



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

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TravelTelford



Telford & Wrekin Transport Plan

ISA Appendices Volume 1
2027-2041

Draft for consultation



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Appendix A. Response to ISA Scoping Consultation

Consultation Body – Historic England

Consultation Response

Local Transport Plan SEA/ SA Scoping Report July 2026

We would expect to see a section on Cultural Heritage, referencing the significance of heritage assets, including their setting. We would expect to see cultural heritage clearly referenced, with a specific cultural heritage objective that seeks to ensure the protection and where possible the enhancement of the historic environment.

We would anticipate seeing appropriate detail within the baseline of the report, ensuring that the baseline is up to date and fit for purpose and references the Historic Environment Record and takes account of designated and non-designated heritage assets. We would anticipate the baseline to consider heritage at risk within the area and whether there are any opportunities to reduce heritage at risk.

We would anticipate the scoping report to include all relevant international and national legislation as well as relevant national plans and programmes including the National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Policy Guidance.

I attach a link to our planning pages which provides a wider set of documents which may be beneficial in preparing the Transport Plan and the SEA/SA Scoping Report.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/Planning/>

I further attach a link to our advice on transport and the historic environment and issues to consider.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/infrastructure/planning-and-transport/>

We also consider that as the Ironbridge World Heritage Site is located within the study area that the SEA/SA Scoping Report will need to refer to appropriate legislation, and the relevant plans and programmes for the World Heritage Site. This will include the World Heritage Site Management Plan. Any heritage assessment will need to refer to UNESCO heritage impact assessment toolkit, where applicable.

https://www.telford.gov.uk/media/nmwhkjt/ironbridge_gorge_whs_management_plan_final_3_april_2017.pdf

https://www.telford.gov.uk/media/s40fnhyw/ironbridge_gorge_world_heritage_site_spd_16062023_compressed.pdf

It will also be worth including a section on Local Plans and Programmes relevant to heritage, for example any local landscape and townscape strategies, views analysis, Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans, Local List etc.

Where there is an objective for Landscape we would welcome inclusion of heritage within this section as well, as heritage is a component of landscape.

Where addressed in the ISA

Section 6.5 'Key Sustainability issues, implications and opportunities' in the ISA Report includes a section on Cultural Heritage. The ISA Framework includes an ISA Objective specific to cultural heritage: "Protect and enhance cultural heritage assets and their settings, and the wider historic environment" (ISA Objective 8).

In the ISA Appendices, Appendix C 'Baseline and Contextual Information' includes section B.5 'Historic Environment' which sets out up to date baseline information and takes account of designated and non-designated heritage assets and heritage at risk.

Appendix B 'Review of Plans, Policies and Legislation' includes all relevant international and national legislation as well as relevant national plans and programmes. Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site Management Plan and Supplementary Planning Document have been added to Appendix B.

Consultation Response

Assessment

We would anticipate seeing clear results that acknowledge the potential harm to the historic environment and incorporate suitable strategies for avoidance and mitigation. We would not expect to see 'uncertain'/'unknown' responses within the assessment for the historic environment.

Where addressed in the ISA

ISA Objective 8 and associated assessment questions require consideration of impacts on heritage assets and their settings. The assessment identifies potential effects on the historic environment and recommends mitigation measures where appropriate.

Consultation Response

Monitoring Indicators

It can be challenging to decide on effective monitoring indicators for the historic environment, and we encourage measures which are pragmatic but also assess if the objectives are working and having a positive impact.

Where addressed in the ISA

In the ISA Report Section 14, monitoring indicators have been developed for cultural heritage, including area of historic sites impacted by transport schemes and number of heritage assets impacted by transport schemes.

Consultation Response

Historic England advice

Historic England Advice Note 8: Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment provide some useful information on how to prepare assessments with regard to the historic environment.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/heag036-sustainability-appraisal-strategic-environmental-assessment/>

Where addressed in the ISA

The ISA methodology and assessment have been informed by Historic England Advice Note 8: Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Natural England

Consultation Response

Natural England advises Local Planning Authorities to use the following tools to assess the impacts of the proposal on the natural environment:

Impact Risk Zones:

Natural England has provided Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) with Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) which can be used to determine whether the proposal impacts statutory nature conservation sites. Natural England recommends that the LPA uses these IRZs to assess potential impacts. If proposals do not trigger an Impact Risk Zone, then Natural England will provide an auto-response email.

Standing Advice:

Natural England has published Standing Advice. Links to standing advice are in Annex A. If after using these tools, you consider there are significant risks to statutory nature conservation sites or protected landscapes, please set out the specific areas on which you require Natural England's advice.

Further information on LPA duties relating to protected sites and areas is here-

[Protected sites and areas: how to review planning applications - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-sites-and-areas-how-to-review-planning-applications)

Further guidance is also set out in Planning Practice Guidance on the natural environment

[Natural environment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment) and on Habitats Regulations Assessment

[Appropriate assessment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appropriate-assessment)

Where addressed in the ISA

The ISA and HRA have been informed by Natural England guidance. Baseline information (Appendix B.1) includes statutory nature conservation sites. The ISA framework includes biodiversity and designated site objectives (ISA Objectives 5 and 6).

Appendix B. Review of Plans, Policies and Legislation

Note: It is the purpose of this review of Plans, Policy and Legislation to demonstrate the context of the LTP and associated ISA and to show how these are broadly influenced in setting Objectives for both.

It is important to note that the following review of Plans, Policies and Legislation is not to be considered an exhaustive list, and elements may have been superseded. Note in particular that while the United Kingdom has left the European Union, EU Directives are still important to note as they form the basis for a range of existing UK legislation and policy approaches.

Name of Policy	International Policy
Bern Convention (1979)	The Bern Convention is a binding international legal instrument for nature conservation that covers the natural heritage of the European continent and some African states. It was adopted in Bern, Switzerland in 1979 and came into force in 1982. The convention aims to promote cooperation between the signatory countries in order to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats and to protect endangered migratory species. Its key objectives are: • To conserve flora, fauna and natural habitats, particularly those which are vulnerable or endangered. • To promote co-operation between member states. • To ensure that national and regional planning policy takes conservation into account. • To promote awareness and education on conservation.
Bonn Convention (1979)	The 1979 Bonn Convention, also known as the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), is an environmental treaty under the United Nations Environment Programme. It aims to protect and conserve the agreed species of migratory birds and wild animals through conservation of their habitats and resources.
Convention on Biological Diversity 2010	Sets out a conservation plan to protect global biodiversity, and an international treaty to establish a fair and equitable system to enable nations to co-operate in accessing and sharing the benefits of genetic resources. The new global vision is “By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential to all people”.
Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol	The Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change (1997) has been amended. In Doha, Qatar, on 8 December 2012, the "Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol" was adopted. New commitments for Annex I Parties to the Kyoto Protocol agreed to take on commitments in a second commitment period from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2020.
Glasgow Climate Pact (2021)	The agreements reached at the COP26 through the Glasgow Climate Pact include reducing coal emissions by 40% as well as a pledge to

	phase out fossil fuel subsidies. While no firm dates were set for these goals, the pact also included the goals of ending deforestation and cutting 30% of methane emissions by 2030.
Ramsar Convention (1971)	An international framework for the conservation of wetland habitats and the resources therein. Member states are required to designate a minimum of one suitable, wetland site, protect the ecology of any designated wetlands and to include conservation of wetlands within their national land use planning system.
The Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), also known as the Biodiversity Convention, is a multilateral treaty that was opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro in 1992. It is a key document related to sustainable development and falls under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The CBD aims to conserve biodiversity and promote its sustainable use. It also promotes the fair, equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.
Rio Declaration (1992)	The Declaration sets out 27 principles to enable the global community to work towards international agreements that respect the interests of all and protect the integrity of the global environmental and developmental system. It recognises the integral and interdependent nature of the Earth.
Johannesburg Declaration (2002)	The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development. The 2002 Declaration built upon the principles established through the Rio Declaration and further developed principles of sustainable development and sought international commitment to these Sustainable Development Principles.
The UN Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals (2002)	• Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; • Achieve universal primary education; • Promote gender equality and empower women; • Reduce child mortality; • Improve maternal health; • Combat HIV, AIDs, Malaria and other diseases; • Ensure environmental sustainability; and • Develop a global partnership for development.
UNESCO Convention – Protection of World Cultural Heritage (1972)	Member states recognise that each has a responsibility to preserve, protect and enhance the cultural and natural heritage situated on its territory, belonging primarily to the state. Each will incorporate, as appropriate, protection of the heritage into policy and provide services, training, measures and research, if required, to assist with this.
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 1992, Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework on Climate Change (1997), Paris Agreement (2015).	A series of international agreements setting targets and legally binding agreements for industrialised countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions, signed by 194 states in 1992. The Kyoto Protocol, which was signed in 1997 and ran from 2005 to 2020, was the first implementation of measures under the UNFCCC. The Kyoto Protocol was superseded by the Paris Agreement, which entered into force in 2016.

Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020	This plan provides an overarching framework on biodiversity, not only for the biodiversity related conventions, but for the entire United Nations system and all other partners engaged in biodiversity management and policy development. This includes the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, for the 2011-2020 period. Some of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are: • At least halve and, where feasible, bring close to zero the rate of loss of natural habitats, including forests; • Establish a conservation target of 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10% of marine and coastal areas; • Restore at least 15% of degraded areas through conservation and restoration activities; and • Make special efforts to reduce the pressures faced by coral reefs.
Paris Agreement	The Paris Agreement is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), dealing with greenhouse-gas-emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance, signed in 2016. The Paris Agreement's central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Additionally, the agreement aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change. This strategy involved energy and climate policy including the so-called 20/20/20 targets, namely the reduction of CO₂ emissions by 20%, the increase of renewable energy's market share to 20%, and a 20% increase in energy efficiency.
World Heritage Convention 1972	This convention noted that the cultural heritage and the natural heritage are increasingly threatened with destruction not only by the traditional causes of decay, but also by changing social and economic conditions which aggravate the situation with even more formidable phenomena of damage or destruction, and considered that deterioration or disappearance of any item of the cultural or natural heritage constitutes a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of all the nations of the world.
World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg (2002)	The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg adopted a Political Declaration and Implementation Plan which included provisions covering a set of activities and measures to be taken in order to achieve development that takes into account respect for the environment.

Name of policy	European policy
Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage (1985)	Reinforces and promotes policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented. A revised version of the European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage was signed on 1992 and is known as the Valletta Treaty which updates the previous Convention and makes

Name of policy	European policy
	conservation and enhancement of archaeological heritage a goal of urban and regional planning policies.
Charter for the Protection and Management of Archaeological Heritage (1990)	The Charter attempts to establish principles and guidelines of archaeological heritage management that are globally valid and can be adapted to national policies and conditions. The Charter encourages legislation to protect the archaeological heritage, based on inventories and general surveys of the resources. It lays out general principles for investigation, maintenance, and conservation as well as reconstruction of architectural heritage.
European Green Deal (2020)	This deal will transform the EU into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy, ensuring no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, economic growth decoupled from resource use and no person and no place is left behind. A set of proposals have been proposed by the European Commission to make the EU's climate, energy, transport and taxation policies fit for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. Important topics addressed by this deal include: • Transforming our economy and societies. This will; • Reduce emissions • Create jobs and growth • Address energy poverty • Reduce external energy dependency • Improve our health and wellbeing • Making transport sustainable for all • The EC proposes more ambitious targets for reducing CO₂ emissions of new cars and vans: • 50% reduction of emissions by vans by 2030 • 0 emissions from new cars by 2035
Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC)	Merges most existing air quality legislation into a single directive that sets standards and target dates for reducing concentrations of fine particles, which together with coarser particles known as PM₁₀ already subject to legislation, are among the most dangerous pollutants for human health. Under the directive Member States are required to reduce exposure to PM_{2.5} in urban areas by an average of 20% by 2020 based on 2010 levels. It obliges them to bring exposure levels below 20 micrograms/m³ by 2015 in these areas. Throughout their territory Member States will need to respect the PM_{2.5} limit value set at 25 micrograms/m³. As of the 26th October 2022, the Commission has proposed to revise the Ambient Air Quality Directives as part of the European Green Deal to align the air quality standard more closely with the recommendations of the World Health Organisation.
Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	The Directive protects the water environment from the adverse effects of discharges of urban waste water and from certain industrial discharges. It concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water.

Name of policy	European policy
	The Commission revised the directive in 2022 which aims to: • reduce pollution, energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, • improve water quality by addressing remaining urban wastewater pollution, • improve access to sanitation especially for the most vulnerable and marginalised, • make industry pay to treat micropollutants, • require EU countries to monitor pathogens in wastewater, • lead to a more circular sector. By 2040, the new rules will: • save almost EUR 3 billion per year across the EU, • reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 60% compared to 1990, • decrease water pollution by more than 365 thousand tonnes, • cut microplastics emissions by 9%.
Drinking Water Directive (2020/2184/EU)	The Directive concerns the access to and quality of water intended for human consumption. Its objective is to protect human health from adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean. The directive was recast in December 2020, with the main pillars of EU drinking water policy as follows: • protect human health by ensuring the quality of water intended for human consumption, • ensure that drinking water quality is controlled through standards based on the latest scientific evidence, • secure efficient and effective monitoring, assessment and enforcement of drinking water quality, • provide Europeans with adequate, timely and appropriately information, and • to improve access to water intended for human consumption. The directive applies to all water, either in its original state or after treatment, intended for drinking, cooking, food preparation or other domestic purposes in both public and private premises, regardless of its origin and whether it is supplied from a distribution network, supplied from a tanker or put into bottles or containers, including spring waters; all water used in any food business for manufacturing, processing, preserving or marketing of products or substances intended for human consumption.
Directive on Bathing Water (76/160/EEC); and Directive 2006/7/EC repealing Directive 76/160/EEC (from 2014)	The Directive establishes provisions for the monitoring and classification of bathing water quality; the management of bathing water quality; and the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality. Member States are required to annually identify all bathing waters and define the length of the bathing season.
Blueprint to Safeguard	The Blueprint aims to tackle the obstacles which deter action to safeguard Europe's water resources, based on extensive evaluation of

Name of policy	European policy
Europe's Water Resources (2021)	the existing policy. It's long-term aim is to ensure the sustainability of all activities that impact on water, securing the availability of good-quality water for sustainable and equitable water use.
Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks (2007/60/EC)	Concerns the assessment and management of flood risk and requires Member States to assess if all water courses and coastlines are at risk from flooding, to map the flood extent and assets and humans at risk in these areas and to take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce this flood risk. Also reinforces the rights of the public to access this information and to have a say in the planning process.
Directive on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (SEA Directive) (2001/42/EC)	The SEA Directive applies to a wide range of public plans and programmes (e.g. on land use, transport, energy, waste, agriculture, etc). An SEA is mandatory for plans/programmes which are: • are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste/ water management, telecommunications, tourism, town & country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in the EIA Directive, OR • have been determined to require an assessment under the Habitats Directive.
EU Thematic Strategy on Air Quality (2005)	This thematic strategy on air pollution establishes interim objectives for air pollution in the EU and proposes appropriate measures for achieving them. It recommended that legislation be modernised, be better focused on the most serious pollutants and that more is done to integrate environmental concerns into other policies and programmes.
Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC)	This Directive includes the following key elements: • The merging of most of existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive) with no change to existing air quality objectives* • New air quality objectives for PM_{2.5} (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives – exposure concentration obligation and exposure reduction target • The possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values • The possibility for time extensions of three years (PM₁₀) or up to five years (NO₂, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. As of the 26th October 2022, the Commission has proposed to revise the Ambient Air Quality Directives as part of the European Green Deal to align the air quality standard more closely with the recommendations of the World Health Organisation.
Clean Air Programme for Europe 2013	This programme contains measures to ensure that existing targets are met in the short term, and new air quality objectives for the period up to 2030. The package also includes support measures to help cut air pollution, with a focus on improving air quality in cities, supporting research and innovation, and promoting international cooperation. By

Name of policy	European policy
	2030, and compared to business as usual, the clean air policy package is estimated to: • avoid 58 000 premature deaths across Europe, • save 123 000 km² of ecosystems from nitrogen pollution (more than half the area of Romania), • save 56 000 km² protected Natura 2000 areas (more than the entire area of Croatia) from nitrogen pollution, • save 19 000 km² forest ecosystems from acidification.
A Clean Planet for all: A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy (2018)	The aim of this long-term strategy is to confirm Europe's commitment to lead in global climate action and to present a vision that can lead to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 through a socially-fair transition in a cost-efficient manner. It underlines the opportunities that this transformation offers to European citizens and its economy, whilst identifying challenges ahead.
Mainstreaming sustainable development into EU policies: 2009 Review of the European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development	It provides an overview of the progress made at EU level on the seven key challenges and cross-cutting themes since the last report in October 2007. These key challenges are: • Climate change and clean energy; • Sustainable transport; • Sustainable consumption and production; • Conservation and management of natural resources; • Public health; • Social inclusion, demography and migration; and • Global poverty and sustainable development challenges
Energy Efficiency Directive (EU/2023/1791)	The 2023 Energy Efficiency Directive establishes 'energy efficiency first' as a fundamental principle of EU energy policy, meaning energy efficiency must be considered by EU countries in all relevant policy and major investment decisions taken in the relevant sectors. It is key for the EU to comply with the commitment of the Global Pledge to double the global rate of energy efficiency improvements from about 2% to over 4% by 2030. The directive follows a proposal for a recast directive on energy efficiency put forward by the Commission in July 2021, as part of the EU Green Deal package. The 2021 proposal presented by the Commission in May 2022 aims to decrease the EU's dependency on fossil fuel imports from Russia.
EU Environmental Noise Directive (2002)	This Directive concerns noise from road, rail and air traffic and from industry. It focuses on the impact of such noise on individuals, complementing existing EU legislation which sets standards for noise emissions from specific sources.
EU Water Framework Directive (2000)	The purpose of the Directive is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters (rivers and lakes), transitional waters (estuaries), coastal waters and groundwater. It will ensure all aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial

Name of policy	European policy
	ecosystems and wetlands meet 'good status' by 2015. Directive Objectives consist of: • Prevent deterioration of the status of all surface water and groundwater bodies; • Protect, enhance and restore all bodies of surface water and groundwater with the aim of achieving good surface water and groundwater status by 2015; and • To produce River Basin management Plans (RBMP) for each river basin district identified, with environmental objectives for each water body to protect and improve the water environment and a programme of measures to progress towards achieving these objectives.
EU Floods Directive (2007)	The Floods Directive requires Member States to engage their government departments, agencies and other bodies to draw up a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment. Flood Risk Management Plans can then be produced to indicate to policy makers, developers, and the public the nature of the risk and the measures proposed to manage these risks.
EU Birds Directive 2009/47/EC	Directive 2009/47 /EC is the codified version of Council Directive 79/409/EEC as amended. The Directive provides a framework for the conservation and management of, and human interactions with, wild birds in Europe. It sets broad objectives for a wide range of activities, although the precise legal mechanisms for their achievement are at the discretion of each Member State. The Transport Plan should aim to avoid or minimise transport related impacts on wildlife and habitats and ensure that it meets with statutory constraints imposed by the Directive.
Fresh Water Fish Directive (2006/44/EC)	The Directive concerns the quality of fresh waters and applies to those waters designated by the Member States as needing protection or improvement in order to support fish life. The aim of the Directive is to protect or improve the quality of those running or standing fresh waters which support, or which, if pollution were reduced or eliminated, would become capable of supporting, fish belonging to: • indigenous species offering a natural diversity; species the presence of which is judged desirable for water management purposes by the competent authorities of the Member States.
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	Establishes a regime which sets underground water quality standards and introduces measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater. Establishes quality criteria taking account of local characteristics. Member States have to establish standards at the most appropriate level and take into account local or regional conditions. It requires groundwater quality standards to be established by the end of 2008; pollution trend studies to be carried out by using existing data and mandatory WFD data; pollution trends to be reversed so that environmental objectives are achieved by 2015; measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater; reviews of technical provisions of the directive to be carried out in 2013 and every six years

Name of policy	European policy
	thereafter; compliance with good chemical status criteria. This directive was replaced by the WFD at the end of 2013.
Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna (92/43/EEC)	Aims to protect wild plants, animals and habitats. Directive created a network of protected areas called Natura 2000 sites, including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) – supporting rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats, plants and animals (other than birds), and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) – supporting significant numbers of wild birds and their habitats.
EU Habitats Directive (1992)	The Habitats Directive builds on the Birds Directive by protecting natural habitats and other species of wild plants and animals. Together with the Birds Directive, it underpins a European network of protected areas known as Natura 2000. This network includes SPA classified under the Birds Directive and a new set of international nature conservation areas introduced by the Habitats Directive, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).
European Landscape Convention	Promotes landscape protection, management and planning, and European co-operation on landscape issues. The Convention recognizes that the landscape is shaped by natural and cultural influences. Highlights the importance of developing landscape policies dedicated to the protection, management and creation of landscapes, and establishing procedures for the general public and other stakeholders to participate in policy creation and implementation.
Eumatic Strategy for Soil Protection (2006)	The overall objective of this strategy is protection and sustainable use of soil, based on the following guiding principles: Preventing further soil degradation and preserving its functions: • When soil is used and its functions are exploited, action has to be taken on soil use and management patterns, and • When soil acts as a sink/receptor of the effects of human activities or environmental phenomena, action has to be taken at source. • Restoring degraded soils to a level of functionality consistent at least with current and intended use, thus also considering the cost implications of the restoration of soil.
EU Soil Strategy for 2030	The strategy sets out a framework and concrete measures to protect and restore soils, and ensure that they are used sustainably. Visions and objectives to achieve healthy soils by 2050 have been set along with concrete actions by 2030. The strategy aims to ensure that by 2050: • all EU soil ecosystems are healthy and more resilient and can therefore continue to provide their crucial services, • there is no net land take and soil pollution is reduced to levels that are no longer harmful to people's health or ecosystems, • protecting soils, managing them sustainably and restoring degraded soils is a common standard. This strategy is a key deliverable of the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030 and will contribute to the objectives of the European Green Deal. Actions set out by the strategy are as follows:

Name of policy	European policy
	• tabling a dedicated legislative proposal on soil health by 2023 to enable the objectives of the EU soil strategy and achieve good soil health by 2050 • making sustainable soil management the new normal, by proposing a scheme for land owners to get their soils tested for free, promoting sustainable soil management through the CAP and sharing best practices • considering proposing legally binding objectives to limit drainage of wetlands and organic soils and to restore managed and drained peatlands to mitigate and adapt to climate change • investigating streams of excavated soils and assessing the need and potential for a legally binding "soil passport" to boost circular the economy and enhance reuse of clean soil • restoring degraded soils and remediating contaminated sites • preventing desertification by developing a common methodology to assess desertification and land degradation • increasing research, data and monitoring on soil mobilising the necessary societal engagement and financial resources
European Soils Charter (2003)	The Charter recognises that: • Soil is a precious asset; • Soil is a limited resource which is easily destroyed; • Land has a wide variety of uses and a proper planning policy is needed by Governments for urban development and civil engineering projects; • Farmers and foresters must preserve the soils quality; • Soil must be protected from erosion and pollution; • Further research and collaboration is required to ensure the wise use and conservation of soil.
Eighth EU Environmental Action Plan to 2030 (2022)	This action plan will be guiding European environment policy until 2030. In order to give more long-term direction it sets out a vision beyond that, of where it wants the Union to be by 2050: "In 2050, we live well, within the planet's ecological limits. Our prosperity and healthy environment stem from an innovative, circular economy where nothing is wasted and where natural resources are managed sustainably, and biodiversity is protected, valued and restored in ways that enhance our society's resilience. Our low-carbon growth has long been decoupled from resource use, setting the pace for a safe and sustainable global society." It identifies six priority objectives: • achieving the 2030 greenhouse gas emission reduction target and climate neutrality by 2050, • enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, • advancing towards a regenerative growth model, decoupling economic growth from resource use and environmental degradation, and accelerating the transition to a circular economy, • pursuing a zero-pollution ambition, including for air, water and soil and protecting the health and well-being of Europeans,

Name of policy	European policy
	• protecting, preserving and restoring biodiversity, and enhancing natural capital, • reducing environmental and climate pressures related to production and consumption (particularly in the areas of energy, industry, buildings and infrastructure, mobility, tourism, international trade and food system). Other key aspects include the need for full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies and to make EU cities more sustainable.
EU Landfill Directive	The Directive sets a reduction target of 75% of the 1995 levels and 35% of the 1995 levels of waste sent to landfill by 2013 and 2020 respectively.
EU Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC (2008)	The original aim of the Waste Framework Directive was to lay the basis to turn the EU into a recycling society and contained 5 key steps in the waste hierarchy concept: • Prevention • Reuse • Recycle • Recovery • Disposal The revised Waste Directive introduces new provisions aimed at boosting waste prevention and recycling as part of the waste hierarchy and clarifies key concepts such as the definition of waste, recovery and disposal. The framework also sets out the following management principles which require waste to be managed: • without endangering human health and harming the environment • without risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals • without causing a nuisance through noise or odours • and without adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest
European Climate Change Programme	The programme aims to deliver the Kyoto Protocol commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 8% below 1990 levels by 2012.
Limiting Global Climate Change to 2 degrees Celsius - The way ahead for 2020 and beyond (2007)	This proposes that the EU pursues in the context of international negotiations the objective of 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by developed countries by 2020 (compared to 1990 levels). This is necessary to ensure that the world stays within the 2°C limit. Until an international agreement is concluded, and without prejudice to its position in international negotiations, the EU should already now take on a firm independent commitment to achieve at least a 20 % reduction of GHG emissions by 2020. Other targets include: • Improve the EU's energy efficiency by 20 % by 2020. • Increase the share of renewable energy to 20 % by 2020
Environmental Liability Directive 2004/35/CE (2004)	The purpose of this Directive is to establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.

Name of policy	European policy
EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) (2009 Revision)	The 2005 EU ETS has run in two phases and is now in its third phase, running from 2013 to 2020. In 2009 there was a major revision in order to strengthen the system. Due to the 2009 revision phase 3 is significantly different from phases 1 and 2 and is based on rules which are more harmonised than before. The objectives and requirements have been changed from a system of recuing emissions to a nationally agreed cap, to a single, EU-wide cap.
EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2013)	This strategy sets out how the European Union can adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and become climate resilient by 2050. The Strategy has four principle objectives: to make adaptation smarter, swifter and more systemic, and to step up international action on adaptation to climate change.
EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change (2021)	The EU strategy on adaptation to climate change aims at making Europe more climate-resilient. Taking a coherent approach by complementing the activities of Member States, it supports action by promoting greater coordination and information-sharing and by ensuring that adaptation considerations are addressed in all relevant EU policies.
EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030	This strategy is a comprehensive long-term plan to protect nature and reverse degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030. AS a core part of the European Green Deal, it will also support green recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic. Specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030 include: • Establishing a lager EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea • Launching an EU nature restoration plan • Introducing measures to enable the necessary transformative change • Introducing measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge
The pan-European programme on transport, health and environment (THE PEP)	The PEP is included in the RTP SEA. However since then governments have adopted the Paris Declaration - City in Motion: People First! In April 2014 at the Fourth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment, giving renewed political impetus to THE PEP. Five priority goals were agreed to be reached by 2019 and concrete mechanisms to achieve them. The goals are: No. 1: To contribute to sustainable economic development and stimulate job creation through investment in environment- and health-friendly transport; No. 2: To manage sustainable mobility and promote a more efficient transport system; No. 3: To reduce emissions of transport-related greenhouse gases, air pollutants and noise; No. 4: To promote policies and actions conducive to healthy and safe modes of transport; and

Name of policy	European policy
	No. 5: To integrate transport, health and environmental objectives into urban and spatial planning policies
European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention) (2000)	Convention promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues. The European Landscape Convention introduced a Europe-wide concept centring on the quality of landscape protection, management and planning and covering the entire territory, not just outstanding landscapes. Through its ground-breaking approach and its broader scope, it complements the Council of Europe's and UNESCO's heritage conventions.
A European Green Deal	This deal will transform the EU into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy, ensuring no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, economic growth decoupled from resource use and no person and no place is left behind. A set of proposals have been proposed by the European Commission to make the EU's climate, energy, transport and taxation policies fit for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. Important topics addressed by this deal include: Transforming our economy and societies. This will; • Reduce emissions • Create jobs and growth • Address energy poverty • Reduce external energy dependency • Improve our health and wellbeing • Making transport sustainable for all The EC proposes more ambitious targets for reducing CO₂ emissions of new cars and vans: • 50% reduction of emissions by vans by 2030 • 0 emissions from new cars by 2035
Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) 2001	The Aarhus Convention is a multilateral environmental agreement through which the opportunities for citizens to access environmental information are increased and transparent and reliable regulation procedure is secured. It encourages access to information, public participation and access to justice.
Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	This Directive relates to the assessment and management of environmental noise and is the main EU instrument to identify noise pollution levels and to trigger the necessary action both at Member State and at EU level. To pursue its stated aims, the Environmental Noise Directive focuses on four action areas:

Name of policy	European policy
	• determining exposure to environmental noise and assessing its health effects at single dwelling level • ensuring that information on environmental noise and its effects is made available to the public • preventing and reducing environmental noise • preserving environmental noise quality in areas where it is good The Directive applies to noise to which humans are exposed, particularly in built-up areas, in public parks or other quiet areas in an agglomeration, in quiet areas in open country, near schools, hospitals and other noise-sensitive buildings and areas. It does not apply to noise that is caused by the exposed person himself, noise from domestic activities, noise created by neighbours, noise at work places or noise inside means of transport or due to military activities in military areas. The Directive requires Member States to prepare and publish, every 5 years, noise maps and noise management action plans for: • agglomerations with more than 100,000 inhabitants • major roads (more than 3 million vehicles a year) • major railways (more than 30.000 trains a year) • major airports (more than 50.000 movements a year, including small aircrafts and helicopters) The Directive serves as a knowledge base to amend or introduce noise limits on road, railway and aircraft vehicles.
National Emissions Ceilings Directive (2016/2284/EU)	This directive sets 2020 and 2030 emissions reduction commitments for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, non-methane volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter. It requires that national air pollution control programmes be drawn up, adopted and implemented and that emissions of those pollutants and the other pollutants referred to in Annex I, as well as their impacts, be monitored and reported. It also ensures that the emissions ceilings for 2010 set in the earlier directive remain applicable for Member States until the end of 2019.
WHO Guidelines for Community Noise 1999	The World Health Organisation (WHO) publication entitled 'Guidelines for Community Noise' (1999), provides guidance with regard to recommended internal and external noise levels for various building uses, outlining the potential health impacts associated with noise. Specifically, the document recommends internal and external noise levels that would provide an acoustic environment that is conducive to uninterrupted speech and sleep.
WHO Night Noise Guidelines for Europe 2009	The World Health Organisation (WHO) Night Noise Guidelines for Europe (NNG) 2009 are health-based guidelines and are to be considered an extension and update to the WHO Guidelines for Community Noise 1999. WHO NNG provides evidence based policy advice to member states in the development of future legislation and policy action in the area of control and surveillance of night noise exposure.

Name of policy	European policy
Renewable Energy Directive (EU/2023/2413)	The Renewable Energy Directive is the legal framework for the development of clean energy across all sectors of the EU economy, supporting cooperation between EU countries towards this goal. The directive sets an overall renewable energy target of at least 42.5% binding at EU level by 2030, but aiming for 45%. There will be an 18-month period to transpose most of the directive's provisions into national law, with a shorter deadline of July 2024 for some provisions related to permitting for renewables.
The Europe 2020 Strategy – The Resource Efficiency Roadmap 2011	The Europe 2020 Strategy is the European Union's growth strategy for the next decade and aims at establishing a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy with high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion. The Resource Efficiency Roadmap is part of the Resource Efficiency Flagship of the Europe 2020 Strategy. The Roadmap outlines how Europe will transform the economy into a sustainable one by 2050. It proposes ways to increase resource productivity and decouple economic growth from resource use and its environmental impact. It illustrates how policies interrelate and build on each other. The Roadmap provides a framework in which future actions can be designed and implemented coherently. It sets out a vision for the structural and technological change needed up to 2050, with milestones to be reached by 2020. These milestones illustrate what will be needed to put Europe on a path to resource efficient and sustainable growth.
Road map to a Single European Transport Area 2011	The European Commission adopted a roadmap of 40 concrete initiatives to build a competitive transport system that will increase mobility, remove major barriers in key areas and fuel growth and employment. At the same time, the proposals aimed to dramatically reduce Europe's dependence on imported oil and cut carbon emissions in transport by 60% by 2050. By 2050, key goals will include: • No more conventionally fuelled cars in cities. • 40% use of sustainable low carbon fuels in aviation; at least 40% cut in shipping emissions. • A 50% shift of medium distance intercity passenger and freight journeys from road to rail and waterborne transport. • All of which will contribute to a 60% cut in transport emissions by the middle of the century.

Name of policy	National Policy
Environment Act 2021	The Environment Act sets out that the Secretary of State may by regulations set long-term targets in respect of any matter which relates to (a) the natural environment, or (b) people's enjoyment of the natural environment. A long-term target in respect of at least one matter within each of the four priority areas: (a) air quality; (b) water; (c) biodiversity; (d) resource efficiency and waste reduction. The Act specifically requires the Secretary of State to set by future regulation statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in two

Name of policy	National Policy
	priority areas: air quality (PM_{2.5} air quality target) and biodiversity (species abundance target) and includes an important new target to reverse the decline in species abundance by the end of 2030. The Secretary of State must also prepare an environmental improvement plan for significantly improving the natural environment for a period no shorter than 15 years. The Act will also deliver: • A cycle of environmental monitoring and reporting; • Environmental Principles embedded in domestic policy making; and • Office for Environmental Protection to uphold environmental law. Key relevant provisions: Biodiversity Net Gain - The Act places a statutory requirement for developments to deliver biodiversity improvements and will require all planning permissions in England (subject to exemptions) to be granted subject to a new general pre-commencement condition that requires approval of a biodiversity gain plan. The planning authority can only approve the biodiversity gain plan if the biodiversity value attributable to a development exceeds the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat by 10% (known as the 'biodiversity gain objective'). The biodiversity plan must set out the steps taken to achieve the 'biodiversity gain objective', which could be through minimising the adverse effects of the development on habitats, the identification of the pre and post development onsite biodiversity value, details of registered offsite biodiversity value allocated to the development and biodiversity credits purchased, and any other information that may be required by regulations. There will be flexible mechanisms available to increase the biodiversity value to demonstrate a 10% biodiversity net gain. Works to enhance habitats can be carried out either onsite or offsite or through the purchase of 'biodiversity credits' from the Secretary of State. However, this flexibility may be removed (subject to regulations) if the onsite habitat is 'irreplaceable'. For such developments, arrangements to minimise their adverse effects and improvements, must be delivered onsite. Both onsite and offsite enhancements must be maintained for at least 30 years after completion of a development (which period may be amended). Onsite enhancements must be secured by planning condition, s106 obligation or a conservation covenant, which is a written agreement that is registrable as a local land charge, between a landowner and a 'responsible body' that binds a landowner and its successors to do/not do something on the land for a conservation purpose. Offsite enhancements must be secured under either a s106 agreement or a conservation covenant and be registered in the new, publicly available, biodiversity gain site register.

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	Waste and resource efficiency - The Act gives wide ranging powers to make regulations about who producer obligations should apply to and which products or materials should be covered. These powers are intended to prevent waste/reduce the amount of a product that becomes waste and increase re-use, redistribution, recovery and recycling. Producers can get ahead of these regulations, and minimise any eventual requirements to pay disposal costs, by designing products with these objectives in mind. Water resources management plans, drought plans and joint proposals - The Act requires more collaboration (joint proposals) between water companies on managing supply and demand, resilience and environmental improvements, through their statutory water management plans, Water quality - The Secretary of State may by regulations amend or modify any legislation to which this section applies for the purpose of: (a) making provision about the substances to be taken into account in assessing the chemical status of surface water or groundwater; (b) specifying standards in relation to those substances or in relation to the chemical status of surface water or groundwater.
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment, UK Government (2018)	This 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) sets out government action to help the natural world regain and retain good health. It aims to deliver cleaner air and water in our cities and rural landscapes, protect threatened species and provide richer wildlife habitats. Ten key goals are specified: • Clean air • Clean and plentiful water • Thriving plants and wildlife • A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought • Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently • Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment • Mitigating and adapting to climate change • Minimising waste • Managing exposure to chemicals • Enhancing biosecurity To deliver on these goals, six areas of action are identified: • Using and managing land sustainably • Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes • Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing • Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste • Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans • Protecting and improving global environment The plan emphasises the assumed benefits of the UK's departure from the EU in allowing for a reorganisation and reprioritisation of the UK's efforts related to the environment. Specific examples are not given,

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	however the challenging targets listed, as summarised above, do offer strong opportunities to set high environmental standards.
Environmental Improvement Plan 2023	The 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) set out the Governments vision for a quarter-of-a century of action to help the natural world regain and retain good health. The government is required to a refresh of the plan every 5 years, a commitment set into law in the Environment Act 2021. This document represents the first such review of the 25YEP. It reinforces the intent of the 25YEP. Where the 25YEP set out the framework and vision, this document sets out the plan to deliver.
The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature, Defra (2011)	It sets out its ambition as 'We want to improve the quality of our natural environment across England, moving to a net gain in the value of nature. We aim to arrest the decline in habitats and species and the degradation of landscapes. We will protect priority habitats and safeguard vulnerable non-renewable resources for future generations. We will support natural systems to function more effectively in town, in the country and at sea. We will achieve this through joined-up action at local and national levels to create an ecological network which is resilient to changing pressures.'
UK Marine Policy Statement 2011	This Marine Policy Statement (MPS) is the framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions affecting the marine environment. The MPS will facilitate and support the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives and thereby: Promote sustainable economic development; • Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects; • Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and our heritage assets; and • Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues.
Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	The Act introduced a revised system of marine management and licensing, including marine planning which makes provisions for general government marine environment policies, as well as those policies of the devolved administrations. It also made changes to the management of marine, migratory and freshwater fisheries, marine conservation, as well as recreational access to the English and Welsh coasts.
The Culture White Paper	The Culture White Paper was published in March 2016 and sets out the governments ambition and strategy for the cultural sectors, it states that the government will: • Extend international aid support to the protection of cultural heritage and antiquities and help countries to recover from acts of cultural destruction through a new £30 million cultural protection fund. • Ratify the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols, subject to legislation.

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	• Share the UK's expertise in cultural development and protection with partners around the world, particularly those in developing countries and countries experiencing or emerging from conflict.
Historic England advice notes	The purpose of this Good Practice Advice note is to provide information on good practice to assist local authorities, planning and other consultants, owners, applicants and other interested parties in implementing historic environment policy in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the related guidance given in the National Planning Practice Guide (PPG).
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2023)	The National Planning Policy Framework which sets out the government's planning policies for England was revised in September 2023. The most relevant chapters are as follows: • Chapter 2: Achieving Sustainable Development • Chapter 9: Promoting Sustainable Transport • Chapter 13: Protecting Green Belt Land • Chapter 14: Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change • Chapter 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment • Chapter 16: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment
UK Net Zero Strategy 2021	The UK's new Net Zero Strategy sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet our net zero target by 2050. It sets out, for the first time, how the UK Government plans to deliver its emissions targets of Net Zero in 2050 and a 78% reduction from 1990 to 2035 (-63% relative to 2019). It puts forward an achievable and affordable vision that will bring net benefits to the UK. It is an ambitious and comprehensive strategy that marks a significant step forward for UK climate policy, setting a globally leading benchmark. Further steps will need to follow quickly to implement the policies and proposals mapped out in the Net Zero Strategy if it is to be a success.
Climate Change Act 2008 and its 2050 Target Amendment Order, 2019	The Act aims to improve carbon management, helping the transition towards a low-carbon economy in the UK and to demonstrate UK leadership internationally. Key provisions of the Act include: • a legally binding target of at least an 80% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and a reduction in emissions of at least 34% by 2020 (both against 1990 baseline). Note the 2050 target has now been amended to Net Zero • a carbon budgeting system that caps emissions over five-year periods; • creation of the Committee on Climate Change; • further measures to reduce emissions, including measures on biofuels; • a requirement for the Government to report at least every five years on the risks to the UK of climate change, and to publish a programme setting out how these will be addressed. The Act also introduces powers for Government to require public bodies and statutory undertakers to carry out their own risk assessment and make plans to address those risks

Name of policy	National Policy
UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, Defra (2017)	The assessment identifies the top six areas of inter-related climate change risks for the UK as; • Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure; • Risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures; • Risks of shortages in the public water supply for agriculture, energy generation and industry; • Risks to natural capital including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity; • Risks to domestic and international food production and trade; and • New and emerging pests and diseases and invasive non-native species affecting people, plants and animals.
UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022	This is the third five-year assessment of the risks of climate change on the UK, as required by the Climate Change Act 2008. The risk assessment considers 61 UK-wide risks and opportunities across multiple sectors of the economy. The following eight are prioritised for action in the next two years: • risks to the viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards • risks to soil health from increased flooding and drought • risks to natural carbon stores and sequestration from multiple hazards • risks to crops, livestock and commercial trees from multiple climate hazards • risks to supply of food, goods and vital services due to climate-related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks • risks to people and the economy from climate-related failure of the power system • risks to human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings • multiple risks to the UK from climate change impacts overseas
Clean Growth Strategy 2017	The Clean Growth Strategy deals specifically with the challenge of trying to grow the UK's economy whilst reducing its emissions. This issue is dealt with across multiple strategies, and several sectors have a large role to play. This strategy details the approach of each sector and sets out key policies for each. The guiding principles of the Clean Growth Strategy are to, through nurturing low carbon technologies, processes, and systems: • meeting the UK's domestic commitments at the lowest possible net cost to UK taxpayers, consumers, and businesses; and • maximising the social and economic benefits for the UK from this transition. The key policies to achieve this are sorted into the following categories: • accelerating clean growth; • improving business and industry efficiency (25% of emissions); • improving our homes (13% of emissions); • accelerating the shift to low carbon transport (24% of emissions); • delivering clean, smart, flexible power (21% of emissions);

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	• enhancing the benefits and value of our natural resources (15% of emissions); • leading in the public sector (2% of emissions); and • government leadership in driving clean growth. Regarding transport, the primary aim described in detail is a pathway to, by 2032, achieve a 32% reduction in carbon emissions compared to 1990, by: • accelerating uptake of ULEVs; • developing a more efficient and low carbon freight system; • a cleaner public transport system; • a reduction in the number of shorter journeys made by car; and • a near doubling of sustainable bioenergy used in the transport sector.
Carbon Plan: Delivering our low carbon future 2011	This plan sets out how the UK will achieve decarbonisation within the framework of energy policy: to make the transition to a low carbon economy while maintaining energy security, and minimising costs to consumers, particularly those in poorer households. It outlines the progress so far in terms of emissions as well as the future vision in order to cut emissions by 80% by 2050.
Planning Practice Guidance – Climate Change 2015	Advises how planning can identify suitable mitigation and adaptation measures in plan-making and the planning application process to address the potential impacts of climate. An amendment was made to the guidance in 2019 regarding local authorities' power in setting higher energy performance standards than the building regulations in their local plan.
The Road to Zero, 2018	The Road to Zero strategy is a broad governmental “next steps” policy that outlines an ambition to decarbonise transport, and to strengthen the UK’s offering in design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles, and the role of zero emission road vehicles in the government’s Industrial Strategy. The strategy is aligned to other national policies mentioned in this section. The policy sets targets for 50-70% of new car sales, and up to 40% of new van sales to be ultra-low emission by 2030. To support this, emphasis is given to several key policies: • reducing emissions from the vehicles already on our roads; • driving the uptake of the cleanest vehicles; • reducing emissions from heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) and road freight; • putting the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles; and • supporting the development of one of the best electric vehicle infrastructure networks in the world • supporting local actions. The strategy sets out in detail the challenges brought about by the emissions of road transport, and the specifics of how different types of road transport produce these emissions. The strategy also acknowledges the difficulty in maintaining a required level of road use for vital travel, commerce, and services, whilst restricting vehicle choice. Given the significant consequences of failing to act to reduce emissions, the report

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	strikes a balance to prioritise reductions in emissions and maintain economic growth. Although the strategy refers to changes in travel modes for certain types of journeys, the emphasis of the report lies with maintaining a required level of road travel, with reductions in emissions achieved through encouraging a high proportion of low-emission vehicles on the roads.
Environment Bill Policy Statement 2020	The Government's Environment Bill Policy Statement introduces new incentives, actions and planning tools to drive further improvements for nature. The Bill introduces a mandatory requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain in the planning system, to ensure that new developments contribute to the recovery of biodiversity and this requirement can also create new green spaces for local communities to enjoy. It also adds a new concept of Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
Environment Act 1995	The Environment Act 1995 updates much of the earlier legislation on the areas that it extends to. The Act comprises: • Part 1 the Environment Agency and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, • Part II Contaminated Land and Abandoned Mines, • Part III National Parks • Part IV Air Quality, • Part V Miscellaneous, General and Supplemental Provisions (e.g. waste, mineral planning permissions, hedgerows, drainage, fisheries etc.).
Environmental Protection Act (1990)	This act brings in a system of integrated pollution control for the disposal of wastes to land, water and air. There are three parts of the Act. These are: Part I- establishes integrated pollution control and gives Local Authorities new powers to control air pollution from a range of prescribed processes; Part II- improves the rules on waste disposal; and Part III- covers statutory nuisances and clean air
The Natural Environment and Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act)	The Act establishes an independent body - Natural England - responsible for conserving, enhancing and managing England's natural environment for the benefit of current and future generations. Natural England will work in close partnership with other organisations and bodies that have a major role in relation to the natural environment, in particular the Environment Agency, the Forestry Commission, English Heritage and local authorities. It established the Commission for Rural Communities and reconstitutes the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. Details of the act include: • Nature Conservation in the UK • Wildlife • Sites of Special Scientific Interest • National Parks and the Broads • Rights of way • Inland Waterways • Flexible Administrative Arrangements.

Name of policy	National Policy
Natural Environment White Paper (2011)	The Natural Environment White Paper has four ambitions: • Protecting and improving our natural environment; • Growing a green economy; • Reconnecting people and nature International; and • EU leadership. It looks at ecosystem services provided by natural systems and promotes a step-change in nature conservation which makes sustainable use of natural capital and natural networks by working at a landscape scale. It aims to ensure that by 2020 17% of England is managed effectively to safeguard biodiversity. Since it's publication, Defra has published periodic Natural Environment White Paper implementation update newsletters, the most recent being implemented in October 2014.
UK Biodiversity Plan (1994)	This document represents the first United Kingdom biodiversity action plan. It contains three sections; • Section 1 – describes the UK's biological resources and their global importance as well as the range of biodiversity within the UK from a historical and geological importance • Section 2- describes the UK's strategy and programmes and examines threats, problems and opportunities of biodiversity. • Section 3- draws the components of the action plan together and provides a forward work programme
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services	This is a new biodiversity strategy for England which builds on the Natural Environment White Paper and provides a comprehensive picture of how the government are implementing international and EU commitments. It sets out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy for the next decade on land (including rivers and lakes) and at sea. It builds on the successful work that has gone before, but also seeks to deliver a real step change
UK Biodiversity Framework (2024)	This UK Biodiversity framework sets out four objectives for cross-UK work relating to biodiversity policy and supporting evidence: • To contribute to informing and developing the UK's position in international agreements and policy making, • To coordinate collective achievement of the UK's international obligations, • To enable and support country input to reporting required under the UK's international obligations, • To inform each other of domestic policy developments and collaborate to achieve shared aims where there is benefit in doing so at a UK level. This framework refreshes the "broad enabling structure" of the 2012 framework in the context of the new commitments by: • setting out the shared objectives for co-operation and collaboration between the four countries of the UK; • establishing a governance structure for overseeing and achieving the shared objectives.

Name of policy	National Policy
National Forest Inventory	This programme monitors woodland and trees within Great Britain. It includes the most in depth survey carried out on Britain's woodland and trees to date. The NFI provides an extensive and unique record of key information about our forests and woodlands. Woodland surveys and compiled forest inventories have been carried out at 10-15 year intervals since 1924.
Ancient Woodland Inventory	The AWI is a provisional guide and map based tool to the location of Ancient and long established Woodland. Ancient woodland is defined as land that is currently wooded and has been continually wooded in England at least since 1600. This type of woodland has important biodiversity and cultural values by its virtue of its antiquity.
A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests (2007)	Aims to provide a resource of trees, woods and forests where they can contribute environmental, economic and social benefits now and for future generations; to ensure that existing and newly planted trees, woods and forests are resilient to climate change and contribute to biodiversity and natural resources adjusting to a changing climate; to protect and enhance water, soil, air, biodiversity and landscape, and the cultural and amenity values of trees and woodland; to increase the contribution that trees, woods and forests make to quality of life; and to improve the competitiveness of woodland businesses and promote development of new/improved markets for sustainable woodland products and ecosystem services. It seeks to do this through the long-term sustainable management of trees, woods and forests; by seeking 'the right tree in the right place'; by effective use of public investment; and by ensuring synergies with other Government policies.
The England Trees Action Plan 2021-2024 (2021)	This plan sets out the government's long-term vision for the treescape it wants to see in England by 2050 and beyond. It provides a strategic framework for implementing the Nature for Climate Fund and outlines over 80 policy actions the governments is taking over this Parliament to help deliver this vision. Some of these include England having at least 12% woodland cover by mid-century, contributing to net-zero carbon emissions.
Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975	The Act dictates which methods of fishing for salmon, trout and freshwater fish are an offence and also includes offences against the use and dealing with roe, spawning and unclean fish. The Act also deals with problems of pollution making it an offence to knowingly permit the flow of poisonous matter and polluting effluents into river courses. Part II of the Act deals with obstructions to the passage of fish, including fishing weirs, screens and sluices; dictating when and where they can be used. Part III explains the proper times of fishing, selling and exporting fish.
Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981	The Act prohibits certain methods of killing or taking wild animals; amends the law relating to protection of certain mammals; restricts the introduction of certain animals and plants; amends the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act 1976; amends the law relating to nature conservation, the

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	countryside and National Parks; and amends the law relating to public rights of way.
Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (also known as the Habitats Regulations) consolidate amendments made to the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 in respect of England and Wales. These regulations implement the EU Habitats Directive, providing provisions for the selection, designation, registration, and notification of sites to be protected for the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora.
Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)	The 2017 regulations transposed the land and marine aspects of the Habitats Directive and certain elements of the Wild Birds Directive. The main changes to these regulations are as follows: • the creation of a national site network within the UK territory comprising the protected sites already designated under the Nature Directives, and any further sites designated under these Regulations • the establishment of management objectives for the national site network (the 'network objectives') • a duty for appropriate authorities to manage and where necessary adapt the national site network as a whole to achieve the network objectives • an amended process for the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) • arrangements for reporting on the implementation of the Regulations, given that the UK no longer provides reports to the European Commission • arrangements replacing the European Commission's functions with regard to the imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) test where a plan or project affects a priority habitat or species • arrangements for amending the schedules to the Regulations and the annexes to the Nature Directives that apply to the UK
National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949 (as amended)	The Act established powers to declare National Nature Reserves (NNRs); to notify sites of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) and for local authorities to establish Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). These provisions were strengthened by the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. An NNR is an area which is among the best examples of a particular habitat. NNRs are of national importance. They are in many cases owned and managed by the statutory authority, (for example English Nature), but not always. An NNR, unlike an SSSI, has to be managed appropriately to retain its special status.
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006	Section 40 of the Act requires all public bodies to have regard to biodiversity conservation when carrying out their functions. This is commonly referred to as the 'biodiversity duty'. The aim of the biodiversity duty is to raise the profile of biodiversity in England and Wales, so that the conservation of biodiversity becomes properly embedded in all relevant policies and decisions made by public authorities.

Name of policy	National Policy
Guidance on Complying with the biodiversity duty 2023	The guidance is intended to assist local authorities in meeting the Biodiversity Duty. The conservation of biodiversity is highly dependent on the extent to which it is addressed in infrastructure and development projects and how well the planning process integrates biodiversity into planning and development control policies. Core Strategies and Local Development Plan Strategies set out the overarching policy framework for the plan area. Strategic objectives and policies should be developed for biodiversity, including objectives for enhancement and conservation. Consideration should also be given to how biodiversity enhancement can be used to bring about more sustainable development, through integration with other policy objectives and other land uses, for example housing and economic development, health, education and social inclusion.
DfT Outcome Delivery Plan: 2021-2022	This delivery plan sets out how the following priority outcomes will measure our success, and how we will ensure we continuously improve: • Improve connectivity across the UK and grow the economy by enhancing the transport network, on time and on budget, • Build confidence in the transport network as the country recovers from COVID-19 and improve transport users' experience, ensuring that the network is safe, reliable, and inclusive, • Tackle climate change and improve air quality by decarbonising transport (this outcome reflects DfT's contribution to the BEIS-led cross-cutting net zero outcome). The strategic objective of this plan is to increase our global impact, which is about boosting our influence and maximising trade by having an innovative, outward-facing approach.
Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge 2020	Setting the Challenge is a policy and baselining report, establishing the groundwork from which a latter 2020 Transport Decarbonisation Plan (TDP) will work. It is not a plan in itself. The TDP was planned to be published ahead of the 2020 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference in November 2020. No word has been given on a delayed release date, given the postponement of the conference to November 2021 due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Regardless, it is intended that the TDP will put forward a credible implementation plan for how ambitious greenhouse gas and decarbonisation targets will be met across the whole UK transport network. Setting the Challenge therefore investigates the role of transport in carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions, and gives the current position of each transport mode, in terms of emission levels, compared to historical emissions, describes related current governmental aims and targets, and lists current policies aiming to deliver planned targets and future work. The priorities for the Government, further distilled in the ministerial foreword, appear to be as follows:

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	- Public transport and active travel will be the natural first choice for our daily activities. We will use our cars less and be able to rely on a convenient, cost-effective and coherent public transport network. - From motorcycles to HGVs, all road vehicles will be zero emission. Technological advances, including new modes of transport and mobility innovation, will change the way vehicles are used. - Our goods will be delivered through an integrated, efficient and sustainable delivery system. - Clean, place-based solutions will meet the needs of local people. Changes and leadership at a local level will make an important contribution to reducing national GHG emissions. - The UK will be an internationally recognised leader in environmentally sustainable, low carbon technology and innovation in transport. - We will lead the development of sustainable biofuels, hybrid and electric aircraft to lessen and remove the impact of aviation on the environment and by 2050, zero emission ships will be commonplace globally.
Transport Act 2000	The aim of the Act is to give effect to the Government's strategy for an integrated transport policy set out in the White Paper "A New Deal for Transport: Better for Everyone" (Cm 3950) published in July 1998. This Act contains measures to create a more integrated transport system and provide for a public-private partnership for National Air Traffic Services Ltd ("NATS"). The Act aimed to improve quality in local passenger transport services such as helping limit traffic congestion and improving air quality as well introducing road user charges and workplace parking levies to help tackle congestion. The use of railways was promoted through the Strategic Rail Authority and makes provision for the better regulation of the railway industry.
Local Transport Act 2008	This act makes further provision in relation to local transport authorities, the provision and regulation of road transport services and the subsidising of passenger transport services. It looks at important areas of public transport such as local bus services and sets out proposals for a more consistent approach to local transport planning. It plans to reform the existing laws on road pricing schemes for local authorities who wish to have schemes in their areas.
Door to door – A Strategy for Improving Sustainable Transport Integration 2013	The 'Door to door' strategy describes the government's vision for integrated sustainable journeys. It sets out what is wanted from transport providers and what is being done across the department to support door-to-door journeys. The strategy focuses on 4 core areas which need to be addressed so that people can be confident in choosing greener modes of transport: - accurate, accessible and reliable information about different transport options for their journey - convenient and affordable tickets, for an entire journey - regular and straightforward connections at all stages of the journey and between different modes of transport - safe and comfortable transport facilities

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National Policy Statement for National Networks 2014	The 'National networks national policy statement' sets out the: • need for development of road, rail and strategic rail freight interchange projects on the national networks • the policy against which decisions on major road and rail projects will be made Baseline information relating to relevant environmental, social and economic issues was also released as part of a draft consultation. The NPS will be used by the Secretary of State as a primary basis for making decisions on development consent applications for national networks.
Roads Investment Strategy 2: 2020 - 2025	The second Road Investment Strategy outlines the policy drivers for the allocation of £27.4 billion investment into the SRN in the period 2020-2025, that will also have an influence beyond, looking to prepare the SRN to align with net zero targets by 2050. The Government Objectives document set this direction early, with the full RIS2 providing detail. The Government Objectives sets out the vision for the SRN, by 2050, to be: • a network that supports the economy; • a safer and more reliable network; • a greener network; • a more integrated network; and • a smarter network. These objectives are echoed in more detail in the full RIS2 as well as a roadmap for delivering the vision, focusing on economic growth, housing, tackling emissions, safety, resilience, and innovation, as well as efforts to place users at the heart of everything. RIS2 also sets specific monitoring targets for Highways England to ensure: • improving safety for all; • fast and reliable journeys; • a well maintained and resilient network; • being environmentally responsible; • meeting the needs of all users; and • achieving real efficiency.
The Road to Growth: our Strategic Economic Growth Plan (2017)	A strategic economic growth plan to maximise the economic impact of the strategic road network (SRN). It sets out practical steps to increase economic contribution in four areas: • Supporting business productivity and competitiveness, and enabling the performance of SRN-reliant sectors • Providing efficient routes to global markets through international gateways • Stimulating and supporting the sustainable development of homes and employment spaces • Providing employment, skills and business opportunities within our sector
Highways England Growth and Housing Fund (2015)	The Road Investment Strategy established a £100 million Growth and Housing Fund (GHF) to be administered by Highways England. It provides leverage and flexibility for Highways England to support Local Enterprise Partnerships, local authorities and the private sector to mobilise

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	development sites that require prompt investment in the network to allow them to progress quickly. Maximum investment in an individual scheme is £5 million though £10 million may be considered. It can provide capital investment to bridge funding gaps in highway works and associated transport infrastructure which are preventing economic and housing sites from being progressed. Only schemes that demonstrate that the intervention would be a complement to and not a replacement for other funds from private or public sources are eligible.
Network Rail Delivery Plan 2019-2024	Network Rail's management of rail infrastructure is split regionally. At a national level, however, Network Rail has set out how it will spend funding allocated to it by the Government in Control Period 6 (CP6, 2019-2024), through a new operational structure, to deliver the below objectives. Over CP6, Network Rail has a vision to be “a company that is on the side of passengers and freight users”, with the purpose to “connect people to places and goods, driving economic growth.” It frames its activities around six themes: • safety; • efficiency; • sustainable growth; • people; • train service delivery; and • customers and communities. Each of these themes features individual targets related to the running of the rail network.
Inclusive Transport Strategy 2018	The DfT's Inclusive Transport Strategy outlines the Government's plans to achieve equal access for disabled people across the transport network. The strategy details work already undertaken and sets out rights for disabled travellers going forwards, as well as efforts that will be made to raise awareness of issues surrounding physical access, access to information, and training for staff on the transport network. The primary ambition listed is for “disabled people to have the same access to transport as everyone else, and to be able to travel confidently, easily, and without extra cost.” This is framed by the target to achieve equal access by 2030, with assistance where physical infrastructure remains a barrier. The strategy also puts forward various funding streams and updated to guidance with the intention of upgrading physical infrastructure across the country, and monitoring programmes to track delivery of the strategy.
A connected society – A strategy for tackling loneliness, 2018	This strategy notes the importance on local transport links and infrastructure in supporting social networks and facilitating interaction, key elements in combating loneliness

Name of policy	National Policy
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act)	This Act contains five Parts and 16 Schedules and provides for public access on foot to certain types of land, amends the law relating to public rights of way, increases measures for the management and protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation, and provides for better management of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The Act is compliant with the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights, requiring consultation where the rights of the individual may be affected by these measures.
Securing the Future – Delivering the UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)	The Strategy takes account of developments since the 1999 Strategy, both domestically and internationally; the changed structure of government in the UK with devolution to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; greater emphasis on delivery at regional level and the new relationship between government and local authorities. It highlights the renewed international push for sustainable development from the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002.
National Infrastructure Strategy (2020)	This strategy sets out the government's plans to deliver on an infrastructure revolution: a radical improvement in the quality of the UK's infrastructure to help level up the country, strengthen the Union and put the UK on a path to net zero emissions by 2050. As the government helps the economy to recover following COVID-19, it will also seek to address the long-term issues that have held back UK infrastructure. The strategy sets out how the government will: • Boost growth and productivity across the whole of the UK, levelling up and strengthening the Union, • Put the UK on the path to meeting its net zero emissions target by 2050, • Support private investment, • Accelerate and improve delivery of infrastructure projects.
Strategy on Disability Access	The strategy sets out 100 immediate commitments supported by £1.6bn of funding alongside an agenda for future reform. The strategy is focused on improving inclusion in the workplace, tackling the disability employment gap – currently at 28.6% - and making sure children with special educational needs and disabilities are at the heart of the strategy, including: • Piloting an Access to Work Adjustments Passport to help smooth the transition into employment and support people changing jobs. Pilots will be taking place this year focussing on young people leaving education and veterans leaving the armed forces. The Adjustments Passport will capture the in-work support needs of the individual and empower them to have confident discussions about adjustments with employers. It will also set an expectation with the employer that specialist aids and appliances move when their employee progresses in work or moves post. • Investing £300 million to create places, improve existing provision in schools and make accessibility adaptations for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

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	The strategy outlines new technology making rail journeys easier and more accessible including: • Enabling disabled passengers to contact staff from their seat on the train with the new support in place by end of March 2022, with DfT supporting innovative projects that will improve communication for disabled passengers and others with reduced mobility on rail services. Projects will be supported with between £50k and £400k and will use new technology to make using the railways easier and more accessible. The Disability Strategy also covers a range of other areas including access to justice, culture and the arts. It marks the first cross-government endeavour to improve disabled people's everyday lives with legislation, policy and funding from across all corners of government.
National Disability Strategy (2021)	This strategy sets out the actions the government will take to take to improve the everyday lives of all disabled people. It is split into three parts: • Part 1: immediate commitments to improving disabled people's lives • Part 2: including disabled people in policy making and service delivery • Part 3: summary of actions each government department will take This national strategy recognises and builds on the progress that has been made since the Disability Discrimination Act.
Disability Action Plan (2024)	This plan sets out the immediate actions the government will take in the coming year to improve disabled people's everyday lives. It also lays the foundations for longer-term change. This plan compliments the National Disability Strategy and other significant UK government reform programmes and specific work to continuously improve equal access to opportunities, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD). The government is committed to: • Support disabled people who want to be elected to public office • Include disabled people's needs in emergency and resilience planning • Include disabled people's needs in climate-related policies • Improve information and outcomes for families in which someone is disabled • Make playgrounds more accessible • Help businesses understand the needs of and deliver improvements for disabled people • Explore if the UK could host the Special Olympics World Summer Games • Support people who have guide and assistance dogs • Help the government measure how effective its policies and services are for disabled people • Research issues facing disabled people in the future • Make government publications and communications more accessible

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	• Improve understanding of the cost of living for disabled people • Promote better understanding of the UNCRPD across government • Monitor and report progress of the Disability Action Plan
Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE) 2004	This Plan outlines the regional priority goals that are put in place to ensure the effective action of various principles to protect children's health especially those children who are deemed more at risk due to various factors such as unsafe environments and physical factors. It outlines those children most at risk as being poor, underprivileged children or those who live in adverse conditions such as war zones. It also outlines the need for internal collaboration to achieve these priority goals from all of the EU and governing bodies. As well as promoting national children's environment and health action plans.
Health Impact Assessment in Strategic Environmental Assessment (2001)	This is a review of Health Impact Assessment concepts, methods and practices to support the development of a protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment which adequately covers health impacts. It discusses how decisions taken outside of the health sector can affect the health of individuals and populations by modifying their physical and social environment, and how this in turn affects social and economic development. It describes methods, procedures and practices to carry out health impact assessments of policies, plans and projects, highlighting the similarities with and opportunities for integrating health impact assessment within strategic environmental assessments, and other forms of impact assessment under use. It also draws attention to the opportunities for achieving health benefits and avoiding health costs by considering health impacts early in the planning process. It is aimed at inspiring policy makers to include health considerations early in their planning process by showing how different perspectives can feasibly be incorporated into everyday decisions.
Fixing the foundations: Creating a more prosperous nation, HM Government (2015)	This document sets out a 15-point plan that the government will put into action to boost the UK's productivity growth, centred around two key pillars: encouraging long-term investment, and promoting a dynamic economy. It sets out the government's long-term strategy for tackling the issues that matter most for productivity growth.
A Children's Environment and Health Strategy for the United Kingdom (2009)	This document provide an overview of current activities in the UK. Following a public consultation process, recommendations will be made on the measures necessary to improve children's and young people's environmental health in the UK as well as encouraging a coherent cross-government approach. This strategy aims to build on and complement policies and activities already undertaken by government departments, devolved administrations, local and regional authorities and the National Health Service (NHS). Some areas for improvement highlighted in this strategy include: • counteracting the increased number of overweight and obese children and young adults, coupled with improving the amount of physical activity they undertake

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	addressing concerns regarding the number of children whose asthma is affected by air pollution and the effects of air pollution on the long-term lung function of children
Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England (2010)	This white paper sets out the government's long-term vision for the future of public health in England. The aim is to create a 'wellness' service (Public Health England) and to strengthen both national and local leadership. The plans set out put local communities at the heart of public health. It states that central control will end and give local government the freedom, responsibility and funding to innovate and develop their own ways of improving public health in their area. There will also be real financial incentives to reward their progress on improving health and reducing health inequalities, and greater transparency so people can see the results they achieve.
Towards Social Investment for Growth and Cohesion 2014 - 2020	This document, alongside a series of Staff Working Documents, form the Social Investment Package. This outlines a policy framework for redirecting Member States policies where needed towards social investment throughout life, with a view to ensuring the adequate and sustainability of budgets for social policies and for the government and private sector as a whole.
Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010	These regulations sets legally binding limits for concentrations in outdoor air of major air pollutants that impact public health such as particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2). As well as having direct effects, these pollutants can combine in the atmosphere to form ozone, a harmful air pollutant (and potent greenhouse gas) which can be transported great distances by weather systems. It also incorporates the 4th air quality daughter directive that sets targets for levels in outdoor air of certain toxic heavy metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.
Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007	This Air Quality Strategy sets out air quality objectives and policy options to further improve air quality in the UK from today into the long term. As well as direct benefits to public health, these options are intended to provide important benefits to quality of life and help to protect our environment.
Clean Air Strategy, 2019	The Clean Air Strategy explains how the UK Government will tackle all sources of air pollution, sets out policy direction, and outlines measures that will drive the move to zero emission transport modes. The strategy links into other national level policies, outlining the same targets and strategies across multiple documents. The strategy includes numerous aims and goals, many drawn from other policy documents, that are collated in brief in the executive summary. These are framed in the following topics: - protecting the nation's health; - protecting the environment; - securing clean growth and innovation; - action to reduce emissions from transport; - action to reduce emissions at home;

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	• action to reduce emissions from farming; • action to reduce emissions from industry; and • leadership at all levels. The Clean Air Strategy effectively summarises government policy with an impact on air quality from multiple different areas. Multiple government initiatives are listed where action has been taken by central government. Of particular importance, and reinforced by the Clean Air Strategy, is the adoption of challenging and enforceable local Air Quality Strategies.
Making Space for Nature - A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network (2010)	The review looked at England's wildlife sites and whether they are capable of responding and adapting to the growing challenges of climate change. It makes 24 recommendations for practical action to Make Space for Nature and achieve a coherent and resilient ecological networks. Five themes unite them: • We need to continue the recent progress in improving the management and condition of wildlife sites, particularly our SSSIs. We also make recommendations for how these should be designated and managed in ways that enhance their resilience to climate change. • We need to properly plan ecological networks, including restoration areas. Restoration needs to take place throughout England. However, in some areas, both the scale of what can be delivered to enhance the network, and the ensuing • There are a large number of surviving patches of important wildlife habitat scattered across England outside of SSSIs, for example in Local Wildlife Sites. We need to take steps to improve the protection and management of these remaining wildlife habitats. 'Protection' will usually be best achieved through incentive-based mechanisms, but at times may require designation. • We need to become better at deriving multiple benefits from the ways we use and interact with our environment. There are many things that society has to do that may seem to have rather little to do with nature conservation, but could have, or even should have if we embrace more radical thinking; flood management by creating wetlands is an obvious example. We need to exploit these 'win-win' opportunities to the full. Being better at valuing a wider range of ecosystem services would help this process. • We will not achieve a step-change in nature conservation in England without society accepting it to be necessary, desirable, and achievable. This will require strong leadership from government and significant improvements in collaboration between local authorities, local communities, statutory agencies, the voluntary and private sectors, farmers, landowners and other land-managers and individual citizens.
Delivering a healthy natural environment. Ecosystem	The plan has priority areas for action that will be fundamental to the success and to securing wider engagement at the national, regional and local levels: • Priority area 1: Promoting joined-up working within Defra and the Defra network to deliver environmental outcomes more effectively

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approach action plan, Defra (2010)	• Priority area 2: Identifying opportunities for mainstreaming an ecosystems approach • Priority area 3: Using case studies that demonstrate the benefits of taking an ecosystems approach • Priority area 4: Developing ways of valuing ecosystem services
The Great Britain Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy, Defra (2015)	This Strategy aims to address invasive non-native species (INNS) issues in Great Britain, maintaining the approach of the 2008 Strategy and the 2003 policy review. The vision is that if this Strategy is fully implemented, biodiversity, quality of life and economic interests in GB will be better protected against the adverse impacts of INNS because there will be: • widespread awareness and understanding of the risks and adverse impacts associated with INNS, and greater vigilance against these; • integration of INNS within the broader biosecurity agenda; • a strong sense of shared responsibility across government, key stakeholder organisations, land managers and the general public for action and behaviour that will reduce the threats posed by INNS; • a guiding framework for national, regional and local mitigation, control or eradication initiatives helping to reduce the detrimental impact of INNS; and • improved co-ordination and co-operation on INNS issues at a European and international level.
State of Natural Capital Annual Report 2020, Natural Capital Committee (2020)	This report sets out the work done by the committee since March 2019. It sets out what should be included in the Environment Bill and the progress made to date on the goals of the 25 Year Environment Plan.
A narrative for conserving freshwater and wetland habitats in England, Natural England (2016)	This narrative provides an overview of circumstances relating to the conservation of freshwater and wetland habitats in England, considering their ecological function, the natural and anthropogenic factors affecting them, the principles that should be applied to their management, and the respective roles of the main policy mechanisms involved in their conservation. It covers all running and standing water habitats, of whatever size, and terrestrial wetland habitats including bogs, fens, swamp and wet woodland.
The Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) and the Fourth Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting (2023)	This third National Adaption Programme (NAP3) sets out the actions that the government will take to adapt to the impacts of climate change from 2023-2028, building on and developing the approach from previous rounds since 2012. It sets out how we will maintain living standards and protect our environment by making sure the country is resilient and can effectively adapt to changes in our climate. The UK government's vision for adaptation is for a country that effectively plans for and is fully adapted to the changing climate, with resilience against each of the identified climate risks. NAP3 is more ambitious than NAP2, taking a comprehensive approach and responding to every risk and opportunity in the Climate Change

Name of policy	National Policy
Air Quality Plan for Nitrogen Dioxide in the UK, 2017	Risk Assessment, as well as widening the scope to international risks impacting the UK. Jointly produced by the DfT and DEFRA, this national plan determines an approach for areas with the worst levels of traffic-related air pollution to mitigate the effects. It sets out the framework for Clean Air Zones, allowing for targeted action to improve air quality in the “shortest possible time” as required by legal obligations to meet NO₂ concentration thresholds. The document also sets out plans for ending the sale of new, conventional petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2040. The plan argues that NO₂ accumulation is a local issue, as the pollutants do not disperse widely like greenhouse gasses. In line with this local approach, the plan sets out support to local authorities, including: • setting up a £255 million Implementation Fund; • establishing a Clean Air Fund; and • providing £100m for retrofitting and new low emission buses. The plan outlines the introduction of several new funding streams that local authorities can utilise to finance measures to reduce NO₂ emissions.
Heritage Protection for the 21st Century 2007	The paper sets out a vision of a unified and simpler heritage protection system, which will have more opportunities for public involvement and community engagement. The proposed system will be more open, accountable and transparent. It will offer all those with an interest in the historic environment a clearer record of what is protected and why; it will enable people who own or manage historic buildings and sites to have a better understanding of what features are important; it will streamline the consent procedures and create a more consultative and collaborative protection system. It is predominantly aimed for England and Wales with some UK wide elements.
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	Under the Act a monument which has been scheduled is protected against any disturbance including unlicensed metal detecting. Permission must be obtained for any work which might affect a monument above or below ground. English Heritage gives advice to the Government on each application. In assessing an application the Secretary of State will try to ensure any works on protected sites are beneficial to the site or are essential for its long term sustainability.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	Governs special controls in respect of buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest. Any alteration, extension or demolition of a listed building in a way that affects its character as a building of special interest requires Listed Building Consent.
Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation)	These regulations came into force on 19th July 2015. They impose obligations on operators of certain activities requiring them to prevent or remediate environmental damage. They apply to damage to protected species, natural habitats, sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs), water and land

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(England) Regulations 2015	
The Setting of Heritage Assets, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning 3 (2017)	The document sets out guidance, against the background of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the related guidance given in the Planning Practice Guide (PPG), on managing change within the settings of heritage assets, including archaeological remains and historic buildings, sites, areas, and landscapes.
Strategic Environmental Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal, Historic Environment (2016)	The purpose of the advice note is to support all those involved in assessing the effects of certain plans on the historic environment. It offers advice on heritage considerations during the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment process, and on implementing historic environment legislation, the relevant policy in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the related guidance given in the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) as well as the Marine Policy Statement.
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949	This was an act that made provision for National Parks and the establishment of a National Parks Commission. It was also to confer on the Nature Conservancy and local authorities' powers for the establishment and maintenance of nature reserves, it made further provision for the recording, creation, maintenance and improvement of public paths and for securing access to open country and to amend laws relating to rights of way.
UK National Ecosystem Assessment Follow-on (2014)	The UK NEA (2011) advanced a 'settings' or place-based approach to cultural ecosystem services (CES). This approach highlighted a range of cultural goods and benefits associated with peoples' interactions with the natural environment. The UK NEAFO refines and elaborates this approach. It understands CES as both the environmental spaces (e.g. parks and beaches) within which people interact with the natural environment and the cultural practices (e.g. exercising and playing) that define these interactions and spaces. More generally these environmental spaces and practices are understood to shape and reflect a wider set of cultural (collective or shared) values about ecosystems.
National Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2016–2021, Infrastructure and Projects Authority (HM Government) (2016)	The Plan brings together the government's plans for economic infrastructure over the next 5 years with those to support delivery of housing and social infrastructure. This is reflected by the government's commitment to invest over £100 billion by 2020-21, alongside significant ongoing private sector investment in infrastructure. This investment will drive wider economic benefits, including: • supporting growth and creating jobs in the short term as projects are built – especially where public investment is used to attract private investment • raising the productive capacity of the economy in the long term as the benefits of new infrastructure are felt; reduced transaction costs; larger and more integrated labour and product markets; and better opportunities to collaborate and innovate

Name of policy	National Policy
	• driving efficiency – enabling greater specialisation and economies of scale • boosting international competitiveness – attracting inward investment and enabling trade with foreign partners
Creating a better place: Our ambition to 2020, Environment Agency (2018)	This outlines the Environment Agency’s ambitions for how it planned to protect and improve natural resources, alongside Defra’s proposed 25-year environment plan, leading up to the year 2020. Its principles are; • Put people and wildlife first: our goal is to create a better place for them. • 80/20: we will focus on the 20% that makes 80% of the difference. • Support local priorities: every place and community has its own needs.
Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006	Outlines the regulations on contaminated land in order to prevent new land becoming contaminated by polluting substances whilst also tackling historic contamination of sites as it poses risks to human health and the environment.
Safeguarding our Soils: a strategy for England 2009	The purpose of this strategy is to highlight the areas in which soil will be prioritised and to focus attention on tackling degradation threats. The vision of this paper is to try and ensure that by 2030, all England’s soils will be managed sustainably and depredation threats tackled successfully and that this will improve the quality of England’s soils and safeguard their ability to provide essential services for future generations. Key topics include • Better protection for agricultural soils • Protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon • Building the resilience of soils to a changing climate • Preventing soil pollution • Future research and monitoring
Planning for the Future: A guide to working with Highways England on planning matters (2015)	This document describes the approach taken to engage in the planning system and the issues looked at when considering draft planning documents and planning applications. It is aimed at local authorities, developers, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPS), community groups and others involved in plan making/development management in respect of land close to any part of the Strategic Road Network (SRN).
Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England, HM Government (2018)	The strategy sets out the plan to double resource productivity and eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds (including plastic waste) by 2050. It sets out how England will: • preserve our stock of material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy • minimise the damage caused to our natural environment by reducing and managing waste safely and carefully deal with waste crime.
Flood and Water Management Act 2010	This act provides for a better, more comprehensive management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses, helps safeguard community groups from unaffordable rises in surface water drainage

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	charges and protects water supplies to the consumer. The key concepts include: • Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management • Strategies for Natural flood and coastal erosion • The establishment of regional flood and coastal communities.
River Basin Management Plans	These plans set out how organizations, stakeholders and communities will work together to improve the water environment. A RBD covers an entire river system, including river, lake, groundwater, estuarine and coastal water bodies and are designed to protect and improve the quality of the water environment. The last update to these plans was in 2022 which describes the challenges that threaten the water environment and how these challenges can be managed.
Flood Risk Regulations 2009	The Regulations identify and take action in areas with the most significant flood risks. The purpose of the Act is to: • Introduce the concept of flood risk management and the framework for the delivery of flood and coastal erosion risk management through national and local strategies • Provide new definitions, for example “flood”, “surface runoff”, “Risk Management Authorities”, Lead Local Flood Authority” • Establish the roles and responsibilities of the different risk management authorities
Flood and Water Management Act 2010	The Bill responds to recent pressure to introduce legislation to address the threat of flooding and water scarcity, both of which are predicted to increase with climate change. Key areas include: • requires the Environment Agency to create a National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy, which a number of organisations will have to follow • requires leading local flood authorities to create local flood risk management strategies • enables the Environment Agency and local authorities more easily to carry out flood risk management works • introduces a more risk-based approach to reservoir management • changes the arrangements that would apply should a water company go into administration • enables water companies more easily to control non-essential uses of water, such as the use of hosepipes • enables water companies to offer concessions to community groups for surface water drainage charges • requires the use of sustainable drainage systems in certain new developments.
River Basin Management Plans	These plans set out how organizations, stakeholders and communities will work together to improve the water environment. A RBD covers an entire river system, including river, lake, groundwater, estuarine and coastal water bodies and are designed to protect and improve the quality of the water environment.

Name of policy	National Policy
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Water Resources Act 1991	This Act aims to prevent and minimise pollution of water. The policing of this act is the responsibility of the Environment Agency. Under the act it is an offence to cause or knowingly permit any poisonous, noxious or polluting material, or any solid waste to enter any controlled water. Silt and soil from eroded areas are included in the definition of polluting material. If eroded soil is found to be polluting a water body or watercourse, the Environment Agency may prevent or clear up the pollution, and recover the damages from the landowner or responsible person.
Water Act 2003 (as amended)	The four broad aims of the Act are: • the sustainable use of water resources; • strengthening the voice of consumers; • a measured increase in competition; and • the promotion of water conservation.
Water Industry Act 1991	The Act sets out the main powers and duties of the water and sewerage companies, and replaces those set out in the Water Act 1989, and

Name of policy	National Policy
	defined the powers of the Director General of Water Services (now the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat)).
Water for Life White Paper, Defra (2011)	The White Paper describes a vision for future water management in which the water sector is resilient, in which water companies are more efficient and customer focused and in which water is valued as the precious resource it is. And it explains that we all have a part to play in the realisation of this vision.
Preparing for a drier future: England's water infrastructure needs, National Infrastructure Commission (2018)	This document sets out the National Infrastructure Commission's advice on how to address England's water supply challenges and deliver the appropriate level of resilience for the long term. The Commission's central finding is that government should ensure increased drought resilience in England by enhancing the capacity of the water supply system. This will require a twin-track approach combining demand management (including leakage reduction) with long-term investment in supply infrastructure. To achieve this, the Commission recommends that government ensure plans are in place to deliver additional supply and demand reduction of at least 4,000 million litres per day (Ml/day).
National Policy Statement for Water Resources Infrastructure, Defra (2023)	The NPS sets out the need and government's policies for, development of nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs) for water resources in England. The objectives of this NPS are as follows: • To provide a clear national planning policy that facilitates the examination and determination of applications for NSIPs for water resources in England; • To set out the need for nationally significant water resources infrastructure and the role of WRMPs in identifying and satisfying the need. This will provide clarity and confidence on eligible NSIP schemes to inform water company's long term plans; • To provide the primary basis for examination by the Examining Authority and for decisions by the Secretary of State on development consent applications for water resources infrastructure; • To provide guidance to potential NSIP developers on the relevant infrastructure, generic impacts and general siting considerations that may need to be taken into account when planning for the development of water resources infrastructure; • To provide policy and guidance on generic impacts to support any relevant local planning authorities in preparing their local impact reports, which they will be invited to prepare under section 60 of the Planning Act; to guide the development of NSIPs that support the government's sustainability goals and objective to enhance the environment • To provide guidance, where relevant, in respect of applications for infrastructure schemes that include, or have impacts upon, water resources infrastructure.
Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011	These regulations implement the revised EU Waste Framework Directive 2008/98 which sets requirements for the collection, transport, recovery and disposal of waste. It outlines that it is a requirement for businesses to confirm that they have applied the waste management

Name of policy	National Policy
	hierarchy when transferring waste and include a declaration to this effect on their waste transfer note or consignment note. The regulations apply to businesses that: • Produce waste • Import or export waste • Carry or transport waste • Keep or store waste • Treat waste • Dispose of waste • Operate as waste brokers or dealers
National Review of Waste Policy in England 2011	This document is a review of waste policy in England and is guided by a waste hierarchy which is a guide to sustainable waste management and a legal requirement. Key objectives are the use of more sustainable approaches to the use of materials and to improve the service to householders and businesses in order to deliver environmental benefits and support economic growth. This review covers a range of topics including: • Sustainable use of materials and waste prevention • Regulations and enforcement • Food waste • Energy recovery • Infrastructure and planning • Next steps in waste policy.
Waste Management Plan for England (2021)	This document provides an analysis of the current waste management situation in England and fulfils the mandatory requirements of article 28 of the revised Waste Framework Directive (rWFD). The plan does not introduce new policies or change the landscape of how waste is managed in England. Its core aim is to bring current waste management policies under the umbrella of one national plan.
Waste Prevention Programme for England 2021	This programme sets out government's priorities for managing resources and waste, in line with the resource and waste strategy for England. It aims to move to a circular economy, keeping products and materials in circulation at the highest value for as long as possible which includes reuse, repair and remanufacture of products and materials. After consulting on this programme, a policy approach was decided encompassing the following three themes: • Designing out waste • Systems and services • Data and information
Resource Security Action Plan 2012	This document was developed in response to private sector concerns about the availability of some raw materials. It details how the government recognises these issues, provides a framework for business action to address resource risks, and sets out a high level actions to build on the developing partnership between government and businesses to address resource concerns.

Name of policy	National Policy
Environmental Noise Regulations 2006	The European Environmental Noise Directive (END) is implemented in England by The Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006 and seeks to manage the impact of environmental noise through strategic noise mapping and the preparation and implementation of noise Action Plans. Under these regulations, the second round of strategic noise mapping has been undertaken and updated Noise Action Plans have been prepared.
Noise Policy Statement for England 2010	The objectives of the Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) sets out three noise levels to be defined by the noise assessor: These are as follows: • NOEL – No Observed Effect Level. This is the level below which no effect can be detected. Below this level there is no detectable effect on health and quality of life due to noise. • LOAEL – Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level. This is the level above which adverse effects on health and quality of life can be detected. • SOAEL – Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level – This is the level above which significant adverse effects on health and quality of life can occur. The NPSE considers that the noise levels above the SOAEL would be seen to have, by definition, significant adverse effects and would be considered unacceptable. Where the assessed noise levels fall between the LOAEL and the SOAEL noise levels the policy statement requires that: “all reasonable steps should be taken to mitigate and minimise adverse effects on health and quality of life while also taking into account the guiding principles of sustainable development. This does not mean that such adverse effects cannot occur but that efforts should be focused on minimising such effects” Where noise levels are below the LOAEL it is considered there will be no adverse effect. Once the noise levels are below the NOEL there will be no observable change. For the present guidance a numerical definition of LOAEL is given by the WHO Guidelines for Community Noise and BS8233:2014 Guidance on Sound Insulation and Noise Reduction for Buildings.
Road Safety Act 2006	The provisions contained in the Act are designed to improve road safety and help achieve casualty reduction targets. The Act creates a new criminal offence of causing death by careless, or inconsiderate, driving. This offence was introduced because of public concern about deaths on the roads and the minimal sentence allowed under the law as it was before the introduction of the Act. The provisions of the Act cover: • Drink driving • Speeding • New offences • Penalties and enforcement • Driver training • Driver fatigue

Name of policy	National Policy
	• Driver and vehicle licensing • Motor insurance
Transport Investment Strategy 2017	The Transport Investment Strategy sets out how the Government proposes to allocate funding to transport projects supporting its goals for economic growth and infrastructure improvements. The strategy also seeks to put the travelling public at the heart of transport decision making. Four headline objectives are set out to support this, covered below. The strategy also stresses the need for decision-making to be more focussed and undertaken at a more local level than previously, endorsing sub-national transport bodies and aiming to create institutional decision-making frameworks. The four key objectives of transport investment are listed as: • create a transport network that works for users, wherever they live; • improve productivity and rebalance growth across the UK; • enhance our global competitiveness by making Britain a more attractive place to invest; and • support the creation of new housing. In the process of pursuing these objectives, it is also expected that the Government will: • ensure our investment consistently meets the needs of users and helps to create a balanced economy; • focus on getting the best value out of the network and our investment; • retain a resolute focus on delivery; and • remain adaptable in the face of change.
Planning Act 2008	The Act created a new development consent regime for major infrastructure projects in the fields of energy, transport, water, waste water, and waste. The Act sets out the thresholds above which certain types of infrastructure development are considered to be nationally significant and require development consent.
Energy Act 2023	This Act will make provision about energy production and security and the regulation of the energy market. It includes provisions on: • Carbon dioxide storage and transport • Carbon capture and storage and hydrogen production and transport • New technology • Energy performance, saving opportunity schemes • Core fuel sector • Offshore energy production, including environmental protection an, licensing and decommissioning
Name of policy	Local policy
Telford & Wrekin Local Plan 2011 - 2031	The Telford and Wrekin Local Plan sets out a vision and framework for the Borough's development. The plan focuses on creating sustainable communities, combatting climate change, providing better homes for

Name of policy	Local policy
	everyone, protecting our green spaces and natural environment, and improving the health and wellbeing of all residents. The Local Plan proposals will: • Protect green spaces • Care for existing communities • Invest in the future. It will do this and benefit residents by: • Providing more quality homes which local people in Telford and Wrekin can afford. • Providing new homes to meet the needs of the community, including homes for young people, families and older people. • Providing more energy efficient buildings helping to lower the cost of running homes and businesses. • Retaining Telford and Wrekin's identity as one of the greenest places in the country by protecting heritage and enhancing green spaces for people and wildlife. • Investing in established communities by revitalising borough towns and tackling derelict and vacant sites that blight local people's daily lives. • Securing new jobs through new land for existing businesses to grow and new business to invest in Telford and Wrekin. • Securing new and improved infrastructure for the future, including six new schools, expanded GP surgeries and improving transport networks. • Tackling climate change by introducing policies to reduce carbon emissions and improve sustainability. The Local Plan is currently under review to ensure that it is up to date and is in conformity with the revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework.
Council Plan 2024/25 to 2026/27	Re-committed to the vision of 'protect, care and invest to create a better borough.' The plan has identified 5 priorities to deliver on the vision: • Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community • Everyone benefits from a thriving economy • All neighbourhoods are a great place to live • The natural environment is protected, and the Council is taking a leading role in tackling the climate emergency • A community focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services
Vision 2032	To plan for the next 10 years, a vision of what the Borough will be like in 2032 was developed in 2022, presenting a clear ambition and direction of travel for the Borough. The vision outlines four ambitions to be achieved by 2032: • All neighbourhoods are connected, safe and clean • Everyone is able to live a healthy, independent • Everyone benefits from good education and can fulfil their potential in a thriving economy • The environment is protected for the benefit of everyone

Name of policy	Local policy
Local Transport Plan 2011 - 2026	The Telford and Wrekin Local Transport Plan (LTP) is the borough's statutory transport strategy, setting out how the Council will manage, maintain and improve the local transport network. There are 6 goals within the Transport Plan to achieve the overall vision of 'A successful, prosperous and healthy community which offers a good quality of life for all the people of Telford & Wrekin': • Making travel more reliable and efficient, to attract jobs and support growth and regeneration • Maintain highways effectively and efficiently • Reduce carbon emissions to help tackle climate change • Allow everyone to access jobs, education, healthcare, shops and leisure • Improve safety and security on the transport network and promote active travel choices which encourage people to be healthier • Improve the quality of life by reducing the visual, noise, air quality and other impacts of transport on people and the environment
Becoming Carbon Neutral Action Plan	This plan was first published in 2020 (and is updated annually) as a result of the borough announcing a climate emergency in July 2019. The plan sets out how this will be achieved through a combination of carbon reduction, renewable energy, behaviour change and climate adaptation measures. Addresses transport-related emissions through supporting an increase in electric vehicle charging infrastructure and promotion of active travel.
Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership Community Safety Strategy 2024/25 – 2026/27	The Community Safety Strategy 2024/25–2026/27 sets out how the Safer Telford and Wrekin Partnership will work collaboratively to reduce crime, harm and anti-social behaviour, and improve safety across the borough. It fulfils the Partnership's statutory duty under the Crime and Disorder Act and aligns with the Council's wider Vision 2032 ambition for safe neighbourhoods.
Telford Growth Strategy 2025 Refresh	The Telford Growth Strategy Refresh (March 2025) updates the borough's approach to economic growth. The guiding principles for growth in the Telford & Wrekin borough are as follows: • Redressing the balance between public transport, active transport, and private transport; • Accessibility of the transport system from a physical, social, and financial perspective • Managing the growth of Telford sustainably to build thriving new communities who are well-connected to the existing transport system and have a variety of travel options available to them.
Telford & Wrekin Infrastructure Delivery Plan	The Infrastructure Delivery Plan underpins the delivery of the 'borough vision' for the year 2031 by providing improved transport connections, more capacity in local schools, better healthcare provision and an enhanced Green Network. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan is produced in parallel with the new Local Plan and; • Contains a clear and costed delivery plan for years 1 to 5 of the local Plan; • Contains an estimate of costs and scale of projects for years 5 to 15 of the Local Plan

Name of policy	Local policy
	- Identifies a total funding gap of £101m - Sets out a strategy to cover the funding gap including the identification
Telford & Wrekin Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan	The Telford and Wrekin LCWIP outline a long-term plan (10+ years) to enhance active travel in the borough. It has considered the full extent of the borough of Telford and Wrekin (as shown in Figure 1), with an emphasis on links to key trip attractors and destinations that will help encourage a greater mode share for walking and cycling. The study approach follows Department for Transport (DfT) guidance for an LCWIP1, the core outputs of which are: - Network plans for walking and cycling which identify preferred routes for further development. - Prioritised programme for improvements for future investment. - LCWIP report that sets out the underlying analysis carried out and provides a narrative which supports the identified improvements and network.
Highway Asset Management Policy and Strategy	The Highway Asset Management Policy & Strategy sets out how Telford & Wrekin Council will develop and improve local transport infrastructure for the benefit of communities and businesses. Our approach to effective transport asset management has evolved from consideration of the wider corporate objectives of the Council. The strategy's vision is: - Delivering a safe, efficient and sustainable highway to meet the needs of communities and businesses, providing access to jobs and services, supporting health and wellbeing and catering for future growth - Maximising and managing investment into the highway network to support the local economy, investing in new technologies and our workforce to promote innovation and creativity
Telford & Wrekin Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	The Public EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy sets out how Telford & Wrekin Council will support the transition to electric vehicles by developing a network of public charge points across the borough. It underpins both local and national decarbonisation goals and supports the Council's ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030. The strategy supports the objectives off: - Supporting and encouraging the adoption and roll out of low carbon vehicles - Raising awareness of sustainable transport alternatives - Improving the quality of life for residents through a reduction of noise and air quality impacts
Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023 - 2027	This strategy aims to deliver the health and wellbeing priorities and commitments in both the Council Plan and the Borough Vision 2032. It is led by the Telford and Wrekin Health and Wellbeing Board and provides a shared framework for action across local government, the NHS, voluntary and community organisations, and wider partners. The strategy takes a preventative approach, through advice and support on self-care, and person centred to keep individuals needs of as a priority.

Name of policy	Local policy
Telford and Wrekin Playing Pitch and Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2025 - 2035	This strategy provides a clear roadmap for the provision, protection, and enhancement of playing pitches and outdoor recreation spaces across Telford and Wrekin. It identifies future opportunities to ensure that facilities meet the needs of residents, clubs, and schools while supporting health, wellbeing, and community cohesion. Investing in outdoor sport and recreation is a strategic priority that delivers measurable returns for Telford and Wrekin Council as high-quality, accessible spaces are proven to reduce health inequalities, improve mental wellbeing, and lower long-term healthcare costs. They strengthen communities by fostering inclusion, engaging young people in positive activities, and reducing anti-social behaviour, key priorities for safer, stronger neighbourhoods.
Aging Well Strategy 2023 - 2033	Sets out a 10-year, partnership-led approach to support people in Telford and Wrekin to live well, independently and in good health for longer. It responds to significant demographic change, with rapid growth in the older population, and aims to reduce future pressure on health and care services. The aim of this strategy is that people in the borough will live well for longer.
Draft Telford & Wrekin's Housing Strategy 2025 - 2030	Telford and Wrekin's housing strategy 2025-2030 is concerned with all types of housing, tenure and housing needs. It sets out the long-term vision for housing and the actions that will be taken to address the housing needs of the Borough, seeking to ensure that every resident has access to safe, affordable, and quality housing. This strategy outlines the council's commitment to improving the availability and standard of housing, while also focusing on sustainability, community empowerment and economic regeneration. It sets out three objectives: • To make the best use of existing homes • To support safe, clean, green, healthy, connected communities • To provide homes to support and empower the most vulnerable people
Bus Service Improvement Plan	The plan details that Telford & Wrekin want a bus network that is regular reliable and efficient, to remove barriers to accessing employment, education, health and leisure services to support economy growth. It has been developed in conjunction and aligned to the emerging LTP4. There are ten key principles to achieve the council's vision: • Frequent • Reliable • Accessible • Affordable • Flexible • Comprehensive • Green • Attractive • Safe • Informative

Name of policy	Local policy
Building Safer, Stronger & Healthier Communities Through Better Air Quality	This strategy highlights how improving air quality is central to creating healthier and safer communities. The strategy was created to tackle a range of health issues, environmental damage, and social inequalities. The three aims of the strategy are: 1. Maintain and improve air quality in the context of area wide growth 2. Tackle air quality inequalities by prioritising action to benefit vulnerable groups and communities 3. Link air quality to the climate agenda with a focus on emission reductions, for carbon as well as air pollutants: a Low Emission Strategy The strategy also details its intention to reduce emissions from transport through encouraging sustainable travel choices, like active travel and public transport and encouraging an uptake in electric vehicles.
Transport Growth Strategy	Sets out the transport infrastructure and investment that is required to accommodate future housing, business and population growth within Telford & Wrekin ensuring that Telford retains its competitiveness to attract inward investment, create jobs and improve quality of life for residents and visitors. The objectives of the Transport Growth Strategy are: • support economic vitality; • improve the sustainability of transport provision; • create choice amongst different modes of transport; • improve health and well-being; • minimise the impact of new development on road safety and the environment; • enhance accessibility; • improve public understanding of the transport implications of development; • enable other highway and transport authorities/service providers to support and deliver the transport infrastructure that conforms to the Local Plan; and • support local shops and the high street.
Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy 2016 - 2021	This strategy aims to encourage children to travel to school via a sustainable mode of transport including, walking, cycling, public transport and car sharing. The strategy details that using these methods of transport will contribute to: • improving the quality of the local and global environment, by reducing carbon emissions associated with school travel and reducing local congestion • helping to reduce child casualties • widening choice by improving accessibility to educational establishments and activities • improving the physical and mental health of children and: • contributing to improving educational achievement and attendance

Name of policy	Local policy
Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site Management Plan	The purpose of the Management Plan is to ensure the preservation and protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Ironbridge World Heritage Site; this includes the significant monuments, the archaeological sites and the historic buildings and sites, all within a historic and accessible landscape. The Plan also aims to improve the interpretation and understanding of the cultural landscape to its visitors and inhabitants and enhance the living community within the WHS through social and economic regeneration. Social interaction, among both visitors and inhabitants and cultural and ecological stewardship is promoted throughout the Plan. Continuing research into the origins and history of the Ironbridge WHS will inform appropriate future management of the site. Since its designation, the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site has been a popular tourist destination. For over thirty years, the WHS has been managed to ensure the preservation of its unique character and Outstanding Universal Value. In this current Plan, important ideas pertaining to developmental, environmental and cultural sustainability have been incorporated. It provides a mechanism for an agreed framework among all of the stakeholders and partners within the Ironbridge Gorge for long-term and holistic decision making to enable the conservation, improvement, development and interpretation of the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site.
Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site Supplementary Planning Document	The overarching aim of this SPD is to provide guidance for protecting and enhancing the Outstanding Universal Value of the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site (IGWHS), preventing loss through deterioration and disappearance of its heritage value, whilst providing a consistent set of guidelines to help businesses and residents play their part in maintaining what makes the IGWHS so universally special. To achieve this the SPD will set out how the planning system will seek to fulfil the responsibilities and opportunities that arise from WHS status. This includes helping to: • Protect; • Conserve; • Present and transmit to future generations the importance of the IGWHS; and Encourage investment and development to secure a healthy economy and support regeneration, whilst not compromising the Outstanding Universal Value of the IGWHS.

Appendix C. Baseline and Contextual Information

C.1 Biodiversity

Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

National (England)

As of April 2026, there are 88 SPAs located within England covering an area of 2,155,622 hectares.¹ There is one site crossing the England / Scotland border (135,749 ha), two across the England / Wales border (38,783 ha), one classified as England / Wales / Offshore (252,757 ha) and two classified as England / offshore (747,190 ha).

Regional (West Midlands)

There is one SPA in the West Midlands:

- Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are no SPAs located within the Plan Area.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are protected areas for birds in the UK. SPAs are classified in accordance with European Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds, known as the Birds Directive. SPAs protect rare and vulnerable birds (as listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive) and regularly occurring migratory species. JNCC² is responsible for advising the UK Government and Devolved Administrations on aspects of the classification and management of SPAs from a UK perspective, including reporting on the implementation of the UK SPA programme and the status and trends of protected bird species. New potential Special Protection Areas (pSPAs) for classification or updates to existing SPAs are submitted in tranches.

The UK's Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs) are responsible for assessing the condition of SPAs. Approximately 39.81% of all SPA's in England are classified as being in favourable condition, with 13.62% classed as unfavourable but recovering in April 2026. Approximately 10.34% of SPAs are in a declining condition with 0.37% being partially destroyed³.

Anticipated Future Trends⁴:

- The composition of flora and fauna on each Protected Area (PA) will change – high confidence (medium evidence, high agreement)

¹ JNCC (2026) Special Protection Areas (SPAs): List of sites. Available:: [List of UK SPAs](#)

² JNCC (2026) *Special Protection Areas (SPAs)*. Available: [Special Protection Areas | Advisor to Government on Nature Conservation | JNCC](#)

³ Natural England (2026) *Designated Sites View - SPA Condition Summary*. Available: [Designated Sites View](#)

⁴ UKRI (2015) *Natural Environment Research Council..* Available: [Natural Environment Research Council \(NERC\) – UKRI](#)

- Cold adapted species of high latitudes and altitudes will tend to decrease on PAs, whilst warm adapted species will tend to increase – medium confidence (medium evidence, medium agreement)
- PAs in the North of the UK will gain plant species overall, whilst PAs in the south may lose some native plant species. This pattern is reversed for UK breeding birds – low confidence (medium evidence, low agreement)
- Species with lower dispersal capacities and those for which urban and intensive agricultural areas are a barrier to dispersal will be unable to colonize PAs that become climatically suitable – low confidence (limited evidence, medium agreement)
- Increasing range mismatching of interacting species, such as butterflies and their host plants, might mean that more management is necessary on PAs to preserve species that interact with each other – low confidence (limited evidence, medium agreement).

Integrating consideration of climate change into management plans for the PA network is likely to result in more effective (and cost-effective) conservation solutions. In order to facilitate this integration, monitoring of climate change impacts and management actions should be carried out to enable adaptive decision making.

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

National (England)

As of April 2026, there are 256 SACs located within England, covering an area of 5,657,869 hectares⁵. There are three SACs crossing the England / Scotland border (112,766 ha) and seven across the England / Wales border (95,182 ha). Additionally, there are three SACs which are classified as England / offshore (3,797,160 ha) and one England / Wales / Offshore (584,211 ha).

Regional (West Midlands)

There are 20 SACs within or intersecting the West Midlands Region:

- Bredon Hill
- Brown Moss
- Cannock Chase
- Cannock Extension Canal
- Downton Gorge
- Ensor's Pool
- Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem & Cadney Mosses
- Fens Pools
- Lyppard Grange Ponds
- Motte Meadows
- Pasturefields Salt Marsh
- Peak District Dales
- River Clun
- River Dee and Bala Lake
- River Mease
- River Wye
- South Pennine Moors
- The Stiperstones & The Hollies

⁵ Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2026) *Special Areas of Conservation*. Available: [Special Areas of Conservation | Advisor to Government on Nature Conservation | JNCC](#)

- West Midlands Mosses
- Wye Valley Woodlands

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are no SACs located within the Plan Area.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

SACs are strictly protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive. Article 3 of the Habitats Directive requires the establishment of a European network of important high-quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the 189 habitat types and 788 species identified in Annexes I and II of the Directive (as amended). The listed habitat types and species are those considered to be most in need of conservation at a European level (excluding birds). Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) are sites that have been adopted by the European Commission but not yet formally designated by the government of each country. Candidate SACs (cSACs) are sites that have been submitted to the European Commission, but not yet formally adopted. JNCC is responsible for advising the UK Government and devolved administrations on aspects of the designation and management of SACs from a UK perspective.

SACs are of national and international conservation importance.

Approximately 36.06% of all SACs in England are classified as being in favourable condition, with 16.99% classed as unfavourable but recovering in 2026. Approximately 9.09% of SACs are in a declining condition with 0.24% being partially destroyed⁶.

Anticipated Future Trends:

See above details that are applicable to all forms of PA.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

National (England)

There are 4,128 SSSIs located within England. Some of these sites correspond with other designations, such as SACs, SPAs and NNRs. SSSIs are widespread throughout the whole of England and cover a wide variety of habitats and geological features.

Regional (West Midlands)

There are 447 SSSIs within or intersecting the West Midlands Region.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

As of October 2025, there are eight SSSIs located within the Plan Area covering an area of 517.62 hectares⁷:

- Lincoln Hill SSSI
- Allscott Settling Ponds SSSI
- Newport Canal SSSI
- Lydebrook Dingle SSSI
- New Hadley Brickpit SSSI
- The Wrekin and The Ercall SSSI
- Tick Wood and Benthall Edge SSSI
- Muxton Marsh SSSI

⁶ Natural England (2026) *SAC Feature Conditions Summary*. Available: [Designated Sites View](#)

⁷ DEFRA (2026) *Sites of Special Scientific Interest*. Available: [Sites of Special Scientific Interest \(England\)](#)

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is a formal conservation designation of international importance. Usually, it describes an area that's of particular interest to science due to the rare species of fauna or flora it contains - or even important geological or physiological features that may lie in its boundaries. SSSIs often contain important habitats such as grasslands, parkland and woodland. Some even contain ancient woodland and ancient trees. In other words, these areas have high conservation value and need to be protected. Official authorities in each country determine which sites should have SSSI status, for England this is Natural England.

Approximately 32.72% of all SSSIs in England are classified as being in favourable condition, with 43.53% classed as unfavourable but recovering in 2026. Approximately 13.97% of SSSIs are in a declining condition with 0.05% being partially destroyed⁸.

The locations of SSSIs within the Plan Area are shown in Appendix D.

Anticipated Future Trends

See above details that are applicable to all forms of PA.

National Nature Reserves (NNR)

National (England)

There are 221 NNRs located within England, covering an area of 111,397.8 hectares⁹.

Regional (West Midlands)

There are 18 NNRs within the West Midlands Region.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are no NNRs located within the Plan Area.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

National Nature Reserves (NNRs) were established to protect some of our most important habitats, species and geology, and to provide 'outdoor laboratories' for research. Natural England manages approximately two thirds of England's NNRs. The remaining reserves are managed by organisations approved by Natural England, such as the National Trust, Forestry Commission, RSPB, Wildlife Trusts and local authorities.

Approximately 37.56% of all NNRs in England are classified as being in favourable condition, with 16.55% classed as unfavourable but recovering in 2026. Approximately 9.15% of NNRs are in a declining condition with 0.36% being partially destroyed¹⁰.

Local Nature Reserves (LNR)

National (England)

As of October 2025, there are 1,708 LNRs located within England¹¹.

Regional (West Midlands)

There are 225 LNRs within the West Midlands Region.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

⁸ Natural England (2026) *SSSI Condition Summary*. Available: [Designated Sites View \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Data-and-Information/Designated-Sites/Designated-Sites-View)

⁹ DEFRA (2026) *National Nature Reserves*. Available: [National Nature Reserves \(England\) - data.gov.uk](https://data.gov.uk/dataset/national-nature-reserves-england)

¹⁰ Natural England (2026) *NNR Condition Summary*. Available: [Designated Sites View](https://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Data-and-Information/Designated-Sites/Designated-Sites-View)

¹¹ DEFRA (2026) *Local Nature Reserves*. Available: [Local Nature Reserves \(England\)](https://data.gov.uk/dataset/local-nature-reserves-england)

There are 18 LNRs located within the Plan Area:

- Telford Town Park
- Limekiln Wood
- The Ercall And Lawrence's Hill
- Lodge Field
- Dothill
- Granville
- Madebrook And Stirchley Dingle
- Madeley
- The Beeches
- Ketley Paddock Mound
- Apley Woods
- Lilleshall Hill
- Dawley Hamlets
- The Cockshutt
- Lightmoor
- Randlay Valley
- Rough Park
- Central Hall

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are a statutory designation made under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 by principal local authorities. Parish and Town Councils can also declare LNRs but they must have the powers to do so delegated to them by a principal local authority. LNRs are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. They offer people opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply to enjoy it. They range from windswept coastal headlands, ancient woodlands and flower-rich meadows to former inner-city railways, long abandoned landfill sites and industrial areas now re-colonised by wildlife. They are an impressive natural resource which makes an important contribution to England's biodiversity.

The locations of LNRs within the Plan Area are shown in Appendix D.

Ramsar Sites

National (England)

As of March 2026, there are 73 Ramsar sites located within England, covering an area of 412, 116 hectares. Of these, one Ramsar site crosses the England / Scotland border (43,637 ha) and three cross the England / Wales border (40,553 ha)¹².

Regional (West Midlands)

There are two Ramsar sites within and intersecting the West Midlands Region:

- Midland Meres & Mosses Phase 1
- Midland Meres & Mosses Phase 2

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

¹² Joint Nature Convention Committee (2026) *Convention on Wetlands*. Available: [Convention on Wetlands | Advisor to Government on Nature Conservation | JNCC](#)

There are no Ramsar Sites located within the Plan Area¹³.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention. The initial emphasis was on selecting sites of importance to water birds within the UK, and consequently many Ramsar sites are also Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under the Birds Directive. Sites proposed for selection are advised by the UK statutory nature conservation agencies, or the relevant administration in the case of Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, co-ordinated through JNCC.

Approximately 39.29% of all Ramsar Sites in England are classified as being in favourable condition, with 12.94% classed as unfavourable but recovering. Approximately 11.70% of Ramsar Sites are in a declining condition with 0.35% being partially destroyed¹⁴.

Anticipated Future Trends¹⁵:

See above details that are applicable to all forms of PA.

Priority Habitats

National (England)

As of November 2025, the Priority Habitat Inventory maps 27 terrestrial and freshwater priority habitats across England¹⁶.

Regional (West Midlands)

Reported at national and local level only.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are 1,395 parcels of priority habitat identified within the Plan Area which are made up of eight types:

- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
- Good quality semi-improved grassland
- Lowland fens
- Lowland dry acid grassland
- Lowland heathland
- Lowland meadows
- Lowland raised bog
- Deciduous woodland

Deciduous woodland accounts for the highest percentage of priority habitat within the Plan Area, with approximately 1,135 parcels identified which accounts for 81.4% of all priority habitat found within the Plan Area.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

Priority habitats can be designated as protected areas called Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). They can also be outside of these SSSI protected areas but be under Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) or Countryside Stewardship (CS) agreements or fall

¹³ DEFRA (2026) *Ramsar sites*. Available: [Ramsar \(England\)](#)

¹⁴ Natural England (2026) *SSSI Condition Summary*. Available: [Designated Sites View \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](#)

¹⁵ UKRI (2024) Natural Environment Research Council. Available: <https://www.ukri.org/councils/nerc/>

¹⁶ Natural England (2025) *Priority Habitat Inventory (England)*. Available: [Priority Habitats Inventory \(England\) - data.gov.uk](#)

within Forestry Commission (FC) 'Managed woodland'. Some priority habitats, however, fall outside of the protection of all these schemes.

The locations of Priority Habitat within the Plan Area are shown in Appendix D.

Anticipated Future Trends:

See above details that are applicable to all forms of PA.

Ancient Woodland

National (England)

As of April 2026, there are over 53,000 ancient woodland sites in England which cover an area of approximately 365,000 hectares¹⁷.

Regional (West Midlands)

There are approximately 5,350 parcels of Ancient Woodland within and intersecting the West Midlands Region.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are 52 parcels of Ancient Woodland located within the Plan Area, which covers an area of approximately 633 hectares.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

Ancient woods are areas of woodland that have persisted since 1600 in England and Wales, and 1750 in Scotland. They are relatively undisturbed by human development. As a result, they are unique and complex communities of plants, fungi, insects and other microorganisms. Ancient woodlands can be classified into different categories, including Ancient semi-natural woods (woods that have developed naturally) and plantations on ancient woodland sites (ancient woodlands that have been felled and replanted with non-native species). Ancient woodland is identified using presence or absence of woods from old maps, information about the wood's name, shape, internal boundaries, location relative to other features, ground survey, and aerial photography. The Forestry Commission is responsible for protecting, expanding and promoting the sustainable management of woodlands.

Approximately 1,225 ancient woodlands are under threat in the UK due to conifer plantations, overgrazing, infrastructure development and the spread of invasive species¹⁸.

Anticipated Future Trends

See above details that are applicable to all forms of PA. In addition to the threat of climate change, ancient woodlands are at particular threat from major infrastructure projects, including road and rail schemes. Whilst many schemes take part in some form of habitat regeneration (such as replanting), the replacement habitat is not comparable to the ecological value of ancient woodlands that have been preserved since 1600. Once these habitats are removed, they cannot be replaced or regrown.

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)

National (England)

¹⁷ Natural England (2026) *Ancient Woodland (England)*. Available: [Ancient Woodland \(England\) - data.gov.uk](https://data.gov.uk)

¹⁸ Woodland Trust (2026) *Ancient Woodland*. Available: [Ancient Woodland - British Habitats - Woodland Trust](https://www.ancient-woodland-trust.org.uk/)

There are 106 MCZs located within England. They are mostly found in offshore regions, but a number of Marine Conservation Zones are found inshore.

Regional (West Midlands)

There are no MCZs located within the West Midlands Region.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are no MCZs located within the Plan Area.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

The government aims to have ‘clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas’. The government has made a commitment to completing a network of Marine Conservation Zones (a type of Marine Protected Area), to create a Blue Belt of protected sites around our coasts.

Anticipated Future Trends¹⁹:

Increasing marine development, pollution, fishing practices and climate change place pressure on MCZs and wider marine habitat and wildlife. Management measures may be required in order to restore or maintain the conservation status of the protected features of MCZs. See above details that are applicable to all forms of PA.

Biosphere Reserves

National (England)

There are three Biosphere Reserves in England, all located to the south: ²⁰

- North Devon Biosphere
- Isle of Wight Biosphere
- Brighton and Lewes Downs Biosphere

Regional (West Midlands)

There are no Biosphere Reserves in the West Midlands Region.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are no Biosphere Reserves in the Plan Area.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

Biosphere Reserves are all about improving the relationship between people and their local environment, globally. They are sites created by UNESCO that find creative ways for people and nature to thrive together. They act as extraordinary testing grounds to put into practice a revolutionary approach to managing our ecosystems sustainably for future generations.

Biosphere reserves are recognised under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme with the aim of promoting sustainable development founded on the work of the local community. Once designated, they lie under the United Kingdom's authority, but when grouped together in the global community together they make up a network of sites within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR).

Anticipated Future Trends²¹:

¹⁹ UKRI (2026) Natural Environment Research Council. Available: <https://www.ukri.org/councils/nerc/>

²⁰ UNESCO (2026) *UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in the UK and Crown Dependencies*. Available: [Biosphere Reserves | UNESCO in the UK](#)

²¹ UKRI (2024) Natural Environment Research Council. Available: <https://www.ukri.org/councils/nerc/>

See above details that are applicable to all forms of PA.

RSPB Reserves

National (England)

As of February 2025, there are 213 RSPB Reserves in England²².

Regional (West Midlands)

There are three RSPB Reserves within the West Midlands Region:

- Sandwell Valley
- Coombes Valley and Consall Woods
- Middleton Lakes

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are no RSPB Reserves located within the Plan Area.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

RSPB reserves are nature reserves run by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB); a non-statutory body incorporated by Royal Charter. RSPB reserves cover a broad range of habitat and landscapes, including heathland, estuaries, cliffs.

Anticipated Future Trends:

See above details that are applicable to all forms of PA.

C.2 Air Quality

Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)

National (England)

As of April 2026, there are 498 Air Quality Management Areas located within England²³.

Regional (West Midlands)

There are 37 AQMAs within the West Midlands Region.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are no Air Quality Management Areas located within the Plan Area.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends

Since December 1997 each local authority in the UK must review and assess air quality in their area to determine performance against national air quality objectives. Where air quality objectives are not likely to be achieved an AQMA must be declared. AQMAs are typically associated with vehicle emissions, principally oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), oxides of sulphur (SO₂) and particulates (PM₁₀). As such, AQMAs are predominantly associated with urban areas and the road network²⁴.

The quality of our air in the UK has improved considerably over the last decade. Road transport is a key source of many air pollutants, particularly in urban areas. There are two main trends in the transport sector working in opposite directions: new vehicles are

²² RSPB (2026) *RSPB Reserves*. Available: [RSPB Reserves | RSPB Open Data](#)

²³ GOV.UK (2026) *Air Quality Management Areas*. Available: [Air quality management area Dataset | Planning Data](#)

²⁴ UK Air (2018) *Summary AQMA data*. Available: [Summary AQMA data - DEFRA UK Air - GOV.UK](#)

becoming individually cleaner in response to European emission standards legislation, but total vehicle kilometres are increasing. Overall emissions of key air pollutants from road transport have fallen by about 50% over the last decade, despite increases in traffic, and are expected to reduce by a further 25% over the next decade. This is mainly a result of progressively tighter vehicle emission and fuel standards agreed at European level and set in UK regulations²⁵.

Note that there is also increasing recognition of the role solid fuel use in domestic properties plays in poor air quality, with wood burning making a significant contribution toward wintertime PM10 concentrations in many towns and cities. PM10 attributable to wood burning tends to peak during wintertime evenings and weekends. This suggests that wood is used principally as a secondary or 'lifestyle' fuel, rather than a primary source of heating. It also suggests that the majority of current air quality impacts are linked to simpler appliances such as open fires and stoves, rather than more complex appliances such as biomass boilers and Combined Heat and Power systems. Local authorities have experienced a number of gross pollution and nuisance cases linked to solid fuel appliances, and the frequency of these cases may be increasing. In many cases these problems occur when appliances are poorly installed, misused and/or inappropriate fuels are used²⁶.

Noise Action Important Areas

National (England)

There are approximately 11,800 active Noise Action Important Areas located within England.

The Environmental Noise Directive requires European Member States to produce noise maps, every five years, for major roads, major railways, major airports and large urban areas (agglomerations). These maps are used to produce noise action plans, which provide a framework to manage environmental noise and its effects.

Regional (West Midlands)

There are approximately 1,380 Noise Action Important Areas in the West Midlands Region.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are 36 Noise Action Important Areas within the Plan Area.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends

Noise Action Plans are required by the Environmental Noise Directive. Noise Important Areas identify 'hotspot' locations where the highest 1% of noise levels at residential locations can be found and therefore highlight where further investigation should be directed.

*DEFRA defines an agglomeration as an area having a population in excess of 100,000 persons and a population density equal to or greater than 500 people per km² and which is considered to be urbanised.

²⁵ Department for Environment and Rural Affairs (2011) *The Air Quality Strategy for England Wales and Northern Ireland: Volume 1*. Available: [The air quality strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: Volume 1 - GOV.UK](#)

²⁶ The Institution of Environmental Sciences (2023) *New community: IES & EPUK focus on implementation*. Available: [New community: IES & EPUK focus on implementation | The Institution of Environmental Sciences: The IES](#)

The locations of Noise Action Important Areas within the Plan Area are shown in Appendix D.

C.3 Climate Change

Distribution of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs); Contribution of sectors to GHG emissions

National (England)

The total CO₂ emissions estimate for England totalled at 356,094.1 ktCO₂e in 2023.²⁷

The territorial CO₂ emissions estimate for England is broken down into the following sectors:

- Industry: 56,675.0 ktCO₂e
- Commercial: 29,590.4 ktCO₂e
- Public Sector: 10,379.8 ktCO₂e
- Domestic: 76,896.6 ktCO₂e
- Transport: 113,306.6 ktCO₂e
- LULUCF: 1,119.7 ktCO₂e
- Agriculture: 48,287.7 ktCO₂e
- Waste: 19,838.2 ktCO₂e

Regional (West Midlands)

The total CO₂ emissions estimate for the West Midlands totalled 30,156.4 ktCO₂e in 2023.

The territorial CO₂ emissions estimate for West Midlands is broken down into the following sectors:

- Industry: 4,369.8 ktCO₂e
- Commercial: 2,352.0 ktCO₂e
- Public Sector: 917.6 ktCO₂e
- Domestic: 6,608.6 ktCO₂e
- Transport: 11,141.8 ktCO₂e
- LULUCF: -448.5 ktCO₂e
- Agriculture: 3,550.5 ktCO₂e
- Waste: 1,664.6 ktCO₂e

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

The territorial CO₂ emissions estimate for Telford & Wrekin Local Authority Area totalled at 873.3 ktCO₂e in 2023.

The territorial CO₂ emissions estimate for Telford & Wrekin Local Authority is broken down into the following sectors:

- Industry: 141.3 ktCO₂e
- Commercial: 81.8 ktCO₂e
- Public Sector: 31.5 ktCO₂e
- Domestic: 199.8 ktCO₂e
- Transport: 298.4 ktCO₂e

²⁷ Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025) *UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics 2005 to 2023*. Available: [UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2023 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics-2005-to-2023)

- LULUCF: 25.5 ktCO₂e
- Agriculture: 79.4 ktCO₂e
- Waste: 35.7 ktCO₂e

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

The UK's yearly publication²⁸ on GHG emissions provides the latest estimates of 1990-2023 UK territorial greenhouse gas emissions, which are presented in carbon dioxide equivalent units (CO₂e). They show greenhouse gas emissions occurring within the UK's borders and cover the Kyoto "basket" of seven greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFC), perfluorocarbons (PFC), sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃).

The UK has domestic targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions under the Climate Change Act 2008 (CCA). The CCA established a long-term legally binding framework to reduce emissions, initially committing the UK to reducing emissions by at least 80% below 1990/95 baselines by 2050. In June 2019, following the IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C and advice from the independent Committee on Climate Change, the CCA was amended to commit the UK to achieving a 100% reduction in emissions (to net zero) by 2050.

The CCA also introduced carbon budgets, which set legally binding limits on the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions the UK can emit for a given five-year period. The first carbon budget ran from 2008-12. In 2014, the UK confirmed that it had met the budget, with emissions 36 MtCO₂e below the cap of 3,018 MtCO₂e. The second carbon budget ran from 2013-17. In 2019, the UK confirmed that it had met the budget, with emissions 384 MtCO₂e below the cap of 2,782 MtCO₂e. The third carbon budget ran from 2018 to 2022, with an emissions cap of 2,544 MtCO₂e. The fourth carbon budget is running from 2023 – 2027, with an emissions cap of 1,950 MtCO₂e²⁹.

Anticipated Future Trends:

Recent trends illustrate that GHG emissions are primarily being reduced in the energy sector due to the change in fuel mix for electricity generation, in particular a reduction in the use of coal and gas. It is expected that this will continue over the next few years and decades in favour of more renewable and low-carbon sources. It can also be expected that GHG emissions in the transportation sector are likely to decrease with the increasing availability and feasibility of electric vehicles and business fleets.

Predicted changes to temperature and weather patterns

National (England)

The UK Climate Projections (UKCP18) are scientific projections made by the Met Office. UKCP18 data provides updated observations and climate change projections up to 2100 in the UK and globally. In 2025, the Met Office released a State of the UK Climate report for 2024³⁰:

- Since the 1980s the UK climate has been warming at a rate of approximately 0.25°C per decade. The last three years have all been in the UK's top five warmest on record.

²⁸ Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2023) *2022 UK greenhouse gas emissions, provisional figures*. Available: [2022 UK greenhouse gas emissions: provisional figures - statistical release \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

²⁹ Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2021) *Carbon Budgets*. Available: [Carbon Budgets - GOV.UK](https://gov.uk)

³⁰ Met Office (2025) *State of the UK Climate 2024*. Available: [State of the UK Climate - Met Office](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/state-of-the-uk-climate)

- Temperature extremes have increased, becoming more frequent and more intense. The hottest summer days have warmed around twice as much as average summer days in some UK areas when comparing the latest decade to 1961-1990.
- Winters are getting wetter: October 2023 to March 2024 was the wettest winter half-year on record.

Regional (West Midlands)

In the West Midlands the climate projections are:³¹

- Annual temperatures in the West Midlands are expected to rise between approximately 1.2°C by the 2050s and between 1.3 and 2.4°C by the 2080s from a 1981-2000 baseline
- In winter, rainfall is expected to increase by approximately 6% by the 2050s and by between 9% to 14% by the 2080s from a 1981-2000 baseline
- Conversely, summer rainfall is expected to decrease by approximately 15% by the 2050s and by between 19% to 26% by the 2080s
- The frequency and intensity of extreme temperature and rainfall events is also likely to increase in future, with the extent of change depending on global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

Predicted changes to temperature and weather patterns at local authority level are anticipated to be in line with that reported at regional level.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

In December 2015, climate change issues were highlighted during the UN Conference of the Parties (COP) 21. At COP21, 189 parties ratified The Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement's long-term temperature goal is to keep the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels; and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 °C, recognising that this would substantially reduce the risks and impacts of climate change globally. It also aims to increase the ability of parties to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and make "finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development."

Under the Paris Agreement, each country must determine, plan, and regularly report on the contribution that it undertakes to mitigate global warming. No mechanism forces a country to set a specific emissions target by a specific date, but each target should go beyond previously set targets.

³¹ Sustainability West Midlands (2021) *West Midlands. Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan 2021-2026*. Available: [WMCA Sustainability Benchmarking Report Sep 2018 Final.docx](#)

C.4 Flood Risk

Location of Flood Zones

National (England)

The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England identifies that over 5.2 million residential properties are at risk of flooding and coastal erosion³². Flood Zones 2 and 3 are located across the whole of England associated with river and coastal areas. Lowland areas are of particular risk as a consequence of floodplains being associated with the lower reaches of rivers³³.

Regional (West Midlands)

Reflected by the national and local level reporting.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

Telford & Wrekin Local Plan Authority falls within the Severn River Basin District (RBD). The Severn RBD which covers over 21,000km², lies both in England and Wales. It extends from the Welsh uplands, through the rolling hills of the Midlands and south to the Severn Estuary. Although predominantly rural, it includes urban areas such as Bristol, Coventry, Cardiff, the South Wales Valleys and parts of the West Midlands conurbation. As of December 2022, over 4.5 million people live within the Severn RBD, of which 16,927 (4.2%) were in areas at high risk of flooding from rivers and the sea, and 29,736 (7.2%) from surface water³⁴.

There are areas of Flood Zones 2 and 3 within the Plan Area. There are approximately 200 section of flood defences in the flood area which include natural and engineered high ground, walls and embankments.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

In England, the flood risk (river and tidal) is categorised into three zones³⁵ for planning purposes (noting that the NPPF further subdivides flood zone 3 into 3a and Functional Floodplain 3b (land where water has to flow or be stored in times of flood):

- Flood Zone 1 – Land unlikely to be affected by flooding, with a less than 0.1% (less than 1 in 1000) chance of flooding each year.
- Flood Zone 2 – Land likely to be affected by a major flood, with up to a 0.1% (1 in 1000) chance of occurring each year.
- Flood Zone 3 – Land likely to be affected by flooding from the sea by a flood that has a 0.5% (1 in 200) or greater chance of happening each year, or from a river by a flood that has a 1 per cent (1 in 100) or greater chance of happening each year.

The risk of surface water flooding also needs to be considered:

- Very low risk area (less than 0.1% (1:1000)) chance of flooding.
- Low risk area (0.1% to 1% (1:1000 – 1:100)) chance of flooding.

³² Environment Agency (2020) *National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England*. Available: [National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England - GOV.UK](#)

³³ Environment Agency (2025) *Flood Map for Planning (River and Sea)*. Available: [Flood Map for Planning \(Rivers and Sea\) - Overview](#)

³⁴ Environment Agency (2022) *Severn River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan 2021 to 2027*. Available: [Severn River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan 2021 to 2027](#)

³⁵ Environment Agency (2014) *Flood risk assessments: applying for planning permission*. Available: [Flood risk assessments: applying for planning permission - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

- Medium risk area (1% to 3.3% (1:100 – 1:30)) chance of flooding.
- High risk area (3.3% (1:30)) or greater chance of flooding.

Estimates of flood risk from different sources across the UK vary, but it is known that the level of risk is substantial – England has approximately 5.2million properties at risk³⁶.

While new development is expected to occur in the plan area making use of a sequential approach, without a strategic approach, there is increased potential for the inappropriate siting of new development which may aggravate existing flood risk.

The locations of Flood Zones within the Plan Area are shown in Appendix D.

Coastal Processes Shoreline Management Plans

National (England)

Total number of properties in areas at risk of flooding from rivers and the sea – 2,435,000:³⁷

- High Risk – 367,900 (15.1%)
- Medium Risk – 323,300 (13.3%)
- Low Risk – 966,500 (39.7%)
- Very Low Risk – 777,300 (31.9%)

Total number of properties in areas at risk of flooding from surface water – 4,600,600:

- High Risk – 1,071,800 (23.3%)
- Medium Risk – 884,800 (19.2%)
- Low Risk – 2,644,000 (57.5%)
- Very Low Risk – Not assessed

There are 20 Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) covering the English coast.

Regional (West Midlands)

There are no SMPs located within the West Midlands as it is inland and does not extend to the coast.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are no SMPs located within the Plan Area as it is inland and does not extend to the coast.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

SMPs were developed by coastal groups between 2006 and 2012, including the Environment Agency, local authorities and others with an interest in coastal management. They guide coastal management investment decisions on the coast such as building and maintaining sea defences and implementing adaptation plans.³⁸

Flood risk management plans (FRMPs) describe the risk of flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water, groundwater and reservoirs. Each FRMP covers a specific river basin district and sets out how risk management authorities will work together and with communities to manage flood and coastal risk over the next few years. Risk management

³⁶ Environment Agency (2009) *Flooding in England: A National Assessment of Flood Risk*. Available: [Flooding in England: national assessment of flood risk - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/284442/flooding_in_england_national_assessment_of_flood_risk.pdf)

³⁷ Environment Agency (2025) National assessment of flood and coastal erosion risk in England 2024. Available: [National assessment of flood and coastal erosion risk in England 2024 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/144444/national_assessment_of_flood_and_coastal_erosion_risk_in_england_2024.pdf)

³⁸ Environment Agency (2025). *Shoreline management plans*. Available: [Shoreline management plans - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/144444/shoreline_management_plans.pdf)

authorities include the Environment Agency, lead local flood authorities (LLFAs), local councils, and water and sewerage companies.

C.5 Historic Environment

World Heritage Sites

National (England)

There are 19 World Heritage Sites located in England:

- Durham Castle and Cathedral
- Ironbridge Gorge
- Blenheim Palace
- Tower of London
- Canterbury Cathedral, St. Augustine's Abbey and St. Martin's Church
- Studley Royal Park including the ruins of Fountains Abbey
- Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey and St. Margaret's Church
- Maritime Greenwich
- Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites
- Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Hadrian's Wall)
- Saltaire
- Derwent Valley Mills
- Dorset and East Devon Coast
- Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
- City of Bath
- Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape
- Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal
- The English Lake District
- Jodrell Bank Observatory

Regional (West Midlands)

There are two World Heritage Sites located within the West Midlands Region:

- Ironbridge Gorge
- Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There is one World Heritage Site located within the Plan Area:

Ironbridge Gorge - covers an area of 5.5 km² (550 ha). The Industrial Revolution had its 18th century roots in the Ironbridge Gorge and spread worldwide leading to some of the most far-reaching changes in human history. The site incorporates a 5 km length of the steep-sided, mineral-rich Severn Valley from a point immediately west of Ironbridge downstream to Coalport, together with two smaller river valleys extending northwards to Coalbrookdale and Madeley.³⁹

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

World Heritage Sites are designated to meet the UK's commitments under the World Heritage Convention and the sites are designated for their globally important cultural or natural interest and require appropriate management and protection measures.

The first World Heritage Sites within the UK were designated in 1986. Sites can continue to be nominated, with the last site on the UK mainland being the Forth Rail Bridge,

³⁹ UNESCO (2026) *Ironbridge Gorge*. Available: [Ironbridge Gorge - UNESCO World Heritage Centre](#)

designated in 2015. Sites are inscribed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). In England the Department for (DCMS) acts as the UK 'State Party' which is responsible for nominating new sites. The DCMS receives advice from Historic England in this regard⁴⁰. The Outstanding Universal Value of a World Heritage Site indicates its importance as a heritage asset of the highest significance. This is to be taken into account by the relevant authorities in plan-making and determining planning applications⁴¹.

Of the sites in England, none have been placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The list presently comprises 53 sites in total worldwide. These are sites at which conditions are present to threaten the characteristics for which a site was placed on the World Heritage List⁴².

Development in the Plan Area may be **inappropriately located or designated to pose a risk to the World Heritage Site in the Plan Area as well as its setting**. Without a co-ordinated strategic approach to development and infrastructure there is an increased potential for this risk to result.

The location of the World Heritage Site within the Plan Area are shown in Appendix D.

Conservation Areas

National (England)

There are over 7,600 Conservation Areas located within England⁴³.

However, it is noted that data is not publicly available for all local authorities across the country.

Regional (West Midlands)

There are over 606 Conservation Areas within the West Midlands Region.

However, it is noted that data is not publicly available for all local authorities across the country.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are 10 conservation areas located within the Plan Area:

- Kynnersley
- Severn Gorge
- Wrockwardine
- Horehay and Spring Village
- High Ercall
- Wellington
- Newport
- Edgmond
- Broseley
- Forton and Meretown

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

⁴⁰ Historic England (2020) *World Heritage*. Available: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/international/world-heritage>

⁴¹ MHCLG (2019) *Planning practice guidance. Further guidance on World Heritage Sites*. Paragraph: 028 Reference ID: 18a-028-20190723. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment#World-Heritage-Sites>

⁴² UNESCO (2020) *List of World Heritage in Danger*. Available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/danger>

⁴³ Historic England (2026) *Conservation Areas*. Available: [Conservation Areas | Historic England open data](#)

Local authorities have a positive legal duty to designate conservation areas where parts of their own area are of special architectural or historic interest. In exceptional circumstances, where the local authority has not done so, the Secretary of State (for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport) may designate a conservation area anywhere in England. The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 also sets out the requirement for local authority's proposals for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas.

Additional housing development in the Plan Area may be inappropriately located or designed to pose a risk to listed building and conservation areas and their settings. Without a co-ordinated strategic approach to development and infrastructure there is an increased potential for this risk to result.

The locations of Conservation Areas within the Plan Area are shown in Appendix D.

Listed Buildings

National (England)

As of April 2026, there are around 380,000 Listed Buildings located within England⁴⁴.

Regional (West Midlands)

There are 34,596 Listed Buildings located within the West Midlands Region:

- Grade I - 622
- Grade II – 31,794
- Grade II* - 2,180

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are 751 Listed Buildings located within the Plan Area:

- Grade I - 12
- Grade II - 690
- Grade II* - 49

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

Listing of buildings is concerned with recognising the buildings special architectural and historic interest, with a view to protecting the building, under the planning system for future generations to enjoy. All buildings built before 1700 which survive in anything like their original condition are listed, as are most of those built between 1700 and 1840. Particularly careful selection is required for buildings from the period after 1945. Usually, a building has to be over 30 years old to be eligible for listing⁴⁵.

Buildings are considered by the Secretary of State (for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport) and where they are deemed to be of special architectural or historic interest they can be included on the list. The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 sets out the designation regime⁴⁶.

There are three categories of listed building:

- Grade I buildings are of exceptional interest, only 2.5% of listed buildings are Grade I

⁴⁴ Historic England (2026) *Listed Building Points*. Available: [Listed Building points | Historic England open data](#)

⁴⁵ Historic England (2020) *Listed Buildings*. Available: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/listed-buildings/>

⁴⁶ Historic England (2020) *Listed Buildings Identification and Extent*. Available: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/hpg/has/listed-buildings/>

- Grade II* buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest; 5.8% of listed buildings are Grade II*
- Grade II buildings are of special interest; 91.7% of all listed buildings are in this class and it is the most likely grade of listing for a homeowner.

Additional housing development in the Plan Area may be **inappropriately located or designed to pose a risk to listed building and conservation areas and their settings**. Without a co-ordinated strategic approach to development and infrastructure there is an increased potential for this risk to result.

The locations of Listed Buildings within the Plan Area are shown in Appendix D.

Scheduled Monuments

National (England)

As of April 2026, there are around 20,000 Scheduled Monuments located within England⁴⁷.

Regional (West Midlands)

There are 1,444 Scheduled Monuments located within the Plan Area.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are 27 Scheduled Monuments located within the Plan Area.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

Scheduling is the selection of nationally important archaeological sites which are legally protected. The monitoring and identification of sites is undertaken by Historic England. Scheduled Monuments cover the whole range of archaeological sites and are not always visible or above ground sites.

The condition of Scheduled Monuments is monitored as part of Historic England's 'Heritage at Risk' programme. Local government archaeological services, plus independent national and local heritage organisations and community groups can also play important roles in their curation, plus that of non-scheduled but nationally important monuments⁴⁸.

Registered Parks and Gardens

National (England)

As of April 2026, there are around 1,700 Registered Parks and Garden located within England⁴⁹.

Regional (West Midlands)

There are 156 Registered Parks and Gardens located within the West Midlands Region.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

⁴⁷ Historic England (2026) *Scheduled Monuments*. Available: [Scheduled Monuments | Historic England open data](#)

⁴⁸ Department for Culture, Media and Sport (2013) *Scheduled Monuments*. Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/249695/S_M_policy_statement_10-2013_2.pdf

⁴⁹ Historic England (2026) *Registered Parks and Gardens*. Available: [Parks and Gardens | Historic England open data](#)

There are three Registered Parks and Gardens located within the Plan Area, all of them Grade II:

- Chetwynd Park
- Lilleshall Hall
- Orleton Hall

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

The purpose of Registers of Historic Parks and Gardens in England is to encourage the protection of gardens, grounds and other open spaces which are of historic importance. The majority of sites registered are, or started life as, the grounds of private houses, but public parks and cemeteries form important categories too.

The emphasis of the Register is on 'designed' landscapes, rather than on planting or botanical importance. The various types of designed landscape included on the Register are designated in the following four themes:

- Rural Landscapes
- Urban Landscapes
- Landscapes of Remembrance
- Institutional Landscapes

The locations of Registered Parks and Gardens within the Plan Area are shown in Appendix D.

Registered Battlefields

National (England)

As of April 2026, there are 47 Registered Battlefields located within England⁵⁰.

Regional (West Midlands)

There are six Registered Battlefields located within the West Midlands Region:

- Battle of Blore Heath 1459
- Battle of Edgehill 1642
- Battle of Evesham 1265
- Battle of Hopton Heath 1643
- Battle of Shrewsbury 1403
- Battle of Worcester 1651 with Powick Old Bridge 1642

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are no Registered Battlefield located within the Plan Area.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

Historic battlefields are designated by Historic England as conferred under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act, 1983 (as amended). While only one Historic Battlefield lies within the Plan Area Region, without a co-ordinated strategic approach to additional development in the Plan Area there is likely to be increased potential for this to be inappropriately located or designed to pose a risk to the site and its settings.

Heritage at Risk

National (England)

⁵⁰ Historic England (2026) *Battlefields*. Available: [Battlefields | Historic England open data](#)

There are over 4,800 records in the Heritage at Risk Register within England.⁵¹

Regional (West Midlands)

There are 401 records within the Heritage at Risk register located within the West Midlands Region.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are 11 records within the Heritage at Risk register located within the Plan Area, five of which are listed buildings and 6 are scheduled monuments

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

Historic England has a programme known as the Heritage at Risk Programme, this Programme collecting information on the condition of built heritage in the United Kingdom to determine of the sites most at risk and most in need of safeguarding for the future.

Since 2008, as part of this Programme, Historic England has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights the Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings, and scheduled monuments, conservation areas, wreck sites and registered parks and gardens in England deemed to be 'at risk'. It is worth noting that Grade II buildings are not included on the list.

The locations of Heritage at Risk Sites within the Plan Area are shown in Appendix D.

Protected Wrecks

National (England)

There are 57 Protected Wrecks around England's coast, four of which are on the Register.

Regional (West Midlands)

There are no Protected Wrecks in the West Midlands Region.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are no Protected Wrecks in the Plan Area.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

The Protection of Wrecks Act (1973) allows the Government to designate a wreck to prevent uncontrolled interference. Designated sites are identified as being likely to contain the remains of a vessel, or its contents, which are of historical, artistic, or archaeological importance⁵².

⁵¹ Historic England (2025) *The Heritage at Risk Register*. Available: [Historic England Heritage at Risk Register 2025 | Historic England open data](#)

⁵² Water Resources South East (2020) *Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report*. Available: [wrse-regional-plan-strategic-environmental-assessment-scoping-report.pdf](#)

C.6 Landscape

National Parks

National (England)

As of December 2024, there are ten National Parks located within England⁵³:

- The Broads
- Dartmoor
- Exmoor
- Lake District
- New Forest
- Northumberland
- North York Moors
- Peak District
- Yorkshire Dales
- South Downs

Regional (West Midlands)

The Peak District National Park intersects the West Midlands Region.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are no National Parks located within the Plan Area.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

In England and Wales, the purpose of National Parks is to conserve and enhance landscapes within the countryside whilst promoting public enjoyment of them and having regard for the social and economic well-being of those living within them.

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 established the National Park designation in England and Wales. In addition, the Environment Act 1995 requires relevant authorities to have regard for nature conservation.

The designation of National Parks is an ongoing process with two being added in England since 2008 (South Downs and Broads).

National Landscape (formerly AONB)

National (England)

There are 34 National Landscapes located within England

Regional (West Midlands)

There are five National Landscapes located within the West Midlands Region:

- Cannock Chase
- Cotswolds
- Malvern Hills
- Shropshire Hills
- Wye Valley

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

⁵³ Natural England (2024) *National Parks (England)*. Available: [National Parks \(England\) | Natural England Open Data Geoportal](#)

There is one National Landscape located within the Telford & Wrekin Local Authority Area:

- Shropshire Hills - Among the gentle folds of the Shropshire Hills are farms, woods, rivers and meadows. Villages and fields retain ancient patterns while the remains of hillforts, mines and quarries tell of historical chapters now passed. A varied geology forms the bones of the land, whose mantle of nature and natural processes have been shaped over centuries by human activity – sometimes sympathetic, and sometimes less gentle.⁵⁴

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

In England, the primary purpose of the AONB designation (now known as National Landscape) is to conserve natural beauty – which by statute includes wildlife, physiographic features and cultural heritage as well as the more conventional concepts of landscape and scenery. Account is taken of the need to safeguard agriculture, forestry and other rural industries and the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development, that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment. Through the designation of AONBs land has been recognised as being of national importance⁵⁵.

AONBs are designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, amended in the Environment Act 1995. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 clarifies the procedure and purpose of designating AONBs.

There is a need to protect landscape character (including that of the AONBs) from potential threats. This includes issues such as inappropriate development, lack of appropriate management and climate change. Without a co-ordinated strategic approach to development and infrastructure degradation of the special qualities of the AONBs within the region is more likely to result.

The locations of the National Landscape within the Plan Area is shown in Appendix D.

Heritage Coast

National (England)

There are 32 Heritage Coasts located within England.

Regional (West Midlands)

There are no Heritage Coasts located within the West Midlands Region as it's inland and does not extend to the coast.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are no Heritage Coasts located within the Plan Area as it's inland and does not extend to the coast.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

Heritage Coasts were established to conserve the best stretches of undeveloped coast in England. The national policy framework and objectives for heritage coasts were developed by the Countryside Commission, a predecessor of Natural England, and ratified by

⁵⁴ Shropshire Hills National Landscape (2026) *Shropshire Hills National Landscape: An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2025-2030*. Available: [Thriving in Balance with Nature final approved Mar 26 web.pdf](#)

⁵⁵ The National Landscapes Association (2024) *National Landscapes*. Available: [National Landscapes - National Landscapes \(national-landscapes.org.uk\)](#)

government. Heritage coasts are ‘defined’ rather than designated, so there is not a statutory designation process like that associated with national parks and AONBs.

National Trails

National (England)

There are 13 National Trails located within England.

Regional (West Midlands)

There are two National Trails intersecting the West Midlands Region:

- Offa’s Dyke Path
- Cotswold Way

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are no National Trails identified within the Plan Area.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

National Trails are managed by local trail partnerships, with guidance and support from Natural England. Lead partners are in place for the majority of the trails and they’re responsible for⁵⁶:

- receiving funding from Natural England on behalf of the local partnership
- reporting to Natural England on progress towards achieving the national quality standards

Areas of Tranquillity

National (England)

The latest mapping of areas of tranquillity was conducted by CPRE in 2007⁵⁷ which broadly designates;

- Undisturbed areas;
- Areas disturbed by urban development, major infrastructure projects and other noise and visual intrusion;
- Urban areas.

Broadly, the least tranquil areas in England correlate with more densely populated localities and areas where transport networks are located. The Greater London area is the least tranquil area in England followed by the areas surrounding Liverpool/Manchester/Leeds. Some of the most tranquil areas in England are located in the North Pennines, Dartmoor and Exmoor.

Regional (West Midlands)

Reported at a national level only.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

Reported at a national level only.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

⁵⁶ Natural England (2015) *National Trails: Management Standards*. Available: [National Trails: management standards - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/464842/National_Trails_management_standards.pdf)

⁵⁷ CPRE (2007) *Tranquillity Map (England)*. Available: [Tranquillity Map: England - CPRE](https://www.cpre.org.uk/publications/Tranquillity-Map-England)

Northumbria University, on behalf of CPRE⁵⁸, developed methodology for mapping areas of tranquillity. While urban centres within the NETP area have low levels of tranquillity, many of the rural areas - particularly those with landscape areas which are protected nationally such as National Parks and AONBs - have high levels of tranquillity. It should be noted that such protected areas will continue to be offered protection through other designations. However, the maps show that major trunk roads can have significant effects for tranquillity in rural areas and therefore the affect which this transport plan has on tranquillity of rural areas should be considered further as part of the SEA process.

National Character Areas

National (England)

Natural England has produced National Character Area (NCAs) Profiles⁵⁹ which divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, history, and cultural and economic activity. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries. They can be used for planning and development.

Regional (West Midlands)

There are 26 NCAs that intersect the West Midlands Region.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are three NCAs that intersect the Plan Area:

- Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plains
- Shropshire Hills
- Mid Severn Sandstone Plateau

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

National Character Areas (NCAs) are landscape areas which share similar characteristics, following natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries. Developed by Natural England⁶⁰, NCA profiles describe the natural and cultural features that shape each of these landscapes, providing a broad context to their character.

The locations of National Character Areas within the Plan Area are shown in Appendix D.

Designated Dark Skies

National (England)

There are 19 International Dark Sky Reserves (IDSR)⁶¹ in the UK, 8 of them are in England.

Regional (West Midlands)

No IDSR sites have been identified within the West Midlands Region.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

⁵⁸ CPRE (2007) *Intrusion Map: England, 2007*. Available: https://www.cpre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/intrusion_map_england_2007_1.pdf

⁵⁹ Natural England (2024) *National Character Area profiles: data for local decision making*. Available: [National Character Area profiles: information for local decision making - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118111/nca_profiles_data_for_local_decision_making.pdf)

⁶⁰ Natural England (2020) National Character Areas [online]. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/587130>.

⁶¹ International Dark Sky Association (2020) *International Dark Sky Reserves*. Available: <https://www.darksky.org/our-work/conservation/idsp/finder/>

No IDSR sites have been identified within the Plan Area.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

An International Dark Sky Reserve (IDSR)⁶² is a public or private land of substantial size (at least 700 km², or about 173,000 acres) possessing an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and nocturnal environment, and that is specifically protected for its scientific, natural, educational, cultural heritage, and/or public enjoyment.

The IDSR consists of two regions:

- A “core” area meeting the minimum criteria for sky quality and natural darkness; and
- A “peripheral” or “buffer” area that supports dark sky values in the core and receives similar benefits.

The IDSR is formed through a partnership of landowners and/or administrators that recognize the value of the natural night-time environment through regulations, formal agreements, and long-term planning.

⁶² International Dark Sky Association (2018) *International Dark Sky Reserve Program Guidelines – June 2018*. Available: <https://www.darksky.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/IDSR-Guidelines-2018.pdf>

C.7 Soils, Geology and Land-Use

Agricultural Land Classification

National (England)

The Agricultural Land Classification system classifies land into five grades, with Grade 3 subdivided into Sub-grades 3a and 3b. The best and most versatile agricultural land is defined as Grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system. As of 2012 it is estimated that of the farmland in England, Grades 1 and 2 together form about 21% of soils. The subgrade 3a also covers about 21% of farmland in England.⁶³

Regional (West Midlands)

The agricultural land classification in the West Midlands Region is largely in line with that reported at national and local level.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

Land within the Plan Area is predominantly Grade 2 and Grade 3. There are also urban areas, largely towards the south and around Newport in the north east. Smaller areas of Grade 4 and non-agricultural lands are also located in the Plan Area.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

ALC uses a grading system to assess and compare the quality of agricultural land at national, regional and local levels. It assesses the potential for land to support different agricultural uses, such as growing crops for food. It does not consider the land's current use and intensity of use. Natural England has a statutory role in advising local planning authorities about land quality issues.

A combination of climate, site and soil characteristics and their unique interaction determines the limitation and grade of the land. These affect the:

- range of crops that can be grown;
- yield of crop;
- consistency of yield; and
- cost of producing the crop.

When considering development proposals that affect agricultural land, developers and LPAs should aim to protect the best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land and soils in England from significant, inappropriate or unsustainable development proposals. BMV agricultural land is graded 1 to 3a. The highest grade goes to land that⁶⁴:

- gives the highest yield or output;
- has the widest range and versatility of use;
- produces the most consistent yield from a narrower range of crops; and
- requires less input.

⁶³ Natural England (2012) *Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land (TIN049)*. Available: [Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land - TIN049](#)

⁶⁴ Natural England (2018) *Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land*. Available: [Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

There is increased potential for development to occur in areas which would affect higher value agricultural land without a co-ordinated strategic approach to development and infrastructure in the region.

The locations of Agricultural Land Classifications within the Plan Area are shown in Appendix D.

Geological SSSIs and RIGS

National (England)

There are over 4,100 SSSIs in England, covering an area of approximately 1,099,505 hectares⁶⁵. Some SSSIs correspond with other designations, such as SACs, SPAs and NNRs. SSSIs are widespread throughout the whole of England and cover a wide variety of habitats and geological features.

Regional (West Midlands)

There are 447 SSSIs within or intersecting the West Midlands Region.

This includes sites designated for both biological and geological reasons.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are eight SSSIs located within the Plan Area covering an area of 517.62 hectares.⁶⁶

This includes sites designated for both biological and geological reasons. With New Hadley Brickpit SSSI and Lincoln Hill SSSI being designated for geological reasons and The Wrekin and The Ercall SSSI being designated for both reasons.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

SSSIs represent the principal national designation for places of importance for biodiversity and geodiversity in the UK. The designation of areas as SSSIs attaches certain legal requirements to the management of these sites. In addition to designating areas as SSSIs when the land's wildlife is of special interest, Natural England will select and notify an area as a new SSSI when it believes the geology or landform is of special interest⁶⁷. At a national level the majority of SSSIs are in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition. Geology in the Plan Area is likely to face threats from development; human activities such as pollution, roads, disturbance, farming practices; loss of habitat; loss of food sources and a changing climate. **Without a co-ordinated strategic approach to development and infrastructure is likely to increase the potential for inappropriate greenfield development to occur which could increase pressures on SSSIs designated for their geological importance.**

Contaminated Land

National (England)

As of 2025⁶⁸, there are 54 special sites of contaminated land in England. These are sites that due to specific land uses, past activities or water pollution are passed from the local council to the Environment Agency to regulate. The National Planning Policy Framework

⁶⁵ Natural England (2024) *Designated Sites View*. Available: [Site Search](#)

⁶⁶ DEFRA (2025) *Sites of Special Scientific Interest*. Available: [Sites of Special Scientific Interest \(England\)](#)

⁶⁷ Natural England (2020) *Sites of special scientific interest*. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-areas-sites-of-special-scientific-interest>

⁶⁸ Environment Agency (2026) *Contaminated Land Special Sites*. Available: [Contaminated Land Special Sites - data.gov.uk](#)

places the onus with the developer and/or landowner for securing a safe land/development.

Regional (West Midlands)

Reported at national and local level only.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There is one special site of contaminated land located within the Plan Area:

- Agropharm, Overley Hill, Shropshire - Regulation 3c - defined substances/aquifer

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

Land is legally defined as 'contaminated land' where substances are causing or could cause:

- Significant harm to people, property or protected species;
- Significant pollution of surface waters (for example lakes and rivers) or groundwater; and
- Harm to people as a result of radioactivity.

Land may be contaminated by various substances including:

- Heavy metals such as arsenic, cadmium and lead;
- Oils and tars;
- Chemical substances and preparations, like solvents;
- Gases;
- Asbestos; and
- Radioactive substances.

Some types of contaminated land are classed as 'special sites', which are then regulated by the Environment Agency in England once a local council has decided that an area is a special site⁶⁹. The National Planning Policy Framework requires a risk assessment of land potentially affected by contamination and expects all investigations to be undertaken in accordance with established practices such as BS10175 (2002) 'Code of Practice for the Investigation of Potentially Contaminated Sites'.

Green Belt

National (England)

The extent of land designated as Green Belt in England as at 31 March 2025 was estimated at 1,633,220 hectares, around 12.5% of the land area of England⁷⁰.

Regional (West Midlands)

There are areas of Greenbelt in the West Midlands Region, associated with Birmingham, Stoke-on-Trent and Burton-upon-Trent and Swalincote.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are no areas of Green Belt located within the Plan Area

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

⁶⁹ Environment Agency (2020) *Contaminated land*. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/contaminated-land>

⁷⁰ Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (2025) *Local authority green belt: England 2024 – 25 – statistical release*. Available: [Local authority green belt: England 2024-25 - statistical release - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-green-belt-england-2024-25-statistical-release)

The National Planning Policy Framework attaches great importance to Green Belts. The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence⁷¹.

Green Belt serves five purposes:

- to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
- to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;
- to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
- to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
- to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

Once Green Belts have been defined, local planning authorities should plan positively to enhance their beneficial use, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land.

Overall there was a decrease of 660 hectares in the area of land designated as Green Belt between 31 March 2024 and 31 March 2025. This is a decrease of 0.04% compared to the Green Belt as at 31 March 2024, and this decrease has the equivalent area of 0.01% of England. In 2024-25, 6 local authorities adopted local plans involving changes to the Green Belt, with the result being a net decrease of 650 hectares in the overall area of land designated as Green Belt compared to 31 March 2024.

In spite of its strong protection through national planning policy Green Belt may come under pressure as areas are targeted for potential release and development in inappropriate locations as housing needs increase. **There is increased potential for Green Belt land that has not been identified as suitable for strategic growth to be subject to development without a co-ordinated strategic planning approach.**

Open Green Space

National (England)

The NPPF⁷² puts the onus on local planning authorities to prepare an authority-wide, evidence-based greenspace strategy that includes an assessment of current greenspace provision. It also suggests LPAs use Local Green Space (LGS) as a designation to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance.

Regional (West Midlands)

There are over 12,600 Open Green spaces within the West Midlands Region.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are over 550 Open Green spaces within the Plan Area, with the main typologies as follows

- Religious Grounds
- Public Park or Garden

⁷¹ Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (2023) *Local authority green belt: England 2022-23 – statistical release*. Available: [Local authority green belt: England 2022-23 - statistical release - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-green-belt-england-2022-23-statistical-release)

⁷² Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2014) *Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space*. Available: [Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space)

- Play Space
- Playing Field
- Cemetery
- Golf Course
- Other Sports Facility
- Allotments Or Community Growing Spaces
- Bowling Green
- Tennis Court

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

Open space, which includes all open space of public value, can take many forms, from formal sports pitches to open areas within a development, linear corridors and country parks. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby; have an ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure, as well as being an important part of the landscape and setting of built development, and an important component in the achievement of sustainable development⁷³.

Local authorities play a vital role in⁷⁴:

- providing new, good quality greenspace that is inclusive and equitable
- improving, maintaining and protecting existing greenspace
- increasing green infrastructure within public spaces and promoting healthy streets
- improving transport links, pathways and other means of access to greenspace, and providing imaginative routes linking areas of greenspace for active travel

Without a co-ordinated strategic approach to development and infrastructure, there is increased potential for planning decisions to result in inappropriate development, which could fragment existing networks of open space thereby reducing connectivity.

Geoparks

National (England)

There are three Geoparks located within England⁷⁵:

- Black Country Geopark
- English Riviera Geopark
- North Pennines Geopark

Regional (West Midlands)

There is one Geopark located within the West Midlands Region:

- Black Country Geopark

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

⁷³ MHCLG (2014) *Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space*. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space>

⁷⁴ Public Health England (2020) *Improving access to greenspace – A new review for 2020*. Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904439/improving_access_to_greenspace_2020_review.pdf

⁷⁵ UNESCO UK (2025-2026) *UNESCO Global Geoparks in the UK*. Available: [Global Geoparks | UNESCO in the UK](#)

There are no Geoparks located within the Plan Area.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

Geoparks are endorsed by UNESCO and are not designated under legislation. They are locally-led partnerships within areas of internationally significant geology that work to support sustainable economic development of the area, primarily through geological and eco-tourism⁷⁶.

Existing and Consented Urban Areas

National (England)

Local level data only.

Regional (West Midlands)

Local level data only.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

The largest population centres within the Plan Area are Newport (13,539) and Telford (152,222)⁷⁷.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

As with the rest of the UK, the Telford & Wrekin Local Authority Area is anticipated to accommodate substantial amounts of development in the coming years as planned for in each of the local authority areas' adopted and emerging plans. The delivery of this development will allow for benefits to be achieved in terms of meeting local housing requirements and limiting residents' journey times to service and facilities and jobs, though may have implications in terms of cumulative effects on the environment.

⁷⁶ United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO (2017) *Global Geoparks*. Available: <http://www.unesco.org.uk/designation/geoparks/>

⁷⁷ ONS (2021) *Understanding towns in England and Wales: population and demography*. Available: [Understanding towns in England and Wales: population and demography - Office for National Statistics](#)

C.8 Water Quality and Resources

River Basin Districts

National (England)

There are 10 River Basin Districts (RBD) located within England:

- Anglian
- Dee
- Humber
- North West
- Northumbria
- Severn
- Solway Tweed
- South East
- South West
- Thames

Regional (West Midlands)

The West Midlands Region is intersected by the Severn RBD and Humber RBD. There are also minor intersections with the Thames, North West and Dee RBDs:

Humber RBD

The Humber river basin district covers an area of 26,100km² and extends from the West Midlands in the south, northwards to North Yorkshire and from Staffordshire in the west to part of Lincolnshire and the Humber Estuary in the east. In total more than 10.8 million people live and work in towns and cities within the district, with the main urban centres being Birmingham, Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield, Hull and Grimsby. The Humber river basin district has a rich diversity of wildlife and habitats, supporting many species of global and national importance. The management catchments that make up the river basin district include many interconnected rivers, lakes, groundwater and coastal waters. The catchments range from the uplands of the Peak District to fertile river valleys of the Trent to chalk aquifers of the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Wolds and vary from rural catchments to others heavily influenced by urban and industrial land use. The main economic sectors in the region include business services, health, wholesale and distribution. Manufacturing contributes to the economy along with some mineral abstraction, including some deep coal mines, potash mines and numerous gravel workings. Agriculture is critical for the rural economy of the district and supports natural and cultural assets that help underpin both the region's tourism and quality of life for those who live and work in the district.

Severn RBD

Reported at Plan Area level.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

The Telford and Wrekin Local Authority area is intersected by the Severn RBD:

Severn RBD⁷⁸:

The Severn river basin district, which covers over 21,000km² lies both in England and Wales. It extends from the Welsh uplands, through the rolling hills of the Midlands and

⁷⁸ DAERA (2025) *Severn River Basin District*. Available: [Severn River Basin District | Catchment Data Explorer](#)

south to the Severn Estuary. In total over 5 million people live and work in the region and, although predominantly rural, it includes urban areas such as Bristol, Coventry, Cardiff, the South Wales Valleys and parts of the West Midlands conurbation. The Severn river basin district has a particularly rich diversity of wildlife and habitats, supporting many species of global and national importance. For example, the Severn Estuary and its surrounding area are protected for their bird populations, habitats and migratory fish species such as Atlantic salmon, shad, lamprey and eel. The management catchments that make up the river basin district range from energetic upland streams to slower rivers in the lowlands, and include sandstone and limestone aquifers used for public water supply in the Midlands. Around 80% of the river basin district land is used for agriculture and forestry, which shapes much of the landscape. The sector includes beef and sheep farming, large-scale dairy farms, coniferous forestry plantations and some arable and specialist horticulture. The economy of the district is supported by business, transport, health, tourism and recreation as well as manufacturing, mineral industries and the operation of commercial ports.

There are eleven management catchments in this river basin district:

- Avon Bristol and Somerset North Streams
- Avon Warwickshire
- Severn England AWB
- Severn England GW
- Severn England TraC
- Severn Middle Shropshire
- Severn Middle Worcestershire
- Severn Uplands
- Severn Vale
- Teme
- Wye MC

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

A river basin is the area of land from which all surface water run-off flows through a sequence of streams, rivers and, possibly, lakes into the sea at a single river mouth or estuary. A river basin district includes the area of land and sea made up of one or more neighbouring river basins together with their associated groundwaters and coastal waters (covering one nautical mile from the coast)⁷⁹.

Each river basin district has a river basin management plan (RBMP). Each plan consists of a collection of documents which describe how waters are managed, together with information about the river basin district in data tables and maps.

RBMPs are prepared in line with the Water Framework Directive to protect and improve the quality of our water environment. The RBMPs support the governments framework for the 25-year environment plan and will allow local communities to find more cost-effective ways to take action and further improve our environment.

Water Framework Directive (WFD)

National (England)

In England, the quality status of water bodies assessed under the WFD in 2022 were⁷²:

Lakes:

⁷⁹ [River basin management plans, updated 2022: introduction - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-basin-management-plans-updated-2022-introduction)

- High – 10%
- Good – 22%
- Moderate – 55%
- Poor – 12%
- Bad – 1%

Rivers and Canals:

- High – 3%
- Good – 30%
- Moderate – 49%
- Poor – 16%
- Bad – 3%

Estuaries and Coastal:

- High – 21%
- Good – 55%
- Moderate – 23%
- Poor – 1%
- Bad – 1%

Regional (West Midlands)

As of 2019 Cycle 3, the status of surface and groundwater water bodies in the Humber RBD are as follows:⁸⁰

Ecological status for surface waters

- High – 0
- Good – 150
- Moderate – 646
- Poor – 159
- Bad – 27

Chemical status for groundwater

- Good – 10
- Poor – 41

Details for the Severn RBD are reported at Plan Area level.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

As of 2019 Cycle 3, the status of surface and groundwater water bodies in the Severn RBD are as follows:⁸¹

Ecological status for surface waters

- High – 0
- Good – 45
- Moderate – 309
- Poor – 110
- Bad – 11

Chemical status for groundwater

⁸⁰ Environment Agency (2026) *Severn River Basin District*. Available: [Severn River Basin District | Catchment Data Explorer](#)

⁸¹ Environment Agency (2026) *Severn River Basin District*. Available: [Severn River Basin District | Catchment Data Explorer](#)

- Good – 21
- Poor – 12

There are 19 WFD Rivers within the Plan Area and one WFD Lake.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

The EU WFD is transposed into UK law through the following regulations: The Water Environment (WFD) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 for England and Wales; the Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 (WEWS Act) and The Water Environment (WFD) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 for Northern Ireland.

The purpose of the Directive is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters (rivers and lakes), transitional waters (estuaries), coastal waters and groundwater. Groundwater is an important natural resource that supports river flows as well as ecological diversity in rivers, lakes and wetlands. It is also available for use, across the United Kingdom, for water supply by abstraction from boreholes, wells and springs.

There have been variations in the overall number of water bodies awarded high or good surface water status between 2009 and 2024. Despite this 33% of surface water bodies assessed under the WFD in the UK were in high or good ecological status in 2024, two percentage points higher than in 2009 and 1 percentage points higher than the figure of 32% reported in 2019.⁸²

By 2027, 94% of surface water bodies were set objectives to reach a good ecological status, however, 63% of these objectives are low confidence. The chemical status for surface water were set the objectives of 100% of surface waters reaching a good status and quantitative status objectives for groundwater were also set an objective of 100% of groundwater reaching a good status. By 2040, 50% of groundwater was planned to reach a good status.

Drinking Water Safeguard Zones

National (England)

Drink Water Safeguard Zones (DWSZs) are designated in England for any raw water sources that are 'at risk' of deterioration which would result in the need for additional treatment. These zones are areas where the land use is causing pollution of the raw water. Similarly, parts of the country at which there is increased risk of contamination to groundwater supplied from activities which might cause pollution are covered by Source Protection Zones (SPZs).

Regional (West Midlands)

In the West Midlands Region there are 17 surface DWSZ. There are six groundwater DWSZ within the region.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There is one surface DWSZ in the Plan Area:

- Shropshire Severn, Tern & Roden (SWSGZ2100)

⁸² Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2025) *Surface Water Status*. Available: [UKBI - Surface water status | Advisor to Government on Nature Conservation | JNCC](#)

There are no groundwater DWSZ within the Plan Area.

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

DWSZs are designated by the Environment Agency for areas in which action is needed to address pollution so that extra treatment of raw water can be avoided. Furthermore, groundwater provides around a third of drinking water in England and maintains the flow in many of the waterbodies in the country. SPZs are also designated by the Environment Agency. These designations cover groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs which are used for public drinking water supply.

The locations of DWSZ within the Plan Area are shown in Appendix D.

Source Protection Zones

National (England)

Groundwater supplies a third of the drinking water. The Environment Agency protect groundwater sources used to supply drinking water from pollution. Sources include wells, boreholes and springs. Source Protection Areas or Zones (SPZs) – are zones which show the level of risk to the source from contamination. This could be from any activity that might cause pollution in the area. For example, storing pollutants like petrol underground, soakaways from septic tanks to the ground.⁸³

Regional (West Midlands)

There are 519 SPZs within the West Midlands Region:

- SPZ 1 – 234
- SPZ 1c – 15
- SPZ 2 – 175
- SPZ 2c – 14
- SPZ 3 – 81

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are 21 SPZs within the Plan Area:

- SPZ 1 – 9
- SPZ 2 – 9
- SPZ 3 – 3

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

SPZs are also designated by the Environment Agency. These designations cover groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs which are used for public drinking water supply.

The locations of SPZs within the Plan Area are shown in Appendix D.

Bathing Water Quality

National (England)

There are 476 bathing water quality monitoring locations within England. 425 of the location's quality were assessed under the Bathing Waters Directive in 2023:

- Excellent – 59.0%

⁸³ Environment Agency (2024) Groundwater source protection zones (SPZs). Available: [Groundwater source protection zones \(SPZs\) - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/groundwater-source-protection-zones)

- Good – 20.7%
- Poor – 3.8%
- Sufficient – 5.3%
- Not assessed – 10.7%

Regional (West Midlands)

There are three water quality monitoring location located within the West Midlands Region. The quality of these areas assessed under the Bathing Waters Directive were⁸⁴:

- River Severn at Ironbridge – Poor
- River Severn at Shrewsbury – Poor
- River Teme in Ludlow – Poor

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There is one bathing water quality monitoring location located within the Plan Area. The quality of these areas assessed under the Bathing Waters Directive were⁸⁵:

- River Severn at Ironbridge - Poor

Explanatory Text and anticipated future trends:

Water quality at designated bathing water sites in England is assessed by the Environment Agency. From May to September, weekly assessments measure current water quality, and at a number of sites daily pollution risk forecasts are issued. Annual ratings classify each site as excellent, good, sufficient or poor based on measurements taken over a period of up to four years⁸⁶.

⁸⁴ Environment Agency (2025) *Bathing Water Quality Monitoring Locations*. Available: [Bathing Waters Monitoring Locations - data.gov.uk](#)

⁸⁵ Environment Agency (2025) *Bathing Water Quality Monitoring Locations*. Available: [Bathing Waters Monitoring Locations - data.gov.uk](#)

⁸⁶ Environment Agency (2024) *Bathing Water Data*. Available: [Environmental Data Profiles](#)

C.9 Resources and Waste

Authorised and Historic Landfill Sites

National (England)

In England, landfill tax is one of the key drivers to divert waste from landfill to ensure that the 2020 target, of no more than 10.16 million tonnes of biodegradable municipal waste to landfill and the 2035 target of no more than 10% of municipal waste to landfill, is met.⁸⁷

England's biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) to landfill decreased from 5,132 thousand tonnes in 2022 to 4,388 thousand tonnes in 2023.⁸⁸

Regional (West Midlands)

There are 2,357 historic landfill sites and 128 permitted waste sites within the West Midlands Region.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are 95 historic landfill sites and 7 permitted waste sites within the Plan Area.

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

It is unlikely that providing new development in the Plan Area will greatly influence the proportion of waste sent to landfill. This will more likely be influenced by the decisions of residents in the plan area (for example by recycling and composting) as well decisions made by the local authority.

Energy / Fuel Use

National (England)

Renewable generation in the UK increased by 5.1% from 136.8 TWh in 2023 to 143.7 TWh in 2024. This was a result of increased wind and plant biomass generation. Within this, generation in England was up 4.4%.

Overall capacity increased by 7.3% from 56.5 GW at the end of 2023 to 60.6 GW at the end of 2024. Within this capacity in England was up 5.7%.⁸⁹

Regional (West Midlands)

In 2024 there were 126,738 sites generating electricity from renewable sources. The total installed capacity in the region was 1,744.4 MW, up from 1,534.7 in 2023. The generation of electricity from renewable sources was 2,374.3 GWh, which was down from 2,382.9 GWh in 2023.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

In the Plan Area, there were 4,754 renewable energy installations as of the end of 2024. The total installed capacity was 68.1 MW, which is up from 64.3 MW in 2023. The renewable generation in 2024 was 106,046 MWh which is down from 108,661 in 2023.

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

Electricity supply is driven by demand, as it is generated or imported as needed. In recent years, demand for electricity has decreased as energy efficiency measures have improved

⁸⁷ Defra (2021) Waste Management Plan for England. Available: [Waste Management Plan for England](#)

⁸⁸ Defra (2025) UK Statistics on Waste. Available: [UK statistics on waste - GOV.UK](#)

⁸⁹ DESNZ (2024) Regional Renewable Statistics. Available: [Regional renewable electricity in 2024](#)

and increased in number. The total electricity demand comprises energy industry use, losses in transmission or distribution and final consumption by end users.⁹⁰

The main driver for the decrease shift in generation of coal and gas was an increase in the carbon price floor in April 2015, from £9 per tonne of CO₂ to £18 per tonne of CO₂. Since coal generation produces more than double the amount of carbon dioxide per GWh of electricity supplied than gas, this made generation from coal more expensive than gas.

The decline in fossil fuel generation was made possible by the substantial growth in renewable generation and this trend continued in 2019, although falling slightly to 2021. Low carbon generation consists of renewable and nuclear generation and the rise in renewables share of generation also drove an increase in the share of generation from low carbon sources.

The delivery of new development and infrastructure **may provide opportunities for the incorporation of new renewable schemes where this is deemed appropriate. If development is not provided in a strategic manner, it is less likely that these types of opportunities will be achieved.**

Waste Facilities

National (England)

The number of operational Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) has reduced in the past decade by 3% in the UK. In total there are 1,023 HWRCs located in the UK in 2022/23 opposed to 1,052 in 2013/14.

In 2022, in England there were 668 HWRC sites which is down from 697 in 2013/14. This equates to an average of 37,596 households per site which is up from 32,281 households per site in 2013/14.⁹¹

Regional (West Midlands)

Reported at national and local level only.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are two HRCs in the Plan Area:⁹²

- Hortonwood HRC
- Halesfield HRC

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

HWRC performance has fluctuated over the past decade due to a variety of societal factors, including economic pressures and significant events such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic resulted in site closures, limited access to sites which then led to some HWRCs adopting booking systems and some limiting the types of materials accepted at sites. This has made future projections more challenging in comparison to pre pandemic years. Societal behaviours have also changed, with increased levels of home working, which has influenced the amounts and types of materials produced. Reductions

⁹⁰ DBEIS (2020) DUKES 2020 Chapter 5: Electricity. Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904805/DUKES_2020_Chapter_5.pdf

⁹¹ WRAP (2025) Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Guide. Available: [WRAP-HWRC-FINAL-REPORT-21.03.25.pdf](#)

⁹² Telford & Wrekin Co-operative Council (2026) *HRCs site rules and guidance*. Available: [Telford & Wrekin Council | HRCs site rules and guidance](#)

in arisings at HWRCs during 2020/21 rebounded in 2021/2022 and for many Las declined in 2022/23 but are still above pre pandemic levels.

Aggregates / Construction Materials

National (England)

Construction output is now expected to fall by 2.5% in 2026 and although output is still expected to rise by 1.2% in 2027, the risks remain heavily on the downside. This is a sharp, unprecedented downward revision to the CPA's forecasts since the Winter forecasts, driven by the potential impact of global events.⁹³

In the 12 months to March 2026 Gravel, sand, clays and kaolin - including aggregate levy, are the construction materials experiencing the greatest price increase, at 8.4%. The seasonally adjusted data for sales of sand and gravel showed a decrease by 6.7% in Quarter 1 2026 compared with Quarter 4 2025. After recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, the general trend has been a decline.⁹⁴

Regional (West Midlands)

Whilst there is not a significant variation in the sales of land won sand and gravel from year to year between 2013 and 2022 (variations generally remained in the range of 0.1 to 0.8mt per annum), there has been a trend of a growth in sales across this period with sales in 2022 approximately 39% higher than in 2013.⁹⁵

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

The latest available data indicates a 10-year annual trend for crushed rock sales in Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire of 2.36 million tonnes and the three-year trend of 2.81 million tonnes.⁹⁶

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

Aggregates are the most commonly used minerals in the UK and are essential to a modern economy. They provide the critical raw material for built development and other construction, manufacturing and the maintenance of infrastructure, through their use as concrete, mortar, finishes, roadstone, constructional fill and railway ballast.

There are three sources of supply of aggregates – primary, secondary and recycled. The majority of aggregate demand is met from primary sources. This involves extracting material directly from the ground and dredging from the sea floor. There are significant geographical imbalances in the occurrence of suitable natural aggregate resources and the areas where they are most needed.

Conflict in the Middle East and its potential impacts on the UK economy and construction industry are expected to hit construction activity over the next 12-18 months from May 2026. It appears increasingly likely that the second half of 2026 will see both a drop in construction demand and sharp cost increases, especially in the two largest sectors, private housing and private housing repair, maintenance, and improvement (rm&i).

⁹³ CPA (2026) Press Release: CPA Releases Spring Forecast. Available: [CPA Releases Spring Forecast](#)

⁹⁴ Department for Business and Trade (2026) *Construction building materials: commentary April 2026*. Available: [Construction building materials: commentary April 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

⁹⁵ West Midlands Aggregates Working Party (2023) *Annual Report 2023 [2022 Data]*. Available: [West Midlands aggregates working party: annual monitoring report 2022](#)

⁹⁶ Telford & Wrekin Co-operative Council. *Telford and Wrekin Local Plan Review. Publication Plan. Minerals Technical Paper. 2020-2040*. Available: <https://www.telfordandwrekinlocalplan.co.uk/download/downloads/id/139/minerals-technical-paper---february-2025.pdf>

Sector Waste Statistics

National (England)

In 2024/25, the total weight of waste from households in England was 22,775 thousand tonnes.⁹⁷

In England in 2024/25 the management of all local authority collected waste was as follows:

- Landfill – 5.5%
- Incineration with EFW – 49.8%
- Incineration Without EFW – 0.5%
- Recycled/Composted – 41.2%
- Other – 3.0%

Regional (West Midlands)

In 2024/25, the total weight of waste from households in the West Midlands was 2,382 thousand tonnes.

In the West Midlands in 2024/25 the management of all local authority collected waste was as follows:

- Landfill – 3.2%
- Incineration with EFW – 56.7%
- Incineration Without EFW – 0.0%
- Recycled/Composted – 37.9%
- Other – 2.2%

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

In 2024/25, the total weight of waste from households in the Plan Area was 266,940 tonnes.

In the Plan Area in 2024/25 the management of all local authority collected waste was as follows:

- Landfill – 0.1%
- Incineration with EFW – 45.8%
- Incineration Without EFW – 0.01%
- Recycled/Composted – 52.3%
- Other – 1.7%

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

In February 2019 the Government published a consultation on measures to increase recycling from households and businesses to support the achievement of a much higher 65% recycling rate for municipal waste by 2035. The Government is introducing measures for England to increase household recycling by requiring all local authorities to collect a consistent set of dry materials from households in England, to collect food waste separately from all households on a weekly basis; and to arrange for garden waste collection where necessary. Together, these will support the ability to meet commitments on recycling outlines in the Resources and Waste Strategy.

⁹⁷ DEFRA (2026) *Local authority collected waste management - annual results*. Available: [Local authority collected waste management - annual results - GOV.UK](#)

C.10 Communities – Population, Employment and Viability

Population and Locations of Major Settlements

National (England)

As of mid-2024, the population of England was estimated to be 58.6 million. The population density was 450 people per square km. Approximately 42.8% of the population were between 0-34 years old, 38.5% were between 35-64 years old and 18.7% were age 65 and over.⁹⁸

The UK population is projected to reach 71 million by 2034. This is slower growth than previous, 2022-based projections, which projected the UK population would reach 72.2 million by mid-2034. Over the 10 years to mid-2034, England's population is projected to grow more quickly than other UK nations, at 2.9%.

Between mid-2024 and mid-2034, the number of people of pensionable age is projected to increase by 1.8 million (14.6%), from 12.4 million to 14.2 million. This is one in five of the total projected population, and takes into account the planned increases in State Pension age to 67 years for both sexes. Over the same period, children (those under 16 years) are projected to comprise 15.5% of the total population in mid-2034, down from 18.2% in mid-2024.⁹⁹

Regional (West Midlands)

In the West Midlands the population is expected to increase by 5.9% from 2022 to 2032. It is one of the only regions where a negative natural change is not offset by positive internal migration. However, despite negative internal migration, projected growth is mainly caused by high positive natural change and international migration.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

In the Plan Area the population is expected to increase to 207,956 in 2032 which is an increase of 189,000 people or 10% from 2022.

In 2032, 19% of the population in Telford and Wrekin are projected to be aged 65 years or over, up from 17% in 2022.

In 2032, 21% of people are projected to be aged 18 years and under, down from 24% in 2022.¹⁰⁰

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

Latest ONS figures for household projections in England show an indication of the future number of households in England and its regions and local authorities.¹⁰¹ These are used for planning in areas such as housing and social care. The latest household projections show a continued rise in the number of households in England, at a faster rate of growth than 2018-based projections. The fastest percentage increase over the first 10 years of

⁹⁸ ONS (2025) *Population estimates for England and Wales: mid-2024*. Available: [Population estimates for England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

⁹⁹ ONS (2026) *National population projections: 2024-based*. Available: [National population projections - Office for National Statistics](#)

¹⁰⁰ ONS (2025) *Subnational population projections for England: 2022-based*. Available: [Subnational population projections for England - Office for National Statistics](#)

¹⁰¹ ONS (2025) *Household projections for England: 2022-based*. Available: [Household projections for England - Office for National Statistics](#)

the projections is in households with a household reference person (HRP) aged 85 years and over; they are projected to increase by 452,000 (42.3%) from 1.1 million in 2022 to 1.5 million in 2032, of these, 280,000 (61.9%) are projected to be living alone. This shows the potential impact of an ageing population on future household formation.

The West Midlands Region is expected to see population growth in the coming years, with the proportion of residents of an older age increasing in line with the trend across much of England. Development across the plan area needs to be particularly considerate of this group in relation to the design of development and neighbourhoods as well as the accessibility of services and facilities. There will be a need to promote development which ensures the issue of isolation does not become more prevalent given the expected increase in the proportion of single person households among older people. Without a strategic approach to development, it is less likely that these challenges will be comprehensively met.

Working Age Population

National (England)

In mid-2024, the working age population (age 16-64) of England was estimated to be 36.9 million (62.9% of the population).

Regional (West Midlands)

In mid-2024, the working age population (age 16-64) of the West Midlands was estimated to be 3.8 million.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

In mid-2024, the working age population (age 16-64) of the Plan Area was estimated to be 121,785.

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

See above relating to population change.

Unemployment

National (England)

In Great Britain, 4.5% of economically active people were unemployed, from January 2025 to December 2025.¹⁰²

Regional (West Midlands)

In the West Midlands, 5.7% of economically active people were unemployed, from January 2025 to December 2025.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

Data is not available at local level due to the sample size being too small for a reliable estimate.

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

Data from the ONS Labour Force Survey in April 2026 the UK employment rate for people aged 16 to 64 years was estimated at 75.0% in December 2025 to February 2026. This is

¹⁰² Nomis (202b) *Labour Market Profile – Telford and Wrekin*. Available: [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

down in the latest quarter but largely unchanged compared with estimates of a year ago.¹⁰³

Without the strategic approach to development in the plan area the required development and infrastructure is less likely to be provided to encourage investment in areas where highest numbers of residents can benefit from new employment opportunities.

Education

National (England)

Residents aged 16 years and over in England and Wales had the following qualifications as of 2021¹⁰⁴:

- No Qualifications – 18.2%
- Level 1 – 9.6%
- Level 2 – 13.4%
- Apprenticeship – 5.3%
- Level 3 – 16.9%
- Level 4 or above – 33.8%

Regional (West Midlands)

The West Midlands is the region with the highest proportion of people with no qualifications (21.1%, 1.0 million).

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

Residents aged 16 years and over in the Plan Area had the following qualifications as of 2021:

- No Qualifications – 20.0%
- Level 1 – 11.3%
- Level 2 – 15.6%
- Apprenticeship – 5.5%
- Level 3 – 18.7%
- Level 4 or above – 26.1%

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

The following category descriptions are provided for the different levels of education:

- Level 1 and entry level qualifications: any GCSEs at other grades, O levels or CSEs (any grades), Foundation Welsh Baccalaureate, one Advanced Subsidiary (AS) level, NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) level 1, Basic or Essential Skills, skills for life, literacy and numeracy, Level 2 Scottish Vocational qualifications
- Level 2 qualifications: five or more GCSEs (A* to C or 9 to 4), O levels (passes), CSEs (grade 1), Intermediate Welsh Baccalaureate, one A level, two to three AS levels, NVQ level 2, Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC) General, City and Guilds Craft, Level 2 Scottish Vocational qualifications
- Level 3 qualifications: two or more A levels, four or more AS levels, Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate, NVQ level 3, City and Guilds Advanced Craft, Ordinary National

¹⁰³ ONS (2026) Labour market overview, UK: April 2026. Available: [Labour market overview, UK - Office for National Statistics](#)

¹⁰⁴ ONS (2023) Education, England and Wales: Census 2021. Available: [Education, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

Certificate (ONC), Ordinary National Diploma (OND), BTEC National, International Baccalaureate, Level 3 Scottish Vocational qualifications

- Level 4 or above qualifications: degree, foundation degree, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Master's degrees, Higher National Diploma (HND) or Higher National Certificate (HNC), NVQ level 4 or above, professional qualifications (for example, teaching or nursing)
- Other: Any other qualifications, equivalent unknown

Economic Activity Rates

National (England)

From January 2025 to December 2025, 79.2% of those in Great Britain were economically active while 75.5% of the population was in employment. Of those who are were economically inactive 26.1% were students, 18.0% were looking after family/home and 28.7% were long-term sick.¹⁰⁵

Regional (West Midlands)

From January 2025 to December 2025, 78.2% of those in the West Midlands were economically active while 73.6% of the population was in employment. Of those who are were economically inactive 25.9% were students, 20.2% were looking after family/home and 29.5% were long-term sick.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

From January 2025 to December 2025, 78.9% of those in the Plan Area were economically active while 76.1% of the population was in employment. Of those who are were economically inactive 25.3% were students, 17.4% were looking after family/home and 31.1% were long-term sick.

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

Telford and Wrekin has demonstrated similar levels of economic activity to the national average. Of those who were reported to be economically inactive in Telford and Wrekin, this included a similar percentage of students as the national average. Development in the region should aim to build on the relatively high rates of economic activity among the local population. Without a strategic approach to development and infrastructure in the plan area, it may prove more difficult to encourage further economic investment and to build on level of economic activity presently demonstrated in the region.

Deprivation

National (England)

The English Indices of Deprivation (IoD25) measure relative levels of deprivation in 33,755 small areas or neighbourhoods, called Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs), in England.¹⁰⁶

Overall, 82% of neighbourhoods that are in the most deprived decile according to the IMD25 were also the most deprived according to the IMD2019.

¹⁰⁵ Nomis (202b) *Labour Market Profile – Telford and Wrekin*. Available: [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

¹⁰⁶ MHCLG (2025) *English indices of deprivation 2025: statistical release*. Available: [English indices of deprivation 2025: statistical release - GOV.UK](#)

Deprivation is dispersed across England. 65% of local authority districts contain at least one of the most deprived neighbourhoods in England.

Middlesbrough, Birmingham, Hartlepool, Kingston upon Hull and Manchester are the Local Authority Districts with the highest proportions of neighbourhoods among the most deprived in England.

Regional (West Midlands)

Reported at national and local level only.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

Telford and Wrekin is more deprived Overall (IMD) than 68% of local authority districts in England. This is based on its rank across the seven categories of deprivation listed below:

- Income – more deprived than 80% of local authorities
- Employment – more deprived than 75% of local authorities
- Education & Skills – more deprived than 68% of local authorities
- Health & Disability – more deprived than 79% of local authorities
- Crime – more deprived than 62% of local authorities
- Barriers to Housing & Services – more deprived than 58% of local authorities
- Living Environment – less deprived than 98% of local authorities

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

The Indices of Deprivation 2025 provide a set of relative measures of deprivation for small geographical areas (Lower-layer Super Output Areas) across England, based on seven different domains of deprivation:

- Income Deprivation
- Employment Deprivation
- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation
- Health Deprivation and Disability
- Crime
- Barriers to Housing and Services
- Living Environment Deprivation

Each of these domains is based on a basket of indicators. As far as is possible, each indicator is based on data from the most recent time point available. A range of summary measures are available for higher-level geographies including Local Authority Districts and upper tier Local Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships, and Clinical Commissioning Groups.

These summary measures are produced for the overall Index of Multiple Deprivation, each of the seven domains and the supplementary indices.

Gross Value Added

National (England)

The GVA per hour worked in England in 2023 was £42.40. GVA per hour worked has steadily increased in England from £26.10 in 2004.¹⁰⁷

Regional (West Midlands)

The GVA per hour worked in the West Midlands in 2023 was £36.00.

¹⁰⁷ ONS (2025) *Gross value added per hour worked*. Available: [Gross value added per hour worked - ONS](#)

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

The GVA per hour worked in the West Midlands in 2023 was £35.00.

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

GVA is a measure of the increase in the value of the economy due to the production of goods and services. The measure can be a useful way of comparing regions of different size, however, comparisons can be affected by commuting flows into or out of the region.

Development and infrastructure should be planned so that increases in value of the economy can be of benefit to all. Without a strategic approach to development and infrastructure to support future economic growth it is likely that some opportunities to secure this aim may not be realised.

C.11 Communities – Supporting Infrastructure

Location of Strategic Rail Links

National (England)

The railway network in Great Britain comprises 2,589 stations, set across 15,747km of tracks of which 39% is electrified. Train usage was reported to be up by 7.2% in 2024/25 compared to the previous year. Passenger rail service complaints closed in 2024/25 decreased by 7.6% from the previous year.¹⁰⁸

Regional (West Midlands)

The total journeys within the West Midlands region in the FYE ending March 2024 was approximately 53 million and there were approximately 32 million to or from other regions.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are rail links within the Plan Area which connects towns such as Shrewsbury to Telford to Wolverhampton. Telford Steam Railway is also within the Plan Area.

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

There were 1,729 million passenger rail journeys (1,486 million excluding the Elizabeth Line), an increase of 7.2% on the previous year and a decrease of 0.6% on the 2019-20. Passenger usage continues to grow but remains 14.5% below pre-Covid levels (2019-20). Passenger rail journeys almost doubled (95.9% increase) in the 20 years leading up to the pandemic, reaching a record high of 1.8bn journeys in 2018-19.

The provision of development and infrastructure in the plan area provides an opportunity to strengthen the rail offer in the region and its viability, while encouraging use by residents. Providing development and infrastructure without a taking strategic approach is less likely to achieve these aims considering the need to ensure a highly connected railway system for it to be successful.

Location of Strategic Road Network

National (England)

The strategic road network (SRN) comprises England's 4,500 miles of motorways and major A-roads. It is managed by the Highways Agency, which is an executive agency of the Department for Transport.

This network is a crucial part of England's infrastructure and is especially important for businesses.¹⁰⁹

Regional (West Midlands)

National Highways routes in the West Midlands include major roads, like the M1 and the M6, connect the Midlands to local roads and with the rest of the UK.¹¹⁰

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

¹⁰⁸ Department for Transport (2025) *Rail Trends 2025*. Available: [Rail Trends 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

¹⁰⁹ Department for Transport (2025) *Strategic road network: interim settlement 2025 to 2026*. Available: [Interim Settlement: Investment and management of the strategic road network from April 2025 to March 2026](#)

¹¹⁰ National Highways (2026) *West Midlands*. Available: [West Midlands - National Highways](#)

Within Plan Area is the M54 motorway as well as various single and dual carriageways. Some A roads include the A442, A4169 and A41.

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

National Highways predict increased demand for the SRN by 2050 with growing pressure where it meets urban areas.¹¹¹

The provision of development and infrastructure in the plan area provides an opportunity to not only to strengthen the SRN in the plan area to help limit congestion and support economic growth, but also to support the viability of public transport networks support. Providing development and infrastructure without a taking strategic approach is less likely to achieve these aims considering the need to ensure a highly connected SRN and public transport network for it to be successful.

Location of Airports

National (England)

In 2018 there were 50 airports across the UK. The UK currently has the biggest international aviation network in Europe and is the third largest in the world. The UK has direct connections to over 370 destination and more than 100 countries.¹¹²

Regional (West Midlands)

Birmingham Airport is the main airport identified in the West Midlands Region.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

There are currently no airports identified in the Plan Area.

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

The UK has the largest aviation network in Europe and the third largest in the world. Aviation directly contributes at least £22 billion to the economy and supports around half a million jobs. Growth in this sector has been reflected by year on year increases in UK passenger numbers for the seven consecutive years up to 2018.

Digital Connectivity

National (England)

In the UK there were 29.3 million fixed broadband lines at the end of Q4 2025, an increase of 126k (0.4%) year on year.¹¹³

Regional (West Midlands)

In the West Midlands in 2026, the fixed broadband coverage of premises is as follows:¹¹⁴

- Full fibre – 85.52%
- Superfast – 98.96%
- Ultrafast – 93.07%

¹¹¹ National Highways (2022) *Strategic Road Network Initial Report*. Available: [cre22_0102-srn-initial-report-2025-2030_vn-updated.pdf](#)

¹¹² HM Government (2018) *Aviation 2050: The Future of UK Aviation*. Available: [Aviation 2050](#)

¹¹³ Ofcom (2026) *Telecommunications Market Data Update, Q4 2025*. Available: [Telecommunications Market Data Update Q4 2025](#)

¹¹⁴ ThinkBroadband (2025) *Local Broadband Information*. Available: [Broadband Coverage and Speed Test Statistics for the West Midlands](#)

- Not able to receive decent broadband of at least 10Mbit/s download and 1.2Mbit/s upload – 0.68%

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

In the Plan Area in 2026, the fixed broadband coverage of premises is as follows:

- Full fibre – 67.76%
- Superfast – 99.50%
- Ultrafast – 91.76%
- Not able to receive decent broadband of at least 10Mbit/s download and 1.2Mbit/s upload – 0.21%

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

Standard, superfast and ultrafast denote different broadband speed categories:¹¹⁵

- Standard broadband has download speeds of less than 30Mbps;
- Superfast broadband has download speeds between 30Mbps and 300Mbps; and
- Ultrafast broadband has download speeds of greater than 300Mbps.

However, some areas do not benefit from access to the infrastructure necessary to allow for connections. **Without a strategic approach to development and infrastructure in the region, it is likely to prove more difficult to ensure that new residents have the choice of being able to access to ultrafast broadband and also to build on existing provisions.**

Electricity Network

National (England)

In the GB there are 14 licensed distribution networks, owned by six different groups, with each responsible for a regional distribution services area. The National Grid is responsible for the electricity transmission across England.¹¹⁶

Regional (West Midlands)

The West Midlands electricity network is covered by National Grid with an area intersecting SP Energy Networks.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

The Plan Areas electricity network is covered by National Grid.

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

The electricity distribution networks in the UK carry electricity from the high voltage transmission grid to industrial, commercial and domestic users. This network is increasingly supplied by renewable sources, with renewable generation in the UK increasing by 5.1 % from 136.8 TWh in 2023 to 143.7 TWh in 2024. This was a result of increased wind and plant biomass generation.¹¹⁷

Water Treatment Works and Sewage Treatment Works

National (England)

¹¹⁵ Ofcom (2023) *Connected Nations 2023 UK report*. Available: [Connected Nations 2023 - UK report](#)

¹¹⁶ EnergyNetworksAssociation (2025) *Who's my electricity network operator?* Available: [Who is my DNO](#)

¹¹⁷ DESNZ (2025) *Regional renewable electricity in 2024*. Available: [Regional renewable electricity in 2024](#)

There are 11 regional water and wastewater companies in England and Wales and a further five water-only companies. Water companies in England and Wales are regulated by four independent bodies across three areas:

- Ofwat– The economic regulator for the water sector in England and Wales
- Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) – The drinking water quality regulator for England and Wales
- Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales – Environmental regulators¹¹⁸

Regional (West Midlands)

The West Midlands is predominately served by Severn Trent Water in terms of water and sewerage. South Staffs Water also provides water in the region.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

The Plans Area's water and sewerage are provided by Severn Trent Water. Severn Trent provide over eight million people across their region with drinking water every day, which is around two billion litres. Between 2025 and 2030, Severn Trent are committing a record £15 billion to improving our water, protecting our environment and supporting the communities they serve.¹¹⁹

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

As with most areas of the UK, the existing Water Treatment Works and Sewage Treatment Works infrastructure in the Plan Area will be subject to capacity issues at the local level due to population growth and associated new development.

Development in the plan area will need to **respond to capacity issues in terms of these types of infrastructure. In some instances, development may need to support the delivery of new infrastructure where capacity issues emerge. Without a strategic approach to development, capacity issues in the region may prove more difficult to address in manner which benefits the highest number of residents in the plan area.**

Major Utilities (major gas mains, overhead lines etc.)

National (England)

There are eight distribution networks throughout the British Isles which are owned by Cadent, Northern Gas Networks, SGN (formerly Scotia Gas Networks) and Wales & West Utilities.¹²⁰

Regional (West Midlands)

Cadent is responsible for the gas distribution network across the West Midlands.

There are 10 gas sites in the West Midlands and a number of gas pipelines which are predominately towards the south and north east of the region.¹²¹

There are approximately 47 substations within the region and a number of overhead lines.¹²²

¹¹⁸ UK Parliament (2026) *Constituency information: Water companies*. Available: [Constituency information: Water companies - House of Commons Library](#)

¹¹⁹ Severn Trent (2026) *About us*. Available: [Overview | About Us | Severn Trent Water](#)

¹²⁰ Energy Solutions (2025) *The Gas Network, understanding the regions*. Available: [The Gas Network, understanding the regions | Energy Solutions](#)

¹²¹ National Gas (2026) *Network route maps*. Available: [Network route maps | National Gas](#)

¹²² National Grid (2026) *Network route maps*. Available: [Network route maps | National Grid](#)

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

Cadent is responsible for the gas distribution network across the Plan Area.

There are no gas terminals or gas pipelines identified in the Plan Area.

No overhead lines or substations are identified in the Plan Area.

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

There are currently no gas terminals located within the Plan Area. However, parts of the West Midlands region do contain existing gas pipelines and overhead power lines that support energy distribution. **Without a coordinated and strategic approach to development, there is a risk that future infrastructure and growth may not align effectively with the existing energy network. This could lead to missed opportunities for enhancing energy resilience and efficiency across the region.**

C.12 Communities – Health and Wellbeing

Population

National (England)

As of mid-2024, the population of England was estimated to be 58.6 million. Of the population, 28.7 million were male (49.0%) and 29.9 million were female (51.0%).¹²³

Regional (West Midlands)

As of mid-2024, the population of the West Midlands was estimated to be 6.2 million. Of the population, 3.1 million were male (49.3%) and 3.1 million were female (50.7%).

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

As of mid-2024, the population of the Plan Area was estimated to be 195,952. Of the population, 96,010 were male (49.0%) and 99,942 were female (51.0%).

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

The population in the UK is measured through the Census. This provides an estimate of the overall population the UK and its distribution within countries and regions. The last Census was undertaken in 2021. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) also provides mid-year population estimates.

All four countries of the UK saw population increases in the decade between mid-2011 and mid-2021. The highest percentage increase was in England where the population increased by 3.4 million, a rise of 6.5% between 2011 and 2021. The population of England and Wales continued to grow in the year to mid-2024, reaching an estimated 61.8 million people (61,806,682). The size of the population increased by 706,900 (1.2%) from mid-2023. This is a similar rate of increase to the previous two years and represents the second largest annual numerical increase in over 75 years.

The number of people aged 65 years and over in the population continues to increase faster than the rest of the population. In England and Wales, the number of people aged 65 years and over increased from 9.2 million in 2011 to over 11 million in 2021 and the proportion of people aged 65 years and over rose from 16.4% to 18.6%¹²⁴. In mid-2024, the number of people aged 65 years and over increased to 11.7 million, making up 18.9% of the population.

The population of the UK increased by approximately 11.1 million (19.8%) during the last fifty years to 2021 and by approximately 3.7 million (5.9%) during the last decade.

Population growth in the latest decade was lower than the previous decade in all four UK countries.

Net migration has contributed most to population growth over the last 25 years. For England and Wales, net migration for the year to mid-2024 was an estimated 676,899.

The ONS notes that births have declined since mid-2012 except for brief increases in the years ending mid-2016 and mid-2022. Over the same period, deaths have generally increased despite some annual decreases, including a 5.3% decrease in the latest year to

¹²³ ONS (2025) *Estimates of the population for England and Wales*. Available: [Estimates of the population for England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

¹²⁴ ONS (2023) *Profile of the older population living in England and Wales in 2021 and changes since 2011*. Available: [Profile of the older population living in England and Wales in 2021 and changes since 2011 - Office for National Statistics](#)

mid-2024. The increasing number of deaths reflects the growing size of the population and increasing number of older people in the population as people are living longer.

Life Expectancy

National (England)

Life expectancy at birth in England between 2022 to 2024 was 79.5 years for males and 83.3 years for females.¹²⁵

Regional (West Midlands)

Life expectancy at birth in the West Midlands between 2022 to 2024 was 78.7 years for males and 82.8 years for females.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

Life expectancy at birth in the Plan Area between 2022 to 2024 was 78.3 years for males and 82.2 years for females.

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

Life expectancy (the number of years people are expected to spend in different health states among local authority areas in the UK) is measured by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Life expectancy at birth increased, for both males and females, in over three-quarters of the United Kingdom's local areas compared with 2019 to 2021; it was lower than in 2017 to 2019 (pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic) for males in around two-thirds of local areas, and for females in half of local areas. In England, 531,954 deaths were registered in 2024, which was 12,100 (2.2%) fewer deaths than 2023 and 8,379 (1.6%) fewer than 2022.¹²⁶ In 2024, provisional data shows that deaths from cardiovascular disease, cancer, respiratory disease, dementia and Alzheimer's disease, and COVID-19 accounted for 75% of all deaths in England. Cardiovascular disease (24%) and cancer (26%) made up the largest proportions.¹²⁷

Disability

National (England)

In England, the proportion of disabled people decreased from 19.3% in 2011 to 17.7% in 2021. However, there was an increase in the number of disabled people (from 9.4 million in 2011 to 9.8 million in 2021).¹²⁸

Regional (West Midlands)

Reported at national and local level only.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

¹²⁵ ONS (2025) *Life expectancy for local areas of the UK: between 2001 to 2003 and 2022 to 2024*. Available: [Life expectancy for local areas of the UK - Office for National Statistics](#)

¹²⁶ ONS (2025) *Death registration summary statistics, England and Wales: 2024*. Available: [Death registration summary statistics, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

¹²⁷ Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (2025) *Recent mortality trends in England*. Available: [Recent mortality trends in England](#)

¹²⁸ ONS (2023) *Disability, England and Wales: Census 2021*. Available: [Disability, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

In the Plan Area in 2021, 11.4% of people were disabled under the equality act with day-to-day activities limited a little and 9.1% whose day-to-day activities were limited a lot. 79.5% were not disabled under the equality act.

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

For the purposes of this analysis, a person is considered to have a disability if they have a self-reported long standing illness, condition or impairment that causes difficulty with day-to-day activities. This definition is consistent with the Equality Act 2010 and the GSS harmonised definition.¹²⁹

Specific Health Indicators – Obesity, Cancer etc.

National (England)

In 2024 to 2025, 64.6% of adults aged 18 years and over in England were estimated to be overweight or living with obesity.¹³⁰

In 2024 to 2025, 22.2% of Year 6 children were living with obesity in England. This is shown to be decreasing and improving.

The under 75 mortality rate from cancer as of 2025 is 114.6 per 100,000 people. This is shown to be decreasing and improving.

The under 75 mortality rate from cardiovascular disease as of 2025 is 71.5 per 100,000 people.

Regional (West Midlands)

In 2024 to 2025, 67.6% of adults aged 18 years and over in the West Midlands were estimated to be overweight or living with obesity.

In 2024 to 2025, 24.8% of Year 6 children were living with obesity in the West Midlands. This is shown to be decreasing and improving.

The under 75 mortality rate from cancer as of 2025 is 121.5 per 100,000 people.

The under 75 mortality rate from cardiovascular disease as of 2025 is 79.2 per 100,000 people.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

In 2024 to 2025, 70.3% of adults aged 18 years and over in the Plan Area were estimated to be overweight or living with obesity.

In 2024 to 2025, 23.9% of Year 6 children were living with obesity in the Plan Area.

The under 75 mortality rate from cancer as of 2025 is 136.6 per 100,000 people.

The under 75 mortality rate from cardiovascular disease as of 2025 is 70.1 per 100,000 people.

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

Data on specific health indicators has been collected by Public Health England for each local authority. The Local Authority Health Profiles provide an overview of health for each local authority in England. They pull together existing information in one place and contain data on a range of indicators for local populations, highlighting issues that can affect health in each locality.

¹²⁹ ONS (2019) *Disability, well-being and loneliness, UK: 2019*. Available: [Disability, well-being and loneliness, UK - Office for National Statistics](#)

¹³⁰ Department of Health & Social Care (2025) *Public health profiles*. Available: [Obesity, physical activity and nutrition - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#)

The plan area is generally more obese and overweight compared to the National average. The mortality rate from cancer in under 75-year-olds is higher in the Plan Area compared to the national average. However, in relation to cardiovascular disease it is slightly lower.

Disability Living Allowance & Other Benefits

National (England)

In March 2026, 4.0% of the population in Great Britain claimed out of work benefits.

Regional (West Midlands)

In March 2026, 5.3% of the population in the West Midlands claimed out of work benefits.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

In March 2026, 3.9% of the population in the Plan Area claimed out of work benefits.

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

From August 2024 to August 2025, the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance fell by 24% to 71,000 claimants in Great Britain. The number of people claiming Disability Living Allowance increased by 78,000 to 1,369,000 in the same period.¹³¹

General Health

National (England)

In England:

- The suicide rate between 2022 and 2024 was 10.9 per 100,000 people (16,657 deaths)
- 10.4% of the adult population (18+) in 2024 were classed as current smokers¹³²
- In 2022 to 2024, males could expect to spend 60.9 years of their lives in good health, compared with 61.3 years for females¹³³
- In 2019 to 2020, opiate and crack use was 9.5 per 1,000 of the population.¹³⁴

Regional (West Midlands)

In the West Midlands:

- The suicide rate between 2022 and 2024 was 10.5 per 100,000 people
- 11.3% of the adult population (18+) in 2024 were classed as current smokers
- In 2022 to 2024, males could expect to spend 60.2 years of their lives in good health, compared with 59.6 years for females
- In 2019 to 2020, opiate and crack use was 9.6 per 1,000 of the population.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

In the Plan Area:

- The suicide rate between 2022 and 2024 was 11.0 per 100,000 people (55 deaths)

¹³¹ Department for Work & Pensions (2026) *DWP benefits statistics: February 2026*. Available: [DWP benefit statistics: February 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

¹³² Department of Health & Social Care (2025) *Local authority health profiles*. Available: [Local Authority Health Profiles - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#)

¹³³ ONS (2026) *Healthy life expectancy, UK: between 2011 to 2013 and 2022 to 2024*. Available: [Healthy life expectancy, UK - Office for National Statistics](#)

¹³⁴ Department of Health & Social Care (2025) *Estimates of opiate and crack use in England 2016 to 2020: main points and methods*. Available: [Estimates of opiate and crack use in England 2016 to 2020: main points and methods - GOV.UK](#)

- 6.8% of the adult population (18+) in 2024 were classed as current smokers
- In 2022 to 2024, males could expect to spend 56.7 years of their lives in good health, compared with 55.4 years for females
- In 2019 to 2020, opiate and crack use was 10.0 per 1,000 of the population.

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

The suicide rate in the Plan Area is generally slightly higher than the national and regional average. The Plan Area performs better than England in terms of smoking prevalence but has lower years for healthy life expectancy for both males and females and a slightly higher rate of opiate and crack use.

Musculoskeletal Health

National (England)

In England in 2024, 17.9% of the population reported a long term Musculoskeletal (MSK) problem.

Regional (West Midlands)

In the West Midlands in 2024, 19.5% of the population reported a long term MSK problem.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

In the Plan Area in 2024, 20.2% of the population reported a long term MSK problem.¹³⁵

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

The term Musculoskeletal Conditions (MSK) encompasses well over 200 disorders affecting bones, muscles and soft tissues and also includes musculoskeletal injuries due to sports, workplace accidents and trauma related to external causes such as falls and road traffic accidents.

A growing level of obesity coupled with low levels of physical activity are storing up potential problems for future generations. Falls are the largest cause of emergency hospital admission amongst older people nationally and a significant determining factor in a permanent move into nursing or residential care.

Respiratory Health

National (England)

In England:¹³⁶

- In 2025, the mortality rate for respiratory disease was 110.8 deaths per 100,000 of the population.
- The mortality from COPD was 45.5 per 100,000 from 2022-2024
- The mortality rate from influenza and pneumonia was 37.3 per 100,000 between 2022 and 2024.

Regional (West Midlands)

In the West Midlands:

¹³⁵ Office for Health Improvements and Disparities (2026) *Musculoskeletal health: local profiles*. Available: [Musculoskeletal health profile - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#)

¹³⁶ Department of Health & Social Care (2026) *Respiratory disease: local profiles*. Available: [Respiratory disease - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#)

- In 2025, the mortality rate for respiratory disease was 123.1 deaths per 100,000 of the population.
- The mortality from COPD was 47.6 per 100,000 from 2022-2024
- The mortality rate from influenza and pneumonia was 41.3 per 100,000 between 2022 and 2024.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

In the Plan Area:

- In 2025, the mortality rate for respiratory disease was 136.7 deaths per 100,000 of the population.
- The mortality from COPD was 52.5 per 100,000 from 2022-2024
- The mortality rate from influenza and pneumonia was 44.0 per 100,000 between 2022 and 2024.

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

Respiratory disease affects one in five people and is the third biggest cause of death in England. Lung cancer, pneumonia and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are the biggest causes of death. Respiratory diseases are a major factor in winter pressures faced by the NHS; most respiratory admissions are non-elective and during the winter period these double in number. Incidence and mortality rates from respiratory disease are higher in disadvantaged groups and areas of social deprivation, with the gap widening and leading to worse health outcomes. The most deprived communities have a higher incidence of smoking rates, exposure to higher levels of air pollution, poor housing conditions and exposure to occupational hazards.¹³⁷

Physical Activity including Walking & Cycling

National (England)

In England:¹³⁸

- In 2024/2025, 68.0% of the population was classed as physically active adults
- In 2024/2025, 21.8% of the population was classed as physically inactive adults
- In 2022/2023, 18.6% of adults walked for travel at least three days per week.

Regional (West Midlands)

In the West Midlands:

- In 2024/2025, 64.6% of the population was classed as physically active adults
- In 2024/2025, 24.9% of the population was classed as physically inactive adults
- In 2022/2023, 15.4% of adults walked for travel at least three days per week.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

In the Plan Area:

- In 2024/2025, 69.0% of the population was classed as physically active adults
- In 2024/2025, 20.6% of the population was classed as physically inactive adults
- In 2022/2023, 10.3% of adults walked for travel at least three days per week.

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

¹³⁷ NHS England (2026) Respiratory Disease. Available: [NHS England » Respiratory disease](#)

¹³⁸ Department of Health & Social Care (2026) *Physical Activity: local profiles*. Available: [Obesity, physical activity and nutrition - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#)

The proportion of adults being active and participating in physical activity has increased since 2017/18. The Plan Area is generally more active than the National average. However, the proportion of those walking for travel at least three days a week for travel is lower than the average in England.

As new development occurs in the plan area opportunities to encourage physical activity among residents including the uptake of more active modes of transport in the plan area are likely to emerge. **This may include through the incorporation of open space which could serve a large number of residents or the appropriate integration of new active transport routes. It is expected that without a more strategic approach to development in the plan area these opportunities are less likely to be achieved.**

Crime & Safety

National (England)

In England, in the year ending December 2025, total recorded crime (excluding fraud) was 83.5 per 1,000 of the population. Violence by the person had the highest rate at 31.3 per 1,000 population, followed by theft offences at 26.6 per 1,000.¹³⁹

In England, in 2024, the total reported road collisions was 93,847 of which 1,273 were fatal.

Regional (West Midlands)

In the West Midlands, in the year ending December 2025, total recorded crime (excluding fraud) was 81.8 per 1,000 of the population. Violence by the person had the highest rate at 33.1 per 1,000 population, followed by theft offences at 25.0 per 1,000.

In 2024, the total reported road collisions was 8,749 of which 156 were fatal.

Plan Area (Telford & Wrekin)

Local authority data is unavailable, however, the Police Force Area covering the Plan Area is West Mercia and in which in the year ending December 2025 total recorded crime (excluding fraud) was 60.2 per 1,000 of the population. Violence by the person had the highest rate at 24.7 per 1,000 population, followed by theft offences at 17.4 per 1,000.

In 2024 the total reported road collisions was 129 of which 3 were fatal.

Explanatory text and anticipated future trends:

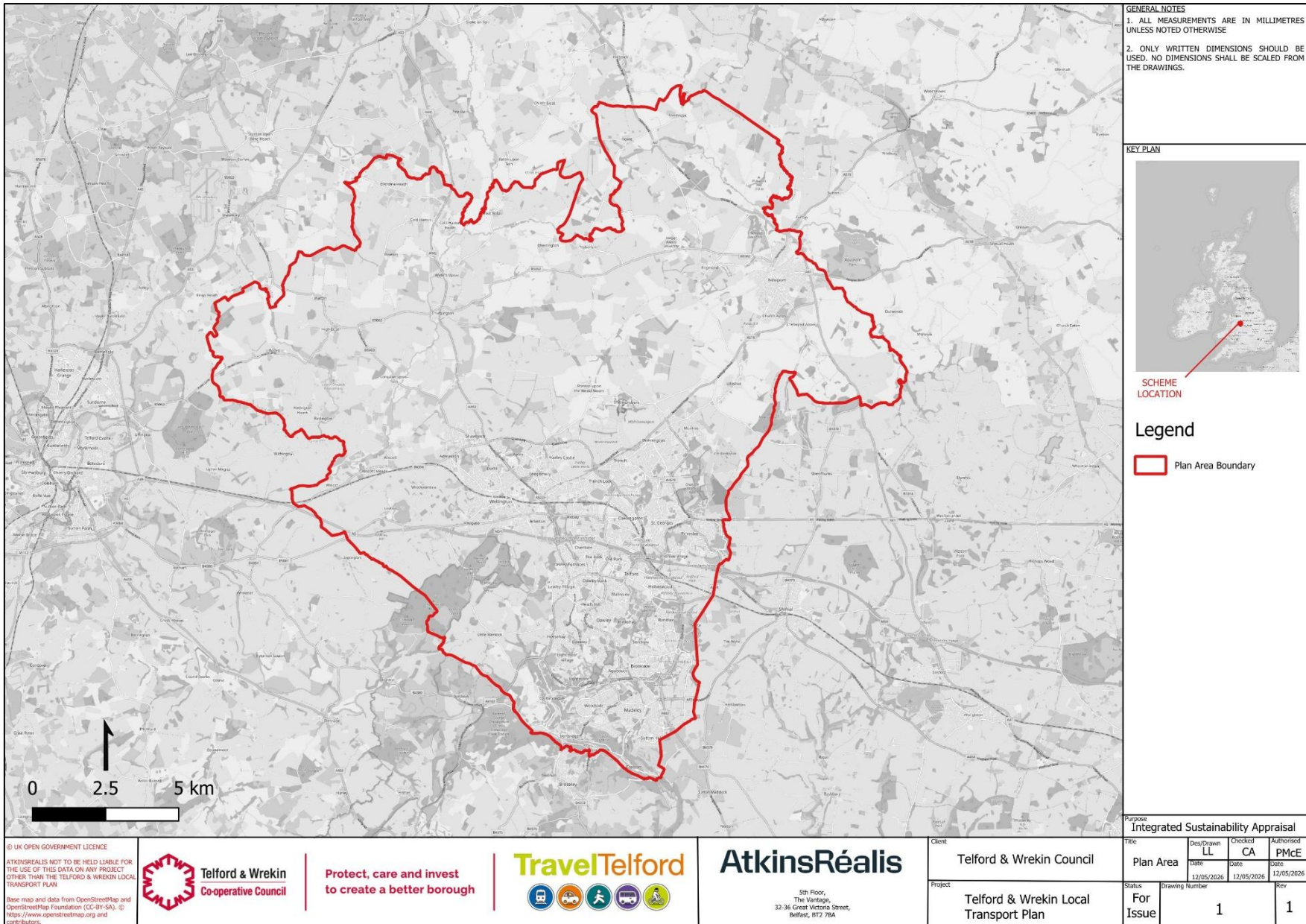
In England and Wales, crime against individuals and households has generally decreased over the last 10 years with some notable exceptions, such as fraud. In December 2025 there was no change in the headline crime (which includes theft, robbery, criminal damage, fraud, computer misuse, and violence with or without injury) compared with December 2024.¹⁴⁰

¹³⁹ ONS (2026) *Crime in England and Wales: Police Force Area data tables*. Available: [Crime in England and Wales: Police Force Area data tables - Office for National Statistics](#)

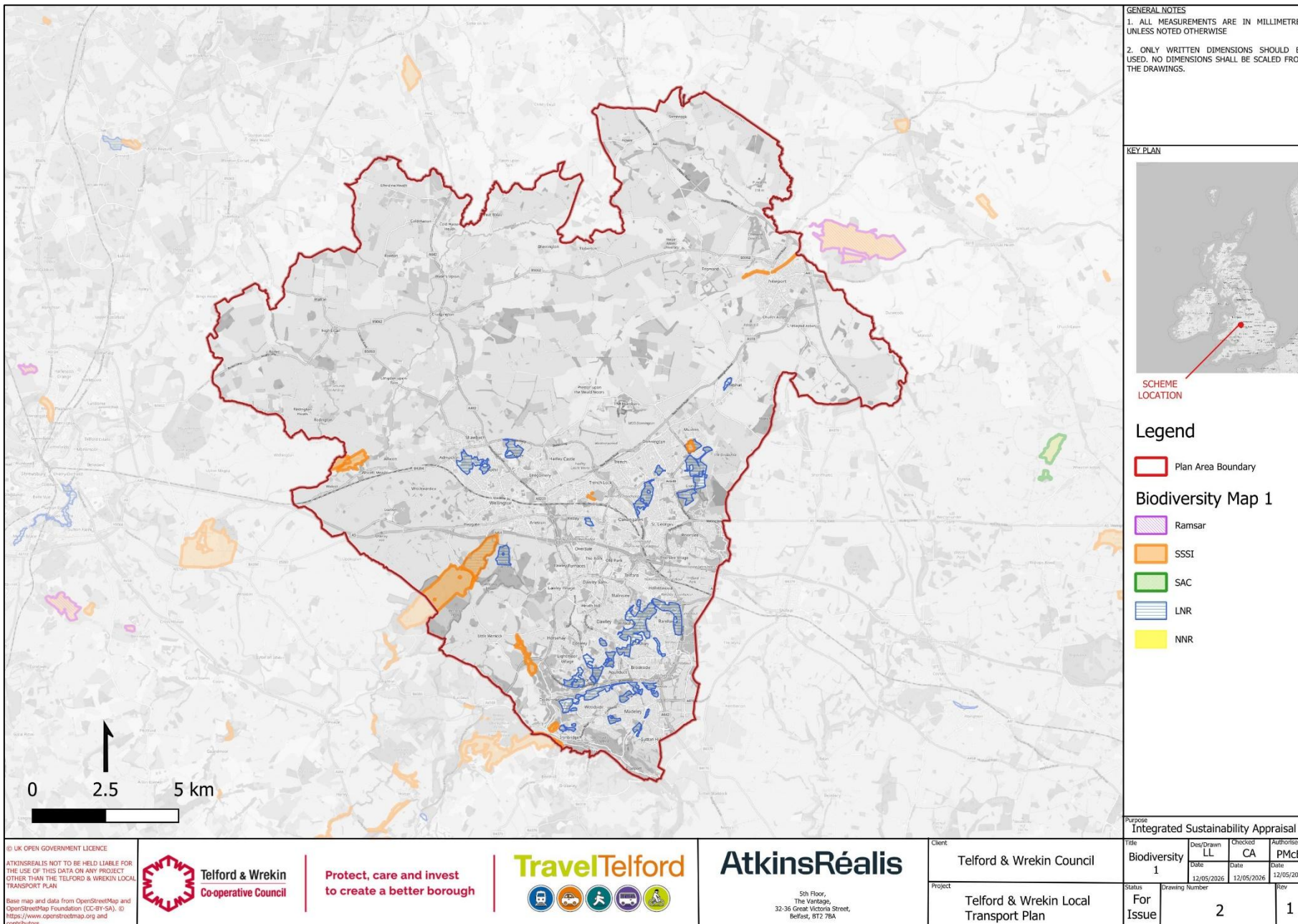
¹⁴⁰ ONS (2026) *Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2025*. Available: [Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

Appendix D. Baseline Figures

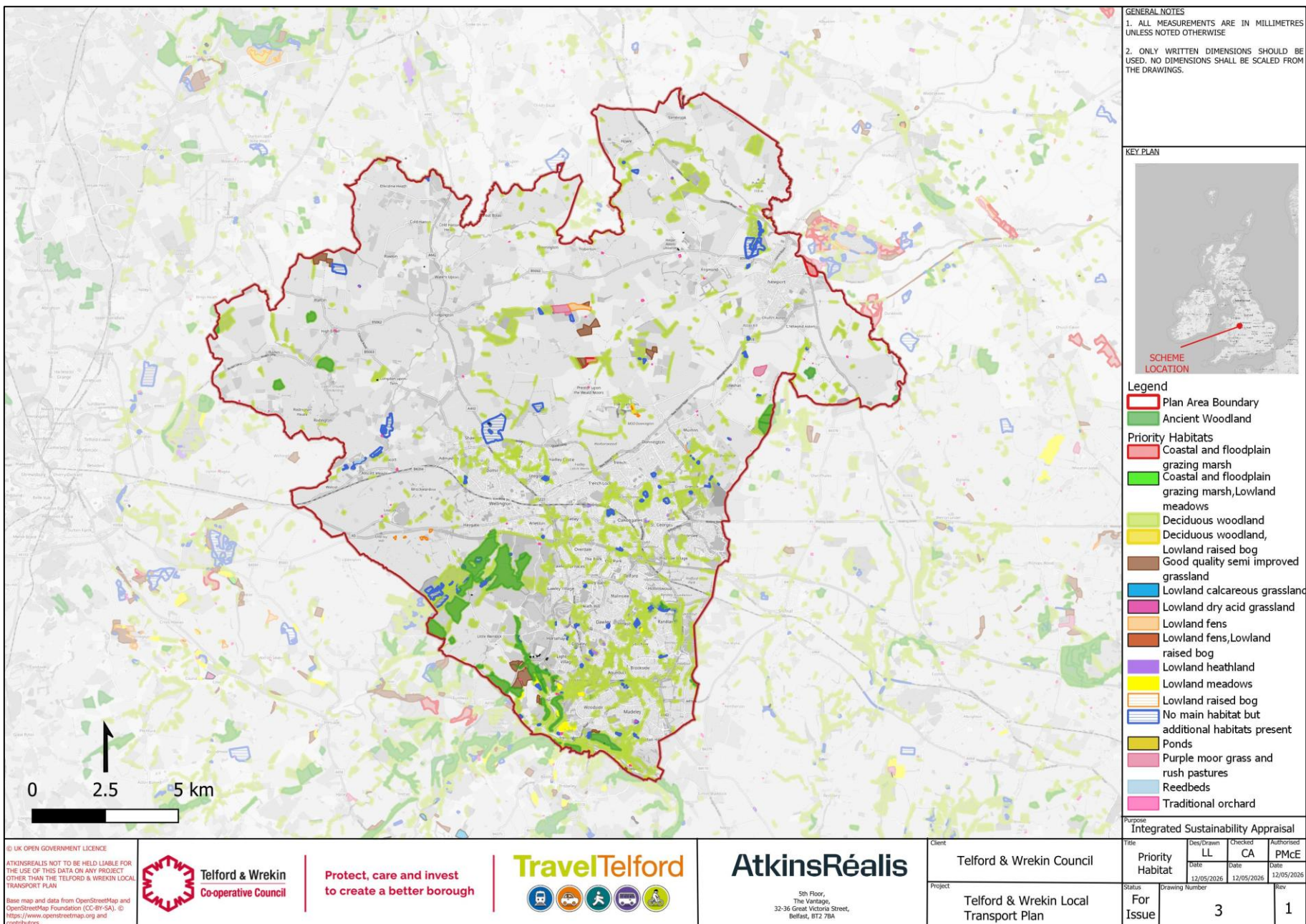
D.1 Plan Area Map



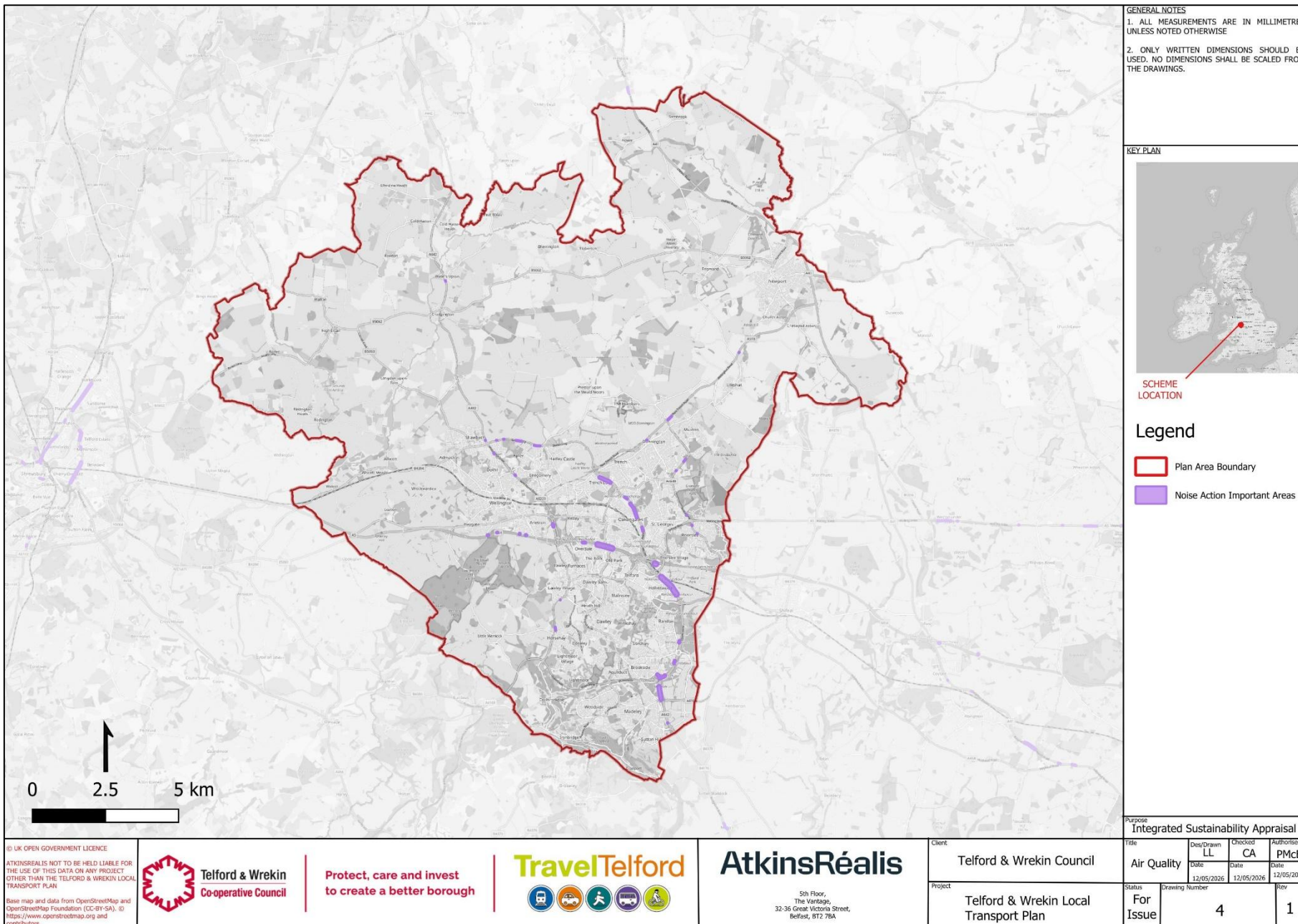
D.2 Biodiversity



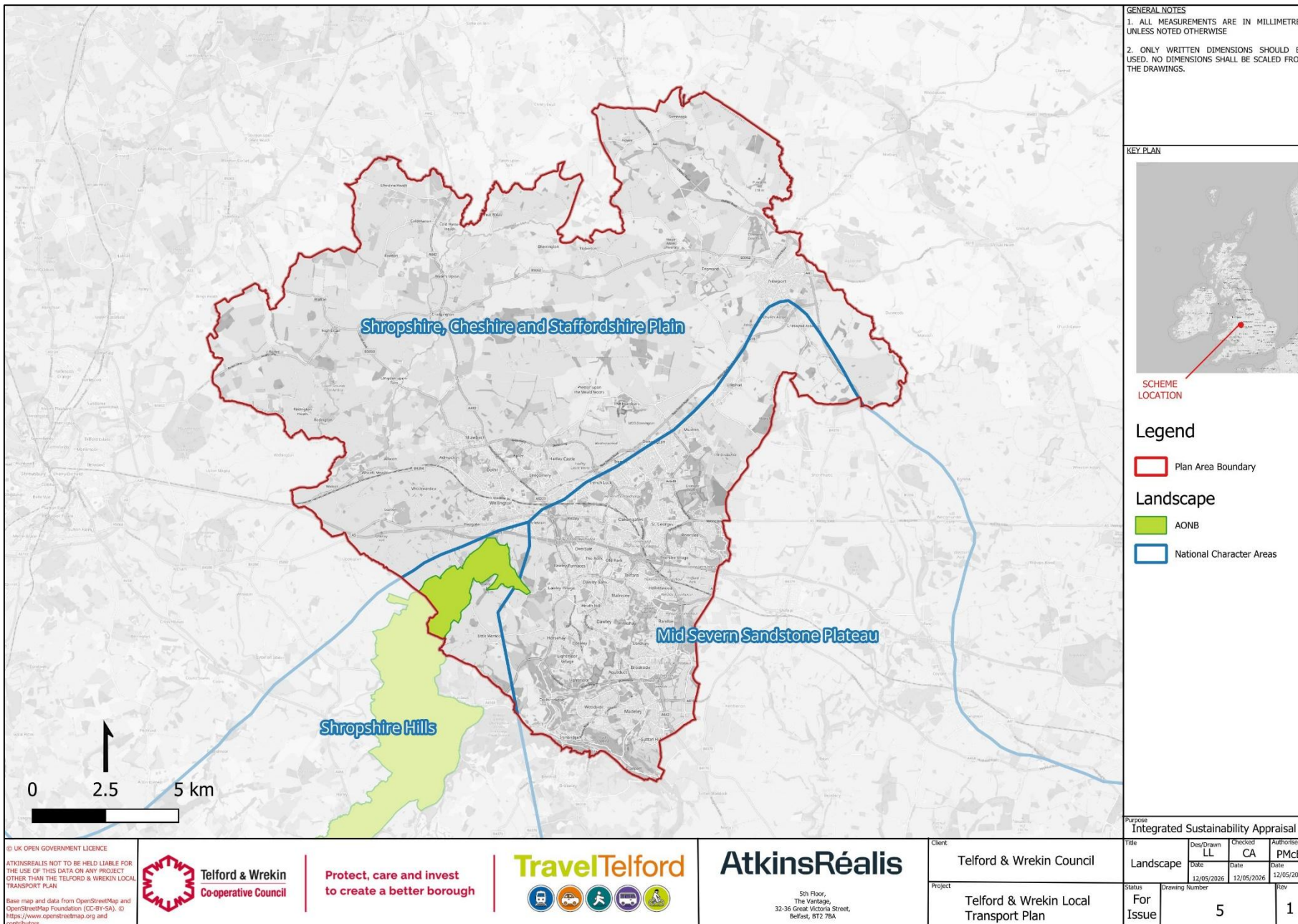
D.3 Priority Habitats



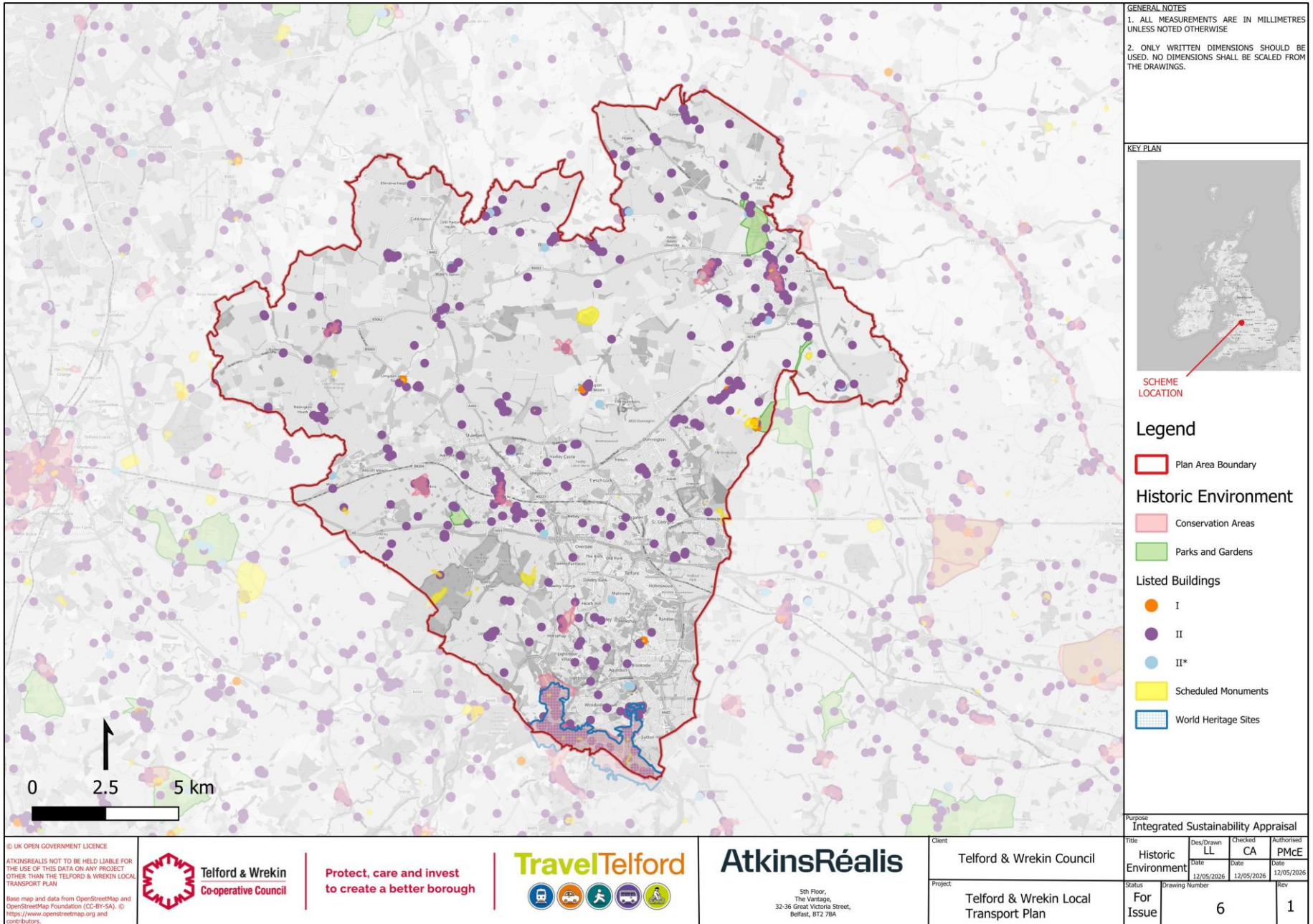
D.4 Air Quality



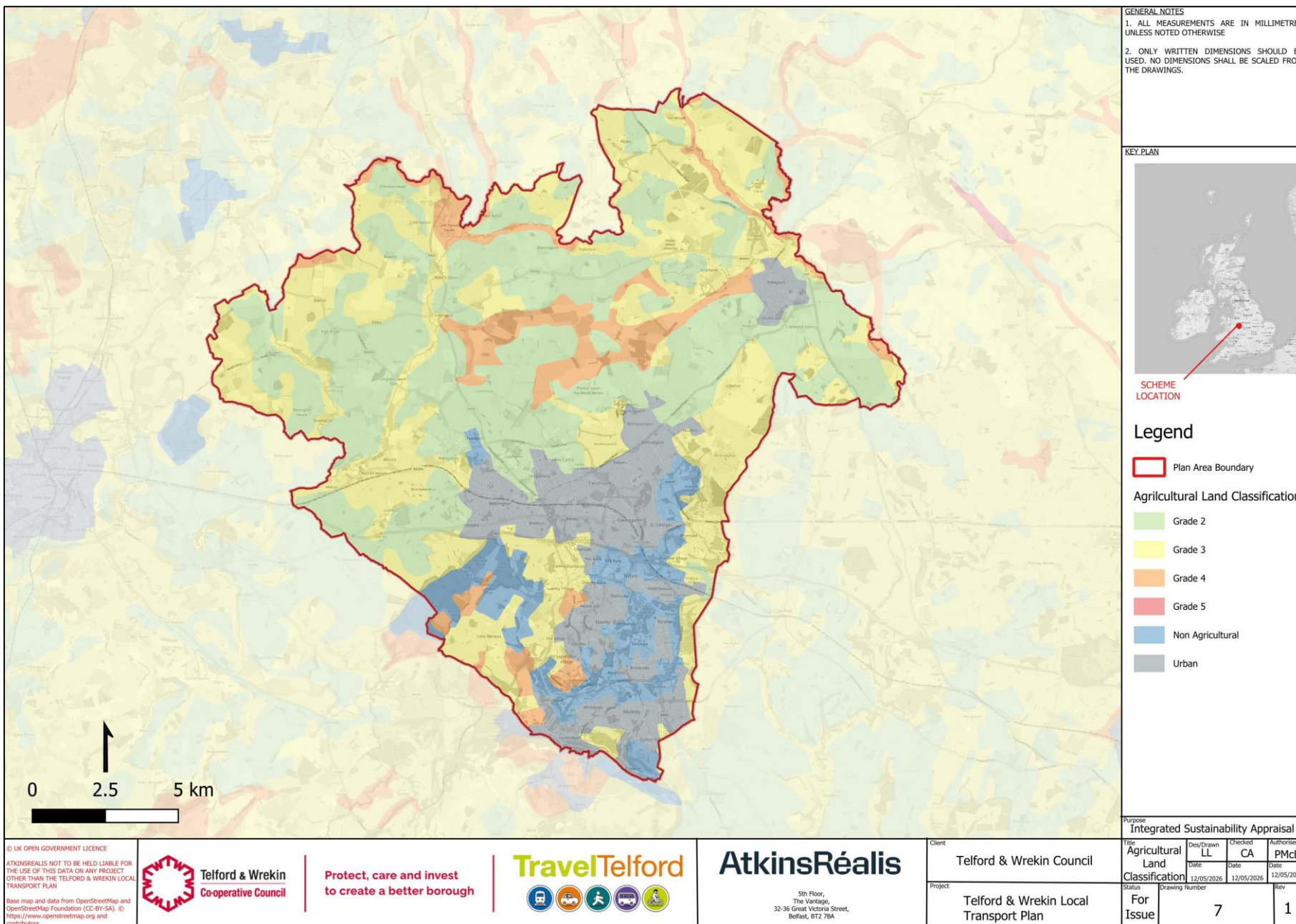
D.5 Landscape



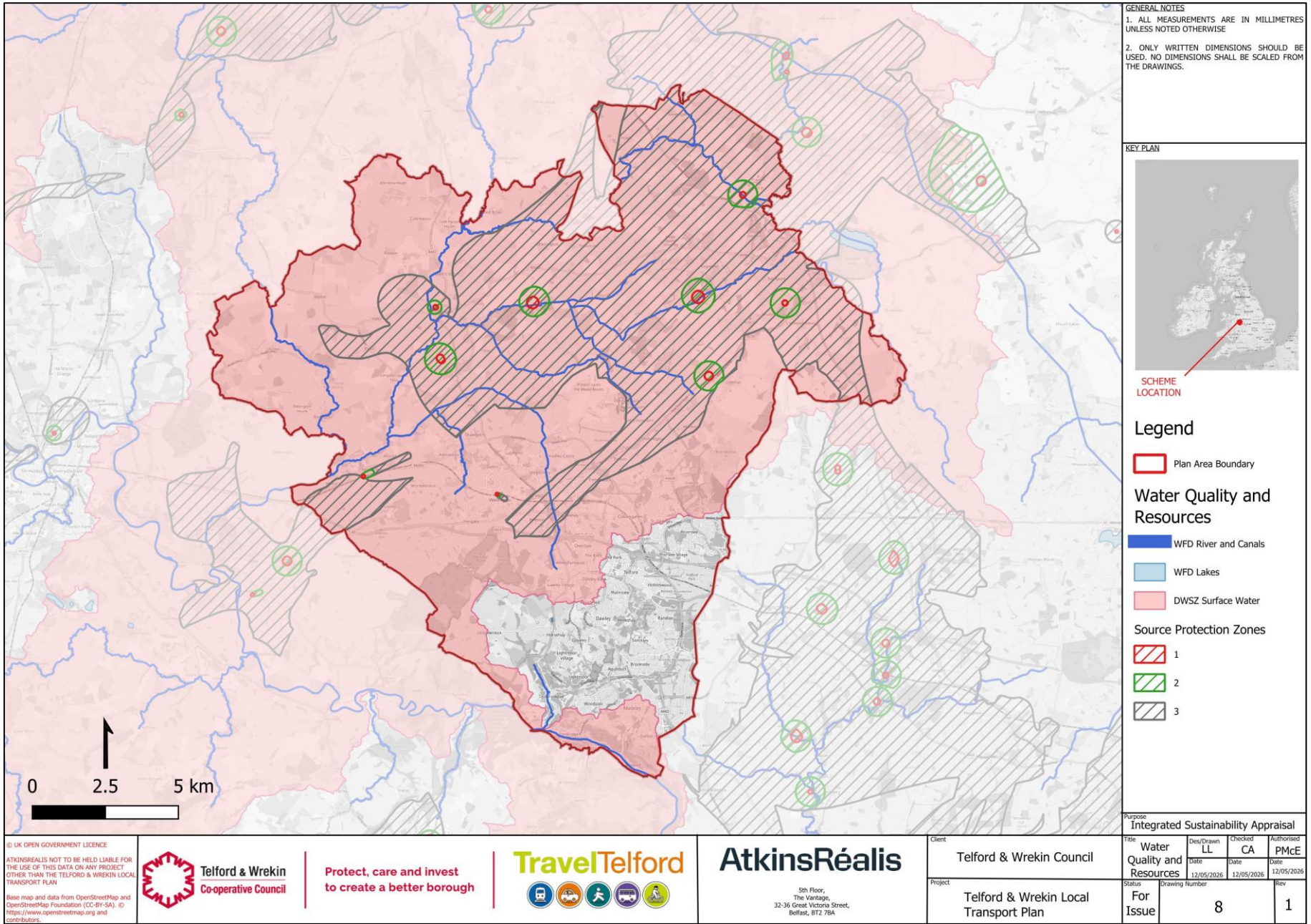
D.6 Historic Environment



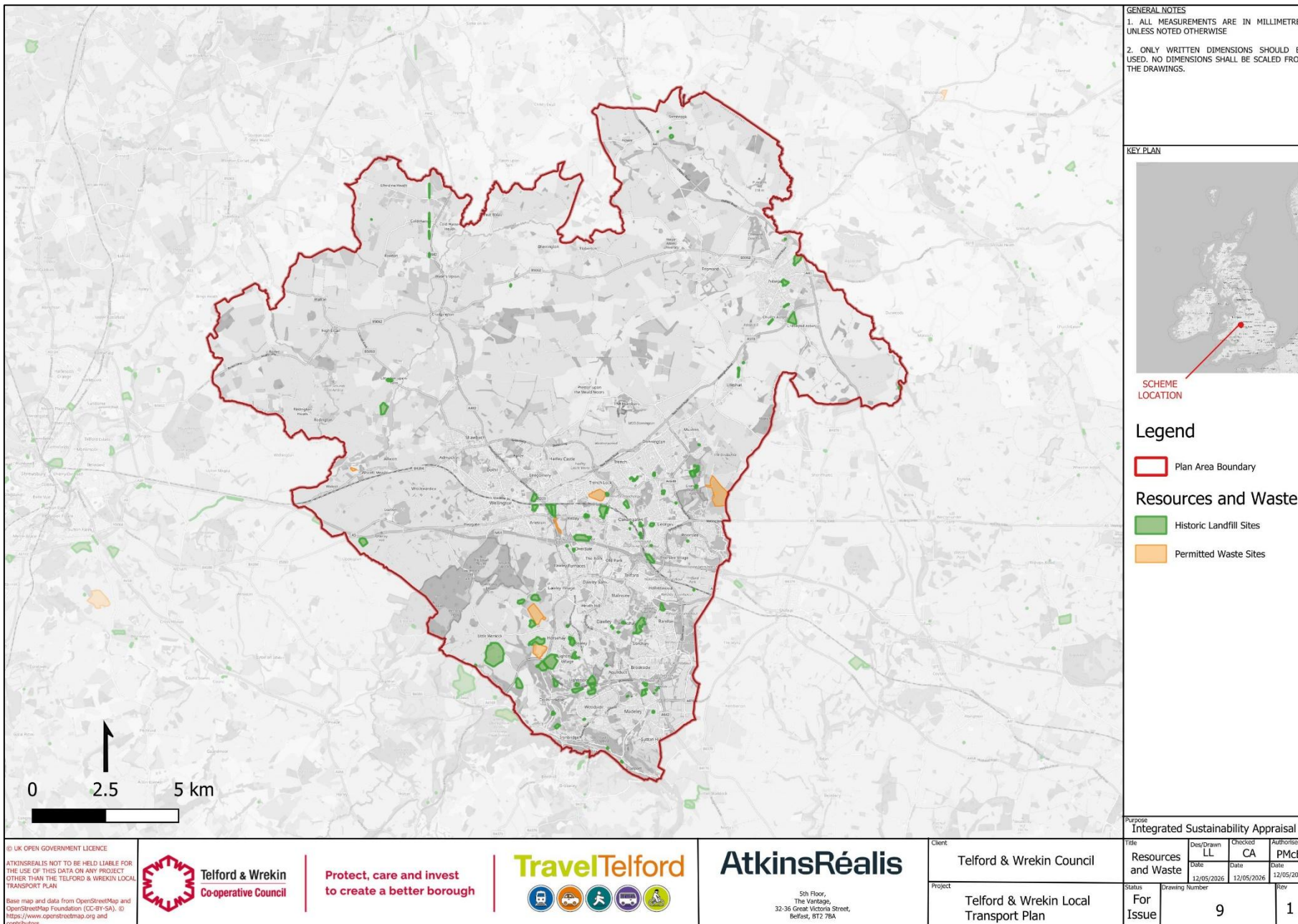
D.7 Agricultural Land Classification



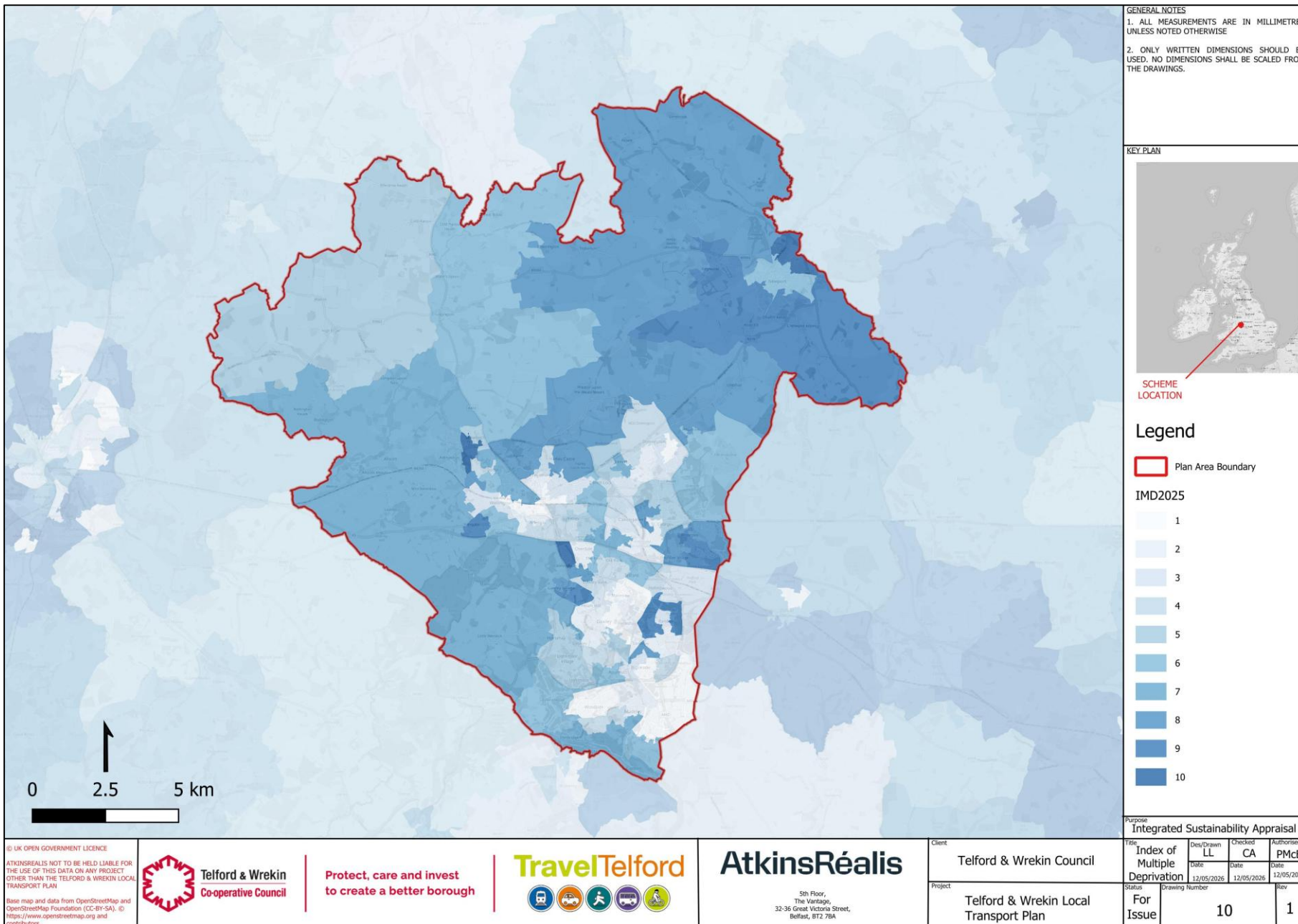
D.8 Water Quality



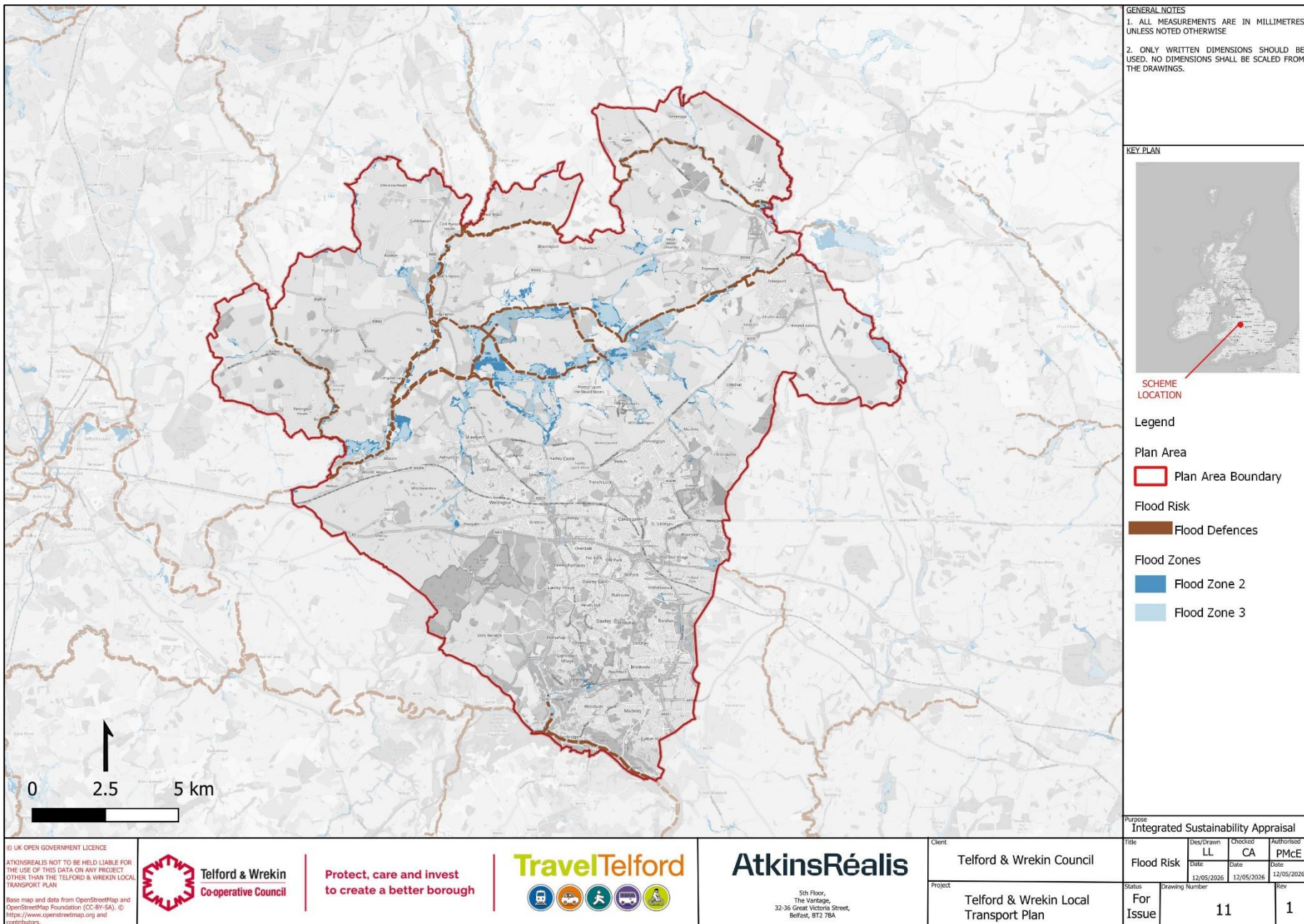
D.9 Resources and Waste



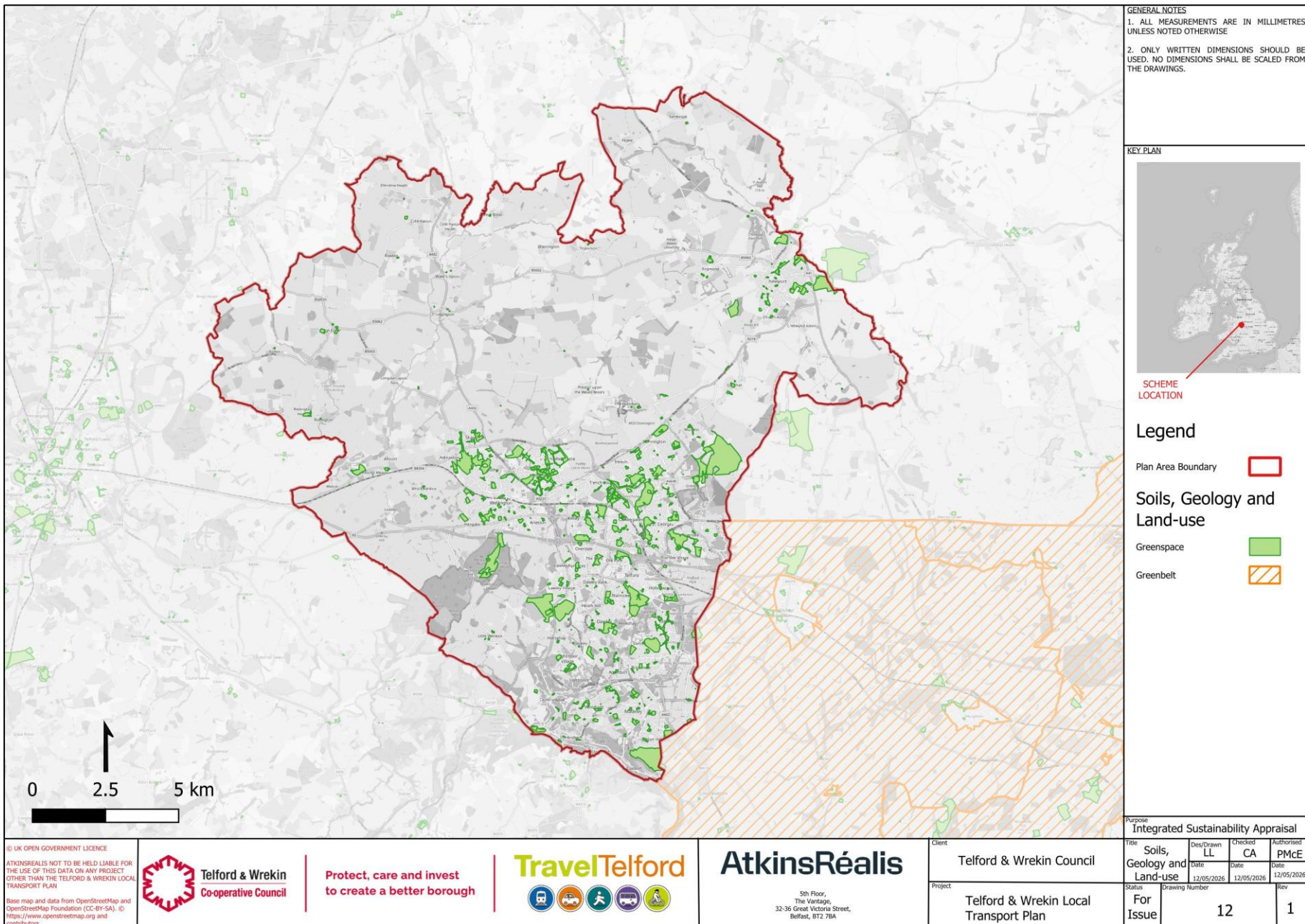
D.10 Index of Multiple Deprivation



D.11 Flood Risk



D.12 Soils, Geology and Land-use



**Protect
Care and Invest
to create a
better borough**



**Telford & Wrekin
COUNCIL**