

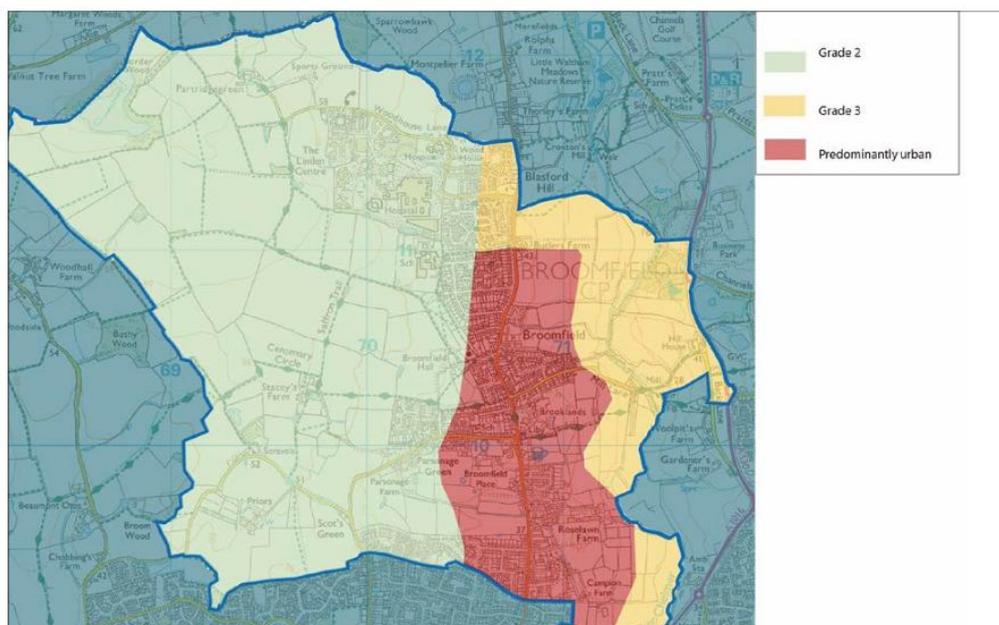
Protecting Nature and Farmland

If passed at the referendum, the Neighbourhood Plan will conserve and enhance Broomfield's Natural Environment. The main ways of doing this are:

Protecting the Best Farmland



The best farmland in Chelmsford is Grade 2 farmland (out of 5 grades, with Grade 1 at the top). This is shown in green on the map below. National planning rules and the Chelmsford Local Plan seek to protect Grades 1 – 3a in general. The Neighbourhood Plan goes a stage further by specifically protecting Grade 2 farmland from development, unless there is a compelling reason for a development (e.g. farm buildings that need to be situated on the relevant farm). The rest of Broomfield's farmland (Grade 3 land) is mostly protected anyway as a Green Wedge or a Valued Landscape. This policy is aimed to make sure that the best farmland in Broomfield is also protected – bearing in mind the importance of conserving the most productive land close to where so many people live, in London and the South-East.



Map 7 - Agricultural Land Quality in Broomfield



Nature and Biodiversity

With biodiversity under threat nationally and globally, this section of the Neighbourhood Plan also includes measures to enhance the habitats that wildlife needs, particularly woodland and hedgerows. These have the added benefit of enriching the landscape visually. So, for instance, there are policies and community actions to:

- Protect hedgerows where they might be threatened by new access roads etc
- Plant hedgerows alongside the new cycle and foot paths that form part of the Plan's sustainable travel strategy
- Create new woodland belts on the rural edge of new developments – such as the City Council's 'north of Broomfield' development
- Consider the possibility of extending the Newlands Grove Nature Reserve
- Create new wildlife habitats in the proposed new public open spaces south of Broomfield Place and east of Saxon Way.

These are intended to support a better environment for both wildlife and humans!

Local Green Spaces

15 pieces of land will be designated as 'Local Green Space' meaning they will be treated like Green Belt, so future development would be highly unlikely. They range in size from quite small verges, to play areas and greens within the village, to slightly larger areas such as the meadows between Church Green and the Primary School. Check the map to see if there is one near you.

[See map of the Local Green Spaces](#)

Finally, for full details

[Read the full chapter on Broomfield's Natural Environment](#)