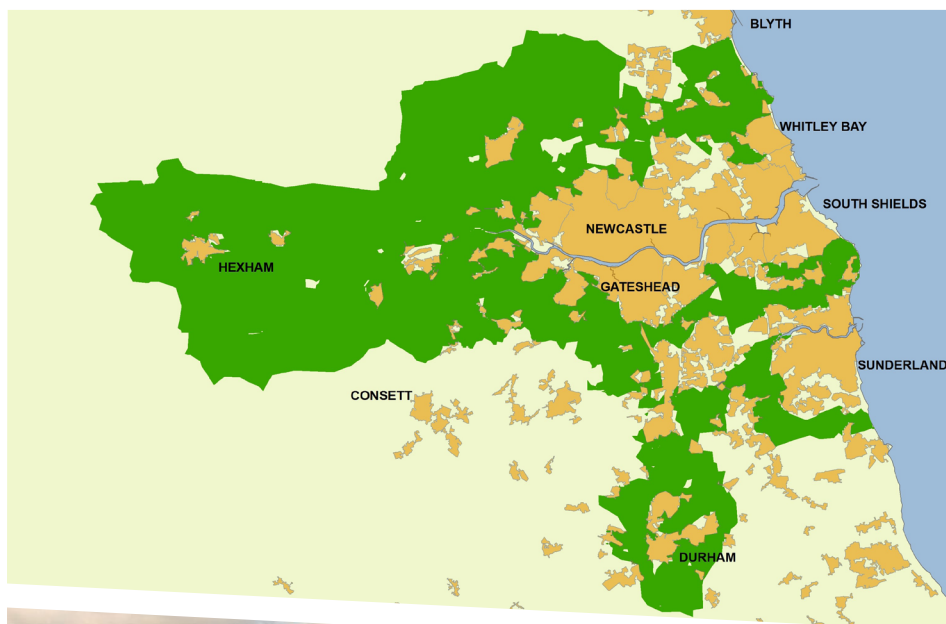


# TYNE AND WEAR GREEN BELT

**Land Area: 72,372 hectares**

(4.5% of total green belt land and 0.6% of the total land area of England)



## What kind of place is the Tyne and Wear Green Belt?

- Designated to prevent the **Tyneside conurbation merging** with that of **Wearside**, as well as **protecting the historic setting of Durham**.
- It has **18 different types of priority wildlife habitats** covering over 5,000 ha.
- Neglect of the landscape is a particular concern for the Tyne and Wear Green Belt. But landscape character is being maintained in 43% of Green Belt area.
- There is a high take up of **environmentally sensitive farming schemes** which cover **69%** of the Green Belt 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\*



**18 priority habitats** (important wildlife conservation areas) cover 5,233 ha (7% of the Green Belt area). This is the highest number of priority habitats across all Green Belts.

10,906 ha of community forest cover 15% of Tyne and Wear's Green Belt and there are 2,790 ha (3%) of ancient woodland.

There are 336 ha of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), which is almost double the area estimated in 2009.

6,693 ha (9%, compared to 8% nationally) of **broad-leaf and mixed woodland**.†

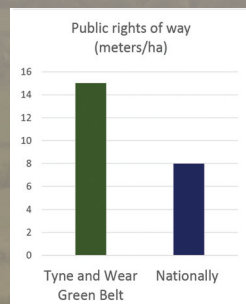
481 ha are registered as **Sites of Special Scientific Interest**.

## Public access and recreation\*



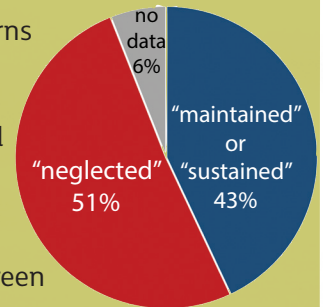
There are **873 km of public rights of way** and **98 km of the National Cycle Network**

1,359 ha is Registered (historic) Park and Garden, 454 ha of Country Parks and 940 ha of open access land.



## Landscape quality†

The main landscape concerns are the **loss of historic parkland** and a low uptake of grants for **woodland** and boundary features, such as hedges and walls.



A large proportion of the Green Belt is maintained, where patterns of settlement and pastoral landscapes are retained the character of the area and ancient woodland is supported with woodland.

## Agriculture†



**Only 4.2% is Grade 1, Grade 2** or the 'best and most versatile' **agricultural land**. Compared with 17% of land nationally.

**70% is currently in agricultural use**, compared with 71% of land nationally

**69%** (35,127 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)

**13,825 houses** are proposed in the Green Belt in local plans, an increase of over 1,000 homes from summer 2017. Only 15% of these homes would be affordable, if local targets are met. CPRE's research in 2017 found that the Government would pay councils in the area **£80.3 million** for this development as a result of the New Homes Bonus.

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

Nearly **4,000 houses** have been approved in the North East Green Belt. This has increased by 1,000 in the last year, all of which has been approved on greenfield sites, meaning 54% (2150 houses) of approved units in the Green Belt have been on greenfield sites.

**Only 23%** of homes approved within the Green Belt are **affordable or social housing**, which rises slightly to **25% for greenfield land**. All of the affordable and social housing has been provided since the publication of the NPPF.

\*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.