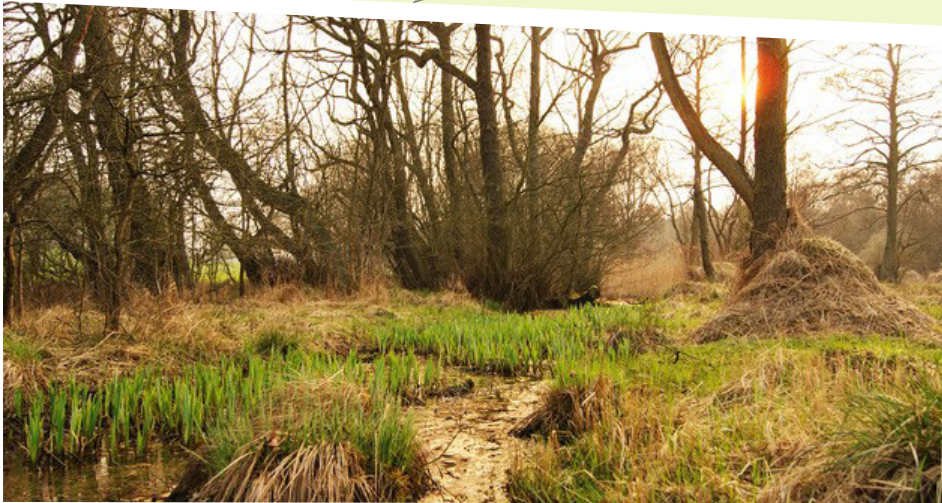
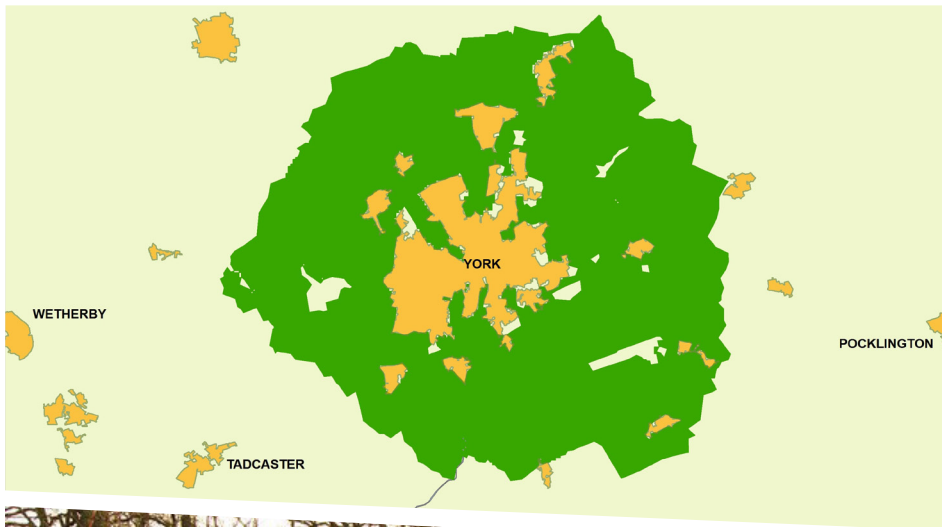


YORK GREEN BELT

Land Area: 72,372 hectares

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



Askham Bog, currently threatened by a large development application

Photo Credit: Adam Harland, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

What kind of place is the York 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

Nature conservation*



Over **90%** of York's Green Belt is **Community Forest**, with 25,425 ha under the scheme that protects and improves existing woodland and plants new trees.

6 priority habitats (important wildlife conservation areas) cover 1,510 ha (5% of the Green Belt area).

There are 52 ha of **Local Nature Reserves** (LNRs), which is more than **double the area estimated** in 2009. There are also 23 ha of National Nature reserve.

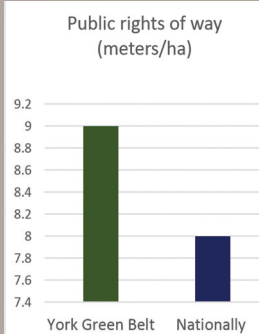
305 ha is classified as ancient woodland. 1,374 ha (5.4%, compared to 8% nationally) of **broadleaf and mixed woodland**.†

789 ha (3%) are registered as **Sites of Special Scientific Interest**.

Public access and recreation*



There are **196 km of public rights of way**, with a relatively low density compared to other Green Belts, although higher than the national average.



There are **44 km of the National Cycle Network**.

54 ha is Registered (historic) Park and Garden, which is significantly more than estimated in 2010.

There are 12 ha of Country Parks, 301 ha of open access land and 174 ha of common land.

Landscape quality†



The York Green Belt and the wider Vale of York has all been classified as having **"neglected" landscape character**.

This is based on the **loss of historic features** in the landscape, the small proportion of **boundary features** receiving agricultural funding and the **lack of management agreements for river habitats**.

Agriculture†



30% is Grade 1, Grade 2 or the 'best and most versatile' **agricultural land**. Compared with 17% of land nationally.

81% is currently in agricultural use, compared with 71% of land nationally

56% (11,628 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)

At least **2706 houses** have been proposed in the new submission of York's local plan. 845 of these are proposed as a Garden Village site in the Green Belt to the East of York. If the local plan's target is met, 30% of these houses could be affordable.

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

Just **118 homes** have been approved in York's Green Belt since 2009, none of which are on greenfield sites. This is made up of two planning applications that have been approved since the NPPF came into force. 20% of the planned units (approximately 24 houses) are proposed to be affordable.

*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.