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Strategic  
Environmental  
Scoping Report  
for the 2025/30  
National  
Landscape  
Management  
Plan

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Malvern Hills  
National  
Landscape  
Partnership

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Craggatak Consulting  
24th June 2024

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## Contents

1.	Background.....	1
	Strategic Environmental Assessment.....	1
	Purpose of the Scoping Report.....	1
	Malvern Hills National Landscape.....	2
	Management Plan review.....	2
	Relationships with other assessments.....	3
2.	SEA programme and methodology.....	5
	Consultation.....	8
3.	Policies, Plans and Programmes.....	8
4.	Environmental and sustainability baseline information.....	11
	Key local environmental trends.....	11
5.	SEA Objectives and appraisal framework.....	14
6.	Consultation.....	19
	Appendices.....	20
	Appendix 1: Other Plans and Policies.....	20
	Appendix 2: Baseline data (template).....	78
	Appendix 3: Consultation responses.....	79

Figure 1: Outline map of the Malvern Hills National Landscape .....	iii
Figure 2: Suggested ecosystem services delivered in the Malvern Hills National Landscape .....	4
Table 1: SEA Process .....	6
Table 2: Outline environmental issues in the Malvern Hills National Landscape .....	12
Table 3: Sustainability Appraisal Framework .....	15

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Draft

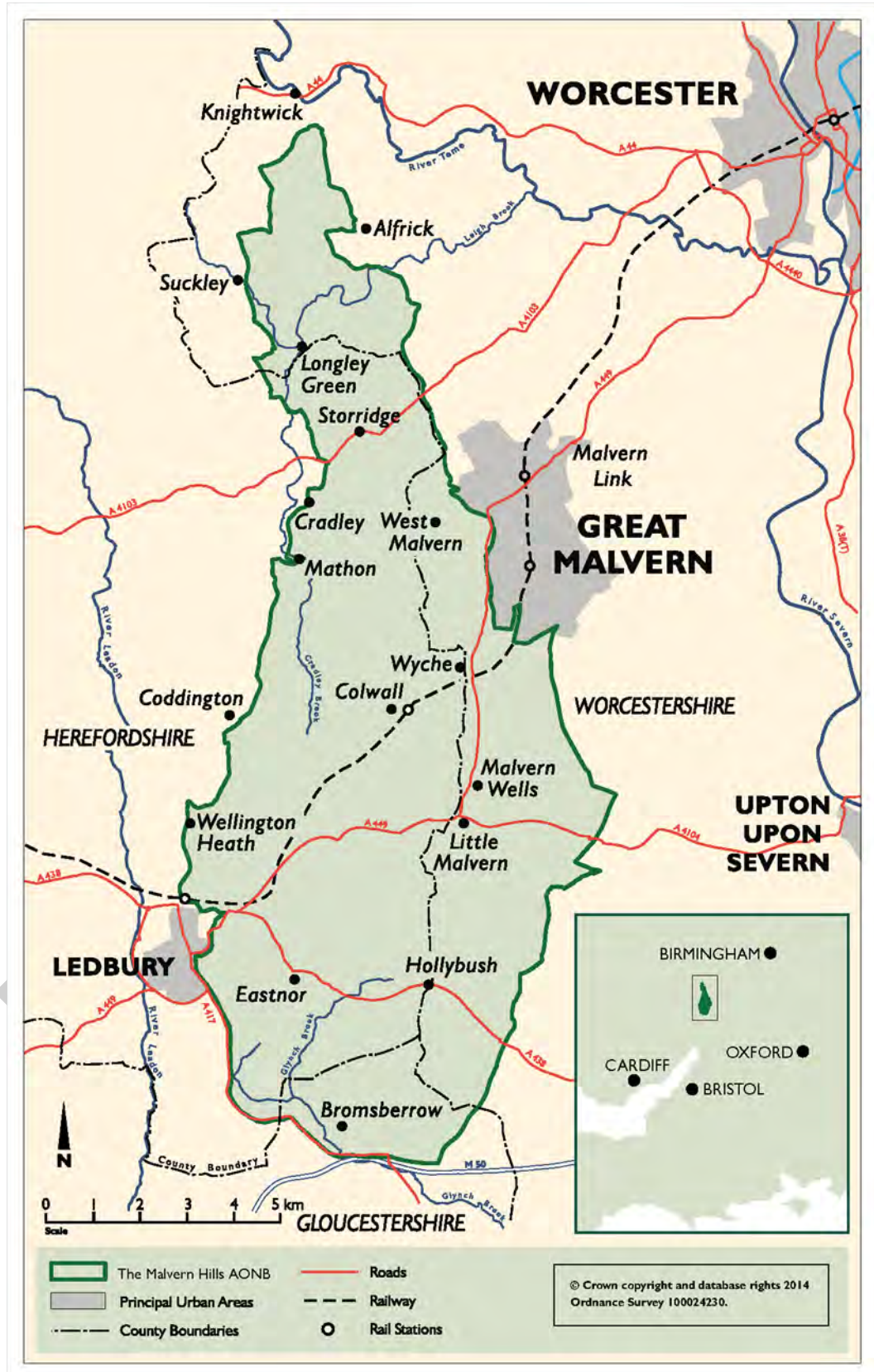


Figure 1: Outline map of the Malvern Hills National Landscape

## 1. Background

This Scoping Report has been prepared as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Malvern Hills National Landscape (NL) Management Plan Review. A National Landscape is the everyday name for what is set out in legislation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.1. Strategic Environmental Assessment is a statutory requirement<sup>1</sup> to ensure that land-use plans and programmes that are likely to have significant effects on the environment are the subject of a strategic assessment of options and alternative courses of action during plan preparation to avoid or mitigate any adverse effects. The plans and programmes that fall under this statutory requirement are those:
  - subject to preparation and/or adoption by an authority at national, regional or local level or which are prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government, and
  - required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions.
- 1.2. There is Government guidance for the SEA Directive<sup>2</sup> that sets out a process for determining ('screening') which plans and programmes require SEA. There is no need to complete an environmental assessment for plans that are a minor modification to a plan or programme already assessed. The National Landscape Partnership has concluded that SEA is prudent because of the new priorities for national landscapes set out by Defra.
- 1.3. The statutory consultation bodies (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency) must agree that a plan can be 'screened-out' or agree the scope and level of detail in a formal Environmental Report.

### Purpose of the Scoping Report

- 1.4. This Scoping Report is to enable the National Landscape Partnership to agree the scope and level of detail in the SEA Assessment with the statutory consultation bodies. It seeks to:
  - explain the SEA programme and methodology;
  - present relevant policies, plans and programmes;
  - predict key local environmental trends;
  - identify environmental baseline information;
  - identify key local environmental issues and opportunities; and
  - present the SEA objectives against which to review the Management Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC "on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment". Transposed into law by Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the "SEA Regulations"),

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si2004/sch1>

<sup>2</sup> ODPM, 2005: A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, ODPM, London

## Malvern Hills National Landscape

- 1.5. Designation of the Malvern Hills National Landscape was in 1959. It covers 105 square kilometres and includes parts of Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. The special quality of the Malvern Hills lies in the contrasts. The distinctive, narrow, north-south ridge, a mountain range in miniature, thrusts unexpectedly from the pastoral farmland patchwork of the Severn Vale. The highest point is Worcestershire Beacon (425m) and walkers along the ridge crest enjoy views as far as Wales and the Cotswolds. The geological variety, and centuries of traditional farming have given the NL great ecological value. Herb-rich, unimproved pastures and native woodland support a wealth of habitats, species and wildlife. In addition, a historical landscape, the ridge is crowned by three ancient hill forts, the most famous being the ditches and ramparts of British Camp.
- 1.6. This is an area of pastoral farming, with stock-rearing and occasional dairying, plus fruit growing, mixed crops and forestry. Large areas are grazed as ancient commons. The NL has a population of approximately 13,000 and villages such as Malvern Wells have experienced considerable growth in their retired population and in workers commuting to Birmingham and Worcester. The towns of Great Malvern and Ledbury fringe the NL and the rural economy includes light manufacturing and prestige office development together with the important conference and tourism sector. Tourists have flocked here to 'take the waters' since the early 1800s and Great Malvern's formal paths and rides give the nearby slopes the air of a Victorian pleasure garden. The ridge and hillside paths and the commons are traditional 'day trip' country. The Worcestershire Way footpath is an important new recreation resource in the NL.

## Management Plan review

- 1.7. Section 82 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 establishes the primary purpose of AONB designation as the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty. Section 85 of the CRoW Act (as amended by section 245 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023) places a duty on all public bodies (other than a devolved Welsh authority) to 'seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty'. Under section 89, the relevant local authorities must prepare and publish a Management Plan for each AONB; and keep it under review. A plan under section 89 relating to an AONB in England must further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of that area.
- 1.8. The Management Plan is a statutory document. It provides a policy framework that brings together partners to help them design, resource and implement the priorities set out specifically for the AONB designation. It guides and informs all other plans and activities that may affect the AONB so that they can contribute to the continued conservation and enhancement of the AONB designation.
- 1.9. There are five relevant local authorities for the Malvern Hills NL. They are Forest of Dean Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Herefordshire Council, Malvern Hills District Council and Worcestershire County Council. These councils have established a Joint Advisory Committee under the Local Government Act 1972, section 102 (4) to manage

their obligations for the NL. Representatives of four local authorities and a variety of public, private and voluntary sector bodies make up the Joint Advisory Committee. To guide this committee there is a Steering Group made up of officers from the funding local authorities and the Malvern Hills Trust. The Joint Advisory Committee, Steering Group and the NL Unit come together as the Malvern Hills NL Partnership.

- 1.10. The current Management Plan is for the 2019-24 period. CRoW requires a formal review of each Management Plan at intervals of not more than five years. The Partnership is now preparing a Management Plan for the period 2025-30. Following consultation with local communities, public bodies and agencies with an interest in the area, the plan will present the special qualities and features of the National Landscape, and set out the outcomes and policies needed to ensure their conservation and enhancement.

## Relationships with other assessments

### *Habitat Regulation Assessment*

- 1.11. The EU Natura 2000 network provides ecological infrastructure for the protection of sites that are of exceptional importance in respect of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species within the European Community. These sites, known as European sites, consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Offshore Marine Sites. It is common practice to treat RAMSAR sites (Internationally Important Wetlands) as if they were European sites. The guidance recommends taking into consideration European sites within the plan area and within 15km of its boundary.
- 1.12. There are no European sites within the AONB boundary. There are three European sites that may just be within 15km of its boundary:
- Bredon Hill SAC
  - Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC
  - River Wye SAC

### *Natural capital and an ecosystem approach*

- 1.13. Natural capital is another term for the stock of renewable and non-renewable natural resources on earth (e.g., plants, animals, air, water, soils, minerals) that combine to yield a flow of benefits or “services” to people<sup>3</sup>. These flows can be ecosystem services or abiotic services, many of which we depend on. Ecosystem services are the benefits to society from nature; abiotic services are benefits to people that do not depend on living processes. They arise from fundamental geological processes.
- 1.14. An ecosystem approach makes explicit the link between the status of natural resource systems and ecosystem services that support human well-being. It seeks to maintain the integrity and functioning of ecosystems to avoid rapid undesirable ecological change. It also recognises that the impacts of human activities are a matter of social choice, and are as integral to ecosystem interactions as ecosystems are to human activities.

### Definition of an Ecosystem Approach

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<sup>3</sup> Adapted from the Natural Capital Protocol, 2016

“a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way”  
Convention on Biological Diversity definition<sup>4</sup>

- 1.15. This approach provides a way to manage nature that combines three core themes<sup>5</sup>
- the ecology of the natural environment, including its functions and processes;
  - the benefits that people get from the natural environment (ecosystem services); and
  - the value of nature to society (in both monetary and non-monetary terms).
- 1.16. The availability of expertise and data limits the application of the ecosystem approach to the management of protected areas. Ecosystem services provided in the Malvern Hills are likely to include:

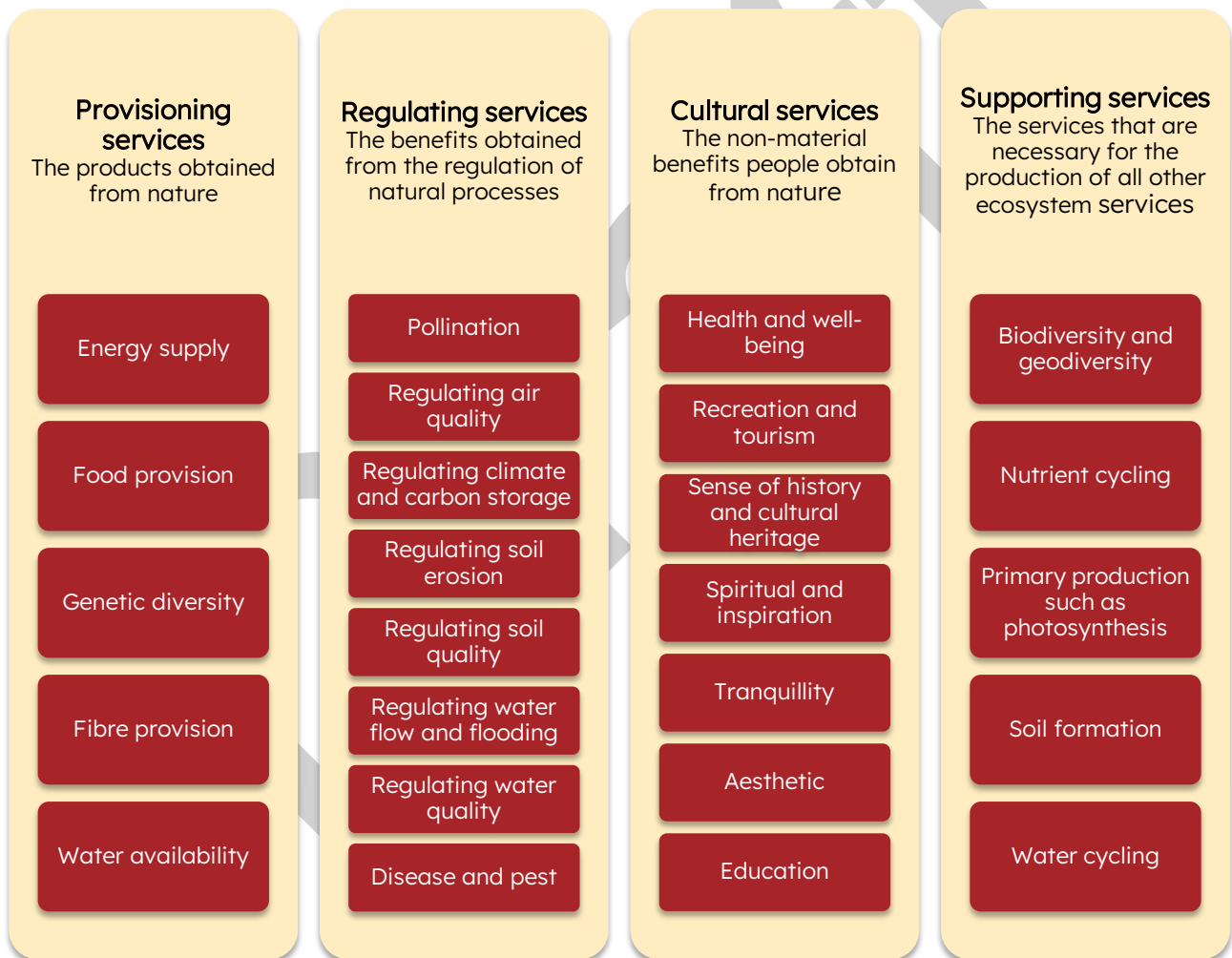


Figure 2: Suggested ecosystem services delivered in the Malvern Hills National Landscape

<sup>4</sup> Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2004) The Ecosystem Approach, (CBD Guidelines) Montreal: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity 50 p.

<sup>5</sup> Hunt, D. Crosher, I., Wharton, A. & Hayes, G. (2012). Embedding the Ecosystem Approach into existing landscape scale or area based partnership delivery: Internal guidance for Natural England staff. Natural England, November 2012



- 1.17. The data is not readily available to enable a full valuation of these services though the National Landscape has published some studies<sup>6</sup>. However, even an initial assessment of ecosystem services affected by a policy choice can indicate how potentially significant impacts could be and where uncertainties and evidence gaps lie. Key indicators help monitor the condition of the ecosystem services. The effects of proposed or alternative actions on their status are considered.
- 1.18. This SEA supports an ecosystem approach. It will consider the possible indirect, direct and cumulative effects of projects implemented under this plan. It is not an ecosystem service valuation.

## 2. SEA programme and methodology

### Introduction

- 2.1. The approach for carrying out the SEA of the Management Plan Review is based on current best practice and the following guidance:
- HMSO (September 2005) *A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive*, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government, Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland.
  - Dodd et al (2007) *The Appropriate Assessment of Spatial Plans in England: a guide to why, when and how to do it*, RSPB.
  - Natural Scotland (September 2006) *Strategic Environmental Assessment Toolkit*. Scottish Executive.
  - Countryside Council for Wales (2008) *The Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Wales - Guidance on the Review of Management Plans*
  - Richard Partington et al (January 2008) *Guidance to English AONB Partnerships and Boards on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of AONB Management Plans*, Natural England
  - Historic England (2016): *Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment – Advice Note 8*
- 2.2. To integrate fully the SEA process with the production of the Management Plan, there will be close collaboration with the review team. There are five stages to a Strategic Environmental Assessment:
- 2.3. There are five stages to a Strategic Environmental Assessment:
- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Stage A: | Scoping and consultation with Environmental Bodies      |
| Stage B: | Assessment of plan content and analysis of alternatives |
| Stage C: | Preparation of an Environmental Report                  |

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<sup>6</sup> See the NL website ([malvernhills-nl.org.uk](http://malvernhills-nl.org.uk)): [malvernhills-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/211220-Malvern-Natural-Capital-Report-full-report\\_v4\\_issue.pdf](http://malvernhills-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/211220-Malvern-Natural-Capital-Report-full-report_v4_issue.pdf) & Malvern Hills AONB Natural Capital Scoping Study 2017

Stage D: Consultation and consideration of the SEA findings by the decision maker; and

Stage E: Monitoring the performance of the plan against the SEA findings.

2.4. This report supports Stage A. Scoping defines the boundaries and parameters that are relevant to the SEA process, through reviewing other plans and programmes, the available baseline data and identifying environmental problems and environmental objectives. Scoping is part of the broader assessment process that is iterative rather than chronological. Each step of the SEA process is set out in **Table 1** below:

Table 1: SEA Process

Task	Purpose of Task
<b>Stage A: Scoping Tasks</b>	
Review relevant plans, programmes and policies	To provide evidence of the forces for change and likely trends in environmental condition; To identify significant environmental issues to be covered in the Management Plan; To help identify the objectives needed to assess the draft policies in the Management Plan.
Collect <sup>7</sup> baseline information	To identify the key issues / forces for change that are affecting the NL; and to provide the evidence to justify that these are the key issues.
Identify environmental issues and problems	To refer to any significant environmental issues that the Management Plan must address. An important aspect of assessing the significant effects of the policies in an NL Management Plan on the environment is to understand the likely trends in environmental condition in the absence of any planned intervention.
Develop SEA objectives	To provide a means to assess the environmental performance of the Management Plan and alternatives
Consult on SEA scope	To ensure that the SEA covers the likely significant environmental effects of the Management Plan
<b>Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects</b>	
Testing the Management Plan objectives against each other	To cross-check the policies of the Management Plan against each other (in a <b>Compatibility Matrix</b> ) to see whether there are potential tensions or sensitivities that arise where two or more policies interact.
Testing the Management Plan objectives against the SEA objectives	To check each policy against the full range of SEA objectives presented as a <b>Consistency Matrix</b> .
Considering strategic alternatives	To demonstrate that the chosen way forward is the most sound in terms of the environment and wider sustainability.
Predicting the effects of the Management Plan, including alternatives	To predict the significant environmental effect of the Management Plan and alternatives strategies

<sup>7</sup> In line with Schedule 2 of the Regulations

Evaluating the effects of the Management Plan, including alternatives	To evaluate the predicted effect of the Management Plan and the alternative strategies on the SEA Objectives; and to assist in the refinement of the Management Plan
Recommending mitigation of the effects	To ensure that adverse effects are identified and potential mitigation measures are considered

### Stage C: Preparing the Environmental Report

Preparing and consulting on draft Environmental Report	To ensure that the SEA addresses all likely significant environmental effects of the Management Plan
Presenting the Environmental Report	To present the predicted environmental effects of the Management Plan, including alternatives, in a form that is suitable for public consultation and use by decision-makers.

### Stage D: Consulting on the draft Management Plan and Environmental Report

Consulting on the draft Management Plan and Environmental Report	To give an opportunity to express opinion on the findings in the Environmental Report.
Consultation review	To present a summary of responses to the SEA and recommendations for response before adopting or modifying the Management Plan.
Post Adoption Statement	It is a requirement of the Regulations that the decision-making body should publish a statement explaining how it has taken the findings of the SEA and public comment into account in reaching its decision to adopt or modify the Management Plan. This statement must also refer to arrangements for monitoring.

### Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Management Plan on the environment\*

Developing aims and methods for monitoring	To set targets for monitoring and ensuring that any areas of potential environmental concern are reviewed, with appropriate remedial action if required.
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\*Note: This stage will be an on-going activity undertaken beyond the scope of this work on the SEA once the Management Plan has been finalised.

### *Approach to assessment*

25. Confirming the Scoping Report will complete Stage A. We will then approach Stage B in three steps. Step 1 will consider the Management Plan draft text and test the compatibility of its aims and policies. The intent is to identify potential tensions or sensitivities where two or more objectives interact. We collect the findings in a **Compatibility Matrix** and summarise them in a chart.
26. Using professional judgement, each relationship is plotted as:

+++	= strong positive
++	= positive
+	= mixed or uncertain
Blank or 0	= minimal interaction

-	= mixed or uncertain
--	= negative

A commentary develops the findings to take account of the varying environmental sensitivities of the different topic areas. The consideration of the compatibility of the vision for the NL and the defined attributes of the site is a part of this stage. We will express this as a **Policy Cascade** supported by the commentary.

- 2.7. Step 2 will check each objective against the full range of SEA Objectives, as identified in the SEA Scoping Report. The intent is to measure the significance of the effect in terms of:
  - Beneficial or adverse effects;
  - Magnitude of the effects;
  - Direct and indirect effects;
  - Cumulative effects; and
  - Reversible or irreversible effects.
- 2.8. The findings will emerge in a **Consistency Matrix** for each objective area and summary tables and charts present the combined effects of the objectives and their policies. A plot of each relationship will use the same discipline as for the Compatibility Matrix.
- 2.9. Step 3 will consider **Alternative Solutions** to the issues identified during the Management Planning process. As there is no alternative solution published, we will make a ‘**do-nothing**’ comparison. The purpose is to show that the chosen pathway is the most-sound in terms of the environment and wider sustainability. This analysis tests the proposed actions and the ‘do-nothing’ scenario against the trends identified in the SEA Scoping Report (as shown in Table 4).
- 2.10. This will then lead to Stage C, in which we draw and present our **Conclusions** in an Environmental Report.

## Consultation

- 2.11. The SEA Regulations require us to publish this Scoping Report for consultation for a five-week period. Consultation will be with the statutory Environmental Bodies designated in the SEA Regulations (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency) and other stakeholders as appropriate. Following receipt of comments from the Environmental Bodies, the author must show the response clearly in the Environmental Report.

## 3. Policies, Plans and Programmes

### *Introduction*

- 3.1. A key element in the SEA process is to review relevant international, national, regional and local policy guidance, plans and strategies, to:

- Ensure the Management Plan proposals and the SEA are consistent with and comply with the requirements of relevant plans and policies, especially where they refer to environmental priorities;
- Identify environmental objectives, key targets and indicators that should be reflected in the SEA;
- Provide evidence for the SEA rationale.

**3.2.** The selection criteria were:

- International documents having the status of a plan, policy or programme
- National documents having the status of a national strategy or a White Paper outlining intended policy
- Regional and local documents having the status of strategy or policy
- Other documents not having a statutory status but policy documents published by the statutory bodies

**3.3.** Appendix 1 presents a summary of the document review. This review informs the SEA.

***Legislation, Conventions and national advice***

**3.4.** Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a statutory landscape designation. The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, as modified by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, provides the primary legislation for the designation of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. From the Acts, a particular set of objectives is developed for AONBs<sup>8</sup>:

- The primary purpose of designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty.
- In pursuing the primary purpose of designation, account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment.
- Recreation is not an objective of designation, but the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other uses.

**3.5.** Ratification of the European Landscape Convention by the UK was in November 2006; and became binding on the 1 March 2007. The Convention aims to ensure the proper protection, management and planning of landscapes across Europe and aims to bring all countries up to the standard of the best.

**3.6.** Following the passing of the European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Act 2017, the UK left the European Union on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 (there followed a 12-month transition period. The new Management Plan takes account of the changed relationship between the UK and the EU. The natural environment of the Malvern Hills has benefited

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<sup>8</sup> Countryside Agency (2006), Guidance for the review of AONB Management Plans, CA221, Cheltenham, August 2006

from some support from EU budgets, particularly for research and academic cooperation. That support is very likely to stop unless the UK government gives a clear undertaking to match any existing funding. There could be a period of inertia whilst building new resources and structures.

- 3.7. In 2018, Defra launched its 25-year plan for the environment<sup>9</sup> that set out the vision for a quarter-of-a-century of action to help the natural world regain and retain good health. Defra undertook to refresh the plan every 5 years. The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP), published in January 2023 is the first five-year refresh of the government’s 25-Year Environment Plan<sup>10</sup>. It is one of the core drivers of a Management Plan. Some of the goals and targets established in the EIP are reflected in a new Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework.
- 3.8. The National Planning Policy Framework (2023) sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how to apply them. Paragraph 182 says that great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. It goes on to state that the conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas.

### *Local Authorities*

- 3.9. The NL lies with the bounds of five local authorities. They are Forest of Dean Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Herefordshire Unitary Council, Malvern Hills District Council and Worcestershire County Council. The County Councils have many responsibilities but two have a direct effect on the Malvern Hills. As the minerals and waste authorities, they produce minerals and waste local plans. They also deal with local transport, highways and tourism. The District Councils are required to produce development plans to guide spatial change and growth within their areas. These plans set out the vision and framework for future development in their area. They address needs and opportunities in relation to the economy, housing, community facilities and infrastructure; as well as provide a basis for safeguarding the environment (including the National Landscape), adapting to climate change and securing good design. The Unitary Council has both the County and the District responsibilities.

### *Government Agencies*

- 3.10. There is a range of Government Agencies whose actions impact upon the Malvern Hills. Their strategies set high-level policy and generally cover the whole of the country. Any mention of a particular site, such as the Malvern Hills, within these policies indicates the high national importance of the topic.

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<sup>9</sup> Defra (2018) *A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment*, HMSO

<sup>10</sup> Defra (2023) *Environmental Improvement Plan 2023, first revision of the 25 Year Environment Plan*, HMSO

- 3.11. Natural England’s purpose is to help conserve, enhance and manage the natural environment for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development. It seeks a well-managed Nature Recovery Network across England which connects people to the natural environment for their own and society’s wellbeing, enjoyment and prosperity. It is directly responsible for the management of the national sites and prepares plans to ensure that these sites reach a favourable ecological condition. The Targets and Outcomes Framework establishes a core, shared set of indicators for Protected Landscapes. Natural England will supply data to Protected Landscapes on these indicators, undertaking a significant part of the data gathering and processing effort for Protected Landscapes. The Targets and Outcomes Framework replaces the Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes data, supplied by Natural England since 2012.
- 3.12. Historic England protects historic places such as Scheduled Monuments, archaeological sites, registered parks and gardens, scheduled landscapes, and listed buildings; *and protected wrecks*. The Agency prepares plans and advice to ensure decisions serve people, places and the economy
- 3.13. It is the Environment Agency’s duty to protect and improve the environment. In England it regulates major industry and waste, and the treatment of contaminated land. It is responsible for water quality, resources and fisheries; inland river, estuary and harbour navigations; and conservation and ecology. It is also responsible for managing the risk of flooding from main rivers, reservoirs, estuaries and the sea.

## 4. Environmental and sustainability baseline information

- 4.1. The assessment of impacts of a plan must be based on the current state of the environment, the ‘baseline’. The source of baseline information will be in line with the Schedule 2 of the SEA grouped under nine SEA topics identified as being of relevance to the environmental assessment. The nine topics are:
- 1) Climate Change
  - 2) Soils, Air and Water
  - 3) Biodiversity
  - 4) Landscape
  - 5) Heritage
  - 6) Local Distinctiveness
  - 7) Quality of life
  - 8) Local economy
  - 9) Cumulative Impacts

### Key local environmental trends

- 4.2. For purpose of developing this Scoping Report, we use Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF) Reports, State of the NL Report, Natural England’s National Character Area Profiles (mainly 103 but including small parts of 100, 101 and 106) and the evidence-base attached to the preparation of the local authority Local

Development Plans. The baseline is, therefore, informed by factual data and professional judgement based on survey. The data is set out in **Appendix 2. Table 2** shows an outline of the key issues driving change within the Malvern Hills National Landscape.

*Table 2: Outline environmental issues in the Malvern Hills National Landscape*

Key Issues	Outcomes without mitigating actions
<p><b>The Climate Emergency</b></p> <p>Climate change is happening, and its impacts are unavoidable. There is already experience of the impacts of a rapidly heating climate and this threatens many of the defining characteristics and Special Qualities of the Malvern Hills National Landscape.</p> <p>The habitats most susceptible to harm are the rivers and streams, heathland and wet woods. Examples of the impacts include pest and diseases (ash dieback being a new and highly visible example); changing timings of seasons; low summer river flows; and damage to vegetation from high winds.</p>	<p>Unplanned or controlled mitigation actions could negatively impact on the special qualities, landscape, biodiversity and the economy.</p> <p>Higher temperatures may encourage the introduction of new crops into the landscape, as well as different crop timings.</p> <p>Climate change may result in the migration of new species moving north. This could see species diversity maintained but there is a risk of new plant and animal pests and diseases.</p> <p>Drought conditions may cause stress on trees making them less resilient to storm events. There may be an increased risk of uprooting and increased fire risk.</p> <p>Drier warmer summers may lead to a parched landscape of bleached grassland, and wilting trees and hedges.</p> <p>Warmer winters could promote increased tree growth, as well as the suitability of new non-native species or native species of a different provenance.</p> <p>Droughts may cause rivers, streams and ponds to dry up, which will affect wildlife, agriculture and tourism. There is the risk of reduced nectar production in response to drought in grassland wildflowers.</p> <p>Heavier rainfall may lead to an increase in surface water flooding and soil erosion.</p>
<p><b>Renewable energy installations</b></p> <p>Energy supply requires more low carbon energy technologies, buildings need to become energy efficient, and infrastructure needs to be more resilient.</p>	<p>Innovative solutions may lead to an erosion of vernacular design features that add to the special qualities of the National Landscape.</p> <p>The development of new installations will require additional infrastructure to support them, such as substations, overhead lines, and buried cables. Construction and use of such new infrastructure could have a lasting visual impact on the National Landscape.</p>
<p><b>Nature’s decline and the Ecological Crisis</b></p> <p>Wildlife loss is well documented and understood. Climate change is threatening the loss of already diminished wildlife at an even greater scale and pace. There is a need to create a robust and resilient nature recovery network – a landscape rich in joined up and well managed habitats. The</p>	<p>Habitats will remain isolated with no ‘corridors’ to allow species to adjust naturally to climate change by moving northwards to a new ecological niche. Some populations will become too small to remain viable and species will be unable to adapt by adjusting to new climatic conditions without large and varied sites.</p>



<p>need for action is urgent to avoid a mass extinction event.</p> <p>80% of traditional orchards present in the 1930s have gone, unenclosed heathland has declined by 30% and almost all the flower rich meadows have been replaced by agriculturally improved pasture and arable. Many remaining areas of habitat have become isolated, disconnecting their small populations of plants and animals.</p> <p>The area of woodland has increased significantly in the last 80 years. This is partly due to the self-seeding of woodland onto steep acid grassland grounds; and partly due to new planting on farmland.</p>	<p>Invasive non-native species will increase resulting in a loss of biodiversity. Chalara ash die back will have a considerable effect upon the area’s habitats, landscape character and landscape integrity.</p> <p>Degraded ecosystems will not deliver benefits to people (ecosystem services). These services are critically important to the wellbeing and economy of people living in and around the Malvern Hills. For example, they deliver good quality water and food, spiritual refreshment and a sense of history and cultural heritage.</p>
<p><b>Land management</b></p> <p>Growth in global demand for food is leading to worries about food security and the need to intensify food production. Many woodlands in the area are small, fragmented and difficult to access. There is often no infrastructure to make sustainable woodland management viable. A lack of management in most traditional orchards is hastening the demise of these very valuable wildlife habitats.</p> <p>There are declining farm and forest incomes. Land managers must find either additional or new sources of income. They may grow new crops and/or move into other sectors, such as warehousing, business parks, tourism and recreation. They may use their land for energy or communication structures. This can help to maintain a viable business and improve the products and services on offer to the community and visitors.</p>	<p>A longer growing season with increasing temperatures may encourage the expansion of arable production, putting more easily cultivated areas of pasture under pressure.</p> <p>A longer growing season could see an increase in timber and biomass production that will increase carbon capture and support nature recovery.</p> <p>Without adaption to farming practices, there may be a decline in soil quality/nutrient levels, soil loss to erosion, release of carbon from soils and timber, a reduction in water quality and increased flooding.</p> <p>Carbon markets will put a tradable value on carbon in soils and vegetation; and in other ‘nature-based’ solutions.</p> <p>Changes to agriculture will increase nutrients entering local catchments and increased pressure on drinking water resources.</p>
<p><b>Development</b></p> <p>Development maintains economic viability, sustains the population and supports those who manage the land. The National Landscape covers several administrative areas. There is a need to coordinate policy to make sure that it is consistent across the area. The allocation of land for new development within and adjacent to the area is not always preceded by a proper consideration of its effects on landscape character and visual amenity.</p> <p>There is a need to provide more homes and employment for local people. Achieving suitable infrastructure is a challenge due to the requirements to conserve and enhance the special nature of the environment. There is a need to retain the best and most versatile agricultural land.</p>	<p>Negative visual impacts on the landscape from proposed developments.</p> <p>Changes to air quality, arising from traffic and industry.</p> <p>Negative impacts on key ecosystem services and ecological functioning of proposed development sites.</p> <p>Missed opportunities to reach net zero if sustainable building solutions are not incorporated into the design of developments.</p> <p>Reduction in the tranquillity that can be experienced in the area (for instance dark night skies) and growing numbers of recreational users, putting pressure on its natural environment.</p> <p>Low availability of owner-occupied housing and limited access to affordable housing leading to reduced social mobility impacting on people’s</p>

<p>The contribution of setting to the significance of the area is often expressed by reference to views. Poorly presented development or change may harm people’s enjoyment of the area. Inappropriate development adjacent to the National Landscape can influence landscape character within the designation, for example through associated noise and disturbance.</p>	<p>health and wellbeing and the potential for sustainable economic growth.</p>
<p><b>Recreation and enjoyment</b></p> <p>The Malvern Hills area has long been valued for its wealth of opportunities for outdoor recreation and quiet enjoyment. Tourists have flocked here to ‘take the waters’ since the early 1800s and Great Malvern’s formal paths and rides give the nearby slopes the air of a Victorian pleasure garden.</p> <p>For some people, particularly the less mobile, it is difficult to explore parts of the area. Standard practices sometimes create obstacles, like steps and stiles. There is a need to promote routes that are suitable for people with limited mobility.</p> <p>Mountain biking is popular on the Malvern Hills but there are no dedicated routes for use only by mountain bikes. There are claims of conflict between mountain bikers and other users of the hills, although only a few accidents are reported.</p>	<p>As the local population rises, there may be more people and dogs on the hills and commons. This can lead to a range of impacts on the land and the wildlife it supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• erosion of paths,</li> <li>• creation of new ‘desire lines’</li> <li>• disturbance to ground nesting birds; and</li> <li>• reduced peace and tranquillity.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Health and well-being</b></p> <p>Connections within the National Landscape and with its setting are important. The mental and physical health benefits of accessing natural beauty are becoming increasingly understood and appreciated. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on human behaviour. For example, people have travelled less and many have worked from home. People are more aware of the importance of green and blue spaces.</p>	<p>People will not feel welcome and currently underrepresented groups will be unable to enjoy the benefits of accessing natural beauty.</p> <p>The bond between people and place will break down due to a reduced functional relationship. Communities will lose their links to the land and will not benefit from a natural environment that brings economic benefits and supports livelihoods. Some connections are understood but others will need strengthening.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The link between personal consumption patterns and land-use.</li> <li>• Between choices relating to private property, nature and other public goods (hard surfacing, boundaries, outdoor lighting</li> </ul>

## 5. SEA Objectives and appraisal framework

- 5.1. The Natural England Guidance sets out a generic list of SEA Objectives. This list reflects the environmental criteria cited in the SEA Directive and sustainability issues that might reasonably be covered in an NL Management Plan.
- 5.2. Following a review of the generic list of Objectives, and considering the interim nature of the proposed management plan, we present nine Environmental Objectives tailored to

the needs of the Malvern Hills National Landscape (**Table 3**). The table identifies the SEA Objectives in column 1 and defines their scope in column 2 to ensure that the SEA is as locally specific as possible.

5.3. The third column identifies indicators that link the SEA Objectives to data and provide the basis for monitoring. We identify those indicators supplied by Natural England as a part of the new Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcome Framework (PLTOF); these appear as Target Indicators (TI) or Additional Statistics (AS). In the consultation draft of this Scoping Report, we identify 27 Headline Indicators thought to be useful when undertaking the SEA assessment (**Appendix 2** will present data and commentary in the final document). These indicators relate to the effects of the plan itself, not wider changes.

Table 3: Sustainability Appraisal Framework

N°	Environmental Objectives	Will the plan help to .....?	Headline indicators (27)
E1	Climate change  Address the causes and consequences of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>• Increase greenhouse gas capture and storage through land management</li> <li>• increase cycling and walking</li> <li>• maximise the role of soil as a carbon store</li> <li>• increase recycling</li> <li>• increase the renewable energy capacity</li> <li>• ensure tourism is compatible with the climate change agenda</li> <li>• improve energy efficiency</li> <li>• improve public transport</li> <li>• deliver a more sustainable pattern of transport</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Level of greenhouse gas emissions within Protected Landscapes (PLTOF TI 6)</li> <li>2. Carbon stored by habitats</li> <li>3. Extent of tree canopy and woodland cover in Protected Landscapes (PLTOF TI 8)</li> </ol>
E2	Soils, Air and Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce soil compaction</li> <li>• reduce leaching of nutrients and organic matter</li> <li>• prevent soil erosion</li> <li>• increase soil organic matter and carbon storage</li> <li>• avoid soil sealing, prevent soil contamination, improve water quality</li> <li>• maintain and enhance air quality</li> <li>• meet national air quality standards</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. WFD quality of the water environment data (PLTOF AS 5)</li> <li>5. Area at risk from flooding (Environment Agency)</li> </ol>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote sustainable water resource management</li> <li>• encourage a catchment-based approach to addressing water issues</li> <li>• maintain natural river geomorphologies</li> <li>• reduce nutrient-rich run-off</li> <li>• protect drinking water</li> <li>• manage flood risk</li> <li>• increase use of sustainable drainage systems</li> <li>• improve efficiency in use of water</li> </ul>	
E3	Protect and enhance biodiversity habitats and species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prevent loss of key species</li> <li>• prevent loss of habitat</li> <li>• Increase area and connectivity of habitat</li> <li>• improve management, linkage and condition of designated and undesignated habitats</li> <li>• maintain integrity of current ecological networks</li> <li>• create opportunities to enhance biodiversity</li> <li>• safeguard options for future habitat connectivity</li> <li>• prevent pollution</li> <li>• maintain and enhance access to sites whilst avoiding and reducing adverse impacts</li> <li>• support agricultural activities whilst avoiding and reducing adverse impacts</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Extent of wildlife rich habitat created or restored outside of protected sites (PLTOF TI 1)</li> <li>7. Percentage of SSSIs in favourable condition (PLTOF TI 2)</li> <li>8. Percentage of SSSIs assessed as having ‘actions on track’ to achieve favourable condition (PLTOF TI 3)</li> <li>9. Extent of priority habitat, outside of protected sites, in favourable management through agri-environment schemes (PLTOF TI 4)</li> <li>10. Percentage of land managers adopting nature friendly farming on a percentage of their land (PLTOF TI 5)</li> </ol>
E4	Protect and enhance the landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conserve and enhance visual amenity</li> <li>• conserve and enhance landscape character</li> <li>• conserve and enhance townscape character</li> <li>• conserve geodiversity</li> <li>• avoid the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land</li> <li>• ensure the sustainable use of mineral resources including the use of recycled and secondary aggregates</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Changes to the landscape via fixed point photography of key views (local survey)</li> <li>12. Number of geological and geomorphological SSSI unit features and % in favourable or recovering condition (PLTOF SA 15)</li> </ol>

E5	Sustain and enhance cultural heritage, including heritage assets and their settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conserve and enhance architectural heritage</li> <li>• conserve and enhance archaeological heritage (including unknown)</li> <li>• conserve and enhance cultural heritage</li> <li>• reduce risks to heritage</li> <li>• improve access to historic places for residents and visitors</li> <li>• enhance local distinctiveness</li> </ul>	13. Number and percentage of nationally designated heritage assets in Protected Landscapes to be deemed at risk (TI 10)
E6	Local Distinctiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensure any new developments or redevelopments are in keeping with local character</li> <li>• take account of the environment in design and construction</li> </ul>	<p>14. Number of the area’s defined special qualities monitored</p> <p>15. Number of planning authorities with vernacular design guidance mentioning the Malvern Hills</p> <p>16. % of development decisions against Partnership advice</p>
E7	Safeguard and enhance human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce and avoid noise pollution</li> <li>• reduce and avoid light pollution</li> <li>• avoid impacts on the quality and extent of existing green infrastructure as a recreational asset</li> <li>• support the provision of affordable housing</li> <li>• improve access to services</li> <li>• improve access to employment</li> <li>• improve access for outdoor recreation</li> <li>• retain and enhance sustainable transport to and from market towns</li> <li>• promote art, craft and cultural interests</li> <li>• improve safety</li> </ul>	<p>17. Light pollution maps</p> <p>18. Road noise maps and traffic data from 5 monitoring points</p> <p>19. Metres of accessible path as a % of total path (PLTOF TI 9a)</p> <p>20. % Public Rights of Way in good condition (local survey)</p> <p>21. Number of disability accessible parking spaces (PLTOF TI 9c)</p> <p>22. Number of accessible gates and gaps (PLTOF TI 9d)</p> <p>23. Number of accessible or easy access routes for which wayfinding has been created or improved PLTOF TI 9h)</p> <p>24. Deprivation statistics (PLTOF AS 23)</p> <p>25. Housing affordability (PLTOF AS 21)</p>
E8	To support a locally embedded economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• avoid the loss of local jobs and local services</li> <li>• promote economic activity that adds value to local products and helps support the conservation of the area’s special qualities</li> </ul>	<p>26. Number of visitors</p> <p>27. Number of local units of registered businesses by industry type (PLTOF AS 22)</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase availability of locally sourced food</li> <li>• support the long-term viability of commercial activities, including agriculture and tourism</li> <li>• promote a career in land-based and traditional building skills</li> <li>• encourage apprenticeships and training</li> </ul>	
E9	<p>Cumulative Impacts</p> <p>Avoid significant adverse effects between the above interrelationships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote the importance of environmental services</li> <li>• moderate the interaction between natural, social and economic actions</li> <li>• in combination with another policy, does it prejudice the achievement of any of the SEA Objectives</li> </ul>	No indicator but monitored through annual reporting

**Data limitations**

- 5.4. There were some difficulties in securing all the data necessary for this assessment. This relates to the time available to search and secure data. There was only time to use existing data, it was not feasible to commission any new studies.
- 5.5. Strategic Assessment uses a combination of quantitative information from many sources (e.g. National Statistics and commissioned studies) and qualitative assessment using considered judgement. The qualitative approach is robust, given the strategic nature of the Management Plan. Detailed quantitative information relating to the effects of the plan is likely only to be available at a later stage.
- 5.6. Monitoring data are often subject to changes in methodology or reporting that may prevent the establishment of trend data from a known baseline date. Trend data and targets are the significant data gaps and these affect certain topics; in particular, effective and up-to-date reporting on the natural environment<sup>11</sup>. Pollution emission trends and aspects of air, soil (including contaminated land) and water quality are lacking. Consequently, the effects of diffuse pollution and other environmental impacts, such as recreation damage, are often difficult to ascertain.
- 5.7. Natural England’s advice is to develop bespoke indicators to reflect the outcomes of National Landscape management decisions. The responsible authority agrees but it will take time to develop effective base-line data. Defra is currently working on its suite of

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<sup>11</sup> Defra, Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency, provide data cut to national landscape boundaries each year through the June Survey of Agriculture and the ‘Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework’ (PLTOF).

national targets for protected landscapes. These cover the same three key areas of this plan, climate, nature and people. A monitoring framework, developed by Natural England, supports these targets. This work will enable the development of relevant and supported indicators for the 2025 plan.

- 5.8. Census statistics help paint a picture of the nation and how we live. They provide a detailed snapshot of the population and its characteristics, and underpin funding allocation to provide public services. There was a Census in 2021.

## 6. Consultation

- 6.1. In line with the SEA Regulations, the statutory consultation bodies (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency) will receive this report. In addition, comments from the NL Partnership and other key stakeholders are welcome.
- 6.2. The consultation period will last for five weeks between Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June and Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2024. We welcome all comments on this Scoping Report and encourage particular attention to:
- The SEA methodology
  - The review of policy documents, plans and programmes
  - The SEA Objectives and the criteria identified
  - The key local environmental and sustainability issues identified

To respond to this consultation please send written comments to:

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## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Other Plans and Policies

Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>		
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International importance, especially waterfowl habitat (1971) <a href="http://www.ramsar.org">www.ramsar.org</a>		
An inter-governmental treaty to achieve the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.	Over the years, the Convention has broadened its scope to cover all aspects of wetland conservation, recognising wetlands as ecosystems that are extremely important for biodiversity conservation in general and for the well-being of human communities.	The Management Plan should provide for the conservation and wise use of wetlands wherever they lie.
Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979) (came into force on 1 June 1982) <a href="http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/bern/default_en.asp">www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/nature/bern/default_en.asp</a>		
The Convention aims to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, especially those species and habitats whose conservation requires the co-operation of several States; and to promote such cooperation. The Convention gives particular emphasis to endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species.	The Parties undertake to take all appropriate measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species. Such measures should be included in the Parties' planning and development, and pollution control, policies, with particular attention to the conservation of wild flora and fauna. The Parties undertake to promote education and disseminate general information concerning the need to conserve species of wild flora and fauna and their habitats.	The Management Plan should make provision for the conservation of internationally, nationally and locally important habitats and species and seek ways in which to promote public understanding of the need for such measures.
Paris Agreement United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2015) <a href="http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php">http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php</a>		



Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through “nationally determined contributions” and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. This includes requirements that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts. The Agreement also provides for enhanced transparency of action and support through a more robust transparency framework. There will be a global stocktake every 5 years to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and to inform further individual actions by Parties.</p>	<p>1. This Agreement aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;</li> <li>b) Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production; and</li> <li>c) Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.</li> </ul> <p>2. This Agreement will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.</p>	<p>The Management Plan should support the reduction of Greenhouse Gases within the NL and maximise opportunities for ecosystems to adapt to climate change.</p>
<p><b>EUROPEAN</b></p>		
<p>The Birds Directive (Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds) (79/409/EEC) (Adopted 1979) <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm</a></p>		
<p>The Birds Directive addresses the conservation of all wild birds throughout the European Union, including marine areas, and covers their protection, management, control and exploitation. It applies to the birds, their eggs, nests and habitats. It also aims to ensure that non-native birds do not threaten other biodiversity.</p>	<p>The main provisions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The maintenance of the favourable conservation status of all wild bird species</li> <li>• The identification and classification of Special Protection Areas for rare or vulnerable species. (These, together with Special Areas of Conservation designated under the Habitats Directive, form a network of pan-European protected areas known as Natura 2000).</li> <li>• The establishment of a general scheme of protection for all wild birds</li> </ul>	<p>The plan must determine whether the policies and actions within the plan are likely to have a significant adverse effect on any Natura 2000 site within the area of influence of the plan (this can include downstream effects outside the NL).</p>

Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention) Council of Europe (121) 1985  <a href="http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/QueVoulezVous.asp?NT=121&amp;CM=1&amp;CL=ENG">http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/QueVoulezVous.asp?NT=121&amp;CM=1&amp;CL=ENG</a></p>		
<p>The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties.</p>	<p>Each Party undertakes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maintain inventories and, in the event of threats to the properties concerned, to prepare appropriate documentation at the earliest opportunity</li> <li>• take statutory measures to protect the architectural heritage</li> <li>• make provision for the protection of monuments, groups of buildings and sites.</li> <li>• promote measures for the general enhancement of the environment in the surroundings of monuments, within groups of buildings and within sites</li> <li>• adopt integrated conservation policies</li> <li>• foster effective co-operation at all levels between conservation, cultural, environmental and planning activities</li> </ul>	<p>The Management Plan should promote the integration of conservation, cultural, environmental and planning activities.</p>
<p>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised 1985)  <a href="http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/143.htm">http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/143.htm</a></p>		
<p>The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.</p>	<p>Each Party undertakes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to institute a legal system for the protection of the archaeological heritage;</li> <li>• to preserve the archaeological heritage and guarantee the scientific significance of archaeological research work;</li> <li>• to implement measures for the physical protection of the archaeological heritage;</li> <li>• to seek to reconcile and combine the respective requirements of archaeology and development plans;</li> <li>• to arrange for public financial support for archaeological research;</li> <li>• to collect and disseminate scientific information;</li> <li>• to promote public awareness; and</li> <li>• prevent the illicit circulation of elements of the archaeological heritage.</li> </ul>	<p>The Management Plan should promote the conservation and promotion of archaeological heritage.</p>
<p>Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) (1991)  <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:1991:375:0001:0008:EN:PDF">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:1991:375:0001:0008:EN:PDF</a></p>		

Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
To reduce water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and preventing further such pollution.	Prevention of eutrophication and water pollution Human health and ecosystem protection Nitrate Vulnerable Zones designated in vulnerable sites	The Management Plan should promote sustainable land management practices.
The Habitats Directive (Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora) (Directive 92/43/EC) (1992) <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm</a>		
The purpose is the maintenance or restoration of habitats and species of outstanding international significance at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.	The Directive requires Special Areas of Conservation be identified. (These, together with Special Protection Areas designated under the Birds Directive, form a network of pan-European protected areas known as Natura 2000). The Habitats Directive is implemented in UK law by the Habitats Regulations (1994) <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1994/2716/contents/made">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1994/2716/contents/made</a>	The plan must determine whether the policies and actions within the plan are likely to have a significant adverse effect on any Natura 2000 site within the area of influence of the plan (this can include downstream or catchment effects outside the NL).
The Landfill Directive (99/31/EC) (1999) <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/landfill_index.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/landfill_index.htm</a>		
To prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment, in particular the pollution of surface water, groundwater, soil and air, and on the global environment, including the greenhouse effect, as well as any resulting risk to human health, from land-filling of waste, during the whole life-cycle of the landfill.	Requires all member states to significantly reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste being sent to landfill. A principal objective of the Directive is to reduce the impact of methane produced by biodegradation in landfills (a potent greenhouse gas) on climate change. The UK target for reduction of waste to landfill is 75% of 1995 levels by 2010 and 35% by 2020.	The Management Plan should reflect both the need to reduce the overall amount of waste produced within the NL and the need to dispose of the waste produced.
The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) (2000) <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html</a>		

Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>The Directive requires all Member States to achieve good ecological status of inland water bodies by 2015.</p> <p>It introduces a system of water management based on river basins rather than political or administrative boundaries.</p>	<p>River Basin Management Plans will be prepared. These will describe in broad terms what measures are planned to integrate the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General protection of the aquatic ecology</li> <li>• Specific protection for unique and valuable habitats,</li> <li>• The protection of drinking water resources</li> <li>• The protection of bathing water</li> </ul>	<p>The Management Plan should support measures that protect and enhance aquatic ecosystems, protect water resources, reduce pollution of groundwater and mitigate the effects of floods and droughts.</p>
<p>The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC) (2001)  <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2001:197:0030:0037:EN:PDF">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2001:197:0030:0037:EN:PDF</a></p>		
<p>Aims to identify and mitigate significant environment effects arising from certain plans and programmes.</p>	<p>The objective of this Directive is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p>	<p>The Directive requires that an SEA on the NL Management Plan and an Environment Report produced.</p>
<p>The Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC) (2002)  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/noise/directive.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/noise/directive.htm</a></p>		
<p>Defines a common approach intended to avoid, prevent or reduce on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to exposure to environmental noise</p>	<p>Member states are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor the noise problem</li> <li>• Inform and consult the public about the noise exposure, its effects and measures considered to address it</li> <li>• Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary or maintain noise quality where it is good</li> <li>• Develop a EU Strategy to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the long term.</li> </ul>	<p>Tranquillity is one of the special characteristics of the NL.</p>
<p>The Landscape Convention 20 October 2000 (ratified by UK in November 2006)  <a href="http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/default_en.asp">www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/default_en.asp</a></p>		

Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>The European Landscape Convention highlights the importance and need for public involvement in the development of landscapes. It encourages a joined up approach through policy and planning in all areas of land-use, development and management, including the recognition of landscape in law. The Convention promotes landscape protection, management and planning, and European co-operation on landscape issues.</p>	<p>The Convention stresses the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Put landscape at the heart of spatial planning and sustainable development</li> <li>• Recognise that landscape exists everywhere and whether beautiful or degraded, is everyone’s shared inheritance</li> <li>• Increase awareness and understanding of landscape and its value, as a unifying framework for all land-use sectors</li> <li>• Promote a more accessible, integrated and forward-looking approach to managing inherited landscapes and shaping new ones.</li> </ul>	<p>The Management Plan should put people at heart of spatial planning and encourage an integrated approach to managing landscapes. It should recognise that landscape is everyone’s shared inheritance and provide a framework for increasing awareness and understanding of natural, cultural and historic landscapes and their value.</p>
<p>Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (June 2006)  <a href="http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st10/st10917.en06.pdf">http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st10/st10917.en06.pdf</a></p>		
<p>This strategy seeks to limit climate change and its costs and negative effects to society and the environment</p>	<p>A range of objectives including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• delivering sustainable transport;</li> <li>• sustainable consumption and production patterns;</li> <li>• improved health, equality and well-being;</li> <li>• the improved management of natural resources, recognising the value of ecosystem services; and</li> </ul> <p>actively promoting sustainable development worldwide.</p>	<p>The Management Plan should support measures that reduce climate change, provide clean energy, encourage sustainable transport and sustainable production and consumption and promote better management of natural resources.</p>
<p>Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020, European Commission (2011)  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5B1%5D.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5B1%5D.pdf</a></p>		

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<p>This strategy is aimed at reversing biodiversity loss and speeding up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy.</p>	<p>Sets out EU strategy for compliance with Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its global Strategic Plan for biodiversity 2011-2020 (Nagoya 2010), through six mutually supportive and inter-dependent targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conserving and restoring nature</li> <li>• maintaining and enhancing ecosystems and their services</li> <li>• ensuring the sustainability of agriculture, forestry and fisheries</li> <li>• combating invasive alien species</li> <li>• addressing the global biodiversity crisis</li> <li>• contributions from other environmental policies and initiatives</li> </ul>	<p>The Management Plan should conserve and enhance biological diversity and make provision for education and awareness raising of the biological resources within the NL.</p>
<b>NATIONAL</b>		
<b>Legislation</b>		
<p>Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953  <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/1-2/49/contents">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/1-2/49/contents</a></p>		
<p>An Act to provide for the preservation and acquisition of buildings of outstanding historic or architectural interest and their contents and related property, and to amend the law relating to ancient monuments and other objects of archaeological interest.</p>	<p>Authorises Historic England to compile a register of 'gardens and other land' that appear to be of special historic interest (i.e. Registered Parks and Gardens, and Battlefields)</p>	<p>The Management Plan should ensure appropriate protection for the heritage assets</p>
<p>Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979  <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/pdfs/ukpga_19790046_en.pdf">www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/pdfs/ukpga_19790046_en.pdf</a></p>		
<p>A consolidating Act relating to ancient monuments</p>	<p>to make provision for the investigation, preservation and recording of matters of archaeological or historical interest and for the regulation of operations or activities affecting such matters;</p> <p>to provide for the recovery of grants under section 10 of the Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act 1972 or under section 4 of the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 in certain circumstances;</p> <p>to provide for grants by the Secretary of State to the Architectural Heritage Fund.</p>	<p>The Management Plan should ensure appropriate protection for the heritage assets protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</p>

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<p>The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)  <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69">www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69</a></p>		
<p>This is the principal legislative mechanism for the protection of wildlife in Great Britain.</p>	<p>The Act requires any land that is identified as being of special interest by reason of any of its flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features to be classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and afforded certain protection against damaging measures. Schedules (1, 5, 8, updated every 5 years) to the Act provide protection for birds plants and animals. Schedule 9 prohibits the release of non-native species.</p>	<p>The Management Plan should ensure adequate protection for the sites and species protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.</p>
<p>Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (as amended)  <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/pdfs/ukpga_19900009_en.pdf">www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/pdfs/ukpga_19900009_en.pdf</a></p>		
<p>A consolidating Act relating to special controls in respect of buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest.</p>	<p>The listing and management of Special Buildings Designation and management of Conservations Areas</p>	<p>The Management Plan should ensure adequate protection for the heritage assets protected by the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990</p>
<p>The Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) Order 1994 SI 1381  <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1994/1381/contents/made">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1994/1381/contents/made</a></p>		
<p>This Order, which applies to England and Wales, grants scheduled monument consent under section 3 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (“the Act”) for the execution of certain classes or descriptions of works</p>		<p>Useful for monitoring impacts of policies and actions.</p>
<p>Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 (as amended)  <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents">www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents</a></p>		

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<p>The Act provides for increased public access to the countryside and strengthens protection for wildlife.</p>	<p>The main provisions serve to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend the public’s ability to enjoy the countryside whilst providing safeguards for landowners and occupiers</li> <li>• Create new statutory right of access to open country and registered common land</li> <li>• Modernise the Rights of Way system</li> <li>• Give greater protection to SSSIs</li> <li>• Provide better management arrangements for NLs</li> <li>• Strengthen wildlife enforcement legislation.</li> </ul>	<p>The Management Plan should take account of the public’s rights to access and take note of the ‘Section 85’ duty of regard to NL purposes.</p>
<p>Natural Environment &amp; Rural Communities Act 2006  <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents">www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents</a></p>		
<p>The Act makes provision about bodies concerned with the natural environment and rural communities and for connected purposes.</p>	<p>Main provisions of the Act were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create Natural England and the Commission for Rural Communities.</li> <li>• Create a duty on public authorities to have regard, in exercising its functions, and so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.</li> <li>• Clarifies that wildlife and cultural heritage may be taken into account when designating National Parks</li> <li>• Make technical changes regarding SSSIs and National Parks</li> </ul>	<p>The Management Plan must support and have regard to conserving biodiversity.</p>
<p>Climate Change Act 2008  <a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents</a></p>		



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<p>An Act to set a target for the year 2050 for the reduction of targeted greenhouse gas emissions; to provide for a system of carbon budgeting; to establish a Committee on Climate Change; to confer powers to establish trading schemes for the purpose of limiting greenhouse gas emissions or encouraging activities that reduce such emissions or remove greenhouse gas from the atmosphere; to make provision about adaptation to climate change.</p>	<p>Part 4 considers the impact of and adaption to climate change. Section 58 establishes a programme for adaption Section 59 establishes the reporting on progress in connection with adaption.</p>	<p>Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnerships are asked to prepare Climate Change Adaptation Management Plans produced, embedded in, or linked with, their Management Plans by 2028, and in all future Plans.</p>
<p>Planning Act 2008 <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents</a></p>		
<p>An Act to establish the Infrastructure Planning Commission and make provision about its functions; to make provision about, and about matters ancillary to, the authorisation of projects for the development of nationally significant infrastructure; to make provision about town and country planning; to make provision about the imposition of a Community Infrastructure Levy; and for connected purposes.</p>		<p>The Management Plan should take note of national policy statements and proposals for nationally important infrastructure.</p>
<p>Localism Act 2011 <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents">www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents</a></p>		

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<p>An Act to make provision about the functions and procedures of local and certain other authorities and for connected purposes.</p>	<p>The Localism Act includes several important provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• decentralisation and strengthening local democracy</li> <li>• community empowerment</li> <li>• a radical re-boot of the planning system including neighbourhood planning (provision for neighbourhood development orders and neighbourhood development plans).</li> </ul>	<p>There are a growing number of second homes in the NL. This is reducing the stock available to local people.</p> <p>Any communities developed within the region of the NL should be sustainable, well-designed, high quality and attractive places in which people will positively choose to live and work.</p> <p>The Management Plan should be informed by public consultation.</p>
<p>The Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 (Habitats Regulation) as amended in 1997, 2000 (in England only) and 2017 (SI 1012)  <a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1012/contents/made">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1012/contents/made</a></p>		
<p>The Regulations transpose Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EC Habitats Directive) into national law.</p>	<p>The Regulations came into force on 30 October 1994, and have been subsequently amended in 1997 and (in England only) 2000 and 2017. The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of Natura 2000, the protection of 'European protected species', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites.</p>	<p>The plan must determine whether the policies and actions within the plan are likely to have a significant adverse effect on any Natura 2000 site within the area of influence of the plan (this can include downstream or catchment effects outside the NL).</p>
<p>European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Act 2017  <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/9/pdfs/ukpga_20170009_en.pdf">www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/9/pdfs/ukpga_20170009_en.pdf</a></p>		

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<p>An Act to confer power on the Prime Minister to notify, under Article 50(2) of the Treaty on European Union, the United Kingdom’s intention to withdraw from the EU.</p>	<p>Article 50(2) has been triggered and the UK is set to leave the EU in 2019.</p>	<p>May affect the funding available to manage the natural environment during the life of this plan</p>
<p>National Planning Policy Framework (DLUHC 2023)  <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a11af7e8f5ec000f1f8c46/NPPF_December_2023.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a11af7e8f5ec000f1f8c46/NPPF_December_2023.pdf</a></p>		
<p>The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It replaces earlier versions.</p>	<p>Plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) plans should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area, and be sufficiently flexible to adapt to rapid change;</li> <li>b) strategic policies should, as a minimum, provide for objectively assessed needs for housing and other uses, as well as any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas, unless:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the application of policies in this Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a strong reason for restricting the overall scale, type or distribution of development in the plan area; or</li> <li>ii. any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Section 15 relates to the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment; section 16 relates to the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in ... Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations .... (para182)</p>	<p>The Management Plan will need to reflect the planning policies. There is a presumption in favour of sustainable development though there are some restricting caveats in NLs.</p>
<p>Environment Act 2021  <a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/pdfs/ukpga_20210030_en.pdf">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/pdfs/ukpga_20210030_en.pdf</a></p>		

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<p>To make provision about targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment; for statements and reports about environmental protection; for the Office for Environmental Protection; about waste and resource efficiency; about air quality; for the recall of products that fail to meet environmental standards; about water; about nature and biodiversity; for conservation covenants; about the regulation of chemicals; and for connected purposes.</p>	<p>Biodiversity duty                      Sections 102 General duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity - Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (duty to conserve biodiversity) is amended in accordance with subsections (2) to (7).                      Biodiversity reports                      Section 103 Biodiversity reports - After section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 insert a new “40 A Biodiversity reports...”                      Local nature recovery strategies                      Section 105 Preparation of local nature recovery strategies                      (1) A local nature recovery strategy for an area (“the strategy area”) is to be prepared and published by the responsible authority (includes the National Parks).  <b>Consultations</b> - Defra is now consulting on the first suite of Environment Act 2021 targets. The Act requires that at least one target in each of four priority areas is set in: air, water, biodiversity, and resource efficiency and waste reduction. It also requires targets to be set for fine particulate matter and species abundance. Defra is also consulting on its Nature Recovery Green Paper for protected sites and species. This green paper is a stepping stone ahead of our 2023 Environmental Improvement Plan update, identifying key proposals to set us on course to deliver the 2030 targets.</p>	<p>New duties and obligations will affect the evaluation and monitoring of a management plan.                      The management plan will need to achieve the ambitions set out in each local nature recovery strategy affecting the area.</p>
<p>Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 c. 55  <a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/55/section/245">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/55/section/245</a></p>		

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<p>To make provision for the setting of levelling-up missions and reporting on progress in delivering them.</p>	<p>Part 12 Section 245 – strengthens the duty imposed upon ‘relevant authorities’ in relation to any function that may affect any land in a National Park or AONB in England. The duty to ‘have regard’ becomes a duty to seek to further the purposes of designation.</p> <p>Inserts requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for the management plan to contribute to the meeting of any target set under Chapter 1 of Part 1 of the Environment Act 2021.</li> <li>• for a relevant authority to contribute to the preparation, implementation or review of the plan</li> </ul> <p>Amends the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000</p>	<p>The Management Plan should acknowledge any target set under Chapter 1 of Part 1 of the Environment Act 2021.</p>
<p><b>Policies, Strategies and Plans</b></p>		
<p>Securing the Future – UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (Defra 2005)  <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/03/25/securing-the-future-pb10589/">www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/03/25/securing-the-future-pb10589/</a></p>		
<p>This Strategy was produced alongside ‘One Future, Different Paths – The UK’s Shared Framework for Sustainable Development’.</p>	<p>The Strategy sets out an overarching approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living within environmental limits</li> <li>• Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society</li> <li>• Achieving a sustainable economy</li> <li>• Promoting good Governance</li> <li>• Using sound science responsibly</li> </ul>	<p>The Management Plan should follow the principles of living within environmental limits, ensure a strong, healthy and just society and promote good governance.</p>
<p>Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (English Heritage 2008)  <a href="http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/publications/publicationsNew/guidelines-standards/conservation-principles-sustainable-management-historic-environment/conservationprinciplespoliciesandguidanceapril08web.pdf">www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/publications/publicationsNew/guidelines-standards/conservation-principles-sustainable-management-historic-environment/conservationprinciplespoliciesandguidanceapril08web.pdf</a></p>		

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<p>To set out a logical approach to making decisions and offering guidance about all aspects of the historic environment, and for reconciling its protection with the economic and social needs and aspirations of the people who live in it.</p>	<p>Principle 1: The historic environment is a shared resource</p> <p>Principle 2: Everyone should be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment</p> <p>Principle 3: Understanding the significance of places is vital</p> <p>Principle 4: Significant places should be managed to sustain their values</p> <p>Principle 5: Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent</p> <p>Principle 6: Documenting and learning from decisions is essential.</p> <p>Provides guidance on assessing the significance of heritage assets using the four values of: evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal.</p>	<p>[Note: these principles are being updated]</p> <p>The Management Plan can deliver the enhanced management of the heritage in the face of pressure for change.</p>
<p>Water for people and the environment - Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales, Environment Agency 2009  <a href="http://a0768b4a8a31e106d8b0-50dc802554eb38a24458b98ff72d550b.r19.cf3.rackcdn.com/geho0309bpx-e-e.pdf">http://a0768b4a8a31e106d8b0-50dc802554eb38a24458b98ff72d550b.r19.cf3.rackcdn.com/geho0309bpx-e-e.pdf</a></p>		
<p>It provides the strategic direction for water resources management, based on best available scientific evidence. Although we believe that a balance of demand management and resource development measures will be required, this strategy is not a blueprint for any specific development.</p>	<p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Environment Agency is able to manage water resources and protect the water environment in the face of climate change.</li> <li>• Species and habitats that depend on water are restored, protected, improved and valued.</li> <li>• Good water management contributes to sustainable development by supporting people and the economy in an improved environment.</li> <li>• People value water and enjoy their water environment and understand how it contributes to their quality of life.</li> </ul>	<p>The Management Plan should support sustainable water management.</p>
<p>Making Space for Nature: A review of England’s Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network, (Chaired by Professor Sir John Lawton CBE FRS ) Defra 2010  <a href="http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130402170324/http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/201009space-for-nature.pdf">http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130402170324/http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/documents/201009space-for-nature.pdf</a></p>		

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<p>The review looked at our wildlife sites and whether they are capable of responding and adapting to the growing challenges of climate change.</p>	<p>The report makes the following key points for establishing a strong and connected natural environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That we better protect and manage our designated wildlife sites;</li> <li>• That we establish new Ecological Restoration Zones;</li> <li>• That we better protect our non-designated wildlife sites;</li> <li>• That Society’s need to maintain water-quality, manage inland flooding, deal with coastal erosion and enhance carbon storage, if thought about creatively, could help deliver a more effective ecological network.</li> </ul>	<p>This paper has informed Defra policy. The Management Plan should be proactive in developing biodiversity networks and securing habitats.</p>
<p>Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services (Defra 2011)  <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/08/19/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020/">www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/08/19/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020/</a></p>		
<p>This new, ambitious biodiversity strategy for England builds on the Natural Environment White Paper and provides a comprehensive picture of how we are implementing our international and EU commitments. It sets out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy for the next decade on land (including rivers and lakes) and at sea. It builds on the successful work that has gone before, but also seeks to deliver a real step change.</p>	<p>The mission is “to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.”</p> <p>The Strategy defines detailed outcomes for habitats and ecosystems on land, marine habitats and ecosystems, for species and for people.</p> <p>The priorities for action are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a more integrated large-scale approach to conservation on land and at sea</li> <li>• putting people at the heart of biodiversity policy</li> <li>• reducing environmental pressures</li> <li>• improving our knowledge</li> </ul>	<p>The Management Plan is well placed to make a real and significant contribution to biodiversity strategy, integral to the NL remit.</p>
<p>Strategic Framework for Tourism in England 2010 – 2020 (Visit England 2011)  <a href="http://www.visitengland.org/strategicframework/">www.visitengland.org/strategicframework/</a></p>		

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<p>To maximise tourism's contribution to the economy, employment and quality of life in England</p>	<p>The Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To increase England's share of global visitor markets</li> <li>• To offer visitors compelling destinations of distinction</li> <li>• To champion a successful, thriving tourism industry</li> <li>• To facilitate greater engagement between the visitor and the experience</li> <li>• A series of Action Plans support the Strategy. Those for 'Rural Tourism' and 'Wise Growth' are most relevant to the AONB.</li> </ul>	<p>The Management Plan needs to encourage sustainable tourism.</p>
<p>'The Natural Choice', the Natural Environment White Paper (Defra 2012)  <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/">www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/</a></p>		
<p>The first White Paper on the natural environment for over 20 years and sets out how a healthy, properly functioning natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing.</p>	<p>The White Paper sets out four ambitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting and improving our natural environment</li> <li>• Growing a green economy</li> <li>• Reconnecting people and nature</li> <li>• International and EU leadership</li> </ul> <p>Specifically the White Paper incorporates the recommendations of the Lawton Review 'Making Space for Nature', and supports the establishment of Nature Improvement Areas and Local Nature Partnerships.</p>	<p>The Management Plan should set out a local approach to delivery of the high-level White Paper aspirations.</p>
<p>Healthy lives, healthy people: Improving outcomes and supporting transparency (DH 2012)  <a href="http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_132358">www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_132358</a></p>		



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<p>A public health outcomes framework for England, 2013-2016. Through associated legislation, many public health responsibilities are transferred from the NHS to local authorities.</p>	<p>The framework is focused on the two high-level outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased healthy life expectancy.</li> <li>• Reduced differences in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy between communities.</li> </ul> <p>Four objectives contribute to the outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvements against wider factors that affect health and wellbeing, and health inequalities</li> <li>• People are helped to live healthy lifestyles, make healthy choices and reduce health inequalities</li> <li>• The population’s health is protected from major incidents and other threats, while reducing health inequalities</li> </ul> <p>Reduced numbers of people living with preventable ill health and people dying prematurely, while reducing the gap between communities</p>	<p>The Management Plan should identify opportunities to contribute to public health and wellbeing, consistent with the overall purposes of designation.</p>
<p>GPA2 Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment Historic England (2015)  <a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa2-managing-significance-in-decision-taking/gpa2/">https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa2-managing-significance-in-decision-taking/gpa2/</a></p>		
<p>To provide information to assist local authorities, planning and other consultants, owners, applicants and other interested parties in implementing historic environment policy in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the related guidance given in the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). These include; assessing the significance of heritage assets, using appropriate expertise, historic environment records, recording and furthering understanding, neglect and unauthorised works, marketing and design and distinctiveness.</p>	<p>Understand the significance of the affected assets                      Understand the impact of the proposal on that significance                      Avoid, minimise and mitigate impact in a way that meets the objectives of the NPPF                      Look for opportunities to better reveal or enhance significance                      Justify any harmful impacts in terms of the sustainable development objective of conserving significance and the need for change                      Offset negative impacts on aspects of significance by enhancing others through recording, disseminating and archiving archaeological and historical interest of the important elements of the heritage assets affected</p>	<p>The Management Plan can support consistent and appropriate advice in relation to heritage assets in the NL.</p>

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<p>GPA3 The Setting of Heritage Assets Historic England (2017)  <a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/heag180-gpa3-setting-heritage-assets/">https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/heag180-gpa3-setting-heritage-assets/</a></p>		
<p>This document sets out guidance, against the background of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the related guidance given in the Planning Practice Guide (PPG), on managing change within the settings of heritage assets, including archaeological remains and historic buildings, sites, areas, and landscapes.</p>	<p>It gives general advice on understanding setting, and how it may contribute to the significance of heritage assets and allow that significance to be appreciated, as well as advice on how views contribute to setting. The suggested staged approach to taking decisions on setting can also be used to assess the contribution of views to the significance of heritage assets. The guidance has been written for local planning authorities and those proposing change to heritage assets.</p>	<p>The Management Plan can support consistent and appropriate advice in relation to heritage assets in the NL.</p>
<p>GP4: Enabling Development and the Conservation of Significant Places Historic England (2020)  <a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa4-enabling-development-heritage-assets/heag294-gpa4-enabling-development-and-heritage-assets/">https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa4-enabling-development-heritage-assets/heag294-gpa4-enabling-development-and-heritage-assets/</a></p>		
<p>This document sets out advice on enabling development, against the background of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the related guidance given in the Planning Practice Guide (PPG).</p>	<p>Enabling development is development that would not be in compliance with local and/or national planning policies, and not normally be given planning permission, except for the fact that it would secure the future conservation of a heritage asset. Whilst only applicable in certain circumstances, enabling development can be a useful tool. The advice in this document is intended to help all those involved in enabling development proposals (local authorities, planning and other consultants, owners, applicants and other interested parties) to work through the possible options in relation to the asset in question, and to understand whether they are acceptable. Through analysis of the process, the likely alternatives to and the potential impacts of enabling development, it sets out a model against which to consider proposals.</p>	<p>The Management Plan can support consistent and appropriate advice in relation to heritage assets in the NL.</p>
<p>Several National Character Area Profiles apply to the Malvern Hills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 Herefordshire Lowlands</li> <li>• 101 Herefordshire Plateau</li> <li>• 103 Malvern Hills</li> <li>• 106 Severn and Avon Vales</li> </ul> <p><b>All can be accessed at:</b> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles</a></p>		
<p>National Character Area Profile: 103 Malvern Hills (Natural England 2015)</p>		

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<p>NCA profiles are guidance documents that can help communities to inform their decision-making about the places that they live in and care for.</p>	<p>Statements of Environmental Opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEO 1: Conserve and appropriately manage the highly distinctive range of the Malvern Hills, and the areas of semi-natural habitat in the wider character area such as woodland and traditional orchard, providing economic opportunities, fostering community participation.</li> <li>• SEO 2: Manage and improve access to the landscape, as well as the cultural and geological features of the Malvern Hills National Character Area and promote enhanced understanding and enjoyment to reinforce a strong sense of place.</li> <li>• SEO 3: Protect and appropriately manage the historic environment and its setting, ensuring that historic features and landscapes are recognisable and valued.</li> <li>• SEO 4: Plan for an expansion of semi-natural habitat where appropriate, so that a significant ecological network is created and interconnected to adjoining areas. This will increase biodiversity, pollination, food and drink production, as well as regulate soil erosion, water and soil quality, reinforcing a strong sense of place.</li> </ul> <p>The Profile also sets out 14 Landscape opportunities.</p>	<p>The Profile is a source of base-line data.</p> <p>The Management Plan must seek to achieve the environmental and landscape opportunities if it is to meet the requirement to adopt a Natural Capital approach.</p>
<p>Heritage 2020: strategic priorities for England’s historic environment 2015-2020 Historic Environment Forum, March 2015  <a href="http://www.heritage2020.net/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Heritage2020-framework-text-2016-06-20_final.pdf">http://www.heritage2020.net/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Heritage2020-framework-text-2016-06-20_final.pdf</a></p>		
<p>This framework sets out the shared strategic priorities for organisations working together to maximise the public benefit of the historic environment in England. It has been put together after extensive consultation and debate, and builds on the successes of the National Heritage Protection Plan 2011-15, published by English Heritage in 2010.</p>	<p>Five strategic areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discovery, identification &amp; understanding</li> <li>• Constructive conservation and sustainable management</li> <li>• Public engagement</li> <li>• Capacity building</li> <li>• Helping things to happen</li> </ul>	<p>The Management Plan can deliver the enhanced management of the heritage in the face of pressure for change.</p>

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<p>Tourism Action Plan, DCMS (August 2016)  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tourism-action-plan">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tourism-action-plan</a></p>		
<p>This report sets out how this Government is working to do this through action on:</p> <p>i. The tourism landscape: strengthening co-ordination and collaboration</p> <p>ii. Skills: boosting apprenticeships and attracting more people to careers in tourism</p> <p>iii. Common sense regulation: examining the scope for deregulation</p> <p>iv. Transport: making it easier for visitors to explore by rail, bus and coach</p> <p>v. A GREAT Welcome: driving continuous improvements in our visa service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating an overarching industrial strategy</li> <li>• Engaging through the Tourism Industry Council</li> <li>• Co-ordinating action on Events</li> <li>• Being clear on the roles and responsibilities of VisitEngland and VisitBritain.</li> <li>• Announcing a new £40m Discover England fund</li> </ul>	<p>The Management Plan should note the opportunities of the Discover England fund.</p>
<p>Conservation 21: Natural England’s conservation strategy for the 21st century – Natural England 2016  <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/562046/conservation-21.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/562046/conservation-21.pdf</a></p>		
<p>How Natural England will work to protect England’s nature and landscapes for people to enjoy and the ecosystem services they provide.</p>	<p>The government’s ambition is for England to be a great place to live, with a healthy natural environment on land and at sea that benefits people and the economy. This strategy sets out Natural England’s thinking about what we need to do differently and how we need to work with others, to better deliver this shared ambition.</p> <p>The strategy’s 3 guiding principles are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• create resilient landscapes and seas</li> <li>• put people at the heart of the environment</li> <li>• grow natural capital</li> </ul>	<p>The Management Plan must consider landscape resilience.</p>
<p>Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment Historic England Advice Note 8, Historic England, December 2016  <a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/heag036-sustainability-appraisal-strategic-environmental-assessment/">https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/heag036-sustainability-appraisal-strategic-environmental-assessment/</a></p>		

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<p>It seeks to provide advice on historic environment considerations as part of the Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment process. This document is aimed at all relevant local planning authorities, neighbourhood groups, developers, consultants, landowners and other interested parties.</p>		<p>SEA may be required for NL management plans if they contain policies to protect the Statement of Significance akin to development management policies and provides advice in relation to undertaking SEA in relation to the historic environment for all stages of the SEA process.</p>
<p>Managing Local Authority Assets (Historic England, 2017)  <a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/managing-local-authority-heritage-assets/heag152-managing-heritage-assets/">https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/managing-local-authority-heritage-assets/heag152-managing-heritage-assets/</a></p>		
<p>The guidance is primarily aimed at local authority asset managers and is intended to raise the profile of heritage assets and to provide a framework of 'best practice' for their care.</p>	<p>It contains a set of 'tool kits' which local authorities are encouraged to modify and use to suit their local circumstances. The changing nature of local government and the resource pressures it is facing means that the management and treatment of heritage assets will require more innovative approaches – both to safeguard them for the future and to bring them into productive use.</p>	<p>Will inform the Management Plan baseline</p>
<p>A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment, HMSO, Defra (2018)  <a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf">www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf</a></p>		

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<p>The 25 Year Environment Plan sets out our comprehensive and long-term approach to protecting and enhancing the natural landscapes and habitats in England for the next generation.</p>	<p>Our 25-year goals</p> <p>By adopting this Plan we will achieve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clean air.</li> <li>2. Clean and plentiful water.</li> <li>3. Thriving plants and wildlife.</li> <li>4. A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought.</li> <li>5. Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently.</li> <li>6. Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.</li> </ol> <p>In addition, we will manage pressures on the environment by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Mitigating and adapting to climate change.</li> <li>8. Minimising waste.</li> <li>9. Managing exposure to chemicals.</li> <li>10. Enhancing biosecurity.</li> </ol>	<p>The Plan is not policy – it sets out an ambition. Defra will support the NL Management Plan’s ambitions if it seeks to address the 25 Year agenda.</p>
<p>Historic England 2020 Heritage and the Environment on behalf of the Historic Environment Forum  <a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/content/heritage-counts/pub/2020/heritage-environment-2020/">https://historicengland.org.uk/content/heritage-counts/pub/2020/heritage-environment-2020/</a></p>		
<p>Heritage and the Environment completes the suite of compendia of evidence that is compiled each year by Historic England on behalf of the Historic Environment Forum. Sustainability has at its core the triad of economic, social and environmental principles.</p>	<p>The evidence includes recent research findings as well as past seminal pieces, thus forming part of the heritage sector’s rich, multidimensional knowledge base. The evidence is presented as succinct facts with links to the detailed evidence sources.</p>	<p>This document should inform the data baseline.</p>
<p>UK Climate change Risk Assessment - Betts, R.A. and Brown, K. (2021) Introduction. In: <i>The Third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Technical Report</i> [Betts, R.A., Haward, A.B. and Pearson, K.V.(eds.)]. Prepared for the Climate Change Committee, London  <a href="https://www.ukclimaterisk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Technical-Report-The-Third-Climate-Change-Risk-Assessment.pdf">https://www.ukclimaterisk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Technical-Report-The-Third-Climate-Change-Risk-Assessment.pdf</a></p>		
<p>This report fulfils the requirement of the Climate Change Act 2008 for the Government to lay before Parliament a five-yearly assessment of the risks for the UK of the current and predicted impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>The risk assessment identifies the main priorities for adaptation in the UK under five key themes: Natural Environment; Buildings &amp; Infrastructure; Health &amp; Wellbeing; Business &amp; Services; and Agriculture &amp; Forestry.</p>	<p>Will inform the Management Plan baseline</p>

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<p>Environmental Improvement Plan 2023: First revision of the 25 Year Environment Plan, HMSO, Defra (2023)</p> <p><a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64a6d9c1c531eb000c64fffa/environmental-improvement-plan-2023.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64a6d9c1c531eb000c64fffa/environmental-improvement-plan-2023.pdf</a></p>		
<p>It sets out how the 25YEP goals, Environment Act 2021 targets, and other commitments will combine to drive specific improvements in the natural environment.</p> <p>Thriving plants and wildlife is Defra’s apex goal, which all the other goals will help to achieve.</p>	<p>To ensure Protected Landscapes meet their potential for nature, climate, people and place, Defra sets 10 targets for National Parks and National Landscapes.</p> <p>They will set the ambition for how Protected Landscapes will achieve 3 EIP outcomes :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife</li> <li>• Goal 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change</li> <li>• Goal 10: Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment</li> </ul> <p>Defra expects the 10 targets to be embedded in the management plan.</p>	<p>The Management Plan must acknowledge the 10 targets described by Defra.</p>
<p>The Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) and the Fourth Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting, Defra July 2023</p> <p><a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64ba74102059dc00125d27a7/The_Third_National_Adaptation_Programme.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64ba74102059dc00125d27a7/The_Third_National_Adaptation_Programme.pdf</a></p>		
<p>Every 5 years, the government produces an assessment of the risks and opportunities from climate change and reports on how we will adapt in the NAP. This approach to climate adaptation is world leading, placing the UK at the forefront of global efforts to manage climate risk.</p>	<p>NAP3 explains the government’s plans to adapt to climate change over the next 5 years from 2023 to 2028, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protecting the natural environment</li> <li>• supporting business in adapting to climate change</li> <li>• adapting infrastructure (for example, our electricity networks and railways)</li> <li>• protecting buildings and their surroundings (for example, from hotter temperatures)</li> <li>• protecting public health and communities mitigating international impacts on the UK (for example, on food supplies imported from abroad)</li> </ul>	<p>The Management Plan should consider the current and future projected impacts of climate change, setting out proposals for adapting to climate change and assessing of progress towards implementation.</p>
<p><b>REGIONAL</b></p>		
<p>State of the natural environment in the West Midlands (NE137) (Natural England 2009)</p> <p><a href="https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/39008">https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/39008</a></p>		

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<p>This report brings together a selection of evidence about the natural environment in the South West. It shows that our natural environment is not well placed to withstand the challenges posed by multiple demands on land and the predicted effects of climate change. It recognises the absence of accessible guidance to help people make informed sustainable choices.</p>	<p>Topics covered are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscapes</li> <li>• Geology</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves</li> <li>• The water environment</li> <li>• Climate change</li> <li>• Planning, land use and sustainable development</li> <li>• Health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Enjoying the natural environment</li> </ul>	<p>The report is a source of base-line data.</p>
<p>West Midlands Climate Change Adaption Plan 2021-2026, Sustainability West Midlands  <a href="https://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/West-Midlands-Climate-Change-Risk-Assmt-Adaptation-Plan-2021-26.pdf">https://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/West-Midlands-Climate-Change-Risk-Assmt-Adaptation-Plan-2021-26.pdf</a></p>		
<p>The plan sets out the climate change adaptation actions that should be considered for implementation by decision makers in the West Midlands, to ensure that our natural environment, people, infrastructure, buildings and businesses are prepared for the impacts of climate change, including greater incidence and severity of flooding, a higher likelihood of water scarcity and more intense and prolonged heatwaves.</p>	<p>The document provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A summary of climate projections for the West Midlands, outlining how the climate is likely to change in the region.</li> <li>• A list of climate risks, drawing on the England assessment included in the Independent Assessment of</li> <li>• UK Climate Risk and extracting those risks relevant to the West Midlands and engaging with stakeholders to determine whether any changes ought to be made to their magnitude and urgency scores.</li> <li>• A Climate Change Adaptation Plan, that sets out a series of possible responses to the above risks and associated impacts.</li> <li>• An indication of what actions could take place in the first year of implementation, and their potential impact on other sustainability priorities aligned with the regional 2030 Sustainability Roadmap.</li> <li>• Recommended next steps</li> </ul>	<p>The Management Plan should support sustainable climate change measures.</p>
<p>The Historic Environment: A Prospectus for Growth in the South West, South West Historic Environment Forum, English Heritage 2013  <a href="https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/the-historic-environment-a-prospectus-for-growth-in-the-south-west/sw-hef-historic-environment-prospectus-for-growth.pdf/">https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/the-historic-environment-a-prospectus-for-growth-in-the-south-west/sw-hef-historic-environment-prospectus-for-growth.pdf/</a></p>		



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<p>Prospectus is to show that the historic environment is fundamental to sustainable growth, and explain how it repays investment.</p>	<p>Our shared aim is to champion the social, economic and environmental benefits that we know our historic environment can bring.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Heritage is already a key economic driver</li> <li>2. Heritage can help our economy grow faster - and in a sustainable way</li> <li>3. Heritage is not a barrier to growth</li> </ol>	<p>The SEA will include objectives that seek to conserve and enhance features and areas of historical interest and value.</p>
<p>Severn river basin district river basin management plan, Environment Agency: updated 2022  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/severn-river-basin-district-river-basin-management-plan-updated-2022">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/severn-river-basin-district-river-basin-management-plan-updated-2022</a></p>		
<p>The purpose of a river basin management plan is to provide a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment. The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 seek to establish an integrated approach to the protection and sustainable use of the water environment. They require the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• preparation and publication of river basin management plans</li> <li>• setting of environmental objectives for groundwater and surface waters (including estuaries and coastal waters)</li> <li>• devising and implementing of programmes of measures to meet those objectives</li> </ul>	<p>The environmental objectives of the WFD are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• preventing deterioration of the status of surface waters and groundwater</li> <li>• achieving objectives and standards for protected areas</li> <li>• aiming to achieve good status for all water bodies</li> <li>• reversing any significant and sustained upward trends in pollutant concentrations in groundwater</li> <li>• cessation of discharges, emissions and losses of priority hazardous substances into surface waters</li> <li>• progressively reducing the pollution of groundwater and preventing or limiting the entry of pollutants</li> </ul>	<p>The Management Plan should support sustainable water management.</p>
<p>Severn River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan 2021 to 2027, Environment Agency, December 2022  <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1118308/Severn-FRMP-2021-2027.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1118308/Severn-FRMP-2021-2027.pdf</a></p>		

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<p>The principal purpose of a flood risk management plan (FRMP) is to set out how to manage significant flood risk in nationally identified flood risk areas (FRAs). Producing the Flood Risk Management Plan for these areas is a requirement of the ‘Flood Risk Regulations 2009’.</p> <p>There are 10 FRAs in the Severn RBD.</p>	<p>The plan will help:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify measures (actions) that will reduce the likelihood and consequences of flooding</li> <li>• to improve resilience, which is the capacity of people and places to plan for, better protect, respond to, and to recover from flooding and coastal change, while informing the delivery of existing flood programmes</li> <li>• work in partnership to deliver wider resilience measures. These include nature based solutions, property flood resilience and sustainable drainage systems</li> <li>• plan and adapt to a changing climate through developing longer-term, adaptive approaches</li> </ul> <p>Eighteen nationally-consistent objectives have been written for this second cycle of flood risk planning. In setting the objectives RMAs had regard to the flood risk regulations’ aims. These are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce the adverse consequences of flooding for human health, economic activity and the environment</li> <li>• reduce the likelihood of flooding</li> <li>• Climate change was also taken into account when developing these objectives.</li> </ul>	<p>The Management Plan should support measures to reduce the risk and effects of flooding.</p> <p>The documents should inform the data baseline.</p>
<p>Draft Water Resources Management Plan, Seven Trent Water (2018)  <a href="https://www.severntrent.com/content/dam/stw-plc/water-resource-zones/WRMP-main-narrative.a.pdf">https://www.severntrent.com/content/dam/stw-plc/water-resource-zones/WRMP-main-narrative.a.pdf</a></p>		

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<p>The draft WRMP explains the technical assessments and modelling used to explore the future potential risks to the water supply / demand balance. The plan sets out the proposals for meeting these future challenges, and recommends what steps are needed over the coming years to maintain security of water supplies for current and future customers.</p>	<p>We will use demand management measures to reduce the amount of water we need to put into supply by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reducing leakage on our network;</li> <li>• helping customers to use less water through water efficiency activities and education; and</li> <li>• increasing the coverage of water meters across our network to further reduce consumption and to improve our understanding of water demand patterns.</li> <li>• While making the best use of our sustainable sources of supply by:</li> <li>• reducing abstraction from those water sources that have a detrimental impact on the environment;</li> <li>• making sure our future water abstractions do not pose a risk of environmental deterioration, as required by the Water Framework Directive;</li> <li>• increasing the flexibility and resilience of our supply system;</li> <li>• increasing or optimising deployable output from existing, sustainable sources where possible;</li> <li>• using catchment restoration techniques to improve habitats and ecological resilience to low flows;</li> <li>• using catchment management measures to protect our sources of drinking water supply from pollution risks; and</li> <li>• exploring trades in and out of our region to optimise national use of resources.</li> </ul>	<p>The Management Plan should support sustainable water management.</p>
<p><b>LOCAL</b></p>		
<p>The NL lies within the areas of 5 local authorities, albeit for some the area is small. Each produces strategies and plans that cover a similar range of topics that affect the NL. Many of the policies are similar. All will need to be considered during the SEA process.</p>		
<p><b>COUNTY COUNCILS</b></p>		
<p><b>GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL</b></p>		
<p>Minerals Local Plan for Gloucestershire 2018 -2032, Gloucestershire County Council (adopted March 2020)  <a href="https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/zhuf1sp0/minerals-local-plan-for-gloucestershire-adopted-march-2020-reduced-version.pdf">https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/zhuf1sp0/minerals-local-plan-for-gloucestershire-adopted-march-2020-reduced-version.pdf</a></p>		

<p>The duty of all Minerals Planning Authorities to prepare a Minerals Local Plan is laid down by the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991. Gloucestershire County Council as the MPA is accordingly required to prepare a plan for its area, formulating detailed policies to control and guide all future mineral development in the County. This includes the winning and working of minerals and the deposit of mineral waste.</p>	<p>Objective ENV   Protecting the built and natural environment - To protect, and where opportunity exists, enhance, the quality of landscapes, habitats, heritage and other environmental assets that contribute to the county’s green infrastructure, having full regard to their international, national or local importance, character and / or value.</p> <p>Policy DM09   Landscape</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Part a   Outside of AONB landscape designations (excluding those areas that form part of the setting of an AONB)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Part b   AONB designations and other areas that form part of the setting of an AONB</p> <p>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: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>I. 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</li> <li>I. 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.</li> </ul> <p>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.</p>	<p>This document should inform the data baseline.</p> <p>It sets out strong policies; need to monitor implementation</p>
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	<p>In addition, proposals must be in the public interest by demonstrating: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. there is an overriding need to work and / or process the mineral, including national considerations;</li> <li>I. the local economy will not be subject to unacceptable adverse impacts; and</li> <li>I. alternative non-AONB sources of mineral supply, which are no more constrained, will not be available on practicality and viability grounds.</li> </ul>	
<p>Gloucestershire Waste Local Plan 2002 - 2012 Gloucestershire County Council (adopted 2004)  <a href="https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/p3khbtv1/adopted_wcs_211112-53886.pdf">https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/p3khbtv1/adopted_wcs_211112-53886.pdf</a></p>		

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<p>It is the function of the Waste Local Plan to set out the “land use” requirements necessary for waste management in Gloucestershire.</p>	<p>Gloucestershire’s vision for the period 2002 – 2012 through the Waste Local Plan is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• minimise, whenever possible, waste generation;</li> <li>• treat waste arisings as a valuable resource;</li> <li>• maximise, the potential for waste to bring benefit to the community through re-use, recycling and recovery; and</li> <li>• reduce the loss of amenities to Gloucestershire caused by waste management development, especially via the transportation of waste by road.</li> </ul> <p>These are to be implemented in accordance with the social, economic and environmental principles of Best Practicable Environmental Option.</p> <p>Core Policy WCS14 – Landscape General Landscape</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a lack of alternative sites not affecting the AONB to serve the market need; and</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• The proposal complies with other relevant development plan policies.</li> </ul> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>This document should inform the data baseline.</p> <p>It sets out strong policies; need to monitor implementation</p>
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Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
	objectives of the AONB Management Plans and Waste Core Strategy (WCS).	
<p>Gloucestershire Waste Core Strategy 2012 -2027, Gloucestershire County Council (adopted 2012)  <a href="https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/14056/adopted_wcs_211112-53886.pdf">https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/14056/adopted_wcs_211112-53886.pdf</a></p>		
<p>Provides a policy framework to guide decisions on planning applications for waste management developments, which include facilities to deal with key waste ‘streams’ such as municipal, commercial &amp; industrial, construction &amp; demolition and hazardous wastes. It also considers how radioactive, clinical, and agricultural wastes and waste water should be dealt with locally.</p> <p>In addition to the Waste Core Strategy, there remains several ‘saved’ policies from the Saved Waste Local Plan Policies (2002-2012) that still need to be considered when determining planning applications for waste management developments.</p>	<p>Core Policy WCS14 – Landscape Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a lack of alternative sites not affecting the AONB to serve the market need; and</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• The proposal complies with other relevant development plan policies.</li> </ul> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>This document should inform the data baseline</p>
<p>Highways &amp; Biodiversity Guidance for Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire County Council (2022)  <a href="https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/19592/ghbg-v32-may2022.pdf">https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/19592/ghbg-v32-may2022.pdf</a></p>		

Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>The document is a useful reference for those involved with matters relating to county roads and Public Rights of Way. The document will be of interest to advising ecologists but the guide's tables and diagrams are likely to be useful to non-ecologists too including County Council staff, highways contractors, utility companies and the general public.</p>	<p>The objectives of the HBG are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To raise awareness of biodiversity matters affecting highways work;</li> <li>To ensure highway activities operate within wildlife law;</li> <li>To reduce the extra costs and delays from not identifying biodiversity issues at the earliest appropriate stage;</li> <li>To set out practical and realistic activities that will contribute to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.</li> </ul>	<p>This document should inform the data baseline</p>
<p>Gloucestershire's Local Transport Plan 2020-41 Gloucestershire County Council 2021  <a href="https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2108466/ltp-policy-document-final-v132.pdf">https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2108466/ltp-policy-document-final-v132.pdf</a></p>		

Draft



Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>This strategy acts as guidance for anybody requiring information on how the county council will manage the transport network in Gloucestershire up to 2041.</p> <p>Gloucestershire’s vision for transport is:</p> <p>‘A resilient transport network that enables sustainable economic growth by providing travel choices for all, making Gloucestershire a better place to live, work and visit’</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and enhance the natural and built environment</li> <li>• Support sustainable economic growth</li> <li>• Enable safe and affordable community connectivity</li> <li>• Improve community health and wellbeing and promote equality of opportunity</li> </ul>	<p>The Local Transport Plan can improve quality of life in the NL by:</p> <p>Reducing the noise effects of the transport system;</p> <p>Minimising the impacts of transport on the built, natural and historic environment;</p> <p>Improving the quality of transport integration into streetscapes and the urban environment;</p> <p>Improving the journey experience of transport users; and</p> <p>Enhancing well-being and sense of community by creating more opportunities for social contact and better access to leisure activities and the natural environment.</p>
<p>Gloucestershire Local Industrial Strategy 2019 gfirstLEP (2019)  <a href="https://www.gfirstlep.com/downloads/2020/gloucestershire_draft_local-industrial-strategy_2019-updated.pdf">https://www.gfirstlep.com/downloads/2020/gloucestershire_draft_local-industrial-strategy_2019-updated.pdf</a></p>		

Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>The strategy identifies Gloucestershire’s strengths, opportunities and challenges. It also aligns with the Government’s national Industrial Strategy, which focuses on five ‘Foundations’ for productivity, and four ‘Grand challenges’.</p> <p>The five Foundations are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ideas</li> <li>• People</li> <li>• Infrastructure</li> <li>• Business environment</li> <li>• Places</li> </ul> <p>The four Grand Challenges are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artificial Intelligence and data</li> <li>• Ageing society</li> <li>• Clean growth</li> <li>• Future of mobility</li> </ul>	<p>Capitalise on Gloucestershire’s natural assets and rural environment to make the county the greenest place to live and work in England by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ putting clean growth at the heart of our strategies</li> <li>for business growth and our approach to infrastructure investment;</li> <li>+ building on the capabilities of local green companies and attracting more;</li> <li>+ working with local planning authorities to encourage sustainable and energy efficient house building that supports green construction;</li> <li>+ reducing our carbon emissions to net zero by 2050, with aspirations to go further and faster; and</li> <li>+ exploring a mass-transit transport solution that provides a reliable, quick and clean alternative to cars and significantly reduces commuter traffic between the county’s urban centres – potentially forming a vital new link within the Central Gloucestershire City Region.</li> </ul>	<p>This document should inform the SEA baseline</p>
<p>The County Council is 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. <a href="https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/grow-gloucestershire/developing-a-new-economic-strategy-for-gloucestershire/">https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/grow-gloucestershire/developing-a-new-economic-strategy-for-gloucestershire/</a></p>		
<p>Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Strategy January 2019  <a href="https://www.gfirstlep.com/downloads/2019/gloucestershire-energy-strategy-2019.pdf">https://www.gfirstlep.com/downloads/2019/gloucestershire-energy-strategy-2019.pdf</a></p>		

Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>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.</p>	<p>In 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gloucestershire businesses are actively securing the productivity gains of improved energy efficiency (3)</li> <li>• Gloucestershire is leading county for heat decarbonisation with plan being put into action (4)</li> <li>• All new developments are meeting zero carbon and smart energy standards (5)</li> <li>• 1 in 15 homes in county have solar photovoltaic (PV) panels (6)</li> <li>• Subsidy-free solar and on-shore wind being realised at scale with local/community investment, thanks to supportive local and neighbourhood plans (6)</li> <li>• Low carbon building retrofit is the ‘norm’ in the domestic (7) and non-domestic (3) sectors</li> <li>• Fuel poverty eradicated from homes below an EPC rated D (8)</li> <li>• Electric vehicle (EV) take-up and charging point roll-out managed smartly to minimise cost and resilience risks to local distribution networks while maximising EV growth (9)</li> </ul>	<p>This document should inform the SEA baseline</p>
<p>Martin Collison (2019): The Scale and Impact of the Farming, Food, Drink &amp; Rural Economy in Gloucestershire, Agri-Food and Rural Economy Report for Gloucestershire for Gloucestershire LEP – 2019  <a href="https://www.gfirstlep.com/about-us/our-vision/agri-food-and-rural-economy-report-for-gloucestershire/">https://www.gfirstlep.com/about-us/our-vision/agri-food-and-rural-economy-report-for-gloucestershire/</a></p>		

Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>This report was commissioned by the Gloucestershire LEP Agri, Food and Rural Business Group to establish the value of farming, the food and drink sectors and estimates of the significance of the wider rural economy to the county.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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%.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>This document should inform the SEA baseline</p>
<p>Gloucestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020 – 2030, Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board 2020  <a href="https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/xgmbp0ka/gcc_2596-joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy_dev12.pdf">https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/xgmbp0ka/gcc_2596-joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy_dev12.pdf</a></p>		
<p>Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Health and Wellbeing Boards have a statutory duty to develop a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy</p>	<p>Vision - Gloucestershire is a place where everyone can live well, be healthy and thrive</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Board priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical activity</li> <li>• Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and resilience</li> <li>• Mental wellbeing</li> <li>• Social isolation and loneliness</li> <li>• Healthy lifestyles</li> <li>• Best start in life</li> <li>• Housing</li> </ul>	<p>The National Landscape Management Plan should seek to embed appropriate policies.</p>
<p>Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy – Fourth Annual Report and Action Plan download  <a href="https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/documents/s97267/For%20Cabinet%20-%20Annex%201%20Fourth%20Annual%20Report%20on%20Climate%20Change%20Action%20Plan.pdf">https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/documents/s97267/For%20Cabinet%20-%20Annex%201%20Fourth%20Annual%20Report%20on%20Climate%20Change%20Action%20Plan.pdf</a></p>		

Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>This report summarises the progress that has been made in 2022-23, and proposed actions over the next 5 years.</p> <p>Our Vision and Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>By 2030 Gloucestershire County Council will have reduced our corporate carbon emissions by 80% on 2005.</li> </ul>	<p>Corporate targets are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to reduce our carbon emissions (buildings, street lighting, fleet, business travel) by 80% by 2030 (from the 2006/07 baseline); and</li> <li>to aim for 100% ('net zero') by 2030 through both reduction and carbon offsetting.</li> </ul> <p>The key target for the geographical area of Gloucestershire is for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gloucestershire to be Net Zero by 2045, with a reduction in carbon emissions by 80% by 2030 on 2005.</li> </ul> <p>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</p>	<p>The National Landscape Management Plan should seek to embed appropriate policies.</p>
<p>The County Council is preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy. A draft version of the LNRS is likely to be circulated for public consultation in 2024. The National Landscape Management Plan should seek to embed appropriate policies.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/ecology-and-landscape/a-nature-recovery-strategy-for-gloucestershire/">https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/ecology-and-landscape/a-nature-recovery-strategy-for-gloucestershire/</a></p>		
<p><b>WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL</b></p>		
<p>The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Herefordshire and Worcestershire 2004 - 2034 (first review 2011)</p> <p><a href="file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/Waste_Strategy.pdf">file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/Waste_Strategy.pdf</a></p>		
<p>A Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Herefordshire and Worcestershire</p>	<p>Over the next 20 – 25 years we aim to change the way that municipal waste is managed in Herefordshire and Worcestershire.</p> <p>Seeks to minimise the use of landfill</p> <p>Policy 7 - The Local Authorities will actively seek to provide waste management services in a manner that minimises greenhouse gas emissions and other impacts that contribute to Climate Change</p> <p>Policy 22 - The Strategy will be aligned with key spatial and planning policies as they develop to ensure they are mutually supportive.</p>	<p>This document should inform the SEA baseline</p>
<p>Worcestershire County Council, Green Infrastructure Strategy 2013-2018 (2013)</p> <p><a href="http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/3780/worcestershire_gi_strategy_document_2013-2018">http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/3780/worcestershire_gi_strategy_document_2013-2018</a></p>		

Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>The Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Partnership is a cross-disciplinary partnership of statutory agencies, voluntary organisations, local district councils and the county council. The purpose of the Partnership is to optimise planning and delivery of green infrastructure (GI) in Worcestershire. The partners represent a diverse range of interests, all focused on the natural and historic environment but encompassing sustainability, recreation and transport.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a framework of principles and priorities for green infrastructure in Worcestershire to meet the multiple integrated needs of business, the natural &amp; historic environment and our communities.</li> <li>• Embed the benefits of green infrastructure and the services the environment provides in supporting the successful growth of Worcestershire’s economy and the health and well-being of its communities.</li> <li>• Synthesise existing evidence to identify needs and opportunities to inform the future planning and management of green infrastructure in Worcestershire which complements wider networks beyond Worcestershire.</li> <li>• Drive the implementation, delivery and long-term maintenance of high-quality green infrastructure in the county and ensure that measures are in place by 2018 to deliver the vision.</li> <li>• Assist partners in aligning future delivery projects and their funding streams.</li> </ul>	<p>Useful introduction to developing a Natural Capital approach.</p>
<p>Waste Core Strategy Local Plan 2012-2027 Worcestershire County Council adopted 2012  <a href="http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/pdf/Waste%20Core%20Strategy%20-%20Adopted%20plus%20maps.pdf">www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/pdf/Waste%20Core%20Strategy%20-%20Adopted%20plus%20maps.pdf</a></p>		
<p>The Waste Core Strategy is part of the Development Plan. It is a statutory Development Plan Document that applies to the whole of the county. The Waste Core Strategy will be used by the County Council to determine applications for waste management development. The City, Borough and District councils in Worcestershire will also use it to make decisions on other types of planning applications that could have waste implications.</p>	<p>Policy WCS 9: Environmental assets                      In order to protect and enhance Internationally, Nationally and Locally designated sites, habitats, species and heritage assets and their settings ....                      Policy WCS 12: Local characteristics                      ..... Where there will be unacceptable adverse impacts on local characteristics or an AONB, proposals will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that the benefits of the development at the proposed site clearly outweigh any unacceptable adverse impacts.</p>	<p>There are strong policies to protect the AONB. The Management Plan should support the core strategy.</p>
<p>New Minerals local plan 2018-2036, Worcestershire County Council 2018  <a href="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</a></p>		

<p>Much of the crushed rock resource in Worcestershire is in areas with the highest levels of international and national designations, as outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Of the land containing Malverns Complex and Warren House Formation deposits in Worcestershire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 99.6% is within the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; and</li> <li>○ 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”.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Of the land containing limestone deposits in Worcestershire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 37.4% is within 2.5km of the Bredon Hill Special Area of Conservation (SAC);</li> <li>○ 93.7% is within the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>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</p>	<p>Policy MLP 33: Landscape</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) optimise opportunities to enhance inherent landscape character, integrating other green infrastructure components where appropriate;</li> <li>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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>ii. introduce landscape features that conflict with, or dilute, the inherent landscape character of the area; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>This document should inform the data baseline.</p> <p>It sets out strong policies; need to monitor implementation.</p>
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Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>recovery and storage of stone for this purpose where buildings or walls are demolished and where stone is excavated as part of building works.</p>		
<p>Encraft Ltd (2018): Energy Strategy for Worcestershire LEP, 2018  <a href="https://www.wlep.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/P3695-Worcestershire-Energy-Strategy-Strategy-with-glossary.pdf">https://www.wlep.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/P3695-Worcestershire-Energy-Strategy-Strategy-with-glossary.pdf</a></p>		
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Promoting low carbon transport and active travel</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The National Landscape Management Plan should seek to embed appropriate policies.</p>
<p>Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 4 2017  <a href="https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-09/appendix_b_ltp4_strategy_main_doc_2_.pdf">https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-09/appendix_b_ltp4_strategy_main_doc_2_.pdf</a></p>		



Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>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.</p>	<p>The Environment Objective - To limit the impacts of transport in Worcestershire on the local environment, by supporting enhancements to the natural environment and biodiversity, investing in transport infrastructure to reduce flood risk and other environmental damage, and reducing transport-related emissions of nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, greenhouse gases and noise pollution. This will support delivery of the desired outcomes of tackling climate change and reducing the impacts of transport on public health.</p> <p>The Quality-of-Life Objective - To enhance the quality of life for Worcestershire’s residents by promoting a healthy, natural environment, for people, wildlife and habitats, conserving our historic built environment and preserving our heritage assets.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>This document should inform the data baseline. There is a need to monitor implementation.</p>
<p>Local Nature Recovery Strategy issues and options consultation, Worcestershire County Council, January 2024.  <a href="https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/planning-and-developments/environmental-policy/worcestershire-local-nature-recovery-strategy">https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/planning-and-developments/environmental-policy/worcestershire-local-nature-recovery-strategy</a>                      Background papers:  <a href="https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/planning-and-developments/environmental-policy/worcestershire-local-nature-recovery-strategy/worcestershire-local-nature-recovery">https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/planning-and-developments/environmental-policy/worcestershire-local-nature-recovery-strategy/worcestershire-local-nature-recovery</a>                      The draft LNRS will be published for consultation later in 2024.</p>		

Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
	<p>The following potential opportunities for nature recovery in Worcestershire are suggested:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protected landscapes and their settings (Worcestershire’s Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty).</li> <li>2. Sites listed as locally important for nature conservation (Local Wildlife Sites, Local Geological Sites, Local Nature Reserves, Roadside Verge Nature Reserves).</li> <li>3. Greener towns and villages.</li> <li>4. Supporting pollinators.</li> <li>5. Improving water quality and availability.</li> <li>6. Restoration of rivers and wetland habitats in the floodplain.</li> <li>7. Trees in the landscape.</li> <li>8. Restoration of lowland heathland and acid grassland.</li> <li>9. Restoration of soils and soil health.</li> <li>10. Conservation of key species or species groups.</li> </ol>	<p>The National Landscape Management Plan should seek to embed appropriate policies.</p>
<p>Worcestershire Destination Management Plan: Growing our billion-pound visitor economy, Visit Worcestershire, 2024-2029  <a href="https://visit-worcs.files.svdcn.com/production/assets/images/Visit-Worcestershire-Brochure-2024-WEB.pdf?v=1710156134">https://visit-worcs.files.svdcn.com/production/assets/images/Visit-Worcestershire-Brochure-2024-WEB.pdf?v=1710156134</a></p>		
<p>AONBs are to be the target for marketing young activities</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Objectives - three inter-related areas of focus to guide the action flowing from this Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p>This document should inform the data baseline.</p> <p>There is a need to monitor implementation.</p>
<p>Shaping WORCESTERSHIRE’S Future: our plan for Worcestershire 2022-2027, Corporate Plan, Worcestershire County Council 2022  <a href="https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/Corporate%20Plan%202022.pdf">https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/Corporate%20Plan%202022.pdf</a></p>		

Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. open for business</li> <li>2. children and families</li> <li>3. the environment</li> <li>4. health and wellbeing</li> </ol>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>This document should inform the data baseline.</p>
<p>Worcestershire Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022 to 2032, Health and Wellbeing Board  <a href="https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/health-and-wellbeing/health-and-wellbeing-strategy-2022-2032">https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/health-and-wellbeing/health-and-wellbeing-strategy-2022-2032</a></p>		

Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>The Health and Wellbeing Board brings together the organisations responsible for improving health and wellbeing in Worcestershire.</p>	<p>The vision: ‘working together for better health and wellbeing in Worcestershire’.</p> <p>The focus of the Strategy is on good mental health and wellbeing, supported by action on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy living at all ages</li> <li>• Safe, thriving and healthy homes, communities and places</li> <li>• Quality local jobs and opportunities</li> </ul> <p>Ambitions for good mental health and wellbeing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will take a whole population approach to improving mental health and wellbeing and preventing mental ill health across Worcestershire.</li> <li>• We will continue to align and support local partnership strategies that contribute to improving mental health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• We will maintain our commitment to reducing inequalities</li> <li>• We will continue to engage with local communities over the lifetime of this Strategy.</li> </ul>	<p>The National Landscape Management Plan should seek to embed appropriate policies.</p>
<b>UNITARY COUNCIL</b>		
<b>HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL</b>		
<p>Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy 2011 - 2031 (2015)</p> <p><a href="https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/1788/core_strategy_sections_combined">https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/1788/core_strategy_sections_combined</a></p>		

Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>The Core Strategy is a key document in the Local Plan, which provides the strategic planning framework for the county's future development needs up to 2031. A range of policies sets out how these needs can be met while at the same time achieving social and environmental objectives.</p>	<p>Overall vision for the county:                      Herefordshire will be a place of distinctive environmental, historical and cultural assets and local communities, with sustainable development fostering a high quality of life for those who live, work and visit here. A sustainable future for the county will be based on the interdependence of the themes of social progress, economic prosperity and environmental quality with the aim of increasing the county's self-reliance and resilience.</p> <p>Objective 12:                      To conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy our natural, built, heritage and cultural assets for the fullest benefits to the whole community by safeguarding the county's current stock of valued heritage and significant environmental assets from loss and damage, reversing negative trends, ensuring best condition and encouraging expansion, as well as appropriately managing future assets.</p> <p>Policy SS6 - Environmental quality and local distinctiveness                      Policy E4 - Tourism                      Policy LD1 - Landscape and townscape</p>	<p>Note the plans ambitions. There are several policies that seek to conserve the AONB</p>
<p>Herefordshire Council Local Transport Plan 2016 – 2031 Strategy  <a href="https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/2912/local_transport_plan_2016-2031_strategy">https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/2912/local_transport_plan_2016-2031_strategy</a>                      Herefordshire Council Local Transport Plan 2016 – 2031 Policy Document (2016)  <a href="https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/2631/local_transport_plan_2016-2031_policy">https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/2631/local_transport_plan_2016-2031_policy</a></p>		

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<p>The Local Transport Plan sets out the issues and priorities for investment in transport infrastructure, technology and services to support travel by all relevant modes of transport, including walking, cycling, rail, highways (car, van, freight and motorcycles), bus and community transport.</p>	<p>The LTP has five key objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enable economic growth – by building new roads linking new developments to the transport network and by reducing short distance car journeys.</li> <li>2. Provide a good quality transport network for all users - by being proactive in our asset management and by working closely with the public, Highways England and rail and bus companies.</li> <li>3. Promote healthy lifestyles – by making sure new developments maximise healthier and less polluting forms of transport including walking, cycling and bus use, by delivering and promoting active travel schemes and by reducing short distance single occupant car journeys on our roads.</li> <li>4. Make journeys safer, easier and healthier – by making bus and rail tickets compatible and easier to buy and use, by providing ‘real time’ information at well-equipped transport hubs, by improving signage to walking and cycling routes and by helping people feel safe during their journeys.</li> <li>5. Ensure access to services for those living in rural areas – by improving the resilience of our road network and by working closely with all transport operators to deliver a range of transport options particularly for those without access to a car.</li> </ol>	<p>The Management Plan should take note of the transport implications but these policies support the objectives of the Management Plan.</p>
<p>Integrated waste management strategy 2021-2035, Herefordshire Council 2020  <a href="https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/23473/integrated-waste-management-strategy-2021-2035">https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/23473/integrated-waste-management-strategy-2021-2035</a></p>		

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<p>VISION</p> <p>“Waste not, want not... we value resources and their use. We will reduce resource consumption and embrace the circular economy to maximise the life of products and materials. We treat the materials we collect as resources not waste. We will achieve this by prioritising the waste hierarchy, maximising waste prevention and reuse.”</p>	<p>Target 1 – net zero carbon by 2030</p> <p>Target 2 – reduce residual household waste arisings to less than 330kg /hhld/year by 2035</p> <p>Target 3 - achieve national municipal reuse and recycling rate targets of 55% by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035</p> <p>Target 4 – to meet the requirements of the Environment Bill</p> <p>Target 5 - no more than 1% of municipal waste to be sent to landfill from 2025 and zero waste to landfill by 2035</p> <p>Target 6 - improve reuse and recycling at all HWRC sites to achieve a reuse and recycling target of 85% by 2035</p> <p>Note: There is no mention of the National Landscape or protected landscapes.</p>	<p>The Management Plan should take note of the waste management implications but these policies support the objectives of the Management Plan.</p>
<p>Pathway to Carbon Neutral – Carbon Management Plan 2020/21-2025/26, Herefordshire Council 2020</p> <p><a href="https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/20530/carbon-management-plan-2020-21-to-2025-26">https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/20530/carbon-management-plan-2020-21-to-2025-26</a></p>		
	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>This document should inform the data baseline.</p> <p>The National Landscape Management Plan should seek to embed appropriate policies.</p>
<p>2050 Economic Plan – Herefordshire’s vision for a sustainable and successful future, Herefordshire Council 2023</p> <p><a href="https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/24923/2050-economic-plan">https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/24923/2050-economic-plan</a></p>		

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<p>In 2050 Herefordshire is a vibrant, healthy, zero carbon, and inclusive place to live, work, study and visit at all stages of life. Our rural communities, market towns and university city are thriving with high-quality employment, housing and services. A high-technology, higher value and creative economy has enabled living standards to rise. We have protected our rich natural environment.</p> <p>Environment &amp; Climate Change - A zero carbon and nature-rich county, with a leading reputation for local energy solutions, enhanced natural landscapes, clean rivers and improved biodiversity.</p> <p>Community &amp; Partnerships - Strong and inclusive communities in our towns, villages and rural areas, with flourishing high streets and services. Herefordshire people working effectively together to take opportunities and solve social and environmental challenges.</p>	<p>We will take a proactive and purposeful approach to land use planning, including employment land, housing and natural capital, with an implementation plan that sits alongside the local plan and is delivered through partnerships with developers and investors.</p> <p>We will commit to growing and retaining value locally, creating a clear statement or charter setting out our expectations of investors, businesses, landowners, and others.</p> <p>We will establish a new Herefordshire Economy and Place Board.</p> <p>We will support local businesses to scale and grow, including those solving the challenges of low carbon transition and environmental and social renewal.</p> <p>We will develop and deliver a new approach to inward investment and place marketing.</p>	<p>The National Landscape Management Plan should seek to embed appropriate policies.</p>
<p>County Plan 2020-2024, Herefordshire Council 2020  <a href="https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/1500/county-plan-2020-24">https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/1500/county-plan-2020-24</a></p>		



<p>“Respecting our past, shaping our future - we will improve the sustainability, connectivity and wellbeing of our county by strengthening our communities, creating a thriving local economy and protecting and enhancing our environment”.</p>	<p>Environment - Protect and enhance our environment and keep Herefordshire a great place to live</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise waste and increase reuse, repair and recycling</li> <li>• Improve and extend active travel options throughout the county</li> <li>• Build understanding and support for sustainable living</li> <li>• Invest in low carbon projects</li> <li>• Identify climate change action in all aspects of council operation</li> <li>• Seek strong stewardship of the county’s natural resources</li> <li>• Protect and enhance the county’s biodiversity, value nature and uphold environmental standards</li> </ul> <p>Community - Strengthen communities to ensure everyone lives well and safely together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure all children are healthy, safe and inspired to achieve</li> <li>• Ensure that children in care, and moving on from care, are well supported and make good life choices</li> <li>• Build publicly owned sustainable and affordable houses and bring empty properties back into use</li> <li>• Protect and improve the lives of vulnerable people</li> <li>• Use technology to support home care and extend independent living</li> <li>• Support communities to help each other through a network of community hubs</li> </ul> <p>Economy - Support an economy which builds on the county’s strengths and resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop environmentally sound infrastructure that attracts investment</li> <li>• Use council land to create economic opportunities and bring higher paid jobs to the county</li> <li>• Invest in education and the skills needed by employers</li> <li>• Enhance digital connectivity for communities and business</li> <li>• Protect and promote our heritage, culture and natural beauty to enhance quality of life and support tourism</li> <li>• Spend public money in the local economy wherever possible</li> </ul>	<p>The National Landscape Management Plan should seek to embed appropriate policies.</p>
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Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>Herefordshire Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-2033, Herefordshire Health &amp; Wellbeing Board 2020  <a href="https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/1500/county-plan-2020-24">https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/1500/county-plan-2020-24</a></p>		
<p>The strategy sets out how the Council and its local partners plan to address the health and wellbeing needs of its population (identified through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) and as such, is a key document that is jointly owned and one that promotes collective action to meet those needs.</p>	<p>Four ambitions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>	<p>The National Landscape Management Plan should seek to embed appropriate policies.</p>

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<p>Active and Healthy Herefordshire – Herefordshire’s Physical Activity Strategy 2021-2026 , Herefordshire Council 2021  <a href="https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/24300/physical-activity-strategy">https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/24300/physical-activity-strategy</a></p>		
<p>The Herefordshire Physical Activity Strategy sets out the priorities for physical activity in Herefordshire over the next five years, underpinned by the vision: ‘In Herefordshire every person has the opportunity to: ‘get moving, be active, feel better, keep well and enjoy healthier lives as part of everyday life in their local community’.</p> <p>Aim is: To improve the health and wellbeing of our communities in Herefordshire by increasing levels of physical activity, opportunity for and accessibility to activity, and therefore reduce health inequalities.</p>	<p>The Shared Outcomes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active Environments – environments that support and facilitate every day physical activity for everyone</li> <li>• Active Communities – supported and developed community assets to increase physical activity levels and build community resilience</li> <li>• Healthy Individuals – decreasing inequalities, increased awareness and capability in our inactive population to change their behaviour and increase physical activity levels long-term</li> <li>• Partnerships and Collaborative Working - improved partnership working to increase physical activity opportunities and participation across our population</li> </ul>	<p>The National Landscape Management Plan should seek to embed appropriate policies.</p>
<p><b>DISTRICT COUNCILS</b></p>		
<p><b>Forest of Dean District Council</b></p>		
<p>Local Development Plan Forest Of Dean Council adopted 2012  <a href="http://www.fdean.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=6468&amp;tt=graphic">http://www.fdean.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=6468&amp;tt=graphic</a></p>		
<p>On 23rd February 2012 the Forest of Dean District Council adopted the Core Strategy. This follows the document being declared ‘Sound’ by an Independent Planning Inspector.</p>	<p>Providing quality environments throughout the district- to protect the environment for the benefit of the community and in order to attract new businesses: The Core Strategy will protect the environment by guiding the location of development and by requiring high standards of design. It will require development that is more energy efficient and provides a proportion of its energy through renewable means.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy links the AONB to this objective. The Management Plan will need to build on the core strategy</p>

Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>A new plan is out for consultation in 2024 - The scope of the issues and options consultation is to identify the key planning issues and opportunities the revised Local Plan should address. The key issue is how to accommodate development that is sustainable within the district. This means promoting development which contributes to a district where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• young people can find jobs</li> <li>• older people are supported as they age</li> <li>• tourism and new businesses can grow and prosper</li> <li>• the community is healthy and active</li> <li>• there is a high quality built and natural environment to be protected</li> </ul> <p>Climate change has become a much more imminent risk and concern and we have declared a Climate Emergency. We are actively engaged in pursuing a low carbon future and seeks new development to be designed to adapt to climate change.</p>		
<p>Climate emergency strategy and action plan 2022-25, Forest of Dean District Council 2023  <a href="https://www.fdean.gov.uk/media/tcqxjequ/climate-emergency-strategy-and-action-plan-2022-2025-version-jan-2023.pdf">https://www.fdean.gov.uk/media/tcqxjequ/climate-emergency-strategy-and-action-plan-2022-2025-version-jan-2023.pdf</a></p>		
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritise actions that will help reduce emissions from road transport in the district.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Explore and identify ways that the Council can help facilitate an increase in the retrofit of existing buildings.</li> <li>• Identify ways of supporting industry to use renewable energy to substitute for fossil fuels used during industrial installations.</li> <li>• Identify ways of supporting the implementation of carbon sequestering and ecologically regenerative land management and farming practices in the district.</li> <li>• Support partners to promote and facilitate the development of local low carbon skills.</li> <li>• Explore ways to reduce emissions from waste and encourage a circular economy.</li> </ul>	<p>The National Landscape Management Plan should seek to embed appropriate policies.</p>
<p>Biosphere Foundation CIC (2023):Assessment of the potential Geographic Boundaries for a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve centred on the Forest of Dean, A report for Forest of Dean District Council 2023  <a href="https://www.fdean.gov.uk/media/dp1bevj/d/boundaries-for-a-fod-unesco-biosphere-june-2023.pdf">https://www.fdean.gov.uk/media/dp1bevj/d/boundaries-for-a-fod-unesco-biosphere-june-2023.pdf</a>  <a href="https://www.fdean.gov.uk/planning-and-building/biosphere/">https://www.fdean.gov.uk/planning-and-building/biosphere/</a></p>		

Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>Since 2018, the Forest of Dean District Council has been exploring whether a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve designation will be an asset to the area to help it develop sustainably and to give the area a national and international recognition it deserves. This report has been commissioned to explore what the geographic form of the Biosphere Reserve might be as a precursor to wider consultation with stakeholders and the community.</p>	<p>The Biosphere have 3 functions spread across the 3 zones.</p> <p>The functions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation (of ecosystems, habitats, species and genes)</li> <li>• Development (i.e. sustainable development or use of the area)</li> <li>• Logistics (research, training and knowledge sharing)</li> </ul> <p>The biosphere zones are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core area(s) areas of significant biodiversity value, protected and managed primarily for conservation.</li> <li>• Buffer Zones; designated areas around the core areas that support the conservation objectives and are a means to extend good practices from the core area.</li> <li>• Transition area; the widest extent of the biosphere reserve that encapsulates the character of the area and a sense of place that can bring alignment with stakeholders towards working together for sustainable development.</li> </ul> <p>The plan refers mainly to the Wye Valley AONB but it is possible that the BR could touch the Cotswolds and Malvern Hills NLs – to give opportunities for biodiversity corridors. An AONB is seen as a suitable area for a buffer zone.</p>	<p>The National Landscape Management Plan should note any implications.</p>
<p><b>Malvern Hills District Council</b></p>		
<p>The Adopted South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) 2016  <a href="http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/The-Adopted-SWDP-February-2016.pdf">http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/The-Adopted-SWDP-February-2016.pdf</a></p>		

Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>The South Worcestershire Development Plan is an integral part of the Development Plan (which also includes the Minerals and Waste Local Plans prepared by Worcestershire County Council) for the administrative areas of Malvern Hills District, Worcester City and Wychavon District. Planning decisions by these Local Planning Authorities and the Government’s Planning Inspectorate must be taken in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.</p>	<p>Objective - A Better Environment for Today and Tomorrow</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To ensure that the scale and type of new development does not compromise landscape character or south Worcestershire’s built heritage.</li> <li>2. To ensure development is designed to the highest possible environmental standards in order to minimise carbon emissions resource consumption, pollution, flood risk and increase the proportion of renewable energy.</li> <li>3. To maintain open landscape and prevent the merging of settlements in both Green Belt and non-Green Belt locations.</li> <li>4. To protect the Green Infrastructure Network and take every opportunity to increase its coverage and quality.</li> <li>5. To enhance biodiversity, geodiversity, landscape quality, water quality and protect the highest quality agricultural land.</li> </ol> <p>SWDP 23: The Cotswolds and Malvern Hills Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)</p> <p>A. Development that would have a detrimental impact on the natural beauty(50) of an AONB (as shown on the Policies Map) will not be permitted.</p> <p>B. Any development proposal within an AONB must conserve and enhance the special qualities of the landscape. C. Development proposals should have regard to the most up-to-date approved AONB Management Plans.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy links the AONB to the Objectives.</p> <p>The Management Plan needs to support and link to policy SWDP3</p> <p>The Management Plan will need to build on the core strategy</p>
<p>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.</p> <p><a href="https://www.localplanservices.co.uk/swdpreview">https://www.localplanservices.co.uk/swdpreview</a></p>		
		<p>Consultation for the new plan started in 2023 – the new National Landscape Management Plan should seek to embed appropriate policies.</p>
<p>Our Five-year plan 2024 – 2029, Malvern District Council</p> <p><a href="https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/component/fileman/file/2024/Strategic%20review%20A3%20poster%202024%20WEB.pdf?routed=1&amp;container=fileman-files">https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/component/fileman/file/2024/Strategic%20review%20A3%20poster%202024%20WEB.pdf?routed=1&amp;container=fileman-files</a></p>		

Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>Vision: to enhance the Malvern Hills District as a destination to explore and an outstanding place to live and work</p>	<p>Health &amp; Wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to invest to support and enable our communities to become healthier, safer and stronger</li> <li>• Tackle the root causes of poverty and help residents to prevent, survive and recover from financial hardship</li> <li>• Prevent homelessness and rough sleeping or ensure it is rare, brief and non-recurring</li> <li>• Give young people the opportunity to have a say in public services</li> <li>• Create a vibrant arts community that delivers social, economic and health benefits for our residents</li> </ul> <p>Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable economic growth through increased provision of suitable commercial premises</li> <li>• Support vibrant town centres and an attractive tourism offer</li> <li>• Ensure Malvern Hills District is recognised as a leading location for highly productive, high growth businesses</li> </ul> <p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead Malvern Hills District Council and the wider district to become carbon neutral</li> <li>• Encourage low carbon development, design measures and infrastructure to improve resilience and adaptation to climate change</li> <li>• Reduce the amount of non-recyclable waste sent to the Energy from Waste Plant from the district’s households</li> </ul>	<p>The National Landscape Management Plan should note any implications and embed appropriate policies.</p>
<p>Malvern Hills District Visitor Economy Action Plan Our Vision To 2020  <a href="https://www.visitthemaalverns.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Malvern-Hills-District-Visitor-Economy-Action-Plan-2016-20-WEB.pdf">https://www.visitthemaalverns.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Malvern-Hills-District-Visitor-Economy-Action-Plan-2016-20-WEB.pdf</a></p>		

Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>Aims</p> <p>A. To build stronger partnerships to effectively promote, manage and invest in tourism with businesses, supporting organisations, other sectors and across the district</p> <p>B. Raise the market profile of the Malverns with better targeted, focused and packaged information and promotion, using digital technologies wherever possible</p> <p>C. To enhance the tourism product and visitor experiences in the Malverns - including quality food and drink, accommodation, attractions, events and activities, better access to and understanding of the culture, heritage and landscape of the district and attractive and welcoming environments in the three main towns which are key visitor destinations</p> <p>D. To support successful businesses across the visitor economy which deliver quality service, including improving the skills and training of those working and volunteering in the visitor economy</p>	<p>objectives:</p> <p>Objective One – To ensure that visitors experience good quality tourism experience from previsitor information, to arrival in the county, to interaction with tourism related staff to leave with a positive impression of the county.</p> <p>Objective Two – To ensure that there is finance available to support tourism businesses and raise the profile of Worcestershire with Business Tourism visitors and other Destination Management Organisations to increase visitor spend across the county.</p> <p>Objective Three – To grow and promote the tourism offering in Worcestershire through greater collaboration</p> <p>Objective Four – To raise the profile of Worcestershire as a place to visit regionally, nationally and internationally working with the LEP ensure a World Class visitor experience for Worcestershire.</p>	<p>The management plan should note the implications for visitor management and a growth in tourism.</p>
<p>The Malverns - Visitor economy action plan updated to 2025, Malvern Hills District Council 2021.  <a href="https://www.visitthemaalverns.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/VTM-Action-Plan-2021-WEB-3.pdf">https://www.visitthemaalverns.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/VTM-Action-Plan-2021-WEB-3.pdf</a>  <a href="https://www.malvernhills.gov.uk/business-support-and-jobs/visitor-economy-action-plan">https://www.malvernhills.gov.uk/business-support-and-jobs/visitor-economy-action-plan</a></p>		



Description or purpose of document	Objectives and/or targets identified in the document	Implications for the Malvern Hills Management Plan
<p>Vision for 2025: Be a recognised ‘Green Tourism Destination’ Be a recognised UK destination for health and well-being Be a recognised UK family destination with a low environmental impact</p>	<p>The overall aim for this new tourism strategy is to help the Malvern Hills district thrive by The Malverns becoming a recognised UK health and well-being destination which has a low environmental impact.</p> <p>By working together, we will endeavour to achieve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will create an exceptional experience that is safe for visitors.</li> <li>• We will adopt ‘greener’ tourism business and destination practices.</li> <li>• We will provide support to tourism businesses and events.</li> <li>• We will raise the profile of The Malverns as a visitor destination.</li> </ul>	<p>Aspiration to develop sustainable tourism group, green tourism indicators, marketing linked to literature, myths and legends. The management plan should note the implications for visitor management and a growth in tourism.</p>
<p>Destination Zero - Creating a greener, more sustainable Malvern Hills district, Malvern Hills District Council 2020. <a href="https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/component/fileman/file/Documents/About%20Your%20Council/Destination%20Zero.pdf?routed=1&amp;container=fileman-files">https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/component/fileman/file/Documents/About%20Your%20Council/Destination%20Zero.pdf?routed=1&amp;container=fileman-files</a></p>		
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority 1: Make Malvern Hills District Council’s operations carbon neutral by 2030</li> <li>• Priority 2: Encourage low carbon development and design measures to improve resilience and adaptation to climate change</li> <li>• Priority 3: Improve the energy efficiency of homes across the district</li> <li>• Priority 4: Encourage low carbon Travel</li> <li>• Priority 5: Support businesses to become more energy efficient</li> <li>• Priority 6: Reduce the amount of waste going for landfill or incineration from the district’s households and businesses</li> <li>• Priority 7: Use tree planting, pollinator sites, wetlands, wildflower meadows and other natural measures to capture and store carbon</li> </ul>	<p>The National Landscape Management Plan should seek to embed appropriate policies.</p>

**Appendix 2: Baseline data (template)**

N°	Environmental Objectives	Headline indicators	Information	Commentary
E1	Climate change Address the causes and consequences of climate change			
E2	Soils, Air and Water			
E3	Protect and enhance biodiversity habitats and species			
E4	Protect and enhance the landscape			
E5	Sustain and enhance cultural heritage, including heritage assets and their settings			
E6	Local Distinctiveness			
E7	Safeguard and enhance human health			
E8	Support a locally embedded economy			
E9	Cumulative Impacts - to avoid significant adverse effects between the above interrelationships	No indicator		

### Appendix 3: Consultation responses

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Awaiting Response

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