

Councillor Briefing: Environmental Data for Billesdon & Tilton



"As a councillor for Billesdon & Tilton, you will know the area well, but we've brought together some environmental data that you may not be aware of. We hope you can use this information to improve the lives of residents in your ward."

Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth

68%

**of homes are poorly
insulated**

4.4%

**Summer tree canopy
cover
(Recommended
minimum = 20%)**

7.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

**Annual background
concentration of
 $\text{PM}_{2.5}$
(WHO limit = 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)**

Climate Change and Energy

Burning fossil fuels has already led to the planet warming by almost 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is disrupting weather systems and causing more severe storms, droughts and floods.

Our continued high use of gas to produce electricity and to heat our homes and businesses is contributing to this, as well as leaving us all exposed to volatile energy prices. Friends of the Earth is calling for councils to support a faster roll-out of renewable energy and to help householders fit insulation. We are also calling on the government to introduce a social tariff for energy — that is, cheaper energy rates for those on the lowest incomes.

More oil and gas drilling won't reduce energy costs, because costs are set on the global market, but it will exacerbate climate change (for more detail see our [Misinformation briefings](#)).

In Billesdon & Tilton, 75 homes are already at high risk of flooding, according to Environment Agency data. In the future this could increase to 99. Climate change will also lead to more heatwaves. In the 2022 heatwaves, the temperature reached 38.8°C in Billesdon & Tilton. The government needs to do more to prepare the country for extreme weather events, including with more support for local authorities, so that those most at risk – such as older people during heatwaves or disabled people during flood events – can be properly protected.

Homes need not only to be better adapted for flooding and heatwaves but also better insulated to help keep down energy costs and reduce the number of people living in cold, damp homes.

In Billesdon & Tilton, there are 718 homes that are poorly insulated (below the EPC C level), making it 1 out of 19 in Harborough for the number of homes needing an upgrade. Better insulated homes not only cut energy bills but also reduce illness and make homes more comfortable.

Nature and Pollution

Air pollution has fallen over recent years, partly as a result of cleaner vehicles, such as electric buses, vans and cars, replacing petrol and diesel vehicles. But air pollution remains high across much of the country. Air pollution is particularly a concern for young people, as their lungs are developing, as well as for those with respiratory problems such as asthma or COPD. Up to 30,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution in the UK each year.

Billesdon & Tilton ranks 18 out of 19 in Harborough for pollution levels. The level of air pollution, based on government modelling, reaches $6.7 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for nitrogen dioxide in parts of the ward, compared to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended level of $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and $7.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for particulates, compared to the WHO level of $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Nature can help reduce air pollution, provide cooling during heatwaves and reduce flooding. Research also shows local green spaces are linked with better mental health. Tree cover in Billesdon & Tilton is 4.4%, against a recommended minimum of 20%. The proportion of people who are within a 15-minute walk of greenspace is 95% – the **government target** is that everybody should be within a 15-minute walk of greenspace.

Sewage pollution of rivers from sewage outfalls has rightly led to public outrage. In Billesdon & Tilton there are 3 sewage outfalls that spilled pollution into waterways 118 times and for 505.7 hours in 2025. Sewage pollution is a danger to water users but also harms the nature that residents of the ward enjoy.

Who is Harmed Most by Environmental Damage

While almost everyone is harmed by a degraded environment, including future generations, Friends of the Earth research has identified that people on low incomes, disabled people, and people of colour are disproportionately harmed by air pollution, climate extremes and a lack of access to nature. These people also tend to contribute least to these problems, making this an environmental injustice.

Improving the environment benefits both people and nature. Research shows it is also beneficial for jobs and the economy, with the Climate Change Committee stating that every pound spent brings benefits worth 2.2–4.1 times as much. Those calling for green policies to be delayed or abandoned are not serving the public good.

What Councillors Can Do

The information in this briefing will help you stand-up and speak out for action on climate, nature and equality because of the benefits that action will deliver for your constituents.

Speaking out for action on climate change, energy, nature and pollution is important at a time when powerful vested interests, some politicians and the media are seeking to delay or abandon action. Data in the other Ward reports in your area will also enable you to highlight how councillors speaking out against climate action are not serving their constituents well.

Please e-mail data@foe.co.uk to provide feedback on this environmental data sheet.

Further Reading

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Methodology

Current and future flood risk

Published data on [properties at risk of flooding from rivers and seas](#) was used alongside [risk of flooding from surface water extent maps](#) and property location coordinates, to identify all properties at risk of flooding from either rivers or seas, or from surface water. The data were then aggregated at postcode level to calculate the proportion of properties at risk. This proportion was then used to estimate the population at risk (assuming population is distributed evenly across properties within a postcode) and to estimate the number of residential properties at risk from the ratio of households to total properties.

These metrics were aggregated to Ward level to obtain, for both high and medium risk categories, the number and proportion of all properties, residential properties, and estimated population at risk. Medium risk today was treated as a proxy for future high risk under a climate change scenario, so high-risk statistics were labelled “current high risk” and medium-risk statistics “future high risk”.

For further information on the analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Heat risk (summer 2022 maximum air temperature)

Daily maximum [air temperature data by 1km grids from HadUK \(MetOffice\)](#) for heatwave periods in summer 2022 were aggregated from their original grid resolution to Ward level using an area-weighted approach. For each Ward we calculated the 3-day average maximum air temperature during the heatwaves, providing a simple indicator of recent extreme heat exposure. For more detailed information see [here](#).

Home energy performance (EPC bands)

[Domestic Energy Performance Certificate \(EPC\)](#) records were aggregated to Ward level using a postcode-to-Ward lookup. For each Ward we calculated the number and percentage of homes in EPC bands D to G, providing an indicator of the prevalence of inefficient housing that is more vulnerable to high energy costs and in need of further insulation and other energy efficiency measures.

Air pollution

Modelled background air pollution data for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), published by [Defra at 1 km² resolution](#), were aggregated to Ward level using area weighting. For each Ward we retained mean and maximum concentrations for NO₂ and PM_{2.5} and compared these with the World Health Organization (WHO) 2021 air quality guidelines.

For details on this analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Tree canopy cover

Total summer tree canopy cover was calculated from two datasets published by Forest Research: [National Forest Inventory \(NFI\)](#) and the [Trees Outside Woodland \(TOW\) map](#). These were intersected with Ward boundaries to calculate the total woodland and tree canopy area (m²) in each Ward, and the percentage of the Ward's land area covered by trees.

Greenspace

[Defra's access-to-greenspace statistics](#), originally published at Output Area level, were reallocated to Wards using postcode-weighted OA-Ward lookup tables. For each Ward we estimated the number and percentage of households that meet the “within 15 minutes” walk of greenspace commitment.

Sewage overflows

[Storm sewage overflow statistics for 2025](#) were aggregated to Ward boundaries from their point coordinates. For each Ward, the number of overflow outfalls, the annual number of spills, and the total spill duration (hours) were calculated.

Councillor Briefing: Environmental Data for Broughton Astley South & Leire



"As a councillor for Broughton Astley South & Leire, you will know the area well, but we've brought together some environmental data that you may not be aware of. We hope you can use this information to improve the lives of residents in your ward."

Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth

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Climate Change and Energy

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Our continued high use of gas to produce electricity and to heat our homes and businesses is contributing to this, as well as leaving us all exposed to volatile energy prices. Friends of the Earth is calling for councils to support a faster roll-out of renewable energy and to help householders fit insulation. We are also calling on the government to introduce a social tariff for energy — that is, cheaper energy rates for those on the lowest incomes.

More oil and gas drilling won't reduce energy costs, because costs are set on the global market, but it will exacerbate climate change (for more detail see our [Misinformation briefings](#)).

In Broughton Astley South & Leire, 90 homes are already at high risk of flooding, according to Environment Agency data. In the future this could increase to 151. Climate change will also lead to more heatwaves. In the 2022 heatwaves, the temperature reached 39.0°C in Broughton Astley South & Leire. The government needs to do more to prepare the country for extreme weather events, including with more support for local authorities, so that those most at risk – such as older people during heatwaves or disabled people during flood events – can be properly protected.

Homes need not only to be better adapted for flooding and heatwaves but also better insulated to help keep down energy costs and reduce the number of people living in cold, damp homes.

In Broughton Astley South & Leire, there are 1,198 homes that are poorly insulated (below the EPC C level), making it 5 out of 19 in Harborough for the number of homes needing an upgrade. Better insulated homes not only cut energy bills but also reduce illness and make homes more comfortable.

Nature and Pollution

Air pollution has fallen over recent years, partly as a result of cleaner vehicles, such as electric buses, vans and cars, replacing petrol and diesel vehicles. But air pollution remains high across much of the country. Air pollution is particularly a concern for young people, as their lungs are developing, as well as for those with respiratory problems such as asthma or COPD. Up to 30,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution in the UK each year.

Broughton Astley South & Leire ranks 9 out of 19 in Harborough for pollution levels. The level of air pollution, based on government modelling, reaches $7.6 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for nitrogen dioxide in parts of the ward, compared to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended level of $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and $7.6 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for particulates, compared to the WHO level of $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Nature can help reduce air pollution, provide cooling during heatwaves and reduce flooding. Research also shows local green spaces are linked with better mental health. Tree cover in Broughton Astley South & Leire is 3.4%, against a recommended minimum of 20%. The proportion of people who are within a 15-minute walk of greenspace is 100% – the [government target](#) is that everybody should be within a 15-minute walk of greenspace.

Who is Harmed Most by Environmental Damage

While almost everyone is harmed by a degraded environment, including future generations, Friends of the Earth research has identified that people on low incomes, disabled people, and people of colour are disproportionately harmed by air pollution, climate extremes and a lack of access to nature. These people also tend to contribute least to these problems, making this an environmental injustice.

Improving the environment benefits both people and nature. Research shows it is also beneficial for jobs and the economy, with the Climate Change Committee stating that every pound spent brings benefits worth 2.2–4.1 times as much. Those calling for green policies to be delayed or abandoned are not serving the public good.

What Councillors Can Do

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Methodology

Current and future flood risk

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Heat risk (summer 2022 maximum air temperature)

Daily maximum [air temperature data by 1km grids from HadUK \(MetOffice\)](#) for heatwave periods in summer 2022 were aggregated from their original grid resolution to Ward level using an area-weighted approach. For each Ward we calculated the 3-day average maximum air temperature during the heatwaves, providing a simple indicator of recent extreme heat exposure. For more detailed information see [here](#).

Home energy performance (EPC bands)

[Domestic Energy Performance Certificate \(EPC\)](#) records were aggregated to Ward level using a postcode-to-Ward lookup. For each Ward we calculated the number and percentage of homes in EPC bands D to G, providing an indicator of the prevalence of inefficient housing that is more vulnerable to high energy costs and in need of further insulation and other energy efficiency measures.

Air pollution

Modelled background air pollution data for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), published by [Defra at 1 km² resolution](#), were aggregated to Ward level using area weighting. For each Ward we retained mean and maximum concentrations for NO₂ and PM_{2.5} and compared these with the World Health Organization (WHO) 2021 air quality guidelines.

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Tree canopy cover

Total summer tree canopy cover was calculated from two datasets published by Forest Research: [National Forest Inventory \(NFI\)](#) and the [Trees Outside Woodland \(TOW\) map](#). These were intersected with Ward boundaries to calculate the total woodland and tree canopy area (m²) in each Ward, and the percentage of the Ward's land area covered by trees.

Greenspace

[Defra's access-to-greenspace statistics](#), originally published at Output Area level, were reallocated to Wards using postcode-weighted OA-Ward lookup tables. For each Ward we estimated the number and percentage of households that meet the “within 15 minutes” walk of greenspace commitment.

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Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth

56%

of homes are poorly insulated

3.4%

Summer tree canopy cover
(Recommended minimum = 20%)

7.6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Annual background concentration of PM_{2.5}
(WHO limit = 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

Climate Change and Energy

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In Broughton Astley South & Leire, 90 homes are already at high risk of flooding, according to Environment Agency data. In the future this could increase to 151. Climate change will also lead to more heatwaves. In the 2022 heatwaves, the temperature reached 39.0°C in Broughton Astley South & Leire. The government needs to do more to prepare the country for extreme weather events, including with more support for local authorities, so that those most at risk – such as older people during heatwaves or disabled people during flood events – can be properly protected.

Homes need not only to be better adapted for flooding and heatwaves but also better insulated to help keep down energy costs and reduce the number of people living in cold, damp homes.

In Broughton Astley South & Leire, there are 1,198 homes that are poorly insulated (below the EPC C level), making it 5 out of 19 in Harborough for the number of homes needing an upgrade. Better insulated homes not only cut energy bills but also reduce illness and make homes more comfortable.

Nature and Pollution

Air pollution has fallen over recent years, partly as a result of cleaner vehicles, such as electric buses, vans and cars, replacing petrol and diesel vehicles. But air pollution remains high across much of the country. Air pollution is particularly a concern for young people, as their lungs are developing, as well as for those with respiratory problems such as asthma or COPD. Up to 30,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution in the UK each year.

Broughton Astley South & Leire ranks 9 out of 19 in Harborough for pollution levels. The level of air pollution, based on government modelling, reaches $7.6 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for nitrogen dioxide in parts of the ward, compared to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended level of $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and $7.6 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for particulates, compared to the WHO level of $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Nature can help reduce air pollution, provide cooling during heatwaves and reduce flooding. Research also shows local green spaces are linked with better mental health. Tree cover in Broughton Astley South & Leire is 3.4%, against a recommended minimum of 20%. The proportion of people who are within a 15-minute walk of greenspace is 100% – the [government target](#) is that everybody should be within a 15-minute walk of greenspace.

Who is Harmed Most by Environmental Damage

While almost everyone is harmed by a degraded environment, including future generations, Friends of the Earth research has identified that people on low incomes, disabled people, and people of colour are disproportionately harmed by air pollution, climate extremes and a lack of access to nature. These people also tend to contribute least to these problems, making this an environmental injustice.

Improving the environment benefits both people and nature. Research shows it is also beneficial for jobs and the economy, with the Climate Change Committee stating that every pound spent brings benefits worth 2.2–4.1 times as much. Those calling for green policies to be delayed or abandoned are not serving the public good.

What Councillors Can Do

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Methodology

Current and future flood risk

Published data on [properties at risk of flooding from rivers and seas](#) was used alongside [risk of flooding from surface water extent maps](#) and property location coordinates, to identify all properties at risk of flooding from either rivers or seas, or from surface water. The data were then aggregated at postcode level to calculate the proportion of properties at risk. This proportion was then used to estimate the population at risk (assuming population is distributed evenly across properties within a postcode) and to estimate the number of residential properties at risk from the ratio of households to total properties.

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Heat risk (summer 2022 maximum air temperature)

Daily maximum [air temperature data by 1km grids from HadUK \(MetOffice\)](#) for heatwave periods in summer 2022 were aggregated from their original grid resolution to Ward level using an area-weighted approach. For each Ward we calculated the 3-day average maximum air temperature during the heatwaves, providing a simple indicator of recent extreme heat exposure. For more detailed information see [here](#).

Home energy performance (EPC bands)

[Domestic Energy Performance Certificate \(EPC\)](#) records were aggregated to Ward level using a postcode-to-Ward lookup. For each Ward we calculated the number and percentage of homes in EPC bands D to G, providing an indicator of the prevalence of inefficient housing that is more vulnerable to high energy costs and in need of further insulation and other energy efficiency measures.

Air pollution

Modelled background air pollution data for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), published by [Defra at 1 km² resolution](#), were aggregated to Ward level using area weighting. For each Ward we retained mean and maximum concentrations for NO₂ and PM_{2.5} and compared these with the World Health Organization (WHO) 2021 air quality guidelines.

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Tree canopy cover

Total summer tree canopy cover was calculated from two datasets published by Forest Research: [National Forest Inventory \(NFI\)](#) and the [Trees Outside Woodland \(TOW\) map](#). These were intersected with Ward boundaries to calculate the total woodland and tree canopy area (m²) in each Ward, and the percentage of the Ward's land area covered by trees.

Greenspace

[Defra's access-to-greenspace statistics](#), originally published at Output Area level, were reallocated to Wards using postcode-weighted OA-Ward lookup tables. For each Ward we estimated the number and percentage of households that meet the “within 15 minutes” walk of greenspace commitment.

Councillor Briefing: Environmental Data for Dunton



"As a councillor for Dunton, you will know the area well, but we've brought together some environmental data that you may not be aware of. We hope you can use this information to improve the lives of residents in your ward."

Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth

67%

of homes are poorly insulated

2.8%

**Summer tree canopy cover
(Recommended minimum = 20%)**

7.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

**Annual background concentration of
PM_{2.5}
(WHO limit = 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)**

Climate Change and Energy

Burning fossil fuels has already led to the planet warming by almost 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is disrupting weather systems and causing more severe storms, droughts and floods.

Our continued high use of gas to produce electricity and to heat our homes and businesses is contributing to this, as well as leaving us all exposed to volatile energy prices. Friends of the Earth is calling for councils to support a faster roll-out of renewable energy and to help householders fit insulation. We are also calling on the government to introduce a social tariff for energy — that is, cheaper energy rates for those on the lowest incomes.

More oil and gas drilling won't reduce energy costs, because costs are set on the global market, but it will exacerbate climate change (for more detail see our [Misinformation briefings](#)).

In Dunton, 63 homes are already at high risk of flooding, according to Environment Agency data. In the future this could increase to 77. Climate change will also lead to more heatwaves. In the 2022 heatwaves, the temperature reached 38.9°C in Dunton. The government needs to do more to prepare the country for extreme weather events, including with more support for local authorities, so that those most at risk – such as older people during heatwaves or disabled people during flood events – can be properly protected.

Homes need not only to be better adapted for flooding and heatwaves but also better insulated to help keep down energy costs and reduce the number of people living in cold, damp homes.

In Dunton, there are 725 homes that are poorly insulated (below the EPC C level), making it 2 out of 19 in Harborough for the number of homes needing an upgrade. Better insulated homes not only cut energy bills but also reduce illness and make homes more comfortable.

Nature and Pollution

Air pollution has fallen over recent years, partly as a result of cleaner vehicles, such as electric buses, vans and cars, replacing petrol and diesel vehicles. But air pollution remains high across much of the country. Air pollution is particularly a concern for young people, as their lungs are developing, as well as for those with respiratory problems such as asthma or COPD. Up to 30,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution in the UK each year.

Dunton ranks 10 out of 19 in Harborough for pollution levels. The level of air pollution, based on government modelling, reaches 9.8 µg/m³ for nitrogen dioxide in parts of the ward, compared to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended level of 10 µg/m³, and 7.5 µg/m³ for particulates, compared to the WHO level of 5 µg/m³.

Nature can help reduce air pollution, provide cooling during heatwaves and reduce flooding. Research also shows local green spaces are linked with better mental health. Tree cover in Dunton is 2.8%, against a recommended minimum of 20%. The proportion of people who are within a 15-minute walk of greenspace is 91% – the **government target** is that everybody should be within a 15-minute walk of greenspace.

Sewage pollution of rivers from sewage outfalls has rightly led to public outrage. In Dunton there are 2 sewage outfalls that spilled pollution into waterways 62 times and for 298.3 hours in 2025. Sewage pollution is a danger to water users but also harms the nature that residents of the ward enjoy.

Who is Harmed Most by Environmental Damage

While almost everyone is harmed by a degraded environment, including future generations, Friends of the Earth research has identified that people on low incomes, disabled people, and people of colour are disproportionately harmed by air pollution, climate extremes and a lack of access to nature. These people also tend to contribute least to these problems, making this an environmental injustice.

Improving the environment benefits both people and nature. Research shows it is also beneficial for jobs and the economy, with the Climate Change Committee stating that every pound spent brings benefits worth 2.2–4.1 times as much. Those calling for green policies to be delayed or abandoned are not serving the public good.

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Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth

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cover
(Recommended
minimum = 20%)

7.6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Annual background
concentration of
PM_{2.5}
(WHO limit = 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

Climate Change and Energy

Burning fossil fuels has already led to the planet warming by almost 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is disrupting weather systems and causing more severe storms, droughts and floods.

Our continued high use of gas to produce electricity and to heat our homes and businesses is contributing to this, as well as leaving us all exposed to volatile energy prices. Friends of the Earth is calling for councils to support a faster roll-out of renewable energy and to help householders fit insulation. We are also calling on the government to introduce a social tariff for energy — that is, cheaper energy rates for those on the lowest incomes.

More oil and gas drilling won't reduce energy costs, because costs are set on the global market, but it will exacerbate climate change (for more detail see our [Misinformation briefings](#)).

In Fleckney, 105 homes are already at high risk of flooding, according to Environment Agency data. In the future this could increase to 151. Climate change will also lead to more heatwaves. In the 2022 heatwaves, the temperature reached 38.8°C in Fleckney. The government needs to do more to prepare the country for extreme weather events, including with more support for local authorities, so that those most at risk — such as older people during heatwaves or disabled people during flood events — can be properly protected.

Homes need not only to be better adapted for flooding and heatwaves but also better insulated to help keep down energy costs and reduce the number of people living in cold, damp homes.

In Fleckney, there are 1,267 homes that are poorly insulated (below the EPC C level), making it 11 out of 19 in Harborough for the number of homes needing an upgrade. Better insulated homes not only cut energy bills but also reduce illness and make homes more comfortable.

Nature and Pollution

Air pollution has fallen over recent years, partly as a result of cleaner vehicles, such as electric buses, vans and cars, replacing petrol and diesel vehicles. But air pollution remains high across much of the country. Air pollution is particularly a concern for young people, as their lungs are developing, as well as for those with respiratory problems such as asthma or COPD. Up to 30,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution in the UK each year.

Fleckney ranks 15 out of 19 in Harborough for pollution levels. The level of air pollution, based on government modelling, reaches $7.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for nitrogen dioxide in parts of the ward, compared to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended level of $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and $7.6 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for particulates, compared to the WHO level of $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Nature can help reduce air pollution, provide cooling during heatwaves and reduce flooding. Research also shows local green spaces are linked with better mental health. Tree cover in Fleckney is 2.3%, against a recommended minimum of 20%. The proportion of people who are within a 15-minute walk of greenspace is 100% – the **government target** is that everybody should be within a 15-minute walk of greenspace.

Who is Harmed Most by Environmental Damage

While almost everyone is harmed by a degraded environment, including future generations, Friends of the Earth research has identified that people on low incomes, disabled people, and people of colour are disproportionately harmed by air pollution, climate extremes and a lack of access to nature. These people also tend to contribute least to these problems, making this an environmental injustice.

Improving the environment benefits both people and nature. Research shows it is also beneficial for jobs and the economy, with the Climate Change Committee stating that every pound spent brings benefits worth 2.2–4.1 times as much. Those calling for green policies to be delayed or abandoned are not serving the public good.

What Councillors Can Do

The information in this briefing will help you stand-up and speak out for action on climate, nature and equality because of the benefits that action will deliver for your constituents.

Speaking out for action on climate change, energy, nature and pollution is important at a time when powerful vested interests, some politicians and the media are seeking to delay or abandon action. Data in the other Ward reports in your area will also enable you to highlight how councillors speaking out against climate action are not serving their constituents well.

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Further Reading

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- Friends of the Earth's policy website, with articles spanning all the issues listed here and more: <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/>

Methodology

Current and future flood risk

Published data on [properties at risk of flooding from rivers and seas](#) was used alongside [risk of flooding from surface water extent maps](#) and property location coordinates, to identify all properties at risk of flooding from either rivers or seas, or from surface water. The data were then aggregated at postcode level to calculate the proportion of properties at risk. This proportion was then used to estimate the population at risk (assuming population is distributed evenly across properties within a postcode) and to estimate the number of residential properties at risk from the ratio of households to total properties.

These metrics were aggregated to Ward level to obtain, for both high and medium risk categories, the number and proportion of all properties, residential properties, and estimated population at risk. Medium risk today was treated as a proxy for future high risk under a climate change scenario, so high-risk statistics were labelled “current high risk” and medium-risk statistics “future high risk”.

For further information on the analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Heat risk (summer 2022 maximum air temperature)

Daily maximum [air temperature data by 1km grids from HadUK \(MetOffice\)](#) for heatwave periods in summer 2022 were aggregated from their original grid resolution to Ward level using an area-weighted approach. For each Ward we calculated the 3-day average maximum air temperature during the heatwaves, providing a simple indicator of recent extreme heat exposure. For more detailed information see [here](#).

Home energy performance (EPC bands)

[Domestic Energy Performance Certificate \(EPC\)](#) records were aggregated to Ward level using a postcode-to-Ward lookup. For each Ward we calculated the number and percentage of homes in EPC bands D to G, providing an indicator of the prevalence of inefficient housing that is more vulnerable to high energy costs and in need of further insulation and other energy efficiency measures.

Air pollution

Modelled background air pollution data for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), published by [Defra at 1 km² resolution](#), were aggregated to Ward level using area weighting. For each Ward we retained mean and maximum concentrations for NO₂ and PM_{2.5} and compared these with the World Health Organization (WHO) 2021 air quality guidelines.

For details on this analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Tree canopy cover

Total summer tree canopy cover was calculated from two datasets published by Forest Research: [National Forest Inventory \(NFI\)](#) and the [Trees Outside Woodland \(TOW\) map](#). These were intersected with Ward boundaries to calculate the total woodland and tree canopy area (m²) in each Ward, and the percentage of the Ward's land area covered by trees.

Greenspace

[Defra's access-to-greenspace statistics](#), originally published at Output Area level, were reallocated to Wards using postcode-weighted OA-Ward lookup tables. For each Ward we estimated the number and percentage of households that meet the “within 15 minutes” walk of greenspace commitment.

Councillor Briefing: Environmental Data for Glen



"As a councillor for Glen, you will know the area well, but we've brought together some environmental data that you may not be aware of. We hope you can use this information to improve the lives of residents in your ward."

Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth

47%

of homes are poorly insulated

4.0%

**Summer tree canopy cover
(Recommended minimum = 20%)**

8.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

**Annual background concentration of
PM_{2.5}
(WHO limit = 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)**

Climate Change and Energy

Burning fossil fuels has already led to the planet warming by almost 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is disrupting weather systems and causing more severe storms, droughts and floods.

Our continued high use of gas to produce electricity and to heat our homes and businesses is contributing to this, as well as leaving us all exposed to volatile energy prices. Friends of the Earth is calling for councils to support a faster roll-out of renewable energy and to help householders fit insulation. We are also calling on the government to introduce a social tariff for energy — that is, cheaper energy rates for those on the lowest incomes.

More oil and gas drilling won't reduce energy costs, because costs are set on the global market, but it will exacerbate climate change (for more detail see our [Misinformation briefings](#)).

In Glen, 63 homes are already at high risk of flooding, according to Environment Agency data. In the future this could increase to 101. Climate change will also lead to more heatwaves. In the 2022 heatwaves, the temperature reached 38.9°C in Glen. The government needs to do more to prepare the country for extreme weather events, including with more support for local authorities, so that those most at risk – such as older people during heatwaves or disabled people during flood events – can be properly protected.

Homes need not only to be better adapted for flooding and heatwaves but also better insulated to help keep down energy costs and reduce the number of people living in cold, damp homes.

In Glen, there are 1,159 homes that are poorly insulated (below the EPC C level), making it 12 out of 19 in Harborough for the number of homes needing an upgrade. Better insulated homes not only cut energy bills but also reduce illness and make homes more comfortable.

Nature and Pollution

Air pollution has fallen over recent years, partly as a result of cleaner vehicles, such as electric buses, vans and cars, replacing petrol and diesel vehicles. But air pollution remains high across much of the country. Air pollution is particularly a concern for young people, as their lungs are developing, as well as for those with respiratory problems such as asthma or COPD. Up to 30,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution in the UK each year.

Glen ranks 13 out of 19 in Harborough for pollution levels. The level of air pollution, based on government modelling, reaches 9.5 µg/m³ for nitrogen dioxide in parts of the ward, compared to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended level of 10 µg/m³, and 8.0 µg/m³ for particulates, compared to the WHO level of 5 µg/m³.

Nature can help reduce air pollution, provide cooling during heatwaves and reduce flooding. Research also shows local green spaces are linked with better mental health. Tree cover in Glen is 4.0%, against a recommended minimum of 20%. The proportion of people who are within a 15-minute walk of greenspace is 80% – the [government target](#) is that everybody should be within a 15-minute walk of greenspace.

Sewage pollution of rivers from sewage outfalls has rightly led to public outrage. In Glen there are 7 sewage outfalls that spilled pollution into waterways 174 times and for 1,872.8 hours in 2025. Sewage pollution is a danger to water users but also harms the nature that residents of the ward enjoy.

Who is Harmed Most by Environmental Damage

While almost everyone is harmed by a degraded environment, including future generations, Friends of the Earth research has identified that people on low incomes, disabled people, and people of colour are disproportionately harmed by air pollution, climate extremes and a lack of access to nature. These people also tend to contribute least to these problems, making this an environmental injustice.

Improving the environment benefits both people and nature. Research shows it is also beneficial for jobs and the economy, with the Climate Change Committee stating that every pound spent brings benefits worth 2.2–4.1 times as much. Those calling for green policies to be delayed or abandoned are not serving the public good.

What Councillors Can Do

The information in this briefing will help you stand-up and speak out for action on climate, nature and equality because of the benefits that action will deliver for your constituents.

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- Friends of the Earth's policy website, with articles spanning all the issues listed here and more: <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/>

Methodology

Current and future flood risk

Published data on [properties at risk of flooding from rivers and seas](#) was used alongside [risk of flooding from surface water extent maps](#) and property location coordinates, to identify all properties at risk of flooding from either rivers or seas, or from surface water. The data were then aggregated at postcode level to calculate the proportion of properties at risk. This proportion was then used to estimate the population at risk (assuming population is distributed evenly across properties within a postcode) and to estimate the number of residential properties at risk from the ratio of households to total properties.

These metrics were aggregated to Ward level to obtain, for both high and medium risk categories, the number and proportion of all properties, residential properties, and estimated population at risk. Medium risk today was treated as a proxy for future high risk under a climate change scenario, so high-risk statistics were labelled “current high risk” and medium-risk statistics “future high risk”.

For further information on the analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Heat risk (summer 2022 maximum air temperature)

Daily maximum [air temperature data by 1km grids from HadUK \(MetOffice\)](#) for heatwave periods in summer 2022 were aggregated from their original grid resolution to Ward level using an area-weighted approach. For each Ward we calculated the 3-day average maximum air temperature during the heatwaves, providing a simple indicator of recent extreme heat exposure. For more detailed information see [here](#).

Home energy performance (EPC bands)

[Domestic Energy Performance Certificate \(EPC\)](#) records were aggregated to Ward level using a postcode-to-Ward lookup. For each Ward we calculated the number and percentage of homes in EPC bands D to G, providing an indicator of the prevalence of inefficient housing that is more vulnerable to high energy costs and in need of further insulation and other energy efficiency measures.

Air pollution

Modelled background air pollution data for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), published by [Defra at 1 km² resolution](#), were aggregated to Ward level using area weighting. For each Ward we retained mean and maximum concentrations for NO₂ and PM_{2.5} and compared these with the World Health Organization (WHO) 2021 air quality guidelines.

For details on this analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Tree canopy cover

Total summer tree canopy cover was calculated from two datasets published by Forest Research: [National Forest Inventory \(NFI\)](#) and the [Trees Outside Woodland \(TOW\) map](#). These were intersected with Ward boundaries to calculate the total woodland and tree canopy area (m²) in each Ward, and the percentage of the Ward's land area covered by trees.

Greenspace

[Defra's access-to-greenspace statistics](#), originally published at Output Area level, were reallocated to Wards using postcode-weighted OA-Ward lookup tables. For each Ward we estimated the number and percentage of households that meet the “within 15 minutes” walk of greenspace commitment.

Sewage overflows

[Storm sewage overflow statistics for 2025](#) were aggregated to Ward boundaries from their point coordinates. For each Ward, the number of overflow outfalls, the annual number of spills, and the total spill duration (hours) were calculated.

Councillor Briefing: Environmental Data for Bosworth



"As a councillor for Bosworth, you will know the area well, but we've brought together some environmental data that you may not be aware of. We hope you can use this information to improve the lives of residents in your ward."

Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth

66%

**of homes are poorly
insulated**

8.9%

**Summer tree canopy
cover
(Recommended
minimum = 20%)**

6.9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

**Annual background
concentration of
 $\text{PM}_{2.5}$
(WHO limit = 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)**

Climate Change and Energy

Burning fossil fuels has already led to the planet warming by almost 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is disrupting weather systems and causing more severe storms, droughts and floods.

Our continued high use of gas to produce electricity and to heat our homes and businesses is contributing to this, as well as leaving us all exposed to volatile energy prices. Friends of the Earth is calling for councils to support a faster roll-out of renewable energy and to help householders fit insulation. We are also calling on the government to introduce a social tariff for energy — that is, cheaper energy rates for those on the lowest incomes.

More oil and gas drilling won't reduce energy costs, because costs are set on the global market, but it will exacerbate climate change (for more detail see our [Misinformation briefings](#)).

In Bosworth, 100 homes are already at high risk of flooding, according to Environment Agency data. In the future this could increase to 146. Climate change will also lead to more heatwaves. In the 2022 heatwaves, the temperature reached 38.9°C in Bosworth. The government needs to do more to prepare the country for extreme weather events, including with more support for local authorities, so that those most at risk — such as older people during heatwaves or disabled people during flood events — can be properly protected.

Homes need not only to be better adapted for flooding and heatwaves but also better insulated to help keep down energy costs and reduce the number of people living in cold, damp homes.

In Bosworth, there are 917 homes that are poorly insulated (below the EPC C level), making it 3 out of 19 in Harborough for the number of homes needing an upgrade. Better insulated homes not only cut energy bills but also reduce illness and make homes more comfortable.

Nature and Pollution

Air pollution has fallen over recent years, partly as a result of cleaner vehicles, such as electric buses, vans and cars, replacing petrol and diesel vehicles. But air pollution remains high across much of the country. Air pollution is particularly a concern for young people, as their lungs are developing, as well as for those with respiratory problems such as asthma or COPD. Up to 30,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution in the UK each year.

Bosworth ranks 16 out of 19 in Harborough for pollution levels. The level of air pollution, based on government modelling, reaches $6.7 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for nitrogen dioxide in parts of the ward, compared to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended level of $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and $6.9 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for particulates, compared to the WHO level of $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Nature can help reduce air pollution, provide cooling during heatwaves and reduce flooding. Research also shows local green spaces are linked with better mental health. Tree cover in Bosworth is 8.9%, against a recommended minimum of 20%. The proportion of people who are within a 15-minute walk of greenspace is 92% – the **government target** is that everybody should be within a 15-minute walk of greenspace.

Sewage pollution of rivers from sewage outfalls has rightly led to public outrage. In Bosworth there are 3 sewage outfalls that spilled pollution into waterways 37 times and for 198.3 hours in 2025. Sewage pollution is a danger to water users but also harms the nature that residents of the ward enjoy.

Who is Harmed Most by Environmental Damage

While almost everyone is harmed by a degraded environment, including future generations, Friends of the Earth research has identified that people on low incomes, disabled people, and people of colour are disproportionately harmed by air pollution, climate extremes and a lack of access to nature. These people also tend to contribute least to these problems, making this an environmental injustice.

Improving the environment benefits both people and nature. Research shows it is also beneficial for jobs and the economy, with the Climate Change Committee stating that every pound spent brings benefits worth 2.2–4.1 times as much. Those calling for green policies to be delayed or abandoned are not serving the public good.

What Councillors Can Do

The information in this briefing will help you stand-up and speak out for action on climate, nature and equality because of the benefits that action will deliver for your constituents.

Speaking out for action on climate change, energy, nature and pollution is important at a time when powerful vested interests, some politicians and the media are seeking to delay or abandon action. Data in the other Ward reports in your area will also enable you to highlight how councillors speaking out against climate action are not serving their constituents well.

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- Friends of the Earth's policy website, with articles spanning all the issues listed here and more: <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/>

Methodology

Current and future flood risk

Published data on [properties at risk of flooding from rivers and seas](#) was used alongside [risk of flooding from surface water extent maps](#) and property location coordinates, to identify all properties at risk of flooding from either rivers or seas, or from surface water. The data were then aggregated at postcode level to calculate the proportion of properties at risk. This proportion was then used to estimate the population at risk (assuming population is distributed evenly across properties within a postcode) and to estimate the number of residential properties at risk from the ratio of households to total properties.

These metrics were aggregated to Ward level to obtain, for both high and medium risk categories, the number and proportion of all properties, residential properties, and estimated population at risk. Medium risk today was treated as a proxy for future high risk under a climate change scenario, so high-risk statistics were labelled “current high risk” and medium-risk statistics “future high risk”.

For further information on the analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Heat risk (summer 2022 maximum air temperature)

Daily maximum [air temperature data by 1km grids from HadUK \(MetOffice\)](#) for heatwave periods in summer 2022 were aggregated from their original grid resolution to Ward level using an area-weighted approach. For each Ward we calculated the 3-day average maximum air temperature during the heatwaves, providing a simple indicator of recent extreme heat exposure. For more detailed information see [here](#).

Home energy performance (EPC bands)

[Domestic Energy Performance Certificate \(EPC\)](#) records were aggregated to Ward level using a postcode-to-Ward lookup. For each Ward we calculated the number and percentage of homes in EPC bands D to G, providing an indicator of the prevalence of inefficient housing that is more vulnerable to high energy costs and in need of further insulation and other energy efficiency measures.

Air pollution

Modelled background air pollution data for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), published by [Defra at 1 km² resolution](#), were aggregated to Ward level using area weighting. For each Ward we retained mean and maximum concentrations for NO₂ and PM_{2.5} and compared these with the World Health Organization (WHO) 2021 air quality guidelines.

For details on this analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Tree canopy cover

Total summer tree canopy cover was calculated from two datasets published by Forest Research: [National Forest Inventory \(NFI\)](#) and the [Trees Outside Woodland \(TOW\) map](#). These were intersected with Ward boundaries to calculate the total woodland and tree canopy area (m²) in each Ward, and the percentage of the Ward's land area covered by trees.

Greenspace

[Defra's access-to-greenspace statistics](#), originally published at Output Area level, were reallocated to Wards using postcode-weighted OA-Ward lookup tables. For each Ward we estimated the number and percentage of households that meet the “within 15 minutes” walk of greenspace commitment.

Sewage overflows

[Storm sewage overflow statistics for 2025](#) were aggregated to Ward boundaries from their point coordinates. For each Ward, the number of overflow outfalls, the annual number of spills, and the total spill duration (hours) were calculated.

Councillor Briefing: Environmental Data for Kibworths



"As a councillor for Kibworths, you will know the area well, but we've brought together some environmental data that you may not be aware of. We hope you can use this information to improve the lives of residents in your ward."

Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth

42%

of homes are poorly insulated

3.5%

**Summer tree canopy cover
(Recommended minimum = 20%)**

7.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

**Annual background concentration of
PM_{2.5}
(WHO limit = 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)**

Climate Change and Energy

Burning fossil fuels has already led to the planet warming by almost 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is disrupting weather systems and causing more severe storms, droughts and floods.

Our continued high use of gas to produce electricity and to heat our homes and businesses is contributing to this, as well as leaving us all exposed to volatile energy prices. Friends of the Earth is calling for councils to support a faster roll-out of renewable energy and to help householders fit insulation. We are also calling on the government to introduce a social tariff for energy — that is, cheaper energy rates for those on the lowest incomes.

More oil and gas drilling won't reduce energy costs, because costs are set on the global market, but it will exacerbate climate change (for more detail see our [Misinformation briefings](#)).

In Kibworths, 243 homes are already at high risk of flooding, according to Environment Agency data. In the future this could increase to 337. Climate change will also lead to more heatwaves. In the 2022 heatwaves, the temperature reached 39.1°C in Kibworths. The government needs to do more to prepare the country for extreme weather events, including with more support for local authorities, so that those most at risk — such as older people during heatwaves or disabled people during flood events — can be properly protected.

Homes need not only to be better adapted for flooding and heatwaves but also better insulated to help keep down energy costs and reduce the number of people living in cold, damp homes.

In Kibworths, there are 1,591 homes that are poorly insulated (below the EPC C level), making it 16 out of 19 in Harborough for the number of homes needing an upgrade. Better insulated homes not only cut energy bills but also reduce illness and make homes more comfortable.

Nature and Pollution

Air pollution has fallen over recent years, partly as a result of cleaner vehicles, such as electric buses, vans and cars, replacing petrol and diesel vehicles. But air pollution remains high across much of the country. Air pollution is particularly a concern for young people, as their lungs are developing, as well as for those with respiratory problems such as asthma or COPD. Up to 30,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution in the UK each year.

Kibworths ranks 14 out of 19 in Harborough for pollution levels. The level of air pollution, based on government modelling, reaches $7.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for nitrogen dioxide in parts of the ward, compared to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended level of $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and $7.4 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for particulates, compared to the WHO level of $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Nature can help reduce air pollution, provide cooling during heatwaves and reduce flooding. Research also shows local green spaces are linked with better mental health. Tree cover in Kibworths is 3.5%, against a recommended minimum of 20%. The proportion of people who are within a 15-minute walk of greenspace is 80% – the **government target** is that everybody should be within a 15-minute walk of greenspace.

Sewage pollution of rivers from sewage outfalls has rightly led to public outrage. In Kibworths there are 8 sewage outfalls that spilled pollution into waterways 198 times and for 959.4 hours in 2025. Sewage pollution is a danger to water users but also harms the nature that residents of the ward enjoy.

Who is Harmed Most by Environmental Damage

While almost everyone is harmed by a degraded environment, including future generations, Friends of the Earth research has identified that people on low incomes, disabled people, and people of colour are disproportionately harmed by air pollution, climate extremes and a lack of access to nature. These people also tend to contribute least to these problems, making this an environmental injustice.

Improving the environment benefits both people and nature. Research shows it is also beneficial for jobs and the economy, with the Climate Change Committee stating that every pound spent brings benefits worth 2.2–4.1 times as much. Those calling for green policies to be delayed or abandoned are not serving the public good.

What Councillors Can Do

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Methodology

Current and future flood risk

Published data on [properties at risk of flooding from rivers and seas](#) was used alongside [risk of flooding from surface water extent maps](#) and property location coordinates, to identify all properties at risk of flooding from either rivers or seas, or from surface water. The data were then aggregated at postcode level to calculate the proportion of properties at risk. This proportion was then used to estimate the population at risk (assuming population is distributed evenly across properties within a postcode) and to estimate the number of residential properties at risk from the ratio of households to total properties.

These metrics were aggregated to Ward level to obtain, for both high and medium risk categories, the number and proportion of all properties, residential properties, and estimated population at risk. Medium risk today was treated as a proxy for future high risk under a climate change scenario, so high-risk statistics were labelled “current high risk” and medium-risk statistics “future high risk”.

For further information on the analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Heat risk (summer 2022 maximum air temperature)

Daily maximum [air temperature data by 1km grids from HadUK \(MetOffice\)](#) for heatwave periods in summer 2022 were aggregated from their original grid resolution to Ward level using an area-weighted approach. For each Ward we calculated the 3-day average maximum air temperature during the heatwaves, providing a simple indicator of recent extreme heat exposure. For more detailed information see [here](#).

Home energy performance (EPC bands)

[Domestic Energy Performance Certificate \(EPC\)](#) records were aggregated to Ward level using a postcode-to-Ward lookup. For each Ward we calculated the number and percentage of homes in EPC bands D to G, providing an indicator of the prevalence of inefficient housing that is more vulnerable to high energy costs and in need of further insulation and other energy efficiency measures.

Air pollution

Modelled background air pollution data for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), published by [Defra at 1 km² resolution](#), were aggregated to Ward level using area weighting. For each Ward we retained mean and maximum concentrations for NO₂ and PM_{2.5} and compared these with the World Health Organization (WHO) 2021 air quality guidelines.

For details on this analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Tree canopy cover

Total summer tree canopy cover was calculated from two datasets published by Forest Research: [National Forest Inventory \(NFI\)](#) and the [Trees Outside Woodland \(TOW\) map](#). These were intersected with Ward boundaries to calculate the total woodland and tree canopy area (m²) in each Ward, and the percentage of the Ward's land area covered by trees.

Greenspace

[Defra's access-to-greenspace statistics](#), originally published at Output Area level, were reallocated to Wards using postcode-weighted OA–Ward lookup tables. For each Ward we estimated the number and percentage of households that meet the “within 15 minutes” walk of greenspace commitment.

Sewage overflows

[Storm sewage overflow statistics for 2025](#) were aggregated to Ward boundaries from their point coordinates. For each Ward, the number of overflow outfalls, the annual number of spills, and the total spill duration (hours) were calculated.

Councillor Briefing: Environmental Data for Lubenham



"As a councillor for Lubenham, you will know the area well, but we've brought together some environmental data that you may not be aware of. We hope you can use this information to improve the lives of residents in your ward."

Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth

26%

**of homes are poorly
insulated**

2.8%

**Summer tree canopy
cover
(Recommended
minimum = 20%)**

7.6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

**Annual background
concentration of
PM_{2.5}
(WHO limit = 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)**

Climate Change and Energy

Burning fossil fuels has already led to the planet warming by almost 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is disrupting weather systems and causing more severe storms, droughts and floods.

Our continued high use of gas to produce electricity and to heat our homes and businesses is contributing to this, as well as leaving us all exposed to volatile energy prices. Friends of the Earth is calling for councils to support a faster roll-out of renewable energy and to help householders fit insulation. We are also calling on the government to introduce a social tariff for energy — that is, cheaper energy rates for those on the lowest incomes.

More oil and gas drilling won't reduce energy costs, because costs are set on the global market, but it will exacerbate climate change (for more detail see our [Misinformation briefings](#)).

In Lubenham, 84 homes are already at high risk of flooding, according to Environment Agency data. In the future this could increase to 106. Climate change will also lead to more heatwaves. In the 2022 heatwaves, the temperature reached 39.1°C in Lubenham. The government needs to do more to prepare the country for extreme weather events, including with more support for local authorities, so that those most at risk — such as older people during heatwaves or disabled people during flood events — can be properly protected.

Homes need not only to be better adapted for flooding and heatwaves but also better insulated to help keep down energy costs and reduce the number of people living in cold, damp homes.

In Lubenham, there are 280 homes that are poorly insulated (below the EPC C level), making it 19 out of 19 in Harborough for the number of homes needing an upgrade. Better insulated homes not only cut energy bills but also reduce illness and make homes more comfortable.

Nature and Pollution

Air pollution has fallen over recent years, partly as a result of cleaner vehicles, such as electric buses, vans and cars, replacing petrol and diesel vehicles. But air pollution remains high across much of the country. Air pollution is particularly a concern for young people, as their lungs are developing, as well as for those with respiratory problems such as asthma or COPD. Up to 30,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution in the UK each year.

Lubenham ranks 17 out of 19 in Harborough for pollution levels. The level of air pollution, based on government modelling, reaches $7.4 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for nitrogen dioxide in parts of the ward, compared to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended level of $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and $7.6 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for particulates, compared to the WHO level of $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Nature can help reduce air pollution, provide cooling during heatwaves and reduce flooding. Research also shows local green spaces are linked with better mental health. Tree cover in Lubenham is 2.8%, against a recommended minimum of 20%. The proportion of people who are within a 15-minute walk of greenspace is 85% – the **government target** is that everybody should be within a 15-minute walk of greenspace.

Sewage pollution of rivers from sewage outfalls has rightly led to public outrage. In Lubenham there are 2 sewage outfalls that spilled pollution into waterways 56 times and for 447.1 hours in 2025. Sewage pollution is a danger to water users but also harms the nature that residents of the ward enjoy.

Who is Harmed Most by Environmental Damage

While almost everyone is harmed by a degraded environment, including future generations, Friends of the Earth research has identified that people on low incomes, disabled people, and people of colour are disproportionately harmed by air pollution, climate extremes and a lack of access to nature. These people also tend to contribute least to these problems, making this an environmental injustice.

Improving the environment benefits both people and nature. Research shows it is also beneficial for jobs and the economy, with the Climate Change Committee stating that every pound spent brings benefits worth 2.2–4.1 times as much. Those calling for green policies to be delayed or abandoned are not serving the public good.

What Councillors Can Do

The information in this briefing will help you stand-up and speak out for action on climate, nature and equality because of the benefits that action will deliver for your constituents.

Speaking out for action on climate change, energy, nature and pollution is important at a time when powerful vested interests, some politicians and the media are seeking to delay or abandon action. Data in the other Ward reports in your area will also enable you to highlight how councillors speaking out against climate action are not serving their constituents well.

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- Friends of the Earth's policy website, with articles spanning all the issues listed here and more: <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/>

Methodology

Current and future flood risk

Published data on [properties at risk of flooding from rivers and seas](#) was used alongside [risk of flooding from surface water extent maps](#) and property location coordinates, to identify all properties at risk of flooding from either rivers or seas, or from surface water. The data were then aggregated at postcode level to calculate the proportion of properties at risk. This proportion was then used to estimate the population at risk (assuming population is distributed evenly across properties within a postcode) and to estimate the number of residential properties at risk from the ratio of households to total properties.

These metrics were aggregated to Ward level to obtain, for both high and medium risk categories, the number and proportion of all properties, residential properties, and estimated population at risk. Medium risk today was treated as a proxy for future high risk under a climate change scenario, so high-risk statistics were labelled “current high risk” and medium-risk statistics “future high risk”.

For further information on the analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Heat risk (summer 2022 maximum air temperature)

Daily maximum [air temperature data by 1km grids from HadUK \(MetOffice\)](#) for heatwave periods in summer 2022 were aggregated from their original grid resolution to Ward level using an area-weighted approach. For each Ward we calculated the 3-day average maximum air temperature during the heatwaves, providing a simple indicator of recent extreme heat exposure. For more detailed information see [here](#).

Home energy performance (EPC bands)

[Domestic Energy Performance Certificate \(EPC\)](#) records were aggregated to Ward level using a postcode-to-Ward lookup. For each Ward we calculated the number and percentage of homes in EPC bands D to G, providing an indicator of the prevalence of inefficient housing that is more vulnerable to high energy costs and in need of further insulation and other energy efficiency measures.

Air pollution

Modelled background air pollution data for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), published by [Defra at 1 km² resolution](#), were aggregated to Ward level using area weighting. For each Ward we retained mean and maximum concentrations for NO₂ and PM_{2.5} and compared these with the World Health Organization (WHO) 2021 air quality guidelines.

For details on this analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Tree canopy cover

Total summer tree canopy cover was calculated from two datasets published by Forest Research: [National Forest Inventory \(NFI\)](#) and the [Trees Outside Woodland \(TOW\) map](#). These were intersected with Ward boundaries to calculate the total woodland and tree canopy area (m²) in each Ward, and the percentage of the Ward's land area covered by trees.

Greenspace

[Defra's access-to-greenspace statistics](#), originally published at Output Area level, were reallocated to Wards using postcode-weighted OA-Ward lookup tables. For each Ward we estimated the number and percentage of households that meet the “within 15 minutes” walk of greenspace commitment.

Sewage overflows

[Storm sewage overflow statistics for 2025](#) were aggregated to Ward boundaries from their point coordinates. For each Ward, the number of overflow outfalls, the annual number of spills, and the total spill duration (hours) were calculated.

Councillor Briefing: Environmental Data for Lutterworth East



"As a councillor for Lutterworth East, you will know the area well, but we've brought together some environmental data that you may not be aware of. We hope you can use this information to improve the lives of residents in your ward."

Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth

43%

of homes are poorly insulated

12.1%

**Summer tree canopy cover
(Recommended minimum = 20%)**

8.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

**Annual background concentration of
PM_{2.5}
(WHO limit = 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)**

Climate Change and Energy

Burning fossil fuels has already led to the planet warming by almost 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is disrupting weather systems and causing more severe storms, droughts and floods.

Our continued high use of gas to produce electricity and to heat our homes and businesses is contributing to this, as well as leaving us all exposed to volatile energy prices. Friends of the Earth is calling for councils to support a faster roll-out of renewable energy and to help householders fit insulation. We are also calling on the government to introduce a social tariff for energy — that is, cheaper energy rates for those on the lowest incomes.

More oil and gas drilling won't reduce energy costs, because costs are set on the global market, but it will exacerbate climate change (for more detail see our [Misinformation briefings](#)).

In Lutterworth East, 67 homes are already at high risk of flooding, according to Environment Agency data. In the future this could increase to 131. Climate change will also lead to more heatwaves. In the 2022 heatwaves, the temperature reached 38.9°C in Lutterworth East. The government needs to do more to prepare the country for extreme weather events, including with more support for local authorities, so that those most at risk – such as older people during heatwaves or disabled people during flood events – can be properly protected.

Homes need not only to be better adapted for flooding and heatwaves but also better insulated to help keep down energy costs and reduce the number of people living in cold, damp homes.

In Lutterworth East, there are 1,074 homes that are poorly insulated (below the EPC C level), making it 14 out of 19 in Harborough for the number of homes needing an upgrade. Better insulated homes not only cut energy bills but also reduce illness and make homes more comfortable.

Nature and Pollution

Air pollution has fallen over recent years, partly as a result of cleaner vehicles, such as electric buses, vans and cars, replacing petrol and diesel vehicles. But air pollution remains high across much of the country. Air pollution is particularly a concern for young people, as their lungs are developing, as well as for those with respiratory problems such as asthma or COPD. Up to 30,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution in the UK each year.

Lutterworth East ranks 1 out of 19 in Harborough for pollution levels. The level of air pollution, based on government modelling, reaches $10.6 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for nitrogen dioxide in parts of the ward, compared to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended level of $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and $8.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for particulates, compared to the WHO level of $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Nature can help reduce air pollution, provide cooling during heatwaves and reduce flooding. Research also shows local green spaces are linked with better mental health. Tree cover in Lutterworth East is 12.1%, against a recommended minimum of 20%. The proportion of people who are within a 15-minute walk of greenspace is 94% – the **government target** is that everybody should be within a 15-minute walk of greenspace.

Sewage pollution of rivers from sewage outfalls has rightly led to public outrage. In Lutterworth East there is 1 sewage outfall that spilled pollution into waterways 12 times and for 40.4 hours in 2025. Sewage pollution is a danger to water users but also harms the nature that residents of the ward enjoy.

Who is Harmed Most by Environmental Damage

While almost everyone is harmed by a degraded environment, including future generations, Friends of the Earth research has identified that people on low incomes, disabled people, and people of colour are disproportionately harmed by air pollution, climate extremes and a lack of access to nature. These people also tend to contribute least to these problems, making this an environmental injustice.

Improving the environment benefits both people and nature. Research shows it is also beneficial for jobs and the economy, with the Climate Change Committee stating that every pound spent brings benefits worth 2.2–4.1 times as much. Those calling for green policies to be delayed or abandoned are not serving the public good.

What Councillors Can Do

The information in this briefing will help you stand-up and speak out for action on climate, nature and equality because of the benefits that action will deliver for your constituents.

Speaking out for action on climate change, energy, nature and pollution is important at a time when powerful vested interests, some politicians and the media are seeking to delay or abandon action. Data in the other Ward reports in your area will also enable you to highlight how councillors speaking out against climate action are not serving their constituents well.

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Methodology

Current and future flood risk

Published data on [properties at risk of flooding from rivers and seas](#) was used alongside [risk of flooding from surface water extent maps](#) and property location coordinates, to identify all properties at risk of flooding from either rivers or seas, or from surface water. The data were then aggregated at postcode level to calculate the proportion of properties at risk. This proportion was then used to estimate the population at risk (assuming population is distributed evenly across properties within a postcode) and to estimate the number of residential properties at risk from the ratio of households to total properties.

These metrics were aggregated to Ward level to obtain, for both high and medium risk categories, the number and proportion of all properties, residential properties, and estimated population at risk. Medium risk today was treated as a proxy for future high risk under a climate change scenario, so high-risk statistics were labelled “current high risk” and medium-risk statistics “future high risk”.

For further information on the analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Heat risk (summer 2022 maximum air temperature)

Daily maximum [air temperature data by 1km grids from HadUK \(MetOffice\)](#) for heatwave periods in summer 2022 were aggregated from their original grid resolution to Ward level using an area-weighted approach. For each Ward we calculated the 3-day average maximum air temperature during the heatwaves, providing a simple indicator of recent extreme heat exposure. For more detailed information see [here](#).

Home energy performance (EPC bands)

[Domestic Energy Performance Certificate \(EPC\)](#) records were aggregated to Ward level using a postcode-to-Ward lookup. For each Ward we calculated the number and percentage of homes in EPC bands D to G, providing an indicator of the prevalence of inefficient housing that is more vulnerable to high energy costs and in need of further insulation and other energy efficiency measures.

Air pollution

Modelled background air pollution data for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), published by [Defra at 1 km² resolution](#), were aggregated to Ward level using area weighting. For each Ward we retained mean and maximum concentrations for NO₂ and PM_{2.5} and compared these with the World Health Organization (WHO) 2021 air quality guidelines.

For details on this analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Tree canopy cover

Total summer tree canopy cover was calculated from two datasets published by Forest Research: [National Forest Inventory \(NFI\)](#) and the [Trees Outside Woodland \(TOW\) map](#). These were intersected with Ward boundaries to calculate the total woodland and tree canopy area (m²) in each Ward, and the percentage of the Ward's land area covered by trees.

Greenspace

[Defra's access-to-greenspace statistics](#), originally published at Output Area level, were reallocated to Wards using postcode-weighted OA-Ward lookup tables. For each Ward we estimated the number and percentage of households that meet the “within 15 minutes” walk of greenspace commitment.

Sewage overflows

[Storm sewage overflow statistics for 2025](#) were aggregated to Ward boundaries from their point coordinates. For each Ward, the number of overflow outfalls, the annual number of spills, and the total spill duration (hours) were calculated.

Councillor Briefing: Environmental Data for Lutterworth West



"As a councillor for Lutterworth West, you will know the area well, but we've brought together some environmental data that you may not be aware of. We hope you can use this information to improve the lives of residents in your ward."

Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth

50%

of homes are poorly
insulated

10.2%

Summer tree canopy
cover
(Recommended
minimum = 20%)

7.8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Annual background
concentration of
PM_{2.5}
(WHO limit = 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

Climate Change and Energy

Burning fossil fuels has already led to the planet warming by almost 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is disrupting weather systems and causing more severe storms, droughts and floods.

Our continued high use of gas to produce electricity and to heat our homes and businesses is contributing to this, as well as leaving us all exposed to volatile energy prices. Friends of the Earth is calling for councils to support a faster roll-out of renewable energy and to help householders fit insulation. We are also calling on the government to introduce a social tariff for energy — that is, cheaper energy rates for those on the lowest incomes.

More oil and gas drilling won't reduce energy costs, because costs are set on the global market, but it will exacerbate climate change (for more detail see our [Misinformation briefings](#)).

In Lutterworth West, 59 homes are already at high risk of flooding, according to Environment Agency data. In the future this could increase to 112. Climate change will also lead to more heatwaves. In the 2022 heatwaves, the temperature reached 39.0°C in Lutterworth West. The government needs to do more to prepare the country for extreme weather events, including with more support for local authorities, so that those most at risk – such as older people during heatwaves or disabled people during flood events – can be properly protected.

Homes need not only to be better adapted for flooding and heatwaves but also better insulated to help keep down energy costs and reduce the number of people living in cold, damp homes.

In Lutterworth West, there are 1,158 homes that are poorly insulated (below the EPC C level), making it 9 out of 19 in Harborough for the number of homes needing an upgrade. Better insulated homes not only cut energy bills but also reduce illness and make homes more comfortable.

Nature and Pollution

Air pollution has fallen over recent years, partly as a result of cleaner vehicles, such as electric buses, vans and cars, replacing petrol and diesel vehicles. But air pollution remains high across much of the country. Air pollution is particularly a concern for young people, as their lungs are developing, as well as for those with respiratory problems such as asthma or COPD. Up to 30,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution in the UK each year.

Lutterworth West ranks 2 out of 19 in Harborough for pollution levels. The level of air pollution, based on government modelling, reaches 10.4 µg/m³ for nitrogen dioxide in parts of the ward, compared to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended level of 10 µg/m³, and 7.8 µg/m³ for particulates, compared to the WHO level of 5 µg/m³.

Nature can help reduce air pollution, provide cooling during heatwaves and reduce flooding. Research also shows local green spaces are linked with better mental health. Tree cover in Lutterworth West is 10.2%, against a recommended minimum of 20%. The proportion of people who are within a 15-minute walk of greenspace is 85% – the **government target** is that everybody should be within a 15-minute walk of greenspace.

Sewage pollution of rivers from sewage outfalls has rightly led to public outrage. In Lutterworth West there is 1 sewage outfall that spilled pollution into waterways 57 times and for 419.5 hours in 2025. Sewage pollution is a danger to water users but also harms the nature that residents of the ward enjoy.

Who is Harmed Most by Environmental Damage

While almost everyone is harmed by a degraded environment, including future generations, Friends of the Earth research has identified that people on low incomes, disabled people, and people of colour are disproportionately harmed by air pollution, climate extremes and a lack of access to nature. These people also tend to contribute least to these problems, making this an environmental injustice.

Improving the environment benefits both people and nature. Research shows it is also beneficial for jobs and the economy, with the Climate Change Committee stating that every pound spent brings benefits worth 2.2–4.1 times as much. Those calling for green policies to be delayed or abandoned are not serving the public good.

What Councillors Can Do

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Methodology

Current and future flood risk

Published data on [properties at risk of flooding from rivers and seas](#) was used alongside [risk of flooding from surface water extent maps](#) and property location coordinates, to identify all properties at risk of flooding from either rivers or seas, or from surface water. The data were then aggregated at postcode level to calculate the proportion of properties at risk. This proportion was then used to estimate the population at risk (assuming population is distributed evenly across properties within a postcode) and to estimate the number of residential properties at risk from the ratio of households to total properties.

These metrics were aggregated to Ward level to obtain, for both high and medium risk categories, the number and proportion of all properties, residential properties, and estimated population at risk. Medium risk today was treated as a proxy for future high risk under a climate change scenario, so high-risk statistics were labelled “current high risk” and medium-risk statistics “future high risk”.

For further information on the analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Heat risk (summer 2022 maximum air temperature)

Daily maximum [air temperature data by 1km grids from HadUK \(MetOffice\)](#) for heatwave periods in summer 2022 were aggregated from their original grid resolution to Ward level using an area-weighted approach. For each Ward we calculated the 3-day average maximum air temperature during the heatwaves, providing a simple indicator of recent extreme heat exposure. For more detailed information see [here](#).

Home energy performance (EPC bands)

[Domestic Energy Performance Certificate \(EPC\)](#) records were aggregated to Ward level using a postcode-to-Ward lookup. For each Ward we calculated the number and percentage of homes in EPC bands D to G, providing an indicator of the prevalence of inefficient housing that is more vulnerable to high energy costs and in need of further insulation and other energy efficiency measures.

Air pollution

Modelled background air pollution data for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), published by [Defra at 1 km² resolution](#), were aggregated to Ward level using area weighting. For each Ward we retained mean and maximum concentrations for NO₂ and PM_{2.5} and compared these with the World Health Organization (WHO) 2021 air quality guidelines.

For details on this analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Tree canopy cover

Total summer tree canopy cover was calculated from two datasets published by Forest Research: [National Forest Inventory \(NFI\)](#) and the [Trees Outside Woodland \(TOW\) map](#). These were intersected with Ward boundaries to calculate the total woodland and tree canopy area (m²) in each Ward, and the percentage of the Ward's land area covered by trees.

Greenspace

[Defra's access-to-greenspace statistics](#), originally published at Output Area level, were reallocated to Wards using postcode-weighted OA-Ward lookup tables. For each Ward we estimated the number and percentage of households that meet the “within 15 minutes” walk of greenspace commitment.

Sewage overflows

[Storm sewage overflow statistics for 2025](#) were aggregated to Ward boundaries from their point coordinates. For each Ward, the number of overflow outfalls, the annual number of spills, and the total spill duration (hours) were calculated.

Councillor Briefing: Environmental Data for Misterton



"As a councillor for Misterton, you will know the area well, but we've brought together some environmental data that you may not be aware of. We hope you can use this information to improve the lives of residents in your ward."

Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth

53%

of homes are poorly insulated

4.4%

Summer tree canopy cover
(Recommended minimum = 20%)

7.7 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Annual background concentration of $\text{PM}_{2.5}$
(WHO limit = 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

Climate Change and Energy

Burning fossil fuels has already led to the planet warming by almost 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is disrupting weather systems and causing more severe storms, droughts and floods.

Our continued high use of gas to produce electricity and to heat our homes and businesses is contributing to this, as well as leaving us all exposed to volatile energy prices. Friends of the Earth is calling for councils to support a faster roll-out of renewable energy and to help householders fit insulation. We are also calling on the government to introduce a social tariff for energy — that is, cheaper energy rates for those on the lowest incomes.

More oil and gas drilling won't reduce energy costs, because costs are set on the global market, but it will exacerbate climate change (for more detail see our [Misinformation briefings](#)).

In Misterton, 121 homes are already at high risk of flooding, according to Environment Agency data. In the future this could increase to 150. Climate change will also lead to more heatwaves. In the 2022 heatwaves, the temperature reached 39.0°C in Misterton. The government needs to do more to prepare the country for extreme weather events, including with more support for local authorities, so that those most at risk — such as older people during heatwaves or disabled people during flood events — can be properly protected.

Homes need not only to be better adapted for flooding and heatwaves but also better insulated to help keep down energy costs and reduce the number of people living in cold, damp homes.

In Misterton, there are 667 homes that are poorly insulated (below the EPC C level), making it 7 out of 19 in Harborough for the number of homes needing an upgrade. Better insulated homes not only cut energy bills but also reduce illness and make homes more comfortable.

Nature and Pollution

Air pollution has fallen over recent years, partly as a result of cleaner vehicles, such as electric buses, vans and cars, replacing petrol and diesel vehicles. But air pollution remains high across much of the country. Air pollution is particularly a concern for young people, as their lungs are developing, as well as for those with respiratory problems such as asthma or COPD. Up to 30,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution in the UK each year.

Misterton ranks 3 out of 19 in Harborough for pollution levels. The level of air pollution, based on government modelling, reaches $10.8 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for nitrogen dioxide in parts of the ward, compared to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended level of $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and $7.7 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for particulates, compared to the WHO level of $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Nature can help reduce air pollution, provide cooling during heatwaves and reduce flooding. Research also shows local green spaces are linked with better mental health. Tree cover in Misterton is 4.4%, against a recommended minimum of 20%. The proportion of people who are within a 15-minute walk of greenspace is 95% – the **government target** is that everybody should be within a 15-minute walk of greenspace.

Sewage pollution of rivers from sewage outfalls has rightly led to public outrage. In Misterton there are 2 sewage outfalls that spilled pollution into waterways 3 times and for 1.2 hours in 2025. Sewage pollution is a danger to water users but also harms the nature that residents of the ward enjoy.

Who is Harmed Most by Environmental Damage

While almost everyone is harmed by a degraded environment, including future generations, Friends of the Earth research has identified that people on low incomes, disabled people, and people of colour are disproportionately harmed by air pollution, climate extremes and a lack of access to nature. These people also tend to contribute least to these problems, making this an environmental injustice.

Improving the environment benefits both people and nature. Research shows it is also beneficial for jobs and the economy, with the Climate Change Committee stating that every pound spent brings benefits worth 2.2–4.1 times as much. Those calling for green policies to be delayed or abandoned are not serving the public good.

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Methodology

Current and future flood risk

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These metrics were aggregated to Ward level to obtain, for both high and medium risk categories, the number and proportion of all properties, residential properties, and estimated population at risk. Medium risk today was treated as a proxy for future high risk under a climate change scenario, so high-risk statistics were labelled “current high risk” and medium-risk statistics “future high risk”.

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Heat risk (summer 2022 maximum air temperature)

Daily maximum [air temperature data by 1km grids from HadUK \(MetOffice\)](#) for heatwave periods in summer 2022 were aggregated from their original grid resolution to Ward level using an area-weighted approach. For each Ward we calculated the 3-day average maximum air temperature during the heatwaves, providing a simple indicator of recent extreme heat exposure. For more detailed information see [here](#).

Home energy performance (EPC bands)

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Air pollution

Modelled background air pollution data for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), published by [Defra at 1 km² resolution](#), were aggregated to Ward level using area weighting. For each Ward we retained mean and maximum concentrations for NO₂ and PM_{2.5} and compared these with the World Health Organization (WHO) 2021 air quality guidelines.

For details on this analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Tree canopy cover

Total summer tree canopy cover was calculated from two datasets published by Forest Research: [National Forest Inventory \(NFI\)](#) and the [Trees Outside Woodland \(TOW\) map](#). These were intersected with Ward boundaries to calculate the total woodland and tree canopy area (m²) in each Ward, and the percentage of the Ward's land area covered by trees.

Greenspace

[Defra's access-to-greenspace statistics](#), originally published at Output Area level, were reallocated to Wards using postcode-weighted OA-Ward lookup tables. For each Ward we estimated the number and percentage of households that meet the “within 15 minutes” walk of greenspace commitment.

Sewage overflows

[Storm sewage overflow statistics for 2025](#) were aggregated to Ward boundaries from their point coordinates. For each Ward, the number of overflow outfalls, the annual number of spills, and the total spill duration (hours) were calculated.

Councillor Briefing: Environmental Data for Market Harborough-Great Bowden & Arden



"As a councillor for Market Harborough-Great Bowden & Arden, you will know the area well, but we've brought together some environmental data that you may not be aware of. We hope you can use this information to improve the lives of residents in your ward."

Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth

51%

of homes are poorly
insulated

3.9%

Summer tree canopy
cover
(Recommended
minimum = 20%)

8.3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Annual background
concentration of
PM_{2.5}
(WHO limit = 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

Climate Change and Energy

Burning fossil fuels has already led to the planet warming by almost 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is disrupting weather systems and causing more severe storms, droughts and floods.

Our continued high use of gas to produce electricity and to heat our homes and businesses is contributing to this, as well as leaving us all exposed to volatile energy prices. Friends of the Earth is calling for councils to support a faster roll-out of renewable energy and to help householders fit insulation. We are also calling on the government to introduce a social tariff for energy — that is, cheaper energy rates for those on the lowest incomes.

More oil and gas drilling won't reduce energy costs, because costs are set on the global market, but it will exacerbate climate change (for more detail see our [Misinformation briefings](#)).

In Market Harborough-Great Bowden & Arden, 222 homes are already at high risk of flooding, according to Environment Agency data. In the future this could increase to 368. Climate change will also lead to more heatwaves. In the 2022 heatwaves, the temperature reached 39.4°C in Market Harborough-Great Bowden & Arden. The government needs to do more to prepare the country for extreme weather events, including with more support for local authorities, so that those most at risk – such as older people during heatwaves or disabled people during flood events – can be properly protected.

Homes need not only to be better adapted for flooding and heatwaves but also better insulated to help keep down energy costs and reduce the number of people living in cold, damp homes.

In Market Harborough-Great Bowden & Arden, there are 1,572 homes that are poorly insulated (below the EPC C level), making it 8 out of 19 in Harborough for the number of homes needing an upgrade. Better insulated homes not only cut energy bills but also reduce illness and make homes more comfortable.

Nature and Pollution

Air pollution has fallen over recent years, partly as a result of cleaner vehicles, such as electric buses, vans and cars, replacing petrol and diesel vehicles. But air pollution remains high across much of the country. Air pollution is particularly a concern for young people, as their lungs are developing, as well as for those with respiratory problems such as asthma or COPD. Up to 30,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution in the UK each year.

Market Harborough-Great Bowden & Arden ranks 11 out of 19 in Harborough for pollution levels. The level of air pollution, based on government modelling, reaches 9.7 µg/m³ for nitrogen dioxide in parts of the ward, compared to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended level of 10 µg/m³, and 8.3 µg/m³ for particulates, compared to the WHO level of 5 µg/m³.

Nature can help reduce air pollution, provide cooling during heatwaves and reduce flooding. Research also shows local green spaces are linked with better mental health. Tree cover in Market Harborough-Great Bowden & Arden is 3.9%, against a recommended minimum of 20%. The proportion of people who are within a 15-minute walk of greenspace is 99% – the [government target](#) is that everybody should be within a 15-minute walk of greenspace.

Sewage pollution of rivers from sewage outfalls has rightly led to public outrage. In Market Harborough-Great Bowden & Arden there is 1 sewage outfall that spilled pollution into waterways 17 times and for 184.8 hours in 2025. Sewage pollution is a danger to water users but also harms the nature that residents of the ward enjoy.

Who is Harmed Most by Environmental Damage

While almost everyone is harmed by a degraded environment, including future generations, Friends of the Earth research has identified that people on low incomes, disabled people, and people of colour are disproportionately harmed by air pollution, climate extremes and a lack of access to nature. These people also tend to contribute least to these problems, making this an environmental injustice.

Improving the environment benefits both people and nature. Research shows it is also beneficial for jobs and the economy, with the Climate Change Committee stating that every pound spent brings benefits worth 2.2–4.1 times as much. Those calling for green policies to be delayed or abandoned are not serving the public good.

What Councillors Can Do

The information in this briefing will help you stand-up and speak out for action on climate, nature and equality because of the benefits that action will deliver for your constituents.

Speaking out for action on climate change, energy, nature and pollution is important at a time when powerful vested interests, some politicians and the media are seeking to delay or abandon action. Data in the other Ward reports in your area will also enable you to highlight how councillors speaking out against climate action are not serving their constituents well.

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Further Reading

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Methodology

Current and future flood risk

Published data on [properties at risk of flooding from rivers and seas](#) was used alongside [risk of flooding from surface water extent maps](#) and property location coordinates, to identify all properties at risk of flooding from either rivers or seas, or from surface water. The data were then aggregated at postcode level to calculate the proportion of properties at risk. This proportion was then used to estimate the population at risk (assuming population is distributed evenly across properties within a postcode) and to estimate the number of residential properties at risk from the ratio of households to total properties.

These metrics were aggregated to Ward level to obtain, for both high and medium risk categories, the number and proportion of all properties, residential properties, and estimated population at risk. Medium risk today was treated as a proxy for future high risk under a climate change scenario, so high-risk statistics were labelled “current high risk” and medium-risk statistics “future high risk”.

For further information on the analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Heat risk (summer 2022 maximum air temperature)

Daily maximum [air temperature data by 1km grids from HadUK \(MetOffice\)](#) for heatwave periods in summer 2022 were aggregated from their original grid resolution to Ward level using an area-weighted approach. For each Ward we calculated the 3-day average maximum air temperature during the heatwaves, providing a simple indicator of recent extreme heat exposure. For more detailed information see [here](#).

Home energy performance (EPC bands)

[Domestic Energy Performance Certificate \(EPC\)](#) records were aggregated to Ward level using a postcode-to-Ward lookup. For each Ward we calculated the number and percentage of homes in EPC bands D to G, providing an indicator of the prevalence of inefficient housing that is more vulnerable to high energy costs and in need of further insulation and other energy efficiency measures.

Air pollution

Modelled background air pollution data for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), published by [Defra at 1 km² resolution](#), were aggregated to Ward level using area weighting. For each Ward we retained mean and maximum concentrations for NO₂ and PM_{2.5} and compared these with the World Health Organization (WHO) 2021 air quality guidelines.

For details on this analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Tree canopy cover

Total summer tree canopy cover was calculated from two datasets published by Forest Research: [National Forest Inventory \(NFI\)](#) and the [Trees Outside Woodland \(TOW\) map](#). These were intersected with Ward boundaries to calculate the total woodland and tree canopy area (m²) in each Ward, and the percentage of the Ward's land area covered by trees.

Greenspace

[Defra's access-to-greenspace statistics](#), originally published at Output Area level, were reallocated to Wards using postcode-weighted OA-Ward lookup tables. For each Ward we estimated the number and percentage of households that meet the “within 15 minutes” walk of greenspace commitment.

Sewage overflows

[Storm sewage overflow statistics for 2025](#) were aggregated to Ward boundaries from their point coordinates. For each Ward, the number of overflow outfalls, the annual number of spills, and the total spill duration (hours) were calculated.

Councillor Briefing: Environmental Data for Market Harborough-Little Bowden



"As a councillor for Market Harborough-Little Bowden, you will know the area well, but we've brought together some environmental data that you may not be aware of. We hope you can use this information to improve the lives of residents in your ward."

Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth

35%

**of homes are poorly
insulated**

8.0%

**Summer tree canopy
cover
(Recommended
minimum = 20%)**

8.3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

**Annual background
concentration of
PM_{2.5}
(WHO limit = 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)**

Climate Change and Energy

Burning fossil fuels has already led to the planet warming by almost 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is disrupting weather systems and causing more severe storms, droughts and floods.

Our continued high use of gas to produce electricity and to heat our homes and businesses is contributing to this, as well as leaving us all exposed to volatile energy prices. Friends of the Earth is calling for councils to support a faster roll-out of renewable energy and to help householders fit insulation. We are also calling on the government to introduce a social tariff for energy — that is, cheaper energy rates for those on the lowest incomes.

More oil and gas drilling won't reduce energy costs, because costs are set on the global market, but it will exacerbate climate change (for more detail see our [Misinformation briefings](#)).

In Market Harborough-Little Bowden, 275 homes are already at high risk of flooding, according to Environment Agency data. In the future this could increase to 397. Climate change will also lead to more heatwaves. In the 2022 heatwaves, the temperature reached 39.5°C in Market Harborough-Little Bowden. The government needs to do more to prepare the country for extreme weather events, including with more support for local authorities, so that those most at risk – such as older people during heatwaves or disabled people during flood events – can be properly protected.

Homes need not only to be better adapted for flooding and heatwaves but also better insulated to help keep down energy costs and reduce the number of people living in cold, damp homes.

In Market Harborough-Little Bowden, there are 891 homes that are poorly insulated (below the EPC C level), making it 18 out of 19 in Harborough for the number of homes needing an upgrade. Better insulated homes not only cut energy bills but also reduce illness and make homes more comfortable.

Nature and Pollution

Air pollution has fallen over recent years, partly as a result of cleaner vehicles, such as electric buses, vans and cars, replacing petrol and diesel vehicles. But air pollution remains high across much of the country. Air pollution is particularly a concern for young people, as their lungs are developing, as well as for those with respiratory problems such as asthma or COPD. Up to 30,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution in the UK each year.

Market Harborough-Little Bowden ranks 6 out of 19 in Harborough for pollution levels. The level of air pollution, based on government modelling, reaches 9.7 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for nitrogen dioxide in parts of the ward, compared to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended level of 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and 8.3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for particulates, compared to the WHO level of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Nature can help reduce air pollution, provide cooling during heatwaves and reduce flooding. Research also shows local green spaces are linked with better mental health. Tree cover in Market Harborough-Little Bowden is 8.0%, against a recommended minimum of 20%. The proportion of people who are within a 15-minute walk of greenspace is 70% – the **government target** is that everybody should be within a 15-minute walk of greenspace.

Sewage pollution of rivers from sewage outfalls has rightly led to public outrage. In Market Harborough-Little Bowden there is 1 sewage outfall that spilled pollution into waterways 14 times and for 56.5 hours in 2025. Sewage pollution is a danger to water users but also harms the nature that residents of the ward enjoy.

Who is Harmed Most by Environmental Damage

While almost everyone is harmed by a degraded environment, including future generations, Friends of the Earth research has identified that people on low incomes, disabled people, and people of colour are disproportionately harmed by air pollution, climate extremes and a lack of access to nature. These people also tend to contribute least to these problems, making this an environmental injustice.

Improving the environment benefits both people and nature. Research shows it is also beneficial for jobs and the economy, with the Climate Change Committee stating that every pound spent brings benefits worth 2.2–4.1 times as much. Those calling for green policies to be delayed or abandoned are not serving the public good.

What Councillors Can Do

The information in this briefing will help you stand-up and speak out for action on climate, nature and equality because of the benefits that action will deliver for your constituents.

Speaking out for action on climate change, energy, nature and pollution is important at a time when powerful vested interests, some politicians and the media are seeking to delay or abandon action. Data in the other Ward reports in your area will also enable you to highlight how councillors speaking out against climate action are not serving their constituents well.

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Methodology

Current and future flood risk

Published data on [properties at risk of flooding from rivers and seas](#) was used alongside [risk of flooding from surface water extent maps](#) and property location coordinates, to identify all properties at risk of flooding from either rivers or seas, or from surface water. The data were then aggregated at postcode level to calculate the proportion of properties at risk. This proportion was then used to estimate the population at risk (assuming population is distributed evenly across properties within a postcode) and to estimate the number of residential properties at risk from the ratio of households to total properties.

These metrics were aggregated to Ward level to obtain, for both high and medium risk categories, the number and proportion of all properties, residential properties, and estimated population at risk. Medium risk today was treated as a proxy for future high risk under a climate change scenario, so high-risk statistics were labelled “current high risk” and medium-risk statistics “future high risk”.

For further information on the analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Heat risk (summer 2022 maximum air temperature)

Daily maximum [air temperature data by 1km grids from HadUK \(MetOffice\)](#) for heatwave periods in summer 2022 were aggregated from their original grid resolution to Ward level using an area-weighted approach. For each Ward we calculated the 3-day average maximum air temperature during the heatwaves, providing a simple indicator of recent extreme heat exposure. For more detailed information see [here](#).

Home energy performance (EPC bands)

[Domestic Energy Performance Certificate \(EPC\)](#) records were aggregated to Ward level using a postcode-to-Ward lookup. For each Ward we calculated the number and percentage of homes in EPC bands D to G, providing an indicator of the prevalence of inefficient housing that is more vulnerable to high energy costs and in need of further insulation and other energy efficiency measures.

Air pollution

Modelled background air pollution data for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), published by [Defra at 1 km² resolution](#), were aggregated to Ward level using area weighting. For each Ward we retained mean and maximum concentrations for NO₂ and PM_{2.5} and compared these with the World Health Organization (WHO) 2021 air quality guidelines.

For details on this analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Tree canopy cover

Total summer tree canopy cover was calculated from two datasets published by Forest Research: [National Forest Inventory \(NFI\)](#) and the [Trees Outside Woodland \(TOW\) map](#). These were intersected with Ward boundaries to calculate the total woodland and tree canopy area (m²) in each Ward, and the percentage of the Ward's land area covered by trees.

Greenspace

[Defra's access-to-greenspace statistics](#), originally published at Output Area level, were reallocated to Wards using postcode-weighted OA-Ward lookup tables. For each Ward we estimated the number and percentage of households that meet the “within 15 minutes” walk of greenspace commitment.

Sewage overflows

[Storm sewage overflow statistics for 2025](#) were aggregated to Ward boundaries from their point coordinates. For each Ward, the number of overflow outfalls, the annual number of spills, and the total spill duration (hours) were calculated.

Councillor Briefing: Environmental Data for Market Harborough-Logan



"As a councillor for Market Harborough-Logan, you will know the area well, but we've brought together some environmental data that you may not be aware of. We hope you can use this information to improve the lives of residents in your ward."

Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth

50%

of homes are poorly
insulated

7.2%

Summer tree canopy
cover
(Recommended
minimum = 20%)

8.1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Annual background
concentration of
PM_{2.5}
(WHO limit = 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

Climate Change and Energy

Burning fossil fuels has already led to the planet warming by almost 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is disrupting weather systems and causing more severe storms, droughts and floods.

Our continued high use of gas to produce electricity and to heat our homes and businesses is contributing to this, as well as leaving us all exposed to volatile energy prices. Friends of the Earth is calling for councils to support a faster roll-out of renewable energy and to help householders fit insulation. We are also calling on the government to introduce a social tariff for energy — that is, cheaper energy rates for those on the lowest incomes.

More oil and gas drilling won't reduce energy costs, because costs are set on the global market, but it will exacerbate climate change (for more detail see our [Misinformation briefings](#)).

In Market Harborough-Logan, 169 homes are already at high risk of flooding, according to Environment Agency data. In the future this could increase to 267. Climate change will also lead to more heatwaves. In the 2022 heatwaves, the temperature reached 39.3°C in Market Harborough-Logan. The government needs to do more to prepare the country for extreme weather events, including with more support for local authorities, so that those most at risk – such as older people during heatwaves or disabled people during flood events – can be properly protected.

Homes need not only to be better adapted for flooding and heatwaves but also better insulated to help keep down energy costs and reduce the number of people living in cold, damp homes.

In Market Harborough-Logan, there are 1,192 homes that are poorly insulated (below the EPC C level), making it 10 out of 19 in Harborough for the number of homes needing an upgrade. Better insulated homes not only cut energy bills but also reduce illness and make homes more comfortable.

Nature and Pollution

Air pollution has fallen over recent years, partly as a result of cleaner vehicles, such as electric buses, vans and cars, replacing petrol and diesel vehicles. But air pollution remains high across much of the country. Air pollution is particularly a concern for young people, as their lungs are developing, as well as for those with respiratory problems such as asthma or COPD. Up to 30,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution in the UK each year.

Market Harborough-Logan ranks 8 out of 19 in Harborough for pollution levels. The level of air pollution, based on government modelling, reaches $9.1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for nitrogen dioxide in parts of the ward, compared to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended level of $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and $8.1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for particulates, compared to the WHO level of $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Nature can help reduce air pollution, provide cooling during heatwaves and reduce flooding. Research also shows local green spaces are linked with better mental health. Tree cover in Market Harborough-Logan is 7.2%, against a recommended minimum of 20%. The proportion of people who are within a 15-minute walk of greenspace is 98% – the **government target** is that everybody should be within a 15-minute walk of greenspace.

Who is Harmed Most by Environmental Damage

While almost everyone is harmed by a degraded environment, including future generations, Friends of the Earth research has identified that people on low incomes, disabled people, and people of colour are disproportionately harmed by air pollution, climate extremes and a lack of access to nature. These people also tend to contribute least to these problems, making this an environmental injustice.

Improving the environment benefits both people and nature. Research shows it is also beneficial for jobs and the economy, with the Climate Change Committee stating that every pound spent brings benefits worth 2.2–4.1 times as much. Those calling for green policies to be delayed or abandoned are not serving the public good.

What Councillors Can Do

The information in this briefing will help you stand-up and speak out for action on climate, nature and equality because of the benefits that action will deliver for your constituents.

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Methodology

Current and future flood risk

Published data on [properties at risk of flooding from rivers and seas](#) was used alongside [risk of flooding from surface water extent maps](#) and property location coordinates, to identify all properties at risk of flooding from either rivers or seas, or from surface water. The data were then aggregated at postcode level to calculate the proportion of properties at risk. This proportion was then used to estimate the population at risk (assuming population is distributed evenly across properties within a postcode) and to estimate the number of residential properties at risk from the ratio of households to total properties.

These metrics were aggregated to Ward level to obtain, for both high and medium risk categories, the number and proportion of all properties, residential properties, and estimated population at risk. Medium risk today was treated as a proxy for future high risk under a climate change scenario, so high-risk statistics were labelled “current high risk” and medium-risk statistics “future high risk”.

For further information on the analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Heat risk (summer 2022 maximum air temperature)

Daily maximum [air temperature data by 1km grids from HadUK \(MetOffice\)](#) for heatwave periods in summer 2022 were aggregated from their original grid resolution to Ward level using an area-weighted approach. For each Ward we calculated the 3-day average maximum air temperature during the heatwaves, providing a simple indicator of recent extreme heat exposure. For more detailed information see [here](#).

Home energy performance (EPC bands)

[Domestic Energy Performance Certificate \(EPC\)](#) records were aggregated to Ward level using a postcode-to-Ward lookup. For each Ward we calculated the number and percentage of homes in EPC bands D to G, providing an indicator of the prevalence of inefficient housing that is more vulnerable to high energy costs and in need of further insulation and other energy efficiency measures.

Air pollution

Modelled background air pollution data for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), published by [Defra at 1 km² resolution](#), were aggregated to Ward level using area weighting. For each Ward we retained mean and maximum concentrations for NO₂ and PM_{2.5} and compared these with the World Health Organization (WHO) 2021 air quality guidelines.

For details on this analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Tree canopy cover

Total summer tree canopy cover was calculated from two datasets published by Forest Research: [National Forest Inventory \(NFI\)](#) and the [Trees Outside Woodland \(TOW\) map](#). These were intersected with Ward boundaries to calculate the total woodland and tree canopy area (m²) in each Ward, and the percentage of the Ward's land area covered by trees.

Greenspace

[Defra's access-to-greenspace statistics](#), originally published at Output Area level, were reallocated to Wards using postcode-weighted OA–Ward lookup tables. For each Ward we estimated the number and percentage of households that meet the “within 15 minutes” walk of greenspace commitment.

Councillor Briefing: Environmental Data for Market Harborough-Welland



"As a councillor for Market Harborough-Welland, you will know the area well, but we've brought together some environmental data that you may not be aware of. We hope you can use this information to improve the lives of residents in your ward."

Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth

40%

of homes are poorly
insulated

7.6%

Summer tree canopy
cover
(Recommended
minimum = 20%)

7.7 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Annual background
concentration of
PM_{2.5}
(WHO limit = 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

Climate Change and Energy

Burning fossil fuels has already led to the planet warming by almost 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is disrupting weather systems and causing more severe storms, droughts and floods.

Our continued high use of gas to produce electricity and to heat our homes and businesses is contributing to this, as well as leaving us all exposed to volatile energy prices. Friends of the Earth is calling for councils to support a faster roll-out of renewable energy and to help householders fit insulation. We are also calling on the government to introduce a social tariff for energy — that is, cheaper energy rates for those on the lowest incomes.

More oil and gas drilling won't reduce energy costs, because costs are set on the global market, but it will exacerbate climate change (for more detail see our [Misinformation briefings](#)).

In Market Harborough-Welland, 523 homes are already at high risk of flooding, according to Environment Agency data. In the future this could increase to 720. Climate change will also lead to more heatwaves. In the 2022 heatwaves, the temperature reached 39.5°C in Market Harborough-Welland. The government needs to do more to prepare the country for extreme weather events, including with more support for local authorities, so that those most at risk – such as older people during heatwaves or disabled people during flood events – can be properly protected.

Homes need not only to be better adapted for flooding and heatwaves but also better insulated to help keep down energy costs and reduce the number of people living in cold, damp homes.

In Market Harborough-Welland, there are 1,563 homes that are poorly insulated (below the EPC C level), making it 17 out of 19 in Harborough for the number of homes needing an upgrade. Better insulated homes not only cut energy bills but also reduce illness and make homes more comfortable.

Nature and Pollution

Air pollution has fallen over recent years, partly as a result of cleaner vehicles, such as electric buses, vans and cars, replacing petrol and diesel vehicles. But air pollution remains high across much of the country. Air pollution is particularly a concern for young people, as their lungs are developing, as well as for those with respiratory problems such as asthma or COPD. Up to 30,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution in the UK each year.

Market Harborough-Welland ranks 12 out of 19 in Harborough for pollution levels. The level of air pollution, based on government modelling, reaches $7.7 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for nitrogen dioxide in parts of the ward, compared to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended level of $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and $7.7 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for particulates, compared to the WHO level of $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Nature can help reduce air pollution, provide cooling during heatwaves and reduce flooding. Research also shows local green spaces are linked with better mental health. Tree cover in Market Harborough-Welland is 7.6%, against a recommended minimum of 20%. The proportion of people who are within a 15-minute walk of greenspace is 84% – the **government target** is that everybody should be within a 15-minute walk of greenspace.

Who is Harmed Most by Environmental Damage

While almost everyone is harmed by a degraded environment, including future generations, Friends of the Earth research has identified that people on low incomes, disabled people, and people of colour are disproportionately harmed by air pollution, climate extremes and a lack of access to nature. These people also tend to contribute least to these problems, making this an environmental injustice.

Improving the environment benefits both people and nature. Research shows it is also beneficial for jobs and the economy, with the Climate Change Committee stating that every pound spent brings benefits worth 2.2–4.1 times as much. Those calling for green policies to be delayed or abandoned are not serving the public good.

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Methodology

Current and future flood risk

Published data on [properties at risk of flooding from rivers and seas](#) was used alongside [risk of flooding from surface water extent maps](#) and property location coordinates, to identify all properties at risk of flooding from either rivers or seas, or from surface water. The data were then aggregated at postcode level to calculate the proportion of properties at risk. This proportion was then used to estimate the population at risk (assuming population is distributed evenly across properties within a postcode) and to estimate the number of residential properties at risk from the ratio of households to total properties.

These metrics were aggregated to Ward level to obtain, for both high and medium risk categories, the number and proportion of all properties, residential properties, and estimated population at risk. Medium risk today was treated as a proxy for future high risk under a climate change scenario, so high-risk statistics were labelled “current high risk” and medium-risk statistics “future high risk”.

For further information on the analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Heat risk (summer 2022 maximum air temperature)

Daily maximum [air temperature data by 1km grids from HadUK \(MetOffice\)](#) for heatwave periods in summer 2022 were aggregated from their original grid resolution to Ward level using an area-weighted approach. For each Ward we calculated the 3-day average maximum air temperature during the heatwaves, providing a simple indicator of recent extreme heat exposure. For more detailed information see [here](#).

Home energy performance (EPC bands)

[Domestic Energy Performance Certificate \(EPC\)](#) records were aggregated to Ward level using a postcode-to-Ward lookup. For each Ward we calculated the number and percentage of homes in EPC bands D to G, providing an indicator of the prevalence of inefficient housing that is more vulnerable to high energy costs and in need of further insulation and other energy efficiency measures.

Air pollution

Modelled background air pollution data for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), published by [Defra at 1 km² resolution](#), were aggregated to Ward level using area weighting. For each Ward we retained mean and maximum concentrations for NO₂ and PM_{2.5} and compared these with the World Health Organization (WHO) 2021 air quality guidelines.

For details on this analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Tree canopy cover

Total summer tree canopy cover was calculated from two datasets published by Forest Research: [National Forest Inventory \(NFI\)](#) and the [Trees Outside Woodland \(TOW\) map](#). These were intersected with Ward boundaries to calculate the total woodland and tree canopy area (m²) in each Ward, and the percentage of the Ward's land area covered by trees.

Greenspace

[Defra's access-to-greenspace statistics](#), originally published at Output Area level, were reallocated to Wards using postcode-weighted OA–Ward lookup tables. For each Ward we estimated the number and percentage of households that meet the “within 15 minutes” walk of greenspace commitment.

Councillor Briefing: Environmental Data for Nevill



"As a councillor for Nevill, you will know the area well, but we've brought together some environmental data that you may not be aware of. We hope you can use this information to improve the lives of residents in your ward."

Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth

64%

of homes are poorly insulated

2.5%

Summer tree canopy cover
(Recommended minimum = 20%)

6.9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Annual background concentration of $\text{PM}_{2.5}$
(WHO limit = 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

Climate Change and Energy

Burning fossil fuels has already led to the planet warming by almost 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is disrupting weather systems and causing more severe storms, droughts and floods.

Our continued high use of gas to produce electricity and to heat our homes and businesses is contributing to this, as well as leaving us all exposed to volatile energy prices. Friends of the Earth is calling for councils to support a faster roll-out of renewable energy and to help householders fit insulation. We are also calling on the government to introduce a social tariff for energy — that is, cheaper energy rates for those on the lowest incomes.

More oil and gas drilling won't reduce energy costs, because costs are set on the global market, but it will exacerbate climate change (for more detail see our [Misinformation briefings](#)).

In Nevill, 108 homes are already at high risk of flooding, according to Environment Agency data. In the future this could increase to 157. Climate change will also lead to more heatwaves. In the 2022 heatwaves, the temperature reached 39.2°C in Nevill. The government needs to do more to prepare the country for extreme weather events, including with more support for local authorities, so that those most at risk — such as older people during heatwaves or disabled people during flood events — can be properly protected.

Homes need not only to be better adapted for flooding and heatwaves but also better insulated to help keep down energy costs and reduce the number of people living in cold, damp homes.

In Nevill, there are 848 homes that are poorly insulated (below the EPC C level), making it 4 out of 19 in Harborough for the number of homes needing an upgrade. Better insulated homes not only cut energy bills but also reduce illness and make homes more comfortable.

Nature and Pollution

Air pollution has fallen over recent years, partly as a result of cleaner vehicles, such as electric buses, vans and cars, replacing petrol and diesel vehicles. But air pollution remains high across much of the country. Air pollution is particularly a concern for young people, as their lungs are developing, as well as for those with respiratory problems such as asthma or COPD. Up to 30,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution in the UK each year.

Nevill ranks 19 out of 19 in Harborough for pollution levels. The level of air pollution, based on government modelling, reaches $6.3 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for nitrogen dioxide in parts of the ward, compared to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended level of $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and $6.9 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for particulates, compared to the WHO level of $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Nature can help reduce air pollution, provide cooling during heatwaves and reduce flooding. Research also shows local green spaces are linked with better mental health. Tree cover in Nevill is 2.5%, against a recommended minimum of 20%. The proportion of people who are within a 15-minute walk of greenspace is 79% – the **government target** is that everybody should be within a 15-minute walk of greenspace.

Sewage pollution of rivers from sewage outfalls has rightly led to public outrage. In Nevill there are 8 sewage outfalls that spilled pollution into waterways 386 times and for 3,775.4 hours in 2025. Sewage pollution is a danger to water users but also harms the nature that residents of the ward enjoy.

Who is Harmed Most by Environmental Damage

While almost everyone is harmed by a degraded environment, including future generations, Friends of the Earth research has identified that people on low incomes, disabled people, and people of colour are disproportionately harmed by air pollution, climate extremes and a lack of access to nature. These people also tend to contribute least to these problems, making this an environmental injustice.

Improving the environment benefits both people and nature. Research shows it is also beneficial for jobs and the economy, with the Climate Change Committee stating that every pound spent brings benefits worth 2.2–4.1 times as much. Those calling for green policies to be delayed or abandoned are not serving the public good.

What Councillors Can Do

The information in this briefing will help you stand-up and speak out for action on climate, nature and equality because of the benefits that action will deliver for your constituents.

Speaking out for action on climate change, energy, nature and pollution is important at a time when powerful vested interests, some politicians and the media are seeking to delay or abandon action. Data in the other Ward reports in your area will also enable you to highlight how councillors speaking out against climate action are not serving their constituents well.

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Further Reading

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- Friends of the Earth's policy website, with articles spanning all the issues listed here and more: <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/>

Methodology

Current and future flood risk

Published data on [properties at risk of flooding from rivers and seas](#) was used alongside [risk of flooding from surface water extent maps](#) and property location coordinates, to identify all properties at risk of flooding from either rivers or seas, or from surface water. The data were then aggregated at postcode level to calculate the proportion of properties at risk. This proportion was then used to estimate the population at risk (assuming population is distributed evenly across properties within a postcode) and to estimate the number of residential properties at risk from the ratio of households to total properties.

These metrics were aggregated to Ward level to obtain, for both high and medium risk categories, the number and proportion of all properties, residential properties, and estimated population at risk. Medium risk today was treated as a proxy for future high risk under a climate change scenario, so high-risk statistics were labelled “current high risk” and medium-risk statistics “future high risk”.

For further information on the analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Heat risk (summer 2022 maximum air temperature)

Daily maximum [air temperature data by 1km grids from HadUK \(MetOffice\)](#) for heatwave periods in summer 2022 were aggregated from their original grid resolution to Ward level using an area-weighted approach. For each Ward we calculated the 3-day average maximum air temperature during the heatwaves, providing a simple indicator of recent extreme heat exposure. For more detailed information see [here](#).

Home energy performance (EPC bands)

[Domestic Energy Performance Certificate \(EPC\)](#) records were aggregated to Ward level using a postcode-to-Ward lookup. For each Ward we calculated the number and percentage of homes in EPC bands D to G, providing an indicator of the prevalence of inefficient housing that is more vulnerable to high energy costs and in need of further insulation and other energy efficiency measures.

Air pollution

Modelled background air pollution data for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), published by [Defra at 1 km² resolution](#), were aggregated to Ward level using area weighting. For each Ward we retained mean and maximum concentrations for NO₂ and PM_{2.5} and compared these with the World Health Organization (WHO) 2021 air quality guidelines.

For details on this analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Tree canopy cover

Total summer tree canopy cover was calculated from two datasets published by Forest Research: [National Forest Inventory \(NFI\)](#) and the [Trees Outside Woodland \(TOW\) map](#). These were intersected with Ward boundaries to calculate the total woodland and tree canopy area (m²) in each Ward, and the percentage of the Ward’s land area covered by trees.

Greenspace

[Defra’s access-to-greenspace statistics](#), originally published at Output Area level, were reallocated to Wards using postcode-weighted OA–Ward lookup tables. For each Ward we estimated the number and percentage of households that meet the “within 15 minutes” walk of greenspace commitment.

Sewage overflows

[Storm sewage overflow statistics for 2025](#) were aggregated to Ward boundaries from their point coordinates. For each Ward, the number of overflow outfalls, the annual number of spills, and the total spill duration (hours) were calculated.

Councillor Briefing: Environmental Data for Thurnby & Houghton



"As a councillor for Thurnby & Houghton, you will know the area well, but we've brought together some environmental data that you may not be aware of. We hope you can use this information to improve the lives of residents in your ward."

Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth

45%

**of homes are poorly
insulated**

5.3%

**Summer tree canopy
cover
(Recommended
minimum = 20%)**

8.3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

**Annual background
concentration of
PM_{2.5}
(WHO limit = 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)**

Climate Change and Energy

Burning fossil fuels has already led to the planet warming by almost 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is disrupting weather systems and causing more severe storms, droughts and floods.

Our continued high use of gas to produce electricity and to heat our homes and businesses is contributing to this, as well as leaving us all exposed to volatile energy prices. Friends of the Earth is calling for councils to support a faster roll-out of renewable energy and to help householders fit insulation. We are also calling on the government to introduce a social tariff for energy — that is, cheaper energy rates for those on the lowest incomes.

More oil and gas drilling won't reduce energy costs, because costs are set on the global market, but it will exacerbate climate change (for more detail see our [Misinformation briefings](#)).

In Thurnby & Houghton, 142 homes are already at high risk of flooding, according to Environment Agency data. In the future this could increase to 218. Climate change will also lead to more heatwaves. In the 2022 heatwaves, the temperature reached 39.0°C in Thurnby & Houghton. The government needs to do more to prepare the country for extreme weather events, including with more support for local authorities, so that those most at risk – such as older people during heatwaves or disabled people during flood events – can be properly protected.

Homes need not only to be better adapted for flooding and heatwaves but also better insulated to help keep down energy costs and reduce the number of people living in cold, damp homes.

In Thurnby & Houghton, there are 1,735 homes that are poorly insulated (below the EPC C level), making it 13 out of 19 in Harborough for the number of homes needing an upgrade. Better insulated homes not only cut energy bills but also reduce illness and make homes more comfortable.

Nature and Pollution

Air pollution has fallen over recent years, partly as a result of cleaner vehicles, such as electric buses, vans and cars, replacing petrol and diesel vehicles. But air pollution remains high across much of the country. Air pollution is particularly a concern for young people, as their lungs are developing, as well as for those with respiratory problems such as asthma or COPD. Up to 30,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution in the UK each year.

Thurnby & Houghton ranks 4 out of 19 in Harborough for pollution levels. The level of air pollution, based on government modelling, reaches $12.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for nitrogen dioxide in parts of the ward, compared to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended level of $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and $8.3 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for particulates, compared to the WHO level of $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Nature can help reduce air pollution, provide cooling during heatwaves and reduce flooding. Research also shows local green spaces are linked with better mental health. Tree cover in Thurnby & Houghton is 5.3%, against a recommended minimum of 20%. The proportion of people who are within a 15-minute walk of greenspace is 97% – the **government target** is that everybody should be within a 15-minute walk of greenspace.

Sewage pollution of rivers from sewage outfalls has rightly led to public outrage. In Thurnby & Houghton there are 2 sewage outfalls that spilled pollution into waterways 58 times and for 325.6 hours in 2025. Sewage pollution is a danger to water users but also harms the nature that residents of the ward enjoy.

Who is Harmed Most by Environmental Damage

While almost everyone is harmed by a degraded environment, including future generations, Friends of the Earth research has identified that people on low incomes, disabled people, and people of colour are disproportionately harmed by air pollution, climate extremes and a lack of access to nature. These people also tend to contribute least to these problems, making this an environmental injustice.

Improving the environment benefits both people and nature. Research shows it is also beneficial for jobs and the economy, with the Climate Change Committee stating that every pound spent brings benefits worth 2.2–4.1 times as much. Those calling for green policies to be delayed or abandoned are not serving the public good.

What Councillors Can Do

The information in this briefing will help you stand-up and speak out for action on climate, nature and equality because of the benefits that action will deliver for your constituents.

Speaking out for action on climate change, energy, nature and pollution is important at a time when powerful vested interests, some politicians and the media are seeking to delay or abandon action. Data in the other Ward reports in your area will also enable you to highlight how councillors speaking out against climate action are not serving their constituents well.

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- Friends of the Earth's policy website, with articles spanning all the issues listed here and more: <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/>

Methodology

Current and future flood risk

Published data on [properties at risk of flooding from rivers and seas](#) was used alongside [risk of flooding from surface water extent maps](#) and property location coordinates, to identify all properties at risk of flooding from either rivers or seas, or from surface water. The data were then aggregated at postcode level to calculate the proportion of properties at risk. This proportion was then used to estimate the population at risk (assuming population is distributed evenly across properties within a postcode) and to estimate the number of residential properties at risk from the ratio of households to total properties.

These metrics were aggregated to Ward level to obtain, for both high and medium risk categories, the number and proportion of all properties, residential properties, and estimated population at risk. Medium risk today was treated as a proxy for future high risk under a climate change scenario, so high-risk statistics were labelled “current high risk” and medium-risk statistics “future high risk”.

For further information on the analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Heat risk (summer 2022 maximum air temperature)

Daily maximum [air temperature data by 1km grids from HadUK \(MetOffice\)](#) for heatwave periods in summer 2022 were aggregated from their original grid resolution to Ward level using an area-weighted approach. For each Ward we calculated the 3-day average maximum air temperature during the heatwaves, providing a simple indicator of recent extreme heat exposure. For more detailed information see [here](#).

Home energy performance (EPC bands)

[Domestic Energy Performance Certificate \(EPC\)](#) records were aggregated to Ward level using a postcode-to-Ward lookup. For each Ward we calculated the number and percentage of homes in EPC bands D to G, providing an indicator of the prevalence of inefficient housing that is more vulnerable to high energy costs and in need of further insulation and other energy efficiency measures.

Air pollution

Modelled background air pollution data for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), published by [Defra at 1 km² resolution](#), were aggregated to Ward level using area weighting. For each Ward we retained mean and maximum concentrations for NO₂ and PM_{2.5} and compared these with the World Health Organization (WHO) 2021 air quality guidelines.

For details on this analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Tree canopy cover

Total summer tree canopy cover was calculated from two datasets published by Forest Research: [National Forest Inventory \(NFI\)](#) and the [Trees Outside Woodland \(TOW\) map](#). These were intersected with Ward boundaries to calculate the total woodland and tree canopy area (m²) in each Ward, and the percentage of the Ward's land area covered by trees.

Greenspace

[Defra's access-to-greenspace statistics](#), originally published at Output Area level, were reallocated to Wards using postcode-weighted OA-Ward lookup tables. For each Ward we estimated the number and percentage of households that meet the “within 15 minutes” walk of greenspace commitment.

Sewage overflows

[Storm sewage overflow statistics for 2025](#) were aggregated to Ward boundaries from their point coordinates. For each Ward, the number of overflow outfalls, the annual number of spills, and the total spill duration (hours) were calculated.

Councillor Briefing: Environmental Data for Ullesthorpe



"As a councillor for Ullesthorpe, you will know the area well, but we've brought together some environmental data that you may not be aware of. We hope you can use this information to improve the lives of residents in your ward."

Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth

55%

**of homes are poorly
insulated**

2.9%

**Summer tree canopy
cover
(Recommended
minimum = 20%)**

8.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

**Annual background
concentration of
PM_{2.5}
(WHO limit = 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)**

Climate Change and Energy

Burning fossil fuels has already led to the planet warming by almost 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is disrupting weather systems and causing more severe storms, droughts and floods.

Our continued high use of gas to produce electricity and to heat our homes and businesses is contributing to this, as well as leaving us all exposed to volatile energy prices. Friends of the Earth is calling for councils to support a faster roll-out of renewable energy and to help householders fit insulation. We are also calling on the government to introduce a social tariff for energy — that is, cheaper energy rates for those on the lowest incomes.

More oil and gas drilling won't reduce energy costs, because costs are set on the global market, but it will exacerbate climate change (for more detail see our [Misinformation briefings](#)).

In Ullesthorpe, 57 homes are already at high risk of flooding, according to Environment Agency data. In the future this could increase to 67. Climate change will also lead to more heatwaves. In the 2022 heatwaves, the temperature reached 38.9°C in Ullesthorpe. The government needs to do more to prepare the country for extreme weather events, including with more support for local authorities, so that those most at risk — such as older people during heatwaves or disabled people during flood events — can be properly protected.

Homes need not only to be better adapted for flooding and heatwaves but also better insulated to help keep down energy costs and reduce the number of people living in cold, damp homes.

In Ullesthorpe, there are 742 homes that are poorly insulated (below the EPC C level), making it 6 out of 19 in Harborough for the number of homes needing an upgrade. Better insulated homes not only cut energy bills but also reduce illness and make homes more comfortable.

Nature and Pollution

Air pollution has fallen over recent years, partly as a result of cleaner vehicles, such as electric buses, vans and cars, replacing petrol and diesel vehicles. But air pollution remains high across much of the country. Air pollution is particularly a concern for young people, as their lungs are developing, as well as for those with respiratory problems such as asthma or COPD. Up to 30,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution in the UK each year.

Ullesthorpe ranks 7 out of 19 in Harborough for pollution levels. The level of air pollution, based on government modelling, reaches $10.7 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for nitrogen dioxide in parts of the ward, compared to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended level of $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and $8.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for particulates, compared to the WHO level of $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Nature can help reduce air pollution, provide cooling during heatwaves and reduce flooding. Research also shows local green spaces are linked with better mental health. Tree cover in Ullesthorpe is 2.9%, against a recommended minimum of 20%. The proportion of people who are within a 15-minute walk of greenspace is 93% – the **government target** is that everybody should be within a 15-minute walk of greenspace.

Sewage pollution of rivers from sewage outfalls has rightly led to public outrage. In Ullesthorpe there are 2 sewage outfalls that spilled pollution into waterways 59 times and for 107.1 hours in 2025. Sewage pollution is a danger to water users but also harms the nature that residents of the ward enjoy.

Who is Harmed Most by Environmental Damage

While almost everyone is harmed by a degraded environment, including future generations, Friends of the Earth research has identified that people on low incomes, disabled people, and people of colour are disproportionately harmed by air pollution, climate extremes and a lack of access to nature. These people also tend to contribute least to these problems, making this an environmental injustice.

Improving the environment benefits both people and nature. Research shows it is also beneficial for jobs and the economy, with the Climate Change Committee stating that every pound spent brings benefits worth 2.2–4.1 times as much. Those calling for green policies to be delayed or abandoned are not serving the public good.

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Current and future flood risk

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Heat risk (summer 2022 maximum air temperature)

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Air pollution

Modelled background air pollution data for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), published by [Defra at 1 km² resolution](#), were aggregated to Ward level using area weighting. For each Ward we retained mean and maximum concentrations for NO₂ and PM_{2.5} and compared these with the World Health Organization (WHO) 2021 air quality guidelines.

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Tree canopy cover

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Greenspace

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Sewage overflows

[Storm sewage overflow statistics for 2025](#) were aggregated to Ward boundaries from their point coordinates. For each Ward, the number of overflow outfalls, the annual number of spills, and the total spill duration (hours) were calculated.