
Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

Climate Emergency – declared March 2019

Cross party support



Scale of action by 2030

Approach – reduce, electrify, renewables

Energy Efficient Buildings: Retrofitting the majority of homes. 40% of homes switch to renewable (mostly electric) heat; 76% of gas cookers switch to induction. New development zero carbon or carbon positive.

Transport: 25% cut in car and van mileage, 76% switch to full electric cars, full electrification of passenger rail.

Local Renewable Energy: >300MW (currently 24MW) e.g.

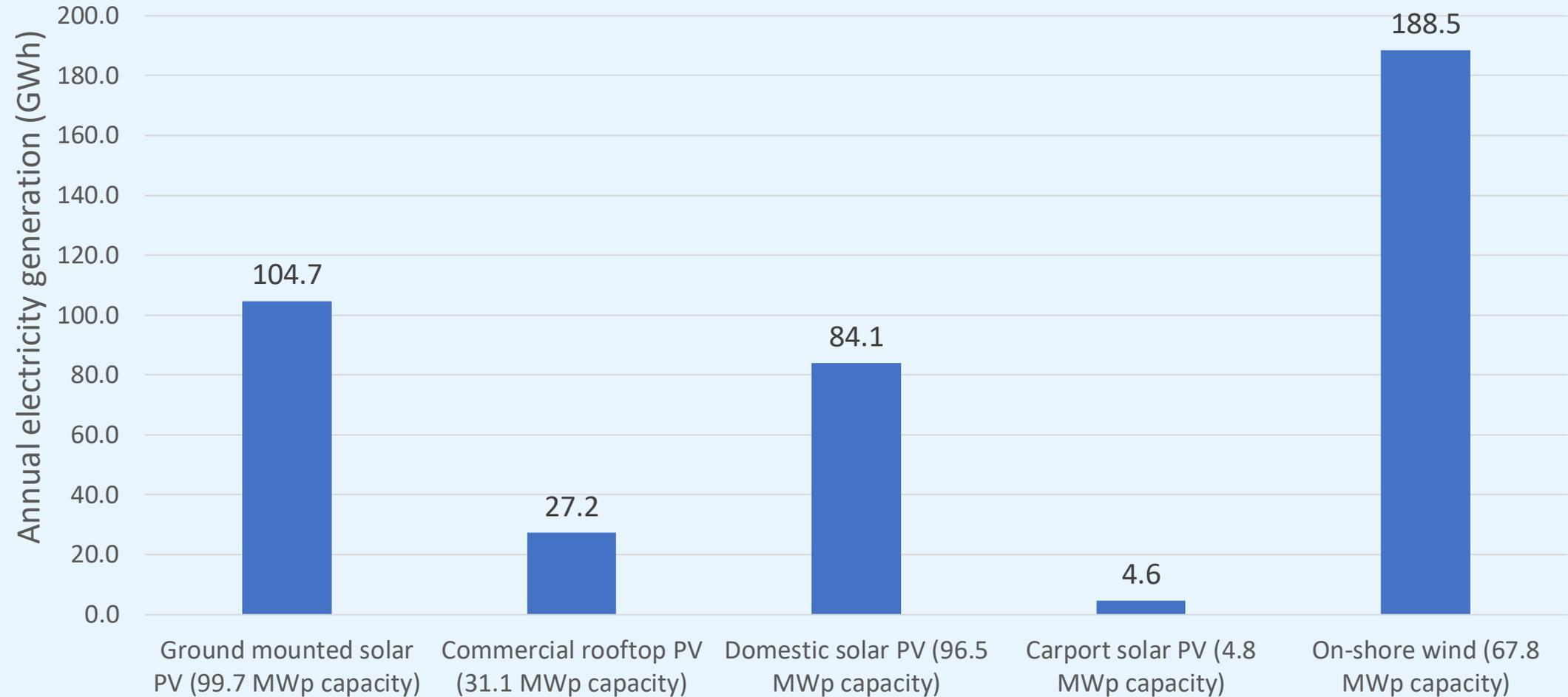
- 50% of homes with solar (currently 3.1%) *plus*
- 116 football pitches on commercial roofs/ground mounted *plus*
- 28 large (2.5 MW) wind turbines

Bath & North East Somerset Council and Community Energy

- Community energy long seen as vital: local consent key in our beautiful and protected area
- Cooperation Agreement with BWCE in 2010 = can work together.
Cooperation Agreement with Keynsham Community Energy in 2019.
- BWCE's first projects: PV on 6 B&NES schools. Loans provided for other projects
- 40% of installed capacity is community owned vs. 0.5% nationally
- Existing planning policy supporting community renewables



Wind power crucial to meeting our target (Figures indicative only)



Planning policy, including the importance of Local and Neighbourhood Plans

Local Plan Partial Update Options Consultation

7th January to 18th February 2021

BWCE Presentation

February 2021

Introduction

1. B&NES context / Climate Emergency
2. The UK plan-led system
3. Our Development Plan
4. Existing policies/why we are carrying out the review
5. Proposed policy for Wind Energy
6. Timetable (key points to get involved)
7. Other useful information



The plan-led system



National Planning Policy

- National Planning Policy Framework & Guidance

Local Planning Policy

- Development Plans (including Neighbourhood Plans)
- Supplementary Planning Documents

Planning Applications

- Determined against local and national planning policy

The B&NES Development Plan

Core Strategy - 2014

- Sets the vision, priorities and targets for B&NES to 2029

Placemaking Plan - 2017

- Site allocations and development management policies
- Together the Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan are called **the Local Plan**

Neighbourhood Plans

- Community led plans that create a vision and establish policies for the development and use of land for their area

Current policies on Renewable Energy

Core Strategy (2014) - Policy CP3 (Sets targets and approach)

- Development should contribute to achieving the target of **110MWe** of Renewable Electricity by 2029

Placemaking Plan (2017)

- SCR3 – Ground-mounted Solar Arrays
- SCR4 – Community Renewable Energy Schemes

Issues since adoption

- There is currently of 24MWe of installed capacity within the district - below the target set out in the Core Strategy
- Changes to [National Policy \(NPPF\)](#)
- Climate emergency declaration - Stretch Pathway modelling

Harnessing wind power (new policy) – DM6 and DM7

DM6

- Sets out a proposed policy approach for determining applications
- Proposals for wind energy development must lie within an area identified as being potentially suitable for this type of development

DM7

- Sets out options for areas identified as being potentially suitable
- Based on evidence - [Landscape sensitivity analysis](#)
- Options are, area of search for wind turbines in:
 - Moderate and less sensitive landscape areas
 - Moderate-high and less sensitive landscape areas
- Applications would need to be assessed and determined against a criteria based policy as set out above (DM6)

Harnessing wind power (new policy) – DM6

Consultation Reference DM6

New Policy Emerging policy approach for harnessing wind energy

It is proposed that the policy framework for wind energy development should cover and address the following considerations:

- Proposals for wind energy development must lie within an area identified as being potentially suitable for this type of development (see options below)*
- Community support for the scheme can be demonstrated and the material planning impacts identified by affected local communities can be adequately addressed
- The proposal satisfactorily addresses impact on:
 - Residential amenity resulting from noise, vibrations, shadow flicker or visual dominance
 - Landscape character and visual impact including cumulative impacts
 - Landscape and scenic beauty of the Cotswolds and Mendip Hills AONBs
 - Historic environment including Bath World Heritage Site and its setting
 - Biodiversity and ecology
 - Highway safety and aviation
- Wider environmental benefits outweigh any significant demonstrable harm to amenity.
- Applications for the replacement and re-powering of existing wind turbines within the district will be considered, in line with the guidance in the NPPF.

*The areas suitable for wind energy development

Harnessing wind power – DM7

Consultation reference DM7

New Policy Harnessing wind energy

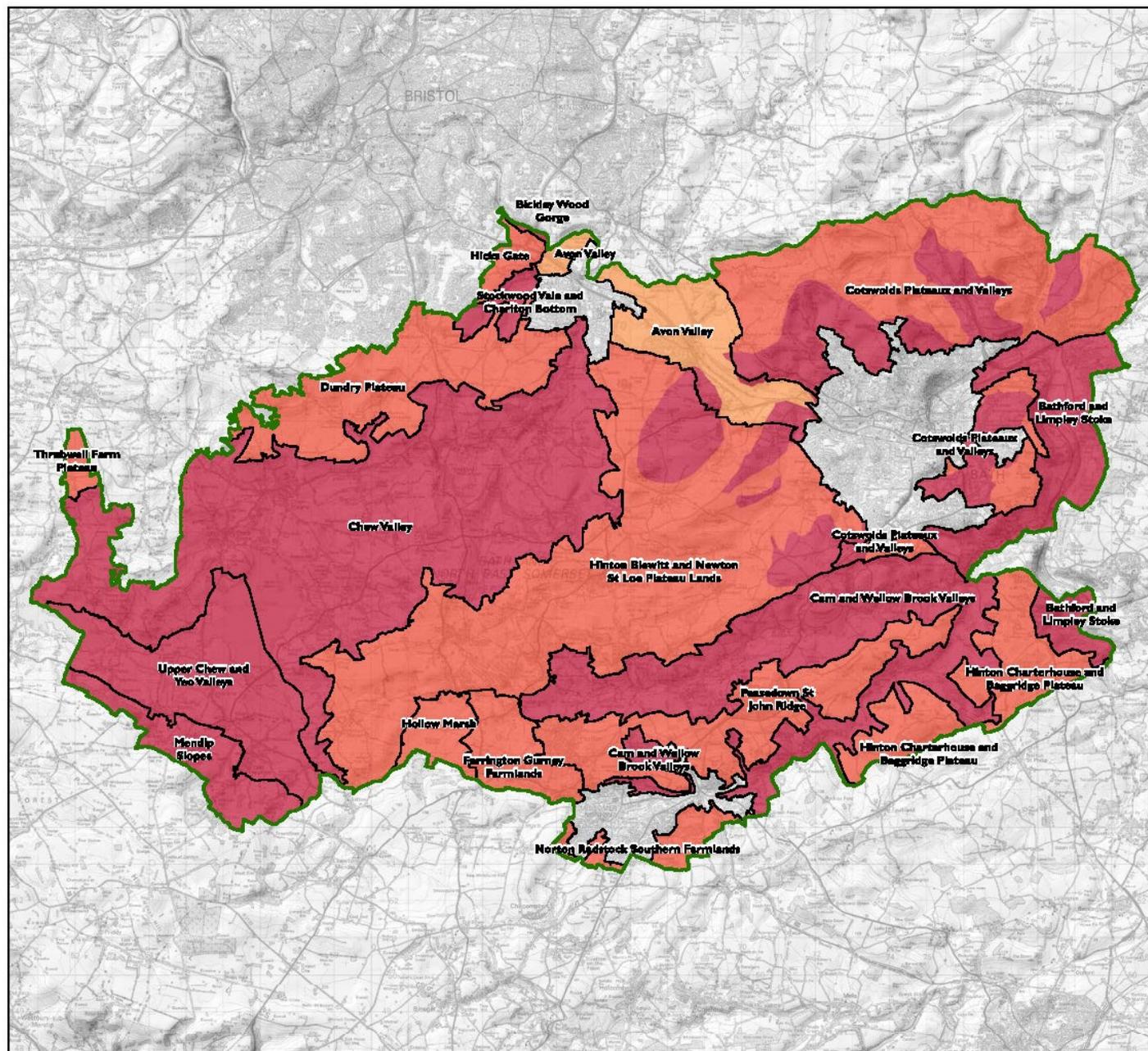
Option 1: Subject to assessment against the criteria set out in policy approach DM5 above allow wind turbines in moderate and less sensitive landscape areas: The study shows that by allowing turbines in landscape areas up to moderate impact would give the technical capacity for 209 MW of wind generated power (based on the analysis for medium size wind turbines).

Option 2: Subject to assessment against the criteria set out in policy approach DM5 above allow wind turbines in Moderate-high and less sensitive landscape areas: This allows increase in land available for wind energy projects and therefore an increased technical capacity/potential level of power generation allowing turbines up to Moderate-High areas would increase the technical potential capacity for 584 MW (based on the analysis for medium size wind turbines).

In both options individual schemes/applications would need to be assessed and determined against a criteria based policy as set out above (ref DM5).

Large Turbines

95-130m to blade tip



Landscape Sensitivity Analysis for Wind Energy Development in B&NES

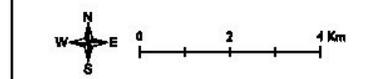
Figure 4.1 Sensitivity Analysis for large scale wind turbines

Key

- B&NES boundary
- Landscape Character Areas
- High
- Moderate-high
- Moderate
- Moderate-low
- Low

Please note: This map should be read in conjunction with the sensitivity analysis tables and guidance set out in the main report.

There is no defined mapped setting to the Bath World Heritage Site and therefore only the Green Hillside aspect of the setting has been mapped. Any proposals will need to consider impact on the World Heritage Site Setting taking account of the Bath World Heritage Site Setting Study and the World Heritage Site Management Plan 2010 - 2016.



Source: B&NES

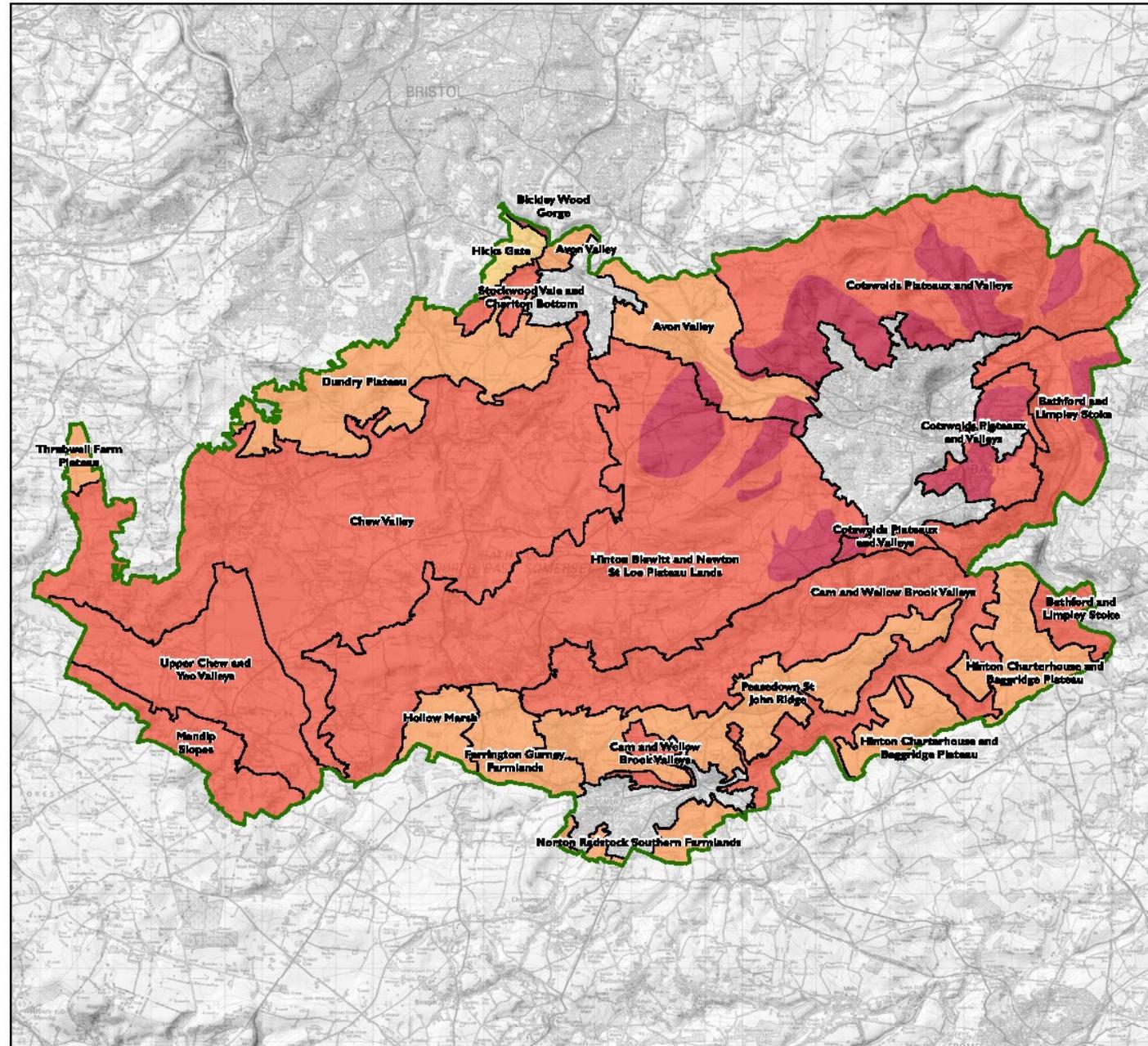
Date: 15/12/2010
Revision: B



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Medium Turbines

25-95m to blade tip



Landscape Sensitivity Analysis for Wind Energy Development in B&NES

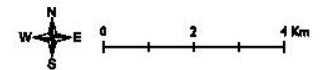
Figure 4.2 Sensitivity Analysis for medium scale wind turbines

Key

- B&NES boundary
- Landscape Character Area
- High
- Moderate-high
- Moderate
- Moderate-low
- Low

Please note: This map should be read in conjunction with the sensitivity analysis tables and guidance set out in the main report.

There is no defined mapped setting to the Bath World Heritage Site and therefore only the Green Hillside aspect of the setting has been mapped. Any proposals will need to consider impact on the World Heritage Site Setting taking account of the Bath World Heritage Site Setting Study and the World Heritage Site Management Plan 2010 - 2016.



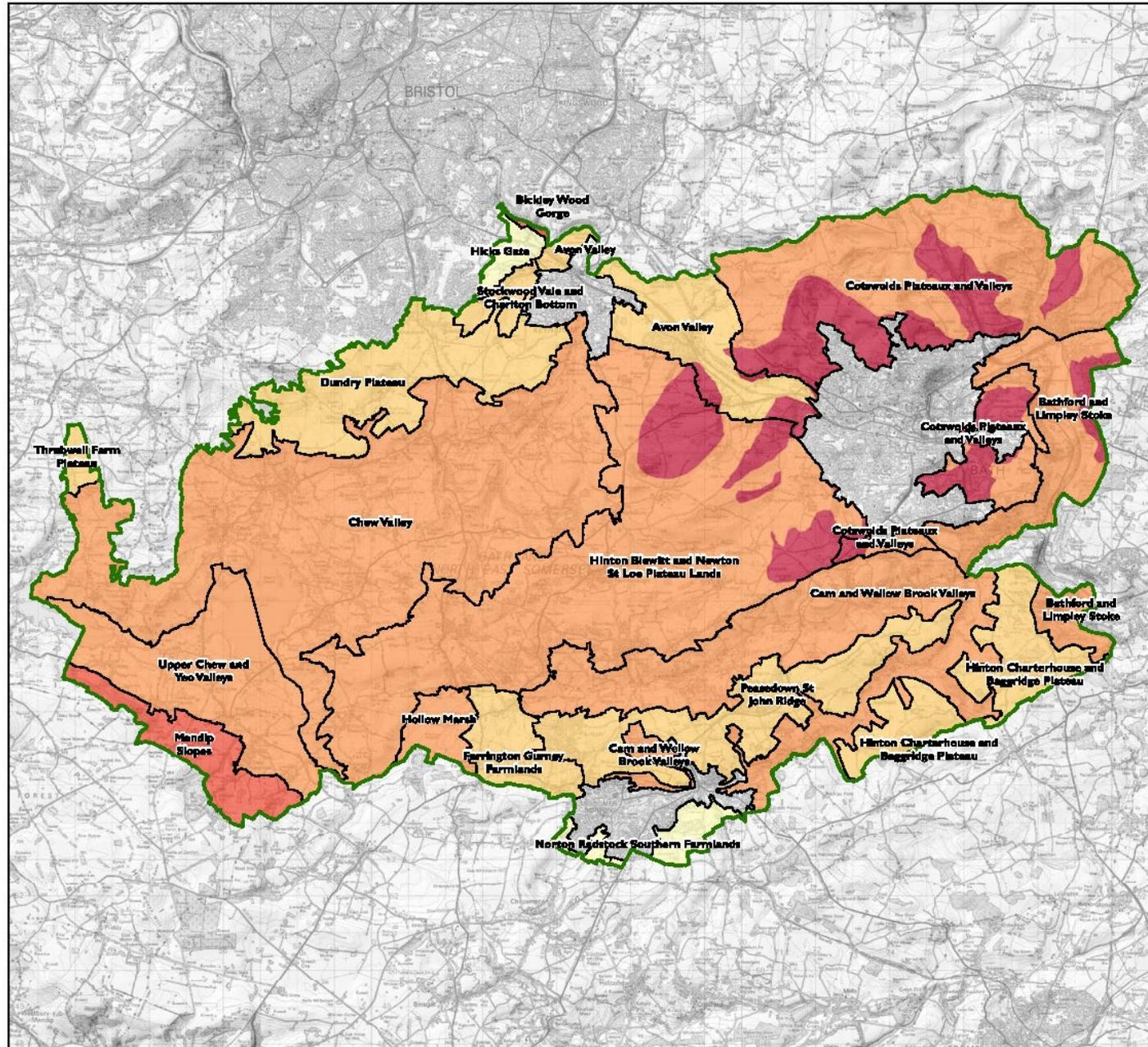
Source: B&NES

Date: 15/12/2010
Revision: B



Small Turbines

under 25m to blade tip



Landscape Sensitivity Analysis for Wind Energy Development in B&NES

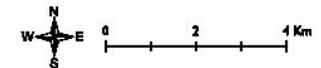
Figure 4.3 Sensitivity Analysis for small scale wind turbines

Key

- B&NES boundary
- Landscape Character Area
- High
- Moderate-high
- Moderate
- Moderate-low
- Low

Please note: This map should be read in conjunction with the sensitivity analysis tables and guidance set out in the main report.

There is no defined mapped setting to the Bath World Heritage Site and therefore only the Green Hillside aspect of the setting has been mapped. Any proposals will need to consider impact on the World Heritage Site Setting taking account of the Bath World Heritage Site Setting Study and the World Heritage Site Management Plan 2010 - 2016.



Source: B&NES

Date: 15/12/2010
Revision: B



How to view the document and respond

View the consultation: <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/local-plan-partial-update-options-consultation>

Document can be viewed as a [webpage \(HTML format\)](#) or [downloaded as a PDF](#)

There is also an [executive summary](#) and links to [supporting documents](#)

Respond

- Online: through our [consultation portal](#)
- By email: local_plan2@bathnes.gov.uk
- By post: Local Plan Options Consultation, Bath & North East Somerset Council, Manvers Street, Bath, BA1 1JG

Webinar on [Climate emergency \(zero carbon/renewable energy\) tomorrow \(4th\) 12:30](#) – will be uploaded to [YouTube](#)

Timetable for the Local Plan Partial Update

Options (7th Jan – 18th Feb 2021)

Draft Plan (May – June 2021)

Submit for examination (August 2021)

Hearings (Winter 2021)

Adoption (Spring 2022)

Useful info:

Contact us:

planning_policy@bathnes.gov.uk or neighbourhood_planning@bathnes.gov.uk

Planning Policy website:

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/local-planning-policy-and-guidance>

Join our mailing list:

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/form/join-our-planning-policy-mailing>

View and comment on planning applications

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/view-and-comment-current-planning-applications>

Sign up for notifications about planning applications:

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/sign-planning-application-updates>

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

NPPF Para 154/Footnote 49:

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) b) approve the application if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable⁴⁹. 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.

⁴⁹ 'A proposed wind energy development involving one or more wind turbines should not be considered acceptable unless it is in an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in the development plan; and, following consultation, it can be demonstrated that the planning impacts identified by the affected local community have been fully addressed and the proposal has their backing.'

[Link back to presentation](#)