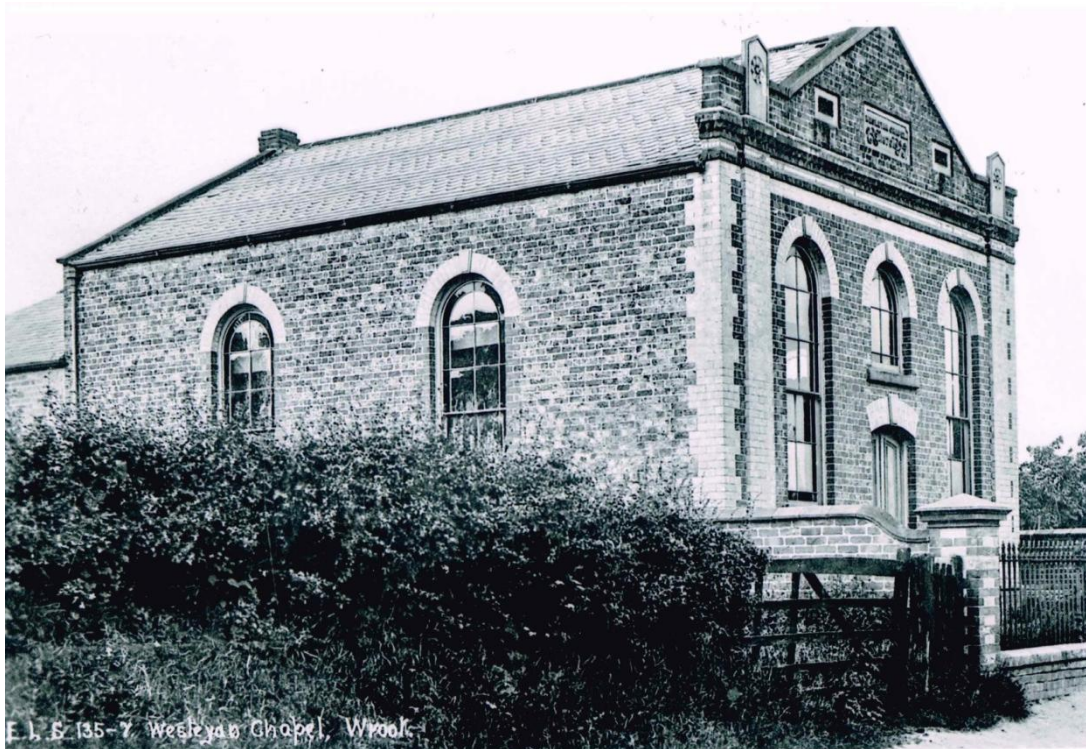


# Wroot Wesleyan Chapel, Wroot, North Lincolnshire

## Historic Buildings Record



## Wesleyan Chapel, High Street, Wroot, North Lincolnshire

National Grid Reference : SE 7134 0340

Planning Reference : PA/2016/1273

North Lincolnshire Museum Site Code : WRTAF

Report text and illustrations prepared by Caroline Atkins  
for  
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# Wroot Wesleyan Chapel

## Historic Building Record

### 1 Introduction

The Wesleyan chapel which is the subject of this report, and of the photographic record which the report accompanies, stands on the south-west side of the High Street in the village of Wroot, North Lincolnshire (Plate 1). This isolated village occupies a marginally elevated site, barely above the 5m contour, in an area of intensively drained agricultural land, 6.5km to the west-south-west of the centre of Epworth. Wroot Wesleyan Chapel is centred on National Grid Reference SE 7134 0340.

Full planning permission (PA/2016/1273) has been granted to convert the Wesleyan chapel into a dwelling. The permission contains planning conditions which require that the existing historic building be recorded photographically prior to the commencement of work on the site and that a descriptive report and archive be deposited at the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record.



Plate 1

Wesleyan Chapel, High Street, Wroot, viewed from the east.

### 2 The Photographic Record

Photographic recording of the buildings adhered to the specification prepared by the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record Office (hereafter NLHER), a copy of which is appended to the archive copies of this report.

All black and white and colour transparency record photographs were taken by Eva Border, on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017, using a 35mm camera, loaded with Ilford Delta 400 and Agfa Photo Precisa 100ASA films, fitted with a standard lens and usually mounted on a tripod. Each view was captured twice and, following orthodox monochrome chemical development of the films, the best frame from each pair was selected for inclusion in the archive. The colour images used to illustrate this report were taken by Caroline Atkins, on a pocket digital camera, and do not form part of the archive.

Copies of a ground plan, marked up to show the location and direction of each archive photograph, and a detailed catalogue of the images are included in the archive folder.

The accuracy of the developer's plan of the building as existing was tested and found to be accurate but the record of the internal features was not complete. Consequently, the missing features were recorded on site and a new plan (Figure 1) was produced by Caroline Atkins, based upon the supplied record which was prepared by Howard Wroot.

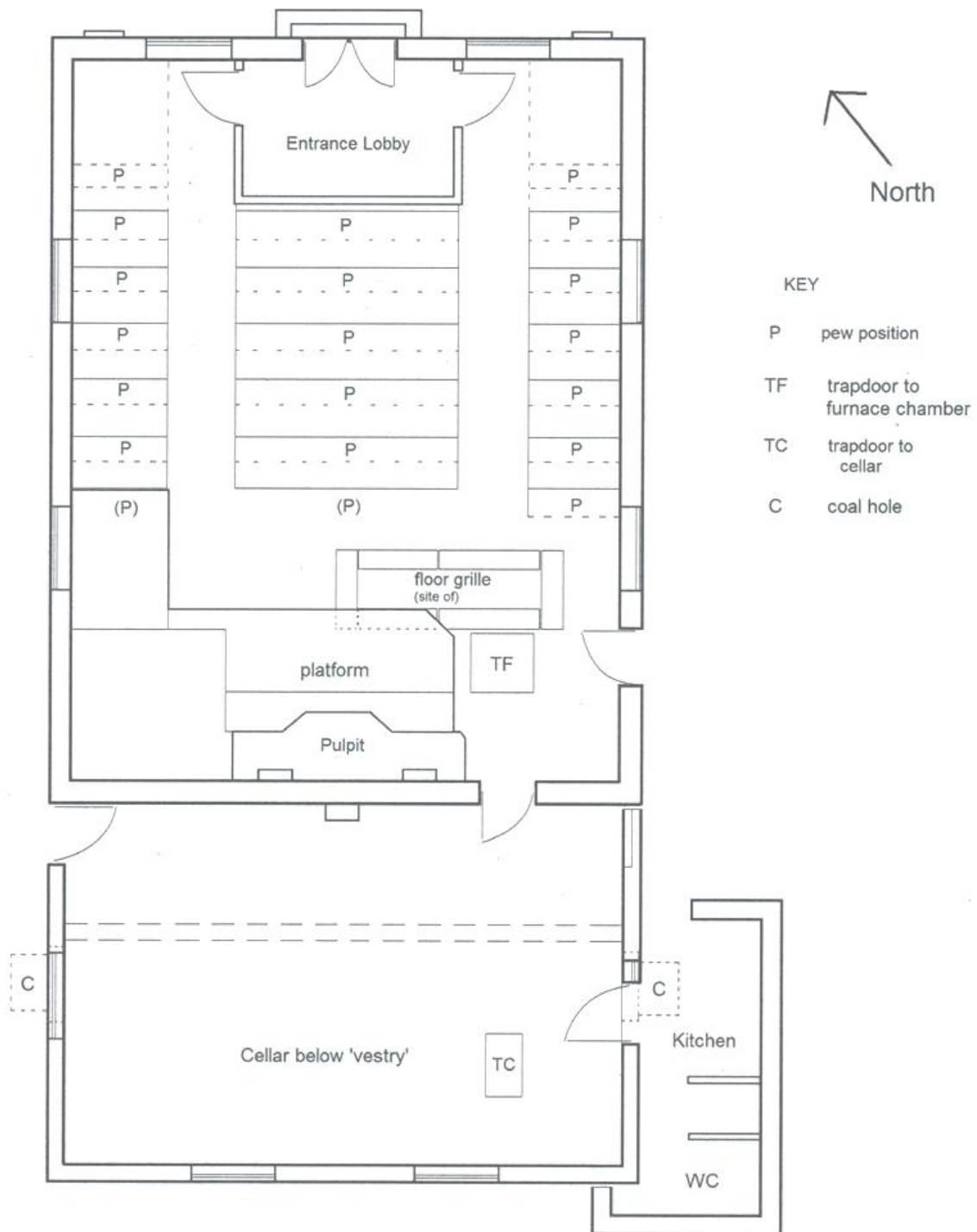


Figure 1  
 Wroot Wesleyan Chapel (WRTAF): Ground Plan  
 Scale 1:100

### 3 A Description of the Building

#### 3.1 The Chapel

The earliest part of this three-phase building is the main area of worship, which was built in 1870 (Plate 2). In plan, the chapel is a simple, rectangular building, 11.5m by 8.85m externally, built of predominantly red bricks (225mm x 105mm x 75mm) laid in English garden-wall bond (three stretcher courses to one header course). A small test pit remains open against the west elevation, exposing two 5cm-offset courses of bricks at its base.

Yellow bricks have been used for the quoins and pilasters in the front elevation and for the window and doorway arches in the front and side elevations. Window sills and doorway thresholds are of stone. The external doors are of timber but unfortunately the window openings contain replacement uPVC units (the undated postcard reproduced on the cover of this report shows the original timber frames).



Plate 2  
Wroot Wesleyan Chapel: front elevation with date stone.

The interior of the chapel lacks the timber entrance lobby, which appears on the developer's plan (included in the site archive), and the pews which do not (Plate 3). Apparently, the latter were sold separately when the building was put on the market. The timber pulpit currently remains *in situ* (Plate 4).



Plate 3  
Wroot Wesleyan Chapel: interior, viewed from the south, showing stepped floor and the main entrance, minus lobby.



Plate 4  
Wroot Wesleyan Chapel: interior, viewed from the north, showing the pulpit and raised platform.



Plate 5  
Wroot Wesleyan Chapel: west wall panelling and stepped platforms with fixing points for the missing pews.



Plate 6  
Wroot Wesleyan Chapel: pew fixings detail.

The positions of a maximum of seven rows of pews (only six rows in the centre block) are clearly visible in the wall panelling and the floor of the chapel (Figure 1; Plates 5 and 6). The truncated evidence for the southernmost pew against the west wall (Plate 5, left of frame) indicates that this pew was removed, and the raised platform beneath the pulpit extended, while the chapel was still in use for worship.

The central part of the platform beneath the pulpit was also extended northwards, to overlap the stone surround for a heating grille set into the floor (Plate 7). A trapdoor in the floor to the east of the platform leads, via a timber ladder, to a very small subterranean chamber, in which stands a Romesse stove (Plates 8 and 9). The date of the stove's manufacture is not known (in spite of numerous internet searches), but it occupies a position which appears to be an original part of the chapel.



Plate 7  
Wroot Wesleyan Chapel: stone surround for a heating grille.



Plate 8  
Wroot Wesleyan Chapel: the furnace in the subterranean chamber.



Plate 9  
The furnace plate.



Plate 10  
Wroot Wesleyan Chapel: the ceiling, with central and smaller roses, and the entrance lobby scar, viewed from the south.



Plate 11  
Wroot Wesleyan Chapel: the central ceiling rose.

The chapel's ceiling has five roses, from which hang electric lights (Plate 10). The central rose (Plate 11), apparently made of iron, hides the only built access point into the roof space. The rectangular hole cut into the ceiling above the entrance lobby was made by the developer's building surveyor to gain access to the roof space. No safe access to the roof space was available when the photographic and drawn records of the chapel were made.

### 3.2 The Southern Extension

The southern extension adds 5.70m to the length (notionally N/S) of the chapel, and a useful area of flat floor-space. The intended purpose of this space, which was added only a few years after the main chapel was built, is not known for certain, as almost all records of the chapel's origins and development appear to have been lost. The present owner, Tom Hopkins, has attempted to locate records which might cast light on the development of the building, in local newspaper and other local archives and the Lincolnshire Archives. Only the latter has any record of the building (other than of its use for worship) and that is an application, dated 1889, to build a schoolroom. While the addition of a schoolroom is the most likely prompt, the addition of a horizontally floored space, which might be used for countless other purposes, is likely to have been equally important given the stepped pew platforms and sloping passages of the main chapel.

The schoolroom was built using virtually the same bricks as those used for the chapel, but laid five stretcher courses to one header course, for economy. Stone was again used for the window sills and west door threshold, but also for the window and door lintels (Plate 12), instead of the yellow-brick arches used for in chapel. The window frames have been replaced but they are still made of timber.



Plate 12

South extension: west elevation showing window details and the slab-covered coal hole, centre bottom of frame.



Plate 13

South extension: south-west part of interior.

The interior of the schoolroom is plain in the extreme, which is just as well given that the major part of its floor is unsafe and therefore the placing of ranging poles, never mind the investigation of features, is inadvisable. Beneath the major part of the room there is a cellar (Figure 1; Plate 14) which was built with two coal chutes, one in its west wall (now capped by a concrete slab) and one in its east wall, which was blocked off when the SE extension was built (Plate 15). The cellar's lath and plaster ceiling is in as poor a state as the board floor above it.



Plate 14  
South extension: cellar viewed from the east.



Plate 15  
South extension: cellar, east coal hole.

### 3.3 The SE Extension

The SE extension is a small rectangular structure, externally 2.8m (E/W) by 5.0m, which clasps the SE corner of the schoolroom. This extension provides a small kitchen area separated from a lavatory by a small lobby. The date of construction is not known.

## 4 Conclusions

Wroot Wesleyan Chapel is, although slightly altered internally and now lacking internal fixtures, a structurally intact example of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century Methodist church. However, it is not an important example of its type and therefore its conversion for domestic use is an entirely appropriate proposal which will ensure the survival of the original part of the building.

Caroline Atkins  
23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017

## Wroot Wesleyan Chapel, North Lincolnshire

The Historic Building Record lodged with North Lincolnshire Museums contains the following:

- Black & white photographic prints and negatives
- Colour transparencies
- Ground plan showing the direction and location of each record photograph
- Copies of the developer's plans of the existing and proposed structures
- Electronic versions of the black & white photographs
- This report and appended specification for the record.



## SPECIFICATION FOR HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

Generic specification prepared by the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record Office (hereafter HER) with site-specific details added by Caroline Atkins, for

Site Name: Wesleyan Chapel, High Street, Wroot, N. Lincs. DN9 2BU  
Development: Conversion of a Wesleyan chapel into a dwelling.  
NGR: SE 7134 0340  
Planning Ref No: PA/2016/1273  
Planning Case Officer: Tanya Coggon  
Date of Issue: 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Full planning permission has been granted to convert a Wesleyan chapel into a residential dwelling on the High Street, Wroot, North Lincolnshire, subject planning conditions requiring the production of an historic building record prior to the commencement of work on site. The conditions state that:

#### **Condition i**

No alteration or development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has produced an historic building record in accordance with a written specification, including a timetable for the recording, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority'.

#### **Condition ii**

The historic building recording shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details and timings, subject to any variations agreed in writing by the local planning authority.

#### **Condition iii**

The historic building archive shall be deposited at the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record within six months of the date of commencement of the development hereby approved by this permission or such other period as may be agreed in writing by the local planning authority.

### 2 ARCHITECTURAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The Wesleyan chapel was constructed in 1870 and was used as a place of worship until recently. The chapel is of local historic significance and its retention and sensitive conversion is important to conserve the local character of the village.

The proposed development will alter, damage or obscure elements of the historic building fabric that are important to the understanding of the nature and function of the building.

The photographic record of the structure will be placed on the North Lincolnshire HER, a publicly accessible resource, and will form a long-term record of the building's history.

### 3 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Prior to the commencement of any work, the photographer should confirm in writing adherence to this specification, or state (with reasons) any proposals to vary the specification. Should the photographer wish to vary the specification, written confirmation of the agreement of the

HER to any variations is required prior to work commencing. Any technical queries arising from the specification detailed below should be addressed to the HER without delay.

3.2 The developer must submit a copy of the agreed specification to the planning case officer at least 15 working days prior to the proposed commencement date, in accordance with the planning condition above.

3.3 The HER should receive at least one week's confirmation of the start date of the recording.

3.4 Photographs must be developed and seen by the HER (scanned images of prints are acceptable) PRIOR to development commencing to ensure that an adequate record has been obtained.

3.5 Receipt of satisfactory photographs will be acknowledged and the HER will then advise the Planning case officer that the first of the three planning conditions has been complied with and can be discharged, thus allowing development to proceed.

3.6 This specification is valid for one year from the date of issue. After this period, the HER will review the brief to ensure it remains appropriate.

## 4 PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT

4.1 Photography should preferably be undertaken using either a 35mm or medium format camera. Conventional black and white (silver halide) photography is the archival ideal and should be supplemented by colour transparencies (ie slides) where this would add detail not otherwise recoverable.

4.2 Black and white photography using orthodox monochrome chemical development should be used. Film should be no faster than ISO400, eg. FP4 (ISO125) or HP5, or Delta 400 Pro (a recent replacement for HP5 in certain film sizes such as 220). Slower films should be used where possible as their smaller grain size yields higher definition images. The use of dye-based films such as Ilford XP2 and Kodak T40CN is discouraged due to poor archiving qualities.

4.3 If only digital photography is to be used, the images must be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) to ensure long-term storage, including periodic maintenance and software updating. See <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/easy/home>. You must notify us of submission by adding our email address in Step 5, 'Submit Project'. See email address at the end of this document.

4.4 Full digital photography by a small-sensor camera is not acceptable. The imaging sensor size should be Micro 4/3, APS-C, APS-H, or Full Frame. Jpeg compression should be set to a minimum (Fine), and the pixel dimensions to the maximum for the camera. ISO sensitivity should not exceed 3200.

4.5 It is essential that the subject of the photographs is in focus and correctly exposed. Calculation of shutter speeds and aperture should pay due regard to depth of field. In some circumstances, e.g. poor light, it may be necessary to use a tripod.

## 5 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDING

5.1 Photographs should be taken of the following:

- All external elevations
- All internal elevations, including internal walls/subdivisions
- The roof structure of each section of the building

- The building in the context of the immediate surrounding (i.e. the relationship to other farm buildings, the farmyard and farmhouse)
- Details, e.g. windows, openings, doors, decorative brickwork, carpentry joints, re-used timbers and any other interesting features, fixtures or fittings. Where particular features such as windows or openings of a single type, occur more than once within the structure, only representative photographs need be taken.
- A general internal photographic record should be made of the building. General views should be taken of each room/space to be altered, and on each floor or discrete internal space, from a sufficient number of vantage points to adequately record the form, general appearance and method of construction of each area photographed; this may require ancillary lighting or flash equipment.

5.2 Wherever possible photographs should be taken at right angles to the elevations or detail. A metric scale of an appropriate length must be used (preferably a 2m ranging pole or, *in extremis*, a broom handle 2 metres long, and painted two contrasting colours (preferably red and white) each a metre long, would be adequate).

5.3 A standard (50mm) lens should be used where possible. Wide angle lenses tend to introduce distortion (diverging verticals); it is better to take a photograph from further away with a standard lens than from close-up with a wide-angle lens. In some circumstances, however, use of a wide-angle lens may be unavoidable.

5.4 Consideration should be given to the lighting which is appropriate to the subject. It may be necessary to take photographs at different times of the day in order to avoid problems of extreme contrast, or to use flash lighting to fill in areas of shadow or for internal or badly-lit features.

5.5 A photographic register detailing (as a minimum) location and direction of each shot together with a basic description of the view must be completed.

5.6 The position and direction of each photograph is also to be noted on a copy of the building plan or site plan.

## 6 DESCRIPTIVE RECORD

6.1 A written description of the building should be prepared and, as a minimum, will include the following:

- Basic dimensions and layout of the buildings and individual rooms/internal spaces.
- Building fabric and roof covering.
- Structural detail and construction eg. windows, openings, doors, decorative brickwork, carpentry joints, re-used timbers and any other interesting features, fixtures or fittings.
- Any observations on date, phasing, development and function of the building/s, including any fixtures and fittings.

6.2 The written description should be cross-referenced to the photographic survey and individual images, and to an accurate scale plan of the building/s. The architect's plan/s and elevations submitted with the planning application may be used, but must be checked for accuracy and any corrections made as appropriate. A selection of images should be included to illustrate the description.

## 7 PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

7.1 The historic building archive (prints, negatives, plans and report) should be presented in a suitable rigid binder or folder, clearly marked on the outside with the name and location of the building or site, and the month/year of the survey.

7.2 If digital photography has been used, details of deposition with the ADS must be included in the archive.

7.3 The photographic archive should be accompanied by a short written summary providing brief details of the photographic survey, the equipment and methodology used, the name of the photographer and the date and duration of the photographic survey.

7.4 Prints and negatives should be presented in archivally stable envelopes and negative sleeves, such as Kenro display pockets. The use of PVC holders should be avoided as these cause damage to the photographs in the long term. Negatives should be presented in strips, and in no circumstances should be cut into individual frames.

7.5 The prints and negatives should be accompanied by the register and plan referred to above (see 5.5 and 5.6), with sufficient documentation to leave no doubt as to the subject of each photograph; photographic prints should be labelled and cross-referenced to the negative.

7.6 Prints should be at least 6" x 4" and labelled on the reverse (taking care not to damage the print). Labelling must include the name and address of the building, date recorded, photographer's name, and national grid reference (see NGR above).

7.7 A full, clean set of the development plans submitted with the planning application must be included in the archive.

## 8 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

8.1 The historic building archive must be sent to the HER within the timescale stated in the planning application.

8.2 Receipt of a satisfactory archive will be acknowledged and the HER will then advise the planning case officer that the planning conditions ii and iii have been complied with and can be discharged.

8.3 The archive will become publicly accessible once deposited with the HER or ADS.

8.4 The individual/organisation undertaking this work is encouraged to assign copyright of the archive material to the HER. Where this is not possible, copyright owners must, by prior agreement, licence the HER to use the material for reference purposes, on the understanding that such licence does not cover commercial use of the material by the HER or any third party. In all cases the contractor and the commissioning body will retain the right to be identified as the originator of the work.

## 9 HEALTH AND SAFETY

9.1 Health and safety will take priority over the above requirements. It will be the responsibility of all individuals involved in the photographic recording to comply with all Health and Safety Legislation, and ensure that they are adequately insured, to cover all eventualities, including risks to third parties.

Any queries relating to this brief should be addressed to: **Alison Williams, Historic Environment Record, Environment Team, North Lincolnshire Council, Church Square House, PO Box, Scunthorpe, DN15 6XQ. Te: 01724 297471. e-mail: Alison.williams@northlincs.gov.uk**