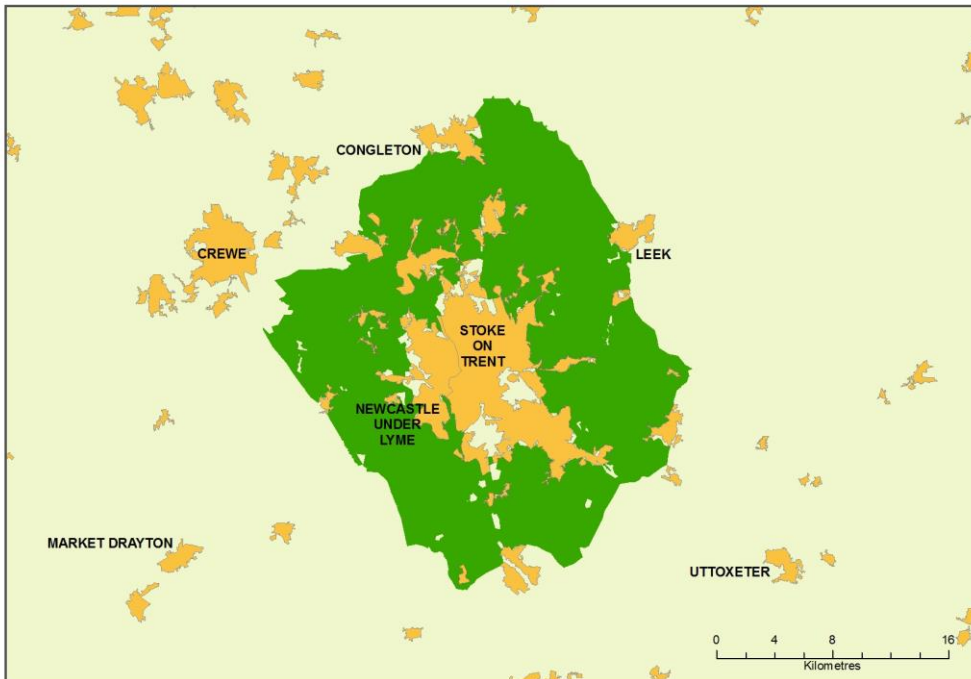


Green Belts: a greener future
A joint report by CPRE and Natural England

Stoke-on-Trent Green Belt

Land Area: 43,836 hectares (0.5% of the total land area of England, 13,050,388 ha).

Total area of all Green Belts in England: 1.6 million hectares (13% of England's total land area).



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

- It is principally designated to prevent the sprawl of the urban area; to prevent the merging of the Potteries conurbation with nearby towns; and to stimulate regeneration within the Potteries conurbation.
- It has one of the highest proportions of land in agricultural use (76%) of any Green Belt in England, but the lowest proportion (40%) of agricultural land covered by environmentally sensitive farming schemes.
- The land cover is predominantly improved grassland. Most of the landscape (64%) is being 'maintained' in terms of its character but 36% is 'neglected'.
- It has relatively good levels of public access with 546 hectares of Country Parks and 833 km of public rights of way (19 metres for every hectare).

Key Facts

January 2010

Green Belt fact sheets covered in this series:

- England
- London (Metropolitan)
- Avon
- Burton/Swadlincote
- Cambridge
- Gloucester/Cheltenham
- North West
- Nottingham/Derby
- Oxford
- Hampshire/Dorset
- South & West Yorkshire
- Stoke-on-Trent**
- Tyne & Wear
- West Midlands
- York

These fact sheets support the report 'Green Belts: a greener future' available to download from: www.cpre.org.uk
www.naturalengland.org.uk

Agriculture

3.3% (compared with 17% of land nationally) is Grade 1 or Grade 2, or the ‘best and most versatile’ agricultural land.

76.3% (compared with 71% of land nationally) or 33,473ha is currently in agricultural use.

40% (12,621ha) of the total agricultural land¹ is subject to Natural England funding supporting environmentally sensitive farming (‘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 character of the landscape in 64% of the Green Belt area is being ‘maintained’ or sustained with agriculture, habitats, historic features and trees and woodland in a stable condition. 36% of the area is assessed as currently neglected due to loss of grass and neglected boundary features such as walls and hedges. None of the Green Belt coincides with land designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Nature Conservation

410ha are registered as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This represents 1% of the overall Green Belt area, and 0.04% national total of SSSI land. There are also 190 ha of Local Nature Reserves.

Public Access and Recreation

19 metres of public rights of way per hectare (nationally there are 14 metres per ha) and 327 ha of open access land.

546ha of Country Parks (1.2% of the land area. 0.3%, or 42,135 ha, of land nationally is Country Park).

742 ha is Registered (historic) Park and Garden (1.7% of the overall Green Belt area; the national total is 170,734 ha).

Broad-Leaf and Mixed Woodland

7.7% (compared with 8% of land nationally) or 3,371 hectares of the land area is broadleaf and mixed woodland.

Public Aspirations

Asked what Green Belt activities they would like to undertake in the next twelve month, the public in the West Midlands most commonly chose

- Visiting Green Belt land on a day out with family/friends
- Visiting Green Belt land to get peace and quiet
- And jointly, visiting Green Belt land to keep fit and visiting Green Belt land for another purpose or leisure activity

When asked what they would like to see more of in the Green Belt, the public in the West Midlands were keen to see

- Nature reserves
- Woodland walks
- New Parks

71% of the public in the West Midlands agreed that they would buy food known to have been grown or produced by farmers in the Green Belt local to them rather than buy food produced elsewhere.

¹ 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.