



Faith-motivated. Science-informed. Hope-inspired.

CHURCH LAND USE CAMPAIGN

We're asking for action on:

- 🔍 **Transparency**
- 🌳 **Growing trees**
- 🗺️ **Mapping**
- ❤️ **Protecting peat**
- 🏭 **Emissions**
- 🚜 **Supporting farm net zero**
- 🦉 **Biodiversity**



We need the right trees in the right places

Churches can partner with tree providers and local landowners to grow suitable native trees which support biodiversity, capture carbon and provide shade and flood reduction.

Green Investment

Churches with limited land can still contribute by investing in nature-based solutions, see operationnoah.org/GID



We must protect peatland

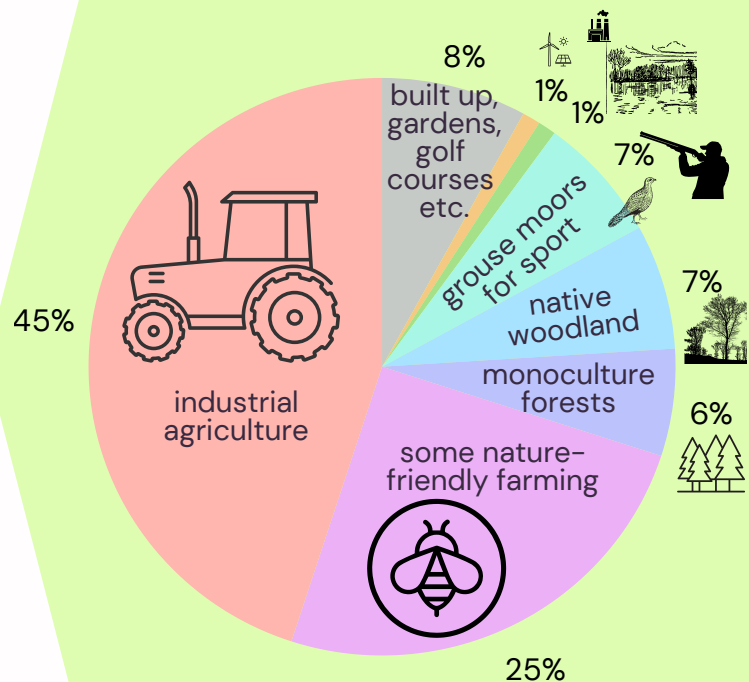
Local actions include ensuring compost and plants are peat-free. We can also support peat restoration efforts and campaign to ban horticultural peat.



We support farm net zero

Start by reducing food waste and eating more plants. We can also support nature-friendly farmers and encourage tenants to reduce emissions in ways that work for them.

Summary UK land use



Peatland restoration = 1% (of 12% peatland)
Solar/wind and non renewables both < 1%
Of 7% native woodland, 1% is biodiverse



Bridestones Moor – An ON supporter helps restore peat here.

UK & CHURCH LAND USE

<p>70% of UK land is farmed (DEFRA 2023)</p>	<p>DEFRA data says 36% of farmers do some nature friendly farming, 46% do some soil management and 20% do woodland creation/management. CofE Church Commissioners own 82,000 acres of UK farmland and state of the 50% of tenants responding to their survey, 60% are already adopting regenerative practices, 91% are undertaking activities to increase biodiversity, 42% have undertaken a carbon audit and 65% have reduced fertiliser use.</p>
<p>13% of UK land is forest/woodland (Forest Research 2024)</p>	<p>Forest Research (Gov data) says 44% of UK forestry is certified sustainably managed. Around half all UK forest is native woodland, 42% is non-native coniferous woodland. CofE Church Commissioners manage 22,000 acres of UK forestry, of which 20% is managed primarily for biodiversity. Only 585 acres are native woodland, which they have doubled in ten years.</p>
<p>≈7% of UK land is grouse moors (RSPB 2022)</p>	<p>Estimates vary from 2.5–7% of UK area – around ¾ are in Scotland. Large areas are on peatland, and grouse moor maintenance involves burning peatland. Some peatland restoration has also been undertaken here. We don't know of any churches owning grouse moors. An online petition led UK Parliament to discuss banning driven grouse shooting on 30/6/25, but it decided not to pursue a ban.</p>
<p><1% of UK land is renewables (Copping et al 2024)</p>	<p>Solar panels currently cover less than 0.1% of UK land, with wind power covering up to 0.9% depending on how the land is measured. Copping et al's report projects that ambitious deployment by 2050 (1.5x wind, 5.5x solar) hardly impacts UK land use, with the direct footprint remaining less than 0.9%. CofE Church Commissioners and other churches are installing some renewables on their land.</p>

- Operation Noah is asking Churches to respond to their Church Land Use Vision
- Churches using land for climate and nature benefit can also influence wider communities and investors.
- Church land needs to be considered as part of Net Zero targets as CofE church land creates more emissions than their church buildings.