

SOUTH & WEST YORKSHIRE GREEN BELT

Land Area: 249,505 hectares

(15.6% of total green belt land and 1.9% of the total land area of England)

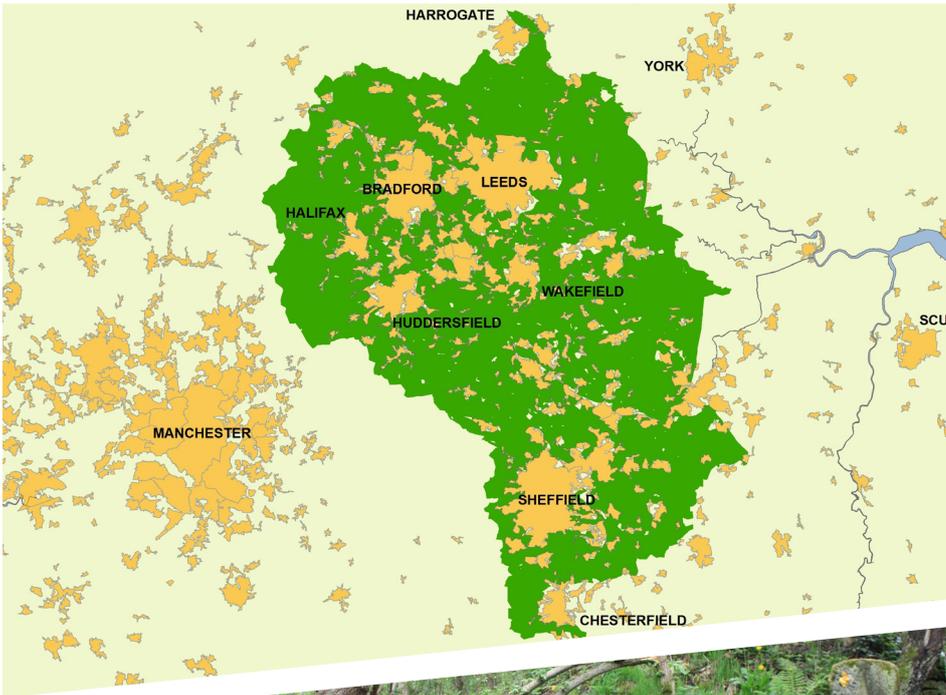


Photo Credit: Liz Reynolds

What kind of place is the South and West Yorkshire Green

- **Prevents the uncontrolled growth** of the South and West Yorkshire conurbations and the merging of settlements.
- It has the **highest amount of open access land** of any English Green Belt
- **14 priority habitats cover 12.7%** of this Green Belt
- Almost the **entire Green Belt** is covered by **Community Forest Designations**
- Between 2001 and 2008 it had the **highest number** (510) of the **most serious pollution incidents** of any Green belt

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*



13,480ha (5.4%) are registered as **Sites of Special Scientific Interest**. There are 2,302 ha of Local Nature Reserves.

14 priority habitats cover 31,793 ha, representing 12.7% of the Green Belt.

3,057 ha is owned by the National Trust, 545 ha by RSPB and 256 ha by the Woodland Trust.

8,816 ha are **ancient woodland**. 14.2% (compared with 8% of land nationally), or 35,138 hectares, of the land area is **broadleaf and mixed woodland**.†

Agriculture‡



16% is Grade 1, Grade 2 or the 'best and most versatile' **agricultural land**. Compared with 17% of land nationally.

71%, or 176,656, **is currently in agricultural use**, which is the same proportion as nationally

44% of the total agricultural land‡ is subject to Natural England funding '**agri-environment schemes**'.

Home to the **Rhubarb Triangle**, a 9-square-mile (23 sq km) between Wakefield, Morley and Rothwell famous for producing early forced rhubarb, which was **awarded Protected Designation of Origin (PDO)** status by the European Commission's Protected Food Name scheme in 2010.

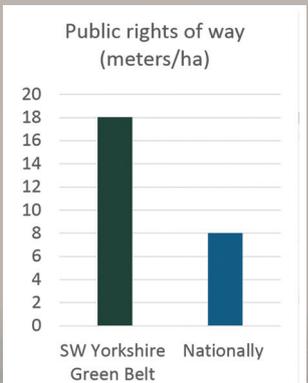
Public access and recreation*



99% of the Green belt (246,737 ha) is covered by **community forest designation**

There are **18 meters of public rights of way per ha**

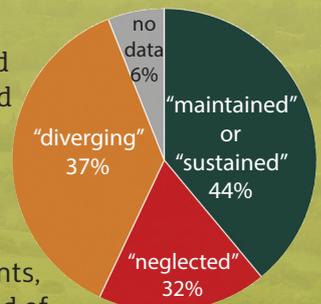
16,351 ha of open access land, 1,620 ha of Country Parks and 5,068 ha is Registered (historic) Park and Garden.



Landscape quality†

Strengths are the stable agricultural character, good quality water and increased woodland cover

Areas of concern are development and road pressures around settlements, loss of historic parkland and of boundary features such as hedges and walls.



1% (2,838 ha) of the Green Belt coincides with land designated as an **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)** and 26 ha are designated **Natural Park**.

Green Belt threats snapshot

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

46,200 houses are proposed in the Green Belt in local plans. Only up to 26% of these homes proposed **could be affordable** if targets are achieved. CPRE's 2017 research found that local councils could be set to **receive £352 million** through the New Homes Bonus as a result of the Green Belt development proposed in local plans.

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

Since 2009, over **10,850 houses have been approved** in the South and West Yorkshire Green Belt land, the third highest number of all Green Belts, behind London and the North West. Nearly 50% (over 5,000 houses) of these have been on greenfield sites.

Since 2009, just 16% of homes (419 from a total of 5,056) approved are affordable or social housing, with the proportion only slightly higher at 24% on greenfield sites.

*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.