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Charnwood Local Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

**Final Report
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Report prepared for:
Charnwood Borough Council



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Purpose

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Abbreviations

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
CAMS	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
CBC	Charnwood Borough Council
GEP	Good Ecological Potential
GVZ	Groundwater Vulnerability Zone
HMWB	Heavily Modified Water Body
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
NCA	National Character Area
NNR	National Nature Reserve
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
PRoW	Public Right of Way
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological Sites
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SLA	Special Landscape Area
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPZ	Source Protection Zone
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
WFD	Water Framework Directive

1 Introduction

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

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

The Scoping Report draws upon a wide range of existing information. This includes the evidence base used to inform the preparation of the existing Charnwood Local Plan (2011-2028), together with its accompanying Sustainability Appraisal (Land Use Consultants, 2015).

A draft version of the Scoping Report was published for consultation with the statutory consultation bodies for a five-week period from 8 September 2016 to 14 October 2016. The scope of the Sustainability Appraisal was revised to address the consultee comments received and is presented in this version of the Scoping Report.

1.1 Charnwood Local Plan

Charnwood Borough Council adopted the Charnwood Local Plan Core Strategy in November 2015. The Development Plan is made up of the Core Strategy and detailed 'saved' policies within the Borough of Charnwood Local Plan (2004). Charnwood Borough Council is now preparing a new single Charnwood Local Plan document, extending the Core Strategy to 2036 and replacing the saved policies from the 2004 Borough of Charnwood Local Plan. The Council published a new Local Development Scheme in April 2016, which sets out the plan documents that will be prepared and a timetable for their preparation.

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

1.2 Sustainability Appraisal

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

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

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

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

1.3 Habitat Regulations Assessment

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

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

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

1.4 Charnwood Borough

Charnwood Borough is one of seven districts within Leicestershire, in the East Midlands. It lies centrally between the cities of Nottingham, Leicester and Derby (see Figure 1-1). It encompasses an area of approximately 279km² and has a population of 171,000 (CBC, 2016a). The Borough is divided in two by the River Soar, which flows from south to north between Leicester and Loughborough. To the west of the Soar Valley is Charnwood Forest, an upland tract that includes rocky hills and open areas, and extensive woodland, which stretches from Loughborough west towards Coalville. To the north east of the Soar Valley is the Wolds, a largely rural area containing picturesque villages including Burton on the Wolds, Walton on the Wolds and Wymeswold. The rural south east is distinguished from the rest of the Borough of by the River Wreake, a tributary of the River Soar, flowing from Melton Mowbray to Syston, just north of Leicester.

The Midland Main Line railway also cuts across in the east of the borough, connecting Leicester and Loughborough with London and the north east of England. Charnwood is bounded to the west by the M1 motorway, with the A6 dual carriageway bisecting the Borough north to south, parallel to the River Soar, and the A46 passing across the east and south of the Borough.

Loughborough is the largest town in Charnwood and the commercial centre of the Borough. Other larger settlements include Shepshed in the north west of the borough and Syston and Sileby located to the south of Loughborough. The Soar Valley contains a string of large villages including Quorn, Mountsorrel and Birstall that act as service centres for the surrounding rural areas in the Borough.

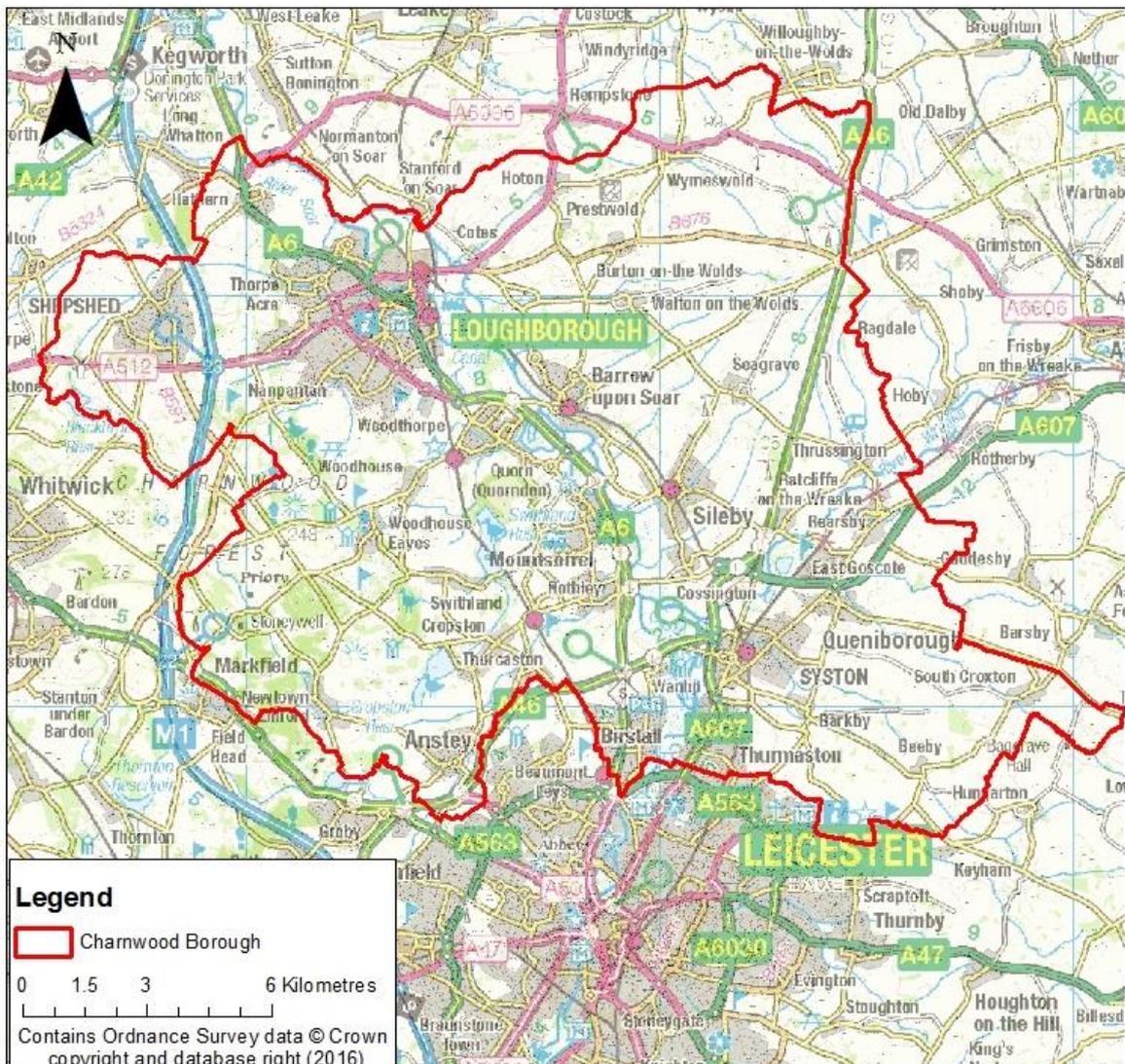


Figure 1-1: Charnwood Borough

1.5 Key challenges facing Charnwood Borough

Through the development of the current Charnwood Local Plan Core Strategy (CBC, 2015a) a series of key challenges were identified as affecting the Borough. These key challenges influenced the development and choice of Core Strategy policies and the appraisal framework used in the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal (Land Use Consultants, 2015). These key challenges are:

- A growing population – set to be 194,600 by 2028.
- Deprived communities – five of Leicestershire's 10 most deprived neighbourhoods fall within Charnwood.
- Housing market pressure – due to population growth, smaller households occupying larger homes, and a lack of available properties for new households.
- A constrained economy – due to a lack of available land to satisfy demand for new and expanding businesses.
- Increased volumes of traffic – with potential for significant congestion at peak times.
- Shopping and leisure improvements – competition from shopping and leisure opportunities at Leicester, Derby and Nottingham as well as increases in online shopping.
- A lack of green space and leisure facilities – there is a need for a variety of green spaces and leisure facilities across the Borough, including parks, natural open space, amenity

green space, outdoor sport, facilities for children and young people, outdoor and indoor sport facilities and allotments.

- The fear of crime – The overall trend shows that crime and anti-social behaviour in Charnwood is reducing; however, there continues to be a fear of crime. Charnwood has six areas where the crime levels are significantly higher than the Leicestershire average.
- Heritage pressures – some historic structures and buildings may be at risk from development pressures and neglect.
- Maintaining settlement and landscape identity – pressure on open land between settlements and on important landscapes.
- A pressured environment – Charnwood Forest and the river valleys are an important ecological resource but are subjected to fragmentation, decline and pressure from future development.
- Climate change – Charnwood has a local role in the global issue of climate change.

2 Sustainability Appraisal methodology

2.1 Meeting the requirements of the SEA Directive

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

Government guidance requires that Sustainability Appraisals should incorporate the requirements of the SEA Regulations. Therefore, the Sustainability Appraisal of the new Charnwood Local Plan will meet the obligations of both the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and SEA Regulations – in practice, Sustainability Appraisal and SEA follow very similar methodologies and it is possible to combine them without losing the essence of either. Therefore, for the remainder of this document ‘Sustainability Appraisal’ refers to the combined process.

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

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

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

2.2 Stages of the Sustainability Appraisal process

Sustainability Appraisal is an iterative process that aims to identify the significant environmental, social and economic effects of a plan. For the Local Plan, this involves assessing the Plan strategies against a series of Sustainability Appraisal objectives so as to identify the extent to which sustainable development is likely to be achieved.

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

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

Table 2-2: Stages in the Sustainability Appraisal process

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

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

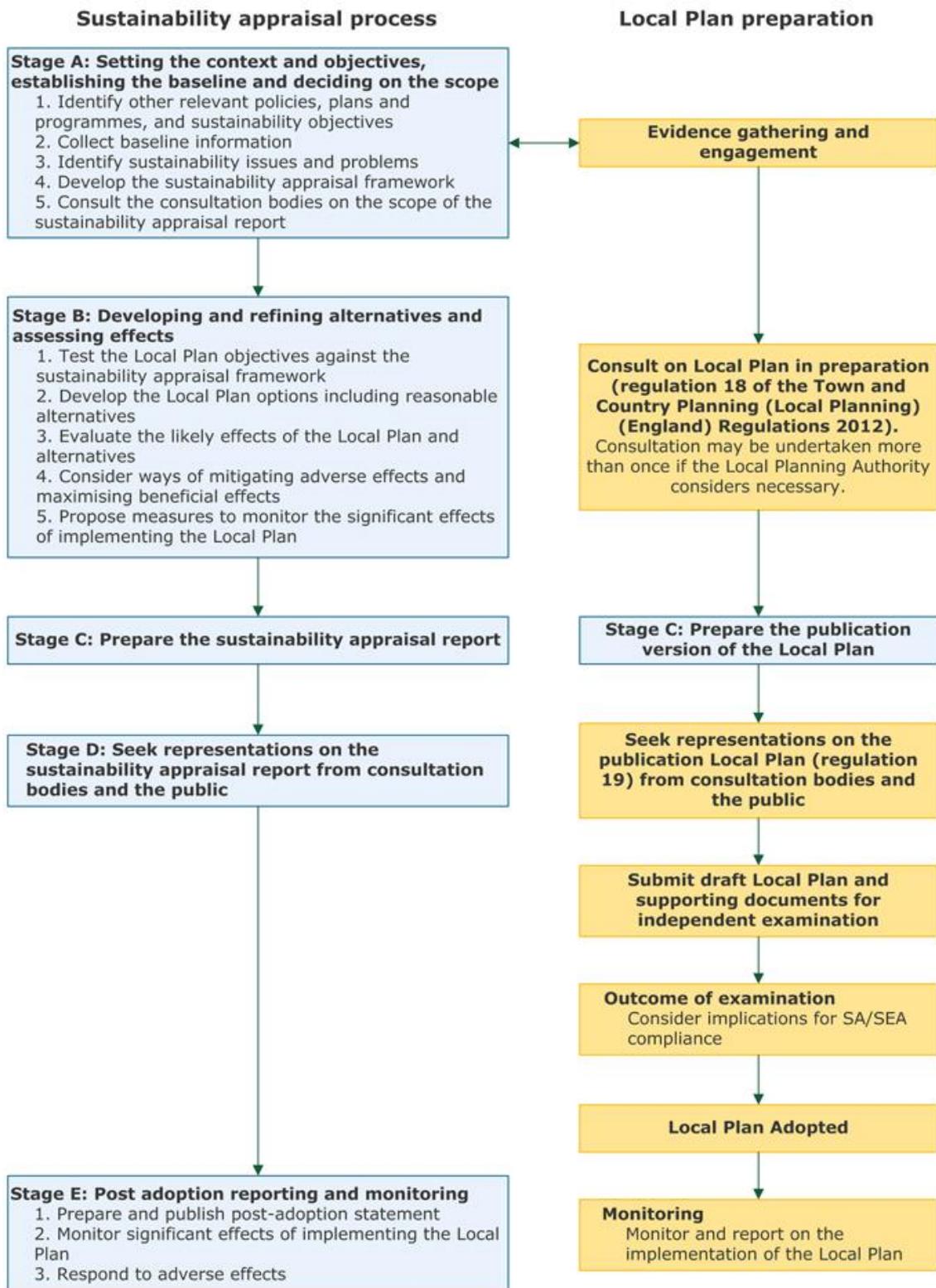


Figure 2-1: Key stages of Local Plan preparation and their link with the Sustainability Appraisal process (DCLG, 2014)

2.3 Scope of the Sustainability Appraisal

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

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

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

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

2.3.2 Stage A2: Collecting baseline information

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

- Charnwood Borough Council
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Office for National Statistics
- Historic England
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)

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

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

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

SEA Directive and Sustainability Appraisal guidance requirements		Where covered in the Scoping Report	Definition in relation to this report
Social	Population	Population	Where people live and work; population trends and demographics; housing; education; inequality and deprivation; key community facilities; accessibility.
	Human health	Population	Trends and patterns in human health; recreation opportunities.
Economic	Economy	Local economy	Local economic and employment conditions.
	Material assets	Material assets	Critical transport and other infrastructure; community services; green infrastructure and open space.
	Waste	Waste and minerals	Waste collection and recycling patterns.
The interrelationship between the above factors		Throughout the Scoping Report.	The relationship between environmental features and issues.

2.3.3 Stage A3: Identifying environmental and sustainability issues and problems

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

2.3.4 Stage A4: Developing the Sustainability Appraisal objectives

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

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

3.1 Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

Plan, Programme or Policy
Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2012)
Water Resources Strategy: Regional Action Plan for the Midlands Region (2009)
Severn Trent Water's (STW's) Water Resource Management Plan 2015-40 (2014)
Local
Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy (2015)
Charnwood Regeneration Strategy (2012)
Charnwood Community Safety Partnership Plan 2011-2014
Charnwood Borough Council Housing Strategy 2015-2020 (2015)
Charnwood Homelessness Strategy 2013-2018 (2013)
Tenancy Strategy 2012-2017 (2012)
Affordable Housing Economic Viability Assessment (2010)
Charnwood Borough Council Open Spaces Strategy 2013-2028 (2013)
Charnwood Local Growth Plan 2014-2020 (2014)
Charnwood Local Plan Viability Study (2014)
Green Wedges, Urban Fringe Green Infrastructure Enhancement Zones and AIs (2016)
Charnwood Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2013)
Charnwood and Loughborough Area Blueprint for Tourism (2011-2014)
Loughborough Town Centre Masterplan (2007)
Charnwood Borough Council Shephed Town Centre Master Plan and Delivery Framework (2013)
Borough of Charnwood Contaminated Land Strategy (2001)
Charnwood Sustainable Community Strategy (2008)
Loughborough Off-Campus Community – Service Delivery Strategy (2011)
Student Housing Provision in Loughborough, Supplementary Planning Document (2005)
Setting the Strategic Direction: Charnwood LDF Core Strategy - (Stage 1) (2012)
Setting Strategic Direction: Charnwood LDF Core Strategy Stage 2 Emerging Development Strategy 2013
Setting the Strategic Direction: Southern Charnwood Transport Assessment for the 2026 LDF (2009)
River Soar and the Grand Union Canal – The Strategy (2009)
Charnwood Borough Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2014)

3.2 Summary of the review

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

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

SA topic	Key themes	
Environmental	Landscape character	Protection of sensitive landscape assets (including Special Landscape Areas (SLA) and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)); promotion of the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and amenity of important landscapes, including inland waters; definition and protection of regional and local landscape character; and the provision and enhancement of green infrastructure to benefit people and the environment.
	Biodiversity and nature conservation	Protection of international and national designated sites and their qualifying features; preservation and enhancement of notable habitats and species, particularly those noted for their conservation value or under threat; identification of the roles and responsibilities of organisations including local authorities to protect and enhance biodiversity including the creation of local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats and species and promotion of BAP species; provision of new/restored habitat to enable species to adapt to the future impacts of climate change.

SA topic		Key themes
	Water environment	Promotion of the sustainable use of water resources to meet future growth in demand and impacts of climate change; better regulation and management of the water environment to benefit water resources and flood risk, and the reduction of water pollution; and promotion of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).
	Land	Long term protection, improvement and sustainable management of soil quality and quantity, including the preservation of best and most versatile land; and the management and remediation of contaminated land to reduce the risk to human health and the environment, particularly soils and water quality.
	Historic environment	Protection and enhancement of nationally and locally important heritage assets and historic landscapes; better integration of heritage protection within the planning process; and provision of better access to heritage sites including their promotion as an economic asset.
	Air quality	Protection of air quality through enhanced management of polluting emissions.
	Climate	Requirements to reduce future greenhouse gas emissions across all socio-economic sectors to limit the impacts of climate change on people and the environment; and provision of measures to enable future adaptation to the impacts of climate change and increased resilience.
Social	Population and human health	Protection and improvement of human health, wellbeing and living standards; greater integration of socio-economic and environmental objectives to deliver sustainable development; promotion of prosperous, sustainable and coherent communities; provision of better public transport and access; reduction of flood risk; enhancement of recreation and amenity resources to benefit health and wellbeing; and development and provision of measures to enable adaptation to the impacts of climate change.
Economic	Material assets	Improvement and better management of material assets including highways and utilities infrastructure; greater provision and enhancement of green infrastructure to deliver benefits to people and the environment; and provision of better public services to deliver socio-economic benefits.
	Waste and minerals	Improvement and better management of waste, including promotion of the waste hierarchy. Implementation of waste reduction schemes. Sustainable use of mineral resources and improvement in the effects on the environment of their extraction.

4 Stage A2: Environmental characteristics of Charnwood Borough

4.1 Introduction

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

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

4.2 Landscape character

The Charnwood Landscape Character Assessment (CBC, 2012a) identifies and describes the diverse characteristics of the Borough's landscape. Charnwood is low lying along the Soar Valley, extending to a large floodplain that includes Loughborough, with higher ground being present in the west in Charnwood Forest and the east in The Wolds. Land also rises towards High Leicestershire. The highest elevation in the Borough is 248mAOD at Beacon Hill. The settlement pattern within Charnwood is strongly influenced by this topography, with the main settlements such as Loughborough and Syston located in the low lying river valleys.

Much of the Borough is typified by three main Landscape Character Areas (LCA), with The Wolds in the north east of the Borough, Charnwood Forest in the south west and the Soar Valley running centrally through the Borough (see Figure 4-1). A set of three smaller LCAs comprising the Wreake Valley and High Leicestershire in the south east of the Borough, and Langley Lowlands in the north west, make up the Charnwood area. Table 4-1 describes the LCAs of the Borough and provides summary information on their principal characteristics and key challenges (adapted from the Borough of Charnwood Landscape Character Assessment).

A number of the LCAs are experiencing a range of pressures that are affecting the strength of their landscape character and their landscape condition (CBC, 2012a). Pressures include habitat fragmentation such as the loss of trees, hedgerows and hedge-trees, agricultural intensification and urban encroachment into rural areas. Charnwood Forest LCA has the most distinctive landscape character in the Borough and is the only LCA assessed as being in good condition.

Major infrastructure and development, such as the A6 dual carriageway and the Midland Main Line railway serves as a physical barrier through the centre of the Borough, with few crossing points between east and west (CBC, 2012a), fragmenting the landscape character of the Borough and decreasing tranquillity. Commercial agriculture is also creating a change in field patterns in the Borough, by removing hedgerows to create larger fields (CBC, 2012a), creating a degradation of landscape character, and is also creating pressure on ecology through habitat fragmentation. This risks damaging the traditional landscape characters, particularly as the last remaining complex of old unimproved grassland fields at Burton on the Wolds was lost to arable farming as recently as 2008 (CBC, 2012a).

Tranquillity within the Borough has been assessed through a number of studies and is generally strongest in the Borough's border areas in the north east, south east and west. These areas are associated with the LCAs: The Wolds, High Leicestershire and Charnwood Forest (Campaign to Protect Rural England, 2007). Between the 1990s to 2007, the East Midlands experienced an average increase of 22.81% in disturbed areas, with Leicestershire itself seeing an even greater increase of 24.05%. This is more than the England national average increase of 23.02%. In addition to the increase in disturbed areas, there has also been a decline of 13.81% in undisturbed areas in the East Midlands region during this period. Leicestershire has experienced a much sharper decline in undisturbed areas, which have decreased by 22.13%. The England average for this period is a decline of 12.26%. Overall, 59.45% of Leicestershire's area is

classified as disturbed by noise and visual intrusion (Land Use Consultants, 2007). Whilst Borough specific information is not available, within the Charnwood area, the highest levels of disturbance are likely to be experienced within the main urban centres of Loughborough, Shepshed, the Leicester fringe and the Soar Valley, and also along the M1 corridor (Land Use Consultants, 2007); these are areas of principal development within the Borough and contain significant transport infrastructure (Land Use Consultants, 2007).

Figure 4-1: Distribution of Landscape Character Areas in Charnwood Borough

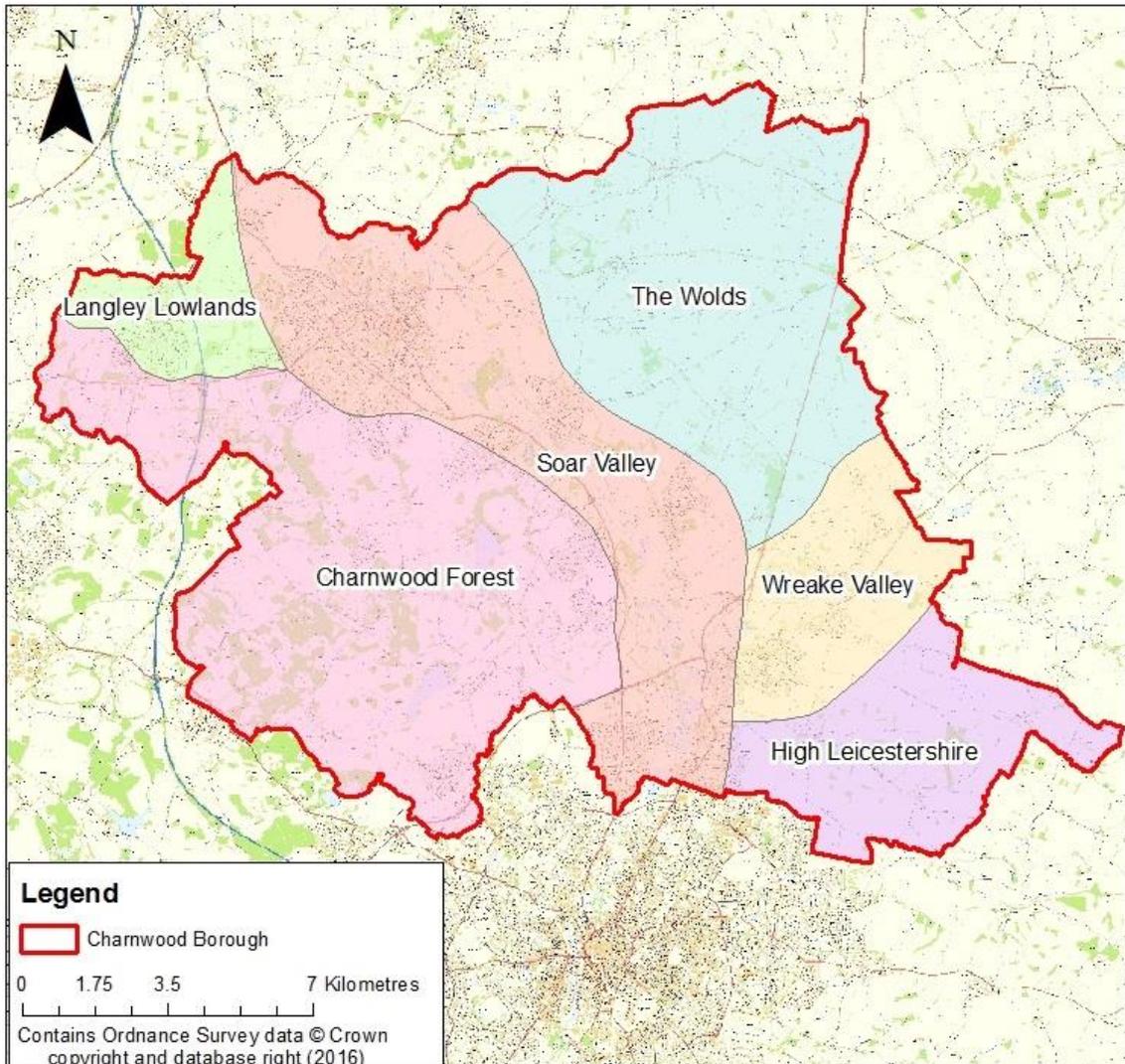


Table 4-1: Summary of Charnwood Borough Landscape Character Areas

LCA	Principal characteristics	Key challenges
Charnwood Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most complex of all LCAs • Highly distinctive upland character • Mosaic of pasture, frequent woodland and rocky outcrops • Historic quarrying of granite and slates • Historic houses and ruins • Scattered settlements • Generally good condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater fragmentation of landscape features • Neglect of hedges and trees • Conservation of wooded areas • Conservation of open views, such as from Beacon Hill • Prevent damage to the landscape and vulnerable ecological areas • Minimise light pollution
High Leicestershire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undulating ridge and valley landscape • Open and extensive views • Remote tranquil character • Isolated farmhouses and small settlements, with urban influence from 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neglect and loss of some hedges and trees • Urban influences • Conservation of remote and tranquil character

LCA	Principal characteristics	Key challenges
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leicester and Thurmaston Generally good condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation of historic landscape such as ridge and furrow Reconnect isolated woodland sites and field ponds to local biodiversity network
Soar Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flat wide floodplain which floods regularly Navigable River Soar and Grand Union Canal Major engineering features such as mainline railway and A6 Restored gravel worked landscapes for farming, recreation and wildlife Most urbanised area of borough - major settlements including Loughborough and Syston Moderate condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation and enhancement of pastoral landscape Development to be directed away from prominent locations Opportunities for natural water management storage within the floodplain Restoration of fragmented and poorly managed hedgerows
Wreake Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flat bottomed river valley Rural character Mixed arable and pasture farming Limited valley crossings Moderate condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fragmentation of landscape features Conservation of tranquil and self-contained character Development should preserve open character Conservation and management of meadows and waterside pastures
The Wolds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large scale rolling landscape with exposed ridges Open countryside with mixed farming Extensive views and sheltered valleys Tranquil and remote Moderate condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural intensification Poor management of hedgerows Conservation of rural landscape character Careful management of development to minimise impact on open landscape Strengthen function of small watercourses
Langley Lowlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rolling landform Large arable fields Open views M1 motorway Transitional features from neighbours LCAs Moderate condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hedge fragmentation Conservation of key views Improvement of off-road walking and cycling routes Conservation of existing vegetation and tree cover at settlement edges

Charnwood Borough has also been separated into six National Character Areas (NCA) (see Figure 4-2) (Natural England, 2014a). These are:

- 69: Trent Valley Washlands
- 70: Melbourne Parklands
- 73: Charnwood
- 74: Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds
- 93: High Leicestershire
- 94: Leicestershire Vales

Trent Valley Washlands, Charnwood and Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds cover most of the Borough. The Trent Valley Washlands covers the floodplains and middle reaches of the River Trent's catchment. As Figure 4-2 shows, it is a narrow, linear and low-lying landscape. The settlement pattern is heavily influenced by flood risk, "*confining villages to the gravel river terraces and to rising ground at the edges of the flood plains.*" (Natural England, 2013a). The NCA is also extensively used industrially, by power stations, gravel extraction and commercial development. It is facing significant challenge from development of housing, infrastructure, agriculture and industrial and commercial development (Natural England, 2013a).

Charnwood NCA is an area of upland within the Borough, which is distinct from the remainder of the Borough by its geology, as it gives rise to exposures of rugged and rocky outcrops. The geology provides fossilised evidence of the earliest forms of multi-cellular life in Britain (Natural

England, 2013b). Part of the NCA lies within the National Forest and as such, contains a high proportion of woodland cover. Key challenges faced by the NCA include protection of its natural assets whilst accommodating new development proposals (Natural England, 2013b).

Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds NCA forms the watershed between the rivers Wreake, Soar and Trent, leading to a rural, open and mixed farmland landscape. The NCA also includes Rutland Water, which makes the NCA a popular visitor destination (Natural England, 2013c). Key challenges facing the NCA include over abstraction of water for agricultural use and public water supply. Increasing commercial agriculture also poses a threat to the habitats within the NCA (Natural England, 2013c).

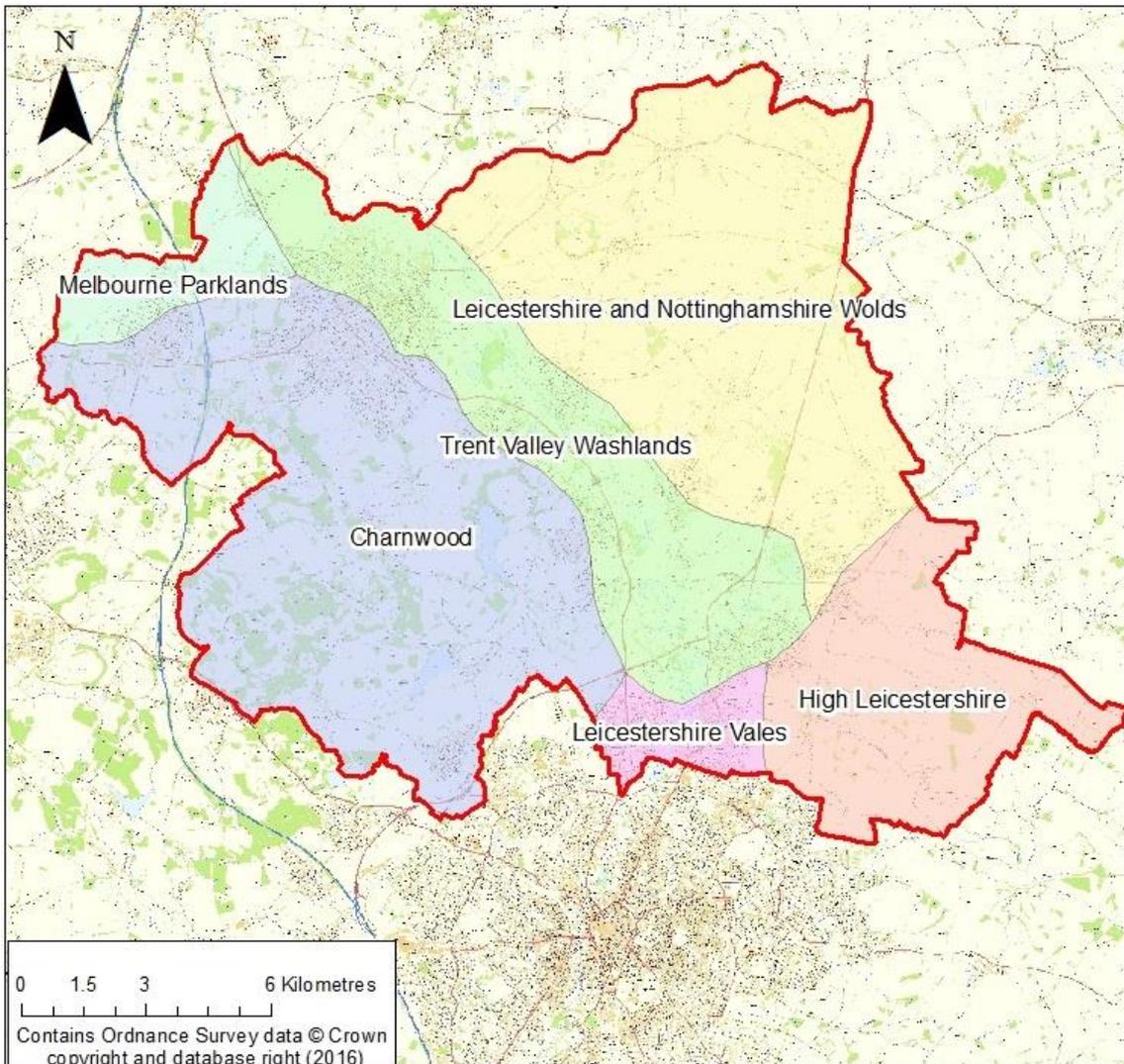


Figure 4-2: Distribution of National Character Areas in Charnwood Borough

Charnwood Borough does not contain any Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), National Parks or Special Landscape Areas (SLA). The Soar Valley Area of Local Landscape Value together with a number of other areas in the Borough were designated as Green Wedges in the Charnwood Local Plan (CBC, 2004). These are strategic designations that seek to protect important areas of open land.

Charnwood Forest forms part of the larger National Forest. The purpose of the National Forest is to transform the regional landscape through a programme of large-scale afforestation with “*the aim of linking the two ancient Forests of Charnwood on its Eastern fringe with Needwood Forest to its West.*” (National Forest Company, 2016). Currently forest cover is at 20% in the National Forest, with approximately 150ha of new woodland created within the area each year (The National Forest Company, 2014). This process of afforestation aims to address some of the key challenges identified for the Charnwood Forest LCA (see Table 4-1).

4.2.1 Key sustainability issues

The key sustainability issue affecting landscape character and quality within the Borough is the pressure of new development within all of the LCAs, and the effects this has on preservation of the key landscape characteristics. This in turn effects levels of tranquillity, particularly in the more rural areas of the Borough. Infrastructure and development are also creating barriers within the Borough, which particularly affect movement east to west. Commercial agricultural practices are increasing field sizes and also removing many traditional landscape features and habitats, resulting in the loss and fragmentation of important rural landscape characteristics.

4.3 Biodiversity and nature conservation

4.3.1 National and international designated nature conservation sites

Charnwood Borough supports a range of nationally important wildlife sites. There are 17 sites designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the Borough, which are mostly located within rural areas in the west of the Borough (see Figure 4-2). Summary information on these sites is provided in Table 4-2. Natural England assesses the condition of SSSIs and their constituent units and categorises them as favourable or unfavourable. Within unfavourable, Natural England determines if the trend of the SSSI unit is recovering or declining. Leicestershire and Rutland are amongst the poorest counties in the UK for sites of recognised nature conservation value, with SSSIs representing just 2% of the total land area (Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust, 2010).

Table 4-2: Sites of Special Scientific Interest within Charnwood Borough

SSSI name	Location	Interest features	SSSI condition
Barrow Gravel Pits	Centre	One of the best remaining complexes of open water, grassland, scrub and woodland in Leicestershire. The site supports a varied breeding bird community and invertebrate fauna.	Unfavourable – Recovering: 100%
Beacon Hill, Hangingstone & Outwoods	West	Provides some of the best habitat in the county for breeding birds, with the Outwoods supporting interesting stands of ancient semi natural alder woodland. There are also important geological exposures that have yielded late Precambrian fossils unique to Britain, and of world-wide significance.	Unfavourable – Recovering: 70.27% Unfavourable – Declining: 27.62% Favourable: 2.11%
Benscliffe Wood	South west	The site contains outcrops of siliceous rocks which support one of the richest Saxicolous lichen floras in the East Midlands. More than 30 species of lichen have been recorded from a small area.	Unfavourable – Recovering: 100%
Blackbrook Reservoir	North west	Supports an unusual marginal plant community unique to the English Midlands. It is also a mesotrophic water body, which is unusual in England.	Unfavourable – No change: 84.56% Favourable: 15.44%
Bradgate Park & Cropston Reservoir	South west	One of the finest remaining examples of ancient parkland in Leicestershire, and contains some of the last remaining fragments of wet heathland in the County. The site also contains nationally important geological features.	Unfavourable – Recovering: 86.40% Unfavourable – No change: 12.35% Unfavourable – Declining: 1.26%
Buddon Wood & Swithland Reservoir	Centre	One of the best birch-oak woodlands in Leicestershire. It contains more than 200 species of vascular plants and more than 200 species of moth. The reservoir is also an important place for roosting and feeding for a variety of waterfowl.	Unfavourable – Recovering: 15.76% Unfavourable – No change: 40.08% Unfavourable – Declining – 1.60% Favourable: 42.56%
Cotes Grassland	North	The primary interest of the site is the grassland sward overlooking the River Soar. It supports several species of plants which are rare in Leicestershire.	Unfavourable – Recovering: 100%

SSSI name	Location	Interest features	SSSI condition
Loughborough Meadows	North	The site contains the largest remaining example of unimproved alluvial flood meadow in Leicestershire. It is managed by traditional methods.	Unfavourable – Recovering: 33.05% Favourable: 66.95%
Main Quarry	Centre	Designated for its geological features, it contains a fine example of granite related, temperature-controlled mineralisation characterised by molybdenite, allanite and topaz, modified by a later introduction of dolomite, sulphides and crystallised chlorites.	Favourable: 100%
Newhurst Quarry	West	This is the only site in Britain that contains pre-existing hypogene mineralisation, originating from ascending mineral-rich fluids in pre-Triassic times.	Favourable: 100%
One Barrow Plantation	North west	Part of the site also falls within Blackbrook Reservoir SSSI; however, this site is geologically important for interpreting the conditions which existed in the East Midlands in the late Precambrian.	Favourable: 100%
Roecliffe Manor Lawns	South west	The supports an unusually diverse community of fungi associated with old unimproved grassland, including a number of species listed in the Red Data List.	Favourable: 100%
Sheet Hedges Wood	South west	The site has one of the best remaining examples of ash and alder woodland in Leicestershire and is also representative of ancient woodland developed on clay soils in Central and Eastern England.	Unfavourable – Recovering: 50.36% Unfavourable – Declining: 23.01% Favourable: 26.63%
Shepshed Cutting	North west	Geologically designated, the mineral deposits are of a type unknown anywhere else in Britain and for which no exactly comparable deposits are known anywhere in the world. The site is of international importance for developing a better understanding of the origins of minerals deposits and the processes which form them.	Destroyed: 100%
Swithland Wood & The Brand	South west	The site includes some of the best remaining examples of oak-lime and alder woodland in Leicestershire and is representative of ancient woodland on acid, loamy soils in the Midlands.	Unfavourable – Recovering: 76.08% Unfavourable – No change: 11.79% Favourable: 12.14%
Twenty Acre Piece	North east	The site contains some of the best remaining examples of acidic clay grassland in Leicestershire. It contains a mix of habitats, including a variety of grassland and wetter areas.	Unfavourable – Declining: 100%
Ulverscroft Valley	South west	Site contains a series of semi-natural habitats including grassland, heath, woodland and wetlands. This combination produces one of the best wildlife sites in Leicestershire.	Unfavourable – Recovering: 51.01% Unfavourable – No change: 5.74% Favourable: 43.26%

Charnwood Borough does not support any National Nature Reserves (NNR) or any internationally designated nature conservation sites. However, the River Mease SAC (located 9.6km to the west) and Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site (located 16.2km to the east) are both located within 20km of the Borough boundary. Summary details of these sites is provided in Table 4-3: Key issues experienced at these sites include the impact of development. This causes direct impacts on habitat quality through effects on water quality as a result of increased surface water runoff that can carry pollutants, and an increase in public access disturbing the habitats that are present at the sites.

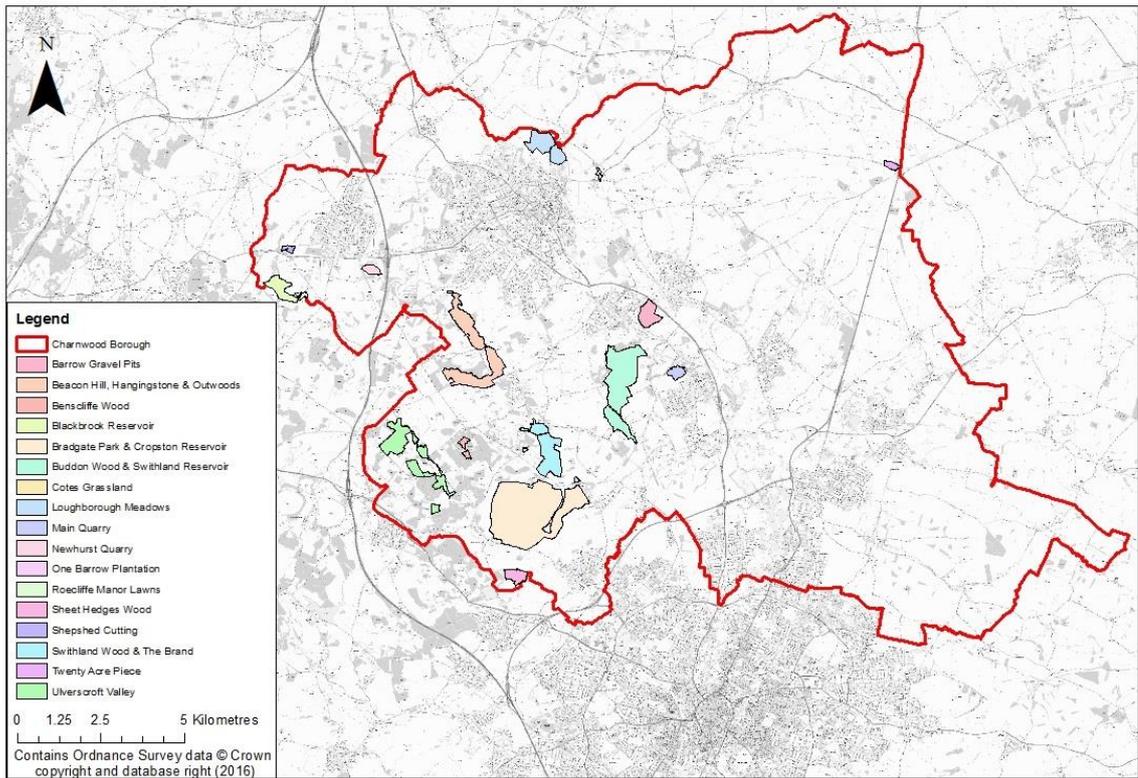


Figure 4-3: Distribution of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in Charnwood Borough

Table 4-3: European sites within 20km of Charnwood Borough

Site	Qualifying features	Key challenges
River Mease SAC	The site is designated for a number of aquatic habitats and species including Spined Loach <i>Cobitis taenia</i> , Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> , White-clawed Crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> , Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> and Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation.	Poor water quality, mainly due to high phosphorous levels. As a precaution against this, since 2009 new development in the area has been restricted (North West Leicestershire District Council, 2016). Other pressures on the site include physical modifications such as dredging and weirs, lack of river bank vegetation, and low macrophyte species abundance and composition (Jacobs, 2012).
Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar	The main habitats include open water and a mosaic of lagoons, reedswamp, marsh, old meadows, scrub and woodland. The site qualifies as an SPA for the bird species Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> and Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> and because it regularly supports a population of 20,000 waterfowl. The site qualifies as a Ramsar for its peak counts of winter waterfowl and populations of Gadwall and Shoveler.	The key issues for Rutland Water are listed as water abstraction, inappropriate water levels, direct impact on waterfowl numbers from third parties, invasive species, water pollution, planning permission, public access and disturbance and fisheries (Natural England, 2014b).

4.3.2 Local designated nature conservation sites

Approximately 7.3% of the land within the Borough is afforded some form of environmental protection (Land Use Consultants, 2015). There are five Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) within Charnwood Borough and 218 Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs), covering over 1000ha and 100km of linear habitats, which equates to approximately 4% of the Borough's land area (CBC, 2016b) (see Figure 4-4). Summary details for the LNRs within the Borough are provided in Table 4-4.

Habitats designated within LWSs include ancient woodland, species-rich hedgerows, unimproved and semi-improved grassland (acidic, neutral, calcareous and wet grassland being represented), ponds and watercourses (River Soar, River Wreake, the Black Brook and Rothley Brook) (White Young Green, 2008).

Four of these LWS are due to be re-designated as LNRs by Charnwood Borough Council by 2020. These are Stonebow Washlands, Gorse Covert, Pignut Spinney and Booth Wood.

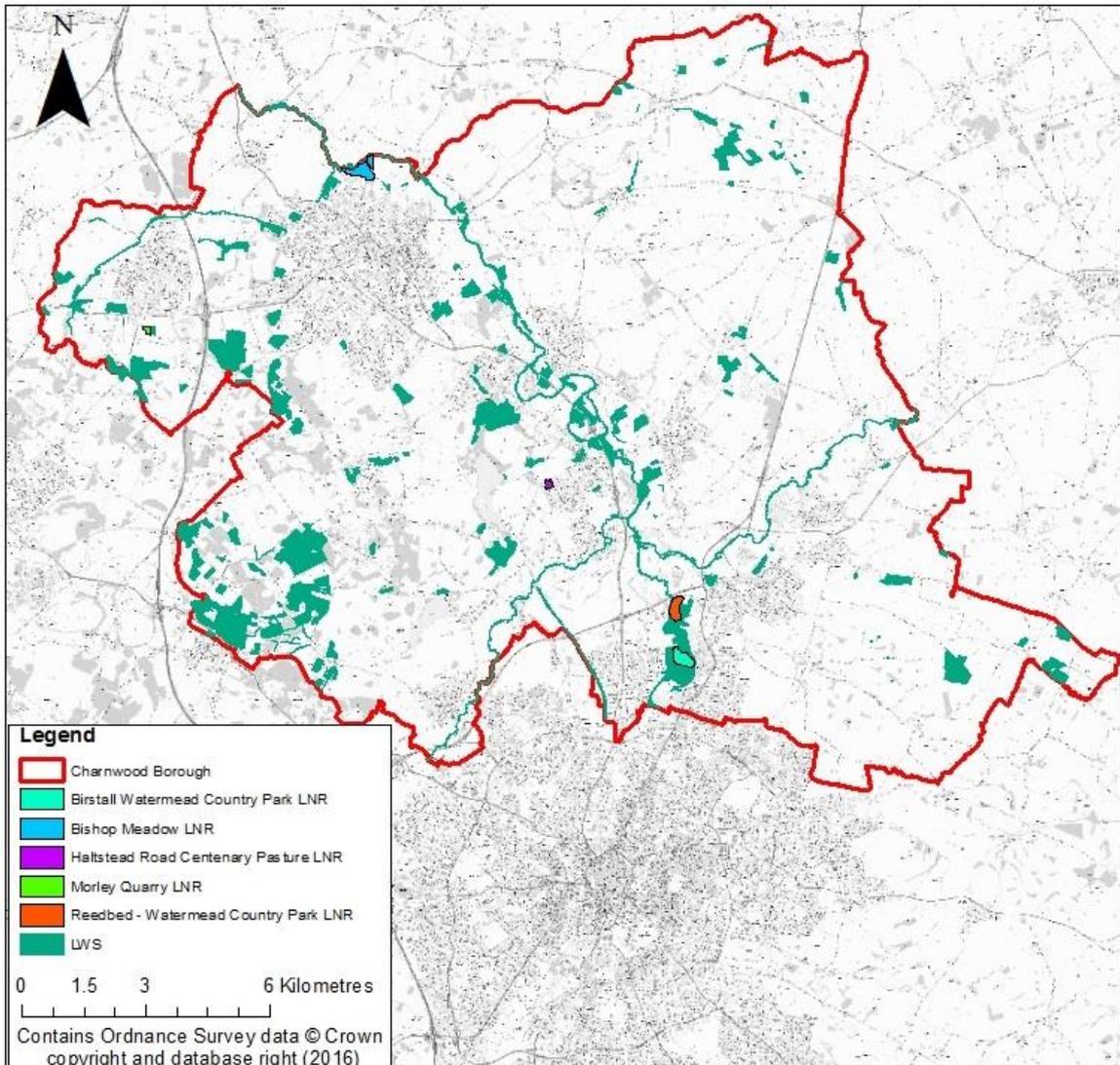


Figure 4-4: Location of Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) in Charnwood Borough

Table 4-4: Local Nature Reserves in Charnwood Borough

Site name	Location	Site features
Birstall - Watermead Country Park	South	Flower-rich damp meadows grazed by cattle or horses, with land being regularly flooded in winter by the River Soar. It is an important feeding area during winter for water birds.
Bishop Meadow	North	Habitats include grassland, fen and swamp and a rich ground flora, fine beech trees and a rare mix of fungi and bryophytes.
Halstead Road Centenary Pasture	Centre	Unimproved flower rich pasture with rig and furrow. A granite outcrop present is also good for mosses and lichens, with hawthorn and sloe hedges being good for birds including Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citronella</i> and Linnet <i>Carduelis cannabina</i> .
Morley Quarry	North west	A series of disused stone quarries, including a pond with good breeding toad population and heath grassland. It is also a Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS).
Reedbed – Watermead Country Park	South	The site includes two former gravel pit lakes, Norfolk reedbed, wet woodland, sedgebeds. There are also overwintering birds such as Reed Warblers <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> , Sand Martins <i>Riparia riparia</i> , Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i> and Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i> .

4.3.3 Notable habitats and species

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 2010-2015 (Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, 2010) contains 19 Habitat Actions Plans, with 18 of these BAP priority habitats recorded in Charnwood Borough. These habitats cover a relatively small area and many are focused within specific areas such as Charnwood Forest (Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust, 2010). Monitoring undertaken in 2009/10 showed a small increase in BAP habitat cover with no loss reported in the most recent monitoring year (2011/12) (Land Use Consultants, 2015).

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland BAP also contains Species Action Plans (SAP) for 16 priority species in the region. Nine of these species are present in Charnwood Borough (Land Use Consultants, 2015). These comprise:

- Barn Owl *Tyto alba*
- Bats
- Black Poplar *Populus nigra*
- Otter *Lutra lutra*
- Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
- Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*
- Violet Helleborine *Epipactis purpurata*
- Water Vole *Arvicola amphibius*
- White-clawed Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*

Many of these species are considered to have suffered a significant decline in recent years (Land Use Consultants, 2015) as a result of increased impacts on the environment through development and other anthropogenic pressures.

Other protected species recorded in the Borough include Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus* and Badger *Meles meles* (CBC, 2008a)(White Young Green, 2008).

4.3.4 Key sustainability issues

Many of the Borough's designated sites are in the south west of Charnwood and are particularly associated with the Charnwood Forest area. However, there are a number of sites close to urban areas. All sites are at risk of damage as a result of development pressure and associated human disturbance. Many of the SSSIs in the Borough are continuing to experience significant declines in quality and condition. These issues are likely to be exacerbated by the effects of climate change and agricultural land management practices.

Many of the locally designated sites and habitats are located within the Soar Valley and are inherently linked to the hydrology of the river. These sites are therefore vulnerable to impacts on water quality from development and climate change effects on the river flow characteristics.

4.4 Water environment

The River Soar forms a spine running through the centre of the Borough. Most of the watercourses within the Borough flow into the River Soar, including the River Wreake, which flows westwards and joins the River Soar to the east of Rothley (see Figure 4-5). Many of the rivers are relatively straight rather than meandering, which is a product of the linear nature of the hills and relatively small changes in topography in the Borough. In addition to the network of rivers, the Grand Union canal follows the route of the River Soar, and for large parts is indistinguishable from the river, branching off to form separate reaches at only a few locations.

The watercourses in the Borough are important for supplying large quantities of water for public and industrial use, support a range of important habitats and species, and provide opportunities for a variety of recreational activities. The River Soar is also an important heritage feature and forms a major historical transport route, linking with the Grand Union Canal.

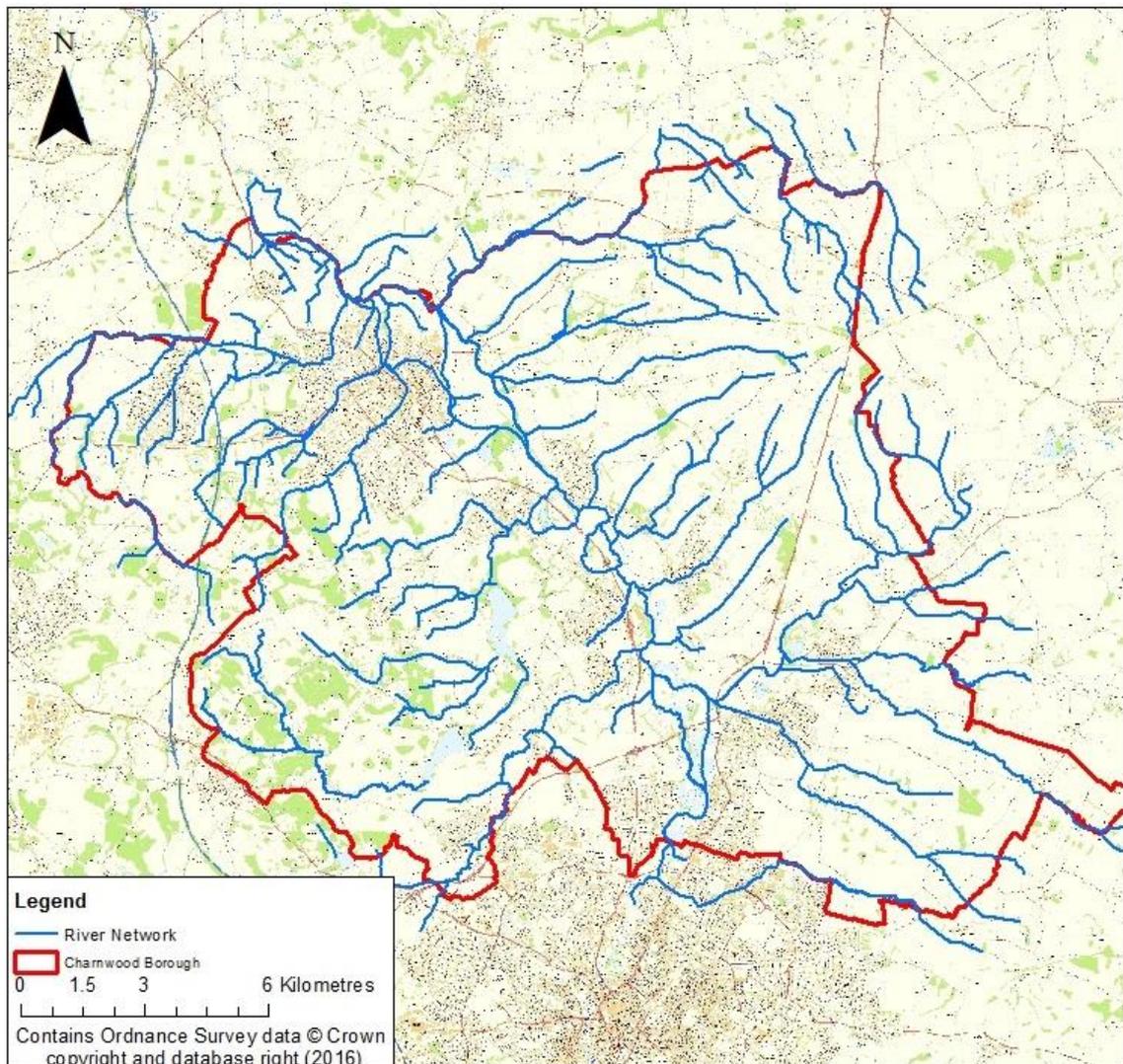


Figure 4-5: The river network in Charnwood Borough

4.4.1 Water resources

Water resources within a catchment are assessed and monitored by the Environment Agency through the Soar Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS). The River Soar's catchment covers an area of approximately 1,380km². There are number of reservoirs within the Borough that are used for public water supply, including the Swithland, Blackbrook and Cropston Reservoirs (Environment Agency, 2013).

The Environment Agency has assessed that the water resources within the Borough experience a moderate level of stress, which is lower than that experienced elsewhere in the region (Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales, 2013). Local pressures on water resources include abstraction for aggregate processing and agricultural industries.

Severn Trent Water's Water Resources Management Plan (2014) sets out the strategy for managing water supply in the region. The strategy aims to reduce water demand and improve water usage, reducing the impact of water abstraction on the water environment. In the short to medium term, the strategy is focused on reducing "environmentally unsustainable levels of water abstraction", which highlights the relatively high water stress experienced by the region as a whole. The longer term strategy aims to build flexibility into the water management system to enable appropriate measures to be implemented to manage the uncertainties and potential impacts associated with climate change.

The strategy identifies a series of actions to be implemented for the 25-year period from 2014, which include reducing abstractions from water sources when these activities are contributing to the failure of Water Framework Directive objectives, reducing water demand by accelerating

current water efficiency activities, and making new links with neighbouring water supply companies to improve use of water resources and supply resilience.

Charnwood Borough has a relative lack of groundwater aquifers, which is a result of the largely restrictive underlying geology. Therefore, there are only a limited number of groundwater abstractions within the Borough.

4.4.2 Water Framework Directive

Charnwood is within the Humber River Basin District and is served by the Humber River Basin Management Plan (RBMP). The RBMP covers a large area of 26,100km², extending from Leicester north to Darlington, with over 10.8 million people living in the district (Environment Agency, 2015). The RBMP identifies the current water quality of the waterbodies in the Borough and sets objectives for making further improvements to their ecological and chemical quality. The RBMP also identifies significant pressures on the waterbodies within the region, which include issues such as physical modification, pollution and changes to natural flow.

The RBMP identifies that the Borough is covered by the Soar catchment, with an area in the east covered by the Wreake catchment. Within the Soar catchment, which also covers other areas of Leicestershire, there are 35 waterbodies (including 7 lakes), of which 7 are designated as Heavily Modified Waterbodies (HMWBs) (Environment Agency, 2016). Most of these have been assessed as having Moderate ecological status, with two being Good, whilst none have been classified as Poor. All 35 surface water bodies have Good chemical status (Environment Agency, 2014b). A summary of the WFD status of the waterbodies in Charnwood is provided in Table 4-5. Comparison with the previous RBMP for the region (2009) shows that only two waterbodies have improved status, whilst three waterbodies have declined in status during this period.

Table 4-5: Summary of the WFD status of the waterbodies in Charnwood Borough

Waterbody name	Waterbody reference	Ecological status	Chemical status	HWMB (Y/N)	Status change since 2009
Soar catchment					
Soar from Sence to Rothley Brook	GB104028047030	Moderate	Good	N	No change
Rothley Brook Catchment (trib of Soar)	GB104028046730	Moderate	Good	N	Declined
Soar from Rothley Brook to Long Whatton Brook	GB104028047211	Poor	Good	N	No change
Quorn Brook Catchment (trib of Soar)	GB104028047060	Good	Good	N	Improved
Walton Brook Catchment (trib of Soar)	GB104028047110	Poor	Good	N	No change
King's Brook Catchment (trib of Soar)	GB104028047150	Moderate	Good	N	No change
Black Brook from Grace Dieu Brook to Soar	GB104028047100	Moderate	Good	N	Improved
Grace Dieu Brook Catchment (trib of Black Brook)	GB104028047090	Poor	Good	N	Declined
Wreake catchment					
Syston Brook Catchment (trib of Wreake)	GB104028047440	Moderate	Good	N	No change

Waterbody name	Waterbody reference	Ecological status	Chemical status	HWMB (Y/N)	Status change since 2009
Eye / Wreake from Langham Brook to Soar	GB104028047550	Poor	Good	N	Declined
Lakes					
Blackbrook Reservoir	GB30435938	Moderate	Good	Y	No change
Swithland Reservoir	GB30436108	Moderate	Good	Artificial	No change
Cropston Reservoir	GB30436331	Poor	Good	Artificial	No change

Where a waterbody is not achieving its status objectives, mitigation measures are provided to help achieve its objective. The mitigation measures included in the Humber RBMP include (Environment Agency, 2015):

- A number of multiple benefit projects involving the area's councils, to tackle poor habitat quality and diffuse pollution while reducing flood risk.
- Establish a catchment based approach for the Willow Brook catchment.
- Complete a SuDS engagement and awareness project.
- Catchment based approach in all sub catchments, including supporting land managers and others to improve water quality and habitat.
- Protect and enhance priority areas including statutory and non-statutory sites.
- Support partners to achieve multiple benefits through development and routine maintenance.
- Improve public understanding of the importance of rivers.

4.4.3 Groundwater

The Charnwood area is underlain by Clay strata consisting of Triassic Mercia Mudstone and Jurassic Lower Lias Clays. Generally, this is low permeability, with only some limestone fissures providing pathways for groundwater migration in some areas. The exception is land around Shepshed, which is underlain by Triassic Sherwood Sandstone that is highly permeable (CBC, 2001). Due to this being a limited outcrop, it is not considered as a strategic groundwater resource for the area (CBC, 2001).

There are no principal aquifers within the Soar catchment (Environment Agency, 2013), with most of the Borough covering a Secondary B aquifer. The RBMP does not list any groundwater bodies for the Borough.

Much of the Borough is within a Groundwater Vulnerability Zone (GVZ), with the Soar Valley being a Minor aquifer – high. The only Source Protection Zone (SPZ) is on the western edge of the Borough, which is a Total catchment (Zone 3).

4.4.4 Flood risk

The River Soar and River Wreake are the principal sources of flooding within the Borough, which has experienced significant flood events in 1998, 1999 and 2012 (JBA Consulting, 2014). The extensive floodplain in this area poses a risk to existing development and also to future development proposals (JBA Consulting, 2014). In addition, the low permeability of the geology in the Borough produces a high percentage of surface water runoff, which increases the risk of surface water flooding (JBA Consulting, 2014). Large areas of Loughborough suffered from surface water flooding in 1998 during periods of heavy rainfall. Due to this high risk of surface water flooding, there is limited potential for groundwater flood risk problems (JBA Consulting, 2014).

Climate change creates a notable increase in flood risk within the Borough, mainly due to an increased number of flood events. There may also be a limited increase in the extent of flood risk Zone 3a, which is likely to result in an increase in depth of flood water rather than extent (Land Use Consultants, 2015). Surface water flooding is also likely to increase through increased rainfall intensity, potentially by up to 30% (JBA Consulting, 2014).

4.4.5 Key sustainability issues

The waterbodies of Charnwood are a key feature of the Borough, with the River Soar and associated Grand Union Canal representing significant water resource and transport route of historical value. The quality of the Borough's waterbodies is generally of a low to moderate status, with pollution from surface water runoff within urban areas and agricultural land affecting the ecological and chemical quality of the rivers. Further development could increase the amount of surface water runoff and cause further disturbance and degradation of the habitat and water quality of these watercourses.

Flooding within the Borough has the potential to create pathways through which potential contamination sources could cause pollution. Many of the existing areas at risk of flooding are likely to experience an increase in the number of flood events due to climate change increasing rainfall intensity.

4.5 Land

4.5.1 Soils and geology

The Charnwood area is underlain predominantly by clays of Triassic Mercia mudstones and Jurassic Lower Lias Clays. In addition to these clays there are a number of other rock formations that appear in localised areas. For example, there are a number of intrusive granite formations to the south and south west of Loughborough. In addition, superficial sand and gravel deposits and alluvial deposits are present in the floodplains of the River Soar and the River. These deposits are extensively quarried and currently provide an important economic resource for the Borough (CBC, 2001).

There are four designated Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) in the Borough (Leicestershire County Council, 2016), These are described below and shown in Figure 4-6:

- Longcliffe Quarry – an important site exposing Precambrian volcanoclastic metasediments and North Charnwood Diorite. The quarry is now disused and partially flooded.
- Newhurst Quarry – Disused quarry with the only site in Britain that contains pre-existing hypogene mineralisation, originating from ascending mineral-rich fluids in pre-Triassic times.
- Mountsorrel Buddon Wood Quarry – a very large active quarry which exposes part of a large granodiorite batholith known as the Mountsorrel Complex.
- Groby Quarry – A quarry exposing Precambrian South Leicestershire Diorite and overlying unconformable Triassic sediments.

There are also three additional candidate RIGS (Leicestershire County Council, 2016):

- Old Quarry, Swithland Reservoir – a small flooded quarry on the shore of the Swithland Reservoir which exposes metamorphosed Cambrian Stockingford Shale which is also intensely folded in places.
- Swithland Reservoir east quarry (Kinchley Shore) – flooded quarry with Ordovician rocks.
- Nunckley Hill Quarry – one of the southerly exposures of basified granodiorite from the Mountsorrel Complex.

As well as historical quarries that are now designated sites, there are a number of extant quarries within the Borough. These are described further in Section 4.12.

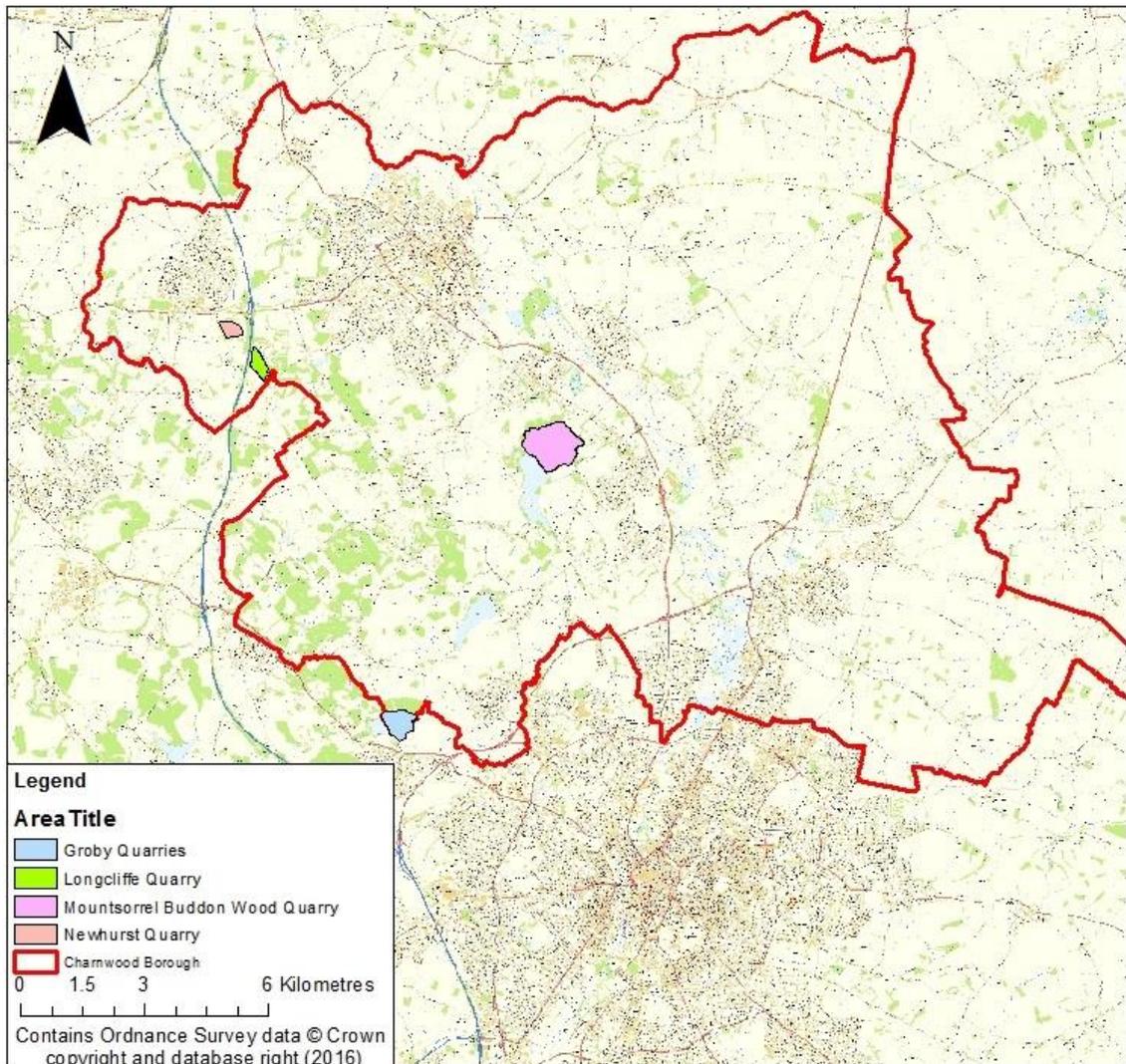


Figure 4-6: Location of Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) in Charnwood Borough

4.5.2 Agricultural land

Agricultural land quality within Charnwood is graded under the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system. The majority of the Borough is classified as being ALC Grade 3 (56%), with extensive areas classified as Grade 2 (22%) (see Figure 4-7). Grade 2 land is of very good quality, whilst Grade 3 land is assessed as being good to moderate quality. The remaining agricultural land in the Borough is classified as is Grade 4 (12%), indicating poor quality. There is no Grade 1 (excellent quality) land present in the Borough. This differs to the wider region, where there are significant areas of Grade 1 land within the East Midlands (Land Use Consultants, 2015).

Grade 1 to 3a land is classed as “the best and most versatile land” and is protected under national and local planning policy. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that “*Local planning authorities should take into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. 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.*” (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012). This policy protection is reflected in the Charnwood Local Plan (CBC, 2014a), which confirms that development will not generally be permitted on ALC Grade 3a land and above. However, Local Plan includes provision for 17,380 new homes over the period 2006 to 2028. This policy objective will be fulfilled in part through Greenfield development, which will in turn result in a loss of some agricultural land.

Agricultural practices within the Borough, and further upstream along the principal watercourses, can cause problems such as diffuse pollution, which is likely to be a contributing factor to the

poor ecological quality experienced by many of the local watercourses. Modern agricultural practices are also leading to increased surface water runoff from fields, resulting in soil erosion and increased flood risk.

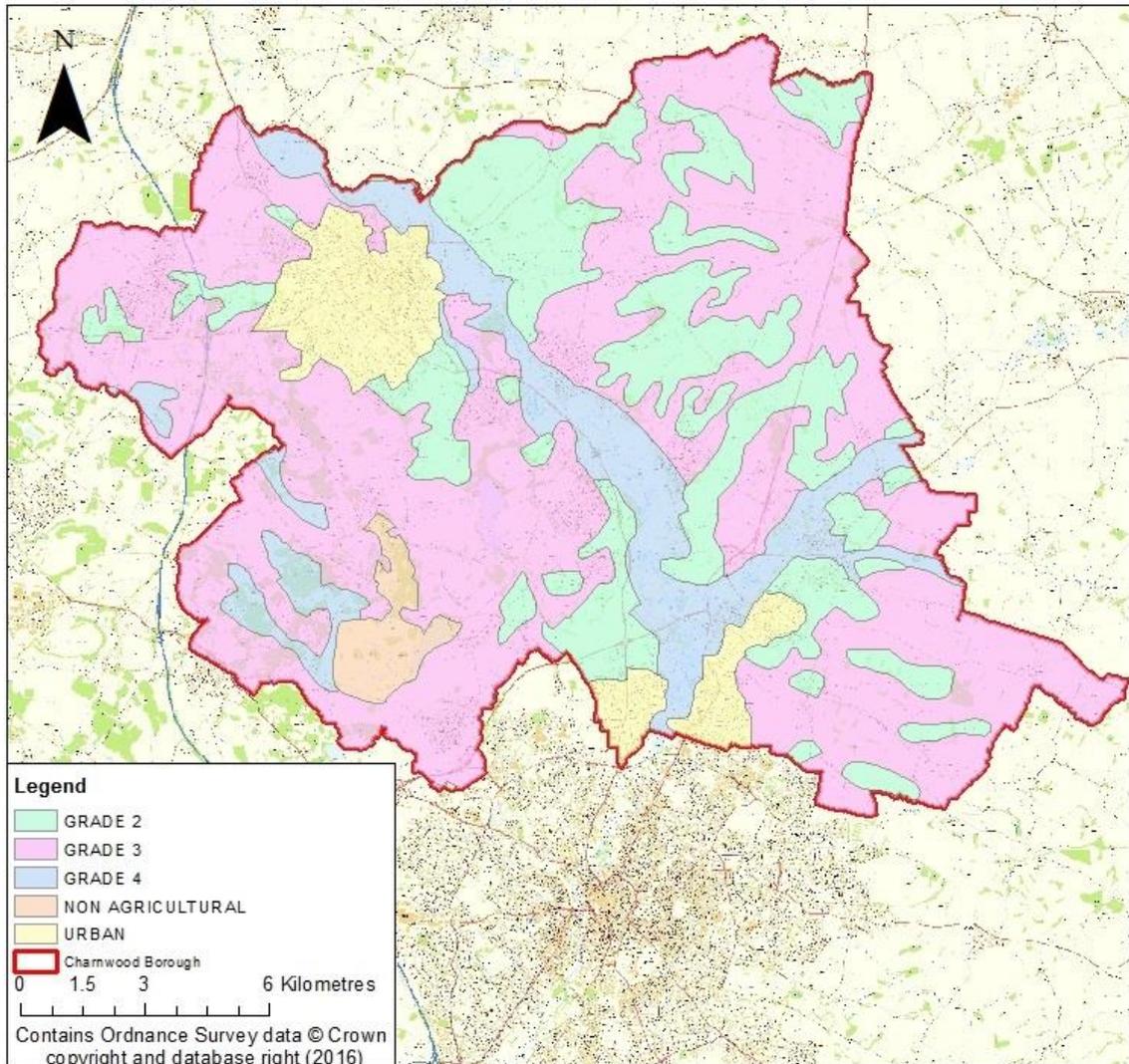


Figure 4-7: Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) in Charnwood Borough

4.5.3 Land contamination

There are a number of current and historic landfill sites located within the Borough, with the majority concentrated in the south of the Borough near the confluence of the Soar and Wreak river valleys, to the north of Leicester (see Figure 4-8). These sites largely contain inert waste. However, there are landfill sites, including near Loughborough, which contain a mix of inert, industrial, commercial and household wastes. The location of a number of these landfill sites within the river valleys increases the risk of contaminants reaching the watercourses and causing pollution.

Charnwood Borough has a long history of industrial activity and is renowned for its hosiery and knitwear industries, which have operated there since the 16th Century (CBC, 2001). Historically there has been a significant quarrying industry for gravels and granites, and this activity continues to the present day. These industries also represent potentially significant sources of contamination (CBC, 2001).

Charnwood's Contaminated Land Strategy identifies the following sources of contamination (CBC, 2001):

- Historical and current industry, including minerals extraction, explosives, hazardous substances, discharges.
- Transport, such as petrol filling stations and respraying of road vehicles.

- Hazardous substances.
- Current landfill and waste processing sites.
- Historic landfill sites.
- Sewage works and land used for the disposal of sewage sludge.
- Waste or derelict land.
- Previously developed contaminated site.

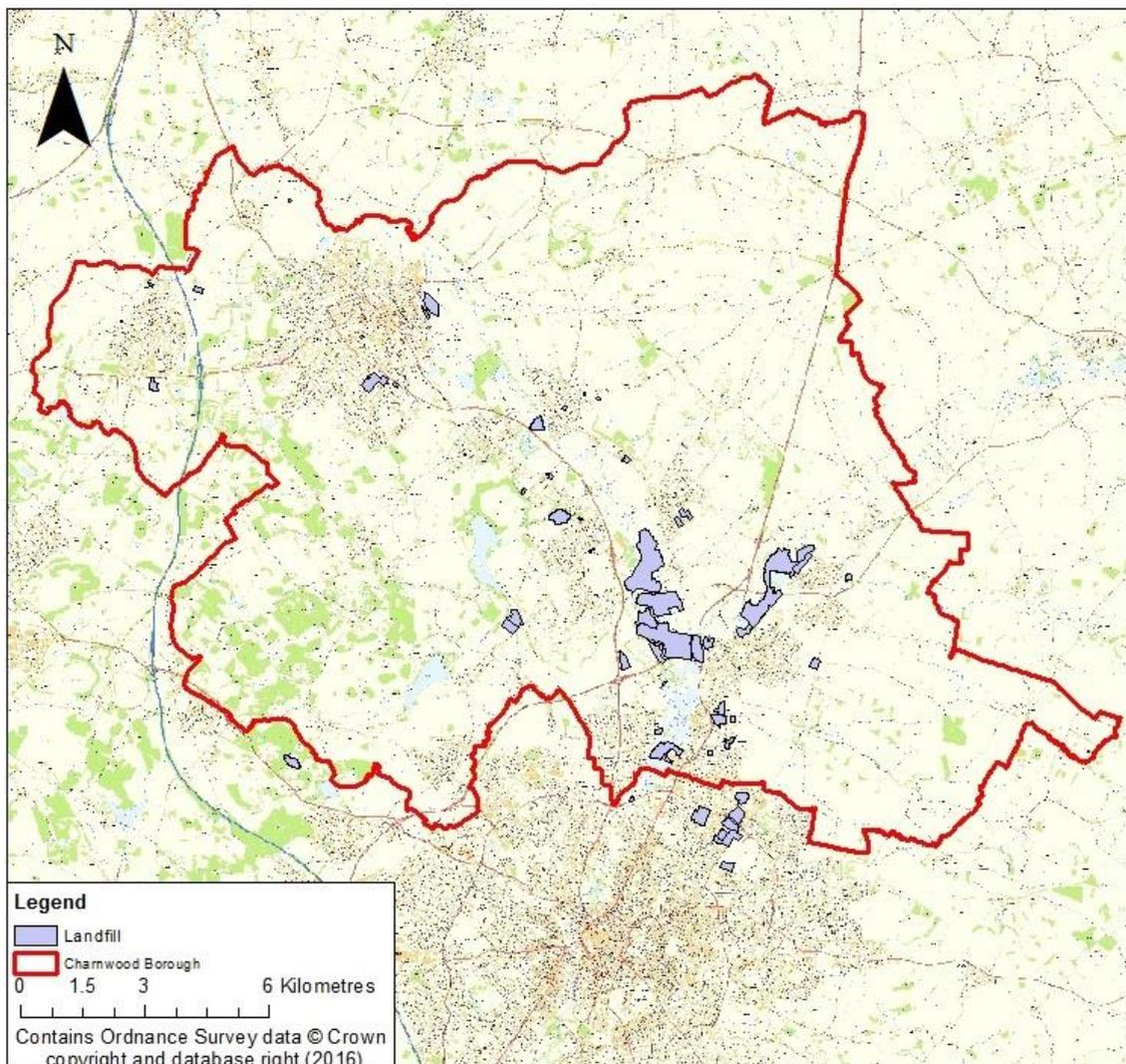


Figure 4-8: Landfill sites in Charnwood Borough

All of these contamination sources have the potential to affect Charnwood's environment and population. CBC has identified potentially contaminated land on their online interactive mapping service (<https://webmap.charnwood.gov.uk/CharnwoodWebMap/>). This identifies regions of potential contamination along principal transport routes, such as railway lines, as well as a concentration in central Loughborough and Mountsorrel. Where possible, CBC will seek to the voluntary remediation of contaminated sites, but where this is not possible, CBC may carry out remediation of these sites.

4.5.4 Key sustainability issues

Development on brownfield land or land at risk of contamination could cause the release of contaminants into groundwater or surface waters. Contaminants could impact on environmental receptors such as nature conservation sites or watercourses. Development could also potentially affect good quality agricultural land, reducing the amount of land in the Borough available for agriculture.

Any development on contaminated land should adequately deal with the contamination risk so as to prevent harm to human health, property and the environment. There may also be compliance issues with environmental legislation, such as the WFD, due to potential risks to water quality.

Continued industrial activities could release contaminants into the environment through pollution incidents such as release of chemicals or dust from quarrying. Often quarries are closely related to RIGS, which are also important geological and nature conservation sites. There is a need for the protection and maintenance of the integrity of RIGS and designated geological SSSIs, particularly those that may be affected by nearby development.

4.6 Historic environment

The CBC website (https://www.charnwood.gov.uk/pages/listed_buildings_in_charnwood) identifies 21 Scheduled Monuments and 771 statutory listed buildings in Charnwood Borough (see Figure 4-9), together with a further 180 locally listed buildings. Of the statutory listed buildings, 12 are classified as Grade 1. Many of the listed buildings are associated with the 39 Conservation Areas in the area, which include a small part of the Markfield Conservation Area, managed by the neighbouring Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (see Figure 4-9). There are also four Registered Parks and Gardens in Charnwood Borough.

Charnwood's Conservation Areas are dispersed across the Borough, with many associated with the rural villages in the central Soar valley and rural areas to the east and west. There is also a concentration of Conservation Areas within central and southern areas of Loughborough. The Borough's Scheduled Monuments are all located in rural areas and include two Roman villas and 19 mainly medieval sites. The Roman Villa north of Hamilton Grounds Farm is close to the edge of Leicester. Garendon Registered Park and Garden is situated between Loughborough and the M1 motorway.

Of these historic assets, 10 are listed on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register (Historic England, 2016) (see Table 4-6). The Heritage at Risk Register shows sites that are in an unfavourable condition and includes Action Plans where applicable to improve the condition of the sites. Many of the Borough's sites included on the Register are experiencing a continued decline in condition.

Table 4-6: Heritage assets in Charnwood Borough included on the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register

Site name	Condition	Summary
Scheduled Monuments		
Roman villa north of Hamilton Grounds Farm	Extensive significant problems	The villa is vulnerable from arable ploughing and has a declining trend.
Ulverscroft Priory, moat and three fishponds	Very bad	Founded in 1134, with visible remains dating to the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries. The lodgings are propped and has a temporary roof, with a schedule of repairs planned. It is in slow decay, with a solution agreed but not yet implemented.
Listed buildings		
Garendon Park, The Temple of Venus, Ashby Road	Fair	Located in open parkland, the temple is not used but is in fair condition. It is not regularly maintained and is showing signs of slow decay. Proposals under the West of Loughborough Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) include a Management Plan to address this issue.
Garendon Park, The Triumphal Arch, Ashby Road	Fair	Located on the edge of pleasure grounds, and is in fair condition although not regularly maintained. Proposals under the West of Loughborough SUE include a Management Plan to address this issue.
Taylor's Bell Foundry (on the east side of Cobden Street)	Poor	Dating from 1859, with later alterations. It is the only historic purpose-built bell foundry in England still in use for bell making. The roof coverings are in poor condition, with evidence of water ingress. Repair work is currently being progressed and is due for completion in October 2016.
Taylor's Bell Foundry (on the west side of Cobden Street)		

Site name	Condition	Summary
Listed Places of Worship		
Church of St Paul, Church Hill	Poor	There is a crack through the north wall, with repair recommended. It is suffering from slow decay, with no solution agreed.
Church of St Mary the Virgin and St John the Baptist, Church Street	Poor	Tower masonry repairs were recently completed, however the tower roof is in poor condition and in need of replacement. It is suffering from slow decay, with no solution agreed
Conservation Areas		
Shelthorpe	Poor	Low vulnerability, with a deteriorating trend
Shepshed	As above	As above
Registered Park and Garden		
Garendon Park	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems	A landscaped park dating from c1730 designed by Ambrose Phillipps. It is highly vulnerable and has a declining trend. The West of Loughborough SUE include proposals to restore the monuments and parkland.

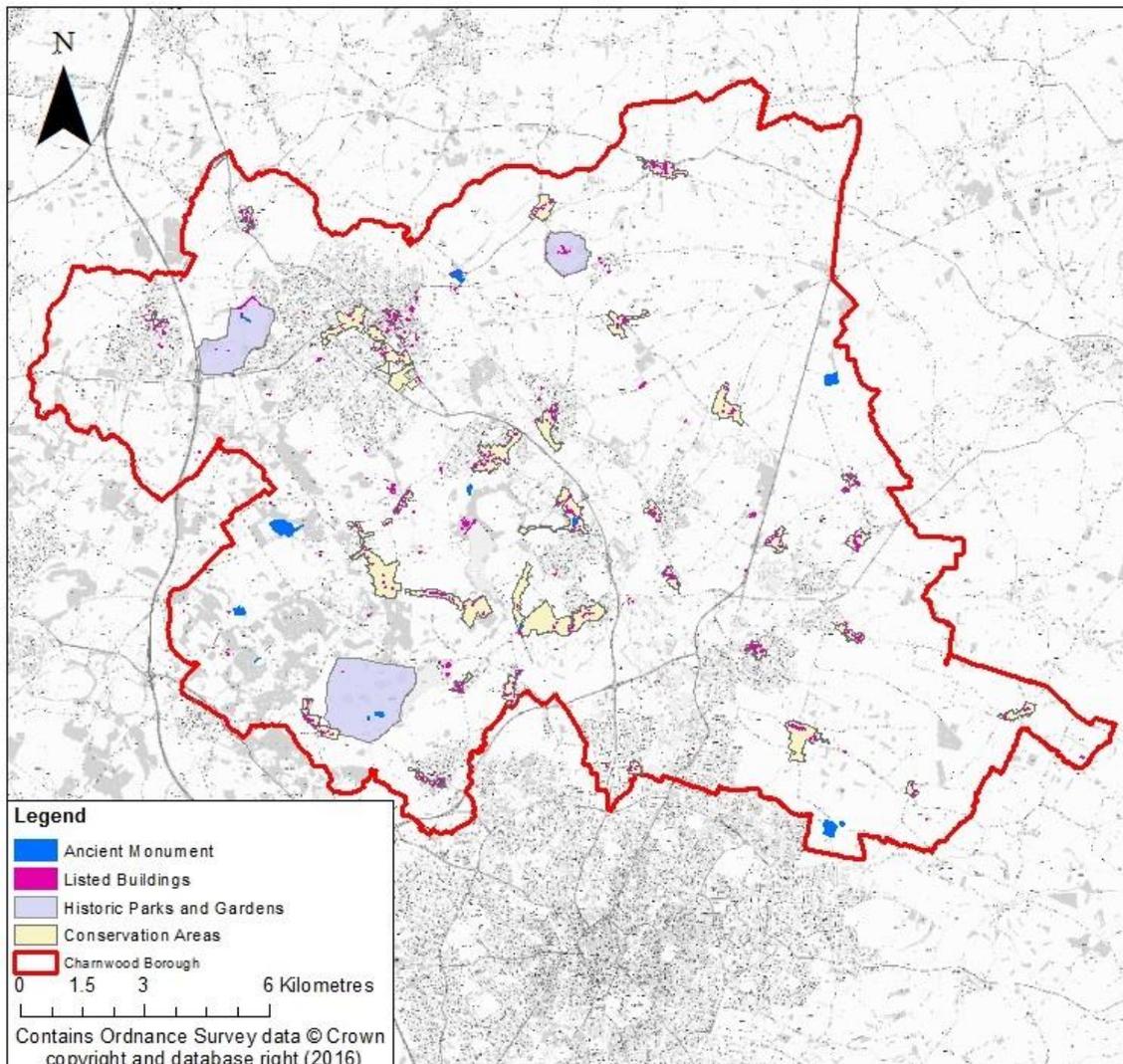


Figure 4-9: Designated heritage sites in Charnwood Borough

Charnwood Borough Council has identified a number of Archaeological Alert Areas (AAAs) within the Borough (see Figure 4-10). The AAAs contain most of the identified sites of archaeological

interest in the Borough and are also likely to contain other currently unidentified sites. Given the potential for the archaeological interest in these areas to be affected by existing and new development, an evaluation of the archaeological interest is required before any new development is approved.

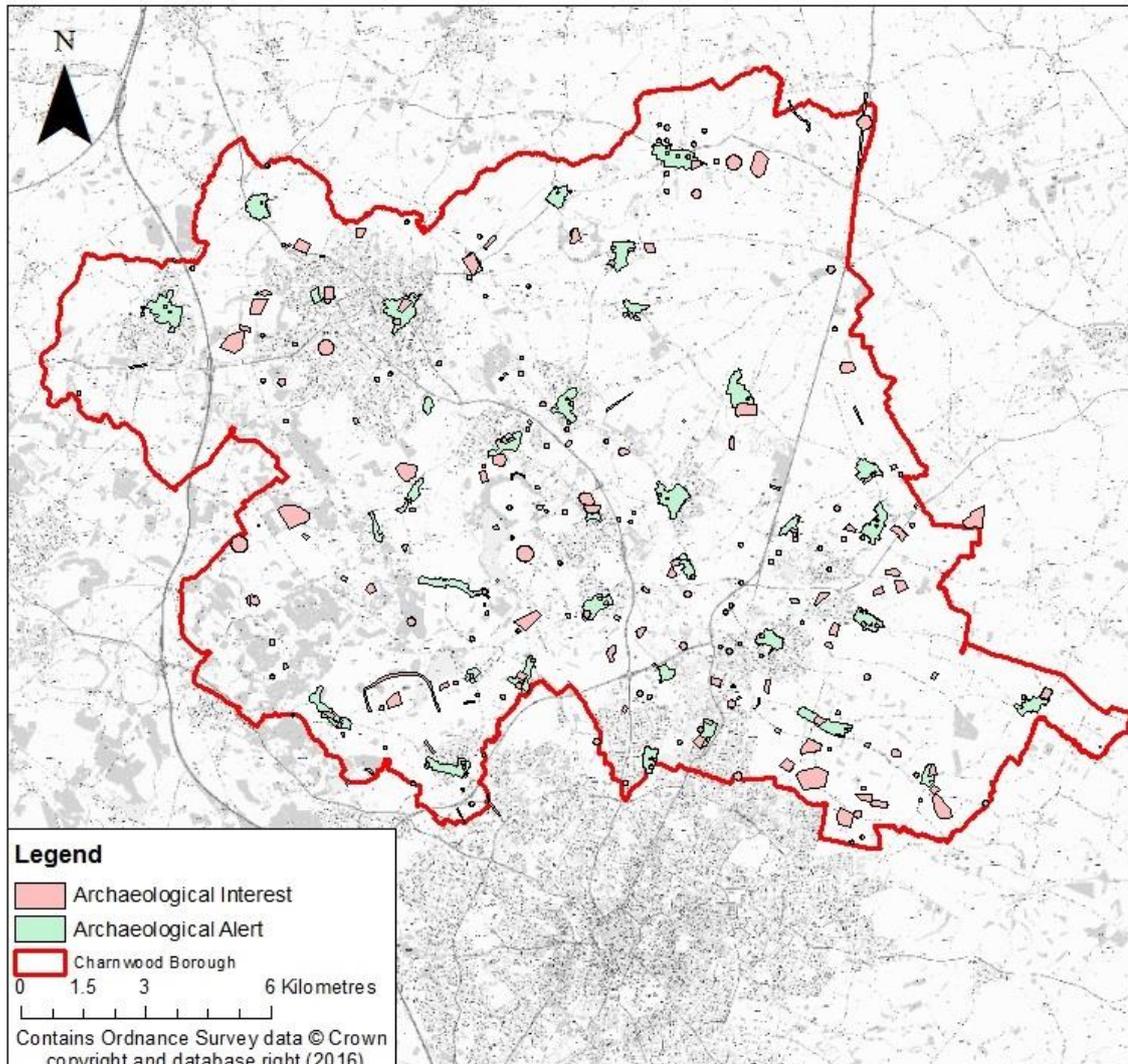


Figure 4-10: Archaeological Interest Sites and Archaeological Alert areas in Charnwood Borough

4.6.1 Key sustainability issues

Charnwood contains a wealth of heritage assets. However, some of the most important of these are currently assessed as being under threat, including from development pressures, although proposals have been developed to address these issues in relation to several of these sites. There is a risk that adverse impacts upon aspects of Charnwood's cultural heritage could arise from development in the future. Any development that has the potential to affect these assets should not detract from their historic setting and should aim to enhance the historic character of the area. Many Conservation Areas and areas around historic assets have the potential to contain important archaeological remains both below ground and within the fabric of the historic buildings and structures.

4.7 Air quality

There are a number of important factors that contribute to areas of poor air quality in the Borough. The most notable of these is due to emissions from transport and industry. Poor air quality has the potential to cause a range of issues such as impacts on human health and can alter ecosystems and damage habitats and the species that rely on these habitats.

Charnwood Borough currently has four Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA), declared due to predicted breaches of national air quality objectives. These breaches are due to local traffic and commercial (railway and quarry) emissions (CBC, 2015c). The AQMAs cover most of Loughborough and also the A4067 corridor in Syston that connects to the northern part of Leicester. Figure 4-11 shows these AQMA locations, with summary details provided below:

- Loughborough AQMA – breach of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) levels.
- Great Central Railway (GCR) AQMA (Loughborough) – breach of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) levels.
- Syston AQMA – breach of NO₂ levels
- Mountsorrel AQMA – breach of levels of particulate matter (PM₁₀)

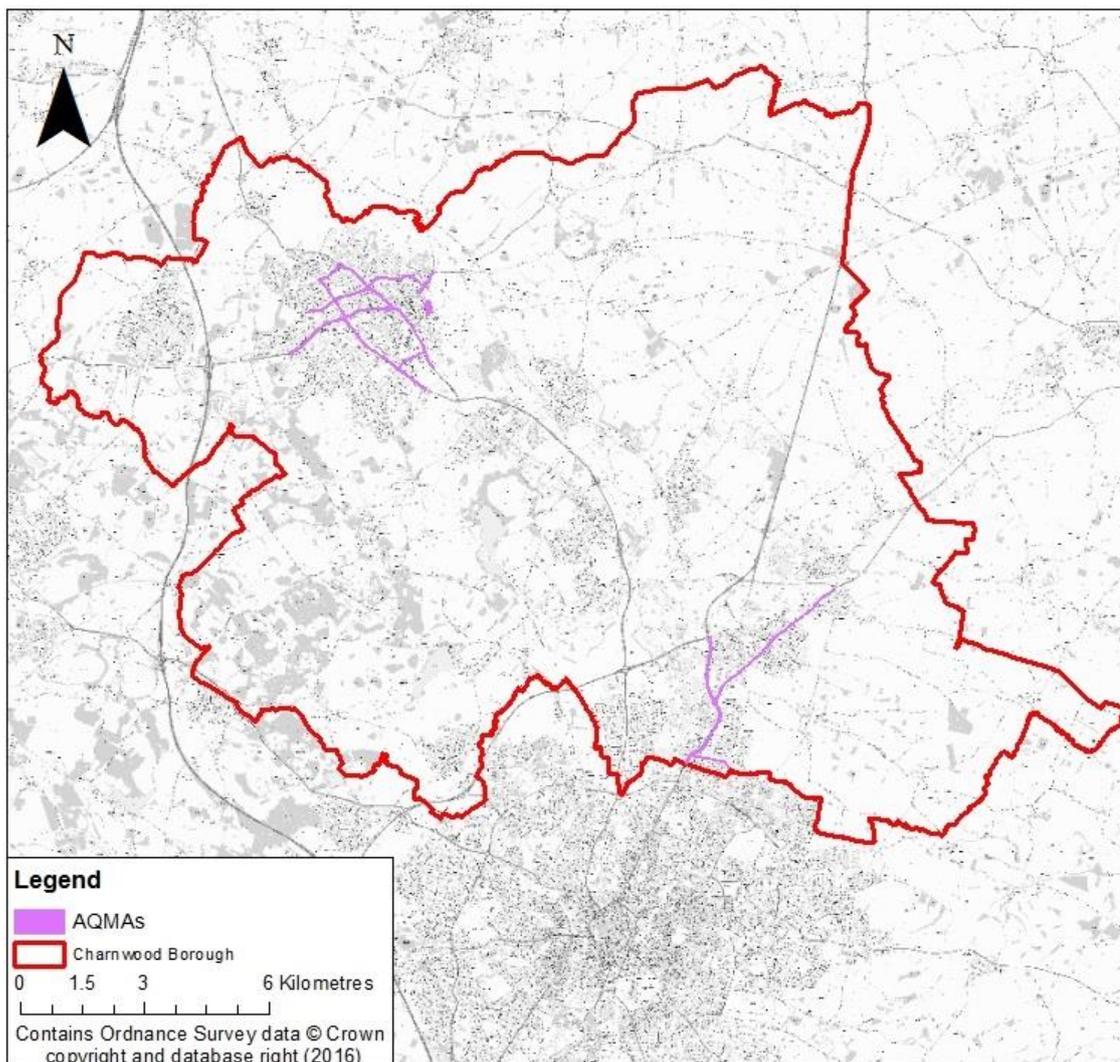


Figure 4-11: Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in Charnwood Borough (excluding Mountsorrel AQMA)

Mountsorrel AQMA has breaches of particulate matter due to dust emissions from nearby quarrying. However, since working closely with the quarrying industry and the implementation of a Dust Management and Monitoring Plan, average concentrations of PM₁₀ have seen a significant reduction of around 20% since 2010 (CBC, 2015c).

4.7.1 Key sustainability issues

Greater pressures in air quality may occur in the future through increases in the population of the Borough, greater development and increased traffic congestion, as well as continued emissions to air from manufacturing and extractive industries within the Borough. This could lead to a deterioration in air quality and the introduction of more AQMAs to address these local impacts on air quality.

4.8 Climate

The East Midlands is one of the driest regions in England in terms of rainfall (East Midlands Regional Climate Change Partnership, 2009). On average, Charnwood receives between 625mm and 750mm of rain a year. The highest rainfall is experienced over the hills of Charnwood Forest in the west of the Borough, with levels decreasing further eastwards (JBA Consulting, 2014). Average maximum temperature in the Borough is 13.9°C and average minimum temperature is 6.1°C (Met Office, 2016).

4.8.1 Climate Change

Climate Change is predicted to have significant effects on the East Midlands region. These effects include a 2.8% increase in average summer temperatures, a 17% reduction in summer rainfall and a 16% increase in winter rainfall by 2050 (Climate Local, 2014). Charnwood Borough, together with the rest of England, is likely to experience more extreme weather conditions as a result of Climate Change (Climate Local, 2014). These will include:

- Flash flooding.
- Storms and high winds.
- Heatwaves and warmer temperatures.
- Reduction in summer water availability.

It is also predicted that there will be a more frequent occurrence of intense rainfall events and less intense, less frequent occurrence of very cold weather (Leicestershire County Council, 2011). These changes could have significant effects on the Borough, such as increased incidences of flooding to impacts on biodiversity, where habitats and species are unable to adapt quickly enough to adjust to the high rate of change. To increase resilience within the Borough to the likely increase in flood risk as a result of Climate Change, CBC will develop a series of Community Flood Plans with Leicestershire County Council and other partners.

Greenhouse gas emissions are recognised as being the primary cause for global warming, which is the driver for Climate Change. The most recent figures (2014) indicate that around 40% of carbon emissions within the Borough are generated from industry, 35% from homes and 25% from transport (Climate Local, 2014). Between 2005 and 2013, emissions from all sources within the Borough reduced from 878ktCO₂ to 721ktCO₂. This equates to a per capita emissions reduction of 1.8 tonnes to 6 tonnes in 2013 (Land Use Consultants, 2015). To address the issue of carbon emissions, CBC will develop a five-year Carbon Management Plan to reduce carbon emissions and also work in partnership with biodiversity and heritage partners to reduce impacts on the biodiversity and heritage assets of the Borough (Climate Local, 2014).

Charnwood Borough Council also aims to reduce carbon emissions from its own activities and has set a target of a 15% reduction by 2020. Council activities currently produce 2,132 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, which are primarily as a result of heating and lighting of offices and other buildings it owns (CBC, 2016c).

Across Leicestershire, the scale of energy generation from renewables has been comparatively limited, and therefore there is scope to increase this in the future. Currently, Charnwood Borough has 36.6MW of energy from solar PV generation, 2.5MW from onshore wind and a further 1.6MW of energy generated from a single anaerobic digestion facility. In addition, planning applications have been approved for a further 11.1MW of energy, with another 12.9MW subject to current planning applications (Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, 2016). Studies have shown that there is considerable potential for renewable energy generation within the Borough, particularly from heat pumps, large and small-scale onshore wind, solar PV and solar thermal (Land Use Consultants, 2011). Charnwood also has notable potential to generate energy from waste and waste wood, and has the second highest potential for energy generation from sewage gas within the East Midlands Total renewable energy potential in the Borough has been calculated as 426MW of electricity and 324MW of heat energy by 2020, rising to 428MW and 331MW respectively by 2030.

4.8.2 Key sustainability issues

Should Climate Change predictions be realised, there is the potential for significant adverse effects on the Borough's infrastructure, public health, built heritage and natural environment. Species and habitat abundance and richness will become threatened as a result of changing

habitats, drier soils and increased competition from invasive non-native species throughout the Borough's watercourses. There is also increased risk of soil erosion due to drier soils, potentially having adverse impacts on agriculture, aquatic ecosystems and air quality. Increased temperatures and extreme weather events have the potential to impact upon public health during heat waves and flood events. This includes increased risk of outbreaks of disease and potential increased contamination risk.

Flooding from increased winter rainfall and more intense storm events is expected to result in significant adverse impacts on utility, residential, industrial and transport infrastructure with subsequent economic consequences. There is potential for an increase in river flooding and also flooding from surface water runoff, which can overwhelm the local drainage and sewerage infrastructure. Damage to infrastructure will likely incur large economic costs as well as social and public health implications as a result of distress and disruption caused.

In addition, an increase in population in the future has the potential to cause an increase in greenhouse gas emissions and actions and objectives to reduce the Borough's carbon emissions will need to take this into account. New development could reduce associated emissions relative to existing developments through appropriate selection of sustainable building design and materials. These emissions reduction targets can also be met by increasing the level of renewable energy generation within the Borough. This could contribute to a diversification of the local economy and a shift towards a greener economy. However, a proliferation of new renewable energy infrastructure could impact upon other aspects of the environment, affecting landscape character and biodiversity.

4.9 Population

The population of Charnwood is 171,000 (CBC, 2016a) and is predicted to increase by 13% to 194,600 by 2028 (CBC, 2015a). Almost 16% of the current population are under 15 years of age, with a further 16% being older than 65 years old (CBC, 2015a). Just over one third of the population lives in Loughborough (Charnwood Together, 2008), which constitutes the largest urban population in Leicestershire outside of Leicester (CBC, 2015a). Shepshed and Syston are the next largest towns in the Borough, with the remainder of the population dispersed within and around the 30 smaller villages and hamlets in the area. Most of these settlements are concentrated in the Soar and Wreake Valleys.

The Borough is very culturally diverse and this trend is increasing. In 2011 the population was 87.1% White, 7.8% Asian or Asian British, 2.3% Chinese or Other Ethnic Group, 1.7% Mixed Ethnic Group and 1.2% Black or Black British (CBC, 2014a). The diversity of the Borough is slightly higher than that of the wider East Midlands and the England national average, where 90.2% and 87.5% respectively of people are White (Office for National Statistics, undated(a)).

Approximately 20% of Charnwood's population are aged 60 and over, which is slightly lower than the East Midlands average of 21.4% and is very similar to the England average of 20.4% (Office for National Statistics, undated(a)). There is predicted to be an increase in the population aged over 65 in the future, which will grow from 30,300 in 2015 to 36,100 in 2025 (CBC, 2009). Charnwood also has a lower than average population of younger people with figures for 2014 showing 16.8% of the Borough's population are under 15 years of age compared to 18.4% in the East Midlands region and 19% in England. This is contrasted by the higher than average number of 16 to 24 year olds, who comprise 16.4% of the population in Charnwood compared to 11.9% and 11.4% regionally and nationally respectively (Office for National Statistics, undated(a)).

Charnwood has a very high population density, estimated at 595 people per km² in 2011 (CBC, 2013a) and 610 people per km² in 2014 (Office for National Statistics, 2014) which is over double the average of the East Midlands (CBC, 2013a), and significantly higher than England national average of 413 people per km² (Neighbourhood Statistics, 2014). Students at Loughborough University represent a significant proportion (16%) of Loughborough's population.

4.9.1 Housing

The most recent records show that there are approximately 69,200 households in Charnwood (GL Hearn, 2014), with an average household size of 2.4 persons, which is the same as the national average. Household occupancy rates are approximately 96% (GL Hearn, 2014), with 87.8% of households' owner occupied (Office for National Statistics, undated(c) / CBC, 2014b). This is a little higher than the East Midlands regional and England national averages of 83.9% and 82.1% respectively (Office for National Statistics, undated(c)). The number of vacant

dwellings in the Borough is lower than the regional and national averages, as is the percentage of Local Authority housing and registered social landlord housing (Office for National Statistics, undated(c)).

It is predicted that housing demand in the Borough will grow and that there is an overall requirement to provide an additional 774 new homes per annum between 2011 and 2036 (GL Hearn, 2014). This is the second highest housing requirement in Leicestershire, behind only Leicester itself. Approximately 22% of this additional housing requirement is identified as needing to be affordable housing. Work on updating these housing requirement figures is currently ongoing and it is likely that the figures quoted in this report will be revised.

House prices are typically high and the Borough has an average house price to income ratio of 5.1, which is one of the highest in Leicestershire (CBC, 2014b). Other housing issues in the Borough include a lack of affordable homes, which is particularly prevalent in rural communities. Predictions estimate that Charnwood will supply 632 new affordable households across the Borough per annum. This compares to an estimated need for 806 affordable homes per annum, indicating that there is a net requirement of 174 affordable homes each year to 2036 (GL Hearn, 2014).

There has been an increase in homelessness, mainly attributed to the high accommodation costs within the Borough (CBC, 2013b). The large population of students (approximately 16,000) within Loughborough also places a particular pressure on the housing stock in the town. This has created an imbalance in the local housing market in the town through increased demand, whilst the division of properties into multi-occupancy households has had a negative effect on local landscape character and placed pressure on local community facilities and services (Land Use Consultants, 2015).

The Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment Refresh Report 2013 identified a need for Charnwood to provide three pitches (plus 10 transit pitches and nine plots for Showpeople) by the end of 2017 (De Montfort University, 2013). This is the lowest number out of all the Boroughs in Leicestershire with the exception of Oadby and Wigston, where none are required. Charnwood's pitch requirements decrease to one for the period 2017 to 2022 and two for the periods 2022 to 2027 and 2027 to 2031 (De Montfort University, 2013).

4.9.2 Health

The health profile of people in Charnwood Borough is varied. On average, life expectancy in Charnwood is 83.6 years for women and 79.6 years for men. This is slightly higher than the national average of 83 and 79.2 years respectively (Land Use Consultants, 2015). Life expectancy is 8.2 years lower for men and 6.8 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Charnwood than in the least deprived areas (Public Health England, 2015). The male life expectancy gap has narrowed since 2014, when the gap for men was 9.4 years. However, the gap in 2014 for women was 5.6 years (Public Health England, 2014).

In 2012, 21.7% of the adults and 19.5% of children in the Borough were classified as obese (Public Health England, 2015). These figures are slightly higher than the England national average. The percentage of physically active adults in Charnwood in 2015 was 53.7%, which is slightly lower than the England average of 56% (Public Health England, 2015). This has reduced significantly since 2014, when the percentage was 61.1%. The England average over the same time period remained the same.

A little over 4% of Charnwood's population consider their health to be 'bad or very bad' (CBC, 2015a). Recorded diabetes in the Borough was at 6.4% in 2015, compared to 6.2% for the England national average (Public Health England, 2015). Around 20% of the population of the Borough smoke (Public Health England, 2014), but this rate is decreasing, with 23.5% of the population identified as smokers in 2008 (Public Health England, 2008). There is a lower rate of smoking related deaths in Charnwood compared to the average for England, with 17.2% compared to 18.4% (Public Health England, 2015). The most recent figures (2014) show that there are 220 smoking related deaths in the Borough each year (Public Health England, 2014).

The local health priorities identified by Public Health England include *"improved mental wellbeing and older people's mental wellbeing; a reduction in obesity and improved weight management (including diabetes); and improved tobacco control."* (Public Health England, 2015).

4.9.3 Deprivation

Much of Charnwood Borough is considered to be relatively affluent and levels of deprivation are lower than the England average (Public Health England, 2015). However, there are pockets of deprivation where communities suffer from poor housing, reduced access to jobs, and a lack of facilities and services. These areas are primarily located in the eastern and western suburbs of Loughborough, Syston and Thurmaston (Land Use Consultants, 2015). Although deprivation in the Borough is lower than the regional average, almost 14% (3,855) of the children in the Borough live in poverty. This is significantly lower than the England average of 19.2% in poverty (Public Health England, 2015).

Charnwood is ranked 234 out of 326 local authority districts for deprivation and therefore contains less deprivation overall than the majority of other local authority areas in England (Department for Communities & Local Government, 2016). However, four of Leicestershire's 10 most deprived neighbourhoods are located within Charnwood. These areas are typically affected by more than one type of deprivation, such as low economic activity, high unemployment and poor health (Leicestershire County Council, 2011)

Levels of crime have reduced in the Borough in the period 2005/06 to 2010/11, with the number of reported incidents decreasing from 13,815 to 10,597. The number of violent crimes has also reduced, falling by 12% between 2010/11 and 2011/12 (CBC, 2015a). However, there has been an increase in incidences of domestic abuse, with a 17% rise in the same period (Charnwood Community Safety Partnership, 2011). Rates of violent crime are better than the national average (Public Health England, 2015), but it is still a priority to reduce crime levels and increase community safety in the Borough (Charnwood Community Safety Partnership, 2011). The most recent crime data from 2012/13 shows that there were 692 incidences of violent crime, which is a fall from the previous year of 849. However, the number of burglaries increased from 701 to 736 (Land Use Consultants, 2015).

4.9.4 Education

Charnwood contains a range of educational facilities including higher education at Loughborough University. There are 48 state primary schools and 14 state secondary schools in the Borough, six of which provide a sixth form, together with one further education college and one defence sixth form college (Land Use Consultants, 2015).

In Charnwood, 38% of 16-18 year olds and 10% of 19+ year olds are in further education or work-based learning (CBC, 2015a). However, 20.5% of residents aged 16 and over have no qualifications (CBC, 2015a). This is slightly lower than the regional and national averages (Office for National Statistics, undated(d)) but has reduced by 6% since 2001. The Borough has a slightly lower GCSE attainment level than the England national average with 55.7% of pupils achieving five GCSEs grade A*-C (including English and Maths) compared to 56.6% nationally (2013/14) (Office for National Statistics, undated(d)). The Borough also has the highest NEET rate (young people Not in Education, Employment or Training) in Leicestershire, with a rate of 3.7% (July 2014) (CBC, 2015).

4.9.5 Key sustainability issues

A growing population will create a substantial need for further housing and improved social, leisure and transportation infrastructure, as well as increased demand for water. This growing population will place increased demand on a range of community services and facilities, and also increased competition for jobs. Pressure also arises from a higher population density and an increasing ageing population in the Borough.

Although Charnwood is generally a relatively affluent Borough, there are areas of deprivation that creates disparity across the Borough. There are also a number of health issues such as obesity that affect the community, which increases the vulnerability of the population and places further demands on community services and facilities. Crime rates are showing a general reduction in the Borough, although tackling crime remains a key priority for the area. Domestic abuse has increased with figures suggesting a significant rise in recent years.

4.10 Local economy

4.10.1 Economy and employment

The economy in Charnwood is generally strong, with 67.7% of the population aged 16-74 economically active (CBC, 2015a). These figures are supported by the large student population in Loughborough, where 49.3% of the students are economically active, which is much higher than the regional average of 25.3% (Land Use Consultants, 2015).

The unemployment rate was 6.3% in 2012/13, which has decreased to 3.3% in 2015/16. This is lower than the East Midlands average of 4.4% and significantly lower than the national average of 5.1% (Nomis, 2016). Evidence suggests that the Borough was impacted by the recession, but is recovering although at a slightly slower rate than regional and national levels (BE Group, 2014). The percentage of working age people claiming a key benefit is considerably lower than the regional and England national averages (2010 figures) (Office for National Statistics, undated(e)). Average median annual earnings in the Borough are £21,177, with average household incomes of £33,629 (CBC, 2015a). This is significantly lower than median gross annual earnings for full time employees of £27,600 in 2015 (Office for National Statistics, 2015). For full time workers, gross weekly pay is £527.40, higher than East Midlands average of £479.10, but slightly lower than England national average of £529 (Nomis, 2016). There is a disparity between male and female full time earnings, with men earning an average of £576.30 a week, compared to £384.40 for women. This is a much larger gap than the regional averages, with men in East Midlands earning £525.20 compared to £412.10 for women (Land Use Consultants, 2015).

Charnwood has a strong manufacturing sector, with 13.7% of the working population employed in manufacturing jobs (BE Group, 2014). This figure is slightly lower than the regional average but is in contrast to the situation nationally where there is a marked decline in manufacturing. However, employment in the manufacturing sector is shrinking, with a 34% reduction in manufacturing jobs in the Borough between 2001 and 2011 (CBC, 2013a)

The service sector is the principal employer in the Borough, employing 77.9% of the workforce, with public administration, education and health (29.3%), distribution, hotels and restaurants (23.8%) and finance, business administration and communication (15.8%) the main industries (CBC, 2013a). Whilst traditional industry was once a major employer, there are now new industries starting up. Loughborough University is providing an important role in this and has helped to create the Loughborough Science and Enterprise Park, which is one of the largest science parks in the UK. As a result, Loughborough is home to a large number of innovative, cultural and science-based companies (CBC, 2015a), with the number of high technology industries in the Borough also increasing (CBC, 2015c). The proportion of small companies is very high, with 83% of the 6,180 businesses in the Borough employing less than 10 employees (BE Group, 2014).

The Borough is a relatively self-contained local authority area, with 56% of the working residents living and working in the area. This figure is relatively high for Leicestershire. Despite this, Charnwood is the largest net exporter of labour in the county (BE Group, 2014). As a result, some 23,056 people regularly commute into the Borough, compared with 34,795 people who regularly commute out. The majority of this movement is into Leicester (BE Group, 2014).

The current Charnwood Local Plan proposes to deliver up to 75ha of land for strategic employment purposes by 2028. Of this, 28ha will likely be met by existing available employment land, leaving a requirement for an additional 49ha of land (BE Group, 2014).

4.10.2 Key sustainability issues

Although the Borough has relatively low unemployment levels, income is lower than the England national average and there is significant disparity between female and male earnings, which is larger than both the regional and national average.

The service sector remains the principal employer in the Borough, with a significant number of people employed in public administration, education and health, and in the food and accommodation industries. Charnwood retains a relatively strong manufacturing sector, with public administration, health and education also major employment sectors in the Borough. The local economy has experienced diversification in recent years, with a growth in the number of science-based and technology companies, particularly focused in Loughborough and the

Loughborough Science and Education Park; however, these sectors continue to provide a smaller proportion of employment than the regional and national averages.

The movement of workers between Charnwood and the adjacent boroughs also places significant pressure on the Borough's transport network.

4.11 Material assets

4.11.1 Transport and infrastructure

Charnwood is served primarily by the M1 motorway, which passes through and adjacent to the western half of the Borough. The eastern half of the Borough is connected to the M1 via the A6 and A512 dual carriageways, which travel into Loughborough (see Figure 4-12). The A6 represents the main arterial road in the Borough and travels north to south connecting Loughborough to Leicester. There are only a limited number of principal routes travelling from east to west, as the River Soar, the A6 highway and Midland Main Line railway provide a series of physical barriers. The A46 connects the Wolds to Leicester, following the route of an old Roman Road, which is reflected in the very straight alignment of the road.

Charnwood is served by the Midland Main Line, carrying services between London's St Pancras and Sheffield. It runs express passenger trains from London, as well as regional and local services. Within the Borough, it stops at a number of stations including Syston, Sileby, Barrow upon Soar and Loughborough. There is also the Birmingham to Peterborough line running through the Borough. However, it does not stop at any stations within the Borough and instead travels direct between Leicester to Melton Mowbray.

The Great Central Railway running from Leicester North, close to Birstall, to Loughborough is now a heritage railway. The line was closed in 1969 and has since been restored, along with a series of stations and signal boxes. Steam and diesel locomotives use the line every weekend, bank holidays and selected week days, providing excursions for tourists and railway enthusiasts.

The majority (63.5%) of people in the Borough travel to work by private car (2010 figures). This has seen a small increase since 2001 (CBC, 2013a). This is particularly prevalent for people living in rural areas, where the standard of public transport is markedly poor. However, this represents a relatively low proportion in comparison to the average for the East Midlands region. The proportion of people travelling to work by foot, bike or public transport has fallen since 2001 (CBC, 2013a). However, the number of people travelling to work by cycling or foot has increased within Loughborough due to the improved walking and cycling network (Land Use Consultants, 2015). Rural areas are poorly served by public transport leading to accessibility issues and a heavy reliance of private car (Land Use Consultants, 2015). Leicestershire County Council is seeking to address this issues through significant investment in the bus network to the extent that 75% of rural households will have access to hourly daytime bus services (Land Use Consultants, 2015).

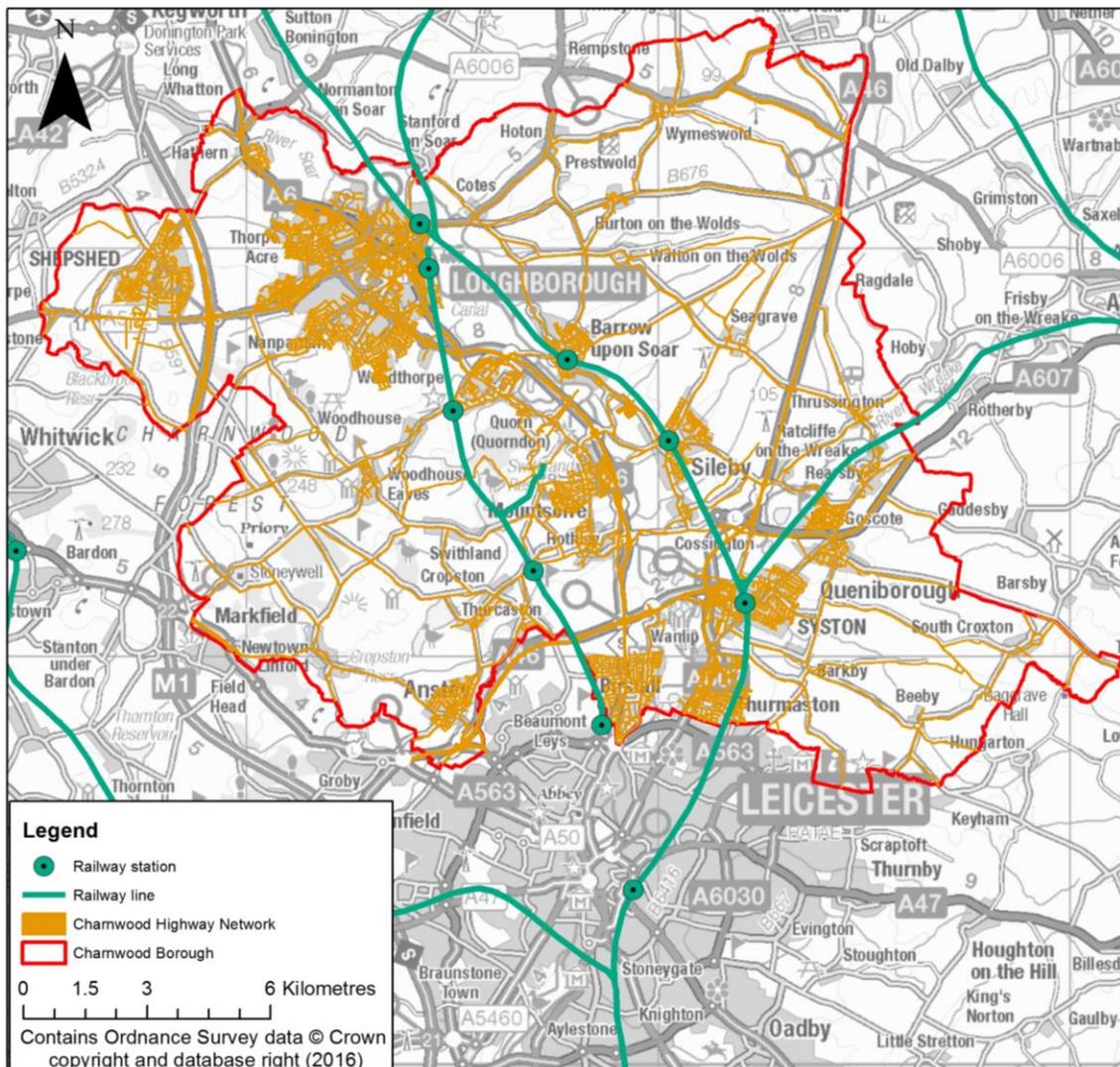


Figure 4-12: Distribution of transport infrastructure in Charnwood Borough

Forecasts within a 2015 study to assess the transport impacts of the Core Strategy suggest that traffic may increase by 19% by 2028 (CBC, 2015a). This is likely to cause a significant increase in traffic congestion. In the future, there is expected to be significant increases in flow and congestion in the following areas (MVA Consultancy, 2013):

- A512 to M1
- M1
- A512 through Shepshed
- A6
- A46
- Routes into Leicester city centre

Charnwood has a large number of Public Right of Ways (PRoW) across the Borough (see Figure 4-13). There is a focus of footpaths in the Soar Valley, particularly along the canal. There are fewer bridleways within the Borough, with these generally connecting footpaths, and a relative lack of PRoWs in the east of the Borough. Within Leicestershire, 80% of the network is made up of footpaths, although there are identified gaps in the network in Charnwood Forest (CBC, 2010).

There are a limited number of cyclepaths within the Borough (see Figure 4-13), with the majority mainly found within Loughborough. There are cyclepaths connecting Loughborough to the villages of the Soar Valley through to Leicester, and also west to Shepshed, all of which are part of National Cycle Route 6. It is an aim of CBC to increase the number of footpaths and cyclepaths throughout the Borough (CBC, 2010).

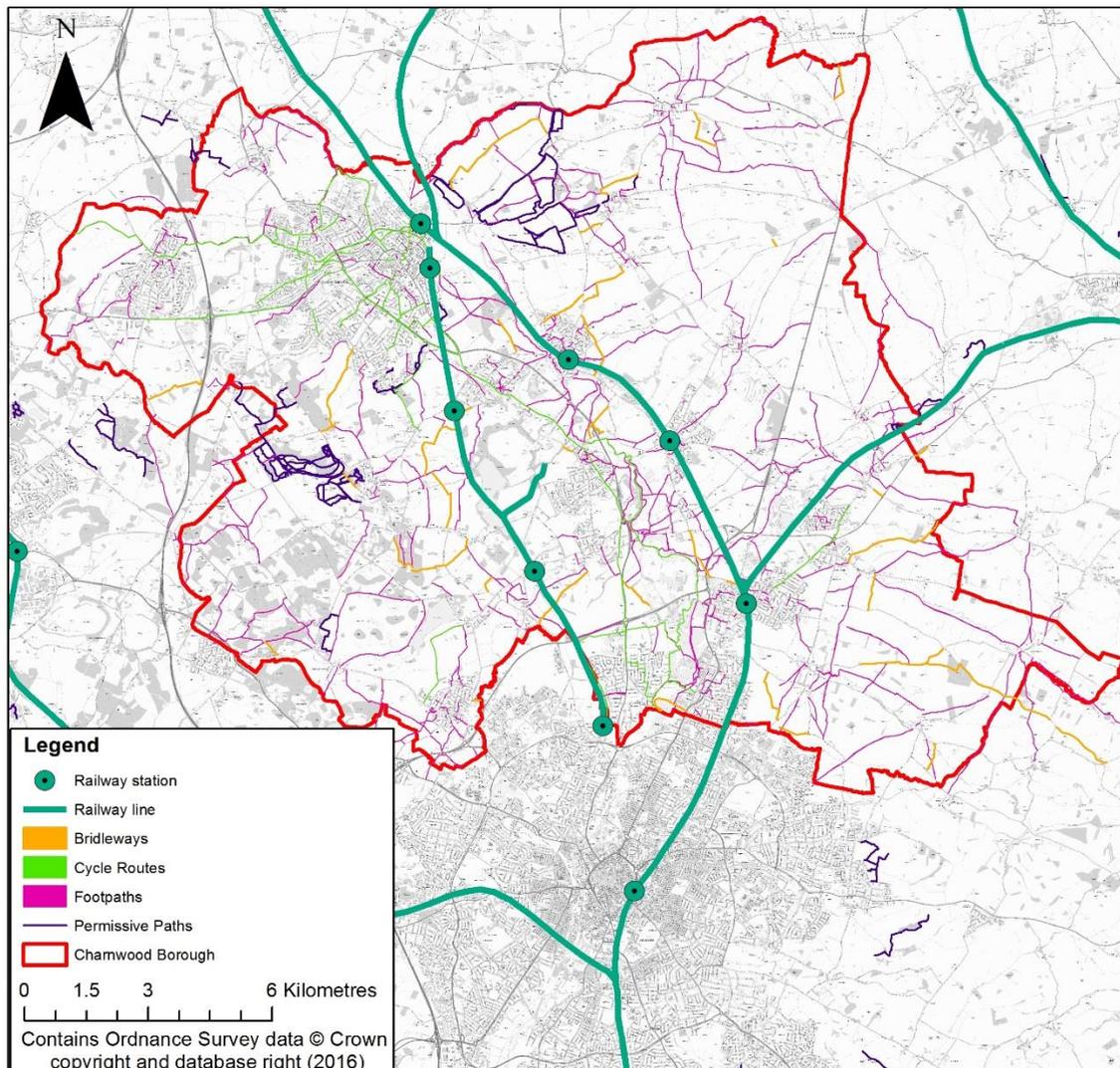


Figure 4-13: Distribution of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) in Charnwood Borough

4.11.2 Services

Charnwood Borough provides a range of community services, including various community facilities (social, leisure and cultural), schools, hospitals and health clinics. The majority of these are largely centred in urban areas. Loughborough, as the main service centre in the Borough, is performing relatively well in light of the recent economic downturn, with an improvement in aspects such as the rate of lettings (Roger Tym & Partners, 2013). However, in 2013 there was still 7% vacancy rates within the city's retail units (Land Use Consultants, 2015).

Outside Loughborough the main rural villages within the Soar Valley act as service centres for the surrounding rural areas of the Borough. These include the villages of Anstey, Barrow upon Soar, East Goscote, Hathern, Mountsorrel, Quorn, Rothley and Sileby (Leicestershire Together, 2009). Most of the service centres are performing reasonably well, but there remains a requirement for further investment due to increased pressure on resources.

However, there is a perceived lack of service centres in the Wold and Charnwood Forest areas of the Borough. Several rural parishes in these areas have been assessed as having minimal or no service provision.

4.11.3 Green infrastructure and open space

Green infrastructure is defined in the Green Infrastructure Strategy (6Cs Green Infrastructure, 2010) as:

- Parks and gardens
- Amenity greenspace

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

There is approximately 1,032ha of open space in Charnwood, with natural and semi natural open space one of the most frequently visited types of open space within the Borough (Land Use Consultants, 2015). CBC manages a large variety of freely open spaces such as formal parks, recreation areas, woodlands and allotments. CBC has also designated six 'Green Wedge' areas, which form sections around Leicester and Loughborough. The purpose of a Green Wedge is to:

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

In addition to these Green Wedges, other areas have been designated as Areas of Local Separation and Green Infrastructure Enhancement Zones (Arup, 2016). The current Charnwood Local Plan Core Strategy also defines a number of important areas of green infrastructure, including Charnwood Forest, River Soar corridor, the edge of Leicester Urban Fringe, and the Loughborough Shepshed Urban Fringe (CBC, 2015a).

In 2010, CBC undertook an assessment of the Borough's open space, sport and recreation provision. This study identified the following deficiencies in open space provision in the Borough (CBC, 2010):

- Inadequate provision of parks and amenity green spaces in Loughborough.
- Accessibility to open space in some areas, particularly Shepshed, Sileby, Syston and Mountsorrel.
- Insufficient allotment provision to meet local demand, with particular requirements in Loughborough, Thurmaston, East Goscote, Mountsorrel and Queniborough.
- Insufficient provision of sports pitches for young people.

The study also established that parks and gardens are highly valued and frequently used, whilst recognising that there is a lack of suitable park equipment for children and young people (CBC, 2010).

4.11.4 Key sustainability issues

The Borough has good external and internal transport links, with the exceptions being the ease of movement between east and west in the Borough and current levels of access to public transport in rural areas. The predicted increase in population will place greater pressure on the transport network, which could be exacerbated by an increase in future development pressure, particularly around areas of current high traffic volume. The effects of a changing climate are also likely to cause increased disruption to the transport network, due to factors such as increased flood risk.

There are gaps in the footpath and bridleway network within the Borough. In addition, some communities experience limited access to open space, in particular Shepshed and some of the service centres in the Soar Valley. In addition, existing green infrastructure is under pressure from development, particularly in the principal urban areas of Loughborough and Leicester.

The Local Plan therefore offers an important opportunity to deliver improvements to green infrastructure provision in the Borough by ensuring such assets are effectively integrated into new development.

4.12 Waste and minerals

Charnwood has a higher rate of recycling and composting than the national average, with 48.8% (29,364 tonnes) (2014) of municipal waste managed in these ways (Land Use Consultants, 2015) compared to 44.9% nationally (Defra, 2015). This compares to a rate of 48.1% across the whole of Leicestershire. Whilst waste is collected by CBC, Leicestershire County Council dispose of the waste and both authorities work as a partnership to ensure waste is treated in accordance with the agreed Waste Hierarchy. As part of its Zero Waste Strategy, CBC has undertaken a range of

waste prevention actions to reduce the total amount of waste from households. While recycling rates are increasing, there are still issues with recyclable materials being present in residual waste collections (CBC, 2012).

Within Leicestershire, landfill sites are almost exclusively associated with previous or existing mineral extraction sites, whilst a number of scrap metal merchants are located within Loughborough (Leicestershire County Council, 2009a).

Leicestershire is a mineral rich county and in 2006 19 million tonnes of minerals were sold that were extracted from sites in the county (Leicestershire County Council, 2009b). In Charnwood, there are a number of redundant and extant quarries, mainly for granite extraction in Charnwood Forest and Mountsorrel. There are also sand and gravel deposits along the Rivers Soar and Wreake which continue to be extracted for use in as aggregates in the construction industry. Gypsum is also currently extracted from an underground mine in Barrow upon Soar (Leicestershire County Council, 2009b), whilst small outcrops of ironstone nodules and igneous rock near Newtown Linford are considered to be nationally important reserves.

4.12.1 Key sustainability issues

Recycling and composting rates in the Borough still remain low even though they exceed the regional and national average. Future population increase is likely to place increased pressure on waste management systems and facilities. However, Charnwood's Zero Waste Strategy aims to put in place measures to meet these challenges. New waste management measures should also consider promotion of sustainable design to minimise waste generation and the impact on the environment.

Leicestershire's large mineral deposits continue to be exploited and represent an important economic activity in Charnwood Borough. Any further increase in mineral extraction could place additional pressure on the Borough's transport networks and potentially increase the risk of contamination of the environment. Continued exploitation of the Borough's mineral resources should therefore seek to contribute to the social and economic needs of the Borough whilst also ensuring robust environmental protection.

5 Stage A3: Identifying key sustainability issues

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

Table 5-1: Summary of the key sustainability issues in Charnwood Borough

Sustainability topic		Key sustainability issues
Environmental	Landscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure on landscape character and condition from habitat fragmentation, urban intrusion and commercial agriculture intensification in several LCAs. • Maintaining settlement and landscape identity caused by pressure on open land between settlements particularly within the Soar and Wreake valleys. • The amount of area of relative tranquillity within Charnwood is declining. There is a lack of tranquillity surrounding Loughborough, Shepshed, Leicester, the Soar Valley and the M1 corridor. • Infrastructure and development are creating barriers within the Borough, particularly restricting movement between east to west. • There is a large-scale programme of afforestation in the National Forest area of the Borough, which contributes to LCA objectives for Charnwood Forest.
	Biodiversity and nature conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss and fragmentation of habitats, leading to potential harm to species due to development pressure. • Condition of many designated sites (SSSIs) is unfavourable. • Important habitats and species in the Borough are vulnerable to the effects of climate change. • The Soar Valley and Charnwood Forest are important areas for nature conservation.
	Water environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ecological quality of the Borough's watercourses is generally low, with several watercourses failing to meet WFD objectives. • Water resources in the Borough experience a moderate level of stress. The regional water resources strategy aims to reduce water demand and improve water usage, reducing the impact of water abstraction on the water environment. • The Borough provides public water supply storage for other areas in the region. • There is some pressure on water resources from the quarrying and aggregate industries and agriculture. • Future development may place pressure on existing water treatment facilities requiring upgrade or expansion of treatment systems to ensure no detriment to the quality of receiving watercourses. • The rivers Soar and Wreake are the principal sources of flooding in the Borough. • Climate change is likely to cause a significant increase in flood risk. • Flooding has the potential to mobilise contaminants in the Borough. • There are a relatively limited number of sustainable drainage (SuDS) schemes in the Borough.
	Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Borough has a variety of important geological sites. • Good quality agricultural land is at risk from development. • Modern agricultural practices are leading to increased soil erosion. • There are a number of contaminated sites within the Borough, with a cluster of historic landfills in the Soar Valley.
	Historic environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a significant number of heritage assets in the Borough that need to be preserved. • There are a number of heritage assets at risk, several of which do not have a plan in place to provide protection and restoration. • Heritage assets not legally protected are at risk from development. • Development may adversely affect the setting of heritage assets.

Sustainability topic	Key sustainability issues	
	Air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loughborough, Syston and Mountsorrel suffer from poor air quality. Increased congestion could lead to a degradation in air quality of the Borough.
	Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Borough is predicted to have increased summer temperatures, decreased summer rainfall, increased winter rainfall and increased frequency of severe weather events. Increased rainfall and severe weather events increase the flood risk. Biodiversity may be negatively impacted by climate change, particularly along the Borough's watercourses. There is significant potential for renewable energy generation in the Borough. There is increased risk to public health due to increased summer temperatures and increased flood risk. Increased population and increased development may increase the Borough's greenhouse gas emissions.
Social	Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The population of the Borough is increasing and Charnwood has a very high population density. This is increasing pressure on community services and facilities, and housing provision in the Borough. High student population in Loughborough places pressure on the town and its permanent residents. Educational attainment levels in the Borough are slightly lower than the national average. There are pockets of deprivation, with five of Leicestershire's 10 most deprived areas within the Borough. Crime and community safety is a cause of concern for the local population. Domestic abuse incidents have increased in the Borough. The Borough has the highest NEET rate in Leicestershire.
	Human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is considerable variation in life expectancy between people living in the least deprived and most deprived areas of the Borough. The Borough has higher than the national average levels of adult and child obesity. There is a falling number of smokers and smoking-related deaths in the Borough.
Economic	Local economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local economy is relatively strong, with a lower than average unemployment rate. Scientific and high-technology industries are growing in the Borough, providing economic diversification. Average salary rates are less than the national average. There is a significant difference between male and female average salaries.
	Material assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a lack of accessibility and public transport infrastructure in rural areas such as The Wolds. Car use is increasing and the number of cars is predicted to grow significantly in the future, which will place additional pressure on the road transport network serving the Borough. There is a relative lack of footpaths in the east of the Borough. The cycle network is improving, particularly in Loughborough and the Soar Valley. Some rural areas suffer from limited accessibility to services. There is a deficiency of parks and open spaces in Loughborough. There is a lack of accessibility to open space, particularly in Shepshed and some rural service centres. Green infrastructure, including green wedges, are under pressure from development.
	Waste and minerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst Charnwood has a relatively high rate of recycling and composting, more than 50% of waste is not treated in these ways.

Sustainability topic	Key sustainability issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future population growth is likely to place increased pressure on waste management systems and facilities. • There continues to be significant mineral extraction in the Borough.

6 Stage A4: Developing Sustainability Appraisal objectives

6.1 Introduction

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

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

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

6.2 Sustainability Appraisal objectives and appraisal criteria

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

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

SA receptor	SA objective	Appraisal criteria	Proposed indicators
Environmental			
Landscape character	1	<p>Protect and enhance the integrity and quality of the Borough's urban and rural landscapes, maintaining local distinctiveness and sense of place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance landscape character in accordance with management objectives. Maintain settlement identity and prevent coalescence. Protect and enhance areas of tranquillity. Promote schemes designed to promote the diversity of landscape and built character into new development. Minimise detrimental visual intrusion. Minimise light pollution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in quality of landscape character and condition. The condition and quality of new characteristics introduced to the environment. Percentage of open countryside. Change in areas designated for their landscape value.
Biodiversity and nature conservation	2	<p>Protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance designated sites including SSSIs, LNRs and LWSs. Protect and enhance priority habitats and species. Contribute to the protection and creation of new BAP habitats. Avoid habitat fragmentation and increase connectivity of habitats. Enhance community engagement with biodiversity. Encourage the protection and provision of green and open spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of designated sites. Planning/applications refused/granted in designated sites, green wedges and wildlife corridors. Percentage of land designated as nature conservation sites as a result of Local Plan policies. Completed development that has resulted in the loss or creation/restoration of BAP habitats.
Water environment	3	<p>Protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the achievement of WFD objectives. Encourage sustainable and efficient management of water resources. Protect and where possible improve drinking water quality. Improve water quality in the Borough's watercourses. Enhancement and recreation of natural watercourses. Increase the use of SuDS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality of the Borough's watercourses. Number of pollution incidents. Number of SuDS schemes installed. Number of schemes contributing to the achievement of WFD objectives. Percentage of waterbodies achieving 'Good' ecological status.
	4	<p>Reduce the risk of flooding to existing communities and ensure no new developments are at risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise the risk of flooding to people and properties. Promote and increase the use of SuDS that result in Greenfield or better run-off rates. Only development appropriate to the Flood Zone shall take place. All new development takes account of the 2016 Climate Change allowances. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments accompanied by a Surface Water Management Plans. Number of SuDS schemes installed.
Land	5	<p>Protect the Borough's soil resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce soil erosion and protect and enhance soil quality and quantity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of greenfield land affected by development.

SA receptor	SA objective	Appraisal criteria	Proposed indicators	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise the loss of Grade 2 and Grade 3a ALC land. Reduce contamination of soils from development, industry or agriculture. Promote the use of brownfield land for development where possible. Increase the remediation and regeneration of contaminated land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas of ALC grading 2 and 3a lost to development. Number of land remediation schemes. 	
Air quality	6	Improve local air quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and improve local air quality. Promote measures that will remove the occurrence of AQMAs. Reduce the impacts on air quality from transport. Mitigate against the uses that generate NO₂ or other particulates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rate of transport modal shift across Borough. Exceedances of air quality objectives. Nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and particulate emissions. Population living in AQMAs. Number of complaints received regarding odour nuisance.
Climate	7	Reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver schemes that promote habitat and species resilience and adaptability to the effects of climate change. Promote measures that minimise greenhouse gas emissions. Minimise the likely impacts of climate change through promotion of appropriate adaptation measures in new development. Promote the development of renewable energy generation. Promote water efficiency measures in new development. Reduce waste and increase re-use, recycling and energy produced of waste. Promote measures that reduce the need to travel and travel distances. Promote measures to reduce the need to travel by car. Promote use of public transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenhouse gas emissions. New development achieving 'good', 'very good' or 'excellent' BREEAM or EcoHomes rating. Proportion of total electricity consumption from renewable sources. Energy and water use per household. Condition of designated sites. Waste to landfill, recycling and composting rates. Peak traffic flows. Number of public transport services and cycle routes created. % change in number of people using public transport.
Historic environment	8	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve and enhance designated heritage features. Maintain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of Conservation Areas and settlements. Promote high-quality design. Promote heritage based sustainable tourism. Provide for increased access to and enjoyment of the historic environment. Provide for increased access and enjoyment of the historic environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning permissions granted/refused that affect the setting of a designated heritage asset. Loss or damage of heritage assets. Number of heritage assets on the Heritage at Risk register. Number of locally listed heritage assets at risk. % change in number of visits to historic sites. Number of planning

SA receptor	SA objective	Appraisal criteria	Proposed indicators	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote heritage-led regeneration. Increase the social benefit derived from the historic environment. 	applications where archaeological investigations were required prior to planning approval.	
Social				
Population	9	Reduce poverty and deprivation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase community engagement and decision-making. Increase racial and gender equality and community cohesion. Reduce poverty and social exclusion. Reduce crime and the fear of crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local and sub-regional measurements of deprivation. Life expectancy between wards. Crime rates. Self-reported measure of people's feeling of safety. Rates of participation of democratic processes. Inequality measures, such as education levels and wages. % BME working age people in employment.
	10	Promote healthy and active lifestyles in the Borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase access to high quality healthcare facilities. Promote active and healthy lifestyles. Promote recreational and leisure opportunities and access to open space. Increase regular participation in physical activities and sport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life expectancy rates. Death rates for cancer, circulatory disease, accidents and suicides. All-age all-cause mortality rate. Obesity levels. Number of people exercising regularly. Self-reported measure of people's overall health and wellbeing.
	11	Improve access to affordable housing and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures within local communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an adequate supply of housing. Reduce homelessness. Make best use of existing housing stock. Provide quality and flexible homes that meet the needs of the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of housing completions and projected completions. Housing quality in new housing development based on Building for Life Assessments. Net additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches. Number of households living in temporary accommodation. Homelessness rates.
Economic				
Local economy	12	Promote a sustainable and diversified economy, and improve skills and employability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote retention of existing jobs and create new employment opportunities. Increase diversity in the range of job opportunities. Ensure an adequate supply of a range of sites in terms of types and quality for employment uses. Improve access to opportunities for education, learning and skills training for all sectors of the community. Support the creation of flexible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development. New business registration rates. Employment rates. Proportion of economically active people unemployed. Average earnings. Percentage of population that have attained a qualification of NVQ2 and above.

SA receptor	SA objective	Appraisal criteria	Proposed indicators
		jobs to meet the changing needs of the population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of 18-24 year olds enrolled in training, full time education or employment. • % of 16 year olds achieving 5+ GCSEs Grade A*-C. • No. of residents attending university. • Business surveys of staff/skills shortages.
Material assets	13 Increase access to a wide range of services and facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including healthcare, education, retail and leisure. • Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community, cultural and leisure facilities. • Maintain and enhance rural facilities. • Increase voluntary and community infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people with adequate access to key services (e.g. hospitals, health centres, residential homes, schools). • Availability and accessibility of a range of community, cultural and leisure facilities. • Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling.
Mineral resources	14 Ensure sustainable management of the Borough's mineral resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the retention of mineral workings for biodiversity, landscape and the general public. • Reduce the use of minerals and increase the reuse of material on and off site. • Safeguard the existing development from the environmental effects of mineral workings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total aggregates extracted from within the Borough. • Amount of mineral extraction areas designated for environmental protection. • Total aggregates used within the Borough. • Environmental incidents from mineral extraction facilities.

6.3 Impact significance

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

Table 6-3: Impact significance key

Impact significance	Impact symbol
Significant positive impact	++
Minor positive impact	+
Neutral impact	0
Minor negative impact	-
Significant negative impact	--
Uncertain impact	?

6.4 Sustainability Assessment approach

6.4.1 Developing alternatives

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

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

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

6.4.2 Assessment approach

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

Throughout the assessment the following will apply:

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

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

7 Stage A5: Next steps in the Sustainability Appraisal process

7.1 Consultation

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

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

The draft Scoping Report was subject to a consultation with the statutory consultation bodies (Natural England, Historic England and Environment Agency) for a five-week period between 8 September 2016 and 14 October 2016. Comments were received on a number of aspects of the assessment scope including the Sustainability Appraisal objectives, indicators and appraisal criteria. Each of the comments were reviewed and the scope of the assessment was revised accordingly. The outcomes of this consultation process and therefore incorporated into this version of the Scoping Report. Future revisions to the Scoping Report will be considered during the development of the Local Plan, to take account of evolving policy guidance and any further consultation comments.

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

7.2 The Environmental Report

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

Table 7-1: Proposed structure of the Environmental Report

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

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A Appendix A: Review of plans, programmes and policies

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon: Making Sustainable Local Transport Happen (2011)	The paper aims create a transport system that helps create growth in the economy while also tackling climate change by reducing carbon emissions.	The Local Plan should develop policies that encourage sustainable transport. The SA should include an appraisal objective to reduce the need to travel, and improve accessibility to sustainable transport modes.
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2012)	Aims to ensure traveller site policies are fair, realistic and inclusive, and enable suitable provision of sites from which travellers can access various services. The policy encourages local authorities to plan for traveller sites and consider them in plan-making and decision making.	The Local Plan should provide for the needs of travellers. The SA should contain appraisal objectives that meet the needs of everyone in society.
National Planning Policy for Waste (2014)	Sets out the Government's ambition to work towards a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management through positive planning.	The Local Plan should include policies to consider waste generation and management in the Borough, including minimising waste. The SA should include an appraisal objective to minimise waste.
Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for public health in England (2010)	Housing plays an important role in social mobility, and housing policies should aim to achieve this.	Housing policies and development will be an integral part of the Local Plan. The Local Plan should include policies that provide for housing that meets the needs of everyone in the Borough. The SA should include an objective that increases the amount of suitable housing available in the Borough.
Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our Strategy for public health in England (2010)	Sets out the Government's strategy for improving public health. Aims to reform the public health system by giving more powers to local authorities. It aims to protect the population from serious health threats; helping people live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives. It also aims to improve the health of the poorest, fastest.	Policies in the Local Plan should reflect the objectives in the strategy and aim to improve the health of the Borough's residents. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve health.
Community Energy Strategy (2014)	Sets out plans to promote and facilitate the planning and development of decentralised community energy initiatives in four main types of energy activity.	The Local Plan should ensure that policies support community low carbon and renewable energy provision including electricity, heat and transport.
The National Adaptation Programme - Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate (2013)	Contains a mix of policies and actions to adapt to future weather conditions and increase resilience against climate change.	The Local Plan should include policies that increase resilience against the effects of climate change and also ensure that there are no policies that will exacerbate the risk to climate change. The SA should include an appraisal objective to promote the adaptation and mitigation to climate change effects.
The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009)	Strategy to help tackle climate change by reducing the UK's emissions of carbon dioxide through increasing energy production from renewable sources.	The Local Plan should include policies to increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources. The SA should include an objective that includes increasing the amount of renewable energy generation.
Climate Change Act (2008)	Puts forward a framework for adapting to climate change and associated threats, as well as a case for increased resilience to climate change. It emphasises the commitment to sustainable development and consideration of the potential impacts of climate change.	The Local Plan should include policies to increase the Borough's resilience to climate change and also consider climate change resilience as part of sustainable development.

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		The SA should seek to ensure that the Appraisal Framework is coherent and includes a breadth of objectives that cover the sustainable development priorities.
The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007)	Aims to ensure that everyone can enjoy a level of ambient air quality in public spaces, which poses no significant risk to health or quality of life.	The Local Plan should set out policies to improve air quality within the Borough and reduce the emissions of pollutants. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve air quality.
Housing Act (2004)	Protects the most vulnerable in society by creating a fairer housing market. Helps to achieve the Government's aim of providing decent homes.	The Local Plan should include policies that help to create a fairer and better housing market. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve access to good quality and affordable housing.
Localism Act (2011)	The aim of the act is to facilitate the devolution of decision making powers from central government control to individuals and communities.	The Local Plan should include policies that enable local people, charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to work with the Local Authority, and ensure that planning policy decisions take full account of the views that are expressed.
The Flood and Water Management Act (2010)	Aims to make improvements to both flood risk management and the way water resources are managed.	The Local Plan should include policies that define clearer roles, responsibilities and standards for the creation of sustainable drainage. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve flood risk management and protect water resources.
National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (2011)	Aims to encourage more effective risk management of flooding and coastal erosion by enabling people, communities, business, infrastructure operators and the public sector to work together.	The Local Plan should set out policies to manage flood and coastal erosion risks. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve flood risk management.
The Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature (2011)	Aims to protect and improve the natural environment by facilitating local action, creating a green economy, and strengthening connections between people and nature.	The Local Plan should set out policies that protect and improve the natural environment. The SA should include an appraisal objective to promote greater environmental protection at a local level.
Waste (England and Wales) Regulations (2012)	Provides the legislative framework for the collection, transport, recovery and disposal of waste.	The Local Plan should include policies that ensure waste is recovered or disposed of without endangering human health or causing harm to the environment, through permitting, registration and inspection requirements. The SA should include an appraisal objective to promote better waste management.
Safeguarding Our Soils: A Strategy for England (DEFRA 2009).	Strategy that promotes soil as a natural resource that provides essential services, including food production, water management and support for valuable biodiversity and ecosystems. As a large store of carbon, it also plays a vital role in the fight against climate change.	The Local Plan should set out policies that ensure adequate management of soils, including safeguarding soils from contamination by pollutants. The SA should include an appraisal objective that aims to safeguard soils through appropriate management.

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Future Water – The Government’s Water Strategy for England (2011)	Strategy for sustainable delivery of secure water supplies, improved and protected water environment, fair, affordable and cost-reflective water charges, reduced water sector greenhouse gas emissions and more sustainable and effective management of surface water.	The Local Plan should include policies that encourage sustainable delivery of secure water supplies and protect the water environment. The SA should include an appraisal objective that aims to improve the management of water and protection of the water environment.
Regional		
Viewpoints on the Historic Environment of the East Midlands (2002)	Focuses on the importance of the historic environment and the impact it has on people’s quality of life in the East Midlands.	The Local Plan should develop policies that support the conservation of the historic environment. The SA should include an appraisal objective that aims to conserve the Borough’s heritage assets.
Putting Wildlife Back on the Map: A Biodiversity Strategy for the East Midlands (2006)	Provides the strategic framework for the conservation of biodiversity in the region.	The Local Plan should develop policies to conserve and enhance biodiversity. The SA should include an appraisal objective that aims to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the Borough.
Tackling Climate Change in the East Midlands, Regional Programme of Action 2009-2011	The plan sets targets and actions for tackling climate change in the region to be undertaken by the regional bodies.	The Local Plan should include policies that support the mitigation of, and adaptation to climate change. This includes promoting renewable energy. The SA should include an appraisal objective that relates to climate change and the Borough’s resilience to it.
The East Midlands Regional Waste Strategy 2006	This is a key element of the regions waste policy, which aims to work towards zero growth in waste and reduce the amount of waste to landfill.	The Local Plan should include policies that reduce waste and increase rates of reuse, recycling and composting waste. The SA should include an objective that aims to minimise waste.
Water Resources for the Future - A Summary Strategy for the Midlands Region (2009)	Aims to ease the stress on water resources within the region by making the best use of the water available and promoting water efficiency.	The Local Plan should include policies that encourage water efficiency and wise use of water resources. The SA should include an appraisal objective relating to the management of water resources.
Humber River Basin Management Plan (2015)	The RBMPs describe the condition of the water environment and sets out the actions needed to deliver environmental improvements to achieve compliance with the WFD.	The RBMP will guide the Local Plan and provide important guidance in ensuring that the Plan provides robust protection of the water environment and seeks to minimise flood risk. Local Plan policies will be strengthened if they actively contribute to meeting the WFD objectives. The SA should include an appraisal objective that contributes to the WFD objectives through the protection and enhancement of water quality and water resources.
River Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan (2010)	The CFMPs provide an overview of the flood risk across river catchments and establishes policies to manage those risks immediately and over the next 50-100 years.	The Local Plan should include policies that reduce the risk of flooding within the Borough. The SA should include an appraisal objective that aims to reduce flood risk within the Borough.

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

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Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2013)	Provides a framework in which new collection, treatment and disposal infrastructure can be developed. It also enables local authorities to work together in partnership to achieve common goals and targets.	The Local Plan should include policies that are guided by the principles and strategic objectives of the Waste Management Partnership. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve sustainable waste management.
Water Resources Strategy: Regional Action Plan for the Midlands Region (2009)	Strategy to ensure adequate provision of water for people and the environment. Management and use of water and land must be shown to be sustainable - environmentally, socially and economically.	The Local Plan should incorporate the priorities for water resource management within its policies. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve the use and integration of water management resources.
Severn Trent Water's (STW's) Water Resource Management Plan 2015-40 (2014)	A plan that explains STW's proposals for making sure that enough water is available to supply to customers in an affordable and sustainable way over the next 25 years.	The Local Plan should include policies that aim to reduce demand for water, and protect sustainable sources of drinking water supply from pollution risks. The SA should include an appraisal objective that relates to sustainable water resource management.
Local		
Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy (2015)	Provides the visions, objectives and strategic policies for delivering growth within the Borough.	The Core Strategy is an integral part of the development of the Local Plan. The Local Plan should consider all the findings of the Core Strategy and its associated SA. The SA should seek to ensure that the Appraisal Framework is coherent and includes a breadth of objectives that cover the sustainable development priorities.
Charnwood Regeneration Strategy (2012)	Identifies priorities for physical regeneration in the Borough. It is intended to promote economic growth.	The Local Plan should incorporate the priorities for regeneration within its policies. The SA should include an appraisal objective that understands the need for regeneration, and the associated benefits that regeneration can have on the Borough.
Charnwood Community Safety Partnership Plan 2011-2014	Aims to address the root causes of crime and anti-social behaviour, and preventing crime.	The Local Plan should include a range of policies that aim to reduce crime, and also policies that reduce the leading causes of crime. The SA should include an appraisal objective relating to crime and safety within the Borough.
Charnwood Borough Council Housing Strategy 2015-2020 (2015)	Sets priorities of delivery of new housing, making best use of existing stock and improving advice and support. It aims to increase the supply of suitable housing.	The Local Plan should include policies that help to create a fairer and better housing market. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve access to good quality and affordable housing.
Charnwood Homelessness Strategy 2013-2018 (2013)	Two main objectives of preventing homelessness, and where this is not possible, ensure high quality service and support to homeless people.	The Local Plan should consider policies to provide suitable accommodation for homeless people, and reduce the number of homeless people in the Borough.

Plan/Policy/Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal
		The SA should include an appraisal objective that reduces the number of homeless people in the Borough.
Tenancy Strategy 2012-2017 (2012)	Aims to ensure that the best use can be made of social housing stock within the Borough, without having an adverse effect on homelessness.	The Local Plan should include policies for tenancy and not exclusively for home ownership. The SA should include an objective that aims to increase the provision of suitable homes for all.
Affordable Housing Economic Viability Assessment (2010)	Assesses the impact on the viability of affordable housing development.	The Local Plan should include policies that help to create a fairer and better housing market. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve access to good quality and affordable housing.
Charnwood Borough Council Open Spaces Strategy 2013-2028 (2013)	The strategic framework for the management and development of better quality open spaces which meet local needs and accessibility.	Local Plan should include policies that preserve and increase the amount of, and accessibility to, open space. The SA should include an appraisal objective that relates to open space preservation and provision.
Charnwood Local Growth Plan 2014-2020 (2014)	Provides the strategic framework for the delivery of services directed towards sustaining growth and prosperity of the Charnwood economy.	A core theme of the Local Plan should be to help sustainable growth within the Borough. The SA should seek to ensure that the Appraisal Framework is coherent and includes a breadth of objectives that cover the sustainable development priorities.
Charnwood Local Plan Viability Study (2014)	Evidence base for the Local Plan with regards to affordable housing and strategic developments.	The Local Plan should include housing policies that are viable, including policies that help to create a fairer and better housing market. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve access to good quality and affordable housing.
Green Wedges, Urban Fringe Green Infrastructure Enhancement Zones and Als (2016)	Forms the evidence base to support the Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan. Reviews green wedges in the Borough.	The Local Plan should include policies that preserve the existing green wedges and also promote the enhancement of these. Policies should also be included to increase the amount of green space in the Borough. The SA should include an appraisal objective that relates to green space preservation and provision.
Charnwood Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2013)	Sets the schedule of the infrastructure necessary to support growth proposals in the Core Strategy.	The Local Plan should develop policies that encourage the development of sustainable infrastructure and ensure it is viable and connected to the network and people. The SA should include an appraisal objective to increase accessibility to services and infrastructure.
Charnwood and Loughborough Area Blueprint for Tourism (2011-2014)	Aims to deliver increased visitor numbers and growth in economic activity in the tourism sector, along with increased visitor satisfaction.	The Local Plan should aim to promote sustainable tourism and improve services. The SA should include an appraisal objective that aims to improve tourism within the Borough.

Plan/Policy/Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal
Loughborough Town Centre Masterplan (2007)	Aims to develop Loughborough so it maintains its position within the region. Accessibility and quality of the environment must be addressed and new opportunities for investment created.	The Local Plan should include policies to develop Loughborough town centre that provides benefit to the Borough's population. The SA should include an objective that promotes sustainable and viable regeneration.
Charnwood Borough Council Shepshed Town Centre Master Plan and Delivery Framework (2013)	Aims to reverse the decline within Shepshed, and the regeneration is a strategic priority within the Core Strategy.	The Local Plan should include policies to regenerate Shepshed town centre that provides benefit to the Borough's population. The SA should include an objective that promotes sustainable and viable regeneration.
Borough of Charnwood Contaminated Land Strategy (2001)	Sets out how contaminated land will be identified and establish who is responsible for remediation.	The Local Plan should include policies to remediate contaminated land where required, and also promote development on previously developed land if suitable. The SA should include an appraisal objective to reduce the amount of contaminated land and the effects on the environment.
Charnwood Sustainable Community Strategy (2008)	Aims to improve the quality of life within the Borough by addressing issues such as health, wellbeing, housing, community safety, transport, education and employment.	Policies in the Local Plan should reflect the objectives in the strategy and aim to improve the health of the community with a range of policies. The SA should include an appraisal objective to relating to improving community viability.
Loughborough Off-Campus Community- Service Delivery Strategy (2011)	Strategy aims to define, coordinate and manage the delivery of services to students and permanent residents in areas with a high proportion of students.	The Local Plan should include policies to improve student and permanent resident experience in Loughborough.
Student Housing Provision in Loughborough, Supplementary Planning Document (2005)	Aims to manage student housing provision and its impact on Loughborough and its 'host community'.	The Local Plan should address student housing and its impacts upon permanent residents in Loughborough.
Setting the Strategic Direction: Charnwood LDF Core Strategy - (Stage 1) (2012)	Details the transport impacts of four development strategy options associated with the Core Strategy.	The Local Plan should develop policies that encourage sustainable transport. The SA should include an appraisal objective to reduce the need to travel, and improve accessibility to sustainable transport modes.
Setting Strategic Direction: Charnwood LDF Core Strategy - Stage 2 - Emerging Development Strategy (2013)	Assesses the transport impacts from the strategies within the Core Strategy.	The Local Plan should develop policies that encourage sustainable transport. The SA should include an appraisal objective to reduce the need to travel, and improve accessibility to sustainable transport modes.

Plan/Policy/Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key implications for the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal
Setting the Strategic Direction: Southern Charnwood Transport Assessment for the 2026 LDF (2009)	Detailed assessment of the potential growth options in the south of Charnwood.	The Local Plan should develop policies that encourage sustainable transport. The SA should include an appraisal objective to reduce the need to travel, and improve accessibility to sustainable transport modes.
River Soar and the Grand Union Canal - The Strategy (2009)	Provides a strategy to guide policy and investment to maximise the economic potential of the canal.	The Local Plan should ensure economic vibrancy in all areas of the Borough, including the canal. The Local Plan should also ensure that any development does not have adverse impacts on the canal environment and water quality. The SA should include an appraisal objective that aims to improve the economic vibrancy of the Borough.
Charnwood Borough Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2014)	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) to provide appropriate supporting evidence for the Charnwood Borough Local Plan.	The SFRA should guide all policies and objectives in the Local Plan with regards to flood risk and flood management. The SA should include an appraisal objective to reduce flood risk, and protect and enhance watercourses.

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