

* **Green Bullet**

25th August 2017

North West Environment Link (NWEL) is a partnership of environmental voluntary sector organisations, representing hundreds of thousands of members in the North West.

We are members of VSNW, the regional voluntary sector network for the North West, whose purpose is to support a connected and influential voluntary and community sector (VCS).

This bulletin is intended to keep NWEL members and wider networks up to date on events and issues that will be of interest to environmental voluntary and community sector organisations in the North West. Please send any items for inclusion in the next bulletin to [andyyuille@gmail.com](mailto:andyyuille@gmail.com) - and feel free to forward all or parts of these bulletins throughout your own networks to help spread the word!

The Green Bullet is also available to download from the [VSNW](https://www.vsnw.org.uk/green-bullet) website.

**CPRE has agreed to continue funding the Green Bullet throughout 2017 – many thanks!**

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# *Campaigns*

**Earth Overshoot Day**

[Earth Overshoot Day](http://www.overshootday.org/) **is the day on which humanity uses** up its entire annual budget of planetary resources such as water, soil and clean air. This year it fell on August 2nd, the earliest day of the year since the Earth first went into "overshoot" (or overdraft) in the early 1970s, according to research organisation [Global Footprint Network](http://www.footprintnetwork.org/). But moving Earth Overshoot Day back by just 4.5 days every year would return humanity to using the resource of one planet, rather than 1.7, by 2050. UK lifestyles consume the equivalent of about 3 planet’s worth of resources per year.

**Air quality**

* The Government has released its long-awaited [Air Quality Plan](https://www.scribd.com/document/354783283/Air-Quality-Plan-Overview), which includes a ban on all new petrol and diesel cars and vans from 2040 and a £3 billion programme to clean up dirty air around roads. This includes a £255m fund to help councils crack down on emissions (including by retrofitting buses, changing road layouts and reprogramming traffic lights – Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Salford, Stockport, Tameside and Trafford are affected), and £1.2 billion for walking and cycling initiatives. [Angus Walker](https://www.bdb-law.co.uk/blogs/planning-act-2008/766-air-quality-plan-may-require-more-charging-zones/) provides an overview. [Client Earth](https://www.clientearth.org/gove-falls-first-hurdle-air-pollution-plans-environmental-lawyers/), who have led the legal battle to tackle air pollution, have described it as “little more than a shabby rewrite of the previous draft plans and is underwhelming and lacking in urgency.” They have [written to the Government](http://www.airqualitynews.com/2017/08/17/clientearth-asks-clarification-air-quality-plan/) asking for ‘urgent’ clarification about aspects of the Plan.
* [A new study](http://www.euractiv.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2017/07/HEAL-Report-Hiddenpricetags.pdf) by the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) suggests that worldwide health costs related to fossil fuel use outweigh taxpayer-funded subsidies by 600%. G20 governments spent $444 billion on oil, gas and coal subsidies in 2014 alone, and HEAL estimates that the use of those same fossil fuels in the G20 leads to $2.76 trillion in health costs due to air pollution. They estimate that 41.3% of premature deaths caused by air pollution in the UK could be prevented if [our £350 million / year fossil fuel subsidies](https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/11494.pdf) were removed.
* [Tough new EU rules](https://www.edie.net/news/6/New-industrial-air-pollution-ruling-puts-EU-coal-plants-on--life-support-/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%20c72c71f1f9-dailynewsletter) on air quality focused on fossil fuel-fired power stations and other heavy industrial plant give them four years to implement “Best Available Techniques” to reduce air pollution.

**Climate change**

* There is only a [5% chance that we will meet the Paris accord](https://www.edie.net/news/9/Planet-has-just-5--chance-of-reaching-Paris-climate-goal--study-says/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%20c72c71f1f9-dailynewsletter) goal of avoiding warming by more than 2C by the end of the century, according to new research from the University of Washington, even taking account of technological advances that are expected to cut global carbon intensity by 90%. The authors say that rather than signaling despair, the study should be a prompt to much more aggressive action.
* The UK has spent more than [twice as much overseas support on fossil fuels projects as on renewable ones](https://cafod.org.uk/News/Campaigning-news/Government-fossil-fuels-spend) so far this decade, according to research commissioned by the Catholic aid agency Cafod.
* Friends of the Earth have a live petition to Greg Clark asking him to [refuse permission for Cuadrilla to frack their Lancashire sites](https://act.foe.co.uk/act/ask-greg-clark-refuse-fracking-permission-lancashire?utm_source=Friends+of+the+Earth+Communications&utm_campaign=de82d11714-LM1708014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_383af65c6b-de82d11714-20757677). Drilling has already started, but an additional permit is needed to frack. [Protests at the site have been growing](http://www.newstatesman.com/politics/energy/2017/07/preston-new-road-how-fracking-protest-became-movement) and a month of ‘rolling resistance’ has recently come to an end.

**Plastic pollution**

New analysis from Green Alliance shows that a deposit scheme for plastic drink containers could [cut UK plastic pollution in the oceans by a third](http://www.green-alliance.org.uk/government_stop_plastic_pollution_by_two_thirds.php), with four additional actions able to reduce plastic marine litter by another third. The Government’s well-publicised actions on plastic bags and microbeads will each reduce marine plastic pollution by around 1%. Green Alliance joins a wide range of other organisations, such as CPRE, who have been [researching and campaigning for bottle deposit schemes for many years](http://www.cpre.org.uk/magazine/opinion/item/4508-beat-the-bottle), while industry sources say that it’s only [political will, not technological capacity](https://www.edie.net/news/5/Political--desire--the-main-barrier-to-UK-bottle-deposit-scheme/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%20dacdec0f05-dailynewsletter), that is stopping a UK scheme coming forward.. Meanwhile, Tesco are [getting rid of all their single-use carrier bags](https://www.edie.net/news/5/Tesco-to-scrap-single-use-carrier-bags-in-favour-of-bag-for-life/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%2074bc589466-dailynewsletter), and replacing them with a new 10p 'bag for life' made from 94% recycled plastic.

***Information update***

## Brexit and beyond

* **Most of the UK’s environmental protections stem from EU law and so could be changed as a result of Brexit. Greener UK has created a** [Brexit Environmental Risk Tracker](http://greeneruk.org/RiskTracker.php) **to show which policy areas are more secure, and which are most at risk.**
* **The UK Environmental Law Association has published a briefing highlighting** [the danger of undermining environmental law](https://www.ukela.org/press-releases?pressid=108) **after Brexit if enforcement and accountability gaps are not properly addressed. This is the first of a** [series of five briefings](https://www.ukela.org/brexitactivity) **due to be published over the next few months.**
* **In a similar vein, Greener UK have produced a new briefing on the kind of** [governance institutions that the UK will need to establish](http://greeneruk.org/resources/Greener_UK_Governance_Gap.pdf) **to ensure continued environmental protection after Brexit – not only do most of our environmental protections come from Europe, but they are overseen and enforced from Europe as well. Britain will need new,** sufficiently resourced, independent, empowered and expert governance institutions to ensure that environmental law is adequately implemented and enforced.
* [Greener UK](http://greeneruk.org/) **and** [Wildlife and Countryside Link](https://www.wcl.org.uk/take-action-for-the-environment.asp) **have set up a** [campaign page](http://e-activist.com/page/10274/action/1?ea.tracking.id=WCL) **for people to contact their MPs** to remind them of their crucial role in defending current environmental laws, as well as ensuring our laws are not vulnerable to future change as we prepare to exit the UK.
* Senior staff from Wildlife and Countryside Link member organisations continue to post well thought-out and insightful [blogs on Brexit and beyond](https://www.wcl.org.uk/green-brexit-1-out-of-3-for-environmental-principles.asp) (amongst other things) that are well worth a read to keep you up to speed.
* [Andy Boddington’s latest bulletin](http://andybodders.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/CPRE_SE_eBulletin_Brexit_2017.pdf) reviews all things Brexit, including Michael Gove’s ‘pure green’ speech, the EU Withdrawal Bill, current / new ministers in relevant departments, the Queen’s Speech, food & farming, planning & infrastructure, energy & recycling, and air quality.
* A new report from IPPR North suggests that a hard Brexit could [devastate the North’s green economy](https://www.ippr.org/files/2017-08/1502811953_netf-impact-of-brexit-in-the-north-august-2017.pdf)

## Energy

* Sajid Javid has upheld an Inspector’s decision to refuse permission for [11 wind turbines in Cornwall](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovered-appeal-creddacott-farm-week-st-mary-holsworhty-cornwall-ref-3014917-26-july-2017), ruling that ‘less than substantial’ harm to nearby heritage assets outweighed the ‘extensive and weighty’ benefits of the scheme. But he has granted permission for [four turbines](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovered-appeal-land-at-new-rides-farm-leysdown-road-eastchurch-ref-3014371-9-august-2017) on the Isle of Sheppey, northern Kent, ruling that their harm to the landscape would be considerably reduced by grouping them next to an existing wind farm.
* The world’s [first floating wind farm](http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/world-first-wind-farm-floating-scotland-north-east-coast-north-sea-hywind-turbines-a7857866.html) is now being built off the coast of North-East Scotland
* A [172 turbine wind farm](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/east-anglia-three-offshore-wind-farm/) has been given permission off the coast of Norfolk
* The decision to quit the Euratom agency may raise [questions over Hinkley Point C](http://utilityweek.co.uk/news/labour-warns-of-%E2%80%98potential-timebomb%E2%80%99-of-quitting-euratom/1308492#.WZ2FaiiGPIVhttps://www.edie.net/news/11/Hinkley-C--Labour-warns-of--potential-timebomb--of-quitting-Euratom/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%204e88b7e7c0-dai) getting built

## Planning

* Following on from the [FAQs](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/brownfield-registers-and-permission-in-principle/brownfield-registers-and-permission-in-principle-frequently-asked-questions) released earlier this year, the Government has published its formal guidance on the new measures for ‘[planning permission in principle’](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/permission-in-principle) and [brownfield registers](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/brownfield-land-registers). However, it remains vague about the kind of information applicants will be expected to provide at the (later) technical details consent stage. There have also been updates to the [Planning Practice Guidanc](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance)e on self-build homes, environmental impact assessment, local authority performance measures and health and well-being.
* Sajid Javid has overruled his Inspector in a [planning appeal in Berkshire](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/633258/17-07-27_DL_IR_Siege_Cross_3141449.pdf) to decide that although the council had missed its housing targets in six of the last ten years, this did not amount to ‘persistent underdelivery’, at least in part due to the effects of the recession. The council therefore only had to provide a 5%, rather than 20% ‘buffer’ of housing land. Useful reference!
* The second draft of the [Greater Manchester Spatial Framework](https://www.theplanner.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-spatial-framework-timetable-published) won’t be developed until next year, and then published for consultation in June 2018, a year later than initially planned, to allow for proper processing of the 27,000 responses to the last consultation and Andy Burnham’s promised ‘radical rewrite’.
* The Government has confirmed that the consultation on a standard methodology for assessing local housing need has been delayed until Parliament returns in September.
* The Government has released £54 million for councils to bid for to help them [release ‘surplus’ publicly owned land for housing](https://www.theplanner.co.uk/news/government-frees-up-£54m-to-release-land-for-housing?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_term=). The amount of public sector land up for sale had [already more than doubled](http://www.publicfinance.co.uk/news/2017/08/public-land-england-made-available-sale-rises-144), even before this measure.
* New research from the [Resolution Foundation](http://www.resolutionfoundation.org/media/press-releases/21st-century-britain-has-seen-a-30-per-cent-increase-in-second-home-ownership/) has found that second home ownership has increased by 30% over ten years to 10% of the adult population, while those with no ‘property wealth’ at all has increased to 40%.

## Transport

* Chris Boardman has been named the first [cycling and walking commissioner for Greater Manchester](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/news/article/171/olympic_cycling_champion_to_get_greater_manchester_moving_as_first_ever_cycling_and_walking_commissioner).
* Northern leaders have called on the Government to re-affirm their commitment to ‘[Northern Powerhouse’ transport investment](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/news/article/175/northern_leaders_statement_on_transport_infrastructure_investment), following last month’s announcement that some schemes, including Manchester-Leeds electrification, would not be going ahead. The Transport Secretary responded, more or less, by saying that it was [up to the North to sort its own transport infrastructure out](http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/transport/transport-secretary-chris-grayling-the-north-is-in-the-driving-seat-on-transport-future-1-8716435). The leaders have [demanded committed Government funding](https://www.theplanner.co.uk/news/northern-leaders-demand-fairer-transport-deal) to do this, and 85,000 people have signed an [IPPR-led petition](https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/crossrail-north-now) asking for the same thing.

# *Publications*

**Uncertain Harvest – does the loss of farms matter?**

CPRE’s latest farming foresight paper, [Uncertain Harvest](http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/farming-and-food/farming/item/4647-uncertain-harvest-does-the-loss-of-farms-matter), shows that we have lost over a fifth of English farms in the past ten years alone. In particular, the number of farms below 200 hectares is falling. Numbers of intermediate and smaller farms are declining, though smaller farms are the worst affected. It argues that farm size diversity is a crucial consideration as we move towards Brexit. It could help deliver the many public benefits that we need farming to provide and that public funding – and the market where possible – should foster and reward.

**Urban green infrastructure**

A new briefing from the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) provides an overview of the ecosystem service contributions of [urban biodiversity and green infrastructure](http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/POST-PB-0026#fullreport) and the challenges for improving their provision - complementing [POST note 538 on green space and health](http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/POST-PN-0538).

**Energy futures**

Just a few years ago electricity was generated by 50 large power stations, but today we’re approaching 1 million distributed electricity generators in the UK. That’s a huge shift in the way we power our lights, kettles and TVs! CPRE have done some research with energy consultants Regen to find out [how our changing energy system could affect our landscapes](http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/energy-and-waste/climate-change-and-energy/item/4643-energy-scenarios-research?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=campaigns-update-August-2017-nonmembers&utm_content=Campaigns+Update+2017+August+-+non+members) in the future.

**Green funding**

The [Environmental Funders Network](http://www.greenfunders.org/) has published the [results](http://www.greenfunders.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/What-the-Green-Groups-Said-final.pdf) of its survey of UK-based environment NGOs. Capturing the collective intelligence of 92 environmental sector leaders, the survey asked them to reflect on success, failure, the external context for their work and what they think is required for the sector to be more effective. Key findings included respondents broadly agreeing that, when the sector has been successful, it has often been attributable to: strong advocacy and policy work; good communications, grounded in science, that engaged the right audiences; and strong collaboration between groups.

# *Events*

**Woodland creation**

The Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership is hosting a workshop style event in Barningham looking at woodland creation opportunities. A buffet lunch will be provided and will then be followed with a site visit to Barningham Estate. 22 September, 10 – 3.15. Book your place with [Meghann.Hull@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:Meghann.Hull@yorkshiredales.org.uk).

**Great Landscapes Week**

Friends of the Lake District are running [Great Landscapes Week](https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/Pages/Site/celebrating-landscape-in-all-its-diversity-and-glory/Category/great-landscapes-week-landing) 2-9 September to celebrate the Cumbrian landscape in all its diversity and glory. There are events running throughout the week, each day has a different theme, and they have launched a new Why Landscapes Matter campaign.

**Apple Day**

[Apple Day](https://www.commonground.org.uk/apple-day/) **is on 21 October. Launched in 1990 by Common Ground, Apple Day is intended to be both a celebration and a demonstration of the variety we are in danger of losing, not simply in apples, but in the richness and diversity of landscape, ecology and culture too. It has also played a part in raising awareness in the provenance and traceability of food. Celebrated with hundreds of independent events nationwide, look out for local events near you!**

**Heritage Open Days**

On 7-10 September some 40,000 volunteers across England will organise 5,000 [Heritage Open Day](https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting) events to celebrate our fantastic historic environment and culture. It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – all of which are free to explore.

**Valuing Nature Conference**

The deadline for registration for the [Valuing Nature conference](http://valuing-nature.net/valnat17) in Edinburgh on October 18 & 19 is September 15th.

**Recycle Week**

What goes around comes around, and [Recycle Week](https://partners.wrap.org.uk/collections/187/) is coming around again on September 25th – October 1st. The [WRAP Resource Library](https://partners.wrap.org.uk/collections/187/) has lots of materials to download or use online to help promote and get involved.

# *Resources*

**Walking & cycling ‘toolbox’**

An [active travel ‘toolbox’](https://www.sustrans.org.uk/active-travel-toolbox) to help local authorities argue for, and improve, walking and cycling schemes has been launched by [Sustrans](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/). The free resource includes guides, tools and case studies, and is organised into three areas: Making the economic case for active travel; Linking active travel and public transport to housing growth; and Planning the role of active travel in improving health.

**Buses & housing**

Stagecoach has published a new guide calling for bus companies to be involved from the outset of the planning process for new housing developments and provides guidance to [help increase bus use](http://www.stagecoach.com/~/media/Files/S/Stagecoach-Group/Attachments/pdf/bus-services-and-new-residential-developments.pdf) in new developments, thus reducing air pollution, carbon emissions and congestion, and improving road safety.

**Natural Capital accounts**

Defra and the Office for National Statistics are conducting a joint project to attempt to assess the ‘natural capital’ of eight broad habitat types across the UK. They have recently released experimental “ecosystem accounts” for three of these:  [Freshwater, Farmland and Woodland](http://ons.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f8a9c4448e7edd9f1ec6bf7c1&id=09e73c26e2&e=de827233ad). Handle with care. They have also released a scoping study on developing a methodology for assessing the ‘[Mountain, Moorland and Heathland](https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/articles/uknaturalcapitaldevelopingukmountainmoorlandandheathlandecosystemaccounts/2017-07-21)’ habitat, on which they welcome feedback.

**Green spaces mapping**

Ordnance Survey has published a [free interactive digital map](https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/getoutside/greenspaces/) identifying accessible recreational and leisure greenspace in Great Britain, which can be used immediately through the OS Maps app. This comprehensive map of greenspaces is also available as an open dataset for communities and businesses to create products and services that will encourage healthier lifestyles.

**Nature-based business support**

The recently-launched ECOSTAR hub for nature-based businesses has announced a [new e-learning course](http://www.ecostarhub.com/e-learning-course/) for students and professionals, available from October 2017. It will teach entrepreneurship and innovation skills to those wanting to start-up business ventures that make profits through promoting and enhancing ecosystem services.

**Rivers and green infrastructure**

HR Wallingford has published a free ebook on [incorporating green infrastructure when implementing river engineering schemes](http://www.hrwallingford.com/news/supporting-green-river-engineering). It's aimed at asset managers, engineers, decision-makers and other end-users. It addresses both the business case and technical requirements for the greater use of green infrastructure.

# *Consultations*

**National Grid**

National Grid is running a [consultation](http://friendsofthelakedistrict.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e7138cf6ade46f8ea45145bba&id=ec81bfc6d5&e=a859bd1fff) on what their priorities should be. It aims to gather the opinions of partners and the public, establish priorities, shape the topics of National Grid’s future engagement, and start the process of incorporating the views of the public into their business plans. One of their topics is the environment and their work with communities.

**Community spaces & wellbeing**

What Works Centre for Wellbeing are carrying out [a systematic review](https://www.whatworkswellbeing.org/blog/call-for-evidence-community-infrastructure-places-and-spaces-evaluations/) to find out whether interventions designed to improve community places and spaces are effective in improving social relationships and community wellbeing. If you are aware of an evaluation of an intervention designed to improve community places and spaces, with the aim of improving social relations or wellbeing, please submit it to help them build an evidence base for community infrastructure interventions.

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VSNW is the regional voluntary sector network for the North West, whose purpose is to support a connected and influential voluntary and community sector (VCS).

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