



# SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL CORE STRATEGY

Scoping Report  
PART TWO

November 2008







# SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL AND STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE HARBOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Part 2 Scoping Report: Harborough Core Strategy

|                   |                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
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# Abbreviations

|                 |                             |      |                                     |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|
| CO <sub>2</sub> | Carbon dioxide              | LDF  | Local Development Framework         |
| DPD             | Development Plan Document   | SA   | Sustainability Appraisal            |
| HDC             | Harborough District Council | SEA  | Strategic Environmental Assessment  |
| NO <sub>2</sub> | Nitrogen dioxide            | SSSI | Site of Special Scientific Interest |
| LDD             | Local Development Document  | SOA  | Super Output Area                   |



# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of this Report

This Part 2 Scoping Report has been prepared for Harborough District Council (HDC) as part of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Harborough Core Strategy. It also incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The report has been published for consultation with the consultation bodies<sup>i</sup> as required by Regulation 12 (5) of the UK SEA Regulations 2004 and should be read alongside the Part 1 Scoping Report released at the same time as this document.

The Core Strategy will be a Development Plan Document (DPD) in the Harborough Local Development Framework (LDF), one of a folder of Local Development Documents (LDDs) that will comprise the LDF. Setting the background and framework for the various SAs undertaken for the LDDs, the information presented in the Part 1 Scoping Report is district-wide and is relevant to the whole of Harborough. Through this approach the Part 1 report sets out the context and methodology for the SA process developed for the Core Strategy.

This Part 2 Scoping Report does not aim to repeat the background information and methodologies proposed in the Part 1 Scoping Report. Instead, drawing on the detail provided in the Part 1 Scoping Report, this Part 2 Scoping Report focuses on the key issues relevant for the Core Strategy and sets out the SA Framework against which the Core Strategy will be assessed.

***This Part 2 Scoping Report should be read alongside the Part 1 Scoping Report which can be found on:***

<http://www.harborough.gov.uk>

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<sup>i</sup> Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency.

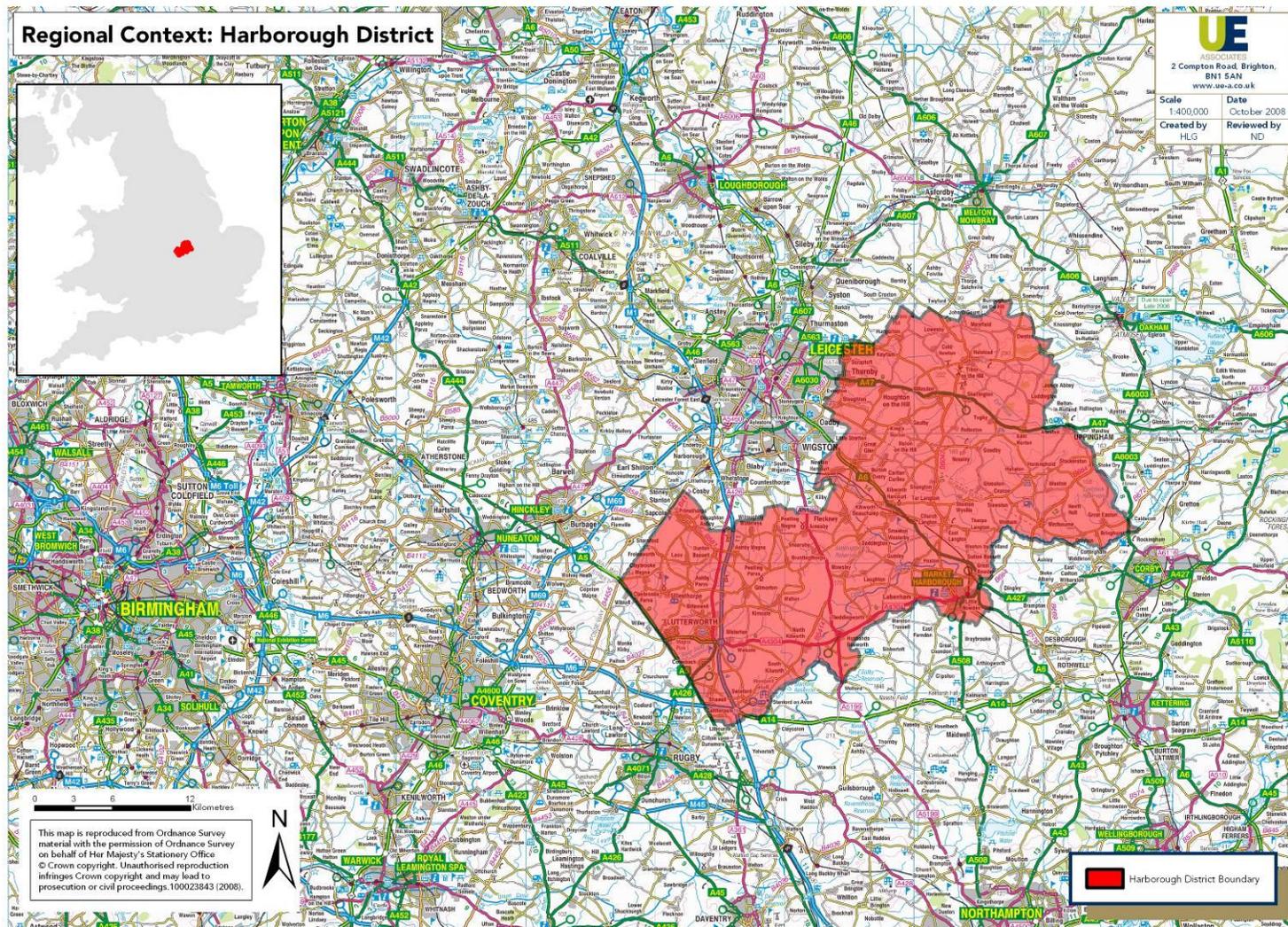


Figure 1.1: Regional Context

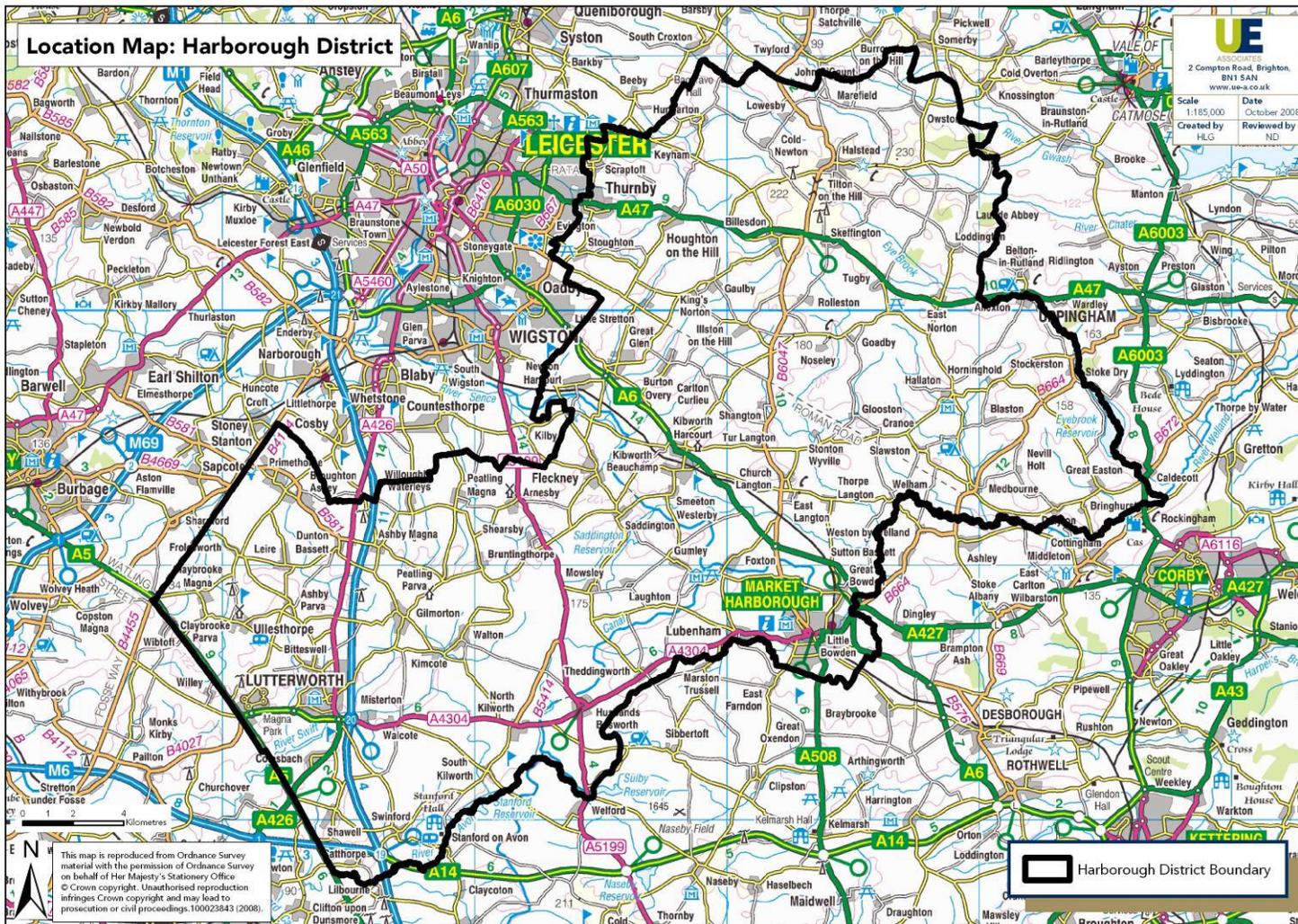


Figure 1.2: Study area for the Core Strategy: Harbrough District

## 1.2 The Harborough Core Strategy

The Core Strategy is the key document within Harborough's Local Development Framework and will set out the overall approach to development in the district through putting forward the vision and strategic objectives for spatial development in the district, including the amount and broad locations for future housing and employment use. Policies within the Core Strategy apply to the whole of the local authority area and are not site-specific. Site-specific policies (for example housing allocations) will be set out in future Development Plan Documents, in conformity with the broad locations set out in the Core Strategy.

According to the recently revised Planning Policy Statement 12<sup>ii</sup> (*Local Spatial Planning*), Core Strategies should include the following:

1. An overall vision which sets out how the area and the places within it should develop;
2. Strategic objectives for the area focussing on the key issues to be addressed;
3. A delivery strategy for achieving these objectives. This should set out how much development is intended to happen where, when, and by what means it will be delivered. Locations for strategic development should be indicated on a key diagram; and
4. Clear arrangements for managing and monitoring the delivery of the strategy.

Once adopted, all other Development Plan Documents must be in conformity with the Core Strategy.

The Core Strategy document will have regard to national guidance in Planning Policy Statements (produced by the Department for Communities and local Government) and reflect the requirements of the East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy. Key spatial planning objectives for the area as set out in the Core Strategy should also be in accord with the priorities of the district's Sustainable Community Strategy.<sup>iii</sup>

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<sup>ii</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government: Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS12): Local Spatial Planning (2008)

<sup>iii</sup> Harborough's Sustainable Community Strategy is currently being developed for the district

### 1.3 Structure of this Report

This Part 2 Scoping Report comprises:

- ▶ The key sustainability issues for the Core Strategy to be addressed through the SA process; and
- ▶ SA Framework against which the Core Strategy will be assessed.

#### 1.3.1 Key Sustainability Issues

The key sustainability issues for the Harborough Core Strategy have been identified from the baseline data and the policy, plan and programme review (see **Part 1** of the Harborough LDF SA Scoping Report). Several diverse and interlinked issues affect the Core Strategy and identification of these issues will help inform the plan making process from a sustainability perspective. Understanding the issues and the way in which they relate is important because the SA process needs to work within environmental limits and thresholds.

These key sustainability issues have been presented in a set of tables representing the sustainability topics set out in **Chapter 4** of the **Part 1 Scoping Report**. Informing these issues, and signposted where relevant in the report are also a set of maps included in Appendix A.

The structuring of the report as such will help consultees locate and concentrate on the key areas to which they have interest.

#### 1.3.2 SA Framework

The SA Framework for the Core Strategy provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. Based on the set of SA Objectives outlined in the Part 1 Scoping Report, the SA Framework includes a series of questions or 'decision making criteria' for use when applying the Objectives to the assessment of proposed policies. This expands the central focus of each Objective (as they are high-level and potentially open-ended). The SA Objectives have also been expressed in the form of targets, the achievement of which is measurable using indicators.

The SA Framework for the Core Strategy has been set out in **Chapter 14**.

## 2 Accessibility and Transportation

| Key Issues and challenges   | Communities/Areas most Affected   | Baseline evidence   |
|---|---|---|
| Significant accessibility issues in the district resulting from the disparate nature of settlements and infrequent public transport links to rural areas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People living in rural areas, and areas at distance from main centres.</li> <li>• People without access to a car or motorbike.</li> <li>• People with mobility problems and older people.</li> </ul> | Six Super Output Areas <sup>iv</sup> in the district are ranked within the 10% most deprived in England for the Index of Multiple Deprivation category "Barriers to Housing and Services", and four of the five most deprived SOAs in Leicestershire for this category are located within the district. (see Map 2)<br><br>There is reliance on Community Transport in a number of parts of the district, particularly in the east. |
| High levels of out-commuting from the district.   | Communities district-wide.  | 69% of the workforce commute to areas outside of the district, with 34% commuting to Leicester (2001 census). These figures are likely to have increased since 2001.  |

<sup>iv</sup> Super Output Areas (SOAs) are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales, with the aim of developing a range of areas that would be of consistent size and whose boundaries would not change. These were built from groups of the Output Areas (OAs) used for the 2001 Census.

### 3 Air Quality

| Key Issues and challenges  | Communities/Areas most Affected  | Baseline evidence   |
|--|--|---|
| Air quality, in particular nitrogen dioxide emissions from road transport. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lutterworth Town Centre; in particular along Market Street and the High Street;</li> <li>• Areas in the district located in closest proximity to Leicester; and</li> <li>• Areas surrounding the M1 and A14 corridors.</li> </ul> | <p>An AQMA was declared in Lutterworth in 2001 due to an exceedence of NO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The Air Quality Monitoring Station on Market Street, Lutterworth has determined that emissions are significantly higher than the UK Objective for NO<sub>2</sub> every year since monitoring began.</p> <p>Map 1 highlights areas of poor air quality in relation to NO<sub>2</sub> in the district.</p> |

## 4 Biodiversity and Geodiversity

| Key Issues and challenges   | Communities/Areas most Affected | Baseline evidence  |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| Lack of sites protected under European, national, regional and local designations.                              | District-wide                   | There are no European sites or National Nature Reserves in the district, and only two Local Nature Reserve totalling 16.3ha. The 718ha of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and 248.5ha of Local Wildlife Sites represent only 1.21% and 0.42% of Harborough's total land area respectively. Almost a third of the SSSIs are in unfavourable condition. |
| Vulnerability of brownfield biodiversity, and biodiversity along river corridors, and existing protected sites. | District-wide                   | There is a lack of protected sites along the extensive river/stream corridors in the district, as well as in built up areas, making these particularly vulnerable to biodiversity loss.  |
| Lack of and declining levels of woodland.   | District-wide                   | The total broadleaved woodland area recorded in 2007 was 27.15ha, down from 32.01ha the previous year. There was only 6.64ha of mixed woodland in the same year (down from 8.53ha in 2006).  |

## 5 Climate Change

| Key Issues and challenges   | Communities/Areas most Affected | Baseline evidence  |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| Higher greenhouse gas emission per capita than regional and national averages.  | District-wide.                  | In 2006, Harborough produced 10.66 kt CO <sub>2</sub> per capita compared to 9.35 kt CO <sub>2</sub> in the East Midlands and 8.78 kt CO <sub>2</sub> in the UK.   |
| High proportion of greenhouse gas emissions from transport.   | District-wide.                  | Road transport is by far the biggest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Harborough, contributing to almost half- or 45% of the district's total emissions.   |
| Low levels of renewable energy generation in the district. Opportunities exist in across the district to generate electricity using micro-generation. | District-wide.                  | Currently there are only two sites in the district producing significant renewable energy: Two Photovoltaic Sunflowers providing 600 kwhs at a site in Magna Park; and 24 Photovoltaic modules providing 3000Wp above a shop (One Stop) in Lutterworth. <sup>v</sup> |

<sup>v</sup> Harborough Annual Monitoring Report 2007

| Key Issues and challenges  | Communities/Areas most Affected | Baseline evidence  |
|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Adaptation to the effects of climate change, including those highlighted by the East Midlands Round Table for Sustainable Development, <i>The Potential Impact Of Climate Change In The East Midlands</i> <sup>vi</sup> (see <b>Part 1 Scoping Report</b> ). | District-wide.                  | A number of watercourses in Harborough are prone to flooding during extreme weather conditions. The River Welland, which flows through the centre of Market Harborough is particularly vulnerable; according to the Environment Agency the section of the river which flows through Market Harborough has a significant risk of flooding (a greater than 1.3% chance each year). |

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<sup>vi</sup> East Midlands Sustainability Round Table: The Potential Impacts of Climate Change in the East Midlands (2004, updated 2004) <http://www.emra.gov.uk/files/potential-impact-climate-change-010404.pdf>

## 6 Deprivation

| Key Issues and challenges   | Communities/Areas most Affected   | Baseline evidence  |
|---|---|--|
| Low level of overall deprivation in the district.   | District-wide.  | Based on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), the district is ranked as the 10 <sup>th</sup> least deprived out of 354 Local Authority areas in England and is the least deprived in Leicestershire. Overall, the majority of the 47 Super Output Areas (SOAs) <sup>vii</sup> in Harborough are ranked within the least deprived 50% in England (ranked 16,241 to 32,482), with only one SOA ranked within the 50% most deprived in England-part of Market Harborough-Welland ward. <sup>viii</sup> See Map 4. |
| Significant accessibility issues in the district resulting from the disparate nature of settlements and infrequent public transport links to rural areas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People living in rural areas, and areas at distance from main centres.</li> <li>• People without access to car or motorbike.</li> <li>• People with mobility problems and older people.</li> </ul> | Six Super Output Areas <sup>ix</sup> in the district are ranked within the 10% most deprived in England for the Index of Multiple Deprivation category "Barriers to Housing and Services", and four of the five most deprived SOAs in Leicestershire for this category are located within the district (see Map 2).<br>There is reliance on Community Transport in a number of parts of the district, particularly in the east.  |

<sup>vii</sup> Super Output Areas (SOAs) are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales, with the aim of developing a range of areas that would be of consistent size and whose boundaries would not change. These were built from groups of the Output Areas (OAs) used for the 2001 Census.

<sup>viii</sup> Research and Information Team Leicestershire County Council: Harborough Community Profile 2005 (2005)

<sup>ix</sup> Super Output Areas (SOAs) are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales, with the aim of developing a range of areas that would be of consistent size and whose boundaries would not change. These were built from groups of the Output Areas (OAs) used for the 2001 Census.

| Key Issues and challenges                        | Communities/Areas most Affected  | Baseline evidence  |
|--|--|--|
| Shortfall of affordable housing in the district. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People on lower salaries.</li> <li>• People living in rural areas.</li> </ul> | <p>Average house prices in Harborough are the highest in Leicestershire and are significantly higher than East Midlands averages.</p> <p>The Housing affordability ratio (between average house prices and average salaries) in the district is 9.4</p> <p>Although a total of 54 affordable units were built during 2006/07, representing an increase of 28 on the previous study year; this provision did not meet the Harborough corporate target of 80 per annum or the perceived requirement (according to the 2007 housing needs update Housing Market and Needs Assessment) for 279 dwellings per year.<sup>x</sup></p> |

<sup>x</sup> Harborough District Council: Harborough Annual Monitoring Report 2007 (December 2007) and Affordable Housing SPD (2006)

## 7 Economic Factors

| Key Issues and challenges   | Communities/Areas most Affected  | Baseline evidence   |
|---|--|---|
| Entrepreneurship: VAT registrations in Harborough are slightly less than regional and national averages, despite a highly skilled workforce.  | District-wide.   | VAT registrations as percentage of stock are 9%, which slightly lower than for the East Midlands (9.2%) and the UK (9.4%) |
| Disparity between the scale of employment growth and that of housing, with increasing levels of commuting out of the area for employment purposes.  | District-wide.   | 69% of the workforce commuted out of the district for work purposes in 2001.  |
| Scope to improve the visitor economy in Harborough, utilising the district's high quality environment and distinctive cultural heritage features, by increasing visitor spend and increasing the number of overnight stays. | As well as the main market towns and visitor sites, this has the potential to support the rural economy of the district generally. | Average spend per visitor (2006/7): £84.02<br>Day visitors (2006/7): 2,206,2600   |

## 8 Health

| Key Issues and challenges   | Communities/Areas most Affected | Baseline evidence  |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| Health service provision inequalities between town and rural communities across the district. | Eastern, rural Harborough.      | Health facilities are restricted to the main towns and villages of Market Harborough, Lutterworth, Broughton Astley, Kibworth Beauchamp, Fleckney, Great Glen, Husbands Bosworth and Billesdon (see Map 6) The majority of health care provision is located in the central band of Harborough and to the west. The small size of healthcare facilities within the district lead to reliance for hospital provision on Leicester and Kettering. <sup>xi</sup> |
| High occurrences of smoking.  | District-wide.                  | Approximately 25% of the District smoke <sup>xii</sup> . 33% of girls and 25% of boys under 16% regularly smoke cigarettes. <sup>xiii</sup>  |
| Lack of participation in sport and recreational activities.                                   | Under 16s, district-wide.       | 61% of girls and 45% of boys aged 2-15 years do not meet the Government's minimum physical activity guideline of one hour per day. <sup>xiv</sup>  |

<sup>xi</sup> Harborough District Local Strategic Partnership (2008) Draft Sustainable Community Strategy [online]/ Available from: [http://www.leics.gov.uk/harborough\\_sc\\_strategy\\_2008.pdf](http://www.leics.gov.uk/harborough_sc_strategy_2008.pdf) [Accessed: 23 October 2008].

<sup>xii</sup> Harborough District Local Strategic Partnership (2008) Draft Sustainable Community Strategy [online]/ Available from: [http://www.leics.gov.uk/harborough\\_sc\\_strategy\\_2008.pdf](http://www.leics.gov.uk/harborough_sc_strategy_2008.pdf) [Accessed: 23 October 2008].

<sup>xiii</sup> Harborough Local Strategic Partnership (2006) Harborough District Community Strategy

<sup>xiv</sup> Harborough Local Strategic Partnership (2006) Harborough District Community Strategy

| Key Issues and challenges                      | Communities/Areas most Affected | Baseline evidence   |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| Pressures on services by an ageing population. | District-wide.                  | Projections suggest that the number of people aged 65 and over will exceed the numbers aged under 16 by 2014 <sup>xv</sup> . Life expectancy is growing by 1% each year <sup>xvi</sup> , highlighting the importance of sufficient health services in Harborough to provide for increasing numbers of older people. |
| Poor quality of social care resourcing.        | District-wide                   | The NHS Health Poverty Index (2000) suggests the district has low service expenditure per capita in relation to social care resourcing. <sup>xvii</sup>   |

<sup>xv</sup> Harborough Local Strategic Partnership (2006) Harborough District Community Strategy

<sup>xvi</sup> Harborough Local Strategic Partnership (2006) Harborough District Community Strategy

<sup>xvii</sup> NHS Health Poverty Index (2000) [online]. Available from: <http://www.sepho.org.uk/Topics/hpi.aspx> [Accessed: 23 October 2008].

## 9 Historic Environment and Landscape

| Key Issues and challenges  | Communities/Areas most Affected   | Baseline evidence   |
|--|---|---|
| Pressures on landscape quality from new development.   | Areas surrounding established settlements. Areas surrounding the potential new Ecotown. | Although landscape is deemed to be of highest quality in the eastern half of the district (see Map 7) the main areas of development are likely to be in the west of the district. |
| Effects on archaeological remains from new and redevelopment   | District-wide   | Many archaeological remains in the district are as yet likely to be undiscovered.   |
| Pressures on non-designated sites and landscapes: These sites and areas play an important role in the cultural identity of Harborough and enable a wider understanding of the area's historical development. | District-wide   | Although a large number of Harborough's settlements are subject to designation, a large proportion of the district's heritage resource remains undesignated.                      |

## 10 Housing and Green Infrastructure

| Key Issues and challenges  | Communities/Areas most Affected  | Baseline evidence  |
|--|--|--|
| Shortfall of affordable housing in the district.                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People on lower salaries.</li> <li>• People living in rural areas.</li> </ul> | <p>Average house prices in Harborough are the highest in Leicestershire and are significantly higher than East Midlands averages.</p> <p>The Housing affordability ratio (between average house prices and average salaries) in the district is 9.4</p> <p>Although a total of 54 affordable units were built during 2006/07, representing an increase of 28 on the previous study year; this provision did not meet the Harborough corporate target of 80 per annum or the perceived requirement (according to the 2007 housing needs update Housing Market and Needs Assessment) for 279 dwellings per year.<sup>xviii</sup></p> |
| Increasing numbers of people on the Local Authority Housing Register | Those affected by high house prices and rents in the district.   | The number of households on the Local Authority Housing Register increased from 770 to 1,254 between 2001 and 2005. The majority of the district's 33,455 dwellings are privately owned (92%) while the remaining 8% are owned by Harborough District Council or Registered Social Landlords.  |

<sup>xviii</sup> Harborough District Council: Harborough Annual Monitoring Report 2007 (December 2007) and Affordable Housing SPD (2006)

| Key Issues and challenges  | Communities/Areas most Affected | Baseline evidence  |
|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Green Infrastructure: There are significant opportunities to improve linkages between areas of open space, parks and the open countryside. | District-wide                   | There are 10 parks and recreation grounds in the district and over 130 smaller recognised open spaces. <sup>xix</sup> One park in the district, Welland Park, has met Green Flag standard. |

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<sup>xix</sup> <http://www.harborough.gov.uk/pp/gold/viewgold.asp?ID=493>

## 11 Material Assets (including energy and waste)

| Key Issues and challenges   | Communities/Areas most Affected | Baseline evidence  |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| Waste recycling: Recycling rates are excellent in the district and have been steadily improving. A key challenge will be to ensure improvements in recycling and reuse rates continue.  | District-wide.                  | In 2006/7 the district recycled 49% of its household waste, in comparison to 36% regionally and 31% nationally. <sup>xx</sup> This was the tenth best household recycling and composting rate of local authorities in England.   |
| Renewable energy: There are low levels of renewable energy generation in Harborough. Opportunities exist in across the district to generate electricity using micro-generation.   | District-wide.                  | Currently there are only two sites in the district producing significant renewable energy: Two Photovoltaic Sunflowers providing 600 kwhs at a site in Magna Park; and 24 Photovoltaic modules providing 3000Wp above a shop (One Stop) in Lutterworth. <sup>xxi</sup> |
| Previously developed land: Whilst the proportion of new development on previously developed land has been steadily increasing since 2002, and rates are high considering the rural nature of much of the district it is however likely that the proportion of new development taking place on previously developed land in the district will decrease in the future | District-wide.                  | The proportion of housing development taking place on brownfield sites in 2006/7 was 84%. In 2002/3 the figure was 25%.  |

<sup>xx</sup> Defra, 2007. *Municipal waste statistics 2006/7* [online], Available from:  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/wastats/bulletin07.htm>.

<sup>xxi</sup> Harborough Annual Monitoring Report 2007

## 12 Population and Equality

| Key Issues and challenges                             | Communities/Areas most Affected | Baseline evidence  |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| Population growth; increasing levels of in-migration. | In-migrants over 35 years old.  | The district saw a steady population increase of 6.9% (5,741 people) between the 2001 Census and 2007. <sup>xxii</sup> The population is set to continue to rise by 19% by 2016 (compared to the 2001 census figure) due to a natural population increase, increasing life expectancies and a rise in migration into Harborough. <sup>xxiii</sup> There are already higher than average numbers of people aged 35-59 living in the district. <sup>xxiv</sup> |

<sup>xxii</sup> Neighbourhood Statistics – Census 2001 Population [online] Available from:

[http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/viewFullDataset.do?instanceSelection=038&productId=75&\\$ph=60\\_61\\_62&datasetInstanceId=38&startColumn=1&numberOfColumns=8&containerAreaId=554920](http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/viewFullDataset.do?instanceSelection=038&productId=75&$ph=60_61_62&datasetInstanceId=38&startColumn=1&numberOfColumns=8&containerAreaId=554920) [Accessed:23 October 2008]

<sup>xxiii</sup> Harborough District Local Strategic Partnership (2008) Draft Sustainable Community Strategy [online]/ Available from: [http://www.leics.gov.uk/harborough\\_sc\\_strategy\\_2008.pdf](http://www.leics.gov.uk/harborough_sc_strategy_2008.pdf) [Accessed: 23 October 2008].

<sup>xxiv</sup> Leicestershire Statistics and Research Online [online] Available from: <http://www.lsr-online.org/stats/areas/31UD/D> [Accessed:23 October 2008]

| Key Issues and challenges   | Communities/Areas most Affected | Baseline evidence   |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Age profile: An ageing population is increasing the dependency ratio of Harborough. | Rural areas in particular.      | Census 2001 statistics suggest that there are less people within the 15-29 age band compared to the UK average. The decreasing number of under 18s is compounded by a low proportion of the population being in the main child-bearing age groups (20 to 34 years) <sup>xxv</sup> . The number of people in Harborough aged over 75 increased from 6.48% in 1991 to 7.25% in 2001 <sup>xxvi</sup> . |

<sup>xxv</sup> Neighbourhood Statistics – Census 2001 Population Pyramid [online] <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/pyramids/pages/31ud.asp> .

<sup>xxvi</sup> Leicestershire Statistics and Research Online [online] Available from: <http://www.lsr-online.org/stats/areas/31UD/D> [Accessed:23 October 2008]

## 13 Water

| Key Issues and challenges   | Communities/Areas most Affected  | Baseline evidence  |
|---|--|--|
| Flood risk: A number of watercourses in Harborough are prone to flooding during extreme weather conditions.   | Market Harborough, and to a lesser extent the northern villages of Billesdon, Burton Overy, Great Glen, Kibworth, Newton Harcourt and Thurnby. | Parts of Market Harborough have a significant risk of flooding (a greater than 1.3% chance each year). The 2002 flooding affected Market Harborough, Billesdon, Burton Overy, Great Glen, Kibworth, Newton Harcourt and Thurnby.   |
| Chemical water quality: Although chemical water quality is fairly good across the district, improvements are still required to meet the target of all watercourses to reach 'good' water quality status by 2015.                                  | District-wide  | Only 1% of rivers in the district have been classed as of 'poor' chemical quality, with over two thirds being of 'good' quality. However chemical water quality has improved only slightly in the last five years, and remains similar to the levels for the rest of the region/country. |
| Biological water quality: Whilst biological water quality is better than that of chemical water quality across the district, improvements are still required to meet the target of all watercourses to reach 'good' water quality status by 2015. | District-wide  | Biological water quality has steadily improved since 2000 to 82% of rivers being classed as good quality in 2006, with none classed as poor or bad. This is significantly better than elsewhere in Leicestershire, the East Midlands or England.   |

## 14 SA Framework

|  | SA Topic (SEA in brackets)                   | SA Objective   | Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal... |  | Indicators  | Targets   |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| 1  | Biodiversity (Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna) | Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity. | Q1a   | Will it lead to habitat creation, matching BAP priorities?   | Area of Nature Conservation designation per 1,000 population (ha).                                      | At least 1ha of Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 population (Natural England) |
|  |  |  |   |  | Area of new habitat creation reflecting Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland BAP priorities            |   |
|  |  |  | Q1b   | Will it maintain and enhance sites designated for their biodiversity interest and increase their area? | Number, area and condition of national, regional and locally designated sites in appropriate management |   |
|  |  |  | Q1c   | Will it increase the area of sites designated for their geodiversity interest?                         | Area designated for geological interest   |   |
|  |  |  | Q1d   | Will it maintain and enhance sites designated for their geodiversity interest?                         | Condition of geological SSSIs   |   |
|  |  |  | Q1e   | Will it link up areas of fragmented habitat?   | Extent (and condition) of priority habitats   |   |
|  |  |  | Q1f   | Will it increase awareness of biodiversity and geodiversity assets?                                    | Number of school trips to Harborough's Local Nature Reserves  |   |
| Number of accessibility improvements to LNRs and local sites (including geodiversity sites)      |  |  |   |  |   |   |
| Number of interpretation improvements (including information boards etc) in LNRs and local sites |  |  |   |  |   |   |

|   | SA Topic (SEA in brackets)   | SA Objective  | Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal... |  | Indicators  | Targets   |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|
|   |  |   | <b>Q1g</b>  | Will it lead to a loss of ancient woodland?  | Planning permissions granted for any development that would result in the loss or deterioration of ancient woodland | Zero (Natural England)  |
| 2 | Historic environment and landscape (Cultural heritage and Landscape) | Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape, maintaining and strengthening distinctiveness and its special qualities. | <b>Q2a</b>  | Will it safeguard and enhance the character of the landscape and local distinctiveness and identity?                             | Application of detailed characterisation studies to new development   |   |
|   |  |   | <b>Q2b</b>  | Will it preserve or enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets?   | Proportion of conservation areas covered by up-to-date appraisals and published management plans.                   |   |
| 3 | Heritage (Cultural Heritage and Landscape)                           | Protect, enhance and manage sites, features and areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance.                               | <b>Q3a</b>  | Will it preserve buildings of architectural or historic interest and, where necessary, encourage their conservation and renewal? | Number of Grade I and Grade II* buildings at risk.  | None (English Heritage)   |
|   |  |   |   |  | Number of Grade II and locally listed buildings at risk.  |   |
|   |  |   | <b>Q3b</b>  | Will it preserve or enhance archaeological sites/remains?  | Proportion of scheduled monuments at risk from damage, decay or loss  | None (English Heritage)   |
|   |  |   |   |  | Number of development proposals informed by archaeological provisions, including surveys                            | All (English Heritage)  |
|   |  |   | <b>Q3c</b>  | Will it improve and broaden access to, understanding, and enjoyment of the historic environment?                                 | Annual number of visitors to historic attractions   |   |
| 4 | Health (Human Health and Population)                                 | Safeguard and improve community health, safety and well being.  | <b>Q4a</b>  | Will it improve access to services and facilities from rural areas?  | Percentage of rural households within 800m of an hourly or better bus service                                       | Percentage of rural households within 800m of an hourly or better bus service 76% (Leicestershire LTP2) |

|  | SA Topic (SEA in brackets) | SA Objective | Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal...              | Indicators  | Targets  |
|--|----------------------------|--------------|--|---|--|
|  |                            |              | <b>Q4b</b> Will it provide sufficient areas of open space for all? | Area of parks and green spaces per 1,000 head of population   | 2.83 hectares per 1,000 population for playing field provision (National Playing Fields Association Standard)  |
|  |                            |              |  | Accessible Natural Greenspace   | 100% of population with Accessible Natural Greenspace of at least 2ha within 300m (or 5 minutes of their home (Natural England)  |
|  |                            |              |  | Number of planning permissions granted on open space land for other uses  |  |
|  |                            |              | <b>Q4c</b> Will it improve long term health?                       | Life expectancy at birth  | By 2010, increase average life expectancy at birth in England to 78.6 years for men and 82.5 years for women (DoH)   |
|  |                            |              |  | Standardised mortality rates  | By 2010, reduce mortality from cancer by at least 20% in people under 75 (DoH)   |
|  |                            |              | <b>Q4e</b> Will it encourage healthy and active lifestyles?        | % of adults (16+) participating in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport and active recreation (including recreational walking) on three or more days of the week | To increase participation by 1% year-on-year until 2020 to achieve target of 50% of population participants in 30 mins activity, three times a week by 2020 (The Framework for Sport in England) |
|  |                            |              |  | The number of sports pitches available to the public per 1,000 population   | 2.83 hectares per 1,000 population for playing field provision (National Playing Fields Association Standard)  |
|  |                            |              | <b>Q4f</b> Will it reduce obesity?                                 | Percentage of adult population classified as obese  | By 2010, stabilise incidences of obesity in children by 2010 (DoH)   |

|   | SA Topic (SEA in brackets)  | SA Objective  | Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal... |  | Indicators   | Targets  |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
|   |   |   | <b>Q4g</b>  | Does it consider the needs of Harborough's growing elderly population? | Percentage of older people being supported intensively to live at home                         | Increasing the proportion of older people being supported to live in their own home by 1% annually (DoH PSA) |
|   |   |   | <b>Q4h</b>  | Will it improve road safety?   | Number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road accidents                           |  |
| <b>5</b>  | Transportation and accessibility (Material Assets)  | Improve accessibility in the district, particularly from rural areas. | <b>Q5a</b>  | Will it reduce the need to travel?                                     | Percentage of completed significant local service developments located within a defined centre |  |
|   |   |   |   |  | Average distance (km) travelled to fixed place of work   |  |
|   |   |   | <b>Q5b</b>  | Will it encourage walking and cycling?                                 | Percentage of people aged 16-74 who usually travel to work by bicycle or on foot               |  |
|   |   |   |   |  | Proportion of new development providing cycle parking.   |  |
|   |   |   | <b>Q5c</b>  | Will it reduce car use?  | Percentage of people aged 16-74 who usually travel to work by driving a car or van             |  |
|   |   |   | <b>Q5d</b>  | Will it encourage use of public transport?                             | Percentage of people aged 16-74 who usually travel to work by bus or train                     | By 2010 ensure 12% growth in bus and light rail use in England by 2010 (DfT)                                 |
|   |   |   |   |  | Number of journeys made by bus per annum   | Increase bus patronage by 1% per year (Leicestershire LTP2)  |
| Percentage of rural households within 800m of an hourly or better bus service | Percentage of rural households within 800m of an hourly or better bus service 76% (Leicestershire LTP2) |   |   |  |  |  |

|          | SA Topic (SEA in brackets)                   | SA Objective   | Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal... |  | Indicators  | Targets   |
|----------|--|--|---|--|---|---|
|          |  |  | <b>Q5e</b>  | Will it improve access to services and facilities from rural areas?                    | Percentage of rural households within 800m of an hourly or better bus service   | Percentage of rural households within 800m of an hourly or better bus service 76% (Leicestershire LTP2)   |
|          |  |  | <b>Q5f</b>  | Will it increase provision of local services and facilities and reduce centralisation? | Percentage of residents surveyed finding it easy to access key local services.  |   |
| <b>6</b> | Waste (Material Assets)                      | Reduce waste and maximise opportunities for innovative environmental technologies in waste management. | <b>Q6a</b>  | Will it provide an increased variety and capacity of recycling facilities?             | Type and capacity of waste management facilities  | To meet the requirements of the RSS Revision  |
|          |  |  | <b>Q6b</b>  | Will it reduce the proportion of waste landfilled?                                     | Net reduction in volume of biodegradable and recyclable waste in volume to landfill   | By 2010 to reduce biodegradable municipal waste landfilled to 75% of that produced in 1995; by 2013, 50% and 2020, 35% (UK Waste Strategy 2000) |
|          |  |  | <b>Q6c</b>  | Will it increase the proportion of waste recycled?                                     | Household waste (a) arisings and (b) recycled or composted  | Defra target: 50% recycled or composted by 2010   |
|          |  |  | <b>Q6d</b>  | Will it reduce waste from construction?  | Reuse of recycled materials from former building stock  |   |
| <b>7</b> | Climate change adaptation (Climatic Factors) | Plan for the anticipated levels of climate change.   | <b>Q7a</b>  | Will it increase the risk of flooding?   | Amount of new development (ha) situated within a 1:100 flood risk area (Flood Zone 3)   | Zero (Environment agency)   |
|          |  |  |   |  | Number of planning applications approved where Environment Agency have sustained an objection on flood risk grounds.  | Zero (Environment agency)   |
|          |  |  | <b>Q7b</b>  | Will it reduce the risk of damage to property from storm events?                       | % of developments meeting the minimum standards for the "Surface Water Run-Off" and "Surface Water Management" categories in the Code for Sustainable Homes |   |
|          |  |  |   |  | No. of planning permissions incorporating SUDS  |   |

|          | SA Topic (SEA in brackets)                   | SA Objective  | Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal... |   | Indicators  | Targets   |
|----------|--|---|---|---|---|---|
|          |  |   | <b>Q7c</b>  | Will it facilitate landscape change for climate change adaptation (e.g. by protecting key landscape and biodiversity features)? | Amount of new greenspace created per capita   |   |
|          |  |   | <b>Q7d</b>  | Will it encourage the development of buildings prepared for the impacts of climate change?                                      | Thermal efficiency of new and retro fitted development; % planning permissions for projects designed with passive solar design, building orientation, natural ventilation |   |
| <b>8</b> | Climate change mitigation (Climatic Factors) | Minimise Harborough's contribution to climate change.                       | <b>Q8a</b>  | Will it help reduce Harborough's carbon footprint?  | Proportion of electricity produced from renewable resources   | By 2010, 5% of electricity to be from renewable sources by 2010 (Regional Energy Strategy)                            |
|          |  |   |   |   | Proportion of new homes achieving a four star or above sustainability rating for the "Energy/CO <sub>2</sub> " category as stipulated by the Code for Sustainable Homes   | All new homes to be carbon neutral by 2016 (DCLG target)  |
|          |  |   |   |   | Traffic growth in the district  |   |
|          |  |   | <b>Q8b</b>  | Will it generate significant amounts of greenhouse gases, or increase the amounts of greenhouse gases currently produced?       | CO <sub>2</sub> , methane and nitrous oxide emissions per sector  | UK targets: 80% reduction of carbon dioxide emission by 2050 and a 26% to 32% reduction by 2020                       |
|          |  |   | <b>Q8c</b>  | Will it help raise awareness of climate change mitigation?  | Number of initiatives to increase awareness of energy efficiency  |   |
| <b>9</b> | Housing (Material Assets and Population)     | Provide affordable, environmentally sound and good quality housing for all. | <b>Q9a</b>  | Will it ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing?  | Number of affordable homes developed in comparison with the total number of homes developed.  | Provision of 80 affordable dwellings per annum in the district (Harborough Community Strategy)                        |
|          |  |   |   |   |   | Provision of at least 30% affordable housing on all sites of 5 or more dwellings. (Harborough Affordable Housing SPD) |

|           | SA Topic (SEA in brackets)        | SA Objective   | Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal... |   | Indicators   | Targets  |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|
|           |                                   |  | <b>Q9b</b>  | Will it ensure that all new development contributes to local distinctiveness and improve the local environment?   | Number of major housing applications refused on design grounds.  |  |
|           |                                   |  |   |   | Accessible Natural Greenspace  | 100% of population with Accessible Natural Greenspace of at least 2ha within 300m (or 5 minutes of their home (Natural England)) |
|           |                                   |  | <b>Q9c</b>  | Will it meet the building specification guidance in the Code for Sustainable Homes? (DCLG)  | Number of housing development achieving a four star or above sustainability rating as stipulated by the Code for Sustainable Homes |  |
|           |                                   |  | <b>Q9d</b>  | Will it reduce the amount of vacant housing?  | Proportion of vacant housing   |  |
| <b>10</b> | Economic development (Population) | Encourage investment in order to grow the local economy.       | <b>Q10a</b>   | Will it ensure that new employment, office, retail and leisure developments are in locations that are accessible to those who will use them by a choice of transport modes? | Proportion of residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of key services                                      |  |
|           |                                   |  | <b>Q10b</b>   | Will it support the district's visitor economy?   | Number of visitors spending an overnight visit in the district   |  |
|           |                                   |  | <b>Q10c</b>   | Will it support or encourage social enterprise and the development of new environmental technologies?   | No. of start-up businesses in the environmental sector   |  |
|           |                                   |  | <b>Q10d</b>   | Will it provide adequate green space and environmental capital (green infrastructure)?  | Area of Green Space per 1,000 population   | 100% of population with Accessible Natural Greenspace of at least 2ha within 300m (or 5 minutes of their home (Natural England)) |
| <b>11</b> | Use of resources                  | Use and manage land, energy, soil, mineral and water resources | <b>Q11a</b>   | Will it exacerbate water abstraction levels?  | Abstractions by purpose  |  |

|    | SA Topic (SEA in brackets)                                | SA Objective  | Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal... |   | Indicators   | Targets   |
|----|---|---|---|---|--|---|
|    | (Material assets, Soil, Water)                            | prudently and efficiently, and increase energy generated from renewables.                         | Q11b  | Will it increase water consumption?                               | Average domestic water consumption (l/head/day)  |   |
|    |   |   | Q11c  | Will it include energy efficiency measures?                       | Number of premises meeting Code 4, 5 or 6 standard in the Code for Sustainable Homes   |   |
|    |   |   | Q11d  | Will it encourage energy production from sustainable sources?     | Percentage of energy produced from sustainable sources   |   |
|    |   |   | Q11e  | Will it safeguard Harborough's material resources for future use? | Area of safeguarded minerals protection areas  |   |
|    |   |   | Q11f  | Will it utilise derelict, degraded and under-used land?           | % of dwellings built on previously developed land  | % of all new housing to be build on previously developed land: Harborough - 60% (APR target)            |
|    |   |   | Q11g  | Will it lead to reduced consumption of materials and resources?   | Number of new buildings with BREEAM rating as % all new build  |   |
|    |   |   | Q11h  | Will it lead to higher density development?                       | Housing density in new development: average number of dwellings per hectare  | Minimum 30 dwellings per hectare (PPS3- Harborough has yet to set a target)                             |
| 12 | Environmental Quality (Air, Soil, Water and Human Health) | Maintain, and where necessary, improve, the overall quality of the natural and built environment. | Q12a  | Will it lead to improved water quality?                           | % of watercourses classified as good or very good biological and chemical quality  | All inland and coastal water bodies to reach at least "good status" by 2015 (Water Framework Directive) |
|    |   |   |   |   | % of planning applications granted contrary to Environment Agency advice in relation to PPS23                                      | Zero (Environment agency)   |
|    |   |   | Q12b  | Will it lead to improved air quality?                             | Number and area of Air Quality Management Areas  | To meet national Air Quality Standards  |
|    |   |   |   |   | No. of days when air pollution is moderate or high for NO <sub>2</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> , O <sub>3</sub> , CO or PM <sub>10</sub> | To meet national Air Quality Standards  |
|    |   |   | Q12c  | Will it maintain and enhance soil quality?                        | Area of contaminated land (ha)   |   |
|    |   |   | Q12d  | Will it reduce the overall amount of                              | % change in pollution incidents  |   |

|  | SA Topic<br>(SEA in<br>brackets) | SA Objective | Decision making criteria: Will the<br>option/proposal... |  | Indicators  | Targets                   |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------|--|--|---|---------------------------|
|  |                                  |              |  | diffuse pollution to air, water and<br>soil? | % of planning applications granted contrary to<br>Environment Agency advice in relation to<br>PPS23 | Zero (Environment agency) |
|  |                                  |              | <b>Q12e</b>  | Will it reduce land contamination?           | % of projects (by number and value) involving<br>remediation of any kind                            |                           |

# 15 Consultation

## 15.1 Consultation on the Scoping Report

Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the SA process. The SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public at the scoping stage. Regulation 12 (5) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 1633) states that:

*“When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies.”*

The statutory consultation bodies are English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England (formerly the Countryside Agency and English Nature). The Scoping Report has been released to these three statutory consultees.

## 15.2 Download and Viewing Details

Both the Part 1 and Part 2 Scoping Reports are available to download at: <http://www.harborough.gov.uk> .

Alternatively hard copies can be viewed at:

Harborough District Council  
Council Offices  
Adam and Eve Street  
Market Harborough  
Leicestershire  
LE16 7AG

This consultation period runs from 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008 until 15<sup>th</sup> December 2008. Comments on this Part 2 Scoping Report should be sent to:

**Victoria Chapman**  
**Harborough District Council**  
**Council Offices**  
**Adam and Eve Street**  
**Market Harborough**  
**Leicestershire**  
**LE16 7AG**

Or:

[Victoria.Chapman@harborough.gov.uk](mailto:Victoria.Chapman@harborough.gov.uk)

All comments received on the Scoping Report will be reviewed and will influence the development of the SA where appropriate.

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## **Appendix A: Maps of Harborough**



**Map 1:** Air quality map: nitrogen dioxide

**Map 2:** Index of Multiple Deprivation: Barriers to Housing and Services

**Map 3:** Nature conservation assets

**Map 4:** Overall Index of Multiple Deprivation

**Map 5:** Listed buildings and conservation areas

**Map 6:** Health services

**Map 7:** Areas of Particularly Attractive Countryside

**Map 8:** Population

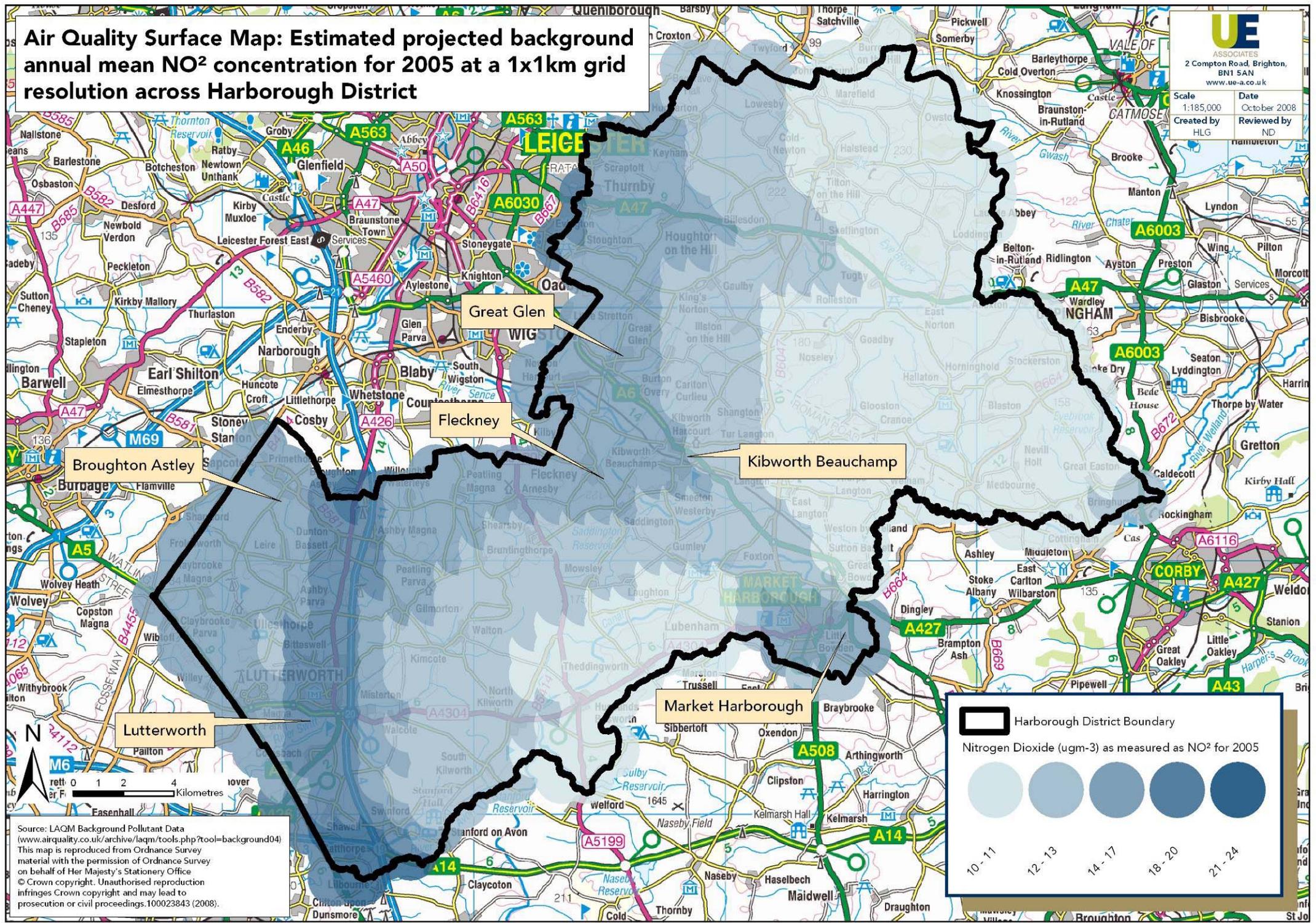
**Map 9:** Historic landfill sites



# Air Quality Surface Map: Estimated projected background annual mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentration for 2005 at a 1x1km grid resolution across Harborough District

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| Created by<br>HLG  | Reviewed by<br>ND    |



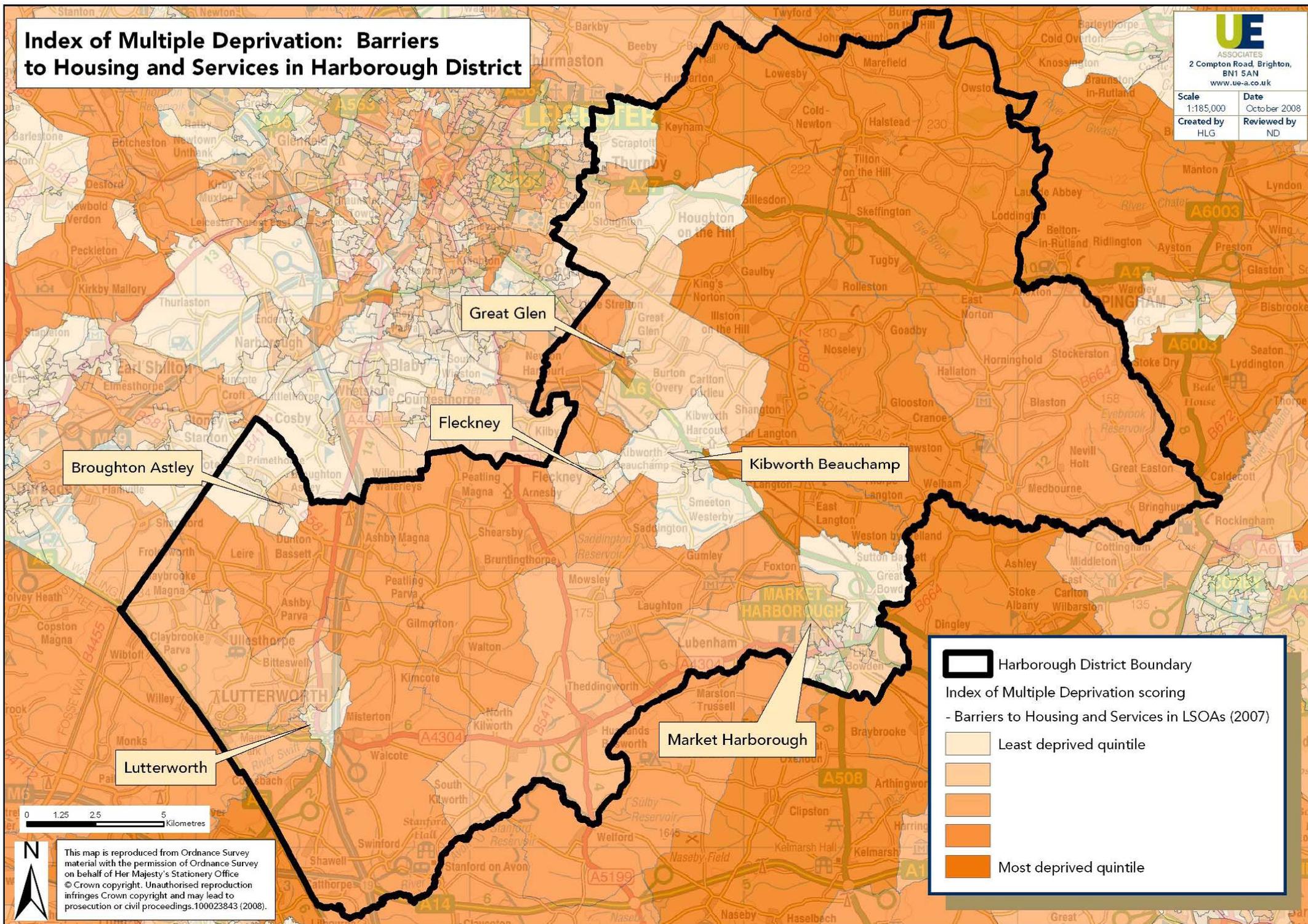
Source: LAQM Background Pollutant Data  
 (www.airquality.co.uk/archive/laqm/tools.php?tool=background04)  
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# Index of Multiple Deprivation: Barriers to Housing and Services in Harborough District



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**Harborough District Boundary**

**Index of Multiple Deprivation scoring - Barriers to Housing and Services in LSOAs (2007)**

- Least deprived quintile
- 
- 
- 
- Most deprived quintile

0 1.25 2.5 5 Kilometres



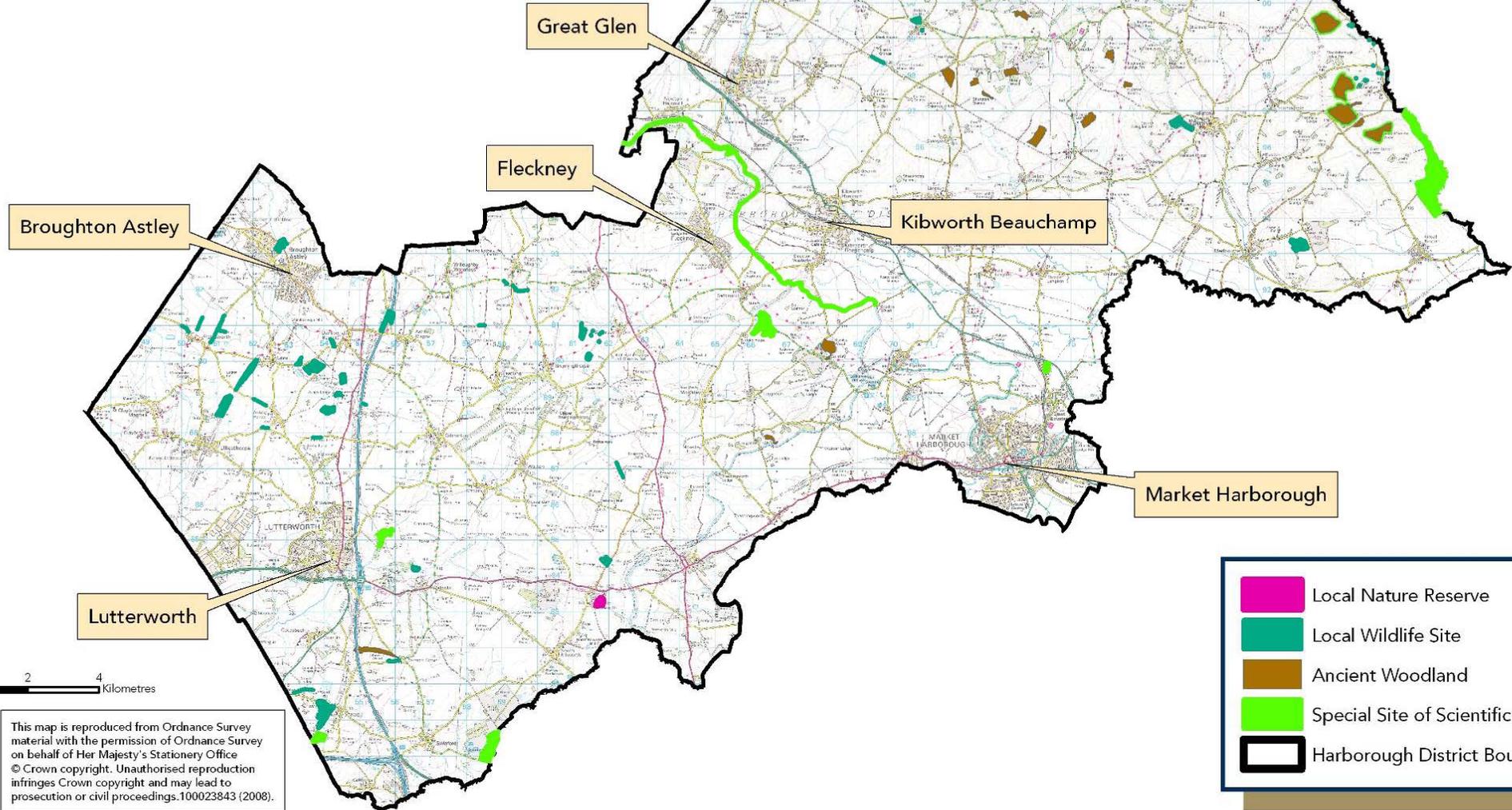
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# Nature Conservation Assets in Harborough District



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Broughton Astley

Great Glen

Fleckney

Kibworth Beauchamp

Market Harborough

Lutterworth

- Local Nature Reserve
- Local Wildlife Site
- Ancient Woodland
- Special Site of Scientific Interest
- Harborough District Boundary

0 1 2 4 Kilometres

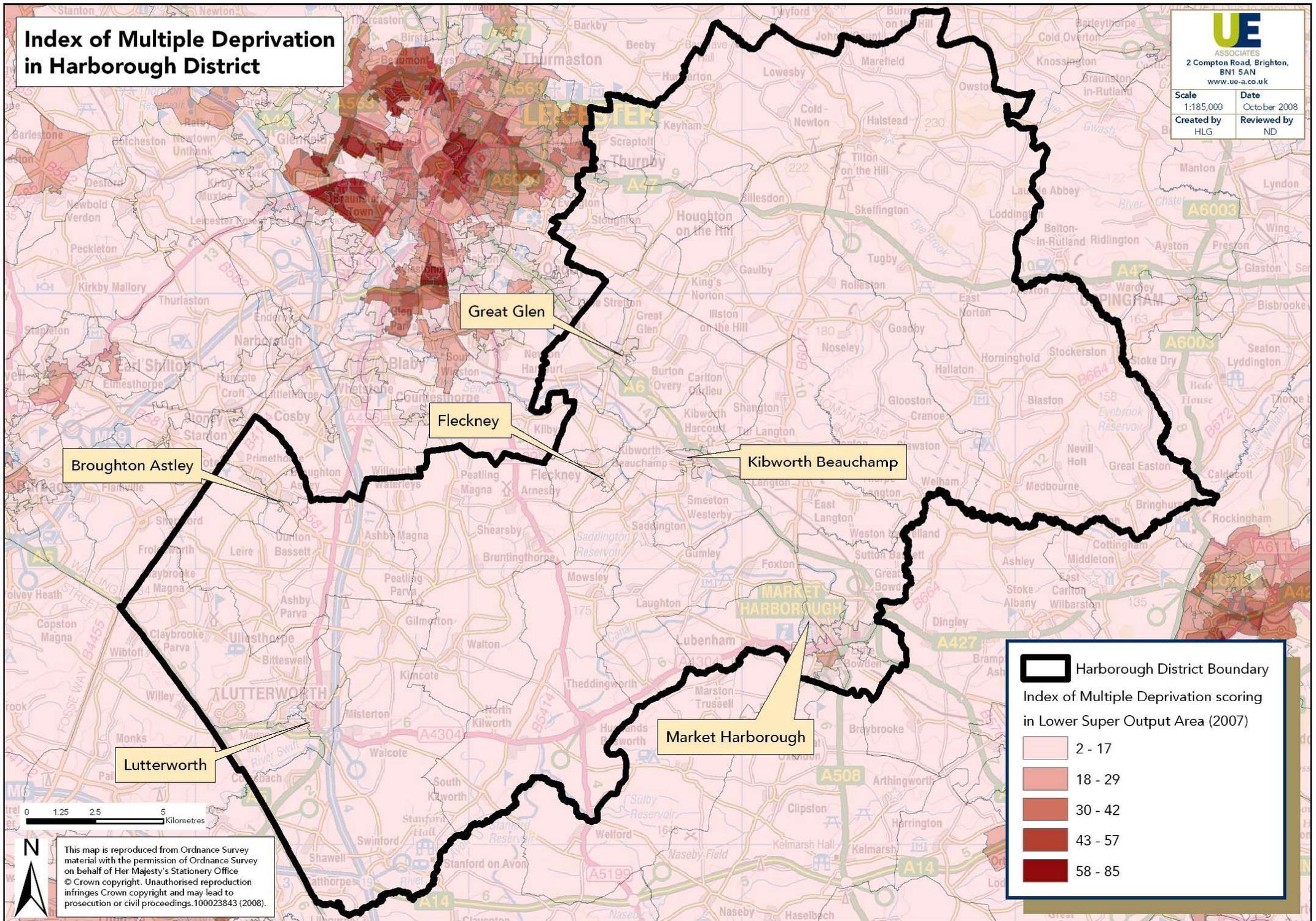


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# Index of Multiple Deprivation in Harborough District

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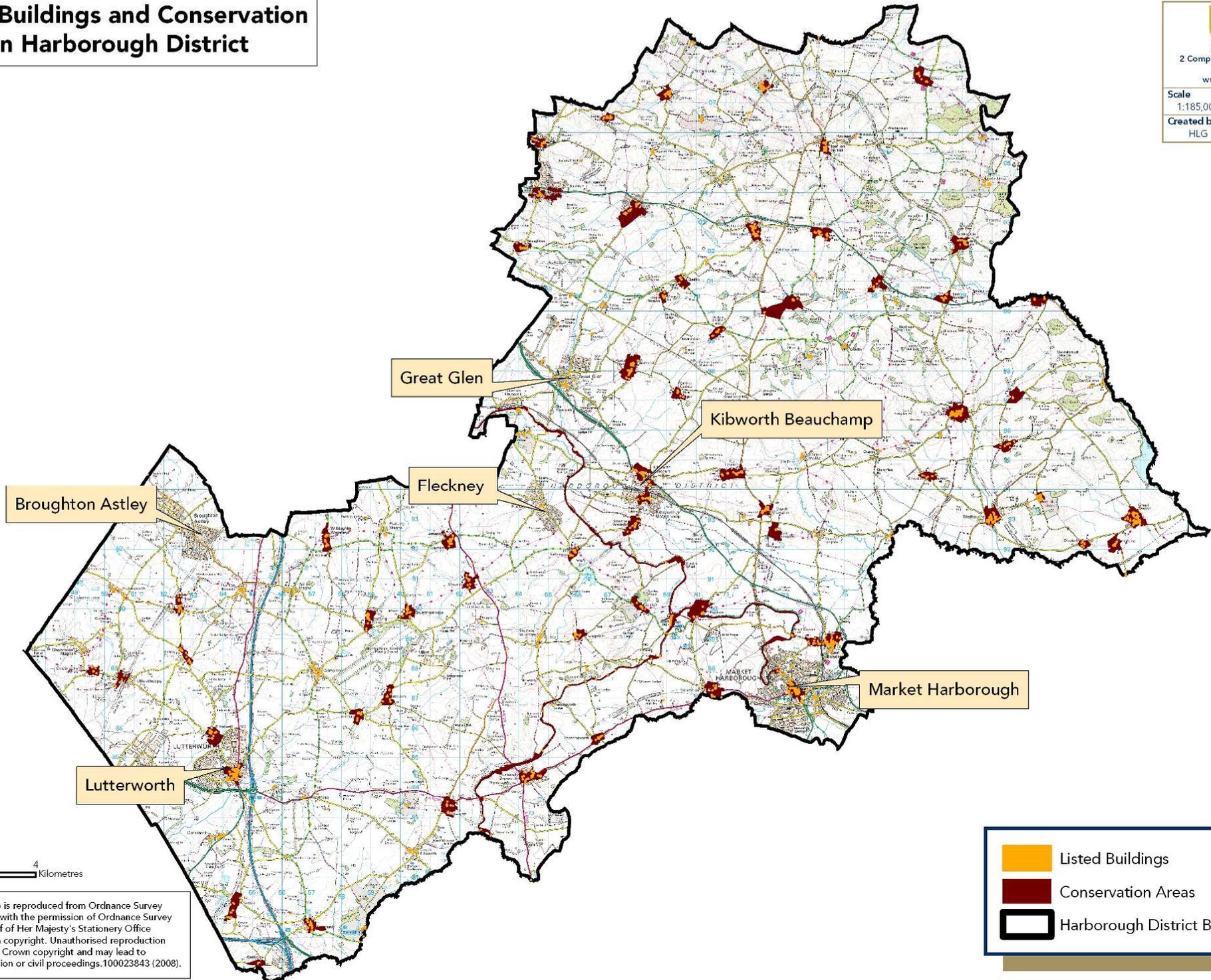
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# Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas in Harborough District



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|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
|  | Listed Buildings             |
|  | Conservation Areas           |
|  | Harborough District Boundary |

0 1 2 4 Kilometres



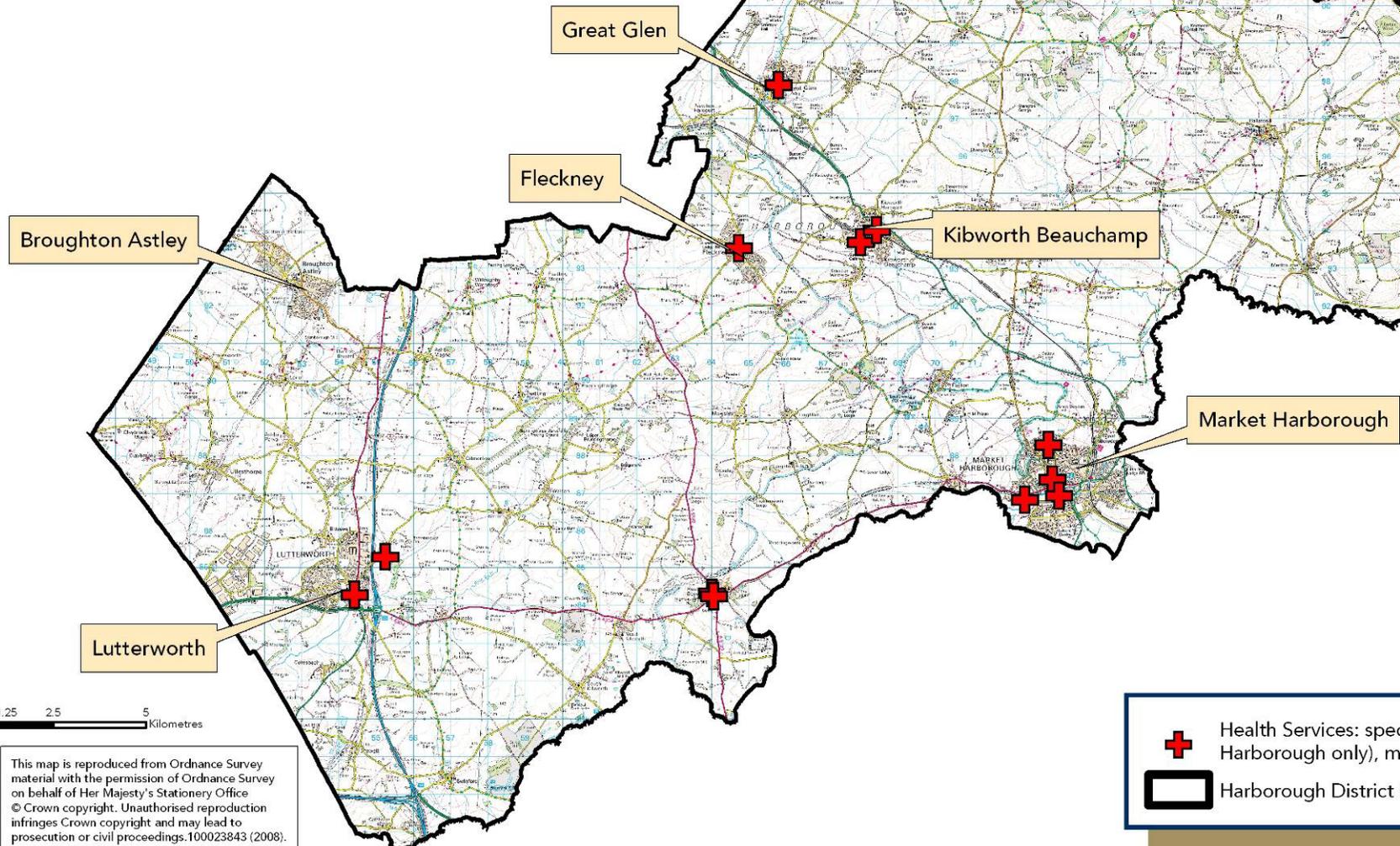
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# Provision of Health Services in Harborough District



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Broughton Astley

Lutterworth

Great Glen

Fleckney

Kibworth Beauchamp

Market Harborough

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 Health Services: specifically hospitals (Market Harborough only), medical centres and surgeries.

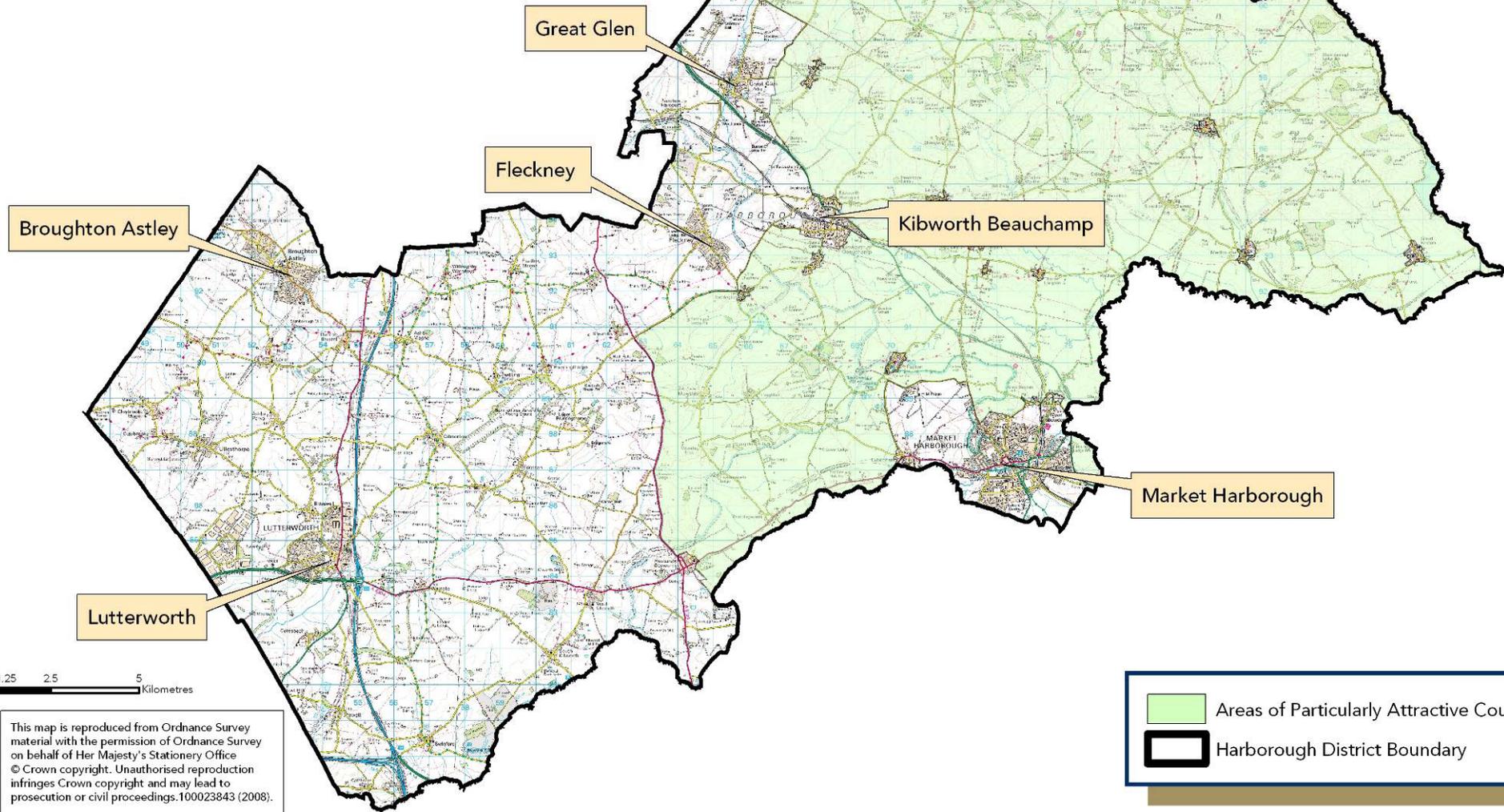
 Harborough District Boundary

# Areas of Particularly Attractive Countryside as outlined in the Harborough District Local Plan



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0 1.25 2.5 5  
Kilometres



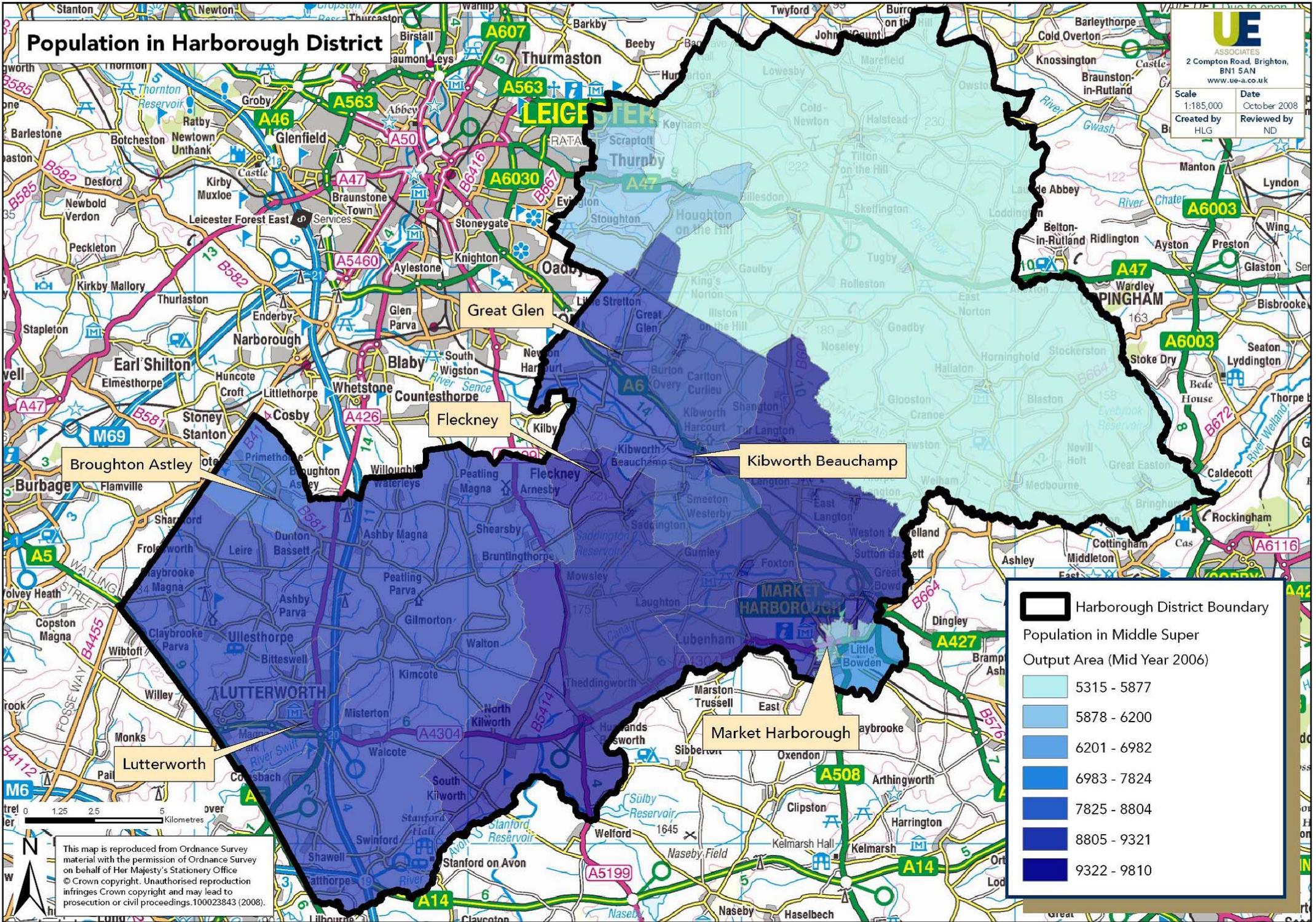
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|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | Areas of Particularly Attractive Countryside |
|  | Harborough District Boundary                 |

# Population in Harborough District

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**Harborough District Boundary**

**Population in Middle Super Output Area (Mid Year 2006)**

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Lightest Blue     | 5315 - 5877 |
| Light Blue        | 5878 - 6200 |
| Medium Light Blue | 6201 - 6982 |
| Medium Blue       | 6983 - 7824 |
| Dark Blue         | 7825 - 8804 |
| Very Dark Blue    | 8805 - 9321 |
| Darkest Blue      | 9322 - 9810 |

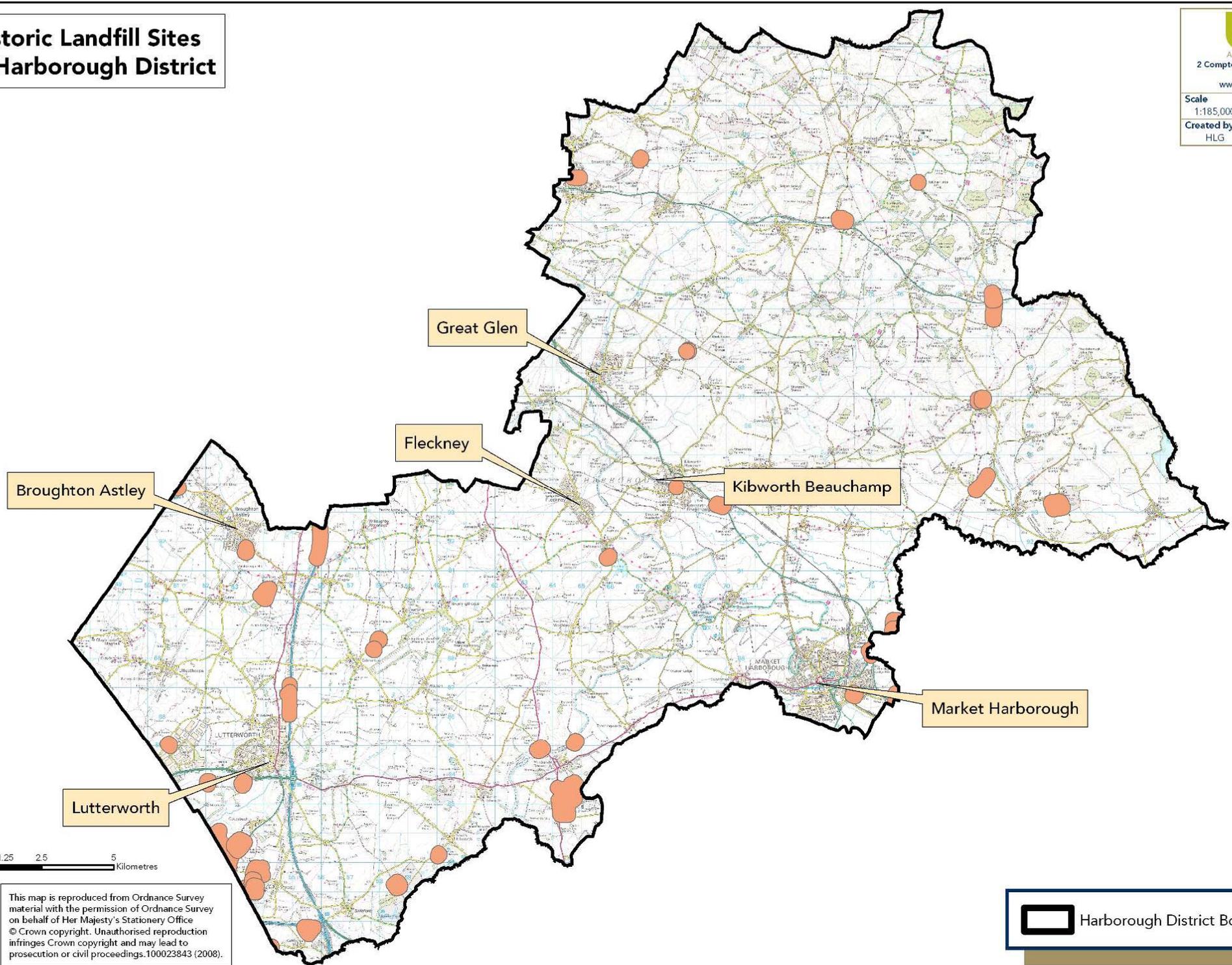
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# Historic Landfill Sites in Harborough District



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0 1.25 2.5 5 Kilometres



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 Harborough District Boundary

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