

# Unlocking spatial carbon planning for local authorities

## Net-zero Spatial Planning Tool



# Do we really know the carbon impact of approving local plans?

# Agenda

---

1. Introduction *Lewis Knight, Director, Bioregional*
2. Defining the challenge – *Celia Davis, Senior Projects and Policy Officer, TCPA*
3. Our solutions  
*Jo Mortensen, Associate Director, Bioregional*  
*Ed Parham, Director, Space Syntax*
4. Borough partner insight & value – *Andrew Thomson, Planning Policy Manager, West Oxfordshire DC*
5. Q&A – *Lewis Knight, Director, Bioregional*

# 2. What is the challenge?

*Celia Davis, Senior Projects and Policy Manager,  
TCPA*

# The challenges



## What are we trying to solve?

---

- Persistent gaps between net-zero targets and local planning
- Evidencing Net-Zero Local Plans
- Land allocation to minimise future carbon emissions
- Growth locations affects transport emissions and on-site renewable energy potential
- Opportunity for carbon accounting PPG

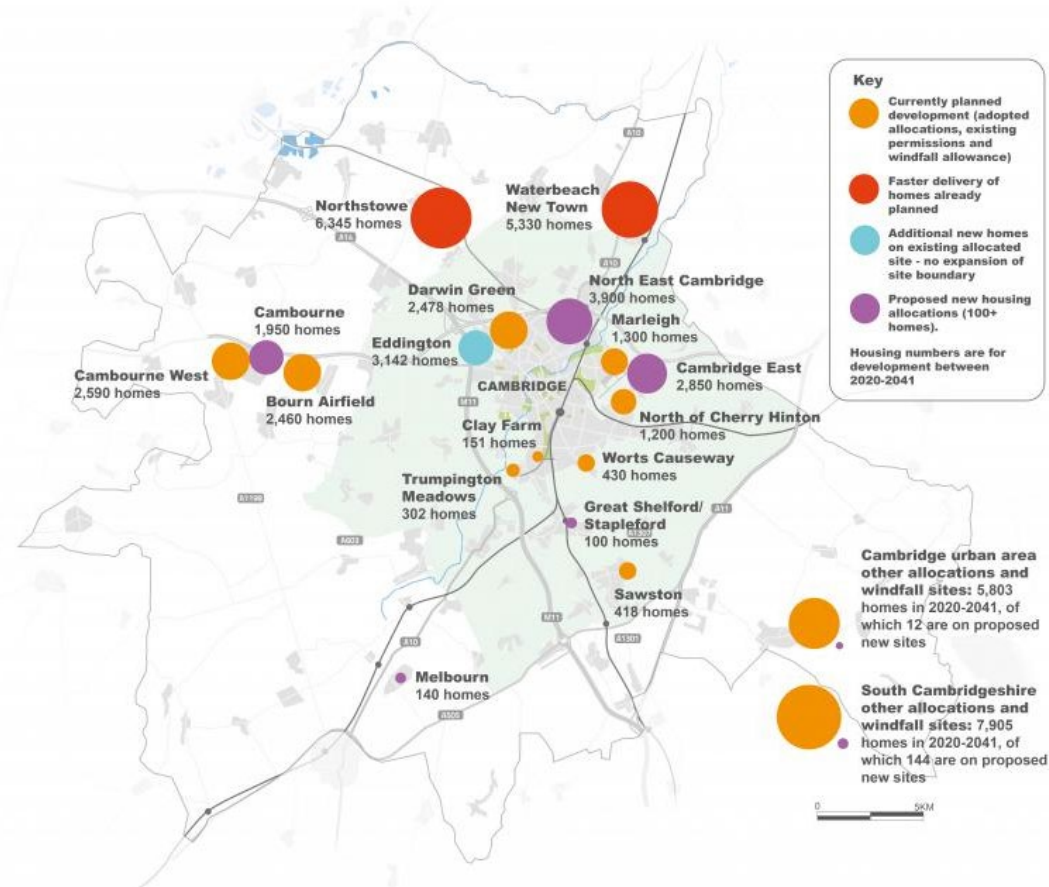
# 3. What is our solution?

*Jo Mortensen, Associate Director, Bioregional*

*Ed Parham, Director, Space Syntax*

# The roots of this tool

## Modelling the carbon from growth for Greater Cambridge, Central Lincolnshire and Forest of Dean

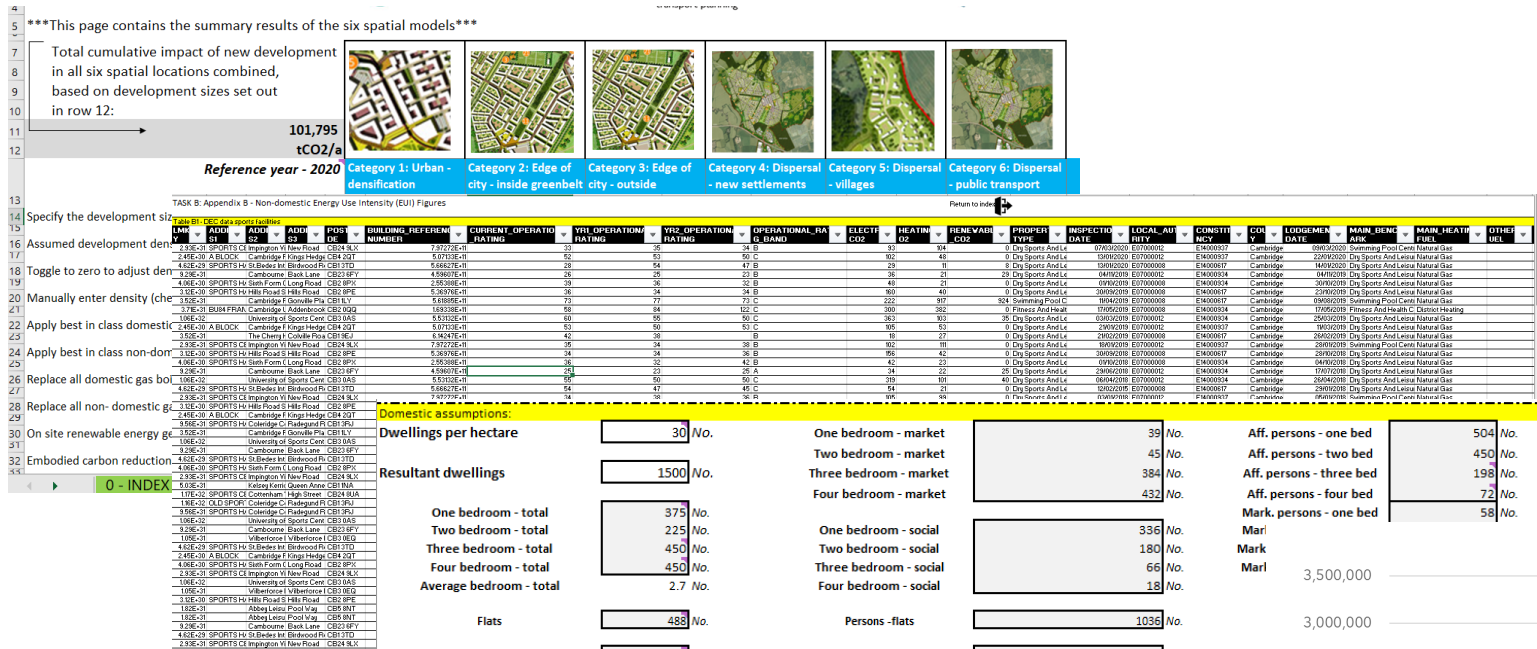


- Carbon implications of the broad spatial locations for growth
- Carbon implications of strategic options for growth
- Assessment criteria and methodology to assess the carbon implications of sites put forward for allocation

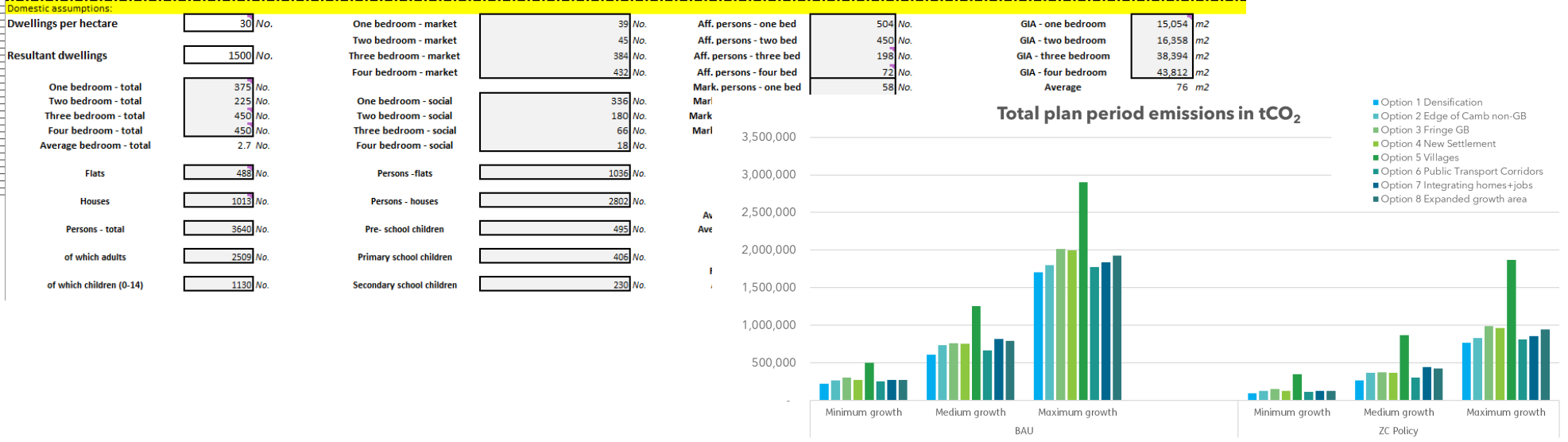


# The challenge

## Upgrade user experience and improve data



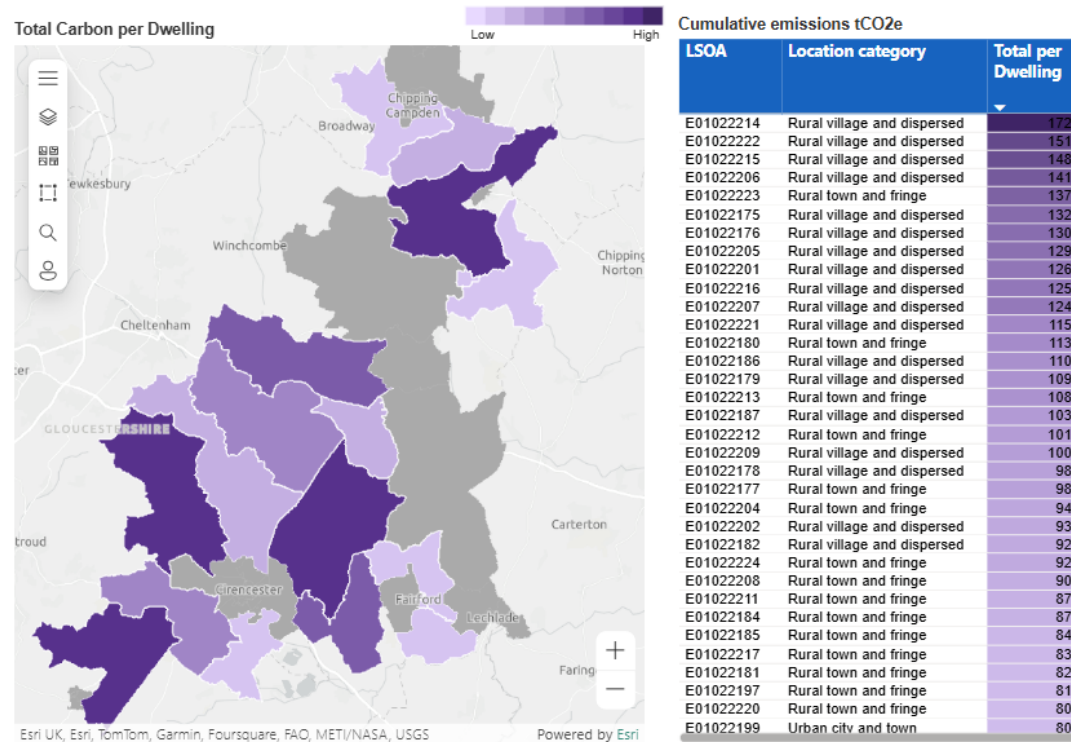
# Space Syntax





# Built from reliable data

## Defensible data sources



# Impact of location on transport carbon

## Quantify impacts of location on travel behaviour to avoid car dependent, carbon intensive development

### Young couples 'trapped in car dependency'

By Roger Harrabin  
BBC environment analyst

24 October 2018

f t e Share



It must be miserable: you've saved for a newly-built home past the town's ring-road, but now you're trapped too often in a metal box with wheels.

This article is more than 2 years old

### New greenfield housing forcing people to use cars, report finds

Research finds sites too often far from amenities, without public transport, cycling links or even pavements



The report finds that greenfield housing has become more car-based in recent years. Photograph: Martin Godwin/The Guardian

New greenfield housing developments are locking residents into car dependency, making everyday journeys impossible without a vehicle, a new report has found. Meanwhile, pledges for walking, cycling and public transport are often left unfulfilled.

The group **Transport for New Homes** (TfNH) visited 20 new housing developments in England, finding that while those on urban brownfield sites generally lived up to sustainable transport pledges, greenfield sites were often far from shops and amenities, without public transport, cycling links or even pavements, and the homes themselves were seemingly designed around car parking.



### NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS FORCING PEOPLE TO RELY ON CARS

Major new study shows car dependency of new homes has increased in every region of England outside of London over the last 15 years

18 NOVEMBER 2024

f t e

New housing developments have increasingly locked residents into car dependency over the last 15 years, a new report from the New Economics Foundation (NEF), sponsored by Go Ahead, has found.

In a major new study, the think tank analysed data from every neighbourhood in England to develop a Car Dependency Index (CDI). The analysis combines data on car ownership, the share of residents commuting to work by car, the relative travel times to jobs and key amenities by car and public transport, and population density.

The CDI shows that over the last 15 years homes were increasingly built in places where people were reliant on cars for transport. The trend towards car dependency is present in every region outside of London.

The public transport travel times from England's new homes to town centres, jobs, hospitals and schools have risen steadily over the same period, making it harder for people to travel sustainably. The report argues that forcing people into car dependency will have a significant negative impact on the government's ability to meet carbon emissions targets, [boost active travel](#) and support inclusive economic growth.



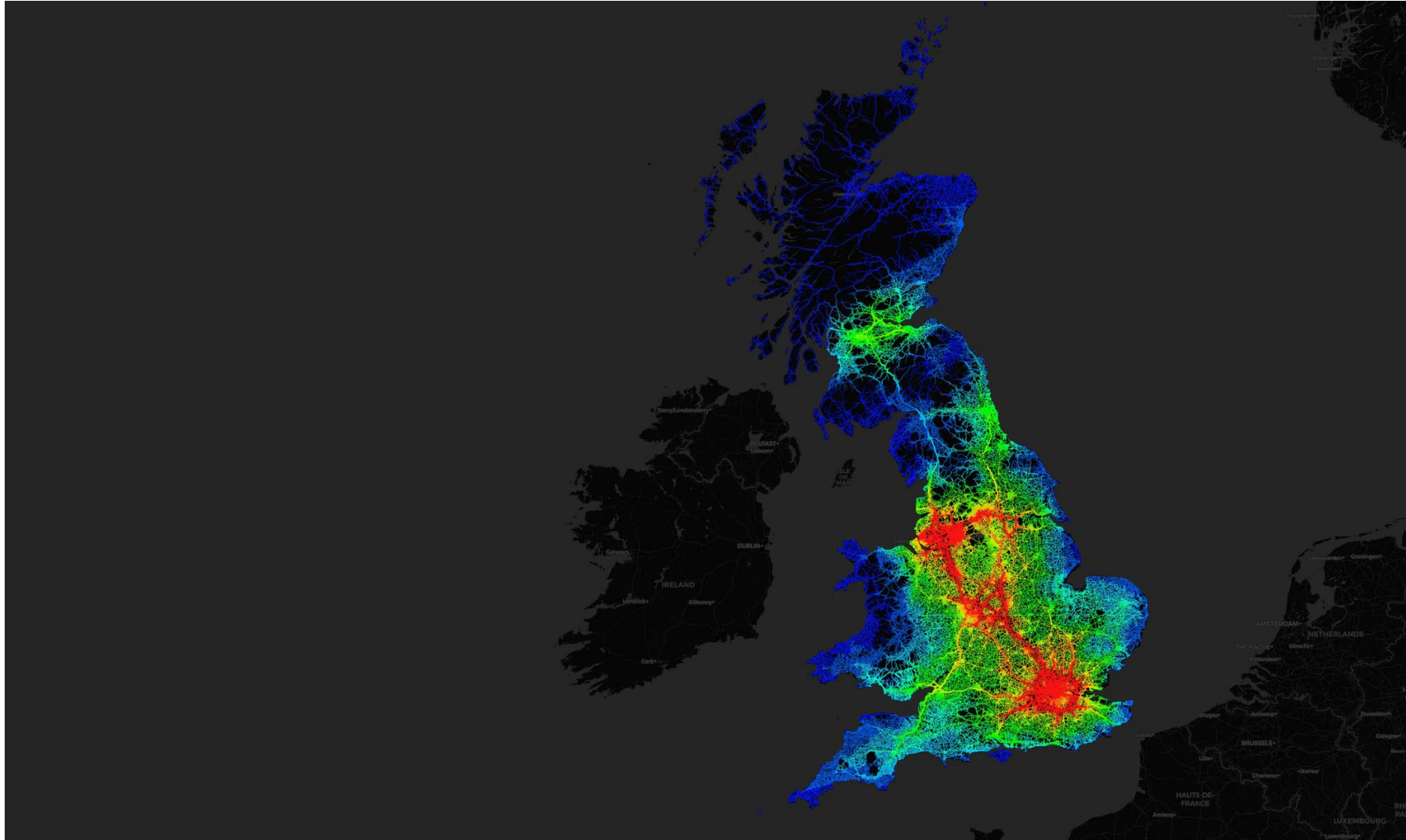
# Location specific transport carbon

Four models developed explaining around 75% of transport mode share across 33,000 areas

- Developed and validated using multiple datasets that describe existing patterns of transport behaviour.
- Mode share component calculates journeys by all modes and for all purposes.
- Distance component extracts unique average commute distances for every MSOA.
- Model is both highly explanatory and includes elements that local authorities have influence over.



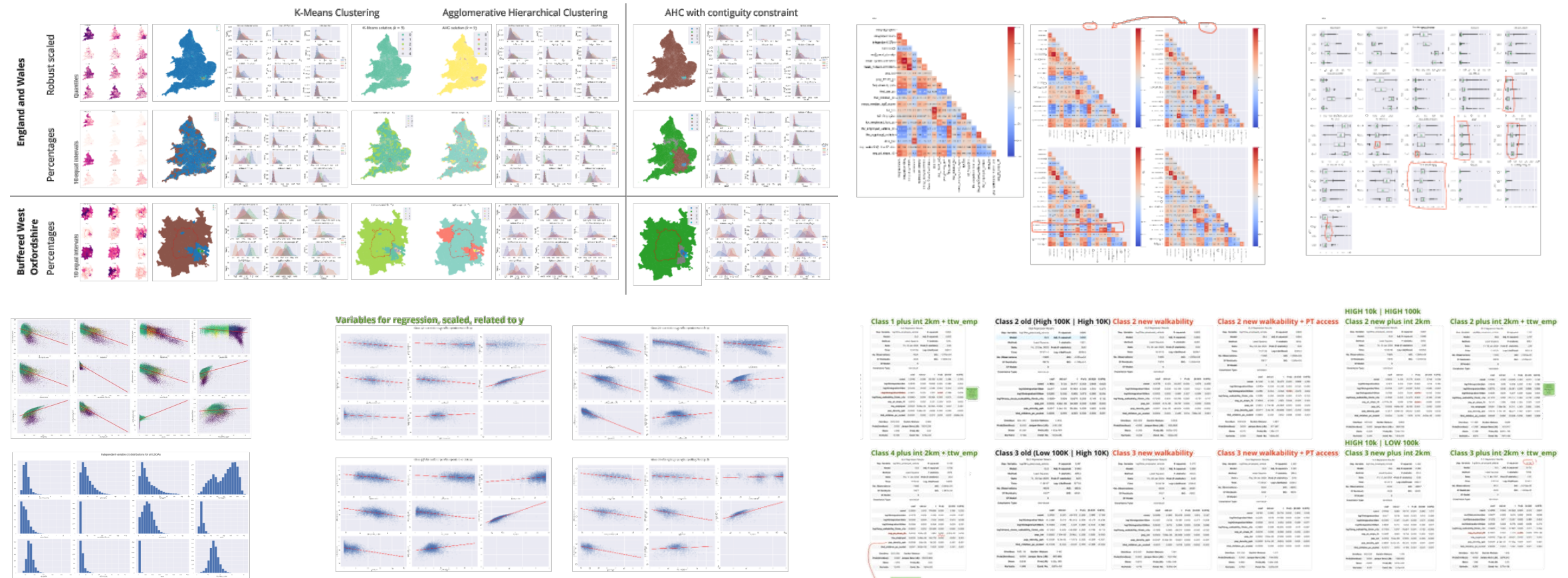
# Understanding location and transport behaviour



Categorise over 33,000 LSOAs in England and Wales based on multi-scale characteristics of location

# Understanding location and transport behaviour

Data deep dive to understand each category of LSOA in detail





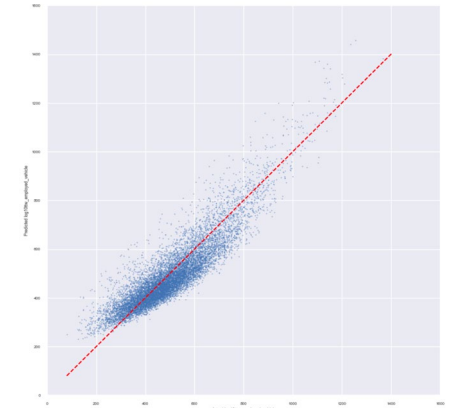
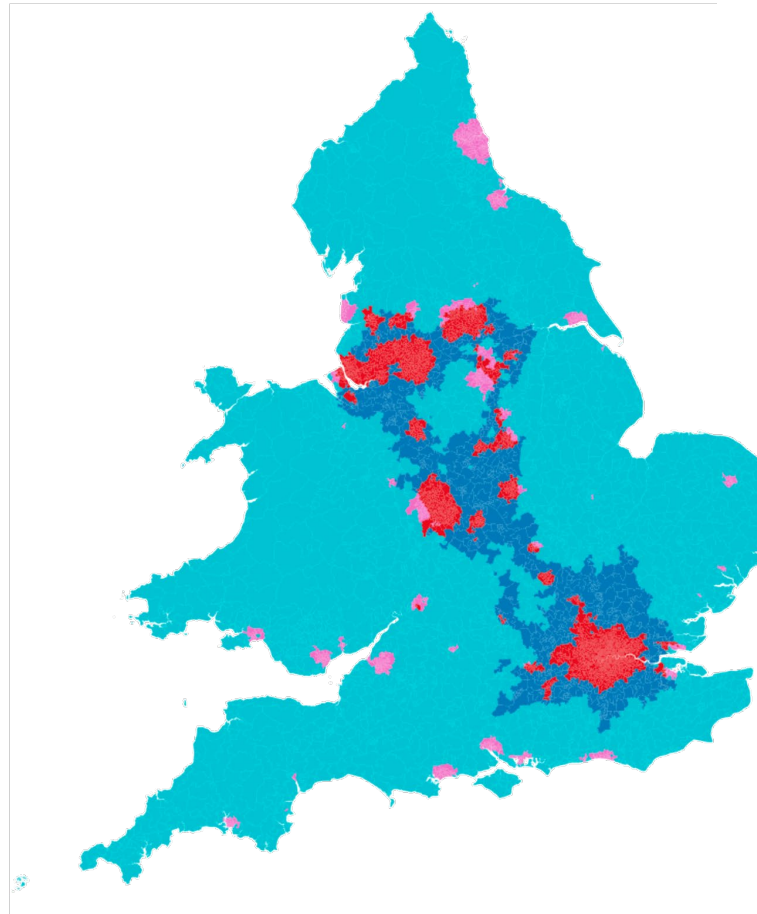
# Understanding location and transport behaviour



## Data deep dive to understand each category of LSOA in detail

Model combines data explaining:

- Integration within wider region
- Integration with surrounding settlements
- Walkability of local area
- Access to public transport
- Population
- Income
- Household make up



OLS Regression Results						
Dep. Variable:	log10ttw_employed_vehicle	R-squared:	0.728			
Model:	OLS	Adj. R-squared:	0.728			
Method:	Least Squares	F-statistic:	3976.			
Date:	Thu, 11 Jan 2024	Prob (F-statistic):	0.00			
Time:	17:16:22	Log-Likelihood:	14979.			
No. Observations:	11886	AIC:	-2.994e+04			
Df Residuals:	11877	BIC:	-2.987e+04			
Df Model:	8					
Covariance Type:	nonrobust					
	coef	std err	t	P> t	[0.025	0.975]
const	2.2084	0.012	179.848	0.000	2.184	2.232
log10integration2km	-0.0178	0.006	-3.189	0.001	-0.029	-0.007
log10integration10km	0.0308	0.004	7.532	0.000	0.023	0.039
log10integration100km	0.0256	0.003	9.354	0.000	0.020	0.031
log10avg_walkability_15min_v3a	-0.0603	0.002	-29.469	0.000	-0.064	-0.056
avg_pt_stops_15	0.0002	9.18e-05	1.680	0.093	-2.57e-05	0.000
ttw_employed	0.0005	3.49e-06	143.776	0.000	0.000	0.001
pop_density_gph	-0.0005	3.8e-05	-16.220	0.000	-0.001	-0.001
hhd_children_pc_scaled	0.0011	9.62e-05	11.631	0.000	0.001	0.001
Omnibus:	5512.594	Durbin-Watson:	1.041			
Prob(Omnibus):	0.000	Jarque-Bera (JB):	55472.900			
Skew:	-1.976	Prob(JB):	0.00			
Kurtosis:	12.818	Cond. No.	1.60e+04			

# Net-zero Spatial Planning Tool



## Three levels of analysis

---

This suite of tools will provide:

1. An **assessment of the carbon implications of the broad spatial locations for growth**
  - Providing a “heat map” of carbon intensity by Output Area
2. An assessment of the carbon implications of **strategic options for growth**
  - Testing bespoke packages of strategic employment and housing site options
3. Comparative carbon assessments **of sites put forward for allocation**
  - Providing analysis of growth scenarios, supporting call-for-site process and addressing potential new housing targets.



# User experience - easy data uploads

## Data and scenario testing bespoke to your authority

Carbon spatial model local authority specific information

Section 1

Local Authority Details

1. Name of local authority

Enter your answer

2. What percent of housing is affordable?

If you do not have an affordable housing mix specific to your local authority please use the national average 35%

Number must be between 0 - 100

4. Number of houses in each LSOA: Please attach the excel template provided with the LSAO reference added for your sites and the selected build-out rate associated

Upload file

File number limit: 1 Single file size limit: 10MB Allowed file types: Word, Excel, PPT, PDF, Image, Video, Audio

5. Number of houses in each Location category: Please attach the Excel template provided with the number of homes to be built in each location category and the associated build-out rate

Upload file

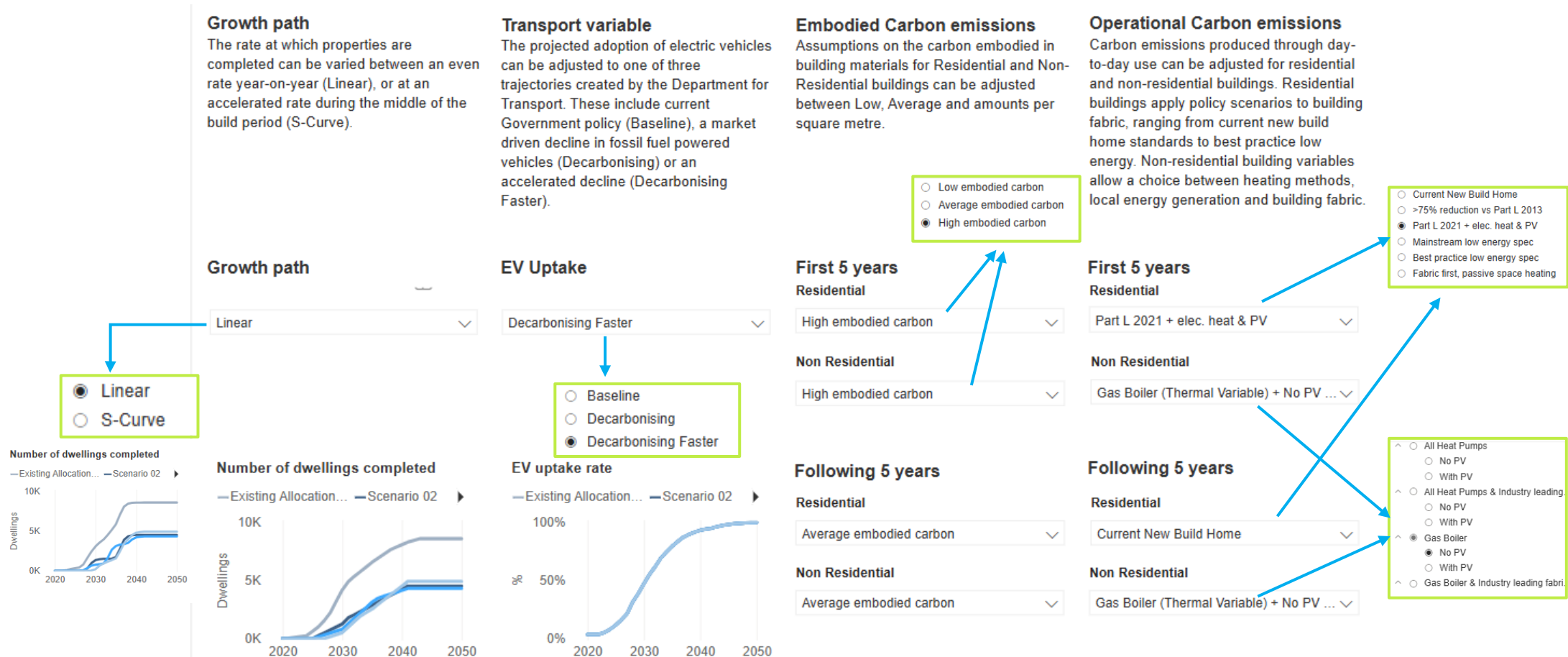
File number limit: 1 Single file size limit: 10MB Allowed file types: Word, Excel, PPT, PDF, Image, Video, Audio

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Please fill in these columns				
2	Location_Category	Total number of houses to be built in location category in the plan period	Year houses will start being built in location category	Year final home will be built in location category	Build out rate
3	Urban conurbation	2459	2024	2045	Linear
4	Urban city and town	2459	2030	2048	Linear
5	Rural town and fringe	3000	2025	2040	Linear
6	Rural village and dispersed	2459	2023	2045	S-curve
7					

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Please fill in these columns						
2	Local Authority	West_Oxfordshire					
3	Site name	Local Authority	LSOA reference	Total number of houses to be built in LSOA in the plan period	Year houses will start being built in LSOA	Year final home will be built in LSOA	Build out rate
4	site 1	West_Oxfordshire	E01028766	50	2027	2030	Linear
5	Site 2	West_Oxfordshire	E01028777	460	2033	2040	Linear
6	Site 3	West_Oxfordshire	E01028772	79	2030	2038	S-curve
7	site 4	West_Oxfordshire	E01028779	100	2028	2034	S-curve
8	site 5	West_Oxfordshire	E01028780	50	2027	2030	Linear
9	site 6	West_Oxfordshire	E01028781	460	2033	2040	Linear
10	site 7	West_Oxfordshire	E01028782	79	2030	2038	S-curve
1	site 8	West_Oxfordshire	E01028783	100	2028	2034	S-curve
2	site 9	West_Oxfordshire	E01028784	50	2027	2030	Linear
3	site 10	West_Oxfordshire	E01028785	460	2033	2040	Linear
4	site 11	West_Oxfordshire	E01028786	79	2030	2038	S-curve
5	site 12	West_Oxfordshire	E01028787	100	2028	2034	S-curve
6	site 13	West_Oxfordshire	E01028788	50	2027	2030	Linear
7	site 14	West_Oxfordshire	E01028789	460	2033	2040	Linear
8							
9							
10							

# User experience - nimble variables

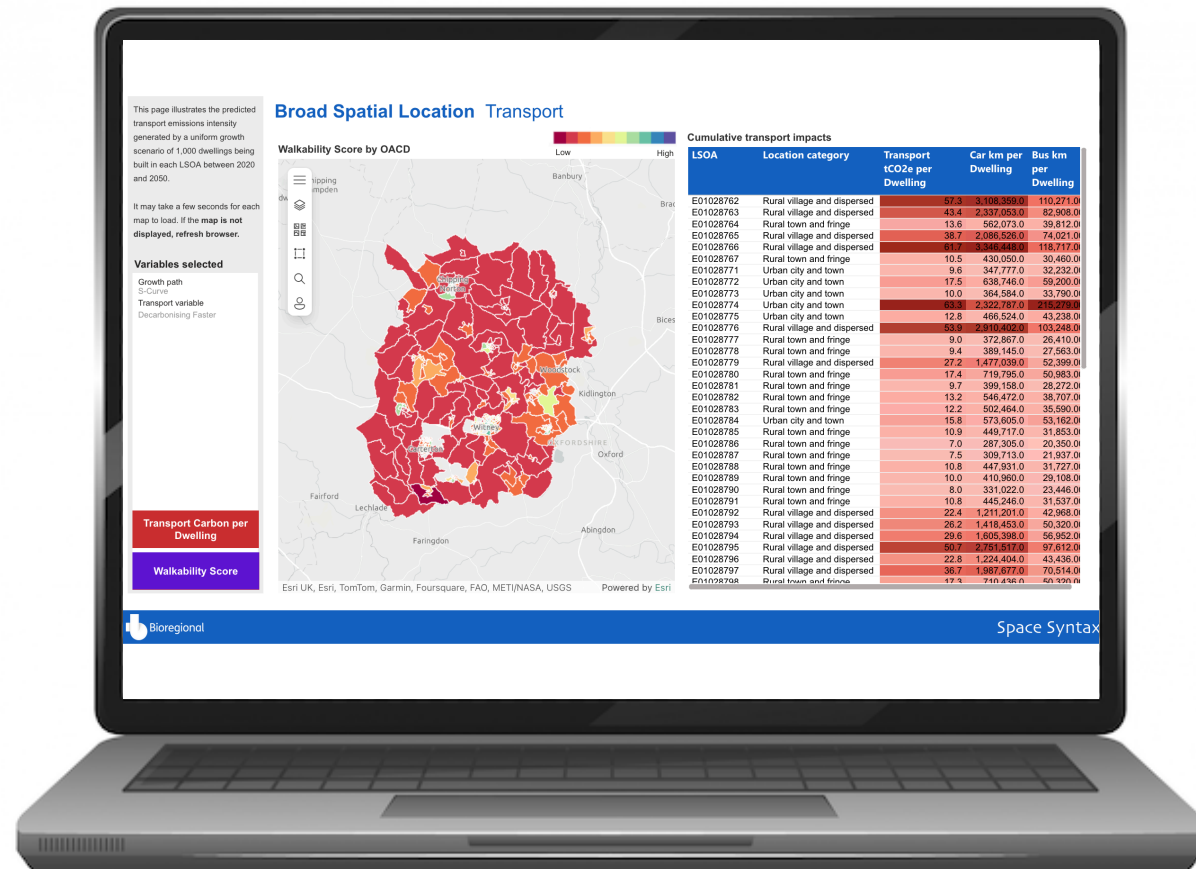
## Test the impact of your policies



# User experience – informing scenarios

## Model embedded into Net-zero Spatial Planning Tool

Can be used to help develop scenarios by allocating housing to least carbon intensive locations

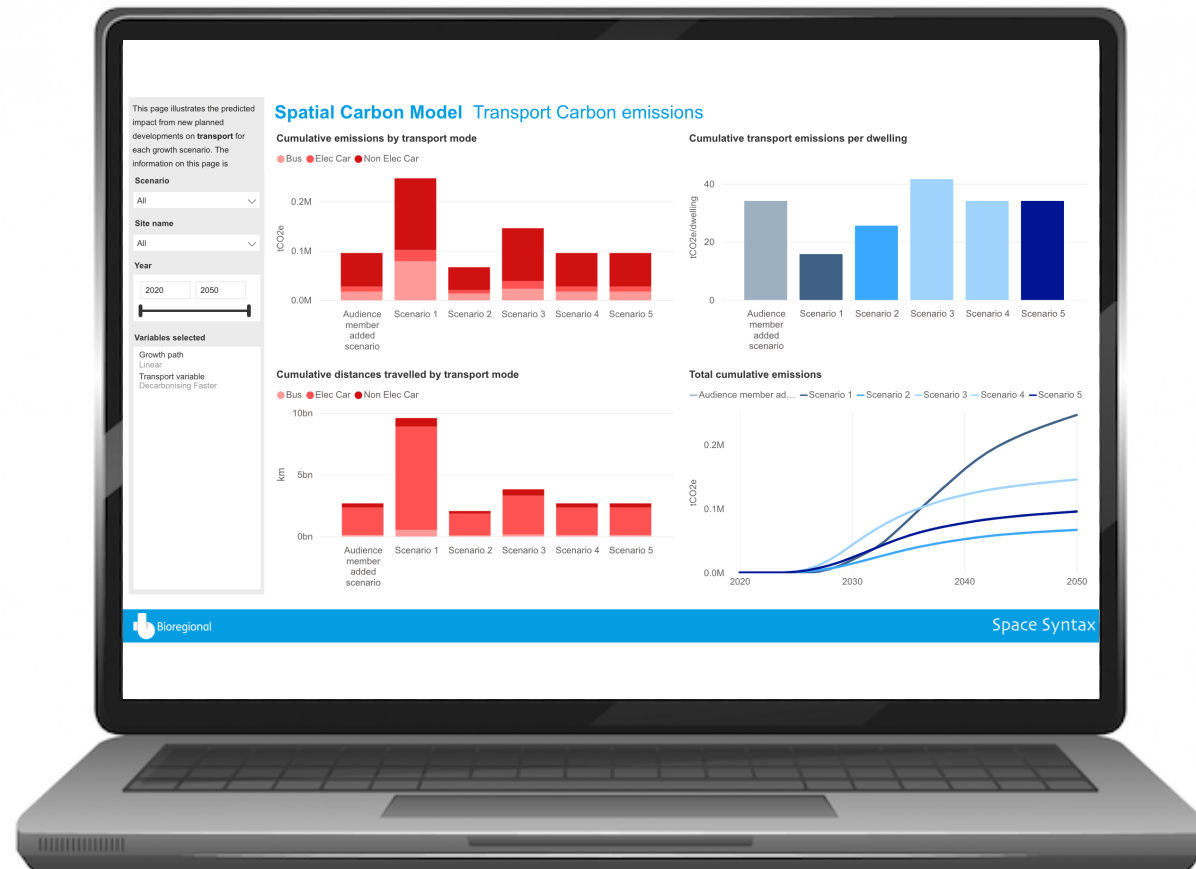


# User experience – scenario comparison

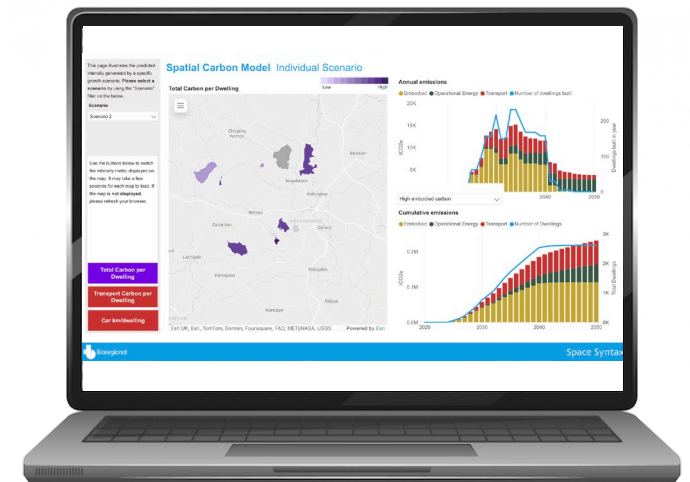
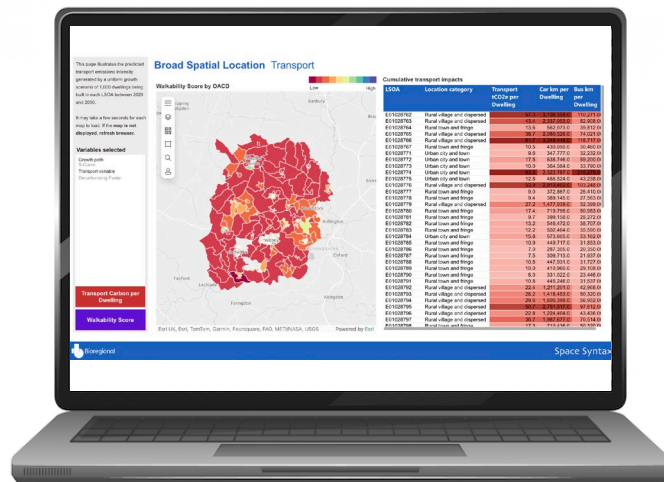
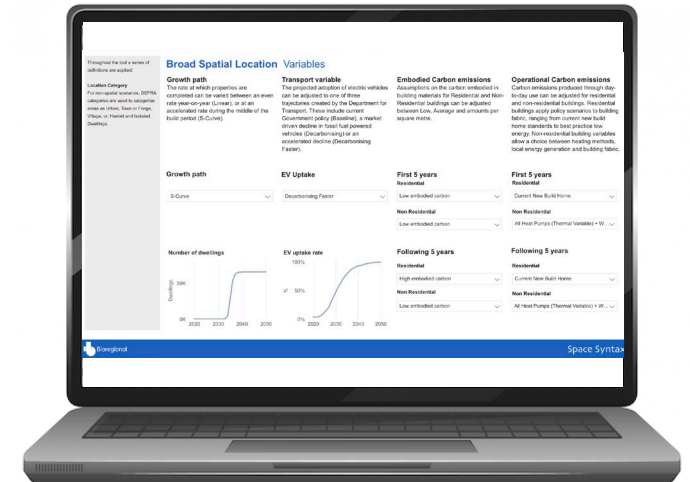
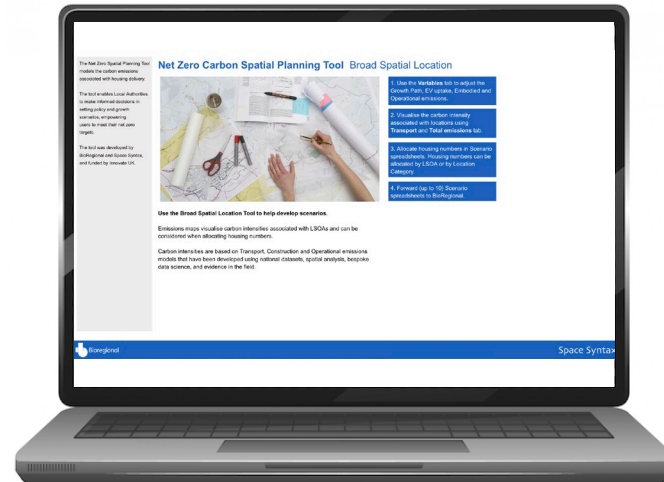
## Model embedded into Net-zero Spatial Planning Tool

Can be used to help develop scenarios by allocating housing to least carbon intensive locations...

...to test and compare impacts of multiple scenarios when developed



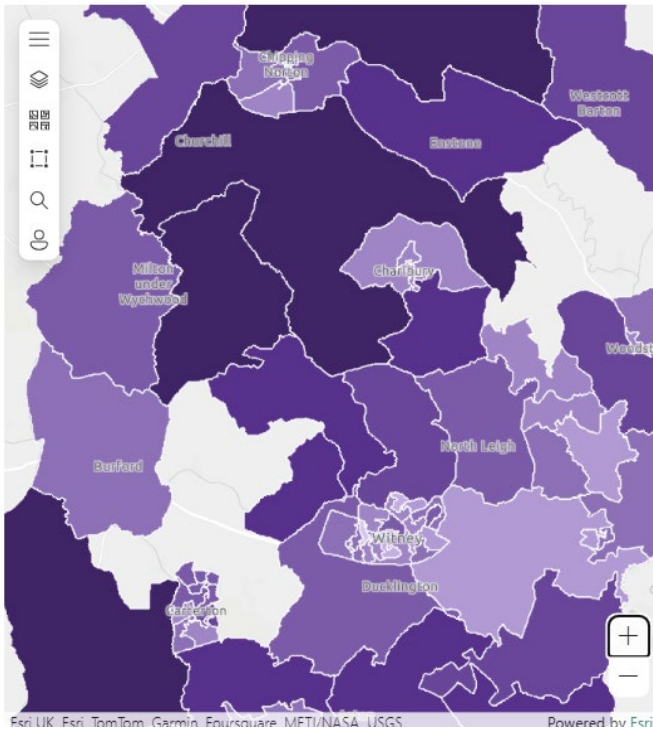
# Interface



# Key functionality

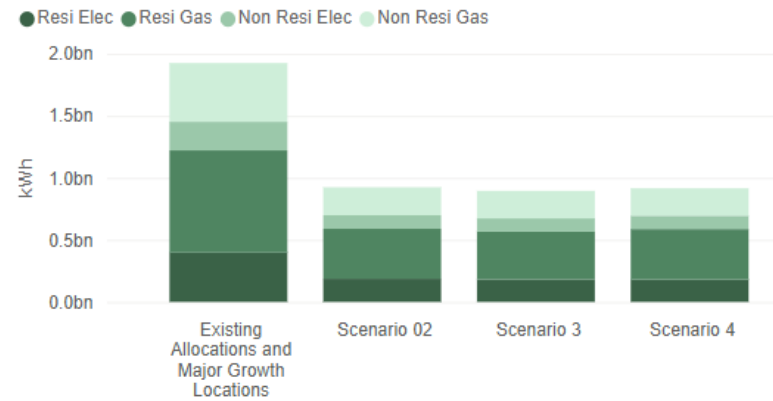
## Intuitive applications

### Interactive Mapping



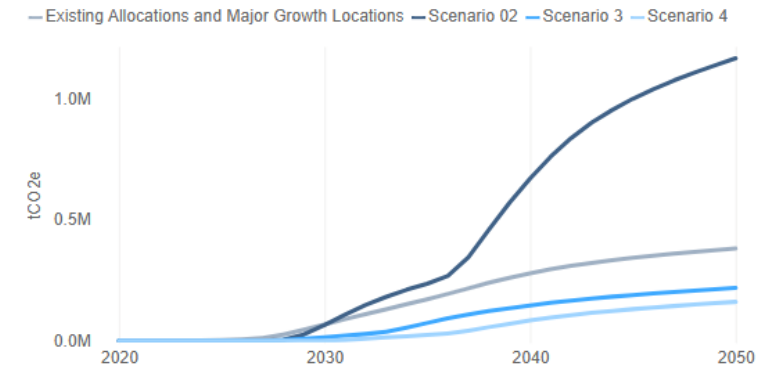
### Scenario Comparison

Total cumulative operational energy consumption



### Detailed Emissions Analysis

Total cumulative emissions





# 4. Borough Partner Insight & Value

*Andrew Thomson, West Oxfordshire DC  
Planning Policy Manager*



## Efficient

- [illegible]

**Annual emissions**

● Embodied ● Operational Energy ● Transport ● Number of dwellings built

100K tCO<sub>2</sub>e

50K tCO<sub>2</sub>e

0K tCO<sub>2</sub>e

2020 2030 2040 2050

1,000 Dwellings built in year

500 Dwellings built in year

0 Dwellings built in year

**Cumulative emissions**

● Embodied ● Operational Energy ● Transport ● Number of Dwellings

1.0M tCO<sub>2</sub>e

0.5M tCO<sub>2</sub>e

0.0M tCO<sub>2</sub>e

2020 2030 2040 2050

10K Total Dwellings

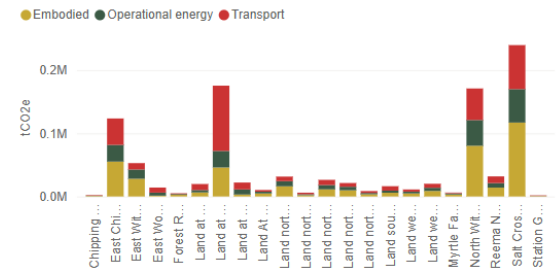
5K Total Dwellings

0K Total Dwellings

- 

### Spatial Carbon Model Sites by scenario

Total dwellings built per year



# 5. Q & A

Connect with us:

Lewis Knight

[Lewis.knight@bioregional.com](mailto:Lewis.knight@bioregional.com)

Jo Mortensen

[Jo.mortensen@bioregional.com](mailto:Jo.mortensen@bioregional.com)

Ed Parham

[e.parham@spacesyntax.com](mailto:e.parham@spacesyntax.com)

Book a demo today:



[bioregional.com](https://bioregional.com)

# Thank you for joining us today

Connect with us:

Lewis Knight

[Lewis.knight@bioregional.com](mailto:Lewis.knight@bioregional.com)

Jo Mortensen

[Jo.mortensen@bioregional.com](mailto:Jo.mortensen@bioregional.com)

Ed Parham

[e.parham@spacesyntax.com](mailto:e.parham@spacesyntax.com)

Book a demo today:



[bioregional.com](https://bioregional.com)