



Appendix 12: Statement on need for HRA and SEA

Screening opinion for a Habitats Regulations Assessment

The Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy contains options for nature recovery and the delivery of other environmental benefits. It is a high-level strategy for the period from 2026 to a time between 2029 and 2036, to be determined by the Secretary of State.

Mapped Actions are the locations where the delivery of that Action is likely to be optimal in terms of nature recovery and for some Actions, other environmental benefits. Mapped Actions offer no certainty that the Action will be delivered in that place or in the lifespan of the LNRS. Landowners decide which Action is delivered and where. The LNRS therefore does not offer a high degree of certainty about the nature, scale, location and timing of impacts on the European sites. In most cases, impacts will only be sufficiently clear at the project stage for an HRA to be produced.

Greater Lincolnshire has the following European sites:

1. Baston Fen SAC
2. Grimsthorpe SAC
3. Humber Estuary SAC
4. Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes and Gibraltar Point SAC
5. The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC
6. Thorne Moor SAC (includes Crowle Moor in North Lincolnshire)
7. Gibraltar Point SPA
8. Greater Wash SPA
9. Humber Estuary SPA
10. The Wash SPA
11. Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA

With a high degree of certainty, albeit at a county-wide scale, the Actions will be beneficial for the European Sites as they will improve habitat quality and/or extend and link habitat patches and will improve species populations. Experience from previous delivery projects around the above sites have increased the sites' habitats, buffer the sites against pressures and have increased species populations. There are few reasons to doubt that well-designed projects will continue to deliver for and improve the sites' habitats and species populations.

One Action that may compromise site condition has been identified as the LNRS has been developed. Woodland creation near the Humber and Wash SPAs may impact on bird use of fields around coastal sites such as the Humber and the Wash. Woodland creation Actions have therefore not been mapped close to those sites in the LNRS.

An HRA is a legal requirement for plans or projects that might affect a European site, so the legal protection of the sites remains.



Lincolnshire County Council, as the Responsible Authority for the LNRS, has therefore decided that an HRA is not appropriate for the LNRS and will encourage project-level HRAs to resolve specific pressures.

Screening Opinion for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Context

An SEA is a legal requirement for plans or projects that might have an adverse effect on the Environment at a strategic planning level. The SEA screening determines whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. If likely significant environmental effects are identified, an environmental report must be produced which identifies how these environmental impacts will be addressed.

Assessment

Guidance upon SEA's written by the Department of the Environment produces a diagram to the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required, see figure 1.

The SEA screening assessment for the Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy can be found in Table 1.

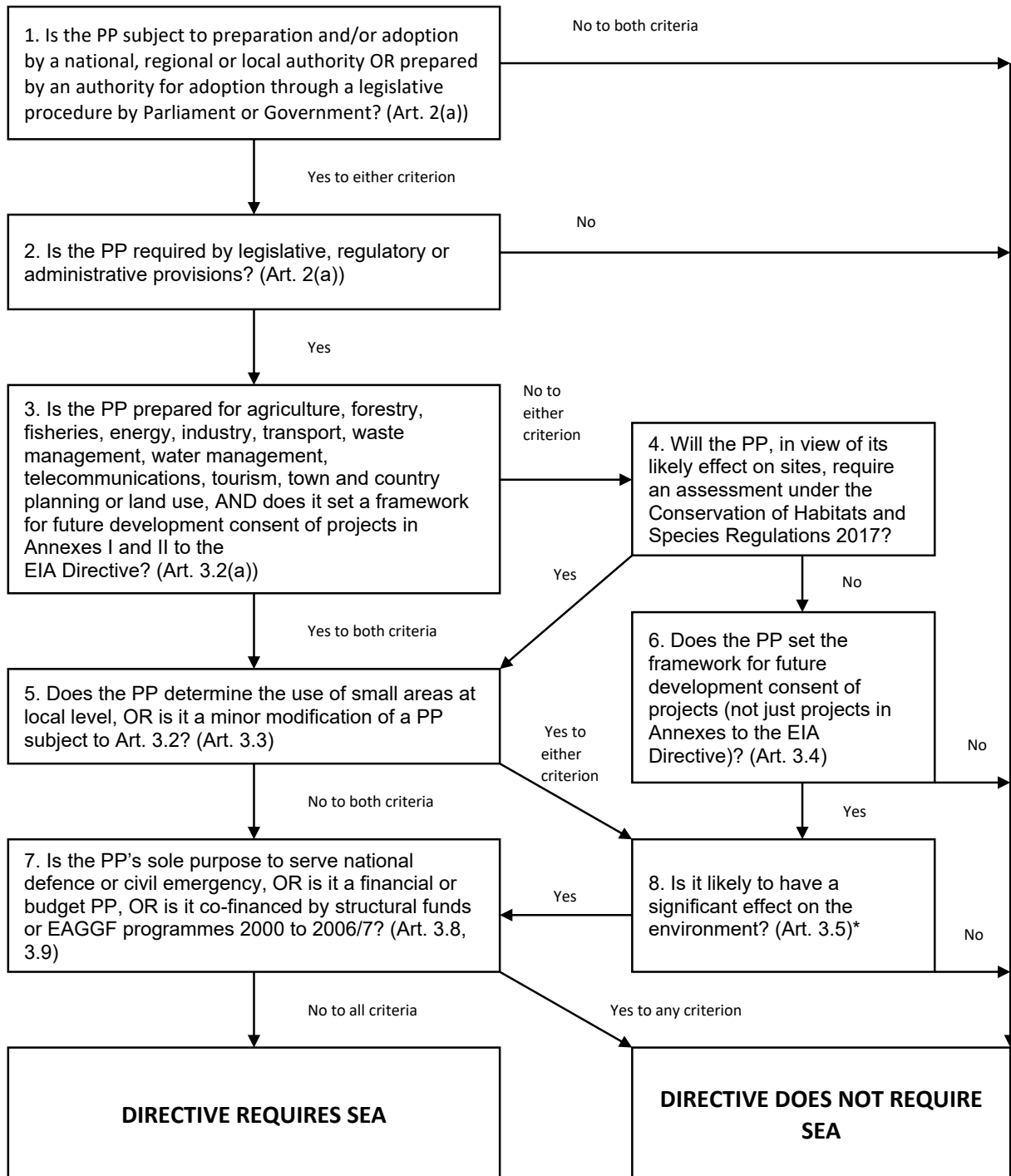


Figure 1. SEA screening flowchart



Table 1. SEA screening assessment for the Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Stage	Answer	Reason
1. Is the PP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Yes	The Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is to be prepared by Lincolnshire County Council as the responsible authority, in collaboration with North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council and is to be adopted by Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and all 7 district Councils within Lincolnshire.
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Yes	Local Nature Recovery Strategies are spatial biodiversity strategies that are a statutory requirement as part of the Environment Act 2021.
3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art. 3.2(a))	No	The Plan is for Nature Recovery and does not set a framework for future development consent. Mapped actions from the LNRS are where actions are likely to be optimal in terms of nature recovery and do not offer certainty of delivery or a framework for consent.
4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017?	No	A screening report has been completed to assess whether an assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) will be needed. The screening report determined that an assessment would not be appropriate for the LNRS.
6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in Annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art. 3.4)	No	The LNRS sets out actions which would likely be optimal for Nature's recover and provides a map of areas which would have strategic benefit for the purpose of Biodiversity Net Gain Calculations. The Plan does not set a framework for future development consent, and this will continue to sit within each Local Authorities respective Local Plans. Therefore, the plan acts as a guide for nature recovery which does not set specific development policy or provide certainty of delivery.



Screening Outcome

Following the screening assessment Lincolnshire County Council, as the Responsible Authority for the LNRS, has decided that an SEA is not appropriate for the LNRS.