Renewable Energy Resource Assessment Report

North Somerset Council

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Quality information

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym/ Abbreviation	
AC	Alternating Current
AD	Anaerobic Digestion
AGL	Above Ground Level
AHL	Anchor Heat Load
ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
AONB	Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
B&NES	Bath and North East Somerset
BD	Biodegradable
BEIS	Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Department
BIR	Building Integrated Renewables
C&D	Construction and Demolition
C&I	Commercial and Industrial
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
CCC	Climate Change Committee
CCHP	Combined Cooling Heating and Power
CCS	Carbon Capture and Storage
CES	Climate Energy Strategy
CF	Capacity Factor
CGS	Clean Grown Strategy
CHP	Combined Heat and Power
CMZ	Constraint Management Zones
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
CS	Core Strategy
DC	Direct Current
DECC	Display Energy Certificates
DECC	Department for Energy and Climate Change
DEFRA	Department for Energy, Food and Rural Affairs
DFES	Distribution Future Energy Scenarios
DHN	District Heating Network
DHW	Domestic Hot Water
DNO	Distribution Network Operator
DPD	Development Planning Document
ECO	Energy Company Obligation
EfW	Energy from Waste
EPC	Energy Performance Certificate
ERF	Energy Recovery Facility
ESCO	Energy Service Company

EU	European Union
FES	Future Energy Scenarios
FiT	Feed-in-Tarif
GI	Green Infrastructure
GIS	Geographic Information System
GW	Gigawatts
HNDU	Heat Network Development Unit
HNIP	Heat Network Investment Project
HWRC	Household Waste Recycling Centres
IRZ	Impact Risk Zones
JWCS	Joint Waste Core Strategy
kW	Kilowatts
LA	Local Authority
LDP	Local Development Plan
LEAP	Local Area Energy Plan
LP	Local Plan
LSOA	Lower Super Output Area
LZC	Low & Zero Carbon
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MSOA	Middle Super Output Area
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
MW	Megawatts
MWe	Megawatts electrical
MWhe	Megawatt hours electrical
MWht	Megawatt Hours thermal
MWt	Megawatts thermal
NATS	National Air Traffic Service
NDF	National Development Framework
NECP	National Energy and Climate Plan
NIRAB	Nuclear Innovation and Research Advisory Board
NIRO	Nuclear Innovation and Research Office
NNR	National Nature Reserves
NO_x	Nitrogen Oxide
NP	Neighbourhood Plan
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPW	National Planning Policy for Waste
NSC	North Somerset Council
odt	Oven-Dry Tonnes
PD	Permitted Development

PM	Particulate Matter
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
PSP	Policies, Sites and Places
PV	Photovoltaic
REGO	Renewables Energy Guarantees Origin
REPD	Renewable Energy Planning Database
RERAS	Renewable Energy Resource Assessment Study
RES	Renewable Energy Strategy
RHI	Renewable Heat Incentive
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological Sites
RO	Renewables Obligation
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
SA	Search Area
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument
SDS	Spatial Development Strategy
SEG	Smart Export Guarantee
SH	Space Heating
SMR	Steam Methane Reforming
SPA	Special Protection Areas
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guide
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
UK	United Kingdom
UKAEA	UK Atomic Energy Authority
WDI	Waste Data Interrogator
WECA	West of England Combined Authority
WPD	Western Power Distribution

Report – Summary

Introduction

North Somerset Council working with its partners (Bath and North East Somerset Council, North Somerset Council and the West of England Combined Authority), have commissioned AECOM to undertake a Renewable Energy Resource Assessment Study (RERAS) to be used as an evidence base to inform their new Local Plans and a variety of future workstreams requiring the consideration of renewable energy resources. The study informs decisions on policies that support and facilitate the deployment of renewable and low and zero-carbon energy systems. The RERAS consists of a bottom-up assessment of the potential for the deployment of various renewable and low and zero carbon energy technologies at different scales and in different locations across North Somerset.

Why is this Renewable Energy Resource Assessment Study Important?

Climate Change[1]

Climate change is the variation of temperature and weather patterns over time. A significant change in temperature and weather patterns can lead to environmental changes that substantially impact the way we live. The current Global climate emergency relates to a sustained increase in average temperature, known as ‘global warming’.

The Earth’s average temperature has increased by approximately 1°C (1.8°F) in the last century. Although this seems like a small increase, this has had a significant impact on the warming of oceans, melting of polar ice and glaciers, rising sea levels and extreme weather events. Changes such as these could lead to shortages in access to fresh water, significant implications for the food chain, deaths from extreme weather conditions and extinction for many species as their habitats will be changing faster than they can adapt to.

Figure 1: Image of Sea Ice

How is the Earth’s Temperature Rising? [2]

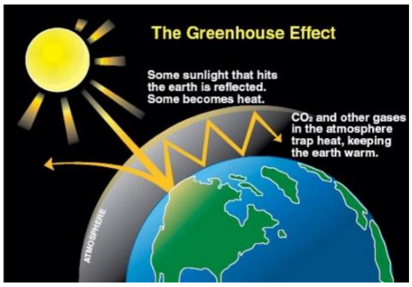


Figure 2: The Greenhouse Effect

The Earth is warmed by a natural process called the ‘greenhouse effect’. Radiation from the sun (known as solar radiation), reaches the Earth’s atmosphere and is absorbed by the oceans and land, warming the Earth. The Earth then radiates heat back towards space. Greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere (such as carbon dioxide and methane) prevent some of this heat from escaping into space, keeping the Earth warm. However, as we produce more greenhouse gasses, more heat is being trapped, increasing the Earth’s temperature, leading to global warming.

What are We Doing to Prevent This?

Addressing climate change is an issue that is now at the forefront of public and government consciousness and there are new, fast-changing policies emerging.

Climate change is not a new issue and has been a concern for many years. In 1998 the Kyoto Protocol was adopted, committing over 190 countries to limit and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. The Paris Agreement was adopted in 2016 with the global action plan to limit the effects of climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. In 2008, the UK Climate Change Act set a legally binding target to reduce the UK carbon emissions by 80% compared to the 1990 baseline by 2050. Following recommendations from the Climate Change Committee (CCC), this target was updated in 2019 to a reduction in carbon emissions by 100% compared to the

[1] Image from https://aecom.assetbank-server.com/assetbank-aecom/action/viewHome
[2] Image from https://www.eden.gov.uk/your-environment/zero-carbon-eden/climate-change/

1990 baseline by 2050, or in other words, ‘net zero’. Since then, other policies and strategies have been published to help achieve this net zero target.

The UK Renewable Energy Roadmap sets the path for the delivery of these targets. The first six-carbon budgets, leading to 2037, have been set in law. The first two budgets have been met (2008-12, 25% and 2013-2017, 31%) and the third is very likely to be met (2018-22, 37%). The remaining budget targets are as follows:

- Meeting the fourth carbon budget (2023-2027) will require that emissions be reduced by 50% on 1990 levels in 2025;
- Meeting the fifth carbon budget (2028-2032) will require that emissions be reduced by 57% on 1990 levels in 2030; and
- Meeting the sixth carbon budget (2033-2037) will require that emissions reduce by 78% on 1990 levels in 2035[3].

North Somerset’s Input into Reducing Carbon Emissions

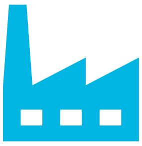
In early 2019, North Somerset Council declared a climate emergency. Subsequently, a Climate Emergency Strategy was developed in which the council pledges to aim to become carbon neutral by 2030. The strategy sets out seven key principles:

For North Somerset to become carbon neutral by 2030.

To provide an energy efficient built environment.

To increase the renewable energy generation within North Somerset.

To encourage repair, reuse, reduce and recycling.



To replenish its carbon stores.

To reduce the emissions from transport within North Somerset.

To ensure North Somerset is prepared to adapt to climate change.

This RERAS includes an assessment of the potential for renewable energy and generation across North Somerset, highlighting the extent of the changes required and informing considerations for future policies to ensure that the 2030 aims are achievable.

[3] The Sixth Carbon Budget limits the volume of greenhouse gases emitted over the 5 year period from 2033 to 2037, this includes a target for 2035.

Technologies

Defining the Units Used in this RERAS

ELECTRICITY/ HEAT OUTPUT

kilowatts (kW);

megawatts (MW), which is one thousand kW; or

gigawatts (GW), which is a thousand MW.

These are a measure of the electricity or heat output being generated (or used) at any given moment in time. When it is running at full load, the maximum output of a generator is referred to as its installed capacity or rated power/heat output.

Energy, on the other hand, is the product of power and time. It has kWh units (the h stands for “hour”) or MWh, or GWh.

ELECTRICITY/ HEAT OUTPUT

kilowatt hour (kWh);

megawatt hour (MWh), which is one thousand kWh; or

gigawatt hour (GWh), which is a thousand MW.

As an example, if a 2MW wind turbine ran at full power for 1 hour, it would have generated 2 x 1 = 2MWh of energy. If it ran at full power for one day (24 hours), it would have generated 2 x 24 = 48MWh.

This distinction is essential because in carrying out the RERAS, certain assumptions have been made to calculate both the potential installed capacity (or maximum power output) of different technologies and the potential annual energy output.

Electricity vs. Heat Output

It is essential to distinguish whether a generator is producing electricity or heat to avoid confusion. This is because some renewable energy fuels (i.e. biomass) can be used to produce either heat only or electricity and heat simultaneously when used in a CHP plant.

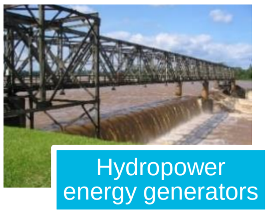
It is also important to be able to distinguish between renewable electricity targets and renewable heat targets.

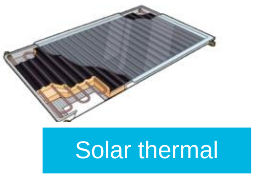
The suffix “e” is added to denote electricity power or energy output, e.g. MWe, or MWhe

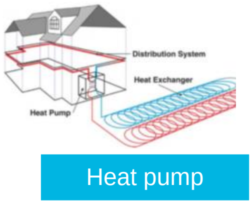
The suffix “t” is used (for “thermal”), to denote heat output, e.g. MWt, or MWht.

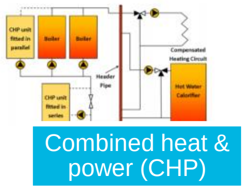
Technologies Addressed in this Study[4]

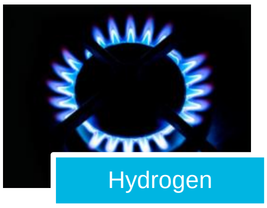
The following technologies are covered in this RERAS:











On-Shore Wind Turbines

On-shore wind power is a 'mature technology' that is being used for electricity generation worldwide. Most turbines are currently designed using a horizontal axis three-blade rotor system mounted on a steel mast. The blades drive a generator either directly or via a gearbox (generally for larger machines) to produce electricity. Turbines can produce electricity without operational carbon dioxide emissions.

Solar Photovoltaic

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) systems use solar cells to generate electricity directly from sunlight. The solar cells are normally packaged together into panels or other modular forms. The technology is technically well-proven with numerous systems installed around the world, ranging from small domestic systems (circa 3.5 kW) to large PV farms (several MWs). PV technology is common in the UK, and new technologies such as solar tiles, which can be integrated into new buildings or refurbishments alongside conventional roofing tiles, are becoming more widely available.

Figure 4: Ground Mounted Solar PV Array

[4] Wind Turbine, Solar PV, Hydropower and Energy from Waste Images from: https://aecom.assetbank-server.com/assetbank-aecom/action/viewHome
Solar thermal Image:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879765/Solar_Thermal_TIL_-_April_2020.pdf
Heat pump Image: https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/environment-and-waste/energy-services/electrification-heat/electrification-heat-heat-pump
Combined heat & power Image:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/961492/Part_2_CHP_Technologies_BEIS_v03.pdf
Hydrogen Image:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/845658/energy-innovation-needs-assessment-hydrogen-fuel-cells.pdf

Hydropower Energy Generators

Figure 5: Hydropower Energy Generation

Hydropower is the energy derived from flowing water. This can be from rivers or man-made installations, where water flows from a high-level reservoir down through a tunnel and away from a dam. The water drives a turbine connected to an electrical generator, with the energy generated proportional to the volume of water and vertical drop or head.

Solar Thermal

Solar thermal systems use solar collectors, usually placed on the roof of a building, to preheat water for use in hot water applications in the building. A conventional boiler or immersion heater can be used to increase the temperature of the water, or to provide hot water when solar energy is unavailable

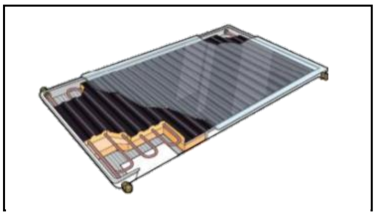
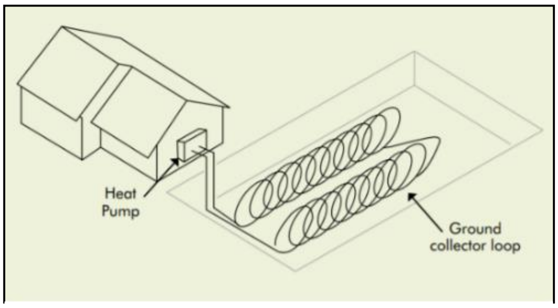


Figure 6: Diagram of a Solar Thermal Collector

Heat Pumps



Heat pump systems absorb the solar heat energy stored in the ground, water bodies, or air into a fluid at low temperature. The fluid is then passed through a compressor to increase its temperature to be used for heating purposes. Although the heat pumps extract renewable heat from the environment, they use electricity as fuel, which may or may not come from renewable sources. However, one of the significant advantages of heat pumps compared to other heat delivery systems is that the heat output is greater (typically 2 to 3 times) than the electricity input, which makes them an energy-efficient heating technology

Combined Heat and Power

A Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant is an installation where there is the simultaneous generation of usable heat and power. This improves the overall energy utilisation of a given fuel compared with the traditional stand-alone boilers. Fuel for the CHPs can come in various sources, including biomass[5], energy from waste (incineration), anaerobic digestion[6] and landfill gas[7].

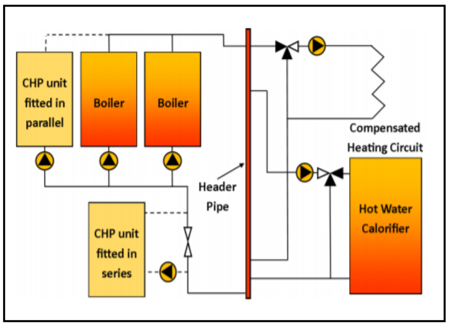
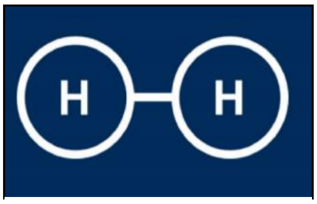


Figure 8: Diagram of a Combined Heat and Power System

[5] A broad term covering all organic material and can be generally defined as material of recent biological origin, derived from plant or animal matter.
[6] A process which produces a biogas with a high methane content which can be captured and burned to produce heat and/or electricity and utilisation as a transport fuel.
[7] Landfill gas is a natural by product of the decomposition of organic material in landfills. This gas can be collected and used as an energy source, usually for electricity generation.

Energy Storage – Hydrogen



Hydrogen is not a renewable energy source but rather an energy carrier for which renewable energy sources can be used to produce. Hydrogen can be used as a heating fuel in homes or industry, in large scale power generation or as a fuel for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles especially for heavy-duty vehicles. There are three ways of producing hydrogen which are listed below; each production method has a descriptive colour.

Grey Hydrogen

Grey hydrogen is made using fossil fuels. This process emmits CO_2 into the atmosphere as they combust

Blue Hydrogen

Blue hydrogen is made using fossil fuels, but carbon capture technology is used to prevent the emission of the CO_2 produced

Green Hydrogen

Green hydrogen is the cleanest, producing zero carbon emissions. Green hydrogen is produced via electrolysis powered by renewable energy

Only the use of green hydrogen is considered in this RERAS

Methodology

This RERAS is compiled in alignment with government policy as set out in the Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Energy Capacity Methodology for the English Regions [8] in alignment with the National Planning Policy Framework. This RERAS is a ‘bottom up’ study, of the available resource for renewable energy generation within the North Somerset area, considering practical constraints. Using informed assumptions about the technologies likely to be employed for converting resources, energy generation figures have been produced for use in considering planning policies with a view to meeting North Somerset’s carbon neutral aims by 2030.

Assumptions and data used in carrying out this RERAS have been sought from established sources, and these are either referenced as footnotes to the text or appropriately appended. Where there are no established sources, assumptions have been made based on AECOM’S best estimate and through discussion with North Somerset Council and its partners.

Potential Installed Capacity

Maps have been produced to enable spatial identification and provide a visual representation of the potential renewable energy opportunities. These maps were produced using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) whereby overlaying multiple datasets enabled a reveal of opportunities through the removal of developmental primary constraint layers. The primary constraints data were overlaid in stages and are related to resource, technological characteristics and safety, protection of heritage and the environment, and other categories. The areas covered by these ‘primary’ constraints were then removed from further consideration.

On completion of the constraining exercise, the maximum theoretical installed capacity is established along with maximum renewable energy generation potential.

The decision was taken to consider ‘other’ constraints, and the impact they might have on the maximum potential generation, through the Local Plan process alongside issues relating to landscape sensitivity and grid capacity and other objectives. However, additional maps are presented in the RERAS to provide information about the locations of these ‘other’ constraints.

Projections about future energy generation potential to 2030 are also included in the report for technologies that do not lend themselves to spatial analysis but are more dependent upon statistics (e.g. municipal solid waste and food waste).

[8] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/226175/renewable_and_low_carbon_energy_capacity_methodology_jan2010.pdf

Maps showing the Search Areas (SAs) established for potential wind and solar PV farms after this constraining exercise are shown in and below. Higher resolution versions of these maps are contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

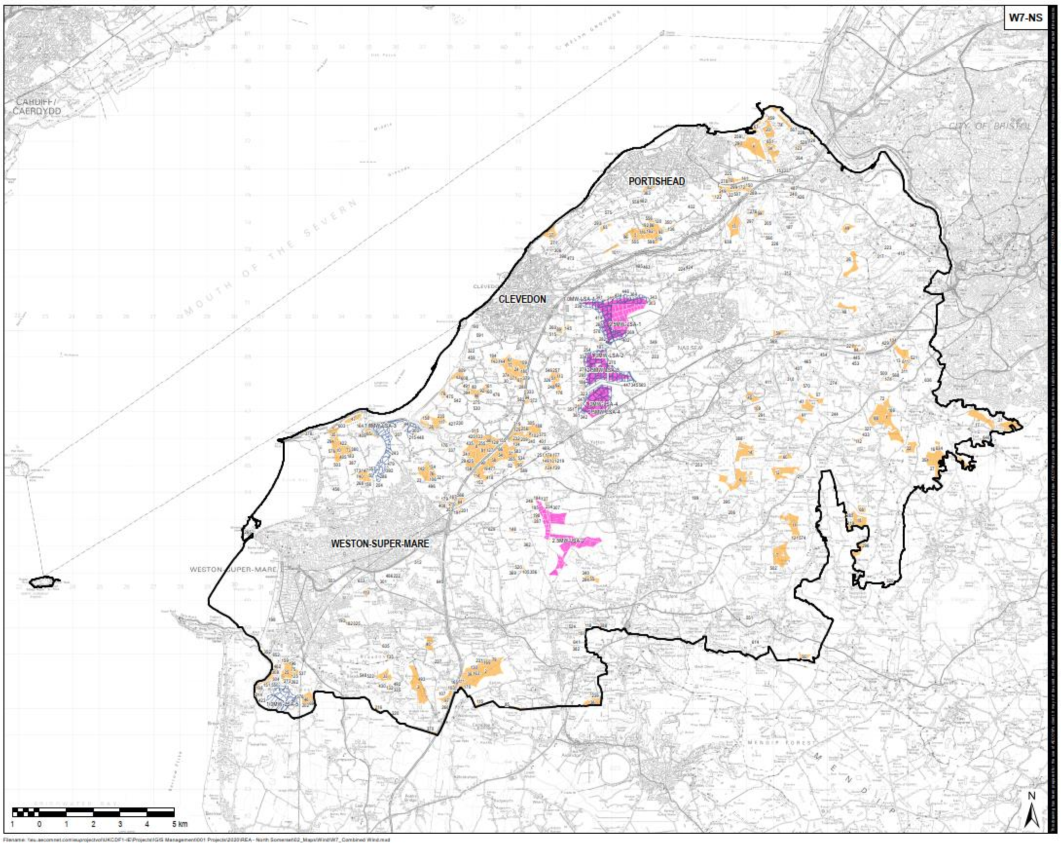


Figure 10: W7-NS: Combined Wind Search Areas in North Somerset Map

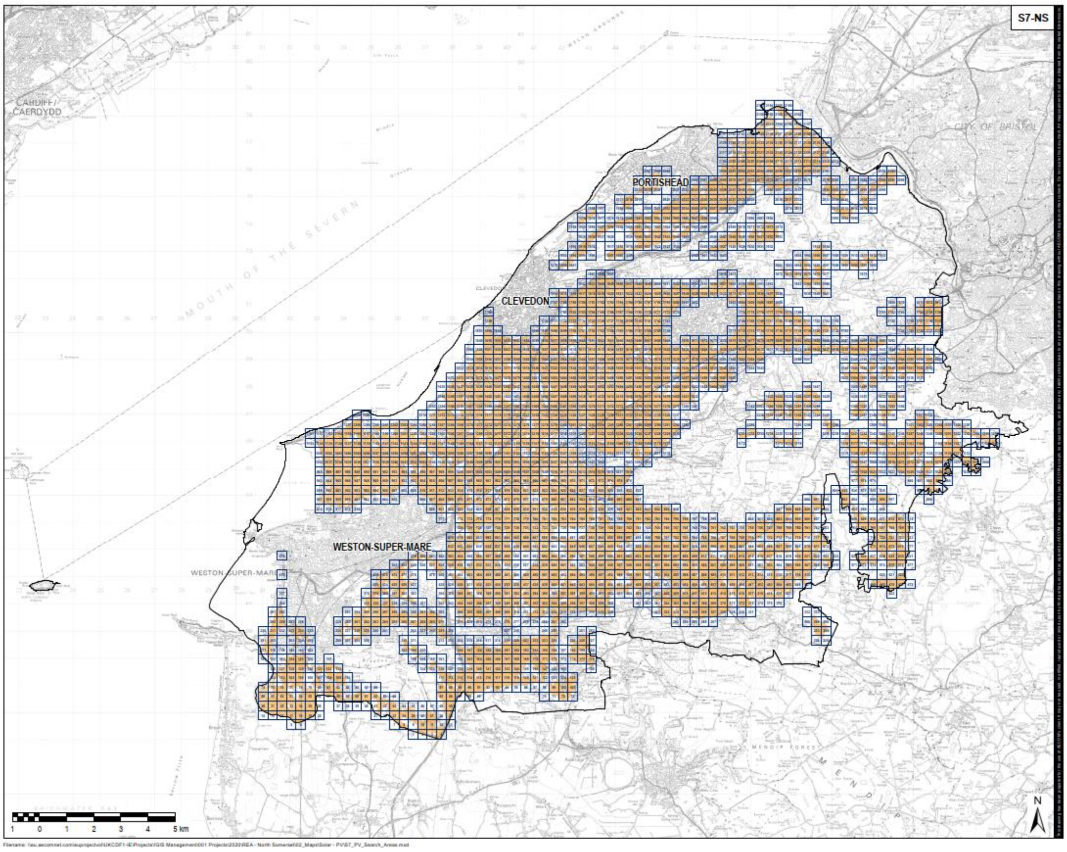


Figure 11: S7-NS: Combined Solar PV Search Areas in North Somerset Map

Future Consumption

In order to understand different scenarios for renewable energy generation going forward it has been necessary to understand the level of likely energy consumption in the future. It is projected that electricity will play a more significant role in heating our homes and other buildings as well as fuelling our transport.

Every year the National Grid Electricity Systems Operator (ESO) produce their Future Energy Scenarios (FES) these are an in-depth analysis of four future scenarios for the energy system. Each scenario considers the amount of energy that may be needed, and where it could come from. The 2020 FES have been updated to reflect the UK Government 2050-net zero targets. The four scenarios are described below:

1. Steady Progression

- Low levels of decarbonisation and societal change.
- Not compliant with the 2050 net zero emissions target.

2. System Transformation

- High level of decarbonisation with lower societal change. Larger, more centralised solutions are developed. This scenario has the highest levels of hydrogen deployment.

3. Consumer Transformation

- High levels of decarbonisation and societal change. Consumers adopt new technologies rapidly, and more decentralised solutions are developed. This scenario has significant electrification of domestic heat.

4. Leading the Way

- Very high levels of decarbonisation and societal change. Consumers adopt new technologies rapidly, and a mix of solutions are developed. This scenario aims for the “fastest credible” decarbonisation pathway

Western Power Distribution (WPD) has used the National Grid ESO FES as a framework to make projections concerning changes in demand, storage and distributed generation, including electrified transport and heat across the South West of England, these are the Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES).

Throughout this RERAS, the Consumer Transformation scenario is utilised. The Consumer Transformation scenario assumes that the net zero target is met with measures that have a greater impact on consumers and is driven through consumer engagement. This includes extensive changes to improve the energy efficiencies of homes as well as a higher level of renewable energy generation technology integrated into these homes (referred to in this report as ‘Building Integrated Renewables’).

As North Somerset aims to be net zero by 2030, 20 years earlier than the UK target, the decarbonisation projections of DFES have been updated to reflect this. An adjustment was made to bring forward the projected energy consumption and installed capacity of renewable technologies to 2030, as well as increase the projected use of electric vehicles, but not energy consumption of new development between 2030 and 2050. This is because FES housing and population projections are consistent across their scenarios up to 2050, and therefore, the population growth has not been accelerated from 2050 to 2030 in this RERAS.[9]

Baseline Consumption and Future Consumption

The current energy consumption within North Somerset is 4,960.5GWh and the projected future consumption in 2030 is 2,232GWh . The 2030 projected consumption is much lower than the current consumption mainly due to efficiency improvements of electric systems and energy-efficiency improvements to homes. A breakdown of the data is shown in Figure 12 below.

[9] FES assumes that the population of Great Britain reaches 68.6 million and that the number of homes grows to 31.9 million by 2050 in all of our scenarios. These compare to a population of 64.9 million and 28.3 million homes in 2019. https://www.nationalgrideso.com/document/173796/download

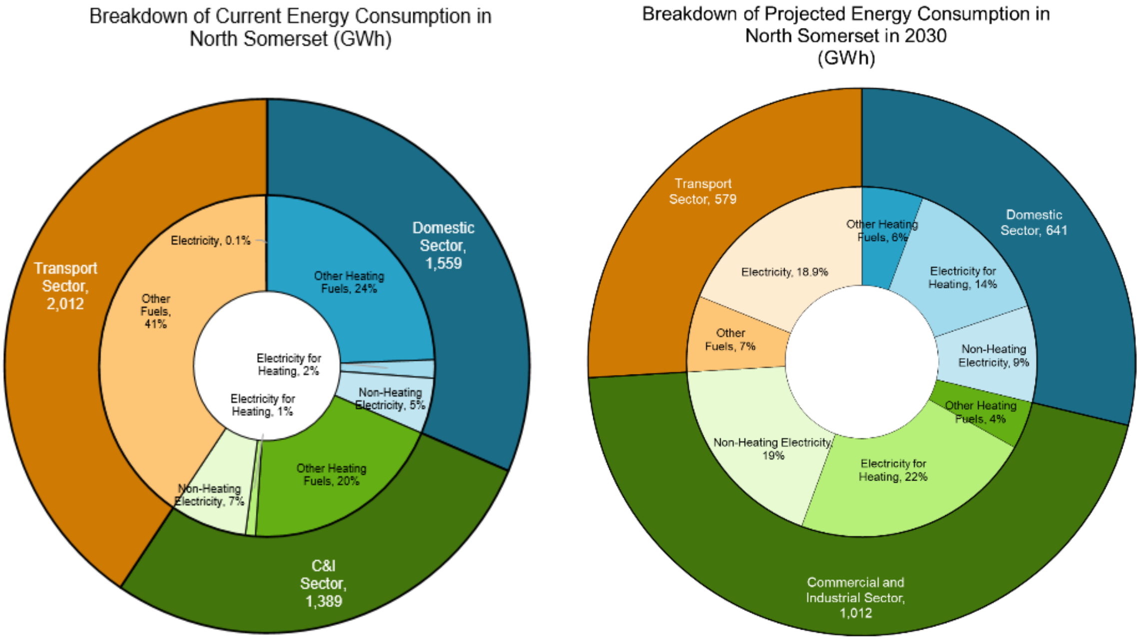


Figure 12: Breakdown of Current and Projected 2030 Energy Consumption in North Somerset

A more detailed breakdown of the current and future energy consumption can be seen in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Current and Projected Energy Consumption (GWh) in North Somerset

The installed capacity of existing renewable energy technologies has been broken down into solar PV,

Fuel Type	Use	Details	Current Energy Consumption (GWh)	2030 Energy Consumption (GWh)
Fossil Fuels and Renewables Other Than Electricity	Heating	Domestic Buildings Fossil Fuels and Renewables Energy Consumption for Heating	1,211.15	126.5
Electricity	Heating	Domestic Buildings Electricity Consumption for Heating	86.1	315.5
Electricity	Non-Heating Electricity in Buildings	Domestic Buildings Non-Heating Electricity Consumption	261.7	199.3
Fossil Fuels and Renewables Other Than Electricity	Heating	Commercial and Industrial Buildings Fossil Fuels and Renewables Energy Consumption for Heating	975.7	98.2
Electricity	Heating	Commercial and Industrial Buildings Electricity Consumption for Heating	48.2	501.1
Electricity	Non-Heating Electricity in Buildings	Commercial and Industrial Buildings Non-Heating Electricity Consumption	365.1	412.8
Fossil Fuels and Renewables Other Than Electricity	Transport Sector	Transport Sector Other Fuels Consumption	2,005.3	157.2
Electricity	Transport Sector	Transport Sector Electricity Consumption	6.9	421.4
Total Heat Demand (Including Electrical Heating Demand)			2,321.5	1,041.3
Total Electricity Consumption (Including Electrical Heating Consumption and Transport Sector Electricity Consumption)			768.1	1,850.2
Total Transport Sector Energy Consumption			2,012.2	578.6
Total Energy Consumption			**4,960.5**	**2,232.1**

onshore wind, hydropower, waste incineration, landfill gas and large-scale biomass for the electricity generators and waste incineration, domestic heat pumps, domestic biomass, domestic solar thermal and non-domestic renewable technologies for heat generators. The split can be seen in Figure 13 and Figure 14.

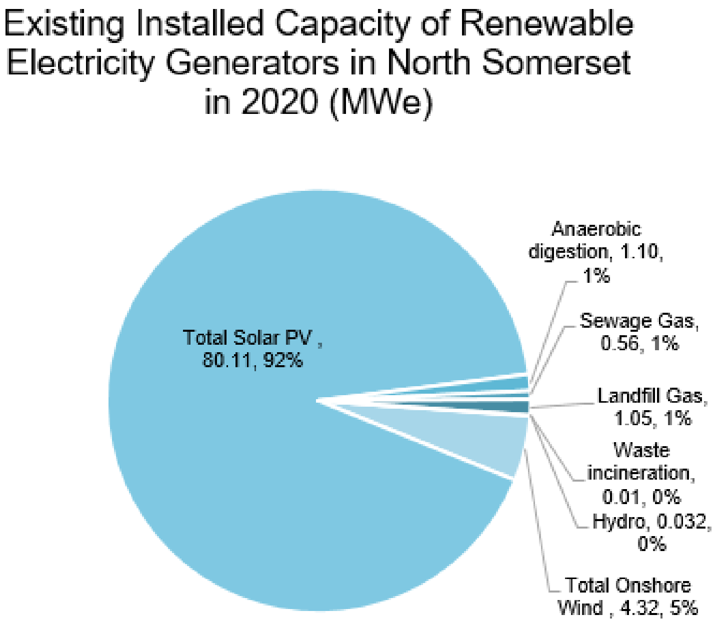


Figure 13: Existing Installed Capacity of Renewable Electricity Generators in North Somerset in 2020

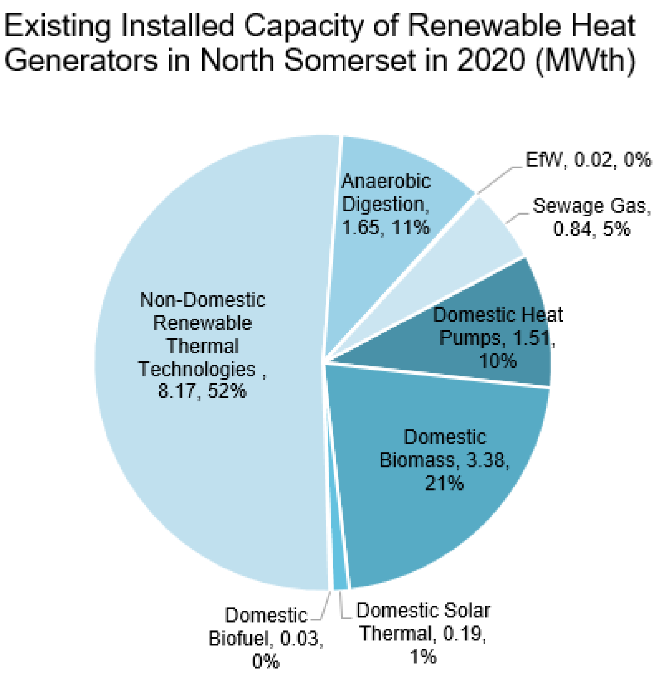


Figure 14: Existing Installed Capacity of Renewable Heat Generators in North Somerset in 2020

There is currently enough installed capacity for electricity generation to meet the equivalent of 12.4% of the local demand. A low proportion of the existing requirement for heat is currently met from renewables, covering the equivalent of 1.6% of the local demand.

Results[10] - Theoretical Maximum Available Resource

The figures and table below provide an overview of the potential additional capacity identified in North Somerset.

STAND-ALONE WIND FARMS

For 1MW wind turbines, there is a total theoretical potential installed capacity of 36.8MW equating to 80.1GWh of electricity generation.

For 2.5MW wind turbines there is a total theoretical potential installed capacity of 35.37MW equating to 77.0GWh of electricity generation (the suitable areas for 2.5MW Turbines overlap with the 1.0MW areas and cannot be added together).

652 additional small land parcels for 500kW turbines installations have been identified with a theoretical potential installed capacity of 326MW equating to 709.6GWh of electricity generation.

STAND-ALONE SOLAR PV

There is a total theoretical potential installed capacity of 5,940.4MW equating to 5,762GWh of electricity generation.

BIOMASS: ENERGY CROP

The total usable area of land for energy crops across North Somerset is 3.01km^2.

Based on combusting energy crops in combined heat and power engines and utilising the heat, there is a total theoretical potential installed capacity across North Somerset of 0.55MWe and 1.1MWt, which, for comparison, is equal to supplying energy to 48 typical primary schools annually.

[10] Wind Turbine, Solar PV, Biomass Energy Crops, Municipal Solid Waste, Animal Slurry, Hydropower Images from: https://aecom.assetbank-server.com/assetbank-aecom/action/viewHome
Wood Fuel: https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/documents/2046/Woodfuel_meets_the_challenge.pdf
C&I Waste: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/221036/pb13889-incineration-municipal-waste.pdf
Food Waste: https://www.northlincs.gov.uk/news/fight-climate-change-with-food-waste-action-week/
Poultry Litter: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/732227/code-of-practice-welfare-of-laying-hens-pullets.pdf

BIOMASS: WOOD FUEL

The total area of woodland within the National Forestry Inventory in North Somerset i.e., all woodland 0.5 hectares and over across North Somerset is 46.87km^2 which could result in a total wood fuel yield from management activities of 9,380odt per annum across North Somerset.

Utilising this fuel in biomass boilers would result in a maximum theoretical potential installed capacity from North Somerset of 14.2MWt, equivalent to supplying energy to 202 typical primary schools annually.

HYDROPOWER

Additionally, the potential for hydropower generation across North Somerset has been assessed. Since the majority of the potential hydropower sites are located within high sensitivity areas, it has been deemed that no further significant practical potential hydroelectric capacity is available in North Somerset.

Energy from Waste

See Table 2 below for a summary of EfW potential. It should be noted that, although there is potential generation from energy from waste, a majority of this resource is currently either transported outside of North Somerset or indications are that many of the economic opportunities are assumed to have already been exploited. There is enough to justify the use of animal slurry and poultry litter resource if the two were combined for further energy generation. However, the potential resource from the other energy from waste resource streams such as food waste, C&I waste etc. were assumed to be part of the existing energy generation in North Somerset or elsewhere.

Table 2: Summary of Energy from Waste in North Somerset

Photo	Resource[11]	Prior to Consideration of Likelihood of Utilisation for RE Generation: Technology	2030 MWe	2030 MWt	Reason for Adjustment / Change of Technology	Post Consideration of Likelihood of Utilisation for RE Generation 2030: Technology	MWe	MWt
	C&I Waste	EfW with CHP	2.81	5.61	Currently the residual waste that is sent for landfill or incineration is exported to facilities outside North Somerset. Therefore, counted as existing generation elsewhere.	None	-	-
	MSW	EfW with CHP	1.22	2.44	Currently waste is taken to facilities in Ashton Gate, Bristol where it is segregated into constituent materials and sent for onward processing. The unsuitable waste for EfW is landfilled in sites outside the authority area. Therefore, counted as generation elsewhere.	None	-	-
	Food Waste	AD with CHP	0.41	2.44	Currently processed at a plant in Weston-Super-Mare within North Somerset and is therefore already accounted for as existing generation within North Somerset.	None	-	-
	Animal Slurry	AD with CHP	0.30	0.45	Combined with Poultry Litter[12].	AD	0.48	0.81
	Poultry Litter	Bespoke plant with CHP[13]	0.18	0.36	Not likely to be enough resource for bespoke plant (resource is less than 10MWe). The resource is therefore combined with Animal slurry for AD with CHP and included in above.	None	-	-
	Sewage Sludge	AD with CHP	0.42	0.64	There is a 0.56MWe installed capacity, it is assumed that all economic opportunities have already been exploited.	None		
	Landfill Gas	Landfill gas recovery engine	There is a 1.05MWe installed capacity		The unsuitable waste for EfW is landfilled in sites outside the authority area. There is a 1.05MWe installed capacity for landfill gas, it is assumed that all economic opportunities have already been exploited[14].	None		
	Potential Installed Capacity		**5.35**	**11.95**			**0.48**	**0.81**

[11] A detailed analysis of each waste stream can be found in Appendix M.
[12] As shown in Table 8, there is 1.1MW installed capacity of AD in North Somerset. However, it has not been possible to verify if these installations are located in farms utilising animal slurry, poultry litter or other waste streams as fuel. Therefore, the resource has been retained in this table in the 'Post consideration of likelihood of utilisation for RE Generation 2030' column.
[13] In practice, a potential capacity of 10MWe or more is required to support a dedicated poultry litter power plant.
[14] The Council is currently moving towards a zero-landfill objective with an aim to divert all waste from landfill to energy recovery.
https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/bins-recycling/recycling-rubbish-collections/where-your-recycling-goes

Due to the intermittent generation of energy from renewable technologies, for example, solar panels generate a significantly higher amount of renewable energy during the summer months than winter, or wind turbines not generating electricity on a still day, it is essential that a mix of renewable technologies is employed to account for this variation.

The following tables outline the current and maximum theoretical potential generation in North Somerset.

Table 3: Current and Maximum Theoretical Stand-Alone Renewable Electric Generation in North Somerset

Resource	Existing Installed Capacity (MWe)	Maximum Installed Capacity from New Installations (MWe)	Potential Maximum Delivered Energy (GWhe)
Large Scale Wind[15]	4.32	379.40	835.17
Solar PV Farms	49.32	5,940.40	5,809.64
Hydropower	0.032	0.00	0.08
Total	**53.67**	**6,319.80**	**6,644.89**

Table 4: Current and Maximum Theoretical Potential Large Scale Renewable Heat Generation in North Somerset

Resource	Existing Installed Capacity		Maximum Installed Capacity from New Installations		Potential Maximum Delivered Energy	
	Electricity (MWe)	**Thermal (MWt)**	**Electricity (MWe)**	**Thermal (MWt)**	**Electricity (GWhe)**	**Thermal (GWht)**
Energy from Waste	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.05
Landfill Gas	1.05	-	-		4.26	-
Other (including food waste, animal slurry, poultry litter and sewage sludge. AD with CHP)	1.66	2.49	0.48	0.80	8.16	14.40
Total	**2.72**	**2.51**	**0.48**	**0.8**	**12.51**	**14.45**

Table 5: Current Projected Maximum Theoretical Potential from Building Integrated and Non-Domestic Renewable Technologies in North Somerset[16]

Resource	Existing Installed Capacity		Maximum Installed Capacity from New Installations		Potential Maximum Delivered Energy	
	Electricity (MWe)	**Thermal (MWt)**	**Electricity (MWe)**	**Thermal (MWt)**	**Electricity (GWhe)**	**Thermal (GWht)**
Projected Building Connected Wind (<6kW) Turbines	0.019	-	0.11	-	0.11	
Projected PV-Commercial Rooftop (10kW - 1MW)	10.87	-	38.05	-	42.85	
Projected PV-Domestic Rooftop (<10kW)	19.92	-	63.63	-	73.19	
Projected biomass consumption by building connected biomass boilers in 2030 (domestic)	-	-	-	-	-	5.46
Projected biofuel consumption by building connected biofuel boiler in 2030 (domestic)	-	-	-	-	-	35.01
Projected heat delivered by solar thermal in 2030 (domestic)	-	-	-	0.14	-	0.24
Non-domestic renewable thermal technologies other than heat pumps[17]	-	7.10	-	-	-	12.44
Total	**30.81**	**7.10**	**101.79**	**0.14**	**116.15**	**53.15**

[15] The potential from 1.0MW and 2.5MW Search Areas cannot be added together as the areas overlap. The maximum capacity in this Figure is taken from 1.0MW Search Areas plus and additional non-overlapping 2.5MW Search Areas.
[16] In this RERAS, 53.63GWht of biomass resource has been identified (see Section 8 of the main report) however, these figures only contain uptake based on the DFES and therefore these have not been included in the table.
[17] It has been assumed the majority of new renewable heat installations in non-domestic buildings will be of electric heating. High-grade heat requirements will be met by hydrogen in the C&I setting and therefore hydrogen electrolysis's portion of electricity demand is also calculated and included.

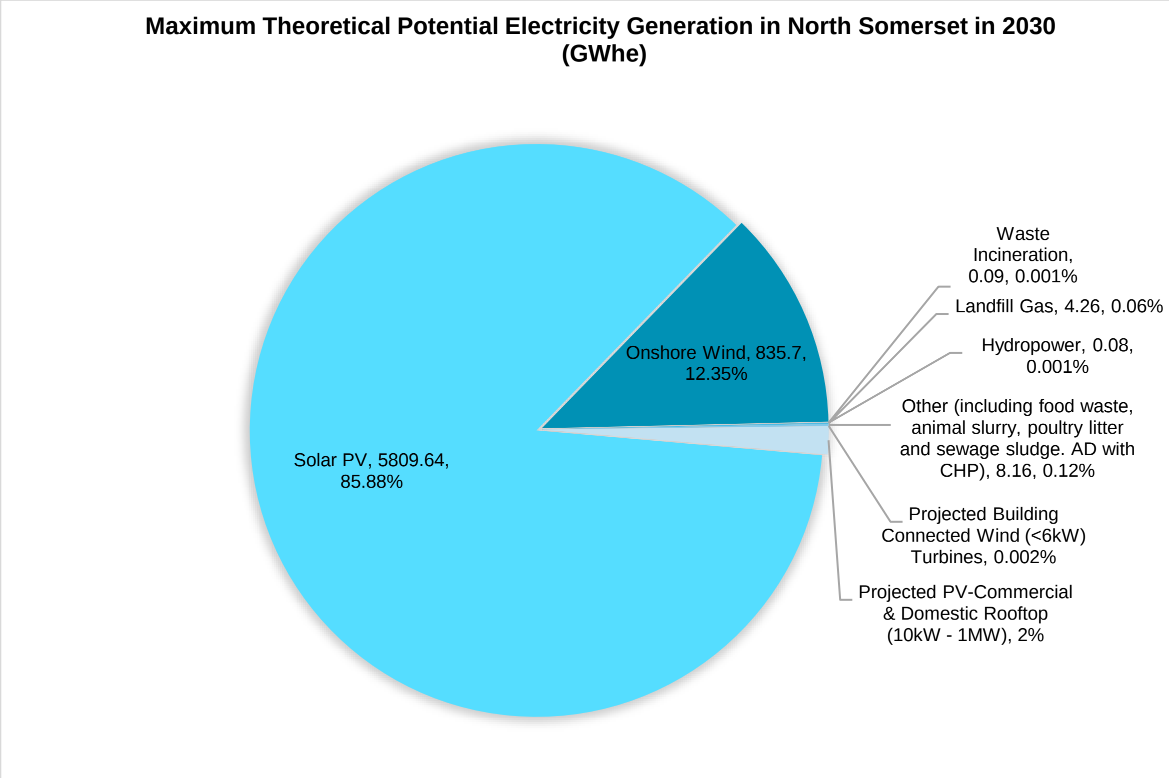


Figure 15: Maximum Theoretical Potential Electricity Generation in North Somerset in 2030

The maximum theoretical potential renewable electricity generation in North Somerset in 2030 is circa 6,774GWh, meaning there will be enough potential resource to meet the equivalent of 1,850GWh projected electricity demand in 2030.

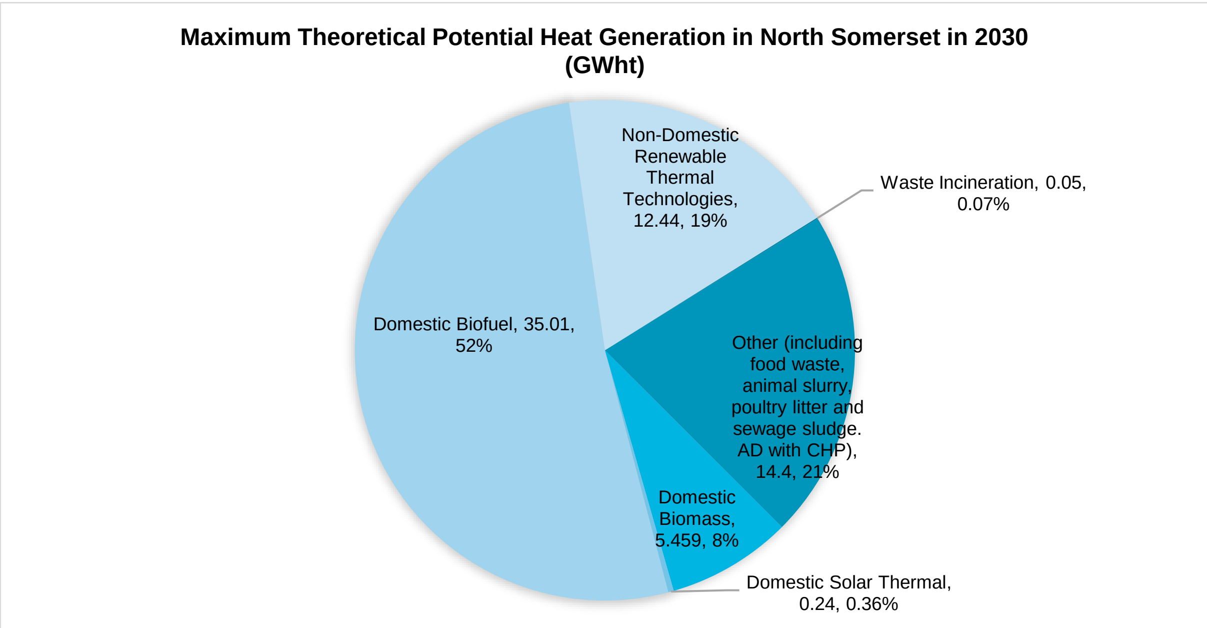
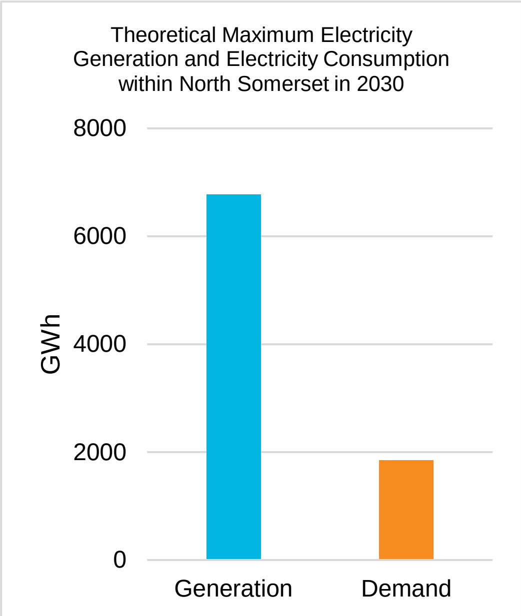


Figure 16: Maximum Theoretical Potential Heat Generation in North Somerset in 2030, Excluding Electric Heating[18] [19]

[18] Non-domestic renewable thermal technologies in this figure do not include heat pumps
[19] Building integrated renewable numbers (domestic biofuel, domestic biomass, domestic solar thermal and non-domestic renewable thermal technologies other than heat pumps) are based on the DFES projections and the remaining figures are based on the identifies potential resource in the North Somerset area.

The maximum theoretical potential from renewable heating technologies, however, is projected to be 67.6GWh in 2030. Therefore, it is concluded that there will only be enough resource to meet the equivalent of 30.0% of the projected 225GWh heat consumption by fuels other than electricity.



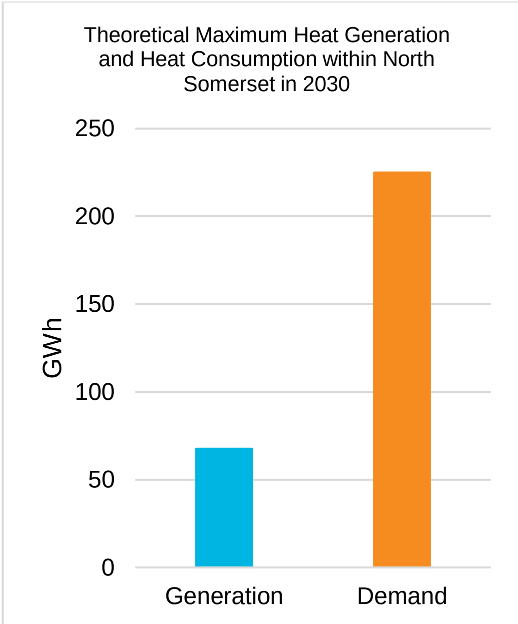


Figure 17: Theoretical Maximum Electricity and Heat Generation and Consumption within North Somerset in 2030

Scenarios for a Carbon Neutral North Somerset in 2030

When considering a carbon neutral North Somerset, it should be noted that all carbon neutral scenarios set out in this RERAS assume that buildings in North Somerset are predominantly heated using heat pumps and that most of the vehicles on the road are electrically driven. That said, there remain different scenarios for renewable energy generation that can be considered. To provide an illustration of the challenge we have produced the following three scenarios, but it is recommended that North Somerset Council aims to maximise the potential for the generation and supply of renewable and low and zero carbo electricity and heat in line with the NPPF.

1. Meet the DFES defined efficiency and renewable energy contribution only

In this scenario, it is assumed that the Consumer Transformation 2050 projections (see Appendix N) set out in the DFES for North Somerset are met in 2030. The energy generation produced by renewables is equivalent to North Somerset share of grid renewable electricity in 2050 to meet zero carbon. This scenario results in North Somerset greening its share of the grid electricity by 2030. Once other areas ‘catch-up’ in 2050 as per DFES, North Somerset’s electricity consumption will become net zero. This scenario includes the assumptions set out in the DFES Consumer Transformation scenario, including the number of heat pumps installed and changes to the heating systems, energy efficiency upgrades in buildings, installation of building integrated and standalone renewables (e.g. solar PV and wind farms) and the transformation of the transport systems (e.g. electric vehicles uptake). This scenario and the following two scenarios are likely to require policy interventions at the local and national levels.

This scenario means that North Somerset would only ‘green’ the proportion of the grid identified by the DFES.

2. Meet the equivalent of 33% of the demand in North Somerset by 2030 and set out a pathway and targets to ensure the equivalent of 100% of the demand is met by 2050.

This scenario acts as a steppingstone between scenarios 1 and 3 and assumes that 33% of the electricity demand in North Somerset in 2030 will be met by installing additional wind and solar developments in some of the Search Areas identified in this study. As there are certain assumptions outlined in the DFES (such as uptake of heat pumps and electric vehicles) that have been condensed to 2030 in this study, this option provides insurance in case these are not met as a higher proportion of the demand will be met by local renewables in comparison to the scenario one projection. Therefore, this scenario also includes the assumptions set out in the DFES Consumer Transformation scenario, including the number of heat pumps installed and changes to the heating systems, energy efficiency upgrades in buildings, installation of building integrated renewables and the transformation of the transport systems (e.g. electric vehicles uptake).

The renewable energy generation can then be assessed every 10 years, and the aim increased to ensure the equivalent of 66% of North Somerset’s demand can be met by 2040 and 100% by 2050. By 2030, this approach also meets the equivalent of the proportion of the grid identified in the DFES as North Somerset s contribution to UK zero carbon in 2050.

3. Meet the 2030 electricity consumption in North Somerset from generation located within North Somerset

This scenario assumes that the 2030 electricity demand in North Somerset will be met by installing additional wind and solar developments in some of the Search Areas identified in this study. The demand could be met through a varying combination of wind development and solar development, promoted through Local Plan policies and strategy. This scenario also includes the assumptions set out in the DFES Consumer Transformation scenario, including the number of heat pumps installed and changes to the heating systems, energy efficiency upgrades in buildings, installation of building integrated renewables and the transformation of the transport systems (e.g. electric vehicles uptake).

Heat Opportunity and Strategic Site Assessment

A District Heating Network (DHN) is the term given to a distribution system providing multiple individual buildings with heat generated from a single source. The plantroom is generally housed in a building known as an energy centre from which heat can be generated using a renewable or low carbon source such as recovered heat or utilising heat pumps.

Traditionally heat is typically generated at a building level, which means that only small-scale technologies can be used (most commonly gas boilers), limiting the use of other forms of low and zero-carbon heat generation technologies. Unlike the power sector, decarbonising heat at scale will require physical changes to the majority of the heating systems currently installed in buildings and industrial sites[20]. Additionally, sufficient heat demand should exist in close proximity to a heat source to make development viable, making the decarbonisation heating more challenging. A 'Heat Opportunities Map' has been produced, providing the locations of heat demand clusters and potential heat sources in the North Somerset area.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires planning authorities to identify a range of suitable housing and development sites within their area to meet the scale and type of development likely to be needed. The heat opportunities maps prepared in this study can assist North Somerset Council in sieving potential development sites, as well as developing policies to facilitate increased use of renewable and low carbon energy sources.

Figure 18 below shows the results of the heat mapping assessment in the North Somerset. The size of the circles on the map indicates the relative size of the heat demand of a building and allows for easily identifiable comparisons to be made between different heat demands. This methodology can also provide a high-level indication of the viability of connecting a heat load. If there are large gaps between circles, it suggests that connecting loads may not be viable. Conversely, if circles overlap, connecting them may be more viable. As shown in Figure 18, there are clusters formed in the more residential areas, which could be further investigated. In addition to this, five of these larger clusters have been circled in blue in Figure 18.

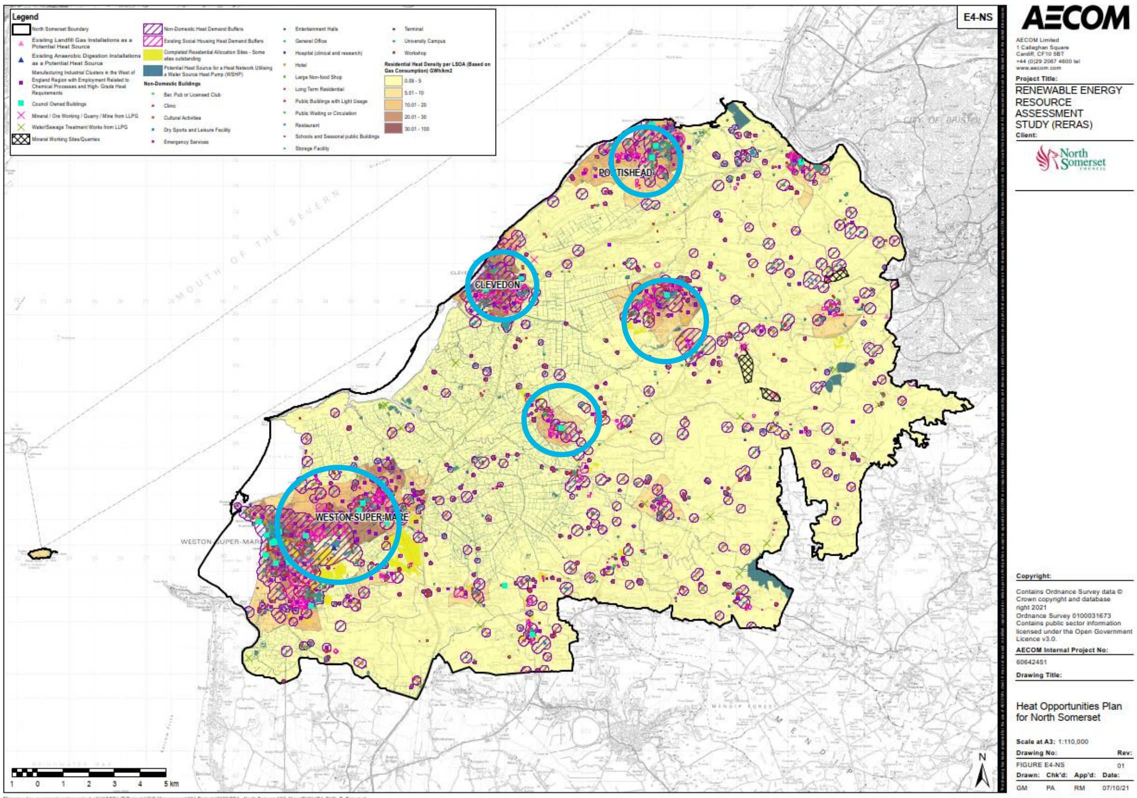


Figure 18: E4-NS: Heat Opportunities for North Somerset Map

[20] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766109/decarbonising-heating.pdf

Planning Policy Approaches

This RERAS provides the evidence to inform North Somerset Council's new Local Plan policies for renewable energy and associated infrastructure and contains recommendations regarding policy approaches with regard to:

- Net zero carbon scenarios;
- Search Areas for wind farms and solar PV farms;
- Increased energy storage;
- Encouraging the development of and connection to heat networks;
- Development of other renewable energy resources e.g. biomass, etc.

Based on the evidence gathered as part of the RERAS study, the key policy recommendations are as follows:

For net zero carbon scenarios:

- **SC-PR-1:** It is recommended the three NZC calculations are presented as scenarios, for information only.
- **SC-PR-2:** It is recommended that the Council aims to maximise the potential for the generation and supply of renewable and low and zero carbon electricity and heat.

For wind farms:

- **WF-PR-1:** It is recommended that the Search Areas (SAs) identified through the RERAS are further refined through the Local Plan process, taking account of other considerations and constraints;
- **WF-PR-2:** It is recommended that proposals for wind turbines of the appropriate number and size (to make the most efficient use of the resource/ land) will be encouraged and permitted when located within the areas identified for that use through the Local Plan;
- **WF-PR-3:** It is recommended that proposals for wind turbines >2.5MW within the areas identified in the Local Plan will be considered, subject to compliance with the primary constraints listed in Section 4.2.1 (e.g. noise, topple distances) and consideration of other site specific issues and constraints.
- **WF-PR-4:** It is recommended that proposals for wind turbines outside of areas identified as suitable for wind development through the Local Plan should be considered positively, providing it can demonstrate that proposals are compliant with relevant policy and site-specific issues and constraints can be mitigated to the satisfaction of the Council.
- **WF-PR-5:** It is recommended that the SAs identified through the RERAS for 1MW & 2.5MW turbines are further refined and safeguarded through the Local Plan process.
- **WF-PR-6:** It is recommended that policy measures (e.g. safeguarding) are put in place to ensure that the areas identified for wind development through the Local Plan are not sterilised by non-wind development.
- **WF-PR-7:** It is recommended that proposals for wind development within areas identified through the Local Plan for 1MW and 2.5MW turbines maximise the potential resource. Where this is the case, applicants should provide evidence as to why this is not feasible or viable.
- **WF-PR-8:** It is recommended that proposals for re-powering of wind farms at end-of-life to an equal or increased capacity are encouraged and permitted, subject to compliance with the primary constraints listed in Section 4.2.1 (e.g. noise, topple distances), site specific constraints, and other policy considerations.

For solar PV farms:

- **SF-PR-1:** It is recommended that the SAs identified through the RERAS are further refined through the Local Plan process, taking account of other considerations and constraints. As part of this a strategy approach which takes account of clustering and the potential need to manage cumulative impact should be considered.

- **SF-PR-2:** It is recommended that proposals for solar PV farms within the areas identified for that use through the Local Plan be encouraged and permitted, subject to the mitigation of any site specific or other (not statutory) constraints.
- **SF-PR-3:** It is recommended that proposals for solar development outside of areas identified as suitable for that use through the Local Plan should be considered positively, providing it can demonstrate that proposals are compliant with relevant policy and site-specific issues and constraints can be mitigated to the satisfaction of the Council.
- **SF-PR-4:** It is recommended that proposals for re-powering of solar PV farms at end-of-life to an equal or increased capacity to be encouraged and permitted, subject to compliance with primary constraints, site specific constraints, and other policy considerations.

For energy storage:

- **ES-PR-1:** It is recommended that policy encourages applicants promoting schemes for renewable electricity generation of >1MW, regardless of technology, to consider including storage as part of their proposal. This could include some form of energy storage (green hydrogen production, seasonal or battery storage), private wire supply or evidence as to why this is not feasible or viable.
- **ES-PR-2:** It is recommended that applications for renewable electricity generation of >1MW, located within 1km of an industrial cluster identified as having potential for hydrogen production consider utilising outputs (via private wire) for such purposes.
- **ES-PR-3:** Building on ES-PR-2, it is recommended that applications for new industrial development that may have a use for green hydrogen should be guided towards locations near/in ‘hydrogen clusters’ wherever practical.
- **ES-PR-4:** It is recommended that applications for renewable electricity generation, or development that is energy intensive and likely to have a surplus of heat, within 1km of a site with potential for seasonal energy storage (e.g. abandoned mine workings) should consider utilising such a facility.

For district heating networks:

- **DH-PR-1:** It is recommended that development proposals for dwellings, employment or depots for hosting transport fleets located within 0.5km of an existing renewable heat resources or renewable electricity generating installations should consider utilising such resources for heating, hot water and/or process use transport fuel.
- **DH-PR-2:** Proposals for development that will host energy intensive activities and are likely to generate excess heat (or power) are expected to:
    a. Potential to be located within 0.5km of a heat demand cluster identified in the Heat Opportunities Map or other identified heat use;
    b. Enable heat (power) off-take for supply for other / nearby uses and provide evidence of discussions with potential 0ff-takers for the heat (or power).
- **DH-PR-3:** It is recommended that development proposals within 0.5km of an existing district heat network fed from a renewable (non-fossil fuel) source will be expected to connect where feasible and viable.
- **DH-PR-4:** It is recommended that areas identified through the Local Plan (for wind farms and solar PV farms) are within 0.5km of an identified heat cluster, consideration is given for safeguarding these sites in order to provide electricity for powering heat pumps as part of a private wire / district heat network.

For biomass:

- **BM-PR-1:** It is recommended that proposals utilising biomass are looked upon favourably where:
    a. a whole life carbon benefit can be evidenced;
    b. the development should be located away from urban areas (and preferably in areas off the gas grid).

- **BM-PR-2:** It is recommended that proposals for stand-alone electricity generation plants utilising biomass should be required to utilise a BECCS system and a whole life carbon benefit can be evidenced.

These policy recommendations are explained in more detail in Section 17 of the long form RERAS report.

Renewable Energy Resource Assessment Study (RERAS) Main Report

1. Introduction

The UK Government is required to contribute to achieving international targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions. The Climate Change Act 2008 provides the statutory framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the UK[21]. At the core of the Act is a requirement for the UK to reduce net UK greenhouse gas emissions by 100% (net zero emissions) by 2050. The Act established a system of five-yearly carbon budgets to serve as stepping-stones on the way.

England originally had a carbon budget of 80% by 2050 against a 1990 baseline in legislation. However, to reach the net zero emissions target, in 2019, this figure was replaced with a target of 100% against a 1990 baseline.

As part of UN negotiations more than 190 countries, including the UK committed to the Paris Agreement to tackle climate change. The Agreement entered into force on 4th November 2016 and set out a global framework to limit the global average temperature increase due to global warming to well below 2°C and pursue efforts for 1.5°C.

The UK Renewable Energy Roadmap sets the path for the delivery of these targets. Beyond 2020, the first six carbon budgets, leading to 2037, have been set in law. The first two budgets have been met (2008-12, 25% and 2013-2017, 31%) and the third is very likely to be met (2018-22, 37%). The remaining budget targets are as follows:

- Meeting the fourth carbon budget (2023-2027) will require that emissions be reduced by 50% on 1990 levels in 2025;
- Meeting the fifth carbon budget (2028-2032) will require that emissions be reduced by 57% on 1990 levels in 2030; and
- Meeting the sixth carbon budget (2033-2037) will require that emissions reduce by 78% on 1990 levels in 2035.

The UK Government is committed to playing its part by delivering an energy programme that contributes to reducing carbon emissions as part of its approach to mitigating anthropogenic climate change whilst enhancing the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of our own and future generations. This is outlined in the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution[22] and the Energy White Paper[23].

1.1 North Somerset

North Somerset is a richly varied district in the South West of England. The area comprises of multiple suburban areas alongside large rural areas, including a Green Belt. North Somerset covers an area of 390.70km^2 and has a population of approximately 215,052 people, based on 2019 figures[24].
In early 2019, North Somerset Council declared a climate emergency. A Climate Emergency Strategy[25] was developed in which the council pledges to become carbon neutral by 2030. The strategy sets out seven key principles which outline how the council will address the causes and consequences of climate change:

- Become a net zero carbon council by 2030;
- Provide an energy efficient built environment;

[21] *Climate Change Act 2008, c.27*. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/introduction (Accessed: 24 September 2020).
[22] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/936567/10_POINT_PLAN_BOOKLET.pdf
[23] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/945899/201216_BEIS_EWP_Command_Paper_Accessible.pdf
[24] https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland
[25] North Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy, North Somerset Council; https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/North%20Somerset%20climate%20emergency%20strategy%202019.pdf

- Increase the renewable energy generation;
- Repair, reuse, reduce and recycle;
- Replenish its carbon stores;
- Reduce the emissions from transport; and
- Adapt to climate change.

In 2017, North Somerset adopted the Core Strategy[26]. The document details the polices in place to develop and optimise land, up to 2026, to help secure a sustainable future. The Core Strategy distils social, economic and environmental challenges into six key drivers of change which have been taken into account in the production of the RERAS study:

- Living within Environmental Limits;
- Delivering Strong and Inclusive Communities;
- Delivering a Prosperous Economy;
- Ensuring Safe and Healthy Communities;
- Area Policies; and
- Delivery.

1.2 Purpose of this Assessment

North Somerset has several key roles to play that can facilitate the use and generation of renewable and low and zero-carbon energy. These include:

- Preparing planning policies and allocating land or identifying areas of search to inform preparation of Local Plans (LPs);
- Development management – taking decisions on planning applications submitted to the Council for development;
- Corporate – taking action at a council-wide level to achieve a low carbon economy; and
- Leadership – taking forward wider community action and communicating the need to increase the uptake of renewable energy.

This Renewable Energy Resource Assessment Study (RERAS) constitutes an evidence base informing the LP. This enables decisions to be taken based on policies that support and facilitate the deployment of renewable and low and zero-carbon energy systems. The RERAS consists of a bottom-up assessment of the potential for different renewable and low and zero carbon energy generation scales in different locations.

In terms of development management, the RERAS will be useful in three ways.

- **Firstly**, when assessing applications for new development sites, it can aid officers in discussions with developers around opportunities for district heating and making use of waste heat.
- **Secondly**, when assessing applications for larger-scale new generation schemes, it can enable officers to identify whether there is the potential for those schemes to supply electricity or heat to new or existing development.
- **Thirdly**, in the case of wind and solar PV farm developments and other technologies, it can assist officers in understanding why a developer has chosen a particular location to develop a scheme.

[26]Core Strategy, North Somerset Council, April 2012; https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/core%20strategy.pdf

1.3 Method Employed in this Renewable Energy Resource Assessment

This RERAS is compiled in alignment with government policy as set out in the method set out in the SQW Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Energy Capacity Methodology for the English Regions[27] and in line with NPPF. Using educated assumptions about the technologies likely to be employed for converting resource, energy generation figures have been produced for use in considering planning policy with a view to meeting the council's 2030 aims. Also, where appropriate, methods have been used to meet National Planning Policy Framework requirements and to better reflect local data / circumstances.

Maps have been produced to enable spatial identification and provide a visual representation of the potential renewable energy opportunities. These maps were produced using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), where overlaying multiple datasets has enabled a reveal of opportunity by removing layers of primary constraints. The primary constraints data was overlaid in stages and relate to resource, technology, safety, protection of heritage and the environment, as well as other categories. The maps referred to in this RERAS can be located in the document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

1.4 Why this Renewable Energy Resource Assessment Study is Important

This RERAS will inform action to support the deployment and delivery of renewable and low and zero-carbon energy installations on the ground. This is expected to assist in meeting the two key challenges for UK energy policy, namely:

- Mitigating anthropogenic climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions, and;
- Improving energy security.

At a council strategic level, this RERAS provides an evidence base for the following policy[28] objectives:

- Identification and promotion of potential sites for renewable energy generation (not necessarily linked to new buildings);
- Development of area-wide renewable energy contributions (e.g. installed megawatt of heat and electricity generation) as a stimulus for concerted local action;
- Informing the selection of land for development (allocation of sites), by identifying those sites with the greatest potential for sustainable energy and carbon reduction or sites that potentially could preclude renewable energy developments (e.g. by sterilising good wind power sites);
- Identification of opportunities for delivering strategic energy options that could link to an offset fund (i.e. some Councils, where land values may be less, view this as an opportunity to make sites more attractive to developers by making them "low and/or zero carbon-enabled", rather than seeking to increase development burden by setting sustainability standards above future Building Regulations.);
- To enable North Somerset Council's exploration of requiring developers to connect to an existing or proposed district heating network (e.g. how much could they charge, how close would a development need to be and so on).

This RERAS delineates North Somerset's evidence base to inform the Council's approach to securing renewable energy developments. Suggestions for new policy items have been provided for North Somerset to consider.

This RERAS presents information that is potentially useful to developers and wider stakeholders alike in facilitating partnerships and taking forward delivery of the opportunities identified for North Somerset.

[27] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/226175/renewable_and_low_carbon_energy_capacity_methodology_jan2010.pdf
[28] Meant in the broad sense, i.e. not just planning policy

1.4.1 Wider Corporate Role

The NPPF requires all planning authorities including North Somerset to take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change. This RERAS enables North Somerset to identify specific opportunities to facilitate renewable and low and zero-carbon energy generation.

The opportunities identified can form the basis of more detailed implementation plans, feasibility studies and practical action to contribute towards a broader range of objectives. For instance, the opportunities may contribute to delivering local economic benefits either in terms of locally grown fuel supplies or by enabling a proportion of expenditure on energy to be retained within the local economy, from local generation, rather than going out to external energy companies.

1.5 Scope of this Renewable Energy Assessment

1.5.1 Planning

The RERAS focuses on planning policy though there are associated implications for development management. This assessment has been developed primarily for North Somerset Council, as an evidence base to inform renewable and low and zero-carbon energy contributions and policies in the Local Plan.

This RERAS, and the targets and policies that it informs, will feed-in to procedures for use by development management officers to assess planning applications for stand-alone renewable energy generating systems.

1.6 Technology

This assessment is not an exhaustive guide to the different renewable and low and zero-carbon energy technologies available. The National Policy Statements[29] provide generic and technology-specific advice relevant to siting particular renewable and low and zero-carbon technologies that should be the first point of reference. Other technologies are listed by the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS - formerly the Department for Energy and Climate Change[30]) and the Energy Saving Trust[31].

1.6.1 Energy Hierarchy

The RERAS focuses on renewable and low and zero-carbon energy generation and the opportunities for promoting this through the LP, rather than on improving energy efficiency in new or existing buildings.

Where energy efficiency assumptions were required within the study, for instance in the calculation of the future renewable energy generation needed to meet future carbon reduction targets, these have been made in line with the Western Power Distribution's (WPD) Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES)[32] Consumer Transformation scenario. These assumptions include for the continual improvement of domestic energy efficiency. Readers are referred to other sources of information on energy efficiency in buildings[33].

1.6.2 Transport

The RERAS does not include an assessment of the potential for renewable or low carbon fuels for transport, except for a calculation of the current and future demand from electric vehicles, which is kept in alignment with the WPD DFES.

[29] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/consents-and-planning-applications-for-national-energy-infrastructure-projects
[30] DECC http://www.planningrenewables.org.uk/page/index.cfm
[31] Energy Saving Trust a: https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency
[32] WPD DFES 2020: https://www.regen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/WPD-DFES-2020-technology-summary-report-South-West.pdf
[33] E.g. from the Energy Saving Trust, as per the web-link given above.

1.6.3 Stand-Alone Electricity Generating Assets

The RERAS is concerned with identifying the potential for additional renewable electricity generation opportunities. Search Areas (SAs) are identified for larger wind and solar photovoltaic (PV) farms that should be investigated further and refined through the Local Plan process. This approach does not necessarily preclude proposals for smaller-scale wind and solar farms from coming forward outside of the areas identified through the Local Plan.

1.6.4 Soundness

While this RERAS is prepared in line with government policy as set out in the NPPF and supporting Planning Practice Guidance, there is no definitive advice for undertaking such studies. It is the responsibility of the Council to prepare 'sound' evidence to support the policies and approaches it takes through its Local Plan. The Council has appointed AECOM to assist in this evidence gathering, and the methodology employed in this study is based on the methodology published by DECC[34] and AECOM's experience of preparing similar studies for other authorities. Assumptions and data used in carrying out this RERAS have been sought from established sources, and these are either referenced as footnotes to the text or appropriately appended. Where there were no established sources, they have been derived based on available evidence and through dialogue with the Council.

In the future, guidance, assumptions and data sources may change, particularly as technology and the policy and regulatory framework evolves.

1.7 Defining Renewable Energy and Low and Zero Carbon Energy

1.7.1 Renewable Energy

Renewable energy can be described as:

"That which makes use of energy flows which are replenished at the same rate as they are used[35]"

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF[36]) defines renewable energy as follows:

"Renewable energy covers those energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment – from the wind, the fall of water, the movement of the oceans, from the sun and also from biomass and deep geothermal heat. Low carbon technologies are those that can help reduce emissions (compared to conventional use of fossil fuels)"

Another important characteristic of renewable energy, which will be explained in more detail below, is that unlike fossil fuels, it produces little or no net carbon dioxide[37] (CO_2); which is one of the main greenhouse gas emissions.

Most forms of renewable energy stem directly or indirectly from the sun. The direct ones include solar water heating and photovoltaic (PV) panels (electricity), and ground source heat pumps [38] that make use of solar energy stored in the ground. The primary indirect forms are:

[34] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/226175/renewable_and_low_carbon_energy_capacity_methodology_jan2010.pdf
[35] Sorensen, B. (1999) Renewable Energy (2nd Edition), Academic Press, ISBN 0126561524
[36] National Planning Policy Framework, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, July 2021; https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005759/NPPF_July_2021.pdf
[37] Burning biomass releases carbon dioxide (CO_2), a greenhouse gas. However, the plants that are the source of biomass for energy capture almost the same amount of CO_2 through photosynthesis while growing as is released when biomass is burned, which can make biomass a carbon-neutral energy source. 'Net' CO_2 is the difference between the amount of greenhouse gasses produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere during the process
[38] Strictly speaking, these technologies are only partially renewable, as they also make use of, most commonly, grid electricity to power a compressor. However, if they have a good efficiency, they can provide a form of heating, in the UK, that produces less carbon per unit of output than using a gas condensing boiler.
[39] If replanting occurs, the combustion of biomass fuel is acknowledged as carbon neutral, because although the combustion process releases CO_2, equal amounts of CO_2 were taken out of the atmosphere when the biomass was growing

- Wind power, as wind is caused by differential warming of the Earth's surface by the sun;
- Hydropower, as rainfall is driven by the sun causing evaporation from the oceans;
- Biomass energy (from burning organic matter), as all plants photosynthesise sunlight in order to fix carbon and grow.[39]

The other two forms of renewable energy are:

- Tidal power, which relies on the gravitational pull of both the sun and the moon;
- Geothermal energy, which taps into the heat generated in the Earth's core.

Of all these resources, perhaps the most complex and versatile is biomass energy because it can take so many forms. Biomass energy[40] can include:

- combustion of forestry residues;
- anaerobic digestion (AD) of higher moisture content wastes such as from animal manures and food wastes;
- combustion of straw and other agricultural residues and products;
- methane produced from the AD of biodegradable matter in landfill sites (i.e. landfill gas) and;
- energy generated from the biodegradable fraction of waste going into an Energy from Waste (EfW) plant.

In addition to the above, nuclear fusion can also be considered as clean energy since nuclear fusion reactors produce no high activity, long-lived nuclear waste. However, this technology is not yet commercially available; further details regarding nuclear fusion is provided in the next section.

Moreover, hydrogen is also considered in this RERAS but included under a separate subheading. This is because hydrogen is an energy carrier, and it can be produced using renewable electricity, which is called green hydrogen.

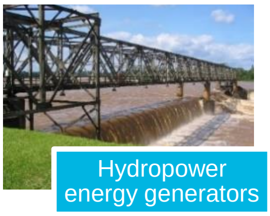
[40] Biomass is generally regarded as non-fossil fuel when at least 98% of the energy content is derived from plant or animal matter, or substances derived thereof.

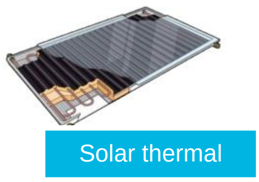
1.8 Renewable Technologies Addressed in this Renewable Energy Resource Assessment Study

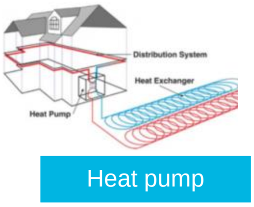
This RERAS covers the following renewable energy technologies (considering both electricity and heat)[41]:


On shore wind turbines

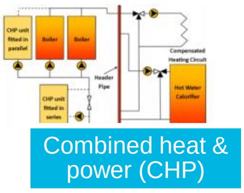

Solar PV

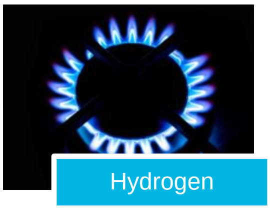

Hydropower energy generators


Solar thermal



Heat pump


Combined heat & power (CHP)


Hydrogen


Energy from Waste (EfW)

Sections 1.8.1 to 1.8.12 cover these technologies as well as nuclear fusion in greater detail.

Further details regarding marine renewables are provided in Section 1.8.7, however, they are excluded from this assessment as decisions about such development are outside the jurisdiction of the Council[42].

[41] On-shore wind turbines, Solar PV and Hydropower energy generation photos from: https://aecom.assetbank-server.com/assetbank-aecom/action/viewHome
Solar thermal photo: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879765/Solar_Thermal_TIL_-_April_2020.pdf
Heat pump photo: https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/environment-and-waste/energy-services/electrification-heat/electrification-heat-heat-pump
Combined heat & power photo: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/961492/Part_2_CHP_Technologies_BEIS_v03.pdf

[42] Decisions on marine or offshore energy is for the UK Government of Secretary of State

1.8.1 On-Shore Wind Turbines

Figure 19: Earthcott Wind Farm - Alveston

On-shore wind power is a 'mature technology' that is being used for electricity generation worldwide. Most turbines are currently designed using a horizontal axis three-blade rotor system mounted on a steel mast. The blades drive a generator either directly or via a gearbox (generally for larger machines) to produce electricity. Turbines can produce electricity without carbon dioxide emissions, ranging from watts to megawatt outputs.

There are various wind turbines on the market ranging from smaller turbines that can be attached directly to a building to larger stand-alone turbines. However, the performance of very small-scale wind turbines, i.e. building-connected turbines (<20 kW) are impacted disproportionately by turbulence and lower wind speeds from their positioning within their urban setting.

Small turbines (≤500kW) are most commonly deployed as single machines supplying specific buildings or developments and sometimes used in community energy projects. Large scale commercial turbines (>2.5MW) are more often used in groups as part of a wind farm development, as shown in Figure 19[43].

1.8.2 Solar Photovoltaic

Solar PV systems use solar cells to generate electricity directly from sunlight. The solar cells are normally packaged together into panels or other modular forms and the technology is technically well-proven with numerous systems installed around the world, ranging from small domestic systems (circa 3.5 kW) to large PV farms (several MWs), see Figure 20[44].

Figure 20: A Rooftop Solar Array

PV systems convert energy from the sun into direct current (DC) electricity using semi-conductor cells connected and mounted into modules. Modules are connected to an inverter that converts DC into alternating current (AC), enabling integration with the normal grid supply.

PV modules can be placed on a fixed stand/roof or equipped with tracking systems which allow the modules to follow the sun's course. This can potentially increase electricity production compared with modules at a fixed azimuth (a PV array's east to west orientation in degrees) and inclination but can be an expensive addition, usually reserved for larger-scale installations.

PV technology is common in the UK, and new technologies such as solar tiles, which can be integrated into new buildings or refurbishments alongside conventional roofing tiles, are becoming more widely available. If the output of a PV system exceeds the building demand at any time, the surplus electricity can then be exported to the grid.

[43] South Gloucestershire Council, Earthcott Wind Farm.
[44] AECOM Multi Media Library

1.8.3 Hydropower Energy Generators

Hydropower is the energy derived from flowing water. This can be from rivers or built installations, where water flows from a high-level reservoir down through a tunnel and away from a dam[45]. The water drives a turbine connected to an electrical generator, with the energy generated proportional to the volume of water and vertical drop or head. It should be noted that the only generation of electricity from inland (non-coastal) water courses are considered in this section.

The technology is well-established, and most large-scale resources are exploited in the UK. However, the potential exists for small scale 'run of river' schemes (where no water storage is required). These are relatively small systems, with some flexibility in siting along a length of river or stream.

"Run-of-river schemes use the natural flow of a river, where a weir can enhance the continuity of the flow. Both storage and run-of-river schemes can be diversion schemes, where water is channelled from a river, lake or dammed reservoir to a remote powerhouse containing the turbine and generator."[45]

Large hydropower generation schemes are usually connected to the electricity grid due to the larger loads and the absence of a demand in the immediate vicinity. However, small micro schemes could be linked to buildings and/or processes (signals/lights, etc.).

Figure 21 shows a run-of-river hydropower scheme.

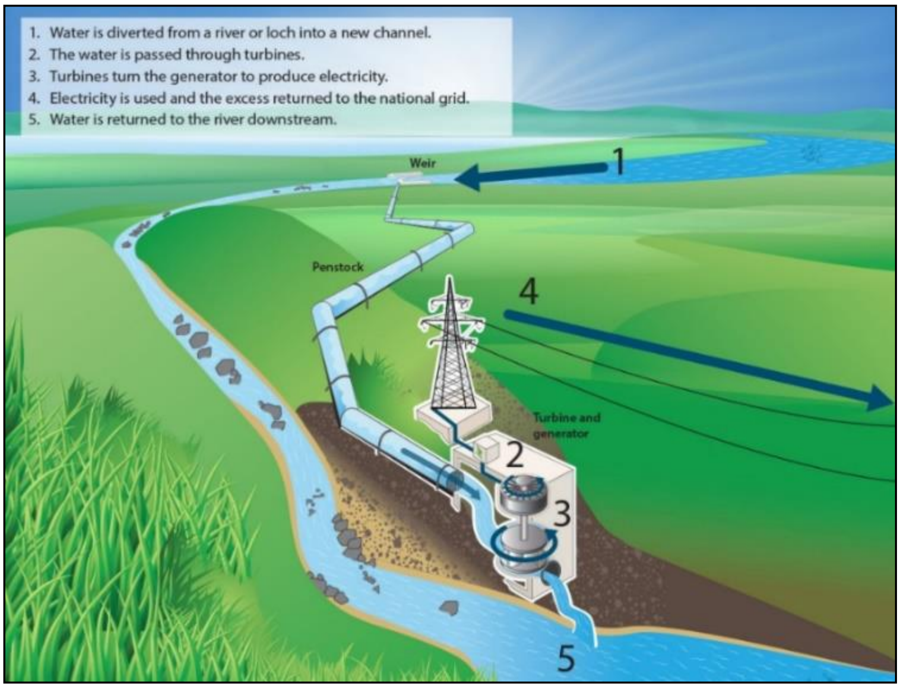


Figure 21: A Run-of-River Hydropower Scheme[46]

1.8.4 Solar Thermal

Solar thermal systems use solar collectors, usually placed on the roof of a building, to preheat water for use in hot water applications in the building. A conventional boiler or immersion heater can increase the temperature of the water or to provide hot water when solar energy is unavailable. Figure 22 below shows a summary of such a system.

[45] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/harnessing-hydroelectric-power
[46] https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/148411/run_of_river_hydropower_scheme.jpg

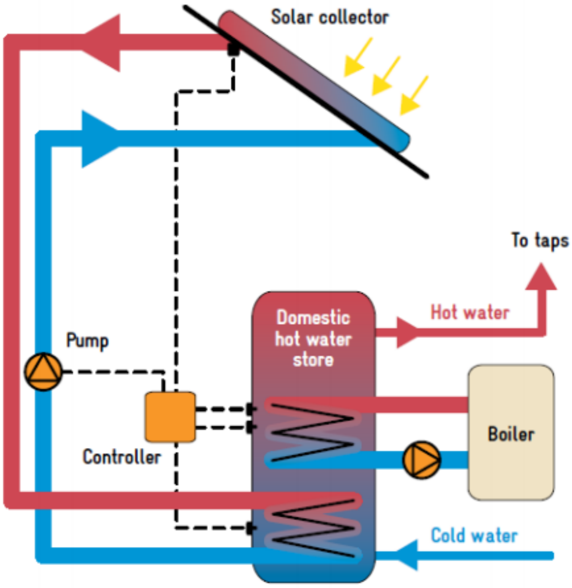


Figure 22: Systematic of a Solar Thermal System[47]

1.8.5 Heat Pumps

Heat pump systems absorb the solar heat energy stored in the ground, water bodies, or air into a fluid at low temperature. The fluid is then passed through a compressor to increase its temperature to be used for heating purposes (e.g. space or water heating in buildings)[48]. Larger heat pumps can also be incorporated in district heating schemes.

Although the heat pumps extract renewable heat from the environment, they use electricity as fuel, which may or may not come from renewable sources. However, one of the significant advantages of heat pumps compared to other heat delivery systems is that the heat output is greater (typically 2 to 3 times) than the electricity input, making them an energy-efficient heating method[49].

1.8.6 Combined Heat and Power

A combined heat and power engine (CHP) is a highly efficient process that captures and utilises the heat that is a by-product of the electricity generation process. By generating heat and power simultaneously, CHP can potentially produce less carbon emissions compared to the separate means of conventional generation via individual boilers in buildings coupled with electricity from centralised power stations[50]. The technology is well established, and there is a wealth of options for different fuel types, and system design. However, it should be noted that due to changing carbon factors, fossil fuelled systems on their own will increasingly struggle to achieve carbon savings over the plant lifecycle.

The economic viability of the system is generally achieved due to the difference in cost between grid electricity and the CHP fuel source, known as the 'spark spread', and the general principle that operating the CHP system for longer usually provides greater benefits because savings are typically achieved for each unit of electricity and useful heat which are generated. There can be a substantial greenhouse gas emission benefit due to the difference in emission factors for delivered energy and the improved energy utilisation. Energy export is also possible, depending on the site energy consumption profile.

[47] Solar Thermal Systems and Collectors, DBEIS; https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879765/Solar_Thermal_TIL_-_April_2020.pdf
[48] https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/advice/air-source-heat-pumps/#:~:text=Air%2Dto%2Dwater%20heat%20pumps,your%20wet%20central%20heating%20system.&text=They%20will%20not%20provide%20you,Heat%20Incentive%20(RHI)%20scheme.
[49] https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/advice/air-source-heat-pumps/
[50] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/combined-heat-and-power , DECC, June 2021

For the engine to operate safely, the heat it generates must be removed; a CHP system requires a suitable thermal energy demand to operate properly. The correct sizing of a CHP system is critical because an over-sized system may not be able to run for long hours if the thermal demand is insufficient, often leading to increased maintenance costs and engine failures.

CHP plants are available in various scales, from micro-CHP domestic applications to large industrial applications and CHP plant serving district heating schemes[51].

Descriptions of biomass, EfW, AD and land fill gas are provided in this section; however, it should be noted that utilisation of these renewable sources is not limited to CHP technology.

1.8.6.1 Biomass Combined Heat & Power and/or Biomass Boilers

Biomass is a broad term covering all organic material and can be generally defined as material of recent biological origin, derived from plant or animal matter. This could include materials from plants (for example, forestry residues, Miscanthus and short rotation coppice) and animals (for example, poultry litter)[52]. Whilst scientific debate continues on this subject, biomass is normally considered a carbon-neutral fuel, as the carbon dioxide emitted during burning has been (relatively) recently absorbed from the atmosphere by photosynthesis and no fossil fuel is involved. However, there are carbon emissions associated with the sourcing, processing and transportation of the biomass that should be accounted for.

This section mainly focuses on the type of ‘dry’ biomass that is more commonly combusted to generate heat or to produce electricity.

Biomass heating is an established and proven technology. The technology can be used to provide heat to buildings of all sizes, either through individual boilers or via district heating networks. Biomass can also be incorporated in a fuel electricity plant or CHP plant due to the low carbon emissions associated with its use[53].

Unlike solar and wind renewable energy sources, biomass fuel is not abundant and free. When comparing costs, wood chips and pellets are becoming progressively more competitive compared to increasing gas prices. However, biomass prices are known to fluctuate due to various market forces.

Building integrated woodchip-fuelled systems are typically fed automatically by screw-drives from fuel hoppers and incorporate automatic de-ashing. Systems are designed to burn without emitting smoke and must meet specific air quality emission limits to comply with the Clean Air Act[54’].

It should be noted that the current trend is to move away from centralised electricity plants that do not utilise any of the waste heat. Therefore, any new large plant is likely to be required to have higher thermal efficiency and linked in with some processes to use heat (e.g. steam, waste treatment, etc.).

Some of the potential issues of using biomass are as follows:

- Guarantee that there will be a sustainable and quality fuel source once a biomass plant is built;
- Assessing the conflict of land use and virgin feedstocks;
- The extensive time taken for plant stocks to grow;
- The carbon emissions released in the processing and transportation of the biomass fuels and the need for re-planting; and
- The health concerns relating to the emissions of burning biomass.

[51] https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/generating-your-own-energy-combined-heat-power.pdf
[52] https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/articles/aburningissuebiomassisthebiggestsourceofrenewableenergyconsumedintheuk/2019-08-30#:~:text=Embed%20this%20interactive%20Copy,material%20from%20plants%20or%20animals.
[53] https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/planning-implications-renewable-energy-development.pdf
[54] Clean Air Act 1993 - https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1993/11/contents

1.8.6.2 Health Concerns

If strict air quality requirements are not met, there can be concerns about the impact on human health from the resulting emissions. These emissions include particulate matter (PM) and gases such as carbon monoxide (CO), carbon dioxide (CO_2) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x).

Small PM, less than 10-micrometres in diameter, can lead to severe health problems as they can affect both the heart and the lungs. Biomass burning leads to emissions of PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$, putting the size of the PM released below the 10-micrometre diameter. NO_x emissions also impose health issues, including breathing problems, headaches and reduced lung function[55].

1.8.6.3 Future Direction of Biomass

As biomass is a finite supply, it is crucial to prioritise optimum use of biomass. The Climate Change Committee report 'Biomass in a Low-Carbon Economy'[56] states that harvested biomass should be used to sequester atmospheric carbon whilst simultaneously providing a useful energy service. This means that the use of biomass for heating buildings or using biomass for generating power without carbon capture and storage should be phased out.

These concerns make using biomass as a fuel a less appealing option and should only to be considered in a constrained manner due to the health risks and air quality reductions it imposes.

1.8.6.4 Incineration (Energy from Waste)

Incineration can be defined as the controlled thermal treatment of waste by burning. Energy recovered from waste through this method can be used in the following ways:

- Generation of Power (electricity);
- Generation of Heat;
- Generation of Heat and Power (this is referred to as CHP[57]).

However, EfW is almost always from a bespoke plant that produces both power and heat.

The system could generate heat from sources including waste wood, municipal waste and industrial and commercial waste. However, the selection of energy generation option is dictated by end-user requirements and their utilisation of the heat and/or power.

Option three above includes a CHP for simultaneous generation of heat and power. The power can be consumed on-site or exported and sold to the national grid. Local heat demand and a dedicated heat network is required for the generated heat unless all the available heat can be used in the generating facility.

Any new centralised electricity plant is likely to be required to have a higher thermal efficiency and linked in with some process to use heat (e.g. steam, waste treatment, etc).

[55] https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/reports/cat11/1708081027_170807_AQEG_Biomass_report.pdf
[56] Climate Change Committee, 'Biomass in a Low-Carbon Economy, 2018; https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Biomass-in-a-low-carbon-economy-CCC-2018.pdf
[57] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/221036/pb13889-incineration-municipal-waste.pdf

1.8.6.5 Anaerobic Digestion

Anaerobic Digestion (AD) can be defined as:

> *"a series of processes in which microorganisms break down biodegradable material in the absence of oxygen. It is used for industrial or domestic purposes to manage waste and/or to release energy. Much of the fermentation used industrially to produce food and drink products, as well as home fermentation, uses anaerobic digestion[58]"*

The AD process produces a gas (biogas) with a high methane content. This methane can be captured and burned to produce heat and/or electricity and utilised as a transport fuel. The material that is left after AD occurs is called "digestate", a nitrogen-rich mixture that can be used as fertiliser for crops. AD plants utilise heat for their own process (parasitic load); therefore, some of the biogas can be used on site to maintain the temperature of the digester.

Sewage sludge, farm slurry, and some Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) elements could be used as feedstock for an AD plant to generate gas and heat and electricity if CHP enabled.

AD can be incorporated in a farm-based integrated waste management system, but larger-scale centralised anaerobic digesters also exist, which use feedstocks imported from different sources. The larger schemes usually have a better return on investment and shorter payback times which justifies the initial capital cost required for the system. AD systems often require bulk inputs to be economically viable, but this can be challenging when sourcing material from dispersed (rural) locations. Once built, ADs are often linked to on-farm processes, energy supply, and the grid. Figure 23 shows an example of an AD plant configured to produce energy and bio-fertiliser from biowaste feedstock.

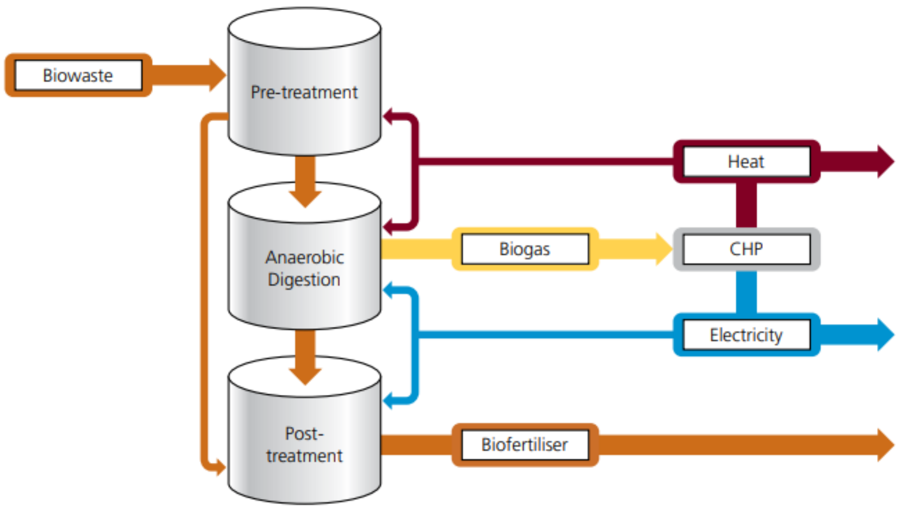


Figure 23: Example of an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) System from Feedstock to Final Use[59]

1.8.6.6 Landfill Gas

Landfill Gas is the methane-rich gas released from biodegradable waste as it decomposes. Landfill gas is captured through vertical pipes drilled into a capped site. Landfill gas can be used to generate electricity that can be exported to the electricity grid.

[58] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/284612/pb14130-energy-waste-201402.pdf
[59] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69400/anaerobic-digestion-strat-action-plan.pdf

1.8.7 Marine Renewable Technologies

There are many forms of marine energy generation, however the two forms of marine energy that are relevant to this study and mentioned in the South West Marine Plan[60] due to their significant resources are:

- Tidal Energy – Tidal energy uses the natural rise and fall of the sea tides and currents to generate energy. There are three main methods to get tidal energy. Tidal streams, where a turbine is situated in a tidal stream. Barrages, where water flows over the top of a barrage or through turbines within the barrage. Moreover, tidal lagoons, where a barrier partially encloses a body of ocean. The turbine rotates as the lagoon fills and drains.
- Offshore Wind Energy – Offshore wind energy is the installation of wind turbines offshore. Offshore wind energy provides the advantage over onshore wind energy due to the lack of obstacles resulting in reduced wind speed, this means that more of the wind can be harnessed. The CCC report states that offshore wind is now the fastest growing form of electricity generation in the UK[61].

The marine licensing system for tidal power in the United Kingdom is complex. In general, consent from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is required to construct, extend, or operate any offshore generating stations with a capacity between 1 and 100MW (Section 66 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009[62]; Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989[63]). Safety zone consents may also be required (Section 95 of the Energy Act 2004[64]).

Stations that would generate more than 100MW are classified as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) and require a Development Consent Order (DCO) granted by the Secretary of State. The local planning authority for each region permits onshore planning and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (DBEIS) regulates the decommissioning of projects under Energy Act 2004.

The development of hydrokinetic turbines for river arrays means that energy can now be generated relatively efficiently with minimal impacts to the shape and behaviour of river channels, opening up the possibility for more sustainable energy production in large rivers with active sediment transport. However, such installations are likely to be small-scale (5-50kW), non-economic when compared with other renewables and the calculation of theoretically installed capacity complex, hence the exclusion of projections within this RERAS. It should be noted that large scale marine renewable technologies (e.g. tidal stream devices, tidal range barriers and lagoons, and wave energy conversion devices) are excluded from this assessment as decisions about such development are outside of the Council's jurisdiction.

1.8.8 Low Carbon Energy Options

Low carbon energy options cover a range of energy sources that are not renewable but can still produce less carbon than using conventional electricity grid or gas networks. Therefore, they are considered an important part of decarbonising the energy supply. These options include the following, which are considered further in Section 1.8.8.1 to 1.8.8.2;

- Waste heat, e.g. from power stations or industrial processes;
- The non-biodegradable fraction of the output from EfW plants.

[60]https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/857299/DRAFT_SW_Marine_Plan.pdf

[61] https://d423d1558e1d71897434.b-cdn.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Reducing-UK-emissions-Progress-Report-to-Parliament-Committee-on-Cli..._-002-1.pdf

[62]https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/490998/Marine_and_Coastal_Access_Act_2009_-_Energy_Bill_2015-16_Keeling_Schedule_.pdf

[63]https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/490992/Electricity_Act_1989_-_Energy_Bill_2015-16_Keeling_Schedule_.pdf

[64]https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/490993/Energy_Act_2004_-_Energy_Bill_2015-16_Keeling_Schedule_.pdf

1.8.8.1 Waste Heat

Waste heat generally refers to the heat generated by an industrial process that would have otherwise been wasted if it was not recovered and reused. The heat can be reused in different ways, including usage on-site or by another end-user (e.g. through a heat network) or converting the waste heat to power[65]. Such heat can be considered a low carbon option as it offsets the need for additional heating fuel by the new end-user.

1.8.8.2 The Non-Biodegradable Fraction of the Output from Energy from Waste Plants.

Section 1.8.6 includes details of the EfW as a renewable technology. However, in the case where the waste being used as fuel includes materials that are not capable of being degraded by plants and animals, the fraction of heat output generated due to the incineration of these wastes is considered low carbon.

1.8.9 Hydrogen

Hydrogen is included under a separate subheading because it can be produced using renewable electricity or high temperature heat.

Hydrogen can be produced through several methods, but the main two options are explained in this section.

1. Steam Methane Reforming (SMR) – In this method, hydrogen is produced from a methane source, such as natural gas, via a high-temperature process. Hydrogen generated via this process is considered low carbon (not zero-carbon) only if a carbon dioxide capture and storage system (CCS) is utilised, this is known as 'blue hydrogen' [66].

> *"Carbon dioxide (CO_2) capture and storage (CCS) is a process consisting of the separation of CO_2 from industrial and energy-related sources, transport to a storage location and long-term isolation from the atmosphere"*

   The SMR method is a fully developed commercial process and currently it is the dominant technology used to produce hydrogen.

2. Electrolysis – Electrolysis is the process of using electricity to split water into hydrogen and oxygen. Renewable electricity can be used in an electrolysis plant to generate 'green hydrogen'.

The production and use of hydrogen is generally less efficient than electrification, but hydrogen is more readily storable than electricity at a very large scale. In relation to this, the Hydrogen in a Low Carbon Economy[67] report by the Climate Change Committee (CCC) states:

> *"…hydrogen has particular value as a low-carbon replacement for natural gas (and potentially oil) in applications where full electrification is very difficult, disruptive and/or expensive"*

Hydrogen can be utilised as:

- a heating fuel in homes or industry[68];
- large scale power generation [69];
- fuel for hydrogen fuel cell vehicles especially for heavy-duty vehicles (e.g. buses, trains and lorries).

[65] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/651125/IHRS_Consultation_Document-October_2017.pdf
[66] https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/03/srccs_wholereport-1.pdf
[67] https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Hydrogen-in-a-low-carbon-economy.pdf
[68] Modern day boilers can currently run well with up to a 20% hydrogen mix: https://www.cibsejournal.com/technical/fuel-for-thought-hydrogen-gas-boilers/
[69] Hydrogen can replace natural gas to have back-up role in the future electricity grid.

As the CCC report confirms, low or zero-carbon hydrogen can be a valuable complement to electrification in reducing energy use emissions.

The Regen Hydrogen Insight Paper[70] states that as the energy density by volume of hydrogen (3.3 kWh per cubic metre) is much lower compared to that of natural gas (11 kWh per cubic metre), hydrogen requires compressing to a much higher pressure and delivering at a higher flow rate, in order to deliver the same energy content. This creates complications in the transport and storage of hydrogen. Due to this, the initial market driver for hydrogen is towards production plants located within industrial and chemical process clusters and transport hubs with short or onsite distribution channels.

Although the cost of blue and green hydrogen is currently high compared to its competitors (natural gas and 'grey' hydrogen), the insight paper suggests that it is predicted that the price will reduce considerably over the coming decade due to the economies of scale and innovation.

When considering hydrogen-generating facilities within North Somerset, hydrogen transport and storage should be looked at in greater detail.

1.8.10 Nuclear Fusion

Nuclear fusion is the production of energy through two small atoms combining to form one, larger atom. During this process, mass is lost, and energy is gained. This energy is released in the form of a fast-moving particle called a neutron. The kinetic energy of the neutron is converted into heat. This heat is used to produce steam which is used to power turbines and alternators and, in turn, produce electricity, see Figure 24[71]. Fusion has a significant potential to be a long-term energy source that is environmentally responsible (with no carbon emissions). Traditional nuclear fission power plants have the disadvantage of generating unstable nuclei; some of these are radioactive for millions of years. nuclear fusion on the other hand does not create any long-lived radioactive nuclear waste.

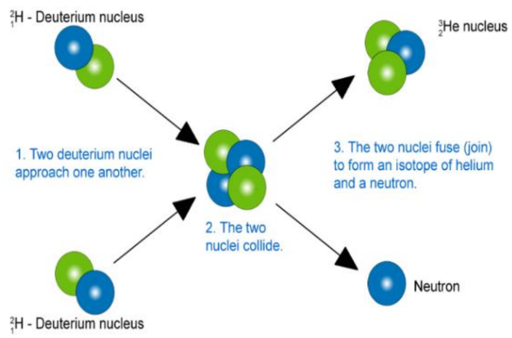


Figure 24: Nuclear Fusion Diagram[71]

Energy production by nuclear fusion is not yet commercially available, however, the UK Government's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution[72] outlines ambitions to be the first country in the world to commercialise fusion energy technology. The plan outlines the aim to build the world's first commercially viable fusion power plant in the UK by 2040.

[70] Building the Hydrogen Value Chain, Regen, 2021 (https://www.regen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Hydrogen-Insight-Paper-v4.pdf)
[71] http://resources.hwb.wales.gov.uk/VTC/2008-09/science/irf08_48/Images/Nuclear-fusion.jpg
[72] The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution, HM Government, November 2020; https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/936567/10_POINT_PLAN_BOOKLET.pdf

1.8.11 Power vs. Energy Output

In the context of this Renewable Energy Resource Assessment Study, power and heat are measured in either:

Kilowatts (kW);

Megawatts (MW), which is one thousand kW; or

Gigawatts (GW), which is a thousand MW.

These are a measure of the electricity or heat output being generated (or used) at any given moment in time. When it is running at full load, the maximum output of a generator is referred to as its installed capacity or rated power/heat output.

Energy, on the other hand, is the product of power and time. It has kWh units (the h stands for hour") or MWh, or GWh. As an example, if a 2MW wind turbine ran at full power for 1 hour, it would have generated 2 x 1 = 2MWh of energy. If it ran at full power for one day (24 hours), it would have generated 2 x 24 48MWh.

This distinction is essential because in carrying out the RERAS, certain assumptions have been made to calculate both the potential installed capacity (or maximum power output) of different technologies and the potential annual energy output.

1.8.12 Electricity vs. Heat Output

In terms of the units used, it is important to distinguish whether a generator is producing electricity or heat to avoid confusion. This is because some renewable energy fuels (i.e. biomass) can be used to produce either heat only or electricity and heat simultaneously when used in a CHP plant.

It is also important to be able to distinguish between renewable electricity targets and renewable heat targets

The suffix “e is added to denote electricity power or energy output, e.g. MWe, or MWhe,

The suffix “t” is used (for “thermal”), to denote heat output, e.g. MWt, or MWht

.

2. Policy Context and Drivers for Renewable Energy

Table 6 contains a summary of the key regulations, policies and strategies that drive and support the development of renewable energy and low carbon technologies internationally, nationally, and at a local level. Greater detail on each of the policies is included in Appendix A.

Table 6: Policy and Drivers Summary

International & National Policy, Strategy and Guidance	
The Kyoto Protocol (1998)	An international treaty with the collective goal of preventing dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.
The Paris Agreement (2016)	Over 190 countries adopted the global action plan to limit the effects of climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.
The UK Climate Change Act (2008)	A national legally binding target for the UK to reduce their emissions by 100%, compared with the 1990 baseline, by 2050. (This was increased from 80%).
National Planning Policy Framework (2021) (NPPF)	Overarching planning guidance in England, setting out the Government's planning policies and guidance on how these policies should be applied. The NPPF states that "*the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure".*
UK National Energy and Climate Plan (2019) (NECP)	The NECP is the framework by which European Union Member States* are required to set out their integrated climate and energy objectives, targets, policies and measures, covering the 5 dimensions of the Energy Union for the period 2021 to 2030. **Following the exit of the UK from the EU, the UK was subject to EU legislation during the Brexit transition and so the UK NECP was submitted shortly before the end of 2020*
UK Industrial Strategy (2017)	Strategy providing emphasis on the need for clean growth in order to boost economic prosperity within the UK. Some of the stated aims of the Industrial Strategy relevant to energy use in the built environment include increasing the delivery of new homes, decarbonising the heat supply, and lowering emissions from the transport sector. The strategy is now archived, and it is currently being replaced by Build Back Better: our plan for growth[73] policy.
England Resource and Waste Strategy (2018)	Strategy setting out how England will preserve material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy. Plans to encourage the reduction and increased management of waste through policies to support reuse, repair and remanufacture activities and by tackling waste crime.
Waste Management Plan for England (2021)	Strategy setting out the Government's ambition to work towards a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management.
National Planning Policy for Waste (2014)	Details the implementation of waste policies across England's local authorities through the demand, suitability and ability to monitor waste management facilities.
Clean Growth Strategy (2017)	A strategy that sets out the UK Government's ambitious policies and proposals, through to 2032 and beyond for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy.
25 Year Environmental Plan (2018)	A plan building on the proposals and policies outlined in the Clean Growth Strategy and aims to improve the environment within a generation and leaving it in a better state than we found it. It details how the government will work with communities and businesses to do this.
The UK Heat Strategy (2013)	Establishes a strategic framework for the transition to a low carbon heat supply.

[73] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/build-back-better-our-plan-for-growth

Building Regulations in England (Part L and Part F) (2021 *under consultation*)	Regulations setting the minimum standards for building performance that must be met for a building to be approved for construction. Part L of the Building Regulations focuses on the conservation of heat and power and sets specific requirements for the fabric performance, building services efficiency, overheating and CO_2 emissions and Part F contains guidance on the building ventilation.
Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution (2020)	Plan detailing how the UK intends to kick-start a green industrial revolution. Following the economic collapse induced by the coronavirus pandemic.
Offshore Wind Sector Deal (2020)	A deal that accentuates the partnership between the Government and the offshore wind sector, including the details of the investments into the sector, including the plans to provide funding to allow for 40GW (increased from the 30GW set out in the original deal).
Emerging National Policy	
Environmental Bill (2020)	The Environment Bill aims to manage the impact of human activity by creating a more sustainable and resilient economy, following on from the 25 Year Environment Plan.
Energy White Paper 'Powering our Net Zero Future' (2020)	Provides further clarity on the Ten Point Plan and highlights the long-term strategy for the wider energy system that transforms energy, supports green recovery and creates a fair deal for consumers, consistent with the target for net zero emissions by 2050.
Planning White Paper: 'Planning for the Future' (2021 *under consultation*)	A proposal aiming to reform the planning system in England, creating an efficient and modernised planning process that focuses on design and sustainability, improves developer contributions to infrastructure and ensures land is available for development.
Financial Incentive Schemes	
Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)	A Government environmental programme to support renewable heat delivered to homes or non-domestic buildings. RHI provides incentives for consumers to install renewable heating in place of fossil fuels, open to homeowners and landlords, commercial, industrial, public, not-for-profit and community generators of renewable heat.
Energy Company Obligation (ECO)	Under this scheme, energy companies are obligated to promote and support carbon emissions reductions to customers.
Smart Export Guarantee (SEG)	The scheme requires licensed electricity suppliers to offer at least one export tariff, which must always be above zero and makes payment to small-scale low-carbon generators for electricity exported to the National Grid.
Heat Networks Delivery Unit	Provides grant funding and guidance to local authorities in England and Wales for heat network feasibility studies.
Green Heat Network Fund (GHNF)	A Government funding programme which is intended to help new and existing heat networks to move to low and zero carbon technologies.
West of England Policy	
The West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy (2011)	Strategic spatial planning policy to provide waste management infrastructure across the plan area. The joint strategy covers four councils of Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, and it applies to all waste, except for most radioactive waste the policy for which is dealt with at a national level.
The West of England Local Industrial Strategy (2019)	Strategy conveying the importance of minimising the impact on the environment when implementing the region's four main priorities: cross-sectoral innovation; inclusive growth; addressing the productivity challenge; and delivering innovation in infrastructure delivery.
North Somerset Local Policy	
Core Strategy (2017)	Sets out the broad, long-term vision., objectives and strategic planning policies for North Somerset, up to 2026.
Site and Policies Plan – Development Management Policies (2016)	Forms part of the North Somerset Local Plan and brings forward the detailed development plan policies which complement the strategic context set out in the Core Strategy.

Supplementary Planning Guidance Solar Photovoltaic Arrays (2013) Wind Turbines (2014) Creating Sustainable Buildings and Places (2021)	Planning documents encouraging local community engagement with proposed renewables projects and provides guidance for community-led projects to help secure delivery of renewables targets and technologies in North Somerset.
Neighbourhood Plans	Plans prepared by local communities and not North Somerset Council. These are not listed as part of the Local Development Scheme, however, the policies contained in any Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the Local Plan once it has been formally adopted by North Somerset Council following an examination and a positive referendum. These plans are from: • Backwell • Long Ashton • Claverham • Yatton • Congresbury
Local Plan (2023-2038)	The new Local Plan will set out the overall development strategy for North Somerset over 2023-2038. This plan will fully supersede the current 3 documents, Core Strategy, Development Management Policies and Site Allocations Plan.

3. Baseline and Energy Consumption and Low and Zero Carbon Energy Technologies in North Somerset

3.1 Introduction

This section of the RERAS outlines the baseline energy consumption and existing Low and Zero Carbon (LZC) energy technologies in North Somerset, using the latest available data (2018 - published on September 2020). Establishing the baseline consumption and the existing LZC energy technologies provides an understanding of the progress being made in North Somerset and enables a calculation of what remains to be done in order to meet aims.

The indicative heat demand and electricity consumption maps were created based on the published data from the Office for National Statistics using Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOA). MSOA is a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the report of statistics in small areas in England and Wales. The Organisation Data Service publishes files created by the Office for National Statistics, linking the postcodes to the MSOA. These maps provide a visual representation of the varying heat and electricity consumption across North Somerset.

The existing LZC energy technologies map includes technologies generating electricity, heat and both electricity and heat simultaneously. The assessment includes ‘stand-alone’ generators (such as wind farms) as well as those installed in buildings (e.g. biomass boilers). Energy from Waste (EfW) schemes and biomass schemes have also been marked for their potential contribution to supply heat to strategic new development sites. The existing LZC energy technology maps show existing, consented and sites under construction. The information regarding these existing technologies has been provided by:

- Regen[74];
- Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) data;
- Feed-in Tariffs (FIT) data;
- Renewables Obligation database (RO);
- Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin database (REGO);
- Additional data provided by Regen on large renewable generators in North Somerset;
- Renewable Energy Planning Database (REPD); and
- Any additional wind turbines that are identified from the planning data.

3.2 Baseline Energy Consumption in North Somerset in the Baseline Year

Map References and Titles:

1. E1-NS: Indicative Heat Demand Based on Gas Consumption – Total Gas Consumption by MSOA in 2019 (MWh per Year)
2. E2-NS: Total Electricity Consumption by MSOA in 2019 (MWh per Year)

The Business Energy and Industrial Strategy Department of the UK Government (formerly the Department for Energy & Climate Change) publishes annual energy consumption (GWh) at a sub-national level. Regen has analysed the latest available data (2018)[75] and provided a breakdown of the current energy consumption in NS, illustrated in Table 7 .

[74] A non-profit organisation which promotes renewable energy and energy efficiency within the UK
[75] Sub-national total final energy consumption statistics - 2018 (published on September 2020); https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/total-final-energy-consumption-at-regional-and-local-authority-level-2005-to-2018

Table 7: Existing Energy Consumption (GWh) in North Somerset (2018) [76]

	Current Energy Consumption (GWh)
Domestic Buildings Fossil Fuels and Renewables Energy Consumption for Heating	1,211.5
Domestic Buildings Electricity Consumption for Heating	86.1
Domestic Buildings Non-Heating Electricity Consumption	261.7
Commercial and Industrial Buildings Fossil Fuels and Renewables Energy Consumption for Heating	975.7
Commercial and Industrial Buildings Electricity Consumption for Heating	48.2
Commercial and Industrial Buildings Non-Heating Electricity Consumption	365.1
Transport Sector Other Fuels Consumption	2,005.3
Transport Sector Electricity Consumption	6.9
Total Heat Demand (Including Electrical Heating Consumption)	2,321.5
Total Electricity Consumption (Including Electrical Heating Consumption and Transport Sector Electricity Consumption)	768.0
Total Transport Sector Energy Consumption	2,012.2
Total Energy Consumption	**4,960.5**

According to Table 7, North Somerset used 4,960.5GWh of energy over the course of 2018. Of this, domestic buildings' energy consumption accounts for 1,559.3GWh, C&I sector 1,389.0GWh and transport sector 2,012.2GWh of the total consumption.

Total electricity consumption across North Somerset was 768.0GWh in 2018, including 134.3GWh of electric heating and 6.9GWh for electric vehicles. The total figure is circa 0.3% of England's total reported electricity consumption in 2018.

Total heat demand across North Somerset was 2,321.5GWh in 2018. Of this, 134.3GWh was met via electrical heating, and the remaining heat demand, which was met by fuels other than electricity, was 2,187.2GWh. Figure 27 below illustrates energy demands across different sectors in North Somerset.

The E1 and E2 maps illustrate total indicative heat and electricity consumption based on natural gas demand by MSOA respectively. The darker the coloured area on the map, the higher the gas or electricity consumption by middle layer super output areas in 2019 (MWh per year) for maps E1 and E2 respectively. Screenshots have been provided in the report as a visual aid. Higher resolution versions of these maps are contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'

[76] Sub-national total final energy consumption statistics - 2018 (published on September 2020) and REGEN analysis.

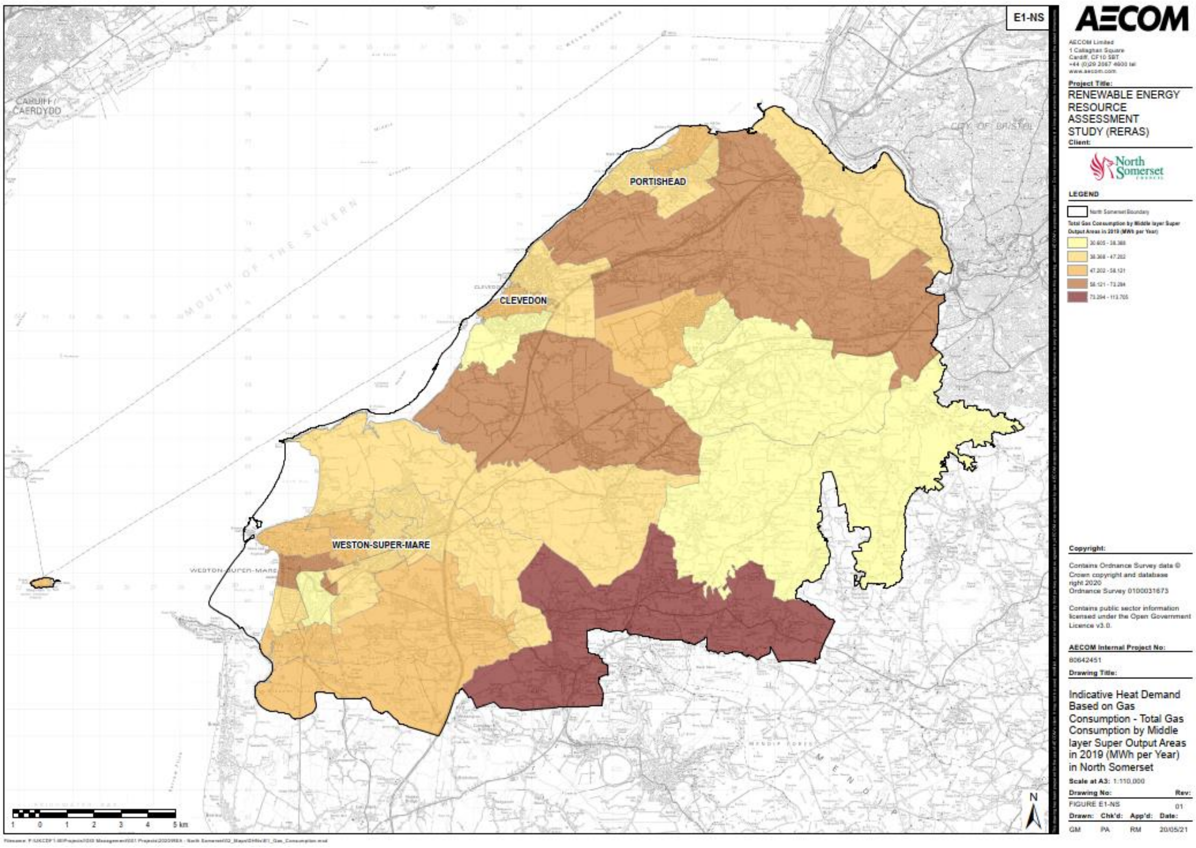


Figure 25: E1-NS: Indicative Heat Demand Based on Gas Consumption – Total Gas Consumption by MSOA in 2019 (MWh per Year) Map

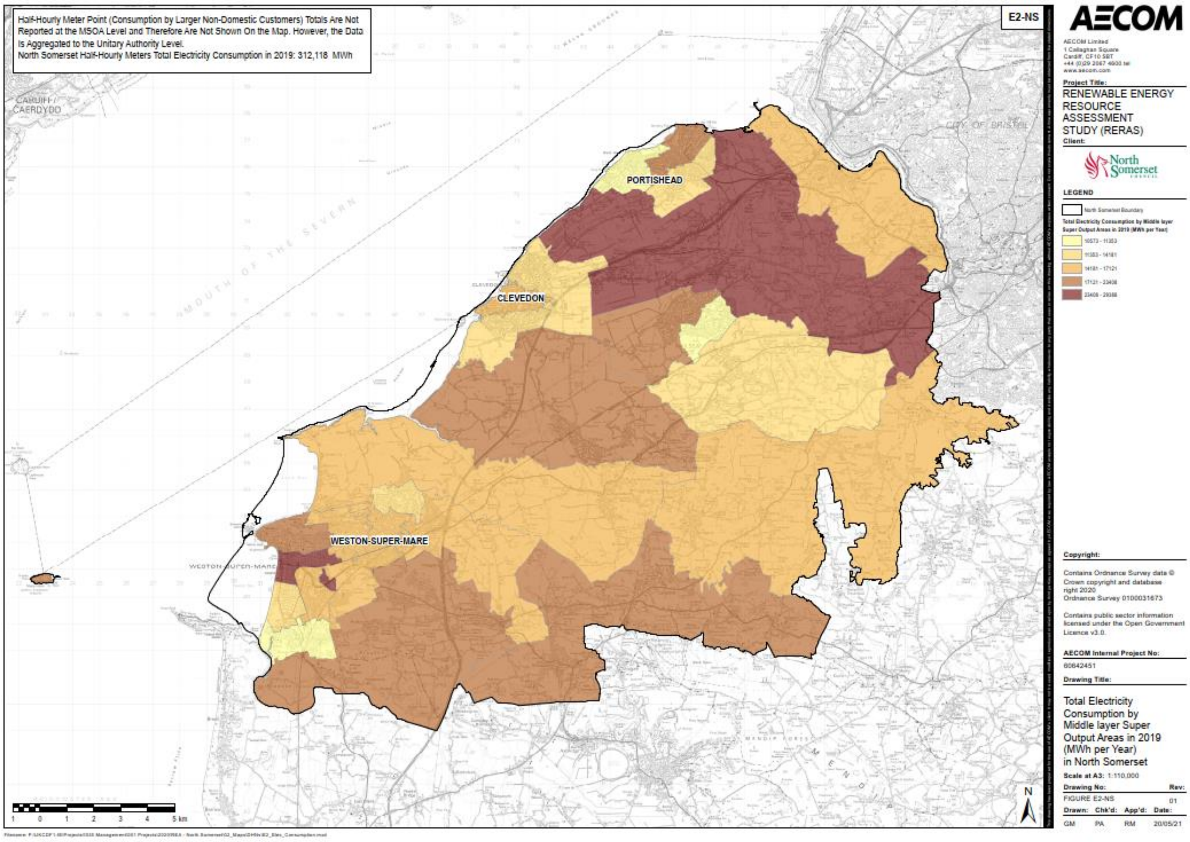


Figure 26: E2-NS: Total Electricity Consumption by MSOA in 2019 (MWh per Year) Map

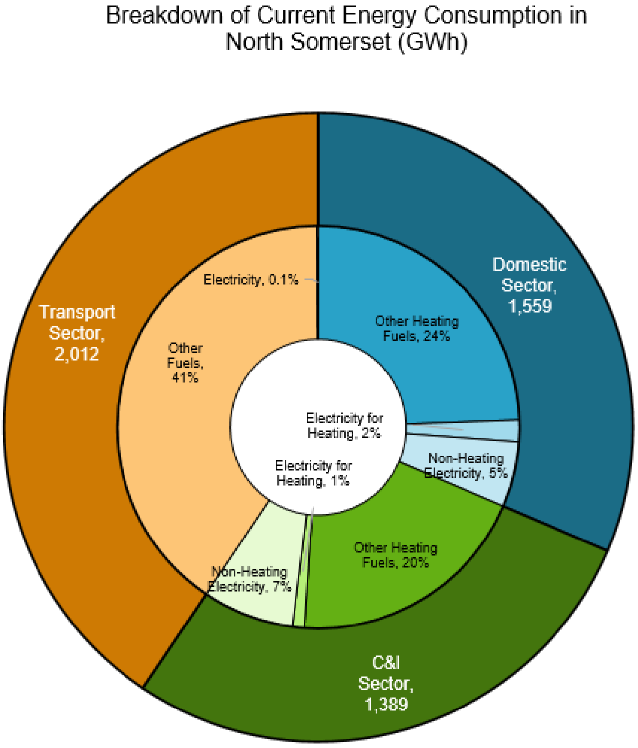


Figure 27: Breakdown of Existing Energy Consumption (GWh) in North Somerset

As shown in Figure 27, the largest contributor to energy consumption in North Somerset is the transport sector. Low population density has given rise to a heavier reliance on commuting. The large areas of rural land in North Somerset also gives rise to more energy consumed from farm machinery.

The thermal and electrical energy consumption of North Somerset is also significant, shown by the energy consumption values for the domestic sector and Commercial and Industrial Sector. Therefore, it is advised that all three sectors be considered when aiming to reduce the overall energy consumption of North Somerset.

3.3 Existing Capacity of Low and Zero Carbon Energy Technology Installations and Energy Generation in North Somerset

Map References & Titles:

1. R1-NS: Sites of Existing Renewable Energy in North Somerset

To understand the progress being made with the development of LZC technologies, the existing capacity (as of 18/01/2021) of LZC technologies in North Somerset was established. Where LZC energy technologies already exist (including developments that are consented to be constructed as well as those already under construction), the installed capacities (measured in MegaWatts (MW)) were recorded to inform discussions about future developments.

This assessment of existing capacity includes technologies generating electricity, heat and both electricity and heat simultaneously. The assessment includes ‘stand-alone’ generators (such as wind farms) as well as those installed in buildings[77] (e.g. biomass boilers and roof mounted solar PV).

The installed capacities of existing Energy from Waste (EfW) schemes and biomass schemes have also been marked for their potential contribution to supply heat to strategic new development sites. The renewable generators have been plotted using Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping, where location details of the sites have been made available.

Regen provided data for existing large-scale projects in North Somerset, shown in Appendix C. The data is cross-checked with BEIS Renewable Energy Planning Database (REPD)[78], North Somerset

[77] Predominantly, large installations are mapped on the R1-NS map, small size generators are not included on the map
[78] BEIS (2020) REPD Monthly Extract, https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/renewable-energy-planning-database-monthly-extract.

planning data, Renewable Obligation (RO) and Renewable Energy Guarantees Origin (REGO) datasets from Ofgem[79].

Data regarding LZC technologies that are providing energy to buildings, located within or on buildings has been collected from the following sources:

- Regen;
- Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) data[80]; and
- Feed-in Tariffs (FIT) data[81].

The breakdown of technology types for renewable heat generation in domestic and non-domestic buildings is not included in RHI dataset. Still, the database identifies 59 'non-domestic renewable heat installations with a total installed capacity of 8.2MWt.'

The RHI database does not include total installed capacities for domestic installations at the regional level but provides average installation capacities in the UK for different domestic renewable heating technologies. Regen provided a breakdown of the number of existing domestic thermal technologies (heat pump, biomass and solar thermal) in North Somerset in 2020. The average installed capacities are used in conjunction with data provided by Regen to calculate renewable heat generation in domestic buildings.

Additionally, the current renewable energy generators in North Somerset are mapped where location details were available. The R1-NS map is included below, however, a higher resolution map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'. The mapped sites are predominantly large installations from the following datasets, including a few additional small-scale installations.

- Renewables Obligation database (RO);
- Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin database (REGO);
- Additional data provided by Regen on large renewable generators in North Somerset;
- Renewable Energy Planning Database (REPD); and
- Any additional wind turbines that are identified from the planning data.

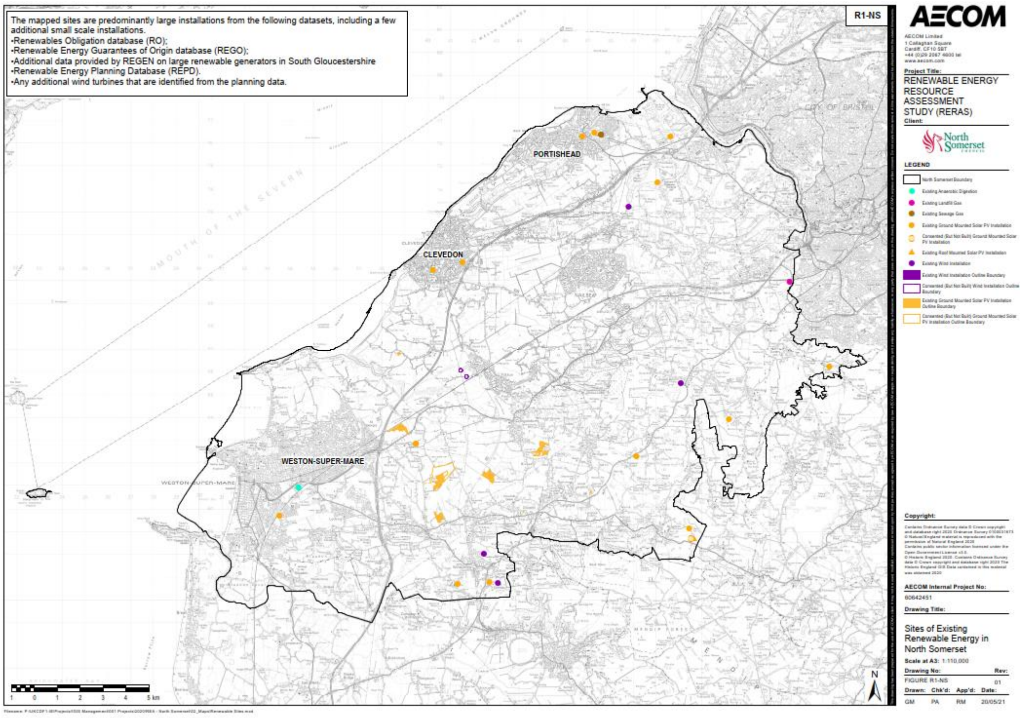


Figure 28: R1-NS: Sites of Existing Renewable Energy in North Somerset

[79] https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/
[80] RHI monthly deployment data: January 2021
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/renewable-heat-incentive-statistics
[81] Feed-in Tariffs: Quarterly statistics (March 2020)

As outlined in Table 8 below, the total installed capacity of renewable energy generators in North Somerset was calculated as 87.18MWe and 15.78MWt.

Table 8: Existing Installed Capacity of Renewable Energy Generators in North Somerset (Including Both Those Consented and to be Constructed; and Those Under Construction)

Technology	Electricity (MWe)	Thermal (MWt)
Hydro	0.032	0.00
Onshore Wind <6kW (BIR[82])	0.019	0.00
0.6kW<Onshore Wind <1MW	0.00	0.00
Onshore Wind >=1MW	4.30	0.00
Total Onshore Wind	**4.32**	**0.00**
PV-Commercial Rooftop (10kW - 1MW)	10.87	0.00
PV-Ground Mounted (>1MW)	49.32	0.00
PV-Domestic Rooftop (<10kW)	19.92	0.00
Total Solar PV	**80.11**	**0.00**
Anaerobic digestion	1.10	1.65
Sewage Gas	0.56	0.84
Landfill Gas	1.05	0.00
Waste Incineration[83]	0.011	0.02
Domestic Renewable Thermal Technologies (Heat Pumps)	0.00	1.50
Domestic Renewable Thermal Technologies (Biomass)	0.00	3.38
Domestic Renewable Thermal Technologies (Biofuel)	0.00	0.03
Domestic Renewable Thermal Technologies (Solar Thermal)	0.00	0.19
Non-Domestic Renewable Thermal Technologies	0.00	8.17
Total	**87.18**	**15.78**

Of the above total electricity generation, energy from wind accounts for 4.32MWe, solar PV 80.11MWe and the remaining 2.75MWe is from landfill gas, hydro, EfW, sewage gas and anaerobic digestion (AD) plants.

Of the 15.78MWt thermal generation, 8.17MWth is provided by non domestic installations, the domestic thermal heating technologies account for 5.10MWth, and the remaining 2.51MWth is from EfW (incineration), sewage gas and AD plants.

It should be noted that the large biomass generators and landfill sites installation are large electricity generators.

Figure 29 and Figure 30 below provides a visual representation of the data in Table 8.

[82] Building Connected
[83] It has been assumed that 35% of the power and energy output of the waste facility counts as renewable. Refer to Energy from Waste section of the report.

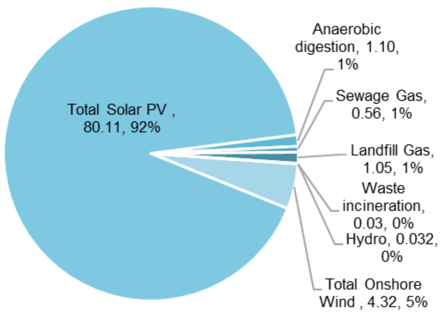


Figure 29: Existing Installed Capacity of Renewable Electricity Generators in North Somerset

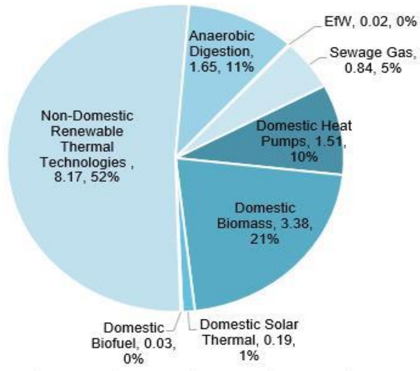


Figure 30: Existing Installed Capacity of Renewable Heat Generators in North Somerset

The maximum amount of energy that could be generated from the above installations depends upon the capacity factor, which is discussed in Section 15 of this report. A full table containing the technology, capacity factor, installed capacity and installed generation can be found in Appendix D.

Based on typical capacity factors, the total theoretical generation from existing renewable energy installations in North Somerset at 18/01/2021 is calculated as 94.9GWhelectical (94,935 MWhe), and 34.2GWhthermal (34,237 MWht).

Figure 31 shows a comparison of the amount of renewable energy that is currently generated in North Somerset and the current energy consumption across the area.

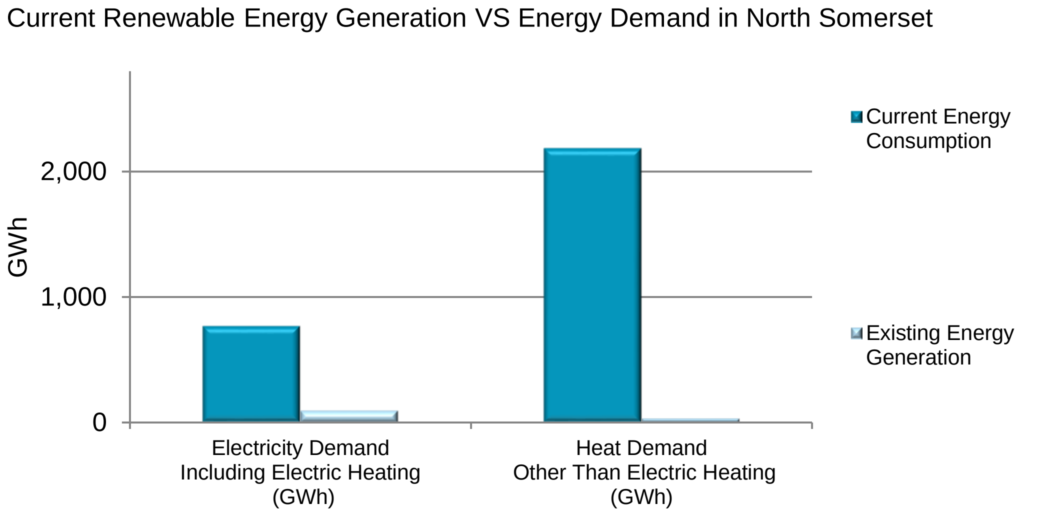


Figure 31: Difference Between the Existing Renewable Energy Generation (GWh) and Current (2020) Energy Consumption (GWh). (Current Electricity Consumption Includes Electric Heating Demand)[84]

There is presently enough installed capacity for electricity generation to meet the equivalent of 12.4% of local electricity consumption; the consumption data includes 134GWh of electric heating.

The amount of renewable heat generated at present is low, covering only the equivalent of 1.6% of local demand

[84] Sub-national total final energy consumption statistics - 2018 (published on September 2020) and REGEN analysis. The generation data includes sites under construction (consented sites).

4. Wind Energy Resource

4.1 Introduction

This section of the RERAS focuses on the identification of resource and potential generation from larger scale wind turbines across North Somerset. Information on wind turbines can be found in Section 1.8.1. For this study, the potential for installing wind turbines of 2.5 MW, 1 MW, and 500kW sizes were assessed, and primary constraints associated with wind energy development are considered.

In relation to wind energy, this RERAS is primarily concerned with the spatial identification of potential wind farm developments larger than 5MW total capacity[85], which is considered the minimums size of a wind farm that could be financially viable without additional incentives[86]. Commercial-scale wind farms seek to install turbines at as large a scale as possible; however, it should be noted that any project (regardless of size) might be of interest to developers and community groups. Therefore, in the interest of completeness, additional suitable areas for installing smaller scale turbines (500kW) are included in the assessment. In this study, when assessing a 500kW wind turbine's resources, overlaps with areas suitable for larger turbines were prioritised to the larger turbines.

The different turbine sizes result in varying cut off wind speeds, noise buffers, tip heights and topple distances, and therefore, each of the turbine sizes investigated has been individually mapped. Table 9 below presents the specifications of the wind turbines considered in this study.

Table 9: Wind Turbines Specifications Used Within This Study

Turbine Size (Rated Output)	Dimensions	Wind Speed Cut Off	Wind Turbine Density	Approx. Distance Between Turbines	Noise Buffer[87]	Topple Distance Buffer (Tip Height Plus 10%)
2.5 MW	Tip Height[88]: 135 m Rotor Diameter: 100 m Hub Height: 85 m	A lower limit of 5m/s measured at 45m above ground level (agl)	9 MW/km^2	595 m	600 m	148.5 m
1 MW	Tip Height[234]: 100 m Rotor Diameter: 55 m Hub Height: 60-80 m	A lower limit of 6m/s measured at 45m above ground level (agl)	8 MW/km^2	399 m	500 m	110 m
500 kW	Tip Height[234]: 70 m Rotor Diameter: 45 m Hub Height: 40-60 m	A lower limit of 6m/s measured at 45m above ground level (agl)	One turbine to be sited on each identified area	One turbine to be sited on each identified area	400 m	77 m

4.2 Mapping

The wind resource potential in North Somerset was determined through a series of steps in which the primary constraints associated with wind development have been considered. The datasets corresponding to these constraints are overlaid in GIS maps in stages to produce the Search Areas shown in the RERAS. This assessment considers a combination of primary constraints comprising

[85] Each 2.5MW and 1.0MW Search Area can locate a minimum of 5MW wind farm containing 2.5MW or 1.0MW turbines respectively whereas the 500kW Search Areas can accommodate at least a single 500kW turbine
[86] 5MW was the cut-off point for eligibly of a wind farm to receive subsidies in the Feed-In Tariff (FIT) scheme.
[87] The noise buffers are based on SQW Energy Renewable and Low-Carbon Energy Capacity Methodology – Methodology for the English Regions.
[88] Height to blade tip at the highest point. The dimension data is based on QW Energy Renewable and Low-Carbon Energy Capacity Methodology – Methodology for the English Regions (average turbines sizes for the rated outputs).

those that exclude certain places from being considered as potentially suitable as areas of search for locating wind farms (e.g., international nature conservation designations), as well as those that require further consideration (referred to as ‘other constraints’) as part of the Local Plan process (e.g. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)). For the purposes of this study, these are shown for ‘information only’ purposes. Each of this different types of constraints, and the stages at which the data layers were applied in the GIS mapping process, was discussed and agreed with the Council.

Maps have been produced to illustrate each stage of the process of identifying primary constraints and opportunities.

The flowchart shown in Figure 32 shows the process steps and the output maps at each stage of the mapping. These maps are contained in the accompanying document ‘North Somerset RERAS – Maps’.

For an in-depth, step-by-step explanation of the mapping process, please see Appendix E.

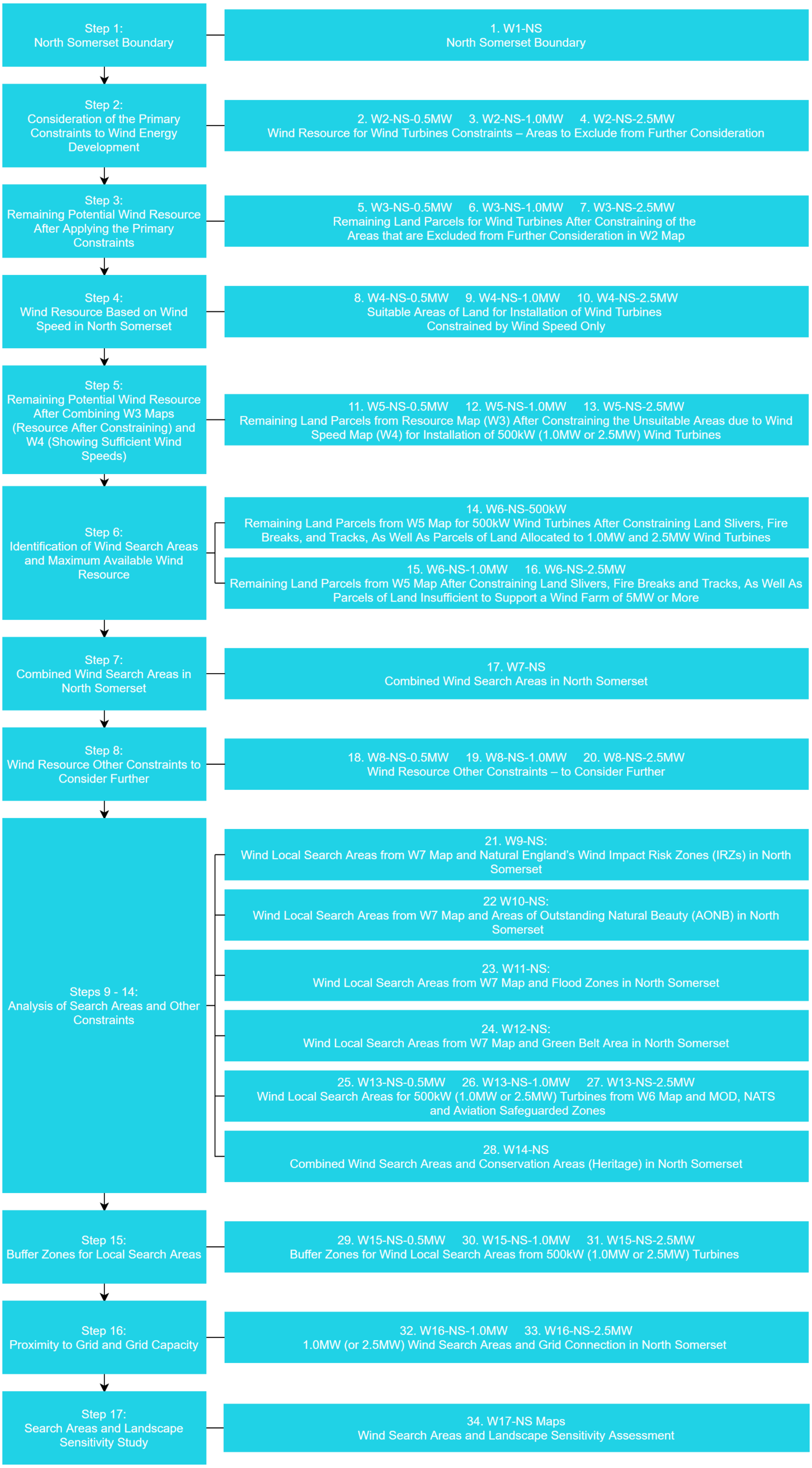


Figure 32: Flowchart of Wind Energy Resource Mapping Process

4.2.1 Primary Constraints

The list below illustrates the primary constraints to the development/ deployment of wind farms. The reason for mapping these areas of constraint is to remove them from consideration in order to produce wind farm Search Areas, which can then be refined further through the Local Plan process. Items in brackets indicate that no areas of this type are present in North Somerset. Figure 33 shows these constraints in the North Somerset area. Appendix E and Appendix F include further details regarding this analysis.

- Special Protection Areas (SPA)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC);
- RAMSAR sites;
- National Nature Reserves (NNR);
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
- Scheduled Monuments;
- Listed Buildings, noise buffers have been applied if the building is residential; and
- Registered Historic Parks and Gardens.

The following constraints and their buffer distances (where one has been applied) are fixed for different turbine sizes.

- Ancient Woodlands a 15 metre buffer has been applied to avoid root damage;
- Broadleaved Woodland a 15 metre buffer has been applied to avoid root damage;
- Existing buildings (extent);
- Watercourses including major, secondary, and minor rivers, canals and lakes; a 2 metre buffer has been applied to rivers and streams;
- Active mines/quarries; and
- Local Nature Reserves.

The following constraints and their buffer distances (where one has been applied) are likely to change when considering different turbine sizes.

- Officially safeguarded aerodromes;
- Noise buffers for residential buildings (dwellings);
- Major transport infrastructure tip height +10% buffers have been applied;
- Minor transport infrastructure tip height + 10% buffers have been applied;
- Ministry of Defence (MoD) Sites;
- Operational and consented (but not yet constructed) renewables energy development sites (solar PV and wind);
- Helicopter flight path zone; and
- Bristol Airport Safety Zone.

It should be noted that, whilst the above issues have been considered in the selection of the Search Areas (SAs), the SAs are not final because:

- The SAs remain subject to further investigation based on information provided in this report (e.g. grid connection or landscape sensitivity) and other considerations through the Local Plan process;
- The SAs are formed using specific technology typologies which, if different from the development proposals, may require the mapping exercise to be rerun;
- If a private landowner wanted a wind turbine closer to their building than was recommended, and nothing else was adversely affected, then loosening of noise restrictions could be considered.

Additionally, it is important to note that proposals for wind turbines above 2.5MW will change the shape and extent of the SAs, and further work will be needed when considering the proposals, particularly around reapplying the primary constraints listed above.

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'

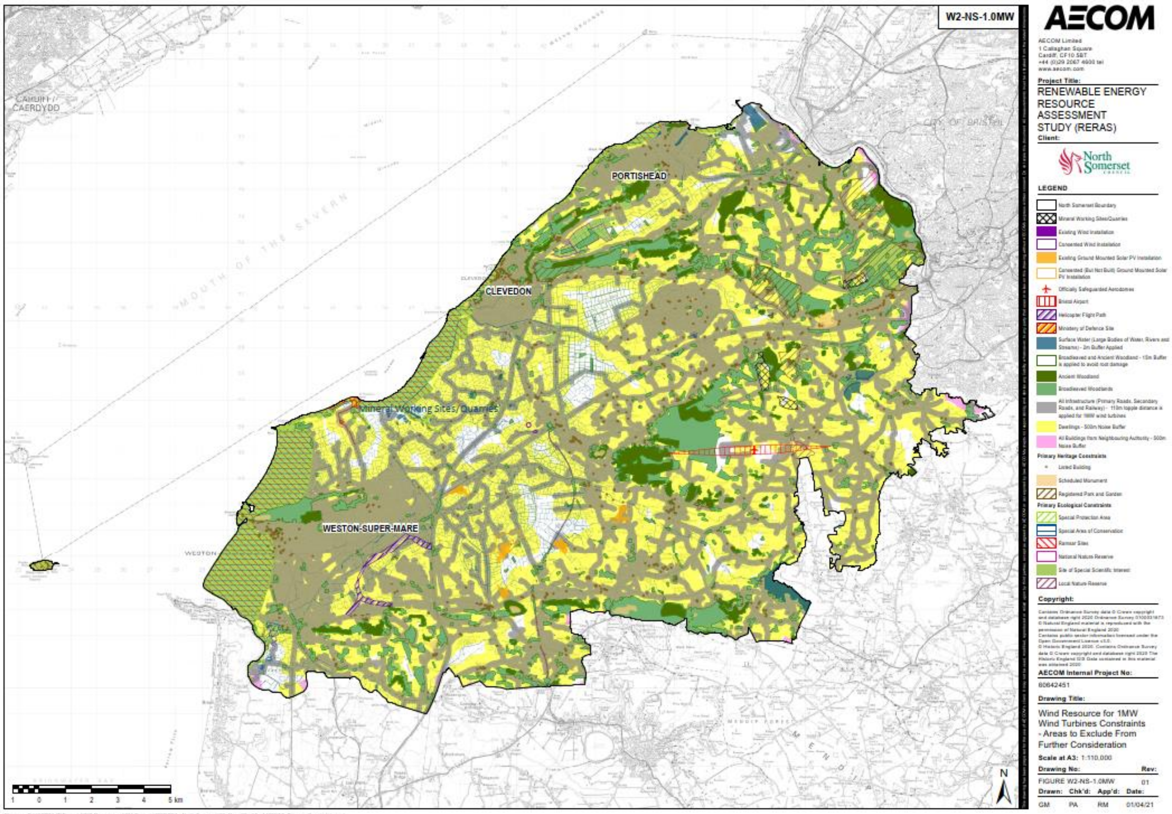


Figure 33: W2-NS-1.0MW: Wind Resource for 1.0MW Wind Turbines Constraints – Areas to Exclude from Further Consideration Map

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: WF-PR-8 (Refer to Table 38 in Section 17)

It is recommended that proposals for re-powering of wind farms at end-of-life to an equal or increased capacity are encouraged and permitted, subject to compliance with the primary constraints listed in Section 4.2.1 (e.g. noise, topple distances), site specific constraints, and other policy considerations.

4.2.2 Identification of Wind Search Areas

As explained above, areas of constraint have been applied through mapping to identify potentially suitable locations for the development of wind farms, and these are labelled as wind farm Search Areas. However, these search areas will need to be refined further through the Local Plan process, taking into account other considerations and constraints, as part of developing a strategy for renewable energy development.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: WF-PR-1 (Refer to Table 38 in Section 17)

It is recommended that the SAs identified through the RERAS are further refined through the Local Plan process, taking account of other considerations and constraints.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: WF-PR-2 (Refer to Table 38 in Section 17)

It is recommended that proposals for wind turbines of the appropriate number and size (to make the most efficient use of the resource/ land) will be encouraged and permitted when located within the areas identified for that use through the Local Plan.

Following the application of the primary constraints, the remaining area of potential[89] wind resource informs the calculation of the maximum potential generation capacity. This number then informs the identification of the theoretical maximum renewable energy generation in North Somerset, see Section 15.

Figure 34 illustrates the identified wind Search Areas (SAs) for each of the three wind turbine sizes, the 500kW SAs are coloured orange, the 1.0MW SAs blue striped and the 2.5MW SAs in pink. There are 652, 5 and 4 LSAs identified for 500kW, 1.0MW and 2.5MW turbines, respectively. The SAs are referenced based on their corresponding wind turbine size and prioritised based on size (largest), e.g. 1.0MW-LSA-1 is the largest SA suitable for 1.0MW wind turbines installations. It was assumed that one 500kW turbine would be situated on each SA identified as suitable for a 500kW turbine. SAs identified for 500kW turbines could be promoted as areas suitable for community energy projects

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: WF-PR-3 (Refer to Table 38 in Section 17)

It is recommended that proposals for wind turbines >2.5MW within the areas identified in the Local Plan will be considered, subject to compliance with the primary constraints listed in Section 4.2.1 (e.g. noise, topple distances) and consideration of other site specific issues and constraints.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: WF-PR-4 (Refer to Table 38 in Section 17)

It is recommended that proposals for wind turbines outside of areas identified as suitable for wind development through the Local Plan should be considered positively, providing it can demonstrate that proposals are compliant with relevant policy and site-specific issues and constraints can be mitigated to the satisfaction of the Council.

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

[89] Labelled as "Unconstrained Land" on W7 map

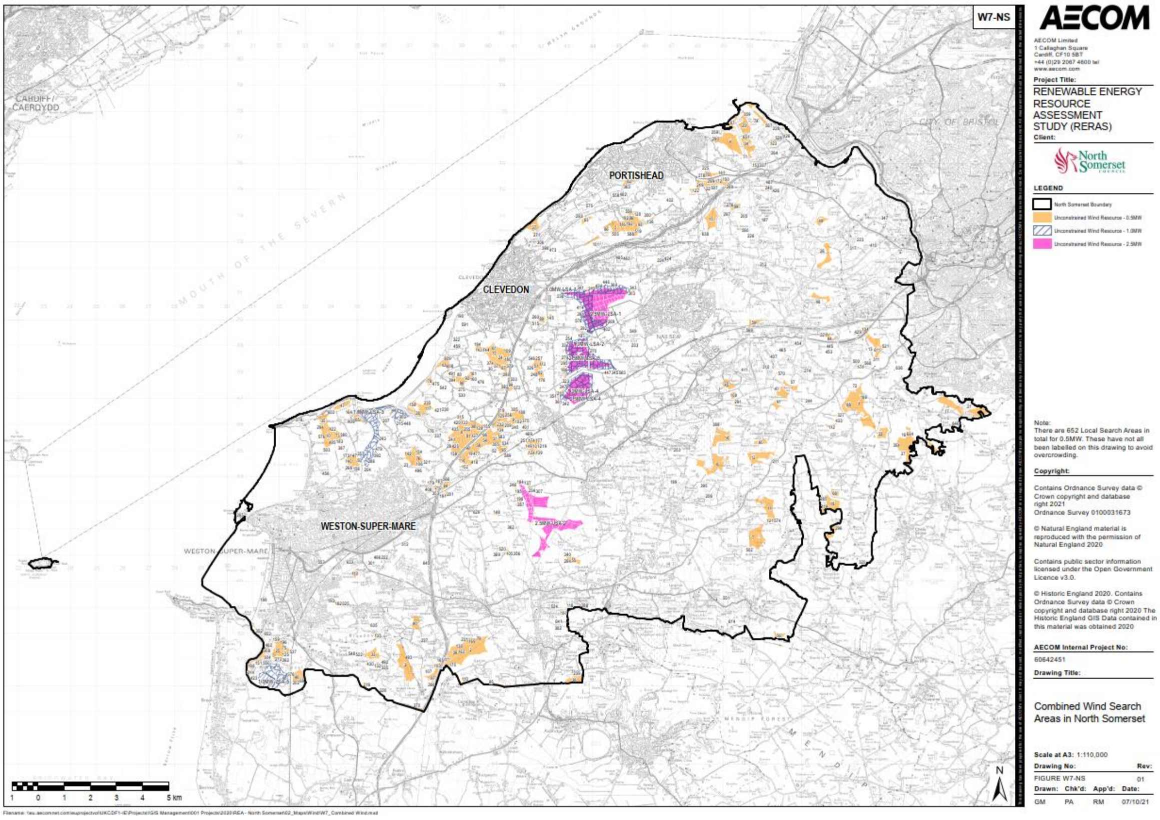


Figure 34: W7-NS: Combined Wind Search Areas in North Somerset Map

A total of 17.08km^2, 4.60 km^2 and 3.93 km^2 of land was identified as being potentially suitable for the installation of a 500kW, 1.0MW and 2.5MW wind turbines respectively. These areas comprise large parts of rural North Somerset, as can be seen in Figure 34. It should be noted these Search Areas will need to be refined further through the Local Plan process, taking into account other considerations and constraints, as part of developing a strategy for renewable energy development. A breakdown of the potential installed capacity for each individual 1.0MW and 2.5MW SA can be found in Table 49 and Table 50 respectively in Appendix E.

Table 10: Identified Wind SAs in North Somerset and Theoretical Maximum Potential Wind Resource

Note	Remaining Available Land Area (km^2)	Potential Total Installed Capacity (MW)	Potential Total Electricity Generation (GWh)
SAs for 500kW wind turbines in North Somerset	17.08	326[90]	709.57
SAs for 1.0MW wind turbines in North Somerset	4.60	36.8	80.10
SAs for 2.5MW wind turbines in North Somerset	3.93	35.37	76.99
Total		379.4[91]	825.81

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: WF-PR-5 (Refer to Table 38 in Section 17)

It is recommended that the SAs identified through the RERAS for 1MW & 2.5MW turbines are further refined and safeguarded through the Local Plan process.

[90] 652 additional small land parcels for 500kW turbines installations have been identified. It is assumed that one 500 kW turbine could be sited on each.
[91] The potential from 1.0MW and 2.5MW Search Areas cannot be added together as some of the areas overlap. The maximum capacity in this table is taken from 1.0MW Search Areas plus and additional non-overlapping 2.5MW Search Areas.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: WF-PR-7 (Refer to Table 38 in Section 17)

It is recommended that proposals for wind development within areas identified through the Local Plan for 1MW and 2.5MW turbines maximise the potential resource. Where this is the case, applicants should provide evidence as to why this is not feasible or viable.

The remaining land available and potential installed capacity for each of the 1.0MW and 2.5MW Search Areas are shown in Table 11 and Table 12 respectively.

Table 11: Individual Identified 1.0MW Wind SAs in North Somerset and Their Theoretical Maximum Potential Installed Capacity

SA Reference on Maps	SA Area (km^2)	Potential Total Installed Capacity (MW) [92]
1.0MW-1	1.162	9.30
1.0MW-2	1.124	8.99
1.0MW-3	0.847	6.78
1.0MW-4	0.797	6.38
1.0MW-5	0.669	5.35

Table 12: Individual Identified 2.5MW Wind SAs in North Somerset and Their Theoretical Maximum Potential Installed Capacity

SA Reference on Maps	SA Area (km^2)	Potential Total Installed Capacity (MW)[92]
2.5MW-1	1.315	11.9
2.5MW-2	1.209	10.8
2.5MW-3	0.710	6.4
2.5MW-4	0.691	6.2

[92] Potential total installed capacities are calculated using density factors provided in Table 9.

4.2.3 Other Constraints for Further Consideration

Effects of some of the other constraints that may impact wind development within the SAs were analysed. These constraints will need to be examined as part of the Local Plan process . The identified SAs on the W7 map have not been constrained utilising the other constraints. Appendix E and Appendix G include further details regarding this analysis.

- Other woodlands (Other than Broadleaved Woodland and Ancient Woodland);
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB);
- Natural England's Impact Risk Zones for Wind Development (IRZs);
- Unlicensed Aerodromes;
- Minerals Safeguarding Areas;
- National Air Traffic Control Services (NATS) Radar Safeguarding Areas;
- Aviation Safeguarded Zone;
- Flood Zones;
- National Trust Inalienable Land;
- Green Belt[93];
- Horseshoe Bat Juvenile Sustenance Zones;
- Historic England Conservation Areas;
- Consented (but not yet constructed) solar PV and wind developments where their planning permissions may have lapsed; and
- Conservation Areas (Heritage).

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

[93] As stated in the NPPF, paragraph 151: *'When located in the Green Belt, elements of many renewable energy projects will comprise inappropriate development. In such cases developers will need to demonstrate very special circumstances if projects are to proceed. Such very special circumstances may include the wider environmental benefits associated with increased production of energy from renewable sources'*

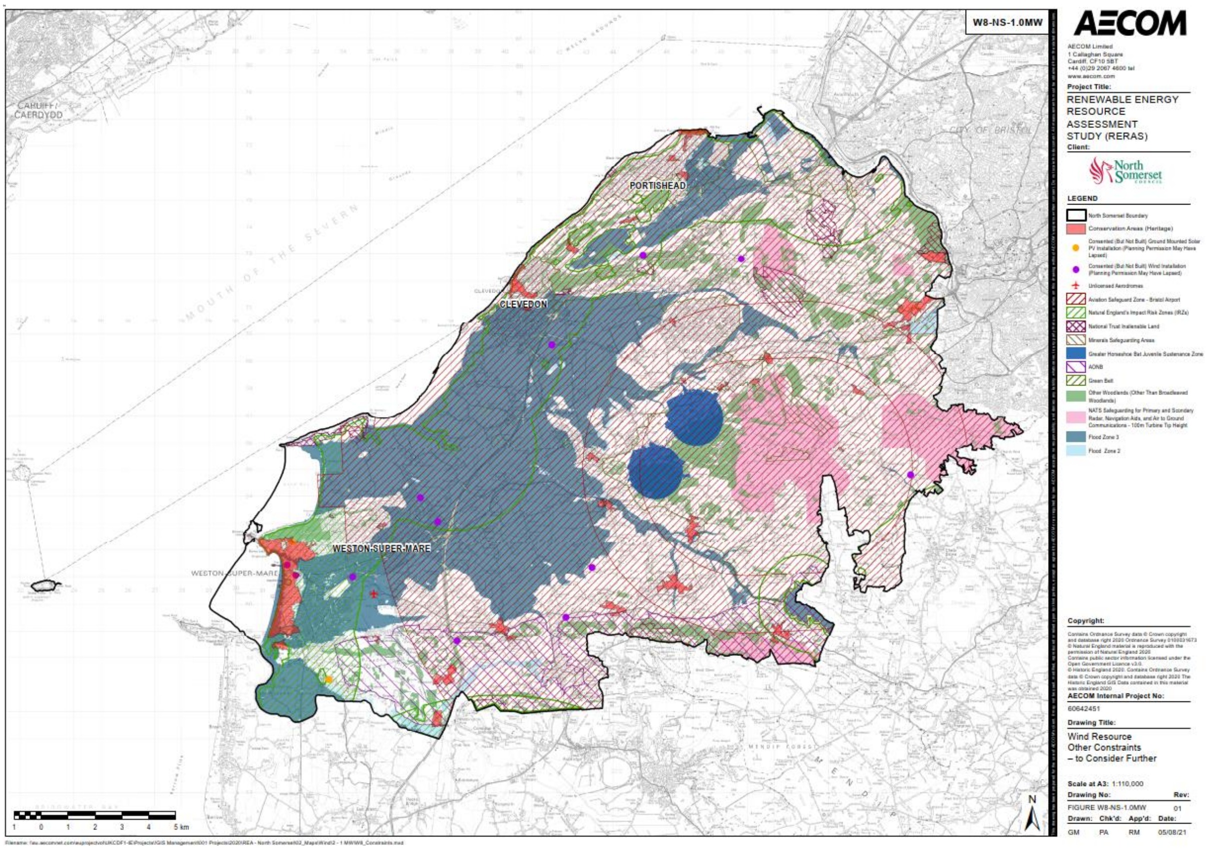


Figure 35: W8-NS-1.0MW: Wind Resource Other Constraints – to Consider Further Map

4.3 Proximity to Grid and Grid Capacity

Issues related to grid connection are relevant to both wind and solar energy developments. Therefore, the findings of RERAS regarding this are combined and provided in Section 6.

4.4 Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

An additional parameter that can be considered in prioritising the Search Areas is the sensitivity of the landscape to new wind/ solar PV development. To facilitate an understanding of this issue, Land Use Consultants (LUC) has conducted a landscape sensitivity assessment for wind and solar energy development, and the results of the assessment are provided in Section 7 of this report.

4.5 Further Constraints to Wind Energy Sites

Further constraints to onshore wind development not considered within this RERAS may include (but are not restricted to):

- Practical access to sites required for development;
- Landowner willingness for development to go ahead;
- National planning policies, which are outside of the Council's control;
- Community support; and
- Time to complete planning procedures;

[94] As stated in the NPPF, paragraph 151: *'When located in the Green Belt, elements of many renewable energy projects will comprise inappropriate development. In such cases developers will need to demonstrate very special circumstances if projects are to proceed. Such very special circumstances may include the wider environmental benefits associated with increased production of energy from renewable sources'*

4.6 Summary and Potential Opportunities for Future Development

Wind generation has the potential to be a significant source of renewable energy generation in North Somerset, with the identification of:

- 652 SAs for small (500kW) turbines;
- 5 SAs for medium (1.0MW) turbines; and
- 4 SAs for large (2.5MW) SAs.

The W7 map (Figure 34) highlights that there is a considerable overlap of 1.0MW and 2.5MW SAs, with there being significant opportunities for 500kW turbine installations across the North Somerset area. Table 13 shows details of the SAs and their potential installed capacity and energy generation.

Table 13: Identified Wind SAs in North Somerset and Theoretical Maximum Potential Wind Resource

Note	Remaining Available Land Area (km^2)	Potential Total Installed Capacity (MW)	Potential Total Electricity Generation (GWh)
SAs for 500kW wind turbines in North Somerset	17.08	326[95]	709.57
SAs for 1.0MW wind turbines in North Somerset	4.60	36.8	80.10
SAs for 2.5MW wind turbines in North Somerset	3.93	35.37	76.99
Total		379.4[96]	825.81

Additionally, SAs have been further ranked (for information purposes only) using the WPD grid connection analysis and the LUC landscape sensitivity assessment. The WPD grid connection analysis can be used to identify the most favourable locations when considering updates to the grid. The LUC landscape sensitivity assessment can be used to guide the Council to the locations that will have the least impact on the landscape.

The only other technology addressed in this study with the potential to produce more renewable electricity was solar PV. However, when comparing wind to solar PV, wind turbines require significantly less land take than PV to generate the same amount of electricity.

Due to the benefits of wind developments (typically greater CO_2 saving per square metre) as well as the relatively smaller number of sites (and area) for such development as opposed to solar, consideration should be given to protecting such sites solely for wind development as well as against sterilisation from other forms of nearby development.

Moreover, the effects of additional constraints such as AONB and Green Belt would need to be examined as part of the Local Plan process. Therefore, these other constraints were analysed and included in the study as information to assist the Council in developing its proposed policy approach. Appendix E includes details of these additional constraints and potential capacity of the SAs if the overlapping areas covering these constraints and SAs were removed. The additional maps also cover radar, MoD and aviation safeguarding as well as Conservation Areas (Heritage) to assist developers and councils with any dialogue/ consultation that may be required with these organisations regarding wind turbine installations.

[95] 652 additional small land parcels for 500kW turbines installations have been identified. It is assumed that one 500 kW turbine could be sited on each.
[96] The potential from 1.0MW and 2.5MW Search Areas cannot be added together as some of the areas overlap. The maximum capacity in this table is taken from 1.0MW Search Areas plus and additional non-overlapping 2.5MW Search Areas.

5. Solar PV Farms

5.1 Introduction

This section provides details of the assessment of the potential for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Farms within North Somerset. Information on solar PV can be found in Section 1.8.2.

The Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) -formerly the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) defines a “stand-alone” installation as a “solar photovoltaic electricity generating facility that is not wired through a building, or if it is wired through a building, the building does not have the ability to use 10% or more of the electricity generated”.

PV solar cells/ panels generate renewable electricity from the direct conversion of solar irradiation. PV is recognised as one of the key technologies in meeting the UK target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Electricity will be increasingly important in supporting net zero delivery, potentially providing around half of the UK's final energy demand as its use for heat and in transport increases[97].

In 2019, 28% of renewable installations across the UK installed capacity were solar PV. This figure is expected to increase due to the falling costs of PV modules leading to increasing viability of ground-mounted solar installations[98].

The Contracts for Difference (CfD) scheme is the Government’s main mechanism for supporting new low carbon electricity generation projects. The scheme is being updated to support the UK’s 2050 net zero target delivery whilst simultaneously minimising consumer costs[99] .

This section provides the approach to a high-level assessment of the potential solar resource for ‘stand-alone’ PV farms. It is primarily concerned with identifying opportunities for solar PV development of larger than 5MW.

5.2 Mapping

The solar PV farm potential in North Somerset was determined through a series of steps in which the primary constraints associated with such development have been considered. The datasets corresponding to these constraints are overlaid in stages by applying GIS mapping to produce the Search Areas shown in the RERAS. This assessment considers a combination of primary constraints comprising those that exclude certain places from being considered as potentially suitable as areas of search for locating solar farms (e.g., international nature conservation designations), as well as those that require further consideration through the Local Plan process. These constraints and the GIS mapping stages at which they were applied was discussed and agreed with North Somerset Council.

Maps have been produced to illustrate, at each stage of the study process, the primary constraints and opportunities.

The flowchart in Figure 36 shows the steps taken and the output maps at each stage of the mapping process. These maps are contained in the accompanying document ‘North Somerset RERAS – Maps’. For an in-depth, step-by-step explanation of the mapping process, please see Appendix H.

[97] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/943714/Modelling-2050-Electricity-System-Analysis.pdf
[98] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics
[99] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/945301/cfd-cm-scheme-update-2020.pdf

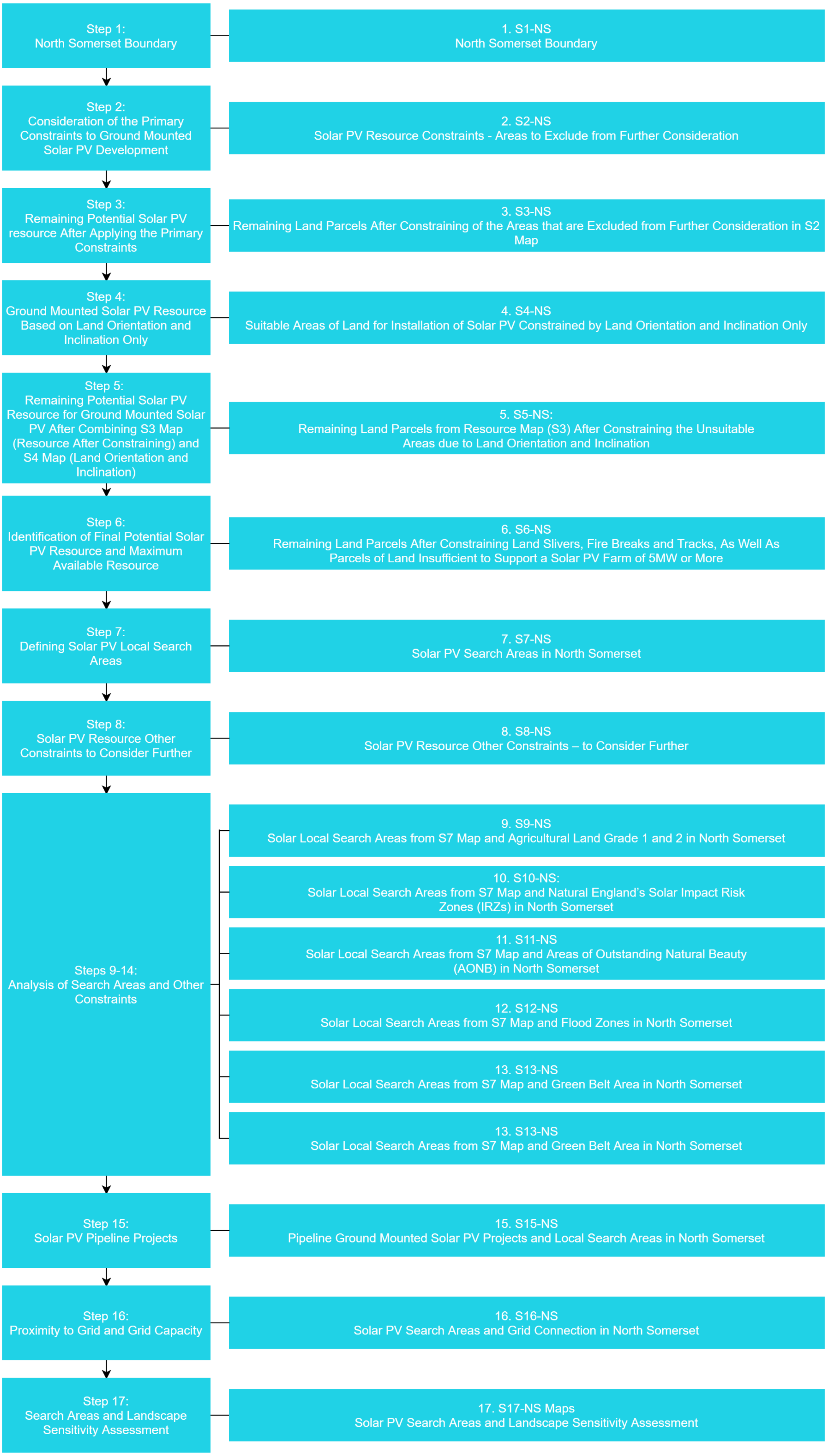


Figure 36: Flowchart of Solar PV Resource Mapping Process

5.2.1 Primary Constraints

The list below illustrates the primary constraints to the development/ deployment of solar PV farms. The reason for mapping these areas of constraint is to remove them from consideration in order to produce initial solar PV farm Search Areas, which can then be refined through the Local Plan process. Items in brackets indicate that no areas of this type are present in North Somerset. Appendix H and Appendix I include further details regarding this analysis.

- Special Protection Areas (SPA);
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC);
- RAMSAR sites;
- National Nature Reserves (NNR);
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
- Scheduled Monuments;
- Listed Buildings;
- Registered Historic Parks and Gardens;
- Ancient Woodlands a 15 meter buffer has been applied to avoid root damage;
- Broadleaved Woodland a 15 meter buffer has been applied to avoid root damage;
- Major transport infrastructure;
- Minor transport infrastructure;
- Existing buildings/settlements;
- Watercourses including major, secondary, and minor rivers, canals, and lakes; a 2 meter buffer has been applied to rivers and streams;
- Ministry of Defence (MoD) Sites;
- Operational and consented (but not yet constructed) renewables energy development sites (solar PV and wind);
- Active mines/quarries; and
- Local Nature Reserves.

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

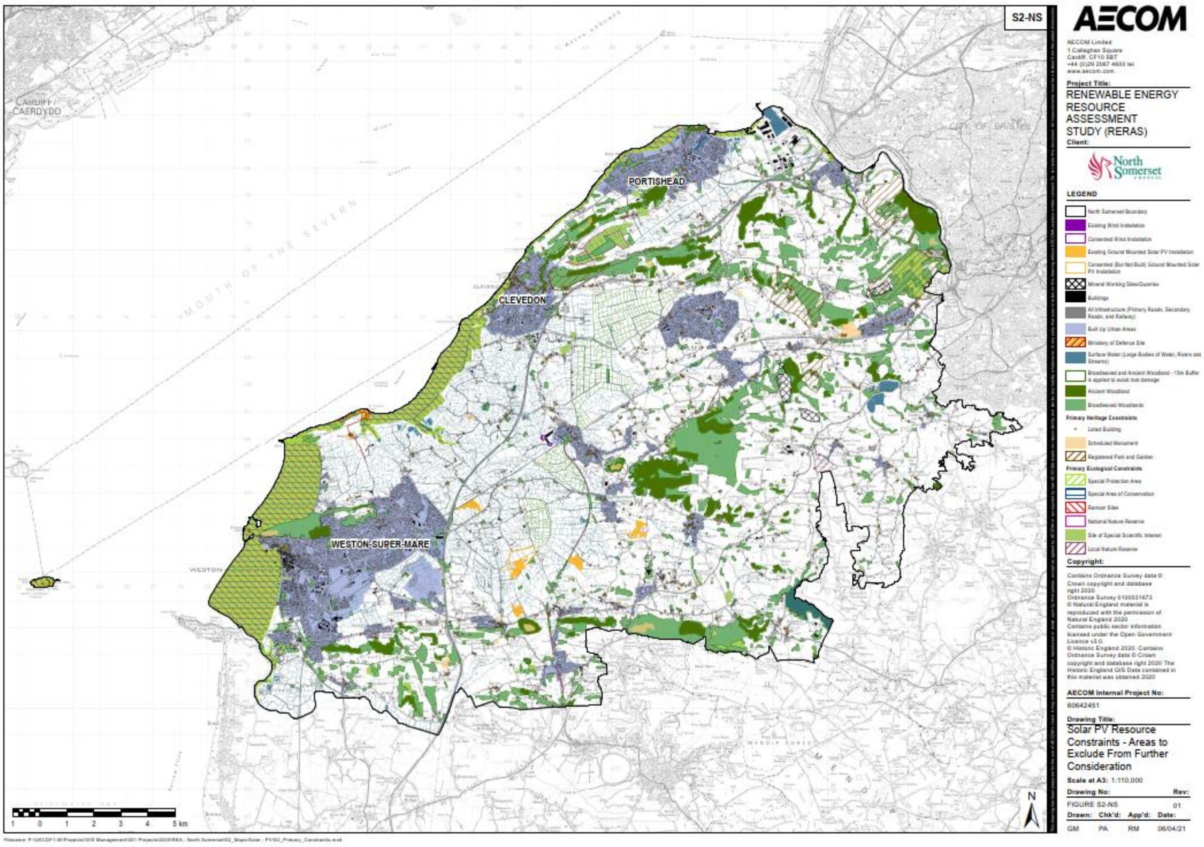


Figure 37: S2-NS: Solar PV Resource Constraints - Areas to Exclude from Further Consideration Map

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: SF-PR-4 (Refer to Table 39 in Section 17)

It is recommended that proposals for re-powering of solar PV farms at end-of-life to an equal or increased capacity to be encouraged and permitted, subject to compliance with primary constraints, site specific constraints, and other policy considerations.

5.2.2 Identification of Solar PV Search Areas

As explained above, areas of constraint have been applied through mapping to begin to identify the most suitable locations for the development of solar PV farms, and these are labelled as solar PV farm Search Areas. However, these search areas will need to be refined further through the Local Plan process, taking into account other considerations and constraints, as part of developing a strategy for renewable energy development.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: SF-PR-1 (Refer to Table 39 in Section 17)

It is recommended that the SAs identified through the RERAS are further refined through the Local Plan process, taking account of other considerations and constraints. As part of this a strategy approach which takes account of clustering and the potential need to manage cumulative impact should be considered.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: SF-PR-2 (Refer to Table 39 in Section 17)

It is recommended that proposals for solar PV farms within the areas identified for that use through the Local Plan be encouraged and permitted, subject to the mitigation of any site specific or other (not statutory) constraints.

Following the application of the primary constraints, the remaining area of potential[100] solar PV resource informs the calculation of the maximum potential generation capacity. This number then informs identification of the theoretical maximum renewable energy generation in North Somerset, see Section 15.

As this study is primarily concerned with identifying solar PV development opportunities larger than 5MW, AECOM created a GIS grid layer. On this map, each square is equivalent to the spatial requirement of a 5MW solar PV farm, and this layer was overlaid onto the remaining area of potential solar PV resource map[101]. The squares also provide the reader with a sense of scale of the potential solar PV farms.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: SF-PR-3 (Refer to Table 39 in Section 17)

It is recommended that proposals for solar development outside of areas identified as suitable for that use through the Local Plan should be considered positively, providing it can demonstrate that proposals are compliant with relevant policy and site-specific issues and constraints can be mitigated to the satisfaction of the Council.

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

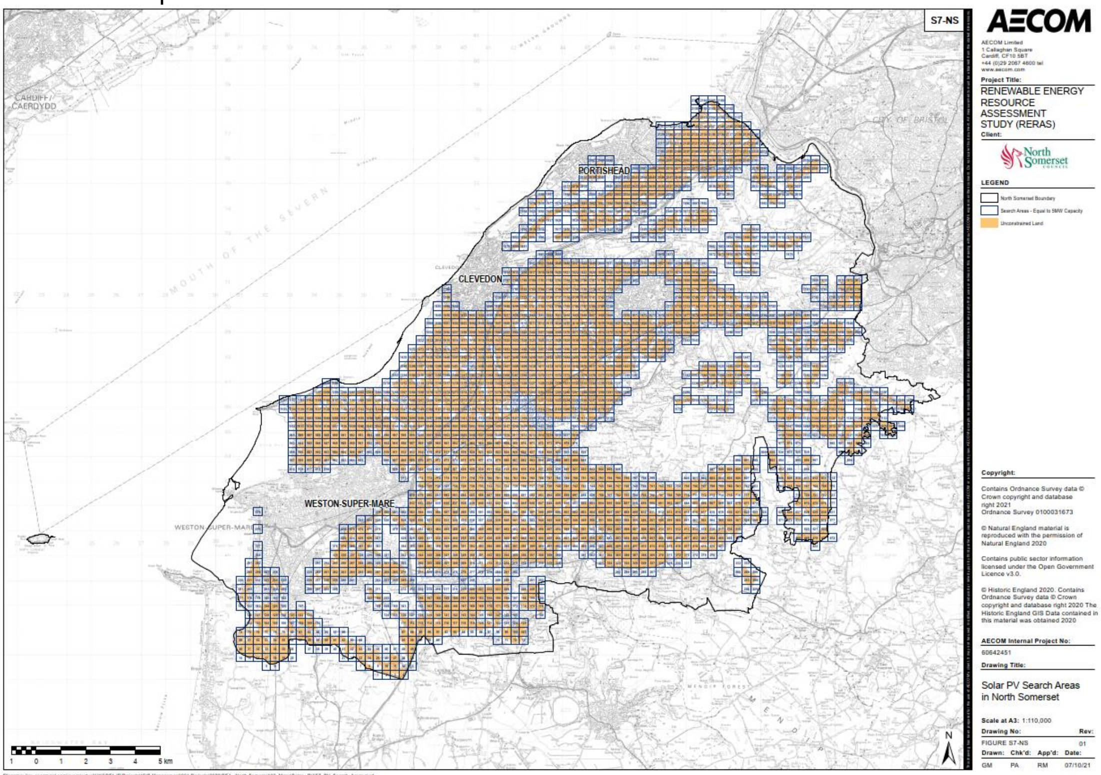


Figure 38: S7-NS: Solar PV Search Areas in North Somerset Map

A total of 142.57km^2 of land was identified as being potentially suitable for the installation of a solar PV farm, with this area comprising of a majority of the rural areas within North Somerset, this can be

100 Labelled as "Unconstrained Land" on S7 map
101 Labelled as "Unconstrained Land" on S7 map

seen in Figure 38. It should be noted these Search Areas will need to be refined further through the Local Plan process, taking into account other considerations and constraints, as part of developing a strategy for renewable energy development.

It was assumed the land area required for a 5MW fixed-tilt PV array is approximately 30 acres (or 12Ha or 0.12km^2) [102] and that a solar farm will generate energy at peak for 11% of the time (964 hours) over the course of a year[103].

Table 14: Remaining Land Available for Ground Mounted Solar PV Farms at this Stage of the and its Potential Total Installed Capacity

Remaining Available Land Area (km^2)	Potential Total Installed Capacity (MW)	Potential Energy Generated (GWh)
142.57	5,940.4	5,762

[102] According to the DECC UK Solar PV Strategy Part 1: 'Roadmap to a Brighter Future', the land area required for a 1MW fixed-tilt PV array is approximately 6acres (or 2.4Ha or 0.024km^2). *See above link*
[103] Average of the five previous years' regional standard load factors published by BEIS.

5.2.3 Other Constraints to Consider Further

Effects of some of the additional constraints that may impact ground mounted solar PV development within the SAs were analysed. These constraints will need to be examined as part of the Local Plan process. The identified SAs on the S7 map have not been constrained utilising the other constraints. Appendix H and Appendix J include further details regarding this analysis.

- Other woodlands (Other than Broadleaved Woodland and Ancient Woodland);
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB);
- Natural England's Impact Risk Zones for Solar Development (IRZs);
- Minerals Safeguarding Areas;
- Flood Zones;
- National Trust Inalienable Land;
- Green Belt[104];
- Horseshoe Bat Juvenile Sustenance Zones;
- Agricultural Land Classification (ALC);
- Ministry of Defence (MoD) Safeguarding Zones;
- Historic England Conservation Areas; and
- Consented (but not yet constructed) solar PV and wind developments where their planning permissions may have lapsed.

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

[104] As stated in the NPPF, paragraph 151: *'When located in the Green Belt, elements of many renewable energy projects will comprise inappropriate development. In such cases developers will need to demonstrate very special circumstances if projects are to proceed. Such very special circumstances may include the wider environmental benefits associated with increased production of energy from renewable sources'*

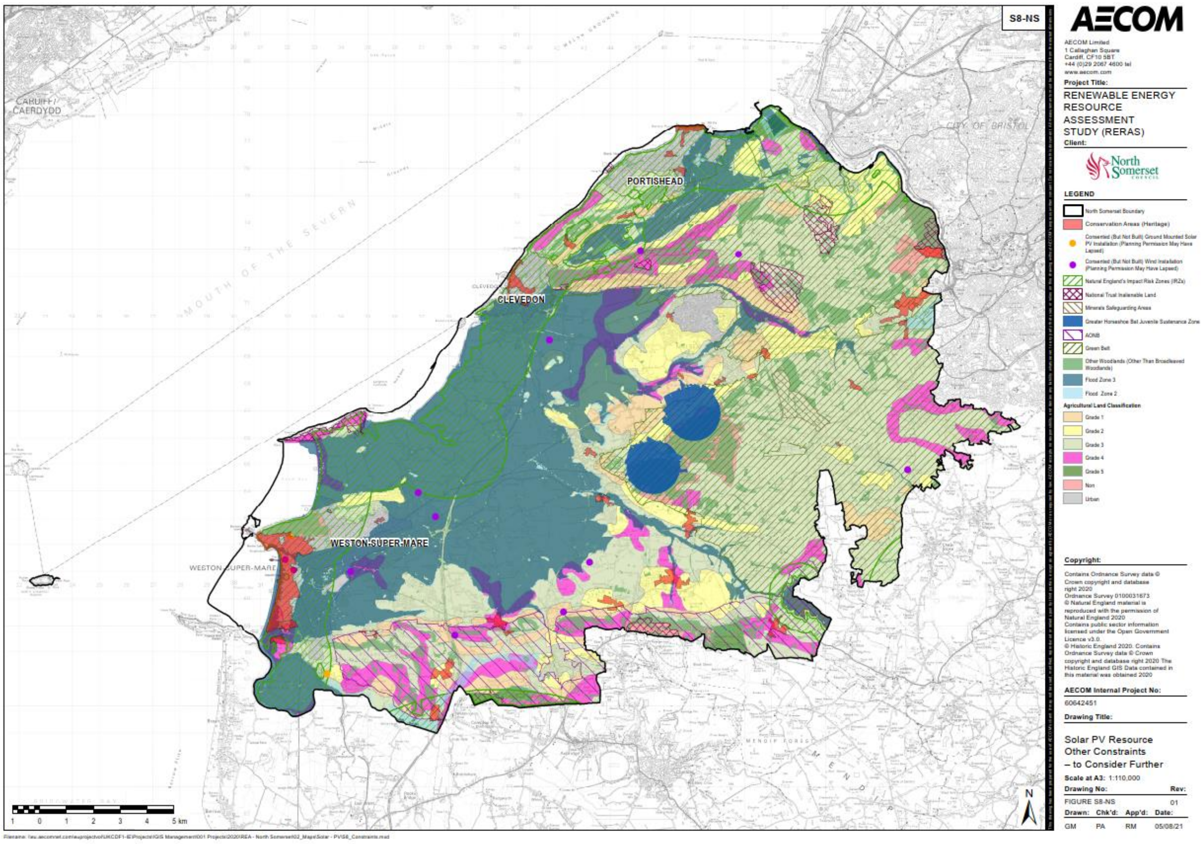


Figure 39: S8-NS: Solar PV Resource Other Constraints – to Consider Further Map

5.3 Proximity to Grid and Grid Capacity

Issues related to grid connection are relevant to both wind and solar energy developments. Therefore, the findings of RERAS regarding this are combined and provided in Section 6.

5.4 Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

An additional parameter that can be considered in prioritising the Search Areas is the sensitivity of the landscape to new wind/ solar PV development. To facilitate an understanding of this issue, LUC has conducted a landscape sensitivity assessment for wind and solar energy development, and the results of the assessment are provided in Section 7 of this report.

5.5 Further Constraints to Solar PV Farms

Further constraints to solar PV farm development that are not considered within this RERAS include (but are not necessarily restricted to):

- Practical access to sites required for the development;
- Landowner willingness for development to go ahead;
- National planning policies, which are outside of the Council's control
- Harnessing community support; and
- Time to complete planning procedures.

5.6 Summary and Potential Opportunities for Future Development

Solar PV has the potential to be a significant source of renewable energy generation in North Somerset, with the largest potential of any of the technologies in the study.

Across North Somerset, 142.57km^2 of land was identified as suitable for solar PV development, covering a significant amount of the rural land within North Somerset. Table 15 below shows the potential installed capacity and energy generation from the identified solar SAs in this study.

Table 15: Potential Installed Capacity and Energy Generation from the Identified Search Areas for Ground Mounted Solar PV Farms

Map Reference	Total Land Area (km^2)	Potential Total Installed Capacity (MW)	Potential Energy Generated (GWh)
S6-NS	142.57	5,940.4	5,762

Moreover, the effects of additional constraints such as Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) or Green Belt areas that may impact ground-mounted solar PV development within the SAs were considered by spatial mapping the SAs and the constraints on separate maps. A comprehensive list of these additional constraints is provided in Appendix H. As part of the analysis, the impact of a selected number of additional constraints on the SAs was assessed by removing the overlapping areas covering these constraints and SAs. Table 16 below includes details of the assessment.

Table 16: Remaining Area of SAs After Applying Selected Additional Constraints for Illustrative Purposes Only

Map Reference	Other Constraint Shown on the Map	Area of the Final Solar SAs Identified in Step 6 (km^2)	Potential Installed Capacity of the Final Solar SAs (MW)	Remaining SAs if Area of the Other Constraint Is Removed (km^2)	Remaining Potential Installed Capacity of the SAs if Area of the Other Constraint Is Removed (MW)
S9-NS	Agricultural Land Grade 1 and 2	142.57	5,940.4	111.01	4,625.4
S10-NS	Natural England's IRZs for Solar	142.57	5,940.4	107.65	4,485.4
S11-NS	AONB	142.57	5,940.4	134.63	5,609.6
S12-NS	Flood Zones	142.57	5,940.4	70.99	2,957.9
S13-NS	Green Belt	142.57	5,940.4	100.50	4187.5

Additionally, SAs have been further ranked (for information purposes only) using the WPD grid connection analysis results and the LUC landscape sensitivity assessment. The WPD grid connection analysis can be used to identify the most favourable locations when considering the connection to the grid. The LUC landscape sensitivity assessment can be used to guide the Council to the locations that will have the least impact on the landscape.

Due to the substantial amount solar PV SAs identified within this study, the Council can consider its options in terms of safeguarding, as the available resource is significantly greater than that required. For example, the Council could consider whether it wishes to further constrain the available resource to narrow down the areas where it would support development of PV farms. It could also choose not to safeguard land for solar PV farms, as the scale of opportunity is so great in comparison to that for wind farms.

6. Proximity to Grid and Grid Capacity for Wind and Solar PV SAs

Whilst private wire schemes are an option, and some already exist in the UK, onshore wind and solar farms usually have a connection to the grid to export electricity, albeit with increasing curtailments.

Consideration of a viable connection point is an important factor when considering sites for new solar or wind energy development. The cost of a grid connection depends on the distance to the nearest connection point the works needed to make that connection (there can be a number of complexities such as land ownership issues, whether the dig is hard or soft, etc) and the availability of capacity in the distribution network to take the additional power output. For this study, grid connection is assumed to be a discussion matter for national-level decision-makers and has not been used to constrain wind and solar PV energy generation potential. In addition, as renewable deployment is a national priority, it is assumed that the grid requirement will be met to allow for sufficient additional capacity.

A high-level analysis has been undertaken in consultation with the Distribution Network Operator, Western Power Distribution (WPD). The analysis was undertaken to rank the 1.0MW and 2.5MW wind SAs as well as the solar PV SAs in terms of their proximity to a likely grid connection point. Electricity generators <50MWe are exempt from the requirement for an electricity license[105]. The solar SAs have been divided into 50MW parcels to allow WPD to perform their assessment of the sites.

WPD reviewed the existing available capacity within the wind SAs and aligned that information to the proximity of existing conductors/cables, and any other accepted or offered connections that may also be seeking capacity. The Search Areas were ranked based on the high-level analysis undertaken in consultation with WPD. The Search Areas are ranked from low priority (coloured red in the maps) to high priority (coloured blue in the maps), with high priority being most favourable for a new connection to the grid as shown in Figure 40.

Figure 40: SAs Proximity to Grid and Grid Capacity Ranking Key (Refer to W16 and S16 Maps in Accompanying Document 'North Somerset RERAS - Maps')

This ranking has only been taken as a single snapshot based on the latest information. It does not account for any future reinforcement that may be triggered by other new connections or condition-based replacement. Increases or decreases in future demand may also affect capacity and have not been considered within this study. Sites over 1MW may be required to go through the Statement of Works process to confirm acceptance of the connection on the transmission network.

Network access may be accelerated or achieved with reduced costs by progressing an alternative connection, which allows export to be limited at times of high export from other users.

Higher resolution versions of these maps are contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

[105] Class A: Small generators – Generates lower than 50 megawatts with a declared net capacity of up to 100 megawatts. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2001/3270/schedule/2/made

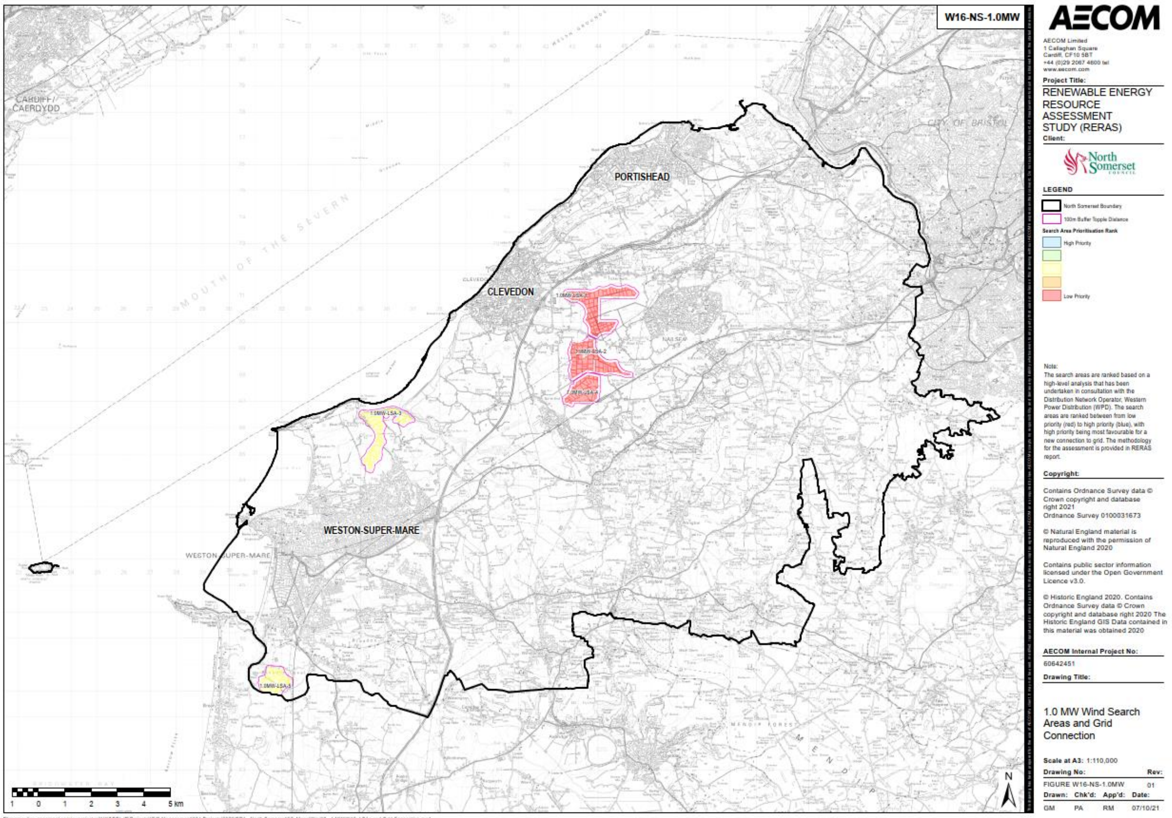


Figure 41: W16-NS-1.0MW: 1.0MW Wind Search Areas and Grid Connection in North Somerset Map

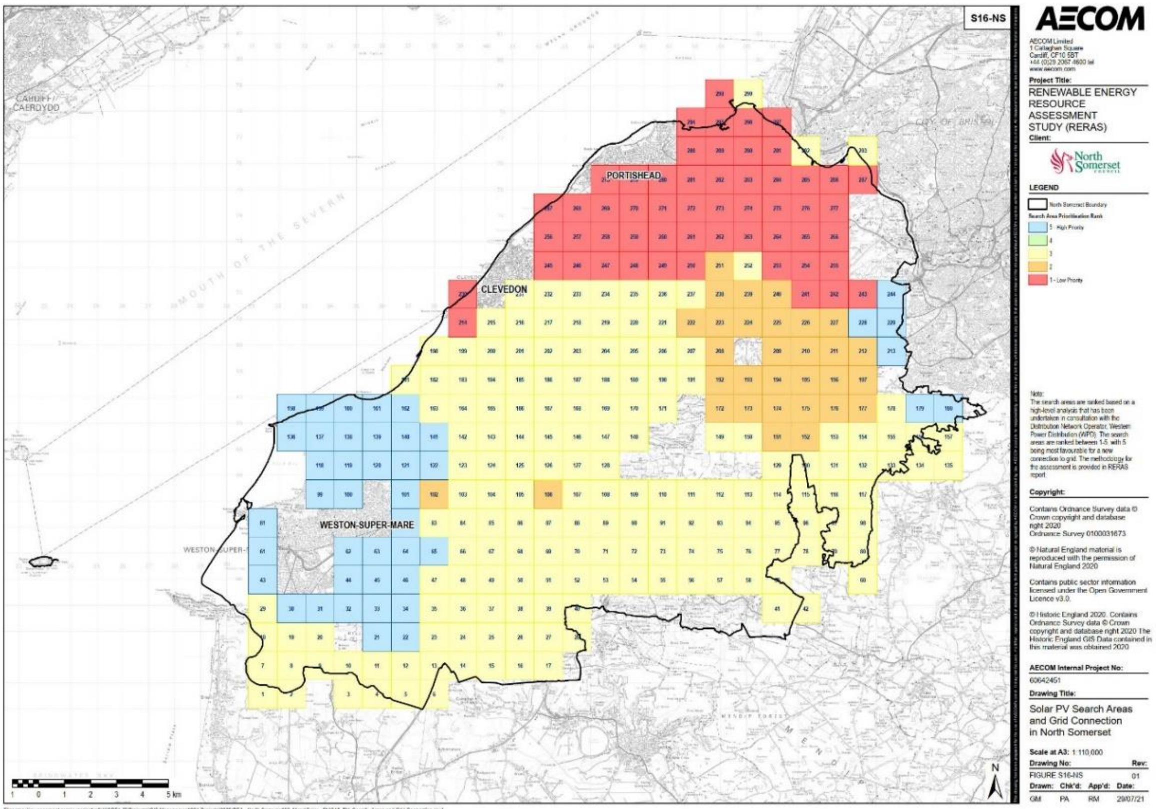


Figure 42: S16-NS: 50MW Solar PV Search Areas and Grid Connection in North Somerset Map

7. Wind and Solar PV Search Areas and Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

An additional parameter that can be considered in prioritising the Search Areas is Landscape Character Areas and the sensitivity of these landscapes to new wind farm and solar PV farm developments. A flowchart presenting the steps taken in completing mapping the results of a landscape sensitivity for both wind farms and solar PV farms is shown in Figure 45 and Figure 46 respectively.

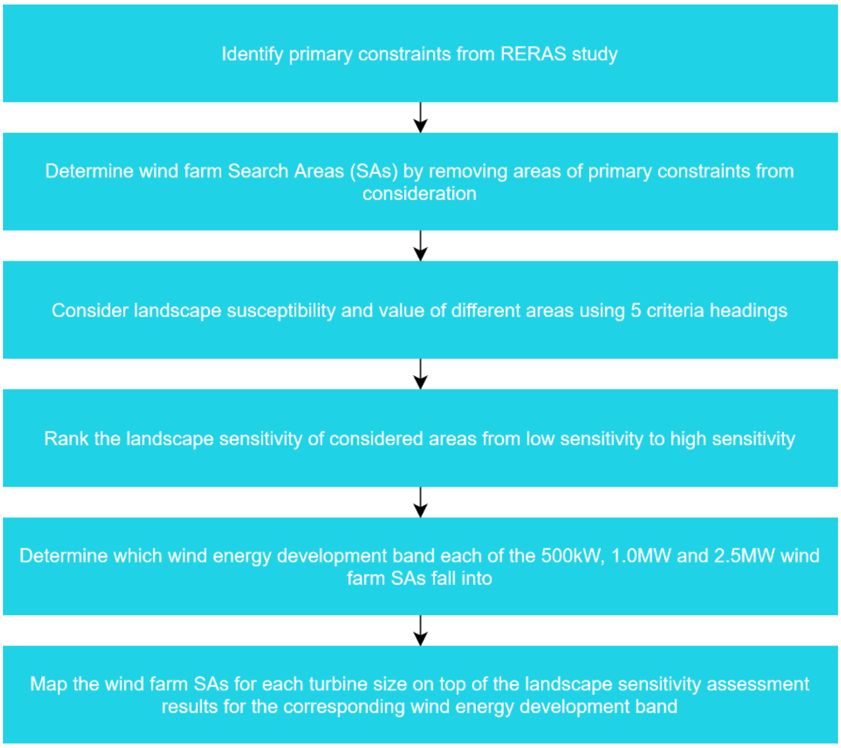


Figure 43 Steps Taken in Landscape Sensitivity Study for Wind Farm Search Areas

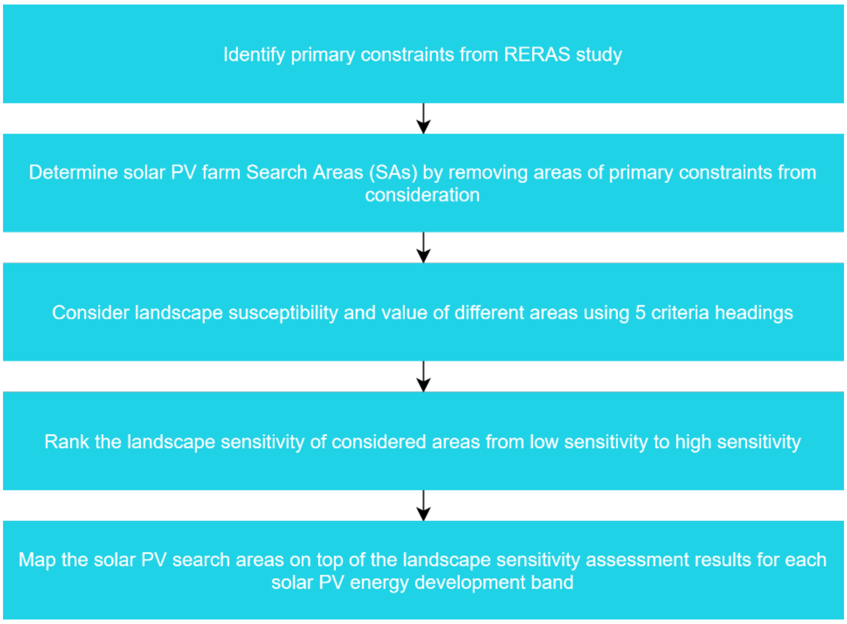


Figure 44 Steps Taken in Landscape Sensitivity Study for Solar PV Farm Search Areas

Land Use Consultants (LUC) has conducted a landscape sensitivity assessment for wind and solar PV energy development as part of this RERAS. Results of the assessment provide an initial indication of the relative landscape sensitivity of different areas within North Somerset to accommodate wind farm and solar PV farm energy developments. The findings of the study, combined with the identified Search Areas (SAs), are presented in this section of the report. The landscape sensitivity assessment considers the landscape susceptibility[106] and landscape value[107] using 5 criteria headings:

- Landform and scale (including sense of openness / enclosure);
- Landcover (including field and settlement patterns);
- Historic landscape character;
- Visual character (including skylines); and
- Perceptual and scenic qualities.

Once the above criteria were assessed individually, the results were combined to produce an overall sensitivity level, as shown in Table 17.

Table 17: The Five-Point Scale Landscape Sensitivity Scale

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High (H)	Key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are highly vulnerable to change from wind and solar energy development. Such development is likely to result in a significant change in character.
Moderate High (M H)	Key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are vulnerable to change from wind and solar energy development. There may be some limited opportunity to accommodate wind turbines/ solar panels without significantly changing landscape character. Great care would be needed in siting and design.
Moderate (M)	Some of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are vulnerable to change. Although the landscape may have some ability to absorb wind and solar energy development, it is likely to cause a degree of change in character. Care would be needed in siting and design.
Low - Moderate (L-M)	Fewer of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are vulnerable to change. The landscape is likely to be able to accommodate wind and solar energy development with limited change in character. Care is still needed when siting and designing to avoid adversely affecting key characteristics.
Low (L)	Key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are robust in that they can withstand change from the introduction of wind turbines and solar panels. The landscape is likely to be able to accommodate wind and solar energy development without a significant change in character. Care is still needed when siting and designing these developments to ensure best fit with the landscape.

Additionally, the assessment considers the suitability of different turbine heights (to blade tip), based on bandings that reflect those most likely to be put forward by developers (now and in the future). These are set out in Table 18 below.

Table 18: Wind Turbine Development Sizes Considered in the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Wind Energy Development Banding	Turbine Height (to blade tip)
Band A	18 – 25m
Band B	26 – 60m
Band C	61 – 100m
Band D	101 – 150m

[106] How vulnerable the landscape is to change from the type being assessed, in this case solar PV and wind energy developments
[107] Consensus about importance, which can be recognised through designation as well as through descriptions within the 2014 Landscape Character Assessment

The assessment also judges the suitability of different scales of solar PV developments based on bandings that reflect those that are most likely to be put forward by developers. The sizes[108] used for the assessment are set out in Table 19[109].

Table 19: Solar PV Farm Development Sizes Considered in the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Solar PV Development Banding	Area
Band A	≤5ha
Band B	6ha – 10ha
Band C	11ha – 15ha
Band D	16ha – 30ha
Band E	31ha – 60ha

The complete assessment methodology and results of a landscape sensitively assessment is included in the accompanying document 'Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Solar PV and Wind Energy Development – Prepared by LUC – 2021'.

W17 and S17 maps show the landscape sensitivity assessment results overlayed on the identified wind farm search and solar PV farm Search Areas respectively. The figures rank the areas considered for the landscape sensitivity study in line with the sensitivity levels shown in Table 17 and provide guidance on the potential effects of different scale wind development on the landscape. Higher resolution versions of these maps including 500kW, 1MW and 2.5MW turbine wind SAs and for bands A to E for solar PV SAs are contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'. Table 20 and Table 21 below present the results of the landscape sensitively assessment for 1.0MW and 2.5MW wind SAs.

Table 20: Individual Identified 1.0MW Wind SAs in North Somerset and Their Landscape Sensitivity Levels

SA Reference on Maps	Sensitivity Level
1.0MW-1	High
1.0MW-2	High
1.0MW-3	Moderate High
1.0MW-4	Moderate High
1.0MW-5	High

Table 21: Individual Identified 2.5MW Wind SAs in North Somerset and Their Landscape Sensitivity Levels

SA Reference on Maps	Sensitivity Level	
2.5MW-1	High	
2.5MW-2	Moderate High	High
2.5MW-3	High	
2.5MW-4	Moderate High	

[108] The sizes of solar PV developments indicate the areas taken up by solar PV panels only.
[109] Proposed solar PV developments larger than 60ha have not been considered in the LUC landscape sensitivity assessment. LUC has confirmed that landscape sensitivity to these very large schemes would be categorised as "high" sensitivity regardless of location, requiring developers to pay particular attention to this issue in their specific applications.

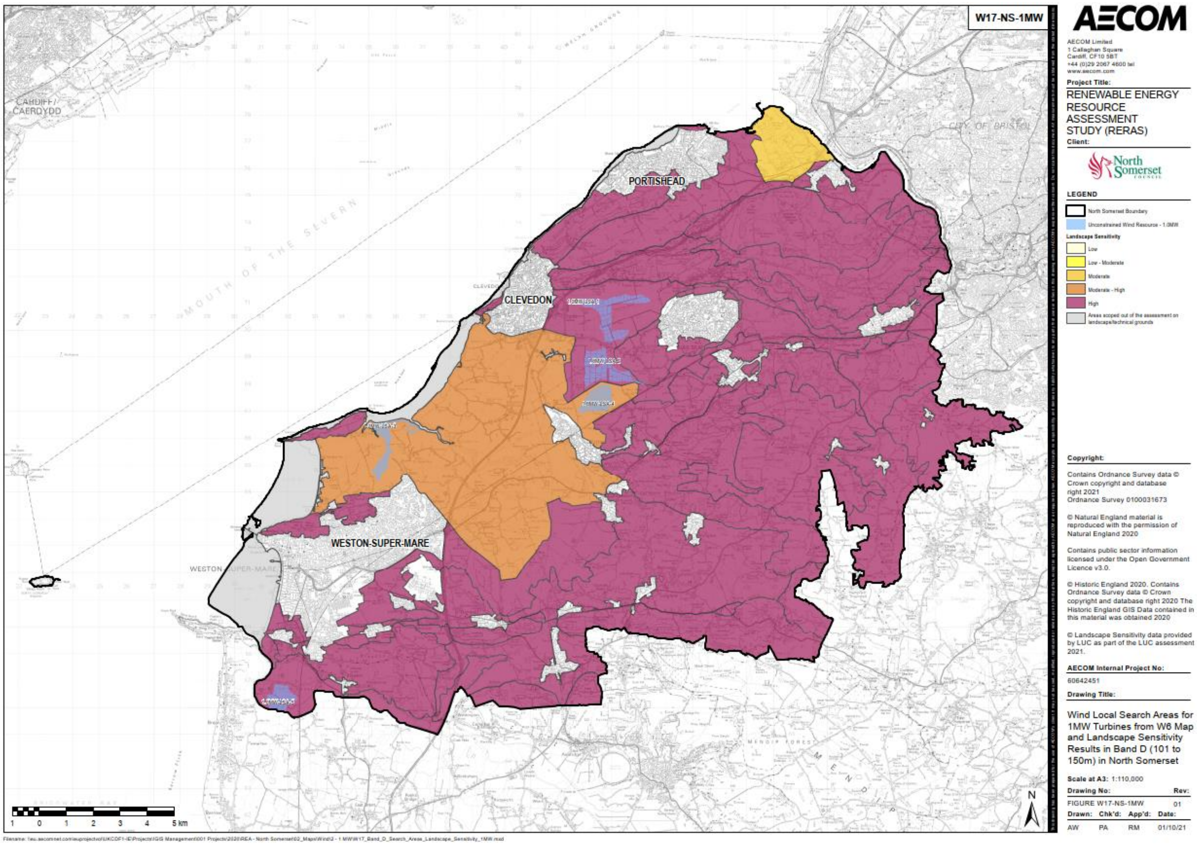


Figure 45: W17-NS-1MW: Wind Local Search Areas for 1 MW Wind Turbines from W6 map and Landscape Sensitivity Results in Band D (101m to 150m) in North Somerset Map

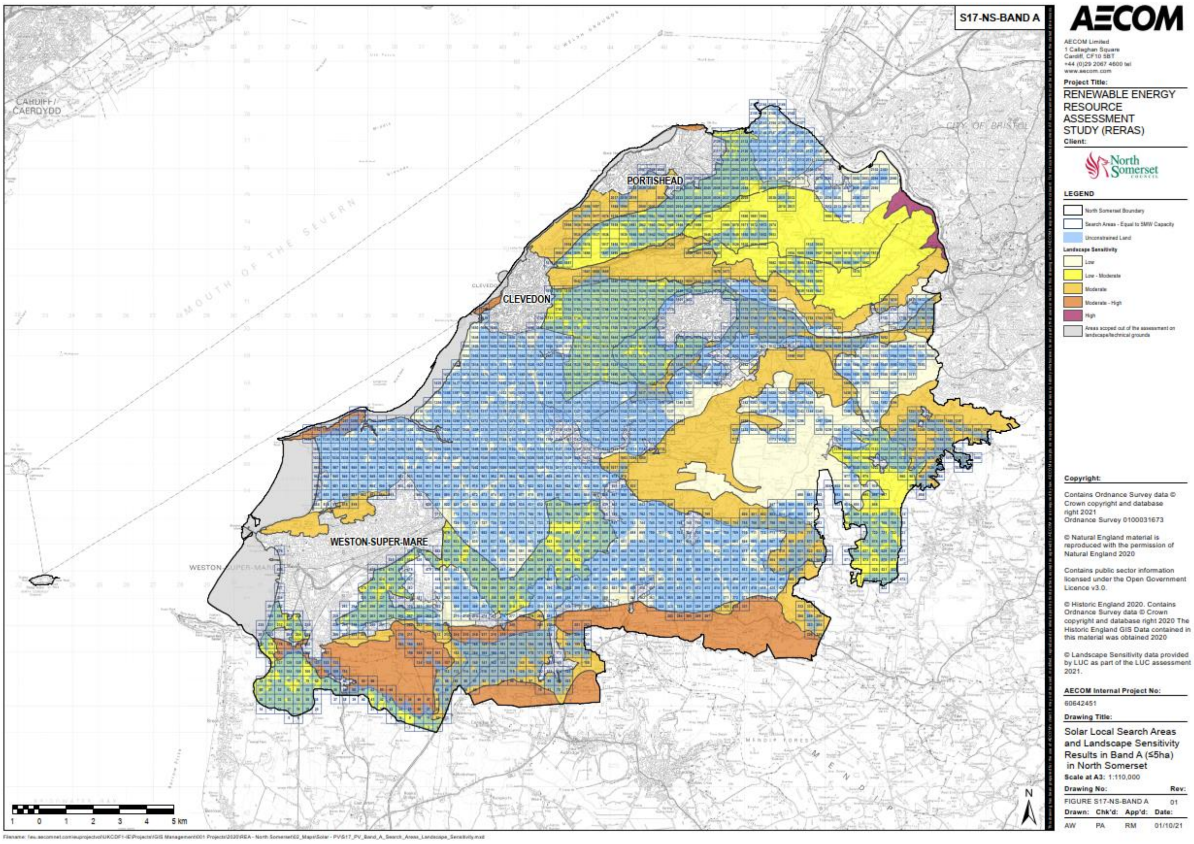


Figure 46: S17-NS-Band A: Solar Local Search Areas from S6 Map and Landscape Sensitivity Results in Band A (≤5ha) in North Somerset Map

8. Biomass Energy Resource

8.1 Introduction

The focus of this section of the study is on establishing the potential biomass resource defined as either:

- Energy crops (e.g. miscanthus, short-rotation coppice, etc.); or,
- Wood fuel resource.

Unlike wind farms, biomass can be utilised the generate electricity and heat and domestic hot water (DHW).

The use of energy crops, forestry residues and recycled wood waste for energy generation can have a number of advantages:

- Provide opportunities for agricultural diversification;
- Encourage increased management of woodland;
- Can have positive effects on biodiversity;
- Remove biodegradable elements from the waste stream;
- Potential for CO_2 savings.

In relation to biomass, the Biomass in a Low Carbon Economy [110] report by the Climate Change Committee (CCC) states:

> "Sustainably *harvested biomass can play a significant role in meeting long-term climate targets, provided it is prioritised for the most valuable end-uses"*

The report also confirms a significant potential to increase domestic production of sustainable biomass to meet between the equivalent of 5% and 10% of energy demand from UK sources by 2050. More information regarding biomass technology can be found in Section 1.8.6.

A detailed breakdown of the methodology for determining biomass resources can be found in Appendix K.

[110] https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Biomass-in-a-low-carbon-economy-CCC-2018.pdf

8.2 Energy Crops

8.2.1 Mapping

The potential energy crop resource in North Somerset was determined by utilising GIS maps, overlaying potential primary constraints onto the areas identified as having potential for growing such crops. The constraints were identified in consultation with North Somerset Council and are provided in detail in Section 8.2.1.1. In order to avoid competition between land uses (i.e. food crops, livestock grazing, energy crops, etc), Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) land grades 1, 2 and 3 are constrained out and not considered further. Therefore, this study assumed that energy crops could only be grown on agricultural land of Grade 4[111,112] which is not constrained by environmental or historical protected areas. Maps have been produced to illustrate each stage of the process of identifying primary constraints and opportunities.

The flowchart shown in Figure 47 shows the process steps and the output maps at each stage of the mapping. These maps are contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

For an in-depth, step-by-step explanation of the mapping process, please see Appendix K.

[111] Poor quality agricultural land. Land with severe limitations which significantly restrict the range of crops and/or level of yields. It is mainly suited to grass with occasional arable crops (e.g. cereals and forage crops) the yields of which are variable. In moist climates, yields of grass may be moderate to high but there may be difficulties in utilisation. The grade also includes very droughty arable land.

[112] The Bioeconomy Consultants (2012), Domestic Energy Crops; Potential and Constraints Review, A report for DECC, URN: 12D/081; https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/48342/5138-domestic-energy-crops-potential-and-constraints-r.PDF

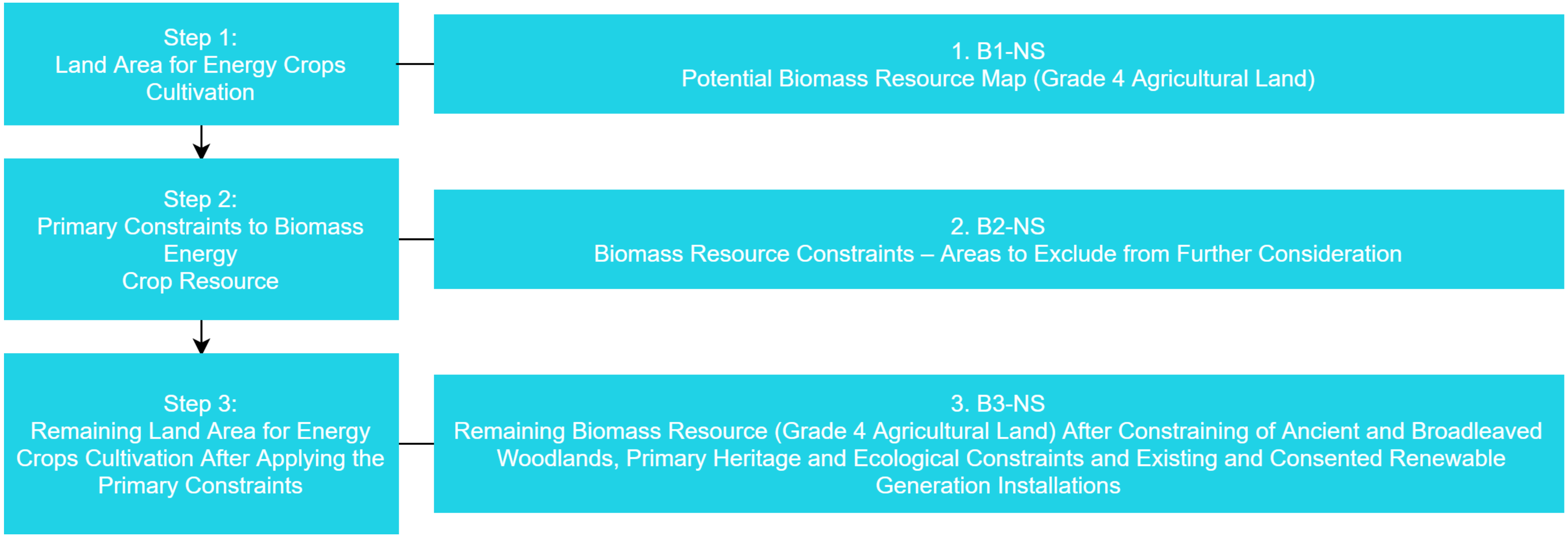


Figure 47: Flowchart of Energy Crop Mapping Process

8.2.1.1 Primary Constraints

- Areas of broadleaved woodland;
- Areas of environmental protection (including ancient woodlands);
- Areas of historical and cultural importance; and
- Operational and consented (but not yet constructed) renewables energy development sites (solar PV and wind).

B2 map illustrates these primary constraints that are associated with restrictions to harvesting energy crops. A comprehensive table of the constraints is provided in Appendix L. A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

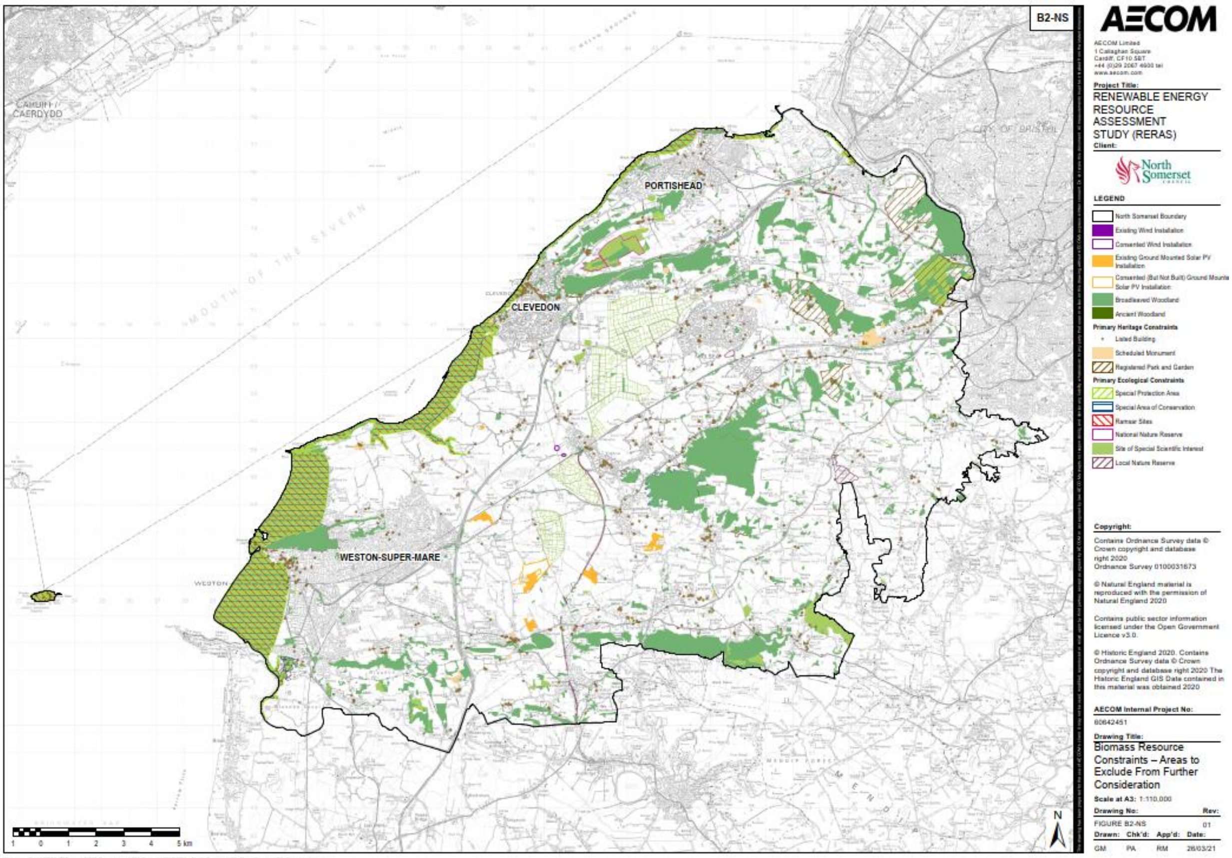


Figure 48: B2-NS: Biomass Resource Primary Constraints – Areas to Exclude from Further Consideration Map

8.2.1.2 Identification of Biomass Resource

The remaining available land for energy crop cultivation after removing the constrained areas is shown below in Figure 49, showing a theoretical maximum area of land that could be planted with energy crops as 30.06km^2.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: BM-PR-1 (Refer to Table 42 in Section 17)

It is recommended that proposals utilising biomass are looked upon favourably where:

a. a whole life carbon benefit can be evidenced; and
b. the development should be located away from urban areas (and preferably in areas off the gas grid).

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document ‘North Somerset RERAS – Maps’.

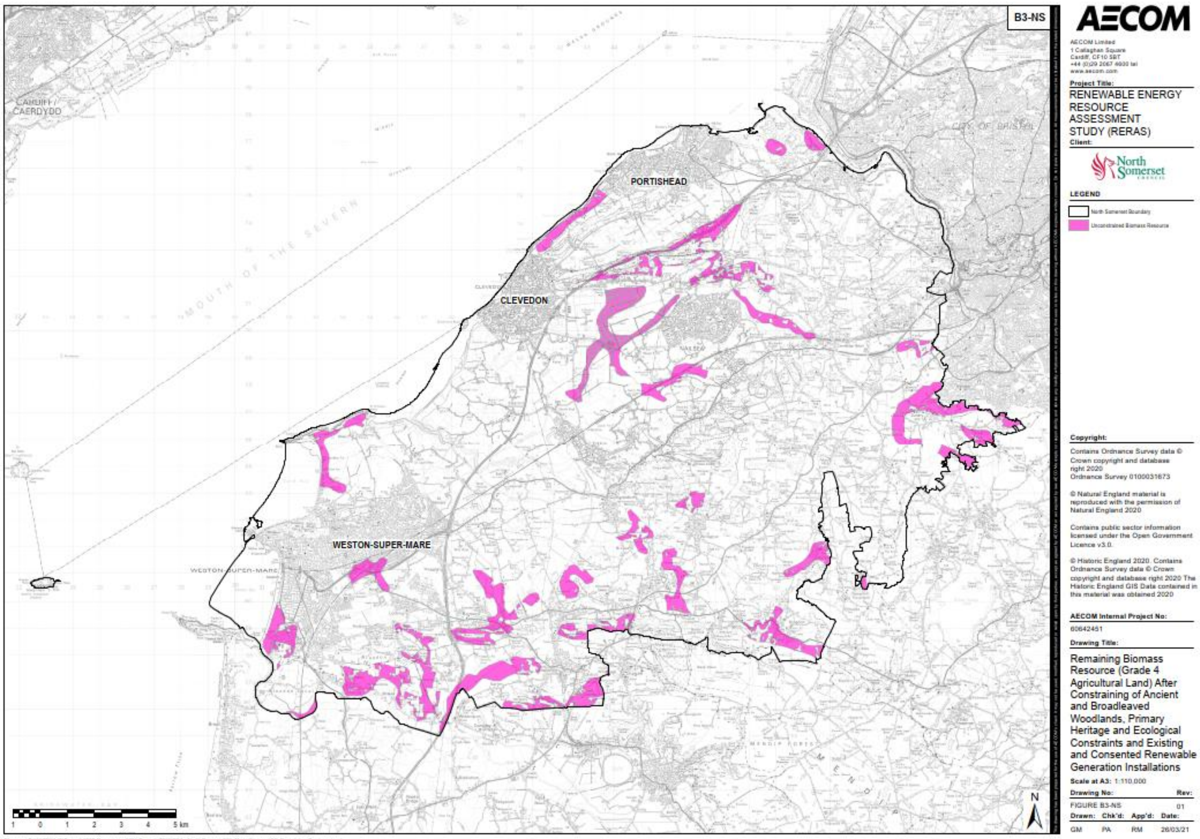


Figure 49: B3-NS: Remaining Biomass Resource (Grade 4 Agricultural Land) After Constraining of Ancient and Broadleaved Woodlands, Primary Heritage and Ecological Constraints and Existing and Consented Renewable Generation Installations Map

Competition with other crops, existing areas of energy crop cultivation, livestock grazing, solar PV farms, and unsuitable topography provide limitations on where energy crops can be planted

It was assumed that only 10% of the suitable land area identified for energy crops could actually be planted with energy crops

Therefore, the total usable area of land for energy crops across North Somerset is 3.006 km^2

Installed Power and Heat Generation Capacity

Forest Research[113] gives a figure of 7 to 12 oven-dry tonnes/ha/annum yield for short rotation coppice and 12 to 14 oven-dry tonnes (odt)/ha/annum yield for miscanthus. However, in reality, the actual yield will vary within a range, depending on a number of factors such as land grade, crop species, soil types, how many years a particular crop has been established at a site, and so on. Therefore, an average figure of 11 odt per hectare for energy crop yield was assumed in potential installed capacity calculations.

The amount of energy that could potentially be produced from biomass will depend on whether the fuel is burnt in boilers that only generate heat or combusted in Combined Heat and Power units (where the heat is used).

[113] https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/biomass-energy-resources/fuel/energy-crops/

For the purposes of this assessment, it was assumed that the energy crop resource is used to fuel a biomass CHP system to produce electricity and heat. [114] A biomass CHP system can be used to supply small off-grid heat networks, or it could be combined with a small green hydrogen demonstrator where the electricity is to be used to generate hydrogen for transport fuel and/or for use in an industrial setting. Carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS) may need to be considered for such a hydrogen-related project.

A typical biomass CHP system will require about 6,000odt (oven-dry tonnes) of energy crops for each 1MWe of installed power generation capacity

The biomass CHP system will also simultaneously produce about 2MWt

The total potential installed capacity from energy crops across North Somerset is 0.55MWe and 1.1MWt

Table 22 below confirms the maximum potential energy crop resource in North Somerset.

It is assumed that only 10% of the suitable land area identified for energy crops could actually be planted with energy crops. This reflects a range of factors, including competition with other crops, existing areas of energy crops cultivation, livestock grazing, solar PV farms, and unsuitable topography.

Table 22: Total Potential Energy Crop Resource in North Somerset

	Energy Crop
Total Available Area (km^2)	30.06
Usable Area (km^2)	3.006
Yield (odt per km^2)	1,100
Yield (odt)	3,307
Required Yield per MWt	6,000
Potential Installed Capacity (MWe)	**0.55**
Heat to Power Ratio	2:1
Potential Installed Capacity (MWt)	**1.1**

There is a potential installed capacity from energy crops across North Somerset of 0.55MWe and 1.1MWt, which.
For comparison, the energy generation potential is equal to supplying energy to 48 typical primary schools annually[115].

8.3 Wood Fuel

Wood fuel can be harvested from the small round wood stems, tips and branches of felled timber trees and thinning and poor-quality round wood.[116]

For the purposes of this assessment, it was assumed that the energy resource from wood fuel is utilised for SH or DHW or both (i.e. a biomass boiler[117]). For the detailed calculation of the wood fuel resource, please see Appendix K. Table 23 below confirms the maximum potential wood fuel biomass resource in North Somerset. It has been assumed that a biomass boiler may be used to displace coal or oil without necessitating structural, fabric and services changes in buildings, this could be relevant to the buildings in off gas areas in North Somerset.

[114] This is an average figure to cover a range of different technology types, and sizes, with different efficiencies. For example, a smaller scale facility (about 2MWe) using a steam turbine with an efficiency of about 20%, might require up to 8,000 oven dry tonnes/annum. However, a larger facility (5-10MWe), using gasification, with an efficiency of up to 30%, might require about 5,000 oven dry tonnes per annum.
[115] DEC database is used to calculate average annual heat demand in a typical primary school.
[116] National forest is all wood land within the National Forestry Inventory. i.e. All woodland 0.5 hectares and over https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/national-forest-inventory/about-the-nfi/
[117] Assuming a boiler efficiency of 80% and a capacity factor of 0.3

Table 23: Total Potential Energy Resource from Wood Fuel in North Somerset

	Wood Fuel
Available Area (km^2)	46.87
Yield (odt per km^2)	200
Yield (odt)	9,380
Required Yield per MWt	660
Potential Installed Capacity (MWt)	**14.2**

There is a maximum potential installed capacity across North Somerset of 14.2MWt, equivalent to supplying energy to 202 typical primary schools annually[118].

8.4 Further Constraints to Biomass Energy Resource

Where areas of land have been indicated as having potential for the growing of energy crops, further detailed studies are required prior to action. Furthermore, market demand is likely to play a vital role in what type of crop is grown, the location and quantity.

Even where there is a local demand for a biomass supply, constraints (not considered within this RERAS) can persist, including the proximity of supply to the plant and practical access to sites required to prepare and deliver fuel.

Further constraints to biomass that are not considered within this RERAS include (but are not necessarily restricted to:

- Landowner willingness;
- National planning policies, which are outside of the Council's control; and
- The time involved in the planning process.

Biomass is most usually utilised in CHP for industrial purposes (typically situated away from residential development) or for heating non-domestic buildings, particularly in non-urban off-gas areas where there are less likely to be Air Quality issues and sufficient room for fuel storage and access for delivery vehicles.

8.5 Summary and Potential Opportunities for Future Development

The potential available biomass resource within North Somerset amounts to 0.55MWe and 15.3MWt, which equates to 53.63GWht annually. This resource can be used to meet part of the heating demand in North Somerset via renewables, including for use in individual boilers, via district heating networks or incorporated in a fuel electricity plant or CHP plant. It should be noted that the projected biomass use in North Somerset (in Section 14 of this report) is less than the resource identified above. The amount of generation set out in future sections relates to the 2030 target and aligns with projected demand (including the assumption that all biomass is sourced locally).

Due to the finite supply of biomass, it is essential to ensure that it is used to its biggest advantage. A recent report from the Climate Change Committee[119] (CCC) states that biomass should only be used to sequester atmospheric carbon whilst simultaneously providing useful energy; this could include future opportunities for bioenergy with carbon capture and storage, or used in situations where there a few alternatives.

Alongside concerns relating to the finite supply of biomass resource, there are also health concerns associated with the emissions released as part of the process of burning biomass. For more information on this, see Section 1.8.6.2.

The above concerns should not deter the Council from maximising the use of the available biomass resource; however, consideration must be taken to ensure the most appropriate way of exploiting this resource is determined. Because of the flexibility of biomass fuel, it is suggested that a bespoke,

[118] DEC database is used to calculate average annual heat demand in a typical primary school.
[119] Climate Change Committee, 'Biomass in a Low-Carbon Economy, 2018; https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Biomass-in-a-low-carbon-economy-CCC-2018.pdf

independent and thorough investigation is conducted into any proposals received in respect of biomass projects, to ensure environmental benefit is secured.

Given the cost of CCUS projects, it may be that such projects are limited in the North Somerset area. However, other projects potentially involving industrial manufacture/process, green hydrogen demonstration and production of biofuels may well be environmentally beneficial, particularly in off-gas grid areas where coal or oil is being displaced and where the biomass source is local and from sustainably managed sources.

9. Energy from Waste

9.1 Introduction

The Waste Management Plan for England[120] sets out the Government's ambitions to work towards a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and waste management. The plan states that all waste management plans must include measures to be taken so that, by 2035:

- The preparing for re-use and the recycling of municipal waste are increased to a minimum of 65% by weight.
- The amount of municipal waste landfilled in reduced by 10% or less of the total amount of municipal waste generated (by weight).

The West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy[121] (JWCS) sets out the strategic spatial planning policy to provide waste management infrastructure across the planning area. The plan aims to reduce waste taken to the landfill by minimising waste production, increasing recycling and composting, then recovering further value from any remaining waste.

The JWCS highlights that, although material recovery takes priority, energy recovery has a beneficial role to play in both sustainable waste management and as a low carbon energy source from an Energy from Waste (EfW) centre.

North Somerset Council's Waste and Recycling Strategy is currently under consultation[122] at time of writing; however, it has been confirmed that the targets are likely to be in line with the recently published South Gloucestershire Resource and Waste Strategy[123] which includes the following targets:

2025
65% of waste recycled

→

2027
68% of waste recycled

→

2030
70% of waste recycled

→

2030
Achieve zero waste to landfill

Part of the pathway to achieving these targets, includes using Energy Recovery Facilities (ERFs) for non-recyclable waste. The West of England Partnership (South Gloucestershire, North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset and Bristol City) uses two ERFs to incinerate waste and produce energy for the National Grid.

This section determines the amount of potential electricity and heat generation available from the following waste streams in 2030:

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)

- The 2030 MSW figure was determined by the council's waste prediction model and aligned with the 70% recycling rate target.
- It was assumed that the MSW would be used as fuel in a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) facility to produce energy and heat.

Commercial and Industrial Waste (C&I)

- The 2030 C&I waste figure was determined using the 2019 figure from the Waste Data Interrogator (WDI), the "Sustainability Turn" scenario of the DEFRA "Scenario-Building for Future Waste Policy" report and aligned with the 70% recycling rate target.
- It was assumed that the C&I would be utilised as a fuel in a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) facility to produce energy and heat.

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[120] Waste Management Plan for England, DEFRA, 2021; https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955897/waste-management-plan-for-england-2021.pdf

[121] West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy, WEP, March 2011; https://www.westofengland.org/waste-planning/adopted-joint-waste-core-strategy

[122] Draft Recycling and Waste Strategy Summary Document, North Somerset Council: https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/gf2.ti/-/1273090/105019525.1/PDF/-/30337_Final___Executive_Summary_ACC.pdf

[123] South Gloucestershire Resource and Waste Strategy: 2020 and Beyond, South Gloucestershire Council, 2020, https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/1654-Resource-and-Waste-Strategy-2020-and-beyond-v1.0.pdf

Food Waste

- The 2030 food waste figure was determined by using the 2019 DEFRA value, assuming that the waste breakdown will remain constant and will increase at the same rate as the MSW between 2019 and 2030.
- Food waste can be anaerobically digested to produce a suitable gas for combustion and, if the plant is suitably enabled, generate both electricity and heat.

Agricultural Waste Animal Manure

- The 2030 animal manure figure was determined using the assumption that the farming mix will not change significantly in North Somerset, and therefore the latest livestock statistics can be used.
- Animal manure can be treated by anaerobic digestion and utilised in a CHP plant to generate both electricity and heat.

Agricultural Waste Poultry Litter

- The 2030 poultry litter figure was determined using the assumption that the farming mix will not change significantly in North Somerset, and therefore, the latest statistics for the number of poultry can be used.
- A bespoke CHP facility would be required to facilitate the use of the poultry litter.

Sewage Sludge

- The 2030 sewage sludge figure was determined by the tonnes of sewage produced per person per year and the predicted 2030 population of North Somerset.
- A CHP enabled anaerobic digestion plant would be suitable for utilising sewage sludge to produce both electricity and heat.

For more information regarding the technologies used, see Section 1.8.6.

A detailed analysis of each waste stream can be found in Appendix M.

9.2 Waste Summary

A summary of the potential outputs from utilising the waste resource in North Somerset area is provided below. There are a number of key issues which would impact on whether the resource can be exploited and/or counted towards renewable energy contributions as follows:

- Viability of any investment in a plant;
- Existing arrangements and contracts;
- Origin and price/gate fees of the resource.

High-level consideration was given to the likelihood of the resource being exploited.

So, for instance, although there is available MSW resource in the area, waste is taken to facilities in Ashton Gate, Bristol where it is segregated into constituent materials and sent for onward processing. The waste that is unsuitable for EfW is landfilled in sites outside of the Council area. Given resource availability is determined by where the generation takes place, it is assumed there is insufficient energy resource from MSW, C&I and food waste in North Somerset to make provision of a separate EfW facility in the district predictable[124].

A bespoke CHP plant would need to be used to facilitate the poultry litter resource. However, in practice, as the potential capacity is less than 10MWe, it is unlikely that this would be enough to support a dedicated poultry litter power plant since it is likely not to be viable. The resource has therefore been combined with slurries to be utilised in an AD plant with CHP.

Given that there is already recovery of landfill gas as well sewage gas AD plant which are utilised for electricity generation in the county, it is assumed that all economic opportunities have already been exploited – hence the contribution is set to zero. Therefore, the only available resources that can be utilised in AD plants within the planning area are animal slurries combined with poultry litter.

When considering all of the above, the final potential for renewable energy from the waste resource is shown in Table 24 below.

[124] Assuming that the existing arrangements are likely to be in place until 2030

Table 24: Summary of Energy from Waste[125]

	Prior to Consideration of Likelihood of Utilisation for RE Generation			Reason for Adjustment / Change of Technology	Post Consideration of Likelihood of Utilisation for RE Generation 2030		
		2030					
Resource	Technology	MWe	MWt		Technology	MWe	MWt
C&I Waste	EfW with CHP	2.81	5.61	Currently the residual waste that is sent for landfill or incineration is exported to facilities outside North Somerset. Therefore, counted as existing generation elsewhere.	None	-	-
MSW	EfW with CHP	1.22	2.44	Currently waste is taken to facilities in Ashton Gate, Bristol where it is segregated into constituent materials and sent for onward processing. The unsuitable waste for EfW is landfilled in sites outside the authority area. Therefore, counted as generation elsewhere.	None	-	-
Food Waste	AD with CHP	0.41	2.44	Currently processed at a plant in Weston-Super-Mare within North Somerset and is therefore already accounted for as existing generation within North Somerset.	None	-	-
Animal Slurry	AD with CHP	0.30	0.45	Combined with Poultry Litter[126].	AD	0.48	0.81
Poultry Litter	Bespoke plant with CHP[127]	0.18	0.36	Not likely to be enough resource for bespoke plant (resource is less than 10MWe). The resource is therefore combined with Animal slurry for AD with CHP and included in above.	None	-	-
Sewage Sludge	AD with CHP	0.42	0.64	There is a 0.56MWe installed capacity, it is assumed that all economic opportunities have already been exploited.	None		
Landfill Gas	Landfill gas recovery engine	There is a 1.05MWe installed capacity		The unsuitable waste for EfW is landfilled in sites outside the authority area. There is a 1.05MWe installed capacity for landfill gas, it is assumed that all economic opportunities have already been exploited[128].	None		
Potential installed capacity		**5.35**	**11.95**			**0.48**	**0.81**

[125] A detailed analysis of each waste stream can be found in Appendix M.
[126] As shown in Table 8, there is 1.1MW installed capacity of AD in North Somerset. However, it has not been possible to verify if these installations are located in farms utilising animal slurry, poultry litter or other waste streams as fuel. Therefore, the resource has been retained in this table in the 'Post consideration of likelihood of utilisation for RE Generation 2030' column.
[127] In practice, a potential capacity of 10MWe or more is required to support a dedicated poultry litter power plant.
[128] The Council is currently moving towards a zero-landfill objective with an aim to divert all waste from landfill to energy recovery.
https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/bins-recycling/recycling-rubbish-collections/where-your-recycling-goes

10. Hydropower Energy Resource

10.1 Introduction

Existing hydropower installations across North Somerset have a combined total installed electrical capacity of 0.032MWe.

The Environment Agency published a high level, desk-based study[129] into the potential for small scale hydro power generation across England and Wales in 2010 which was updated in September 2020[130]. Table 25 below confirms the total potential hydropower capacity, including a breakdown of the potential hydropower sites' sensitivity to exploitation in North Somerset. Where the sensitivity categories of a potential sites were not given, the worst-case scenario was assumed, and it was assigned to have high environmental sensitivities.

For a list of potential hydro sites from the Environment Agency study see Appendix Q.

10.2 Hydropower Potential

Based on AECOM's previous studies investigating evidence in support of renewable energy potential on behalf of other local authorities, it was found that there was more generation occurring than could have been delivered by low and medium combined. Hence, it is an assumption that even where sites have a 'high' sensitivity rating, this does not necessarily preclude the development of such sites for power generation, presumably with environmental mitigation. It is therefore proposed that the potential hydropower resource across North Somerset, subject to appropriate investigation, could comprise those sites of medium sensitivity and 25% of the high sensitivity sites[131], equating to 0.04MWe in total without considering potential uptake, deliverability and existing schemes.

Table 25: Potential Hydropower Capacity in North Somerset According to Environmental Sensitivity.

Environmental Sensitivity	Installed Capacity (MWe)
Low	0
Medium	0
High	0.16
Total	**0.16**
Proportion High Sensitivity Included	25%
Potential Hydro Power Resource	**0.04**

Moreover, within the study published by the Environmental Agency, some of the sites were highlighted as win-win sites[132]. Within North Somerset, no win-win sites were identified. This information is shown in Table 26.

Table 26: Proportion of Potential Sites in North Somerset Outlined as Win-Win Sites

	Win-Win Sites
River Obstruction Sites	50
Win-Win Sites	0
Percentage Win-Win Sites	0%

[129] Mapping Hydropower Opportunities and Sensitivities in England and Wales: Technical Report, Entec UK on behalf of Environment Agency (2010)
[130] Potential Sites of Hydropower Opportunity, Environment Agency, revised 2020 [https://data.gov.uk/dataset/cda61957-f48b-4b75-b855-a18060302ed1/potential-sites-of-hydropower-opportunity]
[131] Sites with high environmental sensitivity will be less desirable that those with medium or low sensitivities due to their environmental impact. The sites are highly sensitive, mainly due to the presence of migratory fish species such as salmon and eel. However, they become more environmentally compatible opportunities when a new scheme has a fish pass built on it. Based on this and AECOM's experience, it is deemed that 25% of the high sensitivity sites should be considered when determining potential hydropower installed capacity because there could be lower uptake of the sites due to higher cost of additional environmental mitigations as well required permits.
[132] The Environmental Agency's judgement on whether the site is a potential "win-win" for both hydropower and the environment

10.3 Summary

The Environmental Agency study highlights the minimal potential for hydropower generation within North Somerset, with a potential hydropower capacity of 0.04MWe based on AECOM's assessment. Furthermore, all of the identified potential sites are located within areas of high sensitivity, and none of them were considered to be a Win-Win solution.

Therefore, it is concluded that no further practical potential hydroelectric capacity is available in North Somerset. It should be noted that technological advances may enable some of the sites to become a Win-Win solution in future.

11. Role of Storage in the Network

11.1 Introduction

As part of the RERAS, analysis undertaken of the role of storage in the network has been conducted by Regen[133]. This section sets out the key findings of this analysis.

Electricity storage has a vital role to play in enabling a zero carbon electricity system and facilitating the UK s transition to net zero. Electricity can be stored using several technologies, and then exported to provide various services to the electricity system.

Reserve (reserves, time shifting, back-up supply)

The fundamental use for storage is storing electricity for use at a later time. As renewable output varies according to weather conditions, storage provides reserves for use when demand is high, when supply is low, or at times of system stress.

For individual customers, storage can provide the ability to 'time shift' energy or provide a back-up supply behind the meter when an existing network connection is lost or interrupted. This could be done for a variety of reasons but is most often to take advantage of market price fluctuations and avoid peak electricity network charges.

Frequency Control (system inertia, frequency response)

As the amount of renewable generation on the system increases, the variability of the system's frequency also increases. An optimal frequency range is needed to maintain the grid's stability - an imbalance between demand and generation will affect frequency. Most renewable generation does not currently provide the required inertia. Overall, system inertia decreases, and as a result, the frequency can change very quickly and cause instability in the system.

Storage can help address this issue in two ways: by providing inertia, either real or synthetic, or through frequency response. Storage, particularly battery storage, can respond in milliseconds, helping the system deal with rapid changes in frequency.

Flexibility (constraint management, investment deferral)

Grid infrastructure (wires, transformers etc.) requires regular upgrades to handle increases in demand and generation. As the electricity system becomes increasingly decentralised, with generation connecting to lower voltage networks, existing infrastructure is not able to cope, resulting in constraints.

Expensive, time-consuming infrastructure upgrades may be necessary, but storage can help reduce these costs by supporting the network during periods of constrained generation or high demand, thus alleviating such constraints at a local level. This reduces the amount of new infrastructure needed or allows upgrades to be deferred to a more appropriate time.

Co-location with renewables

Storage can provide reserve and time-shifting directly to the renewable generating plant, storing excess energy when it is not needed by the grid.

There are times of low-demand and high generation, for example, during the summer months. Renewable generation is increasing, whilst the requirement for this energy is decreasing.

Generators are paid by the Electricity System Operator (ESO) to 'turn down' at times of high generation and low demand; however, these payments may not be commercially viable or even available in future, making co-located storage a more attractive prospect.

However, storage may be underutilised if it is only used for this purpose and may also need to provide other services in order to make full use of the asset. Currently, there are several co-located storage

[133] https://www.regen.co.uk/about-us/

sites, but most only share a grid connection with renewable generation, not an operating model. Therefore, although the storage sites and renewable generation are in the same place, they are not being used together, e.g. the battery is not being used to store excess generation from the renewable generator to avoid curtailments.

Long duration and seasonal storage

Currently, many of the services described above are either being met with lithium-ion battery storage, with around 0.5 - 2 hour duration, or pumped hydro, lasting several hours. However, the case for longer-duration storage is growing. There is no agreed-upon definition of 'long-duration storage', but splitting storage into broad categories may help focus the debate.

Currently, the ESO is not asking for services from storage for a duration beyond a few hours, but the need for longer duration and even seasonal storage may increase as we see high renewable penetration and electrification of heat, for example storing some surplus solar generation in the summer, for use on winter evenings[134].

11.2 Local Insights

11.2.1 Distribution Future Energy Scenarios Projections

WPD's Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES) scenario-based projections of battery storage uptake falls under four key business models:

Standalone Network Services
Typically multiple MW scale projects that provide balancing, flexibility and support services to the electricity network.

Generation Co Location
Typically multiple MW scale projects, sited alongside renewable energy (or occasionally fossil fuel) generation projects.

Behind the Meter High Energy User
Single MW or hundreds of kW scale projects, sited at large energy user operational sites to support onsite energy management or to avoid high electricity cost periods.

Domestic Batteries
Typically 10 20kW scale batteries that households buy to operate alongside rooftop PV or to provide backup services to the home.

These models are all viable in their own way, but it is not necessarily suitable to compare their respective viability due to their individuality and very different circumstances.

There are currently no known planned co-located battery storage projects in the North Somerset region.

However, Figure 50 illustrates the scenario-based projections of future battery storage installed capacity in North Somerset:

[134] For further information on electricity storage's role in a net zero future see Regen's 2020 paper: Electricity Storage: Pathways to a Net Zero Future

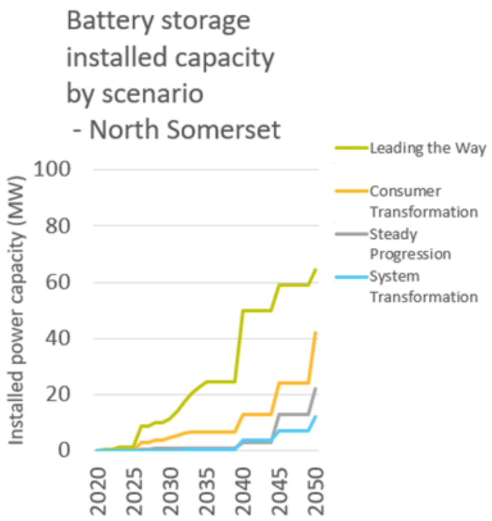


Figure 50: DFES Battery Storage Projections for North Somerset[135]

The majority of projected battery storage capacity under the DFES analysis is from domestic batteries and high energy users within the region. There are small increases in batteries co-located with the generation due to a relatively small increase in generation sites within the region when compared to elsewhere in WPD's network. Furthermore, there is little projected increase in standalone grid services batteries due to fewer estimated suitable connection opportunities in the region compared to elsewhere in WPD's network.

11.2.2 Planning activity

No planned battery storage projects have been identified in the region from reviewing the for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Renewable Energy Planning Database.

11.2.3 Distribution Network Operator Constraint Management Zones

Distribution Network Operators (DNOs), including WPD, are looking to procure flexibility services at a local level, to support the local network. There are three flexibility services within so-called Constraint Management Zones (CMZs), and each caters to different network requirements. These are as follows:

Secure Service (pre fault constraint management)
Used to manage peak demand loading on the network and pre emptively reduce network loading.

Dynamic Service (post fault constraint management)
Used to support the network in the event of specific fault conditions, often during summer maintenance work.

Restore Service (restoration support management)
Intended to help with restoration following rare fault conditions. Such events are rare and offer no warning as they depend on failure of equipment.

It should be noted that all of these services could support storage projects. However, they are all circumstantial and will not always be suitable or available to all storage projects. They would need to be in a location in which all services are required. A key limiting factor is the duration that these services will require a response for versus the energy storage capacity.

[135] WPD, 2020. Distribution Future Energy Scenarios 2020 South West Licence Area: Results and Assumptions report.

Weston-Super-Mare is within a planned WPD CMZ that is anticipated to be open for procurement within the next 12 months. The location of this CMZ is illustrated on the map below and could present opportunities for new storage projects located within the area.

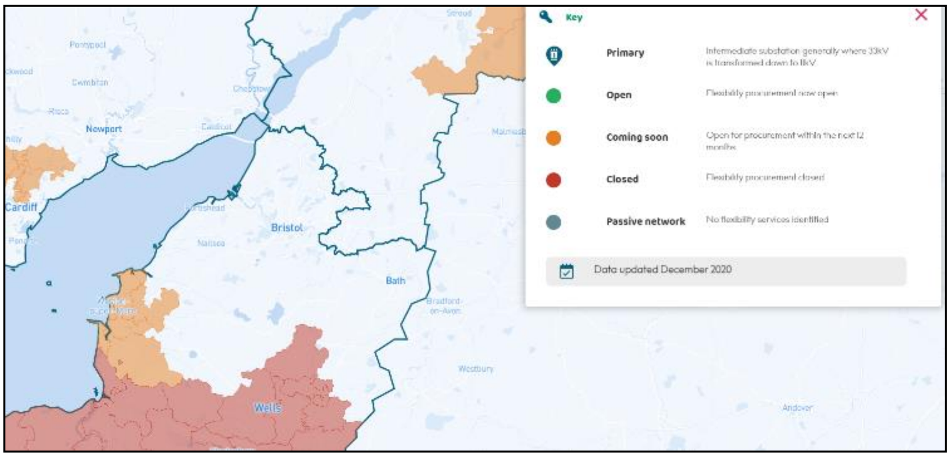


Figure 51: Planned WPD CMZ [136]

Through their Value Calculator on their [Flexible Power]() website, Western Power Distribution publish an estimated income benchmark information for each CMZ in £/MW. This estimated benchmark is an estimate of the maximum potential earning if successfully contracted assets meet their entry and operating requirements.

When assessing the indicative earning potential of 1 MW of flexibility capacity using this Value Calculator, a significant range is seen across the various CMZs that WPD currently have live. A summary of this can be seen below, with the Weston-Super-Mare CMZ showing a slightly below the average benchmark of just above £4,000/MW/year. This payment alone will not make battery storage projects commercially viable. R streams are generally stacked on top of each other to make it viable, depending on the planned operating models, location and available services. These services are procured annually, so a business model cannot be built on this service alone (Due to the risk of not securing this income in the future).

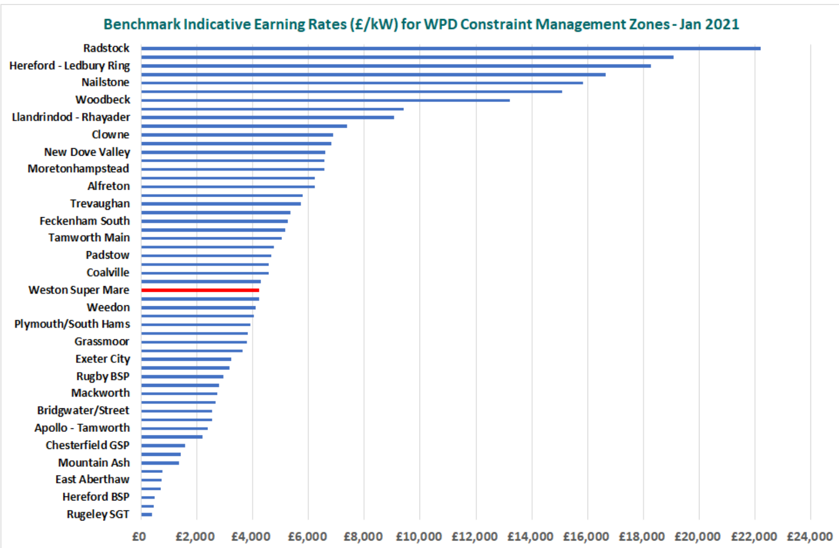


Figure 52: WPD CMZ Benchmark Indicative Earnings[137].

Additionally, there are planning policies adopted by BEIS to encourage the development of the storage sector such as longer duration storage grant funding, setting up the Faraday Institute and commitments in the 10-point plan to support flexibility. Regen's work for the RPTI on planning for

[136] Flexible Power
[137]Regen analysis -WPD Value Calculator https://www.flexiblepower.co.uk/value-calculator

smart energy includes some examples of local planning policies on storage[138]. Suggested policy items to consider within the storage sector have been set out in Section 17.

11.3 Summary

As renewable energy development and heat electrification increase, the need for longer duration and seasonal storage will increase. The CMZ in Weston Super Mare highlights the potential for North Somerset to support new storage projects in the UA area.

The Consumer Transformation DFES scenario shows a continual increase in battery storage capacity within North Somerset between 2020 and 2050. It is likely that the majority of the projected battery storage capacity is from domestic batteries, as the Consumer Transformation scenario assumes a shift to the integration of renewable energy generation technologies into homes.

However, there is likely be a need to increase the amount of co-located batteries in conjunction with installations of solar and wind farms due to insufficient capacity on the grid and to avoid any curtailment. A ranking exercise has therefore been undertaken by WPD in relation to ease of grid connectivity of the Search Areas (SAs) for wind and solar PV farms identified in this study (see Figure 41 and Figure 42 in Section 6). The highest ranked (coloured blue in the relevant maps) may not require storage to avoid curtailment but other lower ranked SAs might.

In such cases, developers will need to explore options as part of project development to understand viability. Part of such viability studies will include discussions with WPD but also proximity to electricity demands and the ability to sell any electricity produced to third parties. The Council and other public and private sectors might co-locate to take advantage of any available renewable electricity. This should be considered when sieving potential candidate sites (defined as potential development sites for housing or employment for the purposes of this report) for the Local Plan or when the public and/or private sector are considering options for locating services that are significantly power dependent. These complementary loads would benefit from battery storage installations which may remove the necessity to have a grid connection in areas where the grid is constrained.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: ES-PR-1 (Refer to Table 40 in Section 17)

It is recommended that policy encourages applicants promoting schemes for renewable electricity generation of >1MW, regardless of technology, to consider including storage as part of their proposal. This could include some form of energy storage (green hydrogen production, seasonal or battery storage), private wire supply or evidence as to why this is not feasible or viable.

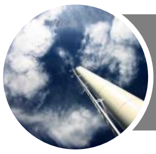
[138] https://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/1435/planning-for-a-smart-energy-future.pdf

12. Hydrogen

12.1 Introduction

Hydrogen is set to play a critical role to enable the UK economy to achieve net zero carbon. As well as providing a low carbon energy source for difficult to “decarbonise” sectors such as heavy transport, aviation and various industrial processes, hydrogen could also play an important role in system balancing as a multi-vector fuel (a fuel that can be produced or consumed across different energy sectors), using very low-cost electricity during times of over-supply to convert, store and transport renewable energy for applications across the energy system.

Hydrogen is typically classified by its generation technology which is denoted by different colours. There are three main colours of hydrogen[139]. These colours are as follows:



Grey Hydrogen

Grey hydrogen is made using fossil fuels. This process emmits CO_2 into the atmosphere as they combust

Blue Hydrogen

Blue hydrogen is made using fossil fuels, but carbon capture technology is used to prevent the emission of the CO_2 produced

Green Hydrogen

Green hydrogen is the cleanest, producing zero carbon emissions. Green hydrogen is produced via electrolysis powered by renewable energy

Whether the optimal supply chain for a particular hydrogen market is best served by a small number of very large manufacturing plants, enjoying economies of scale in production, or by a larger number of distributed production facilities located near to consumers to allow lower storage and distribution costs is yet to be seen. However, evidence from the existing hydrogen market suggests that the initial market driver is towards production plants located within industrial and chemical process clusters and transport hubs, with relatively short or onsite distribution channels.

There are also very different value chains for hydrogen, with gas network blending low value, but also relatively low cost. In contrast, hydrogen for transport is likely to command a higher price per energy unit. This is important as the cost of hydrogen is not yet competitive with electricity or traditional fuels, so is unlikely to be economically viable if used in a low-value application.

For more information on the production of Hydrogen, please see Section 1.8.9.

[139] Turquoise hydrogen is created when natural gas is broken down with the help of methane pyrolysis, additionally, pink hydrogen is generated through electrolysis powered by nuclear energy. Nuclear-produced hydrogen can also be referred to as purple hydrogen or red hydrogen.

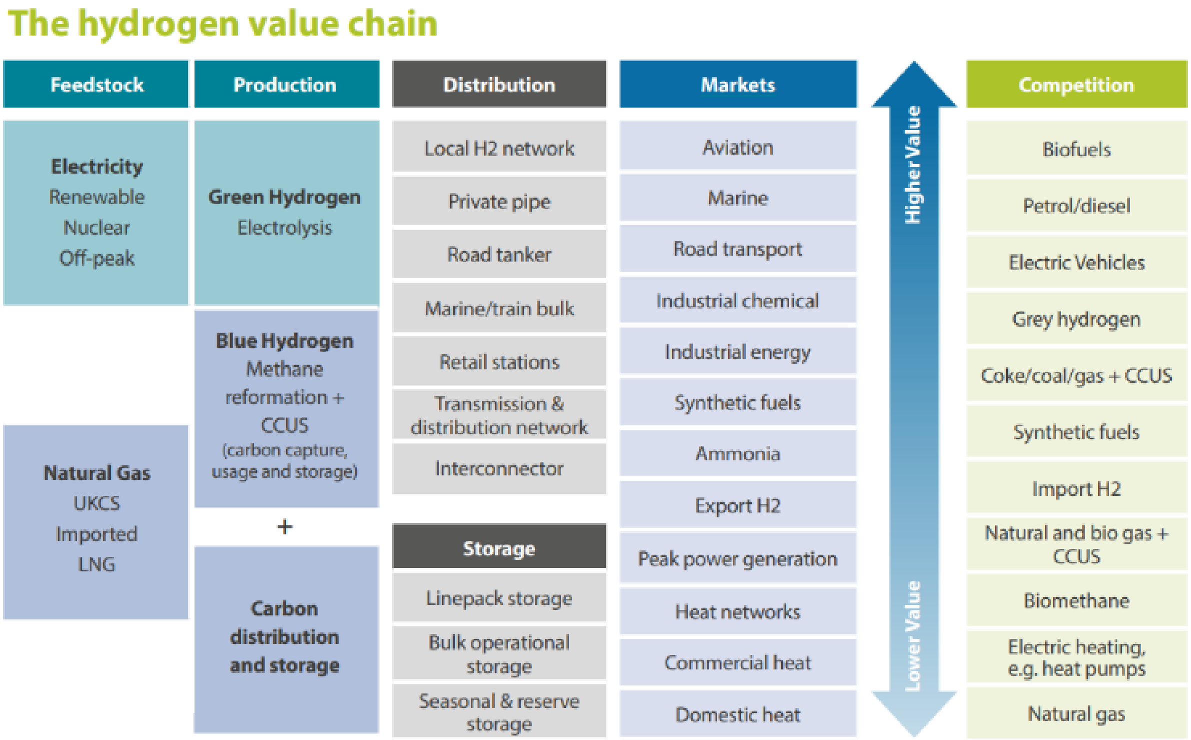


Figure 53: The hydrogen value chain. Source: Regen, 2021[140]

As Figure 53 illustrates, there are distinct markets and value propositions for hydrogen products; these range from existing uses, new high-value applications in transport and industrial processes, and potentially lower-value applications as a fuel for heating or to generate electricity.

Pushing hydrogen as a replacement for natural gas for heating would be a significant strategic decision. It would require long-term policy interventions at a national level, such as applying a very high carbon tax while providing a long-term fuel subsidy. It is likely that hydrogen for heating will emerge from a much more targeted strategy, providing fuel for heat networks and localised distribution networks in areas that are otherwise hard to decarbonise.

Some commentators have suggested that using hydrogen for domestic heating would allow consumers to avoid the cost and disruption of energy efficiency measures. This would be a mistake; high hydrogen costs and seasonal peak demand mean that using hydrogen for domestic heating would require just as high levels of energy efficiency as any other low carbon heating option.

In the short term, hydrogen innovation projects are likely to take advantage of surplus renewable energy, existing gas networks or large-scale industry to develop hydrogen hubs. Innovative projects such as these could facilitate the creation of a route to market for hydrogen in what is still a relatively young industry[141].

[140] Building the Hydrogen Value Chain https://www.regen.co.uk/publications/building-the-hydrogen-value-chain/

[141] For further information on the hydrogen value chain, see Regen's 2021 Insight Paper on 'Building the Hydrogen Value Chain'

12.2 Hydrogen Projects in the West of England

No existing hydrogen production facilities have been identified within the West of England region, nor have any planned pipeline hydrogen production facilities. However, a number of projects have been identified at various stages of development that may consume hydrogen, including:

- GKN hydrogen-powered plane project lands £54m as part of UK drive towards innovation (Jan 2021);
- ZeroAvia to develop a HyFlyer II at Cotswold Airport (April 2021);
- Hydrogen trams could be transport solution for Bath (Aug 2020);
- Ambition to launch hydrogen-powered water taxis between Bristol and Cardiff (July 2020);
- Bristol hydrogen taxis (existing project);
- M4 hydrogen corridor could extend into the region.

Furthermore, National Grid's 'Future of Gas' paper does not identify any hydrogen projects in the region and the closest hydrogen plant is in Swindon.

12.3 Local Opportunities

There are potentially several industrial processes in the region for which hydrogen could provide a critical low carbon energy source. The map below identifies potential industrial clusters in the region, prioritising those more likely to entail chemical processes, and high-grade heat requirements for which hydrogen could be a feedstock or low carbon fuel.

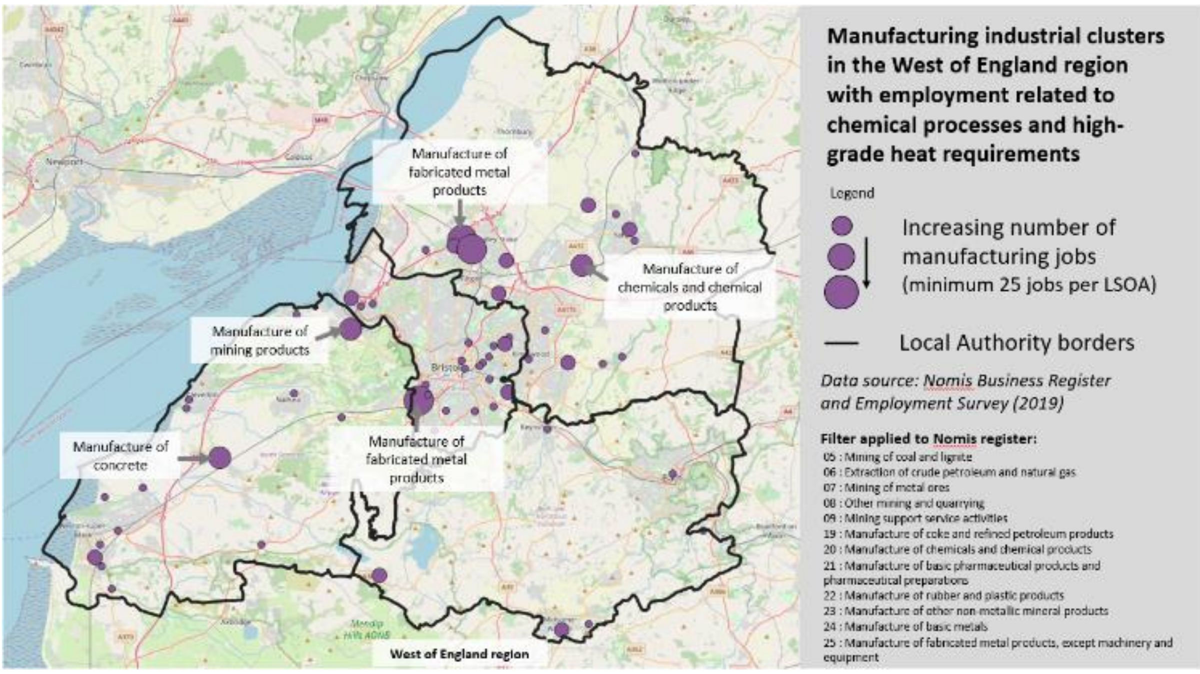


Figure 54: Manufacturing Industrial Clusters in the West of England With Employment Related to Chemical Process and High-Grade Heat Demand[142]

Synthetic hydrocarbon fuels could play a significant role in achieving net zero in otherwise challenging to decarbonise industries such as aviation.

[142] Data source: Regen analysis - Nomis employment survey data. As such, the map is presented at a West of England sub-regional level.

12.4 2030 Hydrogen Demand in North Somerset

It is projected in DFES[143] and Regen calculations that a total of 400GWh of electricity will be required for grid-connected (electrolysis) hydrogen generation in 2030, it should be noted that the aims for North Somerset have been condensed from 2050 to 2030 to align with the Climate Emergency Declaration. See Section 14 for more detail.

The Consumer Transformation scenario from DFES (See Figure 55), utilised in this RERAS, assumes a proportion of the total hydrogen demand will be met from hydrogen generation via methane reformation and carbon capture and storage (see Figure 56).

Whilst green hydrogen production requires renewable electricity that could be available in 2030, as hydrogen is a new energy carrier, it could be that the required infrastructure (e.g. the electrolysers, gas distribution network and/or domestic and commercial hydrogen boilers assumed in DFES) to employ the green hydrogen will be challenging to put in place by 2030.

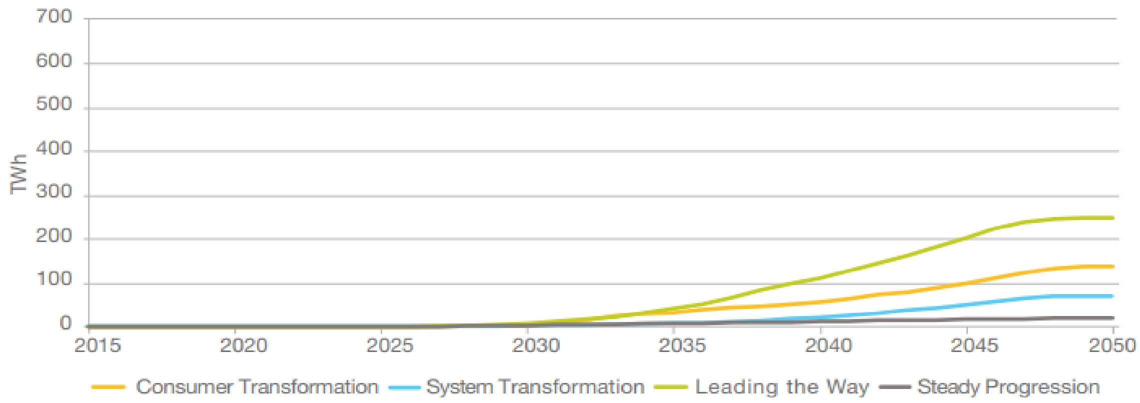


Figure 55: Electricity Demand for Hydrogen Production in the UK [144]

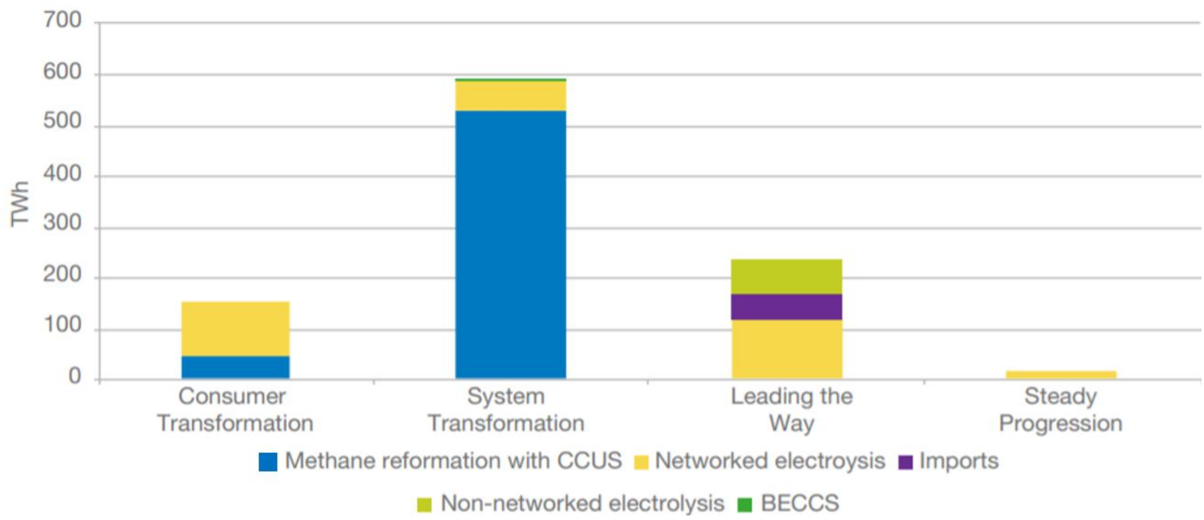


Figure 56: FES Hydrogen Supply 2050 for UK[145]

[143] See Section 14 for more information regarding DFES.
[144] Electricity Demand for Hydrogen Production in the UK, National Grid, Future Energy Scenarios, July 2020: https://www.nationalgrideso.com/document/173821/download
[145] FES Hydrogen Supply 2050 for UK , National Grid, Future Energy Scenarios, July 2020: https://www.nationalgrideso.com/document/173821/download

12.5 Mapping

Map titles and references:

1. H1-NS: Wind Local Search Areas and Industrial Clusters for Potential Green Hydrogen Generation and Demand
2. H2-NS: Solar PV Local Search Areas and Industrial Clusters for Potential Green Hydrogen Generation and Demand

H1 and H2 maps illustrate locations of the identified solar PV and wind Search Areas in relation to the industrial manufacturing clusters in North Somerset with employment related to chemical process and high-grade heat demand. It should be noted since RERAS does not appraise consideration of hydrogen infrastructures such as hydrogen transport or storage, the mapping is concentrated on identification of industrial use and does not cover all of the hydrogen usage envisaged in DFES. The Search Areas (SAs) in proximity to the industrial clusters can potentially be utilised for green hydrogen generation. Additionally, the maps include large surface waters which are required for electrolysis hydrogen generation production.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: ES-PR-2 (Refer to Table 40 in Section 17)

It is recommended that applications for renewable electricity generation of >1MW, located within 1km of an industrial cluster identified as having potential for hydrogen production consider utilising outputs (via private wire) for such purposes.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: ES-PR-3 (Refer to Table 40 in Section 17)

Building on ES-PR-2, it is recommended that applications for new industrial development that may have a use for green hydrogen should be guided towards locations near/in ‘hydrogen clusters’ wherever practical.

Higher resolution versions of these maps are contained in the accompanying document ‘North Somerset RERAS – Maps’.

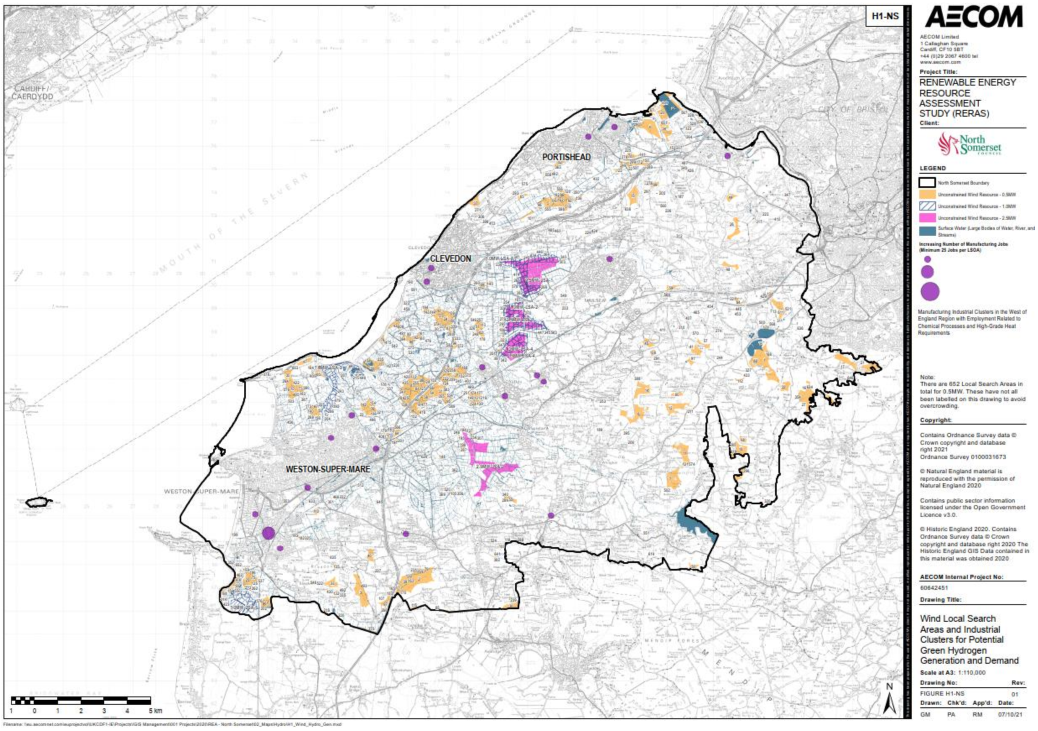


Figure 57: H1-NS: Wind Local Search Areas and Industrial Clusters for Potential Green Hydrogen Generation and Demand Map

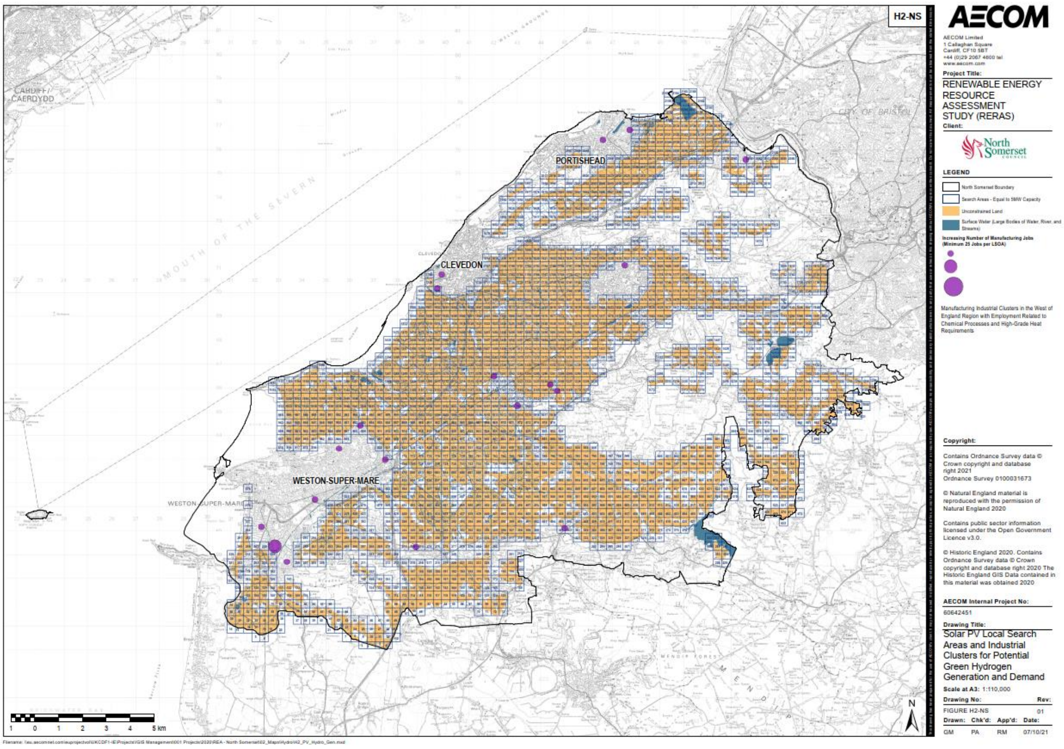


Figure 58: H2-NS: Solar PV Local Search Areas and Industrial Clusters for Potential Green Hydrogen Generation and Demand Map

12.6 Potential Opportunities for Future Development

Many potential industrial clusters were identified in the mapping process; a significant number being sites located near the identified solar PV and wind SAs. As it stands, infrastructure with the potential to support hydrogen generation is likely to be developed in these locations. The SAs could provide renewable electricity to produce ‘green hydrogen’ and so it is suggested that opportunities for the generation of green hydrogen are realised.

13. Heat Opportunity and Strategic Site Assessment

13.1 Introduction

Heat is typically generated at a building level, which means that only small-scale technologies can be used (most commonly gas boilers), limiting the use of other forms of low and zero-carbon heat generation technologies. Unlike decarbonisation of the power sector, decarbonising heat at scale could directly impact consumers, requiring changes to the majority of the heating systems currently in buildings and industrial sites[146]. Additionally, sufficient heat demand should exist in proximity of a heat source to make development viable, making decarbonisation of heat more challenging. A 'Heat Opportunities Map' is created in this section of the study that presents locations of heat demand clusters and potential heat sources in the North Somerset.

A District Heating Network (DHN) refers to a distribution system providing multiple individual buildings with heat generated from a single source. The plant is generally housed in a building known as an energy centre. DHNs comprise a system of insulated pipes, known as heat mains, which distribute hot water from the energy centre to several different buildings to provide space heating and hot water. Each building has a heat interface unit (HIU) that supplies heat from the network to the local building distribution system instead of individual boilers. New controllers are provided (very similar to those fitted and linked with gas boilers) to operate the system, and buildings can usually retain their internal distribution system (e.g. radiators). Heat is metered and billed to consumers in much the same way that gas or electricity is. This is combined with a service charge to cover maintenance of the shared distribution system (electricity and gas bills also incorporate a charge for these services). Schemes can range in size from simply linking two buildings together to spanning entire cities.

NPPF requires planning authorities to identify a range of suitable sites within their area to meet the scale and type of development likely to be needed. The identification could cover housing and employment sites, and the planning policies and decisions need to reflect changes in the demand for land. They should be informed by regular reviews of both the land identified for development in plans and of land availability[147]. Heat opportunities mapping presented in this section can assist the Council to identify or rank potential development sites based on DHN potential.

District heat offers an alternative to the typical arrangement, offering efficiencies of scale by generating and distributing heat to a number of buildings or utilising a source of heat that would otherwise be wasted. This would include access to otherwise wasted forms of heat, not viable at a building scale, including the use of waste heat from local power generation or energy from waste plants, local rivers, bodies of water or mines. Waste heat can be considered a low carbon option as it offsets the new end-users need for additional heating fuel. Deployment of low-carbon technologies at a network level can also utilise large thermal storage allowing for wider energy system balancing at a cost far lower than many chemical or alternative batteries.

Assessing the potential for a district heat network within North Somerset could offer many potential benefits for the Council:

- CO_2 emissions reductions – the combination of more efficient generation and the ability to use alternative technologies and fuels means that district heat networks can provide significant CO_2 reductions.
- Emissions reductions in hard-to-treat buildings – where retrofitting fabric improvements to existing stock is challenging (e.g. for listed buildings), district heat provides an alternative method by which to reduce CO_2 emissions.
- Reduction in energy prices – increased efficiencies can lead to reduced energy costs for customers. This can mean improved competitiveness for local businesses and reduced energy bills and the alleviation of fuel poverty for households.
- Identification or ranking of potential development sites for future development based on DHN potential.

[146] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766109/decarbonising-heating.pdf
[147] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005759/NPPF_July_2021.pdf

The consideration of a district heat network could be a viable method to help bridge the gap between the projected 2030 heat demand and the maximum theoretical resource identified in this study (see Section 15.3). When analysing the viability of a DHN, there are multiple stages that vary in complexity:

- Heat opportunities mapping;
- Assessing the technical and financial viability of district heating networks; and
- Developing a heat-opportunities plan for district heating networks.

Heat opportunities mapping, which is presented in this study, provides sufficient levels of detail to allow the Council to identify or rank potential development sites based on DHN potential. The data and maps can also be utilised in setting policies requiring developers to investigate heat networks. However, any policy requiring site/building specific CO_2 reduction targets, or connections to DHN, will require a more detailed economic and technical appraisal.

13.2 Heat Opportunities Mapping Process

The nature of existing energy demand and infrastructure is identified in this section. There are multiple reasons for this, including (but not limited to):

- Identification of public sector buildings to act as anchor 'heat' loads (AHLs);
- To establish the energy densities of particular areas. District Heating technology installations are more likely to be economically viable in areas of high-density energy demand but can be more complex to install.
- The proportions of the relative demand for electricity and heat are also useful indicators as to what type of Low and Zero Carbon (LZC) technologies might be appropriate in a particular area;
- Areas of high-density energy demand may not always present the greatest opportunities. Energy density data needs to be combined with other data, such as the nature of energy demand, the composition of building types and uses, the accessible renewable energy resource, land and building ownership, existing infrastructure and any proposed development in order to identify the greatest opportunity. These opportunities should also be reviewed against community priorities to align delivery to local requirements.

13.2.1 Identifying Anchor "Heat" Loads and "Clusters"

Anchor Heat Loads (AHLs) pertain to buildings with a high and continuous demand that could provide economically viable and practical opportunities for utilising heat. It is known as an 'anchor' load because further opportunities may arise for connecting nearby buildings to the original anchor load. An AHL, therefore, refers to a building energy load that can act as a base for a District Heating (DH) scheme.

Buildings (such as social housing, etc.) located near an AHL and which may benefit from and contribute to the viability of DH schemes are known as a 'cluster'. A 'cluster' usually refers to a mix of residential and non-residential buildings which, together, represent opportunities due to their:

- Suitable energy demand profile;
- Planned development programme
- Commitment to reduce CO_2 emissions

The identification of AHLs and clusters requires the mapping of:

- Buildings owned by organisations with corporate climate change mitigation policies and an active commitment to reducing their carbon footprint, and;
- Social housing schemes. These organisations are often tasked with achieving greater than the minimum environmental performance standards. Including such developments in DH schemes often enhances the energy profile to provide further evening, weekend and night-time energy demands; and.

- New planned developments.

AHLs can help a DH scheme to become a realistic prospect, and there are usually particular conditions that need to be in place, such as planned new development and/ or an AHL building/ group of buildings with significant demand for heat and/ or with an energy profile suitable for the installation of a particular technology.

Privately owned buildings are less often utilised as AHLs due to more attractive returns from competing investments, reduced willingness to commit to long term energy procurement contracts and other issues such as a greater tendency for private companies to rent property rather than own it. In the residential market, it is preferable for district heating schemes to connect to social housing, particularly apartment blocks, due to the increased heat demand density offered. It is often impractical for developers to have to negotiate with many individual private householders, whereas social landlords can more readily act on behalf of their tenants. It should be noted that in this RERAS, the buildings are identified and mapped based on the Council's Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) data, which allows for identification of building type and use but does not provide information on the ownership type of the buildings, however, the council-owned sites are identified and marked on the maps.

In order to calculate the heat demand of the non-residential buildings, the following methods and sources are used.

- Metered energy data provided by the Council;
- Display Energy Certificates (DEC), if metered data is not available; and
- Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers Technical Memorandum TM46 energy benchmarking conversions (only incorporated if DEC or metered data are not provided).

13.2.1.1 Social Housing Associations in North Somerset

Housing Associations in North Somerset included on the maps are as follows:

- Alliance Homes;
- Anchor Hanover;
- Stonewater;
- Selwood Housing; and
- United Communities;

This list is not intended to be an exhaustive list of organisations active in the area as only the above organisations responded to the request for information document sent to collect the relevant information.

13.2.2 Mapping Residential Heat Demand and Density

A report for BEIS (formerly DECC[148]) suggests that DHNs are not feasible unless a heat demand of at least 3MW/km^2 is present.

'Density' of heat demand refers to kilowatt-hour (kWh) / square kilometre (km^2) of heat energy consumed in dwellings. When allocating energy consumptions to existing residential buildings, the publicly available domestic gas consumption estimates per Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) for 2019 was used to allocate each area a heat density figure and quantify the heat demand.

The importance of identifying residential heat demand and density pertains to:

- The potential demand for heat in any one particular area;
- Contributing to the identification of AHLs;
- Feeding into the analysis of potential LZC solutions;

[148] The Potential and Costs of District Heating Networks. A Report to the Department of Energy and Climate Change, April 2009

- A mix of buildings and energy uses which, together, represent a potential complementary energy demand profile (dwellings providing evening, weekend and night-time energy demands as opposed to the regular weekday energy demands of commercial organisations); and
- The identification of opportunities relating to social housing providers who are often tasked with achieving greater than the minimum environmental performance standards.

Map E1-NS (see Section 3) in the accompanying document ‘North Somerset RERAS – Maps’ shows indicative heat demands in North Somerset based on total gas consumption by Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA).

Map E3-NS shows the indicative residential only heat demand within North Somerset by Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA).

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document ‘North Somerset RERAS – Maps’.

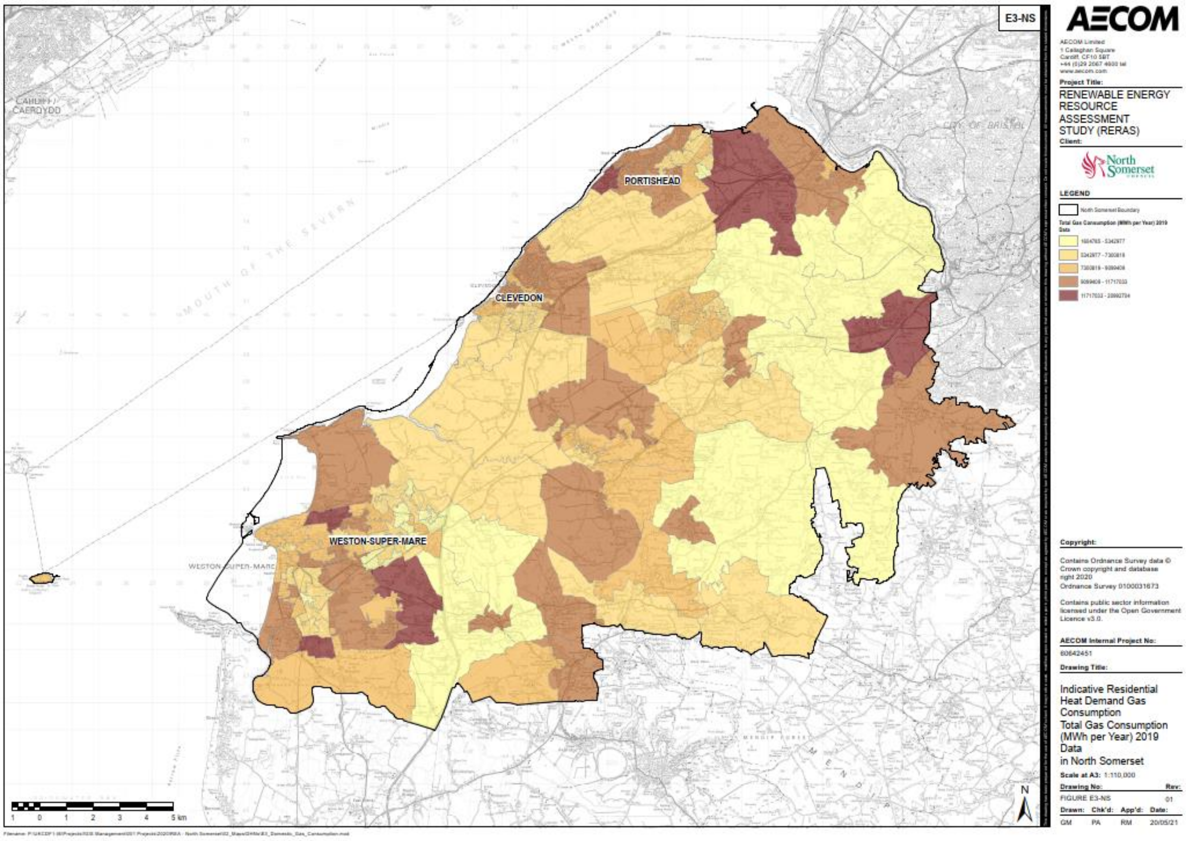


Figure 59: E3 – NS: Indicative Residential Heat Demand Total Gas Consumption (MWh per Year) 2019 Data for North Somerset

13.2.3 Map Locations of Strategic New Development Sites

This involves mapping the location of the strategic sites from the Development Plan using Geographic Information System (GIS). District Heat schemes are most cost-effective when installed as part of new development rather than retrofitting. At the time of writing the report, the new Local Plan for North Somerset was under development and, as such, work to identify the location of potential strategic sites was ongoing. Relevant policies from the existing plan are included on the maps. Additionally, the heat mapping data can be used to assess development sites for the emerging plan for heat network potential.

13.2.4 Identifying Existing Energy Infrastructure and District Heating Networks

It is important to establish the nature of the existing energy infrastructure as it may provide opportunities for expanded connectivity or increased efficiency/ viability.

Identification of current utilisation of renewable energy resources is covered by this RERAS which includes existing anaerobic digestions, landfill gas and energy from waste sites installations.

The utilisation of current waste heat sources can provide opportunities to improve fuel efficiency and secure CO_2 emission reductions. Extending existing infrastructure to additional users can increase the viability of a particular scheme.

13.2.5 Identifying Potential Renewable or Low Carbon Heat Sources

Currently, most of the existing heat networks across the UK are powered by natural gas. However, considering the Council's carbon-neutral ambition by 2030 and the fact that delivering the net zero target means transforming the gas sector, the following potential renewable or low carbon heat sources are included in the maps in this study section. Section 13.3.5 includes details of the heat sources, the data can be used to identify opportunities to foster renewable heat energy.

13.3 Mapping of Heat Demand and Viability Assessment

The heat demand of each building is illustrated on the maps by a circle. The circle size indicates the relative size of the heat load in question and allows for easily identifiable comparisons between different heat loads. The mapping informs a very high-level assessment of potential viability using an equation that links the value of potential energy sales with the length of pipe.

The radius of each circle is calculated based on the rule of thumb for the length of capital investment in a heat network and that which the revenue from heat sales to that load could support.

The equation used is:

$$R \approx \frac{AHL \times HP \times Y}{C}$$

Where:

- R = radius of circle, in metres
- AHL = annual heat demand, in kWh
- HP = price at which heat is sold, assumed to be £0.04/kWh
- Y = number of years of revenue assumed to be 10 years[149]
- C = estimate of the cost of installing heat pipe per m of a trench assumed to be £1000/m for this exercise

This methodology also provides an indication of the viability of connecting a heat load. If there are large gaps between circles, it suggests that connecting loads may not be viable. Conversely, if circles overlap, connecting them may be more viable.

13.3.1 Evaluation of District Heating Network Opportunities

The bringing together of various data layers described above informs the development of a 'Heat Opportunities Plan' shown in the E4 map. The development of the plan for North Somerset Council allows for identifying clusters of sites with the potential to be technically feasible and economically viable for a heat network.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: ES-PR-4 (Refer to Table 40 in Section 17)

It is recommended that applications for renewable electricity generation, or development that is energy intensive and likely to have a surplus of heat, within 1km of a site with potential for seasonal energy storage (e.g. abandoned mine workings) should consider utilising such a facility.

[149] In practice, a heat/electricity supply contract to an anchor load may last for 20 to 25 years, but the use of 10 years reflects the fact that the revenue over 25 years would roughly need to be twice the initial capital costs to cover the operation and maintenance costs for the network

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: DH-PR-1 (Refer to Table 41 in Section 17)

It is recommended that development proposals for dwellings, employment or depots for hosting transport fleets located within 0.5km of an existing renewable heat resources or renewable electricity generating installations should consider utilising such resources for heating, hot water and/or process use transport fuel.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: DH-PR-2 (Refer to Table 41 in Section 17)

It is recommended that proposals for development that will host heat intensive activities and are likely to generate excess heat (or power) should consider:

a. Potential to be located within 0.5km of a heat demand cluster identified in the Heat Opportunities Map or other identified heat use;
b. Enabling heat (power) off-take for supply for other / nearby uses and provide evidence of discussions with potential off-takers for the heat (or power).

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: DH-PR-3 (Refer to Table 41 in Section 17)

It is recommended that development proposals within 0.5km of an existing district heat network fed from a renewable (non-fossil fuel) source will be expected to connect where feasible and viable.

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

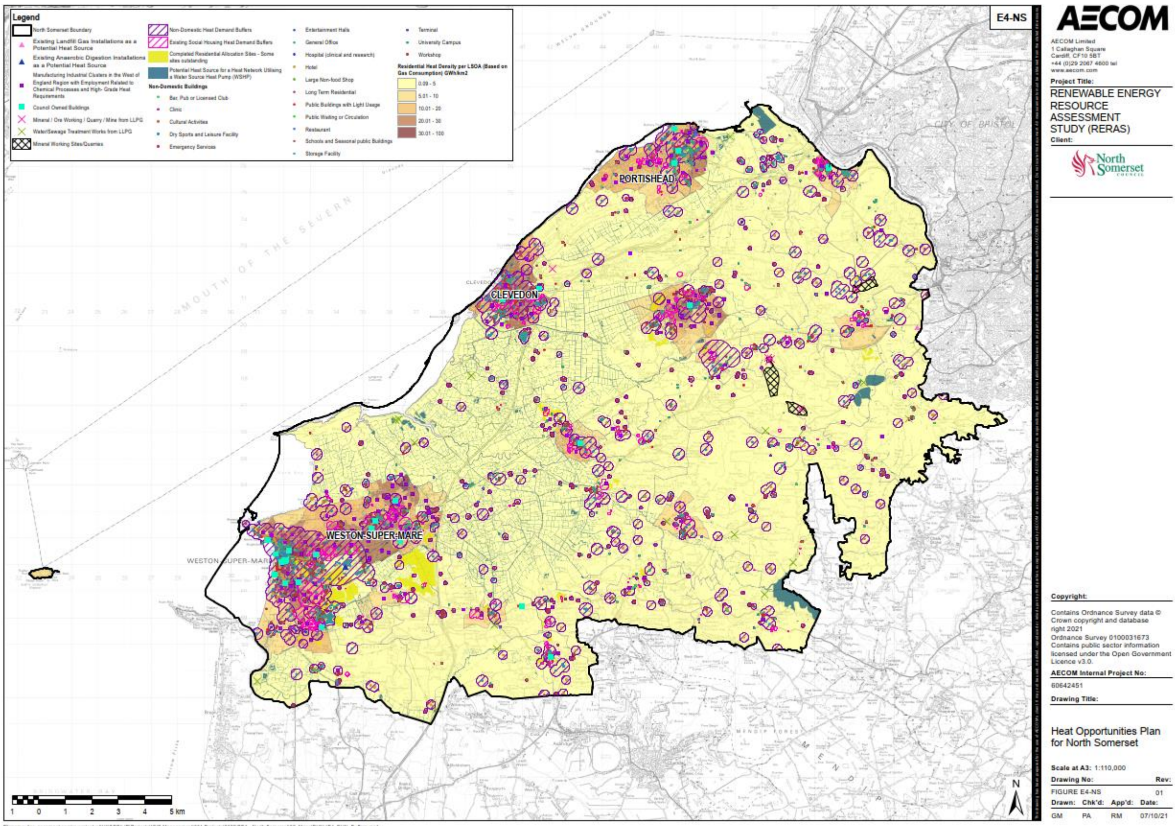


Figure 60: E4-NS: Heat Opportunities for North Somerset Map

Figure 60 shows significant heat clusters and potential for heat networks in Weston Super Mare, Clevedon, Portishead, Yatton and Nailsea.

As explained earlier in this study, the results of this part of the assessment can be used to assist the Council in identifying or ranking potential development sites based on DHN potential. Therefore, this section describes the key factors considered when designing a network and area characteristics suitable for heat network development.

13.3.2 Heat Demand

As mentioned earlier, heat demands of the building are represented as circles with their size proportional to the size of the demand, and overlapping circles provide an indication of a potentially viable connection. The buildings are also colour coded based on the building use, and the council-owned buildings are flagged on the maps. Additionally, the E4 map illustrates the residential heat density and social housing heat demand in North Somerset. When considering a potential strategic development site for a heat network, the Council can use the equation provided earlier in this section and the E4 map to do a very high-level assessment of the potential viability of the site. As an example, if the circle for a new site overlaps with heat circles from other existing buildings, it suggests that connecting the loads may be viable.

13.3.3 Route and Physical Barriers Consideration

The development of heat networks requires suitable routes to be identified to lay the pipework. The installation of pipes and associated equipment is expensive and disruptive, and therefore, the routing needs to be carefully considered to ensure the network is as efficient as possible so that the largest amount of heat possible is sold over the shortest length of pipework. Specific determining factors influencing the choice of network route include:

- The use of existing roads and pathways where public ownership enables development.
- The use of landscaped / pedestrian areas to reduce disruption to transport routes and allow lower cost installation.
- The use of minor roads where utility congestion may be less and where traffic disruption could be minimised.
- Aiming to find entrances to buildings which would allow pipework to be routed to existing plant rooms, based on information gathered, including site visits.
- Aiming to use minor roads where possible.
- Provision for future expansion, e.g. designing the network to facilitate expansion or connection to other networks.

The installation of heat network pipes may cause significant disruption on transport routes and involve additional time delays, costs and risks. In general, the network layout should avoid using busy routes to minimise disruption to traffic during construction works. Many major roads have grass verges that could accommodate DH pipework, although these may be planted with trees that will need to be avoided. In places where major roads are excavated to install DH pipework, the oversizing of these pipes should be considered to future-proof the network against future expansion. Such future-proofing should, for example, consider the expansion of the network to serve more buildings and the connection to alternative heat sources.

Similar to the roads, railway lines, canals and rivers can also present a physical barrier to the location of a network route, as it is challenging to install pipes across them. Existing crossing points and bridges can provide opportunities for the network to cross these barriers. Location of the barriers should be in proximity or within the heat cluster area since a connection is technically and economically challenging and can only be justified if significant heat loads exist across the barrier (e.g. river). Therefore, the following data layers are included on the maps

- Infrastructure (e.g. roads, railways etc.);
- Surface water (e.g. canals, rivers etc.).

13.3.4 Land Ownership

Similar to electricity or gas infrastructure, when heat network pipes are routed through private land, wayleave and/or access rights need to be agreed upon with the landowners. There is no authorised right of wayleave or easement for district heating infrastructure, unlike electricity or gas utilities providers. Whilst most such agreements are made voluntarily, where refused, a heat network developer is unable to apply for a compulsory right. As such, wherever possible, a network routes should follow public roads, minimising the need to negotiate and obtain permission from private landowners. GIS data of the maps heat network potential maps is provided to North Somerset Council and can potentially be used to be viewed along with public-owned land data held by the Council.

13.3.5 Renewable or Low Carbon Energy Sources

As well as committed energy consumers, an energy network needs one or more sources of energy that offer the consumers an advantage over their business-as-usual energy supply arrangement. The energy source should also deliver environmental benefits; therefore, potential renewable or low carbon heat and, in some cases, electricity are included on the maps. When identifying suitable heat clusters or assessing future development sites for heat network potential, consideration should be given to the following sources that are included on the maps:

- Surface water that can potentially be used for a water source heat pump system.
- Manufacturing industrial clusters in the west of England region with employment-related to chemical processes and high-grade heat requirements. These sites can be investigated further for any available waste heat.
- Existing anaerobic digesters and landfill gas installations. These sites may provide opportunities for expanded connectivity.
- Wind and Solar PV SAs identified in this RERAS that can be utilised to supply renewable electricity to a heat pump system or generate hydrogen (maps E5 and E6 in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – maps' show the location of these SAs in conjunction with district heating network opportunities within North Somerset ').
- Mineral working sites/quarries. The mines that are included on the E4 map are based on the available data in the LLPG or North Somerset's policies for active mines.

However, when an underground mine is no longer in use, the pumps that were keeping them dry are often switched off. This results in the mine filling with water, which is heated and kept at a constant temperature throughout the year via geological processes. This water can be transferred through a pipe network and distributed through the district heat network using a heat exchanger.[150] Mine water heat is a low carbon heat source that could be considered for heat networks.

The Coal Authority provides an interactive map viewer that allows for viewing selected coal mining information graphically. The database includes abandoned mines locations as well as mine water temperature maps. It should be noted that even with the higher water temperature mines, this does not necessarily mean the resource is useable because the water's depth, sustainable energy yield, and recharge potentials should be investigated further. A link to the dataset is provided in the footnote[151].

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: DH-PR-4 (Refer to Table 41 in Section 17)

It is recommended that areas identified through the Local Plan (for wind farms and solar PV farms) are within 0.5km of an identified heat cluster, consideration is given for safeguarding these sites in order to provide electricity for powering heat pumps as part of a private wire / district heat network.

13.4 Summary and Conclusions

The high-level study undertaken allows for the identification of clusters of sites with the potential to be technically feasible and economically viable for a heat network. It also allows the Council to investigate future development sites for a heat network. However, the level of assessment is

[150] Coal Authority – Geothermal energy from abandoned coal mines: https://www2.groundstability.com/geothermal-energy-from-abandoned-coal-mines/
[151] **Coal Authority interactive map viewer**: https://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/coalauthority/home.html

insufficient to propose targets for heat networks. However, it does indicate that there is potential for DHN schemes that require more in-depth analysis to identify which are financially viable. Appendix A provides further details regarding the support and funding schemes available for heat networks.

13.5 Next Steps

Once new development sites have been confirmed, the heat network map can be refined. The next steps for the Council in the development of heat networks in North Somerset are:

- Identify appetite of anchor loads for the connection to a DHN.
- Survey of potential anchor loads to confirm compatibility with a heat network and age of the existing heating plant.
- Obtain current annual metre readings of anchor loads.
- Undertake a techno-economic viability assessment of potential clusters and network routes.
- Network locations should then be safeguarded, and the planning process steered towards the connection of new buildings to the network.

14. Projected Energy Consumption in North Somerset in 2030

This section of the study considers the future energy consumption of North Somerset to provide recommendations to aid the Council with its 2030 Climate Emergency aim, the 2030 future energy consumption has been assessed. Future consumption has then been compared with the potential installed capacity of the renewable and low carbon technologies discussed in Sections 4 to 10 to establish that the requirement for net zero carbon is achievable. A series of steps were undertaken to complete this task, as follows:

Understand the Future Energy Scenarios and Distribution Future Energy Scenarios.

↓

Accelerating the 2050 Distribution Future Energy Scenarios to 2030 to align with the Council's aims

↓

Using this method to project the Building Integrated Renewables in 2030

↓

Using this method to project the Energy Consumption in 2030

14.1 Understanding the Future Energy Scenarios and the Distribution Future Energy Scenarios

14.1.1 Future Energy Scenarios

National Grid Electricity Systems Operator's (ESO) produces Future Energy Scenarios (FES) annually[152], containing in-depth analysis of different future scenarios in the energy system within the UK. The FES is used as a fundamental part of annual network planning and operability analysis. A description of the four scenarios and further details regarding them are provided in Appendix N.

Based on AECOM's expertise, North Somerset were advised to utilise the Consumer Transformation scenario in this study to maximise local solutions in achieving a net zero energy system.

The Consumer Transformation scenario assumes that net zero is met with measures that have a greater impact on consumers and is driven through consumer engagement. This scenario leads to considerable improvement to energy efficiencies and higher levels of renewable energy generation technologies integrated into homes.

Figure 6 ıows the Consumer Transformation projected greenhouse gas emissions pathway for the UK.

[152] Future Energy Scenarios, National Grid ESO, July 2020; https://www.nationalgrideso.com/document/173821/download

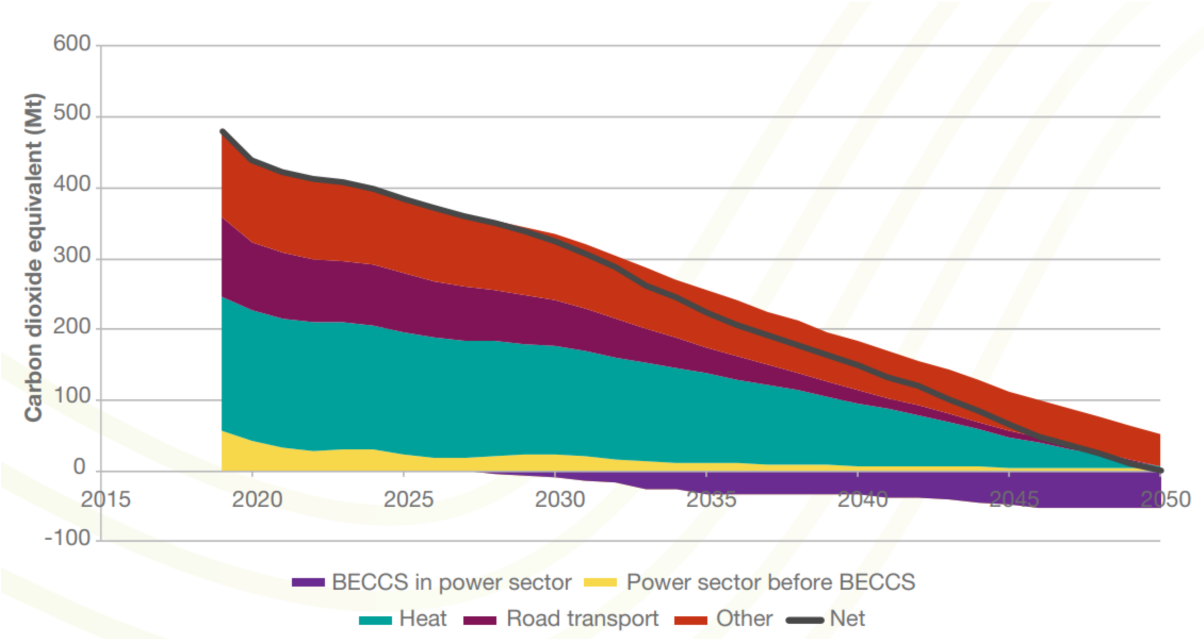


Figure 61: UK Total Net Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Consumer Transformation)[153]

The data shows the fundamental use of Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) in achieving net zero emissions. BECCS is the combination of bioenergy with carbon capture, transportation and permanent storage to capture any CO_2 released during combustion. This is both a technically complex and costly process. The FES assumes that the greenhouse gases released in each scenario will be mainly offset by using BECCS. The use of BECCS to offset the projected additional greenhouse gas emissions is included in the FES at a national level. For North Somerset, given the significant potential for renewable electricity generation from wind and solar PV and the relatively small amount of generation from bioenergy, it is unlikely that there will be a requirement for BECCS. In subsequent reviews of the Local Plan, depending upon progress towards its net zero aim, North Somerset wish to consider using BECCS to offset the residual emissions from the “Other” sector (Agriculture, Land Use and Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF), Waste, F-gases, Aviation and shipping) or remaining fossil fuel consumption locally.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: BM-PR-2 (Refer to Table 42 in Section 17)

It is recommended that proposals for stand-alone electricity generation plants utilising biomass should be required to utilise a BECCS system and a whole life carbon benefit can be evidenced.

14.1.2 Distribution Future Energy Scenarios

Western Power Distribution (WPD) has used the National Grid ESO FES as a framework to make projections concerning changes in consumption, storage and distributed generation, including electrified transport and heat across South West England; these are the Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES). As in the FES, the DFES are compliant with the 2050 UK net zero target, excluding the ‘Steady Progression’ scenario.

Alongside providing projections for renewable energy generation and energy consumption, the DFES also provides projections on the heating systems, uptake of heat pumps, and the transport system's transformation.

[153] DFES 2020 Results and Assumptions Report, Figure 6: https://www.regen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/WPD-DFES-2020-technology-summary-report-South-West.pdf

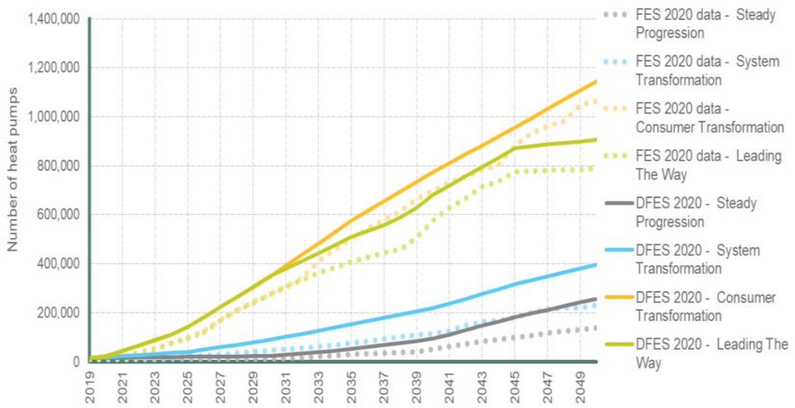
There will be an increase in the number of direct electric heating systems

Table 27: Domestic Electric Heating by Scenario in the South West[154]

Data summary for direct electric heating in South West licence area:

Number of households (1,000s)	Baseline	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
Steady Progression	101	106	110	114	119	124	130
System Transformation	101	107	110	112	113	113	112
Consumer Transformation	101	107	109	110	110	108	107
Leading the Way	101	108	112	115	116	116	116

The baseline number of direct electric heating units (101,000) is based on analysis of domestic heating technology types from Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) data.



73% of homes will be served by a heat pump

Figure 62: Domestic Non-Hybrid Heat Pumps by Scenario in the South West[155]

Up to 270 times more electric vehicles

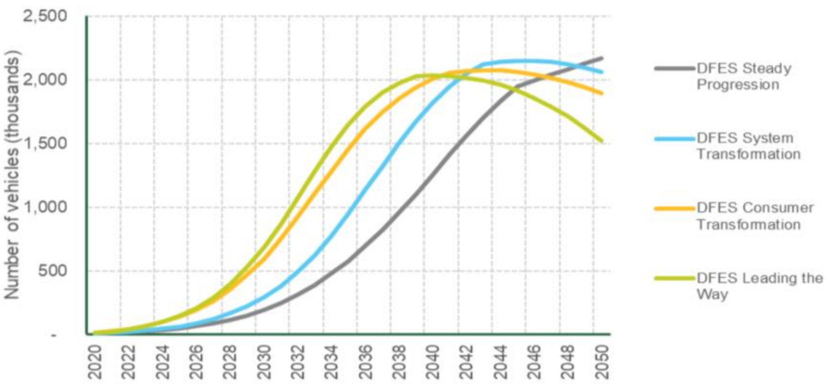


Figure 63: Battery Electric Vehicles by Scenario in the South West[156]

In Leading the Way, Consumer Transformation and System Transformation, the number of electric vehicles reduces from the late 2030s and mid 2040s respectively. This results from high levels of

[154] Distribution Future Energy Scenarios 2020, page 20, https://www.regen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/WPD-DFES-2020-technology-summary-report-South-West.pdf
[155] Distribution Future Energy Scenarios 2020, page 17, https://www.regen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/WPD-DFES-2020-technology-summary-report-South-West.pdf
[156] Distribution Future Energy Scenarios 2020, page 24, https://www.regen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/WPD-DFES-2020-technology-summary-report-South-West.pdf

societal change resulting in high use of autonomous vehicles, public and active travel, which results in many homes opting to have fewer cars, or no car at all.

14.1.3 Guidance on Input to the Distribution Future Energy Scenarios

Local councils are consulted to provide input into the process of updating the WPD DFES once they have developed or updated their scenarios; this RERAS can be used to help with the process.

Regen's 2020 WPD DFES analysis and the RERAS use much of the same input data and methods to analyse the energy system. The DFES analysis may go deeper in terms of a geographic focus and granularity, but results can be aggregated up to a council level.

The main difference, however, is the starting point and the overall objective the analysis is looking to meet:

DFES provides a set of regional and sub regional energy scenarios for the primary purpose of network planning, which are based on the National Grid ESO FES, other national or potentially devolved government scenarios.

The DFES allows for a high degree of regional or devolved nation variation based on stakeholder input and supported by bottom up evidence analysis but is still bounded within a national scenario framework and can be reconciled back to the national scenario. So, while the DFES should be strongly influenced and informed by stakeholder input, and regional evidence gathering, it does not claim to represent the full extent of local energy ambition and local objectives.

The RERAS starts from the basis of local energy objectives, not a national scenario. The RERAS, therefore, represents a much more local stakeholder view of the energy system, albeit with potentially strong input from energy networks.

The DFES starts from the basis of a national scenario that is modelled across one or multiple licence areas[157].. However, a RERAS starts from local energy objectives and can be more detailed and consider stakeholder input more thoroughly. Therefore, the RERAS projections and forecasts could be quite different from DFES results and national scenarios and serve a different purpose: to create momentum and impetus behind a locally defined energy future, a net zero action plan, and economic growth. The RERAS could be used to inform a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP), which is an evidence based plan which can enable the transition to a net zero-carbon energy system[158]. The production of a LAEP could provide a stable base for effective local action to reduce carbon emissions and potentially define specific proposals for local energy networks.

Incorporating RERAS results back into the DFES process would allow the District Network Operators (DNOs) to analyse the results within their network planning processes and compare and present the results against the national scenarios.

Incorporating the RERAS outputs within the DFES analysis would require some practical steps, all of which are surmountable:

a) It would probably require the definition of a new (5th) DFES scenario as it would be difficult to reconcile the RERAS into one of the existing national scenarios;

b) DFESs are updated annually, whereas a RERAS or LAEP is likely to be completed less regularly. Some means of updating or maintaining the RERAS would be required if the process was to be repeated annually. This is because the DFES process, being undertaken

[157] Distribution network operators (DNOs) licence areas. There are 14 licensed Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) in Britain and each is responsible for a regional distribution services area. DNO License Areas are sometimes referred to as GSP Groups and historically have also been known as Public Electricity Supplier (PES) regions. https://data.nationalgrideso.com/system/gis-boundaries-for-gb-dno-license-areas
[158] https://www.cse.org.uk/projects/view/1369

for multiple license areas at once, cannot always incorporate local energy objectives and stakeholder feedback;

c) It is unlikely that the RERAS would cover an entire DNO licence area at any given time, a methodology would be needed to extend to the remaining licence area, or the approach could be to use the RERAS or LAEP inputs for a part of the licence area only.

14.2 Predicting 2030 Future Energy Consumption

The underlying scenario framework of the DFES and FES assumes a 2050 decarbonisation projection. This means that to ensure that the projections meet the Council's 2030 decarbonisation aim, the 2050 projections and data points in the DFES and FES must be accelerated for North Somerset from 2050 to 2030.

This acceleration was modelled such that the 2050 projections have been condensed to 2030. Therefore, it is assumed that in addition to the technology uptake rates, underlying assumptions on consumer behaviour change, technology efficiencies, and energy efficiency rates have also been accelerated to meet local ambition. The only exclusion to this is the number of new dwellings. The number of new dwellings used within this assessment aligns with the value predicted within the DFES for 2030 (see Figure 64).

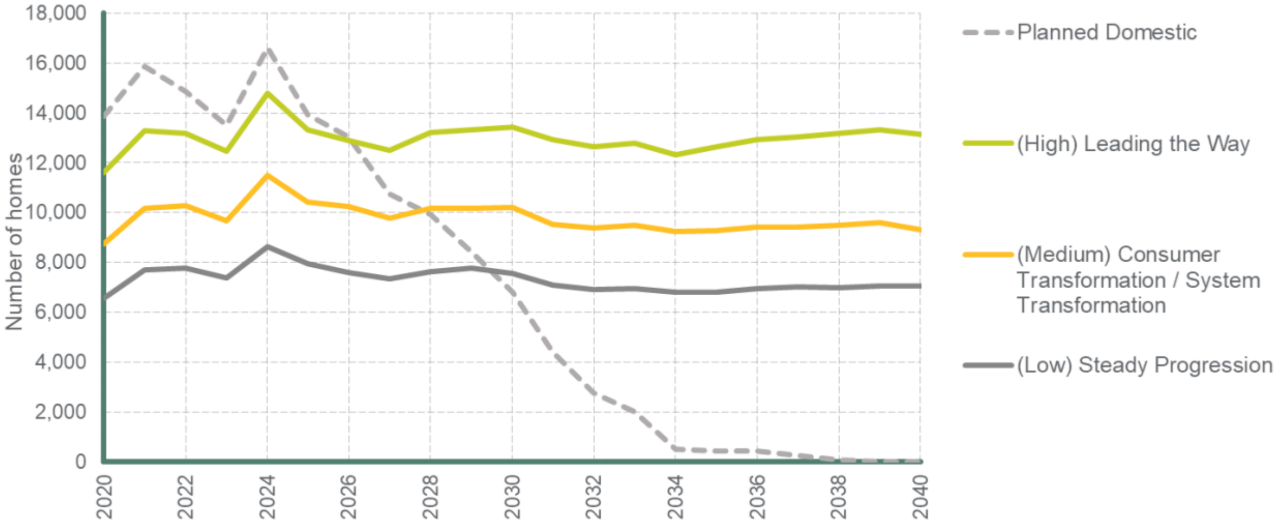


Figure 64: Homes Built Per Year in the South West[159]

Figure 65 shows the projection methodology process, the different colours represent different scenarios.

[159] DFES 2020 Results and Assumptions Report, Figure 6: https://www.regen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/WPD-DFES-2020-technology-summary-report-South-West.pdf

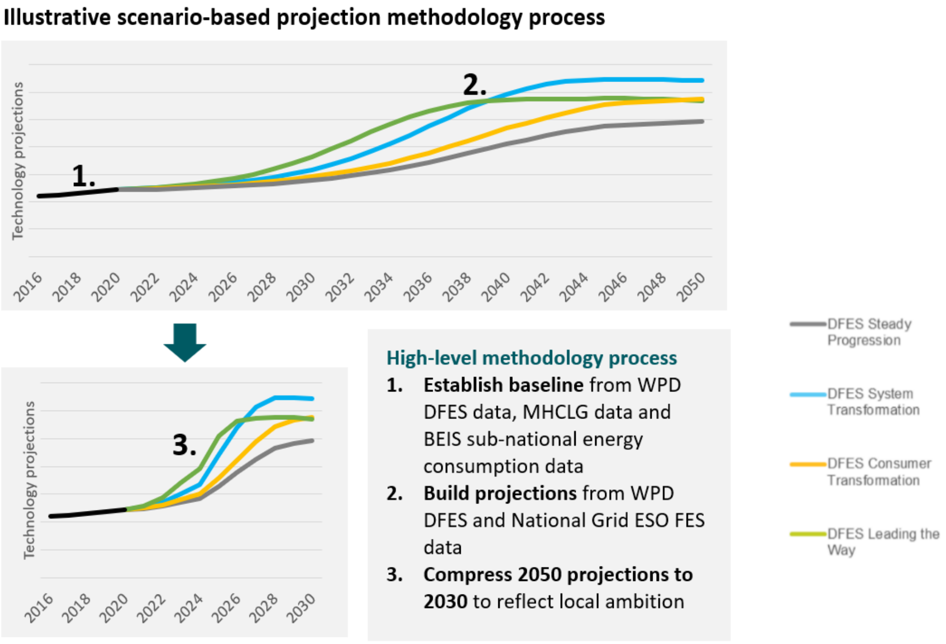


Figure 65: Illustrative Scenario Based Projection Methodology Process

14.3 Building Integrated Renewables Projection

Any renewable energy generation technology that is integrated as part of a building (domestic or non-domestic) is called a 'building integrated renewable'. As the transition to renewable energy increases in line with the Consumer Transformation Scenario, the number of building integrated renewables will increase and this requires consideration when projecting the future energy consumption. As building integrated renewables are de-centralised forms of energy generation, an increase in the installation of building integrated renewables will have an impact on the future energy consumption and therefore require consideration when projecting the future energy consumption.

14.3.1 Calculation Method

14.3.1.1 Baseline

The baseline of existing electrical energy projects was informed by Western Power Distribution's (WPD) Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES) data. Non-electrical heating technologies were evaluated from two sources; Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) data and English Housing Survey data, which provided a spatial baseline of heating technologies.

14.3.1.2 Projection

Projections of building integrated renewables in the region are estimated primarily using existing WPD DFES projections. The DFES projects the uptake of generation, storage and demand technologies connecting to the distribution electricity network to 2050 using the national Future Energy Scenarios (FES) as a framework.

For more information on the DFES and FES, see Section 14.1 and Appendix N.

14.3.2 Building Integrated Renewable Energy Uptake in 2030

14.3.2.1 Domestic Thermal Technologies

A breakdown of projections of domestic renewable heating technologies in North Somerset in baseline year and 2030 is provided in Table 28.

Table 28: Domestic Thermal Technologies Projections

Technology	Number of Installations in 2019	Number of Installations in 2030
Hybrid Heat Pumps – Dwellings	0	10,050
Heat Pumps Systems - Dwellings	177	71,916
Direct Electric Heating Systems - Dwellings	5,520	6,186
Biofuel Systems - Dwellings [160]	1	771[161]
Biomass Systems - Dwellings	135	226
Solar Thermal Systems - Dwellings	70	51

It is projected that by 2030, there will be a significant shift towards electric heating, particularly towards heat pump solutions.

14.3.2.2 Non-Domestic Thermal Technologies

The FES data does not include projections of commercial and industrial thermal technologies. However, projections of total heat demand and the proportion of the heat that is supplied by electricity in these buildings was calculated.

Additionally, it was assumed that high-grade process heat requirements will be met by hydrogen in the commercial and industrial setting and therefore a projection of hydrogen electrolysis' portion of electricity consumption is calculated and shown in Section 12.

14.3.2.3 Buildings Mounted Renewable Electricity Generators

Table 29 includes details of projection of micro building-mounted wind turbines and rooftop solar PV panels in North Somerset.

Table 29: Projection of Micro Building-Mounted Solar PV and Wind Installations

Technology	Installed Capacity in 2019 (MWe)	Installed Capacity (Including Existing) in 2030 (MWe)
Onshore Wind <6kW [162]	0.019	0.13
PV-Commercial Rooftop (10kW - 1MW)	10.87	48.9
PV-Domestic Rooftop (<10kW)	19.9	83.5

14.4 Energy Consumption Projections

14.4.1 Calculation Method

14.4.1.1 Baseline

The North Somerset energy consumption baseline was informed by BEIS sub-national energy consumption statistics. This provided a sectoral energy baseline for different fuels for North Somerset in the study and can be found in Section 3.

14.4.1.2 Projection

Projections into the rate of change of energy consumption have been derived from National Grid ESO's Future Energy Scenarios. Therefore, the same scenario framework is used for both the technology projections and the energy consumption projections (see Figure 65).

The ESO FES incorporates the key assumptions necessary to model future energy consumption projections within a scenario framework for different future pathways. For example, the scenarios incorporate assumptions on heating, including home efficiency improvements, technology efficiency improvements, and changes in consumer behaviour. It should be noted that achieving these will

[160] Biofuels such as biomethane are not considered as a separate renewable energy technology in this study, however DEFES includes projection of installation for these systems which is incorporated in RERAS.
[161] Direct electric heating could also have a role to play in heating homes of the future where heat demand is particularly low, for instance where a home is built to very high fabric standards, such as passivhaus.
[162] Small Scale Building Connected

require policy interventions at the local and, in some cases, national level. For more information on the DFES and FES, see Section 14.1.

14.4.1.3 Industrial Process and Manufacturing Energy Consumption

Some energy consumption lies outside the scope of the National Grid ESO FES. In these cases, the Climate Change Committee's (CCC) Further Ambition scenario[163] projections on industry emissions are used. Relative to other sectors in the region, these emissions are relatively small.

14.4.1.4 2030 Decarbonisation Aim Adjustment

As with the technology projections, the energy consumption projections have also been condensed from 2050 to 2030. Therefore, this assumes that underlying assumptions on consumer behaviour change, technology efficiencies, and energy efficiency rates have also been accelerated to meet local ambition. Appendix Pincludes details of the key data sources used to calculate future energy consumption and building integrated renewable technologies projections.

[163] https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Net-Zero-Technical-report-CCC.pdf

14.5 2030 Energy Consumption in North Somerset

Projected energy consumption in North Somerset in 2030 is provided in Table 30.

Table 30: Projected Energy Consumption (GWh) in North Somerset in 2030

Fuel Type	Use	Description	2030 Energy Consumption (GWh)
Fossil Fuels and Renewables Other Than Electricity	Heating	Domestic Buildings Fossil Fuels and Renewables Energy Consumption for Heating, including Biomass (Energy Crops and Wood Fuel) and Biofuels	126.5
Electricity	Heating	Domestic Buildings Electricity Consumption for Heating (Includes Demand for Hydrogen Electrolysis)	315.5
Electricity	Non-Heating Electricity in Buildings	Domestic Buildings Non-Heating Electricity Consumption	199.3
Fossil Fuels and Renewables Other Than Electricity	Heating	Commercial and Industrial Buildings Fossil Fuels and Renewables Energy Consumption for Heating, including Biomass (Energy Crops and Wood Fuel) and Biofuels	98.2
Electricity	Heating	Commercial and Industrial Buildings Electricity Consumption for Heating e.g. Heat pumps, Direct Electric and Electrolysis of Hydrogen	501.1
Electricity	Non-Heating Electricity in Buildings	Commercial and Industrial Buildings Non-Heating Electricity Consumption	412.8
Fossil Fuels and Renewables Other Than Electricity	Transport Sector	Transport Sector Other Fuels Consumption	157.2
Electricity	Transport Sector	Transport Sector Electricity Consumption	421.4
Total Heat Consumption (Including Electrical Heating Demand)			1,041.3
Total Electricity Consumption (Including Electrical Heating Consumption and Transport Sector Electricity Consumption)			1,850.2
Total Transport Sector Energy Consumption			578.6
Total Energy Consumption			**2,232.1**

Based on the results, there will be a total energy consumption of 2,232.1GWh in 2030; of this, domestic buildings' energy consumption accounts for 641.3GWh, C&I sector 1,012.1GWh and transport sector 578.6GWh of the total consumption.

The total electricity consumption across North Somerset is projected to be 1,850GWh in 2030, including 816.6GWh of electric heating and 421.4GWh for electric vehicles.

The total heat consumption across North Somerset is projected to be 1,041.3GWh in 2030. Of this, c816.6GWh will be met via electrical heating, and the remaining heat, which will be supplied by fuels other than electricity, is c224.7GWh.

To meet the additional heating demand, it is anticipated that fossil fuels may be required and thus will require offsetting in order to meet the net zero aim. The potential offsetting as a result of the use of these fossil fuels is outside the scope of the RERAS. The FES assumes that BECCS can be used as an offsetting method, see Section 14.1.1.

Figure 66 below illustrates the projected energy Consumptions across different sectors in North Somerset in 2030.

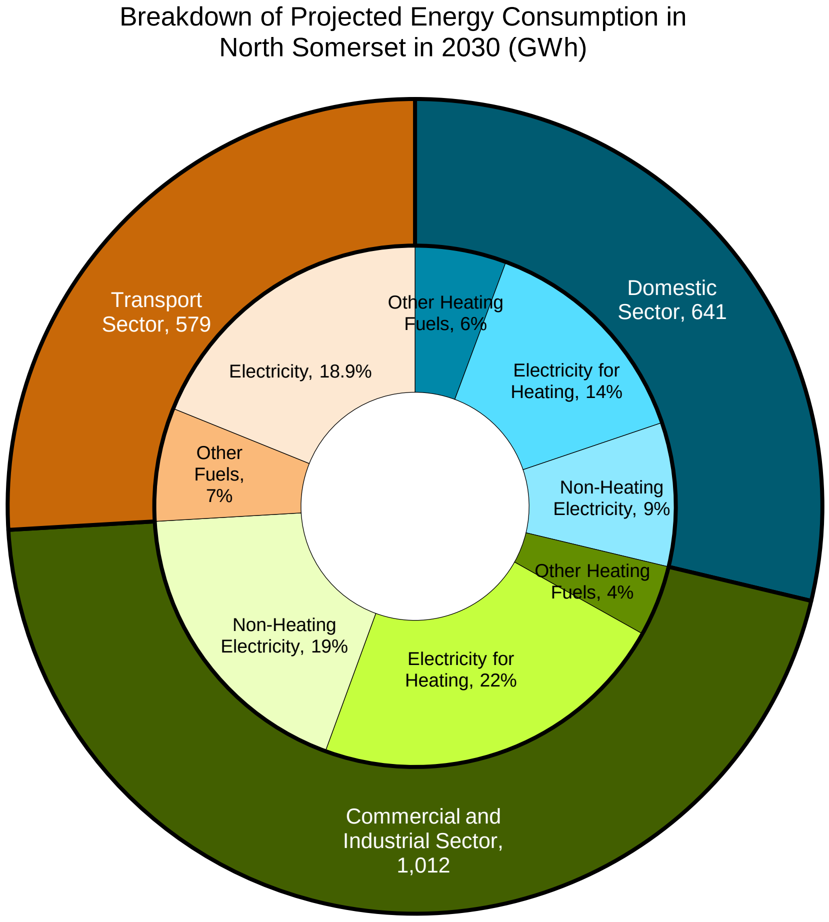


Figure 66: Breakdown of Existing Energy Consumption (GWh) in North Somerset in 2030

Figure 67 below provides a comparison between the current and projected 2030 energy consumption in North Somerset.

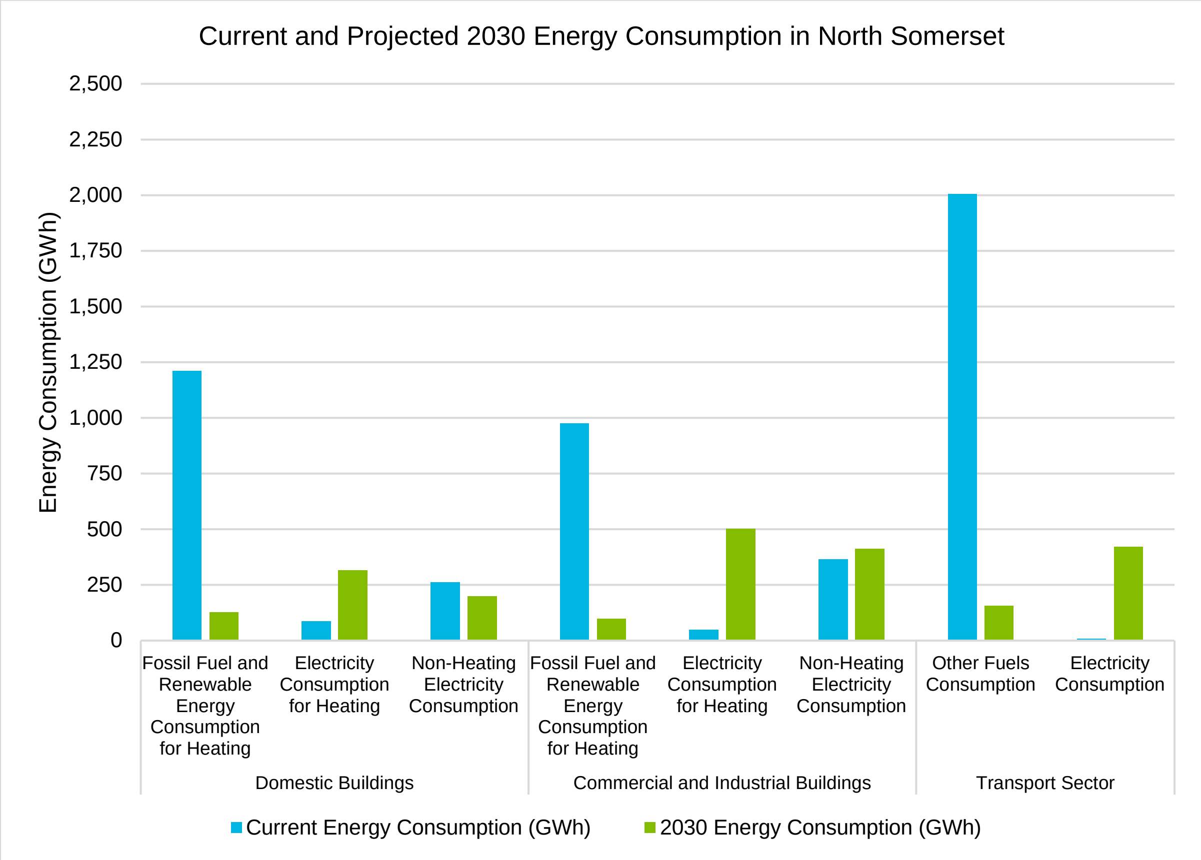


Figure 67: Comparison of Current and 2030 Projected Energy Consumption North Somerset

For domestic buildings, the use of fossil fuels is projected to be significantly lower in 2030, in fact figures and table in Appendix N only project a small amount of natural consumption in Industrial and Commercial sector only. Therefore, the green parts in this figure (for Fossil Fuel and Renewable Energy Consumption for Heating) are mainly for renewable energy. It should also be noted that under Consumer Transformation, heat pumps become the dominant heating technology hence the significant change in electricity for heating demand in comparison to moderate change in other renewables. The scenario assumes that the energy efficiency of buildings is improved through better insulation and by more energy efficient appliances. This reduces overall energy demand and will enhance the operation of heat pumps, when fitted.

The significant reduction in Transport energy demand is due to road transport due to a combination of electrification, automation and changing consumer behaviour[164].

Commercial and industrial buildings follow a similar pattern in relation to heat pumps as domestic buildings, it also includes implantation of energy efficiency measures, but it should be noted that some industrial processes will not be fully decarbonised as mentioned above.

[164] National Grid ESO Future Energy Scenarios, July 2020, page 44 “The energy efficiency of vehicles varies greatly at point of use” https://www.nationalgrideso.com/document/173821/download

15. Identifying the Contributions of North Somerset

15.1 Introduction

The previous sections of this study comprise an assessment of the potential renewable energy resource across North Somerset, converted into installed capacities for each of the technologies, In doing this exercise, assumptions have been made about the technologies that might be utilised to meet the projected consumption in 2030. This section looks to combine outputs of the resource assessment, technology assumptions and future demand projections to provides some information on the potential scenarios for North Somerset Council to meet its renewable energy generation aims. In order to integrate these sections, a series of steps need to be followed:

Calculate the potential energy generation from the new opportunities identified

↓

Calculate the maximum potential of all renewables (includes existing generators)

↓

Compare the maximum potential renewable energy generation in 2030 with North Somerset's 2030 energy consumption

↓

Use the above information to present some potential scenarios for renewable energy development for the Council to consider

15.1.1 Calculating Energy from Installed Capacity

The area-wide resource assessment results indicate the potential installed capacity for different technologies (in MW) that the available resource can support. A well-established and straightforward way of estimating how much energy the potential capacity might generate is to use capacity factors (as load factors).

These factors, which vary by technology, measure how much energy a generating station will typically produce in a year for any given installed capacity.

This reflects the fact that the installed capacity is a measure of the maximum amount of power or heat that a generating station can produce at any given moment. However, for reasons to do with either fuel availability, the need for maintenance downtime, or a heat-generating plant, a lack of heat demand at certain times of day or year, the capacity factor is always less than 1.

The annual energy output for each technology can be calculated by multiplying the installed capacity by its capacity factor and the number of hours in a year (8,760).

A summary of the different capacity factors for different technologies is given in Table 31 and Appendix O includes sources of the data for each renewable technology capacity factor.

Table 31: Capacity Factors for Renewable and Low and Zero Carbon Technologies

Technology	Capacity Factor[165]
Onshore Wind	0.25
Biomass (Electricity)	0.75
Biomass (Heat)	0.40
Hydropower	0.29
Energy from Waste (Electricity)	0.90
Energy from Waste (Heat)	0.50
Landfill Gas (Electricity)	0.46
Landfill Gas (Heat)	0.30
Anaerobic Digestion Utilising including Food Waste, Animal Slurry, Poultry Litter, Sewage Sludge and Sewage Gas. (AD with CHP)	0.43
Anaerobic Digestion Utilising Food Waste, Animal Slurry, Poultry Litter, Sewage Sludge and Sewage Gas. (Heat)	0.5
Solar Farm	0.11
Domestic and Non-Domestic Renewable Electricity Technologies Such as Rooftop Solar PV (electricity)	0.10
Domestic and Non-Domestic Renewable Thermal Technologies (Thermal)	0.20

15.2 Maximum Theoretical Potential of New Renewable Energy Solutions

The maximum new potential renewable electrical and thermal installed capacity across North Somerset, excluding that which is already installed, was calculated as circa 6,422MWe and circa 0.81MWt for 2030

The figures above exclude building integrated biomass and biofuel DFES makes a projection about how much biomass and biofuel will be used in North Somerset in 2030. The figure assumed is lower than the identified available resource, so we have assumed that only the DFES amount is supplied from local biomass sources and is represented as a 'consumption' figure. (as opposed to an installed capacity/ generation figure)

The maximum theoretical new potential renewable electrical and thermal generation across North Somerset, excluding that which is already installed, was calculated as circa 6,679MWhe and circa 44.21MWht for 2030.

Electric heating installations are not included within this section as they are based on the DFES condensed projection and are therefore presented within the projected total electric consumption figures; see Section 14.5; which shows a 2030 energy consumption of 390.3GWh and 897.6GWh for domestic building electricity consumption and commercial and industrial building electricity consumption for heating respectively.

The total installed potential electrical capacity is dominated by potential solar and wind power with contributions from energy from waste, building integrated technologies and hydropower sites. These figures represent the theoretical maximum potential resource and assume that all potential areas would be developed.

Total potential heating technologies across North Somerset in 2030 will be dominated by electric heating (whether this is in the form of direct electric, heat pumps and/or hydrogen generated by electrolysis (mainly in the C&I sector). It should be noted that, due to hydrogen being an up-and-coming technology, it will be challenging to introduce the necessary infrastructure for large scale deployment by 2030 as it will be to retrofit the majority of homes with heat pumps and replace the majority of fossil fuelled vehicles with electric versions. It could be, due to the compressed timescales of North Somerset's delivery aims, that the nature of the Council's decarbonisation is different to DFES projections e.g. hydrogen consumption is replaced by different electrically fed solutions or other

[165] Refer to Appendix O for sources of the data.

energy low carbon carriers such as biogas. Table 32 shows that there will be additional potential from other renewable heating technologies such as animal slurry and poultry litter AD. The figures shown in the table use the DFES projections for building integrated systems and the resource identified within this study for wind and solar PV developments.

Table 32: Maximum Theoretical Potential Renewable Energy Resource and Generation in North Somerset in 2030 (Excluding Existing Installations and Heat Delivered via Electric Heating Systems).

Resource	Potential Installed Capacity		Potential Maximum Delivered Energy	
	Electricity (MWe)	Thermal (MWt)	Electricity (GWhe)	Thermal (GWht)
Energy from Waste with CHP	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hydropower	0.00	-	0.00	-
Landfill Gas	-	-	-	-
Wind (500kW, 1.0MW and 2.5MW Turbines)[166]	379.4	-	825.81	-
Solar PV Farms	5,940.40	-	5,761.81	-
Other (including food waste, animal slurry, poultry litter and sewage sludge. AD with CHP)	0.48	0.80	1.84	3.50
Projected Building Connected Wind (<6kW) Turbines in 2030	0.11	-	0.09	-
Projected PV-Commercial Rooftop (10kW - 1MW) in 2030	38.05	-	33.33	-
Projected PV-Domestic Rooftop (<10kW) in 2030	63.63	-	55.74	-
Projected biomass consumption by building connected biomass boilers in 2030 (domestic)	-	-	-	5.459
Projected biofuel consumption by building connected biofuel boiler in 2030 (domestic)	-	-	-	35.01
Projected heat delivered by solar thermal in 2030 (domestic)	-	0.14	-	0.24
Total	**6,422.07**	**0.94**	**6,678.62**	**44.22**

15.3 North Somerset Maximum Potential Renewable Energy Generation and 2030 Energy Consumption

Table 33 shows the theoretical maximum potential renewable electrical and thermal generation across North Somerset, including that which is already installed[167]. The electric heating installations are not included in this section as they are considered in total electricity consumption figures.

[166] The potential from 1.0MW and 2.5MW Search Areas cannot be added together as some of the areas overlap. The maximum capacity in this table is taken from 500kW, 1.0MW Search Areas plus and additional non-overlapping 2.5MW Search Areas.
[167] In this RERS, 53.63GWht of biomass resource has been identified (see Section 8) however, the above figures only contain uptake based on the DFES and therefore these have not been included in the table.

Table 33: Maximum Potential Renewable Energy Generation in North Somerset in 2030 (Excluding Heat Delivered via Electric Heating Systems)

	Existing Installed Capacity		Maximum Installed Capacity from New Installations		Potential Maximum Delivered Energy	
	Electricity (MWe)	Thermal (MWt)	Electricity (MWe)	Thermal (MWt)	Electricity (GWhe)	Thermal (GWht)
Energy from Waste	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.05
Hydropower	0.032	-	0.00	-	0.08	-
Landfill Gas	1.05	-	-		4.26	-
Large scale wind[168]	4.32	-	379.4	-	835.17	-
Solar PV Farms	49.32	-	5,940.40	-	5,809.64	-
Other (including biomass, food waste, animal slurry, poultry litter and sewage sludge. AD with CHP)	1.66	2.49	0.48	0.80	8.16	14.40
Projected Building Connected Wind (<6kW) Turbines	0.019	-	0.11	-	0.11	-
Projected PV-Commercial Rooftop (10kW - 1MW)	10.87	-	38.05	-	42.85	-
Projected PV-Domestic Rooftop (<10kW)	19.92	-	63.63	-	73.19	-
Projected biomass consumption by building connected biomass boilers in 2030 (domestic)	-	-	-	-	-	5.46
Projected biofuel consumption by building connected biofuel boiler in 2030 (domestic)	-	-	-	-	-	35.01
Projected heat delivered by solar thermal in 2030 (domestic)	-	-	-	0.14	-	0.24
Non-domestic renewable thermal technologies other than heat pumps[169]	-	7.10	-	-	-	12.44
Total					**6,773.55**	**67.6**

The total potential electrical capacity is dominated by potential solar and wind power with contributions from energy from waste, building integrated technologies, biomass, anaerobic digestion plants and hydropower sites. These figures represent a theoretical maximum potential resource.

[168] The potential from 1.0MW and 2.5MW Search Areas cannot be added together as some of the areas overlap. The maximum capacity in this table is taken from 500kW, 1.0MW Search Areas plus and additional non-overlapping 2.5MW Search Areas.
[169] It has been assumed the majority of new renewable heat installations in non-domestic buildings will be of electric heating. High-grade heat requirements will be met by hydrogen in the C&I setting and therefore hydrogen electrolysis's portion of electricity demand is also calculated and included.

The data shows that the theoretical maximum potential renewable electricity generation in North Somerset in 2030 is circa 6,774GWh. Therefore, there would be more than enough resource to meet the 1,850 GWh projected electricity consumption in 2030 (see Section 14.4).

The total 2030 electricity consumption includes electrical heating (including heat pumps), transport sector electricity consumption, electricity consumption for uses other than heating, and electricity consumption for hydrogen electrolysis.

As the potential renewable electricity generation in North Somerset is considerably higher than required to meet the projected 2030 consumption of 1,850GWh, there is flexibility for the Council to apply other constraints to refine the SAs through the Local Plan process. Data regarding potential other constraints can be found in Appendix E and Appendix H.

The theoretical maximum potential from renewable heating technologies is projected to be 67.6GWh in 2030. Therefore, it is concluded that there will only be enough resource to meet 30.0% of the projected 225GWh heat consumption (see Section 14.4) by fuels other than electricity.

The renewable heating technologies include biomass (energy crop and wood fuel) anaerobic digestion with CHP (food waste, animal slurry, poultry litter and sewage sludge) and solar thermal.

The maximum potential for renewable energy resource is presented in this section however a 100% uptake of the potential installed capacity identified through the study particularly for solar PV and wind is extremely ambitious and unlikely to be achievable. It would also be highly undesirable for such a large proportion of North Somerset to be developed for energy generation. Moreover, there is insufficient demand and infrastructure to take the power that would be generated by such an approach and hence the majority of the developments would become unviable as projects. Appendix S includes further details regarding this option.

15.4 Scenarios for a Carbon Neutral North Somerset in 2030

This RERAS has utilised the Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES) and Future Energy Scenarios (FES), accelerated from 2050 to 2030, to project the electricity and heat consumption in North Somerset in 2030. These scenarios should be monitored annually against actual performance in order that the Council can be fed into future iterations of DFES, and to achieve progressively better alignment with its aims. For more information on the FES and DFES; see Section 14.1 and for guidance on incorporating RERAS results into the DFES process, see Section 14.1.3

At the moment, the decarbonisation scenarios presented reflect, as accurately as possible, the evidence gathered i.e. the future demand for electricity will increase significantly and the only resource and technologies likely to be able to meet the demand in 2030 is larger scale wind farms and solar PV farms. This study reveals the key policy considerations to be how much local generation is acceptable and where to locate it. The evidence and recommendations presented here inform those considerations including for public consultation and community engagement at a later stage through the Local Plan process. Community Engagement is considered in Section 16 and recommendations for policy provided in Section 17.We have presented three decarbonisation scenarios below to inform the discussion and how each of the scenarios relate to net zero carbon in North Somerset in 2030.

It should be noted that in all three of the scenarios, it was assumed that the assumptions set out for 2050 in DFES Consumer Transformation scenario are met in 2030, this includes the number of heat pumps installed and changes to the heating systems, energy efficiency upgrades in buildings, installation of building integrated renewables and the transformation of the transport systems (e.g. electric vehicles uptake). These projections are likely to require policy interventions at the local and national levels to be met.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: SC-PR-1 (Refer to Table 37 in Section 17)

It is recommended the three NZC calculations are presented as scenarios, for information only.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: SC-PR-2 (Refer to Table 37 in Section 17)

It is recommended that the Council aims to maximise the potential for the generation and supply of renewable and low and zero carbon electricity and heat.

1. Meet the DFES defined efficiency and renewable energy contribution only

In this scenario, it is assumed that the Consumer Transformation 2050 projections (see Appendix N) set out in the DFES for North Somerset are met in 2030. The energy generation produced by renewables is equivalent to North Somerset share of grid renewable electricity in 2050 to meet zero carbon. This scenario results in North Somerset greening its share of the grid electricity by 2030. Once other areas ‘catch-up’ in 2050 as per DFES, North Somerset’s electricity consumption will become net zero. This scenario includes the assumptions set out in the DFES Consumer Transformation scenario, including the number of heat pumps installed and changes to the heating systems, energy efficiency upgrades in buildings, installation of building integrated and standalone renewables (e.g. solar PV and wind farms) and the transformation of the transport systems (e.g. electric vehicles uptake). This scenario and the following two scenarios are likely to require policy interventions at the local and national levels.

This scenario means that North Somerset would only ‘green’ the proportion of the grid identified by the DFES.

2. Meet the equivalent of 33% of the demand in North Somerset by 2030 and set out a pathway and targets to ensure the equivalent of 100% of the demand is met by 2050.

This scenario acts as a steppingstone between scenarios 1 and 3 and assumes that 33% of the electricity demand in North Somerset in 2030 will be met by installing additional wind and solar developments in some of the Search Areas identified in this study. As there are certain assumptions outlined in the DFES (such as uptake of heat pumps and electric vehicles) that have been condensed to 2030 in this study, this option provides insurance in case these are not met as a higher proportion of the demand will be met by local renewables in comparison to the scenario one projection. Therefore, this scenario also includes the assumptions set out in the DFES Consumer Transformation scenario, including the number of heat pumps installed and changes to the heating systems, energy efficiency upgrades in buildings, installation of building integrated renewables and the transformation of the transport systems (e.g. electric vehicles uptake).

The renewable energy generation can then be assessed every 10 years, and the aim increased to ensure the equivalent of 66% of North Somerset’s demand can be met by 2040 and 100% by 2050. By 2030, this approach also meets the equivalent of the proportion of the grid identified in the DFES as North Somerset s contribution to UK zero carbon in 2050.

3. Meet the 2030 electricity consumption in North Somerset from generation located within North Somerset

This scenario assumes that the 2030 electricity demand in North Somerset will be met by installing additional wind and solar developments in some of the Search Areas identified in this study. The demand could be met through a varying combination of wind development and solar development, promoted through Local Plan policies and strategy. This scenario also includes the assumptions set out in the DFES Consumer Transformation scenario, including the number of heat pumps installed and changes to the heating systems, energy efficiency upgrades in buildings, installation of building integrated renewables and the transformation of the transport systems (e.g. electric vehicles uptake).

Below, in Figure 68, is a bar chart that provides a visual representation of the renewable electricity generation in 2030 for each scenario as well as North Somerset's electricity consumption in 2030.

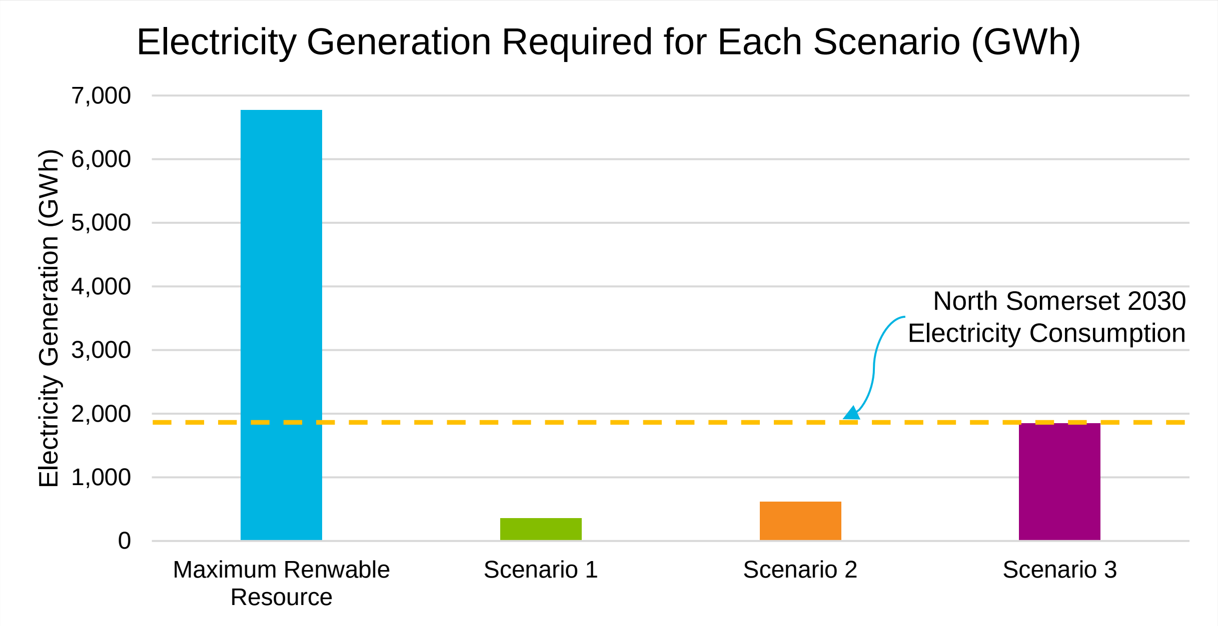


Figure 68: Comparison of Energy Generation Required for Each Scenario

The three scenarios are explained in further detail below.

Scenario 1 – Meeting the Distribution Future Energy Scenario Contribution

In this scenario, it is assumed that the Consumer Transformation 2050 projections (see Appendix N) set out in the DFES for North Somerset are met in 2030. The energy generation produced by renewables is equivalent to North Somerset's share of grid renewable electricity in 2050 to meet zero carbon. This scenario results in North Somerset greening its share of the grid electricity by 2030. Once other areas 'catch-up' in 2050, as per DFES, North Somerset electricity consumption will become net zero. This scenario includes the assumption set out in the DFES Consumer Transformation scenario, including the number of heat pumps installed and changes to the heating systems, energy efficiency in buildings, installation of buildings integrated and standalone renewables (e.g. solar PV and wind farms) and the transformation of the transport systems (e.g. electric vehicles uptake). These projections are likely to require policy interventions at the local and national levels to be met. This scenario results in North Somerset greening its share of the grid electricity in 2030, but it should be noted that although North Somerset proportion of the grid will be green by 2030, the rest of the UK will not have achieved greening their proportion of the grid yet. A breakdown of the DFES projections can be found in Appendix R.

Scenario 1 assumes that the majority of homes are primarily heated by heat pumps (circa 73% of homes in the South West of England as per the DFES), and there will be a 12% increase in the number of dwellings with direct electric heating in North Somerset.

Scenario 1 assumes that there will be circa 270 times more electric vehicles than in 2020 in the South West of England, as per the DFES[170].

The DFES requires approximately three 50MW solar developments and seven 5MW wind developments in North Somerset to meet the large sale wind and solar projections.

Meeting the DFES projection in 2030 would generate enough renewable electricity to cover 19.3% of North Somerset's 2030 Consumption.

This scenario means that North Somerset would only 'green the proportion of the grid identified by the DFES.

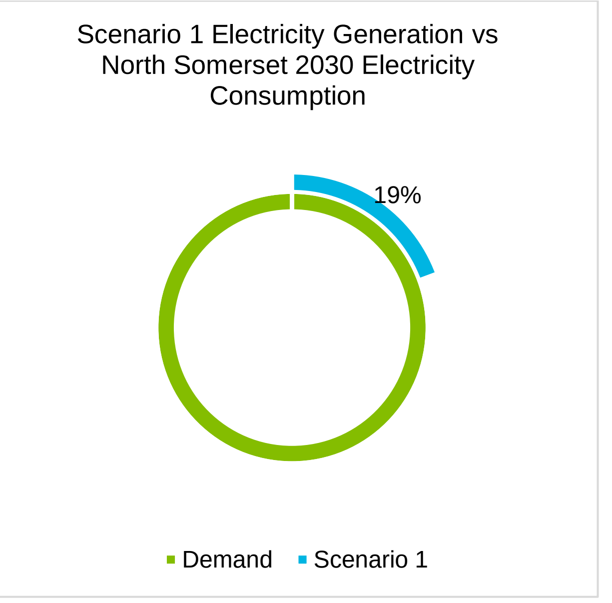


Figure 69: Electricity Generation Comparison of Scenario 1 and North Somerset's 2030 Consumption

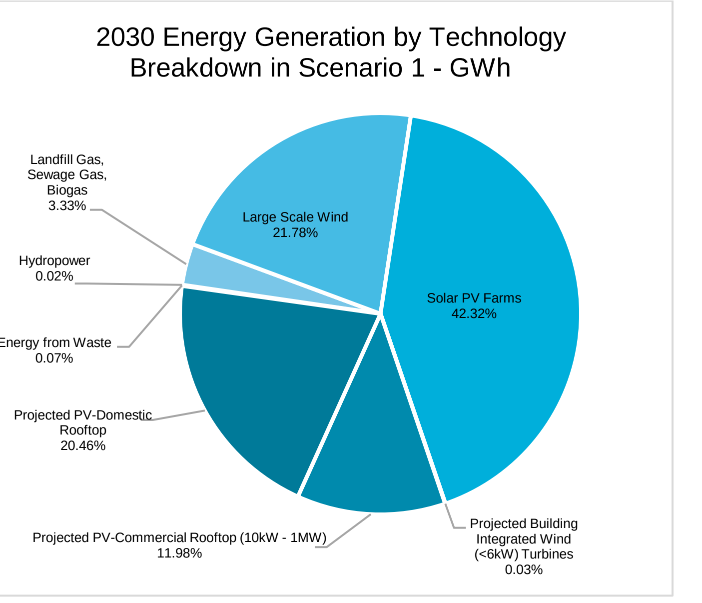


Figure 70: 2030 Energy Generation by Technology Breakdown in Scenario 1 - GWh

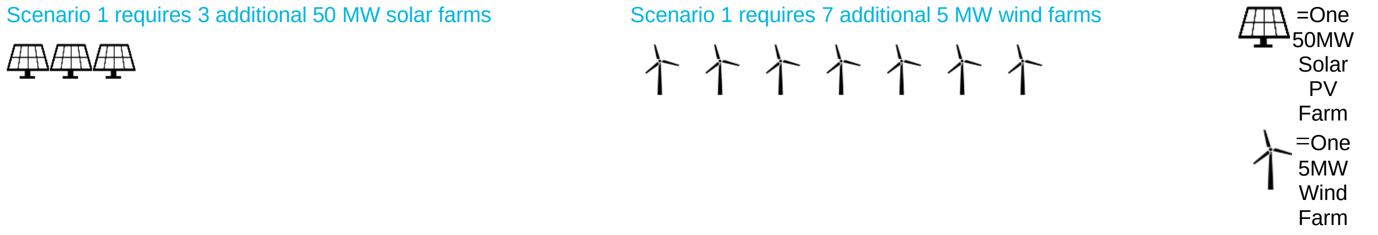


Figure 71: Pictogram of Number of Additional 50MW Solar Farms and 5MW Wind Farms Required in Scenario 1[171]

Table 34: DFES Technology Projection Breakdown (See Appendix R for More Details)

Technology	2050 DFES Projection	2030 Projection for North Somerset	Total Generation Required to meet 2030 DFES Projection (MWh/annum)	Additional Capacity required to meet DFES (MWe)	Additional Generation required to meet DFES (MWh)
Onshore Wind	39.04	39.04	77,901	34.72	68,525
Ground Mounted Solar	156.1	156.1	151,377	106.75	103,541
Building Integrated Wind	0.127	0.127	111.58	0.127	111.58
Building Integrated Solar - Rooftop	154.97	126.67[172]	116,040	101.67	89,068
Landfill Gas, Sewage Gas, Biogas	3.06	3.06	11,919	0.35	1,373.7
Hydropower	0.032	0.032	80.09	0	0
Waste Incineration (EfW)	0.03	0.03	236.52	0	0

170 7,000 EVs in baseline year and 1,894,000 EVs in 2030 in the South West licence area in Consumer Transformation scenario. https://www.regen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/WPD-DFES-2020-technology-summary-report-South-West.pdf

171 Each solar panel icon is equivalent to one 50MW solar farm. Each wind turbine icon is equivalent to one 5MW wind farm

172 The building integrated solar 2030 figure is lower than the DFES 2050 projection as number of new dwellings used within this assessment aligns with the value predicted within the DFES for 2030 not 2050.

Scenario 2 – Meet 33% of North Somerset's Consumption by 2030

This scenario acts as a steppingstone between scenarios 1 and 3.

It is still assumed that the DFES projections for North Somerset, accelerated to 2030 for this study, would be installed, and the additional generation would be covered through the wind and solar Search Areas identified in this study. However, as specific projections outlined in the DFES (such as transport transformation and heating systems uptake) have been condensed to 2030 in this study, this option provides insurance if these are not met.

A 100% uptake of the available wind installations (1.0 MW and 2.5MW SAs) was assumed, with the additional required generation being met by the solar PV farms. This combination is not mandatory, and a different ratio of wind farms to solar PV farms could be used to meet the required generation.

In this scenario, a pathway can be produced, which includes a series of renewable energy generation aims that can be assessed and updated on a 10 year basis to ensure North Somerset can achieve net zero carbon by 2050. The suggested pathway is as follows:

2030
33% of the demand is met by renewable energy generation in North Somerset

2040
66% of the demand is met by renewable energy generation in North Somerset

2050
100% of the demand is met by renewable energy generation in North Somerset

Scenario 2 assumes that the majority of homes are primarily heated by heat pumps (circa 73% of homes in the South West of England as per the DFES), and there will be a 12% increase in the number of dwellings with direct electric heating in North Somerset.

Scenario 2 assumes that there will be circa 270 times more electric vehicles than in 2020 in the South West of England, as per the DFES[173].

Scenario 2 would require seven 50MW solar farms and eleven new 5MW wind farms in North Somerset.*

*Assuming a take up of 100% of the wind resource (1.0MW and 2.5MW SAs) identified in this study, and meeting the rest with solar PV

This scenario requires consideration by the Council and communities, industry and other stakeholders as to the appropriate renewable energy generation mix. This could include decisions relating to the planning balance and potential additional constraints within North Somerset.

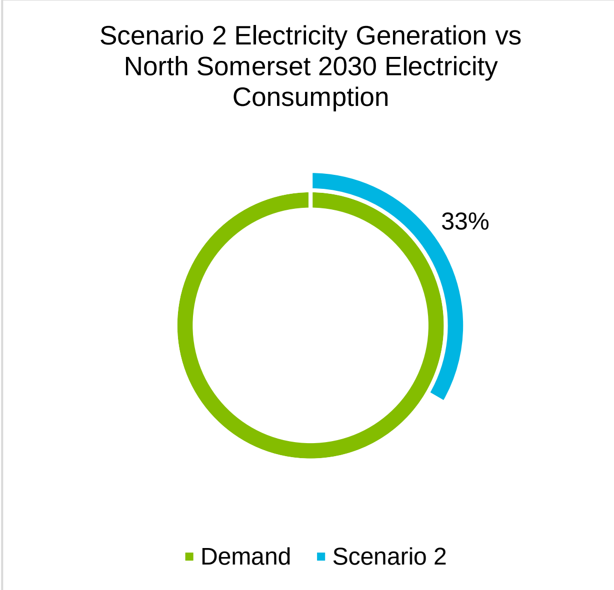


Figure 72: Electricity Generation Comparison of Scenario 2 and North Somerset's 2030 Consumption

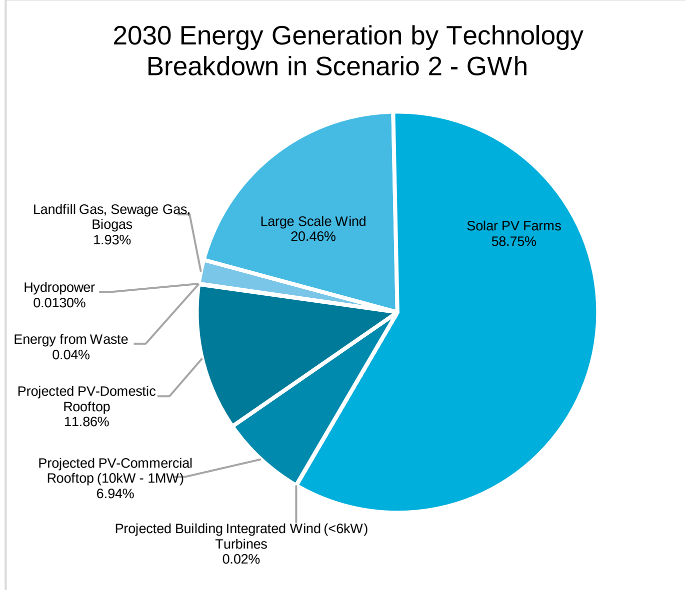


Figure 73: 2030 Energy Generation by Technology Breakdown in Scenario 2 - GWh

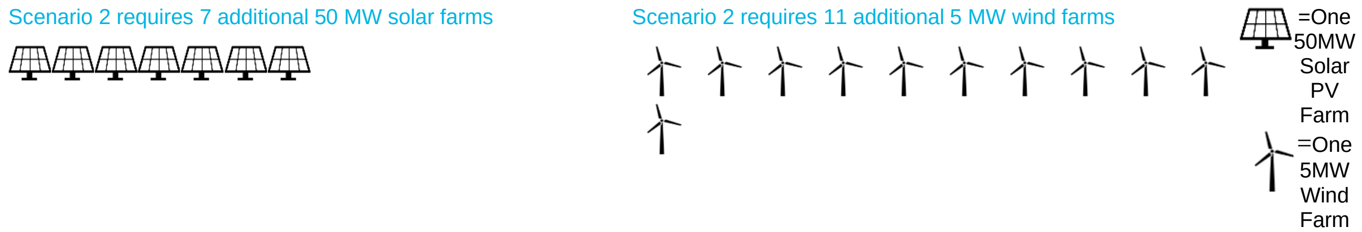


Figure 74: Pictogram of Number of Additional 50MW Solar Farms and 5MW Wind Farms Required in Scenario 2[174]

Table 35: Electricity Generation Potential from New Wind and Solar Farms in Scenario 2[175]

	Wind Farms				Solar PV			
	Assumed Up-take %	**Installed Capacity (MW)**	**Projected Electricity Generation from Wind (GWh)**	**Estimated Number of New Wind Farms to be Built until 2030****	**Assumed Up-take %**	**New Installed Capacity (MW)**	**Projected Electricity Generation from Solar PV (GWh)**	**Estimated Number of New Solar PV Farms to be Built Until 2030*****
Total New Potential based an assumed up-take	100%	53.4	116.9	11	6%	326.7	314.8	7

Assuming 5MW per site (eq 0.625 km²)   * Assuming 50MW per site (eq 1.2 km²)

[173] 7,000 EVs in baseline year and 1,894,000 EVs in 2030 in the South West licence area in Consumer Transformation scenario. https://www.regen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/WPD-DFES-2020-technology-summary-report-South-West.pdf

[174] Each solar panel icon is equivalent to one 50MW solar farm. Each wind turbine icon is equivalent to one 5MW wind farm

[175] It is still assumed that the DFES projections for other technologies, accelerated to 2030 for this study, would be installed (see Appendix R)

Scenario 3 – Meeting North Somerset's 2030 Electricity Consumption

This scenario provides enough renewable energy generation to meet the 2030 electricity consumption.

It is still assumed that the DFES projections for North Somerset, accelerated to 2030 for this study, would be installed (see Appendix R) and the additional generation would be covered through the wind and solar Search Areas identified in this study.

As the wind Search Areas were more finite than the solar PV Search Areas, and wind turbines have a higher space efficiency for the same energy generation and are generally more efficient, it was assumed a 100% uptake of the available wind installations (1.0MW and 2.5MW SAs), with the additional required generation being met by the solar PV farms. This combination is not mandatory and a different ratio of wind farms to solar PV farms could be used to meet the electricity consumption.

It should be noted the lack of grid connection opportunities may affect the ability of North Somerset to meet the 2030 aim under this scenario; therefore, more investment in the grid would be required to support a greater number of renewables than currently assumed to be needed from DFES.

Scenario 3 assumes that the majority of homes are primarily heated by heat pumps (circa 73% of homes in the South West of England as per the DFES), and there will be a 12% increase in the number of dwellings with direct electric heating in North Somerset.

Scenario 3 assumes that there will be circa 270 times more electric vehicles than in 2020, in the South West, as per the DFES[176].

Scenario 3 would require thirty-four 50MW solar farms and eleven new 5MW wind farms in North Somerset.*

*Assuming a take up of 100% of the wind resource (1.0MW and 2.5MW SAs) identified in this study and meeting the remaining demand with solar PV and existing generation.

This scenario requires consideration by the Council and communities, industry, and other stakeholders as to the appropriate renewable energy generation mix. This could include decisions relating to the planning balance and potential additional constraints within North Somerset.

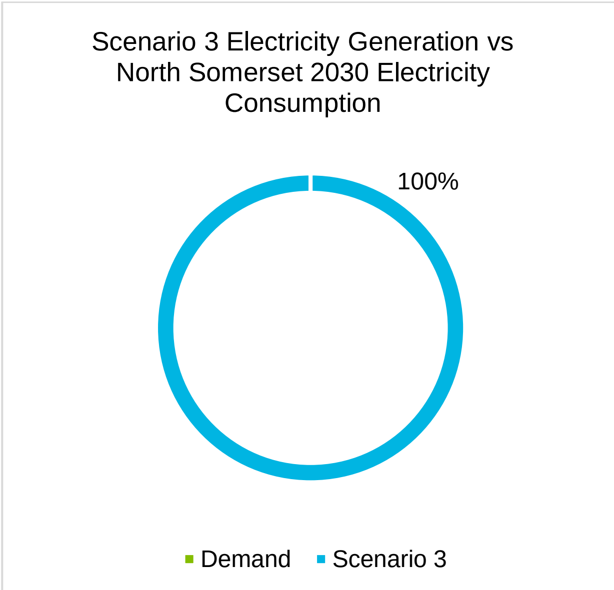


Figure 75: Electricity Generation Comparison of Scenario 3 and North Somerset's 2030 Consumption

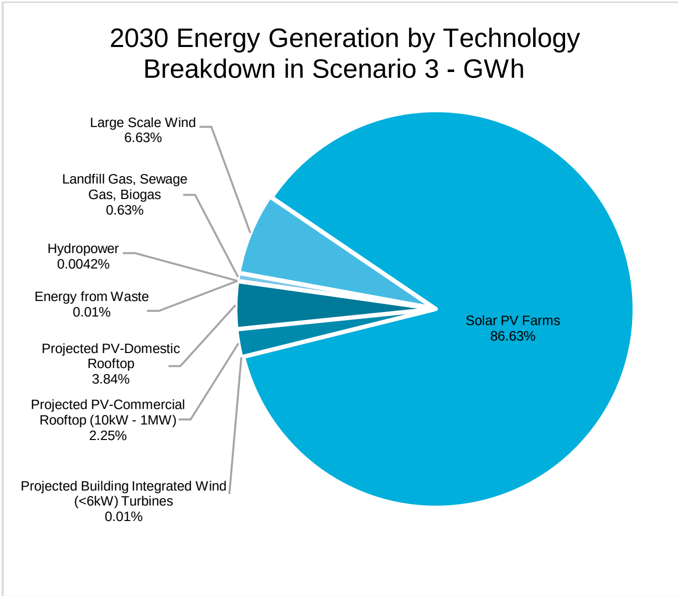


Figure 76: 2030 Energy Generation by Technology Breakdown in Scenario 3 - GWh

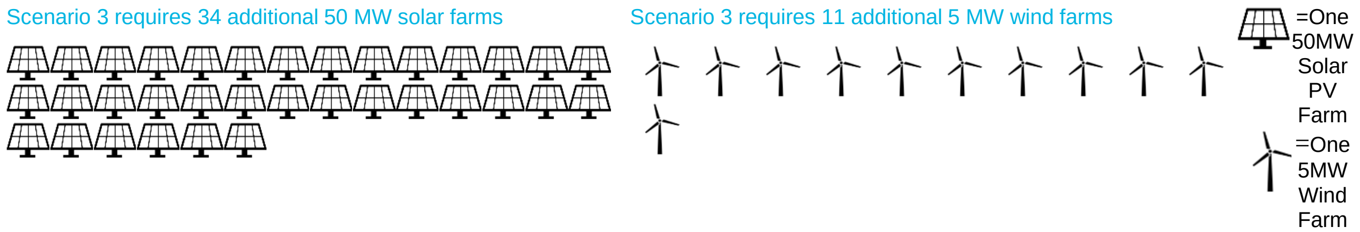


Figure 77: Pictogram of Number of Additional 50MW Solar Farms and 5MW Wind Farms Required in Scenario 3[177]

Table 36: Electricity Generation Potential from New Wind and Solar Farms in Scenario 3[178]

	Wind Farms				Solar PV			
	Assumed Up-take %	**Installed Capacity (MW)**	**Projected Electricity Generation from Wind (GWh)**	**Estimated Number of New Wind Farms to be Built until 2030****	**Assumed Up-take %**	**New Installed Capacity (MW)**	**Projected Electricity Generation from Solar PV (GWh)**	**Estimated Number of New Solar PV Farms to be Built Until 2030*****
Total New Potential based an assumed up-take	100%	53.4	116.9	11	28%	1,663	1,602.8	34

**Assuming 5MW per site (eq 0.625 km²)

*** Assuming 50MW per site (eq 1.2 km²)

[176] 7,000 EVs in baseline year and 1,894,000 EVs in 2030 in the South West licence area in Consumer Transformation scenario. https://www.regen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/WPD-DFES-2020-technology-summary-report-South-West.pdf

[177] Each solar panel icon is equivalent to one 50MW solar farm. Each wind turbine icon is equivalent to one 5MW wind farm

[178] It is still assumed that the DFES projections for other technologies, accelerated to 2030 for this study, would be installed (see Appendix R)

16. Advice on Community Engagement

16.1 Community Engagement

Community engagement is essential to ensure the foundations of a long-lasting positive relationship between the community and those involved in developing renewable and low carbon energy proposals. Disregarding the importance of community engagement can lead to negative impacts on the community's economic, environmental or social situation[179]. The Community Engagement Guidance from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)[180] states that effective engagement can ensure that a development proposal:

- reflects an accurate understanding and appreciation of local interests and concerns;
- provides a better and more timely consideration of the material benefits and impacts of the proposal, which is reflected in the decision-making process; and
- ensures that, if the proposal goes ahead, local people have the opportunity to shape how the development is actually realised and build an ongoing relationship with the developer.

All parties involved in renewable and low carbon energy developments, developers, local authorities and communities, should follow the principles of best practice:

Timely

A clear timetable in which engagement opportunities are identified should be created by all parties. Should this change, every effort should be made to communicate this to everyone.

The engagement opportunities should commence early in the process, where it is easy and cost-effective to make changes and so that adequate time is allowed for consideration and response to these changes. Feedback is essential to aid the understanding of how the information collected throughout the engagement process is used.

Transparent

All parties should be clear about the interests and people they are representing. Accessible and understandable information should be provided to enable easy engagement with the process. Fixed aspects of the development and community benefits should be made clear, and explanations provided, alongside highlighting areas that are 'up for debate.'

Constructive

All engagement should be undertaken in a positive manner, creating and strengthening relationships built on mutual trust. All communication should be a two-way process and actions to adopt links with parties who can advise and support the use of suitable engagement links.

[179] Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland, Guidelines for Community Engagement, http://www.derryaddwindfarm.ie/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2017/06/Code-of-Practice-community-engagment.pdf

[180] Community Engagement for Onshore Wind Developments: Best Practice Guidance for England, DECC, October 2014, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/364244/FINAL_-_Community_engagement_guidance_-06-10-14.pdf

Inclusive

Understanding of the whole range of local opinions about the proposed developments should be sought. Exploration into understanding the potential barriers to those actively participating should be undertaken to ensure that there is an equal opportunity for everyone to be heard. A variety of engagement methods will ensure that there is a chance to get involved in a way that is suited to everyone's needs. These practices should be reviewed, and gaps identified and improved upon that will help widen the process and ensure views from across the spectrum of the community are heard.

Fair and Evidence Based

All parties should acknowledge and respects the rights of all those who are involved in the process to express their views. Robust, factual information and evidence should form the basis of engagement. Participants should have the opportunity to take an active part in the development proposals and understand how their opinions and input affect the development proposal. Changes made to the development should be done based on the wider community view and not a forthright minority.

Unconditional

It should be made clear that any engagement, at any stage of the development, does not imply support for the development, nor that approval by the local planning authority has a higher chance of being achieved.

After the completion of this RERAS, a community engagement process should begin. The term 'community' encompasses a variety of people, including communities of place and communities of interest. It is, therefore, essential to ensure that the information within the RERAS is delivered to the community in an accessible and engaging manner.

When considering the term 'local community' in the community engagement process, it is difficult to define the geographical extent of 'local', however, it is essential to ensure that the local community has backed the development proposal, as per footnote 54 in the National Planning Policy Framework[181]. For renewable and low carbon development, the local community may include[182]:

- Proximity to the development;
- Visual impact from the development (the nearest residents may have less of a view of the wind farm than those living further away but with more direct sightlines);
- Level of disruption and nuisance caused by construction activity and traffic;
- How the location is used for work or recreation by the wider community; and
- Noise impact from the development.

The best option to engage with the community would be through public consultation, in which the mapping process is explained to the community, showing each mapping layer and the constraints applied at each step. Through this consultation, clear aims and timeframes can be conveyed to the community and a space can be made for and questions and concerns to be raised. This will help improve the understanding of the method taken to define the local SAs and the aims of the council and its importance. An improved understanding of the necessity of renewable and low carbon energy developments and the methodology behind the identification process is likely to result in a minimised pushback from the local community. Through this process, community groups with specific interests in

[181] National Planning Policy Framework, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, July 2021; https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005759/NPPF_July_2021.pdf

[182] Delivering Community Benefits from Wind Energy Developments: A Toolkit, Centre for Sustainable Energy, July 2009, https://www.cse.org.uk/downloads/reports-and-publications/community-energy/renewables/Delivering%20community%20benefits%20from%20wind%20energy%20-%20a%20tookit.pdf

a particular site may come forward and express their interest to get involved in renewable or low carbon energy development.

16.2 Community Energy Projects

Community energy projects help to involve the local community and invite local leadership, control and local engagement; they can be fully owned/ controlled by the community or through a partnership with commercial or public sector parties. Community energy projects can include community-owned renewable electricity installations such as solar PV panels, wind turbines or hydroelectric generation.

There is a wide variety of funding opportunities and support for community energy schemes, including the Community Energy Guidance provided by the UK Government[183] and the Community Energy England website[184]. See item 4 in Section 17.5 for details of further work that might be considered by North Somerset Council in relation to community energy projects.

[183] Community Energy Guidance, UK Government, 2015; https://www.gov.uk/guidance/community-energy
[184] https://communityenergyengland.org/pages/funding-opportunities-2

17. Planning Policy Approach

17.1 What is this section about?

The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development through economic, social and environmental objectives. The Council is currently preparing its new Local Plan and, as part of this, developing new policies to encourage increased levels of renewable energy generation. Achieving this ambition is critical in the context of the Council's recent Climate Emergency Declaration, which has resulted in an aim of a net zero North Somerset by 2030.

This RERAS provides the evidence to inform the Council's new Local Plan policies for renewable energy and associated infrastructure and contains recommendations for consideration regarding potential policy approaches with regard to:

- Net zero carbon scenarios;
- Search Areas for wind farms and solar PV farms;
- Increased energy storage;
- Encouraging the development of and connection to heat networks;
- Development of other renewable energy resources e.g. biomass, etc.

This section of the study contains policy recommendations. The recommendations are set out by renewable energy type, each with their own table containing references to the relevant evidence as well as the supporting rationale and references to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The NPPF (2021) sets out the framework within which Local Plans (including those relating to renewable energy development) should be prepared. The key requirements of NPPF, as related to this RERAS are summarised as follows (numbers relate to NPPF paragraphs[185]):

> *152. The planning system should help to contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions……[and]… support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.*
>
> *155. To help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, plans should:*
>
>> *a) maximise the potential for suitable development, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts);*
>>
>> *b) consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure their development; and*
>>
>> *c) identify opportunities for development to draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers.*
>
> *156. Local planning authorities should support community-led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy, including developments outside areas identified in Local Plans or other strategic policies that are being taken forward through neighbourhood planning.*
>
> *157. In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should expect new development to comply with any development plan policies on local requirements for decentralised energy supply unless it can be demonstrated by the applicant, having regard to the type of development involved and its design, that this is not feasible or viable.*
>
> *158. When determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon development, local planning authorities should approve the application if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable. Once suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy have been identified in plans, local planning authorities should expect subsequent applications for commercial scale*

185 https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework

projects outside these areas to demonstrate that the proposed location meets the criteria used in identifying suitable areas.

References to the NPPF are woven into the text within the tables, to show how the RERAS responds to the requirements.

Prior to setting out the evidence and policy recommendations, some clarifications are provided on the scope and status of these proposals.

17.2 Scope of the Policy Recommendations

17.2.1 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP)

Renewable energy applications in North Somerset may exceed 50MW. It should be noted that applications for onshore wind and energy from biomass and/or waste >50MW have a different consenting regime in England. Established by the Planning Act (2008), Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) bypass the normal local planning requirements. Since 2012, powers have been held by the Planning Inspectorate to receive, examine, and approve applications by way of Development Consent Order (DCO). The Planning Act 2008 defines and establishes a process for examining NSIPs, with the need for such schemes established in National Policy Statements (NPS). The purpose of the NSIP process is to weigh the local impacts of schemes against the national need for such infrastructure.

The NPS concerned with impacts and other matters which are specific to biomass, energy from waste (EfW) and onshore wind energy is EN-3[186]. EN-3 contains useful information about the factors that influence site selection by developers for renewable energy generating stations, as well as background information on the criteria considered by the Infrastructure Planning Committee (IPC) when considering applications. Whilst pertaining to specific, larger installations, EN-3[186] is relevant in part for smaller installations as well as technologies not addressed. As such, it is useful reference material for the Council.

17.2.2 Broader Net Zero Agenda

Reflecting the wider scope of the zero-carbon agenda, there are likely to be a number of overlaps between this RERAS and other evidence being gathered by North Somerset Council. Whilst the use of DFES scenarios means that energy used in or generated for use in individual buildings as well as transport fuel are included in developing baselines and future energy projections, policy recommendations are not provided for these items.

In this study, policy recommendations are provided in relation to Search Areas (SAs) for wind farms, solar PV farms as well as for other renewable energy resources and larger stand-alone technologies with associated infrastructure to encourage the production, generation, storage and supply of renewable energy and fuel.

A major challenge for North Somerset in becoming net zero by 2030 is to deliver on the DFES projections related to the mass uptake of heat pumps for heating buildings and electric vehicles. Achieving the DFES projections in itself will require broader policy interventions, many of which are likely to be beyond the scope of the Local Plan (for example, existing buildings will need to switch their heating systems from gas to renewable/ low carbon sources).

[186] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/37048/1940-nps-renewable-energy-en3.pdf

17.2.3 Exclusions

No assessment of site-specific access has been undertaken through the RERAS. Instead, assumptions have been made about location and system sizes (without knowing actual detail of proposals). Conversely, it is worth noting that, in some cases large infrastructure can be, for example, air-lifted into place, and it is possible for new access roads to be funded, depending on project-specific economics. AECOM recommends that project developers provide early indications of access plans to the Council when bringing forward proposals for renewable energy projects.

17.3 Recommended Policy Approaches

The tables below utilise a referencing system using the following protocol:

- Table Names e.g. Scenarios (SC);
- Table headings e.g. whether the item is evidence (EV), a policy recommendation (PR) or the rationale for the recommendation (RA);
- Each policy recommendation has a number, starting with one and ascending e.g. SC-PR-1, AS-PR-2, etc. These references can also be tracked back to the relevant section if the RERAS;
- Each policy recommendation may have a number of evidence items linked to it, hence evidence is assigned 1a, 1b, etc. There may also be a number of reasons for making a policy recommendation, hence the rationale is also labelled 1a, 1b, etc.

Due to space constraints, abbreviations are used in the below tables. To aid the reader, the key abbreviations are as follows:

- **EV:** Evidence
- **PR:** Policy Recommendation
- **RA:** Rationale
- **NZC:** Net Zero Carbon
- **NSC:** North Somerset Council
- **SAs:** Search Areas
- **WF:** Wind Farms
- **SF:** Solar PV Farms
- **ES:** Energy Storage
- **DH:** District Heating Networks
- **BM:** Biomass
- **PPG:** Planning Policy Guidance
- **SC: Scenario**
- **PPG**: Planning Policy Guidance

Table 37: Recommended Policy Approaches Relating to Scenarios for NZC (SC)

Evidence (EV)	Policy Recommendation (PR)	Rationale (RA)
• **SC-EV-1a:** Details of the three NZC scenarios can be found in Section 15; and • **SC-EV-1b:** See Section 16, for guidance in relation to community advice.	• **SC-PR-1-:** It is recommended the three NZC calculations are presented as scenarios, for information only.	• **SC-RA-1a:** There is no agreed method for calculating zero carbon at a local authority area level, so NZC claims may be challenged; • **SC-RA-1b:** The Council need to consult and engage with local people, businesses, industries etc. A discussion about which scenario to aim for (including potential consideration of other scenarios) could be done through engagement on the Local Plan or as part of a wider climate emergency carbon neutral plan; • **SC-RA-1c:** Given the challenges to achieving NZC aims and the complexity surrounding the energy system that is constantly evolving, it is considered preferable to retain some flexibility in terms of defining carbon neutral and specifying how much RE generation should be targeted. Therefore, it is not considered useful to set a specific, rigid aim/ maximum target for renewable energy generation; and • **SC-RA-1d**: NPPF emphasises the need to maximise the potential for development (NPPF, para155a). Any perceived restriction placed upon the use of the available resource for renewable energy generation may be viewed as unnecessarily limiting. Therefore, If the numbers used in developing the three NZC scenarios are to be presented as aims in the Local Plan, it is recommended that it be made clear that these are minimum values rather than a cap (refer to Section 14.3.2 and Section 15).

• **SC-EV-2a:** Details of the identified renewable resources in NS are provided in Section 4 to Section 10, and a summary of the findings is provided in Section 15; • **SC-EV-2b:** Energy storage is discussed in Section 11 of the report; and • **SC-EV-2c:** Heat opportunities mapping results are included in Section 13. Map E4 shows significant heat clusters and potential for heat networks in Weston Super Mare, Clevedon, Portishead, Yatton and Nailsea.	• **SC-PR-2:** It is recommended that the Council aims to maximise the potential for the generation and supply of renewable and low and zero carbon electricity and heat.	• **SC-RA-2a**: NPPF emphasises to help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, Local Plans should provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts) (NPPF, para 155a).

Table 38: Recommended Policy Approaches Relating to Wind Farms (WF)

Evidence (EV)	Policy Recommendation (PR)	Rationale (RA)
• **WF-EV-1a:** Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) states that there are no hard and fast rules about how suitable areas for renewable energy should be identified; • **WF-EV-1b:** W7 map (Figure 34) presents locations of the wind resource SAs across North Somerset; • **WF-EV-1c:** It should be noted that some of the 1.0Mw and 2.5MW SAs overlap as presented in W7 map (Figure 34); and • **WF-EV-1d:** A list of the constraints applied in identifying the SAs can be found in Section 4.2.1 and Appendix F, along with details of any buffers or separation distance assumptions.	• **WF-PR-1:** It is recommended that the SAs identified through the RERAS are further refined through the Local Plan process, taking account of other considerations and constraints.	• **WF-RA-1a:** NPPF (2021) (para155) states that "*to help increase the use and supply of renewable energy, plans should b) consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources;* and • **WF-RA-1b:** SAs have been identified but the shape and extent of each are produced using three different wind turbine specifications. Where proposals involve turbines within the sizes modelled in the RERAS, it can be assumed that proposals are in compliance with all statutory designations. An example for assessment is: a. For proposals for turbines up to 500kW capacity, utilise the 500kW SA maps for assessment; b. For proposals for turbines up to 1MW capacity, utilise the 1MW SA maps, etc. • **WF-RA-1c:** NPPF (2021) (para158) states that when determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon development, local planning authorities should: b) approve the application if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable. The Council has considered which

		constraints would be acceptable and applied these accordingly in the identification of SAs. For Wind and Solar PV developments, the Council in collaboration with WECA, identified certain designations and land uses that were constrained out of the resource assessment process on environmental, technical and safety grounds
• **WF-EV-2a:** See Table 11 and Table 12 in Section 4.2.2 for details of the 1MW and 2.5MW turbine SAs and total associated maximum installed capacities for each; and • **WF-EV-2b:** It is assumed that 500kW SAs can accommodate at least a single 500kW turbine.	• **WF-PR-2:** It is recommended that proposals for wind turbines of the appropriate number and size (to make the most efficient use of the resource/ land) will be encouraged and permitted when located within the areas identified for that use through the Local Plan.	• **WF-RA-2a:** SAs have been identified but the shape and extent of each are produced using three different wind turbine specifications. Where proposals involve turbines within the sizes modelled in the RERAS, it can be assumed that proposals are in compliance with the primary constraints identified. An example for assessment is: a. For proposals for turbines up to 500kW capacity, utilise the 500kW SA maps for assessment; b. For proposals for turbines up to 1MW capacity, utilise the 1MW SA maps, etc.
• **WF-EV-3a:** WF-EV-1a applies; • **WF-EV-3b:** WF-EV-1b applies; • **WF-EV-3c:** The applicant will need to supply the specification of the proposed turbines to understand the noise and topple distance details. Assumptions about noise and topple distances can be found in Table 9 on page 68**;** • **WF-EV-3d:** WF-EV-1d applies; • **WF-EV-3e:** Maps relevant for 2.5MW turbines only can be found in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – maps' ; and • **WF-EV-3f:** WF-EV-1f applies.	• **WF-PR-3:** It is recommended that proposals for wind turbines >2.5MW within the areas identified in the Local Plan will be considered, subject to compliance with the primary constraints listed in Section 4.2.1 (e.g. noise, topple distances) and consideration of other site specific issues and constraints.	• **WF-RA-3a:** WF-RA-1a applies; • **WF-RA-3b:** Where proposals do not align with the scheme sizes or technical proposals (e.g. for the calculation of topple distances and noise buffers, etc.) as set out in the RERAS, then the guidance and data supported GIS should be utilised by North Somerset to test whether proposals remain compliant; • **WF-RA-3c:** Because turbines >2.5MW have not been modelled, the precise shape and extent of SAs are unknown. However, as long as the development proposed is within an identified SA (suggest for 2.5MW turbines), additional checks can be undertaken to ensure compliance, e.g. in relation to topple distances, noise and particularly the primary constraints listed in Section 4.2.1; • **WF-RA-3d:** WF-RA-1c applies; and • **WF-RA-3e:** It should be noted that while PPG advises that set-back distances for safety are inflexible, where building/land owners indicate that

		they wish to do so, advice/ guidelines on siting wind turbines (in relation to noise, flicker and topple distance) can be waived, providing it is evidenced that doing so doesn’t impact on applying those parameters elsewhere. In such instances, these parameters should pose no obstacle to granting planning permission, subject to other policy requirements being met.
• **WF-EV-4a:** WF-EV-1a applies; • **WF-EV-4b:** Each stage of the mapping process can be found in Appendix E. These maps show where items such as wind resource and land slivers, etc have been identified and may provide an indication where proposals for smaller turbines may be brought forward; • **WF-EV-4c:** A list of the primary and other constraints applied in identifying the SAs and providing supporting information can be found in tables Appendix F & Appendix G; • **WF-EV-4d:** NPPF (2021)(para156) states that local planning authorities should support community-led initiatives for renewable energy, including developments outside areas identified in Local Plans or other strategic policies that are being taken forward through neighbourhood planning.	• **WF-PR-4:** It is recommended that proposals for wind turbines outside of areas identified as suitable for wind development through the Local Plan should be considered positively, providing it can demonstrate that proposals are compliant with relevant policy and site-specific issues and constraints can be mitigated to the satisfaction of the Council.	• **WF-RA-4a:** WF-RA-1a applies; • **WF-RA-4b:** Where proposals involve turbines located outside of SAs it can be assumed, on the basis of the RERAS modelling, that each turbine will be <500kW installed capacity (though there could potentially be proposals containing multiple smaller turbines e.g. 2 x 350kW, etc); • **WF-RA-4c:** WF-RA-1c applies; • **WF-RA-4d:** Because no modelling has been undertaken in relation to these sites, applications will need to provide evidence of the mitigation of all potential constraints to the satisfaction of the Council.

• **WF-EV-4a**: See Table 11 and Table 12 in Section 4.2.2 (page 75) for details of the 1MW and 2.5MW turbine SAs and total associated maximum installed capacities for each; • **WF-EV-4b**: WF-EV-1d applies; • **WF-EV-4c**: It should be noted that some of the 1.0Mw and 2.5MW SAs overlap as presented in W7 map (Figure 34).	• **WF-PR-5**: It is recommended that the SAs identified through the RERAS for 1MW & 2.5MW turbines are further refined and safeguarded through the Local Plan process.	• **WF-RA-5a**: Larger wind farms are likely to be the most economic solutions for generating renewable electricity; • **WF-RA-5b**: There is relatively little area suitable for potential wind energy generation (when compared with potential area for solar PV) and suitable sites for significant wind energy generation outside of the identified SAs are unlikely to be found.
• **WF-EV-6a**: The recommended exclusion zones can be found in Map W15 in Appendix E and in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – maps'; • **WF-EV-6b**: Assumptions about technologies and associated noise and topple distance buffers can be found in Table 9 on page 68. It should be noted that exclusion zones are only modelled for turbines up to 2.5MW. Proposals for turbines >2.5MW may be prevented where proposed development is sited relatively close to a SA.	• **WF-PR-6**: It is recommended that policy measures (e.g. safeguarding) are put in place to ensure that the areas identified for wind development through the Local Plan are not sterilised by non-wind development.	• **WF-RA-6a**: As part of a safeguarding policy, the Council could also consider use of a mechanism to ensure that the sterilisation of opportunities for wind development is prevented; • **WF-RA-6b**: This recommendation assumes it is decided to safeguard the larger Wind Search Areas; • **WF-RA-6c**: The recommended safeguarding zones are based on modelled topple distances.
• **WF-EV-7a**: See Table 11 and Table 12 in Section 4.2.2 (page 75) for details of the 1MW and 2.5MW turbine SAs and total associated maximum installed capacities for each; • **WF-EV-7b**: W7 map (Figure 34) presents locations of the above SAs across North Somerset. • **WF-EV-7c**: It should be noted that some of the 1.0Mw and 2.5MW SAs	• **WF-PR-7**: It is recommended that proposals for wind development within areas identified through the Local Plan for 1MW and 2.5MW turbines maximise the potential resource. Where this is the case, applicants should provide evidence as to why this is not feasible or viable.	• **WF-RA-7a**: Larger wind farms are likely to be the most economic solutions for generating renewable electricity; • **WF-RA-7b**: There is relatively little area suitable for potential wind energy generation (when compared with potential area for solar PV) and suitable sites for significant wind energy generation outside of the identified SAs are unlikely to be found.

overlap as presented in W7 map (Figure 34).		
• **WF-EV-8a**: Constraints maps include sites of existing and consented wind farms (see Section 4 and W2 map) • **WF-EV-8b**: See Appendix C for details of the sites and installed capacities of existing wind farms in North Somerset.	• **WF-PR-8**: It is recommended that proposals for re-powering of wind farms at end-of-life to an equal or increased capacity are encouraged and permitted, subject to compliance with the constraints listed in Section 4.2.1 (e.g. noise, topple distances), site specific constraints, and other policy considerations.	• **WF-RA-8a**: Technology development is moving at pace (with larger turbines becoming available). Existing wind farm sites provide a relatively straight-forward and significant opportunity for increasing generation capacity.

Table 39: Recommended Policy Approaches Relating to Solar PV Farms (SF)

Evidence (EV)	Policy Recommendation (PR)	Rationale (RA)
• **SF-EV-1&2a:** See Map S7 in Section 5 and in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – maps' for the locations of the solar PV farm SAs; • **SF-EV-1&2b:** A list of other constraints and information related to assumptions about buffers distances, etc can be found in Appendix J and Map S8 in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – maps'. • **SF-EV-1&2c:** Analysis of solar PV farm SAs in relation to grid connection points with capacity can be found in Map S16 in Section 6 on page 89; • **SF-EV-1&2d:** Analysis of solar PV farm SAs in relation to landscape character and sensitivity in relation to solar PV farm SAs can be found in Maps S17 in Section 7 on page 93 and in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – maps'; • **SF-EV-1&2e:** Analysis of solar PV farm SAs in relation to demand for heat can be found in Map E6 in the accompanying document	• **SF-PR-1-**: It is recommended that the SAs identified through the RERAS are further refined through the Local Plan process, taking account of other considerations and constraints. As part of this a strategy approach which takes account of clustering and the potential need to manage cumulative impact should be considered; • **SF-PR-2-:** It is recommended that proposals for solar PV farms within the areas identified for that use through the Local Plan be encouraged and permitted, subject to the mitigation of any site specific or other (not statutory) constraints.	• **SF-RA-1&2a:** there are extensive areas that are potentially suitable for solar PV development so, while we do not recommend that it is necessary to safeguard sites for wind, the Council may wish to consider setting a strategy to prioritise specific areas for such development; and **SF-RA-1&2b:** The shape and extent of the SAs provided in this RERAS are produced through a process of removing areas that are subject to primary constraints. This allows developers and planning officers to assume certain constraints are not present in SAs.

'North Somerset RERAS – maps' (Also see Section 13.3.5 in this report); • **SF-EV-1&2f:** Other sensitivity testing in relation to solar PV farm SAs can be found in Maps S9 to S14 in Appendix H and the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – maps'.		
• **SF-RV-3a:** SF-EV-1a applies; • **SF-EV-3b:** A list of the constraints applied in identifying the SAs can be found in Appendix I, along with details of any buffers or separation distance assumptions; • **SF-EV-3c:** SF-EV 1c to 1f apply.	• **SF-PR-3:** It is recommended that proposals for solar development outside of areas identified as suitable for that use through the Local Plan should be considered positively, providing it can demonstrate that proposals are compliant with relevant policy and site-specific issues and constraints can be mitigated to the satisfaction of the Council.	• **SF-RA-3a:** SAs have been identified for the potential location of solar PV farms that are at least 5MW installed capacity. In theory, proposals for solar PV farms of less than 5MW may well come forward in non SAs although these are unlikely to be cost-effective.
• **SF-EV-4a:** See Map S2 in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – maps' for the location of existing solar PV farms across North Somerset'; • **SF-EV-4b:** See Map S15 (Figure 113) for the location of pipeline solar PV farm projects; • **SF-EV-4c:** See Appendix C for details of the installed capacities of the existing solar PV farms in North Somerset; • **SF-EV-4d:** SF-EV-1b applies; • **SF-EV-4e:** SF-EV-2b applies.	• **SF-PR-4:** It is recommended that proposals for re-powering of solar PV farms at end-of-life to an equal or increased capacity to be encouraged and permitted, subject to compliance with primary constraints, site specific constraints, and other policy considerations.	• **SF-RA-4a**: The extents of existing solar PV farms have been included within RERAS mapping. Any proposed extension of the size / moving of the PV farm boundaries will require checking that proposals comply with relevant policy and constraints.

Table 40: Recommended Policy Approaches Relating to Energy Storage (ES)

Evidence (EV)	Policy Recommendation (PR)	Rationale (RA)
• **ES-EV-1a:** Energy storage is discussed in Section 11 of the report; • **ES-EV-1b:** Details of the wind farm SAs of >1MW, including potential installed capacities can be found in Table 11 and Table 12 in Section 4.2.2 (page 75) • **ES-EV-1c:** Locations of the wind farm SAs can be found in Map W7 in Section 4.2.2 on page 74; • **ES-EV-1d:** Details of the solar PV farm SAs, including potential installed capacities can be found in Section 5.2.2 and Map S7. • **ES-EV-1e**: Locations of the solar PV farm SAs can be found in Map S6 and Map S7 in Appendix H and the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – maps'; • **ES-EV-1f:** Wind SAs and solar PV farm SAs have been prioritised using the WPD grid connection analysis. Maps W16 and S16 in Section 6 on page 89 show results of the assessment; • **ES-EV-1g:** This general policy recommendation for storage should be read in conjunction with ES-PR-2 (Hydrogen, see Section 12) and Table 41 (recommended policy approaches relating to district heating network) below, which also provides a storage function (also see Section 13); and • **ES-EV-1h:** Details of existing heat demands and potential locations for heat networks, as well as locations for potential seasonal storage opportunities (e.g. abandoned	• **ES-PR-1:** It is recommended that policy encourages applicants promoting schemes for renewable electricity generation of >1MW, regardless of technology, to consider including storage as part of their proposal. This could include some form of energy storage (green hydrogen production, seasonal or battery storage), private wire supply or evidence as to why this is not feasible or viable. *It should be noted that WPD maps show only a snapshot in time and are subject to rapid change.* The grid capacities maps are useful for all technologies that generate electricity.	• **ES-RA01a:** EN-3[187] lists grid connection as a consideration that can affect the siting of renewable technologies; • **ES-RA-1b:** Increasingly there are constraints placed on renewable electricity generation due to the inability to export at certain times. Where storage and/or private wire supply is feasible and viable, opportunities for storage should be considered to maximise the renewable energy resource and investment; • **ES-RA-1c:** Distances to suitable grid connections in rural areas are often greater (more costly), with lower starting network capacities and coupled with a lack of demand for power from existing development; • **ES-RA-1d:** Battery storage will usually be sited, either next to renewable electricity development or at the site where the electricity is consumed. The physical space and other requirements for such storage will need to be considered as part of the application process

[187] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/37048/1940-nps-renewable-energy-en3.pdf

mines) can be found in Section 13.3.5 and Map E4 on page 123.		
• **ES-EV-2a:** Maps H1 and H2 in Section 12.5 on page 117 present the wind SAs and the solar PV farm SAs respectively in relation to their location in relation to industrial clusters with potential for green hydrogen production / use; • **ES-EV-2b:** ES-EV 1a-e apply.	• **ES-PR-2:** It is recommended that applications for renewable electricity generation of >1MW, located within 1km of an industrial cluster identified as having potential for hydrogen production consider utilising outputs (via private wire) for such purposes. *The Council may wish to undertake further analysis of existing sites that may employ hydrogen and discuss with stakeholders prior to implementing a policy.*	• **ES-RA-2a:** Energy storage will play an increasingly important role in UK decarbonisation and therefore opportunities should be maximised; • **ES-RA-2b:** Hydrogen could provide a low carbon energy source for difficult to “decarbonise” sectors, such as heavy transport, aviation and various industrial processes, and could also play an important role in system balancing as a multi-vector fuel (a fuel that can be produced or consumed across different energy sectors), using very low-cost electricity during times of over-supply to convert, store and transport renewable energy for applications across the energy system; • **ES-RA-2c:** 1km is an arbitrary figure. The less infrastructure required, the more likely the project is to be viable, but this figure cannot be known without further analysis.
• **ES-EV-3a:** ES-EV-2a applies.	• **ES-PR-3:** Building on ES-PR-2, it is recommended that applications for new industrial development that may have a use for green hydrogen should be guided towards locations near/in ‘hydrogen clusters’ wherever practical. *See items 2 and 3 in Section 17.5 for details of further work that might be considered by the Council in relation to ‘hydrogen clusters’.*	• **ES-RA-3a**: ES-RA-2a to 2c apply.
• **ES-EV-4a:** The location of abandoned mines with potential use for seasonal storage as well as other potential storage opportunities (e.g. potential for heat networks) can be found in Section 13.3.5 and Map E4 on page 123.	• **ES-PR-4:** It is recommended that applications for renewable electricity generation, or development that is energy intensive and likely to have a surplus of heat, within 1km of a site with potential for seasonal energy storage	• **ES-RA-4a:** 1km is an arbitrary figure. The less infrastructure required, the more likely the project is to be viable, but this figure cannot be known without further analysis.

		(e.g. abandoned mine workings) should consider utilising such a facility.	

Table 41: Recommended Policy Approaches Relating to District Heating Networks (DH)

Evidence (EV)	Policy Recommendation (PR)	Rationale (RA)
• **DH-EV-1a:** The RERAS Heat Opportunities Map E4 and Sites of Existing Renewable Energy Map R1 shows the locations of existing renewable electricity and heat generating resources; • **DH-EV-1b**: Appendix C identifies a list of what is meant by 'existing renewable heat resource and electricity generating installation;	• **DH-PR-1:** It is recommended that development proposals for dwellings, employment or depots for hosting transport fleets located within 0.5km of an existing renewable heat resources or renewable electricity generating installations should consider utilising such resources for heating, hot water and/or process use transport fuel.	• **DH-RA-1a:** The policy is intended to prompt investigation of identifying existing renewables in close proximity to an intended development. This in turn should prompt consideration of how energy might be brought to site (i.e. via a heat network, private wire electricity or for gas or liquid fuels, physical delivery). • **DH-RA-1b:** The proposed 0.5km is arbitrary. The length (and therefore cost) of infrastructure relative to the value of energy sales will establish viability (so a relatively short distance is suggested) – this cannot be known without knowing locations and nature of off-takers. It may be decided by the Council that further evidence is warranted: • **DH-RA-1c:** Heat networks should be considered for 2 main reasons: a. as a means of decarbonising heating in existing buildings, for example where it is not viable or feasible to improve the energy efficiency of the buildings to a level where heat pumps are economically viable. b. Where it is the most practical means of delivering very low carbon/renewable heat in new build taking account of available heat resource (e.g. sewage, mine workings etc) and reject heat from cooling.
• **DH-EV-2a:** Heat opportunities mapping results are included in Section 13. Map E4 shows	• **DH-PR-2:** It is recommended that proposals for development that will host heat intensive	• **DH-RA-2a:** Consideration of electricity supply is included within the heat network section as, with

significant heat clusters and potential for heat networks in Weston Super Mare, Clevedon, Portishead, Yatton and Nailsea.

- **DH-EV-2b:** The most heat intensive industries are cement, ceramics, iron and steel, glassmaking, chemicals, refineries, paper and pulp, and food and drink which are likely to create a surplus of heat (or power). For more details on the potential for recovering and using surplus heat from industry refer to the following report.

  A Report for DECC, The potential for recovering and using surplus heat from industry[188]

- **DH-EV-2c:** Section 8 includes the assessment's findings in relation to resource biomass and Table 24 on page 104 details energy from wastes resource potential such as sewage sludge. It should be noted that this policy relates to any future proposals such as EfW plants, wastewater treatment (WWT) plants, etc.

activities and are likely to generate excess heat (or power) should consider:

a. Potential to be located within 0.5km of a heat demand cluster identified in the Heat Opportunities Map or other identified heat use;
b. Enabling heat (power) off-take for supply for other / nearby uses and provide evidence of discussions with potential off-takers for the heat (or power).

the move to heat pumps for the provision of space heating and/or domestic hot water, electricity will become the predominant source of energy for such uses.

- **DH-RA-2b:** Increasingly, low temperature heat networks are being considered, driven by heat pumps supplied with renewable electricity.

- **DH-EV-3a:** It should be noted no existing heat network has been identified in North Somerset. However, this policy recommendation is retained for future reference.

- **DH-PR-3:** It is recommended that development proposals within 0.5km of an existing district heat network fed from a renewable (non-fossil fuel) source will be expected to connect where feasible and viable.

- **DH-RA-3a:** 'Renewable' is purposely highlighted. In the UK there are numerous existing heat networks that are fed from gas CHP engines: whilst efficient, recent changes to carbon factors means that they will cost carbon against a counterfactual of gas boilers into the future. It is important for heat network pipes and associated infrastructure to be installed. This being the case, any NSC policy might still wish to include connection to CHP networks. The energy centres attached to such networks can be changed to renewable energy sources in the future in order that decarbonisation can happen;
- **DH-RA-3b:** The proposed 0.5km is arbitrary. The length (and therefore cost) of infrastructure

188 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/294900/element_energy_et_al_potential_for_recovering_and_using_surplus_heat_from_industry.pdf

		relative to the value of energy sales will establish viability (so a relatively short distance is suggested) – this cannot be known without knowing locations and nature of off-takers. It may be decided by NSC that further evidence is warranted. • **DH-RA-3c:** It should be noted that if the requirement remains for renewables there would be no existing heat networks to which development could connect.
• **DH-EV-4a:** Section 13 of this report presents the results of the heat mapping assessment. Additionally, see E4 to E6 maps in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – maps'. E5 and E6 maps shows locations of the SAs in relation to the identified heat cluster. Section 13 includes details of the methodology employed to prepare these maps and the mapping GIS layers have been supplied to the Council.	• **DH-PR-4:** It is recommended that areas identified through the Local Plan (for wind farms and solar PV farms) are within 0.5km of an identified heat cluster, consideration is given for safeguarding these sites in order to provide electricity for powering heat pumps as part of a private wire / district heat network.	• **DH-RA-4a** It is difficult to retrofit buildings to be NZC. Of then the roofs have not been designed to be able to host enough solar PV panels to supply heating and power needs. It is therefore sensible, where there is potential for a larger source of renewable electric, that they be fully utilised to decarbonise urban areas.

Table 42: Recommended Policy Approaches Relating to Biomass (BM)

Evidence (EV)	Policy Recommendation (PR)	Rationale (RA)
• **BM-EV-1a:** Biomass resource has been assessed in Section 8 of this study. • **BM-EV-1b:** Energy crops (e.g. miscanthus, short-rotation coppice, etc.) and wood fuel resources were considered, and the results are included in section 8.2 and 8.3. • **BM-EV-1c:** Map B2 in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – maps' illustrates the constraints that are associated with restrictions to harvesting energy crops. • **BM-EV-1d:** Map B3 in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – maps' shows areas of land that could be planted with	• **BM-PR-1:** It is recommended that proposals utilising biomass are looked upon favourably where: a. a whole life carbon benefit can be evidenced; and b. the development should be located away from urban areas (and preferably in areas off the gas grid).	• **BM-RA-1a:** Biomass is perhaps the most complex of fuels to evaluate in terms of ensuring that the resource is used to its biggest advantage. There remains some disagreement about the real carbon benefit of utilising biomass as fuel. Emissions relating to the harvesting, processing and transportation of biomass should be accounted for when calculating benefit and understanding replacement-planting; • **BM-RA-1b**: Whilst the Environment Agency has a strict permitting regime for flue arrangements for biomass plant, there remain concerns about the use of biomass related to impact upon air quality in urban areas;

energy crops after application of the constraints listed in Appendix L;

- **BM-EV-1e:** Refer to the following sources for locations off the national gas grid network in North Somerset;
    a. Areas and types of properties off the gas grid[189]
    b. LSOA estimates of properties not connected to the gas network[190]
- **BM-EV-1f:** Heat Opportunities Map E4 in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – maps' shows the locations of urban areas and heat demand clusters in North Somerset.

- **BM-RA-1c:** The RERAS evidence reveals limited opportunity for biomass resource in North Somerset and, whilst the source of the biomass is unknown, that plant is already in operation locally that utilises a large part of the projected resource for generating electricity;
- **BM-RA-1d:** Applications may be received for plant utilising biomass that is sourced outside of North Somerset. The policy recommendations seek to take account of local and non-local sourcing;
- **BM-RA-1e:** NSC should note that the policy recommendation effectively excludes biomass from feeding into district heating schemes as these are likely only to be developed in urban areas of high heat demand density;
- **BM-RA-1f:** when thinking about local supply of biomass, transportation of the fuel is a fraction of the carbon saving hence spatial relationship between resource and place of generation/consumption is not as significant as for other energy resources.

- **BM-EV-2a:** The Consumer Transformation scenario from National Grid (refer to Section 14 and Appendix N) assumes of bioenergy is used in power sector with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) in achieving net zero emissions. BECCS is the combination of bioenergy with carbon capture and storage to capture any CO_2 released during combustion, and the FES assumes that the greenhouse gases released in the scenario will be mainly offset by using BECCS.

- **BM-PR-2:** It is recommended that proposals for stand-alone electricity generation plants utilising biomass should be required to utilise a BECCS system and a whole life carbon benefit can be evidenced.

- **BM-RA-2a:** The FES assumes that the greenhouse gases released in each scenario will be mainly offset by using BECCS. The use of BECCS to offset the projected additional greenhouse gas emissions is included in the FES at a national level;
- **BM-RA-2b:** Because we are guiding to employ biomass in rural locations, this effectively excludes biomass feeding heat networks (as networks are likely to be in locations with high heat demand density). However, DH-PR-1 and DH-PR 2b to 2d continue to apply.

[189] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/267375/off_gas_grid.pdf
[190] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/lsoa-estimates-of-households-not-connected-to-the-gas-network

17.4 General policy recommendations

The development of major renewables sites offers opportunities for nature recovery the development of natural climate solutions and enhancing (biodiversity (to a net gain)). Policy should reflect this as a requirement and key locations with opportunity identified when detailed criteria-based policies are formulated.

Moreover, for all renewable energy applications, circular economy principles should be applied to all projects, to ensure best use of materials at end of life, as well as full or enhanced restoration of land.

17.5 Further work

This section contains suggestions where further work might be considered by North Somerset Council, as follows:

1. Policy recommendations in relation to District Heating Networks have been provided in the relevant table {*District Heating Networks (DH))* above. In the absence of more detailed analysis, those recommendations have utilised arbitrary distances between generators and demand. Further detailed feasibility studies could be undertaken to identify indicative schemes and better establish economic viability. Such analysis would enable more detailed and targeted policies to be formulated and implemented.
2. It is recommended (see ES-PR-1 above) that policy encourages applicants promoting schemes for renewable electricity generation of >1MW, regardless of technology, to consider including storage as part of their proposal. This could include for some form of energy storage (green hydrogen production, seasonal or battery storage), private wire supply or evidence as to why this is not feasible or viable. Prior to implementing any policy for storage, North Somerset Council may wish to consider further a strategy for clustering renewable electricity projects in rural areas, in order to reduce grid connection costs and/or to consider outlets/uses for the power. Part of such a study should also include approach to managing cumulative impact in rural areas.
3. It is recommended (see ES-PR-2 above) that applications for renewable electricity generation of >1MW, located within 1km of an industrial cluster identified as having potential for hydrogen production consider utilising outputs (via private wire) for such purposes. North Somerset Council may wish to undertake further analysis of the hydrogen clusters identified in this study and discuss with stakeholders prior to implementing any policy.
4. In relation to renewable and low carbon developments, the Council could offer to facilitate expert services for potential developments, such as site assessments, and to form partnerships with community groups. These partnerships might act as an incentive to other community groups looking to get involved.

Appendix A : Policy Context and Drivers for Renewable Energy

A.1 Introduction

The following section sets out the key policies, regulations and incentive schemes relating to renewable energy targets, carbon emissions and waste internationally, nationally, regionally and across North Somerset.

A.2 International Policy Context

The Kyoto Protocol (1998)

The Kyoto Protocol is an international treaty with the goal of achieving the "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system[191]".

The Paris Agreement (2016)

The Paris Agreement entered into force on the 4th of November 2016. Under the UN negotiations and alongside over 190 other countries, the UK drafted the Paris Agreement to tackle climate change. The agreement sets out a global framework to limit the effects of climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. The Agreement additionally sets a target for net zero global emissions in the second half of this century. The Government has ratified the agreement.

A.3 National Policy

Climate Change Act (2008)

The Climate Change Act sets a legally binding target to reduce UK carbon emissions. The policy has recently been amended[192] to change the minimum percentage by which the net UK carbon account for the year 2050 must be lower than the 1990 baseline, with this increasing from an 80% target to a 100% target. This target means that it is now UK law to produce net zero carbon by the year 2050.

The Climate Change Act also established the Climate Change Committee (CCC), an independent statutory body, to advise the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations on setting and meeting carbon budgets and other related matters.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is the overarching planning guidance in England; it sets out the Government's planning policies for England and guidance on how these should be applied[193].

The National Planning Policy Framework states that: "*The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure*."

Additionally, the NPPF confirms that, in order to help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, "plans should:

[191] Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations, 1998, https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.pdf
[192] The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 No. 1056, BEIS, 2019; https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111187654
[193]National Planning Policy Framework, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, July 2021; https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005759/NPPF_July_2021.pdf

a. provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts);

b. consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure their development; and

c. identify opportunities for development to draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems and for collocating potential heat customers and suppliers."

(Section 14. Paragraph 151)

The NPPF also requires local planning authorities (LPAs) to support community-led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy, including developments outside areas identified in Local Plans or other strategic policies that are being taken forward through neighbourhood planning. It also confirms that "when determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon development, local planning authorities should:

a. not require applicants to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy, and recognise that even small-scale projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions; and

b. *approve the application if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable. Once suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy have been identified in plans, local planning authorities should expect subsequent applications for commercial-scale projects outside these areas to demonstrate that the proposed location meets the criteria used in identifying suitable areas.*"

(Section 14. Paragraph 154)

The Framework illustrates the importance of Local Plans in delivering development that has the backing of local communities; therefore, LPAs should consider the local potential for renewable and low carbon energy generation when preparing Local Plans[194].

Some of the other key paragraphs from the NPPF relating to energy and climate change are set out below for completeness.

- *Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigate and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. Policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts, such as providing space for physical protection measures, or making provision for the possible future relocation of vulnerable development and infrastructure.*

(Section 14. Paragraph 149)

- *New development should be planned for in ways that:*

  a. avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change. When new development is brought forward in areas which are vulnerable, care should be taken to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of green infrastructure; and

  b. can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as through its location, orientation and design. Any local requirements for the sustainability of buildings should reflect the Government's policy for national technical standards.

(Section 14. Paragraph 150)

[194] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/renewable-and-low-carbon-energy#:~:text=The%20National%20Planning%20Policy%20Framework,planning%20concerns%20of%20local%20communities.

- *In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should expect new development to:*
  - a. *comply with any development plan policies on local requirements for decentralised energy supply unless it can be demonstrated by the applicant, having regard to the type of development involved and its design, that this is not feasible or viable; and*
  - b. *take account of landform, layout, building orientation, massing and landscaping to minimise energy consumption.*

(Section 14. Paragraph 153)

UK National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP)

The NECP is the framework by which European Union Member States are required to set out their integrated climate and energy objectives, targets, policies and measures, covering the 5 dimensions of the Energy Union for the period 2021 to 2030. Following the exit of the UK from the EU, the UK was subject to EU legislation during the Brexit transition, so the UK NECP was submitted shortly before the end of 2020.

UK Industrial Strategy (2017)

The Industrial Strategy, published in November 2017, emphasises the need for clean growth in order to boost economic prosperity within the UK. Some of the stated aims of the Industrial Strategy relevant to energy use in the built environment include:

- Increasing the delivery of new homes;
- Decarbonising the heat supply; and
- Lowering emissions from the transport sector.

There is a particularly strong emphasis on supporting electric vehicle uptake through investment in charging infrastructure and by extending the plug-in car grant. The Strategy also states that ‘After the Grenfell Review, we will update Building Regulations to mandate that all new residential developments must contain the enabling cabling for charge-points in the homes’ (p. 145).

Resources and Waste Strategy, 2018

The Resources and Waste Strategy[195], updated in 2018, sets out how England will preserve material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy. This strategy plans to encourage the reduction and increased management of waste through policies to support reuse, repair and remanufacture activities and by tackling waste crime.

Waste Management Plan for England, 2021

The Waste Management Plan for England[196], updated in 2021 sets out the Government’s ambition to work towards a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management. The plan aims to deliver England’s waste ambitions through:

- the delivery of sustainable development and resource efficiency, including the provision of modern infrastructure, local employment opportunities and wider climate change benefits;
- ensuring waste management is considered alongside other spatial planning concerns;
- providing a framework in which communities and businesses are engaged with and take more responsibility for their own waste;
- helping to sustainably secure the re-use, recovery or disposal of waste; and
- ensuring new developments complement sustainable waste management.

[195] Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs. *Resources and Waste Strategy: at a glance.* Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/resources-and-waste-strategy-for-england/resources-and-waste-strategy-at-a-glance
[196] Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs. *Waste Management Plan for England*. January 2021. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955897/waste-management-plan-for-england-2021.pdf

National Planning Policy for Waste, 2014

The National Planning Policy for Waste [197] (NPPW) sets out detailed waste planning policies for England and should be read in conjunction with the NPPF, Waste Management Plan for England and the National Policy for Wastewater and Hazardous Waste.

The NPPW focuses on the implementation of waste policies across England's local authorities through the demand, suitability and ability to monitor waste management facilities.

Clean Growth Strategy (CGS) (2017)

A strategy that sets out the UK Government's ambitious policies and proposals, through to 2032 and beyond for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy[198],

The 'power' sector is considered in the CGS policy with an ambition of close to zero emissions by 2050. The strategy considers a potential pathway of growing low carbon sources such as renewables and nuclear to over 80% of electricity generation and phasing out unabated coal power by 2032. The document contains a number of policies and proposals regarding the following topics which are provided in Appendix B.

- Growing low carbon sources of electricity
- Delivering smarter, more efficient energy
- Keeping energy costs down for businesses and households
- Government innovation investment

In addition to the power sector, commercial and industrial (C&I) and domestic buildings sectors are also considered within the Framework.

A key proposal regarding C&I buildings in the document is phasing out of the installation of high carbon forms of fossil fuel heating in new and existing businesses off the gas grid during the 2020s, starting with the new build. It also considers supporting the recycling of heat produced in industrial processes to reduce business energy bills and benefit local communities.

Additionally, rolling out of low carbon heating is anticipated for UK homes through:

- building and extending heat networks across the country,
- phasing out the installation of high carbon fossil fuel heating in new and existing homes currently off the gas grid during the 2020s, starting with new homes
- Investing in low carbon heating by reforming the Renewable Heat Incentive

25 Year Environment Plan (2018)

The plan was published in 2018, and it builds on the proposals and policies outlined in the CGS and aims to improve the environment within a generation and to leave it in a better state than we found it. It details how the government will work with communities and businesses to do this[199].

The document confirms that the UK Government will work towards eliminating all avoidable waste by 2050 and all avoidable plastic waste by the end of 2042[200] as well as committing to the following action points:

- Exploring different infrastructure options for managing residual waste beyond electricity, including the production of biofuels for transport and emerging innovative technologies;

[197] Department for Communities and Local Government. *National Planning Policy for Waste.* October 2014. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/364759/141015_National_Planning_Policy_for_Waste.pdf
[198] The Clean Growth Strategy, HM Government, October 2017; https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/700496/clean-growth-strategy-correction-april-2018.pdf
[199] A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment, HM Government, 2018; https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf
[200] Avoidable means what is Technically, Environmentally and Economically Practicable.

- Looking at ways to increase the use of heat produced at waste facilities through better connections to heat networks. The facilities will become more efficient and emit less carbon dioxide;
- Investigating ways to cut carbon dioxide emissions from EfW facilities by managing the amount of plastics in the residual waste stream. This will be linked with any opportunities to recycle more plastics or reduce the amount used.

Amongst other relevant proposals in this document is a commitment to support extra woodland creation and incentivising more landowners and farmers to plant trees on their land, including for agroforestry and bio-energy production purposes.

The UK Heat Strategy (2013).

The UK Heat Strategy laid out a strategic framework for the transition to a low carbon heat supply.

The strategy highlighted the importance of improving the energy efficiency of buildings and incentivised local authorities to enable the development and expansion of heat networks, for instance, by setting up the Heat Network Development Unit (HNDU) [201].

Building Regulations in England (Part L and Part F)

The Building Regulations set the minimum standards for building performance and must be met for a building to be approved for construction. Part L of the Building Regulations focuses on the conservation of heat and power and sets specific requirements for the fabric performance, building services efficiency, overheating and CO_2 emissions and Part F contains guidance on the building ventilation. The Building Regulations are currently being updated and are undergoing a two-part consultation for the Future Homes Standard, including proposed options to increase the energy efficiency requirements for new homes in 2021. The Future Homes Standard will require new build homes to be future-proofed with low carbon heating and world-leading levels of energy efficiency; it will be introduced by 2025[202].. Government responses for part one of the consultation were released in January 2021. The second stage of the consultation ran until 13th April 2021 and the feedback is currently being analysed.

The Government's responses to the first stage of the consultation are set out below:

- From 2025, the Future Homes Standard will deliver homes that are zero-carbon ready
- Acknowledgement that there is a need to clarify the Local Planning Authorities' roles in setting energy efficient requirements for new homes that go beyond the minimum standards set out through the Building Regulations
- In 2020, an interim uplift in Part L standards would be introduced that delivered a meaningful reduction in carbon emissions and provided a stepping stone to the Future Homes Standard (this is ongoing)
- A revised package of performance metrics that will ensure a fabric first approach is at the heart of all new homes alongside a low carbon heating systems that have been settled upon. Fabric Energy Efficiency Standard will be one of four performance metrics that achieves this balance
- A comprehensive package of measures to improve compliance, reduce the performance gap and provide more information to energy assessors, building control and homeowners was put forward
- More stringent transitional arrangements to ensure as many homes as possible are being built to new energy efficiency standards would be introduced.

[201] The Future of Heating: Meeting the Challenge, DECC, March 2013; https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/190149/16_04-DECC-The_Future_of_Heating_Accessible-10.pdf

[202] Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. *The Future Homes Standard: changes to Part L and Part F of the Building Regulations for new dwellings.* January 2021. https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-homes-standard-changes-to-part-l-and-part-f-of-the-building-regulations-for-new-dwellings

The second stage of the two-part consultation was completed on 13th April 2021 and the feedback from this is being analysed.[203]

A.4 Financial Incentive Schemes

Below is a brief overview of some of the key financial incentive schemes for low and zero-carbon energy in the UK.

Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

The RHI scheme is a government environmental programme to support renewable heat delivered to homes or non-domestic buildings. RHI provides incentives for consumers to install renewable heating in place of fossil fuels. It is open to homeowners and landlords, commercial, industrial, public, not-for-profit and community generators of renewable heat. The domestic RHI scheme has been recently extended to March 2022, but the government announced that non-domestic RHI will close to new applications on 31 March 2021[204].

The government is currently consulting on a Clean Heat Grant scheme to follow from the RHI building on the Clean Growth Strategy. The consultation document confirms through this new scheme that households and small non-domestic buildings will receive support to enable the installation of heat pumps and, in limited circumstances, biomass, to provide space and water heating[205].

Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

The 2011 Energy Bill, which made provision for the Green Deal, also provided for an Energy Company Obligation (ECO). The scheme has been updated several times with the latest update in 2018, known as ECO3 which runs from 2018 to 2022[206]. Under the scheme, energy companies are obligated to promote and support carbon emissions reductions to customers.

Smart Export Guarantee (SEG)

The SEG was introduced in Great Britain on 1st January 2020 and it is available to technologies up to a capacity of 5MW, including:

- Solar photovoltaic
- Hydro
- Micro-combined heat and power (with an electrical capacity of 50kW or less)
- Onshore wind
- Anaerobic digestion[207]

The scheme requires licensed electricity suppliers to offer at least one export tariff, which must always be above zero and makes payment to small-scale low-carbon generators for electricity exported to the National Grid[208].

Heat Networks Delivery Unit (HNDU)

The HNDU was set up in 2013 and it provides grant funding and guidance to local authorities in England and Wales for heat network project development[209].

Green Heat Networks Fund (GHNF) Scheme

The GHNF is a capital grant funding programme which is intended to help new and existing heat networks to move to low and zero carbon technologies. Its objectives are to:

[203] https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-buildings-standard
[204] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-renewable-heat-incentive-rhi-schemes
[205] Future Support for Low Carbon Heat, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, July 2020; https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/970565/green-gas-levy-future-support-low-carbon-heat-govt-response.pdf
[206] Energy Company Obligations ECO3: 2018 – 2022, Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, October 2018
[207] https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-for-small-scale-low-carbon-generation
[208] https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/smart-export-guarantee-seg/about-smart-export-guarantee-seg
[209] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/heat-networks-delivery-unit

- achieve carbon savings and decreases in carbon intensity of heat supplied
- increase the total amount of low-carbon heat utilisation in heat networks (both retrofitted and new heat networks)

help prepare the market for future low-carbon regulation and ensure compliance with existing regulations (such as the Heat Network (Metering and Billing) Regulations, Heat Network Market Framework and the Future Homes Standard)[210]

A.5 Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution

The Ten Point Plan[211], publicised in November 2020, details how the UK intends to kick-start a green industrial revolution. Following the economic collapse induced by the coronavirus pandemic, a green industrial revolution, which aims to create and support 250,000 jobs by investing in clean technologies such as wind, carbon capture and low carbon hydrogen and improving the sustainability of national infrastructure such as public transport and new and existing buildings, is emerging. The ten points included in the plan are as follows:

1. Advancing Offshore Wind;
2. Driving the Growth of Low Carbon Hydrogen;
3. Delivering New and Advanced Nuclear Power;
4. Accelerating the Shift to Zero-Emission Vehicles;
5. Green Public Transport, Cycling and Walking;
6. Jet Zero and Green Ships;
7. Greener Buildings;
8. Investing in Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage;
9. Protecting Out Natural Environment; and,
10. Green Finance and Innovation.

Offshore Wind Sector Deal (March 2020)

Point 1 of the Ten Point Plan highlights the funding and attention that will be placed into advancing offshore wind. The Offshore Wind Sector Deal[212] accentuates the partnership between the Government and the offshore wind sector. The deal includes the details of the investments into the sector, including the plans to provide funding to allow for 40GW (increased from the 30GW set out in the original deal[213]) of offshore wind electricity generation, as mentioned within the Ten Point Plan. This development would result in offshore wind producing enough electricity to power every home in the country by 2030.

Although this is a significant investment into renewable energy generation, the 40GW produced by the offshore wind installations mentioned within the Ten Point Plan and the Offshore Wind Sector Deal will only produce enough electricity to meet the demand for the residential sector only. Other forms of renewable generation are still imperative at a local level in order to meet the demands for sectors such as commercial and transport sectors.

[210] https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/green-heat-network-fund-proposals-for-the-scheme-design
[211] The Ten Point Plan for Green Industrial Revolution, HM Government, November 2020; https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/936567/10_POINT_PLAN_BOOKLET.pdf
[212] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/offshore-wind-sector-deal/offshore-wind-sector-deal
[213] https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-plans-to-make-uk-world-leader-in-green-energy

A.6 Emerging National Policy

Addressing climate change is an issue that is now at the forefront of public and government consciousness. In order to address the issue, new, fast-changing policies are emerging to ensure targets can be met. The most recent announcement from the UK Government, April 2021, set commitments projecting that the UK could cut carbon emissions by 78% by 2035, as per the sixth Carbon Budget.

Environment Bill 2020

Following on from the UK's 25 Year Environment Plan, the Environment Bill[214] has been produced to help deliver actions set out in the plan. The Environment Bill aims to manage the impact of human activity by creating a more sustainable and resilient economy.

Included in the bill is a UK Environmental Protections Policy which will allow for greater transparency regarding future environmental legislation following the UK's departure from the European Union. In addition, the bill focusses on resource and waste management, air quality, water management, green spaces, and chemical regulations.

White Paper: Energy

The Energy White Paper 'Powering out Net Zero Future'[215] provides further clarity on the Ten Point Plan and highlights the long-term strategy for the wider energy system that transforms energy, supports green recovery and creates a fair deal for consumers, consistent with the target for-net zero emissions by 2050.

There are 6 sections within the report:

- Consumers – Commitment to making the right reforms that will protect the interests of consumers and create opportunities to reduce bills and carbon emissions
- Power – Electricity is the key enabler for the transition away from fossil fuels and decarbonising the economy cost-effectively by 2050
- Energy Systems - To deliver energy reliably, while ensuring fair and affordable costs and accelerating our transition to clean energy, we need to create investment opportunities across the UK to enable a smarter, more flexible energy system, which harnesses the power of competition and innovation to the full.
- Buildings - Delivering our net zero target means largely eliminating emissions from domestic and commercial buildings by 2050
- Industrial Energy - By 2050, emissions from industry will need to fall by around 90% from today's levels
- Oil and Gas – Delivering the net zero target by 2050 means transforming the oil and gas sector in the UK

Several specific commitments are made under each section of the Energy White Paper, with the key commitments as follows:

Transforming Energy

Building a cleaner, greener future for our country, our people and our planet, by measures including:

- Targeting 40GW of offshore wind by 2030, including 1GW floating wind, alongside the expansion of other low-cost renewables technologies.
- Supporting the deployment of CCUS in four industrial clusters including at least one power CCUS project, to be operational by 2030 and putting in place the commercial frameworks required to help stimulate the market to deliver a future pipeline of CCUS projects.

[214] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-bill-2020/30-january-2020-environment-bill-2020-policy-statement#environmental-governance
[215] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/945899/201216_BEIS_EWP_Command_Paper_Accessible.pdf

- Establishing a new UK Emissions Trading System, aligned to our net zero target, giving industry the certainty that they need to invest in low-carbon technologies.
- Aiming to bring at least one largescale nuclear project to the point of Final Investment Decision by the end of this Parliament, subject to clear value for money and all relevant approvals.
- Consulting on whether it is appropriate to end gas grid connections to new homes being built from 2025, in favour of clean energy alternatives.
- Growing the installation of electric heat pumps, from 30,000 per year to 600,000 per year by 2028.
- Building world-leading digital infrastructure for our energy system based on the vision set out by the independent Energy Data Taskforce, publishing the UK's first Energy Data Strategy in spring 2021, in partnership with Ofgem.

Support a Green Recovery

Growing our economy, supporting thousands of green jobs across the country in new green industries and creating new export opportunities, by measures including:

- Increasing the ambition in our Industrial Clusters Mission four-fold, aiming to deliver four low-carbon clusters by 2030 and at least one fully net zero cluster by 2040.
- Investing £1 billion up to 2025 to facilitate the deployment of CCUS in two industrial clusters by the mid 2020s, and a further two clusters by 2030, supporting our ambition to capture 10MtCO_2 per year by the end of the decade.
- Working with industry, aiming to develop 5GW of low-carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030.

Creating a Fair Deal for Consumers

Protecting the fuel poor, providing opportunities to save money on bills, giving us warmer, more comfortable homes and balancing investment against bill impacts, by measures including:

- Creating the framework to introduce opt-in switching, consulting by March 2021 on how it should be designed, tested and incrementally scaled up.
- Considering how the current auto-renewal and roll-over tariff arrangements could be reformed to facilitate greater competition, consulting by March 2021 on how opt-out switching could be tested as part of any future reforms.
- Assessing what market framework changes may be required to facilitate the development and uptake of innovative tariffs and products that work for consumers and contribute to net zero, engaging with industry and consumer groups throughout 2021 before a formal consultation.
- Ensuring the retail market regulatory framework adequately covers the wider market, consulting by spring 2021 on regulating third parties such as energy brokers and price comparison websites.
- Establishing the Future Homes Standard which will ensure that all new-build homes are zero carbon ready.
- Consulting on regulatory measures to improve the energy performance of homes and consulting on how mortgage lenders could support homeowners in making these improvements.
- Requiring that all rented non-domestic buildings will be Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band B by 2030, barring lawful exceptions.
- Extending the Energy Company Obligation to 2026 and expanding the Warm Home Discount to £475 million per year from 2022 to 2025/2026.

There is no target for a specific energy generation mix for 2050 within the Energy White Paper, but investments will be made into areas of innovative technology, such as advanced nuclear and clean hydrogen, which will help to commercialise these new technologies and reduce the overall technology costs, alongside the offshore wind sector.

White Paper: Planning for the Future

The Planning for the Future White Paper consultation was published by the UK Government in August 2020. The proposal aims to reform the planning system, creating an efficient and modernised planning process that focuses on design and sustainability, improving developer contributions to infrastructure and ensuring land is available for development. The proposals in the paper would apply to England only.

The published document was open for consultation for 12 weeks from 6th August 2020, closing on 29th October 2020.

The role of Local Plans will be simplified to focus on the identification of land under three categories:

- Growth Areas; suitable for development, and outline approval for development would be automatic.
- Renewal Areas; suitable for some additional development.
- Protected Areas; where development is restricted.

General development management policies will be set out nationally, with the Local Plans providing clear local rules, design codes and area-specific requirements.

The White Paper aims to support efforts to tackle climate change and maximise environmental benefits. It aims to do this by ensuring the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) projections the areas where a new planning system will most effectively address climate change mitigation and adaption whilst driving environmental enhancements. The proposal also intends to facilitate improvements in buildings' energy efficiency standards to help target the net zero carbon by 2050 commitment.

The national policies will be set out within the NPPF, with the LA focusing on the locations, standards and design codes. LAs should start to consider the location of the three categories. Rather than general policies, clear and precise rules about these locations should be considered, and specific design codes created. Local plans will become more visual and map-based, built upon the standards and rules produced.

With the planning white paper still aiming to support the fight against climate change, this RERAS will still feed into the local developments, making it essential regardless of the planning system's changes.

The planning white paper included proposals for consultation. The feedback following the consultation is still being analysed, meaning that the paper still requires governmental approval, and thus the formal writing of legislation. There is no indication on whether the proposals raised within the paper will come forward or what form these proposals will take. There is currently no timescale provided for when the consultation responses will be released.

Suppose the proposals within the paper are initiated. In that case, the Planning for Future White Paper will require the four councils in the West of England to update Local Plans to align with the government’s streamlined approach to policy setting, complete plans within 30 months; and, appoint a chief officer for design and placemaking. This digitisation and streamlining of planning applications will accelerate the delivery of new homes whilst maintaining a focus on climate change.

A.7 West of England Planning Policy Context

The West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy (2011)

The Joint Waste Core Strategy (JWCS) sets out the strategic spatial planning policy to provide waste management infrastructure across the plan area. The joint strategy covers four areas of Bath and

North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, and it applies to all waste, with the exception of most radioactive waste the policy for which is dealt with at a national level[216].

The document states the strategic objectives of the plan as:

"To move the management of waste up the waste hierarchy by increasing waste minimisation, recycling and composting then recovering further value from any remaining waste, and only looking to landfill for the disposal of pre-treated waste."

Moreover, the strategy confirms that proposals incorporating CHP or electricity generation will help national policy objectives and should be encouraged as such in the JWCS stating:

- *"Energy recovery is placed beneath materials recovery in the waste hierarchy. However, it has a beneficial role to play and this is recognised in national policy in terms of both sustainable waste management and provision of a decentralised, renewable and/or low carbon energy source."*
- *"In accordance with national policy, the JWCS acknowledges the considerable potential for the production of heat from renewable sources and particularly opportunities for facilities that produce heat and electricity, such as energy from waste."*

Policy 1: Waste Prevention

The JWCS seeks to encourage sustainable development in terms of wise use of resources such as water, minerals, land and energy. Waste Prevention will be promoted by 5 target aims:

1. Authorities to work in partnership with businesses and the development industry to raise awareness and to provide information and advice;
2. Raise public awareness on purchasing and lifestyle decisions;
3. Work in partnership with other LA and public bodies to ensure waste prevention is addressed in all contracts for works and services;
4. Ensure the provision of information, appropriate to the planning application, on the following matters: type and volume of waste; on-site waste recycling facilities; minimisation of raw material use; actively reduce, reuse and recycle waste throughout the construction phase; minimise transportation distance if waste disposed of elsewhere; ensure maximum diversion of waste from landfill once a site is operational.
5. The Partnership Authorities leading by example.

Policy 2: Non-residual Waste Treatment Facilities

To comply with the draft RSS, approximately 800,000 tonnes of additional recycling and composting capacity are required across the South West by 2020. An improved network of household waste recycling centres (HWRC) will be required across the South West to meet recycling and diversion targets.

Planning permissions for non-residual waste treatment facilities involving recycling, storage, transfer, materials recovery and processing (excluding open windrow composting) will be granted, subject to development management policies:

- Land allocated in a Local Plan or development plan document for industrial or storage purposes or has planning permission for such use.
- Previously developed land.
- Existing or proposed waste management sites, subject in the case of landfill and landraising sites or other temporary facilities.

[216]West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy, WEP, March 2011; https://www.westofengland.org/waste-planning/adopted-joint-waste-core-strategy

Policy 3: Open Windrow Composting

Open windrow composting involves raw materials being arranged outdoors in piles (windrows) on a hard, impermeable surface, which is then mixed and turned regularly for aeration.

Planning permissions for open windrow composting, with sufficient distance, from any sensitive receptor will be granted, subject to development management policy:

- Existing or proposed waste management sites, subject in the case of landfill and landraising sites or other temporary facilities.
- Sites in the countryside which constitute previously developed land, or redundant agricultural and forestry buildings and their curtilages for proposals for the composting of waste.
- Sites in agricultural use proposing composting of waste for use within that agricultural unit.

Policy 4: Recycling, Storage and Transfer of Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste at Mineral Sites

This policy aims to increase the use of secondary and recycled material as substitutes for virgin minerals and consequently reduce the amount of construction, demolition and excavation waste that is disposed of to landfills.

Planning permissions for development involving recycling, storage and transfer of construction, demolition and excavation waste at mineral sites subject to development management policies, will be granted provided that the proposed development is for a temporary period commensurate with the operational life of the mineral site.

Policy 5 & 6: Residual Waste Treatment Facilities

Planning permissions for developments involving the treatment of residual wastes where it supports the delivery of the Spatial Strategy will be granted, subject to development management policies:

- 11 discrete sites across the region
- The facilities proposed will be required to contribute to the delivery of the Spatial Strategy.
- Indicative requirements for the South residual waste treatment are:
    - Zone A – ~390,000 TPA
    - Zone B – ~100,000 TPA
    - Zone C – ~150,000 TPA
    - Zone D – ~60,000 TPA
    - Zone E – ~100,000 TPA
- Monitoring will be undertaken to ensure the Spatial Strategy is delivered.

Policy 6 denotes the level of energy recovery expected to be achieved and the market(s) for that energy.

- Materials recovery facilities will be permitted provided that the value of the material and a market demand is presented.
- Energy recovery facilities will be permitted provided: the waste to be treated cannot practically and reasonably be reused, recycled or processed to recover materials; and that energy is recovered, and a market is presented for that energy.

Policy 8 & 9: Landfill, Landraise, Engineering or Other Operations

A key aim of the JWCS is to ensure that as much waste as possible is diverted away from landfill. To ensure resource use is maximised, all new landfill sites should either provide initial pre-treatment of wastes or be restricted to accept only those wastes that have been pre-treated.

In meeting the sub-region's landfill need, priority will be given to Brownfield land over Greenfield land. Planning permissions will be granted for waste disposal by landfilling, landraising or engineering or other operations, subject to development management policy, provided that:

- Waste that cannot practicably and reasonably be reused, recycled or processed (to recover materials; to produce compost, soil conditioner or inert residues; or to recover energy),
- Proposed developments must minimise waste necessary to deliver the sub-region's needs.
- Proposed developments must not prejudice the satisfactory restoration of mineral working sites in the locality, having regard to the supply and availability of appropriate waste materials for their restoration.
- Proposals are not within major aquifers, source protection zones, European sites of nature conservation or the appropriate buffer; except where it can be demonstrated that the relevant legislative requirements can be met.

In granting planning permission for landfilling or landraising developments, or engineering or other operations, conditions may be imposed limiting both the types and quantities of waste to be deposited in order to conserve capacity for waste that cannot be reused, recycled or processed.

Proposals for landfilling and landraising development, and engineering or other operations, should:

- Incorporate finished levels that are compatible with the surrounding area and any likely settlement.
- Include proposals for aftercare and secure long-term management of the restored site.
- Make provision for landfill gas to be recovered for use as an energy source.
- Make provision, where practical, for appropriate habitat creation for biodiversity benefit.

Policy 11 – Planning Designations

Planning permission will not be granted for waste-related developments which would endanger, or have a significant adverse impact on the following:

- RAMSAR Sites
- Special areas of conservation (SACs), candidate SACs, Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and potential SPAs;
- World Heritage Sites;
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs);
- The best and most versatile agricultural land;
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) or Sites of Archaeological Importance;
- National nature reserves (NNRs) or Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs);
- Ancient semi-natural woodlands;
- Listed Buildings, Registered Parks, Gardens and Battlefields;
- Conservation Areas and sites of Nature Conservation Importance;
- Local Nature Reserves and non-statutory nature reserves;
- Areas of Historic Landscape Value;
- Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS)
- Groundwater Source Protection Zones;
- Areas in Flood Zone 3b or where the level of flood risk is considered unsuitable;
- Biodiversity Action Plan habitat and species
- Green Belt, except where very special circumstances are justified.

When assessing each development proposal consideration will be made into whether any significant adverse impact identified could be controlled to acceptable levels.

Policy 13 – Safeguarding Operational and Allocated Sites for Waste Management Facilities

Operational waste sites are safeguarded, except where alternative suitable facilities are to be provided as part of an authority approved strategy

West of England Local Industrial Strategy (2019) [217]

The West of England's Local Industrial Strategy, published in July 2019, conveys the importance of minimising the impact on the environment when implementing the region's four main priorities: cross-sectoral innovation; inclusive growth; addressing the productivity challenge; and delivering innovation in infrastructure delivery.

To ensure the region is active in minimising environmental impact, the strategy confirms that the West of England will embed innovation in tackling significant infrastructure challenges and thus are committed to tackling climate change by contributing to the Clean Growth Grand Challenge mission.

A.8 North Somerset Local Policy

Existing North Somerset Local Development Plan 2006 - 2026

Introduction

The existing Local Development Plan (LDP) forms the policy that is currently implemented by North Somerset Council, covering 2006-2026 (Core Strategy adopted 2017). It should be noted that a new LDP for 2023-2038 is currently in preparation.

The existing LDP comprises of 9 documents. The Core Strategy, West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy, Development Management Policies, Site Allocations Plan, Policies Map and 5 Neighbourhood Plans from:

- Backwell
- Long Ashton
- Claverham
- Yatton
- Congresbury

These are supported by various Supplementary Planning Documents. (SPD's)

North Somerset Council Core Strategy (2017)[218]

The Core Strategy (CS) sets out the broad long-term vision, objectives and strategic planning policies for North Somerset up to 2026.

CS 1 through 11 fall under the section 'Living within Environmental Limits', with CS1 and CS2 focusing on climate change, carbon reduction and sustainable design and construction.

Policy CS1- Addressing Climate Change and Carbon Reduction

North Somerset Council is committed to reducing carbon emissions and tackling climate change, mitigating further impacts and supporting adaptation to its effects.

Some of the following principles guiding the development are listed below:

- Development should demonstrate a commitment to reducing carbon emissions, including reducing energy demand through good design, and utilising renewable energy where feasible and viable.

[217] West of England Local Industrial Strategy, HM Government, July 2019; https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/west-of-england-local-industrial-strategy/west-of-england-local-industrial-strategy
[218] Core Strategy, North Somerset Council, January 2017

- Incorporate site-wide renewable energy solutions are to be delivered in a phased and co-ordinated way with the proposed development
- Maximise the opportunities for all new homes to contribute to tackling climate change through adherence to emerging national standards such as the Code for Sustainable Homes to ensure they perform well against evolving energy standards, and have a reduced carbon footprint
- *Developments of 10 or more dwellings should demonstrate a commitment to maximising the use of sustainable transport solutions*
- The reduction, re-use and recycling of waste with emphasis on waste minimisation on development sites and the creation of waste to energy facilities in the Weston villages

Policy CS2 – Delivering Sustainable Design and Construction

New development both residential (including conversions) and non-residential should demonstrate a commitment to sustainable design and construction, increasing energy efficiency through design, and prioritising the use of sustainable low or zero carbon forms of renewable energy generation in order to increase the sustainability of the building stock across North Somerset.

When considering proposals for development, the council will:

1. Require designs that are energy efficient and designed to reduce their energy demands
2. Require the use of on-site renewable energy sources or by linking with/contributing to available local off-site renewable energy sources to meet a minimum of 10% of predicted energy use for residential development proposals involving one to nine dwellings, and 15% for 10 or more dwellings; and 10% for non-residential developments over 500m² and 15% for 1,000m² and above.
3. Require as a minimum Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 for all new dwellings from October 2010, Level 4 from 2013, rising to Level 6 by 2016. Higher standards will be encouraged ahead of this trajectory where scheme viability specifically supports this. BREEAM ‘Very Good’ will be required on all non-residential developments over 500m² and ‘Excellent’ over 1,000m²

Policy CS7 – Planning for Waste

North Somerset Council supports the prevention and minimisation of waste and the sustainable management of waste, reducing reliance on landfill. That includes reduction, re-use, recycling and composting of waste, and recovery of materials and energy from waste, in line with the Joint Waste Core Strategy for the West of England.

The four Unitary Authorities in the West of England have produced a Joint Waste Core Strategy (JWCS) which sets out the strategic spatial planning policy for the provision of waste management infrastructure in the West of England.

17.5.1.1 Site and Policies Plan – Development Management Policies [219]

The Sites and Policies Plan brings forward the detailed development plan policies which complement the strategic context set out in the CS.

Policy DM2 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

To support the use of renewable and low carbon energy generation and support local community-based schemes which offer direct benefit to local residents. It also aims to encourage the most suitable technology for a given location and ensure that schemes do not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the local environment, infrastructure and nearby residents.

[219] Development Management Policies, Sites and Policies Plan Part 1, North Somerset Council, Adopted July 2016; https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-04/sites%20and%20policies%20plan%20part%201%20development%20management%20policies%20July%202016.pdf

Proposals for renewable and low carbon energy installation, excluding wind turbines, will be supported in principle where the environmental, social and economic benefits outweigh any negative impacts.

The following criteria will be key considerations:

1. Living conditions, including noise and visual impact.
2. The local natural environment, its resources and characteristics, wildlife and habitats.
3. Local infrastructure resulting from installation and operation of large-scale sites.
4. Any designated or undesignated heritage asset.
5. The openness of the Green Belt.
6. The quality and setting of the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) including both views to and from it.
7. The safeguarding parameters associated with any identified aerodromes including Bristol Airport

Existing LPD 2006-2026 Supplementary Planning Guidance

Solar Photovoltaic Arrays (2013) [220]

North Somerset Council is responsible for determining applications for onshore renewable energy schemes of up to 50 MW generation capacity. For generation greater than 50 MW. The Planning Inspectorate will determine the application. Solar Photovoltaic (PV) systems require planning permission if they:

- Protrude more than 200 mm beyond the plane of the wall or roof slope.
- Are on a flat roof, any panel must be less than 1 meter in height above the highest part of the roof excluding any chimneys.
- On or within the curtilage of listed buildings or upon a site designated as a scheduled ancient monument
- Are within the AONB or Conservation Area in which case, must not be on a roof slope or wall fronting the highway.

Free-standing PV systems require planning permission if they are:

- More than 4 meters in height.
- Installed less than 5 meters away from any boundary.
- More than 9 meters square.
- Within the curtilage of listed buildings or upon a site designated as a scheduled ancient monument.
- Within a Conservation Area, they must not be located on a wall fronting a highway or be nearer to the highway than the dwelling house or block of flats and no more than one free-standing solar panel within the curtilage will be permitted.

The Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) outlines the significant impacts to consider on of solar PV developments:

- Agricultural land/Green Belt
- Landscape and visual impacts
- Biodiversity
- The historic environment
- Flood risk.

[220] Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation in North Somerset: Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Arrays, North Somerset Council, Adopted November 2013

Wind Turbines (2014) [221]

North Somerset Council is responsible for determining applications for onshore renewable energy schemes if up to 50 MW generation capacity. For generation greater than 50 MW, the Planning Inspectorate will determine the application. Most wind turbine developments will require planning permission; however, some domestic micro-wind turbines (up to 50kW) may not require planning permission under Permitted Development Rights.

The Wind Turbine SPD highlights some key planning issues associated with wind energy. These issues are listed below:

- Predicted Wind Speed
- Landscape and Visual Impact Considerations
- Potential Impact of Living Conditions
  - Noise Implications and Amplitude Modulations
  - Shadow Flicker
  - Distance from Properties
- Biodiversity and Ecology
- Green Belt
- Mendip Hills AONB
- Aviation Considerations
- Safety Implications
- The Historic Environment
- Grid Connection.

The following distances have been set out in the Wind Turbine SPD:

- **Highway/ Rail Safety**: Any turbine should be set back from the nearest highway boundary, at a distance of at least the tip height plus 50 meters or height multiplied by 1.5, whichever is the lesser.
- **Habitat Features**: There is a recommended buffer zone of 50m
- **Bridleways**: It is generally accepted that the fall over distance (the height to the tip of the turbine) is considered to be an acceptable separation distance.

Creating Sustainable Buildings and Places[222]

The Creating Sustainable Buildings and Places SPD provides guidance on the implementation of policies for energy efficiency in both new and existing buildings and renewable and low carbon energy generation.
In order to conform with CS2 requirement:

Require the use of on-site renewable energy sources or by linking with/contributing to available local off-site renewable energy sources to meet a minimum of 10% of predicted energy use for residential development proposals involving one to nine dwellings, and 15% for 10 or more dwellings; and 10% for non-residential developments over 500m² and 15% for 1000m² and above

The developer should choose a technology that gives the best environmental performance, is cost effective and has no insurmountable impacts on the surrounding area.
The range of individual building scale technologies include:

- Solar PV and Solar Thermal Panels

[221] Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation in North Somerset: Wind Turbines, North Somerset Council, Adopted July 2014
[222] Creating Sustainable Buildings and Places in North Somerset: Guidance for energy efficiency, renewable energy and the transition to zero carbon development, North Somerset Council, Adopted March 2015

- Heat Pumps (air, water or ground)
- Biomass Burners and Boilers
- Mechanical Heat Recovery Systems
- Domestic/Micro Combined Heat and Power Systems (CHP).

Technologies which may be suitable for larger scale developments:

- Hydropower
- Solar PV Arrays
- CHP Systems
- Wind Turbines
- District Heating Systems.

To conform with CS2:

Requires non-residential developments of over 1000m2 to meet BREEAM 'excellent' standard and those over 500m2 to achieve 'very good' standard. A design stage certificate is required to confirm adherence with this.

A BREEAM assessment of non-residential buildings is to take place.

North Somerset Council Neighborhood Plans

Neighbourhood Plans (NP) are prepared by local communities and not the Council, they are not listed as part of the Local Development Scheme. However, the policies contained in any NP will form part of the LDP once it has been formally adopted by North Somerset Council following an examination and a positive referendum.
The NPs contain policies for the neighbourhood but cannot promote less development than in the existing Local Plan. Each of the 5 neighbourhoods have policies relating closely to CS1, CS2 and DM2.

Backwell Neighbourhood Plan (2015)[223]

Backwell Neighbourhood Plan recognises and addresses the environmentally focused objectives in the CS.

Planning Policy: Sustainability 1

Proposals for the generation of renewable energy will be supported provided adverse impacts are satisfactorily addressed or are outweighed by the overall benefits of the proposal. Community led renewable energy schemes will be encouraged.

Long Ashton Neighbourhood Plan (2015)[224]

Policy ENV4 Renewable Energy Installations

Renewable Energy installations including solar PV are encouraged. Commercial scale solar PV installations will comply with the North Somerset SPD on solar arrays. Commercial scale wind turbine installations will comply with the North Somerset SPD on wind turbines. A community benefit from commercial renewable energy schemes will usually be sought, unless the viability of the project is proven, with documentary evidence, not to be able to provide this. The recommended community benefit package in England is £5000/MW of installed capacity per year, for the lifetime of the development

Policy LHN1 Provision of Well-Designed Energy Efficient Buildings and Places

The design and standard of any new development should aim to meet a high level of sustainable design and construction and be optimised for energy efficiency, targeting zero carbon emissions.

[223] Backwell Future, Backwell Neighbourhood Plan 2014-2026, Adopted March 2015
[224] Long Ashton Neighbourhood Plan 2013 – 2033, May 2015

Claverham Neighbourhood Plan (2018)[225]

R1 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation

This plan supports local community-based schemes that conform to the principles contained within North Somerset Council's SPDs

Renewable and low carbon energy generation applications will be supported if their impacts are (or can be made) acceptable. The following matters will be considered in addressing proposals:

- Visual/Audio Impact on the Surroundings
- The Amenity of Nearby Houses
- Local Landscape and Countryside
- Highway Safety and Traffic Generation
- Sites of Local Nature Conservation and Heritage Assets

Congresbury Neighbourhood Plan (2019)[226]

H2 – Sustainable Development Site Principles

- Development proposals will be supported which minimise carbon footprint and energy requirements and aim for a Passivhaus or 'Excellent' BREEAM rating level of construction.
- The fitting of PV panels to domestic property will be supported where appropriate in terms of architecture and location. Subject to compliance with other policies in the plan, proposals for the development of new houses will be particularly supported where they are designed to generate some or all of their energy needs from renewable sources.

EH5 – Renewable Energy

Proposals for community owned or led renewable energy schemes (including micro-hydro, photovoltaic or bio-mass projects) will be supported subject to the following criteria for the proposed development:

- The siting and scale is appropriate to its setting and position in the wider landscape
- It does not give rise to unacceptable landscape or visual impact either in isolation or cumulatively with other development
- It does not create an unacceptable impact on the amenities of local residents
- It does not have an unacceptable impact on a feature of natural or biodiversity importance.

Local Plan 2023-2038

The replacement LDS 'Local Plan 2038' will set out the overall development strategy for North Somerset over 2023-2038. This plan will fully supersede the current 3 documents, Core Strategy, Development Management Policies and Site Allocations Plan.

North Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy 2019[227]

North Somerset Council declared a climate emergency in early 2019 and published a Climate Emergency Strategy (CES) late 2019. This sets out the key principles which outline how the council will address the causes and consequences of climate change.

There are 7 key principles in the CES:

- Become a net zero carbon council by 2030;
- Provide an energy efficient built environment;

[225] Claverham Neighbourhood Plan 2016 – 2026, February 2018

[226] Congresbury Neighbourhood Development Plan 2019-2036, July 2019

[227] North Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy Poster, North Somerset, 2019, https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/North%20Somerset%20climate%20emergency%20strategy%202019.pdf

- Increase the renewable energy generation;
- Repair, reuse, reduce and recycle;
- Replenish its carbon stores;
- Reduce the emissions from transport; and
- Adapt to climate change.

North Somerset Council intend to achieve these principles by taking a leadership role and identify the actions the council can take to help enable, support and influence carbon reductions locally and nationally. The council also seeks to understand how its work will reduce the three scopes of emissions in North Somerset, these are:

- **Scope 1** – All direct emissions from activities within North Somerset;
- **Scope 2** – All indirect emissions from energy production/ use in North Somerset; and
- **Scope 3** – All other indirect emissions from activities within North Somerset, occurring from sources they do not own or control.

Each keep principle has actions that will aid the achievement of the principles, these are contained within the Climate Emergency Strategic Action Plan[228].

[228] https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/North%20Somerset%20climate%20emergency%20action%20plan.pdf

Appendix B : Clean Growth Strategy – Power Sector Policies and Proposals

The UK published the Clean Growth Strategy in October 2017. The Clean Growth Strategy sets out the policies and proposals, for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy[229]. The power sector policies and proposals are discussed below.

Growing Low Carbon Sources of Electricity

1. The Government confirm the Government's intention to phase out unabated coal generation by 2025 and will shortly publish the Government's detailed response to the consultation.
2. The Government are delivering new nuclear capacity through the final investment decision on Hinkley Point C and will progress discussions with developers to secure a competitive price for future projects in the pipeline.
3. The Government will work with industry as they develop an ambitious Sector Deal for offshore wind. Provided costs continue to fall, this could result in 10 gigawatts of new capacity built in the 2020s, with the potential to support high-value jobs and a sustainable UK industry exporting goods and services around the world. The Government will also consider whether there could be opportunities for additional offshore wind deployment in the 2020s, if this is cost-effective and deliverable. This would mean up to £557 million for further Pot 2 Contract for Difference auctions, with the next one planned for spring 2019. The Government will work with the Crown Estate and the Crown Estate (Scotland) to understand the potential for deployment of offshore wind in the late 2020s and beyond, and it is our current intention that wind projects on the remote islands of Scotland that directly benefit local communities will be eligible for the next Pot 2 auction, subject to obtaining State aid approval.
4. The Government wants to see more people investing in solar without government support and is currently considering options for our approach to small scale low carbon generation beyond 2019. More nascent technologies such as wave, tidal stream and tidal range could also have a role in the long-term decarbonisation of the UK, but they will need to demonstrate how they can compete with other forms of generation.
5. The Government remain committed to carbon pricing to help reduce emissions in the power sector. Further details on carbon prices for the 2020s will be set out in the autumn 2017 Budget.

Delivering Smarter, More Efficient Energy

6. The Government will ensure that every household is offered a smart meter by their energy supplier by the end of 2020 and expect energy suppliers to make every effort to provide smart meters to all their customers.
7. The Government, Ofgem and industry will implement the 29 actions set out in the Smart Systems, and Flexibility Plan published on 24 July. These will enable technologies such as energy storage and demand-side response to compete effectively within the energy market, help integrate more low carbon generation such as solar into our energy system, and deliver secure, smart appliances and smart tariffs to allow consumers to benefit from using energy at times when it is cheaper. Innovations and other steps to increase flexibility could unlock up to £40 billion in energy cost savings up to 2050.
8. The Government will continue to work with Ofgem and the National Grid to create a more independent system operator which will help to keep household bills low through greater competition, coordination and innovation across the system.
9. The Government will work with Ofgem to ensure the necessary regulatory and market arrangements evolve to support the development of a clean, smart and flexible energy system as outlined in their strategy for regulating the future energy system.
10. The Government will work to ensure significant private investment in new electricity interconnectors, which will help keep prices low for consumers, ensure a more secure grid and help integrate clean generation. Project assessments indicate the potential for at least 9.5

[229] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-growth-strategy

gigawatts more interconnection by the early-to-mid 2020s, in addition to the 4 gigawatts today and the 4.4 gigawatts under construction.

11. Ofgem's price control regime will enable up to £26 billion of investment in upgrading and operating our electricity distribution networks from 2015-23 and will work closely with the industry to capitalise on the opportunities for smart integration of electric vehicles into the electricity system.
12. The Government confirmed that when an installer installs solar panels with a battery in residential accommodation, this can attract a reduced VAT rate of 5 per cent if the installation conditions are met. The Government will keep the tax treatment of technologies such as solar, storage and heat networks under review.

Keeping Energy Costs Down for Businesses and Households

13. The Government has commissioned an independent review into the cost of energy led by Professor Dieter Helm CBE, which will recommend ways to deliver the Government's carbon targets and ensure the security of supply at minimum cost to both industry and domestic consumers. Once Ministers have had the opportunity to consider the Helm review's proposals, the Clean Growth Strategy will incorporate its recommendations into our further policy development as appropriate.
14. The Government are publishing a draft bill to require Ofgem to impose a cap on standard variable and default tariffs across the whole market.
15. The existing Levy Control Framework will be replaced by a new set of controls beyond 2020/21. These will be set out later this year.
16. The Government are evaluating the results of the Electricity Demand Reduction Pilot, which has offered organisations £5.4 million of funding for projects that could reduce bills and improve security of supply through making energy savings at peak times.

Government Innovation Investment

- The Government expects to invest around £900 million of public funds between 2015 and 2021 in research and innovation in the power sector.
- Power and smart systems: Ensuring that the power system is smart and resilient to new demands and new sources of supply will be important for energy security, cost and industrial opportunities. The Government, in partnership with the Research Councils and Innovate UK, expects to invest around £265 million in research, development and deployment in this area which will help to reduce the cost of electricity storage, advance innovative demand response technologies and develop new ways of balancing the grid, for example using EVs.
- Nuclear: The government needs to bring down nuclear power costs while maintaining safety by investing in innovation that will help plants be built to time and budget. In partnership with the Research Councils and Innovate UK, the Government expects to invest around £460 million to support work in areas including future nuclear fuels, new nuclear manufacturing techniques, recycling and reprocessing, and advanced reactor design. The Government has asked the Nuclear Innovation and Research Office (NIRO) to convene a new advisory Board, building on the success of the Nuclear Innovation and Research Advisory Board (NIRAB). The Board will provide independent expertise and advice to support and inform the Government's Nuclear Innovation Programme. The Government is also announcing that it will invest £7 million to further develop the capability and capacity of the nuclear regulators to support the development of advanced technologies. The industry is developing a potential nuclear sector deal as part of the Government's Industrial Strategy, coordinated around the objective of achieving cost reductions.
- Renewables: The UK already has a world-leading offshore wind sector and is well placed to benefit from further investment in renewables innovation to accelerate cost reduction. The Government, in partnership with the Research Councils and Innovate UK, expects to invest around £177 million to further reduce the cost of renewables, including innovation in offshore wind turbine blade technology and foundations. New innovation opportunities are likely to arise in a number of areas, including floating offshore wind platforms, and advanced solar PV technologies.

- Carbon capture, usage and storage: CCUS could reduce the cost of meeting our 2050 target by supporting emissions reductions in industry, power, heating and transport. Our new approach to CCUS is set out in the Business chapter.
- Ofgem is making available to GB electricity network companies up to £525 million of regulated expenditure between 2016 and 2021. The goal is to support smarter, flexible networks, from enabling the integration of clean generation through to customer-focussed energy efficiency measures. This builds on previous network company innovation which delivered 4.5 – 6.5 times more benefits for consumers than it cost.

Appendix C : Existing Low and Zero Carbon Energy Technologies[230]

Site Name	Technology	Location (X-coordinate):	Location (y-coordinate):	Site Postcode	Capacity (MW)	Status	Data Source
WASTE TRANSFER STATION	Anaerobic Digestion	334320.249	160909.176	BS22 8NA	0.499	Operational	REGEN
WASTE TRANSFER STATION	Anaerobic Digestion	334320.249	160909.176	BS22 8NA	0.600	Operational	REGEN
YANLEY	Landfill Gas	355860.26	169951.25	BS13 8AF	1.052	Operational	RO, REGO/ REGEN
Bowerhouse Farm (extension)	Photovoltaic	340,277	161,883	BS24 6UA	19.800	Consented	REPD, Built and Granted Applications
Bowerhouse Solar Farm	Photovoltaic	340,122	161,010	BS29 6EL	8.300	Operational	RO, REGO/ REPD, Built and Granted Applications
Carditch Drove Solar Farm	Photovoltaic	342764.00	161395.95	BS49 5JX	4.320	Operational	RO, REGO/ REGEN, Built and Granted Applications
Congresbury Solar Farm	Photovoltaic	342,667	161,552	BS46 5JX	7.100	Operational	REPD, Built and Granted Applications
CONGRESBURY Stock Lane PV Array	Photovoltaic	344835.99	162351.64	BS49 5JL	1.100	Operational	REGEN, Built and Granted Applications
Ham Lane Solar Park	Photovoltaic	338819.294	166743.29	BS21 6XJ	0.720	Operational	RO, REGO/ REGEN, Built and Granted Applications
HEWISH ROOKERY FARM	Photovoltaic	340519.09	161701.88	BS23 6TL	6.749	Operational	REGEN
Iwood Lane Solar Farm	Photovoltaic	345,000	162,550	BS40 5AA	8.000	Operational	REPD/ RO, REGO
Towerbrook Farm	Photovoltaic	340704.77	159626.99	BS29 6PQ	6.500	Operational	RO, REGO/ REGEN, Built and Granted Applications
Wick Road Solar Farm	Photovoltaic	339100.73	163233.80	BS24 6RR	7.400	Operational	RO, REGO/ REGEN, Built and Granted Applications
Lag Farm	Photovoltaic	351543.00	158644.00		1.000	Consented	REPD
Ash Green, Front Street,	Photovoltaic - Minor			BS25 5NB		Operational	Built and Granted Applications
Coombe Valley	Photovoltaic - Minor			BS25 1DA		Operational	Built and Granted Applications

[230] Sub-national total final energy consumption statistics - 2018 (published on September 2020); https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/total-final-energy-consumption-at-regional-and-local-authority-level-2005-to-2018

Mulberry House,	Photovoltaic - Minor			BS25 1NH	0.003	Operational	Built and Granted Applications
P J Hare Ltd,	Photovoltaic - Minor			BS40 5NL		Operational	Built and Granted Applications
St Johns Church	Photovoltaic - Minor			BS21 6TR		Operational	Built and Granted Applications
WSM-Winterstoke Road	Photovoltaic - Minor			BS24 9AA	0.250	Operational	RO, REGO
Yew Tree Close	Photovoltaic - Minor			BS40 5DP		Operational	Built and Granted Applications
Aldi Portishead	Photovoltaic - Roof Mounted			BS20 8LR	0.050	Operational	RO, REGO
Alvis Cheese Store	Photovoltaic - Roof Mounted			BS40 5RH	0.164	Operational	RO, REGO
Blagdon Lag Farm Production Bath Road	Photovoltaic - Roof Mounted	351680.60	158697.93	BS40 7SG	0.500	Operational	REGEN
Farm Shop Puxton Park	Photovoltaic - Roof Mounted			BS24 6AH	0.190	Operational	RO, REGO
Harry Yearsley Ltd - Bristol	Photovoltaic - Roof Mounted			BS20 7XE	0.165	Operational	RO, REGO
Holt Farm Dairy	Photovoltaic - Roof Mounted			BS40 7SQ	0.401	Operational	RO, REGO
Lag Farm	Photovoltaic - Roof Mounted	351,543	158,644		1.000	Planning Permission Granted	REPD
Oakham Farm, Building 6	Photovoltaic - Roof Mounted			BS20 7SP	0.068	Operational	RO, REGO
P & S Mitchell Ltd	Photovoltaic - Roof Mounted			BS41 8NH	0.226	Operational	RO, REGO
PB Design	Photovoltaic - Roof Mounted			BS21 6XT	0.088	Operational	RO, REGO
Portishead - PV System	Photovoltaic - Roof Mounted			BS20 7AN	0.229	Operational	RO, REGO
Puxton Court Farm	Photovoltaic - Roof Mounted			BS24 6AH	0.199	Operational	RO, REGO
Red House Farm PV	Photovoltaic - Roof Mounted			BS40 8DL	0.050	Operational	RO, REGO
Seal Lite	Photovoltaic - Roof Mounted			BS21 6RR	0.060	Operational	RO, REGO
Smart Systems	Photovoltaic - Roof Mounted	341,752	166,241	BS49 4QN	1.000	Consented	REPD
PORTBURY WHARF	Sewage Gas	347596.955	176384.15	BS20 9DD	0.500	Operational	REGEN
PORTBURY WHARF	Sewage Gas	347596.955	176384.15	BS20 9DD	0.560	Operational	REGEN
Smart Systems	Wind Onshore	341,752	166,241	BS49 4QN	1.000	Consented	REPD

Field South East of Channel Farm	Wind Onshore - Minor	343077	156754	BS25 1NJ		Operational	Built and Granted Applications
Land at Bristol Airport	Wind Onshore - Minor	351099	165495	BS48 3DY		Operational	Built and Granted Applications
Moat House Farm	Wind Onshore - Minor	348799	173246	BS48 1PG		Operational	Built and Granted Applications
Winscombe Woodborough Primary School	Wind Onshore - Minor	342455	158015	BS25 1HH	0.005	Operational	Built and Granted Applications

Appendix D : Existing Renewable Electricity Generated in North Somerset

Technology	Capacity Factor	Installed Capacity (MW)	Energy Generated (MWh)
Micro and Small Wind Power	0.10	0.019	17
Wind Farms	0.25	4.30	9,359
Biomass Energy Crop	0.75	0.00	0.00
Energy from Waste	0.90	0.01	88
Hydropower	0.29	0.03	80
Landfill Gas	0.46	1.05	4,263
Solar PV Farms	0.11	49.32	47,836
Rooftop Solar PV	0.10	30.79	26,972
Sewage Gas		1.10	4186
Other including food waste, animal slurry, poultry litter, sewage sludge and sewage gas. (AD with CHP)	0.43	0.56	2133
Domestic and Non-Domestic Renewable Electricity Technologies Such as Rooftop Solar PV (Electricity)	0.10	0.00	0.00
Total		**87.183**	**94,935**

Appendix E : Wind Energy Resource Methodology

E.1 Introduction

This section of the RERAS focuses on the identification of resource and potential generation from larger scale wind turbines across the North Somerset. Information on wind turbines can be found in Section 1.8.1. For this study, the potential for installing wind turbines of 2.5 MW, 1 MW, and 500kW sizes were assessed, and primary constraints associated with wind energy development considered.

In relation to wind energy, this RERAS is primarily concerned with the spatial identification of potential wind farm developments larger than 5MW total capacity[231], which was considered the minimum size of a wind farm that could be financially viable without additional incentives[232]. Commercial-scale wind farms seek to install turbines at as large a scale as possible; however, it should be noted that any project (regardless of size) might be of interest to developers and community groups. Therefore, in the interest of completeness, additional suitable areas for installing smaller scale turbines (500kW) are included in the assessment. In this study, when assessing a 500kW wind turbine's resources, overlaps with areas suitable for larger turbines were prioritised to the larger turbines.

E.2 Mapping

The wind resource potential in North Somerset was determined through a series of steps in which the primary constraints associated with wind development have been considered. The datasets corresponding to these constraints are overlaid in GIS maps in stages to produce the Search Areas shown in this RERAS. This assessment considers a combination of primary constraints comprising those that exclude certain places from being considered as potentially suitable as areas of search for locating wind farms (e.g., international nature conservation designations), as well as other constraints that require further consideration as part of the Local Plan process (e.g. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)). For the purposes of this study, these are shown for 'information only' purposes. Each of these different types of constraints, and the stages at which the data layers were applied in the GIS mapping process, was discussed and agreed with the Council.

Maps have been produced to illustrate each stage of the process of identifying primary constraints and opportunities.

The flowchart shown in Figure 78 shows the process steps and the output maps at each mapping stage. More detail on each of the steps is provided in this section. These maps are contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps' .

[231] Each 2.5MW and 1.0MW Search Area can locate a minimum of 5MW wind farm containing 2.5MW or 1.0MW turbines respectively whereas the 500kW Search Areas can accommodate at least a single 500kW turbine
[232] 5MW is the cut-off point for eligibility of a wind farm to receive subsidies in the Feed-In Tariff (FIT) scheme.

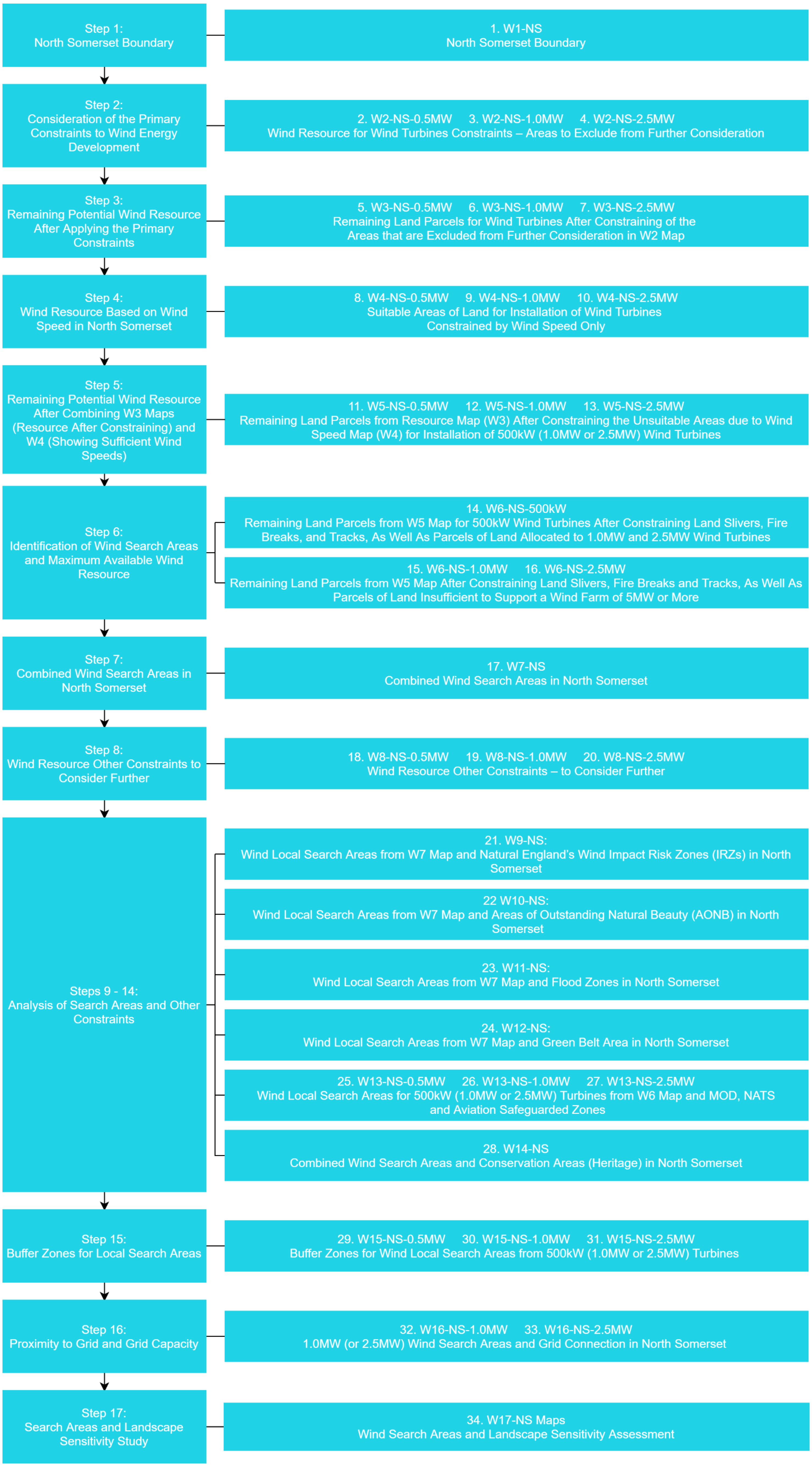


Figure 78: Flowchart of Wind Energy Resource Mapping Process

The varying turbine sizes result in varying cut off wind speeds, noise buffers, tip heights and topple distances, and therefore, each of the turbine sizes investigated has been individual mapped. Table 43 below presents the specifications of the wind turbines that are considered in this study.

Table 43: Wind Turbines Specifications Used Within This Study

Turbine Size (Rated Output)	Dimensions	Wind Speed Cut Off	Wind Turbine Density	Approx. Distance Between Turbines	Noise Buffer[233]	Topple Distance+10% Buffer (Tip Height Plus 10%)
2.5 MW	Tip Height[234]: 135 m Rotor Diameter: 100 m Hub Height: 85 m	A lower limit of 5m/s measured at 45m above ground level (agl)	9 MW/km^2	595 m	600 m	148.5 m
1 MW	Tip Height[234]: 100 m Rotor Diameter: 55 m Hub Height: 60-80 m	A lower limit of 6m/s measured at 45m above ground level (agl)	8 MW/km^2	399 m	500 m	110 m
500 kW	Tip Height[234]: 70 m Rotor Diameter: 45 m Hub Height: 40-60 m	A lower limit of 6m/s measured at 45m above ground level (agl)	One turbine to be sited on each identified area	One turbine to be sited on each identified area	400 m	77 m

Throughout this study, reference is made to titles and reference numbers to correspond with maps. Screenshots of these maps are included throughout this section Where maps have been produced for the 500kW, 1MW and 2.5MW separately, maps for the 1MW turbines have been included. Higher-resolution maps and the additional 500Kw and 2.5MW turbine maps are contained in the accompanying document ‘North Somerset RERAS - Maps’.

[233] The noise buffers are based on SQW Energy Renewable and Low-Carbon Energy Capacity Methodology – Methodology for the English Regions.
[234] Height to blade tip at the highest point

Step1: North Somerset Boundary

Map Reference and Title:

1. W1-NS: North Somerset Boundary

This map shows the North Somerset boundary. A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

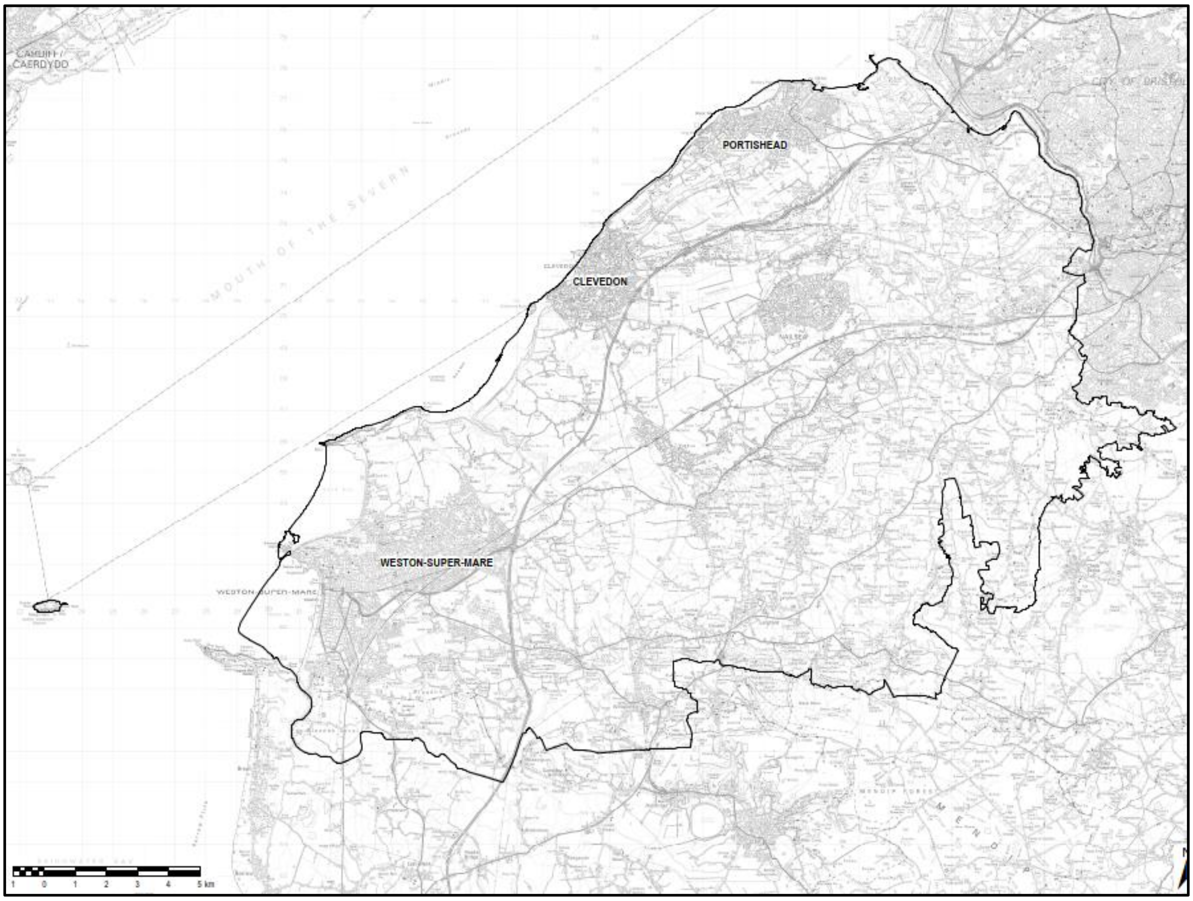


Figure 79: North Somerset Boundary Map

Step 2: Consideration of the Primary Constraints to Wind Energy Development

Map References & Titles:

1. W2-NS-0.5MW: Wind Resource for 500kW Wind Turbines Constraints – Areas to Exclude from Further Consideration
2. W2-NS-1.0MW: Wind Resource for 1.0MW Wind Turbines Constraints – Areas to Exclude from Further Consideration
3. W2-NS-2.5MW: Wind Resource for 2.5MW Wind Turbines Constraints – Areas to Exclude from Further Consideration

The purpose of this step was to identify the maximum potential wind energy resource across North Somerset through the identification of various primary constraints.

The primary constraints are described in more detail below and a comprehensive table of the constraints is given in Appendix F. The buffer distances are specific to the different turbine sizes and a few of the designations are constrained to their extent only.

The W2 wind constraints maps illustrate the primary constraints to the development/ deployment of wind turbines. Many of the constraints can be attributed to statutory designations such as those that protect the environment or heritage. For the GIS mapping process, the constraint, except where specifically stated, relates to the extent of the designation only (with no additional constraint buffer applied beyond the boundary). The constraints applied to the maps in Step 2 were as follows:

- Special Protection Areas (SPA)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- RAMSAR sites
- National Nature Reserves (NNR)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Scheduled Monuments
- Listed Buildings, noise buffers have been applied if the building is residential
- Registered Historic Parks and Gardens

Many of the ‘buffer-distances’ applied in the maps are linked to minimising potential impacts upon people or infrastructure. The extent of the buffer areas applied was informed directly by the characteristics of the turbines being assessed (e.g. height of the turbine).

This assessment is based on constraints associated with 500kW, 1.0MW and 2.5MW wind turbines to maintain consistency with the method set out in the NPPF[235].

Whilst a turbine is operating, noise is emitted. This noise is generated by the movement of the blades through the air and the noise of the machinery within the turbine. To avoid disturbance to any residents located near a turbine, noise buffers can be applied to the turbine site. These noise buffers outline a suitable distance between the turbine and the nearest building so that minimal disruption occurs from the operational sounds of the turbine.

Noise buffers have been applied around existing dwellings in North Somerset, given the noise-related impact wind turbines can have on building occupants, particularly residents, and the spatial extent that such an effect can have on identifying potentially available wind resources. The noise impact can also affect any dwellings close to the border in adjacent authorities; therefore, the noise buffers were also applied to those dwellings. Where it was not possible to identify residential sites among all buildings in external areas, noise buffers were used to buffer all buildings. These buffers are labelled on the maps separately.

For ease of reference, the assumptions applied to constraints mapping for wind development are provided in Table 44.

Table 44: Wind Turbine Noise Buffers and Topple Distances

Turbine Size	Noise Buffer	Topple Distance+10% Buffer (Tip Height Plus 10%)
2.5 MW	600 m	148.5 m
1 MW	500 m	110 m
500 kW	400 m	77

The following constraints and their buffer distances (where one has been applied) are fixed for different turbine sizes.

- Ancient Woodlands – a 15-meter buffer has been applied to avoid root damage[236];
- Broadleaved Woodland – a 15-meter buffer has been applied to avoid root damage [236;]
- Existing buildings (extent);
- Watercourses – including major, secondary, and minor rivers, canals and lakes; - a 2- meter buffer has been applied to rivers and streams;
- Active mines/quarries;
- Local Nature Reserves;

[235] e.g. as defined in SQW Energy Renewable and Low-Carbon Energy Capacity Methodology – Methodology for the English Regions
[236] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licences

The following constraints and their buffer distances (where one has been applied) are likely to change when considering different turbine sizes.

- Officially Safeguarded Aerodromes;
- Major transport infrastructure – topple distances +10% buffers have been applied;
- Minor transport infrastructure – topple distances + 10% buffers have been applied;
- Dwellings – noise buffers have been applied;
- Operational and consented (but not yet constructed) renewables energy development sites (solar PV and wind);
- MoD Sites;
- Helicopter flight path zone; and
- Bristol Airport Safety Zone.

It should be noted that, whilst the above issues have been considered in the selection of the Search Areas (SAs), the SAs are not final because:

- The SAs remain subject to further investigation based on information provided in this report (e.g. grid connection or landscape sensitivity) and other considerations through the Local Plan process;
- The SAs are formed using specific technology typologies which, if different from the development proposals, may require the mapping exercise to be rerun; and
- If a private landowner wanted a wind turbine closer to their building than was recommended, and nothing else was adversely affected, then loosening of noise restrictions could be considered.

Additionally, it is important to note that proposals for wind turbines above 2.5MW will change the shape and extent of the SAs, and further work will be needed when considering the proposals, particularly around reapplying the primary constraints listed above.

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document ‘North Somerset RERAS – Maps’.

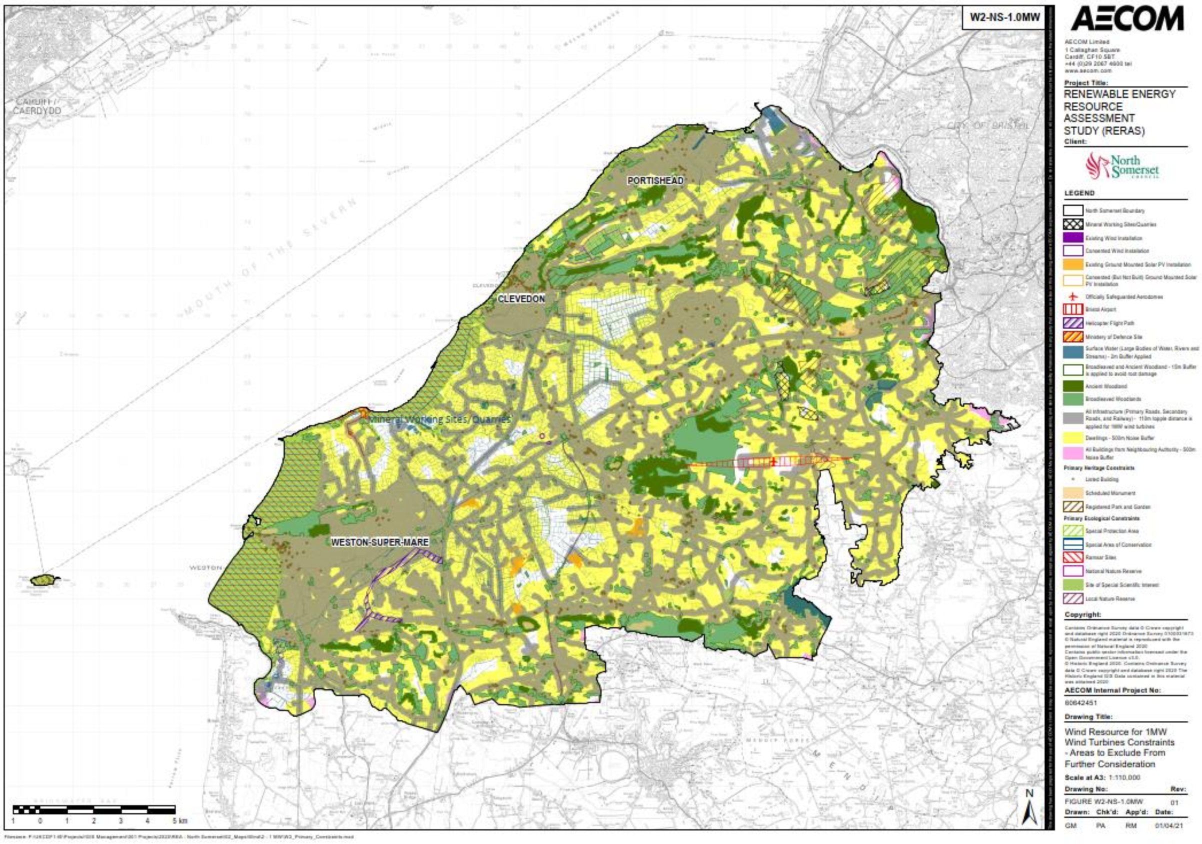


Figure 80: W2-NS-1.0MW: Wind Resource for 1.0MW Wind Turbines Constraints – Areas to Exclude from Further Consideration Map

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: WF-PR-8 (Refer to Table 38 in Section 17)

It is recommended that proposals for re-powering of wind farms at end-of-life to an equal or increased capacity are encouraged and permitted, subject to compliance with the primary constraints listed in Section 4.2.1 (e.g. noise, topple distances), site specific constraints, and other policy considerations.

Step 3: Remaining Potential Wind Resource After Applying the Constraints

Map References & Titles:

1. W3-NS-0.5MW: Remaining Land Parcels for 500kW Wind Turbines After Constraining of the Areas that are Excluded from Further Consideration in W2 Map
2. W3-NS-1.0MW: Remaining Land Parcels for 1.0MW Wind Turbines After Constraining of the Areas that are Excluded from Further Consideration in W2 Map
3. W3-NS-2.5MW: Remaining Land Parcels for 2.5MW Wind Turbines After Constraining of the Areas that are Excluded from Further Consideration in W2 Map

W3 maps show the remaining available land for wind development after removing the areas that were constrained in Step 2 of the mapping process. Table 45 summarises this information. A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

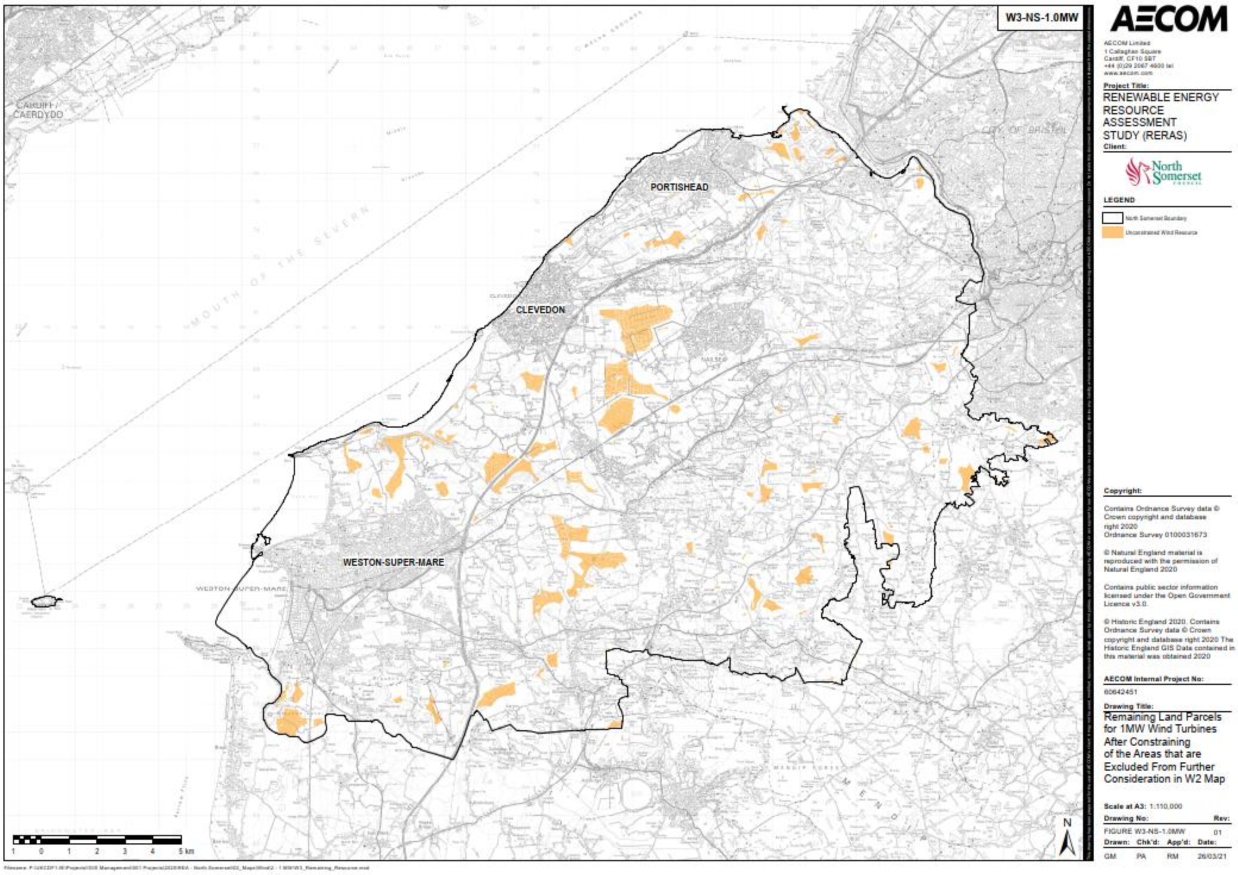


Figure 81: W3-NS-1.0MW: Remaining Land Parcels for 1.0MW Wind Turbines After Constraining of the Areas that are Excluded from Further Consideration in W2 Map

Table 45: Remaining Land Available for Wind Turbines at this Stage of the Assessment and Potential Total Installed Capacity Based on the Available Area

Map Reference	Note	Remaining Available Land Area (km^2)	Potential Total Installed Capacity (MW) [237]
W3-NS-0.5MW	The remaining available area for 500kW wind turbines at this stage of the assessment	32.18	One turbine to be sited in each identified area.
W3-NS-1.0MW	The remaining available area for 1.0MW wind turbines at this stage of the assessment	16.43	131.44
W3-NS-2.5MW	The remaining available area for 2.5MW wind turbines at this stage of the assessment	7.65	68.85

Step 4: Wind Resource Based on Wind Speed in North Somerset

Map References & Titles:

1. W4-NS-0.5MW: Suitable Areas of Land for Installation of 500kW Wind Turbines Constrained by Wind Speed Only
2. W4-NS-1.0MW: Suitable Areas of Land for Installation of 1.0MW Wind Turbines Constrained by Wind Speed Only
3. W4-NS-2.5MW: Suitable Areas of Land for Installation of 2.5MW Wind Turbines Constrained by Wind Speed Only

[237] It should be noted the areas for different wind turbines areas overlap and therefore the maximum potentials in this table cannot be added together.

The areas shown on the W4 maps are only constrained by the technology's ability to utilise the available resource based on wind speed.

The maps show wind speeds sufficient for the development of wind farms. The performance of wind turbines is a function of wind speed. Utilising Ordnance Survey maps and Meteorological Office data, AECOM created a 1.5km^2 grid GIS data layer for the North Somerset area showing average annual wind speed at 45m above ground level (agl) attributed to each individual 1.5km^2 cell.

No wind energy potential was assumed for the 500kW, and 1.0MW turbine size in areas with an average annual wind speed of less than 6.0 m/s, meaning the wind speed resource areas for the 500 kW and 1.0 MW turbine sizes are the same. A similar assumption has been made for the 2.5 MW turbine size, but with wind speeds of less than 5.0 m/s. A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

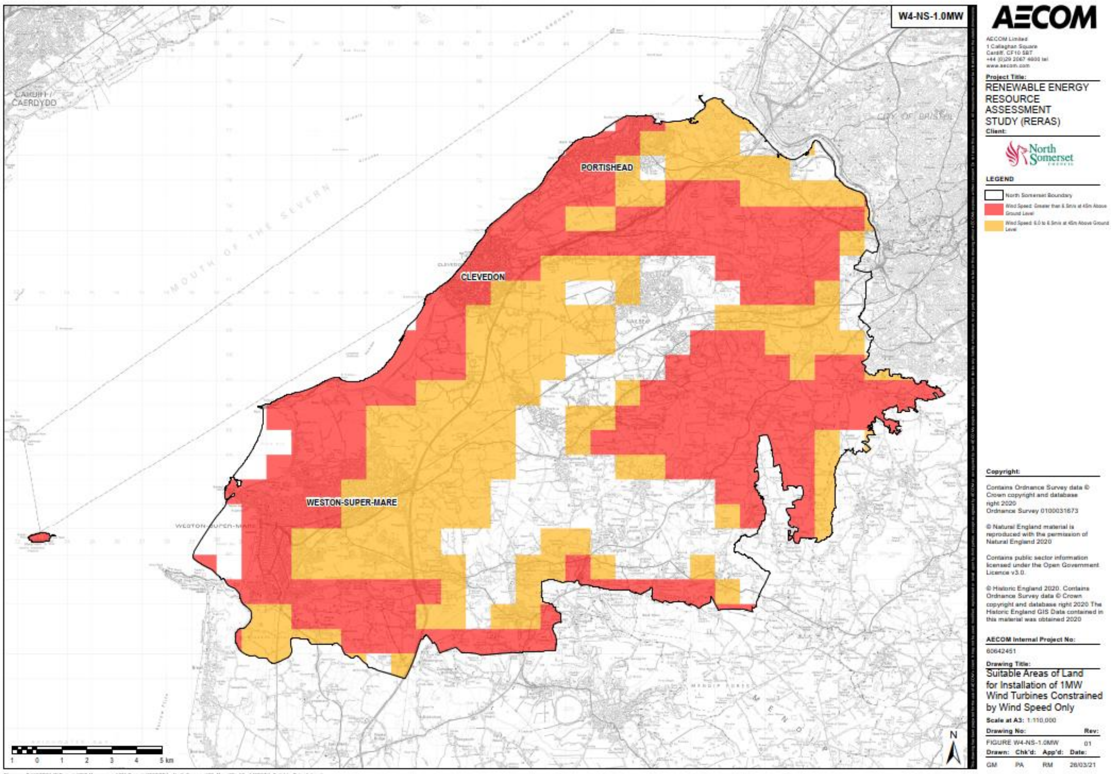


Figure 82: W4-NS-1.0MW: Suitable Areas of Land for Installation of 1.0MW Wind Turbines Constrained by Wind Speed Only Map

The wind resource areas for wind turbines can be seen in Table 46.

Table 46: Wind Resource Based on Wind Speed in North Somerset

	2.5MW Turbines	1.0MW and 500kW Turbines
Total North Somerset Area (km^2)	390.70	390.70
Suitable Area (km^2)	384.1	304.86
Proportion of Area Suitable (%)	98%	78%

Step 5: Remaining Potential Wind Resource After Combining W3 Maps (Resource After Constraining) and W4 (Showing Sufficient Wind Speeds)

Map References & Titles:

1. W5-NS-0.5MW: Remaining Land Parcels from Resource Map (W3) After Constraining the Unsuitable Areas due to Wind Speed Map (W4) for Installation of 500kW Wind Turbines
2. W5-NS-1.0MW: Remaining Land Parcels from Resource Map (W3) After Constraining the Unsuitable Areas due to Wind Speed Map (W4) for Installation of 1MW Wind Turbines
3. W5-NS-2.5MW: Remaining Land Parcels from Resource Map (W3) After Constraining the Unsuitable Areas due to Wind Speed Map (W4) for Installation of 2.5MW Wind Turbines

Unsuitable areas due to insufficient wind speed were removed from W3 maps and presented. Table 47 below shows the remaining potential wind resource[238] at this stage and its potential total installed capacity. A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

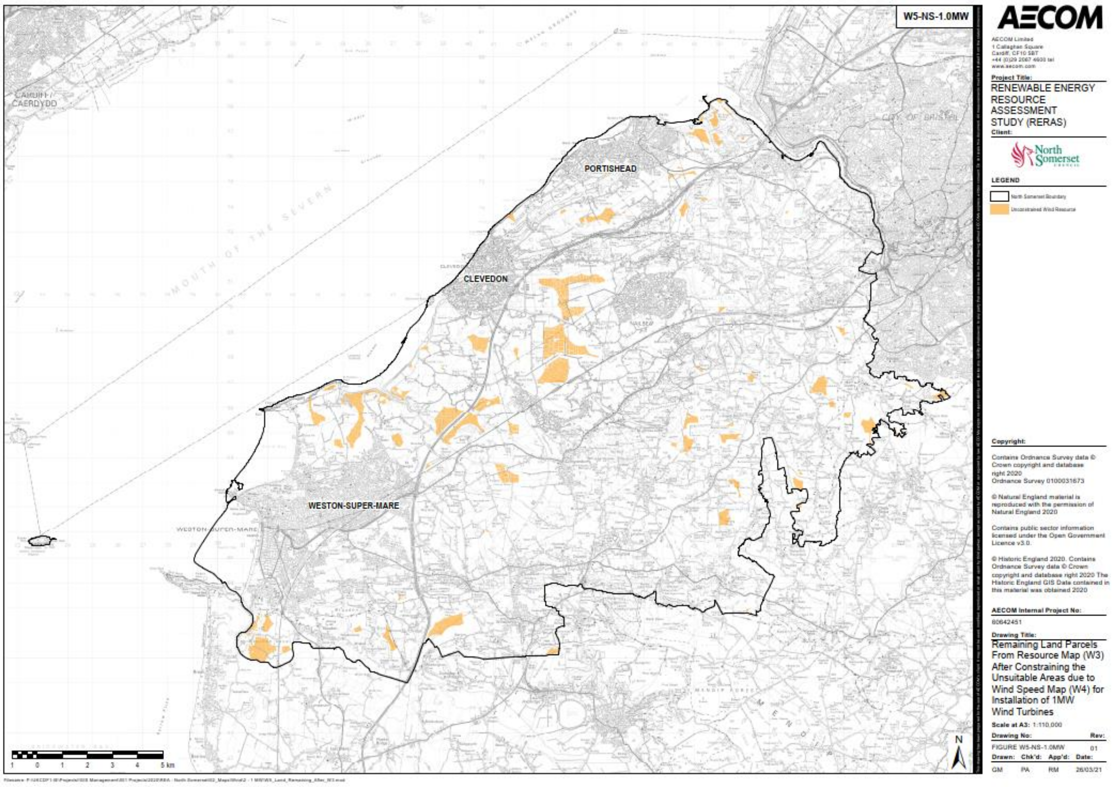


Figure 83: W5-NS-1.0MW: Remaining Land Parcels from Resource Map (W3) After Constraining the Unsuitable Areas due to Wind Speed Map (W4) for Installation of 1MW Wind Turbines Map

Table 47: Remaining Land Available for Wind Turbines at this Stage of the Assessment and Potential Total Installed Capacity Based on the Available Area

Map Reference	Note	Remaining Available Land Area (km^2)	Potential Total Installed Capacity (MW) [239]
W5-NS-0.5MW	The remaining available area for 500kW wind turbines at this stage of the assessment	23.62	One turbine to be sited in each identified area.
W5-NS-1.0MW	The remaining available area for 1.0MW wind turbines at this stage of the assessment	12.12	96.96
W5-NS-2.5MW	The remaining available area for 2.5MW wind turbines at this stage of the assessment	7.65	68.85

[238] Labelled as "Unconstrained Wind Resource" on W5 maps.

[239] It should be noted the areas for different wind turbines areas overlap and therefore the maximum potentials in this table cannot be added together.

Step 6: Identification of Wind Search Areas and Maximum Available Wind Resource

Map References & Titles:

1. W6-NS-500kW: Remaining Land Parcels from W5 Map for 500kW Wind Turbines After Constraining Land Slivers, Fire Breaks and Tracks, As Well As Parcels of Land Allocated to 1.0MW and 2.5MW Wind Turbines
2. W6-NS-1.0MW: Remaining Land Parcels from W5 Map After Constraining Land Slivers, Fire Breaks and Tracks, As Well As Parcels of Land Insufficient to Support a Wind Farm of 5MW or More Based on 1.0 MW Wind Turbines
3. W6-NS-2.5MW: Remaining Land Parcels from W5 Map After Constraining Land Slivers, Fire Breaks and Tracks, As Well As Parcels of Land Insufficient to Support a Wind Farm of 5MW or More Based on 2.5MW Wind Turbines

At this stage of the assessment, land slivers, fire breaks and tracks, as well as parcels of land insufficient to support a wind farm of 5MW or more, were removed from the Step 5 maps.

Additionally, suitable areas for 1.0MW and 2.5MW turbines were removed from the 500kW turbine map.

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

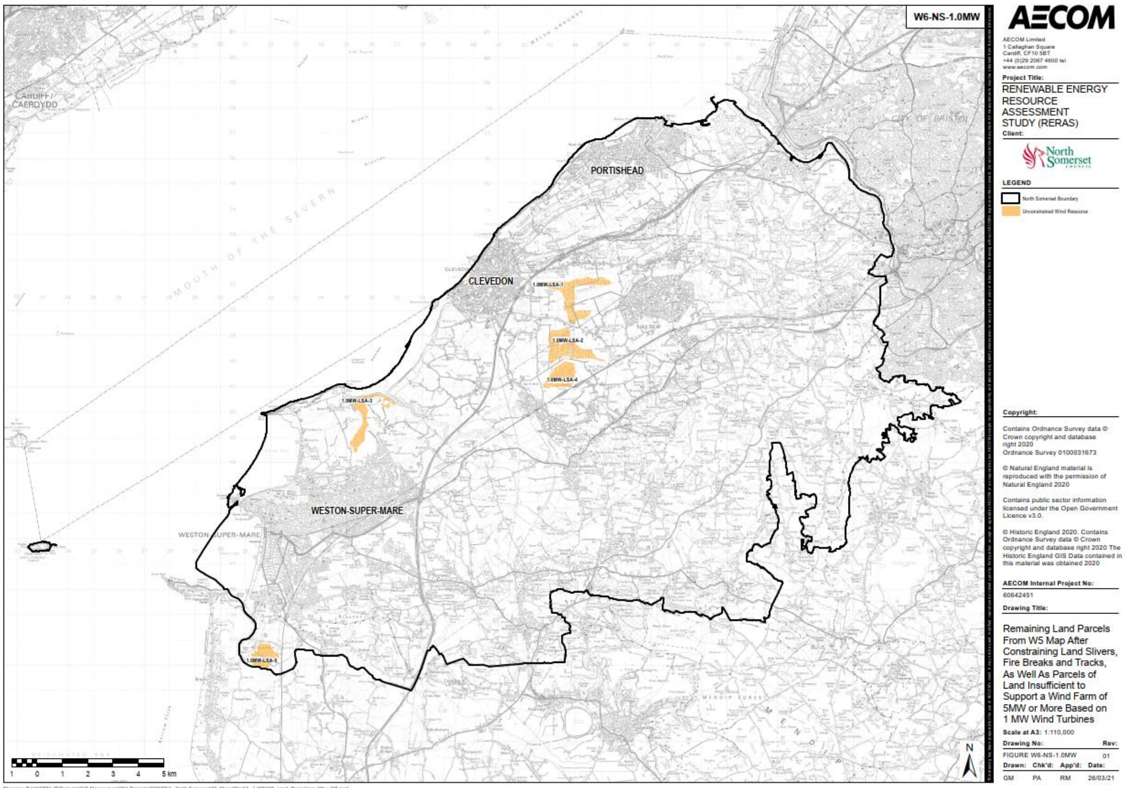


Figure 84: W6-NS-1.0MW: Remaining Land Parcels from W5 Map After Constraining Land Slivers, Fire Breaks and Tracks, As Well As Parcels of Land Insufficient to Support a Wind Farm of 5MW or More Based on 1.0 MW Wind Turbines Map

Maximum Available Wind Resource

Following Steps 1 to 5, the remaining areas define the initial Search Areas (SAs) for wind development in North Somerset. Where there was a minor road, major road or any of the constraints mentioned above separating identified potential locations, SAs were defined for each site independently.

The total remaining area of potential remaining wind resource[240] informed the calculation of the total potential capacity and informed the renewable energy generation aims of North Somerset.

[240] Labelled as "Unconstrained Land" on W6 and W7 maps

Table 48 below shows the remaining area for wind development at this stage and its potential total installed capacity. The 1.0 MW and 2.5 MW capacity figures are not cumulative; it was assumed either all the turbines in those areas would be 1 MW turbines or all would be 2.5 MW turbines. In reality, a mixture of scales could be deployed. Assuming that a wind turbine will generate energy for at peak 25% of the time (2,190 hours) over the course of a year, the total potential energy (GWh) was calculated[241].

Table 48: Identified Wind LSAs in North Somerset and Theoretical Maximum Potential Wind Resource

Map Reference	Note	Remaining Available Land Area (km^2)	Potential Total Installed Capacity (MW)	Potential Total Electricity Generation (GWh)
W6-NS-0.5MW	SAs for 500kW wind turbines in North Somerset	17.08	326[242]	709.57
W6-NS-1.0MW	SAs for 1.0MW wind turbines in North Somerset	4.60	36.8	80.10
W6-NS-2.5MW	SAs for 2.5MW wind turbines in North Somerset	3.93	35.37	76.99
	Total		379.4[243]	825.81

The remaining land available and potential installed capacity for each of the 1.0MW and 2.5MW Search Areas are shown in Table 49 and Table 50 respectively.

Table 49: Individual Identified 1.0MW Wind SAs in North Somerset and Theoretical Maximum Potential Wind Resource

SA Reference on Maps	SA AREA (km2)	Potential Total Installed Capacity (MW)[244]
1.0MW-1	1.162	9.30
1.0MW-2	1.124	8.99
1.0MW-3	0.847	6.78
1.0MW-4	0.797	6.38
1.0MW-5	0.669	5.35

Table 50: Individual Identified 2.5MW Wind SAs in North Somerset and Theoretical Maximum Potential Wind Resource

SA Reference on Maps	SA AREA (km2)	Potential Total Installed Capacity (MW)[244]
2.5MW-1	1.315	11.9
2.5MW-2	1.209	10.8
2.5MW-3	0.710	6.4
2.5MW-4	0.691	6.2

Step 7: Combined Wind Search Areas in North Somerset

Map Reference & Title:

1. W7-NS: Combined Wind Search Areas in North Somerset

Areas of constraint have been applied through mapping to identify the potentially suitable locations for the development of wind farms, and these are labelled as wind farm Search Areas.

[241] Average of the five previous years' regional standard load factors published by BEIS.
[242] 652 additional small land parcels for 500kW turbines installations have been identified. It is assumed that one 500 kW turbine could be sited on each.
[243] The potential from 1.0MW and 2.5MW Search Areas cannot be added together as some of the areas overlap. The maximum capacity in this table is taken from 1.0MW Search Areas plus and additional non-overlapping 2.5MW Search Areas.
[244] Potential total installed capacities are calculated using density factors provided in Table 9.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: WF-PR-1 (Refer to Table 38 in Section 17)

It is recommended that the SAs identified through the RERAS are further refined through the Local Plan process, taking account of other considerations and constraints.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: WF-PR-2 (Refer to Table 38 in Section 17)

It is recommended that proposals for wind turbines of the appropriate number and size (to make the most efficient use of the resource/ land) will be encouraged and permitted when located within the areas identified for that use through the Local Plan.

W7 map illustrates the identified wind Search Areas (SAs) for each of the three wind turbine sizes, the 500kW SAs are coloured orange, the 1.0MW SAs blue striped and the 2.5MW SAs in pink. There were 625, 5 and 4 SAs identified for 500kW, 1.0MW and 2.5MW turbines, respectively. The SAs are referenced based on their corresponding wind turbine size and prioritised based on size (largest), e.g. 1.0MW-LSA-1 is the largest SA suitable for 1.0MW wind turbines installations. It was assumed that one 500kW turbine would be situated on each SA identified as suitable for a 500kW turbine.

This RERAS is primarily concerned with identifying potential wind development opportunities larger than 5MW whilst utilising the 1.0MW and 2.5MW wind turbines. The small scale SAs suitable for 500kW or smaller turbines are identified in the interest of completeness, and their potential are considered in the aim setting section of this study, Section 15. SAs identified for 500kW turbines could be promoted as areas suitable for community energy projects.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: WF-PR-3 (Refer to Table 38 in Section 17)

It is recommended that proposals for wind turbines >2.5MW within the areas identified in the Local Plan will be considered, subject to compliance with the primary constraints listed in Section 4.2.1 (e.g. noise, topple distances) and consideration of other site specific issues and constraints.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: WF-PR-4 (Refer to Table 38 in Section 17)

It is recommended that proposals for wind turbines outside of areas identified as suitable for wind development through the Local Plan should be considered positively, providing it can demonstrate that proposals are compliant with relevant policy and site-specific issues and constraints can be mitigated to the satisfaction of the Council.

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

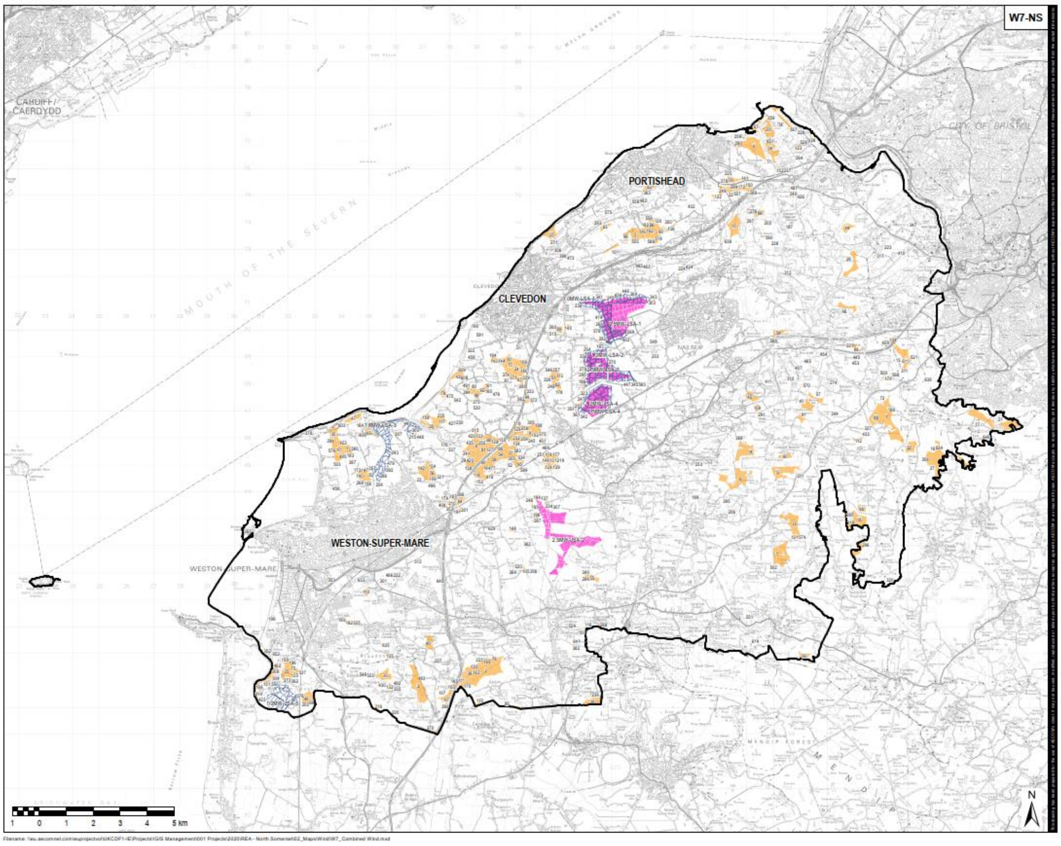


Figure 85: W7-NS: Combined Wind Search Areas in North Somerset Map

A total of 17.08km^2, 4.60 km^2 and 3.93 km^2 of land was identified as being potentially suitable for the installation of a 500kW, 1.0MW and 2.5MW wind turbines respectively. These areas comprise large parts of rural North Somerset, as can be seen in Figure 85.It should be noted these Search Areas will need to be refined further through the Local Plan process, taking into account other considerations and constraints, as part of developing a strategy for renewable energy development.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: WF-PR-5 (Refer to Table 38 in Section 17)

It is recommended that the SAs identified through the RERAS for 1MW & 2.5MW turbines are further refined and safeguarded through the Local Plan process.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: WF-PR-7 (Refer to Table 38 in Section 17)

It is recommended that proposals for wind development within areas identified through the Local Plan for 1MW and 2.5MW turbines maximise the potential resource. Where this is the case, applicants should provide evidence as to why this is not feasible or viable.

Step 8: Wind Resource Other Constraints to Consider Further

Map Reference & Title:

1. W8-NS-0.5MW: Wind Resource Other Constraints – to Consider Further
2. W8-NS-1.0MW: Wind Resource Other Constraints – to Consider Further
3. W8-NS-2.5MW: Wind Resource Other Constraints – to Consider Further

Effects of other constraints that may impact wind development within the SAs were analysed in this section of the study. However, it was agreed that these constraints would need to be examined as part of the planning balance and therefore, the identified SAs in mapping Step 6 have not been constrained further in this assessment.

W8 maps illustrate the following other constraints.

- Other woodlands (Other than Broadleaved Woodland and Ancient Woodland);
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB);
- Natural England's Impact Risk Zones for Wind Development[245] (IRZs);
- Unlicensed Aerodromes;
- Minerals Safeguarding Areas;
- National Air Traffic Control Services (NATS) Radar Safeguarding Areas;
- Aviation Safeguarded Zone;
- Flood Zones;
- National Trust Inalienable Land;
- Green Belt[246];
- Horseshoe Bat Juvenile Sustenance Zones;
- Historic England Conservation Areas;
- Consented (but not yet constructed) solar PV and wind developments which their planning permissions may have been lapsed.

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

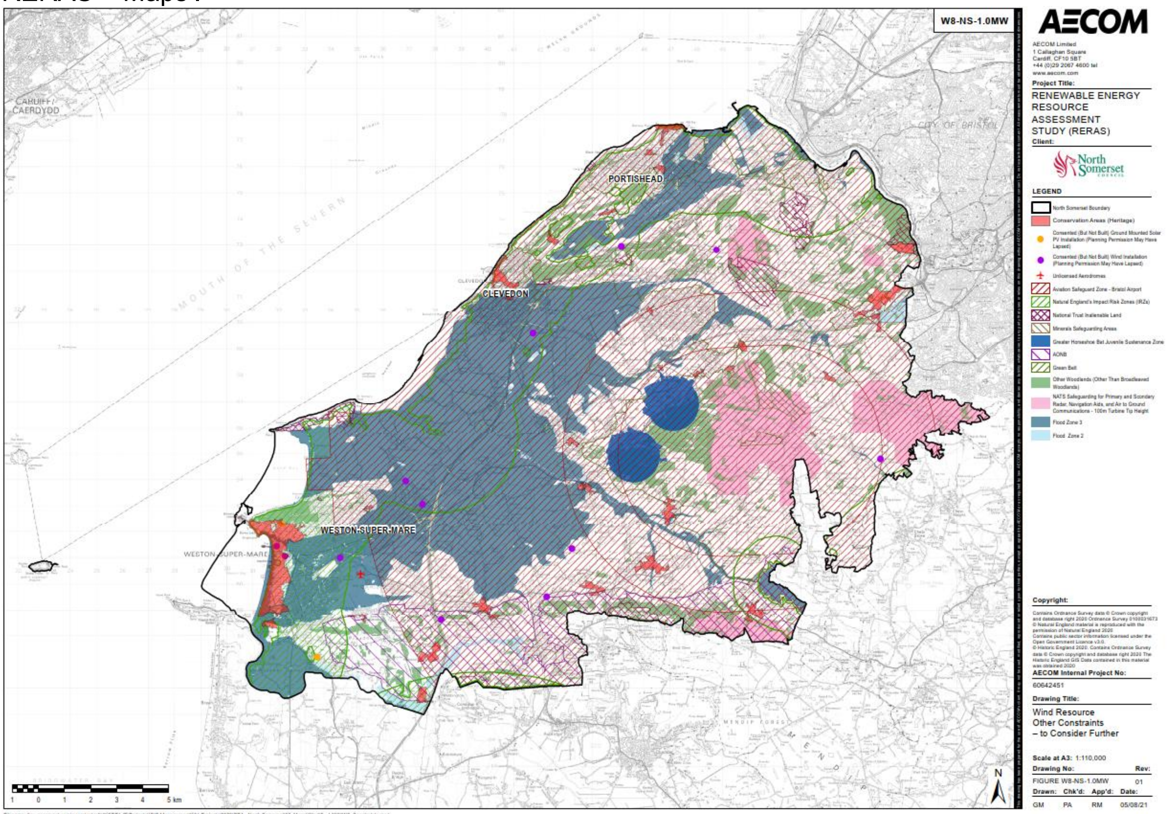


Figure 86: W8-NS-1.0MW: Wind Resource Other Constraints – to Consider Further Map

[245] Data from: https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx

[246] As stated in the NPPF, paragraph 151: *'When located in the Green Belt, elements of many renewable energy projects will comprise inappropriate development. In such cases developers will need to demonstrate very special circumstances if projects are to proceed. Such very special circumstances may include the wider environmental benefits associated with increased production of energy from renewable sources'*

Step 9: Remaining Area of Local Search Areas after Applying Selected Additional Constraints

Map References & Titles:

1. W9-NS: Wind Local Search Areas from W7 Map and Natural England's Wind Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) in North Somerset
2. W10-NS: Wind Local Search Areas from W7 Map and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in North Somerset
3. W11-NS: Wind Local Search Areas from W7 Map and Flood Zones in North Somerset
4. W12-NS: Wind Local Search Areas from W7 Map and Green Belt Area in North Somerset

The additional maps in this section of the study overlay the following other constraints on the identified wind Search Areas in Step 6 for illustrative purposes only. Table 51 provides further information regarding each map's remaining area and potential capacity if the overlapping areas covering these constraints and SAs were removed.

- Natural England's Impact Risk Zones for Wind Development (IRZs);
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB);
- Flood Zones;
- Green Belt.

Higher resolution versions of these maps are contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

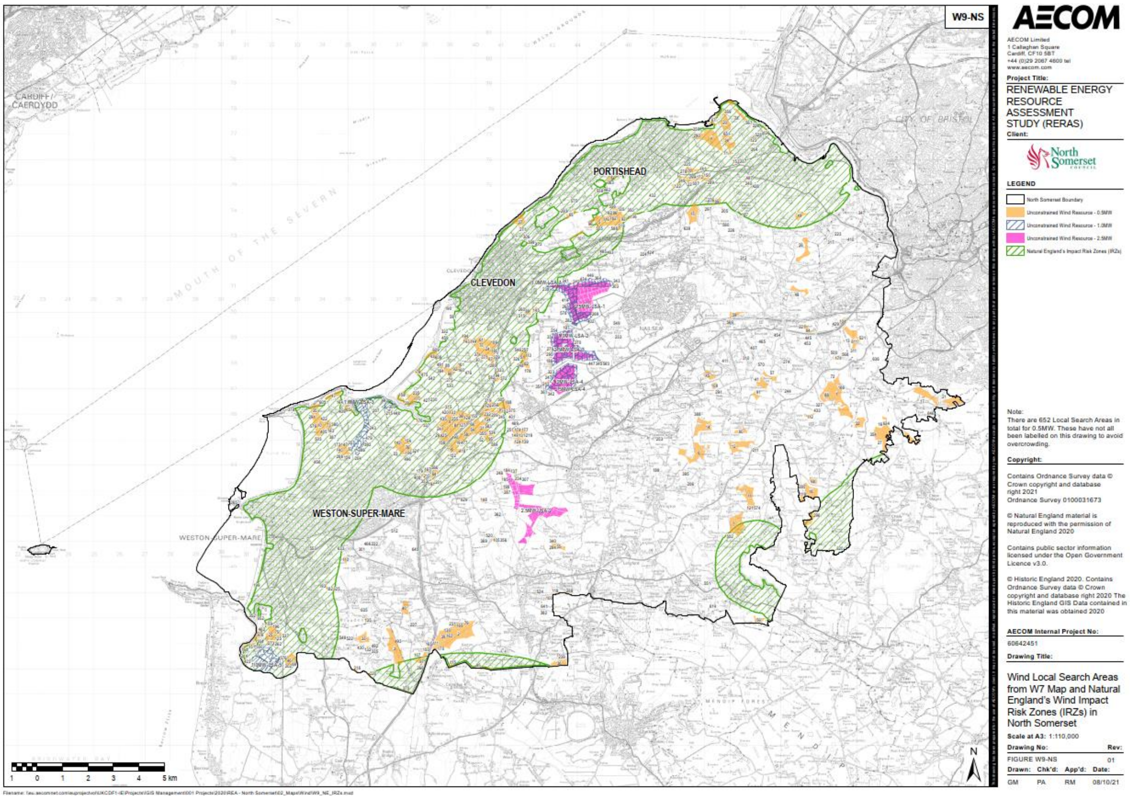


Figure 87: W9-NS: Wind Local Search Areas from W7 Map and Natural England's Wind Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) in North Somerset Map

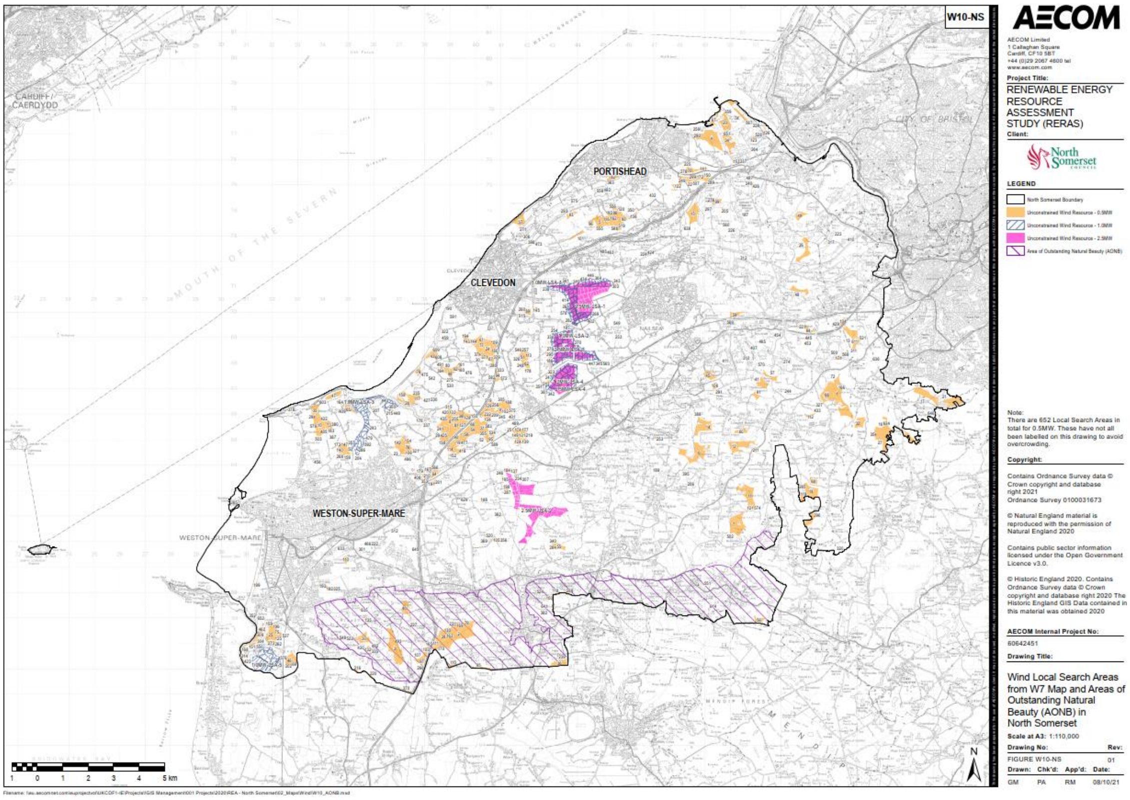


Figure 88: W10-NS: Wind Local Search Areas from W7 Map and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in North Somerset Map

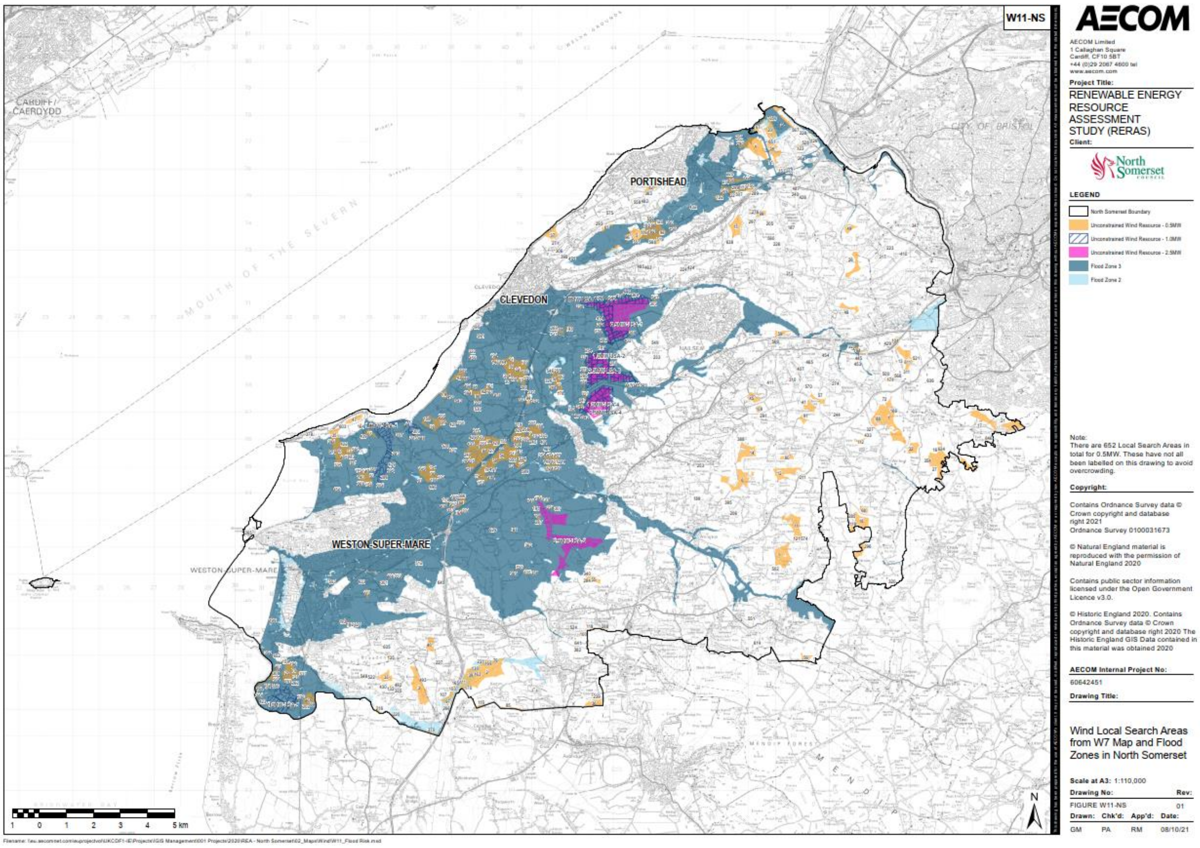


Figure 89: W11-NS: Wind Local Search Areas from W7 Map and Flood Zones in North Somerset Map

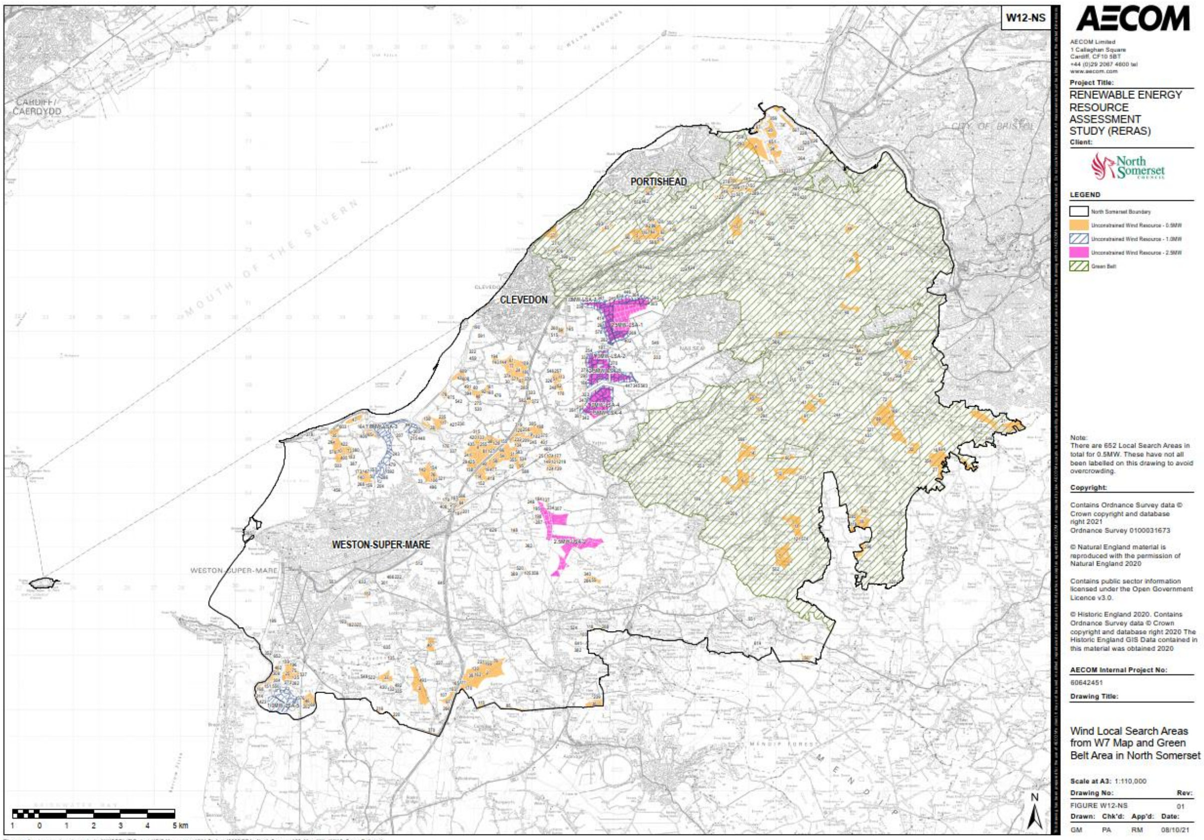


Figure 90: W12-NS: Wind Local Search Areas from W7 Map and Green Belt Area in North Somerset Map

Table 51: Remaining Area of LSAs After Applying Selected Additional Constraints for Illustrative Purposes Only

Map Reference	Notes	Additional Constraint Shown on the Map	Area of the Final Wind LSAs Identified in Step 6 (km^2)	Potential Installed Capacity of the Final Wind LSAs (MW)	Remaining LSAs if Area of the Additional Constraint Is Removed (km^2)	Remaining Potential Installed Capacity of the LSAs if Area of the Additional Constraint Is Removed (MW)
W9-NS	500kW Turbines LSAs	Natural England's IRZs for Wind	17.08	326.0[247]	8.84	168.5
W9-NS	1.0MW Turbines LSAs	Natural England's IRZs for Wind	4.60	36.80	3.10	24.80
W9-NS	2.5MW Turbines LSAs	Natural England's IRZs for Wind	3.63	35.37	3.90	35.1
W10-NS	500kW Turbines LSAs	AONB	17.08	326.0[247]	14.89	301.5
W10-NS	1.0MW Turbines LSAs	AONB	4.60	36.80	4.60	36.80
W10-NS	2.5MW Turbines LSAs	AONB	3.63	35.37	3.39	35.37
W11-NS	500kW Turbines LSAs	Flood Zones	17.08	326.0[247]	8.90	198
W11-NS	1.0MW Turbines LSAs	Flood Zones	4.60	36.80	0.12	0.96
W11-NS	2.5MW Turbines LSAs	Flood Zones	3.63	35.37	0.21	1.89
W12-NS	500kW Turbines LSAs	Green Belt	17.08	326.0[247]	9.98	141.5
W12-NS	1.0MW Turbines LSAs	Green Belt	4.60	36.80	4.50	36.00
W12-NS	2.5MW Turbines LSAs	Green Belt	3.63	35.37	3.87	34.83

Wind Search Areas and MoD and Aviation Safeguarded Areas.

Map References & Titles:

1. W13-NS-0.5MW: Wind Local Search Areas for 500kW Turbines from W6 Map and MOD, NATS and Aviation Safeguarded Zones
2. W13-NS-1.0MW: Wind Local Search Areas for 1.0MW Turbines from W6 Map and MOD, NATS and Aviation Safeguarded Zones
3. W13-NS-2.5MW: Wind Local Search Areas for 2.5MW Turbines from W6 Map and MOD, NATS and Aviation Safeguarded Zones

[247] It is assumed that one 500 kW turbine could be sited on each.

Considering the risks of interference with radar and the impact of proposed wind turbine developments on aviation operations must be considered on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, it was agreed not to add these constraints for unlicensed aerodromes in this study. However, the W13 maps are prepared to spatially indicate radar, MoD and aviation safeguarding areas and to assist developers and the Council with any dialogue/that consultation may be required with these organisations in relation to wind turbine installations. It should be noted these maps are for information only, and these restrictions must be considered in more details in the planning process. A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

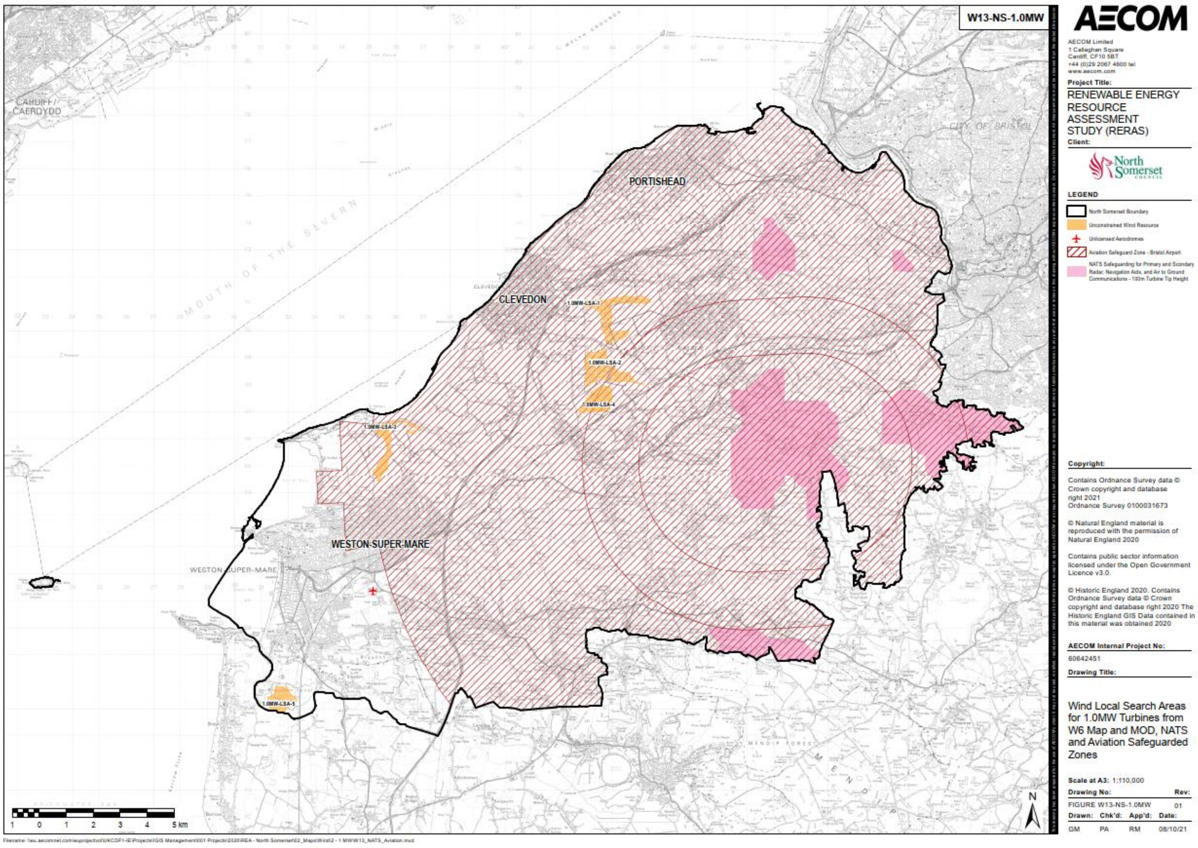


Figure 91: W13-NS-1.0MW: Wind Local Search Areas for 1.0MW Turbines from S6 Map and MOD, NATS and Aviation Safeguarded Zones[248]

Wind SAs and Conservation Areas (Heritage)

Map Reference & Title

1. W14-NS: Combined Wind Search Areas and Conservation Areas (Heritage) in North Somerset

In England, the planning authorities are obliged to designate as conservation areas any parts of their own area that are of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. Under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) conservation areas are designated heritage assets and their conservation is to be given weight in planning permission decisions[249]. Therefore, the W14 map is prepared that shows the location of the Conservation Areas in relation to the SAs to assist the Council and developers when considering renewable energy proposals. A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

[248] The W13 Maps for 500kW and 2.5MW turbines can be found in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.
[249] https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/hpg/has/conservation-areas/

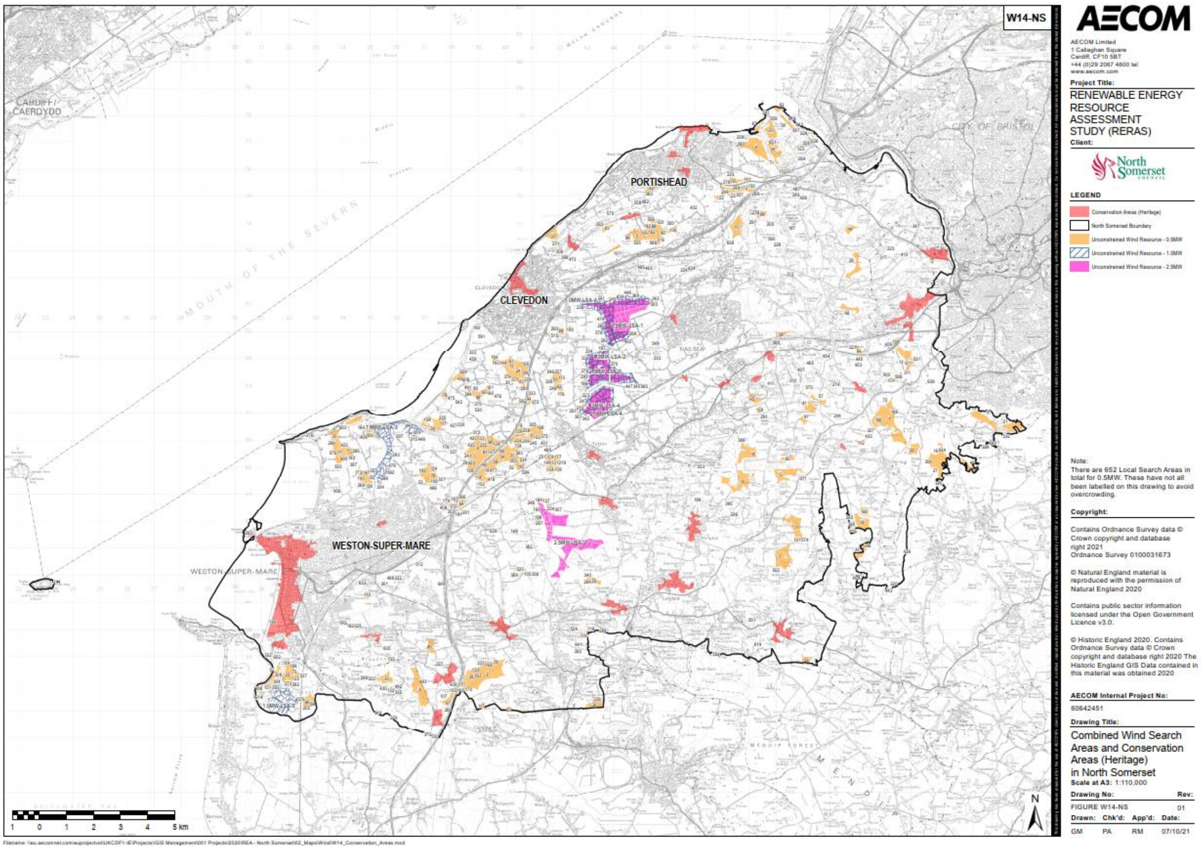


Figure 92: W14-NS: Combined Wind Search Areas and Conservation Areas (Heritage) North Somerset Map

Buffer Zones for Local Search Areas

Map References & Titles:

1. W15-NS-0.5MW: Buffer Zones for Wind Local Search Areas from 500kW Turbines
2. W15-NS-1.0MW: Buffer Zones for Wind Local Search Areas from 1.0MW Turbines
3. W15-NS-2.5MW: Buffer Zones for Wind Local Search Areas from 2.5MW Turbines

The final SAs are mapped separately for each of the turbine sizes. A buffer corresponding to each turbine size (see Table 44) was applied to the defined SAs to ensure safety requirements are incorporated in future developments.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: WF-PR-6 (Refer to Table 38 in Section 17)

It is recommended that policy measures (e.g. safeguarding) are put in place to ensure that the areas identified for wind development through the Local Plan are not sterilised by non-wind development.

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

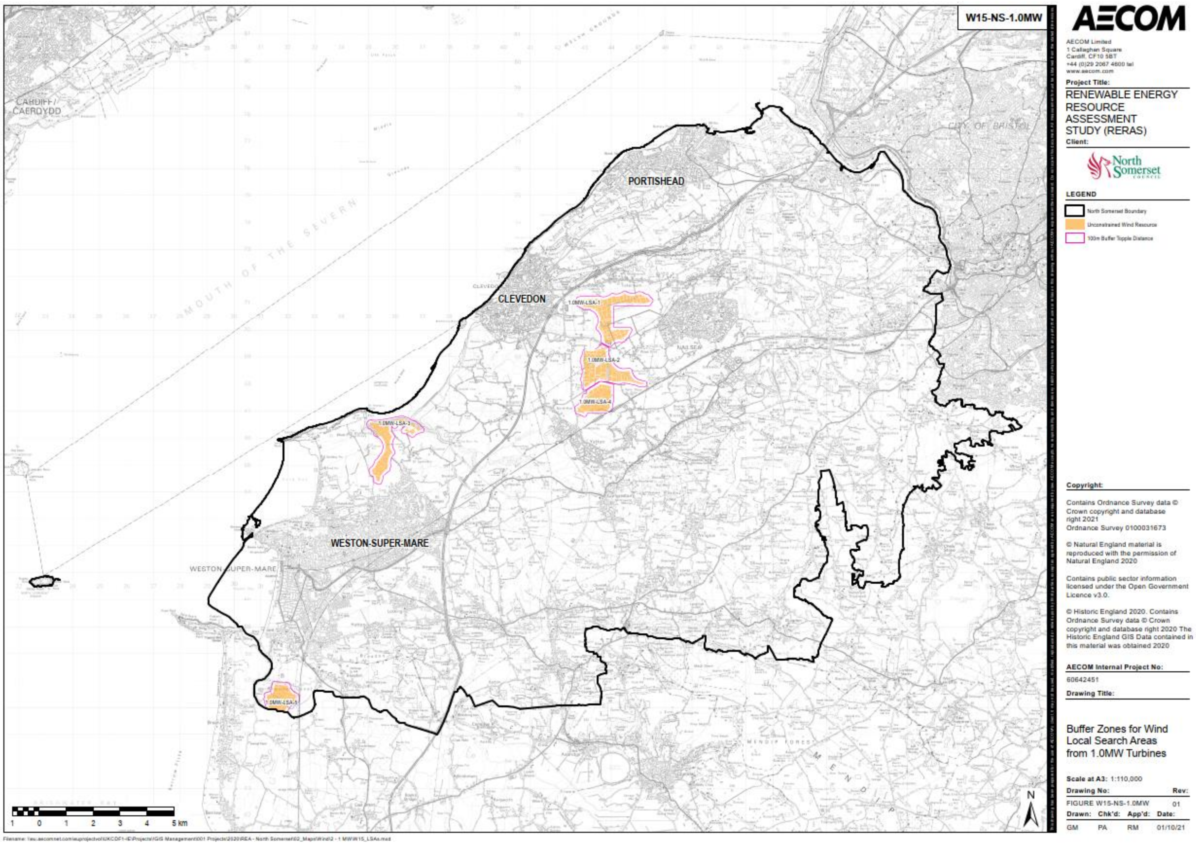


Figure 93: W15-NS-1.0MW: Buffer Zone for Wind Local Search Areas from 1.0MW Turbines Map

E.3 Pipeline Projects and Repowering Consideration

In this section of the report, data from Regen's Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES) analysis was utilised to identify the pipeline wind projects and assess the repowering potential of existing wind energy installations to increase their capacity. Project readiness of the identified local Search Areas in relation to the current grid capacity and costs of grid upgrades are considered in the next section.

The methodology used for pipeline analysis and repowering assumptions in Regen's DFES analysis is provided below.

The starting point for the pipeline analysis for wind farms was the Distribution Network Operator's (DNO's) list of projects with an accepted grid connection offer, but that have not yet progressed further than that. In Western Power Distribution's (WPD's) licence areas, the majority of such sites have accepted a connection offer in the last few years.

The stage of development for these pipeline sites was then assessed through stakeholder and industry engagement and discussion with the developers directly, where possible. The planning stage is another key factor that influences the rate at which sites connect to the electricity network; this factor tends to be of greater importance for wind farms than solar projects. Regen assumes that sites without evidence of recent activity or planning permission do not connect in the near term. It should be noted that any site with a current planning permission is shown and constrained on W2 maps (Figure 80) as consented (but not yet constructed) developments.

Additionally, an assumption was made that all wind farms at the end of their operational life are replaced with new turbines of either the same capacity or larger. Regen research showed that there is evidence from 'repowering events' to date of a large increase in capacity, sometimes doubling the initial capacity of the wind farm. The repowering assumptions in the WPD DFES 2020 were varied by scenario, but also by the age and size of a wind farm:

- Older sites with smaller capacity turbines were assumed to take advantage of improvements in technology to increase their capacity.

- Very small sites and domestic scale turbines were assumed to be replaced at the same capacity level.

WPD DFES 2020 includes four different scenarios which are summarised below[250].

1. Steady Progression

- Low levels of decarbonisation and societal change.
- Not compliant with the 2050 net zero emissions target.

2. System Transformation

- High level of decarbonisation with lower societal change. Larger, more centralised solutions are developed. This scenario has the highest levels of hydrogen deployment.

3. Consumer Transformation

- High levels of decarbonisation and societal change. Consumers adopt new technologies rapidly, and more decentralised solutions are developed. This scenario has significant electrification of domestic heat.

4. Leading the Way

- Very high levels of decarbonisation and societal change. Consumers adopt new technologies rapidly, and a mix of solutions are developed. This scenario aims for the “fastest credible” decarbonisation pathway

No pipeline projects or repowering in relation to wind development have been identified in North Somerset. It should be noted that any site with current planning permission is shown and constrained on W2 maps as consented (but not yet constructed) developments

E.4 Proximity to Grid and Grid Capacity

Map Reference & Title:

1. W16-NS-1.0MW - 1.0MW Wind Search Areas and Grid Connection

Whilst private wire schemes are an option, and some already exist in the UK, onshore wind farms usually have a connection to the grid to export electricity, albeit with increasing curtailments.

Consideration of a viable connection point is an important factor when considering sites for new wind energy development. The cost of a grid connection depends on the distance to the nearest connection point the works needed to make that connection (there can be a number of complexities such as land ownership issues, whether the dig is hard or soft, etc) and the availability of capacity in the distribution network to take the additional power output. For this study, grid connection is assumed to be a discussion matter for national-level decision-makers and has not been used to constrain wind energy generation potential. In addition, as renewable deployment is a national priority, it is assumed that the grid requirement will be met to allow for sufficient additional capacity.

However, a high-level analysis exercise has been undertaken in consultation with the Distribution Network Operator, Western Power Distribution (WPD), to rank the 1.0MW and 2.5MW SAs and assess their project readiness based on the network capacity maps and connection points at the time of writing. The Search Areas are ranked from low priority (coloured red in the maps) to high priority (coloured blue in the maps), with high priority being most favourable for a new connection to the grid as shown in Figure 94 and Figure 95.

[250] https://www.westernpower.co.uk/downloads-view-reciteme/228118

Figure 94: SAs Proximity to Grid and Grid Capacity Ranking Key (Refer to W16 Maps in Accompanying Document 'North Somerset RERAS - Maps')

This ranking has only been taken as a single snapshot based on the latest information. It does not account for any future reinforcement that may be triggered by other new connections or condition-based replacement. Increases or decreases in future demand may also affect capacity and have not been considered within this study. Sites over 1MW may be required to go through the Statement of Works process to confirm acceptance of the connection on the transmission network.

Network access may be accelerated or achieved with reduced costs by progressing an alternative connection, which allows export to be limited at times of high export from other users.

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

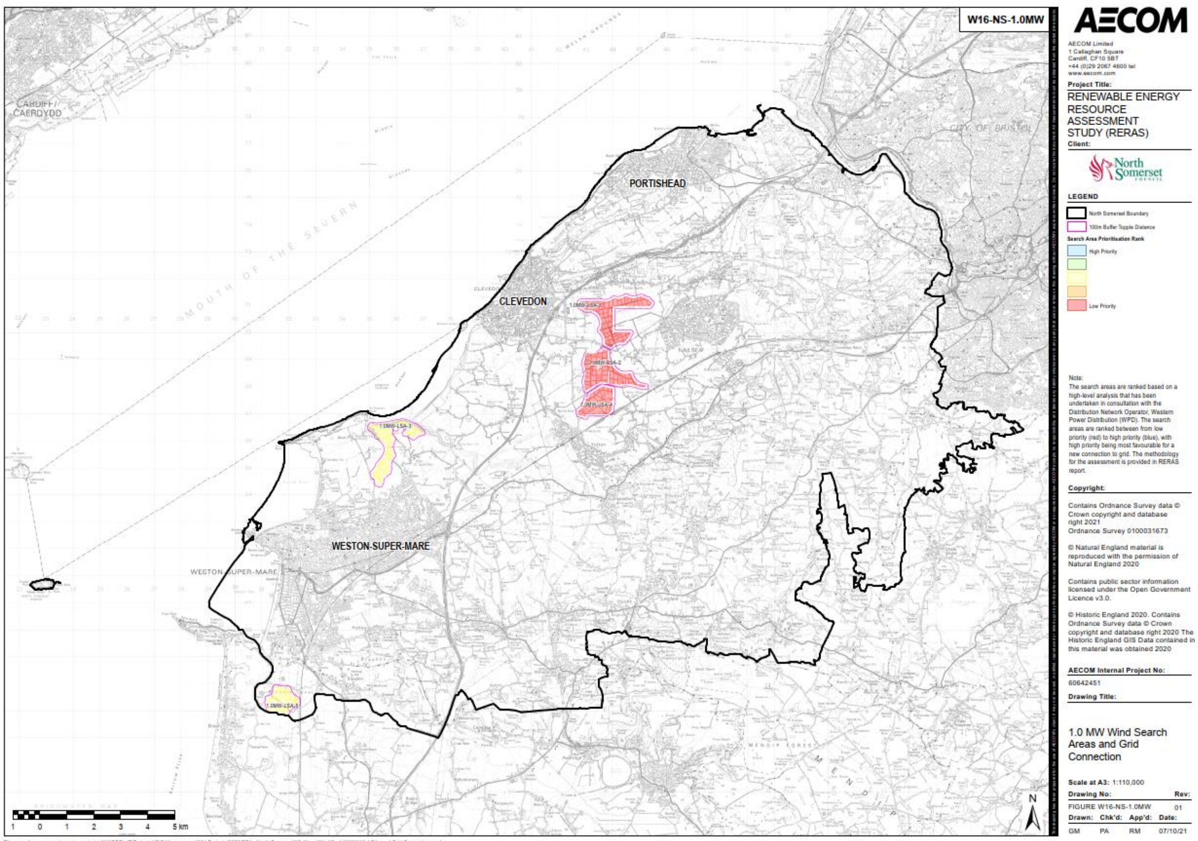


Figure 95: W16-NS-1.0MW: 1.0MW Wind Search Areas and Grid Connection Map

E.5 Landscape Sensitively Assessment

1. W17-NS-500kW: Wind Local Search Areas for 500 kW Wind Turbines from W6 map and Landscape Sensitivity Results in Band C (61 to 100) in North Somerset Map

2. W17-NS-1MW: Wind Local Search Areas for 1 MW Wind Turbines from W6 map and Landscape Sensitivity Results in Band D (101 to 150) in North Somerset Map

3. W17-NS-2.5MW: Wind Local Search Areas for 2.5 MW Wind Turbines from W6 map and Landscape Sensitivity Results in Band D (101 to 150) in North Somerset Map

An additional parameter that can be considered in prioritising the Search Areas is Landscape Character Areas and the sensitivity of these landscapes to new wind farm developments. A flowchart presenting the steps taken in completing mapping the results of a landscape sensitivity for wind farms is shown in Figure 96.

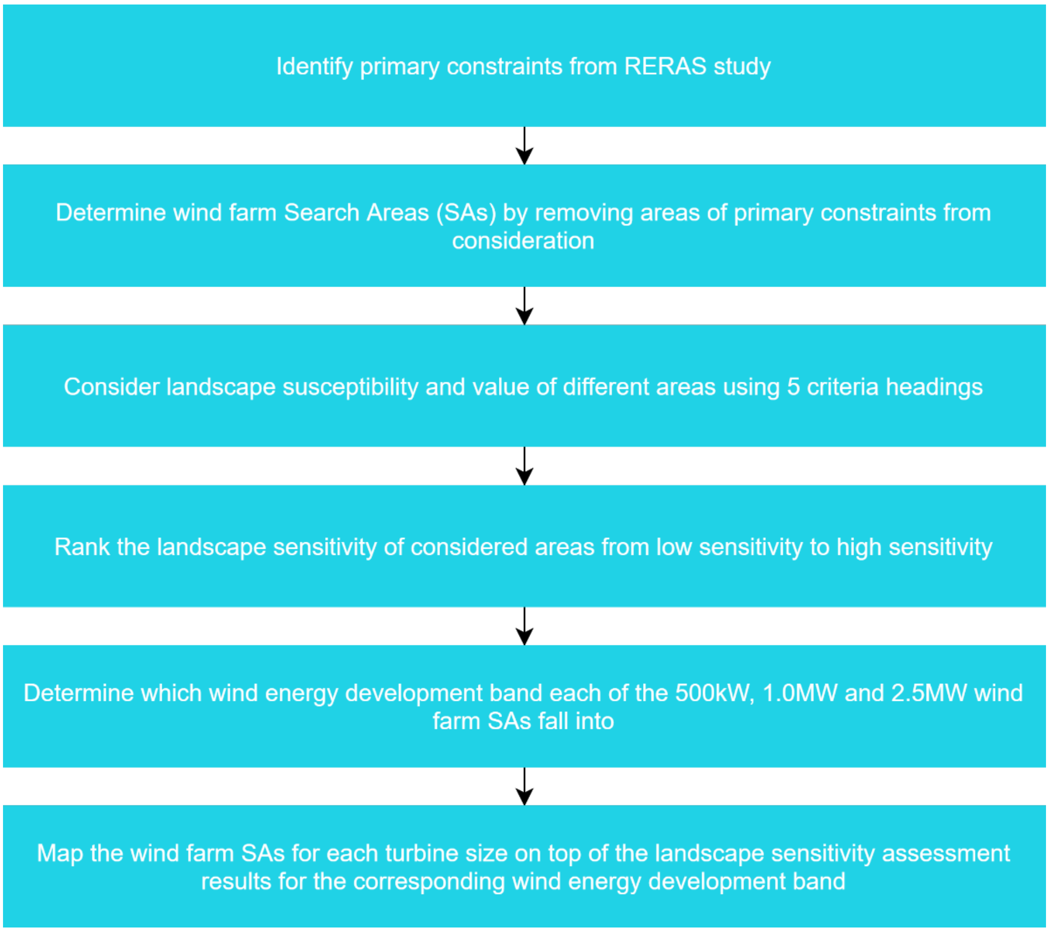


Figure 96: Steps Taken in Landscape Sensitivity Study for Wind Farm Search Areas

Land Use Consultants (LUC) has conducted a landscape sensitivity assessment for wind energy development as part of this RERAS. Results of the assessment provide an initial indication of the relative landscape sensitivity of different areas within North Somerset to accommodate wind farm energy developments. The findings of the study, combined with the identified Search Areas (SAs), are presented in this section of the report. The landscape sensitivity assessment considers the landscape susceptibility[251] and landscape value[252] using 5 criteria headings:

i) Landform and scale (including sense of openness / enclosure);

ii) Landcover (including field and settlement patterns);

iii) Historic landscape character;

iv) Visual character (including skylines); and

v) Perceptual and scenic qualities.

Once the above criteria were assessed individually, the results were combined to produce an overall sensitivity level, as shown in Table 52.

[251] How vulnerable the landscape is to change from the type being assessed, in this case solar PV and wind energy developments

[252] Consensus about importance, which can be recognised through designation as well as through descriptions within the 2014 Landscape Character Assessment

Table 52: The Five-Point Scale Landscape Sensitivity Scale

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High (H)	Key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are highly vulnerable to change from wind and solar energy development. Such development is likely to result in a significant change in character.
Moderate High (M H)	Key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are vulnerable to change from wind and solar energy development. There may be some limited opportunity to accommodate wind turbines/ solar panels without significantly changing landscape character. Great care would be needed in siting and design.
Moderate (M)	Some of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are vulnerable to change. Although the landscape may have some ability to absorb wind and solar energy development, it is likely to cause a degree of change in character. Care would be needed in siting and design.
	Fewer of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are vulnerable to change. The landscape is likely to be able to accommodate wind and solar energy development with limited change in character. Care is still needed when siting and designing to avoid adversely affecting key characteristics.
Low (L)	Key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are robust in that they can withstand change from the introduction of wind turbines and solar panels. The landscape is likely to be able to accommodate wind and solar energy development without a significant change in character. Care is still needed when siting and designing these developments to ensure best fit with the landscape.

Additionally, the assessment considers the suitability of different turbine heights (to blade tip), based on bandings that reflect those most likely to be put forward by developers (now and in the future). These are set out in Table 53 below.

Table 53: Wind Turbine Development Sizes Considered in the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Wind Energy Development Banding	Turbine Height (to blade tip)
Band A	18 – 25m
Band B	26 – 60m
Band C	61 – 100m
Band D	101 – 150m

The complete assessment methodology and results of a landscape sensitively assessment is included in the accompanying document ‘Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Solar PV and Wind Energy Development – Prepared by LUC – 2021’.

W17 maps show the landscape sensitivity assessment results overlayed on the identified wind farm Search Areas respectively. The figures rank the areas considered for the landscape sensitivity study in line with the sensitivity levels shown in Table 52 and provide guidance on the potential effects of different scale wind development on the landscape. Higher resolution versions of these maps including 500kW, 1MW and 2.5MW turbine wind SAs are contained in the accompanying document ‘North Somerset RERAS – Maps’. Table 54 and

Table 55 below present the results of the landscape sensitively assessment for 1.0MW and 2.5MW wind SAs.

Table 54: Individual Identified 1.0MW Wind SAs in North Somerset and Their Landscape Sensitivity Levels

SA Reference on Maps	Sensitivity Level
1.0MW-1	High
1.0MW-2	High
1.0MW-3	Moderate High
1.0MW-4	Moderate High
1.0MW-5	High

Table 55: Individual Identified 2.5MW Wind SAs in North Somerset and Their Landscape Sensitivity Levels

SA Reference on Maps	Sensitivity Level	
2.5MW-1	High	
2.5MW-2	Moderate High	High
2.5MW-3	High	
2.5MW-4	Moderate High	

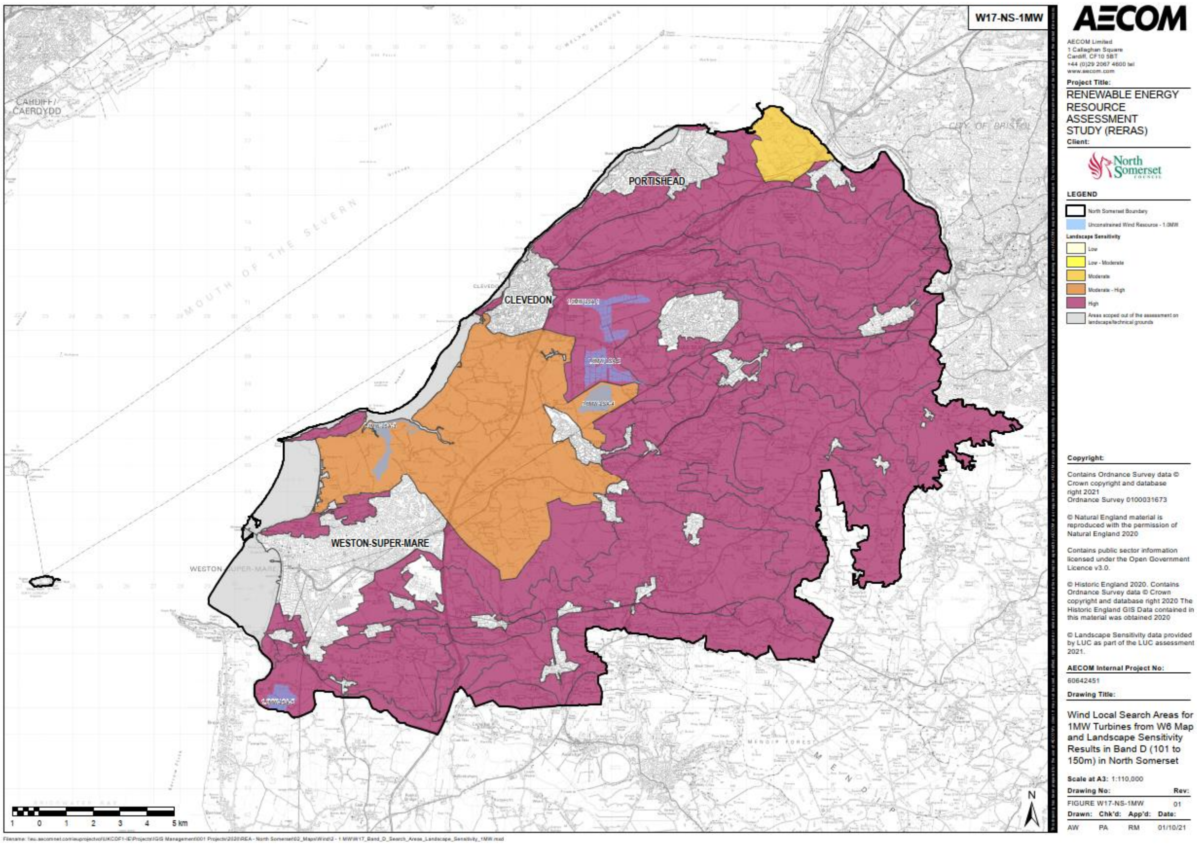


Figure 97: W17-NS-1MW: Wind Local Search Areas for 1 MW Wind Turbines from W6 map and Landscape Sensitivity Results in Band D (101 to 150) in North Somerset Map

E.6 Further Constraints to Wind Energy Sites

Further constraints to onshore wind development not considered within this RERAS may include (and this is not meant to be an exhaustive list):

- Practical access to sites required for development.
- Landowner willingness for development to go ahead.
- Planning policies out of the UA's control;
- Community support; and
- Time to complete planning procedures.

E.7 Potential Opportunities for Future Development

Wind generation has the potential to be a significant source of renewable energy generation in North Somerset, with the identification of:

- 652 SAs for small (500kW) turbines;
- 5 SAs for medium (1.0MW) turbines; and

- 4 SAs for large (2.5MW) SAs.

Additionally, SAs have been further ranked (for information purposes only) using the WPD grid connection analysis and the LUC landscape sensitivity assessment. The WPD grid connection analysis can be used to identify the most favourable locations when considering updates to the grid. The LUC landscape sensitivity assessment can be used to guide the Council to the locations that will have the least impact on the landscape.

The W7 map (Figure 85) highlights a considerable overlap of 1.0MW and 2.5MW SAs, with there being significant opportunities for 500kW turbine installations across the North Somerset.

The only other technology addressed in this study with the potential to produce more renewable electricity was solar PV.

Due to the benefits of wind developments (typically greater CO_2 saving per square metre) as well as the relatively smaller number of sites (and area) for such development as opposed to solar, consideration should be given to protecting such sites solely for wind development as well as against sterilisation from other forms of nearby development.

Moreover, the effects of other constraints such as AONB and Green Belt areas that may impact wind development that would need to be examined as part of the Local Plan process were analysed and included in the study as information to assist the Council in developing its proposed policy approach. The additional maps also cover radar, MoD and aviation safeguarding as well as Conservation Areas (Heritage) to assist developers and councils with any dialogue/that consultation that may be required with these organisations regarding wind turbine installations.

Appendix F : Wind Energy Primary Resource Constraints Table

The detailed data sources and assumptions can be found in the table below.

Constraint	Buffer	Notes
Special Protection Areas (SPA) and foraging buffers	Extent only	
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	Extent only	
RAMSAR sites	Extent only	
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	Extent only	
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Extent only	
Scheduled Monuments	Extent only	
Listed Buildings, noise buffers have been applied if the building is residential	Extent only (including noise buffer if the building is a dwelling)	Refer to Wind Turbines specifications tables for Topple distances
Registered Historic Parks and Gardens	Extent only	
Ancient Woodlands [253]	15m	The buffer has been applied to avoid root damage
Broadleaved Woodland	15m	The buffer has been applied to avoid root damage
Major transport infrastructure – topple distances buffers have been applied.	Turbines Topple Distance+10	Refer to Wind Turbines specifications tables for Topple distances
Minor transport infrastructure – topple distances buffers have been applied.	Turbines Topple Distance+10%	Refer to Wind Turbines specifications tables for Topple distances
Existing buildings	Extent only	
Dwellings (including all buildings in the neighbouring authorities)	Wind Turbines noise buffers have been applied	Refer to Wind Turbines specifications tables for noise buffers
Watercourses – including major, secondary, and minor rivers, canals and lakes; - a 2 meter buffer has been applied to rivers and streams	2m	
MoD Sites	Extent only	
Bristol Airport Safety Zone	Extent only	
Helicopter Flightpath	Extent only	
Officially Safeguarded Aerodromes	Extent only	
Operational and consented (but not yet constructed) renewables energy development sites (solar PV and wind)	Extent only	
Active mines/quarries	Extent only	
Local Nature Reserves	Extent only	

[253] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licences

Appendix G : Wind Energy Resource Other Constraints Table

It was agreed that these constraints would need to be examined as part of the planning balance and therefore, have not been constrained further in this assessment.

Constraint	Buffer	Notes
Other woodlands (Other than Broadleaved Woodland and Ancient Woodland)	Extent only	
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Extent only	
Natural England's Impact Risk Zones for Wind Development (IRZs)	Extent only	
Unlicensed Aerodromes	Extent only	
Minerals Safeguarding Areas	Extent only	
National Air Traffic Control Services (NATS) Radar Safeguarding Areas	Extent only	
Aviation Safeguarded Zone	Extent only	
Flood Zones	Extent only	
National Trust Inalienable Land	Extent only	
Green Belt[254]	Extent only	
Historic England Conservation Areas	Extent only	
Consented (but not yet constructed) solar PV and wind developments where their planning permissions may have lapsed.	Extent only	
Greater Horseshoe Bat Juvenile Sustenance Zone	Extent only	

[254] As stated in the NPPF, paragraph 151: *'When located in the Green Belt, elements of many renewable energy projects will comprise inappropriate development. In such cases developers will need to demonstrate very special circumstances if projects are to proceed. Such very special circumstances may include the wider environmental benefits associated with increased production of energy from renewable sources'*

Appendix H : Solar PV Farms Methodology

H.1 Introduction

This section provides details of the assessment of the potential for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Farms within North Somerset.

PV solar cells/ panels generate renewable electricity from the direct conversion of solar irradiation. PV is recognised as one of the key technologies in meeting the UK target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Electricity will be increasingly important in supporting net zero delivery, potentially providing around half of the UK's final energy demand as its use for heat and in transport increases[255].

In 2019, 28% of renewable installations across the UK were solar PV in terms of installed capacity. This figure is expected to increase due to a high level of interest in larger stand-alone (ground-mounted) installations[256].

The Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) -formerly the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) defines a “stand-alone” installation as a “solar photovoltaic electricity generating facility that is not wired through a building, or if it is wired through a building, the building does not have the ability to use 10% or more of the electricity generated”.

The FiT scheme was a programme designed to promote the uptake of renewable and low-carbon energy generation technologies under 5MW.

In 2019, 28% of renewable installations across the UK installed capacity were solar PV in terms of installed capacity. This figure is expected to increase due to the falling costs of PV modules leading to increasing viability of subsidy-free ground-mounted solar installations[257]. It should also be noted that larger PV installations are more economically viable.

The Contracts for Difference (CfD) scheme is the Government’s main mechanism for supporting new low carbon electricity generation projects. The scheme is being updated to support the UK’s 2050 net zero target delivery whilst simultaneously minimising consumer costs[258].

This section provides the approach to a high-level assessment of the potential solar resource for ‘stand-alone’ PV farms. It is primarily concerned with identifying opportunities for solar PV development of larger than 5MW.

H.2 Mapping

Maps have been produced to illustrate the results. These maps show the application of the method and identify the primary constraints and opportunities. The flowchart shown in Figure 98 shows the processes taken and the output maps at each stage of the mapping process. More detail on the series of steps is provided in this section.

[255] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/943714/Modelling-2050-Electricity-System-Analysis.pdf
[256] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics
[257] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics
[258] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/945301/cfd-cm-scheme-update-2020.pdf

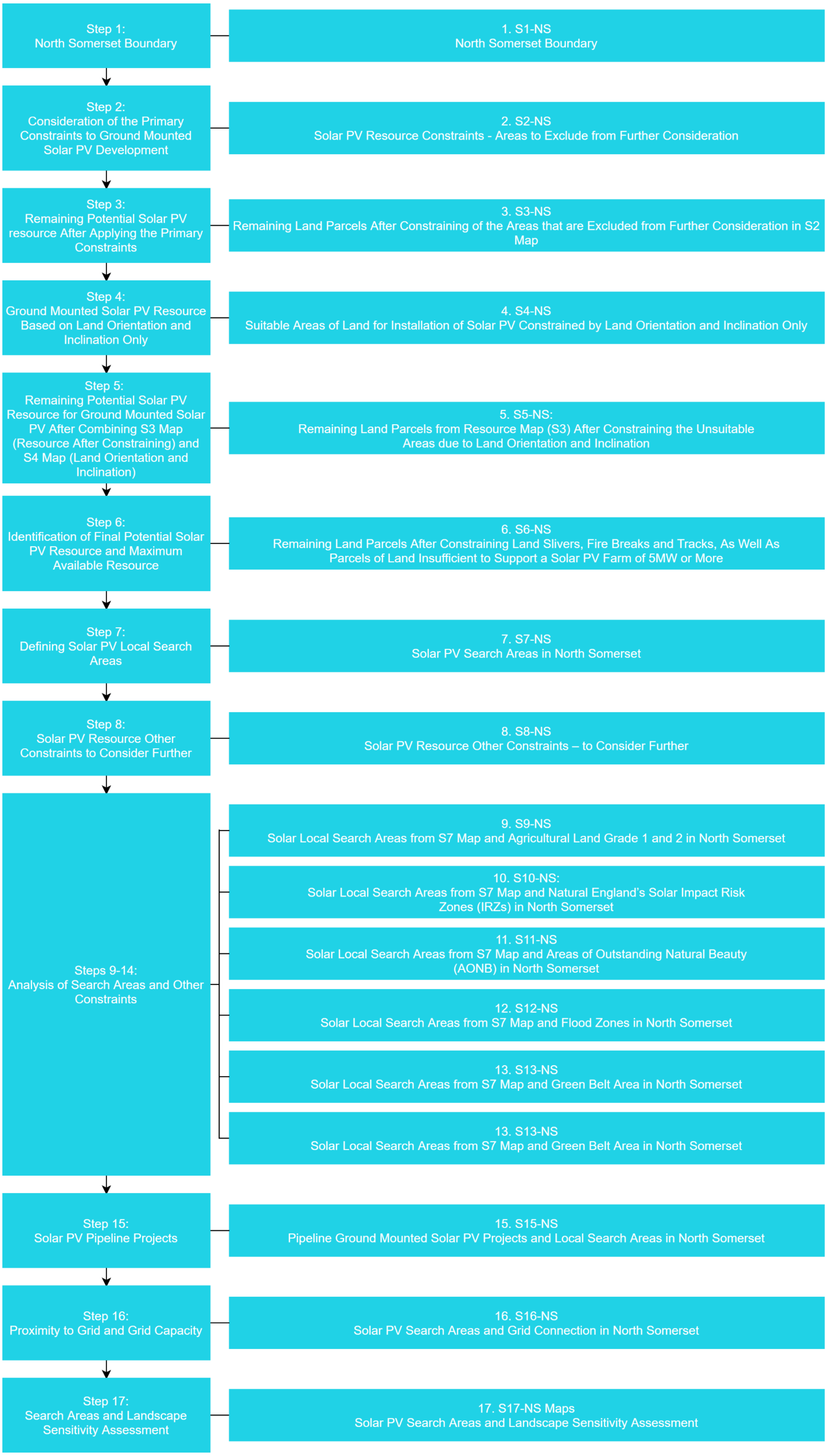


Figure 98: Flowchart of Solar PV Resource Mapping Process

Throughout, reference is made to titles and reference numbers to correspond with maps. Screenshots of these maps are included throughout this section. Higher-resolution maps are contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset Renewable Energy Resource Assessment Study – Maps'.

Step1: North Somerset Boundary

Map Reference and Title:

1. S1-NS: North Somerset Boundary

This map shows the North Somerset boundary. A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

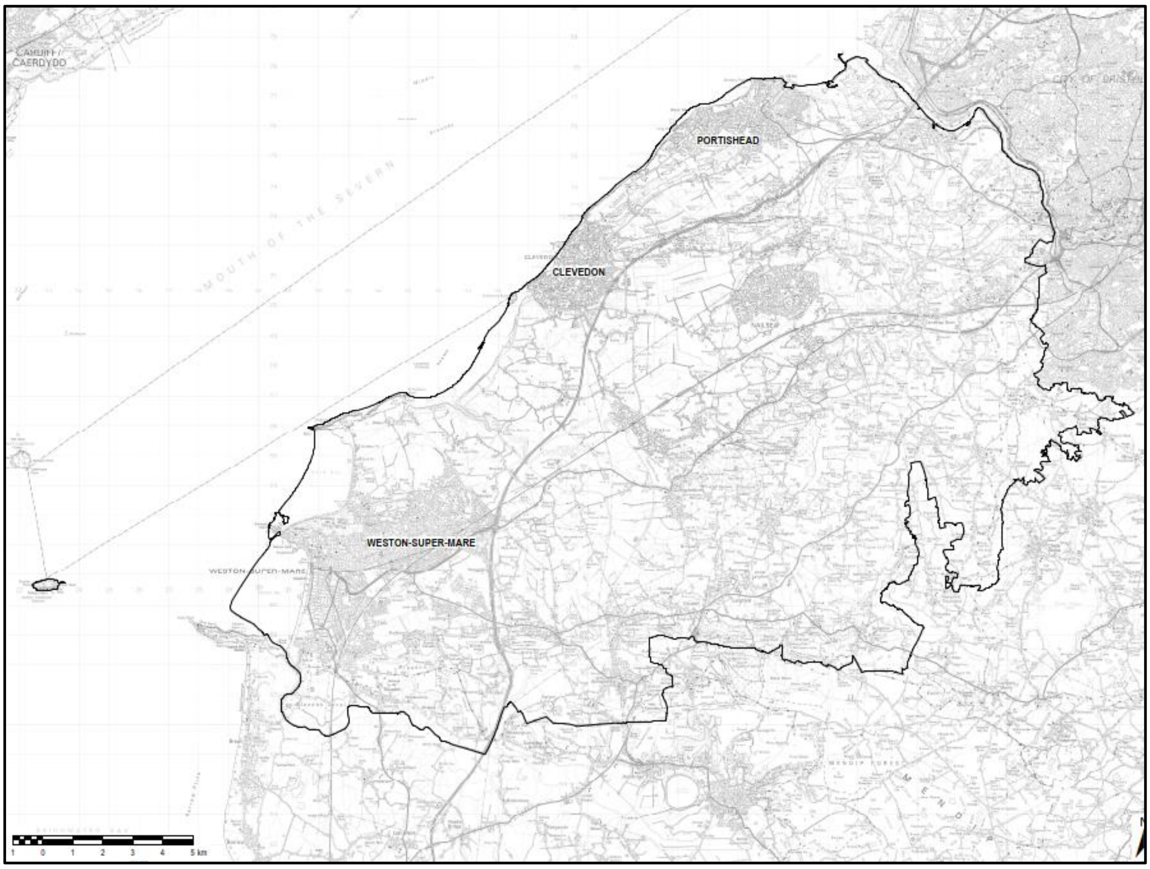


Figure 99: North Somerset Boundary Map

Step 2: Consideration of the Primary Constraints to Ground Mounted Solar PV Development

Map References & Titles:

1. S2-NS: Solar PV Resource Constraints - Areas to Exclude from Further Consideration

The purpose of this step was to identify the maximum potential for solar PV farm installation across North Somerset through the identification of constrained areas.

Therefore, consideration was given to the primary constraints associated with restrictions to solar energy development. A comprehensive table of the constraints is given in Appendix I. The solar PV farm S2 constraints map illustrates the primary constraints to the development/ deployment of solar PV farms in North Somerset. For mapping purposes, the constraints, except where specifically stated, relate to the designation's extent only with no additional buffer distances applied.

The primary constraints applied to the maps in Step 2 were as follows:

- Special Protection Areas (SPA);

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC);

- RAMSAR sites;
- National Nature Reserves (NNR);
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
- Scheduled Monuments;
- Listed Buildings; and
- Registered Historic Parks and Gardens.

Many of the 'buffer distances', applied in the maps, are specifically linked to minimising potential impacts upon people or infrastructure through the application of buffers in the mapping exercise. The extent of the buffer areas is informed directly by the nature/extent of the natural/built environment and the characteristics of the generating technology. This assessment was based on constraints associated with a typical 5MW solar PV array[259].

The following constraints and their buffer distances (where one has been applied) were considered:

- Ancient Woodlands – a 15-meter buffer has been applied to avoid root damage[260];
- Broadleaved Woodland – a 15-meter buffer has been applied to avoid root damage[261];
- Major transport infrastructure;
- Minor transport infrastructure;
- Existing buildings/settlements;
- Watercourses – including major, secondary, and minor rivers, canals, and lakes; - a 2-meter buffer has been applied to rivers and streams;
- Ministry of Defence (MoD) Sites;
- Operational and consented (but not yet constructed) renewables energy development sites (solar PV and wind);
- Active mines/quarries; and
- Local Nature Reserves.

It should be noted that, whilst the above issues have been considered in the selection of the SAs, the SAs remain subject to further investigation based on information provided in this report (e.g. grid connection or landscape sensitivity) or other site specific characteristics through the Local Plan process as part of developing a strategy for renewable energy development.

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

[259] It should be noted that this does not preclude the potential development / deployment of larger or smaller PV farms across the UA area.

[260] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licences

[261] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/226175/renewable_and_low_carbon_energy_capacity_methodology_jan2010.pdf

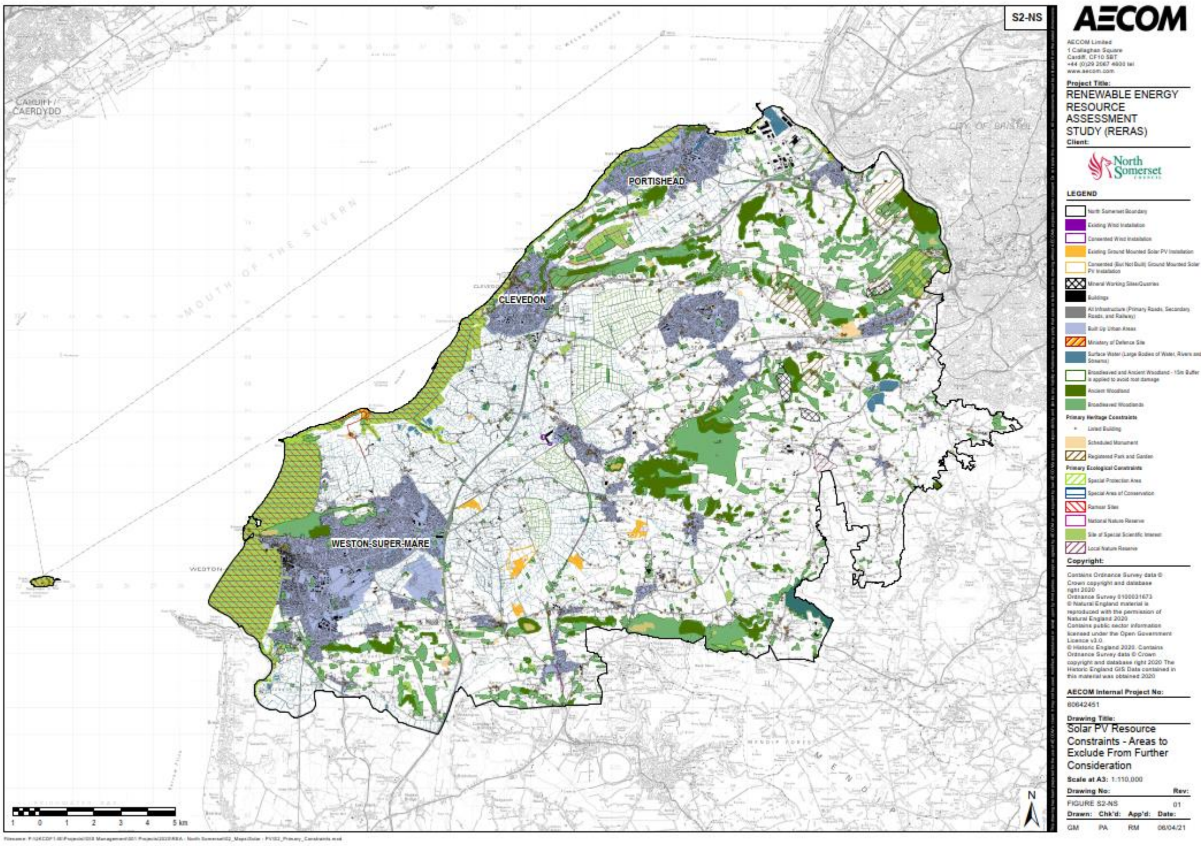


Figure 100: S2-NS: Solar PV Resource Constraints - Areas to Exclude from Further Consideration Map

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: SF-PR-4 (Refer to Table 39 in Section 17)

It is recommended that proposals for re-powering of solar PV farms at end-of-life to an equal or increased capacity to be encouraged and permitted, subject to compliance with primary constraints, site specific constraints, and other policy considerations.

Step 3: Remaining Land Parcels After Applying the Constraints

Map Reference & Title:

1. S3-NS: Remaining Land Parcels After Constraining of the Areas that are Excluded from Further Consideration in S2 Map

S3 map shows the remaining solar PV resource[262] after removing the areas that were constrained in Step 2 of the mapping process. Table 56 summarises this information.

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document ‘North Somerset RERAS – Maps’.

[262] Labelled as “Unconstrained Land” on S3 map

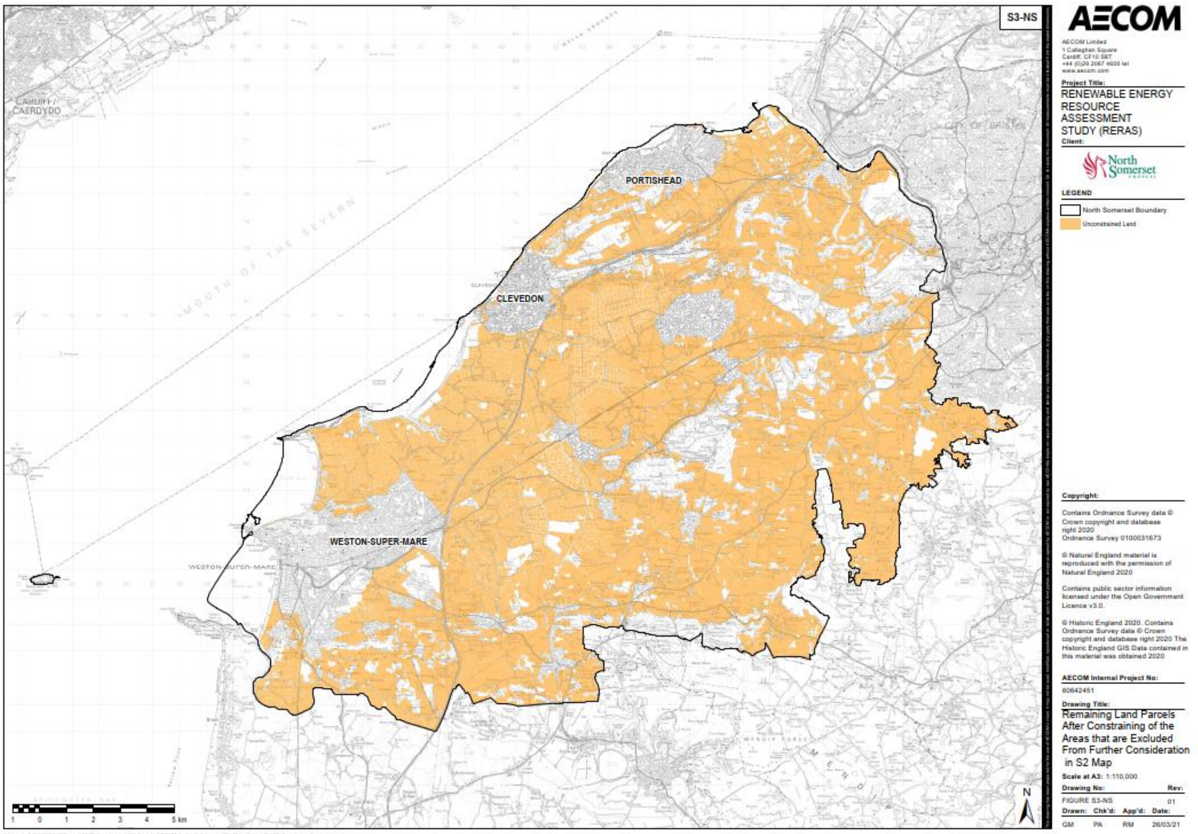


Figure 101: S3-NS: Remaining Land Parcels After Constraining of the Areas that are Excluded from Further Consideration in S2 Map

Table 56: Remaining Land Available for Ground Mounted Solar PV Farms at this Stage of the Assessment and Potential Total Installed Capacity Based on the Available Area

Map Reference	Remaining Available Land Area (km^2)	Potential Total Installed Capacity (MW)
S3-NS	233.9	9,745.4[263]

Step 4: Ground Mounted Solar PV Resource Based on Land Orientation and Inclination

Map Reference & Title:

1. S4-NS: Suitable Areas of Land for Installation of Solar PV Constrained by Land Orientation and Inclination Only

The areas shown on the S4 map were only constrained by the ability of the technology to utilise the available resource based on land orientations and inclinations.

The performance of a PV panel system is directly related to the inclination, orientation and degree of shading of the panels. For the purposes of identifying the areas suitable for PV farm development, assumptions were made on the suitability of slope gradient and orientation for PV deployment which are summarised in this section. At this stage of the study, a fixed frame PV panel was assumed.

Using data from Ordnance Survey[264], AECOM created a data layer for the North Somerset area showing orientation of slope and potential for shading. The following assumptions were applied in this study:

[263] According to the DECC UK Solar PV Strategy Part 1: 'Roadmap to a Brighter Future', the land area required for a 1MW fixed-tilt PV array is approximately 6acres (or 2.4Ha or 0.024km^2).
[264] Ordnance Survey, Terrain 50 dataset

Table 57: Suitability of Sites for PV Installation at Varying Inclinations

Suitability of Sites	Inclinations
All suitable:	Inclinations between 0-3 degrees from the horizontal (red coloured areas on S3 map)
Only south-west to south east facing areas are suitable. All other orientations are considered constrained	Inclinations between 3-15 degrees from the horizontal (orange coloured areas on S4 map).
All constrained	Inclinations >15 degrees from the horizontal

All areas with inclinations of 0-3° from the horizontal were assumed suitable and optimum (red coloured areas on S4 maps). For the areas with inclinations between 3-15° from the horizontal, only south-west to south-east facing areas were assumed to be suitable (amber areas on S4 maps). All other areas were deemed unsuitable for ground-mounted solar PV installation. Table 58 presents the results of this analysis.

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

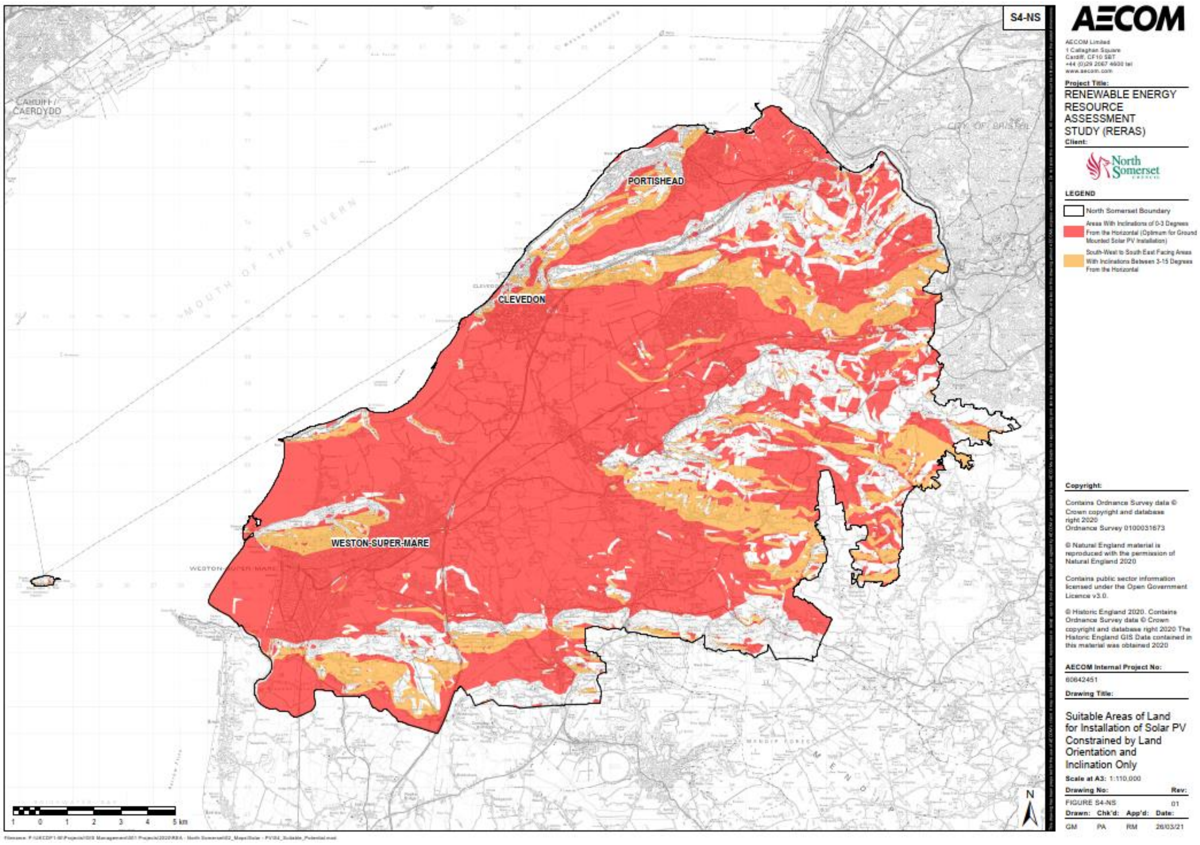


Figure 102: S4-NS: Suitable Areas of Land for Installation of Solar PV Constrained by Land Orientation and Inclination Only Map

Table 58: Resource Area for Ground Mounted Solar PV Based on Land Orientation and Inclination Only

Map Reference	Total Area of North Somerset (km^2)	Resource Area for PV (km^2)	Percentage of Total Area
S4-NS	390.70	302.17	77.3%

Step 5: Remaining Available Land for Ground Mounted Solar PV After Combining S3 Map (Resource After Constraining) and S4 Map (Land Orientation and Inclination)

Map Reference & Title:

1. S5-NS Remaining Land Parcels from Resource Map (S3) After Constraining the Unsuitable Areas due to Land Orientation and Inclination

At this stage of the assessment, unsuitable areas due to inappropriate land orientation and inclination were removed from S3 maps and presented. Table 59 below shows the remaining solar PV resource[265] at this stage and its potential total installed capacity.

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

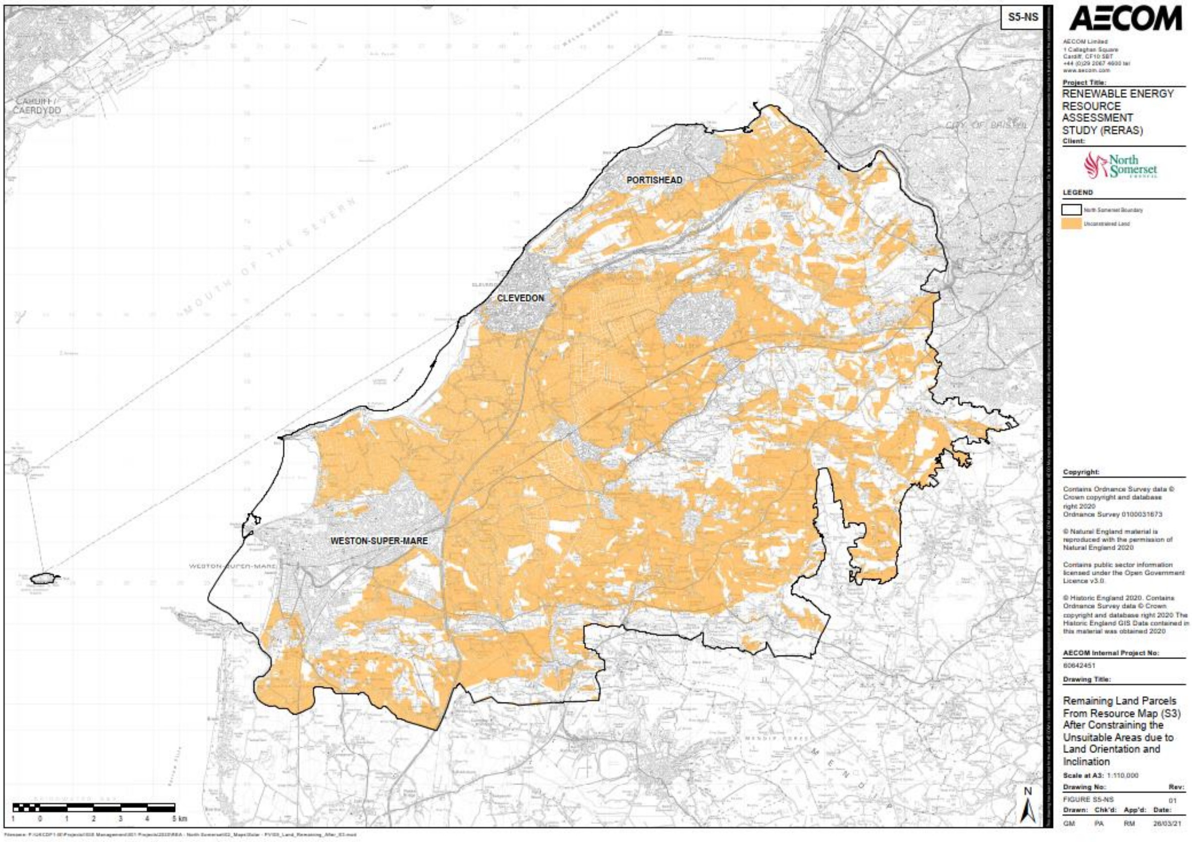


Figure 103: S5-NS: Remaining Land Parcels from Resource Map (S3) After Constraining the Unsuitable Areas due to Land Orientation and Inclination Map

Table 59: Remaining Land Available for Ground Mounted Solar PV Farms at this Stage of the and its Potential Total Installed Capacity

Map Reference	Remaining Available Land Area (km^2)	Potential Total Installed Capacity (MW)
S5-NS	186.99	7,791.3[266]

Step 6: Identification of Final Potential Solar PV Resource and Maximum Available Resource

Map Reference & Title:

1. S6-NS: Remaining Land Parcels After Constraining Land Slivers, Fire Breaks and Tracks, As Well As Parcels of Land Insufficient to Support a Solar PV Farm of 5MW or More

[265] Labelled as "Unconstrained Land" on S5 map
[266] According to the DECC UK Solar PV Strategy Part 1: 'Roadmap to a Brighter Future', the land area required for a 1MW fixed-tilt PV array is approximately 6acres (or 2.4Ha or 0.024km^2).

At this stage of the assessment, land slivers, fire breaks and tracks, as well as parcels of land insufficient to support a solar PV farm of 5MW or more, were removed from Step 5 maps.

Following the application of the primary constraints, the remaining potential solar PV resource[267] informs the calculation of the maximum potential generation capacity. This number then informs identification of the theoretical maximum renewable energy generation in North Somerset, see Section 15.

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

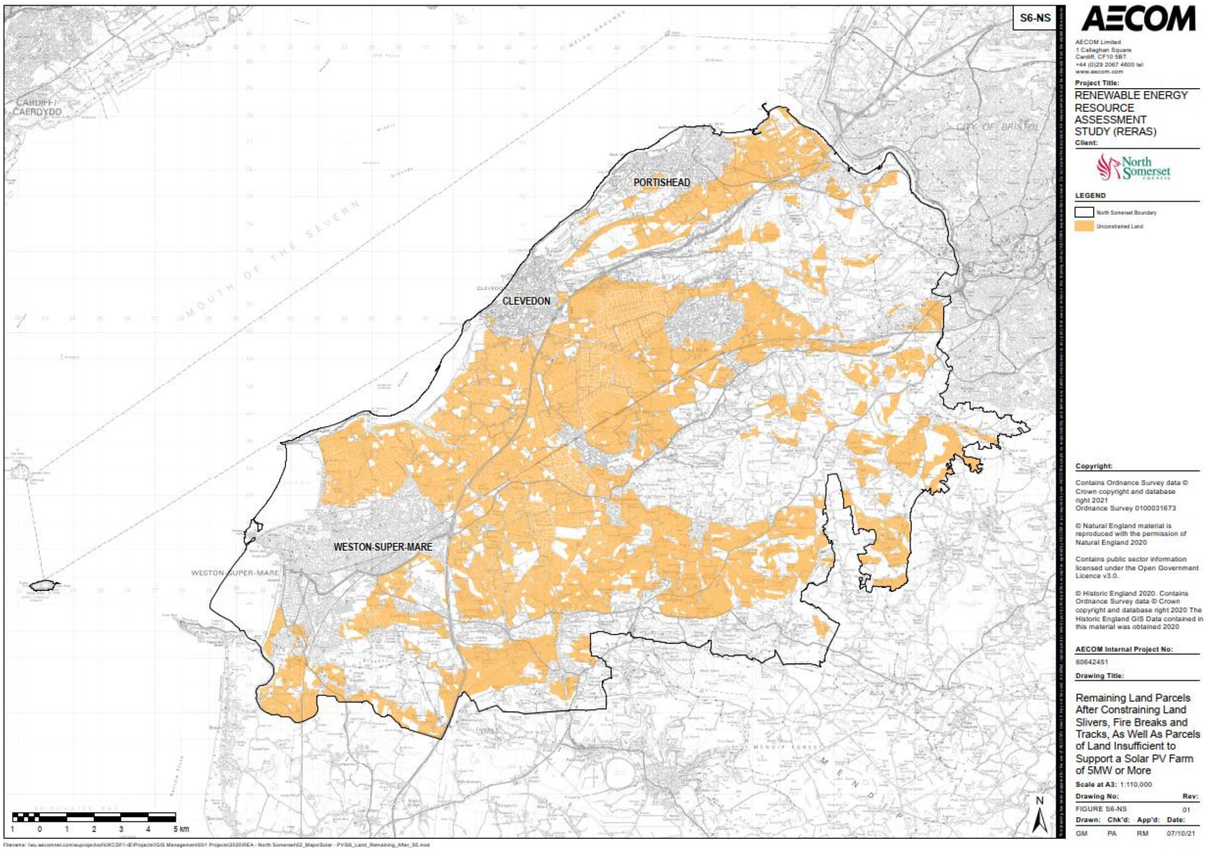


Figure 104: S6-NS: Remaining Land Parcels After Constraining Land Slivers, Fire Breaks and Tracks, As Well As Parcels of Land Insufficient to Support a Solar PV Farm of 5MW or More Map

The additional future potential electricity generation is outlined in Table 60.

Table 60: Remaining Land Available for Ground Mounted Solar PV Farms at this Stage of the and its Potential Total Installed Capacity

Map Reference	Remaining Available Land Area (km^2)	Potential Total Installed Capacity (MW)	Potential Energy Generated (GWh)
S6-NS	142.57	5,940.4	5,762

[267] Labelled as "Unconstrained Land" on S6 and S7 maps

Step 7: Defining Solar PV Local Search Areas

Map Reference & Title:

1. S7-NS: Solar PV Search Areas in North Somerset

This RERAS is primarily concerned with identifying solar PV development opportunities larger than 5MW. AECOM has created a GIS grid layer where each square area is equivalent to a 5MW solar farm. As the S6 map illustrates, there are significant remaining solar PV resources[268] suitable for ground-mounted PV installations in North Somerset. 'Stand-alone' PV farms >5MW must be appropriately sited; however, with a large number of potential sites, to assist with further analysis in relation to the electricity grid and landscape assessment, the S7 map illustrates the grid overlaid on the remaining areas. Therefore, each square is defined and referenced as a solar PV local Search Area (SA) in North Somerset.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: SF-PR-1 (Refer to Table 39 in Section 17)

It is recommended that the SAs identified through the RERAS are further refined through the Local Plan process, taking account of other considerations and constraints. As part of this a strategy approach which takes account of clustering and the potential need to manage cumulative impact should be considered.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: SF-PR-2 (Refer to Table 39 in Section 17)

It is recommended that proposals for solar PV farms within the areas identified for that use through the Local Plan be encouraged and permitted, subject to the mitigation of any site specific or other (not statutory) constraints.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: SF-PR-3 (Refer to Table 39 in Section 17)

It is recommended that proposals for solar development outside of areas identified as suitable for that use through the Local Plan should be considered positively, providing it can demonstrate that proposals are compliant with relevant policy and site-specific issues and constraints can be mitigated to the satisfaction of the Council.

As explained above, areas of constraint have been applied through mapping to identify the most suitable locations for the development of solar PV farms, and these are labelled as solar PV farm Search Areas. However, these search areas will need to be refined further through the Local Plan process, taking into account other considerations and constraints, as part of developing a strategy for renewable energy development.

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

[268] Labelled as "Unconstrained Land" on S7 map

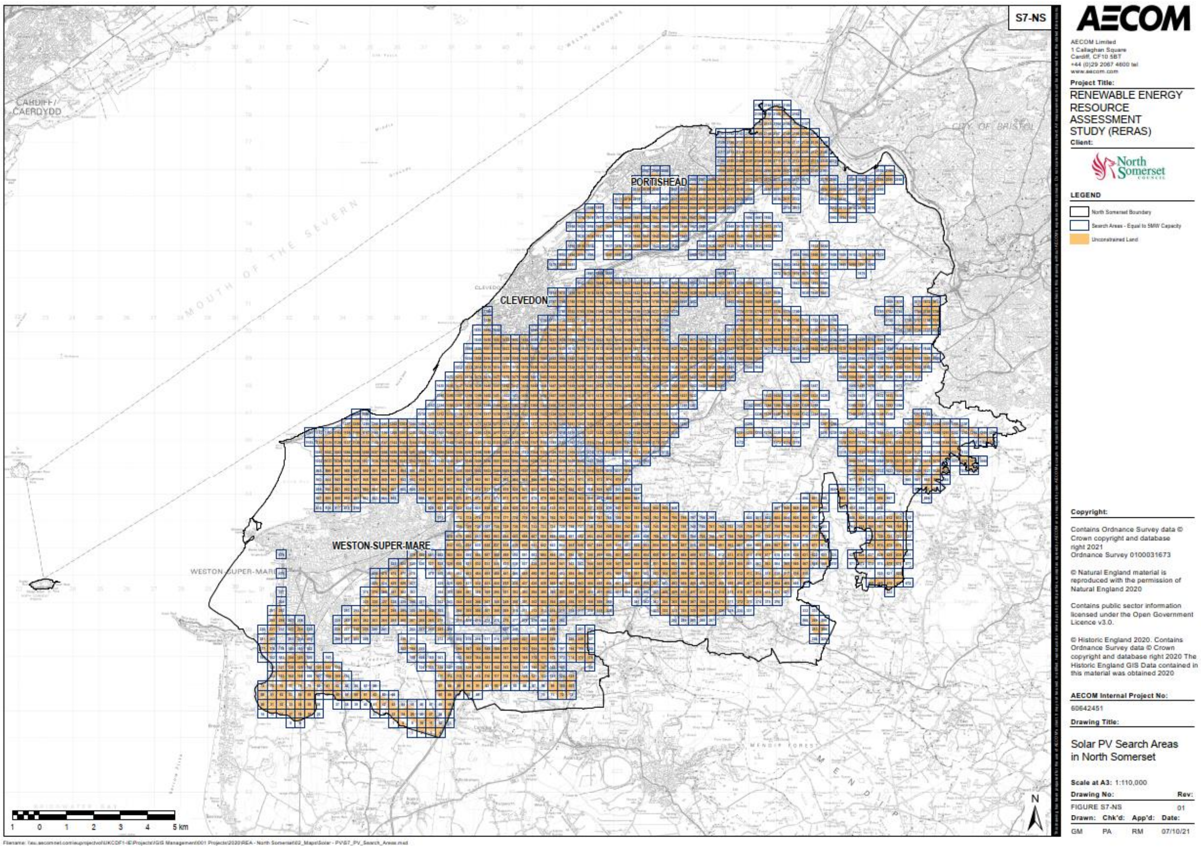


Figure 105: S7-NS: Solar PV Search Areas in North Somerset Map

A total of 142.57km² of land was identified as being potentially suitable for the installation of a solar PV farm, with this area comprising of a majority of the rural areas within North Somerset, this can be seen in Figure 105. It should be noted these Search Areas will need to be refined further through the Local Plan process, taking into account other considerations and constraints, as part of developing a strategy for renewable energy development.

It was assumed the land area required for a 5MW fixed-tilt PV array is approximately 30 acres (or 12Ha or 0.12km2) [269] and that a solar farm will generate energy at peak for 11% of the time (964 hours) over the course of a year[270].

Step 8: Solar PV Resource Other Constraints – to Consider Further

Map Reference & Title:

1. S8-NS: Solar PV Resource Other Constraints – to Consider Further

This section of the study analyses the effects of other constraints that may impact ground-mounted solar PV development within the SAs. The constraints highlighted in this section of the study would need to be examined and considered as part of the Local Plan process, and therefore, the identified SAs in mapping Step 6 have not been constrained further during this stage.

S8 maps illustrate the following other constraints (see Appendix J):

- Other woodlands (Other than Broadleaved Woodland and Ancient Woodland);
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB);
- Natural England's Impact Risk Zones for Solar Development (IRZs);
- Minerals Safeguarding Areas;
- Flood Zones;

[269] According to the DECC UK Solar PV Strategy Part 1: 'Roadmap to a Brighter Future', the land area required for a 1MW fixed-tilt PV array is approximately 6acres (or 2.4Ha or 0.024km²). *See above link*
[270] Average of the five previous years' regional standard load factors published by BEIS.

- National Trust Inalienable Land;
- Green Belt[271];
- Horseshoe Bat Juvenile Sustenance Zones;
- Agricultural Land Classification (ALC);
- Ministry of Defence (MoD) Safeguarding Zones;
- Historic England Conservation Areas; and
- Consented (but not yet constructed) solar PV and wind developments which their planning permissions may have been lapsed.

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

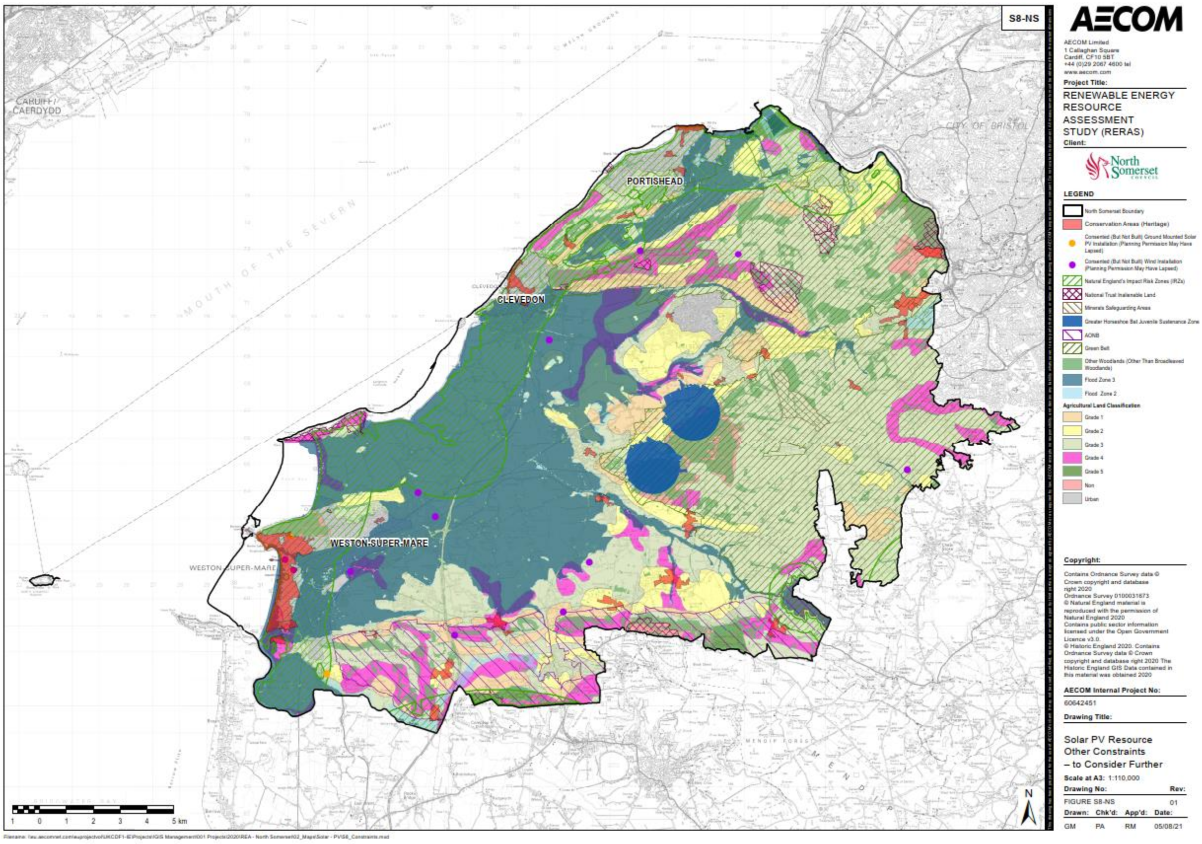


Figure 106: S8-NS: Solar PV Resource Other Constraints – to Consider Further Map

Remaining Area of LSAs after Applying Selected Additional Constraints

Map References & Titles:

1. S9-NS: Solar Local Search Areas from S7 Map and Agricultural Land Grade 1 and 2 in North Somerset
2. S10-NS: Solar Local Search Areas from S7 Map and Natural England's Solar Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) in North Somerset
3. S11-NS: Solar Local Search Areas from S7 Map and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in North Somerset
4. S12-NS: Solar Local Search Areas from S7 Map and Flood Zones in North Somerset
5. S13-NS: Solar Local Search Areas from S7 Map and Green Belt Area in North Somerset

[271] As stated in the NPPF, paragraph 151: *'When located in the Green Belt, elements of many renewable energy projects will comprise inappropriate development. In such cases developers will need to demonstrate very special circumstances if projects are to proceed. Such very special circumstances may include the wider environmental benefits associated with increased production of energy from renewable sources'*

6. S14-NS: Solar Local Search Areas and Conservation Areas (Heritage) in North Somerset

Maps are produced to show the impacts of applying the following overlays to the solar PV SAs map, map S7. Table 61 provides further information regarding each map's remaining area and potential capacity if the overlapping areas covering these constraints and SAs were removed.

- Agricultural Land Grade 1 and 2;
- Natural England's Impact Risk Zones for Solar Development (IRZs);
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB);
- Flood Zones; and
- Green Belt.

A higher resolution version of these maps are contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

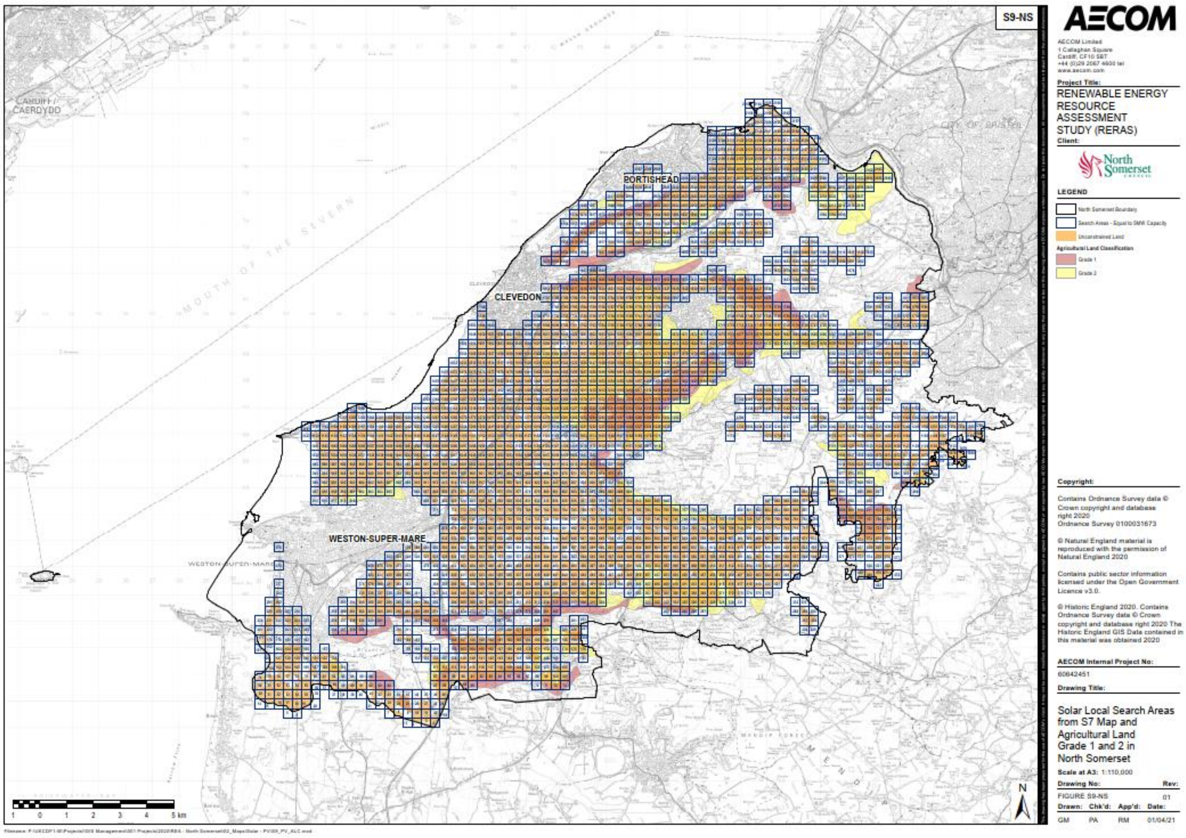


Figure 107: S9-NS: Solar Local Search Areas from S7 Map and Agricultural Land Grade 1 and 2 in North Somerset Map

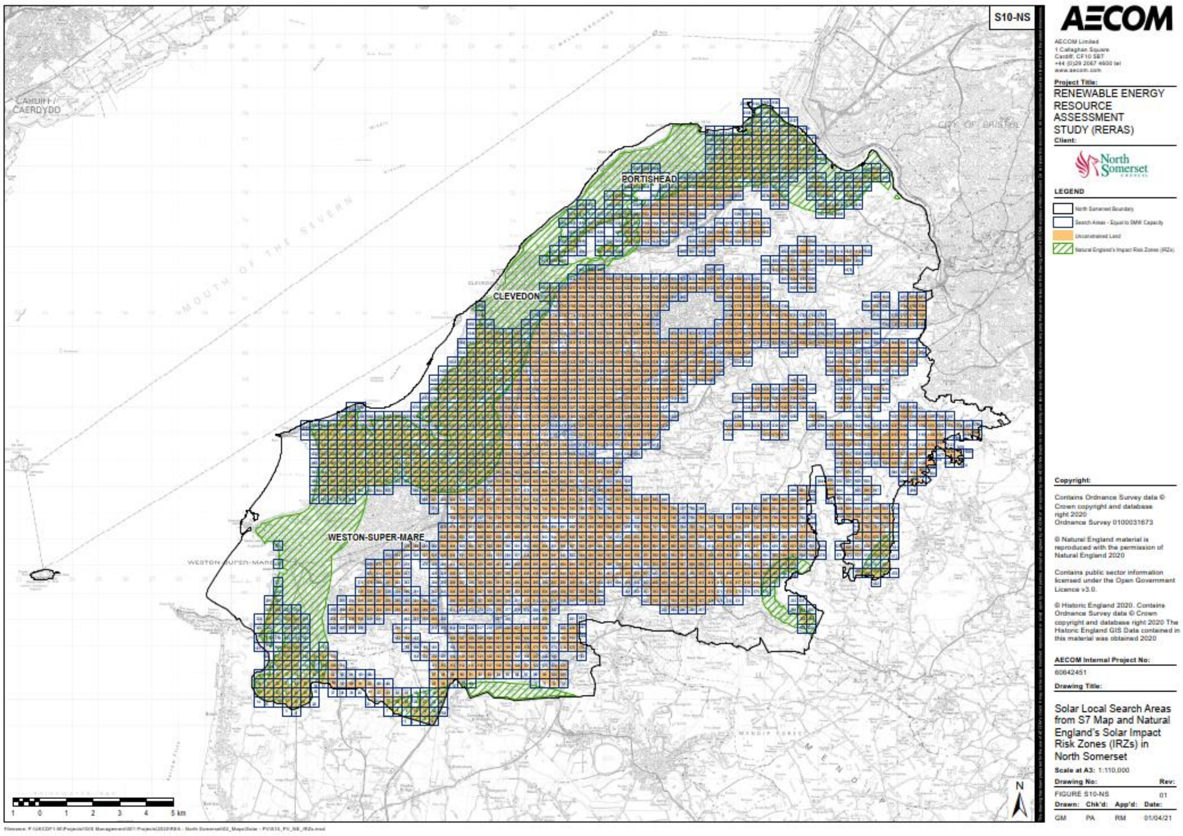


Figure 108: S10-NS: Solar Local Search Areas from S7 Map and Natural England's Solar Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) in North Somerset Map

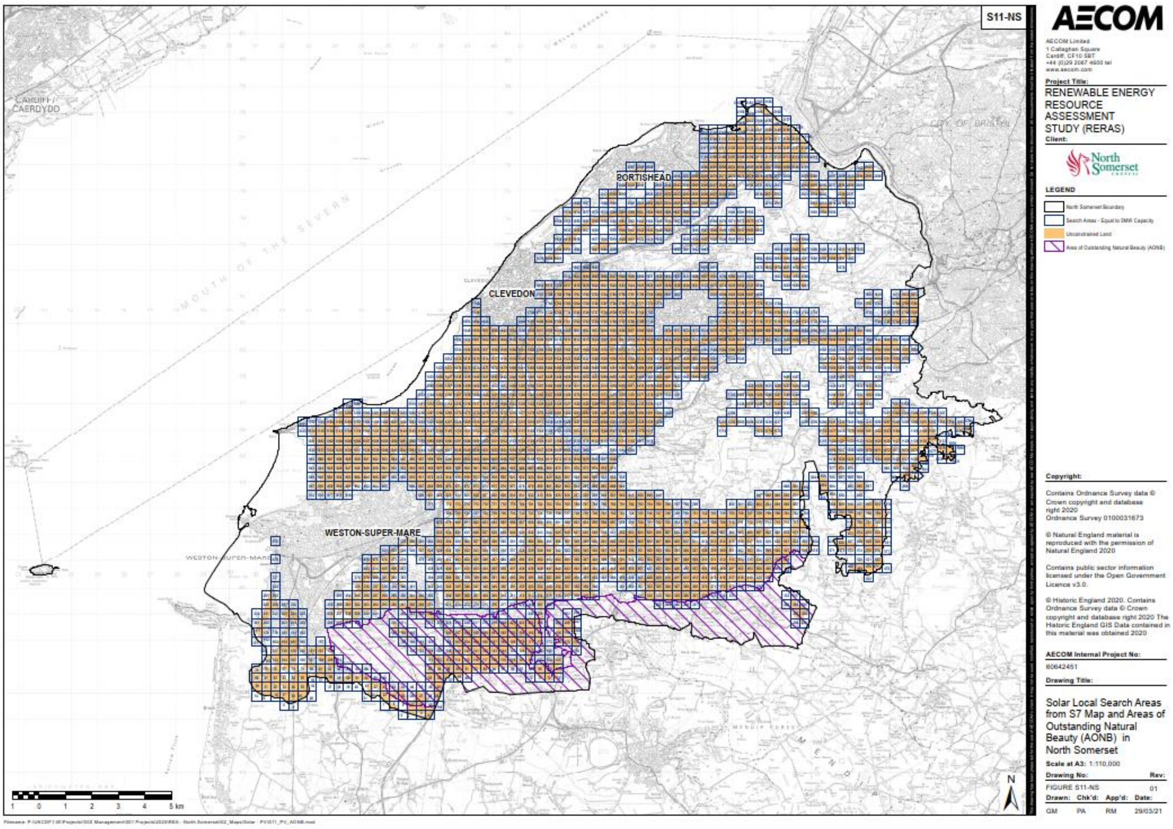


Figure 109: S11-NS: Solar Local Search Areas from S7 Map and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in North Somerset Map

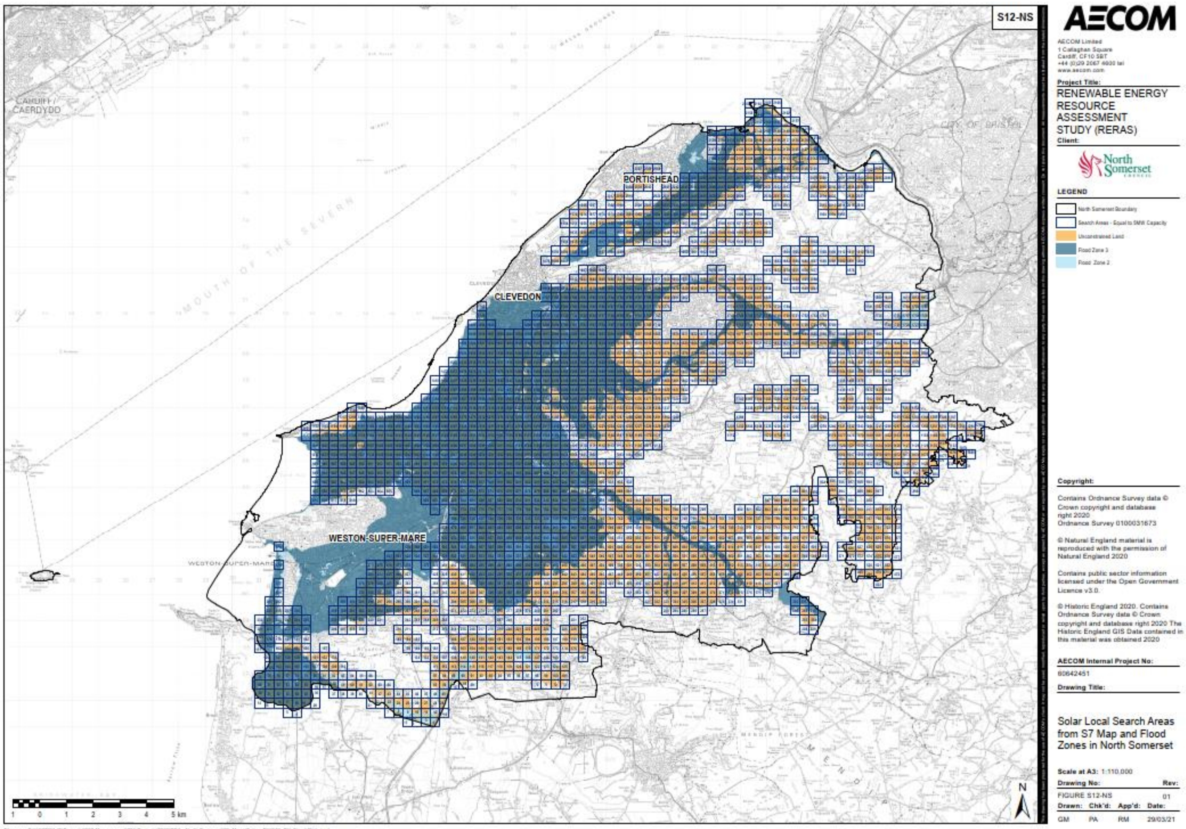


Figure 110: S12-NS: Solar Local Search Areas from S7 Map and Flood Zones in North Somerset Map

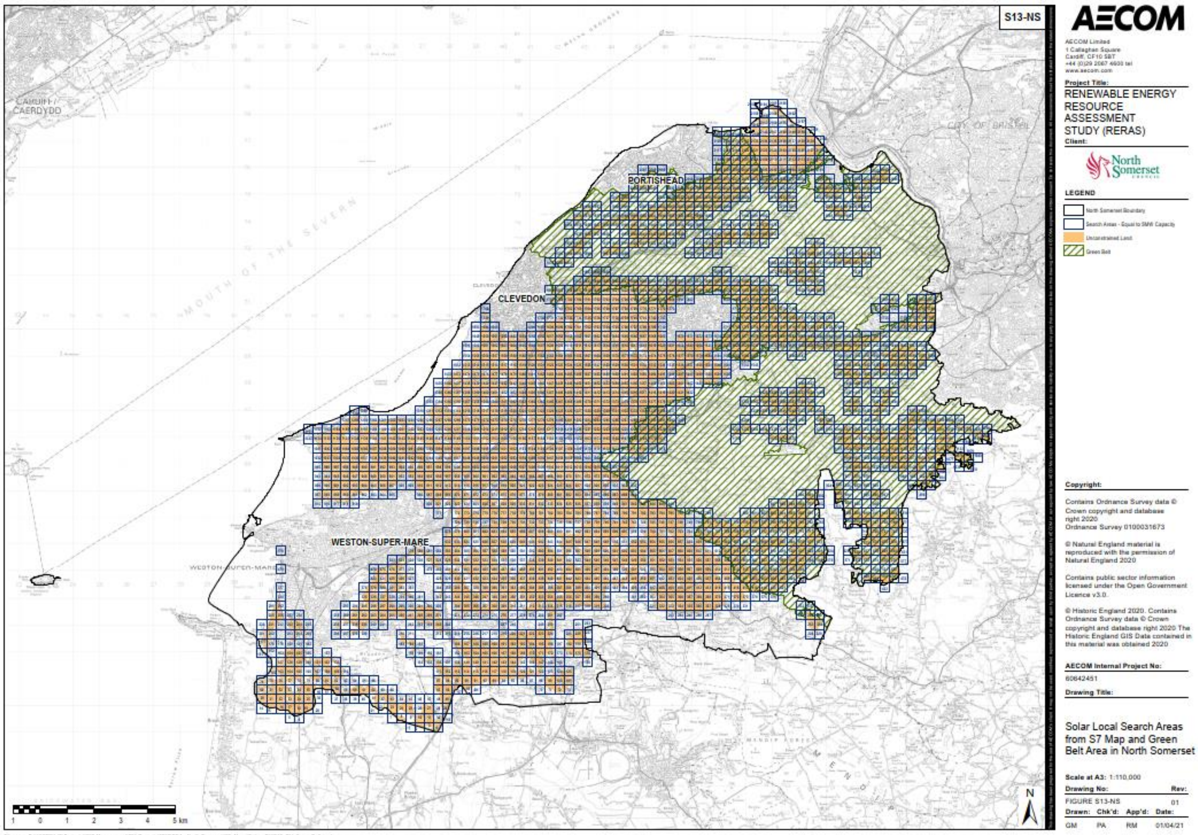


Figure 111: S13-NS: Solar Local Search Areas from S7 Map and Green Belt Area in North Somerset Map

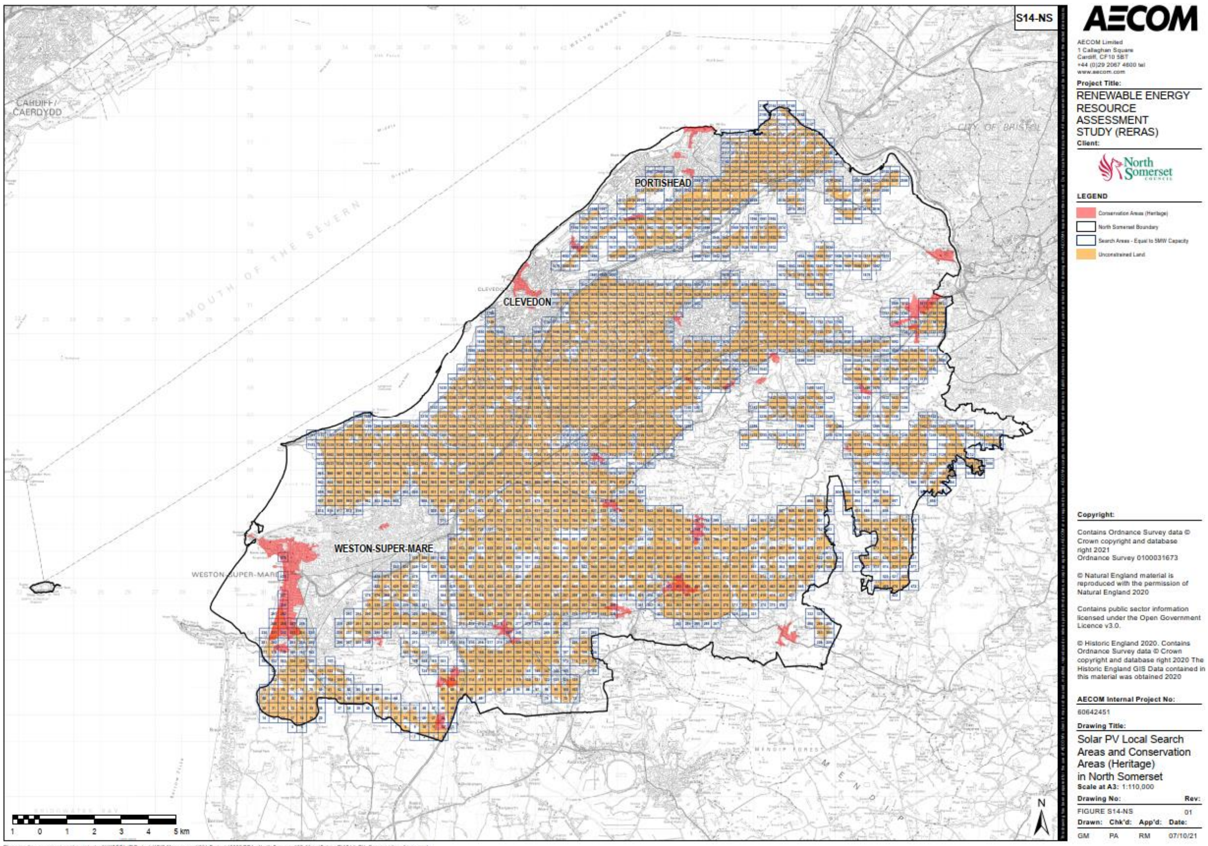


Figure 112: S14-NS: Solar Local Search Areas and Conservation Areas (Heritage) in North Somerset Map

Table 61: Remaining Area of LSAs After Applying Selected Additional Constraints for Illustrative Purposes Only

Map Reference	Other Constraint Shown on the Map	Area of the Final solar LSAs Identified in Step 6 (km²)	Potential Installed Capacity of the Final Solar LSAs (MW)	Remaining LSAs if Area of the Other Constraint Is Removed (km²)	Remaining Potential Installed Capacity of the LSAs if Area of the Other Constraint Is Removed (MW)
S9-NS	Agricultural Land Grade 1 and 2	142.57	5,940.4	111.01	4,625.4
S10-NS	Natural England's IRZs for Solar	142.57	5,940.4	107.65	4,485.4
S11-NS	AONB	142.57	5,940.4	134.63	5,609.6
S12-NS	Flood Zones	142.57	5,940.4	70.99	2,957.9
S13-NS	Green Belt	142.57	5,940.4	100.50	4187.5

In England, the planning authorities are obliged to designate as conservation areas any parts of their own area that are of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. Under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) conservation areas are designated heritage assets and their conservation is to be given weight in planning permission decisions[272]. Therefore, the S14 map is prepared that shows the location of the Conservation Areas in relation to the SAs to assist the Council and developers when considering renewable energy proposals.

[272] https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/hpg/has/conservation-areas/

H.3 Pipeline Projects

Map References & Titles:

1. S15-NS: Pipeline Ground Mounted Solar PV Projects and Local Search Areas in North Somerset

In this section of the report, Regen's Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES) analysis is utilised to identify the pipeline solar PV projects in North Somerset. Project readiness of the identified Search Areas in relation to the current grid capacity and costs of grid upgrades are considered in the next section. The methodology used for pipeline analysis is in line with the method outlined in Section E.3 for finding the solar pipeline projects.

Table 62 includes details of the identified pipeline solar PV project in North Somerset. S14 map illustrates the location of this site in relation to the identified SAs. It should be noted that any site with extant planning permission is shown and constrained on S2 maps (Figure 100) as consented (but not yet constructed) developments.

Table 62. Pipeline Solar PV Projects in North Somerset

				DEFES Pipeline Connection Information (If Available)							
				Steady Progression		System Transformation		Consumer Transformation		Leading the Way	
Site / Developer Name	Location (X-coordinate)	Location (Y-coordinate)	Capacity (MW)	Connection Date	Capacity (MW)	Connection Date	Capacity (MW)	Connection Date	Capacity (MW)	Connection Date	Capacity (MW)
Yanel Solar Farm	345105.49	162221.43	49.00	2034	49.90	2029	49.90	2029	49.90	2025	49.9

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

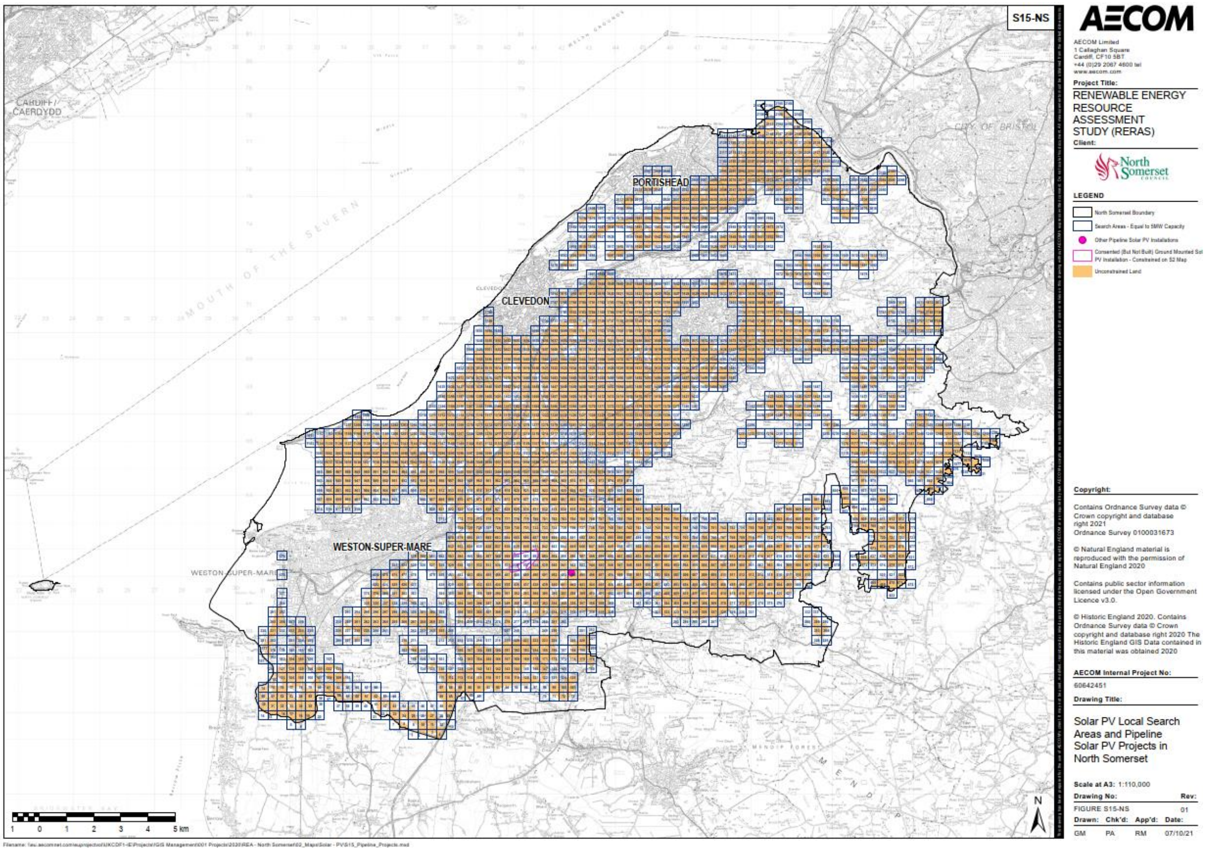


Figure 113: S15-NS: Pipeline Ground Mounted Solar PV Projects and Local Search Areas in North Somerset Map

H.4 Proximity to Grid and Grid Capacity

Map Reference & Title:

1. S16-NS: Solar PV Search Areas and Grid Connection in North Somerset

Whilst private wire schemes are an option, and some already exist in the UK, solar farms usually have a connection to the grid to export electricity, albeit with increasing curtailments.

Consideration of a viable connection point is an important factor when considering sites for new solar energy development. The cost of a grid connection depends on the distance to the nearest connection point the works needed to make that connection (there can be a number of complexities such as land ownership issues, whether the dig is hard or soft, etc) and the availability of capacity in the distribution network to take the additional power output. For this study, grid connection is assumed to be a discussion matter for national-level decision-makers and has not been used to constrain solar PV energy generation potential. In addition, as renewable deployment is a national priority, it is assumed that the grid requirement will be met to allow for sufficient additional capacity.

However, a high-level analysis exercise has been undertaken in consultation with the Distribution Network Operator, Western Power Distribution (WPD), to rank the solar PV SAs and assess their project readiness based on the network capacity maps and connection points at the time of writing (August 2021). The solar SAs have been divided into 50MW parcels in to allow WPD to perform their assessment of the sites[273].

[273] There has been a rise in PV farms of size 50MW and lowers in recent year in South West region. This could be due to the fact that electricity generators that generate lower that 50MWe are exempts from the requirement for an electricity licence Class A: Small generators – Generates lower than 50 megawatts with a declared net capacity of up to 100 megawatts. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2001/3270/schedule/2/made

The Search Areas are ranked from low priority (coloured red in the maps) to high priority (coloured blue in the maps), with high priority being most favourable for a new connection to the grid.as shown in Figure 114 and Figure 115.

Figure 114: SAs Proximity to Grid and Grid Capacity Ranking Key (Refer S16 Maps in Accompanying Document 'North Somerset RERAS - Maps')

This ranking has only been taken as a single snapshot based on the latest information. It does not account for any future reinforcement that may be triggered by other new connections or condition-based replacement. Increases or decreases in future demand may also affect capacity and have not been considered within this study. Sites over 1MW may be required to go through the Statement of Works process to confirm acceptance of the connection on the transmission network.
Network access may be accelerated or achieved with reduced costs by progressing an alternative connection, which allows export to be limited at times of high export from other users. A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

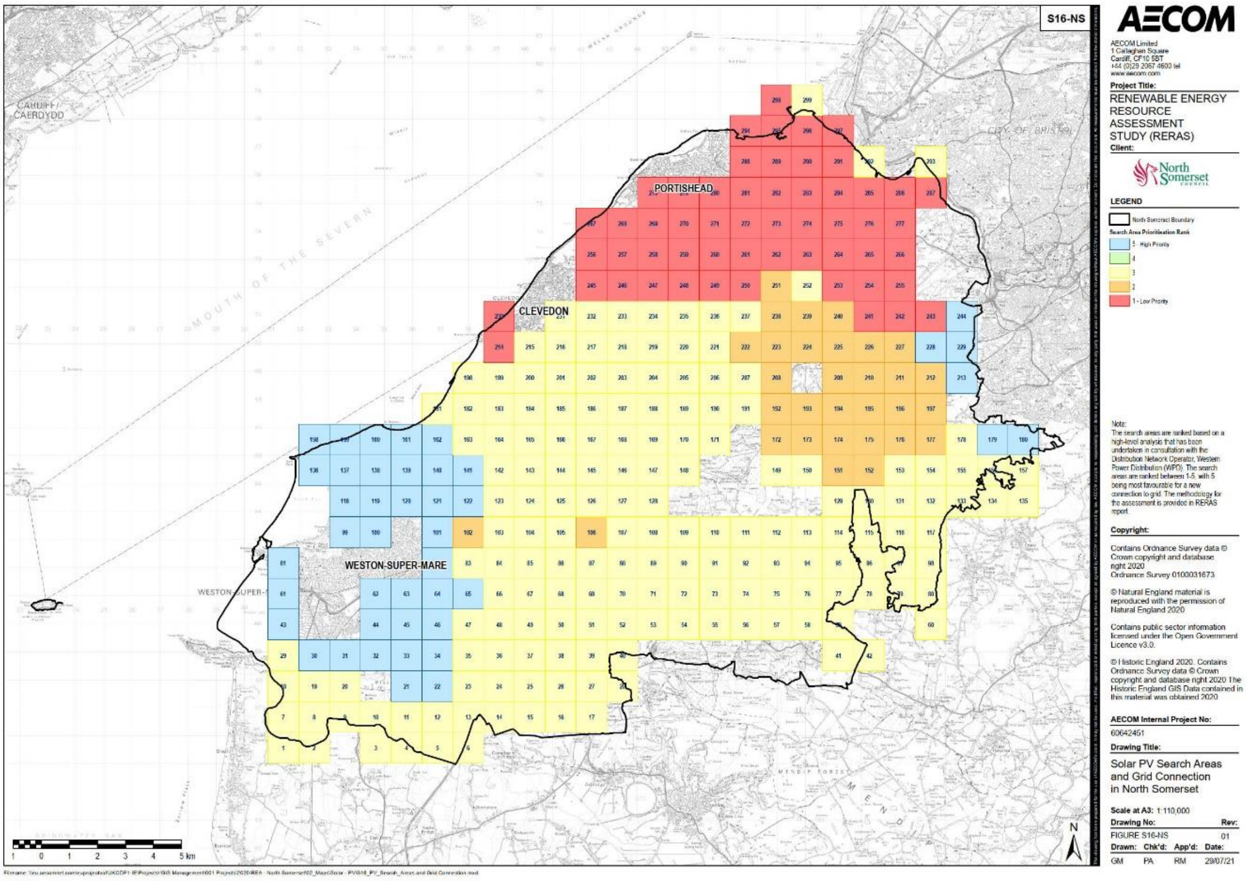


Figure 115: S16-NS: Solar PV Search Areas and Grid Connection in North Somerset Map

H.5 Landscape Sensitively Assessment

Map References & Titles:

1. S17-NS-Band A: Solar Local Search Areas from S6 Map and Landscape Sensitivity Results in Band A (≤5ha) in North Somerset Map

2. S17-NS-Band B: Solar Local Search Areas from S6 Map and Landscape Sensitivity Results in Band B (6ha to 10ha) in North Somerset Map

3. S17-NS-Band C: Solar Local Search Areas from S6 Map and Landscape Sensitivity Results in Band C (11ha to 15ha) in South North Somerset Map

4. S17-NS-Band D: Solar Local Search Areas from S6 Map and Landscape Sensitivity Results in Band D (16ha to 30ha) in North Somerset Map

5. S17-NS-Band E: Solar Local Search Areas from S6 Map and Landscape Sensitivity Results in Band E (31ha to 60ha) in North Somerset Map

An additional parameter that can be considered in prioritising the Search Areas is Landscape Character Areas and the sensitivity of these landscapes to new solar PV farm developments. A flowchart presenting the steps taken in completing mapping the results of a landscape sensitivity for solar PV farms is shown in Figure 116.

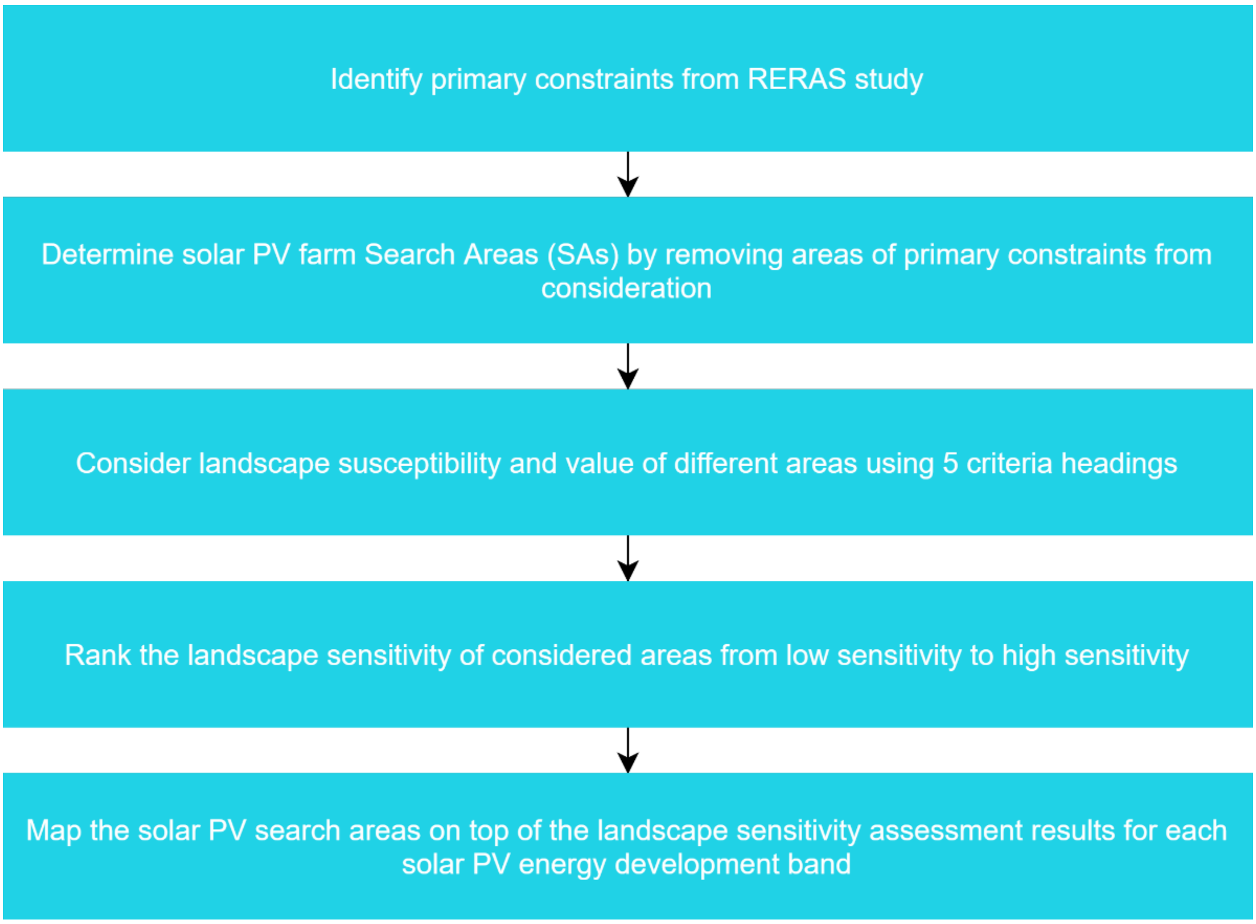


Figure 116 Steps Taken in Landscape Sensitivity Study for Solar PV Farm Search Areas

Land Use Consultants (LUC) has conducted a landscape sensitivity assessment for solar PV energy development as part of this RERAS. Results of the assessment provide an initial indication of the relative landscape sensitivity of different areas within North Somerset to accommodate solar PV farm energy developments. The findings of the study, combined with the identified Search Areas (SAs), are presented in this section of the report. The landscape sensitivity assessment considers the landscape susceptibility[274] and landscape value[275] using 5 criteria headings:

i) Landform and scale (including sense of openness / enclosure);

ii) Landcover (including field and settlement patterns);

iii) Historic landscape character;

iv) Visual character (including skylines); and

v) Perceptual and scenic qualities.

Once the above criteria were assessed individually, the results were combined to produce an overall sensitivity level, as shown in Table 63.

Table 63: The Five-Point Scale Landscape Sensitivity Scale

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High (H)	Key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are highly vulnerable to change from wind and solar energy development. Such development is likely to result in a significant change in character.
Moderate High (M H)	Key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are vulnerable to change from wind and solar energy development. There may be some limited opportunity to accommodate wind turbines/ solar panels without significantly changing landscape character. Great care would be needed in siting and design.
Moderate (M)	Some of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are vulnerable to change. Although the landscape may have some ability to absorb wind and solar energy development, it is likely to cause a degree of change in character. Care would be needed in siting and design.
Low - Moderate (L-M)	Fewer of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are vulnerable to change. The landscape is likely to be able to accommodate wind and solar energy development with limited change in character. Care is still needed when siting and designing to avoid adversely affecting key characteristics.
Low (L)	Key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are robust in that they can withstand change from the introduction of wind turbines and solar panels. The landscape is likely to be able to accommodate wind and solar energy development without a significant change in character. Care is still needed when siting and designing these developments to ensure best fit with the landscape.

The assessment judges the suitability of different scales of solar PV developments based on bandings that reflect those that are most likely to be put forward by developers. The sizes[276] used for the assessment are set out in Table 64[277].

Table 64: Solar PV Farm Development Sizes Considered in the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Solar PV Development Banding	Area
Band A	≤5ha
Band B	6ha – 10ha
Band C	11ha – 15ha
Band D	16ha – 30ha
Band E	31ha – 60ha

The complete assessment methodology and results of a landscape sensitively assessment is included in the accompanying document ‘Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Solar PV and Wind Energy Development – Prepared by LUC – 2021’.

[274] How vulnerable the landscape is to change from the type being assessed, in this case solar PV and wind energy developments
[275] Consensus about importance, which can be recognised through designation as well as through descriptions within the 2014 Landscape Character Assessment
[276] The sizes of solar PV developments indicate the areas taken up by solar PV panels only.
[277] Proposed solar PV developments larger than 60ha have not been considered in the LUC landscape sensitivity assessment. LUC has confirmed that landscape sensitivity to these very large schemes would be categorised as “high" sensitivity regardless of location, requiring developers to pay particular attention to this issue in their specific applications.

S17 maps show the landscape sensitivity assessment results overlayed on the solar PV farm Search Areas respectively. The figures rank the areas considered for the landscape sensitivity study in line with the sensitivity levels shown in Table 63 and provide guidance on the potential effects of different scale wind development on the landscape. Higher resolution versions of these maps including bands A to E for solar PV SAs are contained in the accompanying document ‘North Somerset RERAS – Maps’.

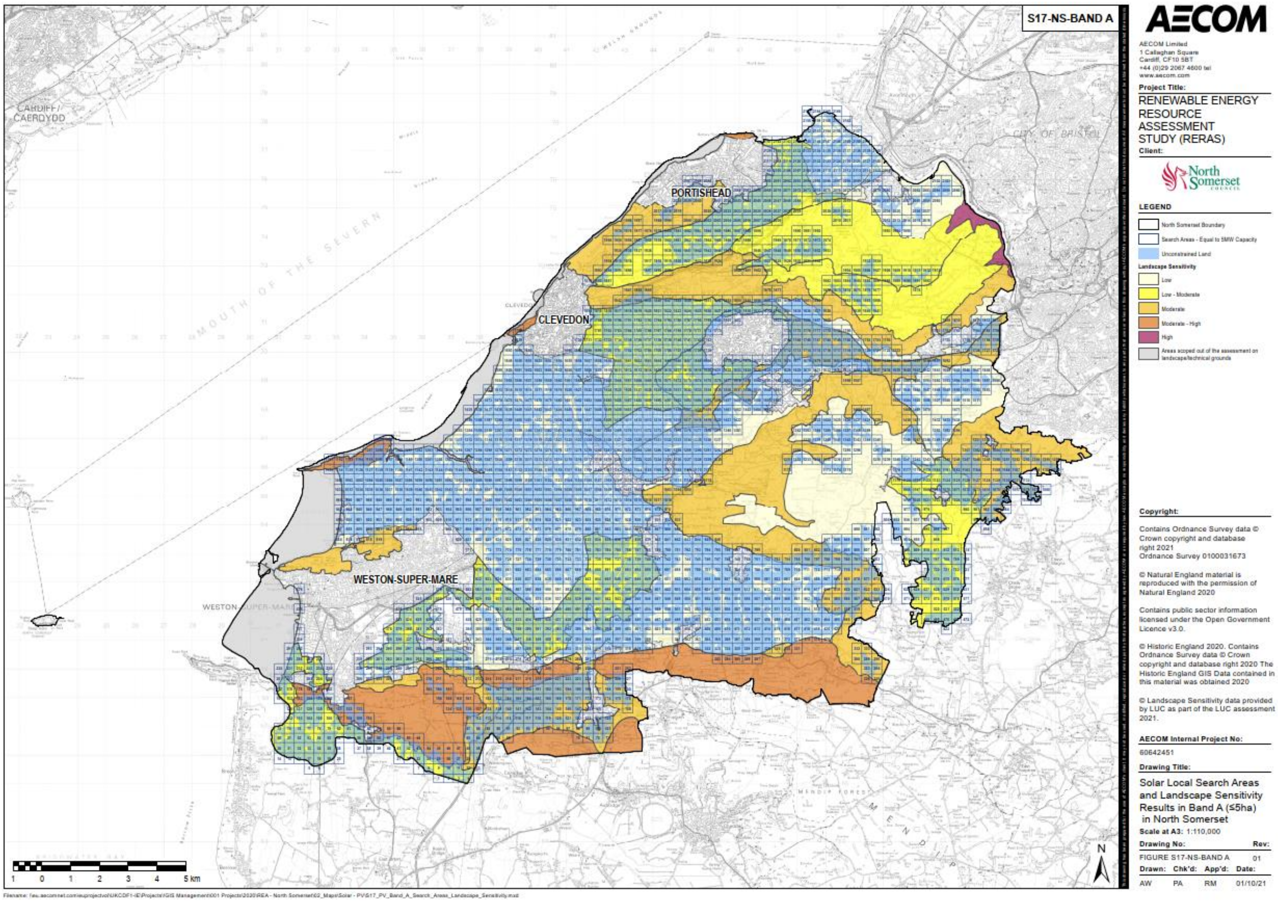


Figure 117: S17-NS-Band A: Solar Local Search Areas from S6 Map and Landscape Sensitivity Results in Band A (≤5ha) in North Somerset Map

H.6 Further Constraints to Solar PV Farm Sites

Further constraints to solar PV farm development that are not considered within this RERAS include (and this is not meant to be an exhaustive list):

- Practical access to sites required for the development;
- Landowner willingness for development to go ahead;
- National planning policies, which are outside of the Council’s control;
- Community support; and
- Time to complete planning procedures;

H.7 Potential Opportunities for Future Development

Solar PV has the potential to be a significant source of renewable energy generation in North Somerset with the largest potential of any of the technologies in the study.

Across North Somerset, 142.57km^2 of land was identified as suitable for solar PV development, covering a significant amount of the rural land within North Somerset.

These Search Areas have been further ranked (for information purposes only) using the WPD grid connection analysis results and the LUC landscape sensitivity assessment. The WPD grid connection analysis can be used to identify the most favourable locations when considering the connection to the grid. The LUC landscape sensitivity assessment can be used to guide the Council to the locations which will have the least environmental impact.

Policy Item to Consider

Due to the substantial amount solar PV SAs identified within this study, there is potential to use this land for other developments without severely impacting the available resource.

Specific solar PV SAs may not need to be safeguarded for only PV farm developments due to the numerous potential sites

Appendix I : Solar PV Primary Resource Constraints Table

The detailed assumptions and list can be found in the table below:

Constraint	Buffer	Reason
Special Protection Areas (SPA) and foraging buffers	Extent only	
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	Extent only	
RAMSAR sites	Extent only	
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	Extent only	
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Extent only	
Scheduled Monuments	Extent only	
Listed Buildings,	Extent only	
Registered Parks and Gardens	Extent only	
Registered Battlefields	Extent only	
Ancient Woodlands – a 15 meter buffer has been applied to avoid root damage278	Extent only	
Broadleaved Woodland, a 15-meter buffer has been applied to avoid root damage278	15m	The buffer has been applied to avoid root damage [236]
Major transport infrastructure.	Extent only	
Minor transport infrastructure.	Extent only	
Existing buildings/settlements	Extent only	
Watercourses – including major, secondary, and minor rivers, canals, and lakes; - a 2-meter buffer has been applied to rivers and streams	2m	
MoD Sites	Extent only	
Operational and consented (but not yet constructed) renewables energy development sites (solar PV and wind)	Extent only	
Active mines/quarries	Extent only	
Local Nature Reserves	Extent only	

[278] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licences

Appendix J : Solar PV Farms Other Constraints Table

It was agreed that these constraints would need to be examined as part of the planning balance and therefore, have not been constrained further in this assessment.

Constraint	Buffer	Notes
Other woodlands (Other than Broadleaved Woodland and Ancient Woodland)	Extent only	
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Extent only	
Natural England's Impact Risk Zones for Solar PV Development (IRZs)	Extent only	
Minerals Safeguarding Areas	Extent only	
Flood Zones	Extent only	
National Trust Inalienable Land	Extent only	
Green Belt279	Extent only	
Conservation Areas (Heritage)	Extent only	
Consented (but not yet constructed) solar PV and wind developments where their planning permissions may have lapsed.	Extent only	
Greater Horseshoe Bat Juvenile Sustenance Zone	Extent only	
Agriculturally Classified Land	Extent Only	Grades 1 to 5, non-agricultural and urban classified land

[279] As stated in the NPPF, paragraph 151: *'When located in the Green Belt, elements of many renewable energy projects will comprise inappropriate development. In such cases developers will need to demonstrate very special circumstances if projects are to proceed. Such very special circumstances may include the wider environmental benefits associated with increased production of energy from renewable sources'*

Appendix K : Biomass Energy Resource

K.1 Introduction

The focus of this section of the study is on establishing the potential biomass resource defined as either:

- Energy crops (e.g. miscanthus, short-rotation coppice, etc.); or,
- Wood fuel resource.

Unlike wind farms, biomass can be utilised the generate electricity and heat and domestic hot water (DHW).

The use of energy crops, forestry residues and recycled wood waste for energy generation can have a number of advantages:

- Provide opportunities for agricultural diversification;
- Encourage increased management of woodland;
- Can have positive effects on biodiversity;
- Remove biodegradable elements from the waste stream;
- Potential for CO_2 savings.

In relation to biomass, the Biomass in a Low Carbon Economy [280] report by the Climate Change Committee (CCC) states:

> "Sustainably *harvested biomass can play a significant role in meeting long-term climate targets, provided it is prioritised for the most valuable end-uses"*

The report also confirms a significant potential to increase domestic production of sustainable biomass to meet between the equivalent of 5% and 10% of energy demand from UK sources by 2050. More information regarding biomass technology can be found in Section 1.8.6.

K.2 Energy Crops

Mapping

The potential energy crop resource in North Somerset was determined by, utilising GIS maps, overlaying potential primary constraints onto the areas identified as having potential for , growing such crops. The constraints were identified in consultation with North Somerset Council.

Maps have been produced to illustrate each stage of the process of identifying primary constraints and also maps that identify the extent of the area of land with potential opportunities.

The flowchart shown in Figure 118 shows the process steps and the output maps at each mapping stage. More detail on the series of steps is provided in this section.

[280] https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Biomass-in-a-low-carbon-economy-CCC-2018.pdf

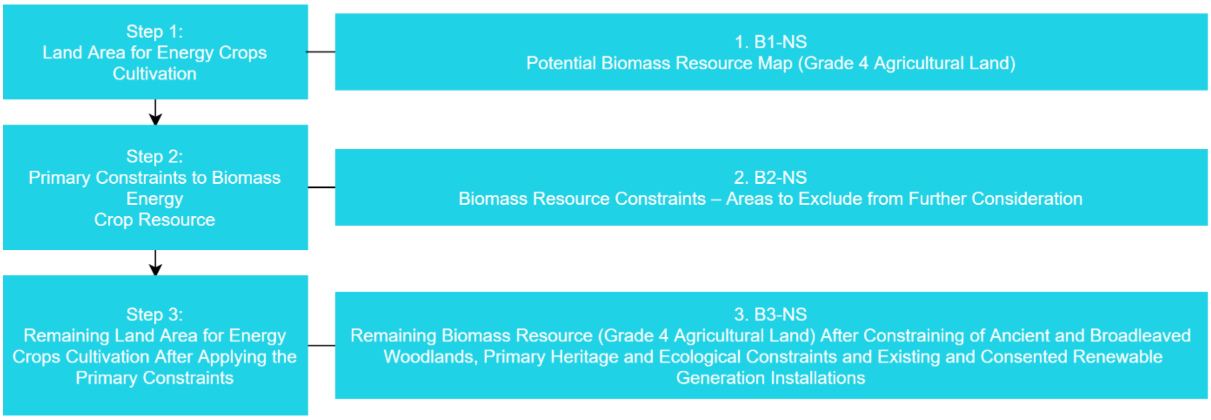


Figure 118: Flowchart of Energy Crop Mapping Process

The titles/references correspond with higher resolution maps in the accompanying document 'North Somerset Renewable Energy Resource Assessment Study – Maps'.

Step 1: Land Area for Energy Crops Cultivation

Map Reference and Title:

1. B1-NS: Potential Biomass Resource Map (Grade 4 Agricultural Land)

In order to avoid competition between food crops and livestock with fuel crops, land grades 1, 2 and 3 were constrained out and not considered further. Therefore, this study assumed that energy crops could only be potentially grown on agricultural land of Grade 4[281,282] which is not constrained by environmental or historical protected areas. These constraints are considered in the following mapping step.

B1 map illustrates the Grade 4 agricultural land across North Somerset, which amounts to 40.6km^2.

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

[281] Poor quality agricultural land. Land with severe limitations which significantly restrict the range of crops and/or level of yields. It is mainly suited to grass with occasional arable crops (e.g. cereals and forage crops) the yields of which are variable. In moist climates, yields of grass may be moderate to high but there may be difficulties in utilisation. The grade also includes very droughty arable land.
[282]The Bioeconomy Consultants (2012), Domestic Energy Crops; Potential and Constraints Review, A report for DECC, URN: 12D/081

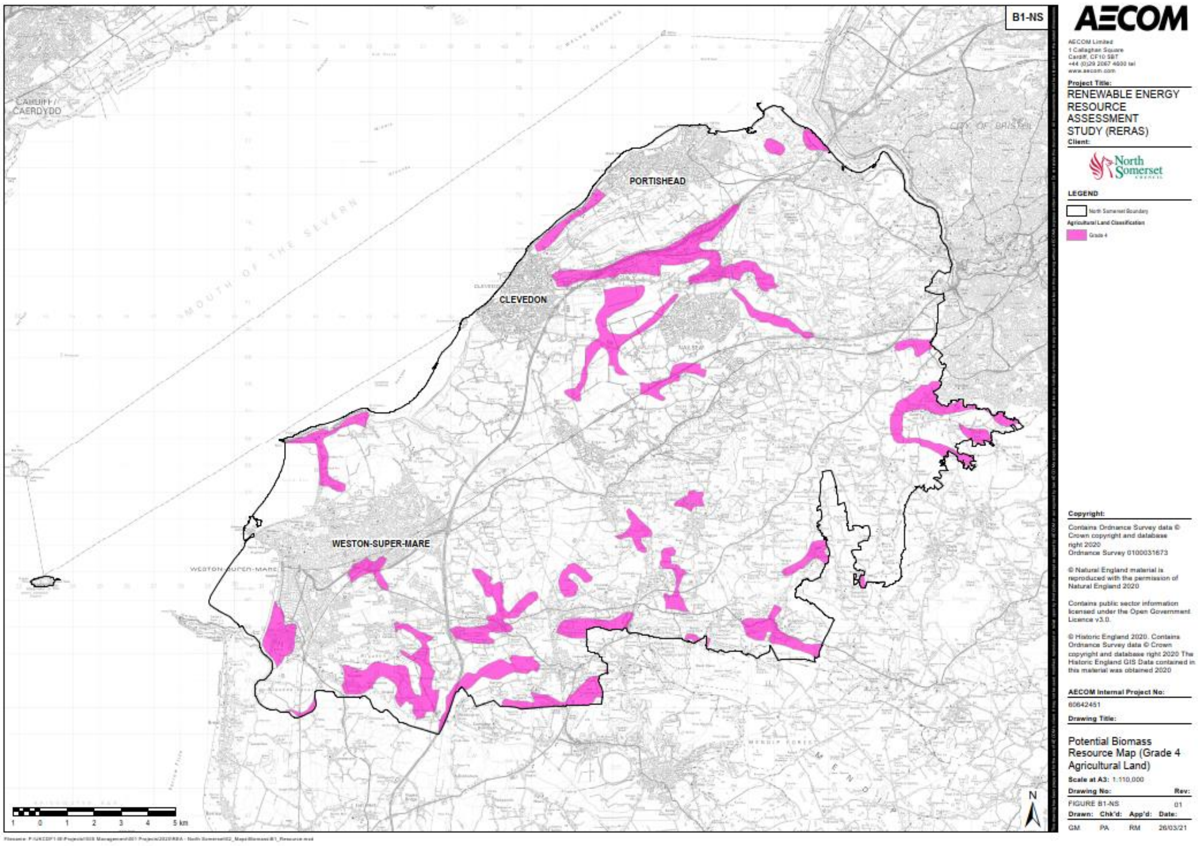


Figure 119: B1-NS: Potential Biomass Resource Map (Grade 4 Agricultural Land) Map

Step 2: Primary Constraints to Biomass Energy Crops Resource

Map Reference and Title:

1. B2-NS: Biomass Resource Primary Constraints – Areas to Exclude from Further Consideration

To further establish the potential biomass energy crops resource across North Somerset, consideration was given to the primary constraints associated with restrictions to harvesting energy crops. The assessment used the following primary constraints:

- Areas of broadleaved woodland;
- Areas of environmental protection (including ancient woodlands);
- Areas of historical and cultural importance; and
- Operational and consented (but not yet constructed) renewables energy development sites (solar PV and wind)

A comprehensive table of the primary constraints is given in Appendix L, and B2 map illustrates these constraints. A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

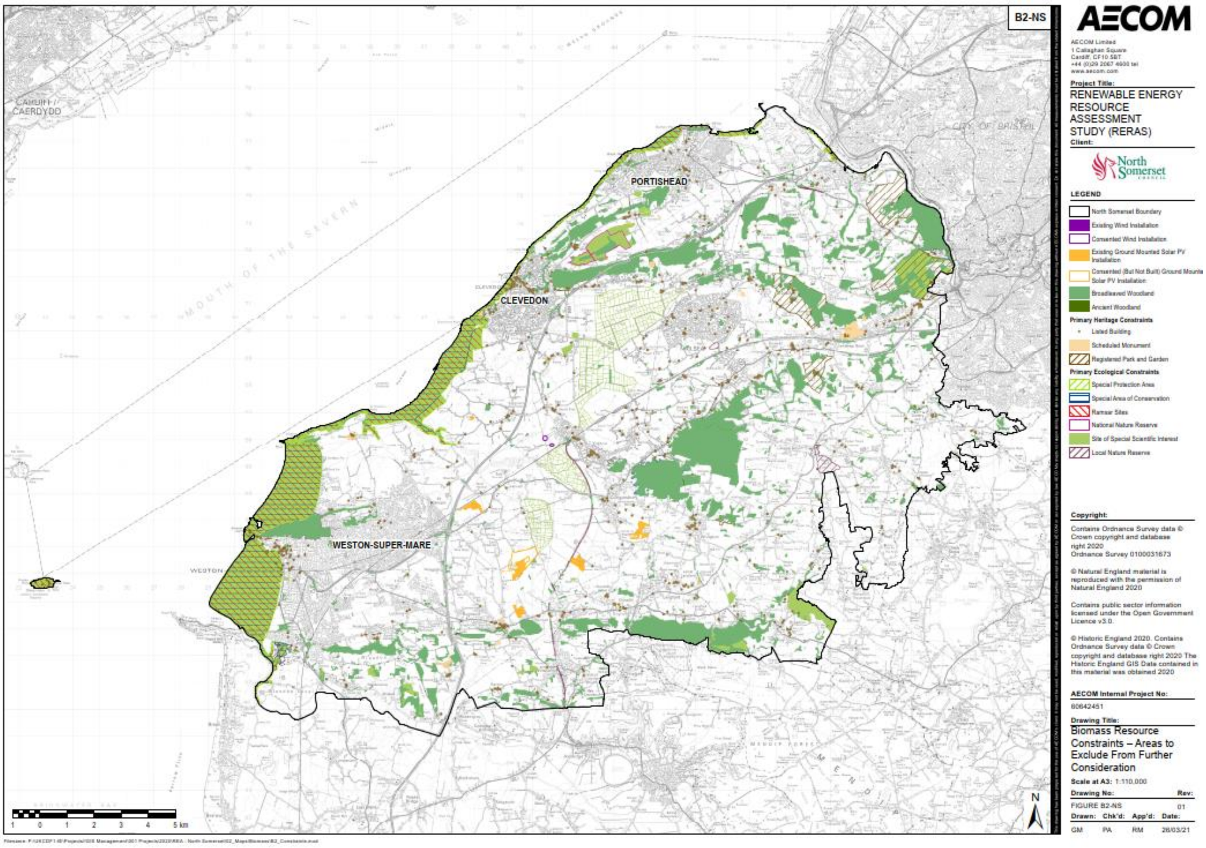


Figure 120: B2-NS: Biomass Resource Primary Constraints - Areas to Exclude From Further Consideration Map

Step 3: Remaining Land After Applying the Constraints and Crop Yield

Map Reference and Title:

1. B3-NS: Remaining Biomass Resource (Grade 4 Agricultural Land) After Constraining of Ancient and Broadleaved Woodlands, Primary Heritage and Ecological Constraints and Existing and Consented Renewable Generation Installations

B3 map shows the remaining available land for energy crop cultivation after removing the constrained areas in Step 2 of the mapping process.

The theoretical maximum area of land that could be planted with energy crops across North Somerset is 30.06km^2.

Policy Recommendation

Policy Reference: BM-PR-1 (Refer to Table 42 in Section 17)

It is recommended that proposals utilising biomass are looked upon favourably where:

a. a whole life carbon benefit can be evidenced; and
b. the development should be located away from urban areas (and preferably in areas off the gas grid).

A higher resolution version of this map is contained in the accompanying document 'North Somerset RERAS – Maps'.

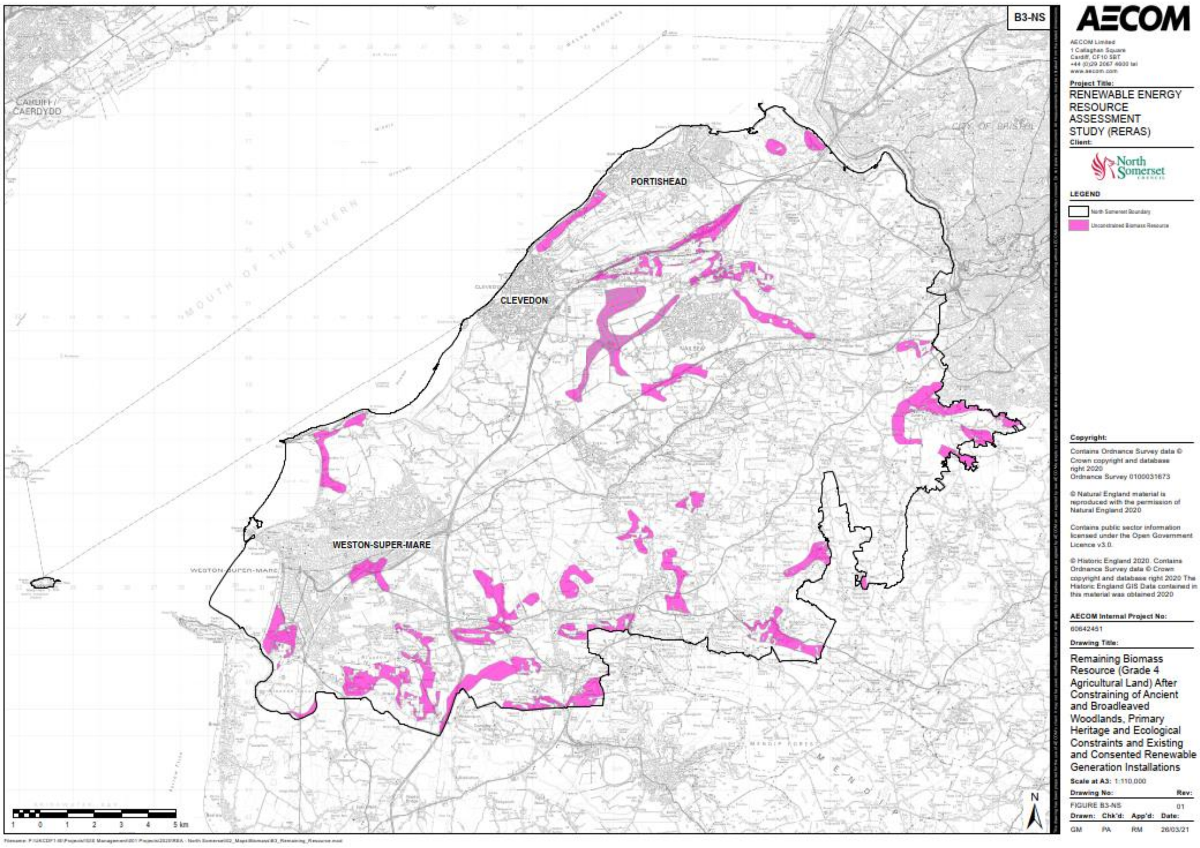


Figure 121: B3-NS: Remaining Biomass Resource (Grade 4 Agricultural Land) After Constraining of Ancient and Broadleaved Woodlands, Primary Heritage and Ecological Constraints and Existing and Consented Renewable Generation Installations Map

Competition with other crops, existing areas of energy crops cultivation, livestock grazing, solar PV farms, and unsuitable topography provide limitations on where energy crops can be planted

It was assumed that only 10% of the suitable land area identified for energy crops could actually be planted with energy crops

Therefore, the total usable area of land for energy crops across North Somerset is 3.01km^2

Installed Power and Heat Generation Capacity

The Forest Research[283] gives a figure of 7 to 12 oven-dry tonnes/ha/annum yield for short rotation coppice and 12 to14 oven-dry tonnes (odt)/ha/annum yield for miscanthus. However, in reality, the actual yield will vary within a range, depending on a number of factors such as land grade, crop species, soil types, how many years a particular crop has been established at a site, and so on. Therefore, an average figure of 11 odt per hectare for energy crop yield was assumed in potential installed capacity calculations.

The amount of energy produced by biomass will depend on whether the fuel is burnt in boilers that only generate heat or combusted in Combined Heat and Power units (where the heat is used).

For the purposes of this assessment, it was assumed that the energy crop resource is used to fuel a biomass CHP system to produce electricity and heat. [284]

[283] https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/biomass-energy-resources/fuel/energy-crops/

[284] This is an average figure to cover a range of different technology types, and sizes, with different efficiencies. For example, a smaller scale facility (about 2MWe) using a steam turbine with an efficiency of about 20%, might require up to 8,000 oven dry tonnes/annum. However, a larger facility (5-10MWe), using gasification, with an efficiency of up to 30%, might require about 5,000 oven dry tonnes per annum.

A typical biomass CHP system will require about 6,000odt (oven-dry tonnes) of energy crops for each 1MWe of installed power generation capacity

The biomass CHP system will also simultaneously produce about 2MWt

The total potential installed capacity from energy crops across North Somerset is 0.55MWe and 1.1MWt

Table 65 confirms the maximum potential energy crop resource in North Somerset.

Table 65: Total Potential Energy Crop Resource in North Somerset

	Energy Crop
Total Available Area (km^2)	30.06
Usable Area (km^2)	3.006
Yield (odt per km^2)	1,100
Yield (odt)	3,307
Required Yield per MWt	6,000
Potential Installed Capacity (MWe)	**0.55**
Heat to Power Ratio	2:1
Potential Installed Capacity (MWt)	**1.1**

There is a potential installed capacity from energy crops across North Somerset of 0.55MWe and 1.1MWt, which, for comparison, is equal to supplying energy to 48 typical primary schools annually[288].

K.3 Wood Fuel

Usable land and yield

Wood fuel can be harvested from the small round wood stems, tips and branches of felled timber trees and thinning, and poor-quality round wood.[285]

The Forest Research[286] confirms that 200 oven-dried tonnes (odt) of available wood fuel per km^2 of woodland per annum[287].

The total area of national forest across North Somerset is 46.87km^2

200 oven-dried tonnes of wood fuel per km^2 of woodland per annum is available

The total wood fuel yield across North Somerset is calculated as 9,380odt per annum.

Installed Power and Heat Generation Capacity

could potentially be produced from biomass will be dependent on whether the fuel is burnt in boilers that only generate heat or combusted in Combined Heat and Power units.

For the purposes of this assessment, it was assumed that the energy resource from wood fuel is utilised for SH or DHW or both (i.e. a biomass boiler[288]).

[285] National forest is all wood land within the National Forestry Inventory. i.e. All woodland 0.5 hectares and over https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/national-forest-inventory/about-the-nfi/
[286] https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/biomass-energy-resources/reference-biomass/facts-figures/potential-yields-of-biofuels-per-ha-pa/
[287] The figures are based on forestry residues, short round wood (SRW), thinnings, etc.
[288] Assuming a boiler efficiency of 80% and a capacity factor of 0.3

A typical biomass boiler will require about 660odt (oven-dry tonnes) of wood fuel for each 1MWt of installed

The total potential installed capacity from wood fuel across North Somerset is 14.2MWt

Table 66 below confirms the maximum potential wood fuel biomass resource in North Somerset.

Table 66: Total Potential Energy Resource from Wood Fuel in North Somerset

	Wood Fuel
Available Area (km^2)	46.87
Yield (odt per km^2)	200
Yield (odt)	9,380
Required Yield per MWt	660
Potential Installed Capacity (MWt)	**14.2**

There is a maximum potential installed capacity across North Somerset of 14.2MWt, equivalent to supplying energy to 202 typical primary schools annually[289]

It should be noted this is the maximum potential resource (yield) which in reality will be reduced further by other constraints such as local demand, economic viability and other use of the wood. Some of the constraints are discussed in the following section.

K.4 Further Constraints to Biomass Energy Resource

Where areas of land have been indicated as having potential for the growing of energy crops, further detailed studies are required prior to action. Furthermore, market demand is likely to play a vital role in what type of crop is grown, the location and quantity.

Even where there is a local demand for a biomass supply, constraints (not considered within this RERAS) can persist, including the proximity of supply to the plant and practical access to sites required to prepare and deliver fuel.

Further constraints to biomass that are not considered within this RERAS include (but are not necessarily restricted to:

- Landowner willingness;
- National planning policies, which are outside of the Council's control; and
- The time involved in the planning process.

Biomass is most usually utilised in CHP for industrial purposes (typically situated away from residential development) or for heating non-domestic buildings, particularly in non-urban off-gas areas where there are less likely to be Air Quality issues and sufficient room for fuel storage and access for delivery vehicles.

K.5 Potential Opportunities for Future Development

The potential available biomass resource within North Somerset amounts to 0.55MWe and 15.3MWt which equates to 53.63GWht. This resource can be used to meet part of the heating demand in North Somerset via renewables, including for use in individual boilers, via district heating networks or incorporated in a fuel electricity plant or CHP plant. It should be noted that the projected biomass use in North Somerset in further sections is less biomass than the resource identified. Therefore, the amount of generation provided in further sections for 2030 aligns with the projected demand with the assumption that all biomass in sourced locally.

Due to the finite supply of biomass, it is essential to ensure that the resource is used to its biggest advantage. A recent report from the Climate Change Committee[290] (CCC) states that biomass should

[289] DEC database is used to calculate average annual heat demand in a typical primary school.
[290] Climate Change Committee, 'Biomass in a Low-Carbon Economy, 2018; https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Biomass-in-a-low-carbon-economy-CCC-2018.pdf

only be used to sequester atmospheric carbon whilst simultaneously providing useful energy; this could include future opportunities for bioenergy with carbon capture and storage, which can provide a useful method for offsetting residual greenhouse gas emissions. Biomass should also only be considered in situations where there are few alternatives.

Alongside concerns relating to the finite supply of biomass resource, there are also health concerns associated with the emissions released as part of the process of burning biomass. For more information on this, see Section 1.8.6.2.

The above concerns should not deter the Council from maximising the use of the available biomass resource; however, consideration must be taken to ensure the most appropriate way of exploiting this resource is determined. Because of the flexibility if biomass fuel, it is suggested that a bespoke, independent and thorough investigation is conducted into any proposals received in respect of biomass projects, to ensure environmental benefit is secured.

Given the cost of CCUS projects, it may be that such projects are limited in the North Somerset area. However, other projects potentially involving industrial manufacture/process, green hydrogen demonstration and production of biofuels may well be environmentally beneficial, particularly in off-gas grid areas where coal or oil is being displaced and where the biomass source is local and from sustainably managed sources.

Appendix L : Biomass Energy Resource Primary Constraints Table

The detailed data sources and assumptions can be found in the table below:

Constraint	Buffer	Notes
Special Protection Area (SPA)	Extent only	
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	Extent only	
RAMSAR	Extent only	
SSSI	Extent only	
National Nature Reserves	Extent only	
Registered Parks and Gardens	Extent only	
Scheduled Monuments	Extent only	
Listed Buildings	Extent only	
BMV agricultural land grades 1, 2, 3a	Extent only	In order to avoid competition between food crops and livestock with fuel crops, land grades of 1, 2 and 3 are constrained out. Therefore, this study has assumed that energy crops can only be potentially grown on agricultural land of Grade 4[291,292]
Local Nature Reserves	Extent only	
Broadleaved Woodland	Extent only	
Ancient Woodland	Extent only	
Operational and consented (but not yet constructed) ground mounted solar PV installation	Extent only	

[291] Poor quality agricultural land. Land with severe limitations which significantly restrict the range of crops and/or level of yields. It is mainly suited to grass with occasional arable crops (e.g. cereals and forage crops) the yields of which are variable. In moist climates, yields of grass may be moderate to high but there may be difficulties in utilisation. The grade also includes very droughty arable land.

[292] The Bioeconomy Consultants (2012), Domestic Energy Crops; Potential and Constraints Review, A report for DECC, URN: 12D/081

Appendix M : Energy from Waste

M.1 Introduction

The Waste Management Plan for England[293] sets out the Government's ambitions to work towards a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and waste management. The plan states that all waste management plans must include measures to be taken so that, by 2035:

- The preparing for re-use and the recycling of municipal waste are increased to a minimum of 65% by weight.
- The amount of municipal waste landfilled in reduced by 10% or less of the total amount of municipal waste generated (by weight).

The West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy[294] (JWCS) sets out the strategic spatial planning policy to provide waste management infrastructure across the planning area. The plan aims to reduce waste taken to the landfill by minimising waste production, increasing recycling and composting, then recovering further value from any remaining waste.

The JWCS highlights that, although material recovery takes priority, energy recovery has a beneficial role to play in both sustainable waste management and as a low carbon energy source from and Energy from Waste (EfW) centre.

North Somerset Council's Waste and Recycling Strategy is currently under consultation[295]; however, it has been confirmed that the targets are likely to be in line with the recently published South Gloucestershire Resource and Waste Strategy[296] which includes the following targets:

2025	→	**2027**	→	**2030**	→	**2030**
65% of waste recycled		68% of waste recycled		70% of waste recycled		Achieve zero waste to landfill

Part of the pathway to achieving these targets, includes using Energy Recovery Facilities (ERFs) for non-recyclable waste. The West of England Partnership (South Gloucestershire, North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset and Bristol City) uses two ERFs to incinerate waste and produce energy for the National Grid.

This section determines the amount of potential electricity and heat generation available from the following waste streams in 2030:

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)	• The 2030 MSW figure was determined by the council's waste prediction model and aligned with the 70% recycling rate target. • It was assumed that the MSW would be used as fuel in a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) facility to produce energy and heat.
Commercial and Industrial Waste (C&I)	• The 2030 C&I waste figure was determined using the 2019 figure from the Waste Data Interrogator (WDI), the "Sustainability Turn" scenario of the DEFRA "Scenario-Building for Future Waste Policy" report and aligned with the 70% recycling rate target. • It was assumed that the C&I would be utilised as a fuel in a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) facility to produce energy and heat.

[293] Waste Management Plan for England, DEFRA, 2021; https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955897/waste-management-plan-for-england-2021.pdf
[294] West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy, WEP, March 2011; https://www.westofengland.org/waste-planning/adopted-joint-waste-core-strategy
[295] Draft Recycling and Waste Strategy Summary Document, North Somerset Council: https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/gf2.ti/-/1273090/105019525.1/PDF/-/30337_Final___Executive_Summary_ACC.pdf
[296] South Gloucestershire Resource and Waste Strategy: 2020 and Beyond, South Gloucestershire Council, 2020, https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/1654-Resource-and-Waste-Strategy-2020-and-beyond-v1.0.pdf

Food Waste	• The 2030 food waste figure was determined by using the 2019 DEFRA value, assuming that the waste breakdown will remain constant and will increase at the same rate as the MSW between 2019 and 2030. • Food waste can be anaerobically digested to produce a suitable gas for combustion and, if the plant is suitably enabled, generate both electricity and heat.
Agricultural Waste Animal Manure	• The 2030 animal manure figure was determined using the assumption that the farming mix will not change significantly in North Somerset, and therefore the latest livestock statistics can be used. • Animal manure can be treated by anaerobic digestion and utilised in a CHP plant to generate both electricity and heat.
Agricultural Waste Poultry Litter	• The 2030 poultry litter figure was determined using the assumption that the farming mix will not change significantly in North Somerset, and therefore, the latest statistics for the number of poultry can be used. • A bespoke CHP facility would be required to facilitate the use of the poultry litter.
Sewage Sludge	• The 2030 sewage sludge figure was determined by the tonnes of sewage produced per person per year and the predicted 2030 population of North Somerset. • A CHP enabled anaerobic digestion plant would be suitable for utilising sewage sludge to produce both electricity and heat.

For more information regarding the technologies used, see Section 1.8.6.

M.2 Municipal Solid Waste

The total predicted Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) across North Somerset was provided by the Council based on the council's waste prediction model.

North Somerset Council is currently developing their waste strategy however it has been confirmed that their targets are likely to be in line with the recently published South Gloucestershire Resource and Waste Strategy[297]. As a result, a 70% recycling rate and zero waste to landfill by 2030 are assumed. Therefore, to avoid conflict with existing recycling targets. To avoid conflict with existing recycling targets, it was assumed that only 30% of this waste stream would be available for energy recovery.

The total predicted Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) across North Somerset in 2030 was calculated to be 120,000 tonnes

North Somerset predict a 70% recycling rate and zero waste to landfill by 2030

The total predicted MSW waste that could be used for energy recovery across North Somerset in 2030 is 36,000 tonnes.

Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities that generate electricity typically have gross efficiencies of about 27%[298]. However, England's waste and resource strategy confirm the Government will seek greater efficiency of EfW plants by encouraging the use of the heat the plants produce. Many plants are already Combined Heat and Power (CHP)-enabled and can utilise the generated heat if they can find a customer for it. Therefore, it was assumed that MSW waste will be burnt in facilities that produce CHP with higher efficiency levels (typically of around 40%) where the heat is usefully employed.[299]

It was assumed that 10,320 tonnes of waste per annum are required for each 1MWe of electricity generating capacity in a CHP plant.

A CHP facility will also produce about 2MWt of thermal output at the same time from the waste heat.

This results in the total potential capacity that could be supported by the MSW waste stream in North Somerset of 3.49MWe and 6.98MWt in 2030.

However, only the Biodegradable (BD) fraction of energy generation from waste could be eligible to count towards the renewable energy target[300].

The current Renewables Obligation guidance[301] includes a minimum level of the biodegradable fraction of MSW of 50%. However, the UK Government consultation on the re-branding of the Renewables Obligation suggest that high rates of recycling could result in residual biomass energy content in the range 30-38%.[302][303]

It was assumed that 35% of the power and energy output of any waste facility count as renewable

The renewable electricity and heat capacity across North Somerset for MSW waste would be 1.22MWe and 2.44MWt for 2030

[297] South Gloucestershire Resource and Waste Strategy: 2020 and Beyond, South Gloucestershire Council, 2020
[298] Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England, HM Government, 2018
[299] This assumes an electricity generation efficiency of 25%, based on a net calorific value of the fuel of 11MJ/kg, and a capacity factor of 0.9. This assumed calorific value of the fuel is a rough average as the actual value can vary widely depending on the composition of the waste, the extent to which recyclables and wet biodegradable waste has been removed or source separated, and whether the fuel has already been processed into RDF pellets.
[300] Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council; on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending the subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC, 2009
[301] Renewables Obligation: Fuel Measurement and Sampling, OFGEM, April 2020
[302] See Annex E: Analysis on Deeming the Fossil Fuel Fraction of Waste of the Government Response to the Statutory Consultation on the Renewables Obligation Order 2009, December
[303] Reform of the Renewables Obligation, DECC, December 2008

Table 67: Municipal Solid Waste Resource for the North Somerset Area in 2030

	MSW Resource in 2030
Total MSW waste (tonnes)	120,000
Total residual waste (tonnes)	36.000
Required wet tonnes per 1MWe	10,320
Potential installed capacity (MWe)	3.49
Total renewable element	35%
Potential installed capacity (MWe)	**1.22**
Heat to Power Ratio	2:1
Potential installed capacity (MWt)	**2.44**

Currently the residual waste is exported to facilities outside North Somerset as it is contracted via West of England Partnership (WoE) to Viridor and SUEZ with waste taken to their EfW plants in Avonmouth. Viridor is the primary facility used by North Somerset. Bulky residual waste (from household waste recycling centres) is contracted via WoE to ETM. Waste is taken to their facility in Ashton Gate, Bristol where it is segregated into constituent materials and sent for onward processing. The unsuitable waste for EfW is landfilled in sites outside the authority area. It was confirmed that the existing arrangement are likely to be in place until the end of 2030. Therefore, this resource is counted as existing generation elsewhere, and no additional potential is assumed for 2030.

M.3 Commercial and Industrial Waste

The potential for Commercial and Industrial (C&I) energy development was more challenging to assess as there is no central data holding, and this needed to be explored through regional intelligence on C&I producers. The Council confirmed that the collection of C&I waste is outside their remit, although a small amount of MSW is collected from non-residential buildings such as schools. This section is included in RERAS in the interest of completeness, even though this waste stream collection and processing are not within the Council's control.

The Environment Agency's Waste Data Interrogator (WDI) is used to calculate total C&I waste arising across North Somerset[304]. The dataset is designed primarily to provide data for waste planners and waste management professionals. It contains details of all waste received and removed from permitted waste facilities in England, including hazardous waste, but not from exempted facilities.

The amount MSW collected by the Council is subtracted from the total collected waste figure reported in WDI for North Somerset to calculate the arising C&I waste within North Somerset. The figure amounts to 370,475 tonnes of waste in 2019. However, it should be noted this figure includes waste streams such as concrete, bricks, tiles and ceramics from construction and demolition (C&D) waste which will not be suitable for incineration. Therefore, the inert C&D waste proportion was subtracted further from the arising C&I waste figure. Inert waste is waste that does not undergo any significant physical, chemical or biological transformations[305].

In order to calculate the predicted C&I waste across North Somerset in 2030, targets from the "Sustainability Turn" scenario of the "Scenario-Building for Future Waste Policy" report were utilised[306]. The research was commissioned and funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and the "Sustainability Turn" assumes an overall sustainability turn by society, industry, and politics whilst focusing on the principle of avoiding waste. The scenario predicts a 7% reduction in C&I Waste Arisings between 2020 and 2030.

[304] https://data.gov.uk/dataset/d409b2ba-796c-4436-82c7-eb1831a9ef25/2019-waste-data-interrogator
[305] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/landfill-operators-environmental-permits/landfills-for-inert-waste
[306] http://sciencesearch.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=WR1508_FutureWasteScen_FinalReport_FORPUBLICATION.pdf

The arising C&I waste (excluding inert construction and demolition waste) in North Somerset in 2030 is 275,826 tonnes

The "Sustainability Turn" predicts a 7% reduction in C&I Waste arisings between 2020 and 2030.

The arising C&I waste suitable for incineration was 295,216 tonnes in 2019.

However, to avoid conflict with existing recycling targets, it was assumed that only 30% of this waste stream would be available for energy recovery.

The total predicted C&I waste for energy recovery across North Somerset is 82,748 tonnes in 2030

North Somerset predicts a 70% recycling rate and zero waste to landfill by 2030

It was assumed that C&I waste will be burnt in facilities that produce CHP with higher efficiency levels (typically of around 40%) where the heat is usefully employed, as per England's Waste and Resource Strategy. [307]

This results in the total potential capacity that could be supported by the C&I waste stream in North Somerset is 8.02MWe and 16.04MWt in 2030

A CHP facility will also produce about 2MWt of thermal output at the same time from the waste heat.

It was assumed that 10,320 tonnes of waste per annum are required for each 1MWe of electricity generating capacity in a CHP plant.

However, only the Biodegradable (BD) fraction of energy generation from waste could be eligible to count towards a renewable energy target.[308]

The current Renewables Obligation guidance[309] includes a minimum level of the biodegradable fraction of 50%. However, the UK Government consultation on the Renewables Obligation's re-banding suggested that high rates of recycling could result in residual biomass energy content in the range 30–38%. [310, 311].

The renewable electricity and heat capacity across North Somerset for C&I waste would be 2.81MWe and 5.61MWt in 2030

It was assumed that 35% of the power and energy output of any waste facility count as renewable

[307] This assumes an electricity generation efficiency of 25%, based on a net calorific value of the fuel of 11MJ/kg, and a capacity factor of 0.9. This assumed calorific value of the fuel is a rough average as the actual value can vary widely depending on the composition of the waste, the extent to which recyclables and wet biodegradable waste has been removed or source separated, and whether the fuel has already been processed into RDF pellets.
[308] Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council; on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending the subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC, 2009
[309] Renewables Obligation: Fuel Measurement and Sampling, OFGEM, April 2020
[310] See Annex E: Analysis on Deeming the Fossil Fuel Fraction of Waste of the Government Response to the Statutory Consultation on the Renewables Obligation Order 2009, December
[311] Reform of the Renewables Obligation, DECC, December 2008

Table 68: Commercial and Industrial waste resource in North Somerset in 2030

Commercial and Industrial Waste in 2030	
Total waste (tonnes)	275,826
Total residual waste (tonnes)	82,748
Required wet tonnes per 1MWe	10,320
Potential installed capacity (MWe)	8.02
Total renewable element	35%
Potential installed capacity (MWe)	**2.81**
Heat to Power Ratio	2:1
Potential installed capacity (MWt)	**5.61**

Based on the WDI data, the bulk of residual waste that is currently sent for landfill or incineration is exported to facilities outside North Somerset. It is unknown if the existing arrangement will be in place until 2030. Therefore, it has been assumed that this resource is counted as existing generation elsewhere until the end of 2030.

M.4 Food Waste

North Somerset provided the data for the amount of food waste collected in 2019/20.

From the data provided by North Somerset Council for MSW in 2019/20, food waste from the MSW stream accounts for 6,980 tonnes of the 40,726 tonnes of waste that is collected through kerbside schemes. This equates to 17.14% of the waste collected.

As the population of North Somerset rises, from 215,052, in 2019, to a projected 231,273[312], in 2030, it is expected that the household waste produced will also increase. North Somerset Council has predicted that there will be a total of 120,000 tonnes of MSW produced in 2030. This is an 18.72% increase compared to the 101,074 tonnes produced in 2019/20.

6,980 tonnes of food was collected in North Somerset through kerbside schemes. This equates to 17.14% of the total waste collected.

It is assumed that the waste breakdown will remain constant and so the tonnes of food waste generated will also increase by 18.72%.

It is estimated that North Somerset will generate 8,287 tonnes of food waste in 2030.

Food waste can be anaerobically digested to produce a gas that is suitable for combustion and, if the plant is suitably enabled, generate both electric and heat. [313],[314].

It was assumed that 20,000 tonnes of food waste is needed to produce 1MWe

It was assumed that that the heat to power ratio of an Anaerobic Digestion plant is 1.5 to 1

This results in a potential installed capacity in North Somerset of 0.41MWe and 0.62MWt in 2030

These figures are shown below in Table 69.

[312] Office for National Statistics – Population Projections for Local Authorities: Table 2 https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/localauthoritiesinenglandtable2

[313] This assumes the following: : 1 tonne of wet food waste produces 140m3 of biogas (Dealing with Food Waste in the UK, Eunomia, March 2007 -Table 10 - https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/24424418/dealing-with-food-waste-in-the-uk-march-2007-wrap); 1m3 of biogas has an energy content of 5.8kWh; an electrical generating efficiency of 30% and a capacity factor of 0.9

[314] Combine Heat and Power, Technologies A detailed guide for CHP developers, BEIS, February 2021

Table 69: Potential Installed Capacity from Total Available Food Waste Resource in North Somerset in 2030

	Resource from Food Waste in 2030
MSW food waste (tonnes)	8,287
Required tonnes per MWe	20,000
Potential installed capacity (MWe)	**0.41**
Heat to Power Ratio	1.5:1
Potential installed capacity (MWt)	**0.62**

Food waste form North Somerset is processed at a plant in Weston-Super-Mare within North Somerset and is therefore already accounted for as existing generation within North Somerset.

North Somerset Council are currently developing their waste strategy which will include aims to reduce household waste produced. This strategy is also likely to increase awareness of food waste recycling and therefore increase the amount of food waste available.

M.5 Agricultural Waste

Animal Manure

It was assumed that the farming mix will not change in North Somerset over the time period to 2030, and therefore the potential for energy generated from agricultural waste will be the same as the current scenario. The latest statistics (2016) were utilised.[315]

Utilising the latest statistics (2016), the total numbers of cattle and pigs across North Somerset is 17,751and 4,270 respectively

The total annual tonnage of available manure across North Somerset is 85,067 tonnes.

It is assumed that that slurry is only collected for 6 months of the year

It is assumed that each cattle produces 1 tonne of slurry a month and each pig produces 0.1 tonnes per month.

In practice however, it will not be possible or practical to collect all of this potential resource. This will be because many farms will not use a slurry system but will collect the excreta as solid manure mixed with bedding which is then spread on the fields[316].

Furthermore, it will not be practical to collect the slurry from some of the farms, because they may be too small or too dispersed for this to be economically viable. [317]

The total available resource across North Somerset of animal manure is 68,054 tonnes/ annum

This study assumes that 80% of the animal waste resource is practically viable

[315] Typical Average figure – DEFRA - http://adlib.everysite.co.uk/adlib/defra/content.aspx?id=1QQUSGMWSS.0LHA1QS0A3E5TV, Accessed 17th February 2021
[316] East of England Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Capacity Study, AECOM, May 2011; https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Suffolk-Coastal-Local-Plan/Document-Library/Infrastructure/east-of-england-renewable-energy-capacity-study.pdf
[317] Renewable and Low-carbon Energy Capacity Methodology – DECC - 2010

An Anaerobic Digestion plant would be suitable to use animal slurry to produce both electric and heat. [318, 319, 320]

The total potential installed capacity from animal manure across North Somerset is 0.302MWe and 0.454MWt

It is assumed that the heat to power ratio of an Anaerobic Digestion plant is 1.5 to 1

It is assumed 37,000 tonnes of feedstock is required to generate 1 MWe, however, this represents a high calorific value feedstock (food waste for example) and so an amended value of 225,000 tonnes was used

Table 70: Potential Installed Capacity from Total Available Animal Slurry Resource in the North Somerset in 2030

Animal Slurry Resource in 2030	
Total livestock (Cattle & Pigs)	18,021
Total slurry (tonnes)	85,067
Usable slurry (tonnes)	68,054
Required wet tonnes per MWe	225,000
Potential installed capacity (MWe)	**0.302**
Heat to Power Ratio	1.5:1
Potential installed capacity (MWt)	**0.454**

Poultry Litter

It was assumed that the farming mix in North Somerset will not change over the time period to 2030 and therefore that the potential energy generated from agricultural waste will be the same as the current scenario.

Using the data from 2019 provided by North Somerset Council, the total number of poultry recorded across North Somerset was 62,988.

DEFRA provides information on the amount of excreta produced by different types of poultry[323]. This suggests a figure of 42 tonnes of litter per year per 1,000 birds[324][325]

DEFRA data suggests a figure of 42 tonnes of litter per year per 1,000 birds

For mass-producing farms, it was assumed that 75% of the litter produced can be utilised for conversion into energy.

The total annual tonnage of available poultry litter across North Somerset is 1,984 tonnes.

A bespoke CHP plant would need to be used to facilitate the poultry litter resource.

[318] Combine Heat and Power, Technologies A detailed guide for CHP developers, BEIS, February 2021; https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/961492/Part_2_CHP_Technologies_BEIS_v03.pdf
[319] Renewable and Low-carbon Energy Capacity Methodology, DECC , January 2010; https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/226175/renewable_and_low_carbon_energy_capacity_methodology_jan2010.pdf
[320] East of England Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Capacity Study, AECOM, May 2011; https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Suffolk-Coastal-Local-Plan/Document-Library/Infrastructure/east-of-england-renewable-energy-capacity-study.pdf
[321] East of England Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Capacity Study, AECOM, May 2011
[322]Combine Heat and Power, Technologies A detailed guide for CHP developers, BEIS, February 2021
[323] See the DEFRA leaflets on guidance to famers in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, Leaflet 3, Table 3
[324] Based on the figure for laying hens, which is 3.5 tonnes per month
[325] Renewable and Low-carbon Energy Capacity Methodology – DECC - 2010

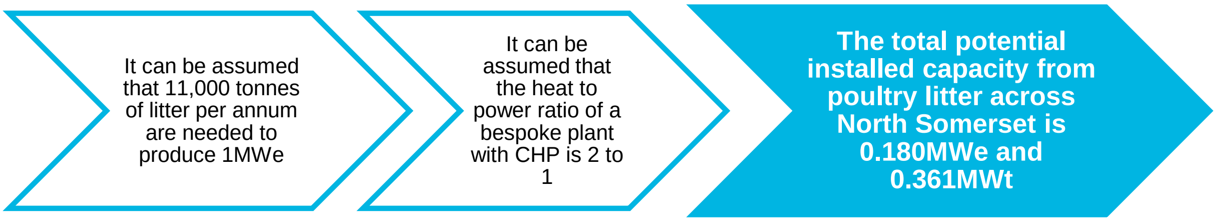


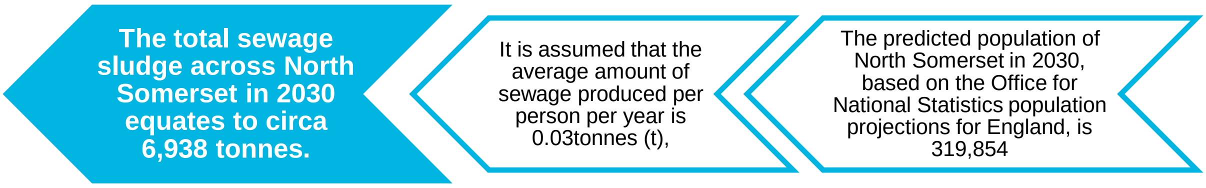
Table 71: Potential Installed Capacity from Poultry Litter in North Somerset in 2030

Poultry Litter Resource in 2030	
Total poultry	62,988
Accessible poultry (75%)	47,241
Total Litter (tonnes)	1,984
Required tonnes of litter per MWe	11,000
Potential installed capacity (MWe)	**0.180**
Heat to Power Ratio	2 :1
Potential installed capacity (MWt)	**0.361**

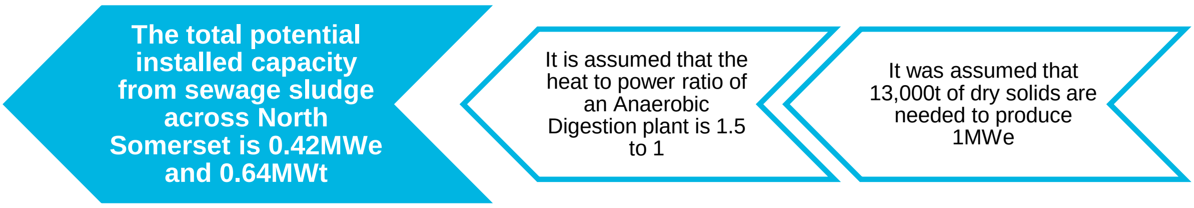
In practice, as the potential capacity is less than 10MWe, it is unlikely that this would be enough to support a dedicated poultry litter power plant.

Given the total combined resource from animal slurry and poultry litter is 0.483 MWe and 0.814 MWt, the resource could be combined with animal slurry to support an anaerobic digestion facility of 0.483 MWe, especially in partnership with neighbouring authorities

M.6 Sewage Sludge



An Anaerobic Digestion plant would be suitable for utilising sewage sludge to produce both electric and heat. [326][327]



[326] The biogas production figure was provided by AECOM engineers who are specialists in designing AD plants for the water industry
[327]Combine Heat and Power, Technologies A detailed guide for CHP developers, BEIS, February 2021

Table 72: Potential Installed Capacity from Total Available Sewage Sludge Resource in the North Somerset in 2030

Sewage Sludge Resource in 2030	
North Somerset Population	231,273
Sewage per Person (tonnes)	0.03
Total Sewage (tonnes)	6,938
Required Tonnes of Sewage per MWe	13,000
Potential Installed Capacity (MWe) less 0.11MWe already generated	**0.42**
Heat to Power Ratio	1.5:1
Potential Installed Capacity (MWt)	**0.64**

M.7 Waste Summary

A summary of the potential outputs from utilising the waste resource in North Somerset area is provided below. There are a number of key issues which would impact on whether the resource can be exploited and/or counted towards renewable energy contributions as follows:

- Viability, and therefore likelihood of building the necessary plant;
- Origin of the resource.

In addition, when considering the planning area's contribution, high level consideration is given to the likelihood of the resource being exploited.

So, for instance, although there is available MSW resource in the area, Waste is taken to facilities in Ashton Gate, Bristol where it is segregated into constituent materials and sent for onward processing. The unsuitable waste for EfW is landfilled in sites outside the authority area. And therefore, given resource availability is determined by where the generation takes place, it is assumed there is no available energy resource from MSW, C&I and food waste[328].

A bespoke CHP plant would need to be used to facilitate the poultry litter resource. However, in practice, as the potential capacity is less than 10MWe, it is unlikely that this would be enough to support a dedicated poultry litter power plant since it is likely not to be viable. The resource has therefore been combined with slurries to be utilised in an AD plant with CHP.

Given that there is already recovery of landfill gas as well sewage gas AD plant which are utilised for electricity generation in the county, it is assumed that all economic opportunities have already been exploited – hence the contribution is set to zero.

Therefore, the only available resources that can be utilised in AD plants within the planning area are animal slurries combined with poultry litter.

When considering all of the above, the final potential for renewable energy from the waste resource is shown in Table 73 below.

[328] Assuming that the existing arrangements are likely to be in place until 2030

Table 73: Summary of Energy from Waste Caption

	Prior to consideration of likelihood of utilisation for RE Generation			Reason for adjustment / change of technology	Post consideration of likelihood of utilisation for RE Generation 2030		
		2030					
Resource	**Technology**	**MWe**	**MWt**		**Technology**	**MWe**	**MWt**
C&I Waste	EfW with CHP	2.81	5.61	Currently the residual waste that is sent for landfill or incineration is exported to facilities outside North Somerset. Therefore, counted as existing generation elsewhere.	None	-	-
MSW	EfW with CHP	1.22	2.44	Currently waste is taken to facilities in Ashton Gate, Bristol where it is segregated into constituent materials and sent for onward processing. The unsuitable waste for EfW is landfilled in sites outside the authority area. Therefore, counted as generation elsewhere.	None	-	-
Food Waste	AD with CHP	0.41	2.44	Currently processed at a plant in Weston-Super-Mare within North Somerset and is therefore already accounted for as existing generation within North Somerset.	None	-	-
Animal Slurry	AD with CHP	0.30	0.45	Combined with Poultry Litter[329].	AD	0.48	0.81
Poultry Litter	Bespoke plant with CHP[330]	0.18	0.36	Not likely to be enough resource for bespoke plant (resource is less than 10MWe). The resource is therefore combined with Animal slurry for AD with CHP and included in above.	None	-	-
Sewage Sludge	AD with CHP	0.42	0.64	There is a 0.56MWe installed capacity, it is assumed that all economic opportunities have already been exploited.	None		
Landfill Gas	Landfill gas recovery engine	There is a 1.05MWe installed capacity		The unsuitable waste for EfW is landfilled in sites outside the authority area. There is a 1.05MWe installed capacity for landfill gas, it is assumed that all economic opportunities have already been exploited[331].	None		
Potential installed capacity		**5.35**	**11.95**			**0.48**	**0.81**

[329] As shown in Table 8, there is 1.1MW installed capacity of AD in North Somerset. However, it has not been possible to verify if these installations are located in farms utilising animal slurry, poultry litter or other waste streams as fuel. Therefore, the resource has been retained in this table in the 'Post consideration of likelihood of utilisation for RE Generation 2030' column.
[330] In practice, a potential capacity of 10MWe or more is required to support a dedicated poultry litter power plant.
[331] The Council is currently moving towards a zero-landfill objective with an aim to divert all waste from landfill to energy recovery.
https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/bins-recycling/recycling-rubbish-collections/where-your-recycling-goes

Appendix N : Future Energy Scenarios

The National Grid Electricity Systems Operator's (ESO) produces Future Energy Scenarios (FES) annually[332], containing in-depth analysis of different future scenarios in the energy system within the UK (see Section 14). The 2020 FES have been updated to reflect the UK Governments net zero by 2050 targets. It should be noted that the 'Steady Progression' scenario would not meet the 2050 net zero target. The four scenarios are described below:

1. Steady Progression

- Low levels of decarbonisation and societal change.
- Not compliant with the 2050 net zero emissions target.

2. System Transformation

- High level of decarbonisation with lower societal change. Larger, more centralised solutions are developed. This scenario has the highest levels of hydrogen deployment.

3. Consumer Transformation

- High levels of decarbonisation and societal change. Consumers adopt new technologies rapidly, and more decentralised solutions are developed. This scenario has significant electrification of domestic heat.

4. Leading the Way

- Very high levels of decarbonisation and societal change. Consumers adopt new technologies rapidly, and a mix of solutions are developed. This scenario aims for the "fastest credible" decarbonisation pathway

The UK FES total annual energy (end consumer) and the consumption for residential, industrial and commercial and road transport sectors for each scenario can be seen below in Figure 122 to Figure 125. The figures outline the projected consumption by fuel type within each of the 4 FES scenarios at the UK wide level.

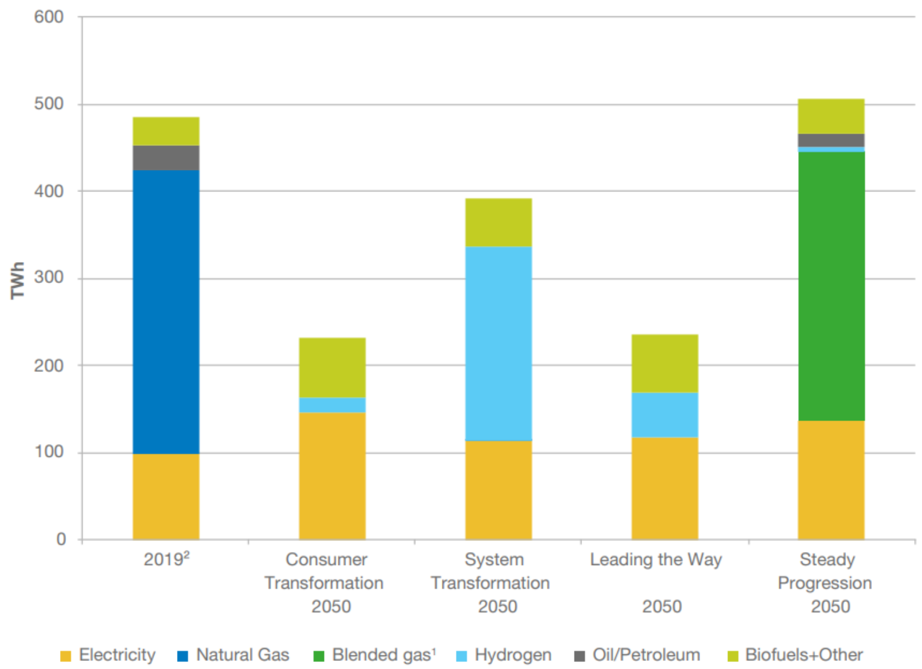


Figure 122: UK 2019 and Projected Annual Residential Energy Consumption (for Heat Appliances) in the UK[333]

[332] Future Energy Scenarios, National Grid ESO, July 2020; https://www.nationalgrideso.com/document/173821/download
[333] National Grid ESO, Future Energy Scenarios, July 2020; https://www.nationalgrideso.com/document/173821/download

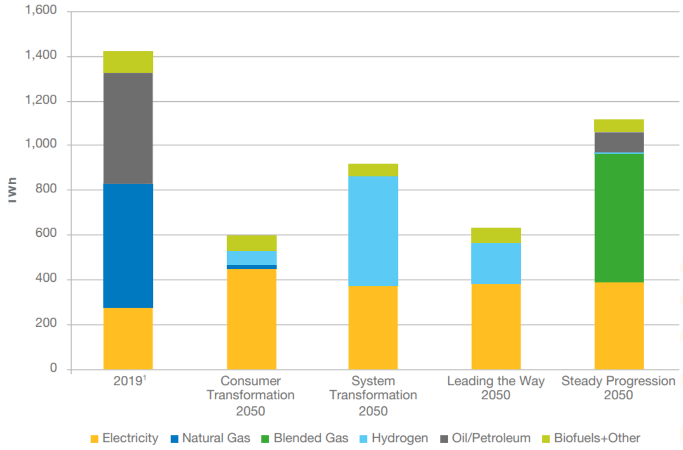


Figure 123: UK 2019 and Projected Annual End Consumer Energy Consumption in the UK[334]

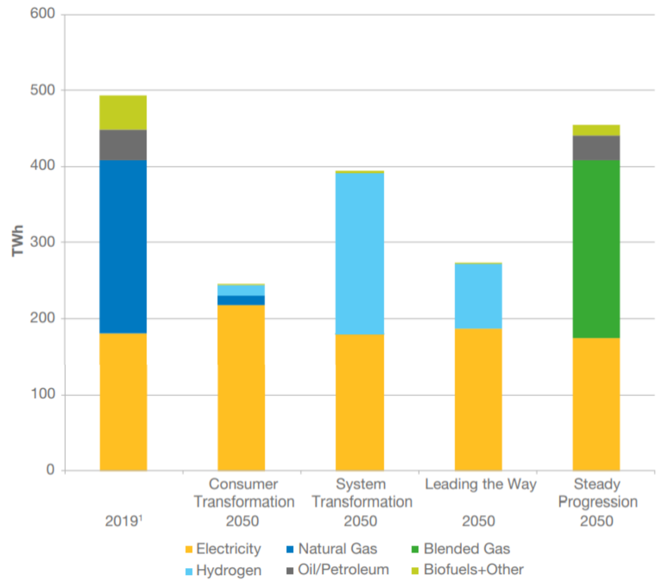


Figure 124: UK 2019 and Projected Annual Industrial and Commercial Energy Consumption in 2050[334]

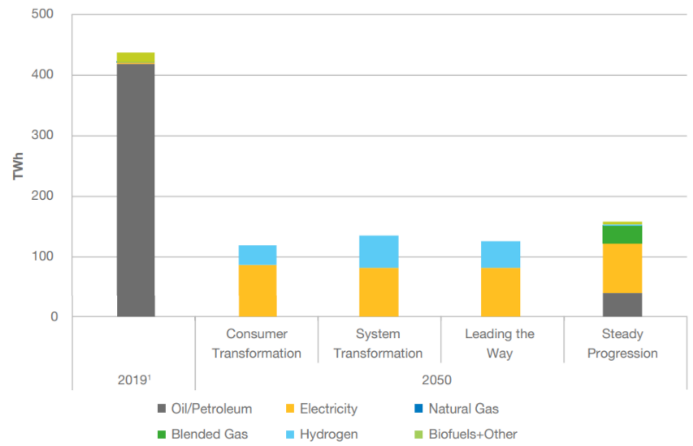


Figure 125: UK Total Annual Consumption for Road Transport in 2050[334]

[334] National Grid ESO, Future Energy Scenarios, July 2020; https://www.nationalgrideso.com/document/173821/download

As shown in Figure 125, the use of a low amount of natural gas is still projected in the commercial and industrial sectors in 2050 under the Consumer Transformation scenario in an industrial and commercial setting.

Table 74 below details the predicted UK 2050 greenhouse gas emissions for each scenario under the FES, highlighting residual emission in industry, power generation and "Other" category. The 'Other' category includes Agriculture, Land Use and Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF), Waste, F-gases, Aviation and shipping

The data shows the fundamental use of Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) in achieving net zero emissions. BECCS is the combination of bioenergy with carbon capture and storage to capture any CO_2 released during combustion, and the FES assumes that the greenhouse gases released in each scenario will be mainly offset by using BECCS.

Table 74: UK 2050 Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Category[335] [336]

$MtCO_2$ equivalent	2019	CT 2050	ST 2050	LW 2050	SP 2050
Heat for buildings	87	0	0	0	78
Electricity before BECCS	57	3	2	2	30
BECCS in power sector	0	-52	-49	-61	0
Industry	102	4	4	4	55
Road transport	113	0	0	0	16
Hydrogen production	0	0	-1	0	0
Other[2]	121	45	45	45	79
Total[3]	**480**	**0**	**0**	**-10**	**258**

[335] National Grid ESO, Future Energy Scenarios, July 2020; https://www.nationalgrideso.com/document/173821/download
[336] Note that some of these figures do not add up exactly due to rounding

Appendix O : Renewable Energy Generation Load Factors

The area-wide resource assessment results indicate the potential installed capacity for different technologies (in MW) that the available resource can support. A well-established and straightforward way of estimating how much energy the potential capacity might generate is to use capacity factors (as load factors).

These factors, which vary by technology, measure how much energy a generating station will typically produce in a year for any given installed capacity. A summary of the different capacity factors for different technologies are given below.

Technology	Load Factors	Comments and Sources
Onshore Wind	0.25	Average of the five previous years' regional standard load factors published by BEIS.[337]
Biomass (Electricity)	0.75	Average of the five previous years' regional standard load factors. DUKES 2020.
Biomass (Heat)	0.40	This allows for the fact that not all of the waste heat can be usefully used 100% of the time.
Hydropower	0.29	Average of the five previous years' regional standard load factors published by BEIS[337].
Energy from Waste (Electricity)	0.90	Typical for gas and coal fired power stations[338]. It should be noted in this study, calculation is based on only biodegradable waste capacity.
Energy from Waste (Heat)	0.50	This allows for the fact that not all of the waste heat can be usefully used 100% of the time
Landfill Gas (Electricity)	0.46	Average of the five previous years' regional standard load factors published by BEIS[337].
Landfill Gas (Heat)	0.30	This allows for the fact that not all of the waste heat can be usefully used 100% of the time
Anaerobic Digestion Utilising including Food Waste, Animal Slurry, Poultry Litter, Sewage Sludge and Sewage Gas. (AD with CHP)	0.43	Average of the five previous years' regional standard load factors published by BEIS[337].
Anaerobic Digestion Utilising Food Waste, Animal Slurry, Poultry Litter, Sewage Sludge and Sewage Gas. (Heat)	0.5	This allows for the fact that not all of the waste heat can be usefully used 100% of the time
Solar Farm	0.11	Average of the five previous years' regional standard load factors published by BEIS[337].
Domestic and Non-Domestic Renewable Electricity Technologies Such as Rooftop Solar PV (electricity)	0.10	This is an average for PV and micro and small wind
Domestic and Non-Domestic Renewable Thermal Technologies (Thermal)	0.20	This is an average across a range of technologies, covering heat pumps, wood chip and pellet boilers and solar water heating.

[337] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics
[338] Markal energy model, 2007, chapter 5 Project Sheet of model documentation, www.ucl.ac.uk/energy-models/models/uk-markal/uk-markal-manual-chapter-5

Appendix P : Future Energy Demand Building Connected Renewables Projections Data Source

This section includes details of the key data sources that are used in calculation of future energy demand and building connected renewable technologies projections.

Source	Use	Description	Link
National Grid ESO FES 2020	Projections and scenario framework	National Grid ESO's Future Energy Scenarios (FES) represent a range of different ways to decarbonise the GB energy system. Represented as four scenarios, three of them meet net zero by 2050 at a national level.	Link.
Western Power Distribution (WPD) and Regen DFES	Technology baseline and projections	The Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES) outline the range of credible futures for the growth of the distribution network. Broadly aligning with the National Grid ESO's FES, these encompass the growth of demand, storage and distributed generation, also low carbon technologies such as Electric Vehicles and Heat Pumps at a local level.	Link.
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) EPC data	Technology baseline	MHCLG publish Energy Performance Certificates and Display Energy Certificates data for buildings in England and Wales down to the granularity of individual houses. This provides highly detailed information on energy related information for buildings in a local area.	Link.
BEIS Sub-national energy consumption statistics	Energy baseline	BEIS publish local data on energy consumption, including at local authority level, for different fuels and consumption sectors.	Link.

Appendix Q : Potential Hydropower Sites

The Win-Win (schemes that both provide a good hydropower opportunity and increase the status of the associated fish population beneficial both in terms of hydropower generation and environmental impact[339]) sites have been highlighted in the below table[340].

OBSTRUCT ID	Feature	Power	Power Category	Sensitivity	Location
867	Weir	0.5800214700	0 - 10 kW		Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
935	Weir	3.5365780200	0 - 10 kW	High	Avon & Frome
985	Weir	2.0478110600	0 - 10 kW	High	Avon & Frome
1058	Weir	9.8478061200	0 - 10 kW	High	Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
1221	Weir	5.5379936500	0 - 10 kW		Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
1246	Weir	1.2475365200	0 - 10 kW	High	Avon & Frome
1252	Weir	2.5930603800	0 - 10 kW	High	Avon & Frome
1344	Weir	10.5045402000	10 - 20 kW	High	Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
1433	Weir	1.7067023700	0 - 10 kW		Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
1463	Weir	0.9859256500	0 - 10 kW		Avon & Frome
1553	Weir	5.1135807700	0 - 10 kW	High	Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
1570	Weir	0.0546946900	0 - 10 kW		Avon & Frome
1595	Weir	2.6748664800	0 - 10 kW	High	Avon & Frome
1627	Weir	5.2082800900	0 - 10 kW	High	Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
1818	Weir	0.4659764700	0 - 10 kW	High	Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
1821	Weir	6.5959643100	0 - 10 kW	High	Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
1822	Weir	6.2147271100	0 - 10 kW	High	Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
1837	Weir	2.1983520300	0 - 10 kW	High	Avon & Frome
1846	Weir	0.5850259000	0 - 10 kW		Avon & Frome
1854	Weir	5.0811600000	0 - 10 kW	High	Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
1936	Weir	2.5839949300	0 - 10 kW		Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
2009	Weir	0.7862917900	0 - 10 kW	High	Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
2156	Weir	0.0200957800	0 - 10 kW		Avon & Frome
2186	Weir	0.1965547400	0 - 10 kW		Avon & Frome
2212	Weir	0.2065148600	0 - 10 kW		Avon & Frome
2299	Weirs	2.8492100000	0 - 10 kW	High	Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
2300	Weirs	3.8899140000	0 - 10 kW	High	Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
2301	Weirs	9.1158584000	0 - 10 kW	High	Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
2343	Weirs	0.4412179800	0 - 10 kW		Avon & Frome
2344	Weirs	0.5491933700	0 - 10 kW		Avon & Frome
2349	Waterfall	1.2646169800	0 - 10 kW		Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
2351	Waterfall	0.4130578800	0 - 10 kW		Avon & Frome
2355	Waterfall	3.2509400200	0 - 10 kW		Parrett, Axe & Sheppy

[339] The Environmental Agency's judgement on whether the site is a potential "win-win" for both hydropower and the environment, Page 11
[340] Potential Sites of Hydropower Opportunity, Environment Agency, revised 2020; https://data.gov.uk/dataset/cda61957-f48b-4b75-b855-a18060302ed1/potential-sites-of-hydropower-opportunity

2371	Waterfall	3.2613216700	0 - 10 kW		Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
2372	Waterfall	8.7146549200	0 - 10 kW		Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
2374	Waterfall	3.8178061700	0 - 10 kW	High	Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
2383	Waterfall	0.1299665400	0 - 10 kW		Avon & Frome
2384	Waterfall	0.3695732000	0 - 10 kW		Avon & Frome
2386	Waterfall	5.9270675500	0 - 10 kW	High	Avon & Frome
2388	Waterfall	6.1503869900	0 - 10 kW		Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
2397	Dam	4.5575450300	0 - 10 kW		Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
2399	Dam	2.2205608900	0 - 10 kW	High	Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
2425	Lock	2.4106285500	0 - 10 kW	High	Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
2559	Weirs	1.3716525700	0 - 10 kW		Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
2594	Waterfall	0.2927259800	0 - 10 kW		Avon & Frome
2598	Weirs	1.6585938900	0 - 10 kW		Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
2670		11.3373655000	10 - 20 kW	High	Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
2856	Weir	0.9213425500	0 - 10 kW	High	Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
2875	Weir	1.3170735700	0 - 10 kW	High	Parrett, Axe & Sheppy
2879	Dam	4.1463387000	0 - 10 kW	High	Parrett, Axe & Sheppy

Appendix R : Accelerating DFES 2050 Projections to 2030

Technology	Existing Installations (MWe)	Existing Generation (MWh/annum)	2050 DFES Projections	2030 Projection for North Somerset	Total Generation in North Somerset in 2030 (MWh/annum)	Additional Capacity required to meet DFES (MWe)	Additional Generation required to meet DFES (MWh)	Number of 5MW Wind Farms/ 5MW Solar Farms Required
Onshore Wind <1MW	0.0192	16.82	5.44	5.44	4767.04	5.42	4750.22	6.94
Onshore Wind >=1MW	4.3000	9359.42	33.6	33.60	73134.06	29.30	63774.64	
Onshore Wind <=0.006 MW	0.0000	0.00	0.13	0.13	111.58	0.13	111.58	
Commercial solar rooftop (10kW - 1MW)	10.8700	9522.12	48.92	48.92	42853.92	38.05	33331.80	
Ground mounted solar (>1MW)	49.3190	47836.28	156.1	156.1	151376.95	106.75	103540.67	2.14
Domestic solar rooftop (<10kW)	19.9205	17450.33	77.75	77.75	68111.11	57.83	50660.79	
Domestic solar rooftop (>10kW)	0.0000	0.00	28.3	5.79[341]	5075.58	5.79	5075.58	
Landfill Gas, Sewage Gas, Biogas	2.711	10581.86	3.06	3.06	11919.37	0.35	1373.72	
Hydropower	0.0320	80.09	0.032	0.032	80.09	0.00	0.00	
Large Scale Biomass	0.0000	0.00	0.000	0.000	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Waste Incineration (EfW)	0.0300[342]	236.52	0.030	0.030	236.52	0.00	0.00	
Total	**87.20**	**95,083.43**			**357,666.22**	**243.63**	**262,619.00**	
Percentage of 2030 Demand		**5.14%**			**19.33%**		**14.19%**	

[341] The building integrated solar 2030 figure is lower than the DFES 2050 projection as number of new dwellings used within this assessment aligns with the value predicted within the DFES for 2030 not 2050.
[342] DEFES data includes total energy output. In Energy from Waste section of this report, it has been assumed that 35% of the power and energy output of the waste facility counts as renewable (circa 0.011MWe).

Appendix S : Installation of Maximum Potential

This option assumes a 100% uptake of the potential installed capacity of for solar PV farms and wind farms and the installation of other technologies, such as heat pumps, as set out in the DFES. It also assumes that projected energy consumption in 2050 occurs in 2030, excluding the demand from any new dwellings, which has stayed consistent with the current 2030 projection.

It should be noted the lack of grid connection opportunities may affect the ability of the Council to meet the 2030 aim under this scenario; therefore, more investment in the grid would be required to support a greater number of renewables than currently assumed needed from DFES.

This option assumes that the majority of homes are primarily heated by heat pumps (circa 73% of homes in the South West of England as per the DFES), and there will be a 12% increase in the number of dwellings with direct electric heating in North Somerset.

This option assumes that there will be circa 270 times more electric vehicles than in 2020, in the South West, as per the DFES[343].

This option could deliver a potential maximum energy of 6,773.55GWh$_e$ and 67.6GWh$_t$ in North Somerset.

This option is the most ambitious and least realistic option due to the amount of new wind and solar development required. Further constraints such as competing land uses would need to be considered and a balance between other local objectives would need to be considered prior to any development.

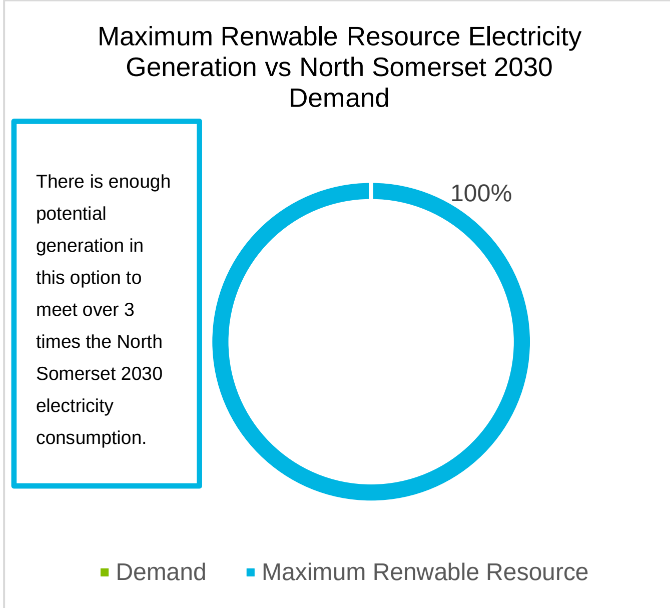


Figure 126: Comparison of 2030 Electricity Generation in this Option and North Somerset's 2030 Consumption

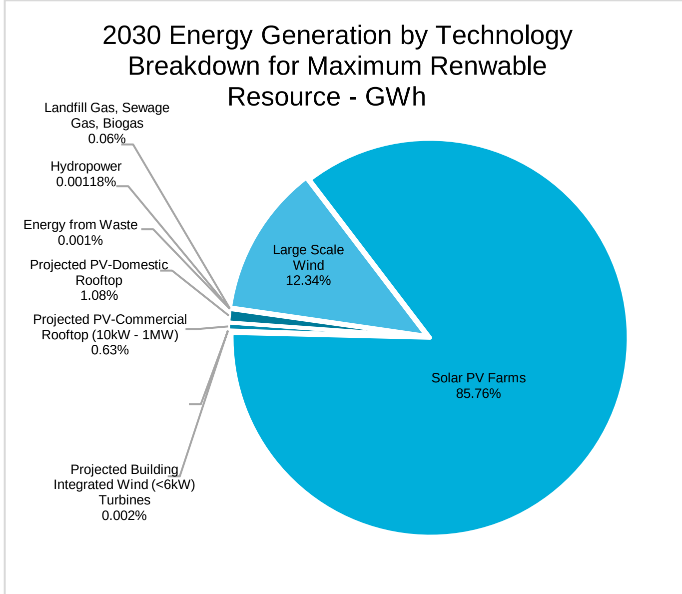


Figure 127: 2030 Energy Generation by Technology Breakdown in this Option - GWh

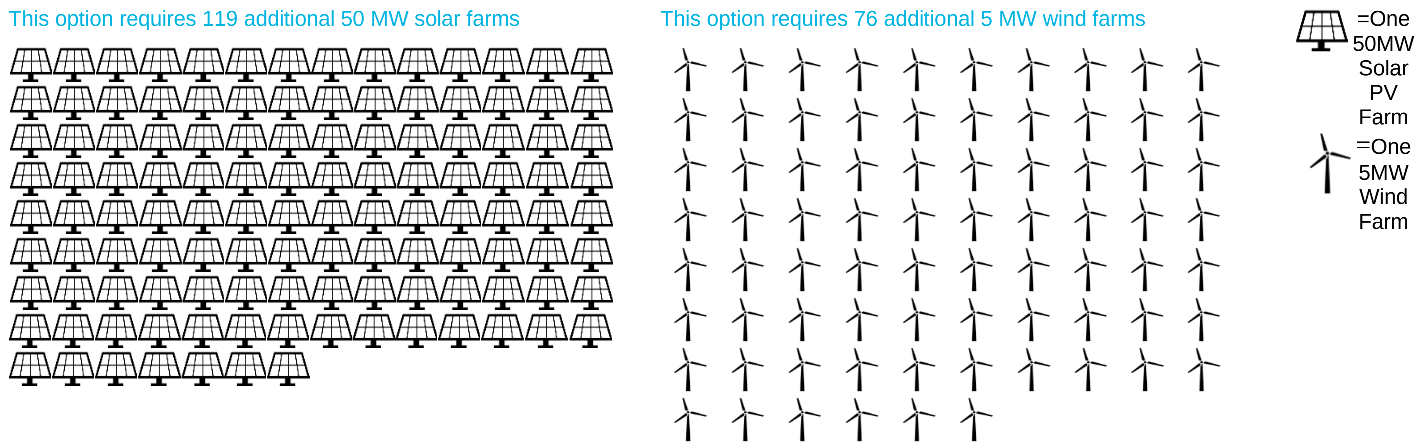


Figure 128: Pictogram of Number of Additional 50MW Solar Farms and 5MW Wind Farms Required in This Option[344]

Table 75: Potential Maximum Electricity Generation (GWh)

Technology	Potential Maximum Electricity Generation (GWh)
Energy from Waste	0.09
Hydropower	0.08
Landfill Gas	4.26
Large Scale Wind	835.7
Solar PV Farms	5,809.64
Other (incl. food waste, animal slurry, poultry litter, sewage sludge, biogas and biomass)	8.16
Projected Building Integrated Wind Turbines	0.11
Projected PV - Rooftop	116.04

[343] 7,000 EVs in baseline year and 1,894,000 EVs in 2030 in the South West licence area in Consumer Transformation scenario. https://www.regen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/WPD-DFES-2020-technology-summary-report-South-West.pdf

[344] Each solar panel icon is equivalent to one 50MW solar farm. Each wind turbine icon is equivalent to one 5MW wind farm