







seek to “demonstrate and support environmentally sustainable farming practices on its farms that support the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity”

Outlining more detailed guidelines for the protection of biodiversity, relevant items in the *Space for Wildlife: Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland BAP 2016-2026*<sup>2</sup> include:

- ❖ Aiming to “increase the area of land managed in a wildlife friendly way in Leicestershire and Rutland”
- ❖ Identification of the following habitats to be created: hedgerows, broadleaved woodland, wet woodland, lowland wood pasture, field margins and
- ❖ Priority to create habitat on intensively managed land (including agricultural land)

#### *Moving towards a Dynamic Purchasing System*

The Dynamic Procurement System (DPS) developed by Bath and North East Somerset Council (BNES) could be a potential model for local food procurement in Leicestershire<sup>3</sup>. This procurement system was established with the aims of (1) providing fresh produce to schools within the region, (2) increasing the sourcing of produce from producers in the region, (3) promoting the supply of products that are healthy and sustainable and (4) making supply chains more transparent by shortening them, allowing a greater level of information to be available to the council over its procurement choices. The case study referenced gives some context of the size of contract (7,000 meals a day) and the savings made through the DPS (6% cost savings and 6 tonnes CO2 per year).

A DPS allows a procurement to be run with competitions for contracts to supply, with ‘winners’ of contracts selected from a pool of producers who are farming according to sustainability- and health- related criteria determined in advance.

## 1.2 Project Aims

The aims for this piece of work are –

1. To better understand the climate and biodiversity impact of Business As Usual ingredients using a set of products commonly used in large regional procurement such as the example use case, and UK average impact
2. To model the difference in impact if products were sourced from Regenerative farms using Leicestershire example farms
3. To understand a future Regenerative Procurement process from farm and Local Authority perspectives, and recommend steps towards this.

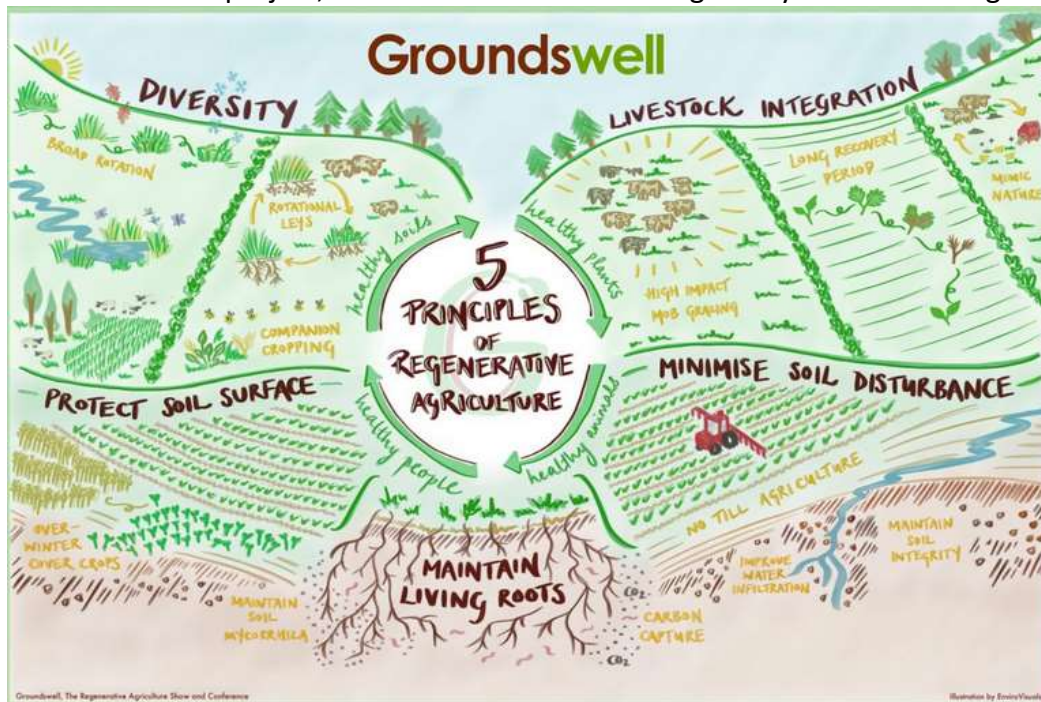
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<sup>2</sup> Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland BAP 2016 – 2026. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2022/10/7/LLR-biodiversity-action-plan-space-for-wildlife-2016-26.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> BNES DPS [https://www.dynamicfood.org/files/ugd/6b24d7\\_55630340ed8140b0b118a2cc04d8b68d.pdf](https://www.dynamicfood.org/files/ugd/6b24d7_55630340ed8140b0b118a2cc04d8b68d.pdf)

**What is *Regenerative* agriculture?** In essence, regenerative agriculture is any form of farming that at the same time improves the environment<sup>1</sup>. In practice, this simple aim can be translated into five 'principles' associated with regenerative farming: (1) **minimising soil disturbance**, (2) **keeping the soil surface covered**, (3) **keeping plants roots in the soil** (4) **maintaining a diversity of crops on the land** and (5) **integrating livestock with crop rotations**. For the purpose of this report the five principles of regenerative agriculture, elaborated by Groundswell and supported by research bodies such as the Allerton project, will be used when discussing this system of farming.



*The five principles of regenerative agriculture as illustrated for Groundswell*

The aims of this objective are multi-faceted and the need for quantitative data is apparent if decisions relating to changes in food production and procurement are to be realised. Quantitative and qualitative data gained through this feasibility study could be used to inform the development of new procurement policymaking that seeks to strengthen existing procurement frameworks and the ability to score highly in sustainability- and welfare-related accreditations. At the same time, this project investigates the potential for a new standards framework to drive change among farms contracted to the council, through requirements for biodiversity enhancement and carbon management.

This report also looks at the potential definitions and ethics to help focus strategic decision-making regarding land management practices that Local Authorities and others may wish to see on their suppliers' farms.

Because this report uses Leicestershire County Council policies and commitments as a baseline, the report assumes the need to enable the continued engagement of Leicestershire schools with the Food for Life Served Here accreditation alongside any regenerative supply chain.



C. Reporting methodology accessible: **Carbon calculator has published information regarding its calculation methodology.**

Once the most appropriate carbon footprint calculator tool was decided, all ingredients appropriate for production in Leicestershire were run through the tool. Where the equivalent ingredient was not available on the carbon calculator's database, this is specified below; for meat and dairy products with no product-specific equivalent available through the tool, the closest product available was used (for example, 'pork' was used for the ingredient 'pork sausage').

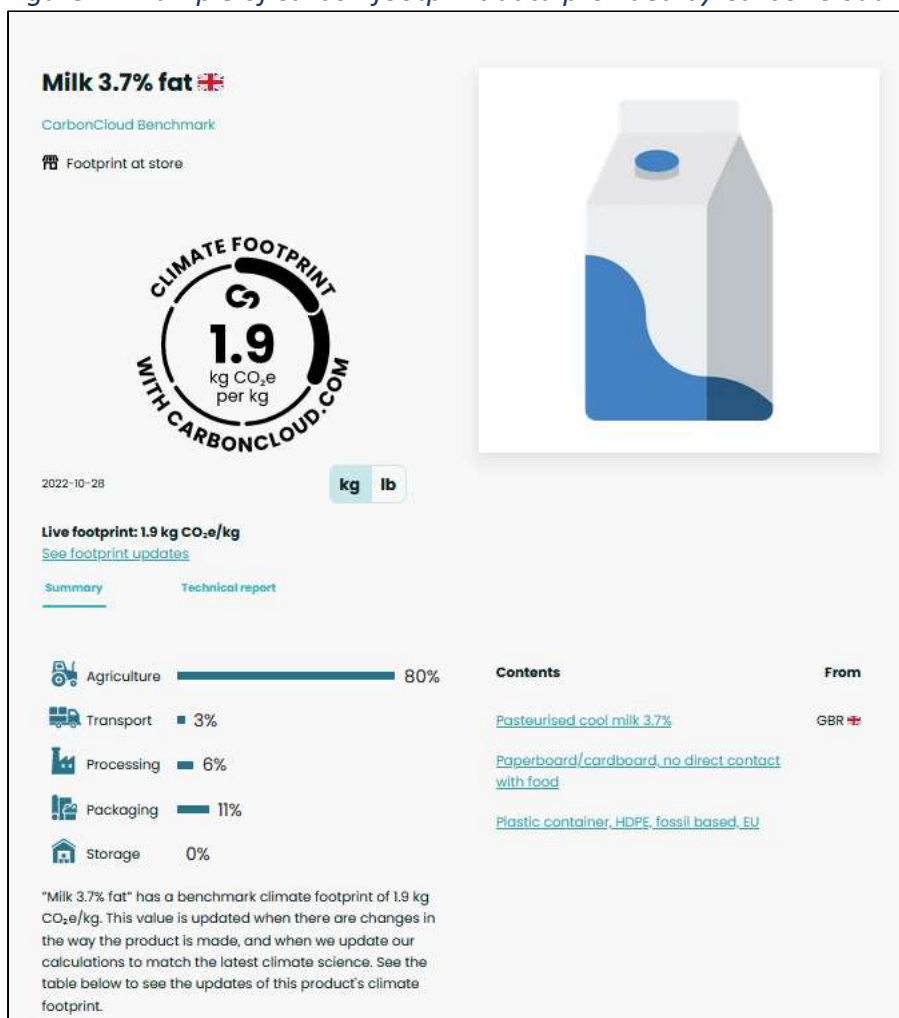
Table 1: Footprint Calculator Comparison

Carbon Calculator	Suitable products included > 50%	Country of Origin Specified	Published methodology	Notes
<a href="#">Plate up for the Planet</a>	Yes	Yes	No	Takes into account the food miles in the values, and also gives the option to choose which country the produce is coming from.
<a href="#">Carboncloud Climate Hub</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Fewer range of choices than Plate up for the Planet but more transparency over reporting of figures.
<a href="#">My Emissions</a>	No	No	No	Does not give country of origin options, instead calculates footprint based on 'global average'.
<a href="#">Food Emissions</a>	No	No	No	Food already has a pre-set country of origin, but gives this for every item. Also allows a specific amount of miles of transport to be set, as well as consumer waste percentage.

Following an assessment of the tools to the defined criteria, CarbonCloud was selected to calculate the carbon footprint of ingredients. CarbonCloud uses a model based on IPCC guidelines to calculate the emissions data for products at farm gate, using variables specific to the country of production, such as yield size, fertiliser type, soil and climate. Its methodology is compatible with ISO 14067 and the GHG protocol Product Life Cycle

Accounting and Reporting standards. The data produced through a product’s emissions report is freely available. A technical report is generated with each product, providing detailed methodology.

Figure 1: Example of carbon footprint data provided by CarbonCloud



The inclusion of food miles, ingredient break down and wide range of products included within CarbonCloud’s catalogue, in addition to the model’s transparency and easily-accessible methodology, made it the most suitable calculation tool of the available options.

### 2.3.1 Emissions of current ingredients

#### *Fruit and Veg*

All ingredients listed in section 2.2 were searched on CarbonCloud’s database. Results are shown in Table 2. Where information was not available using CarbonCloud, figures associated with Plate Up for the Planet are shown (Table 3). Table 4 shows some ingredients that are grown in the UK and might be considered for use more widely in procurement.

Table 2

Product (currently procured and can be produced in UK)	'in store' footprint (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e per kg)	'on farm' footprint (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e per kg)













































































