



Lincoln

Report for Transform Lincoln

October 2024



**GATHER
MOVEMENT**

Purpose and Method

These slides are presented in response to an invitation from Joy and Paul Blundell on behalf of Transform Lincoln to Paul Hildreth and Mark Cowling to undertake a study on understanding Lincoln. The results are a case study that addresses two questions. Firstly, how can a better understanding of Lincoln as a place within its broader regional setting help local partners become more effective in their mission and civic engagement in the city and with its region? Secondly, can improving our understanding of Lincoln and other English towns and cities as places contribute to the mission of the Gather Movement nationally?

This case study illustrates how places are diverse, resulting in varying outcomes for different places. In addition, no place is a self-contained island but exists within a broader regional and national spatial context. In this context, places are shaped over the long term by their geography, history, and relational context. A better and unified understanding of this may enable local partners to appreciate how Lincoln might realise its long-term potential within its region and break down social, economic, and environmental barriers of division and inequality within the city.



The following information draws on a visit to Lincoln by Paul Hildreth and Mark Cowling on November 15th and 16th, 2023. Additional interviews were conducted online in November and early December, with further conversations in 2024. This research was supplemented by additional reading and data collection about the city of Lincoln. We are thankful to Joy and Paul Blundell for the opportunity to learn more about Lincoln and meet all those who contributed to this research. Special thanks to Sian Wade, Simon Hawking, Stuart Bell, Cllr Chris Burke, Cllr Richard Metcalfe, Alan Robson, Sam Turner, Pete Atkins, Hamish Falconer, Martin Walmsley, Graham Rose, and Charlotte Brookes for their valuable contributions to this project. This report was updated in March and October 2024 following additional consultation and feedback from interviewees on the report.

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Introduction

It becomes immediately obvious when visiting Lincoln that it is a special place. The cathedral standing on the hill dramatically overlooks the surrounding urban and rural landscape for miles. Signs of Lincoln's exceptionally rich historical, architectural, cultural, and more recent past are prominent in the city centre and on the way up to the Cathedral and the Castle area. In meetings for this project on 'understanding place', it becomes clear that Lincoln offers an exceptionally strong sense of faith and community to build on and an openness to collaborate with innovation. And yet, it is also a city facing significant challenges. This study seeks to offer insights into Lincoln as a place. It draws on methodologies to understand place, including those applied elsewhere to medium and small cities. It has crucially involved listening to people from different walks of life in the city and surrounding Lincolnshire, who have shared their insights about Lincoln, its regional context, its communities, and its future.

Like other cities, Lincoln is not an island but relates to other places through the flows and interactions of people and firms. In addition, places are diverse in their character, content, and identity. These diverse characteristics are shaped in three dimensions: geography, history, and relationships. Lincoln's geography is important because it enabled the city to become a significant city in the Middle Ages, the service centre for its surrounding agricultural region, and a site for related manufacturing specialisms in the mid-19th Century. This geography, combined with history, shaped the city's fortunes over centuries, rising in Roman and Norman Britain, declining from the mid-14th to the end of the 17th century, and returning through the agricultural revolution and late into the industrial revolution. But these also combined to have other consequences. First, local and national decisions were made that would separate Lincoln from the main North-South road and rail routes, and these decisions were only corrected in recent years. Second, separating an imposing and wealthy city on a hill and a poorer industrial settlement below has left a legacy of social isolation that remains now.

Geography and history have also shaped the flows and relationships that characterise the Lincoln of today. First, we observe the economic flows of home-to-work, home-to-shop, home-to-home in-house moves, home-to-education, home-to-cultural entertainment, and how firms relate to their customers and suppliers. These collectively have enabled Lincoln to become an 'independent economic centre', servicing and interacting with its surrounding agricultural region. Second, Lincoln has the characteristics of a 'regional services city' that combines its other roles in culture, manufacturing, retail, and university that have developed in its long and distinguished history.

Relationships are also vital in a second sense. As illustrated in the work of different faith, economic, governance, and social institutions that Mark Cowling and I met during our visit in November 2023, the capacity of a city to collaborate and innovate together is central to meeting the different challenges that the city and its population face. In this respect, Lincoln offers exceptional possibilities. This report will help provide a strategic focus for the important tasks ahead by answering the question 'What and who is Lincoln'?

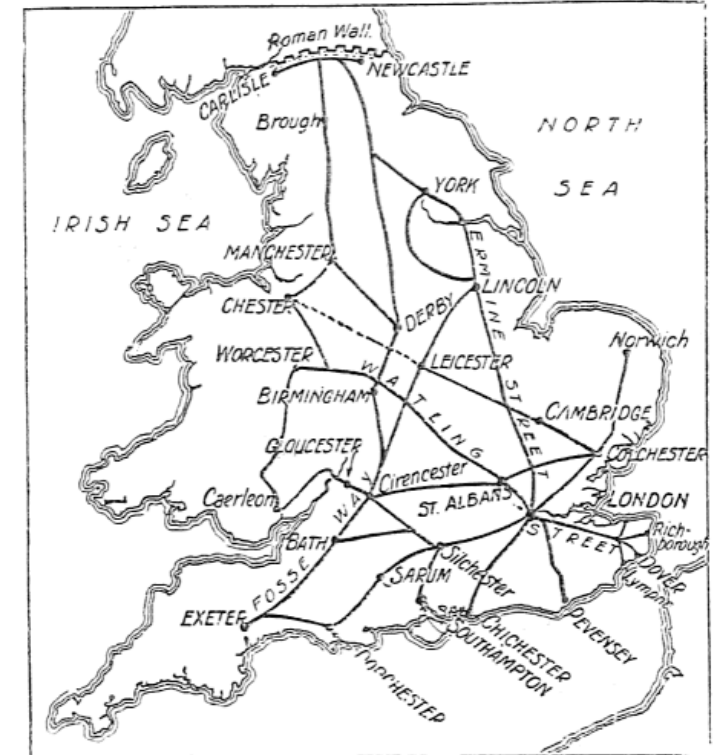
Lincoln

Lincoln is a small city in Lincolnshire, with a population of around 104,000. It is one of 29 small and mid-sized English cities in the Key Cities Network, which aims to achieve appropriate recognition for their contributions to the national economy and society. Lincoln has been shaped by its geography, history, and relationships.

Lincoln is situated on a hill at a gap in the Jurassic ridge that runs north-south through Lincolnshire, which gives it strategic positional advantages. The Romans recognised this and connected Lincoln with London and the North of England through the Ermine Way and to the southwest through the Fosse Way. They also built a canal to connect Lincoln to the River Trent to enable trade to and from the city, beginning its long-term role as a market town. Lincoln (Lindinium Colonia) became one of the largest settlements in Roman England outside London, alongside Winchester, York, and Norwich. The Normans understood the site's key importance and built a castle, followed by the cathedral, which dominates the surrounding landscape. Lincoln grew to become, at one point, the third-largest city in England, with significant royal connections. The city hosted the English Parliament on several occasions. It was also the site of important battles, including defeating the forces of King Louis VIII of France in 1217. The city witnessed many other significant events in English history, which have collectively provided it with an exceptionally rich social, cultural, and architectural heritage. However, Lincoln went into economic, social, and built decline from the middle of the 14th century until a revival began towards the end of the 17th century. By the first household census of 1801, the city's population had recovered to its Middle Ages high of 7,000, having declined to around 2,000 in earlier centuries. The city then experienced rapid growth in the 19th century, marked by a successful period of industrialisation, reaching 50,000 by 1900.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, the Industrial Revolution changed Lincoln's position within the English urban hierarchy. Derby and Nottingham in the Midlands and Sheffield and Leeds in the North experienced rapid growth. For instance, Sheffield was just a village during the medieval period. Its population grew to around 5,000 in the late 17th century. However, the city's iron and steel industries, supported by local skills and access to natural resources, led to a significant growth in population. By 1851, Sheffield's population rose to 135,000 and over 400,000 by 1900. Today, Sheffield has a population of 556,000, while Lincoln's population has remained relatively stable at around 104,000.

Given this background, what sets Lincoln apart as a place? Why has Lincoln followed a different development path from its larger city neighbours? What does this imply for comprehending Lincoln's identity as a city? The next two sections will examine what characterises Lincoln in comparison to other English mid-sized and smaller cities.



SKETCH MAP OF THE PRINCIPAL ROMAN HIGHWAYS.

Source: <https://www.cantab.net/>

Lincoln - an independent economic centre

Smaller and mid-sized cities play different roles within the English urban system, which are influenced by their unique geographies, histories, and relationships. One way to understand this is by examining their travel-to-work areas. This analysis provides insight into the city's economic reach and its various roles. The Centre for Cities has identified four types of economic relationships between these cities and the places around them based on analysing the movements to and from each place (Bolton and Hildreth, 2013).

The following slide depicts the travel-to-work patterns of English cities and specifically places Lincoln within its regional context. It highlights Lincoln as an independent economic centre. This means that Lincoln, historically a market town, is unusual for northern England by having an independent travel-to-work area with little significant interaction with neighbouring city economies. However, before the mid-19th century, Lincoln tended towards the 'economically isolated' model. Lincoln faced two major setbacks in its past, in addition to its economic and social decline between the 14th and 17th centuries. Firstly, the construction of the Great North Road and the Trent Bridge at Newark in 1787-1791 bypassed the city. Secondly, although the flat Witham Valley made Lincoln a good choice of route for the Great Northern Railway, opposition to railways by the MP to Lincoln meant that the city missed out on this direct rail link. Direct rail services to London were eventually introduced in October 2019.

Cities that have evolved as a 'regional service centre', often with an industrial past, tend to follow a pattern of developing into independent economic centres. These cities have relatively diverse economies, highly qualified workforces, and a growing service sector. They also have a rich asset base, such as a university, a city centre, heritage sites, and strong inter-city connectivity. Lincoln has been progressing in this direction, particularly with its university becoming a transformative project for the city. However, with its asset base and a strong sense of community, it has the potential to go further.

City relationship	Definition	Cities/Towns
Independent economic centres	Cities with self-contained travel-to-work areas, and stronger economies and labour markets	Lincoln, Norwich, Preston, Exeter, Brighton, Milton Keynes
Economically isolated	Cities that are geographically self-contained, but have weaker economies and labour markets	Hull, Grimsby, Blackburn, Middlesborough, Stoke-on-Trent
Economically dependent	Cities dependent on the economies and labour markets of nearby larger cities	Bolton and Wigan (dependent on Manchester), Huddersfield and Wakefield (dependent on Leeds)
Interdependent economies	Cities sharing economy and labour market links with a nearby larger city	Bournemouth, Portsmouth, Southampton (interdependent on each other)

Based on Bolton and Hildreth, 2013

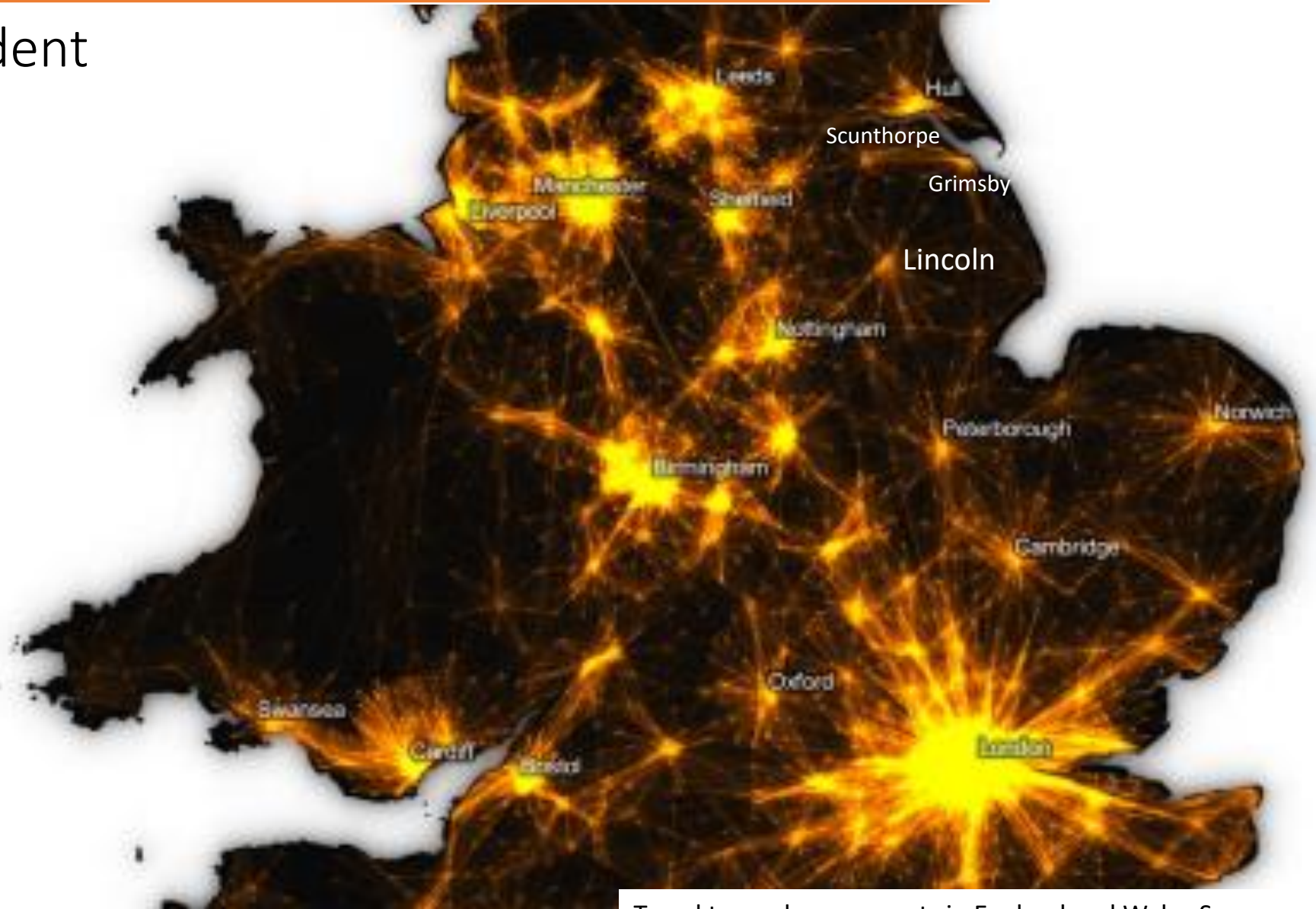
Lincoln – an independent economic centre

This diagram illustrates the travel-to-work movements for English cities outside of the south of England and positions Lincoln within its regional context of Greater Lincolnshire.

Lincoln is unusual as a northern English city, having such a strong travel to work area for its small size and being relatively independent from the economies of its neighbouring Core Cities of Nottingham, Sheffield and Leeds. In this respect, it has parallels with Norwich.

It illustrates Lincoln as an ‘independent economic centre’ with a strong relationship with its surrounding (largely rural) region and with little dependence or inter-dependence with its neighbouring urban centres. This picture contrasts with Grimsby and Scunthorpe, which are both ‘economically isolated’, being both largely self-contained with weaker economies and labour markets.

This ‘independent economic centre’ pattern is common to cities that have evolved as ‘regional services centres’ that may also involve an industrial past during their histories



Travel to work movements in England and Wales Source: Alastair Rae, 2017
Data from the 2011 Census

Lincoln – a regional services city

Cities are not isolated places but are connected to other places through the movement and interaction of people and businesses over time and space. However, mid-sized and smaller cities have different roles that reflect their distinctive histories and geographical location. These roles can be explored through a typology, which is a way of simplifying complex characteristics. It's important to note that cities may have features that belong to two or more city types (see Slide 9).

Due to its rich history, Lincoln displays features from several of these types. It's a heritage/tourism city renowned for its cultural significance, but there are other focuses besides this. Lincoln also has a significant industrial history as an engineering city. However, this category typically applies to a city whose growth was centred around its industrial specialization, such as Blackburn and Stoke-on-Trent.

Lincoln's leading engineering firms, such as Foster's, Ruston and Hornby, and Robey, developed in the mid-19th century. They initially supplied agricultural equipment in Lincolnshire and later to international markets. This local expertise led to the invention and production of tanks in Lincoln during the First World War. It was also an important centre for aircraft manufacture. Although this industrial past is crucial to Lincoln's history, built environment, and social context, it is not central to an extended narrative of Lincoln's geography and history.

Lincoln belongs to the regional services city model, which combines essential elements from other city types. For instance, the city's strategic location may have been the reason for its original development, as with Lincoln. The city may have had an industrial past. Still, unlike industrial cities, it is not the focus of the city's long-term purpose, and it has diversified into different industries and services. Regional services cities attract visitors because of their cultural, architectural, and historical significance. They typically have a university that is vital for building an information-based economy. They have an edge over gateway cities in terms of being attractive places to visit and stay rather than just passing through. They are usually directly linked to the capital city. However, they may face challenges in transitioning from their industrial past to becoming a modern services economy, which involves addressing social and restructuring costs, dealing with the redundancy of old skills, and tackling inequality. Jones (2011:14) compares Lincoln to Manchester, observing that *'until recently, at least, Lincoln ticked along more gently, on a longer timescale and nothing very much happened quickly'*. However, a transformation is happening with the arrival of Lincoln University. Also, improved road and rail transport connections, alongside City Centre infrastructure investment, have played their part. Lincoln's economy has increasingly become dependent on services – public administration, education and health, restaurants, and hotels. This is alongside the remains of engineering e.g. Siemens Energy and Siemens Mobility, and newer industries, in the LN6 area.

A regional services city	
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relatively diverse economy with a developing service economy• Rich asset base (e.g., city centre, university, architectural heritage, retail centre, cultural assets)• Destination rather than a transit point• 'Cultural buzz' attractive to new and potential skilled workforce
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Successful transition from an industrial past into a modern service economy• Spreading benefits of city centre renaissance and economy to more deprived and divided parts of the city• Improving national and international connectivity of the city
Examples	Norwich, Exeter, Preston, Lincoln

Typology of small and mid-sized cities/towns

An industrial 'city' – is a city that historically developed specifically around one or more dominant industrial sectors because of its physical geographical advantages and advantageous proximity to raw materials (*e.g. Blackburn, Stoke-on-Trent, Scunthorpe*).

A gateway 'city' – a city that provides connections for goods and/or people to and from the external economy (for example as a port) (*e.g. Hull and Grimsby*).

A heritage/tourism 'city' – a city that attracts national/international visitors because of its advantageous position (*e.g. a coastal or mountain resort*), and its natural, historical, and cultural assets (*e.g. Bath, Blackpool*).

A university knowledge 'city' – a city that contains a leading university with expertise in science and technology and the capacity to promote innovation in clusters of spin-off companies in the local economy (*e.g. Cambridge, Oxford*).

A city in the capital– or large city-region – a city that benefits from its physical connection to a capital - or large city region by specialising in complementary knowledge-intensive-industries that give the larger city its comparative advantage in the national or global economy (*e.g. Aldershot, Reading*).

A regional services 'city' – a city that historically has grown through supplying employment opportunities and retail and other services to its wider region (*e.g. Norwich, Leeds*).

Source: Hildreth, 2006, 2007

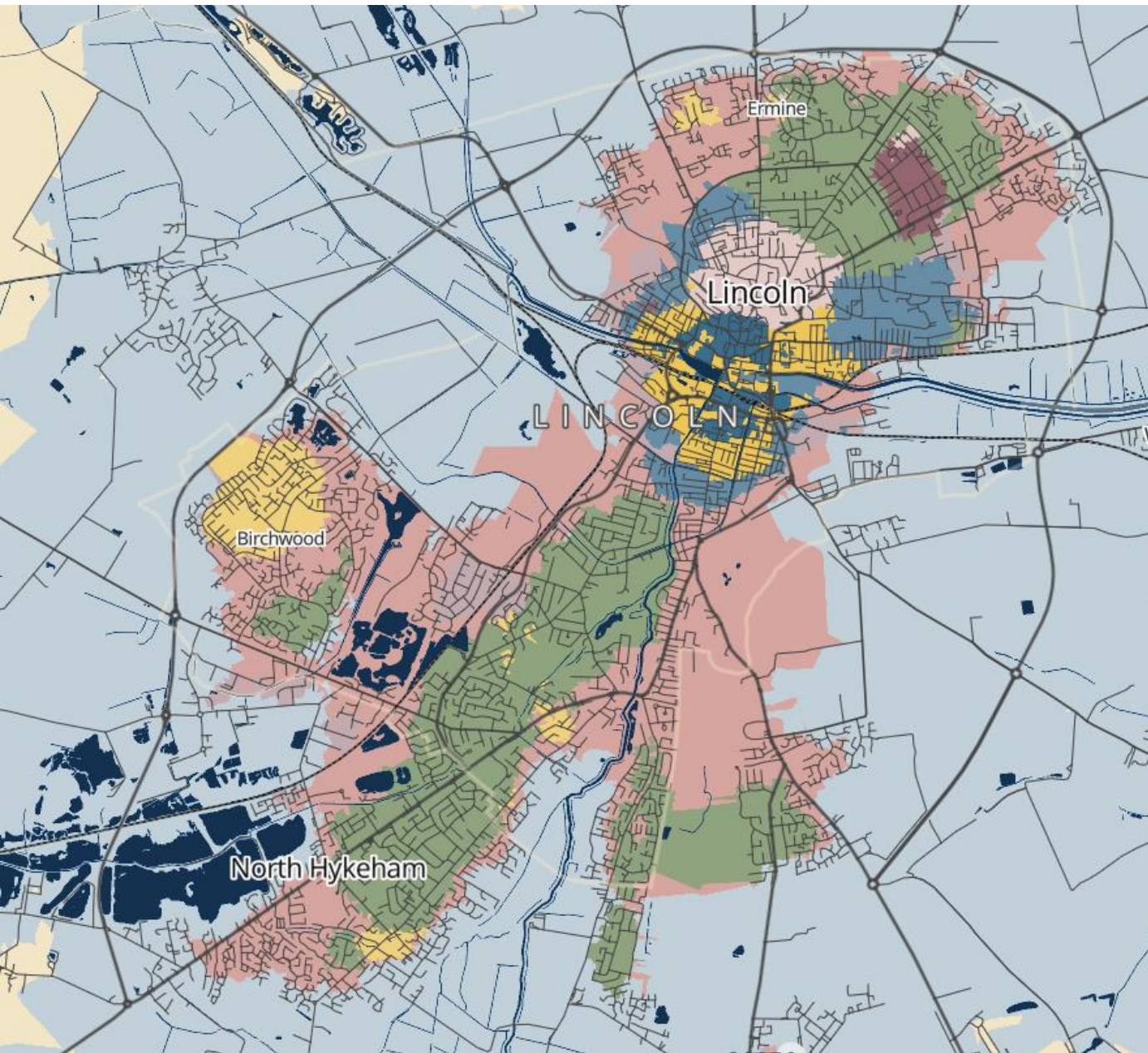
Social Lincoln

Despite the undoubted progress made in the transformation of Lincoln, there are major social and inequality challenges in the City, reinforced by upheaval from the financial crises of 2008/9, Austerity and post-Covid. Several interviewees raised social inequality in the City. This is not a new issue for Lincoln and was central to its development in the 18th and 19th centuries. Jones (2011: 86) highlights the contrast between *'growing industry downhill and affluent citizens of uphill'*. He cites Daniel Defoe's write-up of his visit to Lincoln in 1712 that described the lower city as *'...ragged, decayed, and still decaying'*, whilst the upper city was *'congenial for its architecture and for the company that it provided'*. Despite changes in the lower city, it was interesting that the legacy of this divide is observed today. It was reported that the Stonebow is an emotional barrier to the upper city for many today. And that people living in Birchwood never set foot in the City Centre.

Lincoln, overall, is not a wealthy city. Slide 11 shows that the city has challenges of deprivation and wealth inequalities. It also has a lot of low-paid employment. However, median annual earnings in the city in 2022 were slightly above the East Midlands average. Poor housing quality near the City Centre is a legacy of Lincoln's industrial past with the construction of Victorian small terraced properties formerly occupied by the industrial working classes. There is also significant deprivation in pre-war and post-war housing estates in the north and south of the city. The area on the hill around the Cathedral was always occupied by wealthier residents, creating a continuing gap between the hill and below. Increasingly, better-paid workers tend to live outside the city in the surrounding villages and commute into the city.

Housing in the lower city close to former industrial sites





Spatial Signatures

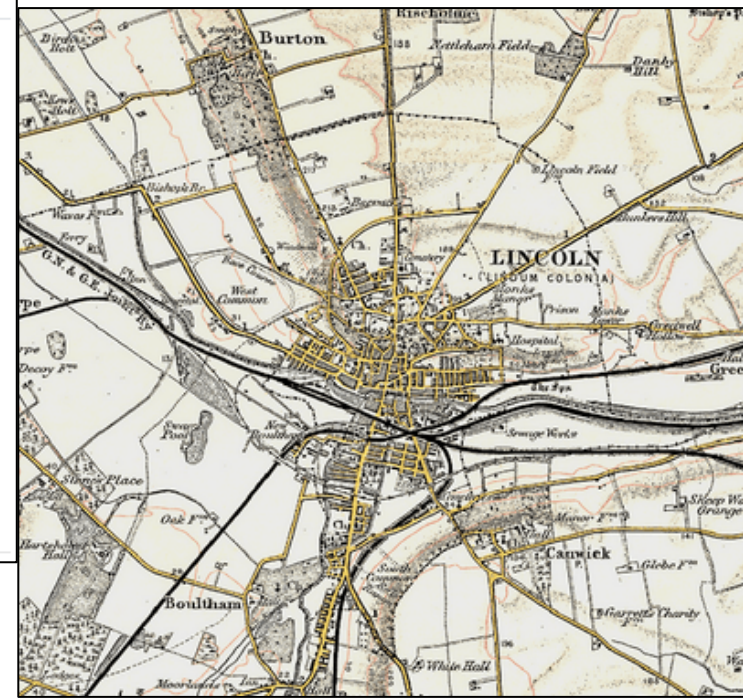
Spatial signatures characterise space based on form and function in a way designed to understand urban environments. Part of the Urban Grammar project, this maps shows a typology of spatial signatures in Great Britain. Each type has a distinct character capturing what the place looks like (form) and how it is used (function).

[Download the data](#)
[Download PDF report](#)

Legend Filter

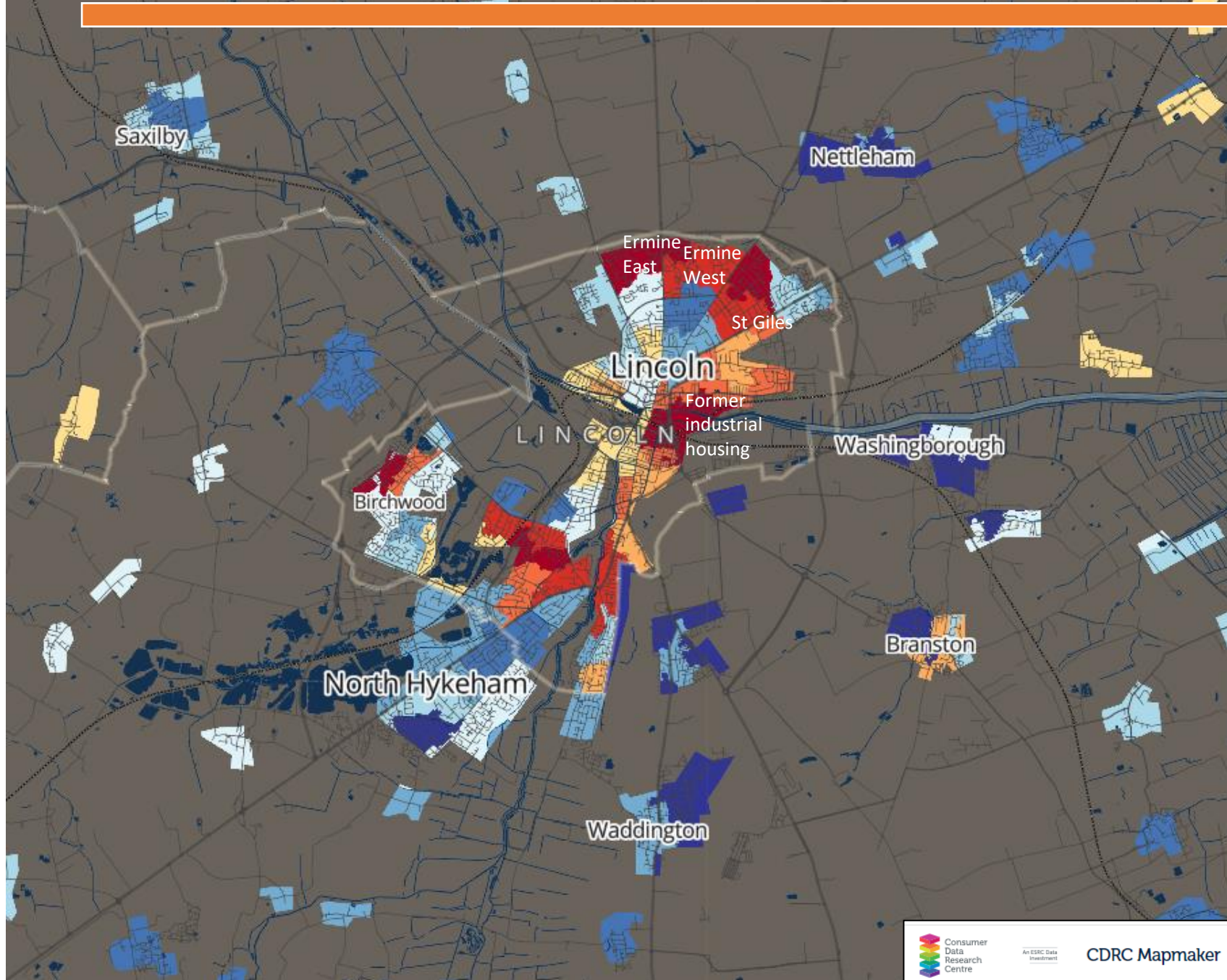
- Accessible suburbia
- Connected residential neighbourhoods
- Countryside agriculture
- Dense residential neighbourhoods
- Dense urban neighbourhoods
- Disconnected suburbia
- Concentrated urbanity
- Gridded residential quarters
- Hyper concentrated urbanity
- Local urbanity
- Metropolitan urbanity
- Open sprawl
- Regional urbanity
- Urban buffer
- Warehouse/Park land
- Wild countryside

The spatial signatures illustrate the city's urban form and functions. The pink area indicates the residential area close to the cathedral and castle on the hill. The retail area and dense Victorian urban suburbs at the bottom of the hill connect with this. Later, development occurred to the SW and NE of the central city, followed by more recent expansion on the city's outer edges, creating a relatively long but narrow physical footprint of the town. This contrasts with the more compact form of the city from 1902 to 1903, as shown below.



OS Map of Lincoln 1902 to 1903

Further information from <https://data.cdrc.ac.uk/dataset/spatial-signatures-great-britain>



Deprivation

Small area measures of relative deprivation across each of the nations of the UK, often broken into deprivation domains.

[Download From CDRC Data](#)

[Download PDF report](#)

Legend Filter

English 2019 IMD (E19) ▾

- No data
- Most deprived decile
- 2nd
- 3rd
- 4th
- 5th
- 6th
- 7th
- 8th
- 9th
- Least deprived decile

The spatial segmentation of deprivation in Lincoln

Based on IMD data from 2019, this slide illustrates the nature of social inequality in Lincoln. The most deprived locations (in deciles 1 and 2) lie alongside the former central industrial area with Victorian housing and in pre-war and post-war housing estates in the North and South of the City. However, Lincoln is not a wealthy city. There are a few small areas in the 9th and 10th deciles, but the rest of the city lies in deciles in between. The wealthier areas are in villages close to but outside the City.



census 2021

The Census 2021 maps and data are extremely useful for interrogating information online about the city in more detail, including at very local levels, as shown in the following slide.

Census maps

Use our maps to find out what people's lives were like across England and Wales in March 2021.

The dimensions of deprivation used to classify households are indicators based on four selected household characteristics.

Education A household is classified as deprived in the education dimension if no one has at least level 2 education and no one aged 16 to 18 years is a full-time student.

Employment A household is classified as deprived in the employment dimension if any member, not a full-time student, is either unemployed or economically inactive due to long-term sickness or disability.

Health A household is classified as deprived in the health dimension if any person in the household has general health that is bad or very bad or is identified as disabled. People who have assessed their day-to-day activities as limited by long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses are considered disabled. This definition of a disabled person meets the harmonised standard for measuring disability and is in line with the Equality Act (2010).

Housing A household is classified as deprived in the housing dimension if its accommodation is either overcrowded, shared, or without central heating.

Census maps

Use our maps to find out what people's lives were like across England and Wales in March 2021.

Map

Census 2021

Area

E00078578 **OA** X

Topic

[Home](#) > [Population](#) > Household deprivation

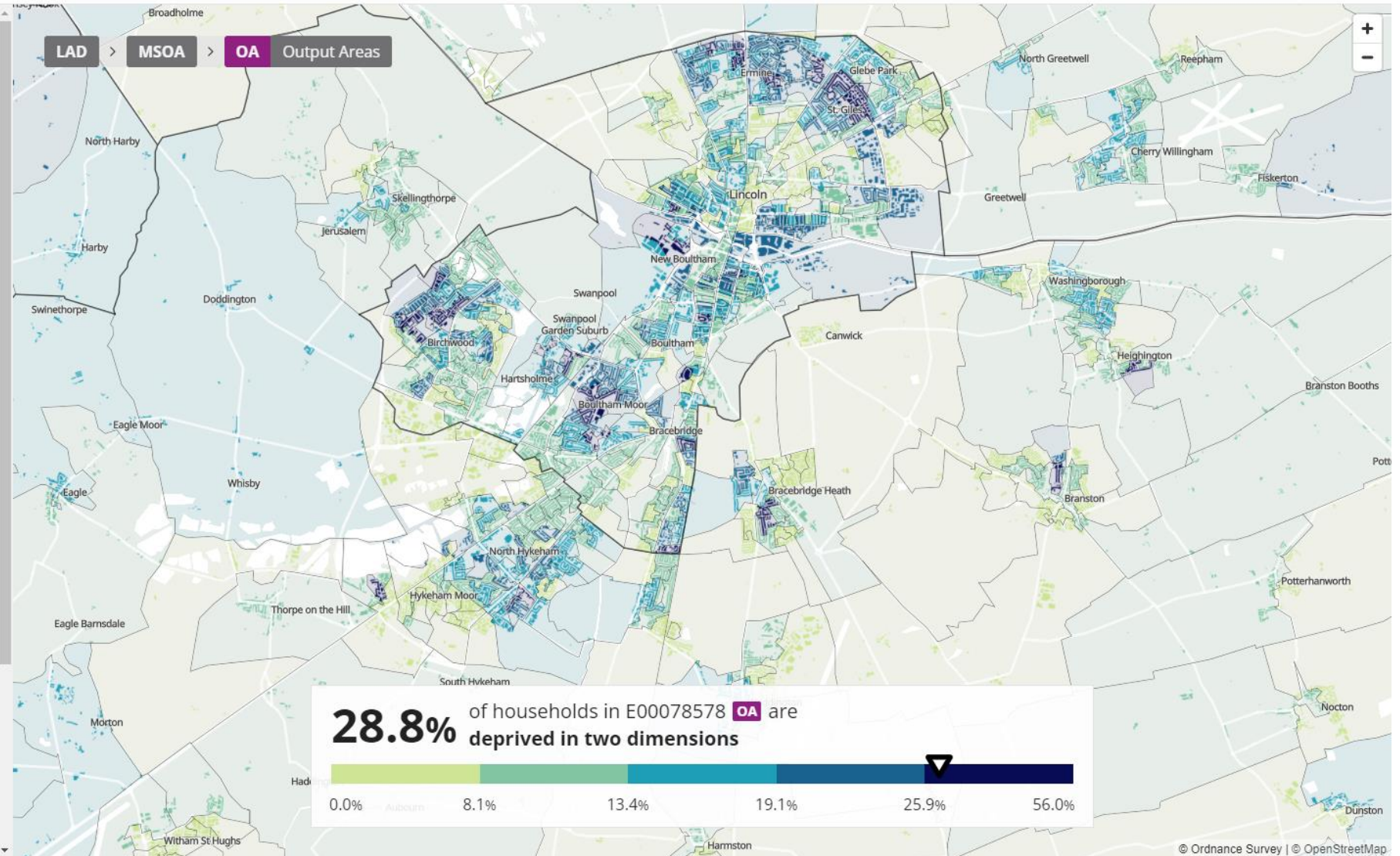
Whether a household is deprived in one or more ways. ⓘ

- Household is not deprived in any dimension
- Household is deprived in one dimension
- Household is deprived in two dimensions
- Household is deprived in three dimensions
- Household is deprived in four dimensions

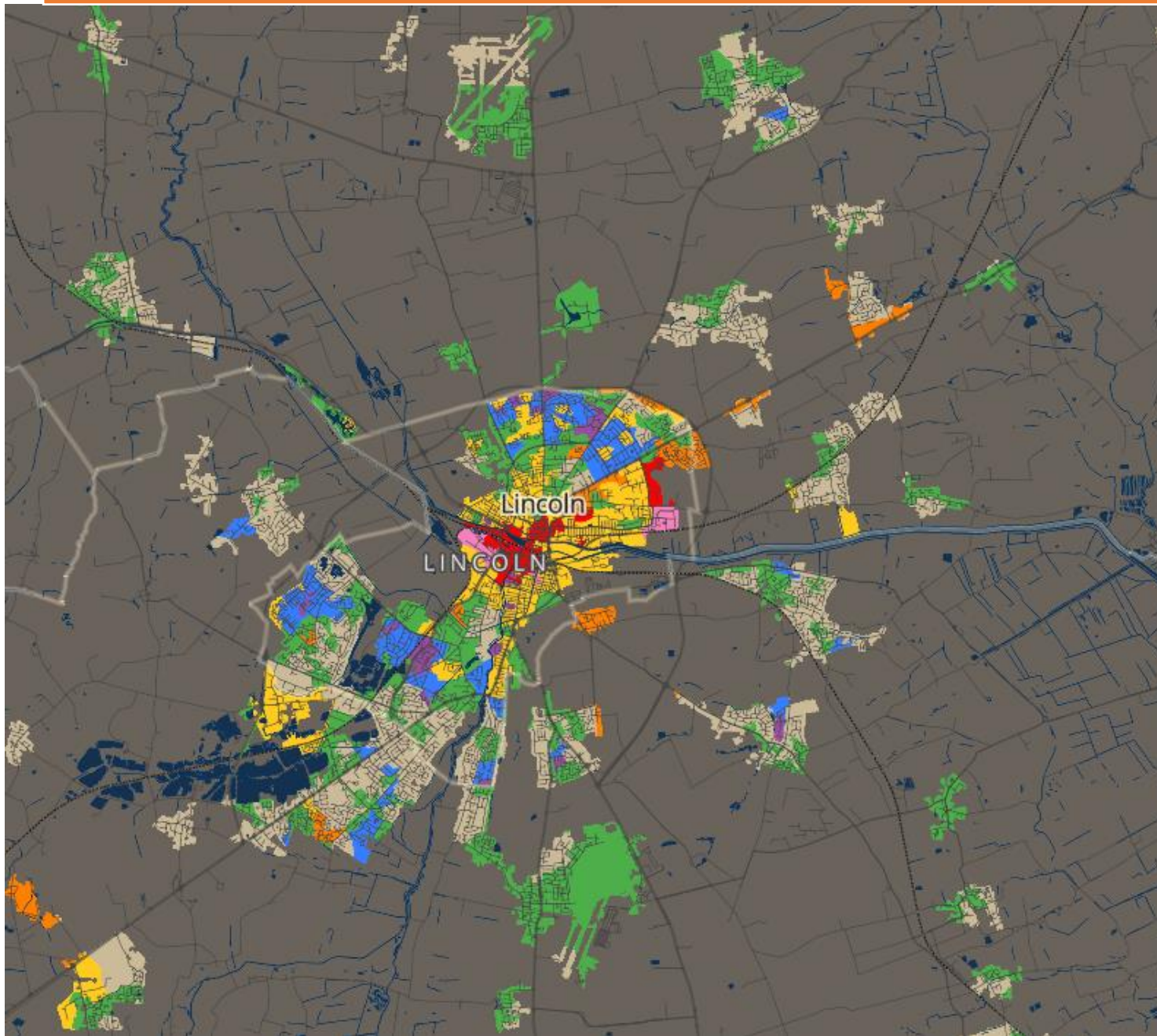
Use and share

- [Share this map](#)
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- [Embed this map](#)

Office for National Statistics



Detailed 2021 census maps can be interrogated in a more informed way online at different spatial levels. They illustrate the concentration of deprivation across four dimensions: education, employment, health, and housing. These maps show similar patterns to the IMD data but allow close-up observation. For further information, see <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census>



Output Area Classification

Output Area Classification (OAC) for England/Wales

[Download the data](#)

Related map: [Output Area Classification 2011](#)

Related map: [London Output Area Classification](#)

[Download PDF report](#)

Legend

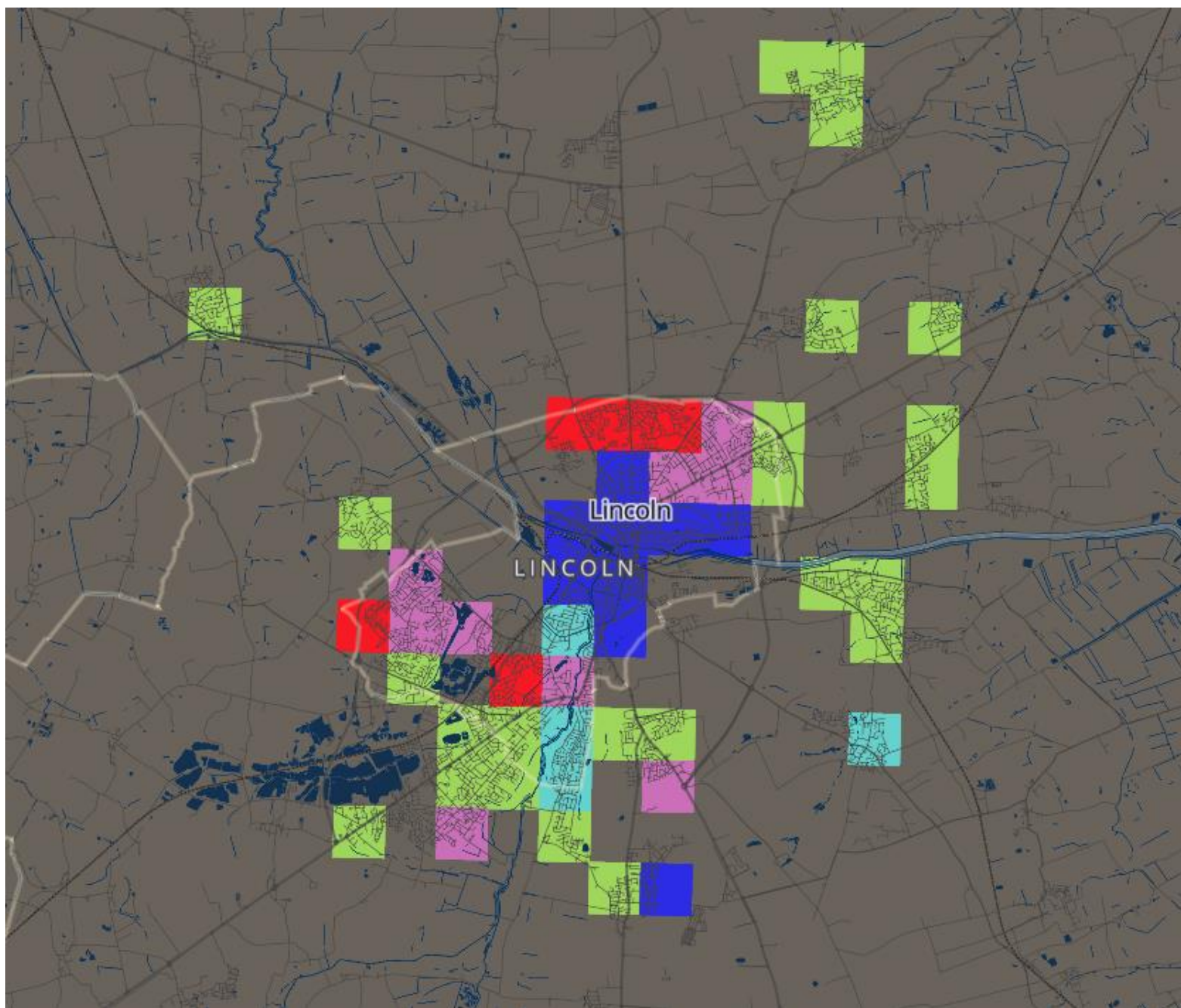
Filter

Supergroup

- Retired Professionals
- Suburbanites & Peri-Urbanites
- Multicultural & Educated Urbanites
- Low-Skilled Migrant & Student Communities
- Ethnically Diverse Suburban Professionals
- Baseline UK
- Semi- & Un-Skilled Workforce
- Legacy Communities

Standard classification of households by Output Area

This chart is based on a classification of residential groups across England and Wales. Web links to the background data and definitions are provided below. Central Lincoln (**red**) has a relatively high proportion of multicultural urbanites (i.e. university/students). The **yellow** area surrounding this is described as 'baseline UK', in that it reflects the broad base of the UK's social structure with average levels of neighbourhood characteristics (e.g. housing tenure – terraced and flats, educational attainment, employment – lower-skilled jobs). The **light brown** particularly reflects retired professionals from professional/skilled occupations. **Green** is suburbanites typically living in their own homes and having an A Level/degree education in skilled or professional occupations. Purple is 'legacy communities' i.e., neighbourhoods characteristically comprising flats, especially in towns with a legacy of heavy industry. **Orange** is ethnically diverse suburban professionals in managerial and professional occupations



Neighbourhood Trajectories



An ESRC Data Investment

CDRC Mapmaker

A classification of neighbourhood trajectories - a sequence of transitions of each neighbourhood (1km grid) between neighbourhood type at each census year as defined by Patias, Rowe and Cavazzi (2018). Based on temporally-and geographically-consistent 1km gridded sets of population counts, encompassing demographic, socioeconomic and housing attributes, from the Censuses Britain conducted in 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011.

[Download the data](#)

[Download PDF report](#)

Legend

Filter

- Upwarding thriving
- Increasing socioeconomic diversity
- Increasing struggling home-owners
- Rejuvenating
- Stable affluent
- Ageing manual labour
- Stable multicultural urban

Neighbourhood trajectories 1971-2011

This chart provides a classification of the socioeconomic profile of British neighbourhoods at a 1 km² grid level over time. The data is compared over 10-year intervals from 1971 to 2011. **Dark blue** are areas transitioning from being dominated by blue-collar families to an older, thriving neighbourhood type. **Dark pink** are areas transitioning from struggling or blue-collar families to a mixed worker's suburban type. **Light blue** are areas transitioning from struggling or blue-collar families to a mixed worker's suburban type. **Red** are areas transitioning from families in council rent to a struggling type. **Green** are areas transitioning from an older striving, or remaining in, a thriving suburban type.

What is distinctive about Lincoln

Historical city	From Roman to Medieval to modern times. Lincoln has an exceptional cultural, architectural, and historical legacy.
A small city/ A 'Key City'	A population of around 104,000 travel to a work area of 175,000 and a retail catchment area of 240,000.
City on a Hill	Built upon a strategic position (castle and cathedral), at a gap in the Lincolnshire Jurassic Ridge
A 'regional services city'	Developed from Roman Times as a market town, it serviced its local region (Greater Lincolnshire) over its history, including manufacturing agricultural equipment from the mid-19 th century.
But with an important Industrial history	Lincoln has a significant industrial history in agricultural engineering, which dates to the mid-19th century. The city was home to several firms that produced machinery for Lincolnshire's agricultural industry and international markets. The tank was invented locally during the First World War as a byproduct of this industry. However, this industry experienced a decline from the 1950s to the 1980s. Despite this, Siemens Energy still operates a manufacturing and servicing facility at their Lincoln site, where they produce gas turbines. Siemens Mobility undertakes servicing of train bogies at its Siemens Mobility Service Centre in the city.
Tightly bounded	Lincoln is tightly bounded, with its urban footprint spilling over into neighbouring Districts (North Hykeham, in North Kesteven a town with a population of 13,884 is connected to Lincoln). Lincoln occupies a footprint barely the size of a suburb of Birmingham.
Socially segmented city	Lincoln still reflects long-term social divisions from the 18 th century and before from the 'city on the hill and below'. Pre-war and post-war social housing developments in the north and south of the central city have reinforced these. This may be reinforced in community identity, sometimes more with where people live than with the city (e.g., North Hykeham, even though it is part of the urban footprint of the city). Also, whilst the university is an enormous asset to the city, its relative scale is challenging the internal character and unity of the city.
A transitioning city	Lincoln has seen significant social change from the 1970s onwards. It is now a younger, more diverse city, in which the university presence has played a major part.
A university city	The universities have been transformative for Lincoln. Now with 16,000 students and establishing a Medical School (National Centre for Rural Health and Social Care). However, just 15% retention of students in the city is lower than for other university cities. The university presence has transformed the demographics of the city (younger, more diverse, more female).
Emerging new industries	The city has started to attract new industries, for example around Tritton Road (LN6) e.g. Micrometrics (parts for the Health Service) and Grand Theft Auto.

What is distinctive about Lincoln

A cautious independent city	Several interviewees said that Lincoln was a cautious city, in which change does not occur fast. They pointed to Lincoln’s history of resisting road and rail connectivity and its record of independence. A perception that Lincoln ‘ <i>doesn’t innovate or change like other places</i> ’ was identified in the Lincoln Cultural Compact Consultation with the city’s young people. But there was also a recognition that the city is embracing change, through the university, city centre development, and improved national connectivity.
A city that people return to	There is a strong pride in Lincoln. It is a city that, even when people move away, they may seek to return to. This sense of pride can be parochial rather than outward-looking in character. But it may also be a considerable strength by valuing the importance of community and shared identity.
A green city	A city with an active and innovative green voice.
A socially active city	Lincoln has existing groups that are actively engaged in conversations and actions relating to the future of the local place. These include Local Motion, Acts Trust, Lincoln Against Poverty, Lincolnshire Financial Inclusion Partnership, Greater Lincolnshire Local Economic Partnership, the Cooperative Society, Transform Lincoln, NHS Transformation, and Lincoln Towns Deal Board. 105 local organisations are accredited to the Lincoln Social Responsibility Charter.
A sense of pride in Lincoln	A sense of pride can be both a positive and an opposing force. Historically, it has been a constraint on the city, fostering an inward-looking approach to its development, for example, in the history of the railway. Today, it is a positive force through Lincoln’s strong sense of community, taking on positive causes, e.g., a sustainable environment, welcoming diversity in the City, addressing inequality, and being outward-looking.
Location of International Bomber Command Centre	Lincoln is the International Bomber Command Centre (IBCC) location, opened as a focal point for recognition, remembrance and reconciliation for Bomber Command. The Centre and its memorial spire share the story of over one million people from 62 nations who served with Bomber Command and remember the 58,000 out of 125,000 aircrews who lost their lives during World War II. The history of Bomber Command has deep roots in Lincolnshire.

Lincoln in Greater Lincolnshire

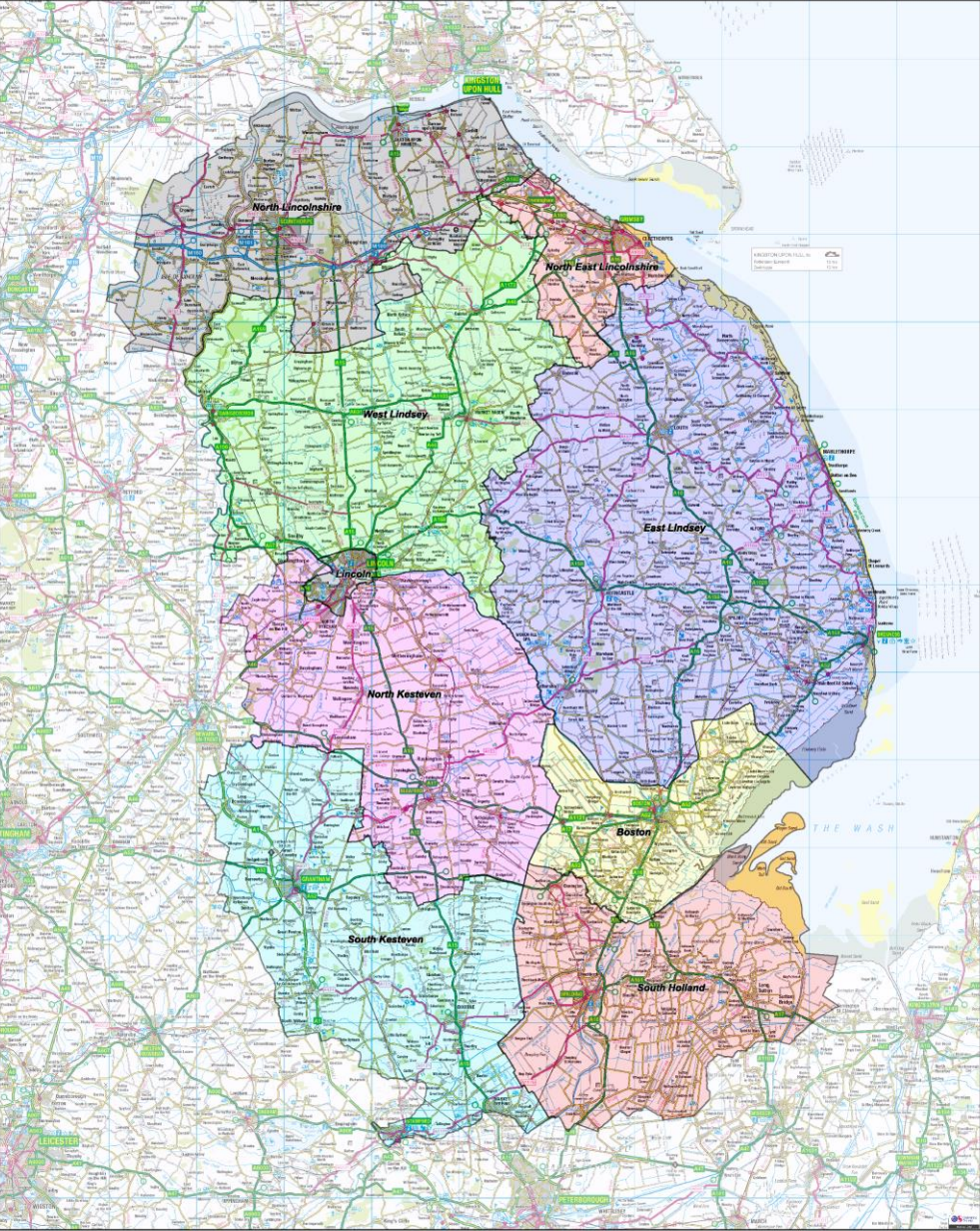
Character - Greater Lincolnshire is a largely rural area with three primary urban settlements – Lincoln, Grimsby (gateway town/isolated), and Scunthorpe (industrial town/isolated). It also has market towns such as Alford, Boston, Stamford, Spalding, and Grantham.

Lincolnshire is an important farming county with a significant number of large landowners, including the Church Commission and the Lincolnshire County Council. Approximately 50% of farms in the county are run by tenant farmers. However, Brexit and UK farming policies related to farming, food, and the environment have presented significant challenges to the area. As shown in slide 18, some parts of Lincolnshire, such as North Lincolnshire, Scunthorpe, and the North Sea coast, are facing severe deprivation. On the other hand, South Lincolnshire and the Wolds are pleasant places to be.

Governance - Greater Lincolnshire is presently made up of the following local authorities

- North Lincolnshire – including Scunthorpe (unitary)
- North East Lincolnshire – Grimsby, Immingham and Cleethorpes (unitary)
- Lincolnshire County Council
- City of Lincoln (District)
- West Lindsey (District)
- East Lindsey (District)
- North Kesteven (District)
- South Kesteven (District)
- Boston - Boston (District)
- South Holland- Spalding (District)

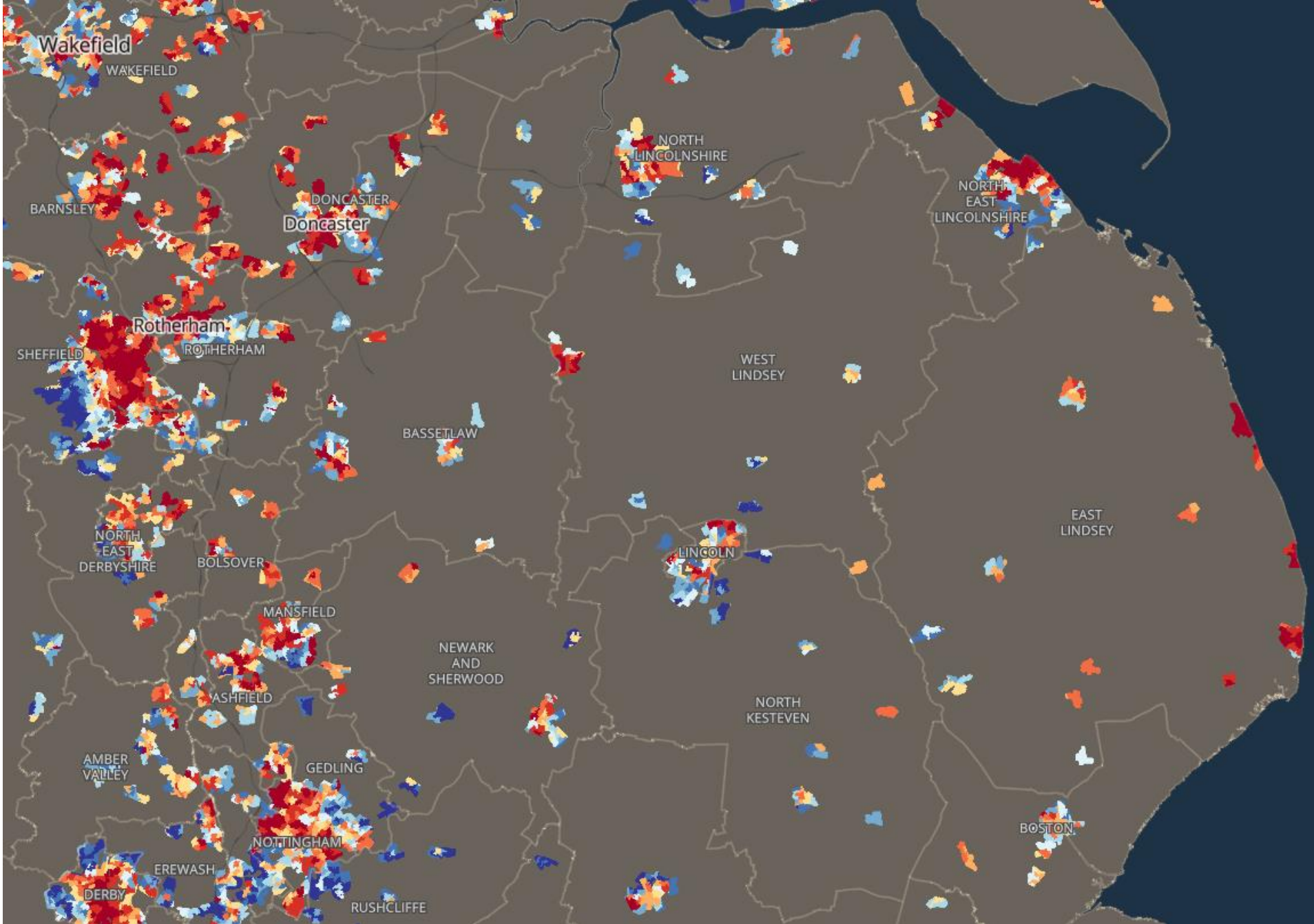
In November 2023, a devolution agreement was reached between the government and the local authorities of Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire, and North East Lincolnshire. This will see the creation of the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined Authority alongside a directly elected Mayor for the area. The first Mayoral election is to be held in May 2025.



District Map
Lincolnshire
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Map Key
1:50,000 Scale

Area Covered
Lincolnshire
Lincoln
Grimsby
Immingham
Cleethorpes
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Spalding
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Index of Multiple Deprivation

Small area measures of relative deprivation across each of the nations of the UK, often broken into deprivation domains.

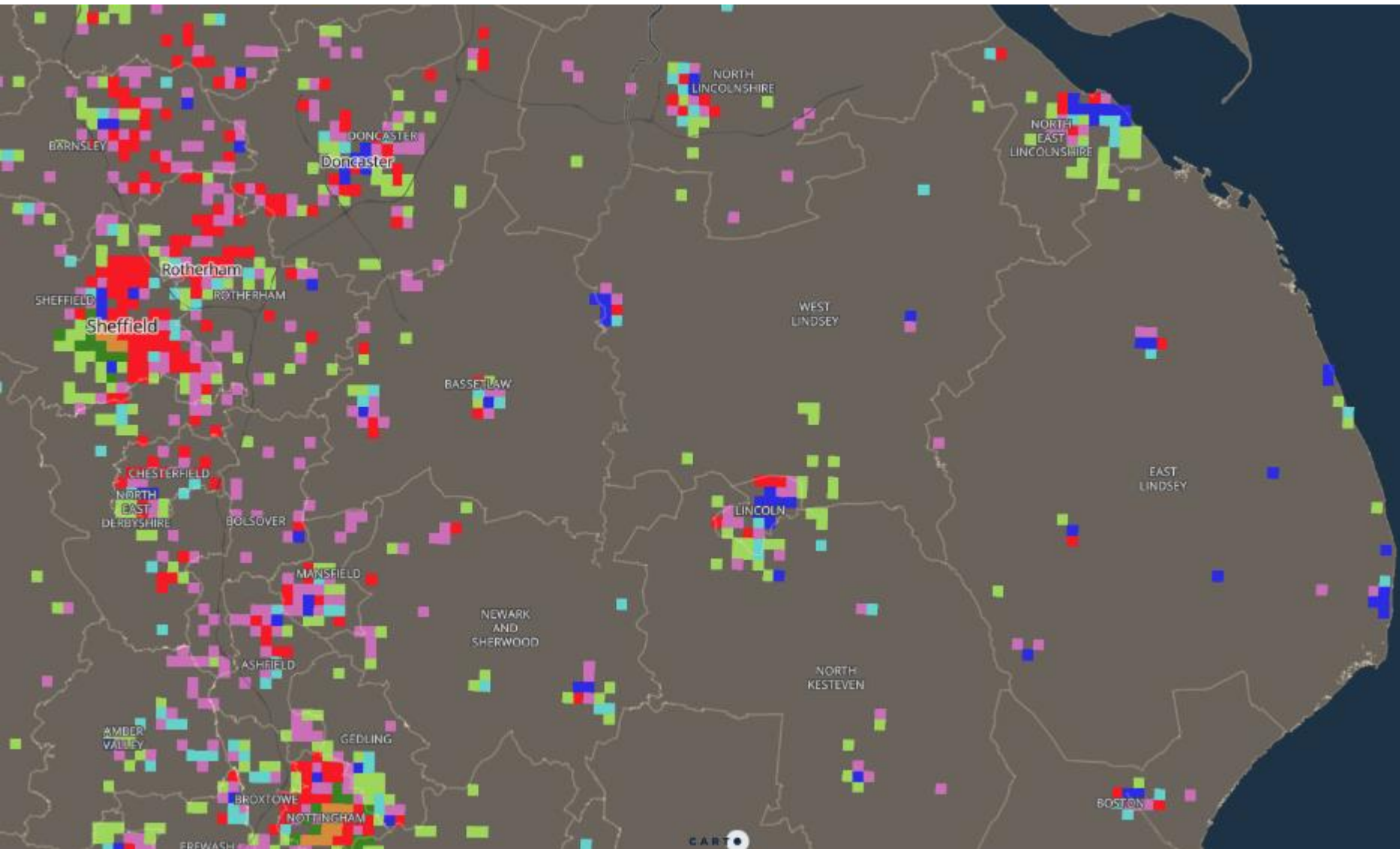
[Download From CDRC Data](#)
[Download PDF report](#)

Legend Filter

English 2019 IMD (E19) ▾

- No data
- Most deprived decile
- 2nd
- 3rd
- 4th
- 5th
- 6th
- 7th
- 8th
- 9th
- Least deprived decile

This IMD slide situates Lincoln in its broader regional context, including its city neighbours to the west, including Nottingham and Sheffield. It indicates a) the overall breadth of social divides in this regional context and b) how the geography of high and low multiple deprivation within Lincoln's neighbouring cities is different from that of Lincoln.



Neighbourhood Trajectories

A classification of neighbourhood trajectories - a sequence of transitions of each neighbourhood (1km grid) between neighbourhood type at each census year as defined by Patias, Rowe and Cavazzi (2018). Based on temporally-and geographically-consistent 1km gridded sets of population counts, encompassing demographic, socioeconomic and housing attributes, from the Censuses Britain conducted in 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011.

[Download the data](#)
[Download PDF report](#)

Legend Filter

- Upward thriving
- Increasing socioeconomic diversity
- Increasing struggling home-owners
- Rejuvenating
- Stable affluent
- Ageing manual labour
- Stable multicultural urban

The neighbourhood trajectories reinforce the contrasts between Lincoln and its city neighbours from the previous slide.

Index of Multiple Deprivation

Small area measures of relative deprivation across each of the nations of the UK, often broken into deprivation domains.

[Download From CDRC Data](#)

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Legend

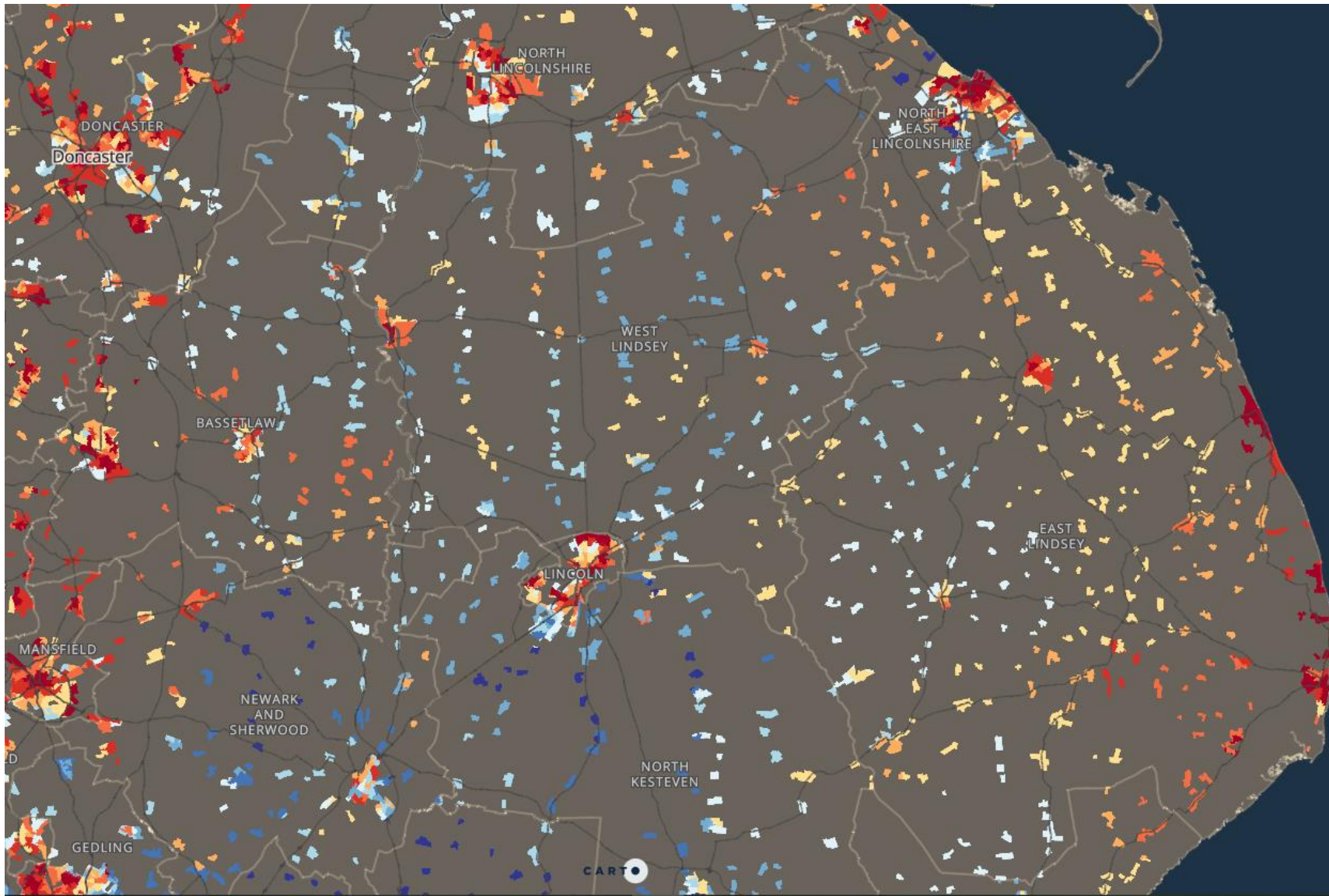
Filter

English 2019 IMD (E19)

- No data
- Most deprived decile
- 2nd
- 3rd
- 4th
- 5th
- 6th
- 7th
- 8th
- 9th
- Least deprived decile

The IMD picture of Lincoln within the Greater Lincolnshire context is also revealing. As already shown in slide 11, Lincoln has significant pockets of deprivation in particular areas of the City. By contrast, its travel-to-work area is relatively prosperous. However, as you travel eastwards towards the coast, relative deprivation increases with the poorest communities in coastal communities. This picture also indicates the relative IMD position of Scunthorpe (industrial town) and Grimsby (Gateway town) and the comparison with neighbouring villages.

Further information from: <https://data.cdrc.ac.uk/dataset/index-multiple-deprivation-imd>



Index of Multiple Deprivation

Small area measures of relative deprivation across each of the nations of the UK, often broken into deprivation domains.

[Download the data](#)

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E19 Health domain

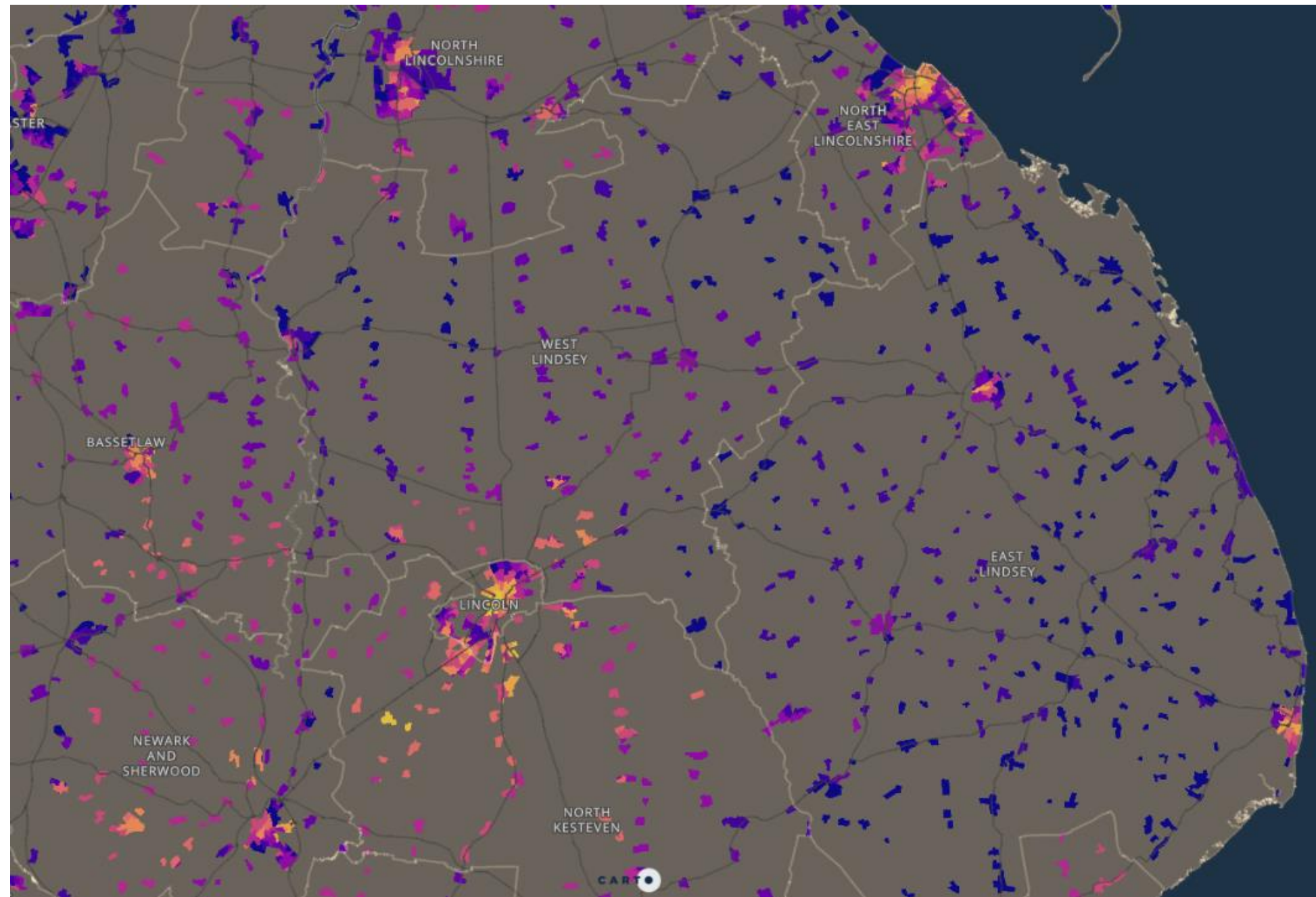
Legend Filter

E19 Health domain

- No data
- Most deprived decile
- 2nd
- 3rd
- 4th
- 5th
- 6th
- 7th
- 8th
- 9th
- Least deprived decile

This slide provides information from the IMD Health domain, which reflects a similar picture to that for the IMD overall for Lincoln and Lincolnshire.

Further information from: <https://data.cdrc.ac.uk/dataset/index-multiple-deprivation-imd>



Priority Places for Food Index

Identifying neighbourhoods that are most vulnerable to increases in the cost of living and which have a lack of accessibility to cheap, healthy, and sustainable sources of food.

[Download the data](#)
[Download PDF report](#)

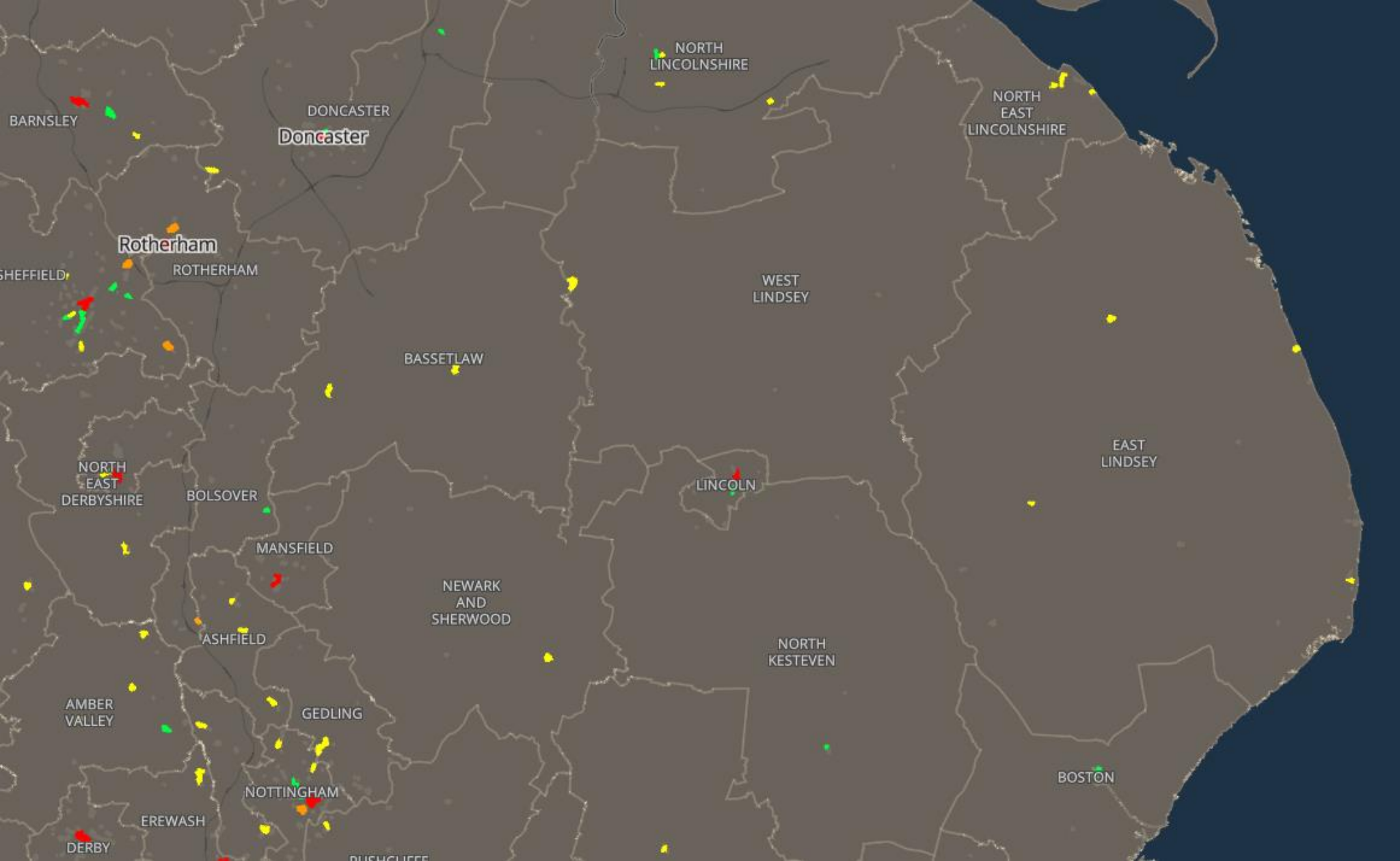
Overall decile

Legend Filter

Overall decile

- No data
- Highest priority decile
- 2nd
- 3rd
- 4th
- 5th
- 6th
- 7th
- 8th
- 9th
- Lowest priority decile

This slide reinforces the picture from the IMD slides. It shows the variable position in Lincoln, the relative advantageous position in immediately surrounding villages, and the trend to vulnerability towards the East coast.




Retail Centre Typology

A multidimensional taxonomy of retail and consumption spaces in the UK focussing on four domains: the composition, diversity, function and economic health of the centres.

[Download the data](#)

[Download PDF report](#)

Legend Filter

Supergroup 

- Local 'everyday' goods & service centres
- Retail & shopping parks
- Leading comparison & leisure destinations
- Traditional high streets & market towns
- Unclassified

This slide illustrates the importance of Lincoln's retail and visitor destination role within the regional context and why the city plays an important 'regional city' role. an

Further information from <https://data.cdrc.ac.uk/dataset/retail-centre-boundaries-and-open-indicators>

A Christian faith community in Lincoln and Lincolnshire

History	Lincoln is a city with a rich history of the Christian faith – it is the site of early churches from the 4 th Century and the Anglo-Saxon period; connections with ‘Pilgrim fathers’; visits by John Wesley; Cathedral City with its ups and downs; Chad Varah, founder of the Samaritans, was inspired by his experience from being a Minister on the St Giles Estate, and with a very active Christian faith community today.
Methodism in Lincolnshire	The 19 th century was a period of the rise of Methodism in Lincolnshire, during the first half of the century Methodism, after which a process of fragmentation began. From 1956 onwards the Methodist Church in Lincolnshire was organised from five into three Circuits (North, South, and Central), now one Lincoln Circuit with 20 places of worship. Through the 1960s and 1970s rural Methodism across Lincolnshire rapidly declined and this has continued to do so up to the present. However, Methodism remains an important part of Lincolnshire’s Christian heritage.
Alive Church	The Alive Church, formerly known as New Life Church Lincoln, is the church that founded the Groundlevel Network. Although they are now independent of each other, Alive Church remains an integral part of the Groundlevel network as one of its churches. Alive Church is a multisite church with six locations. Three of these locations are in the city of Lincoln, namely Alive Lincoln Central, Alive Lincoln North, and Alive Lincoln South. The other three locations are in market towns in Lincolnshire, specifically Grantham, Gainsborough, and Scunthorpe.
Acts Trust	Acts Trust was founded by Alive church in 2006. The trust exists to empower local people and facilitate community engagement. The Acts Trust is responsible for several high-profile projects in Lincoln e.g., Night Light Cafés, Community Grocery, youth, and schoolwork. It currently employs 26 staff (16 FTE) and 250 volunteers. It is funded from different sources and has contributed to the Faith Sector becoming recognized by the City Council as an important partner in the City.
Transform Lincoln	Transform Lincoln is the unity movement in Lincoln, a collection of around 70 churches from all denominations, engaging together in various ways for the social, spiritual, and cultural transformation of the city. The movement was created initially to facilitate and network the social engagement of the churches in Lincoln in 2014 and has been spearheaded mainly by Sian Wade from Bridge Church (AOG) and a team of others from various Lincoln Churches. In 2020, the scope of the network was widened to engage the church together in not just social issues but engaging in spiritual and cultural issues too. This is outworked using an acronym SPACE (spheres, prayer, action, church leader relationships, evangelism).

A Christian faith community in Lincoln and Lincolnshire

NightLight Cafe	The NightLight Cafe was established by Transform Lincoln as a response to the high suicide rates in the city. Commissioned by the NHS, the project is steered by a group comprised of the Active Faith health sub-group in Transform Lincoln. For governance and finance purposes, the project is housed in the Acts Trust charity, but it is a unity movement project that involves various churches in the city for delivery. Since 2022, Nightlight cafes have been operating across Lincolnshire as well as in the city of Lincoln.
Churches Together in All Lincolnshire	Churches Together in all Lincolnshire was instrumental in enabling the network of churches to be established by agreeing to be the legal umbrella under which the Active Faith network could exist during its formative years, enabling someone to be employed as a coordinator.
Annual Civic Prayer Breakfast	The Annual Civic Prayer Breakfast is held at 7am in the Chapter House of the Cathedral. It is attended by 100 Civic and Faith Leaders. The new Mayor for the year is welcomed and leaders from seven sectors of society are asked to share from their sphere what their current challenges and hopes are. These leaders represent Politics and Government, Policing and Security, Health and Wellbeing, Education and Learning, Arts, Media and Entertainment, Business and Finance, Family and Community. There is always a keynote speaker to inspire the leaders, as well as the opportunity to celebrate new partnerships and creative ways of working.

Milestones in Lincoln's history

48AD	The Romans conquered Lincolnshire. They build a fort on the hill overlooking Brayford Pool, the previous site of an iron age settlement (in Celtic - Lindon 'Pool'). The settlement is strategically connected to London and the North through the Ermine Way, and to the south-west through the Foss Way. It was known as Lindum Colonia	Roman
120	The Romans build a canal to connect Lincoln to the River Trent to enable trade to and from the city.	
500	As the Roman era came to its end, Lincoln goes into decline. German tribes from across the North Sea settled across Lincolnshire.	
876	Danelaw was established within England. Lincoln became one of five boroughs of the East Midlands. The Danes settled and rebuilt Lincoln.	Saxons/Danes
1068	William 1 arrives in Lincoln. Recognising the strategic position of the city, the first Lincoln castle was built on the top of the hill.	Middle Ages
1075-92	Lincoln Cathedral was constructed.	
1110	Lincoln was devastated by fire.	
1130	A guild was established to produce Lincoln cloth as the city's economy flourished around wool production.	
1141	The first battle of Lincoln occurred. King Stephen's forces, having besieged Lincoln Castle, were defeated by forces loyal to Empress Matilda. Stephen was taken prisoner.	
1157	Lincoln received a Charter and authority to elect a council.	
1186	The synagogue at Jews Court was built. By 1154, Lincoln had become one of five main Jewish communities in England.	

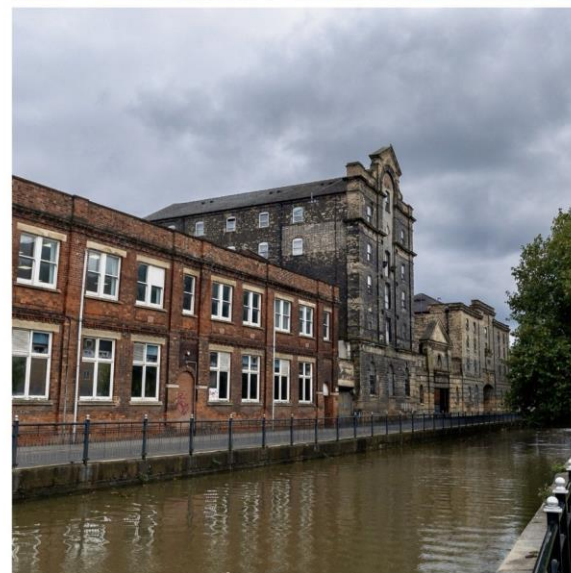
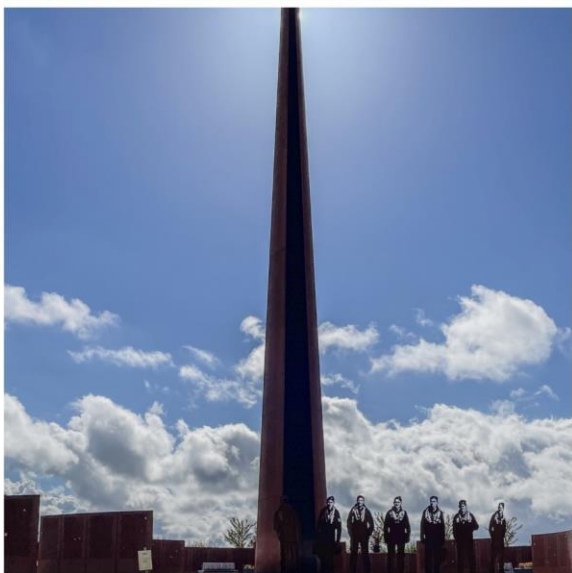
Milestones in Lincoln's history

1215	King John signed and sealed the Magna Carta, and the Bishop of Lincoln brought a copy to the city.	Middle Ages
1217	In the second battle of Lincoln, the forces of Prince Louis of France failed to take Lincoln Castle and were defeated by an English force led by William Marshall.	
1255	In the 'Libel of Lincoln' case, 18 Jews were dubiously charged with the murder of a young Christian boy and hanged at the Tower of London.	
1290	Eleanor of Castile dies in Hartly on the way to Lincoln. Her vital organs were buried in Lincoln Cathedral. A series of crosses were erected between Lincoln and London on the order of Edward 1.	
1290	The entire Jewish population in England was expelled from the country.	
1311	The spire on Lincoln cathedral was completed to become the tallest man-made structure in the world (after the Great Pyramid of Giza).	
1327	Edward II held a Parliament in Lincoln, the final in a series held in 1312, 1315, 1316, and 1318.	
1349	The Black Death ravaged Lincoln, leaving half the city's population dead over 4 years.	
1370-1400	The cathedral's west tower and spires were erected.	
1386	Richard II presented the city with a sword of state.	
1520	The construction of the Guildhall was completed to become the meeting place of Lincoln City Council.	Tudors and Stuarts

Milestones in Lincoln's history

1540	Lincoln is awarded city status.	
1589	The main spire of Lincoln Cathedral collapsed in a storm, so that the building was no longer the world's tallest. Its previous height was only surpassed by Ulm Minister in 1890.	Tudors and Stuarts
1645-51	Lincoln was caught between the opposing Royalist and Parliamentary sides in the English Civil War and was occupied by both forces. Structural damage during the war led to an era of economic decline.	
1671-74	The City was authorised to improve navigation between the River Trent and Boston, with work to Foss Dyke Canal, wharves at Brayford Pool and the River Witham. The reopened Foss Dyke Canal allowed industrial goods to be transported. The City began to thrive again with the onset of the Agricultural Revolution.	
1674	Christopher Wren designed the New Lincoln Cathedral Library.	Agricultural to Industrial Revolution
1780	John Wesley first preached in Lincoln.	
1787-91	Gainsborough Trent Bridge, built at Newark, reinforced Lincoln's marginalisation from the major road route from London to the North of England (Great North Road).	
1848	Lincoln Central Railway Station opened two years after the opening of Lincoln St Mark's Station. The Corn Exchange was built in the city centre. Coupled with the railways, Lincoln began to excel in heavy and agricultural engineering, with famous companies (e.g. Ruston's, Clayton's, Proctor's, and William Fosters) forming and developing.	
1869	The Lincolnshire Agricultural Society held the first Lincolnshire show.	
1884	Lincoln City Football Club was established.	
1904-05	The city was engulfed by a typhoid epidemic caused by polluted drinking water, claiming over 100 lives.	20 th Century
1915-16	The prototype tank was developed by William Tritton and Walter Wilson in a hotel in Lincoln. 'Little Willie' was tested on a site now occupied by Tritton Road. There was a shift to war production by many of Lincoln's engineering firms (e.g. tanks and aircraft), which continued through the 2 nd World War.	

Images from Lincoln



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Photographs taken by Paul Hildreth