



Date of Adoption: January 22, 2026

Date of Notice: January 27, 2026

Last Date of Appeal: February 17, 2026 before 4:00 p.m.

Counties File No.: D09-COPA-LG-2025-01

Municipality: United Counties of Leeds and Grenville

Subject Lands: Lands throughout the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, specifically those lands being redesignated to Agricultural Area from Rural Lands or from Agricultural Area to Rural Lands, and lands being maintained as Agricultural Area.

Notice of Adoption
With respect to Official Plan Amendment No. 5
Sections 17 and 21 of the Planning Act, as amended

On January 22, 2026, the Council of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville passed By-law No. 26-06 to adopt **Amendment No. 5 to the Official Plan for the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville** under Sections 17 and 21 of the Planning Act, as amended.

Purpose and Effect:

This is a Counties initiated Amendment to the Official Plan for the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. The main purpose of this Amendment is to update the policies in Section 3.2, Agricultural Areas, of the Official Plan and to amend "Schedule A, Community Structure and Land Use" to update the existing Agricultural Area land use designation, as required by the Province. Both the policy and schedule changes in the Amendment were developed in part through the Agricultural Area Review (AAR) Report, which was a Land Evaluation and Area Review (LEAR) study, and adjusted by Counties Council.

Subject Lands:

This amendment includes various lands throughout the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. It specifically applies to those lands being redesignated to Agricultural Area from Rural Lands or from Agricultural Area to Rural Lands, and to lands being maintained as Agricultural Area. Accordingly, no key map is provided. A digital scalable copy of the Amendment Schedule is available at www.LeedsGrenville.com/agriculture.

Effect of Written and Oral Submissions:

There was a comprehensive public consultation process throughout the AAR process which was initiated in 2022. An extensive consultation program was undertaken with a dedicated website and social media updates, multiple types of meetings and opportunities for input by the public, the agricultural community (including both the Leeds and the Grenville County Federations of Agriculture), local municipalities, agencies and relevant ministries throughout the multi-year study. Individual mailed notices were also sent to each initially impacted landowner during the process. Public consultation led to written and oral submissions requesting further review and analysis by

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the consultant and later by Planning staff of some properties. All further reviews were completed according to the AAR study criteria resulting in some properties or portions of properties being changed on the map schedule and proposed policy being slightly amended.

As part of the preparation of the Draft Amendment, staff undertook a technical circulation of the draft document to all local municipalities and relevant agencies and Ministries. Responses to the circulation resulted in minor changes to the text and mapping of the Amendment and were included in the Amendment, available for the public meeting and included in the November 5, 2025 staff report.

At the November 5, 2025 public meeting held by the Counties Planning Advisory Committee, there were 9 members of the public who made verbal comments and 5 written submissions were received.

One speaker asked a question and another speaker, who advised she is a farmer, spoke to the importance of protecting agricultural lands, advising that rural residential development impedes farmer's use of their lands. The remaining 7 speakers requested specific properties being proposed to be redesignated to Agricultural Area be removed from consideration. Three written submissions expressed concern with specific properties being redesignated to Agricultural Area. Another identified specific areas of unfragmented farmland suggested to be redesignated to Agricultural Area. The final written submission was comments from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, commending the efforts and consultation by the Counties, but identifying certain proposed policy and mapping omissions that they felt did not uphold the intent of the Provincial Planning Statement (2024). All of these submissions, plus 2 additional written submissions from landowners (which were sent directly to staff) were considered by the Committee at the following meeting on January 7, 2026. Also, at the same January meeting, the Committee heard from two delegations.

On January 7, 2026, the Planning Advisory Committee recommended support for all verbal and written requests for lands to be removed from the proposed Agricultural Area designation. Council approved this recommendation on January 22, 2026, resulting in removing those lands from the proposed Agricultural Area designation. No other changes were made.

Who Can File an Appeal:

The landowner, a specified person (as defined in the *Planning Act*) or a public body who, before the official plan amendment was adopted, made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to the council, the applicant, the Minister or the municipality may appeal a decision in respect of a proposed official plan amendment to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

No person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the official plan amendment was adopted, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to the council, or, in the opinion of the Ontario Land Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

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When and How to File an Appeal:

If you wish to appeal the decision of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville to the Ontario Land Tribunal, you must file a Notice of Appeal no later than 20 days from the date of this notice, as shown as the last date of appeal.

The Notice of Appeal:

The appeal should be sent to the Manager of Planning Services, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, and it must:

1. set out the specific part(s) of the proposed official plan or official plan amendment to which the appeal applies;
2. set out the reasons for the appeal;
3. be accompanied by the fee charged under the *Ontario Land Tribunal Act*.

How to file an appeal:

Appeals are to be submitted to the Manager of Planning Services via the Ontario Land Tribunal's (OLT) online e-file service. Go to <https://olt.gov.on.ca/e-file-service/>. If the OLT's e-file service is not working, please contact the Manager of Planning Services at the contact information listed below.

The steps to file an appeal are as follows:

1. Sign in to your My Ontario Account on the e-file service (first-time users will need to register for a My Ontario Account).
2. Submit the appeal via the e-file service and ensure that you select the correct approval authority, which in this case is listed as "Leeds & Grenville (United Counties of)".
3. Pay the fee required by the OLT. The fee schedule and methods of payment can be found on the OLT website at <https://olt.gov.on.ca/fee-chart/>. (Current fee is \$400.00 for a private citizen, a registered charity or a non-profit ratepayers' association and \$1,100.00 for a corporation).
4. Anyone filing an appeal that does not use the OLT's e-file portal may submit the required material directly to the Manager of Planning Services at the contact information listed below.

When the Decision is Final:

Official Plan Amendment No. 5 is exempt from approval by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The decision of the Corporation of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville is final if a notice of appeal is not received on or before the last date for filing a notice of appeal.

Other Related Planning Act Applications:

None.

Additional Information:

Additional information about the amendment is available for viewing during regular office hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) from the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville at the address noted below.

Please contact Elaine Mallory, Planner II, at (613) 342-3840, extension 2422, or elaine.mallory@uclg.on.ca, if you have any questions on the file.

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Contact Information:

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