The Colne Valley Regional Park Spatial Planning - Threats & Opportunities



Jerry Unsworth - Planning Consultant CVRP Annual Forum – 29th September 2022



Green Belt Policy



National Planning Policy Framework

More than a green wash on the map

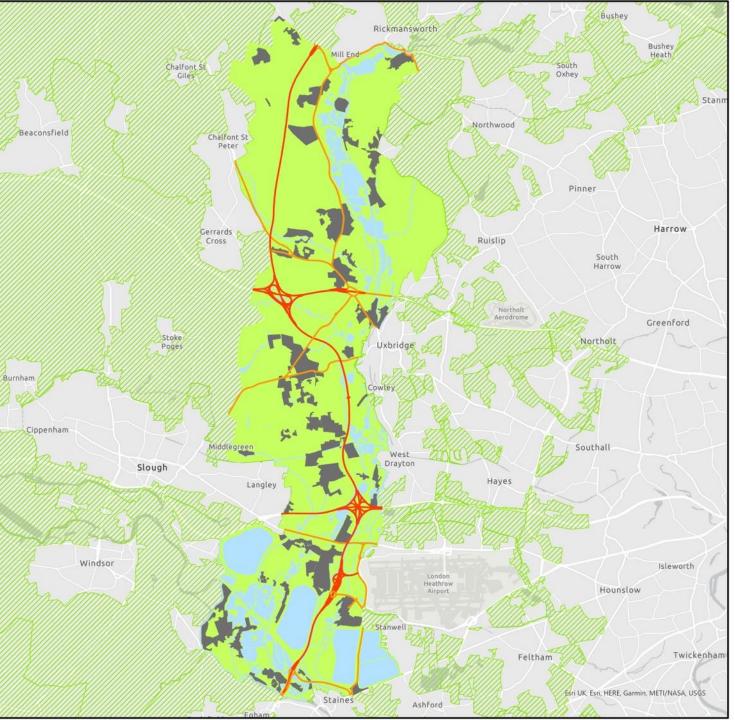
"145. Once Green Belts have been defined, local planning authorities should plan positively to **enhance their beneficial use**, such as looking for opportunities to **provide access**; to provide opportunities for outdoor **sport and recreation**; to **retain and enhance landscapes**, **visual amenity and biodiversity**; or to **improve damaged and derelict land**."

This is why the CVRP was established



But we have to cope with this





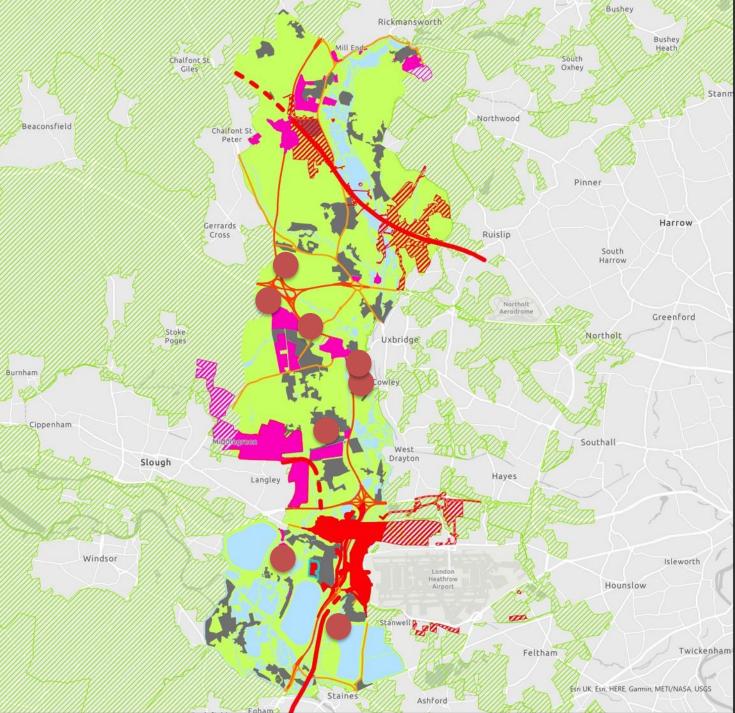
Colne Valley Regional Park (2018)

And a significantly changing development picture



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Colne Valley Regional Park (The Future?)

Showing approved schemes (current Pinewood Studios expansion & HS2 works) and if planned proposals (from LAs and others) are followed through



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Is this where the CVRP & Green Belt should go?

Is it what government wants & intends?

Time to take stock

2019 G.I. Strategy

COLNE & CRANE VALLEYS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY SEPTEMBER 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY





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Since the 2019 GI Strategy

Continuing and unprecedented development pressures

Local Plans - little traction to date but activity around the corner

Government Policy Change – uncertainty ... deregulation?

HS2 construction & Heathrow growth threat still looms

Opportunities? Local Nature Strategies, Bio Net Gain, AONB Boundary review, NPPF changes

Action on planning needed

Concerted effort over next 9 months

Planning advocacy building on the 2019 GI Strategy

- Engage with LAs and others to promote GI Strategy principles and projects in Plans
- ✓ Draw policy & decision makers' attention to CVRP's challenges
- ✓ Draw lessons from other areas, best practice & issue guidance

e.g. on land restoration, strategic approaches to planning affecting the CVRP, targeted enforcement, seeing GI improvements as supporting infrastructure, CVRP as a delivery partner,

Seeking a step change in approach

Thank You

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