



Campaign to Protect  
Rural England



Myerscough  
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Providing opportunities for all

## **THE FUTURE OF BRISTOL'S GREEN BELT**



### **A Public Survey April 2009**

*Picture: a view of Green Belt land seen from the edges of Cheltenham in Gloucestershire*





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## CPRE: The Future of the Green Belt around Bristol A Public Survey – April 2009

Thank you for your interest in this Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) project. This project is funded by Rufford Maurice Laing.

Green Belt is rural land around cities that is protected from excessive housing and other development, thus preventing urban sprawl. Around 13% of land in England is estimated to be in one of the fourteen Green Belt areas. The land is protected by planning and development policies. This survey aims to find out how people think we should use the Green Belt.

You could help us shape the future of Green Belts where you live by completing our questionnaire. CPRE is widely recognised as an organisation that is listened to by Government Ministers. Your responses will help CPRE to influence a current Government investigation of how to make the best use of Green Belts and other countryside in the future.

### About this survey

Through this survey we aim to:

- Find out your opinions about the most important future uses of the Green Belt.
- Discover what a range of people in large towns and cities feel is the main benefit of having countryside next door to where they live.
- Raise awareness of the issue of litter and fly-tipping in Green Belt areas (dumping large items such as rubble or sofas in rural areas) and find out what people might be prepared to do to stop it.

To help us monitor the types of people responding to this survey, we will also ask you for your postcode. We will not use this for any purpose other than monitoring. If you choose to supply your full contact details, then we will enter you in our prize draw for a copy of CPRE's new book *Icons of England*, signed by our President, the best-selling author Bill Bryson. We will also let you know about the results of the survey and other ways to get involved with CPRE's work.

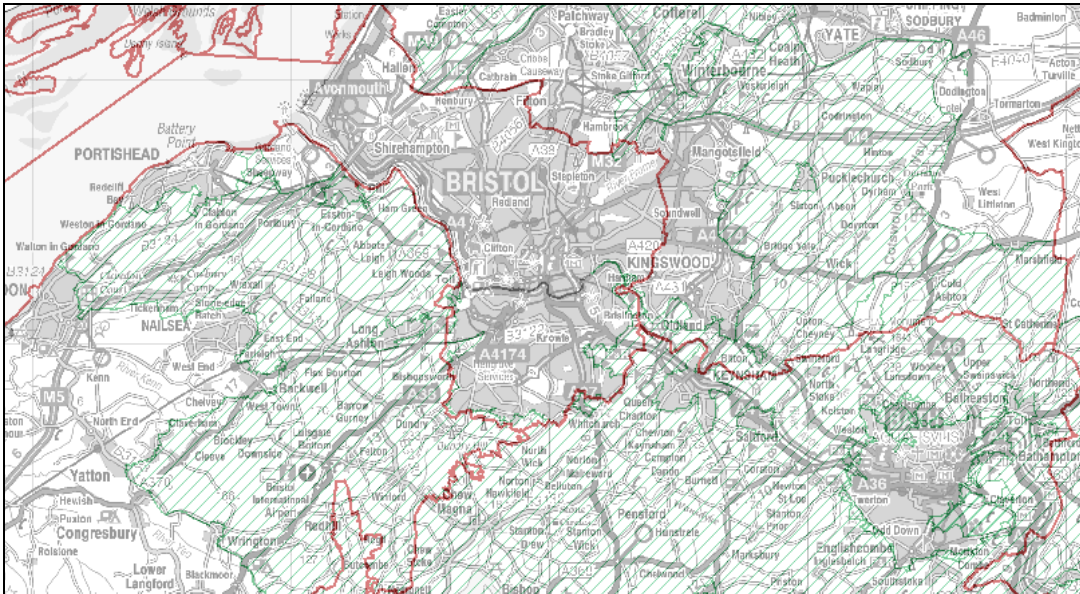
There are two types of survey form. **This form is for individual members of the public and members of community groups.** A separate form is for landowners, land management professionals (such as planners and surveyors), tenant farmers and local authorities. If you would like a copy of the other form, or if you would prefer to complete this survey online, please visit the website: <http://www.cpre.org.uk/xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

### Who is undertaking the survey?

The survey is being carried out on behalf of CPRE by independent researchers, in three areas – Bristol, London and Merseyside. In Bristol and London, the survey is being carried out by Sustain: the alliance for food and farming; in Merseyside, the survey is being carried out by Myerscough College.

## The Green Belt land in your area

The map below shows, in shading, the Green Belt land around Bristol and Bath. The Avon Green Belt stretches over about 270 square miles. That is an area about 5 times the size of the city of Bristol (not including Kingswood or Filton). Development may take place in one or two areas of Green Belt in the coming decades, but even if it does, most Green Belt land will remain undeveloped.



### Green Belt land around Bristol (shown as shading)

Politicians and the public are becoming more interested in what we should use Green Belts for in the future. Most of the Green Belt is classed as farmland. In practice, some of this farmland may not actually be farmed, but left idle or for grazing horses.

A small proportion (roughly 10%) of the Green Belt is covered by woodland or parkland. The Forest of Avon has been established to make countryside around Bristol more attractive and easier to enjoy, providing opportunities for employment, leisure and education. The Forest has a team of people that have worked to plant trees, provide green spaces, paths and trails for cycling and walking.

There is also a growing interest in where our food comes from, against a background of concern about global food supplies and interest in buying locally produced food. Much of the Green Belt land around Bristol is very good quality farm land and could be used for food growing much more than it is at present. If local communities show an interest in buying food from the Green Belt, this could encourage landowners to farm their land more actively where they are not already doing so.

## QUESTIONS

### WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE GREEN BELT?

1. Before completing this questionnaire did you know that the countryside around Bristol is called 'Green Belt' land?  
*YES/NO* (Please circle your answer)
  
2. Which of the following things do you think of when you hear the word 'Green Belt'? (tick as many as you think apply)
  - Farming
  - Woodland / open spaces
  - Commercial forestry (for wood)
  - Country Parks
  - The Forest of Avon or Community Forests
  - Playing fields
  - Walking and cycling paths
  - Nature reserves
  - Planning
  - Pylons and motorways
  - Quarries
  - Reservoirs
  - None of the above / other (please state).....

3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements (please tick one box in each row):

		<i>Strongly agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>No opinion or disagree</i>	<i>Strongly disagree</i>
A	The countryside around Bristol is beautiful.				
B	I have heard of the Forest of Avon.				
C	Bristol needs to expand to create jobs, therefore most of the countryside can be built on.				
D	Most of the countryside around Bristol should be protected, although some may be needed for new housing and other development.				
E	Protecting the countryside around Bristol prevents affordable housing from being built.				
F	The countryside around Bristol is somewhere I can go to get peace and quiet.				
G	I'd like to have more opportunities to visit the countryside around Bristol.				
H	People could get more from the countryside around Bristol if there were footpaths and cycle routes linking it to all parts of the city.				
I	More trees should be planted on farmland around Bristol that is currently under-used.				
J	If farmland around Bristol isn't being fully used, then it should be farmed or used to grow food in order to feed the city.				
K	There are places in the countryside around Bristol where I can see plenty of birds and wild animals.				
L	I'd like to see more birds and wild animals in the countryside around Bristol.				
M	I would like to see the countryside around Bristol used to generate green energy, such as small scale hydro, biomass or wind turbines.				
N	I'd like to support farmers around Bristol by buying food from them with a local brand.				

**HOW DO YOU USE THE GREEN BELT?**

4 (a). Do you use the Green Belt now in any of the following ways? (Please tick one box in each row)

	I do this now	I don't do this now
Visit for a day out with my family		
To get peace and quiet or walk the dog		
To see wildlife or bird watching		
To keep fit		
To enjoy plants or trees		
Horse riding		
Cycling		
To visit farms to buy food or pick my own		
Conservation work such as dry stone walling		
Help with organising events or fundraising		
Other work (paid or unpaid)		
I am part of a campaign group to protect the Green Belt for the future		

4 (b). If you use the Green Belt for any other reason please set this out below in no more than one sentence.

A large amount of the land around Bristol is used by farmers to grow food. Much of this goes to supermarkets or other parts of the world. In many areas people are becoming more interested in buying food that is grown or produced near to where they live ('local food').

5 (a) If you knew that food was specifically grown or produced by farmers in the Green Belt, would you buy this food rather than food produced elsewhere?

*YES / NO / DON'T KNOW* (Please circle your answer)

(b) If 'yes' to question a, which particular types of food produced in the Green Belt would you want to buy? (Please tick any that apply)

Vegetables	
Fruit	
Fruit juice	
Meat	
Cheese or milk	
Yoghurt or ice cream	
Herbs	
Other (please state)	

One of the problems facing people who live and work in the Green Belt is that people dump household and other waste ('fly-tipping') in their fields, such as building rubble, old sofas and broken household goods. This can make farming much more difficult and also put people off visiting the Green Belt to walk or relax.

6 (a). If you have visited the Green Belt recently, have you ever seen household or other waste dumped in it? (Please tick the box that applies)

- Yes, I have often seen waste and/or litter
- Yes, I have seen waste and/or litter sometimes but not often
- No, I have visited the Green Belt but have never seen any waste or litter dumped in it
- I have not visited the Green Belt recently

(b) If you answered yes to the above, please list any locations where you think litter is a particular problem in the Green Belt.

7. Would you consider taking any of the following actions to help prevent litter and / or fly-tipping in the Green Belt?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Making a personal commitment not to dump rubbish in rural areas, for example through taking litter home when I visit the countryside, or not dropping it out of a car window			
Reporting other people for dumping rubbish			
Support local policies to fine people for dumping rubbish			
Join a parish council or other policy group to help create a community response to fly-tipping			
Volunteer to help with clearing up the mess			
Join a campaign to protect green space for the future			



**WHAT SHOULD GREEN BELT LAND BE USED FOR IN FUTURE?**

8. Green Belt land can be used for recreation, or for farming or commercial forestry (woodland used for paper or other uses). Please rank the following in order of preference, for what you would like to see more of in the Green Belt, from 1 (you would **most** like to see) to 14 (you would **least** like to see)

Community food growing - allotments or pick-your-own farms	
Education for all ages, e.g. farm visits	
Farming	
Affordable housing	
Managed woodland – for walking, for wood, for fuel	
Motor sports such as off-road car driving / motor cross	
Regular public transport to reach the countryside	
Cycle paths	
Nature reserves	
New parks or open green spaces	
Paths or other dedicated walking routes	
Green energy such as biomass (fuel from local wood), composting, hydro-electricity or small wind power schemes	
Sports pitches, outdoor sporting activity such as ball games	
Other (please state).....	

9. Which of the following do you want to do in the Green Belt in future?

	<i>I will do this or continue to do it</i>	<i>I want to do this or want to know more</i>	<i>I don't know or care either way</i>	<i>I don't want to do this</i>
A. Help a community food growing project through planting or gardening				
B. Go to get some peace and quiet				
C. Watching birds or other wildlife				
D. Visit a farm or arrange for my children to visit one				
E. Buy food produced or branded in the Green Belt				
F. Get fit through walking, running or cycling				
G. Help a local action group pick up litter				
H. Help the work of the Forest of Avon, for example through planting trees				
I. Other (please state)..... ..... .....				

**Any other comments**

10. Please use this space for any other comments or suggestions you may have regarding the use of Green Belt land. Please explain your reason for making these comments. If you can write in full sentences, that would be helpful.

If you would like to be quoted in the final report of our project, please write a sentence or two about your views, and tell us who you are or what you do (e.g. “local resident”, “local landowner” or “woodland manager”) or the organisation you represent.

**PERSONAL DETAILS**

11. Please indicate age range (tick one box only):

- Under 18
- 18-35
- 35 – 60
- over 60

12. Postcode:

13. Household income (please tick one):

- Less than £15,000 per annum
- £15,000 - £25,000 per annum
- £25,000 - £35,000 per annum
- £35,000 - £50,000 per annum
- Greater than £50,000 per annum

14. Ethnic background. Do you consider yourself to be (please tick one)?

- White British
- White (other)
- Afro-Caribbean
- Asian

15. Gender (please tick one)

- Male
- Female

16. How did you find out about this survey? Please answer in the box below.

Please return this form to: Supporter Services, CPRE, Freepost SW3524, London SE1 0YZ by 31 July 2009. No stamp is needed.

If you would like to enter our prize draw and be kept informed of the results of the survey please include your name, address and email address

**DATA PROTECTION STATEMENT**

CPRE holds and manages data in strict accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Your details will be entered into a database by CPRE. We will not use your contact details for any other purpose, and we will not pass your contact details on to any other organisation.

CPRE is a registered charity that relies on public support to do its work. We would like to keep you informed about our future campaigns on issues such as planning, local food and combating litter and fly-tipping in the countryside. If you would like to receive future communications from CPRE please tick the box below **and** give your address in the box above.

It is anticipated that the results from this survey will be available in September 2009. These will be published on the CPRE website ([www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk)) and will be publicised in the media. To find out more, visit the Green Belt survey website at: <http://www.cpre.org.uk/xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>.

Thank you!