



# **Harborough Local Plan: Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan**

Sustainability Appraisal - Appendix C

## **Harborough District Council**

**Final report**

Prepared by LUC

February 2025

Version	Status	Prepared	Checked	Approved	Date
1	Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report for the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan	H. Naylor L. Haddad H. Ennis	K. Nicholls	K. Nicholls	08.11.2024
2.	Final Sustainability Appraisal Report for the Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan	H. Naylor L. Haddad H. Ennis	K. Nicholls	K. Nicholls	04.02.2025



**Land Use Consultants Limited**

Registered in England. Registered number 2549296. Registered office: 250 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8RD. Printed on 100% recycled paper

# Contents

<b>Appendix C</b>	<b>5</b>
Baseline Information	

<b>References</b>	<b>65</b>
-------------------	-----------

## Table of Tables

Table C.1: Carbon dioxide emissions estimates in Harborough District 2005-2022	8
Table C.2: Changes in carbon dioxide emissions by sector for Harborough District between 2005 and 2022	10
Table C.3: Energy consumption in Harborough District by type	11
Table C.4: Population by ethnic group (2021)	15
Table C.5: Estimated populations by ward in Harborough District for 2011 and 2021	16
Table C.6: Delivery of homes in Harborough District from 2011 to 2022	19
Table C.7: Delivery of affordable homes in Harborough District from 2011 to 2022	19
Table C.8: Additional need for households in Harborough District that meet the Planning Definition 2024-2041	21
Table C.9: Health in Harborough District	23
Table C.10: Sport England Physical Activity Levels Survey, adults aged 16+ (2022/23)	25
Table C.11: Open space provision in Harborough District (2021)	27
Table C.12: Employee jobs in Harborough District in relation to regional and national averages (2022)	31
Table C.13: Summary of SSSI in Harborough District	47

**Contents**

**Table of Figures**

Figure C.1: Flows of commuters in and out of Harborough District (total) 35

Figure C.2: Per Capita CO2 Emissions compared to Neighbouring Authorities 55

Figure C.3: Indices of Multiple Deprivation 56

Figure C.4: Transport Network 57

Figure C.5: Services and facilities in Harborough District 58

Figure C.6: Watercourses in Harborough District 59

Figure C.7: Flood Risk 60

Figure C.8: Agricultural Land Classification 61

Figure C.9: Designated Biodiversity and Geodiversity Sites 62

Figure C.10: Heritage Assets 63

Figure C.11: National Character Areas 64

# Appendix C

## Baseline Information

**C.1** Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely sustainability effects of a plan and helps to identify key sustainability issues and means of dealing with them.

**C.2** Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires information to be provided on:

- (2) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment;
- (3) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;
- (4) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 2009/147/EC [the 'Birds Directive'] and 92/43/EEC [the 'Habitats Directive'].

**C.3** This section presents the relevant baseline information for Harborough District. Data referred to have been chosen primarily for regularity and consistency of collection, to enable trends in the baseline situation to be established, and also to enable subsequent monitoring of potential sustainability effects.

# Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

## Climate Change

**C.4** Climate change presents a global risk, with a range of different social, economic and environmental impacts that are likely to be felt within Harborough District across numerous receptors. A key challenge in protecting the environment will be to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change. The consequences include predictions of warmer, drier summers and wetter winters with more severe weather events all year as well resulting in higher sea levels and increased river flooding. A strong reaction is required from planning to ensure appropriate action can be taken to help species and habitats adapt and to enable the agricultural sector to continue to deliver diverse, affordable and good quality produce.

**C.5** There has been a general trend towards warmer average temperatures in recent years with the most recent decade (2012–2021) being on average 0.2°C warmer than the 1991–2020 average and 1.0°C warmer than 1961–1990. All the top ten warmest years for the UK in the series from 1884 have occurred this century [\[See reference 1\]](#).

**C.6** Heavy rainfall and flooding events have been demonstrated to have increased potential to occur in the UK as the climate has generally become wetter. For example, for the most recent decade (2012–2021) UK summers have been on average 6% wetter than 1991–2020 and 15% wetter than 1961–1990 whilst winters have been 10%/26% wetter [\[See reference 2\]](#).

**C.7** With 2022 recorded as the warmest year on record, July and August experienced especially dry months and drought conditions were declared across parts of England and Wales. In total, the rainfall for 2022 was 1,051 mm – this is 90% of the 1991 – 2020 decade average [\[See reference 3\]](#). 2023

## Appendix C Baseline Information

included record-breaking temperatures in June and exceptional heatwave in early September, and was the second-warmest year for the UK in the since 1884, with eight of the twelve months warmer than average. It was also a wetter than average year across most of the UK. Spring 2024 was provisionally the warmest spring on record for the UK, with provisionally the warmest UK May on record [\[See reference 4\]](#).

**C.8** The IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report (2023) highlights that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are predicted to continue into 2030 making it likely that global warming will exceed 1.5°C, which in turn means that GHG emissions will become harder to maintain below 2°C. As a result of this, increased global warming will occur and elicit climate hazards such as increased incidences of heatwaves, droughts, increased global monsoon precipitation, tropical storms, very wet and very dry weather. Our natural land and ocean carbon sinks will become less effective, sea levels will rise, become more acidic and experience deoxygenation amongst other climate events [\[See reference 5\]](#). The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty involving 196 Parties. The overarching goal of this agreement is to limit global warming increasing to 1.5°C by the end of the century. Achieving this goal still requires a lot of action but since 2016 when the agreement was established, low – carbon solutions and new markets for climate resilience have been sparked.

**C.9** The Tyndall Centre has undertaken work to calculate the ‘fair’ contribution of local authorities towards the Paris Climate Change Agreement. Based on the analysis undertaken the following recommendations have been made for Harborough District [\[See reference 6\]](#):

- Stay within a maximum cumulative carbon dioxide emissions budget of 3.8 million tonnes (MtCO<sub>2</sub>) for the period of 2020 to 2100. At 2017 CO<sub>2</sub> emission levels, Harborough District would use this entire budget within 6 years from 2020.
- Initiate an immediate programme of CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation to deliver cuts in emissions averaging a minimum of -13.8% per year to deliver a Paris aligned carbon budget. These annual reductions in emissions require national and local action and could be part of a wider collaboration with other local authorities.

**Appendix C** Baseline Information

- Reach zero or near zero carbon no later than 2041. This report provides an indicative CO2 reduction pathway that stays within the recommended maximum carbon budget of 3.8 MtCO2. At 2041 5% of the budget remains. This represents very low levels of residual CO2 emissions by this time, or the Authority may opt to forgo these residual emissions and cut emissions to zero at this point. Earlier years for reaching zero CO2 emissions are also within the recommended budget, provided that interim budgets with lower cumulative CO2 emissions are also adopted.

**C.10** Harborough District Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019. This followed on from the Local Government Association initiative “Climate Local” which Harborough District Council committed to in 2013. In 2022, Harborough District Council adopted a Climate Emergency Action Plan which sets out actions to deliver the six key commitments to help adapt to climate change and reduce emissions [See reference 7].

## Carbon Dioxide Emissions

**C.11** The Government regularly publishes Local Authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics. CO2 emissions for Harborough District between 2005-2022 have fallen from 10.2t per capita to 5.6t per capita [See reference 8]. Per capita emissions in the plan area within the scope of influence of the local authority fell every year between 2005 and 2022 as shown in Table C.1. It should be noted the figures in Table C.1 do not account for Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) figures in Harborough District. In 2022, LULUCF accounted for 1.2Kt carbon dioxide emissions in Harborough District.

**Table C.1: Carbon dioxide emissions estimates in Harborough District 2005-2022**

Year	Total Emissions (kt)	Per Capita Emissions (t)
2005	823.3	10.2



## Appendix C Baseline Information

Year	Total Emissions (kt)	Per Capita Emissions (t)
2006	817.7	10.0
2007	802.5	9.7
2008	776.9	9.3
2009	736.9	8.8
2010	762.4	9.0
2011	698.3	8.1
2012	709.9	8.2
2013	721.6	8.3
2014	686.8	7.8
2015	663.2	7.4
2016	652.3	7.2
2017	632.6	6.9
2018	625.6	6.7
2019	603.6	6.4
2020	536.1	5.6
2021	579.2	5.9
2022	566.5	5.6

**C.12** In Harborough District the main contributor of emissions was from domestic and transport. However, between 2005 and 2022, the levels of emissions from commercial, industrial and public sector sources have dropped significantly for Harborough District, by 60%, 51% and 47% respectively. This is shown in Table C.2.

**Table C.2: Changes in carbon dioxide emissions by sector for Harborough District between 2005 and 2022**

Source of Emissions	2005	2022
Industry	75.1	37.2
Commercial	103.5	41.2
Public Sector	18.0	9.6
Domestic	223.4	131.9
Transport	349.0	309.5
Agriculture	47.2	35.9
Grand Total	823.3	566.5

**C.13** Figure C.2, at the end of Appendix C, shows the per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of Harborough District compared to neighbouring authorities. From Figure C.2, it is evident that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita are lower in Harborough District compared to most of the neighbouring authorities, apart from Oadby and Wigston which has significantly lower emissions.

## Overall Energy Consumption

**C.14** The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy produced the following consumption figures for Harborough District in 2021. These figures are presented as Ktoe (kilotonnes of oil equivalent):

- All fuels – A total of 207.5 Ktoe across domestic, transport and industrial and commercial use.
- Coal – A total of 1.5 Ktoe predominantly through industrial and commercial use.
- Manufactured fuels – A total of 0.5 Ktoe through domestic and industrial and commercial use.

**Appendix C** Baseline Information

- Petroleum – A total of 111.9 Ktoe predominantly from road transport.
- Gas – A total of 55.4 Ktoe predominantly through domestic use.
- Electricity – A total of 30.6 Ktoe through domestic and industrial and commercial use.
- Bioenergy and wastes – A total of 7.6 Ktoe predominantly through industrial and commercial use.

1.1 Table C.3 below highlights the energy consumption for Harborough between 2005 to 2021 by type. With the exception of energy from bioenergy and wastes and coal, the consumption of petroleum, manufactured fuels, gas and electricity fell between 2005 and 2021 [See reference 9].

**Table C.3: Energy consumption in Harborough District by type**

Energy Type	Energy Consumption in Ktoe (2005)	Energy Consumption in Ktoe (2021)
Coal	1.3	1.5
Manufactured Fuels	0.7	0.5
Petroleum	124	111.9
Gas	70.7	55.4
Electricity	35.5	30.6
Bioenergy and Wastes	1.2	7.6
Total	233.4	207.5

## Renewable Energy

**C.15** Renewable energy is recognised as an important contributor to reducing reliance on fossil fuels and adapting to climate change. Within the East Midlands, there was a total of 110,134 sites that were capable of generating

## Appendix C Baseline Information

renewable energy across wind, solar, wave, hydro and biomass renewable sources in 2022. This represents 8.7% of all the sites within the UK that generate renewable energy. In 2022, the East Midlands generated a total of 7,932 GWh (Gigawatt hours) of renewable energy. This is a 335% increase in renewable energy generation since 2012. In 2022, a total of 2,137 photovoltaic panels and 27 onshore wind turbines were installed. This is an increase on 2015 when 1,376 photovoltaic panels and 27 onshore wind turbines were installed [\[See reference 10\]](#).

**C.16** There are two commercial wind farms in Harborough, Low Spinney and Swinford, which contribute 8MW and 22MW of installed capacity respectively. In addition, there are a number of smaller on farm turbines that contribute to a total of 32.4MW of installed capacity. There are 1,558 solar photovoltaic installations including a number of large (>1MW) field-based solar installations. This gives a total capacity of 16.2MW. There is one anaerobic digestion facility with a capacity of 499 kW and two landfill gas sites with capacity of 5.6MW. There is 14.9MW installed capacity of plant biomass. Harborough District has no hydropower capacity [\[See reference 11\]](#).

**C.17** In July 2016, Harborough District Council produced a Landscape Sensitivity to Renewable Energy study to consider the different types of landscapes within Harborough District and their sensitivity to renewable energy development. Welland Valley landscape, Lutterworth Lowlands landscape and Upper Soar landscape are considered to have low sensitivity to wind, solar and biomass developments for generating renewable energy [\[See reference 12\]](#).

**C.18** Harborough District Council has outlined its actions in key areas to reduce its harmful emissions. The following information has been summarised from the Harborough District Council Initiatives [\[See reference 13\]](#).

- Transport: Electric charging points have been installed throughout the District with further additions planned in the future. Harborough District Council and Leicestershire County Council are working together to promote active travel by improving footpaths, cycle lanes, encouraging bus travel and offering salary sacrifice schemes for the purchase of bikes for staff.

## Appendix C Baseline Information

- Buildings: Existing and new buildings are being improved to monitor energy use, become more energy efficient and have been retrofitted to generate renewables through PV-Panels (also known as solar powered panels).
- Energy: Harborough District Council has moved to a renewable energy supply through the installations of PV-Panels alongside a partnership with Harborough Energy [See reference 14]. Harborough Energy was established via Sustainable Harborough (a Big Lottery Fund programme for 'Communities Living Sustainably' in 2017) to raise awareness of sustainability within the community, provide practical support to individuals and groups to reduce their carbon footprint. The partnership between Harborough District Council and Harborough Energy has led to approximately 1000 homes having suitable insulation completed.
- Waste: Recycling and working with communities following a Plastic Free Pledge urging residents and businesses of the Harborough District to reduce their use of single-use plastic. Green waste is also collected to be used for composting [See reference 15].
- Land Use: The local plan has policies to ensure that climate change is considered for all new development. Partnerships with the Welland River Trust, The Soar Catchment Partnership as well as local community group (Harborough Woodland) to promote woodland, wildflower meadow creations, natural greenspaces and their benefits for the environment and communities as well as promoting natural flood management and climate management techniques to build resilience.

**C.19** Harborough District Council has launched the Harborough Solar Together initiative through iChoosr, a company that engages people to purchase sustainable energy products. The council is working with neighbouring Districts and boroughs as part of the Green Living Leicestershire Partnership to help households feel confident that they are paying the right price for a high-quality installation from pre-approved installers [See reference 16].

## Population, Health and Well-being

### Population

**C.20** Harborough's population has increased by 14.3% from 85,400 in 2011 to approximately 97,600 in 2021. This means that Harborough saw the largest population increase in the East Midlands which overall had a 7.7% rise compared to the English average of 6.6% [\[See reference 17\]](#). Harborough is largely a rural and sparsely populated District, being the least densely populated local authority in Leicestershire.

**C.21** The population of Harborough comprises approximately 48,350 men and 49,279 women. The largest age group in the District is 18–64 year-olds (56,452). Within this, 15,211 people are aged 50-59 and 12,673 are aged 40-49 years old, which is more than those aged 20-29 (9,345) and 30-39 (11,149). 65+ years is the second largest group (21,497) and the smallest age group is 0-17 years old (19,680) [\[See reference 18\]](#). Since 2011 the average age of a Harborough resident has increased by two years, from 43 to 45. This is higher than the East Midlands average (41) and England average (40) [\[See reference 19\]](#). Projections for 2043 show that Harborough will experience an increase in its population from 92,499 in 2018 to 113,759 in 2043. The number of people who are within the older age group (65+) is expected to increase from 21.8% of the 2018 population to 28.3% of the 2043 population [\[See reference 20\]](#). As of April 2023-March 2024, 82.5% of Harborough's working age population is economically active, this is higher than the value for both East Midlands (78.5%) and Great Britain (78.6%). 3.1% of Harborough's working age population is unemployed, which is lower than the East Midlands and Great Britain figures, both being 3.9%. [\[See reference 21\]](#).

**C.22** According to the 2021 Census, the largest ethnic group in Harborough is White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British. Table C.4 below shows the breakdown of Harborough's population by ethnic group [\[See reference 22\]](#).

**Table C.4: Population by ethnic group (2021)**

Ethnic Group	% of Population
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Bangladeshi	0.1
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Chinese	0.2
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Indian	4.4
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Pakistani	0.3
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Other Asian	0.5
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: African	0.4
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: Caribbean	0.2
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: Other Black	0.1
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Asian	0.8
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African	0.2
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean	0.6
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: Other Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	0.5
White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	87.6
White: Irish	0.6
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.2
White: Other White	2.7
Other ethnic group: Arab	0.1
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	0.7

**C.23** In 2021, the total number of households in Harborough was 40,414. This consists of primarily single-family households (69.6%), one person households

**Appendix C** Baseline Information

(26%) and ‘other’ households (4.4%) [See reference 23]. By 2043, there is expected to be 50,063 households [See reference 24]. It should be noted that households do not have the same definition as homes. Households are defined by Office for National Statistics (ONS) as one person or a group of people who have the (same) accommodation as their only or main residence. For groups the individuals in question should share at least one meal a day, or share the living accommodation, that is, a living room or sitting room.

**C.24** The population in Harborough District is spread across 19 wards. Table C.5 below presents the population change between 2011 and 2021 by ward in Harborough District. The table shows that the majority of the wards have experienced a population increase. Broughton Astley-Primethorpe and Sutton and Market Harborough-Logan were the only two wards to experience a population decrease but this was minimal. Market Harborough-Welland ward experienced the highest population increase with an additional 2,058 people moving into the ward between 2011 and 2021 [See reference 25].

**Table C.5: Estimated populations by ward in Harborough District for 2011 and 2021 [See reference 26]**

Ward	Population in 2011	Population in 2021	Population Change
Billesdon & Tilton	2,524	2,623	3.9%
Bosworth	2,855	3,411	19.5%
Broughton Astley South and Leire	4,128	4,901	18.7%
Broughton Astley-Primethorpe and Sutton	5,399	5,388	-0.2%
Dunton	2,614	2,696	3.1%
Fleckney	5,745	5,842	1.7%
Glen	4,778	5,880	23.1%
Kibworths	6,823	8,709	27.6%



## Appendix C Baseline Information

Ward	Population in 2011	Population in 2021	Population Change
Lubenham	2,640	2,995	13.5%
Lutterworth East	4,798	5,363	11.8%
Lutterworth West	4,555	5,467	20%
Market Harborough-Great Bowden and Arden	5,040	5,935	17.8%
Market Harborough-Little Bowden	5,055	5,695	12.7%
Market Harborough-Logan	6,018	5,590	-7.11%
Market Harborough-Welland	6,798	8,856	30.3%
Misterton	2,587	2,982	15.3%
Nevill	2,850	2,872	0.8%
Thurnby and Houghton	7,387	9,337	26.4%
Ullesthorpe	2,788	3,083	10.6%

**C.25** The age profile across the wards indicates that age 45-49, age 50-54 and age 55-59 are the largest age groups within the wards. The wards of Dunton and Nevill have the largest number of people over 50 with 51.5% and 52.9% respectively [[See reference 27](#)].

## Housing

**C.26** It was estimated by the Office for National Statistics that in 2023 full-time employees could typically expect to spend around 8.3 times their workplace-based annual earnings on purchasing a home in England. This is a decrease compared with 2022, when it was 8.5 times their workplace-based annual earnings. The average price of homes sold in England and Wales increased by £9,500, or 3.4%, between the 12 months ending September 2022 and the 12 months ending September 2023. Meanwhile, the average earnings increased

## Appendix C Baseline Information

by £1,900, or 5.6% [\[See reference 28\]](#). The Housing affordability ratio is defined as housing affordability estimates calculated by dividing house prices by annual earnings to create a ratio. It can be used to compare affordability over time and between areas. A larger number reflects a less affordable area [\[See reference 29\]](#).

**C.27** In the 318 local authorities in England and Wales, housing affordability improved in 237 (75%) since 2022, worsened in 77 (24%), and stayed the same in the remaining 1%. In Harborough District, the housing affordability ratio was 10.3 in 2023, and like other local authorities, has steadily increased in recent years. This figure has increased by 24% since 2002 from 8.3 to 10.3 in 2023 [\[See reference 30\]](#).

**C.28** The average house price for a property in Harborough District as of June 2024 was £342,109, which is much higher than the regional average (£245,232) and the England average (£305,370) [\[See reference 31\]](#).

**C.29** The percentage of Harborough's households in the social rented sector increased from 8.4% in 2011 to 8.7% in 2021. The regional percentage fell from 15.8% to 14.9% over the same period. Private renting within Harborough increased from 11.2% to 13.5%. However, the rate of home ownership fell from 78.1% to 75.8% [\[See reference 32\]](#).

**C.30** The 2021 Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) for Harborough provides evidence on the potential supply of both housing and economic development land across Harborough District and forms a key component of the evidence base that will inform the preparation of the new Local Plan. It identifies an estimated capacity of 52,291 dwellings and 716,450 sqm of economic floorspace [\[See reference 33\]](#).

**C.31** A total of 6,713 homes have been built in Harborough since 2011. The District's housing delivery from the start of the current plan period (1 April 2011) to 31 March 2022 has exceeded the required 557 dwellings per annum. Harborough District has delivered a cumulative total of 586 dwellings over the required annual provision between 2011 and 2022. On this basis, there is no

**Appendix C** Baseline Information

housing shortfall to add to the housing requirement for the five year period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2027 [See reference 34]. Housing delivery over recent years is shown in Table C.6 and Table C.7 below.

**Table C.6: Delivery of homes in Harborough District from 2011 to 2022**

Year	Annual Requirement	Annual Net Completions
2011-12	557	240
2012-13	557	284
2013-14	557	334
2014-15	557	496
2015-16	557	640
2016-17	557	468
2017-18	557	580
2018-19	557	729
2019-20	557	906
2020-21	557	1010
2021-22	557	1026

**Table C.7: Delivery of affordable homes in Harborough District from 2011 to 2022**

Year	Annual Requirement	Annual Net Completions
2011-12	90	20
2012-13	90	51
2013-14	90	49

Year	Annual Requirement	Annual Net Completions
2014-15	90	69
2015-16	90	85
2016-17	90	58
2017-18	-	-
2018-19	90	171
2019-20	90	207
2020-21	90	207
2021-22	90	231

## Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

**C.32** During the 2021 Census, 0.2% of the people of Harborough District described themselves as White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller. The majority of the Gypsy and Traveller population live in Lutterworth [\[See reference 35\]](#).

**C.33** The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2024 supports the review of the Local Plan. Through the GTAA, seven Gypsy or Traveller households were identified in Harborough District that meet the planning definition, 77 unknown households that meet the planning definition and 17 households that do not meet the planning definition. In relation to Travelling Showpeople, 69 households were identified in Harborough District that met the planning definition, 37 unknown households that meet the planning definition and eight households that do not meet the planning definition.

**C.34** The GTAA identified a need for seven additional pitches for households that meet the planning definition of Gypsy or Traveller. For those that meet the planning definition of Travelling Showperson, an additional need of 69 plots is required. This is shown in Table C.8 below.

**Table C.8: Additional need for households in Harborough District that meet the Planning Definition 2024-2041**

Housing Need	2016-2021	2021-2026	2026-2031	2031-2036
Gypsy and Traveller Households	5	0	1	1
Travelling Showperson households	53	6	6	4

**C.35** This need was identified in accordance with the definitions of the Government's Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS). The GTAA also identifies a need arising from 'unknown' Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. The unknown need arises from sites where existing occupants were not able to be interviewed as part of the GTAA fieldwork. The needs of these households are recognised by the GTAA as there is likely to be future household formation from those that meet the PPTS definition. For unknown Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, the GTAA uses a national approximation of 10% of households meeting the PPTS definition and applies an annual growth rate of 1.5% [See reference 36]. Therefore, the GTAA also identified a need of up to 18 additional pitches for unknown households.

**C.36** It is worth noting that a Gypsy and Traveller pitch is up to two caravans per pitch (none of which should be a static caravan) and for Travelling Showpeople a plot is normally considered to be made up of three caravans per plot (of which no more than one should be a static caravan). Travelling Showpeople pitches are significantly larger than Gypsy and Traveller pitches due to the additional space needed for the storage, maintenance and servicing of equipment.

## Health

**C.37** Health is a cross-cutting topic and as such many topic areas explored in this Scoping report influence health either directly or indirectly. In the 2021

## Appendix C Baseline Information

Census, 52.8% of the population of Harborough District identified themselves as being in very good health and 3.4% in bad health or very bad health.

Approximately 5.1% of people in Harborough District are disabled under the equality act where their day to day activities are limited a lot [\[See reference 37\]](#).

**C.38** Harborough's Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2022-2027) identified some key challenges that the District faces:

- Ageing population and associated health conditions.
- Limited transport infrastructure and rural isolation (experienced by some).
- Increased cost per capita to deliver services across a large rural area.
- Pockets of hidden deprivation and inequality.
- Rising incidence of physical inactivity.
- Higher housing costs and lower local wage levels.

**C.39** From these key challenges Harborough has identified the following strategic priorities:

- **Quality Homes for All:** Harborough seeks to ensure that all housing within the District will meet the population needs. They intend to promote high design standards, improve living accommodation, support vulnerable adults and the elderly so they can remain independent in their own homes, provide energy efficiency advice and build services and pathways to housing for vulnerable groups.
- **Community Infrastructure and Services:** Harborough seeks to invest in community infrastructure through the Section 106 process, support the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans and the local health and wellbeing objectives, work in partnerships to ensure there is accessibility to greenspace, the waterways, and canals.
- **Skills, Jobs, and Income:** Harborough seeks to ensure that training opportunities contributing to health and wellbeing are being developed, salaries are sufficient to allow residents to work and live locally, vulnerable

**Appendix C** Baseline Information

residents receive the right support and advice regarding benefits to ensure they are receiving the right income for them.

- **Stronger Communities:** Harborough seeks to ensure that funding and support is available for the voluntary and community sector, to work with charities that can tackle inequalities and increase awareness of the ageing population and potential health related issues such as dementia.
- **Mental Health:** Harborough seeks to develop an awareness of mental health in the workplace, work with organisations and Early Help services to support young people, support the delivery of crisis cafes in Market Harborough and Lutterworth.
- **Physical Activity:** Harborough seeks to deliver physical activity sessions for young people and children, develop pathways into physical activity, develop place led physical activity opportunities especially for hard-to-reach groups, increase the health and wellbeing offers at leisure centres, work with businesses to promote wellbeing at work and improve air quality in Kibworth and Lutterworth [\[See reference 38\]](#).

**C.40** Health statistics for Harborough District are shown in Table C.9 below [\[See reference 39\]](#):

**Table C.9: Health in Harborough District**

Domain	Indicator	Harborough	England
Infant’s and children’s health	Under 18 conception rate per 1,000 females (2021)	9%	13.1%
Infant’s and children’s health	Infant Mortality Rate (2020-22)	1.9	3.9
Infant’s and children’s health	Year 6: Prevalence of obesity (2022-23)	17.5%	22.7%

**Appendix C** Baseline Information

Domain	Indicator	Harborough	England
Adults' health and lifestyle	Smoking prevalence in adults (18+) – current smokers (APS) (2022)	6.3%	12.7%
Adults' health and lifestyle	Physically active adults (2022-23)	67.9%	67.1%
Adults' health and lifestyle	Obese adults (2022-23)	26.3%	26.2%
Diseases and poor health	Under 75 mortality rate from all causes (2022)	265.3	363.4
Diseases and poor health	Under 75 mortality rate from all cardiovascular diseases (2021)	57.6	76
Diseases and poor health	Under 75 mortality rate from cancer (2021)	93.6	121.5
Diseases and poor health	Admission episodes for alcohol-related conditions (Narrow) (2022-23)	453	475

## Life Expectancy

**C.41** The average life expectancy at birth in 2022 for Harborough residents was 81 years for males and 84 years for females. This is higher than the regional average of 78.6 years for males and 82.7 years for females and the England average of 79.3 years for males and 83.2 years for females **[See reference 40]**. Life expectancy is 3.8 years lower for men and -1.5 years higher for women in the most deprived areas of Harborough District than in the least deprived areas **[See reference 41]**.



## Obese and Physical Activity Levels

**C.42** Being overweight or obese carries numerous health risks, including increased likelihood of type 2 diabetes, cancer, heart and liver disease, stroke and related mental health conditions. It is estimated this health issue places a cost of at least £5.1 billion on the NHS and tens of billions on the wider UK society every year.

**C.43** In Harborough between 2022/23, 17.5% of year 6 children are obese compared to the national average of 22.7%. In addition, 60.7% of adults are obese which is below the national average of 64% [\[See reference 42\]](#).

**C.44** In 2021, Sport England conducted a survey that focussed on understanding Harborough’s engagement in sport. The survey required respondents to identify if they were ‘active’ (150 minutes of physical activity per week), ‘fairly active’ (between 30 – 149 minutes of physical activity) or ‘inactive’ (30 minutes or less of physical activity) [\[See reference 43\]](#). The results are shown in Table C.10 below.

**Table C.10: Sport England Physical Activity Levels Survey, adults aged 16+ (2022/23)**

Area	Active	Fairly Active	Inactive
Harborough	63.5%	13.5%	23.0%
Leicestershire	65.1%	11.2%	22.4%
East Midlands	62.2%	11.5%	26.7%
England	63.4%	10.9%	25.7%

**C.45** In 2022/23, 63.5% of adults in Harborough District were physically active. This is very slightly higher than the national average of 63.4%. A total of 23% of adults stated that they were physically inactive in Harborough which is lower than the national average of 25.7% [\[See reference 44\]](#).

## Perception of Well-being

**C.46** Residents of Harborough District reported having slightly higher levels of life satisfaction (7.60 out of 10.00) than the average for UK (7.45) in the 2022/23 period. Whilst average figures recorded relating to ‘feeling the things done in life are worthwhile’ were the same as the UK (7.72 and 7.73, respectively) ‘happiness’ in Harborough District was marginally higher than the UK (7.43 and 7.39, respectively). Levels of high anxiety recorded at 20.7% for Harborough District in this period. This was an decrease of 2.3% from the previous period (2021/2022) [\[See reference 45\]](#).

## Open Space

**C.47** Parks and open spaces are important to the community they serve. They benefit local communities and provide meeting and social spaces, health and wellbeing, the local economy, community and safety, climate cooling and increasing the appearance and profitability of the area. Open spaces provide opportunities for outdoor exercise and offer the opportunity to help increase levels of health and reduce obesity. They also help to maintain good mental health and reduce stress by encouraging relaxations through interaction with the natural environment [\[See reference 46\]](#).

**C.48** In addition, access to waterways and blue infrastructure can provide important benefits for physical and mental health and wellbeing. The South Leicestershire Waterways and Wellbeing Project started in 2022 and is designed to make use of the Grand Union Canal to help adults tackle mental and physical health problems. Activities on the Grand Union Canal include canoe and paddleboard sessions, wellbeing walks, running, cycling, crafting sessions and green volunteering opportunities [\[See reference 47\]](#). Canal improvements to the towpath along the Grand Union Canal will also enhance access to the canal and opportunities for walking and recreational activities [\[See reference 48\]](#). The current open space provision in Harborough District is shown in Table C.11 below. A total of 654 sites are designated as open space, comprising a total area of 1,097.57 ha. Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace

**Appendix C** Baseline Information

covers a total of 871.82 ha and accounts for the majority of Harborough District's open space provision. However, Harborough District is considered one of the ten most nature access poor local authorities in England when considering how publicly accessible nature is within an area. This indicates that there is very few publicly accessible natural spaces within Harborough District. Only 7.1% of the population of Harborough District is within a 15 minute walk of natural space [See reference 49]. The total open space within Harborough District equates to 11.69 ha per 1,000 population [See reference 50].

**Table C.11: Open space provision in Harborough District (2021)**

Open Space Type	Current Provision (ha)
Allotments and Community Gardens	22.85
Amenity Greenspace	109.95
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	43.50
Civic Spaces	1.05
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	871.82
Parks and Gardens	38.05
Provision for Children and Young People	10.34
Final Total	1,097.57
Greenways	Approximately 700km

**C.49** Welland Park is the largest park in Market Harborough. The park offers visitors a range of facilities, activities and attractions including:

- Large playground area for children.
- Tennis courts (3 floodlit).
- Skate park.
- Social fitness zone - outdoor gym.
- Table tennis table.

## Appendix C Baseline Information

- Rugby posts.
- Rose garden, sensory garden and flower displays in summer.
- Grass recreation areas.

**C.50** As of 2019 the population of Harborough District was 93,807. Based on that and using the Council's proposed provision standard, there is a current deficiency in provision of Allotments and Community Gardens (-0.11 ha per 1,000), Parks and Gardens (-0.39 ha per 1,000) and Provision for Children and Young People (-0.14 ha per 1,000). There is a current surplus in Amenity Greenspace (0.27 ha per 1,000), Cemeteries and Burial Grounds (0.11 ha per 1,000), Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace (0.79 ha per 1,000) and Greenways (Approximately 4.21km per 1,000). The population of Harborough District is projected to be 108,872 by 2036. When compared to the current provision of open space, this increase in population would result in a deficiency in Allotments and Community Gardens (-0.14 ha per 1,000), Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace (-0.49 ha per 1,000), Parks and Gardens (-0.45 ha per 1,000) and Provision for Children and Young People (-0.16 ha per 1,000) [See reference 51].

## Deprivation

**C.51** The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) uses Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) to measure deprivation at local authority and county level. The seven distinct domains of deprivation (Income; Employment; Health Deprivation and Disability: Education and Skills Training; Crime: Barriers to Housing and Services: and Living Environment) which when weighted and combined from the IMD 2019 have been mapped for the District (see Figure C.3).

**C.52** In relation to overall deprivation, only one LSOA in Harborough fell within the 30% most deprived areas nationally in 2019. A total of 18 LSOAs (38%) fall within the 10% least deprived areas nationally. Harborough District performs less favourably in relation to education, skills and training, barriers to housing and services and crime, but performs well in relation to income, employment, health and disability domain and living environment. A total of 51% of LSOAs in

Harborough fall within the 10% least deprived for living environment nationally [\[See reference 52\]](#).

**C.53** In 2019, 5.6% of Harborough's population was income-deprived. Of the 316 local authorities in England (excluding the Isles of Scilly), Harborough District was ranked 304th most income-deprived. Of the 47 LSOA in Harborough District, none were among the 20% most income-deprived in England [\[See reference 53\]](#).

## Crime and Safety

**C.54** The absence of a safe and secure place in which to live can have an extremely negative impact on physical and emotional health and wellbeing.

**C.55** Leicestershire Police cover Harborough District. In relation to statistics on crime within Harborough District, Harborough is split into two areas: Harborough and the Bowdens and Harborough North. Harborough and the Bowdens covers Market Harborough and Great Bowden. Harborough North covers the largely rural area north of Market Harborough which includes the settlements of Billesdon, Kibworth, Great Glen and Tugby. The remainder of the District falls under Lutterworth which covers the town of Lutterworth and the surrounding area.

**C.56** Between July 2023 and June 2024, a total of 1,571 crimes were counted in Harborough and the Bowdens [\[See reference 54\]](#). Harborough North had the highest level of crime with 1,890 crimes were reported between July 2023 and June 2024 [\[See reference 55\]](#). Lutterworth had the lowest level of crime with 1,187 crimes reported between July 2023 and June 2024 [\[See reference 56\]](#). The top reported crimes in Harborough North from July 2023 to June 2024 were violence and sexual offences, criminal damage and arson, public order and anti-social behaviour [\[See reference 57\]](#). This is similar to the top reported crimes in Harborough and the Bowdens which were violence and sexual offences, public order, shoplifting and criminal damage and arson and shoplifting. The top reported crimes in Lutterworth area were violence and sexual offences, other

theft, vehicle crime and public order. Overall, trends of crime have remained the same in Lutterworth in the past three years. Violence and sexual offences have remained the most frequent crimes over the past three years. Between October 2021 and June 2024, crime levels have remained steady in Harborough and the Bowdens and Harborough North [\[See reference 58\]](#).

## Economy

**C.57** Harborough's employment rate consistently remained above the national figure. 78.9% of people of working age in Harborough were in employment between April 2023 – March 2024, this is higher than the value for the East Midlands (75.4%) as well as for Great Britain as a whole (75.5%). In April 2020 and May 2020 there were significant increases in the number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in Harborough (and nationally) as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. As of July 2024, 1,175 people between the ages of 16 and 65 were on universal credit in Harborough District. This equates to 2% of people aged 16-65. The number of claimants is lower than the regional and national figures at 3.9% and 4.3% respectively [\[See reference 59\]](#).

**C.58** In 2021, the total output (Gross Value Added, GVA) in Harborough District reached £2,374 million. The trend in GVA has been steadily increasing over the years for Harborough District [\[See reference 60\]](#).

**C.59** The median annual pay in 2023 in Harborough District was £701.2 per week for full time workers which is higher than the regional average (£640.2) and the national average (£682.6). This equates to £36,563 a year in Harborough District compared with £33,382 and £35,593 regionally and nationally [\[See reference 61\]](#). The 'earnings by place of work' figure in 2023 in Harborough District was £659.3 for full time workers which is higher than the regional average (£623.6) and the national average (£682.6). In the period from April 2023 to March 2024, 82.5% of people in Harborough were economically active. Across the East Midlands region this figure was lower at 78.5% within the same period. About 3.1% (1,400) people were unemployed in Harborough, which is lower than both the regional (3.9%) and national averages (3.9%) [\[See](#)

**Appendix C** Baseline Information

**reference 62]**. Harborough District contains a highly skilled workforce with 64.2% of the working population employed as a manager, director, senior role, professional occupation or associate professional occupation. This compares with 46.3% for East Midlands and 52.8% for Great Britain **[See reference 63]**. January 2023 to December 2023, approximately 44.7% of the population of Harborough District have a Level 4 qualification and above (degree (BA, BSc), higher degree (MA, PhD, PGCE), NVQ level 4 to 5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher level, professional qualifications). This is higher than the regional figure for East Midlands at 40.2% and the national figure for England at 47.3% **[See reference 64]**. Official Labour Market Statistics data presented in Table C.12 below show that a higher percentage of people are employed in Wholesale, Retail Trade, Transport and Storage than the national and regional averages. In Harborough, 19.5% of people work in the Wholesale and Retail trade compared to the regional average of 15.6% and the national average of 14%. Similarly, 14.6% of people work in Transportation and Storage which is also significantly higher than the regional average (6.7%) and national average (5%). However, there is a lower number of people employed in human health and social work activities; public administration and defence; compulsory social security and, education **[See reference 65]**.

**Table C.12: Employee jobs in Harborough District in relation to regional and national averages (2022)**

<b>Employee Jobs by Industry</b>	<b>Harborough District (%)</b>	<b>East Midlands (%)</b>	<b>Great Britain (%)</b>
Mining and Quarrying	0.2	0.2	0.2
Manufacturing	7.3	11.4	7.6
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning	0.0	0.6	0.4
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	0.4	0.7	0.7
Construction	5.5	5.5	4.9

## Appendix C Baseline Information

Employee Jobs by Industry	Harborough District (%)	East Midlands (%)	Great Britain (%)
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	19.5	15.6	14.0
Transportation and storage	14.6	6.7	5.0
Accommodation and food service activities	9.8	7.5	8.0
Information and communication	3.0	2.7	4.6
Financial and insurance activities	1.7	1.7	3.3
Real estate activities	1.7	1.3	1.9
Professional, scientific and technical, activities	8.5	6.9	9.1
Administrative and support service activities	8.5	9.0	9.0
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	2.0	4.0	4.7
Education	6.1	8.6	8.6
Human health and social work activities	8.5	13.8	13.5
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1.2	2.1	2.4
Other service activities	1.5	1.4	2.0

**C.60** Notable industries in Harborough include transport and logistics, food and drink manufacturing, professional and financial services and tourism and hospitality. In 2022 there were 5,350 businesses in Harborough District. The majority of these (90.3% or 4,830) were micro businesses which have fewer than 10 staff. There were 430 (8%) small businesses, 70 (1.3%) medium and 15 (0.3%) large businesses in Harborough District. Combined small and medium sized (not micro) make up 500 (9.3%) businesses. In 2023, Harborough experienced 668 closures of businesses and 352 openings of new businesses [See reference 66]. There were 2.789 million visitors to Harborough District in 2019, which decreased by 62% to 1.053 million visitors in 2020 as a result of



COVID-19 restrictions. As a result, the value of tourism sector decreased by 60% (to £59.14 million from £149.91 million prior to COVID-19). Tourism supported 1,837 full time jobs across the District, which decreased by 62% to 760 in 2020. The largest proportion of visitor spend was on shopping (27.5%), followed by food and drink (21.6%) and transport (10.5%) [\[See reference 67\]](#).

**C.61** Market Harborough and Lutterworth are town centres which are the main retail centres in Harborough District, whilst the District and local centres of Broughton Astley, Fleckney, Kibworth and Great Glen, provide smaller scale shopping facilities. There are also rural centres at Houghton on the Hill, Billesdon, Husbands Bosworth and Ullesthorpe providing services and facilities. The centres in Harborough District are much smaller than larger centres and nearby out of centre retail parks surrounding the District, in particular Leicester, Corby, Kettering, Fosse Park and Elliott's Field nr Rugby) which are accessible to residents within Harborough District and have a more extensive range of retailers than Market Harborough.

**C.62** Market Harborough is well served by a range of convenience food shops and services including banks, estate agents, hairdressers, cafes, restaurants, pubs and takeaways. The centre's mix of units is broadly similar to the national average, but with a higher proportion of comparison retail units. Market Harborough's vacancy rate of 7.4% is significantly lower than the national average of 13.7%, however this is the figure from 2013 and is likely to have increased since the COVID-19 pandemic and the increasing adoption of online shopping habits [\[See reference 68\]](#).

## Transport

**C.63** Located in the west of Harborough District, the M1 provides a connection to London in the south and Leeds in the north. The M6, A14 and A5, located to the south on the boundary of the District, provide a connection to the West Midlands and East Anglia. Other main roads in the District include the A6, the A47, A508, A4304 and A5199, which link Harborough's main settlements with Leicester, Northampton, Kettering and Corby.

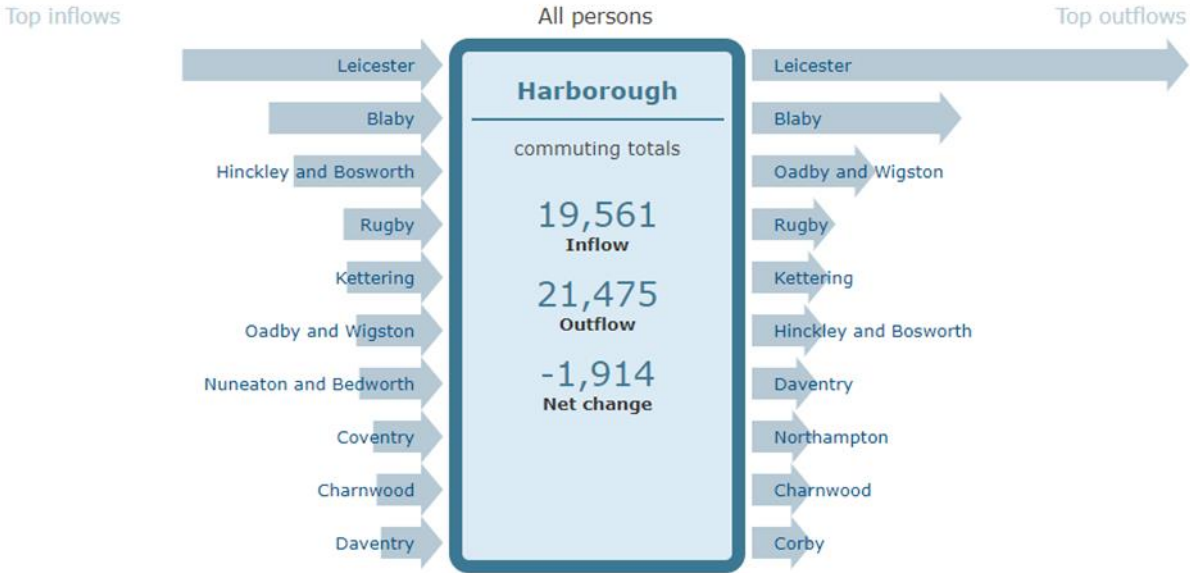
## Appendix C Baseline Information

**C.64** From Market Harborough there are rail connections to London, Leicester, Nottingham, Derby and Sheffield. The Cross County service to Birmingham passes through Harborough District and is available via Oakham, Melton Mowbray and also from Leicester City. Harborough District is in close proximity to regional airports, with Birmingham Airport and Nottingham East Midlands Airport both located approximately 45 miles away from Market Harborough.

**C.65** Rural accessibility, however, remains an issue in the District. This is due to the dispersed nature of settlements and the difficulty of providing frequent and economical public transport. Although there are bus services in and between Lutterworth and Market Harborough, as well as to urban areas such as Leicester, they are not frequent services. As such, car ownership rates are high at 90%. This is higher than Melton Borough (86.9%), Oadby and Wigston Borough (83.2%), Rutland County (89.7%), Blaby District (88.6%), Hinckley and Bosworth Borough (87.3%) and Charnwood Borough (84.4%) [\[See reference 69\]](#).

**C.66** 35.8% of people aged 16 years and over in employment in Harborough work mainly at or from home. However, at the time of Census 2021, UK government guidance and lockdown restrictions resulted in unprecedented changes to travel behaviour and patterns. Prior to COVID-19 restrictions, Harborough had a high outflow of 19,561 people commuting to other local authorities for employment [\[See reference 70\]](#). Additionally, there was an equally high inflow of people commuting into Harborough at 21,475 people. The vast majority of in and outflows of Harborough District were to Leicester, Blaby and Rugby and most people travel to work by car or van, followed by bus, mini bus or coach and train [\[See reference 71\]](#). Commuting trends from the 2011 Census are demonstrated in Figure C.1 below [\[See reference 72\]](#). Harborough District has high levels of in and out commuting, particularly given its relationship with neighbouring authorities and location within the Leicester and Leicestershire Functional Economic Area.

**Figure C.1: Flows of commuters in and out of Harborough District (total)**



Commuting totals for Harborough:

- Inflow: **19,561** all persons commute into Harborough from other local authorities in the UK.
- Outflow: **21,475** all persons commute out of Harborough to other local authorities in the UK or abroad.
- Net change: Overall, commuting results in a population decrease of **1,914** all persons in Harborough.

**C.67** The Leicestershire Local Transport Plan [See reference 73] outlines a number of road improvement measures including the resurfacing and repair of several of Harborough’s principal roads such as the A6 Market Harborough Bypass and upgrades to the M1 Junction 20 roundabout. Works to resurface the A6 Market Harborough carriageway commenced in 2020. Leicestershire County Council are currently developing their fourth Local Transport Plan. The transport links within Harborough District are shown in Figure C.4 and services and facilities in Harborough District are shown in Figure C.5.

## Land and Water Resources

### Geology and Minerals

**C.68** Harborough's geodiversity is comprised of clay, diamicton, sand and gravel, a result of the movement of glaciers and ice sheets during the ice age. Jurassic rocks are present in the north and east of the District which have resulted in the presence of clays in the valleys and harder limestone at hilltops and valley sides **[See reference 74]**.

**C.69** The Tilton Railway Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is the only nationally designated geological site in Harborough. It measures approximately 750m and is located on the closed Great Northern and London, North Western Joint line, 2km east of Tilton. The Tilton Railway SSSI provides exposures of sediments deposited during the Lower Jurassic Period and contains a multitude of fossils, including *Tiloniceras acutum*. The site is currently assessed as being in 'Favourable' condition, which is unlikely to change due to its conservation status **[See reference 75]**. There are also four Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Sites (RIGS): Slawston Railway Cutting, Great Merrible Wood, Sauvey Castle and Tilton Railway Cutting. Leicestershire is one of the principal producers of minerals in the country, particularly for igneous rock. Aggregate minerals (crushed rock and sand and gravel) and other construction materials (brickclay, fireclay, gypsum and building stone) are present in Harborough District.

**C.70** There are two operational mineral sites in Harborough District at Shawell Quarry and Husbands Bosworth. There is one other inactive site at Slip Inn Quarry **[See reference 76]**.

## Water

**C.71** Harborough District is located within the Anglian, Humber and Severn river basin Districts. The south eastern part of the District is drained by the River Welland with the north eastern area drained by the Rivers Chater and Eye Brook. The south western area is drained by the River Avon and River Swift while the north western region is drained by the River Sence. This can be seen in Figure 3.6 which shows the watercourses in Harborough District.

**C.72** The Grand Union Canal runs for 41 miles south east through the District before going south west out of the District. Flooding remains rare as the flow in and out of the canal is heavily regulated, however it can occur in the event that the canal banks overtop and from elevated embankment failure [\[See reference 77\]](#).

**C.73** Source Protection Zones (SPZs) are defined around large and public potable groundwater abstraction sites and they provide additional protection to safeguard drinking water quality by constraining the proximity of an activity that can impact the quality of drinking water. There are three groundwater SPZs in Harborough located close to the southern boundary between the parishes of North Kilworth, Husbands Bosworth and Sulby [\[See reference 78\]](#).

**C.74** Water quality has improved in Harborough since 1990 and the majority of watercourses in the District meet at least the moderate status. Key threats to water quality in the Anglian, Humber and Severn basins include physical modifications to the basin, pollution from waste water and pollution from rural areas [\[See reference 79\]](#), [\[See reference 80\]](#) [\[See reference 81\]](#). Contamination from phosphorous are common in these basins, which is increasing eutrophication and adversely affecting the protected habitats and bird species. These nutrients arise either from agricultural sources or from wastewater from existing housing and other development.

**C.75** The Water Framework Directive provides a framework for managing the water environment and aims to prevent the deterioration and enhance the use

## Appendix C Baseline Information

of aquatic ecosystems. The Framework also requires river basin management plans to be prepared [See reference 82]. River basin management plans have been prepared for Humber, Anglian and Severn River. The River Welland has been categorised as being in 'Bad' or 'Poor' condition in many stretches of the river including from Welland to Stonton Brook. The Welland Rivers Trust has therefore undertaken river improvement measures to enhance water quality in the River Welland, including a project to reduce the leakage from rural septic tanks and the re-naturalisation of the Welland through Market Harborough which completed in 2015. A narrow channel was also dug out of the Welland to return it to a low flow river and was accompanied by planting. This has improved the appearance of the river and improved water quality [See reference 83].

**C.76** Anglian Water and Severn Trent provide for Harborough's water supply and wastewater treatment. Anglian Water's Draft Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) 2024 [See reference 84] sets out the key challenges the area faces and the strategy for ensuring a safe, resilient water supply. The Draft WRMP identifies climate change, limited water supplies, population growth and demand management as key challenges for the region's future water supply. The Draft WRMP identifies serious water stress in its region and the plan aims to reduce water demand and promote water efficiency. Anglian Water plans to invest £900 million in delivering their water resources management plan. Severn Trent published its Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024 [See reference 85]. The Draft Water Resources Management Plan identifies the main challenges as climate change; population change; water leakage; securing sustainable abstraction and preventing future environmental deterioration; and delivering best value for customers. The plan aims to help reduce customer water consumption to 110 litres/head/day by 2050. A Regional Water Resources Plan [See reference 86] was published in December 2023 for Eastern England. The East of England is expected to face projected water shortages of 800 million litres of water per day by 2050 with the demand for water rising. Climate change is increasing the incidences of drought which impacts on water abstraction. Demand for water by the energy sector could reduce as fossil fuel generation is replaced by renewable energy generation. However, hydrogen production and carbon capture, usage and storage are both water-intensive processes. The scale and location of these

new facilities are largely unknown at present but could have significant implications for freshwater demand.

**C.77** A Joint Water Cycle Study is currently being undertaken by four authorities across Leicestershire. Unmitigated future development and climate change can adversely affect the environment and water infrastructure capability. The Water Cycle Study will provide the required evidence, together with an agreed strategy to ensure that planned growth occurs within environmental constraints, with the appropriate infrastructure in place so that planned development allocations are deliverable. This is particularly important giving the increasing demand on water and climate change.

### Flood Risk

**C.78** Much of Harborough District falls within Flood Zone 1. The main areas of flood risk are associated with the watercourses in Harborough. There are some areas of Flood Zone 2 and 3 [\[See reference 87\]](#). This is shown in Figure C.7.

**C.79** Harborough District experiences regular flooding events, the main sources of which are fluvial, surface water runoff and poor capacity in the existing sewer system. Large parts of Harborough District have experienced severe flooding events. In August 2022, 64mm of rain fell in Leicestershire, causing flooding, road closures and car parks to be flooded by heavy rain [\[See reference 88\]](#). As such, for a 1 in 100 Surface Water Flood Risk, 2,310 properties in Market Harborough continue to be at direct risk from surface water flood risk [\[See reference 89\]](#). Flood management schemes in the form of raised embankments and concrete flood walls are in place at Market Harborough on the River Welland. The County Council is currently consulting on an update to the 2015 Local Flood Risk Management Strategy which seeks the opinions of residents and businesses as to the proposed changes [\[See reference 90\]](#). Recent storms and heavy rain, such as Storm Babet, has resulted in flood warnings being issued, particularly for the River Welland. This resulted in some flash flooding within Market Harborough.

**C.80** Harborough District Council have recently updated their Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (October 2024) [See reference 91]. The assessment found that the most significant sources of flood risk are:

- The primary sources of fluvial flood risk in Harborough District are along the Rivers Swift, Welland, Jordan and Sence as well as the Langton Brook, and their associated tributaries. Other watercourses which are present predominantly along the District's boundaries include the Rivers Soar, Avon and Chater, as well as the Medbourne Brook and the Eye Brook. These watercourses present fluvial flood risk to rural communities as well as to the main urban areas.
- The risk of flooding from surface water shows a number of prominent overland flow routes; these are predominantly channelled by topography into watercourses and low-lying areas. There are also flow routes following roads through Lutterworth, Market Harborough and Broughton Astley.
- The highest groundwater emergence risk areas are most prominent along the Rivers Welland and Jordan at Market Harborough, the River Avon at South Kilworth, and the River Soar at Claybrooke Magna.
- The Grand Union Canal flows for approximately 28km through the centre of the District from Newton Harcourt in the north to where the canal crosses Welford Road (A5199) on the southern boundary of the District. The Market Harborough Arm flows for approximately 8.7km from the north-west of Market Harborough to the Grand Union Canal west of Foxton. There have been nine recorded overtopping or breach incidents along canals in Harborough District.
- There is a potential risk of flooding from reservoirs. The level and standard of inspection and maintenance required under the Reservoirs Act means that the risk of flooding from reservoirs is relatively low.
- Areas at risk of flooding today are likely to become at increased risk in the future and the frequency of flooding will also increase in such areas as a result of climate change.



**C.81** The Leicestershire and Leicester City Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was produced in 2017 [\[See reference 92\]](#). The plan found the following:

- Fluvial flood risk is from several watercourses including the River Sence and River Welland. The River Welland in Market Harborough is a flood warning area.
- Several settlements have suffered surface water flooding including Market Harborough, Lutterworth, Great Glen and Kibworth. Market Harborough has frequently experienced surface water and sewer flooding following heavy rainfall events.
- There are no records of flooding from reservoirs impacting properties.
- Much of the sewer network dates back to the Victorian era and capacity and conditions is unknown.

**C.82** The climate in Harborough is expected to change, presenting a series of risks for the District. Climate change will result in increased peak river flows and rainfall intensities. This is likely to result in increased fluvial and surface water flooding in urban areas which already suffer such as Market Harborough, Lutterworth, Great Glen and Kibworth [\[See reference 93\]](#).

## Air Quality

**C.83** Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts. It is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer. Additionally, air pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society: children, the elderly, and those with existing heart and lung conditions. There is also often a strong correlation with equalities issues because areas with poor air quality are also often less affluent areas. Air pollution is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK. Poor air quality is associated with approximately 28,000 and 36,000 deaths a year. It is estimated that nationally the total cost for the NHS and social care system will be £1.6 billion between 2017 and 2025 for air pollutants (fine particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide) [\[See reference 94\]](#).

## Appendix C Baseline Information

**C.84** Harborough District Council produces an annual report outlining the air quality monitoring which has taken place and potential impacts to air quality not currently being monitored. The monitoring of air quality focuses on nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter (dust) and sulphur dioxide.

**C.85** During 2022, Harborough District Council undertook automatic (continuous) monitoring at one site. Non-automatic (i.e. passive) monitoring of NO<sub>2</sub> was undertaken at 33 sites. In relation to Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), which was monitored at two sites, the annual mean air quality objective for PM<sub>2.5</sub> was achieved. There was two monitoring sites for Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) in which no exceedances in the annual mean air quality objective for PM<sub>10</sub> were detected. Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) was monitored at nine areas with number of diffusion tube monitoring locations within each area. At all areas, there were either no exceedances above annual mean air quality standard for NO<sub>2</sub> or the air quality standard was achieved [\[See reference 95\]](#).

## Air Quality Management Areas

**C.86** There is an obligation on all local authorities under Part IV of the 1995 Environment Act to review regularly and assess air quality in their areas and to determine whether or not national air quality objectives are likely to be achieved. Where exceedances are considered likely, the local authority must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the measures it intends to put in place in pursuit of required air quality improvements.

**C.87** There is currently one Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) within Harborough District:

- Kibworth AQMA declared for exceedances of the annual mean Air Quality Objective for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>). This AQMA was declared in 2017.

**C.88** Lutterworth AQMA was revoked on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024 as the NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations within the AQMA have been compliant with the Annual Mean Air Quality Standard for NO<sub>2</sub> for an extended period of time.

**C.89** The 2024 Air Quality Annual Status Report [See reference 96] concluded that there are now new areas likely to be exceeding air quality objectives. During 2023, monitoring continued within the Kibworth AQMA with all locations below the Annual mean Air quality Standard for NO<sub>2</sub>, however location 34n did exceed 36µg.m<sup>-3</sup>. This monitoring location is located along Leicester Road in the centre of Kibworth. No exceedances of the daily mean air quality objective for PM<sub>10</sub> were detected.

**C.90** .Progress on the implementation of junction improvements in Kibworth has been slower. Harborough District Council anticipates that further additional measures will be required in subsequent years to achieve compliance and enable the revocation of Kibworth AQMA [See reference 97].

## Soils

**C.91** The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system [See reference 98] provides a framework for classifying land according to the extent to which its physical or chemical characteristics impose long-term limitations to agricultural use. The principal factors influencing agricultural production are soil wetness, drought and erosion. These factors, together with interactions between them, form the basis for classifying land use into one of five grades, where 1 describes land as excellent (land of high agricultural quality and potential) and 5 describes land as very poor (land of low agricultural quality and potential). Land falling outside these scores is deemed to be 'primarily in non-agricultural use', or 'predominantly in urban use'. Grade 3 can be further separated into grades 3a and 3b, although this requires further local surveys and therefore such data is only available for small areas. Grades 1, 2 and 3a are considered to be the best and most versatile agricultural land.

**C.92** The majority of land in Harborough is Grade 3 agricultural land, with smaller areas of both Grade 2 and Grade 4 land. Grade 2 agricultural land is present in small areas between the A47 and A6 and to the east and south of Lutterworth [See reference 99]. This is shown in Figure C.8.

**C.93** The Council has a duty to prepare, maintain and publish a Brownfield Land Register. This Register is a list of previously developed sites that are under construction for residential development, have planning permission for residential development or may be suitable for residential development. There are a total of 26 sites on the 2022 Brownfield Register equating to 12.48 ha [See reference 100]. However, some of these sites have an end date and have therefore been developed or are not deliverable, leaving 19 sites (8.64 ha).

### Contaminated Land

**C.94** Under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Harborough District Council is responsible for regulating contaminated land. This requires surveying Harborough, determining contaminated land, ensuring a solution is found, and identifying who should bear the costs of the solution.

**C.95** In accordance with Section 78R of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Council is also required to maintain a public register of contaminated land, which serves as a permanent record of all regulatory action undertaken to ensure remediation of any site that has been classified as contaminated. There are currently no entries on the public register.

**C.96** The definition of contaminated land from Part IIA Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended), Section 78A is: ‘any land which appears to the local authority in whose area it is situated to be in such a condition, by reason of substances in, on or under the land, that:

- significant harm is being caused or there is a significant possibility of such harm being caused; or
- significant pollution of controlled waters is being, or is likely to be, caused’

**C.97** Local authorities are required to take a strategic approach in inspecting their area and are required to publish this as a part of a written strategy. A Contaminated Land Strategy Framework Document was published in 2008 and

provides an overview on how the Council will inspect the local authority area for potentially contaminated land [\[See reference 101\]](#).

## Waste

**C.98** Leicestershire County Council is the waste authority for Harborough District. Harborough District Council offers a ‘commingled’ recycling service which involves the collection of multiple material types, mixing them in a collection vehicle and sorts them at a Materials Recycling Facility. These materials are then sent to a range of international destinations.

**C.99** Harborough District has three household waste recycling centres, located in Market Harborough, Kibworth and Lutterworth. These are operated by Leicestershire County Council and residents can take household waste to be reused, recycled or disposed of [\[See reference 102\]](#).

**C.100** The Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan up to 2031 was adopted in 2019 [\[See reference 103\]](#). Through Policy W4 of the Local Plan, support is given for a new non-strategic waste facility (small scale waste facility) to be located in or close to Market Harborough.

**C.101** Between 2021 to 2022, a total of 42,350 tonnes of waste was collected in Harborough District, of which 36,694 tonnes consisted of household waste. 44.7% of this household waste was sent to be recycled, composted or re-used resulting in 55.3% of waste not being recycled. This is slightly higher than the regional average recycling rate of 41.3% for East Midlands and the national recycling rate of 44.1% for England. In relation to non-household waste, only 20.3% of waste was recycled, composted or re-used. The level of household waste that is being sent to be recycled, composted or re-used has slightly decreased since 2015 when 57.4% of household waste was recycled, composted or re-used. The volume of household waste collected was decreasing until 2020-21 when there was a slight increase in waste collected [\[See reference 104\]](#).

**C.102** The number of fly tipping incidents in Harborough has increased over the period of 2016/17- 2019/20 from 381 enforcement actions to 539. Smoking-related litter was the most commonly type of litter (79% of sites), followed by confectionery packaging (60%) and alcoholic drinks (52% of sites) [See reference 105].

## Biodiversity

**C.103** Harborough District mainly contains agricultural land and therefore the biodiversity value in Harborough District is relatively low [See reference 106].

**C.104** There are no European designated nature conservation sites within Harborough District. The nearest are:

- Rutland Water Special Protection Area (SPA and Ramsar site);
- River Mease Special Area of Conservation (SAC); and,
- Ensor's Pool Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

**C.105** Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site is a large artificial freshwater reservoir which lies 7.5km from Harborough. The site contains a number of wetland habitats including water communities and semi-natural mature woodland [See reference 107]. River Mease SAC is a lowland clay river which contains a range of features including pools and vegetated channel margins which support the significant fish populations of spined loach *Cobitis taenia* and bullhead *Cottus gobio* [See reference 108]. Ensor's Pool SAC is an abandoned clay pit which contains a significant population of native white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*, marginal vegetation of hard rush *Juncus inflexus*, common spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris*, water horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile* and lesser bulrush *Typha angustifolia* [See reference 109].

**C.106** There is a total of 14 SSSIs (seen in Table C.13 below) that fall either wholly or partially within the District including one geological SSSI, Tilton Railway Cutting. These represent just 1.2% of Harborough's total land area.

## Appendix C Baseline Information

Just four of the SSSIs are in a 'favourable' condition (Eye brook Reservoir (straddles Rutland), Eye brook Valley Woods, Great Bowden Borrowpit and Saddington Reservoir) with five sites in an 'unfavourable recovering' condition. Fives sites (Allextion Wood, Chater Valley, Launde Bigwood, Owston Woods and Tilton Cutting) are in an 'unfavourable declining' condition [[See reference 110](#)].

**Table C.13: Summary of SSSI in Harborough District**

SSSI Name	Main Habitat	Area (ha)	Condition
Allextion Wood	Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland	25.89	Unfavourable declining
Cave's inn pits	Neutral Grassland	5.82	Unfavourable recovering
Chater Valley	Neutral Grassland	3.84	Unfavourable declining
Eye brook Reservoir (straddles Rutland)	Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland	201.3	Favourable
Eye brook Valley Woods	Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland	65.70	Favourable
Great Bowden Borrowpit	Fen, marsh and swamp	2.43	Favourable
Kilby-Foxton Canal (straddles Oadby and Wigston)	Standing open water and canals	32.09	Unfavourable no change
Launde Bigwood	Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland	41.16	Unfavourable declining
Leighfield Forest	Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland and neutral grassland	149.76	Most of it is unfavourable recovering.
Misterton Marshes	Fen, marsh and swamp and neutral grassland	6.81	Unfavourable Recovering

## Appendix C Baseline Information

SSSI Name	Main Habitat	Area (ha)	Condition
Owston Woods	Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland	139.56	Unfavourable declining
Saddington Reservoir	Fen, marsh and swamp and broadleaved mixed and yew woodland and neutral grassland	19.08	Favourable
Stanford Park	Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland	20.44	Unfavourable Recovering
Tilton Cutting	Designated for geological assets	4.44	Unfavourable declining

**C.107** There are two Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) in Harborough District (Scraptoft and North Kilworth). Scraptoft LNR covers 14.33ha and was a World War Two military camp [See reference 111], while North Kilworth LNR is part of the North Kilworth Millennium Green and covers an area of 2.02ha. Both sites contain an array of habitats including hedgerows, grassland, verges as well as a network of blue infrastructure such as river/ stream and canal corridors. In addition to this, there are 207 Local Wildlife Sites covering 248.5ha (0.42%) of land in the District [See reference 112]. It is important to note that de-declaration of Scraptoft LNR will occur prior to the planned Scraptoft Strategic Development Area (allocated in the adopted Local Plan) being developed.

**C.108** There are 11 priority habitats of national importance present in Harborough District (Broadleaved woodland, Calcareous grassland, Eutrophic standing waters, Field margins, Heath-grassland, Hedgerows, Lowland wood-pasture and parkland, Mesotrophic lakes, Neutral grassland, Reedbed and Wet woodland), as well as 15 Priority Species (Bats, Otter, Dormouse, Water vole, Barn owl, Redstart, Nightingale, Sand Martin, Black hairstreak butterfly, Dingy and grizzled skipper, White-clawed crayfish, Black poplar, Purple small-reed, Violet helleborine and Wood vetch) [See reference 113].

**C.109** Leicestershire County Council is currently preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy which is mandatory under the Environment Act 2021. Local



Nature Recovery Strategies will ensure nature recovery is joined up across an area.

**C.110** A map showing the designated biodiversity and geodiversity assets is provided in Figure C.9.

## Historic Environment

**C.111** Harborough has a range of unique assets that contribute to the character and distinctiveness of the area. These assets include:

- Conservation Areas
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Listed buildings
- Scheduled Monuments

**C.112** Some heritage assets, non-designated heritage assets, archaeological sites, historic buildings, parks, formal gardens or battlefields, are considered to be of national importance. Non-designated heritage assets includes a list of local heritage assets that do not meet the strict criteria for national designation but are of local importance.

**C.113** According to Historic England there are 1,352 Listed Buildings in Harborough, with the majority located in Market Harborough and Lutterworth. Of these, 27 are Grade I listed, 1,219 are Grade II listed, and 106 are Grade II\* listed. Conservation Areas are declared by the Local Authority for those areas which possess 'special interest', the 'character and appearance' of which is desirable to 'preserve and enhance'. They represent a familiar and often cherished local scene thus have greater protection against undesirable changes. There are 63 Conservation Areas, plus the Grand Union Canal Conservation Area which passes through the District, 73 Scheduled Monuments and 12 Parks and Gardens located in Harborough District [\[See reference 114\]](#).

The designated heritage assets within Harborough District can be seen in Figure 3.10.

# Heritage at Risk

**C.114** Historic England has a Heritage at Risk Register [\[See reference 115\]](#) which includes historic buildings, Grade II\* and Grade I listed buildings (Grade II listed buildings are only included for London), sites and Conservation Areas at risk of being lost through neglect, deterioration or decay. The register aims to highlight those places and buildings in greatest need of repair.

**C.115** Ten assets in Harborough are on the Heritage at Risk Register. Historic England classifies building conditions as 'very bad', 'poor', 'fair' or 'good'. The condition of buildings or structures on the Heritage at Risk Register typically ranges from 'very bad' to 'poor', 'fair' and (occasionally) 'good' reflecting the fact that some buildings or structures capable of use are vulnerable to becoming at risk because they are empty, under-used or face redundancy without a new use to secure their future. Assessing vulnerability in the case of buildings in fair condition necessarily involves judgement and discretion. A few buildings on the Register are in good condition, having been repaired or mothballed, but a new use or owner is still to be secured. Buildings or structures are removed from the Register when they are fully repaired/consolidated, and their future secured through either occupation and use, or through the adoption of appropriate management [\[See reference 116\]](#).

**C.116** The heritage assets on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register and their condition is set out below:

- Church of St Mary: Heritage Category – Grade II\* Listed Building;  
Condition – Poor
- Church of St Giles: Heritage Category – Grade II\* Listed Building;  
Condition – Very bad
- Church of St Andrew: Heritage Category – Grade I Listed Building;  
Condition - Poor

## Appendix C Baseline Information

- Church of St John the Baptist: Heritage Category - Grade II\* Listed Building; Condition – Very Bad
- Church of St Leonard: Heritage Category - Grade II\* Listed Building; Condition – Poor
- Church of St John the Baptist: Heritage Category - Grade I Listed Building; Condition – Poor
- Church of St Peter: Heritage Category - Grade II\* Listed Building; Condition – Very bad
- Church of St Michael: Heritage Category - Grade II\* Listed Building; Condition – Very bad
- Moated site at Ingarsby, Hungarton: Heritage Category – Scheduled Monument; Condition – Extensive significant problems
- Withcote Hall: Grade II\* Listed Building; Condition – Poor

## Landscape

**C.117** National Character Area (NCA) profiles created by Natural England are used to define the specific combination of landscape, geodiversity, biodiversity, history, culture and economic activity in the area. NCAs follow natural lines in the landscape instead of administrative boundaries.

**C.118** There are four NCAs within Harborough that are derived from the National Character Assessment as updated by Natural England [See reference 117]. These four NCAs are 'High Leicestershire', 'Northamptonshire Vales', 'Northamptonshire Uplands' and the 'Leicestershire Vales' (see Figure C.11):

- The High Leicestershire NCA is located to the North and North East of Market Harborough. It is of a predominantly rural character, comprised of undulating fields with a mix of pasture and arable farming land. Hedgerows and mature hedgerow divide the fields, with a series of country lanes, tracks and footpaths connecting the landscape. Distinctive features include small villages, hamlets, farm buildings and traditional churches against the

backdrop of the agricultural landscape. The only 'urban' areas in the NCA are the eastern edge of Leicester (including the suburbs of Thurmaston, Syston and Queniborough) and Uppingham, which is close to the A47 [See reference 118].

- The Leicestershire Vale NCA extends southwards from Hinckley to Market Harborough and Lutterworth. It is relatively open and uniform and is comprised of low-lying clay vales and river valleys. The NCA contains many large to medium sized settlements including Leicester, Market Harborough, Lutterworth and Hinckley. The north of the NCA has an urban character from the predominance of settlements, while the south is distinctively rural with a mixture of arable and pastoral farmland [See reference 119].
- The Northamptonshire Vales NCA consists of a series of low-lying clay vales and river valleys, including the valleys of the rivers Nene and Welland and their tributaries. The area is 10% urban, and settlement is often visually dominant. Major road networks that traverse the area include the M1, A45, A6 and A5. This area adjoins the Leicestershire Vales NCA to the north-west and has many similar characteristics [See reference 120].
- The Northamptonshire Uplands NCA is an area of gently rolling, limestone hills and valleys capped by ironstone-bearing sandstone and clay Lias, with many long, low ridgelines. Rivers flow out from the NCA in all directions, including several major rivers – the Cherwell, Avon, Welland, Tove, Ouse, Nene and Ise. While there are areas of differing character, there are strong unifying landscape features across the Northamptonshire Uplands, most importantly the extensive areas of open field systems with ridge and furrow and the earthworks of deserted and shrunken settlements which occur throughout. Other features include the strong, mostly Parliamentary enclosure pattern with high, wide, A-shaped hedgerows bounding the largely rectilinear fields with their frequent mature ash and oak trees; the many country houses and their associated extensive areas of historic and nationally important designed parkland landscapes; the distinctive ironstone, cob and brick nucleated settlements with their large stone churches, often with prominent steeples; the narrow lanes with very wide grassy verges; and the small, scattered but prominent broadleaved

## Appendix C Baseline Information

woods and coverts. There are also wide, long-distance views from the edges and across the ridgetops throughout the area [See reference 121].

**C.119** There are no National Parks or National Landscapes in Harborough.

**C.120** The Landscape Sensitivity and Green Infrastructure Study (2017) [See reference 122] was prepared for Leicester and Leicestershire authorities to support the Strategic Growth Plan. Through the study, broad areas were identified as potential locations for future economic growth and related development. These were named ‘Strategic Opportunity Assessment Zones’ (SOAZs). Six SOAZs were identified:

- Melton Mowbray;
- Northern Gateway;
- Southern Gateway;
- Lutterworth;
- Eastern Growth Corridor; and,
- Six Hills.

**C.121** Lutterworth SOAZ and part of the Eastern Growth Corridor SOAZ falls within Harborough District. Lutterworth SOAZ was considered to have a medium sensitivity and Eastern Growth Corridor SOAZ a medium-high sensitivity to residential development (2-3 storeys) and commercial development (use classes B1 and B2).

**C.122** There are a total of five Landscape Character Areas (LCA) within Harborough District (Upper Soar LCA, Lutterworth Lowlands LCA, Laughton Hills LCA, Welland Valley LCA and High Leicestershire LCA). High Leicestershire LCA and Laughton Hills LCA were identified to have medium-high sensitivity to residential development (2-3 storeys) and commercial development (light industrial units). Welland Valley LCA was identified to have medium-high sensitivity to commercial development (light industrial units).

Upper Soar LCA and Lutterworth Lowlands LCA were identified to have medium sensitivity to residential and commercial development.

**C.123** Since the Landscape Sensitivity and Green Infrastructure Study, development may have occurred within these areas which is likely to affect the character of landscapes within Harborough District, particularly around settlements. Any updated landscape evidence work for the Local Plan will be taken into account in the SA as it becomes available.

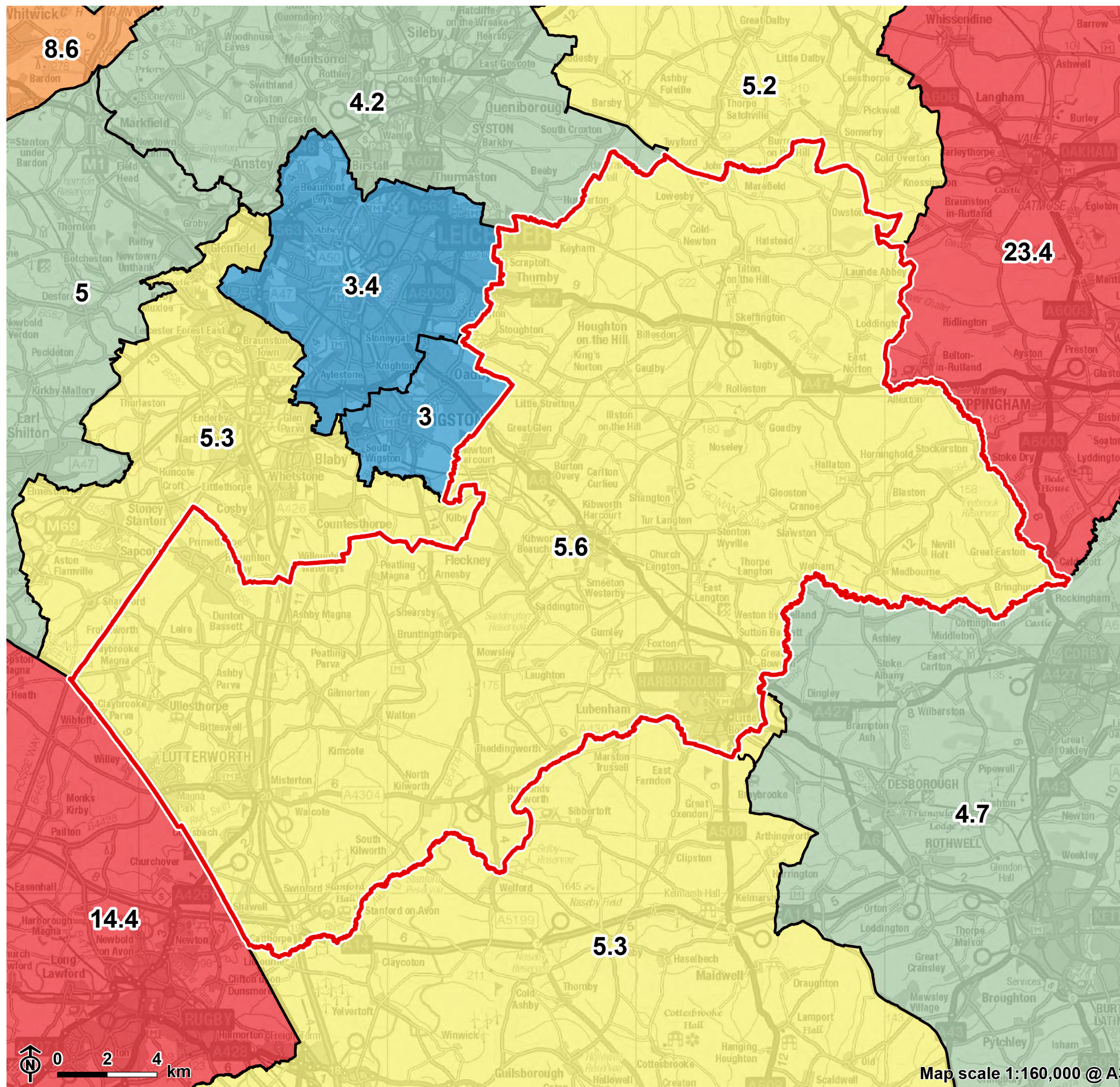
## Difficulties and Data Limitations

**C.124** The SEA Regulations, Schedule 2(8) require the Environmental Report to include "...a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information".

- The information related to retail is based on a study undertaken in 2013 and is therefore out of date.
- Data was not available to be able to distinguish between Grade 3a and 3b agricultural land.
- Data was not available on existing services and facilities outside of / close to Harborough District.

**C.125** Where data limitations have been identified, if relevant updates sources become available at a later stage of the SA process, they will be used to update the baseline information informing the appraisal work.

**Figure C.2: Per Capita CO2 Emissions Compared to Neighbouring Authorities**



- Harborough District
  - Neighbouring Local Authority
- UK local authority CO2 emissions 2022**  
**Per Capita Emissions (t)**
- 3 - 4.2
  - 4.2 - 5.2
  - 5.2 - 8.6
  - 8.6 - 14.4
  - 14.4 - 23.4

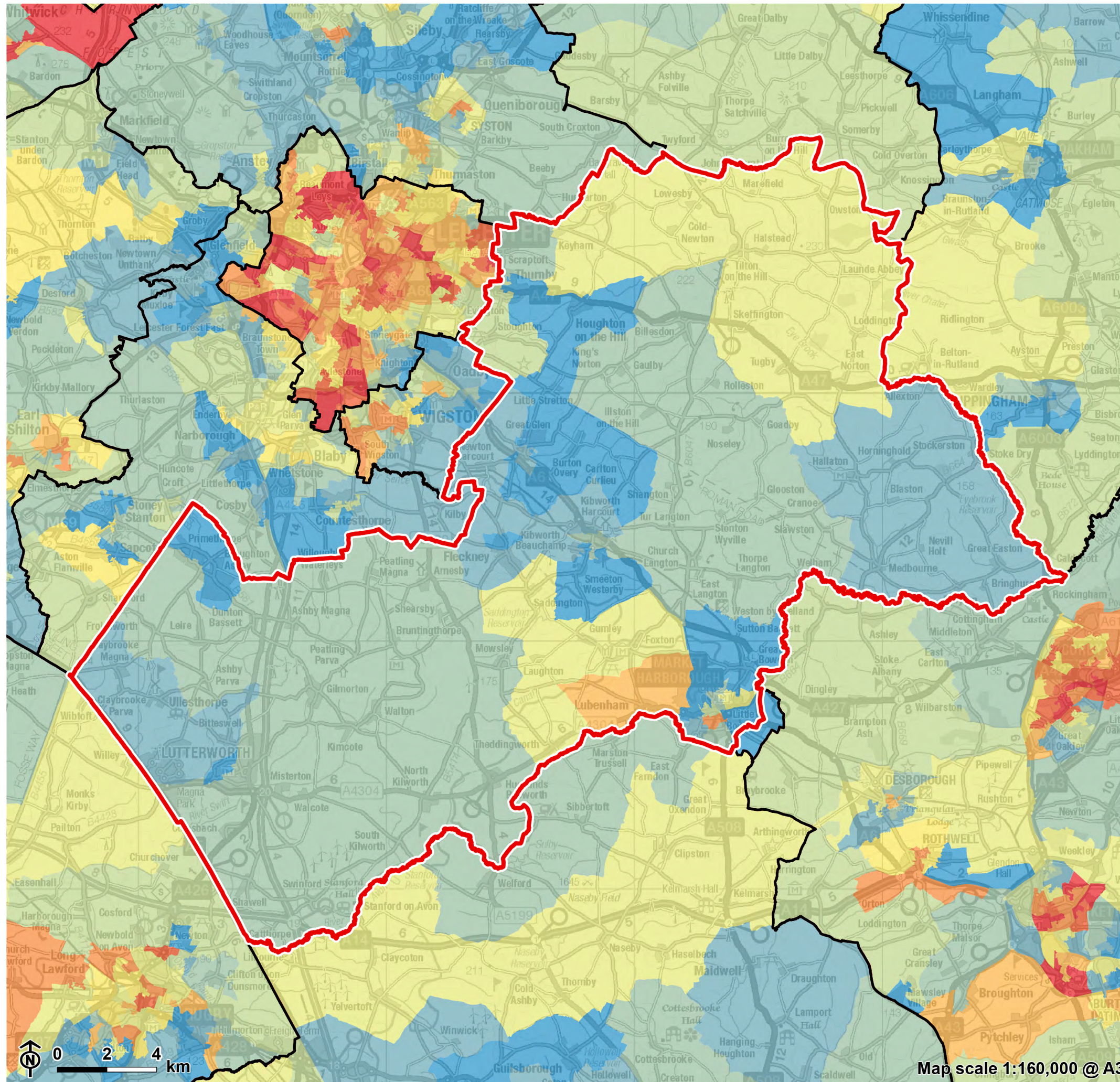
Note: label refers to per capita emissions (in tonnes) for a local authority.

The values above are matched to the subset shown on the map, not the UK dataset.



Map scale 1:160,000 @ A3

Figure C.3: Indices of Multiple Deprivation

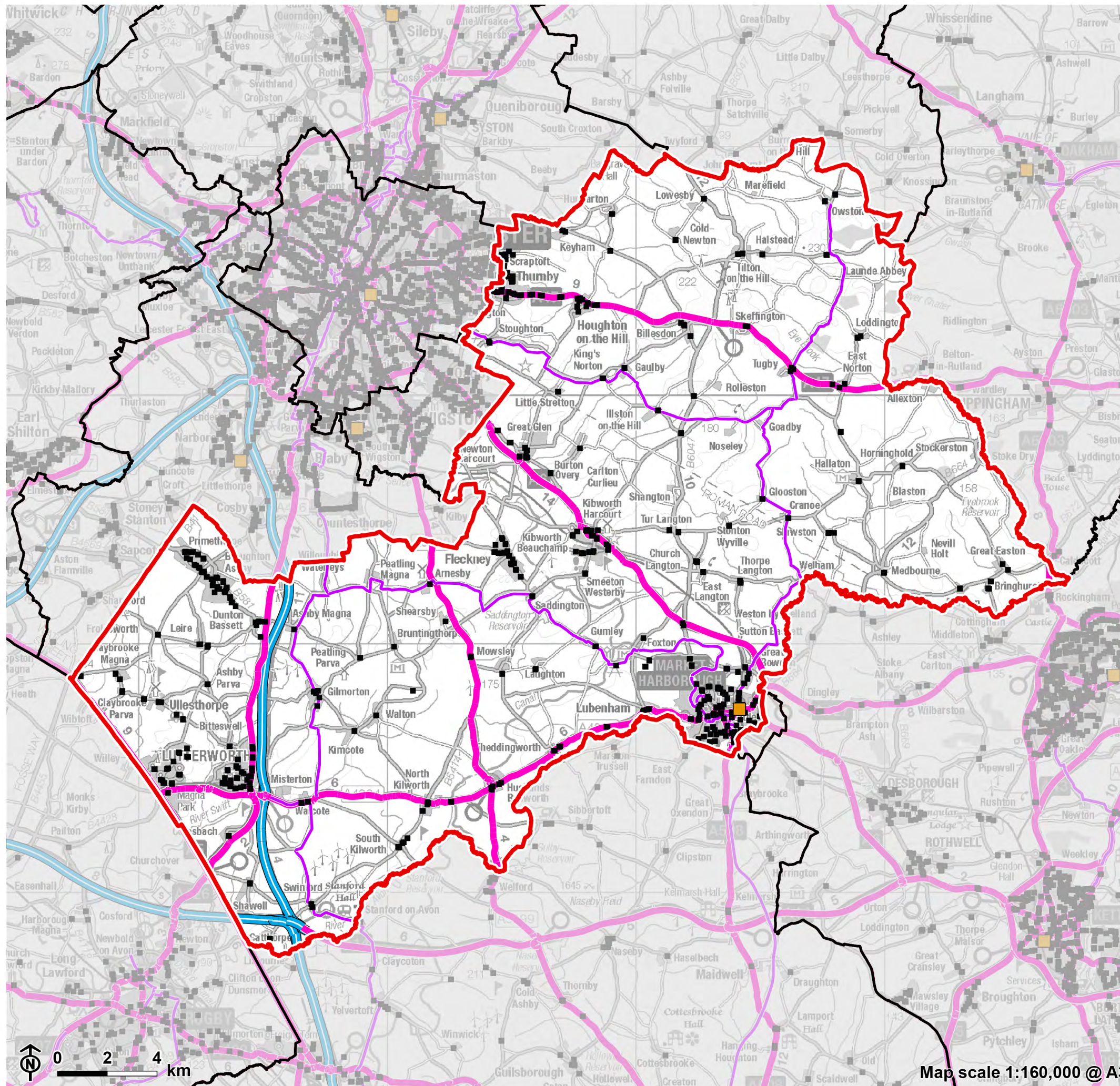


- Harborough District
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019**
- 0 - 10% (most deprived)
- 10 - 20%
- 20 - 30%
- 30 - 40%
- 40 - 50%
- 50 - 60%
- 60 - 70%
- 70 - 80%
- 80 - 90%
- 90 - 100% (least deprived)

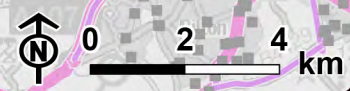
Map scale 1:160,000 @ A3



Figure C.4: Transport Network



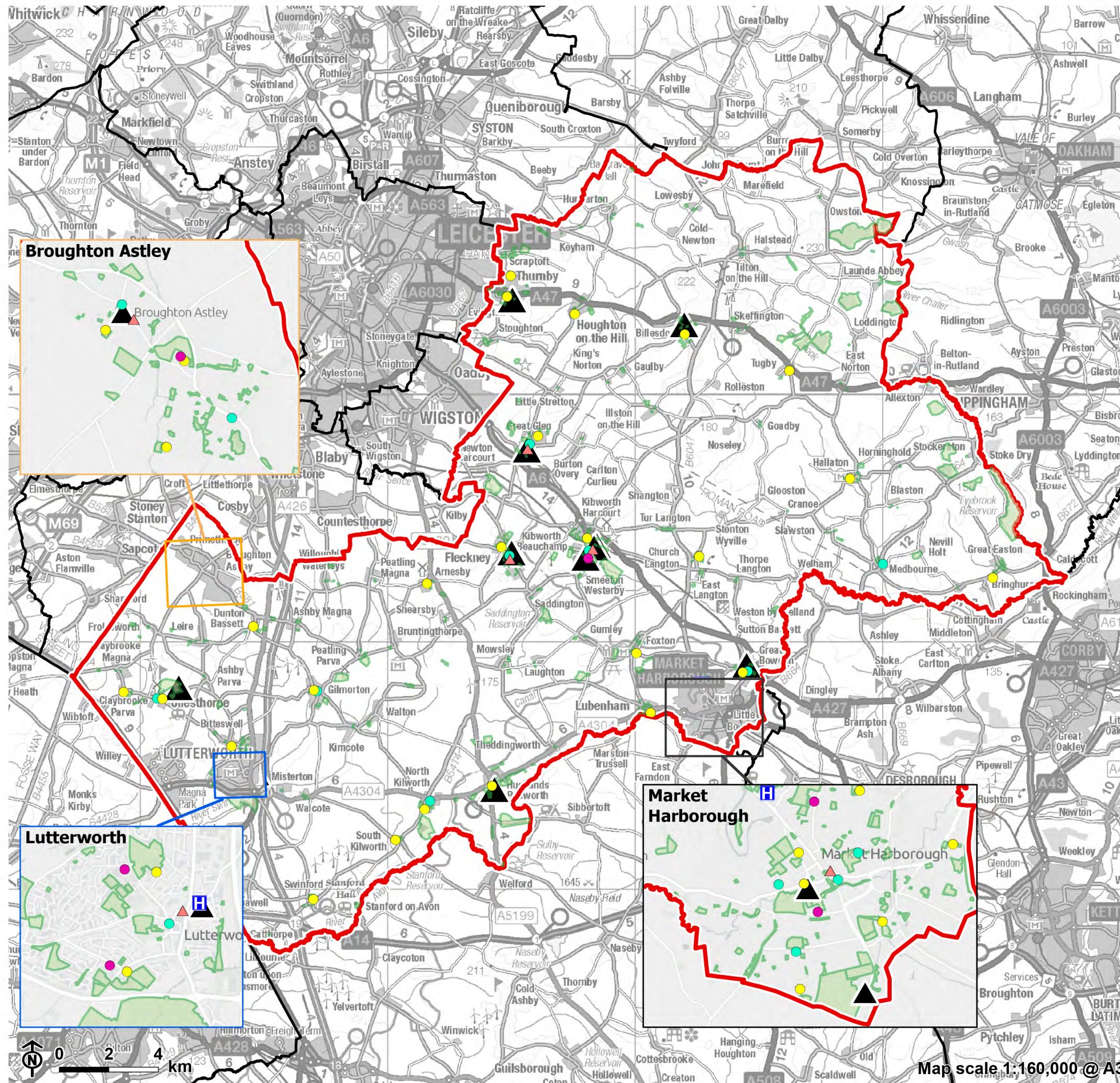
- Harborough District
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Bus stop
- Railway station
- National Cycle Network
- 'A' road
- Motorway



Map scale 1:160,000 @ A3

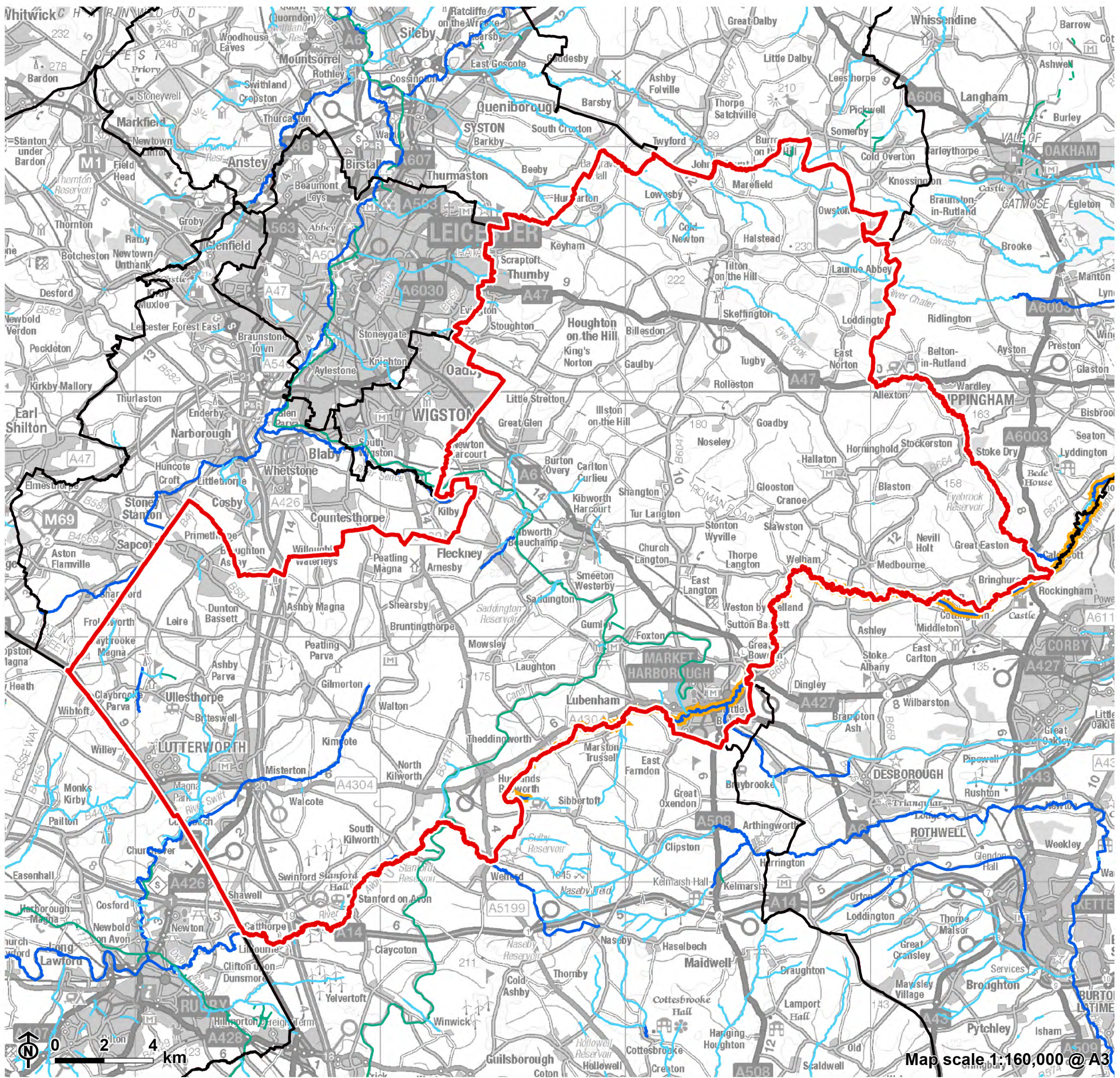


Figure C.5: Services and facilities in Harborough District



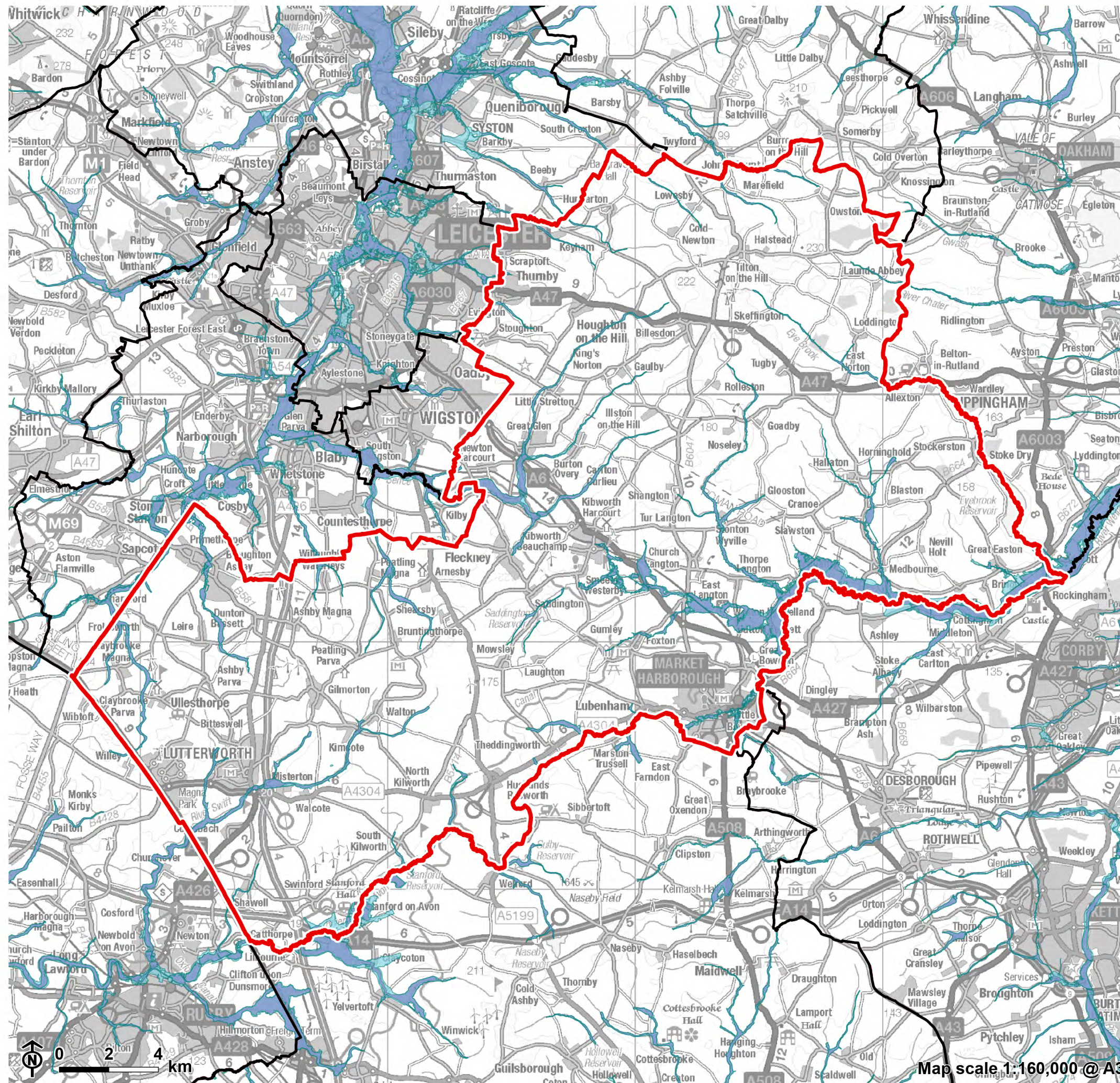
- Harborough District
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Primary school
- Secondary school
- GP surgery
- Hospital
- Post office
- Library
- Sport and recreation facilities

Figure C.6: Watercourses in Harborough



- Harborough District
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Watercourse**
  - River
  - Canal
  - Stream
  - River Welland

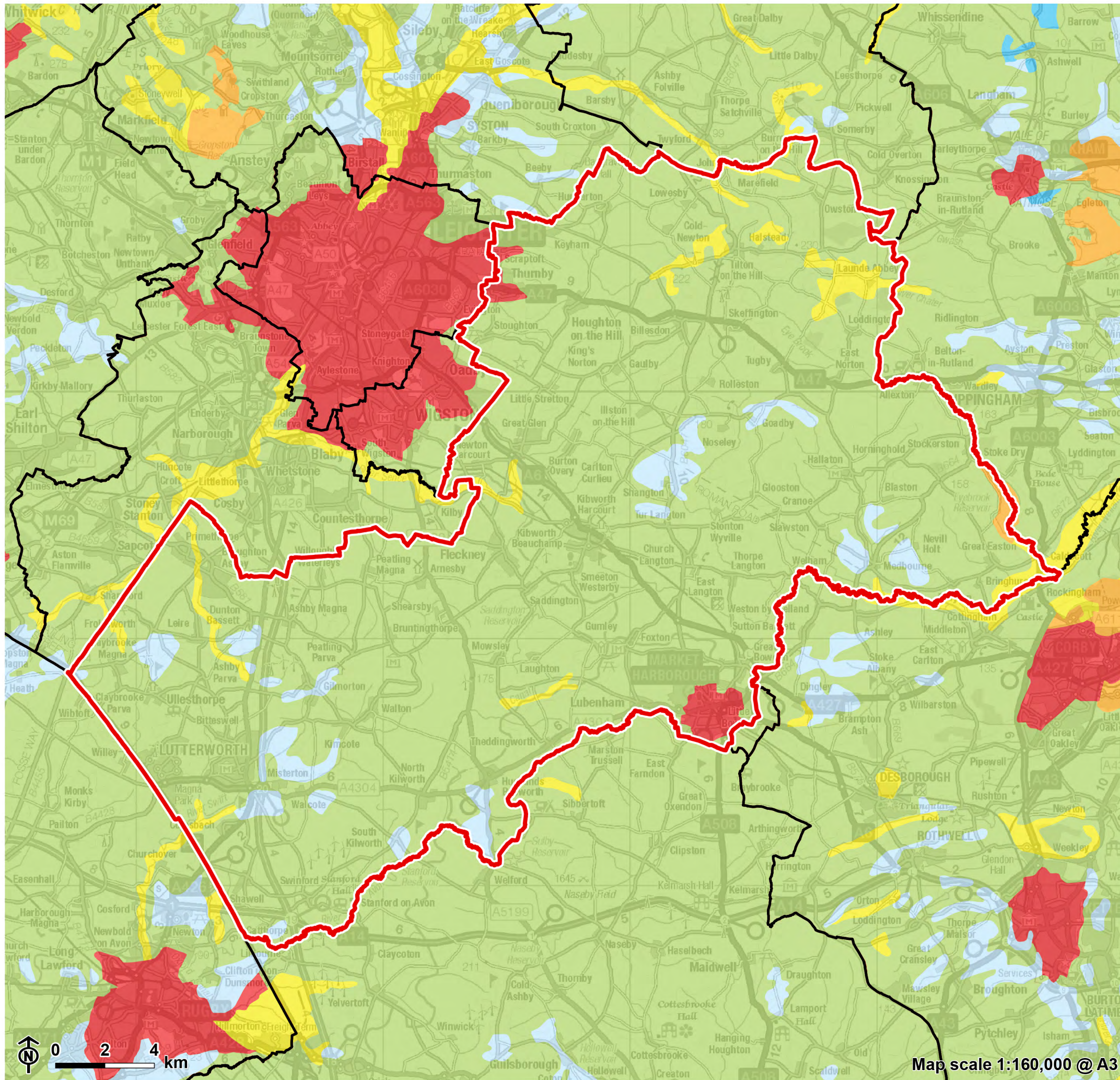
Figure C.7: Flood Risk



- Harborough District
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Flood zone 2
- Flood zone 3

Map scale 1:160,000 @ A3

Figure C.8: Agricultural Land

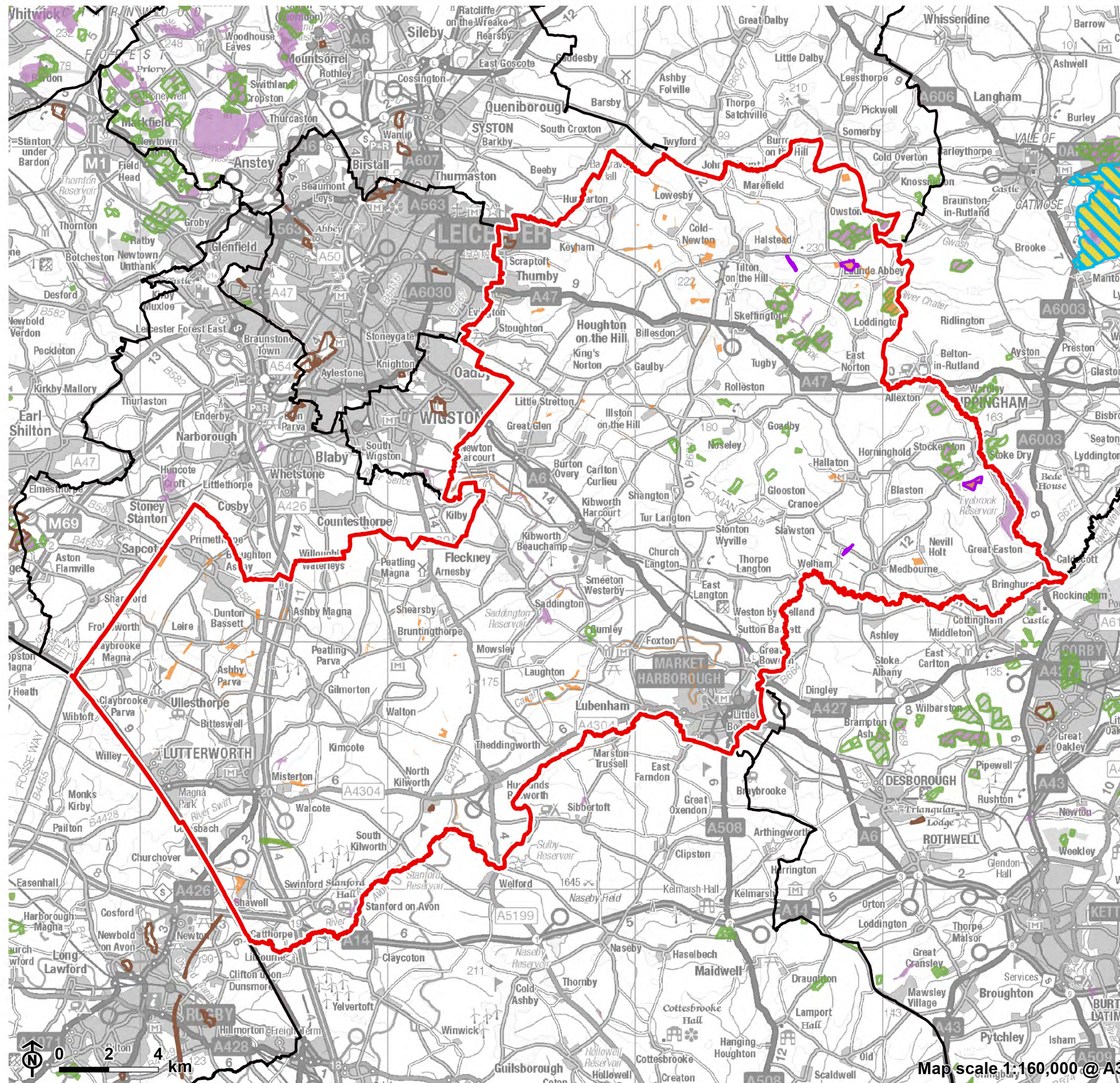


- Harborough District
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Agricultural Land Classification**
- Grade 1
- Grade 2
- Grade 3
- Grade 4
- Grade 5
- Non Agricultural
- Urban
- Exclusion

Map scale 1:160,000 @ A3



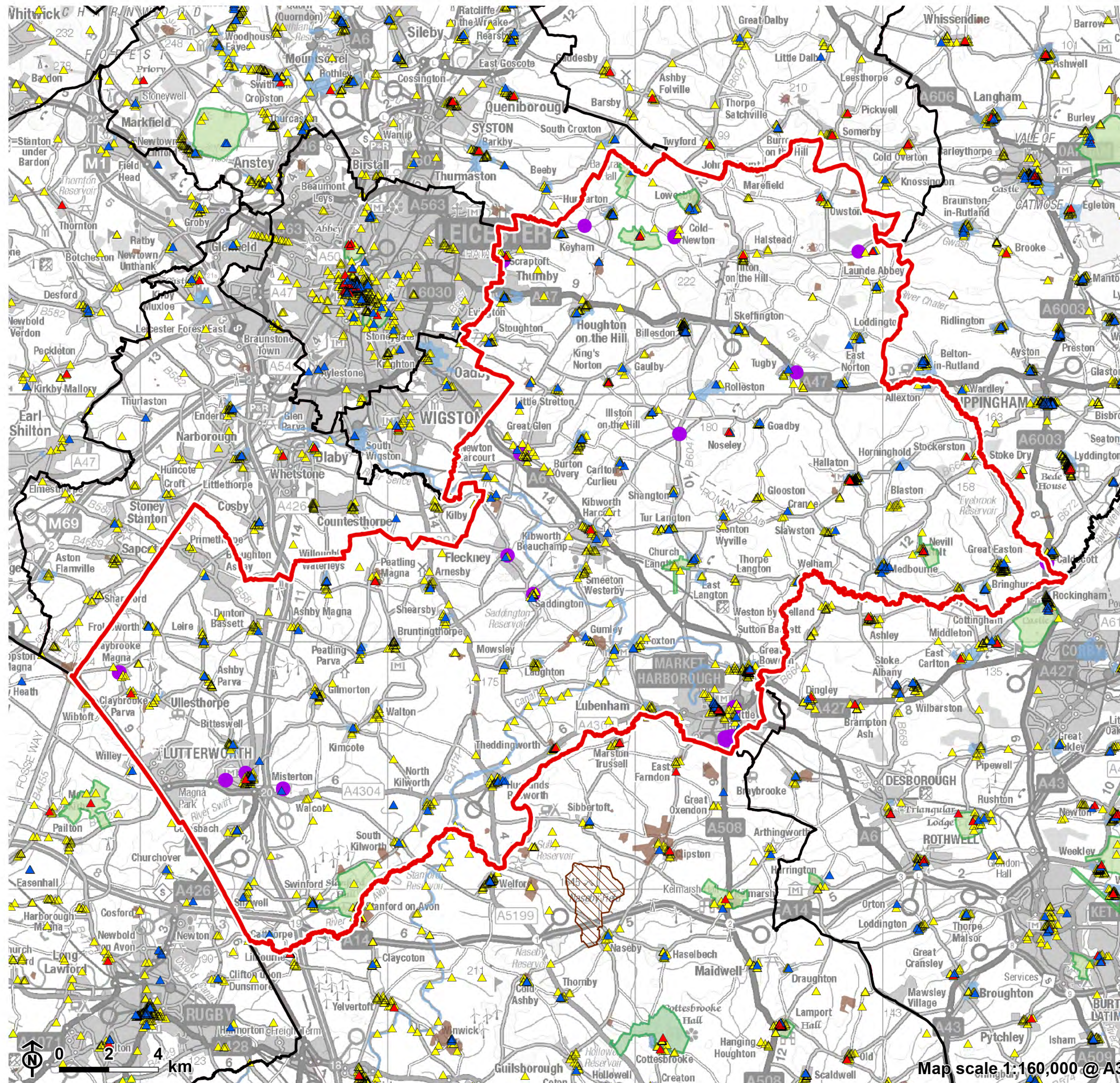
Figure C.9: Designated Biodiversity and Geodiversity Sites



- Harborough District
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Ancient woodland
- Special Protection Area
- Local Nature Reserve
- Local Wildlife Site
- Ramsar site
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Local geological site

Map scale 1:160,000 @ A3

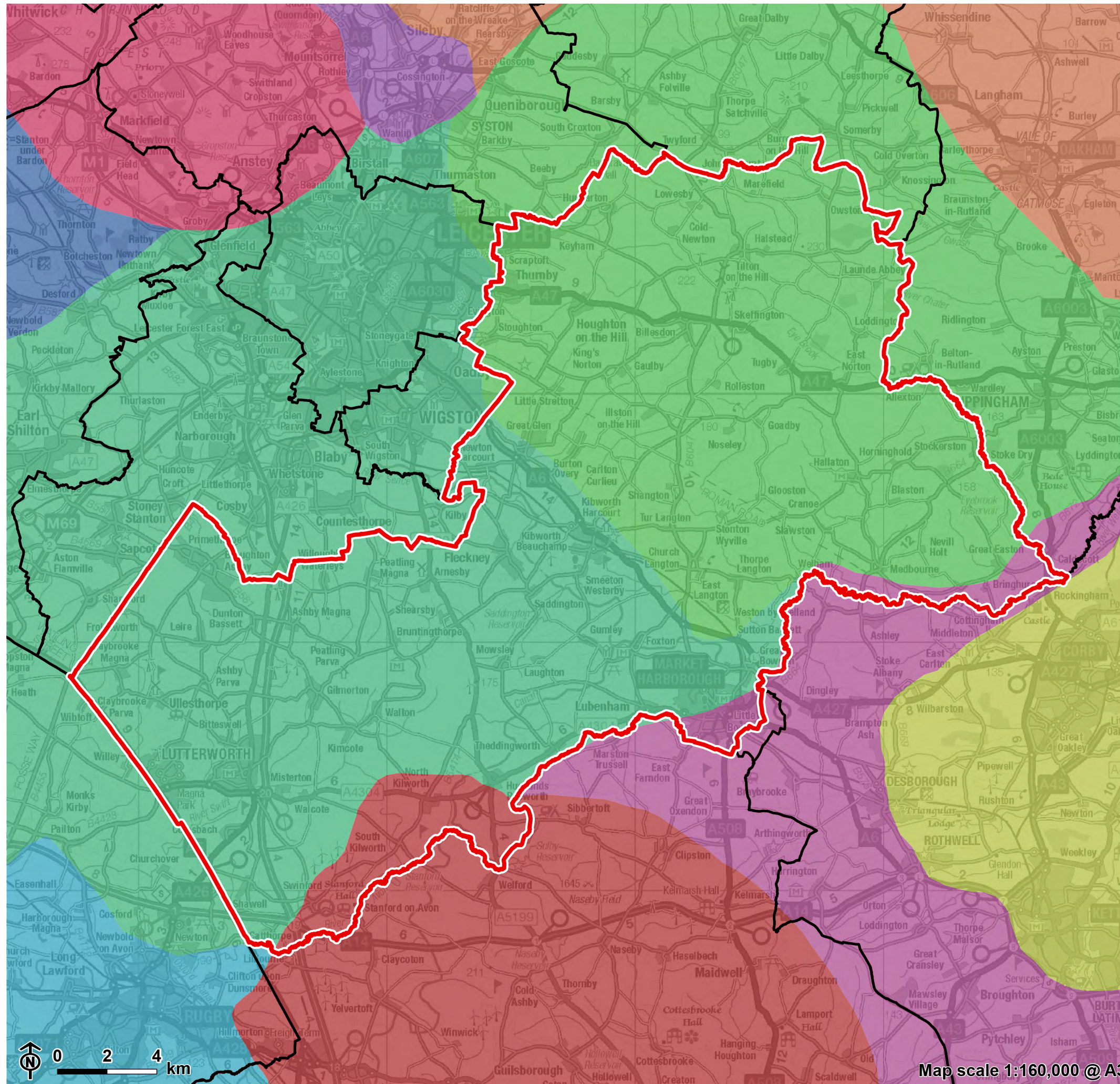
Figure C.10: Heritage Assets



- Harborough District
  - Neighbouring Local Authority
  - Registered battlefield
  - Registered Parks and Gardens
  - Conservation area
  - Scheduled monument
  - Locally Listed Non-Designated Heritage Asset
- Listed Building**
- Grade I
  - Grade II\*
  - Grade II



Figure C.11: National Character Areas



- Harborough District
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- National Character Area**
- Charnwood
- Dunsmore and Feldon
- High Leicestershire
- Leicestershire Vales
- Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds
- Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield
- Northamptonshire Uplands
- Northamptonshire Vales
- Rockingham Forest
- Trent Valley Washlands

Map scale 1:160,000 @ A3



# References

- 1 Available online at: [Met Office \(2022\) UKCP18 Climate Change](#)
- 2 Available online at: [International Journal of Climatology \(2022\) State of the UK Climate 2021](#)
- 3 Available online at: [Met Office \(2022\) 2022 UK Annual Climate Summary](#)
- 4 Available online at: [Climate summaries - Met Office](#)
- 5 Available online at: [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(2023\) AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023](#)
- 6 Available online at: [Tyndall Centre \(2024\) Settling Climate Commitments for Harborough](#)
- 7 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2021\) Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022 – 2030](#)
- 8 Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-statistics-2005-to-2022>
- 9 Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/total-final-energy-consumption-at-regional-and-local-authority-level-2005-to-2021>
- 10 Available online at: [Gov.uk \(2023\) Regional Renewable Statistics](#)
- 11 Available online at: [Harborough District \(2022\) Climate emergency action plan](#)
- 12 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2016\) Landscape Sensitivity to Renewable Energy in Harborough District](#)
- 13 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(n,d\) Council Initiatives](#)
- 14 Available online at: [Harborough Energy \(n,d\) Harborough Energy](#)
- 15 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2019\) Plastics Pledge](#)
- 16 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2023\) Join Harborough Solar Together to save on renewable energy and help cut carbon emissions](#)

## References

---

- 17 Available online at: [ONS \(2021\) How the population changed in Harborough: census 2021](#)
- 18 Available online at: [City Population \(2021\) Harborough](#)
- 19 Available online at: [Census \(2021\) How life has changed in Harborough: Census 2021](#)
- 20 [ONS \(2018\) Population projections for local authorities](#)
- 21 Nomis (Undated) [Labour Market Profile - Harborough](#)
- 22 Available online at: [ONS \(2021\) Ethnic group, England and Wales: Census 2021](#)
- 23 Available online at: [ONS \(2021\) Harborough Local Authority 2021 Census Area Profile](#)
- 24 Available online at: [ONS \(2018\) Household projections for England](#)
- 25 Available online at: [City Population \(2023\) Harborough \[online\]](#)
- 26 Available online at: [ONS \(2021\) Census 2021 Harborough](#)
- 27 Available online at: [ONS \(2021\) Census 2021 Harborough](#)
- 28 Available online at: [ONS \(2024\) Housing affordability in England and Wales: 2023](#)
- 29 Available online at: [ONS \(2024\) Housing affordability in England and Wales: 2023](#)
- 30 Available online at: [ONS \(2024\) Housing affordability in England and Wales: 2023](#)
- 31 Available online at: [Land Registry: UK House Price Index](#)
- 32 Available online at: [ONS \(2021\) How life has changed in Harborough: Census 2021](#)
- 33 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2021\) The Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment \(SHELAA\)](#)

## References

---

- 34 Available online at: [District of Harborough District Authority Monitoring Report 2021/22](#)
- 35 Available online at: [ONS \(2021\) Census Maps 2021](#)
- 36 Available online at: [Leicester City and Leicestershire Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment 2017](#)
- 37 Available online at: [Census \(2021\) Census maps – Health](#)
- 38 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2022\) Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022 – 2027](#)
- 39 Available online at: [Office for Health Improvement & Disparities \(undated\) Public health profiles](#)
- 40 Available online at: [Office for Health Improvement & Disparities \(undated\) Public health profiles](#)
- 41 Available online at: [Public Health England \(2019\) Local Authority Health Profile: Harborough](#)
- 42 Available online at: [Office for Health Improvement & Disparities \(undated\) Public health profiles](#)
- 43 Available online at: Sport England (2024) [Active Lives Adult Survey November 2022-23 Report](#)
- 44 Available online at: [Office for Health Improvement & Disparities \(2021\) Physical Activity](#)
- 45 Available online at: [ONS \(2023\) Annual personal well-being estimates](#)
- 46 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2021\) Open Spaces Strategy 2016 – 2021](#)
- 47 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2023\) Waterways and wellbeing activities offered to residents](#)
- 48 Available online at: [Canal and River Trust \(2023\) Canal Improvements set to begin in Market Harborough](#)

## References

---

- 49 Available online at: [Wildlife and Countryside LINK \(2023\) Mapping access to nature in England](#)
- 50 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2021\) Provision for Open Space Sport and Recreation- Delivery Plan](#)
- 51 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2021\) Provision for Open Space Sport and Recreation- Delivery Plan](#)
- 52 Available online at: [Dclgapps \(2019\) Indices of Multiple Deprivation](#)
- 53 Available online at: [ONS \(2019\) Exploring local income deprivation](#)
- 54 Available online at: [Leicestershire Police \(2024\) Harborough and the Bowdens](#)
- 55 Available online at: [Leicestershire Police \(2024\) Harborough North](#)
- 56 Available online at: [Leicestershire Police \(2024\) Lutterworth](#)
- 57 Available online at: [Leicestershire Police \(2024\) Harborough North](#)
- 58 Available online at: [Leicestershire Police \(2024\) Harborough and the Bowdens](#)
- 59 Available online at: [NOMIS \(2024\) Labour Market Profile – Harborough](#)
- 60 Available online at: [ONS \(2020\) Regional gross domestic product: local authorities](#)
- 61 Available online at: [NOMIS \(2024\) Labour Market Profile – Harborough](#)
- 62 Available online at: [NOMIS \(2024\) Labour Market Profile – Harborough](#)
- 63 Available online at: [NOMIS \(2024\) Labour Market Profile – Harborough](#)
- 64 Available online at: [NOMIS \(2024\) Labour Market Profile – Harborough](#)
- 65 Available online at: [NOMIS \(2024\) Labour Market Profile – Harborough](#)
- 66 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2023\) Annual Economic Profile](#)
- 67 Available online at: [VisitHarborough \(n.d\) The Value of Tourism in the Harborough District](#)

## References

---

- 68 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2013\) Harborough Retail Survey](#)
- 69 Available online at: [Census \(2021\) Census Maps](#)
- 70 Available online at: [ONS \(2021\) Travel to work, England and Wales: Census 2021](#)
- 71 Available online at: [ONS \(2011\) Method of travel to work](#)
- 72 Available online at: [NOMIS \(2011\) Location of usual residence and place of work](#)
- 73 Available online at: [Leicestershire County Council \(2011\) Local Transport Plan](#)
- 74 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2017\) Harborough Proposed Submission Sustainability Appraisal](#)
- 75 Available online at: [Leicestershire & Rutland \(2021\) Conservation Officer's Guide to Tilton Cutting Nature Reserve](#)
- 76 Available online at: [Leicester Mercury \(2023\) 'Mothballed sand and gravel quarry to reopen despite villagers' fears'](#)
- 77 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2009\) Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment](#)
- 78 Available online at: [Environmental Agency \(2020\) Source Protection Zones](#)
- 79 Available online at: [Environment Agency Anglian river basin district river basin management plan: updated 2022](#)
- 80 Available online at: [Environment Agency Humber river basin district river management plan: updated 2022](#)
- 81 Available online at: [Environment Agency Severn river basin district river basin management plan: updated 2022](#)
- 82 Available online at: [European Commission \(n.d\) Water Framework Directive](#)

## References

---

- 83 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2015\) Water District Water cycle Study](#)
- 84 Available online at: [Anglian Water \(2023\) Revised Draft WRMP 2024](#)
- 85 Available online at: [Severn Trent Water Resources Management Plan 2024](#)
- 86 Available online at: [Water Resources East \(2023\) The Regional Water Resources Plan](#)
- 87 Available online at: [Gov.uk Flood map for planning](#)
- 88 Available online at: [BBC News \(2022\) Leicestershire flooding: Road closed and car park flooded by heavy rain](#)
- 89 Available online at: [Leicestershire Waste Partnership \(2022\) Draft Resources and Waste Strategy for Leicestershire](#)
- 90 Available online at: [Leicestershire County Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2023](#)
- 91 JBA consulting (2024) Harborough District Council Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
- 92 Available online at: [JBA Consulting \(2017\) Leicestershire and Leicester City Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment](#)
- 93 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2009\) Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment](#)
- 94 Available online at: [Office for Health Improvements and Disparities \(2022\) Air pollution: applying all our health](#)
- 95 Available online at: [District of Harborough 2023 Air Quality Annual Status Report](#)
- 96 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2024\) 2024 Air Quality Annual Status Report](#)
- 97 Available online at: [District of Harborough 2023 Air Quality Annual Status Report](#)

## References

---

- 98 Available online at: [Natural England \(2013\) Agricultural Land Classification \(ALC\) system](#)
- 99 Available online at: Natural England (2013) Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system
- 100 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2022\) Brownfield Land Register \[online\]](#)
- 101 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2008\) Contaminated Land Strategy Framework Document](#)
- 102 Available online at: [Leicestershire Waste Partnership \(2022\) Resources and Waste Strategy for Leicestershire 2022-2050](#)
- 103 Available online at: [Leicestershire County Council \(2019\) Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan upto 2031](#)
- 104 Available online at: [Gov.uk \(2023\) ENV18 – Local authority collected waste: annual results 2021/22](#)
- 105 Available online at: [Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs \(2019\) Litter and littering in England: data dashboard](#)
- 106 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2019\) Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031](#)
- 107 Available online at: [Ramsar Sites Information Service \(n.d\) Rutland Water](#)
- 108 Available online at: [Natural England \(2022\) River Mease – Advice to Local Planning Authorities](#)
- 109 Available online at: [Natural England \(2018\) European Site Conservation Objectives: Supplementary Advice on Conserving and Restoring Site Features](#)
- 110 Available online at: [Natural England \(2023\) Designated Sites View SSSI Condition Survey op](#)
- 111 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2017\) Scraftoft Local Nature Reserve Consultation – Background reports](#)

## References

---

- 112 Available online at: [Harborough District Council \(2008\) Phase 1 Habitat Survey 2008](#)
- 113 Available online at: [Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust \(2016\) Biodiversity Action Plan](#)
- 114 Available online at: [Historic England \(2024\) Historic England map search](#)
- 115 Available online at: [Historic England \(undated\) Heritage at Risk Register](#)
- 116 Available online at: [Historic England \(2019\) Heritage at Risk](#)
- 117 Available online at: [Natural England \(2012-2014\) National Character Areas](#)
- 118 Available online at: [Natural England \(2013\) NCA Profile: 93 High Leicestershire](#)
- 119 Available online at: [Natural England \(2013\) NCA Profile: 94 Leicestershire Vales](#)
- 120 Available online at: [Natural England \(2013\) NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales](#)
- 121 Available online at: [Natural England \(2013\) NCA Profile: 95 Northamptonshire Uplands](#)
- 122 Available online at: [Leicester and Leicestershire \(2017\) Landscape Sensitivity and Green Infrastructure Study for Leicester and Leicestershire](#)



Report produced by LUC

# Report produced by LUC

## **Bristol**

12th Floor, Colston Tower, Colston Street, Bristol BS1 4XE  
0117 929 1997  
bristol@landuse.co.uk

## **Cardiff**

16A, 15th Floor, Brunel House, 2 Fitzalan Rd, Cardiff CF24 0EB  
0292 032 9006  
cardiff@landuse.co.uk

## **Edinburgh**

Atholl Exchange, 6 Canning Street, Edinburgh EH3 8EG  
0131 202 1616  
edinburgh@landuse.co.uk

## **Glasgow**

37 Otago Street, Glasgow G12 8JJ  
0141 334 9595  
glasgow@landuse.co.uk

## **London**

250 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8RD  
020 7383 5784  
london@landuse.co.uk

## **Manchester**

6th Floor, 55 King Street, Manchester M2 4LQ  
0161 537 5960  
manchester@landuse.co.uk

## **landuse.co.uk**

Landscape Design / Strategic Planning & Assessment  
Development Planning / Urban Design & Masterplanning  
Environmental Impact Assessment / Landscape Planning & Assessment  
Landscape Management / Ecology / Historic Environment / GIS & Visualisation