



# The countryside charity Staffordshire

## CPRE Staffordshire statement on the green belt

July 2021

Nationally, CPRE, the countryside charity, has always been at the forefront of campaigning for the establishment and protection of the areas of designated countryside known by many as 'Green Belts'. These areas are afforded additional planning protection.

Staffordshire has two significant areas of Green Belt land. To the south of the county the area adjacent to the West Midlands is protected by a Green Belt which surrounds the conurbation, also including parts of Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Warwickshire. There is also an area of Green Belt around Cannock and Hednesford. Further north, Stoke-on-Trent also has a Green Belt area surrounding it.

CPRE Staffordshire supports the position of the national CPRE charity on the value of Green Belt, most recently described in more detail in its [policy position statement published in February 2020](#).

Locally we see the most important reasons for the continued protection of the Green Belt as being:

- There are significant areas within the areas surrounded by the Staffordshire Green Belt where inwards investment is still needed. Development of sites in the Green Belt will further delay the regeneration of brownfield sites and the investment needed in post-industrial communities.
- Staffordshire's Green Belt includes some of our most attractive rural landscapes and provides ready access to fresh air and exercise for communities living in urban areas. This 'countryside next door' is vital for health and wellbeing.
- Staffordshire is a largely pastoral county making a significant contribution to the agricultural economy and natural biodiversity, both of which will be threatened by the loss of greenfield sites to housing and development.