



Campaign to Protect  
Rural England  
LONDON

# Press Release

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## LESS GREEN SPACE BEING LOST IN LONDON

Recent Government figures show that much less greenfield land is now being lost to development than four years ago, especially for housing.

CPRE London[1] welcomes these figures from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) showing that between 2001 and 2004[2] 60 hectares per year were lost compared with 105 hectares per year between 1997 and 2000.

The ODPM data showing average change in land uses within Greater London is attached.

Development of greenfield land for housing ('residential' use) has reduced from 40 hectares per year to 20. The reduction from 20 hectares per year to 3 for minerals and landfill use is also encouraging. Development for 'community services' (schools,

Registered Office  
70 Cowcross St  
London EC1M 6EJ

Telephone: 020-7253 0300  
Facsimile: 020-7490 3001  
Email:  
[office@cprelondon.org.uk](mailto:office@cprelondon.org.uk)  
[www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk)

President  
Harley Sherlock

Chairman  
Robin Rose

Chief Executive  
Nigel Kersey

The Campaign to Protect Rural England exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country.

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hospitals, police) however, increased from 10 to 19 hectares.

Rachel Baker, for CPRE London said:

'While any loss of London's green space and rural fringe is regrettable, this new trend is encouraging. We hope that the Mayor will take account of these findings during his current review of the London Plan[3] and continue his support for concentrating development on brownfield land, thus protecting green spaces and the Green Belt'.

- END -

#### **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

- [1] CPRE London is the London Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England. CPRE exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country. We promote positive solutions for the long-term future of the countryside to ensure change values its natural and built environment. Our Patron is Her Majesty The Queen. We have 59,000 supporters, a branch in every county, nine regional groups, over 200 local groups and a national office in London. CPRE is a powerful combination of effective local action and strong national campaigning. Our President is Sir Max Hastings.
- [2] The data for 2004 are provisional due to the lag in data collected by OPDM through the Land Use Change Statistics Programme.
- [3] The London Plan is the Mayor's Spatial Development Strategy for London and is due to be reviewed in 2006.