

**Appendix 1: Green Belt Assessment Criteria**

**Table 1. Criteria for Green Belt Purpose 1. To check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas**

1) Does the parcel directly abut the outer edge of the defined settlements, or is it very close to it? Is it part of a wider group of parcels that directly act to prevent urban sprawl? 2) Does the Green Belt prevent another settlement being absorbed into the large built-up area? 3) What is the physical gap between the settlement edge of the parcel and the urban edge of the defined settlements? (I.e. is there a broad gap or is it narrow at this point?) 4) What would be the remaining gap if the land is developed? 5) Would development represent an outward extension of the urban area, result in a physical connection between urban areas or lead to the danger of a subsequent coalescence between such settlements? 6) If released from the Green Belt could enduring long-term settlement boundaries be established?		
<b>Critical importance to Green Belt Purpose</b>  Continued inclusion within Green Belt of paramount importance	<b>Critical</b>	Land where development would conflict <b>fundamentally</b> with Green Belt purpose. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The land provides a distinct, well-defined threshold between the urban areas within Amber Valley/other built up area(s) in adjacent authorities and provides strong containment that prevents the perception of 'sprawl'.</li> <li>There are no alternative strong physical/landscape boundaries further from the edge of the urban area that would perform a similar role in containing growth and ensuring a 'good fit' for development - strategic level of development would lead to perception of uncontained growth.</li> <li>The land may/may not be affected already by the existing physical/visual presence of the urban areas and may have a varied character.</li> </ul>
<b>Major importance to Green Belt Purpose</b>  Continued inclusion within Green Belt of major importance	<b>Major</b>	Land where development would conflict <b>substantially</b> with Green Belt purpose. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The land abuts the urban areas, although its character may be influenced by it.</li> <li>Strategic level of development has potential to create perception of poorly contained growth, although other limited physical/landscape boundaries may exist further from the urban edge that could define and contain growth and prevent the perception of 'sprawl' (although these may require reinforcement to achieve a well-defined limit to development and a new Green Belt boundary).</li> </ul>
<b>Moderate importance to Green Belt Purpose</b>  Continued inclusion within Green Belt of moderate importance	<b>Moderate</b>	Land where development would conflict <b>significantly</b> with Green Belt purpose. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The land provides some containment of the urban area although it is significantly influenced by its presence and related features/land uses leading to a poorly defined edge, or it may be distant from the urban edge and therefore contribute less to the purpose (other land closer to the urban edge performs the function of containment).</li> </ul>
<b>Slight/Negligible importance to Green Belt Purpose</b>  Continued inclusion within Green Belt of minor/negligible importance	<b>Slight/ Negligible</b>	Land where development would have <b>limited</b> impact on this purpose of Green Belt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The land is physically and visually dominated by/related to the urban areas and already perceived to be part of/or closely related to the built form, giving a poorly defined edge and perception of 'sprawl'.</li> <li>Development may allow opportunities for enhancement of degraded land and the definition of a stronger long-term Green Belt boundary.</li> </ul>

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Table 2. **Criteria for Green Belt Purpose 2: Prevent Neighbouring Towns from merging into one another**

1) What distance is the gap between the towns? 2) Are there intervening settlements or other development on roads that would be affected by release from Green Belt? 3) Would development in the parcel appear to result in the merging of towns or compromise the separation of towns physically? 4) Would the development of the parcel be a significant step leading towards coalescence of two settlements?		
<b>Critical importance to Green Belt Purpose</b>  Continued inclusion within Green Belt of paramount importance	Critical	Land is <b>fundamental</b> to physical separation of neighbouring urban areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any reduction in extent would result in physical coalescence, or a perception of merging that would erode the distinct separate identity and character of either/both settlements.</li> </ul>
<b>Major importance to Green Belt Purpose</b>  Continued inclusion within Green Belt of major importance	Major	Land provides an <b>important</b> contribution to separation between neighbouring urban areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no significant inter-visibility between the urban areas currently.</li> <li>Some limited development may be possible without causing merger or perception of merging, although the area is unlikely to be able to accommodate a strategic level of development (although intervening smaller settlements may be affected substantially by reduction of separation, merger, or inter-visibility).</li> </ul>
<b>Moderate importance to Green Belt Purpose</b>  Continued inclusion within Green Belt of moderate importance	Moderate	Land provides only <b>moderate</b> contribution to separation between neighbouring urban areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land is part of a substantial gap between neighbouring urban areas with separate identities.</li> <li>Land where well planned strategic levels of development would not result in merger or a perception of merging as a consequence of inter-visibility (although intervening neighbourhoods may be affected significantly by reduction of separation, merger or inter-visibility).</li> </ul>
<b>Slight/Negligible importance to Green Belt Purpose</b>  Continued inclusion within Green Belt of minor/negligible importance	Slight/ Negligible	Land does not lie between two towns and makes a <b>very limited</b> contribution to separation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic level of development would have no impact on this Green Belt purpose, although other urban areas may be affected by reduction in separation, merger, or inter-visibility depending on their proximity to the urban edge.</li> </ul>

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**Table 3. Criteria for Green Belt Purpose 3. To assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment**

<p>Are there clear strong and robust boundaries to contain development and prevent encroachment in the long term?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Does the parcel have the character of open countryside? - What is the nature of the land use in the parcel? Is any of the land previously developed?</li> <li>2) Is the parcel partially enclosed by a town or village built up area?</li> <li>3) Has the parcel been affected by a substantial increase in the mass and scale of adjacent urbanising built form?</li> <li>4) Is there any evidence of significant containment by urbanising built form?</li> <li>5) Has there been incremental erosion of the open character of the land on the edge of the settlement (so that it appears as part of the settlement)?</li> <li>6) Does there appear to be a high degree of severance from the adjacent Green Belt?</li> </ol>		
<p><b>Critical importance to Green Belt Purpose</b></p> <p>Continued inclusion within Green Belt of paramount importance</p>	<p>Critical</p>	<p>Retention of the countryside is <b>fundamental</b> to the purpose of retaining land within Green Belt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land possesses a strong rural character which Green Belt designation protects.</li> <li>• There may be no other fundamental constraints to encroachment (such as a strong landscape feature that could assist in fulfilling this purpose by containing development from outlying countryside).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Major importance to Green Belt Purpose</b></p> <p>Continued inclusion within Green Belt of major importance</p>	<p>Major</p>	<p>Retention of the countryside is of <b>major</b> importance to the purpose of retaining land within the Green Belt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land possesses a predominantly rural character.</li> <li>• There may be other minor constraints (such as a landscape feature) that would limit encroachment but where the Green Belt provides important protection.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Moderate importance to Green Belt Purpose</b></p> <p>Continued inclusion within Green Belt of moderate importance</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Retention of the countryside is <b>moderately</b> important to the purpose of retaining land within the Green Belt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land possesses a semi-rural character and there is already a perception of significant encroachment.</li> <li>• There may be other constraints to further encroachment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Slight/Negligible importance to Green Belt Purpose</b></p> <p>Continued inclusion within Green Belt of minor/negligible importance</p>	<p>Slight/ Negligible</p>	<p>Retention of the land is of <b>very limited/no</b> importance to the purpose of retaining land within the Green Belt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land possesses a semi-urban character and is no longer perceived to be part of the countryside.</li> <li>• It may contain degraded land that provides opportunities for enhancement.</li> </ul>

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Table 4. **Landscape Character and Sensitivity to Change Criteria to inform Purpose 3**

<p><b>Little/No Capacity for Change</b> Landscape highly sensitive to change.</p>	<p>Little / None</p>	<p>Land has predominantly <b><u>strong rural character</u></b> that is highly sensitive to change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land consists of an uncontained exposed open area where the impact of development would extend over a wide area, or where there may be little/no potential to mitigate the adverse effects of changes.</li> <li>• Strategic level of development likely to have substantial adverse impacts on landscape character and/or substantial adverse impacts on landscape features that are considered to be important to the setting of the town.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Low Capacity for Change</b> Landscape sensitive to change.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Land has <b><u>predominantly intact rural character</u></b> and is sensitive to change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land may be a poorly contained area (such as elevated land) where changes could extend over a wide area and there may be limited potential to mitigate the adverse impacts of the changes.</li> <li>• Strategic level of development likely to have significant adverse impacts on landscape character and/or significant adverse impacts on landscape features that are considered to be important to the setting of the town.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Moderate Capacity for Change</b> Landscape capable of accepting some change without undue harm.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Land of either <b><u>unexceptional character</u></b> with significant detracting elements, or area with <b><u>stronger character</u></b> that benefits from significant physical/visual containment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land capable of accommodating significant change without undue harm to wider landscape character and/or landscape features that are considered to be important to the setting of the town.</li> <li>• There may be potential for some enhancements to landscape character in weaker areas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>High Capacity for Change</b> Landscape capable of accommodating substantial change.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Land with <b><u>weakly defined character/degraded land</u></b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land capable of accommodating substantial development without adverse impact on wider character and/or landscape features that are considered to be important to the setting of the town.</li> <li>• There is likely to be substantial potential for landscape enhancement.</li> </ul>

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**Table 5. Criteria for Green Belt Purpose 4. To Preserve the Setting and Special Character of Historic Towns**

Does the parcel make a positive contribution to the setting of the historic town? Measured in terms of: -		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Can features of the historic town be seen from within the parcel?</li> <li>2) Is the parcel in the foreground of views towards the historic town from public places?</li> <li>3) Is there public access within the parcel?</li> <li>4) Does the parcel form part of an historic landscape that is related to an historic town?</li> <li>5) Does the local landform or landscape form part of the setting of a conservation area or village?</li> <li>6) Does the Parcel form part of an historic Landscape?</li> </ol>		
<p><b>Critical importance to Green Belt Purpose</b></p> <p>Continued inclusion within Green Belt of paramount importance</p>	Critical	<p>Land where development would conflict <b>fundamentally</b> with Green Belt purpose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The land clearly forms part of the historic landscape setting of the town or key historic features and provides a strong contribution to the historic setting.</li> <li>The land may/may not be affected already by the existing physical/visual presence of the urban edge and may have a varied character</li> </ul>
<p><b>Major importance to Green Belt Purpose</b></p> <p>Continued inclusion within Green Belt of major importance</p>	Major	<p>Land where development would conflict <b>substantially</b> with Green Belt purpose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The land provides a strong contribution to the setting and historical character of the town.</li> <li>Strategic level of development has potential to undermine this character.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Moderate importance to Green Belt Purpose</b></p> <p>Continued inclusion within Green Belt of moderate importance</p>	Moderate	<p>Land where development would conflict <b>significantly</b> with Green Belt purpose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The land provides some contribution to the historic setting and special character of the town, although it is significantly reduced by the presence of features/land uses that do not form part of the towns character, or it may be distant from the urban edge and therefore contribute less to the purpose (other land closer to the urban edge performs the function of setting).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Slight/Negligible importance to Green Belt Purpose</b></p> <p>Continued inclusion within Green Belt of minor/negligible importance</p>	Slight/ Negligible	<p>Land where development would have <b>limited</b> impact on this purpose of Green Belt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The land is physically and visually dominated by the immediate urban edge and has no relationship with key historical feature within the town.</li> <li>Land that is predominately rural away from existing urban areas.</li> </ul>