



Site Assessment Forms

Westoning



Contents

ALP175 3
ALP316 7
NLP136 9
NLP317 19

DRAFT

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING¹

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP175
Site Name	Bunyan Site
Site Address	Bunyan Site, Sampshill Road,
Settlement	Westoning
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 1ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 1ha Measured GIS Area: 0.67ha
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:
			15-30
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology:
			16

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

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

4	Is more than 50% of the site covered by nationally significant designations? These are: Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens.	No	No nationally significant designations on site.
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¹ Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

5	Is more than 50% of the site located within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	No	Site 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 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?	A	The site is a long rectangular shaped site which lies along the railway line. The site does form an extension to Westoning in the east but given its location it is considered the site does not relate well to Westoning.
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 needs³.

Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery ⁴ ?	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?	G	Unused land
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² The figure of 1,500 homes has been taken from the Government Publication 'Locally-Led Garden Villages, Towns and Cities'. This defines the eligibility criteria for Garden Villages as standalone settlements of between 1,500 and 10,000 homes. (see https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/508205/Locally-led_garden_villages_towns_and_cities.pdf)

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

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

	Would the existing use limit the development potential?		
10	Is the land controlled by a developer or land owner who has expressed an intention to develop the site?	G	Land controlled by 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 known 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.	G	No planning permission
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

STAGE 1E ASSESSMENT

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

Greenbelt

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

	consultation) that do not meet the criteria in question 15a will automatically progress through this stage to be considered further at Stage 2. ⁵		
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

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

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING⁶

Site details	
Reference Number	ALP316
Site Name	Land South of Westoning
Site Address	East of the A5120, Westoning
Settlement	Westoning
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 15ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 27.6ha Measured GIS Area: 27.61ha
Proposed Use	Residential
Any other information	Adjoins submission NLP317

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 dwellings
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology: 270 dwellings

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

2	Is more than 50% of the site located in Flood Zone 2 or 3?	No	
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	

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

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

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

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	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 towns or villages. For the purposes of this assessment, a self-contained site is defined as a site which will provide 1,500 homes or more⁷.

Relationship to Settlement

6	For sites that are not of a sufficient scale to be self-contained, is the site a logical extension to the settlement or are there any major physical constraints (for example A roads, rivers or railways) that separate it from the main settlement?	R	The site lies to the south of Westoning, and is separated from the main settlement by reasonable sized parcel of open countryside. In isolation the site does not relate well to the existing settlement and would not form a logical 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.	G	No coalescence issues.
Does the site continue to next stage?			No

⁷ The figure of 1,500 homes has been taken from the Government Publication 'Locally-Led Garden Villages, Towns and Cities'. This defines the eligibility criteria for Garden Villages as standalone settlements of between 1,500 and 10,000 homes. (see https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/508205/Locally-led_garden_villages_towns_and_cities.pdf)

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING⁸

Site details	
Reference Number	NLP136
Site Name	Land off Flitwick Road, Westoning
Site Address	Flitwick Road, Westoning
Settlement	Westoning
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 5.6ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 7.5ha Measured GIS Area: 7.50ha
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 dwellings
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology:
			101 dwellings

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

2	Is more than 50% of the site located in Flood Zone 2 or 3?	No	
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	

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

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

⁸ Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	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 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 more⁹.

Relationship to Settlement

6	For sites that are not of a sufficient scale to be self-contained, is the site a logical extension to the settlement or are there any major physical constraints (for example A roads, rivers or railways) that separate it from the main settlement?	G	The site borders the settlement envelope of Westoning to the south-east, south and south-west. It would be a logical extension to Westoning.
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 needs¹⁰.

Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery ¹¹ ?	G	Submission form states that a new junction would be required with existing roundabout on Flitwick Road and also a possible secondary access. The submission has ticked the box for road improvements where asked what infrastructure the site can support.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

STAGE 1D ASSESSMENT

⁹ 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)

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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.

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 a greenfield site currently used for agricultural purposes.
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 a representative of the landowner and states their intention to develop.
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	The 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.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

STAGE 1E ASSESSMENT

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

Greenbelt

13	Is the site located within the Green Belt?	Yes	Yes 100% Green Belt.
14	If answer to question 13 is yes, then does the site lie within one of the parcels which have been identified in the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Green Belt Study as making only a relatively weak, weak, or no contribution? If yes, site progresses through to Stage 2.	No	
15a	Does the site have all of the following merits that may outweigh the harm to the Green Belt and which may contribute to identification of exceptional circumstances? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjoining settlement has at least 3 of the following key local services - convenience shop, lower school, middle school, upper school, village hall, GP surgery, post office, library (use settlement audit) • Site makes a strong contribution to housing need (100 plus homes) within the Luton HMA • Site is in or directly adjacent to a settlement that has a mainline rail station or direct access (junction) to the strategic road network (A road or motorway) Sites in Green Belt other than those covered by 14 and 15b that cannot meet these criteria, will	Yes	

	not progress any further in this assessment of suitability.*		
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. ¹²	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) 	R	No part of site is PDL.
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Community

17	Neighbourhood Planning (only applicable in designated areas) Is the site identified as a housing allocation in an emerging Neighbourhood Plan?	No	Westoning is not a parish which has been designated for a Neighbourhood Plan.
18	Community Consultation Has any community consultation taken place? If yes, provide brief details on the form this consultation took and any overall community response.	No	
19	Sustainability of Settlement Would this proposal impact on the sustainability of the settlement through the loss of services and facilities (for example, employment, retail, public house etc)	No	Site is 100% Greenfield

Cumulative Impact

20	Considering housing completions over the past 10 years, what has been the level of housing growth in the parish? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 5% growth (G) • 5% to 20% growth (A) • More than 20% growth (R) <i>This is calculated by working out the total number of completions over the last ten years as a percentage of the dwellings in April 2006 (as calculated using census and completions data).</i>	A	Number of houses in 2006: 806 Number of houses in 2016: 849 Percentage Growth: 5.33%
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¹² Draft Neighbourhood Plan allocations in Green Belt that are proposed after this site assessment phase has concluded, may still be considered for allocation.

21	<p>What level of housing growth would there be if all the outstanding permissions (as of April 2016) were to be completed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 5% growth (G) • 5% to 20% growth (A) • More than 20% growth (R) <p><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></p>	G	<p>Number of houses in 2016: 849 Number of outstanding completions 2016: 5 Percentage Growth: 0.59%</p>
Physical Constraints			
22	<p>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.</p>	A	<p>There are telegraph poles across the northern edge of the site and also the railways run across the eastern border of the site.</p>
Relationship to Settlement			
23	<p>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?</p>	G	<p>No issues.</p>
Agricultural Land Quality			
24	<p>Would the development impact on high quality agricultural land?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% or more in non-agricultural land (G) • 50% or more in Grade 3b, 4 or 5 (A) • 50% or more in Grade 1, 2 or 3a (R) 	R	<p>Site is Grade 2 Agricultural Land.</p>

STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT

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

Transport and Access to Services

25	<p>Facilities and services</p> <p>Question 26 considers the suitability and sustainability of the site for housing. It links to the Council's Settlement Hierarchy Audit.</p> <p>Issues relating to capacity are assessed separately</p>		
25a	<p>Does the settlement have a Primary/Lower school?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, in the settlement (G) • Yes, proposed as part of the development (G) • No, but an adjoining settlement does (A) • Not in the settlement or an adjoining settlement (R) 	G	<p>Yes.</p>
25b	<p>Does the settlement have a Middle school (if applicable)?</p>	A	<p>No, but Flitwick does.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, in the settlement (G) • Yes, proposed as part of the development (G) • No, but an adjoining settlement does (A) • Other catchment school available (A) 		
25c	<p>Does the settlement have a Secondary/ Upper school?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, in the settlement (G) • Yes, proposed as part of the development (G) • No, but an adjoining settlement does (A) • Other catchment school available (A) 	A	No, but Harlington does.
25d	<p>Does the settlement have a GPs surgery or medical centre?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, in the settlement (G) • Yes, proposed as part of the development (G) • No, but an adjoining settlement does (A) • Not in the settlement or an adjoining settlement (R) 	A	No, but Flitwick does.
26	<p>What retail provision does the settlement offer?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Centre/ Supermarket (G) • Convenience Store / Post Office / Newsagent (A) • None (R) 	A	Convenience store
27	<p>Distance to bus stops with a frequent service (at least hourly at peak times):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 400m (G) • 400m-800m (A) • Over 800m (R) • OR submission form stated that improved public transport facilities could be provided as part of the development (G) 	G	298m
28	<p>Distance to nearest train station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 800m (G) • 800m-1200m (A) • Over 1200m (R) 	R	
29	<p>Is the site accessible from the existing road network?</p>	G	Site has frontage onto Flitwick Road.
School Capacity			
30	<p>Do the local schools have capacity at all tiers?</p>	A	Lower school unlikely to manage the impact of this without expansion, additional middle school places planned at Arnold.
31	<p>If not, has a commitment been made to address this?</p>	A	No lower school projects planned, but are likely to be required. Expansion of Arnold Middle planned for 2018. 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?	G	No significant features
35	Adjoining uses Would any adjoining uses have the potential to cause conflict with the proposed use? (for example; noise and smell)	A	Rail Noise / Road Noise
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	Opportunity for development of appropriate scale / density within a landscape setting enhancing settlement edge. Open expansive rural landscape to north of existing settlement edge would require extensive landscape buffer.
37	Heritage/ Archaeology What would the impacts of development be on any heritage assets and their setting? Are there any opportunities for enhancement of these assets?	Her: G Arch: G	Site is considered to have low archaeological potential. No objection to allocation. No Heritage comment.
38	Ecological Assets What would the impacts of development be on	G/A	Grade 2 agric land, potential ecological enhancements

	any biological, geological or ecological assets and are there any opportunities for their enhancement?		
39	Open space/leisure and GI assets Are there any potential conflicts with open space, leisure designations or Rights of Way? Is there capacity to provide the required levels of open space and green infrastructure?	G/A	No parish GI plan. Within NIA. No loss of LS open space.
Minerals and Waste			
40	What would the impacts of development be on safeguarded minerals and waste sites, including mineral safeguarding sites?	G	No issues
Planning History			
41	What is the sites planning history? (For example planning applications and submissions to previous Allocations Plans)		None
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

Is the site suitable for the proposed development?

The site is Green Belt, but would make a positive contribution to the Luton HMA in a sustainable settlement. The site lies within Grade 2 Agricultural Land and some constraints are presented by telegraph poles and the proximity of the railway. A potential capacity issue with lower school places has also been identified, and therefore expansion would likely be required. Environmental Health have noted the potential for noise pollution from the road and the railway. In summary however this site is considered worthy of further consideration, though if the site were taken forward then landscape buffering to the north would be necessary to stop visual coalescence with Flitwick and protect the landscape setting of the settlement edge.

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.
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Achievability

44	Are there any market factors which would affect deliverability?		The Council's Residential Development Viability Report
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		<p>(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 	0 to 5 years
46	What is the indicative build out time of the site?	Submission suggests that the site could be built out within 5

		<p>years dependent on the scale of development.</p> <p>The Case Study Sites outlined within the Council's Residential Development Viability Report (Feb 2017) indicates that after the site has received detailed planning permission a single housebuilder would likely take one year to first completion and would build out the site at a rate of 50 dwellings per annum there after.</p>
Does the site pass this stage?		Yes

SUMMARY

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

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

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

Site Assessment Framework for HOUSING¹³

Site details	
Reference Number	NLP317
Site Name	West View Farm
Site Address	Park Road, Westoning
Settlement	Westoning
Size	Submitted Developable Area: 4.7ha Submitted Whole Site Area: 4.7ha Measured GIS Area: 4.73ha
Proposed Use	Residential
Any other information	Adjoins submission ALP316

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:
			85-95 dwellings
			Number of proposed dwellings as per CBC methodology:
			85 dwellings

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

2	Is more than 50% of the site located in Flood Zone 2 or 3?	No	
3	Is more than 50% of the site at risk from surface water flooding?	No	

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

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

¹³ Employment sites and Gypsy and Traveller sites will be assessed using separate bespoke site assessment criteria.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	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 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 adjoins the settlement envelope of Westoning to the north-east. There are no major constraints separating the site from the existing settlement envelope.
7	Does the site cause coalescence between an existing village or town and another existing village or town? If yes, then grade as Amber if the site would be able to provide appropriate buffers or green wedges to mitigate this, or Red if it would not be possible for appropriate buffers to be provided leaving a reasonable developable area based on the individual context of the site.	G	No coalescence issues.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

STAGE 1C ASSESSMENT

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

Critical Infrastructure

8	Can the site meet the critical infrastructure requirements that will enable delivery ¹⁶ ?	G	Submission states that there are no specific critical infrastructure requirements.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes/ No

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	G	Site is 100% Greenfield
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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.

	potential?		
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 a representative on behalf of a developer. Land owner details have been provided and there is intent to develop 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	The 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.
Does the site continue to next stage?			Yes

STAGE 1E ASSESSMENT

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

Greenbelt

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

	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. ¹⁷		
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) 	R	No part of site is PDL.
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Community

17	Neighbourhood Planning (only applicable in designated areas) Is the site identified as a housing allocation in an emerging Neighbourhood Plan?	No	Westoning is not a parish which has been designated for a Neighbourhood Plan.
18	Community Consultation Has any community consultation taken place? If yes, provide brief details on the form this consultation took and any overall community response.	No	
19	Sustainability of Settlement Would this proposal impact on the sustainability of the settlement through the loss of services and facilities (for example, employment, retail, public house etc)	No	Site is 100% Greenfield

Cumulative Impact

20	Considering housing completions over the past 10 years, what has been the level of housing growth in the parish? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 5% growth (G) • 5% to 20% growth (A) • More than 20% growth (R) <i>This is calculated by working out the total number of completions over the last ten years as a percentage of the dwellings in April 2006 (as calculated using census and completions data).</i>	A	Number of houses in 2006: 806 Number of houses in 2016: 849 Percentage Growth: 5.33%
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) 	G	Number of houses in 2016: 849 Number of outstanding completions 2016: 5 Percentage Growth: 0.59%

¹⁷ 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"> • More than 20% growth (R) <p><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></p>		
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.	A	Railway to the east.
Relationship to Settlement			
23	Would development of the site be complementary to the existing settlement pattern, and would it have an adverse impact on any historic, unique or distinctive characteristics of the settlement's built or natural form?	G	No impact.
Agricultural Land Quality			
24	<p>Would the development impact on high quality agricultural land?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% or more in non-agricultural land (G) • 50% or more in Grade 3b, 4 or 5 (A) • 50% or more in Grade 1, 2 or 3a (R) 	A	Site is in Grade 3 Agricultural Land. The most recent data from Natural England does not sub-classify Grades 3a and 3b. Therefore site must be rated Amber.

STAGE 2 ASSESSMENT

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

Transport and Access to Services

25	<p>Facilities and services</p> <p>Question 26 considers the suitability and sustainability of the site for housing. It links to the Council's Settlement Hierarchy Audit.</p> <p>Issues relating to capacity are assessed separately</p>		
25a	<p>Does the settlement have a Primary/Lower school?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, in the settlement (G) • Yes, proposed as part of the development (G) • No, but an adjoining settlement does (A) • Not in the settlement or an adjoining settlement (R) 	G	Yes.
25b	<p>Does the settlement have a Middle school (if applicable)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, in the settlement (G) • Yes, proposed as part of the development (G) • No, but an adjoining settlement does (A) • Other catchment school available (A) 	A	No, but Flitwick does.

25c	Does the settlement have a Secondary/ Upper school? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, in the settlement (G) • Yes, proposed as part of the development (G) • No, but an adjoining settlement does (A) • Other catchment school available (A) 	A	No, but Harlington does.
25d	Does the settlement have a GPs surgery or medical centre? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, in the settlement (G) • Yes, proposed as part of the development (G) • No, but an adjoining settlement does (A) • Not in the settlement or an adjoining settlement (R) 	A	No, but Flitwick does.
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	Convenience store
27	Distance to bus stops with a frequent service (at least hourly at peak times): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 400m (G) • 400m-800m (A) • Over 800m (R) • OR submission form stated that improved public transport facilities could be provided as part of the development (G) 	A	643.91m
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 has frontage onto Park Road.
School Capacity			
30	Do the local schools have capacity at all tiers?	A	Smaller development - middle school places a concern
31	If not, has a commitment been made to address this?	G	Financial contributions would mitigate the impact of this development. A project has already been identified at Arnold Academy. Submission states that potential contributions could be 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	<p>What is the conclusion of the sequential approach to site allocations, in regards to flood risk?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No assessment required (G) Consider Further Assessment (A) Further Assessment Required (R) 	G	Site is at limited risk of surface water flooding, assessment is unlikely to be required
Environmental Health			
34	<p>Contamination Are there any contamination constraints on site and will there be any remediation required?</p>	G	No significant features
35	<p>Adjoining uses Would any adjoining uses have the potential to cause conflict with the proposed use? (for example; noise and smell)</p>	A	Railway Noise / Road Traffic / Industrial
Environmental Constraints			
36	<p>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?</p>	A	Lower density development could be accommodated with appropriate and adequate scale landscape mitigation
37	<p>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?</p>	Her: G Arch: G	Site is considered to have low archaeological potential. No objection to allocation. No Heritage comment.
38	<p>Ecological Assets What would the impacts of development be on any biological, geological or ecological assets and are there any opportunities for their enhancement?</p>	A/R	Currently scrub land, good potential value for wildlife. Proposal would need to include more habitat creation to demonstrate gain.
39	<p>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</p>	A/G?	No Parish GI plan for Westoning. Site shown as woodland on OS, but doesn't appear to be from aerial. Not

	open space and green infrastructure?		within district GI network. 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?

Though this site lies within the Green Belt, it has been identified as part of a parcel of Green Belt which is performing relatively weakly, and it would make a positive contribution to the Luton HMA in a sustainable settlement. The site presents some constraints in terms of the proximity of the railway. A potential capacity issue with lower school places has also been identified, and therefore expansion would likely be required. Environmental Health have noted the potential for noise pollution from the road, the railway and industry. Any proposals would need to have appropriate landscape mitigation and designed to mitigate against noise from the railway, the road, and the nearby industry. The site in its current state has good potential value for wildlife, any proposals would need to include more habitat creation to demonstrate gain. In summary this site is considered worthy of further consideration.

STAGE 3 : ACHIEVABILITY

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

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

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

		<p>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 	0 to 5 years
46	What is the indicative build out time of the site?	The Case Study Sites outlined within the Council's Residential Development Viability Report (Feb 2017) indicates that after the site has received detailed

			planning permission a single housebuilder would likely take one year to first completion and would build out the site at a rate of 50 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



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