

The Dorset Review

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The countryside charity
Dorset



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Front Cover image – View over site of Wyatt Homes proposed development on rolling downland in the parish of Pimperne, taken by Rupert Hardy.

“We live in interesting times”. “The times they are changing”. These two sentences sum up where we are now. Rarely before has there been so much uncertainty and potential change in our lives.

There are many challenges for CPRE, the countryside charity, with its aims of enhancing, accessing and protecting the countryside.

Let's start with Local Plans.

BCP Council Local Plan

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP) covers an area with a population of c 395,000 people. The indications are that the rate of growth of the population is likely to fall. The area has two institutions of higher education giving a transient population as most students leave the area on completion of their studies. Removing student numbers from the calculation of housing need reduces pressures in the area. Housing need is a term that includes the opportunities for second homes and buy/rent to let properties. The area outside of the immediate conurbation is attractive for developers yet impacts on designated Green Belt land. Development of such land can only normally take place under exceptional circumstances. Green spaces are increasingly valued by residents and visitors.

The Council has engaged with their residents over the development of the Local Plan. The Local Plan is being drawn up in a more inclusive manner than the Dorset Local Plan. Planning in the BCP area cannot be seen in isolation from planning in Dorset. What goes on in one area influences the other. A new road to the airport may well kick start economic development as the model of growth used across the world frequently associates airports, higher education and innovation centres. Be wary of new roads as they lever development.

Dorset Council Local Plan

Dorset Council has announced a proposed delay in the Local Plan due to the need for clearer guidance from Natural England on pollution of rivers and Poole harbour, potential flooding in the Weymouth area and uncertainties in government planning policies. The council is keen to grow the area in part by the use of Investment Zones and in part by market housebuilding. The location and extent of

such development is currently unknown. Previous attempts at Enterprise Zones have led to more diversion of businesses than creation of new businesses. Investment zones are an unknown quantity potentially harming natural assets and precious designations. Delaying the Dorset Local Plan until late 2026 rather than April 2024 extends the potential for speculative development beyond the control of the Council. Any absence of a 5 year land supply does likewise.

The Council has yet to publish a report on the first consultation on the Local Plan.

The Council has stated that it initially wanted c 39,000 houses built in Dorset for the plan period. This is a huge number probably beyond the capacity to absorb without compromising current environmental protections. CPRE values these protections and urges both the government and Dorset Council to adhere to them. CPRE plus the National Trust, the RSPB and Wild Life Trusts have all indicated their opposition to scrapping protections that some see as inhibiting growth. National CPRE is conducting a campaign against fracking.

A question for Dorset Council is how far does it support growth without rules-based planning? We have to be candid about this as once the concreting increases so the county changes forever. We should be able to have sensible green and blue growth that does not pit humans against nature in Dorset. What would Thomas Hardy say about Dor13 North of Dorchester or even a new Melstock? Without doubt the Dorset Council Local Plan is a huge challenge to us in CPRE.

Dorset villages

Now let's move to village life. Dorset villages were not built for cars let alone lorries, hence 20mph campaigns. Villages are changing especially in relation to the practices of caring for nature. Cutting down trees, stone grit drives, lapped fencing, feeding foxes, scaring away crows, complaining about cow pats in the roads, enthusiastically trimming back wild flowers, bright lights on houses, private keep out signs all feature in many villages. How long will we be able to see nature in action as per the photo of the deer once each village has to take its 30 plus houses and even more?

As William Henry Davies stated in his poem 'Leisure', "What is this life if, full of

care, we have no time to stand and stare. No time to stand beneath the boughs and stare as long as sheep or cows". The ability to experience the countryside and the landscapes of Dorset can be achieved by walking and absorbing the unique attractions of nature and sensitive land management. That is why Davies is making the plea for slowing down and seeing what is there. He wanted us to think about the choices that we make and not to rush on like lemmings.

Loss of habitats

Our behaviours. Yes, the times are changing yet are we? Effective action on climate change requires new habits to accommodate shorter supply chains, regenerative farming, new technologies beyond solar and wind. Environmental organisations may need to speak louder and clearer about how our lives are likely to change. The loss of habitats and species speak volumes of the pursuit of self-interests and the folly of not addressing pollution since the start of high mass consumption in the mid-1960s. Where will our world be when the bees have gone? We need a stock take and a reset. All that car driving, blueberries all year round from Peru, reduced cod stocks, the end of cheap air travel and even cheap food? How do we in CPRE engage in such changes whilst



Photo: Jess Hind

enhancing, accessing, and protecting our precious countryside? Plenty to think about and much to do, here are some worthy ideas:

1. Taking a seasonal walk to admire the changes in the trees and hedges, picking the last remaining slow berries, seeing the birds after the remaining flower and fruit seeds, hearing the owl calls and even the mating calls of the deer-all showing the magnificence of our natural world.
2. Attending our monthly planning group meetings online, supporting our area

groups, encouraging others to support CPRE.

3. Supporting CPRE with a Christmas gift of membership to CPRE may be the start of something bigger.
- My thanks to all of our splendid volunteers for all of the work conducted in this busy year. Dorset is being served well by you all – long may this continue..

Peter Bowyer

Chair of Trustees

85th AGM – Guest Speaker Dr George McGavin

Our 85th AGM is on Saturday 19th November at Cerne Abbas Village Hall, starting at 11am.

We are delighted to welcome Dr George McGavin, one of the UK's foremost entomologists and leading authorities on the natural world, as our guest speaker.

A renowned and passionate conservation advocate George was an academic zoologist for 30 years before becoming a television presenter. He is the author of numerous books and a highly respected speaker regularly inspiring and educating audiences about insects, ecology, evolution, conservation and exploration. He is a regular contributor to the BBC One Show delighting viewers with his bug-life and ecology reports.

Over the years, his work has taken him from the tropical forests of Papua New Guinea to the caves of Thailand and from the jungles of Belize to the savannahs of Tanzania.

When he's not working, travelling or at home, George can generally be found on the hunt for more bug life or enjoying a coastal walk in Dorset.

Do come, meet some of your fellow members, and see what we are up to. Please return the enclosed A4 booking form.



The Sherborne and District Society



Planning

We are working up a recalculation of the real requirement for the Town, based on the new figures available from the 2021 census (see below), which suggest that the earlier assumptions on population growth in the County are exaggerated, even allowing for expansion. The two-year delay to the Local Plan, widely acknowledged if not yet formally announced, should allow for ample time to build up the evidence needed to establish the true requirement for Sherborne, rather than one based on dogma and obsolete information. Our emphasis on truly affordable homes, built in resilience and efficiency, with an appropriate sense of place, will continue to form the core of our policy at Group level.

Historic/Listed Buildings

We have managed to get a historic Sherborne property, Newell House, on the 'at risk' register; in parallel, we are continuing our scrutiny of and comments on inappropriate planning applications and signage in Cheap St.

Rural Affairs

We were pleased to see the refreshed policy on national production of food in the recent CPRE magazine. Our campaign to raise awareness of rural issues in the area continues, with particular emphasis on best use of

land, and achieving the best balance between food production, diversification and rewilding. The conflict in Ukraine is a salutary reminder of the challenges in achieving adequate food sufficiency, as was witnessed during the 1940s during and in the wake of WW2.

Town Centre Enhancement

A recent successful meeting of stakeholders, including the Town Mayor, has identified and put work in hand on several priorities for enhancement; notably Abbey projects and better facilities for the young of the area. Further information on these initiatives will follow.

Geography Award 2022

The Sherborne and District Society CPRE Award for Geography went to Katie Copp who was the highest performer in Geography A level at the Gryphon School and is going to Cambridge.

Farm Visit

A visit to Lower Farm, Lillington, on 22nd September, was kindly arranged by Paul Austin and organised by Shaun Leavey. This enables us to better grasp the reasons for changes to the landscape. Please see the full article on the next page.

Sir Christopher Coville
Chairman



Members visiting Lower Farm, Lillington, on 22nd September



Dorset Local Plan and 2021 Census data

At the end of June, the ONS (Office for National Statistics) released the first results from the 2021 census. A small summary for Dorset can be found on Dorset Council's website. Although short it contains data which is highly relevant for Dorset Council's Local Plan.

The data show that in the 10 years since the previous census the population of Dorset Council's area increased by 14,400. This is 4% whilst the figure for England is 6.6%.

Using the ratio of 2.242 people per household this means that an increase in dwellings (= households¹) of 6,423 would have been enough to accommodate the population increase between 2011 and 2021. Taking the 2021 census population of 379,600 as the starting point and extrapolating, the 4% population growth rate means that an increase of 11,510 dwellings would accommodate the projected population increase over the 17 years of the Local Plan. As many will know this is far removed from the target number of 39,000 initially proposed in the Local Plan.

If the next version of the Local Plan proposes an increase in housing numbers that is significantly over 12,000 then it is surely incumbent on the planners to explain their rationale and to answer the question as to who they are expecting to occupy them.

Demographics

Another disturbing trend can be seen in the demographics. The number of people in Dorset aged 65 and over increased by 24.8% (England 20.1%) whilst those under 15 decreased by 3.2% (England 5% increase). Those aged 15 to 64 decreased by 2.8% (England 3.6% increase). It seems therefore that without intervention the whale shaped skew in the Dorset population age profile will only increase as younger child rearing people leave and the older ones get older and live longer. Will Dorset Council address this in the revised Local Plan?

¹Census data is based around households not dwellings. Households are a subset of dwellings, i.e. there can be more than one household per dwelling. However the number of households is very close to the number of dwellings.

At the time of the census there were 379,600 people in 169,300 households, giving a ratio of 2.242.

The ONS have a rolling program for releasing the census data, the next release being in autumn <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census>. The Dorset town populations will no doubt be interesting.

Ray Hartley

Understanding the factors which drive large scale dairy production



Mike Tizzard, one of the best-known dairy farmers in Dorset, hosted a visit to his farm, at Lower Farm, on Thursday 22nd September. This was a fascinating opportunity for Sherborne and District Society CPRE members to get an understanding of the factors which drive large scale dairy production, and to discuss the way in which it forms much of the local landscape.

Early Days

In 1943, Mike's father started milking two cows behind the local pub in Milborne Port, Somerset, and subsequently acquired a small dairy unit called Venn Farm in Dorset. At the age of sixteen Mike began his farming career working alongside his father and two brothers on the farm. Then in 1989 Mike & his wife Sue took on the tenancy of a small dairy unit called North Wootton Farm. Four years later, in 1993, he went into partnership with his landlord to manage two additional dairy units in the Sherborne area; this rapidly expanded the business almost overnight. Today, Mike and Sue run a farming operation covering five organic dairy farms farmed in-hand and 3 organic dairies farmed under share-farming arrangements with young couples.

Dairy Herd

Lower Farm is a 220-hectare farm in Lillington, Dorset, purchased in 2011. The unit currently has 570 autumn-calving cows, which calve over a 10 week block from 20th August, with milk supplied to Arla and McDonalds. CPRE members were able to see the cows being milked and calves ranging in age from 1 day old to 2 weeks.

The cows are milked twice a day, through a 50-point rotary parlour installed 9 years ago, which has reduced milking time by 50%, to four hours per day. Since taking on the farm, over

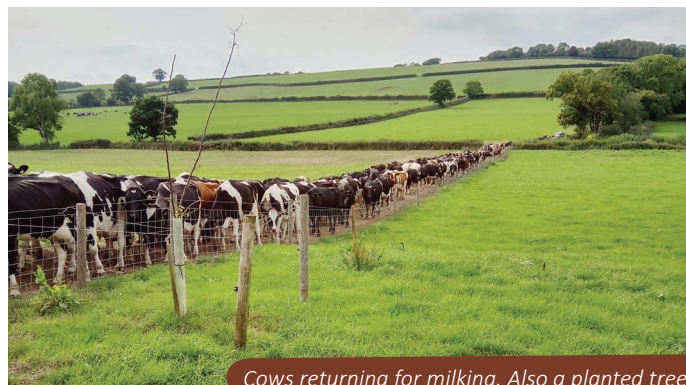


Cows being milked

two kilometres of cow tracks have been installed, which has improved the cows' access to pastures. The focus is on 'more milk from grass', with the aim to have the cows out grazing at pasture for 20 hours per day during summer. The advantages of the tracks mean soil compaction and poaching caused by the cows is kept to a minimum, and so soil erosion and run off from these areas has been reduced.

Good Grass Management

Milk from forage and especially milk from grass are key drivers to profitability. Grass and forage can be grown very efficiently on the farm and this enables feed costs to be controlled and milk to be produced more economically. Good grass management is key to the business and the herd managers are incentivised to regularly monitor and measure grass growth throughout the season.



Cows returning for milking. Also a planted tree.

Countryside Stewardship

The farm is enrolled in a Countryside Stewardship Mid Tier Scheme, which provides a monetary incentive to set up natural protection areas on the farm to help protect local flora and fauna. This covers everything from planting wildflower margins to growing low-input grass. During lockdown, existing hedgerows were filled in with around a thousand plants, and new trees were planted. Mike and Sue are McDonald's "Flagship Farmers", part of a select band of farmers from across the world who implement a farmer-to-farmer sustainability programme.

Arla 'Climate Checks'

Every year the business undertakes Arla 'Climate Checks', which enables them to track the farm's carbon footprint and identify ways in which it can be reduced, allowing them to meet Arla's target of reducing total CO₂e emissions by 30% by 2030 and achieving 'carbon net zero' by 2050. Visit <https://www.arlafoods.co.uk/food-for-thought/climate-checks/> for more details.

Looking ahead, Mike is exploring the possibility of installing solar panels on the farm buildings to help with cooling the milk. Also in the long term, plant a small woodland area, in addition to managing an existing wooded area.

Shawn Leavey
OBE FRAGs

Dorset Village Shops: Where Now?

Dorset CPRE sponsored for many years a class of the Dorset Best Kept Village Competition, specifically the Best Dorset Village Shop Competition. I was one of the two judges. Sadly the competition is in abeyance currently as it needs a new major sponsor, but we are still able to write about the sector and applaud some of the better shops. We awarded prizes to many throughout Dorset, but would mention Thorncombe Village Shop and Corfe Castle Stores among others.

Friendly face to consumers

COVID was kind to village shops, which had been under pressure for decades from the relentless onslaught from supermarkets. Government advice to stay home and fear of infection drove shoppers to avoid supermarkets, except for using their online delivery services if available. Village and farm shops offered a friendly face to consumers, who otherwise might have felt isolated, while they benefited from the trend to support local businesses at a difficult time for all, and sustainability. Consumers wanted to buy higher quality sustainable food with lower food miles, and showed greater awareness of food provenance. Price was less of an issue.

Long-term trend to online shopping

Roll on 2022 and much is changing dramatically, with shoppers facing a vicious cost of living crisis. Village shops may still benefit from a long-term trend to sustainability, but they face much tighter purses. Price wars will intensify and we all know which supermarkets are winning: the discounters, Aldi and Lidl. The latter have been helped too by greater availability of new sites, thanks in part to the misfortunes of the hospitality industry under COVID, particularly pubs. There may have been less online shopping as the virus diminished, but there is still a clear long-term trend to online shopping that the supermarkets can take advantage of and village shops find very hard to exploit. Other factors have been the decline in physical newspaper sales, and these in the past were major drivers of customer flow for the shops.

What can they do?

The bigger ones are in a much stronger position as they can both offer a broader range of stock, and they can also diversify if space allows by opening cafes, which bring extra footfall and generate higher margins. They can sell more quality local sustainable produce which we applaud, as we support quality local food and drink producers, of which Dorset has many. More shops are joining symbol groups, such as Spar, to help their buying and provide marketing support. However we do ask readers to support village shops as much as they can, as they are vital community hubs.



Dilip Odedra outside Robin Hill Stores

Robin Hill Stores, Marnhull, offers amazing service

We hope to report back on individual shops, and here is one we would like to applaud. Robin Hill Stores in historic Marnhull, the largest village in Dorset. Located in the heart of the Blackmore Vale, it featured in Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* as "Marlot". The shop has been run successfully by Atul Odedra since 2014, as well as the post office, and he sells lots of cards and other non-food items too. The Stores and neighbouring shops were once a large department store known as Michael Harding's Stores. The building was originally four separate cottages built, it is thought, in the late 1600's but which has now been combined and added to over the years.



Audrey filling up her bottle at the Milk Station



Window display for Marnhull Fest, a community Jubilee event

Adul made various changes after taking over the shop. He brought in more local food and drink, such as Mounters Gin, which is made in Shaftesbury. He bought a bigger chiller so can sell more fresh food, and he has now installed a fresh milk station, supplying milk from the Dorset Dairy Company. Best sellers are cakes and biscuits, which reflects an ageing community. He employs part-time staff from the village, while temporarily his brother Dilip is helping too. He offers support to the Marnhull community in many ways, including window displays for local businesses, advertising space for community events and ticket sales for community groups. Various village groups can take over the window displays and currently it had one for Marnhull Fest. There are lots of reports from locals about how he goes out of his way to order in special items for them. One story is that some years back he walked five miles from Bourton when the village was cut off by snow, bringing back fresh milk. That is dedication to the community!

He admits that the shop benefited indirectly from COVID, but life this year has got much tougher with the cost of living crisis. He is finding more severe price competition from the supermarkets, but is trying to sell more local food which the supermarkets don't stock much. Looking to the future he is thinking about converting an empty room into a café, which would improve footfall into the shop too. Reviews overall comment that the shop is well stocked, offers amazing service, with friendly owners and they praise the little post office.

Rupert Hardy
Chair, North Dorset CPRE

Dorset Coastal Forum Annual Meeting

This well attended meeting consisted of several presentations on current activities and future possible areas of work.

The meeting was held at Kingston Maurward College, Dorchester. Slides of all presentations are on the Dorset Coastal Forum website www.dorsetcoast.com. Presentations are under the resources tab.

The value of the meeting was in the ideas from the presentations, the networking contacts, the dialogues with delegates and presenters plus potential involvement in existing and new activities. The theme of most presentations was around opportunity. Opportunity to adjust the climate change; opportunity to develop marine based tourism; opportunity for new methods of engagement; opportunity for a Marine National Park.

There is much of relevance in the slides of the presentations for the coastal communities of Dorset both parishes and towns. The Shoreline Management



Chippel Bay Lyme Regis

photo: Rupert Hardy

Plan led by BCP Council has limited community engagement across the area that it covers. The cost of sand recharges was stated to be so very high that BCP Council may be considering hard defences such as more groynes and concrete sea walls just to maintain the notion of a beach. The case for BCP Council to work more with Dorset Council is very strong.

A marine National Park is hugely

important for the strategic direction of coastal areas. The Studland Marine Conservation Zone and proposals to extend the sea grass deserves to be independently evaluated and costed.

The natural sea world and humans seem to be pitted against each other. Is it now time for a stock take to see how both can work together? Maybe a theme for a future Dorset Coastal Forum event?

Peter Bowyer

West Dorset Group



Planning Applications

Since I wrote in the Spring regarding solar panels on roofs as opposed to on open land- often prime agricultural and in the AONB- very little has changed. More applications for solar parks turn up. One recently in the AONB and on prime agricultural land is the planning application for a 40-acre solar farm near Maiden Newton. It has now secured the backing from the parish council after a new route into the site has been agreed. While Maiden Newton Parish Council had agreed the application 'in principle' councillors were concerned with the amount of 'construction traffic' on small narrow lanes.

Pertinent to this was a final hearing I attended on 4th August at Dorset Council, to discuss reserved matters for the building of 760 houses at Vearse Farm- now known as Foundry Lea- an area also in the AONB. There was very little chance to have the application thrown out (despite being in the AONB) but the planners wanted about half the houses built under 2021 regulations (gas boilers and a small smattering of solar panels). Some would be built with 2025 regulations with heat pumps, improved insulation and the roofs with more panels than the others. A mystery why. I spoke and tried to make the case for all to be built with 2025 regs. This was rejected- including by a "Green" councillor! I wrote to him for an answer but no reply. So here is another case, amazingly, where Dorset Council have avoided using brand new uncontaminated roof space to put panels on.

Dorset AONB Partnership Board

I represent Dorset CPRE on the Partnership Board which meets twice a year, in May and November. At the May 2022 meeting there were presentations on Dorset Council Climate & Emergency Plan, Engaging Communities in Climate Action, Dorset Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan & Dorset Peatland Partnership. I brought up the issue of their lack of resources to respond to smaller applications in the AONB which may now improve.



North of Dorchester proposed site towards Poundbury on West side

Save The Area North of Dorchester

Another notable event concerned the Dorset County Show held in September. The Dorchester Agricultural Society refused STAND (Save The Area North of Dorchester) permission to have a stall in the ground. It is apparently against the society's rules to allow access to political organisations. STAND is definitely not a political organisation but rather a single-issue non-political campaigning group. Members of STAND distributed about 4500 campaigning leaflets outside the ground (which included a description of their ban by the organisers).



North of Dorchester proposed site on North East side

Application to extend a quarry

In August I attended the Westford Park Farm quarry inquiry in Chard. In 2021 Dorset Council refused a planning application made by Aggregate Industries, in 2019, for extensive new quarry workings in the Dorset AONB. It went to appeal with the Planning Inspectorate. There were some good speeches, it was a full inquiry into the planning refusal with legal teams from both sides. It finished on September 2nd but was open to submissions from anyone until the 16th. The decision might be 4 months after that. The petition against the quarry is still active on Change.org.

The avoidance of planning permission continues in a sort

of cat and mouse game at Halstock where the plans for racing stables come and go. The applicants have lodged an Appeal with the Planning Inspectorate against Dorset Council's refusal of the majority and key parts of their Planning Applications, just within the closing date. I have no further news at the moment.

Stop Portland Waste Incinerator (SPWI)

Similarly, relatively quiet is the campaign against Powerfuel's plan for an incinerator in Portland Harbour. Recently the Minerals and Waste Planning Manager confirmed that this would be the sole application to be considered on a full day of the committee but the actual date is still not known. It was hoped to be this October. We, among other interested groups, will receive notification two weeks before – they say. Natural England has objected and the applicants have not asked for more time to challenge their report which is a major positive.

Active Members

We said goodbye to three active West Dorset volunteers who passed away this year:

- Brian Warren-Peachey (his 100th birthday was featured in our Autumn 2020 edition),
- Reg Hanbury, former Chair of West Dorset CPRE Group and topic leader on bridleways and footpaths – see obituary on page 25 and
- Peter Chance, our former Farming expert and Chairman of what was the Mid Dorset CPRE Group. – see obituary on page 24.

We send our best wishes to the families of all our members who have passed away recently.

Dr Guy Dickinson
Group Chairman

Great Big Dorset Hedge Surveys



Hedge on Mount Pleasant Lane taken by John Calder

Dorset Climate Action Network want to facilitate the restoration of hedgerows all over Dorset through their Great Big Dorset Hedge Surveys project. John Calder, who has a farm in Charmouth, is helping Dorset CAN to start that journey by designing the hedgerow surveys on the major trails that traverse our county namely the Jubilee Trail, Stour Valley Way and Brit Valley Trail among others. Hopefully this will start a conversation in every parish visited. The aim is to bring together volunteers and/or contractors with landowners who want to have their hedgerows restored or extended.

Survey hedgerow of Mount Pleasant Lane, Toller Porcorum

CPRE Members have volunteered to help with the survey work. On the morning of 21st September, John Calder met with Nick Gray from the Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT) and made their observations on 1.25 km of the Jubilee trail to the West of the Kingcombe Centre. I met with John in the afternoon to do a survey to the East of the Kingcombe Centre. We looked at what species are in a hedge, found one English Elm tree, and used the Adams Condition Code infographics sheet to determine the distinct stages of the life cycle of a hedgerow. It was great to meet the DWT team at the centre and spend part of the day in our lovely countryside. Between us, we had surveyed 2.5 km of hedgerows (of which 90% is on the DWT Reserve).

Almost every hedge we surveyed on 21st September had an interesting story to tell but we found a particularly wonderful old pathway in Mount Pleasant Lane. It was far too important historically, and far too complex structurally to fit tidily into

the streamlined hedgerow assessment process that has been developed for the GBDH project. It is worth so much more than that. So, we have added a sheet especially on it. We will ask whether the Reserve actually has a management plan that specifically details hedgerow management prescriptions for Mount Pleasant Lane. It would be a challenge to get it right. How do you look after such a gem?

Data collected will be added later to a QGIS database, a user friendly Open Source Geographic Information System (GIS), so everything can be recorded in one place and then used in mapping software such as Dorset Explorer. This will identify the hedges that have already been surveyed highlighting opportunities for rejuvenation or planting.

If you would like to join the other GBDH volunteers on future surveys, or find out more about the GBDH project, please visit www.dorsetcan.org/hedge.html.

Support CPRE's #40by50 campaign

Hedgerows are the vital stitching in the patchwork of our countryside. Not only are they beautiful, with shifting seasonal colours, but they also provide homes and corridors for wildlife. And all the while they help tackle the climate crisis by capturing carbon. Please support CPRE's #40by50 campaign, by signing the online petition, <https://takeaction.cpre.org.uk/page/85848/petition>, calling on the government to commit to extending the hedgerow network by 40% by 2050.

Linda Williams

Date 21/9/22		Trail Name = Jubilee Trail Parish name = Toller Porcorum																Survey team = Nick Gray, Linda Williams, & John Calder											
Hedge	Length	Avg height	Avg width	wwAsh	Blackthorn	Beech	Bracken	Bramble	Dogrose	Dogwood	Elder	Field maple	Goose	Hawthorn	Hazel	Holly	Honeysuckle	Oak	Rowan	Silver birch	Sycamore	Willow	OTHER	In hedge trees.	land use each side	Fenced	banked	double-planted	Adams Condition Score
#32A etc	metres	(excl. trees / bramble)	(excl over-hanging growth)																					Number and species	(arable / pasture etc)				
108b	142	2	3	#	#			#				#		#										none	pasture / pasture	y	n	n	3
109b	282	5	3	#		#						#	#											2xoak 1xash	pasture / pasture	y	y	n	9
110a	115	-	-																					none	pasture / pasture	y	n	n	fence
110b	110	-	-				#	#						#										3xoak 1xash	pasture / pasture	part	y	n	1
110c	90	-	-																					none	pasture / pasture	y	n	n	fence
110d	184	7	4	#	#			#			#	#	#	#										1xholly 1xfieldmaple	pasture / pasture	y	y	y	9



Planning – Catering For Local Needs

TRUST is a fragile thing- easy to break, easy to lose and one of the hardest things to get back.

We appreciate that preparing any Local Plan is a ‘marathon’ (rather than a ‘sprint’) and consult with those interested when the Councils release proposals. It is held that effective planning is secured when it deploys ‘common sense’ and therefore dear Reader, please let me know if you would like to help us insist that **Trust in effective planning must be promoted by use of ‘common sense’**. If you live in Christchurch or Bournemouth, those of us in Poole and Purbeck will be pleased to work with you now that partnerships are developing.

Planning is based on Trust. Why else would the law be satisfied that once an approved planning application has been started it will be delivered? Also central government imposes sanctions on Local Authorities who fail “The Housing Delivery Test”: nonsensical when Local Authorities do not deliver all of the housing for which they have granted approved planning applications, *unless (of course) central government still trusts that no applicant would fail to do what they had applied to do*. Perhaps, with the help of local politicians, Parliament will be minded, as it clarifies planning, to ensure the substantial delivery (within a reasonable time) of approved plans rather than rely upon the existing inadequate position. It is held that **“Trust is the most important currency”**: planning law should not allow its debasement.

Local needs for housing

We have clearly expressed views about local needs for housing, the need to coordinate potential planning proposals with others (including those dealing with infrastructure services and facilities) and the need to define what is desirable ‘growth’ (presumably not ‘*continuing growth of our national deficit*’ or ‘*continuing growth in asset stripping*’). Local communities need valuable employment opportunities that do not damage our natural heritage. We are now seeking to find ways of checking that what we have expressed has been understood correctly.

Lower housing numbers

Following their research, Councillors in the three towns partnership became aware of the strong support for lower housing numbers (when compared with the higher target numbers advocated by central government) and that there should be real effort to deliver the right mix of homes including affordable homes. “Build, build, build” has neither lowered housing prices at Sandbanks nor solved the relevant local housing priority.

We remain keen to ensure that:-

1. Planning law operates to serve the **‘public interest’**, not just the interests of developers and landowners. Poole, like many places, has too many approved applications for dwellings that are not delivered although technically

they have been started by the demolition of existing buildings and then the site is hoarded (with its notional extra value) for purposes unknown. This means an accumulation of cleared urban sites (*that adversely affect the public realm*) and creates demands for release of greener land – even protected Green Belt land. It is hoped that other sites in Poole will not be added to the current area of cleared land (*creating urban sprawl / infrastructure issues*) until there is real evidence that existing buildings cannot be repurposed or sold to another owner without requiring a “change of use”.

2. Local Plans will be sound and therefore capable of being implemented. This should require evidence that they are consistent with both the resources of others (such as the services / facilities of the utility providers, the transport companies and the NHS) and the aspirations of The Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership and The Harbour Board.
3. Local Plans will help us all deal with the Climate Emergency. Dorset has enough roofs that could be fitted with solar panels to prevent the loss of fields and save on the transmission costs of electricity – the uncertainty should be removed by research / evidence now.

Share your thoughts

Obviously, since the eventual Local Plans will affect decisions by the Councils over many years (probably three local election periods), the ‘public interests’ of our communities must be respected. Therefore, please do not hesitate to share your personal views with me so we can **minimise misunderstandings that undermine trust in effective planning**: every little helps. My address is at the back of this Review.

Gerald Rigler

Group Chairman

Seaview above Kimmeridge
taken by Rupert Hardy



Litter Campaigns

We participate in the Litter Free Dorset Forum meetings, hosted by Litter Free Dorset- Land, Coast and Sea, and contribute to discussions on a number of topics and campaigns.

Litter Free Dorset Forum Meeting

On 29th September, the Litter Free Dorset (LFD) team gave an update on their current and upcoming projects, including the Sustainable Business Award Scheme, success of Love Your Beach projects and refreshing the Bin Your Butt campaign. Cigarette butts are the most common item of litter that are dropped along roadsides or down alley ways and can easily get washed down the drain. Surface water drains don't contain filters that prevent cigarette butts from passing through, and so the butts can directly enter our waterways, polluting our rivers, lakes and the sea. LFD are keen to hear where you think cigarette litter hotspots are in Dorset and are you finding single use vape pens being littered too? Send your feedback to litterfreedorset@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk.

Dr Danielle Green from Anglia Ruskin University gave a presentation on her research looking at the ecological impacts of littered cigarette butts which are not biodegradable. There was also a mention of single use vapes, classed as electronic equipment, that need to be taken to household recycle centres, and not put in waste bins, as they contain a battery that is difficult to remove.

Tristan Dampney, from Eco Sustainable Solutions Ltd an organic recycling company, talked about how food waste is processed after it is collected from households by Dorset Council. Food waste is delivered once a week to their anaerobic digestion facility at Piddlehinton near Dorchester. A visit to the facility is being organised. Visit www.thisiseco.co.uk to find out how the company harnesses energy from food.

Marten Gregory, Recycling Team Leader for Dorset Council, discussed the LitterLotto® app, a free to enter Prize Draw, with regular spot prizes supported by the brands that want a cleaner environment. The app is helping to reduce litter across the UK.

Sustainable Business Award Scheme

LFD have been successful in a bid for a Preventing Plastic Pollution (PPP) project, working with local businesses to reduce plastic pollution within the river network for the Poole Harbour Catchment area. LFD is excited to have launched the PPP project and brand-new Sustainable Business Award. Businesses are invited to participate by completing a quick survey and



working towards the Sustainable Business Award. This project will also establish a Sustainable Business Network across Dorset, bringing businesses together to support each other towards a more sustainable future. Visit www.litterfreedorset.co.uk to find out more.



Love Your Beach Project

Over a five-year period, Litter Free Dorset are working with local communities along the Dorset coast, to implement projects and behaviour change campaigns to reduce coastal litter and improve bathing water quality at Dorset's 38 designated bathing water beaches. One example is a beach toy library, setup at Weymouth, was very popular over the summer. It's a simple concept that helps visitors to Weymouth make their trip a little more sustainable by avoiding new plastic toys and borrowing bits from the library. LFD hope this helps families to save a few pennies as well! Weymouth Town Council and Weymouth & Portland Marine Litter Project supported the project.



Join a litter picking group near you!

A big thank you to our members who undertake local and community litter picks.

If you are interested in making a difference to your local environment, LFD support a range of community and volunteer groups across Dorset who organise regular litter picking and beach cleaning activities in their local areas. Please visit www.litterfreedorset.co.uk for more information and contact details for groups near you.

North Dorset Group



The Fight Against Wyatt Homes Huge Housing Development, Blandford/ Pimperne

Wyatt Homes has submitted amendments to its application to build 600 homes on the land north and north east of Blandford, including reducing the number of dwellings to 520. The aim, however, remains to build up to 200 houses on Pimperne Parish land despite a revised Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan being prepared which does not include building any houses in that area. It is important that the "green gap" between Blandford and Pimperne is retained. We, Pimperne PC and Cranborne Chase AONB are still objecting to the development on account of this and various other factors, which we highlighted when the application was first announced. These were lack of genuine housing need; adverse visual impact on the Cranborne Chase AONB; lack of sustainability as the site is beyond the bypass; developer's failure to address climate change; massive congestion on the bypass, as three new pedestrian crossings have been proposed, and excessive noise from the bypass impacting many of the properties. The greatest irony is that the new school, which Blandford does need, will not be built until phase 2, while 167 new homes, housing lots of children, will be in phase 1 putting more pressure on existing overcrowded schools. We have also been objecting to a number of much smaller but still inappropriate housing developments in North Dorset.

North Dorset Roads Reprieved from Major Expansion

The Department for Transport, in consultation with Dorset Council and The Western Gateway Sub-National Transport Body, ruled in August that the A350/ C13 will no longer be included in plans for a major strategic road development running from Poole to the M4 corridor. This is a good outcome for residents of north Dorset. This decision is the culmination of a longstanding campaign by Dorset councillors, as well as local pressure groups and North Dorset CPRE



Volunteer Barbara Hurst at the Oak Fair

to defend the A350 and C13 from massive expansion. The technical challenges would have added £200m to the project cost and the damage to the valued landscape and village communities would have been unacceptable. However one negative result is the expectation of more housing proposals on the east side of Shaftesbury, along the corridor previously kept free for a new north/south road.



Carpenter at the Oak Fair

Visit to Down Farm

Twenty members enjoyed a visit to Dr Martin Green's very special Down Farm Museum of prehistoric artefacts, and were led on a tour of some of the extraordinary archaeological sites nearby on Cranborne Chase. A rather successful outing! Please see separate article on page 21.

Oak Fair

We took a stand again at the Stock Gaylard Oak Fair on the August bank holiday weekend. Six volunteers from North Dorset and the indefatigable Linda Williams helped man the stand, and it was a successful event. It was a good opportunity to meet members and also recruit new ones.

Rupert Hardy
Group Chairman

Two new Dorset CPRE Reports on Renewable Energy

Dorset CPRE is fully supportive of renewable energy development in Dorset but not at any price.

Installations of National Significance

This report concludes that it would be appropriate for Dorset Council to reintroduce the 2011 policy whereby each UK local authority was able to reduce its 2020 renewable energy target from 15% (the UK target) to 7.5%. This was decided when it was realised that if the target were to be realised the damage done to Dorset's rural assets, particularly its landscape, would be unacceptable.

The significance for England, Dorset and Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole if a 70% reduction in their targets was to be applied in 2050 is described.

Role of Roof-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations in 2050 Electricity Generation

A separate report looks at the 'Role of Roof-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations in 2050 Electricity Generation'. This report explores the extent to which roof-mounted installations might be able to contribute to the achievement of 2050 targets for the deployment of solar photovoltaics. The Dynamic Dispatch Team at the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy suggests that, for the UK as a whole, the maximum contribution expected from solar photovoltaics is a capacity of 120 GW generating an annual 117.6 TWh, 17.4% of 676.8 TWh, the upper bound of expected total electricity demand.

The full reports, including summaries of both reports produced by David Peacock, are available to download from the 'Update on Renewable Energy' webpage on www.dorset-cpre.org.uk.

Roof Deployment of Solar Photovoltaics in Dorset, Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole and England as at 31 December 2021

Building Type	Buildings with Installations					Buildings Without Installations					All Buildings			
	Reported Installations	% of Used Buildings	Installed Capacity MW	Capacity per roof kW	Annual Generation TWh	Number	% of Unused Buildings	Installed Capacity MW	Capacity per Roof kW	Annual Generation TWh	Number of Recorded Buildings	Capacity per roof kW	Installed Capacity MW	Annual Generation TWh
Domestic	8,279	4.6	31.94	3.9	0.034	173,416	95.4	668.9	3.9	0.70	181,695	3.9	700.9	0.74
Business	271	1.3	8.16	30.1	0.009	20,019	98.7	602.6	30.1	0.63	20,290	30.1	610.8	0.64
TOTAL	8,550	4.2	40.09	4.7	0.042	193,435	95.8	1,271.6	6.6	1.34	201,985	6.5	1,311.7	1.38

Building Type	Buildings with Installations					Buildings Without Installations					All Buildings			
	Reported Installations	% of Used Buildings	Installed Capacity MW	Capacity per roof kW	Annual Generation TWh	Number	% of Unused Buildings	Installed Capacity MW	Capacity per Roof kW	Annual Generation TWh	Number of Recorded Buildings	Capacity per roof kW	Installed Capacity MW	Annual Generation TWh
Domestic	6,343	3.4	18.91	3.0	0.020	181,506	96.6	541.2	3.0	0.57	187,849	3.0	560.2	0.59
Business	97	0.5	2.90	29.9	0.003	18,028	99.5	539.5	29.9	0.57	18,125	29.9	542.4	0.57
TOTAL	6,440	3.1	21.82	3.4	0.023	199,534	96.9	1,080.8	5.4	1.14	205,974	5.4	1,102.6	1.16

Building Type	Buildings with Installations					Buildings Without Installations					All Buildings			
	Reported Installations	% of Used Buildings	Installed Capacity MW	Capacity per roof kW	Annual Generation TWh	Number	% of Unused Buildings	Installed Capacity MW	Capacity per Roof kW	Annual Generation TWh	Number of Recorded Buildings	Capacity per roof kW	Installed Capacity MW	Annual Generation TWh
Domestic	714,809	2.9	2,525.38	3.5	2.655	24,271,185	97.1	85,748.8	3.5	84.20	24,985,994	3.5	88,274.2	86.68
Business	26,770	1.0	771.23	28.8	0.811	2,752,960	99.0	79,311.0	28.8	77.88	2,779,730	28.8	80,082.2	78.64
TOTAL	741,579	2.7	3,296.61	4.4	3.465	27,024,145	97.3	165,059.8	6.1	162.09	27,765,724	6.1	168,356.4	165.33

Notes:

Sources include the Feed-in Tariff (FIT) Installation Report, Renewable Energy Planning Database (REPD) Extract, Local Authority Valuations List and Inter-departmental Business Register (IDBR).

It is assumed that unutilised buildings have the potential to be utilised to the same extent (expressed as kW per roof) as roofs that are already utilised.

Dorset CPRE Policy on Renewable Energy

1. Dorset CPRE is fully supportive of renewable energy development in Dorset but not at any price. It is opposed to proposals that would do anything other than minimal harm to Dorset's exceptional and highly valued landscape, heritage, agricultural and amenity assets.
2. It is particularly opposed to industrial scale wind turbines and ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations that can be damaging to Dorset's prevalent small-scale landscapes.
3. It supports the deployment of solar photovoltaic panels on domestic, commercial, public and industrial roofs, including those that can be built over car parks.
4. It favours smaller scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic installations with a maximum capacity of 5 MW (20,000 panels) that can be well-screened from surrounding view points.
5. It does not object to small-scale wind turbines close to buildings.
6. It hopes that the Council will be successful in promoting community-owned renewable energy installations of all kinds and wishes to provide support in any way it can through its network of members across the Council area.

Can Local People afford to live in Dorset?

A personal perspective



Lyme Regis Community Land Trust

photo: Middlemarch Community Led Housing

Whilst Dorset is a desirable County, it is, therefore, one of the most expensive areas in which to live, where the average price of a house being around £400,000. With average earnings in the area somewhere in the region of £32,000 p.a., it is evident that many local people are priced out of the housing market. It is a similar situation for those wishing to rent, with a limited supply of accommodation, at an average rent of around £1000 per month. It is not surprising, therefore, that Government figures indicate that there are about 10,500 households on the Dorset housing registers. At the same time, we have seen housing developments built or planned, which are in the wrong place or of the wrong type, to meet the needs locally.

Affordable housing available for local people

Is there anything that can be done to help to remedy this position and make more affordable housing available for local people? I believe there is. I have been aware for some time that one method of addressing this is by the formation and operation of a Community Land Trust (CLT) in your village or town. CLTs first came to my attention, in 2007, when I heard a presentation about one being formed in Buckland Newton. However, it wasn't until September 2019, when as Chair of Trustees I was invited to the opening of the Forge Orchard development at Powerstock, that I really took an active interest in what they had to offer. On that occasion after talking with the then chair of the National CLT Network, Baroness Cathy Bakewell, the Trustees of the Powerstock & District CLT and the CEO of Hastoe Housing, the potential for meeting the needs of local people became clear.

What is a Community Land Trust?

So, what is a CLT? They:

- are democratic, non-profit organisations that own and develop land for the benefit of the community.
- typically provide affordable homes but might also become involved in all types of community projects such as community gardens, civic buildings, pubs, shops, shared workspace, energy schemes and conservation landscapes.
- are community organisations run by ordinary people who want to make a difference to their local community, putting control of assets into the hands of local people. They can be set up by the community, a landowner, developer, or council.
- protect community assets forever. They ensure that their homes are permanently and genuinely affordable. CLTs act as long-term stewards of land and the assets on it. They ensure that it is put to the benefit of the local community, not just for now but for every future occupier.



Photo: Samantha Cook Photography

Official opening of one of the Hastoe housing projects in Powerstock, 7th September 2019, new homes at Forge Orchard.

Nationally the movement has 548 CLTs, which grows by the day and has completed or has in the pipeline over 8000 dwellings. 25 such Trusts exist in Dorset.

Sherborne Community Land Trust Limited

I was, therefore, only too happy to join a small group of individuals within Sherborne to get such a scheme off the ground. Following a public meeting late last year (supported by our MP Chris Loder) an initial committee was set up of local people. With the assistance of the National CLT Network and Middlemarch Community Led Housing we established the Sherborne Community Land Trust Limited (a Community Benefit Society) of which I am a founding director. Interested individuals can become a member of the Trust by buying a share for £1.00 and will be able to monitor the organisation and elect the Directors ongoing.

Housing Needs Survey

The initial task of any CLT is to establish the actual local need and this is done by conducting a Housing Needs Survey in conjunction with the Council. Obviously possible land options need exploring. Quite often this will involve discussing the possible use of Rural Exception Sites, where a limited amount of affordable housing might be built. This could have some problems associated with it. However, as the development is under the control of local people, who have direct input into housing numbers, designs and layout, these issues can usually be overcome.

In the case of Sherborne our major landowner has expressed a willingness to work with the CLT on possible future development and we are in discussion with the Estate over this. In addition, some other small plots that might be

developed have been identified and again work is proceeding in relation to their suitability. Whilst most developments are of a small number of dwellings it is possible that as part of larger project the CLT could provide all the affordable housing, as has happened in Chagford (Devon).

Criteria for the housing allocation

Another key aspect of the provision of accommodation through a CLT, is the ability to agree the criteria for the housing allocation. This sets out conditions relating, for example, to having residence in the area for a minimum period. CLTs can determine such conditions provided they meet the approval of the Council. In addition, it is normal for the CLT to work with a Housing Association, rather than become a Social Landlord themselves. This also gives easier access to finance that is available for development and saves the requirement to become a Registered Social Landlord. A plus also is the amount of input the Trust can have in the design etc. of the dwellings. One Trust in Dorset, who have just started to build, have insisted on all roofs having solar panels and other standards to help mitigate climate change.

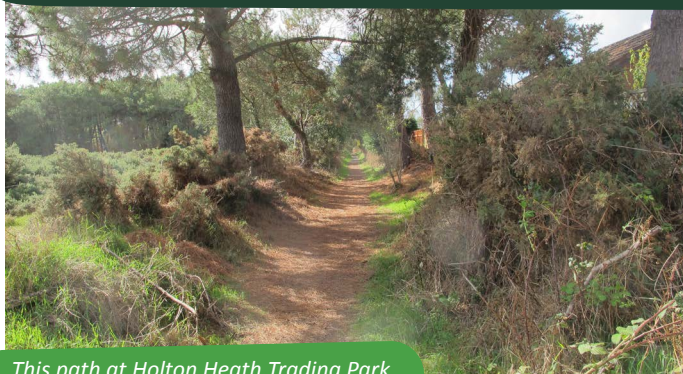
Establishing a CLT and delivering its objectives isn't a quick process. All involved need to be in it for the long haul. However, the benefits to the community are such as to make it very worthwhile. I am aware that some of you are already involved with a CLT, but if not, I would encourage you to either support the one locally by becoming a member or consider working with others to establish one.

For further information please visit <https://communitylandtrusts.org.uk>,

<https://middlemarchclh.co.uk> and <https://sherborneclt.com/>

Peter Neal

The Cordite Way



This path at Holton Heath Trading Park is the first part of the Cordite Way

This footpath between Holton Heath Trading Park and Rockley Jetty is a picturesque walk through the woods above Poole Harbour and adjacent to the main railway line to Poole and near to the Liveability Holton Lee discovery centre.

I have used the path as a regular habit over more than twenty years when I used to lead a small bird watching group there and elsewhere studying the abundant and varied water birds and other species. I and many others submitted evidence of continued use of the footpath to Dorset Council and after a long campaign it was declared a Right of Way in an Order made on 26 May 2022: footpath 30 in the Parish of Wareham St Martin. It forms Walk 5 of the Round Poole Harbour Trail.



The Memorial Stone to those killed in the explosion in 1931

The Cordite Way follows the route of the now disused railway line which was built during World War One to carry raw materials and produce between the Royal Naval Cordite Factory at Holton Heath and Rockley Jetty where shells were shipped to Gosport to provision the Fleet. Production of cordite at the site continued until 1958. There is a Memorial Stone on the main road at Holton Heath to the ten persons who were killed in an explosion at the cordite factory in 1931.

Dr John Larkin

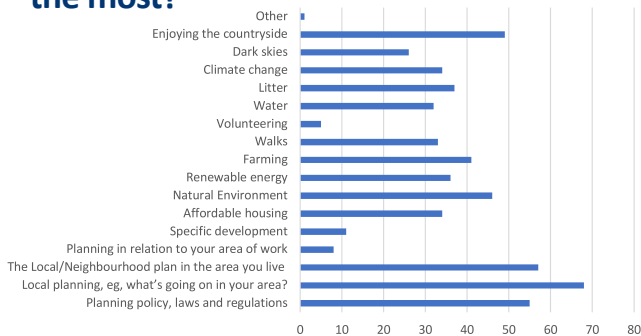
Dorset CPRE Survey

In May 2022 Dorset CPRE conducted a survey to help better understand member and supporter experiences and interests. This will help us to provide the information and services that you are most passionate about. We created the survey using Mailchimp and shared the link in our e-newsletter as well as including a paper copy in the spring edition of our magazine 'The Dorset Review'.

The survey includes 10 questions designed to find out more about how and why members and supporters are interested in Dorset CPRE and what they want from us in the future.

We received 74 responses in total, 37 paper copies, 29 from the online Survey and 8 scanned/photographed copies by email. 68 of the 74 responses were received from Members. The majority of respondents first became aware of Dorset CPRE through a friend/colleague and National CPRE and have been members for more than 10 years.

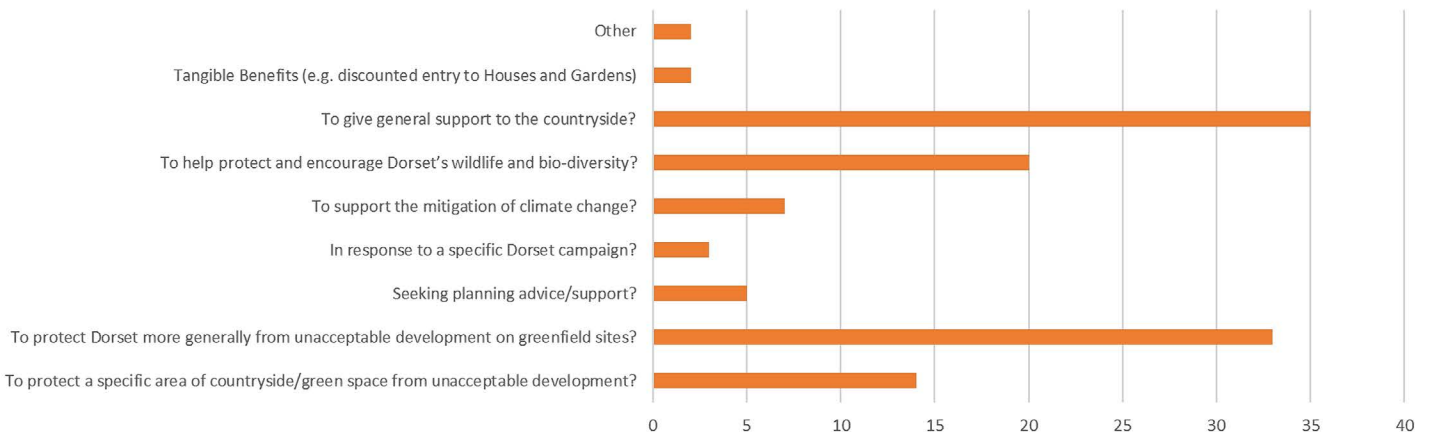
2. What areas of our work interest you the most?



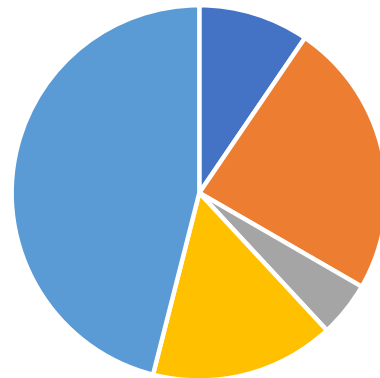
4. Would you be willing to help us as an active volunteer?



5. What was the main reason for becoming a member of Dorset CPRE?



6. How long have you been a member? (Optional)



■ Within the last year ■ 1 – 3 years ■ 4 – 5 years
■ 6 – 10 years ■ 10 years +

7. What would you like to see more of from Dorset CPRE?

Looking at repeated words, three areas stood out and comments received included:

Young People: A younger age profile, events especially aimed at young people, activities which can bring in young people.

Farmer / Farming: More info from farmers re the practicality of re-wilding, conservation etc. Farmers are not the enemy! More specific focus on rivers, sea and use of farm land. The return emphasis on the importance British Farming is now likely, present world concerns. The balance between Farming and Environmental needs.

Planning: Members would also like to know more about local planning issues, how to oppose planning applications and be vocal on over development.

8. What keeps you supporting Dorset CPRE?

Our good work, belief in the areas we are trying to support, continued action to protect the countryside and environment generally and pushing back development on greenfield land were some of the answers we received.

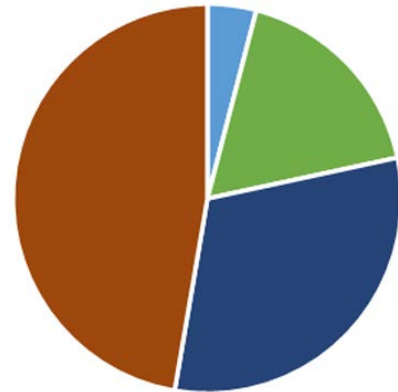


9. How do you prefer to hear from us?



- Mail/post
- Email
- E-newsletter
- The Dorset Review magazine
- Events
- In the press
- Social Media

10. Please indicate your age group (optional)



- 0-18
- 19-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+

Overall, there wasn't anything particularly unusual in the results. A few members mentioned they would like to hear more about what is happening in their 'local' area including East of the county. Interest in 'Local Planning' received the highest response to question 2. We need to bear this in mind in future editions of our magazine and regular e-newsletter.

We have replied to those who gave their contact details to follow-up on queries and offers of help. We are grateful to everyone who replied to the survey and will be looking at the results carefully at the next meeting of Trustees and discuss options for responding to the feedback.

Pylons coming down in Dorset

National Grid has started to remove 22 pylons and 8.8km of overhead cable from the skyline as it heads towards the conclusion of its first Visual Impact Provision (VIP) to transform views of the Dorset AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). CPRE are on the Stakeholder Group for the VIP project. As part of how it is regulated by Ofgem, National Grid Electricity Transmission has been given dedicated funding to pursue Visual Impact Provision projects to reduce the visual impact of its infrastructure in AONBs and National Parks, with the Dorset scheme being the first to complete. Located near the villages of Martinstown and Winterbourne Abbas, the Going Underground project is one of the first schemes in the world to remove existing high-voltage electricity transmission infrastructure, which has been in place since the 1960s, solely to enhance the landscape. The archaeological work has been on a huge scale and the oldest artefact found is around 6000 years old. Guy Dickinson, West Dorset CPRE Chair, was onsite on 6th October with the National Grid to witness the 'felling' of a pylon. Visit <http://dorset.nationalgrid.co.uk/> for more details.



Our Queen, Our Patron: the end of an era



Event marking CPRE's 80th anniversary at St James' Palace

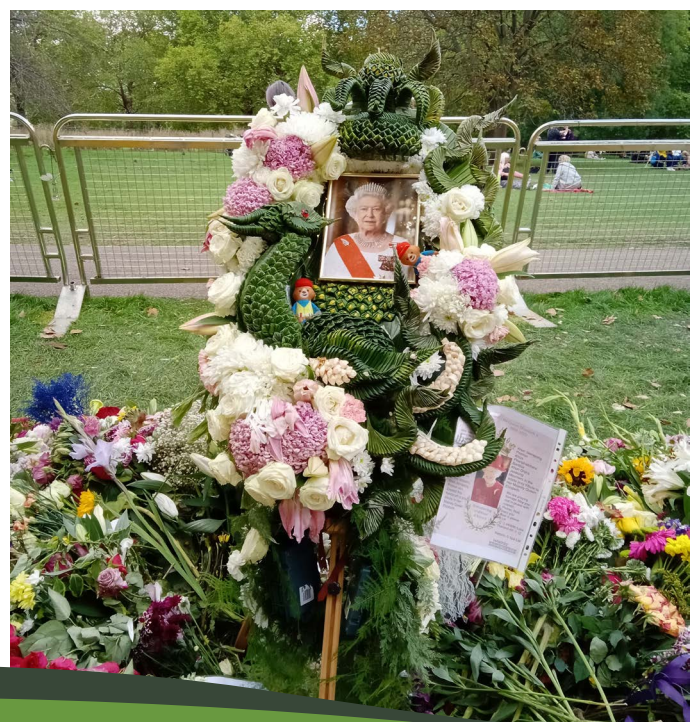
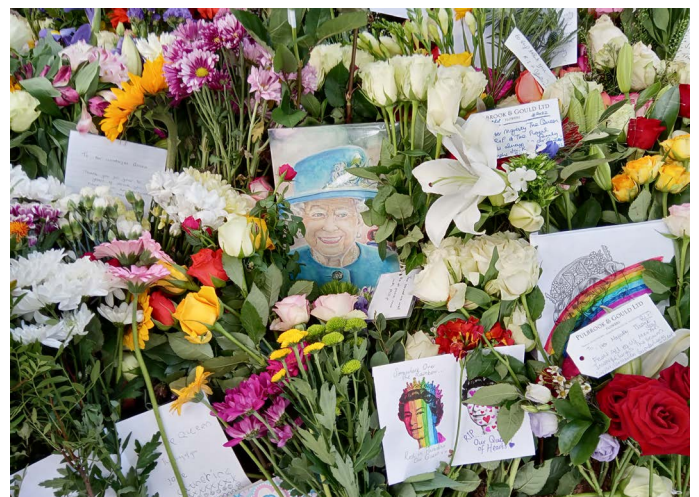
We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Crispin Truman, CEO, sent condolences on behalf of CPRE to the Royal Family and support to the new King Charles III. We were honoured to have the Queen as our patron and her death marks the end of an era for us all.

Since becoming patron of CPRE 70 years ago, Her Majesty took a keen interest in our work, sending regular messages of encouragement and providing hugely valued support. Most memorably, Her Majesty hosted CPRE anniversary events at Windsor Great Park in 2001, and St James's Palace, in 1976 and 2006. On each occasion, she was keen to spend as much time as possible chatting to our volunteers about their local countryside.

She had a great love for the countryside and communicated its importance so powerfully, encouraging people to protect and look after it.

CPRE is very grateful for the commitment Her Majesty gave us, which will be long remembered and honoured by both the national charity and our network of local groups.



Country Lane Bears GB.....the lighter side of life

Sending everyone Autumnal best wishes for the Season of Abundance. Reaping all the delicious fruits and berries from the long, hot Summer. Enjoying the glorious hues of the changing leaves, and reflecting on the forthcoming hibernation and resting period for all creatures great and small.

Chilly misty mornings, the dewy spider's webs, dancing through the fallen leaves, and enjoying the aroma of thick damp bracken. Time to layer up with all our favourite woollies.

What an eventful last few months it has been. So much excitement, with plenty of highs but sadly some lows. From party celebrations, collecting litter campaigns and attendance at the local annual Oak Fair and Dorset Arts & Crafts Association Showcase, the Little Group have been proudly supporting Dorset CPRE.



Such an exciting day in the Country Lane
As an unexpected visitor was making his way home!
A very fine gentleman was returning, after having afternoon tea
At the home of the Regal Throne.
They showed him the Lane ahead,
and then all posed for a selfie.
He kindly escorted them back,
to their camp next to the Ancient Oak Tree.

Greeting Cards

They also launched their hand (paw) made greeting cards, promoting CPRE and donating percentage of sale to Dorset CPRE. So now with 32 paws on board, busy times in the Country Lane, printing, sticking and folding preparing for Christmas editions.

We would also like to share and reflect on the great sadness on the passing of our dear Queen.

We bow our heads,
pay our loving respects,
and give thanks for her amazing reign.
We await the dark clouds of sadness to be replaced,
with plentiful sunshine rays again.

HEDGEROW

*All over the Countryside, a patchwork can
be seen,
Edged by the Hedgerow, in colours of
glorious green.
A patchwork that changes colour with the
changes of the season,
Or a change in the weather, no matter
what the reason.*

*Underneath the Hedgerow, sheltered in the
ground,
Lots of little characters are scurrying
around.
Lazing in the sunshine amongst the
primrose glow,
Or harvesting the berries before the winter
snow.*

*Badger, Rabbit, Fox and Ferret, a little
Harvest Mouse,
Replenishing their larders or just spring-
cleaning house.
Rat, Mole, Stoat or Weasel, romancing
Squirrels too,
No time for "lie-ins", its up out in the early
morning dew.*

*So, if you chance to see one, while on your
morning walk,
Take care to tread carefully, and whisper
when you talk.
They will give you hours of pleasure as
you watch them passing by,
The wonders of the Hedgerow, which goes
on to meet the sky.*

(And occasionally a Little Teddy Bear)

Happy Autumn

Bearly Good Wishes
Country Lane Bears GB

Caroline Leppan

The Country Lane Arctophile



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.

The various Stakeholder Groups where I represent CPRE Dorset are continuing with their work within the recently relaxed restrictions for the pandemic.

Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Minerals Sites Plan 2019

We can do nothing about the various proposed Minerals Sites until a planning application is submitted for one of them.

Imerys Ball Clay Operations Dorset – Community Liaison Group

The next meeting of this Group will be in November and I will prepare a report on that meeting for the Forum in due course.

Bridewell Wood

This area contains approximately half a million tons of saleable ball clay and current production rates indicate a working life of between nine and twelve years. The Environmental Impact Assessment surveys and desktop assessment will start shortly and a stakeholder engagement event is planned for the winter of 2022.

Toll Bar Stream

Regular surveys by Bournemouth University show that the Stream continues to thrive.

Wytch Farm Oilfield Consultative Committee

The extraction of oil and gas from Perenco's oilfield continues and I will prepare a report when the next meeting of this Committee is convened.

Geophysical Survey

The geophysical survey, by the Polish company Geofizyka Torun, of the Wytch Farm oilfield was recently completed but the analysis of the results will take some while.

Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset Waste Plan 2019

We can do nothing about the various proposed Waste Sites until a planning application is submitted for one of them.

Winfrith Site Stakeholder Group

The next meeting of this Group will be in November and I will prepare a report on that meeting for the Forum in due course.

Geological Disposal Facility, GDF

Community Partnerships at Copeland and at Allerdale in Cumbria and at Theddlethorpe in Lincolnshire are carefully investigating possible GDF sites for the long term storage of higher activity radioactive wastes deep underground.

Dorset Innovation Park Enterprise Zone

Some 651 people presently work at the DIPEZ. The Dorset Council, the Dorset LEP and the Home Communities Agency continue to advertise widely to attract new technological businesses to the Site.

Renewable Energy in Purbeck

Little recent activity has been observed at the proposed sites at East Stoke for the wind turbines or the solar panels. It was recently reported that there might be some delay to this work as a result of difficulties in connecting the outputs of these developments to the National Grid at Wareham.

Wind turbines have been totally financially unviable since Government subsidies came to an end about five years ago and few if any other wind turbines are presently being developed anywhere else in the Country.

Arne Moors Intertidal Nature Reserve

I attended a public exhibition at Stoborough village hall on 20th June, with posters explaining all the necessary works at the Site, before the submission of a Planning Application to Dorset Council. Various Officers from the Environment Agency and elsewhere answered the many questions submitted by myself and other local residents.

Mass Extinction Memorial Observatory (MEMO) at Portland

Sir Ghillean Prance, former Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, is Chair of the MEMO Trust who plan to use some of the artificial rectangular caves of the worked-out Portland Stone Mines to accommodate a large display of fossils and minerals. This will form a monument for the interpretation of biodiversity and mass extinction.

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ)

A voluntary no-anchor zone to protect the core sea grass habitat in Studland Bay commenced on 17th December and this was extended to cover a larger area off South Beach from 1st June 2022. The Seahorse Trust recently installed eco-moorings in the Bay so that boats do not damage the sea grass habitat when they drop anchor. The high density of the grasses slows down the water currents and helps the nutrients to settle and attract more wildlife.

Ospreys in Poole Harbour

Female osprey C17 arrived back in the Harbour on 5 April followed by the male 022 on 10 April. They soon found each other again and set up home on one of the big artificial nests which had been fitted with a camera. They produced three eggs, two of which hatched in the first days of June and were the first osprey chicks for nearly 200 years in Poole Harbour or, indeed, anywhere in the south of England. One of the chicks was attacked by a passing goshawk and has since died. This is thought to be an isolated incident which is unlikely to reoccur. The surviving chick is flourishing well is now very nearly as big as its parents and will soon be migrating to Senegal or somewhere else in that part of southern Africa.

So do, please, go to www.birdsofpooleharbour.co.uk to find out more about this Project and to watch the birds on camera.

Dr John Larkin

Minerals and Waste Adviser
to Dorset CPRE

MARTIN GREEN: The most professional of amateur archaeologists

Martin Green may farm organically 260 acres of land on Cranborne Chase, but is best known for his extraordinary archaeological work here and the impressive Down Farm Museum, full of flint tools and prehistoric artefacts, from the Paleolithic to the Romano-British period, which he set up behind the farm.

His family have been farming here since the 1930s and he started picking up flints on the farm as a child, his curiosity initially sparked by his father's interest. The Greens knew the area around the farm had prehistoric remains but their profusion was only unearthed by Martin, who started digging in 1976. His hero was General Pitt-Rivers, the Victorian soldier, scientist and renowned archaeologist, who excavated many sites on the nearby Rushmore estate, as well as elsewhere. His mentor though was Richard Bradley, who became Professor of Archaeology at Reading. Although not formally academically trained, he worked closely with him on the Pitt-Rivers project in the late 1970s, which re-examined and moved his large and important collection of 26,000 archaeological and ethnographic objects to a new museum at Oxford University.

Dorset Cursus

There are a number of excavated and sensitively preserved prehistoric sites on the farm, including round pond barrows and henges, which are enclosures surrounded by ditches and banks. One of the most extraordinary is the Neolithic Dorset Cursus which crosses the farm. Overall it runs for six miles, mostly westwards, but this was only fully realised in the 1950s. It is the longest in Britain and Martin has only recently excavated part of it. Originally consisting of a pair of parallel banks, some of the Cursus is still visible. It is assumed the Cursus served a religious or ceremonial function related to its southwesterly orientation following astronomical alignments. From the eastern end you can see the midwinter sun set behind the long barrow on the ridge of Gussage Down. It is a magical experience if you are lucky enough to get a sunny winter solstice. He believes the profusion of sites on his farm related to the location of the Cursus here, but another factor may be the Roman Ackling Dyke which crosses the farm as well.

Fir Tree Field Shaft

One remarkable site on the farm is the Fir Tree Field Shaft, which is estimated to be over 25m deep, even though it has been excavated to only 13m. The shaft was formed by natural processes due to water percolation from melting glaciers at the end of the Ice Age. Finds in the pit range from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic, covering the period from hunter gathering to farming, including bones of deer, aurochs, flint tools and pottery. Some of the deer clearly fell in. Aurochs were descendants of modern cattle, domesticated by Neolithic people, but which are now extinct.

Many universities, including Cambridge and Reading, have been involved in the digs here, with students receiving practical courses on excavation techniques and going on archaeological field trips, run by Martin. In recognition of his work and knowledge, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science by Reading University. In 2000 he wrote a book about archaeology and his farm, "A Landscape Revealed: 10,000 Years on a Chalkland Farm", which is a fascinating read. Professor Bradley said this of it: "Martin must be the most professional



Martin Green demonstrating Stone polishing tool in his museum

amateur (archaeologist) in Britain, but his work is so important that the term is simply not sufficient. His achievement is unique and this book shows us". One recent development has been the construction of a neolithic house at the Butser Ancient Farm museum in Hampshire, modelled on the one excavated by Martin at Down Farm.

Farmer and archaeologist?

He sees advantages in being both a farmer and archaeologist, as it helps him distinguish what is genuine or not, such as crop marks. He believes strongly in protecting the environment, and he is now going to introduce rare breed cattle, which will help establish more wild flowers in his fields. He sees technology as a major aid to archaeologists, and geophysics shows how the Cursus functioned. Drones and 3-D laser scanning (LiDAR) are very useful tools so every year more prehistoric sites are being discovered on Cranborne Chase and elsewhere. His favourite artefact is surprisingly a flint knife found in Yorkshire, not Dorset, which you can see in his museum. Asked what conveys his life's work he quotes the words of General Pitt-Rivers, "It was if some unseen hand had guided me to be the owner of such a property" in reference to the Rushmore Estate.

Dorset CPRE has organised several visits to Down Farm. Groups of six or more are welcome at his museum so please contact Martin on mgreendownfarm@gmail.com. He can lead tours of the prehistoric sites on the farm too, which I thoroughly recommend.

Rupert Hardy

Rewildings in the Purbeck Heaths National Nature Reserve, PHNRR

The PHNRR was designated in March 2020 as the first Super NNR in the Country and the largest lowland heathland reserve. It covers an area of 8231 acres and extends from Stoborough Heath to Godlingstone Heath, Studland Heath, Browsea Island and the Arne Reserve. It is managed jointly for nature conservation, scientific research and public access by the Amphibian and Reptile Trust, Dorset Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Natural England, RSPB, Rempstone Estate Trust, and Forestry England.

The PHNRR is a rich mosaic of lowland wet and dry heath together with valley mires, acid grassland, native and ancient woodland, some farmland, lakes of various sizes, coastal sand dunes and salt marsh. There is a new brackish water lagoon for wading birds and an intertidal nature reserve is being developed.

The PHNRR is open to visitors every day of the year. It provides an opportunity for people to explore the landscape and helps to improve the health and wellbeing of more than 2.5 million visitors every year. A new website www.purbeckheaths.org.uk gives more details and a rather nice glossy leaflet with a map of the PHNRR and the single grazing unit is available at RSPB Arne.

Over the last sixty years forestry plantations have been removed, agricultural land has been restored to heathland and drainage channels and ditches have been removed to allow dried up and bogged areas to be rewetted. A number of new projects have recently been completed or are presently underway. Some of them are supported by the Wild Purbeck Nature Improvement Area, the Green Recovery Challenge Fund and the Wytch Farm Landscape and Access Enhancement Fund.

History of the Landscape

After the last ice age (10,000 years ago) the landscape was filled with oak, holly, ash, elm and other trees. Heathers dominated and the heaths were created in the Neolithic Farming Revolution (6000 years ago) when the land was first cleared for early agriculture. The natural nutrients soon became exhausted leaving swathes of nutrient poor scrubland which rare and fragile plants and wildlife colonised to form the heathland and this has endured with rather little change until this day.

There are many Bronze Age barrows, relics of Iron Age round houses and Roman potteries and salt works. Salt was exported all over the Roman Empire from Poole Harbour. Ball clay and sand have been extracted since Roman times and are still extracted today. Many of the old tracks (e.g. Poole Harbour Trail and Sunnyside) and also remnants (e.g. the anti aircraft gunsite at Arne) from World War II can still be seen. Large quantities of Purbeck Stone and Purbeck marble have been quarried since Medieval times for use in cathedrals, churches and other buildings throughout the UK and elsewhere. Thomas Hardy wrote about the hard and thankless task of farming the barren heath.

The Purbeck Wild Grazing Project, PWGP

This Single Grazing Unit extends to 1370 acres in the western part of the PHNRR and includes Stoborough Heath, Hartland Moor, Slepe Heath, Middlebere Heath and the whole of the Arne Reserve. All existing internal fences have been removed



This shows one of the cattle grids and part of the stock proof fencing which surrounds the entire Single Grazing Unit

and an unbroken perimeter fence over twenty kilometres long has been installed with seven new cattle grids and 78 gates. Presently there are about 140 cattle, twenty ponies, and 10 pigs together with the wild herds of deer. This single wilded grazing landscape will be carefully monitored to see how habitats and ecosystems function more naturally by creating a complex and better connected suite of habitats. Red Devon and other cattle, ponies and pigs together with sika and other deer will do the same job that herds of wild boar, aurochs (wild cattle), and tarpan (wild horse) used to do in times gone by. They will wander freely and create the bare ground habitats that many heathland species such as heath tiger beetle, Purbeck mason wasp and sand lizards depend on. Other species of cattle, ponies and pigs and possibly beavers will be introduced in due course and in the longer term it is hoped that a similar vision could be expanded across much of the rest of the PHNRR.

Ospreys

The Poole Harbour Osprey Translocation Project aims to restore a population of ospreys to the south coast of England where they have been absent for more than 200 years. About twelve chicks have been translocated from Moray and Highland in northern Scotland each year since 2017. They migrate to Senegal and other places in southern Africa in September and return here in April. Female osprey C17 and male O22 bred for the first time this year and produced two chicks one of which has unfortunately since died. The surviving chick is now fully grown and will soon be migrating to southern Africa. The young ospreys usually return to this Country for the first time in their third year. It is hoped that more birds will now return each year and that they will eventually form a stable breeding population of ospreys in the Harbour and elsewhere along the south coast.

White tailed eagles

A total of twenty five juvenile white tailed eagles, the UK's largest bird of prey, have been released over the Isle of Wight during the past three years after being absent from England for 240 years. They regard the IoW as their homeland and some have already formed pairs and started to establish a territory for breeding. They range fairly widely and have been seen several times over Middlebere Lake and Brownsea Island lagoon.

Red Devon Cattle

These cows graze at Studland Heath and play their role as wild herbivores cropping and trampling the vegetation, opening up new areas and creating tracts of bare ground and a mixture of different habitats for scarce species. They are rather rarely seen as they graze a large area and tend to spend their time in the wilder places.



The red Devon cattle can now roam anywhere over the 1370 acres of the Single Grazing Unit

The Purbeck Beaver Project

The Government has introduced legislation to give beavers a native status in England again after they were hunted to extinction for their fur and oil 400 years ago. The National Trust, working with others, hopes to receive a licence for the Purbeck Beaver Project to bring beavers to the Little Sea at Studland in the Spring of 2023. Wild beavers presently exist at about twenty sites in Dorset and elsewhere in England. They build dams which have enhanced the local environment, created new wetland habitat, improved water quality and reduced flood risk for housing downstream.



The beavers will be released on the heathland near Little Sea at Studland

Russell Quay Lagoon

For many years this large open cast quarry yielded ball clay for the manufacture of all types of fine porcelain. It has recently been connected to Poole Harbour and flooded to produce a brackish lagoon with extensive shallow waters which has attracted large numbers of a variety of wading birds. A footpath from the big double decker RSPB hide to the lagoon will shortly be provided.

Arne Moors Intertidal Nature Reserve

This is being developed by the Environment Agency and the RSPB with a large intertidal area, two big lagoons for wading birds and a footpath all the way to Arne. Archaeological excavations have revealed a complex history of mankind at the site from Mesolithic times all the way up to the recent past.

Trees

About 70 acres of the close planted commercial pine plantation at Hyde's heath have been purchased by the RSPB and clear felled for restoration as heathland. Over 1000 oak and other broad leaved native trees have been planted beside the new lagoon near Russell Quay.



The commercial pine plantation at Hyde's Heath was felled and is now being restored to heathland

Ham Common Nature Reserve

A newly constructed viewing deck allows good views across Poole Harbour and observation of osprey, white tailed eagle, goshawk, peregrine, marsh harrier, red kite and a variety of wading birds.

Sustainable Tourism

The PHNNR steering group has set five main themes for the preservation, conservation and management of the heaths to help millions of people to enjoy the wilderness.

All forms of waste must be reduced from source; the low carbon and travel plan will reduce car dependency and encourage walking, cycling and travel by water; equity diversity and economy will result from the reinvestment of the economic benefits from tourism; reduction of the impact on nature by avoiding over concentration of visitors in hotspots and sensitive areas; and the promotion of local products to achieve sustainable supplies of food and drink for visitors and residents.

There are other rewilding projects in Dorset at Wild Woodbury, the DWT estate near Bere Regis; at the National Trust Weston Farm on the Dorset coast near St Aldhelm's Head; and at the Mapperton Estate.

Dr John Larkin

PETER NICHOLAS CHANCE

1935 – 2022

Peter was born in Wordsley, Stourbridge, on 9 October 1935.

Early school days were in Colwyn Bay before becoming a boarder at Rossall School in Fleetwood in 1948. While there he was asked to write an essay and the subject he chose was agriculture. Following the teacher's reading the comment written on the work was 'future farmer' – not quite precise but nearly so. After leaving Rossall, Peter worked for a short time on a farm in Worcestershire before going to Harper Adams Agricultural College in Shropshire to take the National Diploma in Agriculture (NDA) and the National Diploma in Agricultural Engineering (ND ag E). By this time Peter's family had moved to West Hagley only a mile or so from where Susan's family farmed.

Shortly after completion of the courses, Peter joined the National Agriculture Advisory Service (NAAS) or the Agricultural Advisory Service (ADAS) as it later became, working firstly in the Gower Peninsular on soil sampling and analysis. In 1963 Peter married Susan, their relationship having blossomed thanks to the local Young Farmers Club and they had two sons.

In 1978 Peter moved to work at Government Buildings in Prince of Wales Road, Dorchester and from there advised farmers throughout the county of Dorset on farm management and arable matters retiring in 1995. Peter and Susan then ran a small farm consultancy business from home before complete retirement.

CPRE committee work

Peter was very busy with committee work for Dorset CPRE, he was Group Chairman of the then Mid Dorset Group and helped prepare the response to the West Dorset District Local Plan in



Peter Chance helping out at 2005 Garden Party



Peter Chance with CPRE Countryside Medal at 2010 Branch AGM

2003. His expertise in farming was invaluable when responding to planning applications. He was involved with the Dorset Young Farmers hedgelaying competition when it was sponsored by Dorset CPRE. The competition elements included preparing the hedge, selecting and cutting stems, laying and binding the hedge to create a living fence of immense value to wildlife. At the 2003 event, Peter said that "CPRE is committed to encouraging Dorset Young Farmers to practice environmentally sound traditional skills to use in their future careers".

Peter went on to become a Dorset CPRE Trustee and Vice Chairman of the Branch Executive Committee. At the 2010 AGM, he was presented with the CPRE Countryside Medal for his long support and special achievements for Dorset CPRE. Peter was a regular attendee at our AGM in Cerne Abbas.

In addition to his voluntary work with CPRE, Peter was also involved in the preparation of the Piddle Valley Village Design Statement and later the Piddle Valley Neighbourhood Plan, a long-standing member of Piddle Valley Gardens Club, where he exhibited vegetables at both their Spring and Summer shows, enjoyed sea fishing, membership of two MG Clubs, were some of his great interests during a long and happy retirement.

He was instrumental in collecting funds to purchase the paddock in the centre of Plush to protect it for future generations. Due to the pandemic it has not been possible to progress the paddock transformation but discussions are now taking place for this to happen. Peter was always so happy gardening and especially when growing vegetables for family and neighbours to enjoy.

He strove to be just and fair and to do the right thing. He felt great love for his family and had a desire to help his fellow human beings.

We were very sorry to hear that Peter had passed away, he was a lovely man and it was great to meet up with CPRE members at his funeral in September.

MAJOR REGINALD FITZROY HANBURY

1938 – 2022

Reg was born on Whit Sunday 5th June 1938. The family, after a short time living in Buckinghamshire, ended up back in Yorkshire in August 1941. This was to be Reg's home for the next 20 years.

During the War Reg's father was in charge of the Home Guard in Yorkshire. Reg loved all the military activity and would tell many stories about the goings on and how he helped from a young age. Home life revolved around hunting with the Sinnington and Middleton, and Pony Club events.

After initial schooling at home Reg then went to Cothill House School near Abingdon in 1946, and onward to Eton in 1951. At Eton Reg flourished in the Combined Cadet Force and then went to Sandhurst reaching the cadet rank of Senior Under Officer. He was commissioned on 18th December 1958, joining his father's regiment, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, at Barnard Castle where they were employed as the RAC Training Regiment for National Service Armoured Recce recruits.

During the 1980s Reg was working on an important MOD Project Team (Project Foresight) developing the armoured vehicles which were to come into service in the 1990s. Latterly Reg worked as a member of the Ordnance Board involved with the safety of laser systems across all 3 services, which suddenly became extremely important when Gulf War 1 kicked off. Reg continued to work with the Ordnance Board as a Retired Officer, travelling up from Weymouth on the train to Abbey Wood on a weekly basis.

As one might imagine, throughout his time serving with the Regiment, Reg set and maintained the highest standards as an officer. He pursued his love of field sports where the opportunity arose. Richard, Reg's son, remembers him enjoying being around horses and hunting in Dorset, especially across the cliffs near Ringstead, when they lived nearby.

The next great chapter of Reg's life started in 1987 when Gay came into his life, they married in 1989 and lived in Piddlehinton, Dorchester.

Throughout his military career Reg was regarded as a thoroughly kind, generous, loyal and honourable man, if sometimes a little stubborn! Reg was not a man to give way when he was out to prove a point. Reg was also meticulous in the detail of things, he would leave no stone unturned – his attention to detail was legendary.

CPRE committee work

Reg was a long-standing member of CPRE and volunteered for the local district group. In September 2005 a proposal to amalgamate the Mid and West Dorset CPRE Groups was approved and Reg was elected as Chairman. This ensured a good balance of committee members from both groups which gave a spread of experience and expertise over the enlarged area: in particular the retention of two previous group chairmen, Peter Chance (see obituary opposite) and Richard Nicholls, in the area of planning.

Rights of Way

Reg's main area of expertise and campaigning for Dorset CPRE was on Rights of Way in particular BOATs (Byways Open to All Traffic). A number of byways were under threat by potential off-road users who wished to churn them up and make them unusable by walkers, riders and farmers. The misuse of rural bridleways was strongly resisted with assistance from district



councillors and a member of parliament. Writing in an article for our spring 2007 magazine Reg wrote "Drove roads were an important part of Dorset rural life and are now part of our heritage. Their existence is also crucial to our fight against BOATs. I am beginning to investigate them".

In addition to his work with CPRE, he did a lot of voluntary work for the Countryside Alliance, he was Chair of the Parish Council, hosted the Piddlehinton Open Gardens and even the Church Fête. He also spent his time helping out at gun dog competitions, and generally enjoying what he termed as "fighting for the countryside".

The church of St Mary's, Piddlehinton, was full at his funeral in late April. Reg Hanbury, countryman, enthusiast, optimist, officer, and above all a true gentleman.



CPRE Recent Publications

National CPRE 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:

CPRE's Food Security Report

On 20th July CPRE launched its new report on Food security. NFU President Minette Batters spoke at the launch. The report uncovered an exponential rise in Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land being set aside each year for housing and industry. The figure has risen from 60 hectares in 2010, to more than 6,000 hectares in 2022.

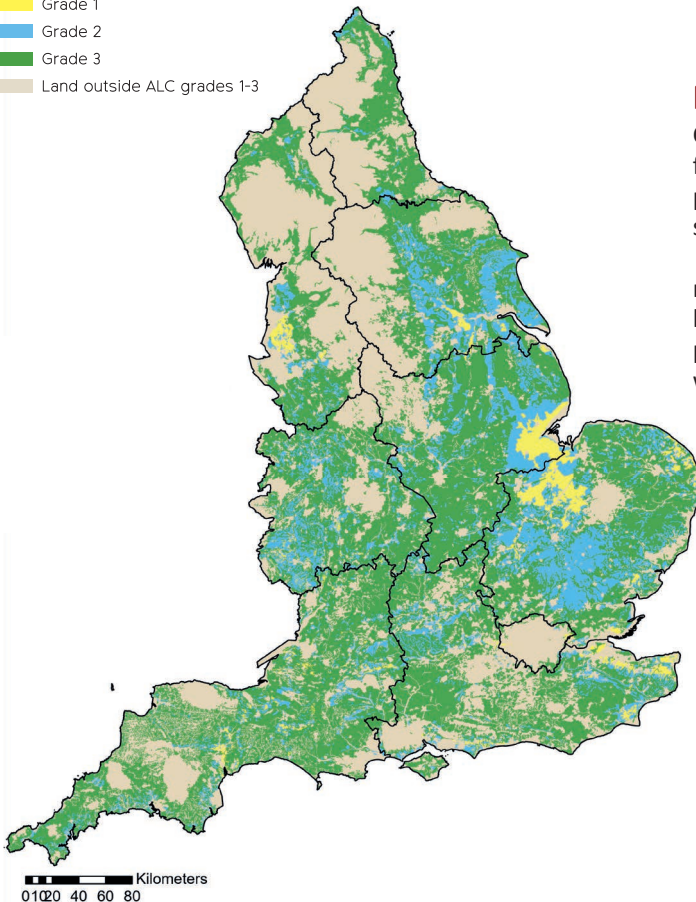
Almost 300,000 homes were built on more than 8,000 hectares of prime farmland. This is despite there being over 26,000 hectares of previously developed brownfield land where 1.3 million homes could be built. Much of the brownfield land is disused and derelict urban patches in the Midlands and North - areas most in need of regeneration.

A panel debate on 'Food security, development and the future of our highest quality agricultural land' was chaired by The Guardian's Helena Horton, and the speakers were CPRE's Deputy CEO, Tom Fyans; Food, Farming and Countryside Commission (FFCC) CEO, Sue Pritchard; National Farmers Union (NFU) President, Minette Batters; and former Defra Minister, Rebecca Pow MP. You can watch the debate on the CPRE YouTube channel www.youtube.com/user/CPRE1926.

[Map of BMV Provisional dataset](#)

Provisional ALC Grades

- Grade 1
- Grade 2
- Grade 3
- Land outside ALC grades 1-3

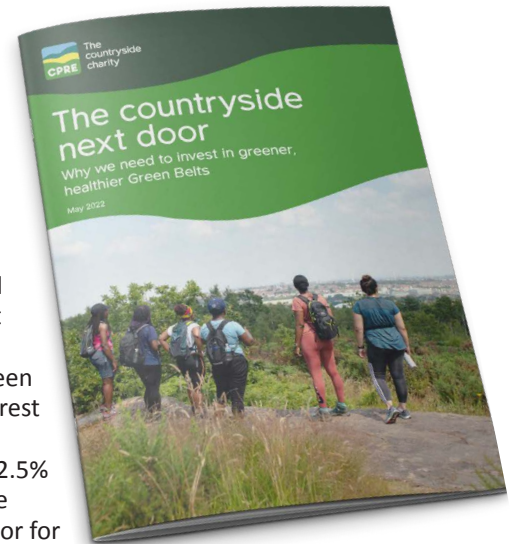


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The countryside next door

This report looks at how agri-environment funding is distributed between Green Belt and other countryside, and concludes:

- Analysis of the geographical spread of agri-environment schemes shows spending on the Green Belt lagging behind rest of the countryside.
- Green Belt covers 12.5% of England but is the countryside next door for 30 million people – with a dense network of public footpaths, bridleways, cycle tracks, nature reserves and historic parks and gardens.
- Under-investment is damaging health and wellbeing – a relatively small increase in spending would have an outsized impact on more than half the population.



Reimagining council farms: full report

Council farms are under threat. This report sets out a vision for council farms that recognises their value, rejuvenates their purpose, and puts in place long-term protection, funding and support to make them flourish.

The known total area of council farm estates in England has more than halved over the past 40 years with the number of holdings let massively reduced. CPRE believe they are a key part of an ecosystem of farms and we need to retain them if we are to generate a diverse and thriving farming sector.

Farmers hedgerow report

CPRE has worked with Farmers Weekly to engage with farmers who want to participate in our hedgerow management survey and have received no less than 1100 responses, which are being analysed now. The survey looked at farmer attitudes towards, and management of, hedgerows on their farms. The launch of the farmer hedgerows report will be held at the House of Lords on Tuesday 6 December with key political speakers.

A CPRE exhibition, about the past, present and future of hedgerows, will be on display in Parliament's Upper Waiting Hall for one week at the end of November.

Dorset CPRE Membership

Thank you for being one of our valued members. Your membership makes a real difference to what we can achieve, and with your generous support we will continue our work towards our vision of a thriving, beautiful countryside for everyone.

Gift of Membership

Have you considered the gift of Dorset CPRE membership?

Joining CPRE is the single most effective way to stand up for the countryside. Once farmland and green spaces are built on, they are lost forever. 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. Individual £3 per month and £5 for Household membership. We also provide membership for Organisations, Town and Parish Councils.

As a member you'll receive our regular Countryside Voice magazine, and enjoy discounted entry to houses, gardens and other attractions around England.



Don't forget to take your membership card with you. All houses and gardens' opening dates and times are subject to coronavirus restrictions and may be updated throughout the year so please call, email, or check entries' websites.

- Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens
- Athelhampton House & Gardens
- Mapperton 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.



Mapperton House & Gardens



10% off at Cotswold Outdoor

You'll save money on outdoor kit for the whole family with 10% off most full priced products at Cotswold Outdoor. Full T&Cs apply.

Dorset CPRE Members also receive –

- The Dorset Review magazine in the spring & autumn
- Membership of your local county branch
- Access to our Planning Hotline for advice from CPRE Staff
- They can also join our Planning Group meetings

Diary Dates

Please visit the Dorset CPRE website www.dorset-cpre.org.uk for 2022/23 meeting dates for the Countryside Forum, Planning Group, District Groups and events.

19th November – 85th Anniversary AGM, 11 am, Cerne Abbas Village Hall. Guest Speaker is Dr George McGavin.
Please return the enclosed booking form.

Campaign to Protect Rural England

DORSET BRANCH

Registered Charity No. 211974

Dorset CPRE, 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 CONTACT

Mrs Linda Williams

Executive Committee & Trustees 2022

PRESIDENT

Mr Edward Fox OBE

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mr Richard H Nicholls **01308 427684**

159 Victoria Grove, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3AG

Mr Peter Neal **01935 814801**

5 Abbeymead Court, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3AU

Mr Richard H Norman **01258 472887**

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

Dr John A Larkin **01929 555366**

Lorien, Grange Road, Wareham BH20 5AL

LIFE VICE-PRESIDENTS

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

Mr Stephen G Howard **01747 853029**

12 Savoy Court, Bimport, Shaftesbury SP7 8BN

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

Mr Peter Bowyer **01929 450219**

The Thatched Cottage, 24 The Green, Heathgreen Road, Studland, Swanage, Dorset BH19 3BT

ELECTED MEMBERS

Dr Guy Dickinson **07747 776580**

1 Beech Road, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 5NP

Mr Peter Bowyer **01929 450219**

The Thatched Cottage, 24 The Green, Heathgreen Road, Studland BH19 3BT

Mrs Jane Westbrook **01963 365855**

Berry Cottage, Stourton Caundle, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 2JN

Mr Steve O'Connell **07760 310686**

43 Portman Road, Pimperne, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8UJ

Dr Frances Hogwood **01305 259576**

8 Hintock Street, Poundbury, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 3FB

Mr Neil Matthews **01305 264974**

3 Athelstan Road, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1NR

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:

Sir Christopher Coville **07753 925 434**

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

Sir Christopher Coville **07753 925 434**

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

Dorset CAN (Climate Action Network)

Giles Watts **07840 061 712**

Email: dorsetcan@gmail.com

CPRE SOUTH WEST

Regional Chair:

c/o CPRE South West, Rowdens Road, Wells, Somerset BA5 1TU

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EDITOR/DESIGNER: Linda Williams/Shawn Hodge

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