

# Predictive ALC Categorisation of the Green Belt Release Sites

[Blog article on the map](https://defraenvironment.blog.gov.uk/2026/04/13/unlocking-the-national-soil-map-free-and-unrestricted-access-to-england-and-wales-most-comprehensive-soil-data/)

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[Link to map](https://environment.data.gov.uk/dataset/a817d96f-271d-487b-89ad-48d271f931aa)

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## Table of Results

Site	Housing Area	Gross Site Area (Ha)	Housing	Predictive ALC	Comments
CH03	Chapelton & Ecclesfield	<b>18.06</b>		<b>Grade 2</b>	<b>BMV</b>
CH04	Chapelton & Ecclesfield	15.61		Grade 3b, NA	Not BMV
CH05	Chapelton & Ecclesfield	19.62	549	Grade 3b	Not BMV
NES36	Chapelton & Ecclesfield	16.37		Grade 3b	Not BMV
NES37	Chapelton & Ecclesfield	29.80	592	Grade 2 and 4	Mixed BMV
NES38	Chapelton & Ecclesfield	<b>6.72</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>Grade 2, 3a</b>	<b>BMV</b>
NES39	Chapelton & Ecclesfield	<b>2.10</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>Grade 2, 3b</b>	<b>BMV</b>
NWS30	Rural Upper Don Valley	<b>2.56</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>Grade 2, 3b</b>	<b>BMV</b>
NWS31	Rural Upper Don Valley	3.85	103	Grade 3b, 4	Not BMV
SES29	Handsworth, South East	<b>56.92</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>Grade 3a</b>	<b>BMV</b>
SES30	Handsworth, South East	<b>35.28</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>Grade 2, 3a</b>	<b>BMV</b>
SS19	Birley, South East	10.84	304	Grade 3b	Not BMV
SWS18	Lodge Moor, South West	9.20	258	Grade 5	Not BMV
SWS19	Dore, South West	2.61	80	Grade 4	Not BMV
		229.54	3,906		

At least 121.64 Ha is BMV (not including NES37, which is difficult to assess accurately because it contains a mix of BMV/not BMV). That is at least 53% of the proposed Green Belt release.

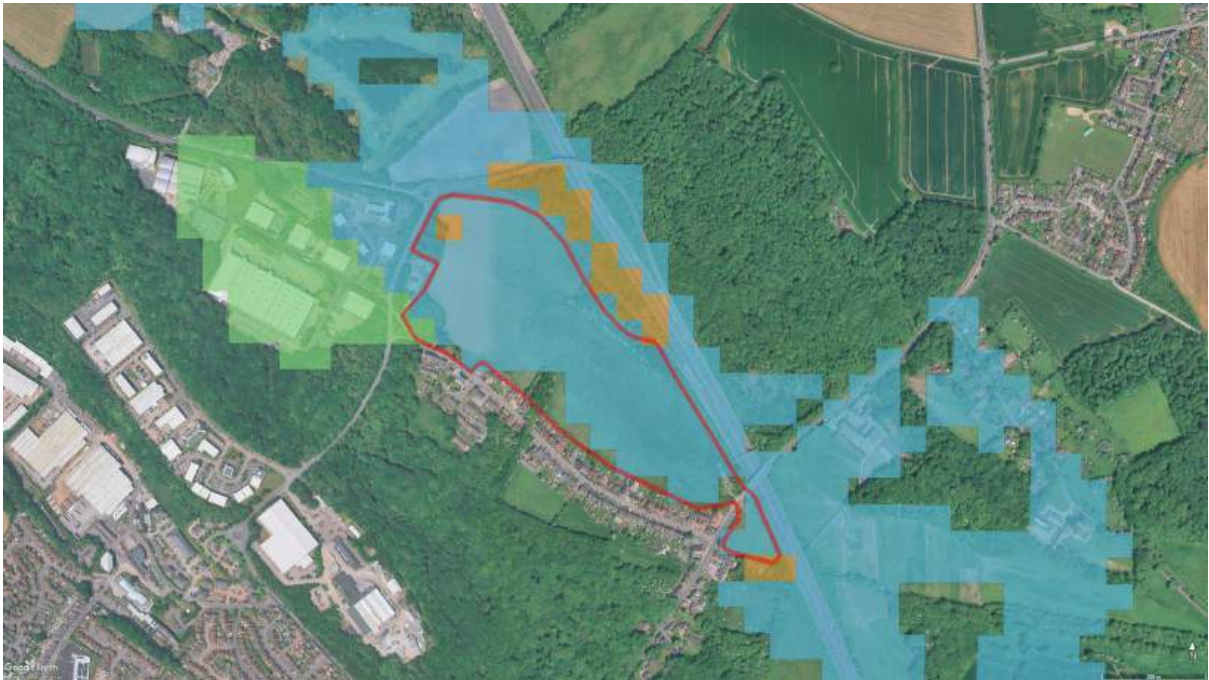
Notes on maps: For clarity, all U (uncategorized) land is not shown anywhere. Only Class 1 - NA within the red line boundary have been kept.

## Key

Colour	ALC Class	Quality	BMV
Blue/cyan	Class 2	Very good	Yes
Dark green	Class 3a	Good	Yes
Light green	Class 3b	Moderate	No
Yellow	Class 4	Poor	No
Brown	Class 5	Very poor	No
Amber	NA	Not applicable	No

**CH03 (Warren Lane)**

BMV: almost all Grade 2, with a tiny amount of 3b in the west and NA in the north west.



**CH04 (Hesley Wood)**

Not BMV: mostly NA with some Grade 3b, 4 and 5. Expected: contaminated land.



**CH05 (Strawberry Fields)**

Not BMV: almost all 3b, with a tiny amount of Grade 4 along the western boundary.



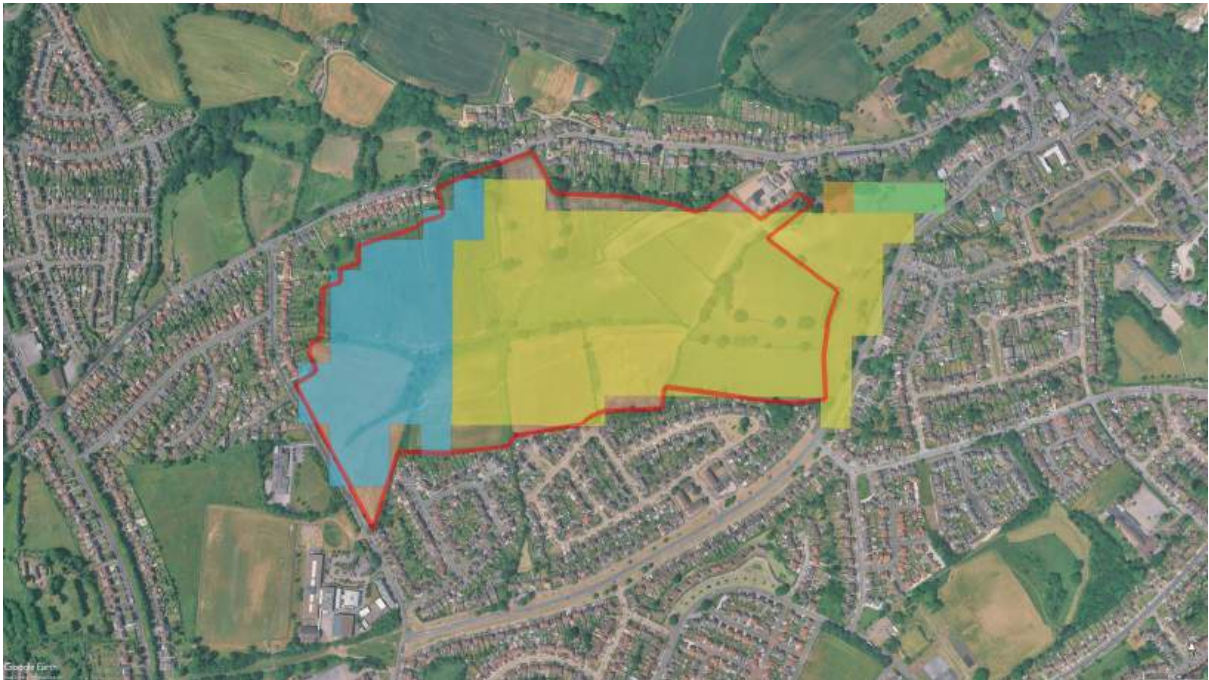
**NES36**

Not BMV: mostly Grade 3b with some NA



**NES37 (Town End Farm)**

Mixed BMV/not BMV: Grade 4, but with a significant amount of Grade 2 in the west.



**NES38 (Holme Lane Farm)**

BMV: Grade 2 and 3a.



**NES39 (Middleton Lane)**

Mostly BMV: Class 2, with some Class 3b



**NWS30 (Forge Lane)**

Mostly Class 2 with some Class 3b and NA.



**NWS31 (School Lane)**

Not BMV: mix of 3b, 4, NA with a small amount of Class 2 on the southern boundary.



**SES29 (Handsworth Hall Farm)**

BMV: mostly 3a with a small amount of 3b due to topography. Tiny amount of NA.



**SES30 (Bramley Common)**

BMV: significant Grade 2 with remainder 3a. Small amount of 3b on southern boundaries due to site topography.



**SS19 (White Lane)**

Not BMV: almost all Grade 3b with a small amount of U.



**SWS18 (Lodge Moor Lane)**

Not BMV: Grade 5 with a tiny amount of U.



**SWS19 (Parkers Lane)**

Not BMV: Grade 4 and NA.



**Ryecroft Farm (Dore)**

Not BMV: mostly Grade 4 with NA and U (not shown).

