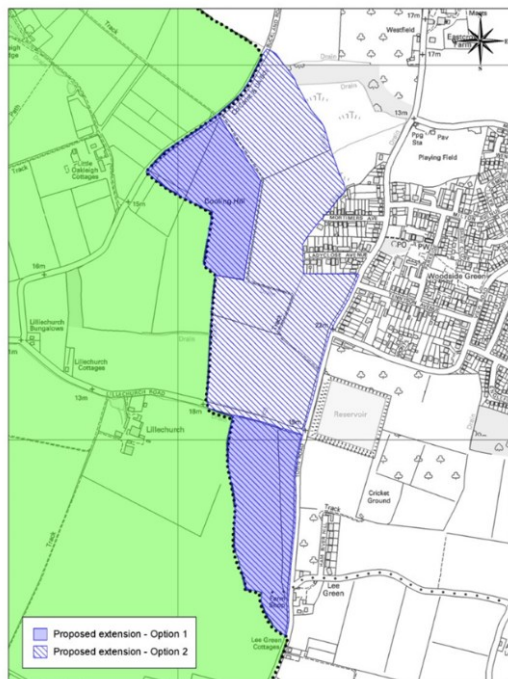


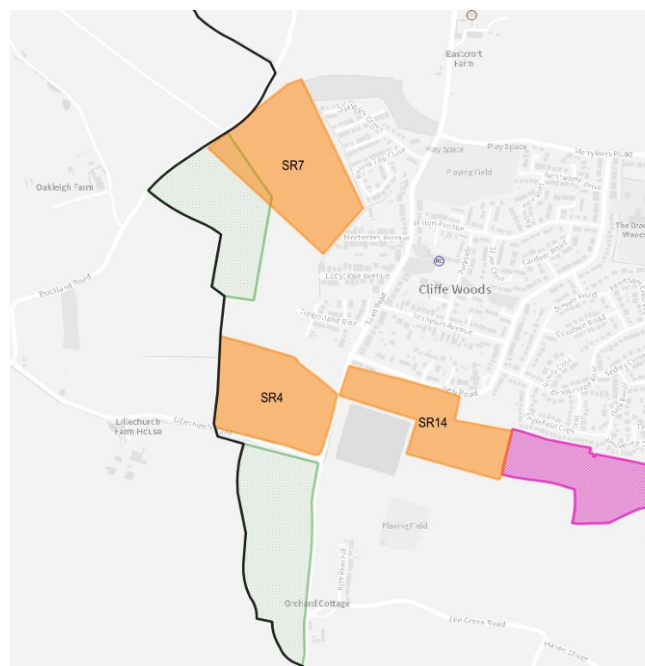
EXPLANATORY NOTE: CLARIFYING MATTER 5 ACTIONS - GREEN BELT CHANGES AS SHOWN ON THE POLICIES MAP

Land to the West of Cliffe Woods

In particular, concern was expressed regarding Figure 25 of the Green Belt Review (ref: B8), which illustrates two potential Green Belt boundary options and includes, within Option 2, land that has subsequently been developed. Figure 25 is reproduced below.



Extract 1: Figure 25 of Examination Library Document B8



Extract 2: Submission Policies Map - North West (A2.2)

Page 1 of 5

Council's preferred approach and is the option ultimately reflected in the Submission Policies Map - North West (ref: A2.2). Consequently, the areas that have since been developed on the western edge of Cliffe Woods do not form part of the proposed Green Belt boundary alterations.

Second, it is important to recognise that the boundary changes presented in the Green Belt Review (ref: B8) were advanced as alternative options within the evidence base. The definitive Green Belt boundary amendments proposed through the Medway Local Plan 2041 (ref: A1) are shown on the Submission Policies Map - North West (ref: A2.2), where they are identified by green hatching, as reproduced above in Extract 2.

What can also be seen from Extract 2 is that recent development has been appropriately reflected. The orange polygons denote allocated development sites. Site SR7 has commenced development, Site SR14 is substantially complete, and Site SR4 has yet to be implemented. For completeness, the pink-shaded land in Extract 2 denotes Ancient Woodland.

The extent of development on these sites can also be observed from the accompanying Google Map's extract, reproduced below:



Google Maps, accessed September 2026. © Google.

Taken together, the evidence demonstrates that the Council has pursued Option 1 from the Green Belt Review (ref: B8) to establish stronger and more permanent Green Belt boundaries on the western side of Cliffe Woods. It also demonstrates that Option 2 is no longer realistically capable of implementation given the passage of time and the recent development that has occurred. Furthermore, the Submission Policies Map –

North West (ref: A2.2) appropriately reflects this new development and the proposed Green Belt boundary amendments.

Notwithstanding the above, upon further review the Council has identified what appears to be a drafting error on the Submission Policies Map - North West (ref: A2.2). Specifically, the boundary of Site SR7 overlaps with the proposed Green Belt boundary. This overlap was not intended. The Council therefore proposes to amend the Policies Map so that the Green Belt boundary follows the new poplar treeline, with the boundary of Site SR7 repositioned to the eastern side of that same poplar treeline. This amendment will remove the overlap and more accurately reflect the Council's intended Green Belt boundary.

Commissioners Road

A second action point arose during the Matter 5: Green Belt hearing session. This was with regard to land identified as Commissioners Road as depicted in the google extract below outlined in red.

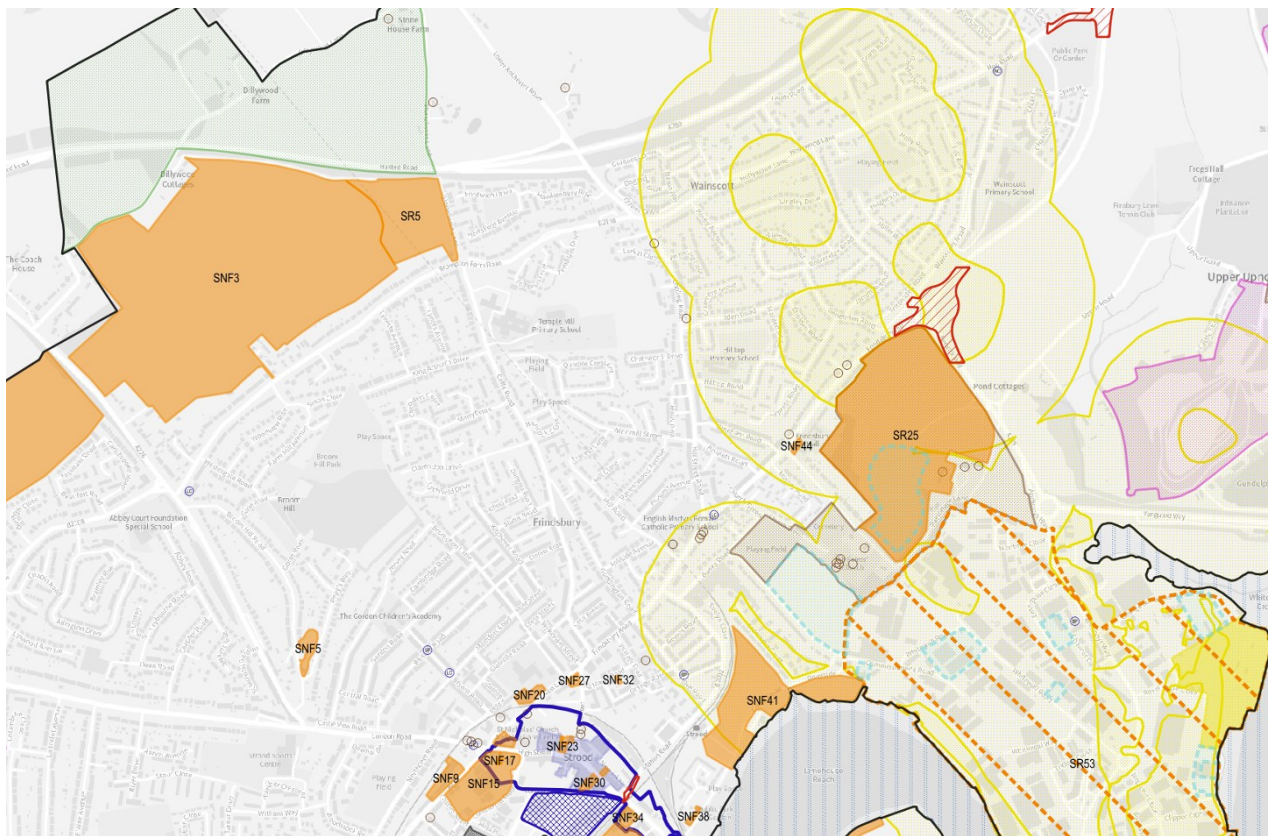


Google Maps, accessed September 2026. © Google.

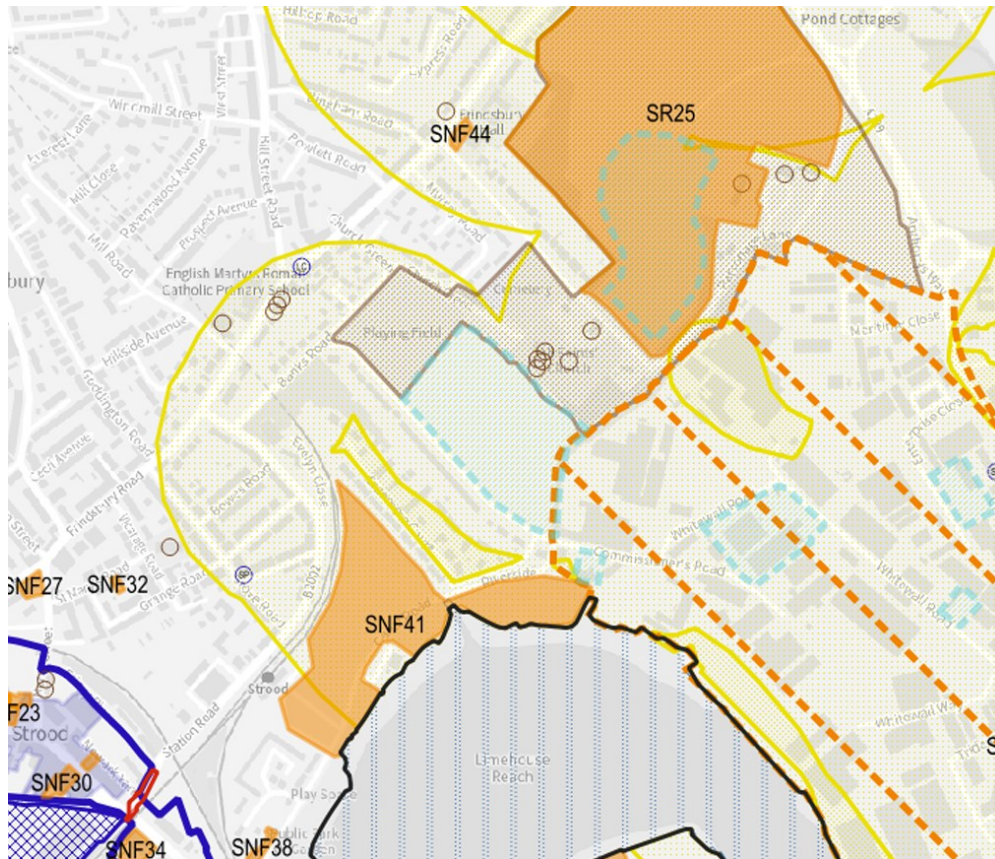
The issue raised in representations was the assertion that this site was included as part of the Green Belt. The Council can confirm that this site was not identified as Green Belt but instead has been designated as a waste management facility as depicted on the Submission Policies Map – Urban Core (ref: A2.1) and Submission Policies Map - South West (A2.4) – see Extract 3 below.

The Green Belt designation is depicted on the Submission Policies Map – Urban Core (ref: A2.1) and Submission Policies Map - South West (A2.4) as a light green infill with a solid green outline (top left corner of Extract 3). The waste management facility designation is depicted as light blue with a hashed light blue outline (bottom right of Extract 3). The Council will address a clearer distinction between designations through main modifications.

It is important to also acknowledge that the site was granted permission for a residential development. Due to the site having consent, it was not presented on the Submission Policies Map – Urban Core (ref: A2.1) and Submission Policies Map - South West (A2.4) but has been factored into the pipeline calculations for the housing trajectory. The waste management facility designation reflects historic mapping and until development can commence, which would require remediation to be undertaken, this reflects the current status of this site and an accurate representation on the Submission Policies Map – Urban Core (ref: A2.1) and Submission Policies Map - South West (A2.4).



Extract 3: Commissioners Road (Submission Policies Map - South West (A2.4))



Extract 4: Commissioners Road zoomed in (Submission Policies Map - South West (A2.4))