



Drivers and issues

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National requirements

Climate Change Adaptation Management plan

The government’s 2023 Climate Adaptation Strategy under the Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) requires Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnerships to have produced, embedded in or linked a strategy with their management plans **by 2028**, and in all future plans.

Note: *National Landscapes Management Plans 2025 30 alignment activity.* Acting on Climate change risk assessments and mitigation. Support National Landscapes with identifying their climate (high soil carbon stock density) and nature (habitat complexes) synergy, via the carbon audit & metric interactive pdf maps (and any other material). Cut greenhouse gas (GHG) data to all National Landscape boundaries using the available dataset. Create and pre-populate a ‘pathway to net zero’ framework plan for each National Landscape.

Nature Recovery Strategies

Under section 105 of the Environment Act 2021, a local nature recovery strategy for an area is to be prepared and published by the responsible authority. Section 40(2A) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (duty to conserve biodiversity) makes provision about the duties of public authorities in relation to local nature recovery strategies. The responsible authority for a local nature recovery strategy is such one of the following:

- a) a local authority whose area is, or is within, the strategy area;
- b) the Mayor of London;

- c) the mayor for the area of a combined authority established under section 103 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009;
- d) a National Park authority in England;
- e) the Broads Authority;
- f) Natural England.

Local nature recovery strategies are a system of spatial strategies for nature and environmental improvement required by law under the Act. Each strategy must:

- agree priorities for nature’s recovery
- map the most valuable existing areas for nature
- map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals

Colchester Declaration 2019

The Colchester Declaration is a collective Declaration on Nature in AONBs, setting out a collective strategy for change. The AONBs (now National Landscapes) pledge:

By July 2020

- To enable an approach that creates opportunities within AONBs for people to make an emotional connection with nature.
- To prepare a Nature Recovery Plan for each AONB

By 2024

- To embed an ecosystems services approach into all AONB Management Plans
- To ensure all AONB management plans include meaningful measures around climate change mitigation and adaptation, including clear, measurable targets to support Net Zero

By 2030

- That at least 200,000 ha of SSSIs in AONBs will be in favourable condition
- That at least 100,000 ha of wildlife-rich habitat outside of protected sites will have been created/restored in AONBs to further support the natural movement of plants and animals
- That at least 36,000 ha of new woodland will have been planted or allowed to regenerate in AONBs following the principle of the right tree in the right place
- That, by each AONB immediately adopting a species on the threatened list and by preparing and delivering a Species Action Plan, at least thirty species relevant to AONBs will be taken off the list by 2030

Note: *National Landscapes Management Plans 2025-30 alignment activity.* Acting to create a set of principles, including linking to the following:

- National Landscape Nature Recovery Plans- how to pull out key targets and actions into the adopted/ statutory National Landscape Management Plans;
- National targets (EIP) and apportionment;
- 30x30;
- Champion species.

Need to agree the relationship between Nature Recovery Plans and the statutory Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

Defra Environmental Improvement Plan 2023

Defra’s 3 Environmental Improvement Plan Outcomes

To support Protected Landscapes in meeting their huge potential for nature, climate, people and place Defra is setting ambitious targets for National Parks and National Landscapes. These targets will promote the

actions that are most needed to achieve positive changes. They will set the ambition for how Defra expects Protected Landscapes to achieve 3 outcomes from the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023:

- Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife
- Goal 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Goal 10: Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment

Defra's 10 Environmental Improvement Plan Targets

The Protected Landscape targets are non-statutory and create a shared ambition for all 44 of England's Protected Landscapes. The targets are for the Protected Landscapes as places (the geographic area covered by the designation). Action will be coordinated by Protected Landscape bodies through their statutory management plan.

Thriving plants and wildlife targets:

- Target 1 Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline).
- Target 2 Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042.
- Target 3 For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.
- Target 4 Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042.
- Target 5 Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030.

Mitigating and adapting to climate change targets:

- Target 6 Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.
- Target 7 Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050.
- Target 8 Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).

Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment targets:

- Target 9 Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme.
- Target 10 Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.

We must introduce the Outcomes and Targets Framework, which will become a core external driver of a Management Plan. National targets set by the Framework may be apportioned to Protected Landscapes based on their landscape characteristics (see above). The targets are set at a national level for all 44 landscapes as a collective. Each individual Protected Landscape body, working with relevant local partners, will set their own individual contribution, **which will be embedded in their management plan.**

New NE management planning guidance

The guidance is still in draft (and may change) but we should consider what is presented and decide what approaches to take. The guidance is just that; it offers advice albeit following extensive consultation and collaboration.

Title

Management Plans' titling has varied in the past, and consistent titling would be helpful across the family to identify Plans as the statutory Plan for the designation under the legislation. Plans could include a subtitle that reflects the individual needs of the Protected Landscape, for example, to reinforce the need to act jointly.

Example title:

The Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan
2024-2029
Working in Partnership to care for our Protected Landscape

What does the Partnership want on the cover of their plan? The Guidance uses AONB – Cotswolds used National Landscape. What has the collective decided?

The Big Issue!

Nature recovery and climate change are the most significant, long-term issues for Protected Landscapes. Therefore, it is essential to address nature and climate within Management Plan ambition, strategy, and guidance and be clear about how this information relates to other nature and climate-related policies, plans and strategies. A strategy that can translate swiftly into impactful action is critical.

Management Plans should establish priority objectives for all partners and develop guidance and direction for others and seek to influence the primary delivery mechanisms through which positive action can happen. Protected Landscapes have an essential role in establishing the evidence base for Nature Recovery and Climate Change and have already made progress in the production of supporting nature and climate plans.

You would expect the guidance to say this but we need to sort out the hierarchy of plans. Not sure Defra or NE have addressed this. E.g., a LNRS is a high-level strategy document – does it direct the management plan or does the management plan direct it? In this guidance you are told to influence the decisions by providing evidence and data; this is an expensive task.

Structure

Plans require a few elements which make them useable and identifiable as statutory documents.

- Navigation/ contents
- Date of adoption
- Copyright conditions
- Acknowledgements and photo credits
- Protected Landscape's team contact details
- Logos of partners and links

Background and context

- A map of UK Protected Landscapes and a description of the Protected Landscapes family, umbrella bodies and Protected Landscapes Partnership
- A summary of main pieces of legislation
- Responsibilities and duties - Legal responsibility for the designation and the Duty of Regard
- The purpose and status of a Management Plan, the Partnership, and the principle of acting jointly
- The local and national legislative and policy framework and key changes since the last Plan
- Relationship with local plans and strategies
- The National Outcomes Framework targets
- The Protected Landscapes family, the representative body and the IUCN category V landscapes

Special qualities

The text should express why the AONB is special and unique and worthy of statutory protection.

When the Management Plan is reviewed, a first step should be to check whether the special qualities in the current Plan still articulate the natural beauty of the designation. In addition, the review should check whether there are other special qualities that should be added, or indeed any that have been lost or significantly harmed.

Some Management Plans provide evocative descriptions of the designation, which enable the reader to get a strong sense of why the place is special and unique (sometimes referred to as a 'Special Qualities'). However, long descriptive text alone can be difficult to interpret and use, especially when applied to planning decisions or to inform the appropriate siting and design of a development proposal. It is therefore strongly recommended that concise, clearly worded statements for each special quality are provided. These should be timeless – i.e. reflecting the justification for designation – factual, and avoid the use of technical jargon.

It is also recommended that the Management Plan describes (where appropriate) how the special qualities vary across the designated area to distinguish between different localities.

The criterion for assessing natural beauty, which underpins the first purpose of AONB designations, was established by Natural England and covers the following aspects:

- landscape quality, where natural or man-made landscape is good quality
- scenic quality, such as striking coastal landforms
- relative wildness, such as distance from housing or having few roads
- relative tranquillity, where natural sounds, such as streams or birdsong are predominant
- natural heritage features, such as distinctive geology or species and habitat
- cultural heritage, which can include the built environment that makes the area unique, such as archaeological remains or historic parkland

The above list can also act as a prompt and structure for setting out the special qualities. Natural England recommends that this structure is adopted.

We must review our Special Qualities section and see if changes would be beneficial. There is a logical to ordering material to match the designation criterion.

Management principles

Management principles should be:

- detailed enough to be useful to others
- focused on the critical delivery mechanisms
- relevant for the whole Plan period, although many will have a lifespan beyond just one Management Plan
- supportive, adding value to the work of deliverers and decision-takers
- focused on best practice to achieve the outcomes of a specific Protected Landscape
- focused on guiding positive condition and addressing the main issues and drivers identified in the evidence
- non-generic and focused on places, locations, and key aspects of individual Protected Landscapes
- written with the deliverer and the delivery mechanism in mind
- focused on providing guidance to deliver outcomes
- written in plain English and easy to understand
- unambiguous and not open to interpretation
- encouraging delivery and enabling accountability
- providing sufficient guidance as to be achievable
- focused on achieving the benefits of the outcomes and the strategy

Planning principles set out in a Plan can provide helpful assistance to decision-makers in the interpretation of the broad policies set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and have an important role in setting out local issues, priorities and proposals to be taken forward via the planning process. Elements where interpretation may be useful include:

- Valued landscapes,
- Undeveloped coast
- Natural Beauty
- Significant habitats and species
- Tranquillity and noise
- Reaffirmation of 'great weight'
- Mitigation of landscape and visual impact
- What constitutes a major development?
- Impacts on recreational opportunities and access

Kent Downs AONB Management Plan contains a relatively succinct set of principles under each Plan chapter. The principles provide clarity on a preferred approach and stating clearly what would be encouraged. <https://kentdowns.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/The-Kent-Downs-AONB-Management-Plan-2021-2026-Adopted.pdf>

Standard text proposed

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty has one single purpose – the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty. AONB Conservation Boards have a duty to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the area of outstanding natural beauty, and in doing so co-operate with Local Authorities and public bodies whose functions include the promotion of economic or social development within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Duty of Regard

In addition to the duties placed on the Responsible Authorities, the legislation establishes a legal duty on a broader set of public bodies (termed Relevant Authorities) to 'have regard' to the purposes of Protected Landscapes when carrying out their work. The duty also applies to directors and councillors working for Relevant Authorities.

Specifically, legislation states that, "in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in these areas, relevant authorities shall have regard to their purposes"

Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

The duties apply to any decisions or activities an authority may take affecting land in these areas, not just those related to narrowly-defined environmental or 'countryside' issues. It may be the case that the activities of certain authorities operating outside the boundaries of the designation may have an impact. In such cases, the duty would also apply. The duties do not override obligations or considerations relevant authorities must consider in carrying out any function. However, they intend to ensure the purposes of designation are recognised as essential in reaching decisions or undertaking activities that impact those areas. Relevant authorities are expected to be able to demonstrate that they have fulfilled these duties. Where their decisions may affect National Parks, AONBs, or the Broads, they should be able to clearly show how they have considered the purposes of these areas in their decision-making.

What is a management plan?

A Protected Landscape Management Plan is statutory in that the Responsible Authority (Local Authorities with Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) is required by law to produce them and review it every five years.

Management Plans are of national importance. No major decisions should be taken affecting the future of a Protected Landscape without reference to its Management Plan. The Management Plan, in its entirety, establishes the management policy of the Responsible Authority.

The Management Plan for the geographic area of the designation and not for any one authority or body. As a strategic over-arching document that coordinates and integrates other policies, plans and strategies where these relate to the purposes and duties. The Management Plan is, therefore, the principal vehicle for ensuring that the statutory purposes of the Protected Landscape are met.

The Management Plan aims to

- Describe the significant attributes of the designation
- Summarise the trends in the condition of the landscape and quality of life for people living and working in it
- Briefly the drivers for change and issues acting on the designation
- Present ambition and strategy to achieve the purposes of the designation
- Establish management principles to guide the activity and decisions of others
- Establish measures of progress and success
- Identify the who, how, and when of delivery

The review of the Management Plan and the management of Malvern Hills is a shared task for all. The review process is vital in securing commitment to act jointly to conserve and enhance the landscape, galvanizing collaborative action. As well as being a statutory requirement, a five-year review of the AONB Management Plan is necessary to ensure continuing relevance considering changing circumstances, new drivers, and adaptive learning from implementation.

Has the Partnership agreed to simply lift and use the standard text without addition or amendment?

Local development plans¹

Forest of Dean Council

Currently using the same plan as last time, it runs up until 2026.

Consultation for the new plan starts in 2024 – the new National Landscape Management Plan should seek to embed appropriate policies.

We should also consider any relevant issues papers that are published.

Gloucestershire County Council

Minerals plan 2018-2032

Policy DM09 | Landscape

Mineral development proposals will be permitted where it can be demonstrated they have been informed by, are sympathetic to, and wherever practicable, will support the enhancement of the character, features and qualities of the landscape character areas or types of the relevant NCAs and LCAs that form the Gloucestershire Landscape Character Assessment.

¹ Precis from the new guidance - Careful consideration of the planning content of a Management Plan is needed and how it can inform and complement statutory development plans (Spatial Development Strategies, Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans). The development plan for the area is produced by the Local Authority(s) for AONBs. The emphasis is on providing evidence on the special qualities to be conserved and enhanced and adding value through focused planning related principles. The Management Plan should provide vital information to inform both planning policy and decisions. Where planning content is integrated throughout a Management Plan, a summary for planning practitioners can be valuable.

Part a | Outside of AONB landscape designations (excluding those areas that form part of the setting of an AONB)

Within undesignated valued landscapes or landscape designations other than AONBs unacceptable adverse impacts on the defining character, features and qualities of these areas must be avoided or satisfactorily mitigated.

Part b | AONB designations and other areas that form part of the setting of an AONB

Mineral development proposals within or that affect the setting of the Cotswolds, Wye Valley or Malvern Hills AONBs will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated: -

- I. they will not prejudice the conservation of the character, features and qualities of the landscapes and scenic beauty of the AONB and that account will have been given to the conservation of wildlife and cultural heritage;
- II. adverse impacts on the special qualities of the AONB as defined by the AONB Management Plan (specifically concerning the environment, landscape and recreational opportunities) will be avoided or satisfactorily mitigated; and
- III. opportunities will be taken to support the enhancement of the character, features and qualities of the landscapes and scenic beauty of the AONB as promoted through the relevant AONB Management Plan.

Mineral development proposals within or that affect the setting of the Cotswolds, Wye Valley and Malvern Hills AONBs, that are defined as major development will only be permitted under exceptional circumstances. All of the relevant criteria set out above in part b must be satisfied. In addition, proposals must be in the public interest by demonstrating:

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- I. there is an overriding need to work and / or process the mineral, including national considerations;
- II. the local economy will not be subject to unacceptable adverse impacts; and
- III. alternative non-AONB sources of mineral supply, which are no more constrained, will not be available on practicality and viability grounds.

Strong policies; need to establish a monitoring framework to make sure they are followed through

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/zhuf1sp0/minerals-local-plan-for-gloucestershire-adopted-march-2020-reduced-version.pdf>

Waste plan 2012

Core Policy WCS14 – Landscape

General Landscape

Proposals for waste development will be permitted where they do not have a significant adverse effect on the local landscape as identified in the Landscape Character Assessment or unless the impact can be mitigated. Where significant adverse impacts cannot be fully mitigated, the social, environmental and economic benefits of the proposal must outweigh any harm arising from the impacts.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Proposals for waste development within or affecting the setting of the Cotswolds, Wye Valley and Malvern Hills Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:

- There is a lack of alternative sites not affecting the AONB to serve the market need; and
- The impact on the special qualities of the AONB as defined by the relevant management plan (including the landscape setting and recreational opportunities) can be satisfactorily mitigated; and
- The proposal complies with other relevant development plan policies.

In the case of major development within the AONB, a proven public interest must be demonstrated. Planning permission will only be granted in exceptional circumstances following the most rigorous examination and subject to the criteria above.

The County Council will continue to work in partnership with the respective AONB Conservation Boards and/or Joint Advisory Committees to help deliver the vision and objectives of the AONB Management Plans and Waste Core Strategy (WCS).

Strong policies; need to establish a monitoring framework to make sure they are followed through

https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/p3kxbtv1/adopted_wcs_211112-53886.pdf

Herefordshire Unitary Council

Integrated waste management strategy 2021-2035

No mention of the National Landscape or protected landscapes.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/23473/integrated-waste-management-strategy-2021-2035>

Local plan and Transport have not been replaced - same policies as before.

Malvern Hills District Council

Local plan has not yet been replaced - same policies as before; but a review started.

In 2023, the South Worcestershire Councils formally submitted the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review and associated evidence base documents to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

Consultation for the new plan started in 2023 – the new National Landscape Management Plan should seek to embed appropriate policies.

We should also consider any relevant issues papers that are published.

<https://www.localplanservices.co.uk/swdpreview>

Worcestershire County Council

Minerals and waste Local development scheme 22-25

No mention of the National Landscape or protected landscapes.

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/Mineral_and_Waste_LDS_July_2022_to_June_2025.pdf

Waste Plan the same – nothing specific for the AONB.

New Minerals local plan 2018-2036

Much of the crushed rock resource in Worcestershire is in areas with the highest levels of international and national designations, as outlined below:

- Of the land containing Malverns Complex and Warren House Formation deposits in Worcestershire:
 - 99.6% is within the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; and
 - 8.9% is controlled by the Malvern Hills Conservators who own the mineral rights and have a unique responsibility “to save the beauty of the Hills and protect them from the threat of quarrying”.
- Of the land containing limestone deposits in Worcestershire:
 - 37.4% is within 2.5km of the Bredon Hill Special Area of Conservation (SAC);
 - 93.7% is within the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership supports the re-use of local stone in the repair of historic buildings and to add character to new development in and around Malvern. It is helping to facilitate the recovery and storage of stone for this purpose where buildings or walls are demolished and where stone is excavated as part of building works.

If this is true, we need to make sure that the Management Plan says so – with a supportive policy.

Policy MLP 33: Landscape

Planning permission will be granted where it is demonstrated that the proposed mineral development will conserve and enhance the character and distinctiveness of the landscape.

A level of technical assessment appropriate to the proposed development and its potential impact on the landscape will be required to demonstrate that, throughout its lifetime, and taking into account the cumulative effects of multiple impacts from the site and/or a number of sites in the locality, the proposed development will:

- a) optimise opportunities to enhance inherent landscape character, integrating other green infrastructure components where appropriate;
- b) not have an unacceptable adverse effect on the inherent landscape character. The benefits of the proposal will be balanced against the significance of any impacts where the proposed development is likely to:
 - i. result in significant change to the key characteristics of the landscape identified in the Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment and Worcestershire Historic Landscape Characterisation; or
 - ii. introduce landscape features that conflict with, or dilute, the inherent landscape character of the area; and
- c) not have an unacceptable adverse effect on an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, taking into account its special qualities and the provisions of the relevant Management Plan:
 - i. great weight will be given to conserving and enhancing the landscape and scenic beauty of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and proposals within them will be refused except in exceptional circumstances and where it is demonstrated that the proposed development is in the public interest; and
 - ii. where the proposed development would affect the setting of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, regard will be given to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Strong policy; need to establish a monitoring framework to make sure it is followed through

[https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan 2018 2036 .pdf](https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/Worcestershire_Minerals_Local_Plan_2018_2036_.pdf)

Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 4 2018-2030

The Worcestershire Local Transport Plan focuses on attracting and supporting economic investment and growth, by delivering transport infrastructure and services to tackle congestion and improve quality of life. Worcestershire's new Local Transport Plan (LTP4) was adopted on 9 November 2017. The outcomes of this consultation can be seen in the Consultation Report.

Only reference to the National Landscape - The area of South Worcestershire is made up of the rural districts of Malvern Hills and Wychavon, and the City of Worcester. There are two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); the Malvern Hills to the west and the Cotswolds to the south and east. These AONBs are underpinned by plans which formulate local authority policy in relation to the management of these nationally important landscapes, including any transport issues.

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-09/appendix_b_ltp4_strategy_main_doc_2_.pdf

Climate emergency

The government's 2023 Climate Adaptation Strategy requires AONB Partnerships to have produced a strategy embedded in or linked with their management plans by 2028.

How will this link to the council's plans? The 20230 targets vary between councils from carbon-neutral to just a 50% reduction.

Forest of Dean Council

Forest of Dean District Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2018, making a pledge to make the Council and the district carbon-neutral by 2030. It says it is actively engaged in pursuing a low carbon future and requires new development to be designed to adapt to climate change.

<https://www.fdean.gov.uk/media/tcqxexqu/climate-emergency-strategy-and-action-plan-2022-2025-version-jan-2023.pdf>

- Prioritise actions that will help reduce emissions from road transport in the district.

- Establish a positive planning policy framework for maximising the use of renewables within new developments, and opportunities for the deployment of larger scale renewable energy generation.
- Explore and identify ways that the Council can help facilitate an increase in the retrofit of existing buildings.
- Identify ways of supporting industry to use renewable energy to substitute for fossil fuels used during industrial installations.
- Identify ways of supporting the implementation of carbon sequestering and ecologically regenerative land management and farming practices in the district.
- Support partners to promote and facilitate the development of local low carbon skills.
- Explore ways to reduce emissions from waste and encourage a circular economy.

Tyndall Centre 2024 - Setting Climate Commitments for Forest of Dean

<https://carbonbudget.manchester.ac.uk/reports/E07000080/>

Based on our analysis, for Forest of Dean to make its 'fair' contribution towards the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the following recommendations should be adopted:

1. Stay within a maximum cumulative carbon dioxide emissions budget of 3.1 million tonnes (MtCO₂) for the period of 2020 to 2100. At 2017 CO₂ emission levels, Forest of Dean would use this entire budget within 7 years from 2020.
2. Initiate an immediate programme of CO₂ mitigation to deliver cuts in emissions averaging a minimum of -13.6% per year to deliver a Paris aligned carbon budget. These annual reductions in emissions require national and local action, and could be part of a wider collaboration with other local authorities.
3. Reach zero or near zero carbon no later than 2041. This report provides an indicative CO₂ reduction pathway that stays within the recommended maximum carbon budget of 3.1 MtCO₂. At 2041 5% of the budget remains. This represents very low levels of residual CO₂ emissions by this time, or the Authority may opt to forgo these residual emissions and cut emissions to zero at this point. Earlier years for reaching zero CO₂ emissions are also within the recommended budget, provided that interim budgets with lower cumulative CO₂ emissions are also adopted.

Gloucestershire County Council

Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy

<https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/documents/s77480/20221222%20Cabinet%20Glos%20Climate%20Change%20Strategy%20Annual%20Report%20FINAL%20v2.pdf>

Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy – Fourth Annual Report and Action Plan. This report summarises the progress that has been made in 2022-23, and proposed actions over the next 5 years.

Our Vision and Targets

- By 2045 we will create a net zero county that provides quality of life now and for future generations, having improved the quality of our natural environment.
- By 2030 Gloucestershire County Council will have reduced our corporate carbon emissions by 80% on 2005.

Corporate targets are:

- to reduce our carbon emissions (buildings, street lighting, fleet, business travel) by 80% by 2030 (from the 2006/07 baseline); and
- to aim for 100% ('net zero') by 2030 through both reduction and carbon offsetting.

The key target for the geographical area of Gloucestershire is for:

- Gloucestershire to be Net Zero by 2045, with a reduction in carbon emissions by 80% by 2030 on 2005.

Best practice in carbon offsetting will be followed with reductions in emissions prioritised over offsetting. Will increase flood resilience, plant trees, support BNG and prepare a NRP

<https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/documents/s97267/For%20Cabinet%20-%20Annex%201%20Fourth%20Annual%20Report%20on%20Climate%20Change%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

GFirst LEP

Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Strategy January 2019 – as before.

To meet long-term targets, new planning policies need (a) to ensure that all new developments contribute to reducing carbon emissions rather than increasing them and are resilient to climate change and (b) to enable the growth of renewable energy generation and smart energy infrastructure, taking appropriate account of landscape sensitivities.

<https://www.gfirstlep.com/downloads/2019/gloucestershire-energy-strategy-2019.pdf>

Herefordshire Unitary Council

Pathway to Carbon Neutral

Expect to reduce emissions (relative to 2008/09 baseline) by 75% by 2025/26. We then have five more years to get to carbon neutral. We believe we will be able to reduce our carbon emissions significantly although there are likely to be some residual emissions which we will not be able to reduce to zero.

Offsetting and sequestration will have an important role to play in the council achieving carbon neutral and we will be considering how best to implement this over the coming months. One option will likely be through carbon sequestration which is the act of locking away carbon by using methods such as tree planting.

Adaptation to climate change needs to form part of an integrated risk management strategy to increase our resilience to and mitigate the impacts of severe weather events and the associated human and economic costs.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/20530/carbon-management-plan-2020-21-to-2025-26>

Malvern Hills District Council

Climate change Destination Zero

To lead Malvern Hills District to become carbon neutral as quickly as possible and by 2050 at the latest, with at least a 50% reduction in the district's carbon footprint by 2030.

- Priority 1: Make Malvern Hills District Council's operations carbon neutral by 2030
- Priority 2: Encourage low carbon development and design measures to improve resilience and adaptation to climate change
- Priority 3: Improve the energy efficiency of homes across the district
- Priority 4: Encourage low carbon Travel
- Priority 5: Support businesses to become more energy efficient
- Priority 6: Reduce the amount of waste going for landfill or incineration from the district's households and businesses
- Priority 7: Use tree planting, pollinator sites, wetlands, wildflower meadows and other natural measures to capture and store carbon

<https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/component/fileman/file/Documents/About%20Your%20Council/Destination%20Zero.pdf?routed=1&container=fileman-files>

Worcestershire County Council

Shaping WORCESTERSHIRE'S Future: our plan for Worcestershire 2022-2027

The Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027 is a refresh of the previous plan, with these four key areas continuing to be the four pillars by which the Council does business. These are:

1. open for business
2. children and families
3. the environment
4. health and wellbeing

The environment - Our Net Zero Carbon Plan outlines our commitment to reducing the Council's carbon emissions across several areas, including emissions from household waste disposal, council buildings, street lighting and through partnership working with contractors. We are working with key partners such as the NHS, the University and 'blue-light' services to understand our respective net zero strategies and how we can best support each other achieve our green ambitions.

Our investment in transport infrastructure has included provision of Worcestershire Parkway, the first new rail station in the County for 100 years, and major improvements to Kidderminster Station. We have a programme to enhance and increase car and cycle parking at stations to meet demand, including new EV charging points. We have secured extra funding for walking and cycling in the County, including plans for Kepax and Hampton bridges, and we're working in partnership with our Borough, City and District councils to secure extra resources through external funding. With this brings the benefit of reducing emissions whilst also contributing to healthier, active lifestyles. We are also investing in the 4,600 km of public rights of way we maintain to encourage people to explore the beauty Worcestershire has to offer.

To enhance our Environment, we are planting 150,000 trees across the County creating new woodlands whilst also being a pollinator friendly and environmentally conscious Council when working with suppliers and contractors. We are now purchasing 100% green electricity and accelerating our programme to convert our streetlights to efficient LED bulbs. We are also providing advice and grants to help businesses and organisations across the County cut carbon emissions, improve biodiversity and develop and grow low and zero carbon products and services. We recognise the scale of the net zero challenge, and we will work closely with our partners and residents to achieve our collective ambitions

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/Corporate%20Plan%202022.pdf>

Energy Strategy (Worcestershire LEP) 2018

Only mentions the National Landscape in the glossary.

Vision: By 2030, Worcestershire will have a thriving low carbon economy which supports the creation of high-value jobs, and stimulates investment and clean growth across the county.

We will have high-quality energy-efficient housing stock and a robust, diverse energy infrastructure, underpinned by low carbon generation which utilises Worcestershire's unique local resources.

Promoting low carbon transport and active travel

Electric vehicle chargepoint provision is suitable for current levels of electric vehicle take-up, with an existing spine of motorway chargepoints and destination chargepoints in urban centres. However, the likely future trajectory of electric vehicle ownership will require substantial further investment in this area, particularly in rural areas. Worcestershire needs a coherent strategy in place to meet these challenges.

Reducing carbon emissions from transport will also be enabled through a greater shift towards use of public transport and increasing the use of active modes of travel such as walking and cycling. This is being developed through the Local Transport Plan with the implementation of active travel infrastructure such as cycle paths to link urban centres with public transport hubs.

Worcestershire County Council, in collaboration with partners, should develop an EV strategy to set policy measures and bring forward initiatives that can be used to encourage the uptake of EVs.

<https://www.wlep.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/P3695-Worcestershire-Energy-Strategy-Strategy-with-glossary.pdf>

Nature recovery

Forest of Dean Council

Not required to produce a NRP but does have a Biosphere Reserve proposal.

Plan talks mainly of the Wye Valley AONB but it is possible that the BR could touch the Cotswolds and Malvern Hills NLS – would give opportunities for biodiversity corridors. An AONB is seen as a suitable area for a buffer zone.

<https://www.fdean.gov.uk/media/dp1bevid/boundaries-for-a-fod-unesco-biosphere-june-2023.pdf>

Gloucestershire County Council

Nature Recovery Strategy - A draft version of the LNRS is likely to be circulated for public consultation in 2024.

Will there be consultation for the new strategy – the new National Landscape Management Plan should seek to embed appropriate policies?

We should also consider any relevant issues papers that are published.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/ecology-and-landscape/a-nature-recovery-strategy-for-gloucestershire/>

The new National Landscape Management Plan should seek to embed appropriate policies.

Herefordshire Unitary Council

No LNRS as yet

Worcestershire County Council

Local Nature Recovery Strategy issues and options consultation was live until the 23 February 2024. The draft LNRS will be published for consultation later in 2024.

The following potential opportunities for nature recovery in Worcestershire are suggested:

1. Protected landscapes and their settings (Worcestershire's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty).
2. Sites listed as locally important for nature conservation (Local Wildlife Sites, Local Geological Sites, Local Nature Reserves, Roadside Verge Nature Reserves).
3. Greener towns and villages.
4. Supporting pollinators.
5. Improving water quality and availability.
6. Restoration of rivers and wetland habitats in the floodplain.
7. Trees in the landscape.
8. Restoration of lowland heathland and acid grassland.
9. Restoration of soils and soil health.
10. Conservation of key species or species groups.

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/planning-and-developments/environmental-policy/worcestershire-local-nature-recovery-strategy>

Background papers:

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/planning-and-developments/environmental-policy/worcestershire-local-nature-recovery-strategy/worcestershire-local-nature-recovery>

Consultation for the new strategy starts in 2024 – the new National Landscape Management Plan should seek to embed appropriate policies.

We should also consider any relevant issues papers that are published.

Regenerative tourism

Gloucestershire County Council

Working with the Local Enterprise Partnership to develop a new economic strategy. The strategy will support the county's short-term economic priorities for the next five years and provide a long-term view to 2050.

Will there be consultation for the new strategy – the new National Landscape Management Plan should seek to embed appropriate policies?

We should also consider any relevant issues papers that are published.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/grow-gloucestershire/developing-a-new-economic-strategy-for-gloucestershire/>

GFirst LEP

Agri-Food and Rural Economy Report for Gloucestershire

Growing high value tourism by promoting Gloucestershire's year-round attractiveness through its landscape, food offer and heritage as short breaks and longer stays grow.

Local farm diversification is undervalued, because Gloucestershire is prosperous, very accessible and has World class protected landscapes, particularly the Cotswolds, which are very attractive to visitors. As a result its farms are more diversified than in other areas of the country and thus the estimated value of farm diversification in Gloucestershire is estimated as being 50% larger than a national average would suggest, or an estimated £41.5m of additional turnover and £22.2m of GVA in 2017. This has the result of increasing the sector's GVA by over 20%.

The landscape is critical for the rest of the economy and is 'borrowed' by the wider economy, though both assisting with place making so that the county is attractive to workers and investors, and directly through providing the landscape which attracts tourists.

Background interest

<https://www.gfirstlep.com/about-us/our-vision/agri-food-and-rural-economy-report-for-gloucestershire/>

Herefordshire Unitary Council

2050 Economic Plan

Part of vision - A zero carbon and nature-rich county, with a leading reputation for local energy solutions, enhanced natural landscapes, clean rivers and improved biodiversity.

Background interest

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/24923/2050-economic-plan>

Malvern Hills District Council

Visitor economy action plan updated to 2025

To be Recognised as a 'Green' Tourism Destination: We want The Malverns to be leaders in sustainable tourism development with the Malvern Hills District Council 'Destination Zero' Plan being adopted by tourism industry stakeholders; leading to an increase in the number of tourism businesses and events offering a green tourism experience, and signing up to be a recognised green tourism business via an accreditation scheme, including the new Green Mark for the Malverns.

We will encourage new product development around our key themes – green tourism, health and well-being, countryside, heritage, culture, local food and drink and creativity.

Visitors will be looking to give something back to help the local community and natural environment.

There are links to regenerative tourism in this statement. Regenerative tourism represents a sustainable way of travelling and discovering new places. Its main goal is for visitors to have a positive impact on their holiday destination meaning that they leave it in a better condition than how they found it.

Sustainable tourism is leaving something as it is so that it stays the same; that is, not causing any extra damage.

<https://www.visitthemalverns.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/VTM-Action-Plan-2021-WEB-3.pdf>

<https://www.malvernhills.gov.uk/business-support-and-jobs/visitor-economy-action-plan>

Worcestershire County Council

Worcestershire Destination Management Plan: Growing our billion-pound visitor economy 2024-2029

AONBs are to be the target for marketing young activities

Green spaces – From the iconic rolling Malvern Hills to the UK’s largest ancient woodland, Worcestershire offers beautiful countryside in which to walk, cycle, or horse ride.

Objectives - three inter-related areas of focus to guide the action flowing from this Plan.

- Objective one: Developing the Worcestershire Experience with increased product and a focus on business support which puts our key themes of sustainability and access for all at the heart of what we do. Creating the right environment for sector growth.
- Objective two: Raising awareness about what is special and distinctive about tourism in Worcestershire encouraging visits from our target markets and attracting higher value staying visitors.
- Objective three: Ensuring our infrastructure is ready for growth and investment while delivering an outstanding welcome across all visitor touch points which will create a positive impression and result in positive advocacy for the county.

<https://visit-worcs.files.svdcn.com/production/assets/images/Visit-Worcestershire-Brochure-2024-WEB.pdf?v=1710156134>

Health and Wellbeing

The National Landscape needs to address health and wellbeing issues as well as inclusion issues. This means that we must consider the hinterland / setting of the AONB. Do we have knowledge of travel times to the area (private and public transport) and convenience of access?

Gloucestershire County Council

Active communities – community capacity building

The action plan will remain aligned to the principles of this policy and the ethos of community capacity building.

- An asset based approach: recognising and building on the strengths that exist within each local community including the people, facilities, places and environments.
- A needs-based approach: The Council should prioritise its support for those communities where need is greatest
- A shared approach: Looking for shared priorities and co-producing shared solutions so that plans take account of what is important to and what works in each community.
- A local approach that allows people to take control of the process, helps them to decide which outcomes matter most and finds solutions that suit the local circumstances. This means that solutions will look different in different communities
- An empowering approach that recognises the legitimacy of different voices within the community and give local people the opportunity to express their views, develop consensus and take action. As a council, we will be willing to participate without taking charge.

- A partnership approach: We will work with other parts of the public sector, voluntary and community groups to develop common approaches to building capacity.
- An inclusive approach: Ensuring that the voice of under-represented groups is heard within communities and that communities include all views and backgrounds.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/3soh2p54/10-active-communities-policy-document.pdf>

Herefordshire Unitary Council

Herefordshire Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-2033

Four ambitions:

1. Thriving Communities - Our communities will foster wellbeing and resilience, where children and young people feel safe, loved, valued, and grow up with the confidence and skills to be the best that they can be. There will be a sense of belonging for people of all ages through meaningful connections where people know and trust each other, feel welcomed and represented, and are empowered to shape their local communities.
2. Healthy and Sustainable Places - People will grow, learn, live and work in environments that prioritise health and wellbeing where the healthy choice is the easy choice. Our neighbourhoods will be designed to create healthier and safer environments where there will be greater opportunities to be physically active and access healthy and affordable, locally produced food. More people will live in good quality and affordable homes that are adequately heated and protected from environmental hazards such as flooding. Other environmental risks like air and river pollution will be managed and minimised so that people can safely experience the great outdoors and benefit from it.
3. Opportunity for all - There will be improved access to quality education and fair employment opportunities, with those who come from disadvantaged groups able to get jobs that pay a living wage, which enables them to improve the standard of living for themselves, their families and their community. There will be a progressive and inclusive local economy that creates the right jobs for people and thus plays a key role in aiding greater social mobility and closing the inequalities gap
4. Healthy People - People will be empowered to take control of their health to lead healthy lives by reducing risky behaviours. Everyone will have equitable access to the information, services and preventative support they need, enabling them to access the right service at the right time and reducing avoidable use of public services. This will include utilising technology and digital solutions to support self-care.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/1500/county-plan-2020-24>

Active and Healthy Herefordshire – Herefordshire’s Physical Activity Strategy 2021-2026

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/24300/physical-activity-strategy>