Gloucestershire Waste Plan
Integrated Impact Assessment
Scoping Report

Gloucestershire County Council

Final report
Prepared by LUC
November 2022

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Chapter 1
Introduction

1.1 LUC was commissioned by Gloucestershire County Council, as the Waste Planning Authority for Gloucestershire, in July 2022 to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment, comprising Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA), Rural Proofing and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the review of the Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan. As explained later in this chapter the HIA, EqIA and Rural Proofing will be presented as part of the SA, therefore, for simplicity within this report we mostly refer just to the SA, which should be taken as incorporating SEA, HIA, Rural Proofing and EqIA.

1.2 The purpose of this Scoping Report is to establish an appropriate scope and level of detail for the SA of the Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan (GWLP) and to document this as a basis for consultation with the statutory consultees for SA.

Geographical context for the Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan

1.3 Gloucestershire lies in the South West of England bordering Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Oxfordshire and other unitary authorities South Gloucestershire, Swindon, Wiltshire, Monmouthshire and Herefordshire. The County includes six Local Authorities: Cotswold, Forest of Dean, Stroud, Cheltenham Borough, Tewkesbury Borough and the city of Gloucester.

1.4 In 2020, Gloucestershire had a population of 640,700 and population forecasts suggest that this number is set to increase by 104,924 people or 16.6% to around 738,482 in 2043. The county has two main urban areas - Gloucester and Cheltenham – both of which are located in the centre of the

county, within the Central Severn Vale. Between them, the two areas provide a large proportion of Gloucestershire's housing and employment opportunities.

1.5 Geographically, Gloucestershire is split into three distinct landscape areas – the Cotswolds, the Forest of Dean and the Central Severn Vale. Much of the county (close to 51% of the total land area) falls within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Parts of the Wye Valley AONB and Malvern Hills AONB also lie within the county. A large part of the area between Gloucester and Cheltenham is designated as Green Belt and there are several sites of international, national and local significance in relation to nature conservation across the county. The western part of the county is dominated by the Forest of Dean and the River Severn. The county has 519 scheduled monuments, 14,974 listed buildings and over 31,000 other archaeological sites.

1.6 Gloucestershire benefits from transport links via the strategic road network including the M5 and M4 motorways, Gloucester-Sharpness Canal and River Severn, regular rail services to London, Wales, the South West and North and there is a regional airport.

Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan

1.7 The Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan (GWLP) currently comprises the Waste Core Strategy (WCS) 2012 **[See reference 1]** and 10 saved Development Management policies from the Waste Local Plan (WLP) 2004. The WCS was prepared prior to the NPPF and NPPW (although broadly in line with them) and therefore requires updating. The County Council therefore intends to progress with a new Waste Local Plan for Gloucestershire.

1.8 The new plan will provide the local planning policy framework for all waste matters in the county. It will replace the adopted Gloucestershire Waste Core Strategy and all of the remaining, yet-to-be replaced ‘saved’ policies of the adopted Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan.

1.9 In addition to a new waste local plan, the County Council also intends to produce a new Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to replace the adopted Waste Minimisation in Development Projects SPD 2006.

Sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessment

1.10 Under the amended Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 **[See reference 2]**, SA is mandatory for Development Plan Documents. For these documents it is also necessary to conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC) as transposed into law in England by the SEA Regulations **[See reference 3]**, which currently remain in force despite the UK exiting the European Union in January 2020. Therefore, it is a legal requirement for the Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation.

1.11 The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are distinct, although it is possible to satisfy both using a single appraisal process (as advocated in the national Planning Practice Guidance **[See reference 4]**), whereby users can comply with the requirements of the SEA Regulations through a single integrated SA process – this is the process that is being undertaken by Gloucestershire County Council. From here on, the term 'SA' should therefore be taken to mean 'SA incorporating the requirements of the SEA Regulations'.

1.12 The SA process comprises a number of stages, with scoping being Stage A as shown below:

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.

Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects.

Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Stage D: Consulting on the Waste Local Plan and the SA Report.

Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Waste Local Plan.

Health impact assessment

1.13 Although not a statutory requirement, Health Impact Assessment (HIA) aims to ensure that health-related issues are integrated into the plan-making process. The HIA of the Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan will be carried out as part of the SA by ensuring that the SA objectives against which the Plan is appraised address relevant health issues. Recommendations will be made in relation to how the health-related impacts of the Plan can be optimised as the options are developed into detailed policies and site allocations.

Equalities impact assessment

1.14 The requirement to undertake formal Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) of development plans was introduced in the Equality Act 2010 but was abolished in 2012. Despite this, authorities are still required to have regard to the provisions of the Equality Act, namely the Public Sector Duty which requires public authorities to have due regard for equalities considerations when exercising their functions.

1.15 In fulfilling this duty, many authorities still find it useful to produce a written record of how equality issues have been considered. Therefore, an EqIA will be carried out and presented in an appendix to the IIA report, setting out how the Waste Local Plan is likely to be compatible or incompatible with the duties that Gloucestershire County Council must perform under the Equalities Act 2010.

The findings will be taken into account and highlighted within the SA in relation to sustainability objectives covering equality issues.

Rural proofing

1.16 Rural areas are home to one-fifth of England's population and a quarter of all registered businesses. However, rural areas face particular challenges around distance, sparsity and demography. It is therefore important to consider the effects of policies on rural areas – a process known as rural proofing. Government guidance **[See reference** 5**]** on rural proofing recommends that the process starts at an early stage of policy development and continues beyond policy evaluation. The process should cover four key questions:

1. What are the direct or indirect impacts of the policy on rural areas?

2. What is the scale of these impacts?

3. What actions can you take to tailor your policy to work best in rural areas?

4. What effect has your policy had on rural areas and how can it be further adapted?

1.17 In 2021, a further report on rural proofing **[See reference** 6**]** was produced, setting out the UK Government's aims of strengthening the rural economy, developing rural infrastructure, delivering rural services and managing the natural environment in addition to considering the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic.

1.18 This SA report considers the effects of the GWLP on the rural communities within Gloucestershire by ensuring that the SA objectives against which the Plan is appraised address relevant issues facing rural communities.

Habitats regulations assessment

1.19 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of development plans was confirmed by the amendments to the Habitats Regulations published for England and Wales in July 2007 and updated in 2010 and again in 2012 and 2017 **[See reference 7]**. The Regulations translate Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) and 79/409/EEC (Birds Directive) into UK law and currently remain a legal requirement despite the UK exiting the European Union.

1.20 The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European Site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site.

1.21 The HRA will be undertaken separately but the findings will be taken into account in the SA where relevant (for example to inform judgements about the likely effects of potential development locations on biodiversity).

Approach to scoping

1.22 There are five tasks involved at the Scoping Stage of SA:

Stage A1: Setting out the policy context for the SA of the Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan (i.e. key government policies and strategies that influence what the Waste Local Plan and the SA needs to consider).

Stage A2: Setting out the baseline for the SA of the Waste Local Plan (i.e. the current environmental, social and economic conditions in Gloucestershire County and their likely future evolution in the absence of the Plan).

Stage A3: Drawing on A1 and A2, identify the particular sustainability problems and/or opportunities ('issues') that the Waste Local Plan and SA should address.

Stage A4: Drawing on A1, A2 and A3, develop a framework of SA Objectives and assessment criteria against which the constituent parts of the Waste Local Plan can be appraised, both in isolation and in combination.

Stage A5: Consultation on the intended scope and level of detail of the SA.

1.23 This Scoping Report fulfils the requirements set out above with a view to establishing an approach to the SA that is capable of appraising the likely significant effects of constituent parts of the Waste Local Plan in isolation and in combination. In accordance with national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), published online by the Government, the SA should be proportionate and relevant to the Waste Local Plan, focussing on what is needed to identify and assess the likely significant effects.

Meeting the requirements of the SEA Regulations

1.24 The relevant sections of the Scoping Report that are considered to meet the SEA Regulations' requirements (the remainder will be met during subsequent stages of the SA of the Waste Local Plan Review) are signposted below. This information will be included in the full SA Report at each stage of plan-making, to show how the requirements of the SEA Regulations are being met through the SA process.

1.25 SEA Guidance recognises that data gaps will exist but suggests that where baseline information is unavailable or unsatisfactory, authorities should consider

how it will affect their assessments and determine how to improve it for use in the assessment of future plans. Where there are data gaps in the baseline and forthcoming reports, these are highlighted in the text. The collection and analysis of baseline data is regarded as a continual and evolving process, given that information can change or be updated on a regular basis. Relevant baseline information will be updated during the SA process, as and when data is published.

Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated (regulation 12). The information to be given is (Schedule 2):

SEA Regulations' Requirements

a. An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.

b. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.

c. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.

d. Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as a European site (within the meaning of regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017).

e. The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.

Where covered in this report

Chapters 1 to 4 and Appendix A.

SEA Regulations' Requirements

f. The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as - biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape, and the inter-relationship between these issues.

g. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.

h. An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.

i. A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 17.

j. A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.

Where covered in this report

Requirements will be met at a later stage in the SA process.

SEA Regulations Requirements

The report shall include such of the information referred to in Schedule 2 (see above) that may reasonably be required, taking account of - current knowledge and methods of assessment; the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme; its stage in the decision-making process; and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment (regulation 12(3)).

Where covered in this report

This Scoping Report and the Environmental Report **[See reference 8]** will adhere to this requirement.

Consultation Requirements

SEA Regulations Requirements

When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the environmental report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies (regulation 12(5)).

Where covered in this report

This SA Scoping Report will be published for consultation with the three statutory bodies (the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England).

SEA Regulations Requirements

Authorities with environmental responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (regulation 13).

Where covered in this report

Public consultation on the Waste Local Plan and accompanying SA Reports will take place as the Waste Local Plan develops.

SEA Regulations Requirements

EU Member States must be consulted where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (regulation 14).

Where covered in this report

The Waste Local Plan is not expected to have significant effects on EU Member States.

Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (regulation 16)

SEA Regulations Requirements

Provision of information on the decision:

- When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under regulation 14 must be informed and the following made available to those so informed:
  - the plan or programme as adopted;
  - a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report, the opinions expressed, and the results of consultations entered into have been taken into account, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and

- the measures to be taken to monitor the likely significant effects of the plan or programme.

Where covered in this report

To be addressed after the Waste Local Plan is adopted.

SEA Regulations Requirements

Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (regulation 17).

Where covered in this report

To be addressed after the Waste Local Plan is adopted.

SEA Regulations' Requirements

Quality assurance: environmental reports should be of a sufficient standard to meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations.

Where covered in this report

This report has been produced in line with current guidance and good practice for SEA/SA and this section demonstrates where the requirements of the SEA Regulations have been met.

Structure of the scoping report

1.26 This chapter describes the background to the production of the Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan and the requirement to undertake SA and other assessment processes. The remainder of this Scoping Report is structured into the following sections:

- **Chapter 2** presents the policy context for the Waste Local Plan and the SA.
- **Chapter 3** presents the baseline against which the effects of the policies and site options in the emerging Waste Local Plan will be assessed.
- **Chapter 4** identifies the key environmental, social and economic issues in Gloucestershire of relevance to the emerging Waste Local Plan and considers the likely evolution of those issues without its implementation.
- **Chapter 5** presents the SA framework that will be used for the appraisal of the Waste Local Plan and the proposed method for carrying out the SA.
- **Chapter 6** describes the next steps to be undertaken in the SA of the Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan.

1.27 Appendix A sets out the international and national plans, policies and programmes which are of most relevance to the Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan.

Chapter 2

Relevant Plans and Programmes

Introduction

2.1 The Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan is not being prepared in isolation but is influenced by, and influences, other polices, plans and programmes. The Plan needs to be consistent with international and national guidance and strategic planning policies and should contribute to the goals of a wide range of other programmes and plans. It must also conform to environmental protection legislation and the sustainability objectives established at the international, national and local levels.

2.2 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires:

(1) "an outline of the…relationship with other relevant plans or programmes"; and

(5) "the environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation"

2.3 In order to establish a clear scope for the SA it is necessary to review and develop an understanding of the environmental, social and economic objectives contained within international and national plans and programmes that are of relevance to the emerging Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan. The review is not exhaustive, and an exhaustive approach would not be proportionate or be useful in understanding the policy environment that the Waste Local Plan must be prepared within. Instead, the review focuses on a limited number of key

policy documents that are of particular importance of setting the parameters of what the Waste Local Plan should and should not do.

Implications of Brexit

2.4 As of the end of January 2020 the UK has left the EU. Principally, the UK's environmental law is derived from EU law or was directly effective EU law. As a result of Brexit, the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 converts existing EU law which applied directly in the UK's legal system (such as EU Regulations and EU Decisions) into UK law and preserves laws made in the UK to implement EU obligations (e.g. the laws which implement EU Directive). This body of law is known as retained EU law and is could be subject to future, post-Brexit amendments.

2.5 As set out in the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying the Brexit amendments to the SEA Regulations **[See reference 9]**, the purpose of the Brexit amendments is to ensure that the law functions correctly after the UK has left the EU. No substantive changes are being made by this instrument to the way the SEA regime operates.

Key international plans and programmes

2.6 Relevant international plans and policy (including those at the EU level) are transposed into national plans, policy and legislation and these have been considered.

2.7 At the international level, Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive') and Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the 'Habitats Directive') have been transposed into UK Regulations. They are particularly significant given that Strategic Environmental

Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) are to be undertaken in relation to the emerging Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan. These assessment processes should be undertaken iteratively and integrated into the production of the plan in order to ensure that any potential negative environmental effects (including on nature conservation sites of international importance) are identified and can be mitigated.

2.8 Directive 2008/98/EC (Waste Framework Directive) is also of particular relevance. It has also been transposed into UK law and aims to protect the environment and human health by preventing or reducing the adverse impacts of the generation and management of waste and by reducing overall impacts of resource use and improving the efficiency of such use.

2.9 There are a wide range of other EU Directives relating to issues such as water and air quality, most of which have been transposed into UK law through national-level policy.

2.10 Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) **[See reference** 10**]**: This initiative, adopted by all United Nations Member States, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet and includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), designed to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Relevant to this topic are:

- SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- SDG 08: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 09: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG 13: Climate Action
- SDG 14: Life Below Water.
- SDG 15: Life on Land.

2.11 Further international plans and programmes are included in **Appendix A**.

Key national plans and programmes

2.12 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) **[See reference** 11**]** is the overarching planning framework which provides national planning policy and principles for the planning system in England. The Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF which sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making. It states:

> "Succinct and up-to-date plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area; a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities; and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings".

2.13 The NPPF does not contain specific waste policies. The detailed waste planning policies are contained in the National Planning Policy for Waste (2015. The policies state that when preparing Local Plans, waste planning authorities should take account of a number of criteria including:

- Driving waste management up the waste hierarchy;
- Identifying the need for waste management facilities
- Working jointly and collaboratively with other planning authorities to provide a network of facilities to deliver sustainable waste management; and,
- Identifying suitable sites and areas for waste management facilities in line with the proximity principle, giving priority to the re-use of previously developed land.

2.14 The NPPF is supported by Planning Practice Guidance which includes guidance on Waste (2015) **[See reference** 12**]**. The PPG provides guidance on

implementing the waste hierarchy, the preparation of local plans and sustainability appraisals for waste local plans, and determining planning applications for waste facilities. According to the guidance on Flood Risk and Coastal Change, waste treatment facilities are classified as less vulnerable and are suitable in all flood zones, excluding 3b (the functional floodplain). Landfills and sites used for waste management facilities for hazardous waste are considered to be more vulnerable and are suitable only in Flood Zones 1 and 2, and potentially 3a.

2.15 Also of particular relevance to the Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan is the National Waste Management Plan for England (DEFRA, 2021) which provides an analysis of the current waste management situation in England and supports the implementation of the objectives and provisions of the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

2.16 Table 2.1 lists the national plans and programmes that are of greatest relevance to the emerging Waste Local Plan. Further national plans and programmes are included in **Appendix A**.

Table 2.1: Key national plans and programmes of relevance for the GWLP and SA

National Legislation
HM Government (1979) Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
HM Government (1981) The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
HM Government (1990) Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act
HM Government (1990) Environmental Protection Act 1990
HM Government (2000) Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
HM Government (2003) Sustainable Energy Act

National Legislation
HM Government (2006) The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act
HM Government (2016) Energy Act 2016
HM Government (2008) The Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended)
HM Government (2008) The Planning Act 2008
HM Government (2021) The Environment Act 2021
HM Government (2010) Flood and Water Management Act 2010
HM Government (2014) Water Act 2014
National Regulations
HM Government (2015) Water Framework Directive (England and Wales) (amendment) Regulations 2015
HM Government (2016) Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016
HM Government (2010) The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010
HM Government (2002) The Landfill (England and Wales) Regulations 2002
HM Government (1994) Urban Waste Water Treatment (England and Wales) Regulations 1994
HM Government (2005) The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005
HM Government (2011) The Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2011
HM Government (2005) Waste Management (England and Wales) Regulations 2005
HM Government (2012) Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012
HM Government (2002) Air Quality (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002
HM Government Circular 1/2003: Safeguarding, Aerodromes, Technical Sites and Military Explosive Storage Areas

National Legislation
HM Government (2017) The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)
HM Government (2020) The Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations 2020
National Policies, Plans and Strategies
DCMS (2013) Scheduled Monuments & Nationally Important but Non-Scheduled Monuments Policy Statement
HM Government (2019) Clean Air Strategy 2019 Policy Paper
DEFRA (2011) Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England Policy Paper
Natural England (2021) Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land – National Guidance
Environment Agency (2020) National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England Policy Paper
Environment Agency (2022) Flood risk assessments: climate change allowances – National Guidance
DEFRA (2011) Future water: The Government's Water Strategy for England Policy Paper
Environment Agency (2017) Groundwater protection guides
DfT (2021) Transitioning to zero emission cars and vans: 2035 delivery plan – National Guidance
DEFRA (2013) Hazardous Waste National Policy Statement
DECC (2011) National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)
DECC (2012) Strategy for the management of solid low level radioactive waste from the non-nuclear industry
DECC (2009) The UK Renewable Energy Strategy
HM Government (2021) Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener
BEIS (2021) Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy
DEFRA (2020) Rural proofing in England 2020 Policy Paper

National Legislation
DLUHC (2021) National Design Guide
MHCLG (2021) National Planning Policy Framework
DCLG (2014) National Planning Policy for Waste
DLUHC National Planning Practice Guidance (living document)
DEFRA (2021) National Waste Management Plan for England
DEFRA (2013) Waste prevention programme for England: Prevention is better than cure – The role of waste prevention in moving to a more resource efficient economy Policy Paper
DEFRA (2018) Our Waste, Our Resources: A strategy for England Policy Paper
BEIS (2022) British Energy Security Strategy Policy Paper
DfT (2022) Air quality: clean air zone framework for England Policy Paper
HM Government (2017) Litter Strategy for England Policy Paper
DfT (2022) Future of freight plan Policy Paper
DEFRA (2022) Landscapes Review (National Parks and AONBs): government response Policy Paper
DEFRA (2020) Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024 Policy Paper
DCLG (2021) National Planning Policy Framework
DCLG (2015) Planning Practice Guidance on Waste
DEFRA (2012) National Policy Statement for Waste Water
DEFRA (2013) National Policy Statement for Hazardous Waste
HM Government (2013) Waste prevention programme for England: Prevention is better than cure – The role of waste prevention in moving to a more resource efficient economy
Our Waste, Our Resources: A strategy for England (2018)
British Energy Security Strategy (2022)
DEFRA (GP3): Underground, Under threat – Groundwater Protection: Policy and Practice

National Legislation
DLHC (2022) Flood risk and coastal change guidance
Environment Agency (2022) National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England
DEFRA (2008) Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England
Environment Agency (2009) Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales
MHCLG (2019) Clean Air Strategy
DECC (2014) Community Energy Strategy
Government policy papers
DEFRA (2021) The Water White Paper
25 Year Environment Plan (2018)
Resources and Waste Strategy for England (2018)

Sub-regional and local plans and programmes

2.17 It is not a requirement of the SEA Regulations to describe the relevance of policy objectives established at sub-regional scale for the Waste Local Plan. However, since they provide further context for the Waste Local Plan, those considered of most relevance (e.g. relating to the economy, transport, climate change and green infrastructure) are listed below. There is also a wide range of potentially relevant plans and programmes at the district / local authority scale. While such local plans do not set policy objectives that the Waste Local Plan must follow, the Waste Local Plan may nevertheless need to take into account development provided for by those local plans. This section therefore also lists local plans considered of greatest potential relevance to the Waste Local Plan.

Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy

2.18 Gloucestershire County Council declared a climate emergency in May 2019. Gloucestershire's Climate Change Strategy **[See reference** 13**]** is centred around eight key themes, one of which being Waste. The Council aims to reduce waste to landfill, working with the Joint Waste Partnership and other district councils to improve recycling and food waste collection, using the county's residual waste to contribute to renewable energy generation, significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions compared to landfill.

Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan

2.19 Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan **[See reference** 14**]** sets the strategic transport vision to 2041. The LTP details the overarching and mode policies that support the six spatial Connecting Places Strategies (CPS) and the Transport Scenarios, looking to 2041.

Minerals Local Plan for Gloucestershire

2.20 The County Council adopted the Minerals Local Plan for Gloucestershire **[See reference** 15**]** (2018 – 2032) on the 20th of March 2020. It replaces in full the previously adopted Gloucestershire Minerals Local Plan (1997 – 2006)**.**

Gloucestershire County Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS)

2.21 This strategy **[See reference** 16**]** identifies the most vulnerable locations for flood risk in Gloucestershire. On an annual basis, the Council prepares and publishes an annual progress and implementation plan **[See reference** 17**]**.

Building Back Better in Gloucestershire (2022-2026)

This strategy **[See reference** 18**]** outlines the vision and priorities for Gloucestershire for the period of 2022 – 2026, focusing on creating greener, healthier, more prosperous communities in the County. Those priorities include tackling climate change, improving the resilience of Gloucestershire's roads,

delivering sustainable growth, levelling up Gloucestershire's communities, securing investment for Gloucestershire, transforming the Children's Service, Adult Social Care, the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service and improving the experience the Council offer their customers.

Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Strategy

2.22 The Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health strategy **[See reference** 19**]** describes the strategic approach in Gloucestershire to improving air quality and mitigating its impact on health as it relates to nitrogen oxides and particulate matter.

Emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy

2.23 Gloucestershire County Council is expected to be the responsible body for producing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy **[See reference** 20**]**for the County. Gloucestershire County Council is currently working with the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency, to compile county-wide mapping of our natural assets (natural capital) **[See reference** 21**]** and an emerging Nature Recovery Network (NRN). The emerging NRN will help highlight potential locations for creating new areas of habitat as well as where to better manage the existing wildlife areas.

2.24 Table 2.2 lists the local plans and programmes that are of greatest potential relevance to the emerging Waste Local Plan.

Table 2.2: Potentially relevant sub-regional and local plans and programmes for the GWLP

Local
Gloucestershire Waste Core Strategy (2012)
Gloucestershire Waste Minimisation in Development Projects Supplementary Planning Document (September 2006)

Local
The Joint Core Strategy (JCS) (a partnership between Gloucester City, Council, Cheltenham Borough Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council, which sets out a strategic planning framework for the three areas).
Tewkesbury Borough Carbon Management Programme (June 2020)
Gloucester City Climate Change Strategy (2010)
Cotswold District Council Climate Emergency Strategy (2020-2030)
Cotswold District Council Ecological Emergency Action Plan (2020)
Stroud District Council: The 2030 Strategy (Spring 2021)
Cheltenham Borough: Our Climate Emergency Action Plan: Pathway to Net Zero (February 2022)
Forest of Dean District Council Climate Emergency Strategy & Action Plan (2022-25) (August 2021)
Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean District and West Oxfordshire District Council: Net Zero Carbon Toolkit (October 2021)
Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy (December 2019)
Gloucester Local Plan (1983) Saved Policies
Submission Draft Gloucester City Plan (to 2031) (incorporating proposed Main Modifications) (May 2022)
Tewkesbury Borough Local Plan 2011-2031 (June 2022)
Cotswold District Council Local Plan (2011-2031) (August 2018)
Cheltenham Plan (2011-2031) (July 2020)
Cheltenham Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (June 2022)
Stroud District Local Plan (to 2031) (November 2015)
Submission Draft Stroud District Local Plan Review (October 2021)
Stroud District Council Sustainable Construction & Design Checklist Introduction Supplementary Planning Document (February 2017)
Forest of Dean Core Strategy (to 2026) (February 2012)

Local
Forest of Dean Allocations Plan (June 2018)
Forest of Dean Landscape Supplementary Planning Document (March 2007)
Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan (2020-2041) (March 2021)
Minerals Local Plan for Gloucestershire (2018 – 2031) (March 2020)
Gloucestershire Waste Partnership Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2007 – 2020) (April 2008)
Gloucestershire County Council Strategy (2022 – 2026): Building Back Better in Gloucestershire (February 2022)
Draft Interim Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Strategy (2022 -2025) (October 2022)
Gloucestershire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) (September 2008)
Gloucestershire Economic Needs Assessment (August 2020)
Gloucestershire County Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) (Summer 2014)
Gloucestershire Air Quality and Health Strategy
Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership: Gloucestershire Nature Map
Gloucestershire Nature Recovery Network
Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership: Gloucestershire Tree Strategy (September 2020)
Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership: Nature Improvement Areas (Updated August 2016)
Cotswolds Nature Recovery Plan (October 2021)
Cotswold Water Park Nature Recovery Plan (2021 and beyond)
Malvern Hills Nature Recovery Plan (March 2022)
Gloucestershire Green Infrastructure Pledge (2019)
A Strategic Framework for Green Infrastructure in Gloucestershire (2nd Edition) (August 2022)

Local
Landscape Character Assessment: Gloucestershire and Forest of Dean: County Scoping Study and County Typology (November 2002)
Forest of Dean Landscape Character Assessment (November 2002)
Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment (2004)
Landscape Character Assessments for the following Study Areas: The Severn Vale; Upper Thames Valley; Vale of Moreton; Vale of Evesham Fringe (January 2006)
Landscape Character Assessment for the Cotswold Water Park (2009)
Gloucester-Cheltenham-Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy Landscape Characterisation Assessment and Sensitivity Analysis (2013)
Stroud District Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal (July 2013)
Gloucestershire Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) including the Cotswolds and the Wye Valley Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (2013)
Gloucestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2020 – 2030)
Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan (2018-2023)
Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2021 – 2026
Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan 2019-2024
Severn River Basin District River Basin Management Plan (June 2018)
Thames River Basin District River Basin Management Plan (June 2018)
The River Severn Catchment Flood Management Plan (December 2009)
Severn Tidal Tributaries Catchment Flood Management Plan (December 2009)
Thames Catchment Flood Management Plan (December 2009)
Tewkesbury Borough Council Flood and Water Management Supplementary Planning Document (December 2018)
Cheltenham Surface Water Management Plan (December 2011)
Bishops Cleeve Surface Water Management Plan (October 2014)

Local
Central Gloucester Surface Water Management Plan (October 2014)
North Gloucester, Churchdown and Innsworth Surface Water Management Plan (October 2014)
South Gloucester Surface Water Management Plan (October 2014)
Marine Management Organisation (2021) South West Inshore and South West Offshore Marine Plan

Chapter 3

Baseline Information

3.1 Baseline information on the current sustainability context and its likely future evolution in the absence of the Plan provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely sustainability effects of a plan and helps to identify key sustainability issues facing the Plan area (see Chapter 4).

3.2 Maps illustrating the spatial dimension of some of the baseline conditions described below are presented at the end of this chapter.

Waste baseline

3.3 The four main types of waste produced and managed in Gloucestershire are: local authority collected waste (LACW), largely arising from households; commercial and industrial (C&I), construction and demolition (C&D) and hazardous waste.

3.4 During 2021, Gloucestershire's network of waste management facilities received a total of 2.4 million tonnes (mt) of waste. Household and C&I waste streams made up around half (1.18mt) of all received waste. Most of the other waste received was inert and C&D waste (1.19mt). Hazardous waste made up a very small proportion, just under 2%, of the total received waste for the year.

3.5 Over the past five years between 2017 and 2021, Gloucestershire has received an average of 2.38mt of waste per year. There appears to be no discernible trend in received waste over this period. However, it is acknowledged that the total amount of waste received during 2020 (2.1mt) was notably lower than at any other time over the past five years. Although, during 2020, the restrictions that arose from the Covid-19 Pandemic will have had a short-term impact on resource consumption and waste generation.

3.6 1.7mt of Gloucestershire's received waste in 2021 originated from within the county which represented about 70% of total waste received during the year. Waste that originated from elsewhere within the South West of England made up the majority of the remaining received waste (0.35mt). Waste from the West Midlands was the next largest contributor to 'out of county' received waste (0.14mt). Gloucestershire's network of waste management facilities also received waste from elsewhere around England and Wales including the North West of England, South East of England and London.

3.7 In 2021, Gloucestershire's network of waste management facilities also facilitated the export of 0.39mt of waste. The county's exported waste was largely received by facilities located in the West Midlands, elsewhere in the South West of England, Wales, East Midlands and outside of the UK.

3.8 Based on the 2021 data, Gloucestershire can be described as largely self-sufficient in respect of managing its waste. Most of the waste generated within the county is dealt with by Gloucestershire-based facilities.

3.9 Nearly 70% (0.825mt) of received inert and C&D waste during 2021 was disposed of to landfill or recovered and deposited on land. During the same period, just under 67% (0.80mt) of received household and C&I waste was subject to treatment and transfer. Only around 25% (0.29mt) of received household, C&I waste was incinerated or disposed of to landfill **[See reference** 22**]**.

3.10 Data for LACW from Gloucestershire is largely published for the financial year rather than the calendar year, however, it represents about 25% of all household and C&I waste managed in the county each year. For the financial year 2020/21, LACW from Gloucestershire totalled 300,544 tonnes. 288,716 tonnes of that was made up of household waste. Only 11,829 tonnes comprised of non-household waste **[See reference** 23**]**. Of the total amount of LACW from Gloucestershire, only a small proportion - 8,789 tonnes or 3% was disposed of to landfill. About 50% was either recycled or composted and just under 50% (141,977 tonnes) was disposed of via energy for waste (EfW).

3.11 During 2020/21, the Gloucestershire districts of Stroud and Cotswold achieved amongst the highest household recycling and composting rates recorded across England, with 59.4% and 58.9% respectively. Furthermore, the county's overall household recycling rate in 2020/21 was in line with the national waste target of achieving 50% recycling of household waste by 2020 **[See reference** 24**]**. Nevertheless, countywide household recycling rates have not improved in recent years and have in fact dropped slightly since 2017/18, when it reached a high of 54%. In contrast, disposal to landfill for LACW has dramatically reduced over the past five financial years, from 50% in 2016/17 to just 3% in 2020/21. This change has largely occurred due to the opening of a strategic-scale EfW plant in 2019. The Gloucestershire (EfW) plant, located at Javelin Park can accept up to 190,000 tonnes of LACW and C&I residual waste each year. The facility can produce over 116,000 megawatt hours (MWh) for the National Grid every year and has the capability to generator a secondary aggregate - Incinerator Bottom Ash Aggregate (IBAA).

3.12 As a rural county, agricultural waste is generated within Gloucestershire. This waste stream is dealt with by producers (i.e. farmers) who either send their waste for management and disposal at licensed waste management facilities, or it is recycled or disposed of 'on site' under registered exemptions. In 2021, around 135,000 tonnes of 'off site' agricultural waste was received within Gloucestershire. This is equal to about 10% of all recorded household and C&I waste received in Gloucestershire for 2021. 'Off site' agricultural waste was managed by the county's network of Anaerobic Digestion (AD) and Biological Treatment facilities that are situated within largely rural localities across Tewkesbury Borough, Forest of Dean and Cotswold Districts. The capacity of Gloucestershire's AD and Biological Treatment facilities is presently considered to be more than sufficient to accommodate the amount of agricultural waste likely to require 'off-site' management in the foreseeable future.

3.13 Gloucestershire's waste management facilities received around 38,646 tonnes of hazardous waste in 2021. A little over 40% of this waste originated from within the county. The remaining hazardous waste received originated from the West Midlands, elsewhere in the South West of England and the South East of England. Around 23,000 tonnes or 60% of all received hazardous waste was disposed of to landfill at the county's hazardous landfill facility, which is

located at Wingmoor Farm in Tewkesbury Borough. The remainder was subject to treatment and or was transferred for recovery.

3.14 Gloucestershire is host to the former Berkeley Nuclear Power Station. This facility stopped producing electricity in 1989 and has been in the decommissioning phase ever since. For 2019, the UK Radioactive Waste Inventory **[See reference** 25**]** stated that 3,850m3 of packaged Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) was recorded from Berkeley ready for long-term management. A comparatively small amount (6.6m3) of packaged Low Level Waste (LLW) was also recorded. With regard to future waste arisings from Berkeley, the UK Radioactive Waste Inventory forecast for packaged ILW is 4,470m3 and for packaged LLW is 30,600 m3. The Berkeley site also accommodates an interim ILW store that includes ILW that originates from Berkeley and from the nearby Oldbury Power Station, which is within neighbouring South Gloucestershire. Stored ILW will eventually be transported to the national geological disposal facility (GDF), which is due to become available in the 2040s **[See reference** 26**]**. The GDF is not likely to be located in Gloucestershire.

3.15 There is a range of waste management facilities distributed throughout the county that support the movement of waste up the waste hierarchy. It includes the strategic-scale EfW facility for residual LACW and C&I waste at Javelin Park which opened in 2019. The county's facilities are shown in **Figure 3.1**, Gloucestershire has some, but diminishing landfill capacity, which is now concentrated in the north of the county at Wingmoor Farm. Landfill capacity in the south of county has ceased following the closure of Hempsted in 2019. The remaining landfills within Gloucestershire are capable of accommodating residual LACW and C&I waste streams. Hazardous waste management is also available in Gloucestershire largely through a nationally significant facility that is based at Wingmoor Farm. It includes treatment and disposal to landfill and meets a 'larger-than-local' need.

3.16 Due in part to reasonably good highway links and proximity to waste arisings from the county's main urban areas, a significant amount of the county's waste and some imported waste (for specialist treatment), has been handled by Green Belt-based waste management facilities. Demand for these

facilities is unlikely to change in the near future unless viable alternative options emerge. Forecast population growth and increased economic activity for the county is likely to increase demand. Almost all waste management infrastructure located in the Gloucester-Cheltenham Green Belt is subject to planning constraints such as a time-limit linked to the eventual closure of the landfills. As such, the medium to long-term continuation of many Green Belt-based waste facilities is uncertain due to the presence of time-limited planning restrictions. Furthermore, the favourable spatial characteristics of the Gloucester-Cheltenham Green Belt in general, puts the locality under development pressure, especially to meet housing need. This raises the potential of land compatibility issues and safeguarding risks that would have an adverse impact on the continued operation and expansion opportunities of Green Belt-based waste management facilities.

3.17 Waste has historically been transported by road into, out of and across Gloucestershire and this is likely to continue based on the established network of waste management facilities. However, this activity risks contributing to amenity impacts such as noise and dust; exacerbating levels of air pollution; and increasing traffic congestion, highway maintenance and safety concerns. The haulage of waste by way of conventional, fossil-fuel powered vehicles is also a significant contributor to the local waste management sector's greenhouse gas emissions.

3.18 Waste generation has traditionally been linked to Gloucestershire's centres of population and economic activity – the main central Severn Vale settlements of Gloucester City, Cheltenham and the Stroud Valleys and their immediate, surrounding hinterlands There is no evidence to suggest this trend is changing.

3.19 The adopted Gloucestershire WCS identified waste management infrastructure requirements needed for the period from 2012 to 2027/8. As of 2022, much of these requirements have been successfully delivered. Considerable amounts of local residual waste recovery for LACW and some C&I is now available through the opening of the Gloucestershire EfW at Javelin Park. However, further waste management infrastructure may be required in order to achieve greater diversion of C&I waste away from disposal to landfill and to improve the efficiency of the LACW management generally, including the

residual element. Furthermore, whilst the WCS did not consider it necessary to make provision for increased or changed waste management capacity for dealing with C&D, hazardous and other wastes, this matter may need to be revisited. Population and economic growth may generate new demand.

Climate change adaptation and mitigation baseline

3.20 The waste industry is a contributor to climate change. It is an emitter of greenhouse gases (GHGs) generated through waste processing, including energy-from-waste; transportation; and methane from landfill sites. Although waste-related methane emissions are now largely a legacy issue resulting from past operations, which allowed largescale landfilling of green-house gas generating biodegradable waste.

3.21 The significant reduction in the use of disposal to landfill, particularly for biodegradable waste, has helped secure significant reductions in methane gas emissions. The expansion of energy from waste as a key alternative to disposal to landfill for residual waste, has also offered a means of reducing overall greenhouse gas emissions due to the offsetting of CO2 emissions, which would have otherwise arisen from burning fossil fuels for energy. Between 1990 and 2018, the waste sector has seen a decrease in emissions (excluding energy-from-waste) by 69%. However, with the UK government's very challenging target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050, further decarbonisation measures are required of the waste sector if it is to continue to make the necessary emission-reduction contribution **[See reference** 27**]**.

3.22 Climate change has the potential not only to affect the environment but also the social and economic aspects of life in Gloucestershire.

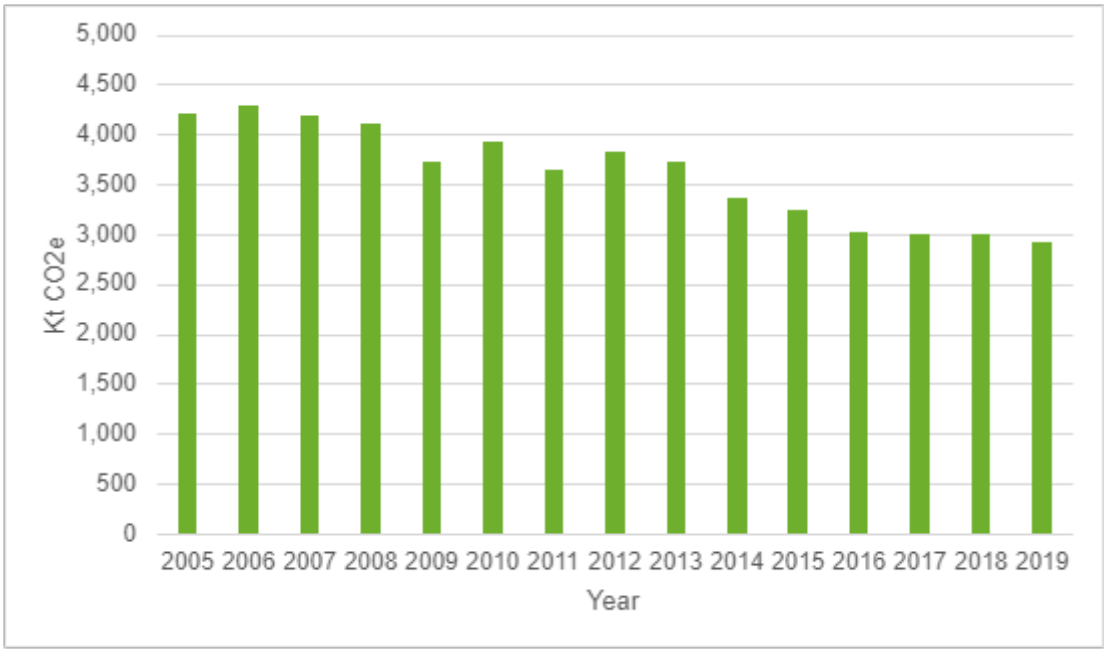
3.23 The UK Climate Projections (UKCP18) **[See reference** 28**]** show that for the west of England mean daily maximum and minimum temperatures will increase both in summer and winter. Although the precise nature of

environmental changes is not fully understood, changes to precipitation patterns (and river flow) and flooding have implications for the location, longevity, and viability of waste developments. Conversely, predicted dry, hot summers will cause problems of low flows for some of the rivers in the area which will increase demand for water. Extreme weather events may also increase disruption to supply chains, infrastructure and transport of waste. Gloucestershire is likely to experience more extreme impacts as a result of climate change – wetter winters with greater incidences of flooding, and warmer, drier summers with greater incidences of drought and low flow rivers.

3.24 Gloucestershire County Council declared a climate emergency in May 2019. Gloucestershire's Climate Change Strategy aims to reduce waste to landfill, working with the Joint Waste Partnership and other district councils to improve recycling and food waste collection, using the county's residual waste to contribute to renewable energy generation, significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions compared to landfill. The emerging Waste Local Plan has a key role to play in ensuring that future waste management in Gloucestershire minimises its impact on climate change and is able to adapt to effects of climate change that are already happening.

3.25 The latest BEIS figures are set out in the graph below and show generally decreasing trends for total CO2 emissions (kilotonnes) in Gloucestershire from 2005 to 2019 **[See reference** 29**]**. The decreasing trend in emissions reflects the decrease in overall emissions for the UK during this period driven mainly by reductions in emissions from power stations, industrial combustion and passenger cars. The reduction from power stations is driven by change in the fuel mix used for electricity generation with a reduction in the amount of coal, which is a carbon intensive fuel. Emissions for many Local Authorities are heavily influenced by activities at industrial sites, and changes at a single site can have a big impact on emissions trends.

Graph showing decline in Total CO2 emissions (kt CO2) in Gloucestershire between 2005-2019

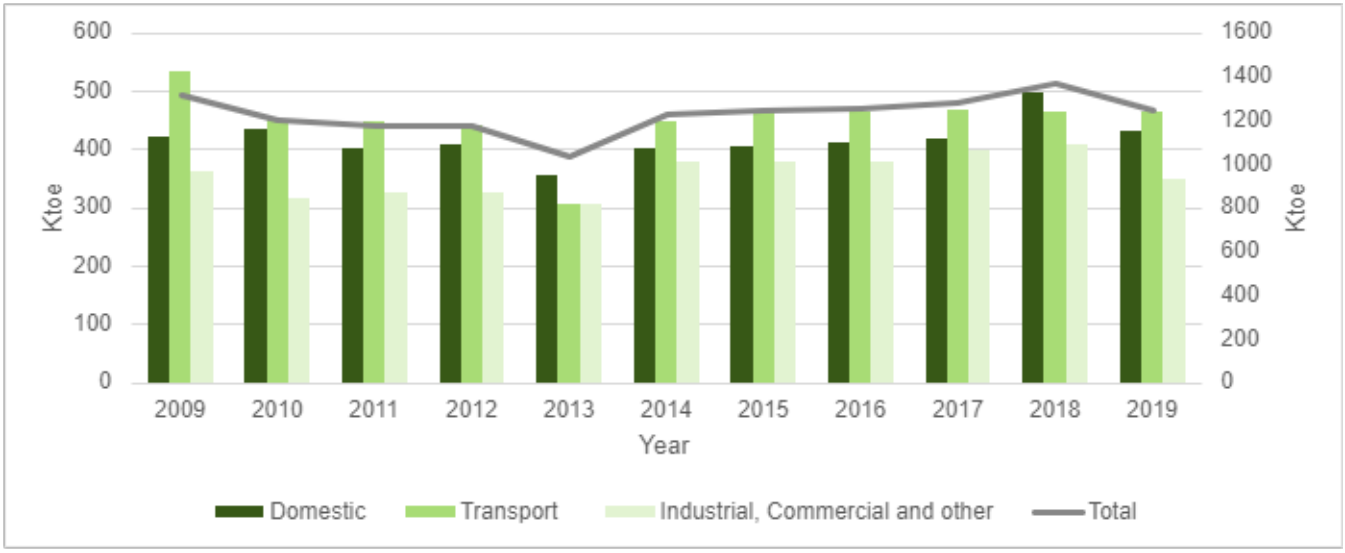


3.26 Gloucestershire's total emissions have reduced in line with both England and the South West, as have per capita (per resident) emissions and emissions by sector, reductions are largely due to national and/or international factors. Industrial emissions have reduced from 1000.2 kt in 2005 to 602.3 kt in 2019, whilst commercial emissions have reduced from 545.7kt to 300.2kt in the same period. For the districts, for both total and per capita emissions, Cotswold has consistently had the highest emissions since 2005; and Cheltenham consistently the lowest emissions since 2013 **[See reference** 30**]**. This may be explained by the Cotswold's rural nature, where there are few transport alternatives to the private car. Cheltenham, on the hand may have lower emissions due to it being urban and more compact, as well as the associated availability of alternative transport modes.

3.27 In addition, the latest DECC figures for energy consumption **[See reference** 31**]** (in thousand tonnes of oil equivalent (ktoe)) per consuming sector and household in Gloucestershire are set out in the graph below. The table shows that there was a general decrease in energy consumption from

2009 to 2013 in Gloucestershire, with this gradually increasing again from 2014 to 2019.

Graph showing energy consumption in thousand tonnes of oil equivalent (ktoe) per consuming sector and household in Gloucestershire 2009-2019



Population growth, health and wellbeing baseline

Population

3.28 Gloucestershire is a county in South West England comprising 2,653km2. It has one city and 33 towns.

3.29 In 2020, Gloucestershire had a population of 640,700 with 314,200 males and 326,500 females. This is an increase of 3,600 compared to 2019 **[See reference** 32**]**. Gloucester has the highest population in the County (129,128), followed by Stroud (119,964) and Cheltenham (116,306) **[See reference** 33**]**. Gloucestershire's population has increased by approximately 46,590 people or 7.9% since 2009. The percentage increase is higher than the increase experienced in both the South West (7.6%), and England (7.8%).

3.30 Gloucestershire has a lower proportion of 0-19 year olds and 20-64 year olds when compared to the national figures, whilst the proportion of people aged 65+ exceeds the national figure. As is the case in many parts of the UK, the number of older people in the county has steadily increased over the last 10 years. Projections suggest this trend will continue, with the number of people aged 65+ projected to increase by approximately 71,000 or 52.5% between 2018 and 2043 **[See reference** 34**]**. The number of households in the County is estimated to have increased to 248,000 by 2016 **[See reference** 35**]**.

3.31 At district level, Tewkesbury is projected to see the greatest growth in 0-19 year olds (26.6%). Cheltenham and Gloucester are projected to see a decrease in this age group (- 4.8% and -1.9% respectively). The working age population (20-64 year olds) is expected to increase in all districts except Cheltenham which is projected to see a decline of 2.8%. Tewkesbury is projected to experience the greatest increase at a rate of 21.1%. All districts are expected to experience an increase in the 65+ age group. The increase is projected to be

highest in Cotswold (65.1%) and smallest in Cheltenham (45.5%). Current predictions estimate that Gloucestershire's population will increase by 104,924 people or 16.6% to around 738,482 in 2043. **[See reference** 36**]**. In the absence of population-wide behavioural change that could lead to a significant reduction in waste generated per capita, forecasted population growth will likely be a major contributor to increased waste arisings that will put pressure on the capacity of existing waste management facilities.

Equalities

3.32 The Equality Act 2010 identifies nine 'protected characteristics' and seeks to protect people from discrimination on the basis of these characteristics. It presents three main duties: to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited under the Act; to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share it; and to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The nine protected characteristics identified through the Act are:

- age;
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- marriage and civil partnership;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex; and
- sexual orientation.

3.33 While socio-economic status is not a characteristic protected by the Equality Act 2010, the Council is committed to also considering the effects that the plan will have on groups affected by these types of issues. The EqIA will therefore also consider the potential effects on socioeconomic groups not limited to but including the following:

- People on low incomes;
- Young and adult carers;
- People living in deprived areas/rural areas; and
- Groups suffering multiple disadvantages.

Ageing population

3.34 Rural parts of the County are more likely to have a higher proportion of people aged 65+ when compared to the county and national figures. At 25.9% Cotswold has the largest proportion of people aged 65 and over in the County, whilst Gloucester has the highest proportion of children and young people (aged 0-19) at 24.6% **[See reference** 37**]**. Gloucestershire's ageing rural population poses challenges regarding ensuring access to essential services and facilities, particularly health and social care.

Disability

3.35 The 2011 Census presented figures on people with disabilities in the UK. Of Gloucestershire's population, 43,300 people reported having a limiting long-term illness or disability that limited their day-to-day activities 'a lot' **[See reference** 38**]**.

Pregnancy and maternity

3.36 Gloucestershire's birth rate has been gradually declining each year since 2016. Just 5,800 babies born were born in 2020, the lowest figure since 2001 (5,700). As a result, Gloucestershire's Crude Birth Rate (the number of live births per 1,000 population in a given year) is lower than the national average at 9.6 (10.8 for England and Wales), but higher than the regional average (9.3) **[See reference** 39**]**.

3.37 In 2020, Gloucester and Cheltenham continued to account for the largest numbers of births in the County, at 1,500 and 1,000 respectively. Forest of Dean and Cotswold, on the other hand, had the lowest number of births recorded in the County (726 and 764 respectively) **[See reference** 40**]**.

Race

3.38 The 2011 Census found that overall, 4.6% of the population in Gloucestershire was from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds. This figure is considerably lower than the national figure of 14.6% **[See reference** 41**]**.

3.39 At district level:

- Gloucester had the highest proportion of people from Black and Ethnic Minorities, at 10.9% of the total population. However, this is still considerably lower than the national average.
- Cheltenham also had a higher proportion of people from Black and Ethnic Minorities (5.7%) than the county-wide figure.
- Forest of Dean had the lowest proportion of people from a Black and Ethnic Minority, at 1.5% of the total population.
- The proportion of people that were classified as 'other White' was higher in Cheltenham than Gloucestershire and England as a whole (5.0% compared with 3.1% for Gloucestershire and 4.6% for England).

- 42% of people who were of Gypsy/Irish Traveller origin lived in Tewkesbury district.

Religion

3.40 According to Census data **[See reference** 42**]**, 63.5% residents in Gloucestershire are Christian and 26.7% of residents have no religion. Both figures are higher than the national average (59.4% and 7.2%), reflecting the ethnic composition of the County. Just 1% of Gloucestershire's population are Muslim, 0.1% Jewish and 0.1% Sikh. Christianity is the most common religion across all age groups; however it is less common amongst those aged 0-19, with 55.7% of 0-19 year olds reporting they are Christian compared to 82.3% of those aged 65+.

3.41 There is little baseline information available that is directly relevant to other protected characteristics including gender reassignment or sexual orientation.

Rural population

3.42 The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has classified Gloucestershire as a 'Predominantly Rural County' as 43.2% of the County's population live in rural settlements and large market towns. At local authority level, Cotswold and Forest of Dean are classified as 'Mainly Rural' with 100% and 95% of residents respectively living in rural settlements, Tewkesbury is classified as 'Largely Rural' with 53% of residents living in rural settlements. Stroud is classified as 'Urban with Significant Rural' as 42% of the population live in rural settlements, whilst Cheltenham and Gloucester are both classified as 'Urban with city and town' with only 0.3% and 0% respectively living in rural settlements **[See reference** 43**]**.

Deprivation

3.43 The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD 2019) is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas (Lower Super Output Areas – LSOA's) in England and ranks every LSOA in England from most deprived to least deprived. IMD 2019 is an update to the previous release (IMD 2015).

3.44 In general, Gloucestershire is not a very deprived county as shown in **Figure 3.2**. An average IMD rank for each of the six districts in Gloucestershire shows that even the most deprived districts (Gloucester City, and Forest of Dean) fall in the middle quintile (middle 20%) for deprivation out of 317 English authorities. Tewkesbury, Cotswold, and Stroud districts are in the least deprived quintile, with Cheltenham in the second least deprived quintile **[See reference** 44**]**.

3.45 In relation to the other authorities in England, Cheltenham and Cotswold have a lower deprived ranking than in 2015 but Forest of Dean has experienced a higher ranking of deprivation in 2019. The rankings of the remaining three authorities of Gloucestershire have remained relatively the same. As such, compared with other Counties Gloucestershire has a rank of 126, putting it in the least deprived quintile for overall deprivation **[See reference** 45**]**.

Housing

3.46 The number of households in Gloucestershire is projected to increase from 24,586 to 28,004 over the 16-year period 2022-2039, representing an increase of 3,418 on the 2022 figure **[See reference** 46**]**. The demolition and construction of homes will generate additional waste as well as the increase in the number of households. This will likely place increased pressure on existing waste facilities and management throughout the county.

3.47 The number of dwellings in Gloucestershire has progressively increased each year since 2012 with an estimated 297,879 dwellings in 2021, an increase of 3,116 dwellings since 2020 **[See reference** 47**]**.

3.48 There are 12 areas of Gloucestershire in the most deprived 10% nationally for the overall IMD, a decrease from 13 areas in 2015. These 12 areas account for 19,415 people and are mainly located in Gloucester **[See reference** 48**]**. Further information regarding housing is not considered relevant to the emerging Waste Local Plan and therefore has been scoped out.

Health

3.49 Health is a cross-cutting topic and as such many topic areas explored in this Scoping Report influence health either directly or indirectly. The latest published information comes from the 2011 census which provides a snapshot of the general health and well-being of residents in Gloucestershire at that time.

Life expectancy

3.50 Life expectancy for both men and women in Gloucestershire is generally higher than the national average at 80.2 years for men and 83.7 for women. Gloucester has the lowest life expectancy in the County (78.1 for men and 82.6 for women), whilst Cotswold has the highest (82.2 for men and 84.8 for women) **[See reference** 49**]**.

Obesity

3.51 Being overweight or obese carries numerous health risks, including increased likelihood of type 2 diabetes, cancer, heart and liver disease, stroke and related mental health conditions. It is estimated this health issue places a cost of at least £5.1 billion on the NHS and tens of billions on the wider UK society every year **[See reference** 50**]**.

3.52 The prevalence of obesity amongst Reception and Year 6 students in Gloucestershire is slightly below the England average. The South West adult percentage of those classified as overweight and obese is 61.35% compared to England at 62.34% and Gloucestershire at 60.66% **[See reference** 51**]**. The South West region has a slightly higher level of active residents, with 67.4% as does Gloucestershire with 67.5% as compared to England with 63.6%.

Perceptions of wellbeing

3.53 Residents of the District reported having higher levels of life satisfaction (7.5 out of 10.00) than the average for UK (7.4 out of 10.00) in the period of March 2012- March 2021. This was a slight decrease from 7.55 in 2011/12. Forest of Dean and Gloucester City reported having lower levels of life satisfaction than the other local authorities in the County at 7.2 and 7.3 respectively, whilst Stroud and Cotswold scored higher at 7.8 and 7.7 respectively **[See reference** 52**]**.

3.54 Rates of anxiety and depression are highest in Cheltenham and Gloucester City. Surprisingly, whilst Gloucester City falls into the middle quantile (middle 20%) for deprivation, Cheltenham is in the second least deprived quantile for deprivation **[See reference** 53**]**. The areas estimated to have higher mental health and well-being in the County are Tewkesbury and Forest of Dean. Similarly, Forest of Dean falls into the middle quantile for deprivation, whilst Tewkesbury is in the least deprived quantile for deprivation **[See reference** 54**]**.

Social isolation

3.55 Gloucestershire County Council has also attempted to map socio-economic vulnerability to social isolation in the County. The reporting found that social isolation and loneliness are more likely to be prevalent in urban areas rather than rural areas and, that perhaps surprisingly, they are clustered into the most densely populated Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). The analysis

concluded that areas with higher prevalence of these issues included parts of Stroud and Cotswold **[See reference** 55**]**.

Overview of health indicators for the county

3.56 The percentage of children in low-income families is lower than the regional average (12.6% compared to 14.0%), as is average GCSE attainment and levels of violent crime (hospital admission rate for violence including sexual violence). However, rates of infant mortality, hospital admission rates for alcohol-related conditions and percentage of adults classified as overweight or obese is increasing **[See reference** 56**]**.

3.57 There are 16 hospitals and 19 clinics in Gloucestershire.

Education, skills and training

3.58 There are 80 schools and colleges in Gloucestershire. Average GCSE in the County attainment is above the national and regional averages at 49.0. Gloucestershire has three universities, the University of Gloucestershire; Hartpury University and the Royal Agricultural University. The University of Gloucestershire has 12,000 students and 1,500 staff, whilst Hartpury University supports nearly 4,000 students and the Royal Agricultural University has more than 1,200 students.

Crime

3.59 Gloucestershire generally has a low crime rate. Levels of violent crime are 22.5, which is lower than the regional (34.9) and national averages (44.9) **[See reference** 57**]**. However, in the period of 2007/8 - 2020/21 there were 7,488 fly tipping incidents in Gloucestershire. Gloucester City reported the highest number of incidents at 1,662, whilst Cheltenham reported the least at 453 **[See**

reference 58**]**. Further information regarding crime statistics is not considered relevant to the emerging Waste Local Plan and therefore has been scoped out.

Culture, leisure and recreation

3.60 Leisure activities contribute to the quality of life of residents, providing amenity and opportunities for enhancing intellectual, spiritual and physical wellbeing. Additionally, they represent a tourism asset and their provision can result in economic benefits to the area. Waste operations have the potential to affect areas valued for recreation through their operations however, they can also enhance recreation opportunities through the restoration of waste sites.

3.61 Gloucestershire has a range of cultural and leisure attractions, including 96 museums such as the Dean Heritage Centre, 16 wildlife parks and zoos, numerous adventure and leisure centres, and various tourist attractions such as the Berkely Castle **[See reference** 59**]**.

3.62 Gloucestershire has 21 historic houses and gardens which are open to the public including Hidcote Manor Garden, Woodchester Mansion and Dyrham Park. The historic market towns and villages of Gloucestershire contain many historic assets such as St Oswald's Priory, Roman Villa (Great Witcombe) and Church of St John the Baptist (Cirencester).

3.63 Many visitors to Gloucestershire come for its countryside, including the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in the east, and the wealth of walking and cycling opportunities across the county, such as the Cotswold Way National Trail and Thames Path National Trail. There are a number of National Cycle Network (NCN) routes across Gloucestershire including 41 (Bristol to Gloucester and continuing to the Midlands) and Route 57 (Farmington to Gloucestershire to Welwyn Garden City).

3.64 The county's landscape and heritage assets are described more fully in separate sections below.

Economy baseline

3.65 Of those residents of working age (16-64), 81.9% are economically active. This is higher than the proportion for the South West of England (80.2%) and England as a whole (78.5%). Important economic sectors within the county include high-tech engineering, the public sector, agriculture, and cyber-security **[See reference** 60**]**. Of those residents of working age in Gloucestershire, 2.2% are claiming out of work benefits, which is lower than both the averages for the South West of England (2.5%) and England (3.7%). The average gross weekly pay in Gloucestershire is £578.60, which is higher than the regional (£572.5) average but lower than the national (£612.80) average **[See reference** 61**]**.

3.66 There are 29,735 enterprises and 34,425 local units (sites or workplaces) in Gloucestershire. The majority (84.8%) of local units are micro, with up to 9 people in the business. Some 12.6% of local units are small (10-49 people), 2.3% are medium (50-249 people) and 0.3% are large (250 people or more). There is a similar trend in the size structure for enterprises with 89.2% classified as micro, 8.9% as small, 1.6% as medium and 0.4% as large.

3.67 Unemployment is decreasing in Gloucestershire (compared to the previous year) with 2.9% between April 2021- March 2022. This is slightly higher than the regional average of 2.8%, but lower than the national average of 4.1%.

3.68 Gloucestershire's rural economy provides an estimated 30% of employment in the County in sectors such as Agriculture, Food and Drink and Tourism. 71% of Gloucestershire's land area is farmed under a commercial farm holding, of that 60% is managed grassland, often used for grazing cattle for beef and dairy products **[See reference** 62**]**.

3.69 Prior to 2020, there was growth in commercial floorspace across Gloucestershire with 60% of total space dedicated to industrial uses compared to 55% in England. Growth had been particularly strong in Tewkesbury, Gloucester and Stroud with high levels of office and retail in Cheltenham and

Gloucester **[See reference** 63**]**. However, this is likely to have decreased from the shift in shopping and commuting patterns from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Transport and accessibility baseline

Road-based private car and commercial travel

3.70 Gloucestershire has over 3,300 miles of road, 80 miles of which are designated as motorway or Trunk Road (managed by the Highways Agency), while local roads are managed by the County Council. The M5 is the most used and congested route carrying up to 90,000 vehicles a day **[See reference** 64**]**. The M5 motorway connects Gloucestershire to both Bristol and Birmingham. The most congested areas within the county are situated In Cheltenham and Gloucester. As of 2021, 3.89 billion vehicle miles were travelled on Gloucestershire's roads. This is an increase from the 3.40 billion vehicle miles travelled in 2020. Establishing any clear short to medium term trend for total road miles travelled in Gloucestershire is difficult to achieve due the significant impact of the movement restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, pre-pandemic data suggests a consistent increase in vehicle miles travelled has taken place over time. Between 2012 and 2017 vehicle miles travelled increased from 3.98 billion to 4.38 billion. In 2019, Gloucestershire recorded the highest ever number of vehicle miles travelled at 4.49 billion. The forecasted increase in the county's population and employment base will likely lead to an increase in total road miles travelled. This is likely to result in an increased risk of congestion.

3.71 81.3% of households in Gloucestershire have access to a car, compared to the national average of 73.2% **[See reference** 65**]**. Car and van travel is the predominant choice of travel to work for 70% of people, compared to a national average of 62%. Car usage is higher in the Forest of Dean (77%), Stroud (75%) and Tewkesbury (74%) districts due to the rural nature of these authorities **[See reference** 66**]**.

Public transport and rural inequality

3.72 Almost 20% of households in Gloucestershire do not own a private vehicle, and approximately a third of the population cannot drive **[See reference** 67**]**. Furthermore, public transport provision in rural areas is generally poor and unable to cater for the range of travel demands outside of the 9am to 5pm day **[See reference** 68**]**. As such, connectivity to essential services, facilities and employment is fragmented throughout the County, which undermines economic growth and drive social inequalities.

Railway

3.73 Gloucestershire is served by three main railway lines, these being:

- Birmingham to Bristol main line;
- Gloucester (Standish Junction) to Swindon;
- Newport (Severn Tunnel Junction) to Gloucester.

3.74 There are nine stations on this network in Gloucestershire:

Table 3.1: Stations in Gloucestershire

Station	Main route services to/from
Cheltenham	Gloucester, London, Birmingham, Bristol & beyond
Gloucester	Cheltenham, London Birmingham, Bristol & beyond
Moreton in Marsh	Worcester, London
Lydney	Gloucester, Cheltenham, Cardiff
Ashchurch	Cheltenham, Bristol, Birmingham

Station	Main route services to/from
Cam & Dursley	Bristol, Gloucester
Stroud	Cheltenham, Gloucester, stations to London
Stonehouse	Cheltenham, Gloucester, stations to London
Kemble	Cheltenham, Gloucester, stations to London

Bus services

3.75 Bus services within Gloucestershire are operated by private sector companies, many with subsidy from Gloucestershire County Council. Pre-pandemic, over 21 million passenger trips are made annually on local buses in Gloucestershire on a network of over 150 services.

3.76 As Gloucestershire is predominantly a rural county, only the daytime services on routes within and between Cheltenham and Gloucester operate on a commercial basis, with the remainder being financially supported by the County Council. Stagecoach is the only national company to operate local buses within Gloucestershire. Although most areas of the County have access to a bus service, they are very infrequent in rural areas. This reduces the accessibility levels to key services in comparison to that provided by traditional scheduled public transport services and encourages private car use.

Freight by sea and rail

3.77 Gloucestershire has one commercial sea port at Sharpness that deals with bulk trade with routes to France, Spain and Portugal. There are currently no dedicated rail freight terminals in Gloucestershire and all rail freight is transiting through the county **[See reference** 69**]**.

3.78 Figure 3.3 below shows the transport network for Gloucestershire.

Air, land, water quality and minerals baseline

Air quality

3.79 The Environment Act 1995 introduced the National Air Quality Strategy and the requirement for local authorities to determine if statutory air quality objectives (AQOs) are likely to be exceeded. All local authorities now report to DEFRA on an annual basis and have an obligation to declare Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and develop action plans for improvement of air quality if objectives are likely to be exceeded.

3.80 Air quality levels for PM2.5 in Gloucestershire are in line with regional averages. Estimated levels of PM2.5 are highest in Tewkesbury and Cheltenham, which are both higher than regional averages. Modelled data for PM10 at the lower super output area (LSOA) shows the highest estimated concentrations in Gloucestershire are in the Churchdown and Ashchurch areas of Tewkesbury and the west of Cheltenham **[See reference** 70**]**.

3.81 There are eight air quality management areas (AQMAs) in Gloucestershire located in Tewkesbury Town Centre AQMA, Cheltenham Whole Borough AQMA, Barton Street, Painswick Road and Priory Road AQMAs within Gloucester City, Birdlip AQMA and Thames Street, Lechlade within Cotswold and Lydney AQMA within Forest of Dean (see **Figure 3.4**).

Land

3.82 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system **[See reference** 71**]** provides a framework for classifying land according to the extent to which its physical or chemical characteristics impose long-term limitations to agricultural use. The principal factors influencing agricultural production are soil wetness, drought and erosion. These factors, together with interactions between them, form the basis for classifying land use into one of five grades, where 1 describes land as excellent (land of high agricultural quality and potential) and 5 describes land as very poor (land of low agricultural quality and potential). Land falling outside these scores is deemed to be 'primarily in non-agricultural use', or 'predominantly in urban use'. Grade 3 can be further separated into grades 3a and 3b, although this requires further local surveys and therefore such data is only available for small areas. The NPPF requires planning policies to recognise the economic and wider benefits of Grades 1, 2 and 3a - the 'best and most versatile agricultural land'.

3.83 The majority of Gloucestershire consists of grade 2 and grade 3 agricultural land (see **Figure 3.5**). There are some small areas of high quality, grade 1 land, particularly in the west of the county. Larger settlements do not have associated ALC grades as they are predominantly in urban uses.

Water

3.84 Gloucestershire is estimated to have 5,284 km of watercourses. There are three main catchments into which all Gloucestershire's rivers and streams flow:

- Lower Severn;
- Lower Wye; and
- Upper Thames.

3.85 Most of the county is covered by nitrate vulnerable zones (NVZ), as is shown in **Figure 3.6**, which are areas designated as being at risk from

agricultural nitrate pollution or groundwater source protection zones (SPZ) which show risk of contamination to sources of drinking water. Surface water runoff from landfills can also lead to contamination of water sources. Water quality is likely to continue to be affected by pollution incidents in the area and the presence of non-native species. Of 8,445 water tests at testing sites in Gloucestershire, 62 tests at 8 sites were classified as a fail between 2010 and 2014. This was due to increased chemicals such as lead or benzoperelyne or priority and hazardous substances in the water **[See reference** 72**]**.

3.86 Although the County Council has invested over £2 million each year in flood risk management, Gloucestershire is still at significant risk to flooding (see **Figure 3.7**). Gloucestershire is at risk from a variety of sources of flooding, including surface water, tidal and river flooding (fluvial). Tidal flood risk affects the whole estuary and accounts for 42% of the County's floodplain. However, fluvial flooding poses the most significant risk across the County (58% of the flood plain). The built up areas of Cheltenham, Gloucester and the Stroud Valleys have been affected by significant surface water flooding in recent times. Defences along the Severn estuary have mitigated flood risks associated with the Severn but other rivers in each district pose a higher risk from flooding **[See reference** 73**]**.

3.87 Most recently, flash flooding in December 2020 resulted in damage to over 400 properties, most notably in the Forest of Dean **[See reference** 74**]**. The frequency of more severe flood-generating weather events is expected to increase because of climate change. Therefore, careful consideration will need to be given to new or expanded waste management facilities to ensure their proposed location and design does not increase the risk of flooding. In addition, a sufficient level of resilience to the forecasted risk of flooding in the future should also be effectively accommodated.

Minerals

3.88 Gloucestershire has a diverse geological base of mainly sedimentary rocks that include compacted clays, silts, sands, sandstones and limestones. The minerals found within the county are listed in **Table 3.2** below **[See reference** 75**]** and shown within **Figure 3.8**:

Table 3.2: Minerals found in Gloucestershire

Physiographic Area	Type of Mineral
Forest of Dean	■ Limestone (Carboniferous) ■ Sandstone ■ Clay ■ Iron Ore ■ Coal
Cotswolds	■ Limestone (Jurassic)
Upper Thames Valley	■ Sand and Gravel ■ Clay ■ Cornbrash (Jurassic Limestone)
Vale of Moreton	■ Sand and Gravel
Severn Vale	■ Sand and Gravel ■ Clay

Limestone

3.89 There are two main types of limestone deposits present in Gloucestershire, Carboniferous limestones found within the Forest of Dean and Jurassic limestone which make up the Cotswold Hills **[See reference** 76**]**.

Sand and gravel

3.90 Gloucestershire's sand and gravel resources comprise of unconsolidated superficial or drift materials mostly made up of river terrace and some sub-alluvial deposits. They are composed of varying amounts of limestone, sandstone, quartzite, igneous rock, flint and quartz and clays. Notable concentrations of sand and gravel can be found within the Upper Thames Valley (UTV) and across the Cotswold Water Park (CWP) **[See reference** 77**]**.

Sandstone

3.91 Deposits of Devonian Brownstones and Carboniferous Pennant Sandstone, both of which occur within the Forest of Dean, have historically been used as a local building stone **[See reference** 78**]**.

Clay

3.92 There are extensive and fairly widespread deposits of clay found across a number of areas within Gloucestershire. Noteworthy resources of economic value include the Carboniferous Clays which are found in the Forest of Dean and the Jurassic Clays known as the Charmouth Mudstone Formation near to Blockley in the Cotswolds **[See reference** 79**]**.

Coal

3.93 Three coalfields are found within Gloucestershire – Forest of Dean, Newent and parts of the Oxfordshire-Berkshire Coalfield.

3.94 The only deposits of proven economic value are those found within the Forest of Dean. These form part of a wider resource known as the

Carboniferous South Wales Coal Measures that includes coalfields located in South Wales, Bristol, Somerset and Kent **[See reference** 80**]**.

Biodiversity baseline

3.95 The UK is one of the world's most nature-depleted countries. Currently, only about half of the biodiversity within the UK is left, which is far below the global average of 75%. Development and agriculture has left very little space for biodiversity within the UK **[See reference** 81**]**. Waste operations can have both negative and positive effects on biodiversity. Land take for new facilities can result in the loss of habitats and air, noise, light and water pollution associated with the operation of waste management facilities can affect nearby species and habitats. However, operations can be located and designed to avoid impacts on protected species and habitats and the restoration of waste sites provides opportunities to achieve net gains in biodiversity.

3.96 Gloucestershire County contains eight sites of international importance for nature conservation: Cotswold Beechwoods SAC, Dixton Wood SAC, River Wye SAC, Rodborough Common SAC, Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site, Walmore Common SPA and Ramsar site, Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC and Wye Valley Woodlands SAC. Within 15km of Gloucestershire lie the Avon Gorge Woodlands SAC, Bredon Hill SAC and River Usk/ Avon Wysg SAC **[See reference** 82**]**. There are 850 Local Wildlife Sites and 120 Special Sites of Scientific Interest in Gloucestershire (shown in **Figure 3.9**). Around 30 of the SSSI's sites are designated for their geological importance **[See reference** 83**]**. Furthermore, there are two Ramsar sites (covering an area of 4,660 ha) and 755 Key Wildlife Sites in Gloucestershire (covering an area of over 13,000 ha). The Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust manages approximately 80 non-statutory nature reserves. Other reserves are owned or managed by other agencies or individuals such as the Woodland Trust, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds **[See reference** 84**]**.

3.97 Regionally the Gloucestershire Geology Trust locally designates Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) and although not selected for their wildlife interest can often support or be adjacent/within sites important for biodiversity. In Gloucestershire there are over 150 sites but most of these are very small, as shown in **Figure 3.10**. Many are associated with old quarries but there are a number within active ones, such as Huntsmans in the Cotswolds **[See reference** 85**]**.

3.98 Over 60 species of Annex 1 species (Wildlife & Countryside Act) have also been noted in the County. Examples of the protected birds include kingfisher, barn owl, bittern, peregrine, fieldfare and redwing. Wetlands areas such as the Severn Estuary and Vale and the Cotswold Water Park provide important habitats for overwintering, migratory and breeding birds **[See reference** 86**]**.

3.99 In 2015, the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership identified four nature improvement areas within the county:

1. Severn Vale: covers the flood plain of the River Severn and the lower reaches of its main tributaries.

2. Cotswold Scarp: consists of the Cotswold scarp from and including the limestone valleys around Bath, the settled valleys around Stroud up to Ebrington Hill and Bredon Hill.

3. Cotswold Valleys: consists of the river valley systems of the Evenlode, Windrush, Leach, Coln, Churn and the By Brook.

4. Cotswold Water Park: covers a total of 19,500 hectares.

3.100 The Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership are in the process of developing a Nature Recovery Network. This initiative seeks to identify the location of the County's special wildlife and natural habitats, but also the opportunities that exist for enhancing and creating additional habitat networks and connectivity. Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership has produced a

Natural Capital Mapping Strategy which identifies the opportunities for nature recovery in Gloucestershire through the use of Natural Capital Mapping **[See reference** 87**]**.

Historic environment baseline

3.101 There is a wide range of heritage assets in Gloucestershire, from individual buildings and structures of interest to the distinctive character of entire market towns such as Cirencester, Dursley, Fairford and Lechlade. Gloucester Cathedral and Docks, the regency architecture of Cheltenham, the Cotswolds and the buildings linked to the wool industry of the Stroud Valleys are some of the county's most well-known heritage assets. However, Gloucestershire is also known for archaeology of the prehistoric and Roman periods, in both urban and rural areas.

3.102 Gloucestershire has 519 Scheduled Monuments, 14,974 Listed Buildings and over 31,000 other locally recorded archaeological sites. There are 56 Registered Parks and Gardens, 248 Conservation Areas and two Historic Battlefields at Tewkesbury and Stow on the Wold (see **Figure 3.11**).

3.103 Historic England's 'Heritage at Risk Register' records 83 sites and structures 'at risk' in Gloucestershire **[See reference** 88**]**.

Landscape baseline

3.104 Gloucestershire is predominantly rural in character. Geographically, Gloucestershire is split into three distinct landscape areas – the Cotswolds, the Forest of Dean and the Central Severn Vale. Over half of Gloucestershire falls within one of three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) all of which extend beyond the county boundary. The Cotswold AONB is to the east, the Wye Valley AONB lies to the west and the Malvern Hills AONB covers a small part of the county's northern border with Worcestershire (as shown in **Figure**

3.12). The Management Plans for each of the AONBs states that the waste hierarchy should be promoted to ensure environmental impacts are minimised.

3.105 Gloucestershire falls into eight National Character Areas **[See reference 89]**:

- 100 Herefordshire Lowlands – includes gently undulating with steep-sided cornstone hills in the central area and dominated by ancient woodland of ash and field maple or oak and bracken;
- 103 Malvern Hills - comprises a narrow ridge of rounded hills, with hill forts rising above the Severn and Avon Vales to the east, the Herefordshire Lowlands to the west and the Herefordshire Plateau to the north-west;
- 104 South Herefordshire and Over Severn – including neutral grassland, the River Leadon, traditional orchards, hedgerows and woodlands;
- 105 Forest of Dean and Lower Wye – including extensive coniferous and broadleaved woodlands, the River Wye and various grassland types;
- 106 Severn and Avon Vales – including the River Severn, neutral grasslands and traditional orchards;
- 107 Cotswolds – including limestone grasslands, broadleaved woodlands and the upper Thames catchment;
- 108 Upper Thames Clay Vales – covering the Cotswold Water Park with neutral grasslands, rivers and open water;
- 118 Bristol, Avon Valleys and Ridges - encompasses the City of Bristol, and the surrounding area including the Chew and Yeo valleys, Keynsham, Clevedon, Portishead and parts of the Cotswolds and Mendip Hills Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

3.106 Although not an environmental designation, it is worth noting that Gloucestershire is home to the Gloucester-Cheltenham Green Belt designation. It covers an area of 6,193 ha, which mostly falls within Tewkesbury Borough. Small parts of Cheltenham Borough and a very small area of Cotswold District also fall within it. The original purpose of the designation was to prevent the

coalescence of Gloucestershire's two main settlements - Gloucester City and Cheltenham.

3.107 The Gloucester-Cheltenham Green Belt is largely characterised by undeveloped agricultural land. Although, it does contain a number of settlements such as Down Hatherley; Staverton and Badgeworth. It also includes pieces of strategic transport infrastructure including a stretch of and several junctions of the M5 motorway; a de-trunked section of A40 dual-carriage way; the Bristol-Birmingham mainline railway; and Gloucestershire Airport.

3.108 Historic mineral working, predominantly for sand and gravel, has taken place across the Gloucester-Cheltenham Green Belt. This has evolved, in an area to the north-west of the designation into strategically significant landfill, waste treatment and transfer infrastructure. This area is known as 'Wingmoor Farm' which presently contains hazardous and non-hazardous commercial landfills; an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) plant; composting facility; hazardous waste treatment; a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF); LACW bulking and transfer; and a Household Recycling Centre (HRC). Other waste management facilities including inert waste processing and recycling are also contained at merchant facilities elsewhere in the Green Belt.

3.109 It is important to note that Green Belt is not a landscape issue. It is important for the purposes of Green Belt not to stray into assessing landscape character, sensitivity or value; whilst Green Belt land may be valuable in these respects it is not a requirement or purpose of the designation to provide such qualities. Furthermore, Green Belt is a policy designation and not an environment or sustainability designation. Therefore, the purposes of Green Belt are not inherently sustainability issues.

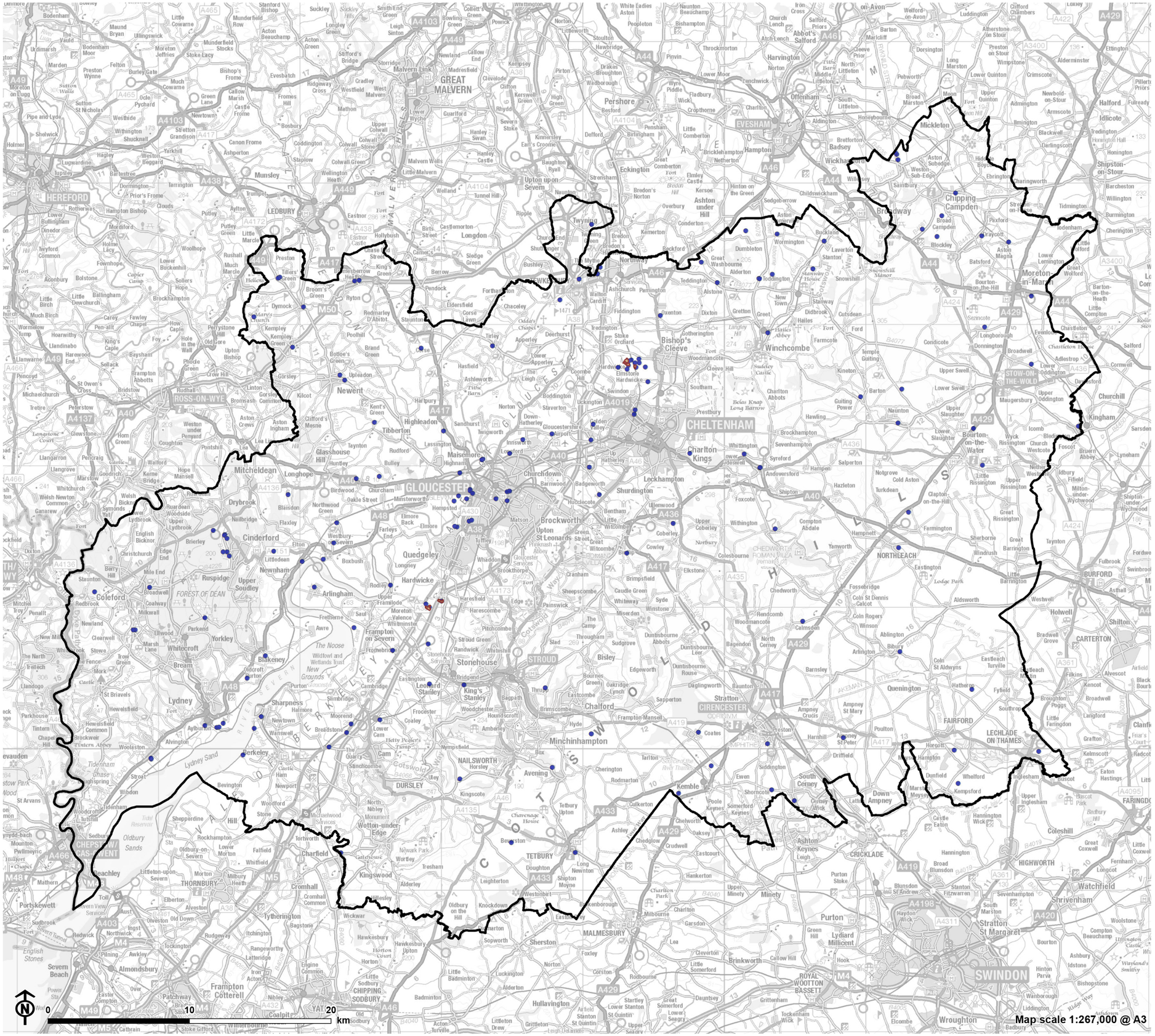
3.110 Our proposed approach to SA/SEA of the Gloucestershire Waste Plan does not consider the effects of the Plan on the Green Belt per se. Instead, it appraises the Plan's effects in relation to a number of more specific environmental, social and economic objectives. This approach is consistent with the Inspector's report (R Yuille) to Lichfield District Council (2015) which addressed challenges to the Council's Local Plan on the grounds that the

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) had not taken account of the fact that certain site allocations were in the Green Belt. The Inspector responded as follows: "Sustainability Appraisal is intended to be policy neutral, so it is understandable that sites are not specifically assessed in Green Belt terms. However, sites are assessed in terms of criteria such as whether they will promote and maintain attractive and diverse landscape, whether they will improve areas of lower quality landscape, whether they protect diverse and locally distinctive settlement and townscape character and whether they safeguard historic views and valuable skylines. In effect such an assessment includes considering the sites in terms of the effect that their development would have on the purposes of including land in Green Belt. Moreover, the fact that these sites are in Green Belt, and the implications of this, are discussed in some detail in the Sustainability Appraisal. I do not, therefore, consider that this criticism of the Sustainability Appraisal is justified."

Gloucestershire: IIA + HRA for Waste Local Plan
Gloucestershire County Council

LUC

Figure 3.1: Waste Facilities within Gloucestershire



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CB: EB:Whyte_L LUC FIG4_1_r0_Waste_Facilities 21/09/2022
Source: OS, GCC

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Gloucestershire County Council

LUC

Figure 3.2: Indices of Multiple Deprivation

Gloucestershire boundary

Indices of Multiple Deprivation

Most deprived

Least deprived

Map scale 1:267,000 @ A3

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Source: OS, GCC, MHCLG

Figure 3.3: Transport Network within Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire boundary
Cycle route network
Road
Railway

Map scale 1:267,000 @ A3

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CB: EB:Whyte_L LUC FIG4_3_r0_Transport_Network 21/09/2022
Source: OS, OSM, GCC

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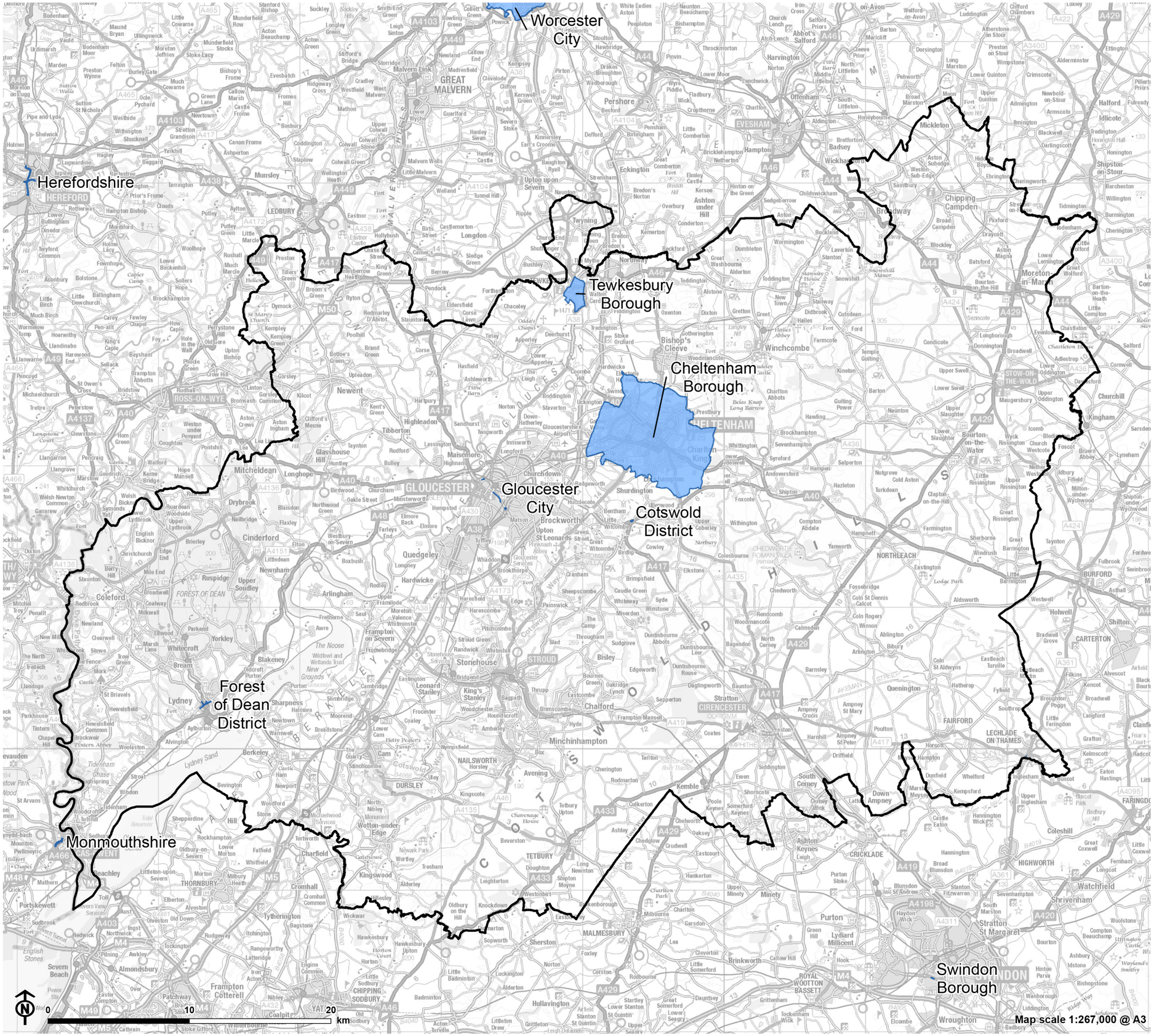
Gloucestershire County Council

LUC

Figure 3.4: Air Quality Management Areas within Gloucestershire



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Source: OS, DEFRA

Figure 3.5: Agricultural Land Classifications within Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire boundary

Agricultural land classification

- Exclusion
- Grade 1
- Grade 2
- Grade 3
- Grade 4
- Grade 5
- Non Agricultural
- Urban

0 10 20 km

Map scale 1:267,000 @ A3

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Source: OS, NE

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Figure 3.6: Nitrate Vulnerable Zones within Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire boundary

Nitrate vulnerable zone

Groundwater

Surface Water

Map scale 1:267,000 @ A3

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CB: EB:Whyte_L LUC FIG4_6_r0_NVZ 21/09/2022
Source: DEFRA, OS

Figure 3.7: Flood Zones within Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire boundary
Flood zone 3
Flood zone 2

0 10 20 km

Map scale 1:267,000 @ A3

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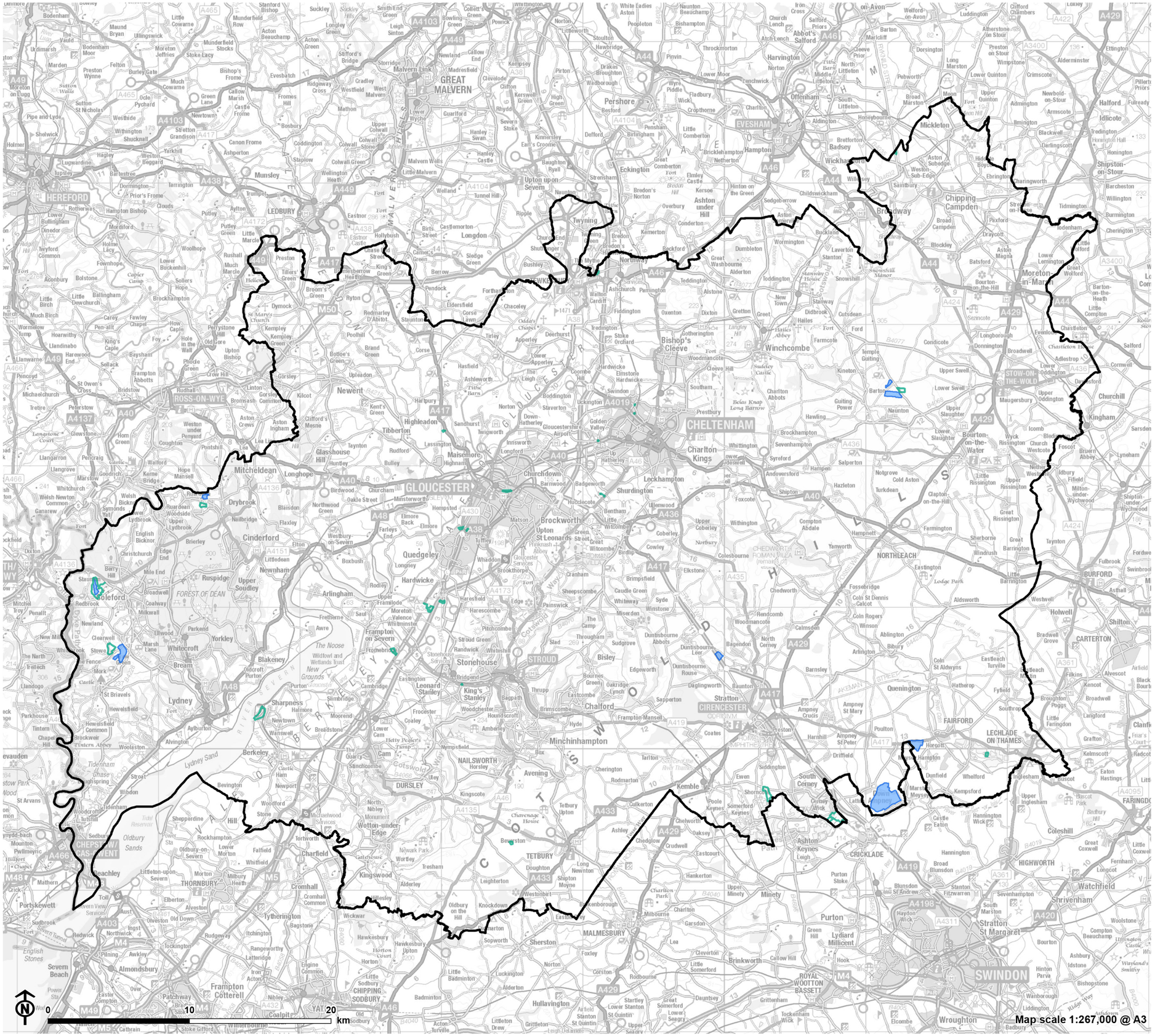
Source: OS, EA

Figure 3.8: Mineral Deposits within Gloucestershire



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Source: OS, GCC

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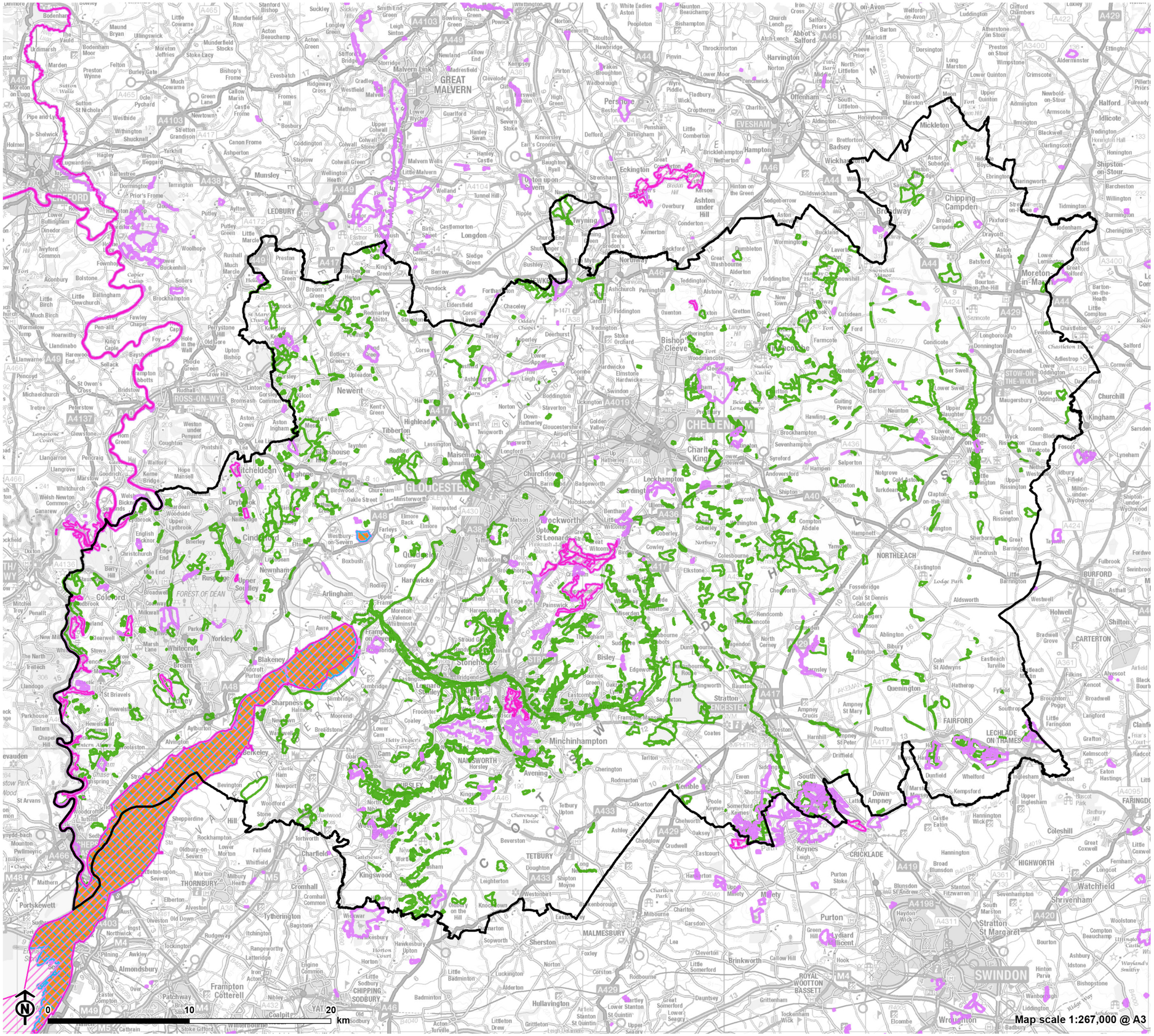
Gloucestershire County Council

LUC

Figure 3.9: Biodiversity Designations within Gloucestershire



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Source: OS, GCC, NE

Figure 3.10: Geodiversity Designations within Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire boundary
Geological site

0 10 20 km

Map scale 1:267,000 @ A3

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CB: EB:Whyte_L LUC FIG4_10_r0_Geodiversity 21/09/2022
Source: OS, GCC

Figure 3.11: Historic Environment within Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire boundary

Listed building

- Grade I
- Grade II*
- Grade II

Conservation area

Scheduled monument

Registered parks and gardens

0 10 20 km

Map scale 1:267,000 @ A3

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CB: EB:Whyte_L LUC FIG4_11_r0_Historic 21/09/2022
Source: OS, HE

Figure 3.12: Landscape Designations within Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire boundary
AONB
Country park

Map scale 1:267,000 @ A3

0 10 20 km

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CB: EB:Whyte_L LUC FIG4_12_r0_Landscape 21/09/2022
Source: OS, NE

Chapter 4

Key sustainability issues

4.1 Analysis of baseline information and the policy context has informed identification of sustainability issues facing Gloucestershire that are of relevance to the Waste Local Plan, in line with the requirements of Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations. The key sustainability issues that have been identified are set out below along with an outline of their relevance, i.e. how the Plan could avoid exacerbating these issues or help to solve them.

Sustainability Issue 1: Development pressures could adversely affect Gloucestershire's many important historic assets.

- Gloucestershire has many sites, features and areas of historical and cultural interest, a number of which are at risk and which could be adversely affected by poorly planned waste development.
- Although there is a high level of protection afforded historic sites within the NPPF and NPPW, more of an emphasis could be placed within the GWLP on directing waste developments away from sensitive locations and requiring them to be designed and built so as to minimise adverse effects on the county's historic environment above and below ground.

Sustainability Issue 2: Development pressures could adversely affect protected sites, ecological networks, and other significant biodiversity sites.

- Gloucestershire County contains eight sites of international importance for nature conservation. There are also 120 SSSIs and around 850 Local Wildlife Sites. These sites and land which is functionally linked to these sites could be harmed by inappropriate development and increased activity within the County.
- Although a high level of protection is afforded to biodiversity by the NPPF and NPPW, the GWLP could help to conserve biodiversity by directing waste developments away from sensitive locations and requiring them to be designed and built so that they minimise adverse effects on biodiversity. Furthermore, the GWLP could support the delivery of biodiversity net gain, enhance biodiversity through the development of new or enhanced waste management facilities and through the restoration of land at former waste sites to an after-use including accessible greenspace.

Sustainability Issue 3: There is a need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to contribute to national climate targets.

- In 2019, the UK government set a legally binding target to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2050. The waste industry has the potential to contribute to climate change via the emission of greenhouse gases generated using energy in processes and transportation involved in the industries.
- The GWLP could establish a local policy framework that supports wider efforts to reduce the amount of waste that is generated in the first place

(i.e. waste minimisation). It could also ensure that where waste is unavoidable, it is managed in an efficient and sustainable manner, by employing the 'waste hierarchy'. In addition, the GWLP could support the evolution of the county's waste infrastructure network to the most sustainable locations. Policies could also support the most efficient and appropriate freight routes, and an accelerated transition to low and zero carbon alternatives to conventional fossil-fuel based road freight. Furthermore, opportunities to utilise efficient and more sustainable modes of transport could be promoted so as to achieve maximum diversion of waste away from road haulage.

Sustainability Issue 4: Large parts of the Plan area are at risk of flooding from multiple sources which is likely to intensify due to climate change.

- Flooding has emerged as a major issue for a number of localities across Gloucestershire. Fluvial and surface water flooding poses the most significant risk to the County.
- Areas of the county, which are at higher risk of flooding now and, in the future, (e.g. low-lying land on the floodplain) are also often attractive for development. Despite policies in the NPPF and NPPW, the GWLP could play a key role in ensuring sufficient weight is given to the risk of flooding from all sources and over time; and that new or expanded waste management facilities are directed towards areas with the lowest risk of flooding. Furthermore, the GWLP could demand highly resilient design to address residual risks of flooding and to tackle flood risk vulnerabilities locally and elsewhere.

Sustainability Issue 5: Poor air quality is experienced in a number of areas.

- All local authorities have an obligation to declare Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs), via the Environment Act 1995, and develop action plans for improvement of air quality. There are eight AQMAs that have been declared across the county. There is a risk that local air quality could be worsened by waste development, particularly through emissions from conventional fossil-fuel based transport of waste.
- The GWLP could support efficient and appropriate freight routes for transporting waste by road that avoid areas with the worst rates of air pollution – namely AQMAs. It could seek to use more sustainable alternatives to emission-generating fossil-fuel based road transport of waste. This could include switching to more sustainable modes of transport or to low and zero carbon road-based transport. The GWLP could also support a spatial strategy that will facilitate an increasingly effective and efficient network of waste facilities that will reduce the frequency and miles needed to be travelled by waste.

Sustainability Issue 6: Waste is a wasted material resource and more can be done to reduce it and achieve increased resource value.

- Increasing amounts of waste in Gloucestershire is being managed up the waste hierarchy and diverted away from disposal to landfill. However, recycling, and composting rates for LACW have not improved in recent years and new national targets have been set. Increasing tonnages of C&I waste are also no longer being sent to landfill, but there are missed opportunities to achieve higher rates of recycling and the efficiency benefits associated with the transition to a circular economy. Furthermore, future economic and population growth is likely to put pressure on the

existing network of waste management facilities. In addition, disposal to landfill is at present an unavoidable and least bad solution for some wastes. Therefore, it is important that future capacity requirements is not ignored.

- The GWLP will have limited influence on the amount of waste that is generated and needs to be managed each year. However, it could help promote and support a more 'circular' environment in which material resource efficiency and material re-use (waste avoidance) is prioritised. A key role of the GWLP could be to make provision for the right waste management facilities, in the right locations for the purposes of implementing sustainable waste management practices that will meet waste targets and other ambitions set for Gloucestershire.

Sustainability Issue 7: The population is forecast to increase.

- Current predictions estimate that Gloucestershire's population will increase by 104,924 people or 16.6% to around 738,482 in 2043. In the absence of any significant change in per capita resource consumption, the consequence of population growth will be an increase in the amount of waste being generated. The existing network of waste management facilities will need to become more efficient and may also need to expand in order to keep pace with demand for waste management services.
- The GWLP has limited influence on the amount of waste that is generated and needs to be managed each year. However, it could help promote and support a more 'circular' environment for resource consumption in which material resource efficiency and material re-use (waste avoidance) is prioritised. This could, over the long term reduce some of the impact of population growth upon waste growth. However, the GWLP could make provision for a sufficient network of waste management facilities, which is able to keep pace with population-driven demand for waste management services.

Sustainability Issue 8: Economically deprived communities are present in some parts of the county.

- Many residents in Gloucestershire have benefited from a sustained period of rising asset values and a strong labour market. However, these beneficial economic characteristics have not been equally shared within the county's local communities. The consequence for Gloucestershire has been levels of local inequality, particularly within some rural areas such as within the Forest of Dean.
- The GWLP could support a local policy framework that will make a small, but present, contribution towards improving the diversity and quality of local employment opportunities available in more deprived rural localities. It may also bring about training investment, where relevant skills deficits might be present within local communities.

Sustainability Issue 9: Significant areas of the County lie within one of three AONBs.

- Gloucestershire contains highly valued and diverse landscapes. Over 50% of the county within the Cotswolds AONB, Wye Valley AONB and the Malvern Hills AONB. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 states that AONBs should be given the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty.
- The GWLP could have a pivotal role to play in promoting a spatial strategy that would deliver a more efficient and effective network of waste management facilities for reducing the overall miles travelled by waste and avoiding the movement of waste into and around AONBs. A high priority could be given to landscape enhancement and restoration opportunities

that will contribute towards the ambitions of the respective AONB Management Plan.

Sustainability Issue 10: Water quality and sustainable use of water resources.

- Several water bodies in Gloucestershire do not meet the required ‘good' status, and a number of water bodies and watercourses are protected sites and sensitive to changes in water quality.
- There are many factors and initiatives outside of the local planning policy framework contained within the GWLP that may impact on water quality and the use of water resources, such as land management practices and investment plans by utility bodies. However, the GWLP has a role to play by ensuring new and expanded waste management developments will not adversely impact upon water quality and / or water quantity through securing efficient use of water resources. The GWLP could also create a clear, positive and supportive investment environment in which opportunities to upgrade and improve the network of waste water facilities across the county are taken.

Chapter 5

Sustainability Appraisal Framework

5.1 The SEA Regulations, Schedule 2(6) require the Environmental Report to consider:

> "The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as (a) biodiversity, (b) population, (c) human health, (d) fauna, (e) flora, (f) soil, (g) water, (h) air, (i) climatic factors, (j) material assets, (k) cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, (l) landscape and (m) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a)–(l)."

5.2 The development of a set of SA objectives (known as the SA framework) is a recognised way in which the likely environmental and sustainability effects of a plan can be described, analysed and compared.

5.3 The proposed SA framework for the Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan is presented in below, 12 SA objectives and their associated questions, and demonstrates how all of the SEA tropics have been covered by the SA objectives in addition to providing the context behind the development of the proposed SA objectives. The framework has been developed from the analysis of international, national and local policy objectives, the baseline information, and the sustainability issues identified for the County.

5.4 It comprises a series of SA objectives against which the sustainability of the Waste Local Plan will be appraised. The appraisal of the Waste Local Plan policies and 'areas' of search against these SA objectives will be guided in part by the appraisal questions accompanying each objective. The questions

included in the framework are not exhaustive, and some may be more relevant to certain Plan elements than others.

Site assessment criteria

5.5 Evidence gathering to date, which has considered the monitoring of previous waste local plans for Gloucestershire, would suggest that the allocation of specific parcels of land for waste management has not been influential in shaping the county's network of waste management facilities. It is therefore possible that the emerging GWLP may not choose to pursue a spatial strategy reliant on traditional land allocations. A more adaptable approach could be taken. This may include the use of 'Areas of Search' that present favourable characteristics for accommodating evolving and progressive waste management technologies. Developing a set of defined spatial criteria for assessing the appropriateness and acceptability of candidate 'Areas of Search' should provide for a credible consistent and transparent approach to ensuring their effective appraisal in relation to each SA objective. The performance of the 'Areas of Search' areas against the SA objectives through the use of the supporting spatial assessment criteria would be a powerful and effective tool to sit, alongside other technical assessments, to help inform the Council's decision making.

SA Framework for the Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan

SA objective 1: To minimise the County's contribution to climate change through a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from managing waste.

Appraisal questions:

- Will it utilise the waste hierarchy to ensure less waste is being sent to landfill?
- Will it support development of energy recovery facilities for waste that cannot be recycled or composted?
- Will it reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from waste management activities?
- Will it promote energy efficiency by encouraging the use of energy efficient buildings and plant, and the use of appropriate renewable or low carbon energy sources on waste sites?

  Carbon emissions associated with waste transport are dealt with under SA objective 7.

SA objective 2: Move treatment of waste up the Waste Hierarchy.

Appraisal questions:

- Will it minimise disposal of all forms of waste?
- Will it promote the re-use, recycling and recovery of waste?
- Will it promote a circular low carbon economy within Gloucestershire?
- Will it eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050?

SA objective 3: Support, maintain or enhance the development of the economy.

Appraisal questions:

- Will it support the development and growth of the circular economy in Gloucestershire?
- Will it generate employment opportunities in the waste and resource sector for local people, especially within rural areas?
- Will it minimise harm to the existing local economy?

SA objective 4: Protect and improve the health of the people of Gloucestershire.

Appraisal questions:

- Will it avoid or minimise adverse effects on human health and safety, especially those with protected characteristics and those in more deprived areas?
- Will it provide opportunities to improve health and amenity through delivery of green infrastructure, enhanced public rights of way and improved access to recreation as part of the restoration of sites?
- Will it avoid or minimise adverse effects on the quality and extent of existing recreational assets?
- Will it reduce the incidence of crime associated with waste (e.g. fly-tipping and illegal dumping of large amounts of waste)?

SA objective 5: Reduce road traffic, congestion and pollution, and promote sustainable modes of transport in the County.

Appraisal questions:

- Will it support an overall reduction in the distance travelled by waste?
- Will it contribute towards a reduction in traffic congestion?
- Will it reduce reliance on road-based freight movements and support the use of rail and water where this represents a deliverable, efficient and sustainable choice?

- Will it support the transition from low to ultra-low and then zero emission vehicles for the transportation of waste by road?

SA objective 6: Protect and enhance the historic environment.

Appraisal questions:

- Will waste facilities conserve, protect and enhance designated and undesignated heritage assets and their settings?

SA objective 7: Protect, restore, enhance, and expand the County's biodiversity and geodiversity assets.

Appraisal questions:

- Will it protect and enhance habitats of international, national, regional or local importance?
- Will it protect and improve local populations of terrestrial or marine species that are of international, national, regional or locally importance?
- Will it conserve and enhance designated and undesignated ecological assets and networks, taking into account the impact of climate change?
- Will it protect and support enhance knowledge and understanding of geological sites of national, regional or local importance?
- Will it maintain and enhance wildlife corridors and minimise fragmentation of ecological areas and green spaces?

- Will it provide opportunities for enhancing biodiversity and secure net gains in biodiversity?

SA objective 8: Protect, enhance, and restore landscapes and townscapes of Gloucestershire, including its rural areas and open spaces.

Appraisal questions:

- Will it enhance and protect landscape and townscape features including AONBs, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings?
- Will it minimise the visual intrusion of waste facilities on sensitive and/or distinct landscape and townscapes?
- Will it provide for the restoration of land to an appropriate after-use including the creation of accessible greenspaces and open spaces at former waste sites?

SA objective 9: Protect and enhance the quality and quantity of watercourses and water bodies and maximise the efficient use of water.

Appraisal questions:

- Will it protect and enhance the quality of watercourses and water bodies?
- Will it maximise the efficient use of water?
- Will it protect the quantity of ground and surface water from over abstraction?

SA objective 10: To manage and reduce flood risk from all sources.

Appraisal questions:

- Will it ensure waste developments are not at risk of flooding both presently and in the future, taking into account climate change, and will it not result in an increase in the risk of flooding elsewhere?
- Will it promote the use of SuDS, nature-based solutions or other flood resilient design measures?

SA objective 11: Minimise noise, light and air pollution.

Appraisal questions:

- Will it minimise noise and light pollution from activities associated with waste developments and the potential for such pollution?
- Will it minimise air pollution and help achieve the objectives of Air Quality Management Plans?

SA objective 12: Protect and enhance soil and mineral resources.

Appraisal questions:

- Will it reduce soil contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity?

- Will it avoid the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land by prioritising the location of waste developments to previously developed sites in preference to greenfield locations?
- Will it safeguard mineral resources from sterilisation by waste management related development?

Chapter 6

Conclusion and Next Steps

6.1 In order to meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations, the views of the three statutory consultees (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency) are being sought in relation to the scope and level of detail to be included in the SA report.

6.2 This SA Scoping Report is being published for consultation with the three statutory bodies before the end of December 2022.

6.3 In particular, the consultees are requested to consider:

- Whether any additional international or national plans and programmes should be included in the policy review (see Appendix A) because their objectives are of particular relevance to the sustainability of the Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan (see Chapter 2).
- Whether the information provided in Chapter 3 provides a sufficient baseline against which the Plan's sustainability effects can be assessed and monitored and which allows exiting sustainability issues of relevance to the Plan to be identified.
- Whether there are any additional key sustainability issues of relevance to the Waste Local Plan (Chapter 4) that should be included.
- Whether the SA framework (Chapter 5) is appropriate and includes a suitable range of objectives that are within the Waste Local Plan's remit.

6.4 As the Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan is drafted, its policies (and any allocations) and reasonable alternatives to these will be subject to appraisal against the SA framework presented in Chapter 5. A full SA report (incorporating the later stages of the SA process) will then be produced and made available to stakeholders and the general public for consultation alongside the emerging Waste Local Plan.

LUC

November 2022

Appendix A

Review of relevant plans, policies and programmes

International

IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report on Climate Change (IPCC, 2022)

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- To limit and/or reduce all greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to climate change.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- None.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Plan should support reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases.

Implications for the SA

- Include sustainability objectives to support reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases.

Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002)

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- Commitment to building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all.
- Areas of focus include:
  - Sustainable consumption and production patterns.
  - Accelerate shift towards sustainable consumption and production – 10-year framework of programmed of action.
  - Reverse trend in loss of natural resources.
  - Renewable energy and energy efficiency.
  - Urgently and substantially increase Global share of renewable energy.
  - Significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- To promote greater resource efficiency, increase energy efficiency and develop new technology for renewable energy.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Declaration.

Implications for the SA

- Include sustainability objectives to enhance the natural environment and promote renewable energy and energy/resource efficiency.

Aarhus Convention (1998)

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- Established a number of rights of the public with regard to the environment.
- Local authorities should provide for:
  - The right of everyone to receive environmental information.
  - The right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision making.
  - The right to challenge in a court of law public decisions that have been made without respecting the two rights above or environmental law in general.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Convention.

Implications for the SA

- Ensure that the public are involved and consulted at all relevant stages of SA production.

Bern Convention (1979)

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention) was adopted in Bern, Switzerland in 1979, and came into force in 1982.
- The principal aims of the Convention are to ensure conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats (listed in Appendices I and II of the Convention), to increase cooperation between contracting parties, and to regulate the exploitation of those species (including migratory species) listed in Appendix III.
- To this end the Convention imposes legal obligations on contracting parties, protecting over 500 wild plant species and more than 1,000 wild animal species.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Convention.

Implications for the SA

- Include sustainability objectives to protect and enhance biodiversity.

Ramsar Convention – Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971)

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- To promote the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local, regional and national actions and international co-operation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The number of Ramsar sites being designated in the UK.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Plan should promote the conservation and make wise use of all wetland areas.

Implications for the SA

- Consider inclusion of objectives which aim to promote conservation and wise use of wetland areas.

UN Paris Climate Change Agreement (2015)

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- International agreement to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Agreement.

Implications for the SA

- Consider climate change.

National

NPPF (2021)

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- Economic objective:
  - To help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy

  - By ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity
  - By identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure.
- Social objective:
  - To support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations
  - By fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being.
- Environmental objective:
  - To protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution
  - Mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Economic objective:
  - Plan should make adequate provision for waste management infrastructure to ensure the growth of the waste economy.
- Social objective:

- Plan should include policies and objectives to promote a circular economy and the delivery of green infrastructure, enhanced public rights of way or improved access to recreation as part of the development and restoration of waste sites.

- Environmental objective:
  - Plan should include policies and objectives to address the causes and impacts of climate change relating to waste development activity, including using opportunities arising from waste operations and reclamation activity to mitigate and adapt to climate change and to leave a positive legacy.

Implications for the SA

- Economic objective:
  - Include a sustainability objective relating to strengthening the economy.
- Social objective:
  - Include a sustainability objective relating to health and well-being.
- Environmental objective:
  - Include a sustainability objective relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation of historic features, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment.

NPPW (2015)

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The National Planning Policy for Waste was adopted in October 2014 and sets out the need for local authorities to:
  - Prepare local plans using a robust proportionate evidence base
  - Identify need for waste management facilities

- Identify suitable sites and areas
- Determine planning applications
- Monitor and report
- Take up in allocated sites and areas
- Existing stock and changes in the stock of waste management facilities.
- The amount of waste recycled, recovered or going for disposal

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the National Planning Policy for Waste.

Implications for the SA

- Include a sustainability objective relating to sustainable waste management.

DEFRA (2021): National Waste Management Plan for England

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- Provides an analysis of the current waste management situation in England and evaluates how it will support implementation of the objectives and provisions of the revised Waste Framework Directive.
- At the local authority level, the Waste Management Plan notes that waste planning authorities (county and unitary authorities in England) are responsible for producing local waste management plans that cover the land use planning aspect of waste management for their areas.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the National Waste Management Plan.

Implications for the SA

- Include a sustainability objective relating to sustainable waste management.

Resources and Waste Strategy for England (2018)

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- Sets out how to preserve material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy in England.
- It identifies five strategic ambitions:
  - To work towards all plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025;
  - To work towards eliminating food waste to landfill by 2030;
  - To eliminate avoidable plastic waste over the lifetime of the 25 Year Environment Plan;
  - To double resource productivity by 2050; and
  - To eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Allocate sites and develop policies in line with the Resources and Waste Strategy.

Implications for the SA

- Include a sustainability objective relating to sustainable waste management.

DCLG (2015): Planning Practice Guidance on Waste

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- Provides further information in support of the implementation of waste planning policy.
- At the local authority level, the Guidance outlines who is responsible for waste developments and which matters come within the scope of 'waste development'.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Planning Practice Guidance on Waste.

Implications for the SA

- Include a sustainability objective relating to sustainable waste management.

MHCLG Planning Practice Guidance (2021)

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The PPG documents provide guidance on the interpretation and implementation of the NPPF.
- Of particular relevance are:
  - Planning Practice Guidance on air quality
  - Planning Practice Guidance on climate change
  - Planning Practice Guidance on conserving and enhancing the historic environment
  - Planning Practice Guidance on ensuring the vitality of town centre
  - Planning Practice Guidance on flood risk and coastal change
  - Planning Practice Guidance on health and wellbeing
  - Planning Practice Guidance on local plans
  - Planning Practice Guidance on the natural environment
  - Planning Practice Guidance on noise
  - Planning Practice Guidance on light pollution
  - Planning Practice Guidance on open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space
  - Planning Practice Guidance on rural housing
  - DCLG Planning Practice Guidance on renewable and low carbon energy
  - Planning Practice Guidance on water supply, wastewater and water quality
  - Planning Practice Guidance on Waste

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Plan needs to be produced in accordance with the guidance outline in the NPPG.

Implications for the SA

- The SA should be prepared in line with the NPPG.

DEFRA (2012): National Policy Statement for Waste Water

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- Sets out the proposed policy framework to inform planning decisions on applications for large waste water infrastructure projects.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the National Policy Statement for Waste Water.

Implications for the SA

- Include SA objectives that relate to sustainable waste management and the protection of water quality.

DEFRA (2013): National Policy Statement for Hazardous Waste

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- Sets out the strategic need and justification of Government policy for the provision of national significant infrastructure for the management of hazardous waste.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the National Policy Statement for Hazardous Waste.

Implications for the SA

- Include SA objectives that relate to sustainable waste management which will include hazardous waste.

HM Government (2013) Waste prevention programme for England: Prevention is better than cure – The role of waste prevention in moving to a more resource efficient economy

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The aim of the Programme is to:
  - Improve the environment and protect human health by supporting a resource efficient economy, reducing the quantity and impact of waste produced whilst promoting sustainable economic growth.
  - Encourage businesses to contribute to a more sustainable economy by building waste reduction into design, offering alternative business models and delivering new and improved products and services.
  - Encourage a culture of valuing resources by making it easier for people and businesses to find out how to reduce their waste, to use products for longer, repair broken items, and enable reuse of items by others.
  - Help businesses recognise and act upon potential savings through better resource efficiency and preventing waste, to realise opportunities for growth.
  - Support action by central and local government, businesses and civil society to capitalise on these opportunities.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Policies should take account of the strategic measures in the Programme.

Implications for the SA

- Include SA objectives which seek to promote waste prevention.

HM Government (2009): The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The Plan plots how the UK will meet the 34 percent cut in emissions on 1990 levels by 2020.
- The Plan shows how reductions in the power sector and heavy industry; transport; homes and communities; workplaces and jobs; and farming, land and waste sectors could enable carbon budgets to 2022 to be met.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The plan includes a 5-point Action Plan covering the following areas:
  - Protecting the public from immediate risk;
  - Preparing for the future;

- Limiting the severity of future climate change through a new international climate agreement;
- Building a low carbon UK;
- Supporting individuals, communities and businesses to play their part.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Plan should include policies that contribute towards achieving lower carbon emissions.

Implications for the SA

- Objectives should reflect the aims set in the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan to reduce carbon emissions.

HM Government (2011): The Carbon Plan: Delivering our low carbon future

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The Carbon Plan is a Government wide plan of action on climate change, including domestic and international activity.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The plan includes a range of sectorial plans and targets including low carbon industry.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Plan should include policies that contribute towards achieving lower carbon emissions such as:
  - Diverting waste from landfill by driving it up the waste hierarchy.
  - Using alternate or low emission transport options where viable.

Implications for the SA

- Include a sustainability objective relating to reducing carbon emissions.

DECC (2009): The UK Renewable Energy Strategy

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- Increase our use of renewable electricity, heat and transport, and help tackle climate change.
- Build the UK low-carbon economy, promote energy security and take action against climate change.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- 15% of energy from renewable sources by 2020.
- Reducing UK CO2 emissions by 750 million tonnes by 2030.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Ensure that site allocations and policies will support renewable energy provision including electricity, heat and transport.

Implications for the SA

- Include a sustainability objective relating to increasing energy provided from renewable sources.

HM Government (2017) The Clean Growth Strategy

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- Under the Climate Change Act, the Government is required to publish a set of policies and proposals that will enable the legally-binding carbon budgets, on track to the 2050 target, to be met.
- The Clean Growth Strategy sets out a range of policies and proposals, as well as possible long-term pathways for UK emissions in two ways – by decreasing emissions and by increasing economic growth.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The strategy covers the fourth and fifth carbon budgets, spanning 2023-2027 and 2028-2032, by when the UK must cut its greenhouse gas emissions to 57% below 1990 levels.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Plan should support renewable energy provision including electricity, heat and transport.

Implications for the SA

- Include a sustainability objective relating to promoting energy efficiency and the use of appropriate renewable or lower carbon energy sources on site.

DEFRA (2018): The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting– Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The report sets out visions for the following sectors:
  - People and the Built Environment – “to promote the development of a healthy, equitable and resilient population, well placed to reduce the harmful health impacts of climate change...buildings and places (including built heritage) and the people who live and work in them are resilient and organisations in the built environment sector have an increased capacity to address the risks and make the most of the opportunities of a changing climate.”
  - Infrastructure – “an infrastructure network that is resilient to today’s natural hazards and prepared for the future changing climate”.
  - Natural Environment – “the natural environment, with diverse and healthy ecosystems, is resilient to climate change, able to

accommodate change and valued for the adaptation services it provides."

- Business and Industry – "UK businesses are resilient to extreme weather and prepared for future risks and opportunities from climate change."
- Local Government – "Local government plays a central role in leading and supporting local places to become more resilient to a range of future risks and to be prepared for the opportunities from a changing climate."

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Policies should take account of the aims of the Programme.

Implications for the SA

- Include SA objectives which seek to promote the implementation of adaptation measures to make the area more resilient to a changing climate.

DEFRA (2013): Underground, Under threat – Groundwater Protection: Policy and Practice (GP3)

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- To prevent pollution of groundwater.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- To meet Water Framework Directive requirements for groundwater quality.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Plan should recognise the importance and vulnerability of groundwater resources and ensure that they are not detrimentally affected by waste development.

Implications for the SA

- Include an objective to protect groundwater quality.

Environment Agency (2011): The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- This Strategy sets out the national framework for managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion. It sets out the roles for risk management authorities and communities to help them understand their responsibilities.
- The strategic aims and objectives of the Strategy are to:
  - "manage the risk to people and their property;
  - Facilitate decision-making and action at the appropriate level – individual, community or local authority, river catchment, coastal cell or national;
  - Achieve environmental, social and economic benefits, consistent with the principles of sustainable development".

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Policies should seek to reduce and manage the risk of all types of flooding.

Implications for the SA

- The SA framework should include objectives which seek to reduce the risk and manage flooding sustainably.

DEFRA (2008) Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- Sets out how the Government want the water sector to look by 2030 and an outline of the steps which need to be taken to get there.
- The vision for 2030 is one where we, as a country have:
  - "improved the quality of our water environment and the ecology it supports, and continue to maintain high standards of drinking water quality from taps;
  - Sustainably managed risks from flooding and coastal erosion, with greater understanding and more effective management of surface water;
  - Ensure a sustainable use of water resources, and implement fair, affordable and cost-reflective water charges;
  - Cut greenhouse gas emissions; and
  - Embed continuous adaptation to climate change and other pressures across the water industry and water users".

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Policies should aim to contribute to the vision set out in this Strategy.

Implications for the SA

- Include SA objectives which seek to protect, manage and enhance the water environment and promote water management and efficiency.

Environment Agency (2009): Water for People and the Environment: Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The Strategy vision for water resource "is for there to be enough water for people and the environment, meeting legitimate needs".
- Its aims include:
  - To manage water resource and protect the water environment from climate change.
  - Restore, protect, improve and value species and habitats that depend on water.
  - To contribute to sustainable development through good water management.
  - People to understand how water and the water environment contribute to their quality of life.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Policies should reflect the aims of the strategy where relevant.

Implications for the SA

- Include SA objective which seeks to promote water management and efficiency.

DEFRA (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The vision is “by 2030, all England’s soils will be managed sustainability and degradation threats tackled successfully. This will improve the quality of England’s soils and safeguard their ability to provide essential services for future generations”.
- The Strategy highlights the areas for priority including:
  - Better protection for agricultural soils.
  - Protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon.
  - Building the resilience of soils to a changing climate.
  - Preventing soil pollution.
  - Effective soil protection during construction and development.
  - Dealing with our legacy of contaminated land.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Ensure that site allocations and policies will help protect and enhance the quality of soils and seek to sustainably manage their quality for future generations.

Implications for the SA

- Include SA objective which seeks to safeguard and enhance the quality of soil.

DEFRA (2007): The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- Make sure that everyone can enjoy a level of ambient air quality in public spaces, which poses no significant risk to health or quality of life.
- Render polluting emissions harmless.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- Sets air quality standards for 13 air pollutants.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Develop policies that aim to meet the standards.

Implications for the SA

- Include sustainability objectives to reduce pollution and protect and improve air quality.

DEFRA Clean Air Strategy 2019

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The Clean Air Strategy 2019 sets out actions to improve air quality by reducing pollution from a wide range of sources. The Clean Air Strategy informs the detailed National Air Pollution Control Programme.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Ensure that site allocations and policies will contribute to maintaining and improving air quality.

Implications for the SA

- Include sustainability objectives to protect and improve air quality.

DEFRA and DfT (2017): UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The strategy aims to help local authorities by setting up a £225 million implementation fund, establishing a clear air fund and £100 million for retrofitting and new low emission buses.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Ensure that site allocations and policies will contribute to maintaining and improving air quality.

Implications for the SA

- Include sustainability objectives to protect and improve air quality.

DEFRA (2011) Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The strategy aims to guide conservation efforts in England up to 2020 and move from a net biodiversity loss to gain. The strategy includes 22 priorities which include actions for the following sectors:
  - Agriculture;
  - Forestry;
  - Planning and Development;
  - Water Management;
  - Marine Management;
  - Fisheries;
  - Air Pollution; and
  - Invasive Non-Native Species.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The strategy develops ambitious yet achievable goals for 2020 and 2050, based on Aichi Targets set at the Nagoya UN Biodiversity Summit in October 2010.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Develop policies that promote conservation and enhancements of biodiversity and ensure that site allocations take account of the aims of the strategy.

Implications for the SA

- Include sustainability objective that relates to biodiversity.

DEFRA (2011): Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- Enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life for future generations.
- There are 4 shared priorities:
  - sustainable consumption and production;
  - climate change and energy;
  - natural resource protection and environmental enhancement; and
  - sustainable communities.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- Sets out indicators to give an overview of sustainable development and priority areas in the UK.
- They include 20 of the UK Framework indicators and a further 48 indicators related to the priority areas.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Ensure that site allocations and policies meet the aims of the Sustainable Development Strategy.

Implications for the SA

- Include sustainability objectives to cover the Strategy's shared priorities.

DoH (2010): Healthy Lives, Healthy People: our Strategy for public health in England

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- Protect the population from serious health threats; helping people live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives; and improving the health of the poorest, fastest.
- Prioritise public health funding from within the overall NHS budget.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Ensure that site allocations and policies reflect the objectives of the strategy.

Implications for the SA

- Include a sustainability objective relating to health and well-being.

DECC (2014): Community Energy Strategy

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- Sets out plans to promote and facilitate the planning and development of decentralised community energy initiatives in four main types of energy activity:
  - Generating energy (electricity or heat)
  - Reducing energy use (saving energy through energy efficiency and behaviour change)
  - Managing energy (balancing supply and demand)
  - Purchasing energy (collective purchasing or switching to save money on energy)

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Ensure that site allocations and policies will support community low carbon and renewable energy provision including electricity, heat and transport.

Implications for the SA

- Include a sustainability objective relating to increasing energy provided from decentralised low carbon and renewable sources.

HM Government (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The 25 Year Environment Plan sets out government action to tackle a wide range of environmental pressures.
- The 25 Year Environment Plan identifies six areas around which action will be focused. These include:
  - Using and managing land sustainably.
  - Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes.
  - Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing.
  - Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste.
  - Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans.
  - Protecting and improving the global environment.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The 25 Year Environment sets out ambitious goals to manage pressures on the environment in the UK, based on England's 159 National Character Areas and monitoring indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Develop policies that promote conservation and enhancements of the natural environment and ensure that site allocations take account of the goals of the Environment Plan.

Implications for the SA

- Include sustainability objective that relates to the protection of the natural environment.

Our Waste, Our Resources: A strategy for England (2018)

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The Strategy sets out how the Government will preserve stocks of material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy.
- The strategy is framed by natural capital thinking and guided by two overarching objectives:
  - To maximise the value of resource use; and;
  - To minimise waste and its impact on the environment.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The Strategy seeks to contribute to the delivery of five strategic ambitions:
  - To work towards all plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025;

- To work towards eliminating food waste to landfill by 2030;
- To eliminate avoidable15 plastic waste over the lifetime of the 25 Year Environment Plan;
- To double resource productivity by 2050; and
- To eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Develop policies that promote conservation and enhancements of the natural environment and ensure that site allocations take account of the goals of the Strategy.

Implications for the SA

- Include sustainability objective that relates to the efficient use of resources.

British Energy Security Strategy (2022)

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The Strategy sets out long-term targets for offshore wind, solar, hydrogen, and nuclear energy following the onset of conflict in Ukraine.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Ensure that site allocations and policies will support community low carbon and renewable energy provision.

Implications for the SA

- Include sustainability objective that relates to renewable energy.

DLHC (2022) Flood risk and coastal guidance

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- This report advises how to take account of and address the risks associated with flooding and coastal change in the planning process.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Ensure that site allocations and policies will mitigate against flood risk.

Implications for the SA

- Include sustainability objective that relates to mitigating and managing flood risk.

Environment Agency (2022) National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England

Key objectives relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- The strategy outlines a series of measures risk management authorities must undertake to manage flood and coastal erosion risk.

Key targets and indicators relevant to the Waste Local Plan

- No targets or indicators.

Implications for the Waste Local Plan

- Ensure that site allocations and policies will mitigate against flood risk.

Implications for the SA

- Include a sustainability objective that relates to mitigating and managing flood risk.

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