

Wealden New Local Plan consultation.

In preparation for its new Local Plan Wealden consulted on a draft in 2024. However, the Government made changes to the National Planning Policy Framework in December 2024 that both changed policies with which Wealden's plan has to be in compliance and altered the standard method of calculating the housing numbers requirement for the individual districts. It therefore became necessary for Wealden to revise certain sections of its plan, namely the spatial strategy, the housing and business allocations and the coastal defences. It is on these changes that Wealden will now be consulting.

A draft of the relevant changed sections of the earlier draft has been prepared and will be put to a Full Council Meeting on 29 January. Once approved the public will be invited to comment during a six-week period starting on 2nd February. The comments will be considered by the Council and the full plan together with any amendments will be published later in the year before being presented to the government who will then consider the appointment of an inspector to undertake an examination in public. Following the examination that is likely to take place early in 2027 the Inspector will issue a report detailing any amendments that they consider necessary before the plan can be adopted either late 2027 or more likely 2028.

The previous draft plan covered the period to 2040 when the Council was required to provide an additional 19800 new dwellings at a rate of 1200 dwellings per annum (dpa). Those targets were considered unachievable as a result of constraints within the district. The first draft therefore made provision for a further 15729 new dwellings at the rate of 953 (dpa) and 84850 sq. m of new employment space.

The new draft plan extends the period to 2042. Under the new standard method of calculation the housing requirement for Wealden has risen to 1457dpa and a total of 24769 new dwellings to be delivered at the rate of 1457 dpa. In light of the constraints the new draft makes provision for a further 16609 new dwellings to be delivered at the rate of 977dpa, a shortfall of 8160 new dwellings against the target. It is likely that at examination Wealden will be required to make up the shortfall in numbers. Therefore the new draft includes not only new allocations but a series of option sites to meet the potential shortfall that are still being looked at.

The housing provision for Hellingly is as shown.

Already Committed	Windfalls	Allocations	Total
923	52	199	1174

The new allocations are 174 new dwellings across three sites.

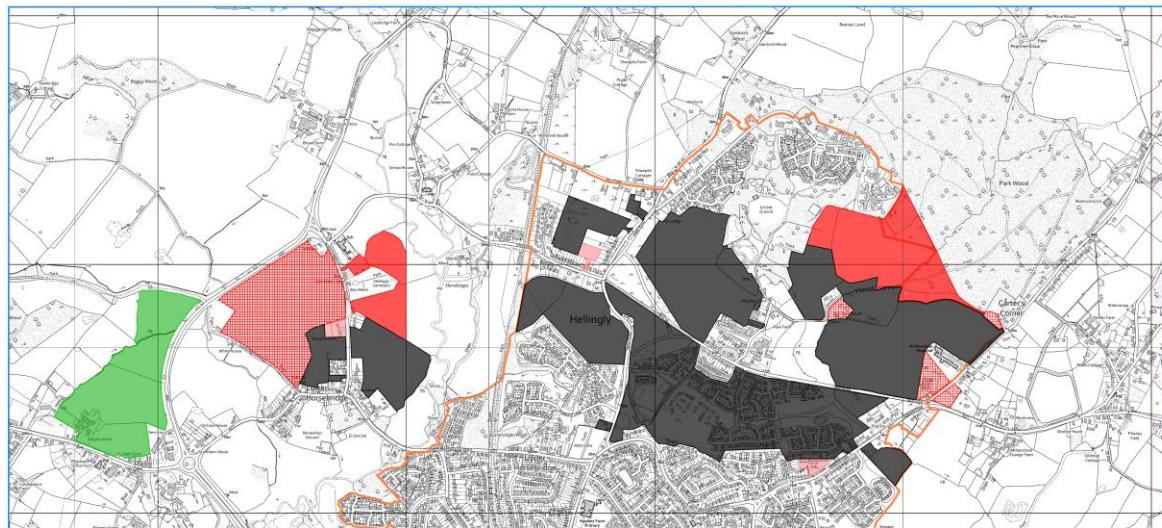
Park Farm East 100

North Street 60

North Street North 14

In addition, an option site for a further 400 new dwellings on land on the east side of North Street is included and although not within Hellings Parish an option site in Arlington for a further 2000 new dwellings on land North West Hailsham

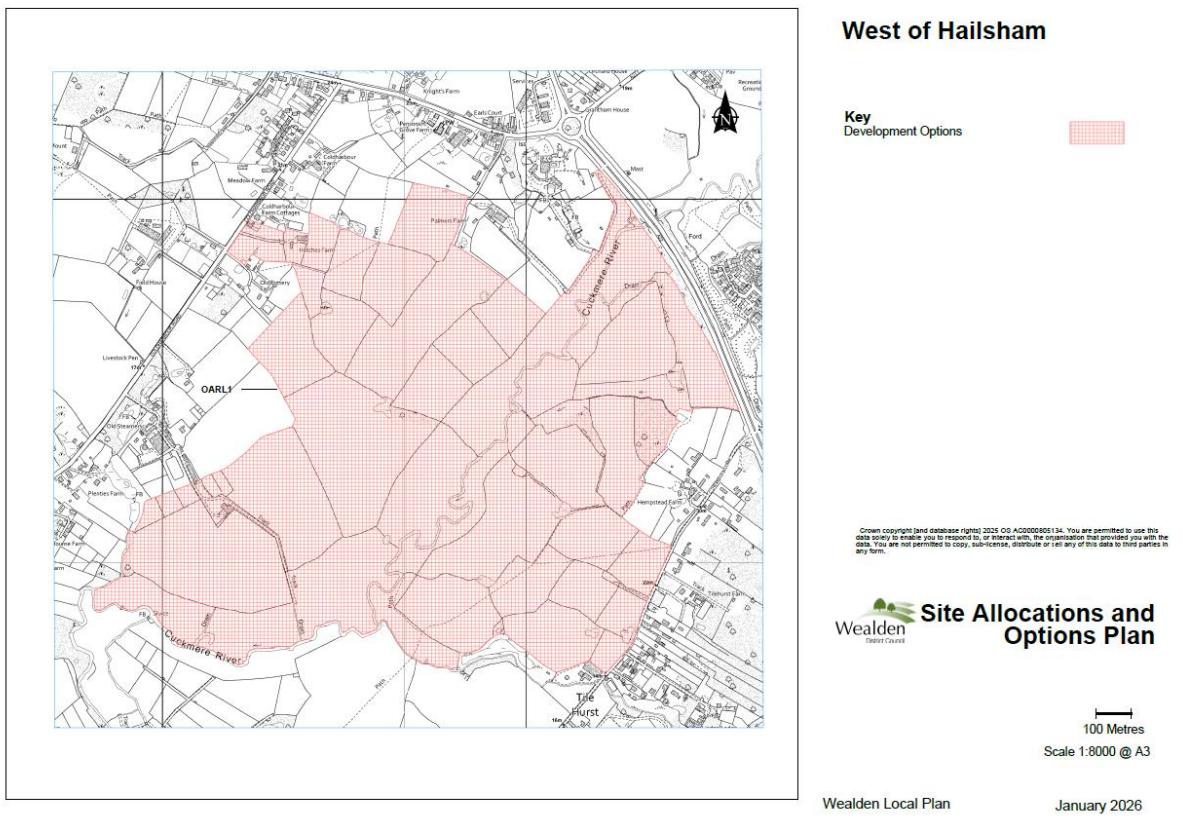
The sites are shown on the attached plans.



Key

New Development Allocations
Previous Development Allocations
Development Options
New Strategic Employment Allocation
Development Boundary

RED
BLACK
PINK
GREEN
RED LINE



The sites are examined in detail in the SHELAA and Sustainability Appraisal that form part of the new draft plan the link to which is
<https://council.wealden.gov.uk/documents/b50010867/To%20Follow%20Items%20Appendices%20to%205%20-%20Wealden%20Draft%20Foc>

Or in the Cabinet papers for the meeting on 14 January published on the Wealden Web site

DGW

20.01.26