

Draft Buckinghamshire Green Belt Assessment

Appendix 4: Local Green Space

February 2026

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Introduction

A4.1. This appendix supplements Section 5 of the main report and specifically deals with Stage 2 of the footnote 7 assessment method, namely assessment of AAs in respect of Local Green Space (LGS) constraint.

A4.2. This appendix covers:

- Approach and method
- Outcomes.

Approach and method

Introduction

A4.3. This section covers the following:

- A summary of the approach taken
- Background to LGS

Summary

A4.4. As discussed in Section 4, the approach taken is to conclude that all AAs that entirely or mostly **intersect** LGS are 'constrained' such that they are not grey belt. AAs that significantly intersect the LGS are then judged 'provisionally constrained' such that they can be provisional grey belt (subject to wider factors) but cannot be grey belt.

Background to LGS

A4.5. LGS is designed under paras 106 to 108 of the NPPF (2024), which state:

"The designation of land as [LGS] through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. [LGSs] should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

The [LGS] designation should only be used where the green space is: a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves; b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

Policies and decisions for managing development within a [LGS] should be consistent with national policy for Green Belts set out in chapter 13..."

A4.6. LGS designation was introduced by the NPPF in 2012 and since that time the task of designating LGS has typically be taken on by neighbourhood plans.

A4.7. In Buckinghamshire neither of the local plans adopted since 2012 designated LGS, which is not at all unusual, with a [report](#) by CPRE in 2023 finding that 80% of LGS has been designated by neighbourhood plans.

A4.8. With regards to LGSs designated through neighbourhood plans, in Buckinghamshire this study was undertaken on the basis of a dataset compiled in early 2025 which showed LGS designated by the following neighbourhood plans relevant to the study area:

- Aston Clinton (2018) – no Green Belt LGS.
- Bledlow-cum-Saunderton (2017) – one small LGS but also within the National Landscape NL so less consequential for identify grey belt.
- Chalfont St. Giles (2019) – the plan designates several significant LGSs within the Green Belt surrounding the village.
- Chalfont St. Peter (2016) – no Green Belt LGSs.
- Daws Hill (High Wycombe) (2019) – no Green Belt LGSs.
- Eddlesborough (2017) – two LGSs but also within the National Landscape NL so less consequential for identify grey belt.
- Hazlemere (High Wycombe) (2022) – no Green Belt LGSs.
- Longwick-cum-Ilmer Parish (2018) – no Green Belt LGSs.
- Pitstone (2016) – no Green Belt LGSs.
- The Ivers (2022) – no Green Belt LGSs.
- Wendover (2020) – no Green Belt LGSs.
- Wooburn and Bourne End (2023) – one very small Green Belt LGS.

A4.9. Furthermore, there has been considerable recent neighbourhood plan-making activity within the study area, with several plans passing referendum:¹

- Burnham (2025) – no Green Belt LGSs.
- Chesham (2025) – no Green Belt LGSs.
- Gerrards Cross (2025) – one small Green Belt LGS.
- Penn (2025) – no Green Belt LGSs.
- Stoke Poges (2025) – no Green Belt LGSs.
- The Farnhams (2025) – no Green Belt LGSs.

¹ Also the Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Plan did not pass referendum, but the plan had not proposed any Green Belt LGS.

A4.10. With regards to the Green Belt LGS on the edge of Gerrards Cross (school playing fields), this LGS was identified too late to feed into work to define and assess AAs. However, the much wider AA that it forms a part of (CPGC013) is constrained in wider respects, such that it is not identified as grey belt.

A4.11. Overall, there is clearly an issue across the study area in that, with the exception of Chalfont St. Giles, very little LGS is designated in the Green Belt and therefore able to feed in as a constraint for the purposes of identifying grey belt. This is an issue nationally in light of [Guidance](#), which states:

"If land is already protected by Green Belt policy... then consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by designation as [LGS]. One potential benefit in areas where protection from development is the norm (e.g. villages included in the green belt) but where there could be exceptions is that the [LGS] designation could help to identify areas that are of particular importance to the local community."

A4.12. Moving forward, it will be important to consider whether the introduction of grey belt means that there is greater scope to identify LGS in the Green Belt.

Outcomes

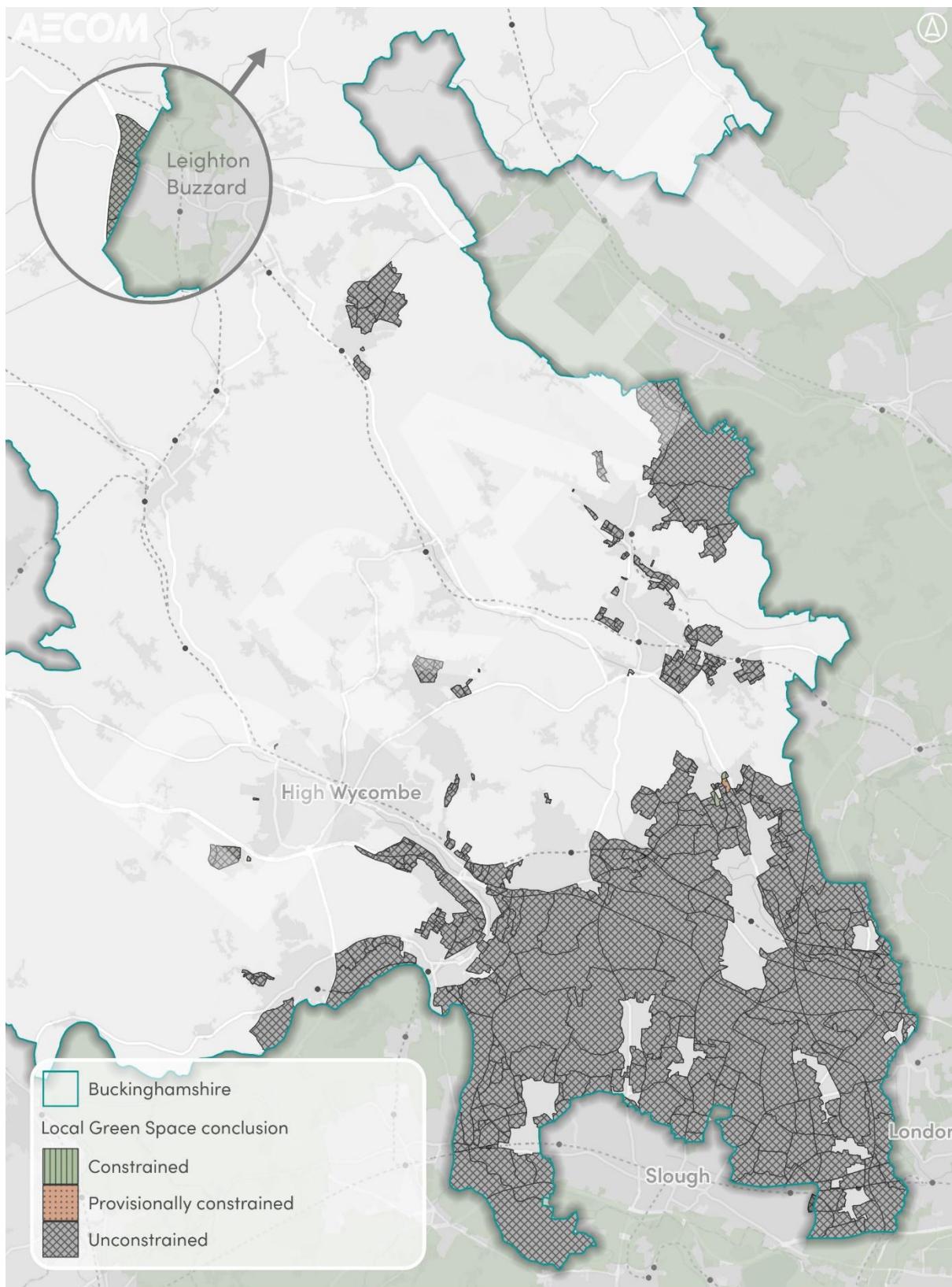
A4.13. Of the 429 AAs assessed at this stage:

- 3 AAs are **constrained** and so are ruled out at this stage of the footnote 7 assessment process as not grey belt.
- 1 AAs is **provisionally constrained** such that they are taken forward for assessment at Stage 3 but can ultimately only be 'provisional grey belt' or 'not grey belt' where a final decision must also factor in the subsequent footnote 7 assessment stages and also the purposes assessment.
- The remaining 425 AAs are **unconstrained** such that they are taken forward to Stage 3 and all three ultimate conclusions (not grey belt, provisional grey belt, grey belt) remain a possibility subject to subsequent footnote 7 assessment stages and purposes assessment.

A4.14. Detailed assessment findings for each AA are presented in Section 6 of the main report which signposts to assessment proformas in Appendices 10.

Table A4.1: Local Green Space constraint assessment findings

Conclusion	Implication for grey belt	Number of AAs
Constrained	Not grey belt	3
Provisionally constrained	Can be provisional grey belt	1
Unconstrained	Can be grey belt	425

Figure A4.1: Local Green Space constraint assessment findings

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