

North West Leicestershire Sustainability Appraisal including Strategic Environmental Assessment

Scoping Report

On behalf of **North West Leicestershire District Council**



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1 Introduction

1.1 The Scoping Report

- 1.1.1 This is the Scoping Report that forms the initial stage of the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) of the North West Leicestershire Local Plan. This report has been prepared by Peter Brett Associates LLP (PBA) on behalf of the North West Leicestershire (NWL) District Council.
- 1.1.2 The purpose of the report is to provide an evidence base for the sustainability appraisal (SA) process by collating information on:
- the character of the district from various information sources;
 - aims and objectives of plans and strategies set at a national to local level that the Local Plan and SA should take account of; and
 - developing a sustainability framework to use in the assessment of the emerging Local Plan.
- 1.1.3 The preparation of a scoping report, although not specifically required by legislation is recognised good practice, it is the first step in the SA and provides the context of what is to follow. This means that those undertaking assessments have an understanding of the issues and opportunities for development in the district, informed by an evidence base. The scoping report is also a tool for consulting and agreeing on a proposed approach to SA/SEA with the identified consultees (**section 1.2.5**) and others as suitable.
- 1.1.4 A draft Scoping Report was sent to the Statutory Consultees (English Heritage, Natural England, The Environment Agency) between 19th September – 24th October 2014. Comments on the draft Scoping Report have subsequently been considered and incorporated into the final Scoping Report as appropriate. Appendix A sets out the comments received and actions taken in response.

1.2 Policies and Regulations

- 1.2.1 As defined in the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) an SA is a systematic process that must be carried out during the preparation of a Local Plan. Its role is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.
- 1.2.2 Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a local planning authority to carry out a sustainability appraisal of their local development document and prepare a report of the findings, as stated under Section 39 of the Act 2004 this is “with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development”.
- 1.2.3 Sustainability appraisals incorporate the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (commonly referred to as the ‘Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations’), which implement the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC (the ‘Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive’) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.
- 1.2.4 The requirement for scoping comes principally under the requirements of the SEA Regulations. The scoping stage (Stage A **Figure 1.1**) must identify the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the sustainability appraisal report. It should set out

the context, objectives and approach of the assessment; and identify relevant environmental, economic and social issues and objectives.

- 1.2.5 The scoping report will be consulted on with the consultation bodies prescribed by regulations, which are: English Heritage; Natural England and the Environment Agency. However, to ensure the scoping is as complete as possible consultation on the scoping report can be opened out to a wider audience. It is important to ensure that the final scope of the assessment is proportionate and relevant to the Local Plan.

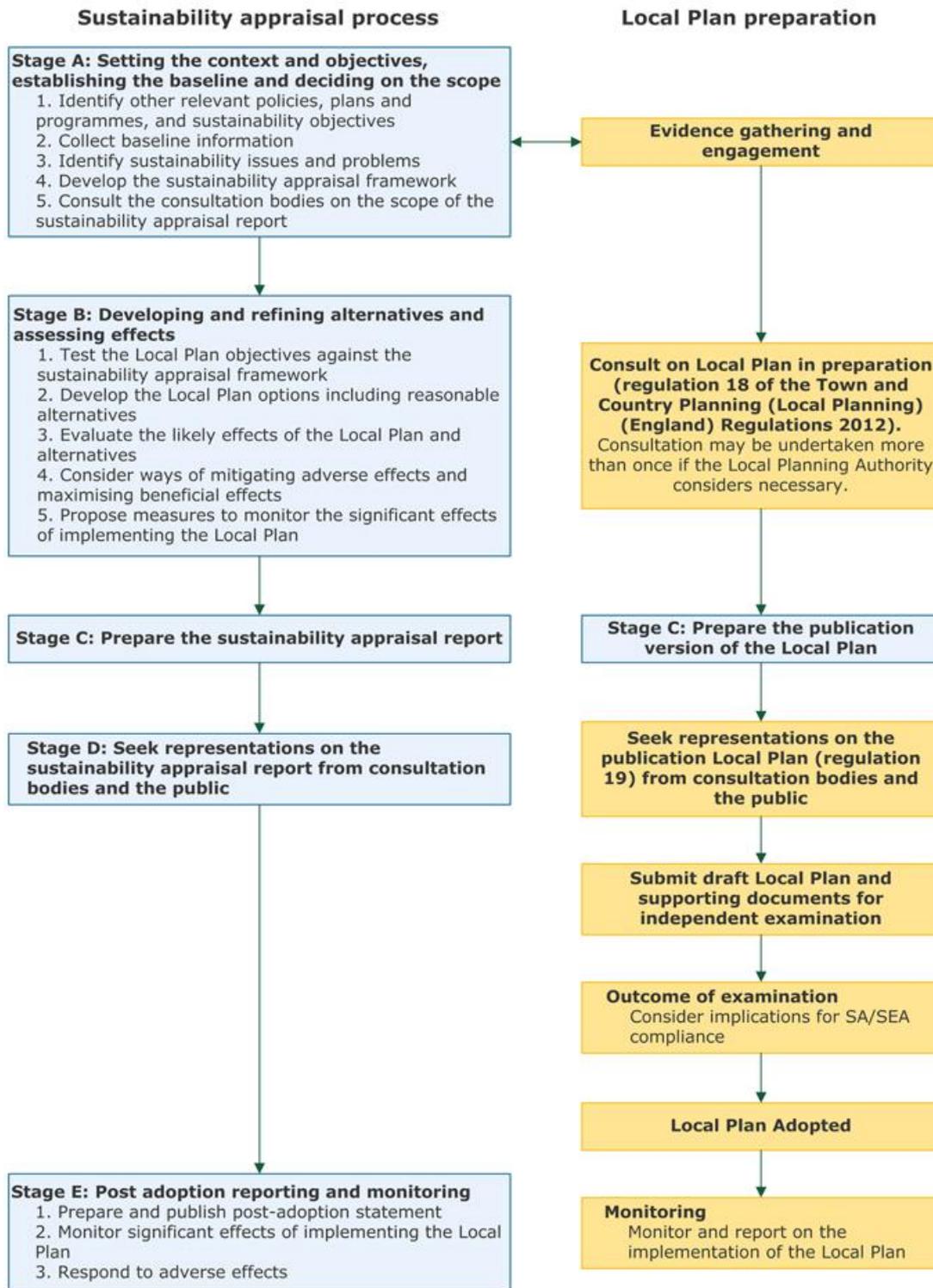


Figure 1.1: Sustainability Appraisal and Local Plan preparation flowchart (source: <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk>)

1.3 Scoping Topic Chapters

- 1.3.1 The majority of the content of the Scoping Report are around headline topics that together are part of the definition of sustainable development, these are in **chapters 3-13**. For each of these topics there is a common chapter framework. These are:
- Introduction: Sets out what topics the chapter covers;
 - Context: This highlights issues, objectives or aspirations set out within relevant published plans, policies, and strategies. These focus on policies and plans at a national and local levels as international treaties and European Directives will have already been assimilated into the UK's national strategies. Of particular importance to the scope of this SA is the National Planning Policy Framework, which sets out the government's principles for 'sustainable development'.
 - Baseline: This section gathers together information on the character of the district. The aim is to identify the current baseline as well as the trends in this data, where it is possible to identify them. These sections make as much use of mapped data as possible as understanding how the character of the district changes across it is essential in appraising a spatial plan.
 - Issues: This draws together the context and baseline to identify the issues that the Local Plan should hope to address in order to help deliver sustainable development in the district, focusing on the specific character of the area where relevant.

1.4 North West Leicestershire – overview

- 1.4.1 According to the Rural Services Network (rsnonline.org.uk) the district: is classified as predominantly rural, and characterised by one of the 'Rural-50', which are districts with at least 50 per cent but less than 80 per cent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns. The district is in the heart of the National Forest.
- 1.4.2 The district has an area of almost 28,000 hectares. The principal town is Coalville and the other main settlements are Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Castle Donington, Ibstock, Kegworth and Measham. The area has a growing population.
- 1.4.3 The district is ranked 200 out of 326 in the 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation, where 1 is ranked as the most deprived nationally. North West Leicestershire remains the most deprived district in Leicestershire. The rate of unemployment was 2% in February 2014, which is reducing in line with national economic recovery following recession.
- 1.4.4 This district is well served by the existing road network, with M1 going north/south and the M/A42 providing access south west/north east. So there are good connections to Birmingham, Derby, Leicester and Nottingham. However, there are no railway stations within the district.
- 1.4.5 In the north of the district is the East Midlands Airport a thriving local and regional airport with freight and passenger operations.
- 1.4.6 There are few designated areas for their natural environment quality in the district, although the River Mease is covered by an international designation based on its nature conservation value.
- 1.4.7 **Figure 1.1** is a map of the district that shows its context and the principle settlements of the district.

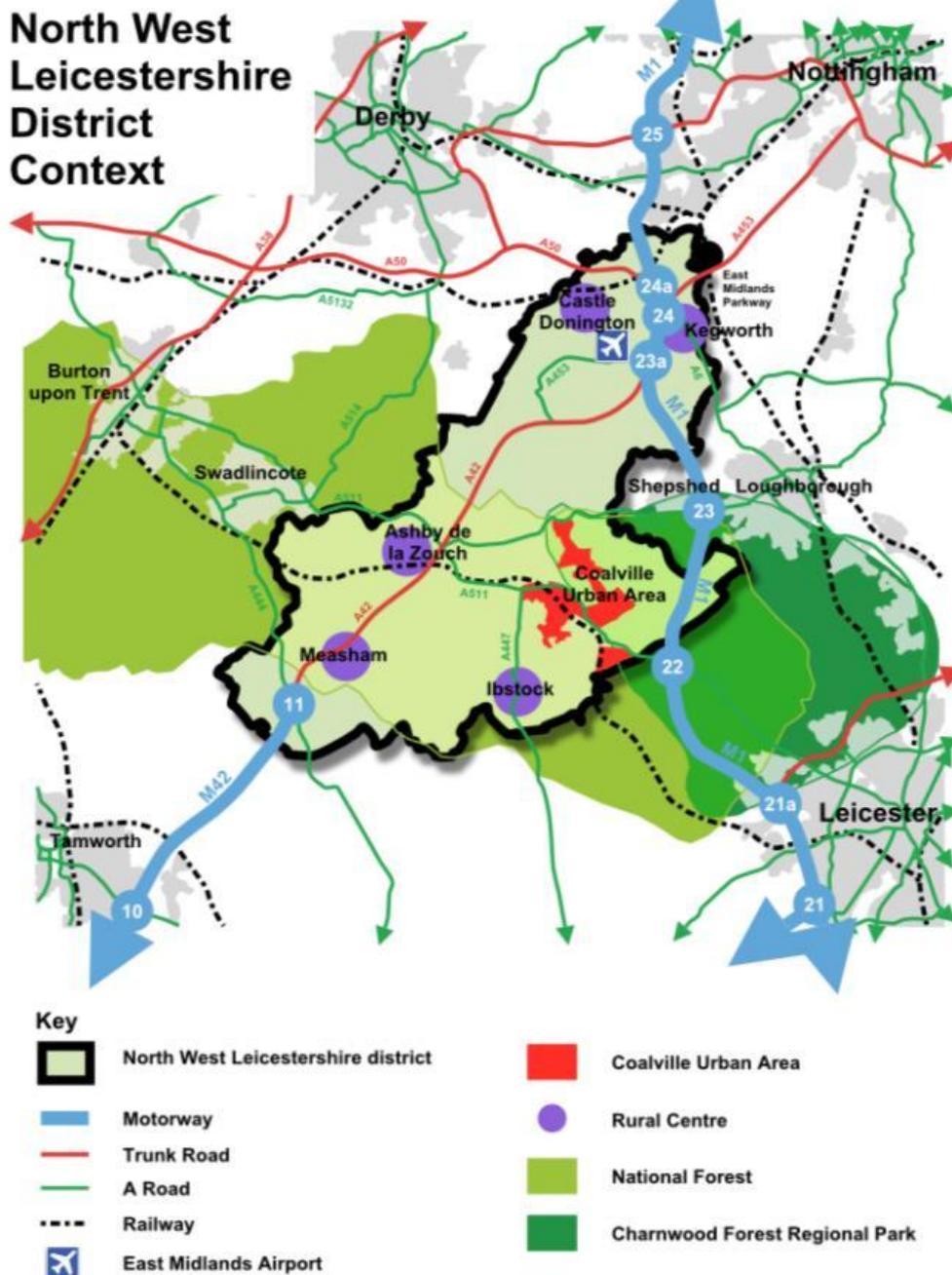


Figure 1.1: The North West Leicestershire Context (extracted from the Core Strategy 2012)

2 Defining Sustainable Development

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The aim of the SA will be to help ensure the Local Plan sets out an approach to delivering development that will secure greater sustainability. This section sets out how sustainability is defined from an international to local perspective. Understanding the local context is essential to help deliver sustainable development. Therefore, in addition to national policy this scoping report reviews local planning policy and community strategies to identify these local priorities for sustainable development.

2.2 International Definition

- 2.2.1 The international definition of sustainability development given by the UN as part of the Brundtland Commission (1987) is “*Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*”. In addition to this definition in delivering sustainable development it is important to consider the need to deliver equality in the present and the future. Therefore sustainability development covers:

- natural resources that should be used efficiently so that future generations can meet their needs;
- equitable access to resources, where access to resources for some should not be denied by the actions of others, now and in the future.

2.3 National Definitions and Policy

- 2.3.1 The agreed international definition of sustainable development remains that of the World Commission on Environment and Development, which is: “*Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*”. This embraces four key aims which are:

- Social progress which meets the needs of everyone;
- Effective protection of the environment;
- Prudent use of natural resources; and
- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

- 2.3.2 It is important to note here the acknowledgement that sustainability does not equal environmental protection and is focussed just as much on economic and social issues.

- 2.3.3 In the UK, **the Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future** (The Communities Plan) 2003 puts this in the context of the built environment, stating that sustainable development is not just about additional housing but “creating places where people want to live and continue to want to live”. It describes sustainable communities as:

- Active, inclusive and safe;
- Well run;
- Environmentally sensitive;
- Well designed and built;

- Well connected;
- Thriving;
- Well served; and
- Fair for everyone.

2.3.4 Again, the emphasis here is on the essential requirement for sustainability to be inclusive and end-user focussed.

2.3.5 The **UK Sustainable Development Strategy** (March 2005) is entitled ‘Securing our Future’. It sets the national context for sustainability which;

‘...will be pursued in an integrated way through a sustainable, innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment, and a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal well-being. This will be done in ways that protect and enhance the physical and natural environment, and use resources and energy as efficiently as possible’.

2.3.6 The four priority areas identified in this Strategy are:

- Sustainable consumption and production;
- Climate change and energy;
- Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement; and
- Sustainable communities.

2.3.7 As a result of the inclusion of climate change within the sustainability agenda, issues around carbon emission mitigation have become included. However, the government has recently decided not to set targets for carbon reduction as part of the ‘decarbonised’ economy in the recent Energy Bill. The existing **Climate Change Act (2008)** contains legally binding targets for reducing carbon emissions that are to reduce carbon emissions by 80% to 2050 relative to the 1990 emissions baseline.

2.3.8 The **National Planning Policy Framework** (NPPF), adopted in March 2012, sets out the Government’s overarching planning policies on the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system. Paragraph 7 sets out the three mutually dependent roles that the planning system needs to perform. These are:

- An economic role – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available on the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure.
- A social role – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community’s needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being.
- An environmental role – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including a moving a low carbon economy.

2.4 Local

2.4.1 **Leicestershire Together** is a partnership made up of the county's major public service budget holders such as local councils, the police and the health service. As defined by the partnership itself, its aim is to work to improve the schools, colleges, businesses, shops, hospitals, roads, parks, homes, villages and towns in the county. The principle aim is to help make people in Leicestershire feel included, "*richer, safer, better trained, healthier and happier*".

2.4.2 The partnership has developed an approach to engagement by identifying geographical areas. It has adopted a framework, which will:

- Provide local solutions to local needs;
- Support the development of community based agencies and associations;
- Provide support to the Ward Councillor role;
- Develop partnerships with key town and parish councils; and
- Develop through the LSP multi-agency teams in a targeted and considered approach.

2.4.3 The partnership prepared an 'Outcome Framework' in 2012/13 and although this focuses on a full range of service and sectors, such as healthcare, children's services and community safety, it also includes matters of direct relevance to plan making, including housing and the economy. Therefore, the outcomes cover a full range of issues related to sustainability development. Relevant outcomes include:

- Environment
 - Our contribution to climate change is reduced and there is a high resilience to climate change';
 - Less waste is produced and reduced proportion goes to landfill;
 - Leicestershire protects and improves its natural and historic landscapes and environment;
 - People have better access to and enjoy, value and engage with our environment and valued green spaces;
- Economic
 - Accelerated growth in existing sectors;
 - Increased availability of employment land;
 - Leicestershire's transport system is efficient, effective and safe and prioritises economic growth;
- Housing
 - New housing meets the needs of people in Leicestershire.

2.4.4 The priorities for sustainable place making are set out in the **North West Leicestershire Sustainable Communities Strategy – Central Strategy – 2008 to 2040**. This document was published in 2008 by the North West Leicestershire Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), a partnership of representatives of different sectors. One of their roles is to prepare the Community Strategy which sets out strategic actions for delivery by various bodies across the district, including through planning policy.

2.4.5 The Vision the Community Strategy is for “North West Leicestershire will be a place where people and businesses feel they belong and are proud to call home”. It identifies the ‘Sustainability Triangle’ of social, economic and environmental factors that together must be delivered to create a better place.

2.4.6 The priorities identified for the district are:

- Healthier Communities;
- Children and Young People;
- Older people;
- Economic Development and Enterprise;
- Cleaner and greener;
- Stronger communities; and
- Safer communities.

3 Population and Communities

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This chapter covers topics related to the communities of the district. The aim is to set out details of the population and demographic structure. In addition, this chapter covers issues such as safety and health that can give an indication on the how a community functions.

3.2 Context

National

3.2.1 National planning policy is clear that one of the roles of a development plan is to help create sustainable inclusive and mixed communities. The **NPPF** states that “*The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities*” (paragraph 69). In particular there is a need to plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic trends (paragraph 50).

3.2.2 **Fair Society, Healthy Lives ('The Marmot Review')** investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that that there is: ‘overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities’.

- To ensure that the built environment promotes health and reduces inequalities for all local populations there is a need to:
- Fully integrate the planning, transport, housing, environmental and health systems to address the social determinants of health in each locality;
- Prioritise policies and interventions that both reduce health inequalities and mitigate climate change by improving active travel; good quality open and green spaces; the quality of food in local areas; and the energy efficiency of housing; and
- Support developments which provides high quality social infrastructure, including education, skills and sports facilities.

3.2.3 **The Public Health Outcomes Framework for England 2013-2016** builds upon these principles and seeks to achieve two key outcomes:

- Increased healthy life expectancy - Taking account of health quality as well as length of life.
- Reduced differences in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy between communities - through greater improvements in more disadvantaged communities.

3.2.4 **The National Rural Proofing Guidelines** set out some important principles and actions for ensuring that rural areas are not disadvantaged including:

- Looking for alternative ways of delivering services in rural areas;
- Reducing the need to travel;
- Better integration and improvement of transport links;

- Make use of rural networks and meeting points such as post offices, parish halls, etc;
- Address the needs of smaller businesses;
- Use small area based data to identify issues and impacts; and
- Engage with rural stakeholders to identify the impact of proposals.

3.2.5 **Natural solutions for tackling health inequalities** sets out some important challenges and priorities for reducing health inequalities and childhood obesity, while improving mental health and the quality of life through interaction with the natural environment which include:

- Improving coordination and integration of delivery by ensuring interventions are user-led, through working in partnership with the public (education sector, health sector, public engagement);
- Building a stronger evidence base to ensure programmes are evidence-led;
- Proportionate and universal approaches to improving use of, and access to, the natural environment - ensuring sustainable delivery of services that use the natural environment; and
- Increasing the quality, quantity and use of natural environment assets that benefit people's health and help prevent ill health.

Local

3.2.6 The role of the **Leicestershire Together** partnership is covered in **section 2.4** above. This countywide partnership is made up of a diverse range of stakeholders, with the aim of delivering benefits to the people who live and work in the area. The partnership includes specific reference to 'stronger, thriving, integrated and cohesive communities' in the county. The **Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007)** places a joint statutory duty on upper tier local authorities and local NHS to undertake a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for their area. A JSNA was prepared in 2012 and was used to inform the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

3.2.7 Leicestershire's Health and Wellbeing Board in partnership with local stakeholders, has prepared a Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This is the **Leicestershire's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2016** December 2012. This has the overarching aim to "add quality and years to life" by improving health throughout people's lives, reducing health inequalities and focusing on the needs of the local population". Primarily this related to health service provision but includes objectives relevant to spatial land use planning. Including:

- maintain or increase the number of children and adults who are a healthy weight through the provision of a range of healthy weight interventions and the promotion of physical activity and healthy eating.
- Supporting the ageing population, including providing appropriate housing and adaptations to enable the frail elderly to live longer in their own homes.

3.2.8 **The Safer North West Partnership** brings together a number of agencies to reduce crime and disorder in North West Leicestershire including NWLDC, Leicestershire County Council, Leicestershire Police, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, the Probation Service, local housing associations and others. The vision is to "work together with those who live, work and visit North West Leicestershire to maintain and improve pride in our communities".

3.2.9 The focus is on three key priorities:

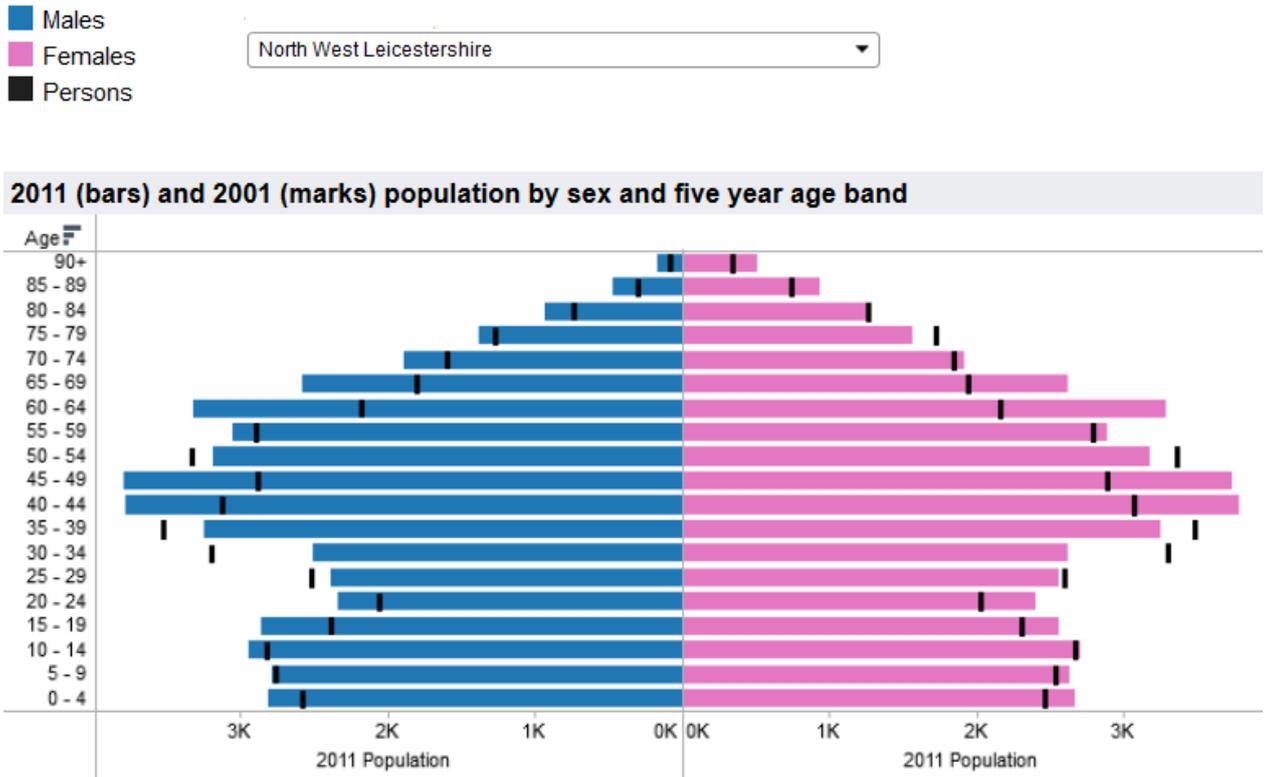
- Tackling crime
- Focus on anti-social behaviour
- Supporting our communities.

3.3 Baseline

Demographics

- 3.3.1 This section sets out details of the demography of the district. It is based on various sources including the Census 2011 and ONS estimates. The intention is to give an overall picture of the population to inform the SA.
- 3.3.2 The population of North West Leicestershire from the Census 2011 Mid-Year Estimates is 94,018 people, and the population is showing a steady increase. The population is increasing by a mix of natural change and migration, for example there was a net increase of 4,000 people moving into the district from mid-2001 to mid-2008 (30,000 in and 26,000 out). Data reported in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) (June 2014) identifies that net migration into the district was over 4,800 people from 2001/2 to 2011/12 (ONS, 2013).
- 3.3.3 **Figure 1.1** shows the main population centres of the district. Including the various built up areas that together make up the wider Coalville Urban Area. Other centres are Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Measham, Ibstock, Kegworth and Castle Donington.
- 3.3.4 According to the ONS Census 2011 the principal urban areas are Coalville (36,801 people) and Ashby-de-la-Zouch (12,385). The residents within these two settlements accounted for more than half of the district's population. The population of both these towns is increasing, with Coalville growing by 13% since the 1991 Census and Ashby de la Zouch by over 16%.
- 3.3.5 **Figure 3.2** shows the population breakdown for the district by age group, comparing 2001 to 2011. This indicates the likelihood of an aging population, as there are a high proportion of residents 35 to 64 and fewer younger adults. In particular, the number residents aged 40-49 and 60-69 has increased rapidly in the last 10 years, and the number of 25-39 year olds has decreased. However, recently there has been a higher birth rate and there are more 0-4 year olds than previously, this may have implications for access to education and other children's services in the district.
- 3.3.6 This is supported by the Leicestershire Economic Assessment (LEA) 2012, which shows a projected change in the population in Leicestershire, indicating an aging population. Over 60s likely to increase by 34% from 2008 to 2023 according to ONS for the sub-region, this is more than the 28% projected for England.
- 3.3.7 Data in the SHMA 2014 shows that Leicester & Leicestershire is expected to see a substantial increase in the older person population with the total number of people aged 55 and over expected to increase by 43% over the 25-year period to 2036. For NWL there is expected to be a 42.5% increase in people aged 55 or more between 2001 and 2036, which is keeping with the average for the County and Leicester.
- 3.3.8 The SHMA contains a detailed assessment of household growth projections based on various economic growth scenarios, taking into account net migration and changing household size. From this it identifies an overall housing need for the district to 2031 of 3,775-4,215 homes and to 2036 of 3,630 to 4,060 homes.

3.3.9 **Figure 3.3** shows a comparison to the age of the residents in NWL to Leicestershire and England averages. This indicates that the district has a higher proportion of children of 14 or under compared to the County. Overall, it would appear the population of the district and county has an older population profile than in England, including the over 65 year old population.



http://public.tableausoftware.com/views/LAPopulationPyramid-QuinaryAge/Dashboard?:embed=y&:display_count=no&:showVizHome=no

Figure 3.2: Census 2011 Population Profile of North West Leicestershire Showing Split by Sex and Five Year Age Band (Source: Research & Insight Team, Leicestershire County Council, data source ONS 2012)

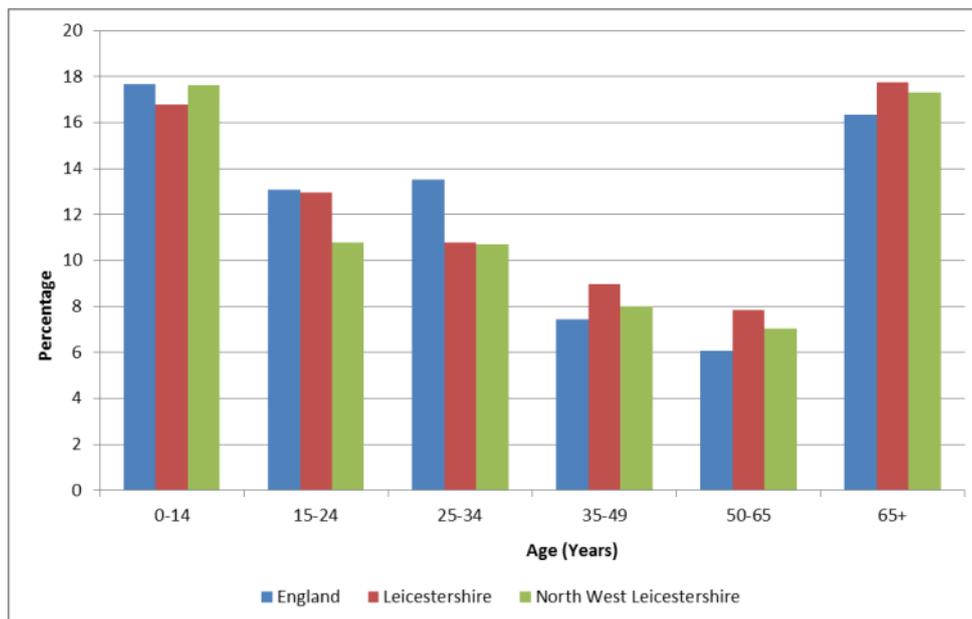


Figure 3.3: Percentage of population in each age group compared (ONS: 2011)

3.3.10 **Figure 3.4** shows the distribution of age groups around the district. This shows the urban rural distribution of the population, with most of the population located in the southern towns and villages and then in the north at in the area of Castle Donington. The largest working age population is in the area north at Castle Donington with high concentrations also in the Coalville area. The map shows the older residents are predominantly in the Measham / Appleby Magna area, although there are pockets of Coalville with a high number of older people. The youngest residents are most likely to be in Ashby-de-la-Zouch and to the north of Ibstock in the Ellistown area.

3.3.11 ONS Urban Rural Classification shows that much of the land area of NWL is identified a 'village' with parts to in the west and south west 'hamlet and isolated dwellings'.

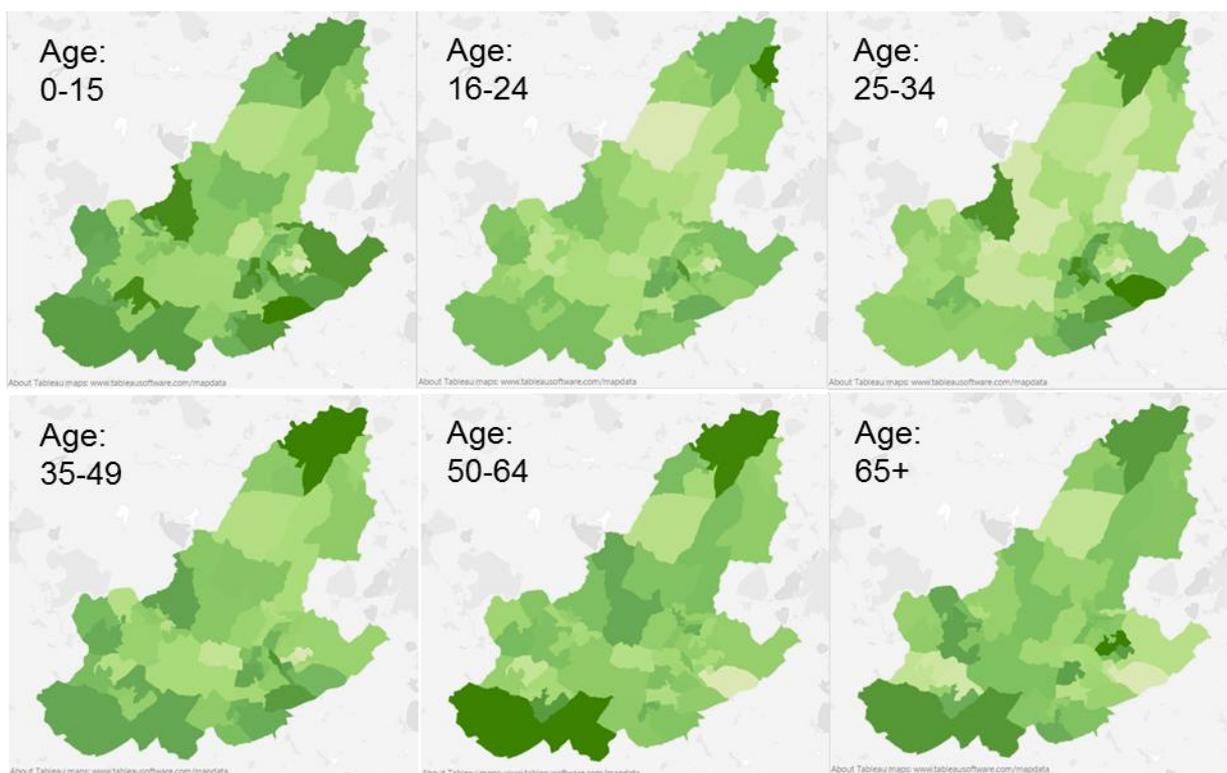


Figure 3.4: Age distribution in the district (darker colour indicates higher concentration) (Source: ONS Mid-Year Population Estimate from the Leicestershire Statistics and Research on Line¹)

Deprivation

- 3.3.12 The English Indices of Deprivation 2010 attempt to measure a broad concept of multiple deprivation, made up of several distinct dimensions, or domains, of deprivation. These domains cover a broad range of issues and refer to unmet needs caused by a lack of resources of all kinds, not just financial. The domains are: Health and disability; Income deprivation; Employment deprivation; Education, skills and training deprivation; Barriers to housing and services; Crime and Living environment. According to the Indices NWL is 200 most deprived local authority in England, out of 354, and the most deprived in Leicestershire.
- 3.3.13 The distribution of deprivation of the combined information from all domains is shown in **Figure 3.5** for the communities of the district (based on the geographical 'lower super output area' (LSOA)). This figure shows where the wards are ranked based on the national picture, rather than the absolute 'score' for deprivation (there are 32,482 LSOAs in England at the time the deprivation data was prepared).

¹ http://www.lsr-online.org/reports/mid_2012_population_estimates_lower_super_output_area_lsoa_level_data_gender_split_by_broad_age_groups_february_2013# (Accessed 21/05/14)

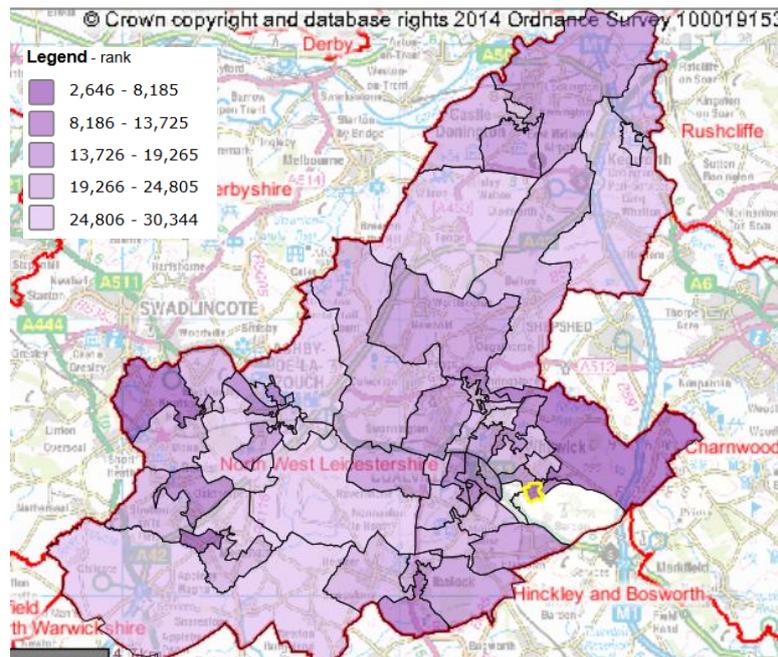


Figure 3.5: Indices of Deprivation 2010: Overall Index of Multiple Deprivation

3.3.14 **Figure 3.5** shows the distribution of deprived areas through the district. This indicates that the area with the highest level of deprivation is in the communities within the Urban Area of Coalville, including in Greenhill. There are other areas, such as Moira in the outskirts of Swadlincote that show higher levels of deprivation and parts of west Measham. **Figure 3.5** also appears to show that deprivation is more common in the urban than rural areas, as may be expected. However, in reviewing these maps it is important to consider that pockets of deprivation may occur in areas that are otherwise not deprived.

3.3.15 Leicestershire Together has identified the most deprived areas using these Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and from this identifies the specific neighbourhoods that should be priorities for action to reduce deprivation and address inequalities. These are:

- Ashby (Westfields, Willesley and Nursery Farm estates);
- Castle Donington (Bosworth Road/Shields Crescent, Hastings St area, Moira Dale);
- Coalville Urban Area (Coalville (Central Estate), Snibston (Ravenstone Road/Western Avenue), Thringstone (Melrose Road area) and Whitwick (St Bernards Estate);
- Greenhill (Greenhill and Agar Nook Estate);
- Ibstock (Sunnyside Estate);
- Measham (Atherstone Road estate/Dysons Close); and
- Moira (Norris Hill, Albert Village).

Health

3.3.16 Public Health England prepares Health Profiles for all authorities in England. The 2014 profile gives a picture of health in this area. It is designed to get an understanding of the community's need.

- The health of people in North West Leicestershire is varied compared with the England average. Deprivation is lower than average, however about 2,400 children live in poverty², although this remains significantly better than the average for England. Life expectancy for both men and women is similar to the England average.
- Life expectancy is 8.1 years lower for men and 12.5 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of North West Leicestershire than in the least deprived areas.
- Over the last ten years, the all-cause mortality rate for men has fallen. The all-cause mortality rate for women in the same period shows no clear trend. The early death rate from heart disease and stroke has fallen and is similar to the England average.
- In Year 6, 17.8% of children are classified as obese, better than the England average of 18.9%, but not significantly so.
- An estimated 18.2% of adults smoke and 25.1% are obese, which is greater than the England average of 23.0%, although again this is not significantly so. However, the indicator showing 'excess weight in adults' is significantly worse than the England average at 69.0% compared to 63.8% in England. This may be associated with the level of recorded diabetes, which is also significantly worse in the district (6.3%) to England (6.0%).
- The only other indicator that is significantly worse in the district compared to England is 'excess winter deaths' at 27.4% compared to 16. %;
- The rates of violent crime, long term unemployment, hospital stays for self-harm and drug misuse are better than average.
- Priorities include getting it right from childhood, managing the shift to early intervention and prevention, supporting the ageing population, and improving mental health and wellbeing.

3.3.17 The Indices of Deprivation 2010 health deprivation map is shown in **Figure 3.6: Health and Disability Domain**. This domain is made up of indicators measuring premature death and the impairment of quality of life by poor health. It considers both physical and mental health. The domain measures morbidity, disability and premature mortality but not aspects of behaviour or environment that may be predictive of future health deprivation

² The current government definition is children living in a household with an income less than 60% of the national average.

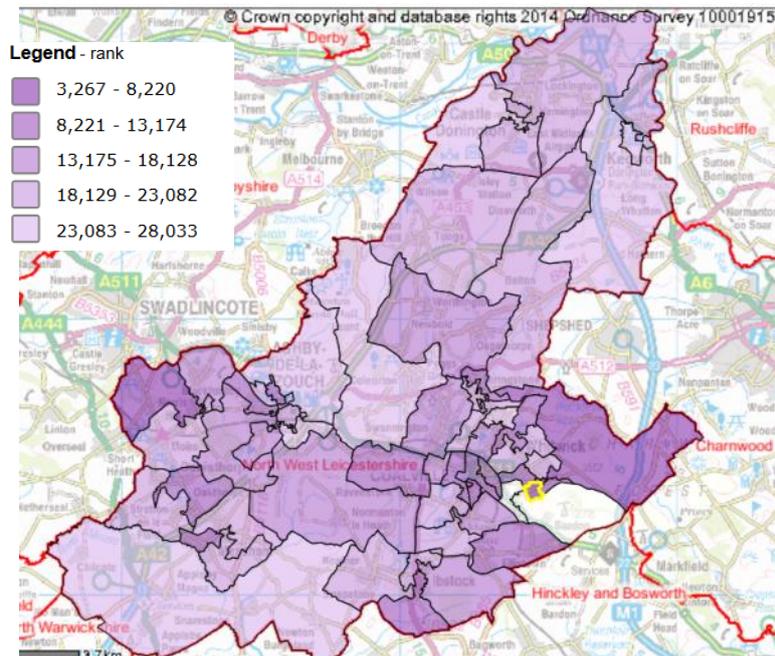


Figure 3.6: Index of Deprivation 2010: Health and Disability Domain

- 3.3.18 The distribution of health deprivation is largely consistent with the overall rank of deprivation, although higher levels of deprivation spread over a wider area urban area in the south east of the district, including Ibstock.
- 3.3.19 Information collected for the JSNA³ shows that in 2010 there was a registered GP population of 95,033, served by 14 GP practices, 11 dental practices, 14 opticians and 16 pharmacies.
- 3.3.20 **Figure 3.7** shows the distribution of these GPs throughout the County, including in NWL. The map shows that the vast majority of the district is within 2.4 miles of a GP, although there are some pockets of up to 5 miles, although it should be noted many of these communities are near Swadlincote where there may be additional services. However, this map does not give an indication of capacity and ability to take on additional patients.

³ NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland Public Health (March 2012) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – Primary Care

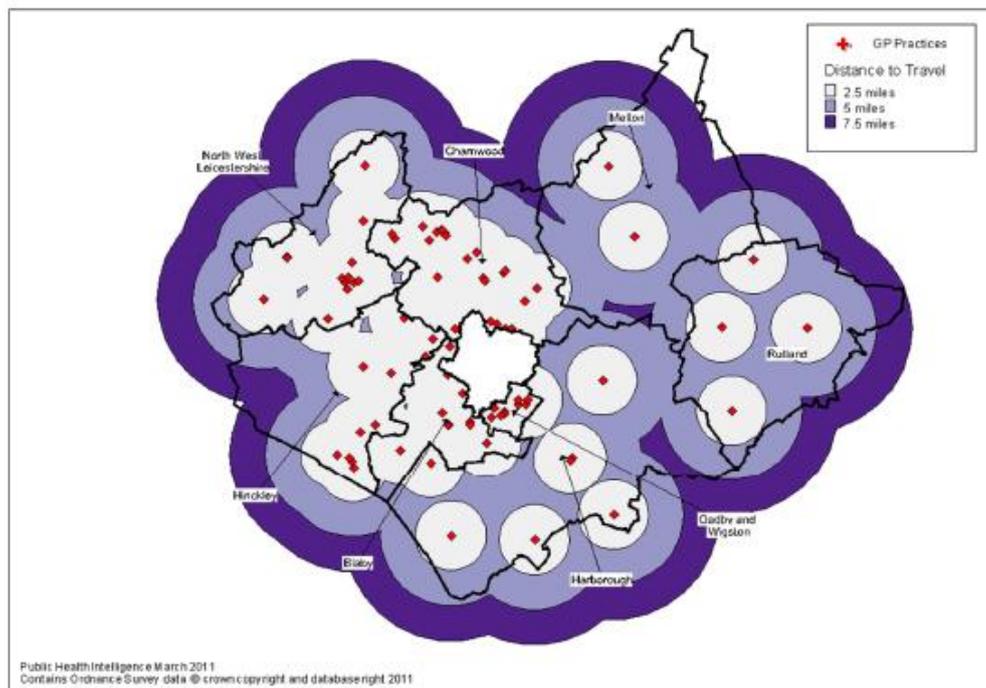


Figure 3.7: Map of GP Practices (source: JSNA March 2012: Primary Care)

3.3.21 The 2008 Castle Donington Parish Plan found that many residents are concerned about noise, with particular concerns about noise generated by East Midlands Airport and Castle Donington racing circuit. There are limited night-time controls of flights from the airport, which is of considerable concern to the local community. This may be having an impact on the wellbeing of these communities.

Crime

3.3.22 The Safer North West Leicestershire Partnership Strategic Assessment October 2012 to September 2013 contains headline crime statistics for the district. This shows that the overall trend for Community Safety in the district is positive with the majority of reported crimes and anti-social behaviour showing a downward trend over a six year period. Headline statistics from the report include:

- Total recorded crime in district reduced by 7% during the 12 months from October 2012;
- The main hotspot locations for the Community Safety Partnership are Coalville and Castle Donington West & Donington Park;
- There were decreases in violence against the person (1.3%), serious acquisitive crime (19%) and anti-social behaviour (4%); and
- There were some increases including shoplifting (64%), especially in Coalville Town Centre, and criminal damage (17%).

3.3.23 **Figure 3.8** and **Table 3.1** show the distribution of crime in the district. It can be seen that the area with highest incidence of crime per capita is in Castle Donington area and central Coalville. The high rate of recorded crime in Castle Donington is related to thefts from the person at the Download festival and Donington Park, and not representative of the day-to-day experience of resident communities. However, figures for Coalville have no similar contributing factor and are a related to the town centre character, and include anti-social

behaviour. Most parts of the district have lower levels of recorded crime than the county average.

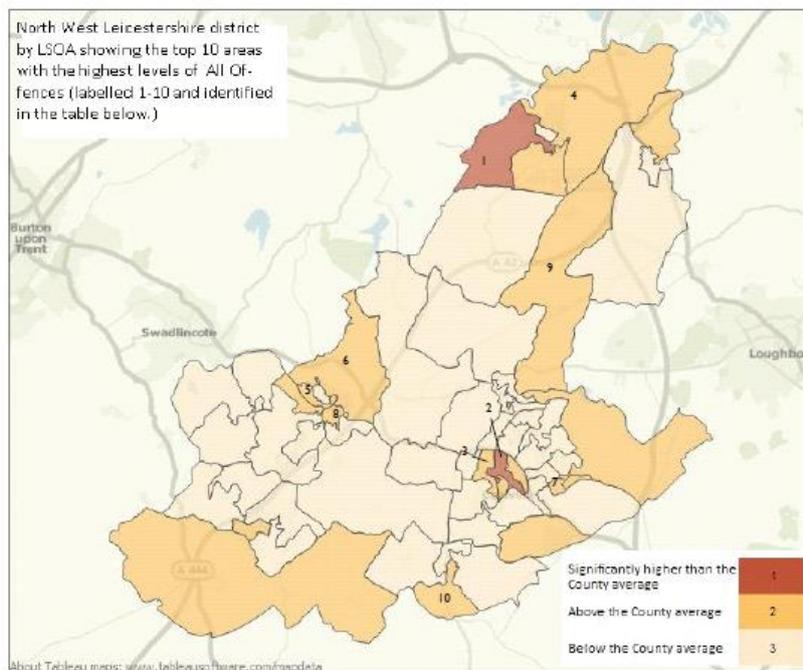


Figure 3.8: Crime Statistics (Source: Safer North West Leicestershire Partnership Strategic Assessment October 2012 to September 2013)

Table 3.1: Crime Statistics (all offences) related to Figure 3.6

Rank	LSOA Name	Number of Incidents/ Offences	Rate per 1000 Population
1	Castle Donington West & Donington P.	411	260.6
2	Coalville Centre	399	241.1
3	Snibston East	182	97.9
4	Castle Donington North East and Hemington.	181	71.5
5	Ashby Holywell West	153	104.2
6	Ashby Holywell East	148	72.5
7	Greenhill Centre	133	89.2
8	Ashby Castle North	130	100.5
9	Diseworth, Belton and Gracedieu	125	91.2
10	Ibstock Centre	117	62.6

Main towns and villages

- 3.3.24 The text here describes the main towns and villages in the district. It is extracted from the 2012 Submission version of the Core Strategy, as this is the most recent source of this information available.
- 3.3.25 **Coalville** The centre is focussed upon the High Street/Ashby Road/Belvoir Road/Thornborough Road crossroads. Coalville has associated urban areas that make up an 'urban area' with a common town centre. These areas Donington-le-Heath, Hugglescote, Thringstone and Whitwick are all which are much older than Coalville itself. The 2011 Census records the population at approximately 36,800.
- 3.3.26 **Ashby-de-la-Zouch:** In the 2011 Census the population was approximately 12,380
- 3.3.27 **Castle Donington:** In the 2011 Census it was estimated to have a population of approximately 6,350.
- 3.3.28 **Ibstock:** In the 2011 Census the population was approximately 5,961.
- 3.3.29 **Kegworth:** In the 2011 Census the population was approximately 3,541. The village is physically separated from the rest of the district by the M1, meaning that it is more accessible to the nearby towns and villages of Nottinghamshire.
- 3.3.30 **Measham:** The village lies 5km to the south of Ashby-de-la-Zouch and within the National Forest. It had a population of about 5,200 in the Census 2011.

3.4 Issues

- There is a need to provide homes to support the growing number of households in the district, this will need to be matched by new services to support communities.
- There is a need to address inequalities within the district, including reducing deprivation in identified communities;
- The population of the district is aging and this will have an impact on the type of housing that is provided, as well as creating additional demand for accessible healthcare;
- The district has a low proportion of young adults and this could have an impact on local economic growth, measures will need to be taken to retain and attract young adults to the district, for instance through the provision of family homes;
- The number of young children is increasing and this will create an additional demand for school places;
- Much of the population live in rural or semi-rural populations, the needs of these groups must be met including access to services (including healthcare and schools) and support to the rural economy. A possible lack of health service provision in rural areas exists.
- Crime levels are falling from a relatively low starting point, development must help contribute to this trend.

4 Housing

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This chapter considers the existing housing stock and future needs, including housing type and tenure.

4.2 Context

National

- 4.2.1 In November 2011 the Government launched a national housing strategy entitled '**Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England**'. This sets out measures to support the delivery of new homes and aspirations, support choice and quality for tenants, tackling empty homes and providing better quality homes, places and housing support. Actions include the following:

- Establishment of the Growing Places Fund to support infrastructure that unblocks stalled housing and economic growth;
- Launch of 'Get Britain Building' investment fund to support building firms in need of development finance;
- Support a new build indemnity scheme to provide up to 95 percent loan to value mortgages;
- Putting in place incentives for housing growth through the New Homes Bonus, Community Infrastructure Levy and proposals for local business retention;
- A simplified National Planning Policy Framework;
- Supporting choice and quality for tenants through supporting growth and investment in the private rented housing market;
- Reform of social housing through the Localism Act 2011;
- Considering how to encourage more affordable housing; and
- Support, protections and opportunities for struggling households, including prioritisation for the vulnerable.

- 4.2.2 One of the principle roles of the **NPPF** is to deliver housing, based on an evidence base to ensure that enough housing is identified for development that will meet housing needs, both for market and subsidised 'affordable' homes.

- 4.2.3 The NPPF focuses on sustainable development and the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles including a social role "supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations" (paragraph 7).

- 4.2.4 Section 6 of the NPPF relates to housing delivery, stating that:

"To boost significantly the supply of housing, local planning authorities should:

- use their evidence base to ensure that their Local Plan meets the full, objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing in the housing market area, as far as

is consistent with the policies set out in this Framework, including identifying key sites which are critical to the delivery of the housing strategy over the plan period;

- identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable¹¹ sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of housing against their housing requirements with an additional buffer of 5% (moved forward from later in the plan period) to ensure choice and competition in the market for land. Where there has been a record of persistent under delivery of housing, local planning authorities should increase the buffer to 20% (moved forward from later in the plan period) to provide a realistic prospect of achieving the planned supply and to ensure choice and competition in the market for land;
- identify a supply of specific, developable¹² sites or broad locations for growth, for years 6-10 and, where possible, for years 11-15;
 - *for market and affordable housing, illustrate the expected rate of housing delivery through a housing trajectory for the plan period and set out a housing implementation strategy for the full range of housing describing how they will maintain delivery of a five-year supply of housing land to meet their housing target; and*
 - *set out their own approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances.*"

4.2.5 Paragraph 50 relates to the type of housing that should be delivered, identifying:

"To deliver a wide choice of high quality homes, widen opportunities for home ownership and create sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities, local planning authorities should:

- *plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic trends, market trends and the needs of different groups in the community (such as, but not limited to, families with children, older people, people with disabilities, service families and people wishing to build their own homes);*
- *identify the size, type, tenure and range of housing that is required in particular locations, reflecting local demand; and*
- *where they have identified that affordable housing is needed, set policies for meeting this need."*

4.2.6 NPPF is also clear that to promote sustainable development in rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance the vitality of rural communities, although isolated dwellings in the countryside are only permitted subject to certain circumstances (paragraph 55).

Local

4.2.7 The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Leicestershire 2012 identifies that local housing strategies across the Leicestershire county have identified the following issues affecting the housing needs of vulnerable people:

- A need to identify non-decent homes occupied by vulnerable people;
- Higher demand for disabled adaptations to homes in the private sector;
- Unsuitable housing due to special needs / mobility needs;
- An increased need for smaller, suitable units of accommodation to meet the national trend of an increasing proportion of older households and to meet the accommodation needs of young single people – especially relevant with proposed benefit changes;
- A lack of move-on accommodation and tenancy support; and

- It is anticipated that with the proposed reforms for welfare benefits coupled with the impacts of the Localism Act 2011 there will be a much greater need for on-going housing advice and support coupled with financial inclusion initiatives.

4.2.8 The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) sets the housing need recommendations for the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (HMA). The HMA covers all the authorities of Leicestershire County, including NWL, as well as Leicester city. However, the northern communities of the district (Castle Donington) are influenced by the Derby HMA and the very north east (Kegworth and Long Whatton) are influenced by the in Nottingham HMA.

4.3 Baseline

- 4.3.1 There are a variety of information sources on the housing character and need of the North West Leicestershire as part of Leicestershire. Information on these sources has been collated already as part of the Leicestershire and Leicestershire Economic Assessment 2011 (LEA). Therefore, this section drawn on this as a primary source of information. However, it also includes updates related to the Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report and other sources as identified.
- 4.3.2 The Leicester and Leicestershire SHMA 2014 assesses the housing need in the district. The projected needs are based on a number of scenarios, such as supporting economic growth or providing more affordable housing. Each of these scenarios results in different projected housing need, as shown in **Table 4.1**.
- 4.3.3 The SHMA 2014 concludes that there is an overall annual housing need to 2031 of 285-350 homes. To 2036 the range is 270-330. The lower end of the range simply supports demographic projections. The higher end would support stronger delivery of both market and affordable housing, taking into account of the need for affordable housing and market signals, and supports proportionate economic growth.

Table 4.1: OAN Conclusions on household growth need 2011-2031 and 2011-2036 (SHMA 2014)

Homes Per annum 2011-2013	Demographic Led Household Projections	Supporting Proportionate Economic Growth	Affordable Housing Need Per Annum	Affordable Need as % Demographic Led Projection	OAN Range	OAN Range
Homes per annum 2011-2031	284	372	212	75%	285	350
Homes per annum 2011-2036	267	352	209	78%	270	330
Total Homes 2011-2031	5680	7740	4240	-	5700	7000
Total Homes 2011-2036	6675	8800	5225	-	6750	8250

- 4.3.4 It is estimated that there will be a growth in households from 2006 to 2031 by up to 25% to a total of 46,375 (based on CLG 2008 projections and reported in the LEA). This is likely to see a proportional increase in the older person-headed households to 2033, which will present significant challenges in terms of the type of housing available and also the type of support needs for this group. In NWL this could be a change of 2% of households headed by

someone of 65-74 or 75-84 years old and 3% for households of 85+. Similarly, the number of single person households is likely to increase.

- 4.3.5 The largest component of the current housing stock is 3 bedroom homes, at 53% of the total (Valuation Office 2010 (Source LEA, 2011), this is one of the highest of all the Leicestershire local authorities and over 10% higher than the average for Britain, see **Table 4.2**. There are also a lower proportion of flats in the district than the county and more detached properties.

Table 4.2: Percentage of properties by size (number of bedrooms) (source ELA 2011, data Valuation Office 2010, except Britain from CACI 2011)

No. of Beds/ Type of home	Britain	Leicestershire (not inc. Leicester)	North West Leicestershire
1 bed	10.3	5.8	5.3
2 bed	31.1	24.1	23.4
3 bed	41.9	51.6	52.8
4 bed+	16.7	18.5	18.5
<i>Detached</i>	-	27.9	29.5
<i>Semi-Detached</i>	-	33.2	31.1
<i>Terraced</i>	-	17.8	19.9
<i>Flats/Apartments</i>	-	7.1	5.8

- 4.3.6 Based on statistics from the Valuation Office 2010, over a quarter of the properties in NWL were built from 1965-1982, with a fifth predating 1919. A lower proportion, particularly when compared to other local districts was built in the inter-war period. Approximately 8.2% of homes were built between 2000 and 2008, this is more than in the housing market area, although Harborough saw the greatest growth in this period (10.4% of the total) and Oadby and Wigston the least (3.1% of the total.)

- 4.3.7 **Table 4.3** shows the net housing completions for the district. This clearly shows that completions dropped significantly during the economic downturn. However, since 2010/2011 figures have been increased and now exceed the peak figure of 2007/2008. The table also shows housing approvals, which show a very substantial increase over time to 1669 in 2012/12, even if not of these are built, which indicates the potential for high levels of completions in the coming years.

Table 4.3: Housing Completions (net) and housing approvals from 2006/07 to 2012/13 (source: Annual Monitoring Report 2013)

Monitoring Period	Housing Completions (net)	Housing permissions	Affordable Housing completions
2006/2007	336	73	16
2007/2008	353	302	46
2008/2009	237	185	35
2009/2010	228	162	79
2010/2011	186	385	42

2011/2012	234	987	57
2012/2013	366	1669	82
Total	1940	3763	414

- 4.3.8 In terms of affordability, the Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Assessment (2011) notes that “since the credit crunch and drastic changes in financial policies and the economic climate, lenders have become much more restrictive in relation to mortgage products.” As a result, mortgage ratios have returned to 3.5 times annual income. Of all the local authorities in Leicestershire NWL has one of the lowest levels of owner occupation, at around 79% compared to the County which is 82% and districts such as Harborough with up to 90%. Of rented homes most are social rented (about 15%).
- 4.3.9 The SHMA also identifies that for the whole Housing Market Area (HMA) 21% of the affordable need could be met by intermediate equity-based homes, with 79% of the need for rented affordable housing.
- 4.3.10 The SHMA also makes recommendations for the size of new homes that should be delivered. This identifies the majority of market housing should be 3-bedroom, also with a high provision of 2-bedroom.
- 4.3.11 **Table 4.3** shows the affordable housing completions. This shows that in recent years affordable housing has been at about 20-25% of the total completions, not far off what is required of the SDP. Most of the completions are as 2-bedroom flats and houses (240 total), with only 7 four-bed units built since 2004/5 and 31 one-beds.
- 4.3.12 Average house prices reported in the LEA for the district show a steady increase 2004 to 2007, when they reached £193,711. They fell to £184,241 in 2008 and by 2013 had climbed back to £189,812 according to the Land Registry figures. Median house price figures reported in the SHMA indicate that in NWL in Q2 2013 prices were £167,000, an 8.4% decrease since 2007.
- 4.3.13 The SHMA (paragraph 2.42) also identifies variation in the average value of existing homes in the HMA, based on Council Tax bands. This identifies:
- Prices £125,000-£150,000 in Coalville, Ibstock and smaller villages around NWL;
 - Prices £150,00 - £200,000 in Kegworth and Castle Donington;
 - Prices £200,000-£225,000 in Ashby-de-la-Zouch; and
 - no areas in NWL are identified in the top band of over £225,000.
- 4.3.14 There is a clear price distinction between homes in rural and urban location in the County. For example, in 2008/09 the average house price in Leicestershire Towns is £186,554, Villages £292,458 and Hamlets £300,834⁴. This is likely to have a considerable impact on the rural economy in the sub-region, as households earning modest wages will be very unlikely to be able to access housing locally unless affordable properties are available.

Research undertaken for the SHMA and reported in the SHMA 2014 indicates that:

- A high proportion of Coalville is terraced housing, with a shortage of three-bedroom homes;

⁴ Source: Housing Intelligence for the East Midlands (www.hi4em.org.uk) Land Registry House Price Data September 2009 to September 2010 Defra/ONS Urban and Rural Classifications, 2001

- In Castle Donington there is a shortage of homes on the market, the village high street is enjoying a renaissance due to growth of the village and interest from tourists, most resale housing is over £250k and
 - Ashby-de-la-Zouch many homes are being bought by investors as there is shortage of rental in the area, there is a considerable unmet demand for 4 bedroom homes that sell for under £250K, homes here often sell to people who are willing to commute out of the district for work.
- 4.3.15 The SHMA 2014 identifies that the district council owns 4,480 dwellings and registered providers own 2,059 rented and shared ownership, most of which is family housing, although they are looking to provide additional smaller units. In particular there is a need for homes for young single people, accommodation for vulnerable people of all ages and bungalows for older people.
- 4.3.16 Figures in the SHMA 2014 from the 2001 and 2011 Census show that overcrowding (based on Census room standards) has increased by 17% in the district in 10 years. However, the increase for England & Wales and East Midlands was much higher, 32% and 36% respectively. In the 2011 Census there were 1,140 households living in overcrowded accommodation in NWL.
- 4.3.17 The Rural Enabler role is critical in helping to bring forward affordable rural schemes. Working with communities, parish councils and developers the enabler is progressing 37 projects which could deliver approximately 150 homes, although this is throughout the County not just the district.
- 4.3.18 The distribution of housing being given permission in the district is favouring the Coalville urban area and Rural Centres (e.g. Ashby, Measham, Castle Donington, Ibstock and Kegworth). Of the total permissions over 80% were in these areas. . Approximately 8% were in sustainable villages and the remainder in 'Rural Villages'. As set out in the Annual Monitoring Report 2013 the lack of an identified 5 Year Housing Land Supply in the district may explain not only the overall increase in permission granted but also the number of dwellings approved in Sustainable Villages, as a result of having to give some Local Plan Policies less weight when considered against the need for new housing within the district.
- 4.3.19 The Economic Assessment quotes a report by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment that notes:
- "The quality of much recent development in Leicester and Leicestershire has been unacceptably poor (according to CABE35). There is a pressing need to ensure the design quality of new development improves." CABE Audit Report (2006)*
- 4.3.20 The JSNA Housing chapter 2012 contains profiles for each local authority housing market area. For NWL these are:
- Different settlements in North West Leicestershire have very different overall characteristics, with a fairly distinctive division of wealth – Ashby-de-la-Zouch attracts wealthier households while Coalville houses more blue collar households. The majority of the district is rural.
 - All settlements in North West Leicestershire are popular among families, and Ashby-de-la-Zouch in particular is popular among 'wealthy executives'. There is also a large elderly population across the district.
 - The majority of households in North West Leicestershire are White British (95%), one of the highest in Leicestershire. There is no dominant ethnic minority group.

- Though semi-detached and detached housing are the most common property types overall in the district, there is a concentrated patch of terraced housing in Coalville as well as a significant number of flats predominantly provided as affordable housing. There is considerable need for bungalows within the district.
- From a low base level the amount of privately rented accommodation is increasing, though this is more likely to be as a consequence of a suppressed housing market than any long term commitment to the sector on the part of property owners.
- Though two bedroom apartments were similarly priced with two bed houses during the mid-2000's there is more evidence to show that they have the lowest property values across the district at present. It should also be noted that the price of apartments is far less stable than other property types.
- There is a very large discrepancy (around £70,000) between the entry level for three and four bed houses. Prices are lower around the more urban areas, particularly Coalville and Ibstock. Current average house prices range from £94,000 in parts of Coalville to £352,000 in the villages in the rural south of the district. There is also a low average in Castle Donington which appears to have less of an influence on the price of properties in the nearby rural area.

4.4 Issues

- The Local Plan must provide homes to meet identified needs, guided by a growth strategy for the area taking into account affordable housing needs and economic growth objectives;
- There is a need for more affordable housing in all parts of the district, with particular need in areas where housing prices are highest, such as the rural area and in Ashby-de-la-Zouch;
- New housing and economic growth needs to be spatially linked. Identify a suitable land supply to help implement a sustainable spatial strategy and focus on housing growth in locations where it can deliver greatest benefits and sustainable access to services and jobs;
- There is a demand for a range of housing types, with a focus on three-bedroom properties for market housing and 1-bedroom for affordable housing.
- An aging population requires smaller homes as these are more likely to be characterised as single person households, as well as maintaining a stock of family homes;
- Housing for older people and an aging population must take into account their needs, including building to lifetime home standards and increased provision of retirement homes and assisted living accommodation.

5 Employment and the Economy

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This chapter focuses on employment and the principal business sectors in the economy. The chapter also considers economic growth objectives. The role of town centres is also addressed.

5.2 Context

National

5.2.1 The importance of the economy in achieving sustainable development is something that is drawn out strongly in the **NPPF**. At paragraph 7 states the economic role of the planning system is:

“Contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure”.

5.2.2 A section of NPPF is titled ‘Building a strong, competitive economy’. This makes clear the role of the planning system in delivering sustainable economic growth. This includes setting criteria for the delivery of strategic employment sites and support of existing business sectors (paragraph 21).

5.2.3 The NPPF also supports the role of town centres in securing economic growth and as the focus community activity. Town centres should be promoted to provide a diverse retail offer and should be the focus of retail activity (paragraph 23). Office development should also be focused in town centres.

5.2.4 Planning policies should support economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs and prosperity by taking a positive approach to sustainable new development (paragraph 28). To promote a strong rural economy, local and neighbourhood plans should:

- support the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas
- promote the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses;
- support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit businesses in rural areas
- promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages.

5.2.5 **The UK Broadband Impacts Study** addresses what economic, social and environmental impacts are likely to be seen from improvements in broadband performance and what return is likely to be seen from substantial public funds going into upgrading the UK’s broadband infrastructure. The report finds that these interventions are likely to yield:

- A projected return of approximately £20 in net economic impact for every £1 of public investment;

- A total net employment impacts from faster broadband to rise to about 56,000 jobs at the UK level by 2024, with about 20,000 jobs are attributable to the publicly funded intervention;
- A material impact on reducing the digital divide for both households and businesses;
- 60 million hours of leisure time through teleworking facilitated by faster broadband per annum in the UK with total household savings rising to £270 million p.a. by 2024 by avoiding commuting costs (£45 million of which are attributable to intervention); and
- 1.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) savings per annum, by 2024, through reduction in predominant car usage due to increased telework, video and online collaboration tools, and more energy efficient public cloud platform data storage.

Local

5.2.6 The Leicestershire Local Economic Partnership (LEEP) has been established to provide vision and strategic leadership to drive economic growth. LEPs were set out under the Government's White Paper: *Local Growth – Realising Every Place's Potential*. The LEEP prepared the Strategic Economic Plan 2014-2020 (SEP). This contains the vision of:

“Create a vibrant, attractive and distinctive place with highly skilled people making Leicester and Leicestershire the destination of choice for successful businesses. By 2020 we will:

- Create at least 45,000 additional jobs
- Attract over £2.5b private sector investment
- Increase Gross Value Added (GVA) by £4b to £23b

5.2.7 This identifies growth areas including the East Midlands Enterprise Gateway and the Coalville Growth Corridor. It also identifies the potential for the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange, identified as a 250 acre distribution and logistics development near the East Midlands Airport and M1, to provide up to 6 million sq. ft. of large scale warehousing to create a multi-modal hub to support 7,000 jobs. The growth areas are shown in **Figure 5.1**.



Figure 5.1: Growth Areas and Transformational Priorities (extract from Leicestershire Strategic Economic Plan 2014-2020 page 7)

- 5.2.8 The Leicestershire and Leicestershire Economic Development Strategy, Consultation Draft 2011 to 2030 (Leicestershire Business Council) has now been largely replaced by the Strategic Economic Plan. However, it still provides details of what the priorities may be for economic growth in the district. . The vision for Strategy for the area is to:

“To create a prosperous economy, secure and well-paid jobs and a sustainable environment through wealth creation by innovative businesses and a highly skilled workforce, making Leicester and Leicestershire destinations of choice for successful businesses by clearly differentiating the sub-region, as a place to do business, work and live”.

- 5.2.9 The strategic economic priorities set out the strategy are:

- Increasing productivity and private sector job growth;
- Creating a balanced and sustainable knowledge-based economy;
- Addressing the physical requirements for success, including providing good quality employment land & premises, supporting the regeneration of the County town centres; providing the right type and quality of housing at the right prices, in the right locations;
- Raising skill levels and education attainment;
- Providing effective business support;
- Stimulating investment and international trade; and
- Growing the Green Economy and investing in our communities, including promoting environmental sustainability.

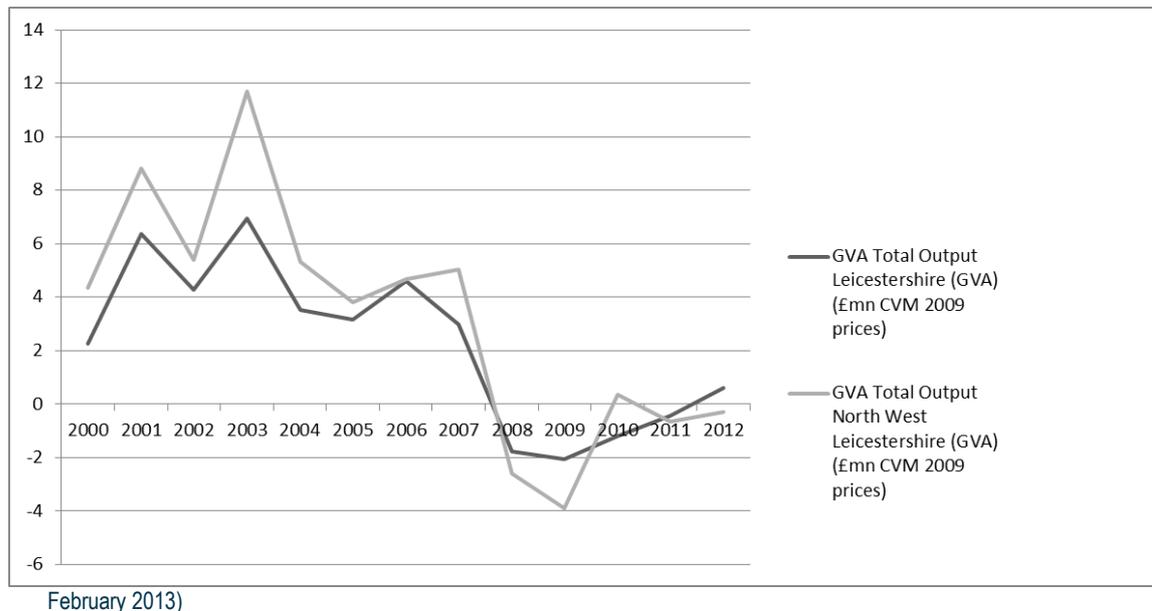
5.3 Baseline

The economy

- 5.3.1 In terms of competitiveness and growth opportunities, North West Leicestershire enjoys a highly accessible position in the middle of the country, with good road links and a growing international airport. Partly because of its accessibility, the area has proved attractive to inward investors, and has recently seen high levels of employment growth.
- 5.3.2 The economic footprint of NWL extends into South Derbyshire and towards Loughborough. The principle employment destinations in the district, as identified in the LEA 2011 are East Midlands Airport (& racing circuit), Coalville Town Centre, Bardon Industrial Estate east of Ellistown, Ashby-de-la-Zouch and the Willow Farm Business Park north of Castle Donington.
- 5.3.3 Much of the baseline in this section is taken from the LEA 2012 prepared for the Strategic Economic Plan for Leicestershire, which represents the most comprehensive analysis of economic conditions in the area.

5.3.4 Experian data from February 2013 (Figure 5.2) shows the Gross Value Added (GVA) has fluctuated significantly since 2000, reaching almost 12% in 2003, but falling to -4% following the recession. The GVA is now increasing again and predictions are that it will continue to do so.

Figure 5.2: GVA Total Output for Leicestershire and North West Leicestershire (UK Local Markets Forecast Quarterly, Experian



5.3.5 Experian data 2013 (UK Local Markets Forecast Quarterly, Experian February 2013) shows that 19.8% of the employment in the district was in transport and storage sector, which is significantly greater than the average proportion in Great Britain. This is linked to the location of East Midlands Airport in the district and associated transport/ logistics industries. 16.6% of employment falls within the manufacturing sector, although this has shown a fluctuation over the previous five years with a declining trend, it is still above the Great Britain average of 8.7%. Other sectors where the proportion employed is above either regional or national averages are wholesale/retail (17.3%), construction (5.9%), professional and other private services (17.3%).

5.3.6 A very low proportion (11.3%) of employment in NWL was in public sectors including education and healthcare, at a proportion well below neighbouring local authorities. This compares to 23.5% for Leicestershire and a higher in Great Britain.

5.3.7 However, North West Leicestershire specialises in comparatively low-value-added activities, with many jobs in manufacturing (though not high-tech manufacturing) and logistics and few jobs in white-collar and knowledge-based sectors). Logistics employment has been growing especially fast, adding to the area’s ‘blue-collar’ specialisation.

5.3.8 Economic forecasts based on the Experian 2013 data for the district indicate that from 2012 to 2031 the sectors predicted most likely to grow by over 1% are transport & storage; professional & other private services; accommodation, food services & recreation; and wholesale & retail, . Only three sectors are predicted to decline (one very marginally), the two with the greatest predicted decline are agriculture, forestry & fishing and by a large proportion the greatest decline is predicted in manufacturing.

5.3.9 Figures from 2009 Leicestershire STEAM analysis show that NWL made £147.3 million in tourism revenue. Tourism in NWL is related to growth around the National Forest and the airport. Tourism venues in and around the district include: Ashby Castle, Breedon Priory

Church, Calke Abbey, Donington Grand Prix Collection and Park, Donington Le Heath Manor House, and East Midlands Airport Aeropark.

- 5.3.10 The Ashby Canal runs through the district and has a current and future potential to benefit the tourism economy. The northern section of the canal has been restored from Moira to Donisthorpe and links Conkers, Moira Furnace and Donisthorpe Woodland Park in an area that is developing as a tourist destination.
- 5.3.11 Restoration is now focused on extending the current terminus of the canal from Snarestone northwards for a distance of 4.5 km to a new canal wharf at Measham. The power to acquire the necessary land and to construct and maintain the canal was provided in October 2005 when the Leicestershire County Council (Ashby-de-la-Zouch Extension) Order was approved under the powers of the Transport and Works Act 1992. The main objectives of the next phase of restoration are to;
- Advance and accelerate continuing economic regeneration of the area and contribute to rural diversification and social inclusion through opportunities for employment, leisure, recreation, learning and skills.
 - Provide a green gateway to the National Forest and develop and link the recreational tourism facilities.
 - Improve the environmental quality of the area.
 - Provide a recreational, cultural and social resource for the local community.
 - Connect Measham, and ultimately Moira, to the national waterways network.

Employment and Workforce

- 5.3.12 Figures from the Nomis⁵ database show that from January 2013 to December 2013 there were 44,000 economically active people in NWL. Of these 3,100 were unemployed, this is 9.4% of people aged 16-64, which is greater than for Great Britain at 7.5%, although the majority (35,000) were in full-time employment. **Figure 5.3** shows the distribution of people in full time employment from the 2011 Census; this shows the ward with the lowest proportion (Greenhill) is directly adjacent to a ward with one of the highest proportions (Bardon), as this is the location of a large employment area. The distribution of those in full time employment reflects patterns of joblessness as well as areas with higher proportions of retired people (see **Figure 3.4**).
- 5.3.13 The number of working age people of North West Leicestershire has shown over a 7% increase from 2001 to 2012 according to the ONS 2012 Mid-Year population estimates and reported in the SEP.
- 5.3.14 The overall job density in NWL (i.e. the number of jobs per head of population aged 16 to 64 so 1 equals one job for one person) was 1.05 in 2012 (an increase since 2009 when it was 0.96). Therefore, figure shows that theoretically that there is a good availability of jobs in the district. However, this does not take into account patterns of movement as job location or skills requirements may not match those of the workforce. For instance, the areas of high job density, such as around East Midlands Airport, are not matched by areas of high population density, such as in the Coalville urban area.

⁵ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157146/printable.aspx>

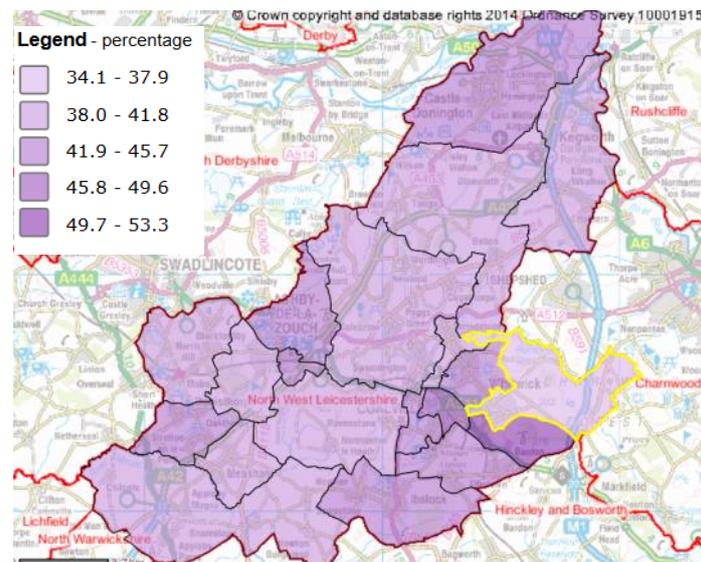


Figure 5.3: Percentage of the population aged 16-63 in Full-Time Employment (census 2011)

- 5.3.15 The Leicestershire Local Transport Plan 3 2011 (LTP3) identifies that local job provision is more important to low-skilled workers and those providing low-skilled opportunities due to the travel cost constraints, and there remain areas of spatial mismatch between the supply of jobs and workers for the lower-skilled. These areas may be particularly affected by the limited bus access to employment centres outside of core urban areas as well as the relatively poor provision of evening and weekend bus services which adversely affects the access of some workers, particularly those working shifts. The LTP3 identifies Castle Donington as such an area, where workers are not available to match jobs.
- 5.3.16 **Figures 5.4** and **5.5** show the distribution around the district of the different occupation types. This shows a concentration of higher order occupations 'Managers, Directors and Senior Officials' according to the Census 2011 around Appleby (18.1%) and rural wards of central NWL (Breedon and Valley). In contrast **Figure 5.4** shows that concentrations of those with 'Elementary Occupations' are in the wards of Coalville (17.4%) and Greenhill, both associated with the settlement of Coalville. The Measham also has a relatively high proportion of those in these types of occupations.
- 5.3.17 From January 2013 to December 2013 the total the percentage of the population who are in Occupation Groups 1-3 (Managers, Professionals, Associate professionals etc.) made up 36.7% of the workforce, this is lower than the East Midlands (40.5%) and Great Britain (44.2%). Those in the Occupation Groups 8-9 (Process plant and machine operatives and elementary occupations) make up 19.9% of the workforce, higher than for Great Britain (17.1%) but lower than the East Midlands as a whole (21.4%).
- 5.3.18 Figures from Nomis indicate that the proportion of the workforce with NVQ4+ level skills, including university degree, at 25.4%, is lower than the proportion for Great Britain and East Midlands (35.2% and 30.1% respectively). The ward with the highest level of residents with level NVQ4+ qualifications is Ashby Castle at 43.2% of the population, the next highest is Breedon at 35.3%. Three areas with the highest proportion of those with no qualification, according to the 2011 Census, are Greenhill, Ibstock and Heather, and Thringston wards.

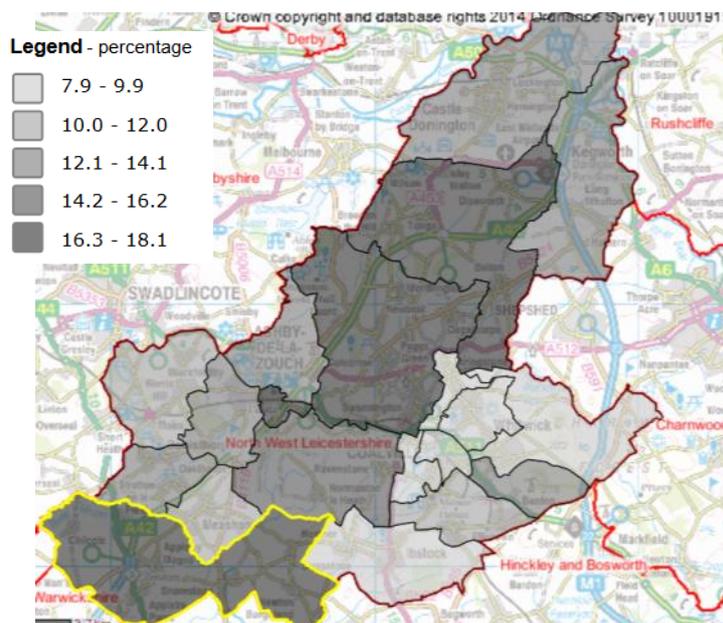


Figure 5.4: Proportion of Resident Workforce Occupation Census 2011: 1 Managers, Directors and Senior Officials (Appleby 18.1%)

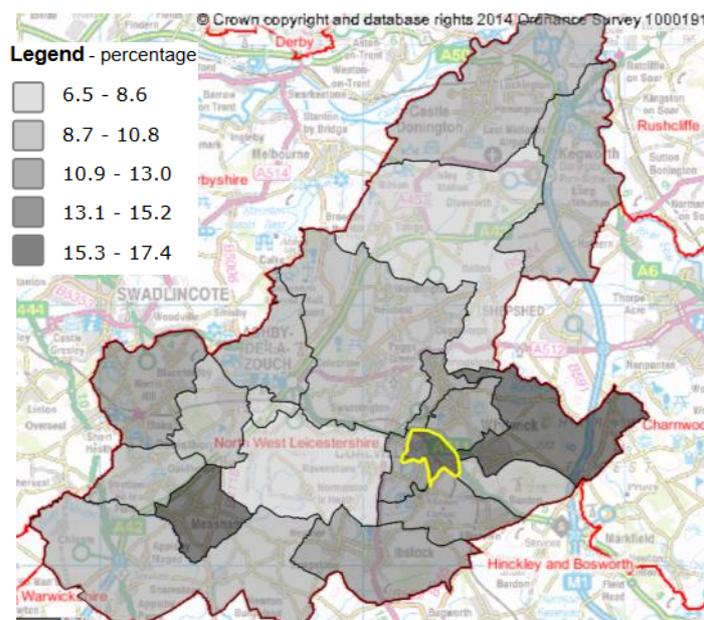


Figure 5.5: Proportion of Resident Workforce Occupation Census 2011: 1 Elementary Occupations (Coalville, 17.4%)

5.3.19 Figures quoted in the District Profile for North West Leicestershire (2012) indicate that 63.1% of the district’s residents work in NWL, 8.2% in Charnwood, 5.7% in Leicester, 3.8% in Derby. Almost 60% of those who commute have managerial or professional jobs. The SHMA 2014 states that 68% of NLW workforce is from within Leicester and Leicestershire local authorities.

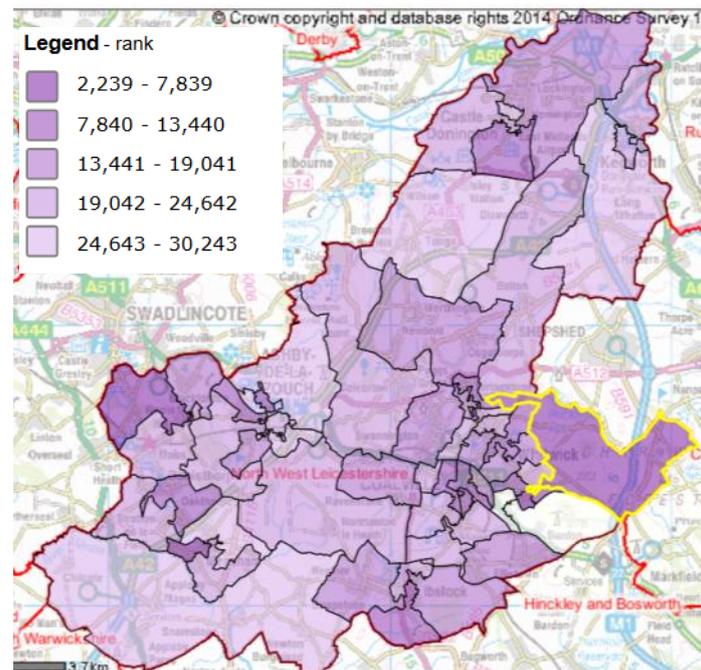


Figure 5.6: Indices of Deprivation 2010: Employment Rank

5.3.20 **Figure 5.6** shows the Indices of Deprivation 2010 'Employment Rank' domain. This domain measures employment deprivation, the definition provided for the index are areas where the working age population have been involuntarily excluded from the labour market, for instance from not being able to find or secure a job or not being fit to work. This is based on seven indicators including: claimants of Job Seekers Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance and participants in New Deal. The most deprived area is Greenhill including residential areas on the outskirts of Coalville. Other areas of deprivation include wards in and around Coalville, around Moira and communities centred on East Midlands Airport, including a small part of the southern Castle Donington.

Retail and Town Centre Services

- 5.3.21 A Retail Capacity Study Update was completed in March 2013 for the district. This investigated the existing provision of retail facilities within the district and also made recommendations as to how this provision might be improved. This section reports on these findings.
- 5.3.22 **Coalville:** The retail health of Coalville would benefit from an improved provision of comparison goods retail. Implementation of current planning permissions could help to address this issue and reduce the existing high number of vacant units, which is the highest within the district. This reflects the limited investment in new retailing within Coalville Town Centre which has faced competition from out-of-centre supermarkets in Coalville and large-scale out-of-town shopping elsewhere.
- 5.3.23 **Ashby-de-la-Zouch:** Additional small scale comparison goods retail within the existing town centre area would improve the retail health of the town. The overall retail health of Ashby is good.
- 5.3.24 **Castle Donington:** The retail health of Castle Donington is good. Enhanced retail and services of an appropriate scale could improve the retail function of the centre.

- 5.3.25 **Ibstock:** Enhancement of retail and services at an appropriate scale could benefit the retail health of the town. Loss of existing retail provision would have a negative impact on the retail health of the town, which is currently reasonable.
- 5.3.26 **Measham:** Enhanced retail and service provision of an appropriate scale would improve the retail health of the town. A new convenience goods food store well related to the existing centre of Measham would further benefit the retail provision in this part of the district.
- 5.3.27 **Table 5.1** shows the vacancy rates within the main settlements. This shows the highest level of vacancy (by a significant amount) is in Coalville and this has increased 2% between 2012 and 2013. Vacancy rates in Ashby-de-la-Zouch have also increased over the same period by around 2% (although remains at only 4.7%). Measham’s vacancy rate has increased the most at 3% and is now at 5.9%. Ibstock shows no vacancies in 2013 (a reduction of 5.4%), similarly Castle Donington vacancy has reduced by 3.5% to 3.6%.

Table 5.1: Town Centre Retail Vacancy Rates (Annual Monitoring Report 2012/13, NWL)

	March 2012	March 2013
Coalville	12.6	14.7
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	2.8	4.7
Castle Donington	7.1	3.6
Ibstock	5.4	0.0
Measham	2.9	5.9

5.4 Issues

- Employment land provision will need to support existing well performing employment sectors, such as storage and distribution.
- In some locations there is a skills and job mismatch, there is a need to provide additional higher skilled jobs in the district to reduce the need for out commuting, including growing the high tech manufacturing sector.
- There is a need to support new local jobs for residents who need to access lower skilled jobs and maintain a distribution of these jobs around the district, including in those areas where residents have fewer qualifications to ensure that people who cannot get to work by car are not adversely disadvantaged.
- The needs of rural businesses must be considered, including allowing appropriate growth of business that need a rural location and diversification of the agricultural economy.
- There is a need to improve the skills base of the district, starting with good access to primary, secondary and future education facilities for all children in the district.
- NWL plays an important role in the sub-region as the focus for employment and LEP growth objectives.
- The tourism sector is an important part of the local economy, there is a need to protect and enhance the tourism and leisure offer particularly in relation to the National Forest, Charnwood Forest Regional Park and Ashby Canal. The aim should be for a higher per capita visitor spend rather than simply additional visitors, a way this can be achieved is through increasing overnight visitor stays in the district.
- The retail role of main towns and village centres needs to be supported to help reduce vacancy rates and avoid the loss of shop units to other uses, with a particular emphasis on the town centre of the Coalville Urban Area.

6 Transport and Access

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 This chapter considers the existing transport networks in the district and the accessibility and connectivity to services. The chapter includes discussion of the preferred travel modes in by those working and living in the district.

6.2 Context

National

6.2.1 The NPPF identifies that:

“Transport policies have an important role to play in facilitating sustainable development but also in contributing to wider sustainability and health objectives. Smarter use of technologies can reduce the need to travel.” (Paragraph 29)

6.2.2 The NPPF (paragraph 30) is clear that there is not only the need to find transport solutions that support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and reduce congestion, but also in preparing Local Plans that support a pattern of development which facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport.

6.2.3 All developments that generate significant amounts of movement should be supported by a Transport Statement or Transport Assessment. Plans and decisions should take account of whether the opportunities for sustainable transport modes have been taken up depending on the nature and location of the site, to reduce the need for major transport infrastructure.

6.2.4 Paragraph 35 states that:

“Plans should protect and exploit opportunities for the use of sustainable transport modes for the movement of goods or people. Therefore, developments should be located and designed where practical to

- *accommodate the efficient delivery of goods and supplies;*
- *give priority to pedestrian and cycle movements, and have access to high quality public transport facilities;*
- *create safe and secure layouts which minimise conflicts between traffic and cyclists or pedestrians, avoiding street clutter and where appropriate establishing home zones;*
- *incorporate facilities for charging plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles; and*
- *consider the needs of people with disabilities by all modes of transport.”*

6.2.5 There are plans to bring the new High Speed 2 (HS2) route through the district as part of the Phase 2 Eastern leg connecting the East Midlands, South Yorkshire, Leeds and the North East. This will pass through the district on the route of the M42 then A42, passing between Measham and Ashby-de-la-Zouch and continuing in a largely straight line, leaving the route of the A42 at Breedon on the Hill to cross the M1 just north of junction 24 and Kegworth. A new station the ‘East Midlands Hub’ would be provided in Toton, in the outskirts of Nottingham to the north east of the district. However, a decision the timing and delivery of this Phase has not been made. There are no details yet available of the construction programme for the route and so far only the initial route plans have been consulted on.

Local

- 6.2.6 The **Leicestershire County Council Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3)** covers the period 2011 to 2026. The LTP3 is the key mechanism for delivering integrated transport at a local level, and they help to promote transport as an enabler of other things, such as economic growth. LTP3 follows the earlier plans of LTP1 and LTP2.
- 6.2.7 The long-term vision for the transport system over the course of LTP3 is shown below and the way of achieving this through ‘Objectives, Activities and Outcomes’ is shown in **Table 6.1**. The vision is:

‘Leicestershire to be recognised as a place that has, with the help of its residents and businesses, a first class transport system that enables economic and social travel in ways that improve people’s health, safety and prosperity, as well as their environment and their quality of life.’

Table 6.1: LTP3 Objectives, Activities and Outcomes

LTP3 Strategic Transport Goals	LTP3 Activities	Strategic Transport Outcomes
Goal 1: A transport system that supports a prosperous economy and provides successfully for population growth	Supporting the economy and population growth	Our strategic system provides more consistent, predictable and reliable journey times for the movement of goods and people
Goal 2: An efficient, resilient and sustainable transport system that is well managed and maintained	Managing the condition and resilience of the transport system	Our transport system and its assets are effectively managed and well maintained. Our transport system is resilient to the impacts of climate change.
Goal 3: A transport system that helps reduce the carbon footprint of Leicestershire	Encouraging active and sustainable travel	The negative impact of our transport system on the environmental and individuals is reduced. More people walk, cycle and use public transport as part of their daily journeys, including access to key services.
Goal 4: An accessible and integrated transport system that helps promote equality of opportunity for all our residents.	Improving the connectivity and accessibility of our transport system. Encouraging active and sustainable travel.	More people walk, cycle and use public transport as part of their daily journeys, including access to key services. Effective and integrated public and community transport provision, including targeted and innovative travel solutions that meet the essential transport needs of Leicestershire residents.

LTP3 Strategic Transport Goals	LTP3 Activities	Strategic Transport Outcomes
Goal 5: A transport system that improves the safety, health and security of our residents.	Improving road safety. Encouraging active and sustainable travel.	The number of road casualties is reduced. More people walk, cycle and use public transport as part of their daily journeys, including access to key services.
Goal 6: A transport system that helps to improve the quality of life for our residents and makes Leicestershire a more attractive place to live, work and visit.	Managing the impact of our transport system on quality of life.	There is an improved satisfaction with the transport system amongst users and residents. The natural environment can be accessed easily and efficiently, particularly by bike or on foot. The negative impact of our transport system on the environment and individuals is reduced.

6.2.8 In May 2014 consultation closed on a new **East Midlands Airport Masterplan**, being prepared by the current operators of the airport. This includes objectives to:

- Identify the land, the uses and facilities required to support the operation of an airport capable of handling 10 million passengers annually and 1.2 million tonnes of cargo;
- Set out a policy for the use and the development of the airport land that is integrated with the Community Economy and Saracen Access and North West Leicestershire [Local Plan];
- A substantial increase capacity and redevelopment of the passenger terminal and new buildings and extensions to the cargo facilities;
- Proposals for the Pegasus Business Park.

6.3 Baseline

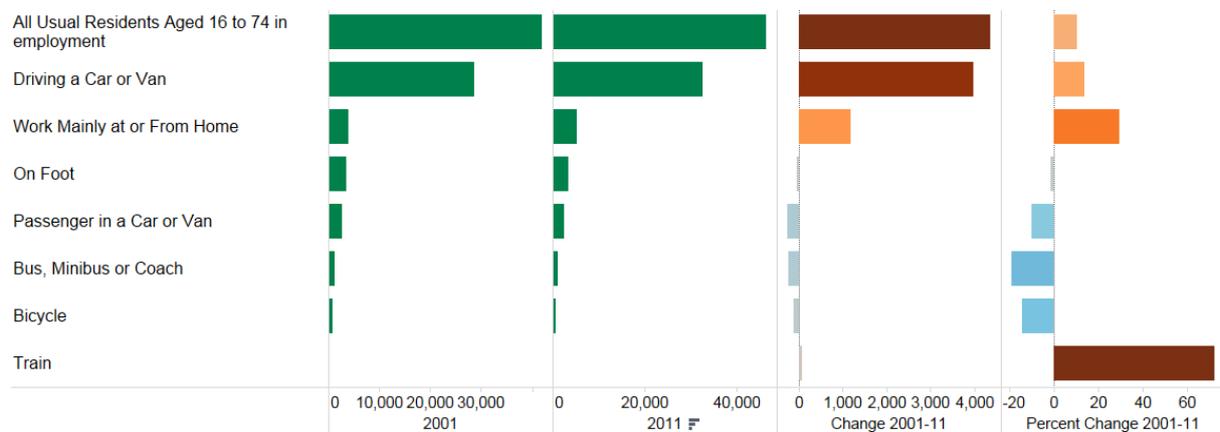
6.3.1 North West Leicestershire benefits from excellent road transport links. It is at the intersections of the M1 and A42 motorways and is a leading location for the logistics and distribution industry. The A42/M42 provides a route to the South West. The A42 links junction 23A of the M1 to junction 11 of the M42 motorway and is in effect a continuation of the M42.

6.3.2 The M1 provides connectivity to other core markets within the UK (although it is congested at peak times around Leicester). The A50 provides the primary east-west corridor between the East Midlands and the North West, and is heavily used by goods traffic.

6.3.3 There are no passenger rail services in North West Leicestershire although the Leicester & Burton rail freight line runs north-west from Leicester to Burton upon Trent and is used to transport aggregates from Bardon Hill Quarry. There is also the new East Midlands Parkway Station just outside of the district adjacent to Ratcliffe Power Station, around 4km road distance from central Kegworth. This station provides regular services on the London to Nottingham mainline. However, there are no bus services at the station and very limited walking and cycling options, meaning access by car and taxi are the only real viable methods of access.

- 6.3.4 Bus and coach services across the district are variable and it is the larger settlements that are best served.
- 6.3.5 74.6% of the district's population travel to work by car. This is higher than the UK average (70.6%) and the 13th highest in the country. Greater car ownership and their use for travel will continue to increase road congestion, parking problems, car dependency and CO₂ emissions.
- 6.3.6 East Midlands Airport (EMA) is in the north of the district and is one of the UK's major freight airports. As noted above they have published a revised masterplan for consultation in 2014. The Airport has seen significant growth in both passenger numbers and cargo freight since the mid-1990s, but the economic downturn has resulted in reduced levels of both. In addition to serving businesses within the sub-region, it supports a range of markets across much of England, especially in relation to the Airport's express freight hub. The airport also provides a point of access for international business travellers and tourists. Buses are relatively frequent from the three cities to the airport and elsewhere.
- 6.3.7 However, as would be expected of a large airport there are also environmental issues related to its operation. These include noise impacts on local residents associated with take-off and landing, contributing to significant carbon emissions from aircraft flights and potentially exacerbating local congestion as public transport access to the airport is poor. The airport can also have an effect on other issues, such as the safe siting of wind turbines.
- 6.3.8 Travel to work is dominated by the car, with very low use of public transport in the area.
- 6.3.9 Information in this section has also been sourced from the SHMA 2014. The latest travel to work areas are defined based on commuting data from the 2001 Census. The Leicester Travel to Work Area⁶ (TTWA) extends from Lutterworth in the South to Loughborough in the North and from the Leicestershire/Rutland border on the East to Coalville on the West and it covers the majority of the County. Hinckley falls in to the Coventry TTWA and Ashby-de-la-Zouch in the Burton upon Trent TTWA. However, the SHMA sought to update this information with data from the 2011 Annual Population Survey on commuting dynamics.
- 6.3.10 The SHMA found that In North West Leicestershire, 68% of the workforce is drawn from Leicester and Leicestershire plan area. However, the strongest individual commuting flow is from South Derbyshire. This can be in part explained by employment at East Midlands Airport, which due to its connectivity and high number of jobs draws workers from a wide area. Overall, the data showed that 51% of the district's residents live and work within the district, with 6% commuting to Charnwood.
- 6.3.11 All the County districts except North West Leicestershire have a net out-flow of commuters. North West Leicestershire has a net in-flow due to the location of East Midlands Airport and the fact that the district has a high ratio of jobs per residents of employment age. The 2011 Census identifies an inflow of 7,453 persons.

⁶ ONS defined travel to work areas across the UK based on areas in which generally "at least 75% of an area's resident workforce work in the area and at least 75% of the people who work in the area also live in the area." The area must also have a working population of at least 3,500.



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011. Produced by the Research and Insight Team, Leicestershire County Council, 2013.

Figure 6.1: North West Leicestershire: Census 2011 Method of Travel to Work, showing absolute numbers and percentage 2001 to 2011 (accessed from Tableau)⁷

6.3.12 Information from the 2011 Census in **Figure 6.1** clearly shows the dominance of single occupancy cars/vans for access to work. There has been an increase in the resident workforce in the district from 2001 to 2011, but the proportional increase in car travel is greater than this. The greatest proportional increase is in train travel, although this is only by 85 people (compared to almost 4,000 additional drivers). Numbers choosing other sustainable travel choices also decreased, with cycling, walking and bus travel all dropping, again from relatively low starting points.

6.3.13 This trend towards less sustainable modes of travel is not in keeping with the government and local objectives for transport. Increase car travel will have impacts on the designated AQMA, for instance almost 600 additional cars users travel from the Coalville ward where there is also an AQMA.

6.3.14 The Leicester & Leicestershire Integrated Transport Model (LLITM) (as reported in Developing a carbon reduction strategy for Leicestershire – Carbon Reduction Strategy Evidence Base (Leicestershire Together March 2013)) predicts that due to the forecast population growth, associated land use changes and without the successful implementation of strategies to get more people travelling by sustainable transport, that there will be:

- Growth in car ownership in urban areas will result in more car use which will take mode share away from other transport options.
- There will be modest growth in bus use in the coming years, but this will not be sufficient to offset the predicted growth in car use and trips.
- There is a very strong, and more-or-less linear, correlation between population growth and walk / cycle trip growth (based on model output). However, walk / cycle mode shares decline slightly as the growth in trips is slightly lower than that of population growth.

Access to services in the main towns and villages

6.3.15 This text is from the NWL District Core Strategy 2012 Submission version.

6.3.16 Across the **Coalville Urban Area** there is a network of facilities which meet the needs of the area. There are primary schools in Coalville, Greenhill, Whitwick, Hugglescote and

⁷ http://public.tableausoftware.com/views/2011Census-TransportWardData/HeadlineData?:embed=y&:display_count=no&:showVizHome=no#1 (Accessed 23/5/14)

Thringstone. Castle Rock and Newbridge High Schools provides education for 11-14 year olds who then move onto King Edward VII Science and Sport College (age range 14-19yrs). Stephenson College provides higher and further education courses. Currently there are a number of surplus places in the primary and secondary schools in Coalville. However the primary age population is forecast to grow over the next five years and most of this surplus will be taken up, initially in the primary stage, but ultimately the secondary schools will feel the impact.

- 6.3.17 The principal leisure centre (Hermitage Leisure Centre) is located in Whitwick which has swimming pools and a 6-court sports hall.
- 6.3.18 Coalville and the surrounding villages are served by 8 GP practices situated in Coalville, Whitwick, Belton, and Hugglescote. The surgery at Hugglescote was completed in 2008 and included some expansion space for limited population increase. In general the practices accept patients from a wide geographical area and therefore increases in population could be met by a number of practices.
- 6.3.19 Coalville also has a Community Hospital. Two wards provide general rehabilitation and palliative care, one ward provides specialist stroke rehabilitation and one cares for elderly patients with serious mental illness. The hospital also provides therapy services.
- 6.3.20 **Ashby-de-la-Zouch:** is the second largest settlement in the district. The town has a good range of services and facilities. The Hood Park Leisure Centre has an indoor and an outdoor swimming pool, sports hall, squash courts, fitness and outdoor sports facilities. There is a health centre and a district hospital, and primary and secondary schools. All primary schools in Ashby are now full or forecast to be full in the next 2-5 years.
- 6.3.21 There are about 8,000 jobs in the town (pre 2012 data); the largest employer, United Biscuits, provides around 2,000 jobs at its distribution centre. Employment uses are concentrated on the east side of the town around the A42/A511 and to the north on Smisby Road, including the partly constructed Ivanhoe Business Park.
- 6.3.22 Ashby's Centre is relatively healthy and there are a high proportion of independent, high-value retailers. This has helped to retain the historic character and appearance of the town centre, but more recent demand has led to out-of-centre developments as the historic nature of Ashby makes it difficult to accommodate new shopping development. There has also been pressure for the change of use of shops to other services, such as restaurants, takeaways and offices.
- 6.3.23 **Castle Donington:** Industrial development has taken place to the north of the town. Castle Donington Power Station closed in 1994 and has been demolished. The site is being redeveloped as the East Midlands Distribution Centre a growing distribution centre with potential to generate significant jobs. There are industrial areas at Trent Lane and Willow Farm to the north of the town. East Midlands Airport, to the south of the town, employs approximately 7,000 people at or near the airport. Donington Park racing circuit, which supports a range of businesses, both on- and off-site, also makes an important contribution to the local economy.
- 6.3.24 Services and facilities in the town are not as extensive as in Coalville and Ashby-de-la-Zouch but nevertheless meet most of the day-to-day needs of Castle Donington and surrounding villages. There are two primary schools and a middle school - Castle Donington Community College for 10-14 year olds. However, children have to go to Shepshed or Ashby for the final two years of education. The Community College has a partnership arrangement with North West Leicestershire District Council which allows the local community to use its sport and recreation facilities. There is a GP practice in Borough Street which is where most of the town's shops are located. There is a large out of centre supermarket on Trent Lane.

- 6.3.25 **Ibstock:** There are a range of services and facilities which meet most of the day-to-day needs of Ibstock and some of the surrounding villages, such as Heather. The village has two primary schools and Ibstock Community College provides education for 10-14 year olds.
- 6.3.26 Ibstock Leisure Complex is a dual use facility run jointly by the College and North West Leicestershire District Council that includes a swimming pool and sports hall. The college also has a combined library providing a limited range of services for the local community and the college. There is a GP surgery on the High Street.
- 6.3.27 Most day-to-day shopping needs are reasonably well catered for. However, there are limited opportunities for additional provision because the majority of retail units have residential accommodation above, and are small in size.
- 6.3.28 Local employment opportunities are provided at an industrial estate off Spring Road and at Ibstock Brick whose headquarters are located on the edge of the village
- 6.3.29 **Kegworth:** There is a small shopping area in the centre, which includes a Co-Op store. There is also a health centre and a part-time library. There is a primary school, but children have to travel to Castle Donington (11-14 years of age) and then Shepshed (15-16 years of age) for secondary education. There is a recreation ground, bowls club and community centre, but no leisure centre or swimming pool. Therefore, only immediate day-to-day needs are met in the village.
- 6.3.30 **Measham:** Industry is largely confined to the Westminster Industrial Estate on the southern edge of the village. However, brick manufacturing continues at Red Bank brickworks to the east of the village.
- 6.3.31 The High Street is the location for most services and facilities, including two small supermarkets and a number of small shops. There is a health centre; part-time library and leisure centre all located just off High Street. There are two primary schools, but children have to travel to Ibstock (11-14 years of age) and then Ashby (15-16 years of age) for secondary education.
- 6.3.32 NWLDC have also undertaken an assessment of the service provision in the villages of the district as part of assessing whether they could be sustainable locations for growth, based on accessibility of services. This assessed each village to identify which services were available, including a primary school, post office, general store, GP, chemist, pub, community hall, leisure/community facilities and employment. The most recent update was 2012 and therefore may be a little out of date. Some notable outputs of the study were that only 12 villages out of 44 reviewed have a general store, although 23 has a primary school (all those with a shop also had a school). In total only 5 villages had an identified employment area (not included rural business such as farms). 13 villages (30%) had no services at all and two only had a pub.

Public transport in the main towns and villages

- 6.3.33 This text is extracted from the Core Strategy Submission version 2012 as the most up-to-date compiled information on the main towns and villages.
- 6.3.34 **Coalville** is situated midway between the north/south corridors of the M1 to the east and the A42 to the west, with the A511 providing east/west access to both. The A511 is subject to congestion as it passes through Coalville, especially during peak hours.
- 6.3.35 Coalville has direct bus connections to larger centres such as Loughborough, Leicester and Burton upon Trent. There are also direct links to the other major settlements in the district (except for Kegworth), the surrounding villages, and a number of services which connect the

- different parts of Coalville. The railway is freight only. 2001 census data showed a net outflow of workers from Coalville urban area for work, in particular there is travel to Castle Donington, Ibstock and Ashby (compiled figures are not available for Census 2011).
- 6.3.36 Leicestershire County Council won funding from the Government's Local Sustainable Transport Fund. This will support a range of measures including improvements to the walking and cycleway network as set out in the North West Leicestershire Cycling Strategy: (Part 1: Coalville). The Cycling Strategy identifies a potential network of cycle links to overcome current barriers to cycling, and enable more people to cycle as a regular mode of transport.
- 6.3.37 **Ashby-de-la-Zouch:** There is direct access to the A42 from both the north and the south of Ashby, whilst the A511 provides a direct link to Coalville, Swadlincote and Burton upon Trent. Congestion is often an issue at Junction 13 of the A42, but within Ashby itself the majority of problems created by through traffic have been removed by the construction of the A511 bypass in 2002.
- 6.3.38 There are bus services to Coalville, Leicester and Burton upon Trent but no evening services after 7.30pm (2012 data). Census data from 2001 (no compiled data is available for 2011) shows more people travel into than out of Ashby for work.
- 6.3.39 **Castle Donington:** Castle Donington has good access to the strategic road network, with direct access to the A50 to the north and then to the M1. There is also a link southwards to the A42. Within the town, there are traffic queues during peak hours along High Street and Bondgate. An Air Quality Management Area has been declared on High Street and we are preparing an air quality action plan for this area.
- 6.3.40 There are good bus links to Derby, Nottingham, Loughborough and Coalville, although some of these are dependent on financial assistance from East Midlands Airport. There is no passenger rail service although there is a freight line to the north and East Midlands Parkway is located 10km to the east.
- 6.3.41 As a result of the range of employment in the area a large amount of people travel into the area for work (2001 Census), this is even before the new distribution centre opened.
- 6.3.42 **Ibstock:** There are strong links with Coalville which is reflected in patterns of shopping expenditure and in public transport provision.
- 6.3.43 **Kegworth:** Kegworth lies in the top north-east corner of the district, adjoining the border with Nottinghamshire and on the A6 to Loughborough. It is bounded by the M1 to the west, the A453 trunk road to Nottingham to the north and the River Soar to the east.
- 6.3.44 The location of Kegworth in relation the strategic road network means that the village has is attractive for those who do not mind access day-to-day service by car. As a result only 29% of all journeys to work from Kegworth stay within the village (according to the Core Strategy), which is lower than any of the other main settlements in the district.
- 6.3.45 However, there are direct public transport connections to Loughborough, Derby, Castle Donington and Nottingham, but no direct service to Coalville (the only main settlement in the district where this is the case). Less than 5km from Kegworth is the East Midlands Parkway which provides a rail link to London/ Nottingham mainline.
- 6.3.46 **Measham:** There are direct public transport connections to Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Burton upon Trent, whilst the A42 provides direct connection to the wider strategic road network.

6.4 Issues

- Due to the rural character of the district the settlements are dispersed. Therefore, development needs to be located where it would help reduce car use and where people are not disadvantaged by not driving.
- The East Midlands Strategic Distribution centre transport network must be maintained as a rail freight hub.
- The district is characterised by high levels of car use, there is a need to reduce this and encourage more people to travel by foot, bike or bus. This can have benefits for carbon emissions as well as improve the health of residents, helping to tackle obesity.
- There need to be improvements to safe and direct cycling routes across the district, taking into account the high levels of existing traffic deterring other road uses as a result of safety concerns.
- Further planned growth at East Midlands needs to ensure that accessibility by public transport is addressed.
- Improvements in public transport accessibility in the main towns and villages, including evening and weekend services, in particular in those that will be the focus for housing growth, would benefit existing and new residents.
- Some villages have very limited local services, improving and maintaining existing provision will help reduce people's need to drive.

7 Air Quality and Noise

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 This chapter considers the air quality issues in the district, including where Air Quality Management Areas are identified. The chapter also considers the noise environment of the district, with potential significant noise sources identified as main roads and airport.

7.2 Context

National

- 7.2.1 The **Air Quality Strategy** (2007) establishes the policy framework for ambient air quality management and assessment in the UK. The primary objective is to ensure that everyone can enjoy a level of ambient air quality which poses no significant risk to health or quality of life. The Strategy sets out the National Air Quality Objectives (NAQOs) and government policy on achieving these objectives.
- 7.2.2 Part IV of the **Environment Act 1995** introduced a system of Local Air Quality Management (LAQM). This requires local authorities to regularly and systematically review and assess air quality within their boundary, and appraise development and transport plans against these assessments. The relevant NAQOs for LAQM are prescribed in the Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000 and the Air Quality (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2002.
- 7.2.3 Where an objective is unlikely to be met, the local authority must designate an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and draw up an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the measures it intends to introduce in pursuit of the objectives within its AQMA.
- 7.2.4 The **Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance 2009** (LAQM.TG (09))⁸ issued by Defra for Local Authorities provides advice as to where the NAQOs apply. These include outdoor locations where members of the public are likely to be regularly present for the averaging period of the objective (which vary from 15 minutes to a year). Thus, for example, annual mean objectives apply at the façades of residential properties, whilst the 24-hour objective (for PM₁₀) would also apply within garden areas. They do not apply to occupational, indoor or in-vehicle exposure. There are five such areas in NWL (see **paragraph 7.3.1**).
- 7.2.5 The **NPPF** sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how they are expected to be applied. In relation to conserving and enhancing the natural environment, Paragraph 17 states that:
- “Within the overarching roles that the planning system ought to play, a set of core land-use planning principles should underpin both plan-making and decision-taking. These 12 principles are that planning should.....contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution.”*
- 7.2.6 Paragraph 109 states that:
- “The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by... preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability.”*

⁸ Defra, 2009, Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance LAQM.TG(09).

7.2.7 Paragraph 124 states that:

“Planning policies should sustain compliance with and contribute towards EU limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and the cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas is consistent with the local air quality action plan.”

7.2.8 The NPPF goes on to advise at paragraph 123 that:

“Planning policies and decisions should aim to:

- *Avoid noise from giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life as a result of new development;*
- *Mitigate and reduce to a minimum other adverse impacts on health and quality of life arising from noise from new development, including through the use of conditions;*
- *Recognise that development will often create some noise and existing businesses wanting to development in continuance of their business should not have unreasonable restrictions put on them because of changes in nearby land uses since they were established; and*
- *Identify and protect areas of tranquillity which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason.”*

7.2.9 The NPPF indicates that the Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) should be used to define the “significant adverse impacts”.

7.2.10 The **Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE)** was published in March 2010. The document seeks to clarify the underlying principles and aims in existing policy documents, legislation and guidance that relate to noise. It also sets out the long term vision of Government noise policy: “to promote good health and a good quality of life through the effective management of noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development.”

7.2.11 The NPSE clarifies that noise should not be considered in isolation of the wider benefits of a scheme or development, and that the intention is to minimise noise and noise effects as far as is reasonably practicable having regard to the underlying principles of sustainable development.

7.3 Baseline

7.3.1 Poor air quality can have serious impact on people’s health, as well as on habitats and species. In particular elevated levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) can lead to respiratory diseases and can be particularly harmful to vulnerable groups such as the very old or young. There are five AQMAs identified in the district, all related to exceedance of NO₂. These are:

- M1 Mole Hill Kegworth
- High Street Kegworth
- Stephenson Way/Bardon Road Coalville
- High Street/Bondgate Castle Donington
- Copt Oak Road Copt Oak

7.3.2 In these areas further action is needed to ensure air quality in the district is constantly improving. Such measures include reducing idling engines; promoting non-car transport; and controlling the air quality impact from new developments.

7.3.3 **Figure 7.1** is sourced from the 2013 Air Quality Further Assessment of Coalville Air Quality Management Area (February 2013), prepared by NWL District Council and show the extent of each of the AQMAs.

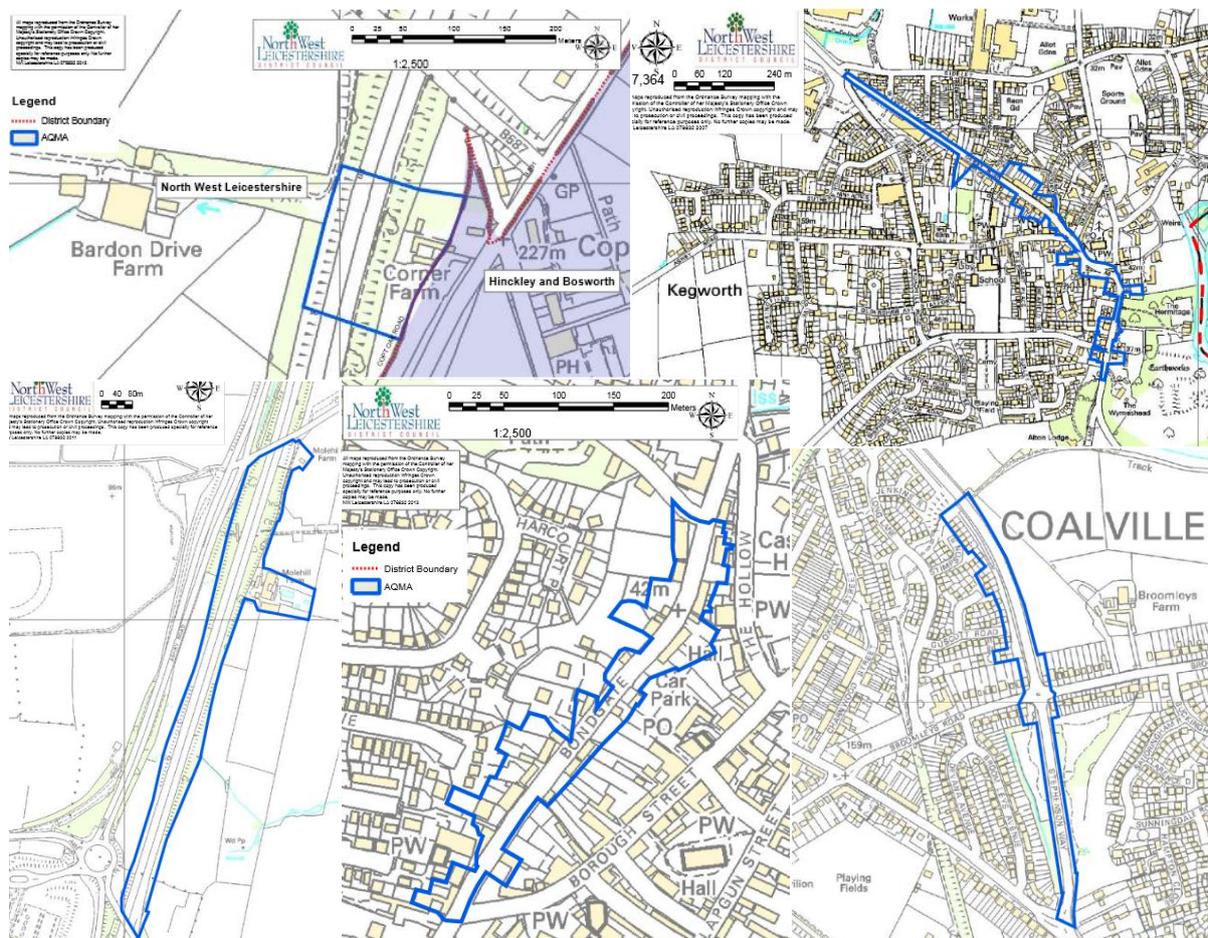


Figure 7.1: AQMA clockwise from top left: Copt Oak Road, Copt Oak; High Street, Kegworth; Stephenson Way/Bardon Road, Coalville; High Street/Bondgate, Castle Donington and M1 Mole Hill, Kegworth (source: http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/air_quality OS under NWL licence)

7.3.4 The principle noise sources in the district are from road traffic, in particular the motorways and major trunk roads and the East Midlands Airport. There are also occasional noisy activities, such as from events at Donington Park, including motorsport and festivals.

7.3.5 Existing noise sources will need to be taken into account when planning new development so as to be in keeping with national standards, such as British Standards on noise.

7.3.6 The airport is already a source of many noise complaints with the increasing role as a freight hub requiring night flights. Older, noisier aircraft are banned in the designated night time hours, although they often do fly and as a result are fined. The airport has measures in place to monitor and manage aircraft noise. This includes monitoring systems to help monitor existing noise with the purpose of improving performance. The monitoring system tracks planes and enables production of community noise reports and enforcement of night noise fines. There are permanent noise monitors in Castle Donington, Kegworth, Sutton Bonington,

Weston upon Trent and Wilson, also a portable noise monitor is also used to enable monitoring in other locations. On a monthly basis, community noise reports are prepared for Castle Donington and Kegworth and are published online. The airport also publishes Noise Preferential Route and Continuous Descent Approach compliance statistics for major airlines.

7.4 Issues

- There are five AQMA identified in the plan area. The need to avoid further deterioration in these areas is an essential consideration for new development, with the particular importance of considering cumulative effects.
- There is the potential for adverse impacts on wellbeing if inappropriate new development is located near a major source of noise, including the airport and new roads.

8 Climate Change

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 This chapter covers both climate change mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation includes details of the existing carbon emission in the district and potential for renewable energy, with adaptation focusing on flooding issues.

8.2 Context

National

8.2.1 The **NPPF** makes clear the importance of planning in helping to address climate change as part of delivering sustainable development (paragraph 7) referring to its role in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

8.2.2 Section 10 of the NPPF relates specifically to climate change and the role in helping to secure “*radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimising vulnerability and providing resilience to the impacts of climate change*”.

8.2.3 To support a move to a low carbon future, local authorities should plan for new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Also, to help “*increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy, local planning authorities should recognise the responsibility of all communities to contribute to energy generation from renewable or low carbon sources*” (paragraph 97).

8.2.4 Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk, but where development is necessary, making it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere.

8.2.5 The **2008 Climate Change Act** establishes a legally binding climate change target to reduce the UK’s greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% (from a 1990 baseline) by 2050. This includes meeting an interim target of 34% by 2020.

8.2.6 **The National Adaptation Programme** (2013) highlights the importance of adaptation to help the UK become more resilient to climate change. It also reiterates the need for Local Plans to be proactive in adaptation as set out in the NPPF.

8.2.7 **Climate Change Adaptation by Design** (TCPA), a guide for sustainable communities, considers the climatic changes ahead and the corresponding impacts on the built environment and urban form and proposes a framework for delivering adaptation action at the regional and local levels, together with some guidance on creating local adaptation strategies, which include:

- Managing high temperatures, flood risks, water resources and water quality, and ground conditions at the conurbation, neighbourhood, and building scale; and
- Details on some of the key technologies available to help manage climatic risks.

8.2.8 **The Flood and Water Management Act** (2010) sets out the following approaches to flood risk management:

- Incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings, and retrofitting at risk properties (including historic buildings);

- Utilising the environment, such as management of the land to reduce runoff and harnessing the ability of wetlands to store water; and Identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage.

8.2.9 **The National Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England** encourages more effective risk management by enabling people, communities, business, infrastructure operators and the public sector to work together to:

- ensure a clear understanding of the risks of flooding and coastal erosion, nationally and locally, so that investment in risk management can be prioritised more effectively;
- set out clear and consistent plans for risk management so that communities and businesses can make informed decisions about the management of the remaining risk;
- manage flood and coastal erosion risks in an appropriate way, taking account of the needs of communities and the environment;
- ensure that emergency plans and responses to flood incidents are effective and that communities are able to respond effectively to flood forecasts, warnings and advice; and
- help communities to recover more quickly and effectively after incidents.

Local

- 8.2.10 NWL District Council is committed to a **Green Footprints Challenge** with the aim of making people feel proud to be part of a greener district. With residents and businesses inspired and helped to be 'greener' with the Council demonstrating this through community leadership in being green.
- 8.2.11 Homes Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Delivery Proposal for 2013-2015 – North West Leicestershire District Council requires that HCA grant funded NWLDC funded affordable homes will meet the current Code for Sustainable Homes level. However, following the Governments Housing Standards Review, the Code for Sustainable Homes will no longer be used as the mechanism for achieving low carbon developments. Although in theory the code could still be applied voluntarily, it will not be possible to set requirements for Government funded housing schemes to meet certain levels of the CfSH.
- 8.2.12 North West Leicestershire in the HECA report identifies that they will commit to **Climate Local**. This is a Local Government Association initiative, supported by the Environment Agency Climate Ready service. Launched in June 2012, it aims to support councils both to reduce carbon emissions and to increase resilience to a changing climate. The initiative is the only one of its type in England and is the successor to the old Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, of which the Council is already a signatory.
- 8.2.13 The Carbon Reduction Target for Leicestershire, as set out in the **Carbon Reduction Strategy for Leicestershire 2013-2020** (Leicestershire Together (not dated) is to reduce emissions by 23% between 2005 and 2020 as measured by the Department of Energy and Climate Change.
- 8.2.14 The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for NWL was published in 2008, with one of the purposes being to inform the Local Plan and sustainability appraisal and to be able to identify where flood risks assessments are needed for specific development sites.
- 8.2.15 The **River Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan** sets an overview of the current flood risk and how it is currently managed, looking to the impact of climate change and future direction of flood risk management. Proposed actions to implement the preferred policy for each sub area are mapped and listed, which include key messages such as:

- To work with others to minimise disruption to people and communities caused by flooding, taking into account future climate change, and urban growth in the policy unit area;
- To aim to minimise the increase in the cost of flood damage, which may occur as a result of future climate change.
- To sustain and increase the amount of BAP habitat in catchments; and
- Working with land managers and farmers to reduce soil erosion from intensively farmed land.

8.3 Baseline

Climate Change Mitigation

- 8.3.1 The **Climate Ready Plan 2013-2016** (Leicestershire Together) summarises the climate change projections for the East Midlands. It states that past and current global greenhouse gas emissions mean that the world is already committed to some level of future climate change, so adaptation to address the resulting consequences is important. The actions it contains primarily relate to raising awareness, improving understanding of climate change impacts and vulnerability, building capacity in organisations and embedding climate change resilience into commissioning processes. They do not relate directly to spatial planning.
- 8.3.2 No climate model can give a definite answer to what the future will look like. The **UK Climate Projections 2009** (UKCP09) show a range of possible outcomes and the probability of each outcome, based on how much evidence there is for different levels of future climate change.
- 8.3.3 The headline messages are that overall Leicestershire can expect:
- Warmer summer and winter temperatures.
 - Annual precipitation levels are likely to remain roughly the same as they are now, but the seasonal pattern is likely to change. UKCP09 projects wetter winters and drier summers, with rain falling in more intense bursts.
 - More frequent severe weather events, such as heat waves, droughts and flooding.
 - A near zero change in wind speed is projected by the 2050s.
 - Winters are projected to get warmer, with fewer cold spells. However, cold spells will still occur.
- 8.3.4 A review of the DECC Renewable Energy Planning Database (REPD) revealed that there are only two operational large scale renewable energy developments in the district. This are:
- Lount/Smoile: Landfill gas that has an installed capacity of 1.07MW (electricity)
 - Green's Lodge Farm, east of Greenhill: Biomass with an installed capacity of 2MW for electricity and 2MW for heat.
- 8.3.5 The REPD shows that a 1 MW wind turbine is 'under construction' at East Midlands Airport, although this has yet to come online. A 0.5MW wind turbine has also been given permission at Cattows Farm, Heather (July 2013) although this is also awaiting construction.
- 8.3.6 The REPD also shows that a Municipal and Industrial Waste renewable energy application has been approved at Newhurst Quarry (at appeal June 2012) and is just outside the district in Charnwood. This will have an installed capacity of 21MW (electricity), dwarfing the other generation, although it still awaiting construction.

- 8.3.7 A report titled “*Low Carbon Energy Opportunities and Heat Mapping for Local Planning Areas Across the East Midlands: Final Report*” was prepared for the East Midlands Councils by Land Use Consultants, Centre for Sustainable Energy and SQW in March 2011.
- 8.3.8 A technical review of renewable energy potential for the district for 2020 to 2030 indicates that there is potential for over 255MW of electricity and 217MW of heat in 2020. This is from all sources, including small scale generation. Compared to some other districts in Leicestershire and Rutland this is a relatively small capacity, due to limited wind resource. The report identifies in the district the greatest potential is from wind energy (up to 80% of total), with solar PV the other main source. For heat the greatest potential (again up to 80% of total) is from heat pumps with solar thermal also playing a role. The full list of potential heat and electricity sources is listed in **Figure 8.1**, which is an extract from the report.

North West Leicestershire				
Technology	2020 (MW)	2020 (GWh)	2030 (MW)	2030 (GWh)
Large Wind	64.27	101.35	64.27	101.35
Medium Wind	1.83	2.89	1.83	2.89
Small Wind	104.24	164.36	104.24	164.36
Small Scale Wind <6kW	39.86	55.87	39.86	55.87
Managed Woodland (heat)	2.48	9.78	2.48	9.78
Managed Woodland (elec)	0.41	3.09	0.41	3.09
Energy Crops (heat) Medium	7.35	28.97	8.09	31.89
Energy Crops (elec) Medium	1.26	9.49	1.39	10.47
Agricultural Arisings	1.41	7.43	1.41	7.43
Waste Wood (heat)	0.63	3.29	0.69	3.63
Waste Wood (elec)	0.73	3.84	0.81	4.24
Poultry Litter	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wet Organic Waste	2.68	14.09	2.68	14.09
Biomass Co-firing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)	3.34	17.53	3.67	19.28
Commercial and Industrial	3.43	18.03	3.61	18.96
Landfill Gas	4.17	21.93	1.14	5.98
Sewage Gas	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hydro	0.54	2.79	0.54	2.79
Solar PV	27.74	21.87	29.92	23.59
Solar Thermal	22.73	9.96	24.91	10.91
Heat Pumps	184.68	420.63	190.13	433.04
Total (electricity)	255.91	444.56	255.78	434.38
Total (heat)	217.87	472.62	226.30	489.25

Figure 8.1 Technical Renewable Energy Resource Potential for North West Leicestershire (exact from *Low Carbon Energy Opportunities and Heat Mapping for Local Planning Areas Across the East Midlands: Final Report* Land Use Consultants, Centre for Sustainable Energy and SQW in March 2011)

- 8.3.9 A national heat map has been prepared by Department of Energy and Climate Change. This is primarily intended to help identify locations where local heat distribution is most likely to be beneficial and economic. Its purpose is as a tool for prioritising locations for more detailed investigation – and not as a tool for designing heat networks directly or for querying energy

bills. The map, shown in **Figure 8.2**, for NWL clear shows at present there is very little opportunity for district heat in the district.

8.3.10 As noted in the transport section NWL does have very high levels of car commuting for work, which has an inevitable impact on emission from this source.

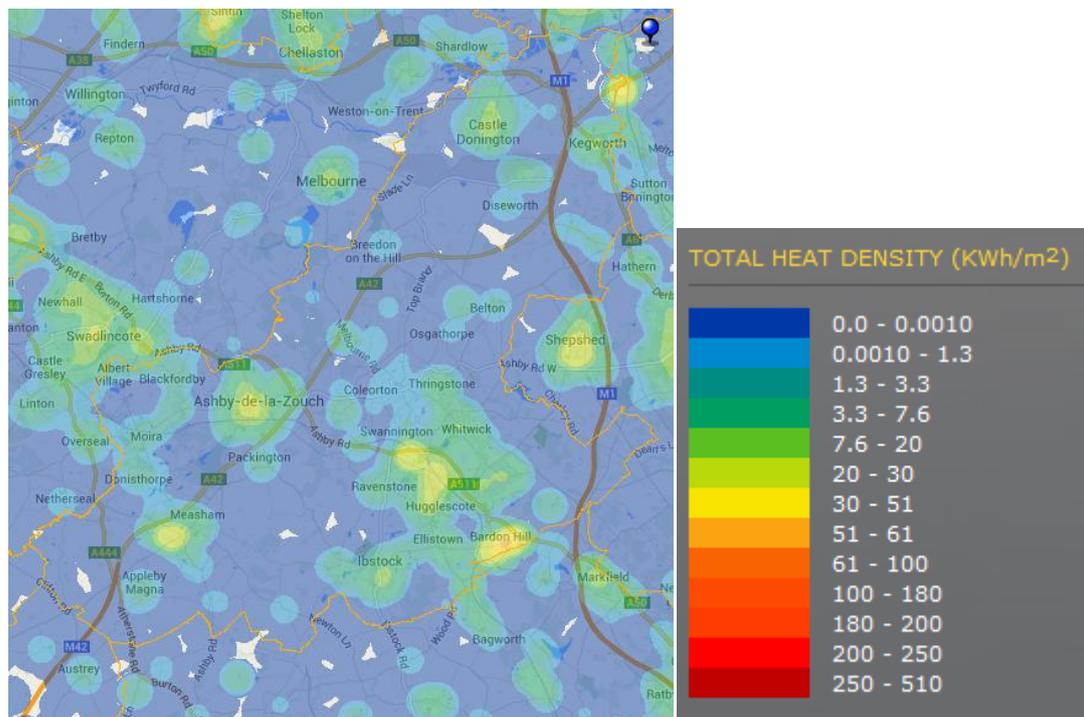


Figure 8.2: [Department of Energy and Climate Change. http://tools.decc.gov.uk/nationalheatmap/](http://tools.decc.gov.uk/nationalheatmap/) accessed 22 May 2014

8.3.11 **Figure 8.2** also shows the location of the 2,000 MW capacity coal fired power station just to the north of Kegworth, but outside the district at Ratcliffe-on-Soar in Nottinghamshire, a major emitter of CO₂ for the region.

8.3.12 The *Climate Change Viability Assessment for North West Leicestershire – Final Report* (December 2010), identified that a housing growth target of 9,275 new in the district would increase the energy demand by approximately 85GWh/yr. This equates to an additional 28,000 tonnes of CO₂ every year once the dwellings have been built (although this will reduce slightly as Building Regulations get more stringent).

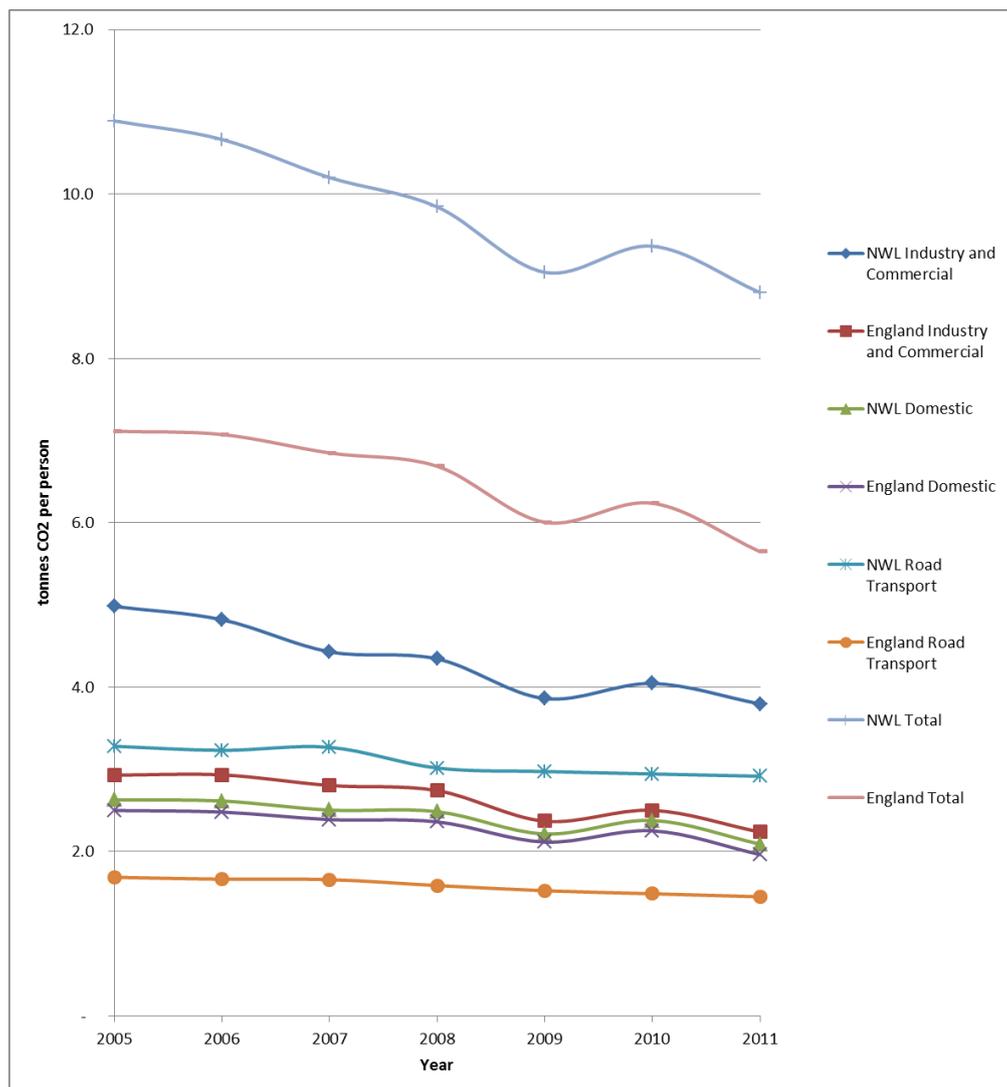


Figure 8.3: Local and Regional CO₂ Emissions Estimates for 2005-2011 for North West Leicestershire and England (CO₂ emissions within the scope of influence of Local Authorities (previously called National Indicator 186: Per capita CO₂ emissions in the LA area)

8.3.13 Data shown in **Figure 8.3** shows that the tonnes of CO₂ per capita in the district has been showing a relatively steady decline from 2005 to 2011 in the district (commercial and domestic), although this has been less marked for transport. However, NWL still has a per capita emissions well above that for England, in NWL in 2011 this was approximately 8.8 tonnes CO₂ per capita compared to England at 5.6 tonnes CO₂ per capita. Domestic per capita emissions are only marginally higher in NWL than the England level (0.1 tonne difference). Therefore, the majority of the difference can be attributed to industrial and commercial sources (NWL 1.6 tonnes above England) and transport (NWL 1.5 tonnes more than England). It may be possible to attribute the high carbon emissions partly to the airport and the road. However, as the transport chapter showed the district does have a very high level of car use in comparison other districts locally and nationally.

8.3.14 As a baseline the Developing a Carbon Reduction Strategy for Leicestershire: Carbon Reduction Strategy Evidence Base (Leicestershire Together, March 2013) report identifies that the domestic sector in Leicestershire is currently responsible for 1,450 ktCO₂ per year. Therefore, this is projected to grow in a business as usual scenario to 1,600 Kt/CO₂ per year by 2020 (a 9.4% increase). Therefore, there is a significant requirement to improve carbon

emissions from homes, with the greatest savings potential for improvements to existing stock as well as building carbon efficient new homes.

- 8.3.15 The Carbon Reduction baseline also considers carbon emissions from transport. A benchmark figure for the carbon emissions from transport for this task has been produced from Leicester & Leicestershire Integrated Transport Model (LLITM) output data. For 2011 LLITM predicts 1,679 tonnes of carbon per average weekday (12 hour period) from all highway transport sources in Leicestershire. This equates to 6,218 tonnes of CO₂ per average 12 hour weekday. When scaling to a full year this gives an annual emissions figure of 2,190ktonnes CO₂ per annum. The report predicts carbon from transport may increase in the order of 5.9% from 2008 to 2031. Therefore, consideration is being given to broad transport policy instruments to achieve a behavioural change and reduce car transport and therefore reduce emissions as a solution to the upward trend.

Climate Change adaptation: Flooding

- 8.3.16 NWL lies wholly within the catchment of the River Trent. There is a watershed within the district at Coalville where watercourses either flow approximately north or south. The north of the district drains to the Lower Trent either directly or via the River Soar, whilst the south of the district flows via the River Mease or the River Sence to the Upper Trent. The Lower Trent is considered to be the catchment contributing to the River Trent downstream of the confluence with the River Dove in Derbyshire.
- 8.3.17 NWL District is adjacent to Charnwood through which the River Soar flows before entering North West Leicestershire. There are a large number of properties within the adjoining Boroughs that are susceptible to flooding from the River Trent and the River Soar, and future development within NWL must be carefully managed to ensure that this risk of flooding is not exacerbated and contributes to a reduction in flood risk elsewhere where feasible.
- 8.3.18 Within NWL fluvial flooding represents the primary source of flood risk. In the north and east of the district this is from the River Trent and River Soar, and in the south and west from the River Mease and the River Sence (North West Leicestershire District Council, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, 2008).
- 8.3.19 The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment covers the detailed flooding issues in the district. However, **Figure 8.4** shows the overall identified flood risk areas as defined by the Environment Agency. This map shows areas in Flood Zone 3 (dark blue); these are areas either of 'Functional Floodplain' (Zone 3b) or areas with a high risk of flood (more than 1 in 100 annual chance of flooding from rivers, Zone 3a). It also shows lighter blue areas, where the risk of flood is 1 in 100 to 1 in 1000 annual risk of flooding from rivers (Flood Zone 2).
- 8.3.20 It should be noted that **Figure 8.4** does not include risk of surface water flooding, which can be related to overcapacity of sewers, culverted rivers and natural topography. NWL has a sewerage system mainly based on Victorian sewers, which presents a local risk of surface water flooding.
- 8.3.21 Further potential sources of flooding are canal infrastructure failure, surface water flooding and groundwater rising from former coal mining areas (North West Leicestershire District Council, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, 2008). These areas are less straightforward to identify.

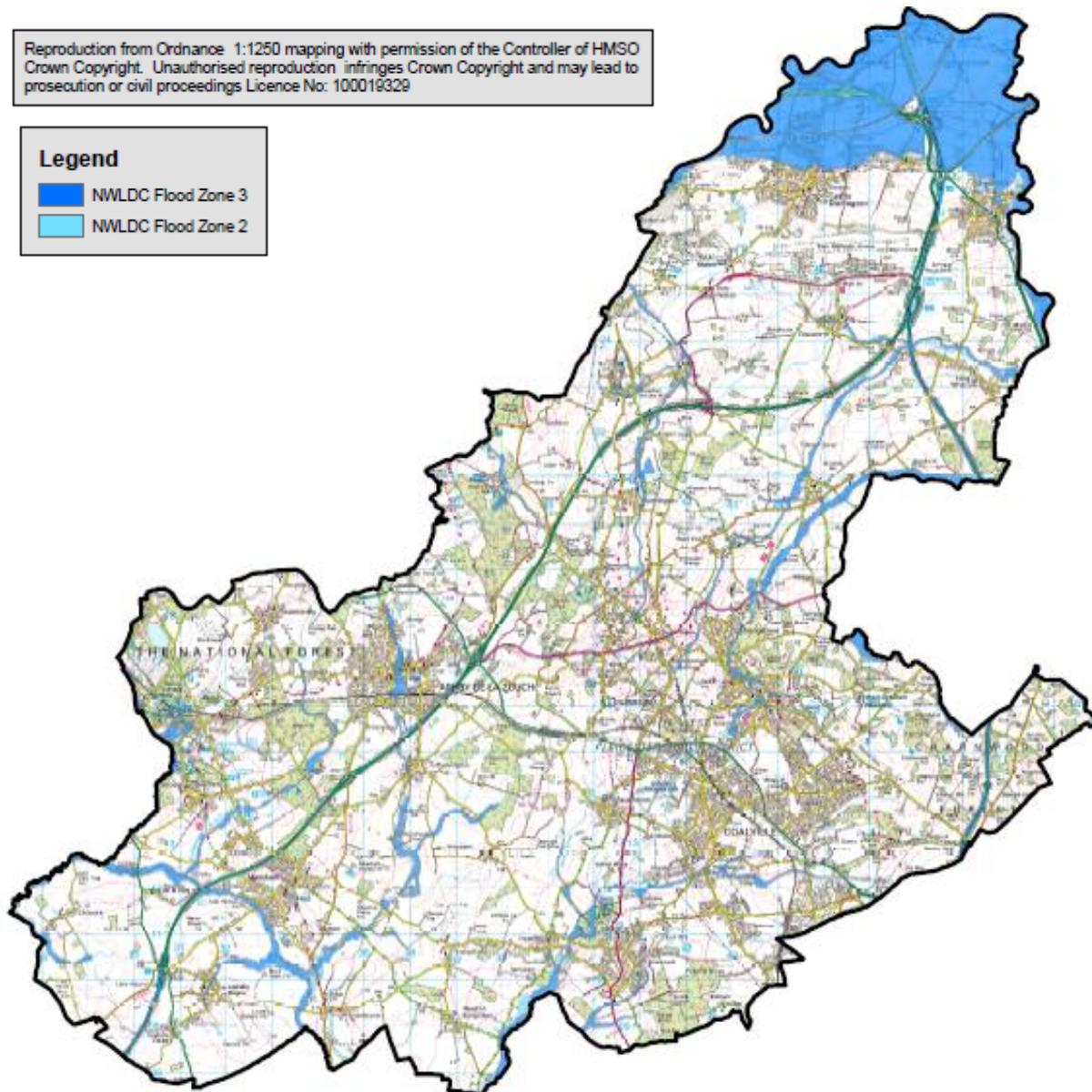


Figure 8.4: Flood Zones 2 and 3 (combined) for the district

8.3.22 **Figure 8.4** gives a general impression of the flood risk areas of the district. The figure shows the northern parts of the district are at high risk of fluvial flooding. For example, areas such as the Willow Farm Business Park and the village of Hemmington fall entirely within Flood Zone 3. This area of flood risk extends to the northern boundary of Castle Donington and into Kegworth. Other areas at risk of flooding are central Ashby-de-la-Zouch and parts of the wider Coalville Urban Area including Thringston and Whitwick. The south west boundary to Measham is also defined by areas at risk of flooding.

8.3.23 Figure 8.4 provides a generalised impression of flood risk in the district and evidently there are many areas at risk of flood that need to be investigated at a finer grain as part of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

8.4 Issues

- High carbon emissions per head characterise the district. Where possible these will need to be addressed in the design and delivery of new development and solutions for existing development.
- There is limited renewable energy generation in the district and opportunities to increase capacity, both major renewable development and micro-renewables, should be sought.
- Some parts of the district are at very high risk of flooding. Advice and guidance from the NPPF, Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authority (Leicestershire County Council) will need to be followed to ensure development does not increase the risk of flooding on or off-site and reduces flood risk elsewhere where feasible
- It is important to become more resilient to the wider effects of climate change through adaptation measures. Green Infrastructure presents opportunities to address multiple issues through multifunctional spaces.

9 Biodiversity and Geodiversity

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 This chapter identifies the biodiversity and geodiversity assets, including designated sites and wider information available on nature conservation in the district.

9.2 Context

National

9.2.1 **European Union Habitats Directive** (92/43/EEC) requires Member States to create an ecological network to protect threatened habitats and species. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) form part of this network.

9.2.2 The European Commission Guidance on **Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment** (2013) suggests that an SEA should focus on ensuring 'no-net-loss of biodiversity' before considering mitigation and compensation. The assessment should also take account of 'ecosystem services' and the links between natural environment and economy.

9.2.3 The **Natural Environment White Paper** (2012) states that there is a need to halt the overall decline in biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services; and restore them in so far as feasible and seek to deliver net gains in biodiversity where possible .

9.2.4 **Biodiversity 2020** is the Government's Strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services. It encapsulates the aims of the EU Biodiversity Strategy and seeks to achieve the following outcomes by 2020:

- More, bigger and less fragmented areas for wildlife. No net loss of priority habitat and a net increase in priority habitats.
- Restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems as a contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- An overall improvement in the status of species and prevention of further human-induced extinctions.
- Improved engagement in biodiversity issues.

9.2.5 The Wildlife Trust guidance document *A Living Landscape* says that Local plans should adopt a 'landscape approach' to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. This focuses on the conservation of biodiversity over large areas of land (i.e. at the landscape scale) where habitat patches that are now fragmented would once have functioned more as an interconnected whole.

9.2.6 **NPPF** recognises the need for planning to "*contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment*" (NPPF paragraph 109). In particular minimising the impact on, enhancing and reversing the decline in biodiversity, in line with the Government's target. Ecological networks are identified as measures enhance the resilience and ecosystem services to recognise the value of biodiversity.

9.2.7 The **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act** (2006), Section 40: Duty to conserve biodiversity states:

“Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity”.

- 9.2.8 The NPPF identifies how planning system should protect and enhance geological conservation interests.
- 9.2.9 **Natural England’s Standing Advice on Protected Species** (Nov, 2014) provides advice to planning officers to ensure that developments stay within the law with regards to protected species. Although this advice is primarily aimed at applications for planning permission, the principles are relevant to the Local Plan. In particular, and in selecting preferred locations for development, steps should be taken to avoid harm to protected species. Appropriate mitigation measures will also need to be established, followed by compensation as a last resort.
- 9.2.10 Developments should also aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity. However, if a development affects European protected species and a licence will be required, Natural England will only be looking for proportionate mitigation and compensation measures, not enhancements.
- 9.2.11 **Planning for a healthy environment - good practice guidance for green infrastructure** (GI) and biodiversity provides guidance for practitioners to ensure nature is taken into account when shaping local areas. The guide has been prepared with input from statutory and non-statutory organisations with expertise in planning green infrastructure and biodiversity. Endorsed by more than 30 organisations, it distils the best approaches and good practice; signposts sources of further detailed information; and summarises the latest policy drivers such as:
- GI needs to be strategically planned to provide a comprehensive and integrated network;
 - GI requires wide partnership buy-in, and needs to be planned using sound evidence;
 - GI needs to demonstrate ‘multi-functionality’, with creation and maintenance needed to be properly resourced;
 - GI needs to be central to the development’s design and must reflect and enhance the area’s locally distinctive character;
 - GI should contribute to biodiversity gain by safeguarding, enhancing, restoring, and creating wildlife habitat and by integrating biodiversity into the built environment;
 - GI should achieve physical and functional connectivity between sites at strategic and local levels; and,
 - GI needs to include accessible spaces and facilitate physically active travel, and be integrated with other policy initiatives.

Local

- 9.2.12 The **6C’s Green Infrastructure Strategy** (2010) outlines objectives for the East Midlands region, in relation to biodiversity, objective 14 states:

“Reverse the decline in biodiversity by countering habitat fragmentation through investment in substantial habitat restoration and creation, informed by biodiversity opportunity mapping methods”.

9.3 Baseline

9.3.1 Biodiversity in the East Midlands is at the lowest level for any English region, having been in decline for the past 200 years. Although the region does hold some areas of national importance for species and habitats, these are generally small and isolated, and surrounded by a matrix of little natural or semi-natural habitat (Natural England, 2009).

Designations

9.3.2 There is one internationally designed nature conservation area in the district, the River Mease Special Area of Conservation (SAC), as shown in **Figure 9.1**.

9.3.3 The River Mease is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) due to the importance of the species and habitats it supports.

9.3.4 The River Mease is approximately 25km in length and comprises the lower reaches of the Gilwiskaw Brook downstream of Packington, and the River Mease downstream of its confluence with the Gilwiskaw Brook and runs across three counties; Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire.

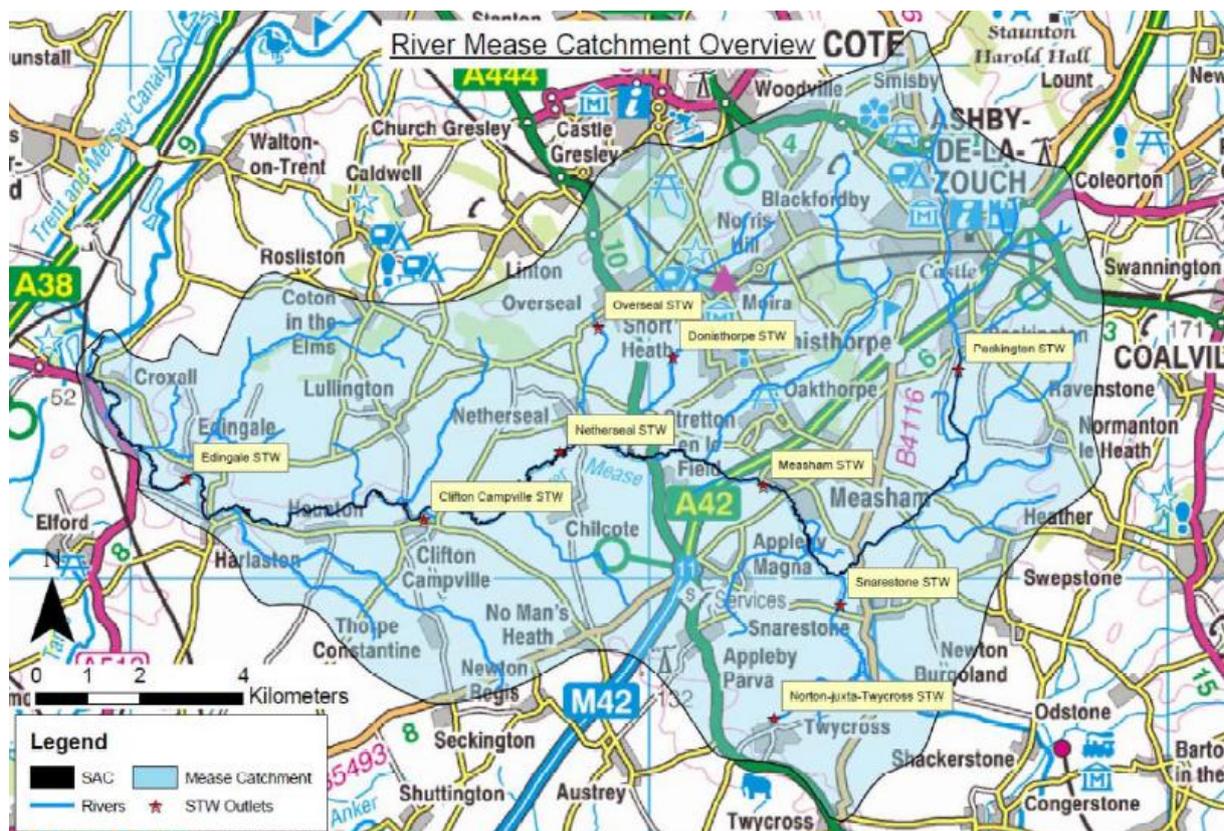


Figure 9.1: River Mease Catchment Overview (extract: North West Leicestershire Annual Monitoring Report 2012/13)

9.3.5 The River Mease and Gilwiskaw Brook are special lowland rivers as they are relatively unspoilt and support populations of:

- spined loach (*Cobitis taenia*) and
- bullhead (*Cottus gobio*), two notable species of native freshwater fish that have a restricted distribution in England.

- 9.3.6 This is why the rivers were designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the EU Habitats Directive, and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. The rivers also support populations of white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*), otter (*Lutra lutra*) and a range of river plants such as water crow-foot (*Ranunculus sp.*)
- 9.3.7 In March 2012 Natural England finalised a Restoration Plan and technical document to support the improvement of the River and restore features on which protected wildlife depends.
- 9.3.8 Surveys by the Environment Agency showed the water quality in the river to be poor, mainly due to high phosphorous levels and this was having an effect on the nature conservation value of the river. These elevated phosphorus levels were in part due to the outfalls from waste water treatment works in the district. Therefore, as a precautionary measure, since 2009, new development within the River Mease catchment area has been restricted, leading to delays in planning applications.
- 9.3.9 Following a period of consultation, the Council agreed a new Developer Contribution Strategy (DCS) in October 2012, to ensure developers make a direct contribution to the conservation of the water quality in the River Mease.
- 9.3.10 The scheme necessitates that a significant contribution from developers is required where proposals would increase the amount of waste water discharge into the river Mease. The DCS works alongside measures to impose stricter limits on phosphorous levels at a number of local water treatment works, most importantly Packington and Measham works. These limits combined with the DCS will help to reduce phosphorous levels in the river and its habitats. The scheme directly funds improvements to the water quality. The Annual Monitoring Report 2012/2013 reports contributions amounting to £106,381.00 have been received.
- 9.3.11 A Water Quality Management Plan has been established for the river Mease (River Mease Special Area of Conservation Water: Quality (Phosphate) Management Plan (WQMP), Jacobs Engineering U.K. Limited, 2012).
- 9.3.12 The need to protect the River Mease SAC may remain some constraint on for development that is within its catchment.
- 9.3.13 The district contains one National Nature Reserve (NNR) - Charnwood Lodge; and five Local Nature Reserves (LNR) - Moira Junction, Saltersford Wood, New Lount, Nature Alive and Snibston Grange. These are shown in the map in **Figure 9.2**.

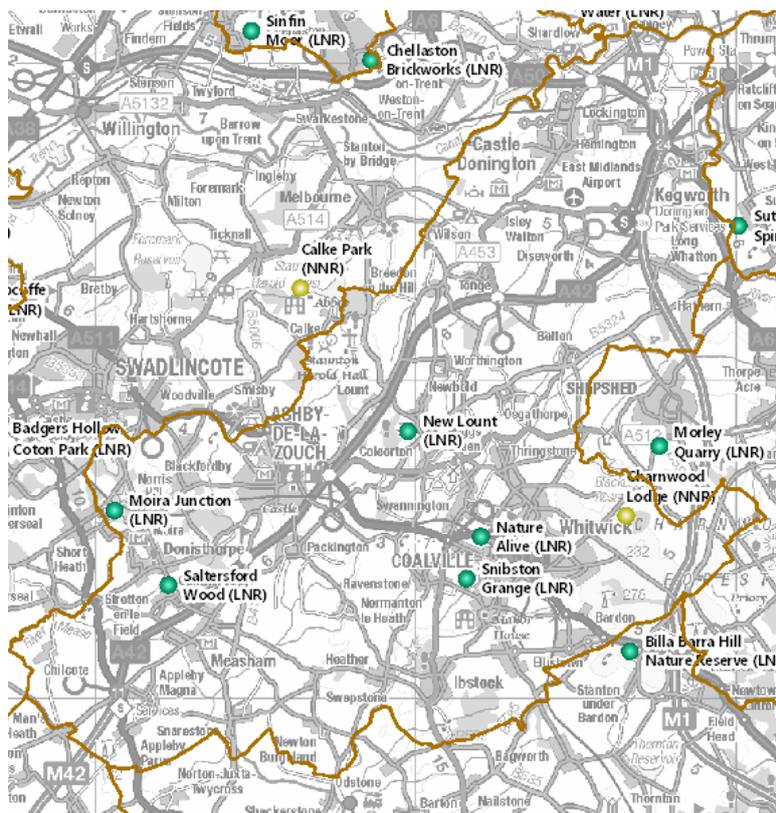


Figure 9.2: National and Local Nature Reserves (Source: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>, accessed 30.05.2014)

- 9.3.14 The coverage of SSSIs in the East Midlands region is below the national average, with individual sites generally small in size. However the condition of these has improved significantly, such that the region now has the highest percentage area (94%) of SSSI land in favourable condition in England (Natural England, 2009).
- 9.3.15 There are 17 SSSIs within NWL as shown in **Figure 9.3**. These are: Ashby Canal, Bardon Hill Quarry, Bardon Hill, Blackbrook Reservoir, Breedon Cloud Woods, Breedon Hill, Charnwood Lodge, Coalville Meadow, Dimminsdale, Donington Park, Grace Dieu & High Sharpley, Lockington Marshes, Lount Meadows, Newton Burgoland, Oakley Wood, Pasture & Asplin, and the River Mease.
- 9.3.16 The majority of the SSSIs are in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition. However Dimminsdale, Blackbrook Reservoir and Holly Rock Fields have areas in ‘unfavourable no change condition’, and Grace Dieu and High Sharley has areas of ‘unfavourable no change’ and ‘unfavourable declining condition’. The primary reason for this is inappropriate management leading to scrub encroachment, rather than related to development.
- 9.3.17 Three of the SSSIs in the NWL are designed for the geodiversity interest, these are Grace Dieu & High Sharpley, Breedon Cloud Woods and Quarry and Bardon Hill Quarry. Only the latter is designated solely for geology and the other two also are designated for their biodiversity interest. The sites are identified as being in favourable condition.

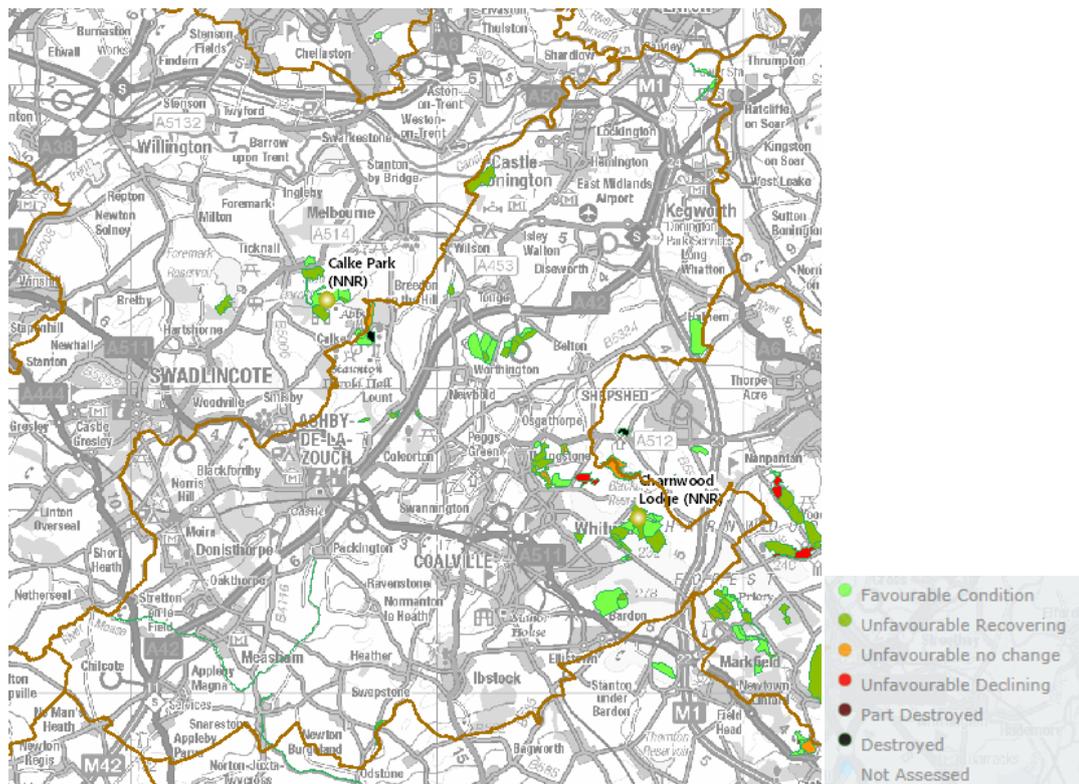


Figure 9.3: Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) (Source: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>, accessed 30.05.2014)

Biodiversity Action Plans

- 9.3.18 Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) are the UK government's response to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). However, these Biodiversity Action Planning is now replaced by The 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework' (July 2012) covers the period from 2011 to 2020 and replaces the UK Biodiversity Action Plan process. This is in response to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The focus is now on county-level biodiversity management.
- 9.3.19 Many of the tools developed under UK BAP remain of use, for example, background information about the lists of priority habitats and species. The lists of priority species and habitats agreed under UK BAP still form the basis of much biodiversity work in the plan area.
- 9.3.20 There are two Local BAPs relevant to North West Leicestershire: Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, 2010) and National Forest Biodiversity Action Plan (National Forest, 2004). BAP habitat types are available from the government online mapping resource www.magic.gov.uk.
- 9.3.21 The Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan consists of 19 Habitat Action Plans and 16 Species Action Plans (Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, 2010). Those covering habitats of national importance are:

- Broadleaved woodland;
- Calcareous grassland;
- Eutrophic standing water;
- Field margins;

- Heath-grassland;
- Hedgerows;
- Lowland wood-pasture and parkland;
- Mesotrophic lakes;
- Neutral grassland;
- Reedbed; and
- Wet woodland.

9.3.22 The habitats of local importance are:

- Fast-flowing streams;
- Floodplain wetland;
- Mature trees;
- Roadside verges;
- Rocks and built structures;
- Sphagnum ponds;
- Springs and flushes; and
- Urban habitat.

9.3.23 The BAP also has 16 species Action Plans these are:

- Barn owl;
- Bats;
- Black Hairstreak Butterfly;
- Black Poplar;
- Dingy Skipper and Grizzled Skipper;
- Dormouse;
- Nightingale;
- Otter;
- Purple Small-Reed;
- Redstart;
- Sand Martin;
- Violet Helleborine;
- Water Vole;
- White-Clawed Crayfish; and
- Wood Vetch.

9.3.24 The National Forest Biodiversity Action Plan consists of 18 Habitat Action Plans and 9 Species Action Plans (National Forest, 2004). The Habitat Action Plan are:

- Ancient semi natural woodland, Orchards, Plantation woodland, Wet woodland

- Lowland wood pasture and parkland with mature trees
- Lowland dry and acid grassland
- Neutral grassland
- Roadside verges
- Wet grassland and floodplain grazing marsh
- Lowland heathland
- Wetland
- Linear waters
- Open waters (ponds and lakes)
- Reedbeds
- Farmland
- Ancient and species rich hedgerows
- Field margins
- Urban

9.3.25 The Species Action Plans are:

- Adder
- Barn owl
- Bats
- Black poplar
- Bluebell
- Otter
- Redstart
- Ruddy darter dragonfly
- Water vole

9.3.26 The other source of information on species and habitats in the district is the comprehensive Phase 1 Habitat Survey completed of the whole area. This is the *North West Leicestershire Phase 1 Habitat Survey 2006-2009*. The full report and maps are available on the Evidence Base documents for the Core Strategy. The survey mapped and described 23 habitat types in the district, making field notes and identifying species present. The stated purpose is to help define biodiversity policy, identifying habitats for nature conservation, inform planning applications and find priorities for enhancements. It is not possible to reproduce the finding here, but as a resource it will also be useful in the assessment of suitability of site for allocation in the Local Plan.

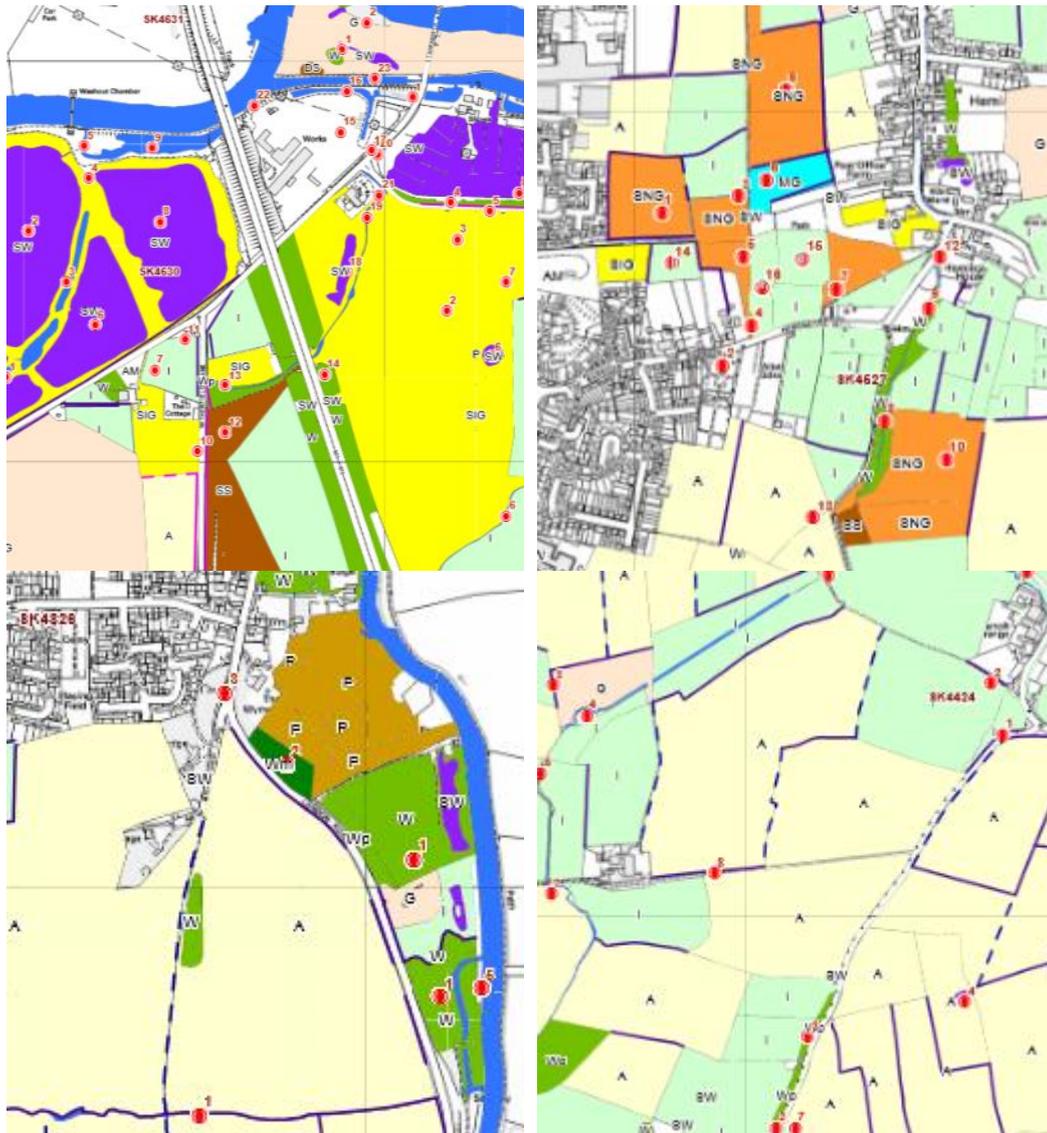


Figure 9.1: Example extracts from the North West Leicestershire Habitat Survey 2006-2009

9.4 Issues

- The district has few habitats that are of national status or above for their nature conservation value. Therefore there is the need to protect and enhance the assets that do exist.
- There is a detailed evidence base of the nature conservation assets in the district, this has the potential to be extremely useful in development planning and protecting these assets.
- The River Mease SAC is at risk from adverse effects from waste water treatment outflows that have introduced damagingly high level of phosphates into the river. This may have implications of the deliverability of housing in the area and identifies the need to avoid or mitigate any further adverse impacts.
- Protect existing areas designated for the geological importance from harm.
- Make use of Green Infrastructure to help protect and enhance wildlife habitats and the connections between them.

10 Landscape and Land

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 This chapter covers topics associated with the character of the landscape as well as open space and soil assets in the district.

10.2 Context

10.2.1 The European Landscape Convention (ELC) (2000) promotes the planning, management and protection of landscapes, and is the first international convention with a specific focus on landscape.

10.2.2 The **NPPF** states that Local Planning Authorities should set out strategic policies within the Local Plan for the “conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape” (paragraph 156).

10.2.3 At a regional level, objective 12 of the East Midlands 6C’s Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy (2010) states:

“Promote the protection and management of landscape character to provide enhanced landscape settings for the built environment and to ensure that new development and GI relates to landscape character, place and context.”

10.2.4 The **NPPF** states that the planning system should protect and enhance valued soils and prevent the adverse effects of unacceptable levels of pollution. This is because soil is an essential finite resource that provides important ‘ecosystem services’, for example as a growing medium for food, timber and other crops, as a store for carbon and water, as a reservoir of biodiversity and as a buffer against pollution. Also, the NPPF expects local planning authorities to take into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. This is particularly important in plan making when decisions are made on which land should be allocated for development. Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, local planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of a higher quality

10.2.5 **Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England** (2009) sets out a vision for the future of soils in England. This is:

“By 2030, all of England’s soils will be managed sustainably and degradation threats tackled successfully. This will improve the quality of England’s soils and safeguard their ability to provide essential services for future generations”.

10.2.6 Planning decisions need to take sufficient account of soil quality in particular in cases where significant areas of the best and most versatile agricultural land may be lost to development.

10.2.7 **Nature Nearby, Accessible Green space Guidance** (March 2010) sets guidance on how to provide high quality access to the natural environment in green spaces close to home, providing example sites for parks and greenspace practitioners, visitor service and quality standards to meet:

- An Accessibility and Quantity Standard – to ensure equitable provision both close to home and within sustainable transport distances;
- Service Standards – for core services and facilities for each site type

- A national Quality Standard – i.e. the Green Flag Award scheme.

10.3 Baseline

Landscape Designations

10.3.1 There are no nationally designated landscapes within NWL. However, there are local landscape designations that seek to protect certain characteristics of the landscape, such as 'openness'. For example, Green Wedges and Areas of Separation and intended to prevent settlement coalescence and retain individual character to towns and villages. However, these are not based on the quality of the land. **Figure 10.1** shows these designations, as well as those that are more quality based such as the two Areas of Particularly Attractive Countryside in the west and east of the district, although this type of local quality designation is not encouraged in current local policy, where the aim is to take an approach that treats each landscape area on its merits...

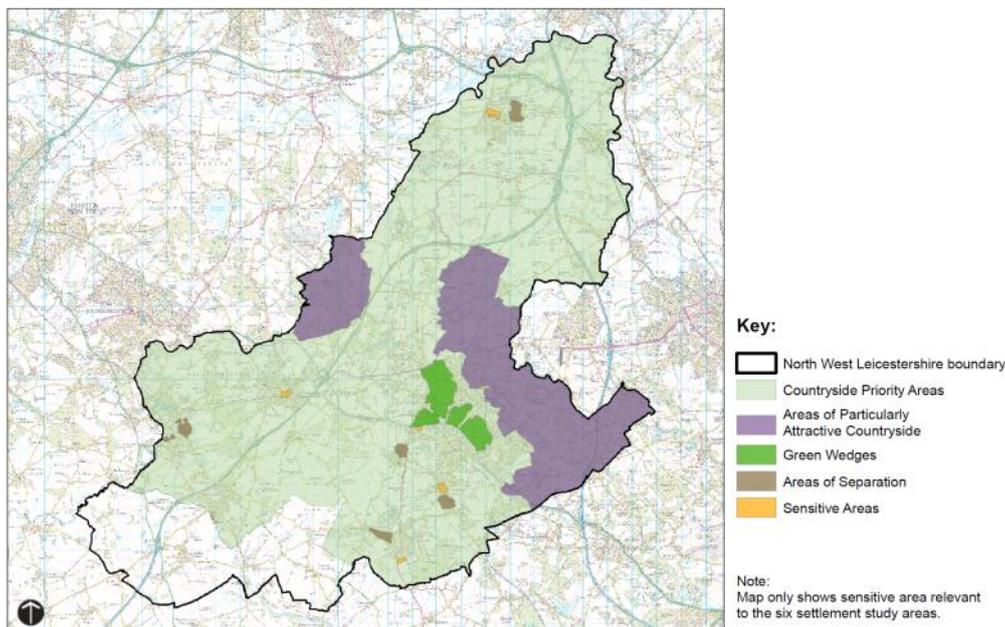


Figure 10.1: Local landscape designations (Source: (Settlement Fringe Study, North West Leicestershire, 2010⁹)

Landscape Character Assessments

10.3.2 There are numerous landscape character studies covering the district. The studies that have informed them range in scale from being part of national assessments of character to those done on a more local scale. Figures 10.2 to 10.4 show the different character areas identified in each study. These all show a clear pattern of landscape character, although each calls the areas slightly different names and the borders of each area vary. The four/five main regions are:

- A northern area extending to just south of the airport that is characterised as a valley or floodplain;

9

http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/appendix_a_maps_1_to_51/Appendix%20A%20Maps%201%20to%2005.pdf (accessed 30/5/14)

- Further south a central belt extending to the area around the A512, characterised as lowlands, parkland or village farmlands;
- The eastern part of the district extending west to Coalville is a forested area, identified as Charnwood Forest or ‘ancient wooded hills’;
- The southern part of the district around Appleby Magna is the Mease / Sense Lowlands; and
- The remainder of the district that makes up much of the central southern area is identified as the coalfield, and is the location of many of the district’s towns and villages.

10.3.3 Five National Character Areas, as identified by Natural England, occur within NWL, as shown in **Figure 10.2**. These are: Trent Valley Washlands (69), Melbourne Parklands (70), Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield (71), Mease/Sence Lowlands (72), and Charnwood (73).

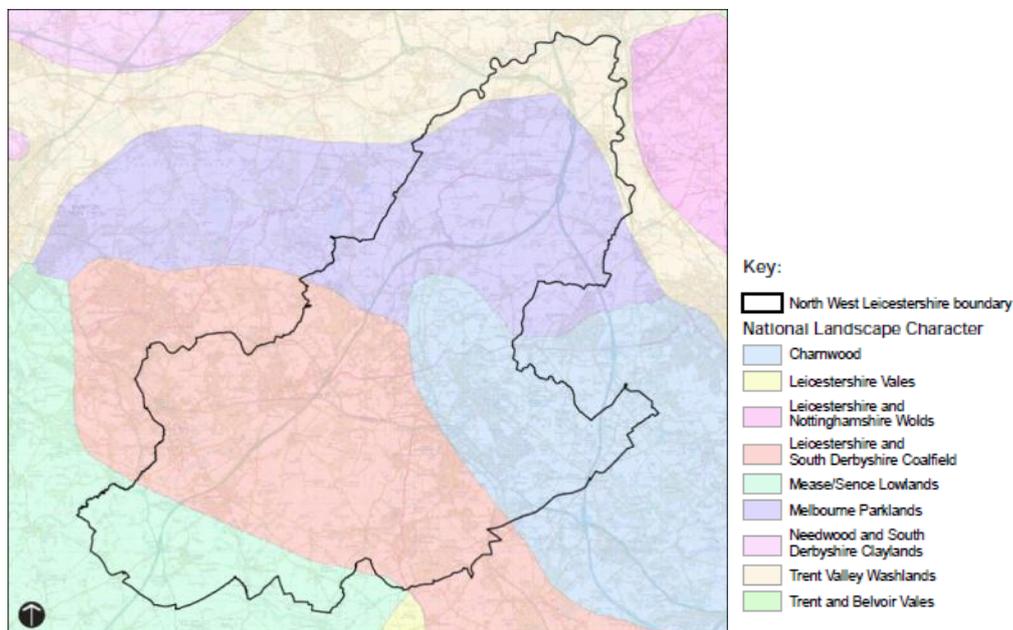


Figure 10.2: National Landscape Character Areas (Source: (Settlement Fringe Study, North West Leicestershire, 2010¹⁰)

10.3.4 The East Midlands Region Landscape Character Assessment identifies 31 landscape character types, eight of these types are found within NWL and are shown in **Figure 10.3**.

¹⁰ ibid

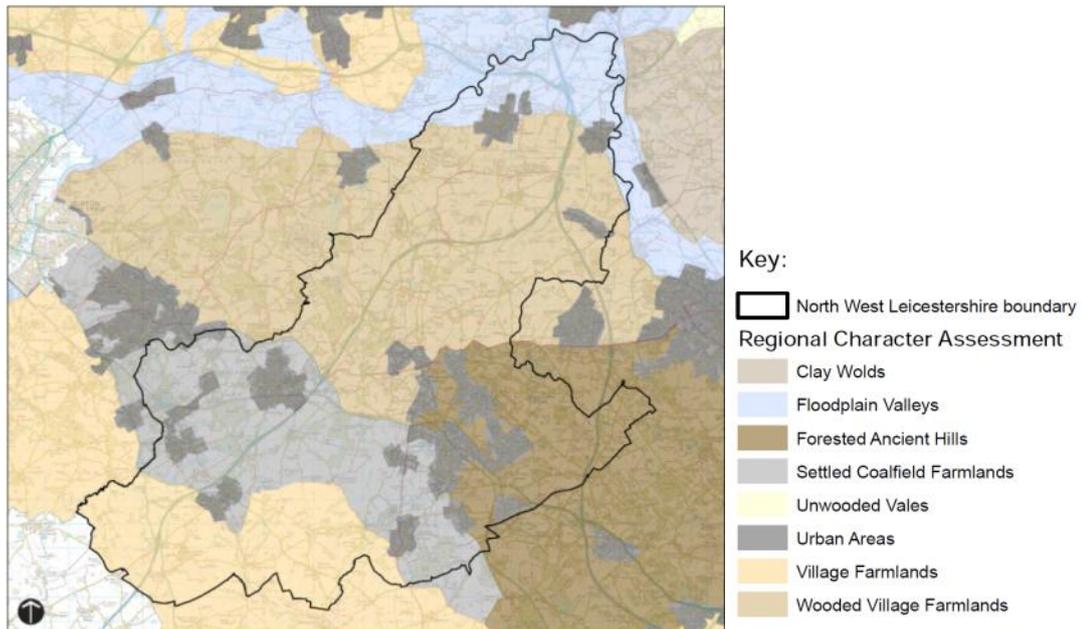


Figure 10.3: East Midlands Region Landscape Character Areas (Source: (North West Leicestershire, 2010)¹¹)

10.3.5 The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Landscape and Woodland Strategy (Leicestershire County Council, 2001) provides a county scale landscape character assessment.

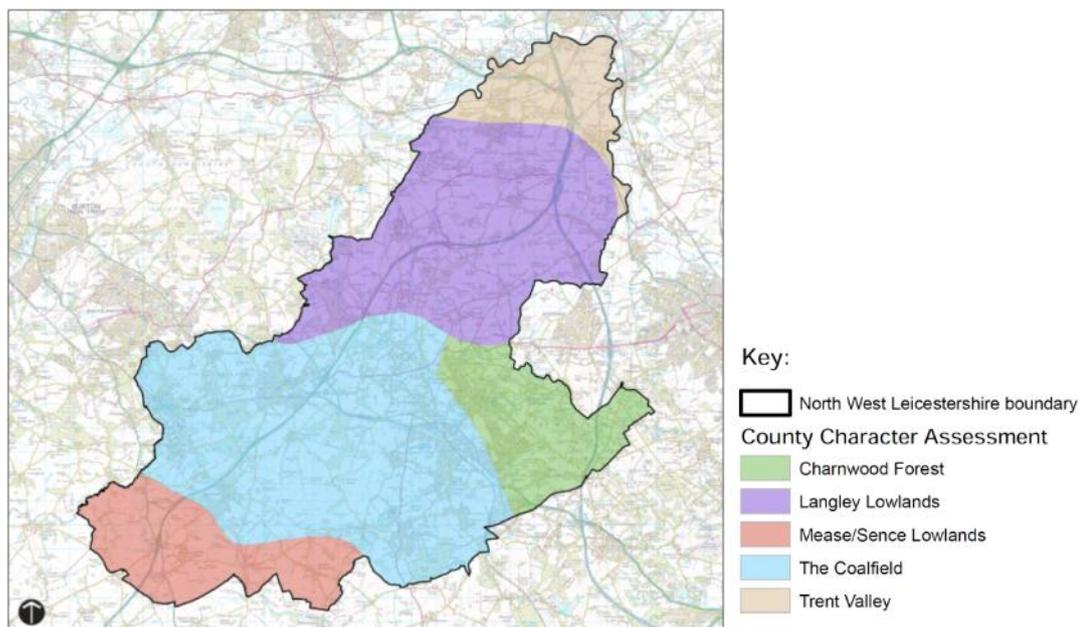


Figure 10.4: Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Landscape and Woodland Strategy (Source: Settlement Fringe Study, North West Leicestershire, 2010)¹²

10.3.6 Key characteristics for each of the county character areas are:

Charnwood Forest

¹¹ ibid

¹² ibid

- Key characteristics: upland landscape, high woodland cover, part of National Forest, sites of ecological value. Mix of woodland, farmland, heathland and parkland. Local stone used in buildings and walls.
- Key issues: woodland and hedgerow management, condition of drystone walls, insensitive built development, quarry extensions, visitor pressures.
- Langley Lowlands
- Key characteristics: rolling landform, with woodlands and hedgerow trees providing a well wooded appearance, quarries, parkland, villages linked by winding lanes.
- Key issues: decline of woodland, quarry extensions, pressure on hedgerows due to arable intensification, road widening and improvements, expansion of East Midlands Airport.

Mease/Sence Lowlands

- Key characteristics: undulating landscape with many small valleys, well-treed appearance due to frequent hedgerow trees, however little woodland, mixed arable and pasture, many sites of ecological value.
- Key issues: hedgerow condition, due to loss and ageing of species and inappropriate species, loss of field ponds, conversion of pasture to arable.

The Coalfield

- Key characteristics: gently undulating landform, low woodland cover, however most of area within National Forest, effects of coal and clay industry, settlement in form of dense former mining towns, mixed farmland.
- Key issues: loss of trees and hedgerows, and poor management of hedgerows, potential high visibility of new development due to open character of landscape, restoration of former mineral workings.

Trent Valley

- Key characteristics: flat open floodplain supporting a range of wetland habitats, lack of woodland, mixture of arable and pasture with small areas of parkland, influence of energy and transport infrastructure.
- Key issues: road, industrial and extractive development, loss of hedgerows, loss of small streams and drainage ditches.

National Forest

- 10.3.7 NWL lies at the heart of the National Forest, which spans three counties in the centre of England - Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire.
- 10.3.8 The East Midlands region has a low proportion of woodland cover (5%) compared to the national average of 12% cover (LDA, 2010).
- 10.3.9 The National Forest therefore aims to increase woodland cover, and is a nationally leading example of landscape scale forest creation. Eight million trees have been planted since 1995, increasing woodland cover from 6% to 20%. The aim is to achieve a third woodland cover, once planting is complete (National Forest, 2014). **Figure 10.5** shows the location and the tree cover as at 2013.

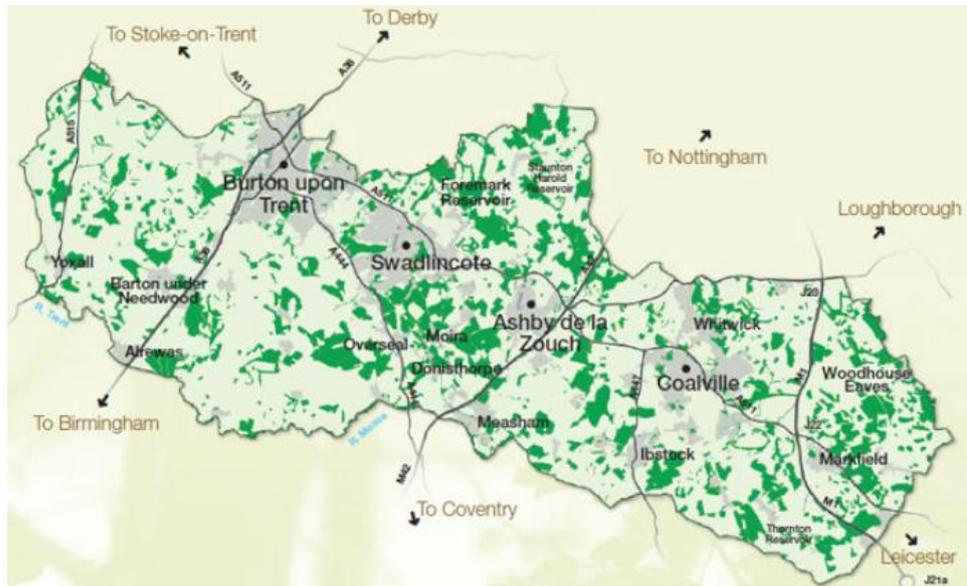


Figure 10.5: National Forest extent and proportion of woodland cover 2013 (National Forest, 2014)

Charnwood Forest Regional Park

10.3.10 Charnwood Forest Regional Park is an area within the east of the National Forest, as shown in **Figure 10.6**. It is a distinctive upland landscape, with geology of international importance and rich biodiversity. Agricultural land use and quarries throughout the area also provide historical context for a traditional working landscape.

10.3.11 The Regional Park is non-statutory designation, led by a steering group of local partners, with specific objectives for environmental, social and economic benefits.

10.3.12 The vision for the Regional Park is:

“The unique natural and cultural heritage features of Charnwood Forest will be managed and promoted through the Charnwood Forest Regional Park. The Regional Park will be recognised as an essential part of the growing communities in the Derby, Leicester and Nottingham area, now and in the future”. (Leicestershire County Council, 2010)

Charnwood Forest Regional Park

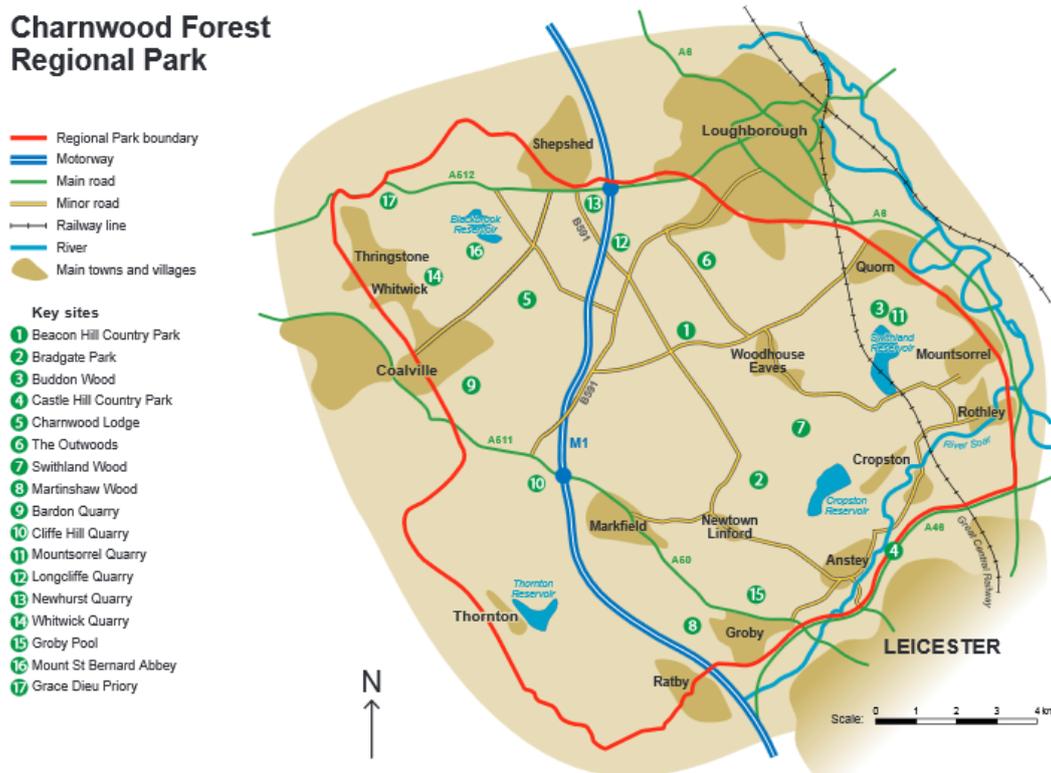


Figure 10.6: Charnwood Forest Regional Park (Leicester County Council, 2014)

Open Space

10.3.13 In 2007 an Open Space audit was completed of the district. This identified there is shortfall in provision of recreation grounds and open space, but an over provision of children’s play areas in Coalville and a slight under provision in Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

10.3.14 The open space study identified an over-provision in respect of recreation grounds in Ibstock, but under-provision in respect of children’s play areas and local open space. This is similar to Kegworth, although it is only a slight under or over provision.

10.3.15 The open space study noted that there was slight deficit in respect of both recreation grounds and local open space, but over-provision in respect of children’s play areas in Measham.

Agriculture and Land

10.3.16 **Figure 10.6** shows the Agricultural Land Classification. This map is only produced at the 1:250,000 scale and therefore is not intended to give a fine grain picture of exact soil types in fields; however it does give an indication of what types could be expected. Grade 1 is the best soil type, and does not appear to present in the district. However, NWL does contain soils that can be classed as ‘best and most versatile’ but map does not break down types into 3a (best and most versatile) and 3b (not best and most versatile) so it is not possible to get a full picture of quality.

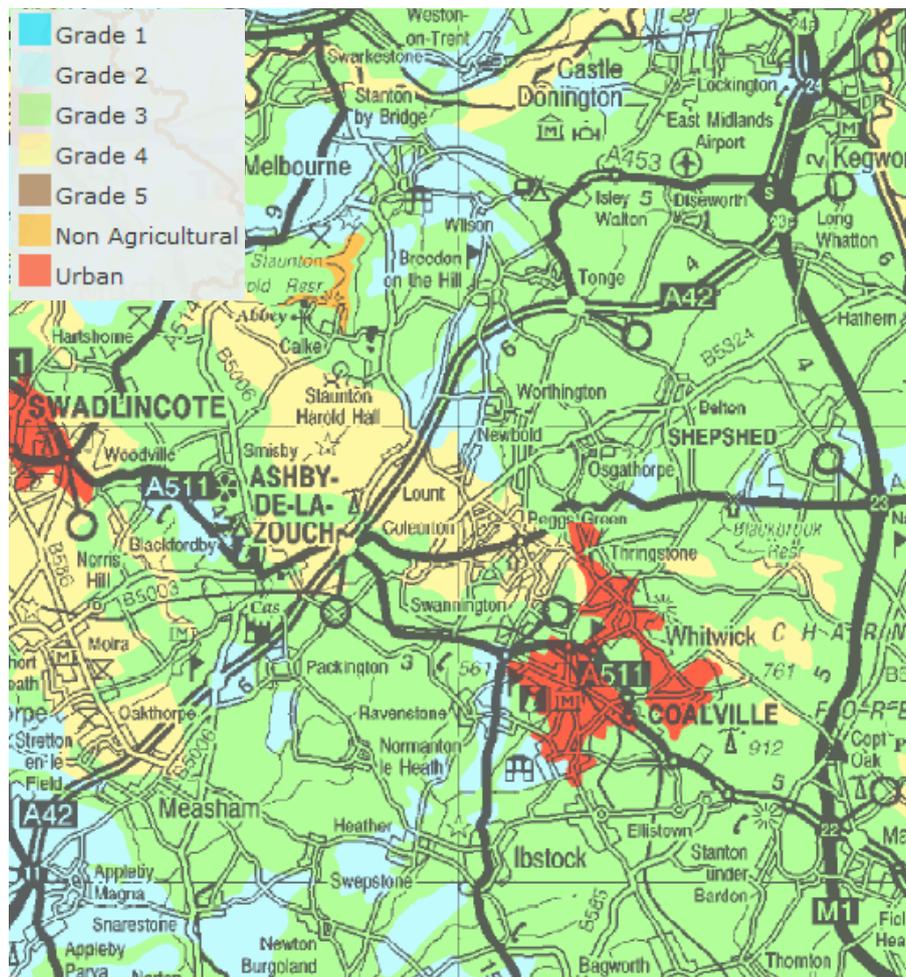


Figure 10.6: Agricultural Land Classification (extract: East Midlands Region 1:250000 scale map Natural England 2010)

10.4 Issues

- The district has a varied landscape and development should respect its landscape setting and make a positive contribution to the relationship of rural and urban areas.
- The National and Regional Forests are major assets of the district and helping deliver their objectives could have considerable potential in enhancing the character of the district, including through supporting tree planting.
- Despite being a rural district there is a need to deliver new usable open space to meet existing and new resident's needs. A variety of types of open space should be provided in towns and villages, including children's playspace and allotments, New residential development should help deliver new open space, including children's play space, to meet the needs of residents.
- The district has relatively few areas that are identified as the best and most versatile, therefore there is a need to protect the soil resource.

11 Cultural Heritage

11.1 Introduction

11.1.1 This chapter covers the built heritage of the borough with a focus on designated areas, as well as reference to the built character of the district.

11.2 Context

National

11.2.1 Section 12 of the **NPPF** details measures for 'Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment'. In particular paragraph 126 states:

"Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. In doing so, they should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance."

11.2.2 **The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England** (2010) sets out its vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life. Also of note is the reference to promoting the role of the historic environment within the Government's response to climate change and the wider sustainable development agenda.

Local

11.2.3 At a regional level, objective 13 of the **East Midlands 6C's Green Infrastructure** (GI) Strategy (2010) states:

"Promote the protection and management of natural and cultural heritage, including archaeological sites, historic landscapes, geodiversity and industrial heritage;"

11.2.4 **Leicestershire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project** maps and describes the present day landscape of Leicestershire and records significant changes that can be observed through the study of historic mapping and aerial photography. The project has equipped Leicestershire County Council's archaeological planning service with a detailed framework to aid the understanding of the landscape as a whole and provide an important tool that will contribute to the decision making process especially where issues affecting the landscape, both rural and urban are to be considered.

11.3 Baseline

11.3.1 The district has a rich and varied heritage, with a number of historic landscapes ranging from medieval ridge and furrow, to more recent industrial development, with coalmining leaving a lasting legacy, with Coalville in particularly a product of the industrial revolution.

Historic designations

- 11.3.2 Within NWL there are 23 Scheduled Monuments and 640 Listed Buildings and other structures. The scheduled monuments are shown in **Figure 11.1**.
- 11.3.3 There are three Registered Parks and Gardens: Stanton Harold Hall and Coleorton Hall (both Grade II*) and Whatton House (Grade II) within the district, as shown in **Figure 11.2**.



Figures 11.1: Scheduled Monuments (Source: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>, accessed 30.05.2014)

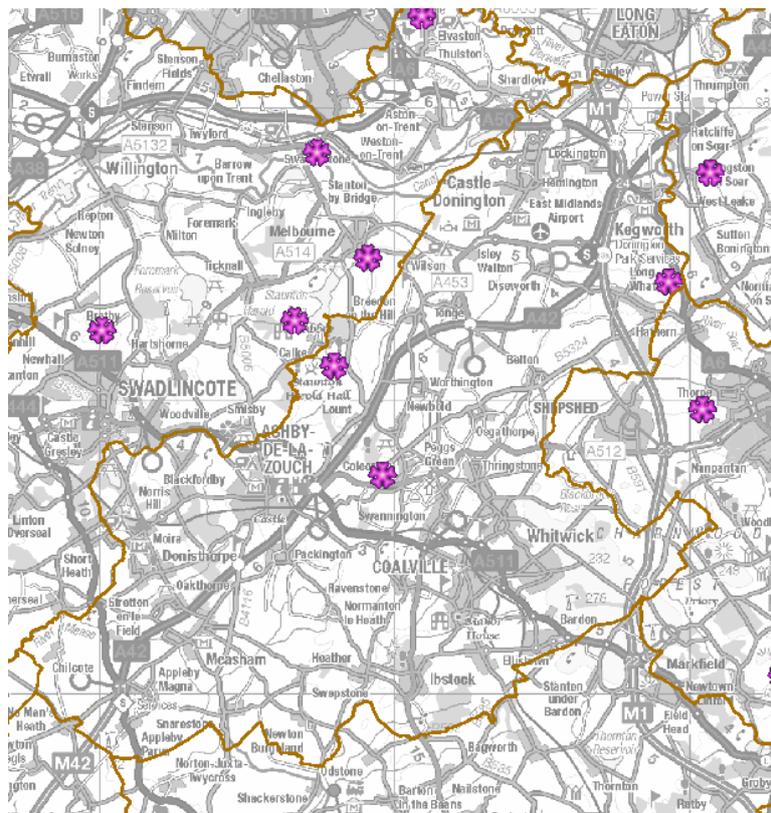


Figure 11.2: Registered Parks and Gardens (Source: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>, accessed 30.05.2014)

11.3.4 There are also numerous listed buildings through the district. With concentrations in and around:

- Ashby-de-la-Zouch centre, including along Market Street/ Kilwardby Street and Bath Street / Station Road, the town has the greatest concentration of listed buildings in the district;
- Castle Donington High Street has listed buildings along its length;
- Packington and Kegworth village centres also have a collection of listed buildings, with Measham also containing several.

11.3.5 There are some smaller villages with relatively high concentrations of listed buildings, such as Ravenstone, Diseworth and Osgathorpe, and groups of listed buildings such as at Coleorton Hall. Some areas have relatively few listed buildings, including Ibstock and the Coalville urban area (although there are some in Whitwick).

11.3.6 There are 22 conservation areas within NWL:

- Appleby Magna;
- Ashby-de-la-Zouch;
- Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal (to Snarestone);
- Blackfordby;
- Breedon on the Hill;
- Castle Donington;
- Cavendish Bridge;

- Coleorton Hall;
- Diseworth;
- Donington le Heath;
- Heath End;
- Hemington;
- Ibstock;
- Lockington;
- Long Whatton;
- Measham;
- Packington;
- Ravenstone;
- Snarestone;
- Staunton Harold;
- Tonge; and
- Wilson

11.3.7 These areas are mainly representative of rural, agricultural areas with traditional houses, cottages and farm buildings. Also represented are areas characteristic of the industrial revolution (Ashby Canal and Measham), Georgian architecture (Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Castle Donington), and Country houses (Staunton Harold and Coleorton Hall). The following section presents a summary of the key characteristics and issues present in each area where a Conservation Area Appraisal has been undertaken.

Appleby Magna

11.3.8 The character of the conservation area is derived both from the historic inter-relationship of the Moat House site and the Parish Church and from the grouping of farmhouses. The buildings within the area are of various periods and reflect the transition from vernacular building traditions to the architecture of the late Georgian and Victorian periods. The Parish Church of St Michael's and The Moat House are listed as grade II*. The area around the Moat House is a designated Scheduled Monument.

Ashby de la Zouch

11.3.9 The overall character of the conservation area is predominantly of a Georgian/ early Victorian townscape. The area also betrays earlier patterns of growth and at its periphery contains some later nineteenth century buildings. There are over 120 listed buildings within the area. The Castle is a grade I listed building, as well as being designated as a Scheduled Monument. The potential for the survival of below-ground medieval archaeology in the conservation area is considered to be significant, especially around the castle site.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal

11.3.10 Worked commenced on the construction of the canal is 1794 and by early 1798 the navigation was in operation from Ashby Woulds to Market Bosworth. The Ashby Canal was opening in its entirety to Marston Junction in April 1804. The remaining watered section of the Ashby Canal for the most part meanders through an open agricultural landscape. Snarestone is the only settlement on the route. There are three structures in the conservation area which are grade II listed.

Blackfordby

11.3.11 The conservation area is concentrated around the Parish Church in the northern part of the village and has a relatively open character. There are eight buildings within the area which are grade II listed, which are of 16th to 19th century in origin. Sites of potential below ground archaeological interest exist within the area. These include the areas around the Parish Church of St Margaret's of Antioch and the new Blackfordby Hall.

Breedon on the Hill

11.3.12 Breedon Hill was the site of a hill-fort during the Iron Age period. Buildings within the village are largely two storeys in height with some more dominant three storey properties interspersed. There are 11 buildings in the conservation area which have listed status. The Church of St Marys and St Hardulphs is listed at Grade I. The other listed buildings, including two memorials within the churchyard to the Parish Church are grade II listed. There are no recorded sites of archaeological interest within the main part of the village, although a large number of finds have been made on the Hill during quarrying works.

Castle Donnington

11.3.13 The conservation area relates to the extent of the village at the end of the First World War. The conservation area comprises commercial and residential properties. The village displays a variety of architectural styles ranging from the late mediaeval timber framed cottages through to Georgian and Regency town houses. There are over 50 listed properties in the conservation area. The Parish Church of St Edward King and Martyr is grade II* listed and the remaining listed buildings are all grade II. The castle site is designated as a Scheduled Monument, with visible archaeological remains present. In addition to the castle site, the village has further considerable archaeological significance.

Cavendish Bridge

11.3.14 Cavendish Bridge was constructed in 1760. Most of the buildings in the hamlet are of late 18th/ early 19th century in origin. There are three listed buildings in the conservation area, all at grade II. The former sites of the Wilden Ferry and the former Cavendish Bridge have been identified as being of archaeological interest.

Coalville

11.3.15 Coalville represent a significant example of Victorian industrialisation. The town was established in the mid-1820s. The commercial heart of Coalville is linear and centres on the High Street and Hotel Street. The boundary of the conservation area includes the historic retail streets of the commercial centre. The Railway Hotel and Memorial Clock Tower are the only listed buildings, which are grade II listed.

Coleorton Hall

11.3.16 The conservation area boundary is concentrated on the historic extent of the ground surrounding Coleorton Hall. The overall character of the area is of a picturesque landscape of the early 19th century period. The area is also a Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest in England. Coleorton Hall and the Parish Church of St Mary are both listed at grade II*. The present Hall occupies the site of at least two previous houses and thus there is high potential for below ground archaeology in the surrounding area.

Diseworth

11.3.17 Diseworth was established by the 6th century. The character of the area is derived from the grouping of farmhouses, outbuildings and cottages along the curvatures of the principal streets. There are 22 buildings in the conservation area which are included on the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. These listed buildings are predominantly 16th to 18th century in origin. The Church of St Michael's and All Angels and Lilly's Cottage are listed at grade II*. Earthworks in a field to the north of Hallfield Farm have been identified as having archaeological importance.

Donington Le Heath

11.3.18 The character of Donington Le Heath is derived from the survival of a mediaeval and post-mediaeval agricultural 'village-scape' with a matrix of lanes, sunken and enclosed by walls and hedges, within which survive a mediaeval manor house and farmsteads. The most important historic buildings is the grade II* listed Manor House, which has origins in the late 13th century. The special interest of Donington includes a significant archaeological component.

Heath End

11.3.19 The character of Heat End is derived from the scattered grouping of the Saracens Head Public House and the farmsteads in the hamlet along Heath End Lane. The origins of the buildings range in date from the early post medieval period through to the late Victorian period. Ley Farmhouse is grade II* listed and Saracens Head Public House opposite Heath End Farm are all considered to be buildings of architectural interest. It is likely that below ground archaeological remains survive in the area surrounding Heath End. It is also likely that below ground remains will survive of the former kilns in the settlement used in the production of pottery in the post medieval period.

Hemington

11.3.20 The conservation area relates to the extent of development within the village up to the beginning of the First World War. The character of the area is derived from the informal grouping of farmhouses, outbuildings and houses along the Main Street. The earliest buildings (along Main Street) date back to the 15th to 17th century. There are 13 buildings in the area which are included on the list of buildings. The Nunnery is listed at grade II*. The other listed buildings are all grade II. The ruins of Hemington Chapel are designated a Scheduled Monument. The ruins comprise the remains of the 14th century chapel. The land around the Hall, the Nunnery and Chapel has significant below ground archaeology potential.

Ibstock

11.3.21 Ibstock was established in the Anglo-Saxon period and until the 19th century was essentially an agricultural economy. The High Street is the main commercial area. In the western part of the conservation area, the agricultural origins of the settlement remain more evident with a number of former farmhouses and farm buildings. There are 8 listed buildings in the conservation area. The Parish Church of Denys is listed at grade II*. The other listed buildings are listed at grade II. Below ground archaeological remains may survive of the dwellings which were situated along the High Street frontage.

Lockington

11.3.22 The character of Lockington is derived from the visual evidence of its development as an estate village into the second half of the 20th century. The Hall and its associated

outbuildings and parkland occupy a substantial land area to the north-east of the settlement. There are 7 listed buildings within the area. The Parish Church of St. Nicholas on Main Street is listed at grade I. The other listed properties – including Lockington Hall – are listed at grade II. The Lockington Hall site has been identified as being of archaeological interest.

Long Whatton

11.3.23 The predominant character of the area is derived from the informal grouping of farmhouses and former agricultural related cottages, although there has been a significant amount of post-War infill development. There are 15 buildings in the area which are listed. All Saints Church is grade II* listed. The other listed properties have grade II status. The area contains two sites designated as Scheduled Monuments; both concentrated on medieval moated enclosures.

Measham

11.3.24 The Conservation Area boundary is along the length of the High Street and also incorporates sections of Queen's Street, Chapel Street, Bosworth Road and Navigation Street. Most buildings in the area appear to be of late Georgian/ early Victorian date. The Area has a mix of residential and commercial properties. There are 9 listed buildings in the Conservation Area; the Church of St Laurence's is listed as grade II*. The other buildings are all listed at grade II. Potential sites of below ground archaeological interest include that formerly occupied by the Tannery buildings off High Street and the existing gap sites created along High Street by building demolitions.

Packington

11.3.25 The Conservation Area is concentrated on the western part of the settlement. Within the Area there are a number of non-residential buildings, including the Village School and Parish Church on Mill Street and the Methodist Church and Packington Memorial Hall on the High Street. There are a number of listed buildings in the Conservation Area. The Parish Church is listed at grade II* and all the other buildings (including Packington Mill and village lock-up on Ashby Road) are listed at grade II. There appears to be some archaeological potential around Packington Mill and the former site of the Baptist Church.

Ravenstone

11.3.26 Ravenstone was established in the Anglo-Saxon period. The Conservation Area is concentrated along Main Street and Church Lane. The character of the area is derived from the informal grouping of two and three storey properties along these streets. There are 13 listed buildings in the Conservation Area. The parish church of St Michael and All Angels, the Hall and Ravenstone Hospital along with its chapel and chaplains house are listed at grade II*. The other buildings are all listed at grade II. With regard to below ground archaeology, at the southern end of Main Street are a number of sites formally occupied by buildings, which may contain remains of the earlier structures.

Snarestone

11.3.27 Snarestone is situated within a largely agricultural landscape. The Conservation Area boundaries are concentrated along the linear development on Main Street. Many of the properties in the in the Area were originally built as farmhouses or farmworker's cottages. There are eight buildings in the Conservation Area, many of which are associated with the building/ re-building works of the 18th century. One of the buildings, 'The Beeches' is listed at grade II*. The remaining properties are listed at grade II. No archaeological remains of note have been recorded.

Staunton Harold

11.3.28 Staunton was established by the Domesday Book of 1086/7 and a manor house, deer park and village had been established by 1324. The overall character of the Conservation Area is that of a country house set within a naturalised landscape of the 1760s. Staunton Harold Hall and the Chapel of the Holy Trinity are listed at grade I. The Gateway to the Garden and the Golden Causeway Bridge are listed at grade II*. There are 5 other grade II listed buildings within the Conservation Area. Earthworks, including platforms and ridge and furrow ploughing lines, in the gardens may represent the site of a deserted medieval village.

Tonge

11.3.29 The Conservation Area related to the physical extent of the hamlet at the Second World War and thus reflects its predominantly agricultural based development. The character of the area is derived from the informal grouping of (former) farmhouses, outbuildings and farmworker's dwellings along the principal roads. There are four grade II listed buildings within the Conservation Area; Tonge Hall Farmhouse and barn, Brookside Farmhouse, an outbuilding to Brookside Farmhouse and the dovecote building on Moor Lane. In the field area to the north-west of Tonge Hall Farmhouse are the earthworks remains of old village closes. No other archaeological remains of note have been recorded.

Wilson

11.3.30 The Conservation Area relates to the physical extent of the hamlet at the Second World War and reflects its development with a predominantly agricultural based economy. The character of the Area is largely derived from the informal grouping of (former) farmhouses, outbuildings and farmworker's dwellings. There are three grade II listed buildings within the Area; Wilson House and Brook House on Short Hill and The Thatched Cottage on Slade Lane. With regards to archaeology, in the open area between Main Street and Dog Lane evidence remains of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing patterns. Elsewhere in the Area are sites of former buildings and structures.

Heritage at risk

11.3.31 Every year, English Heritage publishes a list of heritage assets that are considered most at risk from being lost as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate development.

11.3.32 There are six Listed Buildings recorded on the risk register in North West Leicestershire. The main threat to these assets is 'slow decay'. It is reasonable to assume that those assets with no solution agreed could continue to be at risk in the future (although it is always possible that funding could be secured to address such threats). The Local Plan should seek to support appropriate uses of those assets that are under threat due to the buildings being vacant.

Heritage Asset	Condition	Category
Church of St Michaels and All Angels, Church Street (II*)	Poor	Slow decay, no solution agreed.
Church of St John the Baptist, Market Place, Coalville (II*)	Poor	Slow decay, no solution agreed.
Measham Baptist Church, Chapel Street (II)	Poor	Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric; no solution agreed

Heritage Asset	Condition	Category
Church of St John the Baptist, Church Street, Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe (II)	Poor	Slow decay; solution agreed but not yet implemented
Snibston Colliery (Scheduled Monument)	Fair	Under repair or in fair to good repair, but no user identified; or under threat of vacancy with no obvious new user (applicable only to buildings capable of beneficial use)
Former Midland Railway Station, Ashby-de-la-Zouch (II*)	Fair	Under repair or in fair to good repair, but no user identified; or under threat of vacancy with no obvious new user (applicable only to buildings capable of beneficial use)

History of Settlements

- 11.3.33 This text, adapted from that in the Core Strategy submission version sets out the historic character of the main towns and villages of the district.
- 11.3.34 **Coalville:** The town is a relatively modern town with its origins dating back to the nineteenth century and the development of coal mining. It also includes Greenhill which is a neighbourhood formed by post-war residential expansion. To the east, the Bardon employment area was developed in the 1980s to help offset the impact of the decline in the mining industry.
- 11.3.35 **Ashby-de-la-Zouch:** Ashby has developed around Ashby-de-la-Zouch castle which originated as a Norman fortified manor house in the 12th century - its ruins are now a Scheduled Ancient Monument. In the 19th century its main industries were ribbon manufacture, coal mining and brick-making. Ashby's centre has retained much of its historical character in terms of buildings and street pattern and is designated as a Conservation Area.
- 11.3.36 **Castle Donington:** Castle Donington is a historic market town referred to in the Domesday Book and overlooks the Trent valley. Since the 1960s significant new housing development has taken place with large-scale estates north and south of Park Lane and the Stonehill estate on the south-eastern edge of the town.
- 11.3.37 All that remains of the original castle, which dates back to the 11th century, are some earthworks which are designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The historic core of the town along High Street, Bondgate and Borough Street is designated as a Conservation Area.
- 11.3.38 **Ibstock:** Ibstock is a former mining community, however its roots go back much further and it is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The use of local red brick in buildings is a dominant feature of the village. The area around the west part of High Street and St Deny's Church is designated as a Conservation Area.
- 11.3.39 **Kegworth:** Kegworth was initially an agricultural village. In the late 18th to early 19th century industry began in Kegworth in the form of the stocking trade. Hosiery and lace were two of the most important industries and were practiced in the village up until the 1940s.
- 11.3.40 **Measham:** Initially an agricultural village, the industrial revolution brought the growth of cotton manufacturing, brick manufacturing and the opening of a colliery in the 1850s. These traditional industries contracted after the Second World War. A particular feature of buildings in Measham is the use of the distinctive double-sized 'gob' or 'jumb' brick. The area along High Street is also designated as a Conservation Area.

Historic Landscape Character Assessment

11.3.41 The Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Historic Landscape Characterisation Project was carried out in 2010 by Leicestershire County Council in partnership with English Heritage. The project comprised a desk based digital mapping exercise, overlaying historical mapping and aerial photographs, to understand how the current landscape is shaped through topography, geology and land use history. Landscape character area maps were produced as part of this and they systematically characterise the existing landscape, based on the understanding the historic dimension. Therefore, this provides a useful resource when planning development outside urban parts areas to enable new development to identify and respect those features of historic importance in the landscape.

Archaeology

11.3.42 Based on findings and Aerial photographic searches there is archaeological potential in North West Leicestershire from the Bronze Age, roman period, and more recent modern (industrial) period. Although little is known about other archaeological periods in Leicestershire, such as the Palaeolithic, surface finds can give a biased distribution of artefacts with potential for finds likely given further excavation surveys¹³.

11.3.43 An excavation in North West Leicestershire has led to the discovery of a Bronze Age gold hoard. Additional investigations provided information on possible barrows. Aerial photographic searches had revealed hitherto unseen features of possible archaeological origin in and around the study area. Many of the sites had not yet undergone verification by archaeological investigation. At least 25 sites of possible Bronze Age, or earlier, date had now been recorded in an around the study area. A number of these sites had been destroyed, with only a few being subject to prior archaeological recording. The area was mainly arable agricultural land, and thus sites had been subject to much damage from plough erosion.

11.3.44 Early Roman period findings give an indication of “trade zones” across the East Midlands, with distribution of characteristic early Roman/“romanised” styles such as rusticated ware having the potential for posing questions such as the extent of early Leicester’s market hinterland and/or social adoption of “Roman”/alien styles.

11.3.45 There is significant modern archaeological potential from the extractive industries. In some of the Coal Measures in the north-west, fireclay also occurred and this led to an extensive pottery and sanitary ware industry at Moira and Swadlincote. The extraction of ironstone of fairly poor quality has left considerable landscape remains, in the form of edges of workings, inclines, cuttings and tunnels of the extensive railway system which serviced the quarries in the east of the county. Extraction of sands and gravels in the river valleys continue to expose a vast amount of archaeology, in the form of mill, fish-weir and boat timbers along with remains of old bridges which have been covered up by shifting river courses as in the Trent valley.

Built Environment

11.3.46 The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment completed an audit of housing quality in the East Midlands, as quoted in the Leicestershire Economic Assessment, the report states:

¹³ University of Leicester Archaeological Services (2006) The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda: <http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas/publications/eastmidsw.html>

“The quality of much recent development in Leicester and Leicestershire has been unacceptably poor (according to CABE35). There is a pressing need to ensure the design quality of new development improves.” CABE Audit Report (2006)

11.3.47 NWL Council has their own scheme to rate the quality of new build homes in the district. This known as ourplace™ and seeks to improve the design quality of new homes and neighbourhoods by providing home buyers with an easy to understand rating system. The rating system is based on the Building for Life standard.

11.4 Issues

- Recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance.
- Ensure development in or adjacent to conservation areas or listed buildings (and their settings) respects the character and context and enhances the quality of the built environment.
- Deliver high rated schemes based on the ourplace™ scheme or other national housing standards, this should include architectural quality and creation of a ‘liveable’ place.
- There is significant potential for archaeological artefacts and features throughout North West Leicestershire. New development presents the potential for archaeological features to be discovered, but at the same time could have adverse effects if such features were damaged or lost.

12 Water

12.1 Introduction

12.1.1 This chapter covers issues relating to water availability, waste water and water quality in the district.

12.2 Context

- 12.2.1 The **NPPF** states that Local Planning Authorities should set out strategic policies to provide infrastructure for water supply, waste water and flood risk (paragraph 156).
- 12.2.2 The NPPF states that new development should be strategically located away from areas of high flood risk, not act to increase flood risk elsewhere and seek opportunities to reduce flood risk where possible (paragraph 100).
- 12.2.3 The NPPF also states that Local Plans should take into consideration climate change and the implication of this for flood risk, coastal change and water supply, with risk managed for development in vulnerable areas through appropriate adaptation measures (paragraph 99).
- 12.2.4 The NPPF also states that new and existing development should be prevented from contributing to water pollution (Paragraph 109), and that Development should give “*priority to the use of sustainable drainage systems*” (Paragraph 103);
- 12.2.5 The **European Water Framework Directive** (WFD) (2000/60/EC) promotes an integrated and coordinated approach to water management at the river basin scale. One of its key objectives is the requirement to prevent deterioration in status and achieve at least Good Ecological Status in inland and coastal waters following deadlines ranging from 2015 to 2027. The WFD also requires all Artificial or Heavily Modified Water Bodies to achieve Good Ecological Potential.
- 12.2.6 **The Flood and Water Management Act (2010)** introduces the requirement for developers to utilise Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS), which can have multiple benefits for the water environment. Lead Local Authorities are responsible for establishing a SUDS Approving Body, which will have a duty to adopt and maintain SUDS once completed.
- 12.2.7 The **UK strategy Future Water** (2011) seeks to achieve a secure supply of water resources whilst protecting the water environment. This means greater efficiency in water use, application of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, managing diffuse pollution from agriculture, tackling flood risk and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- 12.2.8 In response to the **Water Framework Directive** (WFD), England and Wales are divided into 10 River Basin Districts, each of which is managed through a River Basin Management Plan. North West Leicestershire is situated within the Humber River Basin District, which is composed of 15 catchments. Three catchments: the Soar, the Tame Anker and Mease, and the Lower Trent and Erewash, cover North West Leicestershire (Environment Agency, 2014).
- 12.2.9 **Environment Agency’s Groundwater Protection: Principals and Practice** (GP3) is intended to be used by anyone interested in groundwater and particularly by those proposing or carrying out an activity that may cause groundwater impacts, providing information on general requirements for groundwater protection including technical approaches to its management and protection, the EA position and approach to the application of relevant legislation, and technical guidance for groundwater specialists. The EA aims and objectives for groundwater include:

- acting to reduce climate change and its consequences;
- protecting and improving water, land and air;
- working with people and communities to create better places; and
- working with businesses and other organisations to use resources wisely.

12.2.10 The key issues identified in the **Humber River Basin Management Plan** include:

- Point source pollution from water industry sewage works;
- Diffuse pollution from agricultural activities;
- Diffuse pollution from urban sources;
- Physical modification of water bodies; and
- Disused mines; point and/or diffuse pollution source.

12.3 Baseline

Water Availability

- 12.3.1 The 'Soar: Abstraction Licensing Strategy' (February 2013) shows that parts of the catchment in NWL show 'water available for licencing' for surface waters at almost all but the very lowest flows. Just to the east of the junction 22 of the M1, outside of the borough, is an area where there are water management issues and the catchment here is closed to further abstraction. There is also good water resource availability at over 70%.
- 12.3.2 The 'Tame, Anker and Mease: Abstraction Licensing Strategy (February 2013) shows water available for licencing' in NWL at times of highest flow, although this reduces to 'restricted water available for licencing' at lower flows.
- 12.3.3 In addition, groundwater east of Swadlincote has 'water available for licencing', although ground water further south has no available resources for further abstraction licencing.
- 12.3.4 The 'Lower Trent and Erewash Abstraction Licensing Strategy (February 2013) shows that parts of the catchment in NWL show 'water available for licencing' for surface waters at almost all but the very lowest flows. .There is also good water resource availability at over 70%
- 12.3.5 Severn Trent, the water supply company in the area, prepares a Water Resources Management Plan; the most recent is from May 2014. The purpose is to demonstrate that water resource needs for the planning period can be met. This states that their strategy will ensure that water available for use is sufficient to meet future demand of customers plus target spare headroom capacity. In the short term, they are projecting a fall in water available for use but strategies to reduce leakage and manage demand will mean that they can maintain a supply. Building water efficient developments will support Severn Trent's programme by helping to reduce water use.
- 12.3.6 When considering the scale of growth in the district it will be important to discuss with providers to ensure that there are no water supply issues or if there is a need for infrastructure improvements.

Waste Water

- 12.3.7 The North West Leicestershire Water Cycle Study 2012 highlights known capacity issues at the Snarrows Wastewater Treatment Works that serves the Coalville Urban Area. Severn Trent Water has investigated this issue and identified the capacity issues as being the result of infiltration into the sewer network and has proposed more detailed investigations. There are also known issues with infrastructure and with combined sewer overflows, the performance of which would deteriorate if foul flows increased. These would also have to be addressed to allow further development in the area.
- 12.3.8 Treated waste water from Ashby and the Measham drains into the River Mease which is a Special Area of Conservation. The Packington sewage treatment works and Measham sewage treatment works discharge into the River Mease. Severn Trent Water estimated that the works had headroom (i.e. available capacity within the terms of the permit agreed by the Environment Agency) to accommodate 1,218 dwellings at Packington and 1,163 at Measham, as of March 2012. See **chapter 9** on biodiversity for more information on the measures needed to avoid adverse impacts on the SAC.

Water Quality

- 12.3.9 Prior to the Habitats Directive of Consent process and the Humber River Basin Management Plan produced under the Water Framework Directive, the River Mease and Gilwiskaw Brook were designated as being a Sensitive Area (Eutrophic) under the Water Treatment Directive.
- 12.3.10 Although there has been some improvement between 2005 and 2010, both watercourses continue to have poor to moderate ecological status under the water framework directive. New and additional housing in the catchment could exacerbate water quality issues, due to increased discharges from sewage works, one of the main contributors to phosphorus to the environment¹⁴.
- 12.3.11 Infrastructure will be required to be upgraded to support new development, which should help to offset potential effects on water quality. However, it is uncertain at this stage whether the effects on water quality would help to achieve an improvement on current ecological status, or whether it would just prevent further deterioration.

12.4 Issues

- New development should incorporate measures to ensure that water is used efficiently, to help reduce the water demand for the district.
- Protect the River Mease from any further deterioration, including through the Developer Contribution Strategy and implementation of restoration and enhancement measures.
- Ensure that development does not proceed without identified capacity at sewage treatment works.
- Ensure the effective use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.

¹⁴ North West Leicestershire District Council (2012) Detailed Water Cycle Report

13 Waste and Minerals

13.1 Introduction

13.1.1 This chapter looks at issues relating to waste and recycling and mineral assets in the district. It will not be the role of the Local Plan to plan for waste or minerals as these will be covered by their own development plan documents. However, the Local Plan needs to be aware of the issues, for instance in planning development in relation to known mineral assets.

13.2 Context

National

13.2.1 **Waste:** Most UK legislation impacting on waste management is now implemented as a result of European Directives. The European Union's waste legislation includes:

- Directives providing frameworks for managing wastes, including the Directive on Waste (“the **Waste Framework Directive**”), as amended (and includes the European Waste Catalogue), and the Directive on Hazardous Waste, as amended;
- Directives on the treatment of wastes, including the Directive in **Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control**, the Directive on Landfill of Waste and the Directive on Incineration of Waste;
- The **EU Landfill Directive** sets a target to reduce the proportion of biodegradable municipal waste landfilled by 75% by 2035 compared to 1995, in England a commitment is made to meeting this target through the Waste Management Plan for England, 2013.

13.2.2 The Waste Framework Directive is transposed in England largely through the **Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011**, amongst others, which places emphasis on the waste hierarchy (**Figure 13.1**) to ensure that waste is dealt with in the priority order of: prevention, preparing for re-use, recycling, other recovery and lastly disposal.

13.2.3 The **NPPF** does not contain specific waste policies as waste is covered by separate waste plans, prepared in this instance by Leicestershire County Council.

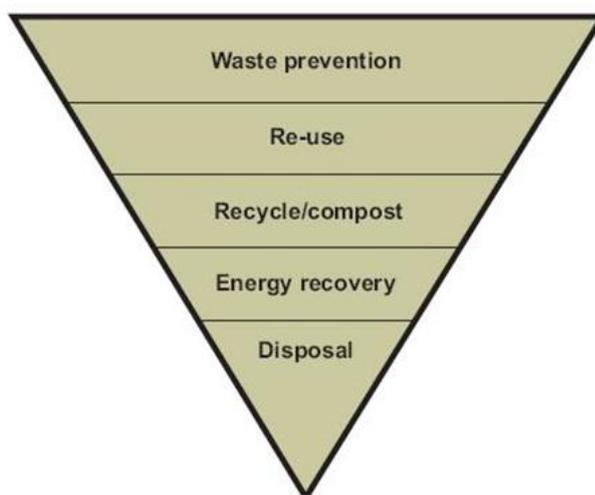


Figure 13.1: Waste Hierarchy (Defra, 2007)

13.2.4 The **Waste Strategy 2007** contains aims including:

- To decouple waste growth (in all sectors) from economic growth and put more emphasis on waste prevention and re-use (**Figure 13.1**);
- Meet and exceed the Landfill Directive diversion targets for biodegradable municipal waste;
- Increased diversion from landfill of non-municipal waste and secure better integration of treatment for municipal and non-municipal waste;
- Secure the investment in infrastructure needed to divert waste from landfill and for the management of hazardous waste;
- Get the most environmental benefit from that investment, through increased recycling of resources and recovery of energy from residual waste using a mix of technologies.
- To recycle or compost at least 45% of household waste by 2015 and 50% by 2020.

13.2.5 **Minerals:** In England, national minerals policies are set out in **Minerals Planning Statements** (MPS) and **Mineral Policy Guidance Notes** (MPG), although these are largely revoked as a result of the NPPG.

13.2.6 Minerals Planning Guidance Notes (MPGs) and their replacements, Minerals Policy Statements (MPSs), set out the Government's policy on minerals and planning issues and provide advice and guidance to local authorities and the minerals industry on policies and the operation of the planning system with regard to minerals.

13.2.7 Mineral planning authorities (MPAs) must take their contents into account in preparing their development plans. The guidance may also be material to decisions on individual planning applications and appeals. For North West Leicestershire the MPA is Leicestershire County.

13.2.8 The **NPPF** Section 13 includes advice in respect of 'Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals'. This identifies the importance of ensuring there is sufficient supply of material to provide for development and the economy. Paragraph 143 sets out detail of minerals considerations in preparing Local Plans, including:

- policies for extraction of mineral resource of local and national importance;
- take account of the potential for secondary and recycled materials before primary extraction;
- define Mineral Safeguarding Areas and protection policies.

13.2.9 The NPPG also sets out the role of the Minerals Planning Authorities.

Local

13.2.10 **Waste:** Local waste planning policy is currently set out in the Leicester and Leicestershire Waste Development Framework: Core Strategy and Development Control Policies to 2021. This contains the vision and objectives for waste, including:

- To promote the implementation of waste minimisation initiatives in the construction and operation of development.
- To enable the timely delivery of sufficient waste management facilities in the Waste Development Framework;

- Encourage waste management facilities which increase reuse, recycling, composting and value/energy recovery.
- To encourage opportunities for means of transporting waste other than by road.

13.2.11 **Minerals:** The **Leicestershire Mineral Development Framework: Core Strategy and Development Control Policies up to 2021** set the current minerals planning framework for the county. This includes the vision:

“To manage mineral extraction in Leicestershire in a way which meets the social and economic needs of the County and makes an appropriate contribution to the national and regional need for minerals in ways which seek to protect and enhance the character and quality of the environment and the quality of life for existing and future generations, in accordance with the principles of sustainability. “

13.2.12 The objectives include:

- To make sufficient provision to meet national, regional and local requirements for all minerals, in particular the sub-regional apportionment requirements for aggregates provision.
- To attain the maximum possible usage of recycled and secondary materials in meeting recognised national and regional requirements.
- To safeguard mineral resources from unnecessary sterilisation.
- To protect people and local communities, and the natural and built environment (particularly the River Mease Special Area of Conservation) from minerals development.
- To encourage opportunities for sustainable means of transporting minerals other than by road.
- To ensure land is reclaimed at the earliest opportunity and that high quality restoration and aftercare takes place

13.2.13 It will not be the role of the Local Plan for NWL to set out matters related to waste management or minerals, as these are the responsibility of the County. However, it will be necessary for the Local Plan to help implement elements of waste and minerals plans, for instance through safeguarding land, promoting the use of materials reuse and setting the policies for delivery of waste development.

13.3 Baseline

Waste

13.3.1 North West Leicestershire operates a household kerbside recycling scheme. This includes a full range of recyclables including: glass, plastic, cans, paper, card, garden waste and textiles. In addition there is a rubbish collection for non-recyclables. Recycling and black bin collections are on alternating weeks. There is currently no food waste kerbside collection, so residents have to compost their own waste should they wish to do so. Therefore, food waste makes up a high proportion of waste going to landfill or other final disposal.

13.3.2 There are also two Recycling and Household Waste Sites (RHWS) in North West Leicestershire - Coalville and Lount, near Ashby. Both are run by Leicestershire County Council.

13.3.3 These measures have ensured that the percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting has steadily increased since 2002. **Figure 13.2** shows change in the proportion of household waste being recycled in the district from 2006 to 2012, showing nearby Hinckley and Bosworth as a comparator. This shows that the district is doing quite well although is not in the top quartile of all local authorities.

SPARSE Benchmarking - Recycling Rate analysis 2006 to 2012

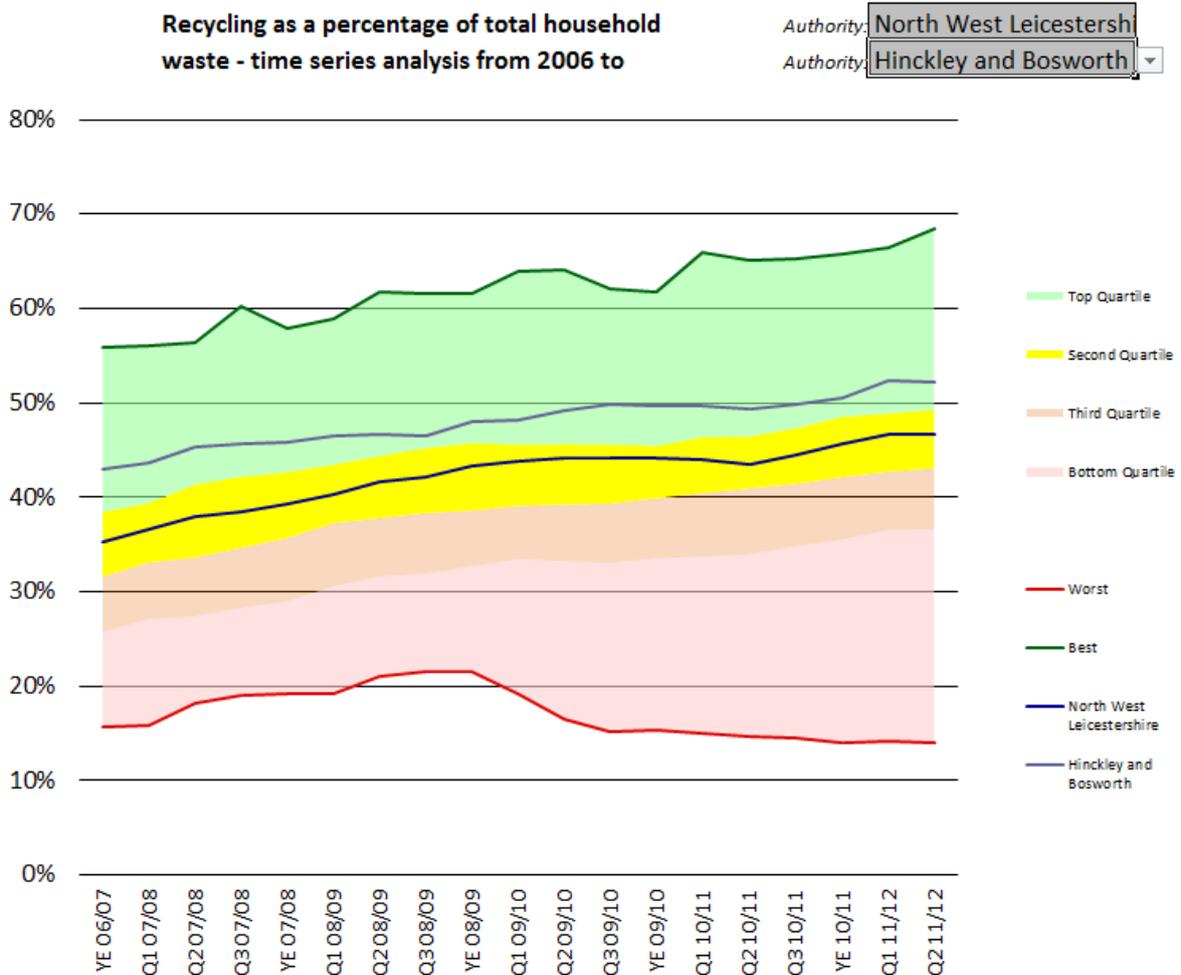


Figure 13.2: Recycling as a percentage of total household waste 2006 to 2012 (based on SPARSE Benchmarking and taken from the Rural Services Network data sources)

Minerals

13.3.4 Leicestershire is a mineral rich county and is one of the principal producers of minerals in the country, particularly igneous rock. In 2006, in the order of 19Mt of minerals were sold that were extracted from sites in Leicestershire. The minerals within the County have been grouped into categories associated with their main uses. These are aggregate minerals (crushed rock and sand and gravel), other construction minerals (brickclay, fireclay, gypsum and building stone) and energy minerals (coal and oil/gas). Igneous rock extraction within the County, which accounts for around 75% of total sales. **Figures 13.3 - 13.5** show the locations of deposits and are extracts from the *Leicestershire Minerals Development*

Framework: Core Strategy and Development Control Policies up to 2021(Leicestershire County Council), which also describes the mineral resources of the County as follows.

- 13.3.5 The igneous rock resources of Leicestershire have a relatively small areal extent around the flanks of Charnwood Forest and to the south-west of Leicester, much are within NWL. Extraction is now concentrated at 4 main sites: Bardon (within NWL); Cliffe Hill; Croft; and Mountsorrel.
- 13.3.6 Carboniferous limestones appear at the surface in several small isolated inliers in north-west Leicestershire near to the Leicestershire/Derbyshire border. At present, two of the limestone inliers are worked within Leicestershire, at Breedon Hill and Cloud Hill, both located in NWL.
- 13.3.7 Sand and gravel deposits occur in the valleys of the Rivers Trent, Soar and Wreake and in a more complex series of isolated glacial deposits in areas to the south and west of Leicester. Two of the five currently active sites involve the working of alluvial and river terrace deposits, while the remainder work glacial deposits.
- 13.3.8 Brickclay resources are relatively extensive. Presently there are 6 brickworks with adjacent clay pits, all within North West Leicestershire. A sequence of quality pottery, pipe and refractory clays is associated with the upper seams of the Middle Coal Measures of North West Leicestershire. Although restricted to a relatively small basin between Swadlincote and Moira, these deposits have been recognised as an important national source. The principal source of fireclay is currently the Donington Island site where substantial stockpiles are located..
- 13.3.9 Coal deposits occur in north-west Leicestershire (including in NWL district) where they both crop out at the surface and are concealed. Shallow coal reserves suitable for extraction by means of opencasting are situated in a relatively small area. Opencast operations have recently ceased at the Longmoor site, between Ravenstone and Normanton-le-Heath.
- 13.3.10 No safeguarded minerals sites have yet been identified in the County, although work is progressing on this for the County.

Legend

- Chamwood Forest
- Motorway
- HGV Routes
- Navigable Waterways
- Railway
- River Mease Catchment
- East Midlands Airport
- Urban Areas
- Igneous Rock Resources
- Limestone Resources
- Sand and Gravel Resources
- Igneous Rock Sites
- Igneous Rock Sites (Inactive)
- Limestone Sites
- Sand and Gravel Sites
- Sand and Gravel Sites (Inactive)
- Rail Linked Sites

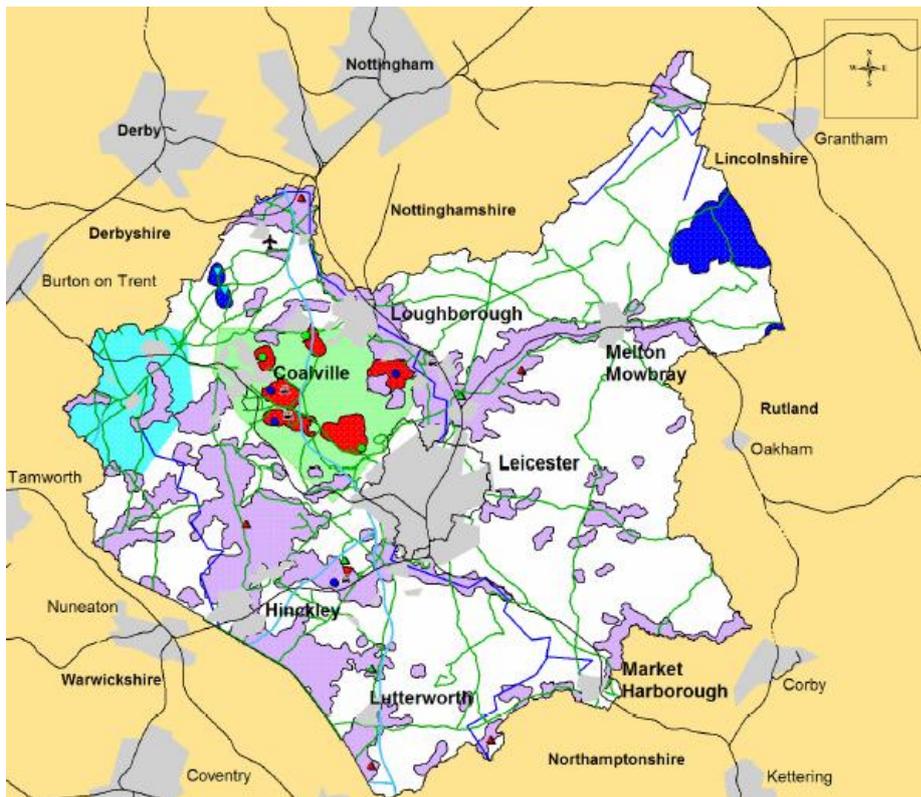


Figure 13.3: Aggregates Spatial Map (extract from Leicestershire Minerals Development Framework: Core Strategy and Development Control Policies up to 2021, Leicestershire County Council)

Legend

- Charnwood Forest
- Motorway
- HGV Routes
- Navigable Waterways
- Railway
- River Mease Catchment
- East Midlands Airport
- Urban Areas
- Brick Clay Resources
- Fireclay Resources
- Gypsum Resources
- Clay Sites
- Donington Clay Stocking Site
- Barrow Gypsum Works

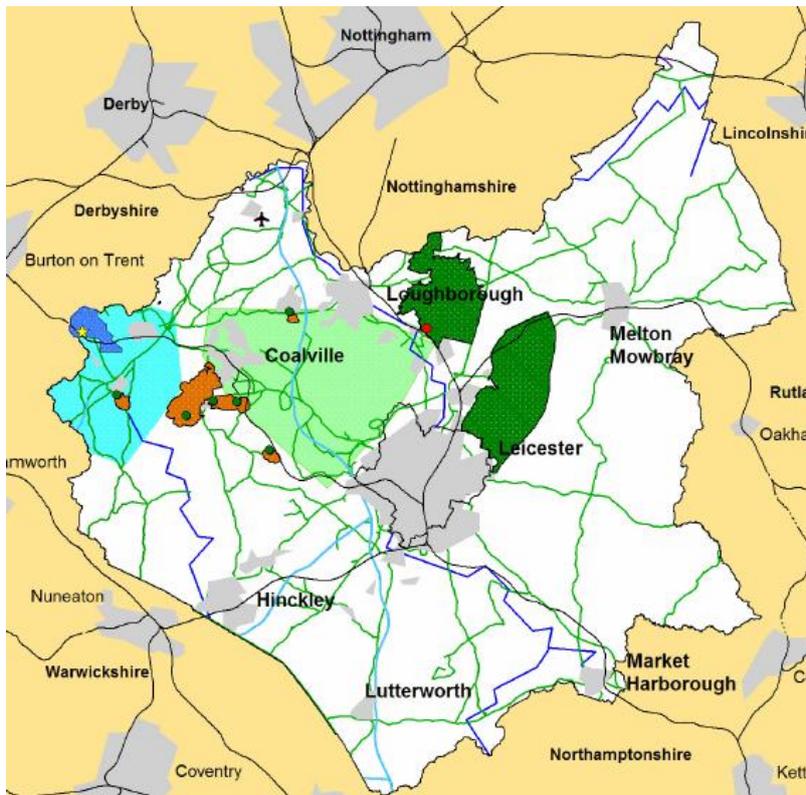


Figure 13.4: Other Construction Material Spatial Map (extract from Leicestershire Minerals Development Framework: Core Strategy and Development Control Policies up to 2021, Leicestershire County Council)

Legend

- Charnwood Forest
- Motorway
- HGV Routes
- Navigable Waterways
- Railway
- River Mease Catchment
- East Midlands Airport
- Urban Areas
- Coal (at or near surface) Resource Area
- Oil Exploration Licence Areas
- Longmoor Opencast Coal Site
- Oil Sites

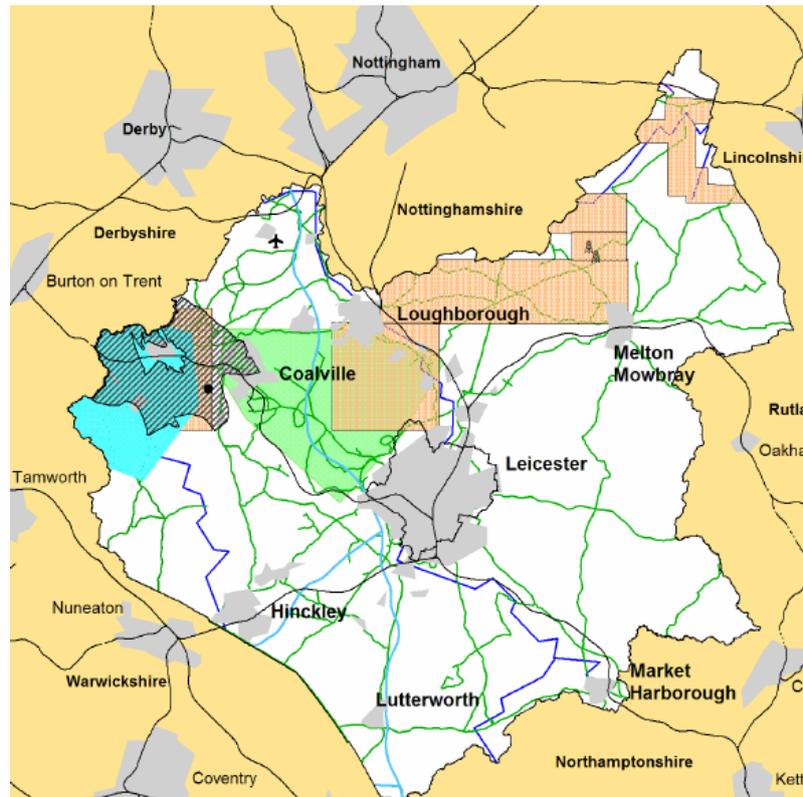


Figure 13.5: Energy Spatial Map (extract from Leicestershire Minerals Development Framework: Core Strategy and Development Control Policies up to 2021, Leicestershire County Council)

13.4 Issues

- The need to ensure waste management accords with the waste hierarchy and reduces the overall quantity of waste going to final disposal.
- Help NWL improve municipal and commercial waste recycling, with the aim of moving NWL in the best performing quartile of local authorities.
- Plan development that recognises the need for the safeguarding mineral resources, including sand and gravel, igneous rock and brickclay.

14 Sustainability Framework

14.1 Introduction

- 14.1.1 The sustainability framework is a set of objectives and indicators that help define what sustainable development means for the SA of the Local Plan. The framework provides a consistent basis for the SA. This allows for the strategy, policies and possible growth locations to be assessed in a systematic way with the sustainability framework a consistent form of reference.
- 14.1.2 The sustainability framework takes the identification of context, baseline and issues from **Chapters 3 to 13** in addition to the definition of sustainable development in **Chapter 2** as its basis.
- 14.1.3 The sustainability framework aims to identify those matters of environmental, economic and social capital that are basic to well-being and which we want as much of, or more of, in the future. The sustainability framework identifies these basic elements together with what constitutes a better position for each element. It tries to be comprehensive whilst keeping the different items in the framework distinctive.
- 14.1.4 Ideally quantified indicators and targets would be included. However, quantifying each of these objectives, and developing relevant indicators is a difficult process as the very nature of the majority of the content of a development plan, would not enable change to be directly attributed to the influence of the plan or to be measured. Therefore, the SA is principally concerned with whether the direction of change that the Plan would be likely to bring, would be positive in achieving more sustainable development, rather than with attempting to quantify changes.
- 14.1.5 The framework can be further developed to include indicators for monitoring the sustainability performance of the plan as the Local Plan moves towards adoption. There is a need to make sure monitoring indicators for the Plan and sustainability reflect one another.
- 14.1.6 The objectives presented in **Table 14.1** take the form of a 'headline' sustainability for which an objective has been developed. This is followed by the objective itself, which sets out what the Plan should be trying to achieve in relation to sustainable development. These are each accompanied by a set of supporting sub-objectives; these are examples of the ways the Local Plan may directly impact on the objectives, representing a move towards greater sustainability.
- 14.1.7 The final column shows the criteria that could be used in assessing potential sites for allocation, and is suitable for all types of allocation including employment and retail. These criteria will need to be finalised once it is known what information is available for the assessment.
- 14.1.8 The objectives have a purpose of providing a systematic basis for the stages of sustainability appraisal. By comparing the proposed objectives, strategy, policy and allocations against this consistent definition it is possible to determine if the plan is likely to be making a contribution to greater sustainable development.

14.2 Sustainability Framework

Table 14.1: Sustainability Framework

Headline	Objective	Sub-Objective	Example Site Assessment Criteria
1. Housing	Provide good quality homes that meet local needs in terms number, type and tenure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure a sufficient number of dwellings are provided to meet the needs of existing residents changing household size, reduce commuting and to match employment growth. ▪ Increase the supply of affordable homes of the tenure and size to meet needs. ▪ Provide market homes to meet needs and to match the economic growth aspirations of the wider area. ▪ Provide homes that meet the lifetime needs of residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will it help meeting housing needs? ▪ Will it provide affordable housing?
2. Health and Wellbeing	Improve the health and wellbeing of the district's population and reduce inequalities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure all residents have equitable access to health services, taking into account the needs of an aging population. ▪ Help everyone take active travel choices. ▪ Use urban design and the provision of Green Infrastructure, open space and walking / cycling routes to support healthy choices. ▪ Help design out crime from new development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Are there accessible health services? ▪ Will residents be able to walk to shop, schools and community services? ▪ Will the site provide good quality access to open space / Green Infrastructure?
3. Communities	Help create the conditions for communities to thrive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect existing community facilities and ensure new facilities are built to support the needs of new housing development, including open space, leisure, schools and health services. ▪ Involve local communities in the decisions that may affect them. ▪ Plan for the district in the context of the wider region, including nearby areas of Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is the site supported by the local community? ▪ Does development consider the impact on communities neighbouring the district? ▪ Will the development, due to size or location, be able to integrate with existing communities?

Headline	Objective	Sub-Objective	Example Site Assessment Criteria
4. Economy	Support economic growth throughout the district and the provision of a diverse range of employment opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support existing well performing employment sectors, such as storage and distribution and growth sectors including high tech manufacturing. ▪ Support initiatives to improve the tourism and leisure sector, in particular in the National Forest and Charnwood Regional Forest Park. ▪ Protect existing employment sites from change of use, especially where they support local employment needs. ▪ Recognise the role of the NWL in a wider economic sub-area, not only within Leicestershire but also into south Derbyshire. ▪ Support and help protect the rural economy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will the development support new economic growth in the region / district? ▪ Will the site result in the loss of existing employment land? ▪ Will it help support the rural economy?
5. Employment	Encourage jobs that match the skills and needs of local residents and help improve access to skill training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support new employment growth in all areas, including rural locations, where it will help meet a local need ▪ Maintain a diverse employment base, including growing the high skill job sector as well as lower skilled jobs to match the diverse job needs of the workforce. ▪ Help ensure all children have access to a local school, and enhance opportunities for skills training throughout life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will the site result in the loss of existing employment land?
6. Town and village centres	Enhance the vitality and viability of existing town centres and village centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain the town centres of the district as the focus for new retail, services and office development ▪ Revitalise and renew town centre areas where necessary in particular in Coalville. ▪ Maintain the town centres as the retail focus for the district, primarily at Coalville and Ashby-de-la-Zouch de la Zouch and at other centres suitable to their level in a retail hierarchy ▪ Help protect and improve service provision in town, village and local centres to support existing communities and planned housing growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will development support the revitalisation of town centres? ▪ Is the development more suited to a town centre location? ▪ Could the development adversely impact on town centre retailing?

Headline	Objective	Sub-Objective	Example Site Assessment Criteria
7. Travel	Increase numbers of people walking, cycling or using the bus for their day-to-day travel needs, such as getting to work, school and to access services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure new development has public transport access and give priority to walkers and cyclists over car users. ▪ Increase cycle use for commuting and access to services. ▪ Reduce congestion in locations where it impacts on road safety, causes severance, or adversely impacts on the economy. ▪ Use development to help secure better public transport for the district, in particular links to nearby rail stations ▪ Help those who live and/or work in the district reduce their reliance on private car travel ▪ Encourage higher density development in locations with public transport access, or in areas that have a good provision of nearby jobs, services and facilities. ▪ Consider the cumulative impacts and opportunities for growth on residents' ability to access services locally. ▪ Help improve provision of local services, such as shops, GPs, public transport, and community service provision in the villages of northern NWL. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is the new development accessible by public transport, or due to increase in population have the potential to support a new or extended route? ▪ Are services within a walkable distance? ▪ Is the site accessible by a designated cycle route?
8. Low carbon energy	Reduce carbon emissions throughout the district through delivering renewable energy solution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support proposals for decentralised (i.e. small and micro renewables) and low carbon energy generation ▪ Promote small scale non-grid energy generation and large scale grid schemes where appropriately located and help reduce carbon dioxide emissions ▪ All new development should be built to high energy and water efficiency standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will the development be able to make a contribution to renewable energy targets?
9. Flooding	Development must not put people at inappropriate risk of flooding either on or off site and must seek and undertake opportunities to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere where feasible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow the sequential test in Planning Practice Guidance in the allocation of sites in flood risk areas. ▪ Ensure new development does not exacerbate the risk of flood off-site, for instance through use of sustainable drainage. ▪ Seek opportunities to reduce flood risk where feasible. ▪ Seek to achieve a net reduction in rates of surface water run-off. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What proportion of the site is in Flood Zone 2 or 3? ▪ To what extent is the site indicated to be at risk of surface water flooding? ▪ Will the site be of a size to incorporate a full range of SuDS infrastructure? ▪ Is the new development benefiting from existing flood defence infrastructure

Headline	Objective	Sub-Objective	Example Site Assessment Criteria
10. Biodiversity and Geodiversity	Protect and enhance the district's biodiversity and protect areas identified for their geological importance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure that development respects biodiversity wherever it is found and seeks to enhance the quality, quantity and connectivity of habitats. ▪ Protect the river Mease SAC catchment from adverse impacts as a result of development. Where screening indicates Habitats Regulations Assessment needs to be completed and appropriate mitigation/avoidance identified where found to be necessary. ▪ Conserve and enhance the district's biodiversity assets, in particular through countering habitat fragmentation. ▪ Help all to have access to the natural environment, including integrating greater biodiversity into urban areas. ▪ Protect geological designations. ▪ Protect sensitive habitats from the adverse impacts related to air or water pollution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will the site have an impact on a designated nature conservation site? ▪ Will the site have an impact on a BAP habitat? ▪ Will the site harm a site of geological importance? ▪ Is the site in the River Mease SAC catchment? ▪ What opportunities are there for biodiversity enhancement?
11. Built and historic environment	Conserve and enhance the character, diversity and local distinctiveness of the district's built and natural heritage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and enhance buildings, structures and natural features of recognised historic or architectural interest, including their settings. ▪ Recognise, protect and enhance heritage assets of local importance. ▪ Ensure new development respects the character of the historic environment. ▪ Protect archaeological remains and record findings according to guidance. ▪ Help deliver built environment improvements through high quality design. ▪ Make use of the ourplace™ housing design standards. ▪ Ensure all new development is designed to reflect its context. ▪ Built design should help in creating vibrant places, making those approaching on foot a priority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Are there any designated heritage assets within or adjacent to the site? ▪ What is the potential for effects on the setting of heritage assets? (<i>Which could be either positive or negative</i>). ▪ What are the potential effects on non-designated heritage assets? ▪ Are there known / potential archaeological deposits on site? ▪ Is the site within a Conservation Area?
12. Landscape	Conserve and enhance the quality of the district's landscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and enhance the character and distinctiveness of the district's landscape. ▪ Help implement objectives for the National Forest and the Charnwood Forest Regional Park. ▪ Enhance the transition for urban to rural at the edge of towns and villages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will the development have an adverse impact on an area of landscape importance? ▪ Will the development present an opportunity to enhance landscape character?

Headline	Objective	Sub-Objective	Example Site Assessment Criteria
13. Land and Soil	Ensure land is used efficiently and effectively.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prioritising the remediation and redevelopment of previously developed land, whilst ensuring that any biodiversity interest is protected. ▪ Protect undeveloped land from inappropriately located development. ▪ Whenever possible protection the best quality agricultural land. ▪ Encourage higher density development to make the best use of available land ▪ Where land has the potential to be contaminated or is known to be contaminated ensure that suitable investigation and remediation is carried out to bring it back into use. ▪ Encourage the highest density development in locations with good access by public transport and a range of services, including town centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will the site bring contaminated land back into good use? ▪ Will the site result in the loss of the best agricultural land?
14. Natural Resources	Ensure the efficient use of natural resources, including reducing waste generation and promote re-use and recycling, supporting sustainable extraction and the reuse and recycling of minerals and aggregate resources and water resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure new development incorporates space for waste sorting and storage to aid recycling ▪ Encourage sustainable construction making use of recycled and recyclable building materials ▪ Ensure the re-use of demolition waste ▪ Promote development of more sustainable waste treatment facilities, including sorting, recycling and reuse. ▪ Ensure minerals deposits are not sterilised through inappropriately located development. ▪ Ensure the highly efficient use of water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will the development support new waste and recycling facilities? ▪ Is the development in an area of safeguarded minerals?

Headline	Objective	Sub-Objective	Example Site Assessment Criteria
<p>15. Pollution</p>	<p>Reduce air, light and noise pollution and manage contaminated land to avoid damage natural systems and protect human health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Help reduce contribution to air pollution by reducing car use. ▪ Ensure new and existing communities are not adversely affected by poor quality air and noise pollution, either through their location or through causing a further deterioration as a result of new development. ▪ Protect communities from harm related to ground and water pollution. ▪ Avoid exacerbating light pollution by keeping external lighting to the minimum required for safety and security. ▪ Avoid air and water pollution and other disturbance that can have an adverse impact on areas of nature conservation importance, including the River Mease SAC. ▪ Ensure development does not lead to the pollution of controlled waters, and where possible contributes to an improvement in the quality of waterbodies. ▪ Promote the use of Green Infrastructure to help protect and enhance the quality of air, water and land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will the development have an impact on the AQMA? ▪ Is the development adjacent to a significant noise source, such as the airport, M1 or Donington Park? ▪ Does the development help reduce the need to travel by car.

15 Next Steps

15.1 SA Stages

- 15.1.1 This Scoping Report has been produced as a 'consultation document'. The Statutory Consultees, English Heritage, Environment Agency and Natural England, and others, therefore have had the chance to comment on its content.
- 15.1.2 A number of comments have been made on the draft Scoping Report, and these have been used as considered appropriate to finalise this Scoping Report. Appendix A sets out a summary of the comments received, and how we have responded. Although this Scoping Report has now been finalised, it is also important to remember that the scope of the SA will continually evolve. As the Local Plan and SA processes progress, the scope of the SA will therefore be updated as necessary, and any relevant findings will be presented subsequent SA Reports.
- 15.1.3 The full methodology for the SA has yet to be determined. However, this section sets out some key principles to be followed to ensure a useful process that helps inform plan makers, as well as meeting regulatory requirements.

15.2 SA of Reasonable Alternatives

- 15.2.1 Reasonable alternatives should be identified and considered at an early stage in the plan making process, as the assessment of these should inform the local planning authority in choosing its preferred approach, as advised in paragraph 152 of the NPPF. Forecasting and evaluation of the significant effects should help to develop and refine the proposals in each Local Plan document.
- 15.2.2 The development and appraisal of proposals in Local Plan documents should be an iterative process, with the proposals being revised to take account of the appraisal findings. This should inform the selection, refinement and publication of proposals.
- 15.2.3 The appraisal of alternatives at each stage will also involve considering ways of mitigating any adverse effects, maximising beneficial effects and ways of monitoring likely significant effects. For instance in the assessment of sites it will be possible to identify where policy criteria will be needed to ensure sites are delivered in a sustainable way e.g. landscaping requirements, addressing any flooding etc.
- 15.2.4 The sustainability appraisal must consider all reasonable alternatives and assess them in the same level of detail as the option the plan-maker proposes to take forward in the Local Plan (the preferred approach).
- 15.2.5 It is important that any alternatives presented for appraisal by the plan makers are sufficiently distinct to highlight the different sustainability implications of each so that meaningful comparisons can be made. Also, essential is the alternatives must be realistic and deliverable.
- 15.2.6 There are various types of alternatives that will need to be considered and this will be informed by the choices made when initiating work on the Local Plan.

SA of Spatial Distribution of Growth

15.2.7 One of the main tasks for the Local Plan will be to determine the distribution of housing and employment growth around the district. The plan-makers will need to develop reasonable alternatives for the way this growth could be distributed, based on evidence from various sources and constraints to development. This may include revisiting the options for the distribution of development previously considered as part of the Core Strategy.

SA of alternative policies

15.2.8 Reasonable alternatives are the different realistic options considered by the plan-maker in developing the policies in its plan. There may not always be a reasonable alternative to a policy. However, the SA of policies often helps to refine them and come up with alternative wording or criteria that could improve their usability and effectiveness in delivering sustainable development.

SA of Broad Locations of Growth and Alternative Sites

15.2.9 The Local Plan will need to consider whether sites and broad locations for growth will be identified. To some extent this may depend upon the scale of growth required to be accommodated. Either way it will be necessary to assess all realistic and reasonable alternatives. At this time it has yet to be determined how this assessment process will be completed. The two main options are:

- Integrate full SA assessment of sites and/or broad locations into the wider site selection process;
- Undertake a separate SA of all reasonable alternative sites and/or broad locations (i.e. following an initial sieving by the Council), with the purpose of informing the selection of allocated sites and/or identification of broad locations.

15.2.10 Whichever method is chosen the sustainability framework will be used as the basis for setting criteria for assessment of sites, as show in **Table 14.1** and all reasonable alternatives need to be assessed in the same way, including those that are chosen for allocation. Essential in the assessment of sites will be identifying those that have overriding constraints to development and for others where mitigation could be used to avoid or off-set potential effects. Where possible, the assessment will also seek to identify where sites could bring about environmental enhancements.

15.2.11 The aim of the SA of sites is not to rank the sites in sustainability order. Instead, it will provide part of the evidence necessary in selecting sites, but final selection will be influenced by other factors, including the need to deliver the chosen spatial strategy, deliverability and the need to secure a 5-year housing land supply.

15.2.12 The SA of sites will make use of a user friendly matrix, using coloured cells to show the relative sustainability impacts of each site. A commentary will also be provided to identify the potential for mitigation and enhancement, significant effects of other impacts identified. The SA will not use quantified or weighted scores for sites.

15.2.13 When the site appraisal and selection methodology has been drafted, it will be shared with the Statutory Bodies (i.e. English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency) to seek their feedback on the proposed approach. The methodology will then be finalised before the site appraisal process is undertaken.

15.3 SA Reporting

- 15.3.1 The SA must be reported at the publication of the Draft Local Plan that is put out for consultation. Prior to that it is good practice to publish 'interim' SA Reports or statements alongside all consultation versions of the Local Plan, so that it demonstrates to readers how sustainability considerations have been integrated into plan making and the potential impacts of its proposals and alternatives on the aim of achieving sustainable development.
- 15.3.2 The sustainability appraisal report will not necessarily have to be amended if the Local Plan is modified following responses to consultations. Modifications to the sustainability appraisal should be considered only where appropriate and proportionate to the level of change being made to the Local Plan. A change is likely to be significant if it substantially alters the Plan and/ or is likely to give to significant effects.
- 15.3.3 Further assessment may be required if the changes have not previously been assessed and are likely to give rise to significant effects. A further round of consultation on the sustainability appraisal may also be required in such circumstances but this should only be undertaken where necessary. Changes to the Local Plan that are not significant will not require further sustainability appraisal work
- 15.3.4 The SA of the publication Local Plan will meet requirements of the 'environmental report' of Regulation 12 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. An environmental report for the purpose of the regulations must identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Local Plan policies and of the reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the Local Plan. The sustainability appraisal report must clearly show how these requirements have been met as well as recording the wider assessment of social and economic effects. A non-technical summary also needs to be prepared.

Appendix A Consultation feedback & responses

1. Natural England

Comments requesting action	Response
The report should reference Green Infrastructure (GI) more explicitly as a cross-cutting theme.	
<p>3. Population and communities</p> <p>Consider GI in this section with regards to recreational space.</p> <p>Make reference to this report http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/projects/natural-solutions-to-tackling-health-inequalities</p>	Key messages from 'Natural Solutions to Tackling Health Inequalities' have been set out in Section 3.
<p>7. Air quality</p> <p>Air quality can have serious impacts on the natural environment. This does not appear to have been considered within this chapter. In particular additional traffic resulting from new development can impact on European sites and SSSIs. New agricultural development such as intensive pig and poultry installations may also pose risks to air quality which can impact on designated sites.</p>	It is considered that these issues are in part dealing with 'assessment' rather than baseline information. It is acknowledged that the future baseline will be affected by development, but it is not possible to determine exactly where, or what types of development would occur at this stage.
<p>8. Climate Change</p> <p>Climate change adaptation is only focused on flooding. We suggest it should also include reference to GI.</p> <p>We recommend reference to the Town & Country Planning Association publication "Climate Change Adaptation by Design" which is available on the TCPA website. http://www.tcpa.org.uk/pages/climate-change-adaptation-by-design.html</p>	<p>The following documents have been added as part of the contextual review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Adaptation Programme (2013) Climate Change Adaptation by Design.
<p>9. Biodiversity</p> <p>Need to cover GI in greater detail as it can provide space for wildlife. This section should also include protected species, including 'Natural England's Standing Advice'.</p> <p>Local Wildlife sites should be included in the baseline position.</p>	Natural England's Standing Advice included as part of contextual review.

Comments requesting action	Response
<p>10. Landscape and land</p> <p>Further reference to GI should be included in this section with regards to open space. The following documents are useful resources. ‘Nature Nearby, Accessible Green Space Guidance’ (March 2010), available on our website publication reference NE265 as follows: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/40004?category=47004 CABE Space Guidance ‘Start with the Park’ (2005) Planning for a healthy environment - good practice guidance for green infrastructure and biodiversity”. The section on agricultural land should be expanded to take account of wider soil protection issues.</p>	<p>Contextual review updated to include a wider range of documents including those suggested here.</p>
<p>14. Sustainability Appraisal Framework</p> <p>We suggest that you add site criteria which reflect the scope for positive changes in the natural environment through development, since this reflects the NPPF’s intention that the natural environment be conserved and enhanced through local plans.</p> <p>In the section on Biodiversity and Geodiversity, one of the criteria could be “Would the site provide opportunities to enhance biodiversity?” Another might be “Would the site provide opportunities to create or improve habitats and links between them?” We think that the first question in your current list may have a typing error in it, and should read “Will the site have an impact on a designated nature conservation site? “ For this question, the scoring will need to be clearly explained to allow it to reflect both positive and negative impacts.</p> <p>Under the headline Landscape we suggest that the first sub-objective should say “<i>protect and enhance the character and distinctiveness of the district’s landscape</i>”. To follow this through the site criteria should include “<i>Will the development provide opportunities to enhance the landscape</i>”.</p> <p>In the section on Land and Soil we suggest that the first sub-objective should say “<i>Encourage development on previously developed land ensuring any biodiversity interest is protected</i>”. Also under the site assessment criteria a further point should be added “Will the site result in the protection of all soils?”</p> <p>There is also an opportunity to reflect the benefits of green infrastructure for health. The sub-objective “Use urban design and provision of open space and walking / cycling routes to support healthy choices “ could be supported by a criterion asking “Will the site provide good quality access to open space and/or green infrastructure?”</p>	<p>Sub objectives have been amended to reflect the suggestions made by Natural England.</p> <p>Sub objectives added.</p> <p>Sub objective amended.</p> <p>Sub objective amended (also taking into account comments from the Environment Agency).</p> <p>Sub objectives and criteria amended as suggested.</p>

2. The Environment Agency

Comments requesting action	Response
<p>8. Climate Change</p> <p>The following documents should be added.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood and Water Management Act 2010 • National Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England • River Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan <p>8.2.7 The CfSH is being superseded. Update this accordingly.</p> <p>8.2.10 The SFRA referenced is out of date.</p> <p>8.3.11 Ratcliffe on Soar power station is coal fired not gas/oil</p> <p>8.3.17 Reword to read: <i>“NWL District is adjacent to Charnwood through which the River Soar flows before entering North West Leicestershire. There are a large number of properties within the adjoining Boroughs that are susceptible to flooding from the River Trent and the River Soar, and future development within NWL must be carefully managed to ensure that this risk of flooding is not exacerbated and contributes to a reduction in flood risk elsewhere where feasible”.</i></p> <p>8.3.20 Surface water flood risk is not adequately covered.</p> <p>8.3.21 This paragraph lacks clarity.</p> <p>8.4 Reword last bullet in Section 8.4 to read: “Some parts of the district are at very high risk of flood. Advice and guidance from the NPPF, Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authority (Leicestershire County Council) will need to be followed to ensure development does not increase the risk of flooding on or off-site and reduces flood risk elsewhere where feasible”.</p>	<p>Documents added to the contextual review.</p> <p>Text amended to reflect Housing Standards Review.</p> <p>Text amended.</p> <p>Text amended as suggested.</p> <p>Paragraph 8.3.21 reworded. Para 8.4 reworded as suggested.</p>

Comments requesting action	Response
<p>9. Biodiversity and Geodiversity</p> <p>Include this document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature <p><i>Data Sources</i> – we hold the following sources of information that may be useful to you: - protected and invasive species data, current ecological status of water bodies under the terms of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>Local Geological Sites or Local Wildlife Sites are not mentioned and should be included.</p> <p>9.4 The River Mease SAC is not just at risk from adverse effects waste water treatment outflows, there are other contributing factors. You should seek further clarification from Natural England.</p>	<p>Document included as part of contextual review.</p> <p>We will seek to add this information to the baseline position throughout the SA process. The scope of the SA is always evolving and any updates will be presented in subsequent SA Reports.</p> <p>We will liaise with the Leicestershire Wildlife Trust to clarify what baseline date is available. The scope of the SA is always evolving and any updates will be presented in subsequent SA Reports.</p> <p>We will seek clarification from Natural England. The scope of the SA is always evolving and any updates will be presented in subsequent SA Reports.</p>
<p>12. Water</p> <p>This chapter has no regard to Groundwater and the protection of groundwater from contamination that could occur as a result of re-development, this is a serious omission.</p> <p>Documents for consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Agency’s Groundwater Protection: Policy and Practice (GP3) <p>It will be important for the Local Plan to identify opportunities for improvement (as indeed required by the WFD for surface water and groundwater bodies), but it is also essential that any future developer provides adequate information when submitting regeneration proposals so that the potential impact on any Controlled Waters (groundwater and surface waters) can be fully assessed.</p> <p>Chapter 12 should include reference to Sustainable Drainage Systems as the appropriate way of dealing with surface water run-off. The benefits to bio-diversity and water quality should be recognised, and their use should be embedded in local plan policy.</p> <p>12.2.2 Reword to read “The NPPF states that new development should be strategically located away</p>	<p>Document included as part of contextual review.</p> <p>Para 12.2 reworded.</p>

Comments requesting action	Response
<p>14. Sustainability Framework</p> <p><u>8, Low Carbon Energy.</u></p> <p>The last bullet refers to energy efficiency. It would be good to see water efficiency promoted here as this aids energy efficiency.</p> <p><u>9 Flooding</u></p> <p>We suggest re- wording the objective:-</p> <p>Development must not put people at inappropriate risk of flooding either on or off site and must seek and undertake opportunities to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere where feasible.</p> <p>We suggest an additional bullet point to the sub-objective :-</p> <p>Seek opportunities to reduce flood risk where feasible.</p> <p>We suggest re-wording of the Example Site Assessment Criteria :-</p> <p>Is the site in Flood Zone 2 or 3? Is the site indicated to be at risk of surface water flooding Has the development considered the use of SuDS? Are there opportunities to reduce flood risk to third parties elsewhere? Is the new development benefiting from existing flood defence infrastructure and should maintenance contributions be sought by the Environment Agency for continuation for the existing service level of flood protection?</p> <p><u>13 Land and Soil</u></p> <p>Suggest re-wording of the first bullet point of the sub – objective to: - <i>Prioritising the remediation and redevelopment of previously developed land.</i></p> <p><u>14, Natural Resources</u></p> <p>We support the reference to water efficiency within this section, but it could also be strengthened by</p>	<p>Sub objective amended as suggested.</p> <p>Objective 9 amended as suggested.</p> <p>Two sub-objectives added.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to achieve a net reduction in rates of surface water run-off. • Seek opportunities to reduce flood risk where feasible. <p>Criteria relating to surface water flooding added.</p> <p>At the assessment stage, not all sites will have considered development, and thus, will not have considered detailed design such as the use of SUDs. It is considered more feasible to assess the sites potential for accommodating SUDs, rather than whether this has already been set out as part of a development proposal.</p> <p>Objective has been amended to reflect suggestions from both Natural England and the Environment Agency.</p> <p>Amended.</p>

Comments requesting action	Response
<p>adding 'high water efficient standards' as with energy in section 8 of the table.</p> <p>15 Pollution Suggest the following wording as a sub-objective:- <i>Ensuring development does not lead to pollution of controlled waters.</i></p> <p>There is a need to maintain water quality or improve waterbodies to "good status", i.e. not just protect designated sites.</p>	<p>Additional sub-objective added dealing with pollution to watercourses and the potential for enhancing water quality.</p> <p>Sub objective has been added to reflect the need to 'enhance'.</p>

3. English Heritage

Comments requesting action	Response
<p>11. Cultural Heritage Need to include a wider range of contextual documents such as Leicestershire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project and Conservation Area Appraisals.</p> <p>Reference should be made to heritage at risk (English Heritage and local registers), non-designated heritage assets, such as locally listed buildings, and archaeological potential.</p> <p>We consider that the identification of issues should be revisited, once further research into plans, policies and programmes has been undertaken, and the baseline updated.</p>	<p>The contextual review has been updated to reflect a wider range of contextual documents.</p> <p>Heritage at Risk has been included as part of the baseline position.</p> <p>Key issues have been revisited.</p>
<p>14. Sustainability Framework There should be two separate objectives for heritage, one for the built environment, and one for heritage.</p> <p>Our guidance note recommends that a specific objective is included: "Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings."</p> <p>Of the specific sub-objectives, we consider that these are too narrow in their scope. For example the first two bullet points relate only to buildings or structures which are designated or non-designated. There is no reference made within the sub-</p>	<p>In the interest of avoiding duplication, only one SA Objective is proposed for the historic environment. SA Objective 12 also seeks to protect landscape character, which will also include consideration of natural heritage assets such as parks and gardens.</p> <p>Sub objectives have been amended to reflect natural heritage such as parks and gardens.</p>

Comments requesting action	Response
<p>objectives to conservation areas or historic landscape features (such as parks and gardens, and nondesignated parkland, or other specific historic landscape features). No recognition of the duty under the primary legislation and the NPPF is made within these to 'enhance.' It is also unclear what 'respect' of archaeological remains actually means.</p> <p>We note that paragraph 14.1.7 states that these criteria will need to be finalised once it is known what information is available for the assessment. It is unclear what this means in practice. We would wish to be consulted when these are set out as part of the completed sustainability framework.</p> <p>Using proximity as a measure of harm would fail to take into account the definition of setting of heritage assets and how it contributes to significance. For example, sites in close proximity to, or indeed within a heritage asset such as a conservation area, could offer an enhancement, whereas site a considerable distance away from a heritage asset (1km+) could have the potential to cause substantial harm. Consideration should also be given to the distance measure used in the initial sift as simply restricting to sites which are adjacent to an asset could miss out potential impacts upon significance of assets not directly adjacent to a site.</p>	<p>Sub Objectives have been amended to incorporate the duty to 'enhance'.</p> <p>The site appraisal framework will be shared with Statutory Consultees and other interested parties once it has been drafted. We have taken on board the suggested criteria at this stage of the SA process and will feed this into the site appraisal/selection methodology as appropriate (i.e. dependant on the availability of data and resources).</p> <p>It is recognised that proximity to heritage assets is not the only factor in determining the significance of effects on the historic environment. This will be taken into consideration as the site appraisal / selection methodology is being drafted.</p>