



WHY FOOD INSECURITY IS NOW A PRIORITY:

**Professor Louise Manning¹, Professor
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The United Nations' Committee on World Food Security defined food security as the means of ensuring that all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life. So, is the UK food secure based on this definition?

The answer quite simply is no. Food security is binary, the country is food secure, or it is not, an individual or household lives a life where they are food secure, or they are not.

Food insecurity is not the opposite of food security, they are defined in different ways. Food insecurity is a lived experience. Using the following definition there are degrees of food insecurity:²



¹ The thinking in this article is informed by Louise working with a number of research colleagues including Emeka Okpala, who has been researching food security/insecurity in Nigeria

² <https://proof.utoronto.ca/food-insecurity/> <https://proof.utoronto.ca/food-insecurity/>

SECTOR PROGRESS & HIGHLIGHTS

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WHY FOOD INSECURITY IS NOW A PRIORITY

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- **Marginal Food Insecurity:** worry about running out of food and/or limited food selection due to a lack of money for food.
- **Moderate Food Insecurity:** a compromise in quality and/or quantity of food due to a lack of money for food.
- **Severe Food Insecurity:** miss meals, reduce food intake, and at the most extreme go day(s) without food and then there is hunger.

Depending on the circumstances in a week or month, when household bills are due, individuals and whole families can move between marginal, moderate and severe food insecurity.

Nationally, market leader Tesco's share of retail sales has dropped slightly from 28.1% in 2017, when Aldi and Lidl had combined sales of 10.7%, to April 2022 when Tesco's market share was 27.3% and Aldi/Lidl combined increased to 15.3%. Across the food retail market customers are seeking out greater value in their food basket especially as the rise in energy costs and inflation take hold.³

Greater Lincolnshire has a population close to one million people.⁴ Lincolnshire itself is the fourth largest county in England with some of the most productive land and a population of around three quarters of a million people. At least 50,000 people live in locations recognised as being in the 10% most deprived areas in the country.^{5,6} The pressure on household budgets for families is increasing. The number of users of foodbanks in Yorkshire and the Humber and the East Midlands has more than doubled since 2014/15 to around 280,000 people in 2021/22.⁷ The Food Foundation have just published the results of their April 2022 survey which suggests that compared to pre-Covid the number of households experiencing food insecurity has increased nationally from 7.6% to 15.5%. Nearly half of those interviewed (47.7%) on Universal Credit have experienced food insecurity in the last six months. The number of people who had not eaten in a whole day rose from early 2020 to 4.6% and having smaller meals to skipping meals 13.8% of those interviewed.⁸ The situation for many families in Lincolnshire, now and looking forward, is stark.

In economic, social and environmental terms, the last

12 months has experienced major disruptions to global and local trade (food, equipment and materials) meaning operating businesses amidst uncertainty is here to stay. There is no food sector that is unaffected and as export bans increase across the world, as countries stabilise their food stocks within their own borders, organisations are assessing and reassessing their vulnerabilities in order to remain agile, even viable.

The UK Food Valley is the UK's largest food production cluster where enterprise and innovation lie at the heart of both individual business and the cluster's mission. As markets reassemble and realign, this will mean that innovative, agile, transformative thinking is required when the future is very uncertain. In repositioning business and social strategy, the options are not going to always be palatable, and it is only in working together and bringing all voices into the conversation, from across Lincolnshire and more widely, that food insecurity can be tackled. In my new role at the University of Lincoln, I look forward to working with you on the challenges and opportunities ahead.

UKFV editorial comment and reply:

The UK Food Valley is committed to helping the UK's largest food cluster in Greater Lincolnshire respond to the challenges of food security and insecurity. Louise has rightly drawn our attention to the challenges which many families in the UK face with food insecurity, which is of course also becoming a major political issue as the cost of living crisis, driven by energy, food and other price rises impact on society. While we of course need to continue to see food supply as a combination of UK and international sourcing, the UK Food Valley team believes that we can do more in the UK to increase food supply, for UK and international markets. We are working with partners and speaking to government about these challenges and would like to hear from you on ways in which you think we can increase UK production sustainably to help meet this challenge.

³<https://www.statista.com/statistics/280208/grocery-market-share-in-the-united-kingdom-uk/>

⁴<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiM2FiODkzMzAtNjhiYi00NmU1LTlkZGMtMzcxMWY0YTNI-ZDVliiwidC6lmiNhmM2RjZDRlLTRiNDUuNGUyMi1iODFhLWQ5NmZmZDZhOGM5ZS9j>

⁵<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/corporate-plan/corporate-plan-1/2>

⁶<https://www.research-lincs.org.uk/Deprivation-and-Poverty.aspx>

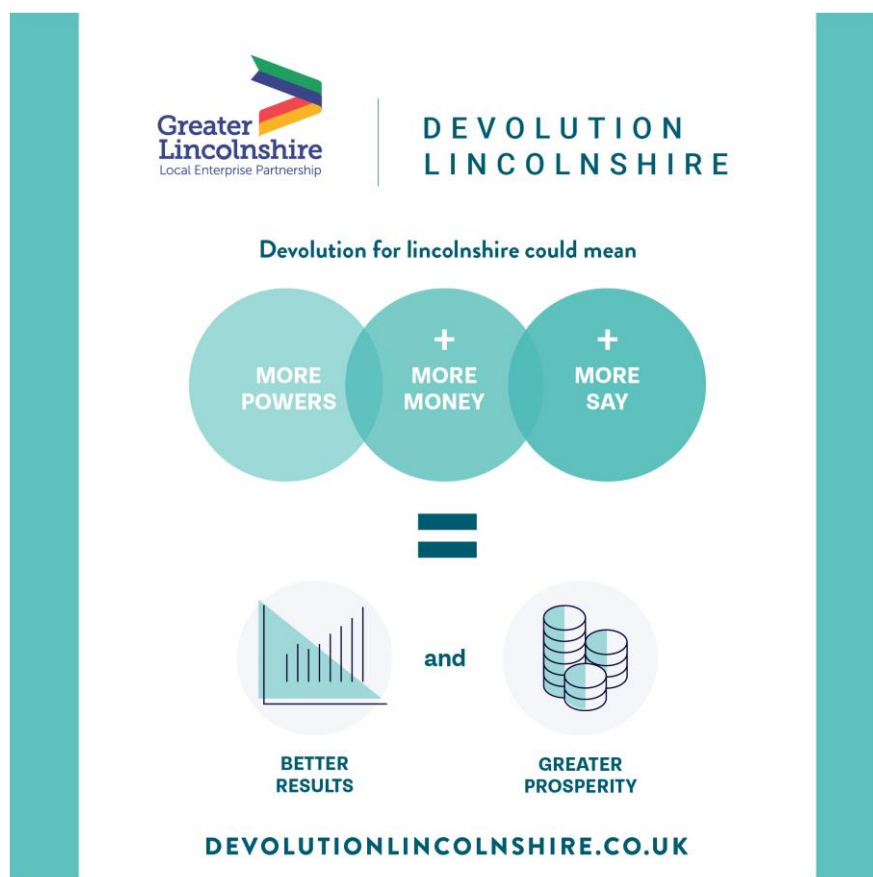
#DEVOLUTIONLINCOLNSHIRE

Devolution is the transfer of powers and funding from national government to local places, meaning decisions are made closer to the people, communities and businesses which are affected. This could lead to faster and better decision-making, which creates growth and more jobs.

Councils across Lincolnshire are developing proposals for devolution and want to start a conversation with businesses to explore whether devolution is right for our area and local authorities have asked the Greater Lincolnshire LEP to lead this business discussion ahead of submitting a deal to government at the end of this year.

Local leaders have asked the LEP to seek views from the business community. A devolution deal for Lincolnshire could be important to businesses. For example, it could mean that local leaders have more powers, more money and more say to ensure that Lincolnshire businesses have the right education, training, and apprenticeships to meet their needs, both now and for the jobs of the future. It could also mean that decisions are made locally rather than nationally on the best infrastructure to better connect people to jobs, freight to ports, or energy to facilities, ensuring local priorities are met.

We really want to hear your views. Please visit the website www.devolutionlincolnshire.co.uk to find out more and complete the short two-minute survey to help influence next steps.



YOUR NEWS

CENTRE FOR FOOD & FRESH PRODUCT LOGISTICS

The new Centre for Food and Fresh Produce Logistics (CFFPL) allows Boston businesses to receive fully funded support.

Businesses based in Boston can now benefit from fully funded support and training to help them prosper and grow. The CFFPL has been set up by the University of Lincoln's National Centre for Food Manufacturing (NCFM) in association with Boston College. Funded through the [Boston Town Deal](#), this forms one of the eight projects within an overall funding package of £21.9 million to Boston provided through the Town Deal Initiative by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

The funding is aimed at businesses in agri-food technologies, ports and logistics, manufacturing, engineering and packaging, equipment and technical services plus food service including retailers and restaurants.

The ambition is to enable businesses to grow through the adoption of innovation, digital technologies, scientific research, training and development of workforce, products and process development plus business advice. There is also a capital grant element to help towards equipment purchases. Benefits are tailored to suit the needs of the business and employees with a focus on:

- Business support to enhance productivity, profitability and job creation
- Knowledge transfer and networking
- Workforce development through enhancement of skills and knowledge
- Small capital grants

Businesses can quickly check eligibility and request a business enrolment form by contacting the [Programme Manager, David Thorpe](#).

Chair of the Boston Town Deal Board, Neil Kempster, said: "I am delighted to see the official launch of the Centre for Food & Fresh Produce Logistics. It targets some of the key sectors of the local economy providing support and access to funding and resources that will enable local businesses to prosper, as well as helping to educate our younger generations of the significant opportunities available to them in this specialist and diverse environment."

Councillor Paul Skinner, Leader of Boston Borough Council, said: "This new opportunity which focuses on skills development for the food chain and technology sector is something we have been looking forward to for many months now. The Centre for Food and Fresh Produce Logistics forms part of the wider South Lincolnshire food knowledge cluster centred on the South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone in Holbeach."

Dean of the University of Lincoln Holbeach Campus and Head of NCFM Professor Val Braybrooks MBE said: "The new CFFPL will enable Boston to play a pivotal role in achieving the LEP's UK Food Valley ambitions to grow and promote our world-class food sector as a major talent and investment hub."

Principal and CEO of Boston College Claire Foster said: "We are delighted to be associated with this Boston-focussed project to support our food and logistics sector. Never before has it been more important for colleges, universities and businesses to combine our efforts for innovative collaborations, mutual support and benefit, increasing productivity for the shared prosperity of all."



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YOUR NEWS

SEAFOOD SECTOR MEETS WITH ICELAND EXPERTS TO DISCUSS INNOVATION IN FISH AND SEAFOOD CO-PRODUCTS

Representatives from the Grimsby and Humber fish and seafood processing sector recently travelled to Fishmongers' Hall in London to meet businesses from Iceland to talk innovation with fish and seafood co-products.

Hosted by the Ambassador for Iceland, Sturla Sigurjónsson and moderated by cluster director, Simon Dwyer, the audience including the region's processors, traditional smokers and fish meal producers plus the University of Lincoln's National Centre for Food Manufacturing, listened to an amazing story of how the founder and CEO of Iceland Ocean Cluster, Dr Thor Sigfusson, created a phenomenon based in Reykjavik.

The Iceland Ocean Cluster shared their story of creating a facility in Reykjavik whereby like-minded entrepreneurs and start-ups based themselves at the hub of creativity and innovation. Several organisations that started their business at the hub shared their experience of how they emerged and developed their specialism utilising catch co-product to create products such as fish skin medical products, collagen protein and specialised food and natural products.

Fishmongers' Company Director Andrew Wallace, who welcomed the participants of the workshop, said: "The story of the utilisation of Icelandic ocean catch is ground-breaking. The lessons Grimsby and Humber cluster can learn is one that brings collaboration in mind especially, with the amount of co-product in our regional supply-chain". **Continued...**



Right: The Iceland Ocean Cluster was formed in 2011 with a mission to create value by connecting entrepreneurs, businesses and knowledge in the marine industries including the full utilisation of Icelandic ocean catch.

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Ambassador Sigurjónsson remarked: "We're grateful to Simon Dwyer and Andrew Wallace for facilitating this event at Fishmongers' Hall. The event was everything I anticipated with positivity from the attendees towards 100% full utilisation of the catch. Grimsby and Humber have a great opportunity to innovate especially with the fish and seafood they trade from Iceland."

GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE FISH SECTOR TEAM VISIT REYKJAVIK



On 9th and 10th May Seafood Grimsby and Humber board members Marcus Coleman and Simon Dwyer had a productive two-day visit to Reykjavik, Iceland, with representatives from the University of Lincoln's National Centre for Food Manufacturing (NCFM), Dean Professor Val Braybrooks and Professor Mark Swainson.

The visit began with a very warm welcome from British Ambassador [Bryony Mathew](#). Bryony has a strong interest in ensuring young people are supported to realise their full potential, and the Embassy is involved in publishing a book to help inspire school children to think about the jobs they might be doing in the future that don't even exist yet.

Visits also took place to [MATIS](#), affiliated to the Ministry of Industry and Innovation. The team were met by CEO, Oddur Már Gunnarsson, and Jónas Rúnar Viðarsson, Head of Value Creation. Discussions took place regarding biotech, chemistry, robotics and agri-tech. Ideas included PhD and staff exchanges and potential bilateral research projects and securing funding from international funding sources. The British Ambassador joined the meeting too.

The team toured the [Iceland Ocean Cluster](#). This facility is an innovation hub and is a shining exemplar facility in which over 70 seafood/marine related start-up businesses are located. Many are interested in the valorisation of waste products arising from fish processing. The team met with Dr Alexandra Leeper, Head of Research and Innovation, who gave a tour and introduced several companies located at the cluster.

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As well as the technical research and development, the whole building is a celebration of clever design, modern architecture and art inspired by seafood business activity. There are opportunities for further collaboration and knowledge sharing that could be of interest to existing or start-up businesses in the UK, with some of the innovation creating tens of millions in new revenue streams.

Also located in Reykjavik, Business Iceland aims to promote business interests abroad [Home - Business Iceland](#). The UK delegation met with Björgvin Þór Björgvinsson, Head of Seafood, who briefed them on their intended seafood marketing campaigns. They discussed the key trade figures for seafood and where there was potential for further growth (Iceland is already the number one exporter of seafood to the UK by value at £250m-£300m every year and around 25-30% of the cod and the haddock in the UK is imported from Iceland).

The team also visited [Marel](#), the global leader in food processing equipment. Poultry is their biggest market followed by meat and seafood.



The UK team had a tour of the factory where equipment is being made and assembled before shipping to clients in Iceland and around the world. They have other production facilities in all their

main marketplaces and have just opened a brand new factory on their site just outside Reykjavik, which is stunning. An incredible workplace both on the factory floor but also in the facilities provided for their staff – a staff canteen that you would easily mistake for an upmarket restaurant!

Marketing Director, Atli Sigurður Kristjánsson, briefed the UK delegation on the company's dramatic growth through acquisitions over the past two decades and shared their perspectives on the road ahead for protein demand and processing facilities. The group explored how Marel might be able to support the UK seafood processing supply chain with automation and robotics solutions suitable for SME scale businesses as well as larger companies.

The UK delegation reflected on a very successful visit with some very strong relationships built and a number of opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing identified. The visit will also underpin the next steps for the University of Lincoln as it considers how to establish a footprint in Grimsby, supporting the seafood cluster there and throughout the UK with a potential new National Centre for Seafood Processing (a sister facility to their already established National Centre for Food Manufacturing).

YOUR NEWS

INAUGURAL LAND SALE AT THE SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE FOOD ENTERPRISE ZONE (FEZ)



The first sale of land at the South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone (FEZ) has been finalised, and Holbeach-based AJS Control & Automation is now able to start work on its new development.

AJS has purchased a plot covering just over 0.6 acres at the FEZ in Holbeach to build a two-storey office, research and development facility and workshop premises over 12,905 square feet.

Sarah Louise Fairburn, Deputy Chair of the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership and Chair of the Greater Lincolnshire Food Board, said “It’s fitting that the first commercial tenant to move onto our ground-breaking South Lincolnshire FEZ is a business focusing on one of the three themes our food industry has agreed for the UK Food Valley: supporting the automation and digital transition of the food chain.

“The food industry is investing rapidly in automation, and with the University of Lincoln now the leading innovation centre for this technology in Europe, AJS can be assured that its growth will be well supported. In my own business I am developing new automated solutions for warehouse pick and pack and it’s vital that we facilitate the growth of a thriving automation cluster in Lincolnshire.”

Councillor Colin Davie, Executive Councillor for Economy at Lincolnshire County Council and a board director at the Greater Lincolnshire LEP, said: “This is the first of many businesses that will benefit from locating at this amazing, collaborative site. The South Lincolnshire FEZ offers so much for local, national and multi-national firms at the forefront of the agri-food and technology sector.”

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"We're providing the infrastructure, collaboration opportunities and research capabilities that businesses need, but we're also making it quicker and easier for them to locate here."

James Taylor, Managing Director at AJS Control & Automation, said: "We have been looking for a new property to house our three rapidly growing businesses for some time now. I was on the launch call for the FEZ during lockdown and knew this was the place for AJS straight away!

"I believe this will form a community of like-minded businesses looking to work together to aid food production sustainability. We cannot wait to get to our new site."

Other occupiers of the South Lincolnshire FEZ include the University of Lincoln's National Centre for Food Manufacturing's Agri-Food Centre of Excellence and Institute of Technology, as well as Lincolnshire County Council's purpose-built, high-quality business space, The Hub.

Jasper Caudwell of marketing agent Pygott & Crone said: "AJS have been working alongside us from the very early stages and it gives us all great pleasure in seeing them take ownership of Plot 9. They will form an integral part in the future growth of the site and we are looking forward to seeing their development materialise.

"The completion of Plot 9 is a timely one, with the launch of the HUB building just around the corner."

Councillor Nick Worth, South Holland District Council deputy leader and portfolio holder for people, places, economy, said: "It is great to see a local business take this exciting first step to join the FEZ, which will give a variety of innovative food businesses a unique location to support each other and develop together.

"I look forward to seeing more new arrivals in the coming months, and the employment opportunities and boost to the economy these will bring for Holbeach, South Holland, and the wider area."

PARLIAMENTARY GROUP LAUNCHES MAJOR REPORT INTO RURAL ECONOMY



Pictured above: Cath Crowther, CLA East Regional Director

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on the Rural Powerhouse has [published](#) a new report on how to level up the rural economy.

It follows one of the most comprehensive inquiries ever to be conducted by a parliamentary body into the health of the rural economy. The APPG took evidence from over 50 industry bodies, charities, campaign groups, companies, academics, and business leaders. The report concluded that no government in recent memory has had a programme to unlock the economic and social potential of the countryside. ***Continued...***

YOUR NEWS

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This has resulted in the fact that the rural economy is 18% less productive than the national average. A gap that, if reduced, could add £43bn to the UK economy.

Co-Chair of the APPG on Rural Business and the Rural Powerhouse and MP for York Outer, Julian Sturdy, stated: "This report sets out a comprehensive growth plan, one that will create jobs, spread opportunity and strengthen small towns and villages across the country. We recognise the unique set of challenges that the government is facing, but this makes the need to grow and strengthen the rural economy more, not less important."

Julian's Co-Chair, Lord Cameron of Dillington added: "It is vital that government understands that rural Britain is not a museum, but instead is an important part of the national economy that deserves the chance to succeed. The report provides an economic blueprint that will help any government seize the capabilities of the countryside and create the long-term economic growth necessary to boost/enrich/enhance our rural communities – in a cost-effective and timely manner."

Solutions for farming focus on alleviating labour shortages, extending the Seasonal Workers Pilot and the number of visas available increased from 30,000 to 80,000. Also, to address low pricing in supply chains by implementing the Agriculture Act 2020's regulations to limit the influence of major supermarkets.

Simplifying the tax system for diversified businesses through the Rural Business Unit (RBU), which would allow rural businesses to make their own decisions, reduce bureaucracy, increase tax collection for the Exchequer, and would remove hurdles to the growth of new business ventures are another key recommendation.

On connectivity, DCMS and the industry must produce an accessible roadmap for the 15% hardest-to-reach houses, with tangible targets for those left behind. Regarding skills, the government must provide vouchers for rural enterprises to stimulate demand for business, technical, and environmental training, and build a natural capital skills strategy to identify skills shortages and how to close them.

UK Food Valley comment:

We welcome the APPG report. We understand that the food chain in Greater Lincolnshire is based predominantly in rural areas such as on our farms, in our villages and small and medium sized towns, and support the need to ensure that policy and funding enhance the growth of the rural economy. Working in partnership, the Greater Lincolnshire LEP launched a Labour Market Support Fund scheme across priority sectors to include food and drink earlier this year (now closed and under assessment).

With the pressures on food supply and food insecurity, as highlighted by Professor Louise Manning in the introduction to this newsletter, the time to invest in the food economy is now. The UK Food Valley is committed to increasing digitalisation and efficiency, both through infrastructure and the adoption of new technology and skills which we are pioneering in Lincolnshire and welcome the report's emphasis on investment in infrastructure and skills.

We thank the CLA for leading the work on this important report and would love to hear what you think about the findings in the report.

YOUR NEWS

LINCOLNSHIRE SHOW

The Lincolnshire Show is one of the most popular UK county shows and a spectacular celebration of everything great about Lincolnshire, offering a huge variety of spectacular entertainment, food, shopping, education, and a whole host of other things to see and do. The show has remained true to its agricultural roots with machinery and associated trades, as well as equine and livestock classes and competitions.

Now in its 137th year and organised by the Lincolnshire Agricultural Society, the Lincolnshire Show has grown to become one of the county's flagship annual events. Attracting over 60,000 visitors across two days, this year's event held on 22nd and 23rd June promises an action-packed line-up after a two-year pause.

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP, alongside Team Lincolnshire and Business Lincolnshire, will be promoting the UK Food Valley as well as other investment opportunities and key activity.

This year, the Lincolnshire Show will celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years' service to the people of the United Kingdom. The show will commemorate this anniversary and exhibitors will be encouraged to dress their stands with jubilee-themed decorations and celebrate with us across the two days.

Visitors will be spoilt for choice with a variety of exciting acts, classes and performances in the Main Ring including a display from Atkinson Action Horses, performances from Broke FMX motocross show, show jumping and an iconic tractor parade featuring vehicles from across the ages. The Countryside Ring will see exciting performances

and demonstrations from Hawkeye Falconry, the Lincolnshire Police Dog Section and the BMX Show!

Over in the Horticultural Zone, you can browse an array of products from independent Lincolnshire producers in the Lincolnshire Lifestyle marquee, including interiors, jewellery and gardening items. The Lincolnshire Lifestyle marquee is a great opportunity for smaller producers to showcase their products to an audience of over 60,000 people and for visitors to browse unique items. Visitors can even jump aboard the land train to visit the cows, sheep, pigs and an array of new and traditional farm machinery from over the years.

The Food Court will be brimming with Lincolnshire produce from hog roasts and sausages to jams, pickles and cakes, and the Lincolnshire Kitchen plays host to some of the finest food producers and chefs from across the county who will demonstrate live their delicious recipes using local produce.

For the younger audience, the show welcomes over 5,000 school children each year to the Schools' Challenge, and children have the chance to take part in livestock and machinery tours to learn all about the different aspects of agriculture. These initiatives are run to meet the society's charitable objectives to educate young people all about food, farming and the countryside.

Whatever you plan to see or do at the Lincolnshire Show 2022 - your day is assured to be action-packed with plenty of fun!

For more information, [visit the website](#).

YOUR NEWS

ONS REPORT GROWTH IN UK WAREHOUSING

On 11th April ONS released a report on the [UK warehouse sector](#) which shows that the [UK Food Valley](#) is at the heart of the development of the UK logistics industry which continues to see very strong growth as supply chains are reconfigured. The Midlands, from Boston, through South Holland to Peterborough and into Northamptonshire has seen particularly strong growth as shown in the heat map below of UK transport and storage businesses.

Key points in the report include:

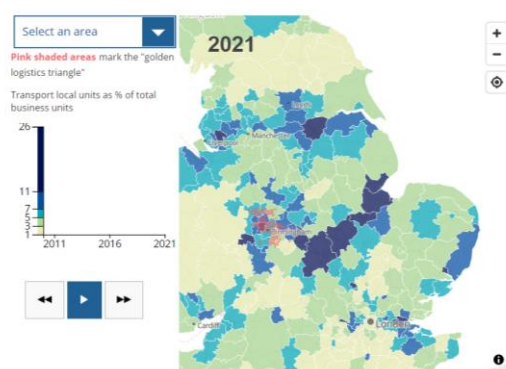
- UK wide logistics premises rose 88% between 2011 and 2021, with road freight premises increasing by 114%.
- South Holland is now the second most concentrated local authority nationally for logistics premises as a percentage of all business premises, and the sector is also the most dominant sector in South Holland, with 17.1% of units in the area falling within the sector.
- Neighbouring Boston is now in 10th place nationally.

Local authorities ranked by logistics premises as a percentage of total business premises saw significant ranking movement between 2011 and 2021:

- South Holland rose from 23rd most concentrated to second most concentrated.
- Boston rose from 36th place to 10th place.
- North-East Lincolnshire (Immingham) saw the transport and storage sector grow faster than all other industries between 2011 and 2021.
- In South Holland (and in Peterborough), the industry is now the largest sector by premises count and is termed 'dominant'. Across the UK 11 local authorities in 2021 had a dominant logistics sector, compared to none in 2011.
- Warehouse construction in 2021 was worth £5.6 billion, which is the highest value year on record, and surpasses the second and third placed years by more than £2 billion.

The share of transport and storage businesses has increased sharply across the Midlands and the East of England

Percentage of business units used by the transport and storage industry, UK local authorities, 2011 to 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics — Inter-Departmental Business Register

The UK Food Valley is supporting the development of the logistics industry as a key component of the food chain. With major UK and international companies, the sector continues to develop quickly, from the development of the new Magnavale cold store near Grantham, to approved plans for Lineage to expand cold stores in Grimsby and continued growth in logistics, cold storage and warehousing in Spalding and Boston.

YOUR NEWS

JOIN THE STOKES TEAM AT THEIR CENTENARY PLUS CELEBRATIONS!

Stokes will host a celebratory event on Thursday 14th July 2022 at Stokes Tea & Coffee, The Lawn, Union Road, Lincoln, LN1 3BU. Celebrate with friends, colleagues and partners from across the hospitality industry for a full day of exciting events and activities as the family firm marks its 120th year of operating with passion, innovation and excellence.

Guests can hear from industry experts about the hottest topics in hospitality, get advice on funding, innovation, business growth, sustainability, and health. They'll also meet exhibitors, discover what's on offer to help independent businesses succeed and enjoy free demos, roastery tours, talks and tastings.

A save the date will be circulated soon and guests will be able to join Stokes in working together for a sustainable future for hospitality. In the meantime, here's the Stokes Coffee with real character story:

Located in the heart of Lincoln, family-run Stokes Tea & Coffee has been brewing up exceptionally fresh roasted beans and blends for over 120 years – all crafted with love, pride and passion. With most high streets dominated by international coffee chains, artisan companies demonstrating real passion and heritage – just like Stokes - are gold dust. The team takes control of every element of the roasting and blending process and has become renowned for unrivalled quality both by wholesale and retail customers, and the end results speak for themselves.

Celebrating its 120th anniversary in the year of the Queen's jubilee, Stokes is a family company that has weathered many storms since it was established back in 1902, witnessing two world wars, the great economic depression and, of course, a global pandemic. It's older than the BBC and has seen four monarchs and 23 Prime Ministers! Now in its fourth generation, Nick Peel is the current MD and, along with his team, is putting 120 years of know-how into sourcing, roasting and blending coffee and tea for retail and wholesale customers as well as running two destination cafés in Lincoln and a barista training academy. The Lawn Café is located at Stokes' HQ (where the roastery is also based) in the famous Lawn Building - a former 19th -century asylum on Union Road. The High Bridge café can be found in an amazing historical, Tudor building, (the only one of its kind in the UK), on the High Street; both are favourite haunts for tourists and locals. Shoppers can buy a vast array of products at Stokes cafés as well as online, including fresh beans, coffee pods, and all manner of coffee and tea brewing kit.

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Stokes is a company that truly embraces the old and the new. "History and heritage are a huge part of what we're about – our dedication to quality has been consistent for over 100 years, but we're also constantly looking at new ways to innovate and delight our customers," explains MD Nick Peel. From accredited barista training at the dedicated training academy, to the best Coffee Club subscription service, the company is doing huge amounts to share the love and knowledge of coffee, far and wide. And one of the company's most exciting new innovations is its range of virtual events, where guests can enjoy a full sensory experience online with a professional coffee or tea tasting session.

Participants include some of the Fortune 500 companies who have enjoyed receiving their very own tasting kits before joining one of the Stokes expert Master Roasters online to share something fun and interesting and learn about the fascinating world of tea or coffee. Many hospitality businesses are also signing up for machine and product supplies from Stokes due to the unrivalled service, support and quality they receive. With further plans afoot, Stokes is a great British business that has an exciting future and looks forward to leading for the next 120 years!



Above: Stokes Managing Director Nick Peel

FUNDING

AGRI-TECH 'HOT FUNDING' LIST – A REGULAR LIST OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRI-TECH

If you are working in agriculture, farming or food production then these funds may help.

The agri-tech research teams at the University of Lincoln are expert at working with industry to build practical solutions to productivity, transportation and growing challenges for food and farming.

If you have a process, resource or technology challenge inside your farm or food business, then please do get [in touch with us](#) or for Innovate UK enquiries at the [University of Lincoln](#).

DIT VIRTUAL FOOD AND DRINK MEET THE BUYER EVENT: 28-29 JUNE 2022

The Department for International Trade has announced a virtual meet the buyer event for food and drink producers in the Midlands. Delegates will have the chance to virtually meet 1:1 with prospective buyers and show them what the Midlands has to offer - totally free of charge.

Exclusive to Midlands producers this is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your products, and to build your brand reputation in some great overseas markets, by connecting with a range of overseas buyers who are all hungry to buy quality British produce.

You will be able to engage online with buyers interested in your products at a time slot which suits both parties. Representatives from supermarkets, agents and distributors will meet with companies on the day for what promises to be an action-packed event where new, prosperous relationships will be made.

DIT has a dedicated booking portal for this event which will allow you to request, book and take part in 1:1 meetings with the buyers and market experts. Click [here](#) to book and find out more.

FUNDING

FARMING FUTURES – UKRI / DEFRA

The Farming Futures R&D competition is for ambitious research projects that could benefit farmers in England. Each competition has a different theme. You'll need to collaborate with at least one other business or research organisation.

- Climate smart farming (theme one): opens TBC
- Sustainable proteins (theme two): opens summer 2022

Projects can last up to four years and need to cost between £3 million and £6 million. [Click here for more information.](#)

PRODUCTIVITY HUBS PROGRAMME



The Productivity Hubs programme is a University of Lincoln initiative, funded by the ERDF. The programme is aimed at helping businesses in Scunthorpe, Boston and Grimsby to develop, grow and thrive. Eligible businesses will be provided with either or both of the following:

- **Business Development:** Access to a business development manager who will work with you to identify key challenges and opportunities and help you to develop a plan to drive your business forwards to increased productivity and profitability.
- **Business Acceleration:** Aimed at ambitious start-ups that are committed to accelerating the growth of their business. Eligible businesses will get a package of intensive support designed to improve performance and drive growth, and an opportunity to pitch for seed-funding grants of up to £10,000.

[More information here.](#) Contact Gary Mumby, Business Advisor: GMumby@lincoln.ac.uk | 07989 868 969





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