



The Conservation Area and Regeneration

A New Chapter for Saxilby Waterfront
(Bridge Street Conservation Area)

Bridge Street, including the waterfront area was officially designated as a conservation area in 1989, recognising its historic character, distinctive architecture, and the unique link between a village and the waterway



At risk:

By 2017, Historic England had placed the Bridge Street Conservation Area on its national At Risk Register, citing dilapidation and loss of detail. Without action, Saxilby risked losing those special qualities that made this part of the village so unique.



Achievements:

Over time, Saxilby Waterfront (Bridge Street Conservation Area) has been transformed. Bridge Place corner has become a welcoming green space with hedges, paths, and seating. The footbridge has been restored, and bespoke benches and a new bus shelter now provide places to pause and enjoy the view. Public art, from the multigenerational Shoal of Fish sculpture to smaller creative touches, adds character alongside the historic buildings, helping create a strong sense of place. Practical improvements have also brought new life to the area: Noticeboards have been replaced, gateway signs now give a proud welcome, and heritage boards share stories of the canal and village past. Planters have been refurbished, and new street signs help to tie the whole area together.



Community action:

In response, Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council set up the Saxilby Waterfront Working Group. Their vision was to make Bridge Street a vibrant, well-maintained place to live, work, and visit, where its historic character, architectural heritage, and waterways are preserved, celebrated, and enhanced.



The masterplan:

Public consultation shaped a regeneration masterplan rooted in local voices, reflecting what residents, businesses, and volunteers wanted for the area. With support from West Lindsey District Council, the Canal and River Trust, and the community, work began.



A shared success:

These efforts have lifted Bridge Street Conservation Area out of the 'At Risk' category and restored pride in the village's historic heart. By recognising and celebrating its heritage, architecture, and waterways, the community has given Saxilby Waterfront a new lease of life. Conservation is ongoing, and continued care will ensure this special place remains protected and cherished for generations to come.



Helping wildlife thrive:

Creating a richer habitat has been central to the transformation of Saxilby Waterfront. The wildflower pathway acts as an insect superhighway, linking food and shelter for pollinators like bees and butterflies across village and countryside. New trees provide food and nesting spots for birds, while bug hotels offer safe havens for insects. Today, the hum of pollinators and the flutter of wings sit alongside the bustle of village life.

Wildlife spotting:

Pause, and use all of your senses:

Listen: can you hear birdsong, the buzz of bees, or the splash of fish in the Fosdyke?

Look: spot insects on the wildflowers, birds in the trees, or fish moving beneath the water's surface.

Touch: feel the texture of leaves, tree bark, or the soft grass underfoot (but please don't disturb any wildlife!)

Smell: take a deep breath - can you detect the scent of wildflowers, damp earth or fresh water?

Take a moment to imagine how Saxilby's wildlife and waterways have shaped the village for centuries.



Saxilby Waterfront Working Group

