



The Green Belt Threats and Future

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Chair

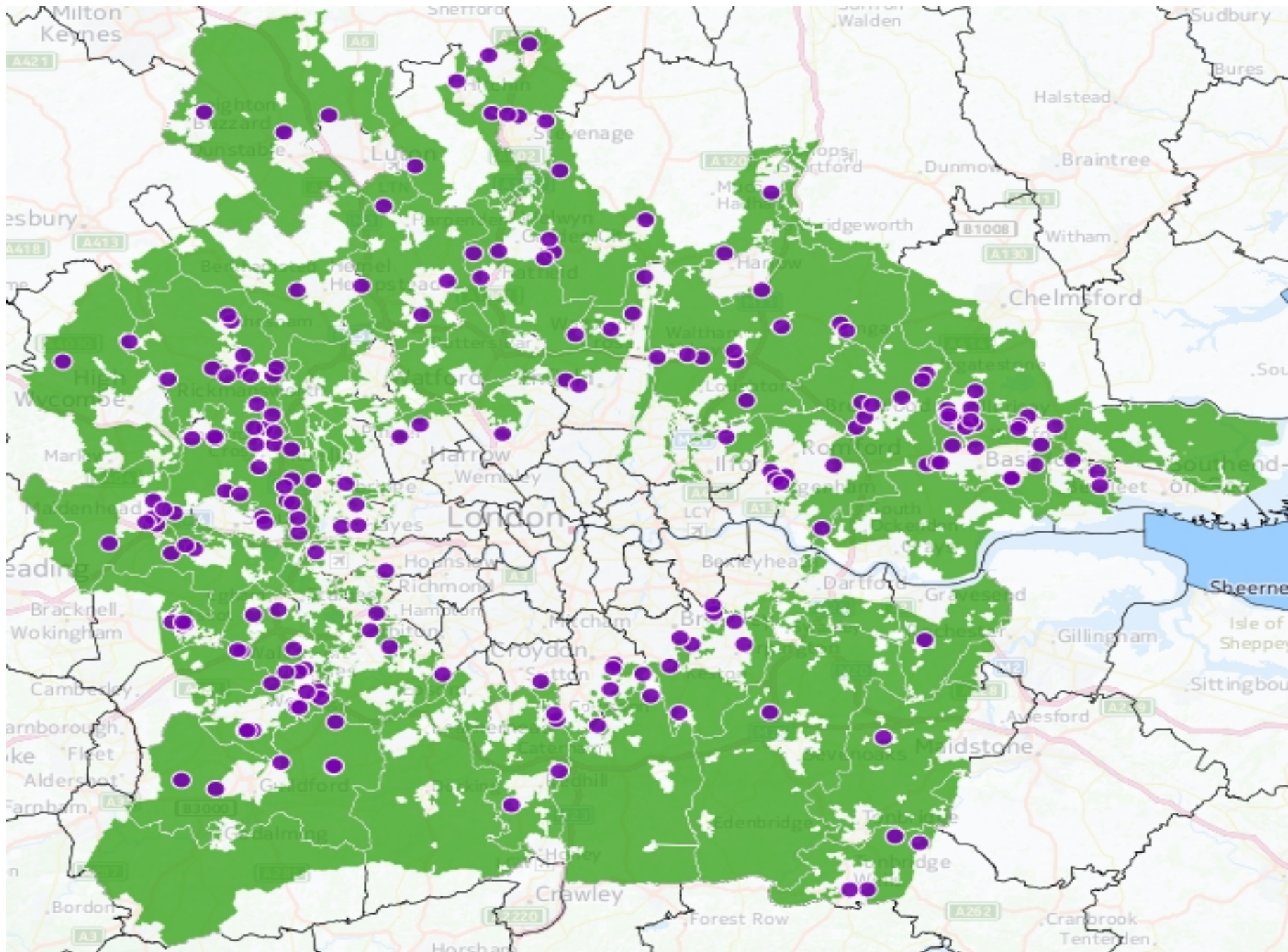
London Green Belt Council

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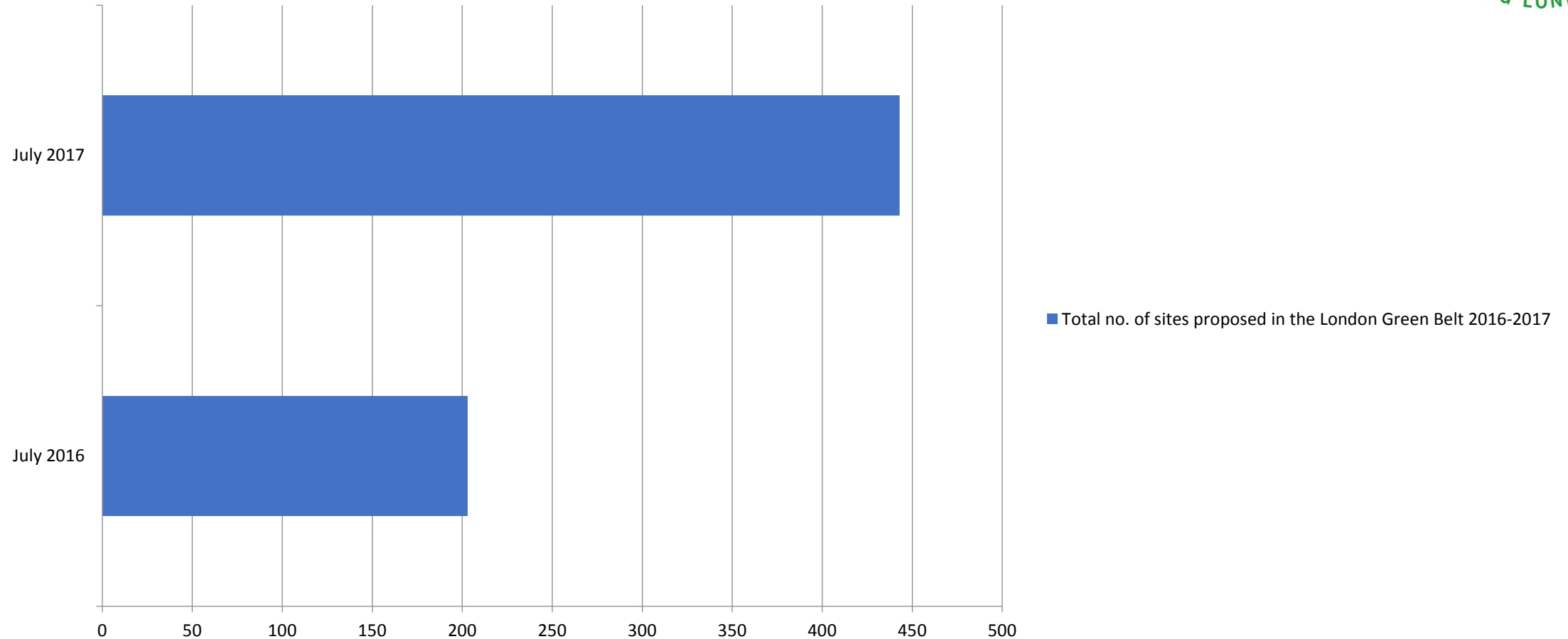
London Metropolitan Green Belt



“Under greater threat than ever before”



Increase in the number of LMGB sites under threat from development since the 2016 survey





What is the purpose of the LMGB

The five purposes (para 80 NPPF)

- 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
- To assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and urban land



But could it be more?

But could it be more?



- A more positive role
- Improving the quality of life of Londoners etc
- Improving the landscape
- Promoting a healthier lifestyle
- Providing fresh food for London
- Providing environmental benefits for London
- Improving and developing biodiversity

Improving the quality of life of Londoners etc



- Easy & quick access to the countryside
- Clean air
- Access to biodiversity
- Scenic landscapes



Improving the landscape

- Much of the LMGB is already considered to be quality landscape
- “Openness”
- “Poor quality” land – developers case
- Deliberate action to deteriorate landscape
- Enforcement powers

Promoting a healthier lifestyle



- Recreational opportunities for all age groups
- Walking / cycling / riding
- Woodland walks
- Educational – nature trails
- Known to assist with those with mental illness

Providing fresh food for London



- BMV soil
- Provide London with all its needs in perishable food
- Fresh – not frozen
- Flavoursome
- Very little carbon footprint

Providing environmental benefits for London



More trees:

- CO2 absorption
- Absorption of water preventing flooding in London
- Scenic landscapes

Scenic landscapes



Long term strategy for the LMGB

- Certainty & clarity of planning strategy
- Establish a land use strategy
- Permanent protection for future generations
- Protected agricultural land base for local food production
- Preserve and improve the scenic value of the landscape
- Build ecological protections
- Thriving economy of the LMGB including recreational and tourism uses
- Social equity – available for all
- Establish a low carbon LMGB
- Long term investment in improving the LMGB



Vision



“Men, women and children want more than food, shelter and warmth. They want, if their lives are to be full and good, space near their homes for exercise, quiet, good air, and sight of grass, trees and flowers...”

Octavia Hill

Vision



- Protect the LMGB from further encroachment and fragmentation
- Protect national heritage
- Sustain ecological and human health
- Protect against the loss of BMV agricultural land
- Have a diverse range of economic and social activities
 - food production/tourism/recreation/resource
- Build resilience to climate change



Goal



To create an authority for the LMGB

To develop a 20 year strategy for the LMGB including investment in order to:

- Protect this important resource
- Open up the LMGB to all those who wish to use it
- Build environmental protection and enhancement
- Develop an economic strategy
- Improve and maintain the landscape of the LMGB
- Provide environmental protection for London
- Create an infrastructure which provides quick and easy access
- Preserve and improve biodiversity



Challenges?