

# Site Assessment Forms

Dunton



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DRAFT

## Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING<sup>1</sup>

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP323
Site Name	Land south of Biggleswade Road
Site Address	Land south of Biggleswade Road Dunton
Settlement	Dunton
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 2ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 2ha Measured GIS Area: 1.56ha
Proposed Use	Residential
Any other information	Adjoins ALP324

### STAGE 1 : SUITABILITY AND AVAILABILITY (EXCLUSIONARY STAGE)

This section will exclude any sites which do not pass the exclusionary suitability criteria and they will not be assessed further.

### STAGE 1A ASSESSMENT

This stage of the assessment rules out sites that are too small or conflict with national policy designations.

#### Provisional Site Capacity

1	Is the site likely to accommodate less than 10 dwellings? Work out the number of new homes from site size using density of 30dph and exclude up to 40 % depending on site size of land for infrastructure and services, take into account topography or significant areas of undevelopable land. Site Size Gross to net ratio standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 0.4 hectare 100%</li> <li>0.4 to 2 hectares 80%</li> <li>2 hectares or above 60%</li> </ul> <i>Note: for this calculation use the submitted Developable Area, or the area measured in GIS if this is smaller.</i>	No	Number of proposed dwellings as per proforma:  35-50  Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology:  36
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#### Flood Risk (All sites which reach Stage 2 will be subject to the Sequential Test)

2	Is more than 50% of the site located in Flood Zone 2 or 3?	No	The site is not within a Flood Zone 2 or 3.
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	The site is not at risk of surface water flooding.

#### Nationally significant designations (All sites which reach Stage 2 be subject to detailed assessment)

4	Is more than 50% of the site covered by nationally significant designations? These are: Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens.	No	There are no nationally significant designations on site.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	The site is not within the AONB.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

<sup>1</sup> Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

### STAGE 1B ASSESSMENT

This stage of the assessment rules out sites that are not well related to existing settlements but are of an insufficient size to be self contained. It also rules out sites which would cause coalescence of existing towns or villages. For the purposes of this assessment, a self-contained site is defined as a site which will provide 1,500 homes or more<sup>2</sup>.

#### Relationship to Settlement

6	For sites that are not of a sufficient scale to be self-contained, is the site a logical extension to the settlement or are there any major physical constraints (for example A roads, rivers or railways) that separate it from the main settlement?	A	The site is located on the southern edge of the village with frontage along Biggleswade Road. The site falls outside the settlement envelopment and would result in development in the westward direction. Development along Biggleswade Road frontage could potentially be considered.
7	Does the site cause coalescence between an existing village or town and another existing village or town? If yes, then grade as Amber if the site would be able to provide appropriate buffers or green wedges to mitigate this, or Red if it would not be possible for appropriate buffers to be provided leaving a reasonable developable area based on the individual context of the site.	G	The site does not result in coalescence.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

### STAGE 1C ASSESSMENT

This stage of the assessment rules out sites that are not able to meet their critical infrastructure needs<sup>3</sup>.

#### Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the <b>critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery</b> <sup>4</sup> ?	A	Further information is required.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

### STAGE 1D ASSESSMENT

This stage of the assessment rules out sites that are not available. A site is considered available for development where there are no legal or ownership problems and the landowner has expressed an intention to develop the site.

#### Availability

9	What is the existing use of the site? Would the existing use limit the development potential?	G	Agricultural
10	Is the land controlled by a developer or land owner who has expressed an intention to develop the site?	G	Land controlled by land owner intent on developing the site.
11	Are there any legal or ownership problems that could delay or prevent development? If Yes, then can these be issues be realistically	G	There are no known legal or ownership problems.

<sup>2</sup> The figure of 1,500 homes has been taken from the Government Publication 'Locally-Led Garden Villages, Towns and Cities'. This defines the eligibility criteria for Garden Villages as standalone settlements of between 1,500 and 10,000 homes. ( see [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/508205/Locally-led\\_garden\\_villages\\_towns\\_and\\_cities.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/508205/Locally-led_garden_villages_towns_and_cities.pdf) )

<sup>3</sup> Critical infrastructure is that which has been identified as infrastructure that must happen to enable physical development. These infrastructure items are often known as 'blockers' or 'showstoppers', and are most common in relation to transport and utilities infrastructure. Failure to provide these pieces of infrastructure could result in significant delays in the delivery of development.

<sup>4</sup> This is an assessment based on the information known at this stage, a full assessment of infrastructure requirements will be undertaken before any sites are allocated.

	overcome?		
<b>12</b>	Does the site already have planning permission for the proposed use? If yes, then score as Red because it's not eligible for allocation.	G	There is no planning permission for the site.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

### STAGE 1E ASSESSMENT

This section records the findings of the Strategic Green Belt Review and also provides a preliminary screening of sites to determine whether they may be capable of demonstrating Exceptional Circumstances. Any site in the Green Belt that is determined as suitable based on the high level SHLAA assessment would still have to demonstrate Exceptional Circumstances to be considered for allocation in the Plan.

#### Greenbelt

<b>13</b>	Is the site located within the Green Belt?	No	Not within the green belt
<b>14</b>	If answer to question 13 is yes, then does the site lie within one of the parcels which have been identified in the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Green Belt Study as making only a relatively weak, weak, or no contribution? If yes, site progresses through to Stage 2.	Yes or No	Details
<b>15a</b>	Does the site have all of the following merits that may outweigh the harm to the Green Belt and which may contribute to identification of exceptional circumstances? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjoining settlement has at least 3 of the following key local services - convenience shop, lower school, middle school, upper school, village hall, GP surgery, post office, library (use settlement audit)</li> <li>• Site makes a strong contribution to housing need (100 plus homes) within the Luton HMA</li> <li>• Site is in or directly adjacent to a settlement that has a mainline rail station or direct access (junction) to the strategic road network (A road or motorway)</li> </ul> Sites in Green Belt other than those covered by 14 and 15b that cannot meet these criteria, will not progress any further in this assessment of suitability.*	Yes or No	Details
<b>15b</b>	Sites which have support from the local community as demonstrated through an allocation in an adopted or draft Neighbourhood Plan (that has been subject to Regulation 14 consultation) that do not meet the criteria in question 15a will automatically progress through this stage to be considered further at Stage 2. <sup>5</sup>	Yes	Details
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

### STAGE 2 : SUITABILITY (DETAILED ASSESSMENT)

#### STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT

This stage further assesses the site's suitability using detailed desktop assessment. A red rating for any question does not mean that the site will be automatically excluded at this stage as the ratings across Stage 2A will be looked at as a whole using planning balance.

<sup>5</sup> Draft Neighbourhood Plan allocations in Green Belt that are proposed after this site assessment phase has concluded, may still be considered for allocation.

<b>Previously Developed Land</b>			
<b>16</b>	Is the site Previously Developed Land in accordance with the NPPF definition? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 76% - 100% (G)</li> <li>• 26 - 75% (A)</li> <li>• 25% - 0% (Greenfield) (R)</li> </ul>	R	Agricultural fields
<b>Community</b>			
<b>17</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Planning (only applicable in designated areas)</b> Is the site identified as a housing allocation in an emerging Neighbourhood Plan?	No	No Neighbourhood Plan Designation
<b>18</b>	<b>Community Consultation</b> Has any community consultation taken place? If yes, provide brief details on the form this consultation took and any overall community response.	No	There has been no community consultation.
<b>19</b>	<b>Sustainability of Settlement</b> Would this proposal impact on the sustainability of the settlement through the loss of services and facilities (for example, employment, retail, public house etc)	No	This site would not impact on the sustainability of the settlement.
<b>Cumulative Impact</b>			
<b>20</b>	Considering housing completions over the past 10 years, what has been the level of housing growth in the parish? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 5% growth (G)</li> <li>• 5% to 20% growth (A)</li> <li>• More than 20% growth (R)</li> </ul> <i>This is calculated by working out the total number of completions over the last ten years as a percentage of the dwellings in April 2006 (as calculated using census and completions data).</i>	A	2006: 283 2016: 312  There has been a 10.25% increase in housing completions in Dunton.
<b>21</b>	What level of housing growth would there be if all the outstanding permissions (as of April 2016) were to be completed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 5% growth (G)</li> <li>• 5% to 20% growth (A)</li> <li>• More than 20% growth (R)</li> </ul> <i>This is calculated by working out the total number of outstanding permissions as of April 1st 2016 as percentage of the total number of dwellings in April 2016 (as calculated using census and completions data).</i>	G	There is outstanding planning permission for 1 dwelling; a 0.32% increase.
<b>Physical Constraints</b>			
<b>22</b>	Are there any physical constraints or permanent features that affect the site's developability? For example pylons, gas works, sewage treatment works, topography or wind turbines.	G	There are no physical constraints to the site's developability.
<b>Relationship to Settlement</b>			
<b>23</b>	Would development of the site be complementary to the existing settlement pattern, and would it have an adverse impact on any historic, unique or distinctive characteristics of the settlement's built or natural form?	G	There is development along the road frontage.
<b>Agricultural Land Quality</b>			
<b>24</b>	Would the development impact on high quality	R	Grade 2

	agricultural land? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% or more in non-agricultural land (G)</li> <li>• 50% of more in Grade 3b, 4 or 5 (A)</li> <li>• 50% or more in Grade 1, 2 or 3a (R)</li> </ul>		
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## STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT

This stage further assesses the site's suitability using comments from technical specialists. A red rating for any question does not mean that the site will be automatically excluded at this stage as the ratings across Stage 2B will be looked at as a whole using planning balance.

### Transport and Access to Services

<b>25</b>	<b>Facilities and services</b> Question 26 considers the suitability and sustainability of the site for housing. It links to the Council's Settlement Hierarchy Audit.  Issues relating to capacity are assessed separately		
<b>25a</b>	Does the settlement have a Primary/Lower school? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, in the settlement (G)</li> <li>• Yes, proposed as part of the development (G)</li> <li>• No, but an adjoining settlement does (A)</li> <li>• Not in the settlement or an adjoining settlement (R)</li> </ul>	G	Within settlement
<b>25b</b>	Does the settlement have a Middle school (if applicable)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, in the settlement (G)</li> <li>• Yes, proposed as part of the development (G)</li> <li>• No, but an adjoining settlement does (A)</li> <li>• Other catchment school available (A)</li> </ul>	A	Adjoining settlement
<b>25c</b>	Does the settlement have a Secondary/ Upper school? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, in the settlement (G)</li> <li>• Yes, proposed as part of the development (G)</li> <li>• No, but an adjoining settlement does (A)</li> <li>• Other catchment school available (A)</li> </ul>	A	Adjoining settlement
<b>25d</b>	Does the settlement have a GPs surgery or medical centre? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, in the settlement (G)</li> <li>• Yes, proposed as part of the development (G)</li> <li>• No, but an adjoining settlement does (A)</li> <li>• Not in the settlement or an adjoining settlement (R)</li> </ul>	A	Adjoining settlement
<b>26</b>	What retail provision does the settlement offer? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Centre/ Supermarket (G)</li> <li>• Convenience Store / Post Office / Newsagent (A)</li> <li>• None (R)</li> </ul>	R	None
<b>27</b>	Distance to bus stops with a frequent service (at least hourly at peak times): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 400m (G)</li> <li>• 400m-800m (A)</li> <li>• Over 800m (R)</li> <li>• OR submission form stated that improved public transport facilities could be provided as part of the development (G)</li> </ul>	G	329m
<b>28</b>	Distance to nearest train station:	R	Over 1200m

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 800m (G)</li> <li>• 800m-1200m (A)</li> <li>• Over 1200m (R)</li> </ul>		
<b>29</b>	Is the site accessible from the existing road network?	G	Off Biggleswade Road
<b>School Capacity</b>			
<b>30</b>	Do the local schools have capacity at all tiers?	A	New lower school site likely to be required at some point, if significant development takes place within Dunton
<b>31</b>	If not, has a commitment been made to address this?	A	Commitment will need to be made.
<b>Water Utilities (Gas, Electricity and Broadband Infrastructure will be assessed at a later stage)</b>			
<b>32</b>	Is there the capacity to provide all required infrastructure for waste water and potable water?	R/A/G	Water utilities companies have a statutory duty to supply water and waste water infrastructure to new development sites and a lack of available capacity does not prevent future development. Any infrastructure upgrades required will depend on the quantum and location of growth falling within each catchment area. Whilst the Stage 1 Water Cycle Study (April 2017) identifies the current capacity of existing water infrastructure, a Stage 2 study will be prepared to test the cumulative effect of sites that have been shortlisted for allocation in the Local Plan and identify the nature and timing of any upgrades required
<b>Drainage and Flooding (All sites subject to Sequential Test)</b>			
<b>33</b>	What is the conclusion of the sequential approach to site allocations, in regards to flood risk? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No assessment required (G)</li> <li>• Consider Further Assessment (A)</li> <li>• Further Assessment Required (R)</li> </ul>	A	OW present, JFlow modelling required to confirm flood risk
<b>Environmental Health</b>			
<b>34</b>	<b>Contamination</b> Are there any contamination constraints on site and will there be any remediation required?	R/A/G	Awaiting comment
<b>35</b>	<b>Adjoining uses</b> Would any adjoining uses have the potential to cause conflict with the proposed use? (for example; noise and smell)	A	Potential road noise
<b>Environmental Constraints</b>			
<b>36</b>	<b>Landscape character</b> What would the impacts of development be on the landscape character or setting of the area or any designated landscapes? Would there be any direct or indirect harm to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or the Nature Improvement Area?	A	Some potential for development if existing enclosure strengthened and development enhanced gateway.
<b>37</b>	<b>Heritage/ Archaeology</b> What would the impacts of development be on any heritage assets and their setting? Are there any opportunities for enhancement of	A	Site has multi-period archaeological potential but this would not prevent allocation providing appropriate mitigation is



	these assets?		undertaken.
<b>38</b>	<b>Ecological Assets</b> What would the impacts of development be on any biological, geological or ecological assets and are there any opportunities for their enhancement?	A	Buffer existing boundary features, potential impact on Farmland species
<b>39</b>	<b>Open space/leisure and GI assets</b> Are there any potential conflicts with open space, leisure designations or Rights of Way? Is there capacity to provide the required levels of open space and green infrastructure?	G/A	RoW on eastern edge, development would need to link to and enhance.
<b>Minerals and Waste</b>			
<b>40</b>	What would the impacts of development be on safeguarded minerals and waste sites, including mineral safeguarding sites?	G	No issues
<b>Planning History</b>			
<b>41</b>	What is the sites planning history? (For example planning applications and submissions to previous Allocations Plans)		No relevant planning history
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

### STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

Is the site suitable for the proposed development?

The site is considered for further assessment.

- There are no primary constraints to development on the site.
- The site is located in Dunton, which is located to the east of Biggleswade. Although there are no significant facilities in Dunton, it is served by the large centre of Biggleswade.
- In order to reduce the impact on the local character and settlement pattern of Dunton, it is considered that a portion of the site is more suitable for development. The area fronting the road is considered suitable for development.

As such a portion of the site is to be considered for further consideration.

### STAGE 3 : ACHIEVABILITY

This section assesses whether the site is Achievable in line with NPPG Guidance:

A site is considered achievable for development where there is a reasonable prospect that the particular type of development will be developed on the site at a particular point in time. This is essentially a judgement about the economic viability of the site, and the capacity of the developer to complete and let or sell the development over a certain period.

<b>Viability</b>			
<b>43</b>	Referring to the Viability Assessment undertaken by consultants, is the probability of the site being viable high, medium or low? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High (G) Benchmark land value comfortably exceeded by likely residual value</li> <li>• Low (A) Marginal viability, with likely residual land value close to benchmark land value</li> <li>• Very Low (R) Likely residual value well below benchmark land value</li> </ul>	G	The Council's Residential Development Viability Report (Feb 2017) indicates that residual value of development in this value area and at this scale would exceed both the upper and lower benchmark land values and as such the report indicates that such development would likely be viable
<b>Achievability</b>			
<b>44</b>	Are there any market factors which would affect deliverability?		Site not owned or under option from developer

		<p>The Council's Residential Development Viability Report (Feb 2017) is based upon residential property figures between 2013 and 2016. The housing market within Central Bedfordshire has seen significant increases in residential property values in a relatively short period of time, whereby it is considered that the viability of developments within this report has been cautious. For example in 2016 Dunstable has benefited from a 17.9% housing price increase with an average annual house price increase in 2016 for housing within Central Bedfordshire of 10.74%.</p> <p>This increase in property value has been a result of not only national trends in house prices and existing transport links to economically successful areas but also significant infrastructure projects within the pipeline including: East-West Rail; M1-A5 link road; A421 upgrades; Oxford to Cambridge Express Way; Luton and Dunstable Guided Busway; M1 improvements; and potential A1 improvements. It is considered that as such infrastructure projects progress that property prices within the Local Authority will likely continue to increase which has and will increase viability/deliverability of development not only in the higher value areas but also the lower value areas of the Authority.</p>
45	<p>When can the scheme realistically commence delivery?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 to 5 years (deliverable)</li> <li>• 6 to 10 years</li> <li>• 11 to 15 years</li> <li>• 15 to 20 years</li> <li>• Outside Plan Period</li> </ul>	Within 5 years
46	What is the indicative build out time of the site?	The Case Study Sites outlined within the Council's Residential Development Viability Report (Feb 2017) indicates that after the site has received detailed planning permission a single housebuilder would likely take one year to build out this site.
Does the site pass this stage?		Yes

**SUMMARY**

The sites that pass through this assessment process will not automatically be allocated for development in the Local Plan.

Sites will be selected with reference to a number of other factors including:

- The strategy, vision and objectives proposed in the draft plan
- Technical evidence studies
- The sustainability appraisal process
- The results of public consultation
- Flood Risk Sequential Approach
- Further transport modelling
- Consultation with neighbouring authorities

DRAFT

## Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING<sup>6</sup>

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP324
Site Name	Land south of Biggleswade Road and west of Springfield
Site Address	Land south of Biggleswade Road and west of Springfield, Dunton
Settlement	Dunton
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 1.8ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 1.8ha Measured GIS Area: 1.54ha
Proposed Use	Residential
Any other information	Adjoins ALP323 and see NLP047

### STAGE 1 : SUITABILITY AND AVAILABILITY (EXCLUSIONARY STAGE)

This section will exclude any sites which do not pass the exclusionary suitability criteria and they will not be assessed further.

### STAGE 1A ASSESSMENT

This stage of the assessment rules out sites that are too small or conflict with national policy designations.

#### Provisional Site Capacity

1	Is the site likely to accommodate less than 10 dwellings? Work out the number of new homes from site size using density of 30dph and exclude up to 40 % depending on site size of land for infrastructure and services, take into account topography or significant areas of undevelopable land. Site Size Gross to net ratio standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 0.4 hectare 100%</li> <li>0.4 to 2 hectares 80%</li> <li>2 hectares or above 60%</li> </ul> <i>Note: for this calculation use the submitted Developable Area, or the area measured in GIS if this is smaller.</i>	No	Number of proposed dwellings as per proforma:
			18-20
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology:
			43

#### Flood Risk (All sites which reach Stage 2 will be subject to the Sequential Test)

2	Is more than 50% of the site located in Flood Zone 2 or 3?	No	The site is not within a Flood Zone 2 or 3.
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	The site is not at risk of surface water flooding.

#### Nationally significant designations (All sites which reach Stage 2 be subject to detailed assessment)

4	Is more than 50% of the site covered by nationally significant designations? These are: Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens.	No	There are no nationally significant designations on site.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	The site is not within the AONB.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

<sup>6</sup> Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

### STAGE 1B ASSESSMENT

This stage of the assessment rules out sites that are not well related to existing settlements but are of an insufficient size to be self contained. It also rules out sites which would cause coalescence of existing towns or villages. For the purposes of this assessment, a self-contained site is defined as a site which will provide 1,500 homes or more<sup>7</sup>.

#### Relationship to Settlement

6	For sites that are not of a sufficient scale to be self-contained, is the site a logical extension to the settlement or are there any major physical constraints (for example A roads, rivers or railways) that separate it from the main settlement?	A	The site is located on the southern edge of the village, behind existing houses along Biggleswade Road. There is no pattern of backland development along this side of the village and as such it is considered it would not be considered an appropriate site for an extension to Dunton.
7	Does the site cause coalescence between an existing village or town and another existing village or town? If yes, then grade as Amber if the site would be able to provide appropriate buffers or green wedges to mitigate this, or Red if it would not be possible for appropriate buffers to be provided leaving a reasonable developable area based on the individual context of the site.	G	The site does not result in coalescence.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

### STAGE 1C ASSESSMENT

This stage of the assessment rules out sites that are not able to meet their critical infrastructure needs<sup>8</sup>.

#### Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the <b>critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery</b> <sup>9</sup> ?	A	Further information is required.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

### STAGE 1D ASSESSMENT

This stage of the assessment rules out sites that are not available. A site is considered available for development where there are no legal or ownership problems and the landowner has expressed an intention to develop the site.

#### Availability

9	What is the existing use of the site? Would the existing use limit the development potential?	G	Agricultural
10	Is the land controlled by a developer or land owner who has expressed an intention to develop the site?	G	Land controlled by land owner intent on developing the site.
11	Are there any legal or ownership problems that could delay or prevent development? If Yes, then can these be issues be realistically	A	Potential issues.

<sup>7</sup> The figure of 1,500 homes has been taken from the Government Publication 'Locally-Led Garden Villages, Towns and Cities'. This defines the eligibility criteria for Garden Villages as standalone settlements of between 1,500 and 10,000 homes. ( see [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/508205/Locally-led\\_garden\\_villages\\_towns\\_and\\_cities.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/508205/Locally-led_garden_villages_towns_and_cities.pdf) )

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	overcome?		
<b>12</b>	Does the site already have planning permission for the proposed use? If yes, then score as Red because it's not eligible for allocation.	G	There is no planning permission for the site.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

### STAGE 1E ASSESSMENT

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<b>15a</b>	Does the site have all of the following merits that may outweigh the harm to the Green Belt and which may contribute to identification of exceptional circumstances? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjoining settlement has at least 3 of the following key local services - convenience shop, lower school, middle school, upper school, village hall, GP surgery, post office, library (use settlement audit)</li> <li>• Site makes a strong contribution to housing need (100 plus homes) within the Luton HMA</li> <li>• Site is in or directly adjacent to a settlement that has a mainline rail station or direct access (junction) to the strategic road network (A road or motorway)</li> </ul> Sites in Green Belt other than those covered by 14 and 15b that cannot meet these criteria, will not progress any further in this assessment of suitability.*	Yes or No	Details
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Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

### STAGE 2 : SUITABILITY (DETAILED ASSESSMENT)

#### STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT

This stage further assesses the site's suitability using detailed desktop assessment. A red rating for any question does not mean that the site will be automatically excluded at this stage as the ratings across Stage 2A will be looked at as a whole using planning balance.

<sup>10</sup> Draft Neighbourhood Plan allocations in Green Belt that are proposed after this site assessment phase has concluded, may still be considered for allocation.

<b>Previously Developed Land</b>			
<b>16</b>	Is the site Previously Developed Land in accordance with the NPPF definition? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 76% - 100% (G)</li> <li>• 26 - 75% (A)</li> <li>• 25% - 0% (Greenfield) (R)</li> </ul>	R	Agricultural fields
<b>Community</b>			
<b>17</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Planning (only applicable in designated areas)</b> Is the site identified as a housing allocation in an emerging Neighbourhood Plan?	No	No Neighbourhood Plan Designation
<b>18</b>	<b>Community Consultation</b> Has any community consultation taken place? If yes, provide brief details on the form this consultation took and any overall community response.	No	There has been no community consultation.
<b>19</b>	<b>Sustainability of Settlement</b> Would this proposal impact on the sustainability of the settlement through the loss of services and facilities (for example, employment, retail, public house etc)	No	This site would not impact on the sustainability of the settlement.
<b>Cumulative Impact</b>			
<b>20</b>	Considering housing completions over the past 10 years, what has been the level of housing growth in the parish? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 5% growth (G)</li> <li>• 5% to 20% growth (A)</li> <li>• More than 20% growth (R)</li> </ul> <i>This is calculated by working out the total number of completions over the last ten years as a percentage of the dwellings in April 2006 (as calculated using census and completions data).</i>	A	2006: 283 2016: 312  There has been a 10.25% increase in housing completions in Dunton.
<b>21</b>	What level of housing growth would there be if all the outstanding permissions (as of April 2016) were to be completed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 5% growth (G)</li> <li>• 5% to 20% growth (A)</li> <li>• More than 20% growth (R)</li> </ul> <i>This is calculated by working out the total number of outstanding permissions as of April 1st 2016 as percentage of the total number of dwellings in April 2016 (as calculated using census and completions data).</i>	G	There is outstanding planning permission for 1 dwelling; a 0.32% increase.
<b>Physical Constraints</b>			
<b>22</b>	Are there any physical constraints or permanent features that affect the site's developability? For example pylons, gas works, sewage treatment works, topography or wind turbines.	G	There are no physical constraints to the site's developability.
<b>Relationship to Settlement</b>			
<b>23</b>	Would development of the site be complementary to the existing settlement pattern, and would it have an adverse impact on any historic, unique or distinctive characteristics of the settlement's built or natural form?	A	There is no backland development along the southern side of the village. As such the development of the site would not be complementary to the existing settlement pattern.
<b>Agricultural Land Quality</b>			

24	Would the development impact on high quality agricultural land? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% or more in non-agricultural land (G)</li> <li>• 50% or more in Grade 3b, 4 or 5 (A)</li> <li>• 50% or more in Grade 1, 2 or 3a (R)</li> </ul>	R	Grade 2
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## STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT

This stage further assesses the site's suitability using comments from technical specialists. A red rating for any question does not mean that the site will be automatically excluded at this stage as the ratings across Stage 2B will be looked at as a whole using planning balance.

### Transport and Access to Services

25	<b>Facilities and services</b> Question 26 considers the suitability and sustainability of the site for housing. It links to the Council's Settlement Hierarchy Audit.  Issues relating to capacity are assessed separately		
25a	Does the settlement have a Primary/Lower school? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, in the settlement (G)</li> <li>• Yes, proposed as part of the development (G)</li> <li>• No, but an adjoining settlement does (A)</li> <li>• Not in the settlement or an adjoining settlement (R)</li> </ul>	G	Within settlement
25b	Does the settlement have a Middle school (if applicable)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, in the settlement (G)</li> <li>• Yes, proposed as part of the development (G)</li> <li>• No, but an adjoining settlement does (A)</li> <li>• Other catchment school available (A)</li> </ul>	A	Adjoining settlement
25c	Does the settlement have a Secondary/ Upper school? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, in the settlement (G)</li> <li>• Yes, proposed as part of the development (G)</li> <li>• No, but an adjoining settlement does (A)</li> <li>• Other catchment school available (A)</li> </ul>	A	Adjoining settlement
25d	Does the settlement have a GPs surgery or medical centre? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, in the settlement (G)</li> <li>• Yes, proposed as part of the development (G)</li> <li>• No, but an adjoining settlement does (A)</li> <li>• Not in the settlement or an adjoining settlement (R)</li> </ul>	A	Adjoining settlement
26	What retail provision does the settlement offer? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Centre/ Supermarket (G)</li> <li>• Convenience Store / Post Office / Newsagent (A)</li> <li>• None (R)</li> </ul>	R	None
27	Distance to bus stops with a frequent service (at least hourly at peak times): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 400m (G)</li> <li>• 400m-800m (A)</li> <li>• Over 800m (R)</li> <li>• OR submission form stated that improved public transport facilities could be provided as part of the development (G)</li> </ul>	G	165m



28	Distance to nearest train station: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 800m (G)</li> <li>• 800m-1200m (A)</li> <li>• Over 1200m (R)</li> </ul>	R	Over 1200m
29	Is the site accessible from the existing road network?	G	Off Biggleswade Road
<b>School Capacity</b>			
30	Do the local schools have capacity at all tiers?	A	New lower school site likely to be required at some point, if significant development takes place within Dunton
31	If not, has a commitment been made to address this?	A	Commitment will need to be made.
<b>Water Utilities (Gas, Electricity and Broadband Infrastructure will be assessed at a later stage)</b>			
32	Is there the capacity to provide all required infrastructure for waste water and potable water?	R/A/G	Water utilities companies have a statutory duty to supply water and waste water infrastructure to new development sites and a lack of available capacity does not prevent future development. Any infrastructure upgrades required will depend on the quantum and location of growth falling within each catchment area. Whilst the Stage 1 Water Cycle Study (April 2017) identifies the current capacity of existing water infrastructure, a Stage 2 study will be prepared to test the cumulative effect of sites that have been shortlisted for allocation in the Local Plan and identify the nature and timing of any upgrades required
<b>Drainage and Flooding (All sites subject to Sequential Test)</b>			
33	What is the conclusion of the sequential approach to site allocations, in regards to flood risk? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No assessment required (G)</li> <li>• Consider Further Assessment (A)</li> <li>• Further Assessment Required (R)</li> </ul>	G	Site is at limited risk of surface water flooding, assessment is unlikely to be required
<b>Environmental Health</b>			
34	<b>Contamination</b> Are there any contamination constraints on site and will there be any remediation required?	R/A/G	Awaiting comment
35	<b>Adjoining uses</b> Would any adjoining uses have the potential to cause conflict with the proposed use? (for example; noise and smell)	R/A/G	Awaiting comment
<b>Environmental Constraints</b>			
36	<b>Landscape character</b> What would the impacts of development be on the landscape character or setting of the area or any designated landscapes? Would there be any direct or indirect harm to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or the Nature Improvement Area?	R	Site highly visible and exposed on open vale.
37	<b>Heritage/ Archaeology</b> What would the impacts of development be on any heritage assets and their setting?	A	Site has multi-period archaeological potential but this would not prevent allocation

	Are there any opportunities for enhancement of these assets?		providing appropriate mitigation is undertaken.
<b>38</b>	<b>Ecological Assets</b> What would the impacts of development be on any biological, geological or ecological assets and are there any opportunities for their enhancement?	A	Buffer existing boundary features, potential impact on Farmland species.
<b>39</b>	<b>Open space/leisure and GI assets</b> Are there any potential conflicts with open space, leisure designations or Rights of Way? Is there capacity to provide the required levels of open space and green infrastructure?	G/A	RoW on eastern and western edges, development would need to link to and enhance them.
<b>Minerals and Waste</b>			
<b>40</b>	What would the impacts of development be on safeguarded minerals and waste sites, including mineral safeguarding sites?	G	No issues
<b>Planning History</b>			
<b>41</b>	What is the sites planning history? (For example planning applications and submissions to previous Allocations Plans)		No relevant planning history
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

#### STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

Is the site suitable for the proposed development?

**The site is not to be taken further for consideration based on an overall consideration using planning balance.**

- **There are no primary constraints to development on the site.**
- **The site is located in Dunton, which is located to the east of Biggleswade. Biggleswade has many services and facilities. Although there are no significant facilities in Dunton, it is served by the large centre of Biggleswade.**
- **The development is backland development along Biggleswade Road. It is considered that the development would have an adverse impact on the settlement character.**
- **There are landscape concerns regarding the development of the site due to its elevated position.**

## Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING<sup>11</sup>

Site details	
Reference Number	NLP047
Site Name	Land south of Biggleswade Road
Site Address	Land south of Biggleswade Road Dunton
Settlement	Dunton
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 1.95ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 1.95ha Measured GIS Area: 1.94ha
Proposed Use	Residential
Any other information	See ALP324

### STAGE 1 : SUITABILITY AND AVAILABILITY (EXCLUSIONARY STAGE)

This section will exclude any sites which do not pass the exclusionary suitability criteria and they will not be assessed further.

### STAGE 1A ASSESSMENT

This stage of the assessment rules out sites that are too small or conflict with national policy designations.

#### Provisional Site Capacity

1	Is the site likely to accommodate less than 10 dwellings? Work out the number of new homes from site size using density of 30dph and exclude up to 40 % depending on site size of land for infrastructure and services, take into account topography or significant areas of undevelopable land. Site Size Gross to net ratio standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 0.4 hectare 100%</li> <li>0.4 to 2 hectares 80%</li> <li>2 hectares or above 60%</li> </ul> <i>Note: for this calculation use the submitted Developable Area, or the area measured in GIS if this is smaller.</i>	No	Number of proposed dwellings as per proforma:
			30+
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology:
			46

#### Flood Risk (All sites which reach Stage 2 will be subject to the Sequential Test)

2	Is more than 50% of the site located in Flood Zone 2 or 3?	No	The site is not within a Flood Zone 2 or 3.
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	The site is not at risk of surface water flooding.

#### Nationally significant designations (All sites which reach Stage 2 be subject to detailed assessment)

4	Is more than 50% of the site covered by nationally significant designations? These are: Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens.	No	There are no nationally significant designations on site.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	The site is not within the AONB.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

<sup>11</sup> Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

### STAGE 1B ASSESSMENT

This stage of the assessment rules out sites that are not well related to existing settlements but are of an insufficient size to be self contained. It also rules out sites which would cause coalescence of existing towns or villages. For the purposes of this assessment, a self-contained site is defined as a site which will provide 1,500 homes or more<sup>12</sup>.

#### Relationship to Settlement

6	For sites that are not of a sufficient scale to be self-contained, is the site a logical extension to the settlement or are there any major physical constraints (for example A roads, rivers or railways) that separate it from the main settlement?	A	The site is located on the southern edge of the village, behind existing houses along Biggleswade Road. There is no pattern of backland development along this side of the village and as such it is considered it would not be considered an appropriate site for an extension to Dunton.
7	Does the site cause coalescence between an existing village or town and another existing village or town? If yes, then grade as Amber if the site would be able to provide appropriate buffers or green wedges to mitigate this, or Red if it would not be possible for appropriate buffers to be provided leaving a reasonable developable area based on the individual context of the site.	G	The site does not result in coalescence.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

### STAGE 1C ASSESSMENT

This stage of the assessment rules out sites that are not able to meet their critical infrastructure needs<sup>13</sup>.

#### Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the <b>critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery</b> <sup>14</sup> ?	A	Further information is required.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

### STAGE 1D ASSESSMENT

This stage of the assessment rules out sites that are not available. A site is considered available for development where there are no legal or ownership problems and the landowner has expressed an intention to develop the site.

#### Availability

9	What is the existing use of the site? Would the existing use limit the development potential?	G	Agricultural, demolition of existing agricultural buildings.
10	Is the land controlled by a developer or land owner who has expressed an intention to develop the site?	G	Land controlled by land owner intent on developing the site.
11	Are there any legal or ownership problems that could delay or prevent development? If Yes, then can these be issues be realistically	G	There are no known legal or ownership problems.

<sup>12</sup> The figure of 1,500 homes has been taken from the Government Publication 'Locally-Led Garden Villages, Towns and Cities'. This defines the eligibility criteria for Garden Villages as standalone settlements of between 1,500 and 10,000 homes. ( see [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/508205/Locally-led\\_garden\\_villages\\_towns\\_and\\_cities.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/508205/Locally-led_garden_villages_towns_and_cities.pdf) )

<sup>13</sup> Critical infrastructure is that which has been identified as infrastructure that must happen to enable physical development. These infrastructure items are often known as 'blockers' or 'showstoppers', and are most common in relation to transport and utilities infrastructure. Failure to provide these pieces of infrastructure could result in significant delays in the delivery of development.

<sup>14</sup> This is an assessment based on the information known at this stage, a full assessment of infrastructure requirements will be undertaken before any sites are allocated.

	overcome?		
<b>12</b>	Does the site already have planning permission for the proposed use? If yes, then score as Red because it's not eligible for allocation.	G	There is no planning permission for the site.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

### STAGE 1E ASSESSMENT

This section records the findings of the Strategic Green Belt Review and also provides a preliminary screening of sites to determine whether they may be capable of demonstrating Exceptional Circumstances. Any site in the Green Belt that is determined as suitable based on the high level SHLAA assessment would still have to demonstrate Exceptional Circumstances to be considered for allocation in the Plan.

#### Greenbelt

<b>13</b>	Is the site located within the Green Belt?	No	Not within the green belt
<b>14</b>	If answer to question 13 is yes, then does the site lie within one of the parcels which have been identified in the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Green Belt Study as making only a relatively weak, weak, or no contribution? If yes, site progresses through to Stage 2.	Yes or No	Details
<b>15a</b>	Does the site have all of the following merits that may outweigh the harm to the Green Belt and which may contribute to identification of exceptional circumstances? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjoining settlement has at least 3 of the following key local services - convenience shop, lower school, middle school, upper school, village hall, GP surgery, post office, library (use settlement audit)</li> <li>• Site makes a strong contribution to housing need (100 plus homes) within the Luton HMA</li> <li>• Site is in or directly adjacent to a settlement that has a mainline rail station or direct access (junction) to the strategic road network (A road or motorway)</li> </ul> Sites in Green Belt other than those covered by 14 and 15b that cannot meet these criteria, will not progress any further in this assessment of suitability.*	Yes or No	Details
<b>15b</b>	Sites which have support from the local community as demonstrated through an allocation in an adopted or draft Neighbourhood Plan (that has been subject to Regulation 14 consultation) that do not meet the criteria in question 15a will automatically progress through this stage to be considered further at Stage 2. <sup>15</sup>	Yes	Details
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

### STAGE 2 : SUITABILITY (DETAILED ASSESSMENT)

#### STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT

This stage further assesses the site's suitability using detailed desktop assessment. A red rating for any question does not mean that the site will be automatically excluded at this stage as the ratings across Stage 2A will be looked at as a whole using planning balance.

<sup>15</sup> Draft Neighbourhood Plan allocations in Green Belt that are proposed after this site assessment phase has concluded, may still be considered for allocation.

<b>Previously Developed Land</b>			
<b>16</b>	Is the site Previously Developed Land in accordance with the NPPF definition? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 76% - 100% (G)</li> <li>• 26 - 75% (A)</li> <li>• 25% - 0% (Greenfield) (R)</li> </ul>	R	Agricultural fields
<b>Community</b>			
<b>17</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Planning (only applicable in designated areas)</b> Is the site identified as a housing allocation in an emerging Neighbourhood Plan?	No	No Neighbourhood Plan Designation
<b>18</b>	<b>Community Consultation</b> Has any community consultation taken place? If yes, provide brief details on the form this consultation took and any overall community response.	No	There has been no community consultation.
<b>19</b>	<b>Sustainability of Settlement</b> Would this proposal impact on the sustainability of the settlement through the loss of services and facilities (for example, employment, retail, public house etc)	No	This site would not impact on the sustainability of the settlement.
<b>Cumulative Impact</b>			
<b>20</b>	Considering housing completions over the past 10 years, what has been the level of housing growth in the parish? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 5% growth (G)</li> <li>• 5% to 20% growth (A)</li> <li>• More than 20% growth (R)</li> </ul> <i>This is calculated by working out the total number of completions over the last ten years as a percentage of the dwellings in April 2006 (as calculated using census and completions data).</i>	A	2006: 283 2016: 312  There has been a 10.25% increase in housing completions in Dunton.
<b>21</b>	What level of housing growth would there be if all the outstanding permissions (as of April 2016) were to be completed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 5% growth (G)</li> <li>• 5% to 20% growth (A)</li> <li>• More than 20% growth (R)</li> </ul> <i>This is calculated by working out the total number of outstanding permissions as of April 1st 2016 as percentage of the total number of dwellings in April 2016 (as calculated using census and completions data).</i>	G	There is outstanding planning permission for 1 dwelling; a 0.32% increase.
<b>Physical Constraints</b>			
<b>22</b>	Are there any physical constraints or permanent features that affect the site's developability? For example pylons, gas works, sewage treatment works, topography or wind turbines.	G	There are no physical constraints to the site's developability.
<b>Relationship to Settlement</b>			
<b>23</b>	Would development of the site be complementary to the existing settlement pattern, and would it have an adverse impact on any historic, unique or distinctive characteristics of the settlement's built or natural form?	A	There is no backland development along the southern side of the village. As such the development of the site would not be complementary to the existing settlement pattern.
<b>Agricultural Land Quality</b>			

24	Would the development impact on high quality agricultural land? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% or more in non-agricultural land (G)</li> <li>• 50% or more in Grade 3b, 4 or 5 (A)</li> <li>• 50% or more in Grade 1, 2 or 3a (R)</li> </ul>	R	Grade 2
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## STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT

This stage further assesses the site's suitability using comments from technical specialists. A red rating for any question does not mean that the site will be automatically excluded at this stage as the ratings across Stage 2B will be looked at as a whole using planning balance.

### Transport and Access to Services

25	<b>Facilities and services</b> Question 26 considers the suitability and sustainability of the site for housing. It links to the Council's Settlement Hierarchy Audit.  Issues relating to capacity are assessed separately		
25a	Does the settlement have a Primary/Lower school? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, in the settlement (G)</li> <li>• Yes, proposed as part of the development (G)</li> <li>• No, but an adjoining settlement does (A)</li> <li>• Not in the settlement or an adjoining settlement (R)</li> </ul>	G	Within settlement
25b	Does the settlement have a Middle school (if applicable)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, in the settlement (G)</li> <li>• Yes, proposed as part of the development (G)</li> <li>• No, but an adjoining settlement does (A)</li> <li>• Other catchment school available (A)</li> </ul>	A	Adjoining settlement
25c	Does the settlement have a Secondary/ Upper school? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, in the settlement (G)</li> <li>• Yes, proposed as part of the development (G)</li> <li>• No, but an adjoining settlement does (A)</li> <li>• Other catchment school available (A)</li> </ul>	A	Adjoining settlement
25d	Does the settlement have a GPs surgery or medical centre? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, in the settlement (G)</li> <li>• Yes, proposed as part of the development (G)</li> <li>• No, but an adjoining settlement does (A)</li> <li>• Not in the settlement or an adjoining settlement (R)</li> </ul>	A	Adjoining settlement
26	What retail provision does the settlement offer? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Centre/ Supermarket (G)</li> <li>• Convenience Store / Post Office / Newsagent (A)</li> <li>• None (R)</li> </ul>	R	None
27	Distance to bus stops with a frequent service (at least hourly at peak times): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 400m (G)</li> <li>• 400m-800m (A)</li> <li>• Over 800m (R)</li> <li>• OR submission form stated that improved public transport facilities could be provided as part of the development (G)</li> </ul>	G	165m

28	Distance to nearest train station: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 800m (G)</li> <li>• 800m-1200m (A)</li> <li>• Over 1200m (R)</li> </ul>	R	Over 1200m
29	Is the site accessible from the existing road network?	G	Off Biggleswade Road
<b>School Capacity</b>			
30	Do the local schools have capacity at all tiers?	A	New lower school site likely to be required at some point, if significant development takes place within Dunton
31	If not, has a commitment been made to address this?	A	Commitment will need to be made.
<b>Water Utilities (Gas, Electricity and Broadband Infrastructure will be assessed at a later stage)</b>			
32	Is there the capacity to provide all required infrastructure for waste water and potable water?	R/A/G	Water utilities companies have a statutory duty to supply water and waste water infrastructure to new development sites and a lack of available capacity does not prevent future development. Any infrastructure upgrades required will depend on the quantum and location of growth falling within each catchment area. Whilst the Stage 1 Water Cycle Study (April 2017) identifies the current capacity of existing water infrastructure, a Stage 2 study will be prepared to test the cumulative effect of sites that have been shortlisted for allocation in the Local Plan and identify the nature and timing of any upgrades required
<b>Drainage and Flooding (All sites subject to Sequential Test)</b>			
33	What is the conclusion of the sequential approach to site allocations, in regards to flood risk? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No assessment required (G)</li> <li>• Consider Further Assessment (A)</li> <li>• Further Assessment Required (R)</li> </ul>	G	Site is at limited risk of surface water flooding, assessment is unlikely to be required
<b>Environmental Health</b>			
34	<b>Contamination</b> Are there any contamination constraints on site and will there be any remediation required?	R/A/G	Awaiting comment
35	<b>Adjoining uses</b> Would any adjoining uses have the potential to cause conflict with the proposed use? (for example; noise and smell)	R/A/G	Awaiting comment
<b>Environmental Constraints</b>			
36	<b>Landscape character</b> What would the impacts of development be on the landscape character or setting of the area or any designated landscapes? Would there be any direct or indirect harm to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or the Nature Improvement Area?	R	Not suitable for development in landscape terms – site highly visible and exposed on open vale.
37	<b>Heritage/ Archaeology</b> What would the impacts of development be on any heritage assets and their setting?	A	Site has multi-period archaeological potential but this would not prevent allocation



	Are there any opportunities for enhancement of these assets?		providing appropriate mitigation is undertaken.
<b>38</b>	<b>Ecological Assets</b> What would the impacts of development be on any biological, geological or ecological assets and are there any opportunities for their enhancement?	A	Buffer existing boundary features, potential impact on Farmland species.
<b>39</b>	<b>Open space/leisure and GI assets</b> Are there any potential conflicts with open space, leisure designations or Rights of Way? Is there capacity to provide the required levels of open space and green infrastructure?	G/A	RoW on eastern and western edges, development would need to link to and enhance them.
<b>Minerals and Waste</b>			
<b>40</b>	What would the impacts of development be on safeguarded minerals and waste sites, including mineral safeguarding sites?	G	No issues
<b>Planning History</b>			
<b>41</b>	What is the sites planning history? (For example planning applications and submissions to previous Allocations Plans)		No relevant planning history
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

#### STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

Is the site suitable for the proposed development?

**The site is not to be considered for further assessment based on an overall consideration using planning balance.**

- There are no primary constraints to development on the site.
- The site is located in Dunton, which is located to the east of Biggleswade. Biggleswade has many services and facilities. Although there are no significant facilities in Dunton, it is served by the large centre of Biggleswade.
- The development is backland development along Biggleswade Road. It is considered that the development would have an adverse impact on the settlement character.
- There are landscape concerns regarding the development of the site due to its elevated position.

## Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING<sup>16</sup>

Site details	
Reference Number	NLP324
Site Name	Land north of Greenfield Way
Site Address	Land north of Greenfield Way
Settlement	Dunton
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 2.04ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 2.04ha Measured GIS Area: 2.07ha
Proposed Use	Residential
Any other information	

### STAGE 1 : SUITABILITY AND AVAILABILITY (EXCLUSIONARY STAGE)

This section will exclude any sites which do not pass the exclusionary suitability criteria and they will not be assessed further.

### STAGE 1A ASSESSMENT

This stage of the assessment rules out sites that are too small or conflict with national policy designations.

#### Provisional Site Capacity

1	Is the site likely to accommodate less than 10 dwellings? Work out the number of new homes from site size using density of 30dph and exclude up to 40 % depending on site size of land for infrastructure and services, take into account topography or significant areas of undevelopable land. Site Size Gross to net ratio standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 0.4 hectare 100%</li> <li>0.4 to 2 hectares 80%</li> <li>2 hectares or above 60%</li> </ul> <i>Note: for this calculation use the submitted Developable Area, or the area measured in GIS if this is smaller.</i>	No	Number of proposed dwellings as per proforma:
			50
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology:
			48

#### Flood Risk (All sites which reach Stage 2 will be subject to the Sequential Test)

2	Is more than 50% of the site located in Flood Zone 2 or 3?	No	The site is not within a Flood Zone 2 or 3.
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	The site is not at risk of surface water flooding.

#### Nationally significant designations (All sites which reach Stage 2 be subject to detailed assessment)

4	Is more than 50% of the site covered by nationally significant designations? These are: Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens.	No	There are no nationally significant designations on site.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	The site is not within the AONB.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

<sup>16</sup> Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

### STAGE 1B ASSESSMENT

This stage of the assessment rules out sites that are not well related to existing settlements but are of an insufficient size to be self contained. It also rules out sites which would cause coalescence of existing towns or villages. For the purposes of this assessment, a self-contained site is defined as a site which will provide 1,500 homes or more<sup>17</sup>.

#### Relationship to Settlement

6	For sites that are not of a sufficient scale to be self-contained, is the site a logical extension to the settlement or are there any major physical constraints (for example A roads, rivers or railways) that separate it from the main settlement?	G	The site is located to the north of Dunton, outside the settlement envelope. Although it would extend Dunton to the north, there has been development extending westwards from Cambridge Road.
7	Does the site cause coalescence between an existing village or town and another existing village or town? If yes, then grade as Amber if the site would be able to provide appropriate buffers or green wedges to mitigate this, or Red if it would not be possible for appropriate buffers to be provided leaving a reasonable developable area based on the individual context of the site.	G	The site does not result in coalescence.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

### STAGE 1C ASSESSMENT

This stage of the assessment rules out sites that are not able to meet their critical infrastructure needs<sup>18</sup>.

#### Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the <b>critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery</b> <sup>19</sup> ?	G	Critical infrastructure can be provided.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

### STAGE 1D ASSESSMENT

This stage of the assessment rules out sites that are not available. A site is considered available for development where there are no legal or ownership problems and the landowner has expressed an intention to develop the site.

#### Availability

9	What is the existing use of the site? Would the existing use limit the development potential?	G	Agricultural
10	Is the land controlled by a developer or land owner who has expressed an intention to develop the site?	G	Land controlled by land owner intent on developing the site.
11	Are there any legal or ownership problems that could delay or prevent development? If Yes, then can these be issues be realistically overcome?	G	There are no known legal or ownership problems.
12	Does the site already have planning permission for the proposed use? If yes, then score as Red	G	There is no planning permission for the site.

<sup>17</sup> The figure of 1,500 homes has been taken from the Government Publication 'Locally-Led Garden Villages, Towns and Cities'. This defines the eligibility criteria for Garden Villages as standalone settlements of between 1,500 and 10,000 homes. ( see [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/508205/Locally-led\\_garden\\_villages\\_towns\\_and\\_cities.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/508205/Locally-led_garden_villages_towns_and_cities.pdf) )

<sup>18</sup> Critical infrastructure is that which has been identified as infrastructure that must happen to enable physical development. These infrastructure items are often known as 'blockers' or 'showstoppers', and are most common in relation to transport and utilities infrastructure. Failure to provide these pieces of infrastructure could result in significant delays in the delivery of development.

<sup>19</sup> This is an assessment based on the information known at this stage, a full assessment of infrastructure requirements will be undertaken before any sites are allocated.

	because it's not eligible for allocation.		
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

### STAGE 1E ASSESSMENT

This section records the findings of the Strategic Green Belt Review and also provides a preliminary screening of sites to determine whether they may be capable of demonstrating Exceptional Circumstances. Any site in the Green Belt that is determined as suitable based on the high level SHLAA assessment would still have to demonstrate Exceptional Circumstances to be considered for allocation in the Plan.

#### Greenbelt

<b>13</b>	Is the site located within the Green Belt?	No	Not within the green belt
<b>14</b>	If answer to question 13 is yes, then does the site lie within one of the parcels which have been identified in the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Green Belt Study as making only a relatively weak, weak, or no contribution? If yes, site progresses through to Stage 2.	Yes or No	Details
<b>15a</b>	Does the site have all of the following merits that may outweigh the harm to the Green Belt and which may contribute to identification of exceptional circumstances? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjoining settlement has at least 3 of the following key local services - convenience shop, lower school, middle school, upper school, village hall, GP surgery, post office, library (use settlement audit)</li> <li>• Site makes a strong contribution to housing need (100 plus homes) within the Luton HMA</li> <li>• Site is in or directly adjacent to a settlement that has a mainline rail station or direct access (junction) to the strategic road network (A road or motorway)</li> </ul> Sites in Green Belt other than those covered by 14 and 15b that cannot meet these criteria, will not progress any further in this assessment of suitability.*	Yes or No	Details
<b>15b</b>	Sites which have support from the local community as demonstrated through an allocation in an adopted or draft Neighbourhood Plan (that has been subject to Regulation 14 consultation) that do not meet the criteria in question 15a will automatically progress through this stage to be considered further at Stage 2. <sup>20</sup>	Yes	Details
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

### STAGE 2 : SUITABILITY (DETAILED ASSESSMENT)

#### STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT

This stage further assesses the site's suitability using detailed desktop assessment. A red rating for any question does not mean that the site will be automatically excluded at this stage as the ratings across Stage 2A will be looked at as a whole using planning balance.

#### Previously Developed Land

<b>16</b>	Is the site Previously Developed Land in accordance with the NPPF definition?	R	Agricultural fields
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<sup>20</sup> Draft Neighbourhood Plan allocations in Green Belt that are proposed after this site assessment phase has concluded, may still be considered for allocation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 76% - 100% (G)</li> <li>• 26 - 75% (A)</li> <li>• 25% - 0% (Greenfield) (R)</li> </ul>		
<b>Community</b>			
<b>17</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Planning (only applicable in designated areas)</b> Is the site identified as a housing allocation in an emerging Neighbourhood Plan?	No	No Neighbourhood Plan Designation
<b>18</b>	<b>Community Consultation</b> Has any community consultation taken place? If yes, provide brief details on the form this consultation took and any overall community response.	No	There has been no community consultation.
<b>19</b>	<b>Sustainability of Settlement</b> Would this proposal impact on the sustainability of the settlement through the loss of services and facilities (for example, employment, retail, public house etc)	No	This site would not impact on the sustainability of the settlement.
<b>Cumulative Impact</b>			
<b>20</b>	Considering housing completions over the past 10 years, what has been the level of housing growth in the parish? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 5% growth (G)</li> <li>• 5% to 20% growth (A)</li> <li>• More than 20% growth (R)</li> </ul> <i>This is calculated by working out the total number of completions over the last ten years as a percentage of the dwellings in April 2006 (as calculated using census and completions data).</i>	A	2006: 283 2016: 312  There has been a 10.25% increase in housing completions in Dunton.
<b>21</b>	What level of housing growth would there be if all the outstanding permissions (as of April 2016) were to be completed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 5% growth (G)</li> <li>• 5% to 20% growth (A)</li> <li>• More than 20% growth (R)</li> </ul> <i>This is calculated by working out the total number of outstanding permissions as of April 1st 2016 as percentage of the total number of dwellings in April 2016 (as calculated using census and completions data).</i>	G	There is outstanding planning permission for 1 dwelling; a 0.32% increase.
<b>Physical Constraints</b>			
<b>22</b>	Are there any physical constraints or permanent features that affect the site's developability? For example pylons, gas works, sewage treatment works, topography or wind turbines.	G	There are no physical constraints to the site's developability.
<b>Relationship to Settlement</b>			
<b>23</b>	Would development of the site be complementary to the existing settlement pattern, and would it have an adverse impact on any historic, unique or distinctive characteristics of the settlement's built or natural form?	A	There has been development extending westwards from Cambridge Road, for example Greenfield Way.
<b>Agricultural Land Quality</b>			
<b>24</b>	Would the development impact on high quality agricultural land? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% or more in non-agricultural land (G)</li> <li>• 50% of more in Grade 3b, 4 or 5 (A)</li> </ul>	R	Grade 2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% or more in Grade 1, 2 or 3a (R)</li> </ul>		
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## STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT

This stage further assesses the site's suitability using comments from technical specialists. A red rating for any question does not mean that the site will be automatically excluded at this stage as the ratings across Stage 2B will be looked at as a whole using planning balance.

### Transport and Access to Services

<b>25</b>	<b>Facilities and services</b> Question 26 considers the suitability and sustainability of the site for housing. It links to the Council's Settlement Hierarchy Audit.  Issues relating to capacity are assessed separately		
<b>25a</b>	Does the settlement have a Primary/Lower school? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, in the settlement (G)</li> <li>• Yes, proposed as part of the development (G)</li> <li>• No, but an adjoining settlement does (A)</li> <li>• Not in the settlement or an adjoining settlement (R)</li> </ul>	G	Within settlement
<b>25b</b>	Does the settlement have a Middle school (if applicable)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, in the settlement (G)</li> <li>• Yes, proposed as part of the development (G)</li> <li>• No, but an adjoining settlement does (A)</li> <li>• Other catchment school available (A)</li> </ul>	A	Adjoining settlement
<b>25c</b>	Does the settlement have a Secondary/ Upper school? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, in the settlement (G)</li> <li>• Yes, proposed as part of the development (G)</li> <li>• No, but an adjoining settlement does (A)</li> <li>• Other catchment school available (A)</li> </ul>	A	Adjoining settlement
<b>25d</b>	Does the settlement have a GPs surgery or medical centre? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, in the settlement (G)</li> <li>• Yes, proposed as part of the development (G)</li> <li>• No, but an adjoining settlement does (A)</li> <li>• Not in the settlement or an adjoining settlement (R)</li> </ul>	A	Adjoining settlement
<b>26</b>	What retail provision does the settlement offer? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Centre/ Supermarket (G)</li> <li>• Convenience Store / Post Office / Newsagent (A)</li> <li>• None (R)</li> </ul>	R	None
<b>27</b>	Distance to bus stops with a frequent service (at least hourly at peak times): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 400m (G)</li> <li>• 400m-800m (A)</li> <li>• Over 800m (R)</li> <li>• OR submission form stated that improved public transport facilities could be provided as part of the development (G)</li> </ul>	G	369m
<b>28</b>	Distance to nearest train station: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 800m (G)</li> <li>• 800m-1200m (A)</li> <li>• Over 1200m (R)</li> </ul>	R	Over 1200m

29	Is the site accessible from the existing road network?	G	Off Biggleswade Road
<b>School Capacity</b>			
30	Do the local schools have capacity at all tiers?	A	New lower school site likely to be required at some point, if significant development takes place within Dunton
31	If not, has a commitment been made to address this?	A	Commitment will need to be made.
<b>Water Utilities (Gas, Electricity and Broadband Infrastructure will be assessed at a later stage)</b>			
32	Is there the capacity to provide all required infrastructure for waste water and potable water?	R/A/G	Water utilities companies have a statutory duty to supply water and waste water infrastructure to new development sites and a lack of available capacity does not prevent future development. Any infrastructure upgrades required will depend on the quantum and location of growth falling within each catchment area. Whilst the Stage 1 Water Cycle Study (April 2017) identifies the current capacity of existing water infrastructure, a Stage 2 study will be prepared to test the cumulative effect of sites that have been shortlisted for allocation in the Local Plan and identify the nature and timing of any upgrades required
<b>Drainage and Flooding (All sites subject to Sequential Test)</b>			
33	What is the conclusion of the sequential approach to site allocations, in regards to flood risk? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No assessment required (G)</li> <li>Consider Further Assessment (A)</li> <li>Further Assessment Required (R)</li> </ul>	G	Site is at limited risk of surface water flooding, assessment is unlikely to be required
<b>Environmental Health</b>			
34	<b>Contamination</b> Are there any contamination constraints on site and will there be any remediation required?	R/A/G	Awaiting comment
35	<b>Adjoining uses</b> Would any adjoining uses have the potential to cause conflict with the proposed use? (for example; noise and smell)	A	Potential road noise
<b>Environmental Constraints</b>			
36	<b>Landscape character</b> What would the impacts of development be on the landscape character or setting of the area or any designated landscapes? Would there be any direct or indirect harm to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or the Nature Improvement Area?	G	Acceptable if development secures green infrastructure to create enhanced rural edge.
37	<b>Heritage/ Archaeology</b> What would the impacts of development be on any heritage assets and their setting? Are there any opportunities for enhancement of these assets?	A	Site has multi-period archaeological potential but this would not prevent allocation providing appropriate mitigation is undertaken.
38	<b>Ecological Assets</b> What would the impacts of development be on any	G	Opportunity for enhancement, potential impact on Farmland

	biological, geological or ecological assets and are there any opportunities for their enhancement?		Species
<b>39</b>	<b>Open space/leisure and GI assets</b> Are there any potential conflicts with open space, leisure designations or Rights of Way? Is there capacity to provide the required levels of open space and green infrastructure?	G	No issues
<b>Minerals and Waste</b>			
<b>40</b>	What would the impacts of development be on safeguarded minerals and waste sites, including mineral safeguarding sites?	G	No issues
<b>Planning History</b>			
<b>41</b>	What is the sites planning history? (For example planning applications and submissions to previous Allocations Plans)		No relevant planning history
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

### STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

Is the site suitable for the proposed development?

**The site is to be considered for further assessment.**

- There are no primary constraints to development on the site.
- The site is located in Dunton, which is located to the east of Biggleswade. Although there are no significant facilities in Dunton, it is served by the large centre of Biggleswade.
- It is considered that the development would not have an adverse impact on the settlement character given that it is a road frontage site.

### STAGE 3 : ACHIEVABILITY

This section assesses whether the site is Achievable in line with NPPG Guidance:

A site is considered achievable for development where there is a reasonable prospect that the particular type of development will be developed on the site at a particular point in time. This is essentially a judgement about the economic viability of the site, and the capacity of the developer to complete and let or sell the development over a certain period.

#### Viability

<b>43</b>	Referring to the Viability Assessment undertaken by consultants, is the probability of the site being viable high, medium or low? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High (G) Benchmark land value comfortably exceeded by likely residual value</li> <li>• Low (A) Marginal viability, with likely residual land value close to benchmark land value</li> <li>• Very Low (R) Likely residual value well below benchmark land value</li> </ul>	G	The Council's Residential Development Viability Report (Feb 2017) indicates that residual value of development in this value area and at this scale would exceed both the upper and lower benchmark land values and as such the report indicates that such development would likely be viable
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#### Achievability

<b>44</b>	Are there any market factors which would affect deliverability?		Site not owned or under option from developer  The Council's Residential Development Viability Report (Feb 2017) is based upon residential property figures between 2013 and 2016. The housing market within Central Bedfordshire has seen significant increases in residential
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		<p>property values in a relatively short period of time, whereby it is considered that the viability of developments within this report has been cautious. For example in 2016 Dunstable has benefited from a 17.9% housing price increase with an average annual house price increase in 2016 for housing within Central Bedfordshire of 10.74%.</p> <p>This increase in property value has been a result of not only national trends in house prices and existing transport links to economically successful areas but also significant infrastructure projects within the pipeline including: East-West Rail; M1-A5 link road; A421 upgrades; Oxford to Cambridge Express Way; Luton and Dunstable Guided Busway; M1 improvements; and potential A1 improvements. It is considered that as such infrastructure projects progress that property prices within the Local Authority will likely continue to increase which has and will increase viability/deliverability of development not only in the higher value areas but also the lower value areas of the Authority.</p>
45	<p>When can the scheme realistically commence delivery?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 to 5 years (deliverable)</li> <li>• 6 to 10 years</li> <li>• 11 to 15 years</li> <li>• 15 to 20 years</li> <li>• Outside Plan Period</li> </ul>	<p>Within 5 years</p>
46	<p>What is the indicative build out time of the site?</p>	<p>The Case Study Sites outlined within the Council's Residential Development Viability Report (Feb 2017) indicates that after the site has received detailed planning permission a single housebuilder would likely take one year to build out this site.</p>
<p>Does the site pass this stage?</p>		<p>Yes</p>

**SUMMARY**

The sites that pass through this assessment process will not automatically be allocated for development in the Local Plan.

Sites will be selected with reference to a number of other factors including:

- The strategy, vision and objectives proposed in the draft plan
- Technical evidence studies
- The sustainability appraisal process
- The results of public consultation
- Flood Risk Sequential Approach
- Further transport modelling
- Consultation with neighbouring authorities

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