



Planning for the Planet

Technical guide: England

Planning for the Planet is a voluntary commitment that councils can make to signal leadership on environmental issues. The following guide has been developed alongside planning experts and is designed to provide council officers with everything they need to implement the Planning for the Planet commitment. We have included a brief overview of the problem, but you can find more in our evidence base documents and councillor briefing.

What's the problem with intensive livestock production?

- Intensive agriculture is the leading cause of river pollution and wildlife decline in the UK, resulting in <u>the loss of the loss of almost half of</u> <u>Britain's natural biodiversity</u>.
- Intensive livestock developments provide just one or two, often low-paid, jobs and have been found to harm other rural business sectors.
- <u>Farmers and local economies receive a pittance from intensive livestock supply chains</u>, with profits being diverted to supermarkets, processors and supply companies.
- 69% of UK adults see factory farming as prioritising profits over tackling the climate emergency.
- <u>40% of the UK's most productive agricultural land</u> is used to grow food for farm animals, with half of the UK's wheat harvest fed to farm animals rather than people each year.
- We need to reduce meat and dairy consumption by <u>up to 50% by 2050</u> to meet our statutory climate targets.

What do we mean by Intensive Livestock Production?

Sometimes referred to as 'megafarms', 'factory farms', or 'intensive production units' (or, for chickens, 'intensive poultry units'), intensive livestock operations are the most industrialised and polluting agricultural operations, with animals kept indoors for most or all their lives, in crowded conditions with

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little or no natural light. They are more akin to an industrial operation than a farm, with associated traffic generation, noxious processes, waste and effluent treatment, in addition to the wider issues of biodiversity loss and greenhouse gas emissions.

For the purposes of planning policy, intensive livestock operations are normally defined as those which require planning permission and a license from the Environment Agency to operate. These are those that hold at least 40,000 poultry or 2,000 pigs or 750 breeding sows.

Intensive livestock production is distinct from more sustainable, higher welfare and nature-friendly <u>agro-ecological farming</u>, which is more resilient to climate change and vastly better for local communities and the planet.

The Planning for the Planet 4-step process

By joining Planning for the Planet, we are asking councils to implement the following 4-step process.

STEP 1: Assess the impact of intensive livestock production in your area (within 6 months)

The first step is to find out how big an issue this is in your area. A template self-assessment tool has been provided below, but there may be other issues you wish to consider, and other sources of information.

Questions for your assessment (please fill in)	How to find this information
The extent of confined animal agriculture in your area.	To find the number of intensive livestock operations:
 Do you have intensive livestock operations in your area? How many animals do you estimate are in confined operations in your area? Any incidents of breaches of environmental permits? 	 Search previous planning applications in your council, to see roughly how many have been approved. An <u>environmental permit</u> (called 'EP 6.09') is required to rear pigs or poultry intensively in an installation with more than 40,000 places for poultry, or 2,000 places for production pigs (over 30kg), or 750 places for sows. Helpfully, the Environment Agency publish permits that they issue. You can search for all permits in your area <u>here</u>, and specifically for the type of permit granted for factory farming (for 'installations' <u>here</u>). The results won't <i>all</i> be industrialised agriculture, but many will be. Information on the structure and type of farms <u>by local authority</u> is available from Defra's farm survey team. In the UK, about 70% farm animals live in intensive conditions, including 60% pigs and 95% broiler chickens, so if the number of these livestock is high, there is a very high chance you have lots of intensive farming. <u>CIWF's agriculture map</u> is also a great tool to show the prevalence of industrial farming across the UK where data is available.

	To find out about breaches of environmental regulations:
	 You can download a full register of the enforcement actions taken following breaches of environmental permits on the <u>Environment Agency website</u>. You can then search for your area. Note – the true extent of infringement of environmental permits is likely to be much greater than these data suggest, but cuts to monitoring resources mean incidents of pollution <u>are thought to be being ignored</u>.
 The status of water in your area 4. What is the status of your waterways and what are the main causes of pollution? 5. Do you have any safe bathing rivers or lakes? 	 You can find out the 'classification' of the water in your area, as well as the 'challenges' – i.e., reasons for the status of your local water on the <u>Environment Agency website</u>. You can also view summary tables of the challenges, and see the number of incidents of pollution from agriculture and rural land management. You can also find out how many of your local rivers, lakes or other water courses are safe to swim here: <u>https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/</u>
Local air quality	You can find maps of the concentrations of the above pollutants in an interactive map.
6. Do you currently have high concentrations of any harmful pollutants commonly resulting from agriculture in your area?	
 Impact on climate change 7. What is a rough estimate of the GHG emissions from intensive livestock operations in your area? 	Using the information from Q1 and Q2, you can make a rough estimate of the GHG emissions from your intensive livestock
	production as follows:
	Chicken: Estimated annual GHG emissions from one chicken shed with 20,000 capacity = 2,058 T CO2 equivalent
	Pigs: Estimated annual GHG emissions from one pig shed with 2,000 capacity = 2,708 T CO2e
	Dairy cows: Estimated annual GHG emissions from an intensive cattle farm of 2,000 cows = 9750t CO2e per year
	(calculations in Annex 2)
Impact on deforestation, habitats and biodiversity	Using the information from Q1 and Q2, you can make a rough estimate of the land footprint from your intensive livestock
8. Roughly what is the land footprint of your	production as follows:
current intensive livestock operations?	Chicken: Estimated land requirement for one chicken shed of 20,000 capacity = 2,520 sq km land
'Effective use of land' consideration	Pigs. Estimated land requirement for one pig shed with 2,000 capacity = 3,819 sq km land
 Risk that intensive livestock farming in your area is contributing to deforestation? Do you have any Special Areas of Conservation? 	Dairy cows: Estimated land requirement for an intensive cattle farm of 2,000 cows = 134,250sq km land
	(calculations in Annex 2)
	<u>A study</u> of small-scale, agroecological farms (including vegetables, fruit and some meat and dairy) from across the UK found that it is possible to achieve much higher yields per hectare in agroecological systems (as well as higher employment, more social benefits and higher biodiversity).
	The likelihood of UK feed being from deforested land is high. <u>Research</u> last year from WWF linked meat in European diets with widespread deforestation and conversion of habitats in South America.
	There's a map to show Special Areas of Conservation on the <u>Natural England</u> website.

Impact on the local economy 11. Estimated jobs created in intensive livestock production.	Planning applications make an estimate of the jobs created - likely to be 1-2 per development. You can therefore make a rough estimate of the contribution of intensive livestock operations to local employment using your calculations above. More localised, sustainable food systems create more and better jobs. (Please see the evidence base on our website for more detail on this)
Local Character 12. Do you have SSIs or other protected areas, or AONBs?	You can check on the designations of land in your area <u>on the Defra website.</u>
 Policy and local culture 13. What opportunities do you have for a thriving and diverse local food culture: Do you have a local food strategy? Do you have a local food partnership? Does your council include food and farming in your biodiversity action plan or climate plan? Is there a local food culture and economy that can be supported to grow, for example alternative routes to markets for farmers, speciality foods, markets, veg boxes, cooperatives, direct routes to market etc? Does the council have a policy to support sustainable and locally sourced food through public procurement? 	Find out if you have a <u>Local Food Partnership</u> Check out Sustain's <u>Every Mouthful Counts report</u> to see how well food and farming is integrated into your council's climate and biodiversity policies.

STEP 2: Publish this impact assessment transparently (within 6 months)

Allow expert and public scrutiny, including by the local authority's environment, audit, and planning teams.

STEP 3: Adopt planning policies that are right for your area (within 2 years)

Assess the policy solutions best for your council, considering the impact that intensive livestock production is having now, your biodiversity and climate commitments, and the status of your air and water, and put this policy into place.

The specific policy you adopt will depend on your council. Our recommendations are, as a minimum:

- 1) Include a supportive statement for sustainable farming, land use and good food in key planning policies, so you are supporting sustainable agriculture and food in a joined up and holistic way.
- 2) Require developers to complete an enhanced Impact Assessment for intensive livestock operations to include specific information on GHG emissions, biodiversity and health impacts, so you can properly assess the risks
- 3) Require developers to demonstrate that all farm developments are of the highest standards for sustainable development, biodiversity net gain and climate change

These policies could be adopted as part of the Local Plan, as supplementary planning documents, or via a climate emergency compliance form. Examples of these are provided in Annex 1. Further examples of the kinds of policy solutions that might work for you will become available to councils that join Planning for the Planet. Ideally, this should be in place within two years, but this will depend on your policy review cycle.

STEP 4: Influence Wider Progress: Support our calls for better planning and farming policy across the UK

Councils can support a transition to a good food system in which farmers see improved livelihoods and the production of more, better healthier food by diversifying to a model other than intensive livestock. As part of your work to support diverse and resilient food communities, councils can:

- Set up and/or support a <u>Food Partnership</u>, or get involved with the partnership if you have one already.
- Support sustainable and local food through your procurement policy, to support good farming with public money.
- Support wildlife-friendly and agroecological models of farming through your planning, including market gardens, and the infrastructure needed to support a localised food system (see <u>Sustain's Fringe Farming report</u> for recommendations).
- Protect existing allotments and community food growing spaces, and where there is demonstrated demand, increase these resources.

You can also use your voice by encouraging other councils to follow your example and call for policy change at a national level.

Why are these issues important for planning in England?

National planning policy includes a number of statements in support of sustainable farming systems and against intensive livestock. This table will help you ensure the local policy you develop around intensive livestock operations is clearly linked with national planning guidelines.

Policies relevant to planning and intensive livestock production	In England, the National Planning Policy Framework sets out the overall objectives for planning policy and decisions. It must be taken into account in the preparation of local plans and is a material consideration in planning decisions.
·	Planning Authorities (councils) produce Local Plans to establish local priorities within this framework
	Key: (NPPF) = <u>National Planning Policy Framework</u> . Paragraph numbers are provided.
	(EnAct) = Environment Act 2021
Climate Change and the environment	The National Planning Policy Framework makes it clear that climate change must be a consideration for all planning decisions.
	 (NPPF) 8.c The planning system has three overarching objectives for sustainable development. One is the Environmental objective: 8. Planning should 'protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.
	The NPPF includes a chapter on: Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change, including: 11. All plans should improve the environment; mitigate climate change (including by making effective use of land in urban areas) and adapt to its effects.
	152. The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate. 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
	(EnAct) - local authorities must consider the effects of climate change in all decision making and work towards reducing GHG emissions
Economic impacts and sustainable development	(NPPF) 38. Local planning authorities should approach decisions on proposed development in a positive and creative way. They shouldwork proactively with applicants to secure developments that will <i>improve the economic, social and environmental conditions</i> of the area.
	The NPPF says planning should help with 'moving to a low carbon economy.'
	Plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development.
	Supporting a prosperous rural economy
	Planning policies and decisions should enable:
	a) the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new
	buildings; b) the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses:
	c) sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments which respect the character of the countryside;
Biodiversity / habitat loss	(NPPF) 8.c The Environmental objective states that planning should ' <i>improve biodiversity</i> , using natural resources prudently'
And	174: Planning policies and decisions should <i>contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment</i> []

Making an effective use of land	d. minimising impacts on and <i>providing net gains</i> for <i>biodiversity</i> , including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures
	EnAct: The Environment Act includes specific measures for improvement of the environment, including waste and resource efficiency, air and water quality, nature and biodiversity. These measures include the establishment of a Nature Recovery Network and a requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain in all developments. Biodiversity Net Gain means:
	 Development must leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand. Minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain is required and a biodiversity gain plan required Diadiversity Net Gain so he delivered on site off site environe new statutony biodiversity credits scheme.
	 Maintains the mitigation hierarchy of <i>avoid</i> impacts first, then mitigate and only compensate as a last resort.
	(NPPF) 11 Making effective use of land
	Planning policies and decisions should promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions
	8. Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways:
	c) an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently
	ELMs: The government has undergone significant reform for the UK farm subsidy system, to transition to farming models which provide environmental goods and services alongside food provision. The change aims to support the farming industry to deliver statutory environment and climate targets.
Health	(NPPF) 8. B) planning has a social objective: to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; being;
	92. Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve <i>healthy, inclusive and safe places</i> which: c) <i>enable and support healthy lifestyles,</i> especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision <i>of safe and accessible green infrastructure</i> , sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.
	98 Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities
	185. Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development.

Impacts on local communities and their character	(NPPF) 11all plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to: <i>meet the development needs of their area</i> ;
Pollution	 (NPPF) 174. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan); b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland; d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures; e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability.
	Development should, wherever possible, help to <i>improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality</i> , taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; EnAct: The Act places a duty on local authorities to: - Assess and monitor local environmental quality including air and water quality, and noise levels.
	 Produce a local air quality plan, to ensure air quality objectives

Annex 1: Example planning policies to control intensive livestock operations

There are a number of routes to taking a proactive approach to planning policy on this issue. These are just a few examples of text to get you thinking. Example policies and specialist advice is available to councils that have joined Planning for the Planet.

Example Supportive statement – For your local plan

Currently, our food and farming system is responsible for a third of climate emissions and is the main cause of biodiversity loss and wildlife decline in the UK, including water pollution incidents. A Sustainable and healthy future means transitioning to a better food system. Planning policy will support:

- Supporting farming which helps meet climate and nature goals, including agroecology and reducing livestock numbers
- Giving people opportunities to grow food through allotments and food growing spaces

• Infrastructure for a localised food economy, for example market spaces

Requirements for Impact Assessments

Environmental impact assessments are required for all planning applications that require an environmental permit. Better quality information at the planning application stage will assist the decision-making process. To ensure impact assessments provide the information needed to understand the pollution they cause, they must include:

- Endogenic GHG emissions per year from the development (ie emissions from the animals themselves)
- GHG emissions from the operation (ie heating, lighting, scrubbing the air for pollutants, feed and animal transport)
- Feed requirements, including amount of feed consumed per year, the source of feed and composition of feed including kg soya and imported feed consumed per year
- Approximate land required to grow feed (so you can understand biodiversity impact)
- Any previous reported breaches of environmental standards (including water pollution) by all companies involved in the development

Requirements for all farm developments:

- Biodiversity net gain happens on-farm
- Net Zero happens on-farm
- Scrubbers used to reduce ammonia pollution
- Real living wage

Annex 2: Calculations and what to do next

We would be delighted to have your council as part of Planning for the Planet. Doing so demonstrates your support for reversing the decline of our rivers and biodiversity and will ensure you have planning policy in place necessary to address the spread of toxic and polluting intensive livestock farms.

More information, including detailed evidence of the problems caused by intensive livestock to the environment and the economy on the <u>Planning for the</u> <u>Planet website</u>.

Register to join here

Calculations for the GHG emissions from intensive chickens, pigs and dairy cows

Chickens:

Each broiler chicken produces about 1.5kg edible meat and each kg meat causes 9.8kg CO2e

Chicken sheds typically contain 20,000 birds and produce 7 cycles per year, which is 140,000 birds per year.

The annual GHG emissions from one chicken shed therefore = (1.5 x 9.8) x 140,000 = 2,058 T CO2 equivalent

Pigs:

Each pig produces about 55kg edible meat = (62% yield from 88kg carcasse), each kg pig meat emits 12.31kg CO2e, and reach slaughter weight in 24 weeks, allowing 2 cycles per year.

A shed of 2000 pigs emits an estimated (55 x 12.31) x 2000 x 2 = 2,708 T CO2e

Dairy cows:

Average GHG footprint for UK milk is 1.3kg CO2e per litre. Each cow produces about <u>7500litres</u> per year An intensive cattle farm of 2000 cows therefore emits roughly (1.3 x 7500) x 2000 = **9,750t CO2e per year**

Calculations for the land footprint of intensive chickens and pigs

Chickens:

Each broiler chicken produces about 1.5kg edible meat and each kg meat requires 12sq metres land

Chicken sheds typically contain 20,000 birds and produce 7 cycles per year, which is 140,000 birds per year.

The annual land requirement for one chicken shed therefore = (1.5 x 12) x 140,000 = 2520 sq km land

Pigs:

Each pig produces about 55kg edible meat = (62% yield from 88kg carcasse), each kg pig requires 17.36sq metres of land and reach slaughter weight in 24 weeks, allowing 2 cycles per year.

A shed of 2000 pigs uses an estimated (55 x 17.36) x 2000 x 2 = 3,819 sq km land