

SCHEDULE OF ACTIONS MATTER 8 AND 15 (Action 8.10, 15.6, 15.7 and 15.9)

Compensation Measures for Green Belt Release

8.10	Produce a paper setting out a strategy and list of potential sites/schemes which could provide compensation for GB loss i.e. how/where/when/what
15.6	NE1 – Extension to Mayfield Chicks: Produce note on Green Belt compensation
15.7	NE2 – Land north of Hud Hey: Address Green Belt compensation
15.9	NE4 – Extension of New Hall Hey: Address Green Belt compensation

LIST OF CONTENTS

Section 1	CONTEXT
Section 2	GREEN BELT MEASURES
Section 3	IDENTIFIED SCHEMES WITHIN ROSSENDALE
	(a) Rossendale Forest
	(b) Rossendale Incredible Edible
	(c) New Hall Hey Gateway
	(d) Compensatory Measures Specifically for Edenfield Housing Allocations:
	(i) Edenfield Recreation Ground and Play Area
	(ii) Edenfield Community Centre
	(iii) Edenfield Cricket Club
	(iv) Edenfield C.E. / Stubbins Primary School Extension
	(v) Public Rights of Way / Cycleway Upgrades and Improvements to the Network for Specific Housing Allocations
	• H70
	• H71 and H72
	• H72
	(e) Other PROW / Cycleway Improvements Linking to Specific Employment Allocations
	• NE1
	• NE2
	• NE3
	• NE4

1. CONTEXT

This document supersedes the Council's earlier response on Green Belt Compensatory Measures contained in The Schedule of Actions Matter 8 and 15 (Action 8.10, 15.6, 15.7 and 15.9), document reference EL8.008.10.

The following proposed allocations are on land that is currently designated as Green Belt and which will need to be released from the Green Belt as part of the emerging Local Plan to support the planned development.

Table 1: Proposed allocations involving Green Belt release

Ref	Site Name	Proposed Development May 2021 Update
H69	Cowm Water Treatment Works, Whitworth*	20 units, Years 6-10
H70	Irwell Vale Mill	30 units, Years 1-5
H71	Land east of Market Street, Edenfield	9 units, Years 6-10
H72	Land west of Market Street, Edenfield	400 units, Years 1-15
H73	Edenwood Mill	47 units, Years 1-5
NE1	Extension to Mayfield Chicks	2.81 ha (gross) / 1.57 ha (net)
NE2	Land north of Hud Hey	3.43 ha (gross) / 2.03 (net)
NE4	Extension of New Hall Hey	6.04 (gross) / 3 ha (net)

*It is expected that this site will be deleted in the Inspectors' Report so no specific projects identified

2. GREEN BELT MEASURES

PPG on Green Belt states that compensatory improvements may be informed by supporting evidence of landscape, biodiversity or recreational needs and opportunities including those set out in local strategies, and may include:

- a) new or enhanced [green infrastructure](#)¹;
- b) woodland planting;
- c) landscape and visual enhancements (beyond those needed to mitigate the immediate impacts of the proposal);
- d) [improvements to biodiversity](#), habitat connectivity and natural capital;
- e) new or enhanced walking and cycle routes; and
- f) improved access to new, enhanced or existing recreational and playing field provision.

¹ Green Infrastructure encompasses a range of spaces and assets that provide environmental and wider benefits. It can, for example, include parks, playing fields, other areas of open space, woodland, allotments, private gardens, sustainable drainage features, green roofs and walls, street trees and 'blue infrastructure' such as streams, ponds, canals and other water bodies

It should be noted that there are specific measures that will be necessary in order to make developments acceptable, and these will not be considered for Green Belt compensation. For example, play areas for children will be required on-site for the benefit of the new residents, similarly suitable landscaping and protection of key views will be required, particularly in such sensitive areas on the edge of the rural/urban interface. These Green Belt compensatory measures relate to making improvements to the remaining Green Belt.

3. IDENTIFIED SCHEMES WITHIN ROSSENDALE

The Council has identified projects which could contribute to Green Belt compensation. Some of these measures are Borough-wide whereas others relate specifically to identified allocation(s).

(a) Rossendale Forest

The Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030 identifies an action to increase tree cover across the Borough. This is being developed under the name of the Rossendale Forest and work is ongoing through the Council's Corporate Asset Review to identify suitable Council-owned sites. The Council is working with a third party facilitator, the Ribble Rivers Trust, and the Climate Change Network. As well as Council-owned land, other land owners are involved and there would be an opportunity for landowners/developers of land currently in the Green Belt to contribute to this. The key objectives are to assist with offsetting carbon emissions, as well as assisting with flood prevention and alleviation.

Woodland management of existing large areas will also be required. Lancashire County Council lease land from Rossendale BC and measures have been identified to improve the biodiversity at Horncliffe Woods. In particular disease is affecting trees such as ash and larch which will require targeted measures.

Access to such woodland areas should also be introduced or enhance to provide additional recreational opportunities.

All schemes involving the loss of Green Belt may contribute to this.

(b) Rossendale Incredible Edible

Incredible Edible is a national voluntary body which promotes community cohesion by growing food in open spaces, which encourages people to grow their own both at home and in shared spaces, promoting good, healthy eating and choices. It believes that food encourages kindness and consideration of others. A community garden has been created at a GP Surgery in Haslingden, apple trees planted in the Orchard at Haslingden with planters installed at Rawtenstall town square and Whitaker Park.

Incredible Edible Rossendale (IER) would like to offer an additional service to isolated single people “who are housebound and have space which needs tidying and needs a bit of colour adding to it..... We want to brighten someone’s day when they look out of their window”. Opportunities are available to enhance this work wider throughout the Borough.

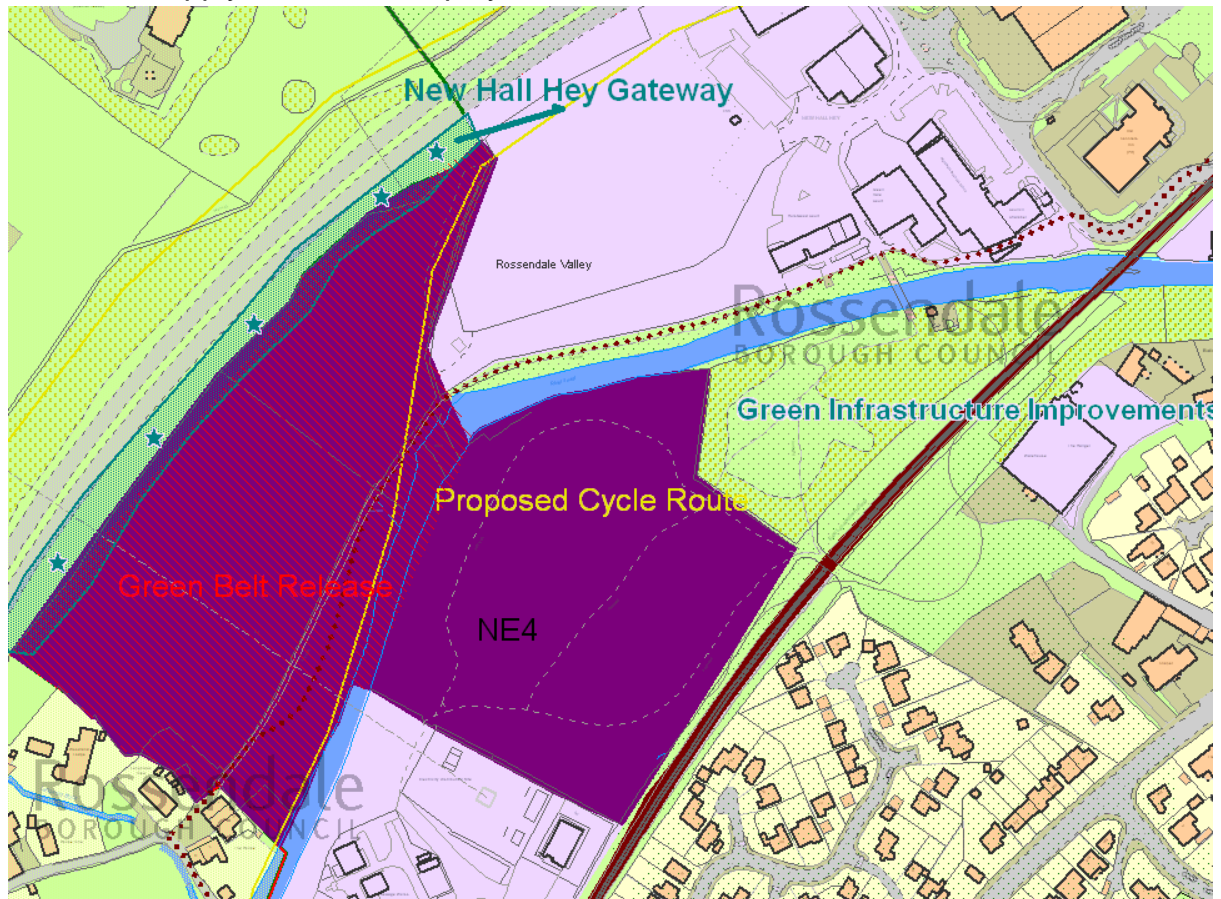
All schemes involving the loss of Green Belt may contribute to this.

(c) New Hall Hey Gateway

The Council’s Business Plan identifies the conception and preparation of the New Hall Hey Gateway Masterplan /Development Brief, to enhance pedestrian and cycle links on land adjoining the Rawtenstall Spur, in the ownership of Lancashire County Council. Only part of this land is in the Green belt but it is considered that it will provide enhanced facilities and improve access to the Green Belt.

Green and blue infrastructure improvements are proposed on land north east of NE4, owned by Groundwork. Although not in the Green Belt, it is considered that improvements will compensate for the loss of Green Belt on the other side of NE4. Paths along the River Irwell could be enhanced providing an attractive approach to Rawtenstall, with recreational and green infrastructure benefits.

This action relates particularly to the employment allocation at New Hall Hey (NE4) but could apply to other Employment allocations in the current Green Belt.



D. Compensatory Measures Specifically for Edenfield

(i) Edenfield Recreation Ground and Play Area

The Council's Operations team has undertaken a consultation (August 2019) concerning improvements relating to play provision in Edenfield. Several suggestions were received as listed below:

- Better provision for older children (e.g. basketball and netball areas), such as multi-use games area, taller slide, monkey bars.
- Improving drainage at Edenfield Recreation Ground and installation of nets to enable football to be played. Further investigation is required about the specific details of this.
- Learner's track for cyclists, possibly around the edge of the Rec.
- Outdoor gym
- Incorporating edible planting (e.g. native fruit trees).

Although not identified as such specifically there is a **shortage of allotment space** throughout Rossendale, as identified in the recent Open Space Study, with no provision in Edenfield. Land could be set aside for the provision of allotments on the development sites; there is insufficient land available on the existing Recreation Ground. This links too to the interest in Incredible Edible Rossendale. Identifying suitable land for allotments is being considered in the Corporate Asset Review.

(ii) Edenfield Community Centre

Improvements could be made to the Community Centre. This will require further discussions.

(iii) Edenfield Cricket Club

The Playing Pitch Strategy identifies that although the changing rooms and Clubhouse facilities are satisfactory there is a concern that the outfield is becoming increasingly uneven. Compensation could be provided to remedy this.

(iv) Edenfield C.E. / Stubbins Primary School Extension

It is expected that the residential allocations in Edenfield, particularly H72 which proposes approximately 400 dwellings, will require additional classroom capacity at one of the two primary schools in the area – Stubbins or Edenfield C.E. Either school extension would require new development in the Green Belt and Green Infrastructure or playing pitch improvements or travel to school routes could be investigated. This would be considered as part of the overall Masterplan for H72.

(v) Public Rights of Way / Cycleway Upgrades and Improvements to the Network

Rossendale Borough Council continues to work with Lancashire County Council to improve the network of cycle routes within Rossendale, both for recreational purposes as well as to promote active travel. This includes projects such as National Cycle Route 6 and the Valley of Stone. In particular the Councils are working together on the Local Cycling and Walking Implementation Plan (LCWIP) to develop cycle routes ensuring linkages between all the Borough's towns.

Specific routes have been identified close to the proposed Green Belt releases.

H70 Irwell Vale Mill

This application is currently awaiting resolution of the s.106 so it is unlikely that any additional compensatory measures other than those identified already (including the flood mitigation measures) will be requested. Should the current scheme not be progressed further it is expected that the Council will be seeking the flood mitigation measures as agreed with the Environment Agency. However, some cycleway/bridleway improvements have been identified:

- Cycling - Improving the surfacing and drainage on the bridleway (14-3-BW 414) connecting Milne St (in Irwell Vale) westwards to National Cycle Route (NCR) 6.
- Cycling - Improving this bridleway route eastwards along Hardscough Lane towards Church Lane and Blackburn Rd (in Edenfield), and linking to H72.
- PROW – improve footpath 14-3-1FP125 to tramper standards from Lumb viaduct along the River Irwell to Chatterton. (This has been costed at £40K).

H71 Land to East of Market Street and H72 Land to west of Market Street

- Cycling - Improving 450m of Hardscough Lane and the connecting bridleway from Church Lane (14-3-BW128) will improve connections to NCR6 and the wider PROW network (see H7) above)
- PROW – A number of potential PROW improvements have been identified to the east of Edenfield, which are within the Green Belt. These include potential improvements:
 - To connect to the Pennine Bridleway – improve Byway 14-3-RB277 (at the end of Gincroft Lane, costing up to £25K) and 14-3-FP147 (Sandbeds Lane).
 - Improvements to the ford along Byway 14-3-BOAT276 at Dearden Clough (approx. £50K max).

H73 Edenwood Mill

PROW - Within 400m of this proposed allocation are the improvements to 14-3-FP125 along the River Irwell, discussed for H70 above.

Other PROW/Cycleway Improvements linking to Specific Employment Allocations

NE1 Extension to Mayfield Chicks

- PROW - Long term aspiration to divert FP 14-4-FP309 which runs north of the site, away from the river bank, as this has needed re-instatement in the past. This route towards Rawtenstall is well used and links to NE4 (at New Hall Hey).
- PROW - Improving 14-4-RB303 at Horncliffe Woods (to the east of the site) would benefit the network (costing approx. £45K).

NE2 Land north of Hud Hey

- Cycling - NCR 6 uses the carriageway of Rising Bridge Rd, heading north on the western side of the A56. Creating a fully off-road route from west of Hud Hey Rd bridge along the A56 would bring significant benefits to the users of this route. Preliminary discussions have taken place with Highways England.

NE4 Extension of New Hall Hey

- Cycling – feasibility work has been undertaken to connect the Valley of Stone at Rawtenstall to NCR 6 at Helmshore and route options are being explored.
- PROW – Improving 14-4-BW311 together with an improved crossing point across the A682 (the Rawtenstall Spur) from NE4.