

To: The Chairman and Members of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee

(Councillors Watson, Humphreys, Osborne, Ridley, Simpson and Taylor)

For the information of the other Members of the Council

For general enquiries please contact Democratic Services on 01827 719226 or via e-mail: democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk

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LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK SUB-COMMITTEE

26 FEBRUARY 2025

The Local Development Framework Sub-Committee will meet on Wednesday, 26 February 2025 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber at The Council House, South Street, Atherstone, Warwickshire.

The day after the meeting a recording will be available to be viewed on the Council's YouTube channel at [NorthWarks - YouTube](#).

AGENDA

- 1 Evacuation Procedure.
- 2 Apologies for Absence/ Members away on official Council business.
- 3 Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests.
- 4 Minutes of the meeting of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee held on 19 November 2024 - copy herewith, to be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

(WHITE PAPERS)

- 5 **New NPPF December 2024** - Report of the Chief Executive.

Summary:

The report provides a summary of the changes to the recently published National Planning Policy Framework and looks at some of the implications of the changes.

The Contact Officer for this report is Dorothy Barratt (719250).

- 6 **Annual Monitoring Report** - Report of the Chief Executive.

Summary:

This report brings to Members the second Annual Monitoring Report following the adoption of the North Warwickshire Local Plan in 2021.

The Contact Officer for this report is Dorothy Barratt (719250).

- 7 **Update on Forward Planning Work** – Report of the Chief Executive.

Summary:

This report updates Members on the work which is underway and the future work of the Forward Planning team.

The Contact Officer for this report is Dorothy Barratt (719250).

- 8 **Local Development Scheme (LDS) February 2025** – Report of the Chief Executive.

Summary:

This report brings to Members a revised up to date Local Development Scheme (LDS).

The Contact Officer for this report is Dorothy Barratt (719250).

- 9 **Coventry City Council Local Plan Reg 19 Plan Consultation –**
Report of the Chief Executive.

Summary:

This report informs Members of the consultation on Coventry City Council's Submission Local Plan.

The Contact Officer for this report is Sue Wilson (719499).

- 10 **The South Warwickshire Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation (2025) –** Report of the Chief Executive.

Summary:

This report informs Members of the consultation on The South Warwickshire Local Plan, Preferred Options (2025) which is the third stage (Regulation 18) in the process for preparing the new South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP). The Preferred Options Consultation and accompanying targeted Call for Sites will run from **10 January to 7 March 2025**. The Board report includes comments on the preferred options consultation and seeks any further comments by Members.

The Contact Officer for this report is Mike Dittman (719499).

- 11 **Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull's State of Habitats 2025 –**
Report of the Chief Executive.

Summary:

The report on the state of habitats in Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull is brought to Members for information.

The Contact Officer for this report is Dorothy Barratt (719250).

STEVE MAXEY
Chief Executive

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE LOCAL
DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK SUB-COMMITTEE**

19 November 2024

Present: Councillor Watson in the Chair

Councillors Humphreys, Jarvis, Osborne, Ridley and Turley.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Taylor (Substitute Councillor Turley) and Councillor Simpson (Substitute Councillor Jarvis)

14 Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests.

There were none declared at the meeting.

15 Minutes of the meeting of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee held on 10 September 2024.

The minutes of the meeting of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee held on 10 September 2024, copies having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16 Update on Progress of Employment Development Plan Document.

The Chief Executive provided an update for Members on the progress of the Employment Development Plan Document (EDPD).

Resolved:

a That the progress and timetable of production for the Employment Development Plan Document be noted; and

b That Member workshops be organised.

17 Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Authorities Natural Capital Investment Strategy

The Chief Executive brought a report that sought the adoption of the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Natural Capital Investment Strategy as the basis for utilising natural capital funding across the sub-region, and detailed that the strategy aligned closely with the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and had the potential to support the delivery of the BAP. Members support was sought for the strategy to assist in how monies received for the natural capital could be invested. In addition, the report proposed governance arrangements be put in place to oversee the delivery of the strategy, including developing an implementation.

Recommendation to the Executive Board

- a That the Natural Capital Investment Strategy be adopted;**
- b That the progress towards developing a Natural Capital Investment Implementation Plan be noted;**
- c That the approach to the governance of the Strategy and the establishment of a Capital Investment Board be agreed; and**
- d That a member be appointed to the Board.**

Councillor Watson
Chairman

Agenda Item No 5

Local Development Framework Sub Committee

26 February 2025

Report of the Chief Executive

New NPPF December 2024

1 Summary

- 1.1 The report provides a summary of the changes to the recently published National Planning Policy Framework and looks at some of the implications of the changes.

Recommendation to the Board:

That the report be noted.

2 Consultation

- 2.1 Consultation has taken place with the relevant Members and any comments received will be reported at the meeting.

3 Introduction

- 3.1 In December 2024 the Government issued an updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2024). Attached as **Appendix A** is a summary of the changes. The NPPF will be accompanied by updated Planning Policy Guidance, which in part is still awaited.

4 Observations

- 4.1 Some of the changes will directly impact on the Borough. In particular, the changes to the housing section and to the Green Belt, with the introduction of the Grey Belt.

Standard Method for assessing local housing need

- 4.2 The local housing need figure for the Borough has increased to 364 dwellings per annum. This is a figure provided by Government and is the starting point for any future housing requirement that may be in a future Local Plan.
- 4.3 As Members will be aware our average housing requirement over the current Local Plan period (up to 2033) is 479 dwellings per annum. Although this figure is in excess of the new local needs housing figure the Local Plan 2021 is delivering needs for neighbouring local authorities. This is an issue that will need to be considered in full through the review of the Local Plan.

Five-year housing supply

- 4.4 In the NPPF 2023 the requirement for the Borough Council to show a 5-year housing land supply was lifted as it was recognised that the Council had a Local Plan that was less than five years old. It is therefore disappointing that the Borough Council needs to show again it has a five-year housing land supply even though the Local Plan is less than five years old. As can be seen in the latest Annual Monitoring Report 23/24 this is currently 5.1 years.
- 4.5 Recent housing completions It is clear from paragraph 5 of **Appendix A** that the Borough may also need to add a further 20% buffer, effectively making it a 6-year housing supply, if housing completions do not improve.

Green Belt and Grey Belt

- 4.6 Sections 7 to 12 provide a summary of the changes to the Green Belt and the introduction of the concept of Grey Belt. Grey Belt is essentially a subset of land but still within the Green Belt. In the NPPF 2024 Further guidance is awaited in terms of the introduction of Grey Belt to determine exactly how much land it will cover in the Borough.
- 4.7 As part of the work on the Employment Development Plan Document (DPD) consultants have already been commissioned to carry out a review of the Green Belt. This work will feed into both the Employment Plan and potential Local Plan review.

Strategic Planning

- 4.8 In the updated NPPF 2024 the Duty to Co-operate continues to be part of the process of plan making and it emphasises effective strategic planning is vital. In addition, it adds that plan policies should be consistent with those of other bodies, which essentially is making sure the Local Plan is deliverable. This has been a key component of plan making for many years, but it is often difficult for infrastructure providers to commit to delivering the infrastructure because of how they are funded, changes in funding or the changing priorities of that organisation. For example, the Local Plan looks forward for 15 to 20 years, but some infrastructure providers only look forward in 5-year funding rounds.

Supporting Economic Recovery and Clean Energy

- 4.9 There is greater emphasis, as shown in paragraph 25 to 29 in **Appendix A**, on the needs of a modern economy and facilitating development to meet the needs of a modern economy. The NPPF states this can be done through identifying suitable locations for such uses and includes reference to freight and logistics. It then goes on to say this should include identifying land to support the expansion or modernisation of other industries of local, national and regional importance. The Employment DPD will need to consider these changes.

4.10 The wording for renewable energy projects has also been strengthened as it now refers to “significant weight” be given by decision makers to the benefits of renewable and low carbon energy generation and proposals. This will be an issue that the Local Plan will need to consider and determine if it can identify/allocate land for such uses or the existing policy of LP35 is appropriate.

5 Report Implications

5.1 Legal, Data Protection and Human Rights Implications

5.2 The NPPF is a material consideration in any planning decision so any changes have implications on both plan making and planning decisions.

The Contact Officer for this report is Dorothy Barratt (01827 719250).

Background Papers

Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D, as substituted by the Local Government Act, 2000 Section 97

Background Paper No	Author	Nature of Background Paper	Date

Below is the 33 NPPF 'things' as taken from an article in Planning Resource 13 December 2024

STANDARD METHOD FOR ASSESSING LOCAL HOUSING NEED

- 1 **The [new NPPF](#), at paragraph 62, directs that strategic policies should be informed by a local housing need assessment conducted using the government's standard method.** The changes propose to remove reference to the method being 'an advisory starting point', as well as removing reference to the ability of councils to use 'exceptional circumstances' to argue for the use of alternative approaches to assess need.
- 2 **Local planning authorities are instructed to "meet an area's identified housing need"**. This is in comparison with the previous wording in paragraph 60, which instructed councils to "meet as much of an area's identified housing need as possible". The word 'sufficient' in the context of providing for housing is removed from paragraph one.

FIVE-YEAR HOUSING LAND SUPPLY

- 3 **Changes made to the five-year housing land supply policy in December 2023 - including the ability to show a four rather than five-year housing land supply in certain cases - are reversed with the deletion of former paragraphs 77 and 78.** The general requirement for local planning authorities to include a buffer of five per cent on top of their five-year housing land supply, is retained in paragraph 78, "to ensure choice and competition in the market for land".
- 4 **A 20 per cent buffer will be applied on top of local authorities' five-year housing supply in some cases, for decision-making.** This will apply where there has been significant under-delivery of housing over the previous three years, the NPPF says.
- 5 **A 20 per cent buffer on top of five-year housing supply will also apply more widely for some authorities for decision-making purposes from 1 July 2026.** It will apply where a local planning authority has a housing requirement adopted in the last five years examined against a previous version of the NPPF, and whose annual average housing requirement is 80 per cent or less of the most up-to-date local housing need figure.
- 6 **The new NPPF removes the wording on past oversupply in paragraph 77, which was introduced to set out that previous over-supply could be set against upcoming supply.** The new framework also removes the option for LPAs to 'fix' their five-year housing land supply through annual position statements.

GREEN BELT

- 7 **LPAs should undertake a green belt review where they are unable to meet their identified needs for housing, commercial or other**

development through other means, the NPPF says. “If that is the case, authorities should review green belt boundaries....and propose alterations to meet these needs in full, unless the review provides clear evidence that doing so would fundamentally undermine the purposes (taken together) of the remaining Green Belt, when considered across the area of the plan.”

- 8 The draft introduces the concept of ‘grey belt’ land within the green belt, and clarifies that it would not include land which “strongly” contributes to three of the green belt purposes.** Wording in the glossary of the NPPF defines grey belt as land in the green belt comprising previously developed land and/or any other land that, in either case, does not strongly contribute to any of purposes (a), (b), or (d) (as set out in paragraph 143). These are the purposes which seek to check unrestricted sprawl, prevent merging of towns and preserve the setting of historic towns. (However, it doesn’t include the purpose of safeguarding the countryside from encroachment.) ‘Grey belt’ would also exclude land covered by key constraints such as national landscapes and SSSIs.
- 9 Where it is necessary to release green belt land for development, plans should give priority to previously developed land, then consider grey belt which is not previously developed, and then other green belt locations,** the framework says in paragraph 148. However, when drawing up or reviewing Green Belt boundaries, the need to promote sustainable patterns of development should determine whether a site’s location is appropriate, it adds.
- 10 The development of homes, commercial and other development in the green belt should not be regarded as inappropriate in certain circumstances,** the NPPF says. This is where the following criteria apply:
- The development would be on grey belt land and would not fundamentally undermine the purposes of the remaining green belt across the area of the plan.
 - There is a “demonstrable unmet need for the type of development proposed” (defined in relation to housing supply and delivery).
 - The development would be “in a sustainable location”.
 - The development proposed meets the ‘golden rules’ requirements.
- 11 The following ‘golden rules’ would be applied to major housing development on land released from the green belt (set out in paragraph 156):**
- Affordable housing contribution which would be 15 percentage points above the highest existing affordable housing requirement which would otherwise apply to the development, subject to a cap of 50 per cent. In the absence of a pre-existing requirement for affordable housing, a 50 per cent affordable housing contribution should apply by default. The use of site-specific viability assessment for land in or released from the green belt should be subject to the approach set out in planning practice guidance, the framework states.
 - Necessary improvements to local or national infrastructure,

- The provision of new, or improvements to existing, local green spaces that are accessible to the public. New residents should be able to access good quality green spaces within a short walk of their homes, whether through onsite provision or through access to offsite facilities, the framework says. A development which complies with the Golden Rules should be given significant weight in favour of the grant of permission, the NPPF states.

- 12 Development proposed on previously-developed land in the green belt, and limited infilling in the green belt, is now classed as ‘not inappropriate development’, as long as it doesn't cause “substantial harm to the openness of the green belt”.**

LOCAL CHARACTER AND DESIGN CODING

- 13 Paragraph 130 of the previous NPPF, which was added to state that local character can be taken into account when councils consider their ability to meet their housing needs, is deleted.**
- 14 Wording changes to in paragraph 138 state that the National Model Design Code is “the primary basis for the preparation and use of local design codes”, and removes the preference in the previous NPPF for the preparation of local design codes being the primary means for assessing and improving design of development.**
- 15 Changes made in 2023 to the NPPF that reference “beauty” and “beautiful” in relation to well-designed development are reversed, with the word removed from the title of chapter 12.** The framework also clarifies that national policy is strongly supportive of all upward extensions, including mansard roofs (in paragraph 125e).
- 16 Brownfield developments should be viewed positively, the NPPF says.** Wording in the document to emphasise this point has, however, been tweaked from the suggestion in the draft framework that such proposals “should be regarded as acceptable in principle.” The new wording in the final document is that proposals should be approved “unless substantial harm would be caused”.
- 17 The definition of previously developed land in the glossary now includes “large areas of fixed surface infrastructure such as large areas of hardstanding which have been lawfully developed.”** But glasshouses are not included in the definition.

PRESUMPTION IN FAVOUR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- 18 In a tweak to the presumption in favour of sustainable development, the NPPF says that for decision-taking, schemes should be granted permission unless policies in the framework provide a “strong” reason for refusal.** The previous version stated that such policies should provide a “clear” reason for refusal.

- 19 The new version of the presumption also adds explicit reference to the need to consider key policies.** These are listed as those for directing development to sustainable locations, making effective use of land, securing well-designed places and providing affordable homes.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

- 20 Local planning authorities and county councils “continue to be” under a duty to cooperate with each other, the draft NPPF says.** “Effective strategic planning across LPA boundaries will play a vital and increasing role in how sustainable growth is delivered, by addressing key spatial issues including meeting housing needs, delivering strategic infrastructure, and building economic and climate resilience,” it says. Paragraph 25 sets out the relevant bodies for collaboration on strategic plans, with reference to local enterprise partnerships now deleted.

- 21 Once the matters for collaboration have been identified, new paragraph 27 states that authorities “should make sure that their plan policies are consistent with those of other bodies** where a strategic relationship exists on these matters, and with the relevant investment plans of infrastructure providers, unless there is clear justification to the contrary”. In particular, plans should ensure that:

- a consistent approach is taken to planning the delivery of major infrastructure;
- unmet development needs from neighbouring areas are accommodated; and
- any allocation or designation which cuts across the boundary of plan areas “is appropriately managed by all relevant authorities.”

The NPPF acknowledges that plans come forward at different times and that there can be a degree of uncertainty over other plans. In such circumstances, it states, those preparing plans “will need to come to an informed decision on the basis of available information, rather than waiting for a full set of evidence from other authorities.”

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- 22 Housing needs assessments should explicitly consider the needs of those requiring social rent, the NPPF says.** It states that authorities specify their expectations on social rent delivery as part of broader affordable housing policies. Reference is also added in the new document to assessing the needs of ‘looked after children’, which a footnote says can be evidenced in the relevant LPA’s Children’s Social Care Sufficiency Strategy.
- 23 The requirement to deliver at least ten per cent of the total number of homes on major sites as affordable home ownership, as set out in the previous NPPF, is removed.**
- 24 New wording in the framework expects LPAs to take a positive approach to development proposals that have a mix of tenures and types, through both plans and decisions.** New paragraph 69 states that mixed tenure sites

can provide a range of benefits “including creating diverse communities and supporting timely build out rates”. LPAs, it says, “should support their development through their policies and decisions.” It recognises, however, that this should not preclude schemes that are mainly, or entirely, for Social Rent or other affordable housing tenures from being supported.

SUPPORTING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND CLEAN ENERGY

- 25** **Local planning authorities should pay particular regard to facilitating development to meet the needs of a modern economy, including by identifying suitable locations for uses such as laboratories, gigafactories, data centres, digital infrastructure, freight and logistics, the NPPF says.** Planning policies and decisions should make provision for new, expanded or upgraded facilities and infrastructure to support the growth of knowledge and data-driven, creative or high technology industries, including data centres and grid connections, it states.
- 26** **The framework, at paragraph 87, says storage and distribution operations should be provided for “that allow for the efficient and reliable handling of goods, especially where this is needed to support the supply chain, transport innovation and decarbonisation”.** The same paragraph also includes new text that provision should be made for “the expansion or modernisation of other industries of local, regional or national importance to support economic growth and resilience.”
- 27** **Decision-makers should give “significant weight” to the benefits associated with renewable and low carbon energy generation, and proposals contributing to meeting a net zero future, it says at paragraph 164.** However, wording in the draft which stated that local planning authorities should support planning applications for all forms of renewable and low carbon development has not been included in the final document.
- 28** **Authorities should consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon development when producing plans,** where it is likely that in allocating a site, it would help secure development, it states.
- 29** **The need to mitigate and adapt to climate change should also be considered in preparing and assessing planning applications,** taking into account the full range of potential climate change impacts, new paragraph 163 of the document says.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- 30** **“Significant weight” should be placed on the importance of facilitating new, expanded or upgraded public service infrastructure when considering proposals for development, new wording in paragraph 101 says.** The framework also includes reference to post-16 education places to support the delivery of this type of education provision.

- 31 Development proposals and allocation of sites should ensure that sustainable transport modes are prioritised, taking account of the vision for the site, the NPPF says.** Development should only be prevented or refused on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residential cumulative impacts on the road network following mitigation, would be severe, “taking into account all reasonable future scenarios”, paragraph 116 states.

INTERVENTION, FEES AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 32 The new NPPF applies straight away for decision-making.** However, existing policies are not necessarily out of date and “due weight” should be given to them. Policies should not be regarded as out of date where LPAs meet certain criteria relating to housing supply and delivery. Where a local planning authority has confirmed its housing land supply position for a year through a published Annual Position Statement that has been examined by the Planning Inspectorate against the previous version of this Framework, this position will stand until the Annual Position Statement expires, the framework states.
- 33 For plan-making, the new NPPF applies from 12 March 2025.** This is with the exception of the following cases:
- Where the plan has reached the Regulation 19 stage of consultation on or before 12 March 2025, and its draft housing requirement meets at least 80 per cent of local housing need
 - Where the plan is submitted for examination on or before 12 March 2025
 - Plans which include policies to deliver levels of housing and other development set out in a preceding local plan adopted since 12 March 2020
 - The local plan is in an area where there is an operative Spatial Development Strategy and the local plan has reached Regulation 19 stage on or before 12 March 2025.

Agenda Item No 6

Local Development Framework Sub-Committee

26 February 2025

Report of the Chief Executive

Annual Monitoring Report

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report brings to Members the second Annual Monitoring Report following the adoption of the North Warwickshire Local Plan in 2021.

Recommendation to the Sub-Committee:

That the AMR be noted.

2 Consultation

- 2.1 Consultation has taken place with the relevant Members and any comments received will be reported at the meeting.

3 AMR

- 3.1 An Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) is a document which seeks to look at how the adopted Local Plan is performing. It is to be published annually by the Council and is the main mechanism for assessing the performance, implementation and effects of the Local Plan. In addition, the AMR presents information on the progress or preparation of any other planning policy documents and other related documents, and an assessment of planning policy performance based on output indicators.

- ... 3.2 The AMR is attached as **Appendix A**. It provides information up to 31 March 2024.

- 3.3 Members are asked to note the report.

4 Future Work

Availability of Data

- 4.1 The AMR continues to highlight where it is difficult to collect data to be able to monitor some of the policies. It was envisaged that some of these issues could be addressed through the implementation of the new planning IT system. This has been delayed so it is unlikely to filter into the AMR for a few years as there is always a time lag between the information being available and the production of the AMR.

Five-year housing land supply

- 4.2 As members will recall the NPPF in 2023 stated at paragraph 76:
*“Local planning authorities are not required to identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide a minimum of five years’ worth of housing for decision making purposes if the following criteria are met:
a) their adopted plan is less than five years old; and
b) that adopted plan identified at least a five year supply of specific, deliverable sites at the time that its examination concluded.”*
- 4.3 This meant as the North Warwickshire Local Plan was adopted in September 2021 a five-year housing supply was not required until September 2026. However, as Policy LP38 in the adopted Local Plan referred to a specific five-year housing supply in relation to reserved housing sites, the Council needed to continue to monitor this supply. Also, it was important to understand the delivery of the allocated housing sites to anticipate any issues that may need to be dealt with post 2026.
- 4.4 The updated NPPF in December 2024 now reverts to the requirement of the Borough Council needing to show its five-year housing land supply figures. As can be seen in Appendix A the Borough Council has a 5.1 years’ supply.

5 Report Implications

5.1 Legal, Data Protection and Human Rights Implications

- 5.1.1 As indicated in the body of the report, an AMR has to be published by the Council at least once in every 12 month period. This requirement is imposed by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and regulations made under it. The AMR appended to this report contains the information which is required under those regulations.

5.2 Human Resources Implications

- 5.2.1 The Forward Planning Team prepare the AMR which takes many hours. It is hoped that the new Planning IT system will help, even in a small way, to improve the availability and accessibility of data.

5.3 Risk Management Implications

- 5.3.1 It is important to try and identify any issues with Local Plan policies as early as possible. The preparation of the AMR is intended to reduce the risk of issues arising as a result of how policies are interpreted or used.

The Contact Officer for this report is Dorothy Barratt (719250).

North Warwickshire Local Plan

Annual Monitoring Report

Up to 31 March 2024



North Warwickshire
Borough Council

What is an AMR?

The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) provides information and data on the policies from the North Warwickshire Local Plan 2021. It helps to monitor the policies, seeing how progression is being made towards their implementation. This particular document is shorter and does not cover all the Policies contained in the Local Plan 2021 due to the limitations outlined below.

This is the third full AMR since the adoption of the North Warwickshire Local Plan 2021. The base data for the Local Plan is from the 1st April 2019. Where possible data is provided from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2024.

Limitations:

Raw data for parts of the AMR is not readily available. There was an expectation the introduction of a new planning IT system would improve the situation. However, unfortunately, the transfer of planning systems currently underway, alongside recent changes to permitted development rights and Use Classes relaxation, has prevented the record details and data collection of applications affecting a number of policy areas for the last monitoring year. As a result some of the information is up to earlier monitoring years and, where relevant, this is explained in the main report.

Purpose of the Report

In accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, the purpose of this AMR is to report on a range of matters including:

- Progress made against meeting the timetable specified in the Local Development Scheme (including reasons for any delay and the date of any adopted or approved documents);
- Details of any neighbourhood development order or neighbourhood development plan within the Plan area;
- Details on all Community Infrastructure Levy receipts or expenditure;
- Actions taken to meet the statutory Duty to Cooperate;
- The annual number of net additional dwellings and net affordable units delivered each year in the plan period;
- Any up-to-date information the local planning authority has collected for monitoring purposes

Contact the Forward Planning Team via:

If you require any further information in relation to this document please contact the Forward Planning Team via:

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*North Warwickshire Local Plan
Annual Monitoring Report 2023 – 2024*









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<i>B</i>	<i>LP1 LP2</i>	Gross Completions For 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2023 by Settlement Hierarchy	
<i>C</i>	<i>LP5</i>	Employment Land Supply from 1 st April 2019 to 31 March 2023	
<i>D</i>	<i>LP15</i>	Extract from Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register 2022	
<i>E</i>	<i>LP16</i>	State of Habitats Report 2025 for North Warwickshire	
<i>F</i>	Relevant to various policies	Building Regulations Statutory Guidance	








Executive Summary

Summary of Local Plan Policy







Policy	Title	Indicator/ metrics	Target	
LP1	Sustainable Development	Achievement of all indicators in the Local Plan which contribute towards LP1	i. All monitoring targets met or exceeded ii. Development supported by required infrastructure with reference to IDP and NWBC26 Appendix A	
LP2	Settlement Hierarchy	Achievement of all indicators in the Local Plan which contribute towards LP2	i. Development enabled proportionately in line with settlement hierarchy, including associated services, facilities and infrastructure, ii. All development outside of defined settlements justified and appropriate.	
LP3	Green Belt	Change to extent/ character of Green Belt Area defined as Green Belt in hectares/ square metres lost to inappropriate development (including via permissions/ community right to build)	i. Protection of Green Belt's essential characteristics and purposes, ii. Any inappropriate development justified by very special circumstances.	i  ii 
LP4	Strategic Gap	Change to extent/ character of Strategic Gap Numerical loss of area defined as Strategic Gap (in hectares/ square metres)	i. Retaining a meaningful gap within the terms of LP4 ii. Any exceptions to protection accorded via LP4 justified.	i  ii 
LP5	Amount of development	Amount of housing, employment and traveller provision coming forward relative to minimum requirements in line with anticipated delivery rate Employment land delivered by Use Class and by hectare and	i. Minimum of 9,598 dwellings delivered to 2033 in line with the housing trajectory in Local Plan appendix B, ii. Minimum of 100 hectares of employment land delivered to 2033 in line with the employment	i  ii 




		square metre. Relative to the proportions given in figure 2 of ELR update (CD8/8)	land trajectory in Local Plan appendix B, iii. 19 permanent residential iv. Needs for travellers and travelling showpeople met with regard to latest evidence/ monitoring for policy LP10 v. Provision of adequate infrastructure to support development requirements, vi. Maintenance of a five-year supply of deliverable housing sites.	<p>i </p> <p>ii </p> <p>iii </p> <p>iv </p>
LP6	Additional employment land	Amount of employment land provision delivered by Use Class and by hectare and square metre relative to evidence of immediate unmet need within Area A as defined in the West Midlands Strategic Employment Sites Study (September 2015) or subsequent iteration or similar strategic study.	Report trend	
LP7	Housing development	Provision of housing relative to needs and preferences, including tenures, of the population and at an appropriate density (Local Plan appendix C sets out relevant studies)	<p>i. Increased availability of homes to meet the needs of the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • older people • younger people/ starter homes • people with disabilities • special needs housing (including sheltered or care accommodation and communal establishments) • custom/ self-build housing <p>ii Housing density provided at no less than 30 dwellings per hectare relative to the developable area of any site</p>	<p>i </p> <p>ii </p>




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LP8	Windfall Allowance	Level of development (links with monitoring of LP2 and LP5)	i. 60 dwellings a year from 2020 to 2033 arising via windfall (i.e. unplanned provision)	
LP9	Affordable Housing Provision	Amount of affordable housing provision	i. Affordable houses delivered () by type and tenure to meet target provision and mix in policy LP9, ii. Appropriate contributions towards off-site affordable housing provision meeting requirements in LP9.	
LP10	Gypsy & Travellers Sites	Amount of provision (links with LP5) Number of applications for traveller sites (as defined in PPTS or successor document), number of unauthorised or illegal sites, caravan count data, evidence in the forthcoming review of traveller needs with Lichfield and Tamworth Councils	i. Pitch provision to meet needs established via policy LP5 in accordance with the locational and other requirements of policy LP10, ii. No net loss of traveller site provision (unless acceptable replacement or no longer required for any identified needs as reflected in the latest GTAA).	i  ii 
LP11	Economic Regeneration	Employment generation and diversification (links with LP12 and LP13)	i. Increased and broadened/ diversified employment provision relative to the objectives in LP11 ii. Existing provision safeguarded unless loss is justified.	
LP12	Employment Areas	Existing employment base maintained (links with LP11 and LP13) Employment land change by Use Class and by hectare and square metre	Report trend	
LP13	Rural Employment	Farm and rural business growth and diversification, including number of proposals for re-use of existing	Report trends	




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		buildings (links with LP11 and LP12)		
LP14	Landscape	Maintenance or enhancement of landscape character, including in respect of protective designations	Report trends	
LP15	Historic Environment	Conservation and enhancement of the historic environment and heritage assets Number of applications approved contrary to advice of English Heritage. Number of applications refused owing to impact on historic environment.	Reduce number of assets on Heritage at Risk Register	
LP16	Natural Environment	Protection and enhancement of the natural environment (links with LP17) Number of applications approved contrary to advice of Natural England. Number of applications refused owing to effects on natural environment.	i. Safeguard and improve/ enhance habitats and biodiversity ii. Any potential adverse effects assessed, avoided, mitigated, enhanced or compensated for in line with LP16	i.  ii. 
LP17	Green Infrastructure	Extent and quality of Green Infrastructure assets and biodiversity connectivity (links with LP16)	i. No unjustified net loss of green infrastructure provision relative to the approach in the Green Infrastructure Study (Appendix C) ii. Increase in biodiversity enhancements	i.  ii. 
LP18	Tame Valley Wetlands NIA including Kingsbury Water Park	Maintenance and enhancement of Nature Improvement Area	Report trends	
LP19	Local Nature Reserves	Protection or enhancement of the natural environment	Report trends	


LP20	Green Spaces	Protection of locally valued green spaces (links with LP22)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. No loss of Local Green Space ii. Number of any unjustified losses 	
LP21	Services and facilities	<p>Maintained or improved vitality of town and neighbourhood centres</p> <p>Applications for change of premises from retail and main town centre uses to others</p> <p>Mix of Uses in defined town/ neighbourhood centres and vacancy levels</p> <p>Funding received for provision of community/ public services and facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. No unjustified loss of retail, town centre uses or other facilities (with reference to the aims of LP21) ii. Report number of any unjustified losses ii. Appropriate contributions for services and facilities secured from development via planning obligations 	
LP22	Recreation Provision	<p>Improved availability and accessibility of recreation provision</p> <p>Delivery and Compliance with SPD Targets, facilities and/or financial contributions sought</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Report trends on number, area and facilities provided. v. Monitor compliance with adopted SPD 	
LP23	Transport Assessments	<p>Development is accommodated within design capacity of road network as improved,</p> <p>Effects on road network are appropriate and linkages made with cycle and footpath networks where possible.</p> <p>Number of applications refused on grounds of highways effects/ against the advice of Warwickshire County Council or Highways England.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. No development approved with unacceptable effects on highway capacity or safety ii. Report trends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i.  ii. 
LP24	Stations	Improved accessibility and facilities	Report trends	

LP25	Railway lines	<p>Protection of the strategic route of HS2, safeguarding of potential transport routes and level crossings, and of historic rail lines.</p> <p>Support relocation of existing lawful buildings, structures or uses displaced by HS2.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Allow for the creation and integration of HS2 into the Borough ii. Safeguard Baddesley Mineral Railway Line, Whitacre Line from development that would prevent their reinstatement or use as a continuous corridor. iii. Successful relocation of lawful buildings, structures or uses displaced by HS2 where sought. 	
LP26	Strategic Road Improvements	<p>Enabling of improvements necessary to the highway network and cycling routes in line with the STA and IDP (see Local Plan Appendix C)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Implementation of STA and IDP projects at the appropriate junction in support of LP2 and development provision, including completion of Phase 1 and Phase 2 A5 improvements & submission of bids for future phases of the A5 	
LP27	Walking and Cycling	<p>Improving provision and accessibility of walking and cycling routes across the Borough</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Development of a walking and cycling strategy by [date]. iii. All development to make appropriate provision for such provision, including connection with existing routes. 	
LP28	Level crossings	<p>Improvements made where affected by development or alternative arrangements proposed to ease traffic flow</p>	<p>Report trends.</p>	
LP29	Development considerations	<p>Ensuring high quality of development in all respects</p> <p>Number of applications failing to comply with criteria 1 through 17.</p>	<p>Report trends.</p>	

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LP30	Built Form	Ensuring high quality of development in all respects Number of applications failing to comply with criteria 1 through 17.	Report trends.	
LP31	Frontages, Signage and External Installations	Ensuring high quality of shop-fronts and advertisement (links with LP21)	Report trends.	
LP32	New Agricultural, Forestry and Equestrian Buildings	All additions/ new rural buildings to be justified and integrate appropriately with character	Report trends	
LP33	Water and Flood Risk Management	Ensure all new development is appropriate in respect of vulnerability to flooding and, where appropriate, improvements to existing vulnerability flooding are made Number of applications approved contrary to Environment Agency advice	Report trends	
LP34	Parking	Adequate vehicle parking provision made relative to accessibility of location, including in respect of lorry parking	i. Report trends iii. No net loss of lorry parking provision without justification.	
LP35	Renewable energy and energy efficiency	Ensure all new development meets national requirements in respect of efficiency	Report trends	
LP36	Information and Communication Technologies	Greater connectivity	i. Improvements in extent of coverage of mobile phone signal, broadband and superfast broadband services	
LP37	Housing allocations	Amount of development and timing of delivery (see entry for LP5)	Report trends (see entry for LP5)	
LP38	Reserve Housing Sites	Contingency in the event that delivery falls short of trajectory in Local Plan	N/A	

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		Appendix C, targets set in respect of LP37 falter, if enabling infrastructure is required or if other specific justification for early release.		
LP39	Employment allocations	Amount of development and timing of delivery (see entry for LP5)	Report trends (see entry for LP5)	

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Regulation 34 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 requires local planning authorities to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) following the adoption of a Local Plan. This is therefore the third full AMR since the adoption of the North Warwickshire Local Plan in September 2021.
- 1.2 The Local Plan monitoring year takes place between 1st April and 31st March. This is used by all local planning authorities as well as central government. Therefore, although the adoption of the plan took place part way through the monitoring year the full monitoring year from 1st April is used. The data in the Local Plan where relevant is as of 31st March 2021. Information in this AMR is provided where possible from 1st April 2019 which is the base monitoring year for the 2021 Local Plan.
- 1.3 The AMR goes through all of the Local Plan policies. It uses Chapter 15 of the adopted Local Plan as its basis for monitoring the progress towards the targets set out in that chapter.
- 1.4 In order to show where progress is being made a traffic light system is used to help with using the document.

Image	Is progress being made?
	Progress being made
	Neutral progress
	Progress not being made
Left blank	No monitoring year information available to update

2 Local Development Scheme (LDS)

- 2.1 The latest LDS was approved by the LDF sub-committee on 24th July 2024 and outlines the development plan documents and supplementary planning documents to be prepared. It is reviewed regularly. The latest version can be found at www.northwarks.gov.uk

Current stage of Production

- 2.2 Please refer to the latest version of the Local Development Scheme which can be found on the Council's website.

3 CIL

- 3.1 The Borough Council has not introduced CIL.

4 Infrastructure Funding Statement

- 4.1 The Infrastructure Funding Statement (“IFS”) is an annual report published to provide a summary of all financial contributions arising from Section 106 Planning Agreements and Community Infrastructure Levy contributions (“CIL”) within the Borough for a given financial year. As the Borough Council is not a Charging Authority under the CIL Regulations this IFS only relates to Section 106 contributions. The Statement covers the period up to the end of 31st March 2024.
- 4.2 It is attached as Appendix A to this report and can be found at [Infrastructure Funding Statement | North Warwickshire \(northwarks.gov.uk\)](https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/infrastructure-funding-statement).

5 Duty to Co-operate

- 5.1 The Duty to Co-operate is a legal requirement for the Borough Council to engage with other relevant authorities and bodies constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis for strategic planning matters. In addition, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out that authorities should produce, maintain, and update one or more statement(s) of common ground, throughout the plan-making process.

6 Neighbourhood Plans

- 6.1 As at March 2024 there were 9 made Neighbourhood Plans:
- Arley Neighbourhood Plan (adopted December 2016)
 - Austrey Neighbourhood Plan (adopted June 2017) – being reviewed
 - Coleshill Neighbourhood Plan (adopted June 2017)
 - Fillongley Neighbourhood Plan (adopted August 2019) – being reviewed
 - Hartshill Neighbourhood Plan (adopted March 2017)
 - Mancetter Neighbourhood Plan (adopted September 2017)

- Water Orton Neighbourhood Plan (adopted June 2022)
- Dordon Neighbourhood Plan (adopted December 2023)
- Nether Whitacre Neighbourhood Plan (adopted January 2024)

6.2 In addition, the Polesworth Neighbourhood Plan will be going to referendum in early 2025 and there continues to be some progress on Curdworth Neighbourhood Plan.

- 6.3 There are a further 2 Neighbourhood Plan Areas that have been formally designated:
- Atherstone covering Atherstone Parish and a small part of Grendon Parish
 - Corley Parish

7 Performance Indicators

Table 2: NI 154 - Net Additional Homes Provided

	Annual Target	Gross completions	Demolitions	Loss	Net total
2019/20	203	240	18	2	220
2020/21	265	160	1	8	151*
2021/22	265	377	1	2	374
2022/23	265	168	3	1	164
2023/24	265	285	2	5	278

* Adjusted for covid – see LP5 for further information

Table 3: NI 155 - Number of affordable homes delivered

Year	Number of units
2019/20	28
2020/21	93
2021/22	76
2022/23	32
2023/24	17

Table 4: NI 159 - Supply of ready to develop housing sites

Year	
2019/20	7.13 years
2020/21	6.2 years*
2021/22	6.2 years
2022/23	5.3 years
2023/24	5.1 years

* Adjusted for covid – see LP5 for further information

Table 5: NWLPI 015 – Percentage of new homes built on previously developed land

Year	Conversion gross completions	COU gross completions	New build completions		Percentage
2019/20	3 pdl	13 pdl	55 pdl	71/160	44%
2020/21	16	1	70	87/160	54%
2021/22	6	10	98	114/187	61%
2022/23	10	0	50	60/168	36%
2023/24	0	41	44	85/285	30%

8 North Warwickshire Local Plan

8.1 The Local Plan was adopted on 29th September 2021. At Full Council in June 2023, it was agreed that the review of the Local Plan will take place once the new plan making regulations are in place.

9 Policy by Policy

9.1 The following section goes through the Local Plan policy by policy providing a commentary or statistics to provide information on the latest situation of each.

LP1 Sustainable Development

Indicator/ metrics
<i>Achievement of all indicators in the Local Plan which contribute towards LP1</i>
Targets
<i>i) All monitoring targets met or exceeded</i>
<i>ii) Development supported by required infrastructure with reference to IDP and NWBC26</i>
<i>Appendix A</i>

i) All monitoring targets met or exceeded

Good progress has been made on the policies from the Local Plan as can be seen through this report. However, further improvements need to be made to data collection to enhance our knowledge and understanding of the policies. A new planning IT system is to be introduced to replace the current iLap system. However, changes to service supplier have created further delays in delivery. This has impacted on our ability to monitor some Policy areas for 2023/24, which will be highlighted in the relevant policy areas. As this is being introduced officers are working on ensuring monitoring can more easily be carried out.

ii) Development supported by required infrastructure with reference to IDP (Infrastructure Delivery Plan) and NWBC26 Appendix A

The Borough Council produces an annual Infrastructure Funding Statement each year. The latest available is provided in Appendix A. This outlines the S106 contributions that have been secured as a result of planning permissions. The statement does not provide information on the infrastructure provided as part of the planning permission. For example, on-site open space provision or on-site affordable housing.

Other National infrastructure works that are being carried out within the Borough include HS2: Phase 1, which is currently under construction in the M42 corridor. Construction of the line is ongoing with significant works in the Water Orton/Coleshill/Curdworth area. Changes to HS2 have been introduced including cancelling Phase 2 of the project. However, legislation covering the route has been retained, with the Government reviewing their position they have inherited before setting out more detailed plans in due course, considering whether all or part of the route might be used for other transport projects. The changes are unclear as how they will affect North Warwickshire at the current time, particularly for the eastern leg section. The Government has yet to confirm how it intends to proceed with safeguarding and discretionary property schemes in the areas affected by the cancellation of Phase 2.

LP2 Settlement Hierarchy

Indicator/ metrics	
<i>Achievement of all indicators in the Local Plan which contribute towards LP2</i>	
Target	
<i>i.</i>	<i>Development enabled proportionately in line with settlement hierarchy, including associated services, facilities and infrastructure</i>
<i>ii.</i>	<i>All development outside of defined settlements justified and appropriate</i>

i. Development enabled proportionately in line with settlement hierarchy, including associated services, facilities and infrastructure

The Settlement Sustainability Assessment has been updated 2023 and this will provide part of the evidence base that will feed into the Local Plan review.

ii. **All development outside of defined settlements justified and appropriate**

It is considered that all development approved outside of defined settlement boundaries was justified and appropriate and accords with the requirements of Policy LP2.

LP3 Green Belt Change to extent/ character of Green Belt

Indicator/ metrics	
<i>Area defined as Green Belt in hectares/ square metres lost to inappropriate development (including via permissions/ community right to build)</i>	
Target	
i.	<i>Protection of Green Belt’s essential characteristics and purposes</i>
ii.	<i>Any inappropriate development justified by very special circumstances</i>

The Green Belt within North Warwickshire was altered through the adopted Local Plan. This involved the removal of areas identified for development or with planning consent for development (according as an agreed exception to National Planning Policy Guidance 2021 Para 149), including Hams Hall Power station B site, Housing Site at Lindridge Road, Wishaw, Water Orton New Primary School Site and redevelopment of part of former primary school site.

Following the removal of these areas from the Green Belt the remaining area is approximately 17,250 hectares. There have been no further applications approved that have impacted on or reduced this area contrary to Local or National policy. Two major applications were approved within the Green Belt, the Surf Park, application reference PAP/2019/0496 and the Wall of Prayer Landmark Structure, reference PAP/2019/0701, both are now under construction.

Further work remains ongoing for infrastructure development in relation to HS2 implementation. These works are approved on National Infrastructure need, through Act of Parliamentary, that is accommodated within National and Local Green Belt Policy.

Policy LP3 has operated well. In this monitoring year one Appeal was dismissed on Policy LP3 grounds, ‘loss of openness’ to the Green Belt as follows;

- Application Ref PAP/2020/0295, HGV Lorry Park and associated facilities, Land west of Hams Hall roundabout and south of Marsh Lane, Curdworth – Dismissed 19/12/2022

There are a number of further planning appeals pending within the Green Belt, the results of which will be updated in the following 2024/25 AMR.

LP4 Strategic Gap

Indicator/ metrics	
Change to extent/ character of Strategic Gap	
Numerical loss of area defined as Strategic Gap (in hectares/ square metres)	
Target	
i.	Retaining a meaningful gap within the terms of LP4
ii.	Any exceptions to protection accorded via LP4 justified.

Currently, Policy LP4 is performing well in relation to the aims of preventing settlement coalescence. There have been no planning applications submitted and/or approved within the Strategic Gap between 01/04/2023 and 31/03/2024 with no numerical/spatial loss of Strategic Gap area. There are pending planning applications for an outline application for B1, B8 warehousing development and lorry park site on land north-east of Junction 10 of the M42 Motorway, Dordon and an application for residential flats, off Tamworth Road, east of Bridge Street. However, this latter site also falls within, and impacts on, Flood Zones 2 and 3. The decisions on these proposals were still pending for the monitoring year 2023/24 and results will be updated in the next 2024/25 AMR when determined.

LP5 Amount of development

Indicator metrics	
<i>Amount of housing, employment and traveller provision coming forward relative to minimum requirements in line with anticipated delivery rate</i>	
<i>Employment land delivered by Use Class and by hectare and square metre. Relative to the proportions given in figure 2 of ELR update (CD8/8)</i>	
Target	
i.	<i>Minimum of 9,598 dwellings delivered to 2033 in line with the housing trajectory in Local Plan appendix B,</i>
ii.	<i>Minimum of 100 hectares of employment land delivered to 2033</i>
iii.	<i>19 permanent residential Gypsy & Traveller Pitches by 2033</i>

vi.	Needs for travellers and travelling showpeople met with regard to latest evidence/monitoring for policy LP10
vii.	Provision of adequate infrastructure to support development requirements
viii.	Maintenance of a five-year supply of deliverable housing sites.

i) Minimum of 9,598 dwellings delivered to 2033 in line with the housing trajectory in Local Plan appendix B

The graph on page 22 of this report is an updated graph as originally shown in appendix B in the adopted 2021 Local Plan. (An additional year has been shown in Chart 1 to reflect the later delivery of Planning Consent on allocation H5) The stepped delivery of housing means that the annual completions are expected to reach the following:

Table 6: Expected Number of Dwellings expected per Annum to 2033

	<i>Dwellings per annum (dpa)</i>	<i>Total per period</i>
2011-16	203	1015
2016-24	265	2120
2024-25	390	390
2025-26	700	700
2026-27	725	725
2027-33	775	4650
	Total	9625

Chart 2 shows the progression towards the housing requirement of 9598. Currently it is expected that supply will deliver 9867 homes by 2033, a potential oversupply of 269 units. Furthermore, if the additional 794 units through Local Plan policy LP38 on Reserve Housing Sites RH1, RH2 and RH3 are included, a delivery of 10661 homes results, with an oversupply of 1063. The overall total potential supply exceeds the housing requirement as indicated in Chart 2 below.

Chart 1:

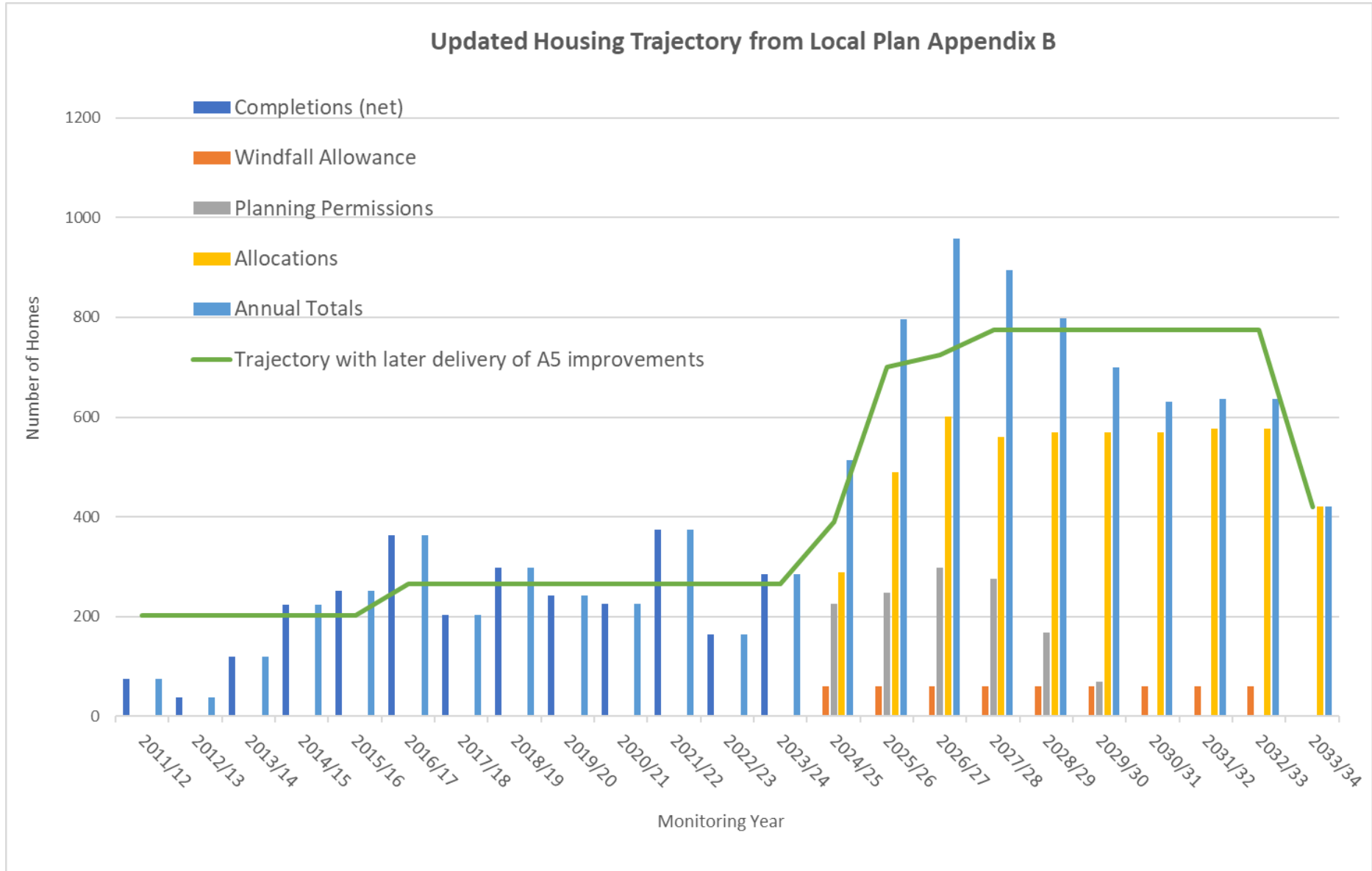
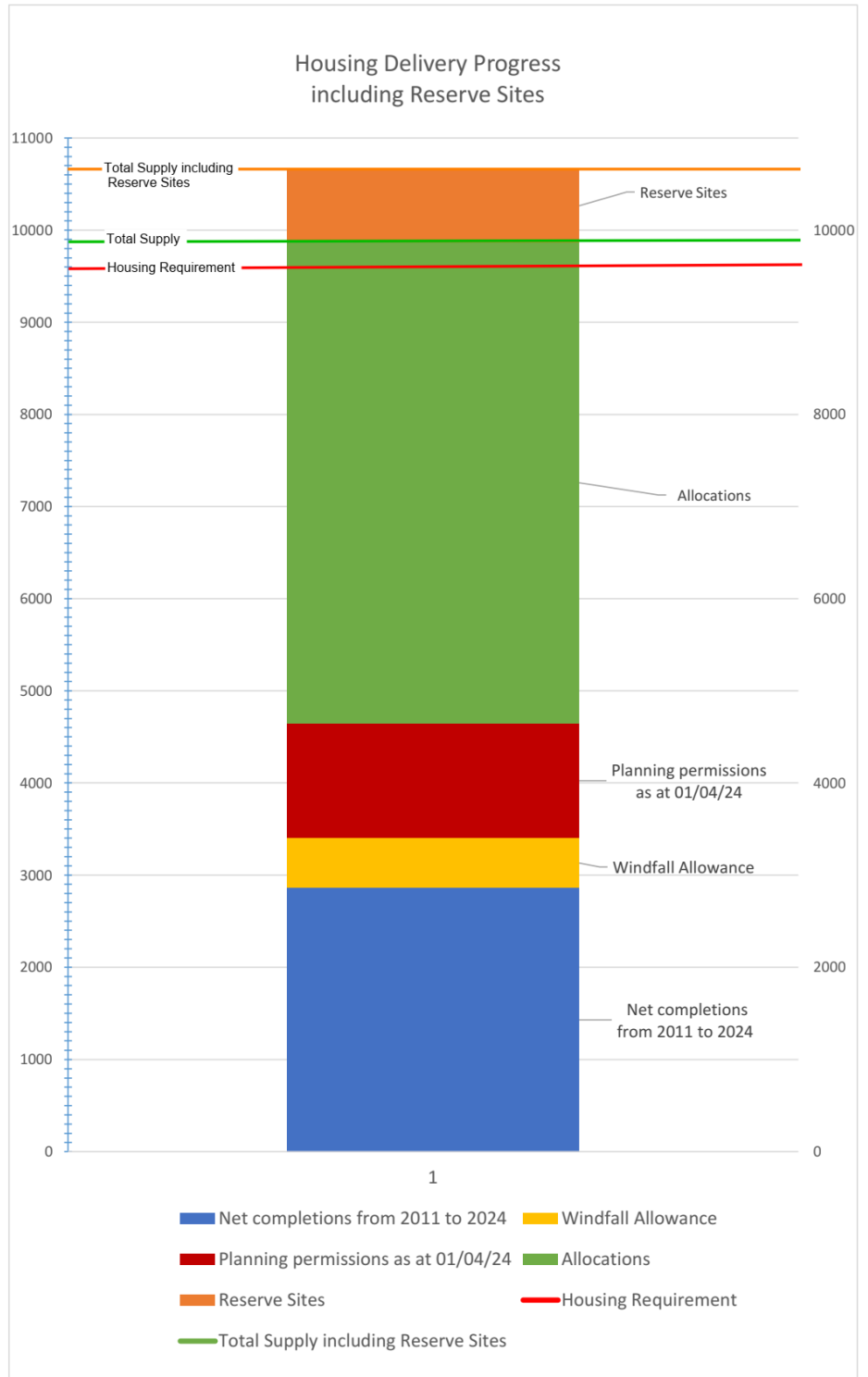


Chart 2: Housing Delivery Progress as at 31st March 2024

Housing Requirement	9598
Reserve Sites	794
Net completions from 2011 to 2024	2861
Windfall Allowance	540
Planning permissions as at 01/04/24	1245
Allocations	5221
Total Supply	9867
Total Supply including Reserve Sites	10661



ii) Minimum of 100 hectares of employment land delivered to 2033

As can be seen in the table below the total land supply for employment land stands at 170.51 hectares. The detailed information is supplied in Appendix C.

Table 7: Total Land Supply as at 31st March 2023 - 2024

	over 0.4 hectares	under 0.4 hectares	Total
<i>Total Completions Since 2019/20 – 2021/2022</i>			
2019/20	0	0.39	0.39
2020/21	24.25	0.47	24.72
2021/22	42.79	0.25	43.04
2022/23	0.00	0.25	0.25
2023/24	3.49	-0.04	3.45
<i>Allocations In Local Plan</i>	57.2	0	57.2
<i>Outstanding Sites with Planning Permissions as at 2023/24</i>	23.14	0.32	23.46
Additional land at MIRA	18.0	0.00	18.0
Total	168.87	1.64	170.51
<i>Loss of employment land</i>	0	-0.04	-0.04
Overall Total	168.87	1.60	170.47

iii. 19 permanent residential pitches

Policy LP5 identifies a requirement of 19 traveller pitches between 2019 and 2033, as detailed in the November 2019 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA). In terms of travellers there has been a steady supply of pitches that have secured planning permission. Since 01/04/2019 24 pitches have been delivered to date as shown in Table 8 below.

Table 8: All Planning Permissions Granted Since 2019

Planning Reference	Total Pitches	Caravans: as per application at Appeal date.	Date
a) Kirby Glebe			
PAP/2019/0203	4	8	16/5/19
PAP/2019/0457 PAP/2019/0256	2	4	19/12/22
3 Planning Appeals (Combined Enforcement and Planning)	4	8	

	7	10	
b) Mancetter			
PAP/2018/0050	1	2	8/12/21
c) Corley			
PAP/2017/0547	2	4	29/8/19
PAP/2019/0529	2	4	9/12/21
d) Austrey			
PAP/2020/0156	2	4	29/06/2022
e) Kingsbury			
PAP/2023/0191	1	2	10/10/2023
TOTAL	25	46	

As noted, Policy LP5 identifies a requirement of 19 traveller pitches required between 2019 and 2033. 25 pitches have been completed/implemented. The 25 residential pitches granted consent between 01/04/2019 to 31/03/2024 shows good progress towards meeting the needs of Gypsy and Travellers in the Borough.

A Gypsy and Traveller DPD is expected to be incorporated in the next Local Plan Review to be undertaken once guidance is produced on the new plan making system.

The GTAA indicates a phased requirement that is shown as follows:

Table 9: GTAA Figure 19 extract – Need for Gypsy and Traveller households in North Warwickshire that met the Planning Definition by year and 5 year

5 yr period	0 - 5	6 - 10	11 - 14	
Years	2019-24	2024-29	2029-33	Total
No of Pitches	9	3	7	19
per/annum requirement	1.8	0.6	1.4	

Notwithstanding the provision of pitches Table 9 above indicates a 3 pitch requirement over the next 5 years (2023/24 to 2027/28, based on 5 years at 0.6 pitches per annum from GTAA 2019). There are currently no outstanding, unimplemented planning consents for pitches available to contribute towards future supply. The issues of need, supply and availability of sites and pitches will be addressed through the next Local Plan review, including the potential allocation of pitches.

There is no current evidence to suggest there is a need to meet a demand from travelling showpeople. There have been no enquiries or planning applications seeking to address showpeoples pitch needs during monitoring year 2023/24.

vii. Provision of adequate infrastructure to support development requirements

This will be kept under review as the Local Plan time period progresses.

viii. Maintenance of a five-year supply of deliverable housing sites.

The following tables provide the background information to the five-year housing land supply calculation.

Table 11: Local Plan expected supply as in Adopted Local Plan 2019

(Based on Local Plan housing trajectory to deliver 9598 homes 2011 to 2033)

a	Housing Requirement	As expressed in LP5	9598
	Part A		
b	Net completions from 2011 to 2024	Gross completions minus any losses including demolitions	2861
c	Planning permissions as at 01/04/24	1283 minus 3% for lapse rate = 1245	1245
d	Windfall Allowance	An allowance of 60 dwellings per annum (2024 to 2033)	540
e	Sub-total of supply	b+ c + d	4646
	Part B		
f	Outstanding Requirement	Land to be allocated (9598 – 4646) (a-e)	4952
g	Allocations	H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H6, H7, H8, H9, H10, H11, H12, H14, H15, H16 and H17	5221
h	Reserve housing sites	(RH1, RH2 and RH3)	794
	Part C		
	Total Supply	up to 2033 b+ c + d +g =	9867
j	Supply	beyond 2033	294

(Note * =Number in the following table titles corresponds to line in table below)

Table 12: Housing Trajectory (5% requirement) (1)*

	<i>Dwellings per annum (dpa)</i>	<i>Total per period</i>
2011-16	203	1015
2016-24	265	2120
2024-25	390	390

2025-26	700	700
2026-27	725	725
2027-33	775	4650
	Total	9625

Table 13: Historic Completions (12 years) (2)*

	<i>Net</i>	<i>Pandemic adjustment</i>
2011/12	75	
2012/13	38	
2013/14	119	
2014/15	223	
2015/16	251	
2016/17	363	
2017/18	203	
2018/19	298	
2019/20	223	243*
2020/21	151	226**
2021/22	374	374
2022/23	170	
2023/24	278	
Total		2861

* 1 month adjustment for 2019/20

** 4-months adjustment for 2020/21.

These calculations were done by dividing the number of homes actually completed in the 11 or 8 months and then multiplying this by 12.

Table 14: Projected Delivery from Allocated sites (8)*

<i>Year</i>	<i>dpa</i>
2024/25	288
2025/26	490
2026/27	601
2027/28	560
2028/29	570
	2509

Table 15: Sites with Planning Permission (9)*

As at 31st March 2024	1283
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Table 16: Windfall (10)*

<i>Year</i>	<i>dpa</i>
2024/25	0
2025/26	0
2026/27	0
2027/28	60

2028/29	60
	120

Table 17: Five-year housing Land Supply Calculation

The calculation of the five-year land supply on this basis is ...

1	Requirement 2011-23		3135
2	Net Completions 2011-24 – <i>adjusted for pandemic*</i>		2861
3	Shortfall		274
4	Requirement 24/25 – 28/29		3365
5	Requirement 24/25 – 28/29 + Shortfall (4 + 3)		3639
6	Buffer	5%	182
7	Total requirement (5 + 6)	764 dpa	3821
8	Supply from Allocated Sites**		2509
9	Sites with planning permission		1283
10	Windfall (Years 4 - 5)		120
11	sub-total of deliverable sites		3912
12	Lapse rate (-) 3% (of row 9)		38
13	Total Deliverable Supply (11 – 12)		3874
14	5YLS Position (13/7 *5 or 13 / 763 dpa)		5.1

Notes:

*Due to the pandemic and lockdown Government, in the housing delivery test, has included a 4-month adjustment for the 2020/21 year and 1-month adjustment for the 2019/20 year to the respective housing requirement figures. This has been reflected in the above through the expected housing completions in the last two years.

**Line 8: Expected supply from allocated sites based on the trajectories supplied to Local Plan examination.

LP6 Additional employment land

Indicator/ metrics
Amount of employment land provision delivered by Use Class and by hectare and square metre relative to evidence of immediate unmet need within Area A as defined in the West Midlands Strategic Employment Sites Study (September 2015) or subsequent iteration or similar strategic study.
Target:
Report trend

Strategic Employment Study

Following the 2015 Strategic Employment Sites Study prepared by PBA and JLL a further study was commissioned in 2021. This was commissioned by Staffordshire County Council and the Black Country, Coventry and Warwickshire and Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP's and was prepared by Avison Young / Arcadis. However, there were many shortcomings with the work and a further study was commissioned. The West Midlands Strategic Employment sites study (WMSESS) 2024, has been published since the end of the monitoring year for this AMR and will be reported in more detail in 2024/25 AMR.

Other Employment Land

In addition to the standard employment type uses and sites listed above, there are a number of other significant employment generating proposals/sites that are coming forward either as a result of national and/or regional needs or involve NPPF Para 149 exception compliance development within the Green Belt, for major outdoor recreational and landmark structure visitor facilities all of which are likely to generate reasonably significant levels of employment. The two main proposals have partially commenced development and include the following:

Table 18: Planning Applications of Other Employment Land

Reference number	Site Location
PAP/2019/0496	Proposed Wave Park Coleshill Manor Campus South Drive
PAP/2019/0701	The erection and operation of a landmark structure, with associated visitor centre and public open space (D2) Land Adjacent to Coleshill Manor Off South Drive, Coleshill

There have been no further significant employment site approvals in the last monitoring year, with the submitted planning application for the 57ha site and part allocated site E4, south of the A5 at MIRA Enterprise zone currently still pending.

LP7 Housing development

<i>Indicator/ metric</i>
Provision of housing relative to needs and preferences, including tenures, of the population and at an appropriate density (Local Plan appendix C sets out relevant studies)

Target	
i.	Increased availability of homes to meet the needs of the following groups: - older people - younger people/ starter homes - people with disabilities - special needs housing (including sheltered or care accommodation and communal establishments) - custom/ self-build housing
ii.	Housing density provided at no less than 30 dwellings per hectare relative to the developable area of any site

i. Increased availability of homes to meet the needs of the following groups:

Older People

Britannia Mill was granted planning permission for extra care accommodation. This proposal has yet to be started/implemented. In addition, further work is required to extract the information from the planning permissions to monitor this indicator.

Younger people/ starter homes and People with disabilities

Further work is required to extract the information from the planning permissions to monitor this indicator.

Special needs housing (including sheltered or care accommodation and communal establishments)

Further work is required to extract the information from the planning to monitor this indicator.

Custom/ self-build housing

There are 41 individual entries on the Custom/ Self Build Register for the period up to 31/03/2024, which is available on the Council's website – [link](#).

During the monitoring year no specific Self-Build or Custom Build applications were approved, although a number have been submitted. Of those submitted decisions were still pending as at 31/3/2024. There is, nevertheless, future provision addressed through the Local Plan site allocations, including the requirement for self/custom build plots within the strategic Site Policies H1, H4 and H5. This should ensure future delivery and address Policy LP7

requirements over the Plan period. Unfortunately, further work is required to extract the information from the planning system to monitor this indicator.

ii Housing density provided at no less than 30 dwellings per hectare relative to the developable area of any site

Table 19 below provides information on the percentage of dwellings provided on sites which meet the policy requirement of being at a density of at least 30 dwellings per hectare.

Table 19: Housing Density

2023/24 Whole Borough	28.86 dwellings per ha
2023/24 Urban	37.31
2023/24 Rural	8.09

The average density of dwellings per hectare for the whole of the applications granted consent in the Borough area and extant for the 2023/24 monitoring year is 28.86 dwellings per ha. It should, however, be noted this figure includes properties arising from individual large bespoke properties in rural redevelopment locations, rural farm redevelopment sites and barn conversions all of which are significantly lower density development compared to the more typical average.

To provide a more accurate picture of average densities a figure excluding sites that are either not within current adopted settlement development boundaries or not within local plan allocated sites should be used.

When excluding rural exception sites outside adopted development areas and including only sites within designated Settlement Development Boundaries and Site Allocations (which includes sites adjoining development boundaries which comply with Policy LP2 requirements) a figure of 37.31 dwellings per hectare results. This increased density also reflects subdivision of buildings into flats within urban areas in the Borough.

For planning consents on sites outside designated Settlement Development Boundaries and Site Allocations an average density of 8.09 dwellings per hectare has been achieved, clearly indicating the much lower density delivery and site circumstances (in relation to character/layouts) of proposals, including some large dwellings in large landscaped plots, within rural and green belt areas.

Nevertheless, notwithstanding the lower than LP7 sought density figures resulting in rural locations, planning decisions are applying/seeking LP7 density requirements and have previously been used as reasons for refusals for sites that do not comply with Policy LP7 densities, seeking a minimum 30 dwellings per hectare (whether classed as sites adjoining settlements listed in LP2, or identified as rural), noted in previous years AMR's.

LP8 Windfall Allowance

<i>Indicator/ metrics</i>
<i>Level of development (links with monitoring of LP2 and LP5)</i>
<i>Target</i>
<i>60 dwellings a year from 2020 to 2033 arising via windfall (i.e. unplanned provision)</i>

A windfall site is defined in the NPPF as:

“Windfall sites: Sites not specifically identified in the development plan.”

It is a site that cannot be planned for and comes forward through the submission of a planning application rather than through a site allocation in a Local Plan. Table 20 below indicates the amount of development from windfall sites.

In the previous AMR 2022/23 information provided indicated that windfall applications had exceeded the expected 60 dwellings per annum over the last three years up to that point. However, it is important to note that there are some nuances in the interpretation of what makes a site a windfall site. It is generally considered that they should be small in nature and not have been identified as a development site in any form in the Local Plan process. This would include the Strategic Land Site Assessment which sits behind the Local Plan allocations.

Windfall can thus be interpreted and calculated in different ways and various figures are provided below.

From the Local Plan examination, it was expected that windfall would generally be those sites less than 0.2 hectares and/ or be for 5 units or less. The table below includes sites that are not allocated in the Local Plan and shows a continuing supply of windfall sites.

Table 20: Amount of Windfall

Year	Number of new Windfall Applications		No of windfall sites on list – all sites	Number of completions	
	Small site	Large site		Small site	Large site
2019/20	50	9	95	44	183
2020/21	34	7	147	30	96
2021/22	55	4	94	23	339
2022/23	45	3	182*	22	123
2023/24	27	0	162*	24	203

Note: Small sites - less than 0.2 hectares and / or have 5 units or less
 Large sites - greater than 0.2 hectares and / or more than 5 units
 * All sites excluding Allocated Local Plan sites

LP9 Affordable Housing Provision

Indicator/ metrics
Amount of affordable housing provision
Target
i. Affordable houses delivered by type and tenure to meet target provision and mix in policy LP9,
ii. Appropriate contributions towards off-site affordable housing provision meeting requirements in LP9.

i. Affordable houses delivered by type and tenure to meet target provision and mix in policy LP9

The following table provides details of the amount of affordable housing provision compared to the total amount of housing completed over the last 4 monitoring years. As can be seen, although completions were high in 2021/22 they dropped between 2022/23 and current monitoring year 2023/24 and the percentage of affordable housing completions is relatively low at only 6% of gross completions. This may be as a consequence of there being no policy requirement to seek affordable housing on housing sites of less than 10 dwellings or less than 0.5 hectares. To reach the target of 40% of all completions to be affordable by 2033 this will need to be monitored closely over the coming years as the need for affordable housing is not diminishing.

Table 21: Number & Percentage of Affordable Units

Year	Gross completion of all dwellings	Net completions of all dwellings	Number of Affordable completions	% of affordable against gross completions	% of affordable against net completions
2019/20	240	223	28	12%	13%
2020/21	160	151	93	58%	62%
2021/22	377	374	76	20%	20%
2022/23	168	164	32	19%	20%
2023/24	285	278	17	6%	6%
TOTAL	945	912	229	24%	25%

ii. Appropriate contributions towards off-site affordable housing provision meeting requirements in LP9

The Borough Council’s Annual Funding Statement sets out the amount of money received in terms of affordable housing provision. There will always be a lack between permissions being granted and the provision of affordable housing contributions as it will be triggered by a certain point in the construction of sites. The District Valuer has been involved in cases where viability has been given as the reasons why a contribution or direct provision on sites could not be achieved.

LP10 Gypsy & Travellers Sites

<i>Indicator/ metrics</i>
Amount of provision (links with LP5)
Number of applications for traveller sites (as defined in PPTS or successor document), number of unauthorised or illegal sites, caravan count data, evidence in the forthcoming review of traveller needs with Lichfield and Tamworth Councils
<i>Target</i>
i. Pitch provision to meet needs established via policy LP5 in accordance with the locational and other requirements of policy LP10,
ii. No net loss of traveller site provision (unless acceptable replacement or no longer required for any identified needs as reflected in the latest GTAA)

Please see the planning applications submitted for Gypsy and traveller sites and decisions made listed in Table 8 in the Policy LP5 section above.

As noted, Policy LP5 identifies a minimum requirement of 19 traveller pitches required between 2019 and 2033. The 25 pitches, granted consent between 01/04/2019 to 31/03/2024 highlighted in the section on Policy LP5 ‘Amount of Development’, shows good progress towards meeting the needs of G&T in the Borough. The main issue arises that the lack of an ‘available’ capacity of vacant pitches.

This results in further windfall applications being received and dealt with under the auspices of Policy LP10. If refused, these often result in Planning Appeals. and where there is a lack of identifiable, available pitches/sites to service that demand (arising through inward migration or family growth on existing occupied pitches/sites) there is a significant likelihood of decisions going against the planning authority, despite the level of approvals noted above.

The need for the identification of further pitch capacity through new sites or within existing sites is therefore an issue that will need to be addressed through the forthcoming Local Plan review.

As previously noted in Policy LP5 section, there is no evidence to suggest there is a need to meet a demand from travelling showpeople. There have been no enquiries or planning applications seeking to address showpeoples pitch needs in 2022/23.

LP11 Economic Regeneration

Indicator/ metrics
<i>Employment generation and diversification (links with LP12 and LP13)</i>
Target
<i>i. Increased and broadened/ diversified employment provision relative to the objectives in LP11</i>
<i>ii. Existing provision safeguarded unless loss is justified.</i>

Over the last four years (including the pandemic period) there have been a number of significant employment generating applications that have also contributed to the diversification of the Borough’s employment base.

There are two significant strategic/regional related leisure facilities that have been approved including the “Wall of prayer” visitor attraction, east of Coleshill and the Surf Centre

(training/education and visitor leisure facility). Both of which, when completed, are likely to generate and broaden local employment, with the Surf Centre facility estimated to create 100 full-time equivalent jobs and attract 250,000 visitors. These two sites have recently commenced development through the construction of the access road serving both sites/venues.

The online planning application reference are respectively as follows:-

Prayer Wall Landmark Art Structure and visitor centre – PAP/2019/0701 ,
Surf Centre Birmingham - PAP/209/0496.

No further major strategic applications that broaden the employment diversity outside of the general B2 and B8 uses, General Industrial and Storage and Distribution, were submitted in the last monitoring year.

LP12 Employment Areas

<i>Indicator/ metric</i>
<i>Target</i>
Existing employment base maintained (links with LP11 and LP13) Report trend
Employment land change by Use Class and by hectare and square metre

Further work is required to extract the information from the planning applications to monitor this indicator. Changes to regulations around “permitted development rights” involving employment and commercial change of use to residential without requiring a planning application, and a rationalising/simplifying of use classes between which commercial uses and properties can transfer, may make a detailed, accurate analysis of loss of employment land, or any changes of use resulting in loss of employment and commercial land or uses, difficult to track, particularly within Town Centres. Analysis of Business Rates may be the most useful method of monitoring these changes. Where possible other sources of data, such as business rates changes and other regulatory monitoring functions may need to be examined to provide some indication of trends and changes for this indicator.

LP13 Rural Employment

<i>Indicator/ metrics</i>
<i>Farm and rural business growth and diversification, including number of proposals for re-use of existing buildings (links with LP11 and LP12)</i>
<i>Target</i>
<i>Report trends</i>

The potential for redevelopment of farm buildings and diversification of farm businesses has been encouraged by recent changes to National planning policy and regulations for Prior Approvals under permitted development rights, where existing agricultural buildings can be changed to up to 5 dwelling houses.

Within the last three monitoring years the following planning consents for agricultural building conversions and/or ‘prior approval’ redevelopments’ to residential have been granted.

Residential:

- 19/20 – 48 applications approved; 8 sites completed
- 20/21 – 8 applications approved; 2 sites completed
- 21/22 – 12 applications approved; 0 sites completed
- 22/23 - 11 applications approved; 0 sites completed
- 23/24 - 4 applications; 1 site completed

In terms of similar applications or prior approvals for change of use and conversion or redevelopment to employment of other non-agricultural commercial uses the following numbers have been granted.

Employment:

- 19/20 NIL
- 20/21 1 application
- 21/22 NIL
- 22/23 NIL
- 23/24 NIL

As can be seen from the figures above, there remains clear pressure and financial preference to accommodating building conversions, C/U and/or Prior Approval redevelopments for

residential and not employment uses. This is understandable given the current housing pressures and needs and in the differing land/property values the two differing types of development will achieve.

There continues to be concerns that the impact of loss of agriculture infrastructure and operations along with limited employment diversification and commercial opportunities for farming businesses could be detrimental. The introduction of residential uses into working agricultural businesses can cause amenity conflicts (noise, fumes/dust etc) between the uses as well as putting pressures of provision of services and infrastructure in rural areas. This is an area and issue that may benefit from further monitoring and assessment, particularly if the benefit of diversification in farming through redevelopment is not leading to uses that either benefit agricultural businesses or results in diversifying and improving rural employment opportunities.

The impact on rural communities, settlements and their economies in terms of lack of rural employment opportunities, lack of rural commercial premises and impacts on sustainability generating greater pressure and need for car-based travel (in absence of comprehensive public transport or safe cycle ways/routes) need to be considered. The emerging Employment DPD will consider this issue and the possibility of seeking employment and commercial specific sites, with permitted development rights removed, in order to maintain some supply of small commercial and employment sites, uses and premises within rural areas.

One area of diversification receiving greater emphasis and pressure is the use of agricultural land and businesses for renewable energy projects particularly photovoltaic PVA “Farms and large scale Battery Storage facilities. A number of preliminary enquiries have been received and applications approved for such uses within the Borough over the last few years. The issue around potential impact on best quality agricultural land, and where such proposals should be focussed will be considered through the Employment Development Plan work.

LP14 Landscape

<i>Indicator/ metrics</i>
<i>Maintenance or enhancement of landscape character, including in respect of protective designations</i>

Target
<i>Report trends</i>

The Borough Policy has had success in safeguarding landscape character preventing adverse impacts by unacceptable developments for applications on the edge of the settlements Curdworth, Water Orton, Mancetter and Wood End. The last monitoring year three Appeals been dismissed on Policy LP14 grounds, in whole or in part, as follows;

- Application Ref PAP/2020/0295, HGV Lorry Park and associated facilities, Land west of Hams Hall roundabout was dismissed due to the moderate harm to the landscape character, its effect on the form and character of the area along with the impact on Green Belt. Dismissed 22/02/24
- Application Ref PAP/2022/0030, Seven Holiday Lodges and associated facilities at Chase Lane Mancetter. Dismissed 24/10/23.
- Application Ref PAP/2019/0679, 9 Dwellings at Land Opposite Delves Field Stables Boulters Lane, Wood End. Dismissed 03/04/23.

These successful appeals continue to indicate that the policy is being successfully used to address landscape impacts from development proposals and help maintain and protect the important landscape character within the Borough.

LP15 Historic Environment

Indicator/ metrics
Conservation and enhancement of the historic environment and heritage assets
Number of applications approved contrary to advice of English Heritage.
Number of applications refused owing to impact on historic environment.
Target
i. Reduce number of assets on Heritage at Risk Register

The Borough is home to a total of 614 designated heritage assets which Policy LP15 specifically seeks to protect as part of the Councils Local Plan commitment. The Council recognises that the Historic Environment is a finite and non-renewable resource afforded protection by the successful implementation of national and local policies. By protecting this resource, the Borough’s local character, identity and

distinctiveness are preserved, and its cultural, social, ecological and economic environments benefited. Numbers and types of heritage assets within the Borough are set out in the table below.

Table 23 – Numbers of Heritage Assets in the Borough

Heritage Assets	
Type of Asset	Number*
Total listed assets	614
Total Grade I, II* and II	584
Grade I	7
Grade II*	55
Grade II	522
Scheduled Monuments	27
Scheduled Parks and Gardens	3
Heritage at Risk Registered	13

* Figures published by English Heritage 14.11.2024 (accessed 07.02.2025)

The Local Plan sets out targets to accomplish during its lifespan. With regard to LP15 the Council aim at reducing the number of assets listed on the Heritage at Risk Register. A heritage asset becomes at risk when its significance is in danger of being lost or seriously diminished, but Historic England who manage the Register, emphasise that inclusion on it does not necessarily or usually imply criticism of the owner because the factors giving rise to the risk are often beyond the reasonable control of the owner. However, the value of the Register as a tool for Historic England and the Council to prioritise effort and to help owners find solutions, for example through advice and grant assistance, is of great importance and why we use it as an indicator of successful implementation of our Historic Environment policies.

Figures available in 2017 stated that 15 heritage assets were identified by English Heritage as being 'at risk' at 13 different sites in the Borough, mainly from disuse or neglect.

Work undertaken with owners and managers of assets at risk have proved successful and the latest available figures indicate that two assets have been removed from the listing. The 2024 figures are set out in the table below and show 13 assets currently

appear on the Register at 11 different sites. The Borough Council will continue to work with owners to seek ways of securing the future of other registered assets in line with adopted policies that protect heritage assets.

Table 24: Heritage at Risk Register 2022 and 2024

	Entry Name	Heritage Category	Detail (where noted)	Condition 2022	Condition 2024
1	Church of St Mary, Sheepy Road, Atherstone	Listed Building grade II*		Poor	Poor
2	Alvecote priory and dovecote, Shuttington*	Scheduled Monument		Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems
3	Merevale Abbey, Merevale*	Scheduled Monument	Cistercian monastery, associated water control features and industrial remains	Generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems	Generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems
4	Roman Camp, Mancetter	Scheduled Monument		Unknown	Unknown
5	Kingsbury Hall, Kingsbury	Scheduled Monument		Poor	Poor
6	Hartshill Castle, Castle Road, Hartshill	Scheduled Monument		Poor	Poor
7	Maxstoke Priory, Church Road, Maxstoke	Scheduled Monument		Poor	Poor
8	Shustoke Hall Farmhouse, Moat House Lane, Shustoke	Listed Building grade II*	Moat, footbridge and gate piers to Shustoke Hall Farmhouse	Poor	Poor
9	Grendon Bridge, Grendon / Polesworth	Scheduled Monument		Poor	Poor
10	Middleton Hall, Middleton	Listed Building grade II*	Stables range north east of Middleton Hall	Poor	Poor

11	Beech House, 19 Market Street, Atherstone	Listed Building grade II*		Poor	Poor
12	Alvecote priory and dovecote, Shuttington*	Scheduled Monument		Poor	Poor
13	Merevale Abbey, Merevale*	Scheduled Monument	Cistercian monastery, associated water control features and industrial remains	Poor	Poor
14	Oldbury Camp, Hartshill	Scheduled Monument	Univallate hillfort	No longer on register	No longer on register
15	Roman Camp, Mancetter	Scheduled Monument		No longer on register	No longer on register

* Duplications arise from a heritage asset having different categories of assessment. In this case, the Scheduled Monuments at Shuttington and Merevale have assets both above ground and below at risk and therefore appear twice on the listing.

Conservation Areas

The Borough Council has an on-going programme for updating adopted Conservation Area Appraisals, undertaking Management Plans for Conservation Areas where appropriate, periodically reviewing the extent of existing Conservation Areas and also designation of new sites where assessment has shown a special architectural and historic interest present. Public consultation and feedback have resulted in successful implementation of Policy LP15 by creating a new Conservation Area at Caldecote (December 2023) and review of the extent of the existing designation at Water Orton followed by adoption in February 2024. Conservation areas in the Borough are listed in the table below with their date of designation and review process status.

Table 25: List and Designation Date of Conservation Areas in the Borough

Area	Date of Designation
Atherstone	October 1994 and extended area January 2007
Atherstone – Watling Street Bridge	June 1983
Coleshill	May 1969
Coleshill – Coventry Road	October 1995

Fillongley	February 1970
Kingsbury	June 1983
Mancetter	October 1983
Newton Regis	July 1981
Polesworth	November 1995
Water Orton	June 1983 and extended in February 2024
Caldecote	December 2023

List of local Heritage Assets

A Board Report was taken to Planning and Development Board in February 2019 looking to establish a local list of non-designated heritage assets. A delay in implementing decisions agreed at the Board arose due to Covid restrictions. However, three public events around the Borough were held in 2023 to advertise the development of a local list and provide information on how to submit nominations. Local lists of non-designated heritage assets have been included in Neighbourhood Plans such as Water Orton. This is expected to be an increasing trend in Neighbourhood Plans. Submitted nominations are currently being collated with a view to taking them forward for presentation to Councillors followed by further consultation with impacted parties. It is intended that the list be added to incrementally rather than only accept nominations over a fixed period. This will enable a wider assessment of submissions and encourage more input from future Neighbourhood Plans.

LP16 Natural Environment

Indicator / metrics	
1.	Protection and enhancement of the natural environment (links with LP17)
2.	Number of applications approved contrary to advice of Natural England.
3.	Number of applications refused owing to effects on natural environment.
Target	
i	Safeguard and improve/ enhance habitats and biodiversity
ii.	Any potential adverse effects assessed, avoided, mitigated, enhanced or compensated for in line with LP16

i Safeguard and improve/ enhance habitats and biodiversity

In terms of safeguarding habitats and biodiversity there is limited information yet available as to improvements being generated by Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) payments/contributions

from development, although the payments generated through BNG will feed into the Annual Infrastructure Funding Statements each year (See Appendix A).

Nevertheless, Natural Capital Assessment Partnership (of which the Borough Council is a partner) has produced a “State of Habitats” report for North Warwickshire that provides a habitat baseline that can help to inform the most effective actions for protecting, enhancing and restoring the nature of the Borough. This report is attached as Appendix E to the AMR.

With regard to planning applications, none have been identified as impacting adversely on the natural environment via Local Wildlife site loss or statutory designations such as Sites of Special scientific interest. Nevertheless, there is one site, reference PAP/2023/0420, at Rush Lane, Kingsbury, for ‘Use of site for training and storage of construction plant and equipment, including office, maintenance and training buildings’ that potentially impacts upon an existing LWS and a decision is currently pending. **Interest.** There have, nevertheless been instances where damage through unauthorised development has/or may have occurred and these instances are being dealt with through the planning enforcement provisions.

One area of recent change to address potential environmental impacts has been through the designation of “Nutrient Neutrality” areas. Nutrient Neutrality means new developments must ensure that any nutrients that enter the water course must be offset by measures elsewhere in the catchment to reduce inputs. These nutrients, such as phosphates and nitrates can cause water quality to deteriorate which harms wildlife in many ways. A small part of North Warwickshire falls within the Nutrient Neutrality designation covering the River Mease Special Area of Conservation. This area predominantly covers North-west Leicestershire and South Derbyshire with a limited part of North Warwickshire in the rural north west corner of the Borough affected. In such a rural location there is very limited growth expected apart from agricultural or local levels of development, which will need to ensure it does not result in an increase in phosphate and nitrate levels in those affected watercourses in the catchment beyond current levels. There are no recorded applications impacting on this area that have necessitated offset measures in the last monitoring year.

ii. Any potential adverse effects assessed, avoided, mitigated, enhanced or compensated for in line with LP16

Further work is required to extract the information from the planning applications to monitor this indicator. The planning system review and transfer of data requirement currently

underway means there are no recorded details of applications impacting on this policy area that have necessitated mitigation, or compensatory measures in the last monitoring year. How to address this monitoring issue will be part of the new system review for future years monitoring.

LP17 Green Infrastructure Extent and quality of Green Infrastructure assets and biodiversity connectivity (links with LP16)

<i>Indicator / metric</i>
<i>Extent and quality of Green Infrastructure assets and biodiversity connectivity (links with LP16)</i>
<i>Targets</i>
<i>i. No unjustified net loss of green infrastructure provision relative to the approach in the Green Infrastructure Study (Appendix C)</i>
<i>ii. Increase in biodiversity enhancements</i>

i. No unjustified net loss of green infrastructure provision relative to the approach in the Green Infrastructure Study

An update to the Warwickshire Green Infrastructure Study , including alignment with the local nature recovery strategies and Natural Capital Investment Strategy (NCIS) is underway . It is expected the Strategy will be finalised early over the forthcoming Monitoring Year 2024/25 to accommodate in addition the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements as prescribed by Defra (to be launched early 2024), plus the emergence of other Nature Markets, such as nutrient neutrality, net zero carbon aspirations, etc.. Once finalised the study will provide the background data and update to enable monitoring of the policy area. Currently there is no data covering this area available within the internal planning application/decision management system and this will be considered as part of the update and review to the system .

ii. Increase in biodiversity enhancements

The passing of the Environment Act 2021 brings a mandatory requirement for most proposed development to achieve a 10% biodiversity net gain from the 1st April 2024. Relevant applications are now expected to address this requirement through mitigation on or off site. A small survey of 2021 and early 2022 applications’ Ecological Impact Assessments and Biodiversity Net Gain assessments on relevant applications have so far indicated that there has not been a detrimental impact on biodiversity and the ability to deliver a net gain in

biodiversity has been addressed through appropriate landscaping, planting and on-site proposals, as well as off-site proposals and planting on land in the applicants' ownership. Further monitoring processes will need establishing to better monitor and assess the implications of the Environment Act and any improvements in achieving % biodiversity net gain.

LP18 Tame Valley Wetlands NIA including Kingsbury Water Park

<i>Indicator/ metrics</i>
Maintenance and enhancement of Nature Improvement Area
<i>Target</i>
Report trends

Further work is required to obtain more comprehensive information for this indicator with additional report inputs sought from the Tame Valley Partnership.

LP19 Local Nature Reserves

<i>Indicator/ metrics</i>
<i>Protection or enhancement of the natural environment</i>
<i>Target</i>
<i>Report trends</i>

There are four Local Nature Reserves within the Borough. These are:

1. Abbey Green Park, Polesworth
2. Cole End, Coleshill
3. Dafferns Wood, Arley
4. Kingsbury Meadow, Kingsbury

These are managed by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT). A Community Development report on the work undertaken at each of these locations has yet to be produced for this monitoring year and will be incorporated into next year's AMR once available.

LP20 Green Spaces

Indicator/ metrics	
Protection of locally valued green spaces (links with LP22)	
Target	
i.	No loss of Local Green Space
ii.	Number of any unjustified losses

i) No loss of green space

There has been no recorded loss of the identified designated Green Spaces within the Local plan over the last monitoring year.

ii. Number of any unjustified losses

There has been no unjustified loss of green space recorded. No further applications directly impacting on designated Green Space within the Local plan have been received the last monitoring year.

LP21 Services and facilities

Indicator / metrics	
1	Maintained or improved vitality of town and neighbourhood centres
2	Applications for change of premises from retail and main town centre uses to others
3	Mix of Uses in defined town/ neighbourhood centres and vacancy levels
4	Funding received for provision of community/ public services and facilities
Targets	
i.	No unjustified loss of retail, town centre uses or other facilities (with reference to the aims of LP21)
ii.	Report number of any unjustified losses
iii.	Appropriate contributions for services and facilities secured from development via planning obligations

i. No unjustified loss of retail, town centre uses or other facilities (with reference to the aims of LP21)

No information is available at the present time through the information kept with the planning teams to fully address this issue. Furthermore, the transfer of planning systems currently underway, has prevented the record details and data collection of applications affecting this Policy area for the last monitoring year. Other Council information such as business rates has been explored but this does not monitor the changes. This will be explored further to see how this information can be provided in the future.

Unfortunately due to further recent changes around retail permitted development rights, which mean greater flexibility to change use from retail and commercial uses (now Class 'E') to residential within town centres without requiring planning permission, makes monitoring of the Policy more difficult. Nevertheless, the regulatory changes do include some controls particularly within The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development etc.) (England) (Amendment) Order 2021 Class MA.2. Schedule 2 whereby premises that are located in a conservation area, and where the development involves a change of use of the whole or part of the ground floor, or the property is a listed building or scheduled monument will require prior approval, Premises must also be vacant for 3 months prior to application for prior approval. This may enable monitoring of retail loss where Town Centres are also covered by Conservation Area designation. Further examination of how this can be monitored will need to be considered for future AMR's.

ii. Report number of any unjustified losses

As noted in previous AMR, no unjustified loss has been reported. Further monitoring of this situation and review of approach to monitoring, perhaps through use of Non-Domestic Rate changes to properties, may be necessary to be able to monitor and assess any future losses accurately.

iii. Appropriate contributions for services and facilities secured from development via planning obligations

Contributions through S106 agreements are outlined the Council's Annual Funding Statement (Appendix A)

Further work will be required to understand and address the monitoring requirements of this policy.

LP22 Recreation Provision

Indicator / metrics	
1	Improved availability and accessibility of recreation provision
2	Delivery and Compliance with SPD Targets, facilities and/or financial contributions sought
Targets	
i.	Report trends on number, area and facilities provided.
ii.	Monitor compliance with adopted SPD

i. Report trends on number, area and facilities provided

Contributions through S106 agreements are outlined the Council’s Annual Funding Statement (Appendix A December 2024)

ii. Monitor compliance with adopted SPD

The Open Space, Leisure and Sport SPD was adopted in January 2023 and is being used in planning applications.

LP23 Transport Assessments

Indicator / metrics	
1	Development is accommodated within design capacity of road network as improved
2	Effects on road network are appropriate and linkages made with cycle and footpath networks where possible.
3	Number of applications refused on grounds of highways effects/ against the advice of Warwickshire County Council or Highways England.
Targets	
i.	No development approved with unacceptable effects on highway capacity or safety
ii.	Report trends.

i. No development approved with unacceptable effects on highway capacity or safety

There have been no applications refused against the advice of National Highways (formerly known as Highways England) or Warwickshire County Council.

ii. Report trends

There are no trends to report at the present time.

LP24 Stations

Indicator / metric
Improved accessibility and facilities
Target
Report trends

Warwickshire County Council is developing Station Proposals. When available these will be circulated.

LP25 Railway lines

Indicator / metrics
Protection of the strategic route of HS2, safeguarding of potential transport routes and level crossings, and of historic rail lines.
Support relocation of existing lawful buildings, structures or uses displaced by HS2.
Targets
i. Allow for the creation and integration of HS2 into the Borough
ii. Safeguard Baddesley Mineral Railway Line, Whitacre Line from development that would prevent their reinstatement or use as a continuous corridor.
iii. Successful relocation of lawful buildings, structures or uses displaced by HS2 where sought.

i. Allow for the creation and integration of HS2 into the Borough

North Warwickshire has a dedicated, full-time planning officer in-post to deal with HS2 consents.

Works are being carried out on the construction of the HS2 railway line within North Warwickshire with a variety of works such as bridges, viaducts, and embankments. Local authority officers are actively engaged in the consenting process for these works, seeking to ensure that sensitive, high-quality design is delivered in the borough.

The cancellation of the eastern leg of the project has not yet resulted in the lifting of the safeguarded area within the Local Plan.

ii. Safeguard Baddesley Mineral Railway Line, Whitacre Line from development that would prevent their reinstatement or use as a continuous corridor.

There is no update.

iii. Successful relocation of lawful buildings, structures or uses displaced by HS2 where sought.

No further updates or relocations have been provided for 2023/24.

LP26 Strategic Road Improvements

Indicator / metric
Enabling of improvements necessary to the highway network and cycling routes in line with the STA and IDP (see Local Plan Appendix C)
Target
Implementation of STA and IDP projects at the appropriate junction in support of LP2 and development provision, including completion of Phase 1 and Phase 2 A5 improvements & submission of bids for future phases of the A5

A5:

An announcement of additional funding to ensure the delivery of the A5 improvements in North Warwickshire is still awaited.

LP27 Walking and Cycling

Indicator / metric
Improving provision and accessibility of walking and cycling routes across the Borough
Target
i. Development of a walking and cycling strategy by [date].
ii. All development to make appropriate provision for such provision, including connection with existing routes.

i. Development of a walking and cycling strategy by [date]

Warwickshire County Council has now adopted Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

ii. All development to make appropriate provision for such provision, including connection with existing routes

Further work is required to monitor this indicator.

LP28 Level crossings

Indicator / metric
Improvements made where affected by development or alternative arrangements proposed to ease traffic flow
Target
Report trends.

Report trends

There are no trends to report at the present time.

LP29 Development considerations

Indicator / metrics
Ensuring high quality of development in all respects
Number of applications failing to comply with criteria 1 through 17.
Target
Report trends

Report Trends

It is considered that the application of LP29 Development Considerations by the Borough's development Management team has been positive and successful. The Planning team have successfully defended a number of planning decisions at planning appeals, where decisions related to quality of design, using Policy LP29 and/or LP30 (as well as other issues such as heritage and Green Belt impact).

LP30 Built Form

Indicator / metrics
Ensuring high quality of development in all respects
Number of applications failing to comply with criteria 1 through 17.
Target
Report trends

Report Trends

It is considered that the application of LP30 Development Considerations by the Borough’s development Management team has also been positive and successful.

LP31 Frontages, Signage and External Installations

Indicator/ metrics
Ensuring high quality of shopfronts and advertisement (links with LP21)
Target
Report trends

Report trends

Further work is required to extract the information from the planning to monitor this indicator. Nevertheless, a number of planning applications have been refused within the last monitoring year, for inappropriate signage under the aegis of Policy LP31 as unduly ‘prominent and discordant’, as well as visual amenity under Policies LP29 and 30.

LP32 New Agricultural, Forestry and Equestrian Buildings

Indicator / metric
All additions/ new rural buildings to be justified and integrate appropriately with character
Target
Report trends

Report trends

Further work is required to monitor this indicator.

LP33 Water and Flood Risk Management

<i>Indicator / metrics</i>
<i>Ensure all new development is appropriate in respect of vulnerability to flooding and, where appropriate, improvements to existing vulnerability flooding are made.</i>
<i>Number of applications approved contrary to Environment Agency advice</i>
<i>Target</i>
<i>Report trends</i>

Report trends

Further work is required to monitor this indicator.

LP34 Parking

<i>Indicator/ metrics</i>
<i>Adequate vehicle parking provision made relative to accessibility of location, including in respect of lorry parking</i>
<i>Targets</i>
<i>i. Report trends</i>
<i>ii. No net loss of lorry parking provision without justification.</i>

i. Report trends

Further work is required to monitor this indicator.

ii. No net loss of lorry parking provision without justification.

It is difficult to ensure that monitoring can pick up all applications where loss of lorry parking occurs due to permitted development rights and/or the ability to change the make-up of sites where there is no direct engineering or building works. Therefore it is proposed to monitor applications for lorry parking, seek conditions that retain parking areas to try and avoid losses.

LP35 Renewable energy and energy efficiency

<i>Indicator / metric</i>
<i>Ensure all new development meets national requirements in respect of efficiency</i>

Targets	
i.	Report trends

In terms of trends in addressing Climate Change and seeking more renewable energy and energy efficient development, planning decisions are including conditions requiring energy/heating infrastructure (i.e. gas boilers) to be installed that have lower NOx (Nitrogen Oxide) emissions per kw/hr. These are to have a lower emission concentration range of less than 40mg/kWh to meet the BREEAM 2014 level 4 Code for sustainable homes. (Note this BREEAM requirement has been tightened in 2018 to between 27 and 24 mg/kWh for major urban areas, none of which lie within North Warwickshire). This practice is expected to continue to apply to support and accord with policy LP35.

In addition, and also contributing to the policy requirements, a number of renewable energy proposals have been approved including PAP/2021/0605 – vertical farm with sedum roof on the Corley Solar Park, Smorall Lane, Astley.

Policy **LP34** – Parking sets out information relevant to this policy in terms of e-charging.

A number of requirements which secure successful implementation of this policy are now within the Building Regulations. These are requirements that now fall within national BR requirements (Part S).

LP36 Information and Communication Technologies

Indicator / metric
Greater connectivity
Target
Improvements in extent of coverage of mobile phone signal, broadband and superfast broadband services

The CWS Broadband project sought to increase the coverage of internet connectivity throughout the sub-region. This has led to an estimate of 97% of the population being able to connect to the internet via a 3G connection. Mobile 4G Broadband coverage is reasonably

well provided for and improving annually across the Borough. Map 1 shows the 4G coverage and signal strength map for 2020 providing some indication of the current coverage and strength for 4G mobile services/provision.

5G is now being implemented through the country. Information to date shows the more urban areas of the bigger cities being covered by 5G but smaller settlements such as those in North Warwickshire it is taking some time to get the infrastructure in place. These new masts are taller than their predecessors with the need to also have more of them to create a mesh of signal. There is no further update available from the last monitoring year on any improvements to 5G coverage and the 5G coverage is still limited within both rural and some urban areas of North Warwickshire including Atherstone.

Further information is being sought to update the broad overall Map coverage indicated below, for both 4G and 5G. However, individual company signal strength and location coverage is available to view online via their individual search systems, using postcode search indicators. An example is included in the table below Map 1, for the Council Office CV91DE postcode area.

Map 1: 4G Signal Strength 2020

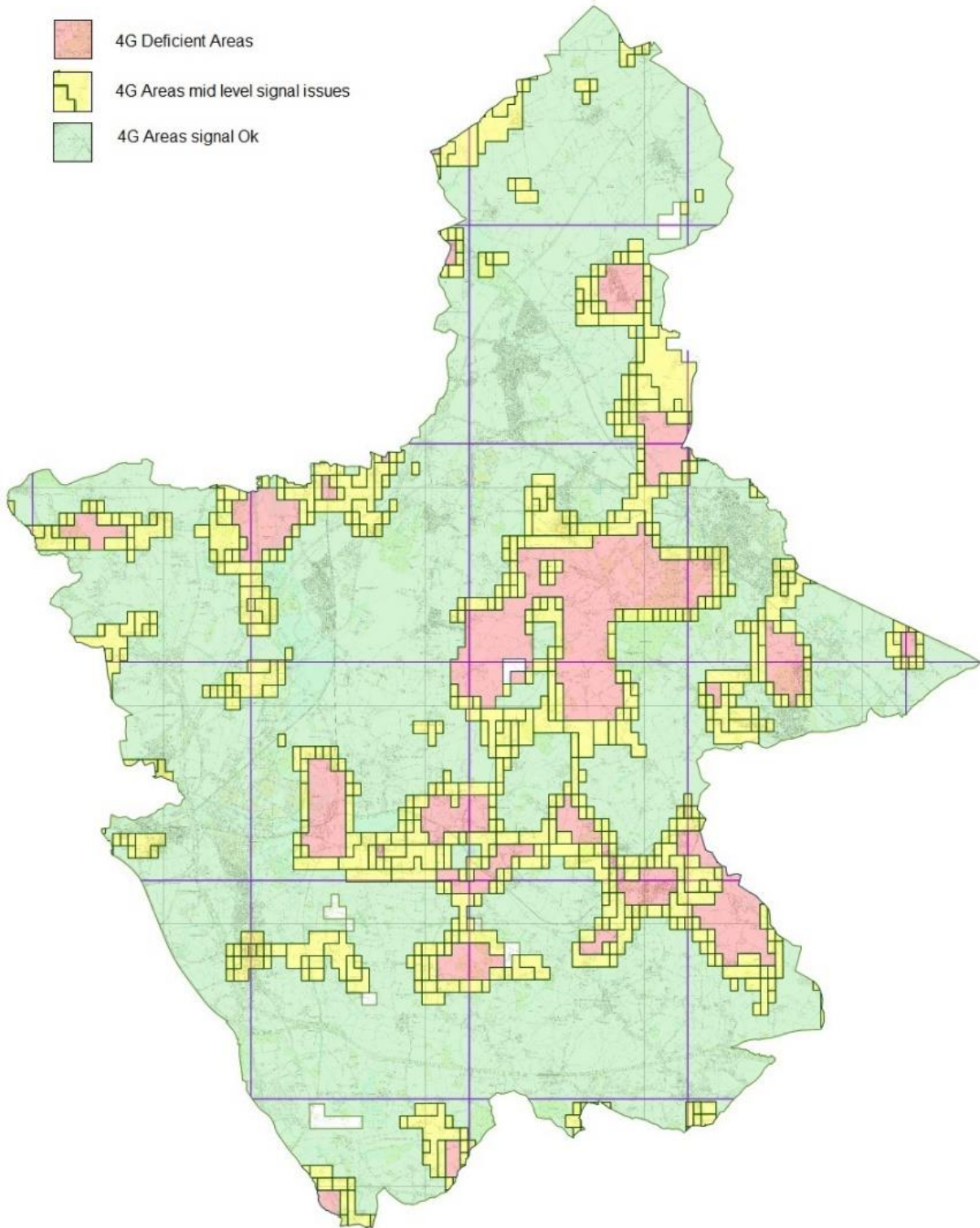


Table indicating Mobile Coverage for CV9 1DE Postcode Area

Check the mobile signal for all UK networks with just one search

CV9 1DE

Check Mobile Signal

CV9 1DE Mobile Signal Result

		Voice	3G	4G	5G	
Vodafone	Indoor	✓	✗	✓	✗	See Coverage Map
	Outdoor	✓	✗	✓		
Three	Indoor	✓	✗	✗	✗	See Coverage Map
	Outdoor	✓	✓	✓		
EE	Indoor	✓	✗	✓	5G AREA	See Coverage Map
	Outdoor	✓	✓	✓		
Smarty	Indoor	✓	✗	✗	✗	See Coverage Map
	Outdoor	✓	✓	✓		
Lebara	Indoor	✓	✗	✓	✗	See Coverage Map
	Outdoor	✓	✗	✓		
Voxi	Indoor	✓	✗	✓	✗	See Coverage Map
	Outdoor	✓	✗	✓		
ID Mobile	Indoor	✓	✗	✗	✗	See Coverage Map
	Outdoor	✓	✓	✓		
Talkmobile	Indoor	✓	✗	✓	✗	See Coverage Map
	Outdoor	✓	✗	✓		
Asda	Indoor	✓	✗	✓	✗	See Coverage Map
	Outdoor	✓	✗	✓		
O2	Indoor	✓	✓	✓	5G AREA	See Coverage Map
	Outdoor	✓	✓	✓		
Lycamobile	Indoor	✓	✗	✓	5G AREA	See Coverage Map
	Outdoor	✓	✓	✓		

✓ Good coverage
 ○ You may experience problems
 ✗ No coverage
 5G AREA Some 5G availability

In addition, the Warwickshire County Council – Integrated Delivery Plan, objectives to “Deliver major infrastructure, digital connectivity” includes a series of Key Deliverables for 2023-24 to 2024-25, including:

Working with partners (including NWBC) to encourage the expansion of Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) gigabit connectivity, 4G and 5G coverage across Warwickshire, aiming for connectivity by 2025:

- 85% of premises are gigabit connected
- 99% of areas have access to Broadband superfast
- 100% of areas have 4G coverage (including rural locations)
- 60% of urban areas have 5G coverage Target by 2025

Fibre connections is an alternative to mobile signal. Again, in more rural areas this can be expensive to lay. **LP36** requires all new developments to have the required ducting in place although the service cannot be installed as it is a free market and open to the occupant to choose their supplier.

Nevertheless, there has been some improvements to Broadband coverage and this is detailed in the following Superfast and Fibre coverage, rising from last monitoring years 98.2% coverage to 98.4% coverage. This current situation for Broadband Fibre coverage within North Warwickshire is indicated in the tables and graph below provided by “**thinkbroadband**” – available online via link to Local Authority coverage page

The Coverage percentages indicated include both residential and business premises and is based around postcode level data. The speed available are determined by a model that reconstructs the Openreach exchange/cabinet-based network and takes into account the distance limitations of ADSL2+ and VDSL2/G fast (FTTC) services.



England

Wales

Scotland

Northern Ireland

Select a specific area in England from any of the lists:

We are using the 2024 Parliamentary constituency boundaries. This means there is at present no historical data prior to May 2024 where the boundary has changed.

Region...

County/Unitary Authority/CA/CCA...

North Warwickshire

Metropolitan Area...

Constituency...

London Borough...

Summary for North Warwickshire

North Warwickshire Superfast and Fibre Coverage

Latest Figures



Authority classed as Rural-50 (R50)

Superfast (>24 Mbps):	98.55%	Below 2 Mbps down:	0.07%
Superfast (>=30 Mbps):	98.42%	Below 10 Mbps down: (Legal USO)	0.71%
Gigabit (DOCSIS 3.1 or FTTP):	67.20%	Below 10 Mbps, 1.2 Mbps up:	0.62%
Full Fibre (FTTP or FTTH):	53.72%	Below 15 Mbps: (High Speed Broadband)	1.06%
Alt Net FTTP: FTTP excluding Openreach, KCOM and Virgin Media RFOG	0.83%	Ultrafast (>100 Mbps):	68.11%
Openreach FTTP:	32.38%	Virgin Media Cable:	38.06%
'Fibre' partial/full at any speed: (FTTC/VDSL/G.fast/Cable/FTTP)	99.80%	Openreach (>30 Mbps):	97.36%
		Openreach G.fast:	1.69%

Coverage percentages include both residential and business premises and is based around postcode level data. The speed available are determined by a model that reconstructs the Openreach exchange/cabinet based network, and takes into account the distance limitations of ADSL2+ and VDSL2/G.fast (FTTC) services.

The use of an independent model constructed and continually updated as the network roll-outs continue is different to the methodology used by Ofcom which is reliant on data provided by broadband providers. By running our model we are able to provide a verification for the Ofcom data and are not reliant on quarterly data releases but can update data on a daily or weekly basis as needed. The largest factor for any differences with the Ofcom analysis is down to the timino of publication.

National Superfast Picture

Superfast 30 Mbps and faster

Generated: Saturday 11th January 2025

UK	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
98.2%	98.4%	98.6%	96.8%	97.6%

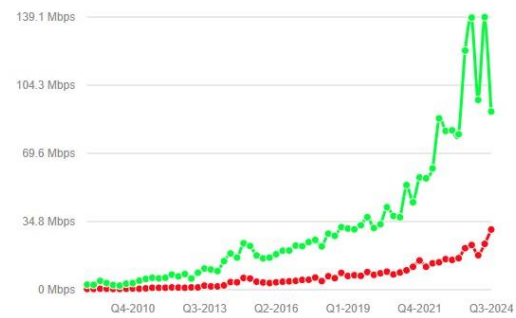
North Warwickshire Speed Test Results (Mbps)

Last Quarter

Any

ADSL, ADSL2+, FTTC, fibre, cable, mobile and wireless speeds

Technology Split:



Speed test results are based on the analysis of results from our speed test or partners who use our speed test service. We believe this is the largest analysis of crowd sourced speed test data for the UK and the technology splits by area help to show what the public is experiencing for the different types of services across the UK.

Full Fibre - Fibre to the Premises

Generated: Saturday 11th January 2025

UK	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
73.6%	73.8%	96.1%	65.6%	73.2%

The generated date is when coverage was at the figures quoted. There is a small amount of lag between broadband infrastructure providers making services available and appearing in the statistics. For VDSL2/FTTC services this is around 2 to 4 weeks, and for FTTP (full fibre) a further couple of weeks should be allowed. If you have a service available and our searches do not indicate it is do feel free to [report an addition](#).

We aim to update the coverage percentages weekly, with the underlying service availability for postcode searches changing several times in a week.

The Governments 95% superfast target is based on the over 24 Mbps definition for superfast services.

North Warwickshire Superfast and Fibre Coverage



Authority classed as Rural-50 (R50) ?

Superfast (>24 Mbps):	98.55%	Below 2 Mbps down:	0.07%
Superfast (>=30 Mbps):	98.42%	Below 10 Mbps down: (Legal USO)	0.71%
Gigabit (DOCSIS 3.1 or FTTP):	67.20%	Below 10 Mbps, 1.2 Mbps up:	0.62%
Full Fibre (FTTP or FTTH):	53.72%	Below 15 Mbps: (High Speed Broadband)	1.06%
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Openreach FTTP:	32.38%	Virgin Media Cable:	38.06%
'Fibre' partial/full at any speed: (FTTC/VDSL/G.fast/Cable/FTTP)	99.80%	Openreach (>30 Mbps):	97.36%
		Openreach G.fast:	1.69%

Coverage percentages include both residential and business premises and is based around postcode level

LP37 Housing allocations

Indicator/ metrics
<i>Amount of development and timing of delivery (see entry for LP5)</i>
Target
<i>Report trends (see entry for LP5)</i>

The information provided in Table 26 below is as 31 March 2022 except for the Latest Situation column. This column provides as up to date information as possible.

Below is Policy LP37 with all the housing allocations within the Local Plan with an update on progress towards delivery.

Table 26: Update on Housing Allocations

Site Ref	Location	Area (ha)	Total Number of units	With PP	Under construction	Completed	Latest Situation
H1	Land at Holly Lane Atherstone	32.7	620	123	14	12	Detailed planning application approved for 123 dwellings. Outline planning application approved for an additional 499 dwellings. Total number for the whole site including the above approved for 620 dwellings.
H2	Land to north-west of Atherstone off Whittington Lane	71.2	1282	0	0	0	Master planning underway with Council, highway improvements scheduled 2025 following part consent on adjoining site (same ownership). Initial onsite works to begin 2026/27.
H3	Allotments adjacent to Memorial Park, Coleshill	1.4	30	0	0	0	Initial design layout undertaken. Site in public ownership, possible schemes

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							under discussion. Expected application 2025 to 2028. Possible schemes discussed but no further progress
H4	Land to east of Polesworth and Dordon	160.8	1675	31	0	31	Master planning underway with Council. Trunk Road highway improvements design underway, scheduled 2026/27. House builder now involved on part of site, and part of site now completed (Owl homes)
H5	Land west of Robey's Lane, adjacent Tamworth	66.1	1270	0	0	0	Planning application has been approved subject to a S106.
H6	Site at Lindridge Road adj. Langley SUE, Wishaw	6.7	141	0	0	26	Planning permission now granted for recent application. (PAP/2022/0371 for 178 dwellings). Work started 2024/25 by Taylor Wimpey.
H7	Land at Church Farm, Baddesley	2.2	47	0	0	0	Planning application has been granted 2024/25
H8	Land north of Grendon Community Hall (former Youth Centre) Boot Hill Grendon	0.3	7	0	0	0	County Council site. Discussions on potential application held. Delivery not expected till late 2026/27 or later.
H9	Land between Church Rd and Nuneaton Rd, Hartshill	30.4	400	0	0	0	Planning application PAP/2018/0140 recommended approval at Board but currently pending outcome of appeal on highway grounds on land outside Borough boundary (adjoining Borough refused the access junction) Early start expected once appeal outcome released. Site is allocated within

*North Warwickshire Local Plan
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							Neighbourhood Plan also and the County Highway Authority has not objected to the highway arrangements.
H10	Land south of Coleshill Road, Ansley Common	17.2	450	0	0	0	Surveys are being carried out. Planning application and start expected between 2026 and 2028.
H11	Former School redevelopment site (excluding original historic school building) Hartshill	2.8	48	48	0	0	Brownfield site. Planning Application now submitted (PAP/2023/0266), site clearance started. Decision pending S106 negotiations. Potential start 2025
H12	Land at Village Farm, Birmingham Road	0.6	12	0	0	0	Part Brownfield site. Pre application discussion taken. Initial planning application submitted (PAP/2022/0156) but refused as site submitted was larger than allocation and part within Green Belt. Discussions held over revised site for application. Resubmission with revised site proposal expected 2024/25.
H14	Land North East Of Manor Farm Buildings Main Road Newton Regis	1.0	24	24	0	0	Outline Planning permission granted Reserved Matters decision pending
H15	Land south of Shuttington Village Hall	1.2	24	24	0	0	Planning permission granted
H16	Land north of Orton Rd	4.2	128	128	9	49	Planning permission granted and under construction
H17	Land south of Islington Farm, r/o 115 Tamworth Rd	1.3	26	28	0	0	Planning permission granted Approval of reserved matters dated 13/12/22
	Total Allocations		6183				

LP38 Reserve Housing Sites

<i>Indicator / metric</i>
Contingency in the event that delivery falls short of trajectory in Local Plan Appendix C, targets set in respect of LP37 falter, if enabling infrastructure is required or if other specific justification for early release.
<i>Target</i>
Latest information on sites – commentary of where we are.

There are 3 reserved housing sites which are:

RH1 Dairy House Farm Phase 3

- This site is 49.8 hectares in total and could deliver a minimum of dwellings 360 dwellings.
- A requirement of this site is that it must safeguard a route for the dualling of A5.

RH2 Land north of Ansley Common

- This site is 21.6 hectares in total and could deliver a minimum of dwellings 388.
- A planning application was submitted for part of the site.

RH3 Atherstone Football Ground

- This site is 2.2 hectares in total and could deliver a minimum of 46 dwellings.

LP39 Employment allocations

<i>Indicator/ metrics</i>
Amount of development and timing of delivery (see entry for LP5)
<i>Target</i>
Report trends (see entry for LP5)

The latest situation with the employment site allocations is as follows:

Table 27: Update on Employment Site Allocations

<i>Site Ref</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Area (ha)</i>	<i>Total Area</i>	<i>Latest Situation (September 2022)</i>
E1	Land south of Rowlands Way east of Aldi, Atherstone	6.8	6.8	PAP/2018/0159 – approved 13 December 2019 Proposed extension to the Aldi Regional Distribution Centre and UK & Ireland Head Office facility on land at Rowlands Way, Atherstone, North Warwickshire. ‘Full’ planning permission sought for Class B8 warehousing and distribution space (comprising cold handling, chiller and freezer areas), Class B1(a) offices and a multi-

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				storey car park and other car parking, together with landscaping and other associated works. 'Outline' planning permission sought (with all matters reserved for future approval except for access) for additional Class B1(a) office space.
E2	Land to the west of Birch Coppice, Dordon	5.1	5.1	Discussions have been held with allotment holders
E3	Land including site of playing fields south of A5 Dordon, adjacent to Hall End Farm	3.45	3.45	Nothing to report
E4	Land to the south of Horiba MIRA Technology Park & Enterprise Zone, A5	42	60	Planning application approved subject to a S106.
	TOTAL	57.35	75.35	

Appendices

A	Relevant to various policies	NWBC's Annual infrastructure Funding Statement
B	Relevant to various policies	Gross Completions For 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2023 by Settlement Hierarchy for North Warwickshire
C	<i>LP5</i>	Employment Land Supply from 1 st April 2019 to 31 March 2023
D	<i>LP15</i>	Extract from Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register 2021
E	<i>LP1</i>	State of Habitats Report for North Warwickshire
F	Relevant to various policies	Building Regulations Statutory Guidance

Relevant to a range of policies

Infrastructure Funding Statement

December 2024



North Warwickshire
Borough Council

1 Introduction

- 1.1 An Infrastructure Funding Statement (“IFS”) is an annual report published to provide a summary of all financial contributions arising from Section 106 Planning Agreements and Community Infrastructure Levy contributions (“CIL”) within a Local Planning Authority’s area over a year. The Borough Council is not a charging Authority under the CIL Regulations and this IFS therefore only relates to Section 106 Contributions.
- 1.2 Planning Obligations – also known as Section 106 Agreements – are legal Agreements which can be attached to the grant of a planning permission to mitigate against the impact of new development. Contributions can only be sought where they are directly related to the development, fairly and reasonably related in scale and in kind to the development and necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms. Financial contributions can be used on-site or off-site according to the terms of the Agreement and are paid at times as set out in each respective Agreement.
- 1.3 The Borough Council is not a Unitary Authority and thus many of the contributions to mitigate the impacts of new developments are paid to the Council and then transferred to another Authority or Agency responsible for delivering that mitigation. In the Borough’s case, these are mainly transferred to Warwickshire County Council acting as the Highway, Public Health and Education Authority for the Borough. Other recipients can be the local NHS Trust and the Police Authority. Contributions are also made direct to Warwickshire County Council without coming through the Borough Council.
- 1.4 The majority of the contributions retained by the Borough Council go towards the provision either directly or indirectly, of affordable housing and for recreation/amenity and leisure provision.
- 1.5 Contributions set out in Section 106 Agreements may not be realised if the associated development does not proceed. Payments are also often phased through the lifetime of a development and as a consequence, the contributions which are received in one year will not necessarily be expended in that year. Additionally, contributions are not usually paid until after a development has commenced.
- 1.6 Agreements often include repayment clauses if there is no expenditure undertaken in respect of contributions made by a developer.

2 Section 106 Contributions

- 2.1 Table One below summarises the total value of contributions received since 2014 by the purpose of the payment. It includes contributions that will be expended by the Borough Council as well as those to be forwarded to the

County Council and other Agencies. Contributions to the Borough Council are mainly for affordable housing as well as for recreation/leisure purposes. These contributions have been regularly received.

- 2.2 Table Two illustrates the expenditure from these contributions. In respect of affordable housing, the more recent contributions have been directed to the acquisition of two houses on a small development in New Street, Dordon and the new builds at Long Street and Coleshill Road in Atherstone. One Agreement in the last twelve months obligated the developer to transfer new built residential properties to the Council as “gifted units” in lieu of a contribution.
- 2.3 In respect of open space and recreation expenditure, this has assisted the delivery of open space and recreation enhancements at Kitwood Avenue, Dordon and at Boot Hill in Grendon together with Meadow Gardens and Rowland Way in Atherstone as well as at the Cole End Park in Coleshill. The focus here on the northern part of the Borough is because that is where new housing has been granted planning permission.
- 2.4 It should be noted that the contributions in Table One also include payments for the maintenance of new and existing facilities that are to be enhanced. They will thus not be available for new works.
- 2.5 Table Three identifies the contributions held, but not yet spent. These will be expended as set out in the next few paragraphs. Some too will be transferred to the County Council and other Agencies as appropriate.
- 2.6 In respect of affordable housing, the sum of £187,694 is being retained until suitable schemes come forward.
- 2.7 In respect of the open space and recreation provision, the sum is £1,036,427. The Council’s Community and Environment Board and local Ward Members have been engaged in the disposal of this “fund”. The majority of this is to go towards new indoor recreation provision at Abbey Green in Polesworth and at the Memorial Hall/Swimming Pool in Atherstone. The Board referred to above has committed the Council to the preparation of proposals for both sites.
- 2.8 Part of the maintenance contribution (£80,000) has recently been committed by the Community and Environment Board to the maintenance of green space between The Larches at Ash Drive in Hartshill in association with the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and the County Council in order to enhance biodiversity here.
- 2.9 The Council’s Economic and Development Strategy will inform how best to direct the outstanding figure on skills and training.
- 2.10 The transport and cycle routes (£90,000 from Table Three) is to be spent to better connect the Birch Coppice and Core 42 employment sites with Dordon, through improvements to existing routes in conjunction with the County Council.

- 2.11 The Planning and Liaison item (£10,833 in Table Three) comprises the remainder of a contribution for the work involved in leading up to the adoption of the Caldecote Conservation Area and a Community Fund element of £10k to be transferred to the Baxterley Community Fund. That Fund is already receiving an annual amount from another Company that developed the JLR car storage area on the former colliery site. The £10k was the initial payment which came to the Council rather than directly to the Fund. Arrangements were made in late December 2024 to transfer this sum.
- 2.12 There have been no refunds or repayments made to developers because of there being no expenditure within any of the respective time periods as set out in the Agreements.

Table 1: The value of the payment received & purpose of payment.

	Pre 14-15	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	Total
Affordable Housing	180,900.00	259,676.00	635,700.00	38,250.00	115,516.41	34,522.00	-	160,000.00	146,553.00	84,680.00	60,877.00	1,716,674.41
Staff Training & Education	10,000.00	-	-	40,000.00	-	95,000.00	30,000.00	-	-	80,000.00	-	255,000.00
Transport & Cycle routes	-	-	-	50,000.00	-	40,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	90,000.00
Open Space etc.	592,461.87	27,039.76	152,582.55	376,305.00	10,000.00	41,442.45	105,512.84	177,649.50	231,647.92	72,477.17	14,517.24	1,821,636.30
Maintenance of Onsite open space	-	-	-	275,044.25	-	-	80,000.00	-	-	-	-	355,044.25
Planning Plus Liaison Committee	20,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000.00
Footpaths	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,048.15	2,048.15
Secure Facilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biodiversity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
George Elliott Hospital	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,283.00	62,122.00	127,504.00	53,620.00	16,059.91	311,588.91
Local GP Surgeries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,583.00	21,267.96	-	-	33,850.96
Wickshire Police	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,906.00	-	-	14,906.00
Wickshire County Council	630,591.85	-	15,000.00	-	-	-	12,965.00	-	-	1,260.00	1,252.46	661,069.33
Recycled Bins	-	-	-	18,421.00	17,331.60	-	-	-	4,680.00	-	-	40,432.60
	1,433,953.72	286,715.76	803,282.55	798,020.25	142,848.01	210,964.45	260,760.84	412,354.50	546,558.88	292,037.17	34,754.78	5,322,250.91

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Table 2: The amount of the payment that has been spent

	Pre 14-15	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	Total
ordable Housing	-	-	73,600.00	884,850.00	175,792.41	154,522.00	-	-	-	240,216.00	-	528,980.41
f Training & Education	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
sport & Cycle routes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
n Space Etc	524,325.26	-	5,731.00	4,491.35	-	4,675.00	22,364.76	65,488.54	19,251.73	123,783.52	15,097.46	785,208.62
ntenance of Onsite open space	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ining Plus Liaison Committee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,583.29	4,583.29	9,166.58
tpaths	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ure Facilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
iversity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
er	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
rge Elliott Hospital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85,896.00	136,013.00	53,620.00	275,529.00
al GP Surgeries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,583.00	-	21,267.96	33,850.96
wickshire Police	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
wickshire County Council	630,591.85	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,000.00	12,965.00	-	658,556.85
eeled Bins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,432.60	-	-	40,432.60
	,154,917.11	-	79,331.00	889,341.35	175,792.41	159,197.00	22,364.76	65,488.54	173,163.33	517,560.81	94,568.71	3,331,725.02

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Table 3: The amount that has been committed but not spent

	Pre 14-15	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	Total
ordable Housing	180,900.00	259,676.00	562,100.00	846,600.00	60,276.00	120,000.00	-	160,000.00	146,553.00	155,536.00	60,877.00	187,694.00
taff Training & Education	10,000.00	-	-	40,000.00	-	95,000.00	30,000.00	-	-	80,000.00	-	255,000.00
ansport & Cycle routes	-	-	-	50,000.00	-	40,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	90,000.00
pen Space Etc	68,136.61	27,039.76	146,851.55	371,813.65	10,000.00	36,767.45	83,148.08	112,160.96	212,396.19	51,306.35	19,419.78	1,036,427.68
aintenance of Onsite open space	-	-	-	275,044.25	-	-	80,000.00	-	-	-	-	355,044.25
Planning Plus Liaison Committee	20,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,583.29	4,583.29	10,833.42
Footpaths	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,048.15	2,048.15
isure Facilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biodiversity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
George Elliott Hospital	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,283.00	62,122.00	41,608.00	82,393.00	17,560.09	36,059.91
al GP Surgeries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,583.00	8,684.96	-	21,267.96	-
Warwickshire Police	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,906.00	-	-	14,906.00
Warwickshire County Council	-	-	15,000.00	-	-	-	12,965.00	-	15,000.00	11,705.00	1,252.48	2,512.48
Wheeled Bins	-	-	-	18,421.00	17,331.60	-	-	-	35,752.60	-	-	-
	279,036.61	286,715.76	723,951.55	91,321.10	32,944.40	51,767.45	238,396.08	346,865.96	373,395.55	225,523.64	40,186.07	1,990,525.89

Relevant to various policies

GROSS COMPLETIONS 1 APRIL 2019 – 31 MARCH 2024

SETTLEMENTS HIERARCHY FOR NORTH WARWICKSHIRE

Category 1	Market Towns of Atherstone with Mancetter & Polesworth with Dordon & the Green Belt Market Town of Coleshill
Category 2	Settlements Adjoining the Outer Boundary of The Borough
Category 3	Local Service Centres – Baddesley with Grendon, Hartshill with Ansley Common, New & Old Arley, Kingsbury, Water Orton
Category 4	Other Settlements with A Development Boundary – Ansley, Austrey, Curdworth, Fillongley, Hurley, Newton Regis, Piccadilly, Ridge Lane, Shuttington, Shustoke, Warton, Whitacre Heath, Wood End
Category 5	All Other Locations

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YEAR: 2019/20

Inside Development Boundary	Settlement Hierarchy Category	No. Of Gross Completions	New Build Completions	Outside Development Boundary	Settlement Hierarchy Category	No. Of Gross Completions	New Build Completions
Atherstone	1	1	0	Over Whitacre	5	2	
Polesworth	1	26	25	Astley	5	1	
Coleshill	1	52	39	Corley	4	3	
Grendon	3	7	7	Fillongley	5	7	5
Baddesley	3	2	2	Middleton	5	3	3
Ansley	4	32	30	Nether Whitacre	5	2	
Fillongley	4	3	3	Baxterley	5	2	1
Austrey	4	31	30	Wishaw	5	1	
Arley	3	1	0	Hurley	4	1	
Warton	4	42	42	Whitacre Heath	4	1	
Mancetter	1	12	12	Polesworth	1	6	6
Newton Regis	4	1	0	Wood End	4	3	3
				Coleshill	1	1	1
Total		210	190	Total		33	19
Total By Settlement Category	1	91	76	Total By Settlement Category	1	7	7
Total By Settlement Category	3	10	9	Total By Settlement Category	4	8	3
Total By Settlement Category	4	109	105	Total By Settlement Category	5	18	9
Total By Settlement Category				Total By Settlement Category			
Total By Settlement Category				Total By Settlement Category			

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YEAR: 2020/21

Inside Development Boundary	Settlement Hierarchy Category	No. Of Gross Completions	New Build Completions	Outside Development Boundary	Settlement Hierarchy Category	No. Of Gross Completions	New Build Completions
Atherstone	1	1	1	Over Whitacre	5	2	2
Polesworth	1	22	11	Caldecote	5	4	2
Coleshill	1	12	10	Corley	5	2	
Grendon	3	7	7	Fillongley	4	6	5
Baddesley	3	1	1	Middleton	5	1	
Chapel End	5	4	2	Shuttington	4	1	
Fillongley	4	5	5	Baxterley	5	1	1
Austrey	4	33	33	Atherstone	1	4	4
Hartshill	3	15	15	Newton Regis	4	1	
Warton	4	26	18	Piccadilly	4	1	
Corley	5	1		Polesworth	1	5	3
Newton Regis	4	1	1	Wood End	4	3	3
				Maxstoke	5	1	1
Total		128	104	Total		32	21
Total By Settlement Category	1	35	22	Total By Settlement Category	1	9	7
Total By Settlement Category	3	23	23	Total By Settlement Category	4	12	8
Total By Settlement Category	4	65	57	Total By Settlement Category	5	11	6
Total By Settlement Category	5	5	2	Total By Settlement Category			
Total By Settlement Category				Total By Settlement Category			

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YEAR: 2021/22

Inside Development Boundary	Settlement Hierarchy Category	No. Of Gross Completions	New Build Completions	Outside Development Boundary	Settlement Hierarchy Category	No. Of Gross Completions	New Build Completions
Atherstone	1	18	5	Shustoke	4	0	0
Polesworth	1	35	35	Wood End	4	11	11
Coleshill	1	5		Ansley	4	72	72
Grendon	3	89	89				
Dordon	1	8	8				
Chapel End	5	2					
Hurley	4	2					
Mancetter	1	1					
Ansley	4	18	18				
Warton	4	114	114				
Wood End	4	2	2				
Total		294	271	Total		83	83
Total By Settlement Category	1	67	48	Total By Settlement Category	4	83	83
Total By Settlement Category	3	89	89	Total By Settlement Category			
Total By Settlement Category	4	136	134	Total By Settlement Category			
Total By Settlement Category	5	2	0	Total By Settlement Category			
Total By Settlement Category				Total By Settlement Category			

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YEAR: 2022/23

Inside Development Boundary	Settlement Hierarchy Category	No. Of Gross Completions	New Build Completions	Outside Development Boundary	Settlement Hierarchy Category	No. Of Gross Completions	New Build Completions
Atherstone	1	7	7	Shustoke	4	1	1
Polesworth	1	9	9	Dordon	1	1	1
Coleshill	1	6	5	Arley	3	1	0
Grendon	3	53	53	Corley	5	5	3
Dordon	1	12	11	Lea Marston	5	1	1
Hartshill	5	10	9	Middleton	5	3	2
Newton Regis	4	21	21	Nether Whitacre	5	1	0
Ansley	4	0	0				
Warton	4	17	14				
Wood End	4	7	5				
Kingsbury	3	9	9				
Austrey	4	1	1				
Curdworth	4	2	2				
Fillongley	4	1	0				
Total		155	146	Total		13	8
Total By Settlement Category	1	34	32	Total By Settlement Category	1	1	1
Total By Settlement Category	3	62	62	Total By Settlement Category	3	1	0
Total By Settlement Category	4	49	43	Total By Settlement Category	4	1	1
Total By Settlement Category	5	10	9	Total By Settlement Category	5	10	6
Total By Settlement Category				Total By Settlement Category			

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YEAR: 2023/24

Inside Development Boundary	Settlement Hierarchy Category	No. Of Gross Completions	New Build Completions	Outside Development Boundary	Settlement Hierarchy Category	No. Of Gross Completions	New Build Completions
Atherstone	1	43	22	Shustoke	4		
Polesworth	1	27	25	Dordon	1		
Coleshill	1	29	23	Arley	3	1	0
Grendon	3	47	47	Corley	5		
Dordon	1	2	2	Lea Marston	5		
Hartshill	5	2	2	Middleton	5	1	0
Newton Regis	4	1	0	Nether Whitacre	5	9	3
Ansley	4	15	15	Ansley	4	1	0
Warton	4	78	69	Kingsbury	3	2	0
Wood End	4	16	16	Fillongley	4	3	3
Kingsbury	3	0	0	Birchmoor	1	1	1
Austrey	4	3	3				
Curdworth	4	2	2				
Fillongley	4	0	0				
Ansley Common	4	2	2				
Total		267	228	Total		18	7
Total By Settlement Category	1	101	72	Total By Settlement Category	1	1	1
Total By Settlement Category	3	47	47	Total By Settlement Category	3	3	0
Total By Settlement Category	4	117	107	Total By Settlement Category	4	4	3
Total By Settlement Category	5	2	2	Total By Settlement Category	5	10	3
Total By Settlement Category				Total By Settlement Category			

Number Of Gross Completions From 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2024 Split Between Total & New Build

Total Gross Completions 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2024 = 1233

Inside Development Boundary	Gross Completions	Of Which New Build	Outside Development Boundary	Gross Completions	Of Which New Build
Total By Settlement Category 1	328 (26.6%)	250	Total By Settlement Category 1	18 (1.46%)	15
Total By Settlement Category 2	0	0	Total By Settlement Category 2	0	0
Total By Settlement Category 3	231 (18.73%)	230	Total By Settlement Category 3	4 (0.32%)	0
Total By Settlement Category 4	476 (38.61%)	446	Total By Settlement Category 4	108 (8.76%)	98
Total By Settlement Category 5	19 (1.54%)	13	Total By Settlement Category 5	49 (3.98%)	24

LP5

Employment Land Supply from 1st April 2019 to 31 March 2022

2019/20

Completions of sites over 0.4 hectares

None

Outstanding on sites over 0.4

Site		Planning application number	Status	Size	Use class
Coleshill Hall Hospital	Coleshill	PCOLXX/1274/99/FAP	UC	16.38	B1/2/8
Dosthill	Dosthill	PAP/2013/0298	UC	6.76	B1/B2/B8
Core 42	Dordon	PAP/2017/0014	UC	17.42	B1, B2 & B8
Land north east of the Beanstalk - Plot 7	Dordon	PAP/2015/0679	UC	2.2	B1, B2, B8
SE of Junction 10 M42 (won at appeal)	Dordon	PAP/2018/0149	UC	25.37	B1/2/8
Kingsbury Road	Curdworth	PAP/2017/0521	NS	0.99	A1, Other
Power Station B Site	Hams Hall	PAP/2018/0036	UC	20	B1, B2, B8
Plot 13 Marconi Way	Hams Hall	PAP/2018/0763	NS	1.069	Office
Land south of Rowland Way	Atherstone	PAP/2018/0159	NS	1.92	B1(a), B8
				92.109	

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Completions of sites under 0.4 hectares

Unit 11	Atherstone	PAP/2018/0139	COM	0.39	B1(a), B2
				0.39	

Outstanding of sites under 0.4

Site		Planning application number	Status	Size	Use class
BEC Engineering Ltd	Atherstone	PAP/2014/0432	NS	0.11	loss of factory
Lane's Yard	Lea Marston	PAP/2017/0234	NS	0.02	B2
3 Springhill	Arley	PAP/2017/0179	NS	0.01	B8
Plot W1A	Dordon	PAP/2018/0284	NS	0.1	B1(a)
Park Gate Farm	Middleton	PAP/2018/0696	NS	0.29	Other
Land rear of unit 12B	Atherstone	PAP/2018/0475	NS	0.15	B1(c)
Langley Brook business park	Middleton	PAP/2018/0711	NS	0.30	B8
Magna House	Atherstone	PAP/2019/0403	NS	0.04	loss of office
The Boot	Grendon	PAP/2019/0151	NS	0.07	A4, A1, B1(a), D2
The Black Swan	Grendon	PAP/2017/0219	NS	0.01	A3

Loss of Employment Land

Unit 6	Atherstone	PAP/2017/0673	NS	0.04	loss B1/B2/B8
				0.04	

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Completions of above 0.4 hectares

Site		Planning application number	Status	Size	Use class
Land north east of the Beanstalk - Plot 7	Dordon	PAP/2015/0679	COM	2.2	B1, B2, B8
Kingsbury Road	Dordon	PAP/2017/0521	COM	0.99	A1, Other
Power Station B Site	Hams Hall	PAP/2018/0036	COM	20	B1, B2, B8
Plot 13 Marconi Way	Hams Hall	PAP/2018/0763	COM	1.069	Office
				24.259	

Outstanding applications of over 0.4 hectares

Site		Planning application number	Status	Size	Use class
Coleshill Hall Hospital	Coleshill	PCOLXX/1274/99/FAP	UC	16.38	B2
Dosthill	Dosthill	PAP/2013/0298	UC	6.76	B1, B2 & B8
Core 42	Dordon	PAP/2017/0014	UC	17.42	B1(c), B2, B8
SE of Junction 10 M42 (won at appeal)	Dordon	PAP/2018/0149	UC	25.37	B1/2/8
Land south of Rowland Way	Atherstone	PAP/2018/0159	NS	1.92	B1(a), B8
				67.85	

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Completions of under 0.4 hectares

Site		Planning application number	Status	Size	Use class
Plot W1A	Dordon	PAP/2018/0284	COM	0.1	B1(a)
Park Gate Farm	Middleton	PAP/2018/0696	COM	0.29	Other
The Boot	Grendon	PAP/2019/0151	COM	0.07	A4, A1, B1(a), D2
The Black Swan	Grendon	PAP/2017/0219	COM	0.01	A3
				0.47	

Outstanding applications of under 0.4 hectares

Site		Planning application number	Status	Size	Use class
3 Springhill	Arley	PAP/2017/0179	NS	0.01	B8
Land rear of unit 12B	Atherstone	PAP/2018/0475	NS	0.15	B1(c)
Langley Brook business park	Middleton	PAP/2018/0711	NS	0.30	B8
Lanes Yard, Kingsbury Road, Lea Marston	Lea Marston	PAP/2020/0109	NS	0.30	B2
Crida House	Curdworth	PAP/2020/0269	NS	0.24	B1(c)
Town Council Offices	Atherstone	PAP/2020/0056	NS	0.01	B1(a)
				1.23	

Loss of Employment land

BEC Engineering Ltd	Atherstone	PAP/2014/0432	NS	0.11	loss of factory
Unit 6	Atherstone	PAP/2017/0673	NS	0.04	loss B1/B2/B8
Magna House	Atherstone	PAP/2019/0403	UC	0.04	loss of office
Britannia Works	Atherstone	PAP/2020/0568	NS	0.03	loss of B2
				0.22	

2021/22

Completions over 0.4 hectares

Site		Planning application number	Status	Size	Use class
Core 42	Dordon	PAP/2017/0014	COM	17.42	B1, B2 & B8
SE of Junction 10 M42 (won at appeal)	Dordon	PAP/2018/0149	COM	25.37	B1/2/8
				42.79	

Outstanding over 0.4 hectares

Site		Planning application number	Status	Size	Use class
Coleshill Hall Hospital	Coleshill	PCOLXX/1274/99/FAP	UC	16.38	B1/2/8
Dosthill	Dosthill	PAP/2013/0298	UC	6.76	B1/B2/B8
Land south of Rowland Way	Atherstone	PAP/2018/0159	NS	1.92	B1(a), B8
				25.06	

Completions under 0.4 hectares

Site		Planning application number	Status	Size	Use class
Land south-west of M42 roundabout Dordon	Dordon	PAP/2021/0108	COM	0.23	B8
112 High Street	Coleshill	PAP/2021/0139	COM	0.02	loss of office
				0.25	

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Outstanding under 0.4 hectares

Site		Planning application number	Status	Size	Use class
Magna House	Atherstone	PAP/2019/0403	UC	0.04	loss of office
Lanes Yard, Kingsbury Road, Lea Marston	Lea Marston	PAP/2020/0109	NS	0.30	B2
Crida House	Curdworth	PAP/2020/0269	NS	0.24	B1(c)
Town Council Offices	Atherstone	PAP/2020/0056	NS	0.01	B1(a)
Britannia Works	Atherstone	PAP/2020/0568	NS	0.03	loss of B2
Kingsbury Link	Kingsbury	PAP/2021/0220	NS	0.01	B1(c)
70-72 High Street	Coleshill	PAP/2021/0289	NS	0.07	loss of office
104, High Street	Coleshill	PAP/2020/0031	NS	0.08	loss of office
133a, Long Street	Atherstone	PAP/2020/0144	NS	0.00	loss of office
Westbourne Leisure, 45 Parkfield Road	Coleshill	PAP/2020/0494	UC	0.03	loss of office
				0.81	

Allocations in adopted Local Plan

SITE	USE CLASS	Gross Area – Ha's
E1 - Holly Lane, Atherstone	B1/B2/B8	6.6
E2 - West of Birch Coppice	B1/B2/B8	5.1
E3 - Playing fields south of A5	B1	3.5
E4 - MIRA	B1/B2	42
TOTAL		57.2

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2022/23

Completions over 0.4 hectares

Site		Planning application number	Status	Size	Use class
NIL					

Outstanding over 0.4 hectares

Site		Planning application number	Status	Size	Use class
Coleshill Hall Hospital	Coleshill	PCOLXX/1274/99/FAP	UC	16.38	B1/2/8
Dosthill	Dosthill	PAP/2013/0298	UC	6.76	B1/B2/B8
				23.14	

Completions under 0.4 hectares

Site		Planning application number	Status	Size	Use class
Magna House	Atherstone	PAP/2019/0403	COM	0.04	loss of office
Crida House	Curdworth	PAP/2020/0269	COM	0.24	B1(c)
Kingsbury Link	Kingsbury	PAP/2021/0220	NSCOM	0.01	B1(c)
				0.25	

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Outstanding under 0.4 hectares

Site		Planning application number	Status	Size	Use class
Planters Garden Centre	Kingsbury	PAP/2021/0435	NS	0.09	B8
Lanes Yard, Kingsbury Road, Lea Marston	Lea Marston	PAP/2020/0109	NS	0.30	B2
The Smithy	Grendon	PAP/2022/0244	NS	0.29	B8
Town Council Offices	Atherstone	PAP/2020/0056	NS	0.01	B1(a)
Britannia Works	Atherstone	PAP/2020/0568	NS	0.03	loss of B2
Holme Villa & Holmville House	Atherstone	PAP/2022/0619	NS	0.01	Loss of residential to office
70-72 High Street	Coleshill	PAP/2021/0289	NS	0.07	loss of office
104, High Street	Coleshill	PAP/2020/0031	NS	0.08	loss of office
133a, Long Street	Atherstone	PAP/2020/0144	NS	0.00	loss of office
Westbourne Leisure, 45 Parkfield Road	Coleshill	PAP/2020/0494	UC	0.03	loss of office
				0.70	

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2023 2024

Completions over 0.4 hectares

Site		Planning application number	Status	Size	Use class
Land north east of Sewage Works	Atherstone	PAP/2019/0228	COM	3.49	B1C/B2/B8
				3.49 ha	

Outstanding over 0.4 hectares

Site		Planning application number	Status	Size	Use class
Coleshill Hall Hospital	Coleshill	PCOLXX/1274/99/FAP	UC	16.38	B1/2/8
Dosthill	Dosthill	PAP/2013/0298	UC	6.76	B1/B2/B8
				23.14 ha	

Completions under 0.4 hectares

Site		Planning application number	Status	Size	Use class
Holme Villa & Holmeville House	Atherstone	PAP/2022/0619	COM	0.01	Loss of residential to office
Westbourne Leisure, 45 Parkfield Road	Coleshill	PAP/2020/0494	COM	0.03	loss of office
				-0.04	Loss of office

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Outstanding under 0.4 hectares

Site		Planning application number	Status	Size	Use class
Planters Garden Centre	Kingsbury	PAP/2021/0435	NS	0.09	B8
Lanes Yard, Kingsbury Road, Lea Marston	Lea Marston	PAP/2023/0136	NS	0.30	B2
The Smithy	Grendon	PAP/2022/0244	NS	0.009	B8
Britannia Works	Atherstone	PAP/2020/0568	NS	0.03	loss of B2
70-72 High Street	Coleshill	PAP/2021/0289	NS	0.07	loss of office
Unit 11, Manor Road Industrial Estate	Mancetter	PAP/2023/0044	NS	0.01	Loss of office
Unit 1, Pooley Hall Farm,	Polesworth	PAP/2022/0147	NS	0.06	B2/B8, E
Unit 11, Pooley Hall Farm	Polesworth	PAP/2023/0505	NS	0.02	Loss of B8 to Class E
42 Austrey Road	Warton	PAP/2023/0508	NS	0.01	loss - Change of use of existing building B2 to C3
				0.32 ha	

Allocations in adopted Local Plan

SITE	USE CLASS	Gross Area – Ha's
E1 - Holly Lane, Atherstone	B1/B2/B8	6.6
E2 - West of Birch Coppice	B1/B2/B8	5.1
E3 - Playing fields south of A5	B1	3.5
E4 - MIRA	B1/B2	42
TOTAL		57.2


North Warwickshire Local Plan
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Total Land Supply as at 31st March 2024

	over 0.4 hectares	under 0.4 hectares	Total
<i>Total Completions Since 2019/20 – 2023/24</i>			
2019/20	0	0.39	0.39
2020/21	24.25	0.47	24.72
2021/22	42.79	0.25	43.04
2022/23	0	0.25	0.25
2023/24	3.49	-0.04	3.45
<i>Allocations In Local Plan</i>	57.2	0	57.2
Outstanding sites with Planning Permission as at 31/3/24	23.14	0.32	23.46
Additional land at MIRA	18.0	0.00	18.0
	168.87	1.64	170.51
<i>Loss of employment land</i>	0	-0.04	-0.04
Total minus losses	168.87	1.60	170.47

Total allocation for E4 MIRA B1/B2 class = 60ha

Extract from Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register 2024 (No changes since 2023)

WARWICKSHIRE		
NORTH WARWICKSHIRE		
 <p>© Historic England</p>	SITE NAME:	Merevale Abbey, a Cistercian monastery, associated water control features and industrial remains
	DESIGNATION:	Scheduled Monument, 6 LBs, part in RPG grade II*
	CONDITION:	Poor
	OCCUPANCY:	N/A
	PRIORITY CATEGORY:	C (C)
	OWNER TYPE:	Private
	LIST ENTRY NUMBER:	1014682
		Mid-C12 Cistercian monastery retaining several visible fragments of major monastic buildings but also earthwork and buried remains which illustrate the development of the monastery. Stonework in the refectory is eroding and needs addressing through a condition assessment to inform conservation. Historic England is continuing to work with the Estate to address the site.
		Contact: Imogen Newcombe 07387 524030

PRIORITY CATEGORIES

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>A Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric; no solution agreed.</p> <p>B Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric; solution agreed but not yet implemented.</p> <p>C Slow decay; no solution agreed.</p> | <p>D Slow decay; solution agreed but not yet implemented.</p> <p>E Under repair or in fair to good repair, but no user identified; or under threat of vacancy with no obvious new user (applicable only to buildings capable of beneficial use).</p> | <p>F Repair scheme in progress and (where applicable) end use or user identified; or functionally redundant buildings with new use agreed but not yet implemented.</p> |
|--|--|---|

NOTE
Last year's priority category is shown in brackets (otherwise, New Entry is noted).

ABBREVIATIONS

CA	Conservation Area
LB	Listed Building
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NP	National Park
RPG	Registered Park and Garden
SM	Scheduled Monument
UA	Unitary Authority
WHS	World Heritage Site

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HERITAGE AT RISK 2023 / MIDLANDS / NORTH WARWICKSHIRE



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SITE NAME:	Beech House, 19 Market Street, Atherstone
DESIGNATION:	Listed Building grade II*, CA
CONDITION:	Poor
OCCUPANCY:	Vacant/not in use
PRIORITY CATEGORY:	D (D)
OWNER TYPE:	Commercial company
LIST ENTRY NUMBER:	1185175

Town house in the Queen Anne style dated 1708. The interiors are largely unaltered and most of the original features are intact. The property has been vacant for several years. A scheme for the repair and refurbishment of the building has been agreed following discussions between the owner and the Local Planning Authority. Recent work undertaken to refurbish the exterior. No site visit has been possible this year.

Contact: Rosamund Worrall 0121 625 6893



© Historic England Archive

SITE NAME:	Hartshill Castle, Castle Road, Hartshill
DESIGNATION:	Scheduled Monument and Listed Building grade II
CONDITION:	Poor
OCCUPANCY:	N/A
PRIORITY CATEGORY:	A (A)
OWNER TYPE:	Private
LIST ENTRY NUMBER:	1011197 and 1034748

Motte and bailey castle, converted C14 enclosure castle with remains of C16 farmhouse. Upstanding remains have decayed due to erosion, structural problems and vandalism. Some on-going vegetation impacts. The Harold Lapworth Charitable Trust has undertaken consolidation works on the enclosure wall, vegetation management and good steps to reduce vandalism, anti-social behaviour and theft. Further vegetation works are needed and repair and consolidation of the C16 remains. Historic England are liaising with the landowners regarding these works and the on-going maintenance of the site.

Contact: Neil Rimmington 07775 550 674



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SITE NAME:	Kingsbury Hall, Kingsbury
DESIGNATION:	Scheduled Monument and Listed Buildings - 1 grade II*, 1 grade II, part in CA
CONDITION:	Poor
OCCUPANCY:	Vacant/not in use
PRIORITY CATEGORY:	E (E)
OWNER TYPE:	Private
LIST ENTRY NUMBER:	1019978 and 1116550; 1034721

A manor house of c.1500 with late C16 and C18 rebuilding and early C19 wing. A scheme for the residential conversion of the building was approved and structural works undertaken. A new scheme in association with some neighbouring development has been applied for which could see the building repaired and in use.

Contact: Rosamund Worrall 0121 625 6893



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SITE NAME:	Maxstoke Priory, Church Road, Maxstoke
DESIGNATION:	Scheduled Monument and Listed Buildings - 6 grade II*, 2 LBs
CONDITION:	Poor
OCCUPANCY:	N/A
PRIORITY CATEGORY:	A (A)
OWNER TYPE:	Private, multiple owners
LIST ENTRY NUMBER:	1011195 and 1034822; 1034823; 1365129; 1034821; 1116038; 1320105

Substantial remains of an early C14 Augustinian monastery including infirmary, precinct walls and outer gatehouse with attached barn and farmhouse. The buildings are steadily decaying, the granary range is in poor condition and the infirmary structure is propped. Historic England has part funded repairs to the boundary walls and is working with the owners to review the condition of the gatehouse and other sections, looking to address their condition.

Contact: Imogen Newcombe 07387 524030



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SITE NAME:	Middleton Hall, Middleton
DESIGNATION:	Listed Building grade II*
CONDITION:	Poor
OCCUPANCY:	Occupied/in use
PRIORITY CATEGORY:	D (D)
OWNER TYPE:	Charity (heritage)
LIST ENTRY NUMBER:	1365196

The main C18 house at Middleton hall is located on the west side of an enclosed courtyard which incorporates C14 and C16 buildings with extensive early C19 additions. The house is L-shaped on plan with rendered walls, tiled roofs and moulded eaves cornices, the latter feature concealing a perimeter gutter of variable width. These gutters have been modified over time, built up and repaired with inappropriate materials to the point where urgent repairs are now required. An Historic England repairs grant was awarded in March 2022 and repair works are due to commence in autumn 2023.

Contact: John Tiernan 0121 625 6839

PRIORITY CATEGORIES

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>A Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric; no solution agreed.</p> <p>B Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric; solution agreed but not yet implemented.</p> <p>C Slow decay; no solution agreed.</p> | <p>D Slow decay; solution agreed but not yet implemented.</p> <p>E Under repair or in fair to good repair, but no user identified; or under threat of vacancy with no obvious new user (applicable only to buildings capable of beneficial use).</p> | <p>F Repair scheme in progress and (where applicable) end use or user identified; or functionally redundant buildings with new use agreed but not yet implemented.</p> |
|--|--|---|

NOTE
Last year's priority category is shown in brackets (otherwise, New Entry is noted).


ABBREVIATIONS

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HERITAGE AT RISK 2023 / MIDLANDS / NORTH WARWICKSHIRE

	SITE NAME:	Stables range north east of Middleton Hall, Middleton	Originally stables and a lodging block C1570, this building is timber framed with brick infill panels. It consists of a four-bay main range with a two-bay cross wing at the north end and a two-storey gabled porch to the left of the centre. There is a courtyard of farm buildings to rear. The building is disused and in need of repair to ensure its structural stability and to keep it weatherproof. A Master plan to develop the site as a heritage visitor centre has been produced, repurposing the stable block and adjacent courtyard as the new visitor entrance to the Middleton Hall Estate. Contact: John Tieman 0121 625 6839
	DESIGNATION:	Listed Building grade II*	
	CONDITION:	Poor	
	OCCUPANCY:	Vacant/not in use	
	PRIORITY CATEGORY:	D (D)	
	OWNER TYPE:	Charity (heritage)	
	LIST ENTRY NUMBER:	1365197	


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	SITE NAME:	Grendon Bridge, Polesworth / Grendon	Stone bridge, probably C15 constructed in sandstone. Now in poor condition with parts of the parapet missing. A condition survey is needed to assess the scale of repairs. The owners are exploring funding options regarding its future assessment and repair.
	DESIGNATION:	Scheduled Monument and Listed Building grade II*	
	CONDITION:	Poor	
	OCCUPANCY:	N/A	
	PRIORITY CATEGORY:	C (C)	
	OWNER TYPE:	Private	
	LIST ENTRY NUMBER:	1005756 and 1186247	


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	SITE NAME:	Moat, footbridge and gatepiers to Shustoke Hall Farmhouse, Moat House Lane, Shustoke	Homestead moat, footbridge and gate piers c.1686, with late C18 service wing which is in poor condition. Substantial sections of overgrown walls and buttresses were previously leaning outwards and required rebuilding. Much of this work has been carried out by the Estate. Progress has been made since 2013 with repointing to the moat walls, but further repairs are needed. Historic England is advising on repairs to the remaining sections.
	DESIGNATION:	Listed Building grade II*	
	CONDITION:	Poor	
	OCCUPANCY:	N/A	
	PRIORITY CATEGORY:	A (A)	
	OWNER TYPE:	Private	
	LIST ENTRY NUMBER:	1226189	

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	SITE NAME:	Alvecote priory and dovecote, Shuttington	The listed and scheduled remains of a C12 Benedictine monastery. The primary structure on site represents the C14 remodelling of the building and has been subject to heritage crime and natural deterioration. An associated medieval dovecote is also affected by issues with its roof covering, water penetration and vandalism. Historic England is encouraging the Local Authority to establish a management plan for the site and carry out repairs to the standing remains of the priory and dovecote.
	DESIGNATION:	Scheduled Monument, 2 LBs	
	CONDITION:	Poor	
	OCCUPANCY:	N/A	
	PRIORITY CATEGORY:	C (C)	
	OWNER TYPE:	Local authority, multiple owners	
	LIST ENTRY NUMBER:	1020623	

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	SITE NAME:	Church of St Mary, Sheepy Road, Atherstone	Large imposing church constructed in two parts with a central tower. Chancel may date from C12 as an independent chapel, and then remodelled c1383 when the nave was added. Older parts are built in rubble. Nave and aisles were rebuilt in 1849 in rubble granite, wagon roof with moulded braces and purlins. The octagonal tower was part of the original chapel, but was remodelled in the C13/C14. Works to the roof have been completed but the high level stonework of the tower remains in poor condition and in need of repair. Contact: Imogen Newcombe 07387 524030
	DESIGNATION:	Listed Place of Worship grade II*, CA	
	CONDITION:	Poor	
	PRIORITY CATEGORY:	C (C)	
	OWNER TYPE:	Religious organisation	
	LIST ENTRY NUMBER:	1365164	

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PRIORITY CATEGORIES

- A** Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric; no solution agreed.
- B** Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric; solution agreed but not yet implemented.
- C** Slow decay; no solution agreed.
- D** Slow decay; solution agreed but not yet implemented.
- E** Under repair or in fair to good repair, but no user identified; or under threat of vacancy with no obvious new user (applicable only to buildings capable of beneficial use).
- F** Repair scheme in progress and (where applicable) end use or user identified; or functionally redundant buildings with new use agreed but not yet implemented.

NOTE
Last year's priority category is shown in brackets (otherwise, New Entry is noted).

ABBREVIATIONS

- CA** Conservation Area
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- NP** National Park
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- SM** Scheduled Monument
- UA** Unitary Authority
- WHS** World Heritage Site

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HERITAGE AT RISK 2023 / MIDLANDS / NORTH WARWICKSHIRE / NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH / RUGBY

SITE NAME:	Merevale Abbey, a Cistercian monastery, associated water control features and industrial remains		
DESIGNATION:	Scheduled Monument, 6 LBs, part in RPG grade II*	LIST ENTRY NUMBER:	1014682
CONDITION:	Generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems	TREND:	Declining
PRINCIPAL VULNERABILITY:	Deterioration - in need of management	NEW ENTRY?:	No
OWNER TYPE:	Mixed, multiple owners	CONTACT:	Imogen Newcombe 07387 524030
SITE NAME:	Roman Camp, Mancetter		
DESIGNATION:	Scheduled Monument, part in CA	LIST ENTRY NUMBER:	1005736
CONDITION:	Unknown	TREND:	Unknown
PRINCIPAL VULNERABILITY:	Other	NEW ENTRY?:	No
OWNER TYPE:	Mixed, multiple owners	CONTACT:	Imogen Newcombe 07387 524030
SITE NAME:	Alvecote priory and dovecote, Shuttington		
DESIGNATION:	Scheduled Monument, 2 LBs	LIST ENTRY NUMBER:	1020623
CONDITION:	Generally satisfactory but with significant localised problems	TREND:	Stable
PRINCIPAL VULNERABILITY:	Scrub/tree growth	NEW ENTRY?:	No
OWNER TYPE:	Local authority	CONTACT:	Imogen Newcombe 07387 524030



Natural Capital Assessment Partnership
(Previously the Habitat Biodiversity Audit)

Appendix E

State of Habitats: North Warwickshire

1. The State of Habitats

This State of Habitats summary for North Warwickshire Borough Council is based on data gathered by the Natural Capital Assessment Partnership (NCAP) over the last 25 years^{1,2}. Formerly known as the Habitat Biodiversity Audit, NCAP is managed by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) and hosted by Warwickshire County Council (WCC). WWT, WCC, North Warwickshire Borough Council and 6 other local authorities across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull contribute funding to the partnership. The aim of the overall State of Habitats report³ and this summary is to provide a habitat baseline that can help to inform the most effective actions for protecting, enhancing and restoring the nature of the sub-region. In this report, the sub-region refers collectively to the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull local authority areas.

2. NCAP data

The statistics in this summary draw primarily on 'Phase 1' habitat data gathered by the NCAP team¹. Phase 1 is a habitat survey method developed by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee⁴. Habitat data have been gathered by the NCAP team on a rolling basis over the last 25 years. It should be noted that some areas of the sub-region remain un-surveyed, due to factors such as inaccessibility, because appropriate phase 1 habitat definitions do not exist, e.g. for urban habitats⁴, or because urban features, such as building and roads, haven't typically been mapped in the past. As a result of these factors, **12% of North Warwickshire is un-surveyed**^{1,5}.

In 2023, NCAP also acquired remotely sensed satellite data from Spottitt⁶⁻¹⁰, as well as a habitat classification map produced by Spottitt and derived from the satellite data¹¹. The habitat map places the entire sub-region into 11 different habitat categories¹¹. The long-term aim is for this remotely sensed dataset to complement the Phase 1 habitat data, for example by filling in some of the gaps that have arisen from using Phase 1. Where relevant, the State of Habitats report and this summary refer to this new remotely sensed dataset.

3. North Warwickshire's diversity of habitats

Covering an area of 28,431 hectares⁵, the majority of North Warwickshire Borough lies in the Arden National Character Area (NCA)¹². The NCA is characterised in less urban areas by its gently rolling landscapes of farms and wood pastures as well as its river meadows and pockets of ancient woodland¹². The Mease/Sence Lowlands NCA cuts across the north and northeast of the borough, known for its rivers, wetlands, neutral grasslands and the Coventry Canal¹³. Cannock Chase and Cank Wood NCA¹⁴ is found in the west of the borough, as is the Trent Valley Washlands NCA¹⁵. A series of valuable wetlands, around Kingsbury and Lea Marston, are found in the latter².

From wet woodland to heathland, North Warwickshire is home to a variety of habitats valuable at a sub-regional level. Some of these areas are designated as Local Wildlife Sites, like Baddesley Common where one of the sub-region's last remnants of long-established heathland can be found². Many post-industrial sites are also found in the borough, such as Edge Hill Wood and Kingsbury Spoil Mound Local Wildlife Site with, among other habitats, its acid pools and associated wetlands².



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(Previously the Habitat Biodiversity Audit)

Heathland and wetlands are the rarest broad Phase 1 habitat types across North Warwickshire Borough. Heathland covers **0.01%** of the local authority area, which represents **34% of the 10 hectares of heathland that remain across the sub-region¹**. North Warwickshire is one of only four local authorities across the sub-region to have any heathland habitat remaining. The wetland habitats of ‘mire’ and ‘swamp, marginal and inundation’ collectively represent **0.2%** of the local authority area¹. 28% of the sub-region’s remaining 187 hectares of ‘swamp, marginal and inundation’ habitats are found in North Warwickshire¹. These Phase 1 habitats all fall under the ‘other’ category in Figure 1.

At the other end of the scale, it is estimated that **49%** of North Warwickshire is categorised as Phase 1 ‘**cultivated and disturbed**’ land, which includes habitats such as amenity grassland, arable land and introduced shrub^{1,4}.

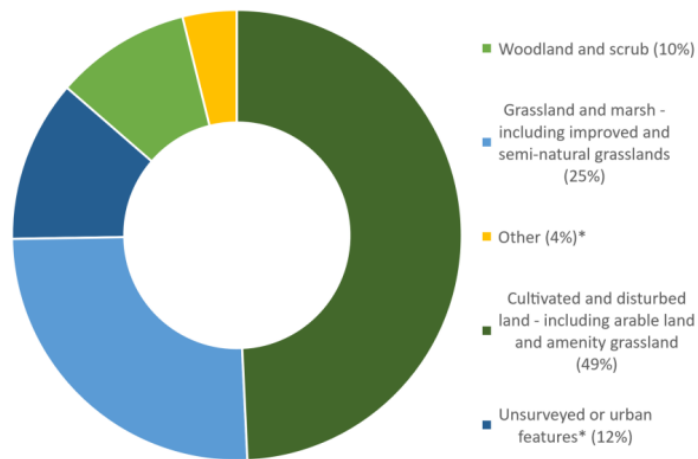
Under the broad Phase 1 ‘Woodland and Scrub’ habitat category, ‘**parkland**’, ‘**woodland**’, ‘**recently-felled woodland**’ and ‘**wet woodland**’ collectively account for **8% of North Warwickshire’s local authority area¹**, compared to 7% at the sub-regional level^{1,3} and 13% at a national level¹⁶.

North Warwickshire is slightly less **urbanised** than the sub-region as a whole. Remote sensing imagery shows that **8%** of the local authority region is covered by urban features such as roads and buildings compared to 9% of the sub-region¹¹.

If we consider improved grassland, set-aside and arable land as the main agricultural land uses across the sub-region, we estimate that approximately **64% of North Warwickshire is farmed**. This is the same as at the sub-regional level (64%)^{1,3}.

11% of North Warwickshire’s grasslands are **semi-natural grasslands with distinctive calcareous, neutral, acid or marshy grassland plant communities**. This is the same as at the sub-regional level (11%). North Warwickshire is an important stronghold of acid grassland, as 37% of the sub-region’s remaining 77 hectares are found in the borough^{1,3}.

Figure 1. Proportion of broad Phase 1 habitats across North Warwickshire Borough¹



*Urban features, e.g. buildings / roads and other ‘artificial’ surfaces are not included in the Phase 1 survey process and so are included in un-surveyed areas. ‘Other’ includes ‘heathland’, ‘mire’, and ‘swamp, marginal and inundation’ wetlands, ‘tall herbs’, ‘open water’ and ‘rock exposure & waste’.



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(Previously the Habitat Biodiversity Audit)

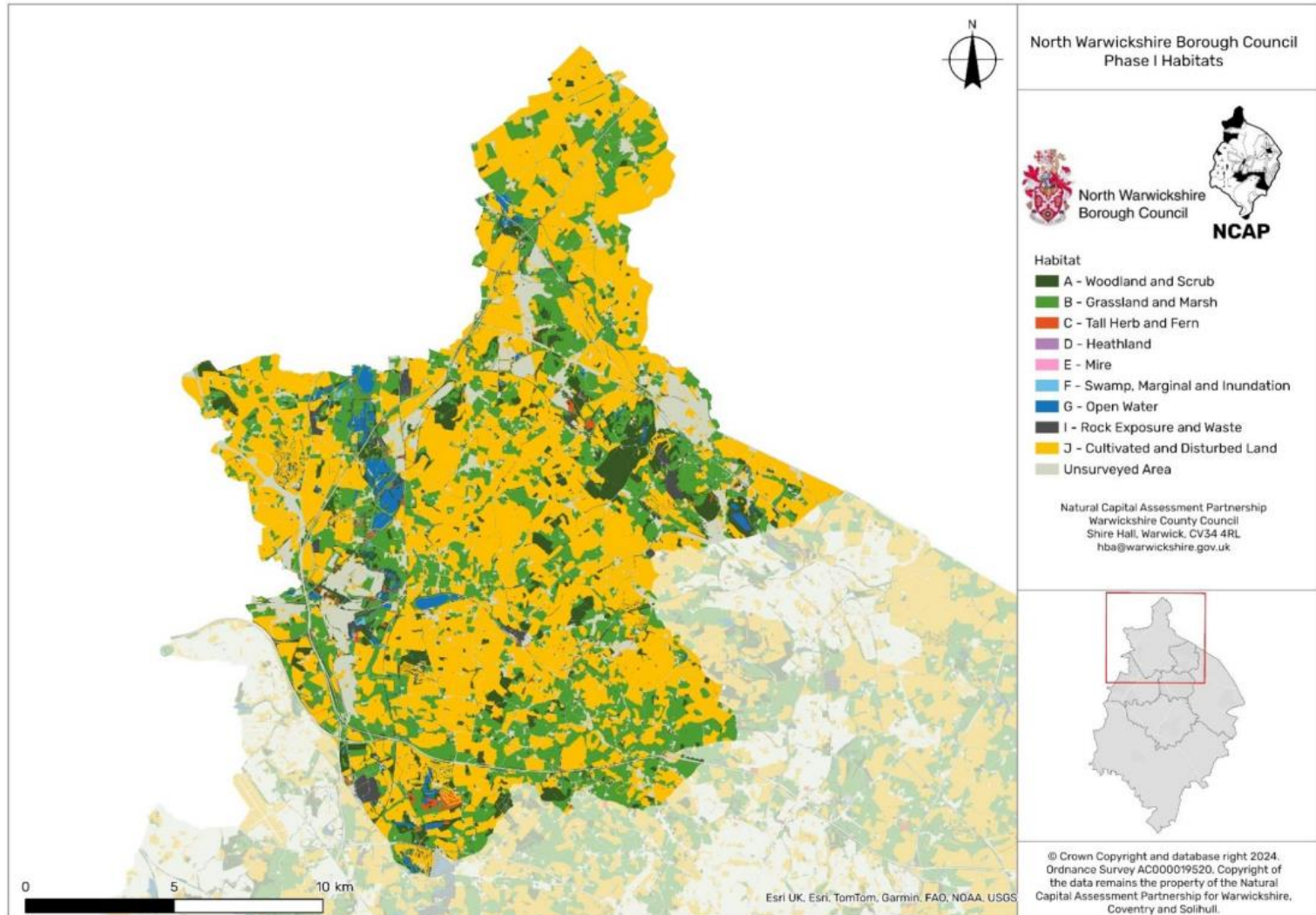


Figure 2. Map of Phase 1 habitats across North Warwickshire Borough



4. North Warwickshire's protected sites

North Warwickshire has **18 sites with statutory protection**^{17,18}:

- **5 Local Nature Reserves**¹⁸
- **13 Sites of Special Scientific Interest**¹⁷

These statutorily protected sites account for approximately **1%** of North Warwickshire's land area (**423 hectares**)^{5,17,18}.

North Warwickshire has **118 Local Wildlife Sites** (including those with boundaries across multiple authorities), or **1207 hectares** of land in Local Wildlife Sites (4% of the total area)². An additional 222 potential Local Wildlife Sites sit, at least partially, within North Warwickshire's boundaries².

Out of these 118 Local Wildlife Sites, **72** were known at the time of survey to be under **good or favourable management**². For the remaining sites, data are either missing or their condition would benefit from management changes.

5. Breakdown of Phase 1 habitats

Woodland

With 10% of North Warwickshire covered by woodland and scrub habitats (Table 1.), the borough is the most wooded local authority across the sub-region. Woodland and scrub habitats cover 8% of the sub-region^{1,3}.

Table 1. The area and proportion of Phase 1 woodland / scrub sub-habitats across North Warwickshire¹

Habitat	Total Area (Ha)	Proportion of North Warwickshire's woodland / scrub habitats (%)	Proportion of local authority area (%)
Woodland	2274.2	82.1	8.0
Scrub	357.3	12.9	1.3
Parkland	87.3	3.2	0.3
Felled Woodland	5.0	0.2	<0.1
Orchard* ¹	6.1	0.2	<0.1
Wet Woodland* ¹	38.6	1.4	0.1
Total	2768.5	100.0	9.7

*¹ Not officially Phase 1 codes as defined under JNCC Phase 1 guidelines⁴ but, included under Woodland and Scrub habitat classification by NCAP.

As can be seen from table 1, woodland alone accounts for 8% of North Warwickshire's total land area and 82% of the broad Phase 1 'woodland & scrub' habitats¹. Breaking down the statistics further shows that the majority of woodland across the borough is broadleaved (73%). Only 10% of



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woodlands across North Warwickshire are coniferous and 17% are mixed woodland¹. There is also a greater extent of semi-natural woodland (54%) than plantation (46%)¹.

North Warwickshire holds a substantial proportion (19%) of the sub-region’s remaining 200 hectares of wet woodland¹. 11% of the sub-region’s remaining 825 hectares of parkland are also found in the borough¹.

Grassland

Grassland and marsh cover 25% of North Warwickshire, compared to 29% of the sub-region as a whole^{1,3}. The majority of grassland across the borough is improved grassland (74% - Table 2)¹. Improved grasslands have been more intensively managed to increase agricultural performance, for example through the application of agrochemicals such as herbicides or fertilisers⁴. As a result, plant species diversity is poor and tends to include species with a high tolerance for over-grazing and high nutrient levels⁴.

Semi-natural grasslands account for the remaining 26% grasslands across North Warwickshire^{1,3}. However, 57% of these are in poor condition meaning that they cannot be allocated a semi-natural grassland category according to environmental conditions and characteristic plant communities (calcareous, acid, neutral or marshy grasslands). Instead, they are classed as ‘poor semi-improved grasslands’¹.

As noted in the summary section, 37% of the sub-region’s 77 hectares of acid grassland are found in North Warwickshire. 10% of the sub-region’s 6169 hectares of neutral grassland are also found in the borough¹.

The statistics in this summary section do not include amenity grassland which falls under the ‘cultivated and disturbed land’ Phase 1 broad habitat category⁴. Amenity grassland accounts for 3% of North Warwickshire’s local authority area, in addition to the grassland habitats outlined in Table 2¹.

Table 2. The area and proportion of different grassland sub-habitats across North Warwickshire¹

Grassland type	Area (Ha)	Proportion of North Warwickshire’s surveyed grassland habitats (%)	Proportion of local authority area (%)
Acid Grassland	28.4	0.4	0.1
Neutral Grassland	645.6	8.9	2.3
Calcareous Grassland	0.5	<0.1	<0.01
Improved Grassland	5363.4	74.0	18.9
Marsh/marshy Grassland	144.1	2.0	0.5
Poor semi-improved grassland	1067.2	14.7	3.8
Total	7249.1	100.0	25.5



Natural Capital Assessment Partnership
(Previously the Habitat Biodiversity Audit)

Essentially the habitat classification provides an estimate of tree canopy cover and so is not directly comparable to the Phase 1 woodland data.

Table 4. Area of broad habitats across North Warwickshire, the proportion of the local authority area they represent and their User’s Accuracies¹¹

Habitat	Area mapped (Ha)	Proportion of North Warwickshire’s area (%)	User’s Accuracy (%)
Woodland & Trees	5107.3	18.0	82
Urban	2320.7	8.2	97
Water	462.8	1.6	74

A key part of using a remotely-sensed classification map is to assess whether habitats on the ground have been mapped correctly. The User’s Accuracies in Table 4. show how well three habitats have been mapped. The statistics for the remaining habitat classification categories will be completed throughout 2024. For a particular pixel on the habitat classification map, User’s Accuracies outline the probability that the pixel has been allocated the correct habitat type as is found on the ground^{19,20}. The ‘woodland’ habitat, for example, has a User’s Accuracy of 82%. 82 out of every 100 pixels classified as woodland on the habitat classification map are woodland on the ground and therefore correctly classified. However, 18 out of every 100 pixels have been incorrectly classified as woodland when they are in fact other habitats on the ground.

7. Opportunities

Protecting the rarest habitat types, such as semi-natural grasslands and wetlands, should be a priority so that they’re not lost completely from the sub-region.

7 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) have been lost across North Warwickshire since the NCAP partnership started gathering data². Protecting the remaining LWS from development will go a long way to preventing the loss of some of the area’s most valuable sites for nature.

Management could be improved across LWS so that they are all considered as being under **good / favourable management**.

Surveying potential LWS (pLWS) and designating those meeting the threshold criteria as LWS could add up to **1745 additional hectares of wildlife habitat across the borough**².

It is not known how many pLWS have been lost across the local authority area but, many are also facing pressure from development. Once the accuracy assessment has been completed for the remotely sensed habitat classification map, a useful next step would be to use the data to determine which pLWS have already been lost.

Exploring opportunities for buffering and connecting remnant habitat patches and sites would be valuable. The Local Nature Recovery Strategies will identify key nature-recovery focal areas at a landscape level. Areas with large clusters of LWS / pLWS could be a starting point in this process.



Natural Capital Assessment Partnership
(Previously the Habitat Biodiversity Audit)

Waterbodies and Wetland

Some of the rarest habitats across the sub-region, wetlands are similarly rare across North Warwickshire (Table 3)^{1,3}. As described in the grassland summary section above, marshy grasslands also represent 0.5% of North Warwickshire’s land cover¹.

North Warwickshire is important at a sub-regional level for wetland habitats, being host to 28% of the sub-region’s 187 hectares of ‘swamp, marginal and inundation’ habitats and 10% of the sub-region’s 2 hectares of ‘mire’ habitat¹.

Mire habitats consist of communities of wetland plants including species such as *Sphagnum* mosses. They are frequently found above thick peat (over 0.5m thick) although flushes and springs can be found on thinner peat, if any at all⁴. Swamp, marginal and inundation habitats include those where the water table lies above the surface of the soil for most of the year. Plants such as *Glyceria* grasses and species in the *Typha* family (reedmaces) are often found growing in these habitats⁴.

Table 3. The area and proportion of ‘mire’ and ‘swamp, marginal & inundation’ habitats across North Warwickshire¹

Habitat Name	Broad Phase 1 habitat	Area (Ha)	Proportion of North Warwickshire’s surveyed wetland habitats (%)	Proportion North Warwickshire area (%)
Flush and Spring	Mire	0.2	0.4	<0.01
Swamp	SM&I	47.7	89.2	0.2
Marginal and Inundation	SM&I	5.5	10.3	<0.1
Total	Wetland	53.4	100.0	0.2

‘Standing water’, which under the Phase 1 habitat survey definition includes reservoirs, ponds, canals and lakes, accounts for 2% of North Warwickshire’s land area (534 hectares)^{1,4}.

Post-industrial Sites

40% of the sub-region’s 590 hectares of ‘rock exposure & waste habitats’, which include quarries and spoil heaps, are found in North Warwickshire^{1,4}. While not all of these will be valuable to wildlife, many post-industrial sites can have substantial botanical value and should be surveyed prior to development for example.

6. Satellite-derived habitat data

Table 4. outlines the areas of different habitats found across North Warwickshire as calculated from the Spottitt remotely-sensed habitat classification map¹¹. It also demonstrates the proportion of the borough’s area covered by each habitat type. 8% of North Warwickshire’s area is covered by the ‘urban’ land cover types which include artificial surfaces such as roads and buildings¹¹.

The Spottitt habitat classification map¹¹ shows 18% North Warwickshire as being covered by woodland and trees. This proportion cover is higher than that shown by the Phase 1 habitat data¹, linked to the fact that both woodland and trees outside woodland are included in the same category.

North Warwickshire Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2023 – 2024



Natural Capital Assessment Partnership
(Previously the Habitat Biodiversity Audit)

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Appendix F

Relevant to various policies

Building Regulations Statutory Guidance

Approved Document	Topic	Date
A	Structure	1 Sept 2013
B	Fire safety	14 January 2025
C	Site preparation and resistance to contaminants and moisture	3 Sept 2013
D	Toxic substances	2 Dec 2010
E	Resistance to sound	4 Mar 2015
F	Ventilation	15 June 2022
G	Sanitation, hot water safety and water efficiency	1 October 2024
H	Drainage and waste disposal	4 Dec 2010
J	Combustion appliances and fuel storage systems	30 September 2022
K	Protection from falling, collision and impact	3 Jan 2013
L	Conservation of fuel and power	2 February 2023
M	Access to and use of buildings	1 October 2024
O	Overheating	15 June 2022
P	Electrical safety	1 Jan 2013
Q	Security in dwellings	22 November 2024
R	High speed electronic communications networks	2 October 2022
S	Infrastructure for charging electric vehicles	17 April 2023
T	Toilet accommodation	1 October 2024
7	Material and workmanship	29 Nov 2018

Agenda Item No 7

Local Development Framework Sub Committee

26 February 2025

Report of the Chief Executive

Update on Forward Planning Work

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report updates Members on the work which is underway and the future work of the Forward Planning team, including starting a review of the Local Plan.

Recommendation to the sub-committee:

- A The report be supported; and**
- b The work of the Forward Planning Team be incorporated into the updated Local Development Scheme, which is subject to a later report on the agenda for this meeting.**

2 Consultation

- 2.1 Consultation has taken place with the relevant Members and any comments received will be reported at the meeting.

3 Background

- 3.1 The local plan is the 2021 adopted North Warwickshire Local Plan. Following its adoption, it was decided an early review would be carried to the employment policies. A Scope, Issues and Options (Regulation 18) was carried out between 15 February and 9 May 2024 along with a call for sites. The consultation responses were reported to the sub-committee meeting on 24 July 2024.
- 3.2 The current Local Plan must be reviewed within 5 years of its adoption. This is therefore by 29th September 2026.

4 Employment Development Plan

- 4.1 The Forward Planning Team have been working on an Employment Development Plan Document (Employment Plan). It was expected that this would be at a stage where a draft version of the Plan could be discussed with members. However, an update of the NPPF was published in December as explained in a separate report on this agenda and this has meant that officers have looked again at the work programme to determine if this is the most appropriate way forward.

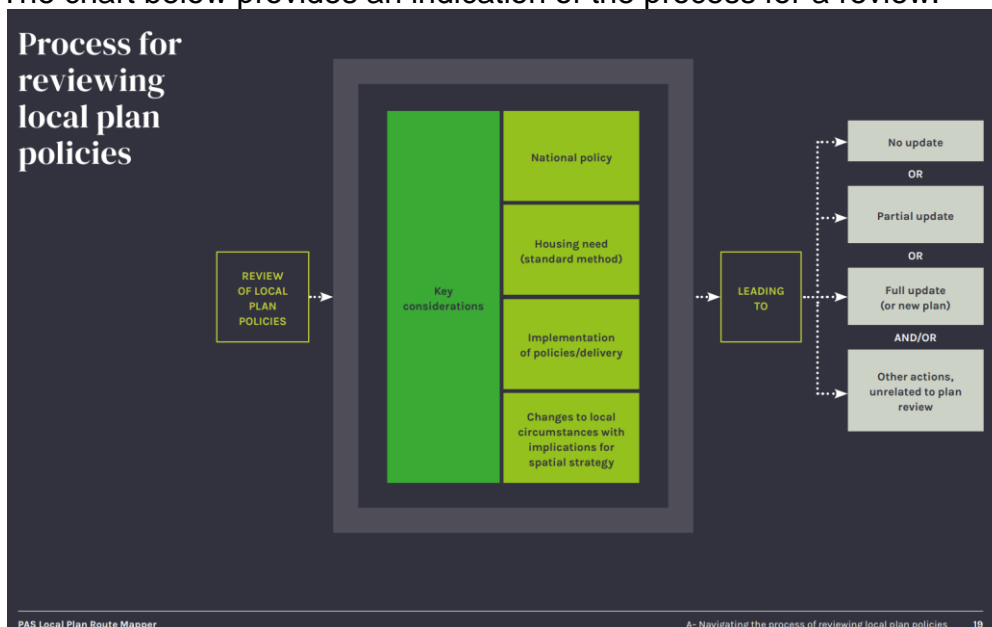
- 4.2 In the current work programme it was expected there would be a further Regulation 18 consultation with a Draft Employment Plan with allocations and policies by March 2025. This is not yet ready and some of the evidence which will underpin the document is still being progressed.
- 4.3 It has been the Council’s “normal” convention that there is an Issues and Options document, a Draft Plan with policies and then a submission version of the Plan. This has meant that the local community has had at least two chances to comment on draft policies before the submission version is available for further representations. However, legislation only requires a Regulation 18 (this can be issues and options or a draft plan) and then a Regulation 19 (submission version of the Local Plan).
- 4.4 It is recommended the Employment Plan should be progressed and move straight to a Regulation 19 version of the Plan. The Employment Plan could at any stage be incorporated into a revised Local Plan if timescales or work streams come together.

5 Local Plan

5.1 As Members will recall a report was brought to this Sub-committee in July 2023 called “North Warwickshire Local Plan – process for review”. It was decided that work would be focussed on an Employment DPD whilst waiting for further guidance on the new plan making process. Although these are still awaited time is marching on towards a point where the Local Plan will be more than 5 years old in September 2026. As a result of the changes to the NPPF, especially in relation to housing, it is recommended that the review process formally begins.

6 Review of Local Plan

6.1 The chart below provides an indication of the process for a review.



Source: PAS (Planning Advice Service) Local Plan Route Mapper 2021.

6.2 The first part of the review process is to assess if the current Local Plan policies comply with the NPPF 2024. It is proposed to carry out an assessment for the Local Plan providing a table with information on each policy and assessing its compliance with the NPPF 2024 (incorporating minor update in Feb 2025). A summary is provided in Table 1 below of this assessment. It is important to note that even where a policy needs updating it may not mean that the whole of the policy is out of date.

Table 1: Table of assessment of the NWLP 2021 policies

NWLP 2021 policies	Compliance with NPPF 2024	Changes required
	Not compliant with updated national policy.	Changes are required
	Broadly compliant with national policy but local circumstances have changed.	Modifications required
	Broadly compliant with national and local policy but would benefit from updating due to revised evidence base or need to revise the evidence base.	Would benefit from minor alterations
	No change to policy wording but may involve a change to the Policies Map	No policy wording change but a change to Policies Map
	No changes required.	No changes currently required

6.3 It is proposed to report the above assessment to Members as soon as possible, along with information on any gaps in the evidence base and any impacts on budgets.

7 Call for Sites

7.1 A call for sites was carried out in 2024. We have accepted sites throughout 2024. It is proposed to close the list as of 31st March 2025 so the evidence base can use the information on known sites. Any additional sites following this closure will require to be assessed separately and, if they are to be included in any future making process, they will need to be accompanied with all the relevant information/assessments.

8 Report Implications

8.1 Finance and Value for Money Implications

8.1.1 The costs of the plan making process come through the LDF Budget (code 2009). If Members approve the principle of reviewing the Local Plan the impact on the budget will need to be assessed once it is clear what needs to be reviewed or updated. A further report will be brought to the sub-committee once this is known.

8.2 Legal, Data Protection and Human Rights Implications

8.2.1 It is a requirement that a Local Plan is review within 5 years of its adoption. The Local Plan was adopted on 29th September 2021 so runs to 29th September 2026. By starting the review at this time this will be within the 5-year period.

8.3 Environment, Sustainability and Health Implications

8.3.1 A Sustainability Appraisal will accompany the Local Plan review.

8.4 Human Resources Implications

8.4.1 Producing Local Plans/Development Plan Documents is staff resource hungry in terms of evidence gathering, writing policies and carrying out consultations as well as keep on top of other work. It will be important to monitor the impact on staff which may lead, if required, to a change in the timetable.

8.5 Risk Management Implications

8.5.1 There is a legal requirement as well as a need to keep planning policies as up to date as possible as this should help to avoid unnecessary appeals. It is envisaged by progressing both the Employment DPD and starting the review of the Local Plan this will help to reduce the risk of a policy vacuum or policies becoming out of date.

8.6 Equalities Implications

8.6.1 Equality Impact Needs Assessment will be carried out to accompany any development plan documents.

8.7 Links to Council's Priorities

8.7.1 Plan making through the Employment DPD and, especially, the Local Plan are linked to all of the Council's priorities.

The Contact Officer for this report is Dorothy Barratt (01827 719250).

Background Papers

Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D, as substituted by the Local Government Act, 2000 Section 97

Background Paper No	Author	Nature of Background Paper	Date

Agenda Item No 8

Local Development Framework Sub-Committee

26 February 2025

Report of the Chief Executive

Local Development Scheme (LDS) February 2025

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report brings to Members a revised up to date Local Development Scheme (LDS).

Recommendation to Executive Board

That the Local Development Scheme is approved.

2 Consultation

- 2.1 Consultation has taken place with the relevant Members and any comments received will be reported at the meeting.

3 Local Development Scheme

- 3.1 This report brings to Members an update of the Local Development Scheme (LDS) to reflect the work that is to be carried out and to ensure that the legal process for the production of the documents is adhered to. It can be altered/updated at any time. The revised document is attached as **Appendix A**.

- 3.2 The LDS seeks to produce an Employment Development Plan Document and start the review of the Local Plan as well as, prepare a number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).

4 Report Implications

4.1 Finance and Value for Money Implications

- 4.1.1 The costs of the programme of work are funded through the Local Development Framework budget.

4.2 Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 4.2.1 It is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 that a Local Development Scheme is prepared and maintained, outlining the work

programme to produce the various Local Development Documents required under that Act and other legislation. The Scheme must also specify the geographical area to which each such document relates, set out those documents which will be prepared jointly with others and give a timetable for preparation of the documents concerned. The revisions to the scheme which are Appended to the report ensure that the Council continues to discharge this responsibility.

4.3 **Environment, Climate Change & Health Implications**

4.3.1 Sustainability appraisals are required to accompany all Local Development Plan Documents identified by this Local Development Scheme. The planning policy work takes into account evidence of housing needs, landscaping appraisal, habitat biodiversity audit, climate change and other assessments to inform future development frameworks. All the various assessments help inform a sustainability appraisal.

4.4 **Equality Implications**

4.4.1 An equality impact assessment was carried out on the Local Plan which sets out the overarching spatial vision for the Borough over the next 15 years. This will be updated as part of the review process.

4.5 **Links to Council's Priorities**

4.5.1 The delivery of the Local Development Framework is linked to all the Council priorities.

The Contact Officer for this report is Dorothy Barratt (719250).

Background Papers

Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D, as substituted by the Local Government Act, 2000 Section 97

Background Paper No	Author	Nature of Background Paper	Date

***Draft
Local Development
Scheme
for
North Warwickshire***

February 2025



**North Warwickshire
Borough Council**

- 1 North Warwickshire Borough Council is required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS). An LDS sets out a timetable for the production of new or revised Development Plan Documents (such as a Local Plan) over a three-year period to 2028. It is regularly reviewed to keep it up to date. This LDS version supersedes previous versions.
- 2 The Development Plan Documents for North Warwickshire are:
 - North Warwickshire Local Plan 2021
 - Warwickshire Waste Core Strategy (adopted July 2013)
 - Warwickshire Minerals Local Plan
 - Arley Neighbourhood Plan (Adopted December 2016)
 - Austrey Neighbourhood Plan (Adopted June 2017)
 - Coleshill Neighbourhood Plan (Adopted June 2017)
 - Dordon Neighbourhood Plan (Adopted December 2023)
 - Fillongley Neighbourhood Plan (Adopted August 2019)
 - Hartshill Neighbourhood Plan (Adopted March 2017)
 - Mancetter Neighbourhood Plan (Adopted September 2017)
 - Nether Whitacre Neighbourhood Plan (Adopted January 2024)
 - Water Orton Neighbourhood Plan (Adopted June 2022)

Polesworth Neighbourhood Plan has reached the Referendum stage (to take place in March 2025) so will carry weight in a planning decision if there is a positive outcome in the referendum.
- 3 The Statement of Community Involvement was originally adopted in April 2007 and has been updated on several occasions. The document was last reviewed in 2024 and adopted in July 2024.
- 4 A further 3 Neighbourhood Plan Areas have been formally designated. These are:
 - Atherstone covering Atherstone Parish and a small part of Grendon Parish
 - Corley Parish
 - Curdworth Parish
- 5 This LDS confirms the latest work programme of the Borough Council. A timeline for production is attached as Appendix A.
- 6 The work programme will be reassessed as further changes to the NPPF, legislation and guidance are published by Government.
- 7 The Borough Council adopted the Local Plan in September 2021. The evidence underpinning the Local Plan will be reviewed to assess against the new NPPF and a review of the relevant policies will be undertaken.
- 8 The needs of the Gypsy & Traveller community were incorporated into the 2021 Local Plan and will be included in the review of the Local Plan.
- 9 The Borough Council has started to prepare an Employment Development Plan Document. A consultation took place in 2024 with a draft document expected Spring 2025.

- 10 The Minerals and Waste Documents are the responsibility of Warwickshire County Council. The County Council adopted the Minerals Plan in July 2022. Further information can be found on the County Council's website: www.warwickshire.gov.uk.
- 11 A number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) will also be prepared to assist with the interpretation of policy. These are also outlined in Appendix A.

Appendix A

Development Plan Document

Document Title	Subject matter and geographical area	Chain of Conformity	Consultation	Publication of Submission Draft DPD & Public Consultation	Submission and Examination of DPD	Adoption and Publication of DPD	Policies it will replace
Employment DPD	It will look to allocate sites if necessary	Local Plan and NPPF	Early 2024	Autumn 2024	Late 2024/early 2025	2026	Some of the employment policies from the adopted Local Plan.
Local Plan Review	An assessment will be made as to the policies which are out of date or require some change	NPPF	Spring 2025 for Reg 18 – Issues and Options	Late 2025	Spring 2026	Late 2026	The review of policies will make this clear.

Supplementary Planning Documents

Document Title	Geographical area	Chain of Conformity	Consultation	Adoption of SPD
Affordable Housing SPD	Whole Borough	Local Plan	Spring 2025	Winter 2025
Developer Contributions	Whole Borough	Local Plan	Spring 2025	Winter 2025
Design SPD	Whole Borough	Local Plan	Summer 2026	Winter 2026
Site H4 SPD (Land East of Polesworth and Dordon	Local Plan	Winter 2025	Summer 2026
Site H2 SPD (Land to north-west of Atherstone	Local Plan	Winter 2025	Summer 2026
Shop Fronts SPD	Whole Borough	Local Plan	Winter 2025	Summer 2026
Lighting	Whole Borough	Local Plan	Winter 2025	Summer 2026

Further Information Sources

Below are links to websites which will assist should you require further information:

- The Council's website:
[Local Plan \(Adopted 2021\) | Local Plan for North Warwickshire | North Warwickshire Borough Council](#)
- National Planning Policy Framework
www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2
- Planning Practice Guidance
www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance
- The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004:
www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/contents
- The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012:
[/www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/contents/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/contents/made)
- Neighbourhood Plan Act
www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/20/contents/enacted
- Planning Advisory Service:
www.local.gov.uk/pas
- Planning Portal:
www.planningportal.co.uk/

Further assistance:

If you require any further information, please contact the Forward Planning Team:

Email: planningpolicy@northwarks.gov.uk;
Write to: Forward Planning Team, The Council House,
South Street, Atherstone, CV9 1DE
Ring: 01827 719499 / 719451 / 719250

Agenda Item No 9

Local Development Framework Sub-Committee

26 February 2025

Report of the Chief Executive

Coventry City Council Local Plan Reg 19 Plan Consultation

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report informs Members of the consultation on Coventry City Council's Submission Local Plan.

Recommendation to Sub-Committee:

- a That Members note and agree the observations raised on the Regulation 19 Consultation 2025 and;**
- b That these comments and any additional comments Members may raise following consideration at this Sub-Committee be forwarded to Coventry City Council.**

2 Consultation

- 2.1 Consultation has taken place with the relevant Members and any comments received will be reported at the meeting.
- 2.2 Members previously saw the Coventry Local Plan Review Issues and Options Regulation 18 Consultation which was reported to the Sub-committee on 11 September 2023.

3 Background

- 3.1 Coventry City Council adopted its Local Plan and accompanying Area Action Plan for the City Centre in December 2017 addressing the development needed up until 2031. Current planning legislation requires that the policies of the adopted Local Plan should be reviewed every five years to see if they are up to date or whether they need changing or even rewriting to reflect changes to national policy or other matters. The Local Plan review will be looking forward to 2041 in terms of addressing future needs.
- 3.2 Coventry City Council are currently consulting on the Regulation 19 Local Plan Document from Monday 20 January 2025 to Monday 3 March 2025. In terms of comments and responses from the Borough Council these will be focused on the Local Plan review rather than the associated Area Action Plan (Chapter 14 of the Document).

3.3 This is a formal, statutory stage in the preparation of the Local Plan and comments can only be made on the following grounds

- **Legal compliance:** Does the Local Plan comply with the legal and procedural requirements for its preparation?
- **Soundness:** Is the Local Plan sound? Has it been positively prepared, justified, effective and aligned with national policy? Does it meet the following four tests? It must be:
- **Positively prepared** – the Plan has attempted to meet all of Coventry’s housing and employment land needs and discussions have taken place with neighbouring councils to help meet any shortfalls.
- **Justified** – the Plan sets out a development strategy that has been informed by up-to-date evidence and consideration has been given to alternative strategies.
- **Effective** – the Plan is deliverable, and efforts have been made to address any issues impacting on the broader region. Consistent with national policy.
- **Duty to Cooperate:** Has the plan complied with the Duty to Cooperate? Has the Council engaged and collaborated effectively with neighbouring authorities and other legally prescribed organisations in preparing the Local Plan?

4 The Local Plan

4.1 The Policy areas likely to have the most impact on North Warwickshire are Chapter 5 relating to Jobs and the Economy and Chapter 6 relating to the delivery of homes as well as the Duty to Co-operate. These are outlined below.

Chapter 5 (Jobs and Economy)

4.2 Coventry’s employment need for the period 2021 to 2041 is for 105 hectares of employment land (including qualitative replacements). The Local Plan seeks to deliver 60 hectares of employment land. They expect to be able to deliver the Strategic Employment need of 25 hectares. However, the City Council does not consider it to be possible to deliver all this additional development land within the city boundary. Coventry City therefore has a shortfall of 45 hectares of employment land.

Local Employment Need

4.3 Coventry City Council have identified that this shortfall of 45 hectares is for the Local Employment need. To meet this shortfall Coventry City Council is seeking neighbours to deliver this land and will continue to work proactively with neighbouring Councils through the Duty to Cooperate to ensure that appropriate provision is made elsewhere within the Functional Economic Market Area.

Chapter 6 (Delivering Coventry's Housing Needs)

- 4.4 A minimum of 29,100 additional dwellings have been planned for and will be provided between 2021 and 2041. Coventry City Council can fully deliver this need within their area, using an urban and brownfield-focused strategy of site allocations and densification. The Duty to Co-operate (Policy DS2) states where sites cross or are adjacent to administrative boundaries and are not subject to joint development plan documents, the Council will continue to work proactively and on an on-going basis with all relevant partners to enable the delivery of new development on these sites.
- 4.5 Through Policy H7 Coventry City Council will provide for at least 6 permanent Gypsy and Traveller Pitches.

Duty to Co-operate

- 4.6 Work on the Duty to Co-operate is still ongoing. A Statement of Common Ground / Memorandum of Understanding is being drafted and will be shared with Members once available. There has been no agreement how the employment shortfall will be addressed. Work is continuing with partners under the Duty to Co-operate to work collaboratively and constructively to address strategic need as, being a constrained area, no further opportunities are available in Coventry.

Green Belt

- 4.5 There are no proposals for release of any land from the Green Belt within the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan.

Other sections

- 4.6 The remaining sections of the plan deal primarily with updating and improving the adopted Coventry City Local Plan Policies and this is not considered necessary to comment, as these do not directly impact on North Warwickshire Borough planning issues currently.

5 Observations

- 5.1 The Borough Council will continue to work with Coventry City Council through the Duty to Cooperate. Although none of the allocated Employment sites are in close proximity to the North Warwickshire border, delivery of the associated infrastructure to support these allocations is welcomed. It is, however, disappointing that there is a 45 hectares shortfall in employment land that is expected to be delivered elsewhere in Warwickshire. The Borough Council will seek further information to ensure that all possibilities have been exhausted within Coventry and the surrounding area, including consideration of releasing Green Belt.

- 5.2 Site H2.1 (Kerseley Sue) lies directly adjacent to the North Warwickshire Borough Boundary. Delivery of the associated infrastructure is very important to this site and the Borough Council welcomes the opportunity to work with Coventry City Council as per Policy DS2 as outlined in paragraph 4.3 above. The Borough Council also supports Coventry City Council in being able to meet their need for housing and, also, for the needs of the Gypsy & Traveller community.
- 5.3 The Borough Council generally supports the approach to ensure issues are widely discussed and addressed as per Policy DS2. When there is a suitable draft of the SoCG or MoU this will be shared with members.

6 In Summary

- 6.1 This Council is in general support of the Coventry Local Plan Regulation 19 Consultation subject to the comments made above and any comments that may be reported by Members. Meeting their housing needs within the City is welcomed but it is disappointing there is a 45 hectares shortfall in the provision of employment land. This element will need to be a formal objection at this stage of the Plan making process.

7 Report Implications

7.1 Environment and Sustainability Implications

- 7.1.1 The Coventry Local Plan Review Regulation 19 Consultation 2025 has a separate Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) included as part of the consultation process.

7.2 Risk Management Implications

- 7.2.1 The Duty to Co-operate policy will need continued monitoring in order to mitigate any future risk or pressures arising from employment capacity shortfalls within Coventry City area. No further specific risk management implications noted.

7.3 Legal Implications

- 7.3.1 Although the Planning and Levelling up Bill proposed abolition of the duty to co-operate under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, it remains in force in relation to preparation of local plan documents. The Borough Council supports Coventry City's intention to maintain current approaches and jointly work with other authorities and persons via effective and appropriate means (as must this Council) in the preparation of such documents

The Contact Officer for this report issue Sue Wilson (01827 719499).

Background Papers

Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D, as substituted by the Local Government Act,
2000 Section 97

Background Paper No	Author	Nature of Background Paper	Date

Agenda Item No 10

Local Development Framework Sub Committee

26 February 2025

Report of the Chief Executive

The South Warwickshire Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation (2025)

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report informs Members of the consultation on The South Warwickshire Local Plan, Preferred Options (2025) which is the third stage (Regulation 18) in the process for preparing the new South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP). The Preferred Options Consultation and accompanying targeted Call for Sites will run from **10 January to 7 March 2025**. The Board report includes comments on the preferred options consultation and seeks any further comments by Members.

Recommendation to Board

- a That Members note The South Warwickshire Local Plan, Preferred Options (Regulation 18) Consultation (2025); and**
- b To support the suggested responses in Appendix 1 to this report and to raise any further comments regarding the Issues and Options identified to be included in the formal response to the consultation.**

2 Consultation

- 2.1 Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council are working together to prepare a new Local Plan for South Warwickshire. The Plan is expected to replace the strategic policies of the existing Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy which runs until 2031 and Warwick Local Plan until 2029. Members will be aware of the previous LDF Report of the 20 February 2023, which addressed comments on The Issues and Options consultation stage. This current Regulation 18 consultation sets out the "Preferred Options" identified by both Councils following the earlier consultations and runs from Friday 10th January to Friday 7th March 2025.
- 2.2 In preparing the South Warwickshire Local Plan it is envisaged that the plan will be broken down into separate parts. Part 1 of the Plan will provide a policy framework for the delivery of sustainable development across the South

Warwickshire area up to 2050. This Part 1 sets out the Spatial Strategy and strategic policies for the area to deliver sustainable development, determining the main locations for growth and includes strategic allocations for retail, leisure and other commercial and employment uses alongside the infrastructure needs to support the development. Part 2 of the plan will contain the remaining detailed policies or policies that are specific to a local areas.

- 2.3 A targeted 'Call for Sites' also runs alongside the Preferred Options consultation. This is targeted to sites which are:
- within or adjacent to one of the 12 potential new settlement locations
 - for Gypsies and Travellers/Travelling Show people
 - for commercial or community-led renewable energy generation.
- 2.4 Although North Warwickshire does not immediately border either Warwick District or Stratford on Avon District the Borough Council have previously supported the two authorities, in relation to the legal Duty to Co-operate requirements, as part of the Coventry and Warwickshire sub-region involved in undertaking joint planning and evidence base work. Members may recall the Borough's response to the Issues and consultation, which was considered at Executive Board on the 20 February 2023, where the Borough Council raised concerns in respect of the need to address the need/demand for strategic employment sites, including potential logistics and reflect emerging information from the West Midlands Strategic Employment Sites Study (WMSESS), under preparation at the time of the 2023 consultation.
- 2.5 The feedback from the 2023 Issues and options consultation has been used to inform the content of this consultation. This third stage consultation seeks views on the Preferred Options proposed as possible solutions to plan for the future of South Warwickshire to 2050.
- 2.6 A copy of the "Emerging Spatial Growth Strategy Options" Figure 6 Diagram and Figure 9: Transport Context is attached for information as **Appendix 1**, but for a clearer view, the Preferred options sites and options are available to view on the South Warwickshire Local plan interactive map page at: <https://soadc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5a3b9976bd7749a3bff44b2a1016ffc4>. Please note that access to this interactive map and the comments page for submissions to the SWLP consultation will only be open till the 7th March 2025 and may not be accessible/available after that date.
- 2.7 The main chapters relevant to the Borough, joint planning and the Duty to Cooperate are:
- Chapter 4 "Meeting South Warwickshire's Sustainable Development Requirements". This outlines the emerging Spatial Growth Strategy options and Priority Areas referred to above and indicated in Appendix 1. As a baseline and given the very recent update to the Government's standard method for establishing housing needs, the Preferred Options Spatial Growth Strategy accommodates the Coventry/Warwickshire HEDNA's (Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment) Census-based housing figures. However the 'draft Policy Direction 1' in

the Preferred options acknowledges the latest local housing need figures for both authorities and incorporates sufficient flexibility to accommodate the higher figures introduced in the new Standard Method.

- Chapters 5 and 6 . set out the detailed policy options for delivering the area's economic and housing needs including Gypsy and Travellers, followed by chapters 7-11 which set out the remaining policy options under 5 overarching principles set out in the ' Vision and Strategic Objectives' set out in Chapter 3. These latter have previously been noted in the earlier Issues and options consultation. No further comment is considered necessary.

Strategic Housing Options

- 2.8 The Preferred Options Local Plan consultation seeks views on 36 emerging housing and employment growth location options – 12 potential new settlements and 24 strategic growth location options – across South Warwickshire that are considered to be suitable growth locations. It should be noted that these 12 potential new settlements and 24 locations include a mixture of Green Belt and non-Green Belt locations.
- 2.9 The Preferred options seek provision for the delivery of at least 1,679 dwellings per annum, in line with the HEDNA; with sufficient flexibility to accommodate up to 2,188 dwellings per annum, in line with the 2024 NPPF Standard Method. This equates to at least 41,975 dwellings over a 25-year plan period from 2025-2050, with sufficient flexibility to accommodate up to 54,700 dwellings. To help address the housing needs and requirements for the two authorities the Preferred Options include a proposal to identify “Potential New Settlements”, up to 12 in all identified as options. One or more new settlements from these options will be identified and considered for strategic site allocation in the most sustainable location(s) where they can be developed to a suitable minimum size to provide the required infrastructure for substantial internalisation of trips.
- 2.10 For needs arising outside the SWLP area, encompassing the Coventry and Warwickshire Housing Market Area as well as the Greater Birmingham and Black Country Housing Market Area, these are yet to be established including to what extent and for what uses (e.g. housing and/or employment).It is noted from the similar Consultation report at Sub-Committee, on the Coventry City Local Plan Review, that there appears to be a shortfall indicated in their employment needs that is not noted within the SWLP. This may be a result of the timeframes for the Preferred Options document content and its release predating the Coventry City Plan details.
- 2.11 Nevertheless, the SWLP Draft Policy Direction 4 addresses this issue noting where evidence and the duty to co-operate process clearly indicates that there is a housing or employment need that cannot be met within the authority in which the need arises, and that part or all of the need could most appropriately be met within the South Warwickshire Local Plan, then reserve sites will be released for this purpose, or when the relevant authority's 5 year housing land

supply calculation falls below the thresholds set out in national planning policy guidance.

Strategic Employment Options

- 2.12 In terms of employment needs the earlier Issues and Options stage consultation set out the proposed employment land provision for South Warwickshire based on the findings of the Coventry & Warwickshire HEDNA 2022. However, with the publication of the WMSESS in September 2024 further work was required to align and clarify the relationship between both Studies, which was provided via the Coventry & Warwickshire HEDNA/WMSESS Alignment Paper 2024. The SWLP does not therefore propose using the HEDNA (2022) as the main basis for deciding employment needs, (except for office need) but through the subsequent South Warwickshire Employment Land Study (2024) which has been informed both by the HEDNA and the subsequent WMSESS/HEDNA Alignment Paper (2024) undertaken by the partnership of Coventry/Warwickshire local authorities impacted by the study.
- 2.13 The SWLP notes that the WMSESS identifies a residual need for 75-125 ha of strategic sites up to 2045, to include 1-2 mixed/B8 sites and 0-1 B2 sites within Road Opportunity Area (ROA) 8 along the M40/A46. It is proposed that the upper threshold of 125ha is used, as recommended within the WMSESS (2024). This strategic employment need (including B8 and B2 uses) is addressed in Draft Policy Direction 1 for both Authorities, focussing on the A46/M40 "Area 8" corridor identified in the WMSESS. Strategic sites in this context refer to large scale employment sites typically over 25ha and largely dedicated to units of over 9,300 sqm (100,000 sqft).

Gypsy and Travellers

- 2.14 There is an overall accommodation need identified in the South Warwickshire (Stratford-on-Avon District and Warwick District) local authority areas over the Plan period to 2050 (a 25-year period) of 89 pitches. There is also an identified need for 18 additional Travelling Showpeople plots and 35 permanent residential moorings for boat dwellers during the same period.
- 2.15 To address these needs the SWLP proposes that the authorities incorporate a policy (Draft Policy Direction-11) to require the provision of pitches and plots on large scale development sites (of over 500 homes), safeguard existing sites/pitches with a criterion-based policy for non-allocated (windfall) sites and address negotiated stopping places for transient and / or visiting Gypsy and Traveller encampments. The Draft Policy also seeks the local planning authorities to work with organisations, including local boat yards and the Canal and Rivers Trust to deliver the necessary additional capacity for the 35 residential boat moorings over the plan period.
- 2.16 The Plan also recommends that the local authorities consider the development of transit sites, and that as a minimum, they collectively develop two transit sites, each site to accommodate between 8 and 10 caravans. Ideally, with one site located in each of the two authority areas in conjunction with the

implementation of a negotiated stopping places policy. The plan considers that small scale sites will better integrate with localities and communities but is also considering the potential re- use of the Leamington Football Club site at Harbury Lane, Leamington Spa for Gypsy and Traveller site needs (subject to the future re-location of the Football Club and the availability of the current site).

3 Observations

- 3.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 places a legal duty on public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with each other to maximise the effectiveness of local plan preparation relating to strategic cross-boundary matters. Its aim is to encourage positive and continual partnership on planning matters that go beyond the boundaries of a single local planning authority's (LPA) administrative area.
- 3.2 The consultation seeks responses and views to a series of questions and options raised throughout the various Chapters within the local plan. These are provided online and not all questions are considered relevant to, or require a response from, the Borough Council. There is broad support and agreement around the various issues and options highlighted within the document. It is considered that the Borough Council responses should focus on the key strategic issues around housing and employment relating to the relevant and appropriate cross-boundary matters previously noted in the earlier 2021 and 2023 consultation particularly around strategic employment provision (or lack of).

Strategic Housing

- 3.3 In light of current housing pressures, the SWLP approach looking at 12 New settlement options and 24 strategic growth locations should be broadly supported, maximising potential housing delivery alongside achieving sufficient scale, sustainability and viability to enable infrastructure and service delivery to support the housing. Nevertheless, some concerns remain in relation to the delivery time such new settlements take to deliver. However the additional 24 strategic growth location options provided across South Warwickshire should address this concern/issue and should be supported. In relation to the implications for Green Belt it is noted that the Draft Policy 7 on the Green Belt requires a sequential approach to allocating strategic areas of growth and new settlements with evidence on the relative sustainability of each of these areas coming from the Stage 2 Green Belt review, regarding the contribution an area makes to Green Belt purposes, and the impact on the wider Green Belt if an area was to be released an approach the Borough should broadly support.

Gypsy and Travellers

- 3.4 This approach taken in the SWLP Preferred options is broadly similar to that provided in the Borough's adopted Local plan and is supported, although the Borough's experience in delivery of pitches and sites through the Call for Sites process is poor and suggest other avenues should also be considered including identification assessment of opportunities via assessment of available vacant

public owned land to help address the needs identified. The Borough also support the approach being taken towards transit sites and support the consideration for re- use of the Leamington Football Club site, .

Strategic Employment

- 3.5 The Borough Council welcome and support the approach being taken towards addressing the strategic employment needs of the SWLP, specifically those identified through the WMSESS and HEDNA/WMSESS Alignment Paper 2024. The changes and clarification over how the strategic employment need will be addressed by the SWLP also addresses the earlier concerns raised by the Borough Council to the consultation on the Issues and options Stage, considered by members in the 20th February 2023 LDF Sub-Committee Report
- 3.6 The only remaining area of concern is to seek the Preferred Options stage to note and take into account the shortfall in strategic employment needs arising from the Coventry City Plan review, where a shortfall of around 45 hectares has been identified.
- 3.9 Nevertheless, beyond this main issue of concern the Borough Council is generally supportive of the Joint Plan approach taken by the two District Councils and hope the noted above are considered helpful. Members views and comments on these responses are sought and any additional comments or amendments to the responses listed above will be added to the Borough Council's response to the joint South Warwickshire Preferred Options Local Plan consultation.

4 In Summary

- 4.1 This Council is in general support of:
1. the Joint Plan approach taken by the two District Councils;
 2. the strategic options identified in the South Warwickshire Local Plan, Preferred Options (2025) consultation are noted and generally supported particularly in relation to the provision of strategic employment sites; and,
 3. Note also in terms of Green Belt implications, the sequential approach being taken towards allocating strategic areas of growth and new settlements; and,
 4. Note and support the approach and options taken towards addressing Gypsy and Traveller needs and also 'bargees;' and boat dwellers;
 5. Note and supports the intention to deliver 75-125 ha of strategic sites up to 2045, to include 1-2 mixed/B8 sites and 0-1 B2 sites within Road Opportunity Area (ROA) 8 along the M40/A46, indicating that ROA 8 is the primary opportunity area within the SWLP.
 6. Note and support the continued wider cross-boundary work on the issues identified.

4.2 To note any further comments and observations Members may make on the issues and options raised in the South Warwickshire Local Plan, Issues and Options (2023) consultation.

5 Report Implications

5.1 Environment and Sustainability Implications

5.1.1 The South Warwickshire Local Plan, Preferred Options (2025) consultation has a separate sustainability appraisal, climate change, health and equalities impacts assessment and technical reports included as part of the consultation process.

5.2 Legal Implications

5.2.1 As indicated above, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 imposes a duty to consult in relation to certain strategic cross-boundary matters. As also indicated, whilst their areas do not border the Borough Council's area, Warwick and Stratford are consulting the Borough Council due to the wider potential sub-regional impact of their plans. Any responses from the Board will contribute to this Council's duty to respond to such consultation.

The Contact Officer for this report is Mike Dittman (719499).

Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D, as substituted by the Local Government Act, 2000 Section 97

Background Paper No	Author	Nature of Background Paper	Date

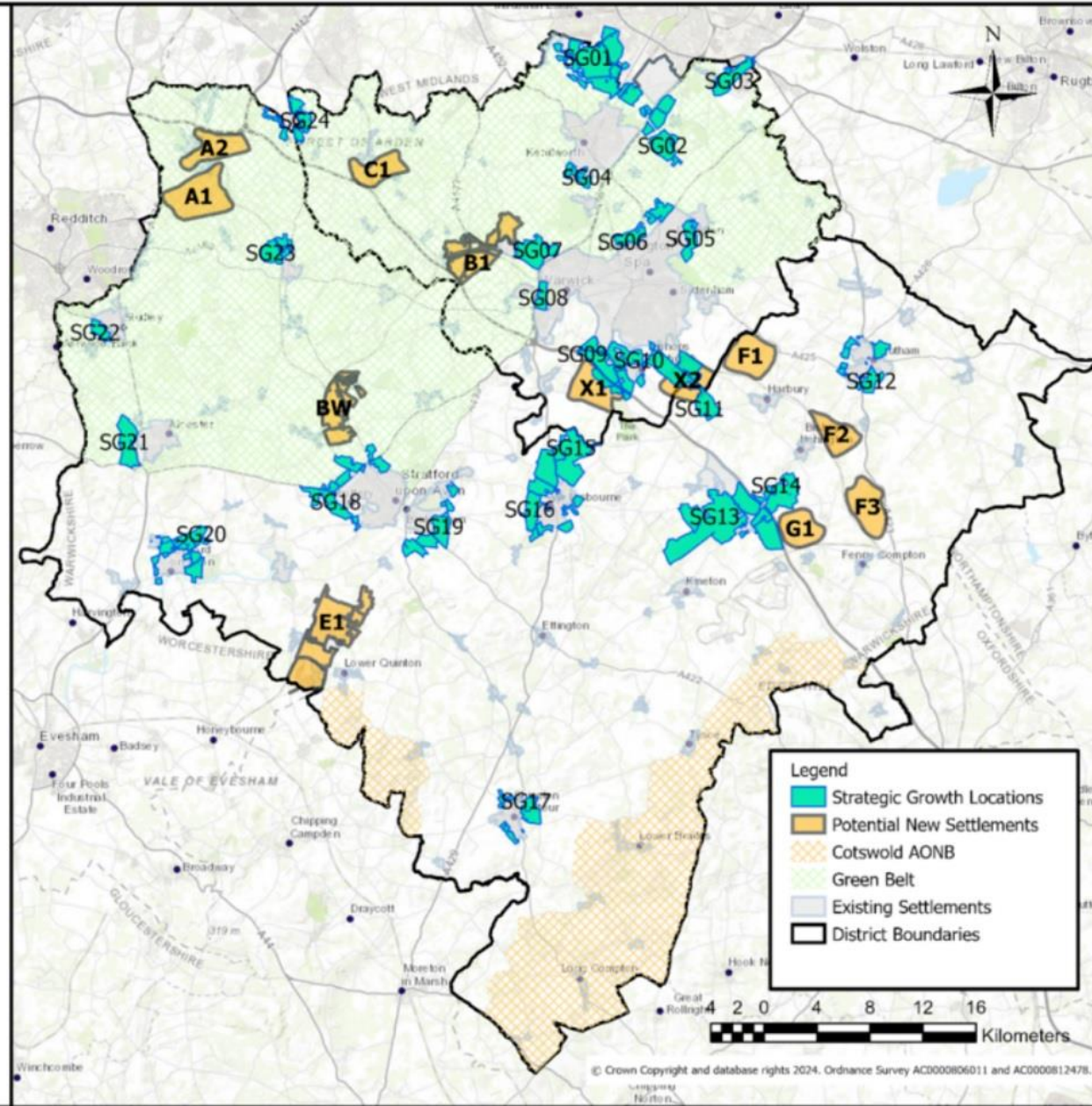
South Warwickshire Local Plan Emerging Spatial Growth Strategy Options

Strategic Growth Locations:

- SG01 - South of Coventry Group
- SG02 - Stoneleigh Park Employment Group
- SG03 - Coventry Airport Group
- SG04 - South of Kenilworth Group
- SG05 - East of Lillington Group
- SG06 - North of Leamington Group
- SG07 - Wedgnock Park Farm Employment Group
- SG08 - West of Warwick Group
- SG09 - South of Europa Way Group
- SG10 - Bishops Tachbrook Group
- SG11 - South East of Whitnash Group
- SG12 - Southam Group
- SG13 - Gaydon Lighthorne Heath Group
- SG14 - East of Gaydon Group
- SG15 - North of Wellesbourne Group
- SG16 - South of Wellesbourne Group
- SG17 - Shipston-on-Stour Group
- SG18 - West of Stratford-Upon-Avon Group
- SG19 - East of Stratford-Upon-Avon Group
- SG20 - Bidford-on-Avon Group
- SG21 - Alcester Group
- SG22 - West of Studley Group
- SG23 - North of Henley-in-Arden Group
- SG24 - Hockley Heath Group

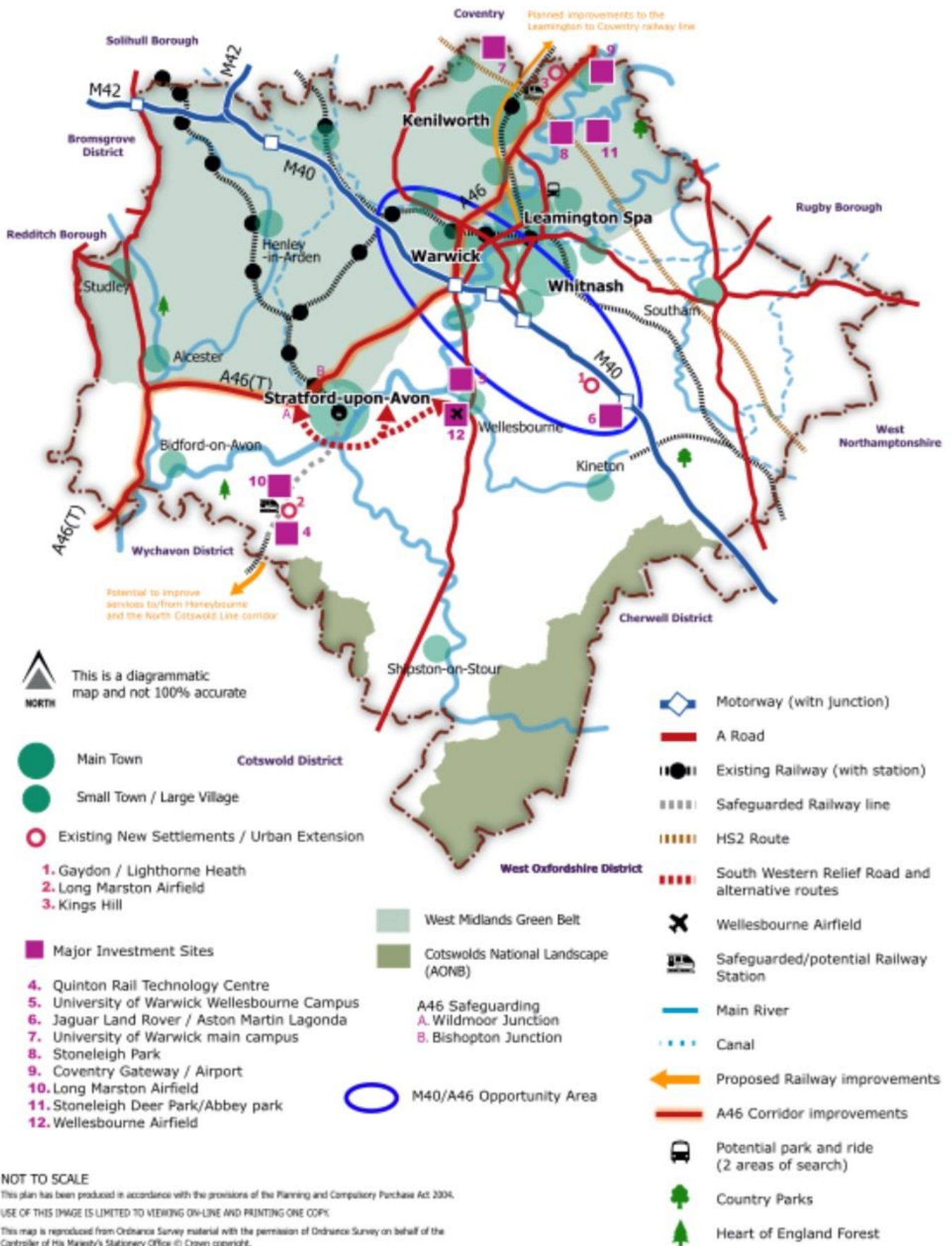
Potential New Settlements:

- A1 - Land south of Tanworth-in-Arden
- A2 - Land east of Wood End
- B1 - Land at Hatton
- C1 - Land south of Kingswood
- E1 - Long Marston Airfield
- F1 - Land to the west of Ufton
- F2 - Lands south of Deppers Bridge
- F3 - Land north-east of Knightcote
- G1 - Land west of Knightcote
- X1 - Land south of Leamington/north of Wellesbourne/east of Barford
- X2 - Land south of Leamington Spa/Whitnash and west of B4455 Fosse Way
- BW - Land at Bearley and Wilmcote



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Preferred Options: Transport Context



Agenda Item No 11

**Local Development Framework
Sub Committee**

26 February 2025

Report of the Chief Executive

**Warwickshire, Coventry and
Solihull's State of Habitats 2025**

1 Summary

- 1.1 The report on the state of habitats in Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull is brought to Members for information.

Recommendation to the Sub-committee:

That the report be noted

2 State of Habitats Report

- 2.1 The Borough Council has been a partner in the Habitat Biodiversity Audit since it inception for the last 25 years. This is now known as the Natural Capital Assessment Partnership and involves all of the local authorities from the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire area.

- ... 2.2 Attached as **Appendix A** is a document called "State of Habitats Report 2025" which provides statistics updating the last report written in 2013. It will be used to inform further conservation action for landscape-scale work and inform the future Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

3 North Warwickshire's Habitat Report

- ... 3.1 A summary report of the habitat in North Warwickshire is attached as **Appendix B**. This is based on the same information which was incorporated into the report in **Appendix A**. The report is based on 88% of the Borough having been surveyed. The remaining 12% is land such as urban features, which were typically not surveyed, or parcels of with no access.

- 3.2 Section 3 of the report provides a summary of the habitats in North Warwickshire. Section 7 looks to future opportunities to continue the work of the partnership. These include protecting and enhancing local wildlife sites and looking to assess 1745 potential wildlife sites.

The Contact Officer for this report is Dorothy Barratt (01827 719250).



Natural Capital
Assessment Partnership

Appendix A

Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull's State of Habitats 2025

Sarah Barnsley & Lorna Gwilliam

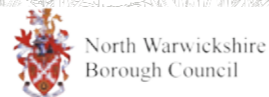
With contributions from
April Webb and Camille Newton.
Reviewed by Ian Jelley, Jo Hudson
and local authority colleagues.





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Foreword

Remnant heathland patches, pockets of ancient woodland, species-rich post-industrial sites... These are just a few examples of the rich diversity of habitats found across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull. Yet many of our precious sites and the wildlife they are home to are being squeezed. Development, intensive agriculture and climate change, either collectively or in isolation, all form threats to the region's remaining habitats and biodiversity.

Human communities also need places to live, access to green space and food to eat, making the balance of multiple pressures on available space a challenging task. A habitat baseline is essential for balancing these needs. It allows informed conservation decisions to be made, whether identifying the rarest habitats requiring protection,

or highlighting opportunities for connecting habitats at a small scale or at landscape-level. This State of Habitats 2025 report aims to provide this baseline.

The next few years will be integral for shaping the future of habitats across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull. Local Nature Recovery Strategies are being developed for the region that will identify focal areas for nature's recovery. The statistics underpinning this report and the data gathered through the Natural Capital Assessment Partnership over the last **25 years** can all feed into this process. They will be used to assess progress against other nationally and regionally embedded targets such as **'30% of land for nature by 2030'**^{1,2,3}.

By taking the right action for nature now and monitoring progress, we can hope to see a future where wildlife declines and habitat loss are reversed and nature is thriving across our region.





Habitat headlines

This State of Habitats report draws on data collated by the Natural Capital Assessment Partnership (formerly the Habitats Biodiversity Audit) over the last **25 years**^{4,5}.

The partnership is managed by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, hosted by Warwickshire County Council and is part-funded by these organisations and **7** other local authorities across the sub-region.

The statistics presented will provide a habitat baseline to update the last report written in **2013**⁶ and which was used to designate Living Landscape priority conservation areas such as the Dunsmore Living Landscape. The current report will also be used to inform appropriate and effective conservation action, by helping to drive regional priorities for landscape-scale work and inform the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. While survey methods have evolved over time, where feasible we provide a broad comparison of the current habitat data to the earlier report (page 28).

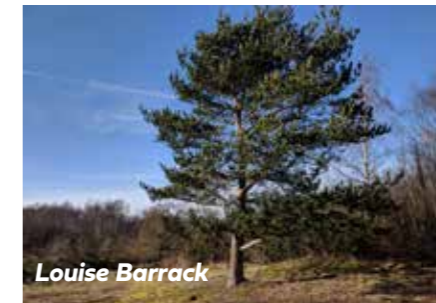


Warwickshire is home to a whole array of incredible habitats

From ancient woodland and wood pasture to species-rich post-industrial sites, Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull boast a huge diversity of habitats^{7,8,9}. This diversity spans from the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the south¹⁰ to the pockets of remaining acid grassland and heathland in the north, which were once much more extensive across the region^{8,9}.



Steven Cheshire



Louise Barrack



Semi-natural grasslands are rare across the region. They include calcareous grasslands, **95%** of which are found in Stratford-upon-Avon District, at sites such as Ufton Fields Site of Special Scientific Interest¹¹.

The region has several post-industrial sites, now home to rare and valuable plants. One example is **Claybrookes Marsh**, a Site of Special Scientific Interest on the edge of Coventry¹².

Rare and unique species are found in the region, such as **Dyer's Greenweed**, (*Genista tinctoria*) a Warwickshire scarce species, found in scrub and semi-natural grassland habitats^{13,14}.

02

Some of these are protected sites



Louise Barrack



River Arrow

Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull have **133 sites** with legal (statutory) protection^{15,16,17}.

1 Special Area of Conservation¹⁶

67 Sites of Special Scientific Interest¹⁵

65 Local Nature Reserves¹⁷

These legally protected sites cover approximately **1%** of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull (**2,101 hectares of land**).

Local Wildlife Sites are non-statutory designations that are provided some protection from development in local development plans¹⁸. Across the sub-region there are:

667 Local Wildlife Sites⁵.

These sites represent **7,858 hectares** of land or **3%** of the total area⁵. This is an increase of **3,080 hectares** since the previous State of Habitats report from **2013**⁶. Slightly more than half of these Local Wildlife Sites are known to be in good or favourable management⁵.

03

Warwickshire's habitat statistics

Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull collectively cover **225,450 hectares** of land¹⁹. Heathland and mire are the rarest habitats, each representing less than **0.01%** of the land area⁴.

At the other end of the scale, it's estimated that **64%** of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull is farmed⁴.

Just over **7%** of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull is covered by woodland and parkland habitats⁴. This compares to **10%** across England as a whole²⁰. Over half of woodland is plantation woodland (clearly planted rather than semi-natural²¹).

Approximately **2%** of the region, or **4,700 hectares**, is covered by ancient woodland & wood pasture²².

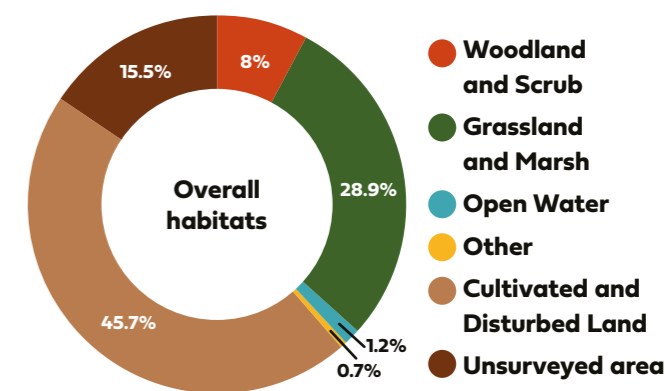
Outside woodlands, an estimated **10,733km** of hedgerow zig-zag across the region, providing valuable connectivity corridors for wildlife⁴.



Urban land cover types such as buildings and roads represent **9%** of the region's land area²³.

65,250 hectares of grassland are found across the sub-region (**29%** of total area). Of this, only **11%** is semi-natural grassland with distinct acid, calcareous (alkaline soils), neutral or marshy grassland plant communities^{4,21}.

The remaining **89%** are agriculturally improved or species-poor semi-improved grasslands. In this context, 'agriculturally improved' means grasslands managed to increase farming performance, for example through the application of fertilisers^{4,21}.



Wetland habitats are some of the rarest in the region, collectively accounting for less than **1%** of the total area.

Standing waterbodies, including canals, ponds, lakes and reservoirs, account for **1%** of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull.

1,260km of river wind their way across the region²⁴.

04

There are still challenges to achieving landscape-level conservation

65 Local Wildlife Sites have been lost since the NCAP partnership started gathering data⁵. We don't know how many potential Local Wildlife Sites have been lost. These are sites that are thought to be of Local Wildlife Site value but that haven't yet been fully surveyed. Many potential sites are also facing development pressure.

It's estimated that approximately **15%** of the region surveyed can be counted as 'wildlife-friendly' habitat⁴, so we still have a long way to go to achieve our strategy goal of **30% by 2030**^{1,2,3}.



05

Opportunities and recommendations

The rarest habitat types, including wetlands, semi-natural grasslands and heathland, should be protected so that they are not lost entirely.

Opportunities for connecting up and buffering key habitats and sites should be explored, particularly where there are large clusters of legally designated sites and Local Wildlife Sites. Regional Local Nature Recovery Strategies²⁵ could go a long way in refining this process.

All Local Wildlife Sites should be protected and management

could be improved in over a third of Local Wildlife Sites⁵.

A further **1,310 sites** are potential Local Wildlife Sites⁵. Surveying and designating these sites **could protect over 10,000 hectares** of additional wildlife habitat in development plans⁵.

There are big gaps in our knowledge of habitat condition, where data are missing or very outdated. These data gaps need to be filled rapidly to gain a true understanding of the action needed for nature across the region.



Welches Meadow, Leamington Spa



Introduction

Across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull, we are lucky to host an enormous diversity of different habitats. These range from ancient woodlands and flood meadows to reedbeds and remnant heathland patches. By increasing awareness of these habitats, protecting and enhancing them, we can support abundant wildlife for everyone to enjoy for years to come. Through our network of nature reserves, landscape-scale nature recovery projects, community engagement and habitat survey work, we are aiming for a world where nature is thriving.

As well as its intrinsic value, nature provides people with multiple benefits without which we could not survive. These range from providing food, medicine and raw materials, to regulating air quality, water quality and natural hazards such as flooding²⁶. In addition to tangible benefits, a healthy and vibrant natural world provides many more intangible benefits, whether that's improved health and wellbeing, spiritual connection, opportunities for learning and advancing knowledge, or simply enjoying the beauty of a landscape brimming with life^{26,27,28}.

A pivotal moment

Yet, we sit at a pivotal moment for nature. Pressures caused by human

activities are squeezing wildlife and ecosystems to the limit. At an international level, research suggests that greater than **1 out of every 8 plant and animal species** globally may be heading towards extinction²⁶. As outlined in the Living Planet Report 2022²⁹, the Biodiversity Intactness Index (BII)³⁰ provides an estimate for the percent of remaining natural biodiversity in a given area. The average BII globally is estimated at **77%**, well below the **90%** threshold which is thought to be needed for well-functioning and reliable ecosystems^{29,30}.

At a national level, the recent State of Nature 2023 report also sends a stark message: that human action over the last **50 years** has led to considerable declines in the UK's wildlife²⁷. Humbling headline figures from the report show the abundance of freshwater and terrestrial species has decreased, on average, by **19%** in that **50-year** timeframe²⁷. It's not just animal species that have seen worrying decreases, but flowering plants too²⁷. Over a **50-year period, 54%** of flowering plants have seen the area over which they are distributed decrease, compared to only **15%** that have seen an increase in their distributions²⁷. At a local level, **42%** of Warwickshire's **265 rarest plants** haven't been recorded since **2000**¹⁴.

This trend of species decline has a direct impact on wildlife itself, including iconic and well-loved species like the dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*)²⁷.



Wildlife declines also have knock-on effects in terms of ecosystem functioning and the benefits people get from nature^{31,32}. Decreases in pollinators for example, could potentially lead to reduced crop yields³³. It goes without saying, taking action for nature has never been more important. To do so, we need to understand the key drivers of wildlife decline.

Drivers of decline

A **2016 study**, summarised in the State of Nature 2023, found that the greatest contributor to the UK's declining wildlife over an approximately **40-year** period, was agricultural intensification^{27,34}. Individual 'sub-drivers' classified under the umbrella of agricultural intensification were broken down further. The three sub-drivers exerting the greatest negative influence on species population trends were found to be farming practices linked to production (such as the time of year in which crops were sown), a reduction in semi-natural habitat and intensive livestock grazing³⁴.

Climate change was found to be the second most important factor influencing population species trends³⁴. However, while climate change was shown to have a considerable negative impact on some species, it was also



shown to have a positive impact on a greater number of species³⁴. This is potentially because the northern range limits of many species are often found in the UK,^{34,35} although a bias toward studies focusing on species with high dispersal abilities may be influencing these statistics. As species move northwards, their range covers a greater extent of the UK^{34,35}. However, the ability for species to expand their ranges will also depend on other factors such as habitat availability³⁵. Protected sites can play an important role in providing habitat within a species' shifting range³⁶. This is evidenced by a **2013 study** which found that of six wetland bird species who have established breeding populations in the UK, all bred for the first time in Sites of Special Scientific Interest³⁶.

Landscape-scale thinking

Increasing the area of wildlife habitat through creation and restoration, as well as protecting and connecting up existing habitats, could go a long way in preventing further species declines, allow for the movement of species between areas and prevent the loss of ecosystem functioning^{29,35-38}. This requires landscape-level thinking and is the principle underpinning the 2011 Lawton review of 'more, bigger, better and joined-up' habitat³⁸. Larger

and better-connected sites are more likely to meet species' resource and habitat diversity requirements³⁸. Yet, the space available for natural habitat in England is limited³⁸. In this context, an ecological network of key sites of high habitat quality, connected by 'corridors' of habitat or small sites that provide a 'stepping-stone' function for wildlife, can also meet the needs of a wide range of species³⁸.

The need for a landscape-level approach has been recognised by UK Government through the target of protecting for nature, **30% of the UK's land by 2030**¹. This will be achieved through mechanisms including the development of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS)²⁵. In the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull sub-region, Warwickshire County Council and the West Midlands Combined Authority are leading on the development of LNRS. The **30 by 30 target** is similarly

captured in the Wildlife Trust's collective 2030 Strategy². The primary goal of the strategy is to see 'Nature in Recovery', with success including **30%** of the UK's land and seas under positive management for nature². A starting point is to understand what habitats we have already and where the gaps are. This way, we will have a better idea of where conservation action will be most effective.

This is where the State of Habitats report comes in. In this report, we use a combination of ongoing survey data that has been collated over the last **25 years**, as well as exciting new remotely sensed datasets, to assess the extent and position in the landscape of different habitats. Armed with this information, we can identify steps that need to be taken to ensure a future where wildlife have the resources they need to thrive and where humans have access to these wildlife-rich landscapes.



The Natural Capital Assessment Partnership and remit of the report

To plan conservation efforts strategically, we need to understand the extent and spatial location of different habitats using the best and most up-to-date data available. The last regional assessment as to the state of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull's habitats was completed over **ten years ago** in **2013**⁶. This report emerged from the need to establish the current habitat baseline. Moving forward, the statistics presented will feed into a new era of landscape-level conservation. They will help inform the most appropriate locations to target for habitat enhancement or creation so that wildlife can benefit from a well-connected and climate resilient landscape.

The statistics in this State of Habitats report have been produced by the Natural Capital Assessment Partnership. NCAP was **established in 1995** as the Habitat Biodiversity Audit. Managed by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT), NCAP is hosted by Warwickshire County Council (WCC). It is part-funded by WWT, WCC and **7** other local authority partners across the region.

These include Coventry City Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council. In the context of this report, the sub-region refers to Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull, although Coventry and Solihull do not fall within Warwickshire County.

Statistics were produced using a combination of long-term datasets managed by NCAP and which store habitats⁴ and Local Wildlife Site data⁵, as well as more recently acquired remotely-sensed data^{39,40-42,23}. The habitats and Local Wildlife Site datasets were also used to inform the earlier State of Habitats report in 2013⁶. Where we can, we look broadly at habitat change in the years since the previous report.





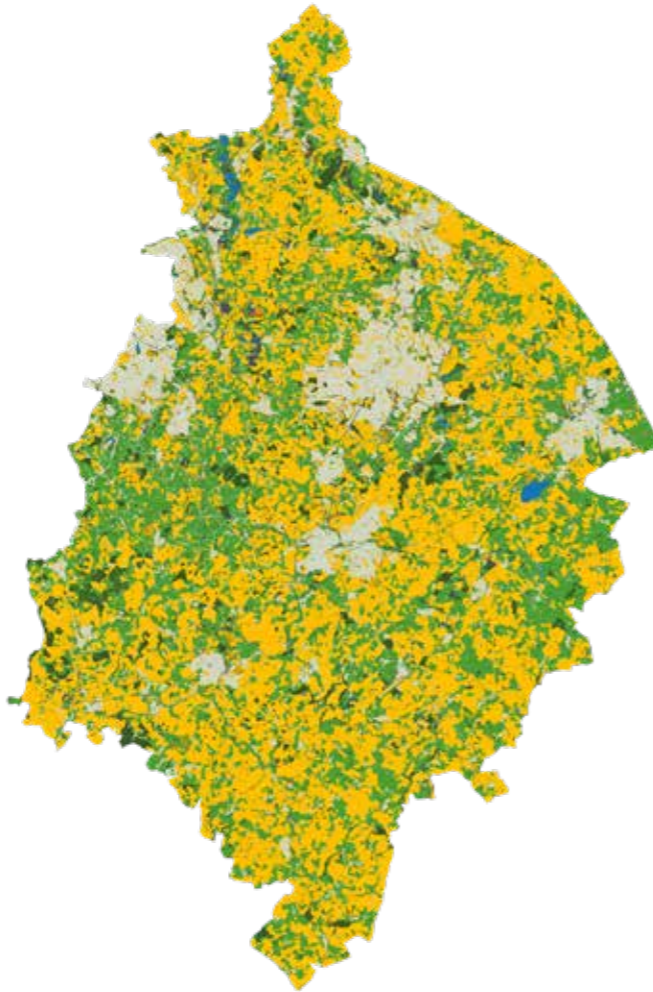
NCAP Data

NCAP habitats data

Over the last **25 plus years**, the NCAP partnership has established a habitat database for the whole of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull⁴. Data have been gathered on the ground by the NCAP team using a habitat survey method known as 'Phase 1', developed by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee²¹. Spatial data are also available, in the form of a habitats map (Figure 1). This map has been continuously adapted as habitats have been re-surveyed over time on a rolling basis.

Since the inception of NCAP, this dataset has underpinned strategic decision-making for all partners. Local authorities use the data when creating Local Plans and in planning decisions⁴³. Warwickshire Wildlife Trust has used the habitats data to identify key 'Living Landscapes' across the region⁴⁴. These include Dunsmore Living Landscape⁴⁵, with its complexes of woodland and meadow. They also include the River Sherbourne Living Landscape, with conservation work focusing on the river itself, its catchment and tributaries⁴⁶.

Figure 1. Broad habitat types across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull. Unsurveyed areas are predominantly urban features as urban land cover types are not represented extensively in the Phase 1 habitat survey.



- Phase I Habitat & Code
- A - Woodland and Scrub
 - B - Grassland and Marsh
 - C - Tall Herb and Fern
 - D - Heathland
 - E - Mire
 - F - Swamp, Marginal and Inundation
 - G - Open Water
 - I - Rock Exposure and Waste
 - J - Cultivated and Disturbed Land
 - Unsurveyed Area

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Local Wildlife Sites

A second key aspect of NCAP's work is the Local Wildlife Site (LWS) project. The LWS system affords a non-statutory designation to any highly valuable, wildlife-rich site that meets a minimum standard¹⁸. This is unlike statutorily designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) which are often selected as being representative of valuable features or wildlife⁴⁷. SSSIs don't include all highly valuable wildlife sites. LWS designation is therefore an important mechanism for recognising sites of high wildlife value that would otherwise not be protected, and LWS sites often receive protection from development in local authority planning considerations. LWS can also play an important role in acting as 'stepping-stones' or corridors that connect habitats at a landscape level.

NCAP plays an important role in the LWS designation process. Ecological surveys of potential Local Wildlife Sites are carried out by the NCAP team. Potential Local Wildlife Sites (pLWS) are usually recognised through other surveys, such as Phase 1 habitat surveys. The LWS survey report is passed on to a panel who collectively decide whether the site should be designated. Panel members have expert knowledge of the nature and ecology of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull.

The LWS panel consider the value of a site against a set of scientific and community criteria⁴⁸. These have been designed to assess a site's local value, for example whether it supports rare animal and plant species, or whether it provides important access to green space for the local community. NCAP also manage LWS data as a spatial layer which allow the team to calculate statistics such as the number of LWS or pLWS lost or gained over time⁵.

As of **April 2024**, the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull sub-region has **667 Local Wildlife Sites**, collectively covering an area of **7,858 hectares**⁵. Some of these are accessible to the public, such as Whittleford Park and Barpool Valley LWS⁵ which is managed by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council. Others are privately owned and not accessible. A **further 65 LWS** have been lost since NCAP started recording LWS data⁵. Of those LWS sites that remain, only **339** (just over **50%**) are known to be under good / favourable management⁵. Data are missing or unclear for the remaining sites, or are known to be under medium to inappropriate management or only partly under favourable management. The breakdown of LWS for each local authority can be found in Table 1.

1,310 sites are potential Local Wildlife Sites, representing an area of **10,161 hectares**⁵. Designating all these sites as Local Wildlife Sites would represent an enormous additional area of wildlife habitat with greater protection from development. It also requires a huge investment in surveying resources. It is estimated that it would take a single surveyor approximately **46 years** to survey and write up the reports for all remaining potential LWS.



Table 1. Number of existing Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and potential LWS (pLWS) per local authority and the number that have been lost in each local authority⁵

Local Planning Authority	Number of LWS	Number of pLWS	Number of LWS lost
Coventry City Council	71	13	11
Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council	52	42	8
North Warwickshire Borough Council	111	218	7
Rugby Borough Council	74	116	11
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	143	657	9
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	122	95	15
Warwick District Council	94	169	4

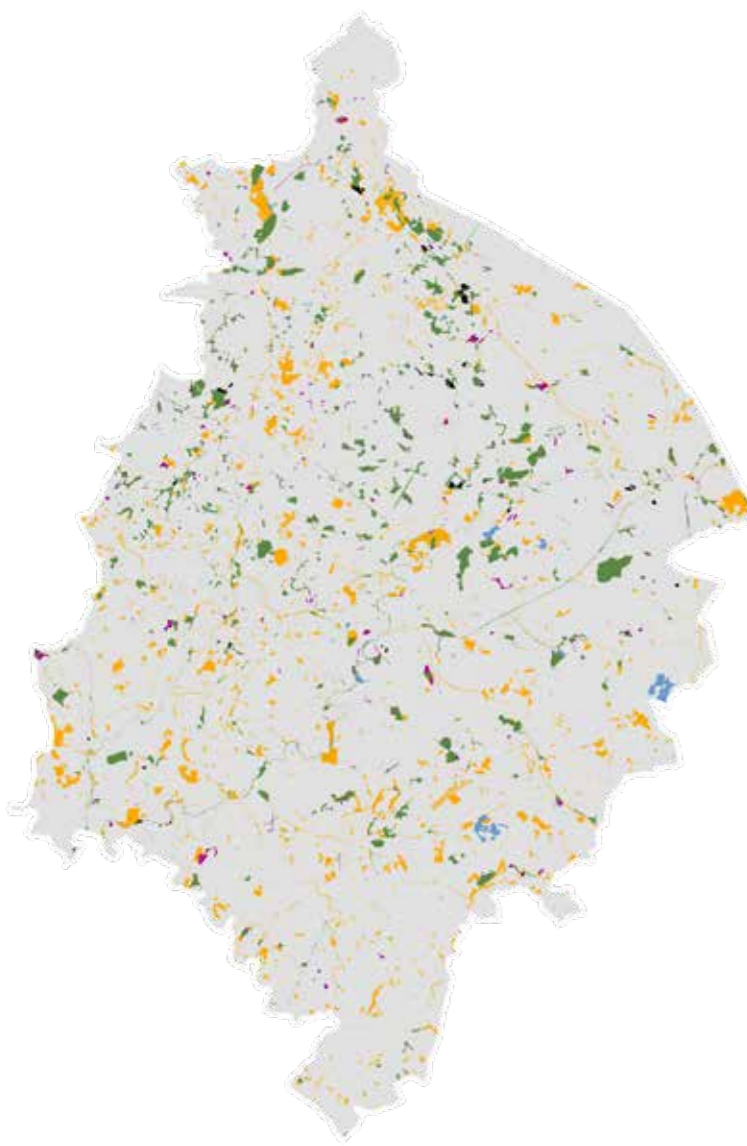


Figure 2. Map showing Local Wildlife Sites and potential Local Wildlife Sites across the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull sub-region.

LWS Status

- Local Wildlife Site
- Deferred
- Destroyed
- Potential site
- Rejected

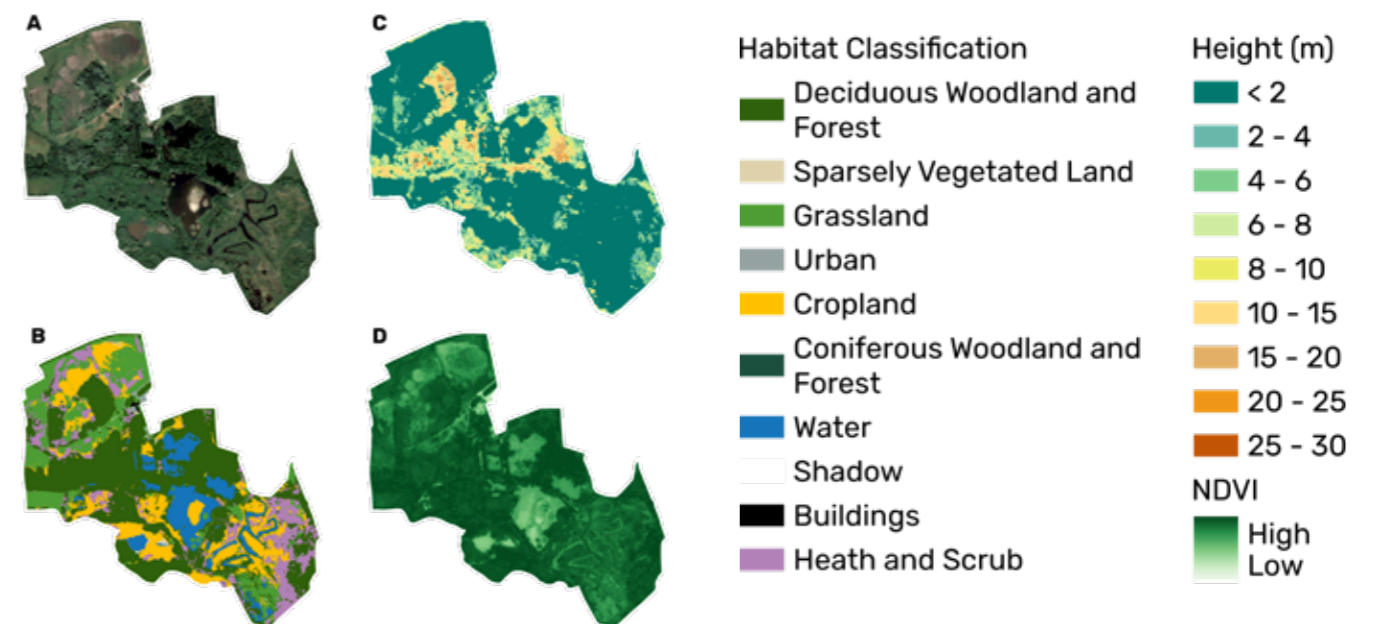
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Remote-sensing data

More recently, NCAP has acquired a remotely sensed dataset of satellite imagery from **July 2023** (Figure 3A), height data⁴⁰ and Normalised Difference Vegetation Index data³⁹ (NDVI – an index that provides an indicator of the density or health of vegetation). These data layers provide

useful information which can underpin conservation decisions going forward. The height layer can be used as a tool for viewing how the structure of a woodland varies (Figure 3C). The NDVI layer can show areas where there is very low density of healthy vegetation and so indicate where there may be barriers to the movement of species across a landscape (Figure 3D).

Figure 3. Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve shown as A. Raw satellite imagery, B. Habitat classification map, C. Height layer (m) and D. Normalised Difference Vegetation Index.



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April Webb

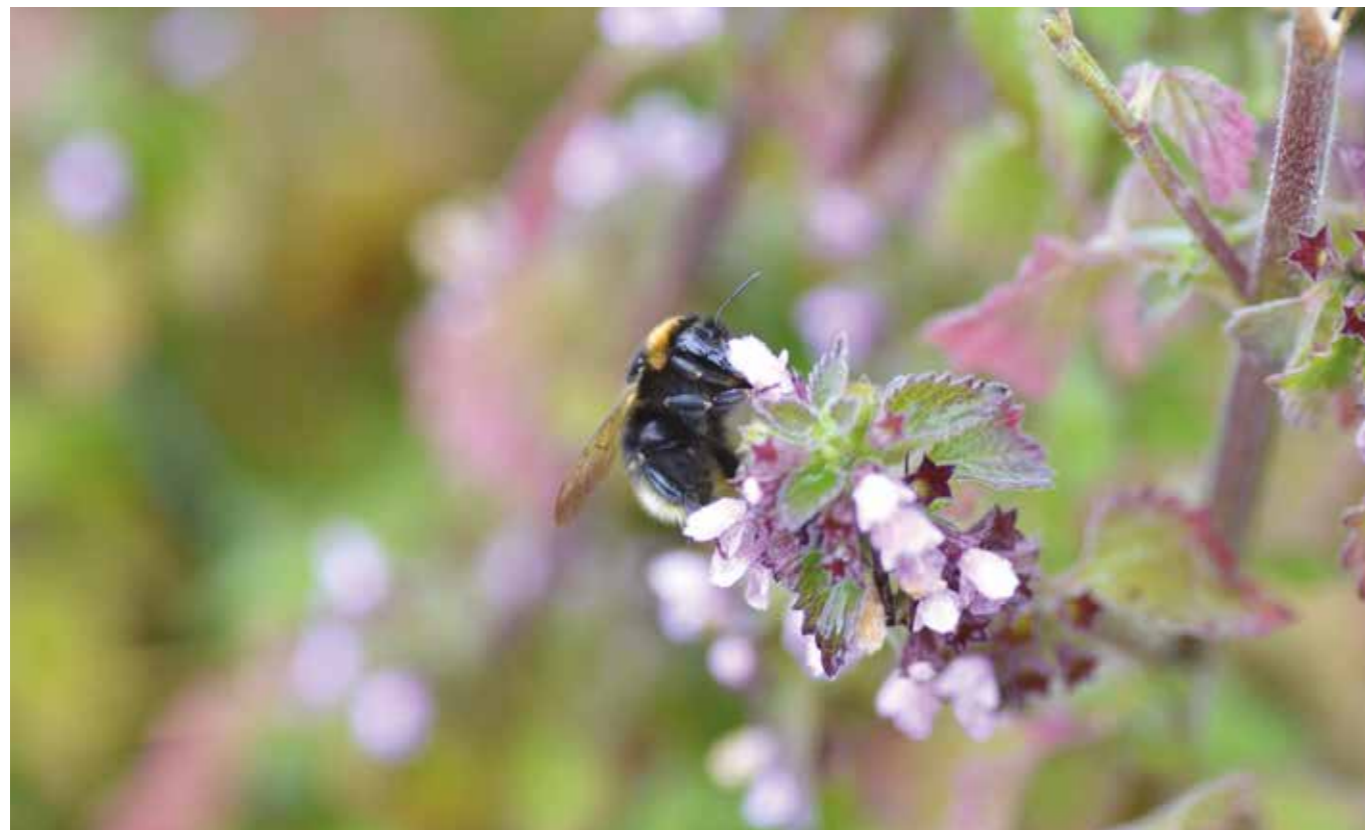
The NCAP partnership have also acquired a habitat classification map²³ derived from the remotely sensed data layers and which was produced by Spottitt, a company that specialises in satellite remote-sensing data analytics⁴⁹. This habitat classification map places every section of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull into **11 habitat categories** (Figure 3B for example section). Additional details as to the habitat classification map can be found in Appendix 1.

Moving forward, the habitat classification map can complement the ongoing habitat data collation, through methods such as Phase 1, by the NCAP team. While on-the-ground survey methods can capture data at a finer level of detail, they are time consuming and are limited by survey capacity and other restrictions such as access.

On the other hand, the satellite-derived habitat classification map provides an instant rapid overview of broad habitat categories.

The accuracy with which a habitat on the ground has been placed into the correct habitat category in the habitat classification map needs to be checked^{50,51}. This process assesses, for example, how much of the area recorded as 'woodland' on the map is woodland in real life. The accuracy assessment for some habitats has already been completed namely, woodland, water bodies and urban features (buildings and other non-natural features). Where this is the case, the remote sensing data has been considered alongside the Phase 1 data in each relevant Chapter.

The NCAP team will be producing the accuracy statistics for the remaining habitats in the satellite-derived habitat map throughout **2024/2025**. Further details as to accuracy with which different habitats have been mapped can be found in Table 4 on page 27.



Overview of habitats

Covering an area of **225,450 hectares**¹⁹, the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull sub-region is lucky enough to have no less than **9 National Character Areas**⁵² (NCA - Figure 4.). These cover a wide range of landscape characteristics and natural features, ranging from the northern tip of the Cotswolds NCA and its Area of Natural Beauty^{10,52} in the south, to the Mease/Sence Lowlands NCA in the very north of the sub-region, with its wet meadows and rivers and the Coventry Canal⁵³.

Spanning this diversity of landscapes and habitats, Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull have **133 statutorily designated sites**, namely, **65 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)**¹⁷, **67 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)**¹⁵ and **1 Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**¹⁶. Combined, these protected sites represent an area of **2,101 hectares**^{15,16,17}.

The first of the major two NCAs in the sub-region is the Arden NCA^{7,52}, stretching predominantly across the west, centre and northwest of the sub-region. The NCA covers some densely populated urban areas, such as the amalgamated towns and other settlements in the outskirts of Birmingham. In more rural areas,

patches of ancient woodland, gently rolling farmed landscapes, wood pasture, and river meadows and valleys carved out of clay are all characteristic Arden landscapes⁷. Patches of heathland can still be found in the north and centre of the NCA⁷. The industrial northeast developed around the coal mining industry⁵⁴. The NCA has a range of statutory designations including Coleshill and Bannerly Pools SSSI with its bog / mire habitat, woodlands and acid grassland^{8,55}.

Dunsmore and Feldon, the second major NCA, stretches in a band through the centre from the south to the northeast of the sub-region. The NCA is generally rural, although areas are more urbanised, around Coventry and Rugby for example. Dunsmore is generally more wooded than Feldon, with remnants of ancient woodland in areas⁵⁶. Patches of heathland remain, particularly in woodland clearings. These once formed part of Dunsmore Heath⁹. The Feldon area is more open with rolling hills and far less wooded⁵⁶. Disused sand and gravel quarries, as well as spoil heaps, can be found in the south and centre of the NCA⁹. The NCA includes Brandon Marsh SSSI, which is managed by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and which contains a mosaic of reedbeds, scrub and woodland around pools created through gravel extraction^{57,58}.

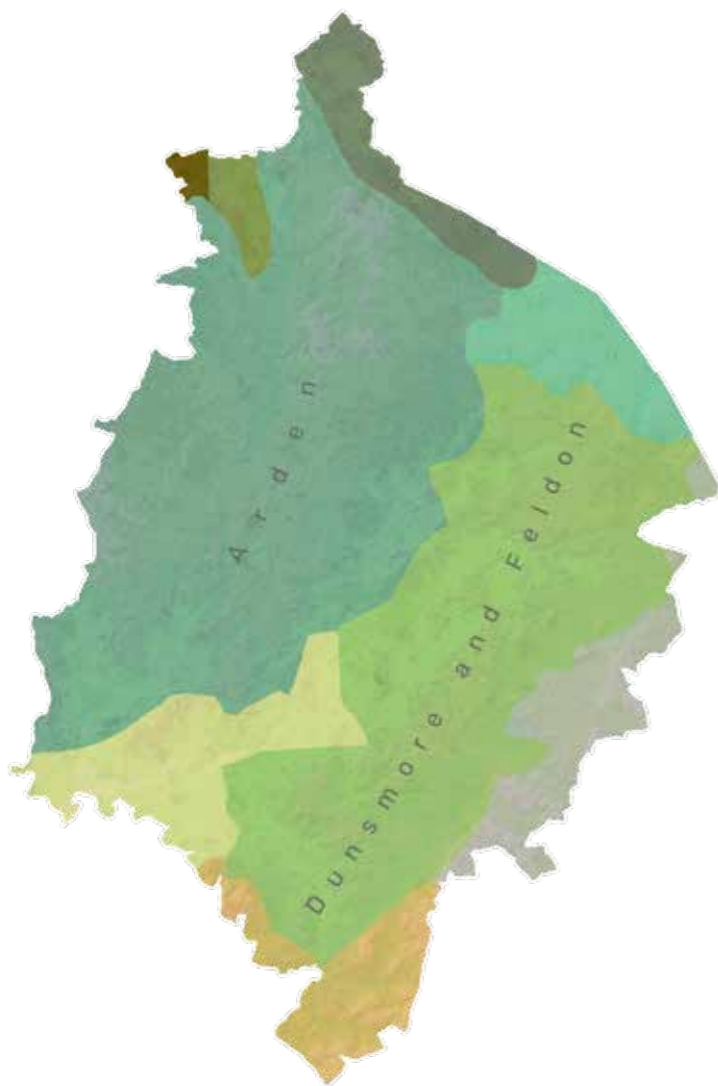
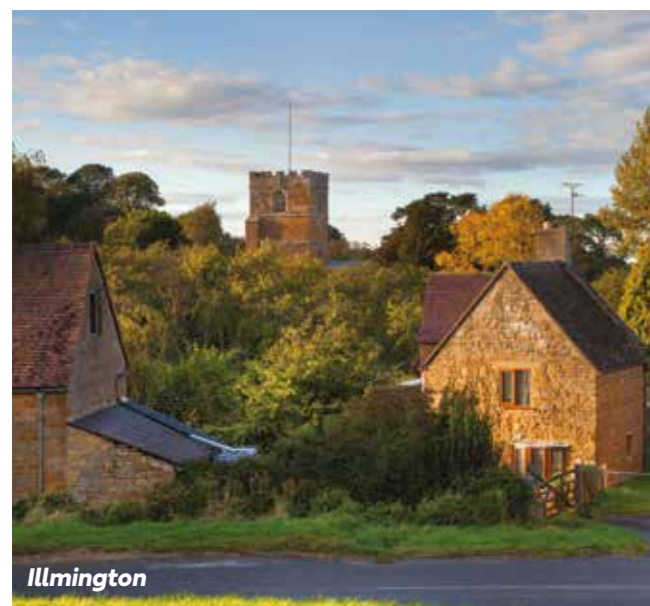


Figure 4. National Character Areas

- National Character Area Name
- Arden
 - Cannock Chase and Cank Wood
 - Cotswolds
 - Dunsmore and Feldon
 - Leicestershire Vales
 - Mease/Sence Lowlands
 - Northamptonshire Uplands
 - Severn and Avon Vales
 - Trent Valley Washlands

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Dunsmore Living Landscape

Stretching between Rugby and Leamington Spa, the Dunsmore region is home to some of Warwickshire's most important woodland sites⁵⁹. Interconnected by a series of meadows, fields and hedges running through the landscape, they include ancient woodlands, such as those at Ryton and Wappenbury⁵⁹. Funded by National Highways and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Rugby Borough Council, Warwick District Council and Coventry City Council are all partners on the Dunsmore Living Landscape initiative^{60,61}. A key focus of the initiative is to enhance and restore the valuable mosaic of habitats and the wooded character of the area. The partnership engages with volunteers, community groups, corporate teams, land managers and other NGOs, in activities from scrub control and meadow creation to hedge planting and dormice releases under license^{61,62,63}.

Phase 1 habitats

'Cultivated and disturbed land' is the most extensive broad habitat type in Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull, covering **46%** of the sub-region^{4,21}.

This includes arable land and other disturbed land cover types such as amenity grassland. In stark contrast, the rarest habitat types, heathland and mire, each contribute less than **0.01%** of the total sub-region area^{4,21}.

The combined area of improved grassland, arable land and set-aside, which together can be taken to represent agricultural land use, represent **64%** of the sub-region.

The proportion and area of broad habitat categories across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull can be seen in Figure 1 (page 14) and Table 2 below. These data have been calculated from the Phase 1 habitat dataset managed by NCAP and which was last updated in 2019⁴.

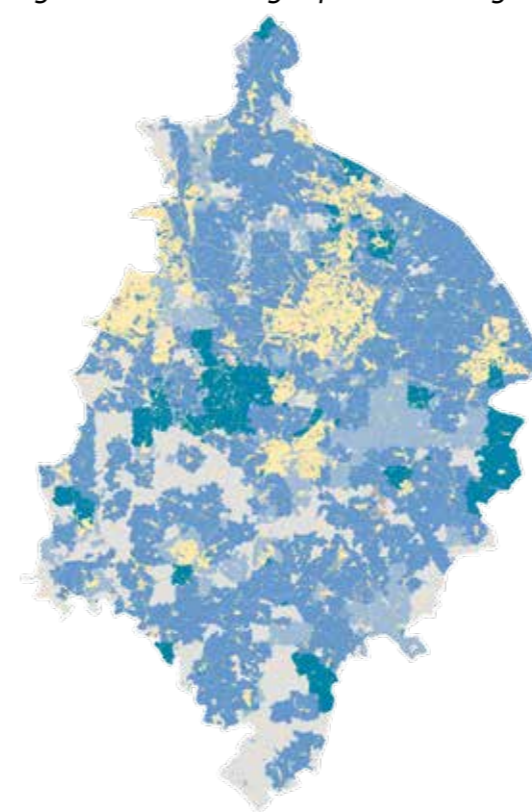
Table 2. The area of each broad Phase 1 habitat category across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull and the proportion of each habitat across the area surveyed and whole sub-region⁴

Phase 1 broad habitat	Area (hectares)	Proportion area surveyed (%)	Proportion of total sub-region (%)
Woodland and Scrub	18048.6	9.5	8.0
Grassland and Marsh	65250.1	34.2	28.9
Tall Herb and Fern	801.2	0.4	0.4
Heathland	9.9	<0.1	<0.01
Mire	2.4	<0.01	<0.01
Swamp, Marginal and Inundation	186.9	0.1	0.1
Open Water	2628.8	1.4	1.2
Rock Exposure and Waste	590.0	0.3	0.3
Cultivated and Disturbed Land	103084.9	54.1	45.7
Total area surveyed	190602.9	100.0	84.5

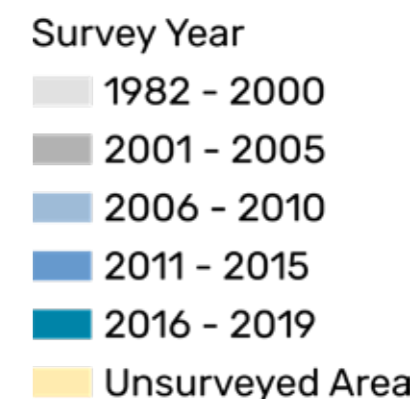


Survey data haven't been gathered for urban features (e.g. roads / buildings) and urban habitats, as these are not extensively accounted for as land cover types in the Phase 1 survey method²¹. NCAP have surveyed the area of all other habitats as extensively as possible. However, there are areas that haven't been surveyed, for example due to access issues. Unsurveyed areas therefore mostly represent urban features/habitats but may also include other habitat / land cover types. The 'proportion area surveyed' habitat statistics calculated in Table 2 and throughout this report are therefore broadly representative of habitat coverage across the sub-region, excluding urban features, but do not provide exact figures. Throughout the report, we also provide the proportion of the total sub-region covered by different habitat types, according to the **2019 Phase 1** dataset⁴ (see Table 2.)

Figure 5. Map showing the areas of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull that have undergone habitat surveys and the date range of the last survey.



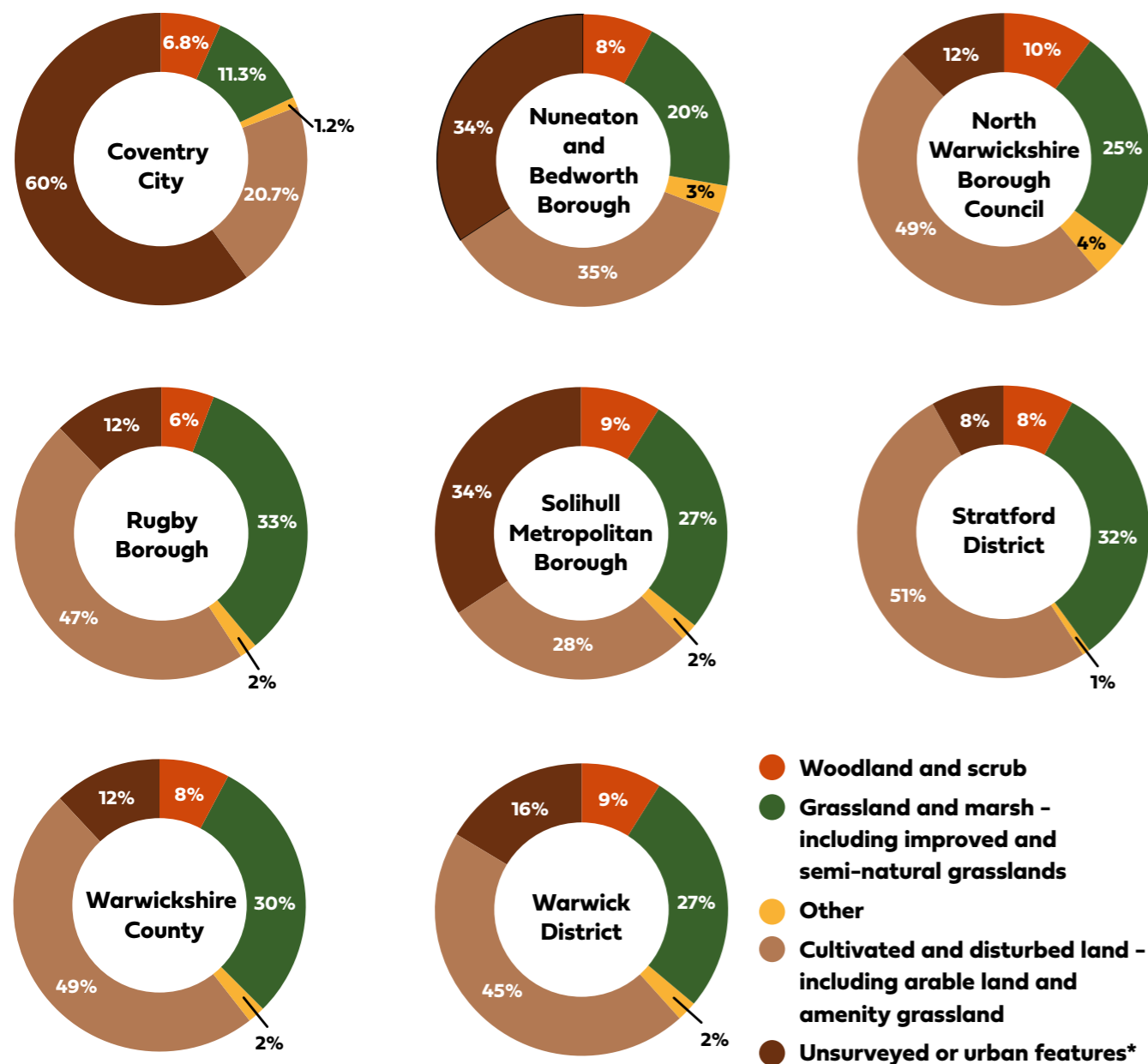
The date range in which areas were last surveyed can be seen in Figure 5. The breakdown showing the proportion of broad habitat types across each local authority can be seen in Figure 6. For additional details as to the methods for calculating the statistics, see Appendix 1. Note that some of the very early NCAP surveys in the **1990's** used aerial imagery rather than field surveys for allocating Phase 1 habitats to different areas. Most of these have been updated since with field surveys.



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Figure 6. The area and proportion of broad Phase 1 habitats for each local authority across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull.

*Urban features, e.g. buildings / roads and other 'artificial' surfaces have not been included in the survey process and so are included in unsurveyed areas. 'Other' includes 'mire', and 'swamp, marginal and inundation' wetlands, 'tall herbs', 'open water' and 'rock exposure & waste'.



30 by 30 statistics

The Phase 1 habitat statistics⁴ can be used to estimate the amount of 'wildlife-friendly' habitat across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull (Figure 7). This allows us to assess how close we are at the regional level to meeting

the **30 by 30** target captured in strategies and policies at all levels, from global and national, to regional and organisational: **30%** of land protected and managed for wildlife by **2030**^{1,2,3}.

By combining Phase 1 habitats that can be described as 'wildlife-friendly', an initial estimate is that **15%** of the

surveyed area or **13%** of the total sub-region provides suitable habitat for wildlife. In other words, the initial estimate suggests we are approximately halfway there with achieving **30 by 30**^{1,2,3}. This figure will be revised over the next year as additional data is gathered and refined, and discussions are held with various stakeholders as to how wildlife-friendly habitat is defined.

There are several caveats associated with the initial estimate, such as the fact that it doesn't take into account habitat connectivity. Lots of tiny unconnected habitat patches are generally less valuable for wildlife than large areas of connected habitat. There are many reasons for this but, factors such as smaller sites lacking the resilience to external pressures (e.g. extreme weather

and disease) and having less genetically diverse populations are important^{37,38,64}. In most cases, information as to the condition of habitats is also missing. If additional habitat condition data can be obtained, we could better define the line as to when a habitat is counted as beneficial for wildlife or not.

Some data may also be missing. For example, we don't have an area for individual trees which, in some instances, can provide excellent habitat. At a later stage, the satellite-derived habitat classification map produced by Spottitt²³, could help to fill some of these data gaps. How to handle the different data caveats will be discussed further as the wildlife-friendly habitat figure is refined. For the details as to how this statistic was calculated, see Appendix 1.

Figure 7. Map of 'wildlife' habitats across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull



30 by 30

- Wildlife habitat
- Non-wildlife habitat

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Local Wildlife Site habitats

Many of our most valuable habitat patches have been designated as Local Wildlife Sites (see page 15)⁵. Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) receive greater protection from development (although this is not a guarantee due to their non-statutory status). Over **3,800 hectares** woodland are in LWS, as are over **2,100 hectares** of grassland / marsh (Table 3).

LWS spatial data allow us to view areas where there are clusters of Local Wildlife Sites and/or potential LWS near one another. These clusters of sites are particularly valuable as they provide a continuity of habitat and allow wildlife to move across the landscape, whether

in response to climate change, searching for new territories or accessing additional resources, among other reasons. Future policies, plans and strategies should prioritise protecting these sites, improving connectivity between them and buffering them from human pressures. Particularly important is surveying remaining potential LWS in these areas and designating them as LWS if they meet the minimum criteria.

Examples of locations with large clusters of sites include the area between Combrook, Wellesborne, Walton and Pillerton Hersey in Stratford-upon-Avon or along the Coventry Canal between Atherstone in North Warwickshire and Nuneaton in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough⁵.

Table 3. Area of different habitats under Local Wildlife Site (LWS) designation across the Warwickshire sub-region and the proportion of LWS area that they represent⁵.

Phase 1 broad habitat	Area (hectares)	Proportion of total LWS area represented by habitat (%)
Woodland and Scrub	3818.9	50.5
Grassland and Marsh	2155.7	28.5
Tall Herb and Fern	170.9	2.3
Heathland	8.6	0.1
Mire	2.3	<0.1
Swamp, Marginal and Inundation	52.4	0.7
Open Water	977.6	12.9
Rock Exposure and Waste	53.8	0.7
Cultivated and Disturbed Land	318.0	4.2
Total	7558.1	100.0

Note that the Phase 1 NCAP data was clipped to the NCAP Local Wildlife Site data layer and that these two data layers don't precisely align (there is a 2m offset between layers). Care should therefore be taken when using these figures which should only be used to assess habitat proportions across Local Wildlife Sites very broadly.

Satellite-derived habitat data

The remote sensing data acquired by Spottitt²³ shows that Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull is a very urbanised part of England. **9%** of the total area is covered by buildings or other urban features (Table 4.).

In the remote sensing data overview (page 17), we noted that an accuracy assessment had been completed for

certain habitats. The User's Accuracies for each habitat can be seen in Table 4. These allow an individual using the habitat classification map, to know whether a particular pixel on the map has been given the actual habitat type found on the ground^{50,51}. For example, 'urban' land cover has a User's Accuracy of **97%**. This means that **97 out of every 100** pixels that are classified as urban on the map are correctly classified as urban. The remaining **3 out of every 100** may have been wrongly classified as urban when they are other habitats on the ground.

Table 4. Area of habitats across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull from remotely-sensed habitat map²³, the proportion of the sub-region they represent and User's Accuracies for each

Habitat	Area mapped (hectares)	Proportion of mapped sub-region (%)	User's Accuracy (%)
Woodland and Trees	36160.5	16.0	82
Urban	20458.6	9.1	97
Rivers and Lakes	1972.2	0.9	74

While the Phase 1 habitat map⁴ has unsurveyed areas, the satellite-derived habitat map²³ provides a complete snapshot of the whole sub-region at a given point in time, including urban features. Its accuracy is not **100%** and it cannot and should not replace an ecologist on the ground. It also doesn't provide habitat data to the same level of detail. A lowland acid grassland in the Phase 1 layer for example, would be captured simply as a 'grassland' in the satellite-derived habitat map. However, the satellite-derived map does provide recent data and therefore is valuable for 'sense-checking' the Phase 1 habitat map, where some sites have potentially not been surveyed for many years. When considering these contexts, the Phase 1 and satellite habitat classification maps are complementary to one another.



Land cover change

The area coverage of Phase 1 broad habitat types remained similar between 2012⁶⁵, the year from which data were used for the last State of Habitats report⁶, and 2019 (Table 5.)⁴. A sub-set of the Phase 1 spatial data⁴ were used to calculate the habitat changes over time. Only areas that had been surveyed since 2012 were used in the calculations. The figures in the table therefore need to be read with caution. They don't necessarily represent the full situation across the sub-region, particularly as regards urbanisation of habitats. Urban areas that were previously other habitats are less likely to have been included in the most recent Phase 1 habitat spatial layer⁴ as the Phase 1 classification system does not fully account for urban features²¹.

The data can only be used as broad indicators of habitat change and cannot be compared directly between the two time points. This is because survey techniques have changed over

time making it difficult to draw any definitive conclusions as to habitat change. The statistics for heathland demonstrate the care that needs to be taken. Table 5. suggests that the area of heathland habitat has increased from 0.1ha to 3.7ha over 7 years. This apparently large increase of an incredibly rare habitat in the region is potentially linked to the fact that the scale at which habitats have been mapped has changed over time. Prior to 2012, tiny patches of heathland may have been mapped as a different habitat category like grassland if data were mapped at a broader spatial scale than was used more recently.

Nonetheless, heathland remains one of the rarest habitats in the region, along with others such as mire. Cultivated and disturbed land which, among other categories, includes arable land and amenity grassland, remains the most extensive broad habitat type, followed by grassland / marsh. Grassland appears to have decreased over time and much of the grassland is improved, as outlined in more detail on page 39. The area of woodland and scrub appears to have increased, perhaps in line with the national focus on woodland planting¹.



Ian Jelley

Table 5. The area of broad Phase 1 habitats and the proportion of the surveyed area that they represent in 2012 and 2019^{4,65}

Phase 1 broad habitat	Area 2012 (hectares)	Percentage surveyed area 2012 (%)	Area 2019 (hectares)	Percentage surveyed area 2019 (%)
Woodland and Scrub	3545.6	7.9	4405.6	9.8
Grassland and Marsh	14848.1	33.1	14177.6	31.6
Tall Herb and Fern	260.9	0.6	194.8	0.4
Heathland	0.1	< 0.01	3.7	< 0.1
Mire	0.7	<0.01	0.5	< 0.01
Swamp, Marginal and Inundation	44.4	0.1	82.5	0.2
Open Water	807.8	1.8	912.9	2.0
Rock Exposure and Waste	316.7	0.7	196.2	0.4
Cultivated and Disturbed Land	25084.7	55.9	24957.7	55.5



Ryton Pools



State of woodland, scrub and trees outside woodland

The woodland matrix provides an incredible array of resources for wildlife. These include dead and decaying wood for deadwood-dependent invertebrates, nectar sources for pollinators and nesting and foraging habitat for birds and mammals⁶⁶.

The value for wildlife such as bats is demonstrated by a **2011 study**⁶⁷. Researchers found a lower chance of finding a bat roost for some species, such as serotines (*Eptesicus serotinus*), further away from broadleaved woodland. The same study found a lower chance of finding bat roosts for some species, like brown long-eared bats (*Plecotus auritus*), when lower proportions of mixed/broadleaved woodland were found in the surrounding landscape⁶⁷.

From a human perspective, woodlands also provide many benefits. Woodland and trees affect water quality in a variety of ways, for example by reducing soil erosion into rivers through tree roots providing greater bank stability or, through a buffering impact reducing the nutrients and chemicals entering water from human activities⁶⁸. Improved water quality is important for many activities, for example recreational swimming⁶⁸. Woodland and trees can also influence

air quality, for example through intercepting or absorbing air pollutants, which can have positive effects for human physical and mental health⁶⁸.

8% of Warwickshire is covered by woodland and scrub

Despite having high wildlife and human value, woodland and scrub habitats (Table 6.) contribute only **9%** (approximately **18,049 hectares**) of the surveyed area of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull, or **8%** of the total sub-region⁴. This is less than Forestry Research suggestions for woodland cover across the UK (**13%**) and across England (**10%**)²⁰. However, different methods are used for amalgamating habitats and analysing the data. A more appropriate comparison to the **13%** woodland cover across the UK, would be the combined areas of the Phase 1 'woodland', 'parkland', 'recently-felled woodland' and 'wet woodland' habitat categories which collectively represent **7%** of the sub-region's land cover⁴.

North Warwickshire Borough Council is the most wooded local authority region, with **10%** of the local authority's land area constituting woodland / scrub habitat (Table 7)⁴.

The Spottitt satellite data²³ suggest that **16%** of the sub-region is covered by woodland and trees (Table 4). This higher

figure is linked to the fact that both woodland and trees outside woodland are included in the same category, essentially it is an estimate of canopy cover across the sub-region. This figure is therefore not directly comparable to the Phase 1 woodland data.

Table 6. The area and proportion of different woodland / scrub habitats (as defined by Phase 1) across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull⁴

Habitat	Total area (hectares)	Proportion of woodland / scrub habitats (%)	Proportion of total sub-region (%)
Woodland	14333.9	79.4	6.4
Scrub	2481.6	13.7	1.1
Parkland	825.3	4.6	0.4
Recently-felled Woodland	22.0	0.1	<0.1
Orchard* ¹	185.8	1.0	0.1
Wet Woodland* ¹	200.1	1.1	0.1
Total	18048.6	100.0	N/A

*¹ Not officially Phase 1 codes as defined under JNCC Phase 1 guidelines²⁰⁻²¹ but, included under woodland and scrub habitat classification by NCAP.



Louise Barrack

Table 7. The area and proportion of woodland and scrub in Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull local authorities⁴

Local authority	Area (hectares)	Proportion of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull's woodland / scrub (%)	Proportion of total area of local authority (%)
Coventry City Council	669.3	3.7	6.8
Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council	628.5	3.5	8.0
North Warwickshire Borough Council	2768.5	15.3	9.7
Rugby Borough Council	2150.7	11.9	6.1
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	1531.5	8.5	8.6
Stratford-upon-Avon District Council	7698.1	42.7	7.9
Warwick District Council	2602.0	14.4	9.2
Total	18048.6	100.0	NA

Woodland represents **79%** of the broad Phase 1 'woodland & scrub' habitats⁴¹⁻⁴² across the sub-region, accounting for **6%** of the sub-region's land cover. If we breakdown the figures further, woodland is predominantly broadleaved (**74%**), with a much smaller extent of coniferous (**9%**) and mixed (both broadleaved and coniferous) woodland (**17%**)⁴.

Woodland: **79%** Woodland and scrub habitats : accounting for **6%** of the sub-region's land cover



Looking at the data from a different angle, there is more plantation woodland (**54%**) than semi-natural (**46%**)⁴. It is recognised globally that non-native plantations are less biodiversity-rich than natural forests⁶⁹. However, plantations of native tree species can support levels of biodiversity close to natural forests with appropriate management⁶⁹. Native mixed-species plantations can therefore be beneficial for biodiversity when replacing a previous land use of low biodiversity value such as intensively managed agricultural land^{69,70}. Conversely, it is probable that plantations replacing valuable habitats such as natural or semi-natural grasslands or long-established woodland are going to have negative impacts on biodiversity and so should be avoided^{71,72}.

The biodiversity value of any plantation, or indeed any woodland, will be affected by management. Resources for wildlife will be greater with an increased tree species diversity in the plantation⁷⁰. Light levels linked to canopy cover in conifer plantations have been shown to influence the species richness of the ground flora⁷². A greater structural diversity in plantations, but also in woodlands generally is beneficial for wildlife^{72,73}. A mosaic of scrub, shrubs and trees for example is likely to host a wider range of bird species⁷³. One study found more bird species and a greater abundance of birds in older woodland patches containing mature trees and therefore a more diverse structure⁷⁴. The wildlife value of a woodland can also be influenced by fragmentation and the size of woodland parcels. It has been shown that as woodland parcels increase in size, bird abundance and species richness also increase, leading some studies to suggest that conservation action should aim for woodland patches of greater than **5 hectares** in size⁷⁴.

As well as woodland, the other habitats included in the broad 'woodland & scrub' Phase 1 habitat category²¹ can also be seen in Table 6. These are also hugely valuable for wildlife. Parkland, for example, can include remnants of old human land uses, such as pastures or hunting forests⁷⁵. The scrub and old / veteran trees found in old parklands provide an array of resources such as nectar sources for invertebrates that need open habitat for nesting⁷⁵. Holes in old trees can act as nesting sites for many birds such as tawny owls (*Strix aluco*) and nuthatches (*Sitta europaea*)⁷⁵. Orchards too, if traditionally managed, can be wildlife-friendly. They can support a range of deadwood-dependent species, birds including redwings (*Turdus iliacus*) and fieldfares (*Turdus pilaris*) which enjoy the available fruit and buds, as well as mistletoe (*Viscum album*), which itself is used by a variety of species including waxwings (*Bombycilla garrulus*)^{76,77}. Stratford is a stronghold for orchards in the sub-region, with **82%** of the remaining area of orchards found in the District⁴.





Traditional orchards in Stratford

Most of the traditional orchards in the region can be found in Stratford-upon-Avon District. Some of these, such as Mount Pleasant Orchard and Portobello Crossroads Orchard are Local Wildlife Sites, demonstrating the value that this habitat can have for wildlife. At Bridgetown Meadowland community orchard, Stratford District Council planted a total of **300 fruit trees** in **2014**, including **21 apple varieties** and **6 pear**^{76,78}.

Ancient woodland

The Ancient Woodland Inventory captures ancient woodlands down to **0.25 hectares** in size⁷⁹. It includes areas of continuous woodland cover since **1600** or earlier, following the definition of Ancient Woodland used

by Natural England and the Forestry Commission⁸⁰.

Within this broad definition, semi-natural ancient woodland, historic parkland or ancient wood pasture, and plantations on ancient woodland sites would all be classed as ancient woodland⁸⁰. It should be noted that many remnant woodland patches

across the sub-region may be ancient but not captured in the Ancient Woodland Inventory as they are less than **0.25 hectares** in size.

Ancient woodland sites cover 2.1% of the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull sub-region²².

This represents **4,700 hectares** of ancient woodland, **57%** of which are semi-natural ancient woodland²². **41%** are re-planted ancient woodland sites and **2%** are ancient wood pasture²².

Having remained under woodland cover for centuries, our ancient woodland sites have typically retained valuable water features, have escaped soil disturbance and are hotspots for plants and wildlife⁶⁶. When considering **192** species woodland plants, an analysis by the Woodland Trust found that plant species richness was higher in areas with a greater extent of ancient woodland⁸¹.

Structural variability has been shown by another study to increase with woodland age, which can be beneficial for wildlife^{82,74}. Wood rot in individual ancient trees can also provide valuable resources for deadwood-dependent invertebrates⁶⁶. The management practices of ancient woodland sites will also affect their overall biodiversity value⁸².





Yellow archangel *Lamium galeobdolon*

A Warwickshire ancient woodland and hedgerow indicator species, yellow archangel is seen in spring just as bluebells are finishing. It is not to be confused with the very similar invasive garden escapee, variegated yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon* subspecies *argentatum*), which is often found alongside it in woodlands, close to housing or urban conurbations, due to the dumping of garden waste.

Trees outside woodland

Throughout history, trees found outside woodlands e.g., in hedgerows or as individual trees lining streets, have been hugely valuable to people⁸¹. Among other uses, they have acted as boundary markers and as sources of wood products such as timber⁸¹.

They can be incredibly valuable to wildlife, acting as stepping-stones or

connectivity corridors between larger fragments of natural habitat⁸³. This enables species' movements, such as when dispersing into new areas or for foraging⁸³. Data suggest that brown long-eared bats (*Plecotus auritus*) will roost outside woodland for example, if there is woodland connectivity via hedgerows or lines of trees⁸⁴. The connectivity role of trees outside woodlands can have more subtle effects as well, such as allowing for gene flow for tree populations themselves across a landscape. This

could potentially allow tree populations to better adapt to a changing climate⁸⁵.

As well as enhancing connectivity between remnant habitat patches across a landscape, trees and woody linear features outside woodlands can provide habitat and resources in their own right. Hedgerows can be an important source of pollen and nectar for emerging pollinators and other insects in the spring^{86,87}. A **2019 study**⁸⁷ carried out across four farms in south-west England, found that across a whole year, hedgerows were the habitat producing the most nectar sugar per m². Ancient and veteran trees (see page 38) can provide nesting sites for many species including barn owls (*Tyto alba*)⁸⁸. Hollows at the base provide spots for reptiles like grass snakes (*Natrix helvetica*) to lay their eggs, while the dead or decaying wood supports deadwood-dependent invertebrates of which there are at least **2,000 species** in Britain⁸⁸.

The number of individual trees outside woodland haven't been collected in Phase 1 habitat data⁴. However, from the Phase 1 habitat data for **2019**, it was calculated that there were **10,733 km** of hedgerow across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull⁴.

**10,733km
hedgerow
wind across
Warwickshire,
Coventry and
Solihull⁴**

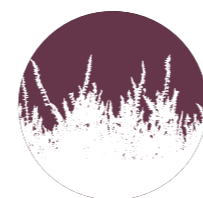
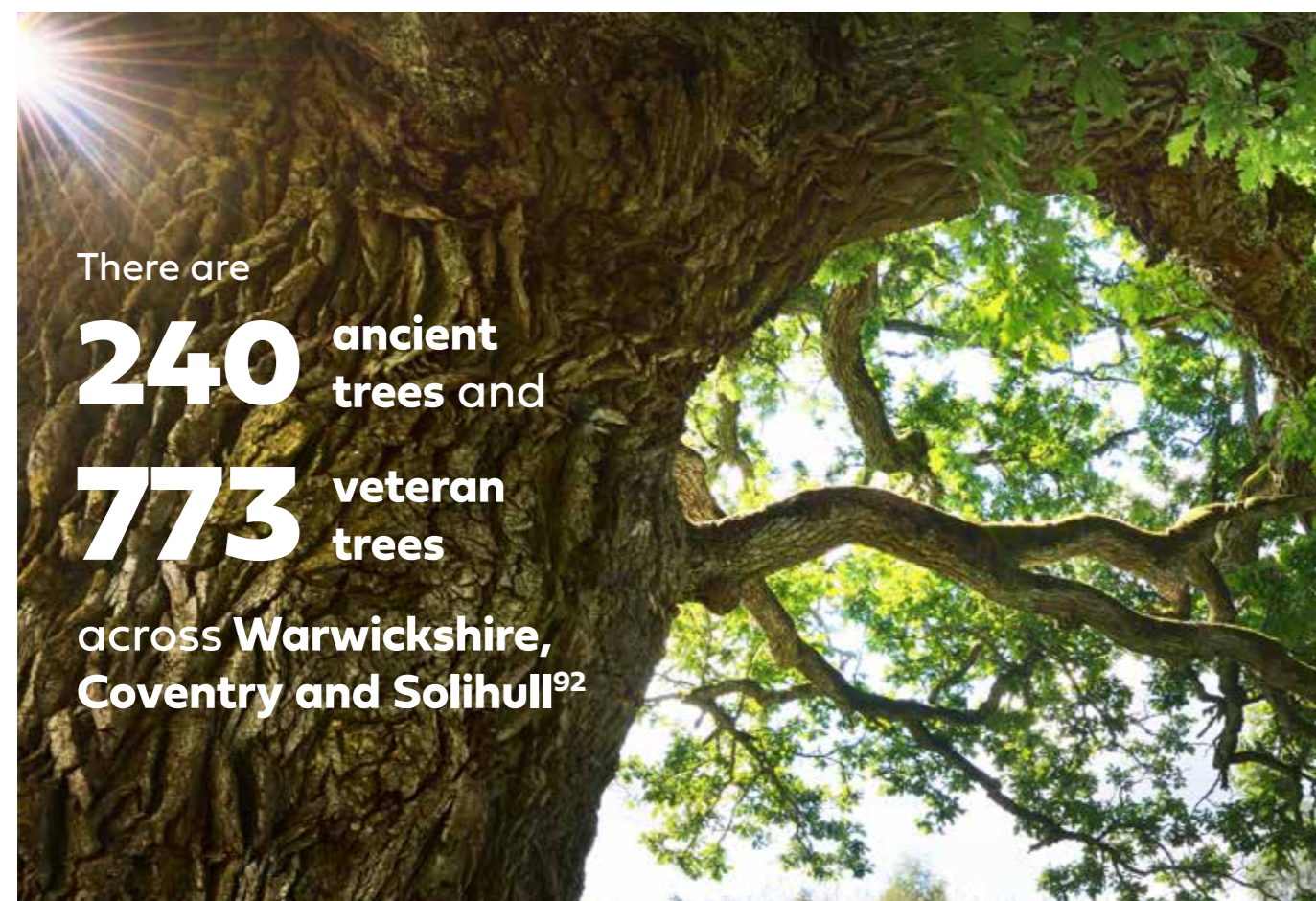
The Phase 1 hedgerow data allow us to view where hedgerows are connecting remnant patches of semi-natural habitat and where there are gaps in landscape connectivity which can be filled. The **2019** data⁴ used for this report do not include hedgerow condition and management data. There are earlier NCAP datasets which include this data⁶⁵ but as hedgerow management and condition can change rapidly, this is a substantial data gap. Hedgerow condition and management can have significant impacts upon wildlife value. Cutting hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) hedgerows every third year rather than on a yearly basis for example, has been shown to lead to more than twice as many flowers and more than three times the berry mass available to wildlife⁸⁹. When surveying for bats along hedgerows, hedgerows that haven't been cut for **three years** or more have also been found to have a greater bat species richness than hedgerows cut the previous winter⁹⁰.



Ancient and veteran trees

Some trees are classed as ancient or veteran trees and can be found inside or outside woodland. Ancient trees have gone past the point of maturity and when compared to fellow trees belonging to the same species are considered old⁹¹. They have developed some distinctive features such as hollow, wide trunks, rough bark and small crowns where the branches have started to die back⁹¹. In some instances, they can be many hundreds of years old⁹¹. Veteran trees on the other hand are trees that have experienced damage or stress and may display some characteristic features of ancient trees⁹¹.

Both veteran and ancient trees are particularly valuable for wildlife. They can host a whole range of fungi and invertebrates that like to feed on the dead and decaying wood⁸⁸. They provide roosting and nest sites for birds and bats and foraging sites for birds like woodpeckers (*Dendrocopos major*) and redstarts (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*). They also provide hollows and gaps around the base which can be used by mammals like hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) for hibernating⁸⁸. From the Ancient Tree Inventory, which is collated and managed by the Woodland Trust, we estimate that there are a combined **1,013** ancient and veteran trees across the sub-region⁹².



State of grassland and heathland

Grassland

While **29%** Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull is covered by grassland (Table 8.), this is predominantly improved grassland (**78%**)⁴. These are grasslands that have been improved for agricultural performance and intensively managed, for example through applying agrochemicals like fertilisers and herbicides or through over-grazing²¹. They are very species-poor in terms of wildflowers and grass varieties, with species tending to be those that tolerate high grazing and nutrient levels such as perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) and white clover (*Trifolium repens*).

The remaining **22%** grasslands could be counted as semi-natural (**6%** of total sub-region area), although **51%** of these are in poor condition, meaning they are classified as 'poor semi-improved'⁴. This means that although they have not been managed so intensively that they count as 'improved grasslands', they have been improved to the extent that they cannot reliably be placed into a true semi-natural grassland type as represented through soil type and characteristic plant communities²¹. Despite the grassland

type from which they derive (e.g. acidic, calcareous or neutral), they often take on the appearance of a neutral grassland with a limited species list²¹.

The grassland figures presented here do not include amenity grassland. Under the Phase 1 habitat survey, amenity grassland falls under the 'cultivated and disturbed land' broad habitat category²¹. In addition to the grassland figures in Table 8., **4%** of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull is amenity grassland⁴.



Table 8. The area and proportion of different grassland habitats across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull⁴

Grassland type	Area (hectares)	Proportion of all grassland habitats in surveyed area (%)	Proportion of whole sub-region (%)
Acid Grassland	77.4	0.1	<0.1
Neutral Grassland	6169.4	9.5	2.7
Calcareous Grassland	178.8	0.3	0.1
Improved Grassland	51017.9	78.2	22.6
Marsh/marshy Grassland	595.7	0.9	0.3
Poor semi-improved grassland	7210.9	11.1	3.2
Total	65250.1	100.0	NA

Phase 1 acid and calcareous grasslands are the rarest grassland types, respectively contributing **0.5%** and **1%** of the semi-natural grassland area across the Warwickshire sub-region. Acid grasslands are found on acidic soils with a low pH (<5.5)²¹. Examples of species representative of this grassland type include *Rumex acetosella* (sheep sorrel) and *Galium saxatile* (heath bedstraw)²¹. Examples of plants often found in calcareous grasslands on the other hand include heath false brome (*Brachypodium pinnatum*), a type of grass, and salad burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*)²¹. Calcareous grasslands are found on calcareous (alkaline) soils with a high pH (>7.0)²¹.

4% of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull's semi-natural grasslands are marsh / marshy grasslands. These have a proportionally high cover of certain species that prefer a wetter environment such as sedges (*Carex* species) or rushes (*Juncus* species)^{*21}.

Other than poor semi-improved, neutral grasslands contribute the greatest area of semi-natural grassland (**43%**). The

latter are found on soils with a neutral pH (between **5.5** and **7.0**)²¹. Examples of grasses often found on neutral grasslands include crested dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) and false-oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*)²¹. Pastures and hay meadows are most likely to be neutral grasslands which can provide important habitat for species such as barn owls (*Tyto alba*)^{13,21}.



^{* 1} Note however that, under the Phase 1 classification system, certain wet grasslands are classified under one of the other grassland types instead, such as neutral grasslands²¹.

Table 9. The area and proportion of grassland in Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull local authorities⁴

Local authority	Area (hectares)	Proportion of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull's grasslands (%)	Proportion of total area of local authority (%)
Coventry City Council	1118.5	1.7	11.3
Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council	1579.2	2.4	20.0
North Warwickshire Borough Council	7249.1	11.1	25.5
Rugby Borough Council	11573.7	17.7	32.7
Stratford District Council	31152.4	47.7	31.9
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	4829.2	7.4	27.1
Warwick District Council	7747.9	11.9	27.4
Total	65250.1	100.0	NA

The small proportion of semi-natural grassland found in the sub-region is reflected at a national level. It has been suggested that **89%** rough and semi-natural grasslands in the English and Welsh lowlands had been lost by the **1980's**, compared to **50 years** prior⁹³. A more recent study analysed over **800** English sites identified as semi-natural grassland between **1960-1981**. The study found that **47%** of the semi-natural grassland sites had been lost by **2013**⁹⁴. The same study found that some semi-natural grassland types had experienced greater loss than others, with **85%** of lowland heath and dry acid grassland and **39%** calcareous grasslands lost respectively^{*2}.

^{* 2} It should be noted that different habitat classification systems don't necessarily translate directly. For example, the 'Lowland Heath and Dry Acid Grassland' category in the study could fall under a number of Phase 1 habitat categories including either unimproved or semi-improved acid grassland habitats, dry or wet heath/acid grassland mosaics, or even other Phase 1 categories such as 'Bracken'^{94,96}.



Agricultural intensification has been a key contributor to the loss of semi-natural grasslands, with many converting to improved grassland over time or to land used for growing crops⁹⁴. Grassland improvement can arise from different actions, such as the application of agrochemicals like nitrogen fertilisers which have been shown to decrease the number of plant species present⁹⁵. Other examples of more intensive grassland management include the shift towards producing silage rather

than hay (as this removes the plants earlier in the year before they can seed), or re-seeding with plant species that increase grassland productivity⁹⁷. As well as agricultural improvement, new developments remain a threat to the remaining semi-natural grasslands in the Warwickshire sub-region, as does inadequate management⁹⁸. No grazing or cutting, for example, can lead to scrub encroachment or coarser, rank grassland⁹⁸.



Quaking grass *Briza media*

A near threatened species for England⁹⁹, quaking grass is most frequently found in unimproved, well-grazed grasslands, old pastures and meadows on calcareous soils. It favours well-drained slopes¹⁰⁰.

In Warwickshire, the destruction, neglect or under grazing of grasslands have led to widescale losses of this species in many areas. It is now found in a handful of Local Wildlife Sites, nature reserves and privately owned land managed with grassland conservation in mind¹⁴.



Harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*

A nationally threatened herb found on dry, open, unimproved grasslands¹⁰⁰. It can be found on both mildly acidic and calcareous soils across Warwickshire.

Although the harebell remains fairly widespread in the UK, it is becoming less common as a result of habitat destruction, reductions in grazing and grassland fertilisation⁹⁹.

Protecting the remaining areas of semi-natural grassland is hugely important as they can support rare and valuable plant species such as mat-grass (*Nardus stricta*)⁸ or dyer's greenweed (*Genista tinctoria*). Mat-grass is a species found in acid grasslands⁸ and that is classed as near-threatened on the English species red-list⁹⁹. Dyer's greenweed (*Genista tinctoria*), a Warwickshire Scarce plant, can be found in neutral grasslands^{13,14}. Warwickshire Scarce plants are those that from 1990 onwards, have been recorded no more than **10 times**¹⁴.

Semi-natural grasslands can also be home to non-threatened but

iconic British species like the foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), a vibrant and colourful flowering plant that grows particularly well in acidic soils^{8,99}. They can host thriving populations of fungi, such as waxcaps¹⁰¹, as well as wildlife including the green hairstreak butterfly (*Callophrys rubi*)^{8,102}, marbled white butterfly (*Melanargia galathea*)⁹⁸ and birds such as linnets (*Linaria cannabina*) and skylarks (*Alauda arvensis*)³⁵. Maintaining or reinstating appropriate management of semi-natural grasslands, for example through light grazing and controlling extensive scrub encroachment, should help protect these valuable habitats for years to come^{98,8}.

Heathland

A tiny, less than **0.01%** of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull consists of heathland, representing an area of **10ha⁴**. Heathland habitats include areas where heather and gorse species predominate²¹.

Remaining pockets of heathland are found mostly in the north of the sub-region, at Baddesley Common and Grendon Heath Local Wildlife Sites, for example. In the past, much larger areas of heathland were present across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull, as is evidenced through place names such as Hockley Heath¹⁰³ and Dunsmore Heath⁹.

Despite the current rarity of this habitat type across the sub-region, the remaining pockets should be protected, both for the public's enjoyment and for the wildlife value. Heathlands support a variety of species such as the true lover's knot (*Lycophotia porphyria*), a moth whose caterpillars feed on heather^{103,104}.

Table 10. The area and proportion of mire, swamp, marginal and inundation habitats across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull⁴

Habitat name	Broad Phase 1 habitat	Area (hectares)	Proportion of mire, swamp, marginal & inundation habitats in surveyed area (%)	Proportion sub-region (%)
Bog	Mire	2.0	1.1	<0.01
Flush and Spring	Mire	0.2	0.1	<0.01
Fen	Mire	0.1	<0.1	<0.01
Swamp	SM&I ¹	152.0	80.3	0.1
Marginal and Inundation	SM&I ¹	34.8	18.4	<0.1
Total	NA	189.2	100.0	NA

¹Stands for swamp, marginal and inundation

State of waterbodies and wetland

Wetland habitats are incredibly rare across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull⁴. As described in the state of grasslands chapter on page 39, marshy grasslands only represent **0.3%** of the total sub-region. Mire and swamp, marginal and inundation wetland habitats are rarer still (Table 10.)⁴.

Less than **0.01%** of the whole sub-region area is classified as mire⁴. This is defined as wetland plant communities, including species such as *Sphagnum* mosses, often found growing on peat over half a metre thick, although spring and flush habitats are often found on much shallower peat if any at all²¹. Swamp, marginal and inundation habitats as a Phase 1 category, makes up **0.1%** of the sub-region area. For the majority of the year in this habitat type, the water table typically sits above the soil surface and

examples of species that may be found include those in the reedmace family (*Typha* species) and *Glyceria* grasses²¹.

Despite their rarity, wetlands are a hugely valuable habitat type in the sub-region. One particularly notable example is Kingsbury Waterpark in North Warwickshire. The park, designated in **2024** as a Local Wildlife Site, sits in the Tame Valley Wetlands and encompasses a diversity of habitats including wet woodland, neutral and marshy semi-improved grasslands, as well as open standing water, reedbeds and fen¹⁰⁵. The site, managed by Warwickshire County Council, provides important breeding habitat for birds such as common tern (*Sterna hirundo*), great crested grebes (*Podiceps cristatus*), black-headed gulls (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) and reed buntings (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)¹⁰⁵. Brandon Marsh Reserve, managed by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, provides another important mosaic of wetland habitat, lying in Rugby Borough at the very edge of Coventry.

Open waterbodies

1,469km of rivers and canals meander across the sub-region (Table 11)²⁴. These rivers and canals, and the associated wetland and terrestrial habitats that run alongside, can act as important corridors for wildlife, allowing species to move across the landscape and even through quite urbanised settings or those dominated by agriculture^{106,107}.

Important examples in our area include the Grand Union Canal, which provides a wildlife corridor through urban areas of Solihull, and the Coventry Canal, which passes through heavily urbanised areas around Nuneaton and Atherstone and

stretches all the way up to Tamworth in North Warwickshire District^{108,5}.

Table 11. The length of rivers and canals across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull*

Watercourse type	Total length (km)
Canal	209.7
River	1259.8
Total	1469.5

* These length statistics were calculated from the Open Source OS Rivers layer²⁴ to calculate the total estimated length of rivers and canals across the sub-region. Under Phase 1, canals are instead classed as 'standing water'²¹



0.8% of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull (1,913 hectares) is classified as standing water under the Phase 1 habitat survey²¹, which includes ponds, reservoirs, lakes and canals*.

The sub-region's rivers and standing water bodies, the latter including canals, can support aquatic plants, such as grass-wrack pondweed (*Potamogeton compressus* L.), and can provide important foraging habitat for species such as bats¹⁰⁶. Riverbanks can provide nesting habitat for sand martins (*Riparia riparia*)¹⁰⁷, while species like water voles (*Arvicola amphibius*) and kingfishers (*Alcedo atthis*) will shelter in bankside vegetation¹⁰⁶.

Sadly, many open waterbody habitats face a number of threats, including pollution from sources such as industry and agriculture, as well as invasive species. The latter includes plants such as floating pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*), Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and water fern (*Azolla filiculoides*), as well as animal species such as the signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*)^{107,106,109}. The erosion and mismanagement of the associated terrestrial and wetland

habitats adjacent to waterbodies is an issue. This can include regular mowing along canal towpaths, livestock poaching of riverbanks, growing scrub on exposed riverbanks that are used by sand martins and, damage to habitats through recreational use^{107,106,109}.

While much remains to be done, many groups and organisations are working hard to protect and improve the waterbodies of the sub-region. This includes local volunteer groups organising rubbish clear-up days^{106,110} and local authorities, such as Coventry City Council who have taken action to reduce algal blooms at Coombe Pool Site of Special Scientific Interest¹⁰⁹. Partnerships such as the Tame Valley Wetlands are working to restore and protect the wetlands and tributaries of the river Tame¹¹¹.

Designating all waterbodies and associated habitats with existing high wildlife value and recognising these sites in neighbourhood plans and local development plans will also help to protect them^{106,107,109}. The Natural Capital Assessment Partnership team will continue to survey these sites and put them forward to the Local Wildlife Site panel for consideration for Local Wildlife Site designation.



²¹ This area figure also includes canals but does not include rivers and streams²¹. The length of canals calculated instead from the open-source OS rivers layer²⁴ can be found in Table 11.



Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*

Introduced to Britain in **1839** and despite turning out to be a fantastic provider of nectar for insects, Himalayan balsam is now a prevalent invasive plant of riverbanks and ditches throughout the country, including in Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull. It stops all other plants from growing due to its fast growth and highly efficient seed dispersal. It dies back over the winter leaving the riverbank soil exposed, which then increases erosion and adds silt into the water.



Jacob Loughran

Tame Valley Wetlands

Tame Valley Wetlands is a partnership of **23** organisations, including Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Warwickshire County Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and North Warwickshire Borough Council¹¹². The aim of the partnership is to establish and restore wildlife-rich wetlands in the Tame valley, leading to a wildlife-rich landscape for all to enjoy¹¹¹. Recent works have included restoring sections of the River Blythe SSSI through creating wildflower meadows, planting hedges and enhancing the river structure for wildlife¹¹³.

State of agriculture

41% of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull is managed as arable land, while **23%** is managed as agriculturally improved grassland⁴. A further **0.3%** is managed as set-aside⁴. If we take these three habitat types as the predominant agricultural land uses across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull, we can say that **64%** of the sub-region is under agricultural management. This is higher than the UK average of **52%** enclosed farmland cover¹¹⁴.

In reality, other habitats may also sit within agricultural systems. Some of the semi-natural acidic, calcareous and neutral grasslands may well be under a form of extensive livestock management. Although the Phase 1 habitat survey determines habitat type, it doesn't necessarily provide detail as to who is managing that habitat²¹. A local community group could be maintaining a semi-natural grassland habitat through regular cutting, or a farmer could be maintaining it through low-intensity sustainable grazing.

Intensive agricultural practices have led to the complete loss or gradual deterioration of many important semi-natural wildlife habitats³⁴. Actions such as overgrazing, fertiliser applications and the move to silage rather than hay production have all contributed to the loss of semi-natural grasslands⁹⁷. Intensification has also led to increases in field size and hedgerow removal to improve production efficiency with modern machinery¹¹⁵.



Bugloss *Lycopsis arvensis*

Looking like a prickly forget-me-not, bugloss is a striking ancient farmland herb. It is now most often seen in the north of the county. Agricultural intensification and the increased use of herbicides has contributed to its continuing decline.

This is not a blame game.

Agricultural practices have simply responded to legislative and policy changes over time¹¹⁵. Legislation designed to increase food production following the Second World War in particular, put in motion the intensification of agriculture¹¹⁵. However, agriculture can also be part of the solution to reversing wildlife declines. Nationally, many farmers are involved in some kind of agri-environment scheme (AES), which involve management actions designed to help wildlife and protect the natural environment¹¹⁶. AES have been shown to be beneficial for biodiversity, although this can

vary depending on the scheme and location¹¹⁷⁻¹¹⁹. AES actions implemented in non-productive parts of a farm such as hedgerows, have been shown to increase species richness more effectively than in-field actions such as reducing agrichemical use¹¹⁷. Agri-environment actions have also been shown to be more effective at increasing species diversity on arable farms in simple landscapes (those with less than **20%** semi-natural habitat in the vicinity) when compared to those in more complex landscapes (those with more than **20%** semi-natural habitat in the vicinity)¹¹⁸.



Corn buttercup *Ranunculus arvensis*

In the last **50 years**, herbicides have become incredibly efficient at controlling almost all wild arable plants like corn buttercup. This means that they have all but disappeared from the Warwickshire landscape.

It is important not just to prevent the extinction of plant species, but to maintain diversity in the farmland ecosystem. This contributes to the survival of other wildlife species that may use these arable annuals for part of their life cycle.



Warwickshire Wildlife Trust work with farmers and land managers

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust actively works to promote sustainable farming and wildlife-friendly practices in the agricultural industry. The agricultural advice team support farmers in a range of activities, whether that's advising on sustainable grazing practices, soil health or the management, restoration or creation of on-farm habitats such as hedgerows, ponds or woodland¹²⁰.

The Trust also established the Arden Farm Wildlife Network and, alongside the Severn Rivers Trust and Warwickshire Rural Hub, two other farm cluster networks in South Warwickshire and the Leam and Upper Avon region¹²¹. These farm clusters provide platforms for farmers and land managers to gain and exchange knowledge and best practice when it comes to farming sensitively for wildlife within a productive farm system. There are over **120** members belonging to one of these three farm clusters, collectively farming over **25,000** ha of land. Events organised through the farm clusters have covered topics including, calculating a farm's estimated carbon footprint, restoring wildflower meadows and habitat management for species such as barn owls (*Tyto alba*)¹²¹.

Beneficial actions for wildlife don't have to be at odds with productive agricultural systems. Precision agriculture breaks down agricultural inputs and outputs to a very fine level of detail¹²². This allows inputs to be more selectively targeted and production to be maximised¹²². For example, rather than applying a consistent level of fertiliser across a cropped field, a farmer can use precision farming tools to only apply fertiliser where it is most needed¹²². This reduces costs and, applying lower levels of agrochemicals can only be beneficial for wildlife too¹²². As precision agriculture uses technology to monitor every aspect of production, it can be used to identify

cropped areas that are low yielding year on year¹²². Instead of wasting resources on areas of land that are unproductive, these areas can instead be taken out of agricultural production and turned into wildlife habitat¹²².

Working with farmers to implement appropriate management and actions for wildlife will be integral for achieving conservation at a landscape level. Even in the agriculturally dominated landscapes found outside urban areas across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull, farmers can play a valuable role in providing wildlife resources and habitat connectivity.



Warwickshire Wildlife Trust



State of the urban environment

Remotely-sensed satellite data show us that **9%** of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull consists of urban land cover, representing an area of **20,459** hectares²³. This compares to a **7%** urban / suburban* land cover across the UK as a whole^{114,123}.

In the context of the satellite-derived habitat classification map, urban land cover includes buildings and any 'non-natural' surfaces or objects²³.

Given the heavily urbanised landscape across the region, particularly around the key urban centres of Solihull, Coventry and Rugby, protecting, maintaining and restoring any remaining wildlife-friendly habitats and other greenspace is vitally important. Studies have shown the value of natural features and green spaces for urban communities. A greater tree cover reduces urban air temperatures for example, suggesting that increasing tree cover could be a valuable tool in adapting cities to a changing climate¹²⁴. Studies have shown positive effects of greenspace on a range of human health outcomes, including greater levels of physical activity and sleep and better mental health¹²⁵. The benefits of having a patch of greenspace in an urban setting can be disproportionately greater than the area coverage of the greenspace itself, as many people are likely to benefit from the site when the population density is high.

Urban environments don't have to be wildlife deserts if the right resources are available. Swifts (*Apus apus*), for example, can happily nest in roof cavities. Studies have shown instances of urban environments supporting a greater number of bee species (species richness) than rural areas. This could be linked to factors such as farmland potentially having less resource availability when intensively managed^{126,127}.



* Note that due to differences in analysing data, the ONS statistics for suburban area also include some vegetation features such as gardens^{114, 123}, whereas the NCAP satellite data will not necessarily be including gardens containing vegetation. These are more likely to be classified as one of the other habitat types such as grassland.



Rusty-back fern *Asplenium ceterach*

A distinctive limestone-loving fern, the rusty-back fern has historically benefitted from the increase in available habitat created by traditional limestone mortared walls and bridges across the county. With its wall habitats having been cleaned or renovated more recently, population loss has been widespread. Only a handful of rusty-back fern communities are now present across Warwickshire¹⁴.



Allotments in Nuneaton and Bedworth

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's (NBBC) **2012-2022** Allotment Strategy recognised the numerous benefits of allotments, including their educational use and health benefits, for example through them acting as 'green lungs' in urban areas and providing physical exercise. It also recognised the value of allotments for wildlife, through acting as wildlife corridors and, their generally higher biodiversity value than parks in towns and cities¹²⁸. Several allotment associations have successfully used surplus land, or land where cultivation is problematic (such as areas prone to flooding), to create new wildlife areas.



Even species surviving in urban landscapes can only do so if the right resources are available and pressures are not too great. Populations of the rusty-back fern (*Asplenium ceterach*) are still clinging on to bridges over canals in some urban areas of our region, for example, but they can only survive if walls are not cleaned of vegetation. Providing a range of habitats in urban centres, protecting those that remain and providing connectivity between them, are all actions likely to benefit wildlife.

Expanding urbanisation and development are placing pressure on the remaining greenspaces and semi-natural habitats in and around urban centres. Designating the most valuable of these as Local Wildlife Sites can go some way toward helping to protect them from development. When local authorities are producing development plans, and subsequently making planning decisions, the Government's National Planning Policy Framework must be taken into consideration¹²⁹. This states that Local Wildlife Sites, as well as statutorily designated national

and international sites, should all be identified and safeguarded¹²⁹.

There are a number of Local Wildlife Sites in urban centres of differing sizes across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull. Claybrookes Marsh is one such site, located on the edge of Coventry and providing a mosaic of habitats on a former industrial site for visitors to enjoy. These include willow carr, semi-improved grassland and reed beds. The site is managed by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and has also been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest^{12,130}. Churchyards also often support valuable habitat. One example is Leek Wootton Churchyard, home to a range of valuable plants such as the near-threatened wild strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) and the county notable spiked sedge (*Carex spicata*)¹³¹. The NCAP team, along with local authority partners, are also developing new selection criteria for urban Local Wildlife Sites. These will place a greater emphasis on recognising the community and human value of urban sites as well as their value for wildlife.



Hatton Locks



David P Howard / All Saints Church, Leek Wootton



Lorna Gwilliam

Engaging communities in urban centres

At a landscape-recovery level, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) and local authorities across the sub-region are working hard to restore nature in urban centres. The **£3 million** Natural Lottery Heritage funded Sherbourne Valley Project has been re-connecting communities in Coventry with the River Sherbourne, which flows through and under the city centre⁴⁶. Virtual reality¹³² and river festivals¹³³ have brought the Sherbourne to life for the citizens of Coventry, while river restoration works have taken place upstream at Coundon Wedge. This is a site in suburban North-West Coventry and which is also a Local Wildlife Site¹³⁴.

An important element of work at WWT is engaging local communities to take their own action for nature, including in urban environments. The #TeamWilder initiative works with both individuals and groups to inspire people of all ages and from all backgrounds to become nature champions in their local patch¹³⁵. Communities have already made a massive difference through wildlife-friendly gardening, setting up swift nest boxes, pond restoration and so much more. By increasing this momentum, together we can bring nature back to our streets and gardens¹³⁵.



Conclusions and key considerations

As stated in the habitats overview at the start of this report, we estimate that Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull are halfway there with meeting the '30% of land for wildlife by 2030' target which is incorporated into global, national, local and organisational strategies^{1,2,3}. While there is a long way to go, we have incredible wildlife champions already having massively positive impacts for the habitats and species in our humble but important corner of the world and at every level of society.

Landscape-level conservation is ramping up like never before, providing huge opportunities for nature's recovery. Over the next year and beyond, regional authorities will be producing Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) that will identify key areas for habitat restoration, creation and management at a whole landscape level²⁵. The authority responsible for producing this strategy for Warwickshire is Warwickshire County Council, while the West Midlands Combined Authority will produce the LNRS that covers Coventry and Solihull. The Natural Capital Assessment Partnership habitats and Local Wildlife Site data will play a big part in understanding the baseline habitat resources we already have in the sub-region so that, following conservation action, progress can be monitored.

This report has highlighted some key considerations for conservation action at a landscape level, as well as additional data that would be useful to collect.

- We must do everything in our collective power to protect the remaining semi-natural and wildlife habitats that already exist. We cannot afford to lose any more of the rarest habitats, such as heathlands, wetlands and semi-natural grasslands.
- Also of great value, and which must be protected, are those areas with already large clusters of Local Wildlife Sites, potential Local Wildlife Sites, sites with statutory designations and other areas of semi-natural habitat. These areas should not be eroded but instead, appropriately buffered from human activity and connected by wildlife corridors. Other datasets not included in this report, such as connectivity models, could be particularly valuable, for example when developing the Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
- Making sure that all potentially valuable habitats are recorded as potential Local Wildlife Sites (pLWS), and surveying and designating all pLWS meeting minimum criteria as Local Wildlife Sites, could go a long way in protecting many habitats.

- Data as to the extent of habitats needs to better incorporate data as to the condition and quality of habitats. Where condition data does not exist, this needs to be gathered. Even semi-natural habitats don't have the wildlife value that they could have if they are poorly managed. Many Local Wildlife Sites, for example, degrade over time due to inappropriate management.
- While it was beyond the scope of this report, the habitat data could be explored from different angles to provide additional information as to action that could be taken in the sub-region. For example, it has been suggested that 5 hectares is the minimum woodland parcel size to aim for, for supporting generalist species of woodland bird⁷⁴. Assessing how many woodland parcels in the sub-region meet this criteria would be valuable additional data and identify priorities for woodland expansion. Assessing the proportion of individual habitats lying within **10m** of the edge of a habitat could also be calculated. A recent study noted that **10km** hedgerow per km² was an optimum amount for supporting wildlife¹³⁶. The proportion of hedgerow, or other habitats, per km² across the sub-region could also be calculated.

Our collective actions at a landscape level will make a huge difference to the state of habitats across Warwickshire, Coventry, Solihull. Several local authorities in the area have declared an ecological emergency, putting nature high up on the priority list. The most valuable sites can be protected as Local Wildlife Sites and incorporated into Local Development Plans, Neighbourhood Plans and the Local Nature Recovery Strategies. Local Biodiversity Action Plan targets already exist for many of our most

vulnerable and valuable species and habitats and progress can continue to be monitored against these.

Ultimately, a thriving and healthy natural world is good for nature and good for people. If we are able to restore Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull's habitats to recreate thriving ecosystems, we will play our part in helping to safeguard the future for humanity, adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change and make the sub-region a nicer place to live.

Finally, at an individual level, our actions can also make a difference for wildlife, whether that's through getting involved with community groups sustainably managing a Local Wildlife Site, volunteer groups cleaning up a local river or, creating a mini pond in a garden. Together we can achieve **30 by 30** in our region, restore Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull's habitats and bring our wildlife back.



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Appendix 1. Methods

Habitat mapping

Phase I habitats

Habitat coverage across the subregion was calculated using data from the most recent NCAP Phase I habitat survey data, incorporating records from **1982-2019**⁴. Data were cleaned prior to inclusion in this report resulting in the removal of **109 features**. Habitats were grouped by Phase I code⁴ and clipped to the OS boundary line of the subregion¹⁹. Summary statistics of habitat area were performed using ESRI ArcGIS Pro 3.2.1¹³⁷. Additional statistics on the length of rivers and canals were calculated using OS Open Rivers data²⁴.

Ancient woodland and ancient trees

Statistics on the coverage of ancient woodland were calculated using Natural England Revised Ancient Woodland data²². Statistics on the number of ancient and veteran trees was calculated using Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory data¹³⁸. Data was clipped to the OS boundary line of the subregion¹⁹ and summary statistics performed using ESRI ArcGIS Pro 3.2.1¹³⁷.

30 by 30 statistics

Phase I habitats were divided into those that provide suitable resources and habitat for wildlife and those that don't. The polygon areas from

NCAP's Phase I spatial data⁴ for each category ('wildlife' and 'non-wildlife') were summed. Hedgerow data was incorporated by converting NCAP linear hedgerow data⁴ into a **2m-wide polygon**. The hedgerow polygon was used to clip and remove the hedgerow area from the Phase I habitat polygon layer, which includes all non-linear habitats, to avoid double counting habitat area.

There are caveats associated with deciding which habitats are wildlife-friendly. There is a chance that some habitat areas that haven't been surveyed recently are no longer the habitat recorded on the Phase I spatial layer. Also, looking at 'non-wildlife' or 'wildlife' habitats from a different angle may change which category they are placed into. For example, arable land was considered 'non-wildlife' habitat but, many farms are in agri-environment schemes and could be providing 'wildlife habitat' even within cultivated areas. The process for estimating '**30 by 30**' will undergo refinement and discussions with stakeholders as to how 'wildlife habitat' is defined. As this process progresses, updated estimates of **30 by 30** will be produced.

Change detection

The most recent Phase I habitat survey data was filtered to include the years **2013-2019**. Historic NCAP Phase I

Habitat survey data was obtained up to and inclusive of the year **2012**. Data was cleaned and habitats were grouped by Phase I code⁴. Summary statistics of habitat area were performed using ESRI ArcGIS Pro 3.2.1¹³⁷ on those areas surveyed in the field within both time scales (**1982 – 2012 and 2013 – 2019**). The percentage of each habitat from the surveyed area was calculated.

Habitat classification & validation

The coverage of habitat classes was calculated using Spottit classification raster data²³ generated from satellite imagery collected in **2023**⁴¹. Pixel size was **50cm** resolution. The classification was generated using a bespoke algorithm by Spottit that combined Convolutional Neural Network / Maximum Likelihood methods. An accuracy assessment was performed by the NCAP team on classes Woodland, Rivers and Lakes and Urban, by cross referencing the assigned pixels against known habitat data to check the accuracy with which each habitat had

been classified. Raster data was clipped to OS boundary line of the subregion¹⁹. The pixel count of each habitat class was calculated using QGIS 3.28.10 Raster Layer Unique Values Report tool¹³⁹.

Designated sites

Statutory designated sites data (SAC, SSSI and LNR) were obtained from Natural England and clipped to the OS boundary line of the subregion^{15,16,17,19}. To obtain an estimate of statutory designated site subregion area coverage, datasets were dissolved to remove overlapping polygons.

NCAP Local Wildlife Site data⁵ was clipped to the OS boundary line of the subregion¹⁹ and summary statistics were calculated using ESRI ArcGIS Pro 3.2.1¹³⁷. The local authority at the centre of each site was allocated. Summary statistics were calculated on the number and designation status of Local Wildlife Sites per local authority. The habitat coverage within potential, designated and destroyed local wildlife sites was calculated using the most recent NCAP Phase I habitat survey data⁴.







State of Habitats: North Warwickshire

1. The State of Habitats

This State of Habitats summary for North Warwickshire Borough Council is based on data gathered by the Natural Capital Assessment Partnership (NCAP) over the last 25 years^{1,2}. Formerly known as the Habitat Biodiversity Audit, NCAP is managed by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) and hosted by Warwickshire County Council (WCC). WWT, WCC, North Warwickshire Borough Council and 6 other local authorities across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull contribute funding to the partnership. The aim of the overall State of Habitats report³ and this summary is to provide a habitat baseline that can help to inform the most effective actions for protecting, enhancing and restoring the nature of the sub-region. In this report, the sub-region refers collectively to the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull local authority areas.

2. NCAP data

The statistics in this summary draw primarily on 'Phase 1' habitat data gathered by the NCAP team¹. Phase 1 is a habitat survey method developed by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee⁴. Habitat data have been gathered by the NCAP team on a rolling basis over the last 25 years. It should be noted that some areas of the sub-region remain un-surveyed, due to factors such as inaccessibility, because appropriate phase 1 habitat definitions do not exist, e.g. for urban habitats⁴, or because urban features, such as building and roads, haven't typically been mapped in the past. As a result of these factors, **12% of North Warwickshire is un-surveyed**^{1,5}.

In 2023, NCAP also acquired remotely sensed satellite data from Spottitt⁶⁻¹⁰, as well as a habitat classification map produced by Spottitt and derived from the satellite data¹¹. The habitat map places the entire sub-region into 11 different habitat categories¹¹. The long-term aim is for this remotely sensed dataset to complement the Phase 1 habitat data, for example by filling in some of the gaps that have arisen from using Phase 1. Where relevant, the State of Habitats report and this summary refer to this new remotely sensed dataset.

3. North Warwickshire's diversity of habitats

Covering an area of 28,431 hectares⁵, the majority of North Warwickshire Borough lies in the Arden National Character Area (NCA)¹². The NCA is characterised in less urban areas by its gently rolling landscapes of farms and wood pastures as well as its river meadows and pockets of ancient woodland¹². The Mease/Sence Lowlands NCA cuts across the north and northeast of the borough, known for its rivers, wetlands, neutral grasslands and the Coventry Canal¹³. Cannock Chase and Cank Wood NCA¹⁴ is found in the west of the borough, as is the Trent Valley Washlands NCA¹⁵. A series of valuable wetlands, around Kingsbury and Lea Marston, are found in the latter².

From wet woodland to heathland, North Warwickshire is home to a variety of habitats valuable at a sub-regional level. Some of these areas are designated as Local Wildlife Sites, like Baddesley Common where one of the sub-region's last remnants of long-established heathland can be found². Many post-industrial sites are also found in the borough, such as Edge Hill Wood and Kingsbury Spoil Mound Local Wildlife Site with, among other habitats, its acid pools and associated wetlands².



Heathland and wetlands are the rarest broad Phase 1 habitat types across North Warwickshire Borough. Heathland covers **0.01%** of the local authority area, which represents **34% of the 10 hectares of heathland that remain across the sub-region¹**. North Warwickshire is one of only four local authorities across the sub-region to have any heathland habitat remaining. The wetland habitats of 'mire' and 'swamp, marginal and inundation' collectively represent **0.2%** of the local authority area¹. 28% of the sub-region's remaining 187 hectares of 'swamp, marginal and inundation' habitats are found in North Warwickshire¹. These Phase 1 habitats all fall under the 'other' category in Figure 1.

At the other end of the scale, it is estimated that **49%** of North Warwickshire is categorised as Phase 1 '**cultivated and disturbed**' land, which includes habitats such as amenity grassland, arable land and introduced shrub^{1,4}.

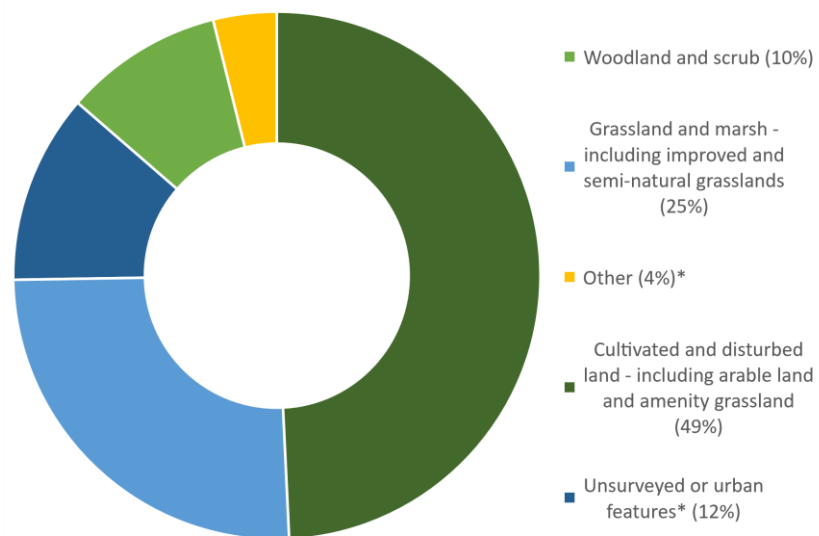
Under the broad Phase 1 'Woodland and Scrub' habitat category, '**parkland**', '**woodland**', '**recently-felled woodland**' and '**wet woodland**' collectively account for **8% of North Warwickshire's local authority area¹**, compared to 7% at the sub-regional level^{1,3} and 13% at a national level¹⁶.

North Warwickshire is slightly less **urbanised** than the sub-region as a whole. Remote sensing imagery shows that **8%** of the local authority region is covered by urban features such as roads and buildings compared to 9% of the sub-region¹¹.

If we consider improved grassland, set-aside and arable land as the main agricultural land uses across the sub-region, we estimate that approximately **64% of North Warwickshire is farmed**. This is the same as at the sub-regional level (64%)^{1,3}.

11% of North Warwickshire's grasslands are **semi-natural grasslands with distinctive calcareous, neutral, acid or marshy grassland plant communities**. This is the same as at the sub-regional level (11%). North Warwickshire is an important stronghold of acid grassland, as 37% of the sub-region's remaining 77 hectares are found in the borough^{1,3}.

Figure 1. Proportion of broad Phase 1 habitats across North Warwickshire Borough¹



*Urban features, e.g. buildings / roads and other 'artificial' surfaces are not included in the Phase 1 survey process and so are included in un-surveyed areas. 'Other' includes 'heathland', 'mire', and 'swamp, marginal and inundation' wetlands, 'tall herbs', 'open water' and 'rock exposure & waste'.

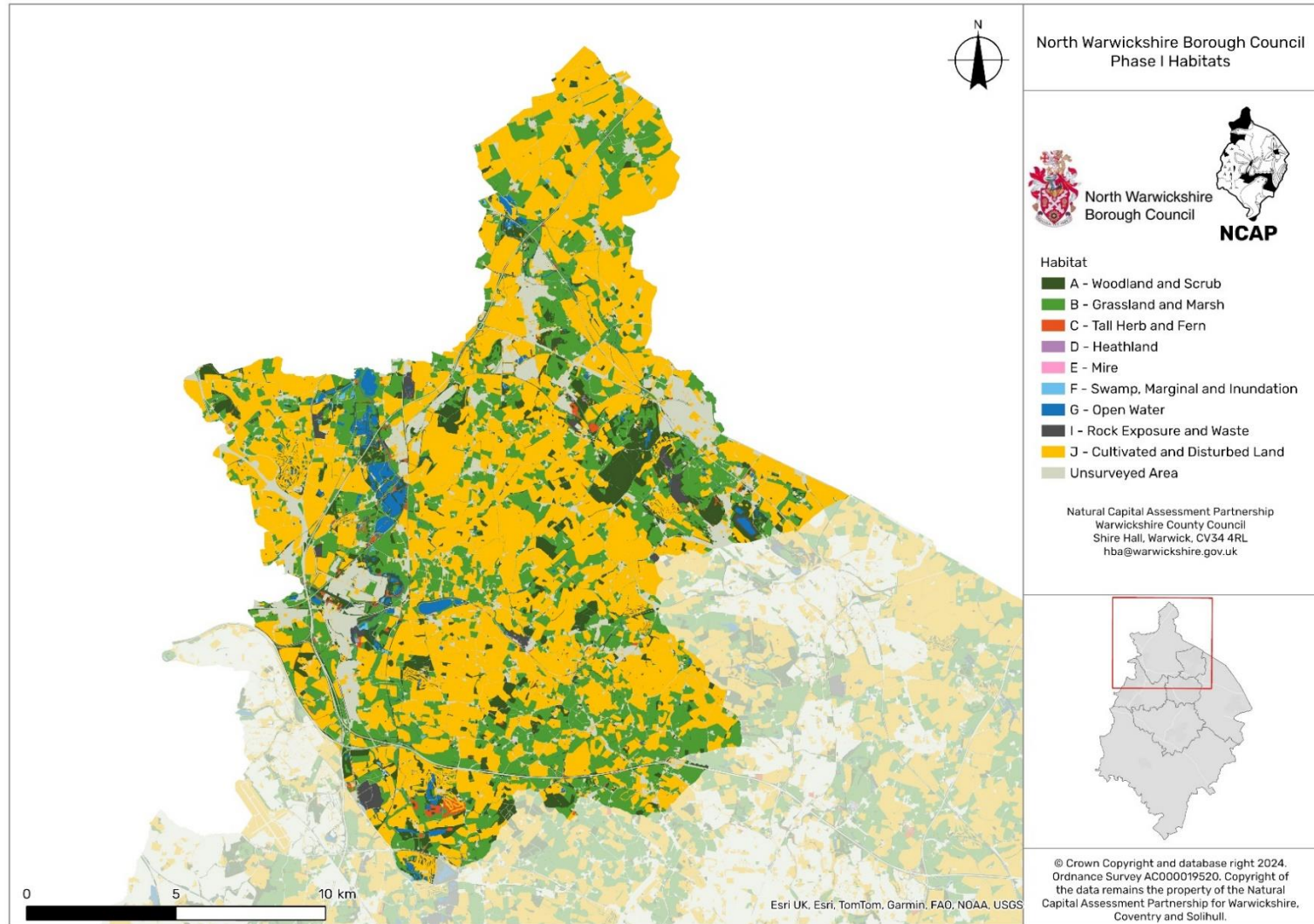


Figure 2. Map of Phase 1 habitats across North Warwickshire Borough



4. North Warwickshire’s protected sites

North Warwickshire has **18 sites with statutory protection**^{17,18}:

- **5** Local Nature Reserves¹⁸
- **13** Sites of Special Scientific Interest¹⁷

These statutorily protected sites account for approximately **1%** of North Warwickshire’s land area (**423 hectares**)^{5,17,18}.

North Warwickshire has **118 Local Wildlife Sites** (including those with boundaries across multiple authorities), or **1207 hectares** of land in Local Wildlife Sites (4% of the total area)². An additional 222 potential Local Wildlife Sites sit, at least partially, within North Warwickshire’s boundaries².

Out of these 118 Local Wildlife Sites, **72** were known at the time of survey to be under **good or favourable management**². For the remaining sites, data are either missing or their condition would benefit from management changes.

5. Breakdown of Phase 1 habitats

Woodland

With 10% of North Warwickshire covered by woodland and scrub habitats (Table 1.), the borough is the most wooded local authority across the sub-region. Woodland and scrub habitats cover 8% of the sub-region^{1,3}.

Table 1. The area and proportion of Phase 1 woodland / scrub sub-habitats across North Warwickshire¹

Habitat	Total Area (Ha)	Proportion of North Warwickshire’s woodland / scrub habitats (%)	Proportion of local authority area (%)
Woodland	2274.2	82.1	8.0
Scrub	357.3	12.9	1.3
Parkland	87.3	3.2	0.3
Felled Woodland	5.0	0.2	<0.1
Orchard* ¹	6.1	0.2	<0.1
Wet Woodland* ¹	38.6	1.4	0.1
Total	2768.5	100.0	9.7

*¹ Not officially Phase 1 codes as defined under JNCC Phase 1 guidelines⁴ but, included under Woodland and Scrub habitat classification by NCAP.

As can be seen from table 1, woodland alone accounts for 8% of North Warwickshire’s total land area and 82% of the broad Phase 1 ‘woodland & scrub’ habitats¹. Breaking down the statistics further shows that the majority of woodland across the borough is broadleaved (73%). Only 10% of



woodlands across North Warwickshire are coniferous and 17% are mixed woodland¹. There is also a greater extent of semi-natural woodland (54%) than plantation (46%)¹.

North Warwickshire holds a substantial proportion (19%) of the sub-region's remaining 200 hectares of wet woodland¹. 11% of the sub-region's remaining 825 hectares of parkland are also found in the borough¹.

Grassland

Grassland and marsh cover 25% of North Warwickshire, compared to 29% of the sub-region as a whole^{1,3}. The majority of grassland across the borough is improved grassland (74% - Table 2)¹. Improved grasslands have been more intensively managed to increase agricultural performance, for example through the application of agrochemicals such as herbicides or fertilisers⁴. As a result, plant species diversity is poor and tends to include species with a high tolerance for over-grazing and high nutrient levels⁴.

Semi-natural grasslands account for the remaining 26% grasslands across North Warwickshire^{1,3}. However, 57% of these are in poor condition meaning that they cannot be allocated a semi-natural grassland category according to environmental conditions and characteristic plant communities (calcareous, acid, neutral or marshy grasslands). Instead, they are classed as 'poor semi-improved grasslands'¹.

As noted in the summary section, 37% of the sub-region's 77 hectares of acid grassland are found in North Warwickshire. 10% of the sub-region's 6169 hectares of neutral grassland are also found in the borough¹.

The statistics in this summary section do not include amenity grassland which falls under the 'cultivated and disturbed land' Phase 1 broad habitat category⁴. Amenity grassland accounts for 3% of North Warwickshire's local authority area, in addition to the grassland habitats outlined in Table 2¹.

Table 2. The area and proportion of different grassland sub-habitats across North Warwickshire¹

Grassland type	Area (Ha)	Proportion of North Warwickshire's surveyed grassland habitats (%)	Proportion of local authority area (%)
Acid Grassland	28.4	0.4	0.1
Neutral Grassland	645.6	8.9	2.3
Calcareous Grassland	0.5	<0.1	<0.01
Improved Grassland	5363.4	74.0	18.9
Marsh/marshy Grassland	144.1	2.0	0.5
Poor semi-improved grassland	1067.2	14.7	3.8
Total	7249.1	100.0	25.5



Waterbodies and Wetland

Some of the rarest habitats across the sub-region, wetlands are similarly rare across North Warwickshire (Table 3)^{1,3}. As described in the grassland summary section above, marshy grasslands also represent 0.5% of North Warwickshire’s land cover¹.

North Warwickshire is important at a sub-regional level for wetland habitats, being host to 28% of the sub-region’s 187 hectares of ‘swamp, marginal and inundation’ habitats and 10% of the sub-region’s 2 hectares of ‘mire’ habitat¹.

Mire habitats consist of communities of wetland plants including species such as *Sphagnum* mosses. They are frequently found above thick peat (over 0.5m thick) although flushes and springs can be found on thinner peat, if any at all⁴. Swamp, marginal and inundation habitats include those where the water table lies above the surface of the soil for most of the year. Plants such as *Glyceria* grasses and species in the *Typha* family (reedmaces) are often found growing in these habitats⁴.

Table 3. The area and proportion of ‘mire’ and ‘swamp, marginal & inundation’ habitats across North Warwickshire¹

Habitat Name	Broad Phase 1 habitat	Area (Ha)	Proportion of North Warwickshire’s surveyed wetland habitats (%)	Proportion North Warwickshire area (%)
Flush and Spring	Mire	0.2	0.4	<0.01
Swamp	SM&I	47.7	89.2	0.2
Marginal and Inundation	SM&I	5.5	10.3	<0.1
Total	Wetland	53.4	100.0	0.2

‘Standing water’, which under the Phase 1 habitat survey definition includes reservoirs, ponds, canals and lakes, accounts for 2% of North Warwickshire’s land area (534 hectares)^{1,4}.

Post-industrial Sites

40% of the sub-region’s 590 hectares of ‘rock exposure & waste habitats’, which include quarries and spoil heaps, are found in North Warwickshire^{1,4}. While not all of these will be valuable to wildlife, many post-industrial sites can have substantial botanical value and should be surveyed prior to development for example.

6. Satellite-derived habitat data

Table 4. outlines the areas of different habitats found across North Warwickshire as calculated from the Spottitt remotely-sensed habitat classification map¹¹. It also demonstrates the proportion of the borough’s area covered by each habitat type. 8% of North Warwickshire’s area is covered by the ‘urban’ land cover types which include artificial surfaces such as roads and buildings¹¹.

The Spottitt habitat classification map¹¹ shows 18% North Warwickshire as being covered by woodland and trees. This proportion cover is higher than that shown by the Phase 1 habitat data¹, linked to the fact that both woodland and trees outside woodland are included in the same category.



Essentially the habitat classification provides an estimate of tree canopy cover and so is not directly comparable to the Phase 1 woodland data.

Table 4. Area of broad habitats across North Warwickshire, the proportion of the local authority area they represent and their User's Accuracies¹¹

Habitat	Area mapped (Ha)	Proportion of North Warwickshire's area (%)	User's Accuracy (%)
Woodland & Trees	5107.3	18.0	82
Urban	2320.7	8.2	97
Water	462.8	1.6	74

A key part of using a remotely-sensed classification map is to assess whether habitats on the ground have been mapped correctly. The User's Accuracies in Table 4. show how well three habitats have been mapped. The statistics for the remaining habitat classification categories will be completed throughout 2024. For a particular pixel on the habitat classification map, User's Accuracies outline the probability that the pixel has been allocated the correct habitat type as is found on the ground^{19,20}. The 'woodland' habitat, for example, has a User's Accuracy of 82%. 82 out of every 100 pixels classified as woodland on the habitat classification map are woodland on the ground and therefore correctly classified. However, 18 out of every 100 pixels have been incorrectly classified as woodland when they are in fact other habitats on the ground.

7. Opportunities

Protecting the rarest habitat types, such as semi-natural grasslands and wetlands, should be a priority so that they're not lost completely from the sub-region.

7 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) have been lost across North Warwickshire since the NCAP partnership started gathering data². Protecting the remaining LWS from development will go a long way to preventing the loss of some of the area's most valuable sites for nature.

Management could be improved across LWS so that they are all considered as being under **good / favourable management**.

Surveying potential LWS (pLWS) and designating those meeting the threshold criteria as LWS could add up to **1745 additional hectares of wildlife habitat across the borough**².

It is not known how many pLWS have been lost across the local authority area but, many are also facing pressure from development. Once the accuracy assessment has been completed for the remotely sensed habitat classification map, a useful next step would be to use the data to determine which pLWS have already been lost.

Exploring opportunities for buffering and connecting remnant habitat patches and sites would be valuable. The Local Nature Recovery Strategies will identify key nature-recovery focal areas at a landscape level. Areas with large clusters of LWS / pLWS could be a starting point in this process.



8. References

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