![CPRE — Campaign to Protect Rural England — Standing up for your countryside]

STOKE-ON-TRENT GREEN BELT

Land Area: 44,438 hectares

(3% of total green belt land and 0.5% of the total land area of England)
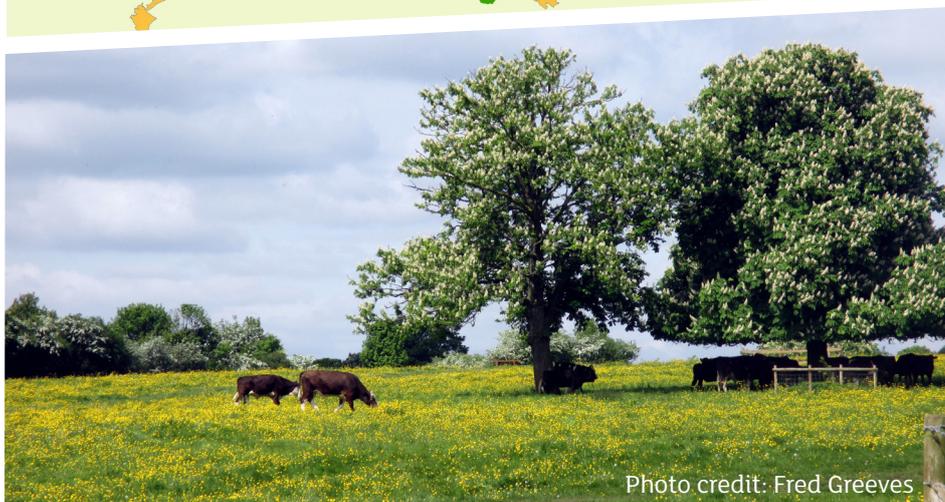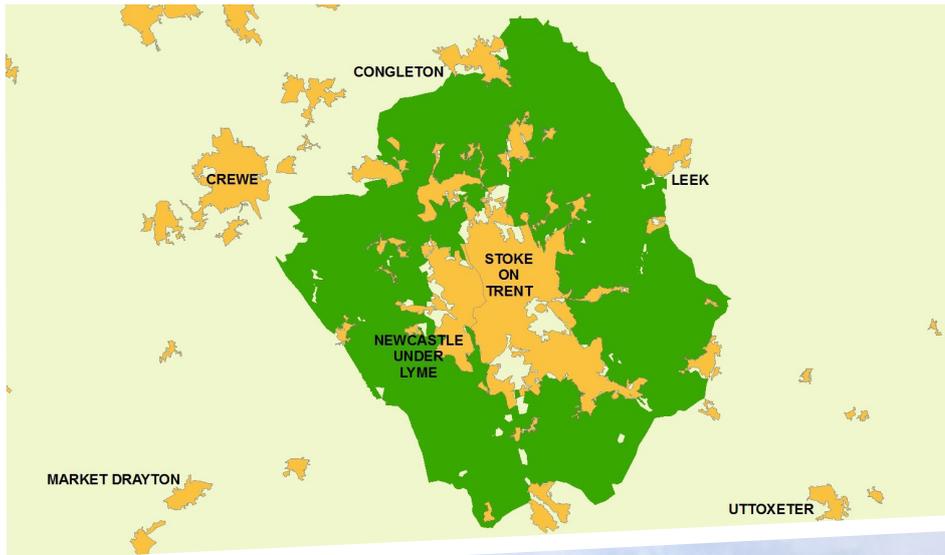

Photo credit: Fred Greeves

What kind of place is the Stoke-on-Trent Green Belt?

- Designated to prevent **urban sprawl**, prevent the merging of the Potteries conurbation with nearby towns and **stimulate regeneration** within the potteries conurbation.

- It has **12 different types of priotiry habitat** covering almost 4,000 ha

- It has one of the **highest proportion of land in agricultural use** (76%) of any Green Belt in England, but the lowest proprtion (40%) of agricultural land covered by support for **environmentally sensitive farming schemes**

- The land cover is predominantly **improved grassland**

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*

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

There are 328 ha of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). This is over 70% greater than estimated in 2010.

**12 priority habitats** cover 3,967 ha (9%).

There are 1,379 ha (3%) of ancient woodland* and 3,371 ha (8%, the same proportion as land nationally) of **broadleaf and mixed woodland**.[†]

Public access and recreation*

There are **835 km of public rights of way** and **24km of the National Cycle Network**

754 ha is Registered (historic) Park and Garden, 542 ha of Country Parks and 343 ha of open access land.

Public rights of way
(meters/ha)

Stoke-on-Trent Green Belt	Nationally
19	8
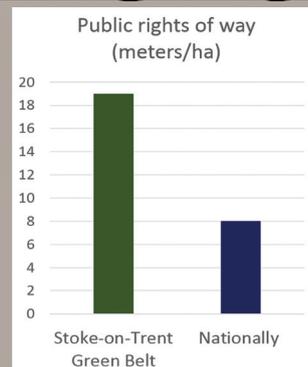
Landscape quality[†]

Most of Stoke-on-Trent's Green Belt is classified as "maintained", with agriculture, habitats, historic features and woodland in a stable condition.

However, 36% of the landscape is classified as "neglected" due to loss of grass and neglected boundary features, such as walls and hedges.

"neglected" 36%

"maintained" or "sustained" 64%
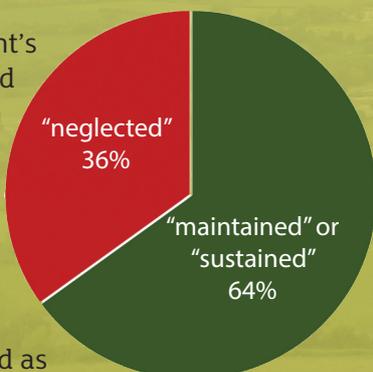
Agriculture[†]

Only 3.3% is Grade 1, Grade 2 or the 'best and most versatile' **agricultural land**. Compared with 17% of land nationally.

76% is currently in agricultural use, compared with 71% of land nationally

Only 40% (12,621 ha) of the total agricultural land[‡] is subject to Natural England funding **'agri-environment schemes'**. This includes a small area of land classed as 'agricultural' that is not currently in use (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)
No homes are currently proposed for land to be released from the Green Belt in local plans.

Planning Applications (Source: Glenigan, in State of the Green Belt 2018)
Over 600 houses through planning applications have been approved in the Green Belt since 2009, with 400 approved within the Stafford Borough. 16% of the houses approved are on greenfield sites. All of the greenfield sites received approval prior to the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework in 2012.

31% of houses are planned to be affordable, however this dropps to only 24% for greenfield sites despite having relatively less start-up costs. These figures include two small site developments (totalling 22 homes) that had 100% affordable or social housing.

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*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.