

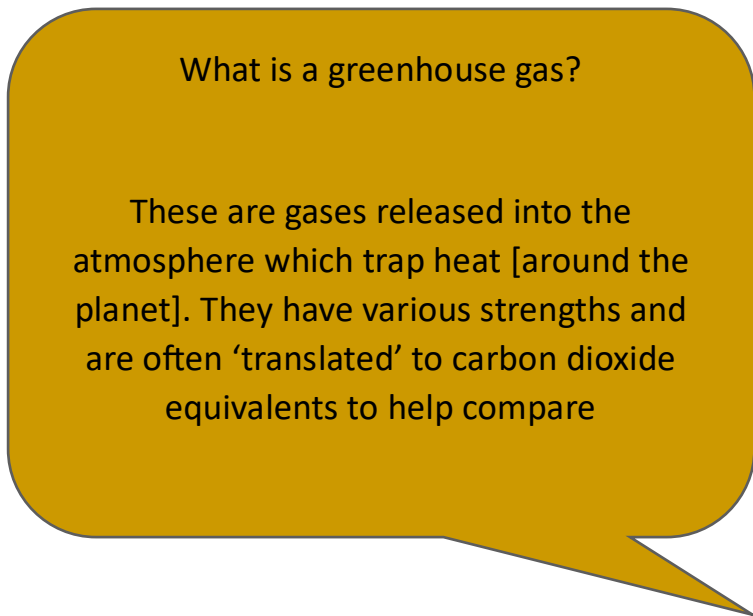
Climate Change Action Consultation

Staffordshire Moorlands January 2025.

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Background

In 2019 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council declared a climate emergency. In 2021 SMDC published its Climate Action Plan. This plan contained two overarching targets: for the council to achieve Net Zero on its own operations by 2030 and for the district to reach Net Zero by 2030.



What is a greenhouse gas?

These are gases released into the atmosphere which trap heat [around the planet]. They have various strengths and are often ‘translated’ to carbon dioxide equivalents to help compare

The Council has made good progress on reducing emissions from its own operations and is committed to keeping that 2030 target. It is clear that the district-wide target is not achievable

In Staffordshire Moorlands, the entire public sector accounts

for just 0.7% of the total emissions (2022 data). The district is unusual as a high proportion of emissions comes from the cement and lime industries. (LINK to footprint)

Local Authorities, including county councils, are considered to have influence over a third of emissions in their areas. Because of the role of the cement and lime industries, this proportion will be smaller in the Staffordshire Moorlands.

The Government has a national target for net zero by 2050, with many policies aligned to support these. Some you may have knowledge of are:

- New gas boilers to be banned by 2035
- New fossil fuel cars phased out by 2035
- Peak Cluster plan (which may be live by 2030 (this is a major infrastructure project to capture the carbon emitted by the cement and lime industries)
- Declaration for 30% of land to be managed for Nature by 2030
- All electricity to be from non-fossil fuels by 2035

There is also a commitment to reduce emissions by 68% by 2030 (based on 1990 levels). This is part of the Paris Agreement. [More information can be found on progress nationally in this House of Commons report from September 2024.](#)

Most of the dates for national policies and commitments fall after 2030, and it is impossible for the District to achieve net zero before they are implemented.

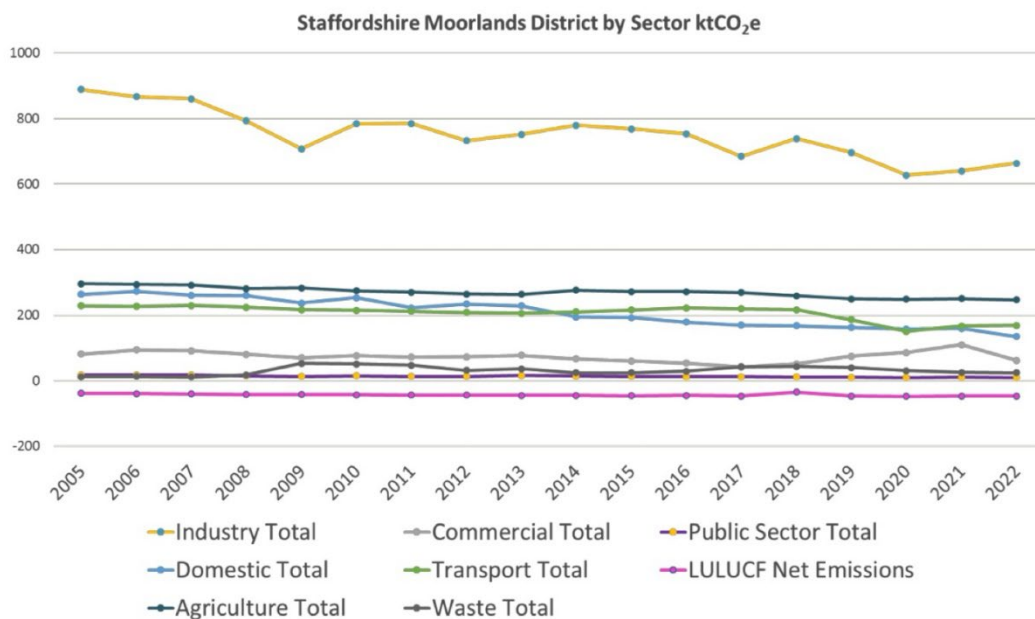
While intending to remain an acknowledged leader among district and boroughs in Staffordshire, the Council proposes to amend the district target to something more meaningful. As part of that process, it is committed to seeking the views of the public and giving residents and businesses the information on which to base their views.

What does the carbon footprint for Staffordshire Moorlands look like?

Since the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019 and the 2021 Climate Action Plan, emissions in the district have declined slowly and at nowhere near the rate required to meet its 2030 Net Zero target. The reductions have largely been due to external factors such as the increased use of renewable energy by the national electricity system. (The council has made substantial recent progress in decarbonising its own operations in the last year, but this is only a small percentage of the district's overall emissions)

The council's carbon budget (the amount of emissions 'left in the bank' until it breaks its target) runs out in 2027. Below are graphs showing where we are, where we could be and where we need to be, to meet a target aligned to the Paris Agreement.

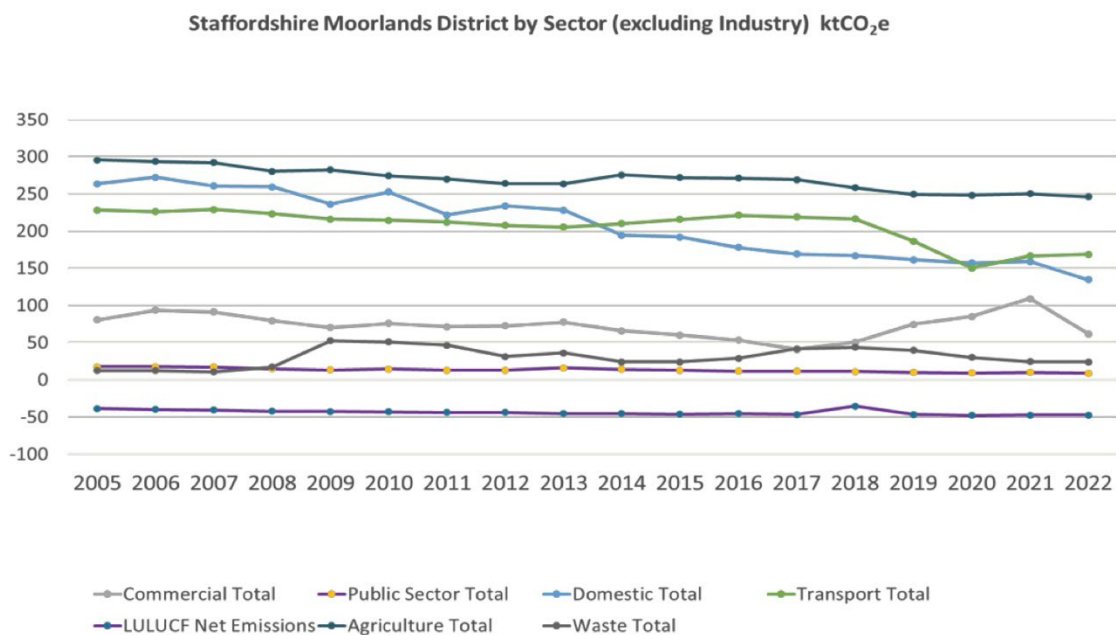
This represents the carbon emissions for Staffordshire Moorlands by sector.



LULUCF - Land use, land-use change, and forestry has negative emissions as the moorlands peat absorbs carbon.

Staffordshire Moorlands has a high footprint due to the cement and lime industry. The graph below shows the sectors with our industry.

ktCO₂e means kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. This means that all greenhouse gases are included but the potency in impact on the climate has been converted to carbon dioxide to allow a comparison to be made.



Future Emissions Pathways

Scattercities is a web based tool for Local Authorities to model future emissions. This uses national policy drivers and high ambition pathways to align with the Paris Agreement budgets.

A link to the platform - [SCATTER](#)

The graph below shows two possible future emissions pathways for Staffordshire Moorlands as modelled by the SCATTER tool (scopes 1, 2 and 3), compared against the Tyndall Centre's recommended 12.4% annual reduction pathway.

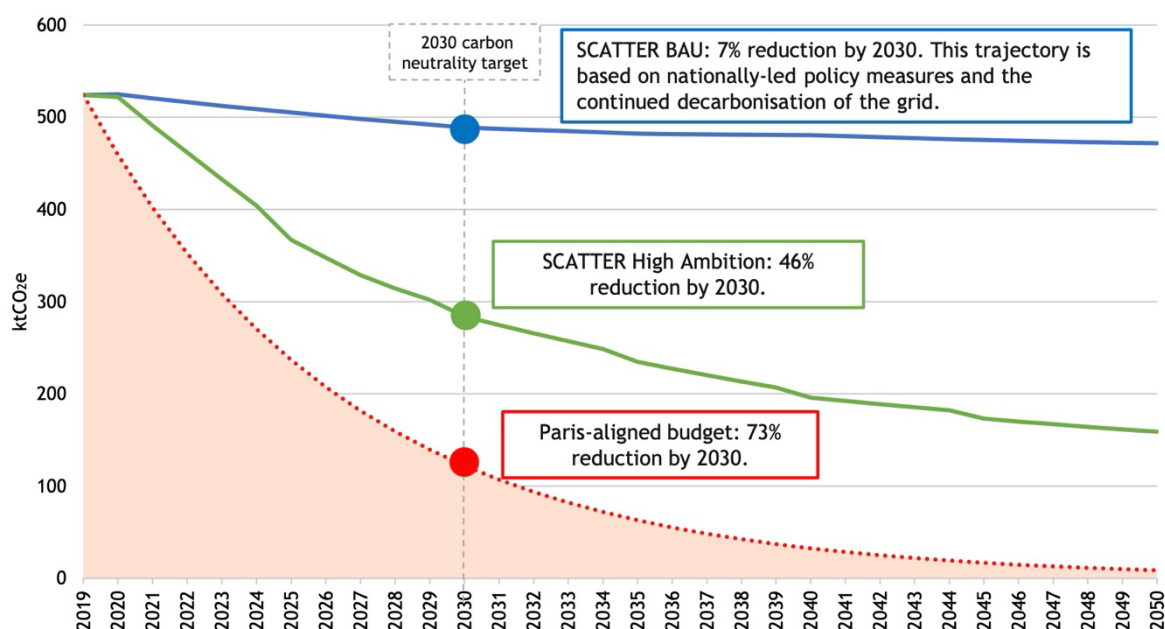


Figure 2.3: Future emissions pathway for Staffordshire Moorlands (2019 - 2050), with Staffordshire Moorlands' 2030 carbon neutrality target highlighted.

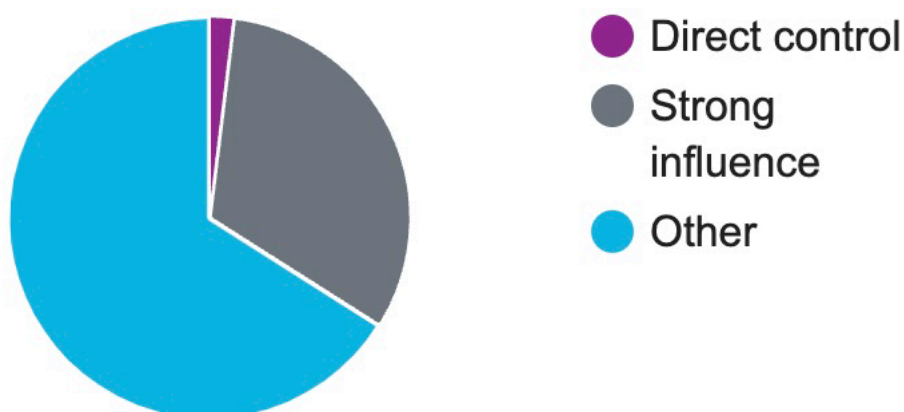
Source: Anthesis Report for Staffordshire Moorland 2022

This [2022 Anthesis Report](#) provides the most detailed background to emissions in the Moorlands and possible pathways to Net Zero.

What targets do other councils have?

Councils have a large degree of control over emissions from their own operations, far less so for the district as a whole. The Local Government Association estimates that they collectively have direct control over between 1% and 2% of emissions and strong influence over 33%. In Staffordshire this includes the influence of the county, Peak District National Park and boroughs and districts.

Figure 1: Local authority influence over greenhouse gas emissions in their area



Source: The Local Government Association

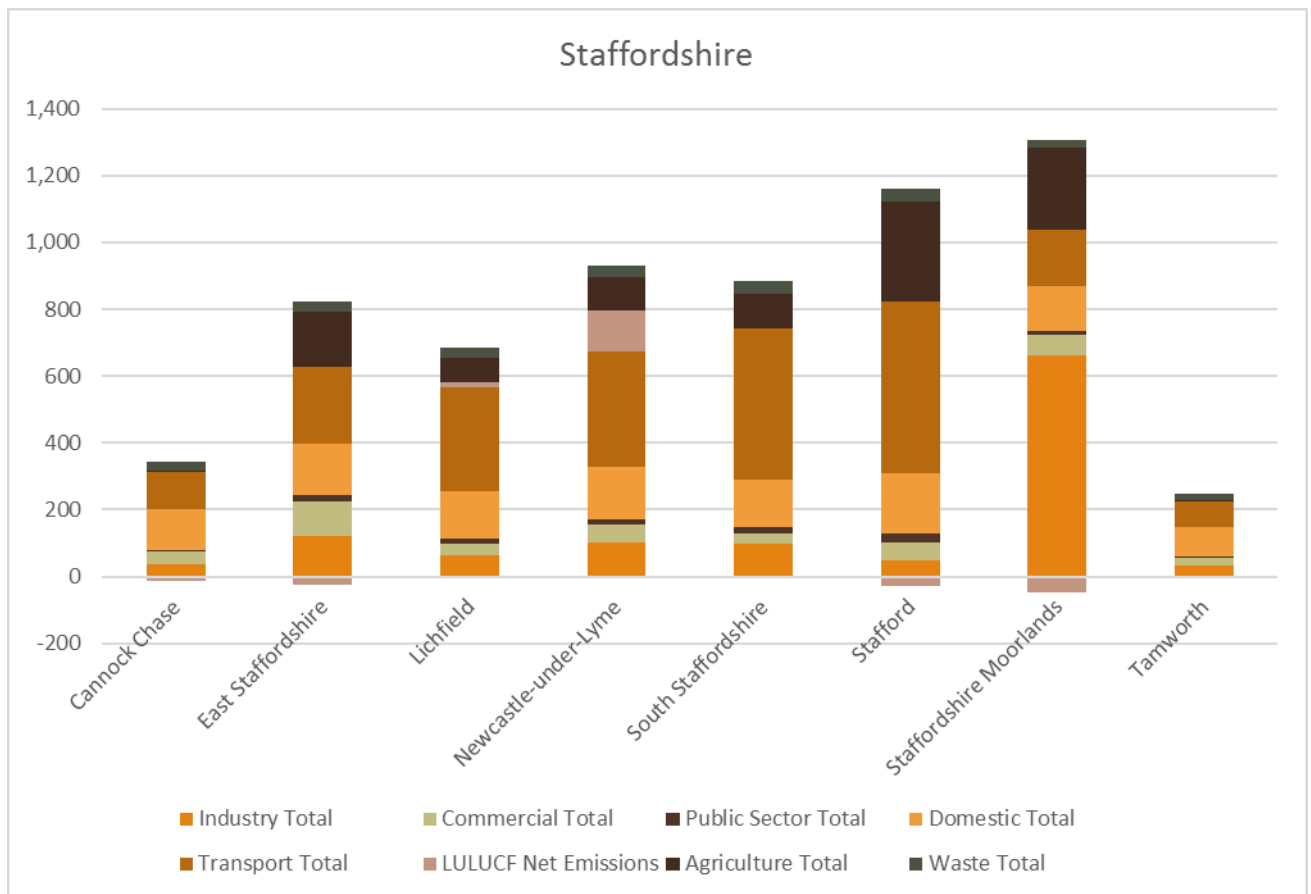
[The Local Government Association Net Zero workbook](#)

Unlike the national government, UK local authorities are under no legal obligation to set emissions targets or to develop a climate action plan. But most have. Here is a guide to other [UK Councils with targets](#).

Below is a table of other council targets in Staffordshire.

Council Name	Council Own	Area	Notes
Staffordshire County Council	2050	n/a	
Staffordshire Moorlands	2030	2030	
Newcastle-under-Lyme	2030	2030	
Stafford BC	2030	2040	
East Staffordshire	n/a	n/a	
South Staffordshire	n/a	n/a	
Cannock Chase	2030	2030	Has said area target unachievable
Lichfield	n/a	n/a	
Tamworth	2050	n/a	

Our neighbours' footprints

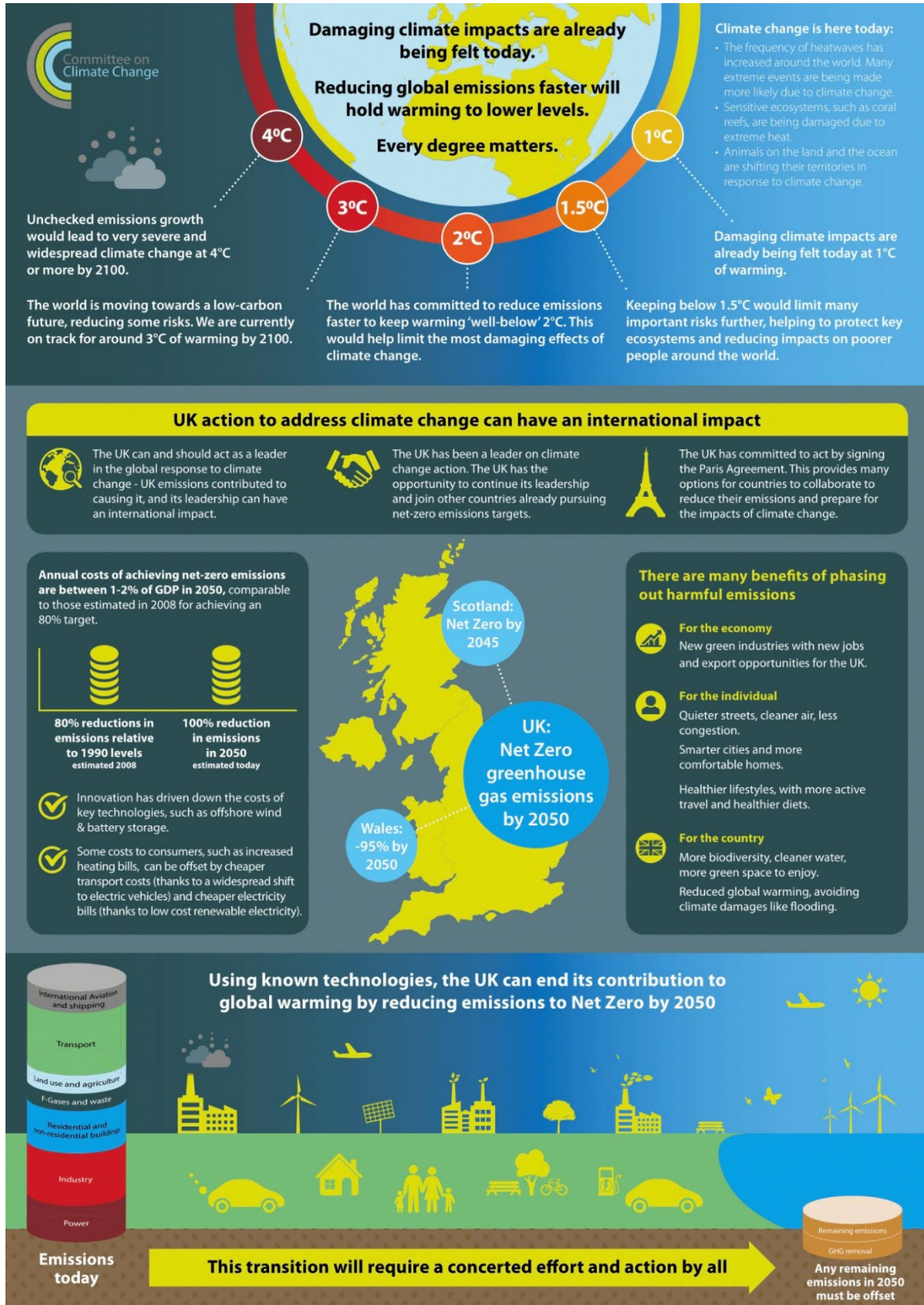


LULUCF - Land use, land-use change, and forestry has negative emissions as the moorlands peat absorbs carbon

Industry – cement and lime increase emissions for Staffordshire Moorlands

The national picture

Figure 1 Source: The Tyndall Centre



Useful links from international to local

International

- [The Paris Agreement on Climate Change](#)
- [A short film on the Paris Agreement](#)
- [Tyndall Centre Local Authority Carbon Budgets](#)

National

- [A short film to explain carbon budgets](#)
- [UK Climate Act 2008](#)
- [2023 National Climate Progress Report](#)
- [More information can be found on progress nationally in this House of Commons report from September 2024](#)

District

- Staffordshire Moorlands Climate Change [Climate Change - Staffordshire Moorlands District Council](#)
- [Staffordshire Moorlands Annual Reports](#)
- [Nature and Biodiversity - Staffordshire Moorlands District Council](#)
- [The Tyndall Centre Carbon Budget for Staffordshire Moorlands](#)
- [Met office Climate Change impacts for adaptation planning](#)

