



Site Assessment Forms

Flitwick



Contents

ALP098	3
ALP174	6
ALP177	13
ALP226	20
ALP284	22
ALP345	25
ALP435	27
NLP039	28
NLP081	37
NLP245	44
NLP321	47
NLP366	54
NLP375	57
NLP397	59
NLP444	61
NLP492	63

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Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING¹

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP098
Site Name	Land east of Chantry Way, Flitwick
Site Address	Land east of Chantry Way, Flitwick
Settlement	Flitwick
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 2.09ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 2.09ha Measured GIS Area: 2.18ha
Proposed Use	Residential
Any other information	Similar site NLP245

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"> Up to 0.4 hectare 100% 0.4 to 2 hectares 80% 2 hectares or above 60% <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: 65-70 dwellings
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 38 dwellings

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	
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	

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	No designations on site.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	No part of site covered by AONB.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

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

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

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 more².

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 well related to the existing settlement.
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	No coalescence issues.
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 needs³.

Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery ⁴ ?	A	This was not asked in Call for sites 2014
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	Site is currently undeveloped and no demolition or relocation would be required.
10	Is the land controlled by a developer or land owner who has expressed an intention to develop the site?	G	Site has been submitted on behalf of private landowner, intention to develop is stated and details for other land owner provided.
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	No issues.
12	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	No

² 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)

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

Does the site continue to next stage?	Yes
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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

13	Is the site located within the Green Belt?	Yes	100% Green Belt
14	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.	No	
15a	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"> • 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) • Site makes a strong contribution to housing need (100 plus homes) within the Luton HMA • 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) 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.*	No	Less than 100 dwellings.
15b	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. ⁵	No	
Does the site continue to next stage?		No	

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

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING⁶

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP174
Site Name	Land Adjacent to Maulden Road
Site Address	Land Adjacent to Maulden Road, Flitwick
Settlement	Flitwick
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 6ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 11ha Measured GIS Area: 10.94ha
Proposed Use	Mixed use development: Employment, residential, community building
Any other information	Adjoins submission ALP177. ALP177 and ALP174 resubmitted as joint submission NLP321.

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"> Up to 0.4 hectare 100% 0.4 to 2 hectares 80% 2 hectares or above 60% <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: 150 dwellings Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 108 dwellings
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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	
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	

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	No designations on site.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	No part of site covered by AONB.

Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes
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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

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

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 more⁷.

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 borders the settlement envelope of Flitwick to the west and very partially to the south. The site is not well connected to the existing settlement, it lies on the edge of Flitwick, opposite an industrial site and separated from the majority of the settlement by Maulden Road which is a busy 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	No coalescence issues.
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 needs⁸.

Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery ⁹ ?	A	No information provided. This question was not asked in 2014 Call for Sites.
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	The land is currently used for agricultural purposes, submission states that no relocation of demolition would be required.
10	Is the land controlled by a developer or land owner who has expressed an intention to develop the site?	G	Site has been submitted by a representative for a private land owner. Submission states that the land owner is the sole owner and is intent on developing the site.
11	Are there any legal or ownership problems that could	G	Submission form states that there

⁷ 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)

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

	delay or prevent development? If Yes, then can these be issues be realistically overcome?		are no legal or ownership issues.
12	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	No.
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

13	Is the site located within the Green Belt?	Yes	Yes. Site is 100% in the Green Belt.
14	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	Yes. Parcel identified as making a 'relatively weak' contribution.
15a	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"> • 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) • Site makes a strong contribution to housing need (100 plus homes) within the Luton HMA • 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) 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	Yes.
15b	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. ¹⁰	No	
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

STAGE 2 : SUITABILITY (DETAILED ASSESSMENT)

STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT

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

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

16	Is the site Previously Developed Land in accordance with the NPPF definition? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 76% - 100% (G) 26 - 75% (A) 25% - 0% (Greenfield) (R) 	R	No part of the site is PDL.
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Community

17	Neighbourhood Planning (only applicable in designated areas) Is the site identified as a housing allocation in an emerging Neighbourhood Plan?	No	Flitwick is not a parish which has been designated for a Neighbourhood Plan.
18	Community Consultation Has any community consultation taken place? If yes, provide brief details on the form this consultation took and any overall community response.	N/A	This was not asked in the 2014 Call for Sites.
19	Sustainability of Settlement 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	The site is currently in agricultural use.

Cumulative Impact

20	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"> Less than 5% growth (G) 5% to 20% growth (A) More than 20% growth (R) <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>	G	Number of houses in 2006: 5,252 Number of houses in 2016: 5,507 Percentage growth: 4.86%
21	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"> Less than 5% growth (G) 5% to 20% growth (A) More than 20% growth (R) <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>	A	Number of houses in 2016: 5,507 Number of outstanding completions in 2016: 473 Percentage growth: 8.59%

Physical Constraints

22	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	None identified
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Relationship to Settlement

23	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	G	No issues identified
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	form?		
Agricultural Land Quality			
24	<p>Would the development impact on high quality agricultural land?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% or more in non-agricultural land (G) • 50% or more in Grade 3b, 4 or 5 (A) • 50% or more in Grade 1, 2 or 3a (R) 	R	The majority of the site is within Grade 2 agricultural land.

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

	public transport facilities could be provided as part of the development (G)		
28	Distance to nearest train station: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 800m (G) • 800m-1200m (A) • Over 1200m (R) 	A	
29	Is the site accessible from the existing road network?	G	Access shown onto Maulden Road.
School Capacity			
30	Do the local schools have capacity at all tiers?	A	Likely to be accommodated through expansion of existing schools – financial contribution required.
31	If not, has a commitment been made to address this?	A	No projects. No commitment made.
Water Utilities (Gas, Electricity and Broadband Infrastructure will be assessed at a later stage)			
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.
Drainage and Flooding (All sites subject to Sequential Test)			
33	What is the conclusion of the sequential approach to site allocations, in regards to flood risk? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No assessment required (G) • Consider Further Assessment (A) • Further Assessment Required (R) 	G	Site is at limited risk of surface water flooding, assessment is unlikely to be required
Environmental Health			
34	Contamination Are there any contamination constraints on site and will there be any remediation required?	A	On site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sand gravel pits
35	Adjoining uses Would any adjoining uses have the potential to cause conflict with the proposed use? (for example; noise and smell)	A	Industrial Noise / Road Traffic / Clay Pigeon Shooting
Environmental Constraints			
36	Landscape character 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 – foreground to Flitwick Moor SSSI and important visual feature giving identity to Flit Valley.
37	Heritage/ Archaeology	Her:A	Site has multi-period

	What would the impacts of development be on any heritage assets and their setting? Are there any opportunities for enhancement of these assets?	Arch: A	archaeological potential but this would not prevent allocation providing appropriate mitigation is undertaken. Heritage comment: Flitwick Mill directly opposite, could have an impact on setting of Listed Buildings.
38	Ecological Assets What would the impacts of development be on any biological, geological or ecological assets and are there any opportunities for their enhancement?	R	In NIA, site adjoins SSSI and risks from increased recreation / access could threaten site.
39	Open space/leisure and GI assets 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?	R	Adjacent to Flitwick Moor SSSI. Extension to Flitwick Moor identified as a priority aspiration in parish GI plan. Flitwick Moor would be particularly sensitive to development impacts in terms of water levels and quality. RoW across site. Within NIA? No loss of LS open space.
Minerals and Waste			
40	What would the impacts of development be on safeguarded minerals and waste sites, including mineral safeguarding sites?	A	Site is within an MSA
Planning History			
41	What is the sites planning history? (For example planning applications and submissions to previous Allocations Plans)		None
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

Is the site suitable for the proposed development?

Fail at Stage 2. The site's proximity to Flitwick Moor SSSI makes it inappropriate for development. The site is important in landscape terms, providing the foreground to Flitwick Moor SSSI and is an important visual feature giving identity to Flit Valley. Increased recreation/access could threaten the site ecologically. The GI officer also felt that Flitwick Moor would be particularly sensitive to development impacts in terms of water levels and quality and noted the extension to Flitwick Moor was identified as a priority aspiration in the parish GI plan. In addition the Heritage officer raised concerns over impact on the setting of Flitwick Mill and the site is within Grade 2 agricultural land. The Environmental Health team highlighted the presence of sand gravel pits on site, and the potential for noise impacts from the clay pigeon shooting, road traffic and industrial units. This site will not be considered any further as part of this process.

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING¹¹

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP177
Site Name	Land to the east of Maulden Road
Site Address	Land to the east of Maulden Road, Flitwick
Settlement	Flitwick
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 4.5ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 9ha Measured GIS Area: 9.57ha
Proposed Use	Mixed use development: Residential, community centre (retail, leisure, recreation)
Any other information	Adjoins submission ALP174. ALP177 and ALP174 resubmitted as joint submission NLP321.

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"> • Up to 0.4 hectare 100% • 0.4 to 2 hectares 80% • 2 hectares or above 60% <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: 110 dwellings
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 81 dwellings

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	
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	

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	No designations on site.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	No part of site covered by AONB.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

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

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

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 more¹².

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 borders the settlement envelope of Flitwick to the west and very partially to the south. The site is not well connected to the existing settlement, it lies on the edge of Flitwick, adjoining the linear development currently on Flitwick's boundary.
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	No coalescence issues.
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 needs¹³.

Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery ¹⁴ ?	A	No information provided. This question was not asked in 2014 Call for Sites.
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	The land is currently used for agricultural purposes, submission states that no relocation of demolition would be required.
10	Is the land controlled by a developer or land owner who has expressed an intention to develop the site?	G	Site has been submitted by representative for a private land owner. Submission states that the land owner is the sole owner and is intent on developing the site.
11	Are there any legal or ownership problems that could delay or prevent development?	G	Submission form states that there are no legal or ownership issues.

¹² 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)

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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.

	If Yes, then can these be issues be realistically overcome?		
12	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	No.
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

13	Is the site located within the Green Belt?	Yes	Yes. Site is 100% in the Green Belt.
14	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	Yes. Parcel identified as making a 'relatively weak' contribution.
15a	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"> • 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) • Site makes a strong contribution to housing need (100 plus homes) within the Luton HMA • 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) 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	Yes
15b	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. ¹⁵	No	
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

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

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

16	Is the site Previously Developed Land in accordance with the NPPF definition? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 76% - 100% (G) • 26 - 75% (A) • 25% - 0% (Greenfield) (R) 	R	No part of the site is PDL.
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Community

17	Neighbourhood Planning (only applicable in designated areas) Is the site identified as a housing allocation in an emerging Neighbourhood Plan?	No	Flitwick is not a parish which has been designated for a Neighbourhood Plan.
18	Community Consultation Has any community consultation taken place? If yes, provide brief details on the form this consultation took and any overall community response.	N/A	This was not asked in the 2014 Call for Sites.
19	Sustainability of Settlement 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	The site is currently in agricultural use.

Cumulative Impact

20	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"> • Less than 5% growth (G) • 5% to 20% growth (A) • More than 20% growth (R) <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>	G	Number of houses in 2006: 5,252 Number of houses in 2016: 5,507 Percentage growth: 4.86%
21	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"> • Less than 5% growth (G) • 5% to 20% growth (A) • More than 20% growth (R) <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>	A	Number of houses in 2016: 5,507 Number of outstanding completions in 2016: 473 Percentage growth: 8.59%

Physical Constraints

22	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	None identified
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Relationship to Settlement

23	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	No issues identified
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Agricultural Land Quality			
24	<p>Would the development impact on high quality agricultural land?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% or more in non-agricultural land (G) • 50% or more in Grade 3b, 4 or 5 (A) • 50% or more in Grade 1, 2 or 3a (R) 	R	The majority of the site is within Grade 2 agricultural land.

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

	part of the development (G)		
28	Distance to nearest train station: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 800m (G) • 800m-1200m (A) • Over 1200m (R) 	A	
29	Is the site accessible from the existing road network?	G	Site shown to front onto Greenfield Road.
School Capacity			
30	Do the local schools have capacity at all tiers?	A	Likely to be accommodated through expansion of existing schools – financial contribution required.
31	If not, has a commitment been made to address this?	A	No projects. No commitment made.
Water Utilities (Gas, Electricity and Broadband Infrastructure will be assessed at a later stage)			
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.
Drainage and Flooding (All sites subject to Sequential Test)			
33	What is the conclusion of the sequential approach to site allocations, in regards to flood risk? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No assessment required (G) • Consider Further Assessment (A) • Further Assessment Required (R) 	R	Level 2 assessment required
Environmental Health			
34	Contamination Are there any contamination constraints on site and will there be any remediation required?	A	On site: Sand gravel pits
35	Adjoining uses Would any adjoining uses have the potential to cause conflict with the proposed use? (for example; noise and smell)	A	Industrial Noise / Road Traffic / Clay Pigeon Shooting
Environmental Constraints			
36	Landscape character 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– foreground to Flitwick Moor SSSI and important visual feature giving identity to Flit Valley.

37	Heritage/ Archaeology What would the impacts of development be on any heritage assets and their setting? Are there any opportunities for enhancement of these assets?	Her: A Arch: A	Site has multi-period archaeological potential but this would not prevent allocation providing appropriate mitigation is undertaken. Heritage comment: Flitwick Mill directly opposite, could have an impact on setting of LB.
38	Ecological Assets What would the impacts of development be on any biological, geological or ecological assets and are there any opportunities for their enhancement?	R	In NIA, site adjoins SSSI and risks from increased recreation / access could threaten site.
39	Open space/leisure and GI assets 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?	R	Adjacent to Flitwick Moor SSSI. Extension to Flitwick Moor identified as a priority aspiration in parish GI plan. Flitwick Moor would be particularly sensitive to development impacts in terms of water levels and quality. RoW across site. Within NIA? No loss of LS open space.
Minerals and Waste			
40	What would the impacts of development be on safeguarded minerals and waste sites, including mineral safeguarding sites?	A	Site is within an MSA
Planning History			
41	What is the sites planning history? (For example planning applications and submissions to previous Allocations Plans)		None
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

Is the site suitable for the proposed development?

Site not appropriate for development in landscape terms, it provides an important visual feature giving identity to Flit Valley and provides the foreground to Flitwick Moor SSSI. Development of the site would also have an impact on the setting of Flitwick Mill Listed Building and there would be a risk to ecology as the site adjoins the SSSI. An extension to Flitwick Moor SSSI has been identified as a priority aspiration in the GI plan, and the SSSI would be particularly sensitive to development impacts in terms of water levels and quality. The site is also Grade 2 quality agricultural land and a Level 2 assessment for flooding would be required as the site is at risk. The Environmental Health team highlighted the presence of sand gravel pits on site, and the potential for noise impacts from the clay pigeon shooting, road traffic and industrial units. This site will not be considered any further as part of this process.

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING¹⁶

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP226
Site Name	One O One Garage
Site Address	101 Amphill Road, Flitwick
Settlement	
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 0.56ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 0.56ha Measured GIS Area: 0.54ha
Proposed Use	Residential (Care home)
Any other information	Proposes a care home

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"> Up to 0.4 hectare 100% 0.4 to 2 hectares 80% 2 hectares or above 60% <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: 75 bed care home
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 13 dwellings

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	
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	

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	No designations on site.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	No part of site covered by AONB.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

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

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

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 more¹⁷.

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 currently used for commercial use. If this site was to be developed for residential use then it would be separated from Flitwick by the undeveloped land which lies between the site and the residential estate further up Ampthill 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.	R	The site would encourage coalescence between Flitwick and Ampthill as it would extend the limit of residential development in Flitwick to the edge of Ampthill. This would also encourage infill development between the site and Flitwick and Ampthill.
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

¹⁷ 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)

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING¹⁸

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP284
Site Name	Land at Steppingley Road and Froghall Road Flitwick Central Bedfordshire (North) Site Allocations DPD – “Allocation MA2”
Site Address	Land off Steppingley Road and Froghall Road, Flitwick
Settlement	Flitwick
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 0.89ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 0.89ha Measured GIS Area: 0.99ha
Proposed Use	Residential
Any other information	Site already allocated as MA2 (commercial parcel of Mixed Use Allocation)

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"> Up to 0.4 hectare 100% 0.4 to 2 hectares 80% 2 hectares or above 60% <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 dwellings Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 21 dwellings
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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	
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	

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	No designations on site.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	No part of site covered by AONB.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

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

¹⁸ Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

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 more¹⁹.

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 identified for commercial use as part of a previously allocated mixed-use site. Therefore although it does not at first appear to be well related to the existing settlement, it is well related as part of the wider allocation.
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	No coalescence issues.
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 needs²⁰.

Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery ²¹ ?	A	Question not asked in 2014 call for sites.
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	Site is already allocated for commercial use as part of wider mixed-use allocation. This does not limit the development potential.
10	Is the land controlled by a developer or land owner who has expressed an intention to develop the site?	G	Submitted on behalf of part land owner, land owner details and intention to develop are stated.
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	Submission states no legal or ownership issues.
12	Does the site already have planning permission for the proposed use? If yes, then score as Red	R	The site is already allocated and has planning permission for a

¹⁹ 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)

²⁰ 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.

²¹ 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.		mixed use development, the site itself is the part proposed for commercial use. Any issues with this planning permission should be addressed through the planning application route.
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

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Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING²²

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP345
Site Name	One-0-One Field, Ampthill Road, Flitwick
Site Address	One-0-One Field, Ampthill Road, Flitwick
Settlement	Flitwick
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 3.5ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 3.5ha Measured GIS Area: 3.58ha
Proposed Use	Mixed Use: residential and food store
Any other information	Similar site NLP397

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"> Up to 0.4 hectare 100% 0.4 to 2 hectares 80% 2 hectares or above 60% <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: 110 dwellings
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 63 dwellings

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	
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	

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	No designations on site.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	No part of site covered by AONB.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

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

²² Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

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 more²³.

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 well related to the existing settlement.
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.	R	The site would cause coalescence between Ampthill and Flitwick on land which is designated as Green Belt.
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

²³ 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)

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING²⁴

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP435
Site Name	Land at rear of Hilldene Close, Steppingley Road, Flitwick
Site Address	Land at rear of Hilldene Close, Steppingley Road, Flitwick
Settlement	Flitwick
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 0.82ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 0.82ha Measured GIS Area: 0.76ha
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"> Up to 0.4 hectare 100% 0.4 to 2 hectares 80% 2 hectares or above 60% <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: 59 dwellings
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 18 dwellings

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	
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	Yes	More than 50% of the site is at risk of flooding (1 in 100 year occurrence)

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	No designations on site.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	No part of site covered by AONB.
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

²⁴ Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING²⁵

Site details	
Reference Number	NLP039
Site Name	Steppingley Road
Site Address	Steppingley Road, Flitwick
Settlement	Flitwick
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 6.07ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 8.90ha Measured GIS Area: 9.00ha
Proposed Use	Residential
Any other information	Adjacent to submission NLP408

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"> Up to 0.4 hectare 100% 0.4 to 2 hectares 80% 2 hectares or above 60% <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: 225 dwellings Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 109 dwellings
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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	
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	

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	No designations on site.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	No part of site covered by AONB.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

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

²⁵ Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

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 more²⁶.

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 borders the settlement envelope of Flitwick to the north-east and the south-east. It is well located in relation to the existing settlement.
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	No coalescence issues.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

STAGE 1C ASSESSMENT

could be provided as part of the development (G) it are not able to meet their critical infrastructure needs²⁷.

Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery ²⁸ ?	G	Commitments made to provide relevant contributions.
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	The land is currently used for agricultural purposes, submission states that agricultural use would be relocated.
10	Is the land controlled by a developer or land owner who has expressed an intention to develop the site?	G	Site has been submitted by a developer. The submission provides landowner details and states that the land owners are 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	Submission form states that there are no legal or ownership issues.
12	Does the site already have planning permission for the proposed use? If yes, then score as Red	G	No.

²⁶ 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)

²⁷ 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.

²⁸ 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

13	Is the site located within the Green Belt?	Yes	Yes. Site is 100% in the Green Belt.
14	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.	No	
15a	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"> • 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) • Site makes a strong contribution to housing need (100 plus homes) within the Luton HMA • 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) 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	Yes
15b	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. ²⁹	No	
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

16	Is the site Previously Developed Land in accordance	R	No part of the site is PDL.
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²⁹ Draft Neighbourhood Plan allocations in Green Belt that are proposed after this site assessment phase has concluded, may still be considered for allocation.

	with the NPPF definition? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 76% - 100% (G) • 26 - 75% (A) • 25% - 0% (Greenfield) (R) 		
Community			
17	Neighbourhood Planning (only applicable in designated areas) Is the site identified as a housing allocation in an emerging Neighbourhood Plan?	No	Flitwick is not a parish which has been designated for a Neighbourhood Plan.
18	Community Consultation Has any community consultation taken place? If yes, provide brief details on the form this consultation took and any overall community response.	No	Details
19	Sustainability of Settlement 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	Site is 100% Greenfield.
Cumulative Impact			
20	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"> • Less than 5% growth (G) • 5% to 20% growth (A) • More than 20% growth (R) <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>	G	Number of houses in 2006: 5,252 Number of houses in 2016: 5,507 Percentage growth: 4.86%
21	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"> • Less than 5% growth (G) • 5% to 20% growth (A) • More than 20% growth (R) <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>	A	Number of houses in 2016: 5,507 Number of outstanding completions in 2016: 473 Percentage growth: 8.59%
Physical Constraints			
22	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	No constraints identified.
Relationship to Settlement			
23	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	No issues identified.
Agricultural Land Quality			
24	Would the development impact on high quality agricultural land? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% or more in non-agricultural land (G) 	R	The site is fully within Grade 2 Agricultural Land.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of more in Grade 3b, 4 or 5 (A) • 50% or more in Grade 1, 2 or 3a (R) 		
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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	Facilities and services 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"> • Yes, in the settlement (G) • Yes, proposed as part of the development (G) • No, but an adjoining settlement does (A) • Not in the settlement or an adjoining settlement (R) 	G	Yes, in settlement.
25b	Does the settlement have a Middle school (if applicable)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, in the settlement (G) • Yes, proposed as part of the development (G) • No, but an adjoining settlement does (A) • Other catchment school available (A) 	G	Yes, in settlement.
25c	Does the settlement have a Secondary/ Upper school? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, in the settlement (G) • Yes, proposed as part of the development (G) • No, but an adjoining settlement does (A) • Other catchment school available (A) 	A	No, but an adjoining settlement does.
25d	Does the settlement have a GPs surgery or medical centre? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, in the settlement (G) • Yes, proposed as part of the development (G) • No, but an adjoining settlement does (A) • Not in the settlement or an adjoining settlement (R) 	G	Yes, in settlement.
26	What retail provision does the settlement offer? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Centre/ Supermarket (G) • Convenience Store / Post Office / Newsagent (A) • None (R) 	G	Supermarket
27	Distance to bus stops with a frequent service (at least hourly at peak times): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 400m (G) • 400m-800m (A) • Over 800m (R) • OR submission form stated that improved public transport facilities could be provided as part of the development (G) 	A	541m
28	Distance to nearest train station: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 800m (G) • 800m-1200m (A) 	A	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 1200m (R) 		
29	Is the site accessible from the existing road network?	G	Site shown to front onto Steppingley Road.
School Capacity			
30	Do the local schools have capacity at all tiers?	A	Some existing capacity, financial contributions likely to be required
31	If not, has a commitment been made to address this?	A	Requirement for financial contributions will depend on the size of development.
Water Utilities (Gas, Electricity and Broadband Infrastructure will be assessed at a later stage)			
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.
Drainage and Flooding (All sites subject to Sequential Test)			
33	<p>What is the conclusion of the sequential approach to site allocations, in regards to flood risk?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No assessment required (G) Consider Further Assessment (A) Further Assessment Required (R) 	G	Site is at limited risk of surface water flooding, assessment is unlikely to be required
Environmental Health			
34	<p>Contamination</p> <p>Are there any contamination constraints on site and will there be any remediation required?</p>	G	No significant features
35	<p>Adjoining uses</p> <p>Would any adjoining uses have the potential to cause conflict with the proposed use? (for example; noise and smell)</p>	A	Road Noise
Environmental Constraints			
36	<p>Landscape character</p> <p>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?</p>	A	Capacity for development if strong landscape framework and landscape buffer to Flitwick Wood.
37	<p>Heritage/ Archaeology</p> <p>What would the impacts of development be on any heritage assets and their setting? Are there any opportunities for enhancement of these assets?</p>	Her: G Arch: A	Site contains Roman archaeological remains but this would not prevent allocation providing appropriate mitigation is undertaken. No heritage comments.

38	Ecological Assets What would the impacts of development be on any biological, geological or ecological assets and are there any opportunities for their enhancement?	G	
39	Open space/leisure and GI assets 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?	A	Near Flitwick Wood. Parish GI plan identifies aspiration (for this site and others) to retain as green space between Ampthill / Flitwick, and Ampthill / Maulden. In Greensand Ridge NIA. No loss of LS open space.
Minerals and Waste			
40	What would the impacts of development be on safeguarded minerals and waste sites, including mineral safeguarding sites?	A	Site is within an MSA
Planning History			
41	What is the sites planning history? (For example planning applications and submissions to previous Allocations Plans)		None
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

Is the site suitable for the proposed development?

The site is within Grade 2 Agricultural Land and Environmental Health have noted the potential for noise pollution from the road. Although the site is Green Belt, it offers sustainability opportunities with its proximity to a railway station and bus routes as well as substantial facilities within walking distance. There would need to be some mitigation on this site to make it acceptable in landscape terms, in particular a strong landscape framework would be required and a landscape buffer to Flitwick Wood. The site also contains Roman archaeological remains which would not prevent allocation, but would require mitigation. The site is within the Greensand Ridge NIA. This site will be considered further.

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			
43	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"> High (G) Benchmark land value comfortably exceeded by likely residual value Low (A) Marginal viability, with likely residual land value close to benchmark land value Very Low (R) Likely residual value well below benchmark land value 	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.
Achievability			
44	Are there any market factors which would affect deliverability?		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

		<p>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"> • 0 to 5 years (deliverable) • 6 to 10 years • 11 to 15 years • 15 to 20 years • Outside Plan Period 	<p>Submissions suggests delivery could commence in 2019/20 (deliverable).</p> <p>0 to 5 years</p>
46	<p>What is the indicative build out time of the site?</p>	<p>Submission suggests that the site could bring forward 225 dwellings per annum over 3 years, at a rate of 100 dwellings per annum.</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 first completion and would build out the site at a rate of 50 dwellings per annum there after.</p>
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 HOUSING³⁰

Site details	
Reference Number	NLP081
Site Name	Land adjacent to Trafalgar Drive
Site Address	Land adjacent to Trafalgar Drive, Flitwick
Settlement	Flitwick
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 7.5ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 17 ha Measured GIS Area: 16.36ha
Proposed Use	Residential
Any other information	Adjacent to submission NLP245 and ALP098

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"> Up to 0.4 hectare 100% 0.4 to 2 hectares 80% 2 hectares or above 60% <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: 250-300 dwellings Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 135 dwellings
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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	
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	

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	No designations on site.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	No part of site covered by AONB.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

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

³⁰ Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

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 more³¹.

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 borders the settlement envelope of Flitwick to the south-west. The site has no relationship with the settlement on its other edges. There are no barriers which separate the site from the existing settlement.
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.	A	The full extent of the site would start to raise concerns over coalescence as it would reduce the gap between Ampthill and Flitwick, however a portion may be appropriate.
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 needs³².

Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery ³³ ?	G	Submission states that current road infrastructure is likely to be sufficient to accommodate the proposed number of dwellings. Submission also states that social/community infrastructure could be provided via a S106 agreement subject to viability assessment.
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	The site is currently greenfield; the submission states that relocation and demolition will not be required.
10	Is the land controlled by a developer or land owner who has expressed an intention to develop the site?	G	Site has been submitted by a representative for a private land owner. This landowner is the sole

³¹ 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)

³² 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.

³³ 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.

			owner of the site and intent to develop is stated.
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	Submission form states that there are no legal or ownership issues.
12	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	No.
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

13	Is the site located within the Green Belt?	Yes	Yes. Site is 100% in the Green Belt.
14	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.	No	
15a	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"> • 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) • Site makes a strong contribution to housing need (100 plus homes) within the Luton HMA • 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) 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	Yes – however the portion which is both well related to the existing settlement and doesn't cause coalescence is considerably smaller and may only just provide 100 homes.
15b	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. ³⁴	No	
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

³⁴ Draft Neighbourhood Plan allocations in Green Belt that are proposed after this site assessment phase has concluded, may still be considered for allocation.

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

16	Is the site Previously Developed Land in accordance with the NPPF definition? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 76% - 100% (G) • 26 - 75% (A) • 25% - 0% (Greenfield) (R) 	R	No part of the site is PDL.
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Community

17	Neighbourhood Planning (only applicable in designated areas) Is the site identified as a housing allocation in an emerging Neighbourhood Plan?	No	Flitwick is not a parish which has been designated for a Neighbourhood Plan.
18	Community Consultation Has any community consultation taken place? If yes, provide brief details on the form this consultation took and any overall community response.	No	Details
19	Sustainability of Settlement 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	The site is 100% Greenfield.

Cumulative Impact

20	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"> • Less than 5% growth (G) • 5% to 20% growth (A) • More than 20% growth (R) <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>	G	Number of houses in 2006: 5,252 Number of houses in 2016: 5,507 Percentage growth: 4.86%
21	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"> • Less than 5% growth (G) • 5% to 20% growth (A) • More than 20% growth (R) <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>	A	Number of houses in 2016: 5,507 Number of outstanding completions in 2016: 473 Percentage growth: 8.59%

Physical Constraints

22	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.	R	Site is adjacent to sewage works.
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Relationship to Settlement

23	Would development of the site be complementary to	G	No issues identified.
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	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?		
Agricultural Land Quality			
24	<p>Would the development impact on high quality agricultural land?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% or more in non-agricultural land (G) • 50% of more in Grade 3b, 4 or 5 (A) • 50% or more in Grade 1, 2 or 3a (R) 	R	The site is fully within Grade 2 Agricultural Land.

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	<p>Facilities and services</p> <p>Question 26 considers the suitability and sustainability of the site for housing. It links to the Council's Settlement Hierarchy Audit.</p> <p>Issues relating to capacity are assessed separately</p>		
25a	<p>Does the settlement have a Primary/Lower school?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, in the settlement (G) • Yes, proposed as part of the development (G) • No, but an adjoining settlement does (A) • Not in the settlement or an adjoining settlement (R) 	G	Yes, in settlement.
25b	<p>Does the settlement have a Middle school (if applicable)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, in the settlement (G) • Yes, proposed as part of the development (G) • No, but an adjoining settlement does (A) • Other catchment school available (A) 	G	Yes, in settlement.
25c	<p>Does the settlement have a Secondary/ Upper school?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, in the settlement (G) • Yes, proposed as part of the development (G) • No, but an adjoining settlement does (A) • Other catchment school available (A) 	A	No, but an adjoining settlement does.
25d	<p>Does the settlement have a GPs surgery or medical centre?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, in the settlement (G) • Yes, proposed as part of the development (G) • No, but an adjoining settlement does (A) • Not in the settlement or an adjoining settlement (R) 	G	Yes, in settlement.
26	<p>What retail provision does the settlement offer?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Centre/ Supermarket (G) • Convenience Store / Post Office / Newsagent (A) • None (R) 	G	Supermarket
27	<p>Distance to bus stops with a frequent service (at least hourly at peak times):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 400m (G) 	A	680m

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 400m-800m (A) • Over 800m (R) • OR submission form stated that improved public transport facilities could be provided as part of the development (G) 		
28	Distance to nearest train station: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 800m (G) • 800m-1200m (A) • Over 1200m (R) 	A	
29	Is the site accessible from the existing road network?	A	Access shown from end of Trafalgar Drive, which links to Amphthill Road main road.
School Capacity			
30	Do the local schools have capacity at all tiers?	A	Likely to be accommodated through expansion of existing schools – financial contribution required.
31	If not, has a commitment been made to address this?	A	No projects. No commitment made.
Water Utilities (Gas, Electricity and Broadband Infrastructure will be assessed at a later stage)			
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.
Drainage and Flooding (All sites subject to Sequential Test)			
33	What is the conclusion of the sequential approach to site allocations, in regards to flood risk? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No assessment required (G) • Consider Further Assessment (A) • Further Assessment Required (R) 	G	Site is at limited risk of surface water flooding, assessment is unlikely to be required
Environmental Health			
34	Contamination Are there any contamination constraints on site and will there be any remediation required?	A	On site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sand gravel pits Off site and to north of site is sewage treatment works
35	Adjoining uses Would any adjoining uses have the potential to cause conflict with the proposed use? (for example; noise and smell)	R	Sewage Works – Needs assessment – southern portion may be OK
Environmental Constraints			
36	Landscape character	G	Development must of a scale and

	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?		character to enable landscape mitigation to integrate site in setting a wider views
37	Heritage/ Archaeology What would the impacts of development be on any heritage assets and their setting? Are there any opportunities for enhancement of these assets?	Her: G Arch: G	Site is considered to have low archaeological potential. No objection to allocation. No heritage comments.
38	Ecological Assets What would the impacts of development be on any biological, geological or ecological assets and are there any opportunities for their enhancement?	A	In NIA, open grassland, valuable foraging for birds and mammals. Need to buffer ditch and hedge corridors
39	Open space/leisure and GI assets 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	Parish GI plan identifies potential for housing at southern corner of proposed allocation, but also potential for new cricket pitch, and play area at western corner. Could be integrated into development, but scale of development would need to be considered – current proposal significantly greater than that envisaged in parish GI plan. Within NIA? No loss of LS open space.
Minerals and Waste			
40	What would the impacts of development be on safeguarded minerals and waste sites, including mineral safeguarding sites?	G	No issues.
Planning History			
41	What is the sites planning history? (For example planning applications and submissions to previous Allocations Plans)		None
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

Is the site suitable for the proposed development?

The site is not appropriate for development; it lies within the Green Belt in a relatively small gap between Ampthill and Flitwick. The Green Belt is playing an important role in stopping the merging of Ampthill and Flitwick in this location. In addition the site extends some distance back from the settlement and therefore only a small proportion would be well related without causing coalescence concerns. To further consider a site within the Green Belt, it is argued that a contribution of 100 homes or more must be made to the Luton HMA. The site is within Grade 2 Agricultural land and provides valuable foraging for birds and mammals so buffering would be required at the ditch and hedge corridors. It is also adjacent to a sewage works which presents a significant constraint for residential development. These constraints mean that it would be difficult for a portion of the site to mitigate for these issues whilst also providing a contribution of 100 homes to the Luton HMA. Considering the large number of sites which have been submitted, it is not considered necessary at this stage to consider a site which is so constrained in terms of proximity to the sewerage works and also raises concerns over relationship and coalescence.

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING³⁵

Site details	
Reference Number	NLP245
Site Name	Land east of Chantry Way, Flitwick
Site Address	Land east of Chantry Way, Flitwick
Settlement	Flitwick
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 2.67ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 2.67ha Measured GIS Area: 2.67ha
Proposed Use	Residential
Any other information	Similar site ALP375

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"> Up to 0.4 hectare 100% 0.4 to 2 hectares 80% 2 hectares or above 60% <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: 75-85 dwellings
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 48 dwellings

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	
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	

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	No designations on site.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	No part of site covered by AONB.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

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

³⁵ Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

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 more³⁶.

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 well related to the existing settlement.
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	No coalescence issues.
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 needs³⁷.

Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery ³⁸ ?	G	Submission states no critical infrastructure requirements.
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	Site is currently undeveloped and no demolition or relocation would be required.
10	Is the land controlled by a developer or land owner who has expressed an intention to develop the site?	G	Site has been submitted on behalf of private landowner, intention to develop is stated and details for other land owner provided.
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	No issues.
12	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	No
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

³⁶ 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)

³⁷ 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.

³⁸ 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.

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

13	Is the site located within the Green Belt?	Yes	100% Green Belt
14	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.	No	
15a	<p>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?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) • Site makes a strong contribution to housing need (100 plus homes) within the Luton HMA • 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) <p>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.*</p>	No	Less than 100 dwellings.
15b	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. ³⁹	No	
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

³⁹ Draft Neighbourhood Plan allocations in Green Belt that are proposed after this site assessment phase has concluded, may still be considered for allocation.

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING⁴⁰

Site details	
Reference Number	NLP321
Site Name	Land at Maulden Road
Site Address	Land at Maulden Road, Flitwick
Settlement	Flitwick
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 14ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 20 ha Measured GIS Area: 20.62ha
Proposed Use	Residential
Any other information	Combined resubmission for sites ALP174 and ALP177

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"> Up to 0.4 hectare 100% 0.4 to 2 hectares 80% 2 hectares or above 60% <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: 350-400 dwellings Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 135 dwellings
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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	
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	

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	No designations on site.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	No part of site covered by AONB.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

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

⁴⁰ Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

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 more⁴¹.

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 borders the settlement envelope of Flitwick to the east. The site is not however well connected to the existing settlement; it lies on the edge of Flitwick, adjoining the linear development currently on Flitwick's boundary.
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	No coalescence issues.
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 needs⁴².

Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery ⁴³ ?	G	Submission states that there are no critical infrastructure requirements for this site.
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	The site is currently greenfield; the submission states that relocation and demolition will not be required.
10	Is the land controlled by a developer or land owner who has expressed an intention to develop the site?	G	Site has been submitted by a representative for the private land owners. The landowners own the site jointly and the submission states their intention to develop the site.
11	Are there any legal or ownership problems that could delay or prevent development?	G	Submission form states that there are no legal or ownership issues.

⁴¹ 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)

⁴² 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.

⁴³ 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.

	If Yes, then can these be issues be realistically overcome?		
12	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	No.
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

13	Is the site located within the Green Belt?	Yes	Yes. Site is 100% in the Green Belt.
14	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	Yes. Parcel identified as making a 'relatively weak' contribution.
15a	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"> • 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) • Site makes a strong contribution to housing need (100 plus homes) within the Luton HMA • 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) 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	Yes.
15b	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. ⁴⁴	No	
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

⁴⁴ Draft Neighbourhood Plan allocations in Green Belt that are proposed after this site assessment phase has concluded, may still be considered for allocation.

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

16	Is the site Previously Developed Land in accordance with the NPPF definition? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 76% - 100% (G) • 26 - 75% (A) • 25% - 0% (Greenfield) (R) 	R	No part of the site is PDL.
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Community

17	Neighbourhood Planning (only applicable in designated areas) Is the site identified as a housing allocation in an emerging Neighbourhood Plan?	No	Flitwick is not a parish which has been designated for a Neighbourhood Plan.
18	Community Consultation Has any community consultation taken place? If yes, provide brief details on the form this consultation took and any overall community response.	No	
19	Sustainability of Settlement 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	The site is currently in agricultural use.

Cumulative Impact

20	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"> • Less than 5% growth (G) • 5% to 20% growth (A) • More than 20% growth (R) <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>	G	Number of houses in 2006: 5,252 Number of houses in 2016: 5,507 Percentage growth: 4.86%
21	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"> • Less than 5% growth (G) • 5% to 20% growth (A) • More than 20% growth (R) <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>	A	Number of houses in 2016: 5,507 Number of outstanding completions in 2016: 473 Percentage growth: 8.59%

Physical Constraints

22	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	None identified
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Relationship to Settlement

23	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	No issues
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Agricultural Land Quality			
24	<p>Would the development impact on high quality agricultural land?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% or more in non-agricultural land (G) • 50% or more in Grade 3b, 4 or 5 (A) • 50% or more in Grade 1, 2 or 3a (R) 	R	The majority of the site is within Grade 2 agricultural land.

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

	part of the development (G)		
28	Distance to nearest train station: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 800m (G) • 800m-1200m (A) • Over 1200m (R) 	A	
29	Is the site accessible from the existing road network?	G	Site shown to front onto Greenfield Road and Maulden Road.
School Capacity			
30	Do the local schools have capacity at all tiers?	A	Likely to be accommodated through expansion of existing schools – financial contribution required.
31	If not, has a commitment been made to address this?	A	No projects. No commitment made.
Water Utilities (Gas, Electricity and Broadband Infrastructure will be assessed at a later stage)			
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.
Drainage and Flooding (All sites subject to Sequential Test)			
33	What is the conclusion of the sequential approach to site allocations, in regards to flood risk? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No assessment required (G) • Consider Further Assessment (A) • Further Assessment Required (R) 	R	Level 2 assessment required
Environmental Health			
34	Contamination Are there any contamination constraints on site and will there be any remediation required?	A	On site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sand gravel pits
35	Adjoining uses Would any adjoining uses have the potential to cause conflict with the proposed use? (for example; noise and smell)	A	Industrial Noise / Road Traffic / Clay Pigeon Shooting
Environmental Constraints			
36	Landscape character 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 – foreground to Flitwick Moor SSSI and important visual feature giving identity to Flit Valley.

37	Heritage/ Archaeology What would the impacts of development be on any heritage assets and their setting? Are there any opportunities for enhancement of these assets?	Her: A Arch: A	Site has multi-period archaeological potential but this would not prevent allocation providing appropriate mitigation is undertaken. Heritage comment: Flitwick Mill directly opposite, could have an impact on setting of Listed Building.
38	Ecological Assets What would the impacts of development be on any biological, geological or ecological assets and are there any opportunities for their enhancement?	R	In NIA, site adjoins SSSI and risks from increased recreation / access could threaten site.
39	Open space/leisure and GI assets 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?	R	Adjacent to Flitwick Moor SSSI. Extension to Flitwick Moor identified as a priority aspiration in parish GI plan. Flitwick Moor would be particularly sensitive to development impacts in terms of water levels and quality. RoW across site. Within NIA? No loss of LS open space.
Minerals and Waste			
40	What would the impacts of development be on safeguarded minerals and waste sites, including mineral safeguarding sites?	A	Site is within an MSA
Planning History			
41	What is the sites planning history? (For example planning applications and submissions to previous Allocations Plans)		None
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes/ No

STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

Is the site suitable for the proposed development?

Fail at Stage 2. Site not appropriate in landscape terms, it provides an important visual feature giving identity to Flit Valley and provides the foreground to Flitwick Moor Site of Special Scientific Interest. Development of the site would also have an impact on the setting of Flitwick Mill Listed Building and there would be a risk to ecology as the site adjoins the SSSI. An extension to Flitwick Moor SSSI has been identified as a priority aspiration in the GI plan, and the SSSI would be particularly sensitive to development impacts in terms of water levels and quality. The site is also Grade 2 quality agricultural land and a Level 2 assessment for flooding would be required as the site is at risk. The Environmental Health team highlighted the presence of sand gravel pits on site, and the potential for noise impacts from the clay pigeon shooting, road traffic and industrial units. This site will not be considered further as part of this process.

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING⁴⁵

Site details	
Reference Number	NLP366
Site Name	Flitwick and Amptill Tennis Club
Site Address	Astwood Drive, Flitwick
Settlement	Flitwick
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 1ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 1ha Measured GIS Area: 0.89ha
Proposed Use	Residential
Any other information	Development of site reliant on relocation of Tennis Club

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"> Up to 0.4 hectare 100% 0.4 to 2 hectares 80% 2 hectares or above 60% <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: 40 dwellings Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 21 dwellings
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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	
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	

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	No designations on site.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	No part of site covered by AONB.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

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

⁴⁵ Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

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 more⁴⁶.

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 well related to Flitwick.
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	No coalescence issues.
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 needs⁴⁷.

Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery ⁴⁸ ?	G	Submission states there are no critical infrastructure requirements.
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?	R	Site is used as Tennis Club, relocation would be required. Proposals suggest moving site to land owned by another party but there is no confirmation that this site has been secured for this relocation.
10	Is the land controlled by a developer or land owner who has expressed an intention to develop the site?	R	Site submitted on behalf of sole landowner, intention to develop is stated; however this is subject to relocation to a site owned by another party and there is no confirmation that this site has been secured.
11	Are there any legal or ownership problems that could	R	Site is subject to covenants. In

⁴⁶ 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)

⁴⁷ 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.

⁴⁸ 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.

	delay or prevent development? If Yes, then can these be issues be realistically overcome?		addition development of site is reliant upon the Tennis Club securing a new site on land owned by another party, but it is not clear if the other party support this.
12	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	No.
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

DRAFT

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING⁴⁹

Site details	
Reference Number	NLP375
Site Name	Land at Ampthill Road
Site Address	Land at Ampthill Road, Flitwick
Settlement	Flitwick
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 2.4ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 2.4ha Measured GIS Area: 1.73ha
Proposed Use	Residential
Any other information	Similar site with different access submitted as NLP444

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"> Up to 0.4 hectare 100% 0.4 to 2 hectares 80% 2 hectares or above 60% <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+ dwellings
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 42 dwellings

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	
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	

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	No designations on site.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	No part of site covered by AONB.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

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

⁴⁹ Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

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 more⁵⁰.

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	This site would not be well related to the existing settlement. Development of this site would constitute a form of back-land development with poor relationship to the existing settlement.
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.	R	This site lies in a narrow piece of Green Belt which protects Flitwick and Ampthill from coalescence. Whilst it is accepted that this site is in line with some existing development of Flitwick, this existing development is minor and rounds off the edge of the settlement.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

⁵⁰ 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)

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING⁵¹

Site details	
Reference Number	NLP397
Site Name	One-0-One Field, Ampthill Road, Flitwick
Site Address	One-0-One Field, Ampthill Road, Flitwick
Settlement	Flitwick
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 3.5ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 3.5ha Measured GIS Area: 3.58ha
Proposed Use	Mixed Use: residential and food store
Any other information	Similar site ALP345

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"> Up to 0.4 hectare 100% 0.4 to 2 hectares 80% 2 hectares or above 60% <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: 50-70 dwellings Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 63 dwellings
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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	
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	

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	No designations on site.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	No part of site covered by AONB.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

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

⁵¹ Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

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 more⁵².

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 well related to the existing settlement.
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.	R	The site would cause coalescence between Ampthill and Flitwick land which is currently designated as Green Belt.
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

⁵² 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)

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING⁵³

Site details	
Reference Number	NLP444
Site Name	Land off The Birches
Site Address	Land to the rear of 94 Amphill Road, Flitwick
Settlement	Flitwick
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 1.62ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 1.62ha Measured GIS Area: 1.71ha
Proposed Use	Residential
Any other information	Similar site with different access submitted as NLP375

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"> Up to 0.4 hectare 100% 0.4 to 2 hectares 80% 2 hectares or above 60% <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: 45-50 dwellings Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 39 dwellings
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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	
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	

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	No designations on site.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	No part of site covered by AONB.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

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

⁵³ Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

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 more⁵⁴.

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?	R	This site would not be well related to the existing settlement. Development of this site would constitute a form of back-land development with poor relationship to the existing settlement. It also has potential to be disjointed from the main settlement due to convoluted access arrangements.
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.	R	This site lies in a narrow piece of Green Belt which protects Flitwick and Ampthill from coalescence. Whilst it is accepted that this site is in line with some existing development of Flitwick, this existing development is minor and rounds off the edge of the settlement.
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

⁵⁴ 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)

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING⁵⁵

Site details	
Reference Number	NLP492
Site Name	Site adjacent to Flitwick Garden Allotments, off Steppingley Road, Flitwick
Site Address	Site adjacent to Flitwick Garden Allotments, off Steppingley Road, Flitwick
Settlement	Flitwick
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 0.98ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 0.98ha Measured GIS Area: 1.08ha
Proposed Use	Mixed Use : Residential and healthcare facilities
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"> Up to 0.4 hectare 100% 0.4 to 2 hectares 80% 2 hectares or above 60% <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: 65 dwellings
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 24 dwellings

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	
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	

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	No designations on site.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	No part of site covered by AONB.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

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

⁵⁵ Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

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 more⁵⁶.

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 fairly well related to Flitwick. Although it appears to be separated from the settlement by the Allotments, it is well related to the new leisure centre and ongoing housing development in this area.
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	No coalescence issues.
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 needs⁵⁷.

Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery ⁵⁸ ?	G	No critical infrastructure identified other than access road which is committed too.
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	Site appears to be greenfield with no relocation or demolition required.
10	Is the land controlled by a developer or land owner who has expressed an intention to develop the site?	G	Site submitted on behalf of landowner, intention to develop stated.
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	Submission states no legal or ownership issues.
12	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	No.

⁵⁶ 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)

⁵⁷ 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.

⁵⁸ 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.

Does the site continue to next stage?	Yes
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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

13	Is the site located within the Green Belt?	No	No
14	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.	N/A	N/A
15a	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"> • 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) • Site makes a strong contribution to housing need (100 plus homes) within the Luton HMA • 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) 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.*	N/A	N/A
15b	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. ⁵⁹	N/A	
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

16	Is the site Previously Developed Land in accordance with the NPPF definition? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 76% - 100% (G) 	R	Not PDL
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⁵⁹ 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"> • 26 - 75% (A) • 25% - 0% (Greenfield) (R) 		
Community			
17	Neighbourhood Planning (only applicable in designated areas) Is the site identified as a housing allocation in an emerging Neighbourhood Plan?	No	Flitwick is not a parish which has been designated for a Neighbourhood Plan.
18	Community Consultation Has any community consultation taken place? If yes, provide brief details on the form this consultation took and any overall community response.	No	
19	Sustainability of Settlement Would this proposal impact on the sustainability of the settlement through the loss of services and facilities (for example, employment, retail, public house etc)	Yes	Although it is not clear from the submissions, it appears that the site is currently or has previously been used for allotments. However the Council understands that there is little or no demand for these allotments and there is allotment capacity elsewhere in Flitwick.
Cumulative Impact			
20	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"> • Less than 5% growth (G) • 5% to 20% growth (A) • More than 20% growth (R) <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>	G	Number of houses in 2006: 5,252 Number of houses in 2016: 5,507 Percentage growth: 4.86%
21	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"> • Less than 5% growth (G) • 5% to 20% growth (A) • More than 20% growth (R) <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>	A	Number of houses in 2016: 5,507 Number of outstanding completions in 2016: 473 Percentage growth: 8.59%
Physical Constraints			
22	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.	R	The site is a narrow parcel of land and access arrangements are poor, this may affect the site's developability. However there could be opportunities to get access from adjoining sites which have permission for development.
Relationship to Settlement			
23	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	No impact.

Agricultural Land Quality			
24	<p>Would the development impact on high quality agricultural land?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% or more in non-agricultural land (G) • 50% or more in Grade 3b, 4 or 5 (A) • 50% or more in Grade 1, 2 or 3a (R) 	R	Site is fully within Grade 2 Agricultural land.

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

	part of the development (G)		
28	Distance to nearest train station: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 800m (G) • 800m-1200m (A) • Over 1200m (R) 	R	
29	Is the site accessible from the existing road network?	A	Access is shown via track alongside Allotments connecting with Millright Way. However the adjoining housing developments at the old leisure centre or land at Steppingley Road/ Froghall Road may provide other access opportunities.
School Capacity			
30	Do the local schools have capacity at all tiers?	A	Financial contributions would be required – some capacity for expansion.
31	If not, has a commitment been made to address this?	A	No commitment made, however normal contributions would be required.
Water Utilities (Gas, Electricity and Broadband Infrastructure will be assessed at a later stage)			
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.
Drainage and Flooding (All sites subject to Sequential Test)			
33	What is the conclusion of the sequential approach to site allocations, in regards to flood risk? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No assessment required (G) • Consider Further Assessment (A) • Further Assessment Required (R) 	G	Site is at limited risk of surface water flooding, assessment is unlikely to be required
Environmental Health			
34	Contamination Are there any contamination constraints on site and will there be any remediation required?	R/A/G	Awaiting comments
35	Adjoining uses Would any adjoining uses have the potential to cause conflict with the proposed use? (for example; noise and smell)	R/A/G	Awaiting comments
Environmental Constraints			

36	Landscape character 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	Development not acceptable in landscape terms, impacts on landscape buffer and GI connectivity
37	Heritage/ Archaeology What would the impacts of development be on any heritage assets and their setting? Are there any opportunities for enhancement of these assets?	Arch: G Her: G	Site is considered to have low archaeological potential. No objection to allocation. No heritage comment
38	Ecological Assets What would the impacts of development be on any biological, geological or ecological assets and are there any opportunities for their enhancement?	R	Loss of allotments, detrimental cumulative impact on the areas through adjacent development. In NIA
39	Open space/leisure and GI assets 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?	R	Parish GI plan identifies aspiration to create new allotments here. Adjacent to ROW to east, would need to relate. Within Greensand Ridge NIA, would need to enhance habitat connectivity. Awaiting leisure comments.
Minerals and Waste			
40	What would the impacts of development be on safeguarded minerals and waste sites, including mineral safeguarding sites?	G	No issues
Planning History			
41	What is the sites planning history? (For example planning applications and submissions to previous Allocations Plans)		None.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

Is the site suitable for the proposed development?

The site is fully Grade 2 Agricultural Land and concerns have been raised about the impacts development would have on landscape buffer and GI connectivity. The site is also within the Greensand Ridge NIA and habitat connectivity would need to be enhanced. The site could be accessed through one of two adjoining allocations which would improve its access and allow a greater proportion of it to be developed. Whilst site presents some constraints, it is a highly sustainable location with good access to both rail and bus links and a number of services within walking distance. It has also been shown that the allotments are no longer required and further to this as the result of recent planning permissions, the sites to the north and west have permission for housing and there is already development to the east. It is considered that overall when considering the site using Planning Balance, since the allotments have been shown to not be required and the submission is in a highly sustainable location, this site will continue through the process.

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

43	Referring to the Viability Assessment undertaken by	G	The Council's Residential
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	<p>consultants, is the probability of the site being viable high, medium or low?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High (G) Benchmark land value comfortably exceeded by likely residual value • Low (A) Marginal viability, with likely residual land value close to benchmark land value • Very Low (R) Likely residual value well below benchmark land value 		<p>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.</p>
Achievability			
44	<p>Are there any market factors which would affect deliverability?</p>		<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"> • 0 to 5 years (deliverable) • 6 to 10 years • 11 to 15 years • 15 to 20 years • Outside Plan Period 		<p>0 to 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</p>

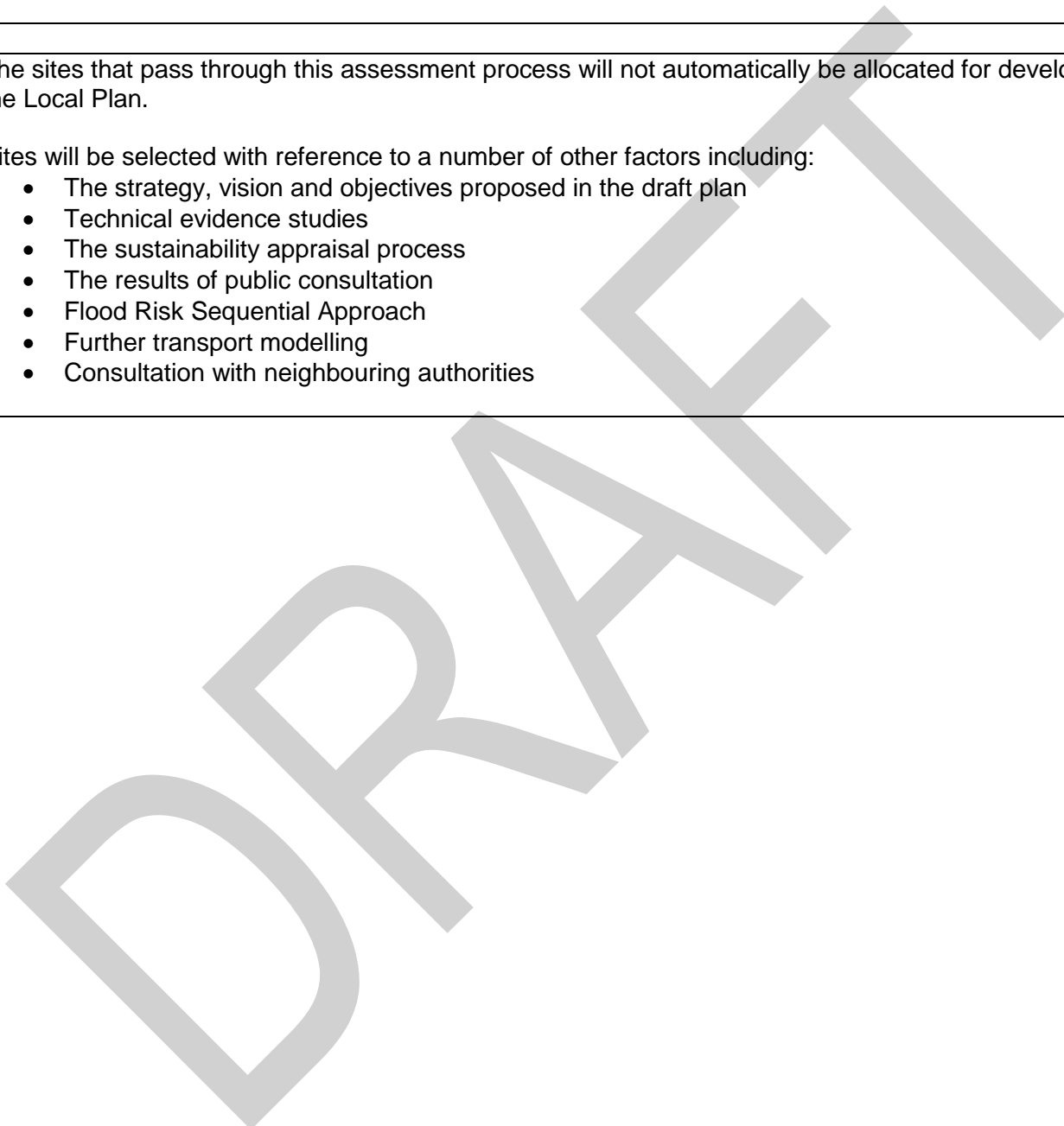
			Development Viability Report (Feb 2017) indicates that after the site has received detailed planning permission a single housebuilder would likely take one year to build out this site.
Does the site pass this stage?			Yes

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





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