

The Green Belt in Pendle

Background

Green Belts were introduced in the 1950s as a mechanism to prevent the merger of neighbouring urban areas.

Circular 42/55 (1955) recommended local planning authorities to consider the establishment of clearly defined Green Belts.

Lancashire Green Belt

The North East Lancashire Structure Plan (1979) stated:

“Green Belts will be established between or adjacent to the following settlements:

- (i) Between ... Padiham and Burnley (north of the A671), Colne and Trawden, Colne and Foulridge.”*

The draft Lancashire Structure Plan (1987) identified more specific areas for designation as Green Belt:

“To maintain Green Belts in the following areas:

- (g) ... between Padiham/Burnley and Barrowford, Nelson and Barrowford, Barrowford and Colne, Colne and Trawden, Colne and Foulridge, Colne and Laneshaw Bridge.”*

The general extent of the Green Belt in Lancashire was finally established in Policy 17 of the *Lancashire Structure Plan*, which was approved with modifications by the Secretary of State for the Environment on 7th December 1989 and came into effect on 4th January 1990.^{1,2} Policy 17 noted that:

“... the detailed boundaries of Green Belts will be defined in Local Plans.”

Pendle Green Belt

Pendle Council published *The Pendle Green Belt Subject Plan* for public consultation in September 1987. In response to this public consultation, and subsequent events, it was decided to amend the plan and extend the area covered.

Pendle Council published the *Pendle Green Belt Local Plan* in March 1990, but this was not adopted by the Council.

¹ The Lancashire Structure Plan replaced the North East Lancashire Structure Plan and the Central and North Lancashire Structure Plan.

² The Lancashire Structure Plan was the subject of a High Court Appeal, so the print version was not issued until March 1991.

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The *Draft Pendle Local Plan* published in June 1992 incorporated the proposals contained in the *Pendle Green Belt Local Plan* (1990).

The *Pendle Local Plan Deposit Edition* was published in January 1994 for public consultation. The Public Inquiry was held between 14th May and 28th June 1996, with the Inspectors Report issued in December 1996. Proposed Modifications were published for public comment in November 1997 and March 1998.

With the adoption of the *Pendle Local Plan* in January 1999, the Green Belt in Pendle was formally designated.

There have been no reviews of the general extent of the Green Belt in Pendle since this date. However, the adoption of the [Pendle Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy](#) (December 2015) saw a 30.59 hectare site in the Green Belt, immediately west of the Lomeshaye Industrial Estate taken out of the Green Belt and allocated as a (locally) strategic employment site (Policy WRK3 and Appendix F). The justification for the selection of this site can be found in the *Strategic Employment Site Allocation Report* (December 2013).

- [Part 1](#)
- [Part 2](#)

Note:

The area west of Higham was situated within neighbouring Burnley until it was incorporated into Pendle on 1st April 1987.³ The Green Belt Boundary in this area was established in the Burnley Local Plan 1985 and follows the line of the A6068 rather than the AONB boundary.

Pendle Council's intention to include this area of land within the Green Belt is evidenced in each of the documents published between 1987 and 1994 (see above). This was acknowledged in paragraph 2.95 of the *Inspector's Report* for the Pendle Local Plan (December 1996), which stated.

It appears that the justification for the inclusion of this area in the green belt is to resist development pressure in what otherwise might be a vulnerable area between the green belt and the AONB and, in essence, to make it easier to define a firm and sensible boundary. The latter cannot, in my opinion, be a reason in itself to include land in Green Belt."

In conclusion the Inspector noted that *"no exceptional circumstances have ... been put forward to justify the extension of the (green) belt west of Higham"*⁴

The Inspector therefore made the following recommendation:

*"Modify the proposals map and inset No. 25 to delete from the Green Belt the area west of Higham lying between the A6068 and AONB boundary."*⁵

³ The Lancashire (District Boundaries) Order 1986

⁴ Page 51 (Paragraph 2.99)

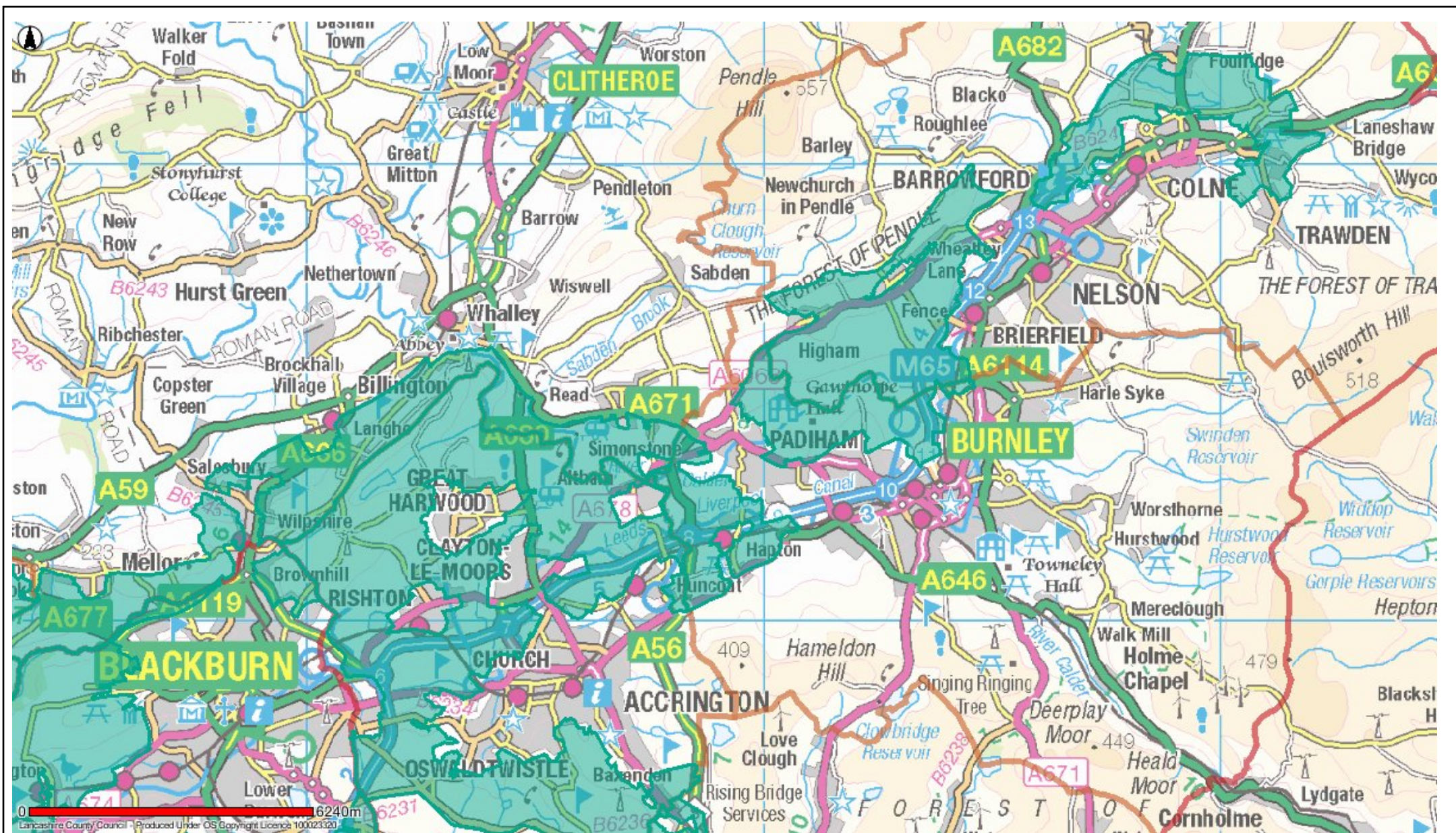
⁵ Page 52 (Recommendation 31)

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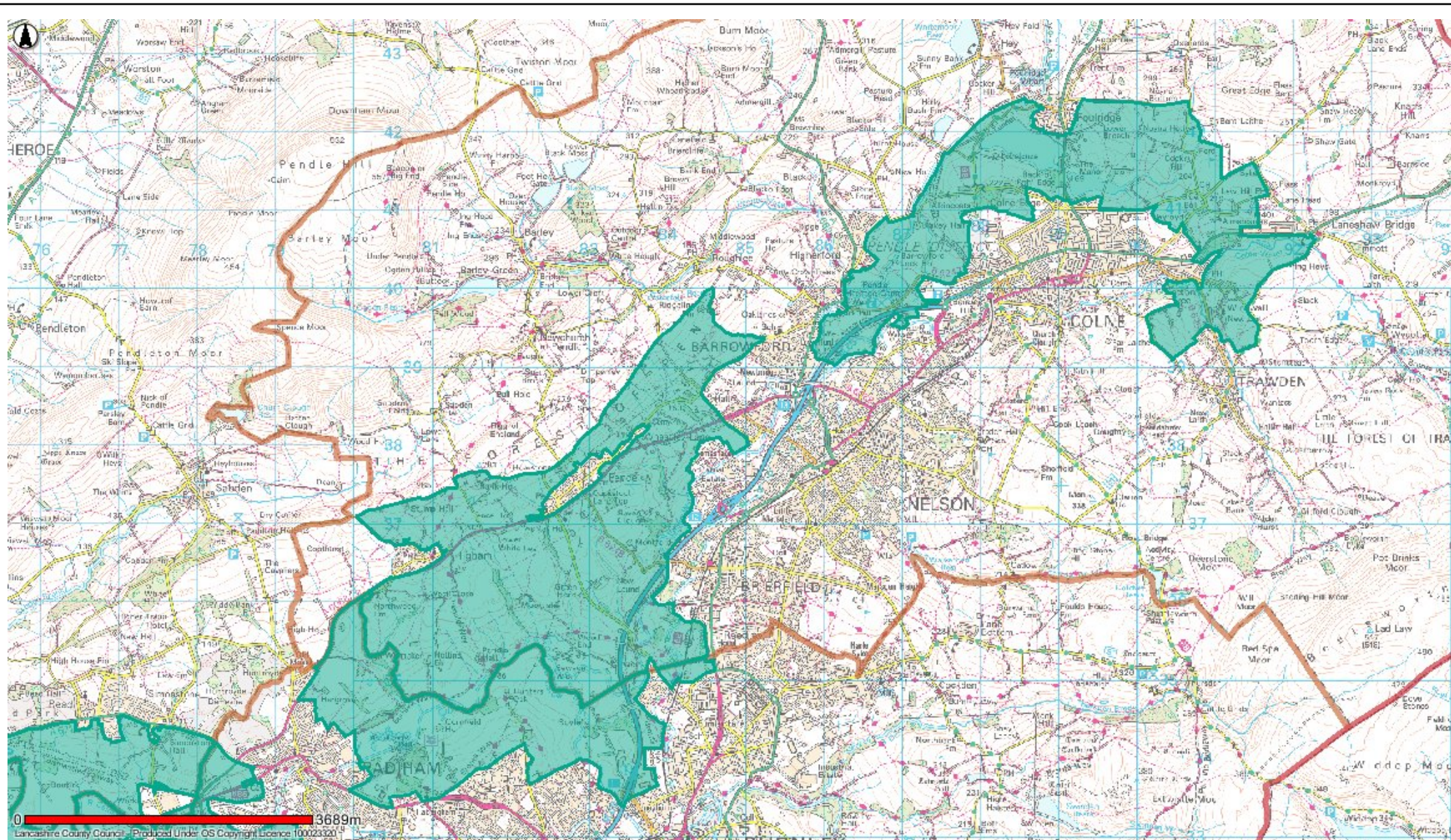
Background Documents

The following documents provide information on the designation and extent of the Green Belt in Lancashire.

- North East Lancashire Structure Plan (1979)
- Draft Lancashire Structure Plan: Greening the Red Rose County (Lancashire County Council, 1987)
- The Pendle Green Belt Subject Plan – Draft Written Statement (Pendle Council, 1987)
- Lancashire Structure Plan: Greening the Red Rose County (Lancashire County Council, 1990)
- Pendle Green Belt Local Plan – Draft Written Statement (Pendle Council, March 1990)
- Pendle Local Plan Deposit Edition (Pendle Council, January 1994)
- Pendle Local Plan (Pendle Council, January 1999)
- Replacement Pendle Local Plan (Pendle Council, May 2006)
- Pendle Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (December 2015)



Green Belt in East Lancashire



Green Belt in Pendle