

Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

**Draft Report
September 2017**



**Report prepared for:
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council**



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

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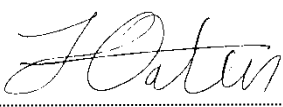
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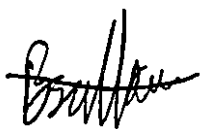
Revision history

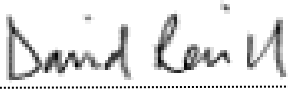
Revision Ref / Date Issued	Amendments	Issued to
v1-1 / 18 July 2017		Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
v2-1 / 18 September 2017	Minor additions and amendments	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Contract

This report describes work commissioned by Nadeem Din on behalf of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, by an email dated 25 May 2017. Jamie Oaten, Ben Sullivan and David Revill of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

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Purpose

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Abbreviations

AAP	Area Action Plan
ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
CAMS	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DPD	Development Plan Document
EA	Environment Agency
EU	European Union
GEP	Good Ecological Potential
GVZ	Groundwater Vulnerability Zone
HBBC	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
HMWB	Heavily Modified Water Body
HRA	Habitat Regulations Assessment
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LAQM	Local Air Quality Management
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LSOA	Lower Layer Super Output Areas
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
NCA	National Character Area
NNR	National Nature Reserve
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
PRoW	Public Right of Way
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological Sites
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SLA	Special Landscape Area
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPZ	Source Protection Zone
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
WFD	Water Framework Directive

1 Introduction

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan for the Borough. The Local Plan will set out the strategic priorities and detailed policies that will guide development in the area up to 2036. To support this process, the Council is carrying out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), which will consider the potential environmental and sustainability impacts of the Local Plan.

This Scoping Report represents the first stage of the SA process. It provides a description of the baseline environmental characteristics and key environmental and sustainability issues of relevance to the Borough, and identifies other relevant plans, programmes and policies that may influence the development of the Local Plan. The Scoping Report also establishes an appraisal framework that will be used to examine the sustainability impacts of implementing the Local Plan policies and objectives. The framework comprises a series of SA objectives and associated appraisal criteria that reflect the key sustainability issues identified through the baseline review.

The Scoping Report draws upon a wide range of existing information. This includes the evidence base used to inform the preparation of the existing Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan Core Strategy (HBBC, 2009), together with its accompanying Sustainability Appraisals (WYG 2009; 2014b).

A draft version of the Scoping Report will be published for consultation with the statutory consultation bodies for a five-week period. The scope of the SA will be revised as necessary to address the consultee comments received before a final version of the Scoping Report is published.

1.1 Adopted Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan

The current Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan (2006-2026) comprises the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD), adopted in December 2009, the Site Allocations & Development Management Policies DPD (2016), Hinckley Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP) DPD (2011), and Earl Shilton & Barwell AAP DPD (2014).

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council is now preparing a new Local Plan for the Borough, which will extend the plan to 2036. The Core Strategy will be reviewed and updated, whilst the DPDs will be incorporated into the single Local Plan document. The Council published a new Local Development Scheme in January 2017 (HBBC, 2017), which sets out the plan documents that will be prepared and a timetable for their preparation.

The new Core Strategy will set out the strategic priorities for development in the Borough. It will include commitments for housing, employment and other development and will set out the specific criteria against which planning applications for the development and use of land and buildings will be considered. In addition, the Core Strategy will seek to address local needs in terms of community facilities and infrastructure, and set out policies for promoting and protecting key environmental features and resources within the area, adapting to climate change and securing good design.

1.2 Sustainability Appraisal

Sustainability Appraisal is a compulsory requirement for Local Plans under section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. UK Government guidance states that *'its role is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.'* (Paragraph: 001) (Department for Communities & Local Government, 2014).

In line with Government guidance, SA incorporates the requirements of *The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004* (commonly referred to as the 'SEA Regulations'), which implement the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC *'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'* (the 'SEA Directive') (European Parliament, 2001). The Directive requires formal assessment of plans and programmes that are likely to have significant effects (either positive or negative) on the environment. It applies to all plans and programmes which are *'subject to preparation and/or adoption by an authority at national, regional or local level'* or are *'required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions'* (ODPM, 2004).

The first output from the SA process is the production of a Scoping Report, which describes the scope and methodology of the assessment. A proportionate approach has been adopted towards establishing the scope of the SA, reflecting the high-level nature of the Local Plan. Consultation with the statutory consultees (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) will be undertaken to refine and confirm the methodology and scope of the assessment. These aspects will be reviewed iteratively as the Local Plan develops to ensure the plan fully considers the environmental and sustainability impacts of its implementation before it is adopted.

Once the scope of the SA has been agreed, an Environmental Report will be prepared that assesses and describes the likely significant sustainability impacts of implementing the Local Plan policies.

1.3 Habitat Regulations Assessment

The European Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC) (known as 'the Habitats Directive'), as implemented through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2010 (as amended) ('the Habitat Regulations'), requires a Local Planning Authority to carry out a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) of its Local Plan.

The purpose of the HRA is to establish whether the Local Plan will have a 'likely significant effect' on sites designated for their nature conservation interest at an international level. These sites (known collectively as 'European Sites') include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), and by UK Government policy, Ramsar sites.

The HRA work will be conducted alongside the SA process to ensure the two processes inform each other.

1.4 Hinckley & Bosworth Borough

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough is one of seven districts within Leicestershire, in the East Midlands. It shares boundaries with six local authorities: Rugby, North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth in the West Midlands, and Blaby, Charnwood and North West Leicestershire in Leicestershire. The Borough is situated between two regional hubs, being 22km from Leicester and 24km from Coventry (see Figure 1-1). It has an area of 297km² and a population 108,800 in 2015 (ONS, 2016).

The Borough extends from the rocky and steep slopes in Charnwood Borough in the north east, across undulating arable farmland, characterised by the distinctive heritage-rich parkland of Market Bosworth. A network of tributaries of the River Sence and River Mease flow through a flat expanse of land in the south west, which contrasts with the tributaries of the River Soar in the north east, which flow through steeper valleys before again reaching flatter land towards the edge of the Borough near Leicester. The main urban centre, Hinckley, is in the south, with Burbage, Earl Shilton and Barwell nearby, which together comprise the main urbanised areas, with numerous villages and hamlets scattered throughout the Borough.

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough is well connected to most of the larger towns and cities in the Midlands via the regional road network. The M1 runs through the north-eastern part of the Borough, connecting settlements such as Markfield and Groby to Loughborough, Derby and Nottingham to the north. The M69 runs through the southern edge of the Borough, connecting the town of Hinckley to Coventry and Leicester. The A5 also forms the southern boundary of the Borough, stretching from Luton to Cannock (north of Birmingham). A single train station, at Hinckley, is in the Borough, where Cross Country run hourly services to Birmingham New Street and Leicester.

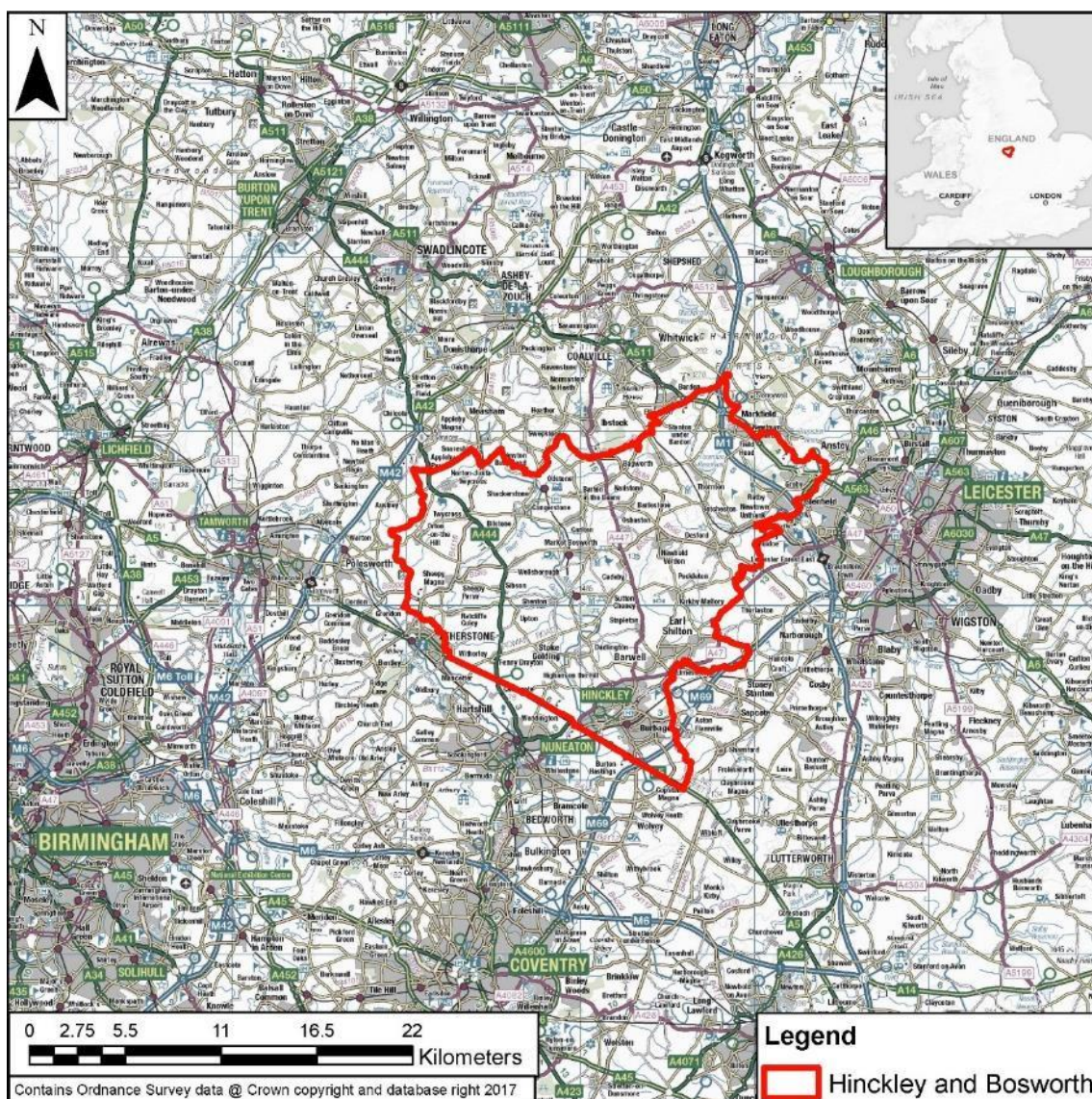


Figure 1-1: Location of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough

1.5 Key challenges facing the Borough

Through the development of the adopted Core Strategy a series of key challenges affecting the Borough were identified. These key challenges influenced the development and choice of Core Strategy policies and the appraisal framework used in the accompanying Sustainability Appraisals (WYG, 2014b). These key challenges are:

- Economy and employment
 - Maintenance of the rural economy and opportunities for diversification.
 - The need to improve the vitality of Hinckley town centre and other District and Local Centres.
- Population and quality of life
 - The need to improve physical activity and health.
 - The potential closure of services and facilities and resulting impact upon accessibility and social exclusion.
 - The shortage of affordable housing.
 - The need to reduce the fear of crime.
- Tourism and recreation
 - The need to maintain Hinckley and Bosworth's position as a tourism destination particularly in relation to the National Forest.

- Realise the potential that increasing the tourism appeal of the Borough will attract more people, who may travel longer distances, particularly to Bosworth Battlefield as it is a site of international importance.
- Geological environment
 - The need to reduce the amount of waste produced.
 - The need to increase the proportion of waste that is recycled.
- Water environment
 - Future flood risk associated with climate change.
 - Future development in the flood plain and increased surface water run-off could increase flood risk to properties.
- Biodiversity and nature conservation
 - The need to protect and enhance both statutory and non-statutory sites designated for nature conservation.
 - The need to protect habitats and species listed in the Biodiversity Action Plan.
 - The need to create new habitats.
- Landscape and visual amenity
 - The potential impact of development upon the rural landscape character of the Borough.
 - The need to maintain and enhance the setting of the National Forest.
 - The need to protect sites of landscape importance.
- Cultural heritage and archaeology
 - The need to preserve the setting and sites of archaeological and cultural heritage interest both known and unknown.
 - Potential conflicts between the need to conserve historical sites and the promotion of tourism.
- Noise and vibration
 - Noise pollution associated with the road corridors in the Borough.
- Air and climate
 - Improving air quality to maintain the absence of AQMAs in the Borough.
 - The need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Potential climate change related impacts upon Hinckley and Bosworth.
- Traffic and transport
 - Traffic congestion during peak times.
 - High levels of private car use.
 - Poor quality of bus services and lack of links between some villages.
 - The need for safer routes for pedestrians and cyclists.

2 Sustainability Appraisal methodology

2.1 Meeting the requirements of the SEA Directive

Sustainability Appraisal is a compulsory requirement for certain development plans under section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Its purpose is to provide a systematic assessment of the extent to which Local Plan policies will contribute to the achievement of environmental, social and economic objectives. The information gained from the SA process is used to aid the selection of a preferred set of policies for the Local Plan, which best meet its economic, environmental and social objectives, and legal requirements.

Government guidance requires that Sustainability Appraisals should incorporate the requirements of the SEA Regulations 2004. Therefore, the SA of the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Local Plan will meet the obligations of both the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and SEA Regulations. In practice, SA and SEA follow very similar methodologies and it is possible to combine them without losing the essence of either. Therefore, for the remainder of this document 'Sustainability Appraisal' refers to the combined process.

As required by the SEA Regulations, the full range of environmental receptors have been considered when developing the scope of the SA. This meets the requirements of the SEA Directive, which states that an assessment should identify the potentially significant impacts on *'biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic, material assets including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape, and the interrelationship between the above factors'*. As an integrated SA and SEA is being undertaken, consideration of other 'sustainability' topics has also been made, and therefore the SA appraises other issues including housing, transport, waste, social inclusion and deprivation, and economic and employment characteristics. Annex I of the SEA Directive sets out the scope of information to be provided. This is shown in Table 2-1 below, which also identifies where in the SA process each requirement will be met.

Table 2-1: Stages in the SA/SEA process as identified within Annex I of the SEA Directive

SEA Directive requirements	Where in the SA
(a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	Scoping Report (Section 3)
(b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	Scoping Report (Section 4)
(c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	Scoping Report (Section 4)
(d) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	Scoping Report (Section 4 and 5)
(e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	Scoping Report (Sections 3 and 4)
(f) the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape, and the interrelationship between these factors;	Environmental Report (to be prepared)
(g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan;	Environmental Report (to be prepared)
(h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	Environmental Report (to be prepared)
(i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10; and	Environmental Report (to be prepared)
(j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Environmental Report (to be prepared)

2.2 Stages of the Sustainability Appraisal process

Sustainability Appraisal is an iterative process that aims to identify the significant environmental, social and economic effects of a plan. For the Local Plan, this involves assessing the Plan strategies (objectives, policies and site allocations) against a series of SA objectives to identify the extent to which sustainable development is likely to be achieved i.e., where plan strategies contribute to, or conflict with, the SA objectives.

This Scoping Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Regulations and follows good practice guidance produced by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) (ODPM, 2005) and Planning Practice Guidance provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (DCLG, 2014).

The ODPM guidance sets out a five-stage process (A to E) to be followed (see Table 2-2). This Scoping Report addresses Stage A of the process wherein the context and objectives of the SA are identified and the scope of the assessment is determined. For this assessment, stages A1 to A4 will be completed, whilst stage A5 comprises consultation on this Scoping Report, which will be conducted as outlined in Section 6 of this document.

Table 2-2: Stages in the Sustainability Appraisal process

SEA stages and tasks	Purpose	Where covered in the Sustainability Appraisal
Stage A	Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope	Scoping Report
(A1) Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives	To establish how the plan or programme is affected by outside factors, to suggest ideas for how any constraints can be addressed and to help to identify Sustainability Appraisal objectives.	Scoping Report (Section 3)
(A2) Collecting baseline information	To provide an evidence base for environmental problems, prediction of effects, and monitoring; to help in the development of Sustainability Appraisal objectives.	Scoping Report (Section 4)
(A3) Identifying potential environmental problems	To help focus the SA and streamline the subsequent problems, prediction of effects, and monitoring; to help in the development of Sustainability Appraisal objectives.	Scoping Report (Section 4)
(A4) Developing SEA objectives	To provide a means by which the environmental performance of the plan or programme and alternatives can be assessed.	Scoping Report (Section 5)
(A5) Consulting on the scope of SEA	To ensure that the SA covers the likely significant environmental effects of the plan or programme.	Scoping Report (Section 6)
Stage B	Developing and refining options and assessing effects	Environmental Report (to be prepared)
Stage C	Preparing the Environmental Report	Environmental Report (to be prepared)
Stage D	Consulting on the draft Local Plan and the Environmental Report	Environmental Report (to be prepared)
Stage E	Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan	Environmental Report (to be prepared)

The relationship between the SA process and development of the Local Plan is summarised in Figure 2-1.

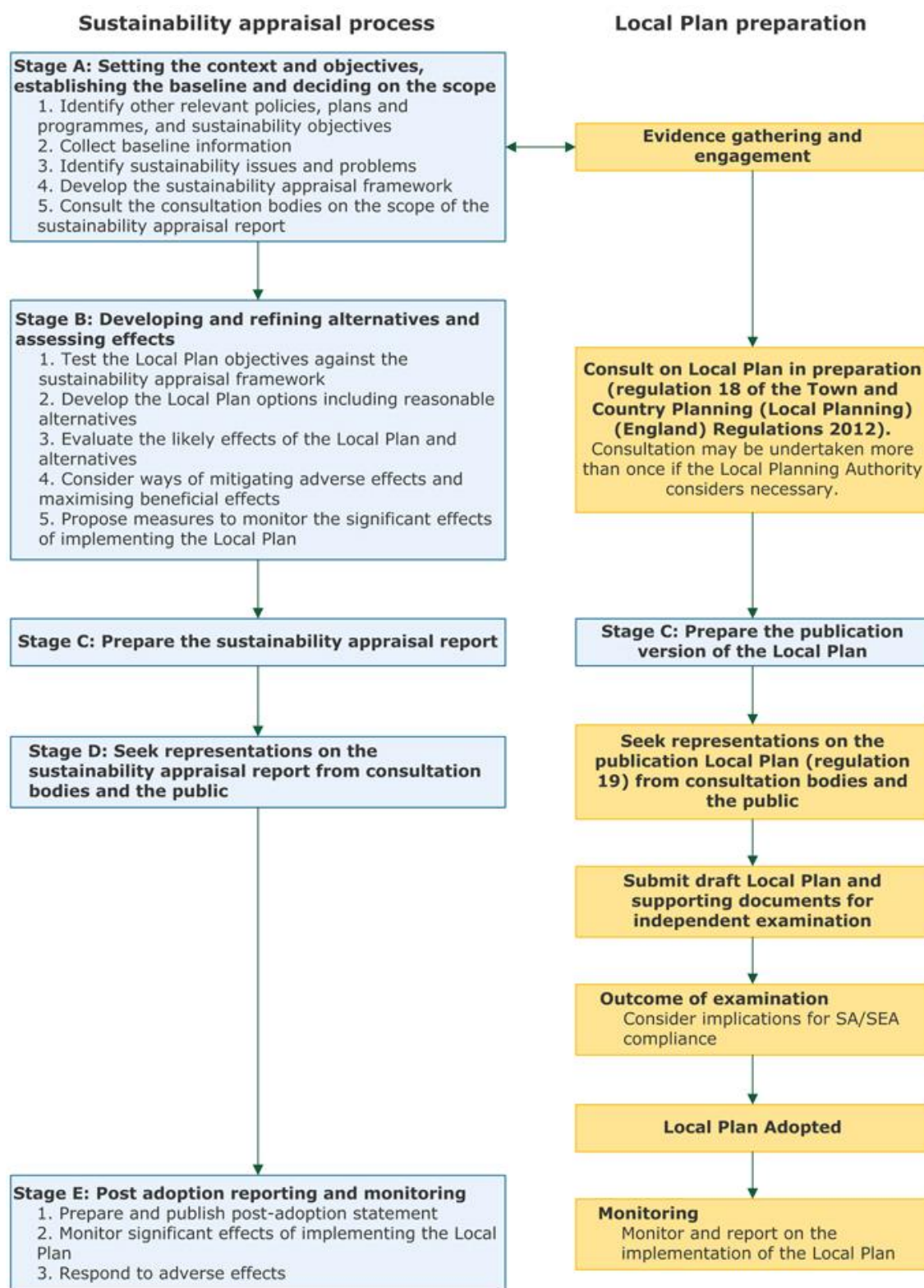


Figure 2-1: Key stages of Local Plan preparation and their link with the Sustainability Appraisal process (DCLG, 2014)

2.3 Scope of the Sustainability Appraisal

2.3.1 Stage A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and environmental protection objectives

The relationship between various policies, plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives may influence the Local Plan. The relationships are analysed to:

- Identify any external social, environmental or economic objectives that should be reflected in the Sustainability Appraisal process;
- Identify external factors that may have influenced the preparation of the plan; and
- Determine whether the policies in other plans and programmes might lead to cumulative or synergistic effects when combined with policies in the plan.

The plans and programmes that need to be considered include those at the international, national, regional and local scale. These are identified and evaluated in Section 3.

2.3.2 Stage A2: Collecting baseline information

Sustainability Appraisal guidance and the SEA Directive identify a range of environmental and sustainability topics that must be considered during the assessment process. These are shown in Table 2-3. Baseline information has been collected in relation to each of these topics, many of which are inter-linked. A desk study was undertaken to identify baseline information, which was used to determine the key environmental, social and economic characteristics of the Borough. The information search included information from a range of sources including the following organisations:

- Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
- Leicestershire County Council
- Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG)
- Department for Food, Environment & Rural Affairs (Defra)
- Office for National Statistics
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
- Severn Trent Water
- Climate East Midlands

Where information was available, key sustainability targets and objectives have been identified; established and predicted trends in the status or condition of environmental features have been described; and significant environmental and sustainability issues have been highlighted. Trends evident in the baseline information have been used to predict the future baseline situation, which has assumed a continuation of the existing trends in some cases.

Table 2-3: Sustainability topics to be covered in the Sustainability Appraisal

SEA Directive and Sustainability Appraisal guidance requirements		Where covered in the Scoping Report	Definition in relation to this report
Environmental	Landscape	Landscape character	Local landscape character; protected and notable landscapes; key local landscape features.
	Biodiversity (including flora and fauna)	Biodiversity and nature conservation	Designated nature conservation sites; protected and notable species and habitats; trends in condition and status.
	Water	Water environment	Chemical and biological water quality; surface and groundwater resources; waterbody hydromorphology; flood risk.
	Soil (including geology)	Land	Variety of rocks, minerals and landforms; the quantity and distribution of high quality soil; land contamination
	Cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage)	Historic environment	Protected and notable heritage features; human induced physical changes to the environment; pressures on heritage features.

SEA Directive and Sustainability Appraisal guidance requirements		Where covered in the Scoping Report	Definition in relation to this report
	Air	Air quality	Air quality issues; emissions to air.
	Climatic factors	Climate	Regional climate patterns; trends in greenhouse gas emissions and the sources of these emissions; mitigation measures and adaptation options to manage climate change.
Social	Population	Population	Where people live and work; population trends and demographics; housing; education; inequality and deprivation; key community facilities; accessibility.
	Human health	Population	Trends and patterns in human health; recreation opportunities.
Economic	Economy	Local economy	Local economic and employment conditions.
	Material assets	Material assets	Critical transport and other infrastructure; community services; green infrastructure and open space.
	Waste	Waste and minerals	Waste collection and recycling patterns.
The interrelationship between the above factors		Throughout the Scoping Report.	The relationship between environmental features and issues.

2.3.3 Stage A3: Identifying environmental and sustainability issues and problems

The identification of significant sustainability issues of direct relevance to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough is an important step in establishing an appropriate appraisal framework. Such issues have been identified directly through the baseline information review or identified by evaluating the relationship between the aims of the SA and the established environmental baseline.

2.3.4 Stage A4: Developing the Sustainability Appraisal objectives

Sustainability Appraisal objectives are a key tool used to assess the potential positive and negative environmental and sustainability effects of the Local Plan. Together with associated appraisal criteria, they form an assessment framework that provides a means to predict, describe and analyse the effects that are likely to arise from the implementation of the Plan policies. The Plan options and policies are appraised individually against each SA objective, thereby allowing environmental, economic, and social effects, in particular those which are significant, to be identified. The use of comparable alternatives can also be incorporated into the assessment once the assessment framework has been established to aid in the identification of the most appropriate option for each Plan policy.

3 Stage A1: Review of other relevant plans, programmes and policies

3.1 Introduction

An important aspect of the SA process is the assessment of other plans, programmes and policies and their environmental protection and sustainability objectives, to identify how these strategic objectives may influence the development of the Local Plan and the SA process. Identifying these relationships enables potential synergies to be determined, strengthening the benefits that can be gained from implementation of the Local Plan. This information is also used to inform the development of the baseline review and the identification of key issues and problems. In addition, any inconsistencies or constraints can be identified, which could hinder the achievement of the environmental protection objectives or those of the Local Plan, and therefore providing a broad appraisal of the strategy's compliance with international, national and local considerations.

The ODPM SEA guidance recognises that no list of plans or programmes can be definitive and as a result this report describes only the key documents that may influence the Local Plan. These are shown in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1: Policies, plans and programmes reviewed through this Sustainability Appraisal process

Plan, Programme or Policy
International
European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention) ETS No. 176 (2000)
EU Sustainable Development Strategy 2001 (revised 2006)
European Biodiversity Strategy to 2020
EC Birds Directive – Council Directive 2009/147/EEC on the conservation of wild birds
EC Habitats Directive – Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora
EU Water Framework Directive – Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy
SEA Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment
The Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions
Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC on waste
EU Landfill Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste
Drinking water Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption
Air Quality Framework Directive 96/62/EC on ambient air quality assessment and management
Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air Directive 2008
Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive 94/62/EC on Packaging and Packaging Waste
EU Nitrates Directive 1991
Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment
EU Seventh Environmental Action Programme to 2020
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1992)
EU Floods Directive – Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks
EU Groundwater Directive – Directive 2006/118/EC on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002)
Aarhus Convention (1998)
National
Securing the Future – the UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)
National Planning Policy Framework (2012)
Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010)
Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006)

Plan, Programme or Policy
Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) (1981)
Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)
The Carbon Plan (2011)
Building a Low Carbon Economy – the UK's Contribution to Tackling Climate Change (2008)
Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystems (2011)
England Biodiversity Framework (2008)
UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1994)
UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (2012)
Heritage Protection for the 21st Century, White Paper (2007)
Catchment Sensitive Farming Programme (2011)
Natural Environment White Paper (2011)
Electricity Market Reform White Paper (2011)
Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon: Making Sustainable Local Transport Happen
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2012)
National Planning Policy for Waste (2014)
Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for public health in England (2010)
Healthy Lives, Healthy People: our Strategy for public health in England (2010)
Community Energy Strategy (2014)
The National Adaptation Programme - Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate (2013)
The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009)
Climate Change Act (2008)
The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007)
Housing Act (2004)
Localism Act (2011)
The Flood and Water Management Act (2010)
National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (2011)
The Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature (2011)
Waste (England and Wales) Regulations (2012)
Safeguarding Our Soils: A Strategy for England (DEFRA 2009).
Future Water – The Government's water strategy for England (2011)
Regional
Viewpoints on the Historic Environment of the East Midlands (2002)
Putting Wildlife Back on the Map: A Biodiversity Strategy for the East Midlands (2006)
Tackling Climate Change in the East Midlands, Regional Programme of Action 2009-2011 (2009)
The East Midlands Regional Waste Strategy (2006)
Water Resources for the Future – A Summary Strategy for the East Midlands Region (2009)
Humber River Basin Management Plan (2015)
River Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan (2010)
Leicestershire Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026 (2011)
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland – Landscape Woodland Strategy 2001
Carbon Reduction Strategy for Leicestershire 2013-2020 (2013)
Leicestershire Minerals Core Strategy and Development Control Policies up to 2021 (2009)
Leicestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2015)
Leicester and Leicestershire Tourism and Hospitality Sector Growth Plan 2015-2020 (2015)
6C's Green Infrastructure Strategy (2010)
CAMS: Soar Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (2013)
Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2013)
Water Resources Strategy: Regional Action Plan for the Midlands Region (2009)
Severn Trent Water's (STW's) Water Resource Management Plan 2015-40 (2014)

Plan, Programme or Policy
Midlands Connect Strategy (2017)
A5 Strategy (2012)
Housing & Economic Development Needs Assessment for Leicester and Leicestershire (2017)
Local
Local Development Framework Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) (2009)
Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD (2016)
Hinckley Town Centre Area Action Plan DPD (2011)
Earl Shilton and Barwell Area Action Plan DPD (2014)
Neighbourhood Development Plan for Market Bosworth 2014-2026 (2014)
Biodiversity Assessment (2009)
Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey (2014)
Green Infrastructure Strategy (2008)
Renewable Energy Capacity Study (2014)
Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy (2017)
Town Centre's Vision (2015)
Car Parking Assessment of Hinckley Town Centre (2017)
Community, Cultural and Tourism Facilities Review (2013)
Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (2011)
Shopping and Shop Fronts SPD (2007)
Burbage Village Design Statement (2006)
Ratby Village Design Statement (2011)
Rural Needs SPD (2011)
Hinckley Town Centre Strategic Development Transport Contributions SPD (2009)
Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD (2008)
Hinckley and Bosworth Town and District Centres Study (2017)
Joint Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2014)
Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) (2015)
Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (2017)
Open Space, Sports and Recreational Facilities Study (PPG17)
Green Wedge Review (2011)
Green Wedge Allocations Topic Paper (2012)
Landscape Character Assessment (2017) (Draft)
District, Local and Neighbourhood Centre Review (2015)
Employment Land and Premises Review (2017)
Air Quality Annual Status Report (2016)
Homelessness Strategy 2015-2020 (2015)
Blaby and Hinckley and Bosworth Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2017-2020 (2017)
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Anti-Social Behaviour Policy (2016)
Hinckley and Bosworth Economic Regeneration Strategy 2016-2020 (2016)
Hinckley and Bosworth Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2017 (2014)
Hinckley and Bosworth Community Plan 2014-2018 (2014)

3.2 Summary of the review

The key themes identified by this review are shown in Table 3-2. A summary of each document and their relevance to the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan and the SA process is set out in Appendix A.

Table 3-2: Key themes of the Plans, Programmes and Policies review

SA topic		Key themes
Environmental	Landscape character	Protection of sensitive landscape assets (including Special Landscape Areas (SLA) and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)); promotion of the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and amenity of important landscapes, including inland waters; definition and protection of regional and local landscape character; and the provision and enhancement of green infrastructure to benefit people and the environment.
	Biodiversity and nature conservation	Protection of international and national designated sites and their qualifying features; preservation and enhancement of notable habitats and species, particularly those noted for their conservation value or under threat; identification of the roles and responsibilities of organisations including local authorities to protect and enhance biodiversity including the creation of local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats and species and promotion of BAP species; provision of new/restored habitat to enable species to adapt to the future impacts of climate change.
	Water environment	Promotion of the sustainable use of water resources to meet future growth in demand and impacts of climate change; better regulation and management of the water environment to benefit water resources and flood risk, and the reduction of water pollution; and promotion of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).
	Land	Long term protection, improvement and sustainable management of soil quality and quantity, including the preservation of best and most versatile land; and the management and remediation of contaminated land to reduce the risk to human health and the environment, particularly soils and water quality.
	Historic environment	Protection and enhancement of nationally and locally important heritage assets and historic landscapes; better integration of heritage protection within the planning process; and provision of better access to heritage sites including their promotion as an economic asset.
	Air quality	Protection of air quality through enhanced management of polluting emissions.
	Climate	Requirements to reduce future greenhouse gas emissions across all socio-economic sectors to limit the impacts of climate change on people and the environment; and provision of measures to enable future adaptation to the impacts of climate change and increased resilience.
Social	Population and human health	Protection and improvement of human health, wellbeing and living standards; greater integration of socio-economic and environmental objectives to deliver sustainable development; promotion of prosperous, sustainable and coherent communities; provision of better public transport and access; reduction of flood risk; enhancement of recreation and amenity resources to benefit health and wellbeing; and development and provision of measures to enable adaptation to the impacts of climate change.
Economic	Material assets	Improvement and better management of material assets including highways and utilities infrastructure; greater provision and enhancement of green infrastructure to deliver benefits to people and the environment; and provision of better public services to deliver socio-economic benefits.
	Waste and minerals	Improvement and better management of waste, including promotion of the waste hierarchy. Implementation of waste reduction schemes. Sustainable use of mineral resources and improvement in the effects on the environment of their extraction.

4 Stage A2: Environmental characteristics of the Borough

4.1 Introduction

A desk study review of baseline environmental, social and economic information has been undertaken to identify the key baseline characteristics of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough. This includes details of the status and condition of notable environmental features; current and future predicted trends in the evolution of the environment, social and economic aspects; and issues and problems currently affecting the environment and population.

The information obtained through this review process is set out in the following topic-specific sections, many of which are inter-linked. The information used to characterise the baseline environment is broadly strategic in nature and reflects the high-level nature of the Local Plan. It has been obtained from a broad range of sources and no new investigations or surveys have been undertaken as part of the scoping process. The baseline information will be required throughout the SA process and may require updating as the Local Plan is developed further and new information becomes available.

4.2 Landscape

4.2.1 Landscape character

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough contains a diverse range of landscapes across its 300km² area. The predominant landscape is rural, consisting of enclosed farmlands, large cropped fields bordered by hedgerows with trees, and scattered woodland (WYG, 2009a). Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council provide a description of the landscapes within the Borough in its draft Landscape Character Assessment (LUC, 2017). These include the rocky and steep slopes extending from Charnwood Borough in the north east, with high points reaching 230m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) around Copt Oak and Rise Rocks Farm to the north of M1 Junction 22. From Thornton and near Groby, tributaries of the River Soar flow through steeper valleys before reaching flatter land towards the edge of the Borough near Leicester. Across the interior of the Borough the landform generally falls and is undulating, characterised by the distinctive heritage-rich parkland of Market Bosworth. The flatter open expanse of the Mease and Sence Lowlands are present in the south west of the Borough and are associated with the network of tributaries of the River Sence and River Mease. The main urban centre, Hinckley, is located in the south, with Burbage, Earl Shilton and Barwell nearby, constituting the majority of built up areas in the Borough. In the east lies the urban fringe of Leicester City Centre, and several villages and hamlets are scattered throughout the Borough (WYG, 2009a).

Parts of the National Forest occupy the north of the Borough. The purpose of the National Forest is to transform the regional landscape through a programme of large-scale afforestation with “*the aim of linking the two ancient Forests of Charnwood on its eastern fringe with Needwood Forest to its west*” (National Forest Company, 2017). Forest cover is at approximately 20% in the National Forest, with approximately 150ha of new woodland created within the area each year (National Forest Company, 2014). This process of afforestation aims for forest cover of around one third. This has had a significant positive impact on the rural landscape; for example, derelict land in the Coalfield area in the north of the Borough has been restored and replaced by more natural and desirable forest uses (WYG, 2009a).

As a result of the Landscape Character Assessment (2017), the Borough has been ordered into 10 landscape character areas (LCAs). The locations of the LCAs are shown in Figure 4-1, whilst the main characteristics and key challenges of each LCA are described in Table 4-1.

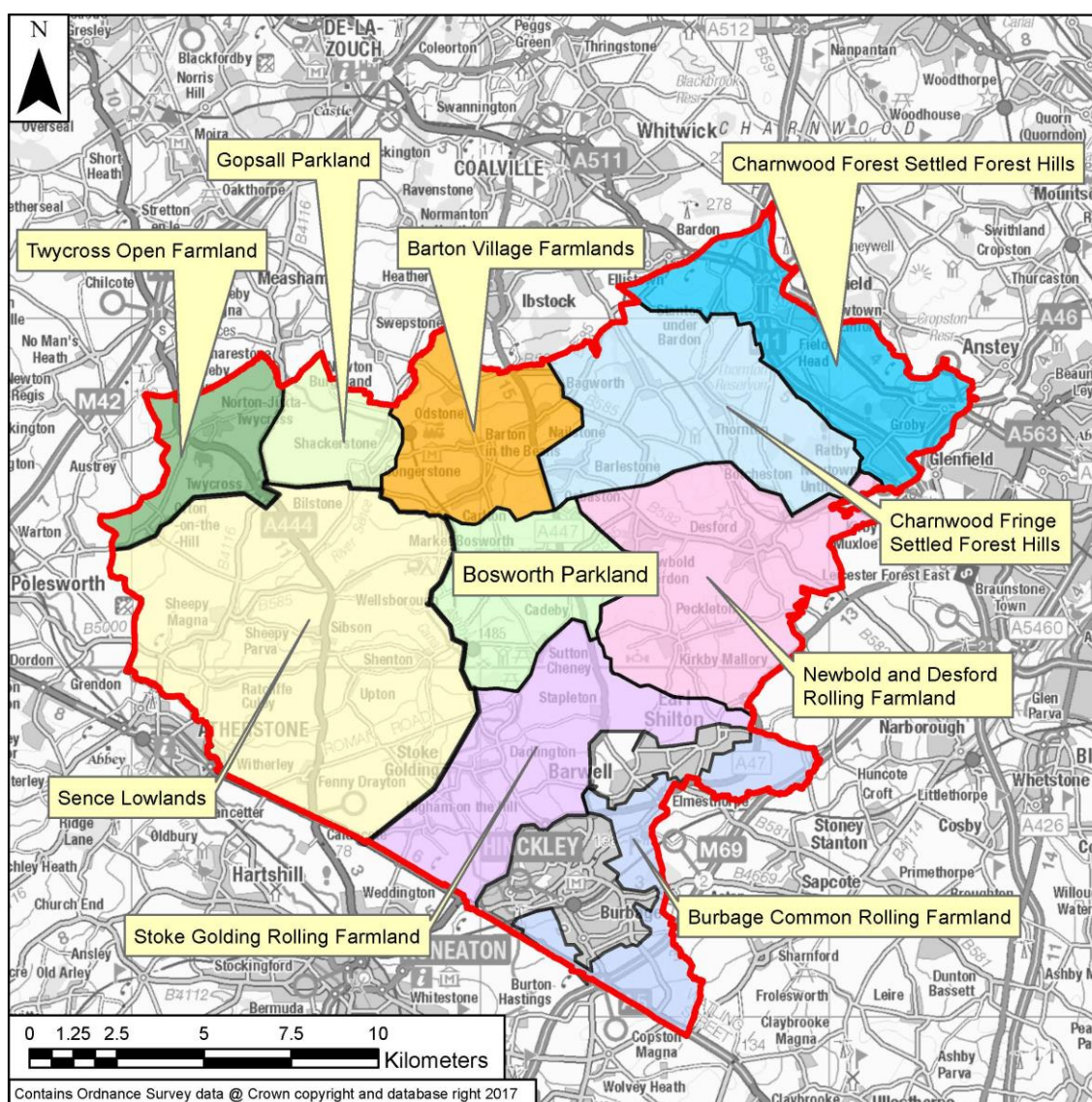


Figure 4-1: Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough (LUC, 2017)

Table 4-1: Summary of Landscape Character Areas within Hinckley & Bosworth (LUC, 2017)

Landscape Character Area	Key characteristics
Charnwood Forest Settled Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prominent elevated landform – highest land in Borough. Distinctive rocky outcrops. Granite quarries appear dramatic on the landscape. Diverse land uses such as pasture, woodland, quarries and pools. Woodland cover of varying age and habitat. Small to medium scale field pattern. Large clustered villages with suburban influences. Local assets for recreation and biodiversity, e.g. Groby Pool Distant views to Leicester and the National Forest. Proximity to Leicester and major transport infrastructure. Rugged, upland and wooded character.
Charnwood Fringe Settled Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gently undulating landscape. Contrast between areas that are open and enclosed. Large irregular field pattern, enclosed by hedgerows and trees. Industrial heritage of quarrying and mining. Areas of both the National Forest and Charnwood Forest. Dispersed pattern of villages on hilltops. Good footpath network throughout.

Landscape Character Area	Key characteristics
Bosworth Parkland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rolling farmland and parkland. • Scattered trees, woodlands and small fields. • Rural and peaceful character. • Parkland of Bosworth Park. • Good network of public footpaths and cycle routes. • Strong heritage and tourism associated to Bosworth Battlefield. • Historic villages of Cadseby and Sutton Cheney. • Market Bosworth is an important focus for the area.
Newbold and Desford Rolling Farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gently rolling landscape high in the north, and low in the south. • Clustered villages of varying size. • Predominantly arable farmland, with small areas of industry and recreation near to villages. • Limited tree cover. • Large to medium sized field pattern. • Good footpath networks that link villages. • Few major roads. • Open views that add to the large-scale landscape.
Stoke Golding Rolling Farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undulating arable and pasture farmland, sloping down to the local waterways. • Small to medium scale field pattern, divided by low hedgerows and mature trees. • Rural settlement pattern of former agricultural villages. • Distinctive skyline landmarks include church spires and towers. • Associations with the Battle of Bosworth. • Affiliations with the coal mining past that includes the Ashby Canal.
Burbage Common Rolling Farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large-scale, rolling arable farmland, influenced by small local streams. • Burbage ancient woodland is of national importance. • Medium to large scale rectilinear field pattern. • Urban fringe influences, recreational uses around Burbage Common. • Sparse settlement. • Major transport corridors dissect the landscape and introduce noise. • Lack of tree cover, expansive and distant views. • Public rights of way including the Leicestershire Round. • Green Wedge provides separation between Hinckley and Barwell and adds green infrastructure.
Sence Lowlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat to gently rolling lowland. • Surface water in streams, and field ponds and ditches. • Regular agricultural landscape, lined by low hedgerows. • Rural roads and lanes, with the main A444 running north to south. • Rural and tranquil character. • Prominent landmarks from churches. • Dispersed linear villages.
Twycross Open Farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevated plateau farmland. • Distant panoramic views. • Generally open, some mature trees surround small settlements. • Small areas of deciduous woodland, some of which are ancient. • Hedgerows line field boundaries. • A444 cuts across area. • Nucleated hilltop villages. • Traditional small villages. • Important visitor attraction in Twycross Zoo.
Gopsall Parkland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat to gently undulating farmland, including former parkland. • Large areas of woodland, and mixed hedgerows. • Rural and peaceful character.

Landscape Character Area	Key characteristics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estate farmland, managed by many large farms. • Historic hamlets and villages. • Ashby canal cuts across the north. • Former historic parkland of Gopsall, a now demolished Georgian manor
Barton Village Farmlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undulating, rises in the east. • Mix of arable and pasture farmland. • Vegetated character due to individual trees. • Regular, medium-sized fields. • Rural, tranquil character. • Few large roads. • Long distance footpaths cross the area.

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough also falls within 4 national character areas (NCAs) (see Figure 4-2), described by Natural England (2014a):

- **71 Leicestershire & South Derbyshire Coalfield** – In transition from an unenclosed rolling landform extensively scarred by abandoned collieries, spoil tips and clay pits, to a matrix of new woodland (part of the National Forest), restored colliery sites, active brick pits and commercial developments in an essentially rural, agricultural landscape.
- **72 Mease/Sence Lowlands** – Only a very small percentage of landscape is urban and retains a rural, remote character, with small villages, red brick farmsteads and occasional historic parkland and country houses. The National Forest extends into the area north of the River Mease.
- **73 Charnwood** – Land characterised by exposures of rugged, rocky outcrops. It is a relatively well wooded landscape, with many areas of mixed, deciduous and coniferous woodlands. The western part of Charnwood lies within the National Forest.
- **94 Leicester Vales** – A large, relatively open, uniform landscape composed of low-lying clay vales interrupted by a range of varied river valleys. Includes Hinckley Town.

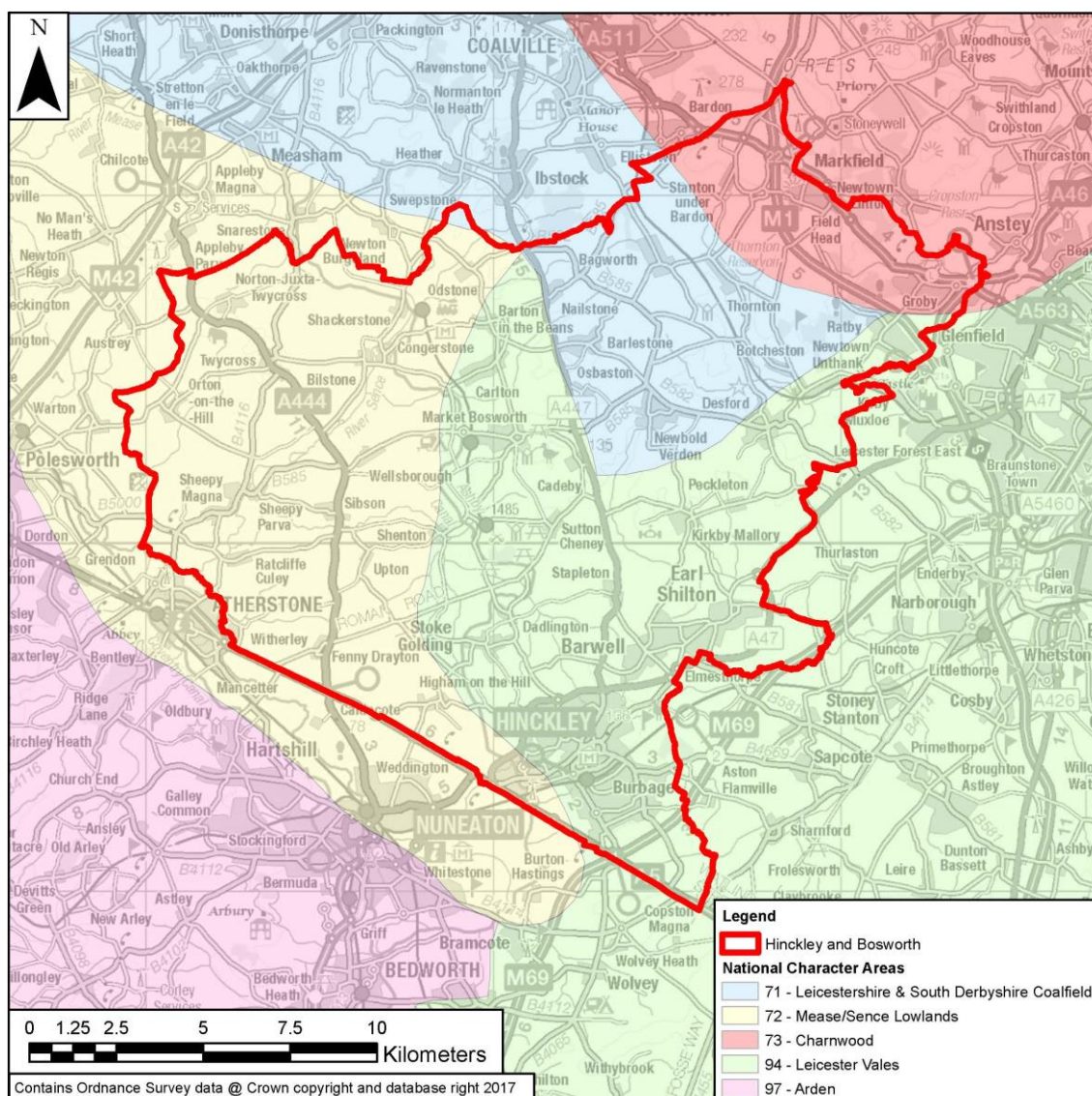


Figure 4-2: National Character Areas (NCAs) within Hinckley & Bosworth Borough

The fabric and character of the landscape within the Borough changed significantly during the 20th century. This was due to an intensification of agricultural production and the consequent expansion of fields and removal of hedgerows, and the parallel decline of the mining industry (HBBC, 2006). Pressures on the landscape could continue in the future because of further intensification of farming (to produce more food for a growing population) or with increased agricultural mechanisation. However, a large proportion of the Borough is currently under Environmental Stewardship agreements, which aim to protect biodiversity and maintain key habitats, and in doing so may inhibit further intensification and preserve existing landscape characteristics (HBBC, 2006) (further information is provided in section 4.3).

Major infrastructure has also had an impact on local landscape character and the location, formation and environment of several settlements. Major highways such as the M1, which runs through the north east of the Borough and the M69, which runs south and passes close to Hinckley and Burbage, together with other roads such as the A444, A447, and A47, have influenced the development of nearby settlements and have an impact on levels of tranquillity in adjoining rural areas.

Industrial land uses and residential development tend to be located around urban areas. There is increasing pressure on the landscape from new housing and development, particularly around Hinckley and Burbage (WYG, 2009a). These pressures may increase in the future as the Borough's population continues to grow and homeownership patterns alter, with increasingly small household sizes.

In addition, climate change is also likely to alter the landscape, due to changes such as increases in annual temperatures and increased rainfall (HBBC, 2006). This has the potential to affect a wide range of physical and biological characteristics such as the vegetation type and cover, and the hydrological regime in the Borough (rates of flow of rivers and volumes of water in waterbodies), which in turn could significantly affect landscape characteristics, particularly in rural areas.

4.2.2 Landscape designations

None of the landscapes in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough are nationally designated. However, there are features that are afforded protection under local planning guidelines for their landscape significance. These are known as Green Wedges or Green Infrastructure, and are networks of green space or natural landscapes that connect urban areas (TEP, 2008). In Hinckley & Bosworth they include Hinckley/Burbage/Barwell/Earl Shilton Green Wedge and Rothley Brook Meadow Green Wedge (HBBC, 2011b). They can be considered as “*an organising framework for integrating physical resources and natural systems with ecological, geological and historical assets*” (TEP, 2008). A particular pressure is the gradual spread of urban areas to meet housing demand, which risks encroaching into these areas and merging urban settlements.

The most important historic landscape in the Borough is Bosworth Battlefield, which was the location of the Battle of Bosworth in 1485, and is on Historic England’s Battlefields Register (further information is provided in Section 4.6).

Associated with this battle are four historic landscape character areas: Shenton Parkland; Ambion and Sutton Cheney Farmlands; Redemore Plan; and Dadlington and Stoke Golding Hills (HBBC, 2016d). Other historic landscapes include the Ashby Canal, which preserves the industrial heritage of the area and shows evidence of ridge and furrow agriculture (HBBC, 2016d).

4.2.3 Key sustainability issues

- Several LCAs have been identified as being in decline – primarily Gopsall Parkland following removal of former estate building Gopsall Hall on Gopsall Hall Farm – and require further protection and enhancement.
- Potential new housing development within the rural landscape of the Borough may be detrimental to landscape character. Furthermore, there is a risk of encroaching development in Green Wedges as the requirement for new housing increases, particularly around Hinckley and Burbage.
- There may be pressure for continued intensification of agriculture, which could lead to the removal of hedgerows and expansion of fields, disrupting the rural landscape character. However, this may be balanced by maintaining the widespread application of Environmental Stewardship agreements.
- Continued afforestation within the National Forest is likely to improve landscapes in the north west of the Borough. This may contribute to the restoration of areas associated with historic mining activities in the Leicestershire & South Derbyshire Coalfield NCA.
- There is a potential for a reduction of tranquillity in areas close to major transport routes, which may become more congested following increases in population and car usage. Tranquillity may also be effected by high numbers of visitors during busy periods.
- Climate change is likely to alter the condition and character of the landscapes due to increases in annual temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns, which may affect vegetation cover and hydrological regimes.

4.3 Biodiversity and nature conservation

4.3.1 International and national designated nature conservation sites

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough does not contain any internationally designated nature conservation sites. The closest such site is the River Mease Special Area of Conservation (SAC), located 1km to the north west of the Borough. The River Mease flows out of the Borough near Gopsall and the section of the river designated as a SAC is therefore downstream of the Borough, meaning that the river presents a pathway through which activities in the Borough could conceivably affect the SAC.

Ensor's Pool SAC is located 4.8km to the south west of the Borough, to the south west of Nuneaton, and is the next nearest internationally designated site to the Borough. There is no physical connection between the Borough and this designated site. There are no other internationally designated sites within 25km of the Borough boundary.

The qualifying features of the River Mease SAC and Ensor's Pool SAC together with the key pressures experienced at each site are summarised in Table 4-2.

Table 4-2: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in proximity to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough (Natural England, 2017)

Site	Qualifying features	Key challenges to conservation objectives
Ensor's Pool SAC	A large population of White-clawed Crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> inhabit Ensor's Pool providing an isolated refuge site for the species in an important part of the species' former range.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in biotic conditions
River Mease SAC	The River Mease is a good example of a riverine population of Spined Loach <i>Cobitis taenia</i> and Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> , and are primary reasons for the selection of the site. The tributary's sandy, coarse sediments and submerged plants are important habitats for these species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pollution to groundwater Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions Invasive non-native species

The Borough supports several nationally important wildlife sites. There are seven sites designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within the Borough (see Figure 4-3).

Sites of Special Scientific Interest cover only 0.3% of the total land area within the Borough. This is very low compared to the England average in which 8% of local authority land area is designated as a SSSI (Natural England, 2014b). The regional average is a little lower than this, representing approximately 4% of land area, which is attributed to the effects of widespread intensive agricultural land use in the region and consequent poor biodiversity (HBBC, 2009a).

Natural England has assessed the status of SSSIs and their constituent units, and categorised them as being in either favourable or unfavourable condition. For those sites identified as being in unfavourable condition, Natural England further determines if the trend of the SSSI unit is recovering or declining. Approximately 39% of the SSSIs in the Borough have been assessed as in unfavourable condition, with only 44% of the constituent units identified as recovering. Reasons for the unfavourable condition of sites include conflicting agriculture practices, diffuse pollution from agricultural run-off, and public access and recreation leading to damage and disturbance.

Summary information on the qualifying features and current condition of each of the SSSIs in the Borough is provided in Table 4-3.

Table 4-3: Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within Hinckley & Bosworth Borough (Natural England, 2017)

SSSI name	Location	Interest features	SSSI condition
Ashby Canal	North west	Supports communities of aquatic and emergent plants that are representative of eutrophic standing water bodies in English lowlands. Species include Mare's-tail (<i>Hippuris vulgaris</i>), perfoliate pondweed (<i>Potamogeton perfoliatus</i>), grass-wrack pondweed (<i>Potamogeton compressus</i>), yellow water-lily (<i>Nuphar lutea</i>), and greater pond-sedge (<i>Carex riparia</i>). Invertebrates include red-eyed damselfly (<i>Erythronia najas</i>), and water beetle fauna (<i>Haliphus mucronatus</i>). Freshwater crayfish and water shrew (<i>Neomys fodiens</i>) are also present.	Unfavourable – No change: 100%
Botcheston Bog	East	Site contains one of the best remaining areas of marshy grassland in Leicestershire and is representative of grazed marsh communities on peaty soils. Species include carnation sedge (<i>Carex panicea</i>), hard rush (<i>Juncus inflexus</i>), and meadowsweet (<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>).	Favourable: 81.41% Unfavourable – Recovering: 18.59%

SSSI name	Location	Interest features	SSSI condition
Burbage Wood and Aston Firs	South	Site comprises one of the best remaining examples of ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>) maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>) woodland in Leicestershire and is representative of semi-natural woodland.	Unfavourable – Recovering: 100%
Cliffe Hill Quarry	North east	Site provides excellent exposures of the contact between the southern-type diorite (markfieldite) and the volcanic and sedimentary rocks of the Precambrian Charnian Maplewells Series.	Favourable: 100%
Grobby Pool and Wood	North east	Site comprises a complex of habitats and includes fine examples of alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>) wood, dry and wet grassland, marsh, reedswamp and open water. It is considered the largest natural expanse of water in Leicestershire. Species include common reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>), round-fruited rush (<i>Juncus compressus</i>), and crack willow (<i>Salix fragilis</i>). Additional interest is provided by the numbers of wintering waterfowl that utilise the site.	Favourable: 47.95% Unfavourable – No change: 47.72% Unfavourable – Declining: 4.33%
Kendall's Meadow	South	Traditionally managed hay meadow with diverse and rich plant life atypical in East Midlands including red fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>), yellow oat grass (<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>), great burnet (<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>), and green-winged orchid (<i>Orchis morio</i>).	Favourable: 100%
Sheepy Fields	West	Site contains some of the best remaining examples of neutral grassland in Leicestershire and is representative of hay meadow plant communities developed on neutral soils in the English Midlands.	Favourable: 100%

4.3.2 Local designated nature conservation sites

There are two Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) located in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough. The location of these sites is shown in Figure 4-3, whilst summary details of their key features are provided in Table 4-4.

There are five Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) in the Borough. These sites are:

- Ancient semi-natural woodland at Markfield
- Gospall Wood
- Bosworth Battlefield Site
- Stoke Golding Heritage Group
- Burbage Common and Burbage Wood

The Borough contains relatively few locally designated sites; for example, the neighbouring Charnwood Borough contains five LNRs and 218 Local Wildlife Sites (equivalent to SINCs).

Table 4-4: Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough

Site name	Location	Site features
Billa Barra Hill, Markfield	North	Acidic grassland, woodland, mosses, lichens and former quarry areas
Burbage Common and Woods, Burbage	South	Unimproved acid grassland and heath, scrub and woodland with a good woodland ground flora

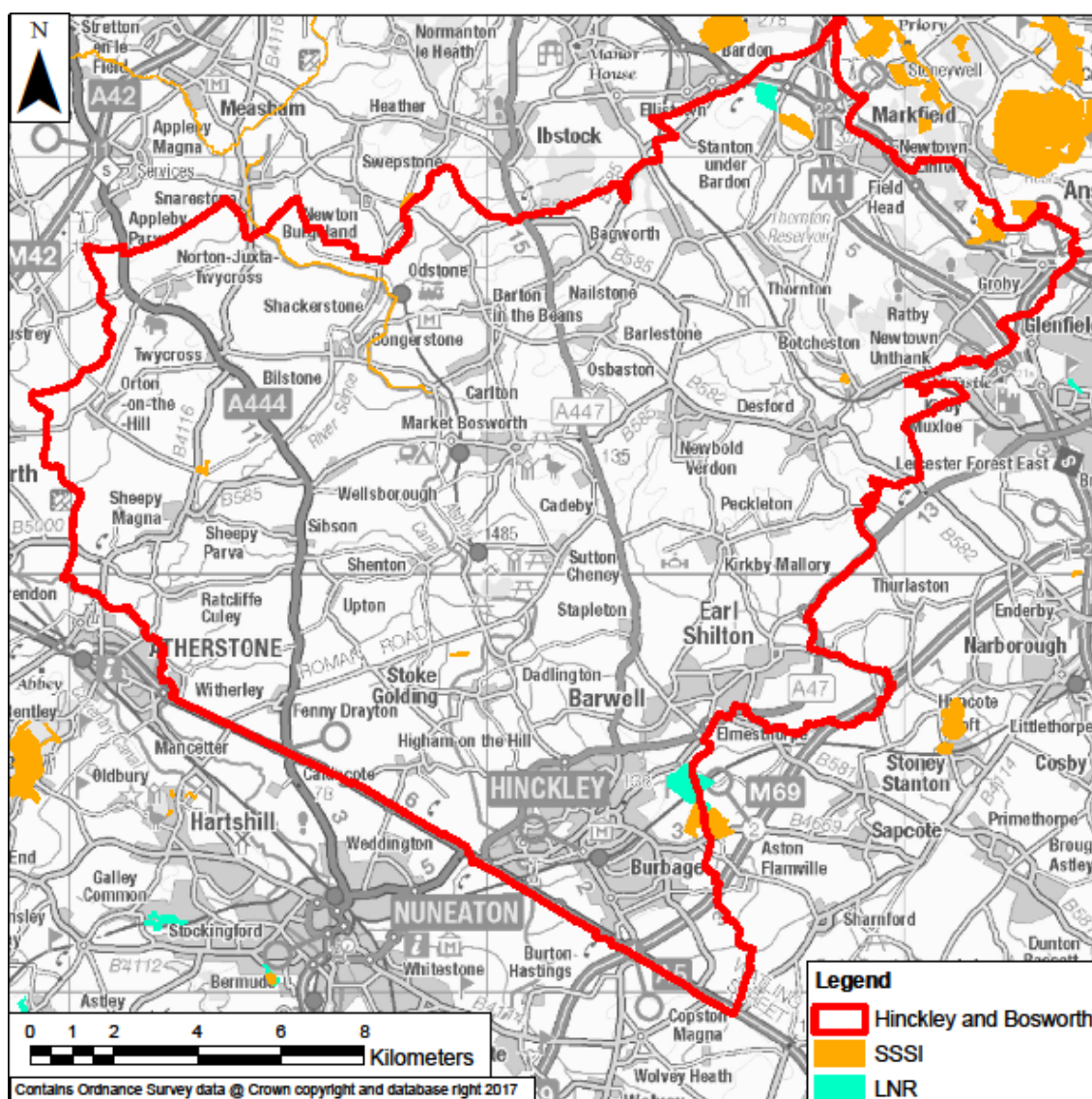


Figure 4-3: Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Local Nature Reserves located in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough

4.3.3 Notable habitats and species

A Biodiversity Assessment conducted by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council in 2009 identified the key habitats and species within the Borough (HBBC, 2009a). The Borough is dominated by intensively farmed arable land and therefore much of the habitat area is of relatively limited value to wildlife. Furthermore, arable farmland could result in the separation of key habitat areas, presenting barriers to movement and dispersal ability of populations, and in extreme cases may lead to genetic isolation for certain species (HBBC, 2009a). However, a large proportion of the agricultural landscape is under Environmental Stewardship agreements, which introduce higher levels of environmental management across farms by paying farmers to provide benefits for biodiversity (TEP, 2008).

Semi-natural habitats are scattered throughout agricultural land, with small woodland blocks, including some semi-natural ancient woodland, field ponds and occasional neutral grassland compartments, all of which increase biodiversity value. These also act as stepping stone habitats for fauna living within and moving across the landscape. Linear features add to this important ecological mechanism. These include a good network of hedgerows and ditches around field systems, road verges, streams and small rivers such as the River Sence, and the Ashby Canal. Whilst the condition of these habitats is variable, there are important in maintaining biodiversity in the Borough.

A key habitat in the Borough is established woodland, most which is in the north east near Groby and Markfield, and is associated with Charnwood Forest. Woodland here is larger and is coupled with other habitats increasing its ecological value. For example, wet woodland is present here,

and establishing mixed and broadleaved plantations are present as part of the efforts of the National Forest Strategy. The National Forest includes Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats including deciduous and wet woodland, traditional orchards, and hedgerows, and is continuing to grow and establish (The National Forest, 2011). It supports a range of species including bat species, Otter *Lutra lutra*, Adder *Vipera berus*, Barn Owl *Tyto alba*, Black Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* and Water Vole *Arvicola amphibius* (WYG, 2009a).

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough's aquatic environments provide important habitat in the Borough. The River Sence, River Mease (and their tributaries), Ashby Canal, Rothley Brook and other waterways accommodate species such as otter, water vole, fish and many aquatic invertebrates (WYG, 2014a). Standing water in the form of lakes and reservoirs are mainly located in the north east, with field ponds throughout the Borough on arable land. These are often isolated, but can also provide important habitat for species, such as wintering waterfowl at Thornton Reservoir and Groby Pool, and Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus*. Risks to these habitats include nutrient pollution from sewage and agricultural run-off, and alterations to local hydrology such as increased sediment loading (from increasing surface run-off) and river straightening (HBBC, 2009a). Pressures due to the need to further utilise the Borough's water resources may also pose a risk to these habitats in the future. More information regarding this is provided in Section 4.4.

The Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland BAP highlight a total of 19 BAP habitats (Leicester & Rutland Wildlife Trust, 2016). Of relevance to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough are (WYG, 2014a):

- Semi-natural broadleaved woodland
- Eutrophic standing water
- Fast flowing streams
- Field margins
- Floodplain wetland
- Hedgerows
- Lowland wood pasture and parkland
- Mature trees
- Mesotrophic lakes
- Neutral grassland
- Roadside verges
- Rocks and built structures
- Springs and flushes
- Urban habitat
- Wet woodland

The quality of neutral grassland and roadside verges in the Borough have been identified as decreasing (Leicester & Rutland Wildlife Trust, 2016).

Key protected species that are present within the Borough are described by an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey carried out by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (2009a) and WYG (2014a). These are identified in the listed below, with the first six included in the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland BAP (Leicester & Rutland Wildlife Trust, 2016).

- Several bat species including Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, Brown Long-eared *Plecotus auritus*, Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, Whiskered *Myotis mystacinus*, and Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*
- Badger *Meles meles*
- Water Vole *Arvicola amphibius*
- Otter
- White-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*
- Barn Owl
- Other bird species including Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*, Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*, Black Redstart, Hobby *Falco subbuteo*, and Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*
- Great Crested Newt

- Reptile species including Grass Snake *Natrix natrix*, Common Lizard *Zootoca vivipara*, and Slow Worm *Anguis fragilis*
- Brown Hare *Lepus europaeus*

4.3.4 Key sustainability issues

- The Borough supports a comparatively low number of sites protected for nature conservation. This is predominantly due to the generally lower biodiversity value associated with agricultural land use.
- A large percentage of SSSIs are in an unfavourable condition. Furthermore, less than half of these are recovering from an unfavourable condition. Greater protection and enhancement of designated sites is required to ensure they achieve favourable condition.
- Arable farmland within the Borough results in the separation and isolation of key habitat areas, presenting barriers to movement of certain species and dispersal ability of populations.
- Wildlife corridors are particularly important in the Borough as they facilitate the movement of species between habitats, which is already impeded, primarily by agricultural land use. Therefore, a further intensification of agricultural practices leading to a reduction in wildlife corridors such as hedgerows may cause further isolation of habitats and species.
- Pollution and physical modification is impacting the ecological value of important aquatic habitats within the Borough, and this may become more prevalent in the future as more water resources are exploited to meet growing demand for water supplies.
- The Borough supports a range of BAP habitats and species, which are locally and nationally important.

4.4 Water environment

The River Sence is the largest river running through Hinckley & Bosworth Borough. It flows across the west of the Borough from Atherstone to the south to Ibstock to the north (WYG, 2009a). Other major watercourses include the River Anker, which forms the south west border of the Borough, and the Ashby Canal, which flows from Hinckley in the south, through Bosworth Battlefield and towards the north-east corner of the Borough. The source of the River Mease is also located within the north west of the Borough near the village of Norton Juxta Twycross. The Borough's network of watercourses is shown in Figure 4-4.

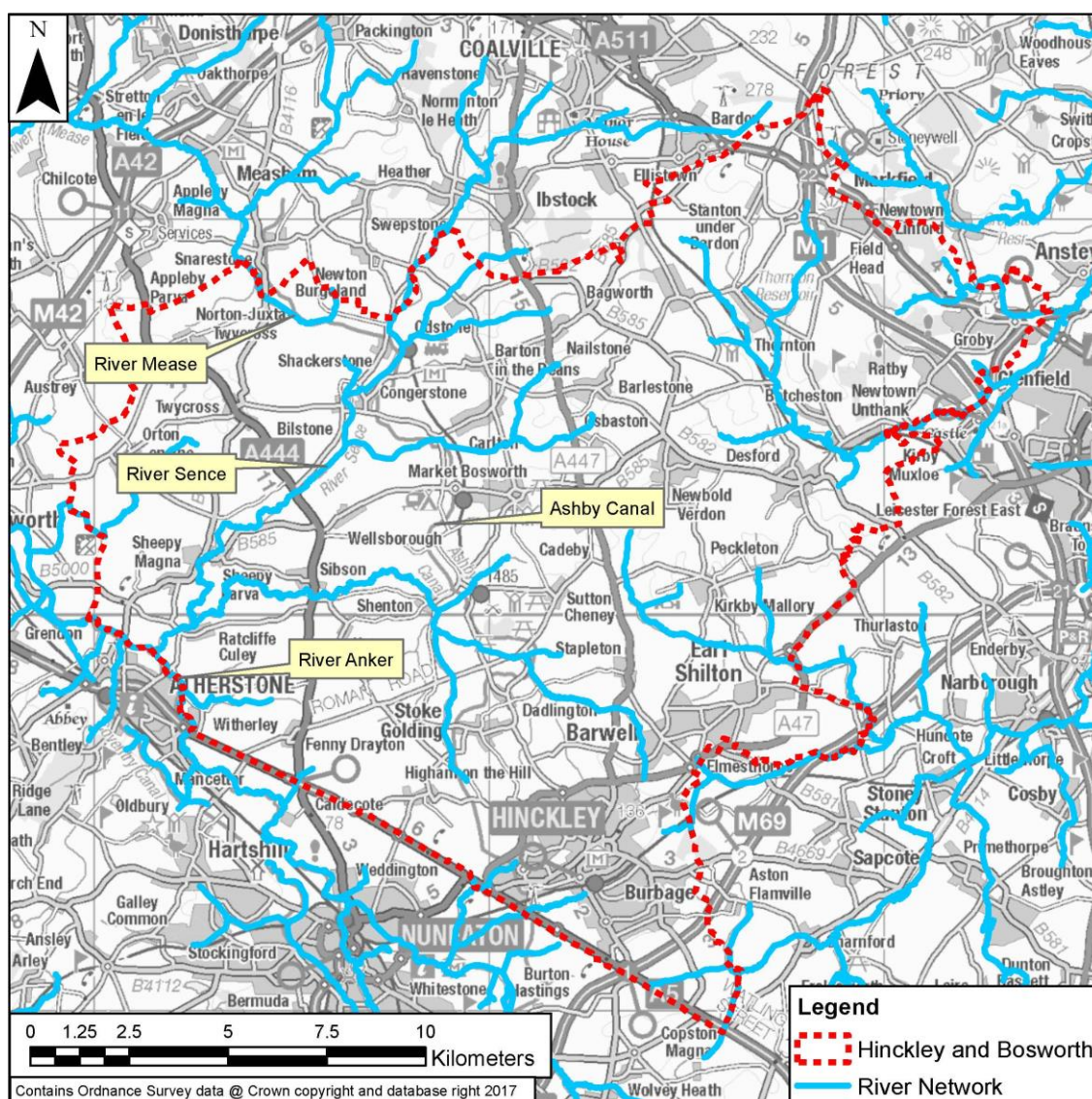


Figure 4-4: River network and watercourses within Hinckley & Bosworth Borough

4.4.1 Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive (WFD), Directive 2000/60/EC, has established a framework for all European waterbodies to be monitored and aims to achieve good ecological and chemical status by 2015, derogated to 2027 for underachieving water bodies. Hinckley & Bosworth Borough is within the Humber River Basin District, managed by the Humber River Basin Management Plan (RBMP). The RBMP covers a large area of 26,100km², extending from Leicester, north to Darlington, with over 10.8 million people living within the district (Environment Agency, 2015). The RBMP identifies the current water quality of the waterbodies within Hinckley & Bosworth Borough and sets objectives for making further improvements to their ecological and chemical quality status. The RBMP also identifies significant pressures on the waterbodies within the region, which include issues such as physical modification, pollution, and changes to natural flow.

Fifteen waterbodies fall within Hinckley & Bosworth Borough. The current (2016) quality status of each waterbody is described in Table 4-5 and shown in Figure 4-5. One waterbody has 'bad' status; five waterbodies have 'poor' status; eight waterbodies have 'moderate' status; and one waterbody is achieving 'good' status. This represents a decline in status for 40% of waterbodies, an improvement in status for 40% of waterbodies, and no change in status for 20% of waterbodies within the Borough since they were first assessed in 2009.

In terms of chemical elements, all waterbodies achieved good status. Therefore, it is the ecological status of these waterbodies that is lowering their overall status (the overall status reflects the lowest scoring element). Bad ecological status for Carlton Brook from Source to River

Sence is attributed to sewage discharge, which is inputting nutrients to the waterbody leading to eutrophication, evidenced by types of macrophytes and phytobenthos present there. Fish are also affected by morphological disruptions causing barriers to fish movement. More generally, industries linked to waterbodies not achieving good status include agriculture and land management, urban and transport, and water industry.

Table 4-5: Summary of the WFD status of waterbodies within Hinckley & Bosworth Borough

Waterbody name	Waterbody reference	Ecological status	Chemical status	Hydromorphological designation	Status change since 2009
Soar River Operational Catchment					
Groby Pool	GB20436536	Poor	Good	HMWB	Declined
Quorn Brook Catchment (trib of Soar)	GB104028047060	Good	Good	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	Improved
Rothley Brook Catchment (Trib of Soar)	GB104028046730	Moderate	Good	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	Declined
Soar Brook from Source to Soar	GB104028042590	Moderate	Good	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	Declined
Thurlaston Brook Catchment (trib of Soar)	GB104028046940	Moderate	Good	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	Improved
Mease Rivers Operational Catchment					
Mease from Source to Gilwiskaw Brook	GB104028046550	Moderate	Good	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	Improved
Sence, Anker and Bourne Rivers and Lakes Operational Catchment					
Anker – source to Wem Bk	GB104028042440	Poor	Good	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	Declined
Anker from River Sence to River Tame	GB104028046460	Poor	Good	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	Declined
Anker from Wem Brook to River Sence	GB104028046430	Moderate	Good	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	No change
Carlton Brook from Source to River Sence	GB104028046690	Bad	Good	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	Declined
Ibstock Brook from Source to River Sence	GB104028046700	Moderate	Good	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	Improved
Sence – Ibstock Bk to R Anker	GB104028046660	Moderate	Good	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	Did not require assessment/No change
Sence from Source to Ibstock Brook	GB104028046750	Poor	Good	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	Improved
Sketchley Brook from Source to River Anker	GB104028042470	Moderate	Good	HMWB	Did not require assessment/No change
Stoke Golding Brook from Source to R Sence	GB104028046640	Poor	Good	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	Improved

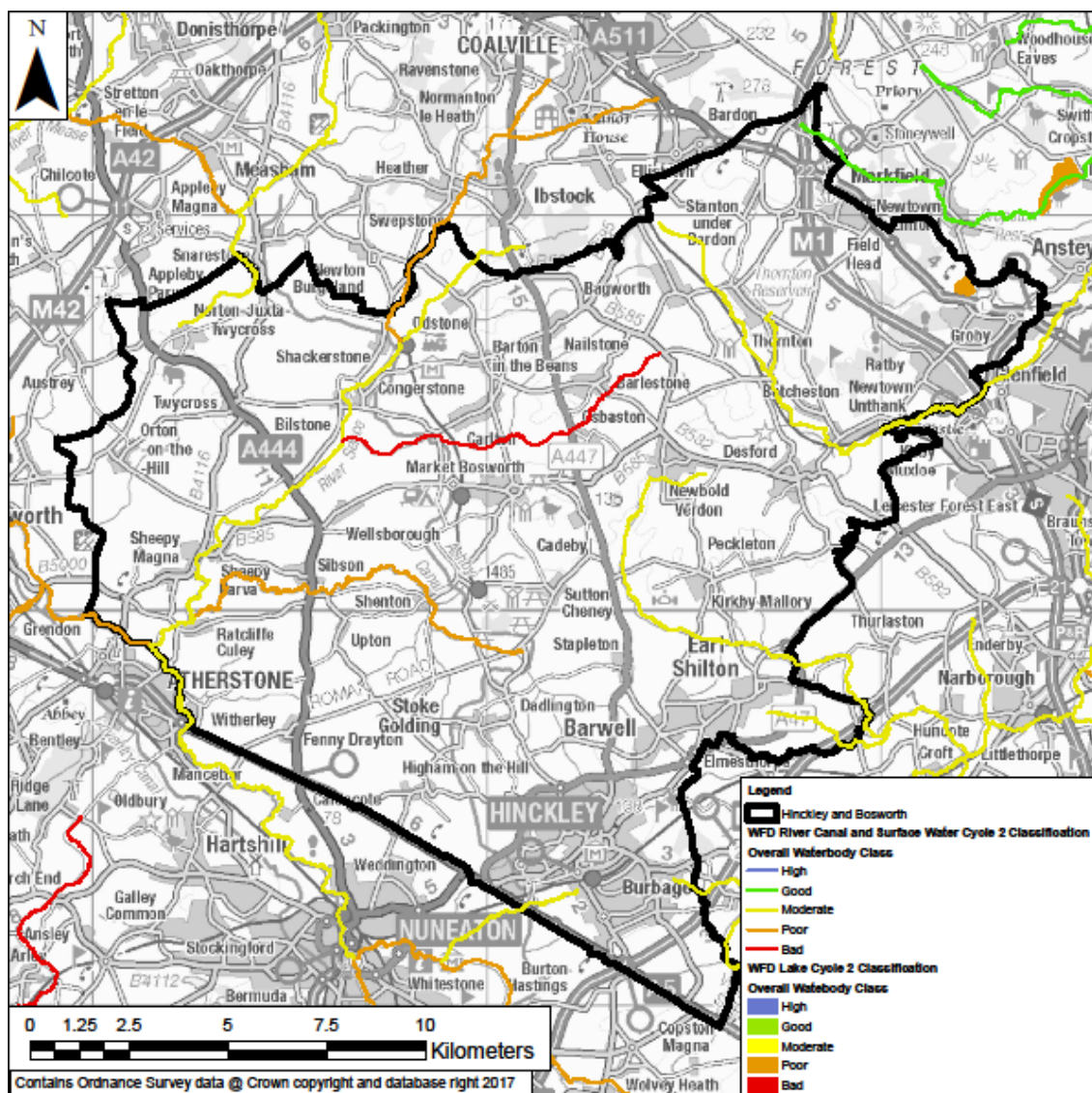


Figure 4-5: WFD classification of waterbodies in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough

4.4.2 Groundwater

Much of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough is underlain by bedrock that does not store significant quantities of groundwater, known as Secondary B aquifers (formerly known as non-aquifers). However, there are some areas underlain by soils classed as Secondary A aquifers that could support water supplies at a local scale and supply baseflow to rivers (formerly known as minor aquifers). These are primarily present in areas surrounding Hinckley and Earl Shilton in the south of the Borough. However, there are no groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) in the Borough, which are designated to protect important sources of groundwater from contaminating activities, due to the lack of permeable geology and aquifers in the area.

4.4.3 Water resources

The Borough lies within the Mease Rivers Operational Catchment, Sence, Anker and Bourne Rivers and Lakes Operational Catchment, and the Soar River Operational Catchment. Severn Trent Water manage potable water supplies in the Borough (WYG, 2014b). Severn Trent Water has previously highlighted that water available for use is only sufficient to meet demand until 2015, and that additional resources are required after this date and treatment capacity will need to be increased to meet demand (WYG, 2014b). This is likely due to a combination of increasing demand driven by a growing population, and changes in water supply in response to climate change.

Severn Trent Water's Water Resources Management Plan (2014) sets out the strategy for managing water supply in the region. The strategy aims to reduce water demand and improve

water usage, reducing the impact of water abstraction on the water environment. In the short to medium term, the strategy is focused on reducing “*environmentally unsustainable levels of water abstraction*”, which highlights the relatively high water stress experienced by the region. The longer-term strategy aims to build flexibility into the water management system to enable appropriate measures to be implemented to manage the uncertainties and potential impacts associated with climate change. The strategy identifies a series of actions to be implemented for the 25-year period from 2014, which include reducing water demand by accelerating current water efficiency activities, and making new links with neighbouring water supply companies to improve use of water resources and supply resilience.

4.4.4 Flood risk

Within Hinckley & Bosworth Borough approximately 4% of land is within Flood Zone 3, which is land assessed as having a 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding (see Figure 4-6). Communities at a particularly high risk of flooding have been identified and flood response plans have been put in place. These include Sheepy Magna and Sheepy Parva, Shenton, and Witherley (JBA Consulting, 2014). These are rural communities in the west of the Borough surrounded by agricultural land close to the River Sence, Ashby de la Zouch Canal and Sence Brook, and River Anker, respectively.

To prevent flooding in Witherley, a bund has been constructed to the north of the village, either side of Witherley Brook and behind houses on Mythe Lane (JBA Consulting, 2014). However, flooding in 2012 was caused by drainage systems unable to outfall surface water into Witherley Brook, due to high water levels in the brook and downstream in the River Anker (Leicestershire County Council, 2014a). In Sheepy Magna and Sheepy Perva, and Shenton, flood reports produced by Leicestershire County Council following flood events recommend continued modelling and assessment, and consideration of developments to reduce flood risk.

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy conducted by Leicestershire County Council (2015) classified settlements within the county that are most at risk of being affected by surface water flooding. Hinckley and Burbage are within the top five settlements at risk of surface water flooding. It is calculated that 1,496 properties are at risk of flooding in these settlements during a 1 in 100-year event. Conversely, only 54 properties are within Flood Zone 3, which indicates surface water flooding is more of a risk than riverine flooding in urbanised areas in the south of the Borough. This is likely due to impermeable urban surfaces that prevent infiltration of flood waters.

Climate change is predicted to increase rainfall intensity in the future by up to 30%, which will increase the likelihood and frequency of surface water flooding, particularly in impermeable urban areas such as Hinckley (JBA Consulting, 2014).

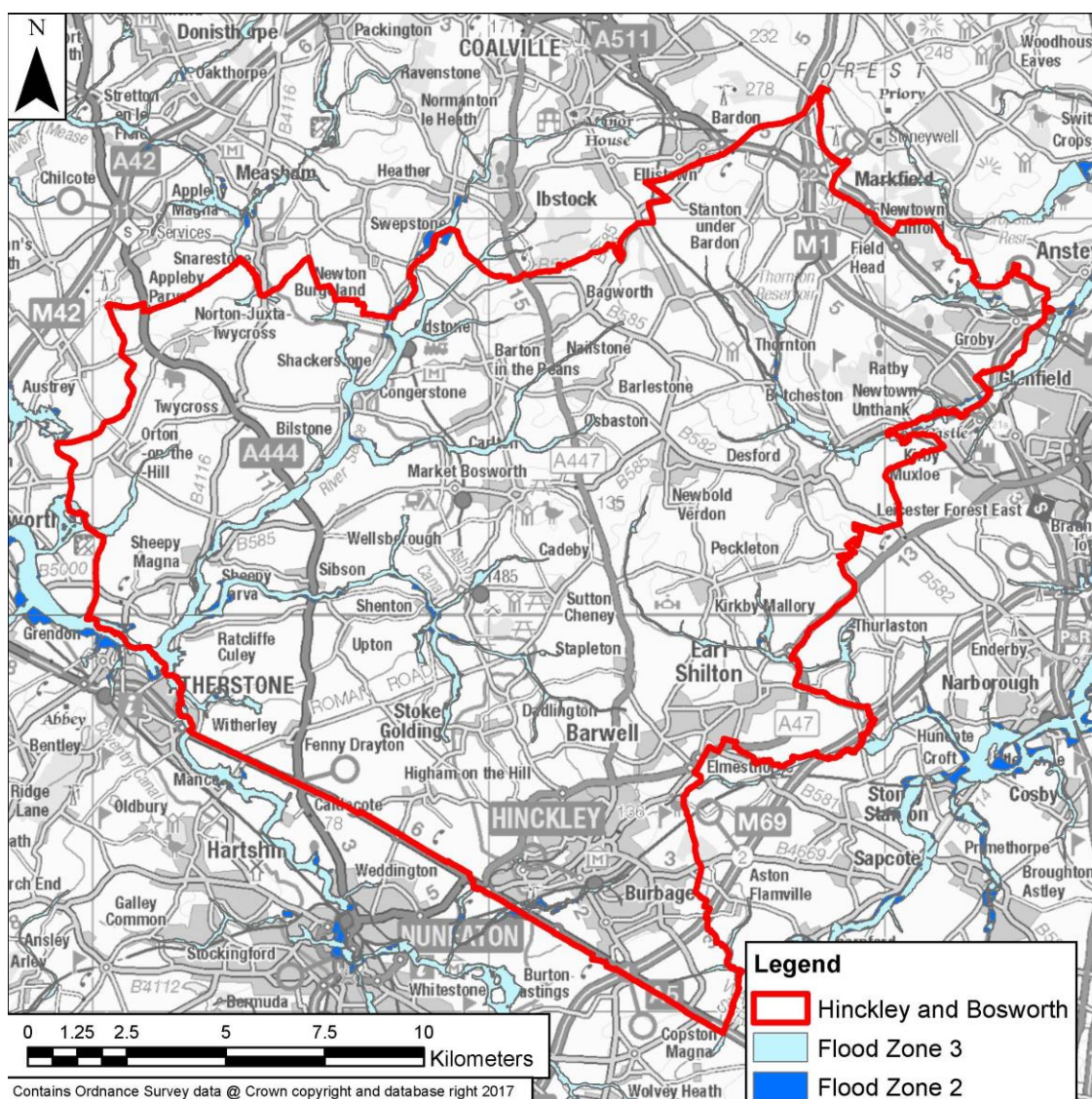


Figure 4-6: Areas of Hinckley and Bosworth that fall within Flood Zones 2 and 3

4.4.5 Key sustainability issues

- The water quality in the Borough is relatively poor, with only one of its waterbodies achieving good overall status under the WFD. Furthermore, water quality has declined in six of the 15 waterbodies as evidenced by a reduction in status since 2009.
- Poor water quality is linked to nutrient input and physical modification of watercourses. Industries such as agriculture (fertiliser pollution) and the water industry (sewage pollution and resource extraction) may lead to a further decline in water quality without changes in management or appropriate interventions.
- Significant areas of land and property within the Borough are at a risk of flooding. Riverine flooding is particularly prevalent in the west of the Borough close to the River Sence and River Anker, and affects rural communities surrounded by farmland. Urban areas to the south have a relatively high number of properties at risk from surface water flooding, particularly in the Hinckley to Earl Shilton urban area.
- Future development may increase surface water run-off as surfaces become more impermeable (unless mitigation measures are put in place) and may cause increased flooding and pollution to watercourses.
- Flooding may increase in the future as rainfall volume and intensity increases due to climate change.
- Increasing populations and decreasing water availability due to climate change could lead to a disparity between water demand and supply.

4.5 Land

4.5.1 Soils and geology

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough is almost entirely underlain by mudstone, siltstone and sandstone rock from the Triassic period. There are small pockets of bedrock in the north-east of the Borough, near Markfield, containing intrusions of igneous rock, formed from magma low in silica (see Figure 4-7). The superficial geology of the area is more variable. The centre of the Borough contains tills, sands and gravels originating from the last glacial period. The western area of the Borough, around Sheepy Magna, is characterised by sand, silt and alluvium, alongside river terrace deposits, originating from a prehistoric riverine environment (see Figure 4-8) (BGS, 2017).

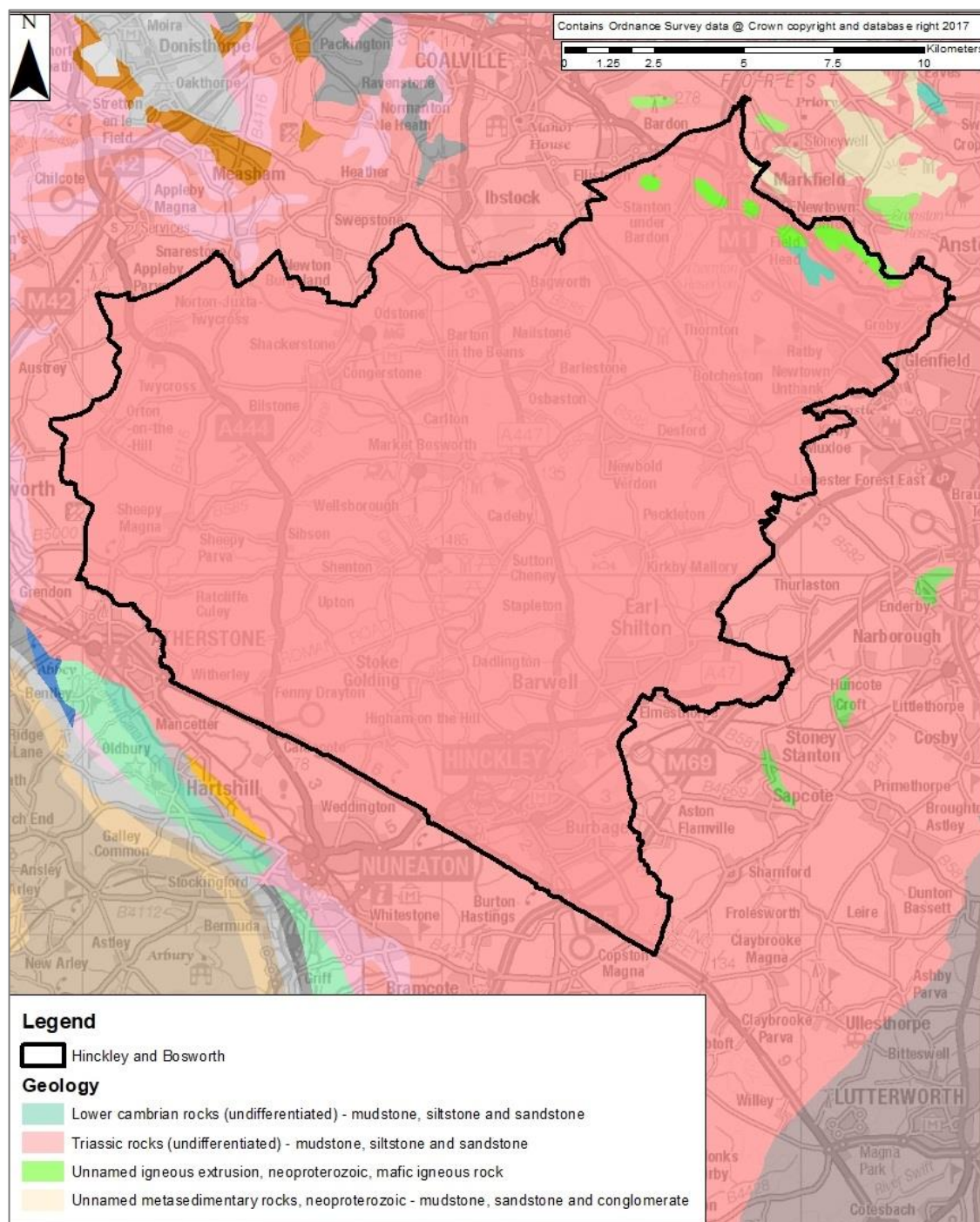


Figure 4-7: Solid geology of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough

The soils generally contain high levels of loam and clay, making them relatively heavy. The centre of the Borough, around Market Bosworth and Newbold Verdon, contains sandier soils of lower

quality. There are also small patches of sandier soil in Hinckley. In the northeast of the Borough, the soil is more typical of the North Midlands, containing relatively high levels of peat, and being of a slightly acidic nature.

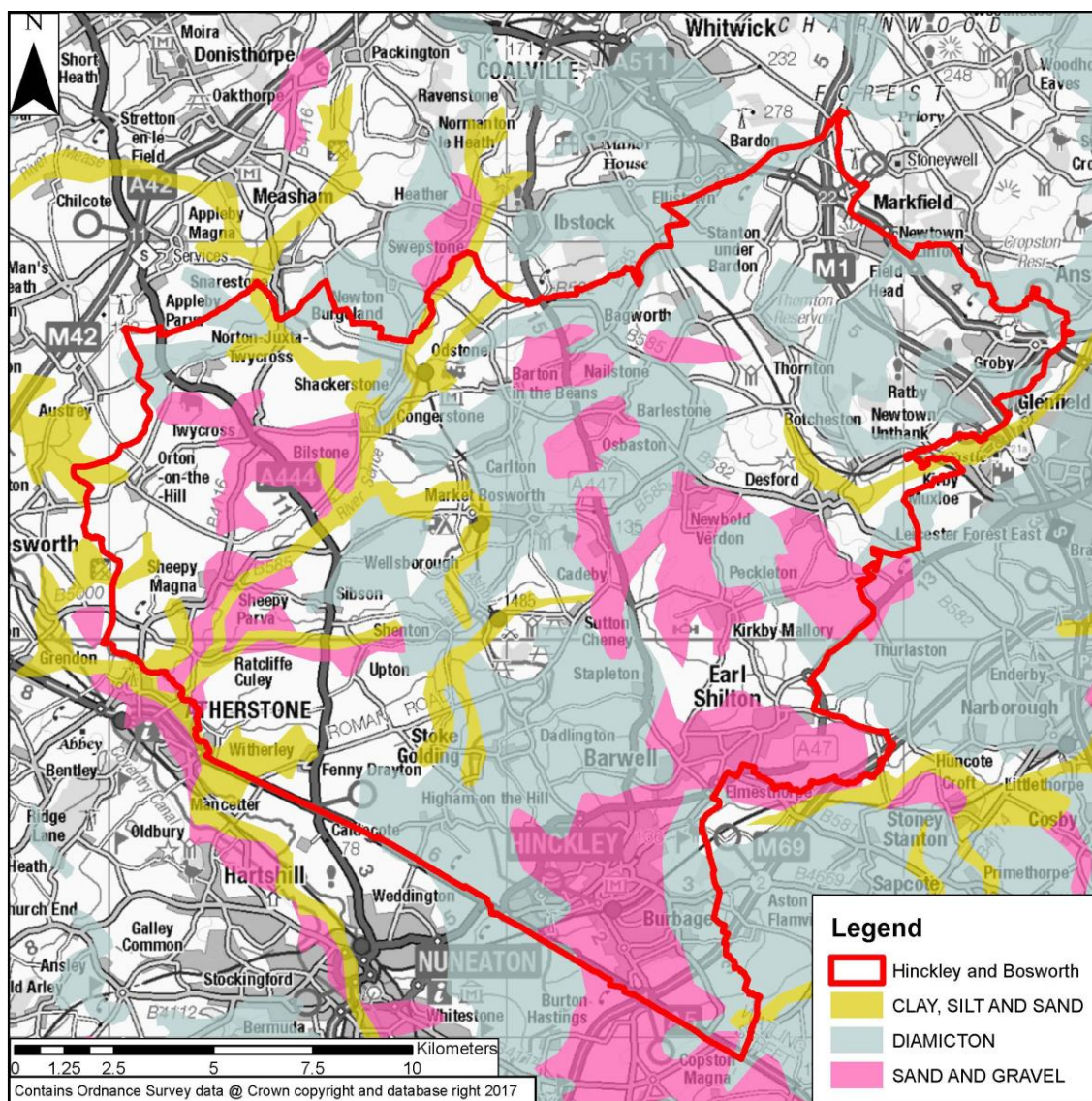


Figure 4-8: Superficial geology of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough

4.5.2 Agricultural land

Agriculture is by far the largest land use in the Borough, comprising 88% of all land. Agricultural land in Hinckley and Bosworth is classified under the Agricultural Land Classification system (ALC). Much of the land in the Borough is classified as ALC grade 3 (good to moderate quality), with some pockets of ALC grade 2 (very good quality) land in the more rural areas in the Borough. A very small area, around the banks of the River Sence, west of Market Bosworth, is ALC grade 4 (poor quality) land (see Figure 4-9). There is no ALC grade 1 (excellent quality) or grade 5 (very poor quality) land in the Borough (Natural England, 2011).

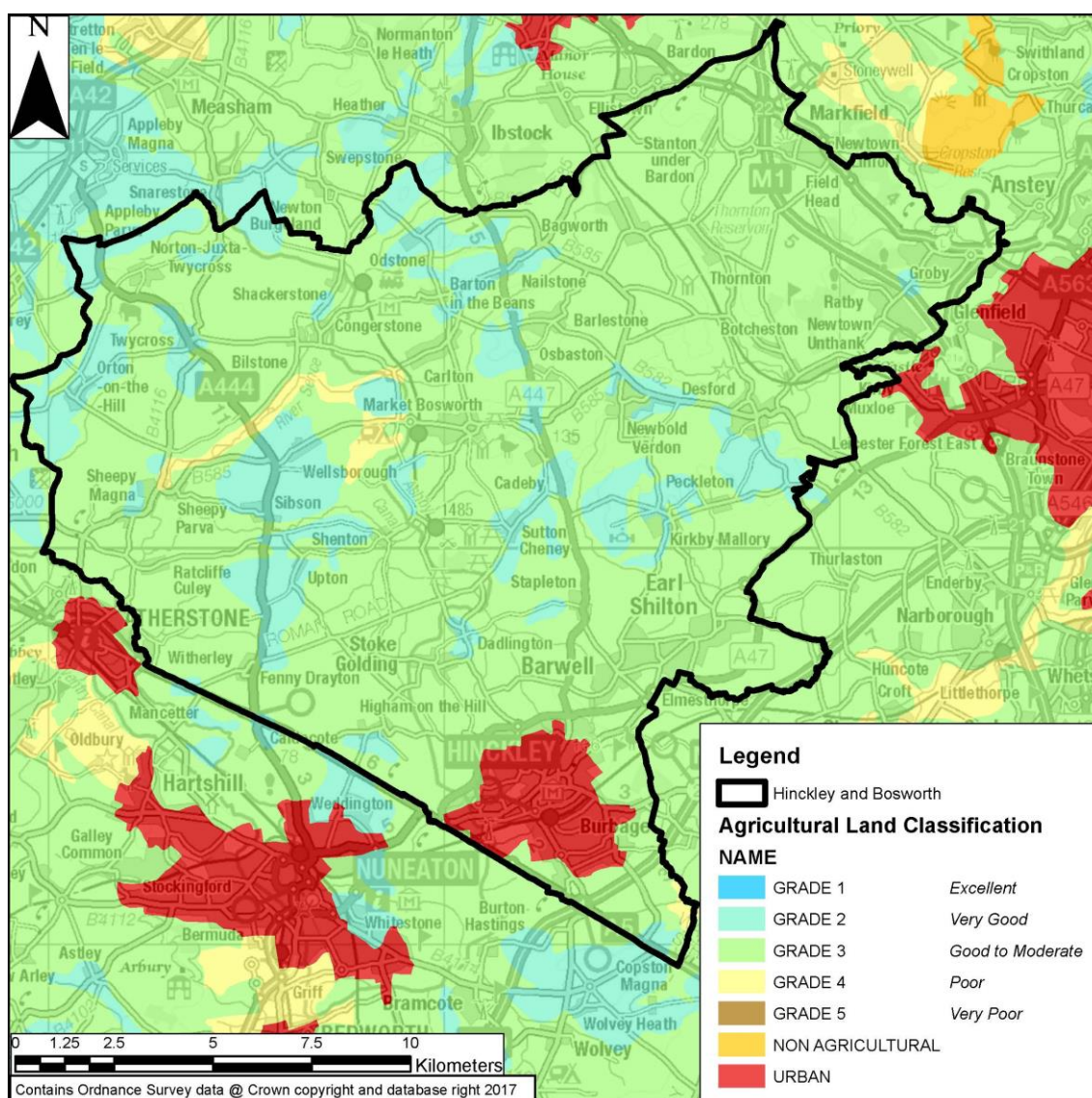


Figure 4-9: Agricultural land classification in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough

Diffuse fertiliser pollution from agricultural areas in the Borough can have significant adverse effects on quality of local watercourses. However, this effect may be somewhat mitigated by the large proportion of the land in the Borough that is under Environmental Stewardship agreements (see Figure 4-10), and the land surrounding river systems in the Borough is typically of a lower agricultural quality (TEP, 2008).

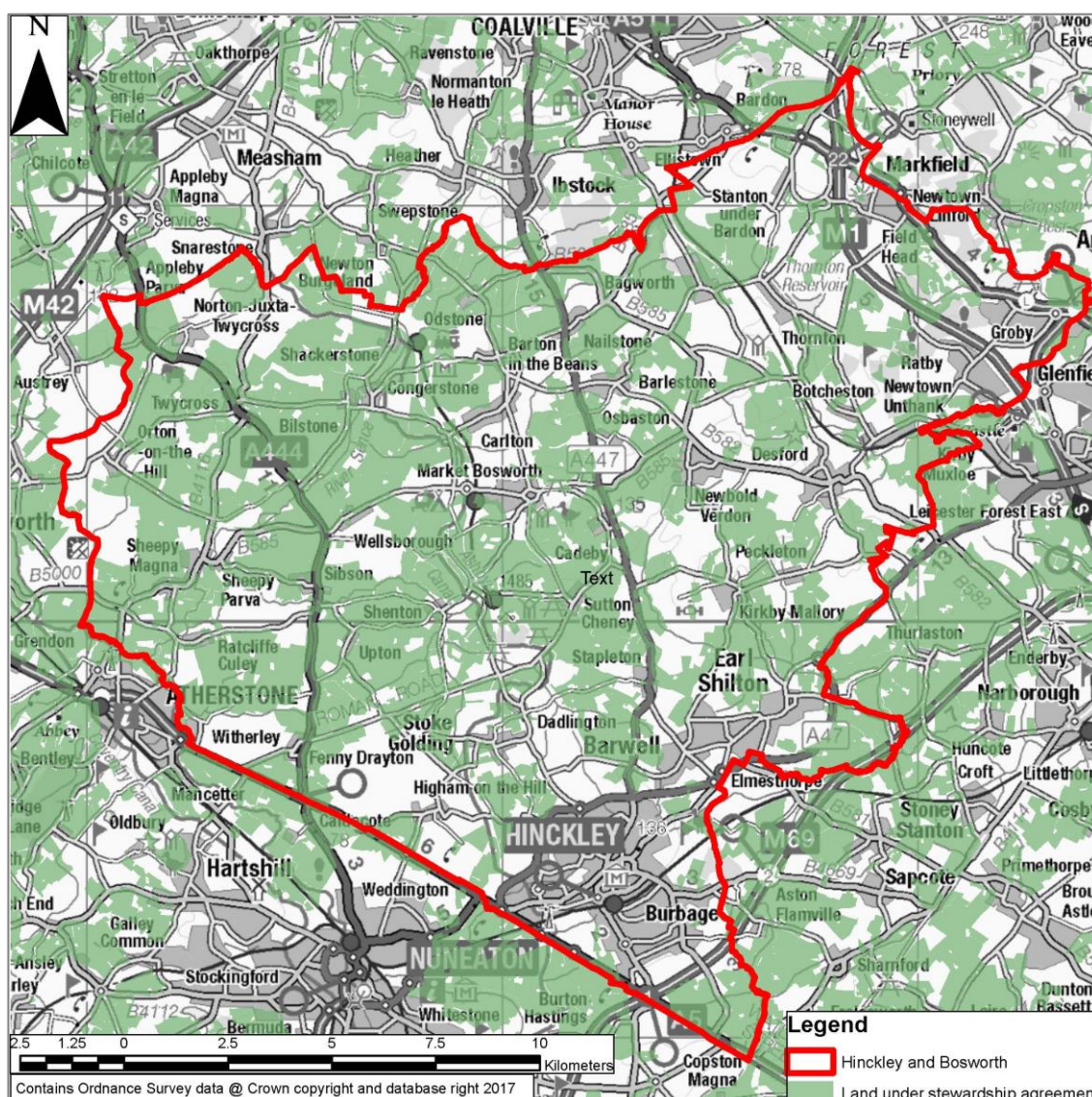


Figure 4-10: Land under environmental stewardship agreements in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough

4.5.3 Other land uses

Relative to many areas in the East Midlands, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough contains a relatively small amount of urban land. Much of the urban land is in the south of the Borough, around Hinckley and surrounding areas, housing approximately 60% of the population (ONS, 2011). In the northwest of the Borough there are several small towns that function as suburbs/satellite towns of Leicester. These towns, Groby, Ratby, Markfield, and Desford, contain just under 20% of the population.

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough contains two Green Wedges, within which only specific land uses are permitted. These are located between Hinckley and Earl Shilton, and in Rothley Brook, between Groby and Markfield (HBBC, 2012). These are described further in Section 4.11.3.

Approximately 4,000 hectares in the northeastern part of the Borough, around Thornton and Stanton under Bardon, are within the National Forest Project, which aims to create a new, large forested area in central England. Along with increasing the forested cover in the designated area, many valuable habitats have been created, as well as providing new recreational activities including walking and cycling. The aim of the National Forest Project is to “Create a mosaic of landscapes with new woodlands providing the framework for agriculture, wildlife habitats, urban areas and other land-uses” (WYG, 2014b).

In many areas, the natural environment is used as a draw for tourists. Features that use the landscape include the Hinckley Half Marathon, Bosworth in Bloom, and Twycross Zoo (TEP, 2008).

4.5.4 Land contamination

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough traditionally supported a large manufacturing industry producing textiles and footwear, and still contains a range of manufacturers, particularly in and around Hinckley town. Consequently, there is a legacy of contaminated land in these former industrial areas that present an issue for redevelopment and regeneration (WYG, 2009).

Leicestershire is one of the counties most associated with mineral extraction, and Hinckley & Bosworth Borough contains many historic quarry sites, as well as two active sites at Brascote Lane in Cadeby and Cliffe Hill Quarry, in Ellistown, which extracts granite. Both sites are operating under an Environmental Permit.

There are four main historic landfill sites in the Borough (Environment Agency, 2017). These are described below and shown in Figure 4-11:

- In Earl Shilton there is a small landfill site that accepted industrial, commercial and household waste. This land is now used as agricultural land, and allotments.
- Cadeby Quarry contained an active landfill site until 1993. The landfill accepted a wide range of waste including hazardous waste.
- Desford Brickworks, near Thornton, contained an active landfill site that accepted inert and non-hazardous industrial waste.
- To the north of Barwell, there is a landfill site that accepted a range of waste types including hazardous waste.

No land in the Borough is currently identified as contaminated land under the Environmental Protection Act 1990; however, this does not guarantee that the land is free from contamination.

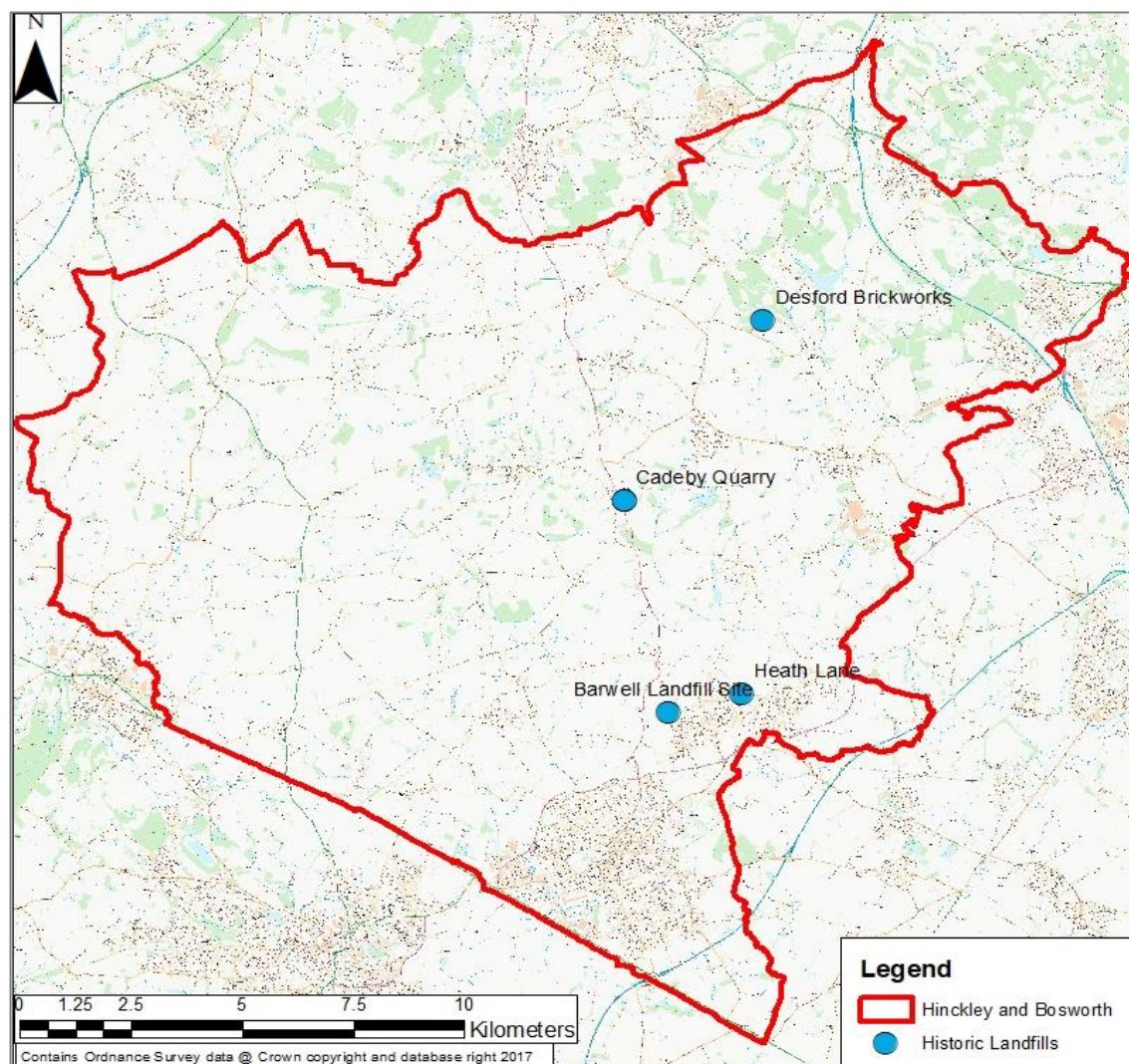


Figure 4-11: Principal historic landfill sites in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough

4.5.5 Key sustainability issues

- Almost 90% of the land cover in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough is agricultural. As a result, agriculture is a large influence on the natural environment and landscape. Profits in some agricultural sectors are falling and this could place strain on this land as pressure grows to further intensify production.
- Most of the land in the Borough is of moderate to good agricultural quality, and some scattered areas in the more rural parts of the Borough contain land of very good quality. This plays an important role in shaping the local landscape and supporting agricultural industries.
- Urban land only covers a small amount of the Borough and is concentrated in the south (around Hinckley) and north-east (near Leicester). As the population increases this may become unsustainable, and more agricultural land could come under threat from development.
- Although there are no sites in the Borough that are designated as contaminated land, historic industrial, quarrying and landfill activities could present a legacy of land contamination.
- Climate change is likely to alter land use patterns as annual temperatures increase and rainfall patterns change.
- The National Forest project is changing the land use in the northeast of the Borough and is supporting the growth of tourism in the area. This is both improving the natural environment of the area and strengthening the local economy.

4.6 Historic environment

4.6.1 Designated sites

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough supports a range of statutory designated heritage sites (HBBC, 2017a). There are 22 Scheduled Monuments, 338 Listed Buildings and 28 Conservation Areas in the Borough. Of the listed buildings in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough, eight are Grade I listed, 36 are Grade II* and 239 are Grade II. Many of these Listed Buildings are associated with the Conservation Areas.

Listed Buildings are widely distributed across the Borough, although there are clusters situated around Market Bosworth in the centre of the Borough, Hinckley and Burbage to the south, and Newbold Verdon and Desford to the east (see Figure 4-12). Hinckley & Bosworth Borough has comparatively fewer Listed Buildings than neighbouring boroughs such as Charnwood and North West Leicestershire, where there are significant clusters of Listed Buildings within the larger historic market towns, e.g., Loughborough and Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

Due to the rich heritage of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough, there are over one thousand features recorded on the local Historic Environment Record (HER) (WYG, 2009a). Sites of archaeological interest range from Roman Camps at Ratby and Witherley to Castle Mottes at Groby and Hinckley (WYG, 2009a). Furthermore, the rich history of the Borough means that there is high potential for a range of unknown archaeological remains.

Of the historic assets within Hinckley & Bosworth Borough, five are listed on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register (Historic England, 2017b) (see Table 4-6). The Heritage at Risk Register shows sites that are in an unfavourable condition and includes Action Plans where applicable to improve the condition of the sites. Many of the Borough's sites included on the Register are experiencing a continued decline in condition.

The overall number of heritage features on the Register has remained similar since 2009, when the current Local Plan Core Strategy was adopted. However, Conservation Areas at risk included Ratby, Shenton, Stoke Golding, and Sutton Cheney. Therefore, there has been a shift from more rural settlements being at risk, to urban settlements surrounding Hinckley in the south of the Borough being at risk. The Stable and kennels at Bradgate House was also on the Heritage at Risk Register in 2009, but the Church of St John Evangelist only appeared on the list in 2014. Issues such as flooding associated with climate change may pose a risk to heritage assets in the future.

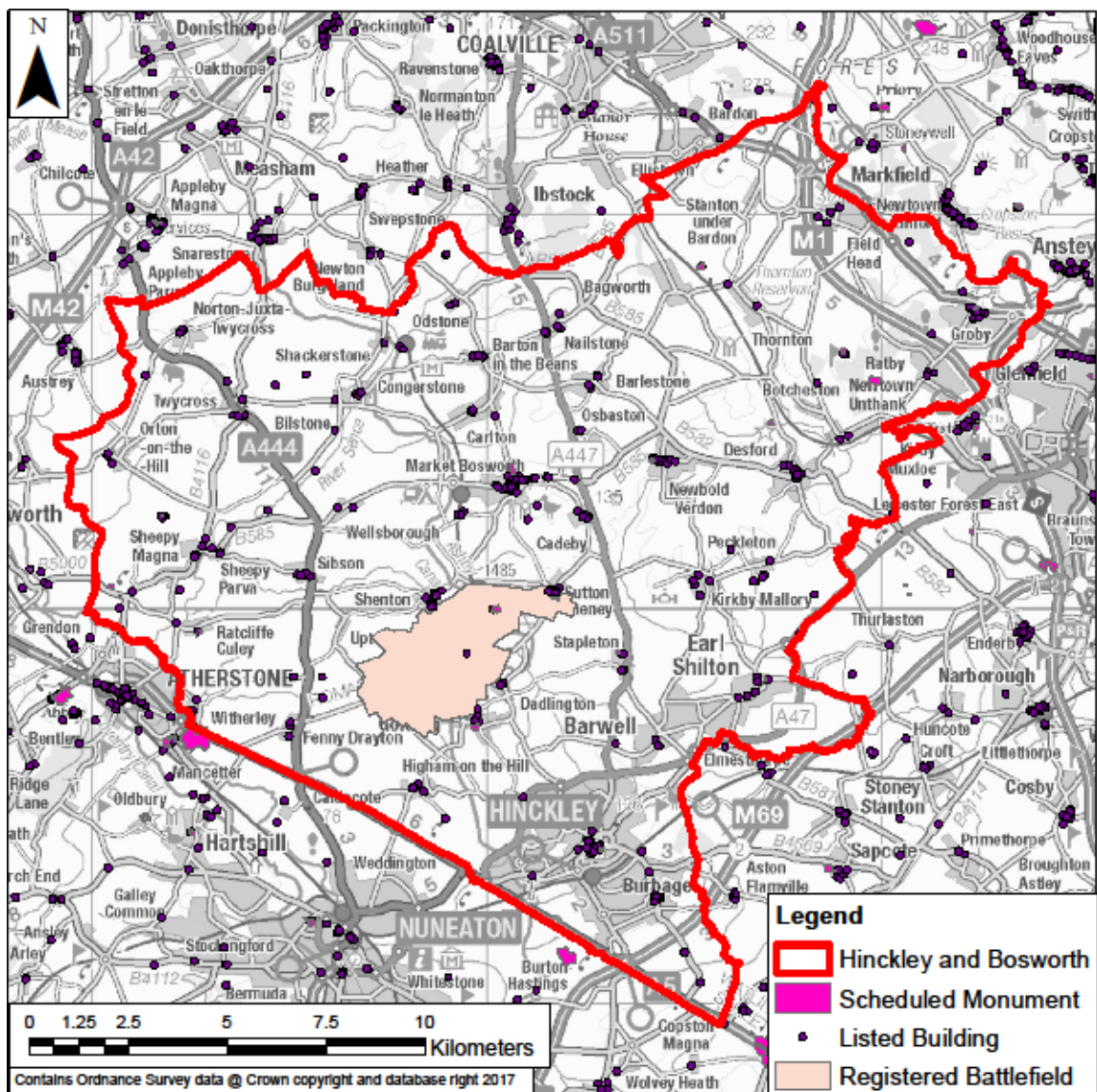


Figure 4-12: The location of Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Registered Battlefields in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough

Table 4-6: Heritage assets in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough included on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register (Historic England, 2017b)

Site name	Condition	Summary
Listed buildings		
Stables and kennels to Bradgate House, Bradgate Hill, Groby (Grade II*)	Very bad	Largely ruinous before 1988. Now derelict and in very bad condition. Future uses constrained by location near to mineral workings. Consolidation works completed but some areas have deteriorated further. Structural failure is visible at the junction of main tower and courtyard ranges. Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric; no solution agreed.
Listed Places of Worship		
Church of St John the Evangelist, Church Lane, Shenton, Sutton Cheney (Grade II*)	Poor	Significant masonry defects including failed copings and open joints and the rainwater goods are in a very poor condition. Drainage around the church is poor and there is cracking to the chancel. The tower roof, in need of repair, is inaccessible due to timber decay in the belfry. Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric; no solution agreed.

Site name	Condition	Summary
Conservation Areas		
Barwell B (Arthur Street), Barwell	Poor	Contains examples of buildings in a poor state of repair. The quality of some buildings has been diminished as alterations have resulted in the loss of architectural features. Modern developments appear out of context with historic streetscapes. Deteriorating trend.
Hinckley Town Centre	Poor	Contains 23 listed buildings and 1 scheduled monument. High number of buildings are in need of repair. Deterioration and replacement of streetscape features and important buildings. Loss of historic shop fronts and replacement with modern versions not in keeping with setting. Impact of traffic on character of area. Deteriorating trend.
Hinckley Holycroft, Hinckley	Very bad	Introduction of non-traditional materials. Deterioration in the original fabric, materials and detailing of buildings, and inappropriate alterations. Impact of traffic on character of area. Loss of key spaces between buildings. No significant change in condition.

4.6.2 Historic landscapes and local heritage

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council's Landscape Character Assessment (2006) describes the evolution of the historic landscape in the Borough. Relics from Neolithic, Bronze Age and Roman settlements have been found in Barwell, especially around the site of St Mary's Church. Furthermore, Roman remains have been found at Desford and Watling Street, which now forms the A5 on the south border of the Borough. Several significant buildings were constructed during the Norman and Medieval period including a Norman castle in Hinckley, which extended the existing market, and a priory on the site of the current St Mary's Church. Newbold Verdon's St James' Church is Norman and St Martin's Church in Desford dates to the 13th century and has a Norman font. Furthermore, the parish Church of St Phillip and St James in Ratby has a Norman tower, but the main building dates to the 14th century.

Bosworth Battlefield is also situated in the Borough and has been placed on Historic England's Battlefield Register (Historic England, 2017a). It was the site of the Battle of Bosworth, which took place in 1485 and was fought between the last English King to die in battle, King Richard III, and Henry Tudor. King Richard was killed and Henry Tudor was crowned Henry VII, allowing the Tudor dynasty to reign for more than a century. This marked the end of the civil war between the Houses of Lancaster and York in England toward the end of the Medieval period. The site has high archaeological potential for battlefield remains (Historic England, 2017a) and is a significant tourist attraction in the Borough.

Historically, Hinckley was a small market town and homed wool based knitting industries with timber framed buildings and passages between yards and the street. During the 17th century the hosiery industry was established with Hinckley supporting many knitters, who worked from their backyards. The jitties (network of pedestrian routes), passages and courtyards within the Conservation Area of Hinckley Druid Street date back to this era. Other places, including Desford, remained predominantly agriculturally based. The hosiery trade took a while to reach villages such as Ratby and Desford and were not working in the trade until the late 18th century. During the 19th century the knitwear industry established specialist factories in the area, as well as in Newbold Verdon.

However, the knitting industry gradually declined here as collieries opened in the area. The industrial revolution also affected other areas such as Barwell, which became a focus for the boot and shoe industry. The construction of the Ashby Canal began in 1794 and consisted of a 30 mile stretch of water from Marston Junction to Ashby de la Zouch. The canal reached Market Bosworth on 1798 and was completed in 1804. It was used to transport coal and prospered following the opening of new mines in the 1820s onwards such as Bagworth, Desford, and Nailstone.

Local tourist attractions in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough are based around historic sites and assets. Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (2017a) list Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre as a 'top must-do activity' in the Borough. There are also the top five historical or heritage experiences including Hinckley Museum, Battlefield Line Steam Railway, historic town of Market

Bosworth, and the remains of Medieval motte and Bailey Castle. Regular Battle of Bosworth re-enactments take place throughout the year (HBBC, 2017a). Therefore, heritage based tourism plays an important role in the tourism industry in the Borough, and needs to be appropriately managed to promote tourism whilst conserving heritage and historical features within the Borough.

4.6.3 Key sustainability issues

- Several designated historic assets are listed on the Heritage at Risk Register. These include three Conservation Areas and two Listed Buildings. There has been a shift in the Conservation Areas on the register from more rural areas to urbanised areas in the south. This is due to unsympathetic modern developments and removal of architectural features.
- Future development in the Borough to meet housing and development demand may present risks to the heritage value of settlements, particularly the industrial heritage surrounding Hinckley in the south.
- The deterioration of statutory designated heritage assets throughout the Borough, such as Listed Buildings, may be exacerbated in the future due to pressures associated with climate change and flooding, as well as new development. These issues need to be effectively managed to ensure the Borough's cultural heritage is protected.
- Heritage assets within the Borough are popular tourist destinations, and heritage-based tourism is promoted in the Borough. Possible conflicts with high visitor numbers and the conservation of heritage may need to be appropriately managed.

4.7 Air quality

4.7.1 Major emissions

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough enjoys relatively good air quality, although there are hotspots where air quality is being affected (Defra, 2013). Defra's air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide (annual mean of under $40\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (micrograms per cubic metre)) is not exceeded anywhere in the Borough. The Annual Status Report did not identify any exceedances of the Air Quality Objectives based on the assessment criteria in Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) Technical Guidance (HBBC, 2016a).

The largest source of air pollution in the Borough is traffic. The M69 south of Hinckley and the M1 in the northeast cause increases in levels of nitrogen oxides in small areas, and the centre of Hinckley has the highest average ambient nitrogen dioxide concentration in the Borough, due to vehicle exhausts (Defra, 2017). Groby experiences some of the worst air quality in the Borough due to its proximity to the M1, A50 and A46. The M1 also affects air quality in Ratby and Markfield. Due to the road network nitrogen dioxide is the principal pollutant of concern in the Borough. In 2015, no sites exceeded nitrogen dioxide levels, as laid out by the Air Quality Exceedances in 2015. There are possible short-term exceedances in Markfield, but the most recent measurements suggest that the levels are below the $40\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ UK-wide target stated by Defra in 2015 (HBBC, 2016). Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council has implemented a Local Transport Plan to combat emissions from vehicles use, and encourage other forms of travel.

Some areas in the Borough experience slight deterioration in air quality due to industry. For example, the area with the highest airborne levels of particulate matter is around Cliffe Hill Quarry, that extracts granite. Another area where particulate matter levels are relatively high is Peckleton Lane, Desford (Defra, 2013), likely due to activity at the site owned by Caterpillar Construction Products. Particulate matter pollution is associated with heart and lung damage in humans, but also has an adverse effect on biodiversity, as it can lead to the acidification of waterbodies, and the depletion of soil nutrients.

In 2015, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough emitted 6.3 tonnes of CO_2 per capita. This is slightly below the average for Leicestershire (6.6 tonnes), but slightly above the UK average (5.9 tonnes). Between 2005 and 2015 emissions fell in Hinckley and Bosworth by 30%, from 9.0 to 6.3 tonnes per capita. The relatively high CO_2 emissions for the Borough is largely due to its rural nature, and the resulting reliance on private transport, and its strong manufacturing industry. Transport emitted 277.3kt CO_2 in the Borough in 2015, 40.6% of the total.

4.7.2 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA)s

As of 2017 there are no AQMA's in the Borough; previously there had been two: Trinity Lane in the centre of Hinckley, and Groby Road in Ratby, which were both designated due to exceedances in nitrogen dioxide levels. Both sites were revoked in 2005, as the nitrogen dioxide levels fell below the objective value without the Council having to take direct action (WYG, 2009).

4.7.3 Air quality trends, and future projections

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council operate 16 diffusion tube sites in the Borough. Based on information from these sites, there has been a small improvement in the already fairly high air quality in the Borough, between 2010 and 2015 (HBBC, 2016).

A growing population in the Borough could reverse this trend however. As more people move to the area and car usage increases, air quality may begin to deteriorate, especially adjacent to the major roads that intersect the Borough.

4.7.4 Key sustainability issues

- Air quality is relatively high and there are currently no AQMA's present in the Borough.
- Nitrogen dioxide emissions from cars and other vehicles are of greatest concern in the Borough and remain very close to the air quality objective values in some areas, particularly along Shaw Lane in Markfield (HBBC, 2016).
- As the larger roads (M1, M69, A5) in the Borough get busier, air quality in areas close to them could begin to deteriorate again. This could have the most detrimental effect in areas where these roads pass close to settlements, such as Burbage, Markfield and Groby.
- Industry in the area is a source of airborne particulate matter. This may be harmful to the health of residents, and could adversely impact local biodiversity, especially considering that in some incidences, large industry is carried out close to local designated sites; for example, Cliffe Hill Quarry SSSI.
- In recent years, the Borough has approved several large developments, with others currently in planning. There is a risk that these could impact upon air quality, during either the construction or operation of the development.

4.8 Climate

The East Midlands is one of the driest regions in England. It receives around 600mm of rain a year, which is similar to the driest region (Eastern England), which receives around 500mm a year and significantly less than the wettest region (western Scottish Highlands), which experiences around 2,400mm a year (Met Office, 2016). Rainfall is generally well distributed throughout the year, in contrast to the north and west Midlands, which experience much greater seasonal variation.

Mean annual temperature in the region is around 8°C, with average maximum temperature around 14°C and average minimum temperature of 6°C (Met Office, 2016a). July is the warmest month, with mean daily maximum temperatures exceeding 22°C in the East Midlands. This compares to 23.5°C in London, which experiences the highest mean daily maximum and 15°C in Shetland, which experiences the lowest.

4.8.1 Climate change

Climate change is the most significant environmental issue that society faces today and will affect Hinckley & Bosworth Borough in both the short and longer term. Greenhouse gas emissions are recognised as being the primary cause for climate change.

Almost 200 countries have become signatories to the Paris Agreement (COP21) (2015), which aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions and keep global temperature increase to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius (°C) and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. The Climate Change Act (2008) requires an 80% reduction in the UK's carbon emissions by 2050 (compared to 1990 levels), with a short-term target of a 34% reduction by 2020.

However, past and current greenhouse gas emissions mean that some climate change is unavoidable regardless of the actions taken now and in the future. The UK Climate Projections 2009 (UKCP, 2009) provide an estimate of the potential impact of climate change based upon

three greenhouse gas emissions scenarios (low, medium and high). Under the medium emissions scenario, mean temperatures in the East Midlands will increase by 3°C in the winter, and 3.5°C in the summer by 2080. Winter mean rainfall is predicted to increase by 19% by 2080 and reduce by 20% in summer. Sea level rise is a particularly significant impact of climate change, with sea levels around the UK predicted to rise by 76cm by 2095.

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough, together with the rest of the UK, is likely to experience more extreme and intense weather conditions, which will include:

- Heatwaves and warmer temperatures.
- Reduction in summer water availability.
- Increase in winter rainfall leading to more flooding.
- More frequent and intense storms and high winds.

It is also predicted that there will be a more frequent occurrence of intense rainfall events and less intense, less frequent occurrences of very cold weather (Leicestershire County Council, 2011). These changes could have significant effects on the Borough, such as increased incidences of flooding to impacts on biodiversity, where habitats and species are unable to adapt quickly enough to adjust to the high rate of change. Flood risk has been identified as a particular problem across the Borough (and at a county scale), with climate change likely to increase both flood extents and flood frequency (JBA Consulting, 2014).

Changes in climate and weather patterns have major implications for people's lives and health. It will also cause significant effects on ecological systems, food production, crop and food supply and flood risk and coastal erosion. Climate change risks for the east Midlands have been identified by Climate UK (Climate UK, 2012) and include:

- Flooding of buildings and infrastructure is the main climate risk facing the east Midlands as much of the land is low lying.
- Greater risk of flooding could have a direct physical and mental impact on people affected, increasing the number of people killed, injured or suffering mental distress.
- Increased temperatures leading to increased levels of mortality and morbidity due to heat. Conversely, this may reduce levels due to cold.
- Heat-island effects in urban areas may become more significant, increasing demand for cooling.
- Summer water shortages could occur affecting water supply for public, business and industry.
- Potential increases in agricultural productivity from warmer summers could provide an important future opportunity for the rural economy. However, these benefits should be balanced against potential reduced water availability and increased flood risk.
- Greater pressure on the natural environment, which is already at risk due to habitat fragmentation, low levels of woodland cover and demands for development.
- Greater risk of invasive non-native species, pests and diseases increasing pressures on native species and ecosystem services.

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council is a signatory to the Nottingham Declaration of Climate Change (2004) and the subsequent Nottingham Declaration 2 (2006) (both since replaced by the Climate Local initiative), which require local authorities to work with the community to tackle climate change at the local level. The Council's Climate Change Strategy aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all activities across the Borough and from its own activities. The Council has a target to achieve a 20% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2016 (compared to its baseline year of 2008/09) and an 80% reduction by 2050 in line with the Climate Change Act (2008) requirements. The most recent reporting (2016) shows that the Council has reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 21.9% in 2015/16 compared to 2009/10 levels (H&B Council, 2016).

Greenhouse gas emissions data for each local authority area is published by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC, 2016). It shows that between 2005 and 2015 total emissions in the Borough reduced from 925.7 kilotons carbon dioxide equivalent (kt CO₂) to 681.6kt CO₂, a 26% decrease, whilst per capita emissions fell from 9kt CO₂ to 6.3kt CO₂ over the same period (a 30% decrease). These per capita figures are slightly lower than the average figures for Leicestershire, but higher than the UK averages of 7.5kt CO₂ (2005) and 5kt CO₂ (2015).

The principal source of emissions in the Borough is associated with energy (electricity and gas) use by industrial and commercial businesses (DECC, 2016). However, such emissions have shown a considerable decrease over the ten-year period to 2015, with a 48% decrease in emissions from electricity and a 43% decrease in emissions from gas. In 2015, emissions from domestic sources totalled 190kt CO₂, a reduction of 29% since 2005, whilst transport emissions equalled 277kt CO₂, a reduction of 10% since 2005. These reductions are slightly greater than the regional averages across Leicestershire.

Under the EU Renewable Energy Directive (2009), the UK has a legally-binding target to provide 15% of its energy needs – including 30% of its electricity, 12% of its heat, and 10% of its transport fuel – from renewable sources by 2020. At present, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough does not produce a significant amount of the renewable electricity. There are currently nine renewable energy generation facilities with a capacity of 1MW of greater in operation in the Borough. These comprise eight solar photovoltaics sites and a single onshore windfarm near Newbold Verdon, with a total installed capacity of 34.6MW (Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, 2016). Further applications for renewable energy facilities have been made in the past 10 years but have either been refused or have not been progressed. This mirrors other areas of Leicestershire where the scale of energy generation from renewable sources has been comparatively limited.

Renewable energy potential in the Borough was analysed in 2014, with Hinckley & Bosworth Borough estimated to be able to provide 1,070MW of heat and electricity (from commercial and domestic facilities) by 2020 (Land Use Consultants, 2014). Electricity generation from onshore wind was identified as providing the greatest potential, with around 550MW technically achievable. However, this figure does not represent the 'deployable potential' in the Borough i.e., what could realistically be achieved or desired, which is considerably lower.

The Green Alliance (Green Energy Alliance, 2016) currently ranks the Borough 129th highest (out of 348) in the UK for renewable energy generation capacity. It highlights the potential for electricity generation from solar photovoltaics, which it estimates represents 84% of the generation capacity within the Borough.

4.8.2 Key sustainability issues

- Should climate change predictions be realised, there is the risk of significant adverse impacts on public health, infrastructure, built heritage and natural environment within the Borough. Increased temperatures and extreme weather events have the potential to impact upon public health during heatwaves and flood events. This includes increased risk of outbreaks of disease, and potential increased risk of contamination.
- Increased flood risk from both the local river network and surface water runoff from the local drainage and sewerage infrastructure is likely to increase because of greater winter rainfall and more intense storm events; this has the potential to adversely impact upon utility, residential, industrial and transport infrastructure, causing significant economic damages as well as social and public health implications, as a result of distress and disruption caused.
- Species and habitat abundance and richness will become threatened because of changing habitats, drier soils and increased competition from invasive non-native species throughout the region's watercourses. There is also increased risk of soil erosion from agriculture, potentially having adverse impacts on agricultural productivity, aquatic ecosystems and air quality.
- Renewable energy generation within the Borough, as with elsewhere in the county, is relatively limited. With increased demand for renewable energy stimulated by efforts to meet government targets, there is likely to be a growth in demand for renewable energy provision.
- Energy demand and consumption is likely to rise because of increased population and development resulting from economic growth and increased mobility.
- The transport sector is likely to have an increasingly greater proportional input into greenhouse gas emissions in the Borough as associated emissions reductions have been considerably smaller than for other sectors. This has the potential to offset some of the reductions from other emissions sources due to energy efficiency measures and use of cleaner technology.

- Potential conflicts between renewable energy generation and other land uses, as well as issues in relation to impacts on landscape quality and character, recreation and amenity, and biodiversity.

4.9 Population

4.9.1 Population structure

The population in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough in 2015 was 108,800, a 8.6% rise since 2001 when the population was 100,141; the population is predicted to increase further in the future, rising to 119,000 by 2030 (ONS, 2016) (ONS, 2001) (see Figure 4-13).

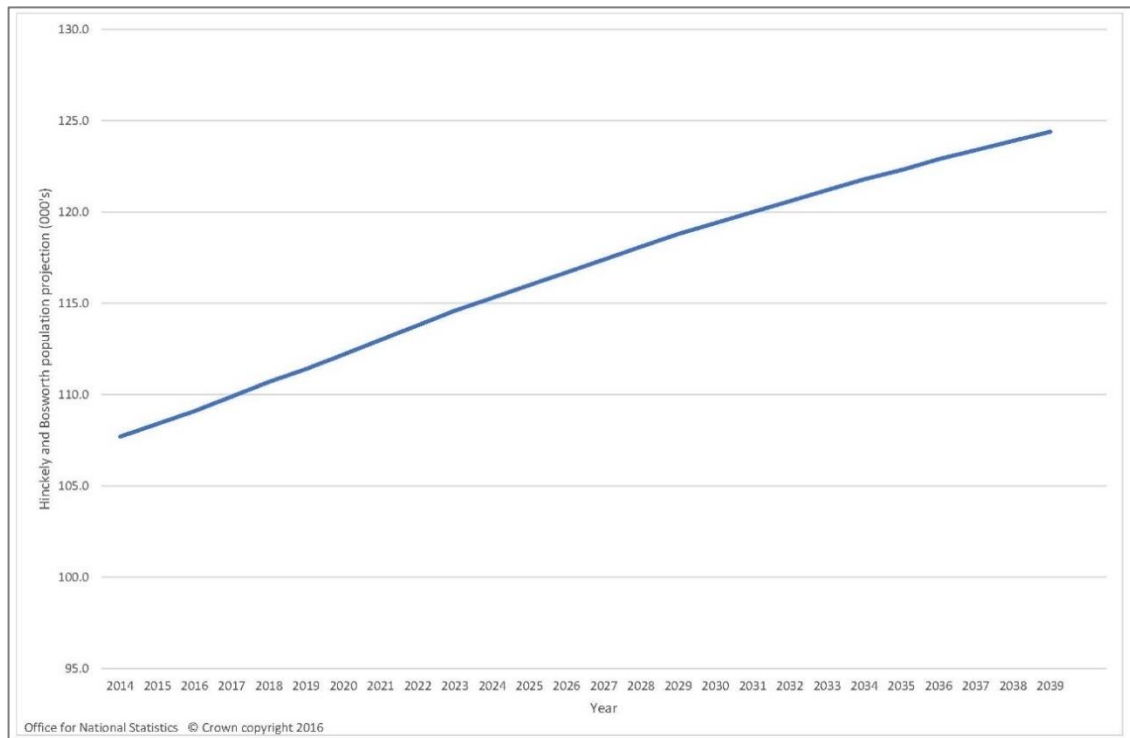


Figure 4-13: Population projection up to 2039, using 2014 data, for Hinckley & Bosworth Borough (ONS, 2016)

The area has a lower than average proportion of people under the age of 24. Just under 18% of Hinckley and Bosworth's population are aged under 16, compared to 18.4% in the East Midlands and 18.9% nationally. The population of people aged 16-24 is also below the regional or national average, comprising only 9.6% of the population, compared to 12.1% in the East Midlands and 11.9% nationally. A higher than average proportion of the population is of retirement age, with 18.4% of the population aged 65 or over. This compares to 17.1% in the East Midlands and 16.3% in England (ONS, 2011) (see Figure 4-14).

The relatively low proportion of younger people could be for several reasons: The Borough may be experiencing an outward migration of younger people to neighbouring cities, which is exacerbated by higher than average house prices and a relatively small job market. Conversely, the Borough may be experiencing an inward migration of older people moving from larger urban areas in the East Midlands, who are keen to live in a more rural area.

Future projections of age structure show that the Borough's population is likely to get older over time, with the proportion of residents over the age of 65 expected to increase, whilst the population under 25 is expected to stay fairly constant.

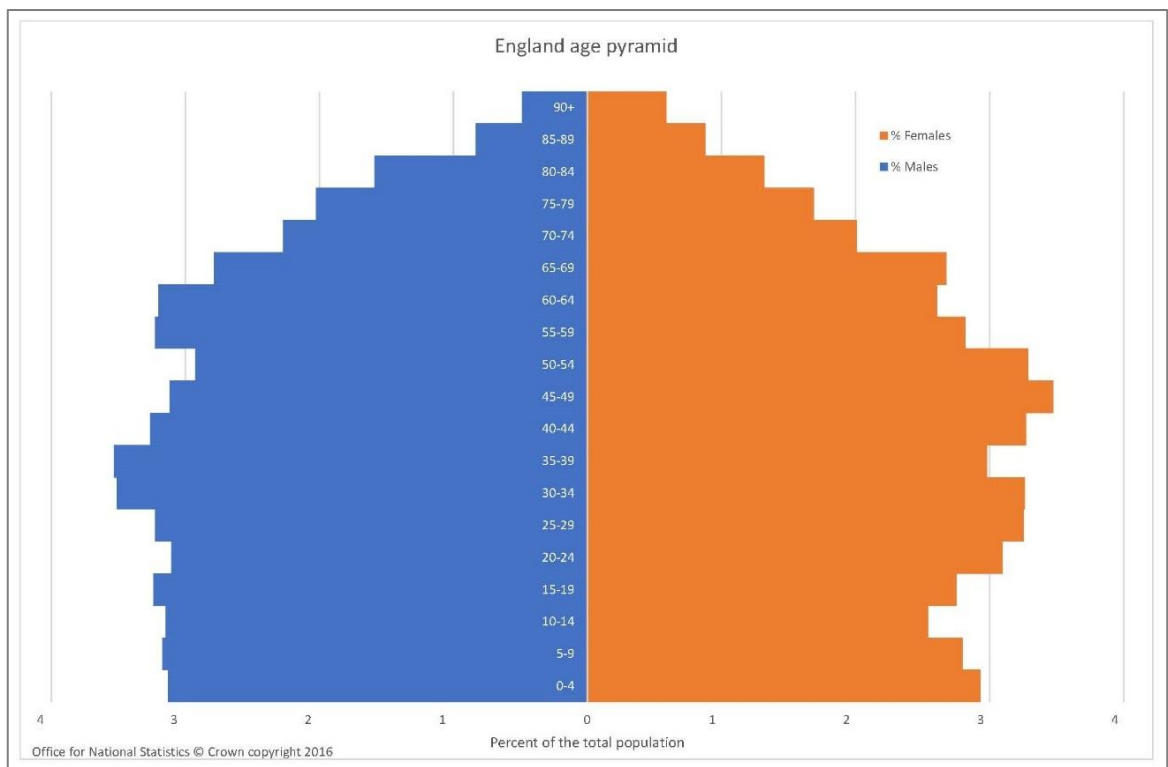
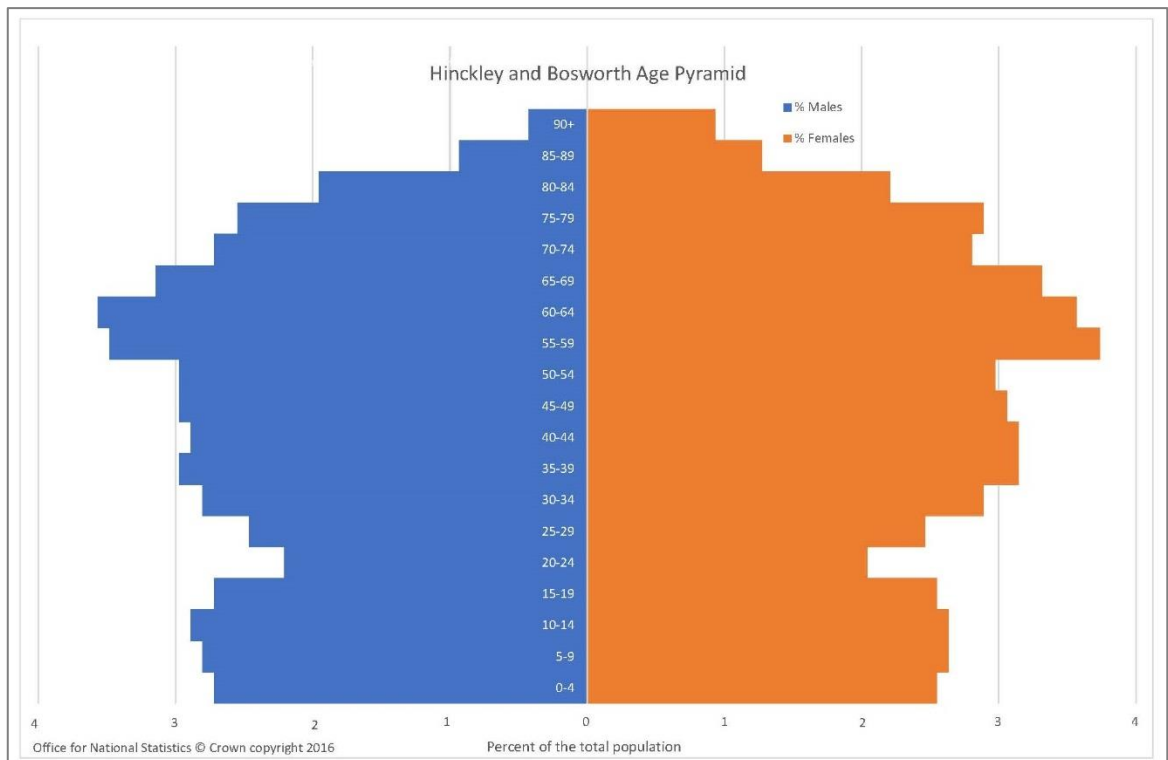


Figure 4-14: Age structures for both Hinckley & Bosworth Borough and England (ONS, 2011)

The population is not particularly ethnically diverse, with 96% of residents White, compared to 89% in the East Midlands and 85% in England. Around 2% are Asian or Asian British, compared to 6.5% in the East Midlands and 7% in England (ONS, 2011). However, ethnic diversity is increasing slowly; in 2001, 98% of individuals were White, whilst 1% were Asian or Asian British (ONS, 2001).

4.9.2 Housing

There are 45,377 households in the Borough (as of 2016). Of these, 76.7% are owner-occupied, 11.4% are privately rented, and 10.3% are social housing (DCLG, 2016). As of April 2017, the average house price in Hinckley and Bosworth was £202,423, which is above the average house price for the East Midlands (£178,844), but below the average for England (£236,519). House prices could be a contributing factor to the relatively low proportion of young people in the Borough, as young people are more likely to find affordable housing elsewhere in the East Midlands. Over the last twenty-two years, house prices have risen roughly in line with the national and regional average over the same period (HM Land Registry, 2017) (see Figure 4-15).

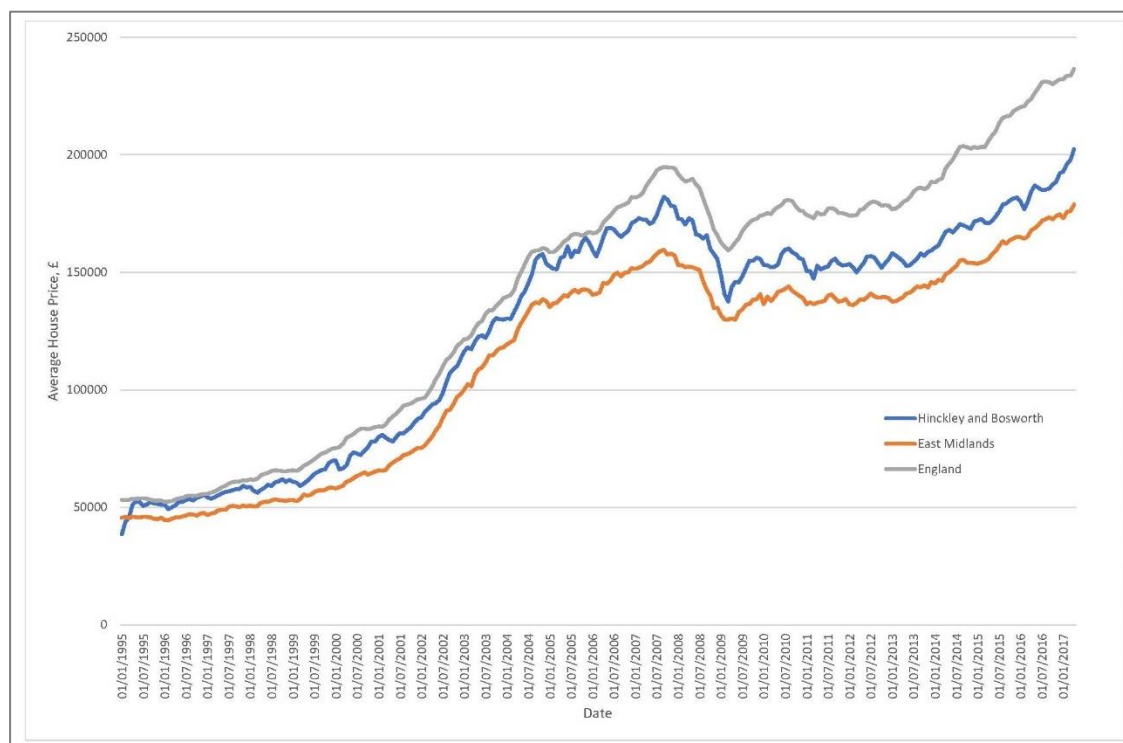


Figure 4-15: Average house price for Hinckley & Bosworth Borough, the East Midlands and England for the period 1995-2017 (HM Land Registry, 2017)

However, house prices are unevenly distributed across the Borough. This is likely to be due to several factors. For example, one of the most expensive places to buy property is the village of Market Bosworth, which is attributed to the local private school (GL Hearn, 2014). House prices have risen substantially in recent years, approximately in line with rises in both the East Midlands and England (HM Land Registry, 2017).

Different areas of the Borough have different pressures on their housing stock also. For example, Market Bosworth has a shortfall of smaller houses available, which are targeted by both first-time buyers, and people of, or near to, retirement age, who are often looking to downsize. The Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Plan 2014-2026 states that *“there is significant pressure to increase the housing stock beyond the need established in the local plan”* (Market Bosworth Parish Council, 2014).

Only 0.3% of housing in the Borough falls below the ‘Decent Home Standard’. This is far below the national average of 16.4% (WYG, 2014b).

As is the case for much of the UK at present, housing supply in the Borough is not keeping pace with demand. This effect is further exacerbated when affordable homes and starter homes are considered. The Leicestershire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment 2017 (GL Hearn, 2017) predicts that in order to keep pace with rising demand in the Borough, 6,175 new affordable homes will need to be built between 2015 and 2036, equating to 247 homes each year. Of these affordable houses, it is estimated that approximately 4,900 (79%) of them will need to be either socially rented or be classified as ‘affordable rent’ – rent which is capped at 80% of the local market rent average. The report states however that this number needs to be considered as a proportion of a mixed market solution. In light of this, it is expected that up to 2036, 24,700

houses will need to be built in total. The report also stated that the Borough would need 1,250 'starter homes' by 2036, or 74 a year, to match demand. A further 1,625 homes from 2011-2036 will be needed in the Borough specifically for older persons, or 65 a year, during that timeframe (GL Hearn, 2017).

The number of individuals classified as homeless in the Borough fell from 212 in 2004/5 to 153 in 2013/14. However, the number of people receiving homelessness assistance from the Council trebled from 203 in 2004/05 to 808 in 2014/15. This rise was broadly similar to a general rise in homelessness in the UK, arising from the 2008 financial crisis. The peak of assistance was in 2012/13, at the peak of the financial crisis, when 1,118 people were receiving assistance. The use of temporary accommodation for homeless people has reduced since 2004/05, but by 2013 was still higher than desired, at 15 households. This has decreased in recent years due to increased partnerships with the private sector, but will remain to be used when necessary for the foreseeable future (HBBC, 2015b).

4.9.3 Health

The population of the Borough enjoys relatively good levels of health. In the 2011 Census, 4.6% of residents described their health as either 'bad' or 'very bad'. This is compared to 5.5% in both the East Midlands and nationally (ONS, 2011). The average life expectancy is slightly higher than the national average, at 80.4 years and 84.7 years for males and females respectively, compared 79.5 years and 83.2 years for England.

Obesity levels in the Borough are varied. Child obesity rates in the Borough are significantly lower than the national average, with 15% of school children in year six classified as obese, compared to 19.8% in England. However, levels in excess weight adults in the Borough is significantly higher than the English average, with an estimated 69.3% of adults classed as either overweight or obese, compared to 64.8% in England (PHE, 2017).

Only 59.8 deaths in every 100,000 (under the age of 75) in the Borough were due to cardiovascular diseases. This is significantly lower than the England average, which is 74.6 deaths per 100,000. Around 129.9 deaths per 100,000 (under the age of 75) were from cancer, which is also significantly lower than the level for England (137.6 deaths per 100,000).

Smoking prevalence has fallen sharply in recent years. In 2012, 20.3% of adults smoked, compared to 20.7% of the English population. By 2017, this had fallen to 11.6%, compared to 15.5% in England. Deaths related to smoking are significantly less common than the English average; 233 deaths per 100,000 people, compared to 275 on average in England (PHE, 2017).

The current local health priorities for the area, as identified by Public Health England, are *"Reducing obesity in children and adults, promoting good mental health and wellbeing, supporting an ageing population, reducing the misuse of alcohol, reducing smoking, and supporting teenage parents"* (PHE, 2017).

4.9.4 Deprivation

Deprivation is measured using the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), which incorporates data on income, employment, education, health, crime, housing, living environment, deprivation affecting children, and deprivation affecting older people, to give every Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in England a rank relative to other LSOAs.

The majority of Hinckley & Bosworth is relatively affluent when compared to the Leicestershire average. Out of 66 LSOAs in the Borough, 49 are considered less deprived than average. The most deprived areas in the Borough are in Hinckley or Earl Shilton, and six LSOAs in these areas are within the most deprived 30% of areas in the country. In these areas, the main drivers of deprivation are lack of employment, education, skills or training, and a low-quality living environment.

Around 11% of children under the age of 16 in the Borough are living in low-income families. This is substantially lower than the England average of 18.6%, but still represents approximately 2,200 children (PHE, 2016).

4.9.5 Crime

Levels of crime in Hinckley and Bosworth are broadly similar to the average for Leicestershire. In the year to March 2016, 44 crimes per 1,000 residents were reported, as compared to 47 crimes per 1,000 residents in Leicestershire. The year 2015/16 saw a 2% increase in crime in the

Borough compared to the previous year. This again is broadly similar to the rest of Leicestershire, which on average saw a rise of 3% in the same year. This rise was not consistent amongst all types of crime however; the largest rises were in violence (that did not result in injury), vehicle offences, and shoplifting (ONS, 2017).

4.9.6 Education

Hinckley and Bosworth contains 33 primary schools and 13 secondary schools, attended by approximately 16,700 pupils in total. There is one special school, Dorothy Goodman School in Hinckley, and two private schools, Twycross House School in Twycross, and Dixie Grammar School in Market Bosworth. The Borough's secondary schools are not evenly distributed around the Borough. 8 of the 13 schools are in Hinckley or Earl Shilton, and there are large areas in the more rural north that do not have a local secondary. This is a contributing factor to the fact that a relatively high percentage of students take a bus to school. Of these pupils, 7.8% were eligible for free school meals, which is lower than the Leicestershire average (8.4%). Around 3.4% of pupils in Hinckley and Bosworth do not speak English as their first language, far below the Leicestershire average (7.5%). Some 12% of pupils in the Borough have special educational needs, which is higher than the average for Leicestershire (10.6%) (Leicestershire County Council, 2015).

In the 2015/16 academic year, 53% of GCSE pupils achieved 5 high passes (grades A*-C). This is significantly below the England average of 57.8% (PHE, 2017). GCSE high pass rates are not evenly distributed within the Borough however. In the more urban south of the Borough, large areas around Earl Shilton and Burbage perform significantly worse than the rest of the Borough, with less than 49% of pupils achieving 5 high pass GCSEs (Leicestershire County Council, 2015).

4.9.7 Key sustainability issues

- Hinckley & Bosworth Borough has a smaller than average population of children and young adults, and this could in future lead to issues associated with an ageing population, which in turn could place strain on local services, specifically health and public transport.
- Housing supply, as with much of the UK, is not rising as fast as demand, and a serious housing shortage in the recent future is likely.
- The population is generally in good health, but there are areas of concern. A higher than average proportion of adults are overweight or obese, and a high proportion smoke. These issues may be putting the local health service under increased strain.
- There are deprivation hotspots in the Borough, within the urban areas of Hinckley and Earl Shilton. These areas are deprived mainly due to lack of employment or skills, low-quality living environment, and higher than average levels of crime.
- A lower proportion of secondary school pupils in the Borough left school with five high passes at GCSE level than the England average. In the more deprived areas of Hinckley and Earl Shilton, this was even more pronounced; less than 50% of pupils gained five high pass GCSEs in those areas.

4.10 Local economy

4.10.1 Economy and employment

The employment rate in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough is relatively high, with 83.2% of residents identified as being economically active (2016). This compares to a UK average of 77.8%. This employment rate has fluctuated over the past 12 years, with a similar rate recorded in 2005 (82.3%), decreasing to 77.3% in 2010.

Some 41,900 people in the Borough are in employment (2014) (LLEP, 2016). This represents 14.6% of all employed people in Leicestershire. Between 2009 and 2014, employment grew by 3,100, representing the largest employment growth in the county. Major and important employers in the Borough include Caterpillar, Triumph Motorcycles, National Grid UK, Tesco and the MIRA Technology Park Enterprise Zone, which is Europe's largest transport technology park.

The largest employment sectors in the Borough are advanced manufacturing and engineering (AME), which employs around 5,100 people, professional and financial sector (4,600 people) and the sports, health and wellbeing sector (3,900). Other significant employers include travel and logistics, tourism and hospitality, the care sector, and the construction industry. These sectors

experienced employment growth between 2009 and 2014 except for tourism and hospitality, and the construction industry, which both saw small decreases.

The agriculture sector accounts for 1.2% of employment in the Borough; this despite farmland representing 88% of land area. Whilst agriculture remains a critical influence on land use, landscape character and social/cultural characteristics of the Borough, rural areas no longer rely on agriculture as a major employer (HBBC, 2011c). Rural villages have developed a more diverse economic profile, with a number of key characteristics, needs and challenges that differ from the Borough's larger urban areas. These include difficulties in attracting skilled workers to rural-based businesses, a lack of suitable business premises, and a growth in home-working and home-based businesses. Supporting and maintaining rural diversification is highlighted as a key issue within the Hinckley & Bosworth Core Strategy (2009).

In Hinckley & Bosworth Borough the proportion of people employed as managers, directors and senior officials, professional and technical occupations (50.4%) is greater than the England average of 44.8%. In addition, the Borough also has substantially higher proportion of people employed as process, plant and machine operatives and within elementary occupations.

Just over half of the Borough's employed residents remain in the Borough to work (BE Group, 2013). However, the Borough is a net exporter of labour, with some 15,400 workers commuting into the area and around 23,900 commuting out to work elsewhere (to places including Leicester, Blaby, Nuneaton and Bedworth).

The 2009 Local Plan Core Strategy (HBBC, 2009b) and subsequent Employment Land and Premises Review (Lichfields, 2017) identified a structural weakness in the Borough's economy, highlighting an over-reliance on the manufacturing sector and a loss of employment from other traditional industries including hosiery, textiles and boot and shoe industries. Around 20% of employed people in the Borough work in the manufacturing industry, which is more than double the UK average, and 50% higher than the east midlands average (Lichfields, 2017).

Average earnings within the Borough closely match those of the average for Leicestershire, but are approximately 9% lower than the England average. Pay increases over the period 2011 to 2015 were also lower than the England average, with gross weekly pay increasing by £20.10 compared with £28.40. The Core Strategy (2009) highlighted that average household incomes are potentially skewed by the relatively high number of workers commuting outside the Borough for work, with local jobs located within the Borough being comparatively low paid. The Core Strategy also identified a wide disparity in average household income between wards within the Borough.

In 2015, there were 4,305 private businesses in the Borough, representing 15.8% of all businesses in Leicestershire. This proportion places the Borough fourth out of the eight local authority areas in Leicestershire. Overall, the number of private businesses in the Borough has increased by 12% since 2011, whilst the majority of other local authority areas in the county experienced slightly greater growth rates.

Over 89% of businesses in the Borough are 'micro-businesses', employing fewer than 10 staff, whilst a further 9% are classified as 'small businesses', with fewer than 50 employees (Lichfields, 2017). Levels of homeworking are comparative to the county and regional averages, and is a particular feature of more rural areas of the Borough where distance to place of work and associated commute times are greatest.

As a result of the Borough's relatively large manufacturing industry, the mix of employment premises is strongly industrial with industrial and warehousing space comprising 93% of all employment space in the Borough (Lichfields, 2017). Demand for modern, good quality industrial space remains high with only around 2% of existing space vacant as of 2013 (BE Group, 2013). The majority of employment premises are located in Hinckley and Burbage, which have been the primary investment focus due to the proximity of the Borough's principal transport infrastructure (M69/A5/mainline railway). Burbage in particular has attracted large logistics companies operating nationally and internationally.

Potential employment land provision in the Borough amounts to just under 125ha located across 11 sites. Many of these sites are small (<2ha), with four sites dominating around 90% of the available resource (Lichfields, 2017). These sites are the MIRA Technology Park Enterprise Zone, located to the west of Hinckley adjacent to the A5, Nailstone Colliery, Hinckley Commercial

Park and Neovia's land at Desford. Forecasts indicate that there may currently be an oversupply of employment land in the medium to long-term (to 2026) (BE Group, 2013).

Notwithstanding this, the adopted Core Strategy (HBBC, 2009b) seeks strengthen and diversify the local economy, with an aim of increasing the provision of high-quality employment land and premises in the Borough. This new provision is focused on regeneration initiatives in the principal urban areas of Hinckley, Earl Shilton and Barwell (both Earl Shilton and Barwell will develop mixed use 'sustainable urban extensions'), whilst also seeking to improve employment in several key rural centres. The Core Strategy aims to deliver 40-45ha of new employment land provision for a range of uses including office space, industrial use and warehousing. As a result of further studies (BE Group, 2013) (HBBC, 2016b), a key objective of the Core Strategy, the provision of 34,000m² of new office floorspace in Hinckley has been identified as redundant and will no longer be delivered. As of 2016, several other employment gains as set out in the strategy had been partially fulfilled, with around 20ha of new employment land provided.

The MIRA Technology Park Enterprise Zone is identified in Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan as one of several investment priority areas in the county (LLEP, 2014). The Growth Plan aims to generate over 2,000 jobs at the park, with a further 3,000 jobs indirectly connected to it. The plan recognises the impact traffic congestion is having on constraining economic growth and challenges with attracting sufficient skilled workers, whilst also highlighting a need to further develop and support the relatively large number of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

A recent (2017) study of the retail characteristics of the Borough identified that the area experiences loss of expenditure to 'higher-order' retail destinations located outside the Borough (GVA, 2017). Hinckley town centre represents the largest retail area in the Borough and draws around £114 million in spending each year. The town is performing reasonably well against the NPPG 'vitality and viability' indicators, but overall its proportion of the total market share has decreased slightly since 2007. Other retail centres in the Borough include Earl Shilton, Barwell and Market Bosworth, which are generally performing well against these indicators. Shop vacancy rates across the Borough have seen a decrease in recent years, with a marked decline since 2012 in vacancy rates in Earl Shilton and Barwell. Current (HBBC, 2015d) vacancy rates for these two centres are 14.4% and 11.6% respectively. Market Bosworth was identified as maintaining a 0% vacancy rate, whilst also seeing business growth, with the relocation of some small businesses to larger premises.

Nonetheless, local retail centres, particularly rural villages, are considered likely to face increasing competition from neighbouring centres and higher-order retail destinations in the future. As such, the current Core Strategy (HBBC, 2009b) recognises the need to secure the economic viability of towns and villages and has sought to promote the retention and improvement of local services.

The Council's Economic Regeneration Strategy (HBBC, 2016c) sets out the vision and aims to promote economic prosperity across the Borough. Key strategic aims include increasing the number and range of employment sites, promote the MIRA Technology Park and Enterprise Zone, improve infrastructure to open up employment and residential sites, promote regional tourism, and work with neighbouring authorities to bring forward strategic employment sites. The strategy also supports the Council's Town Centres' Vision (HBBC, 2015a), which aims to boost economic growth in the Borough's town centres. This includes a number of proposals to improve and regenerate sites in Hinckley town centre, as well as sites in Earl Shilton, Market Bosworth and Barwell.

In 2017, Midlands Connect produced its strategic vision for the wider Midlands region aimed at promoting economic growth with a focus on investment in transport infrastructure (Midlands Connect, 2017). The strategy identifies the strength of the regional economy, which attracts more inwards investment and fosters more business start-ups than anywhere else in the UK, but also highlights that productivity is generally lower than the UK average and a need to improve transport connectivity to boost economic growth. The strategy identifies Leicester and Coventry amongst several strategic economic hubs and also identifies both cities as important locations in several intensive growth corridors; as such they will be a focus for future investment and improved transport infrastructure including better rail connectivity. Given its location between Leicester and Coventry, there is a potential opportunity for Hinckley & Bosworth Borough to benefit from further investment in these cities; conversely there is also a risk that this investment could harm the Borough's economy and further contribute to a range of negative social and environmental characteristics including outward migration of people and jobs, and increased traffic congestion.

4.10.2 Key sustainability issues

- Although the Borough has relatively low unemployment levels, income is lower than the England national average and income growth over the last few years is also below the England average. In addition, income levels may be skewed by the relatively high level of workers who commute outside the Borough for work, with local jobs located within the Borough being comparatively low paid.
- This movement of workers between the Borough and adjacent areas also places significant pressure on the Borough's transport network.
- The manufacturing industry is a particularly important component of the local economy, employing around 20% of the local workforce. This figure is double the UK average and is significantly greater than the average across Leicestershire. There is evidence to indicate that the local economy is over-reliant upon the manufacturing industry and the Council is seeking to strengthen diversify a range of sectors.
- Retail centres across the Borough are generally performing well with increasing shop occupancy rates. However, they are likely to face increasing competition from larger high-order retail destination outside of the Borough in the future. Maintenance of local services and service centre vitality, particularly small rural centres, is a key objective.
- Regional proposals to focus investment on key urban centres outside the Borough may benefit the local economy due to its proximity to both Leicester and Coventry, but may also increase economic competition and contribute to outward migration of jobs and workers.

4.11 Material assets

4.11.1 Transport and infrastructure

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough is well connected to most of the larger towns in the Midlands via the road network. The M1 runs through the north-eastern part of the Borough, connecting settlements such as Markfield and Groby to Loughborough, Derby and Nottingham to the north. The M69 runs through the southern edge of the Borough, connecting the town of Hinckley to Coventry and Leicester. The town of Hinckley is less than an hour by road away from Birmingham (and many of its northern suburbs), Coventry, Derby, Leicester, Northampton and Nottingham. The M6 runs outside the southern boundary of the Borough, linking the area to the northwest conurbations (Google Maps).

The Borough contains no commercial airports, but is less than one hour away from two by road; Birmingham International and East Midlands International.

The Borough is poorly connected to the national rail network, containing only one train station, in Hinckley. Cross Country run hourly services to both Birmingham New Street and Leicester stations. HS2, that is expected to connect the Midlands region to London and Europe by 2026, is not expected to have a significant effect on the Hinckley area, as the nearest stations will be in Central Birmingham and Long Eaton (servicing Nottingham and Derby).

The main form of public transport in the Borough is bus travel. All the major settlements in the Borough are connected to one another by bus. The services however are both expensive and infrequent, and therefore contribute to rural isolation of some of the Borough's more rural areas (HBBC, 2009b). There are no park and ride services within the Borough, meaning bus services are rarely a viable alternative to commuting by car (WYG, 2014b). Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council are attempting to remedy this, and have recently developed Hinckley bus station, to try and make bus travel a more attractive option (HBBC, 2009b).

Sustrans Route 52 passes through the Borough, between Higham on the Hill and Odstone, in total stretching from Warwick to Loughborough.

It's strong connection with the road network and the limited nature of public transport both contribute to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough's issue with traffic congestion and a high car ownership rate, as well as a problem with traffic accidents (WYG, 2014). 68.9% of residents drive to work, compared with a national average of 64% (Department for Transport, 2016). The average commute is short, with 53.3% of working residents staying within the Borough to work, leaving open the possibility of converting to more sustainable forms of travel, e.g. walking or cycling.

The A5 around Hinckley is one of the most congested areas in the whole of Leicestershire's road network (Leicestershire County Council, 2014), and has been the subject of a review since 2012. Two-way traffic flow on the A5 around Hinckley is around 35,000-37,000 AADT (Average Annual Daily Traffic). Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council is working with other local councils, and the Highways Agency, to minimise the effect of traffic on communities close to the A5 (A5 Transport Liaison Group, 2012).

Traffic around Hinckley is expected to increase by 16.2% by 2026, and by 43.6% by 2036 (Aecom, 2017). This could place strain upon the road network in Hinckley, and the provision of parking, which is currently under-utilised by around 10% (Aecom, 2017).

HBBC are running a local transport plan in Hinckley, to attempt to mitigate emissions and ease congestion in the town. Research undertaken by the council showed that during peak times, 54% of car journeys were less than 3 miles, prompting the possibility of an increase in cycling and walking. Actions have been taken to make walking and cycling more accessible forms of transport, improve bus services, and the introduction of new parking and weight restrictions on vehicles (HBBC, 2016).

The 'Choose How You Move' campaign promotes travel alternatives and may work to reduce the number of private vehicles on the roads. Leicestershire County Council are also working with local service providers to improve public transport in the Borough, which should reduce the reliance many areas have on private transport.

4.11.2 Services

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council provides a range of services to the public, including schools and health clinics. Hinckley and Bosworth Community Hospital is the main health centre, and specialises in care for adults over 65 years of age. The nearest large hospitals are in Nuneaton and Leicester.

The Borough is facing a challenge to keep many rural services open. As commuting patterns change and the public begin to use the areas in which they live in a different way, facilities in villages and small towns are increasingly competing with those in larger towns. Both public and private services are beginning to close, including youth clubs, post offices, GP surgeries, pubs and local shops. This is becoming a problem for some of the Borough's older residents, many of whom cannot drive, and therefore is leading to social exclusion (WYG, 2014). The Hinckley and Bosworth Community Plan (2014-2018), together with the Core Strategy, seek to safeguard community facilities and make them more accessible (WYG, 2014b).

4.11.3 Green infrastructure and open space

Green infrastructure is defined in the Green Infrastructure Strategy (TEP, 2008) as:

- Parks and gardens
- Amenity Greenspace
- Natural and semi-natural greenspaces
- Green corridors
- Other – allotments, city farms, cemeteries, and churchyards.

The majority of the green infrastructure in the Borough is in the northeast, inside and around the National Forest. Some smaller clusters of green infrastructure are around Market Bosworth and to the west of Shackerstone.

The more urban areas of the Borough, around Hinckley, have a scarcity of green space. There are few, if any, natural corridors linking green space in the urban areas to the more rural areas in the centre of the Borough (Pmpgenesis, 2011).

Several tourism and recreational events and facilities in the area use the natural environment as an asset, helping people to enjoy the natural environment. These include the Hinckley Half Marathon, Bosworth in Bloom, and Twycross Zoo (TEP, 2008).

There are two Green Wedges in the Borough, the Rothley Brook Meadow Green Wedge and the Hinckley/Barwell/Earl Shilton/Burbage Green Wedge. Green Wedges are a local planning policy designation that has been used by Leicestershire County Council since the late 1980s (HBBC, 2012). The purpose of a Green Wedge is to:

- Prevent the merging of settlements
- Guide development form
- Provide a 'green lung' into urban areas
- Provide a recreational resource

The two Green Wedges are:

- The Hinckley Green Wedge covers 441 hectares, of which 438 are in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough and extends from the south of Barwell to the edge of Earl Shilton. It contains many footpaths, cycle paths and one bridleway. It also contains other local amenities such as a cricket ground, Hinckley golf course, farmland, allotments, a rugby ground and recreational grounds.
- Rothley Brook Green Wedge covers 1,375 hectares, of which 337 hectares are within Hinckley & Bosworth Borough. It extends down towards Ratby in the south, and north into the extreme northeastern area of the Borough, and further north into Charnwood and Leicester. It contains many footpaths and cycle paths, and one bridleway. The area is intersected by several major roads, and contains amenities such as fishing lakes, a riding school, a Wildlife Conservation Area and Ferndale Park. (HBBC, 2012).

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council owns and maintains 87.41 ha of parkland, or 0.83 ha for every 1,000 residents (Pmpgenesis, 2011). In a survey commissioned by the Council in 2009, the majority of respondents said that the provision of formal parks in the Borough was sufficient. This was not unanimous throughout the Borough however, with residents in Market Bosworth, Earl Shilton and Markfield generally stating that provision of formal parks was not sufficient. The population of the Borough is rising faster than the provision of public green space, potentially placing the provision under strain through more frequent usage. The majority (56%) of respondents stated that the quality of parks was good, and a further 26% said quality was average, giving a positive perception overall. Respondents generally stated that parks in urban areas, or in rural centres, were generally of a better quality than those in villages or hamlets, with the biggest required improvement being a greater provision of facilities, such as benches and bins. Respondents also said that the quality of parks in recent years had significantly improved (Pmpgenesis, 2011).

4.11.4 Key sustainability issues

- Hinckley and Bosworth is very well connected to much of the country by road. Also, due to the mainly rural nature of the Borough, it is poorly connected to the national rail network. Because of both these qualities, the Borough has a high percentage of car use, and the road network suffers from congestion.
- The public transport provision in the more rural areas is relatively poor, and is leading to social exclusion in some areas, particularly of the elderly or less able, who are less likely to be able to drive.
- As commuting patterns change, many rural services are facing problems, as they are used less often and by ever smaller numbers of residents. The closing of these services would further contribute to social exclusion.
- Formal green infrastructure provision in the Borough is good and improving, but in some rural areas, it is still lacking in both volume and quality. As the population grows, and rural villages start to increase in size, this could become more serious problem.

4.12 Waste and minerals

4.12.1 Waste management

During 2015-2016, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council collected 43,417 tonnes of waste from its households. 22,403 (51.6%) tonnes were recycled, composted or reused, and 21,013 (48.4%) tonnes were not sent for recycling. Hinckley & Bosworth Borough had slightly higher recycling rates than the Leicestershire average (49.9%), and significantly higher rates than the English average (42.4%) (Defra, 2017). Per household, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough collected 436.5kg of waste in 2015-2016. This was slightly below the average for Leicestershire County (442.8kg), and significantly below the English average (511.9kg) (Defra, 2017).

The Borough has one household waste recycling site, in Barwell. It accepts a wide range of both hazardous and non-hazardous household waste. There are a further 11 sites in the wider Leicestershire area.

The adopted Hinckley & Bosworth Core Strategy includes policies to reduce waste creation and increase recycling rates. There is however, no plan to increase landfill provision in the Borough (HBBC, 2009b).

4.12.2 Mineral resources

Leicestershire is one of the largest mineral extracting counties in the UK, and there are many sites, both still operational and closed, within Hinckley & Bosworth Borough.

The Borough has coal resources, close enough to the surface to mine, running from the east of the Borough around Desford, up to the north near Odstone. There has never been however, any large-scale coal mining in the area, and no intention to begin, despite the extensive mining activity in the Coalville area to the north of the Borough.

4.12.3 Key sustainability issues

- There is only one active landfill site in the Borough, and diminishing space for the disposal of waste into landfill is a big concern (HBBC, 2009b). As part of the core strategy, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council are already working to manage waste in a more sustainable manner, by attempting to reduce creation, increase the proportion that is recycled, and extracting value from waste, for example by energy creation (HBBC, 2009b).
- The volume of waste collected per household in the Borough is low, and it is important that this is maintained.
- Capacity to take more waste into landfill is very small. This issue is partly abated by both the low volume of waste collected per household and the high rates of recycling, but is nonetheless becoming a problem.
- There are several sites of historic landfill in the Borough, all of which have now been closed for longer than 20 years. There will be latency issued associated with these.

5 Stage A3: Identifying key sustainability issues

The review of the environmental, social and economic baseline information identified a range of sustainability issues affecting Hinckley & Bosworth Borough. A summary of these issues is provided in Table 5-1 below.

Table 5-1: Summary of the key sustainability issues in Hinckley & Bosworth

Sustainability topic		Key sustainability issues
Environmental	Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued afforestation within the north west of the Borough associated with the National Forest is likely to have a positive impact on landscape character. Some landscape character areas and historic parkland are in decline and require intervention to protect and improve the quality of their key characteristics. Potential development within rural areas may be detrimental to local landscape character and could place pressure on the Borough's Green Wedges. Further intensification of agricultural practices could adversely affect rural landscape character. There is a potential for a reduction of tranquillity in certain areas of the Borough where they are close to major transport routes or experience high visitor numbers. Climate change is likely to result in changes to the condition and character of the landscapes.
	Biodiversity and nature conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A relatively low proportion of the Borough is protected for nature conservation and nearly half of this area is in an unfavourable condition. Intensive farming practices and greenfield development are causing the separation and isolation of key habitats, presenting barriers to movement of key species. A reduction in wildlife corridors such as hedgerows may lead to further isolation of habitats and species. Pollution and physical modification is impacting the ecological value of important aquatic habitats within the Borough. The Borough supports a range of habitats and species of both local and national importance.
	Water environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality in the Borough is relatively poor and is failing to meet WFD objectives, with some waterbodies declining in WFD status. Poor water quality is linked to nutrient input and physical modification of watercourses. Significant land and property within the Borough are at a risk of flooding. Future development may cause increases in surface water run-off leading to flooding and pollution. Flooding may increase in the future with increased rainfall levels and intensity as a result of climate change. An increasing population and decreasing water availability could lead to a growing disparity between water demand and supply.
	Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural practices have a significant influence on the natural environment and local landscape character; an increasing population and growing pressure on the rural economy could lead to further intensification of farming practices. The land is generally of high agricultural quality; this high quality needs to be maintained to avoid damage to the rural economy, environment and local landscape character. Urban land only covers a relatively small amount of land, but may expand as the population increases, placing nearby agricultural land under threat. The Borough's industrial heritage and historic landfill sites could present contamination sources affecting future regeneration initiatives. The National Forest is changing both the landscape and the economy in the northeast of the Borough.

Sustainability topic		Key sustainability issues
	Historic environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several designated historical assets are listed on the Heritage at Risk Register. • Future development in the Borough may put pressure on the heritage value of settlements and Conservation Areas. • Some statutory designated heritage assets throughout the Borough are deteriorating. • New development in the Borough may encounter previously unknown archaeological features. • Heritage assets within the Borough are popular tourist destinations, and visitor numbers may need to be appropriately managed.
	Air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of nitrogen dioxide are of concern in some areas in the Borough and are very close to the Objective Value of 40 micrograms per cubic metre. • As the larger roads in the Borough get busier, air quality in the immediate area may deteriorate. This could adversely affect the health and wellbeing of local people. • Industry is a significant polluter of the air in the Borough, especially in certain hotspots. Of greatest concern is Cadeby Quarry, which releases high levels of particulate matter and is located close to nationally designated sites. • The Borough has seen major developments in recent years, with many more in planning and development. These have the potential to adversely affect air quality.
	Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change may have significant adverse impacts on public health, infrastructure, built heritage and natural environment within the Borough. • Increased flood risk from both the local river network and surface water runoff will adversely impact upon utility, residential, industrial and transport infrastructure, causing significant economic damages as well as social and public health implications. • Species and habitat abundance and richness will become threatened. • Climate change has the potential to adversely affect agricultural productivity, aquatic ecosystems and air quality as a result of increased soil erosion. • Renewable energy generation within the Borough is relatively limited. However, there is likely to be a growth in demand for renewable energy provision. • There is potential for conflicts between renewable energy generation and other land uses. • Energy demand and consumption is likely to rise due to increased population and development resulting from economic growth and increased mobility. • The transport sector is likely to have an increasingly greater proportional input into greenhouse gas emissions in the Borough.
Social	Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Borough has a relatively small population of young people and a relatively large population over the age of 60. Ageing populations are associated with issues such as social isolation and can increase pressure on public services such as healthcare and transport. • Housing supply is not keeping pace with demand and could cause a significant housing shortage in the near future. • Secondary education attainment levels are lower than the national average and is a particular issue in areas experiencing the highest deprivation levels.
	Human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are several key healthcare issues in the Borough with a relatively high proportion of adults classified as obese and a relatively high proportion of smokers. • There are deprivation hotspots in the Borough, where the health of the local population is considerably worse than the average.

Sustainability topic		Key sustainability issues
Economic	Local economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst unemployment levels are relatively low, income and income growth is lower than the England national average. • The high outward movement of workers to jobs outside the Borough and places significant pressure on the Borough's transport network. • Over-reliance upon the strong local manufacturing industry means diversification of other economic sectors is a priority. • Retail centres across the Borough are generally performing well, but are likely to face increasing competition from larger high-order retail destination outside of the Borough in the future. • Maintenance of local services and service centre vitality, particularly small rural centres, is a key objective. • Regional proposals focusing investment on urban centres outside the Borough may benefit the local economy and also increase economic competition.
	Material assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Borough is relatively well connected to the country by road, but only has a single railway station. This contributes to a high percentage of car usage and significant congestion of the road network in several areas. • In rural areas, the public transport services are relatively poor, which can contribute to social exclusion of the elderly and less able. • As more people commute out of the Borough to work, rural services are beginning to come under pressure. Maintenance of key services is needed to prevent greater social isolation. • In some areas in the Borough, formal green infrastructure is relatively sparse and poorly equipped.
	Waste and minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With increasing population, greater pressure will be placed on the Borough's waste management facilities and landfill capacity. • Recycling rates in the Borough are relatively high and need to be maintained and improved to help mitigate future pressure on the Borough's waste management facilities.

6 Stage A4: Developing Sustainability Appraisal objectives

6.1 Introduction

The SA framework is used to identify and evaluate the potential environmental issues associated with the implementation of the Local Plan. The framework comprises a set of SA objectives that have been developed to reflect the key environmental, social and economic issues identified through the baseline information review (see Figure 6-1). These objectives are supported by a series of appraisal criteria, which are used to measure the potential significance of the sustainability issues, and associated indicators, which can be used to monitor the effects of implementation of the Local Plan. The Local Plan is tested against the SA framework to identify whether each Local Plan policy will contribute to or conflict with the achievement of each objective.



Figure 6-1: Development of the Sustainability Appraisal framework

Table 6-1 below summarises the purpose and requirements of the SA objectives, appraisal criteria, and indicators.

Table 6-1: Definition of Sustainability Appraisal objectives, appraisal criteria and indicators

Item	Purpose
Objective	Provide a benchmark 'intention' against which the sustainability effects of the plan can be tested. They need to be fit-for-purpose and represent the key sustainability issues of relevance to the Local Plan area.
Appraisal criteria	Aid the assessment of impact significance. Provide a means of ensuring that key environmental and sustainability issues are considered by the assessment process.
Indicator	Provide a means of measuring the progress towards achieving the sustainability objectives over time. They need to be measurable and relevant and ideally rely on existing monitoring networks.

6.2 Sustainability Appraisal objectives and appraisal criteria

Sustainability Appraisal objectives and appraisal criteria have been compiled for each of the sustainability receptors (see

Table 6-2). These objectives are currently in draft form and can be refined or revised in response to comments received during the consultation phase on this Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and in light of any additional information obtained during the life of the project. The objectives and appraisal criteria have been informed and developed by a range of information including the baseline review, the key challenges identified in the current Core Strategy (see Section 1.5), the key environmental protection and sustainability themes identified by the PPP review and the work undertaken to inform the Core Strategy process including the SA framework developed for this.

Table 6-2: Sustainability Appraisal objectives, appraisal criteria and indicators

SA receptor	SA objective	Appraisal criteria	Proposed indicators
Environmental			
Landscape	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place. Protect and enhance landscape character areas in accordance with management objectives. Minimise impacts of development on rural landscape and development within Green Wedges. Protect and enhance areas of tranquillity. Manage and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on landscape character. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in quality of landscape character and condition. The condition and quality of new characteristics introduced to the environment. Percentage of open countryside/Green Wedge. Change in areas designated for their landscape value.
Biodiversity and nature conservation	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance designated sites. Protect and enhance BAP priority habitats and species. Avoid habitat fragmentation and increase connectivity of habitats. Deliver schemes that promote habitat and species resilience and adaptability to the effects of climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of designated sites. Planning/applications refused/granted in designated sites, green wedges and wildlife corridors. Percentage of land designated as nature conservation sites as a result of Local Plan policies. Completed development that has resulted in the loss or creation/restoration of BAP habitats.

SA receptor	SA objective	Appraisal criteria		Proposed indicators
Water environment	3	Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contribute to the achievement of WFD objectives.• Minimise pollution and modification to watercourses.• Encourage sustainable and efficient management of water resources.• Protect and improve drinking water quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage of waterbodies achieving 'Good' status.• Number of schemes contributing to the achievement of WFD objectives.• Number of pollution incidents.
	4	Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prevent development that is inappropriate to the Flood Zone.• All new development takes account of the latest published Climate Change allowances.• Promote and increase the use of SuDS that result in Greenfield or better run-off rates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of developments accompanied by a Surface Water Management Plans.• Number of flood defence schemes planned/approved.• Planning/applications refused/granted due to flood risk concerns.• Number of SuDS schemes installed.
Land	5	Protect the Borough's land quality and soil resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce soil erosion and protect and enhance soil quality and quantity.• Minimise the loss of Grade 2 and Grade 3 ALC land.• Promote the use of brownfield land for development where possible.• Increase the remediation and regeneration of contaminated land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Area of ALC grade 2 and grade 3 land in the Borough.• Planning applications approved/rejected close to and inside of Green Wedge land.• Number of land remediation schemes.
Air quality	6	Protect local air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain and improve local air quality.• Reduce the impacts on air quality from transport.• Mitigate against the uses that generate NO₂ or other particulates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rate of transport modal shift across Borough.• Exceedances of air quality objectives.• Nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and particulate emissions.• Population living in AQMAs.
Climate	7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote measures that minimise greenhouse gas emissions, domestic, industrial and transport emissions.• Promote the development of renewable energy generation.• Minimise the likely impacts of climate change through promotion of appropriate adaptation measures in new development.• Promote measures to reduce the need to travel by car.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greenhouse gas emissions.• New development achieving 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent' BREEAM or EcoHomes rating.• Proportion of total electricity consumption from renewable sources.• Energy and water use per household.• Condition of designated sites.• Waste to landfill, recycling and composting rates.• Peak traffic flows.

SA receptor	SA objective	Appraisal criteria	Proposed indicators
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % change in number of people using public transport.
Historic environment	8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve and enhance designated heritage features. Maintain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of Conservation Areas and settlements. Promote high-quality design that is sympathetic to the historical setting. Manage the risk of encountering unknown archaeology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning permissions granted/refused that affect the setting of a designated heritage asset. Loss or damage of heritage assets. Number of heritage assets on the Heritage at Risk register. Number of locally listed heritage assets at risk. Number of planning applications where archaeological investigations were required prior to planning approval.
Social			
Population	9	Reduce social deprivation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase community cohesion. Increase employment in deprivation hotspots. Decrease levels of crime and the fear of crime. Improve educational attainment rates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local measures of deprivation Differences in health of a population between LSOAs Crime rates. % of 16 year olds achieving 5+ GCSEs Grade A*-C.
	10	Promote a healthy and active lifestyle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase access to high quality healthcare facilities. Promote active and healthy lifestyles. Promote recreational and leisure opportunities and access to open space. Increase regular participation in physical activities and sport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life expectancy rates. Death rates for cancer, circulatory disease, accidents and suicides. All-age all-cause mortality rate. Obesity levels. Self-reported measure of people's overall health and wellbeing.
	11	Improve access to affordable housing and increase housing supply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce homelessness. Provide a supply of affordable houses that keeps pace with rising demand. Provide quality and flexible homes that meet the needs of the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of houses, and housing developments. Rates of housing demand. Homelessness rates. Numbers of individuals living in temporary or sheltered accommodation.
Economic			
Local economy	12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy, and improve skills and employability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote retention of existing jobs and create new employment opportunities. Increase diversity in the range of job opportunities. Ensure an adequate supply of a range of sites in terms of types and quality for employment uses. Improve access to opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development. New business registration rates. Employment rates. Proportion of economically active people unemployed. Average earnings.

SA receptor	SA objective	Appraisal criteria	Proposed indicators
		for education, learning and skills training for all sectors of the community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the creation of flexible jobs to meet the changing needs of the population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of population that have attained a qualification of NVQ2 and above. Proportion of 18-24 year olds enrolled in training, full time education or employment. % of 16 year olds achieving 5+ GCSEs Grade A*-C. No. of residents attending university. Business surveys of staff/skills shortages.
Material assets	13	Increase access to public services in the Borough. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve access to local facilities, including healthcare and schools. Improve public transport services in the rural areas of the Borough. Enhance formal green space. Maintain and enhance local services in rural areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people who have adequate access to public services. Frequency of bus journeys through rural areas. Hectarage of formal green space. Counts of business and services in rural areas.
Mineral resources and waste	14	Ensure sustainable management of waste in the Borough. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce waste and increase re-use, recycling and energy produced of waste. Improve on the proportion of waste that is sent for recycling. Reduce volume of waste created per household. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste to landfill, recycling and composting rates. Volume of waste created per household.

6.3 Impact significance

The unmitigated impacts of the Local Plan policies on achieving the SA objectives will be identified through the analysis of the baseline conditions and use of professional judgement. The significance of effects will be scored using the seven-point scale summarised in Table 6-3. If there is high uncertainty regarding the likelihood and potential significance of an impact (either positive or negative), it will be scored as uncertain.

Table 6-3: Impact significance key

Impact significance	Impact symbol
Significant positive impact on the SA objective	✓✓
Minor positive impact on the SA objective	✓
Neutral impact on the SA objective	0
Minor negative impact on the SA objective	X
Significant negative impact on the SA objective	XX
Positive and negative impacts on the SA objective	✓ / X
Impact on the SA objective cannot be predicted	?

6.4 Sustainability Assessment approach

6.4.1 Developing alternatives

The SEA Directive requires an assessment of the plan and its 'reasonable alternatives'. In order to assess reasonable alternatives, different options for delivering the Local Plan will be developed and assessed at a strategic level against the above SA objectives and baseline conditions as detailed in Section 4. The results of this assessment will be used to inform the decision-making process in choosing a preferred way of delivering the Local Plan.

The Local Plan's policies (in Sustainability Appraisal terms called 'alternative options') are not yet sufficiently developed to detail in this scoping report. However, they will be assessed at a later stage, with details of each provided in the Environmental Report.

The SA will also consider a 'do nothing' scenario (i.e. how the situation would develop in relation to each environmental receptor without implementation of the Local Plan).

6.4.2 Assessment approach

The Local Plan will be evaluated in light of its potential cumulative, synergistic and indirect effects on the SA objectives. The assessment of these effects will be informed by the baseline data collected at this scoping stage, professional judgement and experience with other Sustainability Appraisals, as well as an assessment of national, regional and local trends. In some cases, the assessment will draw upon mapping data and GIS to identify areas of potential pressure, for example due to flood risk or presence of environmental designations.

Throughout the assessment the following will apply:

- Positive, neutral and negative impacts will be assessed, with uncertain impacts highlighted.
- The duration of the impact will be considered over the short, medium and long term.
- The reversibility and permanence of the impact will be assessed (e.g. temporary construction impacts, impacts which can be mitigated against/restored over time or completely irreversible changes to the environment).
- In-combination effects will also be considered.

The significance of effects upon each of the SA objectives will then be evaluated and used to inform option selection.

7 Stage A5: Next steps in the Sustainability Appraisal process

7.1 Consultation

A key aspect of the SA process is consultation (see Table 2-2, Stage A5). The SA process provides a mechanism to ensure that stakeholder engagement requirements are achieved by providing interested parties/organisations and the public an opportunity to inform the process and comment on decisions taken. Stakeholder engagement also ensures that environmental and social issues, constraints and opportunities are identified and assessed at an early stage of the project.

Public consultation is encouraged as a means by which to help set the environmental context and determine the scope of assessment.

The draft Scoping Report will be subject to a consultation with the statutory consultation bodies (Natural England, Historic England and Environment Agency) for a five-week period. Comments received will be reviewed and the scope of the assessment revised accordingly. Future revisions to the Scoping Report will be considered during the development of the Local Plan, to take account of evolving policy guidance and any further consultation comments.

The Environmental Report will be the next output in the SA process and it will document the assessment of the Local Plan against the SA objectives.

7.2 The Environmental Report

Following the consultation period on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, the Local Plan will be developed, concurrently with the Sustainability Appraisal, following the framework outlined above. The results of this will be summarised in an Environmental Report. A proposed structure for the Environmental Report is outlined in Table 7-1 below.

Table 7-1: Proposed structure of the Environmental Report

Section	Information to be included
Non-technical summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-technical summary of the Sustainability Appraisal process.
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who carried out the Sustainability Appraisal, how, who was consulted, and when. Difficulties in collecting data or assessment.
Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal and integration with the Local Plan.
Baseline characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of baseline review, including the future baseline without the plan. This will be updated from the Scoping Stage with information brought to light during the consultation period. Links to other plans, programmes and relevant environmental protection objectives, and how they have been incorporated. Existing and foreseeable future environmental problems. Limitations of the data, assumptions etc.
Sustainability framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainability Appraisal objectives and appraisal criteria.
Plan issues and alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description of significant sustainability effects of the Local Plan policies. Assessment matrix for each policy/option. How problems were considered in developing the policies and choosing the preferred alternatives. Other alternatives considered, and why these were rejected. Proposed mitigation and enhancement measures to deliver Sustainability Appraisal objectives.
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Links to project environmental impact assessment, design guidance etc. Proposals for monitoring and reporting.

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A Appendix A: Review of plans, programmes and policies

Plan/Policy/Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
International		
European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention) ETS No. 176 (2000)	<p>The Convention promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscape and organises co-operation between Member States on landscape issues.</p> <p>The Convention supports the identification and assessment of landscape character and the setting of landscape quality objectives. These objectives should then inform the basis of landscape protection, management and development activities.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should seek to develop policies that take account of the Convention and ensure that decision-making is informed by landscape character and quality assessments. The Local Plan offers an important opportunity to support the protection of important landscape characteristics and enhancement of urban and rural landscapes across the Borough. However, there is also a risk that the Local Plan could conflict with the Convention where new infrastructure or development is required.</p> <p>The SA should include an objective to minimise the impact on landscape character.</p>
EU Sustainable Development Strategy 2001 (revised 2006)	<p>The strategy set overall objectives for seven key priority challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change and clean energy • Sustainable transport • Sustainable consumption & production • Conservation and management of natural resources • Public health • Social inclusion, demography and migration • Global poverty and sustainable development challenges <p>The strategy outlines the need for economic growth to support social progress and respect the environment to achieve sustainable development. It aims to promote a more integrated approach to policy making to reduce unsustainable consumption and production patterns.</p>	<p>Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. To this end, they should be consistent with the principles and objectives set out in the strategy.</p> <p>The SA should seek to ensure that the Appraisal Framework is coherent and includes a breadth of objectives that cover the sustainable development priorities.</p>
European Biodiversity Strategy to 2020	<p>Provides the overarching strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020. The strategy vision is: <i>"By 2050, European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored for biodiversity's intrinsic value and for their essential contribution to human wellbeing and economic prosperity, and so that catastrophic changes caused by the loss of biodiversity are avoided"</i>.</p> <p>The strategy includes a series of six targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity. • Better protection for ecosystems, and more use of green infrastructure. • More sustainable agriculture and forestry. • Better management of fish stocks. • Tighter controls on invasive alien species. • A bigger EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss. 	<p>The Local Plan should seek to ensure that it effectively protects and enhances biodiversity across the Borough, taking into account the ecosystem services biodiversity provides and contribution to community wellbeing and the local economy. The Local Plan offers opportunities to achieve biodiversity gains through protection of local wildlife areas and provision of new green infrastructure. In addition, the strategy may limit certain Local Plan policies if they are shown to be likely to have a significant adverse effect on biodiversity or ecosystem services.</p> <p>The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect and enhance biodiversity.</p>

Plan/Policy/Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
EC Birds Directive – Council Directive 2009/147/EEC on the conservation of wild birds	The Directive provides for protection of all naturally occurring wild bird species and their habitats, with particular protection of rare species. It designates Special Protection Areas (SPAs) to protect important bird species and populations and their supporting habitats.	The Local Plan objectives should avoid any significant adverse effect on recognised important habitats for birds. The Directive may restrict certain aspects of the Local Plan if they are shown to be likely to have a significant effect on a SPA. The Local Plan should include a Habitat Regulations Assessment to assess the potential for a significant impact on any SPA sites.
EC Habitats Directive – Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora	The principle aim is to promote the conservation of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to restore natural habitats and species of European importance to favourable conservation status. The Directive establishes the creation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in order to provide a coherent ecological network of protected sites. It also encourages protection and management of flora and fauna and supporting landscapes through planning and development policies.	The Local Plan should take account of the Directive and avoid any significant adverse effect on designated sites and qualifying features, and any supporting habitats and landscape features. The Directive may restrict certain Local Plan policies if they are shown to be likely to have a significant effect on a SAC or important supporting habitats or landscape features. The SA should include an objective that seeks to protect biodiversity and the natural environment and important landscape features.
EU Water Framework Directive – Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy	The Directive establishes the framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater to restore to good status. The Directive aims to prevent pollution, promote sustainable water use, protect aquatic ecology and improve the status of aquatic ecosystems, and mitigate the effects of floods and droughts. It also places requirements on all relevant authorities to ensure their actions do not contravene the objectives of the Directive.	The Directive will guide the Local Plan and provide important guidance in ensuring that the Plan provides robust protection of the water environment and seeks to minimise flood risk. Local Plan policies will be strengthened if they actively contribute to meeting the WFD objectives. The SA should include an appraisal objective that contributes to the WFD objectives through the protection and enhancement of water quality and water resources.
SEA Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment	The Directive provides for the high level of protection for the environment and promotes sustainable development by requiring that the formulation of plans and programmes are informed by an Environmental Impact Assessment.	The Local Plan is being developed in-conjunction with a SA that incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive. The SA findings will be used to inform the choice of draft and final plan policies.
The Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention control)	Establishes rules on integrated prevention and control of pollution from industrial activities by limiting emissions. It is designed to reduce emissions to air, water and land and minimise waste.	The Local Plan should develop policies that incorporate the requirements of this Directive to reduce emissions. The SA should include an appraisal objective to reduce emissions and pollution.
Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC on waste	Aims to reduce waste by defining waste management and distinguishes between waste and by-products. Defines the waste hierarchy and requires that waste is managed without endangering human health and the environment and therefore requires relevant authorities to manage waste accordingly.	The Local Plan should avoid any significant increase on waste generation from development within the Borough. The SA should include an appraisal objective to minimise waste production and also promote the waste hierarchy.

Plan/Policy/Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
EU Landfill Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste	Aims to prevent or reduce the negative effects of landfilling of waste on the environment as well as any resultant risk to human health. It sets the technical requirements for waste and landfills. Development and management policies for landfill sites should be informed by the objectives of this Directive.	The Local Plan should develop policies that take account of the requirements of the Directive, such as reducing the amount of waste to landfill and also ensuring landfills have low risk to human health and the environment. The SA should include an appraisal objective to minimise waste to landfill.
Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption	Protect human health from adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean. Member states then set the water quality values for water for human consumption.	The Local Plan should ensure the provision of safe drinking water. Policies should be developed to ensure adequate monitoring programmes must be carried out to ensure the protection of human health. The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect water quality.
Air Quality Framework Directive 96/62/EC on ambient air quality assessment and management	Aims to avoid, prevent and reduce harmful effects of ambient noise pollution on human health and the environment.	The Local Plan should take into account the Directive to ensure that harmful effects are minimised in line with the objectives. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve air quality.
Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air Directive 2008	Objectives are to combat emissions of pollutants at source and to identify and implement the most effective emission reduction measures. Emissions of harmful air pollutants should be avoided, prevented or reduced and appropriate objectives set for ambient air quality taking into account relevant World Health Organisation standards, guidelines and programmes.	The Local Plan should take into account the Directive to ensure that harmful effects are minimised in line with the objectives. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve air quality.
Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste	The Directive sets out rules on the production, marketing, use, recycling and refilling of containers of liquids for human consumption, and on the disposal of used containers.	The Local Plan should develop objectives to assist industry and businesses in reducing the amount of packaging produced and ultimately reducing the amount of waste. The SA should include an appraisal objective to minimise waste.
EU Nitrates Directive 1991	The Directive aims to protect water quality by preventing nitrates from agricultural sources polluting ground and surface waters and by promoting the use of good farming practices.	The Local Plan should include objectives to reduce water pollution caused by nitrates, particularly from agriculture. The SA should include an appraisal objective to reduce water pollution and runoff from agricultural areas.
Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban wastewater treatment	The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban wastewater discharges. For this purpose, it concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban wastewater and the treatment and discharge of wastewater from certain industrial sectors.	Local Plan policies will need to respond to the aims of the Directive, especially with regards to built development and water treatment plants. The SA should include an appraisal objective to reduce water pollution.
EU Seventh Environmental Action Programme to 2020 (2013)	The programme aims to increase efforts to protect natural capital, stimulate resource-efficient, low-carbon growth and innovation, and safeguard people's health and wellbeing – while respecting the Earth's natural limits.	The Local Plan should develop policies that take account of the Programme to protect the environment. The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect and enhance the environment.

Plan/Policy/Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1992)	The aim of the Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that can be archeologically investigated on land and underwater.	Local Plan policies should be developed in accordance with this convention and ensure no damage to archaeological finds. The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect cultural heritage.
EU Floods Directive – Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks	Establishes a framework to reduce and manage the risk of flooding and associated impacts on the environment, human health, heritage and economy. Provides strategic direction to reduce impacts of flooding and promote enhanced flood risk management.	The Local Plan should ensure it does not include policies that increase flood risk within the Borough, and include policies that decrease the risk of flooding. The SA should include an appraisal objective to decrease flood risk.
EU Groundwater Directive – Directive 2006/118/EC on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration	Establishes a regime that sets underground water quality standards and introduces measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater. Implemented in the UK through the Environmental Permitting Regulations (2010).	The Local Plan would need to consider potential impacts on groundwater and may be restricted if the policies contribute to an adverse impact. Local Plan policies should be developed to ensure no harm to groundwater quality. The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect water resources and groundwater.
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002)	Aims to advance and strengthen sustainable development at the local, national, regional and global levels. It commits to building a humane, equitable and caring global society and aware of the need for human dignity for all.	Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. To this end, they should be consistent with the principles and objectives set out in the declaration. The SA should seek to ensure that the Appraisal Framework is coherent and includes a breadth of objectives that cover the sustainable development priorities.
Aarhus Convention (1998)	Aims are to establish a number of rights for the public with regard to the environment.	The Local Plan should provide for the right of everyone to receive environmental information, the right to participate early on in environmental decision making, and the right to challenge in court of law public decisions that have been made in contravention to the above. The SA should ensure that it will be publicly available, along with the Local Plan, and ensure that the public are involved in the decision-making process.
National		
Securing the Future – the UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)	Establishes a broad set of actions and priorities to support the achievement of sustainable development. It includes measures to enable and encourage behaviour change, measures to engage people, and ways in which the Government can promote sustainability. Includes high level aims to promote sustainable development and sets out how local authorities can contribute to delivering this and the improvement of the local environment.	Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. To this end, they should be consistent with the principles and objectives set out in the strategy. The SA should seek to ensure that the Appraisal Framework is coherent and includes a breadth of objectives that cover the sustainable development priorities.

Plan/Policy/Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
National Planning Policy Framework (2012)	The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has replaced the set of national planning policy statements and national planning policy guidance notes, bringing them into one document. It sets high level national economic, environmental and social planning policy and includes a new presumption in favour of sustainable development.	Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. To this end, they should be consistent with the principles and objectives set out in the framework. The SA should seek to ensure that the Appraisal Framework is coherent and includes a breadth of objectives that cover the sustainable development priorities.
Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010)	The regulations provide for the designation and protection of European sites and species and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European sites.	The Local Plan's policies should ensure there is no adverse effect on European sites. The SA should be undertaken in conjunction with a Habitats Regulations Assessment, to assess if the Local Plan will have an adverse effect on a European site.
Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006)	Provides guidance for the protection and enhancement of important habitats and species. Requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principle importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.	The Local Plan should avoid any adverse impacts on important habitats and species and should seek to enhance them. The act may restrict certain policies within the Local Plan if they are shown to negatively impact on the habitats and species listed in the act. The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect and enhance important habitats and species.
Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) (1981)	The Act is the principle mechanism for legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain. It deals with the protection of birds, other animals and plants. The Act provides for the notification of SSSI and their protection and management. Any potential impacts of the Plan, including on SSSIs, will need to be considered through the SA.	The Local Plan should avoid any adverse impacts on SSSIs and should seek to enhance them. The act may restrict certain policies within the Local Plan if they are shown to negatively impact on SSSIs. The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect and enhance designated sites.
Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)	Safeguards public access by foot to specified lands.	The Local Plan must ensure that potential development does not impede on rights of way, and include policies to enhance people's experience and access to rights of way. The SA should include an appraisal objective to preserve and encourage access to open space.
The Carbon Plan (2011)	The strategy sets out how the nation will meet its commitment to halve greenhouse gas emissions (on 1990 levels, by the mid-2020s), in a way that will protect consumer bills and help to attract new investment in low carbon infrastructure, industries and jobs.	The Local Plan should aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a range of policies. There should also be policies to increase the resilience of the Borough to climate change effects. The SA should include an appraisal objective to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase resilience of the Borough to the effects of climate change.
Building a Low Carbon Economy – the UK's Contribution to Tackling Climate Change (2008)	The carbon plan sets out a vision for Britain powered by cleaner energy used more efficiently, with more secure energy supplies and stable energy prices, and benefits from jobs and growth that a low carbon economy will bring. Key areas are electricity generation, heating homes, businesses and travel.	The Local Plan should include policies to develop and increase generation of electricity from renewable sources within the Borough, as well as increase the number of carbon efficient buildings. The SA should include an appraisal objective to decrease carbon emissions and increase the amount of renewable energy generated.

Plan/Policy/Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystems (2011)	Sets out the Government's strategy for improving biodiversity in England up to 2020. It aims to halt overall loss of England's biodiversity by 2020 and move progressively from a position of net biodiversity loss to net biodiversity gain.	The Local Plan should take account of the strategy and avoid any development that could cause a net loss of biodiversity, potentially through introducing biodiversity offset policies or encouraging new development on previously developed land. The SA should include an objective that seeks to protect biodiversity and the natural environment and encourage development on brownfield land.
England Biodiversity Framework (2008)	The framework encourages a number of conservation aspects including the adoption of an ecosystem approach, and embedding climate change adaptation principles in conservation action.	The Local Plan should include measures that would result in biodiversity enhancements across landscapes and restore / improve habitats. The SA should include an objective that seeks to protect biodiversity and the natural environment.
UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1994)	The UK BAP aims to maintain and enhance biological diversity within the UK and contribute to the conservation and enhancement of global diversity.	The Local Plan should consider the potential impacts of measures within it on important species and habitats that are within the Borough, including the various SSSIs, LWSs and BAP habitats. The SA should include an objective that seeks to protect biodiversity and the natural environment, as well as designated sites.
UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (2012)	Identifies activities to be undertaken to value and conserve biodiversity. It sets strategic goals including sharing and using knowledge and reducing direct pressures on biodiversity.	The Local Plan should consider the potential impacts of measures within it on important species and habitats that are within the Borough, including the various SSSIs, LWSs and BAP habitats. The SA should include an objective that seeks to protect biodiversity and the natural environment, as well as designated sites.
Heritage Protection for the 21st Century, White Paper (2007)	Aims to promote the protection of the historic environment through the planning system.	The Local Plan should include policies that protect and enhance historic features in the Borough through sensitive development. The SA should include an appraisal objective that seeks to protect and enhance heritage assets within the Borough.
Catchment Sensitive Farming Programme (2011)	The programme delivers practical solutions and targeted support to enable farmers to reduce diffuse pollution from agriculture to protect waterbodies and the environment.	The Local Plan should include policies to reduce pollution from agriculture, including assisting to develop better land management practices. The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect soils and reduce pollution.
Natural Environment White Paper (2011)	Aims to grow a green economy while protecting and improving the environment. Also aims to reconnect people and nature, with the aims of benefitting both.	The Local Plan should include policies that encourage a green economy, and strategies to connect people with nature. The SA should include an appraisal objective that aims to encourage the growth of a green and sustainable economy.
Electricity Market Reform White Paper (2011)	Encourages investment in new electricity generation that is secure, affordable and low carbon.	The Local Plan could develop policies that support renewable energy generation and greater energy efficiency. The SA should include an appraisal objective that promotes the development of renewable energy generation.

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Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon: Making Sustainable Local Transport Happen (2011)	The paper aims create a transport system that helps create growth in the economy while also tackling climate change by reducing carbon emissions.	The Local Plan should develop policies that encourage sustainable transport. The SA should include an appraisal objective to reduce the need to travel, and improve accessibility to sustainable transport modes.
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2012)	Aims to ensure traveller site policies are fair, realistic and inclusive, and enable suitable provision of sites from which travellers can access various services. The policy encourages local authorities to plan for traveller sites and consider them in plan-making and decision making.	The Local Plan should provide for the needs of travellers. The SA should contain appraisal objectives that meet the needs of everyone in society.
National Planning Policy for Waste (2014)	Sets out the Government's ambition to work towards a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management through positive planning.	The Local Plan should include policies to consider waste generation and management in the Borough, including minimising waste. The SA should include an appraisal objective to minimise waste.
Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for public health in England (2010)	Housing plays an important role in social mobility, and housing policies should aim to achieve this.	Housing policies and development will be an integral part of the Local Plan. The Local Plan should include policies that provide for housing that meets the needs of everyone in the Borough. The SA should include an objective that increases the amount of suitable housing available in the Borough.
Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our Strategy for public health in England (2010)	Sets out the Government's strategy for improving public health. Aims to reform the public health system by giving more powers to local authorities. It aims to protect the population from serious health threats; helping people live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives. It also aims to improve the health of the poorest, fastest.	Policies in the Local Plan should reflect the objectives in the strategy and aim to improve the health of the Borough's residents. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve health.
Community Energy Strategy (2014)	Sets out plans to promote and facilitate the planning and development of decentralised community energy initiatives in four main types of energy activity.	The Local Plan should ensure that policies support community low carbon and renewable energy provision including electricity, heat and transport.
The National Adaptation Programme - Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate (2013)	Contains a mix of policies and actions to adapt to future weather conditions and increase resilience against climate change.	The Local Plan should include policies that increase resilience against the effects of climate change and also ensure that there are no policies that will exacerbate the risk to climate change. The SA should include an appraisal objective to promote the adaptation and mitigation to climate change effects.
The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009)	Strategy to help tackle climate change by reducing the UK's emissions of carbon dioxide through increasing energy production from renewable sources.	The Local Plan should include policies to increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources. The SA should include an objective that includes increasing the amount of renewable energy generation.

Plan/Policy/Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
Climate Change Act (2008)	Puts forward a framework for adapting to climate change and associated threats, as well as a case for increased resilience to climate change. It emphasises the commitment to sustainable development and consideration of the potential impacts of climate change.	The Local Plan should include policies to increase the Borough's resilience to climate change and also consider climate change resilience as part of sustainable development. The SA should seek to ensure that the Appraisal Framework is coherent and includes a breadth of objectives that cover the sustainable development priorities.
The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007)	Aims to ensure that everyone can enjoy a level of ambient air quality in public spaces, which poses no significant risk to health or quality of life.	The Local Plan should set out policies to improve air quality within the Borough and reduce the emissions of pollutants. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve air quality.
Housing Act (2004)	Protects the most vulnerable in society by creating a fairer housing market. Helps to achieve the Government's aim of providing decent homes.	The Local Plan should include policies that help to create a fairer and better housing market. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve access to good quality and affordable housing.
Localism Act (2011)	The aim of the act is to facilitate the devolution of decision making powers from central government control to individuals and communities.	The Local Plan should include policies that enable local people, charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to work with the Local Authority, and ensure that planning policy decisions take full account of the views that are expressed.
The Flood and Water Management Act (2010)	Aims to make improvements to both flood risk management and the way water resources are managed.	The Local Plan should include policies that define clearer roles, responsibilities and standards for the creation of sustainable drainage. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve flood risk management and protect water resources.
National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (2011)	Aims to encourage more effective risk management of flooding and coastal erosion by enabling people, communities, business, infrastructure operators and the public sector to work together.	The Local Plan should set out policies to manage flood and coastal erosion risks. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve flood risk management.
The Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature (2011)	Aims to protect and improve the natural environment by facilitating local action, creating a green economy, and strengthening connections between people and nature.	The Local Plan should set out policies that protect and improve the natural environment. The SA should include an appraisal objective to promote greater environmental protection at a local level.
Waste (England and Wales) Regulations (2012)	Provides the legislative framework for the collection, transport, recovery and disposal of waste.	The Local Plan should include policies that ensure waste is recovered or disposed of without endangering human health or causing harm to the environment, through permitting, registration and inspection requirements. The SA should include an appraisal objective to promote better waste management.

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Safeguarding Our Soils: A Strategy for England (DEFRA 2009).	Strategy that promotes soil as a natural resource that provides essential services, including food production, water management and support for valuable biodiversity and ecosystems. As a large store of carbon, it also plays a vital role in the fight against climate change.	The Local Plan should set out policies that ensure adequate management of soils, including safeguarding soils from contamination by pollutants. The SA should include an appraisal objective that aims to safeguard soils through appropriate management.
Future Water – The Government’s Water Strategy for England (2011)	Strategy for sustainable delivery of secure water supplies, improved and protected water environment, fair, affordable and cost-reflective water charges, reduced water sector greenhouse gas emissions and more sustainable and effective management of surface water.	The Local Plan should include policies that encourage sustainable delivery of secure water supplies and protect the water environment. The SA should include an appraisal objective that aims to improve the management of water and protection of the water environment.
Regional		
Viewpoints on the Historic Environment of the East Midlands (2002)	Focuses on the importance of the historic environment and the impact it has on people’s quality of life in the East Midlands.	The Local Plan should develop policies that support the conservation of the historic environment. The SA should include an appraisal objective that aims to conserve the Borough’s heritage assets.
Putting Wildlife Back on the Map: A Biodiversity Strategy for the East Midlands (2006)	Provides the strategic framework for the conservation of biodiversity in the region.	The Local Plan should develop policies to conserve and enhance biodiversity. The SA should include an appraisal objective that aims to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the Borough.
Tackling Climate Change in the East Midlands, Regional Programme of Action 2009-2011	The plan sets targets and actions for tackling climate change in the region to be undertaken by the regional bodies.	The Local Plan should include policies that support the mitigation of, and adaptation to climate change. This includes promoting renewable energy. The SA should include an appraisal objective that relates to climate change and the Borough’s resilience to it.
The East Midlands Regional Waste Strategy 2006	This is a key element of the regions waste policy, which aims to work towards zero growth in waste and reduce the amount of waste to landfill.	The Local Plan should include policies that reduce waste and increase rates of reuse, recycling and composting waste. The SA should include an objective that aims to minimise waste.
Water Resources for the Future - A Summary Strategy for the Midlands Region (2009)	Aims to ease the stress on water resources within the region by making the best use of the water available and promoting water efficiency.	The Local Plan should include policies that encourage water efficiency and wise use of water resources. The SA should include an appraisal objective relating to the management of water resources.
Humber River Basin Management Plan (2015)	The RBMPs describe the condition of the water environment and sets out the actions needed to deliver environmental improvements to achieve compliance with the WFD.	The RBMP will guide the Local Plan and provide important guidance in ensuring that the Plan provides robust protection of the water environment and seeks to minimise flood risk. Local Plan policies will be strengthened if they actively contribute to meeting the WFD objectives. The SA should include an appraisal objective that contributes to the WFD objectives through the protection and enhancement of water quality and water resources.

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River Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan (2010)	The CFMPs provide an overview of the flood risk across river catchments and establishes policies to manage those risks immediately and over the next 50-100 years.	The Local Plan should include policies that reduce the risk of flooding within the Borough. The SA should include an appraisal objective that aims to reduce flood risk within the Borough.
Leicestershire Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026 (2011)	Sets out how the region can deliver a safe and sustainable transport system.	Transport infrastructure is critical within the Borough, and the Local Plan should have policies that encourage sustainable transport choices. The SA should include an appraisal objective that relates to traffic and transportation.
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland - Landscape Woodland Strategy 2001	Provides guidelines for conserving and enhancing landscapes and expanding woodland cover in the region.	The Local Plan should aim to preserve and increase woodland cover within the Borough. The SA should include an appraisal objective that relates to woodland and/or biodiversity.
Carbon Reduction Strategy for Leicestershire 2013-2020 (2013)	Sets out the guidelines for achieving the targets set out in the UK's Carbon Plan. Aims to reduce carbon emissions in Leicestershire.	The Local Plan should develop policies that reduce carbon emissions in the Borough. The SA should include an appraisal objective that relates to reduction of carbon emissions.
Leicestershire Minerals Core Strategy and Development Control Policies up to 2021 (2009)	Guides decisions on planning applications for minerals by providing objectives, strategy and visions.	Charnwood has mineral extraction within the Borough, and therefore the Local Plan should consider sustainable mineral policies to safeguard resources. The SA should include an appraisal objective relating to mineral resources.
Leicestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2015)	Guides flood risk management within the county.	The Local Plan should include policies that reduce the risk of flooding within the Borough. The SA should include an appraisal objective that aims to reduce flood risk within the Borough.
Leicester and Leicestershire Tourism and Hospitality Sector Growth Plan 2015-2020 (2015)	Aims to improve the tourism and hospitality sector in the County by improving services and therefore encouraging visitors.	The Local Plan should aim to promote sustainable tourism and improve services. The SA should include an appraisal objective that aims to improve tourism within the Borough.
6C's Green Infrastructure Strategy (2010)	Strategy that aims to maintain, enhance and extend the green infrastructure network in Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.	The Local Plan should include policies that aim to maintain and create green infrastructure in the Borough. The SA should include an appraisal objective that considers the preservation and increase in the amount of green space in the Borough.

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CAMS: Soar Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (2013)	Strategy that sets out how water resources will be managed in the Soar catchment, providing information on how existing abstraction is regulated and if water is available for further abstraction.	The Local Plan should include policies that are guided by the CAMS strategy to ensure sustainable water management in the Soar catchment. The SA should include an appraisal objective relating to sustainable water management in the Soar catchment.
Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2013)	Provides a framework in which new collection, treatment and disposal infrastructure can be developed. It also enables local authorities to work together in partnership to achieve common goals and targets.	The Local Plan should include policies that are guided by the principles and strategic objectives of the Waste Management Partnership. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve sustainable waste management.
Water Resources Strategy: Regional Action Plan for the Midlands Region (2009)	Strategy to ensure adequate provision of water for people and the environment. Management and use of water and land must be shown to be sustainable - environmentally, socially and economically.	The Local Plan should incorporate the priorities for water resource management within its policies. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve the use and integration of water management resources.
Severn Trent Water's (STW's) Water Resource Management Plan 2015-40 (2014)	A plan that explains STW's proposals for making sure that enough water is available to supply to customers in an affordable and sustainable way over the next 25 years.	The Local Plan should include policies that aim to reduce demand for water, and protect sustainable sources of drinking water supply from pollution risks. The SA should include an appraisal objective that relates to sustainable water resource management.
Midlands Connect	Midlands Connect Partnership and the Department for Transport have developed a transport strategy that identifies the major infrastructure projects needed to improve the connectivity of regions in the Midlands to drive economic growth.	The Local Plan should set out key transport infrastructure projects required in the Borough. The SA should include an objective to consider the environmental impacts of transport infrastructure projects.
A5 Partnership	Aims to develop an effective plan to remedy growth impacts affecting the A5, and make the case for future investment on improvements to tackle key congestion issues.	The Local Plan should include policies to improve the A5 and increase its economic role. The SA should include an objective to reflect the strategic importance of the A5 and the issues with congestion.
Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment for Leicester and Leicestershire (2017)	Aims to assess future housing needs, the scale of future economic growth and quantity of land and floorspace required for economic development.	The Local Plan should set out policies to allocate additional space for both housing and industrial/office space. The SA should include an appraisal objective to aid the sustainable increase in land used for both housing and economical needs.
Local		
Local Development Framework Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) 2009	Provides the visions, objectives, and strategic policies for delivering growth within the Borough.	The Core Strategy is an integral part of the development of the Local Plan 2006-2026. The Local Plan should consider all the findings of the Core Strategy and its associated SA. The SA should seek to ensure that the Appraisal Framework is coherent and includes a breadth of objectives that cover the sustainable development priorities.

Plan/Policy/Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD 2016	Allocates land to deliver the development requirements outlined in the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy such as housing, employment, recreation, green spaces, community uses and leisure uses. In addition, it also includes development management policies which apply across the borough and which will be used when determining planning applications.	Part of the Local Plan 2006-2026. The Local Plan should include policies that will provide enough homes and employment land to ensure people have access to houses that meet their needs and to enable the local economy to grow. The SA should include an objective that understands the need for regeneration, and the associated benefits that regeneration can have on the area.
Hinckley Town Centre Area Action Plan DPD 2011	Sets out the strategy for the future of the town centre and identifies sites for development.	One of the key documents of the Local Plan 2006-2026. The Local Plan should include policies that will enable the sustainable development of Hinckley Town Centre. The SA should include an objective that supports the sustainable development of the proposed Lincolnshire Lakes development.
Earl Shilton and Barwell Area Action Plan DPD 2014	Sets out the strategy for future development across the two settlements.	One of the key documents of the Local Plan 2006-2026. The Local Plan should include policies that will enable the sustainable development of Earl Shilton and Barwell. The SA should include an objective that supports the sustainable development of the proposed Lincolnshire Lakes development.
Neighbourhood Development Plan for Market Bosworth 2014-2026	Addresses the need for sustainable development within Market Bosworth parish. Recommends areas for future growth in the parish.	The Local Plan should include policies that promote and encourage sustainable development within the Borough. The SA should include an objective to manage population growth in a sustainable manner.
Biodiversity Assessment 2009	Provides a baseline assessment of the biodiversity and nature conservation interest (including regional biodiversity targets) of the Borough of Hinckley and Bosworth.	The Local Plan should include policies that will protect biodiversity in the Borough and ensure future development does not have significant environmental effects to nature conservation interests. The SA should include an objective that supports the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.
Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey 2014	Identifies the significance and value of habitats and areas of biodiversity interest within the Hinckley and Bosworth.	The Local Plan should afford a suitable level of protection to habitats identified in the Phase 1 Habitat Survey, and ensure required mitigation is fulfilled. The SA should include an objective that supports the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.
Green Infrastructure Strategy 2008	Assesses the network of green spaces, pathways, bridleways and wildlife corridors, and how they link towns and villages. Improvements to these connects are considered for the benefit of wildlife and recreation.	The Local Plan should include policies to incorporate green corridors and increase the connectivity of urban areas and green space. An SA objective should reflect the benefits of green infrastructure.
Renewable Energy Capacity Study 2014	Examines the potential for the deployment of renewable energy and low carbon technologies within Hinckley and Bosworth. It identifies key opportunity areas for renewable and low carbon developments, and develops and realistic borough specific renewable energy generation target.	The Local Plan should make provisions, policies, and targets to increase the take up of renewable energy and low carbon technologies. The SA should include an objective to reflect the need for renewable energy and low carbon technologies in the Borough.

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Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy 2017	Sets out the vision and aims for ensuring the Borough prospers from economic growth between 2016-2020.	The local plan is likely to include policies that facilitate economic development and regeneration. The SA should include an objective to ensure economic development and regeneration is sustainable and does not have detrimental effects on the environment.
Town Centre's Vision 2015	The vision sets out key opportunities to boost economic success and attractiveness, through the production of master plans and Investor Prospectuses to promote regeneration of town centres.	The Local Plan should include policies for economic rejuvenation of town centres within the Borough. The SA should include objectives to promote economic success whilst ensuring activities within Hinckley and Bosworth are sustainable.
Car Parking Assessment of Hinckley Town Centre	Assesses existing car park usage, and other car parking, in Hinckley Town Centre, forecast how car parking will change, and identify opportunities to improve the existing framework for parking in the centre.	The local Plan should include policies that aim to make the town centre of Hinckley more accessible for all individuals. Car Parking is likely to be included in this. The SA should include objectives for Hinckley to improve the facilities in the town centre, including accessibility.
Community, Cultural and Tourism Facilities Review	Provides evidence about the community in Hinckley and Bosworth, and cultural and tourism provision within the urban and rural areas of the Borough.	The Local Plan should make provisions to provide facilities to the local community such as places of worship, educational and healthcare facilities, as well as recreational attractions like museums. The SA should provide an objective that addresses the benefits facilities can provide to the local community, culture and tourism.
Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	Forms part of Local Plan 2006-2026 and provides guidance and further detail relating to the council's policies 15, 16, and 17 of the adopted Core Strategy which relate to affordable housing, housing density and mix, and rural needs. This document facilitates the provision of affordable housing in the Borough.	The Local Plan should include policies that will provide enough affordable homes to ensure people have access to houses that meet their needs. The SA should include an objective that relates to affordable housing to benefit local communities and not significantly impact the environment.
Shopping and Shop Fronts SPD	Forms part of Local Plan 2006-2026 and provides supplementary guidance on Local Plan 2001 policies in relation to retail development. This specifically relates to: design and siting of development; shop fronts, security and advertisements in conservation areas; primary and secondary shopping frontages in Hinckley Town Centre; and, changes from retail use.	The Local Plan should include policies to accommodate shopping facilities and shop fronts to encourage economic growth. The SA should include an objective that understands the need for regeneration, and the associated benefits that regeneration can have on the area.
Burbage Village Design Statement	Forms part of Local Plan 2006-2026 and sets out principles, design features and quality standards that should be adopted by those wishing to build, modify or extend buildings in the settlement of Burbage.	The Local Plan will include policies that set out the development for villages within Hinckley and Bosworth. The SA should include an objective that is sympathetic to the character of villages in the Borough and the local community.
Ratby Village Design Statement	Forms part of Local Plan 2006-2026 and sets out principles, design features and quality standards that should be adopted by those wishing to build, modify or extend buildings in the settlement of Ratby.	The Local Plan will include policies that set out the development for villages within Hinckley and Bosworth. The SA should include an objective that is sympathetic to the character of villages in the Borough and the local community.

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Rural Needs SPD	Forms part of Local Plan 2006-2026 and provides supplementary guidance to policy 17. The key objectives of the SPD are to set out an approach to the provision of housing in rural areas, give further guidance on economic development in rural areas, and give support for the provision of community facilities in rural areas.	The Local Plan should include a policy to meet the needs of local communities in rural areas in terms of affordable housing, facilities and access. The SA should include an objective that relates to rural communities that recognises issues such as lack of access to facilities and social isolation.
Hinckley Town Centre Strategic Development Transport Contributions SPD	Forms part of Local Plan 2006-2026 and outlines a list of highway and public transport improvements which would be needed in the town centre if major development went ahead, and suggests contributions that developers should pay to finance these improvements.	The Local Plan should include a policy that incorporates the required transport infrastructure improvements in conjunction with development. The SA should include an objective that reflects the need for new infrastructure whilst managing potential environmental, social and economic impacts.
Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD	Forms part of Local Plan 2006-2026 and provides guidance for planning permission applicants on what level of financial contribution will be required to pay for the provision of play facilities and/or open spaces.	The Local Plan should plan for provisions of open space and recreational facilities. The SA should include an objective that recognises the importance of outdoor open and play spaces for the population in Hinckley and Bosworth.
Hinckley and Bosworth Town and District Centres Study 2017	Forms part of Local Plan 2006-2026 and forms a clear strategy for Hinckley and Bosworth's network of town and district centres to ensure that they remain attractive, vibrant centres over the course of the Plan period, and are able to meet local resident's shopping, leisure, services and cultural needs.	The Local Plan will include policies related to future development and land use allocations within town and district centres. The SA should include an objective that recognises the importance of improving and maintaining the use and vibrancy of town and district centres within the Borough.
Joint Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2014	Commissioned jointly by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and Blaby District Council. It considers all sources of flooding and provides evidence to support the Local Plan 2006-2026.	The Local Plan should include policies and objectives that consider flood risk and flood management. The SA should include an appraisal objective to reduce flood risk, and protect and enhance watercourses.
Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) 2015	Forms part of Local Plan 2006-2026, and contains information on the progress and effectiveness of the Local Plan and the extent to which the planning policies set out in local development documents are being achieved.	The Local Plan will be informed and refined by the information contained in the AMR. The SA should reflect on recent implementation of policy and its effects.
Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment 2017	Key component of the evidence required to support the delivery of sufficient land in suitable locations, aiming to create sustainable and mixed communities in line with government objectives.	The Local Plan should include policies that will provide enough homes and employment land to ensure people have access to houses that meet their needs and to enable the local economy to grow. The SA should include an objective that understands the need for regeneration, and the associated benefits that regeneration can have on the area.

Plan/Policy/Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
Open Space, Sports and Recreational Facilities Study (PPG17)	The study aimed to: identify local needs; provide a record of existing sites; set the quantity, quality, accessibility and design provision standards; evaluate the suitability of existing spaces in relation to the local standards set; and, provide a clear framework for practical action to protect and improve open space, sport and recreational facilities.	The Local Plan should develop policies to improve development decision-making with regard to open space, sports and recreational facilities. The SA should include an objective that covers developments that affect open space.
Green Wedge Review 2011	Assesses the two existing green wedges within the Borough known as Rothley Brook Meadow Green Wedge and Hinckley/Barwell/Earl Shilton/Burbage Green Wedge and its aim is to assist the council in determining boundaries.	The Local Plan should include policies that preserve the existing green wedges and also promote the enhancement of these. Policies should also be included to increase the amount of green space in the Borough. The SA should include an appraisal objective that relates to green space preservation and provision.
Green Wedge Allocations Topic Paper 2012	Assesses areas which were put forward through various means to establish if they could warrant green wedge status and identifies whether they should be designated as a green wedge.	The Local Plan should include policies that preserve the existing green wedges and also promote the enhancement of these. Policies should also be included to increase the amount of green space in the Borough. The SA should include an appraisal objective that relates to green space preservation and provision.
Landscape Character Assessment 2017 (Draft)	Provides an understanding of the landscape, it's evolution and future pressures. It recommends future management strategies which will help ensure the unique qualities and sensitive areas are protected, and enhanced where there is opportunity to do so.	The Local Plan should develop policies that includes landscape character assessments, guidelines and strategies. The SA should include an objective that covers landscape character assessments, guidelines and strategies.
District, Local and Neighbourhood Centre Review 2015	Identifies local shopping provision within the Borough.	The Local Plan should include policies relevant to shopping and services throughout the Borough. The SA should include an objective that recognises the benefits of services to local communities.
Employment Land and Premises Review 2017 (Draft)	Assesses the supply, need and demand for employment land and premises (B use classes) in the Borough. Main elements to the study include: review of scale and distribution of employment land; consideration of economic impact of key policy decisions; review of economic growth forecasts; assessment of the Borough's economy; and, projection of employment land and premises requirements by scale, sector and nature until 2026.	The Local Plan should include policies that will deliver long-term employment land provision. The SA should include an objective that understands the need for employment land, and the associated benefits that local employment can have on the area.
Air Quality Annual Status Report 2016	Provides an overview of air quality in the Borough of Hinckley and Bosworth during 2015.	The Local Plan should set out policies to improve or maintain air quality within the Borough and reduce the emissions of pollutants. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve or maintain air quality.
Homelessness Strategy 2015-2020	Provides a list of objectives to tackle homelessness in the borough, including adopting corporate commitments, offering a Housing Options prevention service, actively engage in preventing mortgage repossessions, and promises not to place families or young people in bed and breakfast accommodation.	The Local Plan should consider policies to provide suitable accommodation for homeless people, and reduce the number of homeless people in the borough. The SA should include an objective to reduce the number of homeless in the borough.

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Blaby & Hinckley & Bosworth Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2017-2020	Provides commitments from H&B Council, Blaby District Council and the local Police and Fire departments to reduce crime and disorder and protect residents from harm, improve community confidence in public sector organisations and reduce rates of offending and reoffending.	The Local Plan should include policies to reduce both crime itself and the leading causes of crime. The SA should include an appraisal objective relating to crime and safety within the borough.
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Anti-Social Behaviour Policy 2016	Provides objectives surrounding a management and prevention strategy for Anti-Social behaviour.	The Local Plan should consider policies that contribute towards the prevention of anti-social behaviour. The SA should include objectives in relation to both crime reduction and community health.
Hinckley & Bosworth Economic Regeneration Strategy 2016-2020	Created to implement the Town Centre's Vision document, and provides objectives to promote the local economy, and increase the attractiveness of the area for businesses.	The Local Plan should include policies that improve the local economy by encouraging the inward movement of businesses. The SA should include objectives in relation to improving and strengthening the local economy.
Hinckley & Bosworth Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2017	Provides a list of objectives to reduce the impact that activities in the borough are having on climate change, including raising awareness, increasing the use of renewable energy and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.	The Local Plan should include policies that look to promote renewable energy and mitigate carbon dioxide emissions. The SA should include objectives directed at lessening the impact the borough is having on climate change.
Hinckley & Bosworth Community Plan 2014-2018	Created to tackle the council's priorities for improving the borough, which were creating a thriving local economy, keeping everyone safe, enabling good health for residents, giving children a good start and supporting those most in need.	The Local Plan should contain policies that look to improve local employment, the local economy, safety, health of the community, and helping those in the borough most in need. The SA should include objectives that look to improve the economy, employment, community safety and community health.

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