

Site Assessment Forms

Houghton Conquest



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Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING¹

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP005
Site Name	Millhouse Nurseries
Site Address	Mill House Nurseries Mill Lane Houghton Conquest Bedfordshire
Settlement	Houghton Conquest
Size	Submitted Developable Area:6.90ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 6.90ha Measured GIS Area:6.90ha
Proposed Use	Housing
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: 276
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 124

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

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

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

4	Is more than 50% of the site covered by nationally significant designations? These are: Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens.	No	There are no nationally significant designations on site.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	Not within 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 proposed development site is bordered by the settlement envelope on one side, and the southern edge lies adjacent to a recently permitted site for 52 dwellings (CB/15/03706).
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 will lead to coalescence between Houghton Conquest and Wixams southern extension. This is particularly relevant with the approved planning permission adjoining the site in Houghton Conquest (15/03706) for 52 dwellings.
Does the site continue to next stage?			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)

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING³

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP019
Site Name	Hawhills Farm, London Lane
Site Address	Hawhills Farm, London Lane
Settlement	Houghton Conquest
Size	Submitted Developable Area 0.7ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 0.7ha Measured GIS Area: 0.66ha
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:
			28
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology:
			15

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	Not in a designation area
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	Not in an 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

³ 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 more⁴.

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	The site is located within the open countryside, a considerable distance from the main settlements, and therefore is not a logical extension to the nearest 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	Does not cause coalescence
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

⁴ 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 HOUSING⁵

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP020
Site Name	Land at Chapel End Farm
Site Address	Chapel End Road Houghton Conquest Bedfordshire MK45 3LN
Settlement	Houghton Conquest
Size	Submitted Developable Area:5ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 5ha Measured GIS Area:5
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: 28
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 90

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	Site not within flood zone 2 or 3
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	Site not at risk from surface water flooding

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

4	Is more than 50% of the site covered by nationally significant designations? These are: Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens.	No	No nationally significant designations on site.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	No 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

⁵ Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

insufficient size to be self contained. It also rules out sites which would cause coalescence of existing towns or villages. For the purposes of this assessment, a self-contained site is defined as a site which will provide 1,500 homes or more⁶.

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	The site is separated from Houghton Conquest and would not form an extension to any 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
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

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⁶ 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 HOUSING⁷

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP065
Site Name	Quest
Site Address	West of Houghton Conquest
Settlement	Houghton Conquest
Size	Submitted Developable Area:59ha Submitted Whole Site Area:59ha Measured GIS Area:59ha
Proposed Use	Mixed use employment and residential
Any other information	NLP071

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: 500+ homes.
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 1062

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	No. there are considerable areas at risk of flooding in the north part of the site.
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	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 nationally significant designations.
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	Not in the 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

⁷ 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 more⁸.

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	The site is separate from Houghton Conquest by open landscape and the B530. It is located adjacent to Stewartby but remains separated by the Midland Mainline.
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 coalesce Stewartby with Wixams.
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

⁸ 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 HOUSING⁹

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP187
Site Name	Land at Mill Lane
Site Address	Land at Mill Lane
Settlement	Houghton Conquest
Size	Submitted Developable Area 0.47ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 0.47ha Measured GIS Area: 0.47ha
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: 15
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 14

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	Not in a designation area
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	Not in an 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

⁹ 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 more¹⁰.

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	Site relates well to 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	Site doesn't cause coalescence
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

STAGE 1C ASSESSMENT

This stage of the assessment rules out sites that are not able to meet their critical infrastructure needs¹¹.

Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery ¹² ?	G	None apparent
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	Underused pasture land
10	Is the land controlled by a developer or land owner who has expressed an intention to develop the site?	G	Sole land owner
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	None apparent
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.	R	CB/16/01681/FULL allowed on appeal. Site immediately south has permission for 125 dwellings (CB/15/01362). 17/00943 awaiting decision.

¹⁰ 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)

¹¹ 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.

¹² 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?

No

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Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING¹³

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP196
Site Name	Land off and rear of Bedford Road
Site Address	Land off and rear of Bedford Road
Settlement	Houghton Conquest
Size	Submitted Developable Area 2.6ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 2.6ha Measured GIS Area: 3.45ha
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: 75
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 46

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

2	Is more than 50% of the site located in Flood Zone 2 or 3?	No	
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	Not in a designation area
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	Not in an 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

¹³ 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 more¹⁴.

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 provides a logical extension to the village without any major physical constraints
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	Site does not cause coalescence
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

STAGE 1C ASSESSMENT

This stage of the assessment rules out sites that are not able to meet their critical infrastructure needs¹⁵.

Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery ¹⁶ ?	G	None identified
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?	A	Agricultural – in arable cultivation
10	Is the land controlled by a developer or land owner who has expressed an intention to develop the site?	G	Sole land owner
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	None apparent
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.	R	The majority of the site has an outline consent for up to 52 dwellings (CB/15/03706/OUT)
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

¹⁴ 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)

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ 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.

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING¹⁷

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP197
Site Name	Land on South East corner of Chapel End Road and London Lane, Houghton Conquest, Beds.
Site Address	Land on South East corner of Chapel End Road and London Lane, Houghton Conquest, Beds.
Settlement	Houghton Conquest
Size	Submitted Developable Area 1.306ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 1.306ha Measured GIS Area: 1.306ha
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:
			30
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology:
			31

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	Not in a designation area
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	Not in an 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

¹⁷ Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

insufficient size to be self contained. It also rules out sites which would cause coalescence of existing towns or villages. For the purposes of this assessment, a self-contained site is defined as a site which will provide 1,500 homes or more¹⁸.

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 does not relate well to the rest of the residential element of the settlement being separated by a farmstead
7	Does the site cause coalescence between an existing village or town and another existing village or town? If yes, then grade as Amber if the site would be able to provide appropriate buffers or green wedges to mitigate this, or Red if it would not be possible for appropriate buffers to be provided leaving a reasonable developable area based on the individual context of the site.	G	The site does not cause coalescence
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

STAGE 1C ASSESSMENT

This stage of the assessment rules out sites that are not able to meet their critical infrastructure needs¹⁹.

Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery ²⁰ ?	A	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 in arable use. 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 has been submitted by sole land owner. Intention 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	None stated.
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.	R	Planning application 16/02971.
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

¹⁸ 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)

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ 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.

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING²¹

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP198
Site Name	Land rear of village farm
Site Address	Land rear of Village Farm, off London Lane, Houghton Conquest, Beds.
Settlement	Houghton Conquest
Size	Submitted Developable Area 0.63ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 0.63ha Measured GIS Area: 0.63ha
Proposed Use	Housing
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: 15
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 15

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	Not in a designation area
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	Not in an 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

²¹ 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 more²².

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	The site is separated from the main settlement by a farm to the north and does not relate well to existing residential development.
7	Does the site cause coalescence between an existing village or town and another existing village or town? If yes, then grade as Amber if the site would be able to provide appropriate buffers or green wedges to mitigate this, or Red if it would not be possible for appropriate buffers to be provided leaving a reasonable developable area based on the individual context of the site.	G	The site does not cause coalescence
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

²² 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 HOUSING²³

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP224
Site Name	Wixams Southern Extension
Site Address	Land east of the B530, north of the Bedford Road, south of the Wixams Southern Expansion
Settlement	Houghton Conquest
Size	Submitted Developable Area:25ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 69ha Measured GIS Area:68
Proposed Use	Residential
Any other information	Screening Opinion 15/03370/SCN – for 650 dwellings – EIA not required. See NLP194

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: 500
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 450

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	Site not in Flood Zone 2 or 3
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	Site not at risk from surface water flooding

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

4	Is more than 50% of the site covered by nationally significant designations? These are: Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens.	No	No nationally significant designations
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	Not in 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

²³ 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 more²⁴.

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 Wixams Main Settlement, forming a southern extension.
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	There is cause for concern for coalescence between the proposal site and Houghton Conquest. However, the proposal includes a country park to ensure the countryside gap between the two.
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 needs²⁵.

Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery ²⁶ ?	A	Further information required.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

STAGE 1D ASSESSMENT

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

Availability

9	What is the existing use of the site? Would the existing use limit the development potential?	G	The site is currently greenfield, and form states 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	All 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	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.	A	A Screening Opinion has been submitted (15/03370) – No EIA required for a planning application.
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

²⁴ 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)

²⁵ 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.

²⁶ 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.

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	Not within 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.	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) <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>	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. ²⁷	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) • 26 - 75% (A) • 25% - 0% (Greenfield) (R) 	G	Greenfield
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Community

17	Neighbourhood Planning (only applicable in	No	NA
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²⁷ Draft Neighbourhood Plan allocations in Green Belt that are proposed after this site assessment phase has concluded, may still be considered for allocation.

	designated areas) Is the site identified as a housing allocation in an emerging 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.	Yes	Through the Wixams South Masterplan. Adopted Masterplan for this site and Land south of Wixams (an allocation)
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	No impact on sustainability – proposal includes a school
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>	A	Number of houses in 2006: 596 Number of houses in 2016: 700 Percentage growth: 17.45%
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>	R	Number of houses in 2016: 700 Number of outstanding completions in 2016: 2,384 Percentage growth: 340.57%
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
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?	A	Although this site forms a southern extension to Wixams Main Settlement and MA3 allocation, these areas are yet to be built out.
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) • 50% of more in Grade 3b, 4 or 5 (A) • 50% or more in Grade 1, 2 or 3a (R) 	A	Grade 3

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	To be provided in Wixams and within 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) 	A	To be provided within Wixams
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	To be provided within Wixams
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) 	A	Unknown if going to be provided in Wixams. However, GP surgery in adjoining 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) 	A	To be provided in Wixams
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) 	R	Over 800m, public transport facilities can be provided as part of the development.
28	Distance to nearest train station: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 800m (G) • 800m-1200m (A) • Over 1200m (R) 	R	Wixams station once development will be the nearest train station.
29	Is the site accessible from the existing road network?	G	B530
School Capacity			
30	Do the local schools have capacity at all tiers?	R	A new 3 form entry primary is required within the southern extension land.
31	If not, has a commitment been made to address	A	Proposal includes primary school.

	this?		A new 3 form entry primary is required within the southern extension land.
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)	A	Road and Rail / Potential
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?	G	Land subject to Masterplan which would provide new Country Park.
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?	A	Site has archaeological potential but this would not prevent allocation providing appropriate mitigation is undertaken.
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	Comments included in Masterplan
39	Open space/leisure and GI assets Are there any potential conflicts with open space, leisure designations or Rights of Way? Is there	A	Specifically identified in the Mid Beds GI network as an aspiration to create new community woodland

	capacity to provide the required levels of open space and green infrastructure?		that acts as an accessible buffer between Wixams and Houghton Conquest, delivering landscape and ecological benefits, and preventing coalescence. Also identified in PGIC – preserving green space between Houghton Conquest and Wixams. If proposals delivered a significant landscape buffer and open space, large enough to serve both new and existing communities, the development could deliver GI benefits. No loss of leisure.
Minerals and Waste			
40	What would the impacts of development be on safeguarded minerals and waste sites, including mineral safeguarding sites?	R	There is a permitted wood waste site within the submission area.
Planning History			
41	What is the sites planning history? (For example planning applications and submissions to previous Allocations Plans)		Site was allocated in withdrawn Development Strategy (Policy 63a). As this document was withdrawn, this was never allocated. Adopted Masterplan for the site. Screening Opinion submitted for the site.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

Is the site suitable for the proposed development?

The site is considered appropriate for development as it would extend development southwards from the allocation (MA3). The proposal includes a countryside park so would reduce coalescence between Wixams and Houghton Conquest.

The proposal includes the provision of a primary school and local facilities and services, which is essential to ensure that the new community has access to facilities and services. There is a need for additional education facilities in the area and the development proposes to provide these within the site.

Extensive work has been undertaken on the adopted Masterplan for the site to ensure that any development contributes to green infrastructure provision and has a positive impact on ecological and landscape issues.

The site would need to ensure connections with MA3 allocation and Wixams main settlement in the north. This would be through roads, cycleways, pathes and open space.

The provision of the countryside park is integral to this site as this would maintain separation between Wixams and Houghton Conquest. In addition to this, the countryside park would provide open space for new and existing residents.

The site will be considered further for development.

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

<p>43</p>	<p>Referring to the Viability Assessment undertaken by 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>A</p>	<p>The Council's Residential Development Viability Report (Feb 2017) indicates that residual value of development in this value area and at this scale with £38k infrastructure costs would not exceed the upper benchmark land value and as such the report indicates that such development may not be viable.</p> <p>However the Council's Residential Development Viability Report (Feb 2017) is based upon residential property figures between 2013 and 2016 and based on the average building costs during 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>
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			For the reasons outlined above it is considered that this scale of development within this value area may be viable.
Achievability			
44	Are there any market factors which would affect deliverability?		<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>Developable</p> <p>0 to 5 years</p>
46	What is the indicative build out time of the site?		<p>To be developed over a 6 year period.</p> <p>The Case Study Sites outlined within the Council's Residential Development Viability Report (Feb</p>

			2017) indicates that after the site has received detailed planning permission two housebuilders would likely take one year to first completion and would build out the site at a rate of 100 dwellings per annum there after.
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

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING²⁸

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP233
Site Name	Land North Of Chapel End Road
Site Address	Chapel End Road Houghton Conquest Bedfordshire MK45 3LN
Settlement	Houghton Conquest
Size	Submitted Developable Area:4.34ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 8.3ha Measured GIS Area:8.3
Proposed Use	Residential
Any other information	Planning permission approved 15/01362/OUT

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: 125
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 90

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	Site not in Flood Zone 2 or 3
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	Site not at risk from surface water flooding

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

4	Is more than 50% of the site covered by nationally significant designations? These are: Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens.	No	No nationally significant designations
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	Not in 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

²⁸ Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

insufficient size to be self contained. It also rules out sites which would cause coalescence of existing towns or villages. For the purposes of this assessment, a self-contained site is defined as a site which will provide 1,500 homes or more²⁹.

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 a logical extension to the 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
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 needs³⁰.

Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery ³¹ ?	G	Can be provided
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

STAGE 1D ASSESSMENT

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

Availability

9	What is the existing use of the site? Would the existing use limit the development potential?	G	Agricultural land
10	Is the land controlled by a developer or land owner who has expressed an intention to develop the site?	G	Land owners 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	No legal or ownership problems
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.	R	Site has planning permission – 15/01362/OUT – granted June 2016
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

²⁹ 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)

³⁰ 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.

³¹ 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.

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING³²

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP283
Site Name	Land off Mill Lane
Site Address	Land off Mill Lane
Settlement	Houghton Conquest
Size	Submitted Developable Area 4.18ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 4.18ha Measured GIS Area: 4.18ha
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: 150
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 64

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	Site not in a designation area
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	Site not in an 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

³² 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 more³³.

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 the first phase of a wider scheme. The proposed development site is bordered by the settlement envelope on one side but would remain separated from the settlement envelope to the south. The site does not have a very strong relationship with Houghton Conquest.
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 will lead to coalescence between Houghton Conquest and Wixams southern extension. This is particularly relevant with the approved planning permission adjoining the site in Houghton Conquest (15/03706) for 52 dwellings.
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

³³ 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 HOUSING³⁴

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP313
Site Name	Land South of Houghton Conquest
Site Address	Land South of Houghton Conquest
Settlement	Houghton Conquest
Size	Submitted Developable Area 3ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 3ha Measured GIS Area: 2.99ha
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:
			75
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology:
			46

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

2	Is more than 50% of the site located in Flood Zone 2 or 3?	No	
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	Not in a designation area
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	Not in an 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

³⁴ 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 more³⁵.

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 of Houghton Conquest with an existing residential estate adjoining to the west.
7	Does the site cause coalescence between an existing village or town and another existing village or town? If yes, then grade as Amber if the site would be able to provide appropriate buffers or green wedges to mitigate this, or Red if it would not be possible for appropriate buffers to be provided leaving a reasonable developable area based on the individual context of the site.	G	The site does not cause coalescence
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

STAGE 1C ASSESSMENT

This stage of the assessment rules out sites that are not able to meet their critical infrastructure needs³⁶.

Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery ³⁷ ?	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	The site is currently in agricultural use and the submission states that demolition or relocation would not be required.
10	Is the land controlled by a developer or land owner who has expressed an intention to develop the site?	G	The site has been submitted by an agent on behalf of the sole landowner and intention 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 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

³⁵ 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)

³⁶ 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.

³⁷ 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	
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	
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	
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. ³⁸	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	No
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³⁸ 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	Not in an area designated for Neighbourhood Planning.
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	Not asked in Call for Sites 2014.
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	
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>	A	Number of houses in 2006: 596 Number of houses in 2016: 700 Percentage Growth: 17.45%
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>	R	Number of houses in 2016: 700 Number of outstanding completions 2016: 2384 Percentage Growth: 340.57%
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 physical constraints apparent
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?	A	Development of the site would extend Houghton Conquest down London Lane which has traditionally not had any residential development and change the nature of the majority linear settlement.
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) 	A	Grade 3

	<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	Houghton Conquest Lower school
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) 	A	Marston Vale Middle School
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	Wooton Upper
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) 	A	Wilstead
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) 	A	Post Office
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) 	R	More than 800m
28	Distance to nearest train station: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 800m (G) • 800m-1200m (A) 	R	More than 1200m

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 1200m (R) 		
29	Is the site accessible from the existing road network?	G	Site does not front on to London Lane to the east however it adjoins Pembroke Road to the west.
School Capacity			
30	Do the local schools have capacity at all tiers?	A	Full education contributions – new lower school site may be required for anything above around 500 homes
31	If not, has a commitment been made to address this?	A	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?	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?	A	Scope for development if set within green infrastructure to form green edge and mitigate views from south and east. London Lane distinctive – important that rural character retained.
37	Heritage/ Archaeology What would the impacts of development be on any heritage assets and their setting? Are there any opportunities for enhancement of	Arch: A Her: G	This site lies adjacent to the historic core of the settlement of Houghton Conquest and immediately south-east of an area

	these assets?		of known medieval settlement that includes a moated site (recorded on the CBC Historic Environment Record). Therefore this area is considered to have archaeological potential. Archaeological potential would not prevent allocation or development providing that an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy in line with the requirements of para 141 of the NPPF is implemented. It is likely that an archaeological evaluation to satisfy para 128 of the NPPF would be required prior to a planning submission. Should the site be allocated, a contingency for archaeological works must be included in any proposal to prevent issues with viability. No apparent conservation concerns
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	Identified as potential GCN recolonization area, retain and buffer existing boundary features, opportunity for net gain.
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 aspiration to preserve this existing green space (not formally designated as a greenspace in the Leisure Strategy). 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?			Yes

STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

Is the site suitable for the proposed development?

In landscape terms there is some scope for development of the site, providing that green infrastructure is used to mitigate views to the south and east and the rural character of London Lane is retained. The site does have archaeological potential but this would not prevent allocation providing that appropriate mitigation was carried out. As the site has been retained as a potential GCN recolonization area, the existing boundary features would need to be retained and buffered. The Parish GI plan identifies an aspiration to preserve this existing green space; however the space is not formally designated as green space in the leisure strategy. As no significant constraints have been identified the site will be considered further to understand the potential for mitigation.

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	<p>Referring to the Viability Assessment undertaken by 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 	G	<p>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.</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%. 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 		<p>0 to 5 years</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 to 15 years • 15 to 20 years • Outside Plan Period 		
46	What is the indicative build out time of the site?		The Case Study Sites outlined within the Council's Residential Development Viability Report (Feb 2017) indicates that after the site has received detailed planning permission a single housebuilder would likely take one year to first completion and would build out the site at a rate of 40 dwellings per annum there after.
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

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING³⁹

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP314
Site Name	Land north and south of The Grove
Site Address	Land north and south of The Grove
Settlement	Houghton Conquest
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 2ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 2.6ha Measured GIS Area: 2.55ha
Proposed Use	Housing
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:
			30
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology:
			45

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	Not in a designation area
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	Not in an 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

³⁹ 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 more⁴⁰.

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 northern parcel of the site lies adjacent to the settlement, whilst the southern portion is separated from the settlement and extends quite far back.
7	Does the site cause coalescence between an existing village or town and another existing village or town? If yes, then grade as Amber if the site would be able to provide appropriate buffers or green wedges to mitigate this, or Red if it would not be possible for appropriate buffers to be provided leaving a reasonable developable area based on the individual context of the site.	G	The site does not cause coalescence
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

STAGE 1C ASSESSMENT

This stage of the assessment rules out sites that are not able to meet their critical infrastructure needs⁴¹.

Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery ⁴² ?	A	No 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	The site is currently in agricultural use and the submission states that demolition or relocation would not be required.
10	Is the land controlled by a developer or land owner who has expressed an intention to develop the site?	G	The site has been submitted by an agent on behalf of the sole landowner and intention 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 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

⁴⁰ 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)

⁴¹ 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.

⁴² 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	
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	
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	
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. ⁴³	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	No PDL.
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⁴³ 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	
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	Not asked in 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	
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>	A	Number of houses in 2006: 596 Number of houses in 2016: 700 Percentage Growth: 17.45%
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>	R	Number of houses in 2016: 700 Number of outstanding completions 2016: 2384 Percentage Growth: 340.57%
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.
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?	R	The northern portion of the site would be well related to the settlement, but the portion of the site to the south would be less well related and would change the nature of the settlement pattern.
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) • 50% of more in Grade 3b, 4 or 5 (A) 	A	Grade 3

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	Houghton Conquest Lower school
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) 	A	Marston Vale Middle School
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	Wooton Upper
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) 	A	Wilstead
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) 	A	Post Office
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) 	R	
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?	G	Site does front on the Grove.
School Capacity			
30	Do the local schools have capacity at all tiers?	A	Full education contributions – new lower school site may be required for anything above around 500 homes
31	If not, has a commitment been made to address this?	A	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/A/G	Awaiting comments
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?	A	Scope for development if set within green infrastructure to mitigate views from south and west .Site forms part of arable vale landscape and foreground to Greensand Ridge.
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: A Her: G	These sites lie adjacent to the historic core of the settlement of Houghton Conquest and adjacent to a possible medieval moat (identified on the CBC Historic Environment Record). Therefore this area is considered to have

			archaeological potential. Archaeological potential would not prevent allocation or development providing that an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy in line with the requirements of para 141 of the NPPF is implemented. It is likely that an archaeological evaluation to satisfy para 128 of the NPPF would be required prior to a planning submission. Should the site be allocated, a contingency for archaeological works must be included in any proposal to prevent issues with viability No apparent conservation concerns
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	Identified as potential GCN recolonization area, retain and buffer existing boundary features, opportunity for net gain.
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 existing allotments, area identified in Parish GI plan as an aspiration to create a new green area for more allotments, and aspiration to protect the landscape to the south and east identified. Potential for some limited development if identified GI aspirations also delivered.
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 northern parcel of the site is well related to the settlement, but the southern parcel is separated and not well related.

In landscape terms there is some scope for development of the site, providing that green infrastructure is used to mitigate views to the south and east. The site does have archaeological potential but this would not prevent allocation providing that appropriate mitigation was carried out. As the site has been retained as a potential GCN recolonization area, the existing boundary features would need to be retained and buffered. The Parish GI plan identifies an aspiration extend the allotments into this site, and protect the landscape to the south and the east but there is potential for some development if GI aspirations are also delivered. As no significant constraints have been identified the site will be considered further, but only the northern portion as the southern portion is poorly related and separated from the settlement.

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 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%. 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.
45	When can the scheme realistically commence delivery?		0 to 5 years

	<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 		
46	What is the indicative build out time of the site?		The Case Study Sites outlined within the Council's Residential Development Viability Report (Feb 2017 indicates that after the site has received detailed planning permission a single housebuilder would likely take one year to first completion and would build out the site at a rate of 40 dwellings per annum there after.
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

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING⁴⁴

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP350
Site Name	Road Farm
Site Address	Road Farm
Settlement	Houghton Conquest
Size	Submitted Developable Area 3.6ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 3.6ha Measured GIS Area: 4.0ha
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: 15
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 72

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	Not in a designation area
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	Not in an 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

⁴⁴ 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 more⁴⁵.

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	The site is detached from the main settlement of Houghton Conquest, separated by a considerable distance.
7	Does the site cause coalescence between an existing village or town and another existing village or town? If yes, then grade as Amber if the site would be able to provide appropriate buffers or green wedges to mitigate this, or Red if it would not be possible for appropriate buffers to be provided leaving a reasonable developable area based on the individual context of the site.	G	The site does not cause coalescence
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

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⁴⁵ 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 HOUSING⁴⁶

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP352
Site Name	Road Farm
Site Address	Road Farm
Settlement	Houghton Conquest
Size	Submitted Developable Area 1.21ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 3ha Measured GIS Area: 1.45ha
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:
			15
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology:
			29

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	Not in a designation area
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	Not in an 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

⁴⁶ 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 more⁴⁷.

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	The site is detached from the main settlement of Houghton Conquest, separated by a considerable distance.
7	Does the site cause coalescence between an existing village or town and another existing village or town? If yes, then grade as Amber if the site would be able to provide appropriate buffers or green wedges to mitigate this, or Red if it would not be possible for appropriate buffers to be provided leaving a reasonable developable area based on the individual context of the site.	G	The site does not cause coalescence
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

⁴⁷ 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 HOUSING⁴⁸

Site details	
Reference Number	NLP070
Site Name	Camel
Site Address	Adjacent to Houghton Conquest, Marston Vale TL 039 419
Settlement	Houghton Conquest
Size	Submitted Developable Area:25ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 138.17ha Measured GIS Area:138.17ha
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: 825
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 450

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	Site not within Flood zone 2 or 3
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	Site not at risk from surface water flooding

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

4	Is more than 50% of the site covered by nationally significant designations? These are: Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens.	No	No nationally significant designations on site
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	Not within 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

⁴⁸ 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 more⁴⁹.

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	The site is located to the west of Houghton Conquest, but remains largely separated along the eastern edge by pockets of agricultural land. The scale of the proposal is significantly larger than the existing settlement and does not form a logical extension. It is not of a sufficient scale to be considered as a freestanding scheme.
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	Due to the size of the proposed site, the site would result in physical and visual coalescence between Stewartby and Houghton Conquest, and visually with the Wixams.
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

⁴⁹ 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 HOUSING⁵⁰

Site details	
Reference Number	NLP071
Site Name	Quest North
Site Address	Marston Vale
Settlement	Houghton Conquest
Size	Submitted Developable Area:8ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 9.81ha Measured GIS Area:9.81ha
Proposed Use	Housing
Any other information	ALP065 and NLP070

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: 264
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 144

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?	Yes	65% of the site is located within flood zone 2 and 3.
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	Site not at risk from surface water flooding

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

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

⁵⁰ Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING⁵¹

Site details	
Reference Number	NLP156
Site Name	Land off Bedford Rd and Rear of Duck End Close
Site Address	Land off Bedford Rd and Rear of Duck End Close
Settlement	Houghton Conquest
Size	Submitted Developable Area 1.7ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 2.5ha Measured GIS Area: 2.62ha
Proposed Use	Residential
Any other information	Planning permission granted

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: 52 Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 40
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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	Not in a designation area
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	Not in an 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 a logical extension to the existing settlement with no physical barriers constraining the site
7	Does the site cause coalescence between an existing village or town and another existing village or town? If yes, then grade as Amber if the site would be able to provide appropriate buffers or green wedges to mitigate this, or Red if it would not be possible for appropriate buffers to be provided leaving a reasonable developable area based on the individual context of the site.	G	The site does not cause coalescence
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

STAGE 1C ASSESSMENT

This stage of the assessment rules out sites that are not able to meet their critical infrastructure needs⁵³.

Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery ⁵⁴ ?	G	None identified
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	Arable land
10	Is the land controlled by a developer or land owner who has expressed an intention to develop the site?	G	Promoted on land owner behalf
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	None apparent
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.	R	15/03706/OUT granted for 52 dwellings.
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)

⁵³ 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.

⁵⁴ 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.

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING⁵⁵

Site details	
Reference Number	NLP191
Site Name	Wixams Southern Extension
Site Address	Land east of the B530, north of the Bedford Road, south of the Wixams Southern Expansion
Settlement	Houghton Conquest
Size	Submitted Developable Area:25ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 68ha Measured GIS Area:68
Proposed Use	Residential
Any other information	Screening Opinion 15/03370/SCN – for 650 dwellings – EIA not required See ALP224

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: 650 Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 450
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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	Site not in Flood Zone 2 or 3
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	Site not at risk from surface water flooding

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

4	Is more than 50% of the site covered by nationally significant designations? These are: Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens.	No	No nationally significant designations
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	Not in 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 well related to the Wixams Main Settlement, forming a southern extension.
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	There is cause for concern for coalescence between the proposal site and Houghton Conquest. However, the proposal includes a country park to ensure the countryside gap between the two.
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 ?	A	Further information required.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

STAGE 1D ASSESSMENT

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

Availability

9	What is the existing use of the site? Would the existing use limit the development potential?	G	The site is currently greenfield, and form states 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	All 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	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.	A	A Screening Opinion has been submitted (15/03370) – No EIA required for a planning application.
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

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.

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	Site not within 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 or No	Details
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) <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>	Yes or No	Details
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	Yes/ No/ N/A	Details
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

STAGE 2 : SUITABILITY (DETAILED ASSESSMENT)

STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT

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

Previously Developed Land

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) 	G	Greenfield
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Community

17	Neighbourhood Planning (only applicable in	No	NA
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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.

	designated areas) Is the site identified as a housing allocation in an emerging 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.	Yes	Through the Wixams South Masterplan. Adopted Masterplan for this site and Land south of Wixams (an allocation)
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	No impact on sustainability – proposal includes a school
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>	A	Number of houses in 2006: 596 Number of houses in 2016: 700 Percentage growth: 17.45%
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>	R	Number of houses in 2016: 700 Number of outstanding completions in 2016: 2,384 Percentage growth: 340.57%
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
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?	A	Although this site forms a southern extension to Wixams Main Settlement and MA3 allocation, these areas are yet to be built out.
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) • 50% or more in Grade 3b, 4 or 5 (A) • 50% or more in Grade 1, 2 or 3a (R) 	A	Grade 3

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	To be provided in Wixams and within 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) 	A	To be provided within Wixams
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	To be provided within Wixams
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) 	A	Unknown if going to be provided in Wixams. However, GP surgery in adjoining 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) 	A	To be provided in Wixams
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) 	R	Over 800m. but could be provided as part of the development.
28	Distance to nearest train station: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 800m (G) • 800m-1200m (A) • Over 1200m (R) 	R	Wixams station once developed will be the nearest train station.
29	Is the site accessible from the existing road network?	G	B530
School Capacity			
30	Do the local schools have capacity at all tiers?	R	A new 3 form entry primary is required within the southern extension land.
31	If not, has a commitment been made to address	A	Proposal includes primary school.

	this?		A new 3 form entry primary is required within the southern extension land.
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)	A	Road and Rail / Potential
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?	G	Land subject to Masterplan which would provide new Country Park.
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?	A	Site has archaeological potential but this would not prevent allocation providing appropriate mitigation is undertaken.
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	Comments included in Masterplan
39	Open space/leisure and GI assets Are there any potential conflicts with open space, leisure designations or Rights of Way? Is there	A	Specifically identified in the Mid Beds GI network as an aspiration to create new community woodland

	capacity to provide the required levels of open space and green infrastructure?		that acts as an accessible buffer between Wixams and Houghton Conquest, delivering landscape and ecological benefits, and preventing coalescence. Also identified in PGIC – preserving green space between Houghton Conquest and Wixams. If proposals delivered a significant landscape buffer and open space, large enough to serve both new and existing communities, the development could deliver GI benefits. No loss of leisure.
Minerals and Waste			
40	What would the impacts of development be on safeguarded minerals and waste sites, including mineral safeguarding sites?	R	There is a permitted wood waste site within the submission area.
Planning History			
41	What is the sites planning history? (For example planning applications and submissions to previous Allocations Plans)		Site was allocated in withdrawn Development Strategy (Policy 63a). As this document was withdrawn, this was never allocated. Adopted Masterplan for the site. Screening Opinion submitted for the site.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

Is the site suitable for the proposed development?

The site is considered appropriate for development as it would extend development southwards from the allocation (MA3). The proposal includes a countryside park so would reduce coalescence between Wixams and Houghton Conquest.

The proposal includes the provision of a primary school and local facilities and services, which is essential to ensure that the new community has access to facilities and services. There is a need for additional education facilities in the area and the development proposes to provide these within the site.

Extensive work has been undertaken on the adopted Masterplan for the site to ensure that any development contributes to green infrastructure provision and has a positive impact on ecological and landscape issues.

The site would need to ensure connections with MA3 allocation and Wixams main settlement in the north. This would be through roads, cycleways, pathes and open space.

The provision of the countryside park is integral to this site as this would maintain separation between Wixams and Houghton Conquest. In addition to this, the countryside park would provide open space for new and existing residents.

The site will be considered further for development.

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

<p>43</p>	<p>Referring to the Viability Assessment undertaken by 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>A</p>	<p>The Council's Residential Development Viability Report (Feb 2017) indicates that residual value of development in this value area and at this scale with £38k infrastructure costs would not exceed the upper benchmark land value and as such the report indicates that such development may not be viable.</p> <p>However the Council's Residential Development Viability Report (Feb 2017) is based upon residential property figures between 2013 and 2016 and based on the average building costs during 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>
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			For the reasons outlined above it is considered that this scale of development within this value area may be viable.
Achievability			
44	Are there any market factors which would affect deliverability?		<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>Developable</p> <p>0 to 5 years</p>
46	What is the indicative build out time of the site?		The Case Study Sites outlined within the Council's Residential Development Viability Report (Feb 2017) indicates that after the site has received detailed planning permission two housebuilders

			would likely take one year to first completion and would build out the site at a rate of 100 dwellings per annum there after.
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 HOUSING⁶⁰

Site details	
Reference Number	NLP371
Site Name	Land South of Wixams
Site Address	Land between the southern boundary of Wixams Main Settlement and Houghton Conquest.
Settlement	Houghton Conquest
Size	Submitted Developable Area:34ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 67.7ha Measured GIS Area:66ha
Proposed Use	Housing
Any other information	Allocated site MA3

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: 1030 Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 612
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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	Site not in Flood Zone 2 and 3
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	Site not at risk from surface water flooding

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

4	Is more than 50% of the site covered by nationally significant designations? These are: Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens.	No	No nationally significant designations on site
5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	Not in 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

⁶⁰ 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 more⁶¹.

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 forms an extension to Wixams. Wixams is yet to be fully built out but once developed, this site would form a southern extension to Wixams.
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	Extension from Wixams
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 needs⁶².

Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery ⁶³ ?	G	Can be provided on 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	Greenfield
10	Is the land controlled by a developer or land owner who has expressed an intention to develop the site?	G	Land owner intent on developing the site
11	Are there any legal or ownership problems that could delay or prevent development? If Yes, then can these be issues be realistically overcome?	G	No legal or ownership problems
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.	R	Site was previously allocated in the North Site Allocations Document.
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

⁶¹ 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)

⁶² 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.

⁶³ 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.



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