

# CAMBRIDGE GREEN BELT

**Land Area: 26,154 hectares**

(1.6% of total green belt land and 0.2% of the total land area of England)



## What kind of place is the Cambridge Green Belt?

- Plays an important role in **protecting the historic setting** of Cambridge
- **Restricts urban sprawl and the city** physically merging with neighbouring towns and villages. Encourages regeneration and protecting the countryside
- It has the **highest proportion of land** in any Green Belt covered by support for **environmentally sensitive farming schemes**

## Green Belts:

Total area of all Green Belts in England is **1.6 million ha** (13% of England's total land area)

## Green Belt fact sheets covered in this series:

England

Avon

Burton/Swadlincote

### Cambridge

Gloucester/Cheltenham

Hampshire/Dorset

London (Metropolitan)

North West

Nottingham/Derby

Oxford

South & West Yorkshire

Stoke-on-Trent

Tyne & Wear

West Midlands

York

## These fact sheets support the reports:

- Nature Conservation and Recreational Opportunities in the Green Belt (2016); with ADAS
- Green Belts: A Greener Future (2010); a joint report with Natural England

**Download the reports from [www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk)**

## Nature conservation\*



392 ha are registered as **Sites of Special Scientific Interest**.

There are 106 ha of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). Two new LNRs have been created within the Cambridge Green Belt since 2009

**7 priority habitats** cover 1,646 ha (16%).

5% (compared with 8% of land nationally), or 1232 hectares of the land area is **broadleaf and mixed woodland**.†

## Public access and recreation\*



There are **252 km of public rights of way** (10 metres per hectare).

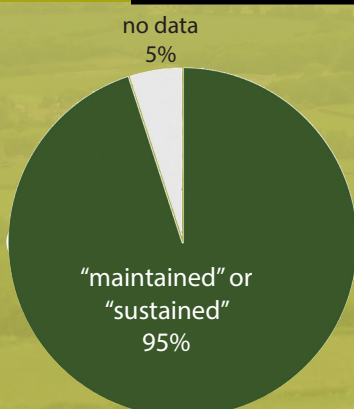
There are **26km of the National Cycle Network**

**140 ha of open access** land, 196 ha of Country Parks and 228 ha is Registered (historic) Park and Garden.

## Landscape quality†



The landscape is in **very good condition**, with 95% of the land area “maintaining” or “sustaining” its established landscape character



## Agriculture‡



**64% is Grade 1, Grade 2** or the ‘best and most versatile’ **agricultural land**. Compared with 17% of land nationally.

**82% is currently in agricultural use**, compared with 71% of land nationally

**73%** of the total agricultural land‡ is subject to Natural England funding ‘**agri-environment schemes**’. (67% of agricultural land nationally, and 53% of all Green Belt agricultural land, is subject to agri-environment schemes).

## Green Belt threats snapshot

**Local Plans** (Source: CPRE, State of the Green Belt 2018)

**2,085 homes are proposed** in land to be released from the Green Belt in local plans. 35% of the homes proposed **could be affordable** if targets are achieved, which would lead to a total of 668 homes.

**Planning Applications** (Source: Glenigan, in State of the Green Belt 2018)

Since 2009, over **1,018 units have been approved** on green belt land, 59% (599 units) of which are on greenfield sites. The number of units approved on average per annum has reduced in the years since the publication of the NPPF; with a change from 106 homes (2012-2017) to 74 homes (2009-2012) per year on greenfield sites.

The proportion of **affordable homes being delivered has increased** since 2012 with **41%** of homes on greenfield sites (35% across all sites) in the Green Belt affordable or social housing. This is the second highest delivery rate of affordable or social housing, although some of this total is likely to include student housing.

\*These figures are from CPRE’s report with ADAS, *Nature Conservation and Recreational Opportunities in the Green Belt* (2016)

† These figures are from CPRE and Natural England’s report *Green Belt: A Greener Future* (2010)

‡ Note that the total for agricultural land on which the percentage covered by agri-environment schemes is based is higher than the total for agricultural land currently in use. This is because a small area of land classed as ‘agricultural’ is not currently in use.