

**HARROW'S
GREEN BELT
MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
*2006-2011***

HARROW'S GREEN BELT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	5
1.0 INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Harrow's Green Belt	5
1.2 Green Belt Management Strategy	6
2.0 CONTEXT AND KEY ISSUES	8
2.1 Current Uses and Management Arrangements	8
2.2 Demography of Harrow	9
2.3 Policy Context	10
2.4 Historical Overview	13
2.5 Character Assessment	14
2.6 Biodiversity Assessment	15
2.7 Agricultural	18
2.8 Hydrology	19
2.9 Recreation And Tourism	20
2.10 Transport	20
2.11 Consultation Findings	21
3.0 STRATEGY AND MANAGEMENT	23
3.1 Green Belt Vision	23
3.2 Strategic Objectives and Actions	23
4.0 GREEN BELT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY SCHEDULE	26
OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES OF THE GREEN BELT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	27
GREEN SPACES POLICY	28
INFORMAL RECREATION PROVISION	29
FORMAL RECREATION PROVISION	32
VISITOR AND INTERPRETATION FACILITIES	32
VISITOR AND INTERPRETATION FACILITIES	33

CULTURAL HERITAGE	35
CONSERVING AND ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY	36
CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE CHARACTER	36
CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE CHARACTER	37
AGRICULTURE	37
WATER ENVIRONMENT	38
BURIAL SPACE	38
APPENDIX A- MAP OF GREENBELT	39
APPENDIX B - MANAGEMENT TYPE AND OWNERSHIP WITHIN HARROW'S GREEN BELT	40
APPENDIX C – LANDSCAPE TYPES AND ENVIRONMENT FEATURES WITHIN THE GREEN BELT	43

HARROW'S GREEN BELT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Harrow's Green Belt

Green Belts are one of the most effective tools we have for protecting the local environment. They have helped to stop cities from sprawling into the countryside and merging into each other. Green Belt also encourages urban renewal and provides opportunities for recreation, sports, education, food production, provision of wildlife habitats, contributes to flood alleviation and pollution control and the protection of biodiversity. The Green Belt provides links to the wider countryside, a gathering ground for water supplies, and a 'green lung', which contributes to improved air quality and helps to combat climate change. The green belt also acts as a wildlife corridor, which enables species to move to and from sites, and can act as a link between habitats so they do not become isolated.

Harrow's Green Belt covers around 6.84 square miles (11 square kilometres or 1088 hectares), equivalent to eight Hyde Parks and about one fifth of the Borough's total area. Harrow Council owns 540 hectares out of the 1088 hectares. This total includes Harrow Weald Common. Located at the northern end of the Borough, the Green Belt provides an important topographical landmark on the outer edge of the London Basin, with the ridge providing views to and from the Surrey Hills and the North Downs. The Green Belt area is bordered by Harrow's urban area to the South, Hertfordshire to the North West, Hillingdon to the West, and Barnet to the North East. **(Appendix A)**

As with many areas at London's urban fringe, Harrow's Green Belt has and continues to face a variety of pressures. These include: redevelopment of 'major developed sites'; road and rail development; the legacy of mineral extraction and waste disposal; agricultural decline; and incremental development and land use change. This strategy proposes to assert the importance of the Green Belt to Harrow and ensure the future protection of this unique resource.

1.2 Green Belt Management Strategy

The first Green Belt Management Strategy for the London Borough of Harrow was produced in 1988. This document highlighted the council's priorities for management of the Green Belt. Its overall aim was *"To provide for proper management of land in the Green Belt, to protect, maintain and enhance wildlife and habitats, and the landscape and historical features, to have regard to the need of agriculture in sympathy with nature conservation."*

In 2004 Harrow Council commissioned Land Use Consultants to undertake a study, which enabled Harrow's Green Belt Management Strategy (GBMS) to be updated and expanded.

The production of the strategy involved researching a number of topics applicable to the Green Belt. This took the form of surveys, in the case of character and ecology assessments, and background research, in the case of history and policy context of the Green Belt. A three-stage consultation process was adopted to engage with the local community. The first stage involved a questionnaire, which gathered further information on the Green Belt and find out what the public's aspirations are for the area. The second stage used two public exhibitions to inform the residents of Harrow about the benefits of their Green Belt, to obtain feedback on options for its future management, and to gain the wider public's opinions on draft management proposals

and improvements. The final stage involved both focus groups with three key stakeholder organisations (Harrow Heritage Trust, Harrow's Nature Conservation Forum and Agenda 21) and a consultation form on the draft Green Belt Management Strategy.

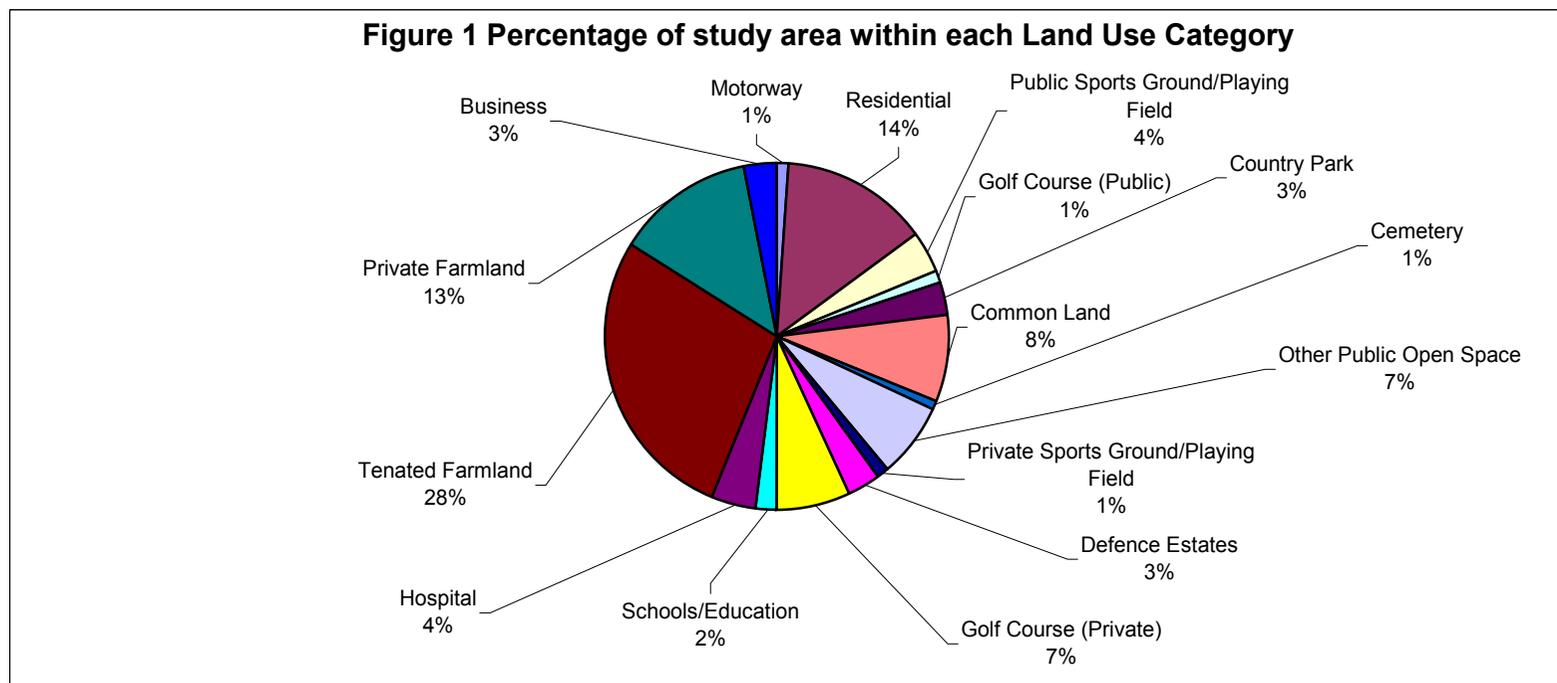
The aims of the Green Belt Management Strategy are to:

- Provide a framework to guide Harrow's future decisions on the protection and management of the green belt area
- Help cater for the recreational needs of Harrow's residents and visitors
- Make Harrow a more attractive place in which to live and work, and for visitors and wildlife.

2.0 CONTEXT AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 Current Uses and Management Arrangements

Harrow's Green Belt provides a diverse span of uses for a range of individuals and communities. The below pie chart illustrates the percentage split of land to each type of use.



Appendix B provides a breakdown of the management types and ownership within the Green Belt

Agriculture represents the most common land use in the study area covering 41%, two-thirds (28%) of which is tenanted land owned by the council. The second most common use is residential, covering 14% of the study area. This encompasses both

historic residential areas, which were in existence prior to the designation of the Green Belt land and more recent housing developments that have achieved planning permission through the 'footprint' development policy. Residential areas tend to be located on the Green Belt boundary adjacent to the surrounding urban area. The remaining areas of the Green Belt include open space, playing fields, cemeteries etc

2.2 Demography of Harrow

Harrow's population has been steadily growing since the mid-1990's. The population grew by approximately 5,000 in twelve months between 2001 and 2002, and projections suggest that the population will continue to rise steadily, reaching 213,852 by 2006, 218,540 by 2011 and 219,367 by 2016. The number of households in the Borough is also predicted to rise accordingly and is estimated to grow to 82,096 by 2006, 85,031 by 2011 and 86,398 by 2016.

This projected population growth will place a strain on the existing amenities and open space offered by the Green Belt if actions are not put in place to prevent this.

Forty one percent of the borough is made up of black and ethnic minority groups. Residents in this ethnic grouping are spread across the Borough, with higher levels in south east and south west Harrow, and low levels in the north of the Borough. There are high levels of white residents in the north of the borough, particularly in Pinner, Harrow Weald and Stanmore Park. The future management of the Green Belt needs to ensure that the provision of facilities and amenities are inclusive for all residents and visitors of Harrow.

2.3 Policy Context

Green Belt is the most well-known and widely supported planning policy in the United Kingdom. Current central government advice on green belts is covered in PPG Note 2, which sets out five principal aims:

- *To check the unrestricted sprawl of large built up areas*
- *To prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another*
- *To preserve the setting and special character of historic towns*
- *To assist in safe guarding the countryside from encroachment*
- *To assist in the urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict land and other urban land*

In addition to the formal purposes of Green Belts, PPG 2 indicates that land designated as Green Belt also has a role to play in meeting a number of positive objectives:

- *Providing opportunities for access to the open countryside for the urban population*
- *Providing opportunities for outdoor sport and outdoor recreation near urban areas*
- *Retaining attractive landscapes, and enhancing landscapes, near to where people live*
- *Improving damaged and derelict land around towns*
- *Securing nature conservation interest*
- *Retaining land in agricultural, forestry and related use*

The main point of the national policy guidelines is to permit no new developments except for certain specific purposes, such as agriculture and forestry, essential facilities for outdoor sport and recreation, cemeteries and other uses that preserve the openness of the landscape. The policy documents highlight that it is the openness of the Green Belt that is its most important aspect. Therefore this aspect needs to be protected to ensure future Green Belt provision.

PPG9 – Nature Conservation Guideline sets out the Government’s objectives for nature conservation, including the need to ‘ensure policies contribute to the conservation and abundance and diversity of British wildlife and its habitats’.

Both the London Plan and the Harrow Unitary Development Plan (UDP) reiterate PPG 2 and PPG 9’s policies. The London Plan emphasises the potential of London’s countryside to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation, which in turn may enhance a general appreciation of the natural environment. It also states that the Green Belt provides Londoners with a variety of benefits including protection and promotion of biodiversity. The Harrow UDP supports regional and national objectives to maintain the character and rural nature of the countryside, with particular priority given to ‘Areas of Special Character’, a designation which covers most of Harrow’s Greenbelt. The objectives of Harrow’s UDP are:

- *To resist loss or damage to features which contribute to the Area of Special Character*
- *To preserve architectural and historic features within the area*
- *To protect skylines and views from intrusive development*
- *To ensure redevelopment preserve or improve the character of the area*

In addition to various strategic documents, Harrow Council has produced a number of local strategic documents, which aim to provide a higher-level approach to community development in the borough. Current strategies include Harrow’s corporate priorities, the Harrow Community Strategy (2004), the Harrow Cultural Strategy (2003-2008), Tourism Strategy (2005) and the Interim Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy.

The Green Belt Management Strategy helps to achieve the following six corporate priorities:

- *Strengthening Harrow’s communities*
- *Putting Harrow on the map*
- *Valuing Harrow’s customers*

- *Impacting through Harrow's partnerships*
- *Harrow – a true learning community*
- *A more business like organisation*

The Green Belt Management Strategy will also help towards meeting the council's commitment to enhancing biodiversity within the borough.

The Harrow Cultural Strategy (2003 – 2008) was developed by the Harrow Partnership and Harrow Council and promotes leisure facilities in parks and art in public places. These initiatives are relevant to the Green Belt Management Strategy.

The overall objectives of the strategy are to:

- *Help improve the quality of life*
- *Promote the conditions for a culturally inclusive Harrow*
- *Stimulate the cultural economy and its contribution to making Harrow a vibrant and exciting place*
- *Promote Harrow's cultural assets – people, buildings, spaces and achievements*

The Green Belt Management Strategy can help meet a number of the objectives of all five documents by improving education, improving open spaces, protecting biodiversity and promoting ecologically-friendly policies, promoting Harrow's cultural assets and improving the accessibility of Harrow's recreation resource, which in turn aids the general health and well-being of the borough.

2.4 Historical Overview

Harrow's green belt contains a wealth of heritage interest. The Historic Environment Designations in Harrow include.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments	▪ Grims Ditch: section extending 1370m north east from Oxhey Lane
	▪ Grim's Ditch: four linear sections between Uxbridge Road and Oxhey Lane
	▪ Linear earthworks in Pear Wood, west of Watling Street
	▪ 18 th century obelisk commemorating Cassivellaunus, at Brokley Hill
	▪ Brockley Hill Romano – British pottery and settlement
	▪ Pinner Hill ice house, 70m north east of Pinner Hill Golf Clubhouse
	▪ Pinner deer park, Pinner Park Farm
Conservation Areas	▪ Pinner Hill Estate Conservation Area
	▪ Little Common Conservation Area
	▪ Brookshill Drive and Grimsdyke Conservation Area
	▪ Pinnerwood Conservation Area
	▪ West Drive Conservation Area
English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest	▪ Bentley Priory – Grade II registered landscape
	▪ Grim's Dyke – Grade II registered gardens and pleasure grounds

The influence of human history upon the built and natural environment, and landscape of the study area, provides opportunities for management and interpretation of these heritage features.

** The largest oak in Middlesex exists within Bentley Priory

2.5 Character Assessment

Key features and sites, which help to contribute to the character of Harrow's Green Belt have been identified. Six types of environment features are outlined:

- Wooded Ridges with Commons
- Developed Ridges
- Wooded Slopes
- Farmed Slopes
- Private Residential Estates
- Developed Slopes

A list of the key sites under the above environment features are located in **Appendix C**

It is important to identify the distinct environments of the green belt to ensure future management is sympathetic to their unique features.

Physical influences in Harrow's green belt include:

- The geology of the area is London Clay
- The natural topography of the green belt is undulating valley landscape
- The green belt is heavily wooded and where open fields occur these are largely bordered by mature hedgerows

The human influence on the study area includes:

- *Saxon earthworks such as Grim's Dyke*
- *Coppiced and pollarded woodlands*
- *Hedgerow boundaries introduced with the Enclosure Act*
- *Modern transport corridors cut across the site*
- *Recent development, such as Harrow Weald. This has introduced a suburban feel to some parts of the Green Belt.*

Future management plans need to take account of the distinct features of each site to ensure the character is preserved. An example is Stanmore Wooded Slopes, which is characterised by deciduous woodland blocks and belts, as well as more open areas of grassland with tree clumps and copses. Although this area represents the Wooded Slopes type, features such the golf course, trimmed beech hedgerows, urban style fencing and built new residential development, detract from the character of this area

2.6 Biodiversity Assessment

As a result of the Earth Summit in 1992, the Government published a Biodiversity Action Plan in January 1994, aiming to conserve and enhance biodiversity within the United Kingdom. In 1995 Biodiversity: The UK Steering Group Report was published (UKBAP), including action plans for 38 key habitats and 402 of our most threatened species.

The semi-natural habitats within the Green Belt are described in a number of publications. The London Ecology's Unit's Ecology Handbook 13 provides an overview of the Borough's natural heritage, and provides general descriptions of flora and fauna for the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Site's of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCl's).

Key areas of biodiversity importance in Harrow's Green Belt include:

*** (OP = Open to the Public)*

▪ **Sites of Special Scientific Interest**

- Bentley Priory Open Space Site of Special Scientific Interest **(OP)*

▪ **Other Sites of Special Scientific Interest**

- Harrow Weald – Geological - (de-notified from SSSIs in 1987) - *(OP)*
- Stanmore Common – Biological - (de-notified from SSSIs in early 1990s) - *(OP)*
- Harrow Weald Common – Biological - (de-notified from SSSIs in early 1990s) – *(OP)*

▪ **Sites of Nature Conservation Importance**

- Bentley Priory Open Space *(OP)*
- Clamp Hill Brickfields
- Harrow Weald Common *(OP)*
- Harrow Weald Park and the Hermitage
- Oxhey Lane Fields and Railway Cutting
- Pear Wood and Stanmore Country Park *(OP)*
- Pinner Park Farm
- Pinnerwood Park and Ponds
- Stanmore and Little Commons and Hospital
- The Cedars Open Space

▪ **Ancient Woodland**

- Herriots Wood
- The Grove
- Pear Wood (North)
- Pear Wood (South)
- Stanmore Country Park *(OP)*
- Weald Wood
- Pinner Wood
- Cloisters Wood

- **Bentley Priory Open Space SSSI condition**- At present based on the English Nature's classification sections of this SSSI is in an unfavourable condition. The main reason for this is the under-grazing of the grassland habitat. It is the council's responsibility, under the CROW Act 2000, to bring the site up to 95% favourable condition by 2010.

- **UKBAP Priority Habitats** - Unimproved acid grassland (including scrub with unimproved acid grassland/heathland) is identified as a priority habitat on the UKBAP under the category "lowland dry acid grassland". In addition some stands of unimproved acid grassland/heathland are likely to be encompassed within the "lowland heathland" priority habitat category. Lowland wood-pasture and parkland are also present, e.g. Bentley Priory, and small beech dominated stands in a number of the woodlands would fall within the "lowland beech and yew woodland" category.

- **Ancient Woodland** - Ancient Woodland is distinguished from secondary woodland by its continuous presence on an area of land since or prior to 1600. The Green Belt contains eight sites of ancient woodland. These need to be brought into good woodland management to maintain their biodiversity. Both Cloisters Wood and Pear Wood require particular attention.

- **Grassland and Heathland Habitats** - All unimproved and semi-improved grassland habitats should be conserved and enhanced. Where possible their habitats should be extended and appropriate management will be required.

- **Hedgerows** - The hedgerows on the Harrow Green Belt are slowly deteriorating and becoming gappy as traditional methods of management disappear. Many of the hedgerows will require conserving, restocking and managing in order to protect their ecological benefits as habitats and wildlife corridors, using native species

- **Harrow Biodiversity Action Plan**- The London Borough of Harrow does not have a Biodiversity Action Plan. Without it the Borough's most important species are under threat from both direct and indirect impacts and risk being lost altogether. A Biodiversity Action Plan for Harrow needs to be produced to ensure the future biodiversity of Harrow's open spaces.

It is also important to recognise the nature conservation value or potential of ancillary green space within the Green Belt (around the built environment) or green space associated with brownfield land. These sites also provide key habitats for Harrow's wildlife.

2.7 Agricultural

As the dominant land use in the Green Belt, the agricultural holdings have an important role to play in the area's future of the Green Belt. This strategy concentrates on the council owned farms, all of which are pastoral in nature, most of which are solely used as hay pasture.

Key agricultural issues that require consideration are:

- Farms in the Green Belt have potential to benefit from the Single Farm Payment scheme, providing that land is agriculturally and environmentally maintained to a good quality. They could also benefit economically and ecologically from environmental stewardship schemes.
- Actions proposed for agricultural holdings in the Green Belt ideally should reflect those suggested in DEFRA's Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food. Consideration should also be given to the role of Harrow's farmland within the London Food Strategy.
- Any suggested action should reflect the Harrow Unitary Development Plan of protecting existing farmland as a means of maintaining the rural character of the area.

- The agricultural quality of the land within the Green Belt is low, and where graded, is Grade 3b. This limits the lands suitability for most agricultural uses, particularly arable and intensive grazing.
- The area has a history of 'horsiculture' and equine land uses remain one of the most viable futures for the farmland. Nature Conservation could also be a primary function of the land where the environmental stewardship scheme could be promoted as a major vehicle for biodiversity enhancement in the borough.

2.8 Hydrology

London's waterways act as an important medium for plants and animals. The London Plan stipulates that the borough should, protect and enhance the biodiversity of the Blue Ribbon Network in a number of ways, including resisting development that results in a net loss of biodiversity.

Harrow's Green Belt falls within two catchment areas, the Colne and the North London Catchments. The substrate of the area is largely London Clay, overlaid by more permeable brown soils. As such the area is slow draining and easily waterlogged during the wetter months. The River Pinn is the largest river, but several other streams begin in the area. There are also several areas of standing water, the largest being Summerhouse Lake in Bentley Priory Open Space. The Green Belt provides three key natural functions.

- A gathering ground for water
- Slowing run off and the speed of rivers
- Adding ecological value

2.9 Recreation And Tourism

The Green Belt provides opportunities for both formal and informal recreation. Golf courses, sports grounds and horse riding make up the formal recreational provision, whereas informal recreation includes walking, cycling etc. These activities usually rely on public open space and well kept rights of way.

The Interim Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy identifies a lack of signage along public rights of way amenities such as toilets. There is also a need to formalise current pathways as public right of ways to ensure protection against loss.

The Green Belt is recognised within the Harrow Tourism Strategy as a tourism destination. Important tourism sites within the Green Belt includes Grim's Dyke Hotel the nearby Old Redding Viewpoint, potentially the RAF in Bentley Priory, section 15 of the London Loop, Pinn Walk and the National Cycle Network. Harrow's long legacy of famous residents, architecture and individual village areas, offers further potential to promote interesting walking routes by combining heritage with walking. Limited awareness of Harrow's Green Belt combined with inadequate provision of toilets, information sites and inappropriate management of potential attractions are to blame for perceived low levels of tourism. It is important to carry out an impact assessment on any new initiatives that aim to increase the visitors to the Green Belt. This is to ensure infrastructure, which is in place, is able to cope with the added demand and also to minimise impact on the character and biodiversity of the land.

2.10 Transport

A number of roads as well as one railway line cross the Harrow Green Belt. These provide several transport options for reaching the Green Belt. Many of the bus routes to the study area run every 20 or 30 minutes, but can be less frequent at weekends. There are also several cycle routes through the study area, although these seem to be limited to the western and central parts.

The Green Belt is also within walking distance from Stanmore underground station and Headstone Lane and Hatch End railway stations.

2.11 Consultation Findings

The consultation involved a three-stage process involving questionnaires, exhibitions, focus groups and consultation forms. The questionnaires were sent to key groups involved in the Green Belt. The 'Quality of Life' method was used to identify the key features or 'benefits' of the study area, and then explored people's views on the benefits in terms of importance, quantity and quality.

The exhibitions aimed to inform the residents of Harrow about the benefits of their Green Belt, to obtain feedback on options for its future management, and to gain the wider public's opinions on draft management proposals and improvements.

In August 2005 a consultation form was distributed across the borough to key stakeholders (including the Green Belt volunteer wardens), residents associations, Councillors and was available at Harrow's eleven libraries and on the Council's website. Three focus groups were also held with members of the Harrow Nature Conservation Forum, Agenda 21 and the Harrow Heritage Trust and one to one interviews were undertaken with youth.

The consultation process identified a number of important considerations with respect to the future management of the Green Belt. These are listed below:

- Conserving and enhancing the character of the green belt, promoting the Green Belt to be used for informal recreation, conserving and enhancing biodiversity and supporting the Green Belt Policy were perceived to be the most important strategic objectives of the Green Belt.

- There needs to be closer working relationships with the adjoining boroughs to encourage a consistent approach
- The potential conflict between visitor access and biodiversity value / open character of the area needs to be considered.
- There needs to be more emphasis on linking with schools to provide education on the benefits of the Green Belt and also awareness and knowledge of the importance of maintaining the Green Belt
- Sustainable transport options such as walking, cycling and horse riding to and around the Green Belt should be encouraged for benefit of public health and environment.
- Green Belt should be managed as a whole as well as on a site-specific basis, and sites should be managed for multi-functionality.
- Maintenance and improvement plans should be informed by an experienced and qualified ecologist to ensure that opportunities for biodiversity enhancement are identified
- Residents of Harrow and in particularly youth were not aware of the Green Belt at the north of the borough nor that there was an equivalent of 4 Hyde Parks of publicly accessible open space.

3.0 STRATEGY AND MANAGEMENT

The following vision, strategic objectives and actions were developed in the light of surveys, background research and consultation.

The Green Belt is a unique resource and future management needs to reflect and appreciate the differences between the purpose of the Green Belt versus parks. The Green Belt is not a large park. It is an area of countryside, which provides habitats for an abundance of species, an economic resource for agriculture, a valuable leisure resource, a tourism venue a host for cultural heritage and a home for its residents.

3.1 Green Belt Vision

The vision outlines the priorities for which the Green Belt should be managed: biodiversity, education and health.

‘To make Harrow’s Green Belt more attractive and accessible for people and wildlife and maximise the biodiversity, educational, and health benefits by protecting this strategic open space at London’s northern fringe.’

3.2 Strategic Objectives and Actions

To implement Harrow’s vision for the Green Belt, ten Strategic Objectives have been defined. These address the main benefits of the Green Belt as identified through the consultation process, and through consideration of relevant national, regional and local policies. These strategic objectives will be implemented through a range of actions.

The term Green Belt refers to the specific open spaces in the north of the borough that are identified and protected under the Harrow Unitary Development Plan.

Green Spaces Policy:

To help meet the nationally and regionally defined purposes and objectives of the Green Belt through providing positive management of the land.

Informal Recreation Provision:

To maintain, improve and increase the provision of public open space and create public rights of way for able-bodied and disabled users by linking together the communities of Harrow through new strategic routes

Formal Recreation Provision:

To maintain and seek to improve provision of open space for formal recreation

Visitor and Interpretation Facilities:

To increase the 'offer' of the Green Belt through the provision of environmental education, interpretation and visitor facilities

Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity:

To conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the land within the Green Belt

Conserving and Enhancing the Character:

To conserve and enhance the character of the Green Belt sites, key features and the strategic view to and from Harrow Weald Ridge

Cultural Heritage:

To conserve, enhance and improve interpretation of historic features, areas and buildings

Agriculture:

To support farming activity in the area, and maintain current use of allotments

Water Environment:

To conserve and enhance the environment and quality of rivers, streams and water bodies and prevent flooding downstream

Burial Space:

To help address the anticipated shortfall in burial space within Harrow

4.0 GREEN BELT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY SCHEDULE

Ten Strategic Objectives have been defined to address the main benefits of the Green Belt as identified through the consultation process, and through consideration of relevant national, regional and local policies.

Ten Strategic Objectives

- Green Spaces Policy
- Informal Recreation Provision
- Formal Recreation Provision
- Visitor and Interpretation Facilities
- Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity
- Conserving and Enhancing Landscape
- Cultural Heritage
- Agriculture
- Water Environment
- Burial Space

These strategic objectives have been associated with a range of indicative actions, which have been prioritised in terms of the finite resources available.

Priority Categories (subject to availability of resources)

- Immediate - Actions completed by March 2011
- Medium Term - Actions that must be funded and in progress by March 2011
- Long Term - Actions that must have been approved to start before March 2011

OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES OF THE GREEN BELT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The council will assess cumulative effects of major developments within the green belt when assessing individual planning applications

The council will work closely with adjoining boroughs on the management of the Green Belt and the implementation of the Green Belt Management Strategy

The council will undertake crime reduction assessments when developing or enhancing visitor and interpretation facilities

The council will seek consideration and incorporation of biodiversity actions within green belt proposals as established by the London Development Agency "Design for Biodiversity"

GREEN SPACES POLICY

To help meet the nationally and regionally defined purposes and objectives of Open Space through providing positive management of the land.

Actions	Timescale	Milestones	Outcomes	Lead Officer
Proactively apply for funding opportunities towards the implementation of the strategy in partnership with the voluntary organisations who contribute to the management of the Green Belt	Immediate	An officer engaged which has responsibility for biodiversity 2006 Receive external funding for the implementation of the strategy	Increased funding available for the maintenance and protection of the Green Belt	Public Realm Services Planning
To appoint an officer to undertake and lead on the implementation of the BAP for Harrow	Immediate	An officer appointed who has responsibility for biodiversity in 2006	Increased Biodiversity expertise within Council Implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)	Planning
Provision of a Council Officer whose primary function will co-ordinate the management of Harrow's green belt	Immediate	Posts realigned to accommodate a co-ordinator role 2006/2007	Management of Council owned green belt sites will be co-ordinated	Public Realm Services Planning
Produce and implement costed maintenance and improvement plans for all Council owned Green Belt sites, informed by an experienced and qualified ecologist and other relevant professional competencies to ensure that opportunities for biodiversity enhancement are identified	Immediate	Existing plans reviewed 2007/2008 New plans produced 2006/2007 and 2007/2008	Improved maintenance of Council owned Green Belt sites Increased resources targeted to the Green Belt	Public Realm Services Green Belt Voluntary Organisations Planning
To integrate the Green Belt Management Strategy into the Local Development Framework	Immediate	The Green Belt Management Strategies strategic objectives and actions are integrated into the LDF core strategy draft by 2006/2007 Integrated into the final LDF core strategy 2008/2009	Protection of the Green Belt against future development	Planning
To fund a review and update of the survey information for the Sites of Metropolitan and Borough importance.	Medium Term	Review completed 2010/2011	New sites of importance identified to ensure their future protection Protection of rare habitats in London	Planning Community Safety

INFORMAL RECREATION PROVISION

To maintain, improve and increase the provision of public open space and create public rights of way for able-bodied and disabled users by linking together the communities of Harrow through new strategic routes

Actions	Timeframe	Milestones	Outcomes	Lead Officer
To identify and assess the condition, security and accessibility of existing footpaths and pathways and rights of way throughout the Green Belt	Immediate	A Rights of Way Improvement Plan established in 2007/2008	Improved footpaths throughout the Green Belt Protection of footpaths against future development	Public Realm Infrastructure Public Realm – Services Community Safety
To promote existing walking routes in the borough through Harrow Council's website and brochures	Immediate	Communication plan in place by 2007/2008	Increased awareness of physical activity opportunities in the borough	Tourism Sport and Leisure Unit
Investigate gate options and required locations for Disability Discrimination Act compliant access into Bentley Priory Wooded Slopes in partnership with English Heritage	Immediate	Gate options approved by 2006 Options installed by 2006/2007	Improved accessibility to Bentley Priory Wooded Slopes for the physically disabled	Public Realm Services Access Officer
Implement a new right of way in Harrow Weald Common to link Banksfield Cottage to the eastern part of Harrow Weald Common	Immediate	Included in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007/2008	Improved access through Harrow Weald Common Protection of right of way against future development	Public Realm Infrastructure Planning Property Services
Establish a signage design which reflects the quality, innovation and character of the green belt and is consistent with the Harrow brand across the borough ¹	Immediate	Design developed and approved 2007/2008	Increased awareness of public accessible open space in the Green Belt Improved information available to visitors to the Green Belt	Communications Public Realm Services Tourism

Actions	Timeframe	Milestones	Outcomes	Lead Officer
Develop a signing proposal to improve access for Stanmore Country Park and to include the potential inclusion of Wood Farm	Medium	Consultation undertaken with key community groups in 2006/2007	Improve access to Stanmore Country Park	Public Realm Infrastructure Access Officer Tourism Property Services
To adopt London Loop's footpaths in Harrow Weald Common as a public right of way	Medium	Included in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007/2008	Protect sections of the London Loop against development	Public Realm Infrastructure
Introduce clear and consistent signage through the areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stanmore Common - Stanmore Country Park - Pinnerwood Bushey Pastures - Copse Farm Pastures - Watling Farm - Pinner Park - Bentley Priory - Harrow Weald Common 	Medium	Signage concept and location of signage agreed by 2007/2008 Installation in progress in 2007/2008	Improved information provided to visitors to the Green Belt Improved directional signage	Public Realm Services Tourism
Carry out a feasibility study to improve pedestrian and cycle access between Pinner Park and Copse Farm pastures	Medium Term	Feasibility study completed 2010/2011	Improved access between Pinner Park Farm and Copse Farm Pastures	Public Realm Infrastructure Crime Reduction Unit
To carry out a feasibility study to open up the Belmont Walk as a link to the green belt and improve the corridor for informal recreation by enhancing lighting, safety and security alongside the Biodiversity Action Plan requirements	Long Term	Remains a policy commitment in 2011	Improved links from the borough's parks to the Green Belt Improved maintenance and security of the Belmont Former Railway Line	Public Realm Services Sport and Leisure Unit Planning Property Services

Actions	Timeframe	Milestones	Outcomes	Lead Officer
Introduce new permissive footpaths from the Shia Mosque at Springbok House to the Country Park extension	Long Term	Options and consultation undertaken by 2011	Improved access to the Country park extension	Public Realm Infrastructure Legal
Promote the Pinn Walk as an alternative link into the Green Belt from Pinner	Long Term	Funding in place for a communication plan by 2010/2011	Improved links from the borough's parks to the Green Belt	Tourism
Undertake a feasibility study to look at the options of linking Pinner Park Farm to Headstone Manor	Long Term	Funding allocated for a feasibility study	Improved links from the borough's parks to the Green Belt	Public Realm Infrastructure Planning Tourism Community Safety

Immediate

- Actions completed by March 2011

Medium Term

- Actions that must be funded and in progress by March 2011

Long Term

- Actions that must have been approved to start before March 2011

FORMAL RECREATION PROVISION

To maintain and seek to improve provision of open space for formal recreation, including equestrian uses.

Action	Timescale	Impact/Outcome measured	Outcomes	Lead Officer
Resurface and improve the fencing at the Stanmore Common bridleway to reduce the impact on conservation areas.	Immediate	Fencing improved in 2007/2008 Bridleway resurfaced in 2008/2009	Protection of the biodiversity in Stanmore Common Improved service for horse riders in the Green Belt	Public Realm Services Planning
To continue to maintain existing playing fields and amenity areas for public use throughout the green belt	Immediate	Maintenance carried out regularly in accordance to management plans	Provision of formal play provision in the Green Belt Encourage participation in physical activity	Public Realm Services
Maintain access through the BAE site to the fishing ponds to allow ongoing access by anglers and the maintenance of Grove Pond	Immediate	Access formalised through BAE site by 2006/2007	Provision for the sport of fishing in Harrow	Planning
Investigate the value of developing an indoor sports facility and spectator seating at Roger Bannister Sports Centre	Medium	Feasibility study completed in 2008/2009	Enhance Roger Bannister Sports Centre Enable competitions to take place at Roger Bannister Sports Centre	Sport and Leisure
Undertake an impact assessment on the extension of the bridleway network in Stanmore Common, including actions required to restrict access from motorcycles.	Medium	Impact assessment completed by 2007/2008	Protect biodiversity in Stanmore Common Improve pedestrian safety in the Green Belt Improved provision for horse riders in Harrow	Public Realm Services

Immediate

- Actions completed by March 2011

Medium Term

- Actions that must be funded and in progress by March 2011

Long Term

- Actions that must have been approved to start before March 2011

VISITOR AND INTERPRETATION FACILITIES

To increase the 'offer' of the Green Belt through the provision of environmental education, interpretation and visitor facilities and promote the use of the countryside and visitor attractions within the Green Belt

Actions	Timescale	Milestones	Outcomes	Lead Officer
Negotiate an agreement with CP Holdings on the surrender of a section of Wood Farm to Harrow Council as an extension to Stanmore Country Park whilst ensuring the protection of existing biodiversity value of the site	Immediate	Negotiation in progress by 2006/2007 Biodiversity impact assessment undertaken in 2006/2007	Community access to Wood Farm Protection of the existing biodiversity of the site	Property Services Planning
To work with young people and local schools/colleges to develop a pack focusing on awareness, knowledge and maintenance of the green belt and the conservation areas for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bentley Priory ▪ Stanmore Common ▪ Harrow Weald Common 	Immediate Medium Medium	Bentley Priory Wooded Slopes completed in 2006/2007 Stanmore Common completed in 2007/2008 Harrow Weald Common completed in 2008/2009	Improved knowledge and awareness of nature conservation and biodiversity by young people in the borough Increased involvement by young people in the protection of nature conservation	Planning Children's Services
Assess and develop a business case on the potential use of disused buildings on Stanmore Wooded Slopes for education and volunteer services	Medium	Business case completed in 2008/2009	Facilities available for future use by education and voluntary services Increased presence in the green belt to prevent anti social behaviour	Property Services
Explore the need and sustainability of developing a permanently resourced environmental centre based in a rich bio-diverse area against Groundwork's criteria and Harrow Nature Conservation Forum	Medium	Business case completed by 2008/2009	Education facility available in Harrow for schools and local groups to improve their knowledge on the environment	Property Services Planning Tourism

Immediate

- Actions completed by March 2011

Medium Term

- Actions that must be funded and in progress by March 2011

Long Term

- Actions that must have been approved to start before March 2011

Actions	Timescale	Milestones	Outcomes	Lead Officer
Proactively establish community safety actions within the safer neighbourhood teams at identified anti social behaviour hotspots in the green belt	Immediate	Monitoring of anti social hotspots in place 2007/2008	Reduction in anti social behaviour in the Green Belt	Community Safety Harrow Police
Install seating along the London Loop footpath and viewpoints in Stanmore Common, Harrow Weald Common, Stanmore Country Park, Pinnerwood Bushey Pastures and Bentley Priory	Medium	Consultation with English Nature completed Funding approved for installation of seating	Seating available	Public Realm Services English Nature Anti Social Behaviour
Enhance Old Redding carpark to improve safety and access and develop a viewing area and information point	Medium	Concept plan produced Funding approved for the redevelopment	Improved safety at Old Redding car park Improved access to the Green Belt Viewing and information point available to increase attraction for visitors and improve economic activity in Harrow	Public Realm Infrastructure Tourism
Negotiate a partnership arrangement with the neighbouring establishment to contribute to the cost of Old Redding car park's	Immediate	Agreement established	Reduced cost to Council and residents of Harrow to improve Old Redding car park Improved car parking facilities for the neighbouring establishment	Property Services
Resurface and improve the security of Stanmore Common car park	Medium	Car park resurfaced CCTV cameras installed Excess scrub and bush cleared	Improved access to Stanmore Common Improved security	Public Realm Infrastructure Community Safety
In partnership with Harrow Police and Harrow's Anti Social Behaviour Officer investigate partnership opportunities for the restoration of the old toilet buildings on Warren Lane (Stanmore Common) to an information point/cafe and toilets	Long Term	Crime reduction assessment completed in 2009/2010 Funding approved for the restoration by 2011/2012	Improved visitors facilities available in the Green Belt Increased visitors to the Green Belt Reduction in anti social behaviour	Property Services Community Safety Tourism

Immediate

- Actions completed by March 2011

Medium Term

- Actions that must be funded and in progress by March 2011

Long Term

- Actions that must have been approved to start before March 2011

CULTURAL HERITAGE

To conserve, enhance and improve interpretation of historic features, areas and buildings

Actions	Timescale	Milestones	Outcomes	Lead Officer
Provide information boards at Grims Dyke to interpret the Scheduled Monument and the Registered Park and Garden	Immediate	Information boards installed at Grims Dyke 2006/2007	Greater understanding of the cultural heritage of Harrow's key historic sites in the Green Belt Improved visitors facilities	Public Realm Services Tourism
Work in partnership with external organisations to encourage the protection and maintenance of the existing RAF Bentley Priory site.	Immediate	A partnership is established	Future access to the RAF site for the community	Planning Tourism
Undertake a costed concept plan for Grims Dyke Open Space in partnership with Grims Dyke Hotel owners, to encourage visitors and external funding	Medium	Funding approved for a concept plan of the Grims Dyke Open Space area	Enhancement and protection of Harrow's cultural heritage	Public Realm Infrastructure Tourism Planning
To carry out a feasibility study to improve pedestrian safety, particularly at crossing points along Old Redding Road	Medium	Feasibility study completed in 2009/2010	Improved pedestrian safety	Public Realm Infrastructure
Undertake a promotion strategy for the newly developed Grim's Dyke Open Space as a destination site in the Green Belt	Medium Term	Promotion strategy approved 2010/2011 Funding approved for the implementation of the first stage of promotion 2011/2012	Increased tourism and economic activity in Harrow	Tourism
Implement the approved concept plan recommendations to develop Grims Dyke Open Space as a destination site in the Green Belt	Long Term	Funding designated in the Medium Term Strategy Budget for 2011/2012	Enhancement and protection of Harrow's cultural heritage	Public Realm Services

CONSERVING AND ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY

To conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the land within the Green Belt

Actions	Timescale	Milestones	Outcomes	Lead Officer
Produce a Biodiversity Action Plan for the Borough in partnership with the Harrow Nature Conservation Forum and Harrow Agenda 21	Immediate	A BAP completed in partnership with Harrow Nature Conservation Forum and Harrow Agenda 21 in 2007/2008	Biodiversity Action Plan for Harrow Protection of species and habitats in the Green Belt	Planning
Link the priority Biodiversity Action Plan actions of the green belt management strategy to the London BAP	Immediate	BAP actions prioritised against London BAP 2007/2008	Co-ordinated approach to protecting biodiversity across London	Planning
Conserve the ecology of Stanmore Common from the adverse impacts of proposed development at the former BAE site and RNOH.	Immediate	Impact assessment actions fed into the management plan.	Protection of biodiversity in Stanmore Common	Planning Public Realm - Services
To support the work of the voluntary wardens and groups in conserving and protecting the sites of SSSI's, Sites of Nature Conservation Importance and Ancient Woodland on Council owned land.	Immediate	Co-ordinated management plans in place by 2006/2007 Established reporting and evaluation mechanism in place to improve management co-ordination 2007/2008 Procedures in place to build the capacity of community involvement in the Green Belt 2008/2009	Co-ordinated management of the Green Belt Increase in numbers of voluntary workers in the Green Belt	Public Realm Services
To achieve English Nature's rating of favourable condition for Bentley Priory's SSSI	Immediate	The site is rated as favourable condition	Meet English Nature's SSSI requirement	Public Realm Services
To work in partnership with adjacent London boroughs to implement the London BAP	Medium	A co-ordinated action plan aligned with the Green Belt Management Strategy is developed - ongoing	Improved partnership working Implementation of Harrow's Biodiversity Action Plan	Planning

Immediate

- Actions completed by March 2011

Medium Term

- Actions that must be funded and in progress by March 2011

Long Term

- Actions that must have been approved to start before March 2011

CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE CHARACTER

To conserve and enhance the character of the Green Belt, key features and the strategic view to and from Harrow Weald Ridge

Actions	Timescale	Milestones		Lead Officer
Restore and protect the historic ancient woodland in Pear Wood	Immediate	Funding approved and management plans in place	Protection of ancient woodland in Pear Wood	Public Realm Services Harrow Nature Conservation Forum
Install barriers on Heathbourne Road to prevent large vehicles and prevent fly tipping.	Medium	Consultation undertaken with residents and key stakeholders on the proposed road changes 2007/2008 Barriers install 2008/2009	Minimising fly tipping on Heathbourne Road	Public Realm Infrastructure
Remove the lay-bys on the Heathbourne Road to reduce fly-tipping	Medium	Consultation undertaken on the impact of the removal of the lay bys 2008/2009 Lay Bys removed 2008/2009	Reduction in fly tipping	Public Realm Infrastructure Public Realm Services
Advocate the review of the Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems along the roads bordering Stanmore Common	Medium	Review undertaken 2008/2009	Reduction in run off into Stanmore Common Protection of the Stanmore Common's biodiversity	Public Realm Infrastructure

AGRICULTURE

To support farming activity in the area, and maintain current use of allotments

Actions	Timescale	Milestones	Outcomes	Lead Officer
Set up a farm managers group to discuss ways of ensuring their important role within the green belt is maintained and to provide advice and support	Immediate	Farm Managers group developed and annual meeting held - 2006/2007	Improved relations with farm managers Improved access to funding opportunities for the farm managers	Public Realm Services Property Services

Formulate a plan for the use of Pinner Park Farm in partnership with the lessee	Immediate	A plan completed 2008/2009	A future plan produced	Property Services
Promote the Environmental Stewardship Scheme as a vehicle for biodiversity enhancement in the borough	Medium Term	Application template developed for the Environmental Stewardship Scheme by 2009/2010	Increased funds available to farm managers in the Green Belt Improved biodiversity in the Green Belt	Planning

WATER ENVIRONMENT

To conserve and enhance the environment and quality of rivers, streams and water bodies and prevent flooding downstream

Actions	Timetable	Milestones	Outcomes	Lead Officer
Carry out a species audit and produce a Pond Management Plan for Little Brewers and Great Brewers Pond	Immediate	Species audit completed by 2007/2008 and recommendations fed into the BAP	Protection of Little Brewers and Great Brewers Pond	Planning Harrow Nature Conservation Forum
Undertake a business case study on the management, benefits and value of licensing fishing at Summer House Lake, Little Brewers Pond and Great Brewers Pond	Long Term	Approval received for a business case to be developed on licensing fishing	Protection of future fish populations in Harrow	Public Realm Services Tourism

BURIAL SPACE

To help address the anticipated shortfall in burial space within Harrow

Actions	Timescale	Milestones	Outcomes	Lead Officer
Undertake a feasibility study on potential burial sites in the Green Belt	Medium Term	Funding approved and project in progress by March 2008/2009	Help meet the future demand for burial space in Harrow	Public Realm Services Planning

Immediate

- Actions completed by March 2011

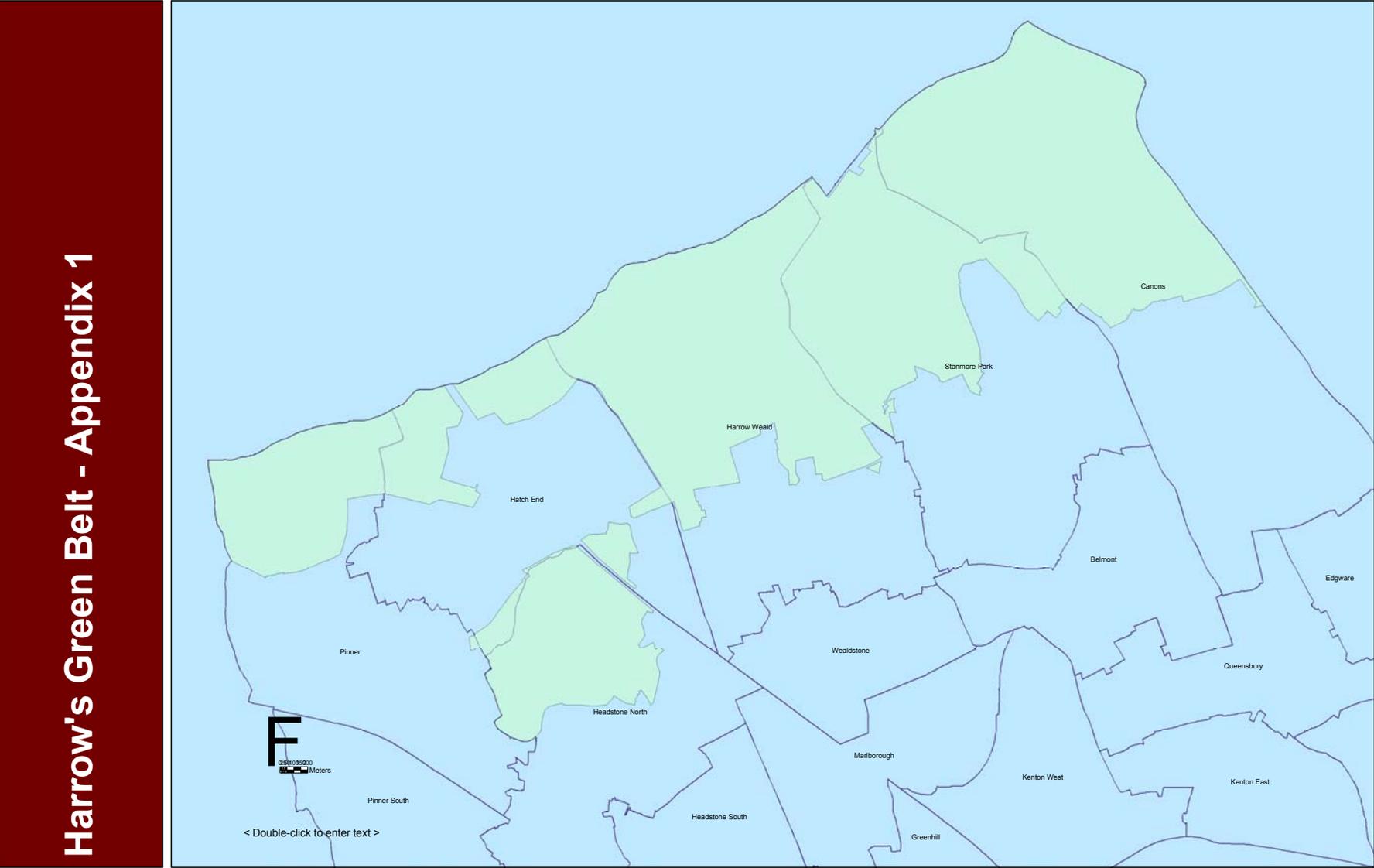
Medium Term

- Actions that must be funded and in progress by March 2011

Long Term

- Actions that must have been approved to start before March 2011

APPENDIX A- MAP OF GREENBELT



Appendix B - MANAGEMENT TYPE AND OWNERSHIP WITHIN HARROW'S GREEN BELT

Management Category	Site	Ownership	Public Open Space
Recreation (formal)	Pinner Hill Golf Course	Council	No
	Shaftesbury Playing Fields	Council	Yes
	Grim's Dyke Golf Course	Private	No
	Roger Bannister Sports Centre	Council	No
	Hatch End Playing Fields	Council	Yes
	Raghuvanshi Sports Ground	Private	No
	Pinner Park Sports Ground	Private	No
	Country Club	Private	No
	Lower Priory Farm	Council	No
	Brockley Hill Golf Course	Private	No
	Old Millhillians Sports Ground	Private	No
Recreation (informal)	Harrow Weald Common	Council	Yes
	Bentley Priory Open Space	Council	Yes
	Stanmore Common	Council	Yes
	Pear Wood	Council	Yes
	Stanmore Country Park	Council	Yes
Nature Conservation	Bentley Priory Open Space	Council	Yes
	Stanmore Common	Council	Yes
	Cloisters Wood	Council and Private	No
	Pear Wood	Council	Yes

Management Category	Site	Ownership	Public Open Space
	Stanmore Country Park	Council	Yes
	Pinner Park Farm	Council	No
Agriculture	Pinnerwood Farm	Private	No
	Oxhey Lane Farm	Council	No
	Grim's Dyke Farm	Council	No
	Copse Farm	Council and Private	No
	Pinner Park Farm	Council	No
	Watling Farm	Council	No
	Grove Farm	Private	No
	Wood Farm	Council	No
Residential	Pinnerwood Estates	Private	No
	The City Open Space	Private	Yes
	The Heriots Wood	Private	No
	RAF Bentley Priory	Private	No
	Little Common Estates	Private	Yes
	Brockley Hill Estates	Private	No
Infrastructure	Electricity Station	Private	No
Institutional	Harrow College	Private	No
	Weald College	Private	No

Management Category	Site	Ownership	Public Open Space
	Bentley Wood School for Girls	Council	No
	Peterborough and St Margarets School for Girls	Private	No
	RAF Bentley Priory	Private	No
	Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital	Private	No
Business	Grim's Dyke Hotel	Council	No
	The Kiln Business Park	Private	No
	BAE Systems	Private	No
Allotments	Park View Allotments	Council	Yes
Cemetery	Harrow Weald Cemetery	Council	Yes
Deer Park	The Heriots Wood	Private	No
Religion	Springbok House	Private	No
Minimum Management	The Cedars	Council	Yes
	Glenthorne	Council	No
	Clamp Hill Brickfields	Private	No
	Oxhey Lane Fields and Railway Cutting	Council	No
	Stanmore and Little Commons	Council	Yes
	Weald Wood	Council	Yes

**** Publicly accessible footpaths are available for public use across the Green Belt**

Appendix C – LANDSCAPE TYPES AND ENVIRONMENT FEATURES WITHIN THE GREEN BELT

Wooded Ridges with Commons

Harrow Weald Common
Stanmore Common

Developed Ridges

Royal Orthopaedic Hospital
Bentley Priory

Wooded Slopes

Bentley Priory Wooded Slopes
Stanmore Wooded Slopes
Pinner Wood

Farmed Slopes

Pinnerwood-Bushey Pastures
Copse Farm Pastures
Brockleyhill Pastures
Pinner Park Pastures
Priory Pastures

Private Residential Estates

Pinner Hill Estate
Bentley Priory Estates
Little Common Estates

Developed Slopes

Harrow Weald Slope