



Datchworth

PARISH COUNCIL

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF DATCHWORTH, BULLS GREEN, BURNHAM GREEN & HOOKS CROSS

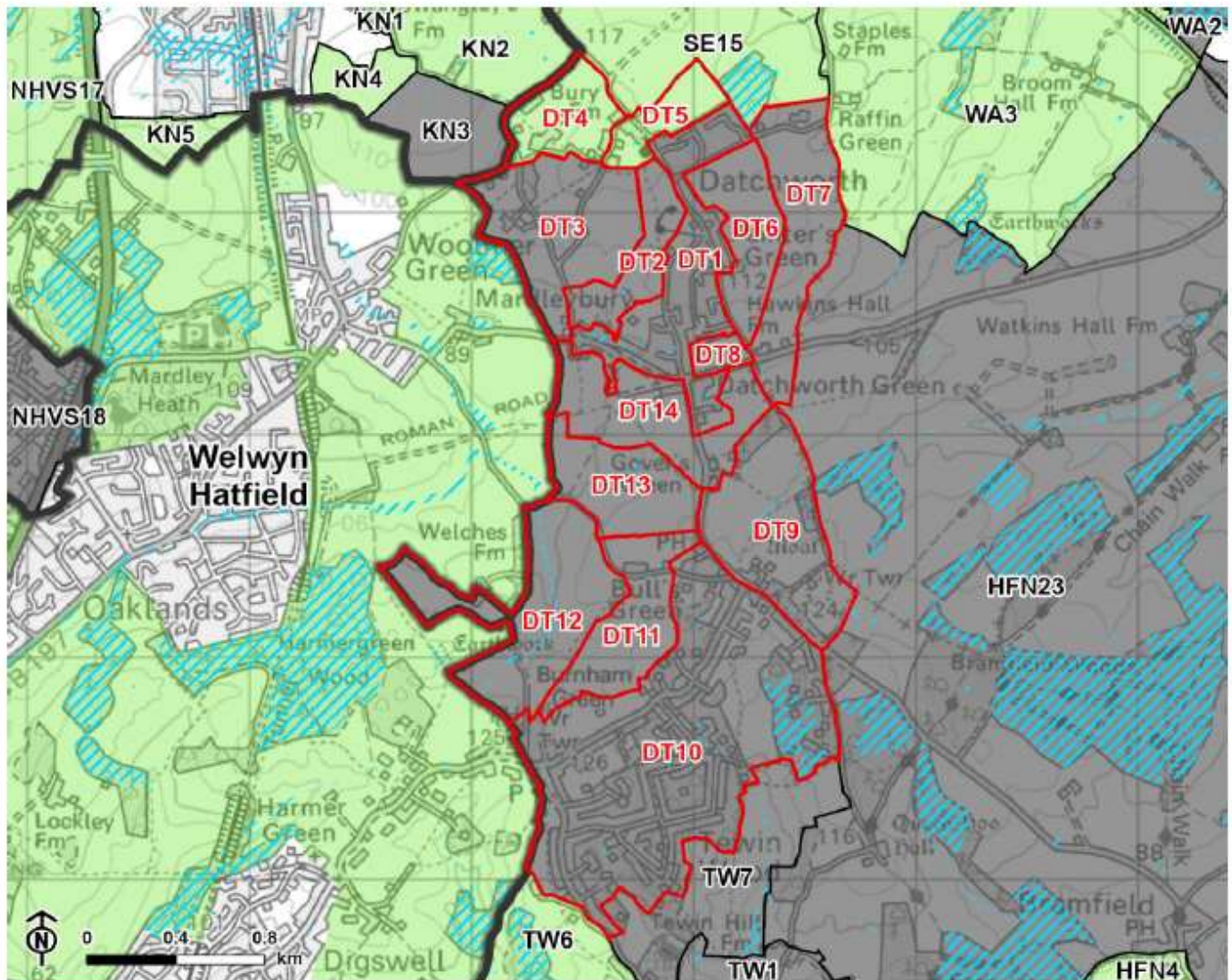
Datchworth Parish Council Briefing Note

Agenda item heading Planning – North Hertfordshire Local Plan – update 2	Date 20th October, 2026 Committee/ Working Group Planning
Why Councillors will recall the previous briefing note on this subject (20th September, 2026) and subsequent discussion at the last meeting of Full Council. It was agreed to take the matter forward and minute PCM26-09/07 from that meeting held on 29th September, 2026 states as follows: <i>“Cllr Goodman drew attention to the briefing note circulated on the website. North Herts District Council has commenced its Local Plan review; the public consultation period runs from 13th October to 24th November 2026, including a drop-in session at Knebworth Village Hall on 19th October. Adoption of the new Local Plan is anticipated in 2029. As part of the evidence base for the review, a joint Green Belt (Re) Assessment covering North Herts, East Herts and Stevenage has identified the whole of Datchworth, and part of Knebworth, as potential “Grey Belt”</i> <i>Resolved: Cllr Goodman to attend the 19th October drop-in session, discuss the assessment with North Herts planning officers, and report back to the October meeting, at which point the Council will consider whether communication to the community is appropriate.”</i>	
How (including Time and Money) The ‘drop-in’ session was attended and a brief discussion held with one of the key officers of the strategic planning team manning the event. Various matters were discussed including the status of the key green belt assessment document prepared on behalf of East Herts/North Herts/Stevenage Councils, Parish Council involvement, how best to present DPC comments, and in particular how public consultation will/should be conducted at this stage and timeframes. The suggestion was made that an approach the East Herts Council planning team might be the best way forward in order for a brief presentation be made to DPC which at the same time could also be open for members of the public to attend. The drop-in event on 19th October was, of course being conducted by North Herts Council planning officers whose responsibility does not cover Datchworth, hence the suggestion to approach East Herts Council. When Councillors may wish to consider extending an invitation to East Herts Council planning team to attend the next meeting of DPC Full Council in order to give a short presentation on the matter	

(15 minutes?). Members of the public are, of course able to attend DPC meetings and consideration should be given as to how best to advertise any presentation in advance of the meeting.

In terms of timescales for DPC to respond, the consultation exercise undertaken by North Herts District Council closes on the day of the November DPC meeting (24th November, 2026). This closing date is not crucial given Datchworth falls within the boundaries of East Hertfordshire. East Herts is somewhat behind North Herts in its plan preparation stages. Formal consultation has yet to be undertaken by East Herts Council on its new Local Plan stage 1 preparation (called 'Plan Content and Evidence') of which the Green Belt assessment document forms part. This public consultation is scheduled for February 2027 in the new Local Plan timetable. Therefore, there is no current deadline for DPC to submit formal comments at the present time.

Potential grey belt in Datchworth

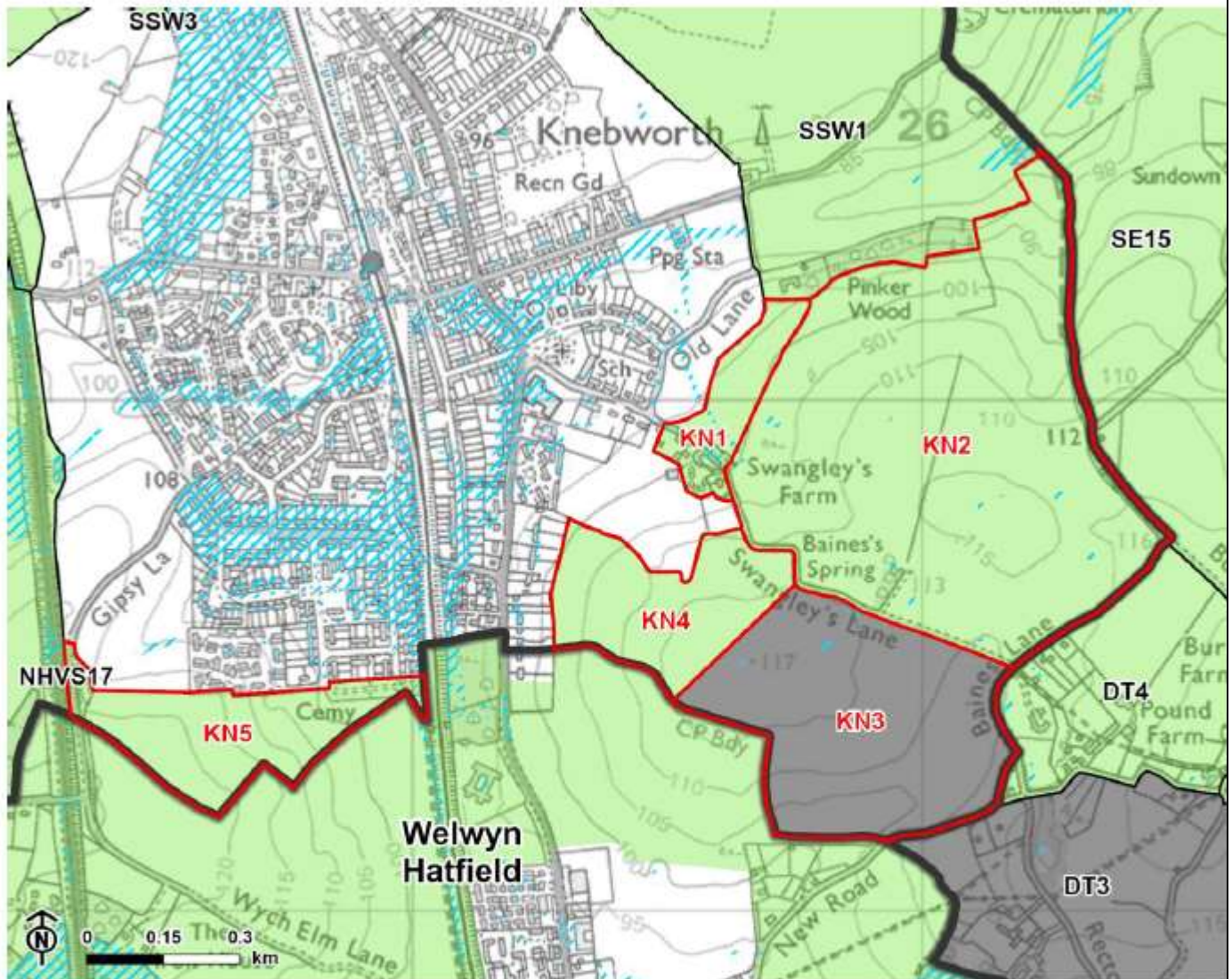


- Datchworth parcel
- Neighbouring parcel
- Local authority
- Neighbouring authority
- Green Belt

Potential grey belt

- Potentially suitable for definition as grey belt land in the borough
- Footnote 7 designation

Potential grey belt in Knebworth



- Knebworth parcel
- Neighbouring parcel
- Local authority
- Neighbouring authority
- Green Belt

Potential grey belt

- Potentially suitable for definition as grey belt land in the borough
- Footnote 7 designation

n.b. The above plans are extracts taken from the document: "Green Belt Assessment – for East Herts, North Herts and Stevenage Borough Councils" prepared by LUC, June, 2026.

