



Bridge Street

Navigation Warehouse

LINCOLNSHIRE EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY
Louth—2021



Market Place

The Project

The primary objective of the Extensive Urban Survey is to create a record of the development and historic character of Lincolnshire's towns. It is anticipated that the survey will be of use and interest within the planning system and to the public, particularly those living within or visiting the towns. It should be noted that although every effort has been made to be thorough, the reports are not completely comprehensive and should not be expected to cover all that is known about a place.

The project consists of a written report, detailing the archaeological and historical background and development of the town. The character of the town will also be discussed within the report within specific Historical Urban Character Area (HUCA) assessments, which indicate the heritage value of each area based upon the four interests identified within Historic England's 2008 Conservation Principles: Evidential, Historical, Aesthetic, and Communal, these are also compared to values seen in the NPPF.

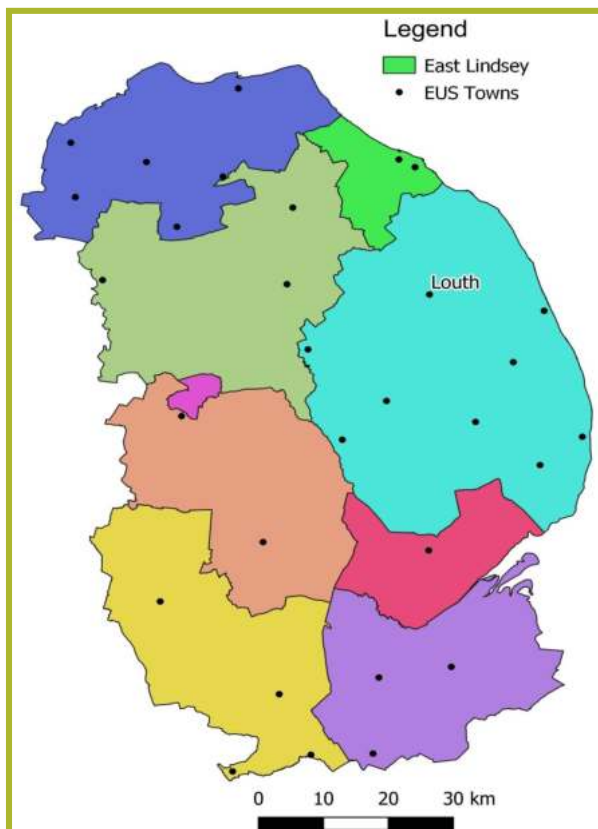
The Extensive Urban Survey provides a 'snap shot' of the development of the towns of Lincolnshire taken at the time of survey, as such it is one of many data sets which could and should be consulted prior to development proposals within the towns. The Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER) maintains an up to date record of all historical and archaeological data that is known within the county, and should be consulted as part of planning applications (NPPF21 para192).

Location

Louth is located in the district of East Lindsey on the banks of the River Lud. The town is located within Natural England's National Character Area 42 Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes. Area 42 is described as having a *flat coastal plain to the east, with dramatic skylines across great distances, rising gradually in the west to more undulating land at the foot of the adjacent Lincolnshire Wolds... Important coastal habitats are managed for nature conservation. Extensive dune systems and salt marshes support a wide range of overwintering and migratory seabirds... Land management has had a fundamental impact on the character of this area, with a clear distinction between the higher ground of the Middle Marsh, where settlement is nucleated, and dispersed settlement relating to drainage in the Outmarsh... Inland is a predominantly open, medium-scale agricultural landscape with mixed arable farmland in the Middle Marsh to the west. The Outmarsh, and smaller farm units with traditional pastures and occasional vegetable crops on the Outmarsh... Woodland and hedge cover is sparse but increases westwards towards the foot of the Lincolnshire Wolds with significant ancient woodland on the Middle Marsh... A complex series of rivers and small streams drains eastwards towards the sea. There are some natural watercourses such as the Great Eau and Waithe Beck, as well as a network of many manmade drainage ditches. The disused Louth Canal – a canalisation of the River Lud – extends as far as Tetney Lock... Many deserted medieval villages surviving under grass are found in this NCA... A dispersed settlement pattern is characteristic throughout much of the area with a concentration of larger settlement along the coast including resort towns...*

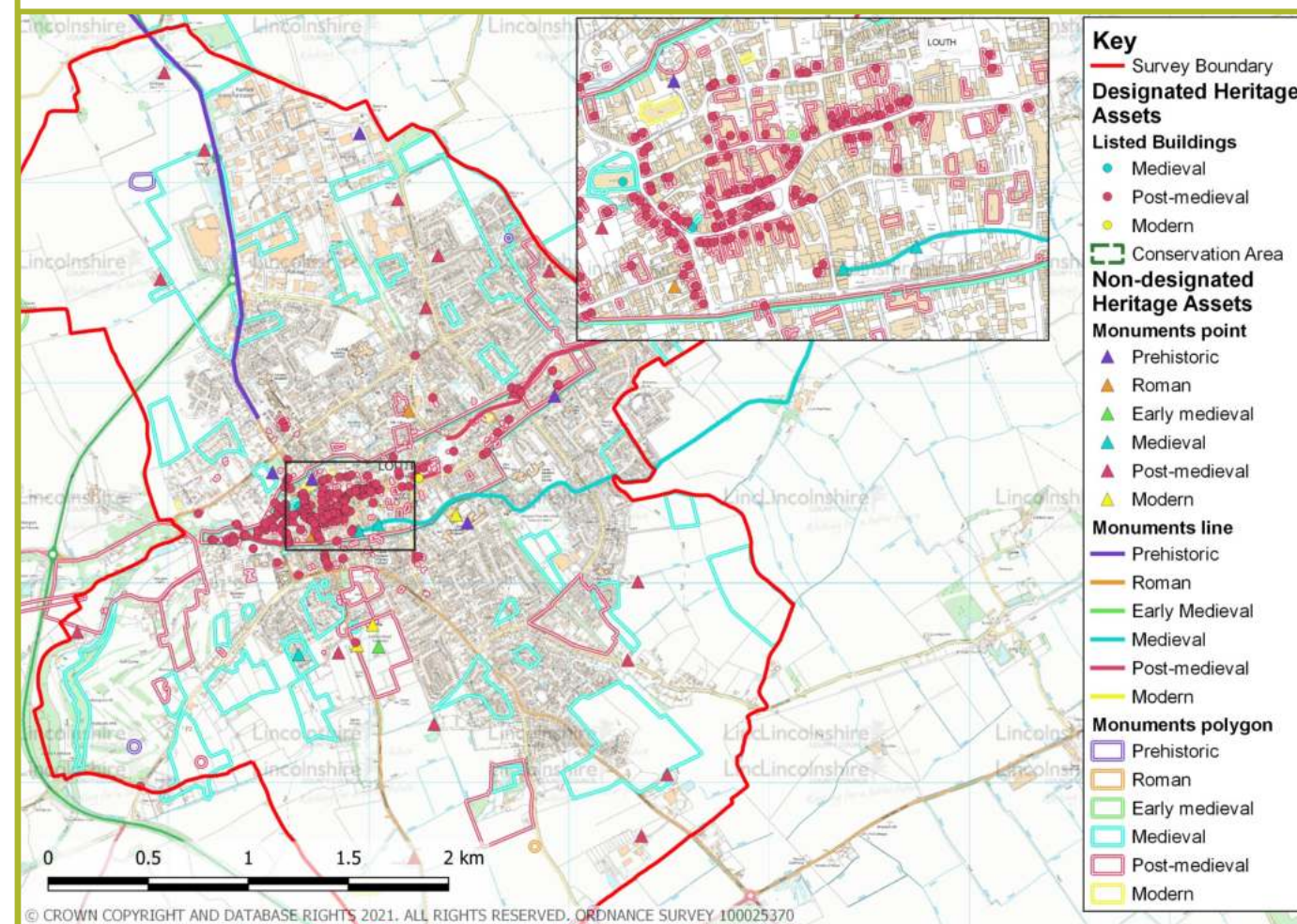
The Lincolnshire Historic Landscape Characterisation includes Louth in Character Area 4 The Wolds. The modern landscape of this character area is recorded as being a *natural outgrowth of the medieval open field farming system... Many of the settlements stood on the droveways from the High Wolds to the grazing lands on the fens and coastal marshes... During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, these farming practices were superseded by newer methods. Perhaps the most significant change was the planned enclosure of the open fields and the commons, which resulted in new rectilinear field patterns throughout the zone... This landscape prevailed until the latter half of the twentieth century, when many field boundaries were removed to facilitate modern mechanised farming techniques...*

The British Geological Society records the bedrock within the survey boundary as comprising Ferriby chalk, Welton chalk formation, Hunstanton formation and Carstone formation. This is overlain by varying superficial deposits: following the banks of the river Lud there are northeast-southwest aligned bands of alluvium with a band of river terrace deposits with the same alignment to the south. The rest of the survey boundary is overlain by Devensian till except for two small areas of Devensian glaciofluvial deposits to the north and southeast. The town gradually rises from east to west towards the peak of the Wolds, and there are also some areas of elevation to the north and south of the river. The survey boundary used for the Louth survey is the parish boundary.



Summary

Evidence of settlement is recorded in Louth from the Roman period, although it is likely that what became the core of Louth probably began in the early medieval period. A reasonable amount of documentary evidence on Louth is available from the early medieval period, however there is a small amount of archaeological data from this period due to continued settlement and development of the area. The layout of the town centre is likely to have been formed from the early medieval and medieval period. The preserved street pattern which comprises narrow streets and alley-ways between long and narrow plots known as burgage plots are all indicative of an early establishment. This pattern is a visual reminder of the early prosperity of the town and its growth. Several religious establishments were founded in the town from the 7th century, the location of many of these houses are unknown. Louth also became an economic centre in the region; particularly for cloth and wool production which resulted in its growth as a market town. Its location gave it an advantage during the medieval period, as a stopping point during the transportation of goods between Lincoln and the coast. Its importance declined slightly in the post-medieval period reflecting a national decline in the wool trade. The introduction of Louth Canal in 1770 created new growth in the town, with new industry was focused around the Riverhead, to the east of the town centre. Renewed confidence in the town's economy following the construction of Louth Canal resulted in the expansion of the town, with many large properties constructed along West-gate. The increase in economic activity increased the need for housing which led to residential expansion in the north, south and west of Louth, consisting mainly of red-brick built terraced housing. This expansion increased in the 19th century and the town exceeded its medieval boundaries. The large amount of conserved post-medieval buildings add great value to the town's historic character. The Riverhead continued to be an economic hub until the early 20th century when the canal closed. In the 1960s the Fairfields Industrial Estate became the dominant industrial centre of Louth. The 20th century saw continued residential expansion of the town to the north and south, with large planned developments. These developments reflect national trends rather than the character of the town and many have incorporated schools and local amenities. Also during this period, former industrial and religious buildings were repurposed and slums were cleared.



1. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.1 PREHISTORIC

In the surrounding area there are many prehistoric cropmarks both to the east and west of Louth, with a higher concentration to the east along the edge of the Wolds. The presence of these archaeological features points to the likelihood of prehistoric occupation in Louth and its surrounding area. A prehistoric routeway, known as Barton Street, passes through Louth (HER: MLI116141). This route followed the eastern edge of the Wolds from Barton on Humber to the north, to Alford and potentially as far as Burgh-le-Marsh in the south. This routeway may have attracted a higher number of people during this period, furthermore sections of the route are used in modern roads. There are several finds from the prehistoric period recorded by the Historic Environment Record (HER), within the survey boundary. Most of these are worked flints dating from the Palaeolithic (HER: MLI98494), Neolithic (HER: MLI86501, MLI116253, MLI41393, MLI43604, MLI86501) and Bronze Age (HER: MLI43604, MLI81206, MLI86441, MLI91463). These artefacts indicate that hunting was taking place locally. Iron Age pottery has also been recorded on Fairfields Industrial Estate (HER: MLI89294). Aerial photography of the area has recorded a likely cropmark enclosure (HER: MLI86645), located to the south of Fanthorpe Lawn Farm.

1.2 ROMAN

Roman occupation and activity is well known in the wider region. Artefacts from Louth indicate the likelihood of Roman settlement, although only a relatively small number have been recorded to date. The presence of a larger fortified settlement is also suggested, as well as a cemetery located near the later site of St Mary's cemetery (Owen, 1997). A site off Kenwick Road (HER: MLI43612) has recorded a Roman ditch containing charcoal, burnt sandstone and pottery which is suggestive of nearby Roman occupation. Furthermore, recent archaeological investigation has altered the historical record of Louth during the Roman period; with clear evidence of Roman activity on land to the north of the town centre between Brackenborough Road and Harrier Road. Archaeological features, including ditches and pits as well as artefacts have been recorded on the site. Iron tools and pottery recovered from this site place the date for occupation between the late 1st and mid 4th century AD (Trent & Peak Archaeology, 2021). Prior to this, only a small number of finds have been made in the town including a Roman coin (HER: MLI41389) and Roman greyware, which were recovered on land at Julian Bower, to the south-west of the town centre (HER: MLI116250).

1.3 EARLY MEDIEVAL AND ANGLO-SAXON

The pre-Domesday organisation and layout of Louth is not fully understood and is still debated by historians. Despite this, it is clear that there was extensive activity in the area from at least the 7th century, and possibly earlier. It was also likely a place of great importance, serving administrative and religious needs of the region.

The earliest mention of Louth is in the late 8th century, although it is likely that occupation of some form –if not in Louth, in the wider area- was extant before that time, due to the presence of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery (HER: MLI41162) bordering with South Elkington parish. This cemetery dates to the 5th and 6th centuries and is located on high ground with good views to the surrounding marshland and contained a high concentration of Anglo-Saxon material culture. From the 7th and 8th century, Louth is believed to have been the site of a monastery (Gurnham, 2019), the extent of this is suggested to have extended to the River Lud in the north, Love Lane in the west, Crowtree Lane and Gospel Gate in the south and Upgate/ Bridge Street in the east.

The monastic order is thought to have ended Louth during the 9th century, following Danish occupation of the area and the implementation of the Danelaw (rule of law in place in Danish occupied areas of England). This can be attested by the Norse influence in local place-names, the change from the original name 'Hlud' to Louth and the presence of personal names of Norse origin in medieval documents. During the next century, Louth became the centre of the eponymous wapentake of Louthesk (Gurnham, 2019). A wapentake being an administrative area within the Danelaw, equivalent to the Anglo-Saxon hundred. Louth has long been accepted to have been the location of an early meeting place and was an important administrative centre in the early medieval period. Evidence for this, it is suggested, is provided by local place-name evidence. The name of the wapentake, which is thought to mean 'the ash tree at Louth', (eski meaning grove of ash trees in Old Norse), denoting that Louth was the location of the wapentake's meeting place (Cameron, 1998). The location of this wapentake has long been speculated to have been Aswell Spring; based upon the significance of springs during this period and the place-name evidence of 'Aswell' which translates to 'the spring by the ash tree', which have often marked the location of meeting places. More recent study, indicates a more probable site for the meeting of the wapentake on the area known as Julian Bower, to the south of the town (Everson and Stocker, 2017). The HER also notes Julian Bower as the site of a later medieval turf maze (HER: MLI86594). This area is characterised on old maps and paintings as a rounded mound covered by several trees. In the present day, the mound has been reshaped into a rectangle and is now located in the north-western corner of the cemetery.

Until recently it was thought that Louth was purchased in the mid 11th century by Bishop of Dorchester (who later became the Bishop of Lincoln after the Ecclesiastical See was moved to Lincoln), Wulfwig, from Alsi and Olgrim for £160 (Green, 2012). By the time of the Domesday survey of 1086, Louth was in the ownership of Remigius, Bishop of Lincoln, who had succeeded Wulfwig. It was also suggested that Bishop Remigius remodelled the town, establishing the burgage plots to the south of Mercer Row during the 11th century (Green, 2011). This theory has since been refuted by new evidence brought forward in 2017 (Everson and Stocker, 2017) which references the remains of a fragment of stone cross head, the design of which dates to the 10th century. This fragment indicates that a market place or meeting point was operational by this time (which was likely held outside of the Monastery boundary) and therefore the settlement, including parts of the early market layout also date to the 10th century, rather than the 11th century. The shape of the town centre properties around the market is also now thought to date from the 10th century. In 1086, the survey records 80 burgesses (townspeople, whose tenure was based upon financial payment). This implies that there would have been a large number of burgage properties for the recorded townspeople; comprising long thin plots of land often with a house or shop to the front and gardens or outbuildings to the rear. These would have been focussed towards the market, which may have been an open green, creating its shape, the plots also joined in a consistent rear boundary which has likely created the pattern of the rear roads also. Morphologically, it is suggested that the long thin plots facing north into the market place on Mercer Row and Walkergate, as well as those facing south on Eastgate represent the early make-up of the town plan (Everson and Stocker, 2017). The pattern of these burgage plots can still be seen in the modern town plan, with some alteration.

1.3.1 PLACE-NAME EVIDENCE

Louth's name derives from the River Lud which runs through the north of the town, which in turn derives from the Old English *hlude* meaning 'the loud one' (Institute of Name Studies, 2022) Scandinavian presence in Louth altered the pronunciation of the end of the word; shifting from *d* to *th*, which has given the town its modern name (Green, 2011).

1.3.2 DOMESDAY SURVEY

Louth increased in value between 1066 and 1086, from £12 to £22. During this period, Louth was already a substantial settlement which included a manor as well as a market. Louth is one of only seven settlements in Lincolnshire to have had a previously established market mentioned by the Domesday survey, indicating its regional status. The households comprised 2 villeins (villagers), 40 sokemen (freemen), 2 knights and 80 burgesses. Natural resources included 21 acres of meadow, 400 acres of woodland, 13 mills, 12 carucates (a carucate was approximately 120 acres), 3 lord's plough teams and 15 men's plough teams. The Domesday entry demonstrates that a highly organised and economically successful system was in place by this period.

1.3.3 RELIGION

There appears to have been a strong religious focus in Louth throughout much of the early medieval period. Much of this evidence is based upon documentary sources, although the sites of the religious establishments remain unknown. Further archaeological investigation could potentially add greatly to the understanding of Louth's early religious history.

A monastic centre in Louth is believed to have been founded in the 7th or 8th century and was likely located in the current town centre adjacent to the market (Green, 2011). It is this minster and an accompanying market which may have resulted in the creation of the market place in its present day location; which would explain why the present day position of the market is not adjacent to a religious structure, as is usual. As previously stated, the monastery disappeared with the arrival of the Vikings towards the end of the 9th century, although the market probably continued in the same location (Green, 2011). It is suggested in some sources to have been a monastic colony of the Anglo-Saxon minster of Peterborough (Green, 2011). In 792 Æthelheard, the Abbot of the minster of Louth was appointed as the Archbishop of Canterbury. This indicates that it was likely a well known an important religious house and that Louth was an important enough settlement at this time to warrant national attention (Sawyer, 1998).

A shrine or early church is also suggested to have existed, possibly connected to the monastery. This religious structure was dedicated to St Herefrith/Herefrid, who is thought to have been the last Bishop of Lindsey and martyred by Danish invaders in Louth. His remains were kept as relics in the shrine dedicated to him, which may have been situated at the location of the current St James' Church. This would have coincided with the period of the destruction of the monastery by the Danes. His remains were eventually stolen about a century later, in 973, by Thorney Abbey (Gurnham, 2019).

1.3.4 ECONOMY



St James' Church from Westgate

In the early-medieval period, Louth had a prosperous economy, something which can be inferred from the presence of a large trading population and a market. An extensive agricultural economy is also implied by the presence of 13 mills and 18 plough teams. A mint is also believed to have been established in Louth in 970AD (Green, 2011). The possession of a mint suggests that the settlement had a significant enough status as a trading centre to warrant one.

1.4 MEDIEVAL

1.4.1 STREET PATTERN AND DEVELOPMENT

The urban extent of medieval Louth was centred around the market to the south of the River Lud. There are very few extant buildings from the time. Two are recorded in the HER, which are St James' Church and Cromwell's House on Mercer Row. The current street plan of the historic centre of Louth has remained largely the same as its medieval layout which extends from the River Lud to the north, Kidgate to the south, Church Street to the east and Westgate bridge to the west.

The road layout during this period comprised a number of main east to west and north to south routes, with smaller interconnecting roads in between and a central market place. The burgage plots transformed gradually over time, although often within their main boundaries, taking place over a long period as sections of the plots were sold. It is this development which has formed long lines of structures with varying heights and building types, extending from the main thoroughfares. Many small passages, which are a remnant of this plan form, remain in the town. The market place in the medieval period was likely to have been much more open, with temporary stalls established in the centre. In later centuries temporary stalls became permanent buildings, which inevitably changed the shape of the market place.

1.4.2 RELIGION AND EDUCATION

Louth continued to be a centre of religious importance during the medieval period. In 1139 Louth Park, a Cistercian abbey, was founded by monks as a daughter house of Fountains Abbey. The land for the abbey was given by Bishop Alexander of Lincoln on his own parkland, 900m to the east of Louth (HER: MLI43579, NHLE:1005002). A channel, known as Monks' Dyke, was excavated to draw water from Aswell and St Helen's Springs in the town centre to the abbey (HER: MLI41384). Louth Park is also where the 15th century Louth Park Chronicle (*Chronicon abbatiae de Parco Lude*) was written; a Latin chronicle of the history of England with a local focus. The abbey was dissolved in 1536, as part of the Reformation. It was this event and the dismantling of the established religious systems across the country which triggered the Lincolnshire Rising, also known as the Pilgrimage of Grace. This movement started in Louth after an initial sermon held in St James' Church and became a multi-county revolt, resulting in thousands of people marching to London to protest the King's reforms. Eventually the rebellion was crushed and its leaders were executed, the Vicar of Louth Thomas Kendall among them. In the following years, the assets of Louth Abbey were seized and granted to the Duke of Suffolk, along with many other Lincolnshire monastic properties (Hodgett, 1975).

Records indicate the presence of a large number of religious structures in Louth throughout the medieval period, including churches, chapels and bedehouses. The only structure to survive is St James' Church, and the location of the remaining religious establishments is largely speculative.

St James' Church (HER: MLI43403, NHLE: 1063264), which dates to the 15th century remains in the present day (Antram, 2002). As stated, an early precursor for this church may have been dedicated to St Herefrith, although this is not certain. Another religious structure was St Mary's Church (HER: MLI41406), located in St Mary's Churchyard to the north of the River Lud, today a public park. The first mention of this church is in 1267. By the 15th century, the church fell into disrepair, and by 1749 it had been demolished; its exact position within the park is now unknown. The churchyard was used as a burial ground in the later medieval and post-medieval periods until 1855, when a new cemetery on London Road was opened. The gravestones are currently stacked to the west side of the park. Its location across the river from the main settlement is unusual, and there are a

number of theories for this, including the site being founded by the Anglo-Saxons, away from the settlement centre, as part of a wider religious complex. It is also suggested that the site was associated with Louth Abbey (Field, 1978). In 1522 what remained of St Mary's Church was also being used as a school (HER: MLI41406). This was re-founded by Edward VI in 1551 as a grammar school and was moved to new buildings in Schoolhouse Lane during the years 1577 and 1578 (Green, 2012).

A church of St John was located in the market place by the 14th century, possibly occupying a large plot to the west (Green, 2012). It was demolished in 1547 and the site was



Gravestones stacked in St Mary's Churchyard.

sold a number of times before being bought by the Corporation of Louth in 1567. A bedehouse of the guild of the Holy Trinity (HER: MLI42779) was also located in the market place, and a second belonging to St Mary's Guild was founded on Gulpyn Lane (HER: MLI42780). St Marys and the Holy Trinity guilds held land in Westgate and by 1425 the guild hall of St Marys was in Westgate (Field, 1978). The guilds were disbanded following the reformation, although the bedehouses remained until the 18th century, at which point they were demolished. New houses were constructed as a joint venture at a separate location. Additional bedehouses were established by Edward VI, and are associated with the establishment of the King Edward VI School in 1551 (HER: MLI42912).

Louth also had earlier educational facilities, it is recorded that 'Louth had a schoolmaster as early as 1276 and by the early sixteenth century the gilds were helping to maintain him' (Hodgett, 1975). There was also a Song School and elementary school established around the same time (Hodgett, 1975). The Song School may have been in the churchyard of St James' Church, where Church House now stands, on Uppgate (Green, 2012).

1.4.3 ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY

By the beginning of the medieval period, Louth was already an economically successful town and it remained so throughout the following centuries. Its location gave it an advantage during the medieval period, as a stopping point during the transportation of goods between Lincoln and the coast. The town was also close to the wool producing areas of the Lincolnshire Wolds, and it was these farming activities that led to a very prosperous merchant trade in the town and in turn to increasing wealth. The town was also important enough to host a number of Guilds. Cloth production was of great importance to the medieval economy of the town and contributed to its growth, especially by the 13th century. By the year 1300, Louth Park had an important role in Lincolnshire as a landowner and in the sheep-rearing and wool

exportation trade; frequently trading with northern Italy (Owen, 1990). Spinning and weaving is likely to have predominantly been carried out within the domestic environment in nearby villages whilst the fulling and cloth-making took place in Louth itself (Platts, 1985). 'Walkergate' (now Queen Street), was likely named in reference to the fullers who would 'waulk wool' to soften and thicken it. The Aswell spring which ran along the south boundary of the Walkergate properties provided water to the industry (Green, 2012). By the 16th century, cloth making had declined around the county, and the economy of Louth also declined during this period as a result. Despite this, changes in agricultural practices was during this period was creating demand for metal tools which gave way to increased metalworking. Louth still remained an important market town and was still a stopping point in trade routes to the coast where goods such as wool were taken to Boston, Spalding and the Humber.

Markets and Fairs

Louth was established as a borough in 1086 which meant it had a market by this time and probably earlier. The first recognised fair was granted to the Bishop of Lincoln, who also owned Louth, in 1155-58 by Henry II. The event lasted 8 days and was held in honour of Saint Peter and Paul. A second fair was also granted at the same time to be held for 8 days on the third Sunday after Easter. These fairs were reconfirmed by King Edward III in 1329. In 1474 Louth was also granted permission to hold a winter fair in the town (Letters, 2006). The market during the medieval period was located in the area where Market Place, Mercer Row and Corn Market are, it would have been a large open space. Corn Market and Mercer Row are now cut off by the infilling of post medieval buildings that would have previously been stalls in an open market square. As mentioned earlier, the location of the market would have probably coincided with that of a religious building that is now lost.

1.4.4 LANDSCAPE

As stated previously, the position of Louth as an intermediary between the Wolds, marshland and coast meant it had close economic ties with its surrounding landscape. The agricultural area surrounding Louth consisted of an open fields system consisting of an open landscape ploughed in strips. This farming process created ridge and furrow in the landscape, evidence for which is recorded in numerous entries in the HER. In addition to the agricultural field systems, there was a considerable amount of woodland as is attested in the Domesday survey.

Louth Park was located to the east of the town. As mentioned above, the monks constructed Monks' Dyke to supply water from Aswell and St Helen's springs to the abbey; this dyke has been preserved into the present day where it is used as a modern drain (HER: MLI41384).

1.4.5 CHARACTERISTIC BUILDINGS



Cromwell House and St James' Church in the background

Brown's Panorama of Louth reproduced with kind permission of Louth Town Council



St James' Church (HER: MLI41404, NHLE: 1063264)

There was an earlier church, dating to 1170, on the site of St James' church, which was built around 1430. It is a Grade I listed building with a mainly Perpendicular Gothic style. The tower was added in the 1440s and the spire in 1501-1515. Restoration works took place throughout the 19th century, during works on the spire William Brown seized the opportunity the view from the scaffolding gave to sketch his famous panorama of Louth.

Cromwell's House, 1-1a Mercer Row (HER: MLI86772, NHLE: 1166184)

Cromwell house is a Grade II* listed 16th century jettied timber framed three storey building. Additions made in later centuries include Georgian details. It is currently used as a Tandoori restaurant.

1.5 POST-MEDIEVAL

Between the 16th and 18th centuries the population of Louth grew at the expense of nearby villages. Events during the early post-medieval period temporarily halted the upward population trend in Louth. In the late 16th and 17th century, plague reduced the population at the time by a third with 754 people succumbing to the virus (Lewis, 1848). Another reason for the fall of rural population in the area was landowners focusing intensively on sheep-rearing, which meant fewer people were needed. This, along with the flourishing of Louth as a market town meant nearby populations gravitated to it (Beastall, 1978). In the greater area surrounding Louth there was the existence of 'closed' parishes, where most of the land and housing were owned by one landlord. The landowner managed labour supply, by controlling how much housing was available to tenants, thus maintaining the population, as excess would mean a potential increase of poor and idle inhabitants for which the landowner would be responsible (Beastall, 1978). Louth, in contrast was an 'open' parish not presided over by one landlord, which resulted in more opportunities for small scale development by a number of individuals. As a result, Louth had a high number of agricultural labourers and annual hiring fairs (Beastall, 1978). The construction of small brick built houses also proliferated in the town during the 19th century as local people sought to benefit from the housing deficit. By 1801, the population of Louth stood at 4258, it continued to increase throughout much of the 19th century; rising to 6976 in 1831 and peaked at 10,691 in 1881. After this, it began to decline falling to 8518 by 1901, before increasing again in the mid 20th century. Agricultural decline in the late 19th century led to a fall in population in the town by the 1930s, a trend which was only reversed after agricultural advancements following the Second World War.

1.5.1 STREET PATTERN AND DEVELOPMENT



In the post-medieval period the development and construction of new buildings tended to concentrate in the town centre. As stated above, this meant building over old burgage plots and following their alignment. This can be inferred from the shape of buildings in plan in the town centre; these structures extend from the main streets forming narrow elongated strips that follow the old burgage plots. In turn, this means there aren't many medieval buildings conserved as newer ones were built in the plots. Apart from the changes in the centre of the town there was also some expansion that mostly followed the southern bank of the river eastwards, although there is also some growth to the north and south. The plan form of the town's expansion is mainly due to geographic factors and limitations; westward growth is inhibited by the presence of the Wolds with uneven terrain compared to the flat marshes of the east. Tied to the geographic factors are economic ones, the creation of the Louth canal in 1770 meant the concentration of industry and trade in the 'Riverhead' to the east of the historic core during this period. James Street was laid out around the year 1800 to link the centre to the Riverhead and after 1802 the old quarry to the south was used for fairs and the livestock market (Wright, 1982).

1.5.2 LANDSCAPE

Louth was awarded a Parliamentary Enclosure Act in 1801 which was relatively late compared to the rest of the country. As can be seen in an 1805 plan, private enclosure also took place prior to the enclosure act. These private enclosures were around the immediate area surrounding the urban medieval core of Louth, and to the west of what would have been Louth Park Abbey, between it and Legbourne Road. The remaining land in the parish which largely comprised open fields and meadow, was subject to parliamentary enclosure. This transformed the landscape from an open one without division comprising hedges or fences to one of small rectangular enclosures with division. Their enclosure would have meant less security for the lower echelons of Louth's society, as previous access to common ground and its resources would now have been prohibited.

1.5.3 CIVIL WAR



Dales Warehouse, former workhouse

The English Civil War broke out in 1642. When it began the Warden and Assistants of Louth adopted a neutral stance as did much of the general population; although members of some of the lesser gentry in the town showed support for the Royalist cause. In June of 1643 Royalist troops left their garrison in Gainsborough to seize horses and raise money in Louth. The parliamentary garrison in Lincoln received news of this and sent 300 cavalry to Louth which arrived before the Royalists. On the morning of the 3rd June fighting broke out, three men died, others were injured and over 100 Royalists were taken prisoner (Gurnham, 2007). At some time during the war the church of St James' interior was damaged and it was still in disrepair in 1720-21 when money was being raised for its restoration (Gurnham, 2007).

1.5.4 ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY

The economy of the town was centred on trade, much like in the medieval period. Furthermore, there was not much change in the goods being traded, these being mostly agricultural products, with wool, wheat and legumes having a place of special importance in the local and regional economy. Another industry in operation in the 19th century was brewing and the town had a malthouse at Newbridge Hill during this period. In the 1780s, overseers of the poor were ordered to get the unemployed working in textile manufacturing at "spinning schools", including children. Spinning and wool combing was also carried out in a local workhouse during the 18th century. Dales Warehouse in Northgate (HER: MLI97447) operated as a workhouse during this period and catered for 39 people (Higginbotham, 2021). This workhouse was in use until 1837, when a new workhouse was constructed on High Holme Road under the Poor Law in 1836 (HER: MLI86907). From 1837, Louth was the head of the Louth Poor Law Union covering 88 parishes. This workhouse was in use until the 20th century, the building has since been repurposed and is now the current hospital.



Church Street Methodist Chapel, now a house

Louth, had a sizeable middle class in the 18th and 19th century composed of lawyers, surgeons, merchants, tradesmen, clergy and bankers. Some of these people contributed to the funding and establishment of turnpike roads and the Louth Canal, using their capital as an investment (Beastall, 1978). The construction of the Louth Canal in 1770 was a landmark moment in the urban development and economy of the town, as it meant the expansion outside of its traditional medieval borders towards the Riverhead. The canal was constructed along the River Lud, and connected the town to Tetney and further to the Humber Estuary. This new development was focused to the northeast of Ramsgate, where the canal basin was and where the bulk of the industrial and commercial activity occurred. It meant an increase in trade was possible thanks to direct access to the sea. This also meant Louth rivalled Grimsby as a trade hub in the early 19th century thanks to its inland port and the fact it was at the crossroads of several turnpike roads; all of which meant increased accessibility and trade efficiency inland. Increased trade did not only bring goods and capital it also meant the growth of other industries alongside it. Aside from the traditional food production industries and water mills the increased activity meant the need for housing, boat builders, brewers, butchers, warehouses and for all of these to be built brick makers were also needed. This didn't just affect the *Riverhead* at Louth, warehouses and inns were also needed further along the canal route. The main goods that were exported in the late 18th century from Louth were agricultural products including wool and corn and the imports were coal, timber and groceries (Sizer, 1999).

1.5.5 RELIGION AND EDUCATION

Louth and Lincolnshire played an important role throughout the history of non-conformism. Methodism increased in the 18th and 19th centuries. Thomas King was a leading figure in the development and growth of Wesleyan Methodism in Louth. This signalled a growing Wesleyan presence in Louth, but there was also an increasing discontent with the ministers in the town in the 1840s "over claims to control the admission of members" (Amber, 2000). As well as this, there were disputes regarding church rates which led to political liberalism in the town's Wesleyan community. This meant that in 1849, Methodist reformers split into different factions. The Louth "Aggregate" was formed by Wesleyan members from the Louth circuit which would gather annually "for mutual encouragement and inspiration", after their numbers were depleted (Leary, 1988). The division in the Methodist Church lasted until 1932 when the Deed of Union was passed which resulted from the falling numbers of



Jackson's Warehouse

members. After this, the focus was to consolidate and amalgamate chapels as well as deal with redundant buildings. The influence of Methodism can be seen in the built heritage of Louth as a number of chapels still survive. Most of the chapels closed in the mid to late 20th century although some had closed as early as the mid 19th century. Some of those which have been repurposed are now used as housing after having other uses over the years. The former Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (HER: MLI99209) in Newmarket was built in 1849 and changed to a Sunday School around the year 1860, however, by the 1970s it had been closed. Walkergate Chapel (HER: MLI99008) opened in 1836 but was sold to Baptists in 1848, as of 2013 it is disused and in poor condition. A Primitive Methodist Chapel (HER: MLI99148) on Northgate was built in 1820 and closed in 1954, it was used by Pickfords as a garage or depot until 1976 and has since been demolished, the site is now occupied by Louth Public Library. The former Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (HER: MLI99197) on Riverhead Road was built in 1849 and moved shortly after, around the year 1856, to Theddlethorpe All Saints. The Methodist Reform Chapel (HER: MLI86506) on Eastgate was built in 1854, it closed in 1956 and was demolished the following year. The Chapel (HER: MLI86451) on Church Street was built in 1868 to replace the earlier 1849 chapel, it was closed in 1975 and used as a warehouse until it was converted into a house in 2003.



Former railway station now residential

One of the earliest educational institutions in Louth was King Edward VI Grammar School, founded by the eponymous king in the 16th century and funded by the town's guilds. The school was located between Schoolhouse Lane and Edward Street. School buildings have been added to Edward Street since 1797 and Schoolhouse Lane facilities were eventually replaced by those on Edward Street in the first half of the 20th century (Green, 2012). Olney says of the school: "*the leading school in Lincolnshire in 1800 was Louth grammar school, where scions of county families rubbed shoulders with the sons of well-to-do lawyers and farmers, and where the Revd John Waite instilled a severely classical curriculum with frequent recourse to the birch.*" (Olney, 1979). The Priory, a gothic villa built in 1818 was run as a boarding school from 1822 until 1955 (HER: MLI86724). There was also a mechanic's institute formed in 1834 and also a few other schools in the town in the 19th century. The Mechanic's Institute was situated in the Reading Room, Uppgate.

1.5.6 RAILWAY AND TRANSPORT

In the early post-medieval period, Louth and its surrounding area were afflicted by poorly kept roads, especially in winter. This led to the formation of turnpike roads in the 18th century which were managed by Turnpike Trusts, which charged a toll for use of the road and were responsible for their maintenance. These trusts helped improve transportation and increased the efficiency of trade for the town. Seven of the main roads leading out of Louth were made into turnpike roads during the 18th and 19th century. By the end of the 19th century, the turnpike system came to an end.

In 1770 a canal was constructed in the town which was mainly funded by private investors. The opening of the canal was of great importance to the economy and trade of the town, the main exports were agricultural products, especially wool and corn. The imports were mainly coal, timber and groceries (Sizer, 1999). The increasing wealth contributed to the growth of the population and urban expansion from the mid 18th century.

In 1846, Louth was connected to the rail network, by the Great Northern Railway Company. The line linked to the New Holland ferry from Boston and also connected to Grimsby. By 1876, a line from Louth to Bardney had also been constructed. The Louth Railway Station (HER: MLI86595, NHLE: 1063202) was constructed in 1847 by the East Lindsey Railway Company. It was designed in a Victorian Tudor style, with wooden mullioned windows and moulded gables.

Throughout the country, railways were the leading cause for the decline in turnpike roads and canals. This appears to have been the case in Louth as, following the establishment of the railway, the canal's business began to fall into a decline. The canal eventually closed to navigation in 1924.

1.5.7 RECREATION

There were several public houses in the town in the post-medieval period, one of which is still in use, Ye Olde Whyte Swanne (HER: MLI86705) on Eastgate. There was also a coursing meeting started by George Chaplin in 1810 or 1811 that became a popular three-day event (Olney, 1979).

1.5.8 CHARACTERISTIC BUILDINGS

The Reading Room, Upgate, Louth (HER: MLI86844, NHLE: 1063212)

The Reading Room is a Grade II* listed building constructed either in the late 18th or early 19th century. It was the Mansion House and the centre of municipal life in Louth before becoming a Mechanic's Institute. It is currently used as a library.

Thornton House, Louth (HER: MLI86877, NHLE: 1359929)

A late 18th century Grade II* listed building of three storeys, made of brick and with a shallow pitched slate roof. Situated in the junction where Westgate and Breakneck Lane meet.



Restored Louth canal warehouse

1.6 MODERN AND 21st CENTURY

1.6.1 STREET PATTERN AND DEVELOPMENT

The layout of the town centre of Louth has been well preserved having seen little change over time. The majority of buildings in the town centre have been preserved, although some were demolished to make way for newer housing, car parks or shops. Examples of this are Northgate car park in the old gardens of an evening school, and a supermarket with associated parking between Kiln Lane and Eve Street where there was once housing and a factory. Outside of the historic core there have been many more changes in the 20th and 21st centuries, mainly through the construction of housing developments to the north and south of the town. By the 1940s, council housing had been built on Tennyson Road, Mount Pleasant, High Holme Road Crescent, Brackenborough Road and Jubilee Crescent (Gurnham, 2007). In the 1950s, St Bernard's Avenue council houses were developed and in the 1970s additional council houses were built between North Holme Road and High Holme Road. Around the time of the construction of the St Bernard's Avenue council houses a culvert was constructed to cover Monk's Dyke. Private residential developments have also taken place.

1.6.2 TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Most of the economy in early 20th century Louth remained similar to previous centuries, with a focus on agricultural produce. Local businesses also catered to farmers and their produce, with trades such as blacksmiths, wheelwrights, agricultural engineers and millers. The main change in the 20th century to the town's industrial economy was the creation of Fairfield's Industrial Estate, located to the north-east of the town. This was developed by the Town Council and East Lindsey District Council to boost the local economy and dozens of businesses now operate on the estate (Gurnham, 2007). In 1991, the A16 was built close to the industrial estate, increasing its accessibility to the road network. The 19th century malt kiln at Newbridge Hill was replaced by a more modern malt kiln in the 1950s. This structure was very large and much taller than the buildings in the surrounding area, as such it was a noticeable landmark in the town's landscape. The kiln was demolished in 2015 and there is now a supermarket in the location.

1.6.3 RELIGION AND EDUCATION

The longest standing religious institution is St James' Church which has remained in use throughout the centuries. Another long-standing place of worship is the Eastgate Union Church (HER: MLI91804). Many places of worship closed in the modern period as the number of worshippers has declined. The Old Chapel (HER: MLI99003) on Commercial Road was built in 1925 and closed in 1974, it was disused for a number of years before it was used as a workshop and has since been renovated as a house.

Education facilities in the town also underwent many changes in the early 20th century, and it was during this period that the Monks' Dyke School was constructed. This was founded following a decision by Lindsey County Council to build a large and airy school to combat the overcrowding of the town's educational facilities during that period. Both boys and girls from Louth and neighbouring villages attended the school, they did however have to use separate classrooms and had gender specific curricula.

1.6.4 RAILWAY AND TRANSPORT

The canal continued to operate until 1924, when it was closed to navigational traffic. In the late 20th century, efforts have been made to restore the canal to 'enhance the Louth Navigation canal corridor, by undertaking a sustainable heritage programmes of canal and building restoration, together with the implementation of educational, recreational, environmental and economic projects, for the long term benefit of the community' (Louth Navigation Trust, 2021). This trust also restored the



View of Newbridge Hill malt kiln from church tower 1981

navigation warehouse, converting it to a mixed use building with accommodation and visitor facilities.

Over the 20th century, road traffic increased and railways fell into a decline. In 1970 the East Coast Railway Line closed to passengers, although it continued transporting goods to and from Grimsby until 1981 (Gurnham, 2007). The line of the former railway has since been redeveloped as housing, footpaths or returned to agriculture. The former railway station has been retained and sympathetically converted to residential use.

In 1991 the A16 was opened, it bypasses the west of Louth and borders the west of Fairfield's Industrial Estate; connecting the town to Grimsby and Boston. Its construction has helped accessibility to and from the industrial estate; which encouraged industrial growth in this area of the town.

1.6.5 CHARACTERISTIC BUILDINGS

Louth War Memorial, Eastgate (HER: MLI98883, NHLE: 1415930)

The war memorial is located at the junction of Ramsgate and Eastgate and was unveiled in 1921. It is made of stone and was produced by local masonry firm W S Harrison. The statue on the plinth is a depiction of "Regimental Sergeant-Major George Frederick Jones posing in full service uniform and holding a Lee-Enfield rifle" (HER: MLI98883).

Louth Flood Memorial, Louth Cemetery (HER: MLI125659)

A memorial to the victims of the 1920 Louth flood, unveiled on the 29th May 1923. It is a 12 feet high obelisk made of grey Aberdeen granite on four stepped square base plinths. The event happened in 1920 and took 23 lives and destroyed 50 houses with other buildings also being damaged. Temporary accommodation known locally as 'Hut Town' was erected in High Holme Road for 30 people who had been made homeless. In 1930 they were demolished to make way for High Holme Road Crescent (Gurnham, 2007).

1.6.6 RECREATION

To the west of the town, the park known as Hubbard's Hill opened to the public in August 1907. It is a woodland area which was created from the will of Auguste Alphonse Pahud following his death. Auguste, who was born in Switzerland, taught French and German at King Edward VI School. He married the daughter of a wealthy farmer, Annie Grant and is said to have been inconsolable when she died in 1889. He died three years later. In his will he specified that a board of trustees was to be established to celebrate the memory of his wife. One of the measures taken by the board was to buy the land at Hubbard's Hills, which follows the River Lud, from the Lord of the Manor of Hallington, Mr J Ward. The board planted trees and built a monument to the couple, creating a park in their memory that Ludensians (a demonym for the people of Louth) could enjoy.

In 1930, the former Independent Chapel on Cannon Street, built in 1827 was closed and converted into a cinema (HER: MLI86514). Its frontage was changed at the same time.

1.6.7 MILITARY

Louth contributed to the war effort, during the Second World War, by receiving evacuees from industrial cities of Yorkshire, (Gurnham, 2007).

The World Wars had an important human cost in Louth. During the First World War, 200 people were killed. The memorial was erected in 1921 to commemorate the fallen. There were 92 casualties from Louth during the Second World War, fifteen of them civilians who were bombed in the town. Following the Second World War, an addition was made to the war memorial to commemorate the fallen. Civil defences at the time included air raid shelters like Stanton Shelter in Louth Cemetery (HER: MLI125658) or searchlight batteries located to the south of Louth (HER: MLI86652).



Hubbard's Hill

HISTORIC URBAN CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Summary

The Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) have been based on the Historic Urban Character Types (HUCTs). The HUCT maps are available separately to this document. The HUCTs highlight patterns of development through areas which have originated at a similar time, are comparable in how they have developed or demonstrate a similar character or land use. The identification of HUCTs with these similarities allows groups (HUCAs) to be formed and analysed as a wider area.

The HUCTs are divided into 14 periods (see table below); these have been narrowed from the periods in the archaeological and historical background to provide a more detailed picture of the development and character of a place, incorporating the Industrial Revolution and the fast pace of development throughout the 20th century.

The character areas are discussed in terms of heritage value, based upon Historic England’s 2008 ‘Conservation Principles’, these include: Evidential, Historical, Aesthetic, and Communal. ‘Conservation Principles’ sets out a method for thinking systematically and consistently about the heritage values that can be attributed to a place. People value historic places in many different ways; ‘Conservation Principles shows how they can be grouped into four categories. A concordance table has been produced to compare the values taken from the ‘Conservation Principles’ with the NPPF, in terms of significance.

The values are as follows:

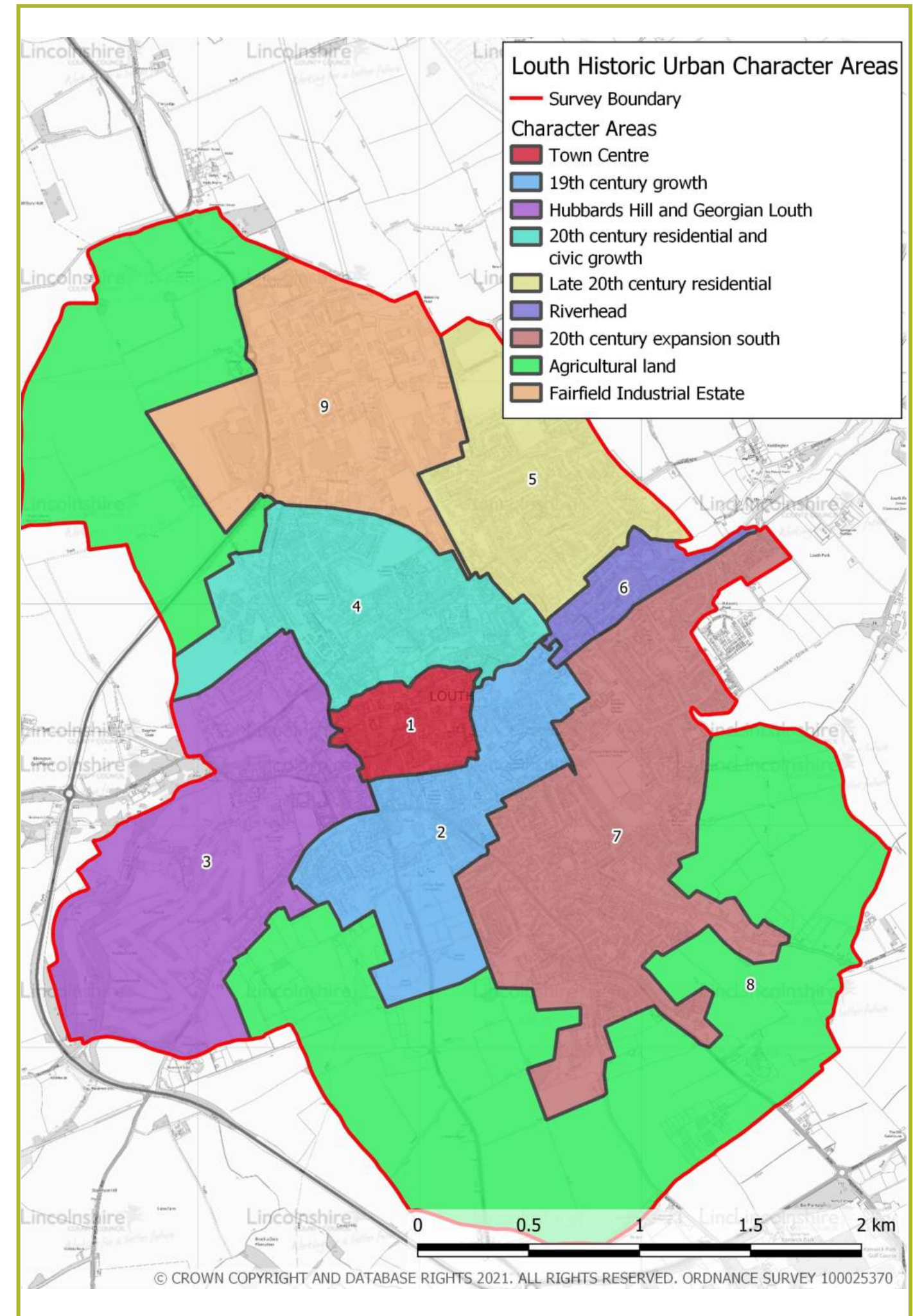
Evidential: the potential of what is present within the HUCA to tell us more about past human activity if investigated. This might relate to a national story of archaeological knowledge or architectural history. One factor which will affect the value is the integrity of what the HUCA contains. Archaeological deposits may be compromised by later development or buildings may be significantly altered by later, unsympathetic extensions and alterations.

Historical: the potential of the HUCA overall to illustrate the story of the town. In some circumstances the story may be of national importance.

Aesthetic: the way in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from the HUCA, principally its appearance. This may be derived from a designed element like a 20th century council housing estate, or from the way the HUCA has evolved over time. Unattractive elements, such as neglected sites, might reduce the aesthetic value.

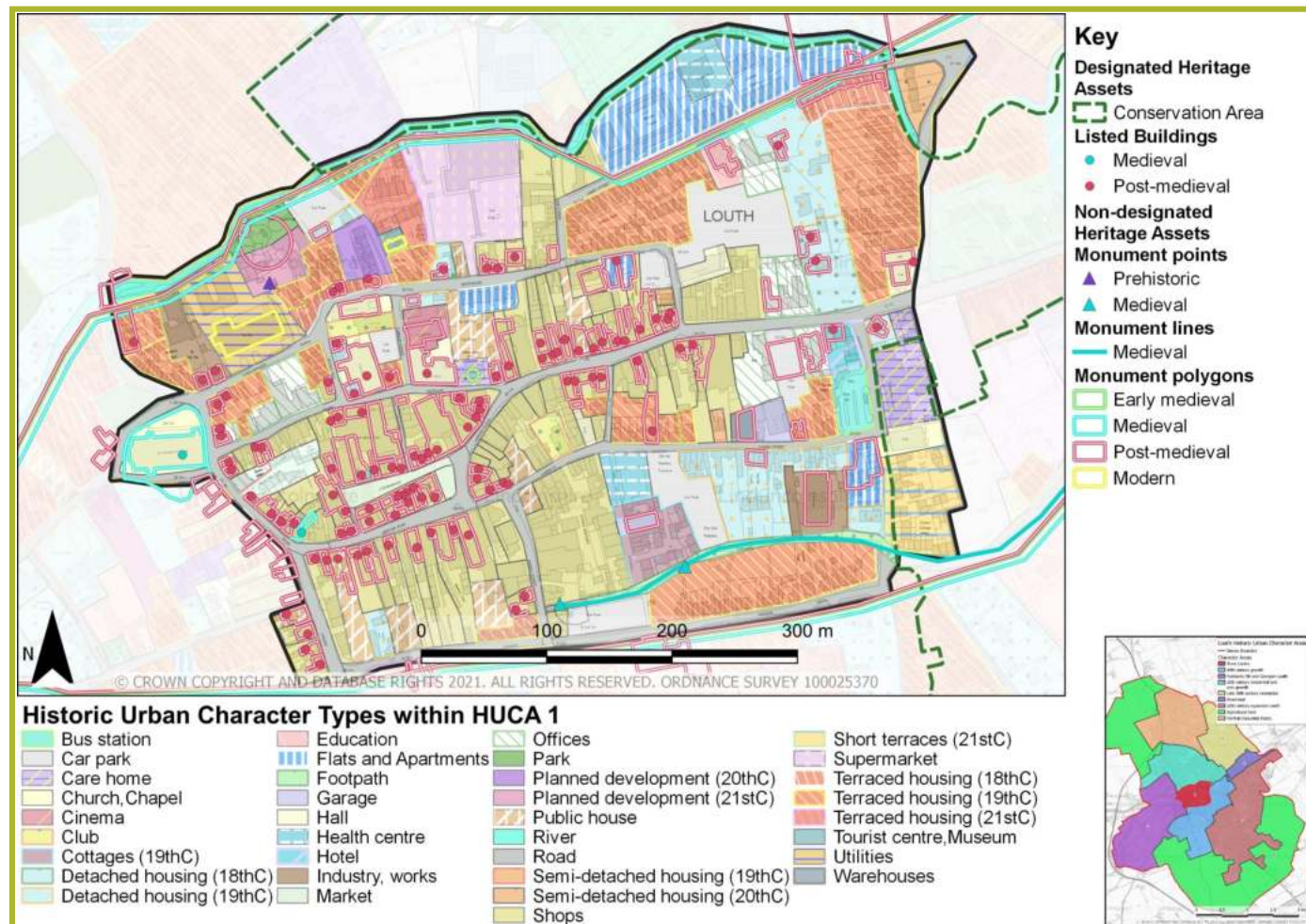
Communal: the values the local community attach to the HUCA - what it means to the local population, including commemorative, symbolic and social values. Also to what extent the HUCA has the potential to increase public sensitivity towards the historic environment.

Period	Date Ranges	Abbreviations	
1	Prehistoric	10000-43	Pre-H
2	Roman	43-409	Rom
3	Early Medieval	410-1065	E-Med
4	Medieval	1066-1539	Med
5	Post Medieval	1540-1759	P-Med
6	Late 18th Century	1760-1799	Late 18thC
7	Early 19th Century	1800-1832	Early 19thC
8	Mid 19th Century	1833-1865	Mid 19thC
9	Late 19th Century	1866-1899	Late 19thC
10	Early 20th Century	1900-1924	Early 20thC
11	Early Mid 20th Century	1925-1949	Early-mid 20thC
12	Late Mid 20th Century	1950-1974	Late-mid 20thC
13	Late 20th Century	1975-1999	Late 20thC
14	21st Century	2000-Present	21stC



Evidential value	
High	There is a high potential for the heritage assets within the HUCA to contribute to an understanding of the history of the town. Archaeological sites are likely to survive (both below ground and above ground fossilised within the townscape) and for new research relating to the nature and origins of the built heritage to enhance the understanding of the development of the town. New insights into the history of the town can contribute to an understanding of the development of towns from the medieval period onwards both within Lincolnshire and more widely.
Medium	There is the potential for heritage assets to contribute to an understanding of the history of the town, but there may be fewer opportunities for new insights to be deduced due to the nature of the heritage assets in question or subsequent changes to the historic character of the HUCA. The potential for archaeological deposits to contribute to an understanding of the development of the town may currently be unclear due to the current level of understanding of the origins of the HUCA. The potential may also be impacted by levels of development.
Low	There are no or very few known heritage assets. The understanding for the potential for above and below ground archaeological deposits to survive may be affected by the current lack of research within the wider area. Mitigation may still be required dependent upon an assessment of both the nature of any prospective new development and the potential of the individual sites being developed.
Historical value	
High	The legible heritage assets either dominate or significantly contribute to the historic character of each HUCA. There are strong associations between the heritage assets (both tangible and intangible) within the HUCA that are potentially demonstrable and/or the heritage assets make an important contribution to the history of the wider area. There are often designated sites within or lying adjacent to the HUCA and in some cases these may comprise or include portions of Conservation Areas. The high value is not precluded by some degree of 20th/21st century alterations to the historic character.
Medium	Legible heritage assets are present within the HUCA, but are not necessarily predominant or they have undergone some form of alteration. Their presence, however, may contribute to an understanding of the development of the character area and/or there are potential associations between assets. Further research may clarify these associations and elucidate the contribution of these assets to the history of the wider area. Even in their present form they do enable the public and community to visualise the development of the area over time.
Low	There are no or very few known legible heritage assets; where they exist their associations are not clearly understood.
Aesthetic value	
High	The completeness or integrity of the extant heritage townscape and its contribution to the aesthetics of the zone is significant. There are opportunities to enhance or restore the historic fabric of the HUCA. The HUCAs will often form part of or form the setting to Conservation Areas.
Medium	The components of the townscape are legible, but there may have been considerable impact by 20th or 21st century redevelopment of elements of the historic character. It is not possible within this project to discuss whether the modern alterations have positive, neutral or negative impacts upon overall aesthetics.
Low	The aesthetics of the historic character have been significantly impacted by 20th or 21st century development. It is not within the scope of this project to discuss whether their contributions are positive, neutral or negative within the wider townscape.
Communal value	
High	Contains numerous heritage assets which could be used to engage the community through interpretation. The heritage assets clearly form part of a wider history of an area which can be drawn into a narrative. There may already have been a degree of interpretation and/or the community/public already has access to at least some of the heritage assets within the zone.
Medium	The ability for the heritage assets to contribute to the history of the town may be limited by the current understanding, their legibility within the townscape or through limited access.
Low	There are few known heritage assets which make it difficult to elucidate their history or apply it to a wider interpretation. There is no access or the legibility of the heritage assets is negligible.

Concordance Table between Historic England Conservation Principles and the NPPF			
NPPF Significance	Conservation Principles	Conservation Principles Scope Note	NPPF Scope Note
Archaeological	Evidential	<i>“the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.”</i>	<i>“There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.”</i>
Historic	Historical	<i>“the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present - it tends to be illustrative or associative.”</i>	<i>“An interest in past lives and events (including pre-historic). Heritage assets can illustrate or be associated with them. Heritage assets with historic interest not only provide a material record of our nation’s history, but can also provide meaning for communities derived from their collective experience of a place and can symbolise wider values such as faith and cultural identity.”</i>
Architectural/ Aesthetic	Aesthetic	<i>“the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.”</i>	<i>“These are interests in the design and general aesthetics of a place. They can arise from conscious design or fortuitously from the way the heritage asset has evolved. More specifically, architectural interest is an interest in the art or science of the design, construction, craftsmanship and decoration of buildings and structures of all types. Artistic interest is an interest in other human creative skill, like sculpture.”</i>
*See Paragraphs 190 (b) and (c), 193, 197 (b) and (c), 205, 206.	Communal	<i>“the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory”</i>	<i>N/A see relevant paragraphs</i>
<p>EUS in planning</p> <p>It is anticipated that the EUS will be used to support appropriate application of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in the future development of Lincolnshire's towns. The EUS is directly applicable to the aims set out in the 2021 NPPF, particularly in Chapter 3 'Plan Making', Chapter 12 'Achieving well-designed places' and Chapter 16 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'. Chapter 3 states that <i>Strategic policies should... make sufficient provision for: conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment... Plans are 'sound' if they are: Justified... based on proportionate evidence.</i> For both objectives the EUS can provide a thorough evidence base which can assist in the production of plans. Chapter 12 states that Planning policies and decisions <i>should ensure that developments... are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting... establish or maintain a strong sense of place using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit.</i></p> <p>The EUS discusses local character, including built character and landscape setting, the evidence provided in the character assessments can be used to aid in the creation of 'well-designed places' through supporting an understanding and appreciation (from a heritage perspective) of the history and character of a town. The EUS contributes to the application of Chapter 16 of the NPPF by providing another evidence source on which to base development applications. The discussion of the character within the town can also be used to assist in the reappraisal and designation of new conservation areas.</p> <p>Recent design-related guidance, including the National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code, explicitly reference the significance and value of understanding the historic character of a place. Well-designed places are: based on a sound understanding of the features of the site and the surrounding context, using baseline studies as a starting point for design; integrated into their surroundings so they relate well to them; influenced by and influence their context positively; and responsive to local history, culture and heritage. In all cases the EUS programme, and its products, are directly aligned with the aspirations in these key planning guidance advice notes and emerging legislation.</p>			



HUCA 1—Town Centre

Key characteristics

- ◆ Early medieval and medieval core.
- ◆ Preserved medieval street layout.
- ◆ Mainly commercial, including cafes, public houses, shops, public amenities.
- ◆ Central market, held in the corn market.
- ◆ Mostly post-medieval buildings, 2 medieval, some modern structures which are in keeping with the historic character.
- ◆ Red and brown brick, some white-painted brick/render and stone.
- ◆ Timber-framed windows and mixture of pantile and slate roofing.
- ◆ Narrow streets, some with on-street parking.
- ◆ High density representative of a historic market centre.
- ◆ 3-4 storeys, varied building heights.
- ◆ Terraced buildings, constructed over an extended period of time.

Landscape History

At the time of the Domesday survey in 1086, the town was already well established with a relatively large population for the time. It is unclear exactly of the early layout, however it is likely that elements of the layout from the early medieval period continued to be followed. Burgage plots are seen across the character area, these **were likely established in the mid-10th century when Wulfwig was lord of the manor**. The boundaries of these plots are still largely identifiable in the present day, although the rear of the properties has been in-filled with additional structures in the post-medieval period. This has produced the character which is seen today, comprising long lines of buildings which extend back from the main streets. Much of the road pattern which was established in the medieval period is also very well preserved, this has given the character area many narrow enclosed roads, intersected by smaller alleyways. The Monks Dyke is another medieval structure which has dictated planning up to its boundary. Although the layout of the town is medieval, the buildings are predominantly from the post-medieval period, it is likely that earlier foundations are extant. In the modern period there have been minor changes, including the repurposing of a number of buildings such as the former chapels and houses into commercial venues and shops and new road surfacing.

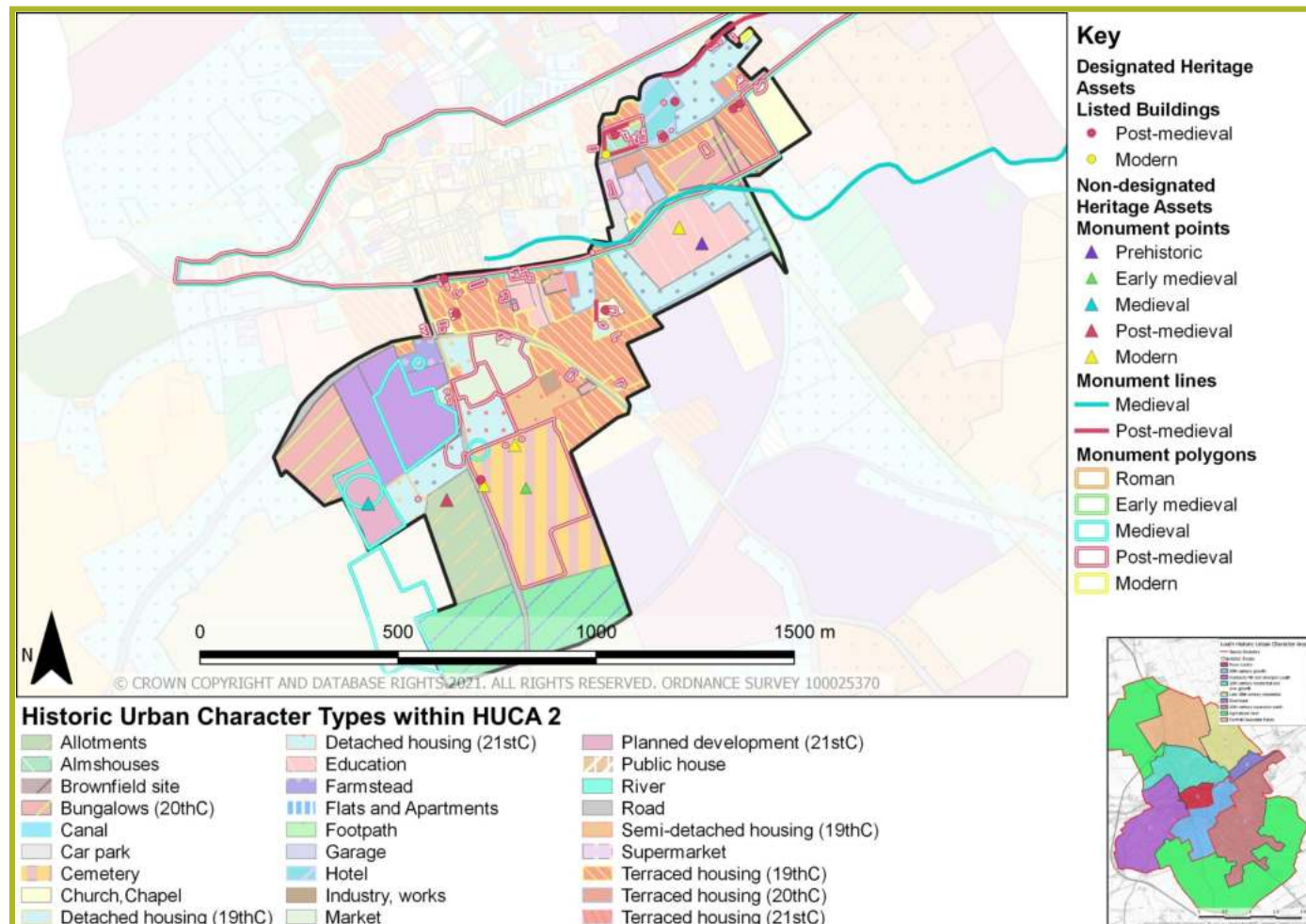


Evidential Value: The character area contains many heritage assets, both designated and non-designated. The Church of St James and Cromwell's House are both standing examples of medieval architecture. Additionally, post-medieval structures are seen across the HUCA, many of which are also listed. The town centre is a well preserved example of a medieval street pattern represented by narrow irregular streets intercut by alley ways. The property boundaries visible throughout the main streets are also remnants of early medieval/medieval burgage plots and many of these are also well preserved into the present day with minor changes over time. Monks' Dyke, although not visible, is preserved as a culvert beneath a modern day footpath, known as the gatherums. Below-ground archaeological deposits from the prehistoric to modern periods provide greater understanding and further below-ground deposits are likely, although some deposits may have been truncated by later development.

Historical Value: The character area is of high historical value due to the significant amount of designated and non-designated assets including the built environment and layout. The character area provides an important insight into the history of Louth, including aspects of its economic, social and religious past. This is demonstrated by the layout of the town which includes burgage plots which were designed for optimal commercial advantage. Historically Louth was a regionally important religious centre due to the establishment of a minster in the early medieval period. This was followed by the founding of Louth Park Abbey and the construction of St James' Church in the 12th century.

Aesthetic Value: The development of the character area is highly legible. Its economic importance during the medieval and post-medieval periods can be appreciated through the presence of the medieval marketplace and the existence of architectural types spanning multiple periods, including examples of Georgian and Victorian shops. Many of the streets retain a sense of enclosure, despite a number of them being widened in the 20th century. The property boundaries represent former medieval burgage plots provide consistency across the town centre and are still preserved. This can be read from the street frontage as many of the shop fronts are of a standard width.

Communal Value: The majority of the town's recreational facilities, including the cinema, clubs, halls and public houses are within this HUCA. As such it is an important communal area for the town. St James' Church is a building which creates communal value by providing a tangible link to Louth's religious past, it is still used by the community. It can also be seen throughout Louth and is therefore an important landmark for the town. Markets are held in the same location as they were in the 11th century. The former course of Monks' Dyke is preserved as a footpath with interpretation boards about the history of Aswell Spring and the dyke, as well as the later industrial activity in the area. These boards engage the public with the town's history.



HUCA 2– 19th century growth

Key characteristics

- ◆ 19th century residential expansion.
- ◆ 19th to 21st century housing, with varied styles.
- ◆ Mixture of detached, semi-detached and terraced housing.
- ◆ Mainly red, buff and brown brick.
- ◆ Timber and uPVC windows, older buildings also have mullions.
- ◆ Slate or tile roofs.
- ◆ 1 to 2 storeys high.
- ◆ Mixture of narrow and wide streets.
- ◆ Buildings are mostly focused to the front of the plot, adjacent to the road front.
- ◆ On-street parking mainly, except for modern developments which include garages.
- ◆ Outdoor sport and allotments to the south.
- ◆ Cattle market and Louth cemetery cover large areas since the 19th century.

Landscape History

During the medieval period the character area would have been a mixture of open fields and private enclosures, the latter were situated in proximity to the town centre. The HUCA is also crossed by Monks' Dyke, which was a water channel from the town springs to Louth Park. The dyke is now preserved as a drain and a footpath. In 1805, with the introduction of the Parliamentary Enclosures Act, the open fields passed to private hands and new boundaries were set. This process also opened up new lands for development on the edge of town. Development increased in the character area from the 19th century. In the early part of the century, Little Lane and Mount Pleasant were laid out, and small plots of land were created on either side which were soon developed for housing. A large amount of the development in the HUCA was residential, and many further streets of terraced housing were built. Large non-residential development also took place such as the Julian Bower lime works (HER: MLI86453) and the cemetery (HER: MLI91816), the latter of which was established due to a lack of space becoming an issue in St Mary's Graveyard. Schools, public houses and a church were also constructed during the 19th century for the growing local populace. In the modern period, remaining undeveloped land in the character area has been developed, with detached housing and Louth Academy. A cattle market (HER: MLI86455) was also established to the south of Newmarket Road.

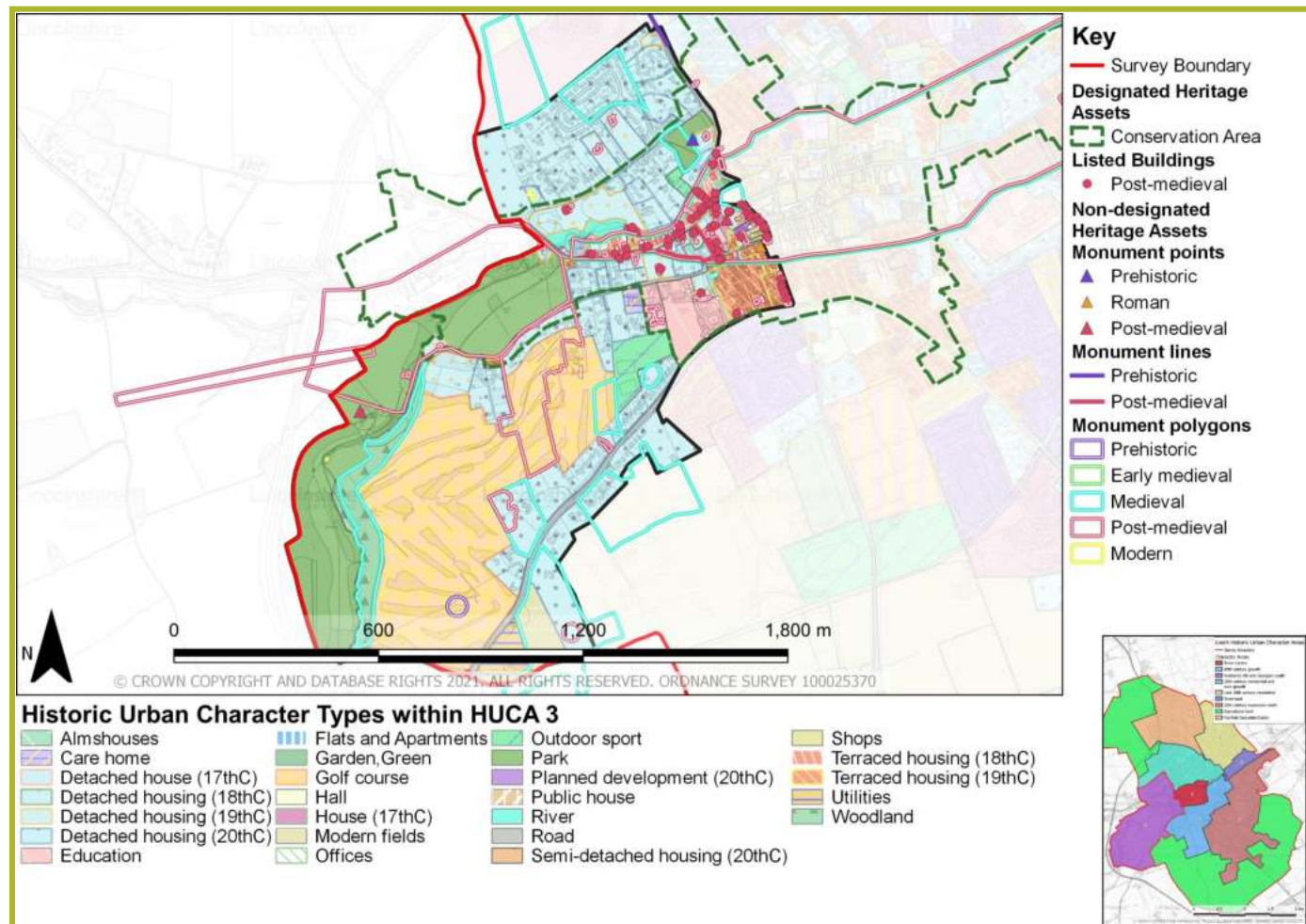


Evidential Value: Evidence from the medieval period includes ridge and furrow, a possible leper hospital (HER: MLI41402) and a possible turf maze at Julian Bower Hill (HER: MLI86594). However, the area underwent more development in the late post-medieval period. Evidence of the post-medieval history of the area can be found in most of the built environment, especially the 19th century terraced housing. Some other 19th century buildings that characterise the area include the cattle market (HER: MLI86455), Orme's Almshouses (HER: MLI42911) and the Church of St Michaels and All Angels (HER: MLI86526). The cemetery (HER: 91816) is part of the wider history of the town, which had outgrown St Mary's Churchyard.

Historical Value: The character area contains historical value with frequent examples illustrating Louth's expansion. The 19th century terraced housing is indicative of the population growth at the time. The relocation of the cattle market in the 19th century shows the continuing importance of the rural economy in the town's life and demonstrates the need for a larger location away from the centre.

Aesthetic Value: The character areas development can be easily read through the built environment. Although some post-medieval buildings have been lost or repurposed, the majority remain. 20th and 21st century housing in the HUCA has not been detrimental to the historic character as it has largely been built on previously undeveloped agricultural land. These developments do, however, have a different aesthetic, with wider roads and more spacious front and back gardens.

Communal Value: The allotments and outdoor sporting areas to the south of the character area are its main recreational communal asset. Other communal assets in the HUCA are the cemetery and churches, such as St Michael's Church.



HUCA 3– Hubbard's Hill and Georgian Louth

Key characteristics

- ◆ Mainly detached housing with some terraced and semi-detached housing.
- ◆ 17th to 20th century housing.
- ◆ Post-medieval houses largely Georgian and Victorian in design. 20th century often low density large properties with drive-ways and gardens.
- ◆ Up to 3 storeys high.
- ◆ Mixture of red, buff and brown brick.
- ◆ Some 19th century housing is built with stone and brick.
- ◆ Timber and uPVC windows, with slate or pantile roofs.
- ◆ Open areas, trees and large gardens.
- ◆ Hubbard's Hill and the golf course are large non-developed areas within the HUCA.
- ◆ Topographically, the landscape rises on either side of Westgate to the north and south. The River Lud follows a depression in the landscape, which flows to the north of Westgate through Hubbard's Hill.

Landscape History

There is evidence of prehistoric human presence in the HUCA, a Neolithic flint knife was found in Mount St Mary (HER:MLI86501) and more worked flint was found at the golf course (HER: MLI41393). **The area close to St Mary's churchyard is believed to have been the location of a Roman cemetery and a later early medieval and medieval church. The churchyard was continued to be used for burials from the late medieval period until 1855.** In the medieval period the character area was a mixture of settlement and agriculture, Westgate and Uppgate would have been established and properties were extant along the roads. In the periphery of the town centre evidence of ridge-and-furrow is recorded (HER: MLI86648, MLI86647) as well as ancient woodlands along the river Lud (HER: MLI43024). In the 16th century the King Edward VI Grammar School was founded on Schoolhouse Lane and is still used to the present day. Although buildings were extant on Westgate, the present day buildings date from the 18th and 19th centuries. Many of these are large Georgian or Victorian houses, with a mixture of terraced and detached properties. In the 19th century, smaller terraced workers' housing was constructed in the character area as the town's population expanded. In the modern period, large detached housing has been constructed along the main roads out of town, and in the late modern period, new planned housing developments have been established to the north of the character area. Much of this housing is low density with large gardens and mature trees. Hubbard's Hill park was created in the early part of the century and combines with Westgate Field and the 20th century golf course to create a large area of open space in the HUCA.

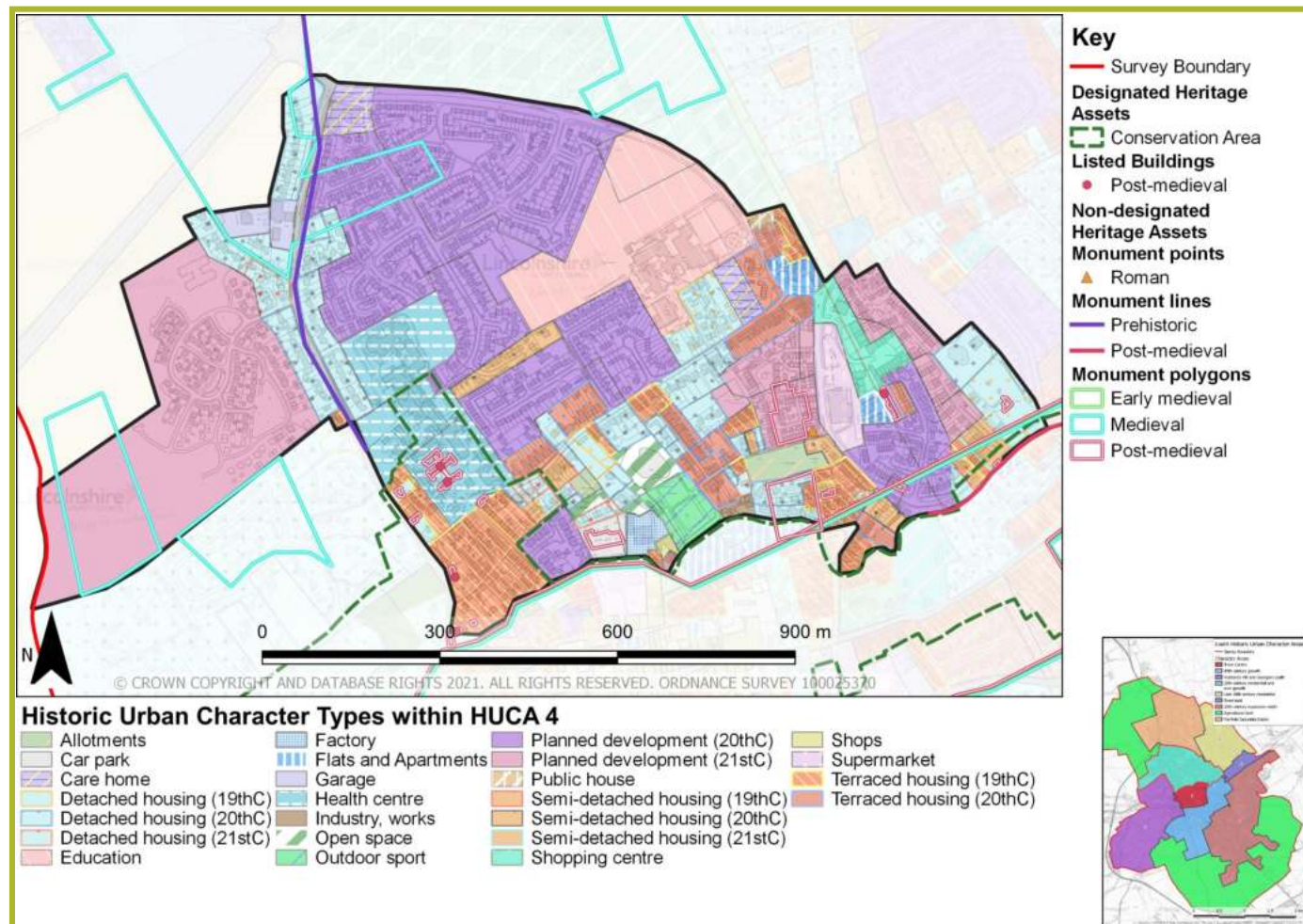


Evidential Value: There is a great amount of medieval, post-medieval and modern history in the town and as such the historic environment makes a large contribution to understanding the history of the town. Early medieval and medieval activity relating to the origins of Louth in the character area is debated, and further investigation of this would increase understanding of the nature of the HUCA.

Historical Value: The superior quality housing built in Westgate towards the late 18th and early 19th centuries is indicative of the town's wealth and growth in this period. These developments and the increase in wealth during this period was due to the construction of Louth Canal and the increased wealth and opportunity that it brought.

Aesthetic Value: The character area's development can be easily seen in its buildings which are consistent in the use of red brick with white dressings. Large ornamental houses are seen on both Westgate and Uppgate, although the latter has seen a higher amount of redevelopment and is more commercially focussed. Many of the houses also contain stables and high walls enclosing gardens with mature trees. Stone masonry has been reused in garden landscaping which creates interest in the character area. Furthermore the stacking of gravestones in St Mary's Churchyard also provides evidence as to its former use.

Communal Value: There are many assets within the character area which engage the public on the history and development of Louth. Hubbard's Hill is one of the largest public spaces in the town and information boards as well as the memorial inform visitors as to its history. Ridge and furrow in Westgate Field adjacent to the park also demonstrate the former use of the area.



HUCA 4– 20th century residential and civic growth

Key characteristics

- ◆ Mainly residential 19th to 21st century expansion.
- ◆ Variety of housing styles.
- ◆ 19th century housing centred around High Holme Road.
- ◆ Mixture of red, buff and brown brick.
- ◆ Timber and uPVC windows, tiled roofs.
- ◆ Mostly 2 storey housing.
- ◆ Mixture of on-street-parking and garages.
- ◆ County Hospital and Louth Academy.
- ◆ Small shopping outlet.

Landscape History

Barton Street, the prehistoric routeway (HER: MLI116141), may have followed a similar route to that of the current Grimsby Road through Louth. In the medieval period the character area contained private agricultural enclosures and open fields. Private fields were concentrated to the south of High Holme Road and north of the river To the north of and beyond High Holme Road there would have been open fields. Development began to take place in the post-medieval period in the area of High Holme Road; this included residential development and industry, such as a lime works to the west of Grimsby Road. One of the most notable buildings of this period was the workhouse (HER: MLI86907), this replaced the old workhouse, which was in the town centre. The edifice of the 1837 workhouse is still standing and used as part of the county hospital in Louth. Another important building was Louth Railway Station (HER: MLI86595) which still survives but has been converted into flats. Since the railway and its surrounding industry was dismantled in the late 20th century it has also been replaced with housing, as well as shops. The area to the north of this HUCA also saw housing development from the mid 20th century until the 21st century, with the opening of Louth Academy and extensions to the County Hospital.

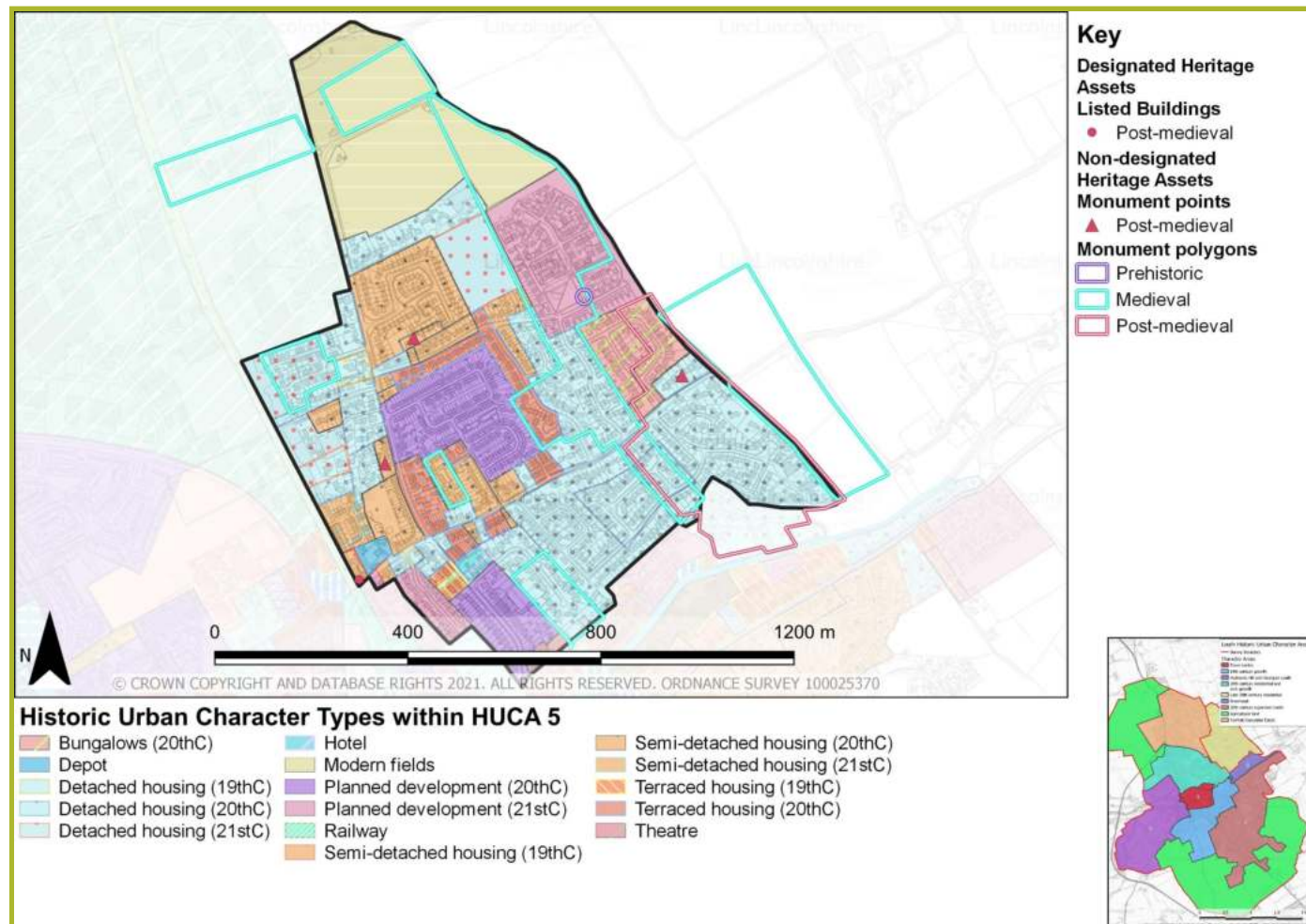


Evidential Value: For the medieval history of the character area there is no clear evidential value apart from some recorded ridge and furrow in what would have been open fields. There are no traces of post-medieval parliamentary enclosure boundaries in the current area layout. Around High Holme Road there is evidence of 19th century constructions and buildings of notable evidential value include the former workhouse (HER: MLI86907), which is now part of the hospital and the former railway station (HER: MLI86595), now in residential use.

Historical Value: The former workhouse and railway station remind us of this area's industrial past. The 19th century housing are indicative of the population growth at the time and the need for housing around the railway station and the industry around it. The 20th century urban development is also evidence of the town's population growth during this time.

Aesthetic Value: The development of the HUCA is legible, to a degree, thanks to the remaining post-medieval buildings. These include 19th century housing on High Holme Road, the former workhouse and the former railway station. Although the post-medieval aesthetic has been conserved in part, most of the industrial heritage around the railway station and High Holme Road has developed over. An example of this is the former housing and malt kiln on Newbridge Hill and the railway, which is now a footpath.

Communal Value: There are many assets of communal value in the character area. The hospital is located here, so is Louth Academy, as well as several shops, a recreation ground and allotments.



HUCA 5– Late 20th century residential

Key characteristics

- ◆ Residential area
- ◆ 19th to 21st century housing, although mainly 20th century.
- ◆ Mixture of detached, semi-detached, bungalows and terraced housing.
- ◆ Mixture of red, buff and brown brick
- ◆ UPVC windows and tiled roofs.
- ◆ Different styles depending on time of development.
- ◆ Some properties have render or pebbledash.
- ◆ Housing is generally 2 storeys high
- ◆ Newer developments have wide streets and driveways, older housing is on narrower streets with on-street-parking.
- ◆ Most properties have gardens to the front and rear.
- ◆ Grass verges on many streets, although vegetation and trees are often confined to gardens.
- ◆ Topographically, the land lowers towards the marsh in the east.

Landscape History

There was prehistoric activity in the area with worked flint having been recorded to the north of Lyndon Way (HER: MLI91463). Archaeological excavation was undertaken in a field off Brackenborough Road and north of Willow Drive for a proposed housing development. The site revealed Roman occupation in the area, possibly a farmstead. During the medieval period the character area's landscape consisted of open fields. Ridge and furrow recorded in the HUCA is a remnant of this former landscape (HER: MLI86672, MLI86667-MLI86670), although much of this has since been obscured by later developments. In the post-medieval period the fields were enclosed and new field boundaries were created changing the landscape to one with frequent smaller fields comprising dividing hedges. These boundaries remained largely the same until the end of the 19th century although some fields were amalgamated and internal divisions were removed. The continuous residential development in the character area over the 20th and 21st centuries has progressed northwards and for the most part has followed previous field boundaries. These houses are a mixture of detached, semi-detached and bungalows. Some of the 19th century fields still exist to the north of the character area.

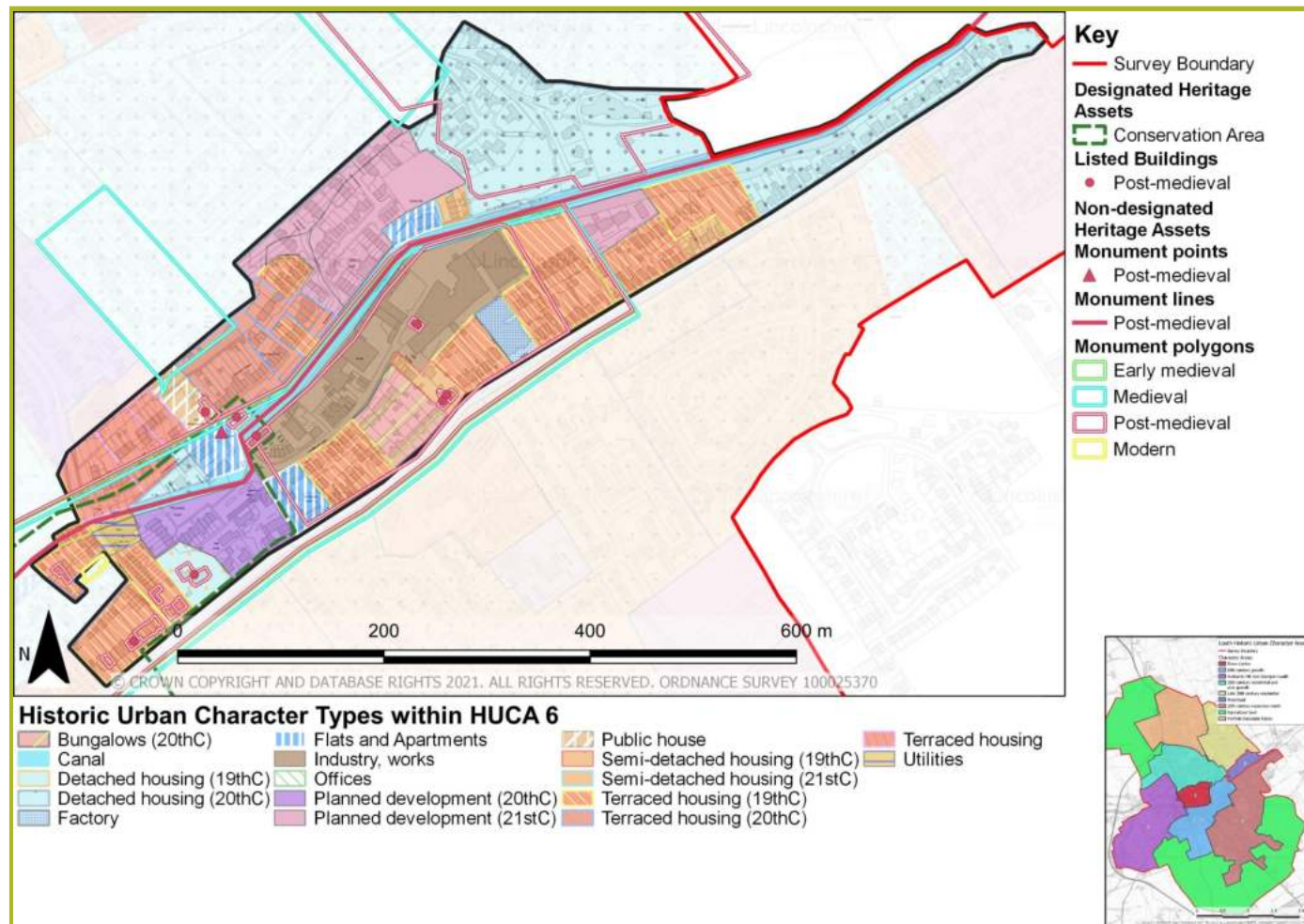


Evidential Value: There is archaeological evidence of prehistoric activity in the form of worked flints, there is also a possible Roman farmstead to the north of the HUCA, as recorded by excavation. Ridge and furrow recorded throughout the character area provides evidence of the former character of the HUCA. The landscape was altered in the post-medieval period following changes made during Parliamentary Enclosure, these boundaries have affected the layout of later developments.

Historical Value: The character area's main historical value is that it is representative of the population growth in Louth from the 19th century onwards, especially the 20th century.

Aesthetic Value: The development of the character area is legible, although not immediately obvious. Former field boundaries can be seen in the layout and division of some of the later properties. The variety of styles in the character area demonstrates the changing architectural influences of the 20th century. The layout and plan form of 19th century buildings and areas within the HUCA have also dictated how the later housing has developed.

Communal Value: The character area is largely private residential with little in the way of public spaces. There are two parks extant within the character area, established as part of wider residential developments.



HUCA 6– The Riverhead

Key characteristics

- ◆ Characterised by the canal, with post-medieval and modern industrial buildings and residential development.
- ◆ Mainly 19th to 21st century residential.
- ◆ Housing comprises, 19th century and early 20th century workers terraced housing and modern detached housing.
- ◆ Some former industry has also been converted to flats.
- ◆ Red and brown brick, tiled roofs.
- ◆ Mixture of traditional wooden windows and uPVC.
- ◆ On-street parking and driveways in later developments.
- ◆ Some industry and commercial buildings remain close to the canal.
- ◆ Green areas and a foot path along the canal.

Landscape History

Archaeological evidence is most prominent from the medieval period onwards in this character area. During the medieval period the area was likely to have been dominated by private agricultural enclosures. It was during the 18th century when it began to be developed thanks to the introduction of the Louth Canal in 1760. Its construction provided increased trade and opportunities within the town by creating a more efficient way of transporting goods. Warehouses and workshops were constructed on the banks of the canal, some with lifting equipment for goods. Increasing numbers of terraced housing were also constructed for the employees of the new industries. The canal brought increased prosperity to wider Louth and new developments took place across the town with the wealth gained from the development. The canal ceased to be navigable in 1924, as railways and roads had become more prominent. There has continued to be industry and commerce adjacent to the canal, although on a smaller scale with some of the warehouses being converted into residential flats or commercial premises. Residential development has also taken place in the modern period towards the east and north-east of the character area.

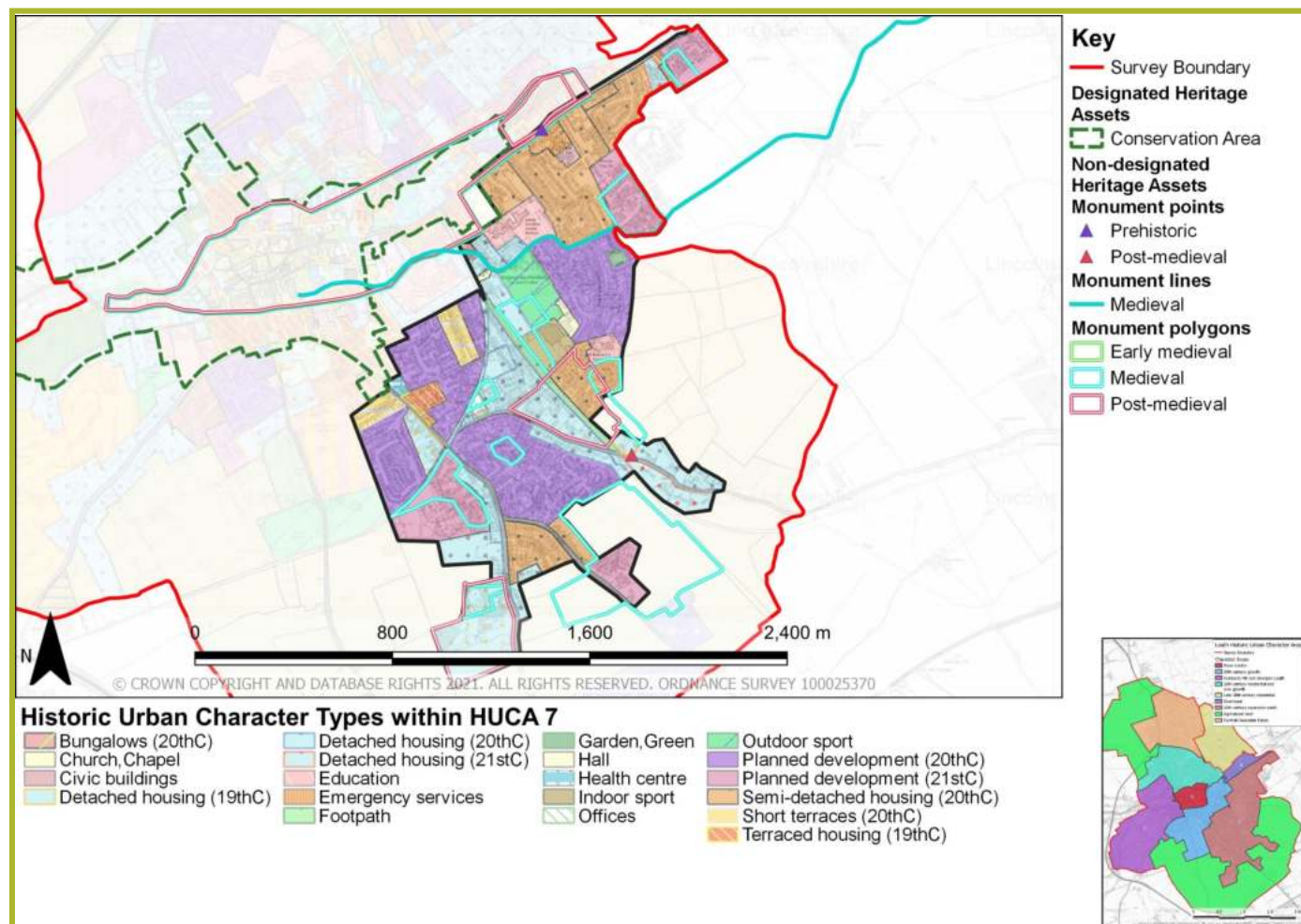


Evidential Value: There is a large amount of post-medieval evidential value in this character area which makes a contribution to the narrative of the town's development. The canalisation of the river Lud in 1760 is a prominent event in the history of the town. Although the canal and its locks are no longer in use, they still contribute to the value of the HUCA. Industrial and commercial buildings, constructed to support the canal such as the late 18th century public house known as the Woolpack (HER: MLI86826), also contribute to the development of the area. Some of the post-medieval industrial warehouses have been converted into flats and offices, these include the Navigation Warehouse, which is also used as a heritage centre, and the Jacksons Warehouse. Despite redevelopment, these buildings retain their external industrial character.

Historical Value: The history within the character area is imperative to the development of the wider town and its revival following a period of economical decline. The canal brought increased trade and wealth to the town and with it an increase in its population.

Aesthetic Value: The HUCA's development is highly legible. The presence of the canal and lock, as well as repurposed post-medieval warehouses give a clear indication of the character area's history. Industry is still extant and although many of the 18th and 19th century industrial buildings have been demolished, the housing that it has given way to has generally been built in keeping with the aesthetic of the area. This creates a homogenous feeling despite the different periods of construction.

Communal Value: The canal and its surrounding industrial heritage can connect Ludensians (local inhabitants) to their town's post-medieval history. Information boards as well as footpaths along the canal engage the public on the history of the local area.



HUCA 7– 20th century expansion south

Key characteristics

- ◆ 20th century residential development.
- ◆ 19th century housing along north of Newmarket.
- ◆ 1-2 storeys.
- ◆ Red, brown and buff brick, some houses have pebble-dash.
- ◆ uPVC windows and concrete roofs.
- ◆ Wide streets sometimes with grass verges.
- ◆ Properties are within front and rear gardens.
- ◆ Driveways are common in modern properties.
- ◆ Truncated by the former line of the railway, which is now a footpath.

Landscape History

There is evidence of prehistoric presence to the north of the HUCA, where an Upper Palaeolithic or Mesolithic blade (HER: MLI98494) was found on Eastfield Road. In the medieval period, the landscape was part of the open-field system and would have been an open landscape farmed in strips. It was also crossed by the Monks' Dyke, a medieval channel which took water from springs in the town centre to Louth Park in the east. This channel has formed a boundary which has dictated later development. Ridge and furrow recorded across the character area provides evidence as to the former landscape use (HER: MLI86679, MLI86654, MLI86655, MLI86660, MLI86661). Some of the character area was also made up of private enclosures, which had been organised at an earlier time. The remaining open fields were enclosed in 1805 and some, although not many, of the boundaries of these enclosures can be seen in later developments. This transformed the landscape to one with smaller fields surrounded by hedgerows. In the mid-19th century, the railway was constructed across the character area, connecting Louth to the wider rail network. The railway was operational until the late 20th century, and its former line has since become a footpath. Large historic houses with associated gardens or parklands were extant during the post-medieval period, however these too have been redeveloped. During the 19th century housing developed around Newmarket. The remaining part of the HUCA comprised farmland and isolated farmstead until much of it was developed into large residential areas during the 20th century. Civic buildings, churches, recreational outdoor areas and offices have also been constructed as part of larger developments.

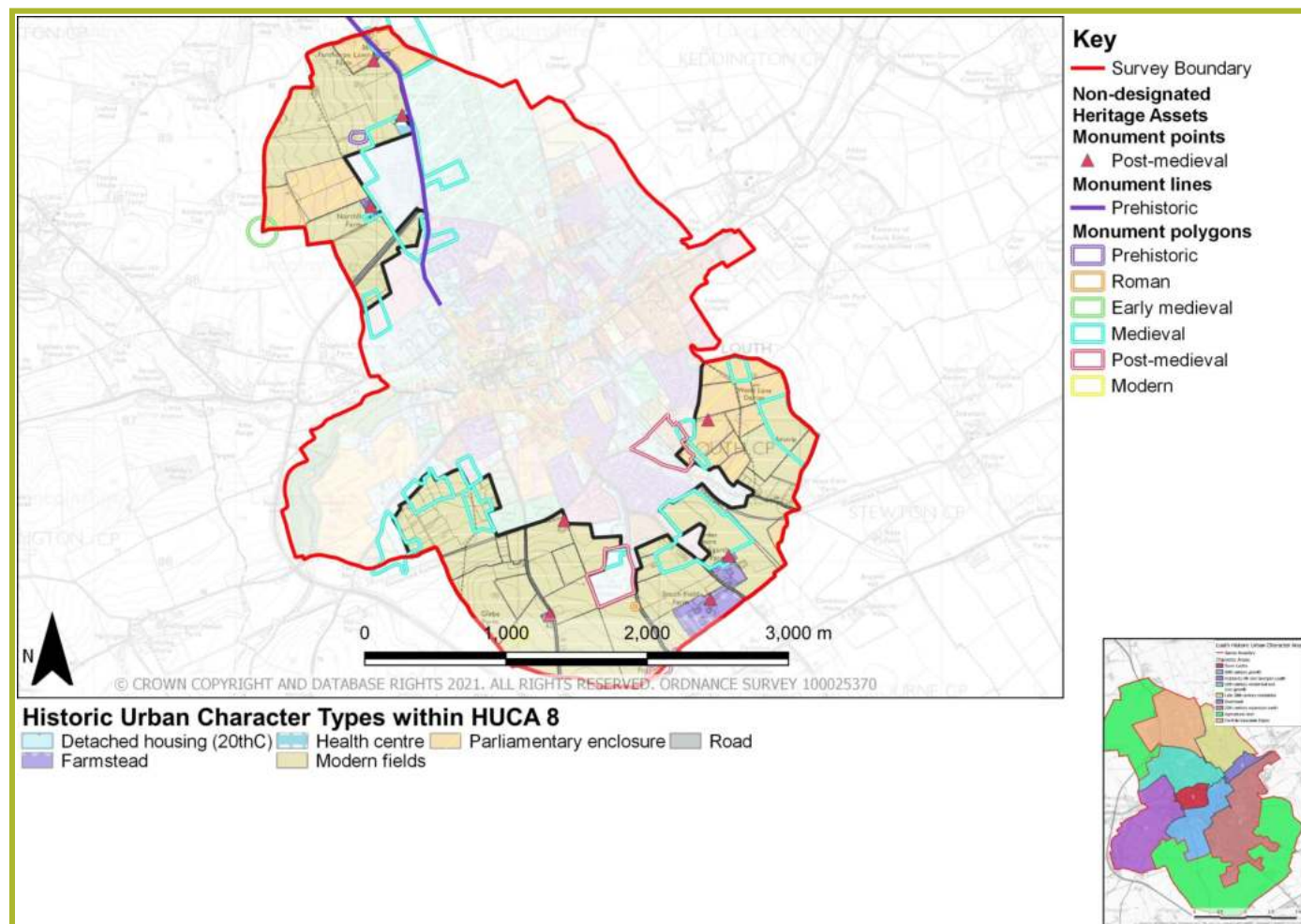


Evidential Value: Extant evidence in the character area including former ridge and furrow and historic parklands have been obscured by modern developments and only some of the predevelopment boundaries are still extant. Examples of 19th to 21st century housing styles is extant.

Historical Value: The 19th and 20th century housing of the HUCA are representative of the outward expansion of the town due to population growth.

Aesthetic Value: Mainly 20th century developments that follow the design of the period with wide roads, grass verges, front gardens and garages. The small area of 19th century housing is terraced housing on Newmarket and is overshadowed by newer developments.

Communal Value: Footpaths, gardens and outdoor sports facilities in the area add to the communal value, as do educational facilities and health centres. Communal value with a heritage focus, however, is limited.



HUCA 8— Agricultural land

Key characteristics

- ◆ Agricultural fields.
- ◆ Arable.
- ◆ Field pattern includes modern fields and parliamentary enclosure.
- ◆ Divided by hedgerow or fences.
- ◆ Scattered farmsteads and agricultural units.
- ◆ 19th century and 20th century buildings.
- ◆ Structures comprise red brick, some are rendered.
- ◆ Topographically the land rises to the west and slopes to the marshes to the east.

Landscape History

Prehistoric activity is recorded to the north of the character area and a prehistoric cropmark enclosure has been identified through aerial photography (HER:MLI86645). Barton Street, prehistoric routeway also crosses the character area (HER:MLI116141). Romano-British remains have been identified at the south of the character area on Kenwick Road (HER: MLI43612), which could be indicative of a nearby occupation site. In the medieval period the land comprised open fields throughout the HUCA, largely unbroken by hedges or boundaries. In 1805 the fields were enclosed through a Parliamentary Act, which transformed the character area. During this process smaller rectangular fields with internal hedgerows and boundaries replaced large open fields. In the modern period, the fields were amalgamated to form large fields, which were better suited to machinery. The pattern created by the enclosure is still preserved in some parts of the character area, although much of it has been removed by modern changes to the field pattern.

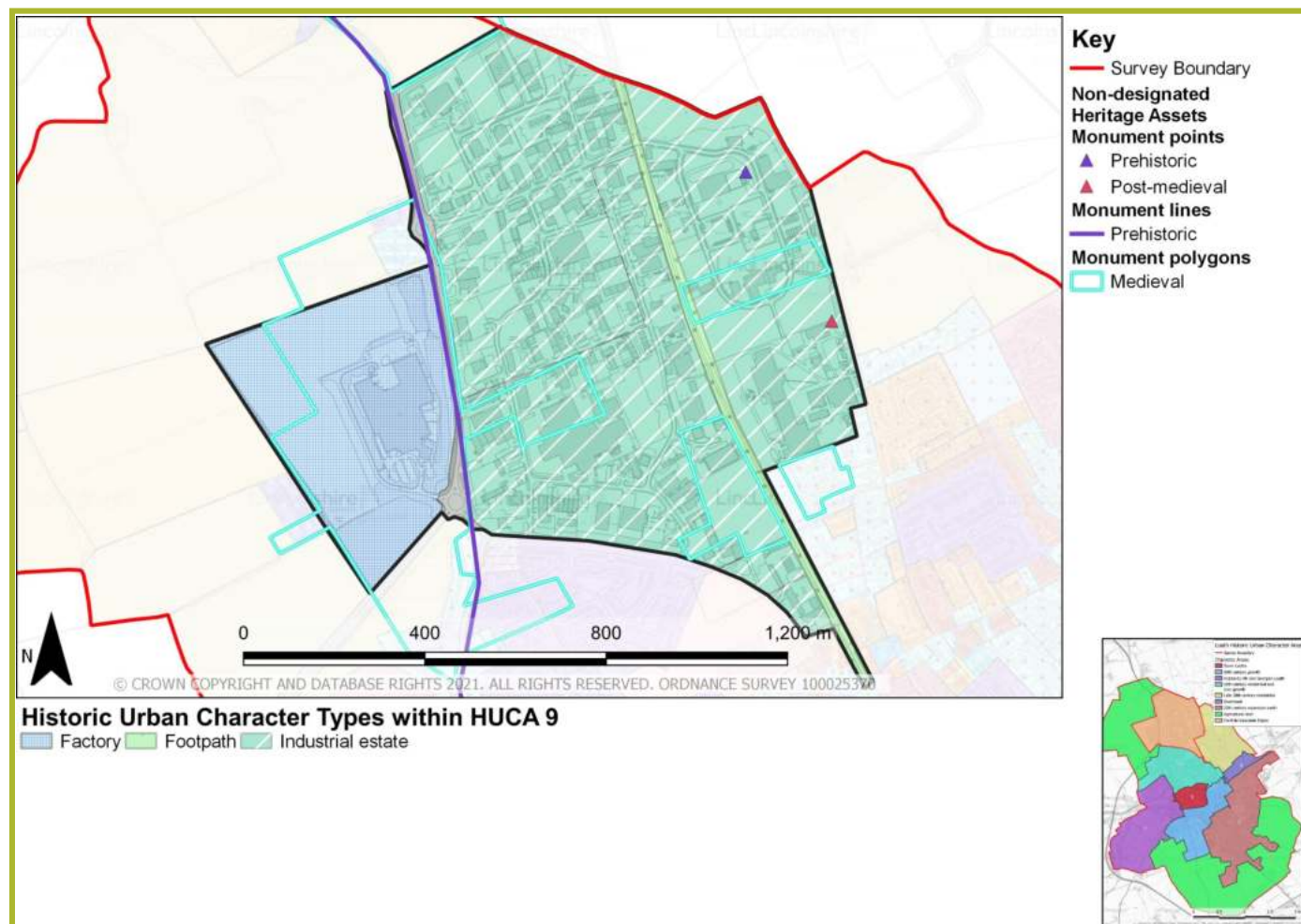


Evidential Value: Evidence from the prehistoric through to post-medieval period is identified in the character area. Evidence including Barton Street and a possible prehistoric enclosure, indicate the likelihood of further remains in the vicinity. Furthermore, Roman archaeology has been documented off Kenwick Road, which is suggestive of a nearby settlement.

Historical Value: Medieval, post-medieval and modern changes within the agricultural landscape of Louth demonstrates the changes seen in the locality over this period.

Aesthetic Value: The development of the area has changed in the modern period and many of the historic boundaries are now lost. Its historic character is not legible without interpretation.

Communal Value: Agriculture has been an important part of the history of the town and a such provides value, however, within the HUCA, there are limited ways in which to engage the public. Footpaths throughout the HUCA provide access to an ever changing landscape.



HUCA 9— Fairfields Industrial Estate

Key characteristics

- ◆ Large industrial estate.
- ◆ Commercial businesses.
- ◆ Developed in the mid to late 20th century.
- ◆ Large industrial units with associated parking.
- ◆ Warehouses made of brick and corrugated iron, few windows.
- ◆ Buildings are set back from the wide roads and there are large taxiing areas at the front of many of them for lorries and vans.
- ◆ Some vegetation: amenity grass, shrubs and small trees.
- ◆ Bounded by high fences.
- ◆ Inactive street frontages, area designed for utility.

Landscape History

There is prehistoric archaeological evidence in the form of Iron Age pottery (HER: MLI89294) to the north of the HUCA indicating potential activity locally during this period. During the medieval period, the landscape was an open-field agricultural landscape. This was altered during the early 19th century as part of the Parliamentary enclosure Act, 1805. This Act transformed the landscape from an open one to one of small rectangular fields. In the 19th century, the character area was truncated by the introduction of the railway, which created a new north-south physical boundary. The industrial estate was developed during the 1960s, by the Town Council and East Lindsey District Council with an aim to boost the local economy of the area. This has grown over the late 20th century and many businesses now operate on the estate. This railway line was in use until its closure in 1981, its line can still be seen in the HUCA in the form of a tree-lined footpath, which divides the industrial area. In 1991 the A16 was constructed which runs to the west of the industrial estate. Its construction has helped accessibility to and from the industrial estate; connecting the town to Grimsby and Boston which has enabled industrial growth in this area of the town.



Evidential Value: There is evidence of prehistoric activity from Iron Age Pottery found in the HUCA. There is also evidence of the former agricultural nature of the character area in the form of medieval ridge and furrow and a post-medieval farmstead which were extant before the creation of the industrial estate.

Historical Value: The HUCA demonstrates the movement of industry from the centre of town and the old canal to the outskirts. This is in part due to the need for more space with modern logistics, which has been furthered following the introduction of the A16. Despite this, the HUCA does not significantly contribute to the history of the town and the construction of the industrial estate has removed historic field boundaries.

Aesthetic Value: The historic character of the area cannot be clearly seen as the creation of the industrial estate has erased any historic field boundaries. This 20th century industrial character brings little aesthetic value to the HUCA. Its character is reflective of the functional needs of the area.

Communal Value: The industrial and commercial nature of the HUCA means it has little communal value, although it is important for the employment of many local inhabitants.

DISCUSSION

Historic background

Evidence of human activity during the prehistoric period is recorded within the survey boundary. This largely relates to scattered finds of pottery, flint tools and knives. A prehistoric route way, known as Barton Street, also crossed the northern half of the town and the eastern edge of the Wolds beyond, connecting to Barton upon Humber. During the Roman period there is evidence which suggests there were settlements in the area. Recent discoveries shed further light on this period and weight to the argument. The earliest mention of Louth is in the late 8th century although it is likely that a settlement was extant in the town before this time. Evidence for this comes from the Anglo-Saxon cemetery (HER: MLI41162) on the boundary with South Elkington parish. This cemetery dates to the 5th and 6th centuries and is located on high ground with commanding views to the surrounding marshland. Louth became an administrative and religious centre during the early-medieval period. The town gives its name to the wapentake (administrative division) of Louthesk, indicating it was a key settlement in the region. The town is listed in the Domesday survey and it is clear that Louth had been a market town even before this. The survey records a large population with many traders, mills and a large amount of agricultural land. The medieval town extended from the River Lud to the north, Kidgate to the south, Church Street to the east and Westgate bridge to the west. Its layout began to form in the early medieval and medieval periods and was likely focused around the central market place, around which burgage plots were laid out. The pattern of these burgage plots can still be seen in the present day and make up the layout of the modern town. Furthermore, it was the success of the market and trade which allowed the town to prosper during the medieval period. The town was close to wool producing areas whose pastoral farming activities led to a very prosperous merchant trade in the town. This was combined with its strategic position for transportation of goods between Lincoln and the coast. Cloth production contributed to the town's growth, especially by the 13th century when Louth Park, a Cistercian monastery to the east of Louth, had an important role in Lincolnshire as a landowner and in the sheep-rearing and wool exportation trades. The institution frequently traded with northern Italy. Although cloth making had declined throughout the county by the 16th century, Louth still remained an important market town and was still a stopping point in trade routes to the coast where goods such as wool were taken to other port towns to export. When the English Civil War broke out in 1642 the Warden and Assistants of Louth adopted a neutral stance, although a skirmish between Royalists and Parliamentarians did break out in June of that same year and resulted in three men dying. In 1770 the Louth Canal was constructed on the eastern side of Louth, which meant increased trade and industry for the town. This reinvigorated the economy of Louth which had been reduced by the decline of the wool trade nationally and internationally. The 18th and 19th centuries saw the growth of Louth as an inland port, which created greater opportunities for trade and increased accessibility to the town. New businesses and areas of industry were established following the development of the port and the prosperity created also resulted in the development of many large residential areas to the west of Louth. In 1801 a Parliamentary Enclosures Act was passed which changed the character of the landscape surrounding the town. The award meant the privatisation and the enclosing and hedging of previously open fields, which brought a change in agricultural practices and a change in attitudes to land use by allowing new areas to be opened up for development. This pushed a new period of growth within the town and many new streets of terraced housing were constructed. In 1848, Louth was connected to the railway network, between Grimsby and Boston. Its introduction brought further changes to the town and contributed to the decline of the canal, which eventually closed in 1924. In the 20th century, the town has grown with new residential areas on the north, east and south of the town. A new industrial area known as Fairfields Industrial Estate, was also established in the 1960s, away from the traditional industry adjacent to the canal. It contributed to a new industrial economy of the town and was benefited by the opening in 1991 of the A16 bypass, which improved accessibility.

Character summary

The character of Louth demonstrates several phases of development. HUCA 1 represents the historic core of the town. The built environment, comprising red brick and traditional timber windows, is mainly post-medieval but the street layout is still medieval in nature. HUCA 2 comprises the 19th century southern expansion for the town, including a new cattle market and cemetery along with new areas of terraced housing. HUCA 3 lies to the west of the medieval core and has residential buildings dating from the 17th century to the 20th century. This area was developed due to increased prosperity following the construction of the canal, and many of the houses are large and demonstrate the increased wealth which was being generated in the town. It also has large open areas, including Hubbard's Hills, Westgate Fields and a golf course. HUCA 4 is located to the north of the town centre and is mainly 19th to 21st century residential expansion. Civic structures such as the hospital and Louth Academy were also constructed in the HUCA catering for the burgeoning population. HUCA 5 is another area of residential expansion from the 19th century, although most of the structures date to the 20th century. HUCA 6 is to the west of the medieval core and centred around the Riverhead. It originated as an industrial area which developed following the construction of the canal. There is a mixture of industrial and residential buildings, which are predominantly red brick. These were developed between the 18th and 20th centuries, with the earlier buildings largely being constructed for industrial purposes. In the modern period the HUCA is largely residential with many of the former warehouses converted to flats or housing. The newer housing is in keeping with the 19th century industrial aesthetic. HUCA 7 is an area of residential expansion to the south of the town. It includes mainly 20th century housing, and reflects the growing population and size of the town over this period. HUCA 8 is an agricultural area and is located to the south and north of the survey boundary. It is comprised of modern fields, farmsteads and agricultural units. Modern industrial development in the survey area is represented by HUCA 9. This character area comprises Fairfields Industrial Estate, which was built in the 1960s.

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Acknowledgements

Caitlin Green, Louth Museum, Ruth Gatenby, Jean Howard, David Stocker, Paul Everson, Richard Gurnham, Louth Naturalists' Antiquarian and Literary Society, Richard Watts.

Extensive Urban Survey



Westgate facing east

Louth 2021

Project Number 2897

Historic England, Lincolnshire County Council

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