

Breckland District Council  
Integrated Assessment of the  
Breckland Local Plan Partial Review

Scoping Report

June 2022

## Quality Management

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Integrated Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

The proposed amendment to the Local Plan will require assessment for potential social, economic and environmental effects. This document proposes a scope for future assessment stages of an Integrated Assessment (IA) of the Local Plan Partial Review. Assessment will take place at each stage of the Partial Review's preparation up to its adoption. The IA will include three separate but complementary assessments in order to inform the development of the Local Plan Partial Review. These are:

- Sustainability Appraisal (SA) / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – assesses effects of the Local Plan Partial Review across a range of environmental, social and economic issues.
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA) – assesses effects of the Partial Review on the health and well-being of the population and its ability to access health-related facilities and services. This also addresses equalities issues and has some overlap with Equalities Impact Assessment.
- Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) – assesses effects of the Partial Review in terms of equalities issues, with particular focus on disadvantaged or excluded groups of people. EqIA helps identify where we can best promote equality of opportunity.

The IA will aid in development of the Partial Review by:

- Identifying the potentially negative and positive effects of the proposed Partial Review and providing an opportunity to mitigate potentially adverse effects and enhance positive effects to achieve economic, social and environmental benefits.
- Helping the Council develop policies and proposals that can support sustainable development and the creation of sustainable communities.
- Helping stakeholder engagement by providing consultees with a detailed understanding of the alternative policy options that have been considered during the development of the Partial Review and the reasons for selecting the preferred options. In doing this, the IA process makes the decisions that

are taken during the development of the Local Plan more transparent. It also allows stakeholders to give more informed input into the Local Plan's preparation, because the IA gives a full picture of the likely significant effects.

This is the Draft Scoping Report prepared for consultation with the public and statutory consultation bodies<sup>1</sup>. The final Scoping Report will be accompanied by a Scoping Report Consultation Statement summarising the comments received on this draft document.

As Breckland District Council advances to preparation of the wider ranging Local Plan Review, further updates to the Scoping Report may be identified and will be made following further consultation.

## 1.2 The IA Scoping Process and Purpose of this Report

Assessment processes such as IA generally occur in two main steps:

- Scoping: to identify the type, nature and extent of potential significant effects that need to be considered and to propose the next steps in the assessment and how they will be conducted.
- Assessment: assessing the options / alternatives as they arise during plan development in order to inform the plan's proposals, and then assessing the preferred plan in order to (in order of preference) avoid, reduce, offset and then (as a last resort) compensate for any significant adverse effects identified, as well as to maximise beneficial effects.

Within the above, there are further steps of consultation and refinement of the assessment and plan. IA's main sub-component is SA/SEA, and the SA Guidance<sup>2</sup> identifies five key stages in undertaking SA:

- Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
- Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects

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<sup>1</sup> Statutory consultation bodies for SA are Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency.

<sup>2</sup> Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal, National Planning Practice Guidance, MHCLG and DLUHC, 2020 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

- Stage C: Prepare the SA Report
- Stage D: Seek representations on the SA Report from consultation bodies and the public
- Stage E: Post adoption reporting and monitoring

This Scoping Report covers Stage A, which is divided into five tasks:

- Task A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives
- Task A2: Collecting baseline information
- Task A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems
- Task A4: Developing the SA framework
- Task A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA

This Scoping Report is structured as follows:

- Section 2 describes the Local Plan, providing information and context for the IA;
- Section 3 describes the methodology used for this Scoping Report, and that will be used to undertake the IA;
- Section 4 identifies plans, programmes and strategies relevant to the Breckland Local Plan and IA;
- Section 5 describes the baseline situation in Breckland;
- Section 6 identifies key issues for the Local Plan and IA resulting from the review of plans, programmes and strategies and the review of baseline data;
- Section 7 outlines the IA Framework (SA, EqIA and HIA) including objectives and assessment criteria;
- Section 8 provides a brief summary and refers to next steps.

### 1.3 What is Covered in the IA

As stated in the previous section, the IA includes SA/SEA, HIA and EqIA. SA is required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The aim of SA is to

ensure that plans support the delivery of social, economic and environmental objectives. SA must also meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations<sup>3</sup>.

The SEA Regulations require that SEA addresses potential impacts on:

- biodiversity
- fauna
- flora
- population
- human health
- soil
- water
- air
- climatic factors
- material assets
- cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage
- landscape

SEA must also address the interrelationships amongst the above topics, which means that additional topics such as geodiversity / geological conservation (related to soil and biodiversity) and flood risk (related to water and population) can be considered. This consideration, based primarily on professional judgement using guidance and experience, helps to provide further clarity and transparency when it comes to reporting potential impacts. These interrelationships are also partly covered by recognising the way one topic influences another, for example, that good human health requires good air quality, and that healthy flora and fauna require clean water.

HIA and EqIA are separate processes but are linked to SEA. The “human health” topic can be addressed more holistically and with greater depth through a HIA. HIA considers various determinants of health, which are shown in Chapter 3. These are:

- People – includes characteristics such as age, sex and hereditary factors.

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<sup>3</sup> Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (statutory instrument 2004 No. 1633). <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/1633/contents/made>



- Lifestyle – includes factors such as diet, physical activity, and work/life balance.
- Community – addresses ‘social capital’, which holds no single definition and is “about the value of social networks, bonding similar people and bridging between diverse people, with norms of reciprocity”<sup>4</sup>, and people’s access to and place within community networks.
- Local Economy – including wealth creation and the markets that people work within and gain opportunities from.
- Activities – such as working, shopping, moving, living, playing and learning.
- Built Environment – such as buildings, places, streets and routes.
- Natural Environment – such as natural habitats, air, water and land.
- Global Ecosystem – consideration of how climate change and biodiversity affect our lives.

The EqIA addresses issues associated with the SEA topic of ‘population and equality’ in greater detail. Under the terms of the Equality Act 2010, the Council has a duty to prevent discrimination based on:

- Race
- Gender
- Disability
- Age
- Sexual orientation
- Religion or belief
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Marriage and civil partnerships

IA helps to ensure that the overlaps of each process (SA/SEA, HIA and EqIA) are considered and managed, that gaps are avoided, and that they are used to ensure a consistent evidence base and consistent assessment results.

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<sup>4</sup> Social Capital Research & Training (accessed 2018). Definitions of Social Capital.  
<https://www.socialcapitalresearch.com/literature/definition/>

## 1.4 Statutory Requirements

### 1.4.1 Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

National planning policy<sup>5</sup> states that planning policies and decisions should play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions. Sustainable development is defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs<sup>6</sup>. It is therefore very important that the Local Plan and the proposed Partial Review contributes to a sustainable future for the district. To support this objective, the Council is required to carry out SA of the Local Plan<sup>7</sup>.

SA is a means of ensuring that the likely social, economic and environmental effects of the Local Plan are identified, described and appraised, and also incorporates SEA in accordance with the UK SEA Regulations and the related European Directive<sup>8</sup> (see also Section 1.3).

### 1.4.2 Equalities Impact Assessment

The Public Sector Equality Duty contained in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires public authorities to have due regard to a number of equality considerations when exercising their functions. EqIA is not required by law, but it is a way of ensuring that the Public Sector Equality Duty, alongside requirements under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and Disability Discrimination Act 2005, have been complied with by considering the effect of Council services, practices and policies (such as the Local Plan) on different groups protected from discrimination by the Equality Act. It is a tool that can help local authorities ensure that their policies and decisions do not discriminate, that they promote equality wherever possible and that they foster good community relations.

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<sup>5</sup> See paragraphs 7 to 11 of the National Planning Policy Framework, DLUHC and MHCLG, 2021 [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1005759/NPPF\\_July\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005759/NPPF_July_2021.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> *Our Common Future* [Brundtland Report], 1987, UN

<sup>7</sup> The requirement for SA of development plans is set out under section 19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/section/19>

<sup>8</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

#### 1.4.3 Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

There is no statutory requirement to undertake HIA as part of the plan-making process. However, 'human health' is a statutory SEA topic (see Section 1.3) and health considerations are covered in this Scoping Report under section 5.2.

Having regard to health impacts in the plan-making process helps to ensure that plans and policies avoid or minimise negative, and maximise positive, health impacts. It also supports the District Council's legal duty to take appropriate actions to improve the health of local people under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

#### 1.4.4 IA and Local Plan Preparation

IA is an iterative process and will be conducted at relevant points throughout Local Plan preparation. The figure provides the stages of Local Plan preparation and corresponding IA stages<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>9</sup> Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal, National Planning Practice Guidance, MHCLG, 2019 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

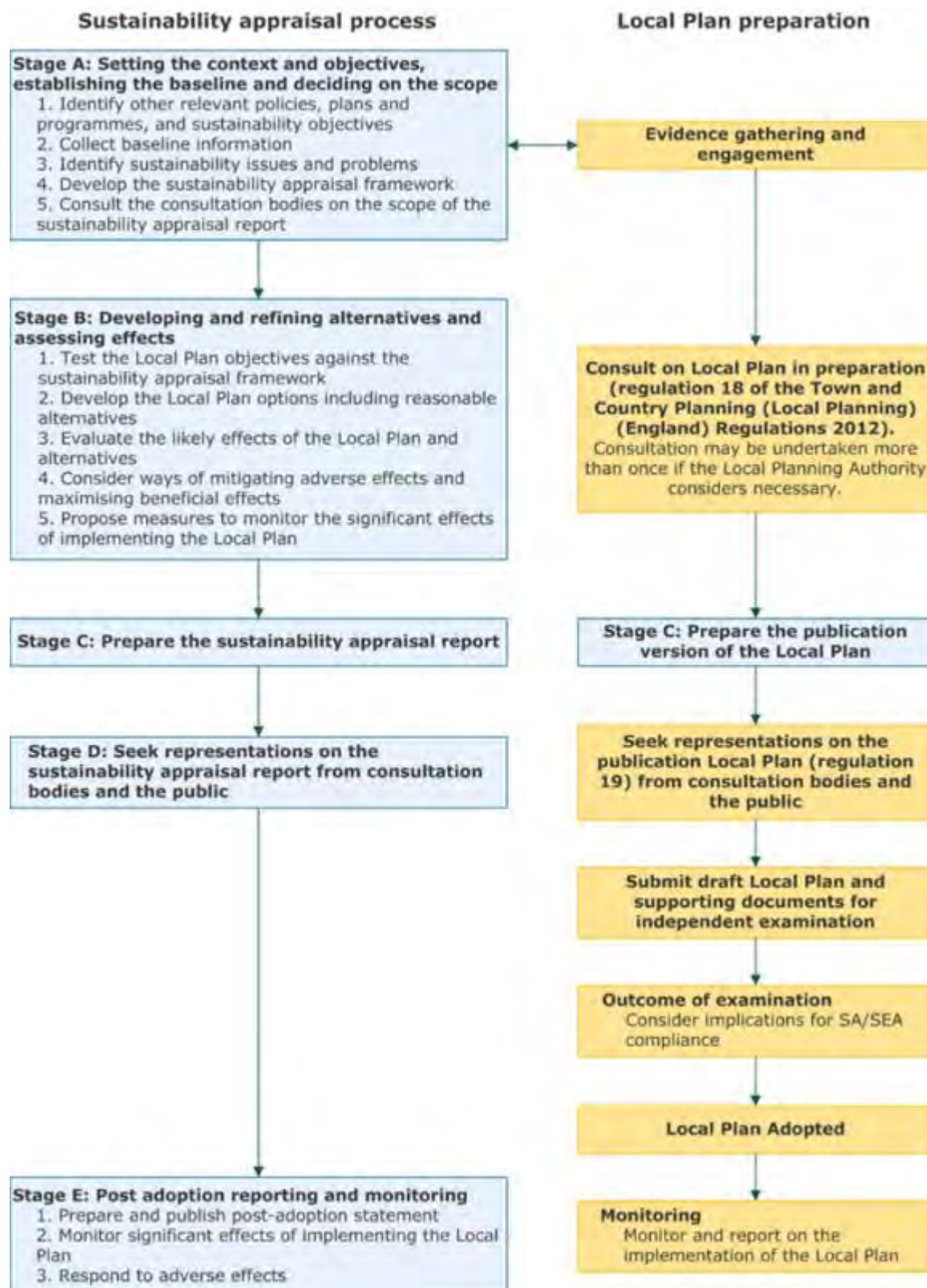


Figure 1: Stages of IA and Local Plan preparation<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal#Sustainability-appraisal-process>

National planning policy places Local Plans at the heart of the planning system. They set out a positive vision for the future of areas and a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities<sup>11</sup>.

Breckland's Local Plan seeks to set out a spatial vision and strategy for the district with clear aims reflecting the requirements of government guidance and policy. It seeks to meet the needs and aspirations of Breckland's residents. The current Local Plan for Breckland was adopted in 2019. The requirement for review of the Local Plan is embedded within Policy INF03: *Local Plan Policy Review* of the adopted 2019 plan. This establishes that Breckland will undertake an immediate partial review of the Plan with a view to its submission to the Secretary of State for examination no later than November 2022.

## 2. Scope of the Breckland Local Plan: Partial Review

In response to the requirements of Policy INF03 of the 2019 Local Plan, Breckland District Council has commenced preparation of a Local Plan review in two parts:

- Part 1 will involve the urgent partial review of the Breckland Local Plan 2019 to update policy INF03 during 2022. As an amendment to the Local Plan this single policy amendment will be subject to examination to determine its legal compliance and soundness.
- Part 2 will involve the substantive review of the Local Plan to be prepared between 2022 and 2026.

The update to INF03 will only lead to a small amendment to the existing Local Plan but will require rapid progress through the plan preparation process. The Partial Review submission draft is programmed for consideration by the Council's Cabinet in Summer 2022 and submission by Autumn 2022.

The programme for the substantive review of the Local Plan is over a longer timeframe with the first phase of public consultation expected to take place in early 2023, preferred options consultation in early 2024, publication draft consultation in 2025 and submission and examination in public through 2026 and 2027.

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<sup>11</sup> [Local Plans, National Planning Practice Guidance, DLUHC and MHCLG, 2021](#)

### 3. Approach and Methodology

This chapter outlines how the scoping stage (Stage A) of the IA has been conducted. The tasks of Stage A are listed in Section 1.2 and repeated under the headings below. Stages B to E are described in Chapter 8 of this report.

#### 3.1 A1: Review of Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies

This task requires the consideration of international, national, regional and local plans, programmes and strategies, drawing out relevant issues for both the development of the Local Plan and the IA.

In order to make this review more streamlined, the review only refers to legislation relevant to the Local Plan and/or could have affect upon undertaking the IA, or where there could be a need for the Local Plan to comply. This is to avoid unnecessary repetition of legislation.

The review of plans, programmes and strategies helps shape the sustainability objectives and decision making criteria, and identifies the issues that need to be addressed by the plan.

The SEA Directive requires that the SEA covers:

*“an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes” (Annex 1(a)).*

and

*“the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member state level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation” (Annex (e)).*

#### 3.2 A2: Establishing the Current and Future Baseline

This task requires a description of relevant aspects of the current and future (over the lifetime of the Local Plan) situation for Breckland, where available. Sources are provided throughout. In HIA and EqIA, the baseline is referred to as the ‘community profile’. This task was completed by defining topics using the existing key issues and

IA/SA objectives and criteria previously identified, as well as ensuring the SEA statutory topics were clearly addressed.

### 3.3 A3: Identifying Key Sustainability (Including Health and Equalities) Issues

This task draws on the information collated in Tasks A1 and A2, and identifies issues that are of relevance to the development of the Local Plan and IA. They identify relevant challenges or opportunities for the Local Plan to address during its development, and considerations by the IA to ensure those challenges and opportunities are investigated.

### 3.4 A4: Refine and Finalise the IA Framework

Using the list of key sustainability issues, a suite of IA appraisal objectives have been developed to form an assessment framework. This considers the range of potential significant effects of the Local Plan options and proposals, in terms of receptors that could be affected both within and beyond the district.

### 3.5 A5: Prepare the Draft Scoping Report and Consult

The final task is the preparation of the IA Scoping Report. This Report includes the three key aspects of a scope for an assessment:

- spatial scope – the geographical areas to which effects of the Local Plan could potentially extend and that need to be considered during future stages of assessment.
- temporal scope – the timeframe over which significant effects of the Local Plan are possible and that needs to be considered during future stages of assessment.
- technical scope – mainly the coverage of sustainability (including health and equalities) topics and issues, but also a proposed approach to assessing the options and proposals of the Local Plan.



### 3.6 Integrating HIA

Public Health England have produced guidance on carrying out HIA<sup>12</sup>. It notes the links between health considerations, the wider determinants of health and wellbeing, and the planning process. A table from that guidance, setting out health and its relationship to planning and future development, is included at Figure 2.

HIA health considerations (Annex 2)	Wider determinants of health and wellbeing			
	Access	Traffic and Transport	Socio-economic	Land Use
Reduce Health inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local public key services and facilities</li> <li>• Good quality affordable housing</li> <li>• Healthy and affordable food</li> <li>• Natural environment</li> <li>• Green spaces and public realm</li> <li>• Leisure, sport, recreation, play and physical activities within the environments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Access to public transport</li> <li>• Opportunities for active travel (cycling and walking)</li> <li>• Links between communities</li> <li>• Community severance</li> <li>• Connections to jobs</li> <li>• Connections to services, facilities and leisure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment, including skills development and training opportunities</li> <li>• Local business activity</li> <li>• Regeneration</li> <li>• Tourism and leisure industries</li> <li>• Community/ social cohesions and access to social networks</li> <li>• Community engagement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable and efficient land use in urban and/or /rural settings</li> <li>• Quality of Urban and natural environments, such as air and noise pollution</li> <li>• Climate change impacts</li> </ul>
Improve mental health and wellbeing				
Improve diets and weight				
Improve musculoskeletal health				
Improve respiratory health				
Improve cardiovascular health				
Protect environmental health				
Provide access to health and care infrastructure				

Figure 2: Health considerations in the HIA and plan-making process (Public Health England)

The Public Health England guidance provides useful information on how HIA stages align with those of SA/SEA and therefore how HIA can be integrated into an assessment that considers a wider range of sustainability issues<sup>13</sup>. By following this guidance, and ensuring that the impacts on health are included alongside other environmental, economic, social and equality considerations, the IA will cover the scope of a HIA.

### 3.7 Integrating EqIA

Guidance on EqIA tends to be tailored to organisations, however some general guidance and guidance specific to Breckland include:

- Alignment with the Council's standard approach to completing Equality Impact Assessment.

<sup>12</sup> Public Health England (2020) Health Impact Assessment in spatial planning- A guide for local authority public health and planning teams

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., Annex 7 - HIA integration in SA/SEA process



- Equality impact assessment guidance: A step-by-step guide to integrating equality impact assessment into policymaking and review (Equality and Human Rights Commission, 2009).
- Equality Impact Assessment: Summary, tool and guidance for policy makers (Department of Health, 2009).

EqlA lends itself to following the same steps as Tasks A1 to A5 described above, hence it can be integrated into IA. During the scoping stage, the applicable advice of the guidance documents is focused on sound, consistent data on equalities, and a process that is consultative and initiated early.

## 4. Relevant Policies, Plans and Programmes

### 4.1 Requirement and Scope

The SEA Regulations require that a review of relevant policies, plans and strategies be undertaken as part of the preparation of a plan. By doing so, the SEA Regulations allow the process to take account of the multiple plans, policies and strategies that can influence the sustainable development of an area, and thus that can influence the production of a plan. The requirements are stated as:

*An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan and programme, and of its relationships with other relevant plans and programmes*

and:

*The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation<sup>14</sup>.*

The first stage of completing the IA is therefore to review relevant policies, plans, strategies and programmes on an international, national, regional and local scale in order to:

- ensure that the Breckland Local Plan and IA are in line with the requirements of legislation and national policy;
- maximise consistency and relevance between the Breckland Local Plan, the IA and other relevant plans and policies, as well as identify inconsistencies or constraints to be dealt with;
- identify sustainability objectives, key targets and indicators that should be reflected in the IA; and
- provide baseline data.

### 4.2 Summary of the Review

A range of key international, national, regional and local documents was reviewed.

The full list and the review can be found in Appendix A.

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<sup>14</sup> Paras 1 and 5, Schedule 2 of Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (statutory instrument 2004 No. 1633). <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/1633/contents/made>

The key links and themes identified during the review have been summarised into the points below:

### **Population, Health and Equality**

- Continued demand for new housing to meet needs of a growing population.
- Continuing expectation that the population will become older at a faster rate than other areas. Indicates needs for suitable accommodation of all types for residents with a range of care needs from largely independent living to specialist care.
- Additional growth in working age population and children indicating a need for a mix of all types of homes and expanded opportunities for education, employment, health and well-being provision.
- Generally Breckland's population is relatively healthy but there is wide disparity across the district in indicators such as healthy weight in children.
- Levels of crime across the district are lower than urban counterparts but higher than similar rural districts.

### **Housing**

- There remains a substantial housing affordability.
- Current levels of housing delivery must at least be maintained to ensure needs are met.
- A range of housing tenures are required to help address the needs of all groups.
- Ongoing measures are required to ensure the needs of specific groups such as Gypsies and Travellers can be met.

### **Economy and Education**

- Breckland's main market towns provide an important role for the economy and service provision in Breckland and require protection and enhancement.
- Work to further understand the impacts and requirements to recover from the covid-19 pandemic is needed.

- The district's economy is weighted towards broadly declining sectors such as manufacturing with opportunities to diversify and expand higher value employment activities.
- Opportunities for employment growth in sectors like leisure and the arts could reinforce investment and vitality of the district's town centres.
- Levels of educational attainment and skilled labour are lower in Breckland than average.
- The area has fewer claimants for unemployment benefits but a lower overall rate of economic activity than the national average.
- Rates of pay for residents and workplace based earnings are lower than surrounding areas and the national average, exacerbating housing affordability and pockets of deprivation.

### **Open Space and Community Infrastructure**

- Whilst there are many areas of open space and access to countryside across the district there are defined shortfalls in access to areas of equipped play, sports provision and formal open space such as parks.
- More deprived rural communities and residents are highly dependent upon access to local facilities and services and are severely disadvantaged when services are lost or public transport is inadequate to meet needs.

### **Transport**

- Breckland has been identified as the least accessible Norfolk district to key facilities and services by public transport.
- Levels of car ownership are relatively high in the district, which is typical for rural areas, but a substantial minority of households have no access to a private car or van.
- The district is well connected by the strategic road network via the A11 and A47, with ongoing improvements providing opportunities to further address congestion and create opportunities for growth.
- There are opportunities to continue to enhance walking and cycling provision across the district as a mode of transport both for leisure, to access services and facilities and improve residents' health and wellbeing.

- Connectivity between rural areas and services in urban centres could be improved, with a focus on active travel and public transport.

### **Air Quality**

- High levels of car ownership, dependence upon the private car and historic street layouts means the district's towns and villages are vulnerable to local congestion and poor air quality.
- Opportunities should continue to be sought to encourage zero emission vehicles and sustainable alternatives such as public transport, walking and cycling – whilst retaining local services to reduce the need to travel.

### **Biodiversity and Geodiversity**

- The quality, diversity and connectivity of habitats in the district should continue to be protected and improved where possible.
- The area's geology is fundamental to much of the unique quality and value of the natural environment in Breckland.
- The challenge of securing nitrate neutral development to enable continued growth whilst protecting the area's international sites from harm and further deterioration into poor condition.
- Responding to the challenge of securing 10% biodiversity net gain requires early consideration of the requirements and implications for development.

### **Climate Change and Associated Risks**

- Promote the implementation and usage of renewable energy, micro generation and sustainable construction techniques – as far as possible within available plan making powers.
- Consider the landscape and biodiversity implications of potential priority to facilitate wide scale delivery of solar and windfarms.
- Have regard in the placement and design of development to the need to increase resilience to climate and weather extremes including greater incidence of flooding and periods of drought and extreme heat.
- Consider the role of green infrastructure in supporting the response to climate change

- The challenge of securing sustainable transport and supporting expansion of zero emissions vehicles will be integral to addressing overall carbon emissions.

### **Land, Geology, and Soils**

- The need to conserve geodiversity.
- Limited availability of brownfield land for development will inevitably result in loss of agricultural land.
- Opportunities should be sought to secure appropriate protection for the area's best and most versatile agricultural land whilst directing development to the most sustainable locations to meet all forms of need in the district.
- Protecting the quality of water in the underlying chalk aquifer is key to sustainable development.
- The legacy of contaminated land in the district needs to be considered, for potential risks to the environment and health, and the potential to reduce the amount of contaminated land in the district.

### **Landscape, Townscape and the Historic Environment**

- Development opportunities and their related impacts could incrementally alter the character and quality of the area's established townscape and harm built and buried heritage assets and their settings.
- Necessary development and expansion of existing settlements may have harmful effects upon the character and quality of the natural landscape in Breckland.
- A small but significant element of heritage assets remain at risk and should be a focus for enhancement.

### **Waste Collection and Minerals**

- Levels of recycling in the district are comparable to national averages but have not increased for a number of years.
- Waste must be managed appropriately and in line with the waste hierarchy. Breckland should continue to support high levels of recycling and composting.

- Access to waste management facilities should be sustained and capacity monitored as the district continues to grow.
- Development should be managed to avoid unnecessary sterilisation of workable mineral deposits in the district.

### **Water Resources**

- Much of Breckland is a major aquifer and source of abstraction for Anglian Water.
- Protection of ground water quality is a vital element of sustainable development for the ongoing security of water provision and biodiversity value.
- Breckland is one of the driest areas in the UK and is in the most water stressed region in the country.

## 5. About the Plan Area

### 5.1 Spatial Context

Breckland is a predominantly rural district containing five market towns of Attleborough, Dereham, Swaffham, Thetford and Watton. The district has a total of 113 parishes covering of an area of 1,300 sq km (500 sq miles) and is the second largest district in the East of England. There is a dispersed settlement pattern across the district with approximately half of the district's population living within the market towns of Attleborough (11,552 residents), Dereham (19,460 residents), Swaffham (8,333 residents), Thetford (27,010 residents) and Watton (8,592 residents) and the remaining half dispersed across 108 rural parishes. The residents of Breckland tend to identify with one of the five market towns, which are an essential component of the economic and social structure, acting as service centres to their hinterlands.

In mid-2020 the population of Breckland was estimated to be 141,300, an increase of around 11,000 (8%) over the 2011 Census population of 130,491. This continues a long term general growth trend for the district. The population density is 1.08 persons per hectare.

As a very rural district, use of the private car is the dominant form of transport with the area's road infrastructure providing good road connections to key economic centres further afield. Two major trunk roads that travel through the district are the A47 Great Yarmouth to Peterborough, that links Dereham and Swaffham with Norwich in the east and King's Lynn in the west; and the A11 Norwich to London route that links Attleborough and Thetford to Norwich to the north east and Cambridge and the M11 in the south west. The A11 is recognised as the major strategic route connecting into Norfolk. Breckland has railway stations at Thetford, Attleborough, Roudham and Eccles. Norwich Airport is in easy reach of the district.



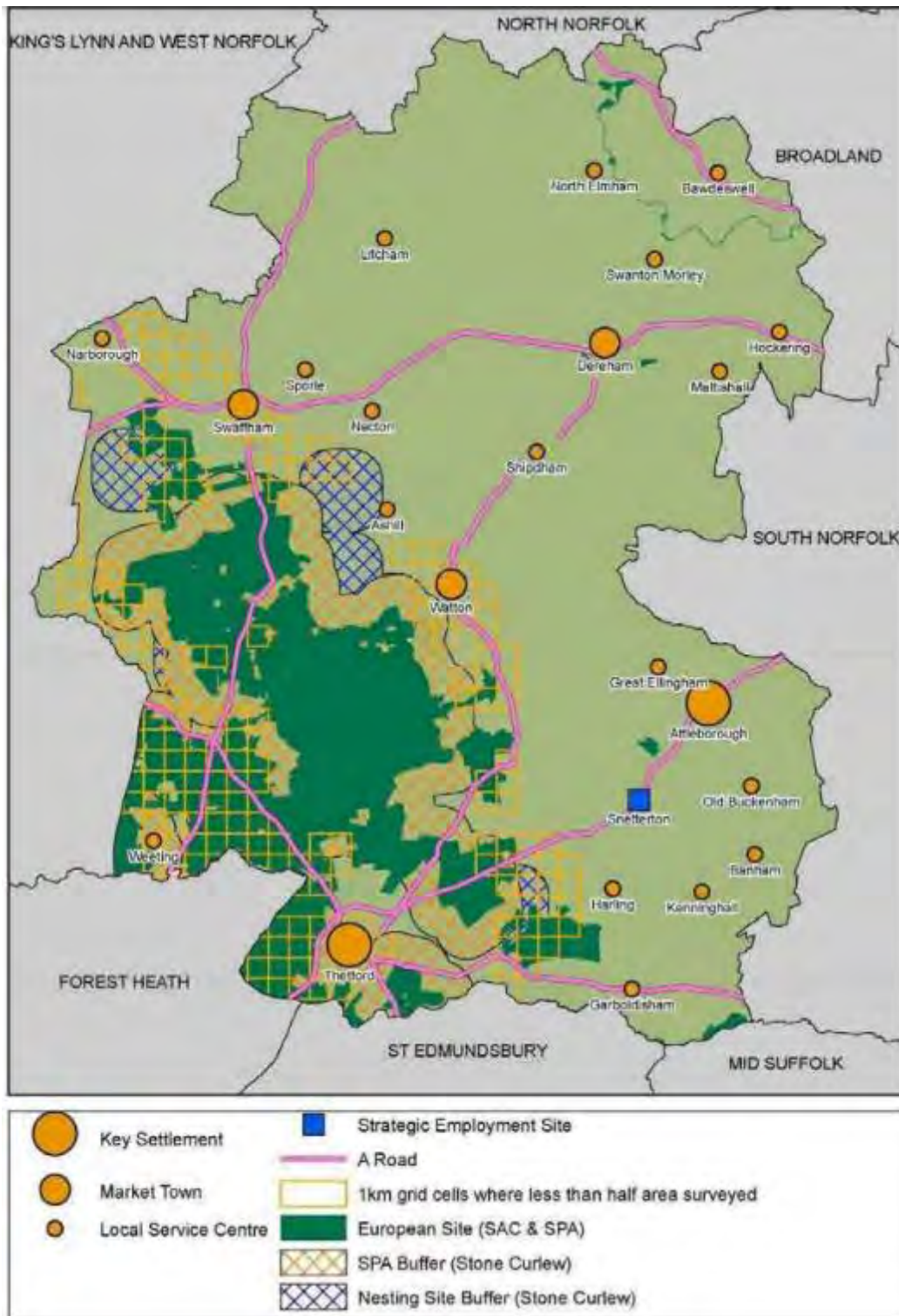


Figure 3: Breckland Spatial Context (Key Diagram, Breckland Local Plan 2019)

The size and spread of the District have a major impact on service delivery and presents significant challenges for the organisations that are delivering both community and economic support in the area in terms of access and engagement. Much of the area is rural, given over to agriculture, with the second major land usage

being open space and heathland ('the Brecks'). It has the largest lowland pine forest in England and the second most popular forest attraction in the East of England.

## 5.2 Population, Health and Equality

Breckland has a low population density with just over 1 person per hectare, compared with an average for the United Kingdom as a whole of 2.76 people per hectare. The 2011 Census indicates that the district's population was 130,491. This was an increase of 7.4% over the 2001 Census. The latest mid-year population estimate for Breckland in 2020 suggests that the district's population has grown to 141,255. This is a further 8.25% growth and a higher rate of growth than the average for England, of 6.48% over the same period.

Population Statistic	Breckland	Norfolk	England
Total 2011	130,491 (Census)	857,888	53,107,200
Total 2020 (mid-year estimate)	141,255	914,039	56,500,000
Total change 2011 to 2020	10,764	56,151	3,442,800
Percentage growth 2011 to 2020	8.25%	6.5%	6.48%
Forecast Total 2043 (ONS 2018 sub national projection)	164,250	1,029,870	61,700,000
Forecast change 2020-2043	22,995	112,134	5,150,000
Forecast Percentage growth 2020-2043	16.28%	12%	9.1%

Figure 4: Past, recent, and future projected population statistics for Breckland  
Source: ONS

Breckland's forecast population growth will continue to be higher than England's growth. Between 2020 and 2043 the district's population is forecast to grow by a further 22,995 – or 16.28%. This is a substantially faster growth rate than anticipated for England as a whole but is broadly similar to past trends for population growth.

In terms of the age profile of the population, actual change between 2011 and 2021 set out at the table below, illustrates the district has an aging population.

Age	Breckland 2011	Breckland 2021	Change in Breckland	Change in East of England	Change in England
Total	131,000	141,300	8%	6.9%	6.5%
Aged 0 – 15	23,000	24,500	7%	9.8%	8.2%
Aged 16 – 64	79,600	81,000	2%	2.2%	2.6%
Aged 65 and over	28,500	35,700	25%	21.0%	19.9%

Figure 5: Change in age profile of population, 2011 to 2021

Source: ONS

	Breckland				East of England	
	2021		2043		2021	2043
Aged 0-15	24,844	17%	25,658	16%	19%	17%
Aged 16-64	82,111	57%	86,559	53%	61%	57%
Aged 65 and over	36,366	25%	52,213	32%	20%	26%
Total	143,321		164,431			

Figure 6: Proportion of population by age 2021 and 2043

Source: ONS

The information shows that a greater proportion of the district's population is weighted towards those aged 65 and over than the wider region or England as a whole. The table above outlines how, by 2043, the proportion of residents aged 65 and over is forecast to rise from around a quarter of Breckland's total population to nearly one third.

For both Breckland and Norfolk, population change to 2043 sees a net loss in population when limited to natural change but a net gain in population through in-migration, both internal and international, results in overall growth in population.

This forecast overall growth and the projected balance between natural change and net migration is outlined in the table below. This highlights that a steady rate of in-migration is expected to continue to compensate an increasing decline in population as a result of natural change. The overall net effect of this shift is a continuing growth in population but a gradual slowdown in the rate of growth.

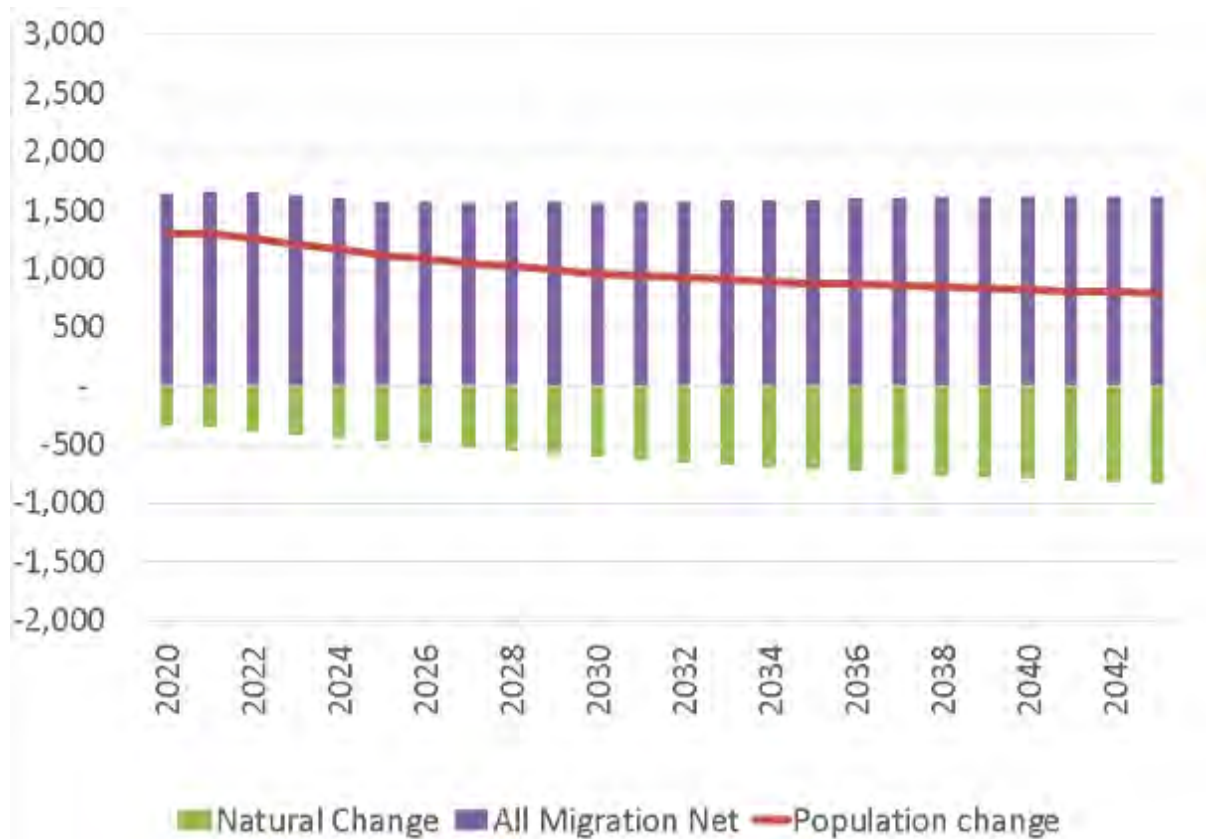


Figure 7: Components of population change in Breckland, 2020 to 2043

Source: ONS

The population of Breckland has experienced an increase in at-birth life expectancy during the period from 2001 to 2020 (see below). Overall life expectancy for both males and females by 2020 in Breckland just slightly exceeds the average for England.

Life Expectancy Statistic (<1)	Breckland Value (years)	England Average Value (years) at birth
Male 2001-2003	77.2	75.85
Male 2018-2020	79.8	79.00
Male change	+2.6	+3.15
Female 2001-2003	81.3	80.47
Female 2018-2020	84	82.9
Female change	+2.7	+2.43

Figure 8: Past and current life expectancy statistics for Breckland

Source: Office for National Statistics

The 2011 Census indicates that Breckland's population is relatively healthy with 79.5% saying their health is very good or good. Data from Norfolk County Council provides a range of indicators regarding health and wellbeing of the population:

# Norfolk Health and Wellbeing Profiles

## Older People

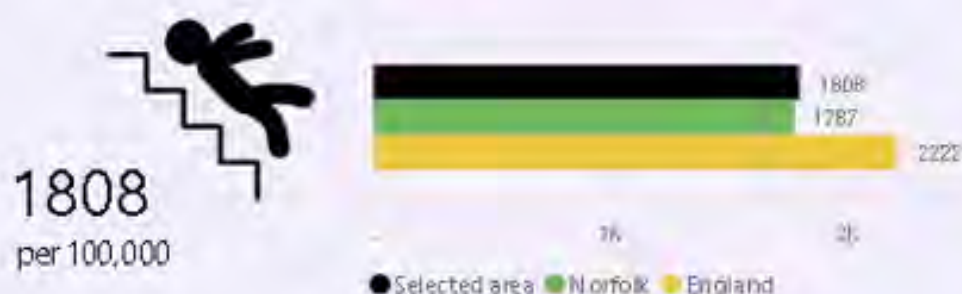
There are approximately 35100 people aged 65 and over living in this area, they make up 25% of the population (the Norfolk average is 25% of the population).

### Hospital Admissions due to falls

Falls are the main cause of emergency hospital admissions for older people and significantly impact on long term outcomes.

This

is because they are a major contributor to people moving from their own home to assisted living.



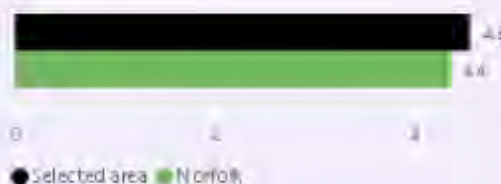
In the last 1 years there were 660 hospital admissions due to falls from residents aged 65+ from this area.



## Dementia

Dementia is the main cause of late-life disability.

5%  
of adults 65+  
have dementia



There are approximately 1600 people aged 65+ living with dementia in this area.

## Older People in Residential Social Care

A significant life event that happens to many people in older age is going into residential social care.

2383  
per 100,000



There are around 840 older people living in NCC nursing or residential care in this area.

Icons from FlatIcons.com

The Health Deprivation and Disability Domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) (2019) measures the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. The domain measures morbidity, disability and premature mortality, but not aspects of behaviour or environment that may be predictive of future health deprivation.

IMD 2019 Health Deprivation and Disability Stat	Breckland
Health Deprivation and Disability – Rank* of average rank	139
Health Deprivation and Disability – Rank* of average score	138
Health Deprivation and Disability - Proportion of LSOAs in most deprived 10% in England	0.0128
Health Deprivation and Disability - Rank of proportion of LSOAs in most deprived 10% in England	154

Figure 9: 2019 IMD Health and Disability Deprivation data for Breckland

\*Rank refers to IMD rank (1=least deprived) compared with all other English local authorities, of which there are 317

The graph below provides an illustration of the rate of obesity identified in year 6 age children in each ward in Breckland. The figures illustrate substantial variation across the district, with the greatest prevalence of obesity identified in Swaffham with 28% of the year six population and just 10% in The Buckenham & Banham. For Breckland as a whole, the obesity rate across the time period was 19%, a percentage increase from 18% for the period 2009/10 to 2012/13.

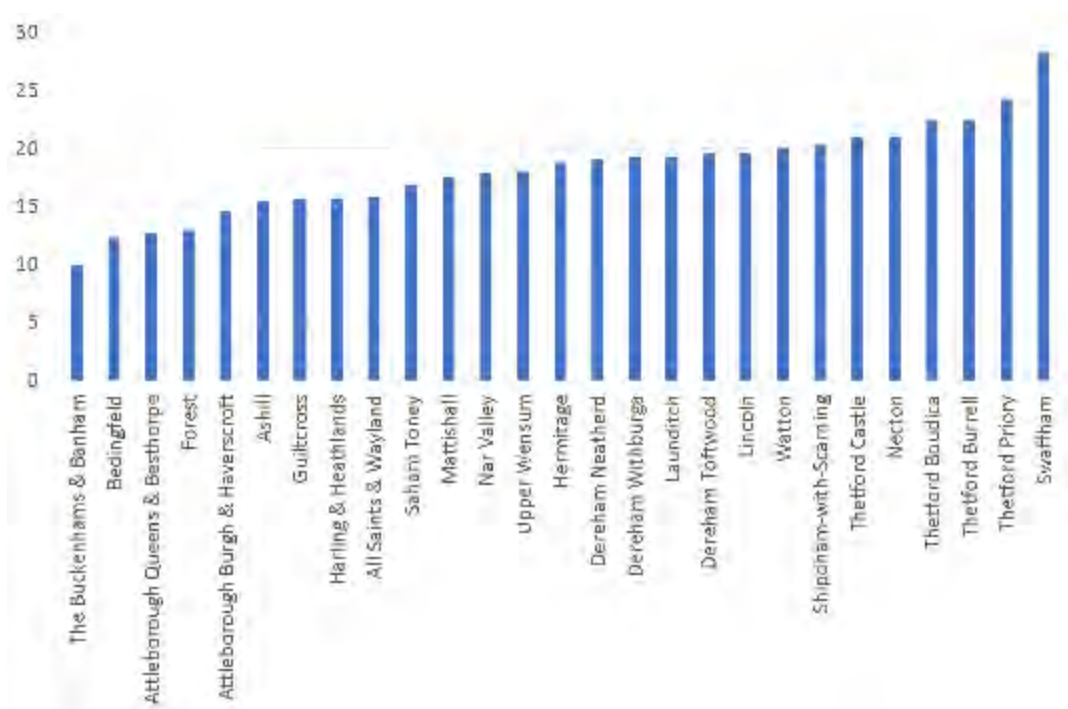
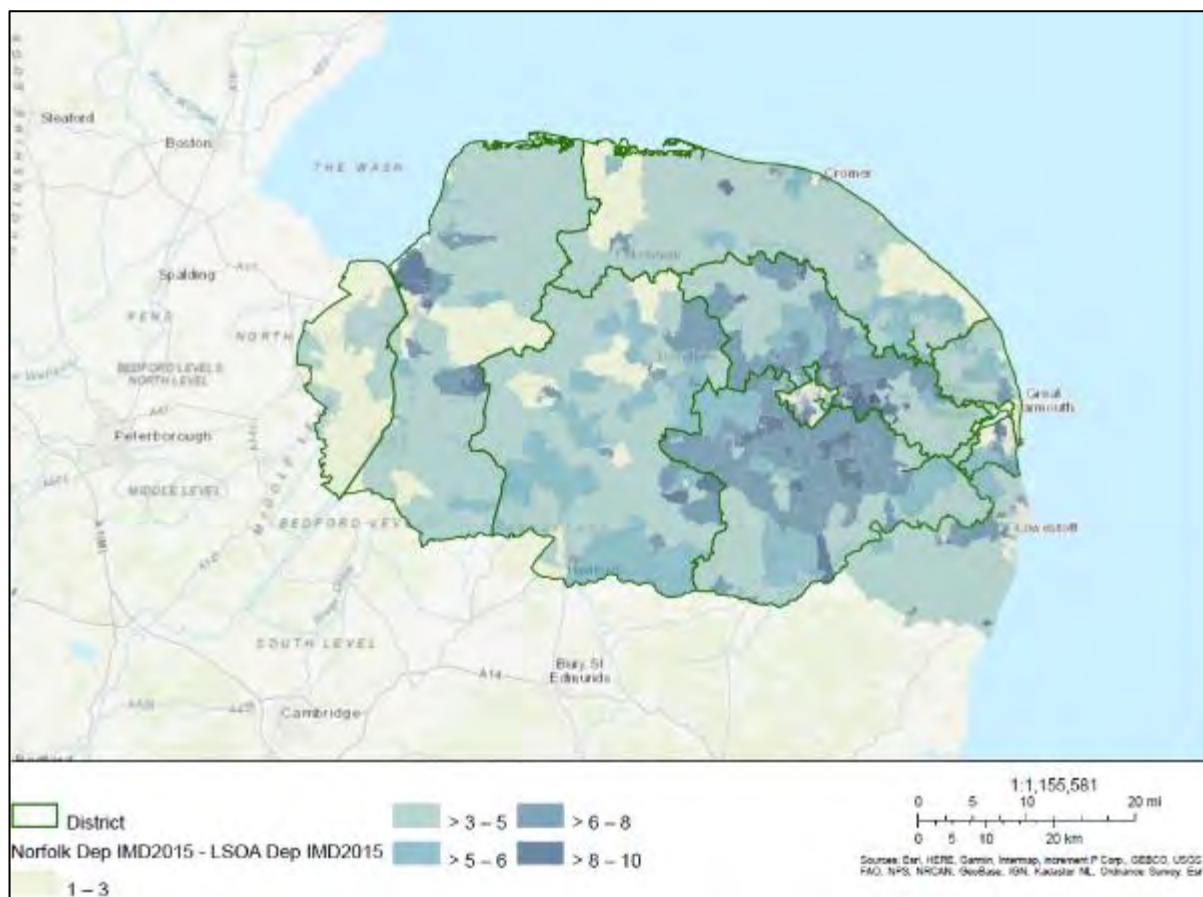


Figure 10: Prevalence of obesity by ward of child residents for school year 6, 2015/16 to 2017/18  
Source: National Child Measurement Programme, Public Health England

There is some variation in deprivation across the district with some areas, especially the smaller villages with little or no services, with higher rates of deprivation based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019. According to the Index, Breckland is 127<sup>th</sup> most deprived area nationally out of 317 districts. When compared to the Local Authorities in Norfolk, Breckland is the 5<sup>th</sup> most deprived.

The map below illustrates that Breckland has both relatively small pockets of both deprived and relatively affluent / successful areas. Contrary to typical patterns close to urban centres where the urban area is more deprived and surrounding countryside less deprived, the mapping illustrates that, as a generalisation, the more remote areas of the district exhibit greater levels of deprivation.





Breckland has a predominantly White British population. The largest other ethnic group is Other White. Groups other than these make up a very small proportion of the total. In comparison, both the regional and national comparators have lower percentages of White British and Other White residents. White Irish, Asian, Black, Mixed and Other residents form noticeably higher populations in the East of England than in Breckland.

White, excluding White British 2011	Breckland	England
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.2%	0.1%
Irish	0.5%	1%
Other White	5.6%	4.6%

Figure 12: White Ethnicity, excluding White British in Breckland and England  
Source: 2011 UK Census

Ethnicity	Breckland	England and Wales
White	97.4%	85.4%
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups	1.2%	2.3%
Asian/ Asian British	0.8%	7.8%
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	0.5%	3.5%
Other Ethnic Group	0.1%	1.0%

Figure 13: Ethnicity in Breckland and England and Wales

Source: 2011 UK Census

Breckland has a smaller proportion of population not born within the UK than regional and national averages. Around 9% of Breckland's population were born outside the UK compared to 11% in East of England and 13% of England and Wales's population.

ONS Census data (2011) shows that the population is majority Christian, with minority populations of Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, and Sikh affiliation (see table below). The proportion of the population identifying as Christian and no religion is higher than the England and Wales average. All other religions are much lower than the average, with the Muslim, Hindu and Sikh affiliation being particularly low in comparison to the national average.

Religious affiliation	Breckland	England and Wales
Christian	63.8%	59.4%
Buddhist	0.2%	0.5%
Hindu	0.1%	1.5%
Jewish	0.3%	0.5%
Muslim	0.3%	5%
Sikh	0%	0.8%
Other religion	0.5%	0.4%
No religion	27.6%	24.7%
Not stated	5.5%	7.2%

Figure 14: Religious affiliation in Breckland and 'England and Wales'

Source: 2011 UK Census

Levels of crime in Breckland are low relative to urban areas of Norfolk but is the highest per 1,000 residents of the more rural Norfolk districts. The figure below indicates how the current crime rate in Breckland is around 60 recorded crimes per 1,000 population. This compares with over 120 per 1,000 in Norwich but fewer than 50 per 1,000 in Broadland.

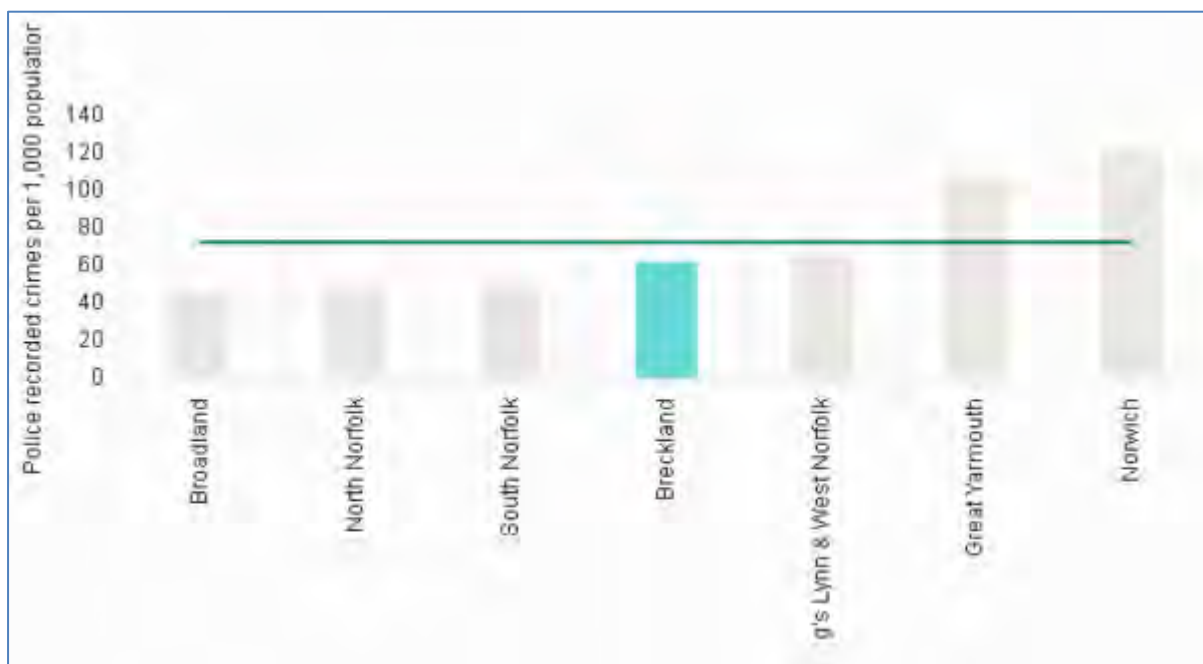


Figure 15: Crime rate per 1,000 in Norfolk districts – December 2020 to December 2021  
Source: Police.co.uk

### What are the key sustainability issues for population health and equalities?

- Continued demand for new housing to meet needs of a growing population.
- Continuing expectation that the population will become older at a faster rate than other areas. Indicates need for suitable accommodation of all types for residents with a range of care needs from largely independent living to specialist care.
- Additional growth in working age population and children indicates a need for a mix of all types of homes and expanded opportunities for education, employment, health and well-being provision.
- Generally Breckland's population is relatively healthy but there is wide disparity across the district in indicators such as healthy weight in children.
- Levels of crime across the district are lower than urban counterparts but higher than similar rural districts.

## 5.3 Housing

The table below shows housing tenure and ownership data for Breckland from the most recent ONS Census.

	Breckland		Norfolk		England	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Owned: Owned outright	20,167	37	138,288	37.2	6,745,584	30.6
Owned: Owned with a mortgage or loan	17,260	31.7	110,552	29.7	7,229,440	32.8
Shared ownership (part owned and part rented)	310	0.6	2,204	0.6	1,737,60	0.8
Private rented: Private landlord or letting agency	7,306	13.4	49,675	13.4	3,401,675	15.4
Private rented: Other	988	1.8	6,011	1.6	314,249	1.4
Social rented	7,511	13.8	59,297	15.9	3,903,550	17.7
Social rented: Rented from council (Local Authority)	1,287	2.4	27,322	7.3	2,079,778	9.4
Social rented: Other	6,224	11.4	31,975	8.6	1,823,772	8.3
Living rent free	977	1.8	6,058	1.6	295,110	1.3

Figure 16: Housing tenure in Breckland

Source: ONS Census 2011 (all percentages are from 2011 Breckland)

The percentage of homes owned outright in Breckland is higher than the England average but broadly typical for Norfolk whilst the number of homes owned with a mortgage is similar to the national average. The proportion of social rented homes at 13.8% is notably lower than both the average for Norfolk and England.

Since the 2011 Census it is expected that the proportion of private rented homes will have continued to increase in all areas. The Central Norfolk Housing Market Assessment 2016 noted that between 2001 and 2011, the private rented sector had grown by 45%. It is considered likely that the sector has seen continued growth since. In general terms, growth in the private rented sector takes place within existing dwelling stock that was formerly in private owner occupation.

	Breckland		Norfolk		England	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Bungalows	16,110	26	102,400	24	2,295,390	9
Flats/maisonettes	4,270	7	56,180	13	5,888,410	24
Terraced houses	12,090	19	91,120	21	6,502,770	26
Semi-detached houses	12,120	19	80,960	19	5,900,720	24
Detached houses	16,130	26	91,780	21	3,934,150	16

Figure 17: Dwelling types in Breckland  
Source: ONS Census 2011

The proportion of bungalows in Breckland and Norfolk greatly exceeds the national average, whilst there are substantially fewer flats – reflecting the predominantly rural and lower density character of the area. As a housetype, bungalows are often viewed as particularly attractive to older age groups looking for homes that they can continue to live in as mobility declines.

Average house prices in both Breckland and Norfolk are currently at about 93% of the average housing price for England. As of February 2022, an average property price in Breckland stood at £275,713, an increase of £57,000 since June 2020 when house prices fell through the first three months of the Covid-19 pandemic. Since that point house prices have grown strongly for all areas. The change in house prices over the preceding five years are illustrated in figure below.



Figure 18: Annualised house price change 2017 to 2022  
Source: Land registry

Indicatively, evidence suggests house prices across Breckland are marginally higher towards the east, north and south of the district – in proximity to adjacent key centres such as Norwich and key transport links such as the A11 and A47. Meanwhile, to the centre and west of Breckland house prices are relatively lower.



Figure 19: Indicative map of house price distribution in Breckland.

Overall, as illustrated by the analysis of house price ratios in the table below, it is clear there is a substantial housing affordability issue in Breckland. Following the growth in house prices through 2020 and 2021 the ratio has climbed to 9.37 after a period of slight decline between 2017 and 2020. This suggests the cost of housing is less affordable to those working in Breckland than is typical for the average across Norfolk. It is also substantially less affordable than the average ratio for England as a whole. However, housing is more affordable in Breckland than the average for the East of England region as a whole. It should be noted that East is the third least affordable region in England after London and the South East, and includes the notable affordability hotspots such as St Alban's, Dacorum and Cambridge.



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Breckland	8.95	8.97	8.55	8.31	9.37
Norfolk	8.37	8.30	8.25	8.12	8.76
Suffolk	8.56	8.59	8.26	8.25	9.61
East of England	9.49	9.55	9.23	9.29	10.53
England	7.57	7.58	7.44	7.45	8.77

Figure 20: Ratio of median house prices to median workplace based earnings  
Source: ONS

In terms of the delivery of new homes, development in Breckland continues to exceed the area's current Local Plan requirements. The table below outlines data based upon the government's Housing Delivery Test (HDT), for which in 2021 Breckland had delivered 120% of its required homes. It should be noted the last two years the HDT have included a covid-19 pandemic related discount. As such, rather than comparison against the annual Local Plan requirement of 612 dwellings per annum, the HDT has been considered against a requirement of 560 and 407 dwellings respectively.

	Required	Complete	+/-
2015-16	554	617	62.2
2016-17	548	793	244.9
2017-18	533	530	-3
2018-19	612	753	141
2019-20	560	587	26.8
2020-21	407	551	143.6

Figure 21: Housing delivery and requirements 2015-16 to 2020-21  
Source: Breckland District Council



Figure 22: Housing delivery in Breckland  
Source: Breckland Authority Monitoring and Housing Delivery Test, MHCLG/DLUHC

In terms of housing land supply, the 2021 five year land supply analysis indicates a supply of 4,488 homes over the next five years to meet a requirement of 3,985. This delivery would equate to a 5.63 year supply of housing. As Breckland looks ahead to plan review, consideration of future housing requirements would require review of the government's standard methodology. The current standard methodology continues to be based upon the 2014 based sub national household projection, alongside an uplift based upon the affordability ratio for an area. The latest standard methodology calculation for Breckland suggests an annual housing requirement of 643 dwellings per annum. This is a relatively modest uplift over the current plan requirement of 612 dwellings per annum, but as an uplift of 31 it would be equivalent to a 5% increase.

In relation to the needs of Gypsies and Travellers, the Local Plan process established through an additional topic paper that supplemented the 2016 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) a need for four Gypsy and Traveller pitches over the period 2016 to 2036, and two Travelling Showpeople plots. The 2016 GTAA identified the current existing provision in Breckland:

Category	Sites / Yards	Pitches / Plots
Private with permanent planning permission	13	30
Private with temporary planning permission	1	2
Public (Council and Registered Providers)	1	23
Public transit provision	1	8
Private transit provision	0	0
Travelling showpeople provision	1	2

Figure 23: Total amount of authorised provision in Breckland, 2016  
Source: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment, 2016

In relation to empty homes, the table below considers the level of vacant homes in Breckland and Norfolk. There are over 1,560 empty homes in the district; as a percentage of the area's overall dwelling stock this is 2.5%. The proportion of vacant homes in Breckland is broadly the same as the wider Norfolk county and indeed the average for England as a whole at 2.6%.

There are often a wide range of reasons for homes becoming vacant and a low level of ongoing vacancy is considered important in the overall housing market as



dwellings are refurbished and modernised or briefly vacant as part of the sale process.

Empty Homes	Breckland (2018)	Norfolk
Total Residential Dwellings	62,294	432,912
Total Empty Dwellings	1,560 (2.5%)	11,337 (2.6%)
Long-Term Empty Dwellings	609 (0.97%)	4,323 (0.99%)

Figure 24: Empty homes in Breckland, 2020  
Source: MHCLG/DLUCH

### What are the key sustainability issues for housing?

- There remains a substantial housing affordability issue.
- Current levels of housing delivery must at least be maintained to ensure needs are met.
- A range of housing tenures are required to help address the needs of all groups.
- Ongoing measures are required to ensure the needs of specific groups such as Gypsies and Travellers can be met.

## 5.4 Economy and Education

As a traditional rural area, farming and the communities that have grown up through the market towns that served their rural hinterlands were the basis of Breckland's economy. Nowadays, agriculture, advanced engineering and manufacturing, logistics and forestry are the dominant business sectors with professional, scientific and technical and food processing not far behind. Aside from the vital role of rural businesses and agriculture the economy of Breckland, the key drivers of growth in employment in the district are focused upon the five market towns of Thetford, Swaffham, Dereham, Attleborough and Watton. The towns provide an essential role for employment provision and are the primary service centres for the surrounding rural hinterland.

As key market towns, the Retail and Town Centres Study for Breckland focuses upon Thetford, Dereham, Swaffham, Watton and Attleborough. In 2017 only 5% of forecast convenience retail and less than 1% of comparison floorspace growth was expected to come forwards outside those locations by 2036. At the time the retail studies for Breckland's town centres were undertaken, growth of innovations such as online shopping were recognised as having potential implications for the future of town centres. Since then the role of the internet has only increased whilst the shock to bricks and mortar retail brought about by the covid-19 pandemic has yet to translate into clear evidence of the implications for Breckland's town centres. However, it is widely acknowledged that new trends and an acceleration towards online shopping hastens the need for traditional town centres to expand their role as destinations for a wide range of community and leisure uses as well as shopping activities.

In terms of the health of town centres, the 2010 retail study assessed vacancy rates in the district's market towns. Overall, at that time there were 61 vacant shop units within the five main centres in Breckland District - a vacancy rate of about 8.5%, which is slightly below the national average (11.4%). The vacancy rate is particularly high in Swaffham (13.9%) and very low in Attleborough (3.0%).

Reflecting this, the current Corporate Plan for Breckland in seeking to create Thriving Places prioritises actions to deliver the following outcomes:

- To support our five town centres in becoming better places and highlight their own unique offerings as destinations for shoppers and visitors.
- Secure or attract inward investment and make the district an attractive place for new and growing businesses.
- Support local businesses through continued collaboration and proactive engagement.

In terms of employment land supply, the 2017 Employment Growth Study identifies that Attleborough and Snetterton represents some of the district's strongest market locations for industrial activity due in part to the area's good access to the A11 strategic route. Half of the district's overall employment supply is within the area covered by these two settlements and the Employment Growth Study identified substantial demand in the area.

The 2017 employment forecasts that informed the Local Plan identified key growth sectors for employment in activities such as health and care, arts and entertainment, accommodation and food services, business services and general employment activities. It is noted that many of these growth areas move away from traditional manufacturing based employment with notable declines in employment forecast across a range of manufacturing sectors.

Sector	Employment		Change	% Change
	2011	2036		
Agriculture	2,400	1,840	-560	-23.3%
Mining & quarrying	20	10	-10	-50%
Manufacturing – food	2,250	1,200	-1,050	-46.7%
Manufacturing – general	2,260	1,800	-460	-20.4%
Manufacturing – chemicals only	1,060	570	-490	-46.2%
Manufacturing – pharmaceuticals	400	210	-190	-47.5%
Manufacturing – metals	840	670	-170	-20.2%
Manufacturing – transport equipment	530	570	40	7.5%
Manufacturing – electronics	390	120	-270	-69.2%
Utilities	130	80	-50	-38.5%
Waste & remediation	420	320	-100	-23.8%
Construction	4,500	5,230	730	16.2%
Wholesale	3,310	2,960	-350	-10.6%

Sector	Employment		Change	% Change
	2011	2036		
Retail	5,710	6,370	660	11.6%
Land transport	3,170	2,820	-350	-11.0%
Water & air transport	0	10	10	100%
Accommodation & food services	2,520	4,050	1,530	60.7%
Publishing & broadcasting	120	120	0	0.0%
Telecoms	20	10	-10	-50.0%
Computer related activity	210	520	310	147.6%
Finance	500	430	-70	-14.0%
Real estate	580	1,030	450	77.6%
Professional services	2,510	2,850	340	13.5%
Research & development	60	70	10	16.7%
Business services	1,640	2,870	1,230	75.0%
Employment activities	690	3,370	2,680	388.4%
Public administration	1,990	1,710	-280	-14.1%
Education	3,750	4,440	690	18.4%
Health & care	4,880	7,240	2,360	48.4%
Arts & entertainment	1,140	1,730	590	51.8%
Other services	1,560	1,490	-70	-4.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,540</b>	<b>56,710</b>	<b>7,170</b>	<b>14.5%</b>

Figure 25: EEFM (2016) Employment Forecast for Breckland, 2011 and 2036  
Source: Breckland Employment Growth Study Update Report, 2017

Overall, there are fewer jobs available in Breckland than working residents, with a high level of commuting to neighbouring main centres. Based on the 2011 Census Travel to Work Areas (TTWA) identified by ONS indicated that Breckland fell into three areas. The north-east of the district including Dereham is part of the Norwich TTWA, the north-west including Swaffham is part of the King's Lynn TTWA and the south of the district including Watton and Attleborough is part of the Thetford and Mildenhall TTWA<sup>15</sup>.

ONS data generally indicates that average pay in Breckland is lower than both the county, regional and national average. In 2021 resident based full time weekly pay was £523 in Breckland compared to an average for the East of England of £628. Workplace based earnings in Breckland are lower still at £505.

<sup>15</sup> Travel to Work Areas, UK, 2011, ONS, [Travel to Work Areas, United Kingdom, 2011 \(arcgis.com\)](https://www.arcgis.com)

	Breckland	Norfolk	East	Great Britain
<b>Gross weekly pay (Full time workers)</b>				
Resident based	£523.3	£566.8	£628.6	£613.1
Place of work	£505.6	£568.1	£601.9	£612.8
<b>Hourly pay (Full time workers)</b>				
Resident based	£12.74	£14.15	£15.88	£15.65
Place of work	£12.22	£14.02	£15.15	£15.64

Figure 26: Median earnings by place of residence and place of work (2021)

Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings – resident analysis, Nomisweb.co.uk

The rate of economic activity in Breckland is similar to the national average but falls marginally below the rates for Norfolk and the East of England. Generally taking account of the lower proportion of working age residents in Breckland, the figures indicate no substantial variation in economic activity. In terms of residents seeking out of work benefits, presently rates in Breckland overall suggest a substantially lower rate at 2.7% than the average for Norfolk, East of England and the national average. The data indicates higher rates of claimants in the 18 to 24 year old age groups but this does not vary notably from wider geographies.

	Breckland	Norfolk	East	Great Britain
Economic activity	65,300 (78.9%)	80.4%	81%	78.4%
<b>Claimant count</b>				
Aged 16+	2,200 (2.7%)	3.4%	3.5%	4.2%
Aged 16 – 17	5 (0.2%)	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%
Aged 18 – 24	380 (4.1%)	4.5%	4.5%	5.0%
Aged 25 – 49	1,235 (3.1%)	3.9%	4.0%	4.8%
Aged 50+	600 (2.0%)	2.5%	2.7%	3.3%

Figure 27: Claimant count by age, March 2022

Source: ONS Claimant count by sex and age

The nature of occupations for residents in Breckland in work suggest marginally higher rates of employment in activities such as caring, leisure and other services and fewer roles in professional occupations than the regional and national average. There are also higher rates of employment in process, plant and machine operative occupations.

	Breckland	Norfolk	East	Great Britain
<b>Soc 2010 Major Group 1-3</b>	26,700 (42%)	41.5%	48.2%	49.7%
1 Managers, Directors, Senior Officials	6,200 (10%)	10.3%	10.7%	10.5%
2 Professional Occupations	9,800 (15%)	17.7%	22.3%	23.7%
3 Associate Professional and Technical	10,700 (17%)	13.5%	15.2%	15.3%
<b>Soc 2010 Major Group 4-5</b>	12,400 (19%)	21.2%	21.1%	19.0%
4 Administrative and secretarial	#	9.0%	11.5%	10.2%
5 Skilled trades	7,300 (11%)	12.1%	9.5%	8.8%
<b>Soc 2010 Major Group 6-7</b>	14,500 (23%)	18.9%	15.9%	16.2%
6 Caring, leisure and other services	9,600 (15%)	11.2%	9.0%	9.2%
7 Sales and customer services	#	7.7%	6.9%	6.9%
<b>Soc 2010 Major Group 8-9</b>	9,600 (15%)	18.5%	14.8%	15.1%
8 Process plant and machine operatives	5,100 (8%)	7.5%	5.5%	5.5%
9 Elementary occupations	#	11.0%	9.3%	9.6%

Figure 28: Employment by occupation (2021)

Source: ONS annual population survey

Overall educational attainment of the population in Breckland indicates the district has higher levels of residents with no qualifications than the national average and for Norfolk and East of England. In the same light, Breckland has substantially fewer residents attaining NVQ4 and above than the national average and the average for Norfolk and East of England.

	Breckland	Norfolk	East	Great Britain
NVQ4 and above	22,200 (28.2%)	32.8%	39.5%	43.5%
NVQ3 and above	40,700 (51.6%)	56.4%	58.1%	61.5%
NVQ2 and above	57,700 (73.2%)	75.4%	76.7%	78.2%
NVQ1 and above	68,600 (87%)	88.4%	88.5%	87.6%
Other qualifications	#	4.7%	5.8%	5.9%
No qualifications	7,300 (9.2%)	6.9%	5.7%	6.6%

Figure 29: Qualifications by NVQ attainment (January 2021 to December 2021)

Source: ONS annual population survey, Nomisweb.co.uk

Breckland District Council is within the Norfolk Local Education Authority operated by the County Council. Within the district, school provision is generally concentrated within the five market towns with a dispersed pattern of smaller primary schools across the area's towns and villages. Overall there are some 40 primary schools. There are seven secondary schools located in Thetford, Attleborough, Old Buckenham, Dereham, Swaffham and Watton. There is also a sixth form college in Dereham catering exclusively to further education provision. Two special needs schools are located in Attleborough and Dereham.

### **What are the key sustainability issues for the economy and education?**

- Breckland's main market towns provide an important role for the economy and service provision in Breckland and require protection and enhancement.
- Work to further understand the impacts and requirements to recover from the covid-19 pandemic is needed.
- The district's economy is weighted towards broadly declining sectors such as manufacturing with opportunities to diversify and expand higher value employment activities.
- Opportunities for employment growth in sectors like leisure and the arts could reinforce investment and vitality of the districts town centres.
- Levels of educational attainment and skilled labour are lower in Breckland than average.
- The area has fewer claimants for unemployment benefits but a lower overall rate of economic activity than the national average.
- Rates of pay for residents and workplace based earnings are lower than surrounding areas and the national average, exacerbating housing affordability and pockets of deprivation.

## 5.5 Open space and Community Infrastructure

### 5.5.1 Designations, Open Space and Accessible Greenspace

An analysis of the range of open space provision in Breckland was developed for the Breckland Open Space Assessment 2015, which provided an update to a previous study undertaken in 2010. Assessed open space includes a wide range of sites including:

- Parks and gardens,
- Natural and semi-natural green space,
- Green corridors,
- Outdoor sports facilities,
- Amenity green space,
- Provision for children and young people,
- Allotments and community gardens,
- Cemeteries and churchyards,
- Civic and market squares.

Type	Number of sites	Total area (ha)
Outdoor sports	91	176
Children's play	108	8
Parks and Gardens	3	3.2
Natural and semi-natural green space	74	519
Amenity green space	325	154
Green corridors	12	30.3
Allotments	43	49.7
Cemeteries and churchyards	128	49.7
Golf courses	6	236
Civic spaces	2	0.08
Total	792	1,245

Figure 30: Total open space provision in Breckland, 2015

Source: Open Space Assessment 2015, Breckland District Council

The analysis undertaken for the 2015 study identified:

- 792 sites within Breckland consistent with open space typologies, an increase from 513 identified in 2007 and 534 identified in 2010.
- 70% of parishes in the district do not meet the identified benchmarking standard of 2.56ha of open space per 1,000 residents.



- The five market towns of Attleborough, Thetford, Dereham, Swaffham and Watton have the largest deficiencies in total playing space compared to the Fields in Trust standard.
- The five market towns of Attleborough, Thetford, Dereham, Swaffham and Watton have the highest proportion of children and the highest deficiency of provision in children's play compared with the benchmarking standard.

Overall, the 2015 open space study findings suggest that despite being a predominantly rural district with good access to open countryside, the availability of formal areas of open space such as parks and gardens, play equipment and sports provision falls short of preferred standards. The 2019 Local Plan recognised these issues and has implemented policy that requires new development to secure provision of the equivalent of 2.56ha of open space per 1,000 population – in line with the Open Space Study recommendations. As recommended by the Open Space Study, outdoor sport areas should be accessible by a range of transport modes.

#### 5.5.2 Community Assets and Facilities

Community assets are the core facilities and services that areas require to provide for the needs of residents. Typically such assets provide places for the community to meet, access key services or, particularly for smaller settlements, provide local shopping provision. Community assets are frequently a vital part of sustaining the quality of life of an area and support the sustainability of an area – where availability of key services such as a local shop can help reduce the need to travel longer distances.

The 2019 Breckland Local Plan recognises that access to facilities and services remains a key issue for many communities. It sets out an approach through policy to support the provision and retention of community facilities in accordance with the district's hierarchy of centres. This is defined in the Local Plan as

- Key settlements: Attleborough and Thetford
- Market towns: Dereham, Swaffham and Watton.
- Local Service Centres: 18 villages that meet five criteria for facilities and services.

- Villages with boundaries: 18 other villages that meet three of the five criteria for facilities and services.

This analysis of local service centres and villages with boundaries took into consideration whether each settlement supports:

- Public transport, taking account of the frequency of services and capacity to reach the destination during working hours.
- Community facilities within the settlement.
- Employment provision – such as a business park.
- Shop and/or post office.
- School.

Local communities have the right to nominate buildings and facilities they consider to be of particular community value for inclusion on a local areas Register of Assets of Community Value, established through the Localism Act 2011. Within Breckland there are presently 10 buildings included on the Register of Assets of Community Value. This register is predominantly made up of local public houses and also includes Gressenhall Post Office and Stores.

Local libraries are also often considered as centres of local communities. In Breckland, Norfolk County Council is responsible for the library service and currently maintains libraries at Dereham, Swaffham, Watton, Attleborough and Thetford.

### **What are the key sustainability issues for open space and community infrastructure?**

- Whilst there are many areas of open space and access to countryside across the district, there are defined shortfalls in access to areas of equipped play, sports provision and formal open space such as parks.
- More deprived rural communities and residents are highly dependent upon access to local facilities and services and are severely disadvantaged when services are lost or public transport is inadequate to meet needs.

## 5.6 Transport

Appropriate transport infrastructure and systems are vital for the functioning of a modern society, due to the economic need for the efficient movement of goods and people. Transport also has an important role in promoting health and wellbeing and encouraging more sustainable use of resources. As a two tier Authority, Norfolk County Council is the relevant highways authority for Breckland. The Norfolk Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) was adopted in November 2020 and provides a framework for provision of transport across the County for the period 2020 to 2036. The LTP4 places emphasis on carbon reduction, air quality and increasing importance of active travel. Reflecting the large rural nature of much of Norfolk, the LTP4 notes that Norfolk has one of the largest highway networks in the country, around 10,000km or 6,000 miles. It also recognises that as a largely rural district, significant numbers of people have to travel relatively long distances to access everyday facilities. The added challenge of variable public transport quality is also noted. For a predominantly rural district like Breckland the challenge for residents who do not have access to a private car is great and can lead to isolation and disadvantage.

A Norfolk Bus Service Improvement Plan submitted by Norfolk County Council to government, for funding from the Bus Back Better fund, highlights that Breckland suffers from the lowest levels of accessibility of all areas in Norfolk, as illustrated in the table below.

Service	GP surgery		Hospital		Town or city		Further + education		Supermarket	
Time	30	60	30	60	30	60	30	60	30	60
Norfolk	88%	94%	26%	67%	73%	93%	65%	89%	89%	94%
Breckland	80%	85%	0%	45%	75%	84%	57%	83%	77%	87%
Broadland	91%	96%	4%	59%	51%	95	70%	96%	93%	97%
Great Yarmouth	98%	99%	63%	92%	89%	99%	72%	98%	99%	99%
Kings Lynn & W N'lk	83%	90%	23%	49%	77%	90%	37%	70%	84%	91%
North Norfolk	83%	90%	23%	49%	77%	90%	37%	70%	84%	91%
Norwich	100%	100%	47%	49%	94%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
South Norfolk	85%	93%	20%	59%	60%	90%	67%	90%	88%	93%

Figure 31: Accessibility to key locations and services by public transport.  
Source: Norfolk Bus Service Improvement Plan, 2021





Figure 32: Bus service frequency across Norfolk, 2021  
Source: Norfolk Bus Improvement Plan, 2021

As is typical across rural areas, overall car ownership in Breckland is relatively high due to the need to access services and facilities. However, at the last full survey as

part of the 2011 Census, there remained 15.5% of households had no car or van in the household, indicating that many households may still have accessibility issues.

	<b>Breckland</b>	<b>Norfolk</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>England</b>
No cars or vans in household	15.5%	18.8%	25.8%	18.5%
1 car or van in household	43.8%	44.8%	42.2%	42.9%
2 cars or vans in household	30.3%	27.4%	24.7%	29.1%
3 cars or vans in household	7.5%	6.4%	5.5%	6.9%
4 or more cars or vans in household	2.9%	2.5%	1.9%	2.6%

Figure 33: Private motor vehicle ownership within Breckland and Norfolk  
Source: Office of National Statistics 2011

The district's primary road connections are provided through the A47 to the north and A11 to the south connecting Norwich with Cambridge – and linking Attleborough, Thetford and the Snetterton Employment Area within Breckland. The A11 finally joins the M11 and since 2014 has been fully dualled across its entire length. The A47 connects Swaffham and Dereham and provides a southern by-pass of Norwich before heading east to Great Yarmouth. The A47 is not yet fully dualled but is currently subject to an ongoing programme of investment. Most recently National Highways committed a £300m fund to deliver four sets of improvements along the route. This included dualling a section of the A47 from North Tuddenham to Easton – a key section of the route east of Dereham connecting this part of Breckland with Norwich.

Across Breckland, most walking and cycling provision is made up of on road cycle routes and public rights of way. In terms of national cycle infrastructure, National Route 13 starts in Dereham and passes through Watton and Thetford before heading on to London and terminating at Tower Bridge. Through Breckland, whilst some sections are shared pedestrian /cycle routes, the majority of the route is on road.

Norfolk County Council maintain data regarding public rights of way through the Definitive Map and Statements, with an array of traditional and newer routes and connections providing access by walking. Peddars Way is one notable route through Breckland that starts at Knettishall Heath in Suffolk around 4 miles east of Thetford



and follows a direct route north-west to Holme-next-the Sea on the north Norfolk coast. Along its 46 mile route, the path passes to the west of Watton and the east of Swaffham. The Nar Valley, Wensum Way and Little Ouse Way also form notable footpath trails within Breckland.

#### **What are the key sustainability issues for transport and accessibility?**

- Breckland has been identified as the least accessible Norfolk district to key facilities and services by public transport.
- Levels of car ownership are relatively high in the district, which is typical for rural areas, but a substantial minority of households have no access to a private car or van.
- The district is well connected by the strategic road network via the A11 and A47, with ongoing improvements providing opportunities to further address congestion and create opportunities for growth.
- There are opportunities to continue to enhance walking and cycling provision across the district as a mode of transport both for leisure, to access services and facilities and improve residents' health and wellbeing.
- Connectivity between rural areas and services in urban centres could be improved, with a focus on active travel and public transport.

## 5.7 Air Quality

Securing and maintaining clean air quality is a vital component in creating a sustainable environment, and improving health and wellbeing for residents. As a predominantly rural area with a generally low population density, Breckland generally does not suffer from extensive areas of air quality. There are roadside air quality monitoring diffusion tubes at seven key locations across Breckland in Swaffham, Dereham, Watton, Attelborough, East Harling, Wretham and Thetford.

The main source of air pollution within the district is found in Swaffham, where the A1065 runs through the centre of the town and is the main route for both local traffic and for traffic travelling to North Norfolk. The layout of the town leads to frequent traffic congestion and this leads to elevated concentrations of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>). In May 2017, an Air Quality Management Area was declared for this location as monitoring identified that there is an issue with traffic related (NO<sub>2</sub>). In response, an Air Quality Action Plan for the area was prepared and submitted to Defra in 2018 and annual reports are prepared outlining progress and updates on air quality monitoring in the area.



Figure 34: Air quality management area, Swaffham, Breckland  
Source: UK air information resource, DEFRA



Annual monitoring of the area since 2019 has identified the level of NO<sub>2</sub> has remained below action levels across all the monitoring sites in Breckland. However, monitoring and measures remain in place to sustain the reduction in pollution in the area.

The identification of poor air quality in Swaffham has initiated a range of actions to address traffic congestion and reduce pollution. This has included:

- Adoption of the Breckland Sustainability Strategy 2021 and a target for net zero carbon by 2035.
- Commitment of additional funding to increase the number of electric vehicle charging points across the district.
- Funding to create tree planting and other environmental schemes.
- A green grants scheme to enable the community to deliver improvements to environmental issues.
- Exploring opportunities to reduce staff and councillor travel.

#### **What are the key sustainability issues for air quality?**

- High levels of car ownership, dependence upon the private car and historic street layouts means the district's towns and villages are vulnerable to local congestion and poor air quality.
- Opportunities should continue to be sought to encourage zero emission vehicles and sustainable alternatives such as public transport, walking and cycling – whilst retaining local services to reduce the need to travel.



Special Protection Area	Special Area of Conservation	Ramsar
Breckland Broadland North Norfolk Coast The Wash Ouse Washes	Breckland Norfolk Valley Fens Ouse Washes River Wensum The Broads The Wash and North Norfolk Coast Waveney & Little Ouse Valley Fens	Broadland North Norfolk Coast Ouse Washes Redgrave & Lopham Fens The Wash

Figure 36: International designation considered for potential significant effects from plan making in Breckland.

The sites of international importance for biodiversity known as SACs are the most important sites for wildlife in the country. Meanwhile the Breckland SPA covers a wide area of the district and neighbouring authorities. The primary qualifying features for the Breckland SPA are three bird species: Stone-curlew, Nightjar and Woodlark. The stone-curlew areas are centred around the Brecks on the Norfolk-Suffolk border, and around the Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire. The UK stone-curlew population declined by more than 85% between 1940 and 1985, to a low of around 160 pairs. However, its fortunes were turned around and the bird is now in recovery. In 2013, the cold weather resulted in the death of up to 20% of the UK stone-curlew population but the population has since recovered in some areas and remains stable in others. In 2016, there were between 320 and 380 breeding pairs.

Woodlarks are mainly found breeding in eastern and southern England - the New Forest, Surrey/Berkshire heaths, Breckland and some Suffolk heaths are the best areas to find them. There are currently estimated to be 3,100 breeding pairs in the UK.

Nightjars can be found on heathlands, moorlands, in open woodland with clearings and in recently felled conifer plantations. They are most numerous in southern England including the New Forest, Dorset and Surrey heathlands and Thetford Forest in Suffolk. There are currently estimated to be 4,600 breeding pairs in the UK.

There is one site designated under Ramsar Convention for Wetlands of International Importance within Breckland, one of only four across Norfolk. This site is located at Redgrave and South Lopham Fen, which houses the endangered species of the Great Raft Spider.

The potential impact of development upon water quality of designated international sites has been assessed in early HRAs but until 2022 had not been identified as a significant effect of development in Breckland. However, the issue has now taken on greater importance following the advice given by Natural England to all Authorities in Norfolk – alongside a total of 42 additional Authorities across England in March 2022.

This new advice has identified that development that would lead to increased population has a harmful effect on the condition of internationally designated sites requires appropriate mitigation to be lawful. For Breckland this includes development for overnight accommodation within the catchments for the River Wensum SAC and the Broads SAC and Ramsar site. These catchment areas broadly encompass a swathe of land across the north-east of Breckland. The Green Infrastructure and Recreational Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (GIRAMS) has been prepared to ensure that the cumulative impacts of additional visitors arising from new developments of housing and tourism to European sites, will not result in any adverse effects which cannot be mitigated. As advised in the GIRAMS, some new developments will need to contribute to mitigation measures.

The following table provides a schedule of key designated sites in Breckland.

Designated Site Name	Hectares
<b>Special Protection Areas</b>	
Breckland	39,433
<b>Special Areas of Conservation</b>	
Waveney & Little Ouse Valley Fens	194
Breckland	7,542
River Wensum	383
Norfolk Valley Fens	616
<b>Ramsar Sites</b>	
Redgrave & South Lopham Fens	127
<b>National Nature Reserves</b>	
Weeting Heath	137
Foxley Wood	124
Redgrave & Lopham Fen	127
Brettenham Heath	232
<b>Local Nature Reserves</b>	
Barnham Cross Common	69
Litcham Common	25
Great Eastern Pingo Trail	4

Designated Site Name	Hectares
<b>Sites Of Special Scientific Interest</b>	
Great Cressingham Fen SSSI	14
Weeting Heath SSSI	142
Thetford Golf Course & Marsh SSSI	122
Barnhamcross Common SSSI	69
Stanford Training Area SSSI	4,678
Wretham Park Meres SSSI	30
East Wretham Heath SSSI	141
Field Barn Heaths, Hilborough SSSI	18
Gooderstone Warren SSSI	22
Grime's Graves SSSI	66
Cranberry Rough, Hockham SSSI	81
Dereham Rush Meadow SSSI	22
Didlington Park Lakes SSSI	26
Holly Farm Meadow, Wendling SSSI	3
Horse Wood, Mileham SSSI	7
Hooks Well Meadows, Great Cressingham SSSI	16
Middle Harling Fen SSSI	12
Coston Fen, Runhall SSSI	7
Honeypot Wood, Wendling SSSI	10
Kenninghall & Banham Fens With Quidenham Mere SSSI	48
Hockering Wood SSSI	90
Horningtoft Wood SSSI	8
Scoulton Mere SSSI	34
Rosie Curston's Meadow, Mattishall SSSI	2
Elm Road Field, Thetford SSSI	5
Potter's Carr, Cranworth SSSI	6
Old Bodney Camp SSSI	33
Old Buckenham Fen SSSI	35
Narborough Railway Embankment SSSI	8
Mattishall Moor SSSI	6
Breckland Farmland SSSI	13,394
Breckland Forest SSSI	18,126
East Harling Common SSSI	15
River Wensum SSSI	386
Badley Moor SSSI	18
Beetley & Hoe Meadows SSSI	11
Potter & Scarning Fens, East Dereham SSSI	6
River Nar SSSI	212
Cranwich Camp SSSI	13
Wayland Wood, Watton SSSI	32
Foulton Common SSSI	139
New Buckenham Common SSSI	21

Designated Site Name	Hectares
Swangey Fen, Attleborough SSSI	48
Thompson Water, Carr And Common SSSI	155
Bridgham & Brettenham Heaths SSSI	440
Foxley Wood SSSI	124
Dillington Carr, Gressenhall SSSI	50
Blo' Norton And Thelnetham Fens SSSI	21
Redgrave And Lopham Fens SSSI	127

Figure 37: Designated biodiversity sites in Breckland  
Source: Defra magic map

The latest published 2018 Authority Monitoring Report provides an overview of the condition of SSSIs within Breckland.

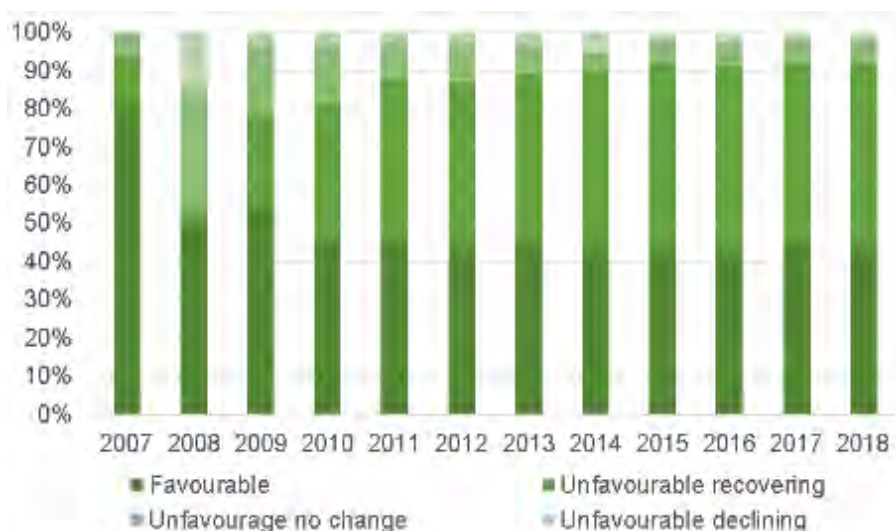


Figure 38: Chart identifying overall condition of SSSIs in Breckland 2007 to 2018  
Source: Breckland Authority Monitoring Report 2018

The chart provided above gives an insight into how the overall condition of sites has changed over time. Broadly this illustrates that approximately half of the SSSIs in Breckland are assessed as being in favourable condition. Meanwhile, the number of sites in unfavourable recovering condition has gradually increased from 2009 to 2018.

### 5.8.2 Habitats

As a predominantly rural district, areas of ecologically important habitat designations can be found across Breckland. However, reflecting the statutory biodiversity designations there are some notable concentrations of priority habitat. This includes wide areas of lowland calcareous grassland and lowland dry acid grassland



predominantly to the south east – in the landscape north of Thetford. Meanwhile, Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh has notable concentrations. To the north-east of the district this is predominantly along the River Wensum corridor and to the south-east in relation to the frequent ponds, pingos and meres.



Figure 39: Indicative map identifying distribution of priority habitat inventory  
Source: Defra magic map

The table below provides a more detailed breakdown of the priority habitat inventory for Breckland.

Designation	Area (ha)	Proportion (%)
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	1,932	1.49%
Good quality semi-improved grassland	577	0.44%
Lowland calcareous grassland	1,433	1.10%
Lowland dry acid grassland	1,907	1.47%
Lowland meadows	175	0.14%
Purple moor grass and rush pastures	53	0.04%
Lowland heathland	818	0.63%
Lowland fens	397	0.31%
Reedbeds	41	0.03%
Ancient Replanted Woodland	199	0.15%
Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland	227	0.17%
Deciduous woodland	1,440	1.11%

Figure 40: Breckland habitat designations, summary data  
Source: Defra magic map

Within the district there are notable pockets of Ancient Woodland, both replanted and semi-natural, that have survived where the soils and landscape have not led to more



intensive agriculture, or as in the case with Great Wood south of Watton where there is a tradition of coppicing.

	Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland	Ancient Replanted Woodland
Attleborough Wood	2.5	
Birch Wood	9.7	1
Church Wood		15
Days Grove		2.2
Downhill Grove		6.9
Great Wood	29.5	30.8
Great Broomhill Wood		1.2
Hazel Hurn	5.1	3
High Grove	5.4	
Hollands Wood	61.3	32.3
Horse Wood	6.9	7.1
Honeypot Wood	9.5	
Hurdle Wood	2.4	
Little Wood	2.1	
Lounds Wood	5	
Lopham Grove	8.8	
Mouse Wood		4.1
Morley Wood	3.1	
Normans Wood	1.7	
Nut Wood		5.9
Necton Wood	8.1	
North Grove	2.7	
Massingham Wood		2.2
Kingrow Wood	2.3	
Shepherds Fell		3.1
Saham Wood		32.1
Sandholes Wood		5.7
Rawhall Wood	3.3	5.5
Rabys Wood	4.063075	4.1
Park Grove		0.46
Old Carr	11.6	5.4
Old Covert		8
Park Farm Wood	1.7	
Park Grove	2.1	
Stebbings Grove	3	
Wayland Wood	31.7	
Toppers Grove	1.6	
Sporle Wood		20
Sparham Grove		1.7
Yaxham Wood	1.5	1.1

Figure 41: Breckland habitat designations, summary data. Source: Defra magic map

Looking ahead to future development and consideration of planning applications in the district, the Environment Act 2021 will be instrumental in future plan making. The forthcoming requirement to secure 10% biodiversity net gain and preparation of Nature Recovery Strategies will provide both a significant opportunity for enhancement and connectivity of biodiversity in Breckland and a challenge to effectively manage and deliver schemes.

### **What are the key sustainability issues for biodiversity and geodiversity?**

- The quality, diversity and connectivity of habitats in the district should continue to be protected and improved where possible.
- The area's geology is fundamental to much of the unique quality and value of the natural environment in Breckland.
- The challenge of securing nitrate neutral development to enable continued growth whilst protecting the area's key international sites from harm and further deterioration into poor condition.
- Responding to the challenge of securing 10% biodiversity net gain requires early consideration of the requirements and implications for development.

## 5.9 Climate Change and Associated Risks

Breckland District Council has recognised that there is a climate emergency that requires urgent attention. As part of this, the Authority has launched “Breckland 2035” a Breckland Sustainability Strategy for the period 2021-2035. As part of this strategy the Authority is committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2035 and to make Breckland the most sustainable rural district in the country.

The figure below provides data on the change in total emissions in Breckland by overall sector between 2005 and 2019. This identifies how the level of emissions arising from transport have remained largely unchanged whilst there have been substantial reductions in domestic and industrial/commercial emissions. Overall, over the period since 2005, the district has seen its total carbon emissions reduce by 27%.

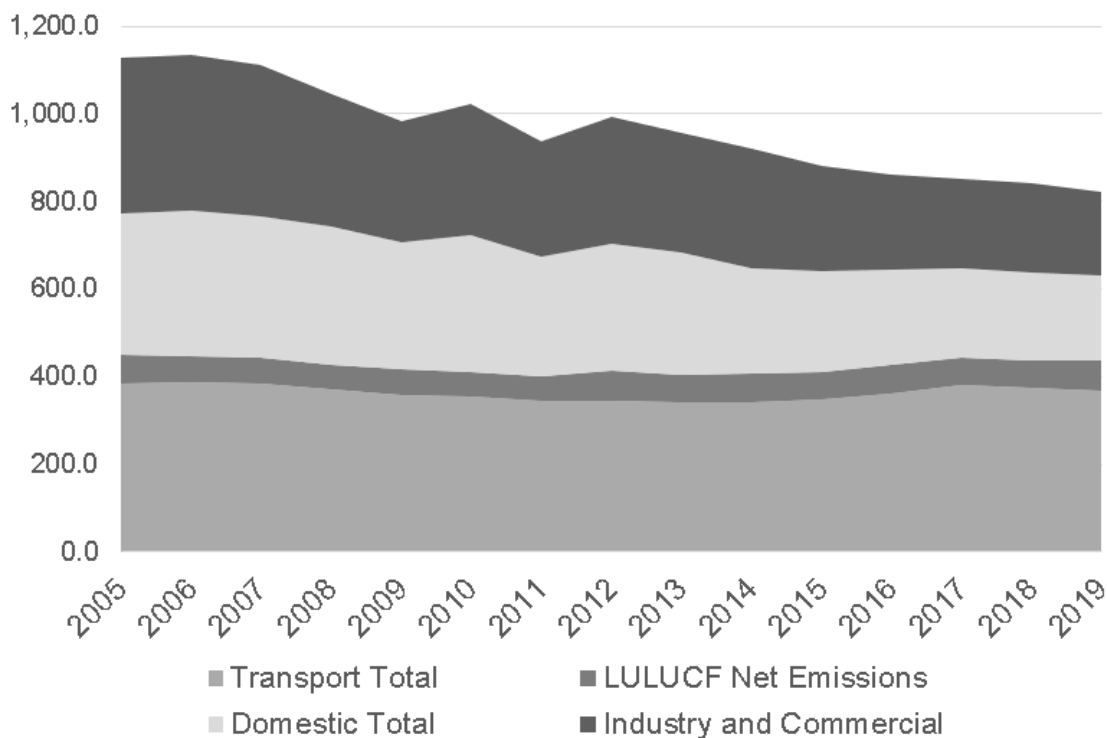


Figure 42: Domestic, Industrial and Commercial, Transport, and Total annual carbon emissions estimates within Breckland

Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

The following table provides a comparison of carbon emissions per capita in Breckland in relation to Norfolk, East of England and England. All geographies have

seen substantial reductions in emissions and it is notable that Breckland outperforms the total per capita emissions for Norfolk.

As all areas are experiencing population growth, the decline in emissions per capita presently outpaces the absolute reduction in emissions. Breckland and Norfolk have reduced per capita emissions by 34% and 22% respectively. The overall reduction for England as a whole is 43%. Emissions from transport of all types has increased from 34% of total emissions per capita in Breckland to 45% between 2005 and 2021.

	Breckland	Norfolk	East of England	England
2005	9.0	9.4	8.7	8.6
2006	9.0	9.4	8.6	8.5
2007	8.7	9.2	8.4	8.2
2008	8.1	9.1	8.1	7.9
2009	7.6	8.6	7.5	7.1
2010	7.9	9.0	7.7	7.3
2011	7.2	8.2	7.0	6.6
2012	7.5	8.4	7.3	6.9
2013	7.2	8.2	7.1	6.7
2014	6.9	7.6	6.5	6.1
2015	6.5	7.3	6.2	5.8
2016	6.3	6.7	5.9	5.4
2017	6.1	6.7	5.8	5.2
2018	6.0	6.6	5.7	5.1
2019	5.9	6.3	5.4	4.9

Figure 43: Total carbon emissions (tonnes) per capita for Breckland, Norfolk, East of England and England

Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Climate change has the potential for increased likelihood for hotter, drier summers and wetter, milder winters in the UK. Population growth and increased water use place a higher demand on water supply systems whilst the risk and frequency of severe weather events, such as storms, floods and droughts, is expected to increase. The resultant extremes in weather can have impacts upon maintaining public water supply, agriculture, the natural environment, use of waterways for transportation, infrastructure and industry, and bear a substantial cost.



## LEGEND



Administrative Boundaries

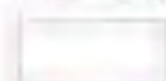


Main River



Flood Defences

### Probability of Flooding from Rivers



Flood Zone 1 Low Probability



Flood Zone 2 Medium Probability



Flood Zone 3a High Probability



Flood Zone 3b Functional Floodplain, where available



Defended 1% AEP incl. climate change, where available



Areas Benefitting from Flood Defences

(functional floodplain) associated with water ways in the district including notably the River Thet, River Wissey and Watton Brook and the River Wensum. The analysis and hydraulic modelling undertaken for the key rivers have taken into account a 20% increase in river flow to account for the implications of climate change.

The current SFRA was used to inform the 2019 Breckland Local Plan in terms of site selection and policy development. Key recommendations and advice provided through the SFRA set out approaches to securing flood risk reduction via spatial planning and site design, reducing surface water run-off from new developments, enhancing and restoring river corridors, protecting and promoting areas for future flood alleviation schemes and improving flood resilience.

Norfolk County Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for the area. They hold Flood Incident Reports for the Breckland area<sup>16</sup> including multiple records of internal flooding. They produce guidance for developers and advise on proposals, making sure that the relevant investigations have been made and correct management is included to ensure compliance with the requirements of the NPPF.

Some areas of Breckland are within or adjacent to Internal Drainage Board (IDB) areas, including the Norfolk Rivers IDB and the East of the Ouse, Polver and Nar IDB. An IDB is a type of local public authority that manages water levels in England where there is a special need for drainage.

### **What are the key sustainability issues for climate change and associated risks?**

- Promote the implementation and usage of renewable energy, micro generation and sustainable construction techniques – as far as possible within available plan making powers.
- Consider the landscape and biodiversity implications of facilitating wide scale delivery of solar and windfarms.
- Have regard in the placement and design of development to the need to increase resilience to climate and weather extremes, including greater incidence of flooding and periods of drought and extreme heat.

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<sup>16</sup> Found at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling-and-planning/flood-and-water-management/flood-investigations>

- Consider the role of green infrastructure in supporting the response to climate change.
- The challenge of securing sustainable transport and supporting expansion of zero emissions vehicles will be integral to addressing overall carbon emissions.



## 5.10 Land, Geology, and Soils

The geology of the Breckland area is very diverse. The majority of drift geology is from the Quaternary period and comprises brickearth, various clays and silts, various river terrace deposits and post glacial fluvial deposits. The solid geology of the area is primarily Cretaceous Chalk. This underlying chalk is a significant aquifer and an important resource for abstraction and maintaining surface water flow. The geology is recorded by the British Geological Society and is available on their website.

Ancient heathland once covered huge areas of the Brecks, created by the axes of prehistoric farmers and grazing animals. 'Brecks' were temporary fields cultivated for a few years and then allowed to revert to heath once the soil became exhausted. Today the district contains significant areas of agricultural land (grades 1, 2 and 3a) that requires protection. Breckland contains 64.2% of grades 2 and 3 agricultural land whereas the East of England Region contains 58% of the country's national resource of grades 1 and 2 land.

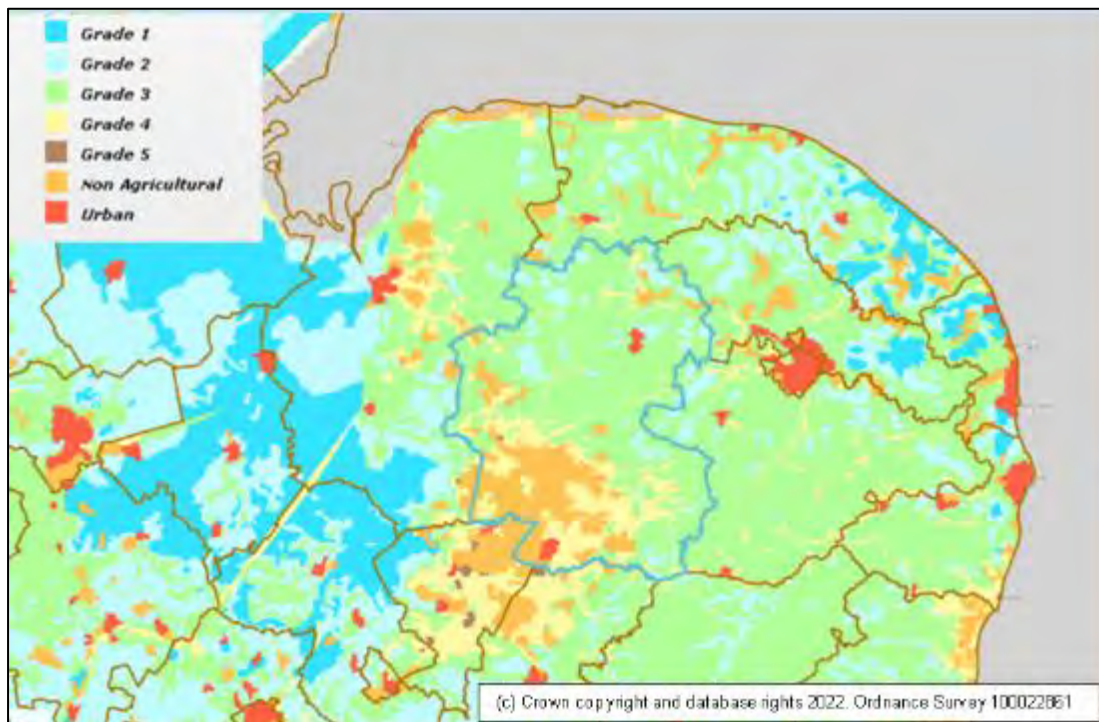


Figure 45: Map of Agricultural Land Classification – Provisional  
Source: Defra magic map.

In terms of statutory contaminated land, Breckland District Council has prepared a Contaminated Land Strategy that outlines how the Authority will meet its obligations. The Breckland area has a wide variety of industry, including engineering, mineral

extraction, agriculture, commercial forestry, and military establishments. However, there is no history of major polluting industries within the area but there are many sites where a degree of pollution could have occurred such as former petrol filling stations, gas works, manufacturing industries and railway land. One of the most significant issues to be considered is that of former landfill sites which are found throughout the district. Prior to 1974, many former ponds and pits were used for the disposal of household and in some cases agricultural and general commercial waste. Limited information is held about the location and content of these waste filled sites. The presence of sand and gravel deposits has allowed for mineral extraction resulting in a large number of excavated sites in Breckland, some of which have been filled as a means of disposing of waste.

The contaminated land strategy identified that so far 3,000 sites have been risk assessed to determine the potential hazard of sites to human health receptors. The primary means of identification and remediation of contaminated land in Breckland is through the development process and joint working and liaison with planning and building control processes.

### **What are the key sustainability issues for land, geology and soils?**

- The need to conserve geodiversity.
- Limited availability of brownfield land for development will inevitably result in loss of agricultural land.
- Opportunities should be sought to secure appropriate protection for the area's best and most versatile agricultural land whilst directing development to the most sustainable locations to meet all forms of need in the district.
- Protecting the quality of water in the underlying chalk aquifer is key to sustainable development.
- The legacy of contaminated land in the district needs to be considered, for potential risks to the environment and health, and the potential to reduce the amount of contaminated land in the district.

## 5.11 Landscape, Townscape and the Historic Environment

Breckland has a rich and diverse architectural heritage which is much valued. The District is predominantly rural, with dispersed settlements including market towns, villages and hamlets. There are 50 conservation areas totalling some 1,700 hectares. Breckland also contains a great variety of buildings of architectural and historic interest including 1,595 listed buildings (112 of which are grade I, 102 are grade II\* and 1,381 are grade II), nine grade II registered parks and gardens and 133 scheduled monuments.

The District also has many non-designated heritage assets that have a degree of significance. Many are identified in neighbourhood plans, conservation area character appraisals and in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (HER).

The HER is the comprehensive and definitive record of the historic environment of the county of Norfolk. There are also wider areas of known archaeological interest detailed within the HER. The Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Strategy and Advice Team will continue to monitor new planning applications and offer advice both to Breckland County Council and to potential developers about the historic environment impact of proposed developments in order to ensure that suitable measures are in place if needed, either secured by planning condition, or done pre-application to mitigate any negative effects of such developments on the historic environment, especially any buried remains.

Both the HER and Historic England map heritage assets on their websites. Please see illustrative extract below taken from Historic England's website.

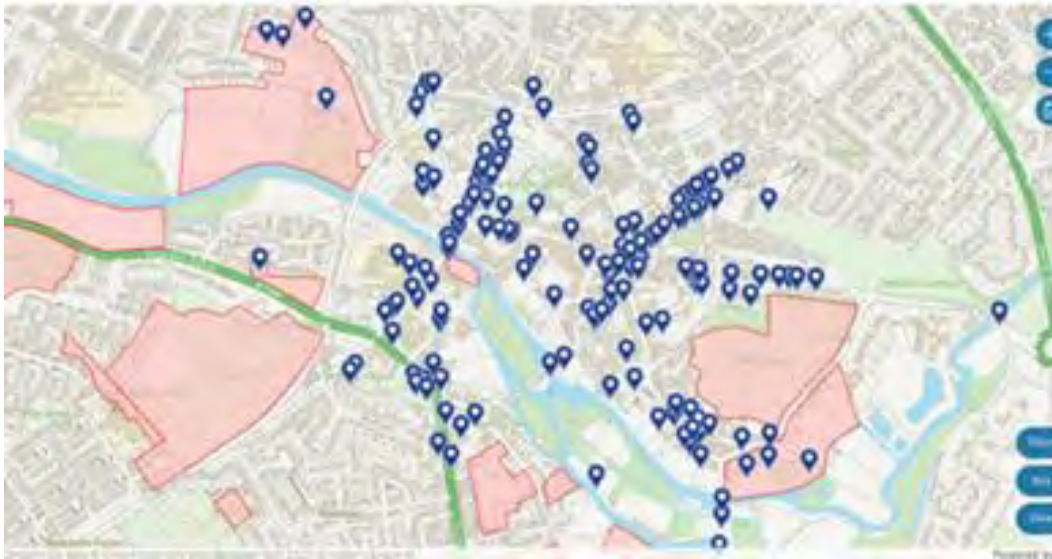


Figure 46: Extract of map showing Thetford's listed buildings and scheduled monuments  
Source: Historic England

Given Breckland's rich history, it is expected that there are many unknown heritage assets yet to be identified, both built and buried. Keeping the HER up-to-date and ensuring an understanding of the area's known assets and history can help predict the likeliness of discovering unidentified heritage.

Historic England maintains a Heritage at Risk Register that brings together information on and a useful mapping tool of designated heritage assets known to Historic England to be "at risk" through neglect and decay or vulnerable to becoming so. There are 27 designated assets on the Register as of 2021. This includes:

- Conservation areas - two
- Listed buildings:
  - Grade I - 12
  - Grade II\* - seven
- Scheduled Monuments - six

There are no particular patterns in the distribution of at risk assets across the District, but the most prevalent type of asset at risk are places of worship.

Breckland's landscape character varies greatly across the district from “settled” and “plateau” farmland to the north to the extensive area of heath and forest within the Brecks National Character Area (NCA).



Figure 47: The Brecks, extent and landscape character  
Source: Brecks Landscape Character Assessment

The Brecks form a distinctive landscape area encompassing Thetford and a wide area stretching south from Castle Acre in the north to just north of Bury St Edmunds in the south – and lying to the west of Swaffham and Watton . The Brecks Landscape Character Assessment explores in detail nine landscape types that can be identified in the Brecks:

- Brecks arable heathland mosaic,
- Brecks plantations,
- Low chalk farmland,



- Rolling clay farmland,
- Plateau estate farmland,
- Rolling estate chalklands,
- Settled fen,
- River valleys,
- Chalk river valleys.

The remainder of Breckland forms part of the two further NCAs, the South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands, and Mid Norfolk. The South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands NCA is defined by the high and predominantly flat clay plateau that dominates the character of the NCA. The plateau is incised by numerous small-scale wooded river valleys with complex slopes that in places are much unexpected for East Anglia. The underlying geology is chalk.

The Mid Norfolk NCA is described as ancient countryside with a long-settled agricultural character, where arable land is enclosed by winding lanes and hedgerows, interspersed with woodland and heath and dissected by lush pastoral river valleys. A patchwork of cultivated land, numerous church spires, distant wooded horizons and big skies dominate the landscape. This is a tranquil place, with isolated market towns, and scattered villages and farmhouses, their red brick and flint walls and pantile roofs an intrinsic component of Norfolk character. The area is rich in 18th-century estates and medieval churches, and the city of Norwich provides a cultural and economic centre.

Much of the townscape and landscape of Breckland is historic and has heritage significance. However, the need to protect and enhance good quality modern development and spaces is also acknowledged.

### **What are the key sustainability issues for landscape, townscape and the historic environment?**

- Development opportunities and their related impacts could incrementally alter the character and quality of the area's established townscape and harm built and buried heritage assets and their settings.

- Necessary development and expansion of existing settlements may have harmful effects upon the character and quality of the natural landscape in Breckland.
- A small but significant element of heritage assets remain at risk and should be a focus for enhancement.



## 5.12 Waste Collection and Minerals

Breckland District Council is a collecting authority for waste whilst Norfolk County Council is responsible for its management and disposal. The table below illustrates the overall volume of waste collected within Breckland and across Norfolk as a whole and the proportion sent for recycling.

	Breckland District Council			Norfolk County Council		
	Total waste collected (tonnes)	Recycled	Not for recycling	Total waste collected (tonnes)	Recycled	Not for recycling
2014-15	49,974	37%	62%	404,721	41%	55%
2015-16	50,292	40%	60%	411,457	44%	52%
2016-17	51,696	40%	59%	425,657	44%	51%
2017-18	50,865	40%	60%	422,672	43%	51%
2018-19	51,253	37%	62%	401,855	42%	54%
2019-20	51,305	39%	61%	408,083	43%	53%
2020-21	55,324	38%	61%	424,780	40%	56%

Figure 48: Volume in tonnes and proportion recycled in Breckland and Norfolk 2014/15 to 2020/21

Source: Local Authority Collected Waste Management, Defra

Overall the volume of waste collected per head of population in 2020/21 was approximately 390kgs per head in Breckland. At approximately 390kgs per head the level of waste generation in Breckland is broadly similar to the average for England as a whole.

The figure of 390kg of waste generated per head excludes waste deposited at Recycling Centres. In an average year there will also be around 10,000 to 12,000 tonnes of waste deposited by householders at the recycling centres in the Breckland District Council administrative area, about 70% of which is typically recycled.

There are presently four household waste recycling centres in Breckland, all with full recycling and reuse facilities and facilities for the disposal of household waste. The centres are located at Thetford, Snetterton, Ashill and Dereham.

Norfolk County Council is also the Minerals Authority for Breckland and responsible for preparing minerals Local Plans. As such, the primary issue regarding minerals for plan making in Breckland is in taking account of any minerals constraints that arise in considering non-mineral development opportunities. For Breckland, as in much of Norfolk, the only safeguarded mineral resource is sand and gravel deposits.

### **What are the key sustainability issues for waste collection and minerals?**

- Levels of recycling in the district are comparable to national averages but have not increased for a number of years.
- Waste must be managed appropriately and in line with the waste hierarchy. Breckland should continue to support high levels of recycling and composting.
- Access to waste management facilities should be sustained and capacity monitored as the district continues to grow.
- Development should be managed to avoid unnecessary sterilisation of workable mineral deposits in the district.

### 5.13 Water Resources

Breckland is within the Anglian Water Company area that covers a much larger area than Breckland across East Anglia. East Anglia as a whole is the most water-stressed region in the country and has the lowest average rainfall in the UK. The annual rainfall (845mm) is only 71% of the national average for England.

There are a number of nationally and internationally important wetlands and other water-dependent habitats within Breckland. For example, the Rivers Nar and Wensum are SSSIs. Planned growth, increased water demand and climate change will put extra pressure on limited resources. Groundwater is the largest available reservoir of water and provides three quarters of public water supply in the East of England. Meanwhile, the Anglian region is estimated to receive a large population growth. This could potentially lead to water supply issues in the long term and the capability to limit water consumption to that supportable by natural systems.

In terms of local trends, the Environment Agency evidence shows that in 2008, 800,000 million litres of freshwater were abstracted in the Anglian Region, with approximately 60% of abstracted freshwater coming from surface water and 40% from ground water sources. In terms of resource availability, over 30% of water resource management units have been assessed as having 'no water available' for additional abstraction at times of low flows and 55% of the water resources units are assessed as over-abstracted or over-identified as over-abstracted or over-licensed.

Where water is being over-abstracted in parts of Norfolk, existing abstractions are causing unacceptable damage to the environment at low flows. Water may still be available at high flows, but with appropriate restrictions. 60% of freshwater is currently sourced from surface waters that are classified as over-abstracted or over-licensed. A combination of limited resources and high demand (both human and environmental) means that over the region water resources are already considered to be fully, if not over-committed. Climate change will compound this further.

Presently Anglian Water are investing into projects that will support and manage the impact of water abstraction upon the condition of the Coston Fen and River Wensum.

### **What are the key sustainability issues for water resources?**

- Much of Breckland is a major aquifer and source of abstraction for Anglian Water.
- Protection of ground water quality is a vital element of sustainable development for the ongoing security of water provision and biodiversity value.
- Breckland is one of the driest areas in the UK and is in the most water stressed region in the country.

## 6. Key Sustainability, Health and Equality Issues for the Local Plan

Based on a review of other plans and programmes relevant to the Local Plan and an analysis of the characteristics of the Borough, a number of key sustainability, health and equality issues relevant to the Local Plan have been identified.

Topic	Population, Health and Equality
<b>Key Sustainability, Health and Equality Issues</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued demand for new housing to meet needs of a growing population.</li> <li>Continuing expectation that the population will become older at a faster rate than other areas. Indicates needs for suitable accommodation of all types for residents with a range of care needs from largely independent living to specialist care.</li> <li>Additional growth in working age population and children indicates a need for a mix of all types of homes and expanded opportunities for education, employment, health and well-being provision.</li> <li>Generally Breckland's population is relatively healthy but there is wide disparity across the district in indicators such as healthy weight in children.</li> <li>Levels of crime across the district are lower than urban counterparts but higher than similar rural districts.</li> </ul>	
Topic	Housing
<b>Key Sustainability, Health and Equality Issues</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There remains a substantial housing affordability.</li> <li>Current levels of housing delivery must at least be maintained to ensure needs are met.</li> <li>A range of housing tenures are required to help address the needs of all groups.</li> <li>Ongoing measures are required to ensure the needs of specific groups such as Gypsies and Travellers can be met.</li> </ul>	
Topic	Economy and Education
<b>Key Sustainability, Health and Equality Issues</b>	

- Breckland's main market towns provide an important role for the economy and service provision in Breckland and require protection and enhancement.
- Work to further understand the impacts and requirements to recover from the covid-19 pandemic is needed.
- The district's economy is weighted towards broadly declining sectors such as manufacturing with opportunities to diversify and expand higher value employment activities.
- Opportunities for employment growth in sectors like leisure and the arts could reinforce investment and vitality of the district's town centres.
- Levels of educational attainment and skilled labour are lower in Breckland.
- The area has low fewer claimants for unemployment benefits but a lower overall rate of economic activity than the national average.
- Rates of pay for residents and workplace based earnings are lower than surrounding areas and the national average, exacerbating housing affordability and pockets of deprivation.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Open Space and Community Infrastructure</b>
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<b>Key Sustainability, Health and Equality Issues</b>
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- Whilst there are many areas of open space and access to countryside across the district there are defined shortfalls in access to areas of equipped play, sports provision and formal open space such as parks.
- More deprived rural communities and residents are highly dependent upon access to local facilities and services and are severely disadvantaged when services are lost or public transport is inadequate to meet needs.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Transport</b>
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<b>Key Sustainability, Health and Equality Issues</b>
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- Breckland has been identified as the least accessible Norfolk district to key facilities and services by public transport.
- Levels of car ownership are relatively high in the district, which is typical for rural areas, but a substantial minority of households have no access to a private car or van.
- The district is well connected by the strategic road network via the A11 and A47, with ongoing improvements providing opportunities to further address congestion and create opportunities for growth.

- There are opportunities to continue to enhance walking and cycling provision across the district as a mode of transport both for leisure, to access services and facilities and improve residents' health and wellbeing.
- Connectivity between rural areas and services in urban centres could be improved, with a focus on active travel and public transport.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Air Quality</b>
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#### **Key Sustainability, Health and Equality Issues**

- High levels of car ownership, dependence upon the private car and historic street layouts means the district's towns and villages are vulnerable to local congestion and poor air quality.
- Opportunities should continue to be sought to encourage zero emission vehicles and sustainable alternatives such as public transport, walking and cycling – whilst retaining local services to reduce the need to travel.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>
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#### **Key Sustainability, Health and Equality Issues**

- The quality, diversity and connectivity of habitats in the district should continue to be protected and improved where possible.
- The area's geology is fundamental to much of the unique quality and value of the natural environment in Breckland.
- The challenge of securing nitrate neutral development to enable continued growth whilst protecting the areas key international sites from harm and further deterioration into poor condition.
- Responding to the challenge of securing 10% biodiversity net gain requires early consideration of the requirements and implications for development.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Climate Change and Associated Risks</b>
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#### **Key Sustainability, Health and Equality Issues**

- Promote the implementation and usage of renewable energy, micro generation and sustainable construction techniques – as far as possible within available plan making powers.
- Consider the landscape and biodiversity implications of potential priority to facilitate wide scale delivery of solar and windfarms.



- Have regard in the placement and design of development to the need to increase resilience to climate and weather extremes including greater incidence of flooding and periods of drought and extreme heat.
- Consider the role of green infrastructure in supporting the response to climate change.
- The challenge of securing sustainable transport and supporting expansion of zero emissions vehicles will be integral to addressing overall carbon emissions.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Land, Geology, and Soils</b>
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<b>Key Sustainability, Health and Equality Issues</b>
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- The need to conserve geodiversity.
- Limited availability of brownfield land for development will inevitably result in loss of agricultural land.
- Opportunities should be sought to secure appropriate protection for the area's best and most versatile agricultural land whilst directing development to the most sustainable locations to meet all forms of need in the district.
- Protecting the quality of water in the underlying chalk aquifer is key to sustainable development.
- The legacy of contaminated land in the district needs to be considered, for potential risks to the environment and health, and the potential to reduce the amount of contaminated land in the district.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Landscape, Townscape and the Historic Environment</b>
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<b>Key Sustainability, Health and Equality Issues</b>
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- Development opportunities and their related impacts could incrementally alter the character and quality of the area's established townscape and harm built and buried heritage assets and their settings.
- Necessary development and expansion of existing settlements may have harmful effects upon the character and quality of the natural landscape in Breckland.
- A small but significant element of heritage assets remain at risk and should be a focus for enhancement.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Waste Collection and Minerals</b>
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<b>Key Sustainability, Health and Equality Issues</b>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levels of recycling in the district are comparable to national averages but have not increased for a number of years.</li> <li>• Waste must be managed appropriately and in line with the waste hierarchy. Breckland should continue to support high levels of recycling and composting.</li> <li>• Access to waste management facilities should be sustained and capacity monitored as the district continues to grow.</li> <li>• Development should be managed to avoid unnecessary sterilisation of workable mineral deposits in the district.</li> </ul>	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Water Resources</b>
<b>Key Sustainability, Health and Equality Issues</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Much of Breckland is a major aquifer and source of abstraction for Anglian Water.</li> <li>• Protection of ground water quality is a vital element of sustainable development for the ongoing security of water provision and biodiversity value.</li> <li>• Breckland is one of the driest areas in the UK is in the most water stressed region in the country.</li> </ul>	

Figure 49: Key Sustainability, Health and Equality Issues for the Local Plan

## 7. The Integrated Assessment Framework

The main purpose of the Scoping stage of the IA is to identify the framework for the assessment of the Local Plan comprised of IA Objectives, informed by the issues identified in this Scoping Report. The proposed IA Objectives and decision making questions are set out in Figure 50 below.

SEA/SA Topic	IA Objective	Decision making questions (Would the policy or proposal...)
Population, Health and Equality and Housing	1. Ensure all groups have access to affordable, decent and appropriate housing that meets their needs and reduce disparity	Ensure an appropriate mix of types, tenures and sizes of properties in order to meet current and projected housing needs?
		Support a reduction in the number of unfit homes across the district?
		Ensure the number of houses meets demand for delivery of affordable housing needs?
	2. Promote equality of opportunity, improve health and wellbeing and reduce levels of deprivation and disparity	Ensure equality of opportunity and equal access to facilities / infrastructure for all?
		Avoid differential negative impacts based on 'protected characteristics', as defined in the Equality Act 2010 and redress inequalities related to age, gender, disability, race faith, location and income?
		Reduce the proportion of people living in deprivation?
		Foster good relations between different people?
		Support healthier lifestyles and improvements in determinants of health?
		Reduce health inequalities?

SEA/SA Topic	IA Objective	Decision making questions (Would the policy or proposal...)
		Promote, improve and protect social infrastructure and access to services and facilities?
Economy and Education	3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness and adaptability of the local economy and help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to their skills, potential and place of residence	Improve business development and enhance competitiveness?
		Make land and property available for business?
		Support diversification of employment sectors to facilitate areas of growth?
		Support and improve education?
		Support jobs and reduce unemployment overall?
		Improve access to employment, including by means other than the private car?
		Increase the vitality and viability of town centres?
		Provide for the needs of the local community?
		Support and enable growth and investment in town centres?
Open Space and Community Infrastructure and Transport	4. Improve the quality, range and accessibility of essential services, facilities, green infrastructure and open space	Improve accessibility to key local services and facilities, including health, education and leisure?
		Improve accessibility to shopping facilities?
		Improve available opportunities to walk, cycle and use public transport to meet residents' needs?
		Improve access to key open space such as play areas, parks and sports provision?
		Lead to an increased proportion of energy

SEA/SA Topic	IA Objective	Decision making questions (Would the policy or proposal...)
Climate Change and Associated Risks and Air Quality	5. Reduce contributions to climate change and localised air pollution and adapt and respond to the implications of a changing climate	needs being met from renewable sources?
		Reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases?
		Improve air quality?
		Reduce the risk of flooding both for any specific proposal and elsewhere?
Biodiversity and Geodiversity	6. Protect, conserve, enhance and expand biodiversity and promote and conserve geodiversity	Protect, maintain and enhance sites designated for their nature conservation interest?
		Conserve and enhance the quality, diversity and connectivity of species, habitats and green infrastructure and avoid harm to protected species?
		Promote and conserve geodiversity?
Land, Geology, and Soils	7. To conserve and protect land and soils, minimise the loss of agricultural land, whilst reducing land contamination	Use land that has been previously developed?
		Use land efficiently?
		Protect and enhance the best and most versatile agricultural land?
		Bring contaminated land back into effective use?
Landscape, Townscape and Historic Environment	8. Maintain, enhance and preserve the distinctiveness, diversity and quality of landscape, townscape and the historic environment	Maintain and enhance the distinctiveness of landscape and townscape character?
		Maintain and enhance the character of settlements?
		Protect and enhance open spaces of amenity value?
		Conserve and/or enhance the significance of heritage assets including any contribution made to their significance by setting?
		Reduce waste?

SEA/SA Topic	IA Objective	Decision making questions (Would the policy or proposal...)
Waste Management and Minerals	9. Minimise the production of waste and encourage the recycling/reuse of onsite resources	Reuse waste?
		Enable composting and/or recycling of waste?
		Reduce waste going to landfill?
Water Resources	10. Limit water consumption to the capacity of natural processes and storage systems, ensure the sustainable reuse of water to accommodate growth and maintain and enhance water quality	Attenuate the flow and runoff of water?
		Reduce water consumption?
		Conserve ground water resources?
		Maintain or enhance water quality?

Figure 50: Breckland IA Objectives and decision making questions

The assessment of the effects of proposed policies and proposals will take place within a matrix, where they will be pitched against the IA Objectives set out in Figure 50. They will be scored using the colours and symbols below.

Symbol	Definition
++	Major positive effect
+	Positive effect
N	Neutral effect
-	Minor negative effect
--	Major negative effect
U	Unknown at this stage

During the assessment, a number of factors will have to be taken into account to determine whether a predicted effect has the potential to be significant. These factors are listed in the table below.

Issues for consideration	Details
Type of Effect	Positive or negative

	<p>Direct or indirect</p> <p>Cumulative</p> <p>Temporary or permanent</p>
Magnitude and Spatial Extent	<p>Where will it impact? Will it be within Breckland's boundary or outside it?</p> <p>Will it cause trans-boundary issues and impact on adjacent areas or regionally or nationally?</p> <p>What is the geographical area and size of population likely to be affected?</p>
Who it will affect, key groups or communities to be considered include	<p>Old and young people</p> <p>Socio economic groups (variable)</p> <p>Women and men</p> <p>Asylum seekers and refugees</p> <p>Black and ethnic minority people (including Gypsy and Traveller communities)</p> <p>Disabled people</p> <p>Faith communities</p> <p>LGBT+ people</p>
Vulnerability of Receptor	<p>Sensitivity of receptors</p> <p>Special natural characteristics/areas or cultural heritage</p> <p>Protected areas</p> <p>Relative importance of the site, whether it is a nationally or internationally important feature or of local significance</p>
Timing and Duration of the Effect	<p>Short-term: 0-4 years</p> <p>Medium-term: 5-9 years</p> <p>Long-term: 10+ years</p>

Figure 51: Factors to consider in the IA

The matrix would allow for consideration of the above factors, and clearly set out assessment outcomes. Suggested mitigation or enhancements would also be noted with the matrix. The proposed matrix is illustrated below.



Local Plan Policy / Proposal					
IA Objective	Short-term impact	Medium-term impact	Long-term impact	Supporting comments	Mitigation/ Opportunities
1	+	+	+	<i>To consider decision making questions and other factors</i>	
2 ... Etc...	-	-	--		

The Local Plan's objectives will be assessed using a matrix and the same scoring system, but a simpler approach will be taken given the overarching themes.

## 8. Next Steps

This Scoping Report has defined the proposed scope of work for the IA of the review of the Breckland Local Plan. It contains a review of national, regional and local plans, programmes and strategies; a description of the sustainability baseline for the district; an identification of the key issues and sets out the IA Framework consisting of IA objectives and decision making questions. Scoping is stage A of the IA process.

The IA Framework will be used to assess the effects of the emerging Local Plan review (Stage B). This stage is iterative and will involve the development and refinement of the Local Plan by testing the sustainability, health and equality strengths and weaknesses of the emerging Plan options. In this respect, IA will be undertaken throughout the preparation of the Local Plan with the findings presented in IA Reports, as needed, to accompany each relevant iteration of the draft Local Plan published for consultation.

At Stage C, a final IA Report will be prepared to accompany the submission draft Local Plan. This will be available for consultation alongside the draft Local Plan itself prior to consideration by an independent planning inspector at an Examination in Public (Stage D).

Following examination, and subject to any significant changes to the draft Local Plan that may require assessment, the Council will issue a Post Adoption Statement as soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of the Local Plan. This will set out the results of the consultation and IA processes and the extent to which the findings of the IA have been accommodated in the adopted Local Plan.

During the period of the Local Plan, the Council will monitor its implementation and any significant social, economic and environmental effects (Stage E).

## Appendix A: Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
B1 International plans, programmes and strategies			
Sustainable Development			
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development	2002	Actions included: Reverse trend in loss of natural resources, efficient use of resources and reduction in consumer consumption, increase global uptake of renewable energy, increase business innovation in green technology, and reduce loss of biodiversity.	United Nations
European Sustainable Development Strategy (ESDS)	2009	ESDS considers that there are strong links and impacts from urban development and spatial organisation on sustainable development, as well as on environmental quality, energy consumption, mobility, health and quality of life. The ESDS put forward three spatial policy guidelines: Development of a balanced and polycentric urban system and a new urban-rural relationship; Securing parity of access to infrastructure and knowledge; and Sustainable development, prudent management and production of nature and cultural heritage.	European Commission
EU Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC)	2009	Requires 20% of energy to come from renewable sources by 2020 and sets out specific target for each European country. Also sets out a specific target for transport energy. Other measures include a directive strengthening the EU Emissions Trading Scheme; on carbon capture and storage and a regulation on vehicle emissions.	European Commission
Union Environment Action Programme (EAP) to 2020 7th EAP - 'Living well, within the limits of our planet'	2013	The programme lists nine priority objectives and what the EU needs to do to achieve them by 2020. They are: 1. to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital 2. to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy;	European Commission

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
		3. to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing; 4. to maximise the benefits of the Union's environment legislation by improving implementation; 5. to increase knowledge about the environment and widen the evidence base for policy; 6. to secure investment for environment and climate policy and account for the environmental costs of any societal activities; 7. to better integrate environmental concerns into other policy areas and ensure coherence when creating new policy; 8. to make the Union's cities more sustainable; 9. to help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively.	
The SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC)	2001	Legislation from the European Commission regarding assessment of the Impacts on the environment of plans and programmes. Translated through planning guidance and national legislation (UK regulations on EIA and SEA).	European Commission
<b>Air quality</b>			
EU National Emissions Ceilings Directive (2001/81/EC) (made into national law as the National Emission Ceilings Regulations 2002)	2001	The implementation of the directive requires that Member States develops national programmes in 2002 and, where needed, revise those plans in 2006 that aim at meeting fixed ceilings of national emissions by 2010 and thereafter. Further Member States have to report their emission inventories to the EEA and the European Commission in order to monitor progress and verify compliance.	European Commission
The Air Quality Framework Directive 1996, and Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) June 2008. (made into national law by	2008	Relevant objectives are to maintain ambient air quality where it is good and improve it in other cases.	European Commission

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010)			
EUNECE Gothenburg Protocol on National Emissions Reduction Targets	1999	Multi-pollutant protocol which sets emissions ceilings for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds and ammonia to be met by 2010. As of August 2014, the Protocol had been ratified by 25 states and the European Union.	European Commission
<b>Biodiversity</b>			
EC Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) (As amended by 97/62/EC) (Made into national law as the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (and amendments)	1992	Conserve wild flora, fauna and natural habitats of EU importance. Encourage management of features of the landscape that are essential for migration of wild species. Establish framework of protected areas to maintain biodiversity and promote conservation.	European Commission
The Ramsar Convention (formally, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat)	1971	The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world". The Convention uses a broad definition of the types of wetlands covered in its mission. For the study, this includes lakes and rivers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands and peatlands and human-made sites such as reservoirs.	Ramsar
Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds	1979	The main provisions of the directive include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The maintenance of the favourable conservation status of all wild bird species across their distributional range (Article 2) with the encouragement of various activities to that end (Article 3)</li> <li>The identification and classification of Special Protection Areas for rare or vulnerable species</li> </ul>	

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
		<p>listed in Annex I (PDF 106KB) of the Directive, as well as for all regularly occurring migratory species, paying particular attention to the protection of wetlands of international importance (Article 4). (Together with Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) designated under the Habitats Directive, SPA's form a network of pan-European protected areas known as Natura 2000.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· The establishment of a general scheme of protection for all wild birds (Article 5).</li> <li>· Restrictions on the sale and keeping of wild birds (Article 6).</li> <li>· Specification of the conditions under which hunting and falconry can be undertaken (Article 7). (Huntable species are listed on Annex II.1 (PDF 29KB) and Annex II.2 (PDF 73KB) of the Directive).</li> <li>· Prohibition of large-scale non-selective means of bird killing (Article 8).</li> <li>· Procedures under which Member States may derogate from the provisions of Articles 5-8 (Article 9) — that is, the conditions under which permission may be given for otherwise prohibited activities.</li> <li>· Encouragement of certain forms of relevant research (Article 10).</li> <li>· Requirements to ensure that introduction of non-native birds do not threatened other biodiversity (Article 11).</li> </ul>	
European Biodiversity Strategy	2011	This strategy is aimed at reversing biodiversity loss and speeding up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy.	European Commission
<a href="#">Heritage, Landscape and the built environment</a>			
The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention) ETS No 121	1987	Promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage	European Commission

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention) ETS No. 66 (Revised)	1995	Conservation and enhancement of archaeological heritage	European Commission
General Conference of UNESCO	1972	A single text was agreed on by all parties, and the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was adopted	European Commission
The European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention) ETS No 176	2004	Encourage the adoption of policies relating to the protection, management and planning of landscapes	European Commission
<b>Energy</b>			
Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change	1999	<p>The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which commits its Parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets.</p> <p>Recognizing that developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity, the Protocol places a heavier burden on developed nations under the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities."</p> <p>The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, on 11 December 1997 and entered into force on 16 February 2005. The detailed rules for the implementation of the Protocol were adopted at COP 7 in Marrakesh, Morocco, in 2001, and are referred to as the "Marrakesh Accords." Its first commitment period started in 2008 and ended in 2012.</p>	United Nations
International Carbon Action	2007	ICAP is a partnership made up of public authorities and governments	ICAP



Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
Partnership (ICAP)		that have established or are actively pursuing carbon markets through mandatory cap and trade systems with an absolute cap. The partnership provides a forum to exchange knowledge and experiences. ICAP was established in Lisbon, Portugal on 29 October 2007 by Heads of national and regional Governments.	
EU Energy Efficiency Plan	2011	Energy efficiency is at the heart of the EU's Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and of the transition to a resource efficient economy. Energy efficiency is one of the most cost effective ways to enhance security of energy supply, and to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants. The European Union has set itself a target for 2020 of saving 20% of its primary energy consumption compared to projections.	European Union
<b>Water resources</b>			
EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) (made into national law through The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003)	2000	The Directive seeks to: - Prevent further deterioration and protect and enhance status of aquatic ecosystems and wetlands Promote sustainable water use (reduce pollutants of waters) Contribute to mitigating effects of floods and droughts Prevent further deterioration and risk of pollution in ground waters	European Commission
European Floods Directive 2007 (2007/60/EC) (made into national law through the Flood Risk Regulations 2009)	2007	Requires Local Authorities to feed in to the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, as well as the Local Flood Risk Strategy, and ensure that objectives within Local Plans complement the objectives of the Directive.	European Commission
<b>Waste</b>			

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC and daughter directives such as Landfill Directive 99/31/EC (made into national law through The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011)	1999 (and 2008)	Limit waste production through the promotion of clean technology and reusable or recyclable products. Promote prevention, recycling and conservation of waste with the view to re-use. Waste should be managed with minimal environmental impact.	European Commission
Mining Waste Directive 2006/21/EC (made into national law through Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010)	2006	Waste from extractive operations (i.e. waste from extraction and processing of mineral resources) is one of the largest waste streams in the EU. The Directive's overall objective is to provide for measures to prevent or reduce as far as possible any adverse effects on the environment as well as any resultant risk to human health from the management of waste from the extractive industries.	European Commission
<b>Pollution control</b>			
Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive - 1996/61/EC (Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations 2000)	1996	The Directive contains basic rules for integrated permits, which cover the whole environmental performance of Plants i.e. emissions to air, water and land, generation of waste, use of raw materials, energy efficiency, noise, prevention of accidents, risk management, etc. The permits must be based on the concept of Best Available Technique (BAT).	European Commission
<b>B2 National and regional plans, programmes and strategies</b>			
<b>Sustainable development</b>			
Town and Country Planning Act 1990,	various	These Acts set out the regulatory framework for the planning system.	HM Government
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Planning Act 2008,			

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
Localism Act 2011			
The Environment Act	2021		
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	2021 (updated regularly)	Sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied, with a presumption in favour of sustainable development. The NPPF sets a duty to co-operate, introduces local plans and neighbourhood plans and the policy position for a range of areas including economy, transport, housing, Green Belt, minerals, climate change and design. Technical Guidance provides additional guidance on policy areas.	DLUHC and MHCLG
& Planning Practice Guidance			
National Design Guide	2021	<p>The national design guide sets out the characteristics of well-designed places and demonstrates what good design means in practice.</p> <p>It forms part of the government's collection of planning practice guidance and should be read alongside the separate planning practice guidance on design process and tools.</p>	DLUHC and MHCLG
Build back better: our plan for growth	2021	Sets out the government's plans to support growth through significant investment in infrastructure, skills and innovation, and to pursue growth that levels up every part of the UK, enables the transition to net zero, and supports our vision for Global Britain.	HM Government
National Infrastructure Strategy	2020	Sets out plans to transform UK infrastructure in order to level up the country, strengthen the Union and achieve net zero emissions by 2050.	HM Government
The Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No. 2) Regulations 2019	2019	Sets out the regulations with regards to charging and collecting planning obligations and CIL.	HM Government
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment	2018	This Environment Plan sets out government action to help the natural world regain and retain good health. Six policy areas are set out to achieve this aim:	HM Government

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Using and managing land sustainably,</li> <li>· Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes,</li> <li>· Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing,</li> <li>· Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste,</li> <li>· Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans,</li> <li>· Protecting and improving the global environment.</li> </ul>	
Recreation			
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	2000	Key purpose of Act is to extend the public's ability to enjoy the countryside whilst also providing safeguards for landowners and occupiers.	HM Government
Planning for Sport	2019	<p>Overarching</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recognise and give significant weight to the benefits of sport and physical activity.</li> <li>2. Undertake, maintain and apply robust and up-to-date assessments of need and strategies for sport and physical activity provision, and base policies, decisions and guidance upon them.</li> <li>3. Plan, design and maintain buildings, developments, facilities, land and environments that enable people to lead active lifestyles.</li> </ol> <p>Protect</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Protect and promote existing sport and physical activity provision and ensure new development does not prejudice its use.</li> <li>5. Ensure long-term, viable management and maintenance of new and existing sport and physical activity provision.</li> </ol> <p>Enhance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Support improvements to existing sport and physical activity provision where they're needed.</li> <li>7. Encourage and secure wider community use of new and existing sport and physical activity provision.</li> </ol> <p>Provide</p>	Sport England

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
		<p>8. Support new provision, including allocating new sites for sport and physical activity which meets identified needs.</p> <p>9. Ensure a positive approach to meeting the needs generated by new development for sport and physical activity provision.</p> <p>10. Provide sport and physical activity provision which is fit for purpose and well designed.</p> <p>11. Plan positively for sport and physical activity provision in designated landscapes and the green belt.</p> <p>12. Proactively address any amenity issues arising from sport and physical activity developments.</p>	
<b>Transport</b>			
Transport Investment Strategy	2017	<p>This strategy sets out the Department for Transport's priorities and approach for future transport investment decisions and explains how transport investment can deliver a stronger, fairer Britain. It describes what DfT are trying to achieve through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· investment in transport infrastructure</li> <li>· the priorities and propositions that will guide future investment decisions</li> <li>· the institutional frameworks within which those decisions will be taken</li> <li>· the actions we are taking to help DfT meet government's ambitions</li> </ul>	DfT
Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge	2020	Marks the beginning of a conversation to develop the policies needed to decarbonise transport, setting out the goals and challenges to reduce emissions for moving people, goods and services.	DfT
UK electric vehicle infrastructure strategy	2022	This strategy sets out the government's vision and action plan for the rollout of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the UK, ahead of the phase out dates:	DfT

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to end the sale of new petrol and diesel petrol and diesel vehicles by 2030</li> <li>for all new cars and vans to be fully zero emission at the tailpipe by 2035</li> </ul>	
<b>Heritage, Landscape and the Built Environment</b>			
The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England	2010	<p>This statement sets out the key strategic aims of the government to ensure that the historic environment is valued and managed intelligently, in a manner that realises its economic social and cultural contribution to the nation. The key strategic aims of the statement are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emphasise the government's responsibility to manage England's historic environment for present and future generations</li> <li>Ensure that all heritage assets are afforded appropriate levels of protection;</li> <li>Encourage structures, skills and systems at a local level which: promote early consideration of the historic environment;</li> <li>Promote opportunities for local residents and communities to be at the centre of the designation and management of their historic environment;</li> <li>Ensure all heritage assets in public ownership meet appropriate standards of care and use while allowing, where appropriate, for well managed and intelligent change.</li> <li>Promote the role of the historic environment within the Government's response to climate change and sustainable development.</li> </ul>	HM Government
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	1979	Defines archaeological sites of national importance, such as ancient monuments and areas of archaeological importance, which are to be protected.	HM Government
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	1990	Sets out legal requirements for proposed development affecting listed buildings / conservation areas.	HM Government
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>			

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
Health and Social Care Act	2012	The Act seeks to address the issues facing the NHS and the need for it to change to meet the challenges it faces. The Health and Social Care Act puts clinicians at the centre of commissioning, frees up providers to innovate, empowers patients and gives a new focus to public health.	HM Government
Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review ten years on	2020	The report highlights that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· People can expect to spend more of their lives in poor health.</li> <li>· Improvements to life expectancy have stalled, and declined for the poorest 10% of women.</li> <li>· The health gap has grown between wealthy and deprived areas.</li> <li>· Place matters – living in a deprived area of the North east is worse for your health than living in a similarly deprived area in London, to the extent that life expectancy is nearly five years less.</li> </ul>	Institute of Health Equity
Spatial Planning for Health	2019	How can we create healthier places based on evidence of what really works? This authoritative review of the evidence, by Public Health England, sets it out in an easy-to-use guide. Helpful diagrams summarise the strength of evidence in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• neighbourhood design</li> <li>• housing</li> <li>• food environment</li> <li>• natural and sustainable environments</li> <li>• transport.</li> </ul>	Public Health England
Health Impact Assessment in Spatial Planning	2020	Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a tool to identify and optimise the health and wellbeing impacts of planning. This guide supports the use of HIA in the process of plan making (when developing policies in local plans) and planning applications (designing proposals for development projects). This guide provides information about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· HIA in planning policy and practice</li> </ul>	Public Health England



Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· developing local HIA policy and guidance</li> <li>· determining whether an HIA is required</li> <li>· establishing the scope of an HIA</li> <li>· integrating an HIA with other assessments</li> </ul>	
<b>Education</b>			
Securing developer contributions for education	2019	The guidance is to help local authorities secure developer contributions for education so that housing developers contribute to the cost of providing the new school places required due to housing growth. The guidance promotes good practice on pupil yield evidence, engagement with local planning authorities and the delivery of expanded or new schools with funding from housing development.	Department for Education
<b>Social equality</b>			
Equality Act	2010	<p>The Equality Act 2010 legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society. It replaced previous anti-discrimination laws including the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976 and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. It sets out the different ways in which it's unlawful to treat someone.</p> <p>The Act also strengthens the law in a number of areas. It:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• places a new duty on certain public bodies to consider socio-economic disadvantage when making strategic decisions about how to exercise their functions;</li> <li>• extends the circumstances in which a person is protected against discrimination, harassment or victimisation because of a protected characteristic;</li> <li>• creates a duty on listed public bodies when carrying out their functions and on other persons when carrying out public functions to have due regard when carrying out their functions to: the need to eliminate conduct which the Act prohibits; the</li> </ul>	HM Government

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
		<p>need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not; and the need to foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not. The practical effect is that listed public bodies will have to consider how their policies, programmes and service delivery will affect people with the protected characteristics;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• allows an employer or service provider or other organisation to take positive action so as to enable existing or potential employees or customers to overcome or minimise a disadvantage arising from a protected characteristic;</li> </ul> <p>amends family property law to remove discriminatory provisions and provides additional statutory property rights for civil partners in England and Wales.</p>	
The English Indices of Deprivation	2019	Statistics on relative deprivation in small areas in England.	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
<b>Housing and communities</b>			
The Housing Act	2004	<p>The Housing Act reinforces the role of Councils as strategic enablers with an overview of both public and private sector properties in their area. The Act contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extra powers to license private landlords, especially those of houses in multiple occupation;</li> <li>• Changes in the way homes are judged as suitable to meet the needs of the occupier by means of risk assessment;</li> <li>• Modernising the right to buy policy to combat profiteering;</li> <li>• Home Information Packs to simplify the buying and selling of property;</li> </ul> <p>Increase to the qualifying period for council tenants considering purchasing their property under Right to Buy, and also repayment of discounts.</p>	HM Government

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
Housing: Optional Technical Standards	2015	Provide the policy position in relation to the provision of local standards for Accessibility and wheelchair housing standards, Water efficiency and Internal space standards.	HM Government
Planning Policy for traveller sites	2015	The aims include that local authorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• should make their own assessment of need;</li> <li>• work collaboratively and develop strategies to meet need through identification of land for sites;</li> <li>• plan for sites over a reasonable timescale;</li> <li>• protect the Green Belt from inappropriate development;</li> <li>• to promote private and public sites in sustainable locations;</li> <li>• to reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities; and</li> <li>• have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment.</li> </ul>	HM Government
Homes England Strategic Plan	2018	A plan focused upon access better homes in the right places.	
<b>Air Quality, Noise and Water Resources</b>			
Part IV of the Environment Act 1995	1995	Requires local authorities in the UK to review air quality in their area and designate air quality management areas if improvements are necessary. Where an air quality management area is designated, local authorities are also required to work towards the Strategy's objectives prescribed in regulations for that purpose. An air quality action plan describing the pollution reduction measures must then be put in place. These plans contribute to the achievement of air quality limit values at local level.	HM Government
Clean Air Strategy	2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The strategy sets out how the government will:</li> <li>• protect the nation's health</li> <li>• protect the environment</li> <li>• secure clean growth and innovation</li> <li>• reduce emissions from transport, homes, farming and industry</li> <li>• monitor our progress</li> </ul>	Defra, MHCLG, DfT, Dpt for Health and Social Care, HM Treasury, Dpt for Business, Energy and

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
			Industrial Strategy
Noise Action Plan: Agglomerations	2014	This action plan was developed by DEFRA in accordance with the Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006, as amended and aims to promote good health and good quality of life (wellbeing) through the effective management of noise.	Defra
Noise Policy Statement for England	2010	Through the effective management and control of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life;</li> <li>• mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and</li> </ul> where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life	Defra
Control of Pollution Act	1974	The Act makes provision with respect to waste disposal, water pollution, noise, atmospheric pollution and public health; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid.	Defra
Water Resources Act	1991	Covers the procedures for appeals in respect of licences to abstract water and licences to impound the flow of inland waters that have been issued by the Environment Agency.	Defra
<b>Biodiversity</b>			
Wildlife and Countryside Act	1981	Covers: SSSIs, SPAs and RAMSAR sites. Also includes schedules on birds, animals, plants and invasive species. Protection may include prohibition of some, or all of; killing, injuring, disturbing, taking, sale/barter or possession of species.	HM Government
The Hedgerows Regulations	1997	Allows the identification of important hedgerows and the permissions required to remove them.	HM Government
The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive)	2003	Established post Water Framework Directive (WFD). Resulted in the establishment of river basin districts in England and Wales	HM Government

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
(England and Wales) Regulations		and river basin management plans for each.	
Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act	2006	Requires all public bodies to have regard to biodiversity conservation when carrying out their functions. This is commonly referred to as the 'Biodiversity duty'. The aim of the biodiversity duty is to raise the profile of biodiversity in England and Wales, so that the conservation of biodiversity becomes properly embedded in all relevant policies and decisions made by public authorities.	HM Government
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (the Habitats Regulations) as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012	2012	The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites', the protection of 'European protected species', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites. Under the Regulations, competent authorities i.e. any Minister, government department, public body, or person holding public office, have a general duty, in the exercise of any of their functions, to have regard to the EC Habitats Directive.	HM Government
<b>Climate Change and Flood Risk</b>			
Climate Change Act	2008 (2019)	The Climate Change Act was passed in 2008 and established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. The Climate Change Act includes the following: It includes the Adaptation Sub-Committee (ASC) which scrutinises and advises on the Government's programme for adapting to climate change. A National Adaptation Plan requires the Government to assess the UK's risks from climate change, prepare a strategy to address them, and encourage critical organisations to do the same. For more detail, visit the <a href="#">UK adaptation policy page</a> .	HM Government
Clean Growth Strategy	2017	Blueprint for low carbon future	HM Government

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
Carbon Budgets	2016 to 2021	A carbon budget places a restriction on the total amount of greenhouse gases the UK can emit over a 5-year period. The UK is the first country to set legally binding carbon budgets.	HM Government
The Flood risk Regulations	2009	The purpose of these regulations is to transpose the EC Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks) into domestic law and to implement its provisions. In particular, it places duties on the Environment Agency and local authorities to prepare flood risk assessments, flood risk maps and flood risk management plans.	HM Government
Flood & Water Management Act	2010	Seeks to “localise” responsibility for flood risk, particularly from ordinary watercourses. Key policies within the act include: providing the Environment Agency with an overview of all flood and coastal erosion risk management and unitary and county councils to lead in managing the risk of all local floods; encouraging the uptake of sustainable drainage systems and providing for unitary and county councils to adopt SUDS for new developments and redevelopments; introduce an improved risk based approach to reservoir safety	Defra
Climate Resilient Infrastructure	2011	Alongside the transition to a low carbon society, increasing infrastructure’s resilience to climate change impacts is a high priority for the Government, to help protect the economy and its future growth.	Defra
National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England	2020	The strategy sets out a vision of a nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change – today, tomorrow and to the year 2100.	Environment Agency
Drought response: our framework for England	2017	The Drought Framework sets out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how drought affects different parts of England,</li> <li>• who is involved in managing drought,</li> <li>• how the Environment Agency and others take action to manage drought,</li> </ul>	Environment Agency

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>how the Environment Agency monitor and measure the impacts of drought to advise senior management and government on the prospects and possible action,</li> <li>how the Environment Agency report on drought and communicate with others.</li> </ul>	
<b>Geology, Groundwater and Contaminated Land</b>			
Environmental Protection Act	1990	Establishes a legal framework for dealing with control of emissions to the environment in England.	Defra
The Contaminated Land (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012	2012	Key objective is to provide an improved system for the identification and remediation of contaminated land where contamination is causing unacceptable risk to human health or the wider environment.	HM Government
Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England	2009	<p>With this strategy, DEFRA are aiming for England's soils to be managed sustainably by 2030 and for degradation threats to have been eliminated, thereby improving soil quality and safeguarding the services they provide.</p> <p>The strategy sets out the main points of DEFRA's vision for safeguarding soils as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. agricultural soils will be better managed and threats to them will be addressed;</li> <li>2. soils will play a greater role in the fight against climate change and in helping us to manage its impacts</li> <li>3. soils in urban areas will be valued during development, and construction practices will ensure vital soil functions can be maintained; and</li> <li>4. pollution of our soils is prevented, and our historic legacy of contaminated land is being dealt with.</li> </ol>	Defra
<b>Energy</b>			
Energy Act	2013	This Act establishes the legislative framework for delivering secure, affordable and low carbon energy. It is driven by the need to ensure that	HM Government



Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
		the UK remains capable of generating sufficient energy to meet its needs, as older power stations are decommissioned.	
UK Renewable Energy Strategy	2009	<p>Sets out path for meeting legally binding target to ensure 15% of our energy comes from renewable sources by 2020. It puts forward a path to achieving this including the balance of technologies that is most likely to achieve the goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 30% of our electricity generated from renewables – much of this will be from wind power but</li> <li>• biomass, hydro and wave will also play an important role</li> <li>• 12% of our heat generated from renewables – range of sources including biomass, biogas, solar and heat</li> <li>• pumps</li> <li>• 10% of transport energy from renewables</li> </ul> <p>It sets out the Government's strategic role as well as a number of detailed actions.</p>	Department of Energy and Climate Change
The Carbon Plan	2011	<p>This plan sets out how the UK will achieve decarbonisation within the framework of the Government's energy policy: to make the transition to a low carbon economy while maintaining energy security, and minimising costs to consumers, particularly those in poorer households</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low carbon buildings</li> <li>• Low carbon transport</li> <li>• Low carbon industry, Agriculture, land use, forestry and waste.</li> </ul>	Department of Energy and Climate Change
Planning and Energy Act	2008	<p>The Act enables local planning authorities to set requirements for energy use and energy efficiency in local plans, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A proportion of energy used in development in their area to be energy from renewable sources in the locality of the development;</li> <li>• A proportion of energy used in development in their area to be low</li> </ul>	HM Government

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
		carbon energy from sources in the locality of the development; and • Development in their area to comply with energy efficiency standards that exceeds the energy requirements of building regulations.	
<b>Waste</b>			
Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011	2011	Translates EU Waste Framework Directive into UK law. It provides the legislative framework for the collection, transport, recovery and disposal of waste, and includes a common definition of waste.	HM Government
Hazardous Waste Regulations	2005	Requires producers of waste to register with the EA where a premises produces over 200kg.	Defra
National Waste Management Plan	2013	This plan meets the requirements of Article 28 of the Waste Framework Directive. It provides an overview of waste management in England. Obligations under Article 28 which the plan meets include: Objectives and measures on packaging waste Measure to promote high quality recycling Measures to encourage the separation of bio-waste	Defra
Regional Waste Strategy for the Northwest and update	2004 and 2010	The Strategy aim is to contribute to sustainable development by developing waste management systems that will reduce waste generation, lessen the impact of waste production, improve resource efficiency, stimulate investment/maximise economic opportunities arising from waste by taking action to: i) Reduce waste production; ii) Maximise the re-use of waste products; iii) Promote the recycle and composting of waste; iv) Recover value (energy) from waste that is not recycled; and v) Maintain sufficient landfill capacity to dispose of final residues. The updated Regional Waste Strategy was published in order to update the 2004 Regional Waste	Regional Leaders Board

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
		Strategy in light of legislative, regulatory and policy changes, whilst maintaining the core aim of the 2004 version.	
B3 Regional plans, programmes and strategies			
Transport			
Norfolk Local Transport Plan 4 Strategy 2021-2036	2021	<p>The Local Transport Plan objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Embracing the Future</li> <li>· Delivering a Sustainable Norfolk</li> <li>· Enhancing Connectivity</li> <li>· Enhancing Norfolk's Quality of Life</li> <li>· Increasing Accessibility</li> <li>· Improving Transport Safety</li> <li>· A Well Managed and Maintained Transport Network.</li> </ul>	Norfolk County Council
Bus Service Improvement Plan	2021	Sets out evidence and proposals to support bid for funding to enhance bus provision in Norfolk.	
Norfolk Cycling and Walking Strategy	2017	<p>Sets out a vision for 2025, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· More people walk and cycle to get to places of work and education, and for leisure;</li> <li>· Walking and cycling are normal activities for most people, most of the time, and routes are direct, convenient and pleasant.</li> <li>· Norfolk provides high quality facilities for active travellers, who will be welcomed as valuable customers for business, and as positive contributors to the community;</li> <li>· Barriers to walking and cycling (such as concerns about safety and security) will have been addressed to ensure that residents and visitors are not put off from active travel;</li> <li>· Norfolk delivers safe and attractive opportunities for cycling and walking for all types of user, including the elderly, those with chronic health conditions including physical and mental disabilities, people with visual impairment and young families;</li> <li>· People can transfer between active travel modes to other public</li> </ul>	Norfolk County Council

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
		transport services easily due to well-designed interchanges and facilities.	
Transport East Strategy (Draft) 2021	2021	The East Transport Strategy that brings together Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Southend on Sea and Thurrock includes four strategic priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decarbonisation to net zero</li> <li>• Connecting growing towns and cities</li> <li>• Energising coastal and rural communities</li> <li>• Unlocking international gateways</li> </ul>	
Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) 2019 - 2029	2019	Sets out the following key strategic objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• manage the countryside access network so that it is better able to meet the varying demands placed upon it;</li> <li>• increase public, economic and environmental benefit;</li> <li>• actively seek the involvement of communities;</li> <li>• take a collaborative and pragmatic approach to responsibilities and resources; and</li> <li>• increase investment in the countryside access network.</li> </ul>	Norfolk County Council
<b>Sustainable Development</b>			
Better Together, for Norfolk 2021-25	2021	Outlines strategic priorities for Norfolk County Council over four years for a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A vibrant and sustainable economy</li> <li>• better opportunities for children and young people</li> <li>• healthy, fulfilling and independent lives</li> <li>• strong, engaged and inclusive communities</li> <li>• a greener, more resilient future</li> </ul>	Norfolk County Council
Norfolk Rural Economic Strategy 2021-24	2021	The Norfolk Rural Economic Strategy is refreshed every three years, against a set of guiding principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be ambitious for Rural Norfolk, so it delivers a dynamic, sustainable economy and quality of life for all</li> </ul>	Norfolk County Council

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To make the case for Rural Norfolk to decision makers at every level – from parish to national government</li> <li>• To provide the underpinning evidence base to make the case for investment</li> <li>• To adopt an intervention approach of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Assessing what is already going around the county to address the challenges and opportunities the evidence base and Strategy identify, and pinpoint gaps in provision</li> <li>o Learning from, and working with other areas – our neighbouring counties, rural areas elsewhere in the UK and overseas - to build on best practice models of rural economic development and produce a pipeline of projects that delivers on the themes of the Strategy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Planning Obligation Standards	2022	Sets out the planning obligations requirements the County Council may seek in association with new developments, relating to County Council infrastructure, including schools, libraries and fire service provision.	Norfolk County Council
Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Strategy	2022	Outlines the key opportunities, priorities and potential of the Norfolk and Suffolk New Anglia LEP area for economic growth and innovation.	New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership
<b>Geology, Groundwater and Contaminated Land</b>			
Norfolk's Earth Heritage – valuing our geodiversity	2010	<p>Geodiversity Action Plans (GAPs) provide a new approach to conserving Earth heritage, setting out a management framework for conserving and promoting geology, geomorphology, soils and water resources for a defined area or an organisation.</p> <p>Norfolk's Earth Heritage summarises the county's geodiversity and the threats it faces; it explains the business of geo-conservation; it sets out a vision for conserving and promoting the county's geodiversity, and a number of work priorities and associated action plans for the period 2010-2012.</p>	Norfolk Geodiversity Partnership

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
Norfolk Geodiversity Action Plan	2011	<p>The NGAP presents a set of objectives, actions, agents and timescales for geo-conservation in Norfolk, from 2011 to 2016, in five work areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understanding and auditing our geodiversity resources</li> <li>2. Embedding geodiversity in plans and policies</li> <li>3. Protecting and enhancing our geodiversity resources</li> <li>4. Promoting geodiversity awareness and understanding</li> <li>5. Managing the Norfolk Geodiversity Action Plan</li> </ol>	Norfolk Geodiversity Partnership
<b>Landscape and Biodiversity</b>			
The Brecks Fen Edge and Riverside Landscape Conservation Action Plan		<p>The aims of The Brecks' Fen Edge &amp; Rivers Landscape Partnership Scheme are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Understand, reveal, and celebrate the heritage of The Brecks' fenland edge, rivers and wetlands and raise awareness of the impact of water resource issues on them.</li> <li>· Restore lost ponds, rivers, their margins and other sensitive freshwater habitats.</li> <li>· Reconnect people to the landscape by providing improved opportunities for access including new links, circular walks and recreation activities based on or around water.</li> <li>· Create a legacy of an improved sense of place, with communities more engaged in heritage.</li> </ul>	The Brecks Fen Edge and Riverside Landscape Partnership
Norfolk Green Infrastructure and Recreational impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment Strategy Document	2021	Identifies a detailed programme of County-wide mitigation measures aimed at delivering the mitigation necessary to avoid adverse effects on integrity of the Habitats Sites from the 'in-combination' impacts of recreational impacts at Habitats Sites from residential development including tourist accommodation that is predicted across Norfolk.	Place Services for Norfolk Local Planning Authorities
Securing Biodiversity in	2010	The BBA develops an evidence-based approach to understanding	Paul M. Dolman,

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
Breckland: Guidance for Conservation and Research. First Report of the Breckland Biodiversity Audit		the requirements of priority species and provides guidelines for their conservation. Ecological requirements of priority species for conservation in Breckland have been collated, and synthesised, integrating across numerous individual priority species to produce management guidance for multi-species assemblages.	Christopher J. Panter, Hannah L. Mossman
<b>Waste</b>			
Norfolk Core Strategy, Minerals and Waste Development management Policies DPD and Site Specific Allocations DPD	2011	Provides the planning framework for management and provision of minerals and waste in Norfolk.  Identifies allocations to ensure needs for minerals and waste in minerals in Norfolk can be met over the plan period.  Work is currently underway on preparation of a new Local Plan to replace the three adopted development plan documents.	Norfolk County Council
<b>Heritage, landscape and biodiversity</b>			
Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment	2013	The twin objectives of the Brecks LCA are to: · Provide a technical assessment of the area by developing landscape typologies and descriptions, with guidelines for their future management, together with appropriate digital mapping. · Develop a public-facing narrative that tells the story of the landscape, defining landscape areas that make sense locally and with which people can associate. The intention is that this narrative will help improve people's understanding of the Brecks, their connection to it, and thereby building their 'sense of place'.	Brecks Partnership
Norfolk Historic Environment Record	2022	The Norfolk Historic Environment Record is the comprehensive and definitive record of the historic environment of the county of Norfolk.	Norfolk Historic Environment Service
Norfolk Green Infrastructure Report	2018	The report outlines the work undertaken through the Norfolk Green Infrastructure Mapping Project and identifies and maps the array of GI in Norfolk.	Norfolk County Council



Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
<b>Climate Change, Air Quality, Noise and Water Resources</b>			
Sustainable Water Abstraction	2019	Outlines Anglian Water's approach to ensuring water abstraction in their region is undertaken sustainably and with regard to the requirements to protect and enhance the condition of designated sites. The strategic includes additional consideration of impacts and improvement schemes to support the condition of Coston Fen and the River Wensum.	Anglian Water
Lead Local Flood Authority Statutory Consultee for Planning Guidance Document	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines planning policy with regard to local flood risk and surface water drainage;</li> <li>• Explains the role of the LPA in determining Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) proposals on new developments; and</li> <li>• Outlines the LLFA role as a statutory consultee to planning.</li> <li>• Explains how the LLFA will fulfil this function and when it should be consulted.</li> <li>• Provides guidance for developers on the information required by the LLFA from applicants to enable it to provide responses to major planning applications.</li> </ul>	Norfolk County Council
<b>B4 Breckland District plans, programmes and strategies</b>			
<b>Sustainable Development</b>			
Breckland Council Corporate Plan 2021 to 2025	2021	Priorities for the future are grouped across four key themes: Inspiring Communities Thriving Places Breckland 2035 Working Smarter	Breckland District Council
Breckland Infrastructure Delivery Plan	2017	Sets out array of infrastructure requirements to delivery growth in Breckland including requirements and triggers for key proposals such as the Attleborough Strategic Urban Extension.	Breckland District Council
Breckland Local Plan	2019	Sets out the spatial vision and strategy for the District, with clear economic, social and environmental objectives up to 2036.	Breckland District Council
Neighbourhood Plans	Various	Breckland has seen the preparation or commencement of a number of Neighbourhood Plans across its area. Each provides a framework and approach to planning and	Breckland District Council – and various

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
		consideration of development that is unique to its own neighbourhood.	
Retail and Leisure			
Retail and Town Centre Study	2014	<p>The objectives of the study are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· assess the future need and (residual) capacity for retail, distributed by town centre for the period up to 2026;</li> <li>· assess the existing supply and demand for retail uses and the role played by each of the centres;</li> <li>· review the existing retail hierarchy and identify any deficiencies in the network including, where appropriate, the scope for extending the primary shopping area and/or town centre;</li> <li>· assess the implications of the planned scale of population growth;</li> <li>· identify, where appropriate, the scope and implications for accommodating potential growth and meeting the identified need; and</li> <li>· provide advice on policies to be included in LDF documents to address future needs.</li> </ul>	Lichfields
Employment			
Employment Growth Study (2013) and Update (2017)	2013 and 2017	<p>The main elements of the study involve three stages: Stage 1: Taking Stock of the Existing Situation: analysis of the economic strengths and weaknesses of the local economy, functional economic area, and an assessment of the fitness for purpose of a portfolio of designated employment sites;</p> <p>Stage 2: Assessing Future Requirements: testing the implications of different population/household growth scenarios on future employment space requirements for the district, including latest economic forecasts and housing targets;</p> <p>Stage 3: Identifying a Site Portfolio: analysing the suitability and deliverability of sites available to meet future needs under each growth scenario, which sites should be retained for employment uses and which released for alternative</p>	Lichfields

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
		uses, and any need for additional sites.	
<b>Housing</b>			
Breckland Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020 to 2025	2020	<p>The strategy outlines four key priorities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· To improve access to early housing advice and homelessness prevention services;</li> <li>· To reduce the number of people sleeping rough in Breckland;</li> <li>· To reduce the numbers in temporary accommodation and reduce the reliance of bed and breakfast within two years;</li> <li>· To develop new services and partnerships to improve housing options.</li> </ul>	Breckland District Council
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment	2014	Assesses the suitability, availability and achievability of housing sites across Breckland to inform the Local Plan process.	Breckland District Council
Breckland Housing Strategy. And Homeless Strategy 2017	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The strategy sets out the Council's policies, commitments and programme for a wide range of housing matters, including:</li> <li>• How the council will assist those in housing need, such as the homeless and those living in fuel poverty</li> <li>• The council's priorities for delivering new homes, including homes delivered through the market and homes to support those in housing need</li> <li>• How the council will seek to improve the existing housing stock to support the health and wellbeing needs of residents</li> <li>• How the council will seek to prevent households from experiencing homelessness, and the support that we will seek to provide if they do</li> <li>• How the housing agenda in Breckland over the next four years will contribute towards delivery of the wider ambitions in the council's Corporate Plan, such as our ambitions in relation to the growth of the economy,</li> </ul>	Breckland District Council

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
		supporting vulnerable people and improving health.	
Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment	2016	Identifies the level of need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation in Breckland. Key evidence base document to inform requirement to make appropriate provision within the Local Plan.	ORS, Breckland District Council
Central Norfolk Strategic Housing Market Assessment	2016	A joint evidence base document that reviews housing needs and requirements, needs for specific groups and provision of affordable housing.	ORS, Breckland District Council
Housing Land Supply Statement	2021	Defines the latest update to housing supply against the district's adopted requirement. Informs whether Local Plan policy regarding housing delivery remains up to date.	Breckland District Council
<b>Climate Change and Flood Risk</b>			
Breckland Sustainability Strategy 2021-35 "Breckland 2035" and Programme of Work	2021	The strategy includes a vision for "Breckland Council will work with its residents, businesses and partners to affect positive behavioural change that will lead to it becoming one of the most sustainable rural districts in the country". It sets out the authority will seek to become net zero by 2035. To achieve these aims the strategy defines three strategic pillars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing our own impact as an organisation on the environment.</li> <li>Using regulatory powers and resources to influence behavioural change and drive positive changes around the environment.</li> <li>Enable our communities to take action for themselves.</li> </ul>	Breckland District Council
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	2017	Key recommendations and advice provided through the SFRA set out approaches to securing flood risk reduction via spatial planning and site design, reducing surface water run-off from new developments, enhancing and restoring river corridors, protecting and promoting areas for future flood alleviation schemes and improving flood resilience.	Aecom, Breckland District Council
<b>Heritage, landscape and the Built Environment</b>			

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
Historic Characterisation Study	2017	Sets out the policy framework in which the historic environment is considered and assesses how this has impacted upon the assessment of sites within the Local Plan.	Breckland District Council
Conservation Area Character Appraisals	Various	Describe the special character and appearance of the District's designated conservation areas.	
Breckland District Landscape Character Assessment	2007	The study identifies 6 landscape types in Breckland that are subdivided into a total of 27 component character areas. The six landscape character areas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. River Valleys</li> <li>B. Settled tributary farmland</li> <li>C. The Brecks – plantations</li> <li>D. The Brecks – Heathland with plantation</li> <li>E. Plateau farmland</li> <li>F. Chalk rivers</li> </ul>	LUC
Settlement Fringe Landscape Assessment	2007	This study provided a further detailed assessment building upon the findings of the Breckland Landscape Character Assessment, focused upon 17 settlements across Breckland. The assessment provides an assessment and proposed guidelines for management and development principles for each area.	LUC
Open Space Assessment	2015	Reviews open space in the district and recommends that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Local standard of 2.56ha of open space per 1,000 population should be used for open space provision.</li> <li>· There should be a focus of provision of facilities to address quantitative deficits.</li> <li>· The Local Plan should allocate additional areas of open space.</li> <li>· All new children's play and outdoor sports should be designed in accordance with FIT and Sport England standards.</li> <li>· In terms of outdoor sports, all dwellings in major housing areas must be within 1.2km of outdoor sports areas.</li> <li>· All dwellings should be within 100m of a local area of play, 400m of a local equipped area for play and</li> </ul>	Breckland District Council

Plan or programme	Date of publication	Objectives, requirements or targets relevant to the plan and IA	Source
		1,000m of a neighbourhood equipped area for play.	
<b>Geology, Groundwater and Contaminated Land</b>			
Breckland Contaminated Land Strategy 2021	2021	<p>Breckland's contaminated land strategy reflects the government's policy for contaminated land to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Identify and remove unacceptable risks to human health and the environment.</li> <li>· Seek to ensure that contaminated land is made suitable for its current use.</li> <li>· Ensure that the burdens faced by individuals, companies and society as a whole are proportionate, manageable and compatible with the principles of sustainable development.</li> </ul>	
<b>Air Quality, Noise and Water Resources</b>			
Breckland Water Cycle Study Update	2017	<p>The update issued a range of recommendations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· WW1 – Review of development Phasing to enable wastewater management of development at Attleborough and Dereham,</li> <li>· WW2 – Appropriate assessment of a range of other sites (in the 2019 Local Plan) where capacity of Sewerage Network may be an issue.</li> <li>· WS1 – Water Efficiency in new homes was recommended to enable a move towards a “water neutral position”.</li> <li>· WS2 – Water Efficiency Retrofitting was recommended to improve water efficiency of existing buildings.</li> <li>· WS3 – A programme of Water Efficiency Promotion was recommended.</li> </ul>	Aecom, Breckland District Council
Air Quality Annual Status Report	2021	The 2021 report updates measures of air quality in Breckland District Council and the actions being undertaken to help improve air quality.	Breckland District Council