



The countryside charity
Hampshire

Hampshire Views

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Jess Hurd



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Welcome to this edition of Hampshire Views!



In the last issue Dee Haas, our Chair for the past six years, wrote her final Hampshire Views 'Welcome' message. In this, my first, I would like to pay a warm tribute to the huge contribution Dee has made to the work of the charity. Her strategic insight, collaborative approach and engaging personal style made her an inspirational leader. Although Dee will also be stepping down as a trustee soon, her passion for the countryside is undimmed and I know she will remain involved with CPRE Hampshire.

Until we find a substantive replacement for Dee, I have agreed to stand in as Acting Chair. I have been a trustee for the charity since 2019 and have been Vice Chair for the past year. Since retiring from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, I have been involved in several environmental charities and serve as Governor of a school in Basingstoke.

I am a member of CPRE because I believe the countryside has a vital role to play in healing the planet. And that countryside is under threat. We must continue to do everything

we can to make sure it continues to be a great place to live, work and play.

Over the last few months, I have been heavily involved with our Hedgerow Heroes project, which has been a big success. It has also been great fun, particularly working with our group of very committed volunteers. For me, however, the highlight has been engaging with local schoolchildren, who just loved learning about the real value hedgerows bring to the countryside.

Otherwise, our work on planning continues unabated. It is good to see the government backtracking on some of the proposals issued last year to reform the Planning System. Latest pronouncements suggest that they will continue to attach importance to local consultation, will pay attention to Neighbourhood Plans and will give priority to development on Brownfield sites. All issues on which CPRE has been pressing hard. We are making a difference.

I would also like to express my warm thanks to our members and supporters for their generous response to our annual appeal. Together with Christmas card sales, this has raised over £13,000 for the charity's work. We have recently been working with local company, Gorilla Spirits, to develop a brand new "Countryside Gin", which generates a significant donation to us for every bottle sold. I highly recommend it. A great treat for yourself or a perfect gift.

Our AGM, which will again be virtual, will be held on Saturday 23rd April 2022. We are delighted to host guest speaker, Craig Bennet, CEO of The Wildlife Trusts. It should be an interesting event. See page 12 for

details on how to register. I hope to see you there.

Finally, please see the details of our 'refer a friend' membership campaign on page 11. As pressure on the countryside continues, we are looking for more people to join us in creating a stronger voice and to support the work of CPRE Hampshire. For every friend referred and signed up as a CPRE Hampshire member, we are pledging to plant a hedge. Sounds like a great deal to me.

Boyd McCleary

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CPRE Hampshire launches new 'community' gin in partnership with local company, Gorilla Spirits Co.

Hampshire are delighted to have been working in partnership with local company, Gorilla Spirits Co., on creating a new CPRE Hampshire gin. The best bit is that not only is it a delicious treat, but a donation will be made to CPRE Hampshire for every bottle sold.

Boyd McCleary, Acting Chair of CPRE Hampshire, explains: "We are delighted to be working with Gorilla Spirits, as a local business with a strong sense of social responsibility, to provide a different and fresh stream of funding for the charity. There is a message about our current hedgerows initiative on each bottle and we get a significant donation from every bottle sold."

Gorilla Spirits, based in Upton Grey, was set up by Andy Daniels, to combine his dream of creating high quality spirits and

liqueurs with a business that is focused on social responsibility. For every bottle sold, the business donates £1 to The Gorilla Organization who work at the forefront of gorilla conservation.

Handcrafted in Hampshire the CPRE Hampshire Gin is a Classic London Dry Gin with a delightfully fresh, botanical blend. A fabulous gift for friends and family, or a little treat for yourself- every bottle sold raises much needed funds for the work of the countryside charity. What better reason do you need? CPRE Hampshire Gin is available exclusively through the Gorilla Spirits website www.gorillaspirits.co.uk or see the link from the CPRE Hampshire website www.cprehampshire.org.uk.



Write to us!

We'd love to hear from you

CPRE Hampshire would love to hear more from you, our members!

To help celebrate our rich and varied landscape, we'd like to feature you and your special part of the Hampshire countryside in our future editions of Hampshire Views. Tell us what you love about your favourite area, what it means to you and how you enjoy it. A photo would be great too. We look forward to hearing from you. You can email comms@cprehampshire.org.uk or write to The Editor, Hampshire Views at the address above.



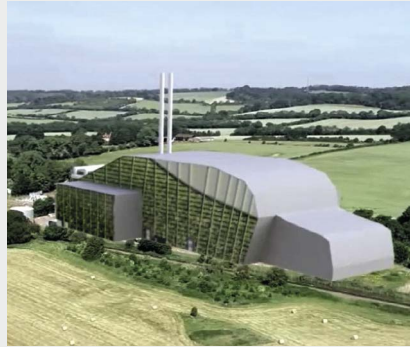
Latest decision on Aquind interconnector a big win for the Hampshire countryside, says CPRE Hampshire

At the beginning of 2022, the Secretary of State refused an application for a major project to run two large electricity interconnector cables from France, onshore at Portsmouth, and into the heart of South Hampshire. Despite agreement to planting and landscaping measures to mitigate the impact of two very large buildings adjoining the South Downs National Park (SDNP), CPRE Hampshire continued to maintain that this would not be enough. The landscape character, visual amenity and tranquility of the local area and the SDNP would be significantly damaged. This concern was the basis of CPRE Hampshire's objection and participation in the formal Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) Examination.

Christopher Napier, Vice President of CPRE Hampshire explains. "We were relieved that the Examining Authority was responsive to our views and reached the conclusion that there would be long lasting damage to the SDNP and the local area, and that this was accepted by the Secretary of State.

We will continue to support the South Downs National Park Authority in their work to protect this special area of land. This is a nationally designated landscape and its core to our work at CPRE Hampshire for this to be maintained. We understand the need to look for options in the strategic development of our country. But it needs to be the right choice and in the right place for us to continue to live and enjoy a healthy and sustainable landscape."

Cheers as Veolia application for large scale incinerator rejected but CPRE Hampshire warns of future appeal



The proposed Energy Recovery Facility received over 5000 objections.

Hampshire County Council's Regulatory Committee have recently decided to reject an application by waste management company, Veolia, to build an 'Energy Recycling Facility' in the heart of the Hampshire countryside. However, the story does not end there. Christopher Napier, CPRE Hampshire Vice President explains:

"It was clearly a case of the wrong development in the wrong place and we are delighted that our objections were considered and reflected in the final decision. However, we cannot rest on our laurels and now need to look to the future. There is a strong chance that an appeal against this decision will be launched and we need to keep in mind what is at stake. It is important to bear in mind the need for avoidance of landfill by reuse and recycling of waste and CPRE Hampshire strongly supports this. Critical, however, to any approach

to a future proposal for a new large-scale waste management facility, is its location, its size and the corresponding impacts on landscape character, visual amenity and local amenity. In principle, they should be in industrial locations and not the open countryside. In line with the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan any future proposals should be the right development, in the right place."

Veolia applied to replace their recycling plant near Alton with an incinerator to generate electricity from unrecyclable waste. This required a building 40 metres high with twin 80 metre stacks, which would dominate the Wey Valley to the east of Alton. To the south of the site is the South Downs National Park and to the north a piece of fine countryside which CPRE Hampshire have assessed as being a Valued Landscape, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

Christopher was at the meeting to present a deputation on behalf of the charity: "Having been involved in this process from the onset, we felt strongly that the major landscape and visual impact had not been properly considered by the Planning Officers in their recommendations to approve the application. The form and appearance of the development would not have been appropriate to the scale of the landscape setting of the site and would have had seriously negative impacts on both the landscape and views. However, we will now wait to see what next steps there may be and if an appeal is launched."

CPRE Hampshire responds in Glover Report consultation



The South Downs National Park is a nationally designated landscape. Stunning natural beauty, beautiful wildlife and fascinating cultural heritage make these living and working landscapes truly unique.

The Glover Report sets out the government response to Julian Glover's review of England's protected landscapes report. The review considered the next steps for National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in England.

In general, CPRE Hampshire are supportive of the Government's response but are concerned by the lack of substance to support what is proposed on several important points. At this stage therefore, our support is conditional on the detail to emerge. Specific issues highlighted by CPRE Hampshire include:

- We disagree that a new governmental body, a national landscape service, is needed. We believe this would be both unnecessary and expensive and would detract from the roles of Natural England, the National Park Authorities, and AONB Conservation Boards.

- We are supportive of the proposals for distinct status for protected landscapes in the Agricultural Transition Plan. If protected landscapes are to function in the manner expected of them in the future, then any new environmental land management schemes must contribute to those aims.
- We agree that it is important that the planning system should give great weight to protected landscape designations. This is of particular importance regarding major infrastructure projects within the settings of both National Parks and AONBs.

The consultation concludes on the 9th April 2022 and can be viewed on the government website www.gov.uk.

Protect urban green space says CPRE

New 'Local Green Space report' out now



Photo credit: Peter Jordan NE

Designated 'Local Green Spaces' are small parcels of land, close to where people live, that are demonstrably special to their community. This could be for reasons that can include their beauty, historical significance, recreational value, tranquility or richness of wildlife. It is

a neighbourhood planning tool with unique power, because it implies being valued by local people is, in itself, a strong enough reason to protect small patches of green space.

CPRE's recent report has looked at the untapped potential 'Local Green Spaces' has to level up access to nature for people living in our towns and cities by giving local parks protection from development. A little known yet powerful rule, within the National Planning Policy Framework, it allows local communities to ringfence their recreation grounds, community gardens, fields popular with dog walkers and other locally valued green spaces from development.

New research by CPRE has, for the first time, mapped the total number of Local Green Spaces protected. Over 6,500 have been created since 2012, often to protect valued land on the edge of villages. But the research shows that inner cities and densely populated urban areas are the least likely to have benefited. Wealthier parts of the south and Midlands had most Local Green

Space designations, while the poorest regions in the north had the least. This makes it an important mechanism for levelling up and much more needs to be done to help all communities, preserve their last, and often only, patches of green. CPRE is calling on the government to encourage all local authorities to promote the use of the Local Green Space designation as widely as possible.

Here in Hampshire, we have 224 protected local green spaces. This equates to 12 per 100,000 people. Most Local Green Space designation is made through your Neighbourhood Plan. If you have a local green space that you believe to be demonstrably special and that is currently unprotected, our first suggestion would be for you to approach the planning lead on your parish or town council and seek their advice.

Check out the planning portal on our website for a more detailed look at the report and for the link to the CPRE launch event now available to view on YouTube.

Updates to planning guidance to help safeguard England's protected species, woodland and trees

Natural England have recently updated their standing advice that helps local planning authorities make decisions which protect and enhance England's irreplaceable ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees as well as our rare and threatened species.

Well-planned and designed development proposals can avoid adverse impacts on England's protected species and irreplaceable ancient woodlands and trees, enhance existing



habitats for wildlife or create new ones. In this way, development and infrastructure can make a valuable contribution to nature's recovery.

Regarding ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees, further detail has been added on the effects of development, on mitigation and compensation measures and the factors to be considered for buffer zones such as if the surrounding area is less densely wooded, close to residential areas or steeply sloped. The supporting assessment guide to help planning authorities record their decisions has been revised. There have also been updates to advice regarding protected species.

For more information on these changes and the full guidance, visit the Natural England website at <https://naturalengland.blog.gov.uk/>.

Up to date on 'Levelling Up'

For our up-to-date news and response to the amends on the previous Planning Bill and the new Levelling Up White Paper, please check our latest articles in the e-newsletter and on our website www.cprehampshire.org.uk.

CPRE Hampshire – we couldn't do it with you

District Groups across Hampshire – can you help?

District Groups are the face of CPRE Hampshire in your local area. With 6 District Groups working across Hampshire, they monitor and influence local planning decisions affecting the countryside, campaign on local issues of concern, and take practical action to help improve the local environment.

They also raise vital funds to support the work of CPRE Hampshire and help to champion their local countryside and green space. Where-ever you are in Hampshire, your local CPRE district group will be working away to help protect your green space.

In order that we can keep doing all that we can for the countryside, we need your help. Our district groups are looking for new volunteers to help with a range of activities to make a real difference to the local countryside. If you have a spare few hours, want to help at a local event or are interested in getting more heavily involved in issues such as planning or policy, we would love to hear from you.

The six district groups within CPRE Hampshire are:

New Forest

this covers the area of New Forest District Council

Test Valley

this covers the area of Test Valley Borough Council

North Hampshire

this covers the area of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

North East Hampshire

this covers the areas of Hart District Council and Rushmoor Borough Council

South Downs and Central

this covers the areas of Winchester City Council and East Hampshire District Council

South Hampshire

this covers the areas of Havant Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council

If you think you could assist and be involved with your local, district group, please email hantsupportercare@cprehampshire.org.uk.

Update from District Groups

New Forest

Beginning with positive news, the New Forest has been voted the 'best national park in Europe and 10th best in the world'. The flip side is that this verdict was given by a well-known tourist agency and has prompted Go New Forest to launch the New Forest Green Leaf Tourism Business Scheme. As the smallest, most densely populated and accessible park, it could result in a tendency towards a commercial playground rather than a conservation site dedicated to protecting flora and fauna and biodiversity in general. Increased footfall will inevitably result from developers' housing pressure on Green Belt sites. For example, 491 dwellings on 34 hectares at Ringwood, despite inadequate infrastructure, transforming a market town into an urban conurbation. Elsewhere, no less than four sites have been listed in Fordingbridge. The Town Council have opposed the plans as presented. Traffic congestion, flooding etc are cited for areas with an abundance of wildlife. At Hordle and New Milton recent applications comprise of 103 and 178 new builds respectively.

A Godshill Parish Councillor has stated that 'landowners are finding that they can make bigger profits from renting out posh lodges than from caravan and tent pitches. This means that fields which were mainly unused in winter, and able to support wildlife recovery, are now permanently under building and tarmac'.

The District Groups Dark Skies specialist is investigating two over-lit properties and has pointed out that a 2005 Act of Parliament adds light pollution as a statutory nuisance. Local authorities should therefore act on complaints they receive on light trespass. Light sources should be reduced and kept within property boundaries.

Finally, the renovation of hedgerows at the Meyrick Estate (off the A35) has been undertaken over the last six months. Volunteers surveyed wildlife and took soil samples prior to new hedges being planted. They learnt how to assess the quality of hedges before laying a few hundred metres. Children from Bransgore Primary School were invited to identify



Our volunteer hedge layers doing a great job of inserting binding.

Photo credit: Boyd McCleary

different types of hedgerow and produced drawings of the wildlife. Just before Christmas, 3km of hedgerow was successfully completed.

Russell Webb, News Forest District Group Coordinator – russellwebb@uwclub.net

Test Valley

Within Test Valley there has been a plethora of applications for solar farms over the last few years and permission is nearly always given. Often the sites involve at least some good quality agricultural land and we believe that more consideration should be given as to whether Test



There have been several applications for solar farms in the Test Valley over the last few years.

Photo credit: Ashley Cooper (Alamy)

Valley is playing its part in contributing to the sustainability of the UK's food supply as well as contributing to the UK's renewable energy supply. It is CPRE's view that there should be much more emphasis on including solar panels on the roofs of warehouses and other large buildings rather than on productive farmland or in areas of high landscape value.

River water quality and waste water disposal are topics in the news recently, and the River Test and its tributaries are amongst many rivers affected by diffuse pollution and by sewerage discharges. An issue for many northern parishes is that the sewerage infrastructure cannot cope in periods of heavy rainfall, necessitating a constant flow of tankers moving dilute sewerage from villages and discharging it downstream into the river system. CPRE has been actively engaging with Southern Water and the company has now pledged to act on both issues. We shall be monitoring the result very carefully.

TVBC has recently issued its first thoughts on the next Local Plan which will set the scope and pattern of development for the years up to 2040. This first document sets out the general strategy for development without mentioning any specific sites. However, it does state that the Government intends to impose a target of (at least) 541 new dwellings per annum, or 10,800 up to 2040. We shall be pushing for as many as possible to be incorporated within the existing major towns which will contribute to the vitality of our struggling town centres as well as protecting the countryside. The document also contains many fine-sounding social and environmental aims and we shall be doing our best to make sure these aims are implemented.

Moya Grove, Test Valley District Group Secretary, moyagrove@gmail.com

John Moon, Test Valley District Group Acting Chair, john.moon@madasafish.com



North Hampshire

With Spring just around the corner, our valuable and precious countryside is once again about to blossom with many wildflowers, and our trees and hedgerows will soon start to swell and burst into flower too.

It seems more important than ever that we do our very best to protect this beautiful land from the pressure of the developer's bulldozer, imposed by greed and the Governments housing targets. The continued development and threat of more unsuitable, large-scale development 'eating up' our green fields, is ever increasing. Yet there is an abundance of brownfield sites lying unused, deemed as too costly by the developer to build on!

The importance of the countryside showed through even more in one particular aspect in the last two years while COVID lockdown restrictions were in place – wellbeing! It is vital that we protect the countryside from the concrete jungle sprawl, for the benefit of all.

The Group continues to review planning issues and respond appropriately to the many and varied concerns of residents. Des O'Donnell takes the lead in this and, going forward, will be supported by new volunteer, Beatrice Malama Scrivener. Currently, there are 17 cases under review.

Many applications are for large developments of new homes adjacent to small villages and on good farmland, advancing the urban sprawl. The adverse impact on the local landscape character and the scale of the proposed developments would completely overwhelm the small villages, with no amenities to support the development. This would mean an unwarranted urban intrusion into the countryside and is incongruous with the scattering of rural villages and hamlets.



Our Autumn Supper, a convivial evening with members and friends coming together after almost two years, was a joy. Our speakers from the North Wessex Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty provided an interesting and very informative talk based on the work undertaken to protect the countryside. It was heartening to understand more about this, how an AONB status helps, and the valuable teamwork being undertaken with different parent groups, farmers and individuals. We hope to return to arranging more activities and garden visits in 2022.

In January, Peter Prag, Group Chairman, decided to step down. We extend our sincere thanks to Peter for his leadership over the last three years and wish him a happy and enjoyable retirement.

Hannah Houstin-Lacey,
North Hampshire District Group Acting Chairman
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North East Hampshire

The North East Hampshire Group which covers the Borough of Rushmoor and the District of Hart continues to meet monthly to discuss planning applications and development issues within the area.

We are currently experiencing several long-term road closures in the area and the resulting traffic diversions are creating serious consequences for several small villages with queuing traffic, damaged verges and occasional road rage.

Work by Hart District Council and developers on planning a new development of some 5000 or more dwellings at Shapley Heath, between Winchfield and Murrell Green, has allegedly been put on hold by Hart District Council while they consider how and when to update their Local Plan. This was removed from the current Local Plan by the Government Inspector who said that the housing was not required. The Shapley Heath development could well be included in any new plan and we, together with several affected Parish Councils, will be monitoring this carefully.

The latest Housing Delivery Test numbers have recently been released by the Government. These have been processed into graphics by various companies in the property sector which show that Hart has built at more than twice the required rate in the past three years. This is more than in any other part of Hampshire.

We are in the early stages of planning a training and advice event for Parish Councils and other groups to help them with the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans and the submission of comments regarding planning applications. Details of this will be on our website and in our e-newsletter updates – make sure you have subscribed. You can do so on www.cprehampshire.org.uk.

Whilst we try to support the building of sources of alternative energy such as solar farms, we have been disappointed by the recent approval of several controversial schemes that are going to spoil the views across our beautiful countryside. It is also of concern that there does not seem to be any control over the grouping of several schemes near each other.

The North East Hampshire Group is in urgent need of increased membership and new volunteers to join our committee. The group meets at midday for about two hours, once a month, to consider and respond to inappropriate planning applications to help protect the countryside we all love.

Please do get in contact if you would like to join our CPRE group or the committee.

Alastair Clark,
North East Hampshire District Group Chairman
alastairc@cprehampshire.org.uk



A beautiful view across Fleet Pond



South Downs and Central

The focus of recent planning work in the South Downs and Central Group has continued to be on the two very large projects in the countryside of East Hampshire, and on emerging Local Plans in Winchester and East Hampshire Districts.

Veolia had applied to replace their recycling plant near Alton with an incinerator to generate electricity from unrecyclable waste. This required a building 40 metres high with twin 80 metre stacks, which would dominate the Wey Valley to the east of Alton. To the south of the site is the South Downs National Park; and to the north a piece of fine countryside which we have submitted as being a Valued Landscape. So, unacceptable visual impact was the main ground of our objection, but also that there would be an adverse effect on recycling of waste in Hampshire if the existing recycling plant is replaced by an incinerator. Some of our points were quoted in requests from Hampshire County Council to Veolia for more information. Further information supplied by Veolia shows further landscape and visual amenity impacts on the national park and its setting and failed to show a need for the plant or justification for the carbon impact it would create. There were over 5,000 objections to the planning application. See our full report on page 3 or check our website for further details.

The other large project has been the proposed Aquind Interconnector to exchange electricity with France, involving two large converter halls at the Lovedean national grid substation, surrounded on three sides by the South Downs National Park. The Examination process resulted in agreement with Aquind for significant mitigation planting, which would have reduced the visual impact to one of “moderate weight”, on which basis the Examining Authority concluded its Report with a recommendation to the Secretary of State to consent to the project. However, Secretary of State has refused consent on the basis that Aquind failed to adequately assess the feasibility of Mannington Substation (to the west of Ringwood, in Dorset) as an alternative connection point which would not involve damage to the national park or routing cables through the City of Portsmouth. This tipped the planning balance against the project. So, subject to any successful judicial review, the Lovedean area and the national park will be spared this very large development- a result for which we can claim some credit for highlighting the adverse landscape and tranquility impacts within the Examination process.

We have had virtual meetings with policy planners at Winchester City Council and East Hampshire District Council about their replacement Local Plans. We discussed housing numbers and distribution, and emphasised the need to identify Valued Landscapes, give proper importance to the setting of the South Downs National Park, and include strong policies on climate change.

Christopher Napier

South Downs and Central District Group Chairman
christopher.napier@btinternet.com

South Hampshire

Our part of Hampshire includes the cities of Portsmouth and Southampton, as well as urban areas in Eastleigh, Fareham, Gosport and Havant. That means that we look at how housing numbers are calculated in the cities and how well they can be accommodated without spilling out into the adjoining, and very pressured, countryside. These authorities work together on their housing strategy under the title of PFSH – the Partnership for South Hampshire, and we try to monitor their plans. They are currently working on a Joint Spatial Strategy, and we await to hear how they plan to share out the housing numbers calculated by the government’s standard methodology.

In the meantime, we know that Portsmouth has asked Fareham and Havant to help with its housing numbers, and we fundamentally disagree with this approach. There has been a recent study by Better Statistics CIC demonstrating that in several university cities across the UK, student numbers have been overestimated. They found that students were “counted in”, but not “counted out” when their degree finished. This then leads to an overestimation of people in their twenties, and a consequent overestimation of birth rates as well. This includes Portsmouth and Southampton Universities, and we have asked that PFSH investigated this matter in more detail. This might lessen the requirement for neighbouring authorities to take any of the urban housing need.

CPRE Hampshire will be telling the Inspector in the forthcoming Fareham Local Plan examination of our concerns, and we tried (but without success) to promote this argument to the Inspectors in the recent Havant Local Plan. The Havant Local Plan is currently up in the air, after the Inspectors stated they did not believe that Havant could deliver the plans they had put forward.

Caroline Dibden

Vice President – carolined@cprehampshire.org.uk



The Countryside Champion of Champions

Looking forward to a golden age for hedgerows by David Jones

One of my earliest memories is of playing under a hedgerow, mesmerised by the bugs and flowers. Later, as a teenager, I watched appalled as a local farmer grubbed out hedgerows on the Berkshire Downs. I suspect these experiences helped shape my longing to repair the damage done during my lifetime to the English countryside. Because you're reading this, you no doubt feel the same.

We have lost 50% of UK hedgerows since 1945 as agriculture intensified - and much of what remains is in a very sorry state. The consequences have been awful for wildlife, soil protection, water retention, air quality and landscape. But at long last the tide seems to be turning back in favour of the dear old hedgerow.



Photo credit: William Hook/Unsplash



A speckled wood butterfly in a hedgerow.

With the carbon budget now embedded in government policy, this implies more than 300,000 km of new hedgerow and restoration of most of the estimated existing 800,000 km. This is great news for wildlife and soils which will also benefit farmers, whilst creating rural employment, alleviating downstream flooding and restoring much-loved landscapes.

But this renaissance is not guaranteed – farms are businesses and hedgerows cost money. Whilst most farmers instinctively cherish their hedgerows, they are costly to maintain and take up some profitable land. However, they do allow productive farming to continue around them while contributing all the wonderful benefits mentioned earlier.

In funding the expansion of our hedgerows we cannot rely on landowner philanthropy, government subsidies and volunteering – important though these each are. This level of planting and management requires upfront investment by nurseries, training a new rural labour force and other aspects of a whole new supply chain.

One option is the market for 'Biodiversity Net Gain' recently introduced in the Environment Bill. This requires developers to achieve a 10% net improvement in biodiversity despite destroying habitats for housebuilding and suchlike. This can be very lucrative for a farmer, who may be paid to plant a new wildlife-rich hedgerow. The problem is one of volume – sadly, 10% net gain doesn't pay for a great deal of new biodiversity nationally (perhaps 5,000 hectares per year). Furthermore, hedgerows are often not a high priority, being under-valued by the Defra calculator - at least in comparison to wildflower meadows.



CPRE's Hedge Fund report estimates that 40% new hedgerows could capture and store 18.5 million tonnes of CO2 by 2050

What has changed? Well, for one thing the farmers themselves are realising that intensive farming methods are financially unsustainable and a movement towards lower-input regenerative techniques is gathering momentum. Also, a hedgerow's value in mitigating climate change – its ability to capture and store carbon dioxide - has been recognised. In December 2020, this led the Committee on Climate Change (the government's policy advisors on carbon budgets and setting net zero targets) to include an increase in hedgerows of 40% by 2050 within its carbon budget, and is now adopted as Government policy.

The welcome interest and enthusiasm for hedgerows has no better illustration than CPRE's report "Hedge Fund" launched in September at an event attended by George Eustice, the Environment Secretary, several other MPs and senior public officials. The report, authored by the Organic Research Centre, concluded that every £1 spent on hedgerows generates at least £3.92 in economic benefits. I emphasise at least because this figure excludes air and water benefits, and badly under-values carbon capture. Even so, who would turn down a 300% return on investment?

A more hopeful option to fund more than 300,000 km of new hedgerows is voluntary carbon offsetting. CPRE's Hedge Fund report estimates that 40% new hedgerows could capture and store 18.5 million tonnes of CO2 by 2050 – this would make a small but recognisable contribution to the UK's net zero target but more importantly deliver all those lovely other "ecosystem benefits". The report assumes a 2030 market price of £75 per tonne CO2 rising to £160 in 2050, meaning that corporations wishing to offset their residual unavoidable emissions would buy carbon credits which would pay for planting and maintaining the new hedgerows. Better still, a Hedgerow Carbon Code is being funded by the Environment Agency which will, in the near future, underpin a market for the carbon credits.

But by my estimates, these prices aren't high enough to make the business case for a farmer. Today, it costs around £10,000 per km to plant a hedgerow and around £200 per km per year to maintain. Therefore, at current prices a km of new hedgerow could cost £15,000 over 30 years to 2050 to capture and store around 50 tonnes of CO2. That's around £150 per tonne. And this excludes any profit foregone from the land given up to the new hedgerow. All is not lost though, because there is intrinsic value in the other benefits a hedgerow provides for which the corporate off-setter may pay a premium, and there may also be grants for the planting.

And there is further good news. I suspect a 2030 carbon price of £75/tonne will easily be exceeded. Indeed, prices in the UK's compliance carbon market reached that figure in November, while many commentators predict much higher figures as the global economy struggles to decarbonise. So, if clever ways can be found to reflect those price predictions in contracts, a massive programme of new and enhanced hedgerows could be funded by the private sector. I for one am very confident that this will happen. And not a moment too soon if we are to create a new golden age for our wonderful hedgerows which provide so much joy and well-being. And anyway, who wouldn't put in £1 to get £3.92 back?

David Jones originally trained as geographer and then an accountant, and now runs a business combining the two developing creative financial solutions to the climate and nature crises. His ambition is to introduce hedgerows across Europe and North America, and one day manage one of his own.

You can connect with David via [LinkedIn](#).



Hedgerow Heroes in Hampshire: an update

Since our last edition of Hampshire Views, we are delighted to report there has been a lot of activity on our Hedgerow Heroes initiative.

All the proposed wildlife, hedgerow and soil surveys have been completed and results are in.

Soil surveys have been undertaken by our Hedgerow Heroes volunteers under the supervision of the Ecology Team at the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. Samples were taken in areas where there have never been hedges and in areas where hedges were ripped out many years ago. It soon became evident that the soil in the areas of the field where there had been hedges before was much darker and richer in organic matter than elsewhere. This demonstrates that, even many years later, hedges have a long-term beneficial effect. With test results back from the lab, we learned there were quite high levels of phosphorus in the soil. This is unsurprising since the field was farmed with arable crops for many years and would probably have had significant use of fertiliser in the past. When the soil surveys are repeated in the future, we expect the phosphorus levels to have gone down. We would also expect the soil under

and alongside the new hedgerows to have generally higher organic matter readings. This should reflect a higher soil carbon content and clearly demonstrate the benefit of the hedge planting in the context of climate change mitigation. The new hedgerows will be storing carbon both above ground, in the branches and leaves, and in the roots.

From the bird survey, most were observed along the established hedgerow. A mix of common garden bird species were noted, including blackbird, blue tit, great tit and robin as well as long-tailed tits. Along the woodland stretch there were great spotted woodpeckers, nuthatch, mistle thrush and chaffinch. A large flock of approximately 30 redwing were spotted in the paddocks and flying over.

A total of five species of bat were observed during the surveys including: common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, noctule, serotine and Myotis bat species. As expected, most of the bat activity was recorded along the existing hedgerow and woodland edge, as these provide good foraging habitat for bats while connecting to other areas of hedgerow and woodland in the wider landscape.

A total of 4 species of bumblebee were recorded across the three survey visits: common carder bee, red-tailed bumblebee, buff-tailed bumblebee and white/buff-tailed bumblebee. During the butterfly surveys, 7 species were recorded: large white, small white, green-veined white, red admiral, speckled wood, meadow brown and gatekeeper. Large and small white were the most abundant, closely followed by red admiral. Meadow brown was only seen on one occasion. One species of moth, rush veneer, was also identified.

We look forward to revisiting these at some point in the future to see what impact the work has made. For more information about the results of the surveys and ongoing hedgerow work, please visit www.cprehampshire.org.uk/what-we-care-about/hedgerows/.



Photo credit: Boyd McCleary

Photo caption: Hedges have been gapped up on the Meyrick Estate. This photo shows newly planted whips with protectors.

Other activities undertaken include:

- Local school children have become Hedgerow Champions. We have been delighted to work with children from Bransgore Primary School on the hedgerows project. They joined us for some surveying, pledged to become Hedgerow Champions themselves and have even planted a new hedge on their own school grounds

- Hedge laying, gapping up and new hedge planting has now been completed. The work on the Meyrick Estate to invigorate and reintroduce hedgerow on some ancient hedgerow boundaries, has been finished by our fantastic team of experts and volunteers.

- Local MP, Sir Christopher Chope, joined us at local school Highcliffe School to plant a new hedge on site. The school had also been involved in learning about the importance of hedges with a CPRE Hampshire talk.

So, we have been very busy with our hedgerows initiative. However, CPRE Hampshire has been extremely fortunate to secure funding for further hedgerow activity around the County. Keep your eye out for the latest news in Hampshire Views and our regular e-newsletter.



Photo credit: Bob Hart

Bransgore Primary School children have become Hedgerow Champions and have even planted their own hedge on their school grounds.

CPRE Hampshire – what we do

Our vision

A beautiful and thriving countryside that enriches all our lives

Our mission

To promote, enhance and protect a thriving countryside.

Our charity works to:

- Support communities to have their say on developments and changes in Hampshire.
- Promote the benefit of the countryside to everyone, wherever they live.
- Work with local and national government, and other organisations to promote planning policies that make the best use of land.
- Raise awareness of the Hampshire countryside as a vital space for health and wellbeing.
- Encourage care of our fields and hedgerows to help protect landscapes and wildlife.
- Call for homes that local people can afford to be built in the right places across the country.
- Celebrate and support businesses that give back to the Hampshire countryside.
- Promote renewable energy that doesn't damage the Hampshire countryside or wider environment.



Thank you

In Hampshire we are fortunate to have a stunning range of landscapes, habitats, historic features, villages and small towns. With two National Parks, three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, chalk streams of global rarity and international renown, areas designated for nature conservation and stretches of protected coastline, we have a lot to be proud of.

Today, Hampshire faces many challenges including population growth, climate change, pressures to grow the economy and to build more houses. In planning for the future, we must ensure our countryside, and its valuable resources, are properly considered and managed to maintain a thriving natural environment for generations to come.

We are passionate about this work and we would like to thank you for your continued support in these endeavours.



Update from CPRE Hampshire Water Focus Group

An iconic part of Hampshire's landscape are our beautiful rivers and CPRE Hampshire is passionate about protecting these as part of the broader countryside remit.

Started by the CPRE Hampshire Planning and Policy Group in 2012, the Water Focus Group was set up to make the links between planning and water. It was also intended to draw up a water policy framework that would inform CPRE Hampshire responses to water consultations and planning issues affecting our rivers and waterways. Here's an update on the work we are currently doing.

Our Landscape

Chalk streams are globally rare and ecologically rich. It is extraordinary that 80% of these globally are in the South of England. The richness of plants is matched by the fish, bird and insect life; these are interdependent and therefore fragile. River health has been maintained by the fact that the fishing is superb and people will pay to take part. The water bailiffs with their deep knowledge, care for the rivers.

Water Resources

BUT, we also abstract the water and whether we take it from the rivers' underground source, the aquifer, or from the river itself we are taking more than is available.

Meeting the Need

The CPRE Hampshire Water Focus Group is a Southern Water (SW) and South East Water (SE) stakeholder and we attend and respond to all their consultations. In January of this year, we attended a meeting of 30 SW stakeholders, all questioning SW on their recent decisions regarding their Resource Management Plan for the future. There will be a new reservoir at Havant Thicket with Portsmouth Water (PW); a new pipeline to take the water from the reservoir to the Itchen; water will be recycled, cleaned to a high standard and returned to the rivers for later use and there will be NO desalination plant on the Solent. The section 20 agreement with the Environment Agency agreed at the public enquiry, which we attended on your behalf, will continue as agreed until 2029. But will all this be enough?? Can we protect the rivers?



Sewage! Pollution!

We tip our waste water into the rivers. What goes through your house and out to the Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) or your septic tanks, puts chemicals, microplastics, wet wipes, medicines, including hormones, into the living river. The rivers carry all that cannot be stripped at the WWTWs. Add to that, the ancient sewerage systems we have. These leak and when it rains, excess water gets into the sewage pipes and the WWTW's cannot cope. Sewage is released regularly, many hundreds of times a year, into our rivers.

We have asked Ian McAulay, CEO of SW, to provide information about the number of old local sewage works and the populations they were originally built for. This was agreed to, but we have yet to receive it. You may have read of the £90m fines imposed on SW for misreporting the sewage spills in Hampshire. The fines are being paid through reductions to your water bill. The Government's Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) published the very strongly worded Water Quality in Rivers Report in January of this year saying: "... only 14% of English rivers met good ecological status and no river met good chemical status.... The current state of our rivers is the result of decades of underinvestment into sewage works."

Ian McAulay responded in a recent letter to us: "Water companies have no powers to refuse developers the right to connect to the existing sewage network, and SW are not asking for this. What we have discussed with our local MPs however, is for water companies to have the right to request a set of conditions for developers to connect to the network."

We will monitor this and hope to visit a new WWTW this year.

On average, 3 people in a house, on a development.

3 x 120 litres (average use) = 360 litres per household x the number of houses to be built

(and this is likely to be a minimum).

What can you do?

There is so much we can do as individuals. Look after our rivers. Think – wild swimming not fat bergs! Here are some of our suggestions:

- **use ecological products as much as possible**
- **don't run taps except into a container and reuse where possible**
- **pee, poo and paper only down the toilet no plastics and no wipes ever**
- **don't use the big flush unnecessarily**
- **have a shower not a bath (you would be restricted to 3 minutes in parts of Australia)**
- **use buckets to wash the car**
- **never tip chemicals down the drain - you don't want to swim in them and nor do the ducks!**

Visit the SW website for advice on saving water
<https://www.southernwater.co.uk/help-advice/how-to-save-water>

Demand

At the root of all this is the rising demand for water. From all of us. More houses, more use and the shortfall is growing. The average UK water use per person is 120-150 litres per day. You can check your water bill to see what yours is. This comes from the rivers or aquifer and returns to the river or the sea when you have used it. It is now metered nearly everywhere in Hampshire, which, according to Southern Water, makes people 10% more careful initially.

Water Stress

Hampshire is an area of water stress. There is not enough water for the environment and for us in the South East. CPRE Hampshire is closely monitoring the Water Resources of the South East group (www.wrse.org.uk) which brings together government and private water agencies, regulators and suppliers. This is what they are currently suggesting is needed:

- Around £5 billion of investment by water companies to reduce leakage and help customers use water more efficiently.
- Government must act to reduce water use across society.
- Schemes that will enhance the treatment of wastewater so it can be recycled- returned to the environment from where it will be abstracted and used again.
- More than 200 nature-based schemes that would see water companies working with environmental groups to improve the region's rivers and streams that provide water supplies.

We will be attending their online consultations in February 2022.

We advise anyone responding to any development planning application to include water use and sewage capacity, for example, 'is there a sewage works?', in their response.

And finally, the WILD CARD! What is climate change going to bring.....?

Report by Moya Grove

"I am a geographer and naturalist with a geographer's interest in how the natural world and the human world interact. I am a teacher and before retirement, I ran a large Geography department at a Sixth Form College. I have been a member of CPRE since 2005 and started the water focus group in 2012. I live near the River Test and its welfare is close to my heart. I spend much time on the conservation of the wildlife in the parish where I live."

Check out the Water section on our website, www.cprehampshire.org.uk, under 'What we care about'.



The countryside charity
Hampshire

SHARE YOUR LOVE
FOR THE
countryside



As a member, your support is vital and much appreciated. But, as pressure on our countryside grows, we need more people to join us to give the Hampshire countryside a bigger voice.

If you refer a friend and we recruit them as a member between March & June 2022 - we pledge to plant a hedge.

1 metre of hedge will be planted for each new member recruited by an existing CPRE member. Hedges to be planted in Autumn 2022.

Referral details to be forwarded to hantssupportercare@cprehampshire.org.uk.

Please make sure you have permission for personal details to be shared and for us to contact them.

REFER A FRIEND & WE'LL PLANT A HEDGE

Keep up-to-date

For all the latest news and updates from CPRE Hampshire, make sure you subscribe to our e-newsletter.

Details are on www.cprehampshire.org.uk

The jewel in Petersfield's crown

By Bryan Woods

Bronze Age people buried their dead in its heathland. Many centuries later, cattle grazed and livestock fairs were held there. Today it is used for recreation, to escape from the pressures of modern life. Petersfield Heath has certainly had a long and varied history.

Situated on the outskirts of Petersfield town in East Hampshire, the Heath contains a mixture of natural and manmade features. The latter date as far back as the Early Bronze Age, 2200-1500BC, when burial barrows were built on the Heath.

Some barrows were lost to erosion, scrub growth and development. Of the 21 that survive, there are examples of bowl, disc, saucer and bell-shaped barrows. This makes it one of the most impressive Bronze Age cemeteries remaining in south-east England.

The barrows were originally mapped by local archaeologist Stuart Piggott in the 1930s and excavation of the barrows finally took place in 2014, when the 'People of the Heath' project began. Hosted by the Petersfield Museum, the aim was to understand and conserve the Heath's barrows. Lasting for four years, the project involved local people working under the direction of professional archaeologists. No human remains were found, as the Heath's acidic soil would have dissolved them. However, some items were retrieved from the barrows. Among them was a Bronze Age

burial urn, which is exhibited in Petersfield Museum.

Petersfield Heath now covers an area of 69 acres of heathland, grassland and woodland. Designated as a 'Site of Nature Conservation Interest', it also includes a lake of 22 acres in extent.



Petersfield Heath

Photo credit: Bryan Woods

It was originally common land where the townspeople grazed their cattle. However, its marshy nature meant that some of the livestock drowned. The area was dredged in 1750 and the Heath Lake was created.

The lake is now home to many birds. These include Egyptian goose, coot, mallard duck, little egret, mute swan, Canada goose, tufted duck and even black swan. A number of large carp are among the fish species in the lake. More work has been done recently at the lake. Grass seed has been planted, and the banks of the lake have been shored up to prevent erosion. A new walkway has been built, along with an artificial island for the wildfowl.



Petersfield Heath close up of Bronze Age burial barrow

Photo credit: Bryan Woods

These improvements, along with careful management of Petersfield Heath itself, will ensure the preservation of this lovely place for many years to come.

To get there, you can walk from the town centre and there is parking nearby. Refreshments are available at the Plump Duck kiosk by the lake. For more further information on the facilities visit www.petersfield-tc.gov.uk/the-heath/.

Further information on the Heath can be found at www.peopleoftheheath.com and www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk.

Bryan is one of our regular volunteer writers. He lives in Petersfield in East Hampshire, surrounded by the beautiful South Downs.

If you would like to share stories or photos of your lovely part of Hampshire, we'd love to hear from you. Email the Editor at comms@cprehampshire.org.uk.

Date for CPRE Hampshire AGM with special guest

Register for your space today

Our Annual General Meeting will be taking place for 2022 on Saturday 23rd April at 10am.

Boyd McCleary, Acting Chair, will begin with a talk about CPRE Hampshire's highlights over the past year and what the future holds.

CPRE Hampshire are also delighted to welcome guest speaker, Craig Bennett, CEO of the Wildlife Trusts and former CEO of Friends of the Earth. Craig will be talking about "The Countryside's Contribution to Tackling the Climate Change Emergency".

Full details are included on the letter included with this edition of Hampshire Views or please email admin@cprehampshire.org.uk for further information and instructions on how to join.

CPRE Hampshire launches new YouTube channel



Here at CPRE Hampshire we are always looking at ways to share the knowledge and information we are lucky to have access to about the thriving future of the countryside. We have recently launched our own YouTube channel.

So far we have some snippets from our excellent volunteers on the Hedgerows initiative, talking about what they've been up to and why. We even have the fantastic, full talk from self-confessed hedgerow 'nerd' Megan Gimber, of the People's Trust for Endangered Species.

Make sure you subscribe and keep checking back for more content. We are going to be doing lots more in the future. Visit www.youtube.com and search for CPRE Hampshire.

We have moved

The CPRE Hampshire HQ has recently moved out of the offices based in Winnall to a new location on the Sparsholt College campus, near Winchester. The college is a great match for the charity with some beautiful, surrounding countryside. The new address is CPRE Hampshire, c/o Sparsholt College, Hampshire, Westley Lane, Sparsholt, Winchester, Hants, SO21 2NF. Our new telephone number is 01962 797312.



We enjoyed the snowdrops outside the new office when we first moved in.