



The countryside charity
Peak District and
South Yorkshire

Peakland Guardian

Autumn and Winter 2020



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CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire promotes the beauty, tranquility and diversity of the countryside across the Peak District and South Yorkshire. We work to protect and enhance its unique landscapes for everyone to enjoy now and in the future. We campaign for green spaces unspoilt by development; environmentally friendly farming and forestry, and thriving rural communities.

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Back page picture: Stange Edge as viewed from the Ox Stones ©Tomo Thompson

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Hope Cement Works Quarry
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We have been the same CPRE branch since 1927 but since 2002 we've also been known as Friends of the Peak District. We're now going back to our roots: Same charity. Same passion for our local countryside.

Follow us on social media

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Welcome from the CEO

Welcome to the latest edition of the Peakland Guardian. The articles in this edition cover a very broad range of our work over the last 6 months. The Trustees and I are very grateful for the work that the staff and volunteers have continued to put in, in very difficult circumstances, in order to protect the landscapes of the Peak District and South Yorkshire.

Over the last 6 months, the pandemic has had little impact on our workload, indeed we are exceptionally busy at the moment, however the pandemic has stopped almost all of our traditional fundraising activity. We would be extremely grateful if you could consider making a donation to support our work – the easiest way to do this is online at www.cprepsy.org.uk

The charity was founded as CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire in 1924 and on our new website, social media, and campaigning work you will see us 'returning to our roots' at CPRE PDSY.

Julie Gough (our Fundraising and Marketing Co-ordinator, and editor of the Peakland Guardian) is leaving us after seven years to move to Scotland and work for the John Muir Trust – we're very grateful for her work with the charity and wish her well in her new job.

Through this year of uncertainty, as we approach our 97th year, we continue to do our very best to protect the valuable landscapes around us. **We are very grateful for your support.**

Please stay well,
Tomo Thompson, CEO

Major new planning reforms – the wrong answers to the wrong questions



The Government are currently consulting on major changes intended to reform an ‘outdated’ planning system. They say this would speed up the planning process and allow more building as the country recovers from the coronavirus pandemic. We wholeheartedly disagree.

We know that there are some real, long-term problems with the planning system:

- Not delivering nearly enough affordable housing;
- Allowing sub-standard homes through Permitted Development rights;

- An accumulating backlog of unbuilt planning permissions;
- Not doing enough to respond to the Climate Emergency;
- Perpetuating car-dependent developments in an era when walkable, healthy neighbourhoods are ever more needed.

But rather than tackling these problems, the new Planning White Paper - “the biggest shake-up of the planning system since 1947” – stands to make the problems worse. While chasing an invented notion that planning is an obstacle to progress,

the proposed planning reforms set out the wrong answers to the wrong questions, and jeopardise local democracy as a result.

We have long argued that the voices of local people need to be heard better in planning so that communities can ensure they get the developments they need and in the right places. So, although we welcome the Government’s commitment to all areas having a local plan in place, we also need robust legal guarantees that the public are fully consulted regarding new development.

We are also campaigning for action to address the climate emergency; the way that new housing is built can play a significant role in this.

The Government’s aim to deliver carbon neutral new homes by 2050 represents 34 lost years given that the Code for Sustainable Homes aimed to achieve the same thing by 2016 before it was

dropped. If this Government is serious about tackling the climate emergency, it needs to be much, much more ambitious on new builds.

And we are also concerned about how the Government will ensure that new homes built in rural areas are truly affordable, supporting the needs of local people in areas at crisis point with a stark lack of available housing – not least for key workers.

The Government’s proposals include building on brownfield land – a policy we’ve long supported: making use of this neglected land before greenfield sites should be a priority. But if a brownfield-first approach is to work, local authorities need to be able to prioritise the building of those sites and reject unnecessary losses of greenfield land.

The 8 changes that could demolish local democracy in planning

1. Central Government will impose mandatory, top-down housing numbers which local authorities will have no choice but to accept.
2. In the new ‘Growth’ and ‘Renewal’ zones, developers will automatically get outline planning permission.
3. Local Plans will no longer have development management policies, so planning applications in your area will only be judged against national policy.
4. Your only opportunity to shape this process will be a 6-week consultation window every 5 years to comment on zoning and design codes. If you miss those, you have no say. That’s a massive reduction in your ability to influence decisions affecting your neighbourhood.
5. ‘Permitted Development’ rights mean many other changes will happen without the need for planning permission, and therefore without public scrutiny.
6. Changes to the developer contributions regime and a new Infrastructure Levy claim to help provide affordable housing, but the small print shows it *might* do the opposite.
7. The top-down housing numbers and zoning *might* spell the end for Neighbourhood Planning and localism, despite some warm words.
8. Requirements for new homes to be zero-carbon will be pushed back to 2050, undermining communities’ efforts to address the climate emergency.

Planning Sheffield's future

Planning. Sheffield. Countryside. Green Belt. These are words that run like a stick of rock through the core of our work. Since the 1920s, we have helped prevent urban sprawl, created England's first Green Belt and argued for its protection and permanence. Our next door countryside is one of Sheffield's finest assets, and a vital underpinning for 'The Outdoor City' brand.

At the same time, our countryside has never been under greater threat, with three crises to address: the climate crisis, the ecological emergency, and a dearth of affordable, sustainable homes fit for the 21st century. And despite the seemingly constant attacks by Government on the planning system, trying to whittle it away in the name of economic growth, the land

use planning system is central in providing democratically-accountable solutions.

It is therefore a crucial time to start re-planning Sheffield's future, which was the subject of the Council's recent 'Issues and Options' consultation on its emerging Local Plan *'The Sheffield Plan. Our City, Our Future'*. Sadly much delayed by internal politics, this is the first step along a long journey to having new planning policies in place by 2023 or so. Whilst the delay is regrettable, leaving the 'door ajar' to inappropriate speculative developments, the flip side is the opportunity to create a radical, innovative plan that will deliver an urgent step change to address the climate, biodiversity and housing crises we face.

The current *Issues and Options* paper certainly contains visionary rhetoric: 'we want Sheffield to become a fair, inclusive and environmentally sustainable city'. We fully support that. The document also states that 'in 2015, Sheffielders said loud and clear that they don't want to see building on Sheffield's countryside and Green Belt' and the Council still agree. But of course, this is an options paper so all ideas need to be on the table to ensure a fair and democratic process.

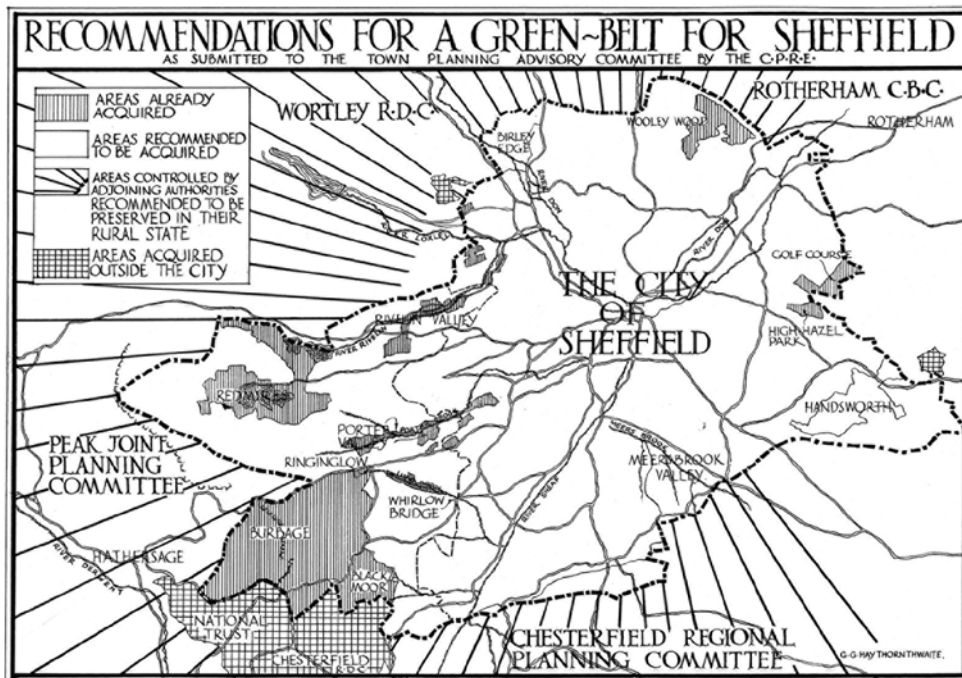
To that end, a core issue for CPRE are the spatial options for accommodating the Government's targets of the 40,000 new homes that are needed in the city by 2038. The Council have presented three crude options with varying degrees of building in the Green Belt. Option A allocates no new Green Belt homes (focusing instead on urban renewal, including brownfield sites); B looks to allow 5,000 homes in the Green Belt and C proposes 10,000 houses (or a quarter of all new homes) in the Green Belt.

We clearly favour Option A. This not only protects precious countryside but also helps support more sustainable

travel options, retains key community infrastructure and services (shops, surgeries, schools) and helps regenerate the city centre.

The Council's review into how the current Green Belt performs against its five purposes, as specified in national policy, shows that virtually all of Sheffield's Green Belt should be retained. We support most of this analysis and also recognise that some limited cases could be made for removing Green Belt through limited urban extensions, but only where exceptional net gains in sustainability could be delivered. These are sometimes termed 'confident bites'.

What's next? After the consultation closes, we will be working hard with many local communities, to ensure that the politicians and planners move forward with policies that maximise the protection of local countryside by the imaginative regeneration and re-greening of our city. As an old CPRE campaign put it, we need to 'go to town to save the countryside'! We urgently need financial support to carry on this vital work. Details to give are on page 23.



Mayfield Valley, Sheffield

Lovely Loxley Valley

By David Holmes, Friends of the Loxley Valley

Daylight was almost gone, the trees around Loxley Old Wheel dam reduced to silhouettes reflecting atmospherically in the water. We'd timed it just right to catch Daubenton's bats out for their first feed on a late May night, silent but for our bat detector gunning its sonar soundtrack.

More in hope than expectation, I pointed my iPhone at the action and pressed record. Success! A little dark and grainy, but one of the bats performed spectacularly for a perfect thirty seconds while a friend provided commentary.

The video clips attracted hundreds of views next morning on our 'Friends of the Loxley Valley' social media platforms. We'd detected bat activity right through the half-mile-long abandoned factories in the heart of the Loxley valley.

It was another instalment in a social media campaign

culminating in resounding refusal of planning permission for an unsustainable new township. And for CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire, the culmination of years of campaign work with our local community.

The bats share some of the buildings with local businesses and a handful of residents. But most of the old refractory works have stood derelict since Hepworth plc abandoned production in the 1990s, prompting protracted debate about what happens next.

This is no ordinary 'brownfield' site. It occupies wooded Green Belt in a beautiful river valley, beyond Sheffield's urban footprint and right next to the Peak District National Park. CPRE PDSY and our local groups have long argued it needs outstandingly sensitive redevelopment.

Sadly, this has meant disagreement with successive site owners who've seen mass housing as the only viable solution. We hoped for better in 2018 when new owners Patrick Properties held a workshop to explore a possible award-winning and sustainable solution. We were told further public consultation would follow, with hopes of a detailed planning application respecting the site's sensitivity.

Then the line went dead. A year later, Patrick reconvened the workshop to tell us they proposed an outline planning application for hundreds of houses. They had hoped to explore other options, but the market was unfavourable.

Regrettably, that forced us into an adversarial planning battle. Friends of the Loxley Valley came into being. Within months we had over a hundred members,

a website attracting thousands of views, and social media channels with hundreds of followers.

The bat clips sat alongside photos of barn owls, badgers, other wildlife, charismatic industrial relics, winter floods, overburdened rural roads, secluded woodland paths, nudging into people's busy lives to remind

them what was at stake if the city got this wrong.

The response was astonishing: around 900 objections from concerned local people, many of them detailed and eloquent. Superbly argued landmark objections from CPRE PDSY, the Peak District National Park Authority, the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, the Sheffield Climate Alliance, local MPs, councillors, political parties and so many others.

On 15th September Sheffield city councillors voted unanimously for their officers' verdict that the application should be REFUSED. They said the proposed development would damage the Green Belt, harm the Loxley valley's special character, be remote and unsustainable, and didn't justify building on a flood plain. And it was too vague to



judge fully its impact on biodiversity, landscape, climate change, design quality, pollution and the remediation of derelict land.

It would have been pints all round had we not been campaigning through a global pandemic that

prevented us even meeting.

If the planning decision had gone the other way, it would have been game over. Now we wait for the landowners to make their next move. If they appeal, an informed, energised local community will present its arguments to a planning inspector. We hope they might instead press rewind and genuinely explore a consensual, sustainable solution. Times have changed since 2018. We're in a post-Covid, bio-depleted climate-breakdown world. Those bats, their wildlife neighbours and this remarkable site deserve better than another housing estate. An award-winning green gateway from The Outdoor City to its national park? Why not?!

Hollin Busk saved!

We celebrated again when a long campaign, working closely with the Friends of Hollin Busk, to stop 85 houses on this green field site succeeded. Stocksbridge Town Council and local MP Miriam Cates had also opposed the development.

Although recommended for approval by planning officers, despite the significant visual impact on a designated 'Countryside Area' in the local plan and potential heritage impacts, City councillors again disagreed and refused permission. We had consistently opposed an initial, and later amended application as inappropriate and not needed to meet Sheffield's housing needs.

Although it is likely that the developer, Hallam Land Management, will appeal, they have not done so yet. Meantime, our priority is to ensure the area is upgraded from 'Countryside Area' to Green Belt to give it its fully deserved protection. We will be doing this through our response to the emerging Sheffield Local Plan (see p6)



Owlthorpe housing refused!

We celebrated with the Owlthorpe Action Group (OAG) and the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust (SRWT) after a great team campaign resulted in Sheffield councillors refusing permission for Avant Homes to build a sprawling, mediocre housing estate on an amazing greenfield site near Mosborough.

Working together with local MP, Clive Betts, we helped make clear planning arguments about density and design that led to a reversal of the planning officers' recommendation to approve. The campaign gained great coverage in local and regional press, coinciding with a national CPRE story on the value of local green space at the height of the pandemic. The Council's planning committee decision was also the first to be taken virtually and our lobbying helped ensure that all the key objectors were allowed to have their say.



Sadly, we have recently learnt that Avant Homes are appealing the decision, meaning a public inquiry will be held sometime in 2021. We are currently deciding how we can best work together with our campaign partners to ensure the most effective representation at the inquiry. Please help us carry on the fight by contributing to our new Green Belt appeal, our 'defence fund' to support this vital work!



Motor and Aqua Park, Huggins Lakes

Doncaster's climate dilemma

We are fast approaching the last formal stage of trying to get Doncaster's Local Plan right. Over the past year or so, we have commented on their proposed plans and policies and soon these will be examined by an independent Government inspector in front of an audience of developers, Council planners, local people and interested parties such as ourselves. Guided by our planning consultant, Andrew Wood, our final statements are written and our team is ready for four weeks of intense discussion and arguments.

Our clear focus throughout is Doncaster Council's failure to integrate the climate emergency into its plan, and the radical carbon reductions needed. These are crucial years where fundamental shifts in the way we plan new developments must change. For Doncaster this is especially challenging, where economic development is often focused on distribution, road and air transport.

Sadly, and despite constructive suggestions from us, the Council's plans and policies simply do not take enough account of this existential challenge. Its policies may have been fit for previous climate targets (e.g. 20% CO2 reductions by 2020) but do not scratch the surface of

achieving the UK's national net zero target of 2050. Unbelievably, there are no targets enshrined in the plan for any of the many low carbon steps that must be taken. This is the antithesis of good planning and its tenets of 'plan, monitor, manage'.

Belatedly, Doncaster's Climate Commission has issued an interim position statement recommending the Borough deliver an 85% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2040. At our request, this is now a core reference document for the coming examination. In relation to key policy areas within the plan, we are lobbying hard for the carbon and climate change implications to be integrated so that we are not 'locking in' unsustainable patterns of development for years to come.

We know this is one of the hardest challenges for planning and for desperately under-resourced local authorities. But as a country, region, town or city, we simply cannot afford to let this lie – it is too important. Whilst industry and individuals must all take action too, to not use the land use planning system to address climate change head on would be folly beyond description.

Longdendale – the long game

Longdendale, stretching from Mottram in the west to Thurlstone Moors in the east, has some magnificent countryside. From the reservoirs in the valley bottom to the wooded slopes rising to the wilder peat moorland it provides many benefits to us all - drinking water, flood mitigation, carbon sequestration and extensive opportunities for open-air recreation in a dramatic landscape. It is crossed by no less than three national trails – the trans-Pennine trail, the Pennine Bridleway and the Pennine Way.

Much of it lies in the Peak District National Park's Dark Peak with Black Hill to the north and Bleaklow to the south. But the stretches outside are equally beautiful, such as Swallows Wood, Warhill and Harrop Edge, despite being hard pressed by suburbia. As we all know, the future of all of this countryside is in the balance as the climate emergency unfolds with huge losses in wildlife.

As we attempt to address these threats through renewable energy, low carbon travel, changes in payments to land managers and farmers, better insulated buildings and less waste, what does the future of Longdendale look like? What should be done for the next 40 years?

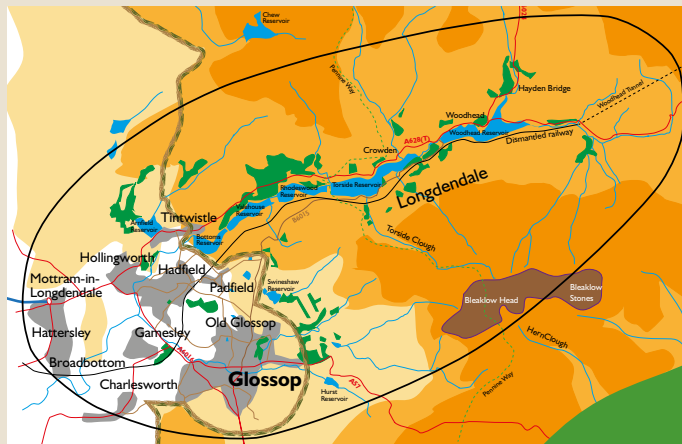
In the 1970s the Peak District National Park Authority pursued actions which has given us the Longdendale we have today. United Utilities has undertaken substantial tree planting with renewal of native woodland

and National Grid has considered removing the pylons and undergrounding the overhead wires.

However, Transport for the North and Highways England see Longdendale as the lynchpin in a Southern Pennines Strategic Development Corridor based on dualling the A628 corridor, with a 5.7mile tunnel under the high moors. This would connect the M67 in Manchester with the M1 near Barnsley. With only a select group of stakeholders engaged in the development of the idea, this is a vision being progressed behind closed doors.

This summer we set up a survey which asks how we value the countryside of Longdendale now and what changes, if any, people would like to see to make it even more special than it is. The survey is open to everyone to answer and you can take it now ([link](#)).

Our aim is to hear as many disparate voices and views as possible and ultimately to collaborate with local people and visitors to realise a future that would sustain Longdendale and all it has to offer for the long term.



Save our Monsal Trail



Outline plans to reopen the Matlock Buxton railway through the Peak District are at an early stage but have reached the Department for Transport. The MEMRAP (Manchester & East Midlands Rail Action Partnership) bid to the Restoring our Railways fund would allow a full study of its proposed freight and passenger services to be undertaken. At present there's insufficient evidence to form an opinion of this latest scheme. We objected to the 2004 proposal and will assess our stance once we understand its full impacts.

The project has some tough tests to pass if it is to go ahead. As a major development in the National Park, it must show exceptional circumstances

(for it to need to be in the Park) and be in the public interest. In addition, this is a sensitive environment with strong protection for White Peak habitats and geology.

The potential impacts on recreation and quiet enjoyment in a tranquil part of the National Park are also potentially a showstopper. The 9-mile Monsal trail is immensely popular with walkers, cyclists, horse riders and the less mobile. Topographical and ecological constraints would make it virtually impossible to create a replacement trail of equal character and quality. If you value the Monsal Trail you can sign the petition here <https://www.change.org/p/departement-for-transport-save-the-monsal-trail>

New OfGEM pylon plans



We will soon be seeing dramatic improvements in landscapes in National Parks and AONBs. The regulator OfGEM has allowed the transmission operators to spend up to £500 million to underground overhead electricity wires and remove pylons. National Grid has used the money to bring three projects - in Dorset, Snowdonia and the Peak District - successfully through the development and planning process. In Barnsley we can look forward to a new pylon-free gateway to the Dark Peak.

Despite these successes OfGEM has set the allowance for the next control period at only £465million. This would not cover the costs of all the pipeline projects identified by National Grid, would stifle ambition and would not allow delivery of the significant visual amenity benefits the public are seeking.

Based on research by Professor Richard Cowell of Cardiff University that we commissioned with our partners, we argued strongly for a much higher allowance, of at least £725million. This would be based on the median willingness to pay and would have an acceptable impact on the public purse. A sum of this size would allow re-consideration of the most visually harmful overhead line in Longdendale, and hopefully lead to removal of its pylons.

Decarbonising Transport



Without such a national budget and pathway, city regions and local authorities are stumped when trying to develop their own Net Zero budgets. Many have set challenging targets in response to the climate emergency and look to Government for support in meeting them. Without a national framework all efforts will appear ad hoc and potentially be ineffective in meeting legal requirements.

Once a single carbon budget has been set for all transport modes, transport policy, planning and investment, and travel choices can then follow a hierarchy that mirrors the carbon footprint of the different modes of travel – active travel first, followed by public transport with car travel last. All schemes that undermine achievement of the decarbonisation milestones would be abandoned, including HS2 and the roads programme. The billions of pounds saved could be used to deliver high speed broadband across the country and to support active travel and free bus travel. These large sums give a measure of the scale of investment needed to decarbonise travel. The £2bn announced earlier this year by DfT for active travel pales into insignificance when Greater Manchester's Beelines for walking and cycling needs £1.5bn to be completed.



Just before the UK went into the Covid-19 lockdown, the Department for Transport (DfT) launched a consultation on Decarbonising Transport – the Challenge. Bad timing and rather late in the day as to date DfT has flagrantly ignored the Committee on Climate Change advice, by allowing transport emissions to rise and excluding international aviation and shipping from the UK carbon budgets.

Transport is now the largest source of carbon emissions in the UK, at 169 MtCO₂e and the only sector in which emissions have increased since 1990. The scale of the challenge to meet the obligations of the Paris Climate agreement and restrict the increase in global average temperatures to well below 2°C is enormous. In the worst case forecast UK 2030 transport emissions could rise above current levels and in the optimistic forecast are only 10% lower than 1990 levels.

Unfortunately, Decarbonising Transport gave no hint of this urgency and seemed set on business as usual. There was no sign of CPRE's top priority - a legally-binding, national, single, net zero carbon budget and reduction pathway for the transport sector as a whole, including international aviation and shipping. Nor were there any clear milestones in line with the legal requirement for Net Zero by 2050 and the urgency for action.

Hope Valley Climate Action

By Roger Clark



Edale station looking west

In June 2019 Transition Hope Valley organised a public meeting in Hathersage to discuss climate change. The Memorial Hall was full to overflowing. After the spring of Greta Thunberg and Extinction Rebellion, and David Attenborough's stark warning on TV, there was a big appetite for learning more about this huge threat to our civilisation, and doing something about it. So Hope Valley Climate Action was born.

A lot has been achieved since. Action groups have been set up on energy, food and farming, travel and transport, and rewilding, with village groups in Bamford, Hathersage and Grindleford. The National Park Authority, all our local councillors and Robert Lorgan, High Peak MP have endorsed our work. We have planted trees and established dialogue with the farming community. We have established links with other concerned groups in the Valley, across Derbyshire, and in Sheffield. We have distributed a regular newsletter to nearly 400 supporters. We have kept going through the Covid lockdown, with Zoom enabling the CEO of The Wildlife Trusts and the Policy Director of the National Farmers Union to join our meetings. On December 14th we welcome Fiona Reynolds, Chair of Green Alliance, former head of the National Trust, and President of Friends of the Peak District (CPRE PDSY) as our guest speaker.

Travel and transport is a particular focus: our survey, with nearly 500 respondents, revealed an appetite for sustainable travel. We have organised a demonstration 'bike bus' for students to cycle safely to Hope Valley College; and we have arranged a 'try before you buy' e-bike event.

Our Chair, Jeremy Wight, says "For me, the most gratifying development has been the discovery that there are so many like-minded people in the Hope Valley, who recognise the threat we face, share a determination to do something about it, and are prepared to put time and energy into making a difference".

What are the prospects for next year? To make the Valley a national pilot for sustainable travel, with safe walking and cycling routes for everyday use, excellent public transport, and reduced use of private cars by visitors and local people. To push for improved home insulation, and to explore increased renewable energy generation. To work with farmers towards the environmentally and economically sustainable farming of the future. To do all this, and more, we need you to get involved.

Please visit our website <https://hopevalleyclimateaction.org.uk/> or contact us at hopevalleyclimateaction@gmail.com

Community Solar

By Laurie James, Sustainable Hayfield



The parish of Hayfield, on the western edge of the Peak District National Park, has a profile whose scale belies its size: a start point for the Kinder Mass trespass, a historically popular base for walkers and fell running and, lately, for mountain biking.

But its profile may have a new element thanks to the energy generation revolution underway in the UK. Local enthusiasts from Sustainable Hayfield, a 'green group', have secured government funding to carry out a feasibility study into prospects for a solar farm in the parish. The aim is to help ensure supply of local green energy to local people.

The impetus comes from knowledge that energy generation in the future will look very different. Coal as a fuel is now almost gone, and there are real questions about the future of (equally fossil-fuel based) gas. The government has committed the UK to be net zero carbon emitting by 2050, and is taking first steps to ensure future domestic and commercial energy needs are met largely by renewable sources. And more of that will be generated locally.

Any significant solar development must be sensitive to the character of local landscape, and the local community. So Sustainable Hayfield's Energy group is keen to get any proposal as right as it can. It has engaged consultants to map potential sites; and undertaken a household survey in the parish, involving door-to-door deliveries to 1200 homes,

newsletter postings, and extensive use of local social media. It staffed a street stall to discuss prospects with villagers, and is stressing the need for any farm to be softened by judicious tree and shrub planting.

The approach taken has resulted in some positive engagements. Hayfield Parish Council supports the completion of the feasibility study in principle. The local MP is interested in the scheme's progress. A local shop agreed to receive completed, hard copy, survey forms. Research has been done on the impact of solar farms on local biodiversity. Initial constructive discussions have been held with the local planning authority and with CPRE officers.

In seeking community views, Sustainable Hayfield's approach has been informed by the CPRE's model, set out in its report 'Future Energy Landscapes: a new approach to local energy planning', co-authored with the Centre for Sustainable Energy.

Local residents were asked about:

- Their relative support/opposition to a range of renewable energy generating technologies
- What is important to them about any renewable energy supply (e.g. locality, affordability, scope for involvement)
- Whether they support in principle the development of a solar farm in the parish

- Whether or not they would consider investing in any community share issue offered
- Their degree of support, and own ideas, for what any community fund derived from operating profits might be put to.

The survey – undertaken over about 10 days – resulted in almost 200 returns, 16% of all households. This is encouraging. Work is being done to analyse responses. But already it's clear that, of those responding:

- 80%+ support, or strongly, support energy supply from a solar farm or

- hydro scheme, with at least 50% strongly supportive
- 85%+ support in principle a solar farm within the parish
- A striking almost 80% said they would consider investing in any community share offer, and
- Improved insulation and tree planting/'rewilding' were the most popular uses to which a community fund could be put.

This all represents a good start. Enquiries can be made to shayfieldenergygroup@gmail.com.

Greener Better Faster

The transformational change needed across society to reach net-zero emissions will touch every sector and every community. The places we live and the ways that we travel around, our livelihoods, the food we eat, and the countryside itself – the landscapes, habitats and wildlife living within it – are all going to change.

The countryside itself can provide many of the solutions to tackling climate breakdown. Better still, these changes will bring a host of other benefits to people and wildlife.

By planting more trees and hedgerows, restoring peatlands and moving towards a more sustainable way of farming, we can use nature's toolbox to capture greenhouse gases from the air, while revitalising our natural environments.

By shifting to sustainable public transport and more walking and cycling, we will cut emissions and reduce air pollution, while improving our wellbeing and reconnecting our market towns with increasingly isolated rural communities. In improving the energy efficiency of our homes, we will reduce the demand for new energy supplies. This will lower

electricity bills and lift millions of people out of fuel poverty.

And by using renewable energy sources, we will move towards a green energy future that provides jobs and opportunities to rural communities.

Putting the countryside at the centre of our transition to a net-zero future is therefore crucial. CPRE's new manifesto: 'Greener, better, faster' sets out how the government can best achieve this. It focuses on five areas: Thriving landscapes; Planning and building; Food and farming; Transport and Energy.

At CPRE, we celebrate our countryside for its inherent beauty and what it represents for us culturally as much as for the food, fresh water and mental and physical health benefits it gives us. We're proud to promote, enhance and protect our countryside for everyone to enjoy, and we recognise the huge risk the climate emergency poses to this.

We need your help to continue this vital work; to lobby and campaign and hold the government to account. Please make a donation to our appeal today.



Sprawling development threatens historic village

We're concerned about an application to build new housing on and around the Britannia Mill near Buxworth. The mill site is allocated for housing in the High Peak Local Plan and we have no problem with that as it is a brownfield site, subject to sustainable design, active travel and low carbon systems being core to the development.

However Rivertown Developments, who own the site, want to sprawl out onto green belt and greenfield land to the north and south east with poor quality, low density housing. This would cause a merger with the historic village of Buxworth, contrary to green belt policy and also affect the setting of Bugsworth Canal Basin which is a nationally important heritage site.

This is a typical example of a poorly designed, car dependent housing estate which should be banned. We need instead a compact, sustainable, walkable community estate which will help meet High Peak Borough Council's target of zero carbon emissions by 2030.

The right to roam is the right to reconnect

Ours is a wild and a beautiful island. But we are excluded, by law of trespass, from 92% of its countryside and 97% of its rivers. The Right to Roam campaign aims to extend the Countryside & Rights of Way (CROW) Act which, in 2000, gave us partial rights to roam over about 8% of England.

At the end of the Second World War, the Attlee government looked into granting a full Right to Roam in England, similar to that of Scotland today. But of all the post-war new order proposals, the Right to Roam was deemed a step too far by the landowners in the House of Lords, and rejected.

People are still blamed for not following rules but the problem is not a lack of regulation, it is lack of education. Littering, dog fouling and sheep worrying are all already crimes. The rules exist: there is already a Countryside Code. It should be taught in schools so that we all understand the practical and moral responsibility we owe to the land, its community and its owners.

For more information and to continue this conversation visit www.righttoroam.org.uk/



Party plans for Gothic Lodge

Thornseat Lodge, the crumbling but still imposing Victorian Gothic shooting lodge on the edge of Bradfield Moors, has long been neglected and is in serious disrepair. An application to convert it to five holiday lets may be the last chance to save anything of historic value.

However, the restoration is accompanied by a proposed wedding/event venue, for up to 150 guests with 80 car parking spaces, on the footprint of the former stables and courtyard. This would bring noise and disturbance, potentially with outdoor PA systems, loud music and fireworks, right on the edge of the Bradfield Moors.

The moors are an area of immense tranquillity, and an extremely important and strongly protected habitat for wild birds. In addition, the traffic generated would use the network of quiet lanes in Bradfield Dale so popular with walkers and cyclists. These lanes are steep and narrow with blind bends, and pass through villages such as High and Low Bradfield. At a time when active travel is so important these lanes should be protected from intimidating traffic both for their valuable role in improving people's quality of life and to enhance their character and tranquillity.



Business Sponsor Focus Pure Outdoor

Since 2006, Pure Outdoor Ltd. have provided UK and Overseas Hillwalking, Navigation, Rock Climbing, Caving, First Aid, Winter Skills, Mountain Guiding, Corporate Training and Group Events from their base in the village of Bamford in the Peak District. Their aim is to provide high quality, low instructor/client ratio courses which are accessible to all, and as well as having the original National Park to work in, they have excellent facilities at their Adventure Hub base including indoor and outdoor meeting facilities and a climbing and bouldering wall – after all it isn't sunny on every day in the Peak !! Founded by Guy Wilson, the company contributes to the local economy by attracting clients from all over the UK (and the world) to attend courses, many of whom use



Guy Wilson

local hospitality providers. Whether you climb, walk, cave or bike, Pure Outdoor have courses to suit all levels which can be viewed on their website at www.pureoutdoor.co.uk

We are very grateful to Guy and the team for allowing the charity to use the meeting rooms (and the excellent coffee machine) on occasion. The Peakland Guardian is also available from their base if you're passing.

Welcome New Trustees

Julie Parry, Chair

Julie has over 30 years' experience as a teacher and leader in schools, often in areas with few natural advantages. She has extensive experience of bringing about significant improvements in the education offered to the children in her care. In retirement, Julie maintains a strong link with education as a Trustee of a leading Multi Academy Trust. Julie has a life-long love of the natural world and is a keen walker in, and photographer of, her local countryside and the wildlife and plant life to be found there.



Ruth Knighton



Ruth grew up in rural Staffordshire and has been living in the Peak District for a number of years. With over 22 years' HR experience within the NHS, Ruth currently holds the position of Head of Human Resources for a local NHS trust, leading the development of Workforce Health, Wellbeing and Inclusion. She is a keen cook, traveller and hill-walker with a passion for the natural world, specifically the conservation and protection of bird-life. When not working, Ruth can often be found on top of a hill with her energetic border collie, Maggie, looking for skylarks.

Steve Tivey

Steve has had a 40 year career as a countryside and rights of way manager, working for South Yorkshire County Council, Barnsley MBC, Cheshire County Council and Sheffield City Council. He is a former adviser, on countryside access issues, to the Association of Metropolitan Authorities and was a member of the House of Commons Rights of Way Review Committee. His Interests include hill walking, travel, natural history and photography. Steve lives on the eastern boundary of the Peak on the edge of moorland.



VACANCY Treasurer

We're currently looking for a treasurer. If you have skills in book-keeping, accounting, financial forecasting, and IT preferably with experience of Quickbooks or similar packages, we'd love to hear from you. Please email tomo@cprepeakandsyorks.org.uk or call 0114 312 2002 for more info.

Ethel Haythornthwaite - her legacy for Sheffield and the Peak District



Sheffield born Ethel Haythornthwaite (1894–1986) was a formidable and nationally respected environmental campaigner, and a pioneer of the countryside movement.

In this illustrated online talk, Jean Smart offers a peek into the life of an extraordinary Sheffield woman who pioneered countryside protection and town and country planning with steely determination and a genius for influencing and persuading.

Ethel was born to self-made businessman Thomas W. Ward and Mary Sophia Ward (of the Sheffield Bassets sweet company), and married her first

husband in 1916. She was widowed and heartbroken by the age of 22.

Desperate to distract her, her family encouraged her to visit the countryside where she noticed many developments which she considered to be inappropriate, badly designed, or in the wrong place. She particularly disliked the advertising hoardings lining the country roads and ugly and badly sited petrol stations in isolated country lanes, and all the litter everywhere. And so began her life's work.

Jean worked for Ethel, and the man who later became her husband, Gerald Haythornthwaite, for 37 years at the charity now known as CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire.



Jean Smart

View it now on our YouTube channel. Link from our website: www.cprepdsy.org.uk



Have you seen our new website? www.cprepdsy.org.uk

Since the 1920s we've been CPRE Peak District & South Yorkshire but since 2002 we've also been known as Friends of the Peak District. We're going back to our roots: same charity, same workload, same passionate commitment to the fabulous countryside in the Peak District d South Yorkshire (and NE Derbyshire). Basically business as usual! Just a new livery...

David Wilson 1926-2020



We were sorry to learn recently of the death, aged 95, of David Wilson, a lifelong member of our branch. He was given membership at an early age by our founder, Ethel Haythornthwaite, as he was part of the extended Ward/Irons family, linked in part through Sheffield's metal industry. His father, Ronald Wilson, ran the Sheffield Smelting Company but instilled in David a deep love of the countryside, especially the Peak District. After volunteer recorder roles in Derbyshire and South Yorkshire, David went on to lead the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) through rapid expansion and success in the 1960s, leaving to become a well-regarded book dealer. He always kept an eye on his beloved Peak patch, notifying us of potential threats. He

contributed generously to our appeal to restore the Ward family graves plot in 2018, though sadly did not attend the celebratory event. We are also immensely grateful for a legacy he has left us to carry on our vital work.

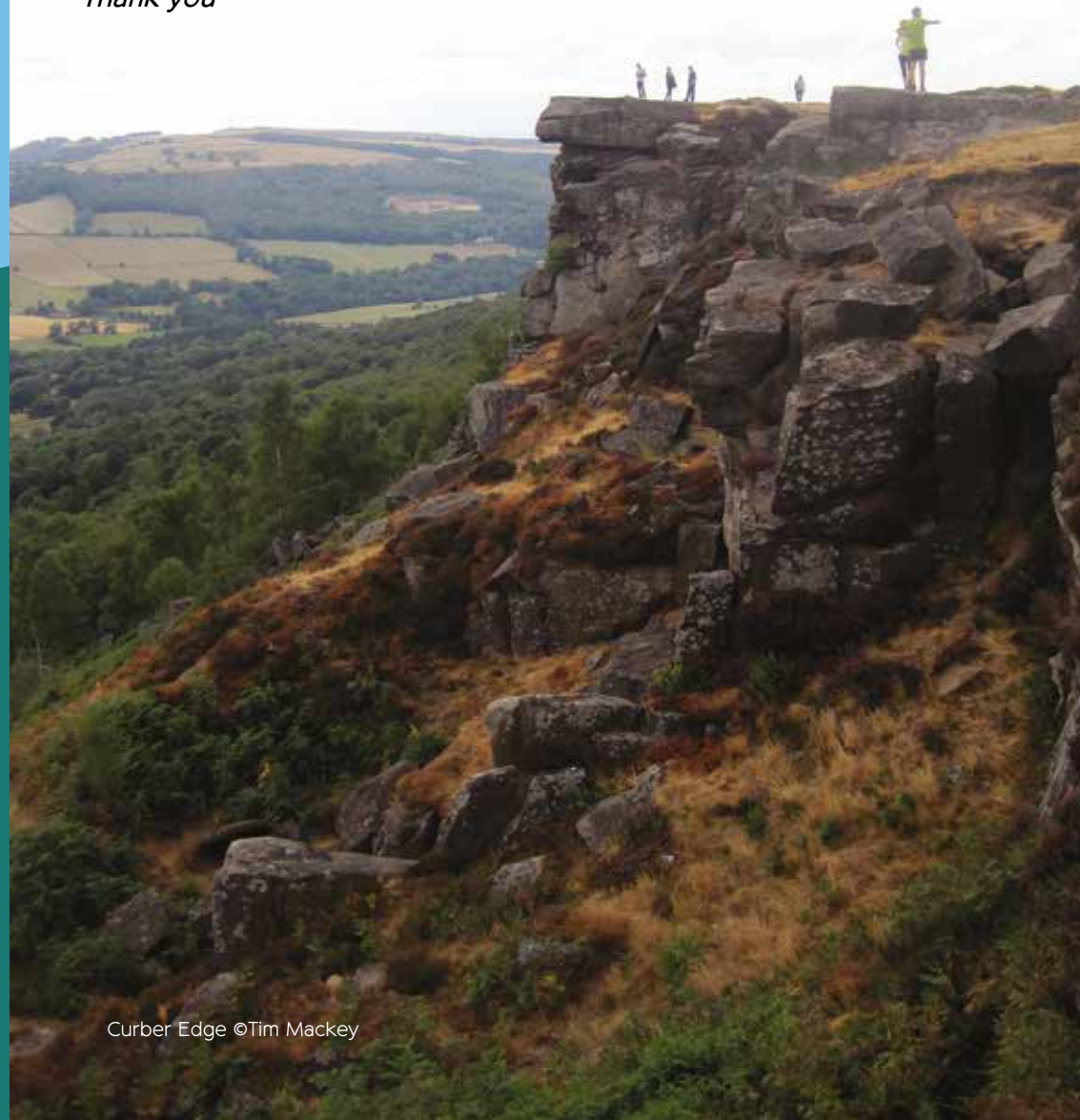
John Foster 1920-2020

It was a great sadness to learn of the death of the Peak District National Park's inaugural director, John Foster, just weeks short of his 100th birthday. But we give thanks for his immense formative contribution to the Peak District and to countryside conservation across the UK. He took the reins at the PDNP in 1952 and stayed till 1968. He was a deft and charismatic leader, artfully bridging the gap between the often divergent views of local county councils and conservationists such as ourselves.

He worked closely with the Haythornthwaites and also helped establish many elements of the national park scene we now take for granted: information centres, a ranger service and the mountain rescue teams. It was no real surprise, as a Scot, that he would return home to become the first director of the Countryside Commission for Scotland. In his long retirement he was still incredibly active, driving the development of the John Muir Trust among other causes. He still retained a strong interest in the Peak District, being a great supporter of our organisation and providing incisive and helpful analysis of our campaigns, notably our work to underground intrusive electricity infrastructure. He will be sorely missed.



"The natural world nurtures and nourishes us, our physical health and our mental wellbeing. It is our first line of defence against the climate emergency; and our haven of adventure, beauty and tranquillity. It cleans the air we breathe and the water we drink. It captures carbon and saves our towns from flooding. We deliver a unique service by supporting local communities to campaign for it and help protect it. Please support our work. Visit www.cprepsdy.org.uk and donate today. Thank you"



Curber Edge ©Tim Mackey



CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire

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