

Thank you for your email requesting information about London's Green Belt.

A key focus of your questions relates to the compensation paid to private land-owners for including land in the Green Belt. Green Belt is a land-use planning policy designed primarily to prevent urban sprawl restricting development on open land; as such there is no compensation paid to private land-owners as the land-owner is not prevented from continuing to use the land for private purposes such as agriculture, sport, recreation, etc., it simply prevents private land-owners from realising the urban development value of their land. Furthermore, Green Belt policy does not provide absolute protection for land in the Green Belt; some development may be permissible if exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated. The Green Belt policy applicable to London can be found in the current [London Plan](#).

Although Green Belt policy does not directly result in any payments or compensation to private land-owners there are nationally administered environmental stewardship subsidies available to land-owners in the Green Belt. These include [Countryside Stewardship](#) and the [Woodland Carbon Fund](#); the GLA does not hold records of how much funding is provided by these national funding schemes. Furthermore other grants are available from funders such as the Heritage Lottery Fund; examples of Green Belt projects funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund include [Colne Valley Landscape Partnership](#) and [Land of the Fanns](#).

Not all land in the Green Belt is privately owned. Some is owned by public authorities or not for profit organisations such as environmental organisations who own and manage land to maintain its nature conservation or landscape value for public benefit. The primary public authority land-owner in London's Green Belt is the [City of London Corporation](#) which is a separate body independent from the Greater London Authority. The City of London Corporation owns a wide range of land-holdings in London's Green Belt and beyond, including [Epping Forest](#) and the [City Commons](#). I am aware that the City of London Corporation does still sometimes purchase land in the Green Belt to add to its portfolio; but these purchases will be from a willing seller and the purchase price will be at the relevant market rate.

I hope you find this information useful. If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>

Regards

Lead - Green Infrastructure
Greater London Authority