

Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park

Environmental Statement

Volume 4 – Technical Appendices

Technical Appendix A13.1 – Socio-economic Baseline Report

Document Reference – EN010162/APP/A13.1

Revision 1

June 2025

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 This study has been prepared to inform an assessment of the social and economic characteristics of the area in the context of the Development.
- 2 Based on an assessment of commuting patterns and travel to work areas, the suggested Study Area covers the Local Authority area of Newark and Sherwood, except when assessing employment related characteristics. In this instance, it also includes the local authority of Mansfield.
- 3 The socio-economic indicators considered within this report include population, demographics, employment, health, travel to work patterns, access to renewable energy, deprivation (IMD) and tourism. These have been chosen specifically in regard to the Development and its potential impacts.
- 4 Population estimates for 2022 show that the total population of Newark and Sherwood equated to 125,089 which equates to just 2.5% of the East Midlands population and 0.2% of the total population of England. The population of the Study Area is estimated to have increased by 8.1% since 2012. This is slightly higher than the growth observed regionally (8.0%) and nationally (6.7%) during the same time period
- 5 In 2022 there were a total of 35,000 full time employees working in Newark and Sherwood, 66.0% of the total number of employees. This is higher than observed in Mansfield (65.1%), but lower than regional (67.9%) and national (69.2%) averages.
- 6 Interestingly, Newark and Sherwood and Mansfield had a larger share of employment within the construction sector than observed regionally and nationally.
- 7 Agriculture, forestry and fishing accounted for a large share of employment in Newark and Sherwood (3.2%), 1.9% higher than the national average. Conversely, employment in Agriculture, forestry and fishing accounted for just 0.2% of employment in Mansfield.
- 8 The Newark and Sherwood District Council Visitor Economy Strategy 2020-23 showed that, in 2019, overall visitor spend totalled £298.32 million (+6.0% on 2018), comprising £153.50 million from domestic day visitors (+4.7% on 2018) and £144.83 million overnight visitors (+7.4% on 2018). Furthermore, the total number of annual visitors to the district stood at 4,461,000 (+2.2% on 2018).
- 9 Regarding deprivation, within Newark and Sherwood there are three Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) classed as being in the top 10% most deprived (decile 1) areas in England. However, the Study Area is more affluent in terms of deprivation than LSOAs beyond the western and northern boundary and similar in terms of deprivation to those on the eastern and southern boundary.

A13.1.1 RELEVANT PLANNING POLICY

A13.1.1.1 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

A13.1.1.1.1 National Policy Statements

- 10 There are currently six energy National Policy Statements (NPSs)
- 11 Table A13.1.1 sets out a summary of the policies within these NPSs, relevant to socioeconomics. These focus on NPS EN-1 and EN-3; EN-5 is also potentially relevant, though does not add requirements relevant to socio-economic assessment beyond those included in EN-1 and EN-3.

Table A13.1.1 Summary of the Designated NPS EN-1¹ and NPS EN-3 requirements relevant to socio-economic assessment

Summary of NPS Policy Requirements
EN-1
Given the vital role of energy to economic prosperity and social well-being, it is important that our supplies of energy remain secure, reliable and affordable (para 2.5.1).
The Regulations require an assessment of the likely significant effects of the proposed Project on the environment, covering the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short, medium, and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects at all stages of the Project, and also of the measures envisaged for avoiding or mitigating significant adverse effects (para 4.3.3)
Where the project is likely to have socio-economic impacts at local or regional levels, the applicant should undertake and include in their application an assessment of these impacts as part of the ES (para 5.13.4).
Set out information on the likely significant environmental, social, and economic effects of the development, and show how any likely significant negative effects would be avoided, reduced, mitigated or compensated for, following the mitigation hierarchy (EN1, para 4.3.4).
The ES should cover the environmental, social and economic effects arising from pre-construction, construction, operation and decommissioning of the project (para 4.3.5).
Where some details are still to be finalised, the ES should, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, assess the likely worst-case environmental, social and economic effects of the proposed development to ensure that the impacts of the project as it may be constructed have been properly assessed (para 4.3.12).
Where the Project is likely to have socio-economic impacts at local or regional levels, the applicant should undertake and include in their application an assessment of these impacts as part of the ES (para 5.13.2).

¹ Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2023). Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65bbfdbc709fe1000f637052/overarching-nps-for-energy-en1.pdf> [Accessed on 04/10/2024].

Summary of NPS Policy Requirements
EN-1
<p>The applicant is strongly encouraged to engage with relevant local authorities during early stages of Project development so that the applicant can gain a better understanding of local or regional issues and opportunities (para 5.13.3)</p>
<p>Assessment should consider all relevant socio-economic impacts, which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the creation of jobs and training opportunities • the provision of additional local services and improvements to local infrastructure • indirect beneficial impacts for the region hosting the infrastructure • effects on tourism • the impact of a changing influx of workers during the different construction, operation, and decommissioning phases • cumulative effects (para 5.13.4).
<p>Describe the existing socio-economic conditions in the areas surrounding the proposed development and should also refer to how the development's socio-economic impacts correlate with local planning policies (para 5.13.5).</p>
<p>Socio-economic impacts may be linked to other impacts, for example visual impacts considered in Section 5.10 but may also have an impact on tourism and local businesses. Applicants are encouraged, where possible, to demonstrate that local suppliers have been considered in any supply chain. (EN1, para 5.13.6)</p>
<p>Applicants should consider developing accommodation strategies where appropriate, especially during construction and decommissioning phases, that would include the need to provide temporary accommodation for construction workers if required (para 5.13.7)</p>
EN-3²
<p>Applicants should consider where there may be socio-economic benefits in retaining site infrastructure after the operational life, such as retaining pathways through the site or a site substation. Paragraph 5.13.1 states that the construction, operation and decommissioning of energy infrastructure may have socio-economic impacts at local and regional levels and 5.13.2 states that where the project is likely to have socio-economic impacts at local or regional levels, the applicant should undertake and include in their application an assessment of these impacts as part of the ES.</p>

² Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2023). Overarching National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3). Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a7889996a5ec000d731aba/nps-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en3.pdf> [Accessed on 06/06/2025].

A13.1.1.1.2 The National Planning Policy Framework

- 12 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was last updated in December 2024³. The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England.
- 13 Table A13.1.2 sets out a summary of the NPPF policies relevant to socio-economics. Table A13.1.3 sets out a summary of the National Planning Policy Guidance NPPG relevant to socio-economics.

Table A13.1.2: Summary of NPPF requirements relevant to this chapter

Policy	Key provisions
Section 2 (Achieving sustainable development)	States that in guiding developments towards sustainable development, local circumstances should be considered, to reflect the character, needs and opportunities of each area.
Section 6 (Building a strong, competitive economy)	Planning policies should support the sustainable growth and diversification of rural businesses. Emphasis is placed on converting existing buildings and creating well-designed new structures. Policies should facilitate agricultural diversification, as a means to enhance rural economies. Development should respect the countryside's character, address infrastructure needs, and improve accessibility. Encouraging the use of previously developed land and sites near existing settlements is crucial for sustainability.

A13.1.1.1.3 National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG)⁴

Table A13.1.1: Summary of NPPG requirements relevant to this chapter

Document	Key provisions
Natural Environment	Green infrastructure can improve the wellbeing of a neighbourhood with opportunities for recreation, exercise, social interaction, experiencing and caring for nature, community food-growing and gardening, all of which can bring mental and physical health benefits (para 006).

³ Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2024). National Planning Policy Framework. Available at <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/675abd214cbda57cacd3476e/NPPF-December-2024.pdf> [Accessed on 06/06/2025].

⁴ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2018 to 2021) and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2024). Planning Practice Guidance - Natural Environment. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment> [Accessed on 04/10/2024].

A13.1.1.2 LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

A13.1.1.2.1 Newark and Sherwood Local Development Plan Amended Core Strategy DPD (Adopted 2019)

- 14 The Newark and Sherwood Amended Core Strategy⁵ sets out a number of strategic objectives. Those relevant to socio-economics include:
- “To manage growth and change to ensure that sustainable development is achieved and promoted and the quality of life for all improved;
 - To ensure and sustain a network of sustainable communities which offer a sense of place, that are safe, balanced, socially inclusive and can respond to the needs of local people;
 - To develop a strong, sustainable economy that will provide a diverse range of employment opportunities for local people by:
 - Providing a range of well-located sites and premises for employment development, including provision for small and medium sized firms;
 - Supporting the retention of existing jobs and the development of local businesses; promoting additional growth and diversification of the District’s economy, linked to a desire to raise local aspirations and an ambition to secure new service-sector and higher skill level jobs and “knowledge-rich” business, that will increase the scope for good jobs and incomes available;
 - Actively attracting regional, national and international companies to the District; developing an improved education base with enhanced learning and training opportunities for local people, that will enable the attainment of higher educational standards/qualifications and skill levels; and
 - Stimulating tourism.
 - To support the education sector and opportunities for training, including higher and further educational organisations, to encourage the attainment of higher educational and skill levels; and
 - To engage in collaborative working with partner organisations and agencies to secure a better quality of life.”
- 15 In addition to the District Local Plan, there are a number of adopted neighbourhood plans within Newark and Sherwood. Table A13.1.4 summarises the neighbourhood plan policies relevant to socio-economics.

⁵ Newark and Sherwood District Council (2019). Amended Core Strategy DPD. Available at <https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/nsdc-redesign/documents-and-images/your-council/planning-policy/local-development-framework/amended-core-strategy-dpd/amended-core-strategy-DPD.pdf> [Accessed on 04/10/2024].

Table A13.1.4: Summary of local planning policy relevant to socio-economics

Policy / Objective	Key Provisions
Bulcote Neighbourhood Plan⁶	
Community Objective 4	To seek opportunities to maintain and enhance the social and economic vitality of the Parish by supporting and expanding the range of services and facilities within the Parish. To support the provision of a new community building and to encourage the reuse of a former commercial site for employment uses (para 91).
Epperstone Neighbourhood Plan⁷	
Objective	To promote stronger, cohesive and balanced communities having regard to changes in demographics and need (para 3.2)
Farnsfield Neighbourhood Plan⁸	
Lifelong sustainability	A sustainable community which provides opportunities for residents to live and work in the local area throughout all stages of their life (para 6.3).
Fernwood Neighbourhood Plan⁹	
Community Objective 6: Access to the Countryside	To ensure easy access to the countryside by protecting existing local green spaces, wooded areas and local lanes and extending the footpath network (para 87).
Fiskerton-cum-Morton Neighbourhood Plan¹⁰	
Objective 5	Encourage employment opportunities in the Parish, including small businesses, working from home opportunities, as well as more traditional activities such as agriculture (para 2.1).

⁶ Bulcote Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (2021). Bulcote Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2033. Available at: https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/newark-and-sherwood/images-and-files/planning-policy/pdfs/neighbourhod-planning/bulcote/regulation-16/Bulcote_Referendum_NP_March_2021.pdf [Accessed on 04/10/2024].

⁷ Epperstone Parish Council (2019). Epperstone Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2016 – 2033: Referendum Version. Available at: <https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/newark-and-sherwood/images-and-files/planning-policy/pdfs/neighbourhod-planning/epperstone/referendum/Referendum-Version-Epperstone-Parish-Neighbourhood-Plan.pdf> [Accessed on 06/06/2025].

⁸ Farnsfield Parish Council (2017). Farnsfield Neighbourhood Plan – Referendum Version. Available at: [https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/newark-and-sherwood/images-and-files/planning-policy/pdfs/neighbourhod-planning/farnsfield-neighbourhood-plan/Neighbourhood-Plan-Referendum-Version-\(September-2017\).pdf](https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/newark-and-sherwood/images-and-files/planning-policy/pdfs/neighbourhod-planning/farnsfield-neighbourhood-plan/Neighbourhood-Plan-Referendum-Version-(September-2017).pdf) [Accessed on 06/06/2025].

⁹ Fernwood Parish Council (2017). Fernwood Parish Neighbourhood Plan – Referendum Version. Available at: <https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/newark-and-sherwood/images-and-files/planning-policy/pdfs/neighbourhod-planning/fernwood/Fernwood-NP-Referendum-Version.pdf> [Accessed on 06/06/2025].

¹⁰ Fiskerton-cum-Morton (2019). Fiskerton cum Morton Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan 2018-2033. Available at: <https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/newark-and-sherwood/images-and-files/planning-policy/pdfs/neighbourhod-planning/fiskerton-cum-morton/referendum/Referendum-Version---Neighbourhood-Plan.pdf> [Accessed on 04/10/2024].

Policy / Objective	Key Provisions
Objective 6	Promote the development and long-term sustainability of community-oriented commercial activities and community facilities (para 2.1).
Objective 7	Preserve and maintain the existing network of footpaths and green open spaces, ensuring adequate access for all and equipped spaces for users of different ages (para 2.1).
Kings Clipstone Neighbourhood Plan¹¹	
Community Objective 2: Landscape Character	To protect and enhance the quality of Kings Clipstone's special and valued landscape character, scenic beauty and traditional buildings within the landscape by retaining the rural, open character of the Plan area and the visual connections with the countryside from public areas (para 84).
Community Objective 4: Tourism	Recognising the valuable economic role tourism plays by promoting development that builds upon the distinctive strengths of the local tourist economy (para 84).
Southwell Neighbourhood Plan¹²	
Objective 1: Sustainable Development	To ensure that proposals for new development are presented within the wider social, economic and environmental context and that informed decisions about future growth can be made (para 3.3).
Thurgarton Neighbourhood Plan¹³	
Objective 2	To improve the quality and quantity of employment opportunities and support local facilities (para 3.8).
Objective 4	To protect and enhance open spaces and landscape features that are valued for their contribution to recreation, visual amenity, heritage, managing flood risk ecology and biodiversity, and landscape character and quality (para 3.8).

¹¹ Kings Clipstone Parish Council (2018). Kings Clipstone Parish Neighbourhood Plan – Referendum Version. Available at: <https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/newark-and-sherwood/images-and-files/planning-policy/pdfs/neighbourhod-planning/kings-clipstone-neighbourhood-plan/Referendum-Version-KC-NP.pdf> [Accessed on 06/06/2025].

¹² Southwell Town Council (2016). The Southwell Neighbourhood Plan. Available at: <https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/nsdc-redesign/documents-and-images/your-council/planning-policy/neighbourhood-and-housing-strategy/made-neighbourhood-plans/The-Southwell-Neighbourhood-Plan-2016-to-2026-Adopted-version.pdf> [Accessed on 06/06/2025].

¹³ Thurgarton Parish (2017). Thurgarton Neighbourhood Plan 2016 – 2026 - Referendum Version. Available at: [https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/newark-and-sherwood/images-and-files/planning-policy/pdfs/neighbourhod-planning/thurgaton-neighbourhood-pan/Thurgarton-Neighbourhood-Plan-\(Referendum-Version\).pdf](https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/newark-and-sherwood/images-and-files/planning-policy/pdfs/neighbourhod-planning/thurgaton-neighbourhood-pan/Thurgarton-Neighbourhood-Plan-(Referendum-Version).pdf) [Accessed on 04/10/2024].

A13.1.2 DEFINING THE STUDY AREA

A13.1.2.1 SITE LOCATION

- 16 All proposed development activity is within the currently proposed Order Limits. The Order Limits occupy approximately 1,765 hectares (ha) of land.
- 17 The Development would be located to the west of the A1, north of the A617, east of Eakring, and south of Egmanton, occupying two main areas to the north and north-west of Staythorpe. The Order Limits are shown on Environmental Statement (ES) Figure 1.1 [EN010162/APP/6.3.1.1]. The Order Limits fall entirely within Newark and Sherwood District.

A13.1.2.2 TRAVEL TO WORK AREAS (TTWAS)

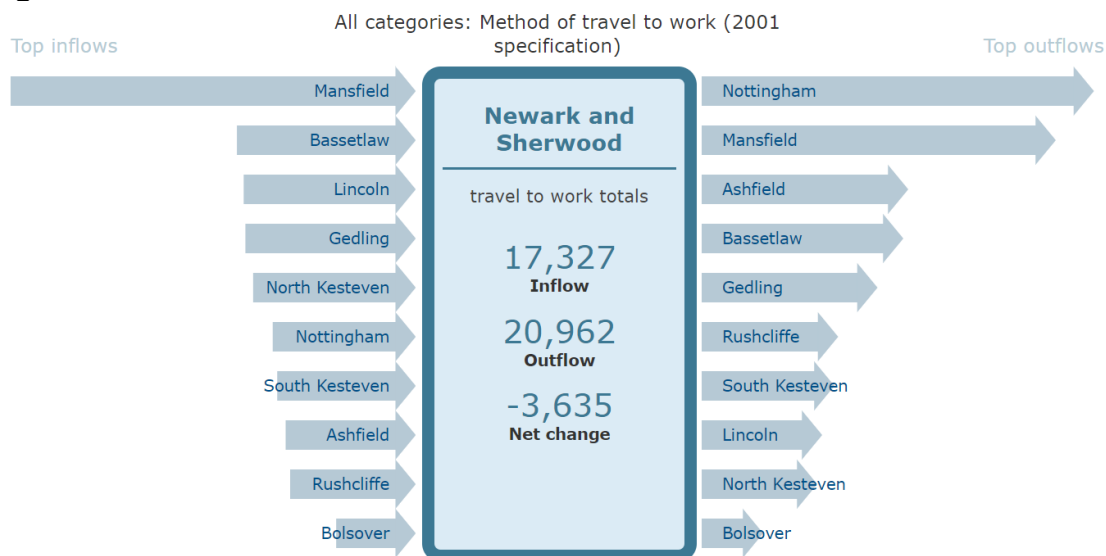
- 18 In September 2016, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published its latest Travel to Work Area (TTWA) boundaries, derived from Census 2011 data. Travel to Work Areas are a useful starting point for understanding the spatial extents of labour markets. Each TTWA has a high degree of self-containment; meaning that the vast majority of people who work within the TTWA also live in that same area.
- 19 As can be seen in Appendix A - Figure A13.1.1, the Order Limits fall partially within both the Mansfield and Lincoln TTWAs.

A13.1.2.3 COMMUTING PATTERNS

- 20 In addition to the TTWAs it is also useful to analyse the commuting patterns data from the 2011 Census¹⁴. Figure A13.1.2 shows the inflow and outflow of workers in Newark and Sherwood. As can be seen there is a higher net migration of workers out of the area (20,962) compared to those who commute to the area to work (17,327). The majority of residents who commute out of the area for work travel to Nottingham (3,480) and the largest inflow of workers comes from Mansfield (3,593).

¹⁴ Census (2011). Location of usual residence and place of work by sex. Nomisweb.co.uk. Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/wu01uk#:~:text=Location%20of%20usual%20residence%20and%20place%20of> [Accessed on 29/04/2024]

Figure A13.1.2 The inflow and outflow of workers in Newark and Sherwood



- 21 Table A13.1.5 is extracted from the ONS data on the location of usual residence compared with the usual place of work. As can be seen; the majority of workers in Newark and Sherwood also live in the area (22,891). There are reasonable levels of commuting to and from the local authorities that fall within the Mansfield TTWA and, specifically, from Mansfield Local Authority (3,593). It is, therefore, appropriate to also assess the impact of the proposals on this area.

Table A13.1.5 Usual Residence of People who work in Newark and Sherwood District

Usual residence: 2011 census merged local authority district	Number of People
Newark and Sherwood	22,891
Mansfield	3,593
Bassetlaw	1,489
Lincoln	1,426
Gedling	1,410
North Kesteven	1,338
Nottingham	1,156
South Kesteven	1,114
Ashfield	1,036
Rushcliffe	994
Bolsover	566

A13.1.2.4 STUDY AREA SUMMARY

- 22 The EIA scoping report proposed to utilise a Study Area consisting of Newark and Sherwood Local Authority. However, it is clear that a number of residents from

Mansfield Local Authority commute in and out of the area for work, and thus when considering the employment impacts of the project, the Study Area has been expanded to also consider Mansfield. Overall, the economic Study Area has been chosen to be Newark and Sherwood and Mansfield Local Authority, as these were the local authorities where most of the impacts (namely employment) will occur.

- 23 For tourism receptors, the Study Area are more localised, e.g., the impacts on public rights of way networks relate to areas where a visual impact or noise impact has been identified in the relevant chapter. For tourism impacts on accommodation providers, a Study Area of 5 km radius from the Order Limits has been used. Beyond 2 km, any views of the Solar PV Site will be glimpsed and/or distant and therefore unlikely to have a negative effect on tourism receptors. Therefore, ES Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Impact [EN010162/APP/6.2.7] of the ES uses a 2 km Study Area. Tourism receptors within 5 km are identified in the Tourism baseline section, A13.1.4.12.

A13.1.3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND TOURISM BASELINE

- 24 This section defines the baseline environment characteristics of the Study Area based on desktop research. Where appropriate the data is also analysed at regional and nation levels for relative comparison.
- 25 The baseline research is split into the topic areas of population, demographics, employment, access to renewable energy and deprivation.
- 26 The majority of baseline data used for this chapter has been taken from the Office of National Statistics, Census Data, Department for Transport, Department for Business Energy & Industrial Strategy and a variety of the national policy documents outlined in section 1.

A13.1.3.1 DATA SOURCES

- 27 Information on socioeconomics within the Study Area was collected through a detailed review of socioeconomic datasets. These are summarised in Table A13.1.6.

Table A13.1.6 – Data Sources

Indicator	Elements	Source
Population & Deprivation	Age structure, social class, qualifications, earnings, deprivation, motor car availability and internet access, EV car infrastructure access, renewable energy access	ONS, Census 2011 & 2021, English Indices of Deprivation, Department for Transport, Department for Business Energy & Industrial Strategy, The House of Commons Library
Economy	Economic activity, GVA, business activity	ONS 2011 & 2021, UK Business Count, Census, According to the IRENA Renewable Cost Database,

Indicator	Elements	Source
Employment & Skills	Unemployment, commuting patterns, occupation, industry, earnings, qualifications	ONS, Census 2011 & 2021, BRES, NOMIS Labour Market Profiles, UK Business Count, Annual Population Survey, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings
Tourism	Public rights of way, land use, tourist economy, accommodation	Census of Agriculture, The Newark and Sherwood District Council Visitor Economy Strategy, Satellite Imagery, England Occupancy Survey, Google Maps, PRow Survey

A13.1.3.2 POPULATION

- 28 Office for National Statistics (ONS) population estimates for 2022 show that the total population of Newark and Sherwood equated to 125,089 which equates to just 2.5% of the East Midlands population and 0.2% of the total population of England. The population of the Study Area is estimated to have increased by 8.1% since 2012. This is slightly higher than the growth observed regionally (8.0%) and nationally (6.7%) during the same time period¹⁵.

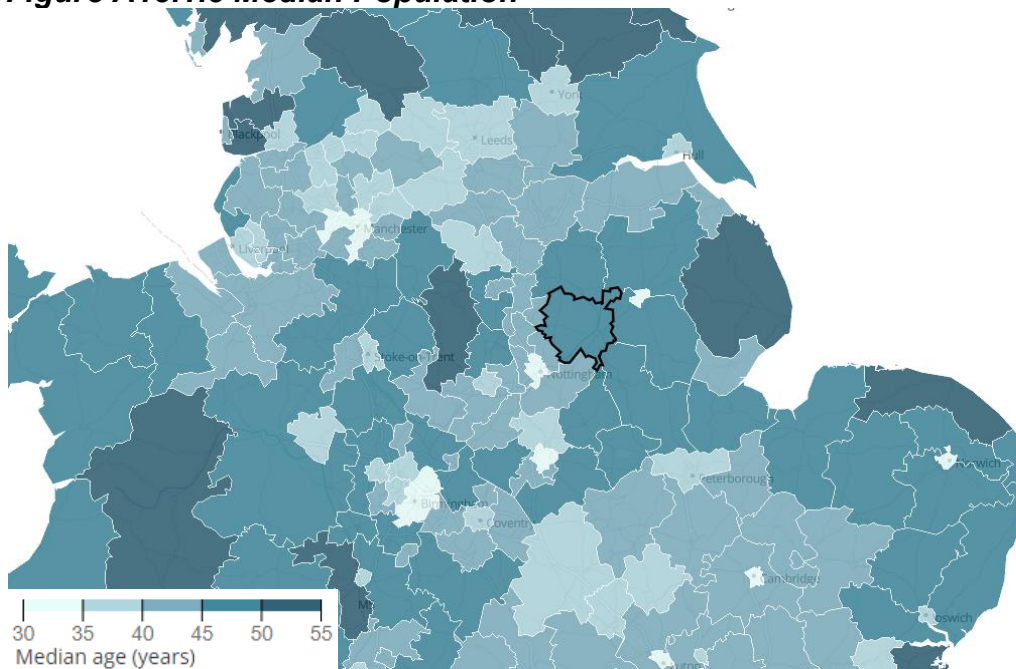
A13.1.3.3 DEMOGRAPHICS

- 29 As well as understanding the total resident numbers it is also useful to analyse the age profile of the population. Newark and Sherwood have a median age of 45¹⁶, towards the bottom of the 45-50 median age band in Figure A13.1.3. This appears typical of local authorities in the surrounding area, with only moderate fluctuation observed. However, it appears that the median age is higher than observed in the north west and the south of England.

¹⁵ Office of National Statistics (2012 & 2022). Population estimates - local authority based by single year of age. Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=2002> [Accessed 30/04/2024].

¹⁶ Office of National Statistics (2012 & 2022). Census – Median Age. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/articles/censuschangeovertimeandenglandandwales/2011to2021#:~:text=This%20page%20contains%20data%20downloads%20for%20a> [Accessed on 08/10/2024].

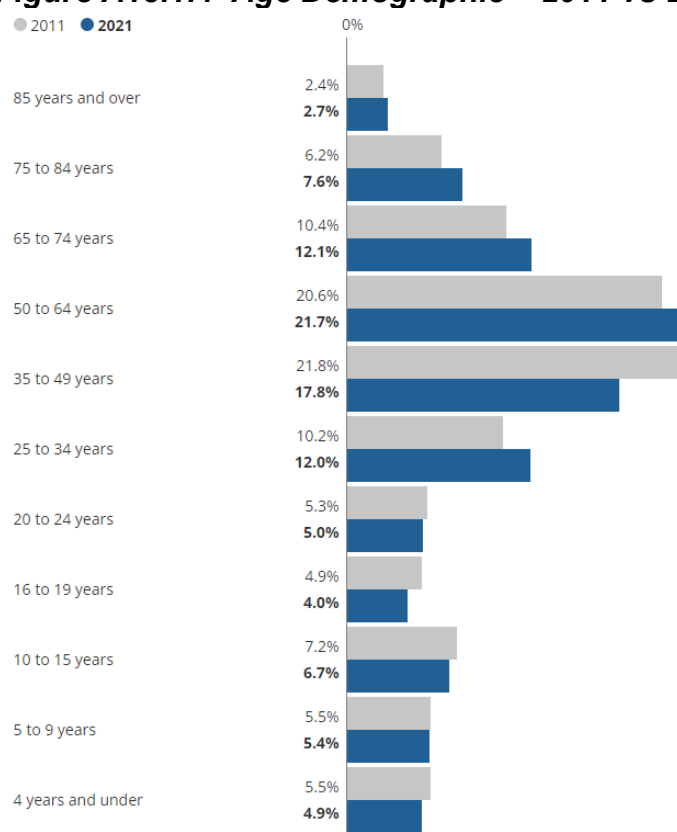
Figure A13.1.3 Median Population



- ³⁰ Newark and Sherwood did have a slightly smaller working age population, (60.2%), when compared to the wider region (62.2%) and nationally (62.9%). Figure A13.1.4 shows how demographics have changed in various age bands between the 2011 and 2021 Census¹⁷. It demonstrates that the population is aging, a trend widely observed throughout the UK.

¹⁷ Office of National Statistics (2012 & 2022). Population estimates - local authority based by single year of age. Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=2002> [Accessed 30/04/2024].

Figure A13.1.4 Age Demographic – 2011 vs 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

A13.1.3.4 EMPLOYMENT

- 31 This employment section considers the economic Study Area of Newark and Sherwood, and Mansfield. Employment in the construction sector is strong within these neighbouring authorities, relative to Newark and Sherwood, suggesting worker inflows for construction employment related to the proposed development could be expected.
- 32 Based on the most recent revised data published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) from the Business Register & Employment Survey (BRES)¹⁸, in 2023 there were a total of 33,000 full time employees working in Newark and Sherwood, 66.0% of the total number of people employed, as shown in Table A13.1.7. This is higher than was observed in Mansfield (65%). Both Newark and Sherwood and Mansfield have a share of full-time employees lower than observed regionally and nationally.

¹⁸ Office of National Statistics (2023). Business Register and Employment Survey. Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=189> [Accessed on 10/06/2025]

Table A13.1.7 Type of Employment

Area	Full time employees		Part-time employees		Total Employees
	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Mansfield	28,000	65.1	15,000	34.9	43,000
Newark and Sherwood	33,000	66.0	17,000	34.0	53,000
East Midlands	1,453,000	68	685,000	32.1	2,137,000
England	19,016,000	69.0	8,480,000	30.8	28,248,000

- 33 Table A13.1.8 shows the proportion of total employment within each sector in 2023¹⁹. Interestingly, Newark and Sherwood, and Mansfield typically had a larger share of employment within the construction sector, than observed regionally (4.3%) and nationally (4.7%). Out of the two local authorities, Newark and Sherwood had a higher proportion (6%) of those employed in construction compared to Mansfield (5.2%).
- 34 Those in employment within the *Electricity, gas and steam* industry in Newark and Sherwood was in line with the national average of 0.4%. However, there was no one observed in employment within the sector in Mansfield.
- 35 The proportion of individuals in Newark and Sherwood employed in *Manufacturing* (12%) was also higher than the national average (7.4%), but lower than the regional average of (12.3%).
- 36 The national share of employment within the *Professional, scientific and technical* sector (9.6%) was substantially higher than observed in Mansfield (4.1%) and Newark and Sherwood (6%).
- 37 *Agriculture* had the large share of employment in Newark and Sherwood (1.4%), 0.9% higher than the national average. On the other hand, only 0.1% of employment in Mansfield was within the same sector.

¹⁹ Office of National Statistics (2023). Business Register and Employment Survey. Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=189> [Accessed on 02/06/2025]

Table A13.1.8 Employment by Industry (2023)

Industry	Newark and Sherwood		Mansfield		East Midlands		England	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
A: Agriculture, forestry and fishing	700	1.4	25	0.1	15,000	0.7	142,000	0.5
B: Mining and quarrying	75	0.1	15	0	4,500	0.2	20,000	0.1
C: Manufacturing	6,000	12	5,000	11.6	263,000	12.3	2,036,000	7.4
D: Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	200	0.4	0	0	11,000	0.5	92,000	0.3
E: Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	800	1.6	250	0.6	14,000	0.7	192,000	0.7
F: Construction	3,000	6	2,250	5.2	91,000	4.3	1,298,000	4.7
G: Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	7,000	14	8,000	18.6	324,000	15.2	3,773,000	13.7
H: Transportation and storage	5,000	10	1,500	3.5	150,000	7	1,400,000	5.1
I: Accommodation and food service activities	7,000	14	2,500	5.8	149,000	7	2,156,000	7.8
J: Information and communication	2,000	4	700	1.6	58,000	2.7	1,310,000	4.8
K: Financial and insurance activities	225	0.4	600	1.4	29,000	1.4	947,000	3.4
L: Real estate activities	800	1.6	600	1.4	36,000	1.7	536,000	1.9
M: Professional, scientific and technical services	3,000	6	1,750	4.1	158,000	7.4	2,644,000	9.6

Industry	Newark and Sherwood		Mansfield		East Midlands		England	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
N: Administrative and support service activities	2,500	5	7,000	16.3	162,000	7.6	2,442,000	8.9
O: Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	1,000	2	2,000	4.7	87,000	4.1	1,199,000	4.4
P: Education	4,000	8	4,000	9.3	192,000	9	2,351,000	8.6
Q: Human health and social work activities	6,000	12	7,000	16.3	311,000	14.6	3,713,000	13.5
R: Arts, entertainment and recreation	1,250	2.5	1,250	2.9	54,000	2.5	702,000	2.6
S: Other service activities	700	1.4	350	0.8	28,000	1.3	542,000	2
Total	51,250		44,790		2,136,500		27,495,000	

Table A13.1.9 Business Size (2022)

Industry	Mansfield		Newark and Sherwood		East Midlands		England	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Micro (0 to 9)	2,970	88.4	4,520	89.3	162,915	88.8	2,113,640	89.2
Small (10 to 49)	325	9.7	460	9.1	16,890	9.2	209,555	8.8
Medium-sized (50 to 249)	50	1.5	65	1.3	2,955	1.6	37,305	1.6
Large (250+)	15	0.4	15	0.3	750	0.4	9,360	0.4
Total	3,360		5,060		183,510		2,370,125	

Table A13.1.10 Businesses by Industry (2022)

Industry	Mansfield		Newark and Sherwood		East Midlands		England	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
A: Agriculture, forestry and fishing	35	1.0	400	7.9	10,120	5.5	92,065	3.9
B: Mining and quarrying	0	0.0	5	0.1	90	0.0	875	0.0
C: Manufacturing	205	6.1	330	6.5	11,710	6.4	116,505	4.9
D: Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0	0.0	15	0.3	245	0.1	4,390	0.2
E: Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	10	0.3	30	0.6	655	0.4	7,590	0.3
F: Construction	635	19.0	715	14.1	26,120	14.2	329,920	13.9

Industry	Mansfield		Newark and Sherwood		East Midlands		England	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
G: Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	660	19.7	800	15.8	29,470	16.1	350,265	14.8
H: Transportation and storage	360	10.7	320	6.3	12,030	6.6	113,500	4.8
I: Accommodation and food service activities	230	6.9	300	5.9	11,570	6.3	145,800	6.2
J: Information and communication	105	3.1	200	4.0	8,270	4.5	173,385	7.3
K: Financial and insurance activities	60	1.8	90	1.8	5,045	2.7	53,475	2.3
L: Real estate activities	100	3.0	195	3.9	7,215	3.9	101,765	4.3
M: Professional, scientific and technical services	285	8.5	650	12.8	23,040	12.6	373,195	15.7
N: Administrative and support service activities	295	8.8	435	8.6	13,925	7.6	202,520	8.5
O: Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	5	0.1	35	0.7	950	0.5	7,140	0.3
P: Education	45	1.3	65	1.3	3,200	1.7	43,000	1.8
Q: Human health and social work activities	140	4.2	160	3.2	7,315	4.0	95,125	4.0
R: Arts, entertainment and recreation	40	1.2	120	2.4	5,400	2.9	63,690	2.7
S: Other service activities	140	4.2	195	3.9	7,140	3.9	95,905	4.0

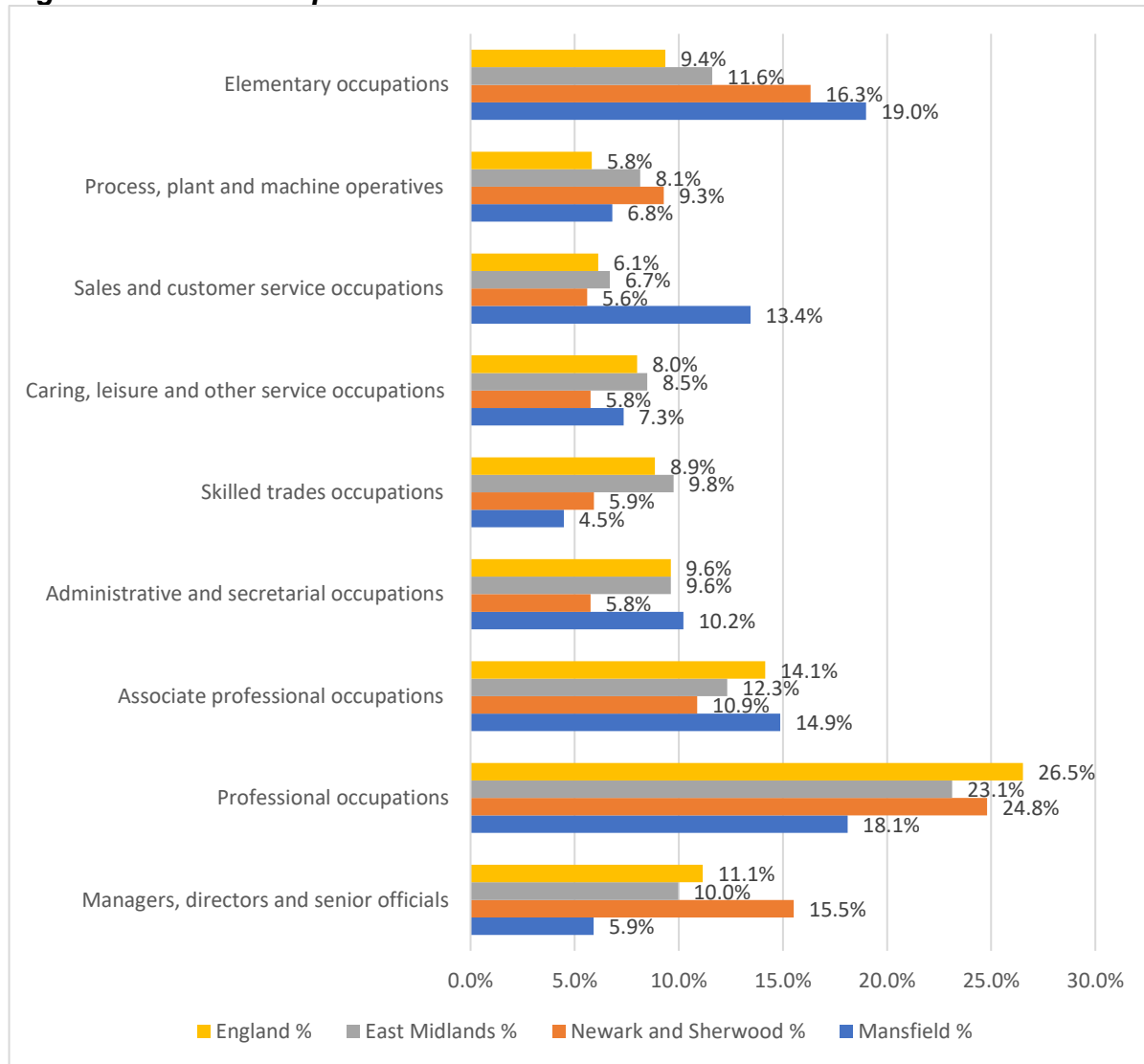
- 38 The Study Area's occupational structure, shown in Figure A13.1.5 taken from the Annual Population Survey (March 2023)²⁰, highlights the diversity of skills which exist within the local economy, noting a good spread of 'white' and 'blue' collar occupations²¹. Newark and Sherwood does, however, notably have a higher percentage of *Process, plant and machine operatives* than the Regional (8.1%) and the national average (5.8%). There is also a higher percentage of workers in *Elementary occupations* in the Study Area (16.3%) than the national average (9.4%).
- 39 Mansfield has a large share of individuals in *Elementary occupations* (19.0%) and Sales and customer service occupations (13.4%) than is more widely observed.
- 40 Newark and Sherwood and Mansfield have a lower proportion of those in employment working in *Skilled trade occupations* than observed regionally (8.9%) and nationally (9.8%).
- 41 As shown in Table A13.1.9, above, according to the ONS UK Business Count (2023)²² there were 5,060 businesses in Newark and Sherwood. Just over 89% of these were micro businesses (employing between 0 and 9 people); just over 9% are small (10 to 49 employees); 1.3% are medium (50 to 249 employees); and the remaining 0.3% are large (250+ employees). This represents a slightly higher proportion of micro and small businesses and a slightly lower proportion of medium, and large businesses, relative to England.
- 42 Mansfield had a slightly larger share of small businesses (9.7%) than Newark and Sherwood, predominantly due to the lower share of small businesses (88.4%).
- 43 In terms of the specific industries of registered businesses, the ONS data highlights the importance of *Manufacturing* businesses to the economies of Mansfield and Newark and Sherwood, accounting for 6.1% and 6.5% of all businesses respectively, but also regionally (6.4%).
- 44 *Construction* had a similar number of businesses as a proportion of the total in Newark and Sherwood (14.1%) compared to East Midlands (14.2%) and England (13.9%). However, the sector held a larger share of the total in Mansfield (19.0%).
- 45 The *Electricity, gas and steam* sector typically accounts for a low share of total businesses nationally. However, the sector does hold a large share of the businesses in Newark and Sherwood, relative to the wider region, highlighted in Table A13.1.10, above, with a 0.3% share, equivalent to 15 businesses.

²⁰ Annual Population Survey (2023). Occupation Structure. Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=17> [Accessed on 30/04/2024].

²¹ 'White collar' jobs are typically those that are office or remote based that involve specialized skills, intellectual work, are often salaried and higher paid than 'blue collar' jobs. 'Blue collar' jobs often involve physical labour, are less specialized, are usually hourly paid and less paid than 'white collar' jobs.

²² UK Business Count (2023). Enterprises by Industry and Employment Size Band. Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=142> [Accessed on 30/04/2024].

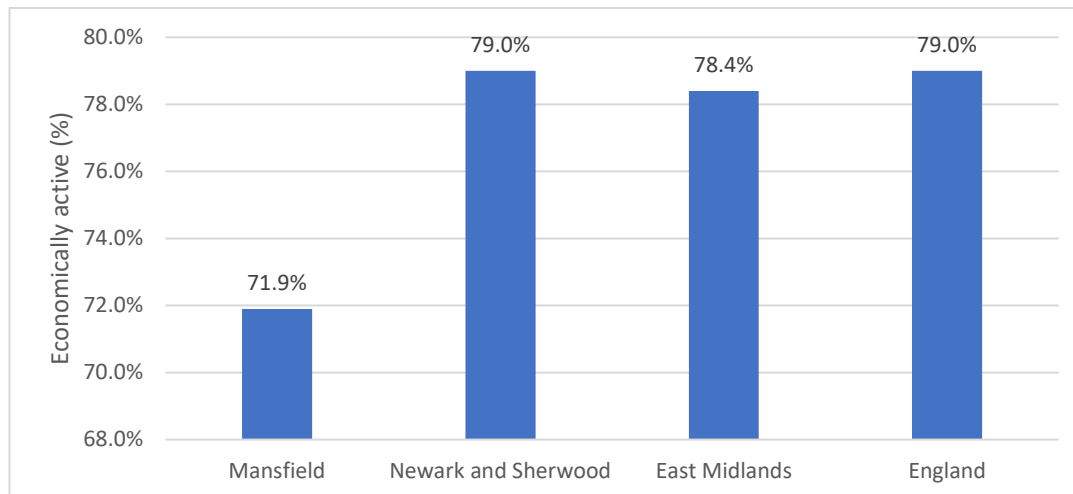
Figure A13.1.5 Occupational Structure



⁴⁶ According to the latest Annual Population Survey²³ data (year ending December 2023), the rate of economic activity (those aged 16-64) was higher in Newark and Sherwood than observed regionally (78.4%) and equivalent to the national average (79.0%). However, the economic activity rate in Mansfield (71.9%) was significantly below regional and national averages.

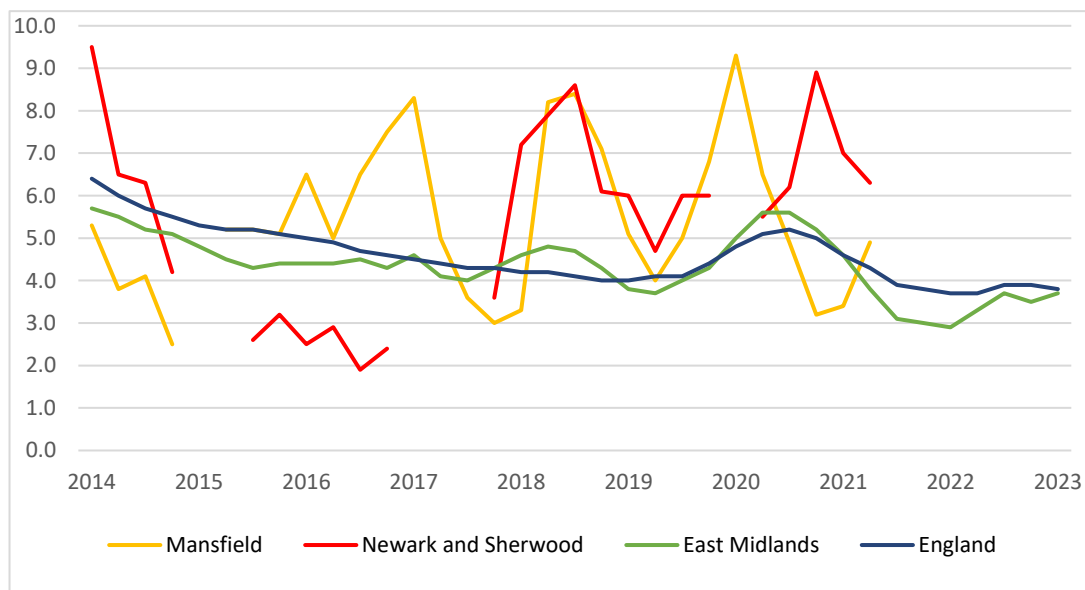
²³ Annual Population Survey (2023). Economic Activity. Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=17> [Accessed on 30/04/2024].

Figure A13.1.6 Economic Activity



- 47 In terms of unemployment, Figure A13.1.7 shows that rates have fluctuated considerably in Newark and Sherwood and Mansfield over a 10-year period. There are large gaps in the data where there is insufficient confidence in the result / too small of a sample size.

Figure A13.1.7 Unemployment Rate



- 48 Figure A13.1.7 seems to indicate that both local authorities observed typically had a higher rate of unemployment than was observed both regionally and nationally throughout the ten year period, with intermittent periods where rates dropped below regional/national averages.

A13.1.3.5 WAGES

- 49 According to the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings²⁴, in 2023 (the latest available data; see Table A13.1.11) residents of Newark and Sherwood had a weekly pay of £671.40. This was higher than the regional average (£640.20), but lower than the national average (£683.40). Wages by place of

²⁴ Office of National Statistics (2023). Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=30> [Accessed on 20/05/2024].

work shows that the median weekly pay in Newark and Sherwood was £619.00. This was lower than both the regional (£623.60) and national average (£683.50).

Table A13.1.11 Earnings – Gross Weekly Pay

Area	Residents analysis	Workplace analysis
Newark and Sherwood	£ 671.40	£ 619.00
East Midlands	£ 640.20	£ 623.60
England	£ 683.40	£ 683.50

A13.1.3.6 GVA PER EMPLOYEE

- 50 Gross Added Value (GVA) is a measure of economic output. In this case, it is useful to understand the average GVA per employee²⁵ in the Study Area to assess the effects of operational stage employment and also the GVA of construction workers to assess the effect of construction employment.
- 51 ONS data 2023 (latest available) for the Regional GVA by industry (using 2023 prices) has been divided by the estimated number of employees in construction in the same boundary area. According to 2023 BRES, to calculate the average GVA per construction employee in the Study Area. This equated to approximately £86,667 in Newark and Sherwood.
- 52 ONS 2023 and BRES 2023 data for the East Midlands states there is a GVA per *Agriculture, forestry and fishing; mining and quarrying* of £128,667. Although this covers other industries, this is the smallest available industry sizing therefore GVA per regional agricultural employee is £128,667.
- 53 In relation to agricultural GVA; information from 'Agriculture in the UK Evidence Pack September 2022 update'²⁶ prepared by the DEFRA and the ONS indicate that agriculture covers circa 17.2 million hectares in the UK with the industry employing circa 467,400 people which would mean agriculture employs circa 0.03 people on average per hectare of agricultural land. This would support research carried out by the Food Research Collaboration in 2016 which assesses the employment generation per hectare of different types of agricultural uses. This is shown in Figure A13.1.8.

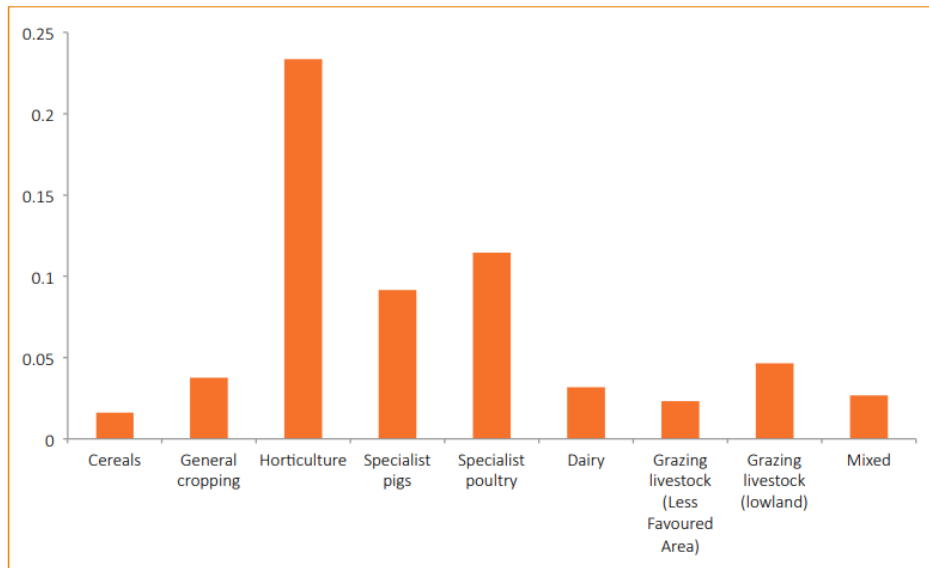
²⁵ Office of National Statistics (2018)

²⁶ Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (2022). Agriculture in the UK Evidence Pack.

Available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1106562/AUK_Evidence_Pack_2021_Sept22.pdf#:~:text=In%20England,%20horticulture%20was%20the%20most [Accessed 08/10/2024]

Figure A13.1.8 Labour intensity of different farm types (number of jobs per hectare)



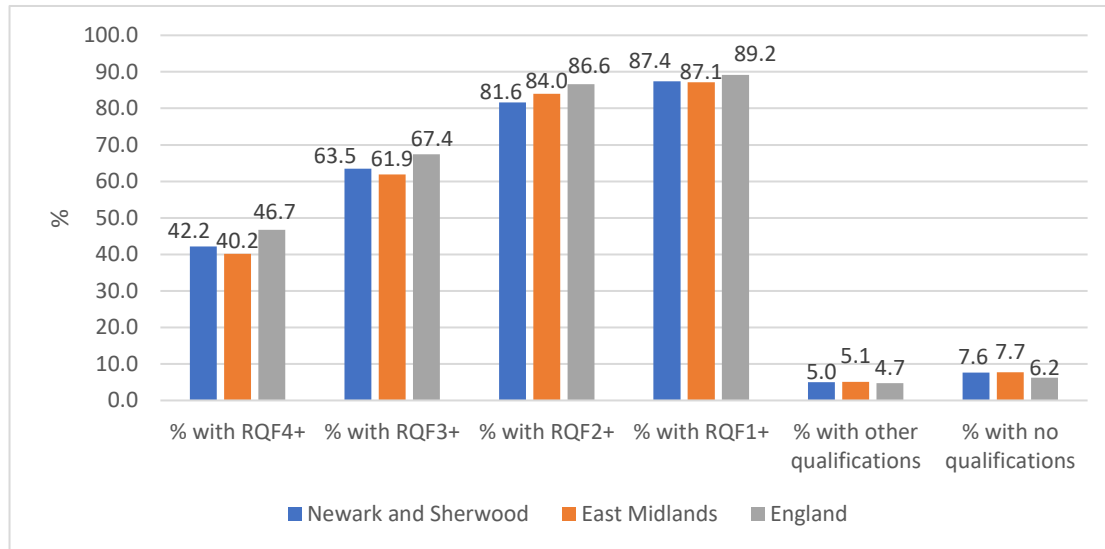
Source: UK Agriculture departments June Survey/Census of Agriculture (6)

A13.1.3.7 EDUCATION

- ⁵⁴ Annual Population Survey data²⁷ for 2023 provides information on the highest level of qualification gained in a given area. Figure A13.1.9 illustrates that the Study Area population had a lower share of the 16–64-year-old population educated to RQF1, RQF2, RQF3 and RFQ4+ than was observed nationally. However, the Study Area had a higher share of individuals RQF qualified across all levels, aside from RQF2+, compared to the East Midlands. Whilst the Study Area and region did have a slightly larger share of individuals with other qualifications, the proportion of individuals with no qualifications nationally was somewhat lower than observed here.

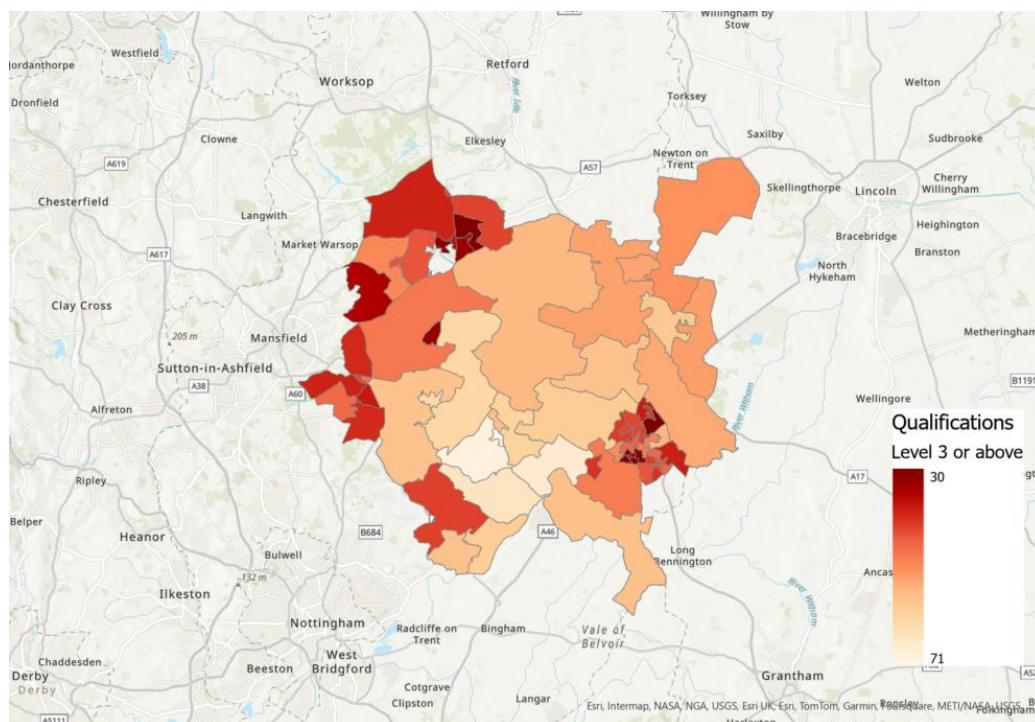
²⁷ Annual Population Survey (2023). Highest Level of Qualification. Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=17> [Accessed on 01/05/2024].

Figure A13.1.9 Qualifications



55 2021 Census data identifies the highest level of qualification within each Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in Newark and Sherwood²⁸. An LSOA is a geographic area designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. An LSOA has an average population of 1,500 people or 650 households. This is illustrated in Figure A13.1.10. As can be seen, the areas with the lowest proportion of individuals who have a Level 3 qualification or higher are typically within/adjacent to Newark-upon-Trent, Broughton and Mansfield (along the western border of Newark and Sherwood).

Figure A13.1.10 Qualifications – Level 3 or Above (%)

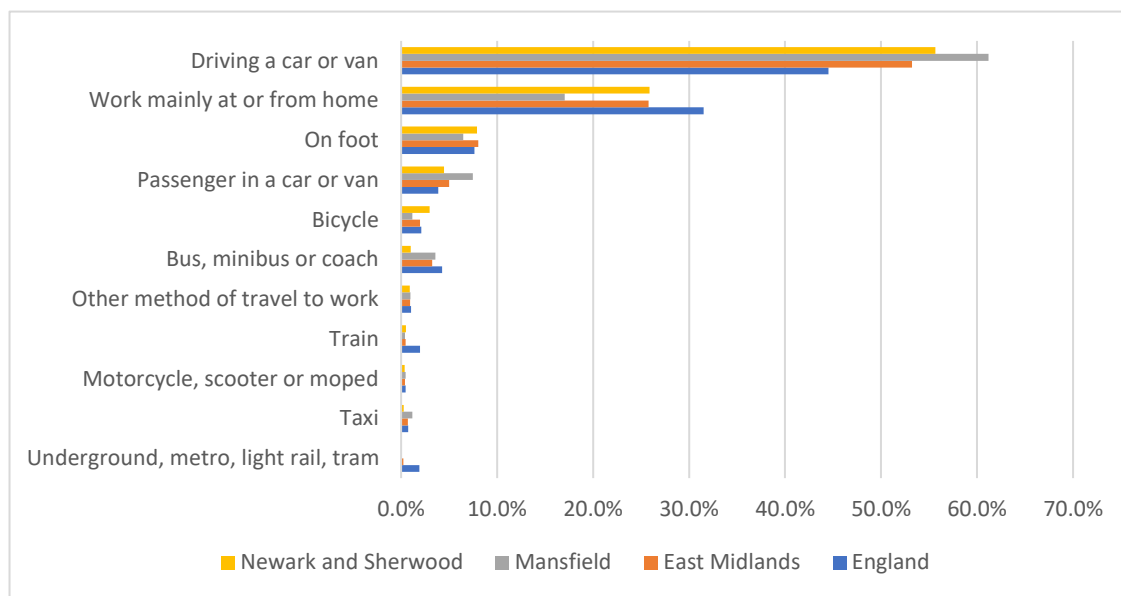


²⁸ Office of National Statistics (2021). Census - Highest Level of Qualification. Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=2084> [Accessed on: 22/05/2024].

A13.1.3.8 TRAVEL TO WORK

- 56 Figure A13.1.11 compares the method of travel to work in 2021 of those residing in Newark and Sherwood and Mansfield (those most likely to have workers commuting to work on the Development) to regional and national averages. It is clear that the majority of residents in the local authority areas drive a van or car to their place of work, with more than 50% of workers in both Newark and Sherwood and Mansfield using this mode of transport²⁹.
- 57 Mansfield has a low proportion of residents (17.0%) who work mainly from home compared to regional (25.8%) and national (31.5%) averages. Newark and Sherwood also saw a larger share of residents using a bicycle to get to work (3.0%) than regionally (2.0%) and nationally (2.1%).

Figure A13.1.11 Method of Travel to Work



- 58 The full 2021 Census data showing car or van availability in Newark and Sherwood, regionally and in England as a whole is included in Table A13.1.12³⁰.

²⁹ Office of National Statistics (2021). Census – Method of Travel to Work. Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=2078> [Accessed on: 01/05/2024].

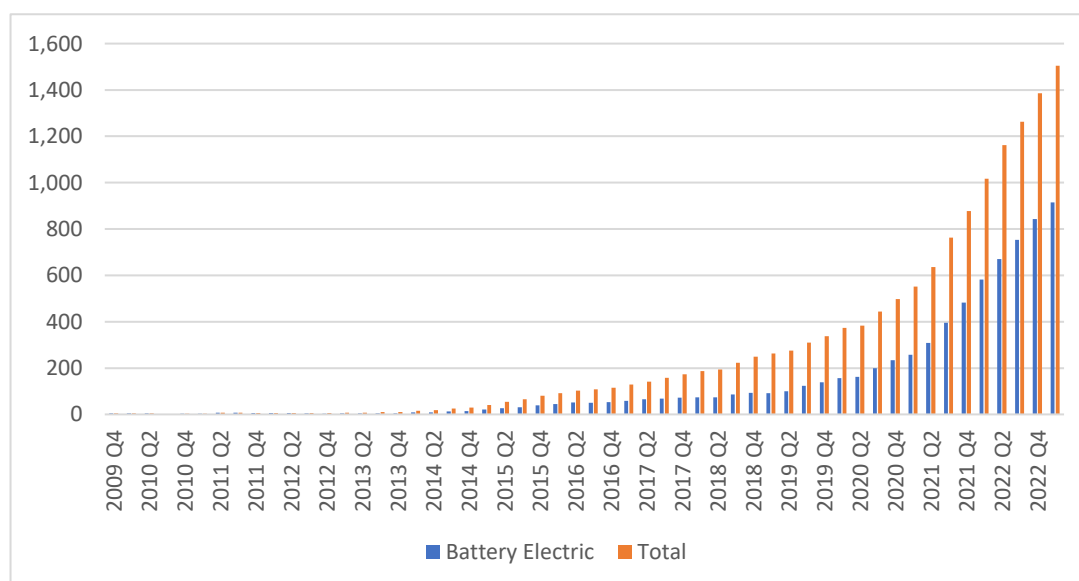
³⁰ Office of National Statistics (2021). Census – Method of Travel to Work. Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=2063> [Accessed on: 01/05/2024].

Table A13.1.12 Car/van availability (number of households)

Area		Total	No cars or vans	1 car or van	2 cars or vans	3 or more cars or vans
Newark and Sherwood	No.	53,330	8,620	21,812	16,541	6,357
	%	100	16.2	40.9	31.0	11.9
East Midlands	No.	2,037,332	389,858	833,576	600,764	23,134
	%	100	19.1	40.9	29.5	10.5
England	No.	23,436,085	5,516,098	9,674,645	6,106,970	2,138,372
	%	100	23.5	41.3	26.1	9.1

- 59 Having identified that a large proportion of the population of the Study Area regularly use a private car or van as a method of transport, Figure A13.1.12 shows the Department for Transport data³¹ on the number of electric vehicles which are registered.

Figure A13.1.12 Registered Plug-in Vehicles

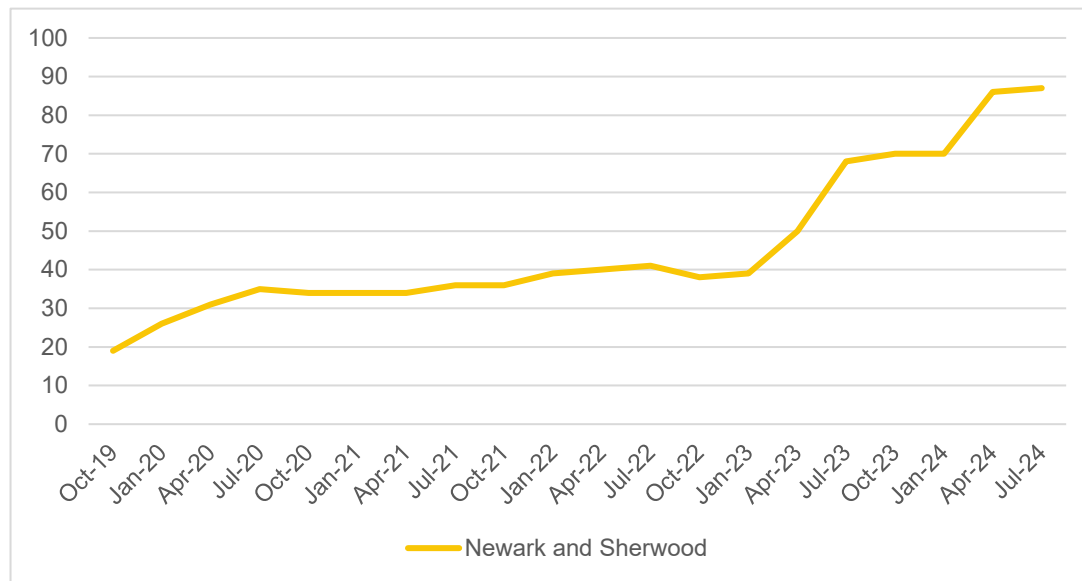


- 60 The most recent available data from quarter 1 2023 shows that there was a total of 1,504 plug-in vehicles registered in Newark and Sherwood (see Figure A13.1.12). This equates to 2.4% of the total number of plug-in vehicles registered in the East Midlands (63,363).
- 61 If this trend continues, then there will in turn be an increased demand for electric vehicle charging points. As can be seen in Figure A13.1.13, the number of publicly available electric vehicles charging points in each of the local authority areas has increased across the Study Area since October

³¹ Department for Transport and Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (2023). Licensed plug-in vehicles (PiVs) at the end of the quarter by body type, fuel type, keepership (private and company) and upper and lower tier local authority. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/vehicle-licensing-statistics-data-tables> [Accessed on 01/05/2024].

2019³², however, this increase does not match the same trajectory of growth as electric vehicle ownership.

Figure A13.1.13 Electric Vehicle Charging Points



- ⁶² Therefore, increased localised electricity supply will be needed to cater to the increase of EV cars.

A13.1.3.9 ACCESS TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

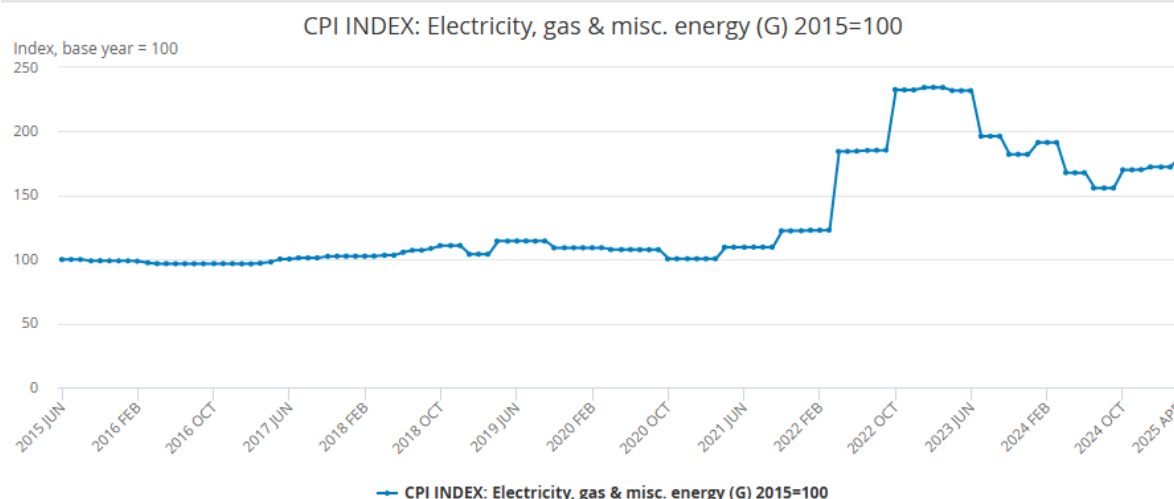
- ⁶³ Due to the nature of the scheme benefits in terms of renewable energy generation it is useful to understand the baseline position across the Study Area According to the latest Department for Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (DBEIS) Regional Renewable Statistics data³³; in 2022, the Study Area produced a total of approximately 184,792 MWh of renewable energy which equates to circa 0.4% of England's total (42,384,980 MWh).
- ⁶⁴ The Study Area generated the electricity via three means: Photovoltaics, Onshore Wind and Anaerobic Digestion, accounting for 66,978 MWh, 92,048 MWh and 25,766 MWh respectively.
- ⁶⁵ In terms of installed capacity, the DBEIS data indicates that as of 2021, the Study Area has approximately 72 MW of installed solar photo voltaic capacity. This equates to circa 50.2% of the Newark and Sherwood total (143.9 MW).
- ⁶⁶ As well as understanding the current renewable energy capacity of the Study Area, we have also had reference to the DBEIS regional and local authority electricity consumption statistics. According to the 2022 data (latest available), domestic properties in the study area consumed a total of 188,100 MWh. On this basis the solar energy currently produced in the

³² Department for Transport (2024). Electric vehicle public charging infrastructure statistics: July 2024. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/electric-vehicle-public-charging-infrastructure-statistics-july-2024> [Accessed on 08/10/2024].

³³ Department for Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (2023). Renewable electricity by local authority 2014 – 2022. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics#:~:text=2022%20data%20published.%207%20November%202022>. [Accessed on 08/10/2024].

Study Area (66,978 MWh) would be able to cover approximately 36% of the domestic energy usage. Including non-domestic properties (an additional 300,000 MWh), the existing solar power generation can only cover c.14% and renewable energy as a whole can only contribute to c.38%.

Figure A13.1.14 CPI Index – Electricity, Gas and Miscellaneous Energy



- 67 As of June 2025, the cost of non-renewable energy resources has risen significantly and is predicted to continue to rise³⁴ as shown in Figure A13.1.14. Indicators of deprivation are discussed in the next section. The rising cost of energy may have dramatic impacts on health, social and economic wellbeing measures.
- 68 According to uswitch.com data, the average cost of electricity in the East Midlands April-July 2024 is 23.77p per kWh and the average price of gas was 5.90p per kWh. The cost of electricity is slightly lower than the UK average, whilst the cost of gas is slightly higher (24.50p/kWh and 6.04p/kWh, respectively).

A13.1.3.10 DEPRIVATION (IMD)

- 69 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)³⁵ is the UK Government's official measure of relative deprivation for small areas. It is a National Statistic and is produced by statisticians at the UK Government. IMD identifies areas with the highest concentrations of several different types of deprivation. The prime purpose of the index is to provide the evidence needed about the most deprived areas of the UK to inform a variety of decisions, such as funding or targeting of programmes and services for local areas. IMD ranks all small areas in England from 1 (most deprived) to 32,844 (least deprived). The small areas are otherwise known as Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs).
- 70 IMD is currently made up of seven separate domains (or types) of deprivation. Each domain is compiled from a range of different indicators.

³⁴ Office of National Statistics (2024). CPI INDEX: Electricity, gas & misc. energy (G) 2015=100. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/timeseries/dk9u/mm23#:~:text=Next%20release:%2016%20October%202024.%20Series> [Accessed on 01/06/2025].

³⁵ Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2019). English Indices of Multiple Deprivation. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019> [Accessed on 11/10/2024].

The domains included in WIMD 2019 are: a) Income b) Employment c) Health d) Education e) Barriers to Housing and Services g) Crime h) Living Environment.

- 71 The map in Appendix A - Figure A13.1.15 shows the relative deprivation of areas within the Study Area. We can see that within the Study Area, there are three LSOAs classed as being in the top 10% most deprived (decile 1) areas in England.
- 72 However, the Study Area is more affluent than the area beyond the western and northern boundary and similar in terms of deprivation to those on the eastern and southern boundary. The majority of LSOAs in the Study Area fall within the top 50% least deprived in England.
- 73 Appendix A - Figure A13.1.16 shows the level of educational deprivation in Newark and Sherwood, based on the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation. The Figure illustrates that educational deprivation is highest towards the town of Newark-On-Trent and around the northeastern perimeter of the district.

A13.1.3.11 ACCESS TO BROADBAND

- 74 The House of Commons Library³⁶ provides data on broadband access by local constituency. Appendix A - Figure A13.1.17 shows the proportion of constituency lines receiving 10mbps or less, as of May 2023. The national average figure is equivalent 3.6%. The Figure shows that the Study Area typically does not have a high proportion of individuals with lines receiving less than 10 mbps, relative to the national average.
- 75 The House of Commons Library also illustrates the average broadband download speed in each constituency, as of May 2023 (see Appendix A - Figure A13.1.18). The constituencies that form the Study Area have an average download speed lower than the national average of 151.3 mbps.

A13.1.3.12 TOURISM

- 76 The Order Limits covers a large area within Newark and Sherwood, with a number of tourism receptors in within a 5 km buffer. As such, it is important to identify what the baseline is for these elements to then ascertain how the Development could impact or benefit the Study Area.
- 77 The Newark and Sherwood District Council Visitor Economy Strategy 2020-23³⁷ showed that, in 2019, overall visitor spend totalled £298.32 million (+6.0% on 2018), comprising £153.50 million from domestic day visitors (+4.7% on 2018) and £144.83 million overnight visitors (+7.4% on 2018). Furthermore, the total number of annual visitors to the district stood at 4,461,000 (+2.2% on 2018).

³⁶ The House of Commons Library (2024). Constituency data: broadband coverage and speeds. Available at: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/constituency-data-broadband-coverage-and-speeds/> [Accessed 01/05/2024].

³⁷ Newark and Sherwood District Council. Visitor Economy Strategy 2020-2023. Available at: <https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/newark-and-sherwood/images-and-files/strategies-and-policies/pdfs/Visitor-Economy--Strategy-2020-23---FINAL.pdf> [Accessed on 11/10/2024].

- 78 To complement the above data, Newark and Sherwood District Council also conducted an online survey and market research. Some of the main points uncovered included:
- The majority (54%) of visitors were from the East Midlands, followed by Yorkshire and Humberside and the West Midlands;
 - The main age categories of visitors were 56+ years (43%) and 36 – 55 years (39%);
 - The average amount of time that day visitors spent in the district was 5 hours and their average spend was £23.68;
 - The average spend per overnight visitor was £197.32 if staying in paid-for accommodation or £50.83 if staying at friends or relatives;
 - Day visitor spend was slightly higher in Southwell than Newark or Sherwood Forest and overnight visitor spend was highest in Sherwood Forest;
 - 80% of visitors travelling to Newark and Sherwood did so by car and visitor dispersal was largely not dependant on public transport provision;
 - The main reasons for visiting the district were attending arts events/festivals (21%); visiting attractions (17%); and general sightseeing (15%);
 - Sherwood Forest was the attraction with the highest levels of both spontaneous (48%) and prompted (50%) awareness in the district; and
 - 97% would recommend Newark & Sherwood to a friend, with 30% giving their overall visitor experience 10/10 and 40% rating it “better than expected”.
- 79 Figure A13.1.19 shows the Order Limits, with a 5-kilometre buffer. This demonstrates that the Order Limits, including the 5-kilometre buffer, is predominantly a rural area, away from existing tourism receptors in the centre of Newark-upon-Trent, Southwell and Sherwood Forest. It is therefore unlikely that tourism receptors will be impacted as a result of a negative visual impact or other impacts during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Development.
- 80 Just outside the 5-kilometre buffer there are tourism receptors in Newark-upon-Trent and Southwell, such as Newark Castle, a number of museums and food and drink establishments. Sherwood Forest is also a popular tourist attraction in the Study Area, situated to the north west. Should the road network in the district be negatively impacted as a result of the Development (increase in construction vehicles on the road), there could be negative implications for these receptors.
- 81 It is worth highlighting that the Study Area is characterised by a network of towns and villages, most of which are connected by an extensive public right of way (PRoW) network which allows access to the countryside (see Figure A13.1.20). To understand the tourism use of the PRoW network around the Development, PRoW User Footpath Surveys have been undertaken.
- 82 There are 1,960 PRoW paths within Newark and Sherwood District Council and 117 within the Recreation Study Area according to ES Chapter 18, Recreation [EN010162/APP/6.2.18] (circa 6% of the local authority total).

PRoW User Surveys

- 83 PRoW user surveys were conducted across four dates (9th April, 12th April, 18th April and 4th May 2025). A variety of day types were chosen, with a preference towards weekends which will show a larger recreational or tourist use. One of the dates was a Bank Holiday (Friday 18th April); one was a weekday (Wednesday 9th April) and two were weekends (Saturday 12th April and 4th May).
- 84 There was a total of 186 respondents, with 73% of respondents being residents and only 27% of respondents being visitors. 61% of people live under 2 miles away from where they were surveyed. Of the 27% respondents who identified themselves as visitors, when analysing their home postcodes or towns, circa 51% of them came from Newark and Sherwood and 49% of them came from outside – whilst the remaining came from outside. Therefore, for the purposes of assessing Newark and Sherwood tourism impact – a proportion of 13.3% ($27\% \times 0.49$) has been calculated to identify visitors.
- 85 The majority (69%) of respondents were walkers, followed by cyclists (10%) and horse riders (7%).
- 86 Of those asked, 70% of respondents used the route they were surveyed on once or more than once a week.
- 87 When asked *“If there were solar panels within the existing landscape, would it have changed your decision to visit today?”* 47% of people said no and 45% of people said yes.
- 88 A second but similar question was asked of users. When asked *“Would the installation of solar panels in this area influence your decision to visit again?”* 51% of people said yes, which was 10% more than those who said no.
- 89 Further analysis is conducted within Chapter 13 Socioeconomics and Tourism [EN010162/APP/6.2.13].

Short Term Accommodation

- 90 Every month the England Occupancy Survey (EOS)³⁸ measures room occupancy across the serviced accommodation sector. Data is collected from a panel of participating accommodation businesses who submit data each month.
- 91 The full data for regional room occupancy in 2023 is presented in Table A13.1.13. As can be seen, the East Midlands region has lowest room occupancy levels between December to February which is expected due to seasonality.

Table A13.1.13 Room Occupancy Rates by Month (%)

Area	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East Midlands	64	73	75	74	75	78	79	75	80	77	76	65
England	65	73	75	77	78	84	84	80	83	80	78	73

³⁸ VisitBritain (2023). England Hotel Occupancy, January – December. Available at: <https://www.visitbritain.org/research-insights/latest-releases> [Accessed on 11/10/2024].

- 92 Property Market Intel, provide more recent data for a more accurate boundary of 'Nottinghamshire'. They state that in 2025 there was an average occupancy rate of 51%.
- 93 A screenshot from AirDNA is shown in Appendix A - Figure A13.1.21 to give an indication of the location of serviced accommodation near the Development.
- 94 It shows that there are 214 short term accommodations in the Nottinghamshire (this excludes hotels) and of these short term accommodation, 11.6% (25) are within the Order Limits. There is a total of 558 bedspaces.
- 95 The cost of accommodation is typically between £60 - £125 for a double room, with the exception of 'Kelham House Country Manor' and 'The Goat House at Ivy Cottage'. Both of these properties offer a more expensive accommodation experience.
- 96 As can be seen there is a concentration of availability in Newark-upon-Trent and Southwell as well as a small number of providers in more rural areas. There does not appear to be many accommodation providers within / in close proximity to the Order Limits.
- 97 As can be seen, the majority of the accommodation is spread around the edges of Mansfield town centre. There is also a density of short-term lets to the west of Clipstone and in Warsop, north of Mansfield town centre.

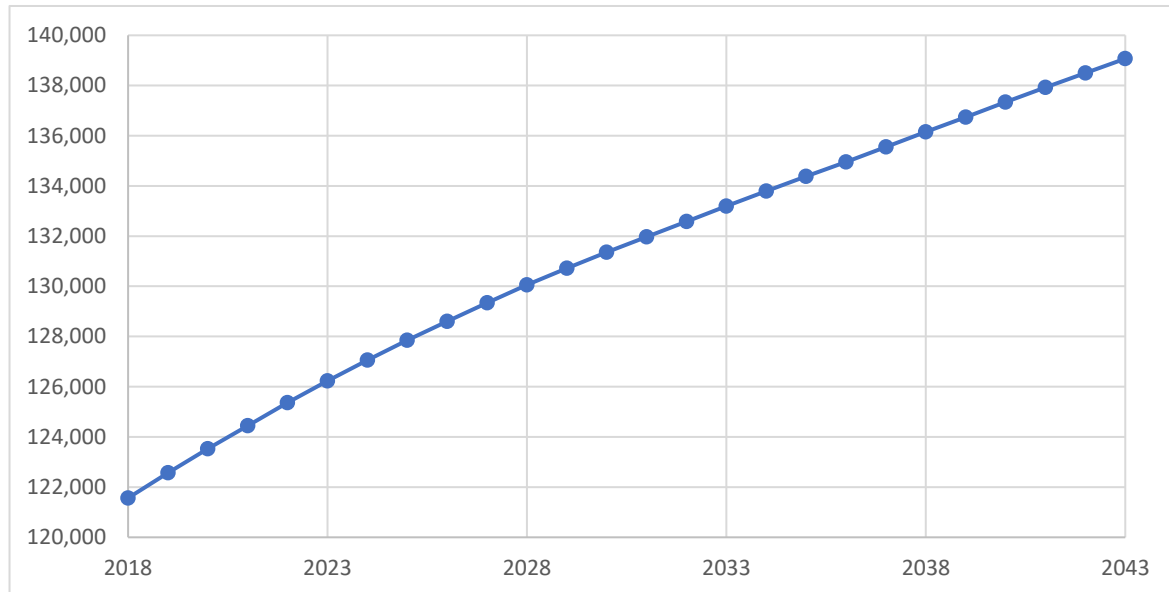
A13.1.4 FUTURE BASELINE

A13.1.4.1 POPULATION

- 98 ONS³⁹ data estimates future population growth based on the ONS 2018-based interim projections. It suggests that Newark and Sherwood's population will increase to around 139,069 in 2043, from 121,566 in 2018, approximately a 14.4% increase. This is illustrated in Figure A13.1.22.

³⁹ Office of National Statistics (2020). Population projections - local authority based by single year of age. Available at:
<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=2006> [accessed on 20/05/2024].

Figure A13.1.22 Population Projection for Newark and Sherwood



- 99 The age groups of under 15 and 16-64 are projected to see modest increases in population, equivalent to 5.3% and 6.3%, respectively. However, the over 65 age group is projected to increase by 44.5%, a significant increase. The total share of the population that falls within the over 65 age group is therefore projected to increase from 21.8% to 27.5%.
- 100 It should be noted, however, that these population projections are trend-based projections, which means assumptions for future levels of births, deaths and migration are based on observed levels over the previous five years. They show what the population will be if recent trends in these continue.

A13.1.4.2 HOUSING

- 101 The Amended Core Strategy⁴⁰ puts forward a housing need of 9,079 homes over the period up to 2033, an equivalent to 454 dwellings per year. Applying this target of 454 dwellings per annum to the total number of dwellings in Newark and Sherwood according to the 2021 Census (53,331), this would result in a total of 58,779 dwellings in Newark and Sherwood in 2033 or an increase by 10.2% in 12 years or an increase of just 0.85% per year.

A13.1.4.3 EDUCATION

- 102 The latest government National pupil projections (2024)⁴¹ predict a yearly downward trend for the number of state nursery and primary school places from 4,563,525 in 2024 to 4,356,551 in 2028 representing a circa 4.5% decrease.

⁴⁰ Newark and Sherwood (2019). Amended Core Strategy DPD. Available at: <https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/newark-and-sherwood/images-and-files/planning-policy/pdfs/core-strategy/ACS2019.pdf> [Accessed on 11/10/2024].

⁴¹ Department for Education (2024). National Pupil Projections. Available at: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/national-pupil-projections#releaseHeadlines-tables> [Accessed on 11/10/2024].

- 103 In terms of numbers of state secondary school places, the number is expected to slightly increase from 3,233,943 in 2023 to 3,263,067 in 2028, representing an increase equivalent to 0.9%.

A13.1.4.4 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 104 Climate change is not considered to have a significant impact upon the socio-economic baseline. Increases to the cost of fossil fuels may result in rising household bills, consequently making home ownership more expensive, however, there should also be a greater take up of green energy and electric vehicle ownership which may combat this. Overall, the baseline is not expected to be affected by the impacts of climate change.

A13.1.4.5 BASELINE SUMMARY

Population and Demographics

- As of 2022 Newark and Sherwood has a population of 125,089 people which is 2.5% of the East Midlands;
- The population of Newark and Sherwood is estimated to have increased by 8.1% since 2012. This is slightly higher than the growth observed regionally (8.0%) and nationally (6.7%) during the same time period;
- Newark and Sherwood is in the bottom of the 45-50 median age band; and.
- Newark and Sherwood has a slightly smaller working age population, (60.2%), when compared to the wider region (62.2%) and nationally (62.9%).

Employment

- The proportion of people employed in full time employment, out of the total employees is higher in Newark and Sherwood (66%) compared to Mansfield (65.1%) – however both are lower compared to the East Midlands (68%) and England (69%);.
- Interestingly, Newark and Sherwood, and Mansfield typically has a larger share of employment within the construction sector, than observed regionally (4.3%) and nationally (4.7%). Out of the two local authorities, Newark and Sherwood had a higher proportion (6%) of those employed in construction compared to Mansfield (5.2%);.
- The proportion of individuals in Newark and Sherwood employed in Manufacturing (12%) was also higher than the national average (7.4%), but lower than the regional average of (12.3%);.
- Agriculture has the large share of employment in Newark and Sherwood (1.4%), 0.9% higher than the national average. On the other hand, only 0.1% of employment in Mansfield was within the same sector;.
- Both Newark and Sherwood, and Mansfield have a higher rate of unemployment than was observed both regionally and nationally throughout the ten-year period; and.
- The average construction worker wage in the Study Area is £34,528.

GVA per Employee

- The average GVA per construction employee in Newark and Sherwood is equated to approximately £86,667 (BRES, 2023); and.

- The East Midlands states there is a GVA per Agriculture, forestry and fishing; mining and quarrying employee of £128,667. Although this covers other industries, this is the smallest available industry sizing therefore GVA per regional agricultural employee is £128,667. (BRES, 2023).

Education

- Newark and Sherwood's population has a lower share of the 16–64-year-old population educated to RQF1, RQF2, RQF3 and RFQ4+ than was observed nationally;.
- The Study Area has a higher share of individuals RQF qualified across all levels, aside from RQF2+, compared to the East Midlands; ands.
- the areas with the lowest proportion of individuals who have a Level 3 qualification or higher (education deprivation) are typically within/adjacent to Newark-upon-Trent, Broughton and Mansfield (along the western border of Newark and Sherwood).

Travel and Commuting

- The majority of residents in the local authority areas drive a van or car to their place of work, with more than 50% of workers in both Newark and Sherwood and Mansfield using this mode of transport;and
- There was a total of 1,504 plug-in vehicles registered in Newark and Sherwood, which is a growing trend implying potential increased electricity demand if trends continue.

Access to Renewable Electricity

- In 2022, Newark and Sherwood produced a total of approximately 184,792 MWh of renewable energy which equates to circa 0.4% of England's total;
- In terms of installed capacity, the DBEIS data indicates that as of 2021, the Study Area has approximately 72 MW of installed solar photo voltaic capacity;
- Renewable electricity within Newark and Sherwood can cover circa 38% of its domestic and non-domestic electricity usage; and
- The cost of electricity has a steady rise since 2022, with a drop from 2023 June to 2024 October and a gradual rise to Q1 2025.

Deprivation

- Of Newark and Sherwood's 66 LSOA, there are three LSOAs classed as being in the top 10% most deprived (decile 1) areas in England;
- Newark and Sherwood is more affluent than the area beyond the western and northern boundary and similar in terms of deprivation to those on the eastern and southern boundary;
- The majority of LSOAs in the Study Area fall within the top 50% least deprived in England; and
- The educational deprivation is highest towards the town of Newark-On-Trent and around the northeastern perimeter of the district.

Tourism

- There were 4.46 million annual visitors to Newark and Sherwood in 2019 (Visitor Economy Strategy). These visitors contributed a total of £298.32 million to the visitor economy;.

- The majority (54%) of visitors were from the East Midlands, followed by Yorkshire and Humberside and the West Midlands;
- The main reasons for visiting the district were attending arts events/festivals (21%); visiting attractions (17%); and general sightseeing (15%);
- There was a total of 558 short-term serviced accommodations bedspaces in Nottinghamshire (excluding hotels and long term rents), with a occupancy rate of 51% as of 2025;.

PRoW Landscape

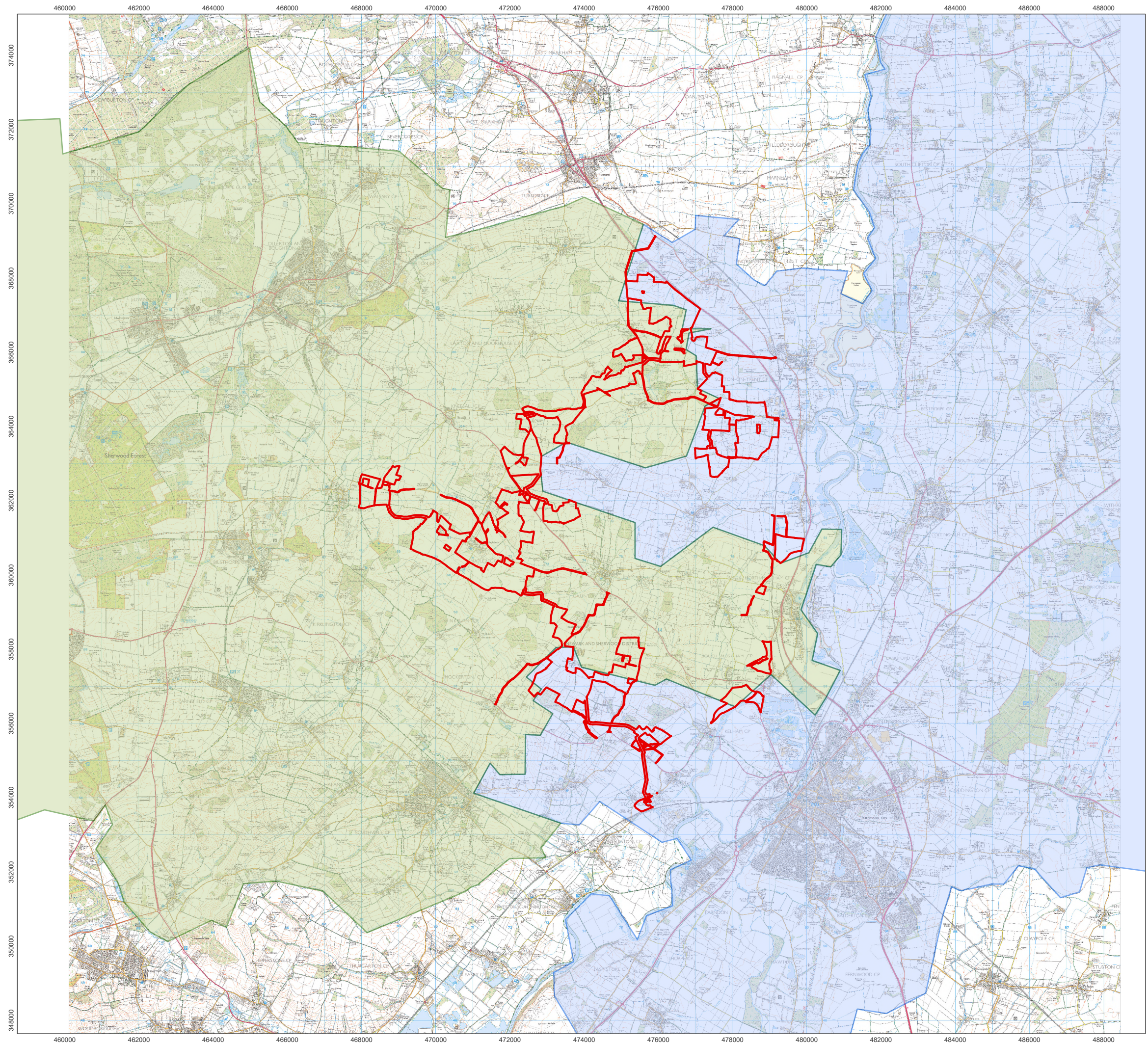
- There are 1,960 PRoW paths within Newark and Sherwood District Council and 116 within the Recreation Study Area according to ES Chapter 18, Recreation [EN010162/APP/6.2.18] (circa 6% of the local authority total);.
- The Applicant has undertaken a PRoW usage survey on 9th April, 12th April, 18th April and 4th May 2025.
- Out of 186 respondents, the PRoW survey had circa 13% of respondents who were non-Newark and Sherwood residents;.
- The PRoW usage survey asked users of the 8 Significantly Adverse Effected viewpoints along the Development's PRoW network a series of questions; and.
- When asked "If there were solar panels within the existing landscape, would it have changed your decision to visit today?" 47% of people said no and 45% of people said yes.




Future Baseline

- ONS⁴² data estimates that Newark and Sherwood's population will increase to around 139,069 in 2043, from 121,566 in 2018, approximately a 14.4% increase.
- The over 65 age group is projected to increase by 44.5%, a significant increase.

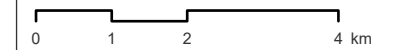
⁴² Office of National Statistics (2020). Population projections - local authority based by single year of age. Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=2006> [accessed on 20/05/2024].

APPENDIX A - FIGURES



-  Order Limits
- Travel to Work Areas
-  Mansfield
-  Lincoln

1:100,000 Scale @ A3

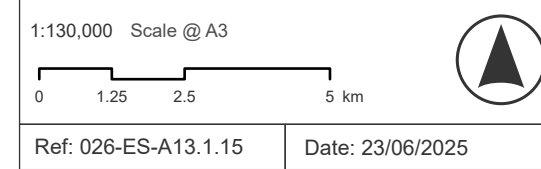
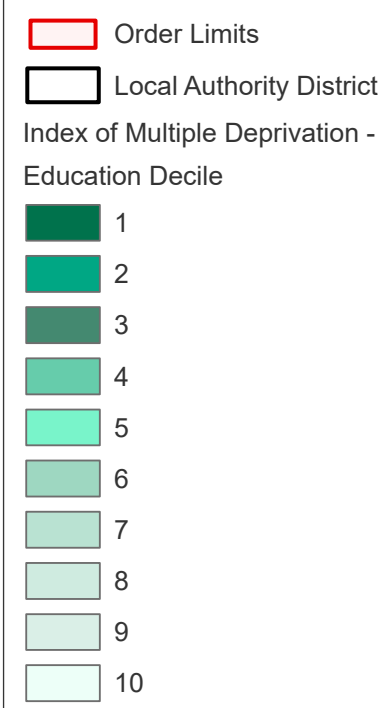
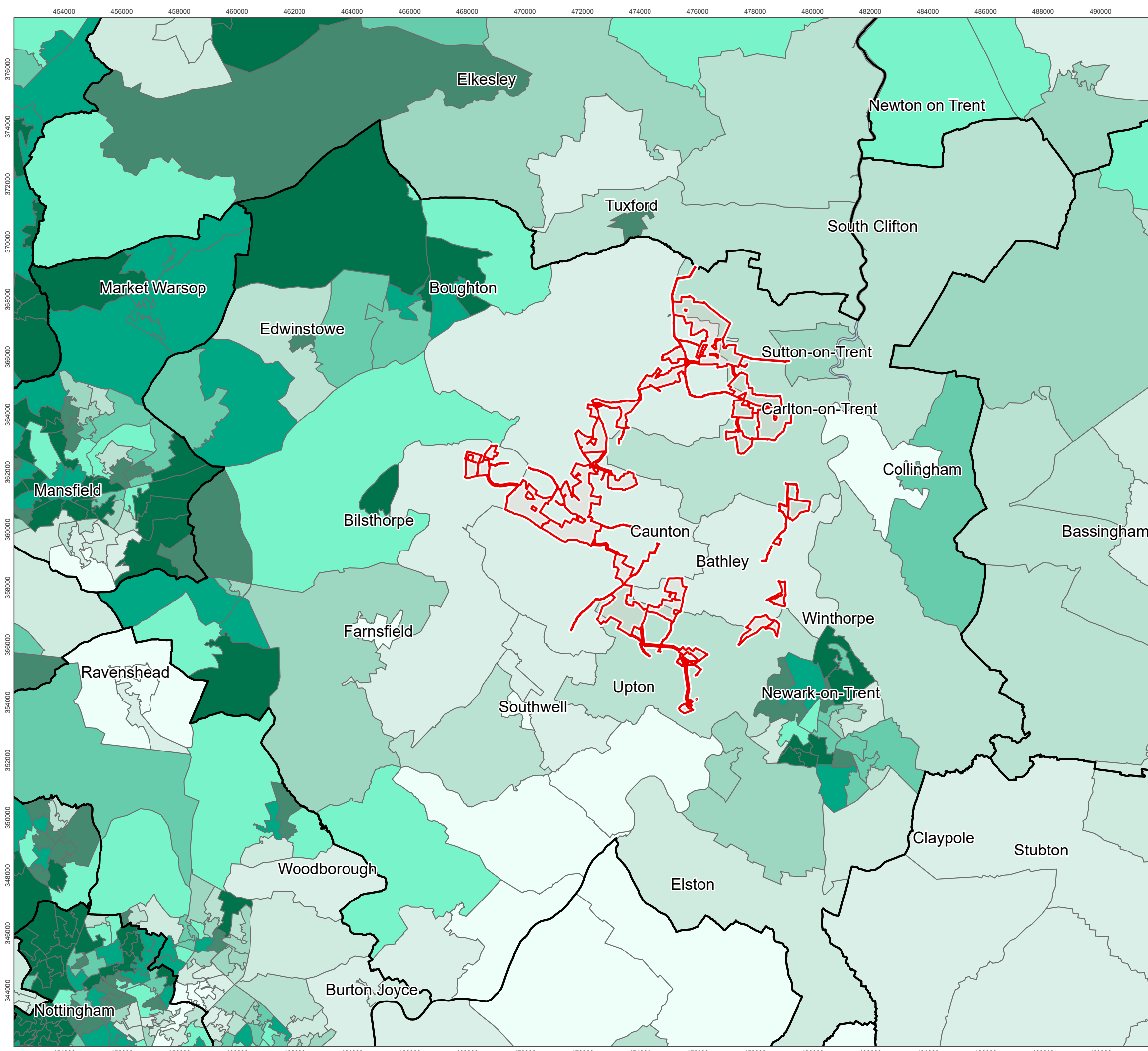


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Date: 20/06/2025

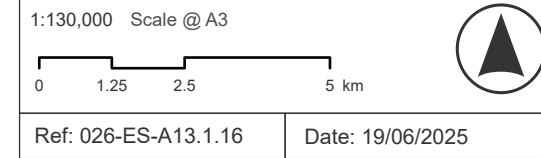
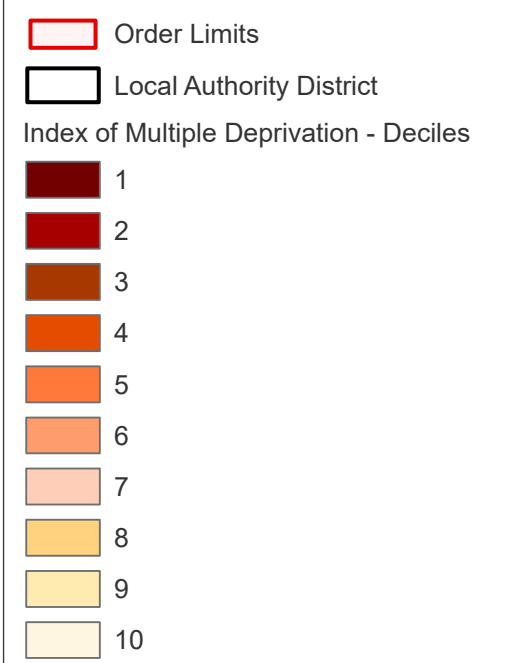
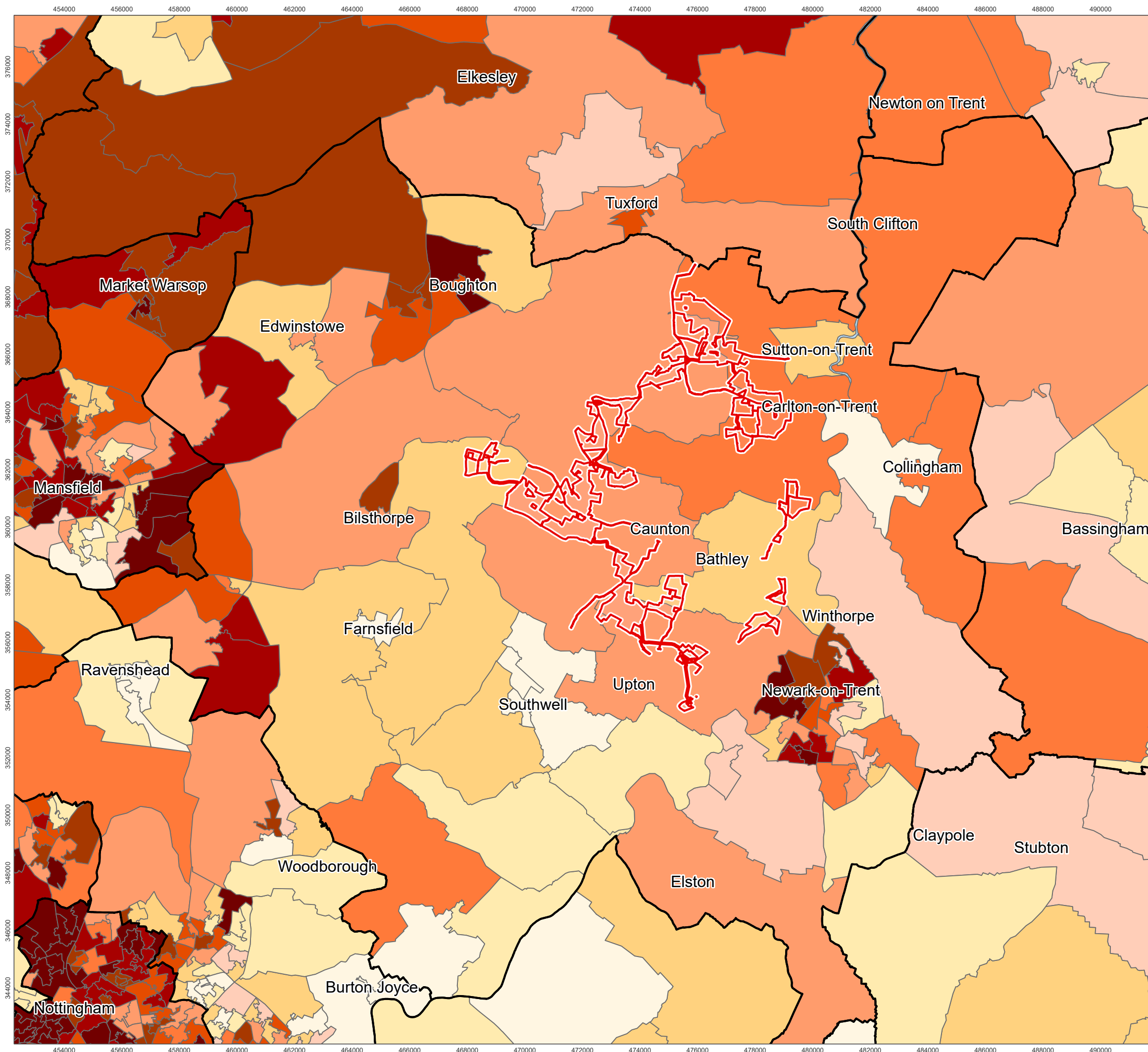
Order Limits and Travel to Work Areas
Figure A13.1.1

**Great North Road Solar and
Biodiversity Park
Environmental Statement**



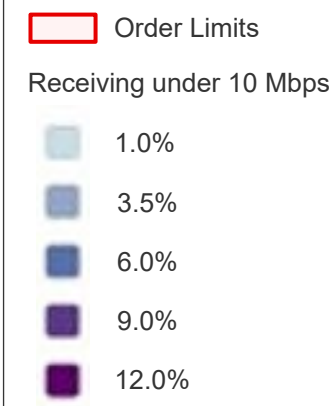
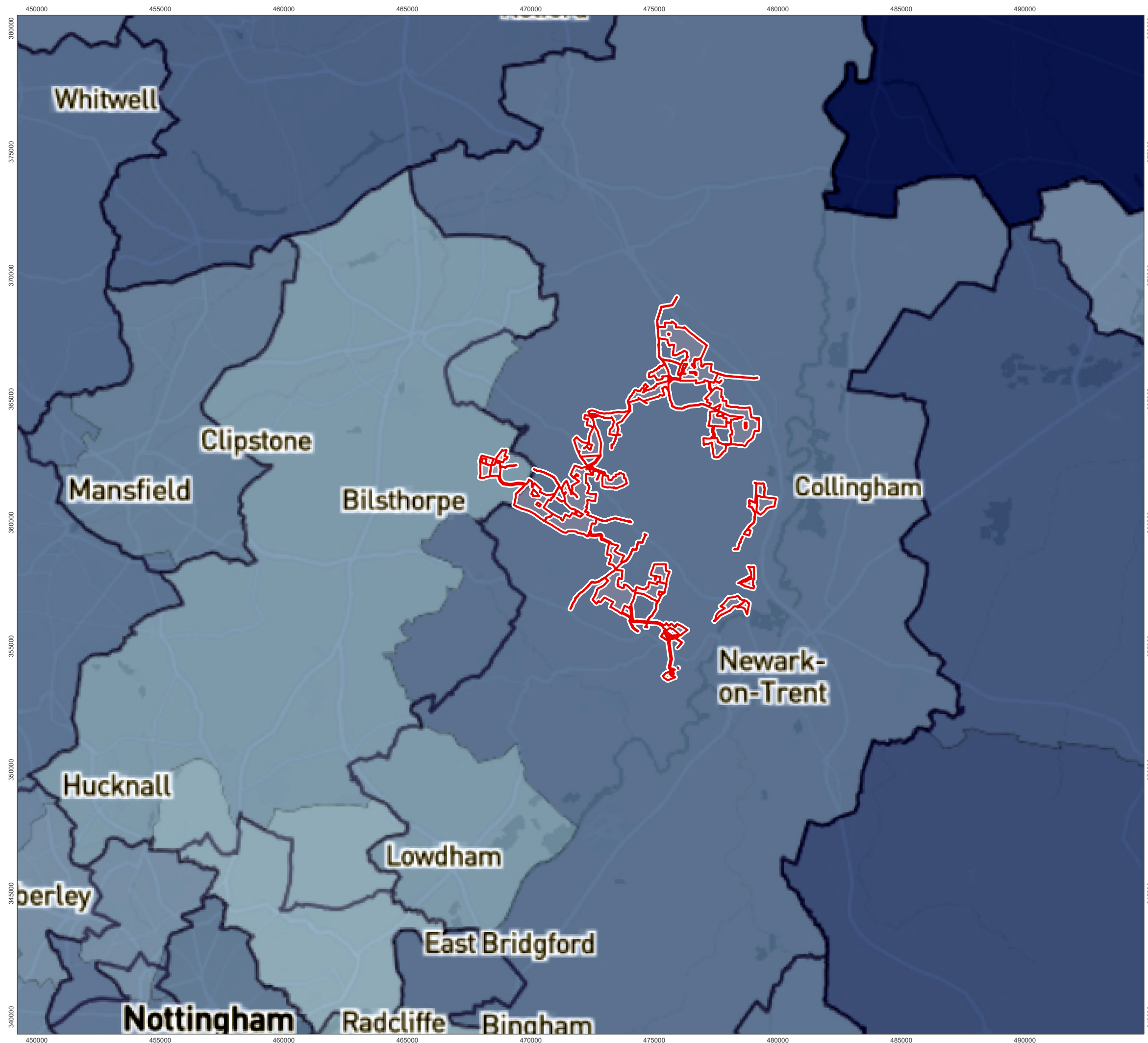
Index of Multiple Deprivation - Deciles
Figure A13.1.15

Great North Road Solar and
Biodiversity Park
Environmental Statement

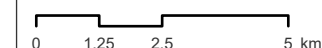


Index of Multiple Deprivation –
Educational Deprivation Domain
Figure A13.1.16

Great North Road Solar and
Biodiversity Park
Environmental Statement



1:150,000 Scale @ A3

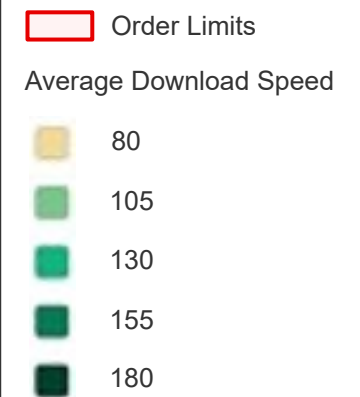
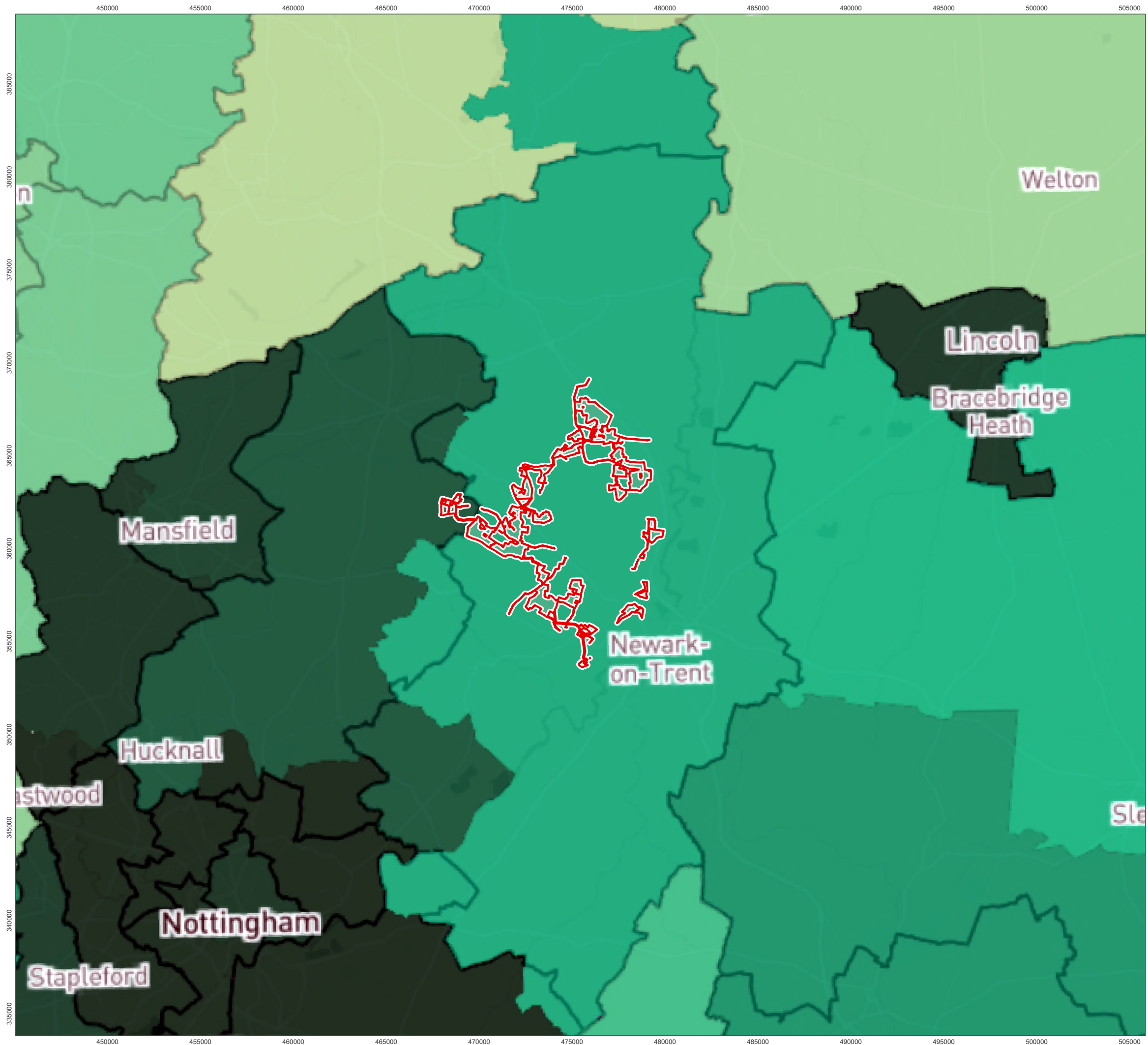


Ref: 026-ES-A13.1.17

Date: 19/06/2025

**Broadband - % Receiving Under
10 mbps
Figure A13.1.17**

**Great North Road Solar and
Biodiversity Park
Environmental Statement**



1:200,000 Scale @ A3

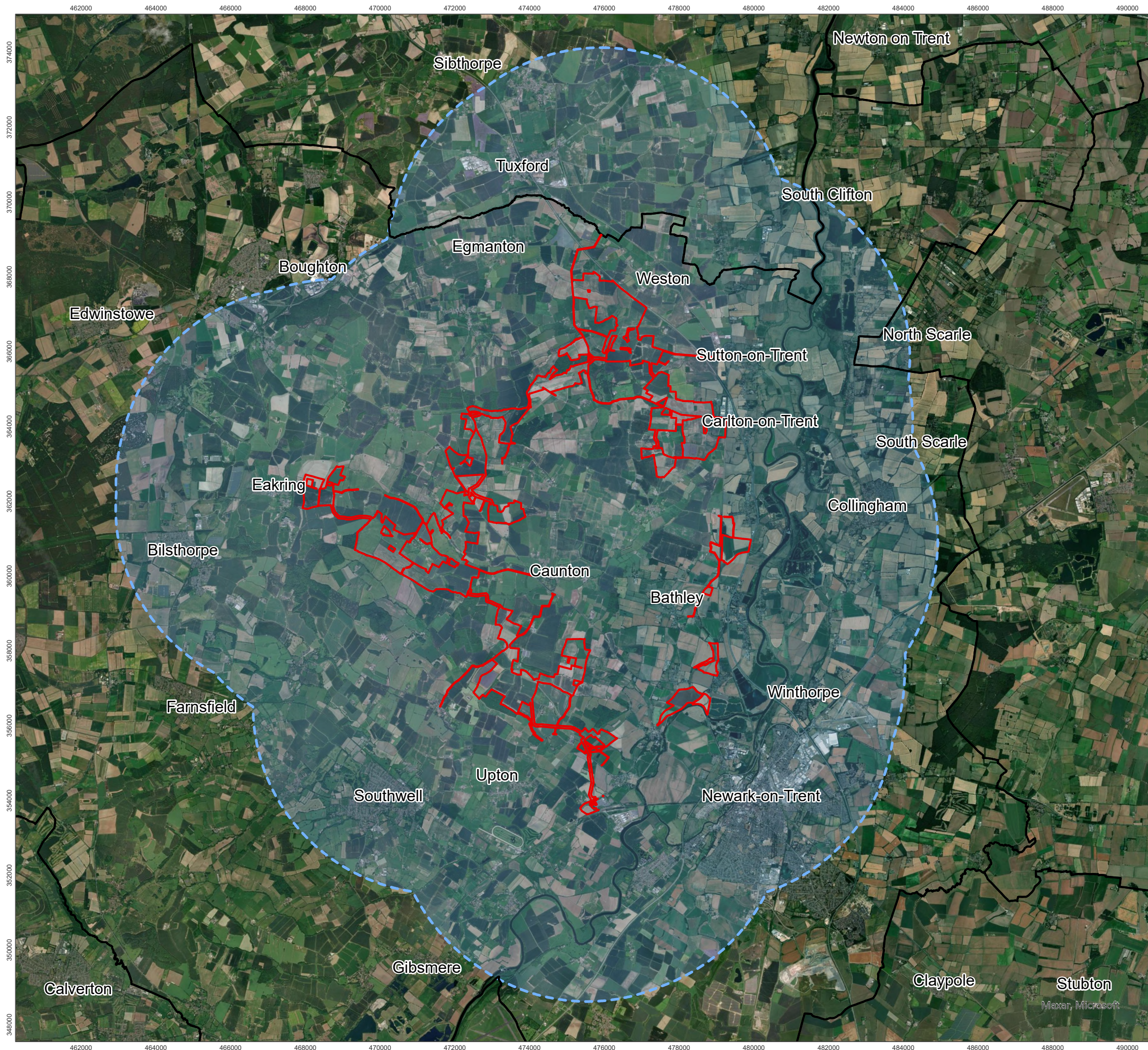
0 1.25 2.5 5 km






Ref: 026-ES-A13.1.18 Date: 19/06/2025

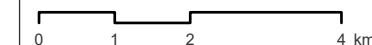
Broadband - Average Download Speed
Figure A13.1.18

**Great North Road Solar and
Biodiversity Park
Environmental Statement**



-  Order Limits
-  5 km Buffer of Order Limits
-  Local Authority District

1:100,000 Scale @ A3

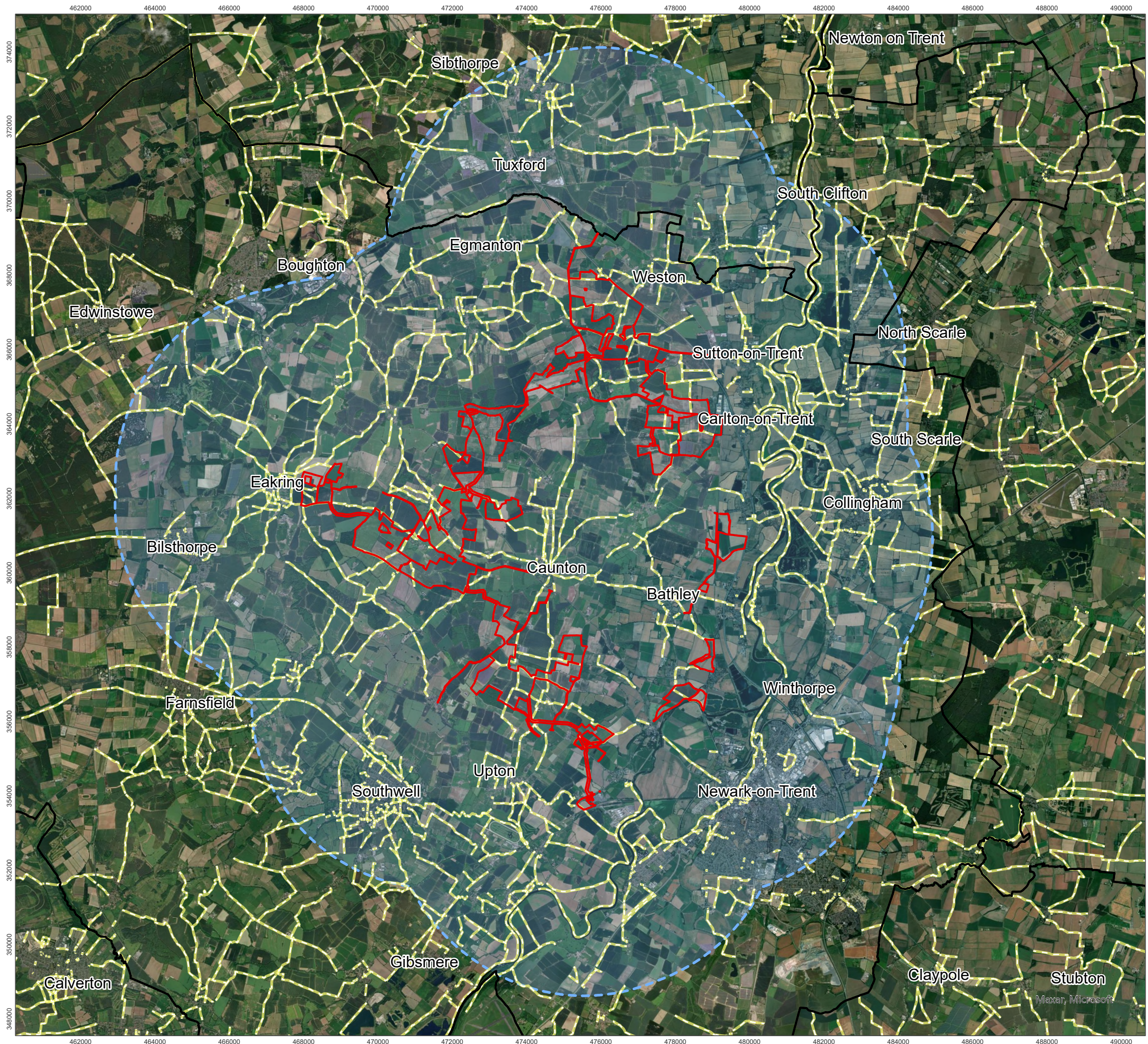


Ref: 026-ES-A13.1.19

Date: 23/06/2025

Order Limits and Tourism Study Area
Figure A13.1.19

**Great North Road Solar and
Biodiversity Park
Environmental Statement**



- Order Limits
- 5 km Buffer of Order Limits
- Public Right of Way
- Local Authority District

1:100,000 Scale @ A3

0 1 2 4 km

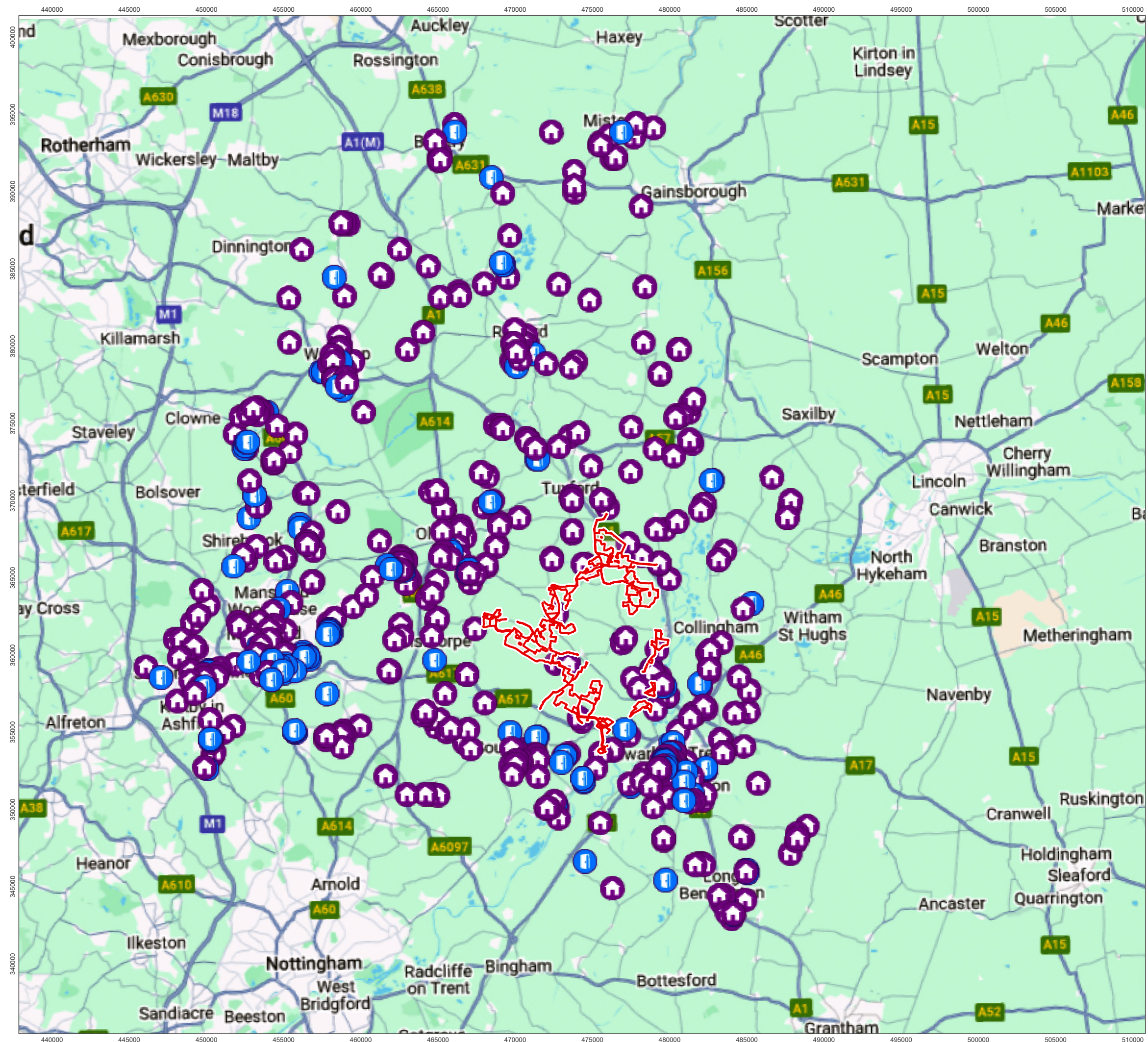





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Date: 23/06/2025

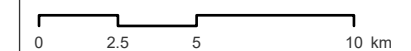
**Order Limits and PRoW within
Tourism Study Area
Figure A13.1.20**

**Great North Road Solar and
Biodiversity Park
Environmental Statement**



-  Order Limits
-  Entire Place
-  Private Room

1:240,000 Scale @ A3



Ref: 026-ES-A13.1.21

Date: 20/06/2025

**Serviced Accommodation Supply
and Order Limits
Figure A13.1.21**

**Great North Road Solar and
Biodiversity Park
Environmental Statement**