

**NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION: MATTER 9:
THE BASIS FOR THE HOUSING ALLOCATIONS AND THE SETTLEMENT
BOUNDARIES**

Statement from CPRE Hertfordshire

1. I am Stephen Baker, DMS, BSc, Dip TP, MRTPI, Planning Manager at Campaign to Protect Rural England Hertfordshire (CPREH).
2. This statement supplements our original representations on the Proposed Submission North Herts Local Plan, which still apply, and seeks to address the Inspector's questions as set out in his schedule of Matters and Issues, on Matter 9, the basis for the housing allocations and settlement boundaries.
3. Our statements on Matters 2, 3 and 7 are also relevant to the issue addressed below.

Issue 9.5: What methodology has been applied to the identification of the settlement boundaries around the Towns and Category 'A' Villages? Is the methodology appropriate and adequately robust?

4. CPREH is concerned that the boundaries around the towns and villages in the Green Belt shown on the proposals maps, have been defined by the Council in order to facilitate future development rather than to seek to minimise harm to the Green Belt from inappropriate development. In particular there are a number of proposed changes to Green Belt boundaries that do not result from the proposed allocation of a specific site for development in the Plan, nor are they proposed to correct an anomaly such as the exclusion of a site that is now developed.
5. All changes to Green Belt boundaries must also be justified by exceptional circumstances for doing so, and CPREH does not consider that this has been carried out by the Council.