Wigan Council

Wigan Local Plan

Integrated Assessment Scoping Report

October 2023

Contents:

1. Introduction	**3**
2. Role of the IA Scoping Report	**6**
3. Stage A1: Relevant policies, plans, programmes and strategies	**7**
4. Stage A2: Baseline Position	**14**
5. Stage A3 (Part 1): Key sustainability issues	**80**
6. Stage A3 (Part 2): Objectives	**82**
7. Stage A4 Developing the Integrated Assessment Framework	**84**
8. Compatibility of Objectives	**91**
9. Next steps	**93**
Appendix A: Relevant policies, plans, programmes and strategies	**94**

1. Introduction

1.1 A new local Plan for Wigan is being prepared, which (together with other local plan documents) will provide the planning framework for the whole of Wigan Borough (depicted in Figure 1.1).

1.2 As the Wigan Local Plan is developed, it will be subject to an Integrated Assessment (IA) to ensure that sustainability, environmental, health and equality issues are taken fully into consideration throughout its preparation.

1.3 The IA is an iterative process which brings together into a single framework a number of assessments of the social, environmental and economic impacts of a plan as it is developed, incorporating the statutory requirements of Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessments, Health Impact Assessment and Equalities Impact Assessment.

1.4 This provides a balanced, fully integrated and inclusive assessment of the Local Plan as it is being prepared, contributing to a better-informed Local Plan. As an iterative process, the IA will consider the impact of options, preferences and emerging policies, and propose policy alterations or mitigation for any adverse impacts that are identified (as well as seeking enhancements were appropriate to maximise the positive effects).

1.5 The IA incorporates the following three separate but complementary assessments in order to inform the development of the Local Plan:

- **Sustainability Appraisal (SA) / Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA):** To assess the effects of the Local Plan across a range of social, environmental and economic issues.

- **Health Impact Assessment (HIA):** To assess the effects of the Local Plan on the health and well-being of the population and its ability to access health-related facilities and services. This also addresses equality issues and has some overlap with Equalities Impact Assessment.

- **Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA):** To assess the effects of the Local Plan in terms of equality issues, with a particular focus on disadvantaged or excluded groups of people. EqIA helps identify where we can promote equality of opportunity.

1.6 National Planning Practice Guidance[1] sets out a clear and transparent framework for the preparation of Sustainability Appraisal to inform plan making, in compliance with the regulatory requirements of the SEA directive. The stages outlined in the guidance are set out in Figure 1.2 alongside the key stages of Local Plan preparation. This process will be used for the assessment of the Wigan Local Plan, albeit broadened to incorporate HIA and EqIA.

[1] Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

1.7 It is important to note that cross-boundary work and commitments should be made to align with the new Wigan Local Plan. This includes proposed mitigation that is required to avoid adverse effects on internationally designated sites. To demonstrate this is being undertaken, Wigan Borough Council should prepare and maintain one or more statements of common ground, documenting cross-boundary matters being addressed – this is in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Figure 1.1: Wigan borough area.

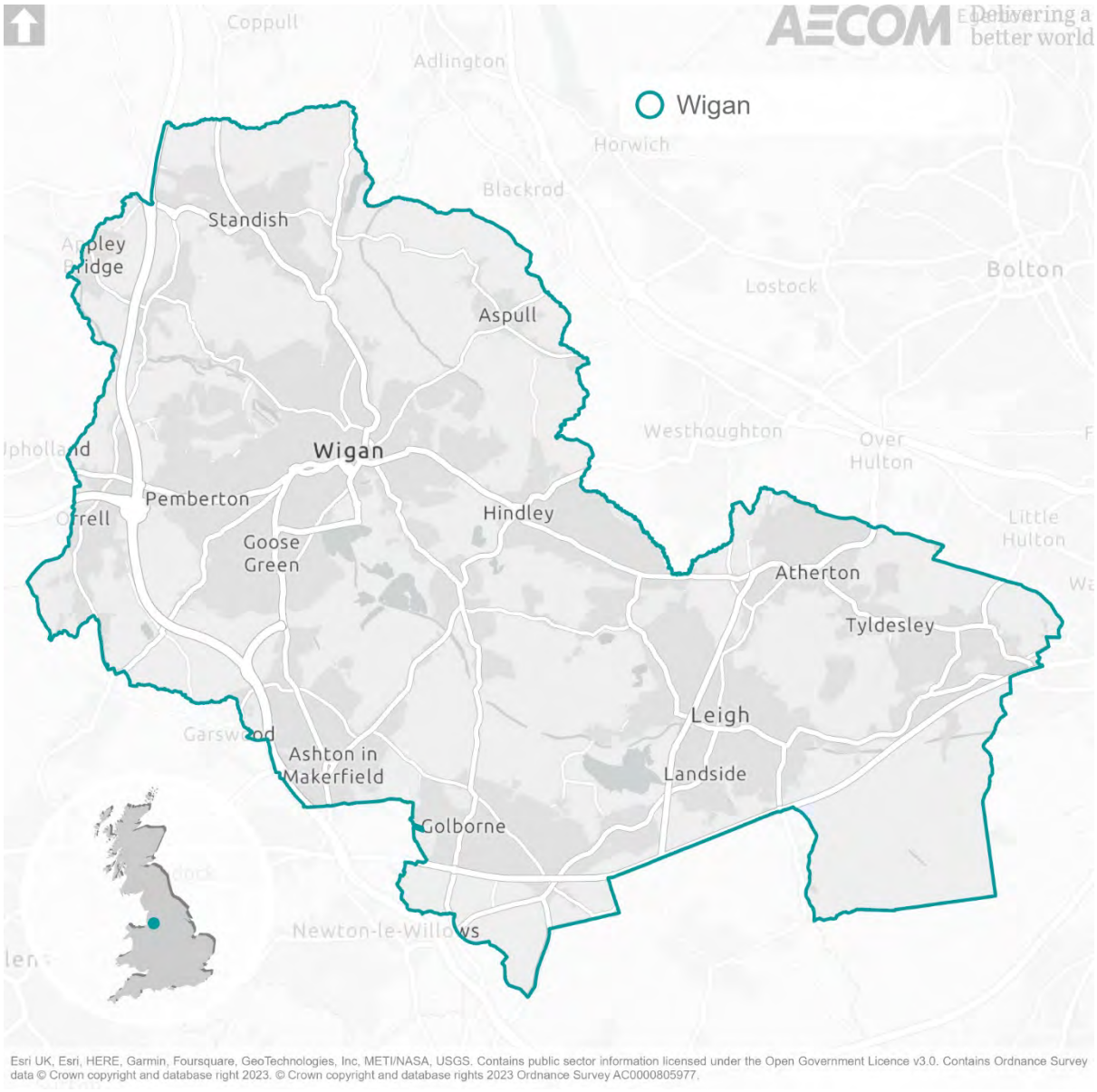
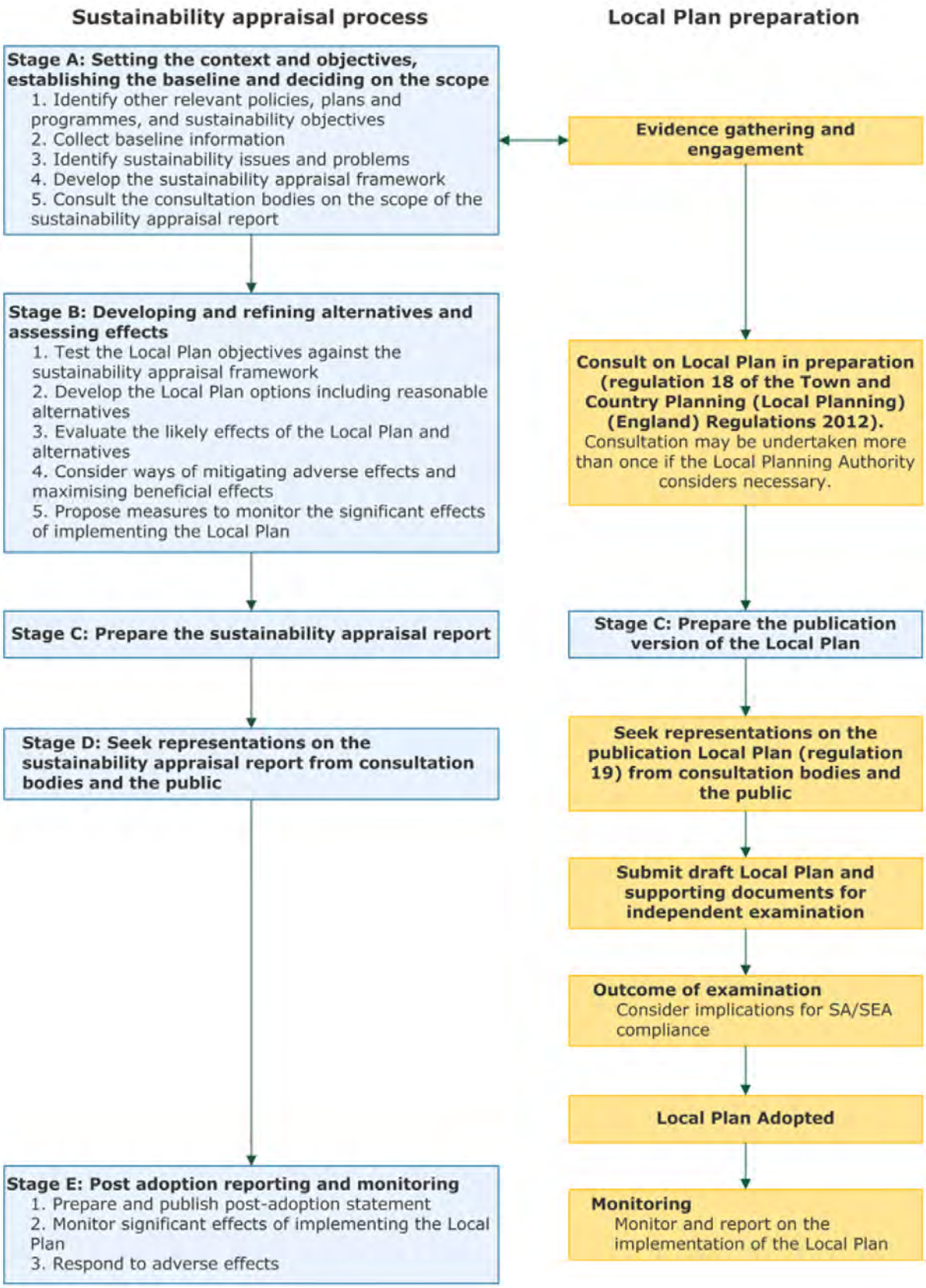


Figure 1.2: Sustainability Appraisal process and Local Plan preparation



2 Role of the IA Scoping Report

2.1 This scoping report represents Stage A of the IA process, which comprises the following five key tasks:

- **Task A1:** Identify other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives to consider how the plan is affected and informed by outside measures.

- **Task A2:** Provide baseline information on the social, environmental and economic characteristics relevant to the Local Plan.

- **Task A3:** Identify key sustainability, health and equality issues for the Local Plan, based on an assessment of the baseline information, and develop sustainability objectives.

- **Task A4:** Develop an Integrated Appraisal Framework to provide a means by which the plan can be appraised, in terms of its impact on sustainability, health and equality.

- **Task A5:** Consult statutory consultation bodies on the scope of the Integrated Appraisal report.

3 Stage A1: Relevant policies, plans, programmes and strategies

3.1 The first Task of the IA is to undertake a review of relevant policies, plans, programmes and strategies that may be relevant to the IA and the Local Plan. This is to identify any social, environmental and economic objectives contained within them that should be reflected in the IA process and to identify sustainability issues that might influence the preparation of the Local Plan.

3.2 Figure 3.1 lists the relevant policies, plans, programmes and strategies that have been identified as part of this review[2]. A more detailed assessment of these is set out in Appendix A.

Figure 3.1: Relevant policies, plans, programmes and strategies

Topic Area	Document	Source
International		
Sustainable Development	The 17 UN Sustainability Goals	United Nations
Sustainable Development	European Sustainable Development Strategy (ESDS)	European Commission
Biodiversity	EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030	European Commission
Biodiversity	Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (1992, JNCC)	European Commission
Biodiversity	Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (the codified version of Council Directive 79/409/EEC) as amended (2009, JNCC)	European Commission
Biodiversity / Water	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (1971, The Ramsar Convention)	RAMSAR organisation
Biodiversity / Water	Council Directive 2000/60/EC (Water Framework Directive) (2000, JNCC)	European Commission
Air Quality	The Air Quality Framework Directive 1996, and Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) June 2008	European Commission
Cultural Heritage / Landscape	European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)	Council of Europe
Cultural Heritage	Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Grenada, 1985)	Council of Europe
Cultural Heritage	European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valetta, 1992)	Council of Europe

[2] It is important to note that scoping is not a 'static' process, so the review can be updated at appropriate points throughout the plan-making and IA processes.

Topic Area	Document	Source
National		
Plan wide	NPPF	HM Government
Plan wide	NPPF Practice Guidance	HM Government
Homes	Housing Act 2004	HM Government
Homes	Housing and Planning Act 2016	HM Government
Homes	Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (2022/23)	HM Government
Homes	Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015)	HM Government
Homes	Planning Practice Guidance: Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment March 2014, updated July 2019	HM Government
Homes	Planning Practice Guidance: Housing and Economic Needs Assessment March 2015, updated December 2020	HM Government
Homes	Planning Practice Guidance: Housing Supply and Delivery July 2019	HM Government
Homes	Planning Practice Guidance: Housing Needs of Different Groups July 2019, updated May 2021	HM Government
Homes	Planning Practice Guidance: Housing for Older and Disabled People June 2019	HM Government
Homes	Planning Practice Guidance: Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding April 2016, updated February 2021	HM Government
Homes	Planning Practice Guidance: Housing Optional Technical Standards March 2015	HM Government
Homes	Planning Practice Guidance: Build to Rent September 2018	HM Government
Homes	Planning Practice Guidance: First Homes May 2021, updated December 2021	HM Government
Employment	Planning Practice Guidance Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment	HM Government
Employment	Planning Practice Guidance Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment	HM Government
Employment	Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review (2016)	SQW
Employment	National Industrial Strategy (2017)	HM Government
Employment	Digital Connectivity Portal	DCMS
Employment	Build Back Better	Treasury
Employment	Cities Outlook	Centre For Cities
Retail and Centres	High Streets Task Force	In partnership with HM Government

Topic Area	Document	Source
Transport	Road to Zero: Next steps towards cleaner road transport and delivering our Industrial Strategy (2015)	Department for Transport, OLEV
Transport	Gear Change	Department for Transport
Transport	Bus Back Better	Department for Transport
Transport	Integrated Rail Plan	Department for Transport
Transport	Taking charge: the electric vehicle infrastructure strategy	HM Government
Transport	Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans	Department for Transport
Transport	Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy	Department for Transport
Design	National Design Guide	MHCLG, Tibbalds Planning & Urban Design
Design	National Model Design Code and Guidance Notes for Design Codes	MHCLG
Design	Living with beauty	Report of the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission
GI / Biodiversity	Environment Act	HM Government
GI / Biodiversity	A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment	DEFRA
GI / Biodiversity	Wildlife and Countryside Act	HM Government
GI / Biodiversity	The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations	HM Government
GI / Biodiversity	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act	HM Government
GI / Biodiversity	Environmental Improvement Plan 2023	HM Government
GI / Biodiversity	Green Infrastructure Framework: Principles and Standards for England	Natural England
Air quality / Biodiversity	A decision framework to attribute atmospheric nitrogen deposition as a threat to or cause of unfavourable habitat condition on protected sites	Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
Air quality	Clean Air Strategy (2019)	DEFRA, MHCLG, Department for Transport, DHSC, BEIS, HM Treasury
Air quality	Clean Growth Strategy (2017)	BEIS
Climate change	Climate Change Act (2008)	CCC
Climate change	UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (2017)	DEFRA

Topic Area	Document	Source
Climate change	The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting (2018)	DEFRA
Climate change	Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener	DBEIS
Flood risk	Flood Risk Regulations (2009)	DEFRA
Flood risk	Flood and Water Management Act (2010)	DEFRA
Energy	Policy paper: British energy security strategy (2022)	HM Government
Energy	Powering up Britain – Energy Security Plan (2023)	HM Government
Design	National Design Guide (2019)	HM Government
Minerals and waste	Waste Directive (2011)	HM Government
Minerals and waste	National Waste Management Plan (2013)	DEFRA
Minerals and waste	National Waste and Resource Strategy (2018)	HM Government
Minerals and waste	Waste Management Plan for England 2021	HM Government
Health	Marmot Review – Fair Society, Healthy Lives (2010)	
Health	Health Equity in England – The Marmot Review 10 years on (2020)	Institute of Health Equity
Health	Play Strategy for England	DCMS
Health	Healthy Lives, Healthy People: our strategy for public health in England	HM Government
Health	Confident Communities, Brighter Futures	HM Government
Health	Health and Care Act	HM Government
Education	International education strategy: supporting recovery and growth	DfE
Education	Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child	DfE
Education	Skills for Life campaigns	DfE
Open Space, Sport and Recreation	Guidance for outdoor sport and play	Fields in Trust
Open Space, Sport and Recreation	Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards in Towns and Cities	Natural England
Open Space, Sport and Recreation	Nearby Nature: Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance	Natural England
Open Space, Sport and Recreation	Design and Cost Guidance: Sport Facilities	Sport England
Cultural Heritage	Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953	HM Government
Cultural Heritage	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	HM Government
Cultural Heritage	Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	HM Government
Water	Plan for Water: our integrated plan for delivering clean and plentiful water	HM Government
Water	The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection	Environment Agency

Topic Area	Document	Source
Regional		
Transport	Strategic Transport Plan	Transport for the North
Transport	The Northern Powerhouse: One Agenda, One Economy, One North (2015)	Transport for the North
Water resources	NW River Basin Management Plan (2020)	DEFRA
Water resources	United Utilities Drought Plan (2022)	United Utilities
Water resources	United Utilities Water Resources Management Plan (2019)	United Utilities
Greater Manchester		
Strategy	GM Strategy (2017)	GMCA
Plan wide	PfE Strategic Viability Assessment (2020)	GMCA
Homes	Greater Manchester Housing Strategy (2019)	GMCA
Homes	Greater Manchester Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Show person Accommodation Assessment (2018)	GMCA
Homes	Greater Manchester Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2021)	GMCA
Employment	Greater Manchester Strategy	GMCA
Employment	GM Local Industrial Strategy (2019)	GMCA
Employment	GM Growth and Reform Plan (2014)	AGMA
Employment	Updated Note on Employment Land Need for GM (2021)	Nicol Economics
Employment	GM Digital Strategy (Blueprint) (2020)	GMCA
Employment	GMSF/PfE Employment Topic Paper	GMCA
Retail and Centres	Economic Forecasts for Greater Manchester	GMCA
Retail and Centres	Mayors Town Centre Challenge	GMCA
Transport	GM Transport Strategy 2040 (2017)	TfGM
Transport	GM Delivery Plan 2021-2026	TfGM
Transport	GM's Walking and Cycling Investment Plan (2020)	GMCA
Transport	GM Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy	TfGM
Transport	GM Streets for All Strategy	TfGM
Transport	GM Right Mix Vision	TfGM
Transport	GM City Centre Transport Strategy	TfGM
Transport	GM Rail Prospectus	TfGM
Heritage	GM Urban Historic Landscape Characterisation	GMAAS, Historic England, AGMA, University of Manchester
Infrastructure	GM Infrastructure Framework 2040	GMCA
GI / Biodiversity	Five Year Environment Plan 2019-2024 (2019)	GMCA
GI / Biodiversity	Towards a GI Framework for GM (2008)	AGMA
GI / Biodiversity	An Ecological Framework for GM (2008)	AGMA

Topic Area	Document	Source
GI / Biodiversity	GM Natural Capital Investment Plan (2019)	GMCA
GI / Biodiversity	Guidance for GM - Embedding GI Principles (2019)	WSP
GI / Biodiversity	All Our Trees - GM's Trees and Woodlands Strategy (2020)	GMCA
GI / Biodiversity	GM Biodiversity Action Plan (2009)	AGMA
GI / Biodiversity	GM Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment (2018)	GMCA
GI / Biodiversity	Guidance for Greater Manchester – Embedding Green Infrastructure Principles (2019)	WSP
GI / Biodiversity	Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Pilot	GMCA
Air quality	GM Draft Clean Air Plan (2020)	GMCA
Air quality	GM Low Emission Strategy (2016)	GMCA
Air quality	GM Air Quality Action Plan 2016-2021 (2016)	GMCA
Air quality	GM Climate Change and Low Emissions Implementation Plan (2016-2020) (2016)	GMCA
Climate change	GM 5 Year Environment Plan (2019)	GMCA
Climate change	Carbon and Energy Policy Implementation Study (2020)	Currie and Brown
Flood risk	GM Strategic Flood Risk Management Framework (2018)	GMCA
Flood risk	GM Level 1 and Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	GMCA
Minerals and waste	GM Joint Minerals Plan (2013)	AGMA
Minerals and waste	GM Joint Waste Plan (2012)	AGMA
Places for People	GM Culture Strategy (2019)	
Infrastructure	GM Infrastructure Framework 2040 (2019)	GMCA
Heritage	GM Urban Historic Landscape Characterisation (2012)	GMAU
Health	GM Population Health Plan (2017)	GMHSCP
Health	GM Creative Health Strategy	GM Integrated Care Partnership
Health	GM Population Health Plan	GMCA
Health	GM Moving in Action Strategy	GM Moving
Health	GM Integrated Care Partnership Strategy	GMCA
Local		
Strategy	Deal 2030	Wigan Council
Homes	Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Update (2022)	Wigan Council
Homes	Wigan Housing Needs Assessment (2020)	Wigan Council
Homes	Wigan Borough Housing Strategy (2020)	Wigan Council
Homes	Wigan Borough Supported and Specialist Housing Prospectus (2021)	Wigan Council

Topic Area	Document	Source
Homes	Housing Delivery: A Home for All (2023)	Wigan Council
Homes	Wigan Town Centre Residential Prospectus (2020)	Wigan Council
Homes	Houses in Multiple Occupation, Guidance, Space and Amenity Standards	Wigan Council
Homes	Brownfield Land Register	Wigan Council
Homes	Wigan Self-Build and Custom House Building Register	Wigan Council
Transport	Wigan Local Implementation Plan	Wigan Council
OSSR	Playing Pitch Strategy	Wigan Council
OSSR	OSSR Study (2015) - needs refresh	Wigan Council
OSSR	Allotment Strategy	Wigan Council
Employment	Wigan Employment Land Position Statement	Wigan Council
Employment	Wigan Employment Land Review and Market Demand Study (TBC)	Wigan Council
Employment	We are Wigan Investment Prospectus (2021)	Wigan Council
Climate change	Outline Climate Change Strategy	Wigan Council
Retail and centres	Wigan Town Centre Single Regeneration Framework (2019)	Wigan Council
Retail and centres	Leigh Town Centre Single Regeneration Framework (2020)	Wigan Council
Retail and centres	Our Town	Wigan Council
Air	Air Quality SPD (2021)	Wigan Council
Infrastructure	Wigan Infrastructure Delivery Plan	Wigan Council
Heritage	Wigan Historic Environment Strategy	Wigan Council
Landscape	Landscape Design SPD (2021)	Wigan Council
Flood risk	Wigan Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2014)	Wigan Council
GI/Biodiversity	Wigan Natural Capital Account (2019)	GMCA/EA
Health	Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2016	Wigan Council
Health	Happy, Healthy People 2020-2025 (The Deal 2030)	Healthier Wigan
Culture	Leisure and Cultural Activity Strategy 2013-2023	Wigan Council
Open Space, Sport and Recreation	Playing Pitch Strategy	Wigan Council
Open Space, Sport and Recreation	OSSR Study (2015) - needs refresh	Wigan Council
Open Space, Sport and Recreation	Parks Strategy	Wigan Council
Open Space, Sport and Recreation	Greenheart Strategy	Wigan Council

4 Stage A2: Baseline Position

4.1 The Integrated Appraisal process requires the collection of baseline information focusing on the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the borough. This information is collected in order to:

- identify current baseline conditions in the area.
- find out trends in the data for the area.
- identify sustainability problems and opportunities.
- identify ways of dealing with problems and taking opportunities that exist in the area.
- provide a basis for predicting likely effects resulting from the implementation of the Plan; and
- inform the development of the Local Plan.

4.2 Once the Local Plan is implemented, selected baseline data will also provide the basis for monitoring the sustainability effects resulting from the plan. This list is subject to revision as the plan progresses. Monitoring is performed to enable a clearer understanding of how situations are changing and will assist in identifying problems and alternative ways of dealing with them. It also aids in tracking the effects identified in the integrated appraisal.

4.3 The baseline data collected for Wigan has been classified into the following eleven categories, reflecting key areas for consideration identified in the Strategic Environmental Assessment guidance:

- Biodiversity, flora and fauna.
- Soil.
- Water.
- Air.
- Climatic factors.
- Population and human health.
- Housing.
- Economic development.
- Transport.
- Cultural heritage; and
- Landscape.

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

4.4 As shown in Figure 4.1, the latest data shows that the borough has the following nature designations:

- 1 Special Area of Conservation – Manchester Mosses.
- 4 Sites of Special Scientific Interest – Highfield Moss, Astley and Bedford Mosses, Abram Flashes, and Bryn Marsh and Ince Moss.
- 1 National Nature Reserve – The Flashes of Wigan and Leigh.
- 93 Sites of Biological Importance; and
- 3 Local Nature Reserves – Borsdane Wood, Kirkless, and Greenslate.

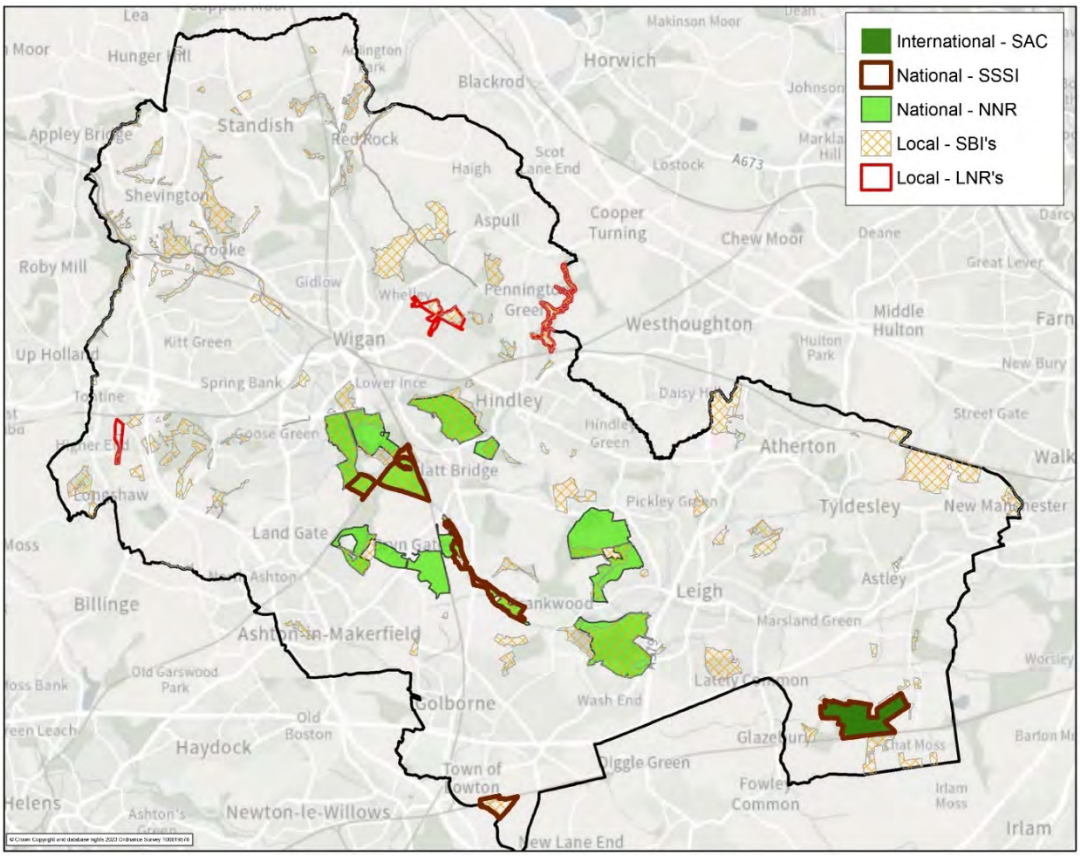


Figure 4.1: Nature designations in Wigan.

Source: Wigan Council

4.5 The Manchester Mosses Special Area of Conservation (SAC) was designated in 2005. It is a 170.49 hectare site with two main characteristics: broad-leaved deciduous woodland (11%) and bogs, marshes, water fringed vegetation and fens (89%).

4.6 According to the associated Standard Data Form[3], it is designated for its set of degraded raised bogs that are still capable of natural regeneration; as such, it is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK. Threats to this designation include air pollution and air-borne pollutants, and problematic native species. Opportunities to recover and enhance the SAC are linked to the modification of cultivation practices, grazing, and forest and plantation management and use. The site improvement plan[4] for the SAC indicates further pressure on the designation through hydrological changes and air pollution impacting on degraded raised bogs. This could be mitigated for through the combination of re-wetting within the site and the creation of wetland buffers, as well as the development and implementation of a site Nitrogen Action Plan. The conservation objective for the SAC is as follows: ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats.
- The structure and function (including typical species) or qualifying natural habitats; and
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely[5].

4.7 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are nationally designated locations across the UK that are recognised for rare and vulnerable species which are of scientific interest. These sites contain biodiverse ecological, geological and physiological environments which are to be protected and maintained in a favourable condition. There are four SSSIs within the borough boundary. The status of the SSSIs can change overtime and are monitored by Natural England (Figure 4.2 and Table 4.1).

[3] https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/SAC-N2K/UK0030200.pdf
[4] https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6676598321315840
[5] https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5283870555504640

Figure 4.2: SSSI condition in Wigan.

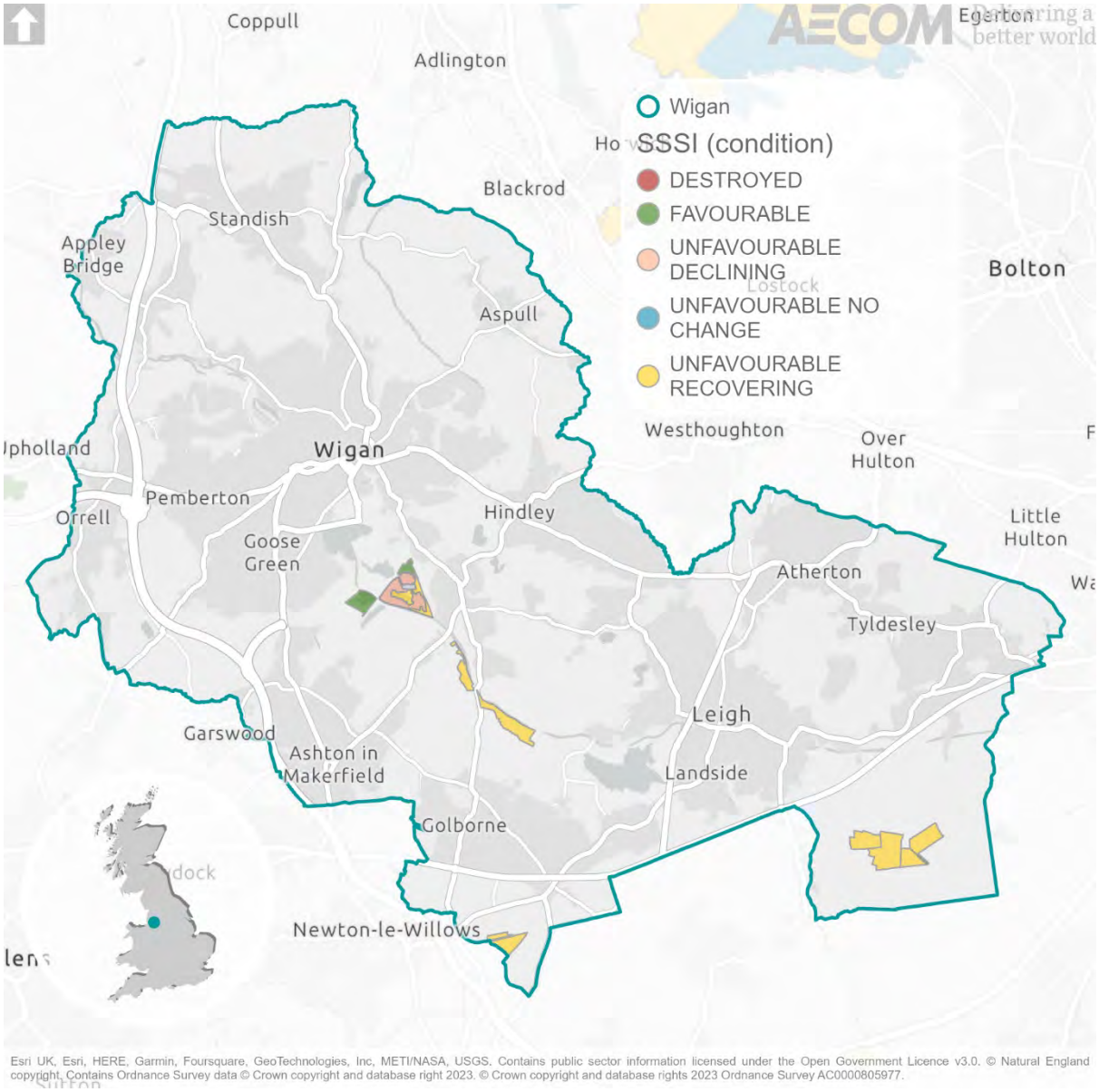


Table 4.1: SSSIs designated within Wigan[6].

SSSI	Description	Condition Summary	Reasons for designating
Highfield Moss 21.3 hectares	Peatland vegetation and acidic marshy grassland.	Unfavourable recovering (100%)	The peatland vegetation is the best remaining example of the raised mires that once covered large areas of lowland Greater Manchester and Merseyside.
Astley and Bedford Mosses 92.2 hectares	Mire communities, heathland, woodland and acidic grassland over a cut peat surface.	Unfavourable recovering (98.59%) Favourable (1.41%)	Represents one of the largest remaining fragments of Chat Moss, a lowland raised mire that has been mostly drained or reclaimed for agricultural uses or peat extraction.
Abram Flashes 39.62 hectares	Shallow and open water bodies from through the flooding of land; they have a mosaic of different habitats including open water, swamp, tall herb fen and water marshy grassland.	Unfavourable recovering (100%)	Supports the most outstanding assemblage of breeding birds associated with lowland open waters and wet grassland in Greater Manchester and Merseyside.
Bryn Marsh and Ince Moss 68.3 hectares	A series of wetlands, the main habitats of which include open water, fen and swamp, mire, woodland, acidic and neutral grassland and ruderal communities.	Unfavourable declining (44.99%) Unfavourable recovering (23.55%) Favourable (31.46%)	Comprises part of the historically much larger area of Ince Moss, a lowland raised mire that now supports a variety of habitats. It is important for populations of dragonflies and breeding birds.

6 https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/sitelist.aspx?SiteCode=s1002942&SiteName=&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&unitId=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=

4.8 The Air Pollution Information System (APIS)[7] provides information on pollutants and their impacts on habitats and species. The database indicates the following for the internationally and nationally designated sites in the Wigan borough:

- The Manchester Mosses SAC is a 'degraded raised bog still capable of natural regeneration'. For the year 2020, average nitrogen concentrations (NOx concentration µg/m3) were recorded as 16.1 across the site, with the critical load being identified as 30. The average in terms of acidity is measured according to sulphur concentrations (SO2 concentration µg/m3). The average across the site in 2020 was 2.1, with a critical load identified as 10. There are a range of short range / local and long-range contributors to nitrogen and sulphur depositions. Locally, agriculture and transport are key contributors, particularly in relation to nitrogen.
- The Highfield Moss SSSI features two habitats and a plant species. For the year 2020, average nitrogen concentrations were recorded as 18.4 µg/m3 (with a critical load of 30 for each of the three features). The average sulphur concentrations were recorded as 2 µg/m3 for the year 2020, with a critical load between 10 and 20. Industry and agriculture are key contributors of these pollutants.
- The Astley and Bedford Mosses SSSI features four habitats. In 2020, the average nitrogen concentrations were recorded as 14.9 µg/m3, with a critical load of 30 for each of the features. For the same year, average sulphur concentrations were recorded as 1.9 µg/m3, with a critical load of between 10 and 20. Industry and agriculture are key contributors of these pollutants.
- The Abram Flashes SSSI has six features – four habitats and two breeding areas. In 2020, the average nitrogen concentrations were recorded as 14.9 µg/m3, with a critical load of 30 for each of the features. For the same year, average sulphur concentrations were recorded as 1.9 µg/m3, with a critical load of between 10 and 20. Industry and agriculture are key contributors of these pollutants.
- The Bryn Marsh and Ince Moss SSSI has ten features – eight habitats, one breeding area and one species (damselfly). For 2020, the average nitrogen concentrations were recorded as 14.2 µg/m3 (with a critical load of 30 for nine of the features, the other one was not recorded). The average sulphur concentrations were recorded as 2.4 µg/m3 for the year 2020, with a critical load between 10 and 20 for nine of the features. Industry and agriculture are key contributors of these pollutants.

4.9 The Flashes of Wigan and Leigh National Nature Reserve (NNR) were originally formed through the flooding of land which has subsided due to deep coal mining activities. The main habitats present are open water, swamp, reedbed, tall herb fen, wet marshy grassland and wet woodland.

[7] https://www.apis.ac.uk/app

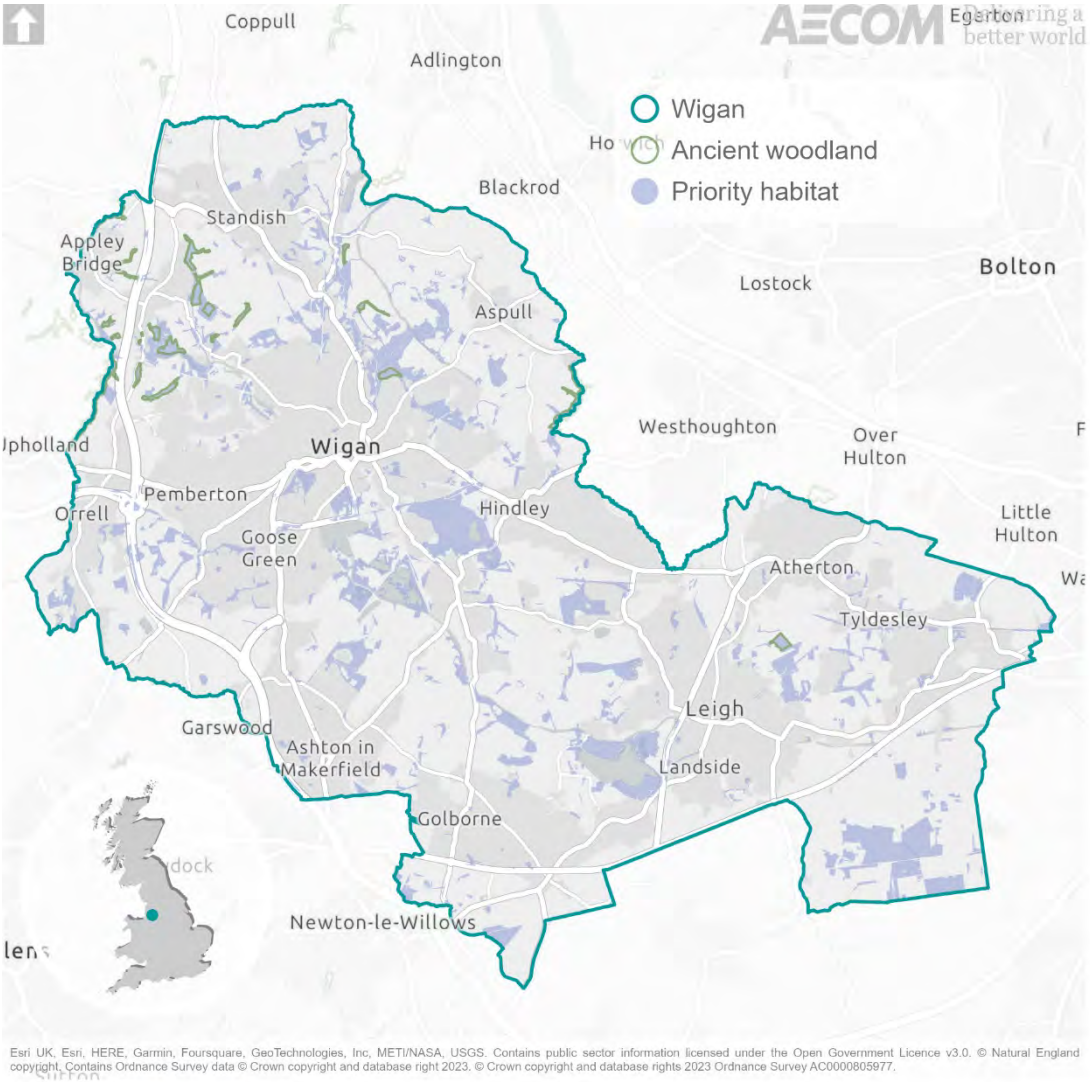
4.10 There are a number of footpaths and cycle paths across the reserve, as well as car parks and recreational areas[8].

4.11 There are also three Local Nature Reserves within the borough.

4.12 The borough contains numerous important habitats such as deciduous woodland, wetlands and mosses that are internationally, nationally, and regionally important (Figure 4.3). These support species in the borough (Figure 4.4 and Figure 4.5).

[8] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greater-manchesters-national-nature-reserves/greater-manchesters-national-nature-reserves

Figure 4.3: Priority habitat in Wigan.



Esri UK, Esri, HERE, Garmin, Foursquare, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS. Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0. © Natural England copyright. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2023. © Crown copyright and database rights 2023 Ordnance Survey AC0000805977.

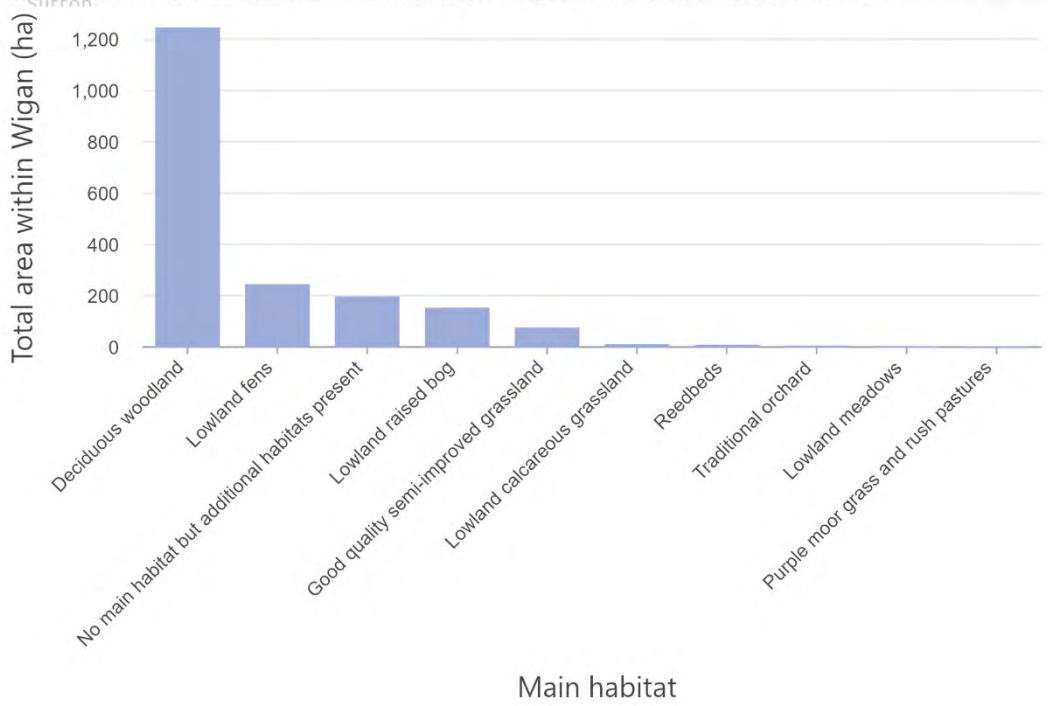


Figure 4.4: Priority species in Wigan.

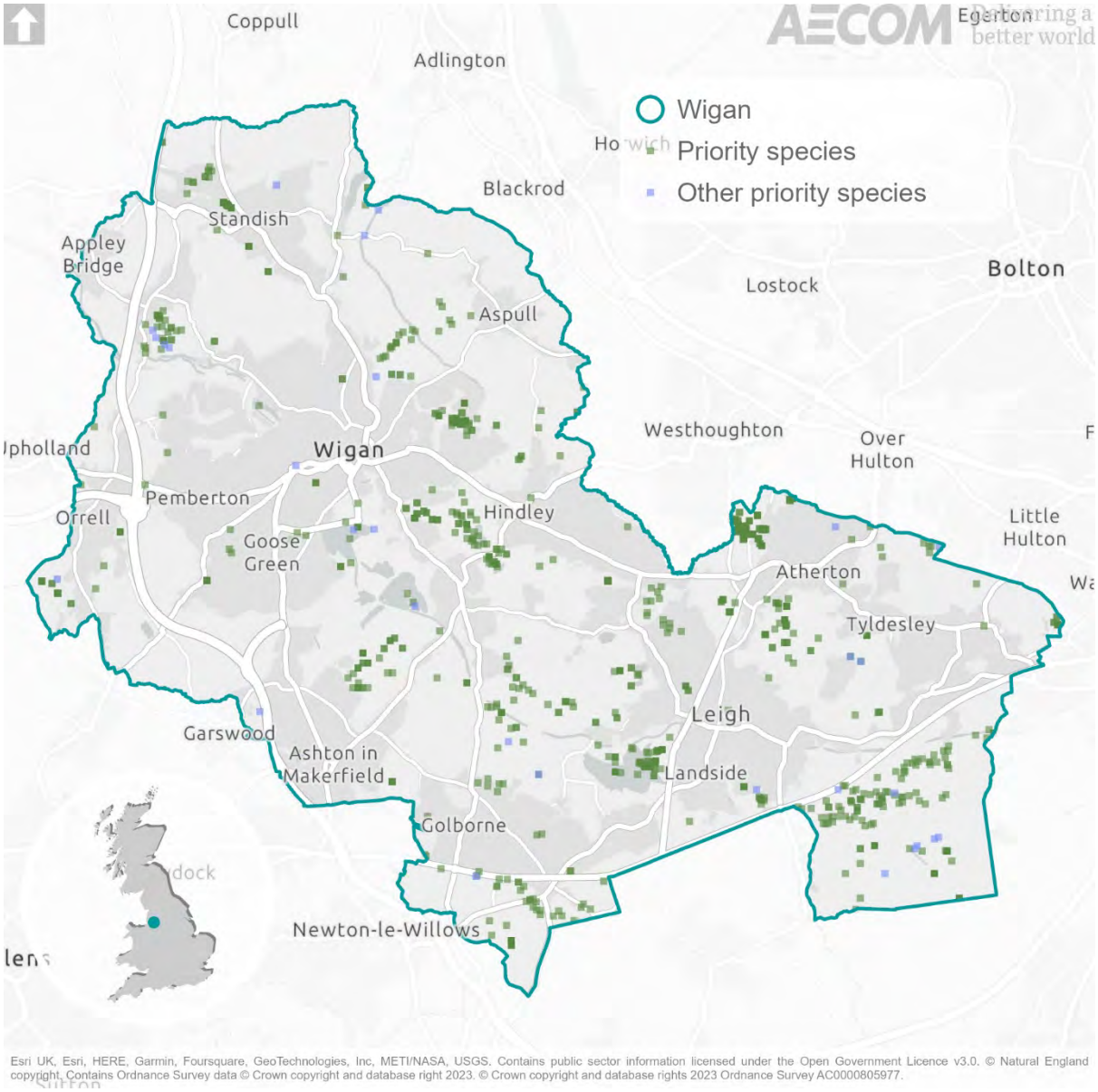
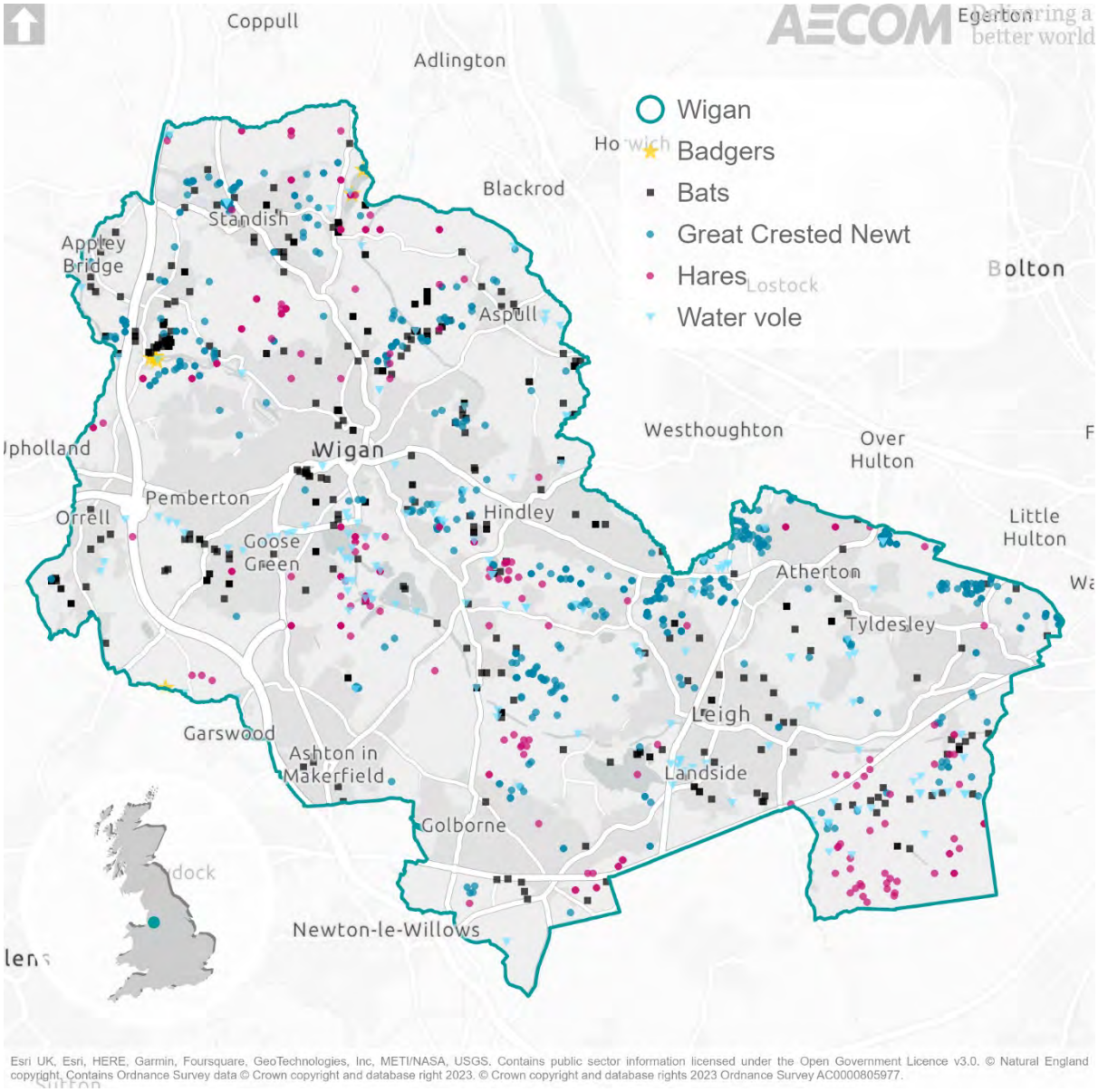


Figure 4.5: Recorded species in Wigan.

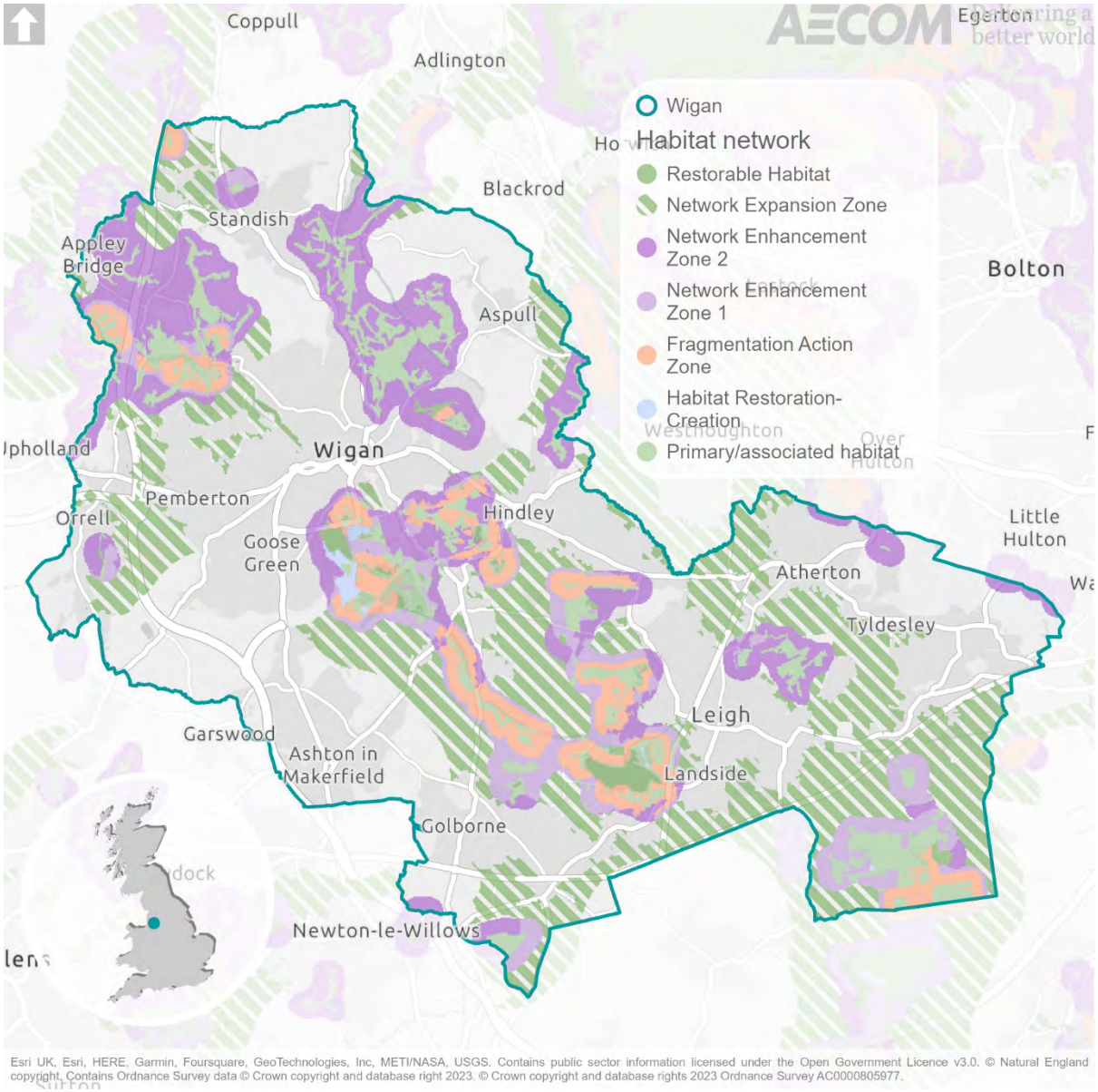


4.13 The borough contains numerous important habitats such as deciduous woodland, wetlands and mosses that are internationally, nationally, and regionally important. These support priority species in the borough.

4.14 There are several areas in the National Habitat Network that intersect with the borough, including areas of Network Expansion Zone, Network Enhancement Zone 1 and 2, and Fragmentation Action Zones (Figure 4.6). These different areas are suitable for biodiversity recovery through habitat creation and enhancement in line with guidance from Natural England[9].

[9] https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/data.defra.gov.uk/Natural_England/Habitat_Species/Habitats/Habitat_Network_England_NE/Habitat_Networks_England_Version_2_Guidance.pdf

Figure 4.6: National habitat network in Wigan.



Soil

Figure 4.7: Post-1988 Agricultural Land Classification in Wigan

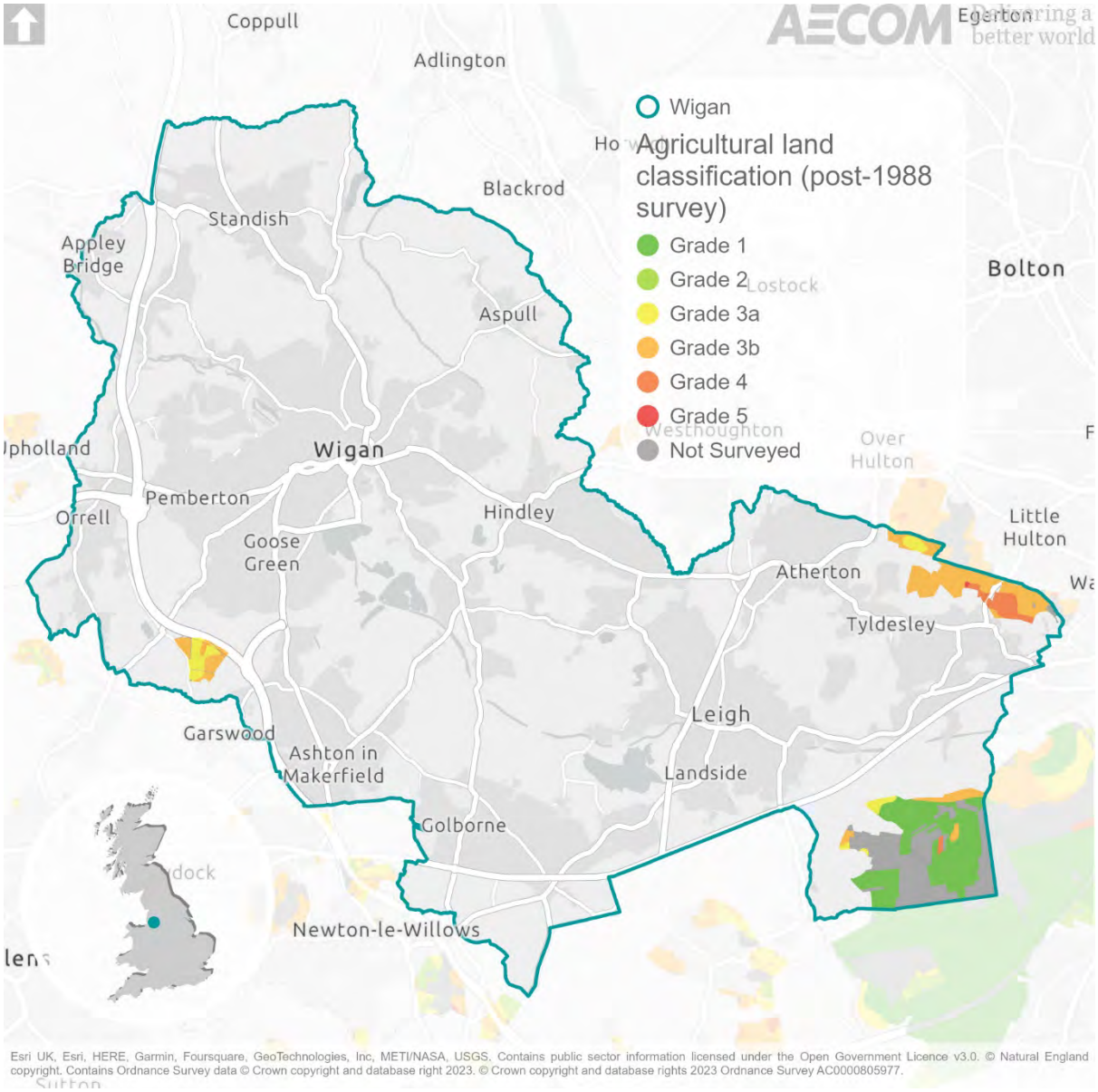
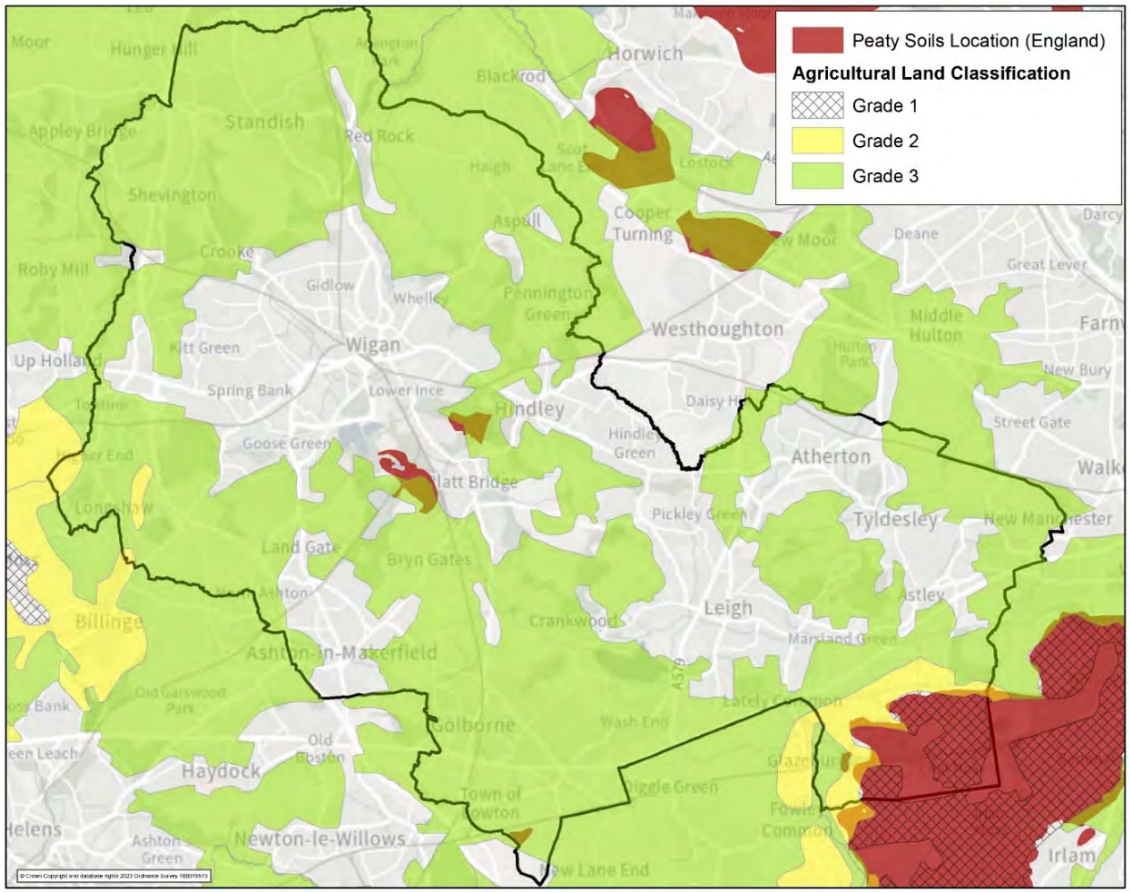


Figure 4.8: Agricultural Land Classification and location of peaty soils in Wigan.



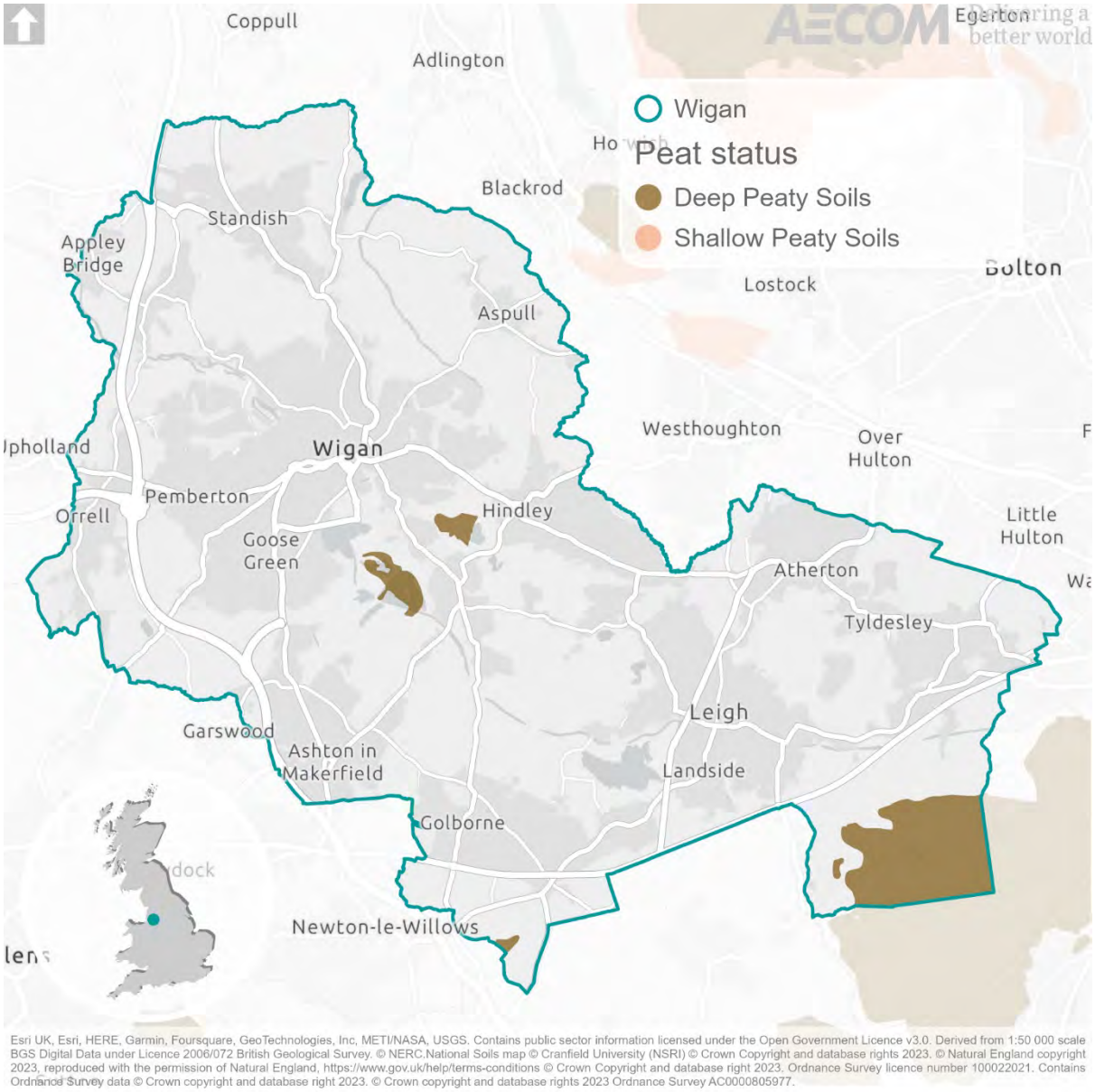
Source: Agricultural Land Classification, Natural England (2010)

4.15 As shown by Figure 4.8, Wigan has a relatively low amount of high-quality agricultural land. Land that is not within urban use is largely Grade 2 'Very Good' or Grade 3 'Good to Moderate' agricultural land, with an area of Grade 1 'Excellent' within the peaty soils of the former Chat Moss area. A detailed agricultural land assessment has not been undertaken to determine whether the Grade 3 land is best and most versatile land. However, the predictive best and most versatile land assessment by Natural England indicates the majority of the undeveloped land in the borough has a low to moderate likelihood of being able to support agricultural practises (0-60%)[10].

4.16 Relatively small levels of peaty soils are found in the remnant mossland areas of Ince Moss, Amberswood Common, Highfield Moss with a much larger extent found in the southeast of the borough in the remnants of Chat Moss.

[10] https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6558375850016768?category=5208993007403008

Figure 4.9: Peat status in Wigan



4.17 There are 282 contaminated land determinations within the borough – 281 of these are on the Ince Central estate, and the remaining one is at Clarington Forge. Both areas have been remediated to acceptable standards[11].

4.18 Mineral resources are defined as natural concentrations of minerals or bodies of rock that have the potential to be of economic interest in the present or the future due to their inherent properties. As minerals are a non-renewable resource, minerals safeguarding is deployed as the process through which it is ensured that non-minerals development does not needlessly prevent the future extraction of mineral resources[12].

[11] https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Docs/PDF/Council/Strategies-Plans-and-Policies/Contaminated-land-strategy.pdf
[12] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/minerals

4.19 The majority of the borough is within a mineral safeguarding area for coal (worked shallow coal) and brick clay. As such, the policies of the GM Joint Minerals Plan should be fully considered to ensure important mineral resources are protected from unnecessary sterilisation through non-mineral development.

Water

Figure 4.10: River catchments in Wigan

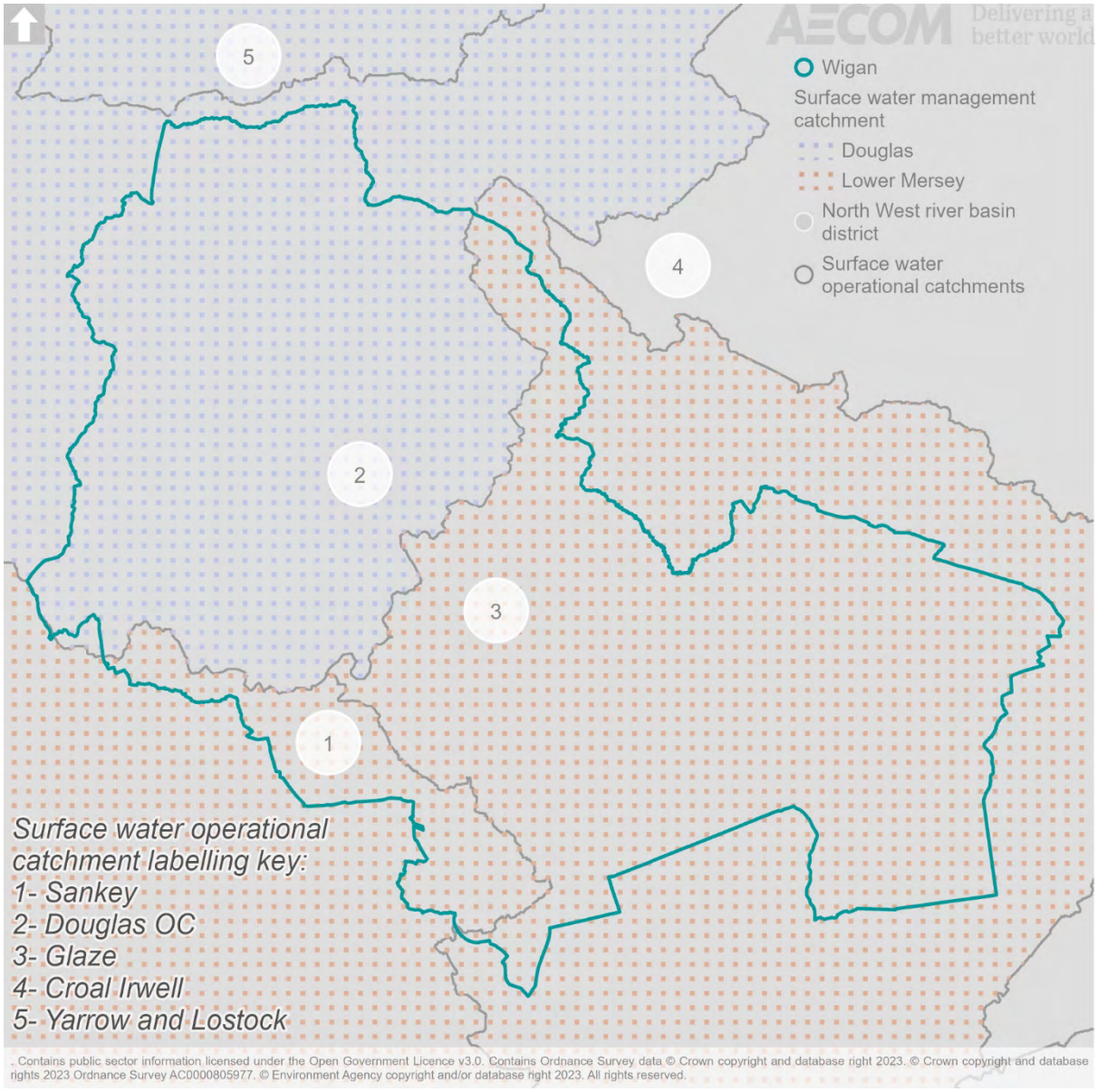
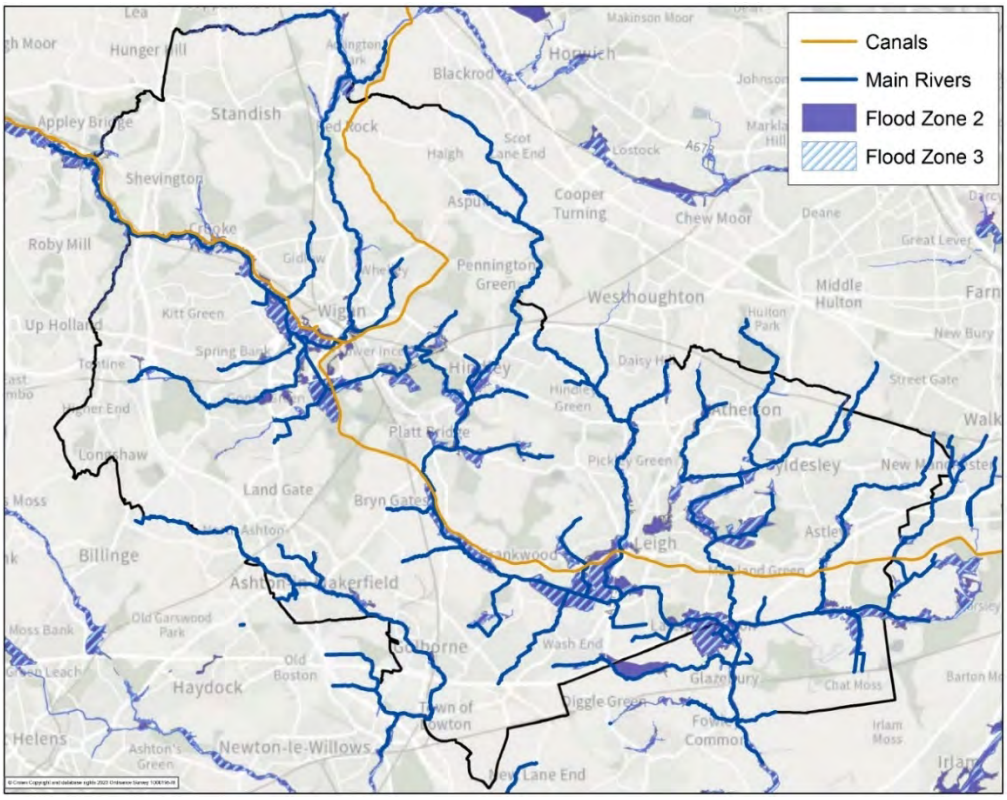


Figure 4.11: Main rivers, canals and areas of flood risk in Wigan.



Source: Wigan Council

4.20 The main rivers, canals and areas of flood risk in the borough are shown in Figure 4.11.

4.21 Wigan Borough is within the North West River Basin District (RBD). This RBD has 618 waterbodies across its entire area, of which 599 are monitored for their ecological and chemical condition.

4.22 The environmental objectives for the RBD are as follows:

- preventing deterioration of the status of surface waters and groundwater.
- achieving objectives and standards for protected areas.
- aiming to achieve good status for all waterbodies.
- reversing any significant and sustained upward trends in pollutant concentrations in groundwater.
- cessation of discharges, emissions and losses of priority hazardous substances into surface waters; and
- progressively reducing the pollution of groundwater and preventing or limiting the entry of pollutants.

4.23 There are numerous main rivers that cross the borough. To the north and west, most drain into the Douglas Valley whilst to the south and east the Hey Brook dominates which flows into the River Mersey in Warrington.

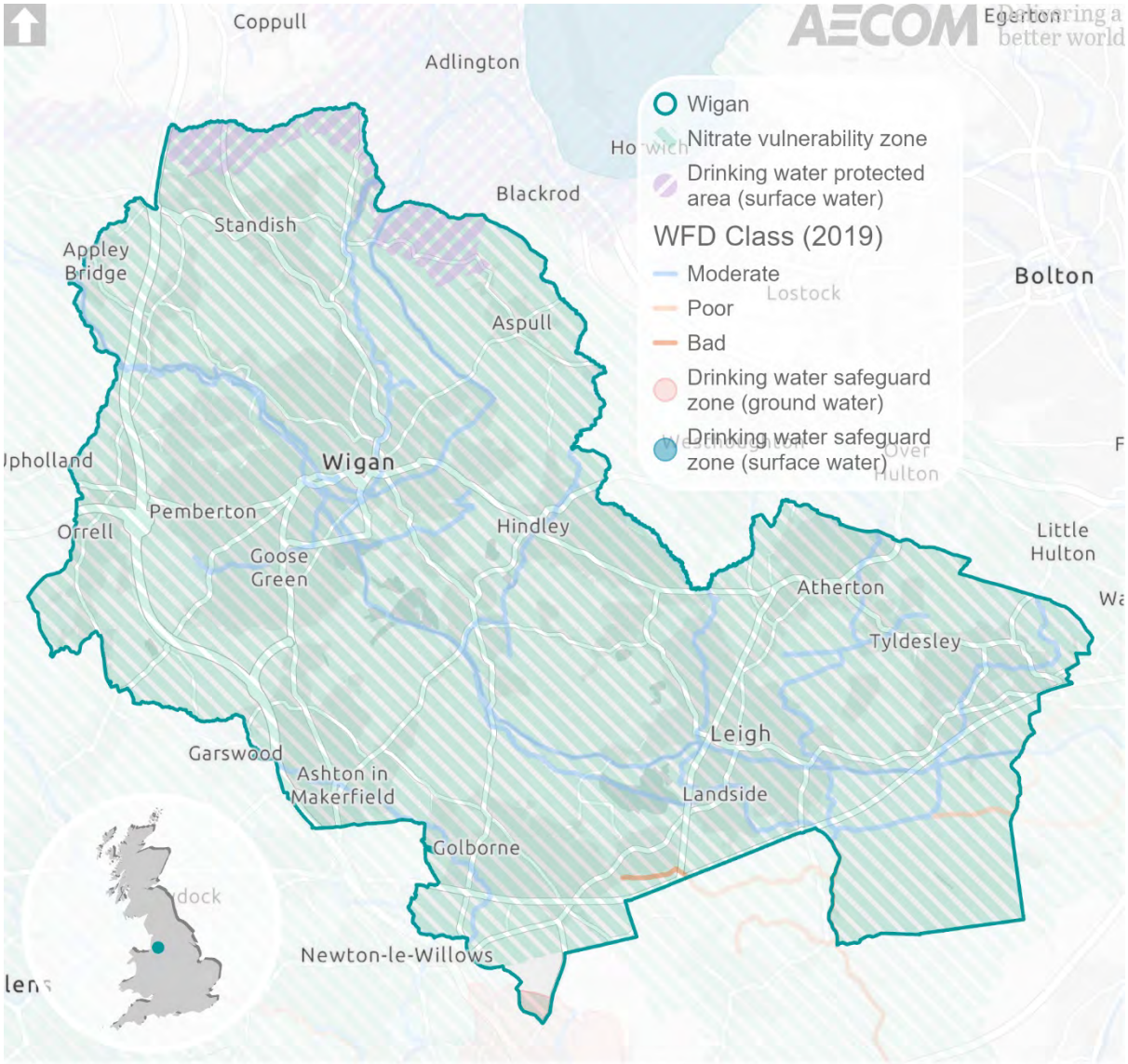
4.24 The catchments for waterbodies in Table 4.2 are within the borough. All waterbodies were awarded a 'failed' chemical status during the last tests due to a change in the way assessments were undertaken.

Table 4.2: Waterbodies with catchments within Wigan borough[13].

Waterbody	Operational Catchment	Ecological Status
Douglas – Lower	Douglas	Moderate ecological status
Douglas – Mid	Douglas	Moderate ecological status
Douglas – Upper	Douglas	Moderate ecological status
Worthington Reservoir	Douglas	Moderate ecological status
Poolstock Brook	Douglas	Moderate ecological status
Smithy Brook	Douglas	Moderate ecological status
Hey / Bordsdane Brook	Glaze	Moderate ecological status
Westleigh Brook	Glaze	Moderate ecological status
Bedford Brook	Glaze	Moderate ecological status
Astley Brook (Mersey)	Glaze	Moderate ecological status
Glaze	Glaze	Bad ecological status
Pennington Flash	Glaze	Moderate ecological status
Millingford (Newton) Brook	Sankey	Moderate ecological status

[13] https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/v/c3-plan/RiverBasinDistrict/12

Figure 4.12: Water quality in Wigan



4.25 Drinking Water Protected Areas for surface water are defined by the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England & Wales) Regulations 2017 (or WFD Regulations) as locations where raw water is abstracted for human consumption providing, on average, more than 10 cubic metres per day, or serving more than 50 persons, or is intended for such future use. Drinking water protected areas are based on the River Basin Management Plan water body area within which the abstraction is located[14]. The Buckhow (Hib Bibbi) Brook (identification – GB1112070064800) protected area is within the borough to the north.

[14] https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/3d136e9a-78cf-4452-824d-39d715ba5b69/drinking-water-protected-areas-surface-water

4.26 Drinking Water Safeguarding Zones are established around public water supplies where additional pollution control measures are needed. There are two safeguarding areas for groundwater sources in the borough – both located in the southern part of Wigan. They are Pocket Nook 1 and Pocket Nook 2 (identification – GB41201G101700).

4.27 Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) have been defined by the Environment Agency in England and Wales to protect groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes, and springs that are used for public drinking water supply[15]. The southern area of the borough is within Zone III – Total Catchment, and has areas of Zone II – Outer Protection Zone and Zone I – Inner Protection Zone.

4.28 Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) represent areas at risk from agricultural nitrate pollution, identifying rules in relation to the use of fertilisers and manures as well as the requirement to prevent water pollution from farming areas[16]. According to the interactive map the Wigan borough area overlaps with four NVZs: Surface Water S644 – River Douglas, Surface Water S639 – Sankey Brook, Surface Water S641 – River Glaze, and Eutrophic Water EL138 – Pennington Flash Eutrophic lake.

4.29 The Leeds Liverpool Canal and Bridgewater Canal cross the borough creating a significant green infrastructure and active travel link.

4.30 According to the Douglas Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP), the main sources of flooding include river flooding linked to the Douglas, Yarrow and Chorley and the Lostock. Surface water flood risk for this catchment is usually low[17]. The Mersey Estuary CFMP indicates the main sources of flooding for this catchment include the tributaries of the Mersey, and surface water flood risk is also mostly low[18].

4.31 There are significant areas of flood risk across the borough, including in urban areas south of Wigan town centre, Hindley and Leigh. There has been significant investment on flood defence infrastructure in the past 15 years to mitigate these risks.

4.32 The GM SFRA 1 demonstrates that the North West river basin district is anticipated to experience up to a 70% increase in peak river flow allowances by the 2080s. It also indicates climate change will increase flood risk over the lifetime of development. As such, flood risk associated with climate change needs to be accounted for in development to help minimise vulnerability and provide resilience.

---

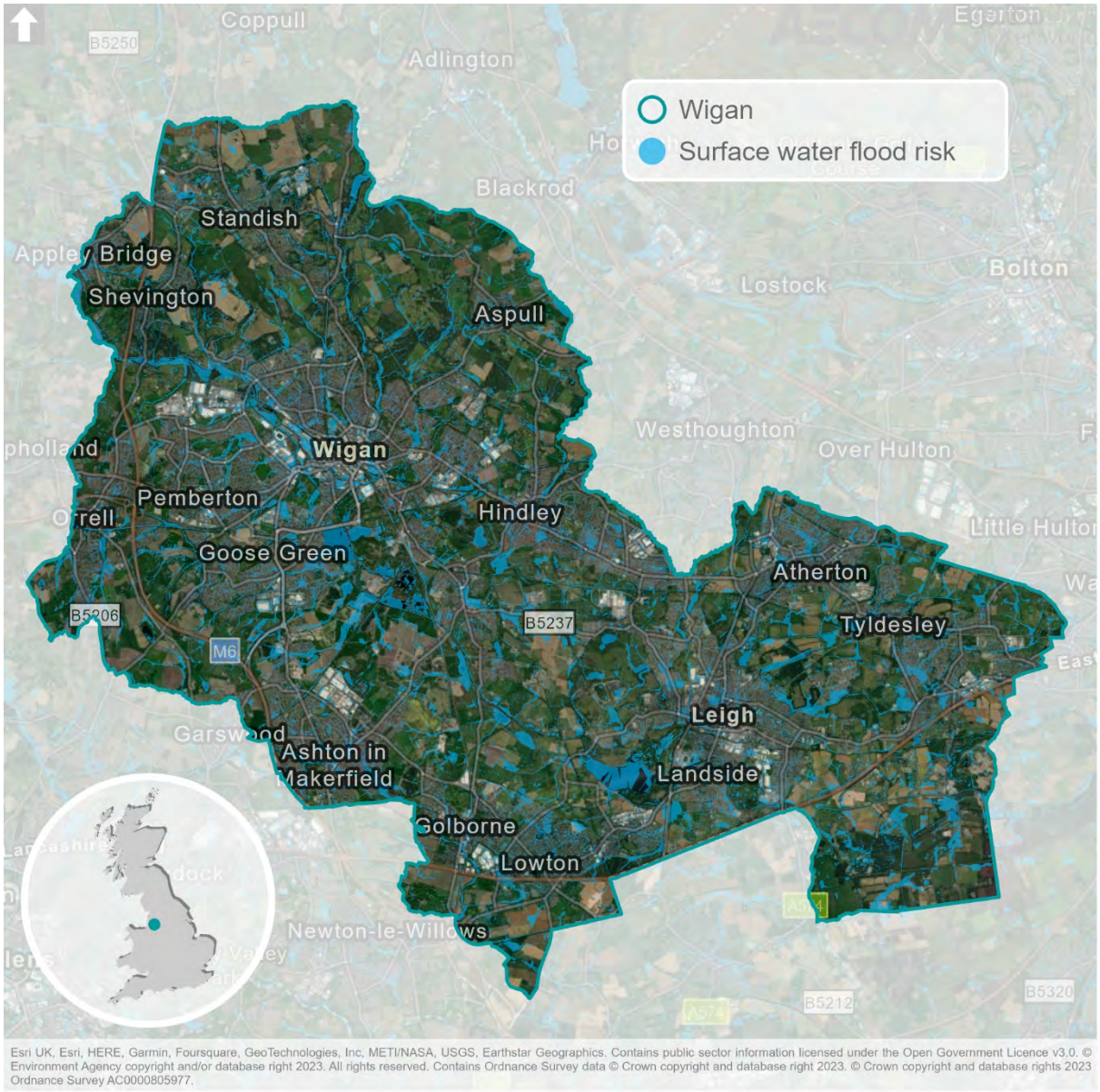
[15] https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/groundwater-protection

[16] https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/nitrate-vulnerable-zones

[17] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/293769/Mersey_Estuary_Catchment_Flood_Management_Plan.pdf

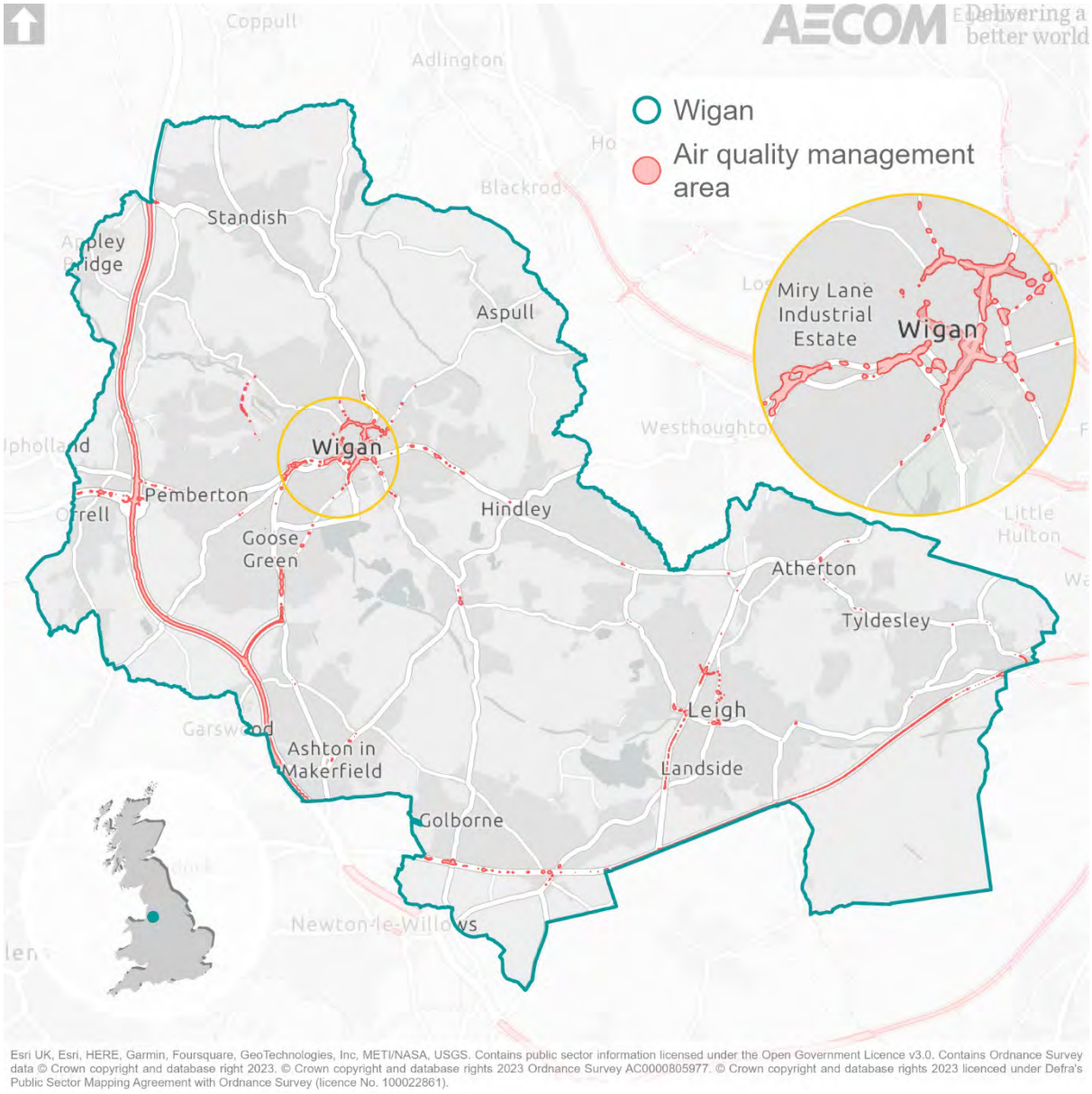
[18] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/293762/Douglas_Catchment_Flood_Management_Plan.pdf

Figure 4.13: Surface water flood risk in Wigan.



Air

Figure 4.14: Air quality management area (AQMA) location in Wigan.

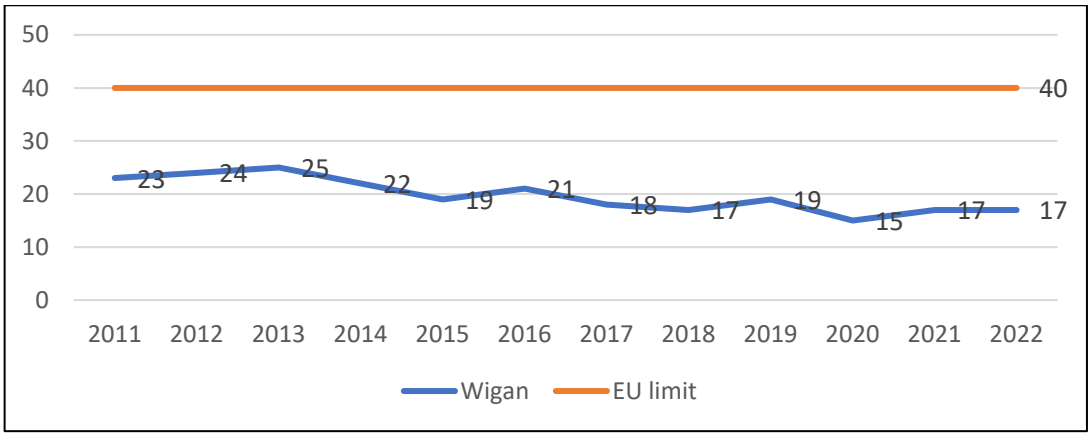


4.33 Wigan is within the Greater Manchester Air Quality Management Area (AQMA); it was designated in 2016 and covers ten districts. Long term trends indicate there have been improvements in air quality across the AQMA, however some areas remain above the annual mean air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide. This includes the Wigan borough according to the latest annual status report published on the council website.

4.34 As set out in Figure 4.15, regular monitoring has demonstrated that air quality has generally improved in the borough since 2011 with decreasing concentrations of nitrogen dioxide recorded. This is due primarily to improvements in engine efficiencies and this should also continue to improve due to the increasing ownership of electric cars. This confirms that the annual average in the borough has not exceeded the European Union's limit of 40

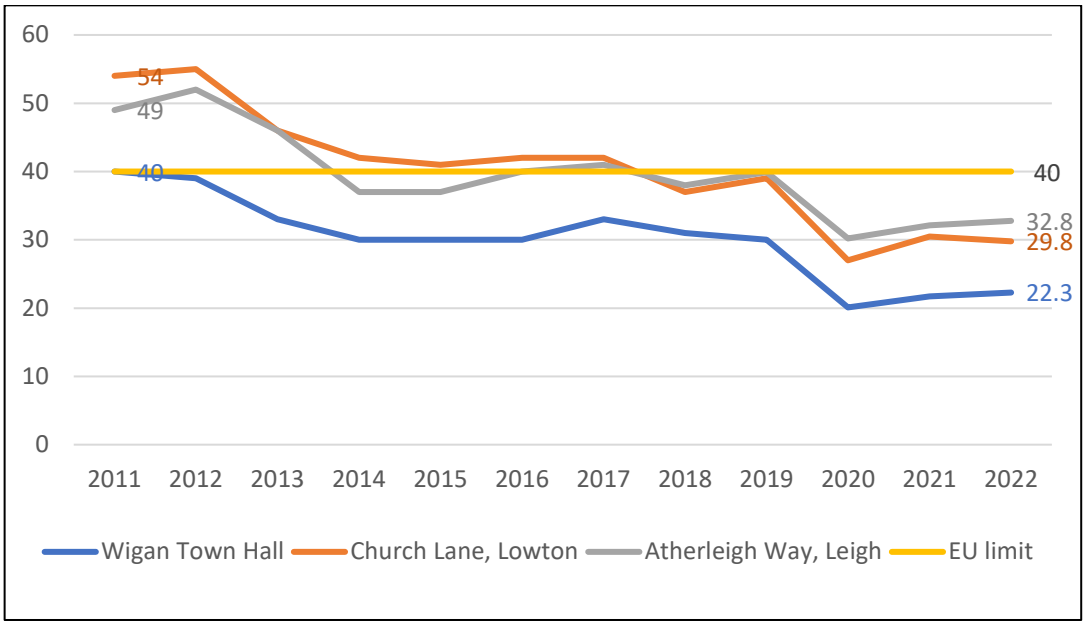
micrograms per cubic metre of air (µg/m^3), set in the 2008 Air Quality Directive to protect human health.

Figure 4.15: Average annual background nitrogen dioxide concentration (µg/m^3)



4.35 Figure 4.16 shows the annual mean levels of nitrogen dioxide at three selected monitoring sites in the borough at Wigan Town Hall; Church Lane, Lowton and near to Parsonage Retail Park on Atherleigh Way, Leigh. These have been chosen as they represent a spread across the borough and are monitoring sites which recorded high levels of nitrogen dioxide in 2011.

Figure 4.16: Annual mean levels of nitrogen dioxide at three sites, 2011-22



4.36 It shows that nitrogen levels have reduced notably at all three sites, though the recording in 2019 was at the EU limit at Church Lane and Atherleigh Way. The recordings reduced significantly in 2020 but will have been impacted by lower levels of traffic due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Air quality at all three sites have reduced notably since 2011 when all were at or above the EU limit.

Climatic factors

4.37 In 2019 Wigan Council declared a climate emergency and a target to reach net zero by 2038. The council also adopted an Outline Climate Change Strategy in August 2020 setting out how the 2038 net zero target will be reached and how progress will be monitored.

4.38 The UK Climate Projections (UKCP18) programme is a climate analysis tool that provides the most up-to-date assessment on potential future climatic changes in the UK based on climate model simulations[19]. Projections can be downscaled to a regional level across the UK, allowing for specific evaluations of a selected area. The UKCP18 projections conclude the effects of climate change under a high emissions 'worst case' scenario known as the 'business as usual' scenario RCP8.5[20]. The UKCP18 projection conclusions for the North West are shown in Figure 4.17 and 4.18.

4.39 The UKCP18 projections indicate there will be an approximate 2.9°C increase in mean winter air temperature between 1981-2080 and an approximate 4.5°C in mean summer air temperature for the same period. It also predicts an approximate 1.2mm / day increase in mean winter precipitation rate, an approximate 1.1mm / day decrease in mean summer precipitation rate, an approximate 0.8% decrease in mean winter relative humidity and an approximate 4.4% decrease in mean summer relative humidity. If these changes occur, Wigan borough may face a range of risks, including:

- Increases in cases of heat related illnesses and deaths during the summer period as well as illnesses and deaths related to exposure to sunlight.
- An increase in the risk of injuries and deaths caused by storm events, due to both the increase in quantity and magnitude.
- Changes to water resources, in terms of quality and quantity.
- An increased risk of flooding, including changes in vulnerability to 1 in 100 year floods, and a need to upgrade flood defences.
- Soil erosion due to flash flooding.
- Loss of species that are at the edge of their distribution, particularly their southern edge, and a spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution.
- Increased drought events, both in quantity and magnitude; and
- Heat related impacts to local infrastructure, e.g., road surfaces melting.

[19] https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/approach/collaboration/ukcp

[20] The RCP8.5 emissions scenario assumes there is fast population growth, low technical development rate, slow GDP growth, a massive increase in world poverty and high energy use and emissions. It also assumes no climate change mitigation or adaptation techniques are engaged with.

Figure 4.17: Mean air temperature changes in the North-West of England region under UKCP18 climate modelling

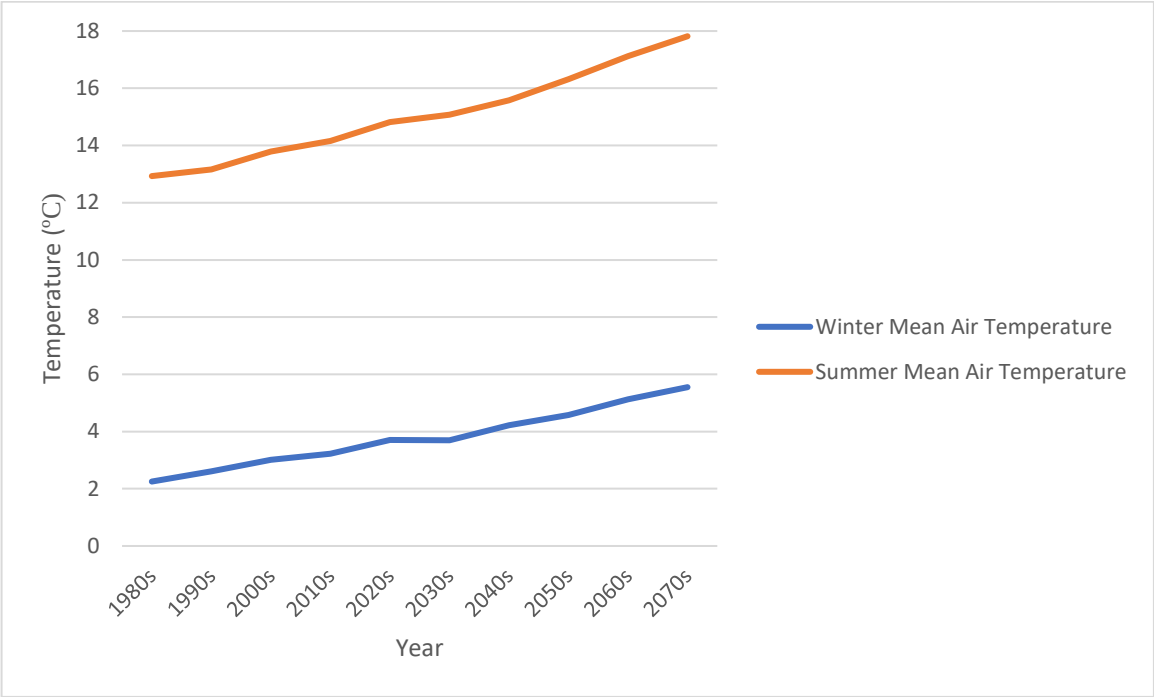
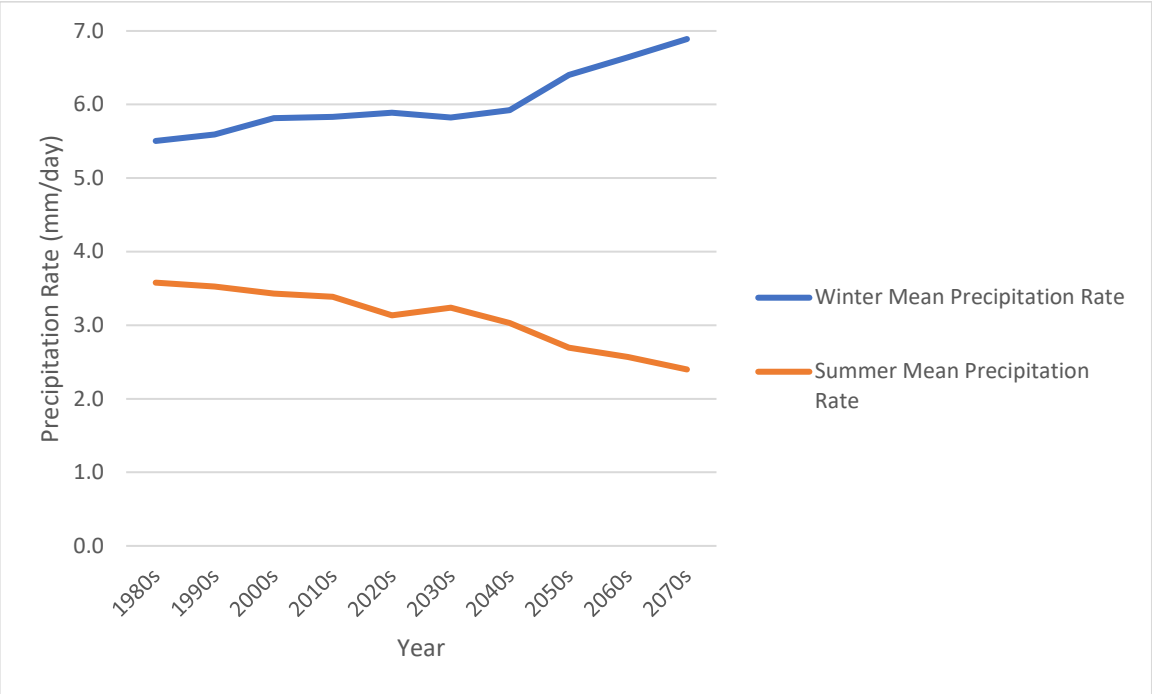


Figure 4.18: Mean precipitation changes in the North-West of England region under UKCP18 climate modelling



4.40 Table 4.3 overleaf shows annual greenhouse gas emission estimates (kilotonnes) in the borough from 2013 to 2020 across the industrial, commercial, public and domestic sectors (2021 and 2022 data has not yet been released by national government). It demonstrates that despite ongoing development and an increasing population in the borough, greenhouse gas emissions continue to decrease.

Table 4.3: Annual greenhouse gas emissions in the borough by sector (kilotonnes CO_2).

Calendar Year	Greenhouse gas emissions by sector				
	Industry	**Commercial**	**Public Sector**	**Domestic**	**Transport**
2013	298.4	197.4	58.3	638.0	505.9
2014	273.4	171.0	50.4	537.7	511.2
2015	260.1	154.6	45.9	527.1	521.2
2016	241.1	124.4	39.9	494.9	527.0
2017	236.0	112.7	36.5	471.3	522.2
2018	233.8	106.0	34.9	464.9	514.5
2019	204.8	98.3	32.2	453.5	513.1
2020	210.3	89.9	30.1	438.8	433.0

Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

4.41 Table 4.4 sets out estimated annual levels of greenhouse gases emitted from traffic and railways in the borough in the period 2011-20. The data shows that emissions reduced by 7.5 kilotonnes over the period 2011-19 with reductions particularly on A Roads. Emissions on minor roads have increased in this timeframe.

4.42 The data also shows that emissions from traffic reduced markedly in 2020, by over 80 kilotonnes on 2019 rates, primarily as a result of reduced rates of travel during the Covid-19 pandemic.

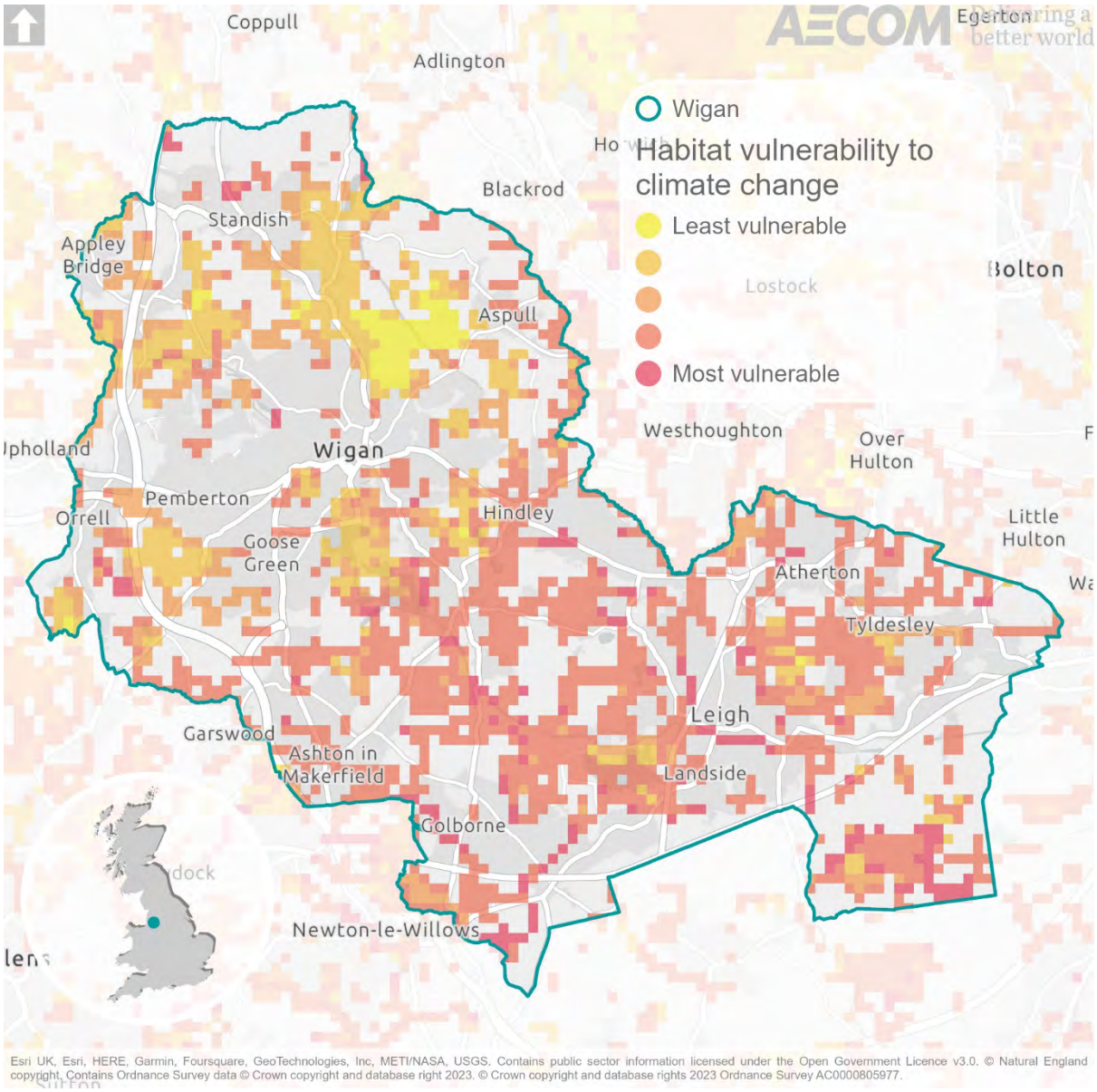
Table 4.4: Greenhouse gas emission estimates (2011-20) in kilotonnes.

Year	Road transport				Diesel Rail-ways	Transport Other	**Transport Total**
	A Roads	Motor-ways	Minor roads	Road transport total			
2011	188.4	138.6	179.6	506.6	6.7	7.3	**520.6**
2012	182.1	139.6	178.7	500.3	6.8	7.2	**514.3**
2013	173.8	137.6	180.1	491.5	6.9	7.5	**505.9**
2014	172.7	137.7	186.2	496.6	7.1	7.6	**511.2**
2015	175.4	141.3	189.8	506.5	6.8	7.8	**521.2**
2016	173.3	145.3	193.8	512.4	6.7	7.9	**527.0**
2017	166.7	144.4	196.3	507.4	6.6	8.2	**522.2**
2018	156.3	139.4	204.1	499.8	6.2	8.5	**514.5**
2019	149.5	135.5	212.8	497.8	6.5	8.8	**513.1**
2020	121.4	114.4	184.5	420.3	5.1	7.6	**433.0**

Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

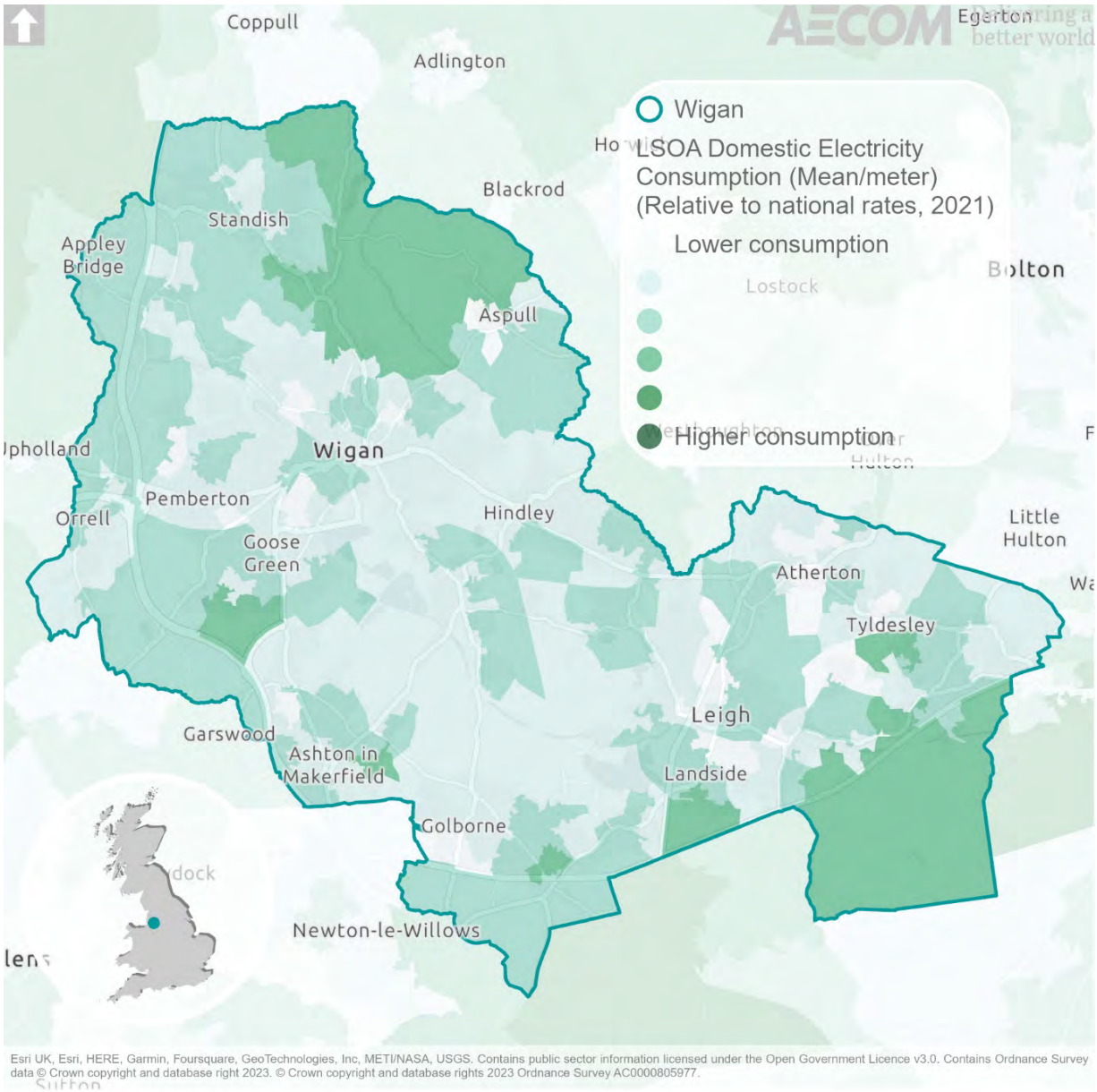
4.43 Figure 4.19 shows the vulnerability of the biodiversity network in Wigan to climate change. In general, more vulnerable areas are located in the southern half of the borough and tend to overlap with wetlands, whereas the less vulnerable areas have a good degree of tree coverage.

Figure 4.19: Habitat vulnerability to climate change in Wigan.



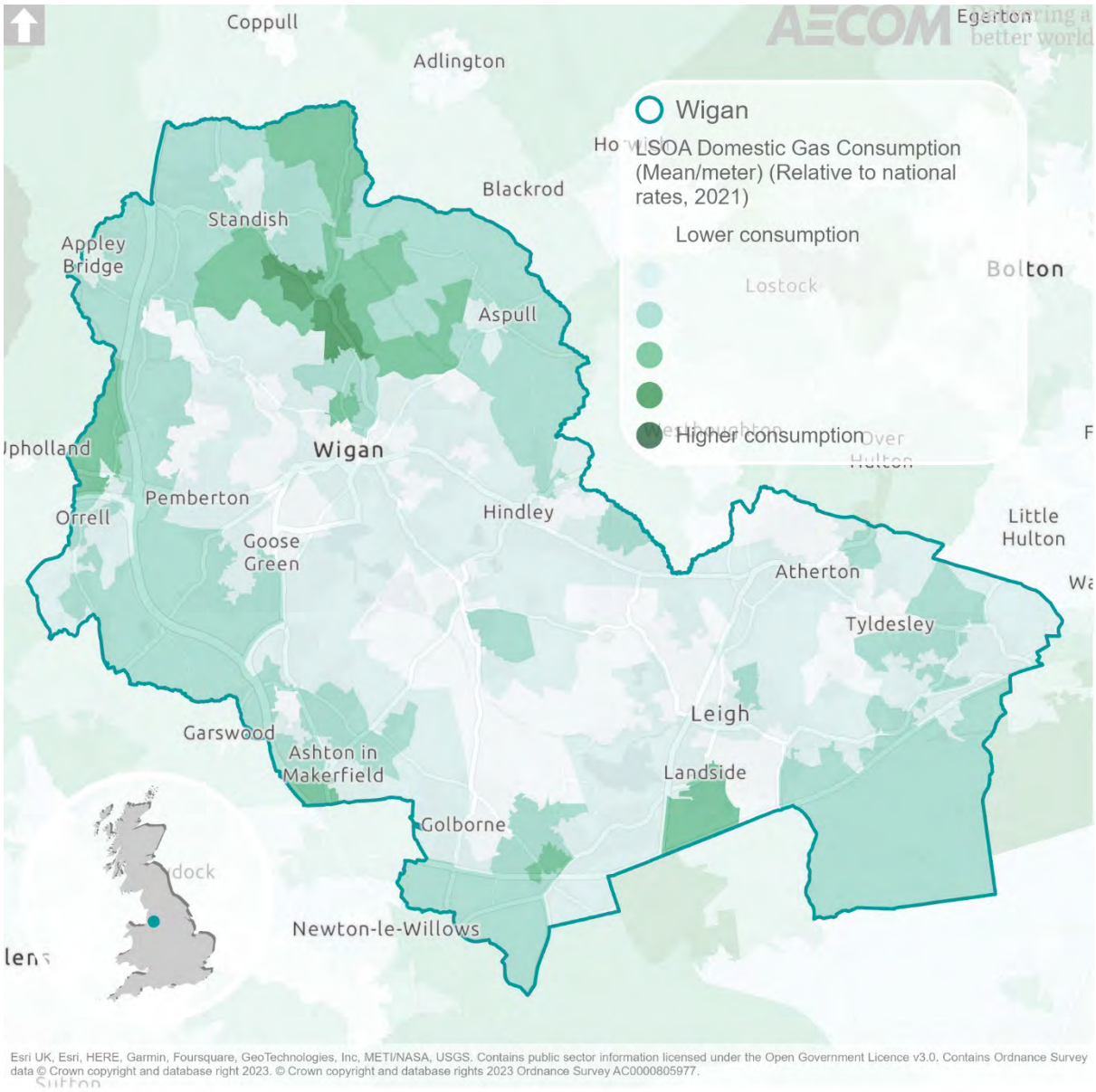
4.44 Figure 4.20 demonstrates electricity consumption across the borough. It demonstrates there is a higher consumption around the main settlements within Wigan, but that more isolated areas in the north and south of the borough use a greater amount of electricity.

Figure 4.20: Electricity consumption in Wigan



4.45 Figure 4.21 demonstrates gas consumption across Wigan. It indicates there is a larger consumption of gas in the more rural parts of the borough.

Figure 4.21: Gas consumption in Wigan.



4.46 At the end of 2021, Wigan Borough had 4,489 photovoltaic / solar energy, three onshore wind, one sewage gas, and two landfill gas renewable energy installations. This is 109 more installations than the previous year. In total, these installations had a 31.3 megawatt capacity at the end of 2021, generating 18,882 megawatt hours across the year[21].

[21] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics

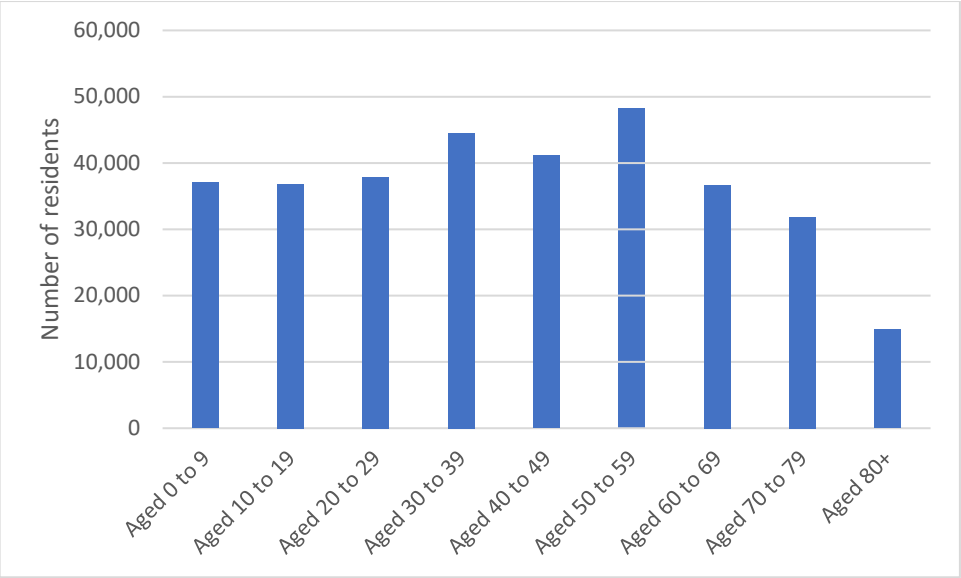
Population and Human Health

4.47 The majority of the data included in this chapter has come from the 2021 Census. To interrogate this data, the NOMIS website has been used[22]. From here, select query data, the Census 2021 folder, and then the topic summaries.

Age

4.48 Wigan Borough has a population of 329,800 (2021), the breakdown of which is shown in Figure 4.22 below. The largest age group is the aged 50 to 59 group, followed by the aged 30 to 39 group. Of the 329,800 residents, comprising 166,600 females (50.5%) and 163,200 males (49.5%), at a population density of 17.5 people per hectare.

Figure 4.22: Age structure of the population of Wigan[23]



4.49 The number of households in the borough increased from 135,853 in 2011 to 145,821 in 2021 (7.3%) and is expected to increase to 159,974 by 2041 (9.8%). The average household size has decreased from 2.27 in 2018 to 2.23 and is expected to continue to decrease to 2.14 by 2043.

4.50 Nearly 1 in 5 borough residents (19.4%) are over 65 and nearly 1 in 5 are under 16 (19.3%), both about 1% above national averages. This means that the borough has a slightly lower proportion of working age residents (62.3%) than the national average (63%). The borough has an ageing population, as demonstrated by an increase in residents over 65 and a decrease in both under 16s and working age residents (16-64) since 2011. In 2021, 19.3% of residents in the borough are 65 and over, compared to 16.2% in 2011.

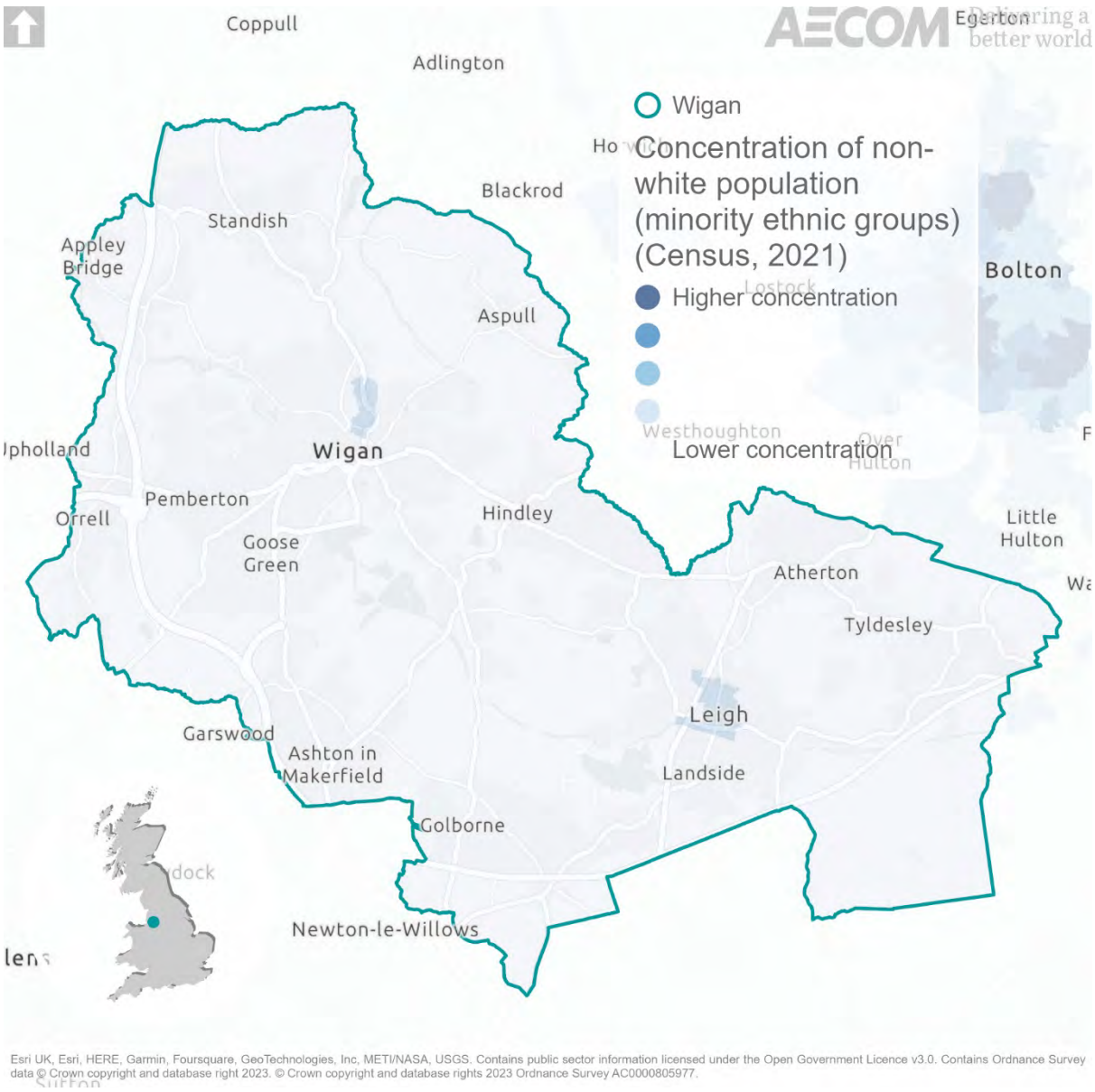
4.51 Using 2021 population data, it is expected that the borough's population will increase by 17,500 between 2021 and 2041 leading to an overall population figure of 347,300. In this time, the proportion of residents over age 65 is

[22] https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/
[23] NOMIS – TS007A

expected to increase to 24.5%, and both under 16 and 16-64 are expected to decrease to 16.6% and 59% respectively.

Ethnicity

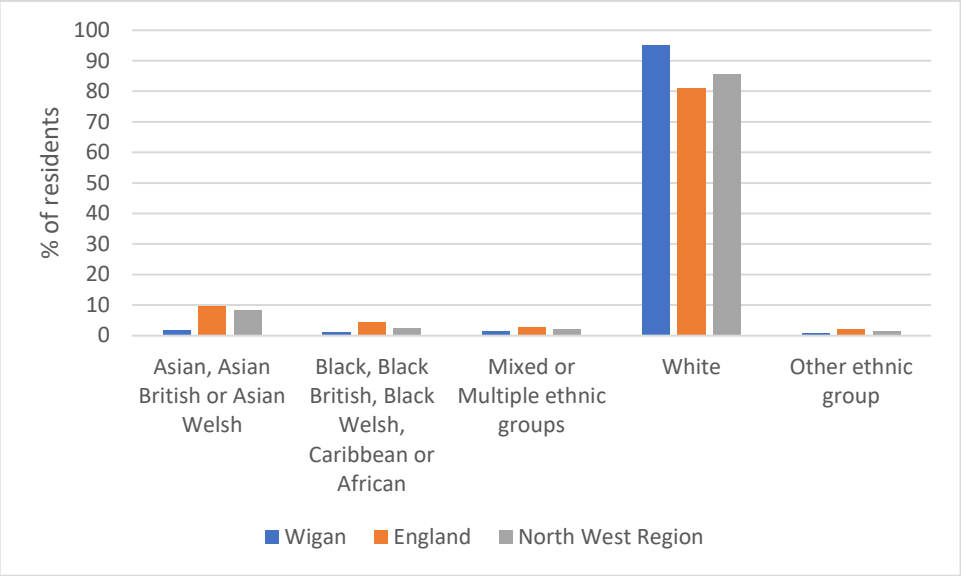
Figure 4.23: Ethnicity in Wigan



4.52 There is limited ethnic diversity amongst Wigan's population (2021), with 95% of residents identifying themselves as white, higher than the national average of 81.7%. 2% of residents identify as Asian, 1% identify as Black, and 1% as mixed multiple ethnic groups. As shown by Figure 4.23, there are higher concentrations ethnic groups in the main settlements of the borough – Wigan and Leigh.

4.53 The ethnic breakdown of the borough in comparison to regional and national trends represented in Figure 4.24 overleaf.

Figure 4.24: Ethnic groups in Wigan compared to regional and national trends[24]



Religion

4.54 In relation to religion, the majority of people in Wigan Borough class themselves as Christian despite a decrease of 16.3% since 2011. All other religions have increased, with the most notable increases in the proportion of Sikhs, Muslims, Hindus, other religions no religion. Figure 4.25 overleaf shows the concentration of non-Christian residents in Wigan – demonstrating the more urban areas of the borough have a greater representation of different religions.

4.55 Figure 4.26 overleaf demonstrates the mix of religions in the borough in comparison to regional trends in the North West, and England average. It shows the borough has a higher concentration of Christian residents and a lower concentration of Muslim residents in comparison to regional and national trends.

[24] NOMIS – TS021

Figure 4.25: Concentration of non-Christian residents in Wigan.

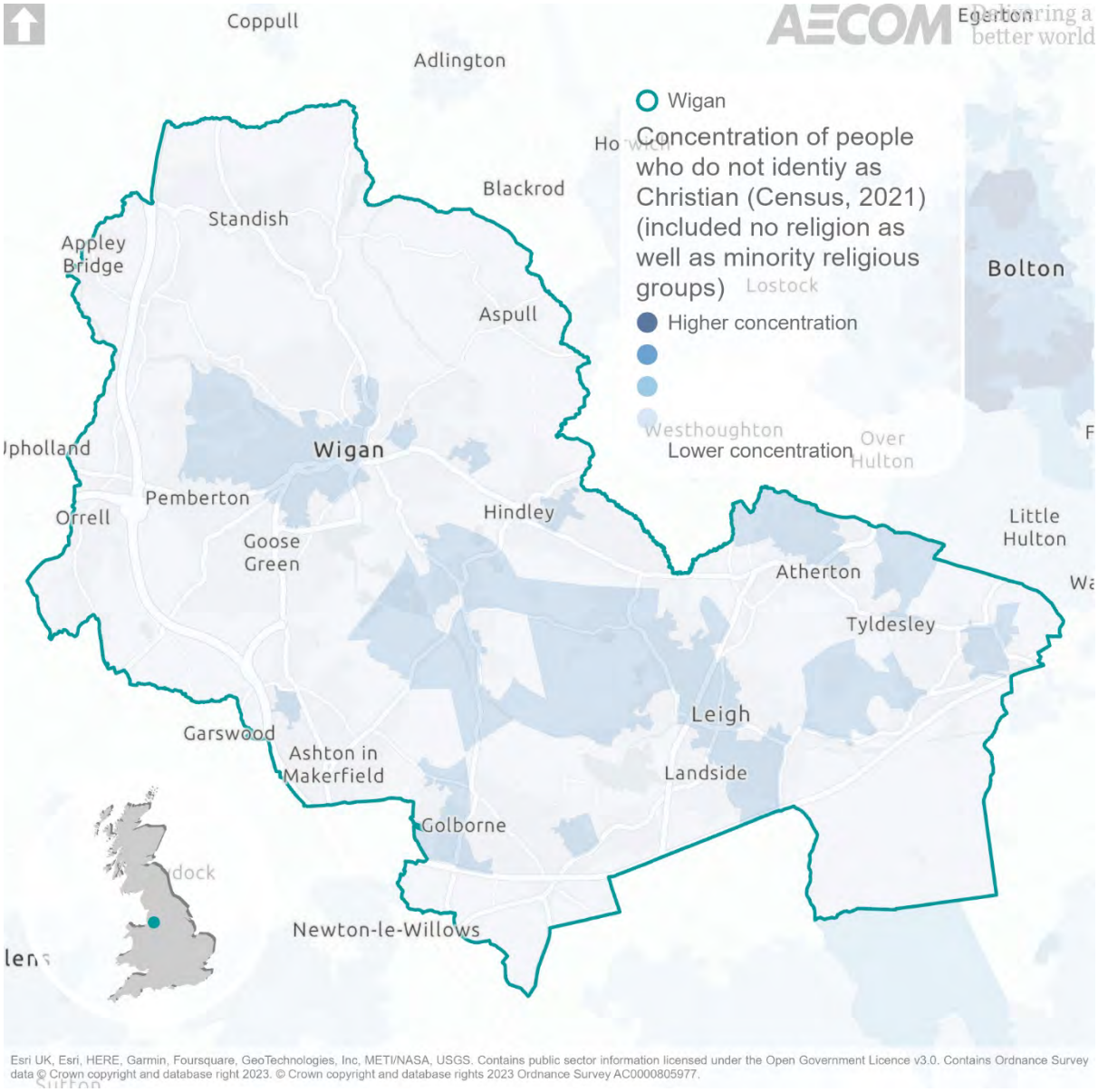
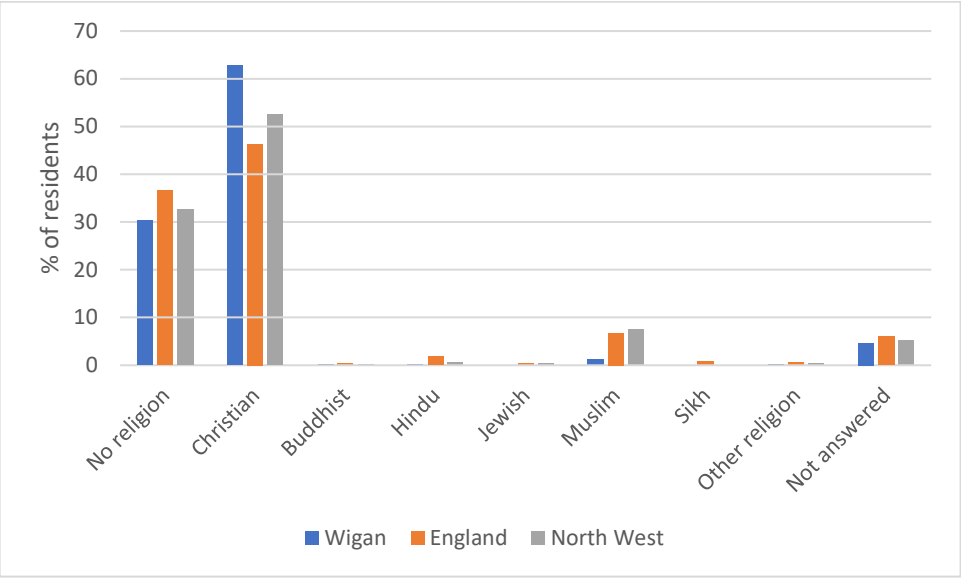


Figure 4.26: Breakdown of religion in Wigan in comparison to regional and national trends[25]



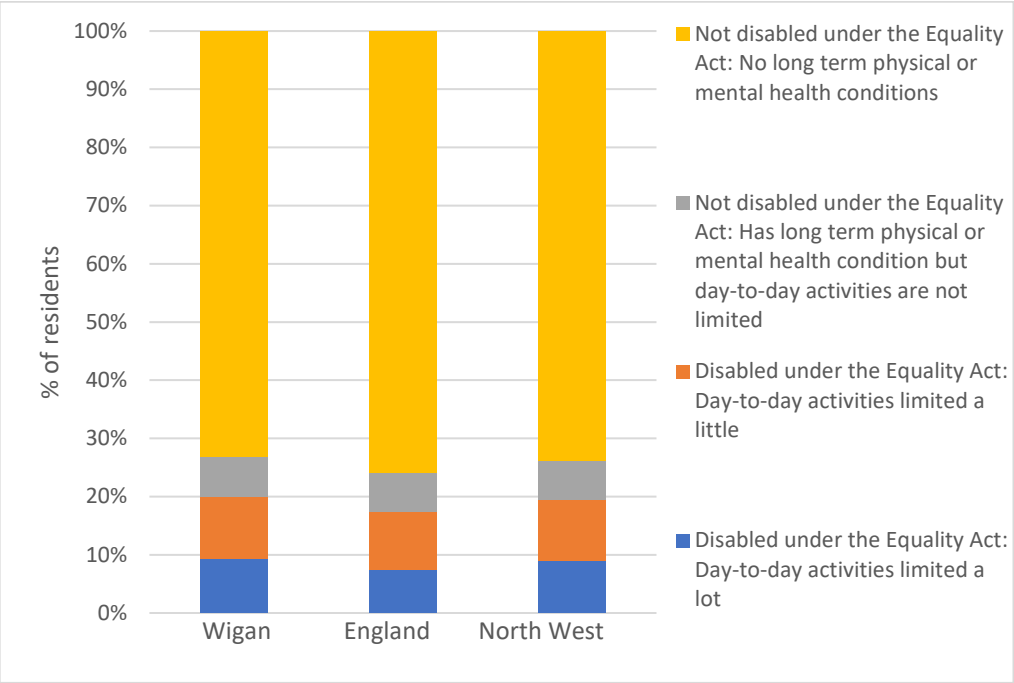
Health and disability

4.56 In 2021, Census data concludes that a higher proportion of Wigan residents (20.5%) consider to be in fair, bad or very bad health compared to both the regional (20.1%) and the England (18.3%) average. However, this figure has decreased from 23.7% in 2011. Deprivation is higher than the England average by 4 percent and life expectancy is lower than the England average by 1.5 years for men and 2 years for women.

4.57 Figure 4.27 overleaf shows that Wigan and the North-West region levels of disability or illness affecting day to day activities are higher than the England average. Wigan experiences higher levels of disability than regional trends. Figure 4.28 presents this visually, demonstrating more urban areas in the borough have a greater percentage of residents with long-term health conditions.

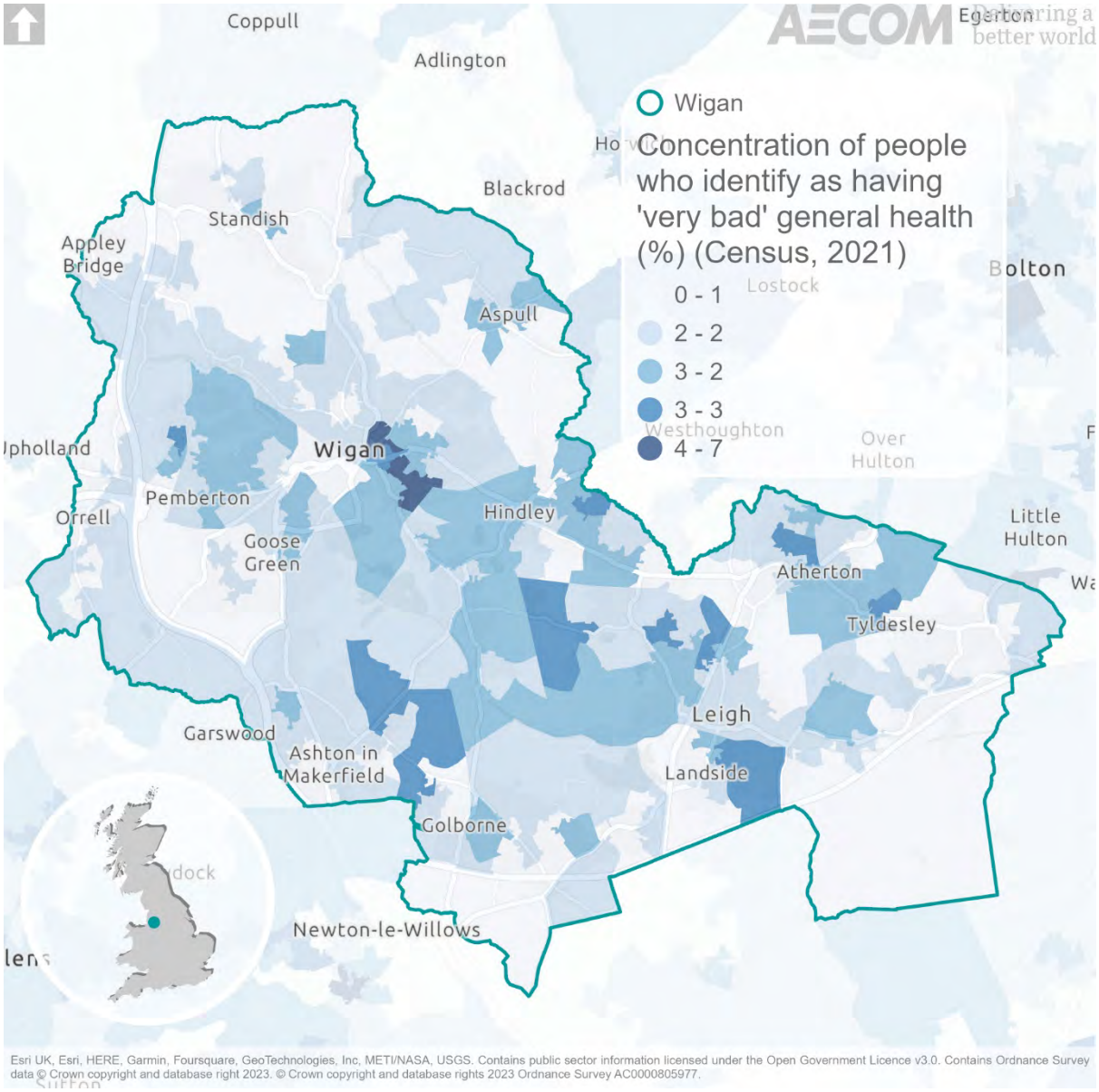
[25] NOMIS – TS030

Figure 4.27: Percentage of population limited in their daily activities by a disability or illness[26]



[26] NOMIS – TS038

Figure 4.28: Spatial distribution of residents in Wigan with poor health



4.58 In 2021, one quarter (24.6%) of Year 6 children in Wigan were considered to be obese; an increase from 19.3% in 2011.

4.59 An estimated 26.9% of adults smoke and 73.7% are obese, both higher than the national average. In 2021, just over three-fifths of adults (62.1%) were physically active, which is slightly below the national average.

4.60 The rate of new cases of malignant melanoma is worse than the England average.

4.61 Early deaths from cardiovascular diseases and early deaths from cancer are worse than average with an increase of 16.5 per 100,000 people and 12.7 per 100,000 people respectively.

4.62 Broadly speaking, the health of the population in the borough is varied and this trend is likely to continue. Ongoing budget pressures to community services have the potential to lead to effects on health and wellbeing over the longer term.

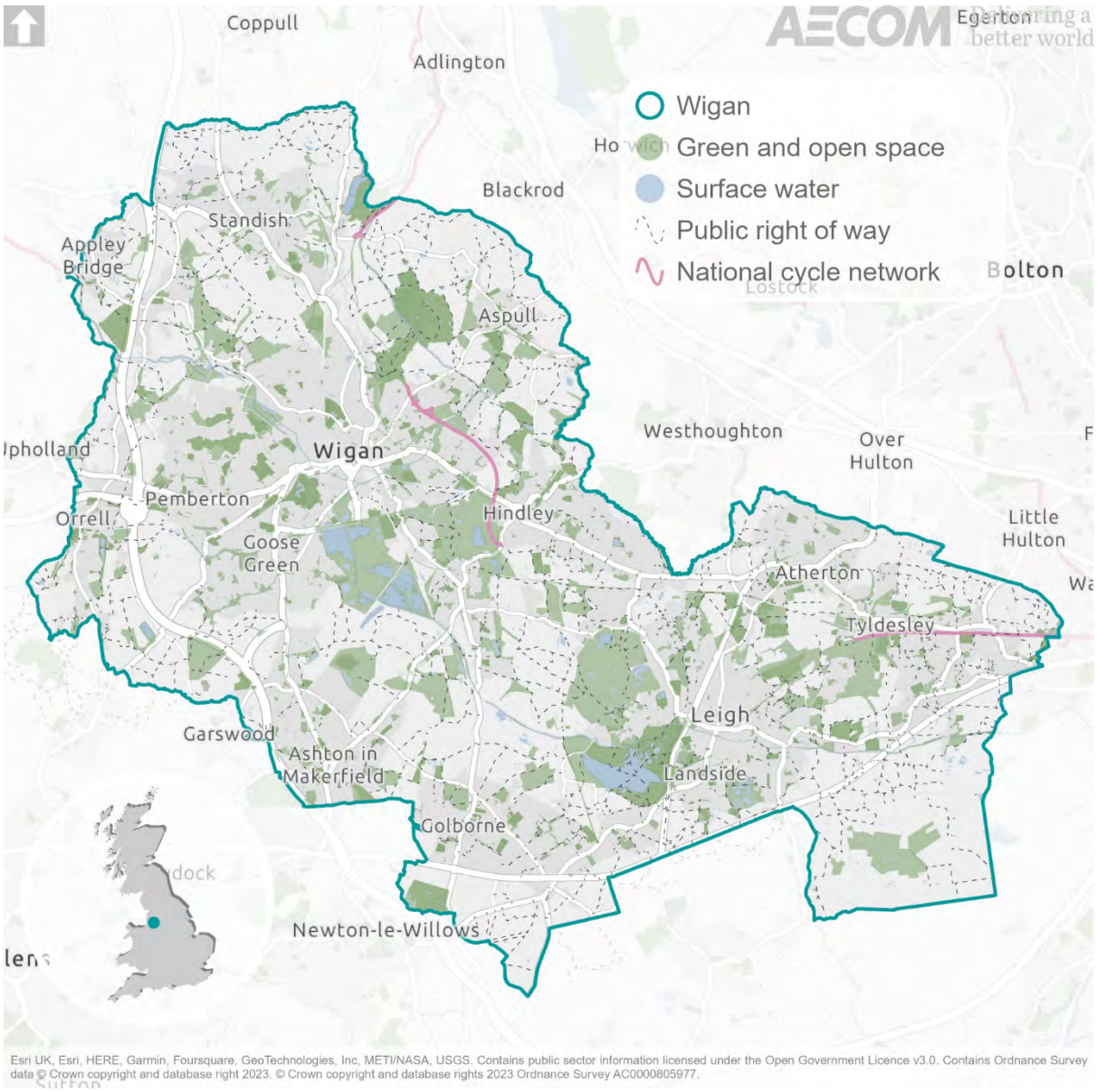
4.63 Obesity is seen as an increasing issue by health professionals, and one that will contribute to significant health impacts for individuals, including increasing the risk of a range of diseases (heart disease, diabetes and some forms of cancer).

4.64 Green infrastructure (GI) networks comprise parks, woodlands, wetlands, rivers, private gardens, street trees, allotments, playing fields, green roofs and sustainable drainage systems. They have been linked to a number of positive effects on human health and well-being including improved physical health by encouraging physical activity, reducing stress, and lowering blood pressure. GI networks have also been shown to provide mental health benefits such as reducing anxiety and depression and promoting social interaction. As such, maintaining and improving access to these networks is important for the physical and mental health and wellbeing of the Wigan population. Figure 4.29 overleaf shows the green and blue infrastructure network in the borough, demonstrating that there are spaces across the area that are largely accessible from any settlement.

4.65 Additional detail and analyses are available as part of the mapping tool which supports the Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework. This information will be used to inform the integrated appraisal.

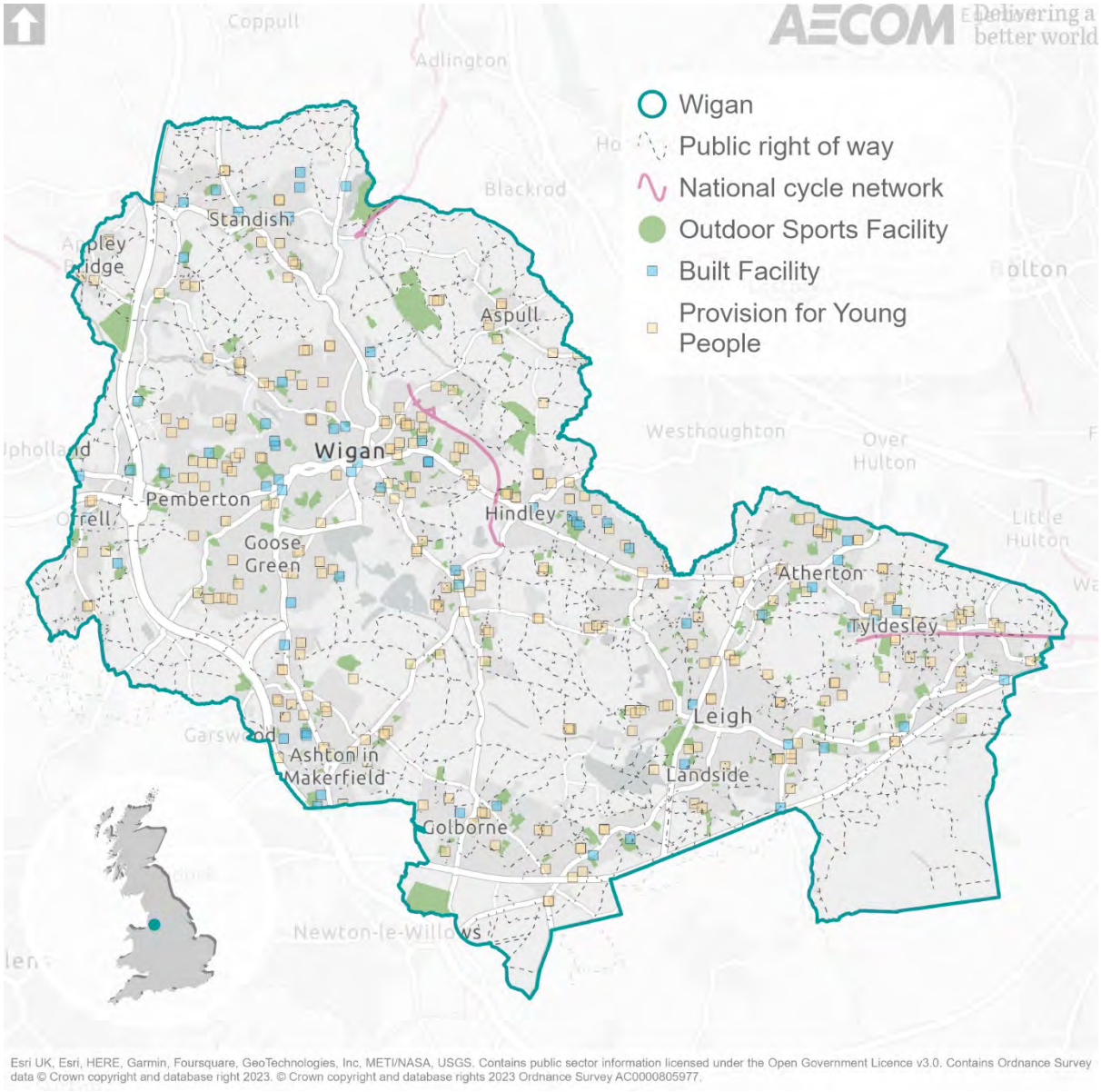
Green Infrastructure Map (naturalengland.org.uk)

Figure 4.29: Green and blue infrastructure, and the public right of way network, in Wigan.



4.66 Access to sport infrastructure is also an important factor for mental health and wellbeing. Figure 4.30 overleaf shows the distribution of sport and recreational spaces across the borough. It indicates that the northern half of the borough has more built facilities and provision for younger people, especially in and around Wigan itself.

Figure 4.30: Sport provision for Wigan.



<u>Sexual orientation / gender reassignment</u>

4.67 There are no official UK statistics relating to gender reassignment. The UK Census currently only collects data relating to sex (gender assigned at birth). The ONS has identified the need for information about gender identity for policy development and service planning. This need is further strengthened by the requirement for information on those with the protected characteristic of gender reassignment as set out in the Equality Act 2010. Work is currently being undertaken by ONS to identify ways of capturing this information.

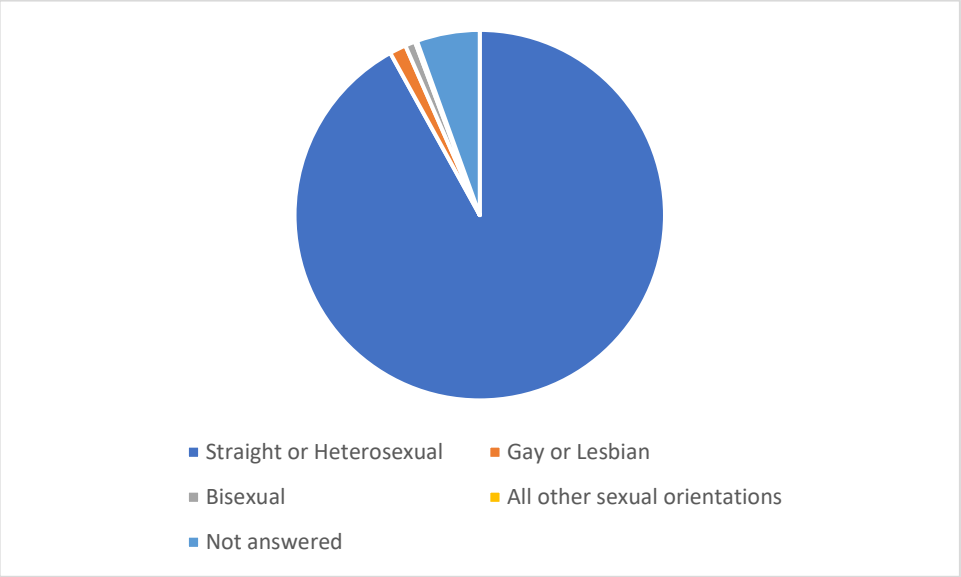
4.68 The gender identity of the borough's population is presented in the table below. The 2021 Census indicates the majority of the population identifies as the same sex registered at birth.

Table 4.5: Gender identity in Wigan[27]

Gender identity	Total
Gender identity the same as sex registered at birth	255,782
Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given	470
Trans woman	156
Trans man	216
All other gender identities	124
Not answered	11,946

4.69 In terms of sexual identity, the 2021 shows 247,126 (92%) of the borough's population identify as heterosexual, with 3,885 (1.4%) identifying as gay or lesbian, and 2,381 (0.9%) as bisexual. 507 people (0.2%) identify as other sexual orientations, and 14,795 (5.5%) of the population did not answer the question. This is visualised in Figure 4.31.

Figure 4.31: Sexual orientation in Wigan[28]



Marriage / civil partnership

4.70 The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 legalised same-sex marriage in England, Wales and Scotland in 2014. In 2019 there were 212,000 same-sex families in the UK, having increased by 40.0% since 2015.

[27] NOMIS – TS078
[28] NOMIS – TS077

4.71 According to 2021 Census data[29], 43.7% of the borough's population is married or in a registered civil partnership – this is lower than the figure for England, which is 44.7%. The borough has a higher proportion of people that are separated but still legally married or legally in a civil partnership (2.3% in Wigan versus 2.2% in England), and a higher proportion of people that are divorced or have had their civil partnership dissolved (9.8% in Wigan versus 9.1% in England). Wigan borough also has a higher proportion of widows or surviving civil partnership partner (6.8%) in comparison to England (6.1%).

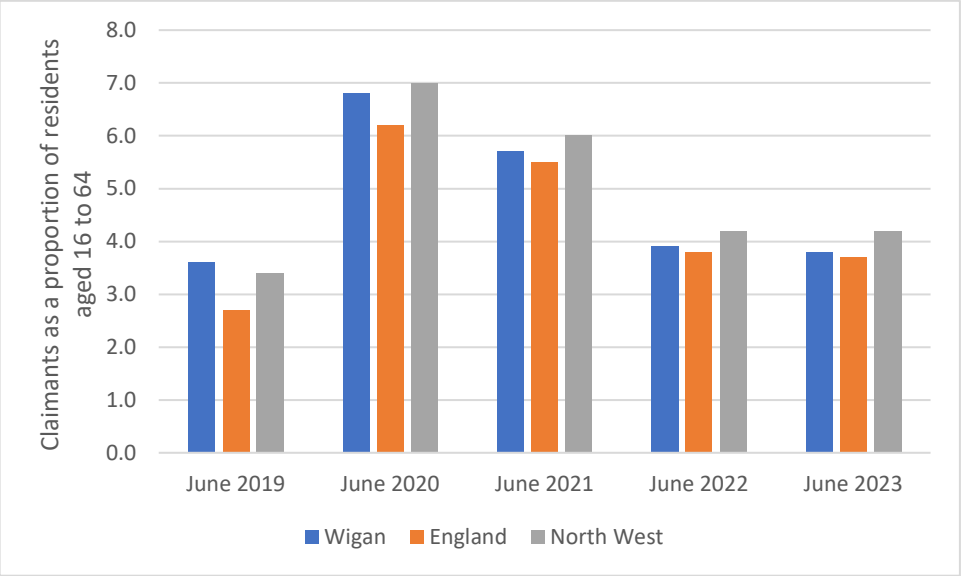
Pregnancy / maternity

4.72 The live birth rate figures who there were 3,500 births across Wigan borough in 2021. This is an increase from 2020, where the live birth rate figure was 3,249. Additionally, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for the borough in 2021 was 1.66, which is an increase from the TFR in 2020 – 1.61[30].

Benefit claimants

4.73 Out of work benefit claims provide an indication of the proportion of population that experience a limiting condition. This includes disability, those that are carers, people without a job, and those with incapacity. Figure 4.32 below shows benefit claimant count for residents (as a proportion of residents 16-64). The figure shows claimant count increased over 2019 and 2021, but has been decreasing since 2021, however this is also the case for both comparators. For the last four years, Wigan has had lower levels of benefit claimants than regional trends across the North West.

Figure 4.32: Benefit claimant count



[29] https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/customprofiles/build/
[30] https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/lebirthrates

Deprivation

4.74 As part of the 2021 census, households in England and Wales were classified in terms of the following four different 'dimensions of deprivation':

- **Unemployment:** Whether any person who is not a full-time student is either unemployed or long-term sick
- **Education:** Households where no person has at least five or more GCSE passes or equivalent qualifications, with no 16 to 18-year-olds at the home who are full-time students
- **Health:** Any person in the household has poor general health or a long-term health problem
- **Living conditions:** Whether the household's accommodation is either overcrowded or is in a shared dwelling or has no central heating.

4.75 The data shows that in 2021, 53.4% of households in Wigan were deprived. Whilst this represents a reduction from 60.3% in 2011, it is above the national average of 51.7%. Of the deprived households in the borough, 60% were deprived in one dimension, 30% in two dimensions, and 8% in 3 dimensions.

4.76 The five most deprived neighbourhoods in the borough at the time of the 2021 Census were Laithwaite and Marsh Green (71.8% of households); Wigan East (68.9%); Ince-in-Makerfield (64.4%); Atherton North (63.4%) and Leigh North (62.8%), though all have become less deprived since 2011. The neighbourhood with the lowest level of deprivation was Standish North (41.2%).

Crime

4.77 In the year ending September 2022, the crime rate in Wigan was lower than average for the Greater Manchester force area. Figure 4.33 shows the crime rate for Greater Manchester, and Figure 4.34 shows crime hotspots in the borough. As expected, there are higher levels of crime in the more urban areas of the borough, particularly around Wigan and Leigh, as well as Pemberton and Atherton.

Figure 4.33: Crime rates in Greater Manchester by district (October 2021-September 2022)

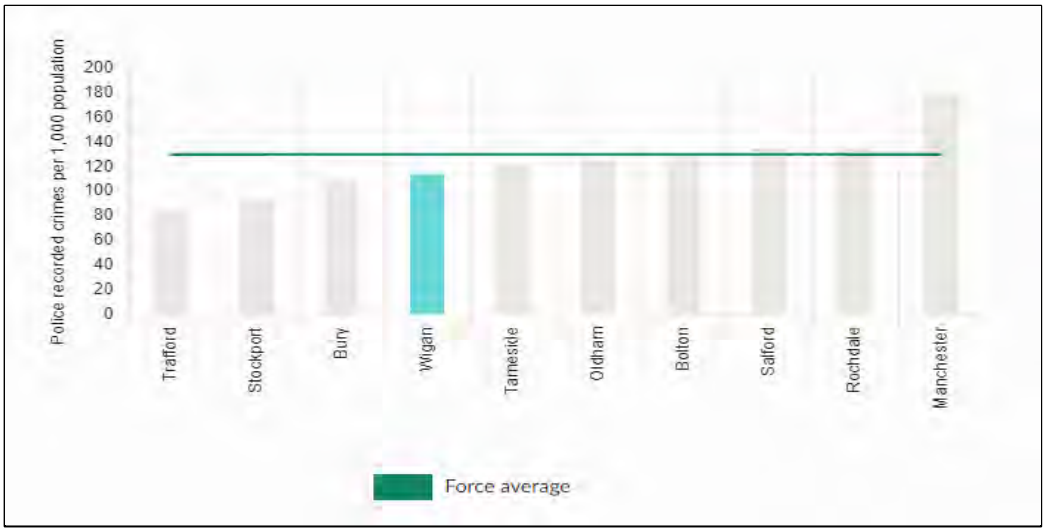
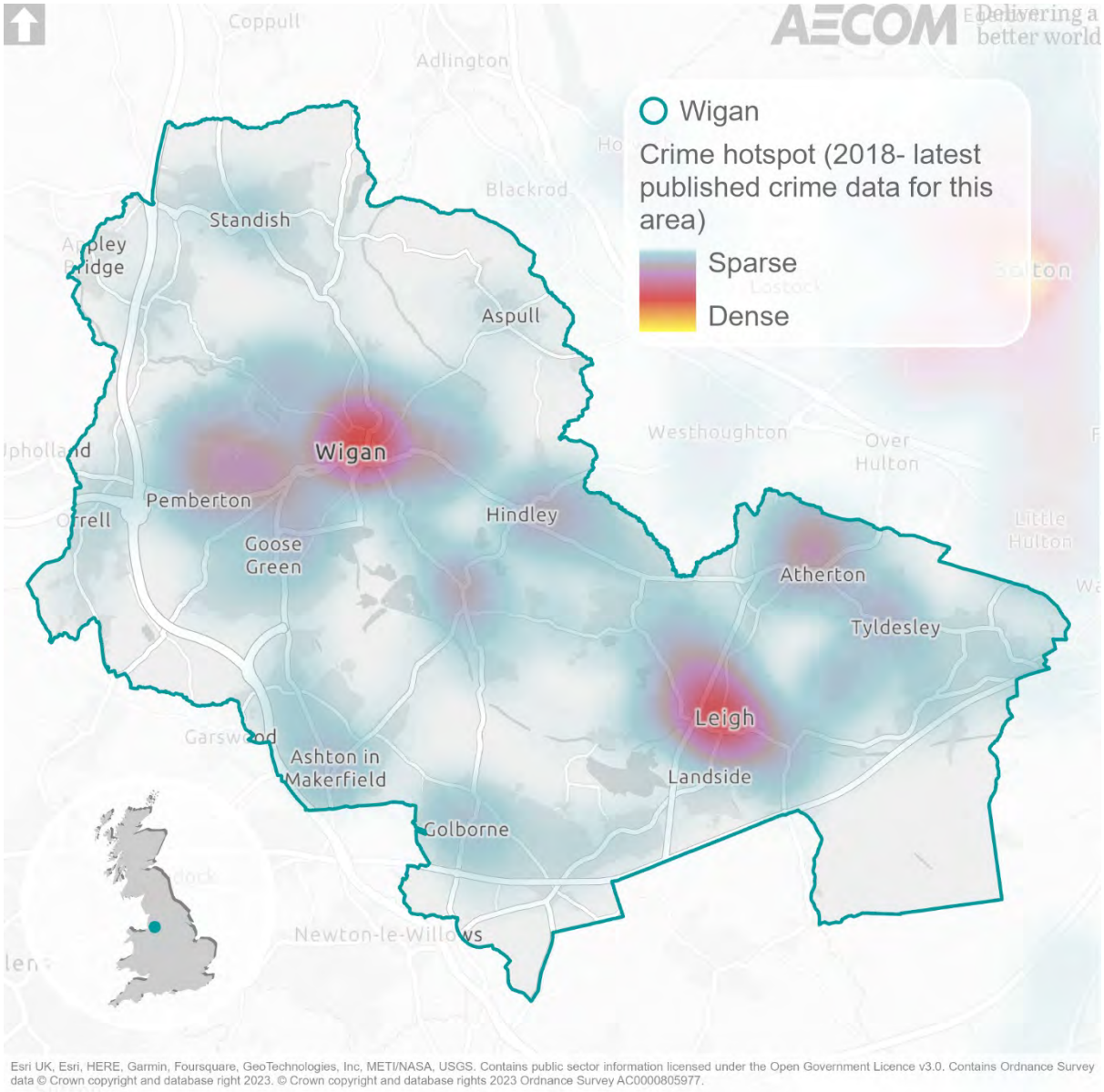


Figure 4.34: Crime hotspots in Wigan



Safety and security

4.78 Feelings of safety and security are key to ensuring personal wellbeing. Everyone is vulnerable to feeling unsafe, but this may be particularly acute for people belonging to certain protected characteristic groups, including young people, older people, disabled people, women, and people belonging to a particular ethnic group, or sexual orientation.

Community cohesion and participation

4.79 The development of communities which are functional, safe, and enjoyable places to live and work, requires the promotion of community cohesion and good relations between different groups.

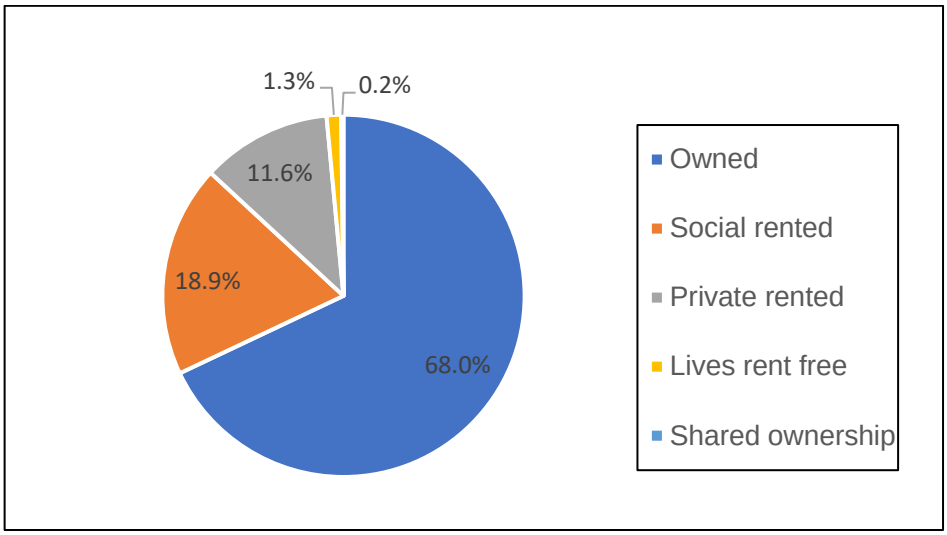
4.80 Encouraging participation in civic engagement and dialogue with all people in the community; particularly those belonging to protected characteristic groups, is an important step in working towards achieving cohesion with communities. For people belonging to protected characteristic groups, their feelings of a lack of cohesion (or exclusion) may be more acute than those of other people. As such, it is important to ensure the needs of different groups are met through ongoing consultation and engagement activities which form part of the Local Plan process, and that equality monitoring is undertaken to show fair representation throughout the consultation process.

Housing

Housing stock – Tenure

4.81 In April 2021, Wigan Borough had 145,821 households. As shown in Figure 4.35, the majority of these were owner occupied (68%), including 34% of households owning outright and 33% owning with a mortgage/loan. This is slightly higher than the national average of 32.5% and 30% respectively.

Figure 4.35: Tenure of households in Wigan (2021)

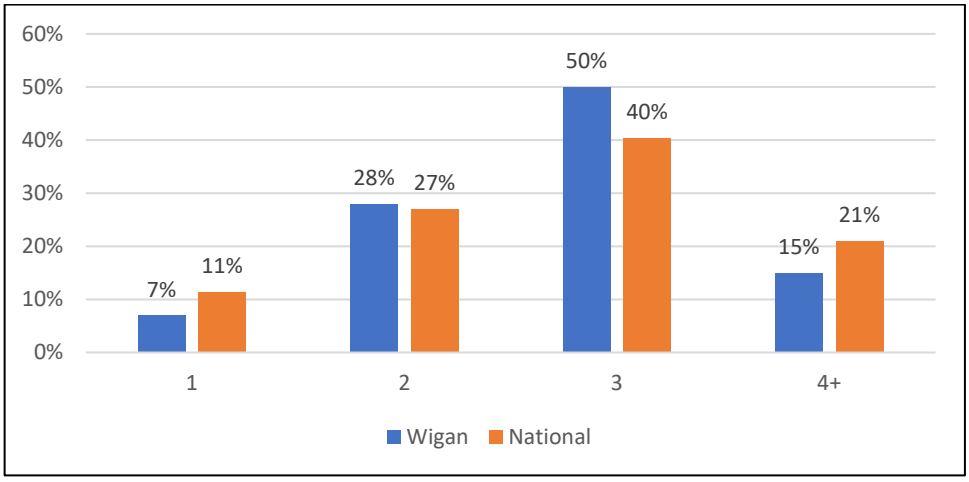


Source: Census 2021

Housing stock – Number of bedrooms

4.82 As shown in Figure 4.36, half of properties in the borough have three bedrooms, which is 10% above the national average, and 28% have 2 bedrooms. The borough has lower proportions of both 1 bedroomed and large properties with 4+ bedrooms than the national average.

Figure 4.36: Number of bedrooms

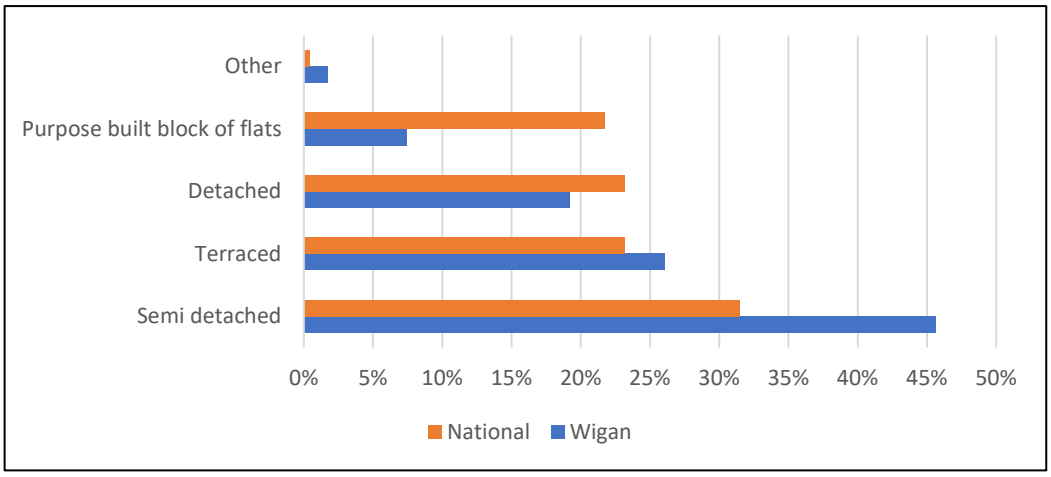


Source: Census 2021

Housing stock: Accommodation type

4.83 As set out in Figure 4.37, just under half of homes in the borough are semi-detached, which is significantly higher than the national average of 32%. The borough also has a higher proportion of terraced properties. As reflected in the number of bedrooms above, the borough has lower proportions of flats and detached properties compared to the national average. This reflects the lack of an established town centre residential market in the borough and also lower wages and earnings.

Figure 4.37: Accommodation type (2021)

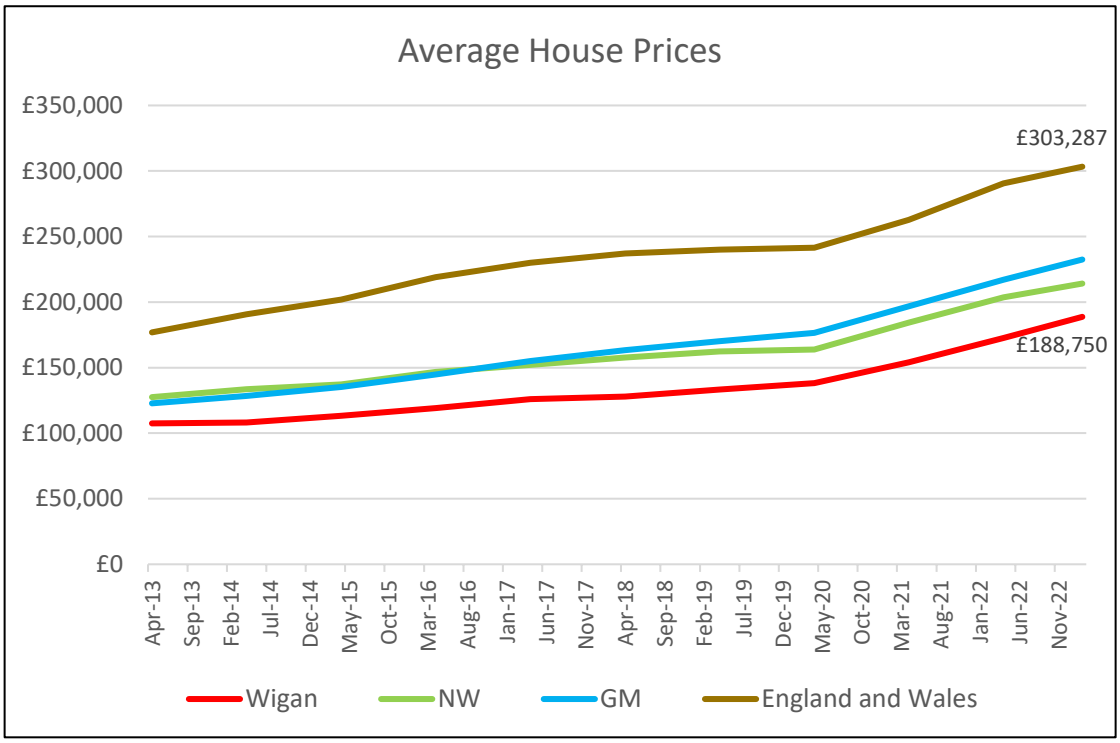


Source: Census 2021

House prices and affordability

4.84 At February 2023, the average house price of all property types in Wigan Borough was £188,750. This equated to 38% below the national average house price of £303,287, 12% below the NW average of £214,146 and 19% below the GM average of £232,467. Wigan has the second lowest average house price of all GM districts, above only Bolton. As shown in Figure 4.38 overleaf, comparisons at the national, regional and GM average have remained relatively static over the last 10 years.

Figure 4.38: Average house prices across all house types (2013-23)



Source: UK House Price Index, Land Registry

Sales Volume

4.85 During the period April 2017 – March 2022, there has been an average of 5,184 house sales per annum in Wigan Borough. As shown in Table 4.6, around three quarters of these sales are mortgage purchases, and around 10% are new builds.

4.86 Sales volumes dipped slightly in the period 2019-21, no doubt as a result of the Covid pandemic. Sales volumes increased in 2021/22 but seem to have dipped again in the first three quarters of 2022/23, no doubt due to increased interest rates.

Table 4.6: Sales Volumes in Wigan Borough (2017-23)

Year	Total	Cash purchases	Mortgage purchases	New build	Existing properties
2017/18	5,194	27%	73%	10%	90%
2018/19	5,575	24%	76%	16%	84%
2019/20	5,295	22%	77%	17%	83%
2020/21	4,728	23%	74%	12%	88%
2021/22	5,127	24%	74%	7%	93%
2022/23 (April-Dec)	3,331	23%	72%	3%	97%

Source: UK House Price Index, Land Registry

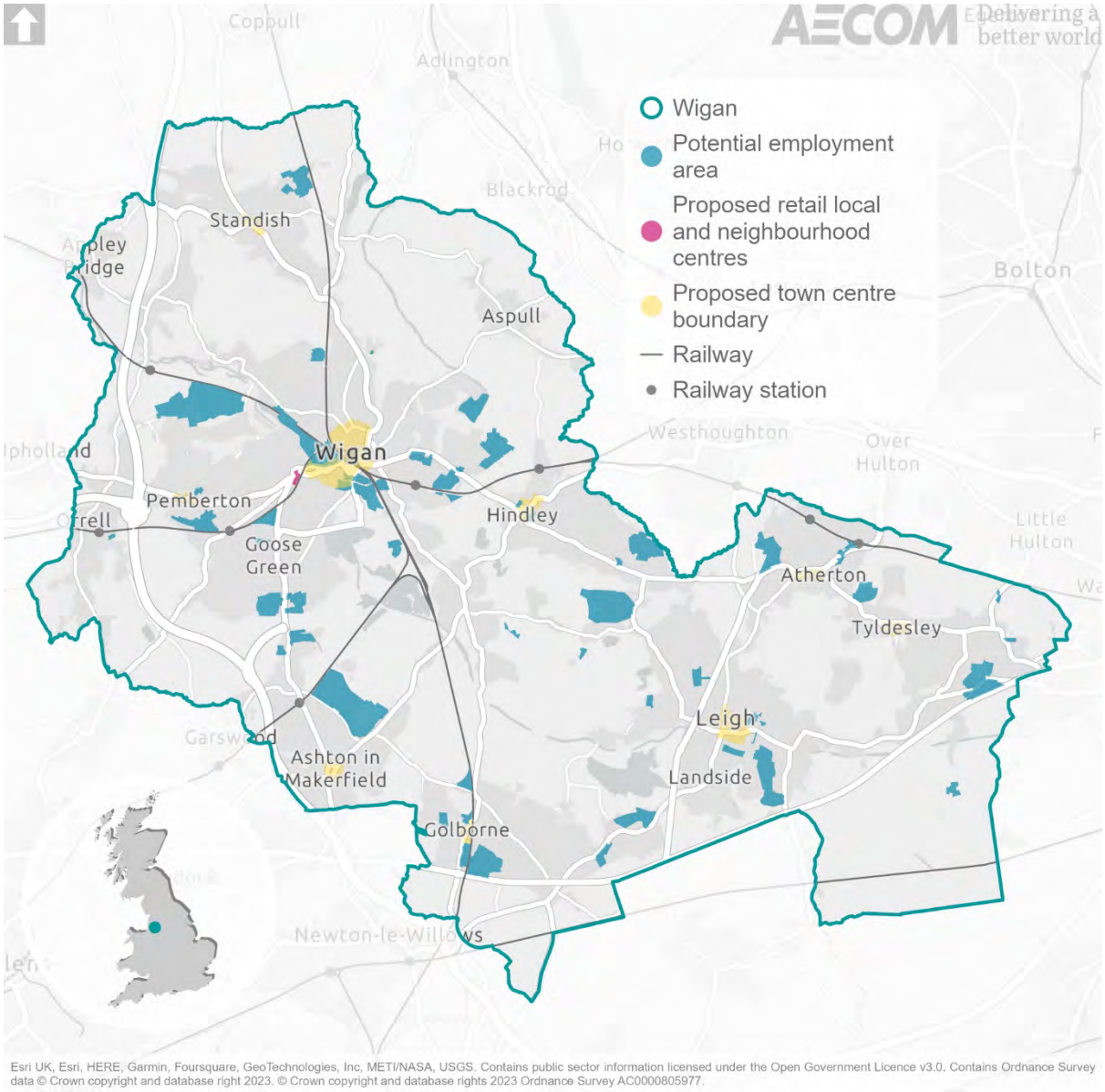
Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

4.87 Evidence on Gypsy and Traveller need, and Travelling Showpeople need, is found in the 2018 Greater Manchester Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)[31]. This sets out a need for 10 additional permanent traveller pitches over the period 2017 - 2036 in Wigan borough using the national planning policy definition of travellers, but this rises to a need for 25 pitches under a broader cultural definition. The GTAA also sets out a need for 26 additional plots for Travelling Showpeople over the same period.

[31] greater-manchester-gypsy-and-traveller-and-travelling-showperson-accommodation-assessment-update-2018.pdf (greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

Economic Development

Figure 4.39: Employment in Wigan



<u>Economic Activity rates</u>

4.88 Table 4.7 compares the economic activity rate in Wigan Borough with the regional and national average during the period 2013-22. It confirms that in 2021/22, the economic activity rate in Wigan (77.6%) was 4.5% and 2.4% higher than the regional and national rates respectively.

4.89 Economic activity rates dipped below national levels in 2018/19 for the first time since 2012/13, However, three consecutive periods of increase since 2019/20 have resulted in the economic activity rate in 2021/22 being the highest recorded in the last decade.

Table 4.7: Proportion of economically active people aged 16-64

Year	Number	%		
		Wigan	NW	GB
2013/14	149,000	71.8	68.9	71.5
2014/15	154,400	75.2	69.8	72.7
2015/16	158,200	76.9	71.4	73.7
2016/17	155,900	75.4	71.7	74.2
2017/18	158,300	76.4	73.4	75
2018/19	156,400	74.8	73.8	75.4
2019/20	159,100	76.6	74.9	75.9
2020/21	162,000	77.5	73.2	74.8
2021/22	162,800	77.6	73.1	75.2

Source: NOMIS

Job density

4.90 In 2021, there were 125,000 jobs in the borough with a job density of 0.61 per person aged 16-64. As shown in Table 4.8 overleaf, this is below both the national and regional job density ratio of 0.84 and 0.85 respectively. This reflects the high number of employed residents in the borough commuting out of the borough for work.

Table 4.8: Job density in the borough compared to national and regional averages

Year	Jobs (Wigan)	Job density		
		Wigan	NW	GB
2013	113,000	0.55	0.77	0.79
2014	117,000	0.58	0.78	0.81
2015	118,000	0.58	0.8	0.83
2016	120,000	0.59	0.82	0.85
2017	125,000	0.62	0.83	0.86
2018	127,000	0.63	0.84	0.86
2019	129,000	0.63	0.86	0.87
2020	124,000	0.61	0.82	0.84
2021	125,000	0.61	0.84	0.85

Source: NOMIS

Job by industry

4.91 Table 4.9 shows estimates of the number of people employed by industry based on responses to the Census 2021. These will differ from the official estimates from the Business Register and Employment Survey as they rely on the respondent providing data rather than the businesses themselves. Wigan shows similar trends to the national picture with wholesale, retail and repair of motor vehicles being the biggest industry for employment and human health and social work activities the second largest industry.

Table 4.9: People employed by industry

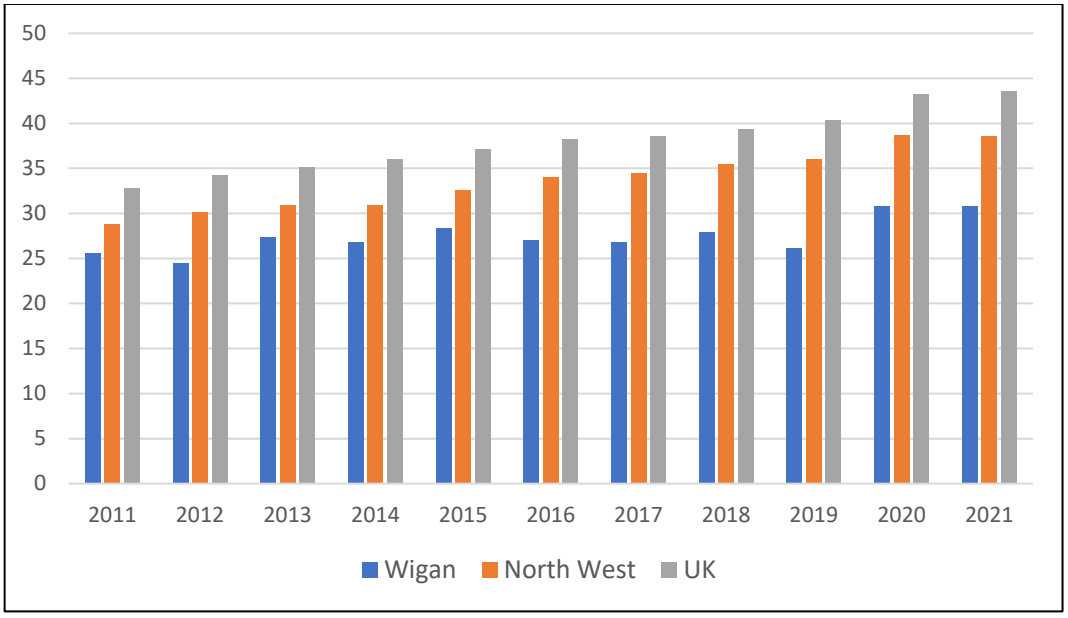
Industry	Wigan (number)	%	
		Wigan	England and Wales
Administrative and support service activities	15,980	6%	6%
Construction	32,650	12%	10%
Education	26,093	10%	12%
Human health and social work activities	44,517	17%	16%
Manufacturing	31,412	12%	10%
Professional, scientific and technical activities	13,119	5%	8%
Public administration and defence, compulsory social security	19,064	7%	7%
Transport and storage	17,114	6%	6%
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	53,111	20%	19%
Other	13,099	5%	6%

Source: Census 2021

Skill levels

4.92 As illustrated in Figure 4.40, people qualified to Level 4 and above has been consistently below national and regional averages since 2011, with an increase of 5.2% from 25.6% in 2011 to 30.8% in 2021. This compares to increases of 9.8% and 10.6% at the regional and national levels respectively.

Figure 4.40: Percentage of people qualified to Level 4 and above



Source: NOMIS

4.93 Feedback from stakeholder consultation on the council's Employment and Skills Review in 2019 suggests that the borough's relatively low skill levels are influenced by a low level of jobs in the borough that require higher level skills.

In addition, a high proportion of young people from the borough are achieving higher level qualifications outside the borough and taking employment opportunities elsewhere.

4.94 In response to this, ‘skills driving productivity’ and ‘learning for life’ are two key priorities within the council’s new skills framework.

Transport

4.95 An extensive system of railways was developed in the 19th century, and today the borough remains relatively well provided for, although the quality of service is an ongoing issue. Standish, Leigh, Golborne and Ashton-in-Makerfield are the main towns without a rail station. Some abandoned routes now form off-road walking and cycling links. There are two railway stations in Wigan town centre and seven other stations in the borough, with West Coast Mainline services at Wigan North Western station. However, the borough has not capitalised fully on this strategic asset.

4.96 The two main stations in Wigan town centre are separate and lie either side of a busy road, Wallgate. There is a lack of integration not only between them but with bus services too.

4.97 The train stations in the borough allow access to a variety of locations, including: Southport, Blackburn, Blackpool North, Liverpool Lime Street, Wigan North Wester, Stalybridge, Glasgow Central, London Euston, and Preston.

4.98 There are bus stations in both Wigan and Leigh town centres with networks of services radiating out to our other town and local centres and town centres in adjacent districts.

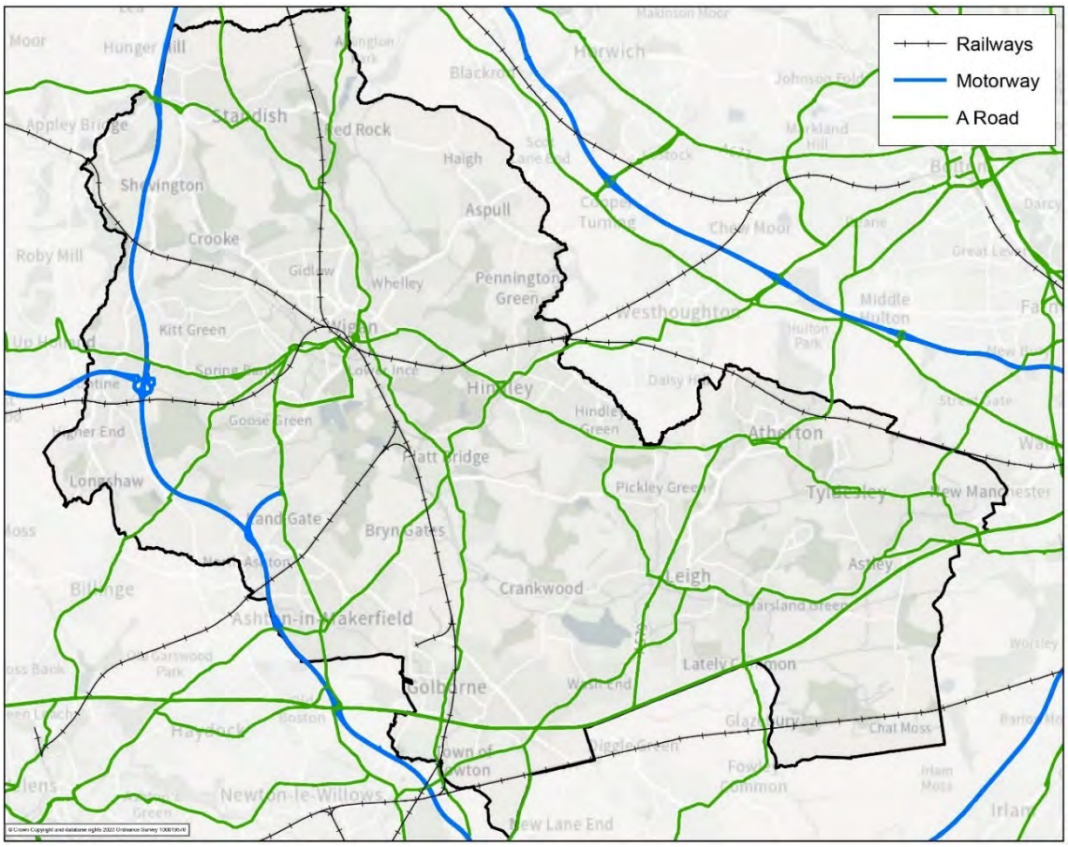
4.99 The Leigh-Salford-Manchester Busway opened in April 2016, providing guided and bus rapid transit connections from Leigh via Tyldesley to Salford and Manchester. This has provided much improved access from the east of the borough to jobs, the universities and services in the city centre. Statistics from Transport for Greater Manchester show that more than 7.8 million passenger journeys were made on the busway within its first 5 years of operation.

4.100 The borough’s road network is largely based on the 19th century network with single carriageways, 30 mph speed limits and relatively few new routes or significant widening schemes. This gives rise to congestion along key routes at peak times. It impacts adversely on the perception of the borough for economic investment and affects amenity and environmental quality.

4.101 Conditions for walking and cycling on or adjacent to such routes are generally poor. A programme of improvements to the network has begun to aid traffic flows as well as off road walking any cycling routes. In recent years the A49 link road has been completed improving access into Wigan Town Centre to the south. In Standish, a former mineral railway line has been upgraded to enable easier walking and cycling for residents into the centre of Standish in an attempt to reduce the number of short car journeys in the area.

4.102 Wigan Borough Council are responsible for the maintenance of over 480km of public rights of way (PRoW) in the borough, which includes footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways open to all traffic. The borough also has a number of towpaths running alongside the canals, as well as leisure paths within parks and recreational areas, and greenways that are usually along railway lines. These all allow for a level of connectivity through the borough and provide the opportunity for active transportation engagement.

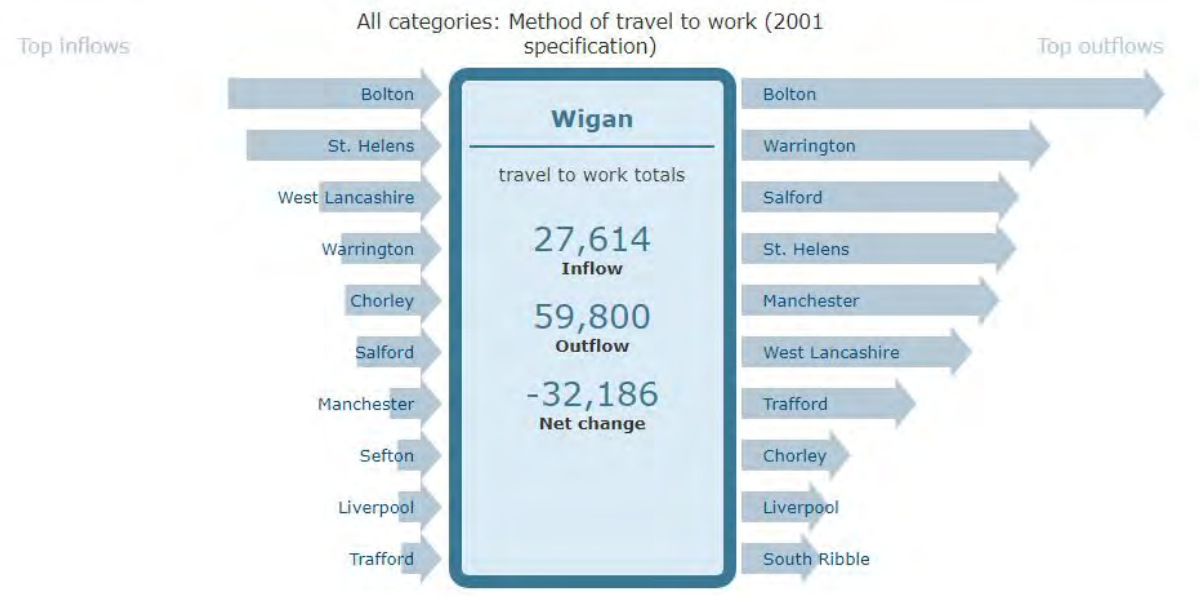
Figure 4.41: Key road and rail links across the borough



4.103 The borough has good external road links but, as with rail, has not capitalised fully on the opportunities presented. The M6 motorway runs through the west of the borough with six connecting junctions (although two provide access only in one direction). The M62 motorway is one junction south of the borough along the M6. The M61 provides a further connection between these two motorways, close to the borough's north-eastern boundary. The M58 motorway connects Wigan westwards to Liverpool and directly into Liverpool docks. The dual carriageway A580 East Lancashire Road between Manchester and Liverpool runs along the borough's southern boundary and is a key strategic connection for Golborne, Lowton, Leigh and Astley.

4.104 Figure 4.42 overleaf shows the travel to work totals for Wigan. It demonstrates most people travel out of the borough to access employment opportunities, and likely use the key road and rail links indicated in Figure 4.41.

Figure 4.42: Travel habits in Wigan.



Bus and rail service use

4.105 Table 4.10 shows the proportion of trips by different modes into Wigan town centre during the AM peak in 2011, 2019, 2020 and 2021. Figures for 2022 are not yet available.

Table 4.10: Trips into Wigan Town Centre, AM peak (07:30 - 09:30), 2011-2021

Mode	Proportion of trips				% change			
	2011	2019	2020	2021	2011-19	2019-20	2020-21	2011-21
Bus	25%	23%	17%	24%	-2%	-6%	7%	-1%
Rail	11%	8%	10%	6%	-3%	2%	-4%	-5%
Walk	26%	31%	32%	30%	5%	1%	-2%	4%
Cycle	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%
Car	37%	38%	40%	39%	1%	2%	-1%	2%
Total trips	9,481	9,155	8,377	6,104	-326	-778	-2,273	-3,377
					-3%	-8%	-27%	-36%

Source: TfGM Highways Forecasting and Analytical Service

4.106 These timeframes allow an assessment on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on travel patterns and behaviours into Wigan town centre during 2020 and 2021. The 2020 surveys were undertaken during the Covid-19 outbreak. The 2021 surveys were undertaken when there was no lockdown in place and educational establishments had reopened, however, higher education had partially moved online, and homeworking was advised where possible.

4.107 Unsurprisingly, Table 4.10 shows a notable reduction in the number of trips into Wigan town centre during 2019-20 (-8%) and 2020-21 (-27%).

4.108 As a proportion, it shows a 6% reduction in bus use in 2019-20 and a 4% reduction in rail use in 2020-21. However, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on bus and rail service use into Wigan town centre is much better shown in Table 4.11 overleaf which shows actual change by mode rather than proportional change.

Table 4.11: Percentage change by mode of trip into Wigan town centre (2019-21)

Mode	2019-20	2020-21	2019-21
Bus	-32%	3%	-30%
Rail	14%	-56%	-50%
Walk	-6%	-32%	-35%
Car	-4%	-29%	-32%
Total trips	-778	-2,273	-3,051
	-8%	-27%	-33%

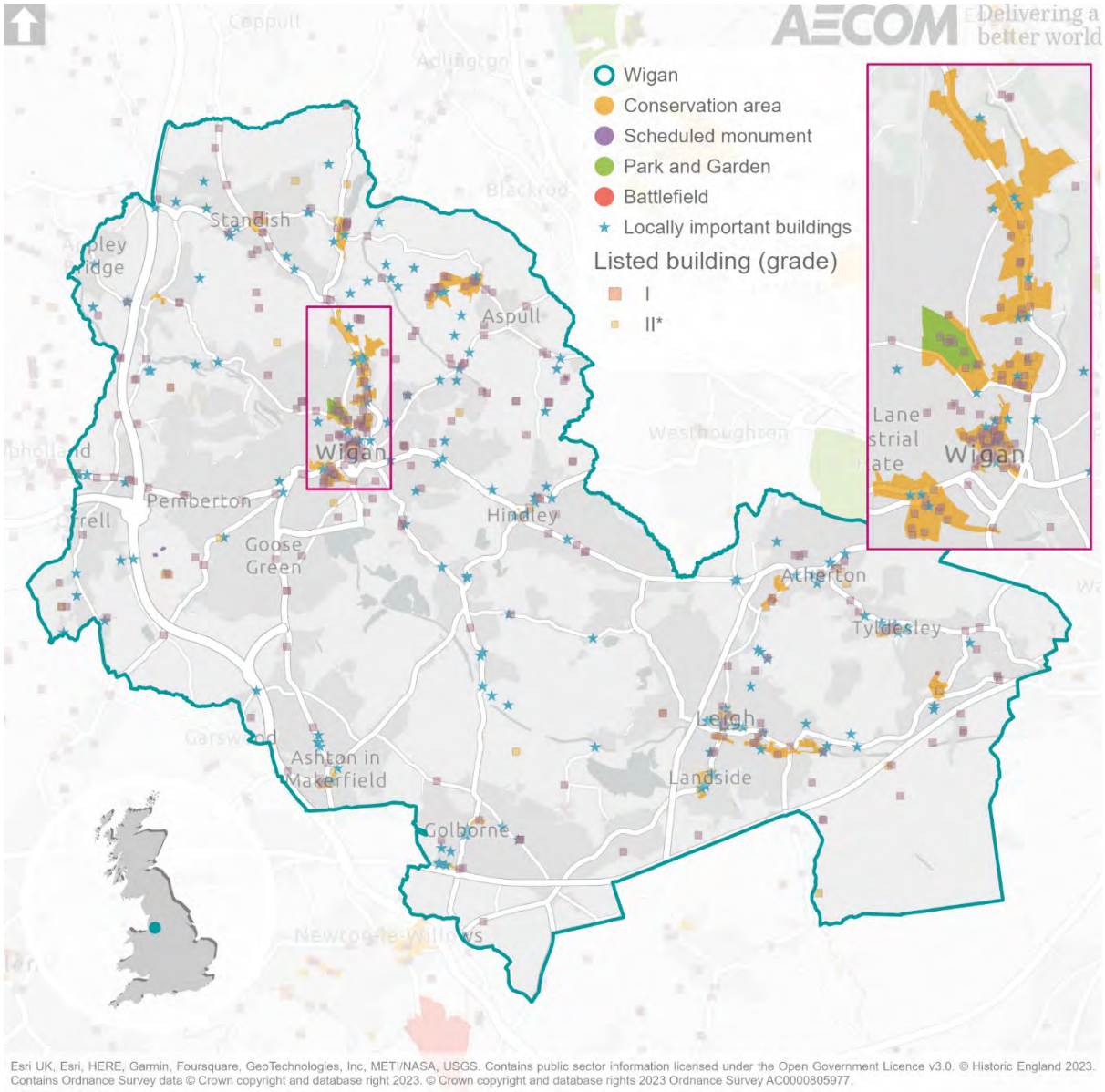
Source: Wigan Council calculations based on data from TfGM Highways Forecasting and Analytical Service

4.109 Table 4.11 shows that trips into Wigan town centre by bus and rail reduced significantly in the period 2019-21, by 30% and 50% respectively. This equates to a reduction of around 640 trips by bus and 370 trips by rail.

4.110 The number of trips on foot and by car also fell by around one third, equating to a reduction of around 1,000 and 1,100 trips respectively.

Cultural heritage

Figure 4.43: Historic environment designations in Wigan



4.111 There is evidence of prehistoric activity in the borough through occasional finds of stone tools and equipment. Major Roman roads crossed the borough, and Wigan itself is likely located in the same position as a Roman settlement known as Coccium. Roman remains have been discovered around The Wiend in Wigan town centre. Pre-industrial history is represented by disparate settlements in the form of large farmsteads or small halls which would have originally been supported by the agricultural produce of the surrounding area. Such settlements still retain their historic names such as Light Oaks Hall and Byrom Hall. These often belonged to local yeoman families but became isolated as the borough industrialised and they are now easily overlooked remnants of the medieval borough.

4.112 Wigan's rich and varied history is shown through the following designated heritage assets:

- One Grade I listed building, 31 Grade II* listed buildings and 320 Grade II listed buildings.
- 23 conservation areas.
- 12 Scheduled Monuments.
- 1 National Registered Park and Garden.

4.113 It is noted that the Historic England search tool indicates there are two registered parks and gardens within the borough. Upon further analysis, only the Grade II Mesnes Park is located within the borough – the Grade II Hulton Park is adjacent to the borough boundary in the east.

4.114 Much of the borough's historic environment is not designated but it still retains a degree of significance for residents. Many buildings and areas of historic interest are important to the local community. For example, sport is an important part of the historic identify of Wigan Borough, especially rugby league and football. Although many of the historic structures related to sports are gone, the places, social clubs and pubs still survive and are important community assets with great communal value. Many organisations and social groups utilise our built heritage to support their work.

Landscape

4.115 Wigan is seen today as a mainly post-industrial town, with its urban core the legacy of the 19th Century. It has, however, more complex origins than the Industrial Revolution. Wigan sits in a varied agricultural landscape, influenced as much by the town and its needs as by nature itself. Throughout the entire area of the borough the evidence of the Industrial Revolution is rarely far away.

4.116 The borough has a number of strategically important routes passing through it, many of historic interest. The A49, running north-south is a former Roman Road and the principal north-south route through northwest England until the construction of the M6. The main west coast railway line also runs north-south through the area. The Leeds Liverpool and the Bridgewater Canals also pass through the area from east to west, ascending the Douglas valley via a steep series of locks to exit the Wigan basin to the north-west. The East Lancashire Road (A580) is a major arterial route and passes east-west to the south of the Borough, in part along the borough boundary.

4.117 The borough includes a series of smaller settlements mainly situated within the lower lying areas of the Makerfield Basin. These notably include the settlement areas of Hindley, Leigh, Atherton, Tyldesley, Golborne and Ashton-in-Makerfield. Important villages on the higher land to the west include Billinge and Orrell with Standish on higher land to the north and Aspull on higher land to the east. Settlements within the Makerfield Basin have in many areas become linked together because of the building associated with industrial development of the area. The Makerfield Basin is generally open in nature, with several smaller settlements at its heart, including Abram, Bamfurlong and Platt Bridge.

4.118 The Wigan area is closely associated with the coal industry, which appears to have begun on an industrial scale around 1450 and grew massively during the Industrial Revolution and into the late 20th Century before being closed in the early 1990s. No town in the north-west is so closely associated with coal as Wigan and no landscape in Britain has been so radically affected by the extraction of coal and its associated industries.

4.119 The coal industry changed the landscape of Wigan immeasurably, in a way which no other industry could ever do, with giant spoil heaps being formed and 'flashes' forming as a result of subsidence. Opencast mining took place on a wide scale and railways were being constructed almost everywhere to take the coal to the main rail lines. Wigan engineering firms built locomotives, pumps, winding gear and other associated equipment to extract the coal.

4.120 There is a COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) site within Standish in the northern part of the borough. These areas are designated to prevent major accidents involving dangerous substances and to mitigate the effects of people and the environment of those that do occur[32]. The COMAH site in Standish is operated by Bitrez Limited for chemical manufacture / production and / or disposal – the dangerous substances are toxic and hazardous to aquatic life[33].It

[32] https://www.hse.gov.uk/comah/notification/index.htm
[33] https://notifications.hse.gov.uk/COMAH2015/PublicInformation.aspx?piid=3461

will be important to make sure this site is considered as an issue to ensure no inappropriate development is steered towards it to ensure the maintained integrity of the surrounding landscape.

4.121 The fundamental aim of greenbelt land is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land open, and it serves five purposes:

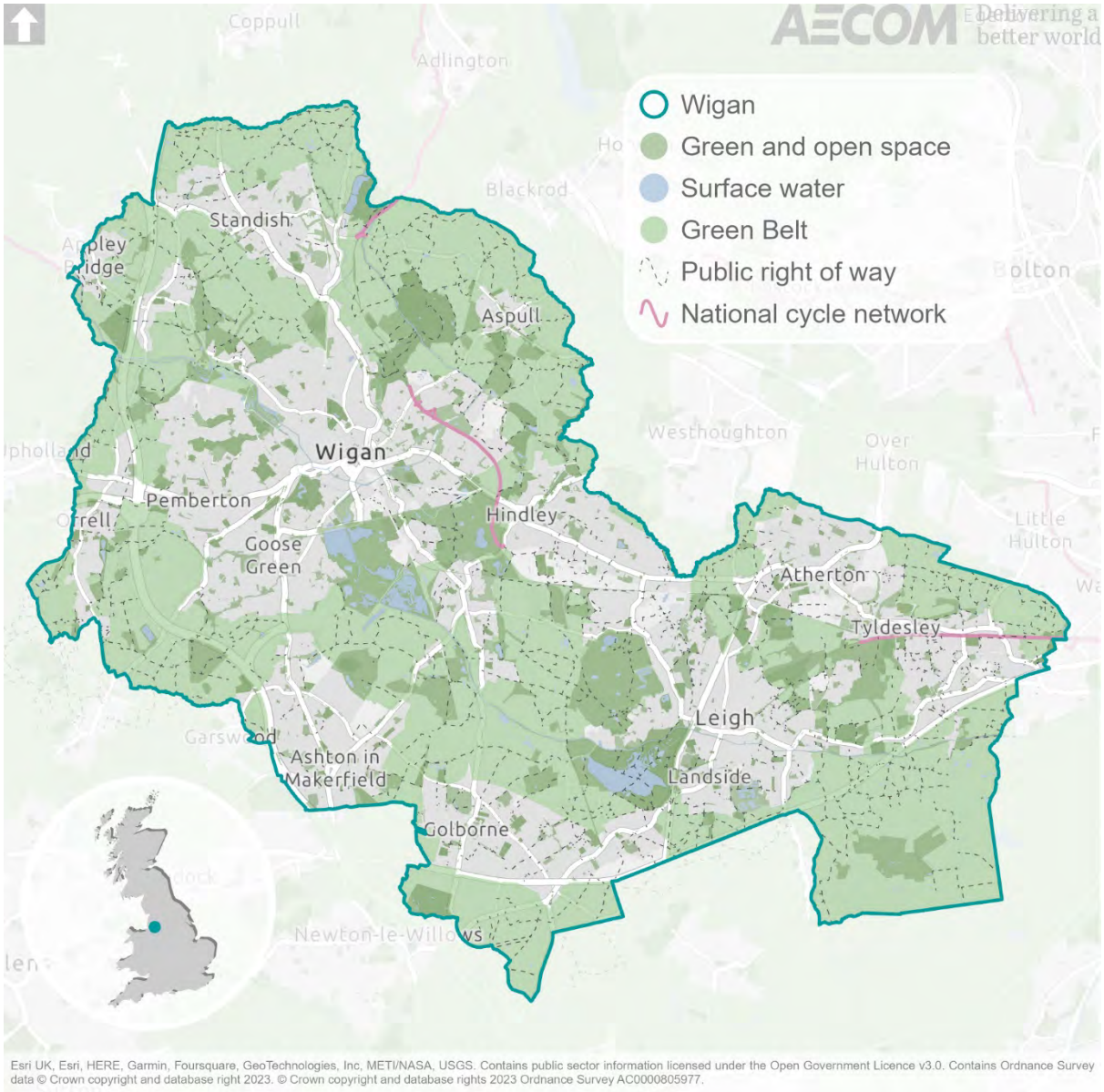
- To check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas.
- To prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another.
- To assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment.
- To preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
- To assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

4.122 Once green belt land has been defined, local planning authorities should plan to enhance their beneficial use. Green belt boundaries should only be altered where exceptional circumstances are fully evidenced and justified; where change is needed, strategic policies should be put in place to ensure boundary endurance beyond the plan period[34].

4.123 Figure 4.44 overleaf shows the green belt land in Wigan, as well as green and blue infrastructure that contributes to the landscape quality. It shows that the majority of the undeveloped land in the borough is within the green belt, and / or has a level of green and blue infrastructure. This infers the undeveloped land in the borough could be of high landscape quality and high landscape sensitivity.

[34] GOV.UK (2021) 'Local authority green belt statistics for England: 2020-21 – statistical release' can be accessed here.

Figure 4.44: Green belt and green and blue infrastructure in Wigan.



4.124 According to the Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment[35], Wigan has a number of landscape character types, including: urban fringe farmland, historic parks and wooded estate farmland, incised urban fringe valleys, reclaimed land / wetlands, and mosslands and lowland farmland. These types fit into several landscape character areas:

- Standish Crest, Blackrod and Westhoughton.
- Haigh, Top Lock and Hindley Hall.
- River Douglas.
- Orrell, Shevington and Standish.

[35] https://greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning-and-housing/places-for-everyone/supporting-documents/?folder=%5C07%20Greener%20Places#fList

- Bispham, Winstanley and Land Gate.
- Wigan Flashes.
- Westhoughton to Marsland Green.
- South Wigan and Salford Mosslands; and
- Lever Edge and Tyldesley.

4.125 The landscape character assessment also examines the sensitivity of these landscape character areas through two different scenarios, the results of which are presented in Table 4.12 overleaf. It is noted that most of the local character areas are within overlapping local character types. These sensitivities are also presented visually in Figure 4.45 and Figure 4.46.

Table 4.12: Sensitivity of the different landscape character areas in Wigan

Landscape character area	Landscape character type	Scenario 1	Scenario 2
		2-3 storey residential developments	Commercial / industrial developments
South Wigan and Salford Mosses	Mosslands and lowland farmland	Medium	Medium
	Reclaimed land / wetlands	Low – medium	Medium
	Urban Fringe Farmland	Medium	Medium - high
Westhoughton to Marsland Green	Historic Parks and Wooded Estate Farmland	Medium – high	High
	Reclaimed land / wetlands	Low – medium	Medium
3 Wigan Flashes	Reclaimed land / wetlands	Medium	Medium
4 Bispham, Winstanley and Land Gate	Historic Parks and Wooded Estate Farmland	Medium – high	High
	Urban Fringe Farmland	Medium	Medium - high
Orrell, Shevington and Standish	Historic Parks and Wooded Estate Farmland	Medium – high	High
	Urban Fringe Farmland	Medium	Medium - high
6 River Douglas	Incised Urban Fringe Valleys	Medium – high	High

Haigh, Top Lock and Hindley Hall	Historic Parks and Wooded Estate Farmland	Medium – high	High
	Reclaimed land / wetlands	Low – medium	Medium
Standish Crest, Blackrod and Westhoughton	Urban Fringe Farmland	Medium	Medium - high
	Reclaimed land / wetlands	Low – medium	Medium
10 Lever Edge and Tyldesley	Urban Fringe Farmland	Medium	Medium - high

Figure 4.45: Landscape sensitivity to housing development in Wigan

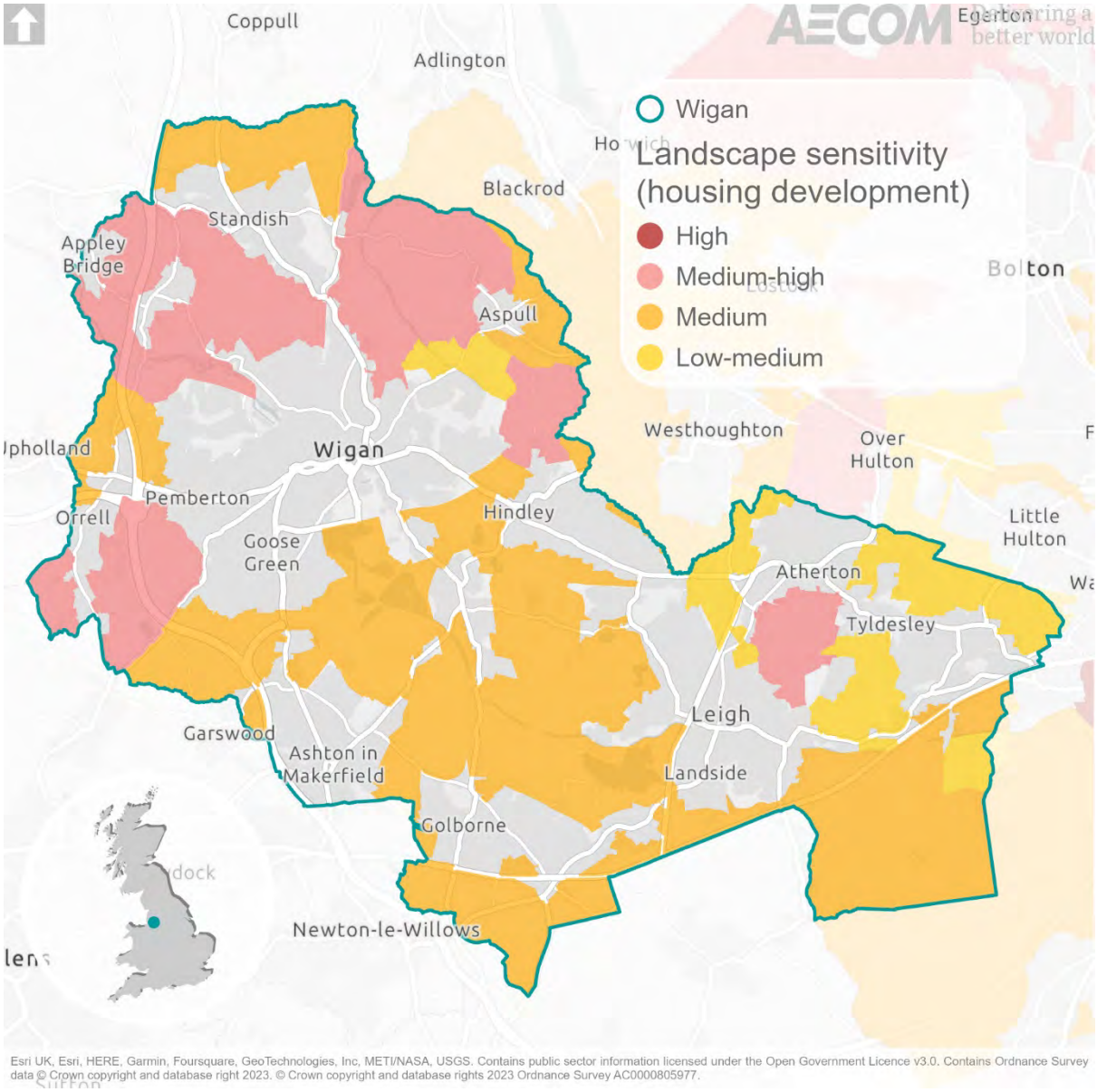
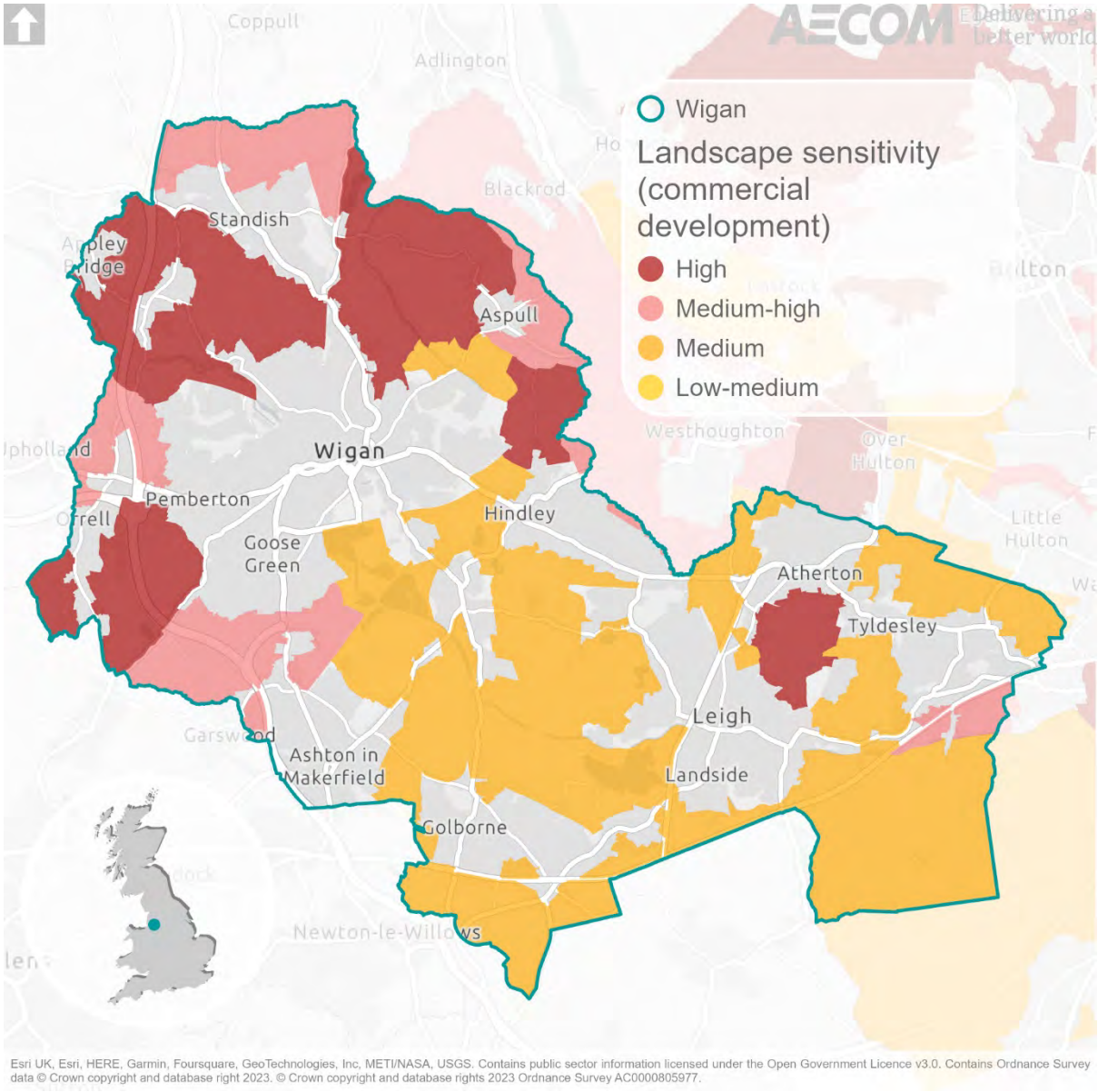


Figure 4.46: Landscape sensitivity to commercial development in Wigan



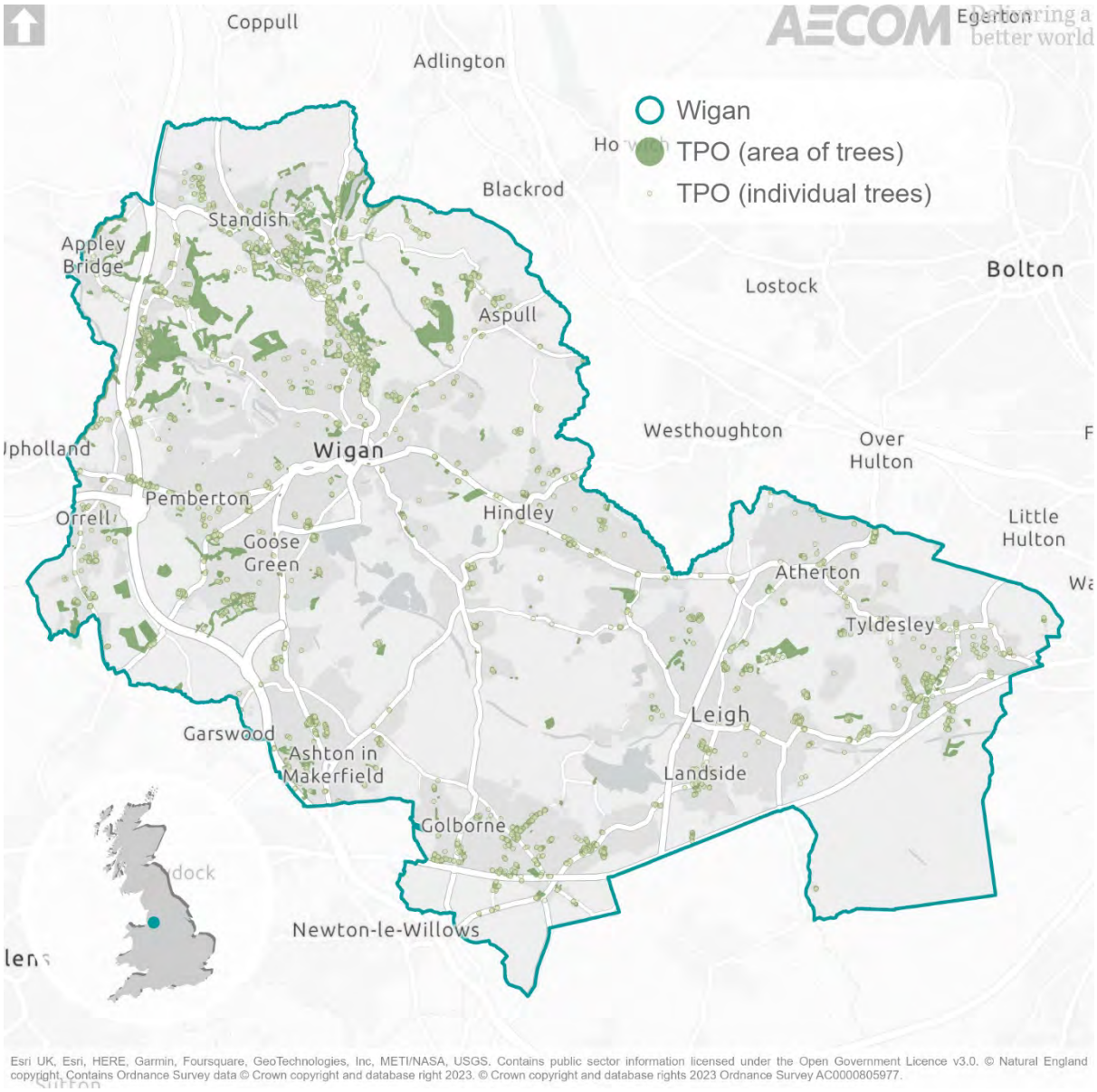
4.126 Implemented by local planning authorities, Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are designated to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands in the interests of their amenity value. When considering 'amenity; the local planning authority will likely take into consideration the following criteria[36]:

- Visibility: the extent to which the trees or woodlands can be seen by the public; and
- Individual, collective, and wider impact: considering the importance of the trees or woodlands in relation to their cultural or historic value, contribution to and relationship with the landscape and / or their contribution to the character or appearance of a conservation area.

[36] GOV.UK (2014): 'Tree Protection Orders – General' can be accessed here.

4.127 Figure 4.47 shows the location of TPOs in the borough. It indicates there are more TPOs in the northern part of the borough, particularly around Standish.

Figure 4.47: Tree preservation orders within Wigan



5 Stage A3 (Part 1): Key sustainability issues

5.1 The IA process requires the identification of environmental, economic and social issues affecting Wigan. This is informed by information from a range of sources including:

- Issues and objectives identified in relevant plans and policies.
- Baseline data for Wigan.
- Community and stakeholder consultation.

5.2 The social, environmental and economic issues identified in the IA will inform the development of the IA Framework and the scope of the Local Plan review.

5.3 These key 'sustainability issues' identified in Wigan are listed below:

	Key Sustainability Issues
	Social
1	Wigan has an increasing older age profile. This will have implications for the types of development and services that will be required to meet the needs of society.
2	Wigan has higher levels of deprivation than the UK average, however there are some areas of significant deprivation in the borough.
3	There is a need to make sure that Wigan has ingrained equality and social inclusion.
4	There are significant health inequalities between parts of Wigan.
5	There is a need to maintain and enhance connectivity with nature, helping people and communities engage with the natural environment. This will help tackle inequalities in access and improve lives.
6	The housing needs of Wigan are diverse, creating demand for a variety of housing types, tenures, and affordability.
7	Residents of Wigan have a high reliance on private vehicles; this must change by reducing the need to travel and promoting and encouraging sustainable forms of transport, especially walking, cycling and public transport.
8	The ability to easily access jobs, public transport, and services and facilities needs to be increased throughout Wigan. This will contribute to the creation of sustainable and more self-contained communities and reduce the need to travel by private vehicle.
9	There are some crime hot-spots and areas where public confidence in community safety needs to be improved.
10	There is strong perception that there is a capacity issue with certain infrastructure services and facilities in some communities of the Borough.

	Key Sustainability Issues
11	Wigan has an increasing older age profile. This will have implications for the types of development and services that will be required to meet the needs of society.
	Environmental
12	The world's climate is changing and will have implications for Wigan. The causes and effects of climate change need to be reduced and adapted to.
13	Water quality, quantity and flood risk need to be managed so that there is adequate supply for existing and future needs whilst ensuring that flood risk is minimised. This could include nature based solutions, which have the added benefit of enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity whilst improving flood resilience. Future climate change risks should also be taken into account.
14	Biodiversity and geodiversity are very important in Wigan and there is a need to conserve and enhance both.
15	Air quality is a general concern across the borough and needs to be managed, particularly related to road traffic.
16	Agricultural land quality in Wigan is generally low. However, there is a need to retain productive agricultural land available in the Borough to maintain local food production.
17	There is a need to conserve and enhance the Borough's heritage assets.
18	The average consumption of both gas and electricity in Wigan are above the regional and national averages. This increases the need to promote energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy technologies in new and existing development.
19	The amount of waste produced by each household in Wigan is relatively high. Although a large percentage is recycled, the amount of residual waste remains an issue.
20	The re-use or redevelopment of previously developed land, buildings and infrastructure should be prioritised over development of greenfield sites, wherever possible.
21	Green and blue infrastructure and open spaces are a valuable resource. The borough has a good supply of informal open spaces but there may be challenges around access to some formal provision.
22	There is need to use land resources efficiently and effectively to increase sustainability in the short, medium, and long term.
	Economic
23	There is a need to ensure a higher value, competitive, and low-carbon economy that benefits from a range of innovative and diverse businesses.

	Key Sustainability Issues
24	There is a need to maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of town and local centres with a balanced provision of retail, leisure, visitor, cultural facilities and residential as appropriate.
25	Wigan residents generally have a lower level of higher-level qualifications than the regional average. However, there are significant disparities between educational attainment across the Borough.
26	A higher percentage of Wigan residents are unemployed than the average for the northwest and nationally. However, unemployment remains an issue as does the higher levels of residents commuting outside Wigan for work rather than in.
27	Workplace-based earnings in the borough have consistently been below the national and GM average over the past decade (currently 12% and 6% respectively). Resident-based earnings fare better (6% below the national average and on par with the GM average). This reflects a lower paid employment offer and a high proportion of residents commuting out the borough for work.
28	Wigan has a low proportion of people employed in high value sectors and a high proportion of people employed in low value sectors.

6 Stage A3 (Part 2): Objectives

6.1 Building on the identification of key sustainability issues, a series of sustainability objectives have been identified that form the basis of an impact assessment framework. The key sustainability objectives listed below reflect the key issues and are designed to provide a suitable basis for which the effects of the Plan can be 'appraised against'. The objectives have been refined following consultation on a draft Scoping Report with the Statutory Consultees to reflect their feedback (as well as further consideration of the key issues and approach to appraisal).

	Key Sustainability Objectives
1	**Housing:** To provide an appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
2	**Health and community**: Enable and support people to be active, safe and healthy by ensuring good access to a range of services / facilities and the natural environment, and creation of well designed, inclusive and beautiful places.
3	**Equality and diversity:** To provide equality of opportunity for people with a protected characteristic whilst celebrating diversity.
4	**Climate change:** To adapt to, mitigate and be resilient to the impacts of climate change.

	Key Sustainability Objectives
5	**Water:** To positively address the issues of water quality and quantity and manage flood risk.
6	**Environmental quality:** To minimise the adverse impacts of development on environmental resources and amenity.
7	**Historic Environment:** To protect and enhance the quality, integrity and distinctiveness of the historic environment of Wigan.
8	**Landscapes and townscapes:** To protect and enhance the quality, integrity and distinctiveness of the borough's landscapes and townscapes.
9	**Biodiversity and geodiversity:** To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, ensuring that current ecological networks and future improvements in habitat connectivity are not compromised.
10	**Resource efficiency:** To improve resource efficiency in design, construction and operation, increase energy generation from renewable sources and support the circular economy.
11	**Land and soil resources:** Protect, preserve and promote the efficient use of land, soil and other natural resources.
12	**Transportation:** To support the delivery of an improved and integrated transport system that provides good alternative choices to travel by car.
13	**Economy:** To support the development of an innovative, diverse, competitive, higher value and low-carbon economy locally that supports job growth and good access to jobs training and education.
14	**Town and local centres:** To improve the vitality and viability of our town and local centres.

7 Stage A4: Developing the Integrated Assessment Framework

7.1 The Integrated Appraisal Framework is at the centre of the IA process. It provides a way in which the social, economic, and environmental effects of a plan, as well as the health and equality impacts, can be described, analysed and compared, with the intention of delivering sustainable communities.

7.2 The aim of the IA Framework is to offer a consistent methodology for the appraisal of the effects of the plan and should produce results that allow direct (consistent) comparison between various options.

7.3 The IA Framework (see Table 7.1) consists of the sustainability objectives identified for Wigan in Section 6 along with a more detailed series of criteria / questions.

7.4 The intention is not for every aspect of the Plan to be appraised against every criteria within the IA Framework. Rather, the criteria help guide the assessment of how a plan (and options) performs against each of the objectives.

Table 7.1: Integrated Assessment Framework

	Objective	Criteria
1	**Housing** To provide an appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.	Will it provide an appropriate quantity of new homes to meet needs?
		Will it provide an appropriate mix of housing types and tenures?
		Will it deliver sufficient affordable housing?
		Will it provide housing of the right quality in the right locations?
2	**Health and community** Enable and support people to be active, safe and healthy by ensuring good access to a range of services / facilities and the natural environment, and creation of well designed, inclusive and beautiful places.	Will it ensure that utilities / digital infrastructure can meet needs and requirements?
		Will it maintain or enhance necessary local services and facilities, including food shops, cafes, healthcare, community halls, libraries and places of worship?
		Will it secure design that prevents and discourages crime and anti-social behaviour and helps reduce the fear of crime?
		Will it reduce road danger?
		Will it provide equality of opportunity to access places and infrastructure?
		Will it promote high quality, beautiful, locally distinctive design.
		Will it shape or make places that people want to live in, work in and spend time in?
		Will it provide a safe and welcoming environment to support and enable children to play, be active and stay well?
		Will it engage young people to live actively and stay well?
		Will it enable people of working age to live actively and stay well
		Will it support active aging and enable people to be healthier for longer?

	Objective	Criteria
		Will it enable good access for all to good quality open and green spaces, sport and recreation provision?
		Will it create people orientated places?
		Will it create places where people can meet and interact?
3	**Equality and diversity** To provide equality of opportunity for people with a protected characteristic whilst celebrating diversity.	Will it provide equality of opportunity for people of all ages?
		Will it provide equality of opportunity for disabled people?
		Will it provide equality of opportunity for men, women, non-binary and intersex people?
		Will it provide equality of opportunity for people of different race or ethnicity?
		Will it provide equality of opportunity for people who are married or in a civil partnership?
		Will it provide equality of opportunity for pregnant women or those on maternity leave?
		Will it provide equality of opportunity for people of different religions and beliefs?
		Will it provide equality of opportunity for people of different sexual orientation?
		Will it provide equality of opportunity for people who identify as a different gender to the gender they were assigned at birth and/or are under gender reassignment?
		Will it provide equality of opportunity for people in, or formerly in, the Armed Forces?
		Will it provide equality of opportunity for people who are carers?
		Will it provide equality of opportunity for looked after children and care leavers?

	Objective	Criteria
		Will it provide equality of opportunity for people who are socio-economically disadvantaged?
4	**Climate Change** To adapt to, mitigate and be resilient to the impacts of climate change.	Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide and methane?
		Will it support the Council's ambitions to become net zero carbon by 2038?
		Will it reduce the effect of urban heat islands?
		Will it increase resilience to extreme weather events and longer-term rising temperatures?
5	**Water** To positively address the issues of water quality and quantity and manage flood risk.	Will it maintain and improve the quality of ground and surface waters?
		Will it minimise risk to people, property and ecosystems from flooding, including the increased risks as a result of climate change?
		Will it maintain the integrity of the functional flood plain?
		Will it contribute to the objectives of the Water Framework Directive and / or impact on the status of a designated waterbody?
6	**Environmental quality** To minimise the adverse impacts of development on environmental resources and amenity.	Will it contribute positively to the management of air pollution and harmful emissions, particularly in Air Quality Management Areas?
		Will it minimise adverse impacts arising from noise or light?
		Will it minimise adverse impacts upon amenity due to neighbouring land uses?

	Objective	Criteria
7	**Historic Environment** To protect and enhance the quality, integrity and distinctiveness of the historic environment of Wigan.	Will it protect the historic environment, including the significance of designated heritage assets and their setting?
8	**Landscapes and townscapes** To protect and enhance the quality, integrity and distinctiveness of the borough's landscapes and townscapes.	Will it maintain or enhance the borough's distinctive landscapes and townscapes?
		Will it avoid the release and development of greenbelt land?
9	**Biodiversity and geodiversity** To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, ensuring that current ecological networks and future improvements in habitat connectivity are not compromised.	Will it protect, restore and/or enhance the most sensitive biodiversity habitats as a priority?
		Will there be a net gain in biodiversity of at least 10%?
		Will it avoid the loss of biodiversity before applying mitigation and finally compensation?
		Will it restore, create or enhance habitats for pollinators?
		Will it protect or enhance geodiversity and geological sites and features?
		Will it protect or enhance designated ecological sites or species, including those at risk?
		Will its support and enhance existing multifunctional green infrastructure and / or contribute towards the creation of new multifunctional green infrastructure?
		Will it ensure current ecological and future improvements in habitat connectivity are not compromised?
		Will it protect peatland areas?

	Objective	Criteria
10	**Resource efficiency** To improve resource efficiency in design, construction and operation, increase energy generation from renewable sources and support the circular economy.	Will it encourage the efficient use of energy?
		Will it promote and encourage the use of renewable energy?
		Will it promote the principles of the circular economy and help to minimise waste?
		Will it encourage sustainable methods of development and use?
11	**Land and soil resources** Protect, preserve and promote the efficient use of land, soil and other natural resources.	Will it maintain and enhance the integrity of soil?
		Will it protect best and most versatile agricultural land?
		Will it encourage the efficient use of land including the re-use of previously developed land, buildings and infrastructure?
		Will it contribute positively to the management of contaminated land / make sure additional contamination does not occur?
		Will it encourage the positive remediation of sites?
		Will it reduce the use, or result in efficient consumption, of natural resources?
		Will it protect important mineral resources and infrastructure from sterilisation?
12	**Transportation** To support the delivery of an improved and integrated transport system that provides good alternative choices to travel by car.	Will it ensure that the transport network can support and enable the anticipated scale and spatial distribution of development?
		Will it promote a safe and sustainable public transport network that reduces reliance on private motor vehicles?
		Will it facilitate active travel?

	Objective	Criteria
		Will it reduce the need to travel?
		Will it promote integration within transport modes and connectivity between them?
13	**Economy** To support the development of an innovative, diverse, competitive, higher value and low-carbon economy locally that supports job growth and good access to jobs training and education.	Will it result in sustainable economic growth, including creating opportunities for frontier sectors and the consolidation of foundation sectors?
		Will it contribute to the achievement of a competitive, low-carbon economy?
		Will it reduce the number of people living in deprivation and support reductions in poverty and disparity across the borough?
		Will it help ensure economic inclusion and the retention of wealth in the Wigan economy?
		Will it promote a diverse range of business types?
		Will it provide jobs in accessible locations?
		Will it ensure provision of facilities to meet learning needs?
14	**Town and local centres** To improve the vitality and viability of our town and local centres.	Will it enhance the viability and vitality of town centres?
		Will it create a good mix of retail, leisure, visitor, and cultural facilities?
		Will it enhance the viability and vitality of local centres?

8 Compatibility of Objectives

8.1 Figure 8.1 overleaf sets out the findings from a high-level compatibility exercise to compare the Integrated Appraisal objectives with the draft Plan objectives. This exercise helps to identify any potential incompatibilities between the broad aims and objectives of the Plan and the IA Objectives at an early stage.

8.2 The draft Plan proposed strategic objectives are replicated below.

- **Homes:** To ensure that new housing provides a range of options to suit residents' needs, including affordable homes and specialist housing, and is supported by the right infrastructure including transport links, access to schools and greenspaces.

- **Jobs:** To attract and grow businesses which support our strong and growing sectors, improve access to training and provide meaningful career opportunities for residents.

- **Town and district centres:** To support our town and district centres to thrive and become vibrant and attractive spaces where people choose to spend their time.

- **Transport:** To enable everyone to travel safely and conveniently when they need to or want to.

- **Places:** To help create thriving and sustainable communities through high standards of design, conserving the best of the past, incorporating good landscaping and making inclusive and safe places where people want to be.

- **Environment:** To ensure that new development responds to climate change positively, by utilising greener building methods, and encouraging more wildlife by protecting and improving our greenspaces.

- **People:** To help people to live healthier and happier lives by increasing opportunities to be physically active, engaged and develop their knowledge and skills.

Key

+	Compatible
-	No link / insignificant link
?	Potentially incompatible / compatible
!	Incompatible

Figure 8.1: Compatibility matrix for the IA Objectives and the draft Plan Strategic Objectives

	IA Objectives													
Strategic Objectives	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**
Homes	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-
Jobs	+	+	?	?	-	?	?	?	+	-	?	?	+	+
Town and district centres	+	+	+	-	-	?	?	+	-	+	+	+	+	+
Transport	+	+	+	?	-	?	-	-	-	?	?	?	+	?
Places	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
Environment	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-
People	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+

8.3 The compatibility exercise highlights that there are no Plan objectives that are outright incompatible with the Integrated Appraisal objectives. Therefore, at this initial stage, it is considered possible for the Plan objectives to be achieved without giving rise to significant negative effects.

8.4 In many instances, the objectives are clearly compatible, and it is likely that positive effects will arise as a result of the Plan. However, there are some uncertainties in relation to 4 of the strategic objectives as the eventual effects will be dependent upon the subsequent policy direction taken in the Plan. It is therefore more difficult at this stage to say that the strategic objectives are likely to lead to negative or positive effects (or both).

8.5 The Housing strategic objective is broadly compatible with a range of IA Objectives, or has no significant link. There are clear synergies in terms of delivering housing and improvements to health and community. There are also likely economic benefits, and support for vibrant town and local centres.

8.6 A Strategic Objective with a higher degree of uncertainty is that relating to jobs. The effects in relation to several IA Objectives will be dependent upon the location type and amount of employment growth that is proposed. It is unclear at this stage whether additional employment land will be required, and where this would be located; but it is possible that this could involve greenfield land, potentially lead to increased vehicle movements and lead to environmental quality concerns (air quality, amenity etc). These are issues that will need to be explored as the plan making process progresses.

8.7 Uncertainty also exists in relation to the Transport strategic objective. The objective seeks to improve accessibility and ‘convenience’ when travelling, but there is no guarantee this would be through sustainable and active modes of travel. As such, there is some uncertainty as to whether the transport objective is fully compatible with IA objectives seeking to promote sustainable travel, minimise unnecessary trips, tackle climate change mitigation and improve resource efficiency.

8.8 ‘Convenient’ travel could also be incompatible with objectives relating to town and local centres as many facilities across the borough arguably rely upon car travel for convenient travel. It does not necessarily follow that this objective will lead to negative outcomes, but these matters will need to be explored through the IA as the plan policies emerge in greater detail. Conversely, a focus on safety, accessibility and convenient travel is likely to be inherently compatible with socio-economic objectives such as equality, health and economy.

8.9 There is less uncertainty associated with the Town and District Centres strategic Objective. This mainly relates to the potential for town centre activity to lead to changes to the built environment (both positive or negative), and also in terms of transport and air quality. Broadly speaking though, this strategic objective is compatible with a range of IA Objectives, particularly those that support housing and employment growth, good access to services and accessibility.

8.10 The ‘Places’ and ‘Environment’ strategic objectives are both considered to be very compatible with a wide range of the IA objectives, and therefore policy measures emanating from these objectives are likely to give rise to positive outcomes. The extent to which environmental enhancements can be secured through the new plan policies will be a key area to focus upon in this regard.

8.11 The ‘People’ objective has limited significance to most of the IA Objectives, but there are positive relationships in terms of reducing inequalities, improving health and securing infrastructure improvements. It will be important to explore the extent to which positive outcomes can be maximised as a result of ‘people’ related policies and actions.

9. Next steps

9.1 The IA Scoping Report represents the outcome of the initial stage of the IA process (Stage A). The report has been ‘finalised’ following a period of consultation with the statutory bodies in May 2023. Feedback received has been taken into consideration and helped to shape the scope / proposed methods for the next stages of the IA process.

9.2 However, scoping is not a static task and any important changes to the baseline position or policy context will be factored into the IA as the plan progresses towards submission.

9.3 The IA framework that has been established through scoping forms the basis of any appraisal work that is undertaken as the plan is developed, which often includes consideration of draft policies (including different options for achieving the Plan objectives).

9.4 Monitoring of predicted effects is an important way of tracking the predicted effects within the IA, as well as providing updates on key baseline indicators. Appropriate measures will be established in response to the appraisal findings as the local plan progresses. It is envisaged that indicators will reflect the Council ‘s existing monitoring regimes, suggestions made through consultation (including at scoping stage), and emerging indicators arising at a national level.

Appendix A: Review of relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives

Evidence Review - Housing

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
National				
Housing Act 2004	2004	HM Government	Reinforces the role of Councils as strategic enablers with an overview of both public and private sector properties in their area. The Act contains: Extra powers to regulate HMOs and certain other types of residential accommodation. Provision about mobile homes and the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers.	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
Housing and Planning Act 2016	2016	HM Government	Sets out measures to support the delivery of the Government's commitment to deliver new homes. The Act introduces a requirement for Council's to guarantee the provision of Starter Homes on all "reasonably sized" sites.	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill	2022/23	HM Government	New measures to strengthen commitment to building enough of the right homes in the right places with the right infrastructure. Housing targets remain but with new flexibilities to reflect local circumstances. New penalties proposed for slow developers failing to build already approved homes	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.

National Planning Policy Framework	July 2021	HM Government	Sets out national policy on: Determining the number of homes needed and assessing the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups, including the approach to be taken for affordable housing. Identifying land for homes including a five-year supply and sites or broad locations for growth for years 6-10 and, where possible, for years 11-15 of the plan. Maintaining the supply and delivery of homes	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites	2015	HM Government	Sets out national policy on traveller sites including: Using evidence to plan positively and manage development. Setting pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plot targets for travelling showpeople Identifying and updating annually a five-year supply of sites and sites or broad locations for growth for years 6 to 10 and where possible, for years 11 - 15	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
Planning Practice Guidance: Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment	March 2014, updated July 2019	HM Government	Sets out guidance on assessing housing and economic land availability	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
Planning Practice Guidance: Housing and Economic Needs Assessment	March 2015, updated	HM Government	Sets out guidance on how to assess housing needs	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.

	December 2020			
Planning Practice Guidance: Housing Supply and Delivery	July 2019	HM Government	Sets out guidance on demonstrating a five-year supply of housing and demonstrating a housing land supply beyond five years	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
Planning Practice Guidance: Housing Needs of Different Groups	July 2019, updated May 2021	HM Government	Sets out guidance on how to address the need for different types of housing in an area including private rented sector needs, self-build and custom housebuilding, student housing, rural housing and affordable housing	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
Planning Practice Guidance: Housing for Older and Disabled People	June 2019	HM Government	Sets out guidance on planning for the needs of older people	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
Planning Practice Guidance: Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding	April 2016, updated February 2021	HM Government	Sets out guidance on taking account of the demand for self-build and custom homes in plan making	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
Planning Practice Guidance: Housing Optional Technical Standards	March 2015	HM Government	Sets out guidance on setting optional technical standards in Local Plans relating to accessibility and wheelchair housing, water efficiency and internal space standards	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
Planning Practice Guidance: Build to Rent	September 2018	HM Government	Sets out guidance on planning for build for rent	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
Planning Practice Guidance: First Homes	May 2021, updated December 2021	HM Government	Sets out guidance on planning for First Homes	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
GM				

Greater Manchester Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment 2018	2018	GMCA	Analyses evidence to identify the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in Wigan and GM as a whole. It identifies current provision and sets pitch targets for Gypsies and Travellers and plot targets for Travelling Showpeople	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
Greater Manchester Strategic Housing Market Assessment	Update April 2021	GMCA	Provides an evidenced picture of the housing market in Greater Manchester including Wigan Calculates local housing need per year for Wigan and other GM authorities Provides evidence of the housing needs of particular groups of the population within Greater Manchester and Wigan	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
Greater Manchester Housing Strategy	June 2019	GMCA	Sets out strategic priorities for housing in Greater Manchester including Wigan	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
Local				
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Update 2022	2022	Wigan Council	Identifies sites with potential for housing development. Identifies a five-year supply of housing and potential sites for housing for years 6- 10 and 11 – 15	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
Wigan Housing Needs Assessment	2020	Wigan Council	Identifies the type and size of housing needs by tenure and household type, considers the need for affordable housing and the housing needs of specific groups within the borough	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
Wigan Borough Housing Strategy	2020	Wigan Council	Outlines plans and ambitions to ensure Wigan is providing high quality, affordable and accessible homes for all	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.

Wigan Borough Supported and Specialist Housing Prospectus	December 2021	Wigan Council	Sets out the nature and scale of need for supported and specialist housing in Wigan, identifying gaps in provision and the type of accommodation required	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
Housing Delivery: Delivering A Home for All	2023	Wigan Council	Provides information on the location, types and tenures of housing that is being delivered in Wigan, together with information on current and future direct delivery schemes	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
Wigan Town Centre Residential Development Prospectus	2020	Wigan Council	Sets out potential land for housing development in and on the edge of Wigan Town Centre in both public and private ownerships	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
Houses in Multiple Occupation, Guidance, Space and Amenity Standards		Wigan Council	Sets out standards for HMOs including space standards for bedrooms and communal rooms	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
Wigan Brownfield Land Register	2022	Wigan Council	Identifies brownfield sites with the potential to accommodate just under 7,700 homes across the borough	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.
Wigan Self-Build and Custom House Building Register		Wigan Council	Provides evidence relating to the demand for self-build and custom housebuilding plots in Wigan	Objective included to provide appropriate quantity and quality of new homes to meet needs.

Evidence Review – Jobs

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
National				
National Planning Policy Framework	July 2021	HM Government	Building a strong, competitive economy - paragraphs 81-83 Supporting a prosperous rural economy – paragraphs 84-85 Supporting high quality communications – paragraphs 114-118	Objective included to support the development of an innovative, diverse, competitive, higher value and low-carbon economy locally that supports job growth.
Planning Practice Guidance Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment	March 2014, updated July, 2019	HM Government	Sets out method for assessing housing and economic land availability.	Objective included to support the development of an innovative, diverse, competitive, higher value and low-carbon economy locally that supports job growth.
Planning Practice Guidance Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment	March 2015, updated July, 2019	HM Government	Guides councils in how to assess their housing and employment needs.	Objective included to support the development of an innovative, diverse, competitive, higher value and low-carbon economy locally that supports job growth.
Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review	2016	SQW	The Review characterises the North's economic position and the drivers underpinning its performance and identify opportunities where 'pan-Northern' effort can support existing 'local' activities. The NPH supported the development of the GM Local Industrial Strategy.	Objective included to support the development of an innovative, diverse, competitive, higher value and low-carbon economy locally that supports job growth.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
National Industrial Strategy	2017	HM Government	The National Industrial Strategy provides the national framework for the Greater Manchester's Local Industrial Strategy.	Objective included to support the development of an innovative, diverse, competitive, higher value and low-carbon economy locally that supports job growth.
Digital Connectivity Portal	2018	Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport	The Digital Connectivity Portal provides guidance for local authorities and network providers on improving connectivity in local areas.	Objective included to support the development of an innovative, diverse, competitive, higher value and low-carbon economy locally that supports job growth.
Build Back Better	2021	HM Government (Treasury)	This new strategy, Build Back Better: Our Plan for Growth, is designed to better reflect the economic reality of Covid-19 and the UK's exit from the European Union.	Objective included to support the development of an innovative, diverse, competitive, higher value and low-carbon economy locally that supports job growth.
Cities Outlook	2023	Centre for Cities	Provides a rigorous, data-driven research and policy ideas to help cities, large towns and Government address the challenges and opportunities they face – from boosting productivity and wages to preparing for the changing world of work	Objective included to support the development of an innovative, diverse, competitive, higher value and low-carbon economy locally that supports job growth.
GM				
Greater Manchester Strategy	2018	GMCA	The GMS 2018 provides the framework for the Greater Manchester's Local Industrial Strategy.	Objective included to support the development of an innovative, diverse, competitive, higher value and low-carbon economy locally that supports job growth.
GM Local Industrial Strategy	2019	GMCA	The Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy outlines a set of long-term policy priorities to help	Objective included to support the development of an

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			guide industrial development and provides a plan for good jobs and growth in Greater Manchester.	innovative, diverse, competitive, higher value and low-carbon economy locally that supports job growth.
GM Growth and Reform Plan	2014	AGMA	The Growth and Reform Plan, submitted at the end of March, supported the aim in the Greater Manchester Strategy to become a net contributor to the UK economy by 2020. To achieve this, we must eliminate the present gap between public spending and tax generated which we calculate to be £4.7bn a year. The Growth and Reform plan supports the creation of a platform for fiscal self-reliance not simply by seeking access to available resources from the Local Growth Fund, but through the development of a new "place based" partnership with Government to drive public sector reform and further align local and central growth programmes.	Objective included to support the development of an innovative, diverse, competitive, higher value and low-carbon economy locally that supports job growth.
Updated Note on Employment Land Need for GM	January 2021	Nicol Economics	The Nicol Economics Report (NER) seeks to identify employment need for the GM region, including Stockport, through the utilisation of two key methodologies and the assessment of the overall figure making allowances for a suitable margin figure.	Objective included to support the development of an innovative, diverse, competitive, higher value and low-carbon economy locally that supports job growth.
GM Digital Strategy (Blueprint)	2020	GMCA	To capitalise upon GMs existing creative industries sector and further expand GMs 8,000 existing digital and digital-intense creative businesses (employing 82,300 people and generating £4.1bn of economic growth annually).	Objective included to support the development of an innovative, diverse, competitive, higher value and low-carbon economy locally that supports job growth.
Places for Everyone Plan:	2021	GMCA	Identifies GM employment land take up and supply and projects forward future employment	Objective included to support the development of an innovative, diverse,

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
Employment Topic Paper			land needs based on past take up rates and projected economic growth rates.	competitive, higher value and low-carbon economy locally that supports job growth.
Local				
Wigan Employment Land Position Statement	2020	Wigan Council	Quantifies Wigan employment take-up and loss of employment land and identifies the Wigan Employment Land Supply.	Objective included to support the development of an innovative, diverse, competitive, higher value and low-carbon economy locally that supports job growth.
Wigan Economic Market and Employment Land Assessment	2023	Wigan Council	Not yet available	Objective included to support the development of an innovative, diverse, competitive, higher value and low-carbon economy locally that supports job growth.
We are Wigan Investment Prospectus	2021	Wigan Council	Presents the Wigan Employment Land Supply	Objective included to support the development of an innovative, diverse, competitive, higher value and low-carbon economy locally that supports job growth.

Evidence Review – Centres

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
National				
National Planning Policy Framework	July 2021	HM Government	Paragraph 86 – a) define a network and hierarchy of town centres and promote their long-term vitality and viability – by allowing them to grow and diversify in a way that can respond to rapid changes in the retail and leisure industries, allows a suitable mix of uses (including housing) and reflects their distinctive characters; b) define the extent of town centres and primary shopping areas, and make clear the range of uses permitted in such locations, as part of a positive strategy for the future of each centre; c) retain and enhance existing markets and, where appropriate, re-introduce or create new ones; d) allocate a range of suitable sites in town centres to meet the scale and type of development likely to be needed, looking at least ten years ahead. Meeting anticipated needs for retail, leisure, office and other main town centre uses over this period should not be compromised by limited site availability, so town centre boundaries should be kept under review where necessary; e) where suitable and viable town centre sites are not available for main town centre uses, allocate appropriate edge of centre sites that are well connected to the town centre. If sufficient edge of centre sites cannot be identified, policies should	Objectives included to • improve the vitality and viability of our town and local centres. • Ensure good access to services and facilities

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			explain how identified needs can be met in other accessible locations that are well connected to the town centre; and f) recognise that residential development often plays an important role in ensuring the vitality of centres and encourage residential development on appropriate sites.	
National Planning Practice Guidance	2022	Hm Government	Provides guidance for retail and town centres including assessing vitality and viability, applying the sequential test and undertaking retail impact assessment.	Objective to improve the vitality and viability of our town and local centres.
National Industrial Strategy	2017	HM Government	The National Industrial Strategy provides the national framework for the Greater Manchester's Local Industrial Strategy.	Objective to improve the vitality and viability of our town and local centres.
High Streets Task Force	2022	In partnership with HM Government	Online resource library to support town centres as competitive and vibrant locations to live, work and visit.	Objective to improve the vitality and viability of our town and local centres.
Cities Outlook	2023	Centre for Cities	Provides a rigorous, data-driven research and policy ideas to help cities, large towns and Government address the challenges and opportunities they face – from boosting productivity and wages to preparing for the changing world of work	Objective to improve the vitality and viability of our town and local centres.
GM				
PfE Employment Topic Paper	2021	GMCA	Identifies key economic drivers in the region and projected Economic Growth Rates.	Objective to improve the vitality and viability of our town and local centres.
Economic Forecasts for Greater Manchester	2020	GMCA	Projected Economic Growth Rates.	Objective to improve the vitality and viability of our town and local centres.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
Mayor's Town Centre Challenge	2018	GMCA	The Town Centre Challenge is a brand-new proactive approach to urban development and an ambitious new initiative to regenerate urban centres across Greater Manchester.	Objective to improve the vitality and viability of our town and local centres.
Greater Manchester Strategy	2018	GMCA	The GMS 2018 provides the framework for the Greater Manchester's Local Industrial Strategy.	Objective to improve the vitality and viability of our town and local centres.
GM Local Industrial Strategy	2019	GMCA	The Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy outlines a set of long-term policy priorities to help guide industrial development and provides a plan for good jobs and growth in Greater Manchester.	Objective to improve the vitality and viability of our town and local centres.
Local				
Wigan Town Centre Single Regeneration Framework	2019	Wigan Council	The purpose of this Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF) is to provide Wigan Council with a single integrated plan for the strategic redevelopment of Wigan Town Centre. It identifies a clear set of interventions in the short, medium and long term to guide growth and to help deliver the transformational change that is required through regeneration in the town.	Objective to improve the vitality and viability of our town and local centres.
Leigh Town Centre Single Regeneration Framework	2020	Wigan Council	The Strategic Regeneration Framework establishes an exciting and ambitious vision for Leigh Town Centre over the next 10 years, it sets out objectives; urban design principles and an Action Plan. The Framework focuses on 'place' but recognises that Leigh's people are critical to delivering this vision and there are clear links other areas of activity centred upon meeting the needs of residents, businesses and visitors.	Objective to improve the vitality and viability of our town and local centres.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
Our Town	2022	Wigan Council	The Our Town campaign aims to build on this sense of community and pride by bringing people together to share their stories and to celebrate our borough, its heritage, its beauty and the people that make it great.	Objective to improve the vitality and viability of our town and local centres.

Evidence Review - Transport

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
National				
National Planning Policy Framework	2012/ 2021 (Revised)	HM Government	Transport Aspect: Promoting Sustainable Transport. This aims to guide planning policies to support an appropriate mix of uses across an area to get the right place in the first place; to identify and protect sites and routes which could be critical in developing infrastructure to widen transport choice; and to provide attractive and well-designed active travel networks.	Objectives included to promote active travel and integrated transport systems.
Road to Zero: Next steps towards cleaner road transport and delivering our Industrial Strategy	2018	DfT, OLEV	The Road to Zero Strategy outlines how the government will support the transition to zero emission road transport and reduce emissions from conventional vehicles during the transition. A mission is to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles, and for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040.	Objectives included to promote active travel and integrated transport systems. Reduce adverse impacts of development.
Gear Change: A Bold Vision for Cycling and Walking	2020	DfT	This plan sets out a bold future vision of cycling and walking in England to be healthier, happier, and greener communities; safer streets; convenient and accessible travel; and at the heart of transport decision-making.	Objectives included to promote active travel and integrated transport systems.
Bus Back Better	2019	DfT	This strategy sets out the vision and opportunity to deliver better bus services for passengers across England, through ambitious and far-reaching reform of how services are planned and delivered.	Objectives included to promote an integrated transport system.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
Integrated Rail Plan for the North and Midlands	2021	DfT	The IRP sets out a blueprint for the development of train services across the Midlands and North and towards Scotland and London. It sets out how the Government will take forward and bring together the development of HS2, Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR), the Midlands Rail Hub (MRH), and other major Network Rail schemes and programmes for the North and Midlands.	Objectives included to promote an integrated transport system.
Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans	2017	DfT	This technical guidance document sets out a recommended approach for local authorities to planning networks of walking and cycling routes.	Objectives included to promote active travel and integrated transport systems.
Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy	2017	DfT	The Strategy sets out the Government's ambition to make walking and cycling the natural choices for shorter journeys or as part of a longer journey. The Strategy's objectives, by 2025 are: • to aim to double cycling, where cycling activity is measured as the estimated total number of cycle stages made each year, from 0.8 billion stages in 2013 to 1.6 billion stages in 2025 • to aim to increase walking activity to 300 stages per person per year in 2025, and to work towards developing the evidence base over the next year • to increase the percentage of children aged 5 to 10 that usually walk to school from 49% in 2014 to 55% in 2025.	Objectives included to promote active travel and integrated transport systems.
Taking Charge: The Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy	2022	HM Government	This strategy sets out a strategic approach in delivering the charging infrastructure out to 2030. The vision is to remove charging infrastructure as both a perceived, and a real barrier to the adoption	Objectives included to promote active travel and integrated transport

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			of EVs. EV charging should be cheaper and more convenient than refuelling at a petrol station.	systems. Reduce adverse impacts of development.
Regional				
Strategic Transport Plan	2019	TfN	The STP outlines the need for investment in transport across the North and identifies the priority areas for improved connectivity. The objectives are: • Transforming economic performance • Increasing efficiency, reliability, integration, and resilience in the transport system • Improving inclusivity, health, and access to opportunities for all • Promoting and enhancing the built, historic, and natural environment.	Objectives included to promote active travel and integrated transport systems.
The Northern Powerhouse: One Agenda, One Economy, One North	2015	TfN	An objective is to achieve a sustained increase in productivity across the North. Transport vision to maximise the economic potential of the North by: transforming city to city rail through both HS2 and a new TransNorth system; deliver the full HS2 'Y' network; invest in the North's Strategic Road Network (SRN); invest in the North's transport infrastructure to improve connections between and within the North's towns and cities; improve the skills system at all ages; set out a clearly prioritised multimodal freight strategy and develop integrated and smart ticket structures.	Objectives included to promote active travel and integrated transport systems.
GM				
GM Transport Strategy 2040	2017/2021 (Updated)	TfGM	GM 2040 Vision for Transport sets out ambitions for a radical new approach to planning the transport system in support of long-term needs and aspirations. The 2040 Transport Strategy builds on	Objectives included to promote active travel and integrated transport systems.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			that Vision, highlighting the priority interventions needed to achieve it. It focuses on tackling the critical long-term challenges GM is facing, such as a rapidly growing and ageing population, climate change and the need to improve productivity and reduce social inequality in the GM region.	
GM Delivery Plan 2021-2026	2021	TfGM	The plan aims to achieve GM long-term ambitions as set out in the 2040 Transport Strategy and Our Network. This plan sits alongside the GM Transport Strategy 2040. GM needs a clear programme of interventions, infrastructure projects and regulatory powers to secure, plan for and deliver over the next five years. It brings together different modes of public transport –- bus, tram, rail, tram-train and cycling and walking - in an integrated, easy-to-use system with seamless connections, and simplified ticketing and fares.	Objectives included to promote active travel and integrated transport systems.
GM's Walking and Cycling Investment Plan	2020	GMCA	This investment plan provides details of how the Bee Network will support the delivery of 'Our Network': Greater Manchester's plan for an integrated, simple and convenient London-style transport system. It will allow people to change easily between different modes of transport, with simple affordable ticketing and an aspiration to have a London-style cap across all modes. This would include orbital routes that allow people to travel around the city-region, as well as in and out of the centres.	Objectives included to promote active travel and integrated transport systems.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
GM Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy (EVCI)	2021	TfGM	This strategy aims to provide a clear vision, objectives, and strategic principles to inform a plan for the delivery of public charging infrastructure across the city region. The Strategy's objectives are: • to establish a financially sustainable, publicly accessible EVCI network • to clarify GM's requirements for a future public and privately funded and delivered EVCI network • to establish a clear set of priorities for the expansion of the publicly funded section of the EVCI network • to provide a clear set of EVCI strategic network principles and delivery criteria • to attract and shape private sector investment in the EVCI network.	Objectives included to promote active travel and integrated transport systems. Reduce adverse impacts of development.
GM Streets for All Strategy	2021	TfGM	The Strategy sets out our Streets for All Essentials which relate to the challenges and ambitions for GM's streets. The objective is to ensure the right movement is happening on the right kind of street.	Objectives included to promote active travel and integrated transport systems.
GM Right Mix Vision	2021	TfGM	GM Right Mix Vision target is 50% of all journeys in GM to be made by walking, cycling and public transport by 2040. This will mean one million more sustainable journeys every day enabling us to deliver a healthier, greener, and more productive city-region.	Objectives included to promote active travel and integrated transport systems.
GM City Centre Transport Strategy	2021	TfGM	The vision is for a well-connected, zero-carbon city centre at the heart of the North, offering our residents, employees, and visitors a great place to work, live and visit. The strategy sets out proposals to further improve the city centre's public transport	Objectives included to promote active travel and integrated transport systems.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			and active travel networks and reduce car-based trips over the longer term, leading to the cleaner, greener, healthier, inclusive, and integrated transport network that supports the growth of the city centre.	
GM Rail Prospectus	2019	TfGM	This document sets out what is needed for a transformational change in both tram and train services so that all rail travel can play a full part in the future prosperity of Greater Manchester. The ambition is for GM to secure greater influence and devolved control over passenger rail services.	Objectives included to promote active travel and integrated transport systems.
Local				
Wigan Local Implementation Plan (LIP)	2021	Wigan Council/TfGM	This plan sets out Wigan's local neighbourhood and town level transport priorities for the next five years, as part of Our Five Year Delivery Plan (2021-2026). These have a distinct focus on several key areas, including active travel, sustainable transport and town centre access.	Objectives included to promote active travel and integrated transport systems.

Evidence Review - Place

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
International				
European Landscape Convention	2000	Council of Europe	The European Landscape Convention (ELC) promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues. The ELC requires “landscape to be integrated into regional and town planning policies and in cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as any other policies with possible direct or indirect impacts on landscape”. As such, the inclusion of landscape baseline information and objectives addresses the ELC.	Objective included to require high quality design to help protect the historic environment.
The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe	1985	Council of Europe	This convention defines 'architectural heritage', and requires signatories to maintain an inventory and statutory measures to protect it. There is also a promise to provide funding where possible, and to promote the general enhancement of the surroundings of groups. Signatories also promise to adopt integrated conservation policies in their planning systems to promote the conservation and enhancement of architectural heritage and the fostering of traditional skills. The inclusion of the cultural heritage baseline information, and the objective and criteria around the	Objective included to require high quality design to help protect the historic environment.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			historic environment keeps the Local Plan in line with this convention.	
The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage	1992	Council of Europe	This convention defines archaeological heritage; signatories pledge to maintain an inventory of it and to legislate for its protection. Signatories also promise to allow the input of expert archaeologists into the making of planning policies and planning decisions. The inclusion of the cultural heritage baseline information, and the objective and criteria around the historic environment keeps the Local Plan in line with this convention.	Objective included to require high quality design to help protect the historic environment.
Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act	1953	HM Government	Makes provision for the compilation of a register of gardens and other land (parks and gardens, and battlefields).	Objective included to require high quality design to help protect the historic environment.
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act	1979	HM Government	Makes provision for the specific protection for monuments of national interest.	Objective included to require high quality design to help protect the historic environment.
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act	1990	HM Government	Makes provision for the specific protection for buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest.	Objective included to require high quality design to help protect the historic environment.
National				
National Design Guide	2021	MHCLG, Tibbalds Planning & Urban Design	Establishes 10 criteria that makes a "great place" these being: Context – enhances the surroundings. Identity – attractive and distinctive. Built form – a coherent pattern of development. Movement – accessible and easy to move around. Nature – enhanced and optimised.	Objective included to require high quality design.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			Public spaces – safe, social and inclusive. Uses – mixed and integrated. Homes and buildings – functional, healthy and sustainable. Resources – efficient and resilient. Lifespan – made to last.	
National Model Design Code and Guidance Notes for Design Codes	2021	MHCLG	The purpose of the National Model Design Code is to provide detailed guidance on the production of design codes, guides and policies to promote successful design. It expands on the ten characteristics of good design set out in the National Design Guide, which reflects the government's priorities and provides a common overarching framework for design.	Objective included to require high quality design.
Living with beauty (Report of the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission, 2020)	2020	Report of the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission	Sets out series of 30 recommendations in order to help improve design quality and "beauty" in the built environment.	Objective included to require high quality design.
GM				
GM Urban Historic Landscape Characterisation	2012	GMAAS, Historic England, AGMA, University of Manchester	This is a desk-based programme of GIS mapping and analysis, to achieve an archaeologist's understanding of the historical and cultural origins and development of the current landscape. The study seeks to identify material remains at landscape scale which demonstrate the human activities that formed the landscape as it is seen today.	Objective required to protect and enhance the historic environment.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			It provides a neutral and descriptive general understanding of the cultural and historical aspects of landscapes, and thus provide both a context in which other information can be considered and a framework for decision-making. The objective is to promote better understanding and management of the historic landscape resource, to facilitate the management of continued change within it, and to establish an integrated approach to its sustainable management in partnership with relevant organisations.	
GM Infrastructure Framework 2040	2019	GMCA	The Framework for Greater Manchester: - Identifies the responses required by GMCA, the Local Authorities and other stakeholders to address the key challenges - Identifies opportunities for collaborative working to ensure GM is ready for, and can capitalise on, anticipated changes - Positions Greater Manchester at the forefront of a changing dynamic of infrastructure use Covers: • Energy • Transport • Potable Water • Digital	Objectives included to create high quality places that have necessary infrastructure.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			• Flooding, surface and waste water • Green and infrastructure	
Local				
Wigan Historic Environment Strategy	2021	Wigan Council	In 2021 Wigan adopted its first Historic Environment Strategy which recognises that Wigan's heritage belongs to the people of the borough. We all have a responsibility to protect it and a right to enjoy it. Our historic environment is a key part of that heritage. This includes historic buildings, structures and ruins, conservation areas, historic gardens and landscapes. The strategy covers three themes: Understanding our historic environment Valuing our historic environment Managing and protecting our historic environment	Objective required to protect and enhance the historic environment.

Evidence Review - Environment

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
International				
European Sustainable Development Strategy (ESDS)	2009	European Commission	ESDP considers that there are strong links and impacts from urban development and spatial organisation on sustainable development, as well as on environmental quality, energy consumption, mobility, health and quality of life. The ESDP put forward three spatial policy guidelines:	Objectives included to promote sustainable development.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			• Development of a balanced and polycentric urban system and a new urban-rural relationship; • Securing parity of access to infrastructure and knowledge; and • Sustainable development, prudent management and production of nature and cultural heritage.	
EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030	2020	European Commission	The EU Biodiversity Strategy is a long-term plan for protecting nature and reversing the degradation of ecosystems. Actions to be delivered by 2030 include: Establish a larger EU wider network of protected areas on land and at sea, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value. An EU restoration plan to restore degraded ecosystems by 2030. A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change. Measures to tackle global biodiversity challenge.	Objective included to promote the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, ecosystems and green infrastructure.
Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (1992, JNCC)	1992	European Commission	The aim of this Directive is to contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Measures shall be designed to maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. Measures taken pursuant to this Directive shall take account of economic, social and cultural requirements and regional and local characteristics.	Objective included to promote the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, ecosystems and green infrastructure.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (the codified version of Council Directive 79/409/EEc) as amended (2009,JNCC)	2009	European Commission	The directive aims to protect all European wild birds and the habitats of listed species, in particular through the designation of Special Protection Areas (often known by the acronym SPA).	Objective included to promote the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, ecosystems and green infrastructure.
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (1971, The Ramsar Convention)	1971	RAMSAR organisation	The Convention's mission is the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.	Objective included to promote the sustainable management of the environment and water quality.
Council Directive 2000/60/EC (Water Framework Directive) (2000, JNCC)	2000	European Commission	The purpose of the Directive is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters (rivers and lakes), transitional waters (estuaries), coastal waters and groundwater, which: prevents further deterioration and protects and enhances the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic ecosystems; promotes sustainable water use based on a long-term protection of available water resources;	Objective included to promote the sustainable management of the environment and water quality.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			aims at enhanced protection and improvement of the aquatic environment; ensures the progressive reduction of pollution of groundwater and prevents its further pollution; and contributes to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts. It aims to ensure that all aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands meet 'good' status by 2015. The Directive requires river basin districts to be established and for each of these a river basin management plan.	
The Air Quality Framework Directive 1996, and Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) June 2008	2008	European Commission	Relevant objectives are to maintain ambient air quality where it is good and improve it in other cases.	Objective included to protect and improve air quality.
National				
Environment Act	2021	DEFRA	Strengthened biodiversity duty, Biodiversity net gain to ensure developments deliver at least 10% increase in biodiversity, Local Nature Recovery Strategies to support a Nature Recovery Network, Protected Site Strategies and Species Conservation Strategies to support the design and delivery of strategic approaches to deliver better outcomes for nature	
Environmental Improvement	2023	HM Government	This is the first refresh of the 25 Year Environment Plan which was committed to be	Objectives included to ensure that we support the targets in the plan around

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
Plan 2023 First revision of the 25 Year Environment Plan			undertaken every 5 years. To achieve its vision, the 25YEP set ten goals. The plan continues to use the ten goals set out in the original plan as its basis. It sets out the progress made against all ten, the specific targets and commitments made in relation to each goal, and the plan to continue to deliver these targets and the overarching goals. Includes an apex goal of improving nature.	clean air, water and enhanced biodiversity and mitigating and adapting to climate change.
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment	2018	DEFRA	The plan sets out the government's approach to maintaining and enhancing the natural environment over the next 25 years. Its focus is on connecting people to nature, properly valuing the environment, and making global environmental ambitions relevant to local situations.	Objectives included to ensure that we support the targets in the plan around clean air, water and enhanced biodiversity and mitigating and adapting to climate change.
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	1981	HM Government	Covers: SSSIs, SPAs and RAMSAR sites. Also includes schedules on birds, animals, plants and invasive species. Protection may include prohibition of some or all of: killing, injuring, disturbing, taking, sale/barter or possession of species.	Objective included relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity
The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017	2017	HM Government	Regulations and objectives focus on: • The protection of the water environment. • To promote sustainable water use, reduce discharges of priority substances and cease discharges of priority hazardous substances, and to contribute to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts. • The provision of water and sewerage services.	Objective included to promote the sustainable management of the environment and water quality
Natural Environment and Rural	2006	HM Government		Objective included relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
Communities Act 2006			An Act to make provision about bodies concerned with the natural environment and rural communities: • to make provision in connection with wildlife, sites of special scientific interest, National Parks and the Broads; • amend the law relating to rights of way; • make provision as to the Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council; and • provide for flexible administrative arrangements in connection with functions relating to the environment and rural affairs.	
Clean Air Strategy	2019	DEFRA, MHCLG, DfT, DHSC, BEIS, HM Treasury	This Clean Air Strategy shows how the government will tackle all sources of air pollution, making our air healthier to breathe, protecting nature and boosting the economy. Sets out new local powers which will support the creation of Clean Air Zones to lower emissions from all sources of air pollution, backed up with clear enforcement mechanisms	Objective included to manage the impact of development on air quality
Climate Change Act	2008	CCC	Introduces targets for 2050 for: • the reduction of targeted greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80%; • to provide for a system of carbon budgeting; • provision about adaptation to climate change; • provision about the collection of household waste;	Objective included to manage the impact of development on air quality; and adapt to climate change.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			• amend the provisions of the Energy Act 2004 about renewable transport fuel obligations; • provision about carbon emissions reduction targets; and • provision about climate change.	
UK Climate Change Risk Assessment	2022	DEFRA	The risk assessment considers sixty-one UK-wide climate risks and opportunities cutting across multiple sectors of the economy and prioritises the following eight risk areas for action in the next two years: • risks to the viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards • risks to soil health from increased flooding and drought • risks to natural carbon stores and sequestration from multiple hazards • risks to crops, livestock and commercial trees from multiple climate hazards • risks to supply of food, goods and vital services due to climate-related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks • risks to people and the economy from climate-related failure of the power system • risks to human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings • multiple risks to the UK from climate change impacts overseas	Objective included to require resilience and adaptation to climate change

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
Clean Growth Strategy	2017	HM Government	The Clean Growth Strategy has identified areas where we need to see the greatest progress to meet the 5th carbon budget set in July 2016, which requires a 57%reduction in emissions over 2028-32 across the UK compared to a 1990 baseline. This is working towards the Climate Change Act requirement to reduce UK emissions by at least 80 % by 2050. The strategy sets out policies and proposals that aim to accelerate the pace of clean growth i.e. deliver increased economic growth and decreased emissions.	Objective included to require the reduction of carbon emissions
The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting	2018	DEFRA	The vision includes: "The natural environment with diverse and healthy ecosystems, is resilient to climate change, able to accommodate change, and valued for the adaptation services it provides." An infrastructure network that is resilient to today's natural hazards and prepared for the future changing climate".	Objective included to require resilience and adaptation to climate change
Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener	2021	DBEIS	The 10 point plan for a green industrial revolution lays the foundations for a green economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19 with the UK at the forefront of the growing global green economy. The strategy builds on that approach to keep us on track for UK carbon budgets, our 2030 Nationally Determined Contribution, and net zero by 2050. It includes: • our decarbonisation pathways to net zero by 2050, including illustrative scenarios	Objective included to require the reduction of carbon emissions

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			• policies and proposals to reduce emissions for each sector • cross-cutting action to support the transition	
The Flood Risk Regulations	2009	DEFRA	• Describes a common framework for measurement and management of flood risk. • Places duties on the EA and local authorities to prepare flood risk assessments, flood risk maps and flood risk management plans.	Objective included to minimise and manage flood risk.
Flood and Water Management Act	2010	DEFRA	Makes provision about water, including provision about the management of risks in connection with flooding and coastal erosion. Strategies for managing flood risk from groundwater, surface water and ordinary watercourses in local areas.	Objective included to minimise and manage flood risk.
Plan for Water: our integrated plan for delivering clean and plentiful water	2023	HM Government	The plan sets out measures to transform and integrate our water system, address sources of pollution and boost our water supplies through more investment, tighter regulation, and more effective enforcement. The plan is linked to the targets set in the Environmental Improvement Plan and sets out how pollution and supply pressures will be tackled by taking a catchment wide integrated approach to water management.	Objective included to promote the sustainable management of the environment and water quality
The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection	2018	Environment Agency	This document updates Groundwater protection: Principles and practice (GP3). It contains position statements which provide information about the Environment Agency's approach to managing and protecting groundwater. They detail how the Environment Agency delivers government policy	Objective included to promote the sustainable management of the environment and water quality

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			for groundwater and adopts a risk-based approach where legislation allows. Each section of the document focuses on different activities and sectors in relation to groundwater. The primary aim of all of the position statements is the prevention of pollution of groundwater and protection of it as a resource. Groundwater protection is long term, so these principles and position statements aim to protect and enhance this valuable resource for future generations.	
Policy paper: British Energy Security Strategy	2022	HM Government	The strategy covers a 10 point plan to improve energy security in the UK, including: • Driving the growth of low carbon hydrogen • Accelerating the shift to zero emission vehicles • Green public transport, cycling and walking • Greener buildings • Protecting our natural environment	Objective included to help improve energy security, reduce carbon emissions and protect the environment
Powering up Britain – Energy Security Plan	2023	HM Government	An effective planning system is needed to support both large scale nationally significant infrastructure like offshore wind, nuclear power and CCUS, and support local decisions on renewable and low carbon energy. That is why in order to support our net zero and energy security goals the government is committed to ensuring faster, fairer and more effective planning regimes, including through changes to the National Planning Policy Framework - generally for local plan-making and decisions, the energy National Policy Statements - specifically for nationally significant decisions, and Electricity Act planning.	Objective included to improve energy efficiency and increase energy generation from renewable sources.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			The Government are publishing five revised energy NPS covering Renewables, Oil and Gas Pipelines, Electricity Networks and Gas Generation, and an overarching Energy Statement for consultation. This includes a new requirement for offshore wind to be considered as "critical national infrastructure". Recognising that onshore wind is an efficient, cheap and widely supported technology, Government has consulted on changes to planning policy in England for onshore wind to deliver a localist approach that provides local authorities more flexibility to respond to the views of their local communities. We will respond to the NPPF consultation in due course.	
Waste Management Plan for England 2021	2021	HM Government	This document provides an analysis of the current waste management situation in England and fulfils the mandatory requirements of the revised Waste Framework Directive. The plan does not introduce new policies or change the landscape of how waste is managed in England. Its core aim is to unify existing waste management policies under the umbrella of one national plan.	Objective included to promote the sustainable management of the environment.
Green Infrastructure Framework	2023	Natural England	The Green Infrastructure Framework is a commitment in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan. It contains a set of principles, standards, maps and guidance on how to achieve good green infrastructure. The key message is that green infrastructure has a vital role to play in supporting good quality urban and rural environments, with multi -faceted benefits to be gained in terms of health, nature recovery, climate change the economy and social inequality.	The role of GI in supporting sustainable communities is reflected in several IA Objectives. Mapping tools will be used to help inform appraisals.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
Regional				
North West River Basin Management Plan	2022	DEFRA	The aim of the river basin management plan is to enhance nature and the natural water assets that are the foundation of everyone's wealth, health and wellbeing, and the things people value, including culture and wildlife. Rivers, lakes, canals, estuaries, coasts and groundwater, and the essential services they provide, are worth billions of pounds to the economy.	Objective included to promote the sustainable management of the environment and water quality
United Utilities - Drought Plan	2022	UU	The drought plan provides a high-level guide of how United Utilities (UU) will manage a drought in the North West. It includes details on the likelihood of a drought occurring, how UU forecast a drought, the actions UU will undertake to protect our customers supply and the environment, finishing with how UU track recovery following a drought event and capture lessons learnt.	Objective included to promote the sustainable management of the environment and water quality
Water Resources Management Plan	2019	UU	The Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) defines the strategy to achieve a long-term, best value and sustainable plan for water supplies in the Northwest. It ensures that there is an adequate supply to meet demand over the 25 years from 2020 to 2045, whilst ensuring that the supply system is resilient to drought and other hazards.	Objective included to promote the sustainable management of the environment and water quality
GM				
Towards a GI Framework for GM	2008	AGMA	Green Infrastructure underpins the growth, transformation and management of Greater Manchester, making it a place where people want to stay. The framework sets out objectives around the following functions:	Objective included relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			• Flood risk management and climate change adaption; • An ecological framework; • A sustainable movement network; • A sense of place; • River and Canal Corridor Management; • Positive image and a setting for growth; • Supporting urban regeneration; and • Community, health and enjoyment.	
An Ecological Framework for GM	2008	AGMA	The framework identifies four main aims: • To conserve and enhance biological diversity in Greater Manchester by repairing, creating and connecting habitats; • To provide guidance as to the best ways of enhancing biological diversity; • To promote the need for pro-active nature conservation in Greater Manchester; and • To contribute to achieving a step change increase in biodiversity resources.	Objective included relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity
Greater Manchester Natural Capital Investment Plan - GM Green City	2019	GMCA	The programme will encourage investment in the natural environment to secure financial and social returns. The investment plan looks at the roles for different types of potential investors within the wider picture of the social, economic and governance structure of the city region, and of (local and national) environmental policies and regulations. The plan has three key components: 1. A pipeline of potential project types which need investment; 2. Finance models to facilitate private sector investment and the role of public sector, and	Objective included relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			3. Recommendations to put the plan into practice over the next 5 years. The baseline review identified the following key priorities and opportunities which the investment plan can help achieve, several of which are linked: a. Improved health outcomes b. A more attractive place to live and work c. Building resilience, principally addressing climate change and flood risks d. Supporting the local economy e. Conserving and enhancing habitat and wildlife f. Sustainable travel g. Water quality and flood management h. Climate regulation including carbon storage and sequestration	
All Our Trees – Greater Manchester's Tree and Woodland Strategy	2020	GMCA	The aims and objectives include to: • Plant at least 3 million trees within 25 years – of which 1 million trees to be planted by 2024, and a further 2 million by 2050 – to help Greater Manchester meet its CO2 reduction commitments. • Direct our tree planting strategically – using the opportunity mapping. • New trees planted to higher standard. • More suitable land identified and released for planting. More native trees and bigger species in green spaces – more native broadleaved woodlands to support biodiversity. • National urban tree canopy of 16% exceeded.	Objective included relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			Existing trees and woodlands managed and protected: • Protection and management of our trees encouraged to deliver more benefits for longer. • Fewer trees removed by developers, and replacements based on appropriate valuation of benefits lost. • Better use made of existing mechanisms to protect valuable mature trees and woodlands. • Restoration and expansion of heritage and new orchards and hedgerows across Greater Manchester.	
GM Biodiversity Action Plan	2009	AGMA	Aims to promote the conservation, protection and enhancement of biological diversity in Greater Manchester for current and future generations through an integrated approach.	Objective included relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity
Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment	2018	GMCA	The aims of the project were: • To provide an evidence base for the landscape character/sensitivity of Greater Manchester which • takes account of changes in land use, pressures for change including characterisation of the landscape, identification of sensitive and non-sensitive areas. • To contribute towards the development of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework by bridging the Natural England National Character Area profiles,	Objective included to protect and enhance the quality, integrity and distinctiveness of the borough's heritage, landscapes, and townscapes.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			North West Regional Character Framework and character assessments undertaken by individual districts. • To consider cross boundary matters, in particular views from the Peak District National Park and Natural Improvement Area (NIA) and identify anomalies and discontinuities as well as potential enhancements and improvements. • To provide guidance and advice to help shape the scope of more detailed area specific assessments where required. The project was designed to support: • The drafting of spatially specific development plan policies at strategic (Greater Manchester) scale. • The assessment of a sites/areas suitability to accommodate development potential, especially in or on the edge of towns, and in the wider countryside, informing the siting, spacing, scale and design conditions for particular forms of development. • The Integrated Assessment (SEA/SA) of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and also the context for Environmental Assessments supporting individual planning applications.	
Guidance for Greater Manchester –	2019	WSP	Makes a number of recommendations for GM LA's to embed GI principles into local plan policies	A range of objectives included that require implementation of GI to meet them.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
Embedding Green Infrastructure Principles				
FINAL-Report-of-the-GM-LNRS-Pilot.pdf (gmgreencity.com)	2021	GMCA	Sets out opportunities for recovering nature across Greater Manchester and for maximising the potential for new development to play its part in contributing to nature recovery.	Objective included relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity
GM Draft Clean Air Plan	2020	GMCA	The proposed Clean Air Zone aims to: • Bring NO2 emissions within legal limits as quickly as possible. • Discourage polluting commercial vehicles from travelling on local roads in Greater Manchester. • Encourage businesses to switch to cleaner, low- or zero-emission vehicles.	Objective included to manage the impact of development on air quality
GM 5 Year Environment Plan	2019	GMCA	To deliver its vision the plan establishes a set of key aims: 1. Aim for our mitigation of climate change: For our city-region to be carbon neutral by 2038 and meet carbon budgets that comply with the international commitments. 2. Aim for air quality: To improve our air quality, meeting WHO guidelines on air quality by 2030 and supporting the UK Government in meeting and maintain all thresholds for key air pollutants at the earliest date. 3. Aim for sustainable consumption and production: To put us on a path to being a circular economy, recycling 65% of our	Objectives included on mitigation, resilience and adaptation to climate change, improved air quality, sustainable waste management and an enhanced natural environment.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			municipal waste by 2035 and reducing that amount of waste we produce. 4. Aim for our natural environment: To protect, maintain and enhance our natural environment for all our benefit, taking steps to implement and achieve environmental net gain. 5. Aim for resilience and adaptation to climate change: To be prepared for the impacts of climate change and already be adapting to the future changes from any increase in climate shocks and stresses.	
Carbon and Energy Policy Implementation Study	2020	Currie and Brown	The report considers different options for achieving the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) target for all new developments to be net-zero carbon from 2028. This Part 1 report includes the technical analysis in terms of the on-site new buildings' energy and carbon performance levels sought and details the proposed policy pathway to meeting the 2028 target. A Part 2 report, written in conjunction with this report, presents all the data and information for setting up and operating a carbon offset fund (carbon offsetting was within the scope of meeting the net-zero carbon ambition)	Objective included to improve energy efficiency and increase energy generation from renewable sources.
GM Strategic Flood Risk Management Framework	2018	GMCA	The purpose of the Greater Manchester Strategic Flood Risk Management Framework (GM SFRMF) is to provide a spatial framework for FRM across Greater Manchester, highlighting the key strategic flood risks including cross-boundary	Objective included to promote the sustainable management of the environment and water quality

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			issues within and outside the City Region and recommending key priorities for intervention taking account of previous, existing and planned interventions delivered or to be delivered by Risk Management Authorities (RMAs). Recommendations: • GMCA and its constituent LPAs should look to develop catchment-based solutions with multiple partners from the outset to achieve integrated solutions and maximise funding opportunities. • Potential surface water schemes could benefit from a packaged approach across Greater Manchester to maximise the achievement of Outcome Measures that will in turn influence the funding that can be secured. • Schemes should be considered for groups of properties by LLFAs where residual risk needs to be managed. Development in areas at flood risk needs to include resilient design and consider the development of long-term climate adaptation strategies for areas where flood risk is likely to increase in the future. • Integrate SuDS requirements with large development and redevelopment opportunities and through development strategies to avoid piecemeal development that could contribute to overall surface water flood risk. • Develop integrated approach to SuDS to achieve flood risk and biodiversity benefits. This should include consideration of adoption and maintenance issues.	

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			• Update the current SWMP with updated information on surface water flood risk and using 21st Century Drainage outputs, and ensure delivery is actioned and monitored. • As detailed in the SFRA, all LLFAs should assess the structures and features on their FRM Asset Registers to inform the capital programme and prioritise maintenance work. • Asset management should be prioritised based on condition, capacity and resultant damages to manage liability and the risk of flooding from LLFA assets. • Consider opportunities for asset data sharing. • Use the findings of the water governance review to establish a governance structure that maximises opportunities for collaborative and coordinated working at the catchment scale.	
Level 1 and 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Greater Manchester	2019 2020	GMCA	The Level 1 SFRA is required to: • initiate the sequential risk-based approach to the allocation of land for development and • identify whether application of the Exception Test is likely to be necessary using the most up-to-date information and guidance. This will help to inform and provide the evidence base for the Places for Everyone Plan and each individual council's local plan. The Level 2 study follows on from the GMCA Level 1 SFRA (2019). The Level 1	Objective included to promote the sustainable management of the environment and water quality

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			SFRA helped identify high risk sites to be assessed through this Level 2 SFRA, and the GMCA Strategic Flood Risk Management Framework (2019). The Framework helped provide a broad spatial framework for flood risk management across Greater Manchester, highlighting the key strategic flood risks and recommending key priorities for intervention.	
GM Joint Minerals Plan (2013)	2013	AGMA	Provides a clear guide up to 2027 to minerals operators and the public about: • The locations where mineral extraction may take place. • The safeguarding of sensitive environmental features and of mineral resources with potential for future extraction; and • All aspects of environmental amenity and resource protection including the sustainable transportation of minerals.	Objective included to manage resources.
GM Joint Waste Plan (2012)	2012	AGMA	The plan sets out a waste planning strategy to 2027 which enables the adequate provision of waste management facilities in appropriate locations for municipal, commercial and industrial, construction and demolition and hazardous wastes.	Objective included to manage resources.
Local				
Outline Climate Change Strategy	2020	Wigan Council	The plan sets out Wigan Council's ambition and a road map as to how we will tackle these challenges together, ensuring we take advantage of the opportunities that will emerge from early action on the climate emergency.	Objectives included on mitigation, resilience and adaptation to climate change, improved air quality, sustainable waste management and an enhanced natural environment.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			As a council we have already undertaken a number of innovative and bold initiatives that are aimed at reducing our impact on the climate and reducing our borough's carbon emissions. We also recognise that limiting the harmful effects of climate change cannot be achieved by a single organisation and the effort requires changes to how we all live and work.	
Development and Air Quality SPD	2022	Wigan Council	The Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) aims to reduce emissions and better manage the air quality impact of all proposed developments through directing development to sustainable locations within easy access to public transport and local services, the application of good design and sustainability principles, and where necessary the implementation of specific and appropriate mitigation measures either on-site or close by.	Objective included to manage the impact of development on air quality
Wigan Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	2014	Wigan Council	The purpose of the strategy is to increase the safety of people across the Borough by reducing the number of people at risk of flooding, increasing the resilience of local communities, and reducing the impact of flooding. The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was adopted on 26th June 2014 and sets out: • What flood risk issues Wigan faces. • Who has responsibility for what. • What can be achieved in managing flood risk.	Objective included to promote the sustainable management of the environment and water quality

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			• The measures likely to be required and the resources needed to support this. • How flood issues will be monitored and managed.	
Landscape Design SPD	2021	Wigan Council	The SPD sets out how the council expects developers to integrate good landscape design into their proposals. The document sets out 10 landscape design principles: 1. Mitigates and adapts to the impacts of climate change 2. Strengthens local character and identity 3. Stimulates the senses 4. Promotes healthy lifestyles and activity 5. Enhances biodiversity 6. Safe, secure and accessible to all 7. Well defined public and private spaces 8. Easy to navigate – legible and permeable 9. Links to wider green infrastructure network 10. Sustainable use of materials 11. Easy to maintain 12.Truly multi-functional – offering diversity and choice	Objective included to protect and enhance the quality, integrity and distinctiveness of the borough's heritage, landscapes, and townscapes.
Wigan Natural Capital Account	2019	GMCA/EA	A natural capital account has been developed for GM and this is Wigan's contribution. It aims to measure the benefits provided by Wigan's natural assets to its businesses, public services and to all. Due to data availability and scale, we have been able to capture 6 of the 13 benefits measured in the GM level accounts: • £74m the 'conservative' estimate of the value that Wigan receives from its natural capital	Objectives included on mitigation, resilience and adaptation to climate change, improved air quality, sustainable waste management and an enhanced natural environment.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
			each year from the services we were able to value. • £2bn the total asset value of natural capital to Wigan over the next 60 years • £182m the total value of avoided healthcare costs over the next 60 years from the positive difference to physical and mental health, reducing financial pressures and demand on the NHS and Local Authority health providers	

Evidence Review – People

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
National				
Marmot Review – Fair Society, Healthy Lives (2010)	2010	-	The review proposes an evidence based strategy to address the social determinants of health, the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age and which can lead to health inequalities.	Objectives included to make places safe and inclusive, create cohesive communities and enable healthy, active lives.
Health Equity in England – The Marmot Review 10 years on	2020	Institute of Health Equity	The report highlights that people can expect to spend more of their lives in poor health; improvements to life expectancy have stalled, and declined for women in the most deprived 10% of areas; the health gap has grown between wealthy and deprived areas; and, place matters – living in a deprived area of the North East is worse for your health than living in a similarly deprived area in London, to the extent that life expectancy is nearly five years less.	Objectives included to make places safe and inclusive, create cohesive communities, enable healthy, active lives, with good access to education, jobs and health care.
Play Strategy for England	2008	DCMS	Strategy aims to ensure that play spaces are attractive, welcoming, engaging and accessible for all local children and young people, including disabled children, and children from minority groups in the community.	Objectives included to enable healthy, active lifestyles.
Healthy Lives, Healthy People: our strategy for public health in England	2010	DoH (now DHSC)	The plans set out in this White Paper put local communities at the heart of public health. The Government intends to end central control and give local government the freedom, responsibility and funding to innovate and develop their own ways of improving public health in their area.	Objectives included to enable healthy, active lifestyles and good access to healthcare.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
Confident Communities, Brighter Futures	2010	HM Government	This report is part of a continuing programme of action to improve the mental health and well-being of the whole population.	Objectives included to make places safe and inclusive, create cohesive communities, enable healthy, active lives.
Health and Care Act	2022	HM Government	New legislative measures that aim to make it easier for health and care organisations to deliver joined up care for people who rely on different services.	Objectives included to enable healthy, active lifestyles and good access to healthcare.
International education strategy: supporting recovery and growth	2022	DfE	Strategy setting out the UK government's ambition for education exports and how it will support the UK education sector to access global opportunities.	Objective included to ensure good access to jobs, training and education.
Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child	2022	DfE	This white paper demonstrates how our education system can deliver on the government's priority to level up across the country. The economic benefits of meeting the white paper's ambitions, and the case for a fully trust led system, are also set out.	Objective included to ensure good access to jobs, training and education.
Skills for Life campaigns	2022	DfE	Four campaigns designed to upskill 16+ and 18+ to enable them to get into / back into work.	Objective included to ensure good access to jobs, training and education.
Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play	2015	Fields in Trust	Benchmark guidelines for outdoor sport and play provision including recommendations for provision of amenity and natural greenspace.	Objectives included to enable healthy, active lifestyles.
Accessible Natural Green Space Standards in Towns and Cities: A Review and Toolkit for their Implementation	2003	Natural England	Standards for access to natural green spaces in towns and cities.	Objectives included to enable healthy, active lifestyles.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
Nearby Nature: Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance	2010	Natural England	An update to the 2003 standards to include guidance on how to apply the standards in policy making.	Objectives included to enable healthy, active lifestyles.
Design and Cost Guidance: Sport Facilities	-	Sport England	A series of guidance documents on overall design concepts for sport facilities including best practice, benchmark examples, and standards.	Objectives included to enable healthy, active lifestyles.
GM				
GM Culture Strategy	2019	GMCA	The strategy identifies areas of strategic opportunity across the city-region. It also sets out a clear plan for 2019-24 of how all 10 Greater Manchester districts will work together to target resources that will develop, celebrate, protect and promote the significant culture and heritage assets of Greater Manchester.	Objectives included to make places safe and inclusive and ensure good access to services and facilities.
GM Creative Health Strategy	2022	GM Integrated Care Partnership	The GM Creative Health Strategy is Greater Manchester's ambition to become the first city region in the world to harness the power of creativity, culture, and heritage in addressing health inequities and inequalities	Objectives included to enable healthy, active lifestyles.
GM Population Health Plan	2017	GMCA	Use of devolved powers to benefit health population; start well, live well, age well.	Objectives included to enable healthy, active lifestyles.
GM Moving in Action Strategy	2021	GM Moving	Strategy to get people moving in everyday life across GM	Objectives included to enable healthy, active lifestyles.
GM Integrated Care Partnership Strategy	2023	GMCA	A holistic package to bring together care providers from birth through to ageing.	Objectives included to enable healthy, active lifestyles.

Plan or programme	Date	Source	Key messages, objectives or requirements relevant to the Local Plan	How has the plan been addressed in the IA
Local				
Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2016	2013	Wigan Council	The aim of the Health and Wellbeing Board is to make real difference to improving the health and wellbeing of the people of Wigan Borough. This means taking action that will deliver practical improvements and change that residents can perceive and appreciate and that narrows the health inequalities gap.	Objectives included to enable healthy, active lifestyles.
Happy, Healthy People 2020-2025 (The Deal 2030)	2020	Healthier Wigan	Pledge to transform and integrate health services across Wigan.	Objectives included to enable healthy, active lifestyles and good access to healthcare.
Leisure and Cultural Activity Strategy 2013-2023	2013	Wigan Council	The strategy ensures that the resources available to the council for leisure and cultural services are spent in the best way possible to make the biggest impact on the health and wellbeing of our residents.	Objectives included to enable healthy, active lifestyles.
Playing Pitch Strategy	2017	Wigan Council	An assessment, strategy an action plan for playing pitch sporting facilities across Wigan Borough	Objectives included to enable healthy, active lifestyles.
Wigan Borough Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision and Needs Assessment	2015	Wigan Council	An assessment of the needs and provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities in Wigan. The report provides a qualitative and quantitative assessment of over 1300 OSSR sites and provides a surplus / deficit analysis for each settlement in the borough, based on a series of accessibility standards developed through the report.	Objectives included to enable healthy, active lifestyles.
Parks Strategy	*2023*	*Wigan Council*	*In preparation*	
Greenheart Strategy	*2023*	*Wigan Council*	*In preparation*	