

* **Green Bullet**

24th October 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 - 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*

**Environmental justice**

**The RSPB, Friends of the Earth and ClientEarth have partially succeeded in a** [legal challenge](https://www.foe.co.uk/who-we-are/judicial-review-win-how-we-stopped-government-pricing-people-out-taking-it-court?utm_source=Friends+of+the+Earth+Communications&utm_campaign=a818acac81-LM1709032&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_383af65c6b-a818acac81-20757677) **to the Government’s** [attempts to restrict access to environmental justice](https://www.out-law.com/en/articles/2017/september/environmental-ngos-win-judicial-review-over-aarhus-costs-cap-rules/) **by opening up claimants to being charged much higher costs if a judicial review is unsuccessful, which would put access to environmental justice through the courts out of reach of all but the wealthiest individuals and civil society groups.**

**Climate change**

* **A new report from the WWF using new risk mapping techniques warns that** [extreme weather events](https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/tens-billions-pounds-be-lost-uk-economy-due-extreme-weather-wwf-report-warns-0) **driven by climate change could cost the UK economy around £35bn by 2050 if action is not taken to adapt and anticipate them.**
* Global emissions of carbon dioxide remained static in 2016, after only small increases in 2014 and 2015, a potential sign that we may have reached ‘peak carbon’. All of the world’s biggest emitting nations, except India, saw falling or static carbon emissions due to less coal burning and increasing renewable energy, according to [data published from the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency](http://www.pbl.nl/en/trends-in-global-co2-emissions). However, other (mainly developing) nations still have rising rates of CO2 emissions. And emissions of other greenhouse gases – 28% of the total, and in many cases much more potent than carbon – continued to rise. In response, Lord Stern insisted that still “[all countries have to accelerate their emissions reductions if the Paris goals are to be met](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/sep/28/global-carbon-emissions-stood-still-in-2016-offering-climate-hope?utm_medium=email&utm_source=gpeace&utm_content=8+-+Global+CO2+emissions+stayed+flat+in+2016&utm_campaign=daily&source=daily).”
* [Scotland has effectively banned fracking](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-41484153) by extending the existing moratorium indefinitely, and leaving England isolated in the UK given the indefinite moratoria in place in [Wales](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-41489253) and [Northern Ireland](http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/fracking-banned-in-northern-ireland-for-the-first-time-31564424.html). There are also bans or moratoria in Ireland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Tunisia and Bulgaria, and parts of Canada, Australia, the USA, Spain and Switzerland.
* Portuguese schoolchildren struck by the country’s worst ever forest fires are seeking [crowdfunding to sue 47 European countries](https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/climate-change-echr/), alleging that the states’ failure to tackle climate change threatens their right to life. They are being represented by British barristers who are experts in environmental and climate change law.

**Pollution**

**A new report suggests that** [9 million deaths a year](https://www.euractiv.com/section/air-pollution/news/pollution-racks-up-9-million-deaths-a-year-worldwide/) **are caused by air, water and land pollution worldwide – one in six of all deaths, and** [more than HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria combined](https://www.sciencealert.com/pollution-kills-9-million-people-each-year)**. While most of these deaths are in developing countries, in the EU (where 400,000, or 8% of all deaths are caused by pollution) the UK,** Germany, Italy, Poland and France have the highest rates of pollution-related mortality.

**Air quality**

* **71% of local authorities in England now have areas where** [air pollution is above legally acceptable levels](https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/annualreport/air_pollution_uk_2016_issue_1.pdf)**, an increase of 20 on last year, and a seven-year high.**
* **ClientEarth have sent the Government a** [‘letter before action’](https://www.clientearth.org/missed-air-quality-targets-hits-new-high-clientearth-mulls-fresh-legal-action/)**, warning them that unless they take action to remedy specific flaws in their plans to tackle air pollution, which have been** condemned as [“woefully inadequate” by city leaders and “inexcusable” by doctors](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jul/26/governments-air-quality-plan-is-cynical-headline-grabbing-say-critics) **they will take them to court again. They have already won two court cases against the Government for failing to tackle illegal levels of air pollution.**
* **ClientEarth’s new** [poisoned playgrounds](https://www.clientearth.org/poisoned-playgrounds/) **campaign highlights that more than 950 schools are on or near roads where pollution is illegally high**

**Why Landscapes Matter**

In a world of fast pace and change and more external pressures than ever before, it is easy to forget that landscape is all around us and supports us - so Friends of the Lake District have launched a ['Why Landscape Matters'](https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/why-landscape-matters)campaign. They are asking people to join them in remembering why our landscapes matter to us, to celebrate and enjoy them, and support their work to keep them special. To launch the campaign they published ['Why Landscape Matters: a Landscape Charter for Cumbria and the Lake District'](https://friendsofthelakedistrict.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e7138cf6ade46f8ea45145bba&id=df4544f73d&e=a859bd1fff), setting out their commitment to the landscapes of Cumbria.

**Bees & insects**

* **New research suggests that over the last 27 years,** [flying insect populations have been decimated](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaEsmHgROUs&feature=youtu.be&utm_source=Friends+of+the+Earth+Communications&utm_campaign=a818acac81-LM1709032&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_383af65c6b-a818acac81-20757677)**, with populations down by 75%, compared to a** [general global decline in wildlife of 58%](http://www.livingplanetindex.org/projects?main_page_project=AboutTheIndex&home_flag=1) between 1970 and 2012. **For non-scientific corroboration, think about the state of your windscreen after a long road trip now compared to 30 years ago! Pesticide use is suggested as the most likely cause.**
* **Friends of the Earth have produced a short video about** [two conventional farmers who have stopped using neonicotinoid pesticides](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaEsmHgROUs&feature=youtu.be&utm_source=Friends+of+the+Earth+Communications&utm_campaign=a818acac81-LM1709032&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_383af65c6b-a818acac81-20757677)**, while still successfully growing crops. According to new research, traces of neonicotinoid pesticides are found in** [over 75% of all honey](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-41512791) **worldwide.**

***Information update***

## Brexit and beyond

* **The Environmental Audit Committee has released a major new report on the** [future of the natural environment after the EU referendum](https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/future-of-the-natural-environment-after-the-eu-referendum-16-17/)**, making a series of recommendations including** [four clear ‘green lines’](https://theconversation.com/four-green-lines-for-brexit-negotiators-looking-to-protect-the-environment-70839) **that that they say should guide Brexit strategy (assuming that one day there will be a strategy) and implementation, specifically:**
	+ **aligning Brexit negotiations with the 25 year plans for the environment and farming (and, therefore, actually publishing and consulting on those plans ASAP, and before negotiations on the future relationship begin!);**
	+ **identifying the areas of policy and practice where there will be immediate gaps on withdrawal, and act urgently to plug them (around a third of the 800 pieces of EU environmental legislation are not capable of being translated into UK law under the withdrawal bill proposals);**
	+ **ensuring coordination on minimum environmental standards across the UK, but allow devolved administration to implement higher standards if they choose; and**
	+ **ensuring that new trade deals do not compromise current environmental standards**
* **An amendment has been tabled to the EU withdrawal bill by a cross-party group of MPs, supported by** [Greener UK](http://greeneruk.org/)**,** [calling for a new Environmental Protection Act](%E2%80%A2%09https%3A/www.find.net/environment/2017/Oct/06/britain-s-wildlife-needs-urgent-new-protections-ahead-of-brexit-say-mps/20a263a97b6f2c6f)**. Campaigners say that the withdrawal bill as it stands “**[rips the heart out of environmental law](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/oct/17/uk-withdrawal-bill-rips-the-heart-out-of-environmental-law-say-campaigners)**” as it allows existing laws and protections to be loosened and weakened, any protections on paper may not be practically enforceable, and the very principles underpinning EU environmental law – such as the precautionary principle, ‘the polluter pays’ and that preventative action should be taken to avoid environmental damage - are specifically ruled out as grounds for legal challenge.**
* **The Shadow Brexit Secretary has said that** that not only would “no deal” with Europe be a disaster for the UK, the Government’s [withdrawal bill would endanger environmental protections](https://unearthed.greenpeace.org/2017/09/25/keir-starmer-labour-brexit-donald-trump/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=gpeace&utm_content=8+-+Keir+Starmer+Governmentrsquos+Brexit+pla&utm_campaign=weekly&source=weekly), including air quality rules.
* Farmers’ leaders (the NFU, Farmers Union for Wales, and the Summer Berry Fruits Association) have criticized called the Government’s claims that we can just grow more food and become more self-sufficient after Brexit, with one union leader calling it “[tripe](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/oct/16/chris-graylings-claims-that-uk-can-grow-more-dismissed-as-tripe)”.
* The UK’s Green MEPs say that because of the [uncertainties and lack of direction over Brexit](http://www.keithtaylormep.org.uk/2017/10/12/green-meps-brexit-means-clean-growth-strategy-not-worth-paper-its-printed-on/), the Clean Growth Plan (see ‘publications’ below) is virtually meaningless

## Energy

* The country’s first [subsidy-free solar farm](https://theenergyst.com/anesco-opens-subsidy-free-solar-farm-with-battery-storage/) has been opened, which also features a 6MW battery storage plant
* Solar power was the [fastest-growing source of new energy](https://www.edie.net/news/10/Time-to-shine--Solar-power-is-fastest-growing-source-of-new-energy/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%20c23c3a4693-dailynewsletter) worldwide last year
* Battery storage installations could experience a 17-fold growth by 2030 due to the rapidly falling price of batteries, according to a [new report from the International Renewable Energy Agency](http://www.irena.org/News/Description.aspx?NType=A&mnu=cat&PriMenuID=16&CatID=84&News_ID=1501).
* In 2017, UK [transport sector energy consumption rose by 0.5%](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/total-energy-section-1-energy-trends) - the only sector for which energy consumption is rising.
* National Grid has declared 2017 the [greenest summer ever](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-41397133), as over half of all electricity was supplied from low-carbon sources
* Despite the high profile and media coverage, the Environment Agency has found that [Cuadrilla breached its environmental permit twice](https://drillordrop.com/2017/09/05/cuadrilla-breached-environmental-controls-at-lancs-fracking-site-official-documents-reveal/) in the early stages of the operation at its fracking site near Blackpool
* New research suggests that deploying [carbon capture and storage](https://www.globalccsinstitute.com/news/institute-updates/new-research-makes-compelling-base-case-ccs-uk) technology on the east coast of Britain could be worth £160 billion to the economy. A shame then that the Government [cancelled its programme](https://www.nao.org.uk/report/carbon-capture-and-storage-the-second-competition-for-government-support/) to try to develop it earlier this year.
* The Government has made up to [£557 million available for "less established" renewables](https://www.edie.net/news/10/Government-makes--557m-available-for-new-renewables-projects/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%20b3d1e9595f-dailynewsletter) projects in a new set of Contracts for Difference (CfD) auctions planned for spring 2019.
* The [world’s first floating windfarm](https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/10/wind-farm-renewable-energy-scotland-video-spd/) has started operating off the Scottish coast
* A host of businesses, politicians and local organisations from across Greater Manchester are aiming to save money and energy through support of a pioneering [new campaign to switch to clean energy](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/news/article/208/greater_manchester_launches_pioneering_green_energy_campaign). The new scheme is a partnership between the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the Big Clean Switch campaign, which specialises in helping UK households save money by switching to 100% renewable electricity.
* IGas have announced plans to [frack for gas in Cheshire](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-41517469), which has generated considerable [local opposition](https://drillordrop.com/2017/10/05/campaigners-vow-to-fight-fracking-as-igas-announces-new-plans-for-cheshire/)

## Planning

* Two recent appeal decisions (in [Finchingfield](https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?caseid=3172575) and [Steeple Bumstead](https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?caseid=3173352)) add weight to the argument that if a landscape can be justified as being ‘valued’, as per NPPF paragraph 109, then footnote 9 of the NPPF applies, which can [prevent the presumption in favour of development being engaged](https://cornerstonebarristers.com/news/double-hat-trick-valued-landscapes/). So even if a site has no formal protection (e.g. Green Belt, AONB, SSSI etc) it is in some cases possible to use this route to avoid the onerously high bar presented by the presumption to restrict development and get planning permission refused. The decision letters provide details of the Inspectors’ thinking on the matter and will be very helpful to refer to for anyone objecting to inappropriate development on landscape grounds.
* Five year land supply continues to be a big issue. [New research](http://www.indigoplanning.com/Uploadfile/f81f00e562b8485999f4692712f79aab.pdf) shows that 70% of appeal decisions between January 2016 and August 2017 featured five-year housing land supply as a key issue. In 74% of those cases, inspectors concluded that there was not a five-year housing land supply. 70%of large housing appeals have been allowed where there is no five-year housing land supply, but 86% were dismissed where there is a five-year housing land supply in place. The number of homes allowed on appeal has fallen quite sharply in the last 18 months. One key reason given for this is the effect of the judgement in the [Barwood Strategic Land case](http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2016/2973.html) in the High Court, as a result of which in all but "exceptional" cases, development outside of an up-to-date local plan strategy will not be sustainable and ought to be refused. A very useful judgement to refer to!
* The Government has delayed the introduction of its proposed housing delivery test until 2018. Local authorities’ housing delivery will be assessed against its housing requirement on a rolling three year basis, and penalized if they are delivering less than 95% of those requirements. If the standard method of calculating housing need currently being consulted on is adopted and current levels of delivery remain the same, [Planning magazine](https://www.planningresource.co.uk/article/1445942/housing-need-formula-reveals-delivery-test-may-bite) (paywall protected) calculates that 61% of authorities would have to add a 20% buffer to their five year supply, and a further 13% would have to produce an action plan setting out measures to increase supply.
* Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham has said he is [to 'refocus' the emerging Greater Manchester Spatial Framework](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/news/article/193/publics_feedback_to_shape_next_steps_in_jobs_and_homes_plan) to concentrate on 'transformational development opportunities' in town centres. Responses to the consultation – [all 27,000 of them](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/gmsf)! - have been published, along with a summary showing that the single biggest issue was the amount of Green Belt planned for development.
* A local plan in the south of England has been found sound despite setting a [housing target of little more than half of its objectively assessed need,](https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/news/pr17-140.html) due to the significant environmental constraints in the area, setting a perhaps useful example.
* New research by CPRE shows that [profits for the major UK housebuilders have quadrupled](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/affordable-homes-shortage-blights-the-countryside-lh89pvlxw), while delivery of affordable housing has plummeted, often because developers plead that building affordable housing would mean schemes were [not sufficiently profitable](http://www.cpre.org.uk/magazine/opinion/item/4674-where-has-our-affordable-housing-gone). At a time of [rising rural homelessness](http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/analysis/rural-homelessness-%E2%80%93-an-invisible-issue), CPRE analysis suggests a shortfall of 33,000 rural affordable homes over five years.
* In a stirling example of the success of the Duty to Cooperate replacing strategic planning, Slough Borough Council have published plans for [10,000 homes on the neighbouring authority’s Green Belt](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-berkshire-41510860) against their wishes.
* There was a [decrease of 790 hectares in the area of Green Belt](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/642684/Green_Belt_Statistics_England_2016-17.pdf) in England between 31 March 2016 and 31 March 2017 due to local plans being adopted with revised Green Belt boundaries.
* As of June 2017, [69% of the land in England is used for agriculture](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june), an increase of 0.6% from 2016.
* The Government has announced new guidance on the [compulsory purchase](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/compulsory-purchase-process-and-the-crichel-down-rules-guidance) of land
* A new poll shows that just [5% of people think that the Government is doing a good job of determining local housing needs](http://www.cpre.org.uk/media-centre/latest-news-releases/item/4682-public-has-little-faith-in-government-to-build-right-homes-in-right-places?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=campaigns-update-oct-2017-nonmembers&utm_content=Campaigns+Update+2017+Oct+-+non+members).

## Transport

* The government is developing plans for the UK’s [first digital intercity railway](http://www.railtechnologymagazine.com/HS2/grayling-commits-5m-to-install-digital-signalling-on-transpennine-route/183225) in the North as part of a £13 billion package for improving journeys in the region. Network Rail will receive up to £5 million to develop proposals for embedding digital technology between Manchester and York, including a system of advanced train traffic management allowing computers to work out how to route trains most efficiently. However, they have been warned that this is [no substitute for new lines](http://www.railtechnologymagazine.com/Rail-News/digital-rail-and-new-lines-must-not-be-mutually-exclusive-in-transpennine-route), electrification and other much-needed improvements.
* Some slight re-warming of the Government to the Northern Powerhouse concept has been detected, with the Guardian reporting that Theresa May is “[allowing and even almost lightly encouraging](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/sep/29/northern-powerhouse-back-on-theresa-mays-agenda)” a renewed focus on it - although elsewhere she is reported as saying that it is a [top priority](https://www.placenorthwest.co.uk/news/northern-powerhouse-success-a-top-priority-says-pm/#utm_source=Place+North+West&utm_campaign=Place_Daily_Briefing__Thursday_2017-10-12&utm_medium=email). A [new report](http://www.northernpowerhousepartnership.co.uk/publications/powerhouse-2050-transforming-the-north/) from the Partnership sets out policy proposals across the health, digital, energy and manufacturing sectors. The Government has announced [£300 million for northern rail projects](https://www.theplanner.co.uk/news/chancellor-promises-%C2%A3400m-northern-powerhouse-transport-investment?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_term=) to ensure connectivity with HS2 and £100 million for local road projects in the north, to pave the way for unspecified “future” Northern Powerhouse schemes.
* Moves to clean up inner city traffic fumes: London has introduced the [‘T-Charge’](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-41695116) , “[the world’s toughest emissions standard](http://www.cityam.com/274331/londons-gbp10-t-charge-starts-today-everything-you-need)” on older, more polluting vehicles, and Oxford city centre aims to be the [world’s first zero-emission zone](https://www.oxford.gov.uk/news/article/553/city_and_county_councils_propose_historic_reduction_in_oxford_s_air_pollution_with_world_s_first_zero_emission_zone), with the first exclusions happening from 2020
* One expert commentator is highly critical of the interim National Infrastructure Assessment’s (see consultations, below) approach to rail freight, where it actually seems to suggest [shifting freight *from* rail *to* road](https://andrewlainton.wordpress.com/2017/10/16/does-the-national-infrastructure-commission-have-a-blindspot-on-railfreight-stephenjoseph7-andrew_adonis/). He presents arguments to reverse this position.
* Manchester City Council are proposing an [underground station at Piccadilly](https://www.placenorthwest.co.uk/news/underground-northern-powerhouse-rail-station-proposed-for-piccadilly/#utm_source=Place+North+West&utm_campaign=Place_Daily_Briefing__Tuesday__2017-10-17&utm_medium=email) in order to accommodate HS2, Northern Powerhouse Rail, and the Northern Hub – but would need extra funding.
* Metrolink is the [least-used mode of transport](https://www.placenorthwest.co.uk/news/metrolink-least-used-mode-of-transport-by-commuters/#utm_source=Place+North+West&utm_campaign=Place_Daily_Briefing__Tuesday__2017-10-24&utm_medium=email) for commuters in Greater Manchester, used by only 2.2%, compared to 60% who still drive. However, this has almost doubled from 1.3% in 2011.
* A number of [North West road schemes](https://www.placenorthwest.co.uk/news/middlewich-the-big-winner-as-dft-announces-funding/#utm_source=Place+North+West&utm_campaign=Place_Daily_Briefing__Friday_2_2017-10-20&utm_medium=email) have been approved for funding, including the major Middlewich Eastern Bypass scheme, while the [electrification of the Manchester-Preston rail line has been delayed](https://www.placenorthwest.co.uk/news/manchester-to-preston-rail-electrification-hit-by-delay/#utm_source=Place+North+West&utm_campaign=Place_Daily_Briefing__Friday_2_2017-10-20&utm_medium=email).

# *Publications*

**Clean Growth Strategy**

The Government has published its long-awaited [clean growth strategy](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-growth-strategy), setting out how it intends to meet [the fifth carbon budget](https://www.edie.net/news/11/UK-fifth-carbon-budget-Government-sets-ambitious-energy-reductions-for-2032/), which requires a reduction in the UK’s annual emissions to 57% below 1990 levels by the year 2032. Edie have provided a [digestible summary](https://www.edie.net/news/11/From-CCS-to-zero-waste--Clean-Growth-Strategy-to-slash-emissions-and-boost-economic-growth/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%20e6f9333bce-dailynewsletter), and there has been a range of commentary from [the ‘green economy’ and environmental campaigners](https://www.edie.net/news/11/Reaction-round-up--What-does-the-green-economy-make-of-the-Clean-Growth-Strategy-/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%20e6f9333bce-dailynewsletter), largely cautiously welcoming but warning that there is still a lot of detail, ambition and commitment missing. It is perhaps worth noting that this is an industrial growth strategy that promotes lower carbon solutions, rather than a carbon reduction strategy that includes industrial growth. The strategy concedes that the UK is still not on track to meet its legally binding carbon targets for the late 2020s and early 2030s.

**25 year plan for the environment**

**No, not the plan itself. Of course not. But the Natural Capital Committee has published its** [advice and recommendations](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/natural-capital-committee-advice-on-governments-25-year-environment-plan) **to Government on what they should be considering for the plan. Interesting reading. Wildlife and Countryside Link have also produced a** [briefing](page_briefing_Link_July_2017_FINAL) **setting out their demands for the plan.**

**Housing – need vs demand**

[Needless Demand](http://www.cpre.org.uk/media-centre/latest-news-releases/item/4675-the-wrong-homes-in-the-wrong-places)**, a new housing foresight paper from CPRE,** addresses how the terms ‘housing need’ and ‘housing demand’ are currently conflated in planning policy, and sets out how Government could approach an effective division of need and demand in policy in order to tackle the housing crisis more effectively.

**Sense of place**

According to a [study commissioned by the National Trust](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stories/why-do-places-mean-so-much), people experience intense feelings of wellbeing, contentment and belonging from places that evoke positive memories far more than from treasured objects such as photographs or wedding rings. Using cutting-edge fMRI brain technology, they examined how places affect people, how they become special and why we feel a pull towards them. It found places that are intensely meaningful invoke a sense of calm, space to think and a feeling of completeness.

**Volunteering in nature**

The Wildlife Trusts, University of Essex and Green Exercise released a report on ‘[The health and wellbeing impacts of volunteering with The Wildlife Trusts](http://cheshirewildlifetrust.cmail20.com/t/r-l-jlkyhrkk-ktiluldhw-b/)’ particularly highlighting the benefits for mental health, and with results and case studies transferable to any other nature-based volunteering.

**Future farming**

Wildlife and Countryside Link, along with the Soil Association, has published their proposals for a [future Sustainable Farming and Land Management Policy for England](https://www.wcl.org.uk/sustainable-farming-and-land-management.asp). Supported by 27 organisations, the proposals make the case for putting the environment and animal welfare at the heart of a future policy. They also set out how a future policy should be designed and implemented to secure a better future for farming and the environment after Brexit.

**Lancashire - A Journey into the Wild**

Lancashire – A Journey into the Wild, a new book published in partnership with Lancashire Wildlife Trust and the Forest of Bowland AONB, is due out in Spring 2018. Written by Senior Conservation Officer John Lamb, it is an exploration and celebration of the county’s unspoilt and lesser- known corners. Designed to be both informative and beautiful, it takes you through the most important, largest and most accessible wildlife sites in the county, habitat by habitat: Uplands; Rivers; Woodlands; Grasslands; Lakes, Tarns and Ponds; Mossland: Limestone Pavements and the Coast. You can register your interest now, with no obligation and with a discount off the cover price, at admin@carnegiepublishing.com or jlamb@lancswt.org.uk.

**Healthy, happy, high density**

A new study suggests that people living in inner cities and [higher density areas are healthier and happier](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/oct/06/inner-city-living-makes-for-healthier-happier-people-study-finds) than their suburban sprawl counterparts.

# *Events*

**Future European Nature**

In the midst of the political discussions on the future of an EU of 27 Member States and the relationship that the future EU might have with the UK, the [European Environmental Bureau](http://www.eebconference.eu/) will hold its annual conference in Edinburgh, to debate how to put people and planet central in these uncertain times for the EU, the UK and Scotland, hoping to unleash new ideas, inspire and inform. November 6th, free but registration required.

**An Introduction to the Landscape Typology Tool – free webinar**

In an era of growing population and climate change, managing farmland to increase farm output and competitiveness whilst protecting the countryside and enhancing environmental and social benefits is a key challenge.   The Sustainable Intensification Research Platform, funded by Defra and the Welsh Government, has produced a tool to assist in planning and decision making for “sustainable intensification” at landscape-scale. At a free webinar at 1 pm on Thursday 2 November the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology provides an introduction to the tool and its varied capabilities and applications. [Registration is required to join this event](https://ecosystemsknowledge.webex.com/mw3200/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=ecosystemsknowledge&service=6&rnd=0.07132319518434715&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Fecosystemsknowledge.webex.com%2Fec3200%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26%26%26EMK%3D4832534b000000040f447511fa2f7f76b0af9bfb49d958e5f1a9b5fed2c162fa6517136db398b89a%26siteurl%3Decosystemsknowledge%26confViewID%3D71271799966402879%26encryptTicket%3DSDJTSwAAAAR2hwsRt9UAEalJhBzEkUkXNeWL18m4C52UXuZ_y9wfMA2%26).

**Coastal Futures conference**
The 25th Coastal Futures conference will take place at the Royal Geographical Society on 17-18 January 2018. [An outline programme is available on the website, highlighting the main topics to be covered.](http://cmscoms.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a477eb8cd0fd95c25563618a1&id=062eaaf622&e=1499899e4a)There will be emphasis on looking ahead to the opportunities and practical measures that will be needed to meet the challenges the future will pose.  [Online booking is now open](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/coastal-futures-2018-tickets-37243303724?utm_term=eventurl_text).

**Wild about gardens week**

It is currently [Wild About Gardens](http://cheshirewildlifetrust.cmail20.com/t/r-l-jlkkuhud-ktdiujitul-b/) Week, a joint initiative by the RHS and the Wildlife Trusts, and this year it's all about wild bees! You can [organise or find events](http://www.wildaboutgardensweek.org.uk/home) and open gardens, download a [wild bee action pack](http://www.wildaboutgardensweek.org.uk/downloads), find out what changes you can make to make your garden or just the area outside your office more wildlife friendly, or qualify for a [Wildlife Friendly Gardening Award](http://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/mywildlifegarden) if you already have a wildlife-friendly garden.

# *Resources*

**Clean water for wildlife survey**

The Clean Water for Wildlife Survey is a citizen science survey uncovering the true extent of nutrient pollution in England and Wales, and helping us find clean water habitats so we can protect their wonderful wildlife.  The Freshwater habitats Trust are sending out quick and simple test kits so you can find out more about the ponds, rivers, streams and lakes in your area. You can use the results to help make informed management decisions, as well as take part in a national citizen science project.  [Find out more about the survey and use the online form to request kits on their website](http://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/clean-water/take-part/). The deadline for requesting kits is the 24th of November.

**Green Infrastructure**

A new project, “[Mainstreaming Green Infrastructure](https://mainstreaminggreeninfrastructure.com/index.php)” hopes to translate the copious research and evidence about green infrastructure benefits and implementation into mainstream planning policy, delivery and funding, so that it actually, finally, has a real impact. As a first step it has gathered together a [huge quantity of the most significant research and evidence](https://mainstreaminggreeninfrastructure.com/project.php) on green infrastructure.

**Brownfield and wildlife**

Wildlife and Countryside Link’s Land Use Planning Group has published new [guidance](https://www.wcl.org.uk/docs/WCL_brownfield_register_guidance_final.pdf) to protect brownfield areas of high environmental value. The guidance was produced following the Government’s introduction of a statutory Register for Brownfield Land, which could risk development on [sites important for nature and communities.](https://www.wcl.org.uk/ngos-call-for-wildlife-havens-to-be-protected-from-new-development.asp)

**A day in the life…**

[A Day In The Life](https://www.ncvo.org.uk/practical-support/information/collaboration/work-shadow-scheme) is a work-shadowing initiative that provides a unique opportunity for staff from government and voluntary sector organisations to step into each other's shoes for a day, and learn about how the other sector operates. As well as improving cross-sector understanding, the programme helps participants find out about the roles and responsibilities of staff within another organisation, and the operational environments and wider contexts in which they work. Applications for the 2017/18 scheme are now open, until 3 November. The scheme is free for applicants.

**Party conference roundup**

Edie have summarised what the three main parties had to say about the green economy at [this year’s party conferences](https://www.edie.net/news/11/Autumn-conference-round-up--What-did-the-main-parties-say-about-the-green-economy-/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%20dc9da71b59-dailynewsletter).

**Future of parks**

Over 60 organisations discussed the [future of the UK’s public parks](http://futureofparks.leeds.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/26/2017/09/Report-Future-of-Public-Parks-Policy-Practice-and-Research-13-July-2017.pdf), at a one day conference hosted by the University of Leeds in June. The conference report is now published, summarising the debates that took place, including how to fund parks in the future and how to consolidate the large amounts of evidence on the value of parks. Meanwhile, the Government has announced the formation of a new [Parks Action Group](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-pledges-500000-for-new-action-group-to-grow-future-of-public-parks) to advise them on the challenges and opportunities facing the UK’s parks and open spaces.

**Chairs of small charities**

The **Association of Chairs** will launch [a programme for small charities](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=00137aa4rrUwNNGig7VYbNRrDh6YG72DWQfPJIEYcLZ9sNNMvN3nHIvwIaoTKGw2T8UuS9W5XPNunrGtsOKkdoINvaEP3RgdfCb3Fcv3MDDrVQndARHiMOhZXw3q_iRKJisR4GbP9IhrrFZrAmf7y7hJbEVex_nbXs9MFgJvBQm0Ng91XeCTf_PYS-HJa7KHe2MSbKnZVOHX97Zb7G40JSnMGFcHD-Y_pSCz5bV2wLkwsCTcZJFAw7koRxeD38qaq6GqrDliYcRBLBYaNvK9vDfww==&c=pQNKWAmavyYAsSrpO_TR8m1HdPirQIycepQl4LPZ6BzOGJo2tyUmYA==&ch=GptqQxTSt9GRc7y5u3QxgS21AYvzcKsTJw5UxJiIbkoYODxVJ7tknA==) next year offering a range of support and networking opportunities for chairs and vice chairs of charities with incomes under £20,000. The programme is intended to help chairs to “…feel more confident in their role, be better able to take action and tackle difficult issues, and know where to go for support.”

# *Consultations*

**Objectively Assessed Need**

The consultation on the [standardised methodology for assessing housing need](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-right-homes-in-the-right-places-consultation-proposals) and associated matters remains open until 9th November. Andy Boddington outlines the proposals and likely impacts from a [CPRE perspective](http://andybodders.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/CPRE_SE_eBulletin_October_2017_Housing_Need.pdf) (although with a South East focus). [Figure 1 of this briefing](http://lichfields.uk/media/3327/housing-need_september-2017.pdf) shows the likely impact in the rest of the country, with significant reductions in housing numbers for most of the North West. However, many commentators including [CPRE](http://www.cpre.org.uk/media-centre/sound-bites/item/4673-cpre-comment-on-housing-consultation-launch) and the [Planning Officers’ Society](http://www.planningofficers.org.uk/Planning-Officers-Society-News/Questions-raised-over-robustness-of-housing-need-methodology_598.htm) are highly critical.

**National Infrastructure Assessment**

The interim National Infrastructure Assessment has been [published for consultation](https://www.nic.org.uk/publications/congestion-capacity-carbon-priorities-for-national-infrastructure/) by the National Infrastructure Commission. It examines seven key areas, and sets out the vision and priorities for helping meet the country’s needs up to 2050, focusing on the three priorities of [congestion, capacity and carbon](https://www.nic.org.uk/news/adonis-tackle-the-three-cs-and-deliver-world-class-infrastructure/). Deadline: 20th January 2018.

**Plastic bottles**

Following years of [campaigning](https://www.wcl.org.uk/tackling-ocean-plastics-why-we-need-a-deposit-return-scheme.asp) and [research](https://www.cpre.org.uk/media-centre/latest-news-releases/item/4693-deposit-refund-system-could-save-councils-35-million-a-year) by a wide range of organisations, Environment Secretary Michael Gove has launched a (very short!) [call for evidence](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/views-sought-on-reward-and-return-schemes-for-drinks-containers) on how the littering of plastic, metal and glass drinks containers could be reduced. Deadline 30th October! Positively, Gove has commented on the success of deposit return projects in Scandinavian countries such as Denmark, where recycling rates of containers are now above 90%.

**Water**

Defra has started stakeholder engagement work towards the development of a [National Policy Statement (NPS) for Water Resources](https://www.thewaterreport.co.uk/single-post/2017/09/03/DEFRA-to-begin-engaging-on-water-resources-NPS). The government announced it would deliver this NPS in March and that it would set out the need for nationally significant water supply infrastructure projects in England. Specifically, the NPS will support the delivery of future large supply projects identified in water company water resource management plans. The project is expected to take up to two years, and Defra is keen to engage widely. Interested parties can apply to be added to the project’s mailing list to be kept up to date on developments by emailing WaterSupplyNPS@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

**50+ volunteering**

The Office for Civil Society has announced the [50+ Volunteering Evidence Review](https://www.ageing-better.org.uk/news/drive-increase-volunteering-community-activity-people-50/), in partnership with the Centre for Ageing Better, looking at how to enable more people aged 50 and over to contribute their time, skills and experience to their communities. The evidence review will include calls for insight and evidence and a series of roundtables.

# *Funding & fundraising*

**Transform Grants**

Transpennine Express are working with the Forestry Commission to award £50,000 worth of funding to help initiatives working to make a difference in their local area. Groups or charities in the North of England and southern Scotland can apply for [individual grants of up to £5,000](https://www.tpexpress.co.uk/about-us/community/transform-grants) for projects that make environmental improvements, promote social inclusion and/or tackle youth unemployment. The application process is fairly short and straightforward, but the deadline is October 31st, so hurry!

**Place Based Social Action (PBSA)**

**Place Based Social Action (PBSA)**is a joint £4.5m programme between the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and Big Lottery Fund (The Fund). PBSA aims to create positive change through enabling citizens, communities, local non-statutory organisations and the statutory sector to work collaboratively to create a shared vision for the future of their place, and address local priorities through social action. The programme will support the Fund’s commitment to supporting communities to flourish by delivering the change they want to see locally. It will support delivery of DCMS’ commitments to enable social action and build demand for social action to become routine in communities, and in public service design and delivery. Potential Partnerships can apply to be part of the programme and organisations can bid to support the delivery of the programme by visiting the [Big Lottery fund website](https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/england/place-based-social-action).

**Transform your web presence!**

The **Transform Foundation** has funding available to help charities to [develop an effective web presence](https://mfip.org.uk/2016/12/06/funding-for-charities-to-develop-an-effective-web-presence-uk/). In collaboration with Raising IT, the largest UK provider of charity websites, the £18,000 funding package will help: To equip charities with the technology to transform their organisation; A digital engagement focused strategy to futureproof the charity; A professionally designed website to inspire supporters; and measurement built in to help the charity track results and maximise impact. The grants will cover 100 per cent of the upfront costs which means that grant recipient will only need to fund ongoing costs.

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

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).

To contribute to the NWEL Bulletin, please contact:
Andy Yuille
andyyuille@gmail.com

01524 389 915

To contribute to the policy work of VSNW, please contact:
Warren Escadale
warren.escadale@vsnw.org.uk

0161 276 9307