Your guide to Lincolnshire Coastal Safety

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO MAKE THE LINCOLNSHIRE COAST THE SAFEST PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND VISIT

PROJECT KRAKEN

Border Force

LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE

Brought to you in partnership with Border Force and Project Kraken - Find inside a full poster pull out

HOLD FAST!

PLEASURE CRAFT REPORTING HAS CHANGED.

If you are leaving or entering the UK on a pleasure boat of any kind, you are required to submit a pleasure craft report.

Visit spcr.homeoffice.gov.uk and complete the simple, one-stop digital form up to 24 hours before you depart.

Border Force

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Introduction

The Lincolnshire coastline has long been a vibrant hub for seasonal tourism, with resorts like Skegness, Ingoldmells, and Mablethorpe boasting over 50 miles of breathtaking shoreline. The region's diverse attractions draw visitors from far and wide, particularly during the bustling summer months.

Skegness alone welcomes around 2.3 million visitors each year. For a town with a permanent population of roughly 20,000, which swells to an astonishing 250,000 in peak season, the surge in demand for services requires a well-coordinated multi-agency approach. This ensures that both residents and tourists receive the highest quality support from law enforcement and local partners.

With over 36,000 caravans spread across 262 sites along the Lincolnshire coast, the dynamic and ever-changing population presents unique challenges. The East Coast Policing Plan introduces new staffing models for Lincolnshire Police frontline officers, complemented by targeted multi-agency summer initiatives aimed at maintaining public safety—whether on beaches, at entertainment venues, or across the road network.

Recent data evaluations have provided valuable insights into seasonal trends in crime, anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, water safety and beyond, helping us identify patterns, locations, and affected communities. This enhanced understanding enables us to deploy multi-agency assistance strategically, focusing on areas with the greatest need.

To help visitors make the most of their time in Lincolnshire, we are providing this information booklet as a useful guide to local services and safety measures.

Caravan crime prevention

Keeping your valuables safe:

- Don't leave handbags, car keys or other items of value by open windows, especially when you go to bed at night. Anyone can reach in and remove them.
- Lock your doors and windows when you leave the caravan.
- Don't leave your bikes outside they will be safer inside your caravan.
- At night when you are heading to bed, close your curtains or nets to prevent anyone seeing your valuables.

Keeping your caravan safe:

- If you're leaving your van for a number of days/weeks remove electronic goods from sight.
- Leave the curtains open, so people can see there is nothing to steal.
- If possible set a light on timer switches to periodically switch on.
- Fill in your registration pack with details of make/model/serial numbers of valuable items.
- Communicate with neighbours and your office if you are leaving your caravan.
- If you have an alarm, set it every time you leave your holiday home for a period of time.
- Mark your goods with a UV pen or similar.

Caravan safety

- All caravans must be fitted with a working smoke alarm. Test the smoke alarms on arrival, or every week for long-term stays and never remove the batteries.
- If you smoke, use metal ashtrays and never smoke in bed if you are likely to fall asleep.
- Don't block air vents - if any leaking gas builds up you may fall unconscious and be unable to escape. Ensure that air vents are clear - if air vents get blocked, it could be fatal.
- Turn off all appliances before you leave the caravan or go to bed.
- When cooking don't leave any pans unattended.
- Find out the firefighting arrangements on the campsite.
- Don't dry clothes over the stove.
- Keep children away from matches or lighters.
- Children should never be left alone in a caravan.
- Remove any litter and rubbish near the caravan to reduce the risk of fire spreading.
- Gas cylinders should be kept outside the caravan. Gas cylinders should be turned off unless they are designed to run continuously, and you should only change the bottle when they are completely empty.
- If you suspect that there is a gas leak turn off all appliances and the main cylinder valve, open all doors and windows and do not smoke or turn on any electrical switches or appliances until you have been given the all clear.
- Never use fuel-burning devices inside the caravan (e.g. disposable barbecues, camping stoves, camping heaters, lanterns, and charcoal grills).

Visit GOV.uk's for advice on private renting safety responsibilities or ask your local district council for more information.

IF THERE'S A FIRE GET OUT STAY OUT

Call 999 in an Emergency

Give the operator as much detail of your location as you can.

Caravan sites can be spread over a large area, so apps like What3Words or the GPS co-ordinates on your phone can help emergency crews get to you as soon as possible. Send someone to meet the fire crews when they arrive on site.

Atlantis Alliance

The Atlantis Alliance is a group of agencies working together to ensure that the Lincolnshire coast is a safe place to live, work and visit.

These agencies include Border Force, Lincolnshire Police, National Coastwatch, His Majesty's Coast Guards, RNLI and local councils.

Over the holiday season, staff from across the alliance will be at Skegness main beach, next to the lifeboat station and the Alliance hub on the promenade at Queens Park in Mablethorpe. They will be there to chat with people and provide information on a variety of subjects, such as:

- caravan crime, along with precautions you can take to keep belongings safe.
- advice on beach and water safety.
- information on where to get support regarding domestic abuse.
- as well as simply being there to say hello, for you to look around, ask questions, and take pictures with all the equipment we have.

Atlantis Alliance

Eyes (and Ears) Along the Lincolnshire Coast

Did you know that there's a whole team of volunteers keeping a daily watch for the safety of everyone enjoying the Lincolnshire coast, playing an important part in helping to save lives?

Many locals and visitors will have seen the National Coastwatch stations with prominent views over the busy beaches and out to sea. The curious will know from a visit to a station or meeting some of the smartly uniformed watchkeepers in the community and at events, that this is a whole organisation which is an integral part of the UK's world-class maritime safety community.

National Coastwatch has a total of 61 coastal stations around England and Wales from where over 2,800 dedicated and highly trained volunteer watchkeepers are the 'eyes along the coast'. There are four stations in Lincolnshire; Cleethorpes, Mablethorpe, Chapel Point and Skegness.

The registered charity's volunteers use a range of high-powered optics and the latest technologies to look out for anyone in difficulty or danger along the coast. This includes monitoring the maritime VHF Channel 16, providing support for mariners on the dedicated Channel 65 and using radar and the globally used AIS (Automatic Identification System) for vessels.

They report any coastal safety-related incidents to HM Coastguard so that expert rescue assets can be sent and work closely with safety partner organisations including Project Kraken. This can vary from lost children at the beaches, someone in need of medical attention, cut off by the tide or in difficulty at sea.

If you'd like to find out more about volunteering or supporting the work of National Coastwatch, visitors to the stations will always have a friendly welcome (subject to no incidents taking place). To become a watchkeeper, no maritime experience is needed as full training is provided – all you need is to share the desire to help people stay safe, so they take home the happiest of memories from a visit to the Lincolnshire Coast.

Your eyes our coastline

Project Kraken is the UK's neighbourhood watch scheme for coastal communities, empowering the people who live, work in and enjoy our coastline to report anything that feels unusual or out of place.

Led by Border Force and delivered in partnership with the National Crime Agency (NCA), Counter Terrorism Policing, Lincolnshire Police, and the National Coastwatch Institution (NCI), Project Kraken strengthens the safety and security of our coastal towns and villages by turning local knowledge into actionable intelligence.

Reporting is simple, safe and completely anonymous through UK Border Force, powered by Crimestoppers.

Your report will be treated in confidence by a trained call handler, not a police officer, who will promptly refer it to the right agency so they can respond quickly and appropriately.

Project Kraken gives coastal communities a stronger voice and helps protect the places they care about: harbours, beaches, marinas and shoreline spaces that are part of daily life. Scan the QR code for information anonymously or search "Project Kraken GOV.UK" for more information.

Report it. Let's sort it.

PROJECT
KRAKEN

SEEN SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS?

REPORT IT. LET'S SORT IT.

To report anonymously, call the UK Border Watch powered by Crimestoppers on **0800 011 3304**. In an emergency, always call **999**.

Border Force

Joint Maritime Security Centre

Powered by CrimeStoppers.

NCA National Crime Agency

ACT ACTION COUNTERS TERRORISM

MODERN SLAVERY ORGANISED IMMIGRATION CRIME

Report it, let's sort it

Border Force covers over 11,000 miles of mainland coastline, operating in and around small ports and marinas. Border Force raises vigilance and awareness of suspicious behaviour which may be linked to terrorism or other serious crime.

Project Kraken is a joint law enforcement operation tackling maritime border crime.

Do not put yourself at risk by engaging or intervening. See something suspicious? **Report it, let's sort it.**

What do we mean by Suspicious Behaviour?

Suspicious behaviour is any act that has an impact on, or happens around, our coasts and borders, including smaller ports, docks and marinas.

This includes theft, smuggling and criminal damage.

Warning signs

For anyone around the coast

- seeing boats moored up in strange or isolated places or at strange times
- seeing boats coming together and meeting up, observing items being exchanged
- boats unloading scared or suspicious people, or unloading packages
- suspicious items washed up on the coast and beaches (do not touch or remove)
- people making attempts to signal or guide boats offshore
- people putting objects into waterways near bridges or marinas
- people loitering with no sense of purpose, and / or acting nervously
- people taking an interest in port security or buildings - maybe taking pictures or videos, or trying to gain access to restricted areas

For more warning signs or to download posters for your port, marina, business or community search: Project Kraken.GOV.UK

- people who own a boat yet display limited maritime knowledge, wear inappropriate clothing, and come and go at unusual hours
- suspicious packages floating at sea
- people charting or hiring boating making unusual requests
- boats meeting at sea and acting suspiciously
- High-powered, twin-engine vessels in areas where they seem out of place or at unusual times

If you see something linked to Project Kraken, report it anonymously:
Search: Project Kraken.GOV.UK
Phone: 0800 011 3304

Sandi Star Fish

Sandi Starfish wristbands are a valuable tool in supporting emergency services as they help families of young children and vulnerable adults across our busy beaches to keep safe. They are brightly coloured and extremely recognisable by the emergency services and local businesses, they provide a space to write your phone number as an emergency contact.

Each summer emergency services face the challenge of multiple reports of missing young children and vulnerable adults. This causes huge distress for the families involved as well as the impact it has on Police, RNLI and Coastguard. Sandi Starfish flags are flown at all RNLI watch towers with each location having free bands available to everyone.

Key locations up and down the coast will fly the Sandi surf flags as a point of safety for children to go to if they get separated from their family.

Please remember the Sandi wristbands are FREE and are available from all coastal police stations, all RNLI watchtowers and numerous venues across our coastline, such as Skegness Aquarium, Nature Land, Magna Vitae and any other business that displays the Sandi wristband posters. Just look out for the Sandi Starfish sign.

Top tips for a safe trip to the beach

Child safety:

- Designate a meeting spot and make sure the whole family knows to go there and wait if you are separated. A Sandi Starfish flag is located on the seafront and is designed to be seen by children from a distance. Show your child the picture of Sandi so they know what to look for.
- Tell your child that if they get separated from you, they should go to the flag where they can wait for you or ideally approach someone in uniform and tell them they are lost.
- Use a Sandi Starfish wristband. Write your phone number on the wristband so you can be contacted if your child is found.
- Keep an up-to-date photo of them on your phone to show to officers so they know who they are looking for. Ideally take on a phone or a digital camera when you arrive at the beach to show exactly what they are wearing. It's a good idea to wear bright, eye-catching clothing.
- Ensure you have a charged mobile phone with you.
- Take or have access to plenty of drinking water, sun cream and hats.

Water safety:

- Swim between the red and yellow flags.
- Use inflatables with caution. Keep an eye out for the orange windsock above the lifeguard units – if you see the message "no inflatables", keep inflatables out of the water. The wind can take you or your child out to sea making it difficult to swim back.
- Never mix alcohol and going into water. This is never a good combination and can have severe consequences.
- If you find yourself in difficulty in the water, "float to live" lay on your back looking up to the sky with your ears in the water. When able to, shout for help.
- Some parts of our beaches have a public space protection order in place through the season prohibiting you from taking dogs onto the beach. Please pay attention to signage around. Typically the prohibited beaches are the main beaches in Mablethorpe, Sutton on Sea and Skegness.
- Have a waterproof pouch for your phone or valuables so you're not leaving it on the beach whilst you go for a paddle, as an opportunist might take it.
- Finally, whilst we all love to dig holes in the sand and make sandcastles, DO NOT dig very deep holes. Sand collapse does happen and can be extremely dangerous.

Weever fish:

Weever fish are quite small and unlike other fish, they have spines along their back which are needle-sharp. They spend most of their time lying in the sand and therefore the majority of stings come from people merely standing on them while not wearing shoes.

How to treat a Weever fish sting:

- Treatment of the sting is fairly simple and it's important to initially find a source of hot water. The water needs to be as hot as you can bear, but still comfortable enough to place your feet into. This has been shown to reduce the effectiveness of the venom by breaking down its protein, and it helps to reduce spasms.
- Unfortunately, there is no anti-venom for the toxin. It's recommended to keep the small wound open and let it bleed out the venom. The blood loss won't be high and this will help to clear your body of some of the toxins.
- The worst of the pain generally happens around 30 minutes following the sting and then will gradually subside. In this time it's a good idea to take painkillers to ease the discomfort, but it shouldn't be too painful for too long.

There is no holiday from domestic abuse

It's meant to be a break but actually, holidays can be stressful. Alcohol, money, spending more time together... these things can trigger abusive behaviour.

Help and support

Call Lincolnshire Police on 101, or 999 if it's an emergency.

We know not everyone wants to report to the police, but there is help regardless.

Follow the QR code to our website for information.

The National Domestic Abuse Helpline is always open: 0808 2000 247

"Safe Spaces" are available in pharmacies, where you can consider support options away from the prying eyes of your abuser.

What is domestic abuse?

Abuse is not always physical.

Is your relationship a healthy one?

Does your partner:

- Put you down?
- Constantly criticise you?
- Ridicule and mock you?
- Control who you see, where you go, what you do?
- Control your money?
- Check your phone or your social media?
- Act in a jealous and possessive way?
- Pressure you for sex?
- Go from charming one minute, to full of rage the next?
- Follow you or turn up unexpectedly to check on you?

Does abuse affect you:

- Do you change your actions and behaviour to avoid setting them off?
- Do you find yourself making excuses when family or friends want to see you, because you know they won't like it?
- Are you anxious around them, feeling like you are walking on eggshells?

Sometimes, when you are in the situation, it's hard to acknowledge there is a problem, and you might find yourself making excuses for the abuse or thinking it's your fault. Domestic abuse is never the fault of the person experiencing it.

For the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Specialist Service call 01522 501 041, Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm, or scan the QR code to find out more.

LINCOLNSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE SPECIALIST SERVICE

REPORT IT. LET'S SORT IT.

Keep our coast secure and people safe

Spotting and reporting anything suspicious, or anyone in danger, is everyone's duty.
To report anonymously, call the UK Border Watch powered by Crimestoppers on **0800 011 3304**
Or scan the QR code to report online.
If you're concerned for someone at sea, contact the National Coastwatch on VHF Ch65
In an emergency always ring 999

Border Force | Joint Maritime Security Centre | Powered by CrimeStoppers. | NCA National Crime Agency | ACT Action Counters Terrorism | Modern Slavery Organised Immigration Crime

Whether you live or work on our coastline...

PROJECT KRAKEN

Or just spend time enjoying it...

You can play a vital role in keeping our coast secure, and people safe. Spotting and reporting anything suspicious, or anyone in danger, is everyone's duty. Which is why the National Coastwatch Institution is joining forces with Project Kraken to enable more of us to work together... By making sure we know what to look out for... and how best to report it.

To report suspicious activity 100% anonymously, contact UK Border Watch via Crimestoppers on

0800 011 3304

Or scan the QR code to report online.

If you're concerned for someone at sea, contact the National Coastwatch Institution on VHF Ch65
Or visit www.NCI.ORG.UK. In an emergency always ring 999

Useful contacts...

Action Fraud
Call 0300123 2040 or
visit www.actionfraud.police.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau
Call 03444 111444 or
visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk

UK Border Watch - Project Kraken
Call 0800 011 3304
Or search UK Border Watch
and report online

Park Mark
Visit www.parkmark.co.uk/car-park-finder

Secured by Design
Visit www.securedbydesign.com

Sold Secure
Visit www.soldsecure.com

Trading Standards
Call 0808 223 1133 or
visit www.nationaltradingstandards.uk

Crimestoppers
Call crimestoppers on 0800 555 111
or visit www.crimestoppers.uk.org

National Coastwatch Institution
VHF Ch 65

CALL YOUR LOCAL POLICE 101 IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

FOR NON-URGENT INCIDENTS, REPORT ONLINE
www.lincs.police.uk/onlinereporting

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