

HAMPSHIRE AND DORSET GREEN BELT

Land Area: 35,545 hectares

(3.8% of total green belt land, 0.5% of total land area of England)



What kind of place is the Hampshire & Dorset Green Belt?

- Its main purpose is to **restrict the outward spread** of Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch.
- This Green Belt has a relatively **large proportion** designated as **Sites of Special Scientific Interest** (16% compared to 4% across all Green Belts).
- It has the **most priority habitat and open access land** cover proportionately (25% and 12% respectively), than all other Green Belts.
- The area of **New Forest National Park** (45,000 ha) used to be part of this Green Belt, until it was re-designated as a National Park in 2005.

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

Nature conservation*



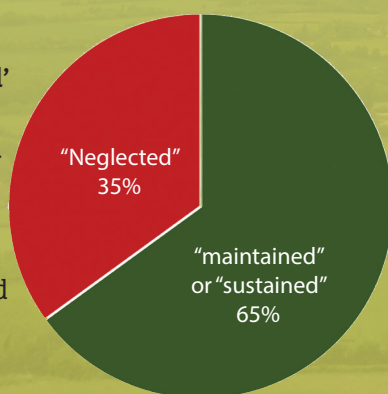
16% (5,755 ha) are registered as **Sites of Special Scientific Interest**, compared to 4% across all Green Belts.

13 priority habitats cover 8,996 ha, representing a quarter of the Green Belt.

23% (compared with 8% of land nationally), or 18,425 hectares of the land area is **broadleaf and mixed woodland**.†

Landscape quality‡

65% of the land area is 'maintained' or sustained in landscape character. Strengths include the condition of woodland and the management of land for wildlife.



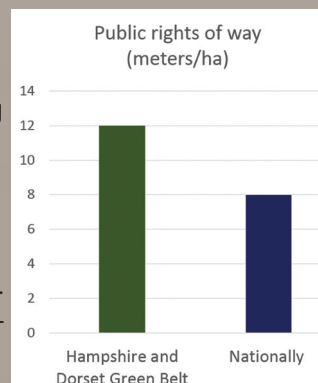
35% is classified as neglected. The main areas of concern are the condition of agriculture and rivers.

Public access and recreation*



There are 425 km of public rights of way and 26 km of National Cycling Network.

There are 4,329 ha of open access land, covering 12% of the Green Belt. This is the highest proportion for any Green Belt.



There are 664 ha of Country Parks and 535 ha are Registered (historic) Park and Garden.

2,476 ha area owned by the National Trust.

Agriculture‡



7.3% is Grade 1, Grade 2 or the 'best and most versatile' **agricultural land**. Compared with 17% of land nationally.

40% (31,971 ha) **is currently in agricultural use**, compared with 71% of land nationally

72% (34,781 ha) 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)

Draft and adopted local plans in Christchurch and East Dorset, New Forest District, and Poole propose 5,980 houses in total on land removed from the Green Belt. This has reduced from 12,720 houses in 2017 due to updates to the New Forest District and Poole local plans. If local targets are met, 37.5% of houses would be affordable.

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

1,229 units have 726 units have been approved in the South West Hampshire and South East Dorset Green Belt since 2009, with over 500 of these being approved in the past year. 84% of units approved since May 2017 are on greenfield sites, bringing the total to 517 units since 2009.

31% of homes approved are affordable or social housing. This proportion drops to a shocking 24% on greenfield land.

*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). These figures include the area currently designated as the New Forest National Park.

‡ 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.