

The Dorset Review

Campaign to Protect Rural England



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Front Cover image – Sheep on Downland at Wynford Eagle, West Dorset, taken by Rupert Hardy

CHAIR'S REPORT

An Overview of the current situation on planning.

In the last few weeks I have received a substantial number of e-mails indicating concerns, bordering on anger, at how our countryside, towns and villages are being destroyed or have the potential to be destroyed by the level and type of development that is taking place. More of the individual cases are commented on in the group sections. I too share these concerns.

Housing & NPPF

Below I refer to the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which I had hoped might alleviate some of those concerns, but in the event do not do so, only in limited circumstances. I do think though we have to understand how these developments are coming about. The government has set a target of building 300,000 houses per year. It devised a formula to be used across the country to determine housing need in each Local Planning Authority (LPA). The formula ensures that targets are higher in those areas where affordability is an issue – Dorset is in such a position. In the event this new formula is not likely to deliver that number of houses and could well be amended so that the number in each (LPA) is increased further. However, it has recently been revealed that Government's figures for housing need are greatly inflated and major errors found in statistical projections. Housing Need now being estimated at nearly 50% below the 300K annual targets. It remains to be seen if the Government will swiftly act on these new findings. If they don't then to be honest our LPAs are 'stuffed', they have no say on numbers, and only a say on location and type of housing proposed.

This of course is against a background which indicates the houses won't be built anyway as it isn't in the major house builders (who control the market) interests to do so. Currently they would only achieve about 60% of that figure. We can only hope that in Oliver Letwin's report due shortly that he might make some recommendations of how this might be addressed. As a further complication we remain unsure as to how the new Unitary Authorities (UAs) will handle planning issues. Planning Officers, with whom I have talked, think that the housing allocations will be made across the UAs not just within the LPAs as they currently exist.



Being proactive in our approach

What I think the situation does indicate however is that certainly we should still look carefully at any housing numbers proposed and argue against them if we can, although as I have indicated earlier I doubt this will be possible. In my view we have to also:

- look to be proactive in our approach to the Local Planning process
- we should be playing a larger part with landowners and developers to try to ensure that what is built is sensitively designed and, although may still be detrimental to our landscape and rural locations, is not as bad as it might have been
- we should ask why sites designated as brownfield are not being developed first
- alongside this we should be pushing for the creation of Community Land Trusts, in all Local and Neighbourhood Plans, so that really affordable houses for local people can be built

Personally my colleagues and I in Sherborne have been trying to be more proactive for several years, with ongoing discussions with the major local land owner and developers. Indeed I am now being approached by builders to have input into what they are going to build. May I recommend you to read Shaun Spiers' (a past CPRE CEO) book 'How to Build Houses and Save the Countryside'. It has some controversial parts to it but overall should be prescribed reading for any housing minister, developer and landowner in England. With the will we should be able to build the right type of housing in the right places, the problem is do the authorities have the will to do so!

Housing Delivery Test

When I read the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) I personally thought it was a 'Speculative Developers Charter' and the National Office have gone into print that it is such a document.

Despite a promise to 'build attractive and better-designed homes in areas where they are needed', far from fulfilling this promise, the NPPF will continue to favour the delivery of any development, rather than development that meets communities' needs, respects the environment, and adheres to policies in the NPPF other than those which deal with

housing delivery. One of the key concerns is the new 'housing delivery test'. The NPPF continues to encourage councils to set high targets for housing delivery, as I have discussed above, and this new policy has been produced to enforce this delivery. However, the 'housing delivery test' will penalise councils when house builders fail to deliver homes in their areas by removing local control over planning decisions. This in turn will leave them and the countryside open to speculative development.

In addition, there are number of other concerns, including:

- a failure to provide an effective brownfield first policy
- the continuing failure to support provision of affordable housing in rural areas
- the discouragement of neighbourhood planning because of uncertainty over the validity of plans older than two years
- continued implicit support for hydraulic fracturing for shale oil and gas, despite massive public opposition and little evidence of need

Matt Thomson, Head of Planning at the Campaign to Protect Rural England, has said:

"Rather than delivering "what communities want" as it claims to promise, the new planning rulebook and its new "housing delivery test" will result in almost all local plans becoming out of date within two years. It is a speculative developers' charter and will lead to the death of the plan-led system.

Without a local plan, councils and communities have little control over

the location and type of developments that take place. This results in the wrong developments in the wrong places - local communities' needs are ignored and valued countryside destroyed for no good reason.'

Despite heavy criticism of the revised NPPF, CPRE are pleased to see that government has taken some positive actions. They include:

- *National Parks and AONBs reinstated as having the 'highest status of protection'*
- *maintaining Green Belt protections and an improved definition 'exceptional circumstances' for releasing land from Green Belts*
- *improved clarity and focus for policies on making better use of land*
- *clearer guidance for viability assessment and that price paid for land should never be a justification for viability revisions*
- *excluding National Parks, AONBs and Green Belts from the Entry Level Exceptions Sites policy*
- *'Social housing' being reinstated in the definition of affordable housing*

CPRE National

I attended the CPRE AGM in June. I heard that financially the organisation was in good order and now on a much sounder basis than a couple of years or so ago. It was also interesting to hear about how the national campaigns were being organised and the establishment of a Planning Portal for those involved in planning issues to share ideas and get updates from the planning team. I was delighted to be part of the presentation which related to the major success of the Litter Campaigns over many years. I indicated how Dorset

CPRE had its part in this and how we had been instrumental in getting community groups from all over the County to meet and share ideas.

In the Spring Review I mentioned the project, 'Shaping the Future', which CPRE were embarking on. This moved on to the establishment of groups who initially have produced ideas relating to 'The Purpose Project'. This work is ongoing. More will be reported on this as ideas develop. However, I and some other Chairs of South West Branches, whilst agreeing the principles, of taking a good look at our organisation, are not happy with the process and how this is being conducted. I raised this at the AGM and subsequently also by letters and direct conversations with Crispin Truman. I have some confidence that our concerns will be allayed as the project progresses.

Post script

I recently came across a small poem, written by Canon E W Eyden, which sums up why I am so passionate about the work that we do in CPRE. The following is taken from that poem.

*In countless, ancient villages another
England lies
With church and inn and manor house
whose witness still survives.
Our lovely countryside remains in spite of
every threat,
To be cherished and protected, lest one
day we forget
That it's deep in rural England that our
roots are to be found
And the land we treat so lightly is really
hallowed ground.*

Peter Neal
Chair of Trustees

CPRE 81st AGM

Our AGM will be at Cerne Abbas Village Hall starting at 11am on Saturday 17th November. Our guest speaker is Tom Fyans, Director of campaigns and policy at CPRE. Tom joined CPRE three years ago, he has strategic oversight of CPRE's advocacy and policy functions. Prior to joining CPRE, he was head of campaigns at ActionAid UK, and is also the former head of campaigns at Amnesty International UK. Do come, meet some of your fellow members, and see what we are up to. Please return the enclosed A4 booking form.



CPRE Dorset AGM Meeting 2017



North Dorset under siege

Ever since August last year when North Dorset District Council (NDDC) admitted that its housing land had fallen well below the government required five years supply, a spate of speculative schemes has been launched by housing developers. The North Dorset Group warned then of the dire consequences as five years housing land supply is essential for controlling planning applications under its adopted local plan. The situation is, however, worse than then feared.

Housing applications up six-fold

North Dorset CPRE has calculated that housing applications, in terms of numbers of multiple dwellings or houses, are up six-fold from 541 to 3,250 dwellings for the 12 months year to May, 2017 and 2018 respectively, with the vast majority still awaiting planning decisions. This combined increase of nearly 4,000 homes compares to the existing number of dwellings of 32,400* in 2016 in North Dorset, approximately an increase of 12% and an unsustainable increase. It is even more stark compared to the current government-imposed annual housing completions target of 444 homes for North Dorset. The government may be keen to boost housing nationally but this is totally excessive. The majority of applications are likely to be approved as councils fear the cost of fighting appeals.

Construction has only started on a few of the successful ones so far, and many may not see the light of day as developers are often keen to "landbank" rather than flood the market depressing house prices. However this still means that thousands of house owners will have sleepless nights worrying about the impact new developments will have on their homes, depressing values and ruining long cherished views over beautiful Dorset countryside. Some of the greatest concerns are that villages are seeing housing applications that will swamp their local infrastructure, while little thought is going into employment prospects outside the larger towns, so many of the newcomers will become commuters clogging up already congested roads. Rural communities that have roots back to the Domesday Book are going to



Proposed construction site on beautiful countryside at Enmore Green, Shaftesbury

become mere dormitory towns, while tourism will suffer too with many of these villages featuring in Thomas Hardy's Wessex. The tally is frightening with applications for dwellings over the last year to May in Gillingham 1,885, Stalbridge 183, Marnhull 150, and Okeford Fitzpaine 103. CPRE are helping and advising a number of action groups fight the developers, including those in Marnhull, Enmore Green, Shaftesbury, and Bay in Gillingham. We objected to developments at Marnhull (141 houses), Spetisbury (9 houses) and Enmore Green (25 houses). Richard Jones made some excellent points regarding the poor design quality of many of these proposed developments and wrote some hard-hitting letters published in the Blackmore Vale Magazine.

Five year housing supply

NDDC has admitted that their housing land supply as at July 2018 was still below five years, although the council is working with developers to improve delivery rates. This means another year of free-for-all as more housebuilders persuade more landowners to give up their land to provide very lucrative housing. CPRE are already aware of potential housing applications exceeding a thousand homes in north Blandford, Fontmell Magna, Gillingham and Milborne St Andrew alone. One consequence is extended planning delays as planning teams struggle. *We would encourage*

planning committees and officers to be more courageous in rejecting the worst of the applications. Councillors are praying that the introduction of the new unitary authority in April 2019 will help but planning rules for the new authority will not become clear until early next year. Another year of anguish awaits North Dorset, while Thomas Hardy would be aghast at the wanton destruction planned for the villages and countryside he immortalised! We issued a press release on this issue in August and received good coverage in the local media. We also saw our MP Simon Hoare in September. We did not expect to make huge progress but we now understand better his perspective on housing and have agreed to meet every 3-6 months.

Mapperton Solar Farm withdrawn

We were glad to hear that Good Energy withdrew their application to build a solar farm at Mapperton. *This is wonderful news, after five years of fighting this campaign including two successful judicial reviews and over 700 written protests.* It does not mean that there will not be another application, and we know that Savills, on behalf of the Drax estate, have instructed Arup to find other options, but the lack of subsidy will ensure that it would be much smaller, and possibly combined with a battery storage unit. We hope to see neither!

However an application for the biggest solar farm to hit Dorset is expected this autumn at Spetisbury. It is likely to be 40MW on a site close to 150 acres, and hopes to be viable without subsidy.

Transport

We continue to monitor developments on the A350 and C13, and have written to support a Dorset County Council initiative to make the latter safer at Gore Clump.

Planning Monitoring Group revived

The Planning Monitoring Group is being revived, and is being led by John Holiday. The first meeting was held in September. This should enable us to be a more effective group opposing inappropriate developments, particularly on the housing front. However we have decided to focus on those outside the settlement boundaries of Blandford

and Shaftesbury, where there are active Civic Societies better able to comment, although this will not stop us responding if we feel strongly about an issue, and we have objected to the sale of the Cattle Market site in Shaftesbury to a supermarket.

New Blandford Arts Centre

Planning permission has been granted to a new Arts Centre in Blandford, the Fording Point, which will feature a theatre, cinema, gallery and café/bar. It is the only major rural town in Dorset without this facility. The venue will create jobs, provide a fresh outlet for the creative industries and local talent. Villages north of the town will certainly appreciate a cinema as there is little choice within easy driving range. They are still looking for some funding and North Dorset CPRE have made a donation.



North Dorset Garden Party – Mr and Mrs S Leavey at North Dorset Summer Party.

Party

Our summer party was held at our house in Winterborne Tomson in early September, and attracted well over thirty members who enjoyed themselves.

*Source: www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk

Rupert Hardy
Group Chairman

FARMERS DELIVERING PUBLIC GOODS

at Down Barn Farm, Tarrant Rawston on Friday 13th July:

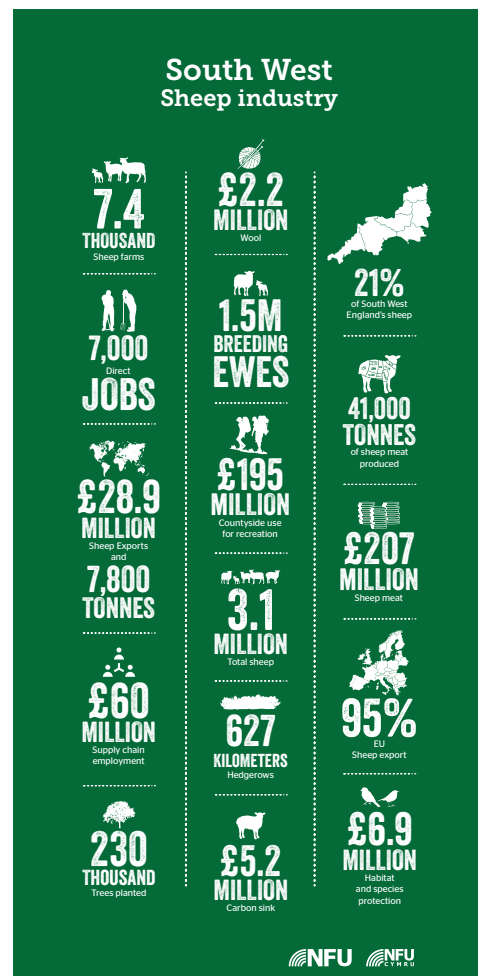
On behalf of Dorset CPRE I attended this interesting event at which local dignitaries such as the Chair of the County Council, Chief Constable, et al were present. The host-farmer gave an excellent presentation of the way in which his very commercial family farm managed to also achieve significant wildlife and conservation benefits under the existing funding mechanisms. This was supplemented by a tour of the farm at which a number of his neighbouring farmers contributed with their own thoughts and experiences.

Contracting in the South West

A recent study by the University of Exeter has shown that 87% of farm businesses across the south west were using third parties – generally contractors – for a wide range of operations including hedge cutting, combining, silaging, ploughing, and pesticide application. Over a third of such farms were contracting out more jobs than they had done five years previously. Defra statistics do not reflect this trend as there is no requirement to indicate the extent to which contractors are used. As such the University argues Defra does not have reliable data on the industry's labour needs.

Shaun Leavey OBE FRAGS

Farming Adviser to Dorset CPRE



IS MODULAR BUILDING THE ANSWER?



Josh Littlejohn at the Social Bite village

Like many people I collect articles from the papers. My cuttings relate to CPRE connected information, which recently have dealt with building homes on the Green Belt. This annoys me.

The Prime Minister has declared that 300,000 homes will be built per year by 2025. If this means building on farmland, who cares? Have the government really taken notice of the number of empty properties in the UK? I lived in London, when a teacher and it used to annoy me to see flats and houses empty for years. Land too has not been built on, because the owners were speculating on land prices. This is land laid waste by the Second World War. Not farming land, but streets and houses, bombed out and bordered with corrugated still, in 2002, when I left. The number of homeless in London then was mind boggling.

Modular homes

It appears to me that we have to say no and be more flexible in our approach to house building. Nigel Morris, in his recent article in

the 'i' said, "the vice like grip of huge companies has to be broken to increase the supply of affordable homes". The article went on to praise modular homes, built in factories, in the main and transported to site, quickly erected and having 'green' credentials in many cases.

I have a very interesting cutting about a housing project for the homeless in Edinburgh run by 'Social Bite'. Its project's co-founder is Josh Littlejohn. After raising money, ten modular cottages and a community hub were built in a purpose built village located in Granton. All the residents were formerly homeless, but now have a small house, with two single bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen and tiny lounge.

The whole village cost £750,000 to build! WOW! The land was leased from Edinburgh council. The charity Social Bite provides cafes across the city and teamed up with the Cyrenians, to provide five helpers who assist the residents of the village. Community members may stay in the village for up to 2 years. They receive one-to-one support from skilled key-workers. More information can be found on the website www.socialbitevillages.co.uk.

While young rural people are not in the same situation as the homeless, how easy is life when one cannot afford rent, even with two working? If a baby comes along, as they often do, then what are the options? Council lists? Mum and Dad? Marriage breakdown? This I know from keeping in touch with some school friends, who are now grandparents. In two cases the grandparents have welcomed their grandchildren and great grandchildren into their homes, as they were homeless after losing jobs. In both cases the grandchildren's marriages subsequently broke down and both fathers decamped.

Reading reports from various social services areas, it does seem to be a growing trend in the countryside. I think it can only be rectified by small scale, cheaper housing developments. I see that a home can be produced on a 3D printer. That has to be a good idea. In this country we have to break out from the grasp of big building companies, think small and help our own community.

Margaret Morgan

CPRE Member



Modular Cottage being installed for the Social Bite project

CASTLE STREET, MERE: Planning Inspector backs CPRE Wiltshire's case against development



View of the site, centre, from Castle Hill, Mere

The following case will be of interest to Dorset CPRE as Mere is located close to the Dorset border around 4 miles north of Gillingham.

On 20th September CPRE Wiltshire welcomed news of the Planning Inspector's dismissal of an appeal by Richborough Estates against Wiltshire Council's refusal to allow a development of 130 houses outside Mere.

In 2017, CPRE Wiltshire objected to an outline planning application for a housing estate in a green field outside the settlement boundary. The development would have been fully visible from Mere's iconic ancient monument, Castle Hill, and St Michael's Church. The Monarch's Way footpath crosses the site and would become a tarmac path through a suburban housing estate.



Inspector site visit on Castle Hill, Mere, on 2nd May 2018

CPRE Wiltshire argued strongly that the development would harm the settings of the historic town of Mere and of Mere Castle, its scheduled monument. It would also breach Wiltshire Council's policies to protect landscape and prevent developments outside town settlement boundaries.

This significant decision is one of the first under the government's newly revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). **It is likely to be cited as a precedent in other appeal hearings.**

CPRE Wiltshire is especially pleased that the Inspector accepted their powerful arguments against harm to the setting of Mere's historic town and Mere Castle. Wiltshire Council's case for refusal largely hinged on housing numbers, but this argument was found to be far outweighed by damage to "heritage assets".

Website links:

Wiltshire Council planning application:
<https://unidoc.wiltshire.gov.uk/UniDoc/Document/Search/DSA,871000>

Planning inspectorate decision:
<https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?caseid=3182598>

Inspector's Decision, Paragraph 34'

“ The kinetic experience of the transition between parkland, agrarian pasture and urban settlement is amplified as one crosses the Gillingham Road, and the part played by the appeal site in linking rural settlement to wider landscape revealed. It is a genuinely picturesque scene, and one given added resonance if one stops to consider the possible thoughts of the fugitive Monarch, pausing on the route of his escape, to survey the ruins of the former Royal citadel before him, and reflect on his current vicissitude. Even if such contemplation is not invoked, the visual linkage between the eponymous path and the former Royal stronghold is made. ”

Dr Suzanne Keene



Corfe Castle taken by Rupert Hardy

Protecting the future by sound planning

At last! Purbeck District Council has announced, at the time of writing, an intention to consult on the pre submission version of a proposed Purbeck Local Plan that is required to be not only legal and compliant with the duty to co-operate but also to be 'sound'. They are also consulting on a Local Development Order for the Dorset Innovation Park near Wool: a bio-diversity hotspot. Both consultations are expected to be completed this autumn.

Poole Local Plan

No doubt CPRE Members will be making their views known to all concerned (including our local Purbeck and Poole Group) about the above plans in much the same way as they did for the proposed Poole Local Plan that generated so many formal "representations". Poole is currently concluding a second round of consultations (and adjustments) to allow the independent Planning Inspector to issue a relevant report which may (or may not) allow Poole's proposed Local Plan to be authorized for implementation over the next two decades or so.

It is confirmed that we are keen to ensure:-

- that Purbeck is not converted into any sort of dormitory area serving other areas (irrespective of increasingly damaging and greedy demands)
- that a wildlife corridor is maintained between The New Forest National Park and points West
- that the biodiversity hotspots in Purbeck are respected, and
- that the inherited relationship

between our local urban areas and rural areas remains substantially symbiotic (rather than allowed to decay into parasitic opportunism)

It is understood that 'the duty to co-operate' does not necessarily mean a duty to agree and that some may believe that the work of the Dorset Strategic Planning Forum is relevant to discharging such a duty. We are currently trying to ascertain how any such body (that meets 'behind closed doors' and does not issue agenda or minutes for public information) could be considered useful in fulfilling a duty to co-operate.

With regard to legality, we are wondering why Whitehall 'guidance' (about establishing required extra "household" numbers) is treated as though it has statutory status. No doubt the Planning Inspector may clarify the matter in his report on the Poole Local Plan which, in view of the environmental and infrastructure issues, appears to promote a "Boom **and** Bust" approach to development that is hardly sound planning for any acceptable future.

No doubt all our local readers will make

their personal representations on the above-mentioned plans and continue to lobby their Councillors (their elected representatives) to reinforce the efforts of our Group. It is confirmed that the whole of CPRE has a strong interest in ensuring real priority is given to protecting the countryside, open spaces and affected communities (*including the provision of adequate truly affordable housing that local working people may wish to rent or buy from earned income*) through sound and evidence-based **local** planning – not just planning to conform with any blinkered central perceptions unable to perceive, perhaps for party political reasons, trends in emerging population statistics, the effects on land supply of 'second homes' which crucially do not count as "households" and the increasing need to re-use previously used substantial areas of urban land that have become derelict, under-used or misused in our larger cities (e.g. London, Birmingham): cities that seem to be a major source of so many immigrants to the South and South West.

AGM

Please join us for our AGM and open evening on Monday 15th October, 7.00 pm, at The Wareham Corn Exchange, North Street, Wareham. Jessica Sutcliffe has kindly agreed to give us an outline of the work and ambitions of The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. This is good opportunity to meet your elected committee members and help us consider issues affecting Poole and Purbeck.

Gerald Rigler

Group Chairman



Bere Wood, Bloxworth, autumn colours taken by Rupert Hardy

OSPREYS IN POOLE HARBOUR

Breeding ospreys were once widespread throughout the Country and along the south coast where they were known as the mullet hawk. Ospreys returned to Loch Garten near Aviemore more than sixty years ago and have since spread all over Scotland. They have also been translocated and helped to settle at Rutland Water and in the Lake District.

All these birds spend the winter months in Africa, in Gambia or Senegal but many of them break their journey at Poole Harbour and spend a few weeks fattening up before beginning the long migration flight south.

Last year in the summer of 2017 Roy Dennis of the Osprey Foundation and Paul Morton of Birds of Poole Harbour began a rather ambitious five-year programme to establish a breeding population of ospreys in Poole Harbour. Ospreys like to reuse existing nests and so they built a number of very natural looking artificial nests on the top of suitable trees throughout the Harbour.

Tree climbers carefully collected one or two five to six weeks old ospreys from nests all over Scotland. This is standard practice, the climbers had a special licence for this work and they were careful to leave some chicks behind in every nest. Eight chicks were brought down south and carefully fed and looked after in big release pens at a secret location in the Harbour. When they were one-by-one confidently flying about in their pens the doors were opened and they were able to explore their new surroundings. They had not learned to fish for themselves at this stage and so were supplied with fresh locally-sourced fish twice a day at their cages to replicate the behaviour at natural nests.



Photo of chick who is part of this summer's translocation project taken by Paul Morton

They were soon seen flying all over the Harbour and after four to six weeks they eventually left for Africa. The birds are equipped with coloured rings on their legs and at least two have since been seen in Senegal. They are not expected to return here until they are at least two years old.

Twelve more birds were collected and released in the same way this year and have been seen flying all over the Harbour. In August I was lucky enough to have excellent fairly close views of number eight, the youngest of this year's females. She spent a long while flying round and perching on one of the artificial nests at Coombe Heath on the Arne reserve. Each bird is fitted with a tiny two-gram radio transmitter on its tail feathers and one of the wardens had the necessary equipment to identify the bird.



Flying Osprey who is part of this summer's translocation project taken by Simon Kidner

The mortality rate on the spring and autumn migrations is rather high but the birds always return to breed where they themselves grew up. About sixty birds will be translocated over a period of five years and so there seems to be a very fair chance that we will soon see breeding ospreys and that Poole Harbour will become the nucleus of a new south coast colony.

Dr John Larkin

Dorset CPRE Representative at the Dorset Coast Forum

POOLE HARBOUR LIST

The Poole Harbour list is an official account of all species that have been recorded and reported by birdwatchers and naturalists since records began. The data for this list has been extracted from various sources, but George Greens 'The Birds of Dorset', Mansel-Pleydell's Birds of Dorsetshire, Naylor's reference manual of rare birds and the back catalogue of Dorset bird reports have provided most information. Data is currently still being researched and records will be updated accordingly. The alphabetical list provides information on the status of each species within the harbour, finder dates and names, photos and favoured locations. Visit <https://www.birdsofpooleharbour.co.uk> for more details.



Plan to build 3500 houses north of Dorchester

House building applications look to be approaching us soon in vast numbers and our 'STOP CONCRETING THE COUNTRYSIDE' car sticker now seems to be an increasingly urgent reality.



Car sticker

Standing head and shoulders above all is the threatened plan to build 3500 houses north of Dorchester. It will be named North Dorchester by all accounts. There appears to be little or no plans for improving the infrastructure, medical services or local bus services from local villages. We are very concerned that precious countryside is being used up. A previous application was refused, one of the most important factors being the major flood risk due to regular flooding in winter of the whole flat area through which the River Frome flows.

As so often is the case, the question is whether enough social/affordable housing will be built. I raise the question again given our experiences with the developer for Dorchester Prison who promised none. The preferred site is for land currently used for the Dorset County Show. If the government had listened to CPRE the housing crisis would have been solved by now – for example if brownfield sites had been developed (as we have consistently argued) and a decent proportion of housing was affordable or “social”. Of course we will vigorously oppose this site being proposed in the



Proposed site for North Dorchester development on agricultural land

Local Plan Review and have already held a meeting with local residents. We are organising an effective campaign with other interested parties.

Pending developments

There are two small developments in Church Street and Watery Lane which are still pending – both developments could be directly affected by the threat of flooding as well as sewerage overflows that local residents have raised repeatedly. In fact it would seem that, as in other parts of Dorset, elderly sewers are totally inadequate. Again we are talking to local residents who are expressing their fears.

Threats to AONB

It is increasingly obvious that threats to the local AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) continue unabated. Here we are faced with not only a huge application for a Weymouth Urban Extension at Littlemoor, but now a plan to extend a scrap yard near Portesham. This particular application is being opposed by the Dorset AONB team, and we will give all the support we can to this unacceptable application.

We have also been informed by local residents of a planned development in Owermoigne. This is not a large development, but it has certainly generated much opposition. Again we are doing all we can to support the local residents – many of whom are CPRE members.

Planning application affecting Wolfeton House

I have to report that an appeal has been lodged following a WDDC refusal earlier this year to build 120 houses at Westleaze, Charminster, alongside the grade 1 listed Wolfeton House. We of course attended the planning hearing and were not surprised that the application was turned down. However this appeal is not unexpected considering the developers' financial strength. Local Councils will have to carefully examine what appeals they are able to fight. However I think it is likely WDDC will win this one.

Local Plan Review

We have also been engaged in

examining the proposed Local Plan Review. I hope members will have heard of it, and are aware of the Preferred Option Consultation which involves sites that WDDC think can comply with the Government's requirement for housing. There are “drop-in” events proposed around our area, and these will continue until October 8th. At a recent meeting on Portland, it was expected there would be enough brown field sites to satisfy future housing needs but, as elsewhere, affordable home numbers are not enforced. Traffic is appalling anyway without any further development. There was strong support for the stance of second homes but will it be imposed?

Neighbourhood Plans

In addition there are a number of Neighbourhood Plans being reviewed including Portland and Bridport and surrounding villages. Their Neighbourhood Plans are now complete and ready to go forward to the Inspector. Then, if agreed by him or her, there will be a referendum of local residents.

Fracking

CPRE has set out its opposition to Fracking. As I'm sure you are aware, the government has introduced 'Permitted Development' which means that it is very easy now for fracking companies to get permission to frack anywhere – “easier than applying for permission to build a garden shed” – it has been said. CPRE believes that fracking or fracking-related development should stop – unless it is clear it would help reduce carbon emissions, not lead to unacceptable damage to the countryside and could be effectively controlled both locally and nationally.

We have recently contributed to a One CPRE response to the government consultation on the principle of whether exploratory drilling should be treated as permitted development (PD) and given feedback on the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) Fracking consultation.

Overall the West Dorset CPRE Committee has been extremely busy, and if any CPRE members feel they can make a contribution, however small, it would be very much appreciated!

Dr Guy Dickinson
Group Chairman

GLORIOUS OPEN DAY AT FORDE ABBEY



The Abbey from the Long Pond

Thanks to all our members who came to the Open Day at Forde Abbey in July. It was one of those “Phew! What a Scorch!” days loved by The Sun for its front page headline, and although the lawns were parched the rest of the gardens were in good shape. Forty members attended both to see the glorious gardens but also look round the Abbey itself, which was founded over 800 years ago by Cistercian monks. It was one of the richest monasteries in the country, then lay empty for a hundred years after the Dissolution, and in 1649 was transformed into the magnificent house you see today.

colours and designs they are considered to be more faithful to the cartoons than the Pope’s”. Outside the Bog Garden was much admired as was the walled Kitchen Garden, but there were lots of other

borders and features to see, especially the ponds, cascades and fountains. We would like to thank Beth and Richard who took us around the house, as well as the Kennards. If you were unable to go on the day please remember Forde is open daily (www.fordeabbey.co.uk), and members can take advantage of half price entry to the gardens.



The Cloisters



Talk by tour guide

Highlights of the tour were the Raphael Cartoons woven into tapestries at Mortlake which hang in the Saloon. The Cartoons were designed for the Sistine Chapel and the tapestries commissioned by Sir Edmund Prideaux, who owned Forde in the 17th century, although he never lived to see them. Alice Kennard, owner of Forde Abbey, has said: “In terms of the



Exploring the walled vegetable garden

Rupert Hardy

THE SHERBORNE AND DISTRICT SOCIETY

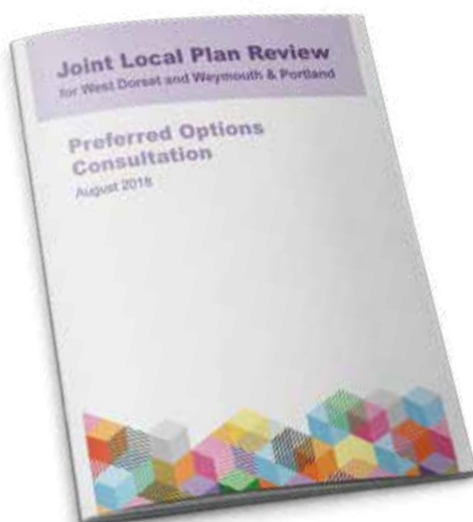
The Society has been consulted by Bovis on the development of a site in Milborne Port building on the relationship established for the Bovis development in Bradford Road.

There are serious concerns about the current practice of infrastructure being inserted after building. This also arises at the Gryphon school where there are neither funds nor permission to build additional classrooms to accommodate future students from Barton Farm or any other local developments. Inadequate and leaking temporary buildings are not to be replaced. There is a disconnect between planning and bodies with the statutory duties to provide services such as water, sewage and education. Both Thornford (serving Thornford Chetnole and Yetminster) and Sherborne sewage works are at capacity. Their position is being investigated.

Barton Farm Barns

Sherborne Castle Estate has applied for permission to demolish barns but may possibly re-think what happens to them. Using the barns for community use may be a possibility. I have joined a group led by Joe Benjamin who is trying to progress this.

It was anticipated that there would be measures to prevent the roads on the Estate being used as a short cut but at the moment it is possible to go from main road to main road avoiding the north / centre of Sherborne.



Local Plan Review

The Society feels the new NPPF is a disappointing document particularly with regard to affordable homes, the use of brownfield sites and calculation

by formula of the housing need. However a review for WDDC is underway and consultation on the local plan took place on 29th August in Digby Hall. This plan shows massive development to the West of Sherborne and to the North West - the completion of the Barton Farm Estate. A meeting was held with the Planners in Dorchester where we put across our initial views which will be followed by detailed comments.

Paddock Project Development

The Sherborne Community Arts Centre Trust has been transformed by having 3 Directors. Its name has been changed along with its objectives, to remove the community related objectives. The Society has "sat on the fence" to some extent but is now at the decision phase whether to welcome the development or to oppose it. The grounds for opposition are lack of a business case, destruction of Paddock Gardens and aesthetically an ill-fitting building to Sherborne House. This remains unlet and unsold.

Sherborne Castle County Fair

The Society took a free stand at the Sherborne Castle County Fair. The weather was good and there were record crowds and the stand was manned all day. The response from the public was underwhelming and so the Society has formed a working Group to re-think with clarity the purpose of the stand and its message and refresh material.

School photographic competition

The Gryphon School has instigated a joint photographic competition to involve students in considering CPRE issues. We offered a cash prize and 4 runner-up prizes for photos in a portfolio. The rules are:

- The photo must be taken in our area the DT9 and BA20 postcodes plus 5 km from Sherborne in any direction.

- The portfolio is of up to 5 images: one has to be the best landscape and one the worst landscape in our area.
- Accompanying the photo should be an explanation of why you think the worst is the worst in under 10 words please.

Farm visits

The Society is fortunate to have as a committee member Shaun Leavey who has contributed on the agricultural interface apart from organising highly successful and interesting visits to local farmers. Please see his article on page 15.

Geography Award 2018

This year the Award has gone to two students who were the highest performers in Geography A level at the Gryphon School, Sherborne. They are James Anderson-Deas and Ellen Warlow.

James is now going to Bristol University to read Geography and Emma is taking a gap year, after which she hopes to go to Oxford also to read Geography. We wish them well in the future.



Ellen Warlow and James Anderson-Deas this year's winners of the CPRE Geography Award with Peter Neal

Date for your diary

The Annual Dinner is to be on Friday 2nd November at Sherborne Golf Club starting at 7.30pm. Guest Speaker is Edward Fox (theatre Work permitting).

John Newman
Group Chairman

NEED FUNDS FOR A PROJECT?

Applying for grants/funding from Dorset CPRE



Mappowder Fingerpost with missing finger and letters

Dorset CPRE provides grants for a variety of projects. Since launching our small grants scheme for refurbishment of fingerposts in Dorset, we have paid out just over £7,000 in total to parish councils.

Match funding is not required and there is no application form, but we ask that requests come from a Parish Council representative, (or similar), with a summary of the fingerposts that need repairing, their location(s) and details of who the cheque needs to be made payable to. We are prepared to award between £100–£200 per post while funds are still available. Parish Councils we have paid grants to include:

- Buckhorn Weston & Kington Magna PC
- Melbury Abbas & Cann PC
- Winterborne Stickland PC
- Mappowder PC
- Cam Vale PC (Lillington)
- East Stour
- Motcombe
- Milton-on-Stour
- Farnham
- Marshwood Vale
- Char Valley PC
- Broadwindsor PC
- South Tarrant Valley PC

The details required to substantiate other fund requests to Dorset CPRE include:

1. Name of the Action Group.
2. An outline of the campaign and anticipated dates of events, landscape benefit, actions, and costs. This is essential for grant request of £1,000 or more.
3. The amount and reasons for the amount of funding.
4. A list of any pledges. No names required. It is important to consider how you will raise funds or seek pledges.
5. Action groups/organisations must discuss their budget costs first with Dorset CPRE before going ahead and securing consultant services.
6. Requests for funds must be accompanied by receipts, quotations and/or invoices.

The request may be emailed to info@dorset-cpre.org.uk or contact your local group representative listed on the back page. Dorset CPRE will also consider giving money to causes other than campaigns that oppose something. An important criterion is that the funding requests must meet our charitable objectives which are to improve, protect and preserve for the benefit of the public, the countryside and the market towns and rural villages of the County of Dorset.

The Hon Treasurer will make sure these conditions are met.

Dorset CPRE treats each grant request on its merit

All requests should receive prior approval of the Countryside Forum, Dorset CPRE Group and expert, by e-mail if necessary. The Countryside Forum will satisfy itself that the Action Group is capable of running a proper campaign, and will follow any reasonable guidelines agreed in advance with CPRE.

We are always going to be facing infrastructure projects, roads, solar farms, waste facilities and so on – the necessary backdrop to modern life. In Dorset's particular case these projects are almost bound to collide with our magical small scale landscape dotted with hills, rivers, streams and timeless villages. We cannot set out our stall to stop all infrastructure projects in their tracks.

The Dorset CPRE Trustees will determine the level of funding it is willing to provide to an Action Group, after taking into consideration the CPRE principle of matched funding – with a pre-determined cap on the total to be advanced. All requests require a spokesman at Dorset CPRE's Trustees Meeting, either the applicant, expert, or Group representative.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHARITIES CALL FOR GOVERNMENT NOT TO UNDERMINE NATIONAL PARKS WITH CARELESS WORDS

In September 2018 an open letter from 19 organisations called for strong messages from Government to avoid undermining designated landscapes. The letter which was co-ordinated by **Campaign for National Parks** and supported by charities including **CPRE** and the **National Trust**, takes particular issue with the use of a controversial mine to justify further development in areas that are protected for their wildlife, beauty and recreational opportunities.

Minister for Business and Industry, Richard Harrington MP, used the example of the Woodsmith Mine in the North York Moors National Park while giving evidence to the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) select committee over the summer. The coalition of charities is concerned that the Minister's evidence did not accurately reflect the negative environmental and landscape impacts of inappropriate development, such as the Woodsmith Mine.

The letter states: 'Implying that such development has no negative impacts is particularly disappointing at a time when designated landscapes are getting a lot of positive coverage following the launch of the Glover Review of England's designated landscapes in May. It is also inconsistent with the messages in the 25 Year Environment Plan, which was launched by the Prime Minister in January.' The full letter can be found on <http://www.cpre.org.uk/media-centre>.



Local Plan Review

It has been a very busy three months since the publication of the East Dorset Local Plan Review in July. I wrote an article on the consultation for the Stour and Avon Magazine advising the local population of its contents and urging them to read it and object now, not in years to come when it is too late. This was just the Options Review with site allocations, not the specific plans.

I sent in the response to the East Dorset Local Plan Options Consultation on behalf of Dorset CPRE before the consultation closed on 3rd September 2018.

Personally, I believe the Forward Planners have made a good job of a difficult task. It is a suitable vision and we support objectives 1-3. Objective 4, agriculture and horticulture will be supported and rural farm diversification encouraged near key rural settlements. In an NFU leaflet recently released – Better Planning, Better Farming – it does say that local Planning Authorities can do much to support vital agriculture and horticulture business. Not least by processing planning applications speedily. Objective 5, 35% affordable is reasonable providing it is achieved.

I particularly like the Settlement Hierarchy which looks at settlement types and their function (P25 in the Review). This has been used to allocate the number of dwellings required in areas that can support the extra development and also settlements in rural areas where a few more houses may keep local services going. The housing figures are calculated using a standard methodology laid down by the Government. Numbers are not locally led.

Housing Figures

Between now and 2033 the requirement is for 8854 new dwellings in the East Dorset District.

- 2396 are already allocated in the old Local Plan.
- 3173 dwellings will be built as in-fill in urban areas.
- 2527 new homes to go mainly in the Green Belt or Green Field sites as there is very little other land.

The last figure is made up of 1070 dwellings on land adjacent

to the Main Settlements. Land adjacent to Rural Service Centres 1405. East Dorset villages 52. (Page 29 in the Review). The Council aims for 35% to be affordable (that is mainly for rental).

Public Transport

In the response I also emphasised where ever housing is concentrated there must be suitable public transport. That is public transport that runs hourly from early morning to evening so it can be used for accessing places of employment or other local service centres.

Housing South of Leigh Road

We also had the planning application in for South of Leigh Road. This is a very messy hybrid site. The latest one was for 305 houses, the housing density looks so much greater than the surrounding housing. It is almost 100 houses more than originally planned. The applicant was Barrett David Wilson. It was very disappointing to note only 28% of the houses will be affordable. Apart from school buses there are no public services to this site. It is 1 ½ kilometres to the nearest stop. Not good on a wet morning. This will encourage people to drive to school and work. The Constraints and Opportunities (2.7) show bus stops all along Leigh Road, this is misleading.

We approve of the landscape and ecological plan for this site which is commendable. We approve of the use of native species and a good mix of them will encourage a mixture of flora and fauna. We also like the wildlife corridor and the non-disruptive lighting. We were pleased to see a management plan that seems quite comprehensive.

There are two other sections on this site, one with planning and the other still waiting approval.

Janet Healy

THE BANKES ARCHIVE

The Bankes bequest donated Kingston Lacy House and 16,000 acres of land at Studland and elsewhere in the Isle of Purbeck to the National Trust and this remains the largest legacy the Trust has ever received.

There were 850 boxes of maps and papers at Kingston Lacy and a huge amount of work has been done sorting and cataloguing this material over the past seventeen years. I attended a celebration of all this work at the Queen Elizabeth School in Blandford on 16 June.

Martin Papworth has studied and written a book about Treswell's sixteenth century large scale maps of the Bankes estate. Patricia Usick has written a book about John Ralph Bankes who bought most of the furniture and paintings at Kingston Lacy when he was exiled to Italy in the nineteenth century. Henry French spoke about John Bankes detailed domestic records which painted a vivid picture of life on the estate in the eighteenth century. Much else was discussed during the day and of course much much more remains in the Archive at the Dorset History Centre.

Dr John Larkin



Neville Loder in white shirt telling CPRE members about individual cows from within his herd

Those who thought that Brexit might convey UK farming into some idyllic post-CAP nirvana in which it would be easy to export farm products around the world, and at the same time “green” existing farming systems may have a shock coming to them. The UK has to take an independent place within the WTO when it leaves the EU. Currently its WTO involvement takes effect through the EU. In the light of Brexit the UK has advised the 164 WTO member states of its aspiration to replicate all the EEC/EU’s concessions since GATT (the precursor of the WTO) was established in 1948. However the USA, Australia, and New Zealand – all globally significant agricultural producing countries – not only have their eyes on our food markets, but are also likely to object to the UK’s plan as being too restrictive. That may well mean that the UK government is forced into changes in relation to tariffs and agreed quantities of imported goods to accommodate the objectors.

So what has that to do with the Dorset landscape? Quite a lot in my understanding. To put it very bluntly if such changed arrangements result in increased imports of butter and cheese from New Zealand or cereal products from Australia and the USA that will impact very directly on the economic viability of family farms throughout the UK, but especially so in areas such as Dorset where much farm profitability is already marginal.

A recent article in CPRE’s Last Word in the Fieldwork online magazine was entitled “Can green farming save England’s butterflies?”. I enjoy seeing butterflies as much as anyone else, but sadly I fear CPRE should be concentrating more on whether our farmed landscape can survive in even its current

(and sometimes imperfect) form if – as seems likely – we have to strike trade deals with the rest of the world that will impact very adversely on England’s commercial farmers and growers. I hope I am wrong!

The Sherborne and District Society seek to improve their understanding of the factors that affect commercial farming in the area

On 30th May Sherborne members visited the Osborne farm of Neville and Sue Loder – current holders of the prestigious Farmers’ Weekly Dairy Farmer of the Year award. Making a visit to a local farm is now becoming an annual event as the Sherborne and District Society seek to improve their understanding of the factors that affect commercial farming in the area. Neville and Sue Loder could not have been more helpful and informative hosts, and gave us all a far better understanding of the way in which a relatively small family-run dairy farm can operate in a challenging economic climate. It is particularly pleasing that a Dorset County Council farm tenant should have won the Farmers’ Weekly award last year, and it was therefore a most appropriate place for local CPRE members to visit.

Shaun Leavey OBE FRAGS
Farming Adviser to Dorset CPRE

WHY DO WE NOT EAT MORE GAME IN DORSET?

In Dorset there is no shortage of game as there are lots of pheasant shoots and arguably too many deer roaming rather freely over Dorset, and yet we do not eat much of it. It is true that there is not a tradition of eating it outside a certain section of the community, unlike France, but this is no excuse given its advantages. It is one of the healthiest meats available, very low in fat and cholesterol, and is also delicious and easy to cook. The fat in game is Omega3, a source of good fat and it is free of growth hormones. It is good for the countryside too as a huge amount of conservation work is undertaken to manage the game population. It is mostly locally sourced so the game industry carbon footprint is low. The only minor negative is lead shot but the chance of eating a pellet is not that high with a lot of game in supermarkets farmed anyway.

Fortunately we are eating more game than before as TV chefs feature it, and pubs and restaurants serve much more than they used to. Media coverage of the health benefits has helped too. The supermarkets increasingly stock it but only as a luxury product, with pricing on the high side still. The shoots would see higher demand if they could find an easy way to supply customers with pheasant breasts rather than feathered birds. The real growth is coming from venison as there is no lead issue here, as well as pigeon, a favourite on pub menus. Demand for wild rabbit, partridge and wild boar is also rising, but the latter is mostly farmed.

Dorset Game Larder

The Dorset Game Larder (DGL) in Shapwick started in 2007 as a diversification from farming by Chris Tory, and he now employs two employees to help on this side. The idea initially came when they could find few takers for the pheasants shot on their shoot, and they now buy in all types of game from local Dorset shoots. The game is plucked, butchered and sold through local farm shops, butchers, pubs and restaurants, although their two biggest customers are Dykes of



Pheasant and Mallard

Stalbridge and Budgens. The latter have been good at selling locally sourced food and adventurous so you will even see squirrel on their shelves. DGL also make award-winning sausages and burgers, and they are delicious (www.thedorsetgamelarder.co.uk).

They admit that pheasant shoots are not finding it easy to sell their dead birds, but this is partly a reflection of the growth of game shooting in Eastern Europe which is flooding the market.

Before French and Belgian pate and processed game manufacturers would take surplus UK pheasants, but not now. It does mean that if anyone wants to eat pheasant and does not mind plucking or taking the breasts out of pheasants they will find local shoots often most happy to oblige at negligible cost. So ask away!

Other Suppliers

Other Dorset suppliers of venison include The Dorset Venison Co. (www.dorsetvenison.com), Wessex Game (www.wessexgame.co.uk), the Dorset Meat Co. at Child Okeford (www.thedorsetmeatcompany.co.uk) and Wild at Hart Venison (www.wildathart.co.uk) near Shaftesbury. Many butchers in Dorset stock game, but those with a more extensive range include the wonderful Brace of Butchers in Poundbury (www.braceofbutchers.co.uk), RJ Balson in Bridport serving the best meat since 1515 (www.rjbalson.co.uk), and arguably Britain's oldest butcher, as well as B Curtis in Wareham (www.bcurtis.co.uk) who sells excellent produce. All three are recommended.

Remember! Game is good for you so do eat more.

Rupert Hardy



Chris Tory from Dorset Game Larder

BEST DORSET VILLAGE SHOP COMPETITION 2018

Dorset CPRE was very pleased to be sponsoring again a class of this competition, which we started with Dorset Community Action five years ago. Village shops face relentless competition from the supermarket chains and discounters, and now they are faced with consolidation too, with Sainsbury's looking to merge with Asda.

However we can say the shops seem to be holding their own, with fewer closures than in recent years. One clear trend has been for more shops to belong to a symbol group, such as Spar, to help their buying. Another has been the higher proportion of quality local produce on sale, which we wholly applaud, although it is not always clearly marked as such, which is a pity. Overall customers seem more ready to appreciate the local convenience and provenance, and pay for it, as long as the shops are inviting, with friendly staff and enough stock. More shops are offering tea rooms which boosts footfall. Certainly farm shops overall are doing well, and some of these are village shops too being located within villages rather than outside. Another has been the relative success of those located in south Dorset which see more tourists, with numbers boosted by sterling's decline after the Brexit Referendum and this year by the heatwave.

Anyway this year our two main contenders were Duck's Farm Shop at Portesham, and Chapel Lane Stores in Abbotsbury.

Duck's Farm Shop, Portesham

Duck's Farm Shop only opened two years ago on the site of a derelict garage. It is a very impressive and attractive farm shop with a lot of money invested in a site much bigger than most village shops, but still located within easy walking distance for residents. It is light and airy with a separate café section using local produce. There is a lot of focus on upmarket deli brands and local foods, but they also sell

newspapers and lines of use to locals, as well as tourists. They understand the need for community support and run events for residents every month, such as a Bake Club. The business has also created six full time jobs for locals too. It is very positively reviewed on social media.



Dorset Best Village Shop 2018



Duck's Farm Shop interior

Chapel Lane Stores, Abbotsbury

Chapel Lane Stores in this tourist honeypot village was bought by the current owners only four years ago and expanded and refitted in 2016 when the village postmistress retired, thus incorporating a PO counter and extending the range of products on offer, which includes local brands. The premises are bright and airy. Their primary goal is to supply the needs of locals at reasonable prices, although it is well placed for tourists too with a coffee machine inside. Service is very friendly and this is clearly a great asset to the village.



Chapel Lane Stores a worthy runner-up, receiving award from Rupert Hardy © Dorset Echo

The judges declared Duck's Farm Shop the winner, but Chapel Lane Stores came in as a worthy runner-up. **Please do visit these stores, but do also remember all Dorset village shops deserve your support.**

Rupert Hardy
One of the judges

MINERALS AND WASTE IN DORSET



This is a summary of our recent work on minerals and waste in Dorset together with a few other items of interest.

Pre Submission Draft Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Minerals Sites Plan

The definitive version of the Plan will be examined at a public meeting on 25 September by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.

Imerys Ball Clay Operations Dorset – Community Liaison Group

I attended a meeting of the Group at the Springfield Hotel in Wareham on 12 March. The excavations of ball clay and of sand and gravel are going well at the new Doreys Pit South with two lots of settling lagoons and automatic effluent monitors.

The Furzeyground western extension, planning application 6/2017/0732, for the excavation of a special type of ball clay not found elsewhere will involve relocation of the haul road and the forming of a shallow pond.

The new western extension at Trigon will be excavated for about twelve years but the Bronze Age barrow on Trigon Hill will be fenced off and carefully preserved.

Toll Bar Stream

Imerys have made a voluntary donation for environmental improvements to the general area and to the Stream which runs from Steeple through Church Knowle and Stoborough to the River Frome. This work is being overseen by a Steering Group from the several Parish Councils and the Dorset Wildlife Trust. Most of the work will be on the Toll Bar Stream with some work on the DWT reserves at Killwood and Tadnoll.

Wytch Farm Oilfield Consultative Committee

I attended a meeting of this Committee at the Council Chamber in Westport House on 17 April. Oil and gas production remains at 15,000 boed which is greater than the 12,000 boed when Perenco took over the site a few years ago but, of course, much less than the 100,000 plus boed when BP production was at its peak. Perenco have recently purchased their own portable drilling rig mounted on a long lorry for the maintenance of existing wells and the occasional drilling of new ones.

The Wytch Farm oil is conveyed to Hamble on the Solent by an underground pipeline and stored in five 180,000 barrel tanks before being loaded in to a 650,000 barrel tanker.

Colter Drilling Operation

There is no further news about this proposed test drilling for oil and gas in Poole Bay.

Pre Submission Draft Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Waste Plan

The definitive version of the Plan was examined at a public meeting at the Dorford Centre in Dorchester on 26 – 28 June by Inspector Nick Palmer who was appointed by the Secretary of State for the purpose. We await the publication of his report with interest.

Winfrith Site Stakeholder Group

I attended a meeting of the Group at Winfrith Newburgh village hall on 19 April.

The new Parent Body Contract for Magnox Winfrith will come in to effect on 31 August 2019 with some changes in the senior management staff but decommissioning to the Interim End State of the Site in 2023 will continue seamlessly.

The Blacknoll reservoir will be demolished in the winter of 2018/9. The Active Liquid Effluent System, ALES, runs six miles to the coast at Arish Mell and then two more miles out to sea. This has been inspected throughout with endoscope cameras and decommissioning will begin shortly.

Dorset Innovation Park Enterprise Zone

The Dorset Innovation Park at Winfrith Newburgh was formally launched at the beginning of February. The Local Development Order Masterplan will provide businesses locating to the Park with five years of business rate relief, access to ultrafast broadband, and simplified planning processes. The new facilities for small businesses were completed last December and the first companies have already moved in. QinetiQ and Atlas Electronic UK have been on site for some while and it is hoped to attract new businesses and eventually up to 2000 workers to the Park.

The Home Communities Agency has demolished most of the old buildings on the Site and will be carefully looking after the wildlife on the site much of which is heathland and dry acid grassland, designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, SSSI.

Renewable Energy in Purbeck

There is no further news about the proposed Alaska wind turbines in Puddletown Road.

Portland Mine and the Eden Project

This new venture with an observatory and a dinosaur themed park will be built in a worked out underground stone mine on the Isle of Portland in the big artificial tunnels made during the mining activities. There will thus be no major building costs. The Project will be led by Sir Tim Smit from the Eden Project in Cornwall. A planning application will be submitted shortly and it is hoped that the new park will open in 2021. It is expected that it will attract 300,000 visitors per year and support 100 jobs.

Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

I attended the annual meeting of the AONB at Dinton on 20 March with a theme of dark skies in the Area.

Bob Mizon has made extensive measurements with a sky quality meter throughout the AONB has shown that it is one of the darkest places in southern England. It will possibly be the first AONB to be designated as a Dark Sky Park with extensive SSSIs and good public access.

There was much discussion of lighting for a Dark Sky Park which should of course point downwards, and LED lights can have an output close to that of daylight. The National Planning Policy Framework paras 125 and 128 refer to light pollution in dark skies.

Duncan Wise spoke about the Kielder Forest Dark Sky Park in the Northumberland National Park. This is now an international attraction with an extended season catering for star gazers during the winter months. The Kielder Observatory recently celebrated its tenth anniversary and it has five astrophysicists and nine full-time staff.

Dark skies are also found in the Brecon Beacons, the South Downs and Exmoor.

Arne Moors Intertidal Nature Reserve

This proposed Reserve at RSPB Arne will provide much improved facilities for many species of wading birds and marshland flora but the Environment Agency, the RSPB and Natural England have promised not to proceed with the Project if there is a risk of increased water levels in Ridge or elsewhere.

The Environment Agency have recently carried out a survey of surface water drainage at Arne Moors and Ridge but it is

difficult to calculate how the ground water levels in the area might be affected by the proposed flooding of the Moors.

Grange Dairy Farm at Osborne, near Sherborne

Shaun Leavey, Farming Adviser, organised a tour of the Dairy Farm where Neville Loader described how he carefully controls the feed of his cows so that they produce milk with the best protein and fat content (see page 15 for more details). He also analyses the soil and the grass in each of his fields to keep veterinary fees and the cost of fertilisers to a minimum.

Dr John Larkin

Minerals and Waste Adviser to CPRE Dorset

POOLE HARBOUR STUDY GROUP

I attended the annual meeting of this Group at the Ferry Terminal on 6 June with a wide variety of talks and I will relate some of the more interesting ones.

Jim Stewart, Poole Harbour Commissioner, said that this Trust Port is a commercial concern with no Government funding. It covers 10,000 acres and opened the new three million pound South Quay this year to accommodate larger cruise ships. The Harbour has a huge variety of fishing vessels, passenger craft and other boats and hosted the European Maritime Festival earlier this year.

Stephen Treby, Natural England, spoke about the SPA, SSSI and Ramsar sites with eelgrass beds, avocets, Mediterranean gulls, little egrets, spoonbills and much else.

Fiona Bruce, River Catchments, told us about nitrates and phosphates in the Harbour waters and the introduction of sediments and the alterations over time to the natural channels.

Paul Morton said that Birds of Poole Harbour (www.birdsofpooleharbour.co.uk), set up in 2012, organised winter trips for 1500 children from 30 different schools. He had helped the Harbour Commissioners and the police to terminate a flourishing trade in gulls' eggs which were being illegally taken from some of the islands. He is presently cooperating with the Osprey Foundation to translocate osprey chicks from their nests in various parts of Scotland to Poole Harbour.

Other speakers talked about dredging the navigational channels, about variable salinity in the Harbour, about shifting shorelines and about plankton and other micro-organisms.

Dr John Larkin

CPRE Dorset Representative at the Dorset Coast Forum



BATTERY STORAGE AND BACKUP GENERATION FACILITIES

Renewable energy from wind turbines and solar panels is generated only when the wind is blowing or during the hours of daylight.

Lithium batteries can be used to store renewable energy and are accommodated in a large number of standard shipping containers on a greenfield site which is easier and cheaper than using a brownfield site. A large number of diesel powered generators on such a site could also produce a useful amount of electricity at short notice.

CPRE Wiltshire have published a comprehensive Guidance for assessing the necessary planning applications for battery storage and backup generation facilities in Wiltshire and also in Devon although we have not, presently, seen any such planning applications in Dorset. A copy of the document can be found on the Dorset CPRE website (www.dorset-cpre.org.uk) under the Renewable Energy menu option.

The Guidance describes the need for these facilities and the complexity of the connexions to the National Grid as well as the assessment of the planning applications.

Dr John Larkin

LITTER CAMPAIGNS

Why CPRE Mobilised our Green Cleaner during September

The announcement in March 2018 that England would be getting a deposit return system was a game-changer. It took 10 years of dogged campaigning from so many organisations, but it marked the beginning of a new chapter – and a new fight – to get the best possible system for England.

That's why, in September, CPRE organised an exciting series of Green Clean litter picks across the country: to clean up our countryside and green spaces and help us win the final stage of the campaign.

You only have to take one look at our country lanes and hedgerows, parks and town centres to know that drinks container litter is a huge problem. Not only is it unsightly, wasteful and a threat to wildlife, but much of it is washed into our streams, rivers and waterways, and eventually our oceans, where it threatens marine life globally.

Deposit return system

A well-designed deposit system will go a long way to preventing this harmful blight on our natural world by providing a small, but effective, financial incentive to return the containers for recycling. Surely, that's something everyone can get behind?

Unfortunately, it's not that simple. We're up against powerful vested interests in the packaging, waste management and drinks industries that don't want to see a threat to their profits, or take financial responsibility for the waste they create.

The industry says that the scheme should be limited to smaller bottles – or 'on-the-go' containers, as they call them – and some even argue that only plastic bottles should be included, ignoring the huge amount of littered aluminium cans. Restricting the system to smaller containers will mean it will be dead before it even gets off the ground – confused consumers won't use it, there will be little impact on litter, and we won't get anywhere near the 97% recycling rates achieved by the world's leading schemes.



Bottles and cans collected for CPRE Green Clean litter pick on 13th September 2018

We want to demonstrate that, so long as the deposit system the Government introduces is designed to collect **all drinks containers** – of all materials and sizes, harmful litter could soon be a thing of the past. So we mobilised our network of Green Cleaners to record the quantity and type of containers they found in a piece of 'citizen science'.

Green Clean Superstars

Every Green Clean superstar recorded the containers they found, and CPRE will feed their evidence into the Government's consultation to make sure it reflects the true scale of the problem, and counter industry arguments. At the time of writing we would like to say a big thank you to the Dorset based



Damers First School and The Thomas Hardy School litter pick on 14th September 2018

Community Groups and Organisations who participated in the CPRE #GreenClean during September namely: Litter Free Dorset, Dorset Devils (Bournemouth Beach), Dorset Wildlife Trust (Worbarrow Bay), Litter Free Purbeck (Wareham to Swanage A351 including video of items found), Wareham Wombles, Damers First School with the Thomas Hardy School, and West Dorset Conservatives (Weymouth Beach).



Cllr Ian Bruce trialling the CPRE RVM during the Big Beach Clean at Weymouth

CPRE Reverse Vending Machine

The CPRE Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) visited Dorset from 13th to 15th September. It was in Dorchester Town Centre on 13th September and parked next to Weymouth Beach on the Saturday. Volunteers were able to dispose of, and receive cash for, each of the drinks containers they pick, giving people a feel for how the national system will work and highlighting how financial incentives can help to boost recycling.

On the 14th Meadow 3 class at Damers First School took part in a Green Clean with CPRE and Litter Free Dorset. They challenged the children to find as many plastic bottles and cans that they could in 1 hour. For everyone they found they raised 10p for the schools campaign to help Dorchester achieve Plastic Community Status. The school teamed up with the Thomas Hardy School Year 10 students. They walked from Damers School to the Thomas Hardy School and found 156 plastic bottles and cans raising £15.60 (the record is over 1000 bottles and cans for litter pick at Throckley, in Northumberland on 16th September). Damers School are planning to build a relationship with Thomas Hardy and support them with their eco work by organising more joint events like this.

A big thank you to everyone who supported the CPRE Green Clean initiative.

Litter Free Dorset

You can find Litter Free Dorset and a litter pick calendar on social media:

- Twitter @LitterFreeDrst
- Facebook Litter Free Dorset
- Website www.litterfreedorset.co.uk

CPRE RECENT PUBLICATIONS

CPRE National Office publishes a number of reports based on detailed research. Here is a summary of the most recent reports that can be found on CPRE Resources webpage www.cpre.org.uk/resources:

State of the Green Belt 2018 (August 2018)

CPRE's annual State of the Green Belt report shows that there are currently 460,000 homes being planned to be built on land that will soon be released from the Green Belt.

The report also demonstrates that building on the Green Belt is not solving the affordable housing crisis, and will not do so. Last year 72% of homes built on greenfield land within the Green Belt were unaffordable by the government's definition. Of the 460,000 homes that are planned to be built on land that will be released from the Green Belt, the percentage of unaffordable homes will increase to 78%.

Local authorities with Green Belt land have enough brownfield land for over 720,000 homes, the report finds, much of which is in areas with a high need for housing and existing infrastructure. In addition to a push for a genuine 'brownfield first' approach to development, CPRE are also calling on the government to:

- retain its commitment to protect the Green Belt by establishing long-term boundaries
- halt speculative development in the Green Belt
- develop clear guidance for local authorities on housing requirements to protect designated land
- support the creation of new Green Belts where local authorities have established a clear need for them

Next steps for LEPs – How greater transparency and accountability would help Local Enterprise Partnerships to support a thriving countryside.

A CPRE survey of Local Enterprise Partnerships' approach to the environment and rural economy. Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) are business-led partnerships between the private and public sector, designed to support and promote growth in economic areas defined by local business interests and local government, and agreed with central Government.

Great concerns have been raised about the failure of LEPs to take rural and countryside issues into account, as well as their governance, transparency, and accountability.

In order to find out more about the impact on the countryside and regeneration, CPRE branches (including Dorset) were surveyed in February and March 2017. Twelve

policy recommendations for Government and LEPs are set out, based on the survey results and the best practice examples, in areas such as governance, strategic planning, and rural and countryside policy issues.

Consultations Environmental Principles and Governance after the UK leaves the EU

Response by CPRE to the Defra consultation

CPRE responded to the Government consultation on Environmental Principles and Governance, which asked how best to set up a governance framework that supports our environmental protection measures and creates new mechanisms to incentivise environmental improvement.

CPRE response to the Government's National Planning Policy Framework consultation

CPRE's full and summary response to the Government's National Planning Policy Framework consultation. This CPRE submission was compiled following extensive consultation with the network of 43 local branches and eight regional groups around England, all of whom have first-hand experience of how the planning system operates at a local level.

The new NPPF follows the old in defining the purpose of planning in terms of "the achievement of sustainable development". But there is now a change in emphasis such that in effect any development is seen as sustainable if it doesn't cause unnecessary harm, and harm is not unnecessary if it is the outcome of meeting needs for development, where "need" is loosely defined and little if any consideration is given to appreciation of the least harmful option.

Related to this is an apparent assumption that land is merely space waiting for development to happen on it, rather than a finite and precious resource that has inherent benefits for the nation's economic, social and environmental well-being, and which therefore requires careful and responsible management.

Planning is pointless if the outcomes it delivers would be little different from what would happen without a planning system. Identifying levels of and locations for development with reference to theoretical demand calculated on the basis of property prices will result in the construction of the types of homes that developers want to build in the places where landowners want to sell land. The NPPF – combined with other deregulatory measures such as increased permitted development rights – disempowers communities' discretion in demanding homes that people can afford, conservation of the things that they value, and infrastructure needed to support their communities into the future.



LEAVING A LEGACY



A GIFT IN YOUR WILL CAN HELP PROTECT OUR GLORIOUS COUNTRYSIDE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

If you share our beliefs about protecting our precious heritage of a beautiful countryside, please consider leaving a gift to CPRE in your will.

Your legacy, no matter what the amount, will help us ensure that developments are sensitive to the countryside, and that housing sprawl is kept in check. With your help, there will be a green, tranquil and beautiful England for tomorrow's children to enjoy.

"The English countryside is an exceptional creation – immensely old, full of surprises and nearly always pleasing to look at. For me, the countryside represents so much of what makes life worth living but how much of it will be left for future generations to enjoy?" Bill Bryson

3 Simple steps to leaving a legacy to CPRE

1. Find a solicitor or other qualified advisor
2. Decide what type of gift you'd like to leave CPRE – a share of your estate or a fixed sum.
3. Take our details with you – your solicitor or advisor will need our full name (Dorset CPRE), address and registered charity number 211974.



Swanworth Quarry seen from the southwestern end in January 2003. Ian West © 2012

SWANWORTH QUARRY

Colin Brixton is the CPRE representative on the Swanworth Quarry Community Liaison Group. He was unable to attend this year's meeting on 12 June so I went along as a substitute.

This open-cast quarry at Worth Matravers has been producing Portland limestone since about 1918. There is Portland sand on the quarry floor, through the Cherty Series and the Portland Freestone Series with crustacean and ammonite fossils. In Swanworth Quarry the stone has been much shattered by fault movements and most of the stone is crushed and used locally as aggregates for road building and other purposes. The stone for the new Holes Bay Road came from here. They also produce stone for rock armour, gabions, decorative chippings and Jurassic coasters.

The site has an area of about forty acres surrounded by farmland and acid grassland in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and adjacent to a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

As each part of the quarry is exhausted it is restored as nearly as possible to the original limestone grassland which was there before quarrying began. This is one of the rarest habitats in the UK rich in wildflowers and finer grasses and a haven of diversity. No topsoil is used and all the seed is collected locally but it takes three to four years before the sward begins to close. The grassland has been improved by selective grazing in association with a local farmer and on some of the restored areas there is already a good mixture of ladies bedstraw, birds foot trefoil and other wild flowers. It is beginning to look like the original limestone grassland designated as SSSI next door.

Dr John Larkin

Minerals and Waste Adviser to Dorset CPRE

DORSET CPRE MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS — Since April 2018

North Dorset:

Miss Moyra Lyle
Mr Nicholas MacKay
Mr Steve O'Connell

Purbeck & Poole:

Mr Alistair Rigler

The Sherborne and District Society:

Mrs Susanna Ellis
Sir & Lady Studd

West Dorset:

Mrs Sarah Carney

East Dorset, Christchurch & Bournemouth:

Mr Greg Jones
Mr John New
Mr Adam Hussey
Miss Elizabeth York
Mr John Dowling

We also welcome members who have moved from other branches or re-joined during the year.

DECEASED MEMBERS

East Dorset, Bournemouth & Christchurch:

Miss I Lovell
Miss W Wilson
Mrs S Mycock

North Dorset:

Mr J Jones

The Sherborne and District Society:

Mr John Haddock
Mrs I Bailey

West Dorset:

Mr Ross Skinner

DIARY DATES

15th October — Purbeck and Poole AGM, The Wareham Corn Exchange, 7.00 pm

2nd November — Dinner at Sherborne Golf Club, 7.30 pm — Guest Speaker (theatre work permitting) Edward Fox.

17th November — 81st Anniversary AGM, 11 am at Cerne Abbas Village Hall. Please return enclosed booking form.

NOT ALREADY A MEMBER?

Joining is the single most effective way to stand up for the countryside. The more you can give, the more we can do to keep our countryside safe. You can join online via our website www.dorset-cpre.org.uk or contact our office on 0333 577 0360 to receive a copy of our membership form. As a member you'll receive our regular Countryside Voice magazine, and enjoy discounted entry to houses, gardens and other attractions around England. The following Dorset properties offer a discounted admission for CPRE Members:



- Athelhampton House & Gardens
- Edmonsham House
- Forde Abbey & Gardens (see article on page 13)
- Mapperton Gardens
- Serles House & Gardens
- Wolfeton House

Visitors are asked to check for individual opening times before setting out as many are seasonal.

Please visit our website for details on how to join or contact our office for a joining form. CPRE Membership also makes an ideal present.

Dorset CPRE Members also receive —

- Two Dorset CPRE reviews per year
- Fieldwork, our quarterly newsletter to help you campaign
- Membership of your local county branch
- Access to our Planning Hotline for advice from CPRE staff

CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND DORSET BRANCH

Registered Charity No. 211974

PO Box 9018, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 9GY.

Tel: 0333 577 0360
email: info@dorset-cpre.org.uk
website: www.dorset-cpre.org.uk
  @DorsetCPRE

BRANCH SECRETARY **Mrs Linda Williams**

Executive Committee & Trustees 2018

PRESIDENT

Mr Edward Fox OBE

VICE-PRESIDENT

Mr Stephen G Howard **01747 828249**

Summer Pool Cottage, Donhead St Andrew, Shaftesbury SP7 9LQ

LIFE VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mr Alan H Kenyon **01305 250051**

2 Augustan Close, Dorchester DT1 2QU

Capt Dickie Bird, LVO, RN

01935 850576

Manor Farm House, Trent, Sherborne DT9 4SW

Rear Admiral Richard Heaslip, CB

01202 594982

2 Longfield Drive, West Parley, Ferndown BH22 8TY

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

Mr Peter Neal

01935 814801

5 Abbeymead Court, Sherborne DT9 3AU

HONORARY TREASURER

Mr Richard H Norman

01258 472887

Mngani, 15 Hillcrest Close, Glue Hill, Sturminster Newton DT10 2DL

ELECTED MEMBERS

Dr John A Larkin

01929 555366

Lorien, Grange Road, Wareham BH20 5AL

Mr Peter Neal

01935 814801

5 Abbeymead Court, Sherborne DT9 3AU

Mrs Sandra Brown

01929 551071

Badgers Keep, Barnhill Road, Ridge, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5BG

Dr Guy Dickinson

07747 776580

1 Beech Road, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 5NP

Group Chairmen

West Dorset:

Dr Guy Dickinson

07747 776580

1 Beech Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT3 5NP

North Dorset:

Mr Rupert Hardy

0780 390 7711

The Manor, Winterborne Tomson, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 9HA

The Sherborne and District Society:

Mr John Newman

01935 873159

Thornford House, Church Road, Thornford, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 6QE

Purbeck & Poole:

Mr Gerald Rigler

01202 601109

9 Sundew Road, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 9NX

East Dorset, Bournemouth and Christchurch:

Contact Dorset CPRE Branch

Countryside Forum

CHAIR OF COUNTRYSIDE FORUM

John Holiday

01258 817796

Hill Farm, Woolland, Blandford Forum DT11 0ER

Advisers to the Forum

Trees for Dorset

Mrs Rachel M Palmer

01929 462423

Clouds, 14 Cologne Road, Bovington,
Wareham BH20 6NP

Environment Agency

Guy Parker

01258 483460

Flood Resilience Advisor (Wessex)

Rivers House, Sunrise Business Park,

Higher Shaftesbury Road, Blandford Forum DT11 8ST

Email: guy.parker@environment-agency.gov.uk

Farming Adviser

Shaun Leavey OBE FRAGS

01258 483460

7 Hound Street, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3AB

CPRE SOUTH WEST

Regional Chairman:

Janette Ward

c/o 8 Rowdens Road, Wells, Somerset BA5 1TU

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in some of the articles do not, necessarily, represent the views of Dorset CPRE. Many of the articles have been written from a personal viewpoint.

EDITOR/DESIGNER: Linda Williams/Shawn Hodge

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