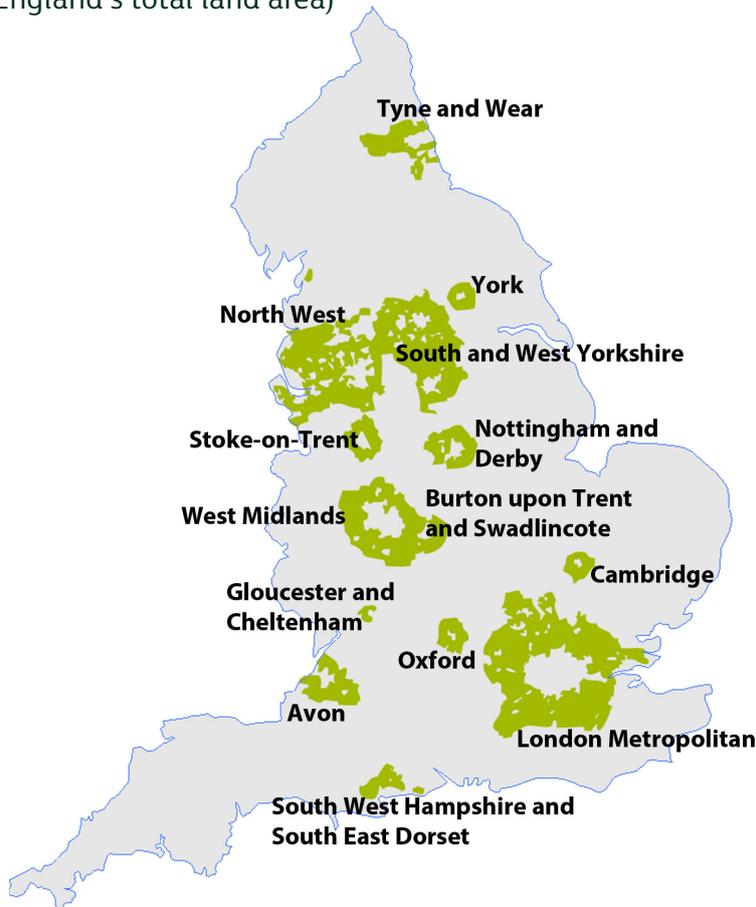


ENGLAND GREEN BELTS

Land Area of all Green Belts in England: 1.6 million ha
(13% of England's total land area)



What kind of place is the Green Belt?

- Green belts are designated for five purposes:
 1. Prevent urban sprawl
 2. Prevent the joining together of major towns and cities
 3. Protect the setting of historic towns
 4. Assist in protecting the countryside from encroachment
 5. Encourage urban regeneration
- Green belts help urban populations access the countryside by maintaining attractive landscapes for outdoor recreation near where people live

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:

- The use of greenfield and brownfield land in Green-belt housing and commercial projects (2017) by Glenigan
- 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



Nature conservation*



68,686 Ha of Green Belt land are registered as **Sites of Special Scientific Interest** (6% of all SSSI land in England).

There are **8,490 Ha of National Nature Reserve** (9% of NNR area).

48 new Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) have been created in the Green Belt between 2009 and 2015, representing 30% of all the new LNRs in England

34% of Community Forest land is within Green Belts (covering 32% of Green Belts). 13.6% of Green Belts are **broadleaf and mixed woodland**†. 17% of total **Ancient Woodland Area** is within Green Belts.

40,000 Ha of green Belt land is owned by the **National Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Woodland Trust**.

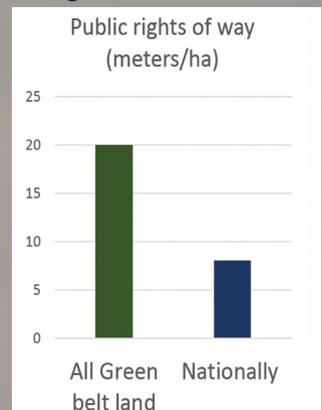
Public access and recreation*



All of England's Green Belts have **higher public rights of way density** than England as a whole

19% of all traffic free cycle routes and 12% of entire National Cycle Network are in Green Belts.

55,594 ha of open access land, 47% of the area of **country parks**, 23% of **registered (historic) land**



Agriculture†



16.2% of all Green Belt land is **Grade 1, Grade 2** or the 'best and most versatile' **agricultural land**. Compared with 17% of land nationally.

65.7% is currently in **agricultural use**, compared with 71% of land nationally

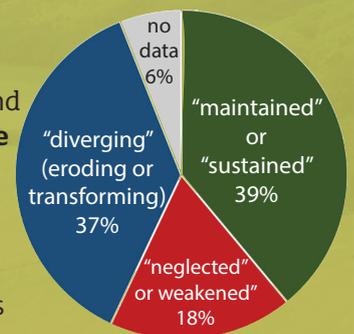
53% of the total Green Belt agricultural land‡ is subject to Natural England funding '**agri-environment schemes**'. Compared to 67% nationally.

Landscape quality†

Key **strengths** common to most Green Belts is the condition of **woodland** and land managed for **wildlife**

Key **concerns** generally relate to the condition of **historic features** and **field boundaries**, such as hedgerows

9.1% (147,187 ha) of Green Belts coincides with land designated as an **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**. Compared to 16% total AONB cover in England.



Green Belt threats snapshot

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

458,500 homes proposed in the Green Belt in local plans, up from 425,000 in 2017, with boundaries being changed to accommodate housing at the **fastest rate for two decades**. Nearly a third of the homes proposed **could be affordable** if local plan targets are achieved. The New Homes Bonus incentivises councils to release Green Belt land; our 2017 report showed that the Government is set to pay councils **£2.4 billion** over the next 20 years.

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

Since 2009, nearly **65000 houses have been approved** on Green Belt land. 37% (24,081 houses) of which were approved on greenfield sites. The proportion of affordable homes approved is only 22% since 2009, with **only 27% affordable housing** in developments on greenfield sites.

*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.