

Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal

Scoping Report

Final

July 2024

Prepared for:
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

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Document Status

Issue date	July 2024
Issued to	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
BIM reference	NEK-JBA-00-00-RP-W-0001-A1-P03-SA_Scoping_Report
Revision	P03

Prepared by	SP BSc (Hons), MSc, PIEMA Environmental Analyst LP BSc Msc, PIEMA Environmental Analyst
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Reviewed by	HT BA MSc MIEMA CEnv Principal Environmental Consultant
-------------	--

Authorised by	LT BA MRes PGCert CEcol MCIEEM Project Manager
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Contract

JBA Project Manager	LT BA MRes PGCert CEcol MCIEEM
Address	Chase Park, Redhouse Interchange DONCASTER, South Yorkshire, DN6 7FE
JBA Project Code	2024s0785

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Abbreviations

ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BGS	British Geological Survey
CROW	Countryside and Rights of Way Act
DEFRA	Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
DPD	Development Planning Document
EAP	Environmental Action Plan
GIS	Geographical Information System
HBBC	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
HER	Historic Environment Record
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LCC	Leicestershire County Council
LFRMS	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
NCA	National Character Area
NERC	Natural Environment Research Council
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SLA	Special Landscape Areas
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
STW	Sewage Treatment Works
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WRMP	Water Resources Management Plan

Definitions

Term	Definition
Agricultural Land Classifications	The Agricultural Land Classification is part of the planning system in England and Wales – it provides a method for classifying agricultural land in six categories, or “grades” according to versatility and suitability for growing crops.
Biodiversity Action Plan	Plans developed by organisations to protect and enhance the biodiversity of an area.
Brownfield land	Defined under 'previously developed land' in the NPPF, brownfield sites are land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. There are some exclusions to this definition such as mineral sites with restoration plans; recreation grounds and parks; land that was last occupied by forestry or agriculture; and where the structure has blended into the landscape,
Environment Agency	Non-departmental public body responsible for protecting and improving the environment.
Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	Gases in the atmosphere which trap heat and raise the surface temperature of the Earth. The main GHGs are Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂), Methane, Nitrous Oxide, water vapour, and man-made gases. Human activities are changing the Earth's natural greenhouse effect with a dramatic increase in the release of greenhouse gases. It is agreed by scientists that rising GHG emissions are the cause of global warming and climate change.
Green Infrastructure (and Blue Infrastructure which specifically relates to water)	A network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which can deliver a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity (NPPF, 2023).
Indices of Multiple Deprivation	The Index of Multiple Deprivation measures relative deprivation in an area. It is a combined measure of deprivation based on 37 separate indices of deprivation, grouped into seven key domains reflecting different aspects of deprivation.
Landscape Character Assessment	The process of identifying and describing variation in character of landscape in a certain area. The assessment identifies and explains the unique combination of elements and features that make landscapes distinctive by mapping and describing character types and areas.
Local Nature Reserve	Statutory designation under the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949. These can be declared by Parish and Town Council, but these must be delegated to by principle local authority.

Term	Definition
Nature Based Solution	The sustainable management of the environment using natural features and processes.
National Character Area	A natural subdivision of England based on a unique sense of place. The Character Area framework is used to describe and shape objectives for the countryside, its planning and management.
National Planning Policy Framework	The National Planning Policy Framework constitutes all policy statements and guidance documents into one document which forms a core part of the national planning system.
National Landscape	National Landscapes (formerly known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) were designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949. They protect areas of the countryside of high scenic quality that cannot be selected for National Park status because of their lack of opportunities for outdoor recreation. Natural England is responsible for designating National Landscapes, advising the Government and others on how they should be protected and managed.
Office of National Statistics	The Office for National Statistics is the executive office of the UK Statistics Authority, a non-ministerial department which reports directly to the UK Parliament.
Planning Policy Guidance	Planning Policy Guidance Notes are statements of the Government's national policy and principles towards certain aspects of the town planning framework.
Public Right of Way	A public right of way is a right by which the public can always pass along routes over land.
Sustainability Appraisal	A process to appraise the social, environmental and economic effects of a plan from the outset to support decision making that contributes to achieving sustainable development.
Strategic Environmental Assessment	SEA is a decision support process which aims to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan will help achieve relevant environmental, economic, and social objectives.
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	A conservation designation legally protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). These sites are selected for wildlife and natural features in England.
Sustainable Drainage System	SuDS are designed to manage stormwater, mimicking natural drainage and manage pollution risks resulting from runoff.
Water Framework Directive	The Water Framework Directive is a European Union directive transposed into UK law through The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017. It aims to prevent deterioration of the water environment and improve water quality.

Executive Summary

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) is in the process of developing a Local Plan, to provide a long-term strategy until 2041. The Plan will provide a framework for the future of the borough. This scoping report has been prepared as part of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Local Plan.

The purpose of this report is to inform the SA and plan-making process through the identification of potential significant environmental issues within the Local Plan area.

SA is a process for assessing the social, economic, and environmental impacts of a plan, with the aim of ensuring that sustainable development principles are integrated in the plan-making process. The purpose of this SA scoping report is to inform the assessment framework for the SA through the identification of significant environmental and socio-economic issues within the borough. This focuses the SA on the issues which are relevant to the Local Plan and if the effect on the environment is likely to be significant, whether positive or negative. Following a review of the current baseline, a future baseline is presented to identify key environmental, social and economic trends without the proposed plan. Using the key sustainability issues captured in the baseline desk study, an assessment framework was developed alongside a proposed scoring methodology. The Framework is comprised of a series of objectives and associated appraisal criteria and will be applied to the assessment of the Local Plan in the later stages of the SA.

The assessment approach has been developed, describing types of effects to be considered, and any transboundary effects. The next stage of the SA will be to undertake consultation with the statutory consultees identified (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency). The results of the consultation process will feed into future stages of the SA and Local Plan development.

This scoping report also sets out the next steps regarding the approach to SA, including consultations with the statutory consultation bodies within England identified above.

1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) 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 2041. 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. 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.

1.2 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).

HBBC is now preparing a new Local Plan for the borough, which will extend the plan to 2041. The Council published a new Local Development Scheme in February 2024 (HBBC, 2024), which sets out the plan documents that will be prepared and a timetable for their preparation.

The new Local Plan 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 Local Plan 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.

1.3 Sustainability Appraisal

SA 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.' (DLUHC and MHCLG, 2020).

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).

SA screening has been undertaken for the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan and is detailed in Appendix A.

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.

1.4 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.

1.5 Hinckley & Bosworth

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 of 113,600 in 2021, this is an 8.1% increase since 2011 (ONS, 2024).

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.

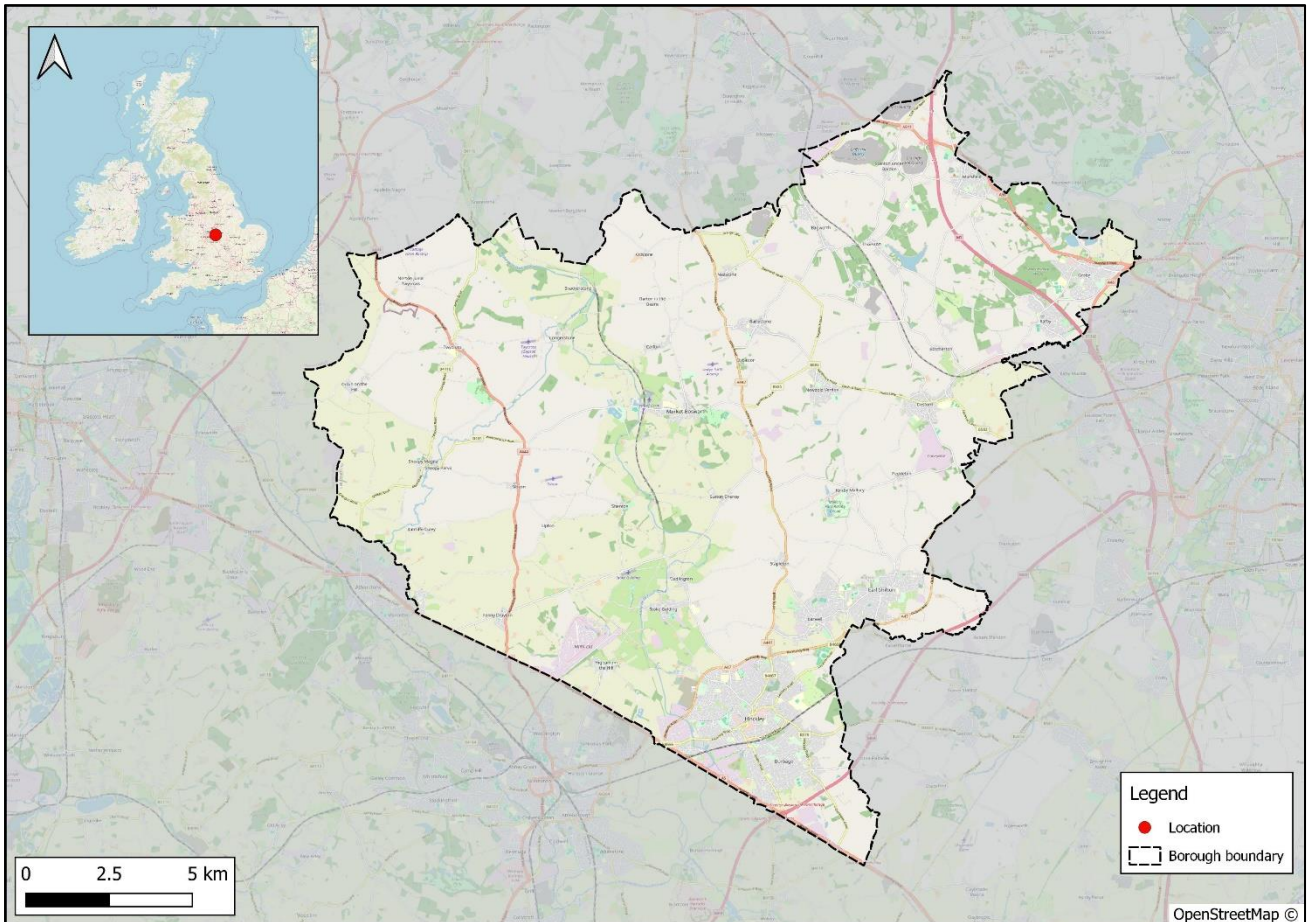


Figure 1-1: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough boundary

1.6 Key challenges facing Hinckley & Bosworth

Through the development of the adopted Core Strategy a series of key challenges affecting the borough were identified, as shown in Table 1-1 below.

Table 1-1: Key challenges facing the borough which influenced the development plan and sustainability appraisal.

Issue	Key challenge
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 & 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

Issue	Key challenge
	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. Nutrient Pollution and pressures on the nearby River Mease SAC Addressing the issues associated with being a water stressed region
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 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the borough. The need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Potential climate change related impacts upon Hinckley & Bosworth. 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 & 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 The Sustainability Appraisal Methodology

2.1 Meeting the requirements of the SEA Regulations

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 1 of the SEA Directive

SEA Directive requirements	Where in the SA
An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	Scoping Report (Section 3)
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)
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	Scoping Report (Section 4)
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 Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds(a) and the Habitats Directive;	Scoping Report (Section 4)

SEA Directive requirements	Where in the SA
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)
The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium, and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, 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 inter-relationship between the issues referred to.	Environmental Report (to be prepared)
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	Environmental Report (to be prepared)
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)
A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 17;	Environmental Report (to be prepared)
A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.	Environmental Report (to be prepared)

2.2 Stages of the Sustainability Appraisal Process

SA is an iterative process that aims to identify the significant environmental, social, and economic effects of a plan. Significant effects are defined as effects which may cause substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse, or beneficial changes to the existing environmental, social and economic baselines. For the Local Plan, this involves assessing the Plan strategies and policies against a series of SA objectives to identify the extent to which sustainable development is likely to be achieved.

This scoping report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Regulations and the Government’s Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities).

The PPG 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 the purposes of 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	Set out the context, objectives and approach of the assessment; and identify relevant environmental, economic and social issues and objectives.	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 identify SA objectives.	Scoping Report (Section 3)
(A2) Collating baseline information	To provide an evidence base for environmental problems, prediction of effects, and monitoring; to help in the development of SA 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 SA objectives.	Scoping Report (Section 5)
(A4) Developing SEA objectives	To provide a means by which the environmental performance of the plan or programmes and alternatives can be assessed.	Scoping Report (Section 6)
(A5) Consulting on the Scope of the 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	Interim Environmental Report and final Environmental Report (to be prepared)

SEA stages and tasks	Purpose	Where covered in the Sustainability Appraisal
Stage C	Preparing the Environmental Report.	Interim Environmental Report and final Environmental Report (to be prepared)
Stage D	Consulting on the draft Local Plan and the Environmental Report.	Interim Environmental Report and final 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.

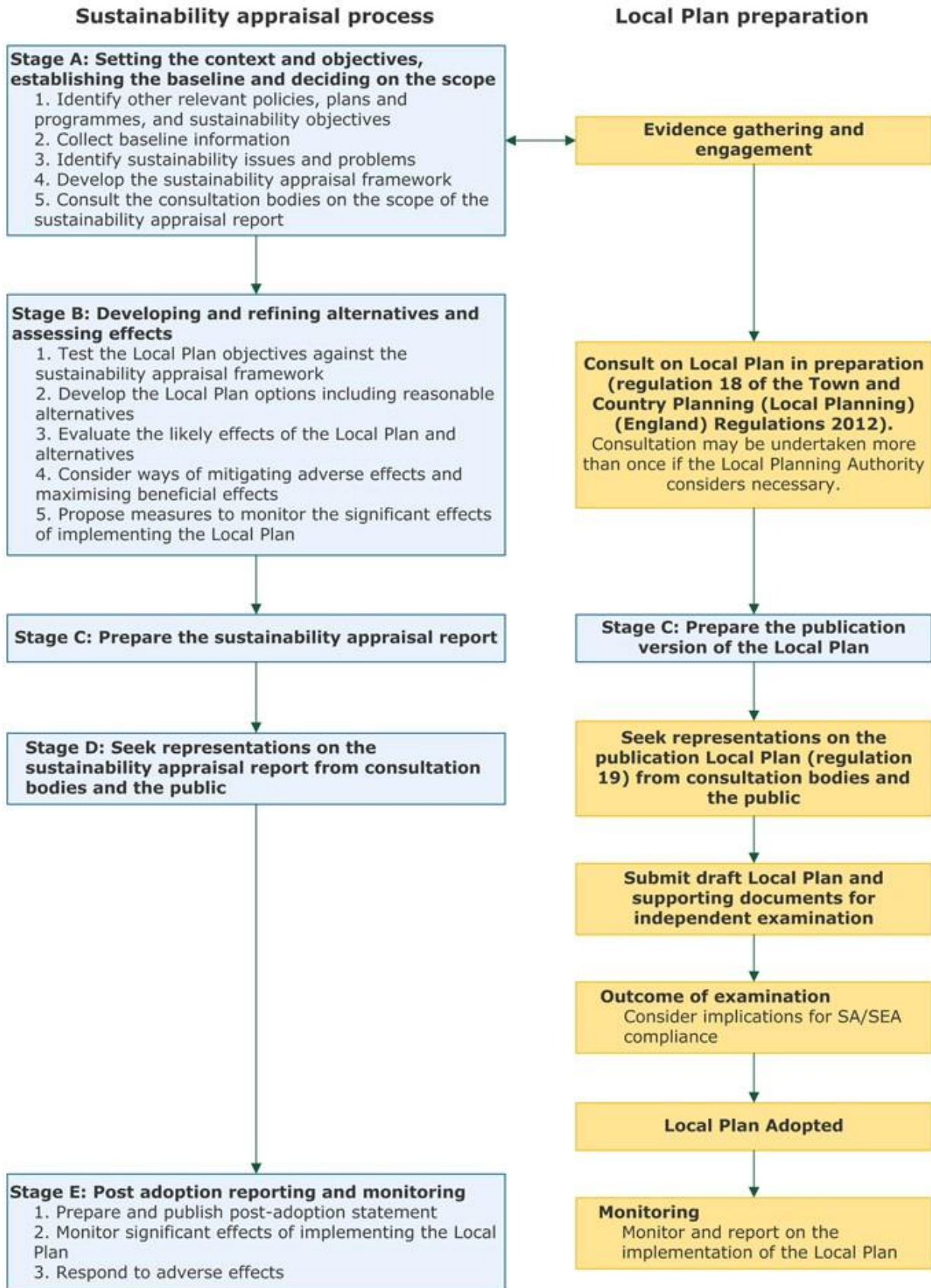


Figure 2-1: Key stages of Local Plan preparation and their link with the SA process

2.3 Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Stage

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 SA 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

SA guidance and the SEA Regulations identify a range of environmental and sustainability topics that must be considered during the assessment process. These topics are identified in

Table 2-3 alongside the sustainability issues and indicators.

Baseline information has been collected in relation to each of these topics, many of which are interlinked. A desk study was undertaken to identify baseline information, which was used to determine the key environmental, social and economic characteristics of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. The information search included, but is not limited to, information from a range of sources including the following organisations:

- Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC)
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Office for National Statistics
- Historic England
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
- Leicestershire County Council (LCC).

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.

Sustainability topics to be covered in the SA are split into environmental, social and economic topics as outlines in Table 2-3 below.

Table 2-3: Topics to be covered in the SA

SEA Directive and Sustainability 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 conditions and status
Water	Water environment	Chemical and biological water quality; surface and groundwater resources; waterbody hydro-morphology; flood risk
Soil (including geology)	Land Use	Variety of rocks, minerals and landforms; the quantity and distribution of agricultural land including the highest quality soils; land contamination.
Cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage)	Historic environment	Protected and notable heritage features; pressures on heritage features (including changes to setting).
Air	Air quality	Air quality issues
Climatic factors	Climate	Regional climate patterns; trends in greenhouse gas emissions and the sources of these emission; mitigation measures and adaptation options to manage climate change.
Social		

SEA Directive and Sustainability guidance requirements	Where covered in the Scoping Report	Definition in relation to this report
Population	Population	Where people live and work; population trends and demographics; housing; education; inequality and deprivation; key community facilities; accessibility; crime.
Human Health	Human Health	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.

Throughout the Scoping Report, the SA will also consider the interrelationship between the environmental, social and economic factors outlined in Table 2-3.

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

SA 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 Sustainability Appraisal objective, thereby allowing environmental, economic, and social effects, in particular those which are significant, to be identified.

3 Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Objectives

3.1 Introduction

The SA process requires a review 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.

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. In addition, any inconsistencies, constraints or potential sources of tension, can be identified, which could hinder the achievement of the environmental protection objectives or those of the Local Plan, and therefore provide a broad appraisal of the strategy's compliance with international, national, and local considerations.

Existing plans and strategies were reviewed within the context of this report. This task included revisiting all of the relevant international, national, regional and local plans, programmes and strategies

In accordance with the UK official SEA guidance (ODPM, 2005), and supported by the UK SA and SEA guidance (updated 2020) which provides an overview of the level of detail required, no list of plans or programmes can be definitive. As a result, this report describes only the key plans, programmes and policies that may influence the Local Plan.

International, national, regional and local policies, plans and programmes have been reviewed through this sustainability process, as outlined below.

3.1.1 Plans, programmes and policies:

The relevant international, national, regional and local plans relevant to the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan and the SA are listed in Appendix B. A description of why they are relevant and how they need to be considered throughout plan development is also provided.

3.2 Summary of the review

The key environmental, social and economic themes identified by this review, including relevant planning policies outlined within Government's planning policy for England (the NPPF), are shown in Table 3-1 below. A summary of the documents outlined above and

their relevance to the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Process is set out in Appendix A.

Table 3-1: Summary of policy, plans and programmes review.

SA topic	Key themes
Environment	
Landscape character	Protection of sensitive landscape assets (including Special Landscape Areas (SLA) and National Landscapes (formerly 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 natural beauty and amenity of important landscapes, including inland waters; 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; protection and enhancement of valued sites of biodiversity and geodiversity value; 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; recognising the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services; and minimising impacts with provision of net gains through development.
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; avoidance and redirection of inappropriate development in areas at medium and high risks of flooding; minimise risk to people and property and reduce the impacts of flooding where possible; and promotion of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).
Land Use	Long term protection, improvement and sustainable management of soil quality and quantity, including the preservation of best and most versatile land (Grades 1, 2, and 3a); maximum use of brownfield land as is feasible; optimisation of land to meet housing need; consideration of suitability of ground conditions for development; and the management and remediation of contaminated land to reduce the risk to human health and the environment, particularly soils and water quality.

SA topic	Key themes
Historic environment	Protection and enhancement of nationally and locally important heritage assets and historic landscapes; better integration of heritage protection within the planning process; consideration of wider benefits of conservation of the historic environment; 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; prevention of new and existing development contributing to, being put at risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of air pollution; and implementation of relevant limit values for pollutants such as air quality management areas (AQMAs) and clean air zones.
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; provision of measures to enable future adaptation to the impacts of climate change and increased resilience; proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change; and consideration of identification of suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources and supportive infrastructure where this would help secure their development.
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/minimising loss of recreation and amenity resources to benefit health and wellbeing; protection and enhancement of public rights of way and access; identifying housing requirement; and development and provision of measures to enable adaptation to the impacts of climate change.
Economic	
Local economy	Encourage sustainable economic growth; maximise economic value and the benefits of innovation; encourage economic development through the delivery of sufficient land and tourism development; encourage enterprise, including the creation of new businesses and aiding the growth and development of small businesses; release local growth potential; enable sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business in rural areas; development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based businesses; tackle worklessness and deprivation; promote links with neighbouring economies to allow the full potential of regional strengths to be recognised.

SA topic	Key themes
Material assets	Improvement and better management of material assets including highways and utilities infrastructure; encourage use of sustainable materials including secondary or recycled materials before extraction or primary materials; source materials indigenously; greater provision and enhancement of green infrastructure to delivery 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 Environmental, social and economic characteristics of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough

4.1 Introduction

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

The information obtained is set out in the following topic-specific sections, many of which are interlinked. 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 and further and new information becomes available.

4.2 Landscape

4.2.1 Landscape character

As outlined by Natural England there are four National Character Areas (NCA) within the borough, described by Natural England (2024a):

- NCA 71 Leicestershire & South Derbyshire Coalfield: consists of a plateau with unrestricted views of shallow valleys and gentle ridges that become less

pronounced in the south due to a layer of glacial till. To the east the land rises steeply, affording views of the Charnwood National Character Area (NCA). Ancient woodland straddles part of the boundary in the north, where the land falls away affording views of the wooded rolling landscape of the Melbourne Parklands NCA. The River Mease Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) forms part of the boundary with the Mease/Sence Lowlands NCA in the south-west and the Leicestershire Vales NCA forms a less visually defined border in the south.

- NCA 72 Mease / Sence Lowlands: The Mease/Sence Lowlands are a gently rolling agricultural landscape centred around the rivers Mease, Sence and Anker. With its towns lying on the fringes of the National Character Area (NCA), only a very small percentage of it is urban. These lowlands retain 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.
- NCA 73 Charnwood: Charnwood is a unique landscape, marked out by its geology and upland qualities, which contrast with the surrounding gentle lowlands. It is formed by a mosaic of heathland, farmland, parkland and woodland. The underlying Precambrian geology has given rise to the distinct area of 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.
- NCA 94 Leicester Vales: This NCA extends from Hinckley in the west to Leicester in the north-east. It stretches southwards to Market Harborough and Lutterworth. It shares characteristics with the neighbouring Northamptonshire Vales NCA.

A landscape character assessment was completed in 2017 by LUC, which identified 10 key Landscape Character Areas (LCAs). These are summarised in Table 4-1 and shown in Figure 4-1.

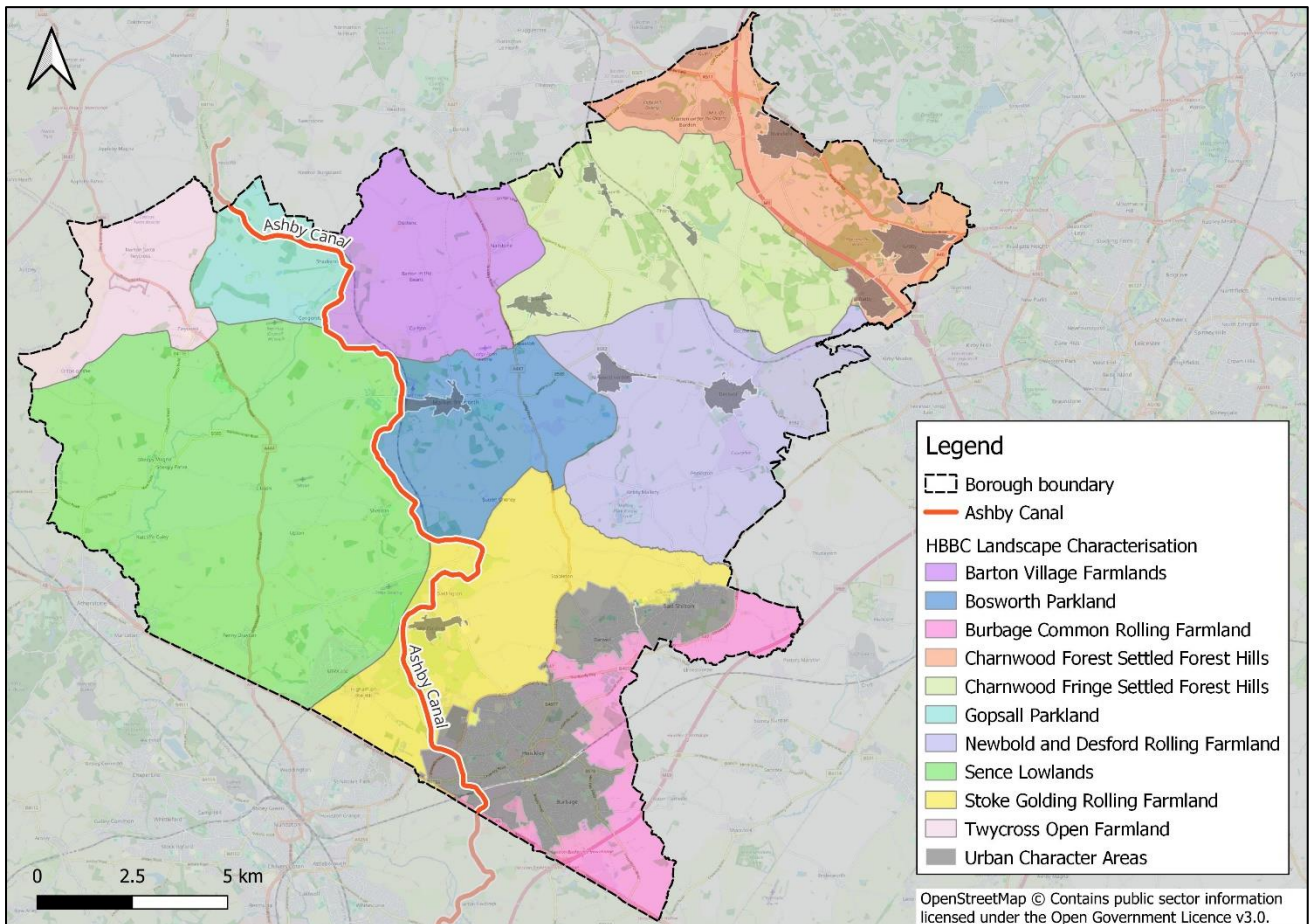


Figure 4-1: Local landscape character areas in the borough.

Table 4-1: Local landscape character in the borough (LUC, 2017).

Landscape Character Type	Landscape Character Area	Landscape Key Features
Settled Forest Hills	Charnwood Forest	<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.

Landscape Character Type	Landscape Character Area	Landscape Key Features
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugged, upland and wooded character.
	Charnwood Fringe	<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.
Agricultural Parkland	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.
	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 • 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.
Rolling Farmland	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.

Landscape Character Type	Landscape Character Area	Landscape Key Features
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

Landscape Character Type	Landscape Character Area	Landscape Key Features
Lowlands	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.
Open Farmland	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.
Village Farmlands	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.

Broadly, the borough is primarily rural, with more significant settlements located to the south and east including Hinckley, Burbage, Earl Shilton and Barwell. The 20th century has had a significant impact on the landscape character of the borough through the expansion of settlements and new road schemes including the M1 (LUC, 2017).

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. Other historic landscapes include

the Ashby Canal (shown in Figure 4-1), which preserves the industrial heritage of the area and shows evidence of ridge and furrow agriculture (HBBC, 2016).

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 “creating a forest across 200 square miles of the Midlands, linking the ancient remnant forests of Charnwood and Needwood” (National Forest Company, 2024). Forest cover is at approximately 20% in the National Forest, with approximately 150ha of new woodland created within the area each year. 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 (LUC, 2017). The Charnwood Forest Landscape Partnership is also currently seeking to create a Geopark within the forest with the aim to have it designated as a UNESCO site (National Forest Company, 2024).

4.2.2 Landscape designations

There are no nationally designated landscapes in the borough. However, there are designated Green Wedges within the borough. Green Wedges were first introduced in the Leicestershire Structure Plan (1987) and have been maintained in subsequent plans and policies for the county and boroughs within it. The aim of the Green Wedge designation is to provide physical separation between built up areas and therefore, protect individual settlement characteristics by guiding the development form of urban areas. Green Wedges are defined in two locations in the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan (2002-2026):

- Hinckley / Burbage / Barwell / Earl Shilton Green Wedge
- Tothley Brook Meadow Green Wedge

As shown in Figure 4-2, there are five designated Country Parks across the borough: Bagworth Heath Woods; Bosworth Battlefield Country Park; Burbage Common and Woods; and Market Bosworth Country Park.

Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) is an order which protects trees from harm by prohibiting the cutting down, topping, lopping, uprooting, wilful damage or wilful destruction of trees without the consent of the local planning authority. There are 1,633 TPOs in the borough and are predominately located around the main towns and villages, as shown in Figure 4-2.

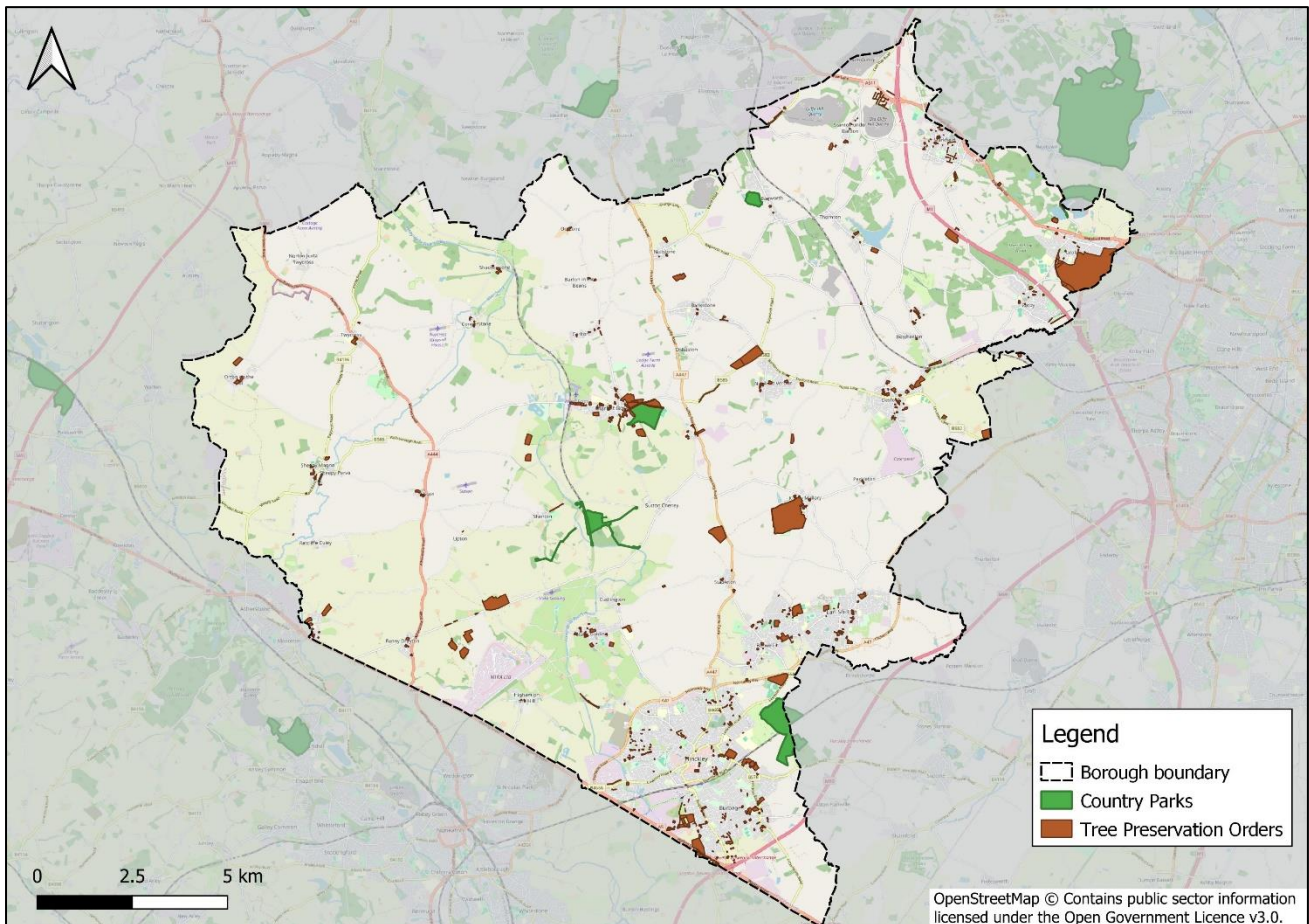


Figure 4-2: Tree Preservation Orders and Country Parks in the borough.

4.2.3 Key sustainability issues

- Several LCAs have been identified as being in decline – primarily Gospall Parkland following removal of former estate building Gospall Hall on Gospall 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 affected 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 Internationally and nationally 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: SACs in proximity to Hinckley & Bosworth borough (Natural England, 2024b).

Site	Qualifying features	Key challenges to conservation objective
Ensor’s Pool SAC	A large population of White-clawed Crayfish 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 and Bullhead and are primary reasons for the selection of the site. The site also is designated for the following species; Freshwater crayfish, Otter and water courses of plain to montane levels with River water-crowfoot.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrient pressure from phosphorus

The borough supports several nationally important wildlife sites. There are seven sites designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within the borough. SSSIs cover

only 0.3% of the total land area within the borough. This is low compared to the England average in which 8% of local authority land area is designated as a SSSI (Natural England, 2014b). 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. Their location is shown in Figure 4-3.

Table 4-3: SSSIs within Hinckley & Bosworth borough (Natural England, 2024b).

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>Erythroma 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
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: 2.34ha Unfavourable recovering: 0.53ha
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>) and maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>) woodland in Leicestershire and is representative of semi-natural woodland.	Unfavourable recovering
Cliffe Hill Quarry	North east	Site provides excellent exposures of the contact between the southern-type dirorite (markfieldite) and the volcanic and sedimentary rocks of the Precambrian Charian Maplewell Series.	Favourable

SSSI name	Location	Interest features	SSSI condition
Groby Pool and Woods	North east	<p>Site comprises a complex array 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.</p> <p>Adverse conditions due to freshwater and water pollution from agricultural runoff.</p>	<p>Favourable: 13.91ha</p> <p>Unfavourable no change: 13.85ha</p> <p>Unfavourable declining 1.26ha</p>
Kendall's Meadow	South	<p>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>).</p>	Favourable
Sheepy Fields	West	<p>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.</p>	Favourable

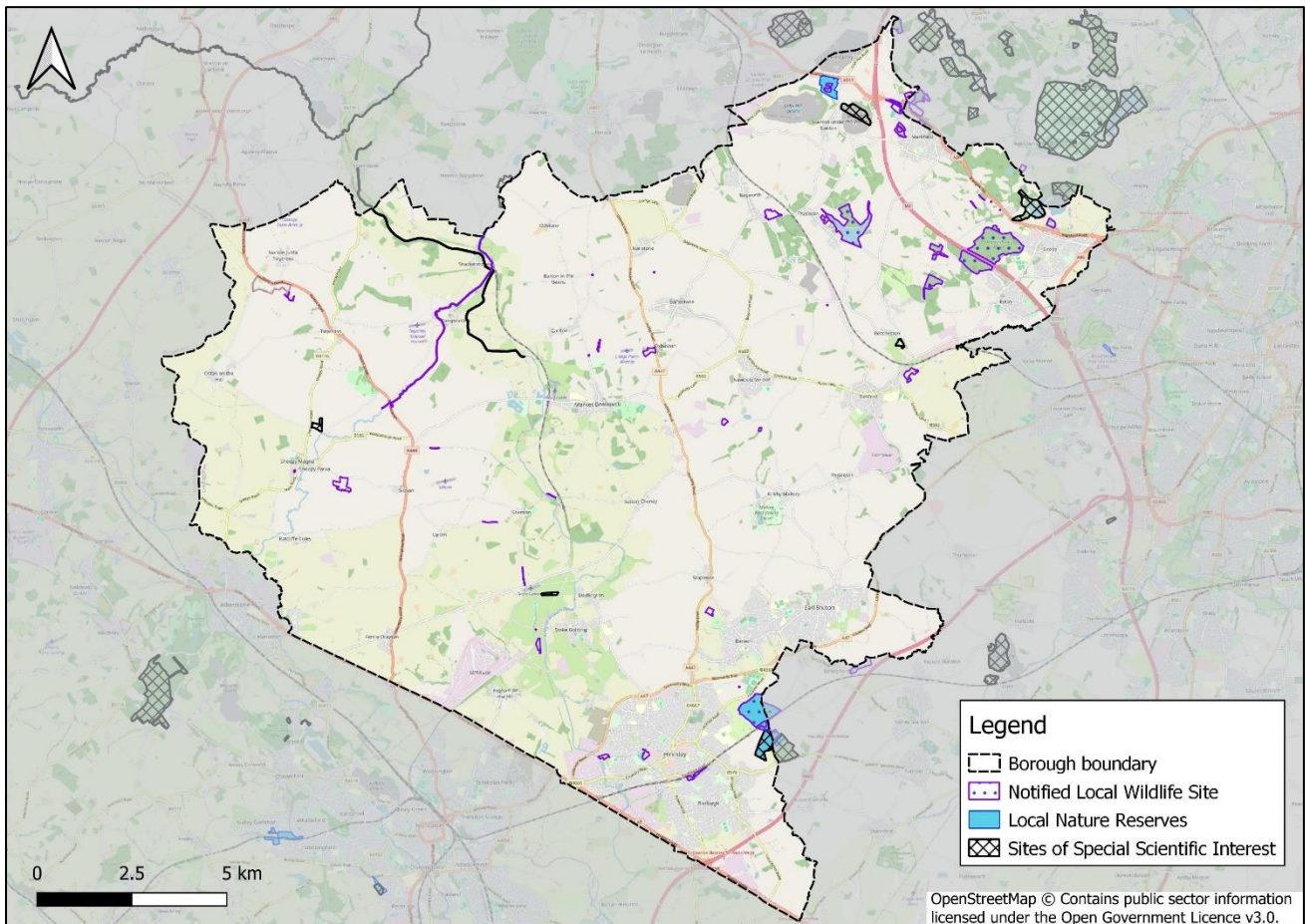


Figure 4-3: Designations for nature conservation in the borough.

4.3.2 Locally designated nature conservation sites

Local Nature Reserves (LNR) are declared and managed by district and county councils under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 due to biological, geological, educational, or public interest importance. There are two LNRs located in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough, summary details of their key features are provided in Table 4-4. The location of these sites is shown in Figure 4-3 above.

Table 4-4: LNRs in Hinckley & Bosworth.

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.

Non-statutory sites include Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), which are areas with considerable nature conservation value selected due to important habitats and species within a region. There are 56 Notified Local Wildlife Sites in the borough, as shown in Figure 4-3 above.

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, 2009). 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, 2009). 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 (LUC, 2020).

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).

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. 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. 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, 2009). Pressures due to the need to further utilise the borough's water resources may also pose a risk to these habitats in the future.

The Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland BAP, for the period 2016 to 2026, highlight a total of 19 BAP habitats (Leicester & Rutland Wildlife Trust, 2016). Of relevance to Hinckley & Bosworth borough are:

- 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

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 (2009). 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, Brown Long- eared, Soprano Pipistrelle, Whiskered Myotis, and Noctule
- Badger
- Water Vole
- Otter
- White-clawed crayfish
- Barn Owl
- Other bird species including Peregrine Falcon, Kingfisher, Black Redstart, Hobby Falcon, and Marsh Harrier
- Great Crested Newt
- Reptile species including Grass Snake, Common Lizard, and Slow Worm
- Brown Hare

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 flows across the west of the borough from Atherstone to the south to Ibstock to the north. Part of the River Sence is also a LWS. 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 (LUC, 2017).

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, 2022). 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 (2019) quality status of each waterbody is described in Table 4-5. Nine waterbodies have 'Poor' status; six waterbodies have 'Moderate' status; and no waterbodies achieved 'Good' status. This represents a decline in status for four waterbodies, an improvement in status for one waterbody, and no change for eight of the waterbodies within the borough since they were assessed in 2016.

Due to a change in method for the 2019 assessment, all water bodies now 'Fail' chemical status, and the assessment is not comparable to previous years assessments. Therefore, Chemical Status has not been included in Table 4-5.

Table 4-5: Summary of the WFD status of waterbodies within Hinckley and Bosworth borough.

Waterbody name	Ecological status 2019	Hydro-morphological designation	Status change since 2016
Soar River Operational Catchment			
Groby Pool	Poor	Heavily modified	No change
Quorn Brook Catchment (trib of Soar)	Moderate	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	Declined
Rothley Brook Catchment (trib of Soar)	Moderate	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	No change
Soar Brook from Source to Soar	Poor	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	Declined
Thurlaston Brook Catchment (trib of Soar)	Poor	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	Declined
Mease Rivers Operational Catchment			
Mease from Source to Gilwiskaw Brook	Poor	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	Declined
Sence Anker and Bourne Rivers and Lakes Operational Catchment			
Anker - Source to Wem Brook	Poor	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	No change
Anker from River Sence to River Tame	Poor	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	No change
Anker from Wem Brook to River Sence	Moderate	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	No change
Carlton Brook from Source to River Sence	Poor	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	Improved
Ibstock Brook from Source to River Sence	Moderate	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	No change
Sence - Ibstock Brook to River Anker	Moderate	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	No change
Sence from Source to Ibstock Brook	Poor	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	No change

Waterbody name	Ecological status 2019	Hydro-morphological designation	Status change since 2016
Sketchley Brook from Source to River Anker	Moderate	Heavily modified	No change
Stoke Golding Brook from Source to River Sence	Poor	Not designated artificial or heavily modified	No change

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. 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. 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.

Groundwater vulnerability Medium - High and High around East Shilton in the south east of the borough, and to the north west of Market Bosworth. The rest of the borough is mostly Medium and Medium - Low groundwater vulnerability, and low in the south around Hinckley.

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.

Severn Trent Water's draft Water Resources Management Plan (dWRMP) 2024 (Severn Trent, 2022) sets out the strategy for managing water supply in the region. Severn Trent are classified as operating in a 'serious water stressed area' which means there is a risk of customer demand exceeding the water supply. The dWRMP describes a future supply / demand deficit of 244MI/d by 2040-41, which could then increase to a 540MI/d deficit by 2050-52. These deficits are greater than any previous WRMP has had to accommodate.

The dWRMP identifies five key challenges faced by the water company, these are climate change, population growth, reducing leaking, securing sustainable abstraction and preventing further environmental deterioration, and delivering best value for customers. The strategy's main aim is to reduce leakage by 2045 and to deliver a metering programme by 2035 to help enhance water efficiency and reduce customer's water consumption by 110 litres per head per day by 2050, which highlights the high-water stress experienced by the region. The strategy seeks to protect the water environment and 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 2025 to improve use of water resources and supply resilience (Severn Trent, 2022).

4.4.4 Flood risk

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) conducted by Leicestershire County Council (2024) classified settlements within the county that are most at risk of being affected by surface water flooding. The LFRMS identified Hinckley and Burbage as ‘nationally significant’ surface water flood risk areas.

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the borough identified that the most affected areas for historic flooding correspond with the main urban areas in the borough, including Hinckley, Barwell, Earl Shilton, Desford, Ratby and Groby, although there are some records of historical flooding in rural areas (JBA Consulting, 2019).

The flood risk from rivers and seas is shown in Figure 4-4. The main rivers associated with fluvial flooding are the River Anker and River Sence, which pose a flood risk to settlements including Sheepy Magna, Shackerstone, Witherley and the outskirts of Atherstone. Additionally, there is fluvial flood risk posed to the borough by a number of smaller watercourses. Within Hinckley and Burbage, the Battle Brook, Harrow Brook and Sketchley brook pose a fluvial flooding risk. In the east of the borough, the Rothley Brook presents a fluvial flood risk to the urban areas of Groby and Ratby (JBA Consulting, 2019).

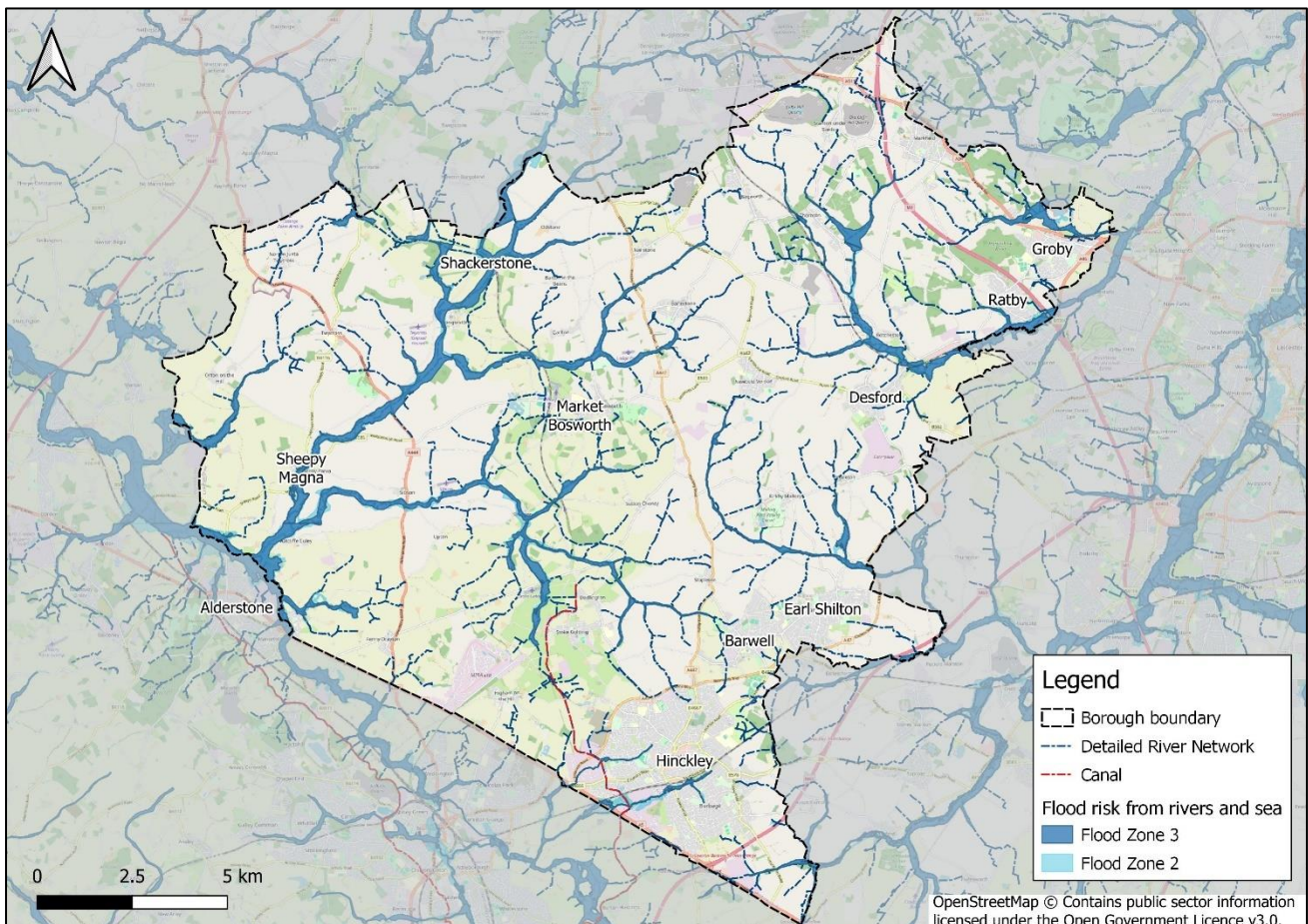


Figure 4-4: Flood risk from rivers and sea across the borough.

The Ashby Canal has the potential to interact with other watercourses and become flow paths during flood events or in a breach scenario. There have been five recorded incidents of canal breach from 1981 to 1990, and three recorded incidents of canal overtopping from 2012 to 2016. The canal breach incidents occurred in primarily rural locations on the stretch of the canal between Congerstone and Shenton and the overtopping incidents occurred in Stoke Golding and Hinckley (JBA Consulting, 2019).

With climate change, the frequency, pattern and severity of flooding are expected to change and become more damaging. This includes the likelihood and frequency of surface water flooding, particularly in impermeable urban areas such as Hinckley (JBA Consulting, 2019).

4.4.5 Key sustainability issues

- The water quality in the borough is relatively poor, with none of its waterbodies achieving good overall status under the WFD. Furthermore, water quality has declined in four of the 15 waterbodies as evidenced by a reduction in status since 2016.
- 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 Soil 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. 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 (BGS, 2024).

Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) are non-statutory sites identified to protect important areas for geology, geomorphology and soils which demonstrate scientific, educational, historical and aesthetic features. There are ten RIGS in the borough. As shown in Figure 4-5, the majority of these are in the north east of the borough where historic mineral extraction has occurred.

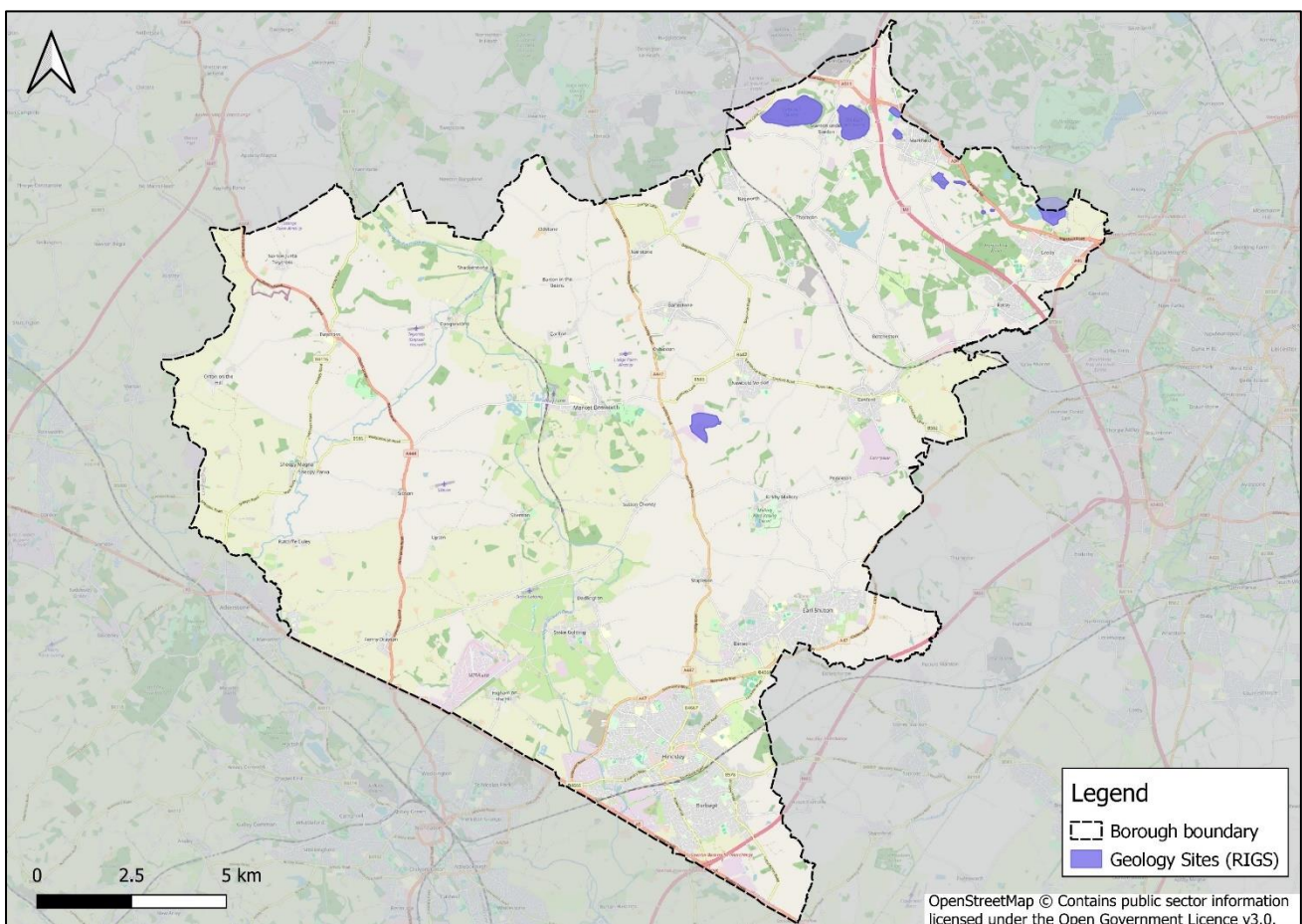


Figure 4-5: Location of RIGS in the borough.

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.

4.5.2 Agricultural land

Agriculture is the predominant land use in the borough. Agricultural land in Hinckley & Bosworth is classified under the Agricultural Land Classification system (ALC), as shown in

Figure 4-6. Over 75% of the land in the borough is classified as ALC grade 3 (good to moderate quality) (LUC, 2020), 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. There is no ALC grade 1 (excellent quality) or grade 5 (very poor quality) land in the borough (Natural England, 2018).

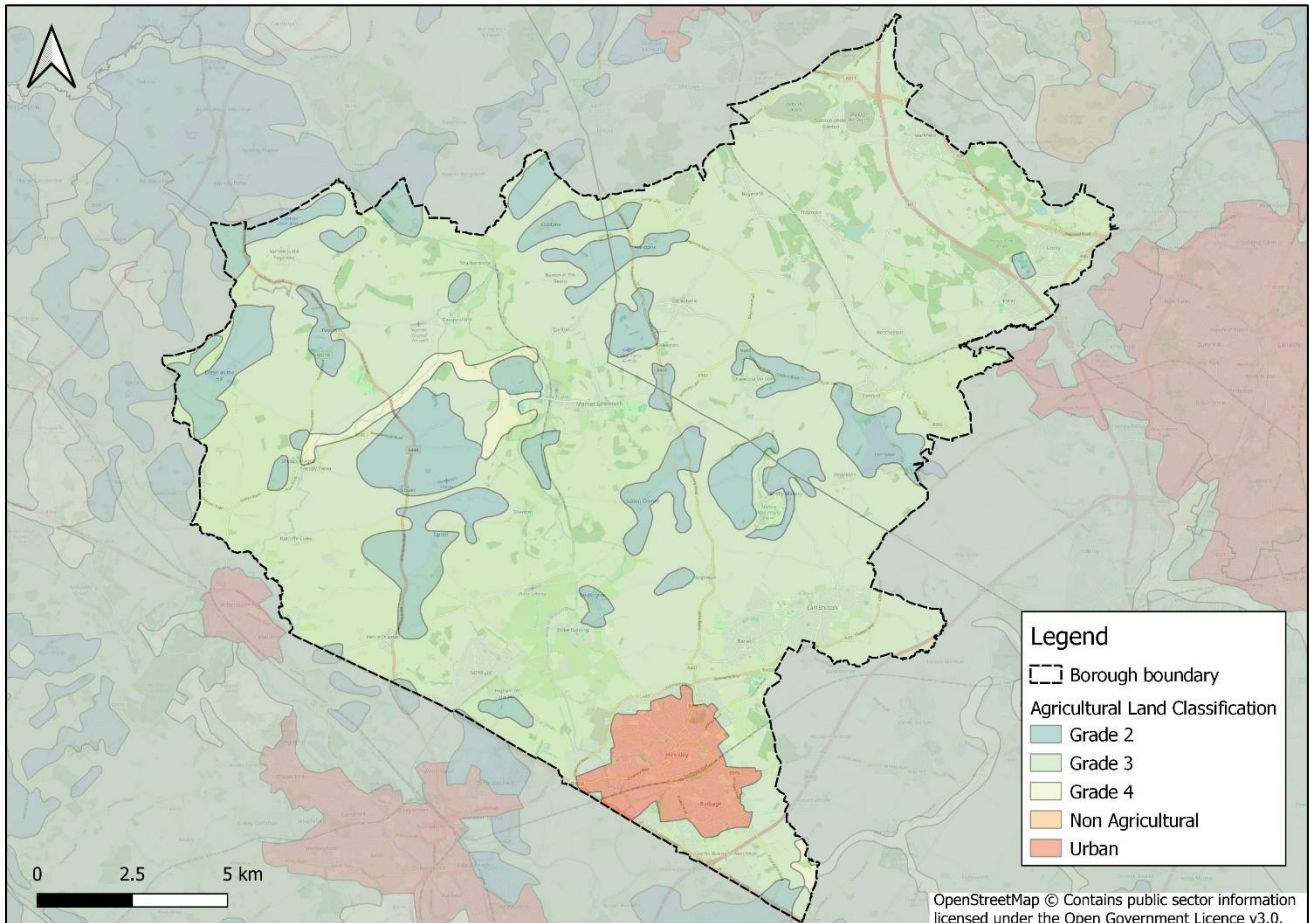


Figure 4-6: Agricultural land classification across the borough.

4.5.3 Other land use

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. In the northwest of the borough there are several small towns that function as suburbs / satellite towns of Leicester.

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 vision of the National Forest Project is for “a landscape whose identity is shaped by trees, with happier and healthier communities, thriving wildlife, cleaner air and water, and more sustainable businesses.” The

aims are for 33% forest cover, accessible natural greenspace for all and net zero carbon by 2045 (National Forest Company, 2024).

In many areas, the natural environment is used as a draw for tourists. Features that use the landscape include the Bosworth Half Marathon, Bosworth in Bloom, and Twycross Zoo (HBBC, 2024).

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.

Brownfield sites are previously developed 'land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land (although it should not be assumed that the whole of the curtilage should be developed) and any associated fixed surface infrastructure' (Annex 2: Glossary, NPPF, 2023). The 2018 Brownfield Register (HBBC, 2018) for the borough identified the following brownfield sites:

- Units on Arthur Street and Kingsfield Road, Barwell
- Industrial Unit and adjacent land, Willowbank Road, Hinckley
- Thornton Nurseries and Land South of Reservoir Road, Thornton
- Atherstone Hunt Kennels, Kennel Lane, Witherley
- Midland Studio College, London Road, Hinckley
- Units on Dawson's Lane, Barwell
- Hinckley Sewage Treatment Site, Burbage
- Clarendon Club, Coventry Road, Hinckley

Chapter 11 of the NPPF places emphasis on plans making effective use of land which includes prioritising brownfield sites to help guide homes being built "in the right places" and make use of suitable brownfield sites or underutilised land. Development on brownfield land or land at risk of contamination could result in the release of contaminants into groundwater or surface waters. Any development on contaminated land should adequately deal with the contamination risk as to prevent harm to human health, property and the environment.

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. There are 22 Scheduled Monuments, 340 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 296 are Grade II. The Conservation Areas and Scheduled Monuments are shown in Figure 4-7 below. Many of the Listed Buildings are associated with the Conservation Areas.

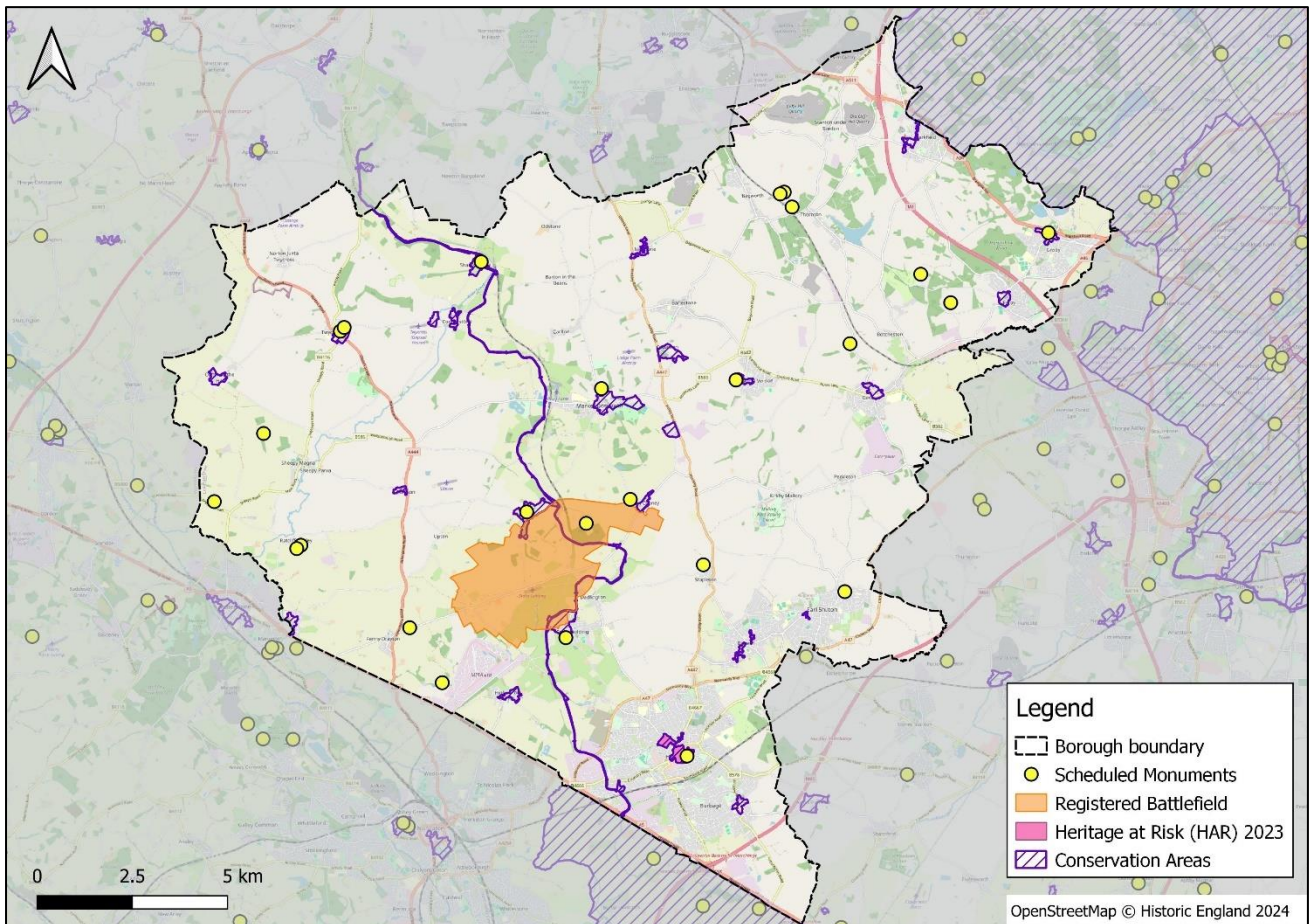


Figure 4-7: Heritage assets in the borough.

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. 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, for example, Loughborough and Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

Due to the rich heritage of Hinckley & Bosworth borough, there are many features recorded on the local Historic Environment Record (HER). Sites of archaeological interest range from Roman Camps at Ratby and Witherley to Castle Mottes at Groby and Hinckley. 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, 2023) (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 Edith on the Green was added to the list more recently (Historic England, 2023). Issues such as flooding associated with climate change may pose a risk to heritage assets in the future.

Table 4-6: Heritage assets in Hinckley & Bosworth included on the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register (Historic England, 2023).

Site Name	Designation	Condition	Summary
Hinckley Town Centre	Conservation Area	Poor	Contains 23 listed buildings and one 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 Hollycroft, Hinckley	Conservation Area	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. Improving trend.
Barwell B (Arthur Street), Barwell	Conservation Area	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.

Site Name	Designation	Condition	Summary
Stables and kennels to Bradgate House, Bradgate Hill, Groby	Listed Building Grade II*	Very bad	Largely ruinous by 1988 and now derelict and in very bad condition having not been maintained for many years. There are multiple structural concerns; periodic masonry collapses; uncontrolled and significant ivy growth and self-seeded trees. The local authority has exercised its statutory powers, and this may prompt voluntary action in 2023. Historic England is providing grant aid and technical advice to the council. Priority A - Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric; no solution agreed. A feasibility study is to commence in 2023.
Church of St Edith, The Green, Orton-on-the-Hill, Twycross	Listed Building Grade I	Poor	Parish church, early C14 with later alterations and additions. The walls are of ashlar construction. Recessed spire rebuilt 1797 and partly taken down in 1950. The chancel roof was recently renewed. The church was subject to heritage crime in 2019. Works to address these issues are now complete. Internal plaster work in the south aisle, stonework repairs to window, glazing repairs and the internal stonework of the spire require further investigation. The Parochial Church Council remain keen to effect repairs. Priority C - Slow decay; no solution agreed.

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, shown in Figure 4-7, is also situated in the borough and has been placed on Historic England's Battlefield Register (Historic England, 2024). 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, 2024) 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 in 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.

Heritage based tourism plays an important role in the tourism industry in the borough. Local tourist attractions in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough are based around historic sites and assets. HBBC (2024) 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. This 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

Table 4-7 shows the Limit values for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) as set by in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010. NO₂ is released into the atmosphere when fuels are burned (such as from a petrol or diesel vehicle). 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.

Table 4-7: Air quality limits set by the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010.

Pollutant	Limit Value (annual)
Nitrogen dioxide	40 µg m ⁻³
Particulate Matter 2.5	20 µg m ⁻³
Particulate Matter 10	40 µg m ⁻³

The principal pollutant of concern in the borough is NO₂ from the road network. However, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough has relatively good air quality when compared to the limit value, with the majority of the borough's NO₂ annual mean 10µg m⁻³ and below in 2022. NO₂ levels were higher around Hinckley in 2022 with an annual mean of 11µg m⁻³ to 20µg m⁻³ (Defra, 2022a). As of 2024 there are no Air Quality Management Areas in the Borough. The Annual Status Report did not identify any exceedances of air quality objectives. In line with national trends levels of NO₂ continue to see a steady decline (HBBC, 2023a).

The PM_{2.5} annual mean for most of the borough is 6µg m⁻³ to 8µg m⁻³, with slightly higher levels of between 9µg m⁻³ to 10µg m⁻³ around the towns and villages of Hinckley, Barwell, Atherstone, Cadeby and Desford. 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, which extracts granite, in the north of the borough with PM_{2.5} annual mean of 9µg m⁻³ to 13µg m⁻³ (Defra, 2022a).

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. The PM10 annual mean is $14\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ to $17\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ around the main towns and villages, and the main roads (including the M69, M1, A47 and B582). The southwest of the borough generally has a PM10 annual mean of $13\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ and below. A Local Transport Plan has been implemented to combat emissions from vehicles use and encourage other forms of travel.

4.7.2 Air quality trends, and future projections

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council operate 16 diffusion tube sites in the borough which monitor NO₂ levels. These are located in areas more likely to be affected by poorer air quality due to their proximity to a busy road. Based on information from these sites, there has been a small improvement in the already fairly high air quality in the Borough (HBBC, 2023a).

A growing population in the borough could reverse this trend. 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.

4.7.3 Key sustainability issues

- As the larger roads (M1, M69, A5) in the borough get busier with development within and outside the borough, 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 over 4000mm a year. 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 to just over 10°C. 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 (Met Office, 2016).

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.

Under the Climate Change Act 2008, the UK is legally obligated to achieve a 100% reduction in its carbon emissions compared to 1990 baseline levels by the year 2050 (commonly referred to as 'net zero'). The Climate Change Act outlines a five-year cycle of requirements which the UK must adhere to, relating to both climate mitigation and adaptation. These requirements include setting a series of legally binding five-year carbon budgets (restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions) designed to help steer progress towards achievement of the overall net zero target.

The UK government established the Climate Change Committee and its Adaptation Committee to provide synthesis the latest evidence and provide advice to the UK Government on climate change risks and opportunities, and to assess progress in adapting to climate change in England. The Third Climate Change Risk Assessment estimates that the cost of climate change to the UK are high and increasing, with estimated damages to exceed £1bn per annum, which includes risks from flooding and risks to infrastructure networks. It also found that early adaption investments in heatwave alerts and plans, surveillance and monitoring for pests and diseases, early warning systems, and climate resilient infrastructure were effective and would deliver value for money (Defra, 2022b).

Paragraph 158 of the NPPF (2023) states that 'Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change' and 'policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts'. New development should therefore be planned for in a way that avoids increased vulnerability to climate change and that helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

As a rural county, Leicestershire's emissions and vulnerability to climate change are higher. for example by greater need for travel and high levels of agricultural land use. It is expected that Leicestershire will experience hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters. The Net Zero Leicestershire Strategy for the period 2023 to 2045 (LCC, 2022a) identified climate risks in the county. Some of the climate risks identified are listed below:

- Disruption to transport networks, energy and communications from flooding and heatwaves, and disruption to services and facilities.
- Risk of embankment failures
- Damage to buildings and infrastructure
- Overheating in private and public buildings
- Risks to vulnerable species and habitats, damage to natural habitats from water stress as well as heat stress on livestock
- Changes to growing seasons and damage to crops
- Pressure on water resources
- Exacerbation of air quality impacts

Leicestershire therefore has a vision to end its contribution to global warming by reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels (LCC, 2022a).

The Met Office climate visualisation tool uses climate projections in 12km-square grids across the UK (Met Office, 2022). For Market Bosworth, in the centre of the borough, climate projections indicate that:

In summer:

- The hottest summer day of the past 30 years was 34.8°C in this area. If global average temperatures increase 2°C above pre-industrial levels, the hottest summer day could be 36.7°C. A 4°C increase could be 41.1°C.
- In the past 30 summers there were 3 days above 25°C per month on average. If global temperature rise by 2°C, there could be 7 days. With an increase of 4°C, there could be 16 days.
- On the wettest summer day of the past 30 years, 54mm of rain fell in the area. At a 2°C rise, this could be 59mm. At a rise of 4°C, it could be 67mm which is 24% more than current levels.

In winter:

- The warmest winter day of the past 30 years in the area was 18.1°C. If global average temperatures increase by 2°C above pre-industrial levels, the warmest winter day could be about 18.6°C. If global temperatures rise by 4°C, it could be about 20.1°C.
- In the past 30 years there were 11 rainy days on average per month in winter, and at both 2 and 4°C the number of rainy days per month could be roughly the same.
- On the wettest winter day of the past 30 years, 31mm of rain fell in the area. At a 2°C rise, this could be 34mm, and at 4°C rise this could be 40mm, an increase of 29% compared to current levels.

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 (LUC, 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.

Hinckley and Bosworth have developed a Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy (2024-2028) which is underpinned by an action plan including how the council itself, and how the council will lead others to take steps towards addressing the climate crisis through influencing through influencing behaviours and by creating the policy and regulatory framework to ensure others take appropriate action.

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

In Hinckley & Bosworth, the population size has increased by 8.1%, from approximately 105,100 in 2011 to 113,600 in 2021. This is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%) and the East Midlands (7.7%) (ONS, 2022).

The latest ONS figures suggest an ageing population across England with a 20.1% increase in people aged 65 years and over between 2011 and 2021. This is more

prominent in Hinckley and Bosworth where there has been an increase of 31.4% in people aged 65 years, an increase of 1.7% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 7.4% in children aged under 15 years (ONS, 2022).

4.9.2 Housing

Private renting in the borough has risen from 11.4% in 2011 to 14.4% in 2021, with households that own their own home falling from 76.7% in 2011 to 74.4% in 2021. Compared to the wider East Midlands area privately rented homes has risen from 14.9% to 18.7%, and across England there has been a rise from 16.8% to 20.5% of privately rented homes (ONS, 2023).

As is the case for much of the UK at present, housing supply in the borough is not keeping pace with demand, and the average house price in Leicestershire in 2020 was £222,000. This effect is further exacerbated when affordable homes and starter homes are considered. The Leicestershire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment 2022 (Iceni, 2022) predicts that in order to keep pace with rising demand in the borough, there is a need for 3,076 privately rented affordable homes per year and 1,795 affordable home ownership homes. These numbers should be considered as a proportion of a mixed market solution. It is expected that the minimum local housing need in Hinckley & Bosworth is 472 dwellings per annum between 2020 and 2041 (Iceni, 2022).

4.9.3 Health

The population of the borough mostly consider themselves to have relatively good levels of health. In the 2023 Census, 4.5% of residents described their health as either 'bad' or 'very bad', which is a decrease from 4.7% in 2011 (ONS, 2023). This is compared to 5.4% in the East Midlands and 5.3% nationally. The average life expectancy is slightly higher than the national average, at 80.4 years and 83.6 years for males and females respectively, compared to 79.4 years and 83.1 years for England (HPM, 2022). Nonetheless, there are areas within the borough which are experiencing health deprivations, particularly in the more populated areas of Hinckley, Barwell and Earl Shilton. As shown in Figure 4-8, these areas also experience limited access to open space which is discussed further in Section 4.11.3: Green infrastructure and open space.

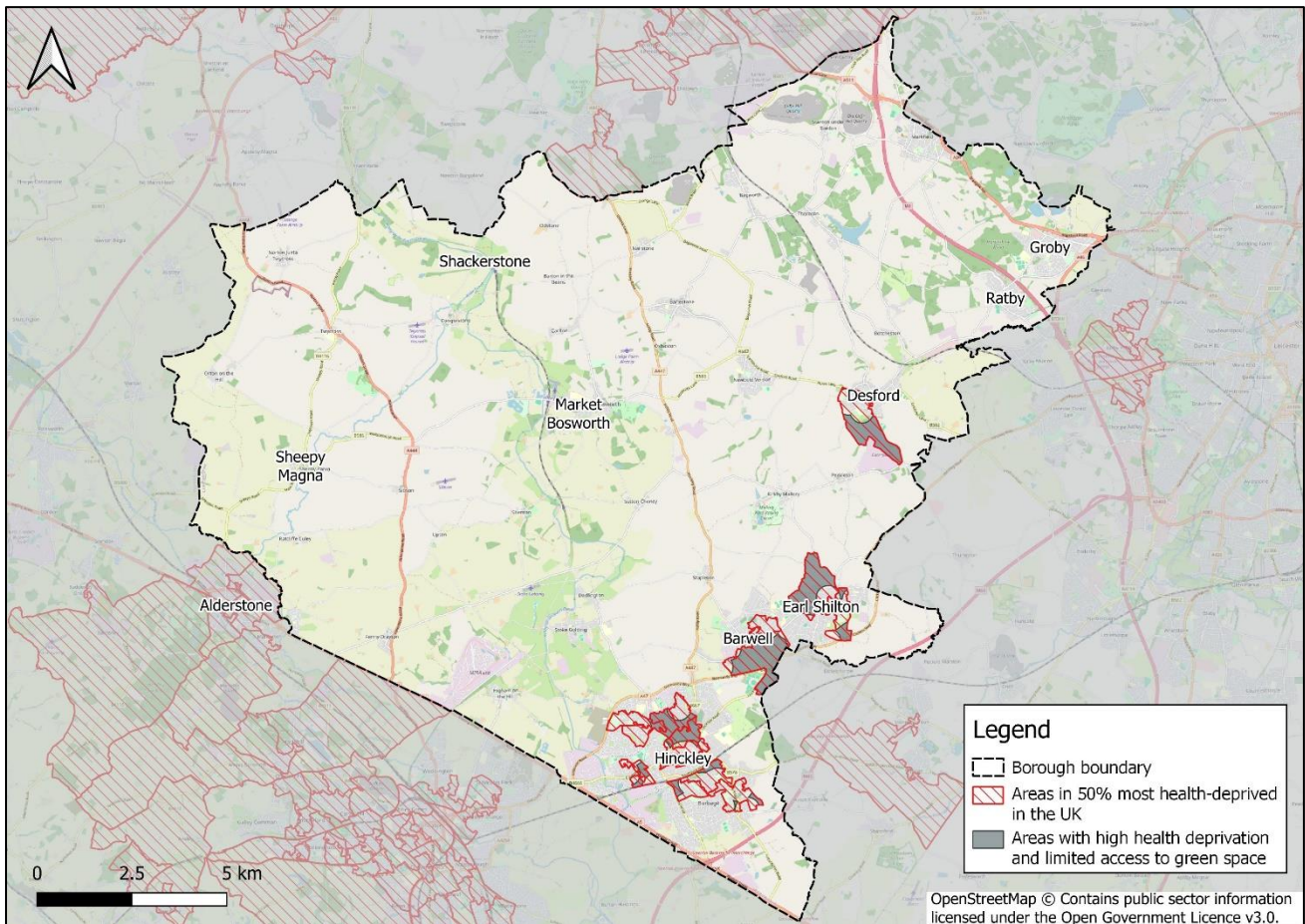


Figure 4-8: Areas with the highest levels of health deprivation in the borough.

Obesity levels in the borough are varied. Child obesity rates in the borough are significantly lower than the national average, with 31.2% of school children in year six classified as obese, compared to 35.2% in England (HPM, 2022). However, levels of excess weight adults in the borough is significantly higher than the English average, with an estimated 68.5% of adults classed as either overweight or obese, compared to 63.5% in England (HPM, 2022).

71.6 deaths in every 100,000 (under the age of 75) in the borough were due to cardiovascular diseases between 2017 and 2019. This is similar to England which was 70.4 deaths per 100,000. Around 121.5 deaths per 100,000 (under the age of 75) were from cancer, which is similar to the level for England (129.2 deaths per 100,000) between 2017 and 2019 (HPM, 2022).

Smoking prevalence has fallen sharply in recent years. In 2012, 20.3% of adults (18+) smoked, compared to 20.7% of the English population. By 2016, this had fallen to 11.6%, compared to 15.5% in England (PHE, 2016). In 2019, the figure fell again to 10.4% below the national value of 13.8% (HPM, 2022).

In 2022, 15,968 residents in Hinckley and Bosworth were diagnosed with depression. This equates to 14.11% of the population. The highest rates were in Earl Shilton North, Newbold Verdon North, Barwell Centre, East Shilton East and Hinckley Trinity West (HBBC, 2023b).

The 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, 2016).

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 (LSOA) in England a rank relative to other LSOAs.

Leicestershire is not deprived overall with the county ranked 137th out of 152 upper tier authorities in England for Multiple Deprivation, where 1st is the most deprived. All seven districts within Leicestershire fall within the least deprived half of local authority districts within England (LCC, 2023).

Nonetheless, there are pockets of deprivation within the borough as shown in Figure 4-9. Within Hinckley, the Clarendon Park ward is in the lowest 20% deprivation category nationally. Eight further areas in the borough are in the lowest 40%. The Community and Wellbeing plan for the borough identified that 10% of children were living in absolute poverty in 2019, with these numbers expected to have increased with rising cost of living (HBBC, 2023b).

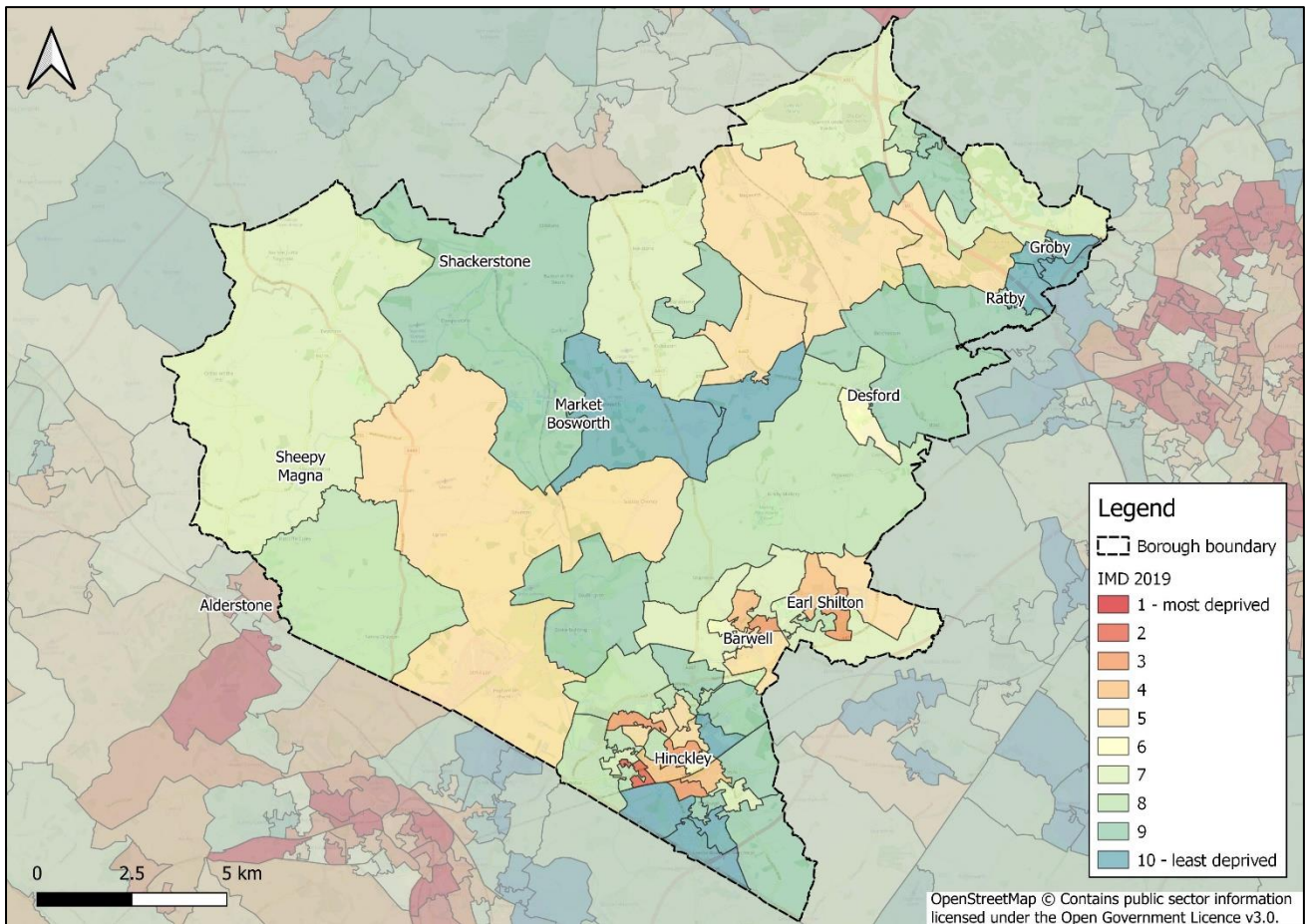


Figure 4-9: Deprivation levels across the borough.

4.9.5 Crime

Levels of crime in Hinckley & Bosworth are broadly similar to the average for Leicestershire. In 2023, 65.67 crimes per 1,000 residents were reported, compared to 44 crimes per 1,000 residents in 2015/16, but was a decrease from 69 in 2022. The total reported offences in 2023 was 7,506 crimes. The top five crimes were stalking and harassment offences; violence against the person - with injury offences; criminal damage and arson offences; violence against the person - without injury offences recorded; and public order offences (LGA, 2024).

4.9.6 Education

Hinckley & Bosworth contains 33 state primary schools and 10 secondary schools, with three independent schools. The Phase 1 Infrastructure Capacity Study was completed in 2020, which found that a small number of schools have some capacity available to accommodate growth. Five schools in particular are acutely overcrowded, including the Redmoor Academy in Hinckley, Market Bosworth School, St Martins Academy, South Charnwood High School and Brookvale High School.

There are eight Special Educational Needs schools across the borough, however these are largely at running at capacity. The County Council has indicated several planned improvements to educational facility provision in the region (Arup, 2020).

However, the IMD found that four LSOAs in Hinckley & Bosworth are within the 10% most deprived for the Education domain (LCC, 2023b).

In 2018/19, Leicestershire had a higher proportion of primary and secondary schools rated either good or outstanding than the national average. Educational outcomes for children in care, those with special educational needs (SEN) and disability or on free school meals, and A-levels results were worse than in other council areas. Between 2015 and 2020, there was a 39% increase in numbers of children in care - from 471 to 654 (LCC, 2022b). In the academic year 2021/22, there were 12,500 children with SEN.

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, although the latter is decreasing. 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 levels of crime.

4.10 Local economy

4.10.1 Economy and employment

In 2021, 83.1% of the population in the borough were economically active and 90% of business were 'micro' meaning they had 0 to 9 employees (HBCC, 2021). However, since the 2011 census, those who have never worked or been long term unemployed has doubled from 3% to 6% (ONS, 2021). It is projected that employment growth between 2020 and 2050 will be 8.3% in Hinckley and Bosworth (Iceni, 2022).

In 2024, Midlands Connect produced its strategic vision for the East Midland's region aimed at promoting economic growth with a focus on investment in transport infrastructure (Midlands Connect, 2024). 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 as two important rapidly growing cities, 25 miles apart but without a direct rail connection; as such they will be a focus for future investment and improved transport infrastructure. 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.

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. The road and rail network within the borough is shown in Figure 4-10 below.

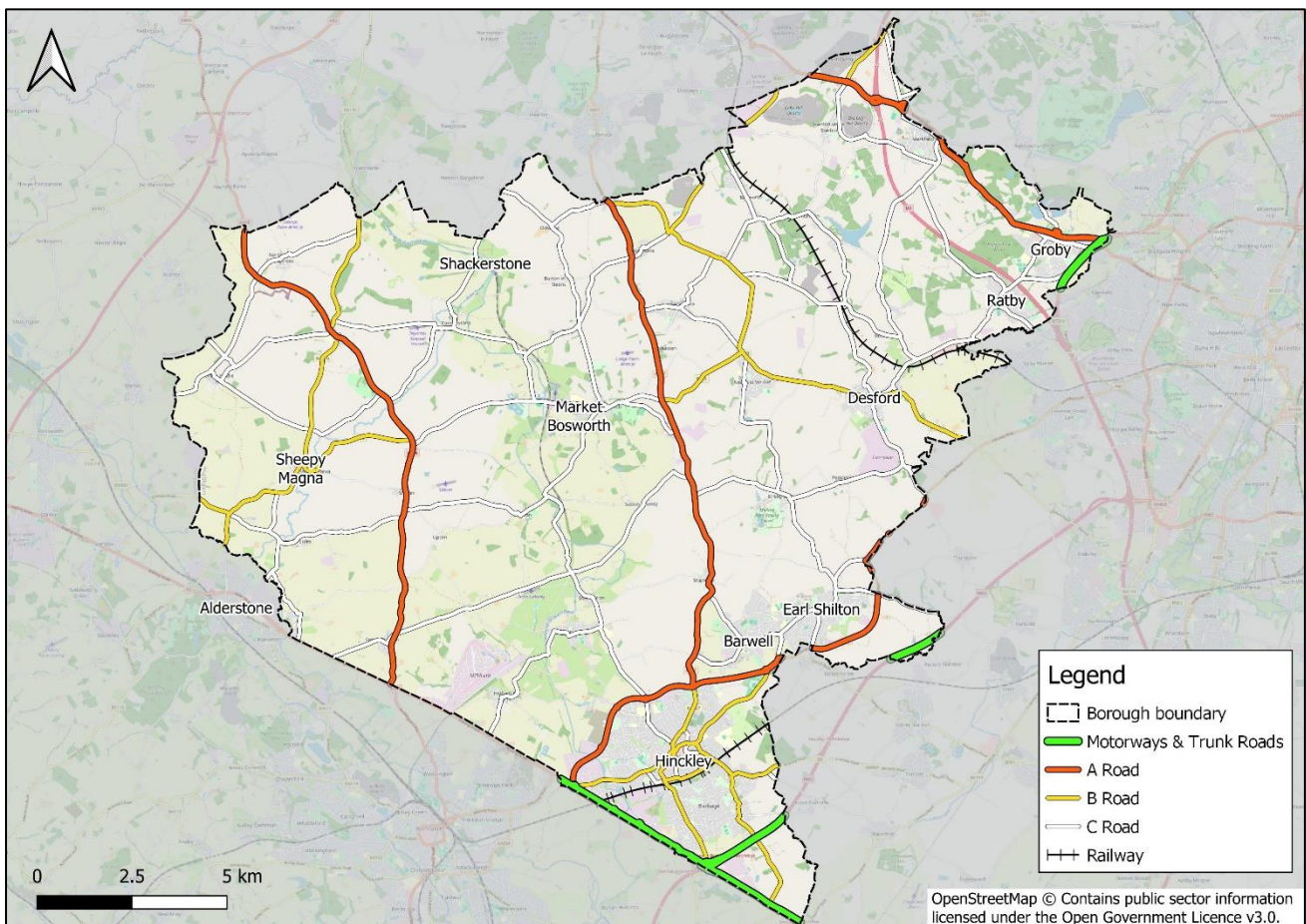


Figure 4-10: Main roads and railway lines within the borough.

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. The A5 around Hinckley is one of the most congested areas in the whole of Leicestershire's road network (LCC, 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). HBBC is working with other local councils, and the National Highways, to minimise the effect of traffic on communities close to the A5. The A5 Partnership published 'The A5 Economic Backbone of the Midlands' in 2023. It's first priority is for upgrades between Tamworth and Hinckley, which runs along the southern boundary of the borough. It is predicted that this would unlock 111,000 corridor-wide new homes by 2031 in North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and

Bedworth and Hinckley & Bosworth should the Government provide investment in the upgrades. In addition, corridor-wide road safety improvements are also a priority (A5 Partnership, 2023).

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

The borough contains no commercial airports; however, it is less than one hour away by road from two airports: Birmingham International and East Midlands International.

4.11.2 Services

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council provides a range of services to the public, including schools and health clinics. HBBC area comprises three main Primary Care Networks (PCN), which are groups of General Practitioners (GPs) who work together to meet the needs of local people. The three PCNs are:

- Hinckley Central - Castle Mead Medical Centre, Maples Family Medical Practice, Station View Medical Centre and The Centre Surgery.
- Fosseway - Barwell and Hollycroft Medical Centres, Burbage Surgery , The Old School Surgery and the Orchards Medical Practice.
- Bosworth - Desford Medical Centre, Heath Land Surgery, Newbold Veron Medical Practice and Ratby Surgery (HBBC, 2023b).

Hinckley & 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. University Hospital Leicester provides secondary care for most of the borough, and George Eliot Hospital in Coventry and Warwickshire provides secondary care for those in the south of the borough (HBBC, 2023b).

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. The Hinckley & Bosworth Community Health and Wellbeing Plan (2023 -2026) seeks to deliver joined up services to improve local personal and working lives (HBBC, 2023b).

4.11.3 Green infrastructure and open space

Green infrastructure (GI) is defined in the Green Infrastructure Strategy (LUC, 2020) as: "the term used to describe the network of natural and semi-natural spaces and corridors in a given area. These include open spaces such as parks and gardens, but also allotments, woodlands, fields, hedges, lakes, ponds, playing fields, coastal habitats, footpaths, cycle routes and water courses. Crucially, GI provision is not limited to traditional green spaces

such as parks and other open spaces but can involve various interventions to thread nature into streetscapes or provide corridors of connectivity between GI ‘assets’.

Figures 4-11 to 4-13 shows the GI assets across the borough. The majority of the green infrastructure in the borough is in the northeast, inside and around the National Forest. Figure 4-12 shows there is very limited open space in Earl Shilton and Barwell, which are areas experiencing higher levels of deprivation in the borough and limited access to green space.

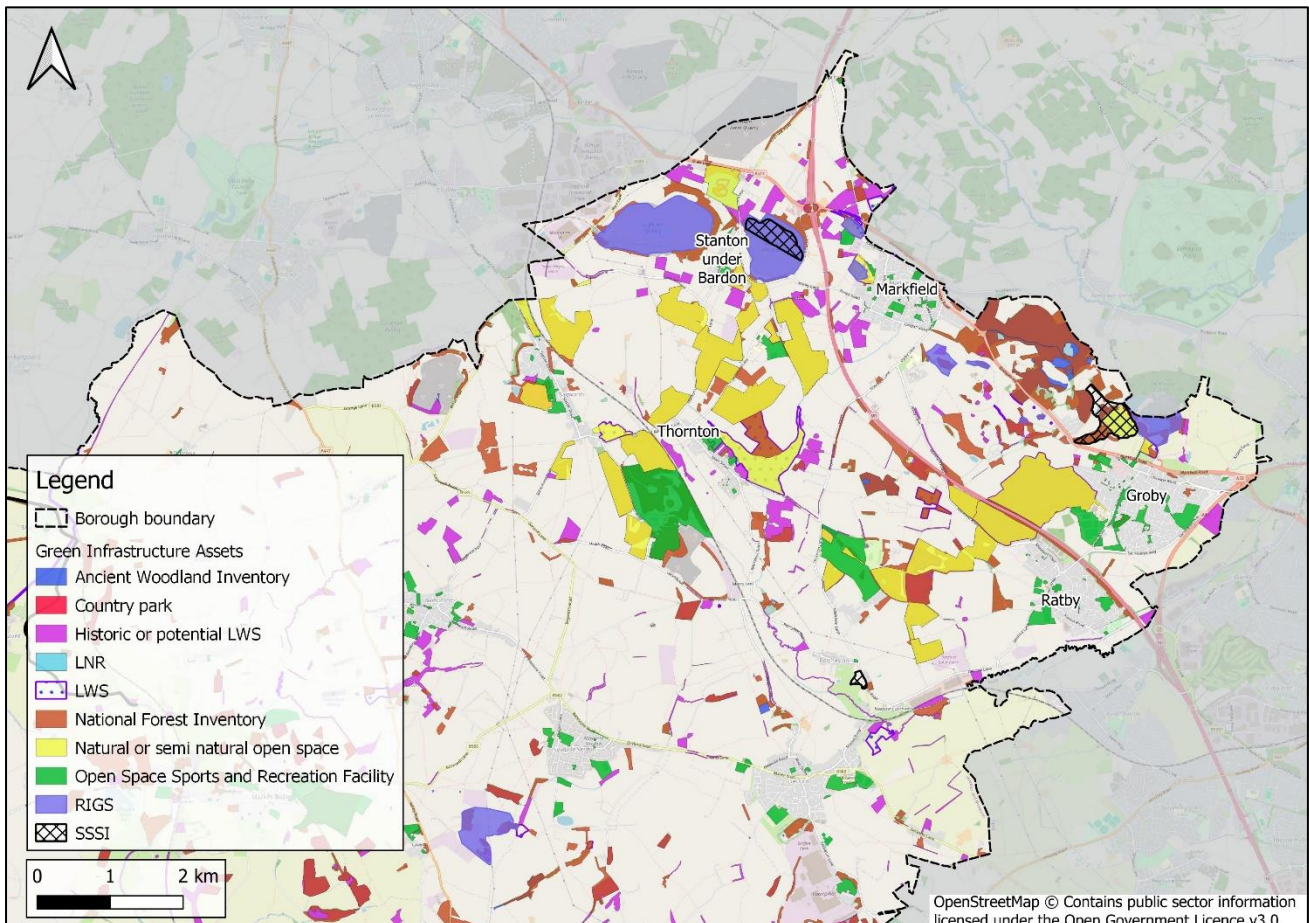


Figure 4-11: Green infrastructure assets in the northeast of the borough.

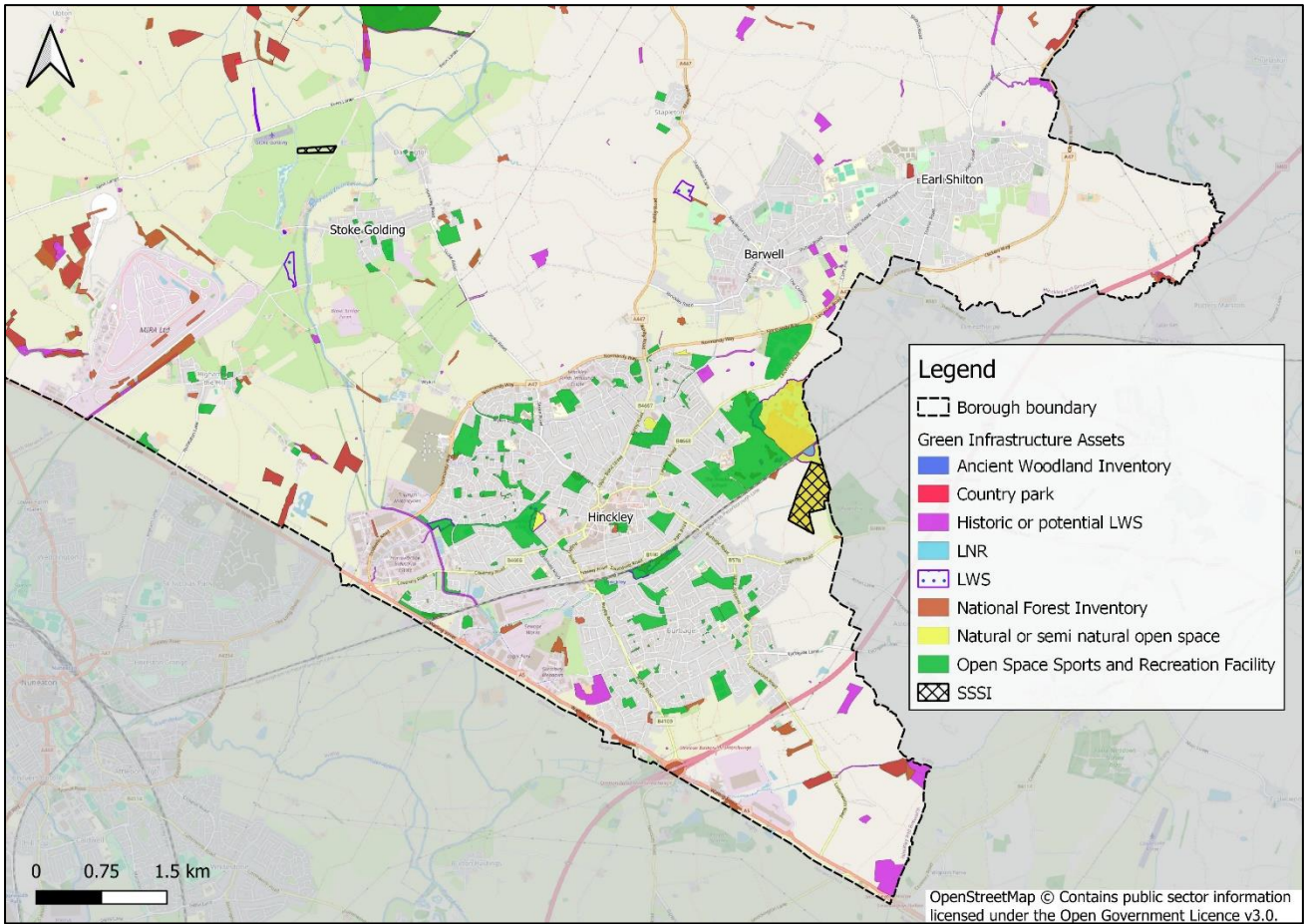


Figure 4-12: Green infrastructure assets in the southeast of the borough.

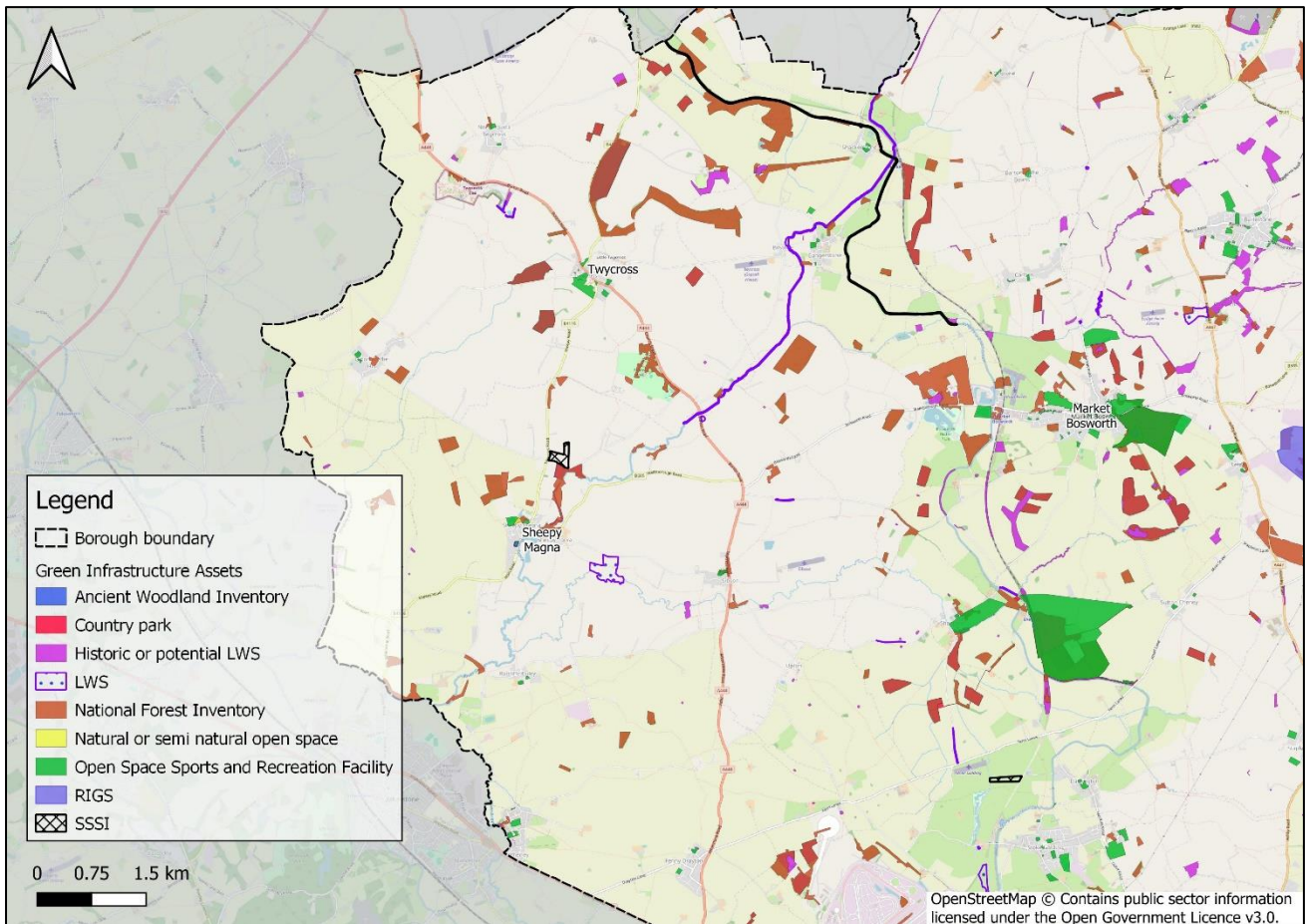


Figure 4-13: Green infrastructure assets in the southwest of the borough.

The Green Infrastructure Strategy (LUC, 2020) identified eleven priority opportunities for delivering green infrastructure across the borough. These are shown in Figure 4-14 and listed below:

1. 'Re-wilding' roadside verges.
2. Expanding woodland cover.
3. Managing public spaces for biodiversity.
4. Making space for play.
5. Enabling private gardens to act as 'stepping stone' habitats.
6. Enhancing the Southern Green Wedge.
7. Preparing a wayfinding strategy for mixed-ability walkers.
8. Creating a 'northern gateway' for Hinckley.
9. Creating greenways through Hinckley.
10. Creating a more resilient Burbage Common and Woods.
11. Creating a Battlefield 'loop line'.

There are two Green Wedges in the borough. Green Wedges are a local planning policy designation that has been used by Leicestershire County Council since the late 1980s (HBBC, 2020). The purpose of a Green Wedge is to help maintain settlement identities and provide GI links between settlements. The two Green Wedges shown in Figure 4-14 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.

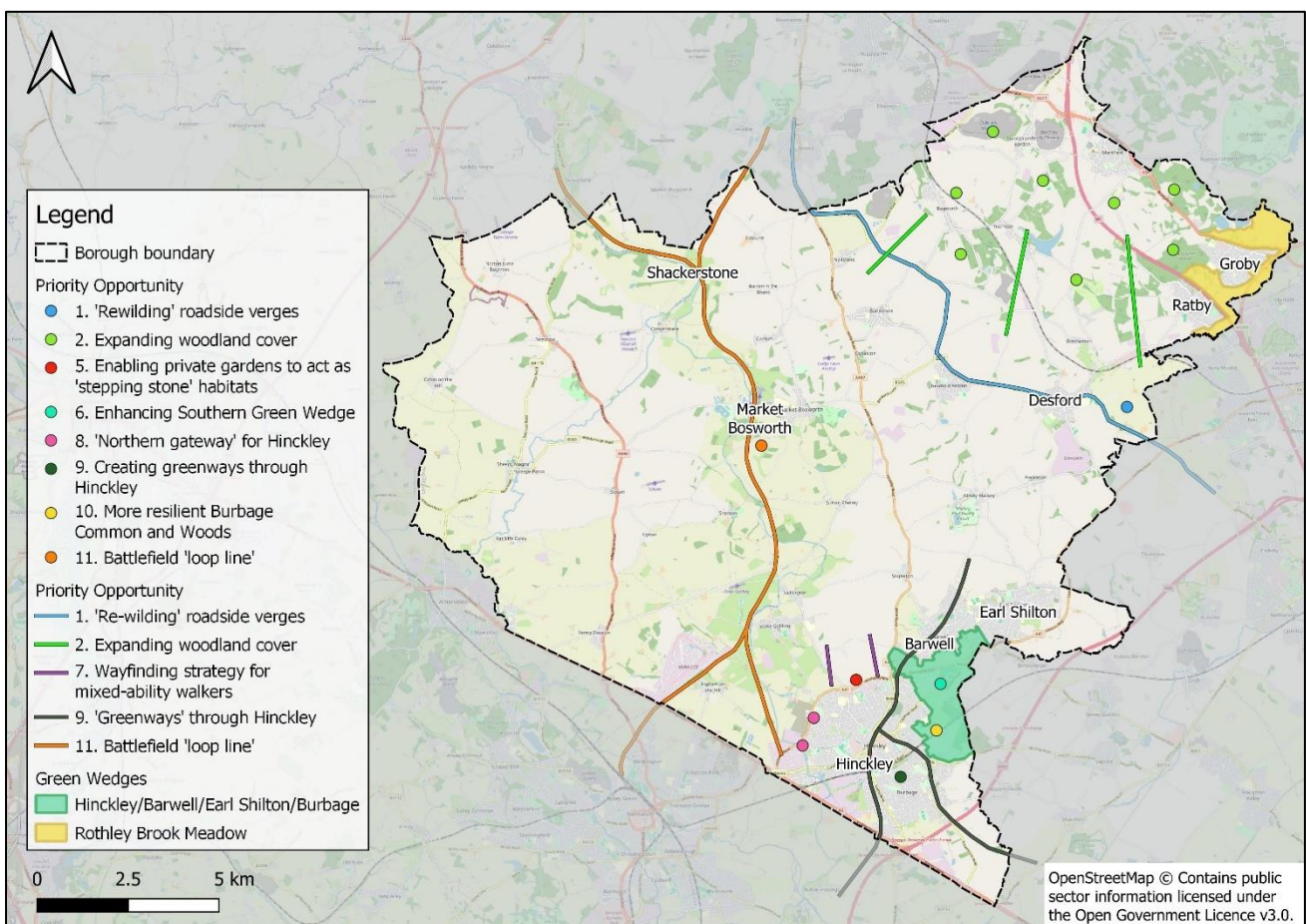


Figure 4-14: Green wedges and priority opportunities for green infrastructure in Hinckley & Bosworth.

HBBC adopted their third Green Space Strategy and Action Plan in 2023. This is a 10-year plan to protect, increase, and maintain green spaces in the borough; reduce environmental impact; improve and increase GI; and encourage active lifestyles in the borough (HBBC, 2023c). Key green spaces already established in the borough include Hollycroft Park and Argents Mead which have been awarded Green Flag Status. This is an award for commitment to sustainable horticulture and parks management and biodiversity.

4.11.4 Key sustainability issues

- Hinckley & 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 2021-2022, HBBC collected 46,436 tonnes of waste from its households. 19,818 (42.7%) tonnes were recycled, composted or reused, and 26,618 (57.3%) tonnes were not sent for recycling. Hinckley & Bosworth borough had significantly higher recycling rates than the Leicestershire average (43.4%) and the English average (42.3%) (Defra, 2024). Per household, HBBC collected 523.4kg of waste in 2021-2022. This was slightly below the per household for Leicestershire County (573.5kg) (Defra 2024).

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 13 sites in the wider Leicestershire area (Less Waste, 2022).

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.

- 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 Proposed scope of assessment

5.1 Identifying key sustainability issues

The purpose of the scoping stage is to focus the SA on the sustainability issues which are relevant to the Local Plan. The assessment will focus on those effects that are likely to be significant, whether positive or negative.

In accordance with Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, the SEA must consider the "likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium, and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects".

The review of baseline information presented in Section 4 identified a range of issues across the town centre. A summary of these issues is presented in Table 5-1 below.

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

Sustainability topic		Key sustainability issues
Environment	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.

Sustainability topic	Key sustainability issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> • 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.

Sustainability topic		Key sustainability issues
	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.
	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"> • 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. • 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.

Sustainability topic		Key sustainability issues
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
	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 there remains a 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 Proposed SA Framework and methodology

6.1 Developing Sustainability Appraisal objectives

The SA framework is used to identify and evaluate the potential sustainability 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 sustainability issues identified through the baseline information review. These objectives are supported by a series of criteria, which are used to measure the potential significance of the sustainability issues and can be used to inform monitoring following the implementation of the Local Plan.

The SA framework is used to identify and evaluate the potential environmental issues associated with the implementation of the Local Plan. The list below summarises the purposes and requirements of SA objectives, sub-objectives, and criteria:

- Objective: Provide a benchmark 'intention' against which environmental effects of the plan can be tested. They need to be fit for purpose.
- Sub-objective: Aid the assessment of impact significance. Provide a means of ensuring that key environmental issues are considered by the assessment process.
- Potential criteria: Provide a means of measuring the progress towards achieving the environmental 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

SA objectives and appraisal criteria have been compiled for each of the sustainability receptors (see Table 6-1). These objectives are currently in draft form and can be refined or revised in response to comments received during the consultation phase on this SA scoping report and in light of any additional information obtained during the life of the project. These objectives have been developed based on key considerations and potential effects identified in Section 4.

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

SA receptor	SA Objective	Appraisal criteria	Proposed indicators
Landscape	1. Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance landscape character areas in accordance with management objectives. • Minimise impacts of development on rural landscape and development within Green Wedges. 	<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.

SA receptor	SA Objective	Appraisal criteria	Proposed indicators
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance areas of tranquillity. • Manage and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on landscape character. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of open countryside/Green Wedge. • Change in areas designated for their landscape value.
Biodiversity and nature conservation	2. Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.	<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.
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.

SA receptor	SA Objective	Appraisal criteria	Proposed indicators
	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 natural flood management that result in 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.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote measures that minimise greenhouse gas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenhouse gas emissions.

SA receptor	SA Objective	Appraisal criteria	Proposed indicators
	greenhouse gas emissions.	<p>emissions, domestic, industrial and transport emissions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> 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. % 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.
Population	9. Reduce social deprivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase community cohesion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local measures of deprivation

SA receptor	SA Objective	Appraisal criteria	Proposed indicators
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase employment in deprivation hotspots. • Decrease levels of crime and the fear of crime. • Improve educational attainment rates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

SA receptor	SA Objective	Appraisal criteria	Proposed indicators
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 for education, learning and skills training for all sectors of the community. • Support the creation of flexible jobs to meet the changing needs of the population. 	<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. • 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 and green infrastructure assets. • 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. • Number of GI assets and their location in the borough.

SA receptor	SA Objective	Appraisal criteria	Proposed indicators
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in areas experiencing high deprivation and limited access to open space in the borough.
Mineral and 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.

6.2.1 Compatibility

Due to the nature of the assessment, incompatibilities will exist between SA objectives. For example, meeting the requirements of the sub-objective 'to increase employment opportunities' could be incompatible with sub-objective 'to reduce the use of energy'.

A compatibility assessment of the SA objectives has been undertaken and can be found in Appendix C.

6.3 Assessment approach

6.3.1 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).

6.3.2 Types of effect to be considered

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. The significance of effects will be scored using the seven-point scale summarised in Table 6-2. 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 6-2: 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.	-
Significant negative impact on the SA objective.	--
Positive and negative impacts on the SA objective.	+ / -
Impact on the SA objective cannot be predicted.	?

7 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 SA scoping report, the Local Plan will be developed, concurrently with the SA, 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	Non-technical summary of the SA process.
Methodology	Details of who carried out the SA, how, who was consulted, and when. Difficulties in collecting data or assessment.
Background	Purpose of the SA and integration with the Local Plan.
Baseline characteristics	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.

Section	Information to be included
Sustainability framework	SA objectives and appraisal criteria.
Plan issues and alternatives	<p>Description of significant sustainability effects of the Local Plan policies.</p> <p>Assessment matrix for each policy/option.</p> <p>How problems were considered in developing the policies and choosing the preferred alternatives.</p> <p>Other alternatives considered, and why these were rejected.</p> <p>Proposed mitigation and enhancement measures to deliver SA objectives.</p>
Implementation	<p>Links to project environmental impact assessment, design guidance etc.</p> <p>Proposals for monitoring and reporting.</p>

A SEA / SA Screening Report

A.1 Introduction

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council is currently in the process of 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 2041.

The primary aim of this screening exercise is to identify whether or not the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan requires a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating the requirements of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This screening exercise considers the purpose and likely contents of the Local Plan and whether there is a need to conduct full SEA.

A.2 Hinckley and 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).

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.

A.3 Legislative Regime

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, 2005).

The Regulations form the basis by which all SAs are carried out to assess the effects and impacts of certain plans and programmes on the environment. Detailed practical guidance on these Regulations can be found in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) Government (now Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) publication, A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (ODPM, 2005). This document provides advice on the screening and scoping of SEA along with information

regarding the requirements of the Environmental Report which represents the output of the SEA process. It has been used as the basis for undertaking this screening exercise.

A.4 Assessment Screening process

The following section details the application of the SEA Regulations to plans and programmes and demonstrates the screening process based on the flowchart presented in A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directives which is reproduced in Figure A4-1 below (ODPM, 2005).

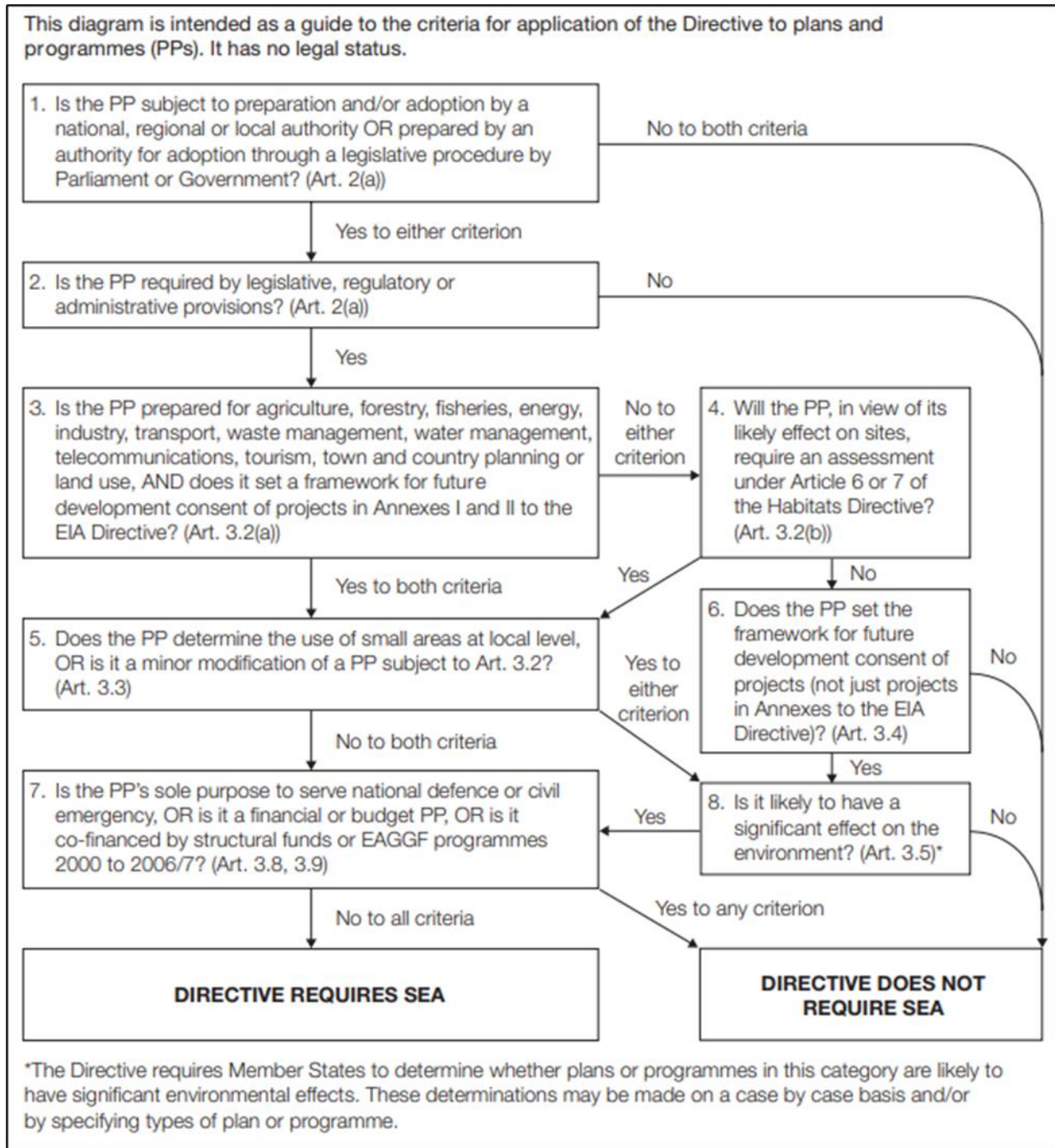


Figure A4-1: Application of the SEA Directive to Plans and Programmes (Source: A

Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, ODPM, 2005)

The assessment shown in Table A4-2 below forms the initial screening for Hinckley and Bosworth's Local Plan against established SEA screening criteria, as determined within the Practical Guide.

Stage and Question	Answer	Explanation
1. Is the Plan or Programme (PP) subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Yes	Hinckley and Bosworth Council is responsible for production of the Local Plan. Proceed to Step 2.
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Yes	Local Plans must be positively prepared in accordance with section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Proceed to Step 3.
3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the Environmental Impact Assessment EIA Directive? (Art. 3.2 (a))	Yes, to both criterion	The Local Plan is prepared to set out the strategic priorities and detailed policies that will guide future development in the area up to 2041.

Stage and Question	Answer	Explanation
4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2(b))	Yes	Not applicable as both criterion to Q3 answered "Yes".
5. Does the PP determine the use of small areas at local level OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art 3.2? (Art. 3.3).	No to both criterion	
6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in Annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	N/A	Not applicable as both criterion to Q3 answered "Yes".
7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP OR is it co-financed by structural funds of EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art. 3.8, 3.9)	No to all criterion	
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	N/A	Not applicable as both criterion to Q5 answered "No".
Conclusion: Requires SA		

A.5 Conclusions

Preparation of the Local Plan is the responsibility of the Local Planning Authority and is required under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Local Plan will set out the strategic priorities and detailed policies that will guide development in the area up to 2041.

In conclusion, it is therefore considered that the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan does require SA incorporating the requirements of SEA.

B 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		
<p>European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention) ETS No. 176 (2000)</p>	<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>
<p>EU Sustainable Development Strategy 2001 (revised 2006)</p>	<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</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>

Plan / Policy / Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
	<p>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>European Biodiversity Strategy to 2030</p>	<p>The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments.</p>	<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>
<p>EC Birds Directive – Council Directive 2009/147/EEC on the conservation of wild birds</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The Local Plan should include a Habitat Regulations Assessment to assess the potential for a significant impact on any SPA sites.</p>

Plan / Policy / Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
<p>EC Habitats Directive – Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora</p>	<p>The principal 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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The SA should include an objective that seeks to protect biodiversity and the natural environment and important landscape features.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The SA should include an appraisal objective that contributes to the WFD objectives through the protection and enhancement of water quality and water resources.</p>
<p>SEA Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>The Industrial</p>	<p>Establishes rules on integrated prevention and</p>	<p>The Local Plan should develop policies that</p>

Plan / Policy / Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
Emissions Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention control)	control of pollution from industrial activities by limiting emissions. It is designed to reduce emissions to air, water and land and minimise waste.	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.
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	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.

Plan / Policy / Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
assessment and management		The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve air quality.
Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air Directive 2008	<p>Objectives are to combat emissions of pollutants at source and to identify and implement the most effective emission reduction measures.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take into account the Directive to ensure that harmful effects are minimised in line with the objectives.</p> <p>The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve air quality.</p>
Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste	<p>This Directive aims to harmonize national measures concerning the management of packaging and packaging waste in order to prevent any impact thereof on the environment of all Member States as well as of third countries or to reduce such impact, thus providing a high level of environmental protection, and to ensure the functioning of the internal market and to avoid obstacles to trade and distortion and restriction of competition within the Community. The Directive lays down measures aimed at preventing the production of packaging waste and at reusing packaging, at recycling and other forms of recovering packaging waste and, therefore, at reducing the final disposal of such waste in order to contribute to the transition towards a circular economy.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should take account of how packaging and packaging waste is managed in the borough.</p> <p>The SA should include an appraisal objective for the sustainable management of waste.</p>

Plan / Policy / Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
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.

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<p>EU Eighth Environmental Action Programme 2021 - 2030</p>	<p>The Environmental Action Programme (EAP) provides a framework for the EU's overall environmental policy development and guide the policy-making by identifying priorities and setting out a long-term vision and goals.</p> <p>The 8th EAP has six thematic priority objectives in areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate neutrality • Adaptation and resilience to climate change and other environmental risks • Circular economy and regenerative growth decoupling economy from resource use and environmental degradation • Zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment • Protecting and restoring biodiversity, and enhancing natural capital • Environmental sustainability and reduction of the environmental pressures from production and consumption 	<p>The Local Plan should develop policies that take account of the Programme to protect the environment.</p> <p>The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect and enhance the environment.</p>
<p>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1992)</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Local Plan policies should be developed in accordance with this convention and ensure no damage to archaeological finds.</p> <p>The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect cultural heritage.</p>

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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

Plan / Policy / Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
		<p>public decisions that have been made in contravention to the above.</p> <p>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.</p>
National		
National Planning Policy Framework 2023	The NPPF, most recently updated in 2023, sets the Government’s planning policies for England and how they should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced. This framework must be considered when preparing the development plan alongside international obligations and statutory requirements.	The SA and Local Plan considers the planning policies within the NPPF and takes these into account when identifying a preferred option.
Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	The principal aim is to promote the conservation of biodiversity through restoring 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.	<p>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.</p> <p>The SA should include an objective that seeks to protect biodiversity and the natural environment and important landscape features.</p>
Natural Environment and Rural	Provides guidance for the protection and enhancement of important habitats and species.	The Local Plan should avoid any adverse impacts on important habitats and species and should seek to

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Communities (NERC) Act (2006)	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.	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 principal 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 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act) gives a public right of access to land mapped as 'open country' (mountain, moor, heath and down) or registered common land. These areas are known as 'open access land'.	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.

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<p>A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018)</p>	<p>The 25-Year Environment Plan sets out planned government action to deliver nature recovery. This covers several areas including climate change mitigation and adaptation, on which it outlines plans to continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, incorporate climate change in all policy, programme, and investment decisions and implement an effective National Adaptation Programme.</p> <p>The Plan should help achieve targets set out in the plan including reducing risk harm environmental hazards and mitigating and adapting to climate change. The plan impacts upon clean air, clean and plentiful water, thriving plants and wildlife, using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently and enhancing beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural.</p>	<p>Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change and policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts. New development should be planned for in a way that avoids increased vulnerability to climate change. The Local Plan should help reduce greenhouse gas emissions; avoid adverse impacts, and enhance where possible, biodiversity, air quality, landscape, and heritage; and not result in increased flooding of the borough.</p>
<p>The Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (First Revision of the 25 Year Environment Plan)</p>	<p>The first revision of the Environmental Improvement Plan builds on the 25-year plan's vision with a new plan setting out how the government will work with landowners, communities, and businesses to deliver each of the goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress.</p>	<p>As well as the above, the SA should consider how the Local Plan's environmental outcomes achieve the interim targets set out in the revised plan.</p>

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Environment Act 2021	<p>The Environment Act has been implemented with the intention of protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations.</p> <p>The Act brings many of the objectives in the 25-year environment plan into UK law, setting legal targets to halt species declines and implementing laws to ensure water companies deliver reductions in the frequency of sewerage discharges.</p>	<p>The SA Framework and Local Plan will align with the UK's environmental objectives in the preparation and assessment of the Plan to help safeguard the area and resources for future generations.</p>
Planning for the climate challenge? Understanding the performance of English local plans (2016)	<p>Town and Country Planning Guidance for how to include climate change related issues in local planning policy.</p>	<p>The guidance will be used to inform the climate change objective of the SA.</p>

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<p>The Carbon Plan (2011)</p>	<p>In 2011, the government set out scenarios on how it is going to meet the first four carbon budgets from 2008-2027. The Carbon Plan is a government-wide plan of action on climate change, including domestic and international activity.</p> <p>The plan represents ongoing and planned cross-Government action on climate change with specific deadlines providing for both internal accountability and public transparency.</p> <p>The three main objectives are: Transforming the generation of energy by moving towards low carbon alternatives; changing the way how buildings are heated by better insulation the use of low carbon energy alternatives; changing the transportation sector by means of better public transport, reducing emissions from petrol and diesel engines and moving towards alternative technologies such as electric vehicles.</p>	<p>The SA should include objectives that would promote the reduction of emissions from National Networks and support the transformation to a low carbon economy.</p> <p>The SA should consider how the Local Plan will reduce the generation of waste.</p> <p>The SA should consider how the Local Plan will protect the natural environment.</p>
<p>Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) (2023)</p>	<p>The National Adaptation Programme sets the actions that government and others will take to adapt to the impacts of climate change in the UK.</p> <p>The NAP3 sets out the key actions for 2023 to 2028. This report forms part of the 5-yearly cycle of requirements laid down in the Climate Change Act 2008.</p> <p>The NAP3 includes climate risks and actions for avoiding or mitigating these in the infrastructure; natural environment; health, communities and built</p>	<p>Many of the actions in NAP3 can help to improve standard of living, such as by upgrading buildings and infrastructure.</p> <p>The SA will need to consider how the Local Plan has included measures to adapt to future climate change risks.</p>

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	environment; business and industry; and international sectors.	
UK's Third Climate Change Risk Assessment (2022)	<p>As required by the Climate Change Act 2008, the UK government has undertaken the third five-year assessment of the risks of climate change on the UK. This is based on the Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk, the statutory advice provided by the Climate Change Committee (CCC), commissioned by the UK government and devolved administrations.</p> <p>The risk assessment considers 61 UK-wide climate risks and opportunities cutting across multiple sectors of the economy and prioritises the following eight risk areas for action in the next two years.</p>	The SA will need to consider how the Local Plan has included measures to adapt
Heritage Protection for the 21st Century, White Paper (2007)	Aims to promote the protection of the historic environment through the planning system.	<p>The Local Plan should include policies that protect and enhance historic features in the borough through sensitive development.</p> <p>The SA should include an appraisal objective that seeks to protect and enhance heritage assets within the Borough.</p>
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.	<p>The Local Plan should include policies to consider waste generation and management in the Borough, including minimising waste.</p> <p>The SA should include an appraisal objective to minimise waste.</p>
Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for	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

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public health in England (2010)		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

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Air Quality (Amendment of Domestic Regulations) (EU Exit) Regulations, 2019	<p>The aim of this regulation is to designate zones in which ambient air will be protected by limiting the concentrations of pollutants within them.</p> <p>Defra’s air quality strategy for England provides a framework for local authorities to make best use of their powers and make air quality improvements for their communities.</p>	<p>generation.</p> <p>The Local Plan should set out policies to improve air quality within the borough and reduce the emissions of pollutants.</p> <p>The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve air quality.</p>
Clean Air Strategy (2019)	<p>The Clean Air Strategy provides a way in which the UK will tackle all sources of air pollution with the main aims of making UK air healthier to breathe, protecting nature and boosting the economy.</p>	<p>The SA should consider the impact the Local Plan may have on air quality. Policies should ensure that development contributes to and complies with relevant limit values for pollutants.</p>
Housing Act 2004	<p>Protects the most vulnerable in society by creating a fairer housing market. Helps to achieve the Government’s aim of providing decent homes.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should include policies that help to create a fairer and better housing market.</p> <p>The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve access to good quality and affordable housing.</p>
Localism Act 2011	<p>The aim of the act is to facilitate the devolution of decision making powers from central government control to individuals and communities.</p>	<p>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.</p>

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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 2020	The strategy sets out a vision of a nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change – today, tomorrow and to the year 2100.	The SA and Local Plan should consider the policies contained within the strategy for management of flood risk.
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.
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.
Meeting our future water needs: a national framework for water resources (2020)	The framework provides a strategic direction to long-term water resource planning built on a shared vision to leave the environment in a better state than it was found, improve the nation’s resilience to drought, minimise interruptions to water supplies for all users of water and support growth while underpinning a thriving economy.	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.

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Surface water management action plan (2018) (Updated 2021)	<p>This surface water management action plan sets out the steps the government is taking, with the Environment Agency and others, to manage the risk of surface water flooding. It covers actions to both improve our understanding of the risks and strengthen delivery. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving risk assessment and communication. • Making sure infrastructure is resilient. • Clarifying responsibilities for surface water management. • Joining up planning for surface water management. • Building local authority capacity. 	The SA and Local Plan should consider actions related to surface water management; particularly where new development is proposed.
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.
Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan (2018)	A Strategic Growth Plan has been jointly prepared to demonstrate these needs post 2031 up to 2050, and detail how jobs and homes can be planned for in a coordinated way through local plans.	The Local Plan and SA should consider the policies contained within the Strategic Growth Plan.
Putting Wildlife Back on the Map: A Biodiversity Strategy for the East Midlands	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

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(2006)		Borough.
Leicestershire Resources and Waste strategy 2022 to 2025	The Strategy contains 12 pledges that help meet its vision and objectives for using waste as a resource and reducing the raw materials needed for producing new goods, which has environmental, social and financial benefits.	The Local Plan should include policies that are guided by the principles and strategic objectives of the Leicestershire Waste Partnership. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve sustainable waste management.
Humber River Basin Management Plan (2022)	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.	<p>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.</p> <p>The SA should include an appraisal objective that contributes to the WFD objectives through the protection and enhancement of water quality and water resources.</p>
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.	<p>The Local Plan should include policies that reduce the risk of flooding within the borough.</p> <p>The SA should include an appraisal objective that aims to reduce flood risk within the borough.</p>
Leicestershire Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026 (2014)	Sets out how the region can deliver a safe and sustainable transport system.	<p>Transport infrastructure is critical within the borough, and the Local Plan should have policies that encourage sustainable transport choices.</p> <p>The SA should include an appraisal objective that relates to traffic and transportation.</p>

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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.
Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan 2023-2027	The Net Zero strategy sets out the approach to delivering the council's ambitions to work with others to achieve net zero carbon emissions in Leicestershire by 2045 or before. The strategy is accompanied with an action plan which demonstrates the actions the council will lead on and those where we will ask and influence others to deliver action, including Leicestershire businesses, organisations, and residents and national government over the next 5 years.	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 and Waste Local Plan up to 2031 (2019)	This Minerals and Waste Local Plan includes a spatial vision, spatial strategy, strategic objectives, and core policies which set out the key principles to guide the future winning and working of minerals and the form of waste management development in the County of Leicestershire over the period to the end of 2031.	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 (2024)	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.

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Leicester and Leicestershire Tourism Growth Plan (2019)	Aims to improve the tourism sector in the County by improving services and therefore encouraging visitors.	The Local Plan should aim to promote sustainable tourism. The SA should include an appraisal objective that aims to improve tourism within the Borough.
Leicestershire Environment Strategy 2018 - 2030: delivering a better future	This Strategy sets out the council's vision, aims, objectives and targets which will be used to drive improved environmental performance. The scope of the Strategy covers both the council's own operations and also where it has control and influence within the county of Leicestershire.	The Local Plan and SA should consider the aims, objectives and targets contained within the Environment Strategy.
Action for Nature: A Strategic Approach to Biodiversity, Habitat and the Local Environment for Leicestershire County Council (2021)	This strategy builds on and supports the aims and objectives of the Environment Strategy. The report brings together the headlines from the various internal and external strategies and plans that touch on supporting and improving nature in Leicestershire as well providing clarity on the County Councils interactions with nature.	The Local Plan and SA should consider the actions contained within the Strategic Approach to biodiversity to support and improve nature in Leicestershire.
Severn Trent draft Water Resource Management Plan 2024	All water companies in England and Wales need to publish their plans every five years under the Water Industry Act 1991. This is Severn Trent's fifth WRMP, following on from the previous version published in 2019. It is a plan that explains their 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.

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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.
Leicester & Leicestershire Housing & Economic Needs Assessment (2022)	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 economic needs.
Local		
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

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		<p>Shilton and Barwell.</p> <p>The SA should include an objective that supports the sustainable development of the proposed Lincolnshire Lakes development.</p>
<p>Neighbourhood Development Plan for Market Bosworth 2014-2026</p>	<p>Addresses the need for sustainable development within Market Bosworth parish. Recommends areas for future growth in the parish.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should include policies that promote and encourage sustainable development within the Borough.</p> <p>The SA should include an objective to manage population growth in a sustainable manner.</p>
<p>Green Space Strategy 2023 to 2033</p>	<p>This strategy identifies HBBC's Green Space priorities for the next 10 years, as well as providing advice to Town & Parish Councils to develop their own green spaces. The Strategy's vision is to enhance and enrich resident and visitor's lives through delivering quality green space with partnership and engagement with the community.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should acknowledge the vision to enhance green space and make provision for delivering this in the next plan period. Policies should also be included to increase the amount of green space in the Borough.</p> <p>The SA should include an appraisal objective that relates to green space preservation and provision.</p>

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Green Infrastructure Strategy 2020	<p>As a largely rural Borough, Hinckley & Bosworth is rich in GI assets of various kinds and has a valued landscape that gives the Borough its identity. Therefore, a strategic framework was needed to ensure that the existing GI network is protected, strengthened and expanded to deal with future challenges.</p> <p>The strategy aims to review the GI assets in the borough; identify where there are gaps in GI provision; and set out actions and interventions to enhance the GI assets. The Strategy also includes an emphasis on the importance of GI in responding to concerns over health, wellbeing and climate change resilience.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should seek to protect, enhance and increase the GI assets in the borough particularly in the southeast, such as around Earl Shilton and Barwell where deprivation levels are also high. The SA should include a target for improving the GI assets in the borough.</p>
Renewable Energy Capacity Study 2014	<p>Examines the potential for the deployment of renewable energy and low carbon technologies within Hinckley & Bosworth. It identifies key opportunity areas for renewable and low carbon developments and develops and realistic borough specific renewable energy generation target.</p>	<p>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.</p>
Hinckley & Bosworth Economic Regeneration Strategy 2021 -2025	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
Town Centre’s Vision 2015	<p>The vision sets out key opportunities to boost economic success and attractiveness, through the production of master plans and Investor</p>	<p>The Local Plan should include policies for economic rejuvenation of town centres within the borough. The SA should include objectives to promote</p>

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	Prospectuses to promote regeneration of town centres.	economic success whilst ensuring activities within Hinckley & Bosworth are sustainable.
The Good Design Guide SPD 2020	Developed as a practical and useful guide to design for all of the key parties involved in the planning process. The objective is to provide clarity to all involved, to save time, reduce confusion and ultimately raise the quality of design in the Borough. It is to form a material consideration in the determination of planning applications	The Local Plan should include policies for development to be in keeping with strategic urban design principles. The SA should include an objective that is sympathetic to the character of the borough.
Community, Cultural and Tourism Facilities Review	Provides evidence about the community in Hinckley & 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 SPD 2011	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.
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 & Bosworth. The SA should include an objective that is sympathetic to the character of villages in the borough and the local community.

Plan / Policy / Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
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.	<p>The Local Plan will include policies that set out the development for villages within Hinckley & Bosworth.</p> <p>The SA should include an objective that is sympathetic to the character of villages in the borough and the local community.</p>
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.	<p>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.</p> <p>The SA should include an objective that relates to rural communities that recognises issues such as lack of access to facilities and social isolation.</p>
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.	<p>The Local Plan should include a policy that incorporates the required transport infrastructure improvements in conjunction with development.</p> <p>The SA should include an objective that reflects the need for new infrastructure whilst managing potential environmental, social and economic impacts.</p>
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.	<p>The Local Plan should plan for provisions of open space and recreational facilities.</p> <p>The SA should include an objective that recognises the importance of outdoor open and play spaces for the population in Hinckley & Bosworth.</p>

Plan / Policy / Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
Hinckley & Bosworth Town and District Centres Study 2017	Forms part of Local Plan 2006-2026 and forms a clear strategy for Hinckley & 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.	<p>The Local Plan will include policies related to future development and land use allocations within town and district centres.</p> <p>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.</p>
Joint Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 (2019) and Level 2 (2020)	<p>The strategic flood risk assessment (SFRA) provides a comprehensive and robust evidence base on issues of flood risk to support the production of the Local Plan to 2041. The SFRA will be used inform decisions on the location of future development and the preparation of sustainable policies for the long-term management of flood risk.</p> <p>The level 2 SFRA is an assessment of flood risk of a number of sites that have been submitted to the Borough Council for consideration for the location of future development. This document should be considered in conjunction with the level 1 SFRA (published in 2019).</p>	<p>The Local Plan should include policies and objectives that consider flood risk and flood management.</p> <p>The SA should include an appraisal objective to reduce flood risk and protect and enhance watercourses.</p>
Authority Monitoring Report 2019 - 2020	The AMR provides information on the implementation of the LDS. The report provides information on the extent to which policies, as set out in Local Plan 2006 to 2026 documents, are being achieved, during the period 1 April to 31 March each year.	<p>The Local Plan will be informed and refined by the information contained in the AMR.</p> <p>The SA should reflect on recent implementation of policy and its effects.</p>
Strategic Housing and Economic Land	Key component of the evidence required to support the delivery of sufficient land in suitable locations,	The Local Plan should include policies that will provide enough homes and employment land to

Plan / Policy / Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
Availability Assessment (2022)	aiming to create sustainable and mixed communities in line with government objectives.	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.
Green Wedge Review 2011 (2020 update)	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.
Open Space, Sports and Recreational Facilities Study (2016)	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.
Landscape Character Assessment (2017)	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	Identifies local shopping provision within the	The Local Plan should include policies relevant to

Plan / Policy / Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
Neighbourhood Centre Review (2015)	borough.	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 (2020)	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.
2023 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR)	Provides an overview of air quality in the Borough of Hinckley & Bosworth during 2023. The Annual Status Report did not identify any exceedances of the Air Quality Objectives based on the assessment criteria in Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance LAQM (TG16). In line with national trends levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂) continue a steady decline	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.
Hinckley & Bosworth Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2022 to 2025	The strategy outlines a strategic framework to inform the Borough Council's approach to preventing homelessness, in all its forms, and to address the causes of homelessness.	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.
Community Safety	The Hinckley & Bosworth and Blaby Community	The Local Plan should include policies to reduce

Plan / Policy / Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
Strategy 2023-2026	<p>Safety Partnership have identified the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting and supporting people Preventing and reducing serious violence Reducing offending and re-offending <p>The Community Safety Strategy is a three-year plan developed through public consultation and analysis of crime and disorder in the borough.</p>	<p>both crime itself and the leading causes of crime. The SA should include an appraisal objective relating to crime and safety within the borough.</p>
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Anti-Social Behaviour Policy 2022	<p>Provides objectives surrounding a management and prevention strategy for Anti-Social behaviour.</p>	<p>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.</p>
Hinckley & Bosworth Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy 2024 to 2028	<p>This strategy sets out the actions and opportunities that HBBC will undertake to continue to address the climate change emergency. It provides a list of actions 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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
Hinckley & Bosworth Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023 - 2026	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>

C Compatibility Assessment

C.1 Introduction

The SA framework is used to identify and evaluate potential sustainability issues associated with the implementation of the Local Plan. The framework comprises a set of SA objectives which have been developed to reflect the key sustainability issues identified through the baseline information review. Due to the nature of the assessment, it is possible for incompatibilities to exist between SA objectives, therefore, it is necessary to identify any conflicts.

C.2 Method

The following definitions regarding compatibility/ incompatibility have been applied to this assessment:

- Compatible: both SA objectives can potentially be achieved without problems or conflict. The achievement of one SA objective does not prevent or make difficult the achievement of another.
- Incompatible: both SA objectives may not be achieved without problems or conflict. The achievement of one SA objective prevents or makes difficult the achievement of another.
- Where no interdependencies are identified, the compatibility score is left blank.

The following matrix assesses the compatibility of the SA objectives.

		Legend															
		✓	Objectives are compatible														
		x	Objectives are not compatible														
			Objectives have no clear relationship														
1																	
2	✓																
3	✓	✓															
4	✓	✓	✓														
5	✓		✓	✓													
6	✓	✓	✓	✓													
7	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓											
8	✓		✓	✓			✓										
9																	
10						✓	✓			✓							
11										✓	✓						
12	x	x	x	x		x	x			✓	✓	✓					
13	✓									✓	✓	✓					
14													x				
Objectives	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
	Landscape and Visual	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Water Environment	Land	Air quality	Climate Change	Historic Environment	Population	Local Economy	Material Assets	Mineral resources and waste						

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+44(0)1756 799919
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