



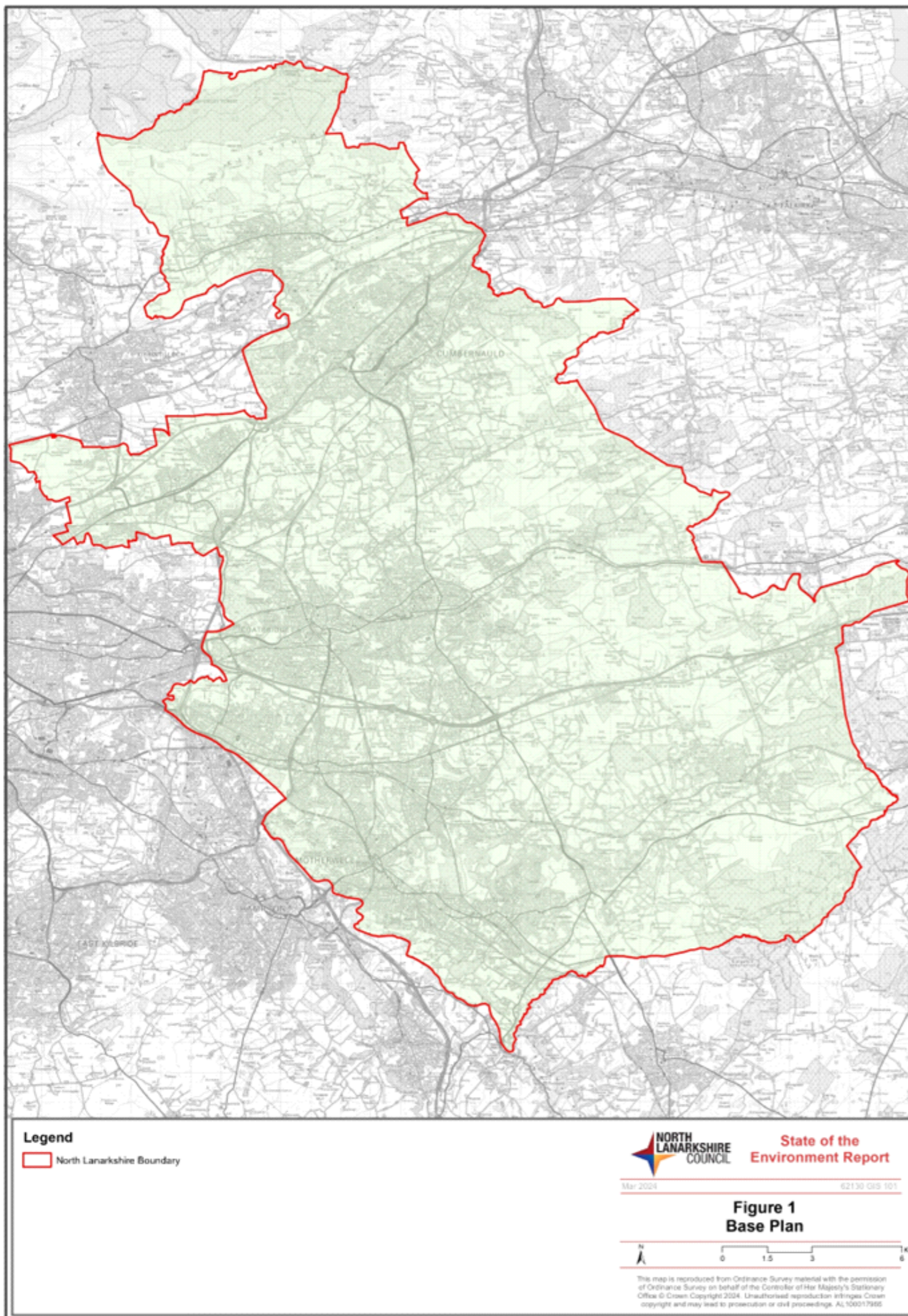
State of the Environment Report (Stage 2)
Environmental Baseline Report for
North Lanarkshire Council

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1.0 Introduction



1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 The State of the Environment Report (SOER) has been prepared for North Lanarkshire Council to provide an overview of the status and health of the natural and built environment in North Lanarkshire. The SOER updates information contained within the 2018 State of the Environment Report produced for North Lanarkshire by Ironside Farrar.
- 1.1.2 This report provides an Executive Summary of the SOER to provide a high-level summary of the Stage 1 report.
- 1.1.3 The council has begun preparing the next Local Development Plan (NLLDP2) which is due to be published in 2028. The current Development Plan is NPF4 and NLLDP. NLLDP2 is due to be published in 2028 and will replace NLLDP in that role. Clydeplan is no longer part of the Development Plan.

1.2 Planning Context

- 1.2.1 The Current North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan was adopted and came into force on 6 July 2022
- 1.2.2 The Local Development Plan is a land use policy document which has a significant influence on what is built on or what activities (uses) can be undertaken on land in North Lanarkshire. It does this by allocating sites for specific land uses such as housing, retailing, business and industry or developments such as schools, health centres and waste management facilities and by including policies designed to promote the economic, social, physical and environmental well being for North Lanarkshire. It therefore affects everyone who lives in, works or visits North Lanarkshire.
- 1.2.3 The Plan for North Lanarkshire sets the direction for the council and its partners. This high-level strategic document outlines a long-term vision for North Lanarkshire - a vision where North Lanarkshire is the place to Live, Learn, Work, Invest, and Visit. Its purpose is to communicate shared priorities and provide a focus for activities and resources.
- 1.2.4 To deliver the shared ambition of inclusive growth and prosperity, The Plan has five complementary priorities:
 - Improve economic opportunities and outcomes;
 - Support all children and young people to realise their full potential;
 - Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities;
 - Enhance participation, capacity, and empowerment across our communities; and
 - Improve North Lanarkshire's resource base.
- 1.2.5 NLLDP2 will be a further mechanism for implementing The Plan, and as well as informing NLLDP2 the environmental baseline presented here may also be used across the council in its duties and endeavours.

1.3 Use of the Report

- 1.3.1 This State of the Environment Report is intended to fulfil a number of purposes. Primarily the report provides a detailed review of the baseline resource and analysis of the health of the environmental assets in North Lanarkshire. This information presented will form a comprehensive resource from which North Lanarkshire Council and others may draw baseline environmental data required during the preparation of the NLLDP2.

1.4 North Lanarkshire

- 1.4.1 North Lanarkshire was formed as a unitary authority area in 1996 following local government reorganisation.
- 1.4.2 It covers an area of approximately 47,000 hectares (470 square kilometres) and is situated within West Central Scotland between the urban conurbations of Glasgow and Edinburgh. North Lanarkshire is Scotland's fourth largest Local Authority based on population and is principally linked economically and socially with Glasgow and the Clyde Valley.
- 1.4.3 The current population is 341,400 (2021) and the main settlements by population size are Cumbernauld, Coatbridge, Airdrie, Motherwell, and Wishaw.
- 1.4.4 The region forms a geographically diverse area between the urban conurbation of Glasgow which it borders to the west and the moorlands of central Scotland to the east. The southern part of North Lanarkshire is heavily populated, particularly in the south western area around the larger settlements. The south eastern and northern parts of the region are more rural in character with lower population densities and more extensive areas of open countryside.
- 1.4.5 North Lanarkshire is traversed by several important road, railway and waterway transport corridors which run approximately in an east-west direction across the region. The topography of North Lanarkshire is also influenced by the valleys of a number of significant watercourses including the Rivers Kelvin, North Calder and South Calder, each of which drains westwards to the River Clyde. Patterns of settlement tend to reflect the communication routes and established towns such as Motherwell, Coatbridge, and Airdrie which developed largely during the industrial revolution as a result of their proximity to sources of raw materials.
- 1.4.6 Industrial change has been a key component in shaping the social, natural and built environment of North Lanarkshire. This industrialisation has been followed by a period of transition and more recently by a newer mix of light manufacturing, storage and service industries which has affected the land use and landscape of the area.

2.0 Population and Human Health

2.1 Summary

- 2.1.1 The population distribution and settlement pattern of North Lanarkshire has been shaped to a large extent by the industrial heritage of the area, primarily coal and steel.
- 2.1.2 Within North Lanarkshire, there are many community facilities, alongside significant areas of natural open space and recreational facilities. Active travel is supported through physical infrastructure and council policies, making the natural environment more accessible and interactive.
- 2.1.3 However, the death rate in North Lanarkshire is higher than the death rate for Scotland, which may be attributable to some areas with high levels of deprivation.
- 2.1.4 There are numerous council policies aimed at improving population and health outcomes in North Lanarkshire, such as the Tackling Poverty Strategy and the Economic Recovery Plan.

2.2 Key Trends

- 2.2.1 The population size of North Lanarkshire has increased in recent years, and the area has seen a 1% population growth from the 2011 Census to the 2021 Census. However, North Lanarkshire's population is expected to decline by 1.7% over the next 10 years.
- 2.2.2 There is an expected loss of almost 17,000 working age (16-64) individuals in North Lanarkshire by 2034, and a rise of about 23,000 pensionable individuals.
- 2.2.3 The number of households in North Lanarkshire has increased since the 2001 census, from 132,754, to 152,653.

POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH

The 2022 population of North Lanarkshire was 340,930. The population has been increasing but is expected to decline by 1.7% over the next 10 years.

Death rate in North Lanarkshire was 13.0 per 1,000 people in 2022, and the death rate is lower for women than men.

North Lanarkshire has 64 jobs for every 1,000 working age residents (2021), a significantly lower number than for Scotland (81 jobs for every 1,000 working-age residents).

Between October 2022 and September 2023, class of skilled employment in North Lanarkshire was higher than in Scotland (24.9% vs 15.3%).

Just over 72% of the population in North Lanarkshire is employed.

North Lanarkshire is characterised by a higher proportion of employment classified as lower skilled within Standard Occupation Classifications (SOCs) 8-9 compared to Scotland.

Levels of higher qualifications (RQF Level 4+) is lower (38.2%) in North Lanarkshire than for Scotland (54.2%).

The proportion of residents with no qualifications is 6.4% higher in North Lanarkshire than for Scotland.

North Lanarkshire has 447 Scottish Index for Multiple Deprivation data zones over the council area. 15% of people are income deprived across North Lanarkshire, higher than the Scottish average of 12%. Of this deprived population, 28,234 people live in the 20% most deprived data zones.

The number of households has increased in North Lanarkshire, from 132,754 in 2001, to 152,653 in 2023.

There were 152,653 households in North Lanarkshire in 2023, with the average household size 2.24 people.

3.0 Land Use

3.1 Summary

- 3.1.1 North Lanarkshire has a broad range of land uses. Primarily, urban centres are along the western side of the county, adjoining Glasgow's urban fringes. In the North and East, land use is predominantly rural.
- 3.1.2 There are many major infrastructure links throughout North Lanarkshire, and current council plans will focus on extending and upgrading these links.

3.2 Key Trends

- 3.2.1 The roll out of NPF4 and the impact of climate change will likely change the future land use of North Lanarkshire, increasing the number of wind turbine and other renewable energy developments, and decreasing the reliance on fossil fuels.
- 3.2.2 The amount of vacant and derelict land in North Lanarkshire is decreasing, with a net decrease of 8.5% between 2018 and 2024.
- 3.2.3 There are an increasing number of renewable energy developments within North Lanarkshire, such as wind farms, solar energy applications, and Battery Energy Storage Sites (BESS).

LAND USE

There is a long history of mineral extraction in North Lanarkshire as coal mining and hard rock quarrying due to the resource characteristics of the Midland Valley. Following technological improvements, coal mining methods shifted towards surface mining in the late 1980s. Coal mining no longer takes place in North Lanarkshire.

North Lanarkshire is within the Central Belt of Scotland and contains major transport links including the M8, M80, A8 and A80 trunk roads and an extensive railway network.

There are 25 passenger rail stations in North Lanarkshire.

As of 2024, NLC recorded a total 1247 hectares of vacant and derelict land.

There are numerous wind farms and individual wind turbines within North Lanarkshire. The largest houses 25 turbines and is in the south east corner of the council boundary. Most large turbine developments are on the east side of the council area.

There are six catchments in or partly within North Lanarkshire (River Clyde, River Kelvin, River Carron, River Almond, River Avon and Glasgow Coastal).

4.0 Geology and Soils

4.1 Summary

4.1.1 Across Scotland, the geology is diverse, formed over a period of approximately three billion years. The natural processes which have helped create this geodiversity, including volcanism, plate tectonics, and glaciation, alongside erosion and deposition in water environments. The geodiversity of Scotland has helped progress knowledge in a variety of fields that have been key in North Lanarkshire, including oil and gas exploration and mining, but also geothermal potential.

4.1.2 North Lanarkshire specifically contains a variety of soils and rock types. During the Quaternary Ice Age the superficial deposits of Scotland were transformed, reflected in the fact that over 75% of North Lanarkshire is covered by Glacial Till, with a further 15% made up of peat deposited in this time.

4.1.3 The bedrock geology of North Lanarkshire comprises a mixture of sedimentary rock, interspersed with igneous intrusions and extrusions. Parts of this bedrock comprised the Scottish Coal Measures, and consequently, North Lanarkshire has seen large scale coal mining (in addition to other types of mineral mining) in its history.

4.1.4 However, coal mining no longer takes place in North Lanarkshire and the council are looking to diversify their energy capture to other means. The Scottish Government has identified deep geothermal energy as a promising renewable energy technology. With the entirety of North Lanarkshire sitting within a Coal Mining Reporting Area and the majority also within a Development High Risk Area, North Lanarkshire could potentially provide valuable advancements towards the utilization of geothermal energy in Scotland.

4.2 Key Trends

4.2.1 The introduction of NPF4 has represented a turning point in the protection of soils across Scotland. Policy 5 provides protection for peatland and carbon-rich soils and should help arrest declines in soil quality.

4.2.2 North Lanarkshire council has introduced multiple protection areas across the council area, which will help to restore previously destroyed areas of upland bogs, lowland raised bogs, and other important habitats.

4.2.3 Unconventional oil and gas exploration will no longer take place in North Lanarkshire. Instead, alternative energy developments, such as geothermal energy, may become more prevalent in

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Over 75% of North Lanarkshire is covered by Glacial Till, with a further 15% made up of peat deposited during the Quaternary Age.

The majority of topsoil in North Lanarkshire has a high (>3%-5%) concentration of organic carbon.

The bedrock geology comprises a mixture of sedimentary rock, interspersed with igneous intrusions and extrusions. Parts of this bedrock comprised the Scottish Coal Measures.

The Midland Valley of Scotland, identified as a potential unconventional gas resource, also lies beneath the council area.

The main bedrock types recorded within North Lanarkshire include the Scottish Coal Measures group (the most common type), including the Upper, Middle and Lower Coal Measures, which are sedimentary rocks including mudstone, siltstone, sandstone, coal, ironstone and ferricrete.

The second main bedrock type in North Lanarkshire is Clackmannan Group Sedimentary Rock Cycles, which include the Passage Formation, Upper Limestone Formation and Limestone and comprises sequences of sandstones with siltstones, mudstones, ironstones, coals and seatrocks and limestone within the upper limestone formation.

A review by the council has indicated there are 5 active quarries within North Lanarkshire.

The Land Capability for Agriculture Map records the largest area of classification (28.5%) of land in North Lanarkshire to be Urban – absent of agricultural soils.

There are large numbers of coal seams in North Lanarkshire, with the highest concentration around Coatbridge, where the Scottish Coal Measures are found, with deep coal between 50m-1200m predominantly in the North and West of the council area and shallow coal, with less than 50m overburden, found centrally.

Almost the entirety of North Lanarkshire sits within a Coal Mining Reporting Area, with the majority also within a Development High Risk Area, with surface mining (past and current) and past and probable shallow coal mine workings covering significant areas.

Due to past associations with mine workings within the council area, many parts of North Lanarkshire have potential for geothermal energy, where heat can be extracted from mine water.

5.0 Water Quality, Flooding and Drainage

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 Water is a valuable resource which has multiple uses, e.g. potable water supply, water for agriculture and industry, support/habitat for ecology, recreation, sport, transport, and wastewater disposal.

5.1.2 There is robust legislation in Scotland which enacts the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and regulates activities to protect the water environment. Combined with regulations in respect of contaminated land, this has led to an improvement in water quality across Scotland and North Lanarkshire. The Public Water Supplies (Scotland) Regulations 2014 (and 2015 amendments) define drinking water wholesomeness and require water authorities to monitor the quality of their supplies. The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act (2009) introduced new duties to SEPA and Local Authorities to assess and manage flood risk.

5.1.3 North Lanarkshire Council records 89 rivers and burns, 2 canals (and 2 canal feeders) and 35 lochs and reservoirs within the region, the council has no coastline.

5.2 Key Trends

5.2.1 Scotland is becoming exposed to climate related risks, such as water scarcity, that were not considered significant in the past and have not been planned for. An important step in addressing this shift in risk has been to develop early warning and emergency measures to mitigate the impacts of exceptional events. It is expected further changes in seasonal precipitation patterns may increase the frequency and severity of water scarcity conditions, including droughts, particularly in the eastern parts of Scotland. NPF4 mentions the increase in water scarcity due to extreme weather events and higher temperatures, stating that LDPs should strengthen community resilience, with Policy 22 dictating that water for drinking water purposes must be sourced from a sustainable water source that is resilient to periods of water scarcity.

5.2.2 SEPA water classifications since 2014 have:

- Improved for twelve surface water bodies, worsened for none.
- One groundwater body became Poor, rather than Good.

WATER QUALITY, FLOODING AND DRAINAGE

The council records 89 rivers and burns, 2 canals (and 2 canal feeders) and 35 lochs and reservoirs within the region, the council has no coastline.

Ninety per cent of the surface water bodies in North Lanarkshire were of bad, poor or moderate status in 2014 and the quality does not compare favourably with the surface waters across Scotland as a whole. Some changes have occurred since 2014 whereby of the 41 surface waters, status has improved for twelve surface water bodies and worsened for none.

In North Lanarkshire, 37% of the groundwater bodies were poor status and 63% were good status in 2014. This does not compare favourably with the whole of Scotland where 21% were poor status and 79% are good. Groundwater status decreased for one groundwater body by 2022.

The council provided their list of private water supplies as of April 2024, this included 25 entries, however one was noted as not in operation. The entry noted as not in operation is the only water supply recorded to serve more than 4 people.

Based on the SEPA Compliance Assessment Scheme 2018 mapping data (the latest available) there are 40 Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) licences, 30 Controlled Activity Regulations 2011 (CAR) licences and 41 Waste Management (WML) licences. Of the total 111 records of all types, 66 are within the Excellent compliance band, 26 are within the Good compliance band, 6 are noted as Broadly Compliant, 3 are At Risk, 7 are within the Poor compliance band, and 3 are within the Very Poor compliance band.

North Lanarkshire's public water supply is from ten surface water sources (reservoirs and lochs), treated in six water treatment works (outwith North Lanarkshire) and provided via 16 public water supply zones (which cross local authority boundaries). In 2016, 11 of the 16 water supply zones had failures of the prescribed concentrations and values across all water quality parameters, mostly related to microbiological factors. The zones were 88.1% compliant.

There is river and surface water flood risk in North Lanarkshire, with discrete surface water risk widespread and fluvial risk particular associated with the Clyde and Forth & Clyde Canal, as well as the Luggie Water around Mollinsburn and the series of lochs around Gartcosh.

There are eleven Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAs) to flooding identified in or partly in North Lanarkshire, eight of which are identified within the Clyde and Loch Lomond Local Plan District 2022 plan and three of which are identified within the Forth Estuary Local Plan District 2022 plan.

The Meteorological Office provides 30-year average rainfall data for 1981 to 2010 and 1991 to 2020. For North Lanarkshire the stations nearest to Kilsyth (Springburn which is 1.2 miles from Bishopbriggs) and Wishaw (Salsburgh which is 1.9 miles from Caldercruix) had annual averages between 1981 and 2010 of 1124.3mm and 1092.7mm respectively.

6.0 Biodiversity, Ecology and Nature Conservation

6.1 Summary

- 6.1.1 The natural heritage of North Lanarkshire is heavily influenced by its industrial heritage and by its placement at the heart of Scotland's urbanised Central Belt; however, the area retains a rich mix of habitats and supports some of Scotland's most iconic species. Protection of the best sites is provided by statutory international and national designations which safeguard bog and woodland habitat and important bird populations. Several nature reserves and county parks, managed by conservation organisations and the local authority, provide protection and opportunities to experience wildlife at a number of other sites.
- 6.1.2 North Lanarkshire contains a wide range of habitat types including freshwater, native and plantation woodlands, a variety of agricultural habitats and peatlands. Many, if not all, have been modified through exploitation or management and some face ongoing threats due to development, agricultural practices and pollution. However, there are good examples of habitat restoration following the cessation of industrial practices. Also, some heavily modified habitats continue to support important biodiversity resources. The council area supports significant and internationally important areas of lowland-raised bog and work to safeguard and restore this habitat is ongoing.

6.2 Key Trends

- 6.2.1 One of the major drivers in land cover change in North Lanarkshire 2020-2022 was urban development (after 'other changes*').
- * NatureScot add the following note to this data set regarding 'other': "Please note, we believe these predicted changes, and others, are inaccurate, mainly due to inaccuracies we have identified in the 2020 map, along with improved methodologies and processes developed at Space Intelligence since the creation of the 2020 map."
- 6.2.2 North Lanarkshire has undertaken management and enhancement works at 20 woodland sites due to grants and there are multiple woodland creation projects within the council area to help mitigate the Climate Emergency e.g. Clyde Climate Forest.
- 6.2.3 A drive to improve priority habitats has seen land reclamation projects at Strathclyde Country Park, Drumpellier Country Park, Greenhead Moss and Dumbreck Moss, as well as river restoration at the Garrell Burn.

BIODIVERSITY, ECOLOGY AND NATURE CONSERVATION

North Lanarkshire contains the following designated sites:

- 3 Country Parks
- 1 Special Protection Area
- 11 Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- 3 Special Areas of Conservation
- 6 Scottish Wildlife Trust Reserves
- 9 Local Nature Reserves
- 410 Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation

In total, 23% (10,720 ha) of North Lanarkshire is denoted on the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland (NWSS) register.

3% (1,500 ha) of the woodland of North Lanarkshire is recorded on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI), of which 960 ha is Long Established of Plantation Origin (LEPO), 550 ha is Ancient of Semi-Natural Origin (ASNO) and the remainder is other.

According to EUNIS Habitat Classification, Built-up land cover (J) comprises the largest percentage land cover in North Lanarkshire, followed by E2 Mesic grassland (20.7%) and G1 broadleaved deciduous woodland (18.1%).

The following habitats are in the LBAP (Local Biodiversity Action Plan) as Priority Habitats: bogs; farmland; floodplain and grazing marsh; hedgerows; ponds; rivers and burns; urban landscapes; and woodlands.

7.0 Landscape

7.1 Summary

- 7.1.1 North Lanarkshire has a diverse landscape ranging from scenic hills, through farmland and river valleys to an extensive area of urban development. This is reflected in its landscape character assessment and by landscape designations in two areas of highest scenic quality. Landscape and visual amenity is enhanced by other related designations including cultural and natural heritage sites.
- 7.1.2 Recent developments in renewables, urban expansion and mineral extraction have influenced landscape character and visual amenity. Wind energy has been the most pervasive, with more sites developed and a trend to larger turbines particularly in upland and upland fringe areas.

7.2 Key Trends

- 7.2.1 Changes in landscape character in North Lanarkshire since the previous State of the Environment Report are primarily related to urban development, transport, and the response to climate change in the form of wind energy schemes. There are also ongoing changes relating to restoring vacant and derelict land from the mining and industrial legacy as well as expansion of woodland and active travel within and between urban and rural areas.
- 7.2.2 Many of the mentioned changes are likely to continue across the local authority area over the next decade. While expansion of urban development and wind energy schemes have a significant effect on the landscape, North Lanarkshire has strong landscape protection and development control policies as well as a proactive approach to local landscape improvements.

LANDSCAPE

Broadly speaking, the landscape is divided between sparsely populated upland areas in the north and east and densely settled lowland areas and river valleys in the west.

North Lanarkshire is overlapped mainly by 3 of the 79 Landscapes of Scotland areas; representing the two main upland areas to the north and east and the populated area fringing the Glasgow conurbation to the west.

10 NatureScot Landscape Character Types overlap the North Lanarkshire area.

There are no national landscape designations (Special Landscape Areas) in North Lanarkshire, but there are two local landscape designations: Kilsyth Hills and Clyde Valley.

The Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site and buffer zone is an international level designation with policy protection for the designated area and its setting which stretches east-west across the local authority area to the south of the Kelvin Valley and parallel to the Forth and Clyde Canal.

There are two Gardens and Designed Landscapes within the council area.

There are 7 Conservation Areas within North Lanarkshire.

There are 33 designated Scheduled Monuments within the North Lanarkshire Boundary.

According to the council's Parks and Greenspaces directory, there are 8 main town parks and 6 country parks or gardens.

There are 5 active quarries within North Lanarkshire

8.0 Air Quality

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 Air quality varies across North Lanarkshire, with concentrations of key pollutants highest in urban areas, and near to key transport routes.
- 8.1.2 As a result of several years of compliance with the statutory air quality objectives within the Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA), The council has revoked the Chapelhall and Coatbridge AQMAs in 2024. The remaining AQMA in Motherwell has been declared due to exceedances of the PM10 objective, and although no recent exceedance has been measured, the AQMA is retained currently.
- 8.1.3 A major focus of the North Lanarkshire's work on air pollution has involved a comprehensive review of the council's air monitoring network to ensure appropriate monitoring is carried out close to are pollution sources and in areas where receptors may be exposed to air pollution. In addition to this, the council's Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) was also updated in 2023. This latter involved the creation of a Steering Group, comprising internal and external stakeholders to devise new action plan measures for the continued improvement of air quality in North Lanarkshire. The Air Quality Action Plan runs from 2023-2028 and is available on the council website.

8.2 Key Trends

- 8.2.1 The previous State of the Environment Report recorded four AQMAs for exceedances of the nitrogen dioxide and PM10 objectives, itself being one more AQMA than had been declared in 2005.
- 8.2.2 Concentrations of air pollutants are expected to further reduce in the future, given the implementation of more strict legislation and the incorporation of newer, cleaner, technologies.
- 8.2.3 There has also been a downward trend in measured concentrations at the automatic and diffusion tube monitoring sites, which have been in operation from 2018.

AIR QUALITY

During 2023, concentrations at all automatic and diffusion tube monitoring sites complied comfortably with the annual mean nitrogen dioxide (NO2) (40 µg/m3) and PM10 (18 µg/m3) air quality objectives, as well as the annual mean PM2.5 (10 µg/m3) objective.

No exceedances of the short-term NO2 and PM10 objectives were noted in North Lanarkshire during 2023.

As a result of several years of compliance with the NO2 objectives within the Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA), the council has revoked these AQMAs.

The remaining AQMA in Motherwell has been declared due to exceedances of the PM10 objective, and although no recent exceedance has been measured, the AQMA is retained at the current time.

Two new monitoring sites have been commissioned in North Lanarkshire, at Whifflet Cross and at Ravenscraig.

The main source of air pollution within North Lanarkshire is road traffic emissions, with a small element attributable to small-scale quarrying activities.

9.0 Climate Change

9.1 Summary

- 9.1.1 Greenhouse gas emissions in North Lanarkshire have reduced by 40% between 2005 and 2022.
- 9.1.2 The council declared a climate emergency in June 2019.
- 9.1.3 The council has set itself specific targets and carbon budgets, relating to emissions from buildings, transport and waste up until the 2025/2026 period. These targets will be achieved by the implementation of current and planned projects, such as the gradual replacement of the council's fleet with low emission / electric vehicles, the completion of street lighting conversion to LED etc, but will also be supplemented with new identified projects.

9.2 Key Trends

- 9.2.1 Climate change projections suggest observed climate trends will continue to intensify in the future.
- 9.2.2 Projected increases in mean annual temperature by the 2080s for Scottish regions range from 1.6oC to 4.5oC.
- 9.2.3 Drier summers and wetter winters, as well as more seasonal rainfall are expected.
- 9.2.4 CO2 emissions have reduced steadily, both within North Lanarkshire and Scotland at a similar rate.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Greenhouse gas emissions in North Lanarkshire have reduced by 40% between 2005 and 2012.

The council declared a climate emergency in June 2019.

In 2022, the three sectors with the highest contributions to total North Lanarkshire emissions were transport (778 ktCO2e; 42% of the total emissions), domestic consumption (432 ktCO2e; 23% of total emissions) and industrial activities (209 ktCO2e; 11% of total emissions), with the rest being attributed to commercial, public sector and agricultural activities.

There are numerous wind farms and individual wind turbines within North Lanarkshire. The largest, houses 25 turbines in the south east corner of the council boundary. Most large turbine developments are on the east side of the council area.

10.0 Noise and Vibration

10.1 Summary

- 10.1.1 Noise and vibration impacts arising from human activity have the potential to cause annoyance and in more extreme cases sleep disturbance. The levels where these effects are experienced vary widely from individual to individual because of their subjective nature; what is acceptable to one person may be considered unacceptable to another.
- 10.1.2 Acceptable levels of noise and vibration are regularly researched and criteria amended in the light of these studies. European and UK wide legislation and standards, as well as legislation and guidance prepared specifically for Scotland, reflect the desire to limit the numbers of the population exposed to high levels of noise and vibration and to ensure their amenity is not adversely affected.
- 10.1.3 The Environmental Noise (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) Noise Mapping (Scotland Noise Mapping) results for Round 3 (2017) road traffic noise present predicted road traffic noise levels from major roads with more than 3,000,000 vehicle passages per year. The road traffic noise statistics show that, for Scotland, there has been a decrease in population exposed to the highest levels of road traffic noise since Round 2 (2012). However, overall, there is an increase in population exposed to noise from road traffic noise.
- 10.1.4 Noise complaints regarding commercial and domestic sources of noise are directed to the Protective Services at the council. Protective Services can investigate complaints using the Statutory Nuisance provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and unacceptable construction noise under Section 60 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974.

- 10.1.5 There are no definitive sources of national or regional records of vibration. Vibration may be perceived by people living close to railway lines, poorly maintained roads, roads carrying high volumes of HGVs, some industrial facilities, or temporary construction works.

10.2 Key Trends

- 10.2.1 Road traffic noise mapping:
 - People exposed to lower levels of noise at all hours decreased between Round 2 and Round 3, but increased for people exposed to higher levels of noise.
- 10.2.2 Railway noise mapping:
 - Population exposed to lower noise levels day-evening-night, increased between Round 2 and Round 3, and increased for people exposed to higher levels of noise.
 - People exposed to all noise levels at night decreased between Round 2 and Round 3.
- 10.2.3 Scottish Household Survey:
 - Percentage of adults saying noisy neighbours/regular loud parties is very/fairly common in their neighbourhood continues to broadly align with national levels.

NOISE AND VIBRATION

The Environmental Noise (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) Noise Mapping (Scotland Noise Mapping) results show noise data for the whole of Scotland.

The Transportation Noise Action Plan prepared following the Round 3 noise mapping exercise identifies 15 candidate noise management area in North Lanarkshire for road traffic and 2 for railway noise. It is unknown whether these areas became noise management areas or have benefited from any mitigation measures.

There are no airports in the council area which fall under the requirements of the Regulations. The Round 4 noise mapping exercise is currently underway.

There are no definitive sources of national or regional records of vibration in North Lanarkshire, though Protective Services covers public concerns over vibration.

Noise Mapping shows that the populations exposed to road traffic noise has decreased between Round 2 and Round 3.

Residents in North Lanarkshire fall slightly below national statistics on reports of noisy neighbours and animal nuisance (including noise) recorded in the annual Scottish Household Survey.

11.0 Cultural Heritage

11.1 Summary

- 11.1.1 The primary pressure on cultural heritage continues to be land development, particularly that related to housing. The current national economic conditions means that monies for the maintenance of cultural heritage sites by owners, local authorities and national bodies may be required more pressingly elsewhere. Lack of maintenance is, therefore, closely linked to economic conditions.
- 11.1.2 The council have a contracted archaeology service used to protect cultural heritage assets within the council boundary.

11.2 Key Trends

- 11.2.1 The cultural heritage resource has been relatively static since 2018 with slight increases in the number of category B Listed Buildings and Inventory Garden and Designed Landscapes, and a more substantial increase in the number of undesignated cultural heritage sites*. The number of Buildings at Risk has decreased.

*Undesignated cultural heritage sites comprise sites listed on the National Record of the Historic Environment and/or the local Historic Environment Record which do not have statutory designation as defined in Historic Environment Scotland's Designation Policy and Selection Guidance (2019). Undesignated sites can be of national, regional, local or lesser importance.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

1 World Heritage Site and Buffer Zone

33 Scheduled Monuments

14 Category A Listed Buildings; 190 Category B Listed Buildings; 200 Category C Listed Buildings

7 Conservation Areas

2 Inventory Garden and Designed Landscapes

1 Inventory Battlefield

2173 undesignated cultural heritage sites

33 Buildings at Risk

12.0 Material Assets

12.1 Summary

- 12.1.1 North Lanarkshire is well situated within the Central Belt of Scotland to take full advantage of strong road and rail networks. The authority area has many commuter settlements that take advantage of these transport links to travel mainly to Glasgow and elsewhere in the Central Belt. Regular public transport services also help facilitate travel.
- 12.1.2 North Lanarkshire benefits from having a wide range of community facilities, cultural venues and recreational leisure opportunities. These facilities are well used and appreciated by the public.
- 12.1.3 The three country parks, Palacerigg Country Park, Strathclyde Country Park, and Drumpellier Country Park, offer more scope for recreation and visits. Many people feel satisfied with the open space available to them, but do not utilise it as much as expected.
- 12.1.4 Mineral production, particularly coal, is less viable than it used to be, and there is no longer any coal mining in North Lanarkshire.
- 12.1.5 Wind farms are the main source of renewable energy for North Lanarkshire and are encouraged within the LDP. Wind energy development may be restricted due to landscape issues, but they are welcomed as helping to address energy supply and climate change problems.
- 12.1.6 North Lanarkshire accounts for a large portion of Scotland's vacant and derelict land. Although current figures indicate a decrease in the amount of this land within the locality, there is an increasing proportion of the North Lanarkshire population living within proximity to a derelict site.

12.2 Key Trends

- 12.2.1 There has been a significant decrease in demand for mineral extraction, with the decline of the industry within North Lanarkshire. As an alternative, the council are focusing more on renewable energy developments, such as wind, solar, and geothermal potential.
- 12.2.2 In terms of waste, North Lanarkshire is producing 6% less waste than during the previous SOER, and recycling 3% more.

MATERIAL ASSETS

North Lanarkshire is within the Central Belt of Scotland and contains major transport links including the M8, M80, A8 and A80 trunk roads and an extensive railway network.

There are 25 passenger rail stations in North Lanarkshire.

While there are unconventional fossil fuel search areas within North Lanarkshire, the LDP states that the exploitation of these resources is not acceptable.

There is a long history of mineral extraction in North Lanarkshire as coal mining and hard rock quarrying due to the resource characteristics of the Midland Valley.

There are numerous wind farms and individual wind turbines within North Lanarkshire. The largest, houses 25 turbines in the south east corner of the council boundary. Most large turbine developments are on the east side of the council area.