



I wish to object to the conclusions of the Urban Greenspace Review (February 2026) .

The Review attempts to undermine the adopted Urban Greenspace designation by retrospectively redefining how Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace should be calculated. However, the methodology excluding most Green Belt land was established through the Council's evidence base and carried forward into the adopted 2019 Local Plan. A consultant's disagreement with that approach does not displace the statutory development plan.

The report assumes that Green Belt land automatically functions as accessible urban greenspace. This conflates openness with recreational provision. Much of the Green Belt identified has limited or no public access and serves a separate policy purpose — preventing urban sprawl — rather than meeting neighbourhood open space needs. Proximity or visibility does not equate to usability.

Crucially, the site itself was previously identified as a strategically important green wedge contributing to semi-rural character and openness within a densely developed area. The Review does not meaningfully rebut this qualitative function and instead downplays the site as “rough grassland,” which is inconsistent with its formal designation.

Policy LP61 requires not only consideration of quantitative deficiency but also whether the site makes an important contribution to visual amenity, landscape or biodiversity value. The Review focuses heavily on ward-level hectare calculations while providing no robust ecological reassessment and relying on separate documents to minimise landscape impact.

The suggestion that only 1.25 hectares would be “lost” is also misleading. Replacing natural and semi-natural greenspace with managed estate open space alters character and ecological function and still constitutes permanent loss of designated Urban Greenspace.

In summary, the Urban Greenspace Review seeks to reopen settled policy methodology rather than demonstrate compliance with LP61. It should therefore be afforded limited weight in the planning balance.