

Staking a claim for the centre ground

ENGLAND



Joe Cole

Born: Islington, London

Age: 26

West Ham debut: January 1999

Moved to Chelsea: £6.6 million in 2003

2007-08:

Chelsea fans' player of the year, 7 goals in 33 league appearances

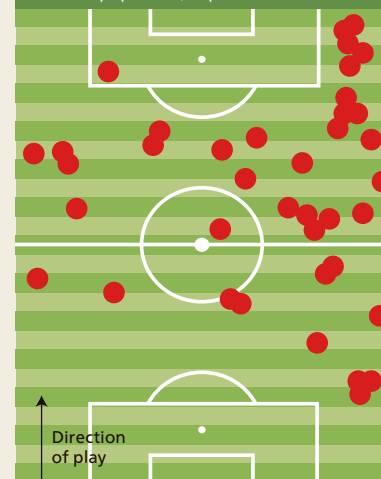
England debut: v Mexico, May 2001

52 caps

10 goals

On the right track

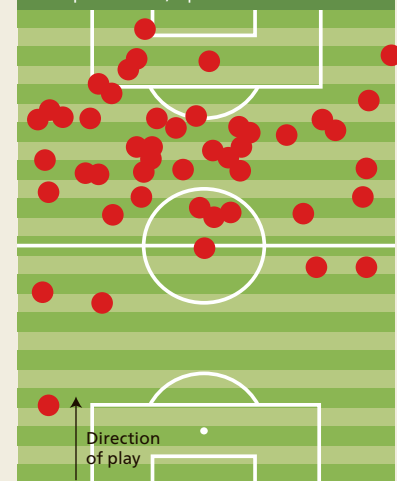
Cole touches - Northern Ireland v England, World Cup qualifier, September 2005



Joe Cole could thrive as a continental-style No 10 for England, as he showed when impressing for Chelsea in their FA Cup semi-final victory over Blackburn Rovers in 2007. Playing just behind Didier Drogba and Andriy Shevchenko, the strikers, Cole did much of his work in the centre of the pitch but also drifted left and right. However, he has tended to operate on the wing for club and country. He played well on the left – his normal international position – in the World Cup match against Sweden in 2006 but has occasionally appeared on the right for England, such as in the game against Northern Ireland in Belfast

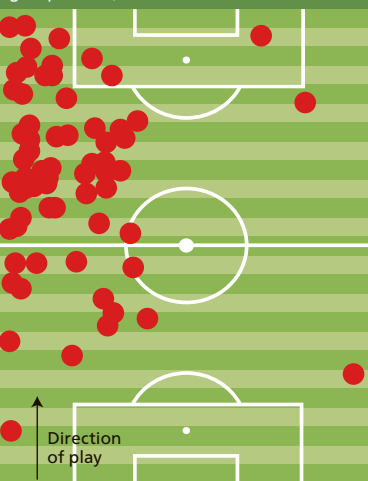
Centre stage for club

Cole touches - Chelsea v Blackburn Rovers, FA Cup semi-final, April 2007



Left to attack

Cole touches - England v Sweden, World Cup group match, June 2006



In and out

For a long time, Cole was on the periphery of the England team. In his first 19 games, he only started twice. However, after that, he seemed to have established himself in the side, starting 28 times in the next 30 games. Under Fabio Capello, though it has been back to the bench, coming on as substitute for his past three appearances – this after featuring from the start in Capello's first two games

First 19 appearances



Next 28 appearances



Under Capello

