

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY GREEN BELT STATISTICS: ENGLAND 2007**

This Statistical Release presents information on designated Green Belt land in individual local authorities in England. It relates to the extent of Green Belt in 2007 and is based on a methodology in which the extent of the Green Belt is captured in digital (computerised) form from proposal maps in development plans. This approach, using digitised boundary, provides much more reliable figures than those published prior to 2000.

In 2007, designated Green Belt land amounted to 1,635,670 hectares, about 13 per cent of the land area of England. Results are shown below at a regional level.

**Area of designated Green Belt land: 2007**

	<b>Hectares</b>
	<b>Area</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>1,635,670</b>
North East	73,000
North West	260,300
Yorkshire and the Humber	264,450
East Midlands	79,000
West Midlands	268,770
East Anglia <sup>1</sup>	26,270
London/wider South East <sup>2</sup>	554,240
South West	109,640

<sup>1</sup> Government Office for East of England region, excluding Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire.

<sup>2</sup> Government Offices for London and the South East of England regions, including Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire.

Information is not presented by the standard Government Office Regions. This is because for example, the Green Belt for London straddles the London, East of England and South East regional boundaries.

Table 1 of Annex 1 lists in hectares the extent of green belt land in each local authority. Table 2 shows the areas for individual authorities by region and compares the change in area between 2006 and 2007.

## **Changes to the extent of Green Belt between 2006 and 2007**

In 2006 the area of green belt land in England was 1,631,800; in 2007 this amounted to 1,635,670. The 2007 figure indicates that there has been a net increase of 3,870 hectares when compared with the 2006 estimates.

It should be noted that although the 2007 figure shows a net increase in the area of green belt land, a significant part of the change is as a result of improved measurement or revisions to previous estimates rather than real changes.

### Changes due to new adopted plans (real changes)

Real changes to the extent of green belt land are rare and are the results of new plans being adopted.

In the following six cases new plans have been adopted resulting in a net increase of 1050 hectares (Wansbeck designated green belt land for the first time in July 2007)

### Real increases

Wansbeck (950 hectares), Blyth Valley (150 hectares) and Bromley and Newcastle-under-Lyme (both 20 hectares).

### Real decreases

Brentwood (60 hectares) and Cambridge (30 hectares).

### Changes due to late revisions

In the case of eight authorities the amount of green belt land changed prior to 2007 but estimates were not updated in time for the 2006 estimates of extent of green belt land published in January 2007. These have now been incorporated in the 2007 estimates and have been identified due to the methodological changes to data collection adopted in 2007 (see methodology below). The local authorities concerned have confirmed their most up-to-date figures and these are reported in the tables in Annex 1. The largest changes were in:

- Leeds, a decrease of 400 hectares, resulting from the adjustment to their green belt boundary as a result of the 2006 inspector's recommendations and the subsequent redraft of their proposal map; and
- Stevenage, a decrease of 100 hectares, due to a combination of the adoption of the Stevenage District Plan Second Review (SDP2R) and a further deletion of green belt land by the court following a partially successful High Court challenge of SDP2R.

### Changes due to measurement

Other increases/decreases in green belt land at local authority level were due to improved measuring techniques from digitised data (using geographic information systems as opposed to measurements from paper maps) and the impact of Ordnance Survey's positional accuracy improvement exercise on some local authority's data (see Annex 2 for a list of these authorities).

The largest net increase as a result of improved measurement was in the South West (3,310) mainly arising from Bath and North East Somerset (BANES) correcting errors they found when checking (for accuracy) the inner and outer boundaries of their GIS green belt layer. The apparent increase of green belt in BANES (3,350 hectares) resulted from the redrafting process.

The largest net decreases as a result of improved measurement were in: West Midlands (486 hectares) arising from North Warwickshire (200 hectares) due to a drafting error and Nuneaton and Bedworth (193 hectares) due to improved measuring techniques from digitised data and Yorkshire and the Humber (480 hectares) arising mainly from Leeds (400 hectares) due to reasons given above.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **Methodology**

1. The Department originally captured its own green belt data from local authority paper records. This activity was then outsourced to a private sector supplier. Considerable effort was required from Departmental staff to quality assure the data provided by the supplier. Given resource constraints and technological advancements by local authorities, many of whom are now able to produce digital data of green belt, it was concluded that a more cost effective approach would be for the Department to build and subsequently maintain a new green belt dataset from the newly available local authority digital data, thus also improving quality assurance.
2. In 2007 local authorities were invited to review their 2006 published green belt estimates via the Department's housing and planning statistics electronic data collection system (Interform). Local authorities then confirmed (or updated) their estimates and these are reported in the tables in Annex 1.
3. Where there was an increase (or decrease) of more than 10 hectares in the green belt estimate between the 2006 and 2007 publications, authorities have been approached

to obtain an explanation and this can be found in Annex 2.

4. Areas of Green Belt are derived now from large-scale digitisation of Green Belt boundaries depicted in local (or unitary) development plan maps.

5. Prior to publication, provisional figures of the extent of Green Belt land were circulated to local authorities for which we intended to show changes for the 2007 estimates. These estimates were confirmed by local authorities and are reported in the tables in Annex 1.

### **Green Belt policy**

6. The aims of Green Belt policy are to:

- check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
- prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another;
- assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
- preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
- assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

### **Further information**

7. Information on Green Belt statistics can be obtained from Housing Markets and Analysis Division, Communities and Local Government, 2/A5, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU. Tel. 0207 944 5507 Fax. 0207 944 3309.

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**Table 1** Area of designated Green Belt land <sup>1</sup> by local planning authority: 2007

Hectares					
Local Planning Authority	Area	Local Planning Authority	Area	Local Planning Authority	Area
Amber Valley	8,620	Gateshead	8,680	Sandwell	820
Ashfield	4,520	Gedling	9,010	Sefton	7,840
Aylesbury Vale	4,800	Gravesham	7,670	Selby	19,240
Barking and Dagenham	440	Greenwich	-	Sevenoaks	34,400
Barnet	2,470	Guildford	24,110	Sheffield	9,130
Barnsley	23,030	Halton UA	2,550	Slough	830
Basildon	6,950	Hambleton	1,520	Solihull	11,930
Bath & North East Somerset UA	24,790	Haringey	60	South Bedfordshire	18,720
Bexley	1,120	Harlow	640	South Bucks	12,350
Birmingham	4,170	Harrogate	14,490	South Cambridgeshire	23,430
Blackburn with Darwen UA	5,570	Harrow	1,090	South Derbyshire	2,400
Blackpool UA	70	Havering	6,020	South Gloucestershire UA	23,230
Blyth Valley	3,040	Hertsmere	8,040	South Oxfordshire	15,370
Bolsover	1,100	High Peak	4,000	South Ribble	7,730
Bolton	7,270	Hillingdon	4,970	South Staffordshire	32,310
Bournemouth UA	730	Hounslow	1,220	South Tyneside	2,410
Bracknell Forest	3,840	Hyndburn	4,120	Southend-on-Sea UA	610
Bradford	23,890	Kingston upon Thames	640	Spelthorne	3,320
Brentwood	13,690	Kirklees	25,490	St Albans	13,140
Bridgnorth	24,490	Knowsley	4,640	St Helens	8,880
Bromley	7,730	Lancaster	1,730	Stafford	11,140
Bromsgrove	19,480	Leeds	33,980	Staffordshire Moorlands	17,430
Broxbourne	3,310	Lichfield	15,220	Stevenage	260
Broxtowe	5,150	Liverpool	530	Stockport	5,840
Burnley	1,060	Luton UA	140	Stoke-on-Trent UA	1,790
Bury	5,920	Macclesfield	34,080	Stratford-on-Avon	22,380
Calderdale	22,750	Maidstone	530	Sunderland	3,500
Cambridge	930	Manchester	1,710	Surrey Heath	4,200
Cannock Chase	4,810	Medway UA	1,340	Sutton	620
Castle Morpeth	12,210	Mendip	850	Tameside	5,070
Castle Point	2,750	Mid Bedfordshire	9,490	Tamworth	200
Chelmsford	12,890	Mid Sussex	20	Tandridge	23,300
Cheltenham	800	Mole Valley	19,650	Tewkesbury	6,580
Cherwell	8,410	New Forest DC	4,830	Three Rivers	6,840
Chester	18,520	Newark and Sherwood	6,280	Thurrock UA	11,980
Chesterfield	1,430	Newcastle-under-Lyme	9,440	Tonbridge and Malling	17,060
Chester-le-Street	2,770	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	4,390	Trafford	4,060
Chiltern	17,370	Newham	80	Tunbridge Wells	7,130
Chorley	14,570	North East Derbyshire	10,340	Tynedale	27,440
Christchurch	3,470	North Hertfordshire	14,250	Uttlesford	3,810
City & County of Bristol UA	610	North Somerset UA	15,490	Vale of White Horse	8,320
City of York UA	22,340	North Tyneside	1,660	Vale Royal	17,270
Congleton	5,300	North Warwickshire	17,280	Wakefield	23,820
Cotswold	110	North Wiltshire	1,800	Walsall	3,940
Coventry	3,020	Nottingham	750	Waltham Forest	840
Crewe and Nantwich	1,250	Nuneaton and Bedworth	3,600	Wansbeck*	950
Croydon	2,310	Oldham	6,250	Warrington	11,520
Dacorum	10,690	Oxford	1,290	Warwick	19,950
Dartford	4,110	Pendle	2,070	Watford	410
Derby UA	250	Poole UA	1,900	Waverley	21,150
Doncaster	23,260	Preston	660	Welwyn Hatfield	10,250
Dudley	1,770	Purbeck	7,300	West Lancashire	32,090
Durham	5,670	Redbridge	2,070	West Oxfordshire	1,610
Ealing	330	Redditch	1,830	West Wiltshire	5,140
Easington	280	Reigate and Banstead	8,800	Wigan	10,650
East Cambridgeshire	1,910	Ribble Valley	1,730	Windsor and Maidenhead	16,520
East Dorset	16,840	Richmond upon Thames	130	Wirral	7,320
East Hertfordshire	17,540	Rochdale	9,930	Woking	4,020
East Staffordshire	40	Rochford	12,760	Wokingham	2,890
Ellesmere Port and Neston	3,440	Rossendale	3,170	Wolverhampton	800
Elmbridge	5,610	Rotherham	20,650	Worcester	240
Enfield	3,090	Rugby	20,600	Wychavon	8,870
Epping Forest	31,680	Runnymede	6,140	Wycombe	15,620
Epsom and Ewell	1,560	Rushcliffe	17,300	Wyre	750
Erewash	7,850	Ryedale	860	Wyre Forest	11,220
Fylde	1,770	Salford	3,370		

<sup>1</sup> Areas less than 5 hectares are shown as '-'.  
\* First designation in July 2007.

**Table 2** Area of designated Green Belt land <sup>1</sup> by region and local planning authority: 2007

							Hectares	
Region/ Local Planning Authority	2006 Area	2007 Area	Change	Region/ Local Planning Authority	2006 Area	2007 Area	Change	
<b>England</b>	<b>1,631,800</b>	<b>1,635,670</b>	<b>3,870</b>					
<b>North East</b>	<b>71,910</b>	<b>73,000</b>	<b>1,090</b>	<b>Yorkshire and the Humber</b>	<b>264,930</b>	<b>264,450</b>	<b>-480</b>	
Blyth Valley	2,890	3,040	150	Barnsley	23,030	23,030	0	
Castle Morpeth	12,210	12,210	0	Bradford	23,890	23,890	0	
Chester-le-Street	2,770	2,770	0	Calderdale	22,820	22,750	-70	
Durham	5,690	5,670	-20	City of York UA	22,340	22,340	0	
Easington	280	280	0	Doncaster	23,220	23,260	40	
Gateshead	8,680	8,680	0	Hambleton	1,520	1,520	0	
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	4,390	4,390	0	Harrogate	14,450	14,490	40	
North Tyneside	1,660	1,660	0	Kirkless	25,510	25,490	-20	
South Tyneside	2,410	2,410	0	Leeds	34,380	33,980	-400	
Sunderland	3,490	3,500	10	Rotherham	20,650	20,650	0	
Tynedale	27,440	27,440	0	Ryedale	860	860	0	
Wansbeck	..	950 *	950	Selby	19,240	19,240	0	
				Sheffield	9,130	9,130	0	
<b>North West</b>	<b>260,310</b>	<b>260,300</b>	<b>-10</b>	Wakefield	23,890	23,820	-70	
Blackburn with Darwen UA	5,570	5,570	0	<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>78,900</b>	<b>79,000</b>	<b>100</b>	
Blackpool UA	60	70	10	Amber Valley	8,620	8,620	0	
Bolton	7,270	7,270	0	Ashfield	4,520	4,520	0	
Burnley	1,060	1,060	0	Bolsover	1,100	1,100	0	
Bury	5,930	5,920	-10	Broxtowe	5,150	5,150	0	
Chester	18,520	18,520	0	Chesterfield	1,430	1,430	0	
Chorley	14,570	14,570	0	Derby UA	250	250	0	
Congleton	5,290	5,300	10	Erewash	7,850	7,850	0	
Crewe and Nantwich	1,250	1,250	0	Gedling	9,020	9,010	-10	
Ellesmere Port and Neston	3,450	3,440	-10	High Peak	4,000	4,000	0	
Fylde	1,790	1,770	-20	Newark and Sherwood	6,280	6,280	0	
Halton UA	2,550	2,550	0	North East Derbyshire	10,340	10,340	0	
Hyndburn	4,120	4,120	0	Nottingham	750	750	0	
Knowsley	4,660	4,640	-20	Rushcliffe	17,200	17,300	100	
Lancaster	1,730	1,730	0	South Derbyshire	2,390	2,400	10	
Liverpool	540	530	-10	<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>269,256</b>	<b>268,770</b>	<b>-486</b>	
Macclesfield	34,080	34,080	0	Birmingham	4,173	4,170	-3	
Manchester	1,710	1,710	0	Bridgnorth	24,490	24,490	0	
Oldham	6,260	6,250	-10	Bromsgrove	19,480	19,480	0	
Pendle	2,070	2,070	0	Cannock Chase	4,840	4,810	-30	
Preston	660	660	0	Coventry	3,000	3,020	20	
Ribble Valley	1,720	1,730	10	Dudley	1,770	1,770	0	
Rochdale	9,920	9,930	10	East Staffordshire	40	40	0	
Rossendale	3,130	3,170	40	Lichfield	15,220	15,220	0	
Salford	3,370	3,370	0	Newcastle-under-Lyme	9,420	9,440	20	
Sefton	7,840	7,840	0	North Warwickshire	17,480	17,280	-200	
South Ribble	7,730	7,730	0	Nuneaton and Bedworth	3,793	3,600	-193	
St Helens	8,880	8,880	0	Redditch	1,830	1,830	0	
Stockport	5,840	5,840	0	Rugby	20,680	20,600	-80	
Tameside	5,070	5,070	0	Sandwell	820	820	0	
Trafford	4,060	4,060	0	Solihull	11,930	11,930	0	
Vale Royal	17,270	17,270	0	South Staffordshire	32,310	32,310	0	
Warrington	11,510	11,520	10	Stafford	11,140	11,140	0	
West Lancashire	32,090	32,090	0	Staffordshire Moorlands	17,430	17,430	0	
Wigan	10,650	10,650	0					
Wirral	7,330	7,320	-10					
Wyre	760	750	-10					

<sup>1</sup> Areas less than 5 hectares are shown as '..'.

\* First designation in July 2007

.. Not applicable

**Table 2** Area of designated Green Belt land <sup>1</sup> by region and local planning authority: 2007

				Hectares			
Region/ Local Planning Authority	2006 Area	2007 Area	Change	Region/ Local Planning Authority	2006 Area	2007 Area	Change
<b>West Midlands (cont)</b>				<b>London/wider South East (cont)</b>			
Stoke-on-Trent UA	1,790	1,790	0	New Forest DC	4,830	4,830	0
Stratford-on-Avon	22,380	22,380	0	Newham	80	80	0
Tamworth	200	200	0	North Hertfordshire	14,060	14,250	190
Walsall	3,940	3,940	0	Oxford	1,300	1,290	-10
Warwick	19,950	19,950	0	Redbridge	2,070	2,070	0
Wolverhampton	800	800	0	Reigate and Banstead	8,800	8,800	0
Worcester	230	240	10	Richmond upon Thames	140	130	-10
Wychavon	8,910	8,870	-40	Rochford	12,770	12,760	-10
Wyre Forest	11,210	11,220	10	Runnymede	6,140	6,140	0
				Sevenoaks	34,380	34,400	20
<b>East Anglia</b>	<b>26,302</b>	<b>26,270</b>	<b>-32</b>	Slough	830	830	0
Cambridge	962	930	-32	South Bedfordshire	18,720	18,720	0
East Cambridgeshire	1,910	1,910	0	South Bucks	12,220	12,350	130
South Cambridgeshire	23,430	23,430	0	South Oxfordshire	15,360	15,370	10
				Southend-on-Sea UA	640	610	-30
<b>London/wider South East</b>	<b>553,886</b>	<b>554,240</b>	<b>354</b>	Spelthorne	3,320	3,320	0
Aylesbury Vale	4,800	4,800	0	St Albans	13,100	13,140	40
Barking and Dagenham	440	440	0	Stevenage	360	260	-100
Barnet	2,466	2,470	4	Surrey Heath	4,200	4,200	0
Basildon	6,960	6,950	-10	Sutton	620	620	0
Bexley	1,120	1,120	0	Tandridge	23,280	23,300	20
Bracknell Forest	3,850	3,840	-10	Three Rivers	6,810	6,840	30
Brentwood	13,750	13,690	-60	Thurrock UA	11,980	11,980	0
Bromley	7,710	7,730	20	Tonbridge and Malling	17,060	17,060	0
Broxbourne	3,310	3,310	0	Tunbridge Wells	7,180	7,130	-50
Castle Point	2,750	2,750	0	Uttlesford	3,810	3,810	0
Chelmsford	12,890	12,890	0	Vale of White Horse	8,320	8,320	0
Cherwell	8,410	8,410	0	Waltham Forest	840	840	0
Chiltern	17,370	17,370	0	Watford	410	410	0
Croydon	2,310	2,310	0	Waverley	21,150	21,150	0
Dacorum	10,690	10,690	0	Welwyn Hatfield	10,250	10,250	0
Dartford	4,110	4,110	0	West Oxfordshire	1,610	1,610	0
Ealing	330	330	0	Windsor and Maidenhead	16,520	16,520	0
East Hertfordshire	17,460	17,540	80	Woking	4,020	4,020	0
Elmbridge	5,610	5,610	0	Wokingham	2,890	2,890	0
Enfield	3,010	3,090	80	Wycombe	15,620	15,620	0
Epping Forest	31,680	31,680	0				
Epsom and Ewell	1,560	1,560	0	<b>South West</b>	<b>106,330</b>	<b>109,640</b>	<b>3,310</b>
Gravesham	7,660	7,670	10	Bath & North East Somerset UA	21,440	24,790	3,350
Greenwich	-	-	0	Bournemouth UA	730	730	0
Guildford	24,110	24,110	0	Cheltenham	810	800	-10
Haringey	60	60	0	Christchurch	3,470	3,470	0
Harlow	630	640	10	City & County of Bristol UA	610	610	0
Harrow	1,090	1,090	0	Cotswold	110	110	0
Havering	6,020	6,020	0	East Dorset	16,880	16,840	-40
Hertsmere	8,040	8,040	0	Mendip	850	850	0
Hillingdon	4,960	4,970	10	North Somerset UA	15,480	15,490	10
Hounslow	1,220	1,220	0	North Wiltshire	1,800	1,800	0
Kingston upon Thames	640	640	0	Poole UA	1,900	1,900	0
Luton UA	140	140	0	Purbeck	7,300	7,300	0
Maidstone	530	530	0	South Gloucestershire UA	23,230	23,230	0
Medway UA	1,340	1,340	0	Tewkesbury	6,580	6,580	0
Mid Bedfordshire	9,490	9,490	0	West Wiltshire	5,140	5,140	0
Mid Sussex	20	20	0				
Mole Valley	19,660	19,650	-10				

<sup>1</sup> Areas less than 5 hectares are shown as '0'.

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**Reasons for changes to the extent of green belt land in 2007**

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**Adopted a new local plan**

Bromley, Brentwood, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Cambridge, Blyth Valley.

**Newly designated green belt**

Wansbeck (1st designation July 2007)

**Improved measuring techniques from digitised data**

Rossendale, Sevenoaks, Wychavon, East Hertfordshire, Wakefield, Nuneaton and Bedworth, Kirklees, Tunbridge Wells, Fylde, Tandridge, South Bucks, Three Rivers, Rushcliffe, Rochdale, Coventry, South Cambridge, Harrogate, East Dorset.

**Positional Accuracy Improvement exercise**

Bath and North East Somerset, Calderdale, St Albans, North Warwickshire.

**Green belt figures not updated in time for the 2006 publication**

Stevenage, Knowsley, Cannock Chase, Durham, Rugby, Doncaster, Enfield, Leeds.

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