

*WORKSHOP 1*  
*THE LIMITS OF LAW*

The Green Belt is not necessarily green. It is first and foremost a legislative tool to manage urban growth, defined by law rather than the quality or character of the landscape. Anti-development campaigns have helped cultivate public perceptions of the Green Belt as a natural asset that is worth protecting in its own right – sentimentalising the debate in terms of rural versus urban. Instead of seeing the Green Belt in terms of its greenness, this workshop will examine how it is defined in the black and white of legislation; the limits of law.

The workshop will explore the tensions between legislative intentions and their spatial and architectural implications. We will be looking at legislation not as a constraint on creativity, but a cue for experimentation. In one day you will interpret a current piece of legislation, identify its potential for exploitation or subversion, and investigate the potential physical ramifications using models. We will end by speculating on the creation of new legislation informed by the workshop.

The workshop is for all second years. First years are welcome to join in.

TASK 1

You will start by selecting one piece of legislation relating to your area of the Green Belt and personal research interests in advance of the workshop. You may choose to work with all or part of the piece of legislation. You must bring a hard copy of the original legislation to the workshop on Tuesday 26 November. For our purposes, legislation is taken to mean planning law, policy or regulations at a national, regional, local or neighbourhood level, for example:

- Acts of Parliament
- The National Planning Policy Framework
- Statutory Instruments (e.g. General Permitted Development Orders)
- Building Regulations
- The London Plan
- Local Plans (aka Local Development Frameworks)
- Neighbourhood Plans
- Byelaws

## ADS2 CITY LIMITS 2013-4

### TASK 2

Interpret the piece of legislation into as simple, concise and accessible a form as possible. This might be Plain English text or a diagram.

### TASK 4

Produce a series of models illustrating the physical implications of the legislation, and your strategy for how it could be used (or misused).

### TASK 3

Identify the spatial potential of the legislation by considering any ambiguities, grey areas, loopholes, conflicts or overlaps with other legislation or unexpected consequences. Come up with a strategy for how the legislation could be exploited, subverted, manipulated or taken to an illogical conclusion.

### TASK 5

Speculate on how your piece of legislation could be re-written and what implications this might have for your area of the Green Belt.

## REFERENCES

The Rule of Regulations, 2008, Finn Williams and David Knight

SUB-PLAN, 2009, Finn Williams, David Knight & Europa

Hunch 12: Bureaucracy, 2009

Architectural Research Quarterly / Volume 16 / Issue 03 / September 2012

The Five Obstructions, 2003, dir. Lars von Trier & Jorgen Leth

Making Policy Public, Center for Urban Pedagogy, [www.makingpolicypublic.net](http://www.makingpolicypublic.net)

Local Code, 1993, Michael Sorkin

Grand Urban Rules, 2009, Alex Lehnerer

Recetas Urbanas, Santiago Cirugeda, [www.recetasurbanas.net](http://www.recetasurbanas.net)

Good Law, Cabinet Office, [www.gov.uk/good-law](http://www.gov.uk/good-law)

## TIMETABLE

### THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER

14.00 COMPLIANCE, a talk about regulations by Finn Williams

15.00 INTRODUCTION to the workshop

### TUESDAY 26 NOVEMBER

9.30 POLICY CONTEXT, a practitioner's overview of Green Belt legislation by Steve Dennington, Croydon Council.

10.30 TASK 1: Group presentation of selected pieces of legislation

11.30 TASK 2: Interpret legislation

12.30 TASK 3: Identify spatial potential of legislation

13.00 TASK 4: Model implications of legislation

17:00 GOOD LAW, a talk by Richard Spitz and Barnadette Walsh, Cabinet Office

18:00 TASK 5: Speculate on new legislation  
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