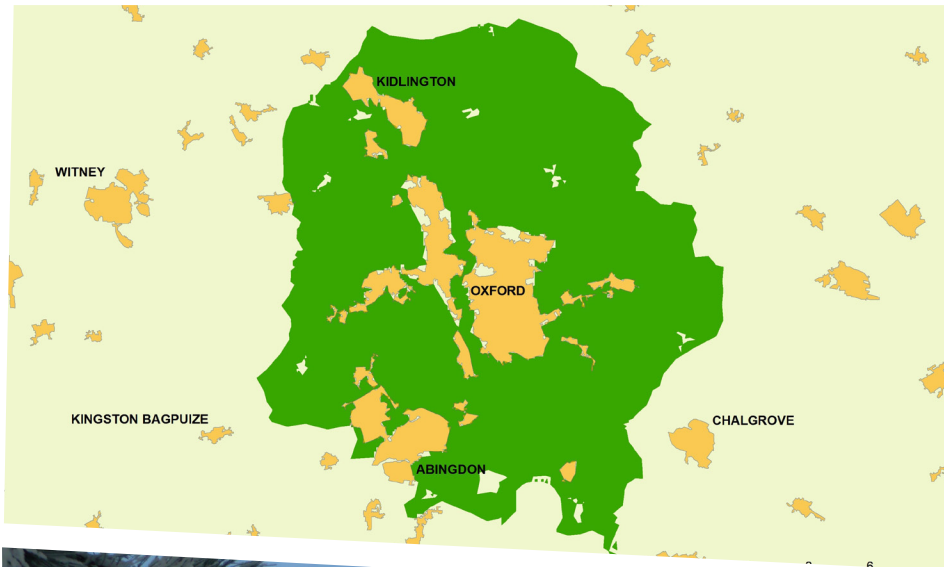


# OXFORD GREEN BELT

**Land Area: 34,991 hectares**

(2.2% of total green belt land and 0.3% of the total land area of England)



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

- Plays an important role in preventing the outward sprawl of Oxford and **protecting the character and setting**.
- The Oxford Green Belt Way provides a 50 mile (80 km) **circular walk** and there are **591 km of public rights of way** in total.
- Landscape quality is being **'maintained'** in virtually all (**99%**) of this Green Belt.
- This Green Belt has proportionally more land at **risk of flooding** than any other Green Belt (6920 hectares or 20% of the land area).

## 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\*



1,740 ha (5%) are registered as **Sites of Special Scientific Interest**.

**11 priority habitats** cover 5,120 ha and there are 394 ha of RSPB reserves.

**62%** (21,539 ha) lies within **Community forest** programmes. There are 1,626 ha of ancient woodland.

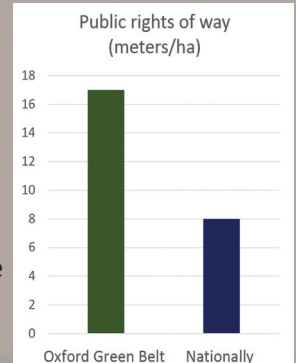
**13%** (compared with 8% of land nationally), or 4,304 hectares of the land area is **broadleaf and mixed woodland**.†

## Public access and recreation\*



There are **591 km of public rights of way** and **38km of the National Cycle Network**.

The **Oxford Green Belt Way**, set up by a local CPRE volunteer, provides a 50 mile (80 km) circular route well linked to public transport.



**383 ha of open access** land and 113 ha of Country Parks and 645 ha is Registered (historic) Park and Garden.

## Agriculture†



**19% is Grade 1, Grade 2** or the 'best and most versatile' **agricultural land**. Compared with 17% of land nationally.

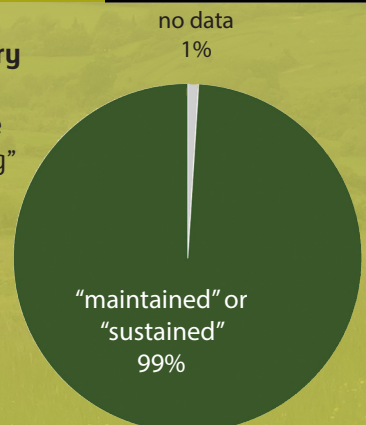
**76%** (24,253 ha) **is currently in agricultural use**, compared with 71% of land nationally

**70%** 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).

## Landscape quality†

The landscape is in **very good condition**, with almost all (99%) of the land area "maintaining" its established landscape character.

This is largely due to the maintenance of patterns of agriculture and management of wildlife



## Green Belt threats snapshot

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

**12,110 houses are proposed** in the Green Belt in local plans, up from 8,610 in 2017. 35% of the homes proposed **could be affordable** if targets are achieved. CPRE's research in 2017 revealed that local councils could be set to **receive £57.3 million** over 20 years for Green Belt development through the New Homes Bonus.

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

202 units have been approved in the Oxford Green Belt since 2009, 61 (30%) of which are on greenfield sites. All but 9 of these homes have been approved since the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was introduced in 2012.

75% of the houses approved on greenfield sites are affordable or social housing, with 51% of new homes overall (on both greenfield and brownfield sites) in the Green Belt falling into this category.

\*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.