

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**SAFER, GREENER AND CLEANER PLACES  
CABINET MEMBER**

**BELSHAW HEATH LOCAL NATURE RESERVE DECLARATION**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To enhance the council's suite of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) by declaring a new LNR near Belton.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The council has declared a number of LNRs to date. Recently, we have worked with Belton Parish Council on a further potential site to a point where it could now be declared as an LNR.
- 2.2 Belshaw Heath is a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) with about 3.6 hectares of broad leaved woodland and acid grassland. These are priority habitats that have grown over sandy deposits. Scarce or localised plants include annual knawel, bird's foot, shepherd's cress, trailing St John's wort, little mouse ear, heath grass and early hair grass. This site adds value to the nearby Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which is only 0.2 hectares in area.
- 2.3 Part of the LWS has recently been gifted to Belton Parish Council. This means that local people can now manage the site for wildlife and quiet recreation.
- 2.4 The council has a target of having in place 2.0 hectares of LNR per 1,000 people by 2018. Declaring the proposed LNR will contribute to achieving this target.

**3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 The recommendation is for the Cabinet Member to formally approve the declaration of the Belshaw Heath LNR.

#### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 Adopting the recommendation offers the following benefits:

- Conservation of acid grassland
- Conservation of broadleaved woodland
- Local Wildlife Site becomes positively managed, improving council's performance
- Community involvement in nature conservation
- Increased educational value of the suite of LNRs
- Create habitat network with neighbouring sites
- Provides an LNR where there is currently a gap in the network
- Improved local performance of hectares of LNR per 1,000 people by 2018.

#### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

5.1. Financial

5.1.1. The Environment Team already budgets for work on LNRs. The new LNR will be managed largely by community groups. These groups can potentially obtain grants for site management.

5.1.2. There are currently around 4,700 volunteer hours of work on LNRs and Alkborough Flats every year.

5.2. There are no further resource implications to highlight.

#### **6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

6.1 Not applicable

#### **7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

7.1 We consulted Natural England on the proposals. They welcome the proposal for new LNRs. They would like to further dialogue in the future as details of site management are agreed. They encourage public access and education on LNRs.

7.2 The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust welcomes the proposal for a new LNR.

#### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

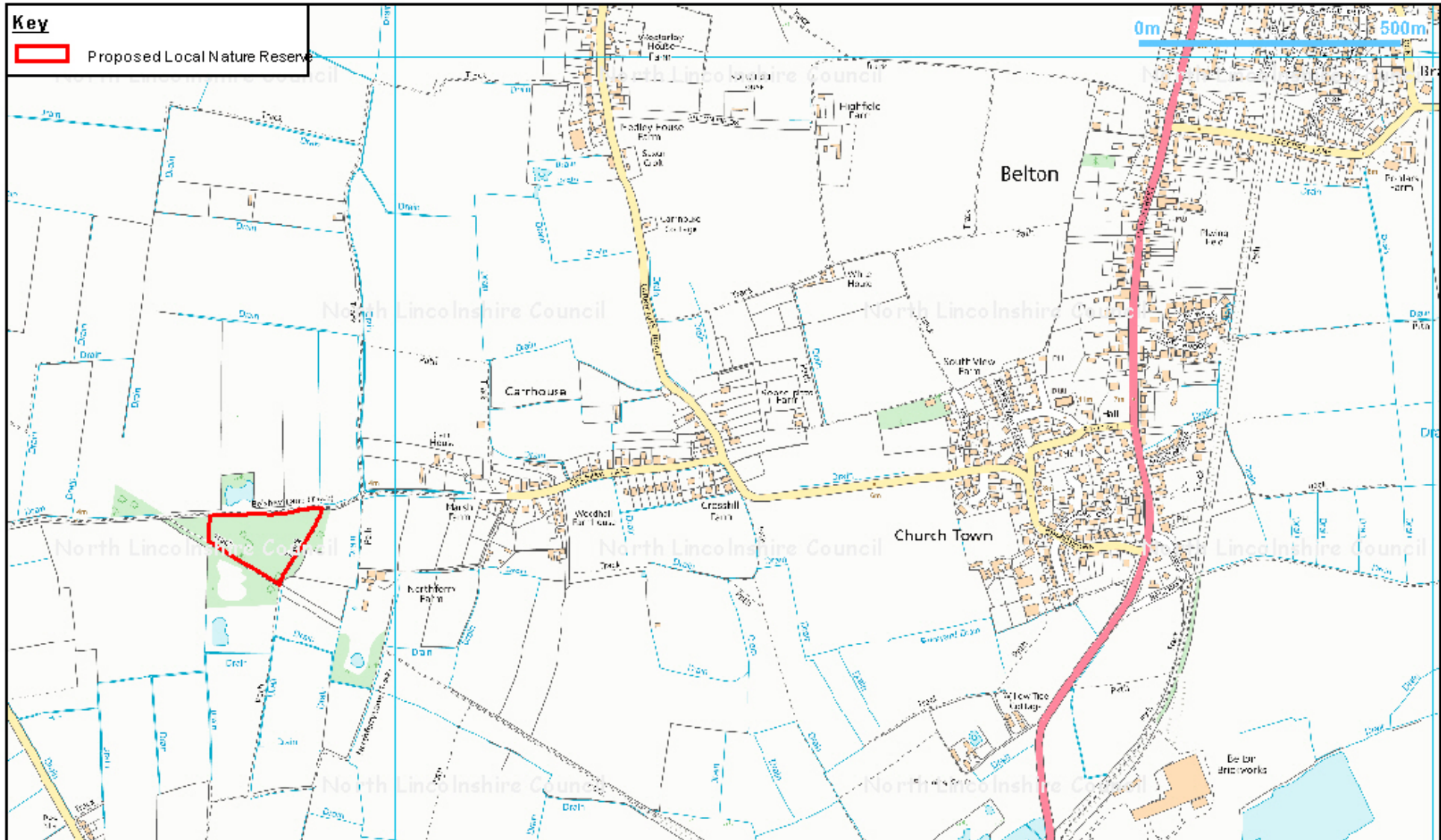
8.1 That the Cabinet Member approves the declaration of a new Local Nature Reserve at Belshaw Heath, as shown on the attached map.



## DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

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Date: 20 September 2017

**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None**

# Appendix- Map of Proposed Local Nature Reserve



 © Crown copyright and database rights 2017 Ordnance Survey 0100023560	Title: BelshawHeath LNR Location		 Director of Places <b>Peter Williams</b> BSc,DMS,CEng,MEI,MCM,AMIMechE <a href="http://www.northlincolnshire.gov.uk">www.northlincolnshire.gov.uk</a>
	Drawing No:	Version: 1	
	Drawn by: Andrew Taylor	Date: 07/02/2017	
	Scale @A4 1:1 0000		

