REDCAR & CLEVELAND

LOCAL PLAN STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (DRAFT) - SCOPING CONSULTATION

November 2026

Contents

1. Introduction 3
2. Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna 7
3. Population and Human Health 13
4. Soil 17
5. Water 19
6. Air 23
7. Climatic Factors 24
8. Material Assets 26
9. Cultural Heritage 29
10. Landscape 31
11. Identifying Environmental Issues and Draft SEA Objectives 34
12. Consultation and Next Steps 43

Appendix 1 - Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes 44

1. Introduction



Redcar & Cleveland Local Plan

1.1 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023, local planning authorities are required to have Local Plans in place for their areas. Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council has begun the process of replacing the Local Plan, that was adopted in 2018, with a new Local Plan for the borough.

1.2 The new Local Plan will set out the level of growth which needs to be planned for in the area and will identify where that growth should be located and how it will be delivered. It will be prepared under the new planning system that came into force on the 25th March 2026 and will cover the area of the borough not within the North York Moors National Park as that area will be covered by the North York Moors National Park Authority.

1.3 The Local Plan will also not cover minerals and waste as these planning matters will be covered in a separate Joint Tees Valley Minerals and Waste Local Plan that will be prepared in conjunction with the other Tees Valley Local Planning Authorities of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Stockton-on-Tees.

The Purpose of This Report

1.4 This report is prepared in line with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations). It sets out the draft scope of the SEA of the emerging Local Plan and is being made available to the public and the statutory consultation bodies in England (Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England).

1.5 Consultation on this SEA Draft Scoping Report will run for 6 weeks from 16 November 2026 until 18 December 2026.

Environmental Outcomes Report

1.6 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 includes provisions for a new form of environmental assessment for Local Plans that will be known as the Environmental Outcomes Report (EOR). In March 2026, the Government's Environmental Outcomes Reports: Roadmap to Reform confirmed the intention for EORs to replace the existing system of SEAs and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) by the end of 2027.

Image Credit: © Tees Valley Combined Authority

1.7 As the secondary legislation required to introduce the EOR system is not yet in place, the existing requirement for SEA remains in place. The Council will, therefore, proceed with the process of SEA of the Local Plan until such time as the legal framework to replace this assessment is in place.

SEA Process

Screening

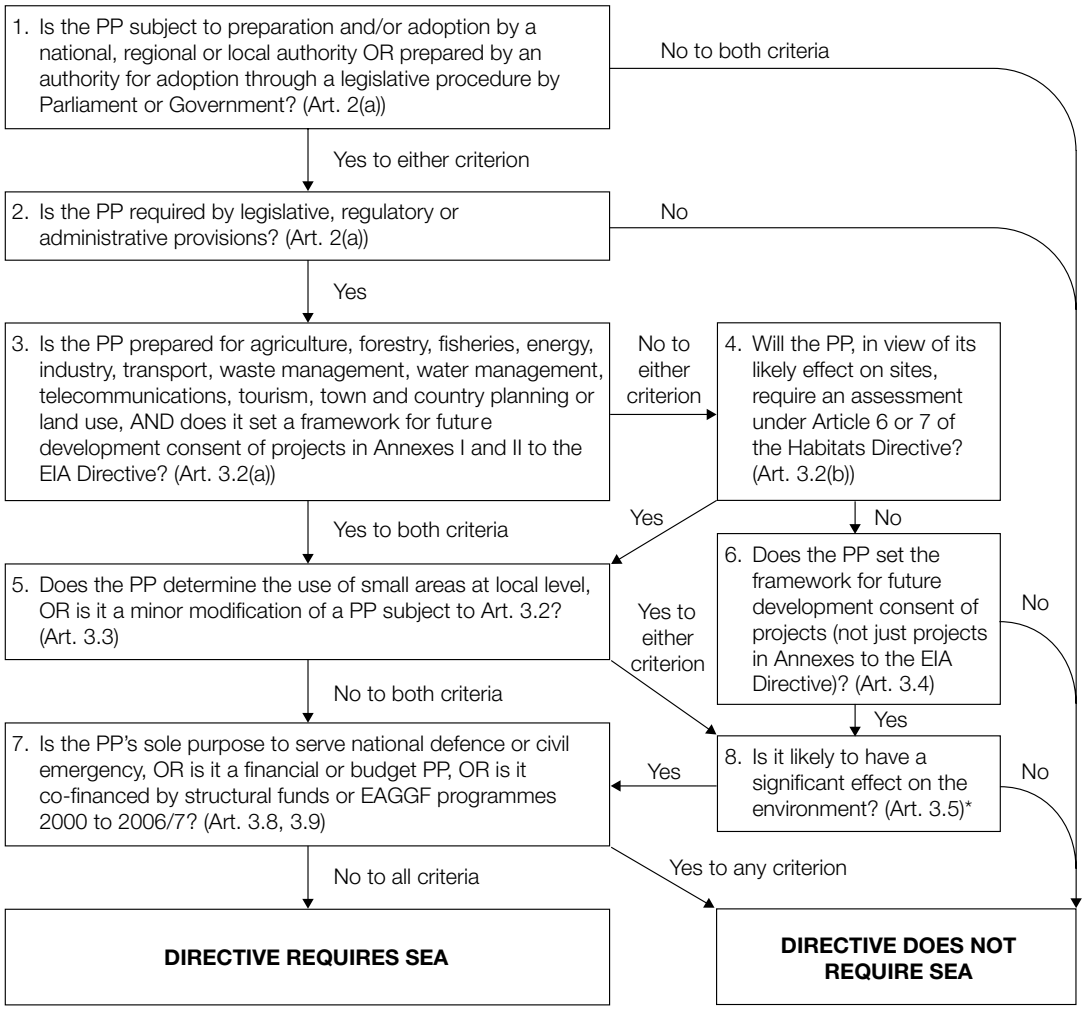
1.8 Prior to the commencement of the SEA process, it is necessary for responsible bodies to determine whether an SEA is required. This is known as screening.

1.9 The Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2005) (The Practical Guide) provides the following diagram to illustrate the process for screening a plan or programme to ascertain whether a full SEA is required.

A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2005

Figure 2 – **Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes**

This diagram is intended as a guide to the criteria for application of the Directive to plans and programmes (PPs). It has no legal status.



*The Directive requires Member States to determine whether plans or programmes in this category are likely to have significant environmental effects. These determinations may be made on a case by case basis and/or by specifying types of plan or programme.

1.10 In its guidance on getting ready to prepare a new plan,[1] the Government has also confirmed that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is expected to be required for Local Plans. From applying the guidance available, the Council has determined that a SEA will be required for the new Local Plan.

Scoping

1.11 Once it has been determined that SEA is required, the next stage is the Scoping stage which is documented by this report. The scoping stage of SEA determines the likely extent and level of information to the included in the assessment process and ultimately reflected in the SEA report to be published to accompany the Local Plan.

1.12 The five key steps of the scoping stage, set out within the Practical Guide are:

a. **Identifying other relevant plans and programmes:** This step identifies how the plan will be affected by outside factors, such as other relevant plans, programmes and environmental objectives, to suggest ideas for how any constraints can be addressed, and to help identify the SEA objectives;

b. **Collecting baseline information:** This step provides an evidence base for environmental problems, prediction of effects, and monitoring; to help in the development of SEA objectives;

c. **Identifying environmental problems:** This step helps to focus the SEA and streamline the subsequent stages, including baseline information analysis, setting of SEA objectives, prediction of effects and monitoring;

d. **Developing SEA objectives:** This step provides a means by which the environmental performance of the plan or programme and alternatives can be assessed; and

e. **Consulting on the scope of the SEA:** This step ensures that the SEA covers the likely significant effects of the plan or programme.

1.13 The Council has undertaken the scoping of the SEA for the new Local Plan in line with the steps set out above and these are documented within the subsequent chapters of this report.

Environmental Report

1.14 The SEA stages after the consultation on the Scoping Report involve developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects of the plan, and preparing the Environmental Report. These stages will be conducted alongside the relevant stage in the preparation of the Local Plan. The Council will publish the Environmental Report for consultation alongside the draft Local Plan.

1 Getting ready to prepare a new plan: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/getting-ready-to-prepare-a-new-plan

SEA Issues

1.15 Regulation 12(3) Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations sets out the issues that should be considered through the SEA process. These are:

- **Biodiversity, flora and fauna;**
- **Population;**
- **Human health;**
- **Soil;**
- **Water;**
- **Air;**
- **Climatic factors;**
- **Material Assets;**
- **Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;**
- **Landscape; and**
- **The inter-relationship between these issues.**

1.16 These issues provide the structure for the baseline information review set out in Chapters 2 -10.



2. Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna



Internationally Designated Sites

2.1 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar Sites are designated sites of international importance for the habitats and species they support. SACs and SPAs are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Ramsar Sites are wetlands of global importance that are protected by Government policy to the same level.

2.2 The Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar Site is the only internationally designated site located within the plan area. The SPA and Ramsar Site is designated for its importance for birds and as a wetland of international importance and Natural England provide the full details of the citation and conservation objectives for the designations.[2]

2.3 The North York Moors SAC and North York Moors SPA sites lie outside of the boundary of the Local Plan area but are considered to lie within the zone of influence for the plan. The North York Moors SAC contains the largest continuous tract of upland heather moorland in England and is designated for hosting blanket bogs, European dry heaths and Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix.[3]

2.4 The North York Moors SPA is designated due to its importance for bird species with the citation identifying that the site supports 1% or more of the Great British population of Merlin and Golden Plover, which are listed in Annex I of European Directive 79/409.[4] The majority of the moorland designated sites in the North York Moors are currently not in favourable condition, being categorised as "unfavourable recovering" and several declining in condition due to the diversity of species or structures within habitats nor meeting the favourable criteria.[5]

2 Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar Site Conservation Objectives - https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6619918699069440

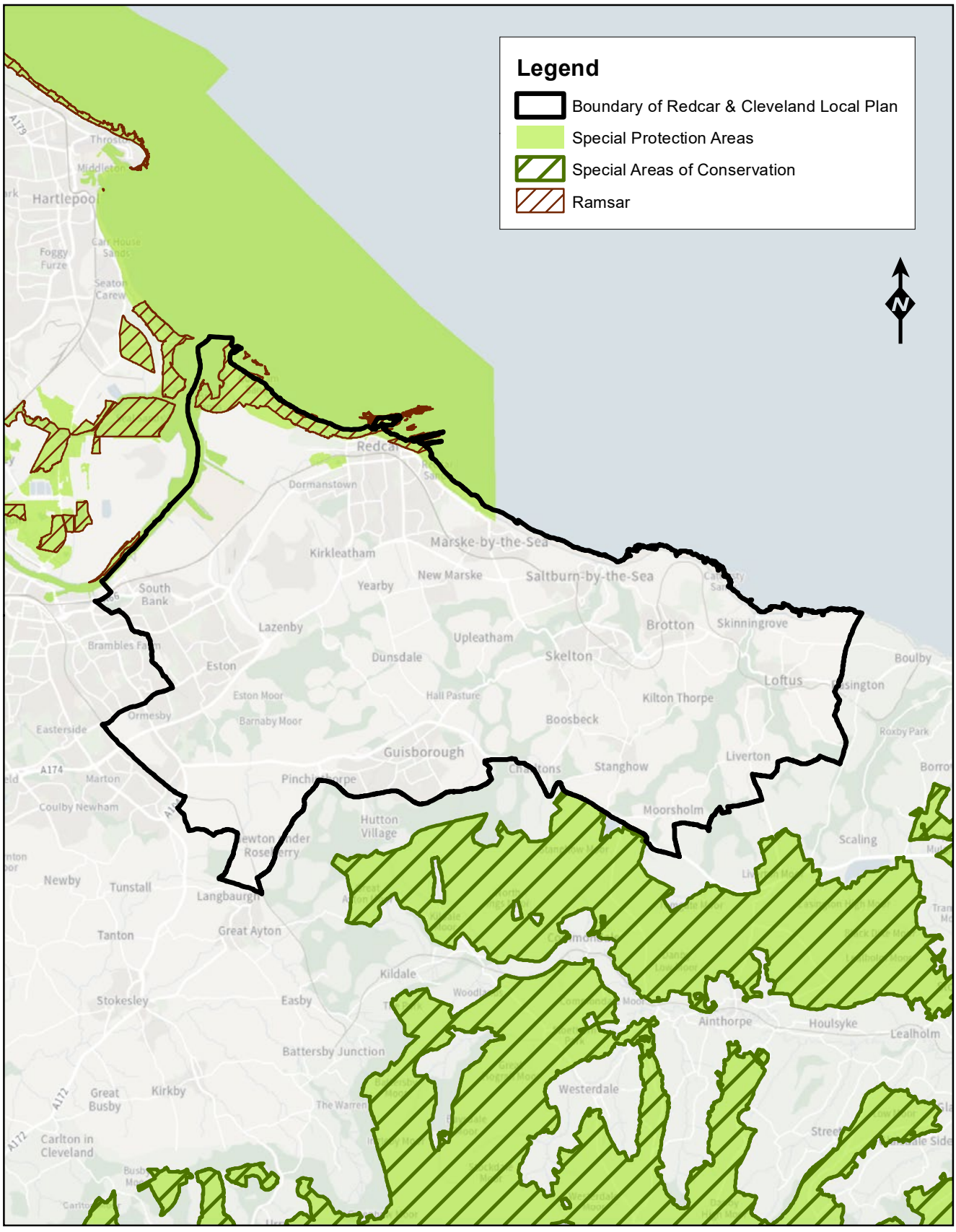
3 North York Moors SAC Conservation Objectives - https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6048216608931840

4 North York Moors SPA Conservation Objectives - https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6207512114102272

5 https://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0024/187503/North-York-Moors-Nature-Recovery-Plan-Annex-1.pdf

Image Credit: © Tees Valley Combined Authority

Map 1: Internationally Designated Sites



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database rights 2026 (100019983)

Source: Natural England

2.5 In March 2022, local authorities received notification that the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site is in an unfavourable condition due to nutrient enrichment, particularly from nitrates. High concentrations of nitrates in the river are causing phytoplankton and opportunistic macroalgae blooms, which reduce oxygen availability and impact upon the fauna within the river. This also adversely affects the habitats that support the important bird populations of the site. Any nitrogen entering the River Tees catchment from development within the Local Plan area have the potential to further contribute to harmful nitrogen enrichment.

2.6 The Appropriate Assessment of the Redcar & Cleveland Local Plan (2016) and a report on the levels of recreational disturbance to birds of the Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast SPA on Redcar Foreshore (the Recreational Disturbance Report)(2017) identified that any development that would lead to an increase in human population within 6km of the Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar Site, including tourism and visitor uses, would have the potential to have a significant effect on the site due to recreational pressure and bird disturbance.

2.7 In response to the identification of this effect, the Council implemented the Redcar & Cleveland Recreation Management Plan (2017) and seeks financial contributions from relevant developments to support mitigation measures, such as improvements on alternative greenspaces and education and publicity publications. Other identified issues at the international sites include:

- Land-take by development;
- Air quality impacts from increasing emissions;
- Increased demand on local water supplies;
- Decreased water quality; and
- Increased predation by domestic cats.

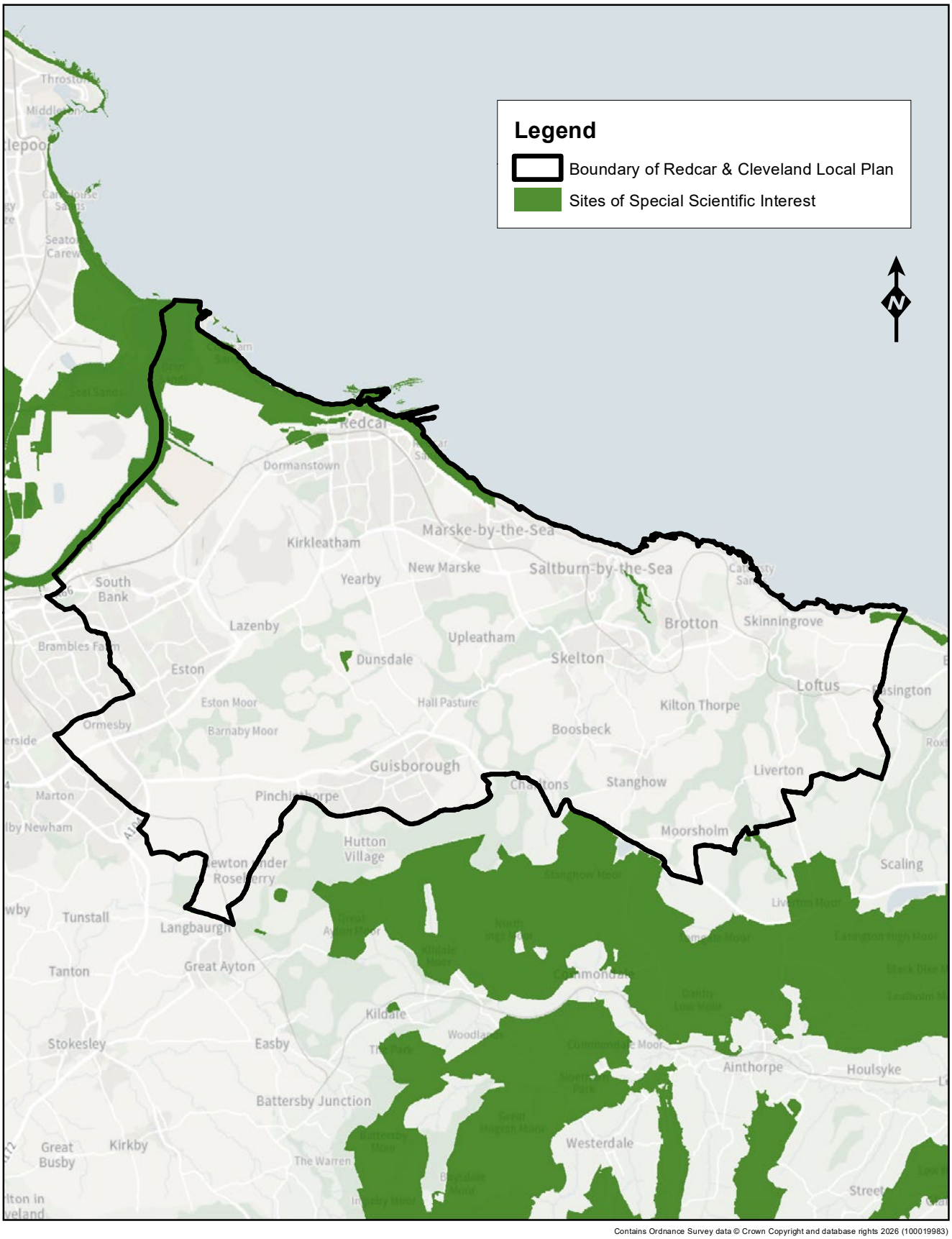
National Designations

2.8 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are areas of national importance that are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended. Within the plan area, there are:

- Boulby Quarries (favourable condition);
- Lovell Hill Pools (favourable condition);
- Pinkney & Gerrick Woods (73.28% favourable condition and 26.72% unfavourable recovering);
- Saltburn Gill (favourable condition); and
- Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast (8.27% favourable condition and 91.73% unfavourable declining).

2.9 National Nature Reserves are a selection of the most significant SSSIs established to protect the most important habitats, species and geology in the country, and to support scientific research and education. There are no National Nature Reserves designated within Redcar and Cleveland, although part of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SSSI that lies within Stockton-on-Tees is designated as the Teesmouth NNR.

Map 2: Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database rights 2026 (100019983)

Source: Natural England

Locally Designated Sites

2.10 Local Authorities may also designate appropriate sites as Local Nature Reserves (LNR) under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949. LNRs demonstrate a commitment to conserving biodiversity and to providing opportunity for education and community enjoyment of green spaces. There are 6 LNRs within Redcar and Cleveland:

- Clarksons Wood;
- Errington Wood;
- Eston Moor;
- Flatts Lane Woodland;
- Loftus Wood; and
- Whitecliff Wood.

2.11 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are also locally designated sites that are identified by Local Authorities. They are non-statutory designations that are identified in partnership with conservation charities or statutory agencies. In Redcar and Cleveland, LWS are identified in partnership with, and against criteria published by, the Tees Valley Local Sites Partnership. There are 65 LWSs within the plan area.[6]

Priority Habitats and Species

2.12 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires that Local Plans identify opportunities for the conservation, enhancement and recovery of habitats and priority or threatened species. These include species contained in the list of species and habitats of principal importance in England published by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, protected species listed in Schedule 2 and Schedule 5 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, and species protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

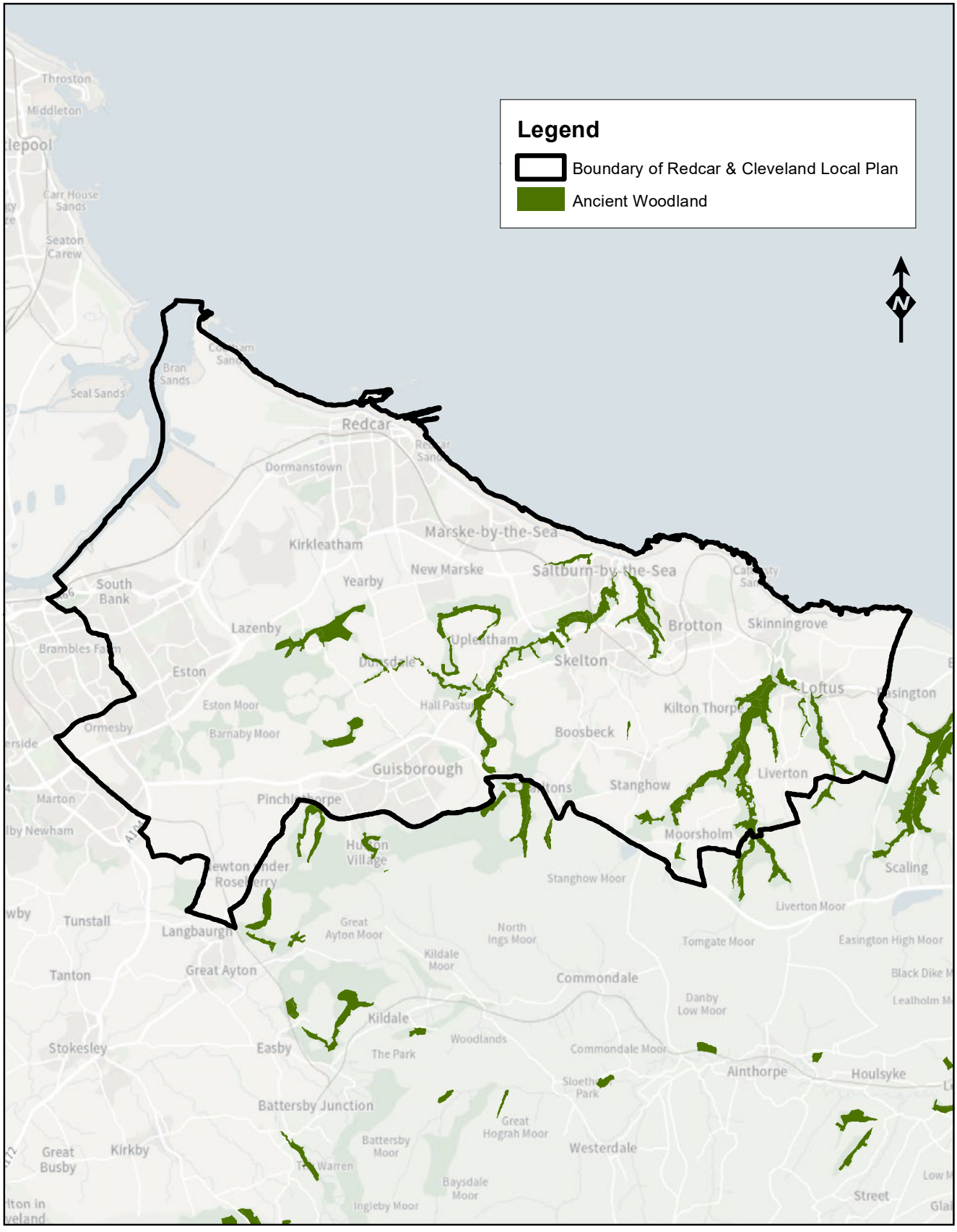
2.13 The Council is supporting the preparation of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for the Tees Valley. The LNRS is a requirement of the Environment Act 2021 and is being prepared for the Tees Valley by the Tees Valley Combined Authority. The LNRS was published for consultation in September 2026 and will identify opportunities for habitat and nature recovery that should be considered for the Local Plan.

Ancient Woodland

2.14 Ancient Woodland is an area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD. It includes ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW), plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS), ancient wood pasture and parkland (AWPP) and infilled ancient wood pasture and parkland (IAWPP). In the NPPF, Ancient Woodland is identified as an irreplaceable habitat that should be protected from development unless there are wholly exceptional circumstances. The mapped areas of Ancient Woodland in the borough are shown below.

6 Redcar & Cleveland Local Wildlife and Geological Sites (2023) - https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-02/Local%20Wildlife%20and%20Geological%20Sites.pdf

MAP 3: Ancient Woodland



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database rights 2026 (100019983)

Source: Natural England

3. Population and Human Health

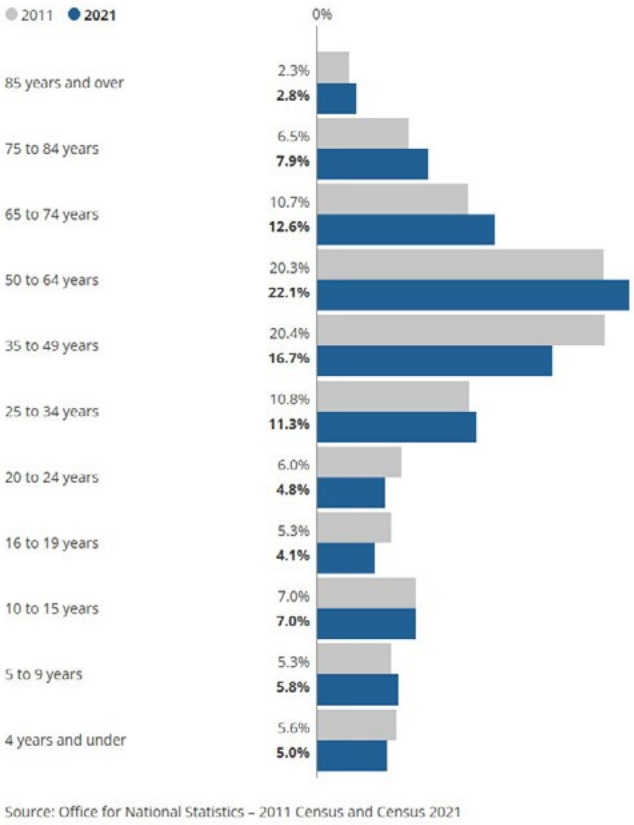
Population Growth and Density

3.1 In 2024, the total population of Redcar and Cleveland was 139,228[7]. This is a change of 2.98%, and approximately 1400 people, from the 2011 census figure of approximately 135,200.[8] There were 66,920 homes calculated in the dwellings stock estimates for the borough for 2024,[9] so this would equate to approximately 2.08 people per household. This is below the average for England of 2.35 people per household.

3.2 The profile of the borough's population shows an increase in the median age of residents of 3 years, from 43 to 46 years of age.[7] This is higher than the average age nationally and is the second-highest average in the North East.

3.3 Population growth during the period between the 2011 and 2021 census' has been driven primarily by older age groups with the number of residents between 50 to 64 years growing by approximately 2,800 (10.3%) and the number of residents between 35 and 49 years falling by approximately 4,700 (17.2%). This is the age group more typically associated with families and economically active households.

Percentage of usual residents by age group in Redcar and Cleveland



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

7 www.ons.gov.uk

8 How life has changed in Redcar and Cleveland: Census 2021 - https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/E06000003/

9 Live Tables on Dwelling Stock - https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-dwelling-stock-including-vacants

3.4 In 2024, Redcar and Cleveland had a density of 568 persons per square kilometre.[10] This is higher than the level for the North East but the lowest within the Tees Valley area, where the highest density is recorded for Middlesbrough with 2,898 persons per square kilometre.

Deprivation

3.5 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation in England and it scores and ranks areas based on factors such as employment, health, income and education. The IMD shows that there are relatively high levels of deprivation in areas of the borough, with Redcar and Cleveland being more deprived overall than 79% of other local authority districts in England.[11] At Lower Super Output Area level (LSOA), there are pockets of deprivation, particularly in the East Cleveland, Redcar and Greater Eston areas, that are within the highest 1% of LSOAs for overall deprivation in England.

3.6 There is also a significant diversity in overall deprivation rankings across the borough, with some areas around Guisborough and the coastal settlements, for example, being in the lowest 10% of IMD rankings for LSOAs in England.

Housing

3.7 The most recent figures on total housing stock (2025)[8] show a total of 67356 dwellings in Redcar and Cleveland. On average, between 2020/21 to 2024/25, new homes have been built at a rate of 424 dwellings per year.

3.8 The majority of dwellings within the borough are within the private sector with 19% being owned by registered providers[8]. This is higher than the national average, where 16.6% of properties are owned by local authorities or registered providers.

3.9 House prices vary across the borough with areas of lower housing viability, particularly in the Local Plan Low Value Area, which includes Eston, Grangetown and South Bank. At a borough level, the average house price in June 2026 was £153,205[9]. This is lower than the North East average of £165,550 and has risen approximately 18.3% since 2021.

3.10 Despite the relatively low housing price, there are still affordability challenges. The housing affordability ratio (based on gross annual residence-based earnings) is 4.7 and similar to the North East area ratio. However, the average house prices are approximately 5.6 times the lower quartile earnings of £27,486 per year.[12]

3.11 In rented accommodation, affordability is better within Redcar and Cleveland than the North East average. The ratio of median private rent price to median gross work-place based earning is 17.5% in the borough, 19.8% in the North East and 36.3% nationally (2024).[13] Private rental affordability in the borough, therefore, compares favourably to the England affordability threshold of 30%.

10 Explore Local Statistics - https://www.ons.gov.uk/explore-local-statistics/areas/E06000003-redcar-and-cleveland/indicators#population

11 English Indices of Deprivation 2025 – https://deprivation.communities.gov.uk/maps

12 https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/ratioofhousepricetoworkplacebasedearningslowerquartileandmedian

13 https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/bulletins/privaterentalaffordabilityengland/2024

3.12 The delivery of new housing will be a key priority for the new Local Plan, which will be required to set out an overall need for new housing, including the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups within the community.

Employment

3.13 The 2025 working age population (16-64 year olds) in the borough was estimated to be 81,342.[14] This is approximately 58.3% of the total population, which is lower than the North East level of 61.6% and reflects the aging population. Model-based estimates of unemployment indicate that 3.7% of the borough's population is unemployed, marginally below the North East rate of 3.9%.

3.14 While employment levels are similar to those for the wider region, Jobs density (the number of jobs per working age residents) is relatively low, with 0.55 jobs per working age person in the borough against 0.73 for the North East.[8] It is also the lowest in the Tees Valley, with the mean average being 0.7.

3.15 The number of active businesses in the borough is also significantly lower than the regional level with 3,265 businesses being active in the borough in 2024, compared with a Tees Valley mean average of 3,859. The Local Plan will seek to identify demand for employment land to provide opportunity for business investment and expansion.

3.16 The Census 2021 data shows that, within Redcar and Cleveland, approximately 58% of the economically active population have attained education level 3 or above and 6.5% have achieved an apprenticeship.[15] This is marginally lower than the approximately 60% for level 3 or above in the North East but shows a slightly higher level of apprenticeship attainment (5.5% for the North East).

Health

3.17 The Local Authority Health Profile for Redcar and Cleveland (Department of Health and Social Care)[16] sets out a number of key indicators relating to health in the borough. These are set out below:



14 https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/submit.asp?forward=yes&menuopt=201&subcomp=

15 Census 2021, Workforce qualification levels: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/educationandchildcare/datasets/workforcequalificationlevelsacrossenglandandwalesdatacensus2021

16 https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/1/ati/301/are/E06000003

Table 1: Local Authority Health Profile

Indicator (2025)	Redcar and Cleveland	North East	England
Life expectancy at birth for males	79.2	78.4	80
Life expectancy at birth females	81.8	82.3	83.8
Smoking Prevalence in Adults (19years+)	13.8%	10.2%	10.4%
Overweight prevalence in adults(using adjusted self-reported height and weight)(18 years+)	67.4%	70.3%	78.5%
Year 6 prevalence of obesity (10-11 years)	25.9%	25.0%	22.2%
Percentage of physically active adults (19 years+)	62.1%	64.7%	68.0%

3.18 The indicators in Table 1 show that Redcar and Cleveland generally performs worse when compared to the averages for the North East and England in relation to key health indicators (with an exception being for overweight prevalence in adults).

3.19 There are also significant health inequalities between different wards in the borough. For example, male life expectancy in South Bank ward is 72.1 years, while a male born and living in Hutton could expect to live to 85.1 years.[17] Similar differences are seen with female life expectancy.

3.20 The 2021 Census also provides information on the number of residents who are considered to be disabled, which was 30,482 residents or approximately 22.3%. This is higher the average for England, where 17.7% of residents are considered to be disabled. This is also higher than the average for the North East (21.1%) which is identified as the region with the highest proportion of disabled people.[18]

3.21 The Census also asked people to say whether they provided unpaid care to someone with long-term physical or mental health conditions, illnesses or problems related to old age. In Redcar and Cleveland, approximately 10.7% of residents over 5 years provided some level of care, with 3.7% of people providing 50 or more hours per week. This compares unfavourably to the national averages of 9.0% and 2.8%.[19]

17 https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/dvc479/map/index.html

18 https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/disabilityenglandandwales/census2021

19 https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/unpaidcareenglandandwales/census2021

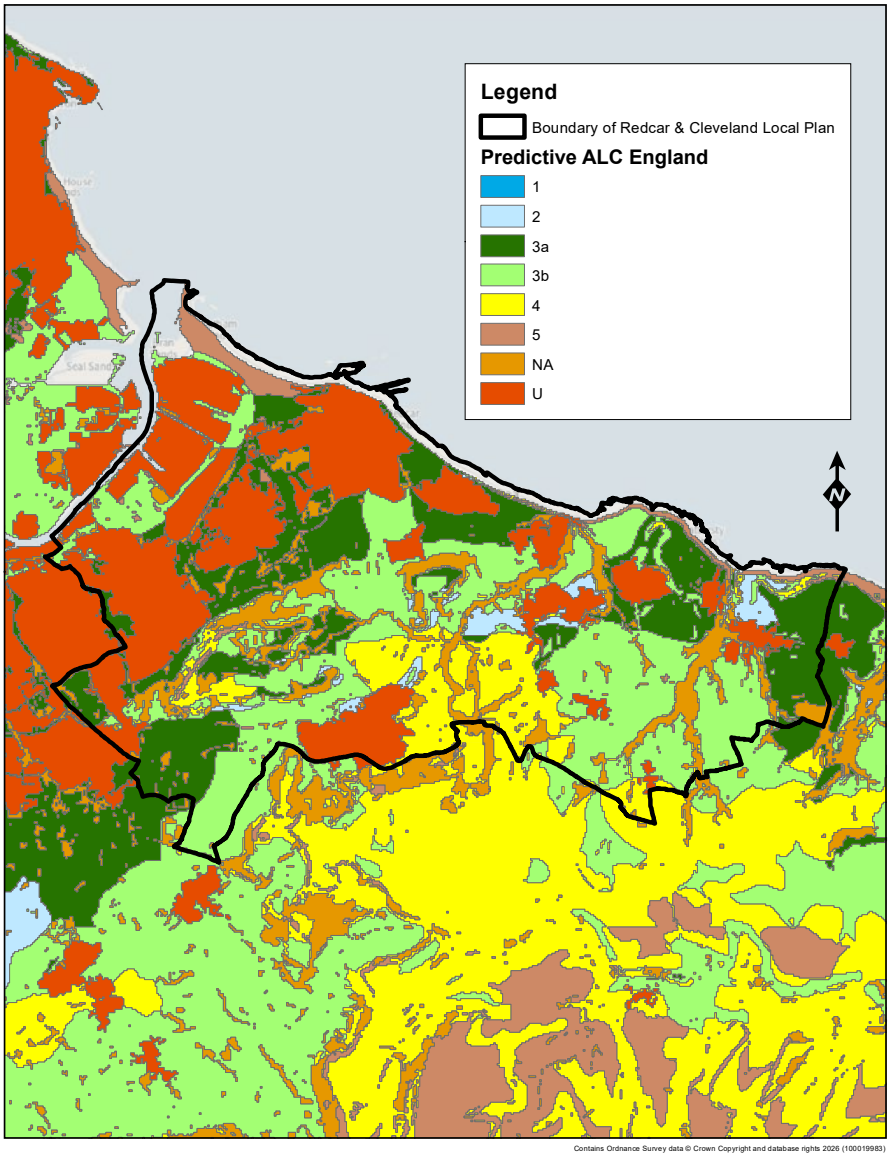
4. Soil

Agricultural Land

4.1 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) is a method of assessing the agricultural land quality in an area based on soil characteristics and climate. It classifies agricultural land into five categories according to versatility and suitability for growing crops. Grades 1, 2 and 3a are classified as by the NPPF as the Best and Most Versatile(BMV) agricultural land, with Grades 3b to 5 representing poorer quality.

4.2 The Defra Predictive BMV Land Assessment Map for the North East region,[20] indicates that the majority of the rural area of the borough has a low likelihood of being the Best and Most Versatile land, but there are significant areas with moderate or high likelihoods.

MAP 4: Defra Predictive Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)



20 https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6473965784006656?category=5208993007403008

Geology

4.3 The Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SSSI includes units that are identified as having importance for geodiversity. These include the Redcar Rocks early Jurassic strata. Other important sites for geology are designated as Local Geological Sites. [21] There are 15 such sites located within the Local Plan area.

Brownfield Land

4.4 Land that has previously been used for development, including where any building or structure has been demolished, is known as Brownfield Land (excluding land that was developed for agriculture or forestry uses or where the remains of the structure have blended into the landscape). Brownfield land is often more difficult to redevelop due to issues such as low viability or land contamination from the previous use.

4.5 The Redcar and Cleveland Brownfield Land Register is a published record of all sites of previously developed land in the borough that are 0.25 hectares or capable of accommodating at least 5 dwellings, and that are considered suitable, available and achievable for residential development. The latest register was published in March 2026 and records 57 such sites that cover 41.87 hectares.

Contaminated Land

4.6 Redcar and Cleveland has a significant industrial history, dominated by iron, steel, petrochemicals and process engineering. There are substantial industrial developments and former ironstone mine workings across the borough, but particularly in and around South Tees and East Cleveland. This history leads to the potential for significant areas of contaminated land to be present within the borough.

4.7 Under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act, the Council is required to maintain a Contaminated Land Register. The register is a record of land that has been formally determined as being contaminated and the remediation actions taken to return that land to appropriate condition.

4.8 There are currently no sites listed on the Council's Contaminated Land Register. The Council is aware of a substantial number of areas across the borough that have the potential to be contaminated, due to the area's industrial history. However, inclusion on the register requires formal determination from site investigations. These investigations are usually only carried out as a result of sites being proposed for redevelopment through the planning regime or as the result of an environmental incident arising from land contamination.

21 Redcar & Cleveland Local Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites - https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-02/Local%20Wildlife%20and%20Geological%20Sites.pdf

5. Water

Water resources

5.1 Redcar & Cleveland falls within the Northumbrian Water supply area and is within the Southern Zone of the Kielder Potable Water Resource Zone (WRZ). This Zone comprises of the River Tees and Teesdale Resources, along with two Water Treatment Works which supply the major urban conurbations of Teesside. The supply zone can also be supported from Kielder Reservoir.[22]

5.2 Additionally, there is the non-potable Industrial Supply Zone which supplies the non-potable industrial demand on Teesside. The Industrial Supply Zone abstracts water from the River Tees and therefore can be supported by releases from the Tyne–Tees Transfer system and ultimately supported by Kielder reservoir. Both supply zones are considered as a single water resource zone where customers experience the same risk of supply failure from resource deficiency. The vast majority of water supply within the zone is from surface water (reservoirs).

5.3 Northumbrian Water's Climate change modelling shows that reservoirs in the Kielder WRZ are sensitive to climate change and that with less rain in the summer, we should expect to see our reservoirs reduce to lower levels before they refill again over the winter.[23]

5.4 Due to the supply of Kielder Reservoir and the Tees Transfer system, Northumbrian Water have assessed in their Water Resource Management Plan 24 (WRMP) that they have sufficient water supply even if faced with extreme weather scenarios. However, neighbouring Yorkshire Water's WRMP24 has predicted it will not have enough water to meet demands by 2040, therefore new infrastructure is needed to be able to send water to Yorkshire from the River Tees.

5.5 Northumbrian Water's WRMP 24 also details objectives to reduce water leakage from the network and reduce customer demand to 110l/head/day by 2049/50 and reduce business demand by 9% by 2037/38 (excluding growth). Northumbrian Water have also produced a Drought Plan 2022[24] which sets out how the company prepares for, monitors, and responds to droughts to ensure a resilient public water supply while protecting the environment.

5.6 In accordance with the NPPF the Local Plan must be informed by early engagement with Northumbrian Water so that there is a clear understanding of water supply, drainage and wastewater capacity, and associated requirements for additional infrastructure taking into account planned growth, changes in consumption patterns and climate change as well as strategic infrastructure plans. This will allow us to address any potential constraints to developments arising from current or anticipated infrastructure shortfalls.

Surface Water Quality

5.7 Surface water quality is assessed by the percentage of river length that has good chemical status, and good ecological status. Redcar & Cleveland lies within the Northumbrian river basin and is part of the Tees River Catchment area. According to the Tees River Trust only 15% of waterbodies are at good or higher condition.[25]

22 Northumbrian Water WRMP (2025-2030)

23 Northumbrian Water Water Resources Management Plan Summary

24 Northumbrian Water Drought Plan

25 Tees Catchment Partnership | Tees Rivers Trust

5.8 The majority of water bodies within the borough are of moderate ecological status, with Middle Gill Beck from Source to Kilton Beck Water Body classed as bad ecological status and Mill Beck from Source to Kilton Beck Water Body as poor ecological status. Lovell Hill Pools is recoded as good ecological status.[26]

5.9 Current and future challenges identified by the Tees River Catchment Partnership include pollution from agriculture and rural areas, physical modifications and pollution from waste water (including phosphorous and nitrogen nutrient load).[27] These challenges are summarised in the table below:

Table 2: Tees Catchment Surface Water Quality Challenges

	Current Challenges	Future Challenges
River Tees	• Pollution from agriculture and rural areas - Sediment loss, land drainage, lack of buffer strips, waste disposal to land, poor infrastructure, farmed flood plain • Physical modifications - Land drainage and flood protection of agricultural land, barriers to fish migration • Pollution from waste water - Phosphorous and nitrogen nutrient load from industrial activity, waste water treatment works, combined sewer outfalls, misconnections	• Pollution from agriculture and rural areas – high sediment loading in river due to need for better soil management • Physical modifications - River flow, water quality and fish passage compromised and in parts restricted by modifications installed for historic industrial purposes or agriculture • Pollution from waste water - Improvement needed in infrastructure for waste water treatment for both domestic and industrial sources

5.10 The Local Plan will need to consider any wider opportunities to reduce water pollution and contribute to compliance with national and local environmental targets and objectives.

Bathing Water Quality

5.11 Designated bathing waters in England are monitored annually, with samples collected to assess water quality and pollution risks. Bathing waters are classified as poor, sufficient, good or excellent based on measurements taken over a period of up to four years.

5.12 Based on samples from 2022 to 2025 Coatham and Saltburn were classed as good and Redcar Lifeboat Station, Redcar Granville, Redcar Stray and Marske Sands classed as excellent.[28]

26 Tees Management Catchment | Catchment Data Explorer

27 Your Tees Catchment Partnership | Catchment Data Explorer

28 Bathing water quality

Flooding

5.13 Flood maps provided by the Environment Agency showing risks of fluvial and tidal flooding, as well as surface water flooding, show areas throughout the borough.

5.14 The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 (2016) stated that based on EA Flood Risk Maps at the time, the fluvial risk of flooding in the borough is low, although there are a number of watercourses which flow through the borough.

5.15 The northern boundary of the plan area is formed by the River Tees and the eastern by the North Sea. Parts of the coast are defended by sea defences including at Redcar and Skinningrove.

5.16 The Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2010) shows many locations within the built-up area of the borough that are a risk of surface water flooding. These are areas where rainfall may make temporary flood, as well as flooding caused by sewers, e.g. blockages or insufficient capacity. This is especially a problem in the heavily urbanised western side of the borough. Critical Drainage Areas are identified in Eston, Guisborough and Redcar-Dormanstown.

5.17 The west of the borough is covered by the River Tees Catchment Flood Management Plan. Within the Tees CFMP area flooding is experienced from a number of sources, high rainfall and snowmelt results in high river flows which causes flooding throughout the catchment. In the estuary high tides can result in flooding in the low lying areas around the estuary. In the urban areas intense rainstorms can overwhelm the drainage systems and result in surface water flooding.[29]

5.18 The east of the borough is covered by the River Esk and Coastal Streams Catchment Flood Management Plan. River flooding occurs throughout the CFMP, the main areas include Guisborough and Loftus and Skinningrove. Skinningrove has also suffered from surface water flooding. Tidally influenced flooding is a source of flooding in the lower reaches of the river systems. Specific locations where flooding can be tidal influenced includes Skinningrove.[30]

5.19 Climate change is set to increase the risk of flooding due to increased intensity and duration of rain events and combined fluvial and coastal flooding, particularly during storm surges, and will be exacerbated in the future by sea level rise. The Local Plan will need to take a proactive approach to assessing and planning for current and future flood risk including through development patterns which minimise risk, addressing vulnerabilities, identifying necessary adaptations and opportunities to improve resilience, including through nature based approaches and green infrastructure.

29 River_Tees_Catchment_Flood_Management_Plan.pdf

30 Esk_and_Coastal_Streams_Catchment_Flood_Management_Plans.pdf

Coastal Change

5.20 The Tyne to Flamborough Head Shoreline Management Plan 2 splits the coast into a number of policy units for coastal management. A summary of management approach for units within Redcar & Cleveland Local Plan area are detailed in the table below.

Table 3: Summary of Management by Tyne to Flamborough Head Shoreline Management Plan 2 Unit[31]

Unit	0-20 years (2005-2025)	20-50 years (2025-2055)	50-100 years (2055-2105)
Brand Sands PU 13.5	No active intervention	No active intervention	No active intervention
South Gare PU13.6	Hold the line (maintain/replace)	Hold the line (maintain/replace)	Hold the line (maintain/replace)
Coatham Sands PU13.7	Managed realignment (natural features)	Managed realignment (set back defence)	Managed realignment (set back defence)
Coatham East PU14.1	Hold the line (maintain/replace)	Hold the line (maintain/replace)	Hold the line (maintain/replace)
Redcar PU14.2	Hold the line (maintain/replace)	Hold the line (maintain/replace)	Hold the line (maintain/replace)
Redcar East 14.3	Hold the line (maintain/replace)	Hold the line (maintain/replace)	Managed realignment (place holder)
Redcar Howles PU15.1	No active intervention (no need to defend)	No active intervention (no need to defend)	No active intervention (no need to defend)
Marske PU15.2	Hold the line (maintain/replace)	Hold the line (maintain/replace)	Pending agreement
Marske Sands PU15.3	No active intervention (no need to defend)	No active intervention (no need to defend)	No active intervention (no need to defend)
Saltburn PU15.4	Hold the line (maintain/replace)	Hold the line (maintain/replace)	Hold the line (maintain/replace)
Saltburn/Huntcliff PU16.1	No active intervention (local activity only)	No active intervention (local activity only)	No active intervention (local activity only)
Cattersty Sands PU17.1	No active intervention (no need to defend)	No active intervention (no need to defend)	No active intervention (no need to defend)
Skinningrove PU17.2	Hold the line (maintain/replace)	Hold the line (maintain/replace)	Hold the line (maintain/replace)
Hummersea PU17.3	No active intervention (no need to defend)	No active intervention (no need to defend)	No active intervention (no need to defend)
Boulby PU18.1	No active intervention (do not defend)	No active intervention (do not defend)	No active intervention (do not defend)

5.21 The Local Plan will need to take into account the Shoreline Management Plans in assessing risks from coastal change and identifying appropriate approaches to coastal management and the location of new development.

31 The Tyne to Flamborough Head SMP2 | Shoreline Management Plans

6. Air

6.1 The Environment Act 1995, as amended,[32] requires local authorities to assess air quality to identify whether national air quality objectives are being exceeded. In areas where the UK Air Quality Objectives are not expected to be met, the local authority must establish an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and produce a long-term action plan to reduce pollutant concentrations against the objectives. In Redcar & Cleveland, the Government objectives have consistently been met and the Council has, therefore, not declared any Air Quality Management Areas.

6.2 Air quality monitoring is undertaken in Redcar and Dormanstown and the overall pollution summary is found to be low.[33] The 2026 Annual Air Quality Status Report[34] confirms that monitored pollutants in the borough demonstrate compliance with the air quality objectives. NO2 has shown a slight reduction since 2024, attributed to the increase in electric vehicles. PM10 and PM2.5 have both increased slightly since 2024 but levels have still been found to be approximately a third of the annual objectives.



32 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69348/pb13566-laqm-policy-guidance-part4-090302.pdf

33 https://www.airqualityengland.co.uk/local-authority/?la_id=279

34 https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-08/Annual%20Status%20Report%20-%20Air%20Quality%20-%202026.pdf

Image Credit: © Tees Valley Combined Authority

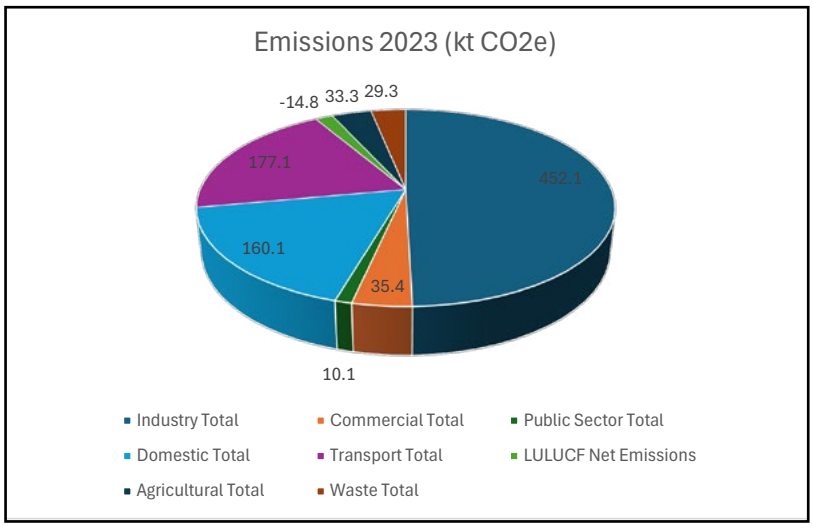
7. Climatic Factors

CO2 and greenhouse gas emissions

7.1 In 2008, and in response to international agreements on climate change, the UK government introduced the Climate Change Act. This sets out legally binding targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 34% by 2020 and by 80% by 2050 against a 1990 baseline. In July 2019, the targets of the Act were amended to give a commitment to reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2050, and in February 2025, the Government pledged to the UNFCCC to achieve an 81% reduction by 2035.

7.2 In March 2019, the Council declared a 'Climate Emergency' pledging to become net carbon neutral by 2030. The Council's vision for sustainable carbon neutrality and climate resilience is set out in its Climate Change Strategy, adopted in 2021. The strategy identifies a number of actions based on four principles: a cleaner, greener organisation; collective responsibility; nature recovery and be involved in the bigger picture.[35]

7.3 Emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses contribute to climate change. A breakdown of territorial greenhouse gas emissions estimates in Redcar and Cleveland by sector illustrates that just over half of emissions in the borough, 452.1 kt CO2e, come from industry (with 245.1 kt CO2e from large industrial installations). The second highest contribution was from transport (177.1 kt CO2e) and then domestic (160.1 kt CO2e).[36] The Tees Valley Net Zero Strategy highlights that the Tees Valley has some of the highest emissions of any area, both in real terms and per capita, and that a significant amount of the region's CO2 emissions is from energy intensive industry, clustered towards the mouth of the river Tees, exporting goods outside our region.[37]



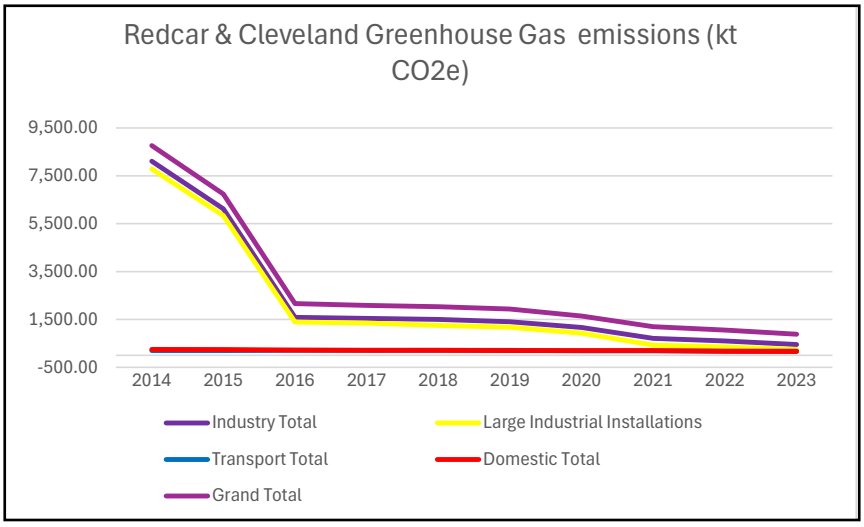
7.4 Over the ten years from 2014 to 2023, greenhouse gas emission estimates and per capita emissions in Redcar and Cleveland fell dramatically, largely in direct correlation to decreases in emissions from large industrial installations and reflecting the closure of Redcar Steelworks.

35 Climate-Strategy-2024-2027.pdf

36 UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2023 - GOV.UK

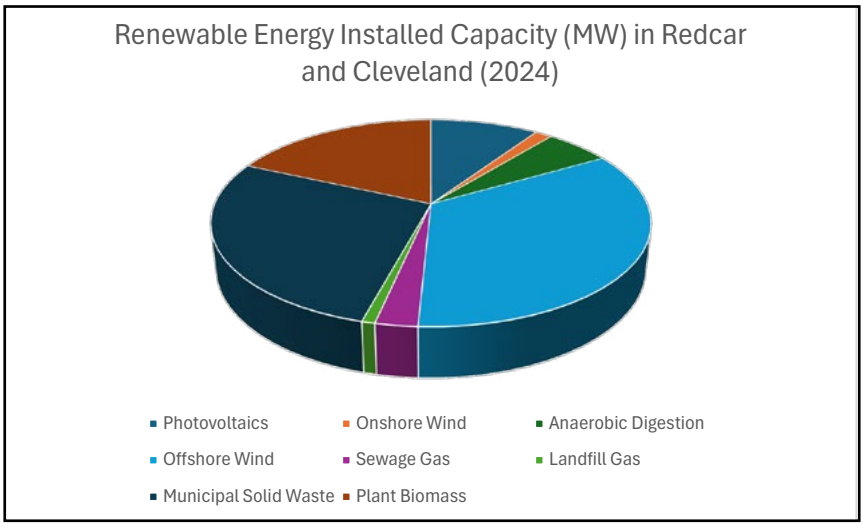
37 Net-Zero-strategy-Digital.pdf

7.5 Emissions from transport and domestic have also decreased over the same time period but more moderately, with total transport emissions (kt CO2e) falling from 203.9 in 2014 to 177.1 in 2023; and total domestic emissions (kt CO2e) falling from 247 in 2014 to 160.1 in 2023. Per capita emissions (t CO2e) fell from 64.9 per person in 2014 to 6.4 per person in 2023. Despite this decrease per capita emissions remain above the North East average (4.9 t CO2e per person).



Renewable Energy

7.6 At the end of 2024, Redcar and Cleveland had a total installed capacity of 181.9MW. The largest amount of capacity comes from offshore wind (62MW), followed by municipal solid waste (50MW) and plant biomass (33.3 MW). There was17.2 MW of capacity from photovoltaics and 2.7MW from onshore wind.[38]



7.7 The amount of renewable energy and storage required to meet national ambitions is likely to increase in demand for both on-site and grid connected developments.

7.8 The Renewable and Low Carbon Study for the Borough of Redcar and Clevland (2015) assess the technical and deployable potential for renewable energy and an assessment of landscape sensitivity. It identifies a number of areas which could potentially accommodate solar and wind energy and considers deployable potential. The study also maps heat demand and considers substation and connection ability.

7.9 The Plan will need to be informed by early engagement with relevant stakeholders so that there is a clear understanding of energy supply and network capacity and associated requirements for additional infrastructure provision. This will allow potential constraints to be considered and addressed.

38 Regional Renewable Statistics - GOV.UK

8. Material Assets

Minerals

8.1 Redcar and Cleveland has no operational sites and no permitted reserves of minerals. There are also currently no operational sites in the wider Tees Valley, meaning the area is reliant on imports from neighbouring areas, including elsewhere in the North East and North Yorkshire, especially for crushed rock.

8.2 Wharves located on the River Tees are important source of sand and gravel supply to both the Tees Valley and the wider area and are also safeguarded by the current Development Plan. This is particularly important given the absence of operational quarries to provide this resource in Tees Valley.[39] There are two wharves in Redcar and Cleveland, Tees Wharf and Teesport.

8.3 There are a number of sites producing recycled aggregates in the Tees Valley, including within Redcar and Cleveland, which are typically produced from construction, demolition and excavation wastes and spent road planning. Recycled aggregates are typically used for lower grade uses such as fill.

8.4 The current Tees Valley Minerals and Waste Core Strategy safeguards a number of mineral resources from sterilisation: salt, gypsum, potash and sand and gravel.

8.5 The potash mine at Boulby is within the boundaries of Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, however is it is within the North York Moors National Park and therefore the National Park Authority are the relevant planning authority. Potash from the mine is transported via rail to Teesport.

8.6 Minerals issues will be covered by a Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan which will replace the Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and Development Policies and Sites DPD (2011). This Plan will be prepared alongside the Redcar & Cleveland Local Plan.

Waste

8.7 Redcar and Cleveland also plays an important role in waste management, both regionally and nationally, including hazardous waste. In 2024, facilities within Redcar and Cleveland received1,873,213 tonnes of waste. 530,388 tonnes was recorded as originating in Redcar and Cleveland. [40]

8.8 In 2025/26, 61,470 tonnes of municipal waste and 51,281 tonnes of household waste were collected in Redcar and Cleveland. The household waste collected per head of population was 368.3 kg. 62.87% of household waste was sent for energy recovery, 15.04% sent to be recycled, 12.78% sent to anerobic digestion or composting and 13.18% sent to landfill.

8.9 A new Energy from Waste (EfW) plant in Redcar and Cleveland being procured by a consortium of Councils in the North East. This new facility could add 450,000 tonnes of residual treatment capacity into the North East waste market by 2030/2031.

39 Tees Valley Joint Local Aggregates Assessment 2023

40 2024 Waste Data Interrogator - National Data Library

8.10 Waste will be covered by a Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan which will replace the Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and Development Policies and Sites DPD (2011). This Plan will be prepared alongside the Redcar & Cleveland Local Plan.

Transport Network

8.11 The area is served by a road network centred around three main east to west routes, the A66/A1085, A171 and A174. These roads ultimately link to the A19(T) and A66(T) and connect the borough with the wider Tees Valley, North East and North Yorkshire.

8.12 The borough has a dispersed settlement pattern, with several town centres and rural areas which may have poor public transport provision. The core commercial bus network tends to follow the same approximately east to west pattern linking communities with each other and to Middlesbrough as the sub-regional centre. Whilst the routes do link most local communities, there are a few that have no direct links and some that have a relatively slow connection by bus compared to the journey time by car. Provision is weaker during evenings and on Sundays and there are significant areas of the borough that do not have good alternative transport choices to the private car. There are also gaps that affect how people can travel by bus for example to employment sites along the south bank of the River Tees.[41]

8.13 The borough has two main passenger rail routes: Darlington/Bishop Auckland to Saltburn and Middlesbrough/Newcastle to Whitby. In addition to local Northern services, Trans Pennine operate a number of daily connections to Manchester Airport. Freight train services also operate within the borough, with daily services linking Teesport to Boulby Mine and other locations within the UK. A study has been undertaken to examine the possibility of reinstating passenger services along the existing freight line from Saltburn to Boulby Freight Line in East Cleveland, including identifying indicative station locations.[42]

8.14 Teesport is a major deep sea marine complex and the UK's sixth largest.[43] It is a key gateway linking the borough to continental Europe and beyond facilitating the movement of a significant tonnage of cargo.

8.15 The borough is home to parts of National Cycle Network Routes 1 and 168 and the English Coastal Path and Cleveland Way go through the borough.

8.16 Sustainable transport will need to be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making, so that it is reflected in the vision for the plan area and its specific proposals, and forms an integral part of a plan's strategy for creating well-designed, sustainable, inclusive and popular places.

41 Local Implementation Plan for Transport.pdf

42 East Cleveland Railway Line - Tees Valley

43 Welcome to Teesport - The UK's Northern Gateway to the World

Energy Consumption

8.17 Energy consumption in Redcar and Cleveland has decreased in recent years primarily due to decreases from industrial, commercial and other uses reflecting closures and changes to industry in the borough.[44] Despite this decrease industrial, commercial and other uses continue to account for 47% of total energy consumption (Ktoe) in 2023.

Year	All fuels: Domestic (Ktoe)	All fuels: transport (Ktoe)	All fuels: Industrial, Commercial and other (Ktoe)	All fuels: total (Ktoe)
2023	78.3	64.6	126.9	269.8
2022	77.3	65.3	146.7	289.3
2021	88.4	64.9	154.5	307.7
2020	93.2	61.8	560.1	715.1
2019	89.8	74.1	724.7	888.6

8.18 Early engagement with relevant utility providers and network operators will be required to gain a clear understanding of energy supply and network capacity and any associated requirements for infrastructure provision.



44 Total final energy consumption at regional and local authority level: 2005 to 2023 - GOV.UK

9. Cutural Heritage



Conservation Areas

9.1 Conservation areas are designated due to their special architectural or historic interest. Development within these areas should seek to preserve of enhance the character of the area. In the area of Redcar and Cleveland that is outside of the national park area, there are 15 conservation areas, with a further 2 areas in the area that overlaps with the area of the North York Moors National Park Authority. Each area has a conservation area appraisal that defines the special character or interest.[45] The designated conservation areas are:

- Brotton
- Coatham
- Guisborough
- Liverton Village
- Loftus
- Marske
- Moorsholm
- Ormesby Hall
- Saltburn
- Skelton
- Skinningrove
- Upleatham
- Wilton
- Yearby
- Hutton Lowcross (NYMNP)
- Staithes (NYMNP)

45 https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/planning/historic-environment-and-heritage-management/conservation-area-management-plan-and

Image Credit: © Tees Valley Combined Authority

9.2 Historic England maintains a Heritage at Risk Register, which is a record of the historic places and buildings most at risk and in need of support. There are 2 conservation areas in the borough that are on the register. Loftus and Coatham areas are both considered to be in very bad condition with medium vulnerability.

Listed Buildings

9.3 There are 616 records of listed buildings shown on Historic England's National Heritage List for England.[46] These are 14 Grade I, 27 Grade II* and 575 Grade II. Of these buildings, 5 are on the 2025 register:

- Bastion and ha-ha wall, Kirkleatham
- Kirkleatham Hall Stables
- Bastion, north west of Kirkleatham Stables
- Christ Church, Coatham Road, Redcar
- Remains of Kilton Castle (also a scheduled monument)

Registered Parks and Gardens

9.4 There are 2 registered parks and gardens in the borough. These are both Grade II and are Garden at Tudor Croft, Guisborough and Valley Gardens, Saltburn. Valley Gardens is also on the Heritage at Risk Register for 2025 and is classified as being in generally satisfactory condition, with significant localised problems and improving.

Scheduled Monuments

9.5 Scheduled monuments area nationally important archaeological sites. There are 83 scheduled monuments registered by Historic England. Of these, there are 7 on the Heritage at Risk Register. These are:

- Remains of Kilton Castle (also Grade I listed building)
- Eston Nab hill fort
- Bowl Barrows (four entries) near High Court Green, Guisborough
- Manorial settlement, Saltburn/Marske/New Marske

46 https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list

10. Landscape



National Landscapes

10.1 Redcar and Cleveland is covered by two National Landscape Character Areas. 23 - Tees Lowland to the north and west of the borough along the River Tees and 24 - North York Moors and Cleveland Hills[47] which cover much of the southern, eastern and more rural parts of the borough.

10.2 National Character Area 23- Tees Lowland forms a broad, open plain dominated by the meandering lower reaches of the River Tees and its tributaries, with wide views to distant hills. The large conurbation around the Lower Tees and Teesmouth contrasts with the rural area to the south and west, which is largely agricultural in character. The mosaic of intertidal and wetland habitats within the Tees Estuary are internationally designated as Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area and Ramsar site, due to their importance for waterfowl. These areas are in close proximity to heavy industry, which has developed due to the estuary's strategic location close to; mineral reserves, a network of main roads, railways and Teesport. Industrial installations form a dramatic skyline when viewed from the surrounding hills. Early successional grasslands and scrub have also emerged on previously developed land; these brownfield sites have significant biodiversity value.

10.3 Agricultural land is intensively farmed, with large fields and sparse woodland, and a settlement pattern influenced both by the river and by past agricultural practices. Recent changes include the development of infrastructure associated with the energy industry, in particular onshore and offshore wind farms.

10.4 Natural England have identified challenges in the NCA, including that dynamic processes of sediment movement influence the coastline in this NCA, and the protection of intertidal habitats through managed realignment will be a key challenge. Protection and expansion of wetland areas can help to reduce flood risk in urban areas, and this should be a priority along with the restoration of wildlife-friendly habitats and low intensity land uses in rural areas. Other future challenges include adapting agricultural practices to mitigate the impacts of climate change, and linking green corridors in urban areas to form a strategic green infrastructure network.

10.5 National character Area 25 – North York Moors and Cleveland Hills comprises a well-defined upland area, rising from the Tees Lowlands to the north, the Vale of Mowbray and Howardian Hills to the west and the Vale of Pickering to the south. To the east it is bordered by the North

47 Natural England - National Character Area Profiles - National Character Area Profiles

Sea, the extensive stretches of high coastal cliffs exposing the geology that shaped these uplands.

10.6 Drivers for change identified by Natural England in the NCA include ongoing pressures from flood risk and housing development. The rising sea levels in the area may cause a coastal pinch effect, which could put pressure on internationally designated intertidal habitats and may lead to the loss of mudflats, salt marsh, and sand dunes. Ongoing industrial development around the Tess Estuary may put pressure on brownfield sites and threaten newly developing grasslands and scrub habitats. growing pressures from recreation and tourism in rural and remote upland plateux and dales. Climate change may lead to an increase in coastal erosion, impacting rare upland habitat and historic features. Summer droughts may result in wetland habitats drying out, increasing the risk and severity of fires and pest attacks across the moorland habitats.

10.7 Sustainably managed uplands provide many ecosystem services of benefit to the wider area. These services include storing carbon in soils, preventing its loss to the air and water; holding rainfall in these wetland habitats and other vegetation, slowing its journey to major rivers and thence regulating flow through more densely populated areas vulnerable to river flooding; providing an expansive, open landscape, long views and a sense of remoteness. Providing functioning ecosystems and preventing fragmentation of habitats presents a real challenge, particularly in the face of environmental change, as we increasingly depend on a resilient landscape supported by sustainable land management practices.

10.8 Natural England have identified a number of opportunities in the Character Area including to strengthen the networks of semi-natural habitats, particularly wetlands, native woodland and species rich grassland, enhancing their regulation of natural processes and provision of the public benefits mentioned. At the coast the dynamic processes of erosion and accretion can be accommodated, thus creating a more resilient natural environment that is capable of both ameliorating and adapting to climate change. Sustainable management of these natural resources will ensure that the landscape continues to provide food, clean water, energy, and inspiration and enjoyment to people locally, regionally and beyond.

10.9 Within North York Moors National Park, natural and cultural heritage shape a distinctive sense of place and attracts visitors. While the National Park is not within the Redcar and Cleveland Local Plan area, development has potential to impact on National Park. Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council have a duty to have regard to the National Park Purposes, as set out in the 1949 National Parks and Countryside Act (as amended by the 1995 Environment Act). The special qualities of the National Park are identified in the North York Moors Management Plan. Development within the plan area must ensure that high importance is given to protecting the landscape setting, scenic beauty and special qualities of the North York Moors National Park, by ensuring that new development does not harm these interests.

10.10 The coastline from Saltburn eastward is defined as the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast, an area protected against any development that may harm its special character. The purposes of Heritage Coasts are to:

- conserve, protect and enhance the natural beauty of the coasts, their marine flora and fauna, and their heritage features;
- facilitate and enhance their enjoyment, understanding and appreciation by the public;
- maintain and improve the health of inshore waters affecting Heritage Coasts and their beaches through appropriate environmental measures; and

- take account of the needs of agriculture, forestry and fishing, and of the economic and social needs of the small communities on these coasts.

10.11 Within the Heritage Coast the emphasis is on maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast while improving access where appropriate. Any development which is considered acceptable should be designed and sited so as to cause no harm to the special character of the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast, in particular its remote character, natural beauty, wildlife and geological value, heritage assets and marine environment.

10.12 The NPPF requires Local Plans identify opportunities for the conservation, enhancement and recovery of landscapes and steer development to appropriate locations including limiting the scale and extent of development within Protected Landscapes.

Locally Valued Landscapes and Character Areas

10.13 Under Redcar & Cleveland's Landscape Character Assessment (2016), the range of landscapes across the rural parts of the borough are identified, with positive and negative attributes analysed.

10.14 The Assessment divides the borough into four Broad Landscape Areas. These represent recognisable areas of landscape which have a distinctive local identity that sets them apart from neighbouring areas.

10.15 The four Broad Landscape Areas are:

(a) Eston Hills (the uplands at Eston, Upleatham, and Skelton);

(b) Redcar Flats (the coast and countryside around Redcar and Marske);

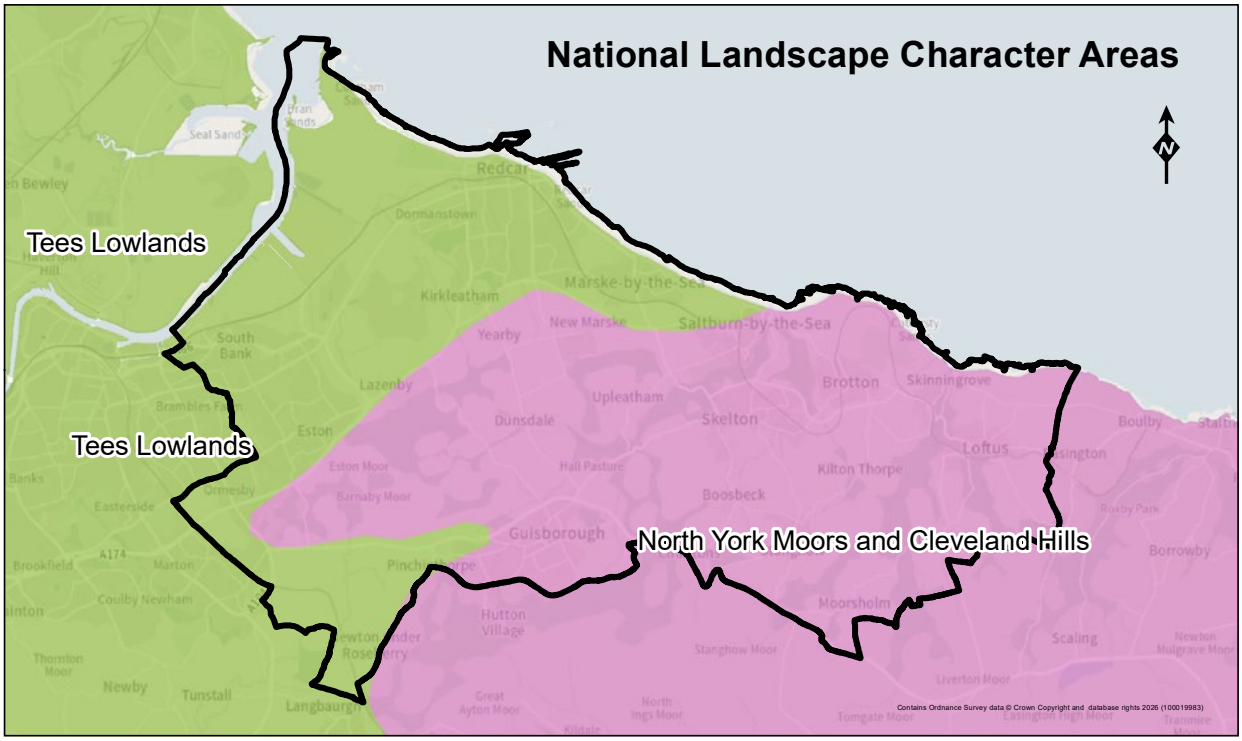
(c) East Cleveland Plateau (the coast from Saltburn to Boulby and the countryside fringing the North York Moors); and

(d) Guisborough Lowland (the broad valley from Nunthorpe to Margrove Park.

10.16 The LCA splits the rural landscapes into two categories: Sensitive Landscapes, in which much landscape structure is present to give high 'strength of character' which is sensitive to change; and Restoration Landscapes, where the land has lost a greater or lesser degree of landscape structure and would benefit from measures to restore that structure and character.

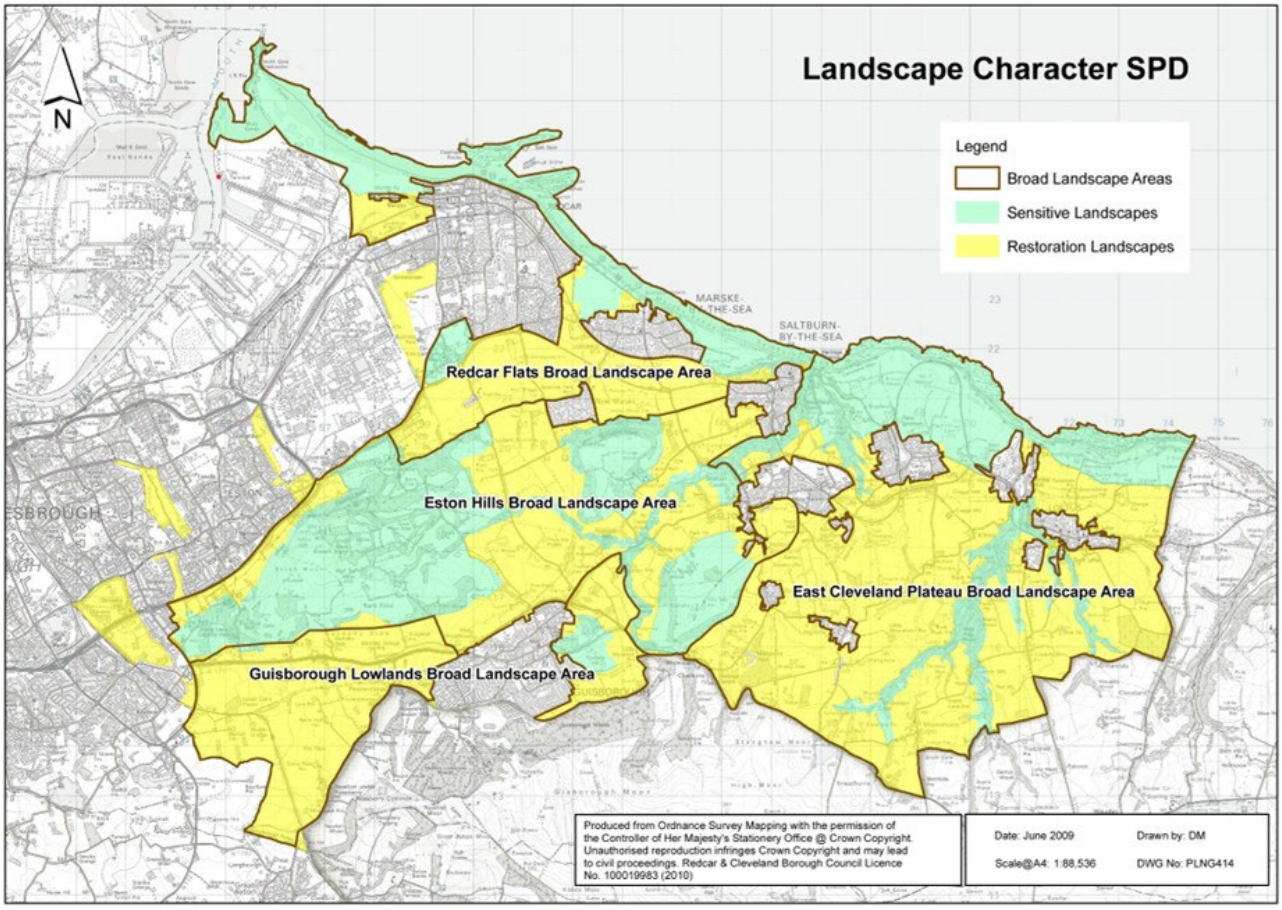
10.17 Sensitive landscapes cover parkland, the coast, the wooded beck valleys and areas of upland, while the remainder of the rural areas outside the limits to development are classified as Restoration Landscapes. In the Sensitive Landscapes, changes in character are discouraged and the emphasis is on retention of landscape elements; indeed, changes will take on a visual prominence over much of this area on the more elevated parts. Location and design are of crucial importance. New planting for screening or integration should closely reflect the nature and detail of the existing vegetation. In the Restoration Landscapes, landscape improvements are a priority, whilst retention of those features that do exist is important to integrate any new development into the landscape, to act as the basis for new planting, or for the creation of 'new landscape'.

MAP 5: National Landscape Character Areas



Source: Natural England

Map 6: Local Landscape Character Areas



Source: Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council

11. Identifying Environmental Issues and Draft SEA Objectives

Environmental Issues

11.1 Following the analysis of the environmental objectives from the plans and programmes set out within Appendix A and the baseline data outlined in chapters 2-10, it has been possible to identify the key environmental issues for the borough. The identification of these issues helps in the development of the SEA objectives and assessment framework. These issues are set out in Table 4.

Table 4: Key Environment Issues

SEA Topic	Key Environmental Issues
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	The borough contains a number of sites of nature conservation and biodiversity importance ranging from the international to local level. There is a need to protect these designated sites, and other areas of biodiversity interest, as part of allocating new development. Declining habitats and species, from such effects as visitor disturbance, climate change, land take and pollution, will need measurable biodiversity net gain and strengthened ecological networks and enhanced connectivity to create wildlife corridors.
Populations and Human Health	There is an aging population with generally poorer health outcomes than the national average. There are also health disparities across the borough. There are areas of high deprivation and social exclusion across the borough and challenges related to housing affordability, educational attainment and employment opportunities. There is a need to promote healthier and more active lifestyles, address inequalities and support sustainable and local economic growth. There is also a need to address the impact of an aging population on housing supply and demand for services and to ensure a supply of housing to meet local needs.

Soil	There is potential for there to be significant areas of contaminated land, due to the industrial history of the borough. New development could lead to greater identification and remediation of contaminated land. There are substantial areas of the borough with the potential to be the best and most versatile agricultural land and this should be protected. Development could lead to soil degradation and further contamination.
Water	There is a need to manage water resources sustainably, supporting reduction in consumption where possible and ensuring sufficient water supply and capacity for planned growth. A number of waterbodies are not in favourable condition. There is a need to support improvements to water quality and ensure sufficient capacity to manage wastewater. There is a need to manage flood risk (coastal, fluvial and surface) including in response to climate change (cross theme).
Air	There are no currently declared Air Quality Management Areas and monitored pollutant levels are below national requirements. However, there has been an increase in levels of PM10 and PM2.5 and these levels could increase further as a result of new development.
Climatic Factors	There is a need to mitigate and adapt to climate change, including through supporting sustainable development patterns, good design and high energy efficient standards. A significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions in the borough are from industry. There is a need to support the change to a lower carbon economy, support increased provision of renewable energy and ensure that our borough is resilient to extreme weather, coastal change, drought and other impacts of climate change.
Material Assets	We must support improvements to our transport network and infrastructure, including the provision and accessibility of sustainable forms of transport. There is a need to promote a modal shift towards sustainable transport while addressing poor rural connectivity. We must ensure that we use our material assets sustainably.

Cultural Heritage	The borough has a rich historic environment and a significant number of designated heritage assets. These assets are irreplaceable and sensitive to inappropriate development. The future of the historic environment relies upon the successful management of change and there will be a need to balance the conservation and enhancement of the borough's heritage assets with the need to accommodate growth.
Landscape	The borough has a varied landscape, from highly urbanised and industrial areas, to rural uplands and areas of undeveloped coast. The Local Plan area is fringed by the North York Moors National Park and parts of coastline are within the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast. Parts of our landscape are sensitive to change, although there are also opportunities at the landscape scale, including improving landscape structure alongside new development.

Developing SEA Objectives

11.2 The development of a set of SEA objectives provides a framework and means by which the environmental performance of the plan or programme and alternatives can be assessed. The objectives have been identified from the analysis of the base line data and identification of the key environmental issues for the borough and will be used to test the overall effects of the plan and appraise the individual policies and proposals.

11.3 The draft objectives are included in Table 5, alongside a number of questions that can be asked to determine if the objectives are being achieved. This draft framework may be refined following the receipt of consultation responses and in light of any further information relating to environmental issues and challenges.

Table 5: SEA Framework

SEA Topic	SEA Objective	Guide Questions for the Local Plan
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Protect, enhance and restore biodiversity and geodiversity	Will it protect or enhance European designated sites? Will it protect or enhance nationally or locally designated sites for biodiversity or geodiversity? Will it lead to the creation of new areas of biodiversity value? Will it avoid disturbance or damage to protected habitats or species? Will it enhance or maintain ecological networks? Will it contribute to the priorities of the LNRS?
Population	Support empowered and active communities who are proud of where they live.	Will it ensure services and facilities to support local communities are maintained or enhanced as part of new and existing development? Will it support rural communities? Will it help communities retain and strengthen their unique character through planned growth?
Population and Human Health	Create safer communities and protect people from harm.	Will it create a safe, secure and well-designed environment? Will it help create development that avoids adverse impacts on the community, such as through deterring anti-social behaviour? Will it control the locations of polluting development to avoid increased harm for residential areas?

Population and Human Health	Improve the quality, availability and accessibility of housing in the borough.	Will it provide sufficient housing to provide for local housing need? Will it provide a range of homes to meet the diverse needs of the borough? Will it increase the affordability of housing? Will it provide good quality housing?
Population	Increase employment and improve the level of education, skills, jobs and training.	Will it promote diversification in the type of jobs available in the borough? Will it maintain access to skills training and education? Will it help to attract or retain a motivated, highly skilled and educated workforce?
Population	Encourage sustainable growth, diversify and strengthen the local economy and encourage enterprise and industrial excellence.	Will it safeguard or create new opportunities for economic development? Will it support the provision of infrastructure to support growth? Will it enhance the viability and vitality of town centres? Will it support the diversification of the local economy?
Human Health	Improve public health, reduce health inequalities and provide opportunities for physical activity.	Will it provide or enhance opportunities for healthy living or physical activity? Will it help to ensure equitable access to health services? Will it improve access to open space and green infrastructure? Will it help to reduce public health risks, such as pollution?

Soils	Protect and improve soil resources and increase the efficient use of land.	Will it help to identify and remediate areas of contaminated land through new developments? Will it support the redevelopment of brownfield land? Will it limit the permanent loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land?
Water	Protect and improve water quality and water resources.	Will it protect, maintain or improve water quality? Will it reduce water pollution? Will it improve water efficiency/ reduce water consumption?
Air	Protect and improve local air quality.	Will it help to reduce the reliance on car travel? Will it help to reduce emissions associated with energy use and waste management? Will it help to protect good air quality? Will it reduce exposure to pollution sources?
Climatic Factors	Reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable and low carbon energy.	Will it reduce demand for energy? Will it increase energy efficiency? Will it support renewable or low carbon energy?
Climatic Factors	Minimise flood risk and increase the climate change resilience of the borough.	Will it increase resilience to the risks of climate change (e.g. from drought, flooding, coastal erosion, flood risk?) Will it help adapt to the impacts of climate change/improve resilience?

Material Assets	Minimise waste and increase the reuse, recycling and recovery of waste and the sustainable use of resources.	Will it minimise production of waste? Will it drive waste up the waste hierarchy? Will it encourage the reuse of materials and recycled materials? Will it promote the efficient use of resources?
Material Assets	Increase sustainable transport options and usage	Is it accessible by sustainable forms of transport? Will it encourage sustainable modes of transport?
Material Assets	Improve the accessibility and quality of key services and facilities.	Will it reduce the need to travel? Will it have good access to services and facilities? Does it create infrastructure needed to support growth?
Cultural Heritage	Protect and enhance heritage assets of special archaeological, historical and architectural interest.	Will it help to identify historic features at risk and help to restore those features? Will it ensure new development takes account of and protects and enhances the cultural and historic environment? Will it protect and enhance sites and features of archaeological interest? Will it promote access to and enjoyment of cultural and heritage assets?

Landscape	Protect and enhance the quality, distinctiveness and setting of the borough's seascapes and landscapes.	Will it protect and enhance designated landscapes and their special qualities (Heritage Coast and North York Moors National Park)? Will it protect and enhance locally designated landscapes? Will it take opportunities to reinstate landscape features? Will it be well designed and in keeping with local landscape character?

12. Consultation and Next Steps



12.1 This report has been prepared to set out the outputs of Stage A of the SEA process and to allow for consultation on the scope of the SEA of the new Redcar & Cleveland Local Plan so that we may ensure that the SEA will cover the likely significant environmental effects of the plan.

12.2 To meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations, the report will be subject to a consultation with the three statutory consultees (Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England) for a period of at least 5 weeks. It has also been published for alongside the Scoping Report of the Local Plan. The consultation for both reports is open for comments between 16 November 2026 and 18 December 2026 and the consultation documents are available at https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/planning/emerging-local-plan

12.3 Following the consultation, the SEA Scoping Report will be reviewed and amended, where necessary. It will then be used to provide the framework for developing and refining the policies in the Local Plan and for assessing the effects of the plan and its alternatives on the environment, in line with the requirements of the SEA Regulations.

Appendix 1 - Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			
Source	**Document**	**Summary**	**Key Messages for Local Plan and SEA**
International	UN convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	The convention had 3 main goals: the conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. Article 6A of the convention requires each contracting party to develop national strategies, plans and programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	The Local Plan should support the overall objectives and requirements of the convention and contribute to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in the borough. The SEA should reflect the aims of the convention and assess the impact of the plan on biodiversity.
	UN Convention on Biological Diversity (2021)	The 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) led to an agreement on strengthening international action to halt biodiversity loss and develop the framework that became the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (2022). This framework includes a target to protect at least 30% of land and oceans by 2030.	The Local Plan should support the overall objectives and requirements of the framework and contribute to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in the borough. The SEA should reflect the aims of the framework and assess the impact of the plan on biodiversity.
National	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017)	The regulations transpose the European Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (1992) (the Habitats Directive) into UK law. They place a duty on competent authorities to have regard to habitat and species protection and provide protection for Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).	An Appropriate Assessment of the implications of the Local Plan for the conservation objections of relevant SPAs and SACs must be undertaken. The Local Plan should support these conservation objectives and the SEA objectives will also need to take account of the potential for impacts on protected sites and species.
	A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018)	This plan sets out goals to improve the natural environment and aims to deliver cleaner air and water, protect species and provide for richer habitats, and deliver more resilient ecosystems.	The Local Plan and SEA should both have regard to the aims and targets of the plan.

	DEFRA: Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)	The strategy aims to halt the loss of England's habitats and species following the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. It also aims to support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks.	Consider how policies and objectives can protect, restore and enhance biodiversity and ecological networks.
	The Environment Improvement Plan (2025) (EIP)	The EIP builds on the 25 Year Plan and sets out 10 goals with statutory targets, delivery plans and an evaluation framework. These goals are: restored nature; improved air quality; cleaner waters; safer use of chemicals and pesticides; waste reduction; sustainable resource use; tackling climate change; reducing environmental hazards; biosecurity; and access to nature.	The Local Plan should incorporate policies that align with and support the EIP goals and targets.
	Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework (2023)	The framework supports the delivery of multifunctional green infrastructure as part of the Nature Recovery Network.	The Local Plan should consider how green infrastructure can deliver benefits for biodiversity and climate and the SEA should have regard to the aims of the network.
	National Planning Policy Framework (2026)	The NPPF sets out the government's policies for plan making and for making decisions on development proposals. It provides the framework for the Local Plan, setting requirements relating to all policy areas. For biodiversity, these include a need to safeguard and enhance the natural environment, and reflect the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services. Standards for green infrastructure provision should be set which draw on Natural England's Green Infrastructure Standards for England.	The Local Plan must take in to account the policies of the NPPF.
Regional	North East Marine Plan (2021)	The plan was prepared to comply with the Marine and Coastal Access Act, 2009, and seeks to complement the terrestrial planning regime and help to manage the relationship between marine and land-based planning in the North East region. Objectives seek to ensure that healthy marine and coastal habitats occur and that our oceans support valued species.	The Local Plan should have regard to the Marine Plan and the impact of its policies on the marine environment should be taken into account. The SEA objectives should be consistent the the objectives of the Marine Plan.

	North East Invasive Non-native Species Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2024	The document focuses on freshwater and riparian species, and aims to 'develop and maintain cost effective strategic approaches to prevent, detect, control and eradicate specified INNS in North East river catchments through the coordinated action of river catchment partnerships.	The Local Plan should support the actions set out within the document.
Sub-regional	Site Improvement Plan: Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast SPA (2015)	The SIP identifies the threats to the qualifying features of the SPA and sets out priority measures and detailed actions to improve the condition of the features of the site.	The Local Plan should protect the integrity of the SPA and avoid adverse effects on its qualifying features.
	Emerging Tees Valley Local Nature Recovery Strategy	The LNRS is currently under preparation and is due to be published for public consultation in 2026. The LNRS is required by the Environment Act 2021 and will set spatial priorities for habitat creation and species recovery.	Align with a support the priorities of the emerging LNRS and embed nature recovery opportunities into the Local Plan.
Local	Redcar and Cleveland Local Wildlife and Local Geological Sites 2023	The Council has designated a selection of Local Wildlife and Local Geological Sites that have been recommended by the Tees Valley Local Sites Partnership and Tees Valley Regionally Important Geological Sites Group.	The Local Plan should seek to maintain the protection of designated LWS and LGSs from development.
	Redcar & Cleveland Biodiversity Strategy 2023-2033	The strategy sets 4 key objectives for the borough – protecting and restoring biodiversity, people active for and benefitting from nature, reducing the Council's ecological footprint, and working with nature to tackle the climate crisis. The strategy also includes an action plan for 2024-2027.	The Local Plan will align with the priorities of the strategy and will, where relevant, support the delivery of identified actions.
	Redcar & Cleveland Countryside Strategy 2025-2030	The countryside strategy seeks to protect and enhance key areas of the Council's estate to provide a network of well-connected green spaces and accessible corridors for people and wildlife. The action plan sets out a number of key actions to deliver and positive conservation effort, improved opportunities for recreation and access, greater appreciation of the countryside and increased community involvement.	The Local Plan should support the delivery of the strategy and seek to protect the network of green spaces and provide opportunity for enhancement.

Population and Human Health			
Source	**Document**	**Summary**	**Key Messages for Local Plan and SEA**
International	UN Millennium Declaration (2000)	The declaration commits to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women.	The plan should support the overall objectives of the declaration and the SEA framework should reflect the requirements of the declaration.
	Johannesburg Declaration on Health and Sustainable Development (2002)	Focuses attention and action towards strengthening the pillars of sustainable development. Essential requirements are recognised as poverty eradication; changing consumption and production patterns; and protecting and managing the natural resource base for economic and social development.	The Local Plan should include policies that relate to conserving natural resources and supporting sustainable development.
	Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)	This set 17 sustainable development goals and includes targets relating to poverty, food security, health and well-being, education, gender equality and peaceful and inclusive societies.	The Local Plan and SEA should reflect the sustainable development goals.
National	Equality Act 2010	The Act brought together Uk anti-discrimination laws. It protects people against discrimination, harassment or victimisation in employment or as users of private and public services. It places a duty on public bodies to consider how their decisions impact different groups.	Policies within the Local Plan will need to avoid discriminating against different groups with protected characteristics and the pan and SEA should be informed by an Equality Impact Assessment.
	Health and Care Act 2022	The Act focusses on integrating health and social care services and improving accountability in the National Health Service and also includes aims relating to the reduction of health inequalities and improving access to health care.	The Local Plan will need to ensure that it access to health care provision for the existing population and new developments.
	All Our Health – Health Inequalities and Disparities (OHID, 2022)	Promotes action to prevent ill health and reduce health inequalities by addressing social, environmental and economic determinants.	Consider the determinants of health and access to health services through the Local Plan.

	Levelling up and Regeneration Act (2023)	The Act seeks to reform planning and strengthen local democracy, with enhanced transparency and accountability for local authorities. It introduced National Development Management Policies, reducing the need for local plans to address common development management issues. It also included targets to increase new homes and a requirement for a statement of levelling up missions and reporting metrics which include 2030 targets for living standards, transport connectivity, education and health.	The plan should support the delivery of new homes and the levelling up mission targets and should focus upon locally specific issues.
	Sport England Active Design (2023)	Provides guidance for designing environments that can support physically active and healthy lives.	Include measures to support and create active environments and healthy lifestyles.
	Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework (2023)	Establishes principles for green infrastructure that promote high-quality, multi-functional infrastructure for nature recovery, health and quality of life.	Consider the multi-functional benefits of green infrastructure and incorporate measure to support the maintenance or delivery of these spaces.
	Homes England Strategic Plan 2025-2030	The plan identifies steps to help more people access better homes in the right places.	The Local Plan should allocate land to meet identified needs for housing.
	Building for a Healthy Life (2026)	Sets out 12 core principles to assess placemaking, giving clear examples of what good place-making looks like.	The Local Plan should have regard to the principles for place-making and SEA objectives should support the provision of high quality design.
	National Planning Policy Framework (2026)	The NPPF sets out the government's policies for plan making and for making decisions on development proposals. It provides the framework for the Local Plan, setting requirements relating to all policy areas. It encourages a proactive approach to delivering sustainable communities by preparing and maintaining up-to-date Local Plans and includes policy requirements for delivering homes, supporting growth and creating high quality, sustainable places.	The Local Plan should take account of the NPPF and its policies should reflect the framework requirements.

Sub-Regional	South Tees Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2030	Aims to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in the South Tees area by setting out three missions; start well, live well and age well. These missions will tackle local challenges and drive large-scale change to ensure people have the best start in life and live healthier and longer lives.	The Local Plan should reflect the aims of the strategy and consider measures to reduce health inequality and improve health outcomes.
	Tees Valley Local Growth Plan 2026-2036	The plan sets out a ten-year strategy for economic growth and prosperity across the Tees Valley. It includes a vision for combining industrial strength, digital creativity and quality of life and states that the Tees Valley will be a place where people choose to live, study, work, invest and visit. It also includes a commitment for everyone to share in the prosperity of the region and for people to succeed and thrive.	The Local Plan and SEA Objectives should consider the contribution made to growth and supporting investment and regeneration.
Local	Redcar & Cleveland Corporate Plan 2024-2027	The corporate plan sets 4 key priorities for where the borough should be. They include Start Life Well, Live and Age Well and Prosper and Flourish. The objectives linked to these priories commit the Council to striving to reduce child poverty and supporting children to thrive, improving health and wellbeing, encouraging community participation, empowering people to live independently and helping local people get the skills and training they need for quality jobs	The plan should seek to support the Council in delivering against the priorities in the Corporate Plan.
	Redcar & Cleveland Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2030	The strategy aims to tackling complicated problems, committing to a working with partners to explore local issues and challenges and is informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for the South Tees area.	The Local Plan should align with the priorities of the strategy and explore planning solutions to local health issues.
Soil			
Source	**Document**	**Summary**	**Key Messages for Local Plan and SEA**
National	Defra: Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England (2009)	The strategy sets a framework for improving soil quality and has a vision for 2030 where England's soils will be managed sustainably and degradation threats tackled successfully.	The Local Plan and SEA should seek to promote the protection and sustainable management of soils.

	Defra: Environment Protection Act 1990: Part 2A. Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance (2012)	The guidance sets out how local authorities should implement the regime established within Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act, in relation to dealing with contaminated land. It establishes the framework for identifying and remediating contaminated land to remove risks to human health and the environment and to ensure land is suitable for future uses.	The Local Plan should consider how policies and new developments can support the identification and remediation of contaminated land.
	A Green Future; Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018)	The long-term goals set out in the plan include those that relate to improving the natural environment through sustainable land management, soil health and ecosystem resilience.	The plan and the SEA should have regard to the targets of A Green Future.
	Environment Act (2021)	The Environment Act sets long-term targets for environmental improvement and provides the framework for achieving the goals of the plan in A Green Future. It includes a target to bring 60% of agricultural soil into sustainable management by 2030.	The plan and the SEA should have regard to the targets of the Environment Act.
	Environmental Improvement Plan (2025)	This replaces the EIP of 2023 and sets out a revised roadmap for delivering the targets of the Environment Act, including those relating to soil health and sustainable land management.	The Local Plan should align with targets for soil health and environmental improvement.
	Environment Agency: Land Contamination Risk Management (updated 2025)	Provides guidance on managing the risks associated with historic land contamination and on carrying out risk assessment, appraisal and remediation.	Should have regard to the framework in relation to site allocations and new development requirements.
	National Planning Policy Framework (2026)	The NPPF sets out the government's policies for plan making and for making decisions on development proposals. It provides the framework for the Local Plan, setting requirements relating to all policy areas. Local plans are required to support the effective and efficient use of land and development proposals are required to take into account the quality of agricultural land (including that classified as best and most versatile agricultural land, and its grade), and if significant development of agricultural land is necessary, use areas of poorer quality land where possible.	The Local Plan should take account of the framework and reflect its requirements in the plan policies.

Local	Redcar & Cleveland Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (2013)	The strategy sets out the manner in which Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council will implement its duties under the DEFRA 2012 Part 2A guidance. The objectives of the strategy relate to the approach to inspections and identifying, assessing and managing risk.	The plan and SEA can consider the contribution made to identifying and reducing sites of contaminated land.
Water			
Source	**Document**	**Summary**	**Key Messages for Local Plan and SEA**
National	Flood and Water Management Act (2010)	Act governs how flood risk is managed, with the aim of reducing risk from flooding and coastal erosion.	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should ensure that planned growth is compatible with and resilient to flooding and coastal change.
	Environment Act (2021)	The Act sets legally binding targets to improve the natural environment, including water quality.	The SEA should include objectives that consider effects upon water quality and resource, and through the SEA and Local Plan ensure that they support aims to improve water quality.
	The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017	Originates from Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC. These regulations provide a framework for managing the water environment, setting ecological targets and environmental objectives, and require that a river basin management plan is prepared for each river basin district.	The SEA should include objectives that consider effects upon water quality and resource, and through the SEA and Local Plan ensure that they support aims to improve water quality.
	Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England	The Strategy focusses on increasing resilience in flooding and coastal change	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should ensure that planned growth is compatible with and resilient to flooding and coastal change.
	25 Year Environment Plan (2018)	Plan aims to improve environmental quality, including ensuring clean and plentiful water, mitigating and adapting to climate change, using resources sustainably and reduced harm from environmental hazards, including flooding. Sets targets from improvement.	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should ensure that planned growth is compatible with aims to improve the natural environment, use resources sustainably and reduce risks.

	Environmental Improvement Plan (2025)	The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2025 for England is our first revision of the 25YEP and builds on the 25YEP vision.	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should ensure that planned growth is compatible with aims to improve the natural environment, use resources sustainably and reduce risks.
	National Framework for Water Resources (2025)	Framework explores England's long term water needs, setting out the scale of action needed to ensure resilient supplies and an improved water environment.	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should ensure that planned growth is compatible with long-term water availability and supports improvements to water quality.
	Plan for Water: our integrated plan for delivering clean and plentiful water (2023)	Aims to deliver clean and plentiful water – a healthy water environment, and a sustainable supply of water. Sets out measures to transform and integrate the water system, address sources of pollution and boost water supplies through investment, regulation and enforcement.	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should ensure that planned growth is compatible with long-term water availability and supports improvements to water quality.
	UK Marine Policy Statement	Framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions affecting the marine environment. Provides high level policy context. Sets a number of objectives including ensuring a sustainable marine environment.	The plan and the SEA should have regard to the objectives of the Policy Statement.

	National Planning Policy Framework (2026)	The NPPF sets out the government's policies for plan making and for making decisions on development proposals. It provides the framework for the Local Plan, setting requirements relating to all policy areas. The Local Plan should take a proactive approach to adapting to climate change including drought and water supply, including the ability to set local water efficiency standards for new developments where these are justified. The Local Plan should take a proactive approach to assessing and planning for current and future flood risk including proposing appropriate development patterns which minimise risk, addressing vulnerabilities, identifying necessary adaptations and opportunities to improve resilience including through nature based approaches and green infrastructure. The Plan should be based on a clear understanding of water supply, drainage and wastewater capacity. The NPPF requires Local Plans to take into account Shoreline Management Plans and other relevant plans in assessing risks from coastal change and identifying appropriate approaches to coastal management and the location of new development.	The Local Plan should take account of the framework and reflect its requirements in the plan policies.
Regional	Northumbrian Water Resource Management Plan	The plan provides forecasts of demand, supply, and other parameters, as well as explaining the decision-making process Northumbrian Water follow to identify the new demand and supply options that represent best value for our customers	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should ensure that planned growth is compatible with long-term water availability and resilient to increasing drought risk under climate change.
	Northumbrian Water Drought Plan	The Drought Plans identifies what Northumbrian Water will do before, during and after a drought to ensure we are able to provide you with a resilient water supply. The document identifies measures available to reduce demand and support supplies and the triggers that will be used to identify when actions are required.	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should ensure that planned growth is compatible with long-term water availability and resilient to increasing drought risk under climate change.

	Northumbrian River Basin Management Plan	Sets out the: - current state of the water environment - pressures affecting the water environment - environmental objectives for protecting and improving the waters - programme of measures, actions needed to achieve the objectives	It should be ensured that the Local Plan and SEA objectives are compatible with and support aims and actions to improve water quality.
	The Tyne to Flamborough Head Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) 2	The SMP splits the coast into a number of policy units for coastal management. For each unit the plan specifies short, medium and longer term approaches to management including hold the line, no active intervention and managed realignment.	The Local Plan should have regard to the recommendations of the Shoreline Management Plan. The Plan and SEA should aim to avoid or reduce the impacts of coastal change when considering future growth and development.
	Tees Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009) and Esk and Coastal Streams Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009)	Catchment flood management plans (CFMPs) consider all types of inland flooding, from rivers, ground water, surface water and tidal flooding. They also take into account the likely impacts of climate change, the effects of how we use and manage the land, and how areas could be developed to meet our present day needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.	Ensure the Local Plan has regard to the policies and actions identified in the documents and that the Local Plan and SEA support reduction in flood risk.
	North East Inshore and North East Offshore Marine Plan (2021)	The North East Marine Plans aim to enhance and protect the marine environment and achieve sustainable economic growth while respecting local communities both within and adjacent to the marine plan areas. The Plans include a number of objectives and policies to support their delivery.	Ensure the Local Plan has regard to the policies identified in the documents and that the Local Plan and SEA seek to enhance and protect the marine environment.
Local	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Update (2016)	The Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) updates the previous Level 1 assessment using up-to-date flood risk information together with the most current flood risk and planning policy available to support sequential risk-based approach to the allocation of land for development and to identify whether application of the Exception Test is likely to be necessary.	The Local Plan and SEA should ensure a sequential risk based approach to allocations and growth is followed, ensuring that development is located in areas of lowest flood risk.

	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Level 2)	Follows from the Level 1 to provide a more detailed assessment of risk in specific locations and identified Critical Drainage Areas.	The Local Plan and SEA should ensure a sequential risk based approach to allocations and growth is followed, ensuring that development is located in areas of lowest flood risk..
Air			
Source	**Document**	**Summary**	**Key Messages for Local Plan and SEA**
National	Air Quality Regulations 2010	The regulations implement EU directives on air quality (2008/50/EC and 2004/107/EC) into UK law. They aim to improve air quality by requiring legally binding standards and targets that reduce the impact of pollutants on human health.	The Local Plan and SEA Objectives should support measures that improve air quality in line with established standards.
	Clean Air Strategy (2019)	The strategy includes a set of actions to reduce emissions from transport, domestic sources, farming and industry. It aims to protect public health and reduce PM2.5 exposure.	The Local Plan and SEA should consider measures to reduce air pollution and improve air quality.
	The Environment Act 2021	The Environment Act 2021 set out a series of targets to significantly improve the natural environment. The targets for air quality require significantly reducing the annual mean PM2.5 target and include a population exposure reduction target.	The Local Plan should support delivery of air quality targets and address air quality as a consideration in identifying site allocations. The SEA should include objectives relating to air quality.
	The Environment Improvement Plan (2025)	The Environment Plan strengthens the air quality commitment made in the Environment Act. It sets long-term and interim targets for PM2.5 and maintains existing targets for Nitrogen Oxide, Sulphur Dioxide, Ammonia and VOCs.	The Local Plan should support delivery of air quality targets and address air quality as a consideration in identifying site allocations. The SEA should include objectives relating to air quality.
Sub-regional	South Tees Clean Air Strategy (2024)	Sets out an action plan including milestones and performance measures with the aim to improve and prevent deterioration of air quality across South Tees.	The Local Plan and SEA should reflect measures to improve air quality and deliver reductions in emissions.
Climatic Factors			
Source	**Document**	**Summary**	**Key Messages for Local Plan and SEA**
International	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)	Global framework for tackling climate change through mitigation and adaptation.	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should support climate resilience and adaptation, including through spatial strategy and allocations.

	IPCC Kyoto Protocol (1997)	Commits countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable development.	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should support climate resilience and adaptation, including through spatial strategy and allocations.
	Paris Agreement (2016)	The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. Its overarching goal is to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. By 2020 countries should submit their plans for climate action known as nationally determined contributions (NDCs). NDCs are mandatory and outline the actions a country will take to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and to increase resilience to climate change. The NDC commits the UK to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 68% compared to 1990 levels by 2030.	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should support climate resilience and adaptation, including through spatial strategy and allocations.
National	Climate Change Act (2008) as amended	Establishes legally binding target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. The Act requires that the net UK carbon account for the year 2050 is at least 100% lower than the 1990 baseline (strengthened from an initial 80% reduction). The Act also establishes the Climate Change Committee (CCC) and requires the government to assess and plan for climate change risks.	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should support carbon reduction and net zero delivery and supports climate change resilience and adaptation.
	Environment Act (2021)	The Environment Act 2021 set out a series of targets to significantly improve the natural environment and will assist with meeting challenges of climate change.	The plan and the SEA should have regard to the targets of the Environment Act.

	25 Year Environment Plan (2018)	Plan aims to improve environmental quality, including mitigating and adapting to climate change.	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should ensure that planned growth is compatible with aims to improve the natural environment, use resources sustainably and reduce risks.
	Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP 2025)	The EIP is a strategic framework for improving England's natural environment up to 2043. The EIP sets 10 long-term goals for the natural environment, including water, resources, climate change and environmental hazards.	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should support the achievement of the natural environment goals.
	The Carbon Budget and Growth Deliver Plan (2025)	Sets out how the UK will continue to reduce emissions in a way that lowers bills and secures good jobs, in line with the 2008 Climate Change Act.	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should support carbon reduction and net zero delivery and supports climate change resilience and adaptation.
	Third National Adaptation Programme	Sets the actions that government and others will take to adapt to the impacts of climate change in the UK and key actions for 2023 to 2028	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should support carbon reduction and net zero delivery and supports climate change resilience and adaptation.
	Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021)	This strategy sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet our net zero target by 2050.	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should ensure they support carbon reduction and Net Zero aims.
	Industrial decarbonisation strategy (2021)	Strategy sets out how industry can decarbonise in line with net zero while remaining competitive and without pushing emissions abroad.	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should ensure they support carbon reduction and Net Zero aims, including through supporting decarbonisation of industry.

	National Planning Policy Framework (2026)	The NPPF sets out the government's policies for plan making and for making decisions on development proposals. It provides the framework for the Local Plan, setting requirements relating to all policy areas. The Local Plan should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change including through nature based approaches and green infrastructure. The Local Plan should support the transition to clean power by planning positively for renewable and low carbon energy and electricity network infrastructure including by identifying areas which are suitable for these forms of development and identifying opportunities for development to draw heat or energy supply from decentralised networks (such as district heat networks) or renewable or low carbon energy supply. The Plan should also make provision for development which is required for new or enhanced renewable and low carbon energy development and electricity network infrastructure, and set out any measures to avoid constraints on their operation or future expansion.	The Local Plan should take account of the framework and reflect its requirements in the plan policies.
Sub-Regional	Net Zero Strategy for Tees Valley	Document sets overall vision and practical roadmap for Net Zero in Tees Valley. Recognises that The Tees Valley economy is historically dependent on energy intensive industries and fossil fuels and recognises the importance of transitioning to a Net Zero future and the opportunities it provides for regeneration and future economic growth. Sets ten top priorities including delivering the UK's first decarbonised heavy industrial sector by 2040 and delivering large-scale carbon capture, utilisation and storage and over 4GW of hydrogen production by 2030. Strategy also recognises importance of transport and natural capital and greenspaces.	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should ensure they support the aims of the Strategy and support carbon reduction and Net Zero aims, including supporting decarbonisation of heavy industry.

Local	Renewable and Low Carbon Study for the Borough of Redcar (2015)	Study assesses the technical and deployable potential for renewable energy and an assessment of landscape sensitivity. It identifies a number of areas which could potentially accommodate solar and wind energy. It also identifies potential areas for biomass based on heat demand and considers deployable potential.	Study should inform identification of areas which are potentially suitable for renewable energy.
Material Assets			
Source	**Document**	**Summary**	**Key Messages for Local Plan and SEA**
National	Environment Act (2021)	The Environment Act sets long-term targets for environmental improvement and provides the framework for achieving the goals, including in relation to efficient use of resources and waste management.	The plan and the SEA should have regard to the targets of the Environment Act.
	25 Year Environment Plan (2018)	Plan aims to improve environmental quality across a number of areas including using resources sustainably and reducing waste.	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should ensure that planned growth is compatible with aims to improve the natural environment, use resources sustainably and reduce waste.
	Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP 2025)	The EIP is a strategic framework for improving England's natural environment up to 2043 which includes a number of goals including in relation to resources and waste.	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should support the sustainable use of resources and sustainable waste management.
	DEFRA Resource and Waste Strategy for England (2018)	The strategy sets out how Government will preserve material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy in England	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should support sustainable waste management, including reduce, reuse and recycle.
	UK Transport Investment Strategy (2017)	The objectives of the Strategy are to: 1. Create a more reliable, less congested, and better connected transport network that works for the users who rely on it. 2. Build a stronger, more balanced economy by enhancing productivity, supporting local economies and taking advantage of global opportunities. 3. Support the creation of new housing.	Ensure the SEA objectives and Local Plan encourage sustainable transport choices and promote improved connectivity.

	Uk Infrastructure: A 10 Year Strategy	Sets Government's long term strategy for infrastructure covering both economic and social infrastructure, including water, energy, transport, digital connectivity, housing and flood resilience.	Ensure SEA objectives and Local Plan align with the aims of Strategy and that the Local Plan delivers appropriate infrastructure to support growth and development.
	National Planning Policy Framework (2026)	The NPPF sets out the government's policies for plan making and for making decisions on development proposals. It provides the framework for the Local Plan, setting requirements relating to all policy areas. Sustainable transport should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making, so that it is reflected in the vision for the plan area and its specific proposals, and forms an integral part of a plan's strategy for creating well-designed, sustainable, inclusive and popular places.	The Local Plan should take account of the framework and reflect its requirements in the plan policies.
Sub Regional	Tees Valley Strategic Transport Plan 2020-2030	Vision to provide a high quality quick, affordable, reliable, low carbon and safe transport network for people and freight to move within, to and from Tees Valley. Identifies challenges which need to be addressed and identifies actions and interventions.	Ensure the SEA objectives and Local Plan encourage sustainable transport choices and promote improved connectivity. Ensure the Local Plan supports identified improvements.
Local	Transport for the Future: The Local Implementation Plan for transport in Redcar & Cleveland	This investment plan is part of the Tees Valley Strategic Transport Plan (STP) and sets out the Council's priorities for transport and identifies schemes to improve the transport network.	Ensure the SEA objectives and Local Plan encourage sustainable transport choices and promote improved connectivity. Ensure the Local Plan supports identified improvements.
	East Cleveland Railway Line: Detailed Feasibility Study/ Outline Business Case and Options Assessment Report	Reviewed the strategic case for the project, including future demand. Defined the infrastructure requirements, including what interventions would be required to the track and signalling, identified potential station locations, and provided a cost estimate for the project.	Ensure the Local Plan supports and enables potential expansion of passenger services in East Clevland.

Cultural Heritage			
Source	**Document**	**Summary**	**Key Messages for Local Plan and SEA**
International	UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972)	The convention identifies and protects significant monuments, groups of buildings and sites of cultural and national heritage importance. Countries agreed to adopt legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures for protection.	Local Plans should protect valued cultural and natural heritage and the SEA should assess heritage effects.
	Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (1985)	Reinforces and promotes policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It protects architectural heritage through identification, conservation, maintenance and research.	The plan should support the protection and enhancement of architectural heritage.
	European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1992)	The Convention aimed to conserve and enhance archaeological heritage through integrated conservation and research.	The plan should seek to safeguard archaeological assets and support their conservation. The SEA should assess impacts on archaeological heritage.
National	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)	The Act introduced the protection of monuments of national interest (scheduled monuments) and made provision for the investigation, preservation and recording of matters of archaeological or historical interest.	The Local Plan should provide appropriate protection for nationally important archaeological assets and the SEA should include objectives relating to the protection of archaeological heritage.
	Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990)	The Act provides statutory protection for listed buildings and conservation areas – buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest.	The Local Plan should provide appropriate protection for listed buildings and conservation areas and the SEA should include objectives relating to the protection of assets with special architectural or historic interest.
	Historic England Good Practice Advice (GPAs) and Advice Notes (HEANs)	Historic England GPAs provide advice for plan-making and development management decisions that affect heritage assets. The HEANs provide technical advice and guidance for planning in relation to the historic environment and heritage assets, including on the management of change.	The Local Plan should include policies that are consistent with the national advice and guidance.

	National Planning Policy Framework (2026)	The NPPF sets out the government's policies for plan making and for making decisions on development proposals. It provides the framework for the Local Plan, setting requirements relating to all policy areas. Local plans are required to deliver a positive strategy for the conservation, enhancement and enjoyment of the historic environment.	The Local Plan should take account of the framework and include policies which provide a positive strategy for the historic environment. The SEA should include objectives relating to the protection of the historic environment.
Local	Conservation Areas Appraisals and Management Plans (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council)	The Council has produced individual Conservation Area Appraisals for the conservation areas within the Local Plan area and is developing a suit of Conservation Area Management Plans for the same areas. These define the significance, character and management priorities of the areas.	The Local Plan should ensure development preserves or enhances the character of the conservation areas.
Landscape			
Source	**Document**	**Summary**	**Key Messages for Local Plan and SEA**
International	European Landscape Convention: guidelines for managing landscapes	The European Landscape Convention (ELC) promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues. he ELC requires landscape to be integrated into regional and town planning policies and other policies with possible direct or indirect impacts on landscape.	The Local Plan and SEA objectives must ensure that impacts on landscapes is properly integrated, including their protection, management and planning.
National	National Parks and Countryside Act 1949) (as amended by the 1995 Environment Act)	Sets out National Park Purposes.	The Local Plan should ensure that high importance is given to protecting the landscape setting, scenic beauty and special qualities of the North York Moors National Park, by ensuring that new development does not harm these interests, and the SEA should include objectives related to protecting and enhancing the borough's landscapes.
	25 Year Environment Plan (2018)	Plan aims to improve environmental quality across a number of areas including recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes.	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should support the achievement of the natural environment goals, including ensuring that landscapes are protected and enhanced.
	Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP 2025)	The EIP is a strategic framework for improving England's natural environment up to 2043.	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should support the achievement of the natural environment goals.

	Natural England National Character Areas: 23- Tees Lowland and 25 – North York Moors and Cleveland Hills	Identifies key characteristics of each National Character Area, including natural capital and key ecosystem services provided, landscape change and lists of environmental opportunities in each landscape.	The Local Plan and SEA objectives should support the achievement of objectives at a landscape scale.
	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	The NPPF requires Local Plans identify opportunities for the conservation, enhancement and recovery of landscapes and steer development to appropriate locations including limiting the scale and extent of development within Protected Landscapes.	The Local Plan should take account of the framework and reflect its requirements in the plan policies.
Sub Regional	Historic landscape character North Yorkshire, York and the Lower Tees Valley (2010)	The aim of this project was to use the methodology of Historic Landscape Characterisation to gain a better understanding of the historic dimension of the current landscape within the project area.	Ensure SEA objectives and the Local Plan protect and enhance the borough's landscape.
	The North York Moors Management Plan	Sets out a vision for the National Park and describes the objectives, policies and goals that the National Park Authority, other public bodies and stakeholders will pursue to achieve it. It also highlights the key priorities for action over the next twenty years in order to address the challenges that the National Park will face.	The Local Plan should ensure that high importance is given to protecting the landscape setting, scenic beauty and special qualities of the North York Moors National Park, by ensuring that new development does not harm these interests, and the SEA should include objectives related to protecting and enhancing the borough's landscapes.
Local	Redcar & Cleveland's Landscape Character Assessment (2016),	Under this Landscape Character Assessment, the range of landscapes across the rural parts of the borough outside the National Park are identified, mapped and described. These character areas are considered initially at a broad scale, with four Landscape Tracts (recognisable areas of landscape, such as the 'East Cleveland Plateau'), moving on to Landscape Types (such as 'moorland fringe farmland'), and finally adding a place name for locational purposes, to identify, on the smallest scale, the individual Landscape Unit. The study also identifies Sensitive Landscape Areas.	Ensure SEA objectives and the Local Plan protect and enhance the quality, distinctiveness and setting of the borough's seascapes and landscapes.

	Renewable and Low Carbon Study for the Borough of Redcar (2015)	Study assesses the technical and deployable potential for renewable energy and an assessment of landscape sensitivity. It identifies a number of areas which could potentially accommodate solar and wind energy.	Ensure the Local Plan and SEA objectives consider the impact of development on the borough's landscapes.

This document is available in alternative formats and in different languages on request.

If you need support or assistance to help you read and/or understand this document, please contact the Council on

01642 774774

this is
Redcar & Cleveland

Growth, Enterprise and Environment
Seafield House
Kirkleatham Street
Redcar
TS10 1SP
01642 774774

www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

27/10/2026