

SHELAA 2026: Frequently Asked Questions

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils

This page answers the questions we are asked most often about the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) 2026. If your question is not covered here, please contact the Planning Policy team using the details at the end.

About the assessment

What is the SHELAA?

The SHELAA is a record of sites that landowners, agents and others have put forward for possible housing or employment use. We assess each site against a set of published criteria to understand how suitable, available and achievable it might be. The SHELAA does not allocate land for development. Sites are only allocated through the Local Plan, which has its own stages and public consultations.

What do the Red, Amber and Green scores mean?

The scores show how well a site performs against our assessment criteria, based on the information and supporting evidence we had when we carried out the assessment. A Green score indicates the highest likelihood of a site being taken forward, and a Red score the lowest. A Red score does not mean a site has been ruled out. It means the site is less likely to be chosen than others at this stage.

Is the assessment the final word on my site?

No. The SHELAA is one part of a longer site selection process. Further, more detailed studies are being carried out to establish more information about sites. These will inform which sites are taken forward.

If you think our assessment is wrong

I disagree with how my site has been scored. What can I do?

Please email us and tell us which site you are referring to and why you believe the assessment is incorrect. We will check whether we have applied our criteria correctly to your site.

Will you change a score if I disagree with it?

We will change it if we find we made a factual error. If we applied our criteria correctly and consistently, the assessment will remain as is.

How will corrections be published?

Where we find a factual error, we will correct it. To keep things clear for everyone, we will collect corrections together and publish them as a single update, rather than changing the published document each time we receive a query. Any update will be published on this website.

Sending us more information

Can I send you additional information about my site?

Yes. You are welcome to send it, and we will keep it on file and take it into account as we continue the site selection process. We will not amend the published SHELAA to reflect it. The SHELAA records the position based on the information and evidence available to us at the time of assessment.

I have ownership information that I did not include on the form. Will you update my score?

Thank you for letting us know, and we will note it. The assessment form asked for this information, so where it was not provided at the time, the original score will remain. A change in this one area would not on its own prevent a site from being selected, and we will take the information into account as the process continues.

My site scored Red and I want to submit evidence. Will it move to Amber or Green?

You can submit further evidence. The assessment was made using the information and supporting evidence that was available to us, and we will not amend the SHELAA to reflect new material. We will take your evidence into account as we continue to assess sites and work towards allocations. As noted above, a Red score does not mean a site is disregarded. It means the site has the lowest likelihood of being selected.

Changes to the proposal

Can I change the number of homes or the size of my site?

The number of homes proposed did not affect the outcome of the site assessment, so changing it would not change the score. We will carry out separate site capacity work to look at how many homes each site could accommodate. If a site is selected, the proposed number of homes will be reviewed, and the proposal will be subject to formal consultation in June and July 2027.

Contact us

Email: localplan@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Please include the site reference number in your message so we can find the right assessment quickly.