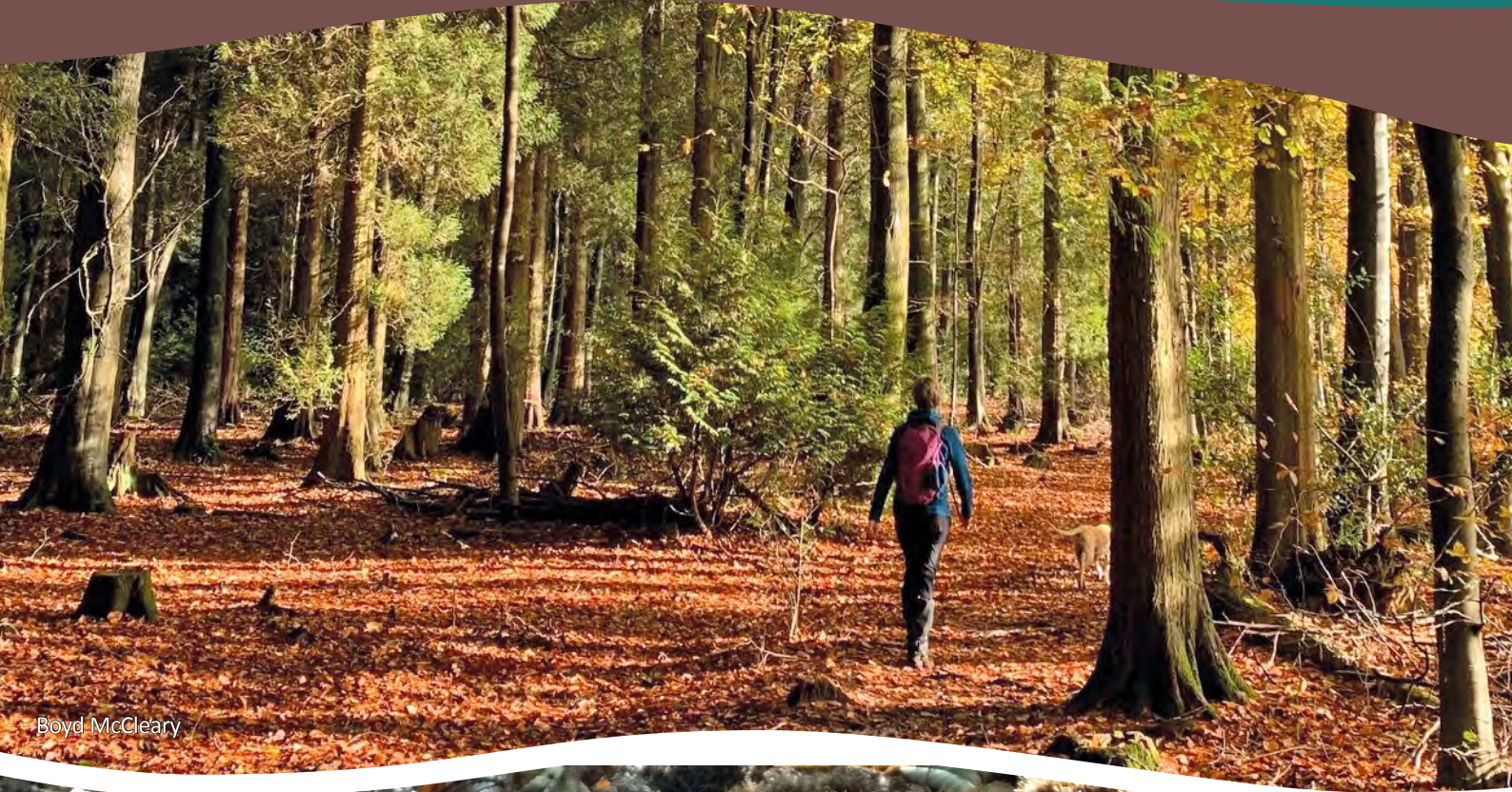




The countryside charity
Hampshire

Hampshire Views

Issue 23 | Autumn/Winter 2022



Boyd McCleary



Bob Hart

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New CPRE
Hampshire Chair

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solar farms

Hampshire
water update

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events

Welcome to this edition of Hampshire Views!



My first as the new Chair of CPRE Hampshire.

Sadly, it falls to me in my first welcome, to acknowledge the recent passing of Queen Elizabeth II. A great lover of and friend to the countryside, she was patron to our national CPRE charity for 70 years. It is the end of an era for the country and for CPRE – and one we are truly grateful to have been a part of. CPRE Hampshire were extremely privileged to be invited to attend a ‘Service of Commemoration’ for Queen Elizabeth at Winchester Cathedral recently. Liz Michel, CPRE Hampshire Trustee attended and you can read more about the event below.

I would like to thank Boyd McCleary for stepping in as Acting Chair for the last six months. With so much going on both at county and national level, he has certainly been busy, and I look forward to working with him as he continues as Trustee and Vice Chair for the charity.

Let me introduce myself. I have lived in Hampshire for 35 years and been a member of CPRE Hampshire for over 20 years. My professional life was spent in Whitehall, mainly the Ministry of Defence, but with forays into the Cabinet Office and the National Audit Office. After taking early retirement I became involved in my local community and, like many of you, found myself fighting against poor quality development. In one case, a developer destroying woodland to prepare a site for unallocated housing. These experiences led me to join CPRE and I became CPRE Hampshire’s representative on the successful campaign for the creation of the South Downs National Park. When that was established, I became the National Park Authority’s first Chair, a position I held for 10 years.

I am delighted to be back now volunteering for CPRE Hampshire, though I don’t underestimate for a moment the challenges facing the countryside or our charity in this most difficult time for the country. With the fast moving changes in our political and economic landscapes, we are doing all we can to stay abreast and respond as appropriate. In the meantime, I share more about what I feel our key priorities are later in this issue (see page 8).

As an organisation, CPRE Hampshire has recently faced our own uncertainties. Natalie Hargreaves, our valued volunteer co-ordinator, has left us to

ensure a better work/life balance. Vicky Marr, our communications officer, has also left her job for similar reasons but, I am delighted to say, has agreed to continue to work with us on specific projects. The departure of Natalie, and Vicky in her current role, has led the Board of Trustees to re-evaluate our staffing needs. We are adamant we want CPRE Hampshire to build on the previous excellent work and to up our game to meet the challenges ahead. Consequently, we have decided to appoint an Operations Manager to oversee the work of the office and to focus on increasing our financial resources and our membership. We will also be appointing a Communications Officer to complement the work of Vicky. In the midst of these changes, Mandy Roberts will continue to give stalwart support as our admin officer, and I thank her for all she has done over the summer to keep things going.

Margaret Paren

CPRE Hampshire Chair
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Service of Commemoration for Queen Elizabeth II

CPRE Hampshire were extremely privileged to be invited and attend the ‘Service of Commemoration’ for Queen Elizabeth II at Winchester Cathedral on Saturday 17th September 2022.

It was a unique and special event. We listened to music and readings with the tribute given by the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Nigel Atkinson Esq, and the sermon offered by the Dean of Winchester, the Very Rev’d Catherine Ogle.

It included a touching summary of the Queen’s life, with some humorous anecdotes, talking especially about some of her visits, over the years, to various Hampshire events and locations.

I signed the ‘Book of Condolence’ in the cathedral on behalf of CPRE Hampshire.

By Liz Michel, CPRE Hampshire Trustee

STOP PRESS

With the deadline just passed, no appeal has been submitted by Veolia against the decision by Hampshire County Council to reject their application for a large scale incinerator in the Wey Valley. With a lot of work and input from CPRE Hampshire, we are delighted with this news.

Member question on 'high hedges'

In response to some of our recent work on hedgerows, we received an email from Susannah Hardman. We thought we'd share her view and our response with you.

"I hope they will leave 'windows' in the hedges. So many views are spoilt by thick high hedges." Susanna

Boyd McCleary, lead for our hedgerows initiative said:

"We understand your concern about thick high hedges. It is not our intention to spoil views of the beautiful Hampshire countryside. What we would like to see are well-managed, well-maintained hedges, which contribute to the amenity value of the countryside, offer a home to wildlife and act as a carbon store, thus helping to mitigate climate change."

Great point Susanna. Hope that has reassured you.

Goodbye and good luck!



Farewell flowers for Natalie Hargreaves, our Volunteer and Membership Co-ordinator, and Vicky Marr, our Communications Manager. We wish them lots of luck with all future endeavours.

Write to us!

We'd love to hear from you

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

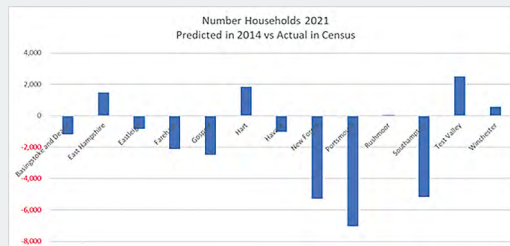
You can email comms@cprehampshire.org.uk or write to The Editor, Hampshire Views at the address above.

First results from the Census 2021 for Hampshire

We've now had a chance to look at the first results from the 2021 census data. This is important as the population and specifically, the number of households, is used as the starting point in calculating future housing targets using a Standard Methodology devised by the government. You may have heard talk of it last year when it was described as a 'mutant algorithm'.

In England overall, there were 935,000 fewer household than had been predicted by the 2014 projections. London is significantly lower (355,000 fewer within the London Green Belt), as is Manchester (50,000 fewer). For Hampshire, we looked at the data for households in Hampshire and compared them with the 2014 ONS projections, on which the Government has based its Standard Methodology.

For Hampshire county (excluding Southampton and Portsmouth), the Census showed 6,443 fewer households than were predicted for the year 2021 by the 2014 projections. If you include Portsmouth and Southampton, it's 18,765 fewer overall.



For most of the local authorities, the Census shows fewer households, with some considerably lower. Portsmouth by 7,000, Southampton by 5,000 and the New Forest by 5,000. The exceptions are the rural authorities of East Hampshire, Hart, Test Valley and Winchester which showed more than expected. This is clearly not a good outcome for sustainability and climate change to have more new households located far from services and transport hubs.

That discrepancy between the 2014 based projections and the 2021 Census is a serious matter and demonstrates that the current base for determining the target number of new dwellings is clearly fundamentally flawed.

For England as a whole, we also looked at the past 2 decades to see how many houses were built, compared to how many households formed - and there is clearly a surplus. There is not a housing crisis of numbers but there is one of affordability. This is driven by many factors such as low interest rates, investor purchases, buy-to-let, second homes and Airbnb etc. These issues will not be solved by simply building many more houses, unless they are restricted by tenure or price to enable young people to get onto the housing ladder. In Hampshire, CPRE will continue to press local authorities to build truly affordable housing for local people rather than just to meet out of date targets.

New CPRE Report launched looking at food security, development and the future of our highest quality agricultural land

The report quantifies the upturn in the amount of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) farmland lost to development since 2010 – enough to feed 2 million people with their 5-a-day for an entire year.

It reviews the effectiveness of current BMV policy and details alternative policy measures which will result in better outcomes for this valued land as well as more sustainable options for building the homes we need.

Maintaining agricultural capacity to deliver significant levels of domestic food production is critical. It must be achieved in the context of addressing and adapting to climate change, reversing the loss of nature and increasing demands on land for other purposes including delivering homes and decarbonising our energy supply. There is a particular need to move away

from intensive farming practices and towards a more 'multifunctional' approach to using land, reconciling food production with better management for natural and cultural heritage.

Our recommendations for how to address this include an integrated land use strategy which is also crucial for climate action and nature recovery; site surveys of all greenfield development proposals over 1 hectare for their agricultural quality; and strengthening of planning policy to prioritise brownfield sites and increase densities.

A full copy of the report is available at <https://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/building-on-our-food-security/>.



Photo credit: Chris Odonovan from Magneto

An Introduction to CPRE Hampshire's Solar Policy

The climate and nature emergencies pose an existential threat to the countryside in terms of landscapes, livelihoods and the natural systems which support us all. CPRE Hampshire is a passionate advocate for climate action and we have clearly stated our support for renewable energy. If we are to eliminate our reliance on fossil fuels, then no form of zero carbon energy can be off the table.

However, we also recognise that large scale solar can have significant adverse impacts on landscapes, notably Valued Landscapes, tranquillity and public enjoyment of public rights of way. Large scale solar can also take land out of productive agricultural use. The need for clean energy does not justify damaging the countryside or food production when rooftop and brownfield alternatives are available. There is much vacant south facing commercial roof space, even in rural Districts.

We also believe that communities need to be at the heart of shaping the future of their energy needs. Large scale solar should only be approved where there is broad community support.

In the past, the government seems to have given the solar industry carte blanche to develop huge greenfield sites which damage our countryside and ignore the huge potential of roof-mounted solar. However, attitudes are changing, with Liz Truss, during the leadership hustings debate for Conservative Party Leader, recently expressing strong reservations about greenfield solar and the loss of productive agricultural land.

The government's Energy White Paper (2020) committed the UK to generating 40 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind capacity by 2030; and the Climate Change Committee (2019) recommended that 54GW of solar capacity is needed by 2035. However, the need for energy does not justify damaging developments. Strong and effective planning policies are needed to enable schemes that minimise landscape impacts. Particularly on hedgerows and mature trees which are often removed or damaged to reduce shading. Schemes should also secure real nature recovery opportunities and enjoy the support of local communities. We believe that schemes that fail to meet these expectations should be refused.



CPRE Hampshire is calling on the government to urgently take these strong, positive steps:

- A sequential policy, supported with investment incentives, should make commercial roofs and brownfield sites, and not greenfield sites, the clear locations of choice for solar energy.
- Reducing overall demand for energy through efficiency measures in buildings, industry and transport, should be a national priority. This is also crucial to tackling fuel poverty and creating green jobs.
- Individual and cumulative impacts on landscapes and farmland should carry substantial weight in all planning decisions. CPRE Hampshire will not support any application for solar development on Best and Most Versatile Land. And, as the previous Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs George Eustace has made clear in Parliament, that includes Grade 3b land and above.
- Greenfield solar applications must have a binding requirement to contribute to Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
- Direct financial support should be given to community energy schemes, which represent the gold standard for renewables done well.

While there is a pressing need for renewable energy, we believe that cannot be a justification for poor quality or harmful schemes. We will always speak out against harmful proposals, and there is a desperate shortage of good schemes that we can support.

The full CPRE Hampshire Solar Farm policy can be viewed on our website at <https://www.cprehampshire.org.uk/what-we-care-about/climate-change-and-energy/>



Damage to mature Durley Claylands boundary oaks due to pollarding to reduce shading, Hampshire

Update from District Groups

New Forest

We had a stall at an ECO Fair held in Ringwood in May as an opportunity to introduce visitors to the 'The Countryside Charity'.

Our new Chair of CPREH, Margaret Paren, met members of the New Forest District Group in August and local planning issues and recent applications were discussed.

Paysanne. The NFNPA Planning Committee has approved a scheme with excessive fenestration, powerful luminaire behind a two-story window, 230m² shiny patio, swimming pool, four outbuildings and numerous exterior lights, in the darkest part of the Conservation Area. Despite a member's repeated request to defer to inquiry, the Chair, supported by officers, proposed to approve and members agreed 5:3. We are disappointed that no consideration was given to our scientific expert's significant concerns over the harmful scheme and multiple flaws in the Applicants' publicised lighting report, an unseen later version being taken entirely on trust. We hope to work with NFNPA to secure dark-skies-reserve status which would avoid such issues in future.

Alderholt. The overriding objection to Dudsbury Homes' proposed development of 1,700 homes is the lack of suitable roads in all directions, taking the inevitable vast increase of traffic to other areas. In particular, the narrow Fordingbridge road should not be used and is already potentially dangerous to the existing amount of traffic. Fordingbridge is endeavouring to take traffic away from the High Street by approving development plans providing easy access to the A338. Doubling the size of the population of Alderholt



Russell Webb, New Forest District Group welcomed visitors at the Eco Fair held in Ringwood earlier in the year.

will stretch NHS, educational facilities and waste disposal. Vehicle emissions and noise pollution will increase, apart from threats to biodiversity. Sewage waste will increase significantly since the village cum town is not on the main sewage system.

In July 2020, 18 large housing sites, mostly within Green Belt, were allocated to meet NFDC's housing quota of 10,420 dwellings, justified on grounds of exceptional housing need. Two years on and despite pandemic related delays, progress has been slow. NFDC still regretfully cannot demonstrate the 5 year housing land supply it needs to avoid the threat of additional speculative housing developments. Part of 2 sites have been approved with applications in on a further 10 but 5 have seemingly made little or no progress.

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

Test Valley

Like most of Hampshire, the Test Valley has had a summer of scorching sunshine and then intensive rainfall. The landscape is recovering its greenness but rivers remain low. We need to continue to be careful with water as overuse impacts directly on our lovely River Test. Southern Water can still abstract even if flows go lower, so we can have water in our taps.

We have been inspecting the Test Valley Local Plan reg.18 review. However we feel it lacks detail and raises some questions, making it hard to make an informed comment on what has been presented. There is no definition of sustainability and no real inclusion of the ideas of Natural Capital and Environmental Services. Because we have a lovely landscape that depends to a large degree on the river which runs through it, we would expect more on this. We feel it fails to address the unaffordability of housing particularly in the rural parts of the Borough, the stresses on the natural environment in terms of water supply, water quality, the decline in biodiversity and the pressures on vulnerable habitats such as the New Forest and The Solent. Key objective changes from previous local plans include responding to climate change and the



regeneration of Andover and Romsey Town Centres. A traditional settlement hierarchy has been used which does not consider how communities function in the 2020s.

There are several small housing developments planned in villages which are contentious. Take careful note of your settlement boundary in the villages as it is a key planning consideration. Several water outages and sewage works' failures show that the system infrastructure is not up to developments and expansion in all villages.

One worrying retrospective application is for water tank storage for irrigation and frost protection spraying for a vineyard at Kings Somborne. There are serious implications for water supply and landscape concerns. Crucially, there is impact on water being taken from the domestic supply rather than a private borehole. CPRE has estimated the possible annual consumption of water from this 5ha to be 9.52 million litres/year. We wrote challenging Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) on this, objecting from the landscape and water supply positions. TVBC's housing targets enshrine a water use of 110 lppd (already on the low side) and this vineyard would substantially increase the supply need in an area of acute water stress, where the local river is currently flowing at less than half its usual discharge. There are 100 or so vineyards in the south of England who might do the same, so there are wider implications too. We wait to hear whether the planners have taken this into consideration.

We continue with the same committee and are very grateful to them for their time. However, do encourage your friends to join and maybe consider being a committee member yourself too. We would love to welcome you.

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

North Hampshire

The Autumnal colours adorn and beautify our countryside with an awesome splendour before the tranquil, starker, crisp frosty days of Winter arrive. The changing seasons, a glorious beauty is a privilege for all to share.

The countryside must be protected from the continual push of the developers' bulldozers pouring concrete and bricks! An abundance of brownfield sites lie unused deemed as too costly by the developer! We must work together to protect our precious countryside for the benefit of all.

Strongly highlighted this year, our farmland is vital for the production of food. As a nation, we must become more self-sufficient and produce more of our own food and, to do this, the farmland, woodlands and green fields are fundamental.

We continue to monitor new planning applications and raise objections to proposals where harm to the countryside outweighs any benefit. Speculative development proposals which would adversely impact rural landscapes continue to increase despite Local Plan policies designed to prevent the urbanisation of the countryside. Current examples of these include 350 houses at Wash Water, 350 at Bishop's Green and 200 near Kingsclere. We also opposed an application for



a 200 acre solar farm near Bramley. This was refused but the applicants have now appealed. We will re-iterate our objection to the Planning Inspectorate. CPRE supports moves toward renewable energy and away from fossil fuels, but brownfield and rooftop solutions should be explored first rather than losing valuable landscapes and productive farmland.

Hannah Houstin-Lacey,
Acting Chairman, North Hants District Group
hannahhoustonlacey@yahoo.co.uk

North East Hampshire

The North East Hampshire Group, covering Rushmoor and Hart, continue to meet monthly to discuss planning applications and development issues within the area.

The poorly signed road closures in the area are continuing and the resulting traffic diversions are creating serious consequences for several small villages with queuing traffic, damaged verges and occasional road rage.

We have recently received notification of a proposed development for a commercial logistics centre on 32 hectares of agricultural land just south of junction 5 on the M3 and close to Newlyn's Farm Shop. Currently the applicants have applied for an Environmental Impact Assessment and Hart have responded with several requirements that must be considered in any future application. To date there have been more than 300 written objections submitted and this is only regarding the preliminary enquiry.

The developers, www.j5logistics.co.uk, have recently circulated a document to local residents asking for their views on the proposals. However, apart from trying to sell the virtues of the development by saying that it will create up to 2,400 jobs, benefit the local economy, provide training and employment for local residents, support the regional economy, improve biodiversity and habitat, improve cycle and pedestrian routes between Odiham and Hook and finally contribute to the improvement of local bus services, there is little of merit within their document.

Another part of the document states that the daily weekday movement of vehicles to and from the site will be between 6,509 and 14,273. Working on a twenty-four-hour basis this equates to between 4.5 and nearly ten vehicle movements per minute.

Great emphasis is made of the site being within 650 metres of junction 5 of the motorway. No mention is made of any vehicles travelling east on the A287 Odiham by-pass towards Upper Hale, Farnham and beyond. There is no mention of where the proposed 2,400 employees will live and if it is local to the development where their homes will be. There is little mention

of the fact that the river Whitewater passes close to the site and there is absolutely no consideration given to the loss of this productive agricultural land.

The developers state that a formal, more detailed planning application will be submitted to Hart District Council. Please do watch out for any future applications for this site and, even though you may have already submitted comments, make sure that you send into Hart District Council any concerns you may have regarding future applications.

The North East Hampshire Group is pleased to announce that since our last article another member has joined our committee, but we would love to hear from any volunteers who would like to help protect the countryside we all love.

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



Beautiful sunrise in Odiham by @ourwildplan

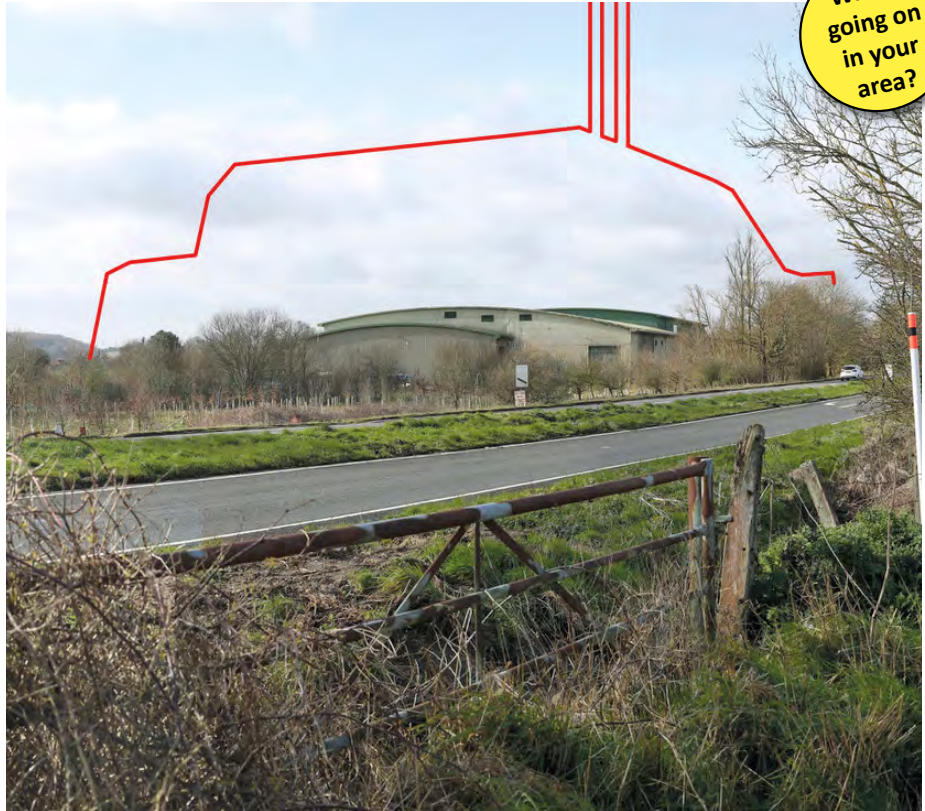


South Downs and Central

Aquind has been granted a Court hearing of an application for judicial review of the Secretary of State's refusal of an interconnector to exchange electricity with France, which would include two large converter halls at Lovedean surrounded on three sides by the national park. The hearing will be in November and opposed by Government lawyers, supported by Portsmouth City Council. There is no role in the process for third parties, such as CPRE.

We played an active role in the hearing of the Regulatory Committee of Hampshire County Council which refused the application by Veolia to replace their recycling plant near Alton with an incinerator, requiring a building 40 metres high with twin 80 metre stacks which would dominate the Wey Valley. The deadline for an appeal has now passed with no submissions which is excellent news. It would have resulted in severe adverse impact on the character of the area, the wider landscape and visual amenity.

We are preparing for further consultations on the emerging East Hampshire and Winchester District Local Plans. In advance, we are briefing parish and town councils on landscape issues.



After two years of cancellation due to Covid, our annual quiz night has been revived and will take place at East Meon Village Hall at 7pm of Friday 11 November. Please contact Christopher Napier if you would like to come along.

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

South Hampshire

The South Hampshire authorities work together as the Partnership for South Hampshire (PFSH). Work continues, and has done for more than 2 years, on their Statement of Common Ground, on housing numbers, water and nitrate issues and also a possible new Green Belt. This has been a slow moving process. There are rumours of several Strategic Development Opportunity Areas, for which you could interpret large greenfield developments.

In July we wrote to PFSH asking about the new Census results and possible ONS miscalculation of student populations in university cities like Portsmouth and Southampton.

Meanwhile Eastleigh Borough Council are building apace at 'OneHortonHeath', their own site, and will commence work on an early review of the Local Plan later this year.

Fareham Borough Council are still awaiting final comments from the Inspector on their Local Plan. Much depends on successful delivery of Welborne - 6,000 homes just south of Wickham.

The Gosport Local Plan 2038 consultation

was in September 2021. Unfortunately, we didn't have the resources to make a submission.

Havant Borough Council are just starting again on a new Local Plan. We have asked them about housing numbers and the Census along with Havant Borough Residents Alliance.

A Portsmouth Local Plan 2038 is underway. Proposals on the previous dump site at Tipner remain contentious.

Southampton City Council are working on a City Vision. They held a digital consultation in March 2022, but we were unable to contribute.

There is now a South Hampshire Facebook group. Please do join and share the link to anyone interested in planning, it's not just for CPRE members. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cprehampshiresouthhantsdg>

Caroline Dibden,
Vice President of CPRE Hampshire and South Hampshire District Group Chair
carolined@cprehampshire.org.uk

Join our South Hampshire District Group Facebook page

CPRE Hampshire: South Hampshire District Group
Public group · 90 members

Joined + Invite

Introduction to the new CPRE Hampshire Chair Margaret Paren

Following the first Hampshire Views ‘Welcome’ from Margaret on the inside front cover, here are some further Q and A’s for us to find out a bit more about her.

Why volunteer to be Chair now?

Like many others, I reflected during lockdown on what was most important to me and what I wanted to do when life returned to normal. And, like so many others, I realised even more than before the importance of the countryside to me. I therefore decided to offer my services to CPRE as an active volunteer. I did not intend to finish up as Chair but, when the opportunity arose, I decided to stand in the hope that my previous experience would be of use in these challenging times.

What does the countryside mean to you?

A very great deal. It has given me so much by enriching my enjoyment of life and, at times, providing much needed solace. I am passionate about it and its future. The English countryside is so special: we should never forget that nor the challenges it faces.

What do you think are the main challenges facing the countryside?

I would list three:



Climate change



Future of farming



Development pressure

All three have the capacity to change fundamentally the countryside we love. Mitigation for climate change, food security and housing for our people are all in competition for a fixed supply of land. It would be a tragedy if, in the process of meeting these needs, the environmental and recreational benefits were to be squeezed out. The problem is compounded by political uncertainty. We do not know, for example, whether the Levelling Up Bill and its proposals for changes to the planning system will survive or be replaced by something altogether more radical.

What are your priorities?

The top priority must be to increase income and membership. We can’t achieve our aim of protecting, conserving and enhancing the Hampshire countryside without sufficient money or the enthusiasm of members and volunteers.

What do you do in your leisure time?

Every day I am out walking in the countryside with my two dogs. I also enjoy cooking and painting. And my carbon footprint guilty pleasure is travelling to often remote parts of the globe bird-watching.



New Hedgerow Heroes initiative well underway

The second year of our Hedgerow Heroes project is now well under way on Upper Brownwich Farm in Titchfield, just west of Fareham. The land is owned by Hampshire County Farms and we are working closely with the local tenant farmer from whom we have received great support. Our 10 local volunteers have been trained up and are busily surveying the hedges for a small selection of the enormous quantity of wildlife that rely on healthy hedges in an agricultural landscape: butterflies, bumblebees and hazel dormice. The volunteers are also surveying some of the existing hedgerows across the farm, collecting a baseline set of data that can be compared after this winter's planned hedge planting and hedge-laying work.



CPRE Hampshire Hedgerows Heroes Co-ordinator agrees a way forward for the next phase of the project with Hampshire County Council tenant farmer, Richard Stiles

Project update from our Hedgerow Heroes Co-ordinator, Ellie Banks

We had an exciting first day on the farm, getting the project off to a great start and getting to know our wonderful new group of volunteers. We started off with a tour of the farm, its footpaths, hedges and cliff views. After teas and lunch in the shade of the grain barn, we set about improving our identification skills, and getting to grips with the transect procedures and considerations for the butterfly and bumblebee surveys to be carried out before the end of the season. We then headed out to practice the pace, recording the weather conditions and with hopes of spotting some of our flying friends. It was very hot though so we didn't hold it against them for hiding in the hedgerows, trying to keep cool!

Our second day of training was an absolute inspiration, led by Sarah Barnsley, Hedgerow Officer, and Ian White, Dormouse & Training Officer, from the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES). We first heard Sarah's incredibly informative presentation on the importance of hedgerows for farming, wildlife, environment and climate, as well as management advice for maintaining or rejuvenating hedgerows. To follow, Ian gave a fantastic presentation on hazel dormice, covering aspects of their ecology and biology, threats and monitoring techniques.



We spent the afternoon learning how to survey some of the hedges on the farm using PTES's Great British Hedgerow Survey method. The data can be uploaded to their database, helping to build up a map of the state of our hedgerows across the country, informing conservation efforts.

With plans already to use this training to carry out hedge surveys across the farm, the volunteers were inspired to take on further surveying and monitoring of dormice to provide more data for PTES. Thanks to the enthusiasm and commitment of our group of volunteers, we will now be setting up 40 footprint tunnels along hedgerows on the farm to monitor the presence or absence of hazel dormice.

For more information on hedgerow surveys visit:

<https://hedgerowsurvey.ptes.org/the-great-british-hedgerow-survey>

For more information on dormice surveys visit:

<https://ptes.org/get-involved/surveys/countryside/survey-hazel-dormice/national-dormouse-footprint-tunnel-survey/>

For more information on the ongoing CPRE Hampshire Hedgerow Heroes initiative and for an extensive range of resources and information visit:

<https://www.cprehampshire.org.uk/what-we-care-about/hedgerows/>

CPRE Hampshire launches Community Hedge Fund

At CPRE Hampshire, we LOVE hedges. Not only are they a beautiful feature of our countryside, green spaces and gardens, they are also a great contributor to reversing the effects of climate change and provide shelter, homes, safe travel and food to all kinds of wildlife.

Alongside our current Hedgerow Heroes project, we want to share the love by offering grants of up to £750 to assist community groups with the planting or restoration, by laying or gapping up, of hedges in areas accessible to the public.

The aim is to reach across Hampshire to assist our national CPRE target of increasing the length of hedgerows in the UK by 40% by 2050. #40by50

Could your local community benefit? Could you plant a new hedge on your village green, or at the side of your cricket pitch? Do you have an old hedge that has big gaps? Do you have a hedge that is thin and straggly and could do with restoration?

The funding is designed for the purchase of whips and tree guards, and/or the cost of labour and materials (stakes and binders) in the case of hedge restoration by laying. We can also provide advice and guidance on getting started, where to buy whips, what species to plant, how to plant a hedge, how to care for and manage your new hedge, as well as resources to promote awareness and education around the benefits of hedges for wildlife, farming and climate. We have ready-made Key Stage 1 and 2 materials for any children involved.

For more information and details on how to apply, email ellie.banks@cprehampshire.org.uk in the first instance – The deadline for applications is Friday 11th November 2022.



The CPRE Hampshire Community Hedge Fund seeks to enhance hedgerows across the county – with your help

See details of free online talk 'Hedge Management for Healthy Hedges' on page 11.



TUB's, Water and CSO's!

The latest report from our water expert, Moya Grove

As I write this, it's drizzling. A relief for the scorched plants in the garden, although the rain is hardly getting under the leaves. We've had only 65% of the average rain since January and it's really beginning to show. After the extraordinary long hot spell and official heatwave, those massive downpours some of us had, have done very little. Southampton only had 1.4ml in July. The average is 52.8ml.

As you know I have been writing about water stress in the South for some time now. Even without the changes that climate warming brings there has been water stress in Hampshire for a while. The underground water sources, aquifers, are not recharging as they did in the past, partly because the heavier downpours are running off the surface rather than soaking in to join the underground stores. And partly because we just use more water than flows back in. I gave a very well received talk to Romsey Abbey Probus in July, and very few realised the extent of the water shortage. It has become very apparent now.

The water companies in the South are short of water. Southern Water (SW) has a supply deficit of 190mld (said Nick Price- SW on 23/6/22). The Test is likely to be raided for water this autumn under the Section 20 agreement with the Environment Agency (EA) which allows SW to abstract even when the flows are below the usual "hands off" level. Some of the deficit will be relieved when the future Havant Thicket reservoir is full but that won't be for several years. Some of the water filling the reservoir will be cleaned water from two waste water treatment works in Hampshire. The public consultation period for this has just finished. CPRE Hampshire District Groups are keeping a close eye on the pipeline routes. Check the SW websites to see if they come near you:

<https://www.southernwater.co.uk/our-story/water-for-life-hampshire/consultations>

There is no national infrastructure for water and CPRE Hampshire believes there should be.

TUB's

After the Government declared a national drought all the water companies were allowed to put drought measures in place. Southern Water had already done this with a hosepipe or Temporary Use Ban, a 'TUB'. It might be worth noting, blue badge holders are automatically exempt from TUBs restrictions and do not need to apply for an exemption.

So, please Save Water! Whatever your views on the water companies, and there has been a great deal of adverse publicity, we all need to save water every day. The best way to save is not to let water go down the plughole! Use a bowl and tip the grey water on the garden. Some people even syphon water from the bath. I catch the washing machine water and it's this that kept my dahlias alive. Don't flush the toilet every time, and it goes without saying that nothing goes down there except pee, poo and paper! NO wet wipes! – bin them. They make fat bergs!

CSO's

This situation is appalling. 'Combined Sewage Outfalls' CSO's, occur when it rains hard and the sewers can't cope. To prevent the sewage backing up into our homes the water companies are allowed to let the untreated sewage into the rivers and the sea. Sewage and rainfall should not be in the same pipes but in this country they often are as many older systems lead rainfall into the sewers not to soakaways. Also ground water can leak into your holey sewer pipes (laterals) as they travel underground to the mains. Government allows the water companies to let this surplus go under extreme conditions. However, it is an appalling fact that CSO's happen everywhere, all the time, and government is not sufficiently hardening up the legislation. Water companies have merely been told to put measures in place by 2050. Our seas are filthy and our rivers are dying. Southern Water was forced to apologise in August after beaches in East Sussex were closed due to sewage being released at the shoreline. At least 14% of its pollution monitors have been found by researchers to be faulty.

At Brexit the European Commission was about to take legal action against the UK to ask the court to start issuing a financial penalty, for the state of our rivers. Over the last six years water companies have spent at least nine and a half-million hours dumping sewage into the environment. And if the data is at fault, (many monitors are not working or not regularly read due to EA staff shortages) that number could be a multiple of that.

You can check your local river online at:

<https://therivertrust.org/key-issues/sewage-in-rivers>

The Environment Agency is now bolstered by the new Office for Environmental Protection and hopefully this will help to rebuild their ringfenced environmental protection fund which has been reduced by 80% since 2010. Spending increases trumpeted by government are mainly for flood protection schemes.

Water – essential, abused, precious, under-valued, privately owned and beautiful in the Hampshire landscape. We need to take care of it.

Moya Grove, September 2022



A carrier of the River Test near Longparish.

CPRE Hampshire Events News

Why Fundraise for CPRE Hampshire?

By Hannah Houstin-Lacey

I was asked recently, why I fundraise for this charity and it's simple. I love the countryside with a passion and all that it means. Also, I understand the importance of caring for our valuable land and of this countryside charity, which is vital to lead in protecting the land for all for the future.

I believe there are three main elements:

- Awareness – it is essential to raise the charity's profile, visibility and voice, far and wide, to encourage individuals to become involved. This involvement can be volunteers, members and supporters - but all are essential to project the awareness of this important charity.
- Social – the benefit is far reaching! Bringing people together with a common goal is so good for one's mind, body and soul.
- Funds – it is essential that CPRE Hampshire has the necessary funds to allow it to do its vital work. Protecting the land from all kinds of unsuitable, unsustainable pressures from the relentless push of the builders' bulldozers!

With this in mind, the North Hants District Group hold a number of events throughout the year. We host an annual Autumn Supper with speaker, organise garden visits and other activities. For example, we visited the Vitacress site at Abbots Ann earlier this year. As well as these events, we aim to organise a sponsored walk every few years. Showcasing the beautiful countryside, these activities tick the social aspect, raises much needed funds and promotes awareness of the work of the charity.

I urge all to become involved and to support.

Hannah Houstin-Lacey,

Acting Chairman, CPRE North Hampshire District Group

EVENTS COMING UP

Free online hedgerows talk

CPRE Hampshire are delighted to be hosting this free online talk with leading expert Nigel Adams. The talk will cover all aspects of hedgerow management including the life cycle of a hedge, planting, hedgelaying, trimming and a simple methodology to access the condition of any hedge.

The online talk will be taking place on Tuesday 18th October 2022 from 6.30 pm to 8 pm. To book your free space, visit <https://www.cprehampshire.org.uk/get-involved/events/>.

Bluebell Walk

Looking forward to Spring already? CPRE Hampshire will be hosting a 'Bluebell Walk' from Ellisfield Village Hall on Saturday 22nd April 2023. Make sure it's in the diary and further details will be published nearer the time.

RECENT EVENTS

Dummer rose garden private tour and tea

The North Hants CPRE Hampshire District Group recently organised a delightful afternoon with a private tour of the rose garden at Dummer House near Basingstoke, followed by afternoon tea. The house, located in the village of Dummer, is Grade II listed, and the rose garden is within the old kitchen garden of the house dating back to the 18th century. Held by kind permission of Sir Crispin Davis, attendees were given a personal introduction to the garden and how it came about, followed by time to browse and enjoy with tea and cake.



As Sir Crispin explained, the rose garden was developed with 1000 different David Austin roses and the garden was divided into four different areas: the romantic garden, the structured garden, the meeting area and the cottage garden. Managed by one full time gardener, the overall effect is absolutely stunning and a joy to behold. As well as the rose garden, there was also a chance to explore the rest of the gardens with big herbaceous borders, lawns and beautiful views over the unspoilt Hampshire countryside.



North Hampshire District Group Visit to Vitacress

A wonderful sunny day for the North Hampshire District Group visit to the Vitacress watercress plant in May 2022. The first event of its kind in two years and it was very good to be back out and about.

Ron Bainbridge, who has been farm manager at the site for around 30 years, guided us through the growing processes, from seed to end product. Ron explained the different ways of growing the crop and showed us the types of machinery used, both old and new. His wealth of knowledge made the visit very interesting and the group asked many questions. All in all, it made for a very interesting and informative visit.

Reports by Hannah Houstin-Lacey

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

Grave watchers and ghosts



Here in Hampshire there is a reminder of a macabre chapter in our history. When body snatching was rife, two huts were erected in the churchyard of St Thomas a Becket Church in Warblington.

Grave watchers were stationed in the huts to deter body snatchers. The latter were attracted to what was described as a "lonely but well-filled churchyard." These 'resurrectionists' dug up newly-buried bodies and sold them to doctors or medical schools. The corpses were then dissected or used in anatomy lectures.

Built out of flint in 1829, each hut had a fireplace and a chimney. Recent restoration work also unearthed a truckle bed and a blunderbuss inside one of the huts. The blunderbuss must indeed have been an effective deterrent against any would-be body snatchers!

Warblington is situated near the south coast of Hampshire, halfway between the towns of Havant and Emsworth. A Saxon settlement was first established there in the seventh century. By the year 1086, the population had grown to about 120 people. However, the village was cleared of its inhabitants in the 1400s by Richard Neville, 16th Earl of Warwick. As Lord of the Manor, he converted the area into a park for hunting deer.



One of the two grave watcher's huts in the Thomas a Beckett church grounds in Warblington.



The top of the Warblington Castle tower, just peering over the hedge

Warblington Castle and the nearby churchyard. An apparition of a smuggler has also allegedly been seen in the area.

Sadly, most of Warblington Castle was destroyed during the English Civil War when it was besieged by Parliamentarian forces. A gate tower, a gateway and part of a wall are all that survive today. It is now a private property and there is no public access.

Located near the spreading urban growth of Havant, Warblington is also close to roads that carry huge amounts of traffic. We must surely strive to preserve such villages before they disappear altogether.

(From the roundabout take the turning into Church Lane. There is parking near the church itself. The nearest refreshments are two miles away in Havant.)



The huts were probably in use for only a few years, as the Anatomy Act of 1832 effectively ended the gruesome trade in body snatching.

Close by the church are the remains of Warblington Castle. In 1513, King Henry VIII gave the manor of Warblington to Margaret Pole, Countess of Salisbury. She had a new moated Manor House built there from 1515 to 1525. Unfortunately, Margaret Pole fell foul of the King. She was arrested and put on trial for supposed treason (though they were probably trumped-up charges). The doomed Countess was found guilty and beheaded at the Tower of London in 1541.

The headless ghost of Margaret Pole reputedly haunts the remains of

Article and photography by Bryan Woods

Christmas Cards 2022

All profits from the sale of these cards will support our work in protecting a thriving Hampshire countryside.

All cards have the greeting: 'With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year'. Please note that stock is limited so order early to avoid disappointment (if stocks do run short, an alternative of the same value will be sent). The order form is enclosed with this newsletter or you can email us on admin@cprehampshire.org.uk.

Thank you for your support.



Church Choir (160 x 116 mm)



The Magi (110 x 110mm)



Bringing Home the Tree (140 x 140 mm)



Santa and Friends (160 x 116 mm)



Madonna and Child (116 x 160 mm)

CPRE Hampshire Events

If you've missed it, please see the previous page for the reports on previous events and information on what's coming up. Check the website, www.cprehampshire.org.uk, for the most up-to-date information and links to ticket bookings.