

Urban Capacity Study (incl. Windfall Assessment)

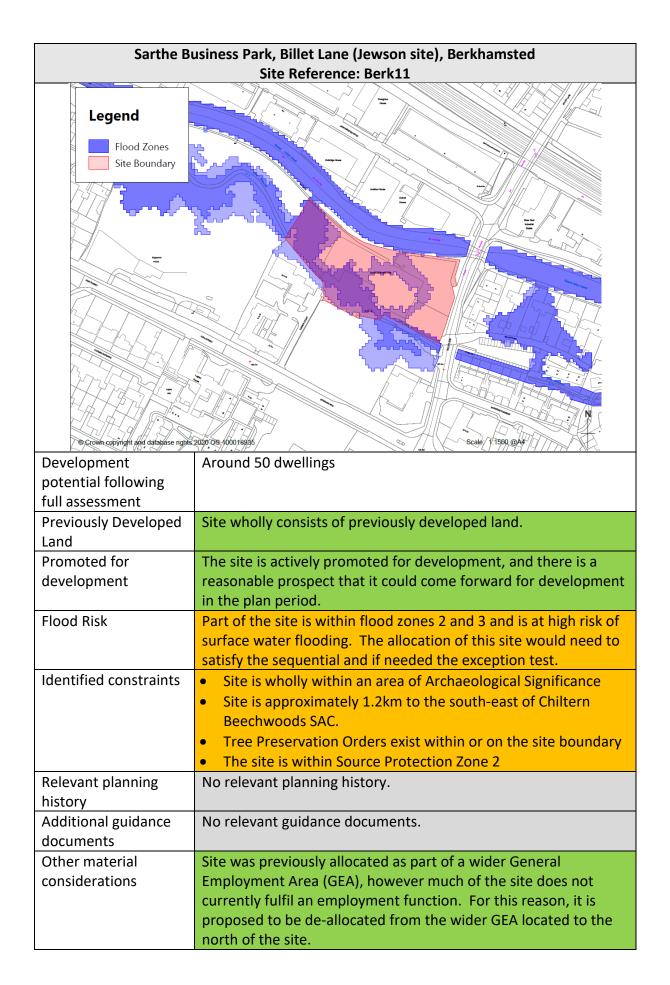
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment November 2020

APPENDIX D: Sites with the potential for allocation in the new Local Plan

Dacorum Borough Local Plan 2020-2038

Contents

Sarthe Business Park, Billet Lane (Jewson site), Berkhamsted	3
Market Square/ Bus Station, Marlowes/ Waterhouse Street, Hemel Hempstead	5
NCP Car Park, Hillfield Road. Hemel Hempstead	7
Part of existing allocation MU/1. Hemel Hempstead	9
Two Waters North/ The Plough. Hemel Hempstead	11
Two Waters East, Two Waters Road. Hemel Hempstead	13
Symbio Site, Whiteleaf Road, Hemel Hempstead	15
Site to the south of Green Lane. Hemel Hempstead	17
Lucas Aerospace Ltd, Maylands Avenue (Aviva site). Hemel Hempstead	19
Maylands Business Area (i). Hemel Hempstead	21
Maylands Business Area (ii). Hemel Hempstead	23
66 and 72 Wood Lane End, Hemel Hempstead	25
Plots 2/3 Kier Park, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead	27
Cupid Green Depot, Hemel Hempstead	29



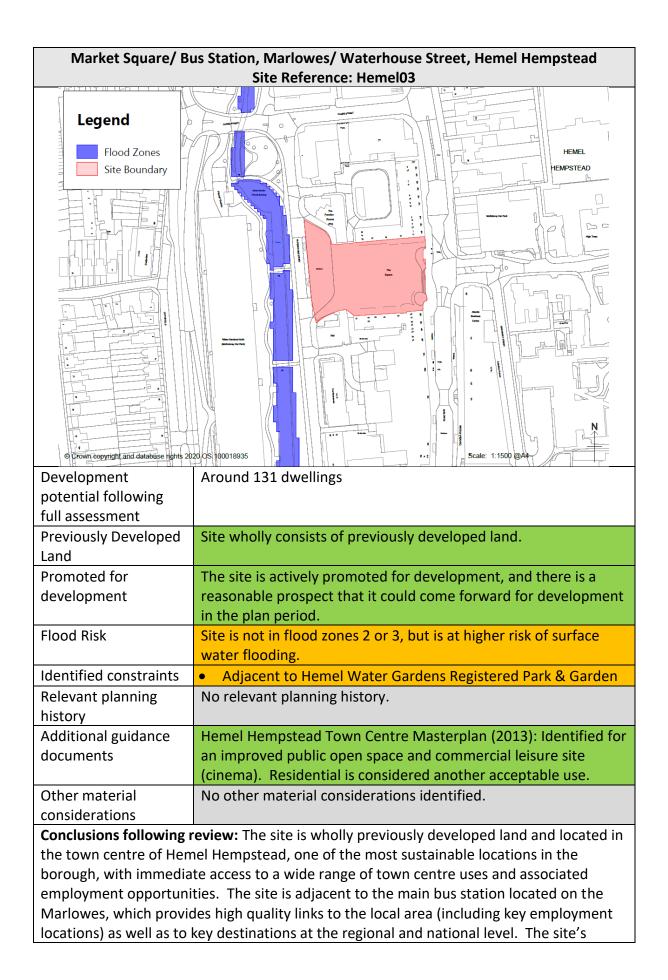
Conclusions following review: The site wholly consists of previously developed land, and well located approximately 500 metres from the edge of Berkhamsted Town Centre, and is adjacent to established employment areas in the town. It is also in close proximity to the number 500 bus that connects Berkhamsted with key towns in the area, including Aylesbury, Hemel Hempstead and Watford. It is also located next to the Grand Union Canal which is a designated wildlife site with good foot and cycle links to the train station.

The site is proposed to be de-allocated as an employment site as its main function principally relates to retail (trade counter), but it is recognised that there are also a number of smaller businesses also located on this premises. Officers understand that there is a reasonable prospect that site could become available for development in the plan period. The site is separated from the main General Employment Area to the north by the canal. The prevailing nature of land to the south of the canal (north of the A4251) is changing from its original employment function to service a wider mix of uses, including a mixed use scheme immediately to the south of the site (has planning permission), and an apartment block to the south-west.

A high risk of fluvial and surface water flooding on the site is a recognised constraint, and the allocation of the site would require it to satisfy the sequent and exceptions test to site selection. The scale of development of the site would unlikely give rise to significant effects on the nearby Chiltern Beechwoods SAC, however in-combination effects would need to be considered through the Habitats Regulations Assessment. Other identified constraints are likely to be satisfactorily addressed at a planning application stage.

Having regard to the information presented above, it is recommended that the site is subject to further evidence testing through the Local Plan, including through the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. In response to the higher risk of flooding, it is suggested that the development potential of the site is reduced to approximately 40 dwellings to enable greater flexibility to overcome this constraint.

Overall conclusion	Site is recommended as a potential allocation for around 40
	dwellings, subject to further evidence testing, including passing
	the sequential and exception tests for flood risk.



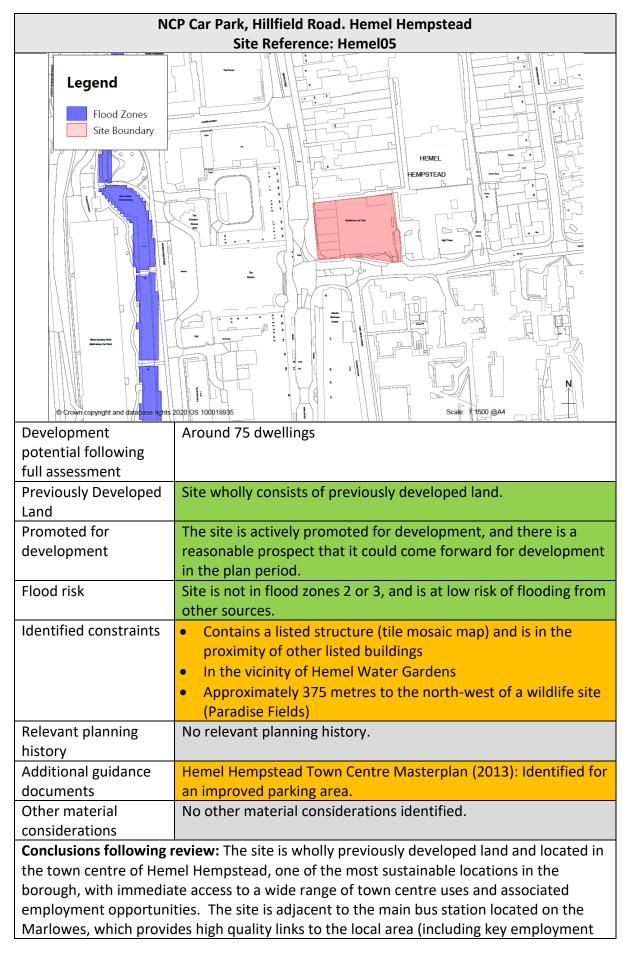
location maximises the ability for people to use the most sustainable modes of transport available.

The site's existing uses include the old market place and bus station. Through the wider regeneration of the town centre, these uses have been relocated to the south of this site, closer to the retail core of the town. As a result, the site has remained predominantly vacant since. The Hemel Hempstead Town Centre Masterplan identified the site as having potential for an improved public open space and commercial leisure uses. Such uses could be supported through some form of enabling development of this site, however it is unclear at this stage what scale of development could deliver a viable scheme.

There are a number of designated and non-designated heritage assets in the area. The Water Gardens are located immediately to the west of the site, a listed structure (mural/mosaic) is immediately to the east and the square itself may have some heritage value due to its historic use as a key feature of the original New Town. It is considered that these are not intrinsic constraints and could be complemented through a high quality scheme.

Having regard to the information presented above, it is recommended that the site is subject to further evidence testing through the Local Plan, including through the Sustainability Appraisal. For the purposes of further testing, it is considered that densities should be maximised on this site, given its highly sustainable location in Hemel Hempstead Town Centre. For this reason, it is recommended that the development potential of the site remains at around 130 dwellings, with ground floor uses reserved to for main (and other) town centre uses.

Overall conclusion	Site is recommended as a potential allocation for around 130
	dwellings, with town centre uses located at ground floor level,
	subject to further evidence testing.



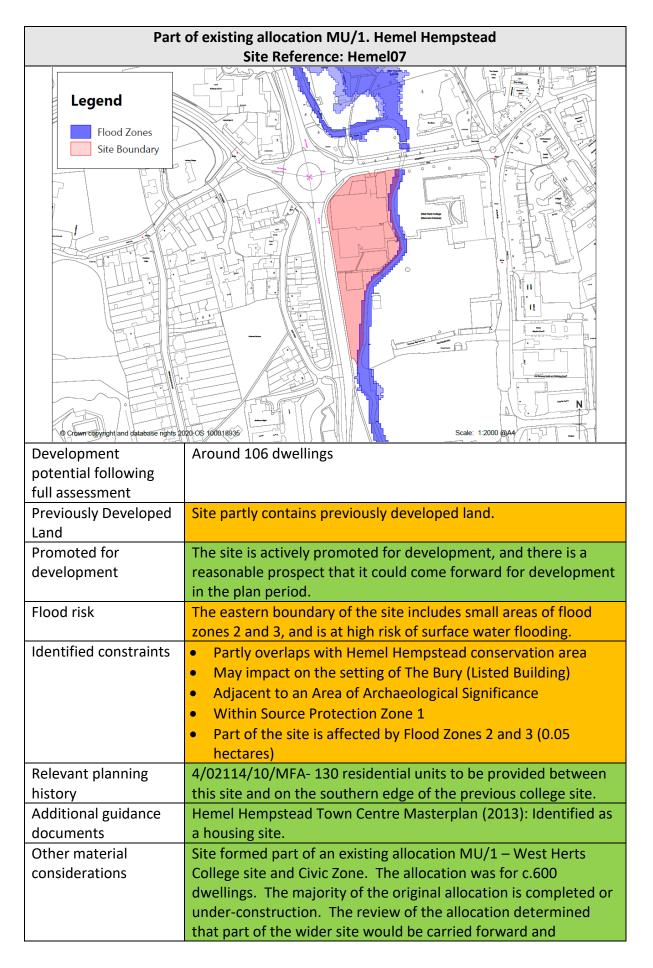
locations) as well as to key destinations at the regional and national level. The site's location maximises the ability for people to use the most sustainable modes of transport available.

The site consists of a number of existing uses. There are a number of town centre retail/office units located at ground floor level fronting onto the Marlowes. These units are serviced by a separate vehicular access on Hillfield Road. A multi-storey car park is located on upper floors with access from Hillfield Road. The car park also include a car rental business. There are a number of business uses surrounding the site, however some premises such as Hamilton House and 81A Marlowes are in the process of being converted/redeveloped for residential use. The Hemel Hempstead Town Centre Masterplan (2013) identified the site for an improved parking area as well as delivering an improved public realm in the area. The council considers that the exiting car park is underutilised at present, and with other car parks in the vicinity of the site (e.g. Water Gardens North/South, Riverside and Marlowes), there is sufficient capacity to serve future needs.

The impact of development on designated and non-designated heritage assets is a recognised constraint. The site includes a tiled mosaic map of Hemel Hempstead and the surrounding area, designed by Rowland Emmet. This is Grade II listed and any redevelopment would be expected to incorporate the structure in an equally prominent/visible location, either on site, or elsewhere in the town centre. Elsewhere, there are a number of listed buildings on the Marlowes and the site relates to the Grade II listed Water Gardens to the west. Careful consideration of these elements are needed to ensure such assets (and their setting) are conserved and where possible enhanced. It is also noted that the existing car park is not in itself a designated heritage asset, it is considered to be one of the earliest examples of a multi-storey car park in England.

Having regard to the information presented above, it is recommended that the site is subject to further evidence testing through the Local Plan, including through the Sustainability Appraisal. For the purposes of further testing, it is considered that densities should be maximised on this site, given its highly sustainable location in Hemel Hempstead Town Centre, however caution is required with respect to the site's relationship with a number of heritage assets in the area, including the mosaic map on the southern elevation of the building. Having regard to the prevailing nature of development in the area, including the tall/taller buildings to the south and east of the site, it is recommended that the development potential of the site remains is increased to c.100 dwellings, with existing uses retained at ground floor level fronting onto the Marlowes.

Overall conclusion	Site is recommended as a potential allocation for around 100
	dwellings, with town centre uses located at ground floor level,
	subject to further evidence testing.



allocated for c.200 dwellings in the new Local Plan. It recognised
that for this site, there is a lack of clarity about whether this site
will come forward for residential development, as it is unclear if
its existing education use will be retained in the longer term.

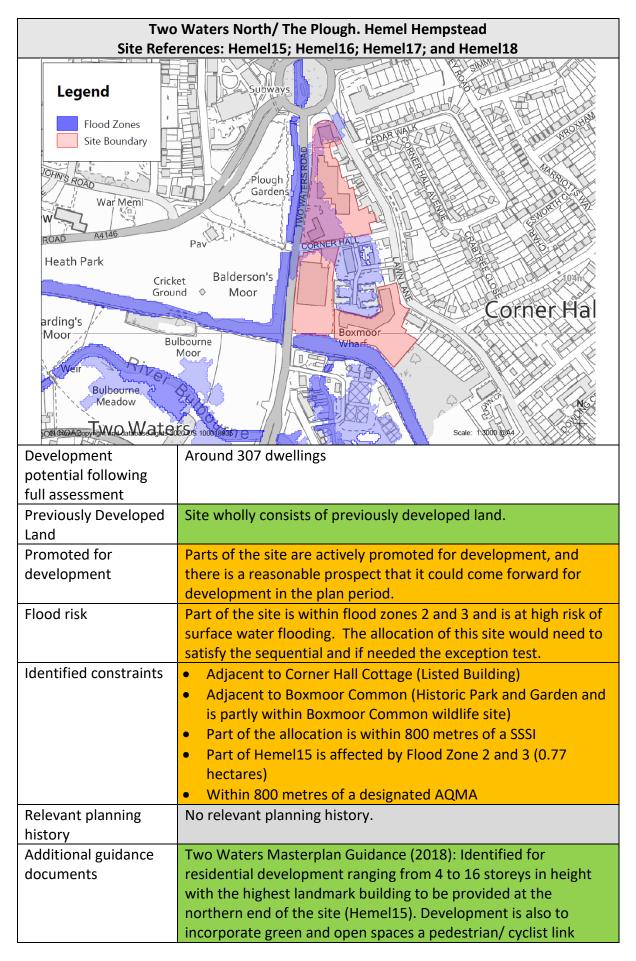
Conclusions following review: The site consists mainly of previously developed land and is located in a highly sustainable location on the edge of the designated town centre, one of the most sustainable locations in the borough, with immediate access to a wide range of town centre uses and associated employment opportunities.

The site is currently in use for education purposes associated with West Herts College, delivering the construction curriculum. Much of the wider college site has been subject to significant regeneration in recent years. Phase 1 included the delivery of the main campus building and is now complete. Phase 2 is underway and includes the delivery of additional campus buildings and facilities, alongside new residential development to the south of the main campus building.

Fluvial flood risk associated with the adjacent River Gade was a concern, however updated flood zone maps in this location result in the site now being at low risk of flooding (Flood Zone 1). A culvert bisects the site on a north-south axis, and this is considered a constraint to development, particularly when an easement is provided.

It is unclear at this stage whether there is a reasonably prospect that this site could come forward for a residential-led scheme, as it is unclear if the land is needed for the longer term needs of West Herts College, including whether it will form part of a third phase of expansion. It is understood that the position may be subject to review as Phase 2 is completed.

Overall conclusion	Site is not recommended for allocation, but may still come
	forward as a windfall site if proposals accord with relevant
	policies of the new Local Plan.



	through the development and a new pedestrian/ cyclist only bridge across the Grand Union Canal.
Other material	Hemel15 is an existing allocation (H/10 – The Point, Two Waters
considerations	Road) for 25 dwellings. The review of this allocation (see
	Appendix A) determined that the site should be included in the
	full assessment with consideration given to the overall
	development potential of this site alongside adjacent land as
	identified in the Two Waters Masterplan Guidance (2018).

Conclusions following review: The sites consist wholly of previously developed land and is located in the Two Waters Opportunity Area of Hemel Hempstead, just south of the town centre. The existing allocation of H/10 The Point (Hemel15) is included as part of this review despite its development being relatively low as a stand-alone site. This is due to the potential for a comprehensive redevelopment in this area, to which Hemel15 could play an important role as a landmark/gateway site. The site is highly sustainable, located between the town centre and the train stations, to which dedicated pedestrian/cycle access is available via the adjacent Boxmoor Common.

The site includes a number of existing uses, including a former petrol station (now in use as a car wash), car showrooms and retail warehouses (bulky goods). Some of these existing businesses are considered by the Council to not be making efficient use of the land in this location, and it is considered that there is an opportunity here to comprehensively redevelop the site as a residential led scheme alongside some employment generating uses.

There is a higher risk of fluvial and surface water flooding on the site which is a recognised constraint, and the allocation of the site would require it to satisfy the sequent test to site selection. The flood zone maps for this location were updated in the last 12 months. Some of the site was previously located in Flood Zone 3, however this is no longer the case. Parts of the site, particularly along Two Waters Road and Corner Hall are within Flood Zone 2, which principally affects Hemel15 and Hemel16, where the probability of river flooding is between 1 in 100 and 1 in 1,000 years. Residential development is classified as 'more vulnerable' development, while the majority of employment generating uses is classified as 'less vulnerable' development. In both instances the exception test is not required and such development is considered appropriate. The risk of flooding needs to be considered carefully alongside other sustainability benefits including the site's location close to services, facilities and transport hubs, as well as the overall development potential of the site.

Overall conclusion	Site is recommended as a potential allocation for around 350
	dwellings with the potential for some active uses at ground floor
	level, subject to further evidence testing, including passing the
	sequential test for flood risk.

Two Waters East, Two Waters Road. Hemel Hempstead	
Site Reference: Hemel23	
Legend Flood Zones Site Boundary	
Development	Around 77 dwellings
potential following	
full assessment	
Previously Developed Land	Site is principally greenfield in nature.
Promoted for	The site is actively promoted for development, and there is a
development	reasonable prospect that it could come forward for development
	in the plan period.
Flood risk	Site is not in flood zones 2 or 3, but is at higher risk of surface
	water flooding.
Identified constraints	May impact on the setting of The Bell Inn (Listed Building) Mithin Devree on Common (Historic Park and Corden and
	 Within Boxmoor Common (Historic Park and Garden and Wildlife Site)
	 Approximately 625 metres to the east of a SSSI
	 Tree Preservation Orders within or on the site boundary
	 Within 800 metres of a designated AQMA
Relevant planning	No relevant planning history.
history	
Additional guidance	Two Waters Masterplan Guidance (2018) - Identified as Site 3 for
documents	residential development up to 6 storeys and provide an element
	of public open space.
Other material	The Box Moor Trust applied to the Secretary of State for
considerations	Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for the site and other land
	to the east and north to be de-registered as common land. This
	is currently with the Planning Inspectorate and a decision has yet
	to be made. The proposed de-registration of this land would be

exchanged with a larger parcel of land (Dellfield - c.16 acres)
closer to the Box Moor Trust centre.

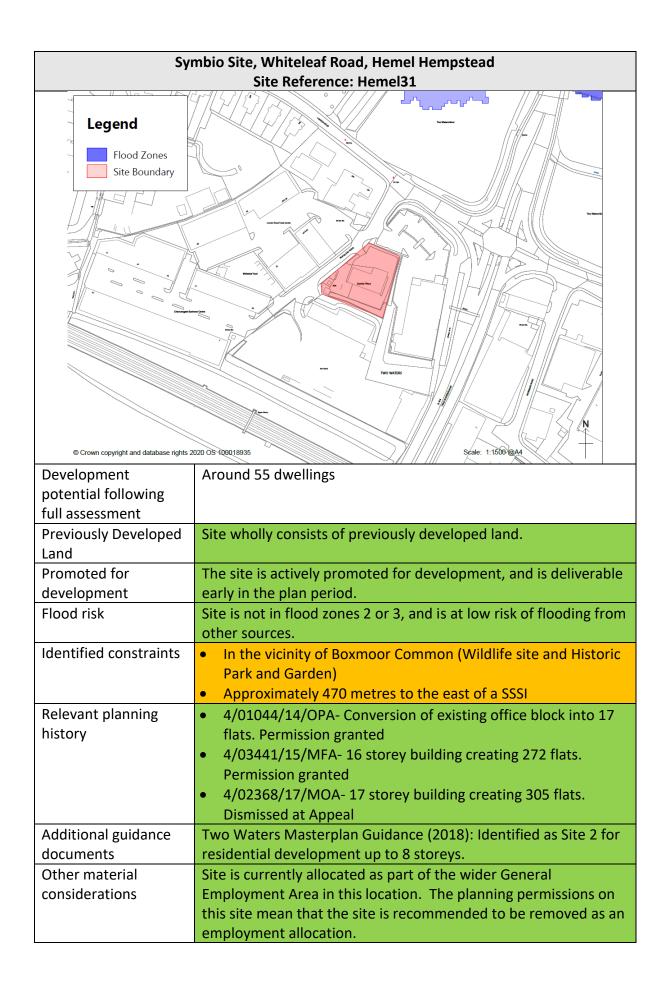
Conclusions following review: The site consists wholly of greenfield land and is located at the busy Two Waters Road / London Road Junction, in the Two Waters Opportunity Area. The site is in a highly sustainable location, within walking distance of Hemel Hempstead town centre and to nearby railway stations.

The site currently forms part of the Box Moor Common however the land was separated from the rest of the common when the A41 was built to the south of Hemel Hempstead. The Box Moor Trust is currently going through the process of de-registering the land and the decision on this is pending. The site is promoted by the Trust on the basis that its development will result in significantly greater benefits for the rest of the Common, including the designation and enhancement of a larger area of land to the south west of the town.

A slightly higher risk of surface water flooding as a result of the drain within the site, along with potential noise and air pollution are identified constraints at this stage. The comparable land immediately to the north of this site received permission for 39 apartments (currently under construction), and officers are confident that the identified constraints can be sufficiently mitigated.

Having regard the above and the prevailing nature of development in the area, officers consider that the site should be carried forward for further testing for around 60 dwellings. Officers consider this scale of development to be appropriate, given the site's location at one of the key gateways to Hemel Hempstead.

Overall conclusion	Site is recommended as a potential allocation for around 60
	dwellings, subject to further evidence testing.

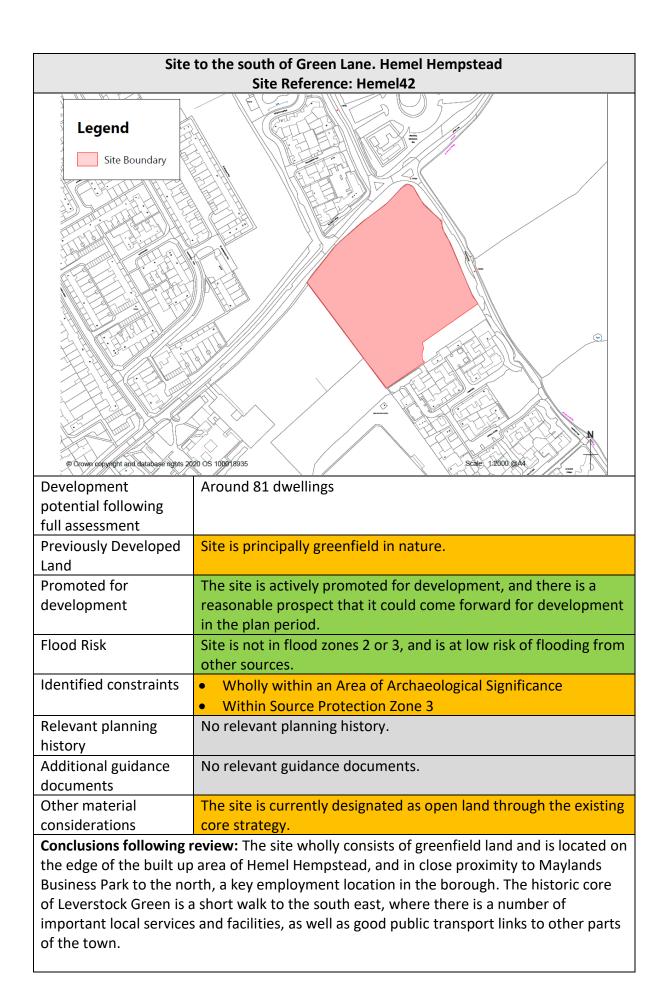


Conclusions following review: The site consists wholly of previously developed land that has been vacant for a number of years and is part demolished. It is located close to the busy Two Waters Road / London Road Junction, in the Two Waters Opportunity Area. The site is in a highly sustainable location, within walking distance of Hemel Hempstead town centre and to the nearby railway station.

Planning permission has previously been granted for 272 apartments and other ancillary uses across 16 storeys on this site, however it is understood that the permitted scheme will now not come forward due to viability issues associated with delivering an exceptionally high quality scheme. The principle of redevelopment of the site for residential use and acceptable building heights is therefore already determined.

Having regard to the above and the prevailing nature of development in this area, officers consider that the site should be carried forward for further testing. In considering an appropriate quantum of development on this site, officers are mindful of the viability issues associated with the previously permitted high density scheme. Officers consider the site should be tested for around 180 units, which still seeks to deliver a high density scheme and is more realistic a scale in terms of its deliverability. This should not preclude the potential for a larger scheme to come forward on this site.

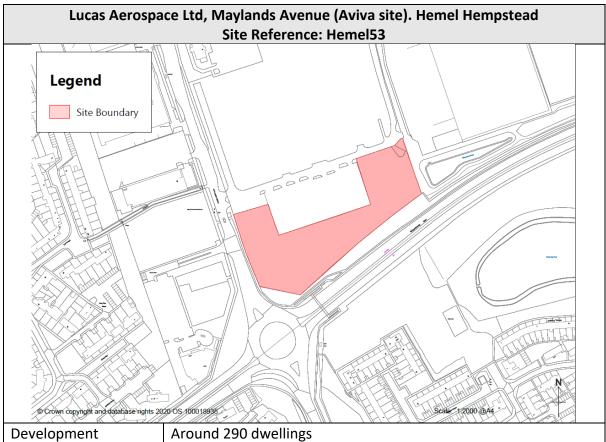
Overall conclusion	Site is recommended as a potential allocation for around 180
	dwellings, subject to further evidence testing.



Despite its current designation as open land, it currently serves limited purpose for the local and wider community and is principally in use for agricultural purposes. The land to the north and south of the site has come forward for development in recent years, and an existing allocation to the north west of the site is proposed to be retained. Land to the east of the site (same ownership) was proposed to be allocated in the emerging St. Albans City and District Local Plan, prior to it being withdrawn.

There are no significant identified constraints for this site and having regard to this and the above, officers consider that the site should be carried forward for further testing. Officers consider that the study's recommendation of 80 dwellings is an appropriate level that would make efficient use of this site, having regard to the prevailing nature of development in the area.

Overall conclusion	Site is recommended as a potential allocation for around 80
	dwellings, subject to further evidence testing.



Development	Around 290 dwellings
potential following	
full assessment	
Previously Developed	Site is principally greenfield in nature, but serves limited purpose
Land	(non-agricultural)
Promoted for	The site is actively promoted for employment development, to
development	be delivered early in the plan period.
Flood Risk	Site is not in flood zones 2 or 3, and is at low risk of flooding from
	other sources.
Identified constraints	Adjacent to an Area of Archaeological Significance
	Within Source Protection Zone 3
Relevant planning	• 4/01922/19/MFA – Redevelopment of the site to provide
history	21,726 sqm employment floorspace – Permission Granted
Additional guidance	Maylands Masterplan (2007): Identified as part of the Maylands
documents	Gateway area, principally to deliver high quality employment
	floorspace. No phasing was identified for the site.
Other material	No other material considerations identified.
considerations	

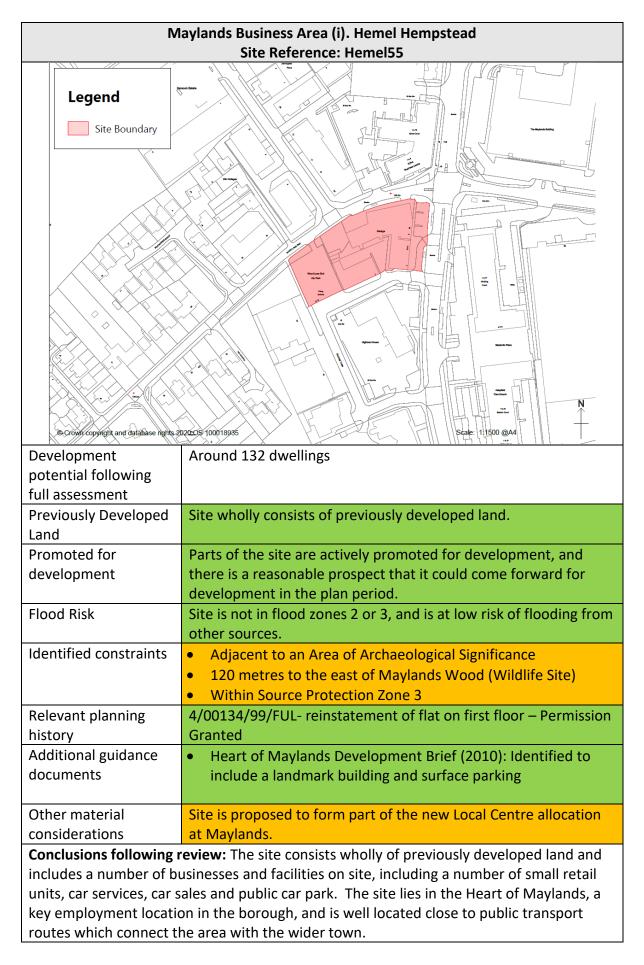
Conclusions following review: The site principally consists of greenfield land on the edge of Maylands Business Park, a key employment location in the borough. The land is currently boarded up and serves limited use at present.

The site forms part of a larger parcel of land that has received planning permission at the end of 2019 for 21,726 sqm of flexible floorspace within use classes B1c/B2/B8 (employment use). To date, no works have commenced on site, however officers

understand that there remains an intention to bring forward the permitted scheme on this site. If this is the case, then the site cannot come forward for alternative uses such as residential.

For this reason, officers consider there is no reasonable prospect at this time that the site can come forward for residential uses and therefore do not recommend that it is carried forward for further testing.

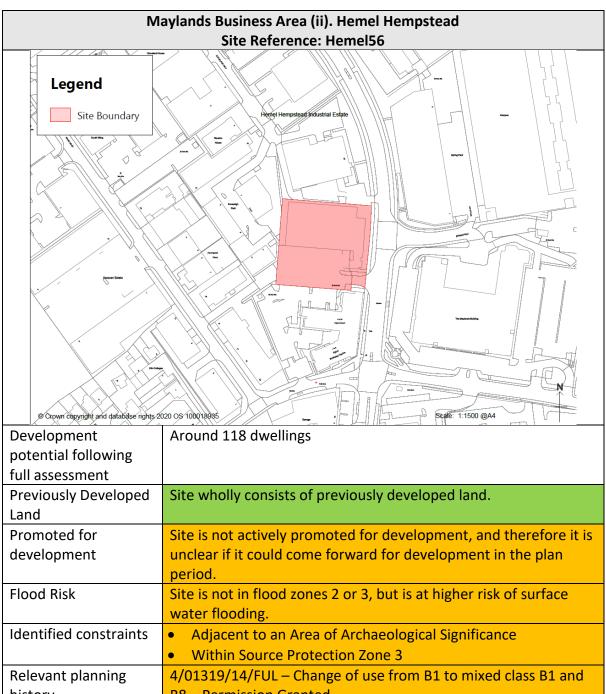
Site is not recommended for allocation, but may still come
forward as a windfall site if proposals accord with relevant
policies of the new Local Plan. It is likely that the site will come
forward for employment uses, such as the permitted data centre.



There is a strong level of business occupation across the site which reflect the prevailing nature of this part of Maylands as an important local centre, however some areas of the site such as the car park are considered to be underutilised at present. Building heights are generally no more than 2-3 storeys on site, which is lower than many recent developments in the vicinity of the site (up to 7/8 storeys to the north and east of the site), and there is a small number of residential apartments located on part of the site.

There are no other physical or policy constraints that would otherwise impact the development potential of the site. Given the reasonable prospect that many of the existing businesses located on the site can be retained, it is not recommended that the site is carried forward for further testing as a potential residential-led allocation. Officers however do consider it appropriate that the site is included within the Maylands Local Centre designation for the new Local Plan, which will give added support for the regeneration and intensification of this site, should it become available in the plan period.

Overall conclusion	Site is not recommended for a residential-led allocation, but is
	proposed to form part of the new Maylands Local Centre
	allocation, where some residential development is supported.



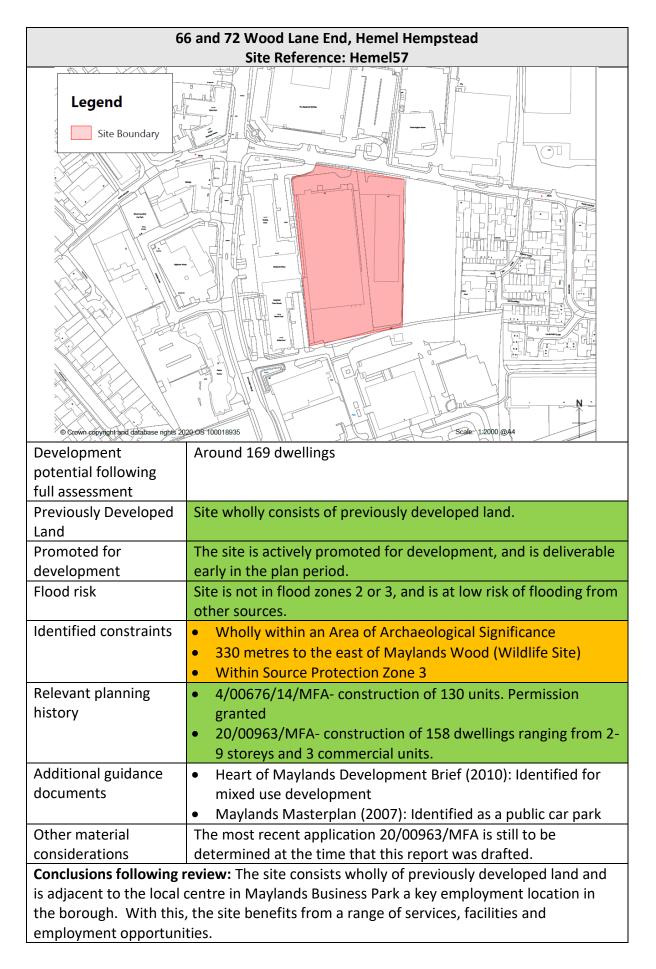
Relevant planning	4/01319/14/FUL – Change of use from B1 to mixed class B1 and
history	B8 – Permission Granted
Additional guidance	• Heart of Maylands Development Brief (2010) – Identified as
documents	part of a wider parcel of land to deliver a mixed use scheme
	including commercial/residential elements.
Other material	No other material considerations identified.
considerations	

Conclusions following review: Site consists wholly of previously developed land and is located in Maylands Business Park, a key employment location in the borough. It is well located close to public transport routes which connect the area with the wider town. The site is currently in active economic use for storage distribution and there is a reasonable prospect that this can be retained.

Land immediately to the south of the site has recently been redeveloped as a mixed use scheme incorporating residential with commercial/office space across seven storeys, in broad accordance with the Heart of Maylands Development Brief, which also identifies this site has having potential to deliver similar uses.

There are no other physical or policy constraints that would otherwise impact the development potential of the site. Given the reasonable prospect that the existing business located on the site can be retained, it is not recommended that the site is carried forward for further testing as a potential residential-led allocation.

Overall conclusion	Site is not recommended for allocation, but may still come
	forward as a windfall site if proposals accord with relevant
	policies of the new Local Plan.

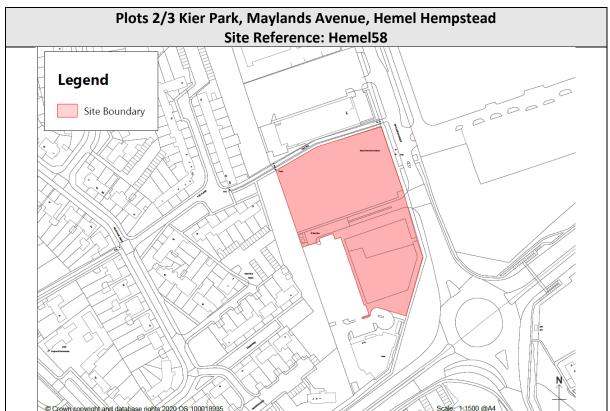


The site is designated in the Heart of Maylands Development Brief for mixed-use development. The principle of developing this site in part for residential development has also been determined through an existing application, however the most recent application (20/00963/MFA) does not include any substantial non-residential uses other than three small scale commercial uses at ground floor level. Residential development on this site would assist with delivering greater vibrancy around the local centre throughout the day (and not just working hours), maintaining its role as an emerging vibrant quarter for Hemel Hempstead.

The land immediately to the east has permission for 55 dwellings and is currently under construction. Any development would need to take account of sensitivities relating to private amenity space on that site. There no other identified constraints which are likely to significantly impact the development potential of the site.

Having regard to the information presented above, it is recommended that the site is subject to further evidence testing through the Local Plan, including through the Sustainability Appraisal. It is recommended that the development potential of the site is reduced to around 150 dwellings to take account of potential sensitivities with the new residential scheme to the east. This still seeks to optimise the use of this site, having regard to this and other constraints. Other uses which would enhance the vibrancy of the local centre in this area should also be encouraged.

Overall conclusion	Site is recommended as a potential allocation for around 150
	dwellings subject to further evidence testing.



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Development	Around 242 dwellings
potential following	
full assessment	
Previously Developed	Site wholly consists of previously developed land.
Land	
Promoted for	The site is actively promoted for development, and is deliverable
development	early in the plan period.
Flood risk	Site is not in flood zones 2 or 3, but is at higher risk of surface
	water flooding.
Identified constraints	Within Source Protection Zone 3
Relevant planning	4/02286/18/MFA - for 268 flats and 1,404 sq.m of office space.
history	Principle of development for residential/office use considered
	acceptable. Permission was refused on the grounds that the
	scheme as a whole represented overdevelopment of the site.
Additional guidance	Maylands Masterplan (2007): Identified as part of Maylands
documents	Gateway, to deliver a leisure/tourism focused area (Hotel,
	Conference centre, restaurant and bar/pub)
Other material	The refused planning application is subject to an ongoing appeal
considerations	that is yet to be determined.
Conclusions following review: The site consists wholly of previously developed land,	
albeit the site has remained as 'scrub' land for a number of years since the demolition of	
	- feathr - this address of the the NAS leads Distance Deal address

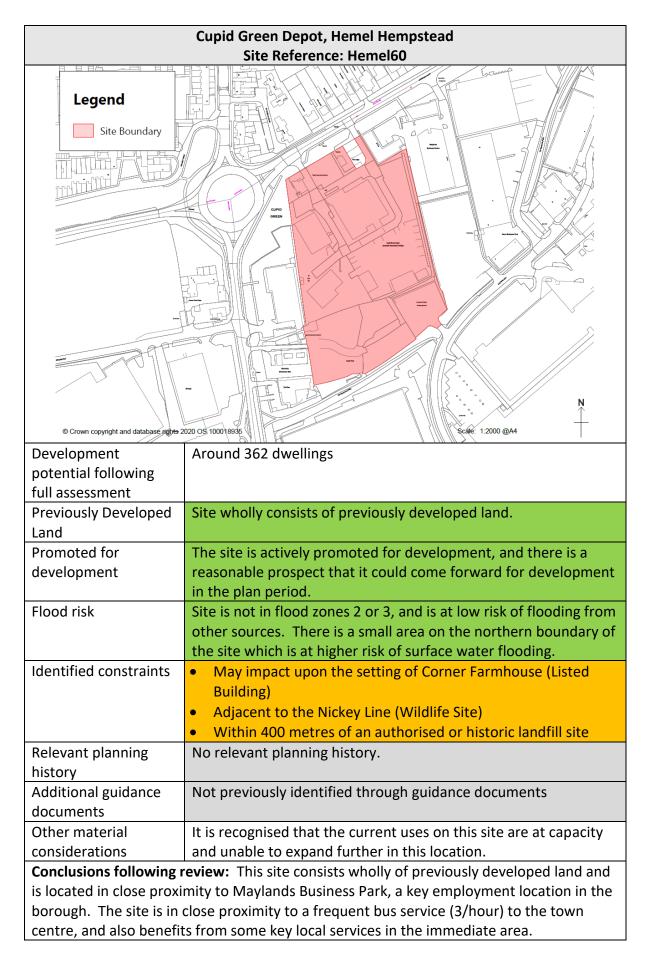
albeit the site has remained as 'scrub' land for a number of years since the demolition of the storage/distribution facility. It is adjacent to the Maylands Business Park, a key employment location in the borough, and in close proximity to the A414 and Junction 8 of the M1, and also to local bus services linking Maylands with the town centre and train station.

The site forms part of the Maylands Gateway designation identified in the Maylands Masterplan (2007). The land immediately to the south has delivered a landmark building consisting of a hotel, restaurant and fast food/take-away outlets. The west of the site is screened by a mature belt of trees, separating the site from more established residential neighbourhoods, however there is a pedestrian/cycle link along the northern boundary which does link these areas.

The recent application (4/02286/18/MFA) determined that a mixture of office space and residential development is considered acceptable on this site, however the scale of the proposal was determined to represent overdevelopment of the site. That application is subject to a current appeal which at the time of drafting this report has not been determined.

Having regard to the information presented above, it is recommended that the site is subject to further evidence testing through the Local Plan, including through the Sustainability Appraisal. It is recommended that the development potential of around 250 dwellings and equivalent levels of office space is appropriate, and optimises the use of this site, having regard to known constraints. This is a reduction in scale of approximately 20 dwelling units on what was refused planning permission.

Overall conclusion	Site is recommended as a potential allocation for around 250
	dwellings with 1,400 sq.m of office floorspace, subject to further
	evidence testing.



The site consists of a household waste and recycling centre which serves the local community, as well as a car breaker. The waste and recycling centre are at capacity with no potential to expand further in this location. In line with planned future growth at Hemel Hempstead and the surrounding area it is expected that a new, larger centre will need to be delivered during the plan period and work is underway to identify a suitable new location for this. As a result, there is a reasonable prospect that the site will become available for development later in the plan period. The relocation and subsequent expansion of these facilities should not result in an overall loss of employment as a result of development of this site. It is likely that any expanded facilities will give rise to further employment opportunities than with what exists on this site.

The existing uses on this site are likely to give rise to the potential for ground contamination, however it is expected that this can be appropriately mitigated. Equally, there are no other identified constraints which are unlikely to be satisfactorily addressed as part of a future planning application.

Having regard to the information presented above, it is recommended that the site is subject to further evidence testing through the Local Plan, including through the Sustainability Appraisal. It is recommended that the development potential of 360 optimises the use of this site, having regard to known constraints.

Overall conclusion	Site is recommended as a potential allocation for around 360
	dwellings, subject to further evidence testing.