

# Adur Local Plan Call for Green Sites

## Guidance notes for submitting sites

**The Council is looking to identify sites within the Adur Local Plan area. This does not include parts of the district within the South Downs National Park. We will not consider private residential gardens in this call for sites.**

### Your Details

Please provide your name and contact details. We need this information in order to consider a site, and in case we need to contact you to clarify any information. Your response and the information in it will be in the public domain. However the personal details of individuals will not be published.

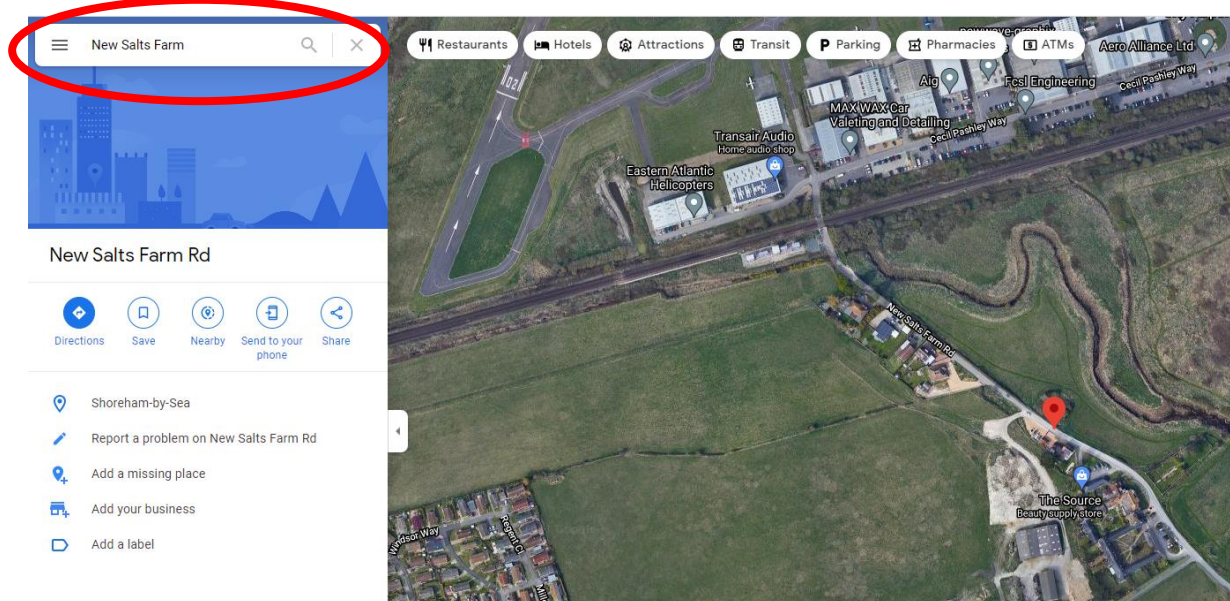
Further information about how personal information is processed can be found on the Council's website in the Planning Policy Privacy Notice: <https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/planning-policy/privacy-notice>.

All data will be stored securely in line with the General Data Protection Regulation.

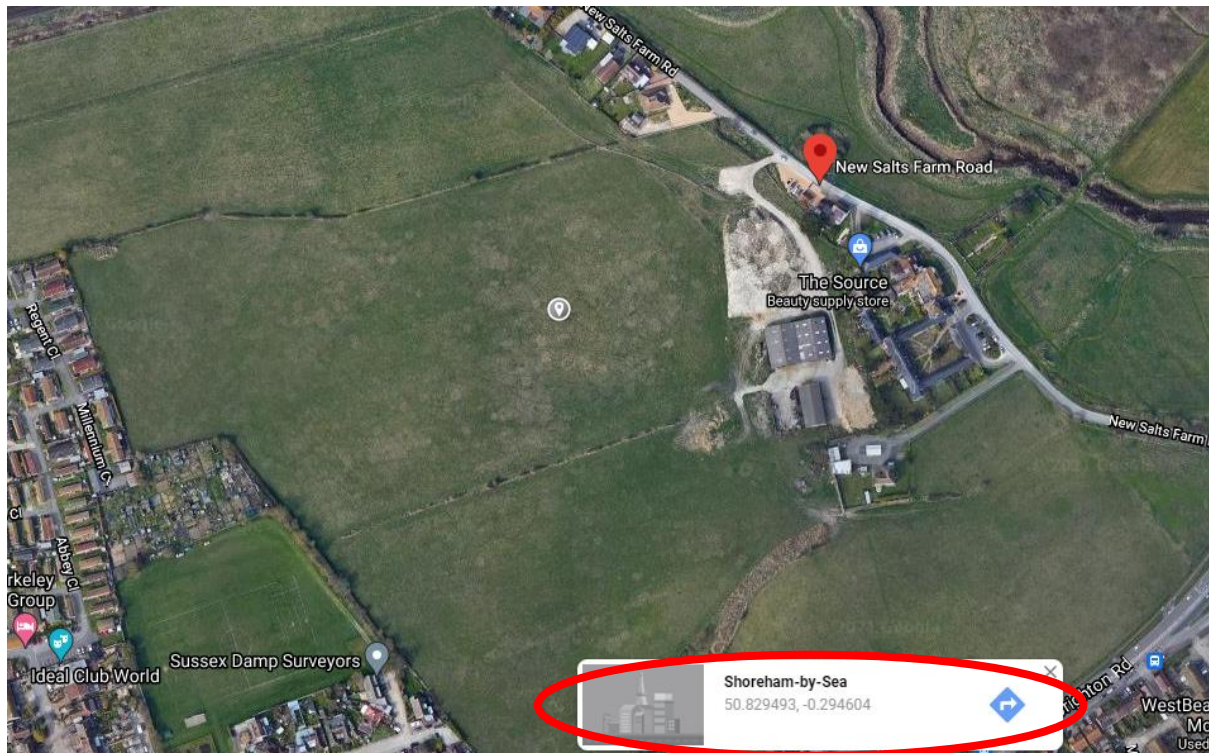
### Site details

Please provide as much information as you can about the site. It is important that we identify the site correctly. If you are not certain of the correct address or grid reference, you can search using [Google Maps](#).

To find your site, you can either use the search bar in the top left of the screen:



Or you can click left click on the screen. This will open an information box containing the site grid reference:



In the example above the grid reference is 50.829493, -0.294604. This will help us make sure we have the right site.

If you provide a map of the proposed site, this will help us to make sure we have the correct boundaries.

Please describe the current use of the site (if known). If you don't know, please leave this blank.

Please describe the proposed use(s) of the site – such as renewable energy generation, or Local Green Space. You can list as many as you like. For some uses we will ask for further information later in the form.

### **Ownership details**

**You do not have to be the site owner to submit a site for consideration.**

Please provide as much information as you can. If you do not know who owns the site, please leave blank.

## **Additional information**

### **Local Green Space**

Designating land as a Local Green Space allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Such spaces need to be:

- in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves
- demonstrably special to a local community and hold a particular local significance
- local in character and not an extensive tract of land.

You can find more information about this designation on the Planning Practice Guidance website: [PPG: Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space](#). Please provide information to demonstrate that the proposed site meets the criteria.

Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for sites allocated for development, or that already have planning permission.

### **Local Wildlife Sites**

Local Wildlife Sites are areas of substantive value nature conservation value. These used to be known as Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI). The [Sussex Local Wildlife Sites Initiative](#) was established in 2018 and aims to establish and maintain a functioning Local Wildlife Sites system for Sussex. The standard national criteria for Local Wildlife Sites are available on the Planning Practice Guidance website: [PPG: Natural environment, biodiversity, geodiversity and ecosystems](#). The local selection criteria for Sussex Local Wildlife Sites are available on the initiative's website: [Sussex LWS Selection Criteria](#). Please refer to these when completing this section.

At present the work of the Sussex Local Wildlife Sites Initiative is focussed on reviewing existing sites. The Council will review the information provided and consider whether sites should be taken forward when designation of new sites resumes. Such sites may be included in the Adur Local Plan update as candidate Local Wildlife Sites.

### **Biodiversity Net Gain offsetting**

This "Call for Sites" is an opportunity for agents and landowners to submit land which they believe could be suitable for providing Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) as part of an offsetting scheme.

The Government has announced its intention to introduce a mandatory minimum measurable net gain of 10% in biodiversity for development over 0.1ha. This is due to be set out within the Environment Bill which is currently progressing through Parliament.

In the first instance, and in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy, development should seek to avoid adverse impacts to biodiversity, or minimise them by appropriate on-site

mitigation. Where these options are not possible, offsetting of biodiversity loss and achieving 3 net gains for biodiversity can be achieved offsite, with agreement with the local planning authority.

The Call for Green Sites is an opportunity to identify land which could be suitable for providing Biodiversity Net Gain offsetting as part of a wider offsetting scheme for developments across the district. This could involve the allocation of sites for the purpose of biodiversity offsetting mitigation.

Each offsetting site would need to be available to be managed for Biodiversity Net Gain purposes for a minimum of 30 years (in line with the current recommendations in the draft Environment Bill).

The Council is keen to identify sites within, or adjacent to, [Biodiversity Opportunity Areas](#). However, the Council recognises that there may be opportunities outside of these areas.

The Council is also keen to identify sites that have the potential to buffer, connect or extend existing habitats or provide steppingstones between habitats.

There may be opportunities to deliver multiple environmental benefits on the same site or land area, including carbon offsetting where it is possible to demonstrate how the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain is in addition to other such benefits. Such potential projects will be considered on a case by case basis.

Sites which already have a high ecological value and are in good management, may not be suitable as it would be difficult to demonstrate the biodiversity net gains required.

### **Green/blue infrastructure**

This “Call for Sites” is an opportunity for agents and landowners to submit land which they believe could be suitable for providing green (or blue) infrastructure (GI).

Green infrastructure is not simply an alternative description for conventional open space. It includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands/trees – and also street trees, allotments, private gardens, green roofs and walls, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and soils, hedgerows, footpath and cycleway corridors, verges, disused land, allotments, churchyards. It may also include rivers, streams, canals and other water bodies which are often referred to as ‘blue infrastructure’.

The key features of green infrastructure are that it is a network of integrated spaces and features, not just individual elements; and that it is ‘multi-functional’ with multiple benefits as follows;

- support people’s mental and physical health
- encourage active travel through green routes for walking and cycling
- cool urban areas during heat waves
- attract investment
- reduce water run-off during flash flooding

- carbon storage
- provide sustainable drainage
- Support wildlife and biodiversity
- Contribute to local distinctiveness

The Council is particularly looking for sites that have the potential to link with existing GI or provide links to new areas of GI although all sites will be considered.

### **Carbon offsetting**

In 2019 Adur District Council declared a climate emergency and has prepared a Carbon Reduction Plan which is now approved. The Council is committed to addressing the challenge of climate change and wishes to identify sites which could be available to help with this.

As part of the Local Plan the Council will have the opportunity to allocate land for carbon offsetting so that “credits” can be purchased by developers who are unable to meet carbon neutrality on their sites and need to mitigate off site.

Tree planting is one of the main land uses that can provide for carbon offsetting. However Adur has a number of important habitats that also have potential to sequester greenhouse gas emissions. Potential sites will be considered on a case by case basis. Sites will not be allocated for carbon offsetting where this would result in a loss of biodiversity.

### **Natural flood risk management**

Natural flood management is a means of working with natural processes by implementing nature-based interventions to help reduce the risk of flooding. We are inviting landowners / promoters and community groups to submit land which could be suitable for natural flood risk management.

Natural Flood Management (NFM) embraces a range of techniques that aim to help to reduce flooding by working with natural processes to slow down and/ or temporarily store flood waters in the landscape. NFM alone cannot prevent the consequences of more extreme floods, especially in larger catchments. However, they can make a significant contribution to mitigating some of the effects of small to medium magnitude floods and also help to increase the resilience of existing or new flood risk management infrastructure to the effects of climate change.

Natural flood risk management measures can include woodland creation, land management, upland flood storage areas and river restoration. Woodlands are known to reduce flood flows by evaporating more water, increasing water absorption by the soil, roughening up land surfaces and decreasing soil erosion. This means rainwater will take longer to get into the rivers.

### **Renewable energy generation, storage and infrastructure**

We are inviting landowners / promoters and community groups to submit land which could be suitable for non domestic scale renewable energy projects. This 'Call for Sites' is only seeking suggestions for land for large scale standalone renewable projects and not those attached to a building or individual dwellings. Domestic proposals will not be considered as part of this call for sites process.

The Council is committed to addressing the challenge of climate change and wishes to identify potential opportunities to increase the supply of renewable energy in the district.

Renewable energy covers those energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment – from the wind, the movement of water, from the sun and deep geothermal heat.

Options for electricity storage, such as battery storage will also be considered under this call for sites.

If you have information in regard to grid capacity and connection in relation to your site then please include it with your submission.