

Green Belt. These needs will be a significant consideration in determining whether very special circumstances exist. Notwithstanding that, Policy SP3 requires that it is demonstrated that the proposed development is necessary.

5.4.7 Similarly in a relatively 'built out' urban area, the Green Belt may be the only location for the siting of necessary infrastructure. It is considered that very special circumstances may exist where infrastructure development is needed. The policy however still requires that it is demonstrated that a Green Belt location is necessary.

5.4.8 The Green Belt boundaries identified on the adopted Policies Map will only be altered through a future review of the Local Plan.

SP3 Green Belt

1. The adopted Policies Map defines the Green Belt in Wyre. Within the Green Belt, planning permission will not be granted for inappropriate development as defined in national policy except in very special circumstances.
2. Any development permitted in the Green Belt should meet the requirements of the Core Development Management Policies and seek to minimise the impact on the openness of the Green Belt and any conflict with the purposes of including land within it.
3. The construction of new buildings is inappropriate development except for categories of development defined in national policy. Where limited affordable housing is defined as appropriate development it will need to comply with Policy HP4.
4. The need for development that is demonstrated as being necessary for the continued operation of an educational establishment will be a significant consideration in determining whether very special circumstances exist within the Green Belt.
5. The need for service infrastructure development²³ where it is demonstrated that a Green Belt location is necessary will be a significant consideration in determining whether very special circumstances exist within the Green Belt.

5.5 Countryside Areas

5.5.1 Outside the urban peninsula, the countryside interspersed with numerous settlements characterises most of Wyre. The open and rural character of the countryside is intrinsic to the identity of and 'sense of place' in Wyre. The intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside is recognised in national planning policy. Parts of the countryside on the urban peninsula are also designated as Green Infrastructure as they provide a valuable recreational resource/green lung as well as having landscape and biodiversity benefits.

5.5.2 Policy SP4 aims to protect the countryside and manage development in a way that supports rural communities and the rural economy whilst maintaining its essential attributes. Part of the designated countryside is identified as Coastal Change Management Area in line with the relevant Shoreline Management Plan and seeks to restrict further development which may be affected by future changes to the coastal edge.

²³ Infrastructure development for the purposes of Policy SP3 covers water and sewage utilities, electricity, telecommunication, gas.