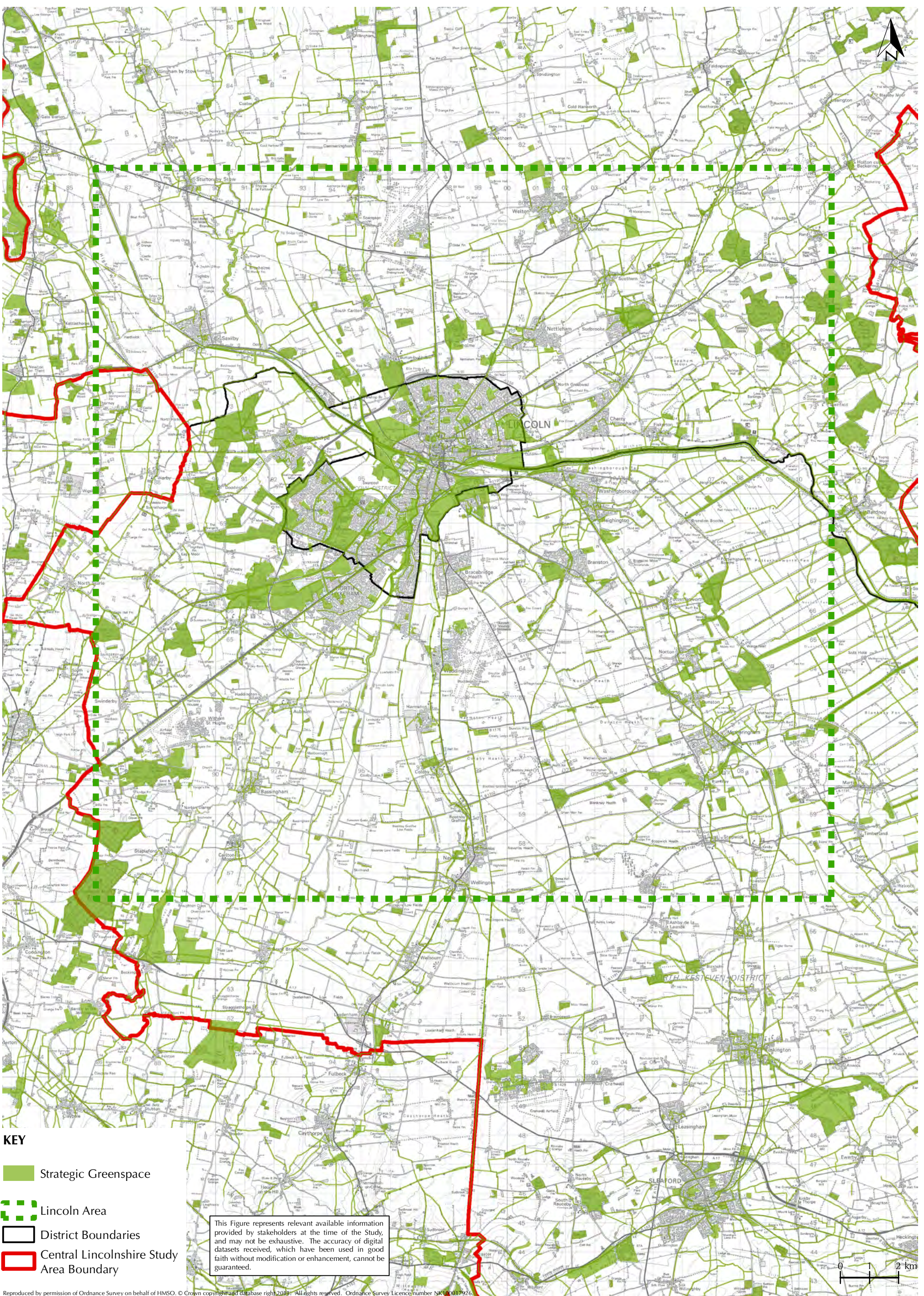
2.7.5 **Figures 2.15a-d** illustrate the extent of strategic greenspace across the Study Area and within each sub-area. It is intended that this map will form the ‘backbone’ or underlying framework for the fully developed Strategic GI Network for Central Lincolnshire, which will identify opportunity areas where investment in securing new multi-functional GI assets is required to meet future needs and deliver multiple benefits.

2.8 Existing Strategic Green Infrastructure Initiatives

2.8.1 A number of current strategic landscape and biodiversity initiatives fall partly/wholly within the Study Area. These are listed below, along with a short description of each initiative, and shown on **Figure 2.16a-d** (with the exception of Lincolnshire Waterways). A list of existing GI Strategies, which fall partly within/about the Study Area, is subsequently provided.







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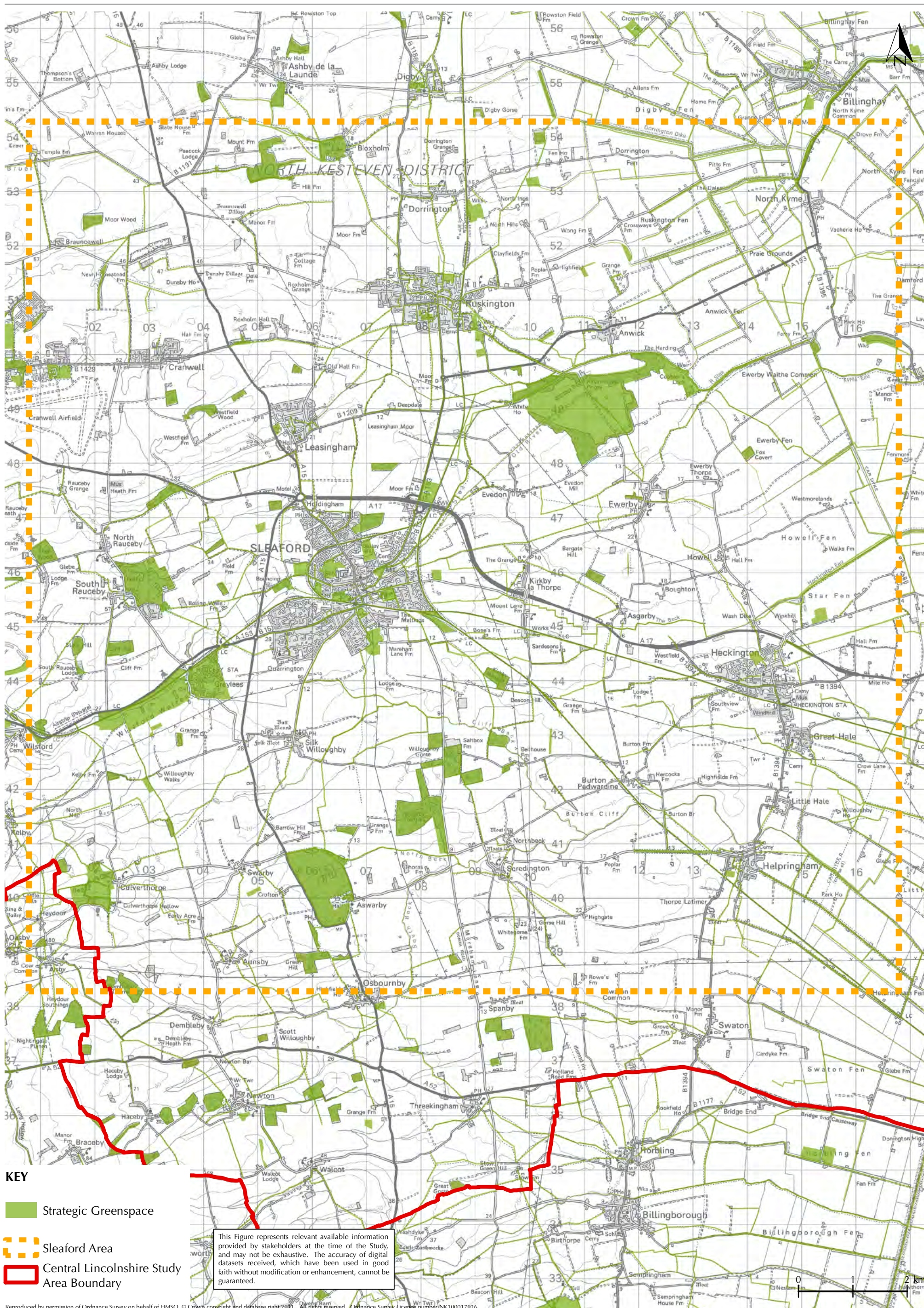


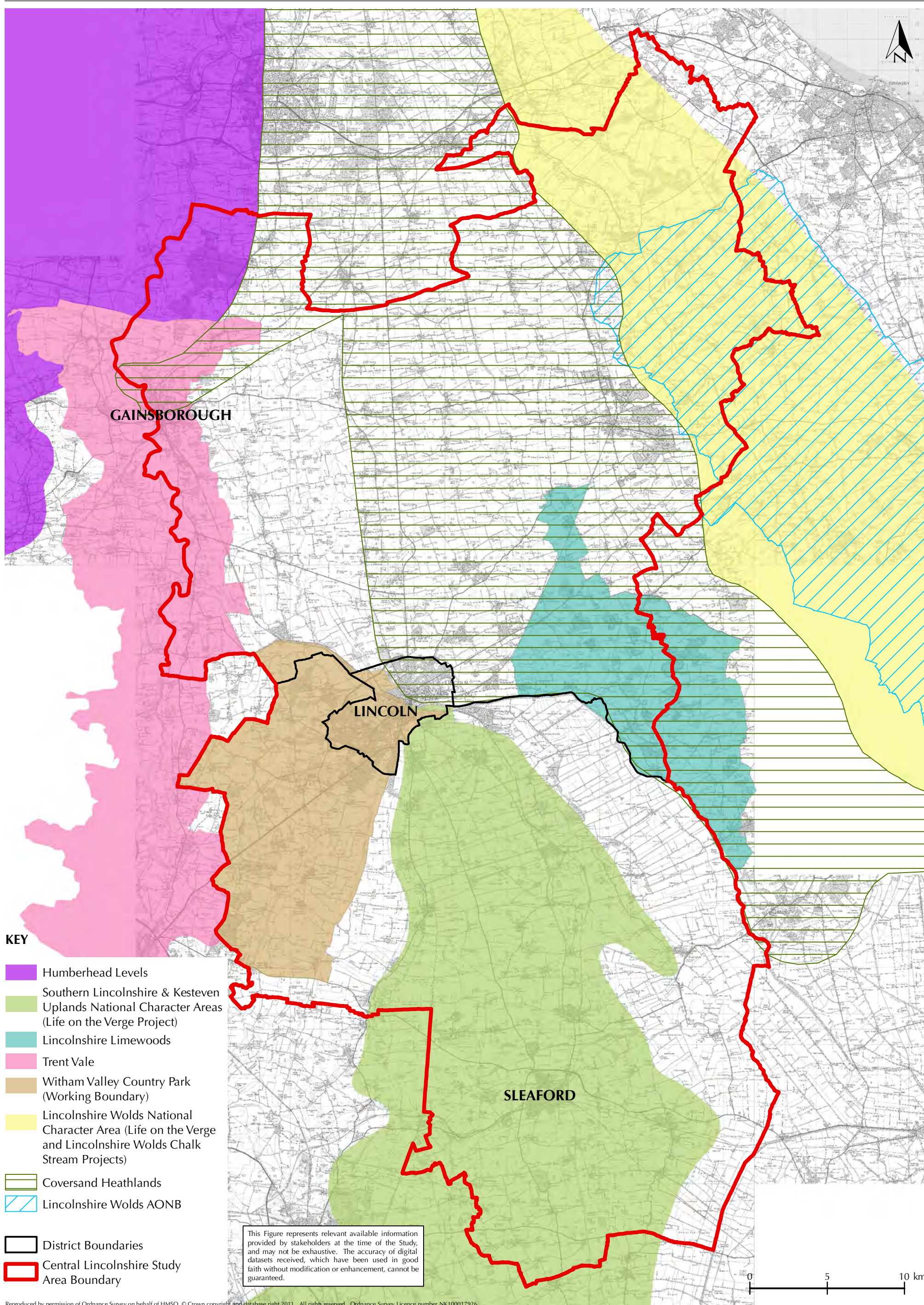
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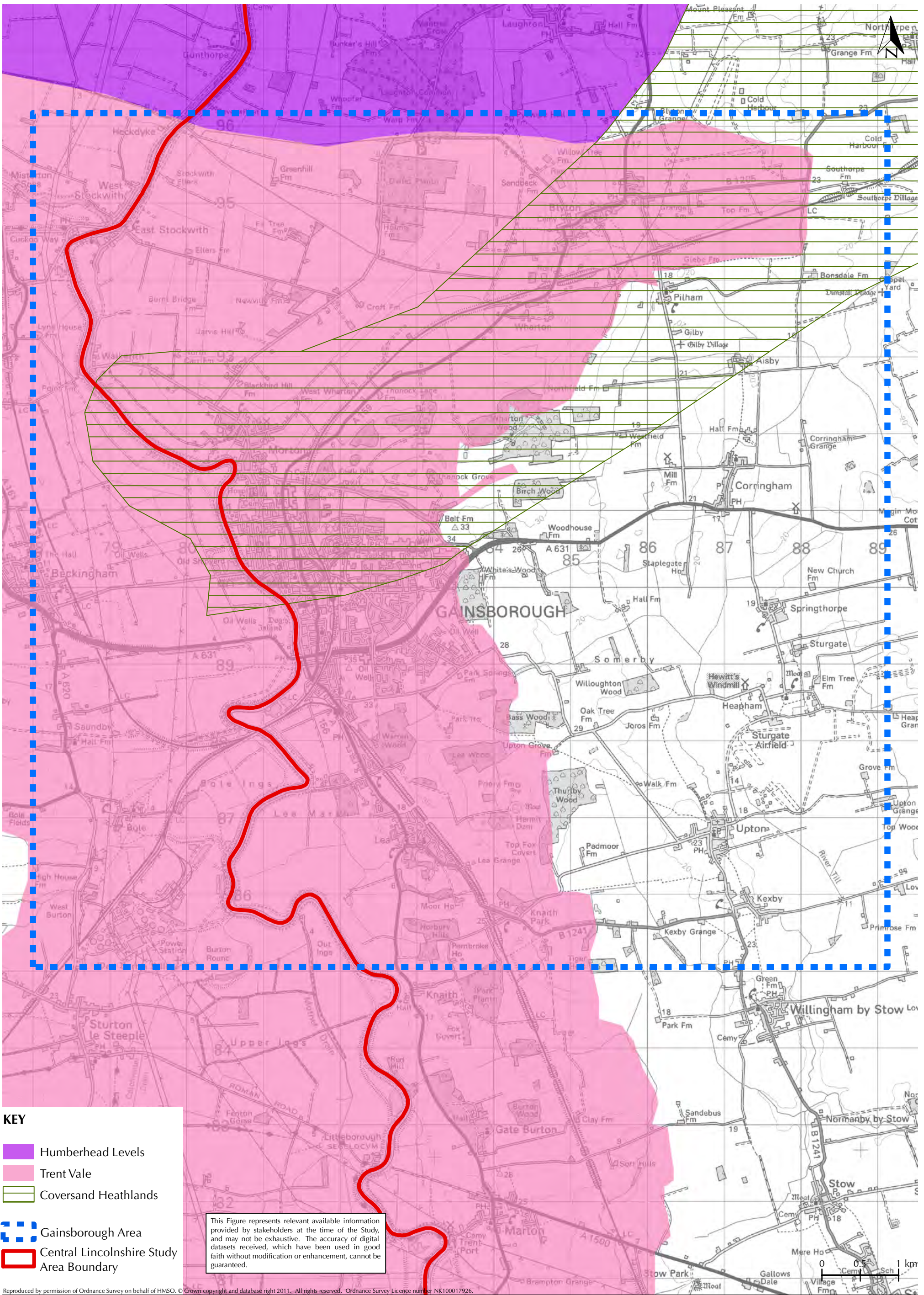
FIGURE 2.15c
Strategic Greenspace -
Lincoln Area

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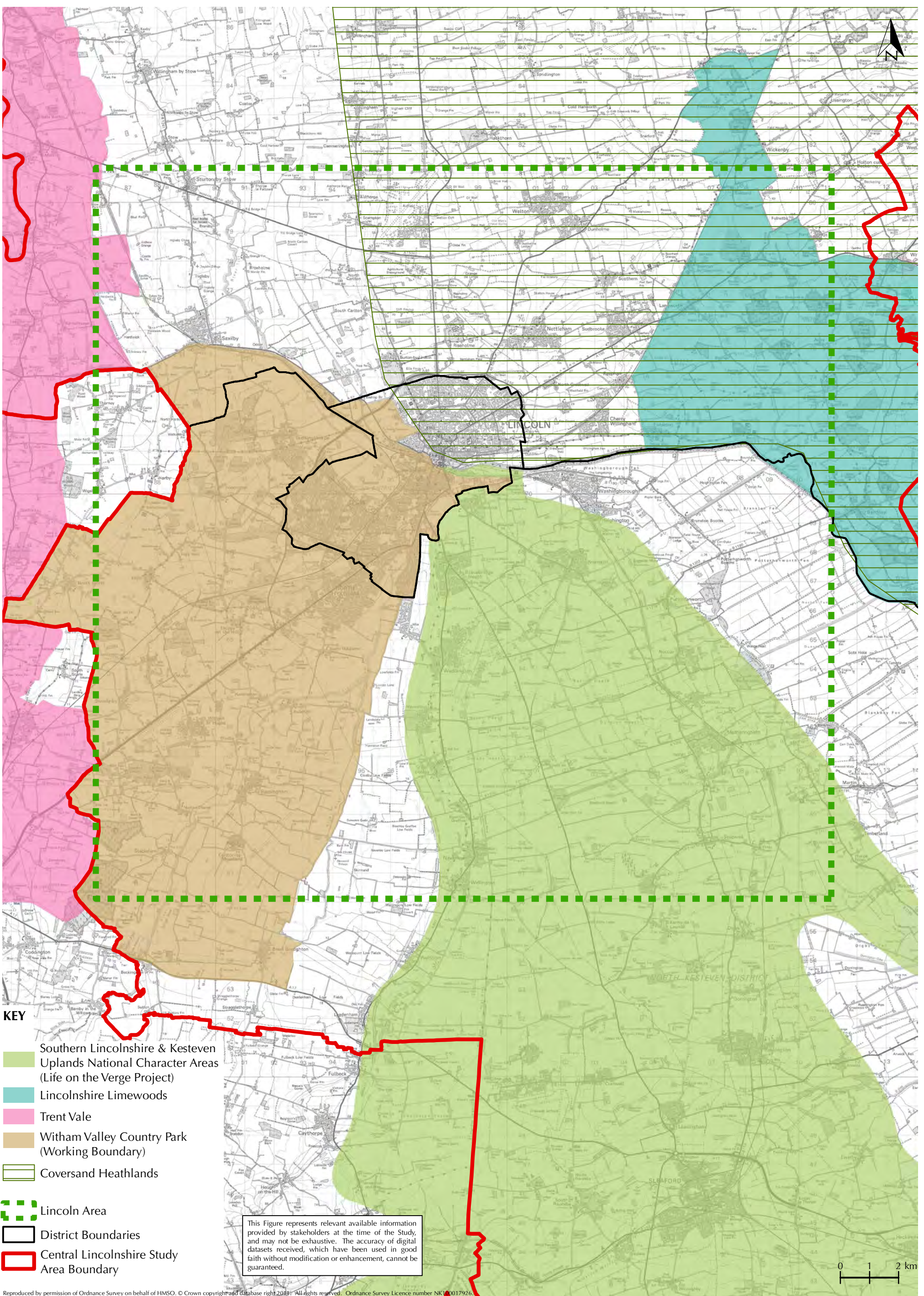


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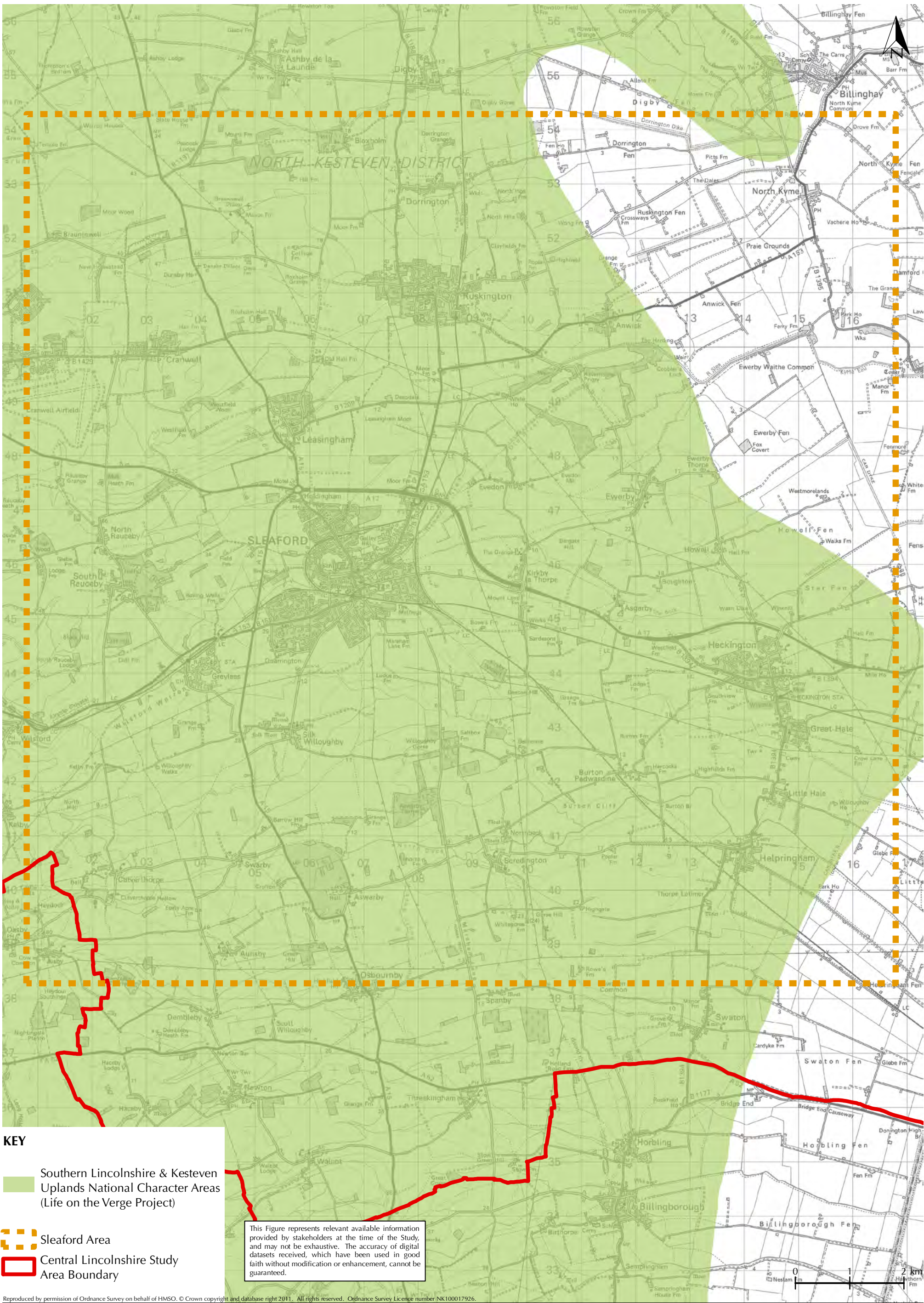
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FIGURE 2.16b
Existing Strategic Green Infrastructure Initiatives - Gainsborough Area



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FIGURE 2.16d
Existing Strategic Green Infrastructure Initiatives - Sleaford Area

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Lincolnshire Waterways

- 2.8.5 The Lincolnshire Waterways Partnership¹⁰⁰ leads the Lincolnshire Waterways Development Framework, which has been developed to guide a major project to enhance the county's waterways. The Framework seeks to provide a vision for the waterways that brings together economic, community and environmental issues and raises the profile of the Lincolnshire Waterways as a tourist destination for a variety of leisure uses. The partnership seeks to deliver projects under the following themes: improving the existing resource, extending the network, developing regional links, developing recreational use of the network, promoting the waterways, urban and rural regeneration, engaging with local communities and developing the partnership.

Witham Valley Country Park

- 2.8.6 North Kesteven District Council, West Lindsey District Council, City of Lincoln Council and others are working together on the development of the sub-regional Witham Valley Country Park on the south western side of Lincoln¹⁰¹. The Park would be centered on Hartsholme Country Park and Whisby Nature Park and would incorporate a number of other green spaces in the area, including Lincoln's Commons, Skellingthorpe Old Wood and Tunman Wood. The aims of the Park would be to improve access to and connectivity between these green spaces, develop opportunities for sustainable tourism and conserve local biodiversity. Workshops have taken place as part of a public consultation and action plans are being prepared for each of the project's principal aims of conservation, tourism and leisure.

Southern Lincolnshire Edge and Kesteven Uplands National Character Areas

- 2.8.7 'Life on the Verge'¹⁰² started in 2008 as a project to implement elements of one of the Wildlife Trusts 'Living Landscapes' partnership initiatives, involving Natural England and Lincolnshire County Council, which aims to identify, conserve, enhance and extend the network of limestone grassland in the Southern Lincolnshire Edge and Kesteven Uplands National Character Areas. Much of the remaining resource of such grassland is located on road verges. The project has included surveys, including much carried out by volunteers, the designation of new Local Wildlife Sites, practical habitat management and habitat creation. The roadside verge element of the project was extended in 2011 to include the Lincolnshire Wolds National Character Area.

¹⁰⁰ The Lincolnshire Waterways Partnership is led by Lincolnshire County Council, the Environment Agency and British Waterways and is supported by many other organisations in the county

¹⁰¹ <http://withamvalleypark.co.uk/>

¹⁰² <http://lifeontheverge.org.uk/>

Strategic Landscape and Biodiversity Initiatives

Humberhead Levels

- 2.8.2 The Humberhead Levels Partnership comprises a group of organisations⁹⁷, which aims to *'create an internationally renowned, unique wetland landscape, whilst supporting thriving communities and wildlife'*⁹⁸ through working with local businesses, landowners and community organisations. Within this framework and in line with The Wildlife Trusts' national 'Living Landscapes' scheme, the Lincolnshire and Yorkshire Wildlife Trusts have been working to develop sustainable land management within the area by advising and assisting landowners and increasing the take up of environmental stewardship schemes. The project also includes the identification and implementation of practical wetland improvement works, including pond creation and restoration. Funds are being sought to continue this work. Recent survey work by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has identified that many watercourses flowing in to the Trent are of high wildlife value.

Trent Vale

- 2.8.3 The On Trent initiative is a partnership of public, voluntary and commercial organisations covering low-lying land adjacent to the River Trent between Stoke-on-Trent and the Humber Estuary. The project aims to secure a sustainable balance between natural and historic heritage, agriculture, commercial activity and development along the River Trent. The work of On Trent falls into three main areas, influencing policy, raising awareness and delivering projects.
- 2.8.4 Under the wider umbrella of On Trent the Trent Vale Landscape Partnership is a three year scheme led by British Waterways that started in 2010 to *'conserve, enhance and celebrate the cultural identity of the Trent Vale between Newark and Gainsborough'*⁹⁹. The focus of the Partnership is on the communities, habitats and heritage of the area and aims to deliver a number of projects including improved habitat management, renovation of a key heritage building, a small grants scheme for community groups and farmers, education work, improved moorings and fishing pegs, heritage festivals and visitor guides.

⁹⁷ Natural England, the Environment Agency, English heritage, North Lincolnshire Council, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Wildlife Trusts

⁹⁸ http://www.ywt.org.uk/humberhead_levels_1.php

⁹⁹ <http://trentvale.wordpress.com/about/>

Lincolnshire Wolds National Character Area

- 2.8.8 The Lincolnshire Wolds Chalk Stream Project¹⁰³ brings together the Environment Agency, Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, Natural England, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Anglian Water and the Wild Trout Trust and aims to ensure that the nature conservation, landscape, community and economic features and interests associated with chalk streams in the Lincolnshire Wolds are conserved and enhanced. The Project provides advice to land managers and other relevant individuals and organisations on the management and restoration of chalk streams, and includes a demonstration site on the Waithe Beck at Stainton-le-Vale near Market Rasen. From 2011 the 'Life on the Verge'¹⁰⁴ project has been extended to include the Lincolnshire Wolds National Character Area¹⁰⁵.
- 2.8.9 The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB sits within this National Character Area. The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service works alongside a wide range of organisations, local landowners, community groups and volunteers advising on policy and undertaking activities/co-ordinating a range of project that further the interests of the AONB.

Lincolnshire Limewoods

- 2.8.10 The Lincolnshire Limewoods Project¹⁰⁶, which started in 2005, is a partnership between Lincolnshire County Council, the Forestry Commission, Natural England and other partners which aims to protect, enhance and promote the landscapes and features of the Lincolnshire Limewoods area. The project has three main areas of work:
- Access, including improvements to access infrastructure and visitor information;
 - Education and enjoyment, including improvements to the Chambers Farm Wood Education Centre and the development of a programme of events, activities and workshops; and
 - Heritage management, including improved habitat management, creation of new habitat links and support for local history projects.
- 2.8.11 The current project is scheduled to continue until December 2011, but an application for funding to extend it to 2013, particularly in relation to woodland archaeology¹⁰⁷, is being prepared.

¹⁰³ <http://www.lincswolds.org.uk/chalkstreams.htm>

¹⁰⁴ <http://lifeontheverge.org.uk/>

¹⁰⁵ http://www.naturalareas.naturalengland.org.uk/Science/natural/NA_Details.asp?NA_ID=35&S=&R=4

¹⁰⁶ <http://microsites.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Limewoods/section.asp?catId=14333>

¹⁰⁷ Lincolnshire County Council's Historic Environment Team has advised that many other ancient woodland sites would benefit from similar investigations to assess their archaeological potential/importance

Coversands Heathlands

- 2.8.12 The Coversands Heathland Initiative, which was funded for five years from 2003, is a partnership involving Natural England, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, North Lincolnshire Council, Forest Enterprise, Lincolnshire County Council and West Lindsey District Council, which aims to restore and re-create Coversands heathlands to help reverse habitat decline and fragmentation. Whilst partners have a responsibility to maintain areas, funds are being sought to continue the restoration/re-creation work.

Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

- 2.8.13 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act) places a statutory duty on local authorities to publish and review AONB Management Plans to help protect and enhance these important landscapes. The 2012-2017 Draft Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan, available for comment until the end of November 2011, is a formal review of the original 2004-09 Management Plan. The review was co-ordinated by The Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee, the AONB partnership of 22 organisations, and the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service.
- 2.8.14 The Plan is a statutory document that following consultation requires adoption from all the relevant local authorities¹⁰⁸ and formal approval from all the relevant statutory consultees¹⁰⁹. The Strategy and Action Plan contained in the 2012-17 Management Plan seeks to continue to build on the original shared vision for the future of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB with a continuing emphasis on balancing environmental, social and economic interests. The supporting evidence, aspirations, policies and targets set out in this document are intended to provide a very important tool to help inform and guide future development management as delivered through the emerging Local Development Frameworks.

Existing Green Infrastructure Strategies

- 2.8.15 The following GI strategies fall partly within/about the Study Area:

- Bassetlaw District Green Infrastructure Strategy (Final, 2010);
- Newark and Sherwood Green Infrastructure Strategy (Final, date unknown);
- South Kesteven Green Infrastructure Strategy (Final, date unknown); and
- The Wash & Fens Green Infrastructure Plan (Consultation Draft, Feb 2011).

¹⁰⁸ The relevant local authorities are East Lindsey District Council, Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and West Lindsey District Council

¹⁰⁹ The relevant statutory consultees are the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England

2.9 Social and Economic Character

Key Sources of Information
Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation Document (October 2010, CLJSPC)
Delivering a Sustainable Future for Central Lincolnshire: Portrait of Place (April 2011, AECOM)
Invitation to Tender for the Provision of a Green Infrastructure Study for Central Lincolnshire (January 2011, Procurement Lincolnshire)
Office for National Statistics online: http://www.statistics.gov.uk

Population

- 2.9.1 The City of Lincoln, located at the heart of Lincolnshire, is relatively compact, but gradually growing in size. It has an estimated population of 88,400, which has increased by 3.3% since 2001¹¹⁰. The estimated population of West Lindsey District, mid-2008 was 88,900, with a population growth in the District of 13.7% between 1997 and 2007¹¹¹. The District has a high population of elderly people, a trend that is expected to continue. The estimated population of North Kesteven District, mid-2008 was 106,100. *'The population is characterised by high numbers of people aged 45 plus and below average 15 to 24 year olds'*¹¹².
- 2.9.2 The estimated population within Central Lincolnshire and the three main settlements of Lincoln City (and North Hykeham), Gainsborough and Sleaford are provide in **Table 2.9a**.

Table 2.9a: Population Estimates¹¹³

	Population Estimate
Central Lincolnshire	282,800
Lincoln City and North Hykeham	100,800
Gainsborough	18,000
Sleaford	17,000

- 2.9.3 The population of Central Lincolnshire lives in a range of settlements that vary greatly in size and character:

'The City of Lincoln is the largest settlement and the main centre for jobs and facilities, with a regional role that extends to cover much of Lincolnshire and adjoining parts of Nottinghamshire. The towns of Gainsborough, Sleaford, Market Rasen and Caistor play a significant role in the provision of housing and

¹¹⁰ Invitation to Tender: Green Infrastructure Study for Central Lincolnshire, Appendix 1: Overview of Central Lincolnshire (January 2011, Procurement Lincoln)

¹¹¹ Invitation to Tender: Green Infrastructure Study for Central Lincolnshire, Appendix 1: Overview of Central Lincolnshire (January 2011, Procurement Lincoln)

¹¹² Invitation to Tender: Green Infrastructure Study for Central Lincolnshire, Appendix 1: Overview of Central Lincolnshire (January 2011, Procurement Lincoln)

¹¹³ Population estimates as stated in the Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation Document (October 2010, CLJSPC)

facilities in their rural catchments. Over half of the population of Central Lincolnshire lives in rural areas, which are characterised by a highly dispersed pattern of villages and market towns¹¹⁴.

- 2.9.4 More details regarding the socio-economic character of Gainsborough, Lincoln and Sleaford is provided under **Section 2.10**.
- 2.9.5 Most of the Study Area, outside the main urban areas of Lincoln, Gainsborough and Sleaford is characterised by the lowest category of population density¹¹⁵ (under 100 people per km²), as shown on **Figure 2.17a**. The centres of Lincoln, Gainsborough and Sleaford settlements have relatively high population densities (997-1933 people per km²), with the highest population densities within Lincoln's suburbs adjacent to the city centre (2954-4668 people per km²).
- 2.9.6 As shown on **Figure 2.17b**, the centre of the Gainsborough Area (within the urban fabric) has the highest population density, with the north of town containing 1934-2953 people per km² and the south, 997-1933 people per km². Outside the urban area, the Gainsborough Area is characterised by the lowest density of under 100 people per km².
- 2.9.7 The centre of the Lincoln Area (see **Figure 2.17c**) has the highest population density, with the town centre containing 997-1933 people per km² and suburbs to the north and south of the centre containing population densities of 2954-4668 people per km² and 1934-2953 people per km². The northern, southern, eastern and western fringes of the City have lower population densities, which are, however, higher than the surrounding predominantly rural land.
- 2.9.8 As shown on **Figure 2.17d** the centre of the Sleaford Area (within the urban fabric) has the highest population density, with the north of town containing 997-1933 people per km² and the south, 1934-2953 people per km². The northern and southern settings of the town have lower population densities, which are however, higher than the surrounding predominantly rural land.

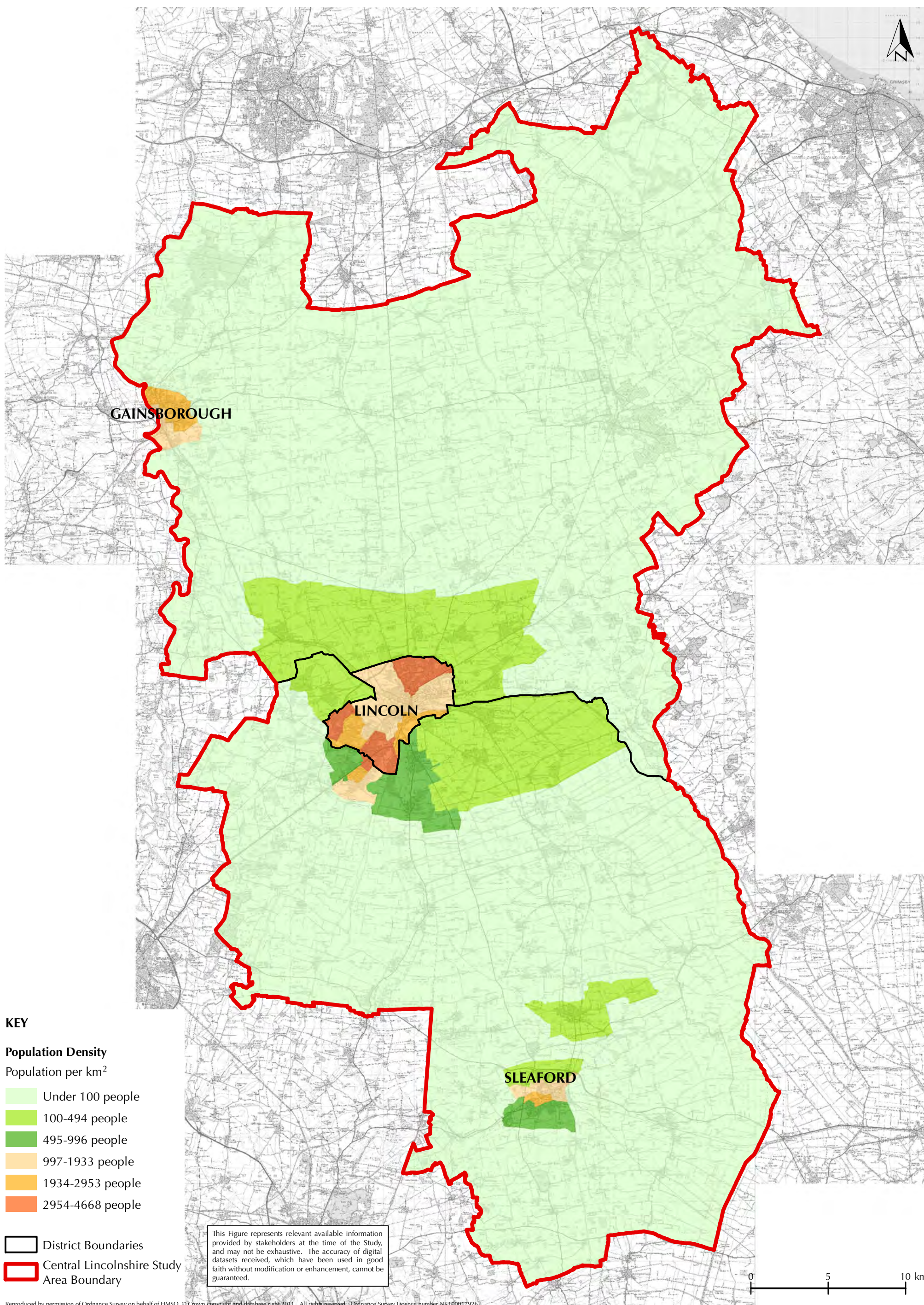
Economy and Employment

- 2.9.9 The following overview of the economy, employment and deprivation of Central Lincolnshire is based on information from Appendix 1 of the Invitation to Tender and the Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation Document:

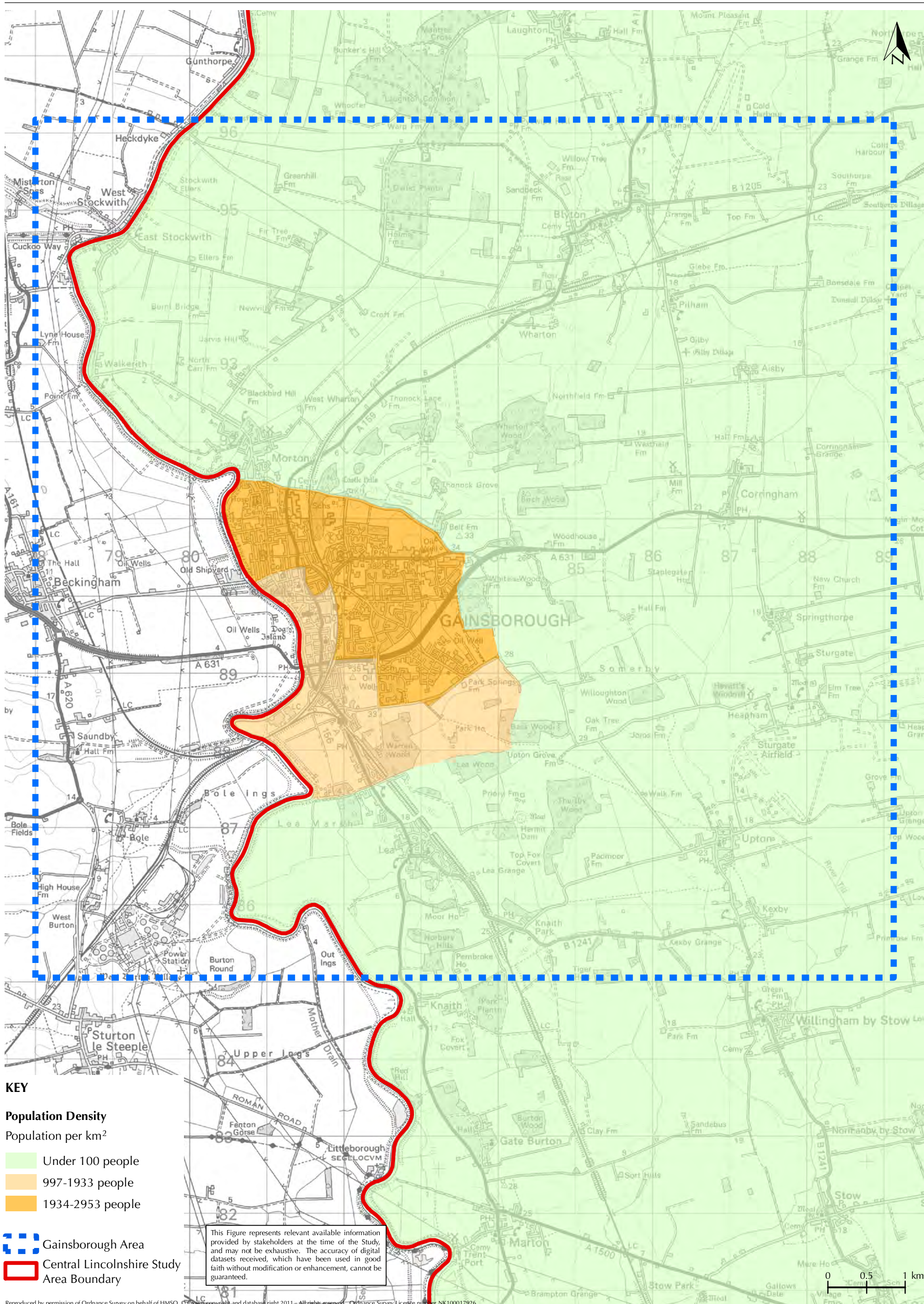
The City of Lincoln covers 36km² and is a vibrant tourist destination with its own university campus. Lincoln is also the main centre within Lincolnshire for population, services including employment, retail, leisure, health and

¹¹⁴ Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation Document (October 2010, CLJSPC)

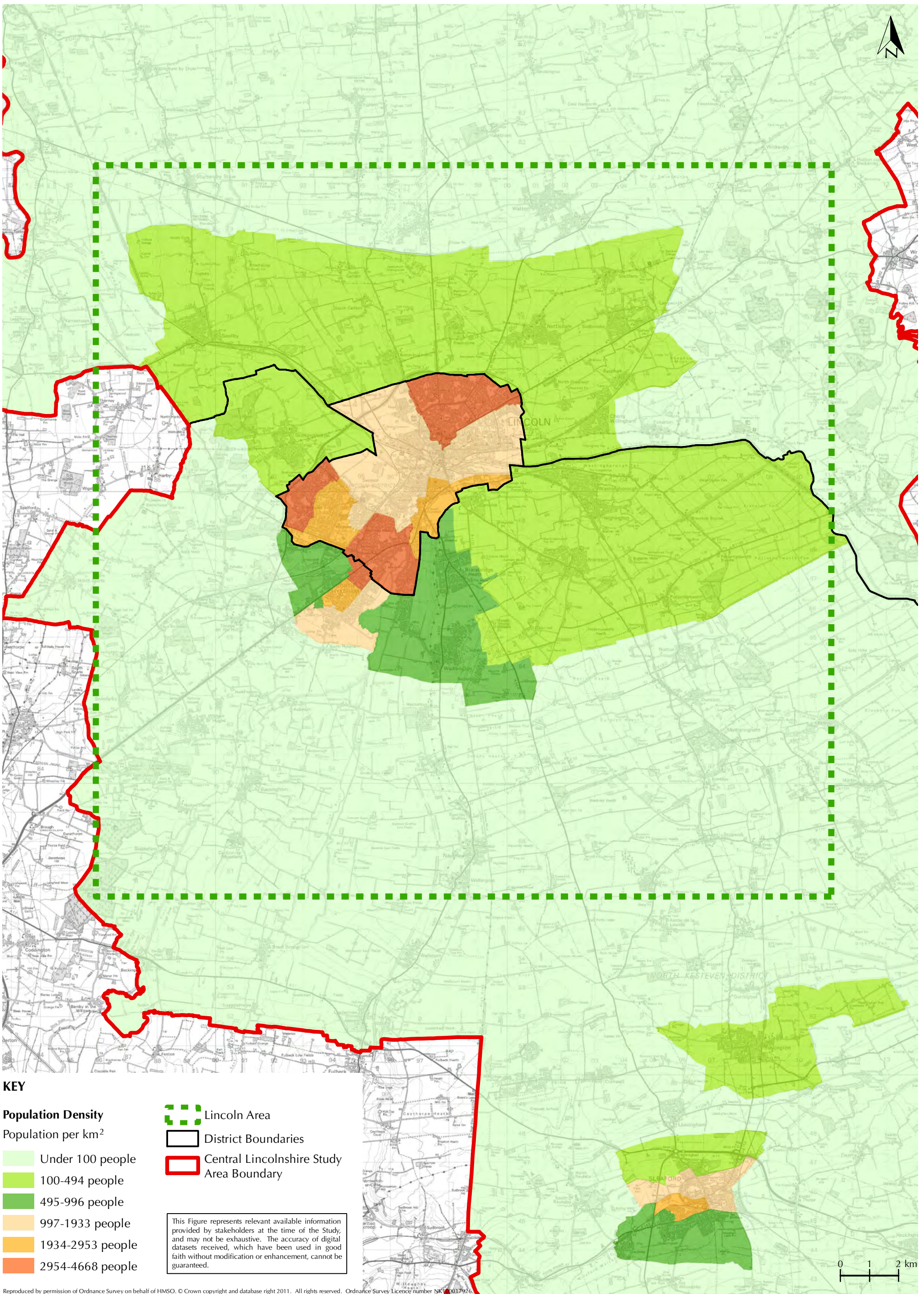
¹¹⁵ Office for National Statistics, mid-2009 population estimates



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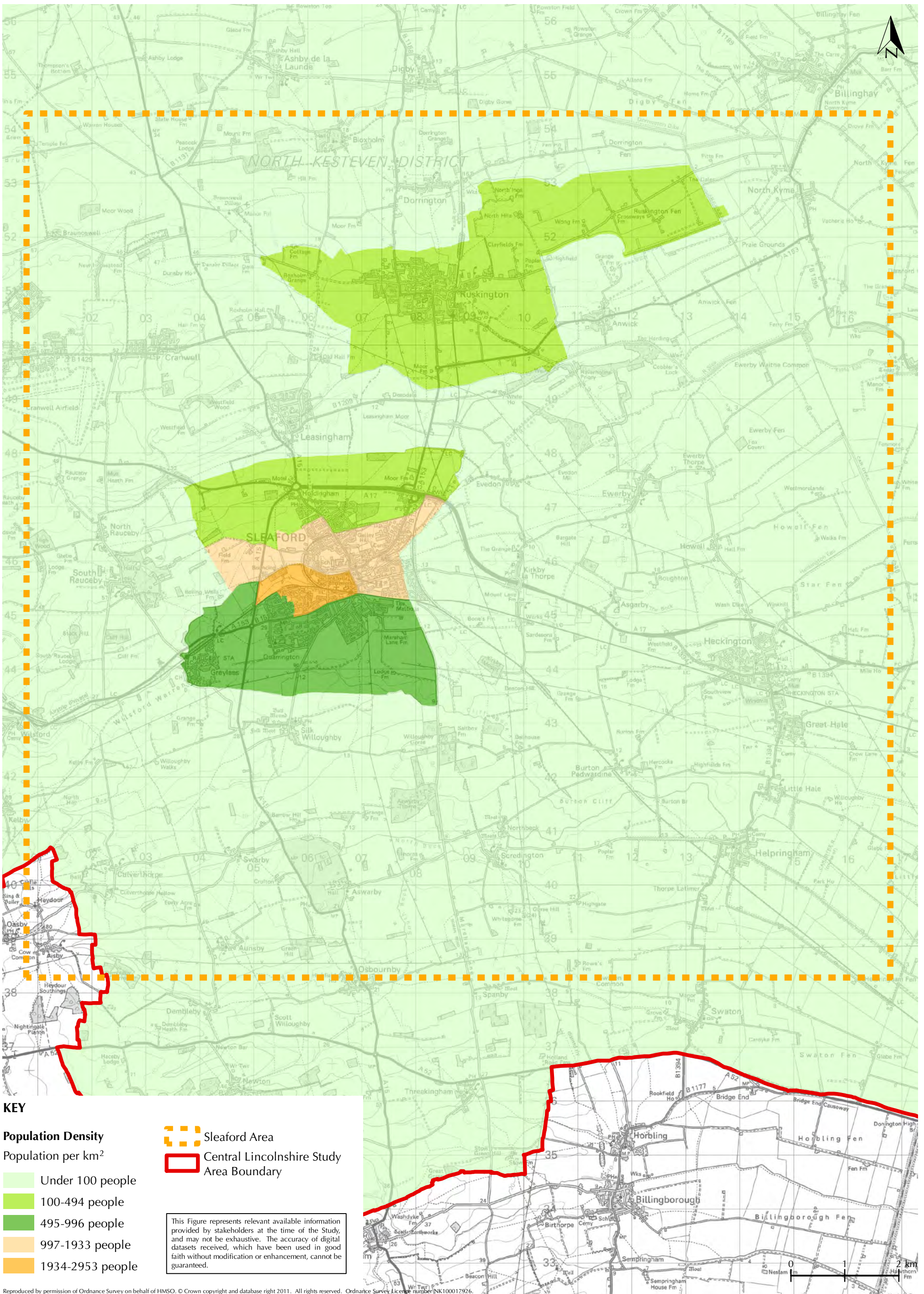


CHRIS BLANDFORD ASSOCIATES
environment landscape planning

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY FOR CENTRAL LINCOLNSHIRE
Volume 2: Audit & Assessment

FIGURE 2.17c
Population Density -
Lincoln Area

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education, providing facilities and opportunities for the surrounding area as well as its own communities. It has a wider Travel To Work Area of 300,000 people which extends into Nottinghamshire. The city has undergone major economic change in recent decades with new jobs in services emerging after a sharp decline in the city's employment base in heavy engineering during the 1980s. The development of the new University of Lincoln from the mid-1990s has contributed strongly to the city's revival, bringing new investment and cultural diversity. Despite these developments, much more remains to be done to fully realise the city's potential. The city has areas of severe social deprivation marked by poor health, unemployment and other problems. Lincoln has the largest concentration of deprivation within Lincolnshire, including communities that rank amongst the worst 10% nationally for social deprivation. Affordable housing, neighbourhood regeneration and sustainable growth are key requirements of a strategic approach for improving the city and its quality of life.

West Lindsey covers the area immediately north of Lincoln and forms the northwest gateway to Lincolnshire. It covers 1158km², is predominantly rural and provides an attractive setting for its three market towns of Caistor, Gainsborough and Market Rasen. Gainsborough is the main employment, retail, service and administrative centre for West Lindsey. Patterns of deprivation in West Lindsey show the extent of diversity and disparity between wards within the district. Gainsborough South West ward has one of its three Super Output Areas (SOAs) in the bottom 20% and one in the bottom 5% thus causing it to be classed as the most deprived ward in the district. The second most deprived ward is Gainsborough East which has two of its four SOAs in the bottom 20% and one in the bottom 10%. In contrast, parts of Nettleham and Welton Wards are within the 5% least deprived in the country, with part of Saxilby being in the 10% least deprived¹¹⁶. Unemployment in West Lindsey, at 3.6%, is the same as the county average and below the regional and national averages of 4.1%. Of those who are unemployed in West Lindsey, 30.5% are classed as long term unemployed, having been out of work for over six months. This rate is higher than the county average of 27.4% and the regional and national averages of 29.5%¹¹⁷.

North Kesteven is located east of Nottingham and south of Lincoln. It covers an area of 922km². Its main towns are Sleaford and North Hykeham, the latter is located to the south of, and is within the Greater Lincoln Area. The predominately rural nature of the District has encouraged people to move to the area to take advantage of its quality of life. The Sleaford Area offers significant services (daily and weekly shopping, specialist shops, financial and office services and medical services) but faces competition from nearby towns and cities. It has one of the lowest recorded crime rates in the country and has relatively low levels of deprivation.'

- 2.9.10 In comparison to Lincolnshire as a whole, Central Lincolnshire has lower levels of employment and income deprivation than the county averages¹¹⁸. Within the Study Area, Lincoln is the 'primary economy driver, supporting nearly 60,000 jobs, of which 65% are service jobs¹¹⁹'. Gainsborough is 'home to 8000 jobs and is dominated by retail/wholesale and manufacturing employment'. Sleaford employs a similar number of jobs, but has 'a completely different

¹¹⁶ Information based on Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2007, Department for Communities and Local Government -DCLG

¹¹⁷ Nomis July 2009

¹¹⁸ Delivering a Sustainable Future for Central Lincolnshire: Portrait of Place (April 2011), AECOM

¹¹⁹ Delivering a Sustainable Future for Central Lincolnshire: Portrait of Place (April 2011), AECOM

employment structure, with less dependence on manufacturing and a higher proportion of service sector jobs (in health, social work, retail and wholesale¹²⁰.

2.9.11 The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (see **Figure 2.18a-d**) show that the most deprived areas of Central Lincolnshire are located within the urban centres of Lincoln, Gainsborough and Sleaford. The vast majority of Central Lincolnshire is, however, ranked in *'the 80% least deprived in the country by Index of Multiple Deprivation¹²¹'*.

Key Issues

- The population of West Lindsey District is expected to grow by 32.3% over the next 20 years, compared with a predicted growth of 15.6% nationally¹²²;
- It is expected that there will be an increase in the population of elderly people of 62.5% between 2007 and 2031¹²³;
- There is a trend for people moving into West Lindsey District¹²⁴;
- North Kesteven is the fastest growing district in the East Midlands and is experiencing rapid growth and high levels of inward migration¹²⁵;
- Central Lincolnshire is *'one of the fastest growing in the East Midlands, and has seen considerable new housing in both urban and rural areas, mainly fuelled by in-migration from other parts of the UK¹²⁶'*;
- *'Alongside greenfield development, major regeneration has occurred in Lincoln and Gainsborough, and re-development of disused hospital sites and RAF bases elsewhere. The area has an important RAF legacy, including both active and former air bases¹²⁷'*;
- *'Major social inequalities exist in Central Lincolnshire's communities. Lincoln and Gainsborough have communities that fall in the worst 10% nationally for deprivation, with significant problems of poor health, crime and educational attainment¹²⁸'*;
- *'Pockets of deprivation also occur in the rural area, where affordable housing and access to services are key issues¹²⁹'*;
- *'Gainsborough suffers from a combination of declining traditional employment sectors, low skill levels and high employment deprivation, which means that it is vulnerable to recession and faces a challenging recovery period¹³⁰'*;
- *'At present employment in Central Lincolnshire is in low knowledge and low productivity sectors¹³¹'*;

¹²⁰ Delivering a Sustainable Future for Central Lincolnshire: Portrait of Place (April 2011), AECOM

¹²¹ Delivering a Sustainable Future for Central Lincolnshire: Portrait of Place (April 2011), AECOM

¹²² Invitation to Tender: Green Infrastructure Study for Central Lincolnshire, Appendix 1: Overview of Central Lincolnshire (January 2011) Procurement Lincoln

¹²³ Invitation to Tender: Green Infrastructure Study for Central Lincolnshire, Appendix 1: Overview of Central Lincolnshire (January 2011) Procurement Lincoln

¹²⁴ Invitation to Tender: Green Infrastructure Study for Central Lincolnshire, Appendix 1: Overview of Central Lincolnshire (January 2011) Procurement Lincoln

¹²⁵ Invitation to Tender: Green Infrastructure Study for Central Lincolnshire, Appendix 1: Overview of Central Lincolnshire (January 2011) Procurement Lincoln

¹²⁶ Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation Document (October 2010, CLJSPC)

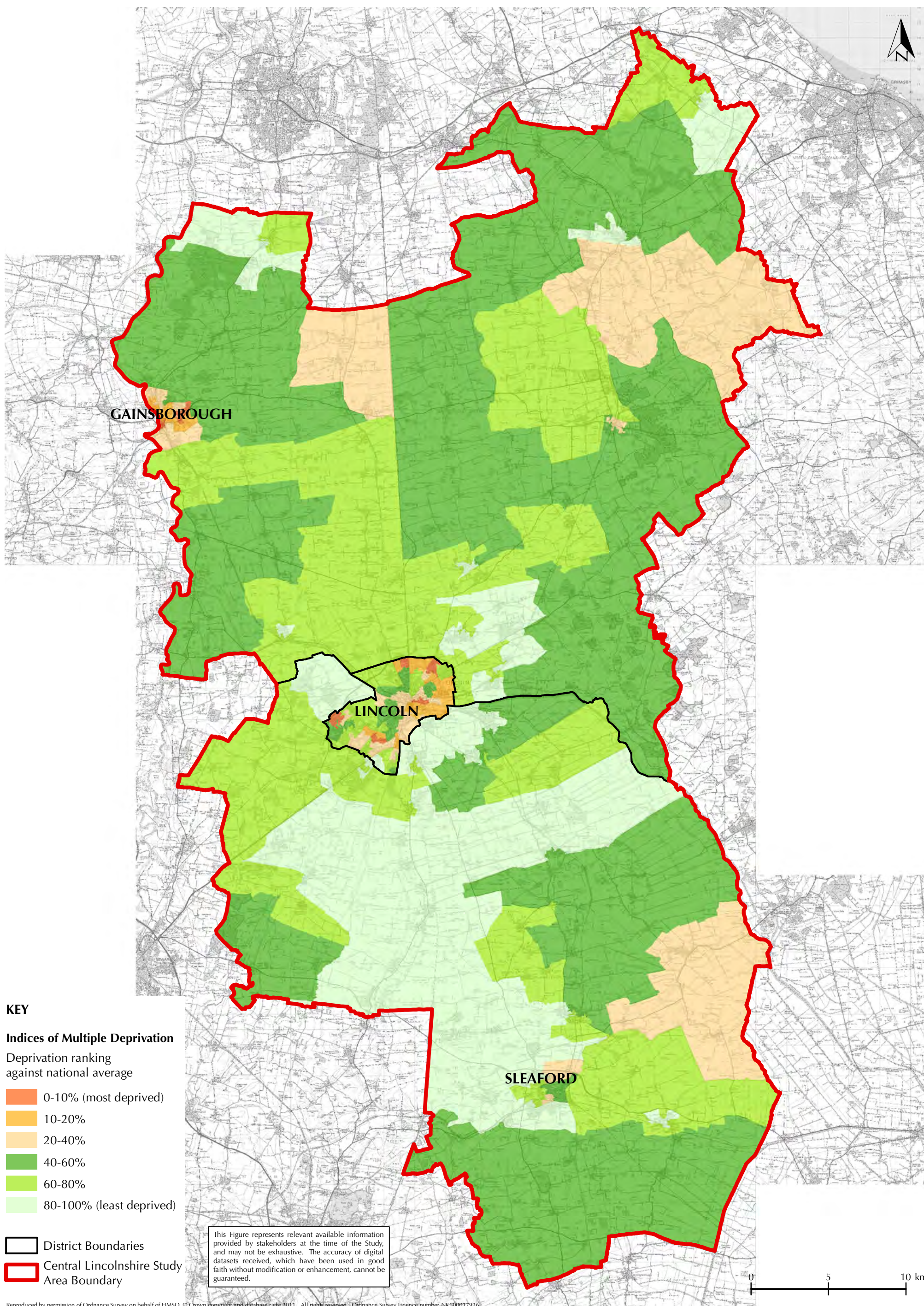
¹²⁷ Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation Document (October 2010, CLJSPC)

¹²⁸ Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation Document (October 2010, CLJSPC)

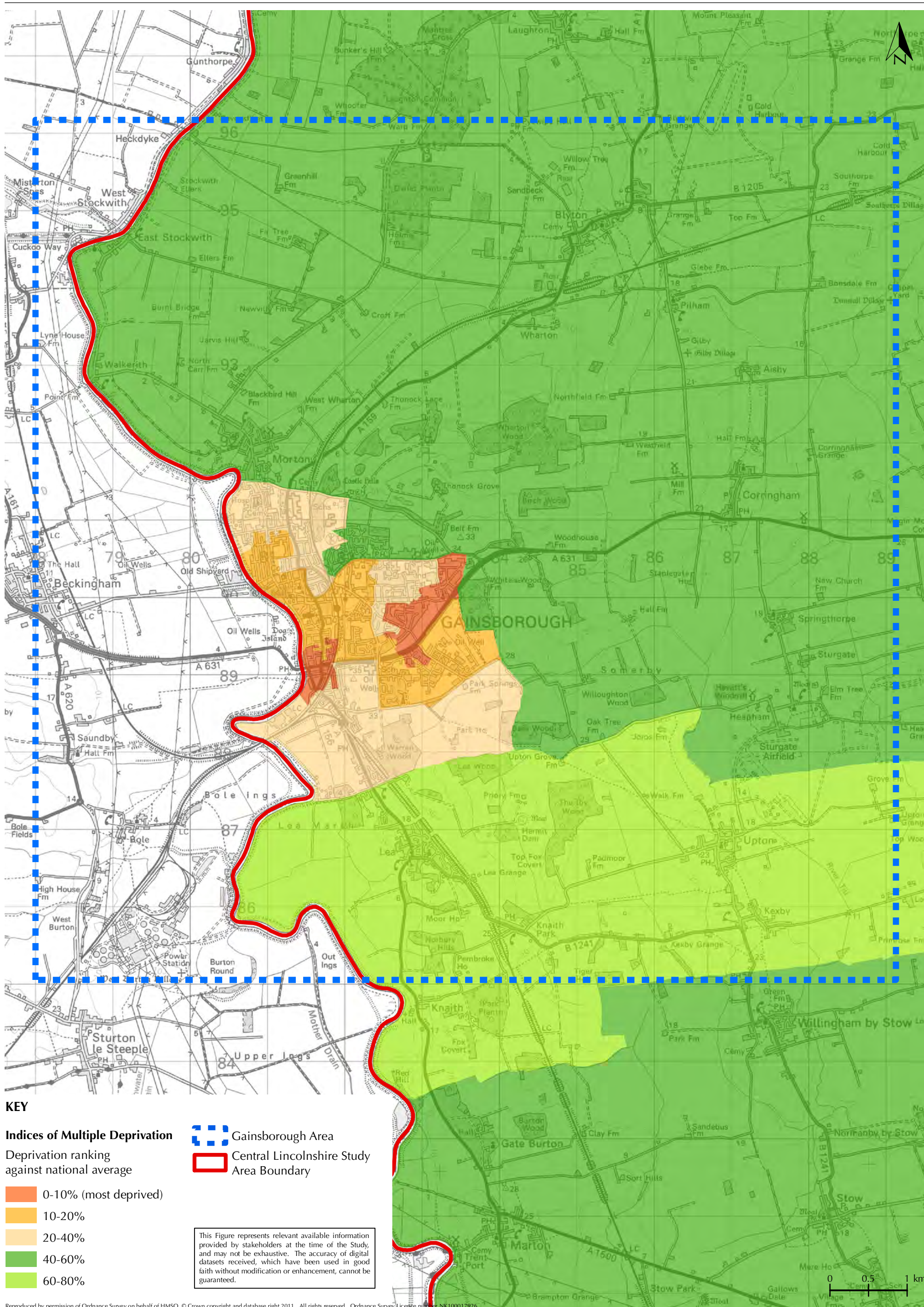
¹²⁹ Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation Document (October 2010, CLJSPC)

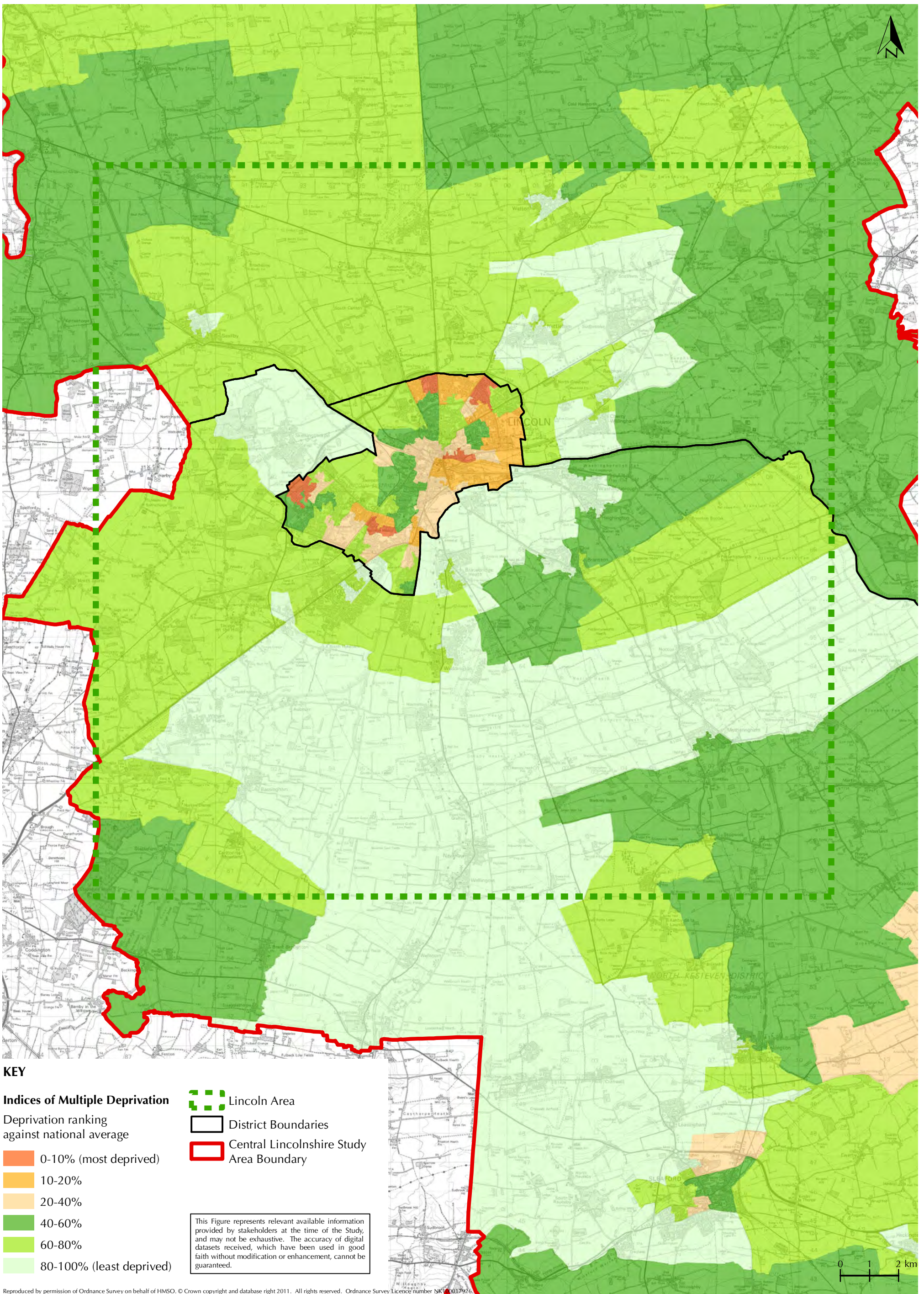
¹³⁰ Delivering a Sustainable Future for Central Lincolnshire: Portrait of Place (April 2011), AECOM

¹³¹ Delivering a Sustainable Future for Central Lincolnshire: Portrait of Place (April 2011), AECOM

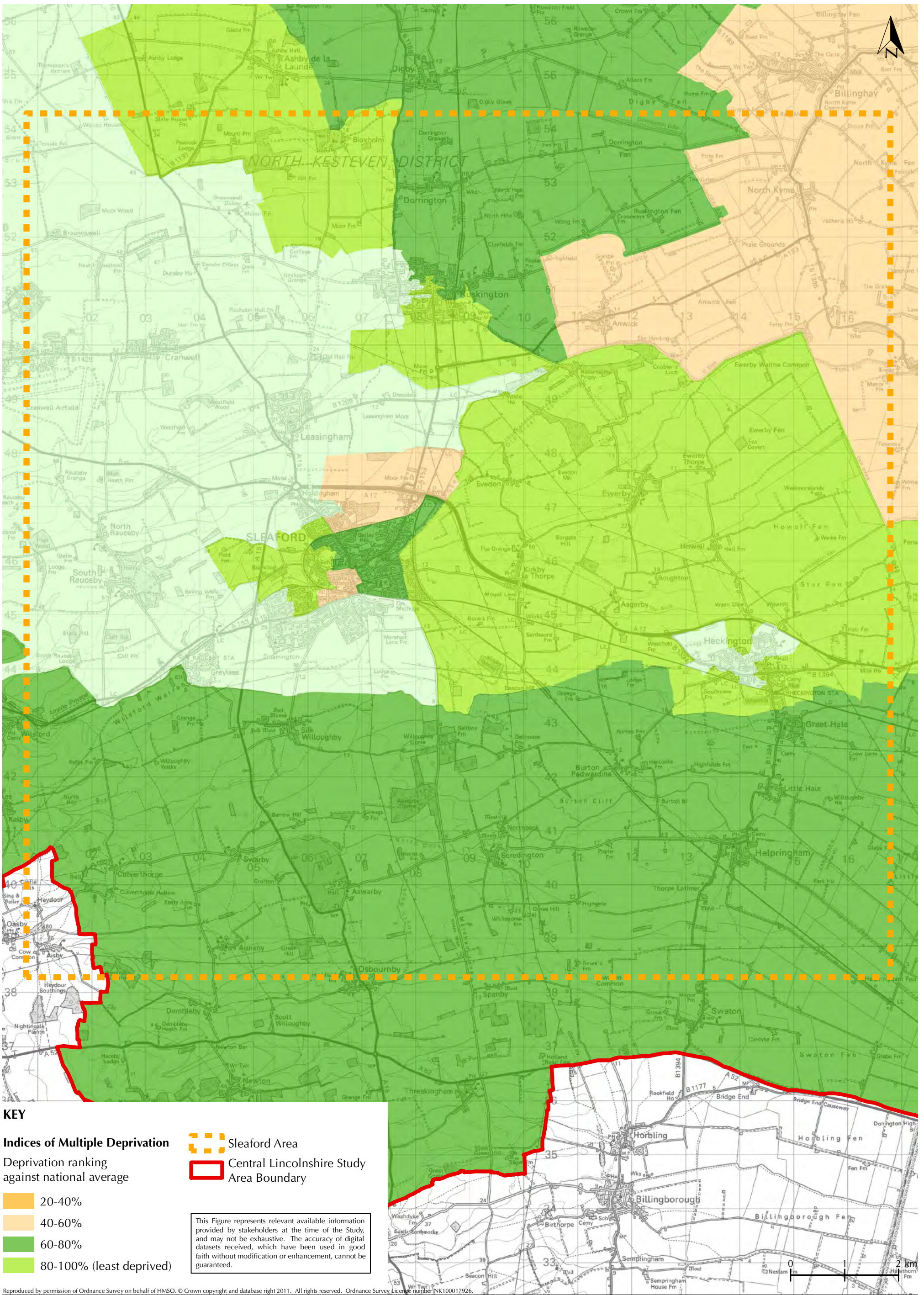


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- *‘Workforce skill levels are below the national average and there are pockets of severe educational deprivation – over 60% of the population not skilled beyond NVQ1¹³²;*
- *Areas facing the greatest challenge are the northern and southern boundaries of Lincoln City, Gainsborough (in the north East) and Billingbay/Tattershall Bridge area (on the south east border)¹³³;* and
- *Gainsborough has been identified as a ‘Transition Economy¹³⁴’ in previous research, due to the declining dominance of manufacturing within the town’s economy coupled with low skill levels and high employment deprivation¹³⁵’.*

2.10 Growth Areas – Issues and Options

Key Sources of Information
Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation Document (October 2010, CLJSPC)
Delivering a Sustainable Future for Central Lincolnshire: Emerging Growth Options (June 2011, AECOM)

Overview

2.10.1 Growth is central to the current strategy for Central Lincolnshire, underpinning improvements to the area’s facilities, economy and infrastructure, as well as meeting the need for homes and jobs. Central Lincolnshire has one of the fastest growing populations in the East Midlands region, mainly fuelled by in-migration from other parts of the UK, and, based on current trends, the population is anticipated to increase by 33% by 2031. However, it is also recognised that growth should be sustainable. At present, there are major social inequalities in Central Lincolnshire’s communities. Population growth, together with dispersed settlement patterns, limited jobs and services in rural areas, and limited public transport, has also led to increased reliance on the private car, above average growth in traffic, above average carbon emissions, congestion issues and deterioration of the environment. Ensuring sustainable growth will require a balance between regeneration and growth of the main settlements (to reduce travel and avoid urbanisation of the countryside), and support for rural communities. It also requires that growth does not undermine the features that attract people to the area – including its high quality environment and rural countryside.

2.10.2 The Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation Document (2010, CLJSPC) identifies five key themes that will drive Central Lincolnshire’s future. These are:

- *Theme 1: Sustainable Development* – the overarching aim of the plan;

¹³² Delivering a Sustainable Future for Central Lincolnshire: Portrait of Place (April 2011), AECOM

¹³³ Delivering a Sustainable Future for Central Lincolnshire: Portrait of Place (April 2011), AECOM

¹³⁴ A transition economy is able to replace the loss of employment in these previously dominant industries with employment in growing industries, such as the service sector.

¹³⁵ Delivering a Sustainable Future for Central Lincolnshire: Portrait of Place (April 2011), AECOM

- *Theme 2: A Low Carbon Future* – including reducing the causes of climate change and minimising its impacts;
- *Theme 3: Growing Central Lincolnshire* – including ensuring efficient use of land and maximising contribution of brownfield land, ensuring that new development maximises and strengthens existing public transport links, and ensuring adequate provision of support infrastructure;
- *Theme 4: Strong and Prosperous Communities* – including improving quality of life and creating sustainable communities, meeting strategic housing needs (including affordable housing), creating conditions for a healthier population, and diversifying and strengthening Central Lincolnshire's economic base; and
- *Theme 5: A Quality Environment* – including protecting and enhancing Central Lincolnshire's environmental and historic assets, improving GI, and ensuring well designed sustainable new development.

2.10.3 As discussed in **Section 1.1**, The East Midlands Regional Plan (RSS) of March 2009 identified that 40,600 new homes would be required in Central Lincolnshire between 2006-2026, based on population growth, the trend for smaller households, and existing housing shortfalls. The evidence base for the Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy identifies a need for 11,800 affordable houses (reflecting a target of 29% of all new housing to be affordable). In addition, housing growth will need to be accompanied by economic and job growth, and existing evidence indicates that 192ha of employment land is required across Central Lincolnshire. There is also emphasis on improving Central Lincolnshire's tourist offer, as part of the wider Tourism Strategy for Lincolnshire. This includes increasing the number of hotels and other facilities, and improving the public realm of Lincoln and other towns.

2.10.4 The RSS identified that the majority of housing and employment growth would be focused on the Lincoln Principal Urban Area (PUA), Gainsborough and Sleaford, but there would also be some growth in other settlements and rural areas to meet local needs. Lincoln and Gainsborough have been designated as Growth Points¹³⁶, in recognition of their role as major centres for housing growth and regeneration. The RSS identified a target of 19,800 new homes by 2026 for the Lincoln PUA; 11,200 new homes in North Kesteven outside the PUA; and 9,600 in West Lindsey outside the PUA. The Gainsborough Growth Point Programme of Delivery included aspirations for 8,280 new homes in West Lindsey (including Gainsborough) by 2016/17, and three new urban extensions to Gainsborough including 7,440 new homes, services, employment and infrastructure, by 2030/31.

2.10.5 In developing the Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy, the CLJPU will review these overall housing and economic growth targets, and also their geographic distribution. In terms of geographic distribution, the key options identified are:

¹³⁶ These have access to Government funding to support new housing and infrastructure

- 1. Retaining RSS focus on Lincoln, Gainsborough and Sleaford, with some growth in other settlements to support local needs;
- 2. Reduce focus on these three towns, to achieve a more dispersed pattern of development;
- 3. Reduce focus on these three towns, with development directed towards one or more new settlements (potentially an Eco-town with 5,000 dwellings, located around either Gainsborough, Lincoln, Sleaford or Market Rasen); and
- 4. Increase development in Lincoln, Gainsborough and Sleaford, with minimal growth in rural settlements.

2.10.6 Potential directions of growth around Gainsborough, Lincoln and Sleaford¹³⁷ are illustrated on **Figure 2.19a**.

Gainsborough Area¹³⁸

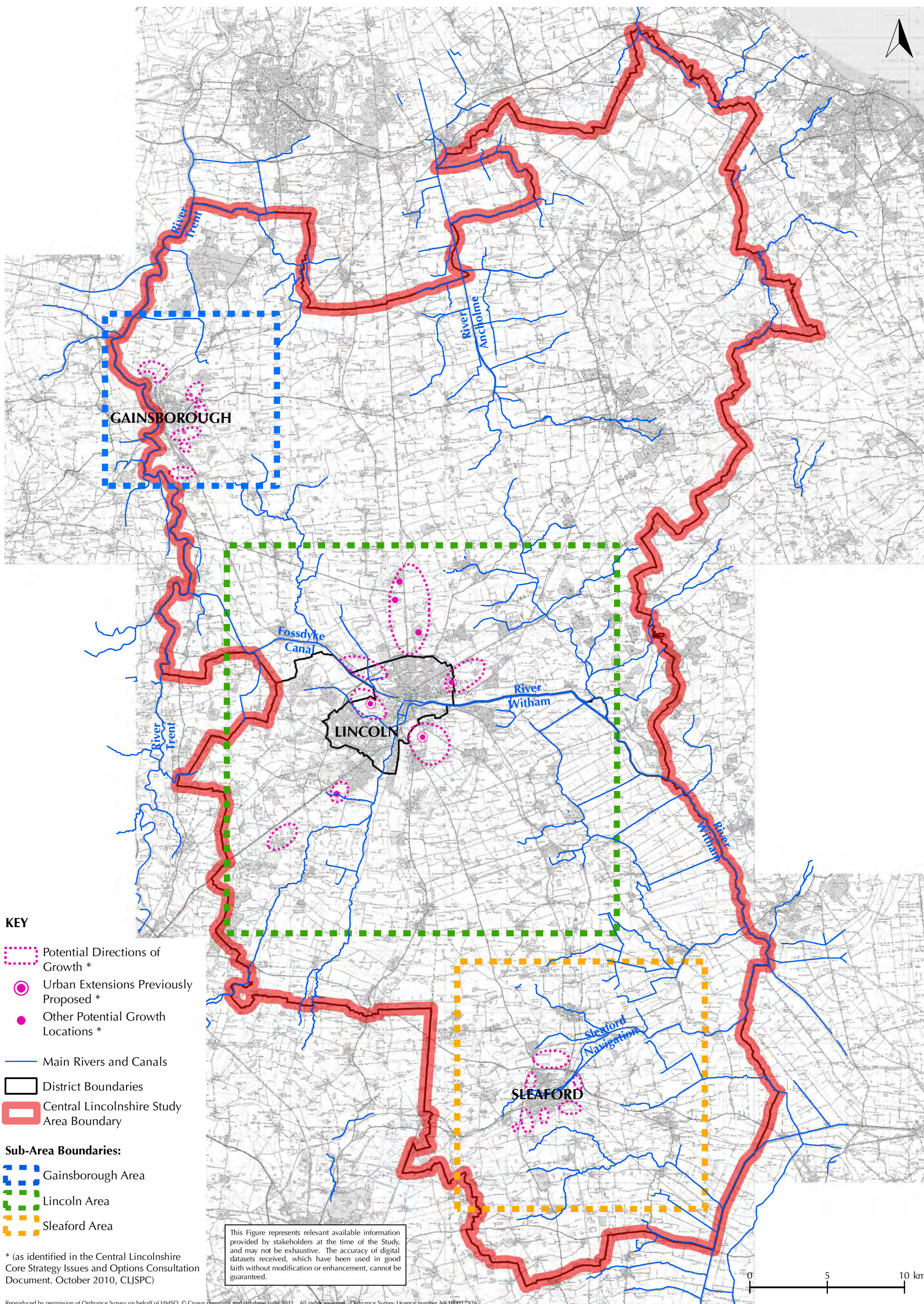
2.10.7 Gainsborough is the second largest settlement in Central Lincolnshire. It is the main employment, retail, service and administrative centre for West Lindsey, and provides services and facilities for the surrounding villages both in Lincolnshire and in Nottinghamshire. Gainsborough grew steadily until World War II, with the prosperity of its heavy engineering industries. However, the decline of manufacturing and the closure of large employers left the town centre with a legacy of decay and deprivation. There is a shortage of skills amongst the local workforce, higher than average unemployment, issues around housing affordability, and communities that are ranked within the most overall deprived in England.

2.10.8 The regeneration of Gainsborough was identified as a priority in the RSS, and West Lindsey and its partners are pursuing a strategy of long term major growth for the area. A number of priorities for growth have been identified here, including: increasing the supply and affordability of housing; developing community infrastructure, including education, healthcare, policing, leisure and recreation; improving the retail and commercial strength of the town centre, and reconnecting the historic urban core with the River Trent; diversifying the economy, providing a variety of higher skilled jobs and engaging in a low carbon economy; and improving transport infrastructure to support alternative transport options to the car, including through a network of greenways for pedestrian, cycle and bus routes. The Government is also awarding funding for development to be delivered to Eco-town standards.

2.10.9 The Gainsborough Growth Point Programme of Delivery identified the creation of 3 new sustainable urban extensions (SUEs) to the town and West Lindsey has granted outline planning

¹³⁷ Based on potential direction of growth as mapped in the Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation Document (2010, CLJSPC)

¹³⁸ Based on information from the Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation Document (2010, CLJSPC)



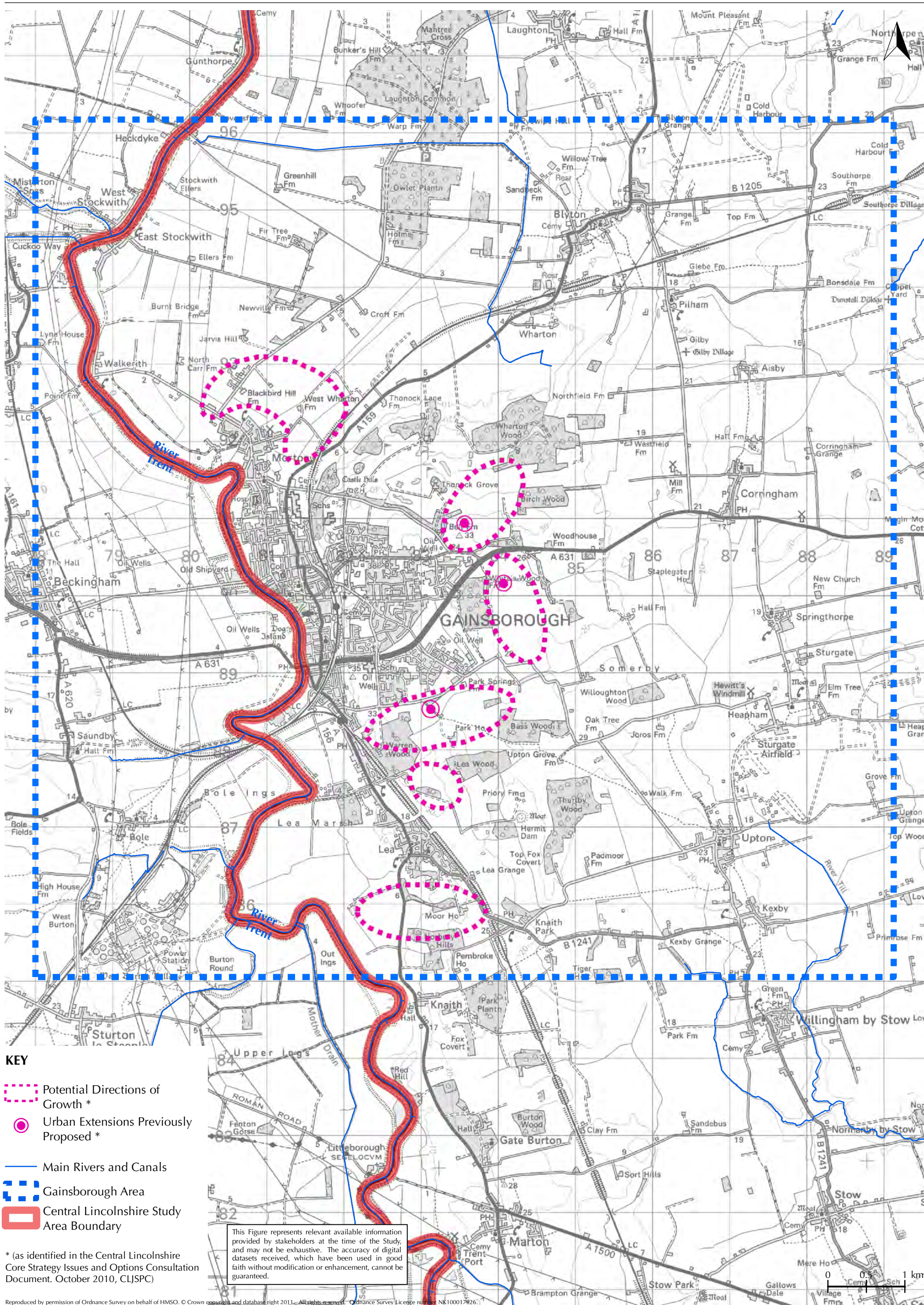
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permission for one of these – this is located to the south, and includes provision for 2,500 new homes, as well as employment, retail, open space and community facilities. The Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy is assessing whether the further development of SUEs is the best strategy for accommodating growth in the Gainsborough Area, and the Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation Document (2010, CLJSPC) identifies options for a number of alternative forms of development. These include: piecemeal growth; new settlements; expanded nearby villages (which would focus new housing on existing villages near to Gainsborough); and brownfield land within Gainsborough's existing built up area. The Core Strategy will also review the existing 'Settlement Break' designation, intended to prevent the Lea merging into Gainsborough, and assess whether Morton should also be protected in the same way. The location of potential directions of growth, of proposed Growth Point urban extensions, and of existing and potential settlement breaks is set out in **Figure 2.19b**. All locations for growth are being assessed in detail as part of the Eco-town initiative.

Lincoln Area¹³⁹

- 2.10.10 Lincoln is by far the largest settlement in Central Lincolnshire, occupies a central position, and is a regional centre for services. It is the main centre for employment, retail, leisure, higher education and other facilities, and the hub of a wider area that encompasses a ring of 'satellite' villages, such as Welton, Bracebridge Heath and Skellingthorpe. At the same time, it has an ongoing legacy of areas and communities with regeneration needs. It has derelict and disused land left behind from the decline of former industries, aging housing and poor quality environments. It also has large variations in income, health and educational attainment, with some communities amongst the worst 10% nationally for social deprivation, and an over-reliance on low-skill and low-wage service jobs.
- 2.10.11 The Lincoln Area is seen as a flagship for the success of Central Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire as a whole, and a number of priorities for growth have been identified in the Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation Document (2010, CLJSPC). These include strengthening Lincoln's role as a regional centre for jobs and services (including through diversification of the economy), and enhancing the network of thriving district and local centres to support sustainable communities in Lincoln and the surrounding 'satellite' villages. In addition, emphasis has been placed on enhancing and expanding Lincoln City Centre to meet needs of residents and visitors (including through expansion of Lincoln's shopping core), and on supporting regeneration of key areas and communities. Overall, the aim is to accommodate growth in a sustainable way, including by protecting and enhancing Lincoln's environmental and historical assets, and by promoting sustainable and high quality transport systems

¹³⁹ Based on information from the Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation Document (2010, CLJSPC)



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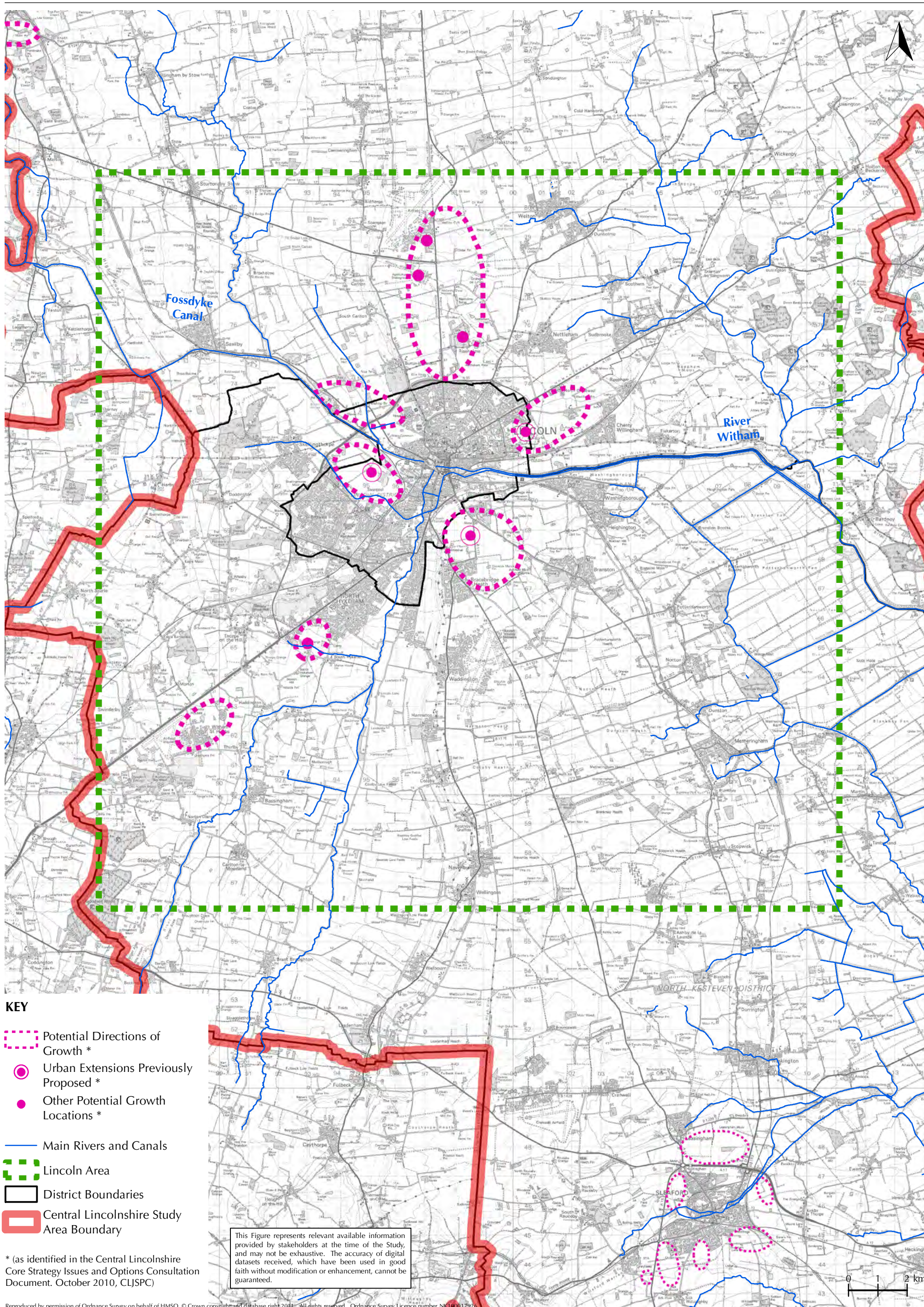
(potentially through a park and ride system in and around Lincoln, and through the Lincoln Eastern Bypass and East-West Link Road).

- 2.10.12 Delivering the priorities for growth will require significant levels of new housing, employment and infrastructure for Lincoln. Accommodating these new developments while protecting Lincoln's character (including its unique setting and outstanding heritage assets), and without placing excessive strain on existing urban facilities (such as schools and other infrastructure), requires a balanced approach, and the Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation Document (2010, CLJSPC) identifies a number of options for consideration in this area: re-use of vacant/underused 'brownfield' sites in Lincoln's existing urban area; urban extensions (2-4 major developments of at least 2,000 dwellings adjoining Lincoln); piecemeal growth (individual sites near Lincoln identified by developers, with most sites comprising 50-500 dwellings); new settlements (one or more completely new settlements at some distance from Lincoln); and expansion of existing 'satellite' villages around Lincoln. The location of potential directions of growth, of previously proposed urban extensions and other potential growth areas, and of proposed bypasses, is set out in **Figure 2.19c**. All locations for growth are being assessed in detail as part of the Eco-town initiative.

Sleaford Area¹⁴⁰

- 2.10.13 Sleaford is the local retail hub and service centre for approximately 50,000 people, including 30,000 people that live in the smaller villages within a 16km radius of the town. It has experienced rapid population growth over the past 20 years, with in-migration largely driven by the area's quality of life, low crime rates, relatively low house prices and good-quality education. Substantial housing-led growth has not, however, been accompanied by equivalent investment in local infrastructure, and existing sewerage, energy and road networks are already under significant strain. The Sleaford town centre is also underperforming, with residents looking to nearby towns and cities for their retail, leisure and recreational needs. In addition, although Sleaford has lower unemployment rates than the national average wages are also relatively low, driven largely by the dominance of the agriculture and food processing sectors in the local economy.
- 2.10.14 As Central Lincolnshire grows, the Sleaford Area will also need to grow in terms of new homes, the economy and associated infrastructure. A number of growth priorities have been identified here, including: ensuring growth complements and integrates with existing businesses and residential communities; developing the town centre into a more desirable place for key services, retail, leisure and recreation; and enhancing and diversifying the economy.

¹⁴⁰ Based on information from the Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation Document (2010, CLJSPC)



- 2.10.15 Proposals are already advanced for the redevelopment of a number of key sites south east of the town centre, including the former Bass Maltings. A planning application has also been approved for a Tesco Superstore, and for a new link road providing access to the developments and designed to ease congestion in the town.
- 2.10.16 In terms of accommodating further growth, the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) suggests that there are insufficient brownfield sites within the existing urban areas to meet anticipated levels of demand. New locations for growth will therefore need to be found. The Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation Document (2010, CLJSPC) identifies a number of options for consideration in this area: continuing to plan for a limited amount of development adjoining the existing built up areas of Sleaford and the larger surrounding settlements; planning for a moderate amount of development adjoining existing built up areas of Sleaford and surrounding settlements through new housing and/or economic development allocations; planning for a significant amount of development adjoining the built up areas of Sleaford through large scale mixed use extensions and major extensions to key surrounding settlements; and focussing less growth on Sleaford and more towards the surrounding settlements. The location of potential directions of growth is set out on **Figure 2.19d**.

