

Annex B: Local Plan - Natural Environment Evidence

Sources of natural environment evidence which may be utilised within a Local Plan is outlined below:

Legend

SD: Spatial data layer available for download from link provided (unless otherwise indicated)

M: indicates also available to view on MAGIC mapper (<https://magic.defra.gov.uk>)

Key evidence sources	Data Published by	Link to open data or information	SD
ACCESS			
National Trails	Natural England	https://data.gov.uk/dataset/ac8c851c-99a0-4488-8973-6c8863529c45/national-trails	M
King Charles III England Coast Path	Natural England	Open Route: Route: https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/2cc04258-a5d4-4eea-823d-bf493aa31eef/england-coast-path-route Coastal margins: https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/8f709382-e4ba-4a59-9c65-41d098712504/england-coast-path-coastal-margins	M M
		Sections in progress: King Charles III England Coast Path: improving public access to the coast - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (pdf maps only)	
Public Rights of Way (on the Ordnance Survey base map) and Rights of Way Improvement Plans	Local Planning Authorities		
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 – Section 15 land (England)	Natural England	https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/f7255820-97d1-4891-aa7c-b6a2baa1e2b6/crow-act-2000-section-15-land	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 – Access Layer (England)		https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/05fa192a-06ba-4b2b-b98c-5b6bec5ff638/crow-act-2000-access-layer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
Local Nature Reserves	Local Planning Authorities and Local Wildlife Organisations – published by Natural England	https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/acdf4a9e-a115-41fb-bbe9-603c819aa7f7/local-nature-reserves-england	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
National Nature Reserves (England)	Natural England	https://data.gov.uk/dataset/726484b0-d14e-44a3-9621-29e79fc47bfc/national-nature-reserves-england	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
Country Parks	Local Planning Authorities	Natural England have mapped Country Parks using data from Local Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M

		Authority data https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/e729abb9-aa6c-42c5-baec-b6673e2b3a62/country-parks-england	
People and Nature Survey	Natural England	People and Nature Survey since 2019 https://people-and-nature-survey-defra.hub.arcgis.com/ Replaced the Monitoring Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) survey dashboard – replaced by The MENE survey dashboard https://defra.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=2f24d6c942d44e81821c3ed2d4ab2ada	
AIR QUALITY			
Nitrogen Decision Framework	Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)	A decision framework to attribute atmospheric nitrogen deposition as a threat to or cause of unfavourable habitat condition on protected sites JNCC Resource Hub	
Air Pollution Information System (Data on air pollution related to designated sites)	Various including Natural England	https://www.apis.ac.uk/ (data not downloadable)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CLIMATE CHANGE			
'Climate Change Adaptation Manual' Second Edition 2020 (NE751)	Natural England	http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5679197848862720	
The National Biodiversity Climate Change Vulnerability Model	Natural England	Report: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5069081749225472#:~:text=The%20National%20Biodiversity%20Climate%20Change,be%20used%20(in%20conjunction%20with (data not downloadable)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
Species Risks and Opportunities Maps	Natural England	http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4674414199177216 (pdf maps, data not downloadable)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DESIGNATED SITES			
Boundaries of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	Natural England	https://data.gov.uk/dataset/5b632bd7-9838-4ef2-9101-ea9384421b0d/sites-of-special-scientific-interest-england	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
Boundaries of Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	Natural England	https://data.gov.uk/dataset/174f4e23-acb6-4305-9365-1e33c8d0e455/special-protection-areas-england	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
Boundaries of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	Natural England	https://data.gov.uk/dataset/a85e64d9-d0f1-4500-9080-b0e29b81fbc8/special-areas-of-conservation-england	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
Boundaries of Ramsar Sites	Natural England	https://data.gov.uk/dataset/67b4ef48-d0b2-4b6f-b659-4efa33469889/ramsar-england	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M

Boundaries of Marine Conservation Zones	Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) (published by Natural England)	https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/80c075c3-1880-44a0-bffc-69e20f307c21/marine-conservation-zones-england	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
SSSI Impact Risk Zones	Natural England	Full details: https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/Defra::sssi-impact-risk-zones-england/about Data: https://data.gov.uk/dataset/5ae2af0c-1363-4d40-9d1a-e5a1381449f8/sssi-impact-risk-zones-england	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
SSSI, SAC and Conservation Objectives	Natural England	SSSI: https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ SAC/SPA: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216	
SAC, SPA, Site Improvement Plans (SIPS)	Natural England	https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/	
Local Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites	Local Planning Authority and/or Local Environmental Records Centre and/or Local Wildlife Trust		
Potential Special Protection Areas	Natural England	https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/f97c82ea-fe9a-4281-b9f6-08694a7d65b5/potential-special-protection-areas-england	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
Possible Special Areas of Conservation	Natural England	https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/be02be84-201e-4293-bf1f-0c2c296be5ad/possible-special-areas-of-conservation-england	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
Existing HRA compensation sites	Local Planning Authority and Natural England		
Details and locations of existing strategic solutions	Local Planning Authority and Natural England		
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE			
Green Infrastructure Map	Natural England	https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Map.aspx National Green Infrastructure mapping database, with Links to data sources used in GI mapping: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4635531295326208	

Green Infrastructure Framework – Principles and Standards for England, including Accessible Greenspace Standard (AGS) and Urban Greening Factor (UGF)	Natural England	https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Home.aspx	
Green Belt boundaries	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)	https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/ccb505e0-67a8-4ace-b294-19a3cbff4861/english-local-authority-green-belt-dataset	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
Open Space Assessments	Local Planning Authority		
Urban Forestry	Forestry Commission	How to protect and manage the urban forest https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-protect-and-manage-the-urban-forest	
UK Ward Canopy Cover	Forestry Commission	Data set: https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/43ca8e70-6cba-47a1-b3a8-c6b318862610/uk-ward-canopy-cover Viewer: https://forestry.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d8c253ab17e1412586d9774d1a09fa07	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HABITATS AND SPECIES			
Ancient Woodland	Natural England	https://data.gov.uk/dataset/9461f463-c363-4309-ae77-fdcd7e9df7d3/ancient-woodland-england	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
Ancient and Veteran Trees	The Ancient Tree Inventory Woodland Trust and Natural England	The Ancient Tree Inventory https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/ (data not downloadable)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Natural England	The wood pasture and parkland inventory https://data.gov.uk/dataset/bac6feb6-8222-4665-8abe-8774829ea623/wood-pasture-and-parkland-england	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
Priority Habitat Inventories 41 habitats	Natural England	https://data.gov.uk/dataset/4b6ddab7-6c0f-4407-946e-d6499f19fcde/priority-habitat-inventory-england https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=39403df11c8044d998772db5b54ad86c#overview	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
Priority Habitat Creation and Restoration by the Environment Agency	Environment Agency	https://data.gov.uk/dataset/e0165747-8368-4ff7-a644-df9aeb27bb0b/priority-habitat-creation-and-restoration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land Inventory (draft)	Natural England	https://data.gov.uk/dataset/8509c11a-de20-42e8-9ce4-b47e0ba47481/open-mosaic-habitat-draft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) and Local	Local Planning Authority		

Geodiversity Action Plans (LGAPS)			
Priority habitats and species as listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act, 2006 and UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP).	Local Environmental Record Centres		
National Forest Inventory on Trees and Woodland 2020	Forestry Commission	https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/6e3126bd-fb2c-4cac-b2c4-d521f006b87a/national-forest-inventory-woodland-england-2020 (check for later releases)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
Local Nature Recovery Strategies (NB few are yet to be completed)	County Authorities / Responsible Authorities	Nature Recovery Network Evidence Handbook: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6105140258144256 Data viewer: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/7c5242fdec7f433aa4ee4510383e3909/page/Home/ (collection of data)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HERITAGE and HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT			
National Heritage Register including scheduled monuments, listed buildings, Conservation Areas, registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields and protected wrecks	Historic England	https://opendata-historicengland.hub.arcgis.com/maps/historicengland::national-heritage-list-for-england-nhle/about and search on data.gov.uk (not all on magic.gov.uk)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
World Heritage Sites	Historic England	https://data.gov.uk/dataset/3ac5c299-6805-476b-af9b-90aadc5e7b4/world-heritage-sites-gis-data	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
National Historic Landscape Characterisation 250m and 500m grid	Natural England	500m grid: https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/3fd13432-eee3-43d4-8bd0-e00a0bbc688f/national-historic-landscape-characterisation-500m-grid-england 250m grid: https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/8b8c5df3-d7e3-484c-89d8-c7b819205002/national-historic-landscape-characterisation-250m-grid-england	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
Heritage Coasts	Natural England	https://data.gov.uk/dataset/79b3515f-b00e-419a-9c7e-1d3163555886/heritage-coasts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Heritage Coast Management Plans	Local Planning Authority		
LANDSCAPE			
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty boundaries	Natural England	https://data.gov.uk/dataset/8e3ae3b9-a827-47f1-b025-f08527a4e84e/areas-of-outstanding-natural-beauty-england	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M

National Park boundaries	Natural England	https://data.gov.uk/dataset/334e1b27-e193-4ef5-b14e-696b58bb7e95/national-parks-england	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
National Park and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) management plans	Conservation Boards/ AONB Partnerships and National Park Authorities		
Landscape National Character Areas (England)	Natural England	https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/21104eeb-4a53-4e41-8ada-d2d442e416e0/national-character-areas-england https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/587130	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
All England Strategic Landscape Mapping Hub	Natural England	https://all-england-strategic-landscapes-mapping-hub-luc.hub.arcgis.com/ (not available for download)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Local landscape character assessments	Local Planning Authority		
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments	Local Planning Authority		
Landscape capacity and sensitivity assessments	Local Planning Authority		
Tranquillity and light pollution	Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)	https://nightblight.cpre.org.uk/maps/ (not available for download)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MARINE / COAST			
MMO marine planning evidence base	Marine Management Organisation (MMO)	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/evidence-and-the-marine-management-organisation-mmo	
MEDIN Marine Data Portal	The National Oceanography Centre	https://portal.medin.org.uk/portal/start.php	
Shoreline Management Plans	Environment Agency	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shoreline-management-plans-smps	
Coastal erosion maps/ Coastal Change Management Area data/strategies	Environment Agency / Local Planning Authority	Information on CCMA: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6167783398440960	
NATURAL CAPITAL			
Natural Capital Atlases: Mapping and Mapping Indicators for County and City Regions (NECR318)	Natural England	https://data.gov.uk/dataset/a9de8eaa-5424-40ac-b1b3-3e33e94e1648/natural-capital-county-atlas-mapping-england including link to full Evidence Catalogue http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6672365834731520	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nature Improvement Areas	Natural England	https://data.gov.uk/dataset/a19c95e3-9657-457d-825e-3d2f3993b653/nature-improvement-areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
National Habitat Network (England)	Natural England	https://data.gov.uk/dataset/0ef2ed26-2f04-4e0f-9493-ffbdbfaeb159/habitat-networks-england	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M

Living England Habitat Map	Natural England	https://data.gov.uk/dataset/e207e1b3-72e2-4b6a-8aec-0c7b8bb9998c/living-england-habitat-map-phase-4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
Enabling a Natural Capital Approach	Defra	https://data.gov.uk/dataset/3930b9ca-26c3-489f-900f-6b9eec2602c6/enabling-a-natural-capital-approach	
Natural Capital Ecosystem Assessment (NCEA)	Natural England under development	In the long term, the NCEA will provide a comprehensive programme that will provide high quality (national and local) data to assess the state and condition of biodiversity, ecosystems, and natural capital assets in the terrestrial, aquatic & marine environment which will transform decision making for critical environmental policies and interventions to meet the 25 Year Environment Plan https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/natural-capital-and-ecosystem-assessment-programme/natural-capital-and-ecosystem-assessment-programme	
NET GAIN			
Biodiversity Net Gain guidance and metric	Defra and Natural England	Guidance: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/biodiversity-net-gain Metric: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-metric-calculate-the-biodiversity-net-gain-of-a-project-or-development	
Environmental Benefits from Nature Tool (Beta Test Version)	Natural England	https://nepubprod.appspot.com/publication/6414097026646016	
SOILS and PEAT			
Provisional Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Maps	Natural England	https://data.gov.uk/dataset/952421ec-da63-4569-817d-4d6399df40a1/provisional-agricultural-land-classification-alc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
Strategic mapping assigning the likelihood of BMV agricultural land (created as a companion to the Provisional ALC maps)	Natural England	http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/5208993007403008 (pdf only - data not downloadable)	
Detailed ALC reports – post 1988 ALC survey	Natural England	https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/c002ceea-d650-4408-b302-939e9b88eb0b/agricultural-land-classification-alc-grades-post-1988-survey-polygons http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6249382855835648 (limited national coverage)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
Peaty Soil Location	Natural England	https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/c9eb1cd9-c254-4128-a18d-d368fbe6acf0/peaty-soils-location	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
England Peat Status Green House Gas and Carbon Storage	Natural England	https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/8ea9074e-bafc-4cc4-85dd-19cda1dfbfd5/england-peat-status-ghg-and-c-storage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

		<p>Report: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/30021?category=24011</p>	
<p>General mapped information on soil types, including peaty soils, is available as 'Soilscapes'. This also includes a simple ecosystem services provision guide.</p>	<p>National Soil Resources Institute (NSRI)</p>	<p>https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/ (not open data for free download)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M
WATER			
<p>Strategic Flood Risk Assessments</p>	<p>Local Planning Authority led</p>		
<p>Local Flood Risk Management Strategies</p>	<p>Lead Local Flood Authorities</p>		
<p>Water Resource Management Plans</p>	<p>Environment Agency / Water Authorities</p>		
<p>River Basin Management Plans</p>	<p>Environment Agency</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/river-basin-management-plans-updated-2022</p>	
<p>Catchment Flood Management Plans</p>	<p>Environment Agency</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/catchment-flood-management-plans</p>	
<p>Nutrient Impacts</p>	<p>Natural England Local Planning Authority</p>	<p>A summary guide and frequently asked questions (NE776): https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6248597523005440</p> <p>Nutrient pollution: reducing the impact on protected sites - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Tools and resources for calculating nutrient neutrality. https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tools-and-resources-for-calculating-nutrient-neutrality</p> <p>Information on Nature Based Solutions as Nutrient Mitigation (NBS2024) https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6680815300509696</p>	