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### 'Call for Sites'

### Warrington Borough Council Local Plan Review

### **Call for Sites Registration Form**

October 2016

<u>Please note this 'Call for Sites' is for five or more dwellings or economic development</u> on sites of 0.25 ha (or 500sqm of floor space) and above, Gypsy, Traveller and Show People and Minerals and Waste sites.

The identification of sites does not imply that the Council considers that the site is suitable for development, either now or in the future. It cannot be taken as representing either an intention to allocate these sites, or as a material consideration in the determination of a planning application.

Potential sites that have been identified will be further tested through the Plan-making process, including through the Spatial Distribution and Site Assessment Process, Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment, several stages of public participation and independent examination.

Please also note that all the responses and information received as part of the 'Call for Sites' will be published and made available for public viewing as part of the open and transparent Plan making process.

**NOTE:** Please read the accompanying guidance note <u>here</u> before completing this form and complete a **separate** form for each site that you are submitting to the Council.

### Please return your completed form and any accompanying supporting material to Planning Policy, Warrington Borough Council no later than 5.00pm on Monday 05<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

By e-mail: Idf@warrington.gov.uk

By post: Planning Policy, Warrington Borough Council, New Town House, Buttermarket Street, Warrington, WA1 2NH

Should you require further advice and guidance on completing this form, please contact the Planning Policy Team by telephone on 01925 442841 or by e-mail to ldf@warrington.gov.uk

(1) Your Details								
Please provide your contact details and those of your agent (if applicable). Where provided, we will use your Agent's details as our primary contact.								
	Your details Your Agent's details							
Name		Scott Ashall	Susan Crowley					
Position			Owner					
Organisation			Crowley Associates					
			45 Carr Bank Lane					
Address								
	Town		Sheffield					
Postcode			S11 7FB					
Telephone								
Email address								

(2) Site Details	(2) Site Details							
Please provide the of separate form.	Please provide the details of the site you are suggesting. If you are suggesting more than one site, please use a separate form.							
Name of site /oth it's known by	er names	Land off Massey Brook Lane						
Address								
	Town	Lymm						
	Postcode							
Ordnance Survey Grid Reference		Easting : 367099	Northing : 386980					
Site area (hectares	s)	2.35ha						
Net developable (hectares)	area	1.5ha						
What is your inte		Owner	Lessee					
site? (please tick one)		Prospective Purchaser	Neighbour					
		Other	Please state: Developer/Promote					
Please Note: It is essential that you provide a map showing the site's location and detailed boundaries for each submission.								

(3a) Propos	ed future	e use(s)					
				e to be considered be considered for			
		Residential	Gypsy & Travellers	Employment	Retail	Leisure	Other*
Preferred futur	re use	<b>✓</b>					
Alternative fut	ure use(s)						
Detential Cana	a oitu	houses: 45	Number of Pitches:	CaM	CaM	CaM	CaM
Potential Capa	acity	or flats:		SqM	SqM	SqM	SqM
Employment U	Jse Class (	E.g. B1)					
* If "Other", ple use(s):	ease indica	te which					
Potential Density	30dph						
,				olanning work of any proposed		Yes	No 🗸
(3b) Proposition Details:	ed future	e use(s) - I	Minerals a	ind Waste			

(4) Site (	Ownersh	nip								
		vnership deta ase indicate t							fourth	owner, etc.
If vou do not	know who	owns the site,	please s	tate so b	pelow.					
,			ner 1			vne	r 2	(	Owner	. 3
Name										
Address	Town									
	Postcode									
<u>Or</u> : I do no	t know wh	no owns the	site	<u> </u>						
Has the over the please also	wner (or ea	ach owner) e details for th	indicate le 4 <sup>th</sup> and	ed supp subseq	oort for pro uent owners	pos (wh	sed redeve ere necessa	lopment? ry).		
Ye	es		<b>✓</b>							
No	0								$\overline{\Box}$	
Don't	know									
Are there any Restrictive Covenants & Ransom Strips affecting the site?										
(5) Mark	et Intere	st								
Please choo	se the most	appropriate of	category	below to	indicate wh	at le	vel of marke	interest the	re is in	the site:
				Any c	comments					
Site is own		_								
	-	a develope	r 📗							
Enquiries			~							
Site is bei	ng market	ed								
None										
Not knowr	1									

ı

(6) Site Cond	dition							
Please record the land uses.	current use(s) of the site (	or for vacar	nt sites, the prev	rious use, if knov	vn) and the	e neigh	bourin	g
Current use	e(s)	Grazing	(horses)					
Neighbourin	g Uses	Residen	tial; Care Hor	ne				
If vacant	Previous use(s)							
	Date last used							
What proportion	n of the site is made u	p of build	ings. and wha	at proportion is	s (open)	land?	)	
· · ·	covered by buildings	0 %		ot covered by	· · · ·		0	%
•	<u>,                                     </u>	l	'	,				
If there are build	dings on the site, plea	se answe	er the followin	g questions:				
How many b	ouildings are there on	the site?				build	ings	
What propo	rtion of the buildings a	re curren	tly in use?	% in us	se:	%		
				% derel	ict:	%		
				% vaca	nt:	%		
Are any exis	sting buildings on the s	site propo	sed to be cor	nverted?				
For the parts o	f the site not covere	d by buil	dings, please	e answer thes	e questic	ons:		
What propo	rtion of the land is cur	rently in a	active use?			%		
What proportion is <i>greenfield</i> (not previously developed)?				l)?	100	% (A	)*	
What proportion is <i>previously developed</i> and cleared?					% (B	)*		
What proportion is <i>previously developed</i> but not cleared?				ed?		% (C	)*	
(e.g. demoli	tion spoil, etc.)					<u> </u>		
DI	1.00			* A plus B	plus C sh	ould ad	ld to 10	00%.
Please provide any	y additional comments on	a separate	sheet if necessa	ary.				

### (7) Constraints to Development

Please tell us about any known constraints that will affect development for the proposed use, details of what action is required, how long it will take and what progress has been made.

Please use a separate sheet where necessary to provide details. If using separate sheets, it would be helpful to make reference there to the particular constraint, e.g (7)(e) – *Drainage*.

	Yes, No or Don't know	Nature and severity of constraint *	Action needed, timescales and progress	Confirm technica or by s provi- Yes	al study ervice
a) Land contamination	No				>
b) Land stability	Don't know				
c) Mains water supply	No				<b>&gt;</b>
d) Mains sewerage	No				>
e) Drainage, flood risk	No				>
f) Tree Preservation Orders	No				•
g) Electricity supply	No				<b>V</b>
h) Gas supply	No				>
i) Telecommunications	No				>
j) Highways	No				>
k) Ownership, leases etc.	No				<b>&gt;</b>
I) Ransom strips, covenants	No				~
m) Other (Please provide details)	No				<b>V</b>

### (8) Site Availability

Please indicate when the site may be available

Excluding planning policy constraints, when do you believe this site could be available for development?

Immediately Yes. (Note: to be "immediately available", a site must be cleared, unless being considered for conversions.)

If not immediately, please state when it could be available:

If the site is not available immediately, please explain why – e.g. the main constraint(s) or delaying factor(s) and actions necessary to remove these:

### (9) Any Other Information

Please tell us anything else of relevance regarding this site if not already covered above that will ensure that it contributes positively to the achievement of sustainable development. Please use a separate sheet/s if necessary. Please see statement attached.

Planning Policy– Warrington Borough Council,
New Town House, Buttermarket Street, Warrington, WA1 2NH

Idf@warrington.gov.uk 01925 442841

This form is available in other formats or languages on request.

### Location Plan at Lymm (367099,386980)



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Scale: 1:2500, paper size: A4

Warrington Call for Sites

Location Plan Scale 1:2500



www.crowleyassociates.co.uk



### WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL – CALL FOR SITES SUBMISSION LAND AT LYMM OFF MASSEY BROOK LANE



www.crowleyassociates.co.uk

Site referred to as: Land off Massey Brook Lane, Lymm

Easting: 367099, Northing: 386980

Call for Sites Submission

Ву

**Crowley Associates** 

on behalf of:

**Ashall Land Ltd** 

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Location/Transport Links

Impact on Environment/Landscape Character

Viability

Amount

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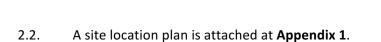
### 1. CONTEXT

- 1.1. Following a High Court Challenge to the adoption of parts of the Warrington Local Plan Core Strategy (adopted 21 July 2014) the LPA's housing targets have been overturned; reference to the planned urban extension at the Omega Site has been removed; and the Green Belt boundary at Peel Hall has been quashed. The Local Authority's most recent Strategic Housing Market Assessment (Mid Mersey SHMA, January 2016) evidences the strong demand for housing and the Local Authority now accepts that it is not possible to meet Warrington's development needs within the existing urban area and on green field sites outside of the Green Belt.
- 1.2. In response Warrington Borough Council has launched a review of its Local Plan and in accordance with Regulation 18 of the Act has placed its consultation documents in the public domain. As part of the consultation process it has issued a Call for Sites.
- 1.3. This report, prepared by Crowley Associates on behalf of **Ashall Land Ltd**, seeks to promote **land west of Highfield Road and south of Massey Brook Lane, Lymm** (the "Site") for housing and provides an assessment of its availability, suitability and achievability in the context of existing adopted Local Plan and National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) objectives. The report concludes that the site is developable and requests that it be released from the Green Belt in order to enable it to delivery housing.

### 2. SITE DESCRIPTION INCLUDING RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY

2.1. The Site encloses 2.35 ha of agricultural land and is located at the western edge of Lymm village with access off Massey Brook Lane. Its last lawful use was as land tied to/within the curtilage of a residential property referred to as Red Cott Farm and used (in association with Red Cott Farm) for grazing horses. However, the land containing the dwelling and associated outbuildings has been redeveloped in the last 5 years to deliver a care facility (granted consent under application reference: 2008/12348 with

amendments/submission of detail signed off over subsequent applications), and the land has become redundant. It is now separated from the care home. It remains in the ownership of:



2.3. The residential properties on Highfield Road border the eastern edge of the site with some residents having acquired an interest in the land, effectively extending their rear gardens (the registered title at Appendix 2 refers). The eastern edge is bounded by a mature hedgerow, along which runs a watercourse (north/south) and which is considered to form part of the Borough's intermediate surface water management infrastructure. The Bridgewater Canal is located within 50m of the Site (to the north). No PROWs cross the Site. The land contained within the red line is Greenfield. The Site has not been assessed in the most up to date Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA 2016).

### 3. LOCAL PLAN POLICY/OTHER DESIGNATIONS

- 3.1. The Site is located within the designated Green Belt. It:
  - Does not contain any listed buildings
  - Is not located within the curtilage or the sphere of influence of any designated heritage assets (including Conservation Areas)
  - Tree Preservation Orders
  - Is within Flood Risk Zone 1
  - Is not subject to any other statutory designations

### 4. IDENTIFIABLE CONSTRAINTS

- 4.1. The Site has no:
  - Contaminated Land Issues
  - Ground Condition Issues
  - Site Access Issues
  - Infrastructure Issues
  - Amenity Issues
- 4.2. The Site has:
  - Developer Interest

### 5. SITE ASSESSMENT

### **Availability**

5.1. The owners of the land have permitted Ashall Land Ltd to promote the Site. The land is available for immediate development and is free of ownership and tenancy issues. It can be brought forward at the earliest opportunity for residential development. Ashall Land Ltd has a track record of delivering planning permissions.

### Sustainability - Location/ Community infrastructure

- 5.2. The NPPF sets out a presumption in favour of sustainable development and encourages the fullest possible use of public transport, walking, and cycling and instructs local planning authorities to focus new development in locations which are or can be made sustainable.
- 5.3. The site is located 500m southwest of Lymm Village Centre with its associated facilities (Churches (catering for various denominations), community facilities (including a library), PHs, cafes, shops, P.O.). In terms of health care, there are three doctors' surgeries and a dentist located within 1km east of the site.
- 5.4. There are two children's nurseries and six schools located within 2.5km of the site:

- Statham Community Primary School (550m north)
- Cherry Tree Primary School (430m southeast)
- Oughtrington Community Primary (2.54 km northeast)
- Ravenbank Primary School (1.76km east of the site)
- Lymm High School (2.4km east)
- St Mary's Pre-School (1.39km south east)
- Lymm Village Pre-School (1.37km northeast)
- 5.5. In addition, the site is well served by informal and formal open space including:
  - Lymm Golf Club (1.32 km northeast)
  - Lymm Rugby Football Club (1.41km southeast)
  - Ridgeway Grundy Memorial Park (634m northeast)
  - Lymm Lawn Tennis Club (956km east)
  - Parkland off the Peppers (1.55km east)
- 5.6. According to the 2015 Open Space Audit, the wider Lymm Ward is well served by PROWs in the form of tow paths and trans pennine trails. An extract from the Open Space Audit showing the areas of formal and information open space located within access of the Site is attached at **Appendix 3.**

### Sustainability - Location/Transport Links

- 5.7. Warrington more generally is highly connected to the motorway and A road network, airports and the rail network.
- 5.8. There are bus stops located directly north of the Site on Massey Brook Lane and 300m east of the site at Barsbank Lane Corner on Church Road which combined provide regular and frequent bus services (numbers 5, 5E, 35 and 47) that run daily and on a half hourly/hourly timetable to Warrington, Altringham and Broomedge/Oughtrington. An aerial view of the site relative to the local bus stops is attached at **Appendix 4.**

5.9. There is easy access from the Site to both the M6, the M56 and the wider A road and motorway network.

### Sustainability – Impact on Environment/Landscape Character

- 5.10. The Site is not subject to any statutory landscape designations. The Local Authority produced a landscape character assessment in 2007<sup>1</sup>, and according to its findings the Site is located at the western edge of Landscape Area 3.C which is identified as Lymm, and which comprises a Red Sandstone Escarpment. The area is characterised by:
  - "smaller scale, more intimate rural landscape
  - Luxuriant hedgerow trees with diverse range of species
  - Rolling landscape
  - Restricted views
  - Strong feeling of high landscape quality".
- 5.11. The historic evolution and character of Lymm village (which contains a designated Conservation Area) is described with the assessment concluding that (from a landscape character perspective) the "most characteristic feature of Lymm village is the valley in which it stands". The assessment goes on:

"To the south of the village Lymm Dam has created a large recreational water body with a spillway into a steep-sided section of the valley known as the Dingle. The bridge over the spillway on Church Road is listed Grade II. In the centre of the village is the lower dam, from which the stream falls steeply into Slitten Brook. In all these features red sandstone is exposed, perhaps most dramatically near the lower dam where a cliff approximately 10m high stands behind adjacent cottages."

5.12. The Assessment confirms that "nature of the landscape, with its luxuriance of hedgerows and hedgerow trees and more intimate landform, creates a less sensitive environment in which to absorb small scale development".

Crowley Associates

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Warrington: A Landscape Character Assessment; Agathoclis Beckman Landscape Architects, 2007

- 5.13. Landscape change recently experienced includes:
  - Expansion of Lymm village
  - Alteration from commercial to leisure uses on the Bridgewater Canal
- 5.14. The LPA's recommended Management and Landscape Objectives:
  - Monitor existing hedgerows and hedgerow trees
  - Encourage a rolling programme of new hedgerow tree planting
  - Investigate and encourage the creation of new native woodland planting to provide continuous woodland links along Bradley Brook, Mag Brook and Kaylone Brook
  - Encourage traditional management of ancient woodland
  - Investigate the opportunities for extended footpath systems
- 5.15. The Site being as it is enclosed by mature hedgerows (albeit in need of management) contains one of the landscape features which is characteristic of the area. The land within comprises a relatively flat open greenfield site is too small to be considered viable as an agricultural holding, its last use was for the purpose of grazing horses. There are no topographical constraints. There are no long views of the site from the north or east and views towards the site from Massey Brook Lane are interrupted by the presence of hedgerows. Development of the site will inevitably result in change in the appearance of the landscape but there is nothing to suggest that development could not be delivered without being of detriment of the LPA's stated management and landscape objectives for the wider area.

### Sustainability - Viability

5.16. The SHMA (2016) has confirmed that there is demand for housing in this location and indeed by the Local Authority's own assessment (undertaken as part of the CIL Viability Study), the majority of residential development in Warrington is viable. The Local

Authority continues to adopt a long term view and it is determined to ignore extremes in the market.

5.17. There are no known abnormal costs associated with developing the site. There are no other known constraints to developing the site.

### **Amount**

5.18. Based on an area of 2.35ha we consider the Site is capable of carrying upwards of 45 dwellings (based on an average developable area of 65%).

### 6. GREEN BELT DESIGNATION – RELEASE

- 6.1. The Site is located within the Designated Green Belt and in accordance with Paragraph 89 of the NPPF, new buildings in the Green Belt are considered to be an inappropriate form of development. Hence as it stands there is a presumption against the development of the Site for housing.
- 6.2. However, we note that the Local Authority, accepting that it is no longer possible to meet the Warrington's development needs within the existing urban area and on green field sites outside of the Green Belt, will have to consider releasing land from within the Green Belt for development (including housing development).
- 6.3. We are proposing that our Site should be considered for release and it is therefore necessary to establish the level of contribution (none, weak, moderate or strong) that it makes to the role and purpose of the Green Belt.
- 6.4. Paragraph 80 of the National Planning Policy Framework (the NPPF) describes the purposes of including land within the Green Belt, as follows:
  - To check the unrestricted sprawl of large built up areas;
  - To prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;
  - To assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
  - To preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and

- To assist in urban regeneration by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land
- 6.5. Using the methodology set out in the Local Authority's own Green Belt Assessment<sup>2</sup> (undertaken to determine whether the Borough's Green Belt Boundaries remain fit for purpose) we have tested the Site against the five purposes outlined.
- 6.6. It is worth noting that in its own assessment of the Green Belt, the Local Authority has also considered our Site for release albeit as part of a much larger parcel reference:

  LY27 (which extends from Highfield Lane to the east along Massey Brook land to Booth's Lane west and south). For reference an extract from the Green Belt

  Assessment indicating the extent of Parcel LY27 is attached at Appendix 5.
- 6.7. By the Local Authority's assessment, the wider site makes a **Moderate** contribution to the purposes of the Green Belt. By our own assessment, our individual Site makes a **Weak** contribution to the purposes of the Green Belt. Our position in this respect is set out in the following paragraphs.

### To Check the Unrestricted Sprawl of Large Built Up Areas

- 6.8. With reference to the Local Authority's Green Belt Assessment we note the definition of Sprawl is taken to mean "spreading out of building form over a large area in an untidy or irregular way". Warrington urban area has been defined as the large built up area.
- 6.9. The Site is not connected to the built up area of Warrington and so makes no contribution to the purpose of checking unrestricted sprawl.

### To Prevent Neighbouring Towns from Merging into One Another

6.10. For the purposes of the Green Belt Assessment, neighbouring towns were defined as the Warrington Urban Area and the settlements of Culcheth and Lymm.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Warrington Borough Council, Green Belt Assessment; Arup, 2016

6.11. The site does could not be described as being an essential gap and development of it would not reduce the perceived distance between Warrington and the neighbouring towns identified. The M6 also acts as a natural barrier to merging. Thus by our own assessment the Site makes no contribution to the purpose of preventing neighbouring towns from merging into one another.

### To Assist in Safeguarding the Countryside from Encroachment

6.12. This site is situated on the edge of settlement, and contains no built form. The boundary between the Site and the settlement which comprises the rear gardens to established residential properties would prevent further encroachment into the Site. Further encroachment beyond the Site north would be prevented owing to the presence of durable boundaries in the form of Massey Brook Lane. To the west is an established and durable hedgerow, which would contain encroachment in that direction. We accept the Site is open to adjoining countryside to the south, but with careful masterplanning a durable boundary could be established and the effect of the development and its perceived encroachment could be curtailed. By our own assessment the Site does not serve a beneficial use of the Green Belt which needs to be safeguarded. As an individual parcel it does not possess a strong degree of openness. We have concluded that the site makes a weak contribution towards the purpose of safeguarding the countryside from encroachment. In this respect we have departed from the Local Authority's conclusion in relation to the role the wider site (LY27) might have to play in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment.

### Preserving the Setting and Special Character of Historic Towns

6.13. The Local Authority has decided that Lymm and Warrington should comprise historic towns for the purposes of the Green Belt Assessment. Although the Site is located adjacent to Lymm, the Conservation Area boundary is not within 250m of the Site boundaries and the Site does not cross an important viewpoint. We consider the Site has no role to play in this regard.

### To Assist in Urban Regeneration by Encouraging the Recycling of Derelict and other Urban Land

- 6.14. With reference Brownfield capacity within Warrington, only 4.67% of unconstrained land available for housing development is brownfield and the Mid Mersey Housing Market Area has 2.08% brownfield urban capacity. The Site makes a moderate contribution to purpose 5.
- 6.15. On the whole we conclude that the land makes a weak contribution to the Green Belt. Our findings depart from the findings of the Local Authority's Green Belt Assessment (as it relates to the wider site), which conclude that in the context of both the General Area Assessment and the individual parcel assessment, the wider parcel (LY27) makes a moderate contribution to the function of the Green Belt in this location. The Green Belt Assessment concludes that the parcels such as those which include the Site "have the greatest potential to be considered for release".

### 7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1. The Site presents an excellent opportunity to deliver an extension to the western fringe of Lymm village. The Site is well located with access to public transport and within walking distance of schools, shops and other community infrastructure located within the settlement. The Site is capable of being developed sensitive to/in compliance with the wider objectives of the Local Plan and the NPPF in so far as they relate to matters of:
  - Landscape character
  - Access and highway safety
  - Design (including scale, appearance, layout)
  - Amenity
- 7.2. In short the Site is capable of delivering sustainable development. We can confirm that Ashall Land Ltd is willing to undertake additional technical studies or assessments if so requested by the Local Authority.

- 7.3. As part of the Local Authority's own assessment of the Green Belt and ahead of the Call for Sites, the potential for the Site to be released from the Green Belt (albeit as part of a wider parcel of land) has been considered. By the Local Authority's assessment, the wider parcel makes a moderate contribution to the Green Belt. By our own assessment the Site makes a weak contribution to the Green Belt and should be released.
- 7.4. The Site is immediately available and presents no constraints to development.
  Ultimately the Site is perfectly capable of making a significant contribution to towards
  Warrington Borough Council's housing land supply.
- 7.5. We would therefore request that the Site be released from the Green Belt and allocated for housing as part of the Local Plan Review.

### **APPENDICES**

### Location Plan at Lymm (367099,386980)





APPENDIX 2 – REGISTERED TITLE PLAN (NTS)

# APPENDIX 3 – EXTRACT FROM OPEN SPACE AUDIT SHOWING LYMM WARD

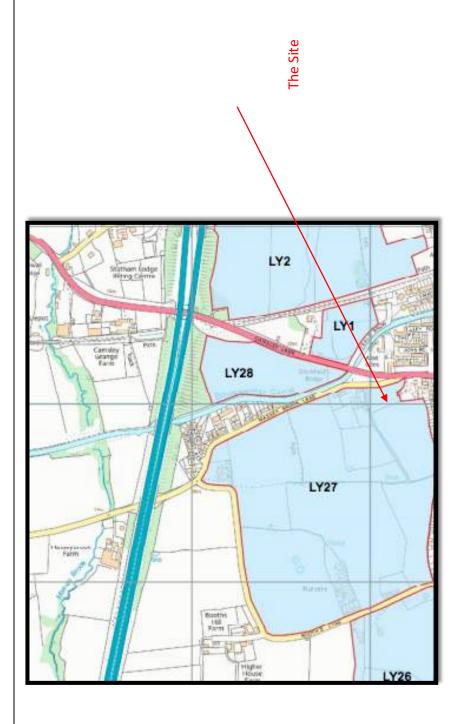


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## APPENDIX 4 – BUS STOPS PROXIMATE TO THE SITE



APPENDIX 5 – EXTRACT FROM THE GREEN BELT ASSESSMENT SHOWING PARCEL LY27





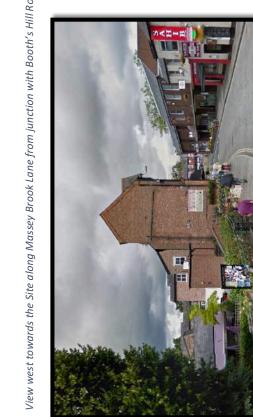


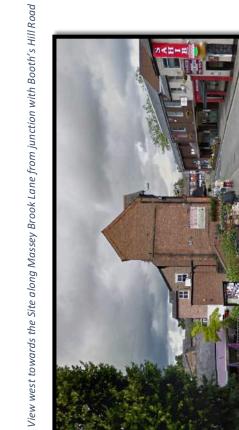


Care Home on si



View East from Massey Brook Lane along Site frontage





Lymm Centre



The Site

### APPENDIX 7 – AERIAL VIEW OF THE SITE

