



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
South East

CPRE South East eBulletin

July 2012

Too much talk and too much wind

It is true of our time that in matters of the environment there is no consensus. The only miserable agreement that the 50,000 delegates and environmentalists could reach at the Rio+20 earth summit proved to be so predictable. They made no commitment to act, just to talk more.

Since the original Rio summit in 1992, far too many NGOs have forgotten they must voice their passion for the environment as well as pursue policy change. Too many greens now speak only in the measured language favoured by bureaucrats. Too many are shy of delivering their messages with excitement and enthusiasm. Too many are scared to offend the people they hope to influence. Worse, as the journal *Nature* put it, the international environmental movement has become entangled in a "bureaucratic machine that has been set to indefinite idle." The green movement that was once a crusade is now a contortion of committees chaired by people who have long confused access to the corridors of power with influence over the political and economic agenda.

Thank goodness then for Kumi Naidoo, the ardent leader of Greenpeace International. Drawing inspiration from the anti-apartheid and anti-slavery movements, he has put the green movement onto a "war footing" after the abject failure of Rio+20. In an exquisite counterpoint to Naidoo, the UK dispatched Defra secretary Caroline Spelman to Brazil. She seemed to be living in her own genetically modified version of planet earth when she declared: "Rio+20 has shown that there is political ambition for change." Her words are lamentable, even laughable, but that does not mean they can be ignored.

As we report below, wind farm policy is on the cusp of change. But beware. Wind farms are the most prominent way of politicians and greens activists demonstrating that they are serious about limiting climate change. The wind turbine has become a green leitmotif on par with whales (to be saved) and nuclear power (to be eliminated). Wind energy is also just about the only non-technical green policy left standing in this 'greenest government ever'. The government will be wary of dropping reducing such an obvious statement of its own "political ambition for change". But it will also not be able to ignore the rising tide of local protest against wind farms.

The green movement has rightly protested at the clearing of rainforest for biomass energy and the erosion of community land rights across the world by industrial giants. But here in the UK, many greens are believe industrialisation of rich country landscapes against the wish of local communities is just fine. It is not.

If we want to save Planet Earth for future generations, we must encourage all peoples to value the landscapes in which they live, and protect them against external demands for industrialisation. That's what the green movement preaches to communities around the world. It applies here in England too. If this means abandoning the current tidal wave wind farms in England, so be it. And if it means abandoning 50,000 strong talk-ins that recommend more talking, that will be a bonus.

Andy Boddington

Daily Mail
WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2012
www.dailymail.co.uk
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 55p

Landmark victory as villagers fight off threat to countryside

DAY THE LITTLE MAN BLEW WIND TURBINES AWAY

Victory at Hemsby

Summary. The high court upheld refusal of planning permission for a Norfolk wind farm (Telegraph: <http://bit.ly/NIDqoz>; EDP24: <http://bit.ly/LqKPVo>; Daily Mail <http://bit.ly/JNx6hW>). The importance of the case is two-fold. Landscape protection policies at local, national and European level have been upheld against renewable energy targets. And the judge has reaffirmed the primacy of local plans over national policy, even on matters of renewable energy. Planning decisions are often a balanced judgement and this decision tips the balance back towards local policy after a drift towards giving more weight to national policy and targets in recent years.

The case. An application to erect four 344ft turbines near Hemsby, Great Yarmouth was rejected in 2009 over concerns about their adverse impact on the landscape. A planning inspector confirmed the decision at appeal, saying the regional target to generate 17% of energy from renewable sources by 2020 did not take priority (Decision letter: <http://bit.ly/Lq7rr5>). The inspector said: "the adverse impact on and harm to the character and appearance of the area surrounding the appeal site is so significant that even when taking account... the need for renewable energy and the lack of substantial objection on other grounds, is sufficient to warrant refusal of the proposal". The developer launched a judicial review.

The arguments. In the high court, the developer argued that the renewable energy target in the East of England Plan took precedence over other matters. The council countered that the wind farm could have a significant adverse effect on wetlands protected under the European [Ramsar Convention](#); that it contravened local plan policies to protect the landscape; and that it would have a detrimental visual impact upon the nearby nationally designated Broads area.

The judgement. The judge relied on earlier judgements that "matters of planning judgment are within the exclusive province of the local planning authority or the Secretary of State" and that high court challenges must not be "used as a cloak for what is, in truth, a rerun of the arguments on the planning merits." She restated the primacy of the local development plan over planning policy statements - as material considerations PPS may supersede the policies in the development plan but will not necessarily do so. She concludes: "This is simply a case of policies pulling in different directions: harm to landscape and the benefits of renewable energy. The inspector was required to have regard to both sets of policies and to undertake a balancing exercise" (Judgement: <http://bit.ly/KD3AJX>; includes a useful summary of law and precedent on legal challenges to appeal decisions).

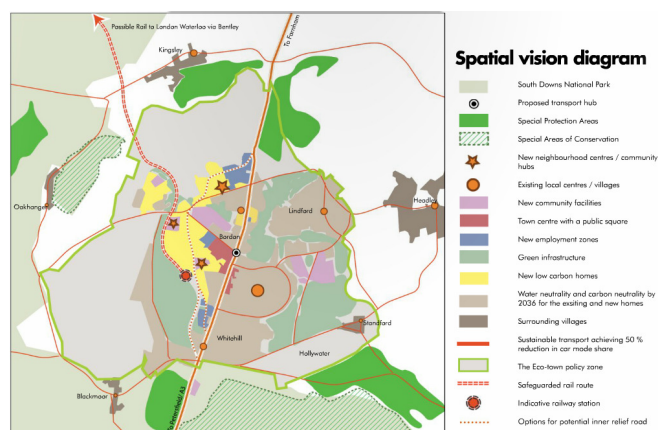
Reaction. CPRE East spokesman David Hook said: “The High Court judge has quashed the idea that national targets have precedent over local concerns... I think it will cause unrest to several wind farm companies because it’s reasserting the importance of local people’s feelings towards their landscape.” Robert Norris from Renewable UK shrugged the decision off: “We’re not unduly worried as we’ve always said every application for development needs to be considered on a case-by-case basis - some we win, some we lose” (BBC: <http://bbc.in/KD24Yn>). Bruce Anderson in the Telegraph wrote: “Everyone wants to cherish their sweet especial rural scenes, but the country has to make a living... In her ruling on the Hemsby case, Mrs Justice Lang referred to ‘policies pulling in different directions’. She is right, but it is easier to identify that difficulty than to find a way out of it” (<http://tgr.ph/KD1Ccq>). Many local newspapers suggested that the ruling will give hope to campaigners elsewhere (for example, Halifax: <http://bit.ly/LqLO8e>; Dengie, Essex: <http://bit.ly/LqNZIQ>; Helmdon, Northants: <http://bit.ly/JLBfx1>).

Planning

Garden cities. Planning Magazine reviewed the history and twenty-first century revival of the garden city movement (<http://bit.ly/NFakcb>; see also WHT24: <http://bit.ly/NFazE8>). In a paper for the TCPA, Graeme Bell argues that if Heathrow airport is decommissioned for a Thames Hub airport, the site could be developed as Heathrow Garden City providing 30,000 homes (<http://bit.ly/Mwo57l>; below).



Local plans. The first part of the Winchester District Local Plan, the core strategy, has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (<http://bit.ly/MXvKvx>). Wycombe District and Buckinghamshire County Council launched a consultation into plans for RAF Daws Hill (BFP: <http://bit.ly/NHN6kH>). The masterplan for Whitehill & Bordon Eco-town has been approved by East Hampshire District Council (<http://bit.ly/Mf5IXQ>; below).



Architecture. Planning minister Greg Clark said the NPPF is England’s architecture policy. He said it puts architecture at the heart of planning: “This is the feature of the NPPF which is most innovative and most radical. Clearly it’s a clarion call to high quality and innovative architecture” (AJ £: <http://bit.ly/M09zul>).

Housing

Housing realities. The Local Government Association called for government to free up councils’ finances to tackle the housing crisis. It released a survey that concluded that local public opposition is the single biggest barrier to the building of new homes (<http://bit.ly/LbqUv5>; LocalGov: <http://bit.ly/LbqFjF>). Communities minister Andrew Stunell announced funding for councils to tackle empty homes, including in Thanet (DCLG: <http://bit.ly/KW7ug7>). A survey of housebuilders showed they expect housing finance to continue to be difficult and planning applications to increase only slightly. Nearly half of respondents said they thought that localism would actually slow down the process of securing planning permission (Knight Frank: <http://bit.ly/JvFOLD>; Report: <http://bit.ly/JvFJrr>).

Housing ambitions. The Homes and Communities Agency said the number of affordable housing starts for 2011-2012 was just 15,698, a 68% fall on the previous year (BBC: <http://bbc.in/M0QSAx>). Weymouth & Portland and West Dorset Councils have cut house building ambitions by 5,000 homes against the previous regional spatial strategy target (Inside Housing: <http://bit.ly/Qa7AlC>). Guildford has adopted a temporary figure of 322 homes a year until its Local Plan Strategy is adopted (GP: <http://bit.ly/Mf5kIP>). Mid Sussex council wants to set a “realistic” housing target of 10,600 new homes by 2031 – compared to the 17,100 target set by the 2006 South East Plan (TI Sussex: <http://bit.ly/Mf5yjm>).

Housing campaigns. A 7,000 signature petition against the 3,350 home Chilmington Green greenfield development at Ashford has been delivered to Downing Street (Kent News: <http://bit.ly/KUinBp>). Edward Dawson, former director of CPRE SE & CPRE London, has been hired to fight plans to build 450 houses north of Basingstoke (Gazette: <http://bit.ly/LLazh6>). Villagers in Hampshire are worried that green gaps between towns and villages will be threatened by development, as plans are put forward for 180 houses between Emsworth and Havant (News: <http://bit.ly/KZD5AV>).

Landscapes and Biodiversity

Green belt. In a surprise move, Oxford City council is offering to build just 2,000 homes in the green belt south of the city, half that previously proposed. CPRE Oxfordshire’s Jane Tomlinson said: “Whether it’s 4,000 houses or 2,000 makes no difference - the Green Belt must remain intact” (Oxford Times: <http://bit.ly/L8JXYU>). Eric Pickles said that he is minded to approve a rugby league stadium in the green belt bordering Wakefield, arguing: “the beneficial effects of the proposal amount to very special circumstances, and are of sufficient weight to clearly outweigh the harm to the Green Belt” (BBC: <http://bbc.in/MCrPUt>; Out-Law: <http://bit.ly/Lvo2Pk>; Letter: <http://bit.ly/NYRcXQ>). A planning inspector has thrown out plans for an aviation museum in the green belt in Mole Valley (R&RL: <http://bit.ly/MPFV9s>; decision: <http://bit.ly/MPFV9s>).

Green space. Runnymede Borough Council is to reconsider its controversial decision to sell play spaces (Get Surrey: <http://bit.ly/Lyds55>). CPRE Oxfordshire said the Oxford Draft Green Spaces Strategy is deeply flawed, and fails to include an up-to-date audit of the quantity and quality of existing green space (<http://bit.ly/zCZDiQ0>). Garden grabbing in London has halved in five years (LES: <http://bit.ly/L5ZxEp>). The Fields in Trust project to find 2,012 open spaces for protection to mark Queen's diamond jubilee and Olympics is 700 fields short of target (Guardian: <http://bit.ly/JltK9T>).

Campaigns. The National Trust has launched a campaign to save Brandy Island at Buscot in Oxfordshire from being developed as a marina (Guardian: <http://bit.ly/MqQWdW>; <http://bit.ly/L8DZYb>; <http://bit.ly/L8Ewcl>; CPRE Oxon: <http://bit.ly/N4woM4>). The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust has launched a campaign to persuade Defra to end the delay in setting up Marine Conservation Zones (BBC: <http://bbc.in/KUkaqe>). The Telegraph featured a campaign by villagers in Almodington in West Sussex against a 52-acre greenhouse complex (<http://bit.ly/LwswE6>; Almodington Association: <http://bit.ly/Lwt10j>). East Dorset residents marched against proposals to build 500 houses in the green belt at West Parley (BBC: <http://bbc.in/LkNOKN>).

Uplands. Having withdrawn its Vital Uplands policy (for which see George Monbiot's acerbic view: <http://bit.ly/MINhlj>), Natural England is reviewing the impact of land management activities on biodiversity and ecosystem services in the uplands (closing dates from 20 July: <http://bit.ly/MIN3L8>).

Wildlife. After a public outcry, Wildlife Minister Richard Benyon abandoned plans to capture wild buzzards and destroy their nests in order to protect pheasant poults for shooting (BBC: <http://bbc.in/KD1gmK>; Independent: <http://ind.pn/K1z8Ve>). Martin Harper of the RSPB welcomed the u-turn and called for greater protection for other birds of prey. George Monbiot fired verbal shots at Benyon, Natural England and Poul Christensen (Guardian: <http://bit.ly/Nvl3Dt>; <http://bit.ly/LVGk7Z>). The government's proposed badger cull is heading for the high court (Guardian: <http://bit.ly/LkwzOM>). Short-haired bumblebees (*Bombus subterraneus*) have been reintroduced to Britain at the RSPB's Dungeness reserve in Kent (Independent: <http://ind.pn/NIGr8g>). France has banned neo-nicotinoid bee-killing pesticides but Defra is accused of stalling (Independent: <http://ind.pn/LbrgIC>). Water voles have returned to rivers across the UK (Daily Mail: <http://bit.ly/NjxPaB>). Plantlife has launched a campaign to persuade councils to manage roadside verges for wildlife (<http://bit.ly/LiepBB>). Trees Savers, a parallel campaign for railways, has a new website (<http://bit.ly/Lie95B>). Many of Britain's common wild flower species are disappearing because of nitrogen compounds from vehicle exhausts and agricultural fertilisers (Independent: <http://ind.pn/LPND1S>).

Trees. The Tree Council is calling for heritage trees, nominated because of their significance to history, wildlife or the local population, to be protected as 'green monuments' (Telegraph: <http://bit.ly/LdwpCT>).

Light pollution. Defra rejected CPRE's pleas to end the exemption of airports, harbours, railway premises, goods vehicle operating centres and prisons from lighting nuisance laws under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (GBP: <http://bit.ly/KhMqNk>).

Litter. CPRE president Bill Bryson declared: "Litter is becoming the default condition of the British roadside... A clean and lovely countryside shouldn't be a surprise. It should be a right" (Telegraph: <http://bit.ly/Mxt1NL>; Independent: <http://ind.pn/ND0rvn>).

Heritage. A High Court judge quashed plans to redevelop the Grade II-listed former home of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle at Undershaw, Surrey (Planning Portal: <http://bit.ly/L5Zdp20>). Dover District Council has launched a consultation on its heritage strategy (TI Kent: <http://bit.ly/LfMxva>; closing 16 August: <http://bit.ly/LfMyzp>).

Roundup. The countryside topped a poll for Prospect magazine as the "best thing about Britain today", being cited by 65% of respondents (<http://bit.ly/L8lguo>). Simon Jenkins, Chairman of the National Trust proposed that local authorities grade landscape from one to six, according to how beautiful it is, as well how often the public use it for leisure and how important it is for wildlife (Telegraph: <http://bit.ly/LCPHN7>). The National Trust launched a £1.2m appeal to buy a stretch of the white cliffs of Dover (Guardian: <http://bit.ly/MABUn1>; BBC: <http://bbc.in/MABWeo>).

Farming and Food

Food Webs. A major report from CPRE said that national planning guidance should give stronger support for a "sustainable food system" that encourages communities to produce and distribute local food (FWI: <http://bit.ly/LZN8W1>; CPRE: <http://bit.ly/KZ9mpu>). The report also urged that:

- ◆ Local plans should build on policies in the NPPF that support retail diversity, the individuality of town centres and protection of the most fertile land.
- ◆ Local authorities should be given stronger powers to set conditions on the location, scale and accessibility of retail developments and to restrict the dominance of particular store chains in their areas.
- ◆ Community groups should get involved in initiatives to shape their local food networks, including through neighbourhood plans.

30:30. CPRE also launched a 30:30 challenge to encourage people to obtain 30% of their food from within 30 miles (<http://bit.ly/cpre3030>).

Industrial farming. Peter Kendall, president of the National Farmers Union, said the UK needs more and bigger 'super farms' to keep food prices from rising too high and to maintain high animal welfare standards (<http://bit.ly/LqK9Q3>). Ben Stafford of CPRE responded: "Consolidation of production in super farms is likely to place even more pressure on the environment and struggling small producers. It may suit supermarkets, with their centralised supply and distribution models, but it is likely to lead to a poorer and less diverse countryside" (Guardian: <http://bit.ly/KZ9690>). Poul Christensen, chairman of Natural England said that Middle England needs to overcome its fear of both GM technology and large-scale farms if it wants to enjoy cheap food in future (Telegraph: <http://bit.ly/NIFUDj>). Eco Audit's debate on the issue has some very interesting perspectives, including from CPRE (Guardian: <http://bit.ly/KeAouO>). Plans to build four poultry units housing nearly 180,000 birds near Shrewsbury have been rejected on the grounds they would cause significant noise pollution and substantial harm to the landscape (FWI: <http://bit.ly/KZrcZy>).

Windscares

Opinion. A poll for the Independent found that 68% of people agree with the statement: "Building new wind farms is an acceptable price to pay for greener energy in the future"; 23% disagree; 9% are "don't knows". Older people are more sceptical (<http://ind.pn/KpKSXV>; <http://ind.pn/L8GLfW>).

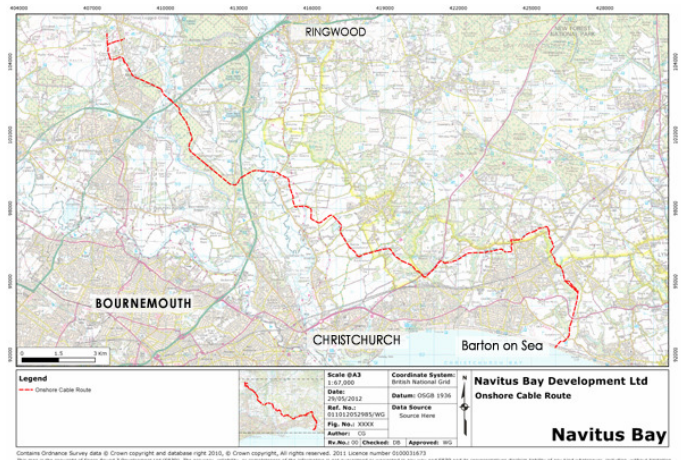
The wind debate. The debate over wind farms and turbines has never been so combative. In the right hand corner, James Delingpole of the Telegraph has branded them as "bat-chomping, bird-slicing eco crucifixes" (<http://bit.ly/LuBEs0>). In the left corner, the Guardian's Damian Carrington condemned people objecting to onshore wind farms as guilty of "fundamental dishonesty" (<http://bit.ly/KXgSTQ>). As the columnists slug out the relative merits and demerits of different energy sources, there are signs that conservative ministers are losing any enthusiasm they might have had for turbines. But amid rumours that the government will announce a deep cut to subsidies before the summer recess, the Lib Dems are holding firm on their green commitments. Many politicians and commentators are placing a growing emphasis on community benefits from wind farms, believing villagers will put up with disruption and trade their tranquil landscapes for hard cash. As Tim Yeo, the chairman of the Commons energy and climate change committee put it: "Frankly, we need to be prepared to bribe" communities. Carrington in the Guardian was more subtle: "The only solution is to ensure those who live with the turbines also profit from them" (Observer; <http://bit.ly/NvkpPt>; Independent: <http://ind.pn/Nvkv09>; <http://ind.pn/L8KZnL>; Telegraph: <http://bit.ly/Nhggbc>; <http://bit.ly/LfxUls>; <http://bit.ly/MTy4Y6>; <http://bit.ly/NIAAnMU>; <http://bit.ly/MumY8b>; <http://bit.ly/L8KUK7>; Guardian: <http://bit.ly/NIBQ5Z>).

Councils say 'no more'. Lincolnshire County Council issued a policy directing that no wind turbines should be constructed within 2km of a single residential property and no wind farms should be constructed with 10km of a village with more than 10 properties. It said: "Not only are these things spoiling our beautiful countryside for future generations, they could also seriously damage our tourism industry." RenewableUK angrily told Business Green: "For the county council to step in and say 'this is the view to hold' is undemocratic and Draconian... And it could well backfire on them. It will be seen by the two thirds of people who support wind as prejudicing the mood of people in the county on the basis of a vociferous minority" (BBC: <http://bbc.in/LvfmUl>; <http://bbc.in/KewPEQ>; LCC: <http://bit.ly/KewT7H>; Mercury: <http://bit.ly/Kex6rq>; Business Green: <http://bit.ly/KeA2nW>; TIL: <http://bit.ly/Lwu1SD>; <http://bit.ly/MzrmY7>; LCC: <http://bit.ly/KewT7H>). Fife Council in Scotland is calling for a temporary halt on wind farm applications in the wake of a high volume of inappropriate bids (BD: <http://bit.ly/LP7IW0>).

Devon. The Diocese of Exeter said that it had abandoned plans for six 18m turbines in the face of "abusive and bullying tactics" from opponents. Penny Mills from Devon CPRE said: "Wind turbines are not the sort of thing that the Church should be getting involved in. There was such fierce opposition locally." Bishop Michael admitted: "We made the mistake of not consulting" (Daily Mail: <http://bit.ly/LXnq0j>; TI Cornwall: <http://bit.ly/KxUg7w>; Diocese: <http://bit.ly/N33jCN>).

The cost of wind. In an email to CPRE Dorset, Tory minister Oliver Letwin said: "I anticipate that subsidies for both solar photovoltaic and onshore wind will come down to zero over the next few years and should have disappeared by 2020, since both of these forms of energy are gradually becoming economic without the need for subsidies" (Telegraph: <http://bit.ly/L5Hxhg>; Guardian: <http://bit.ly/NHcLd6>). A report from the London School of Economics predicted that the cost of putting up turbines will fall dramatically and by 2016 it will be as cheap to generate electricity from wind as from gas (Telegraph: <http://bit.ly/LVKahb>). A report for the Crown Estate said that the costs of offshore wind farms could fall by a third by 2020 (BBC: <http://bbc.in/NLPXci>; Guardian: <http://bit.ly/MzAAn>). The National Audit Office examined licences for offshore wind farms, which give a 20-year inflation-proof income, and warned that "electricity consumers are being left with some significant risks, including bearing the cost of inflation" (NAO: <http://bit.ly/LLzjps>; Telegraph: <http://bit.ly/M3MruW>). The commons select committee on energy and climate change is to investigate wind farm subsidies (Guardian: <http://bit.ly/OrcRqP>; ECC: <http://bit.ly/N19ZL5>).

South East. EDF Energy Renewables is planning to erect seventeen 125m tall turbines at Bullington Cross near Winchester (Echo: <http://bit.ly/NIZKcG>; EDF: <http://bit.ly/LzDhEQ>). E.ON has begun a second consultation on its plans for the Rampion wind farm off the Sussex coast (Sussex Express: <http://bit.ly/Mzr2Zj>; E.ON: <http://bit.ly/yqXcQm>). The onshore route of the cable for the Navitus Bay wind farm has been announced (Echo: <http://bit.ly/OupbYz>; Project: <http://bit.ly/OupbYz>, below).



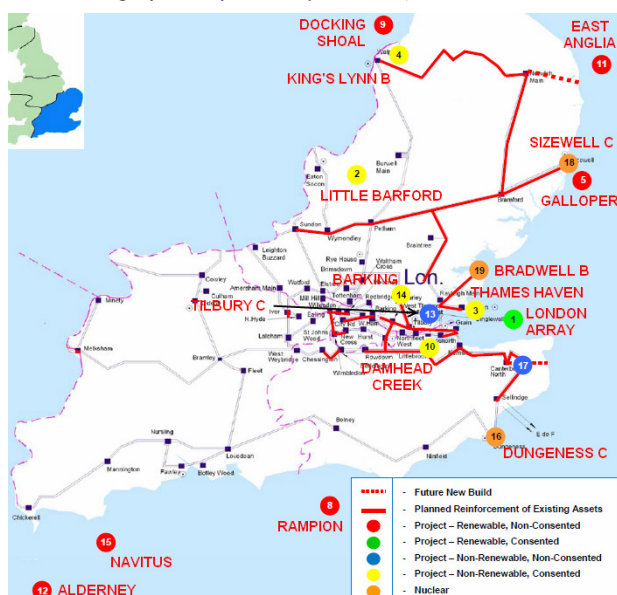
Brineton victory. A planning inspector rejected an appeal against refusal of permission for six turbines near Weston Park in Staffordshire (Shropshire Star: <http://bit.ly/NbBB5D>). Taking account of the NPPF, the inspector says: "The benefits of producing renewable energy... have to be set against the identified harm. The identified harm would be from the substantial change to the landscape character and visual amenities of the area... and the living conditions of residential occupiers... The proposal would be for a limited period of 25 years and is reversible but it would be a very long time for the setting and thereby visual amenities of the historic cultural landscape to be seriously adversely affected" (Decision letter: <http://bit.ly/K9jCXi>). The decision acts as a counterbalance to the Lyveden New Bield and Naseby decisions, where harm to residential amenity, the landscape and the setting of heritage assets were given less weight than promotion of renewable energy.

Wales & Scotland. A Welsh Assembly committee said that there should be a minimum distance between turbines and homes and, depending on the topography and ambient noise levels, the buffer zone should increase to 1,500 metres (BBC: <http://bbc.in/JLCBYo>). Protestors say Wales will industrialise some of its most sensitive beauty spots if bids for 25 new wind farms are backed (Wales Online: <http://bit.ly/KeyWZp>). The Scottish Government blocked a proposed wind farm in Caithness because the impact of the 30-turbine scheme on nearby residents and the cumulative effect of the development was “too great” (Planning Portal: <http://bit.ly/MCsDZA>).

Roundup. In a letter to the Independent, CPRE’s Shaun Spiers denied “CPRE’s ‘opposition’ to wind turbines is becoming irrationally anti-environmental” (<http://ind.pn/MunanX>). Scientists have concluded that the larger the wind turbine, the greener the electricity it produces (Daily Mail: <http://bit.ly/NAAqsm>). Vestas has pulled out of developing a manufacturing facility at the Kent Port of Sheerness (Vestas: <http://bit.ly/LaFJ0b>; Telegraph: <http://bit.ly/Kyl1Yr>). Europe’s largest onshore wind farm near Glasgow has registered as a tourist attraction having attracted 250,000 visitors since 2009 (BBC: <http://bbc.in/QgK9az>). The largest offshore wind farm in the world, the 102-turbine farm off Walney Island, Cumbria, has gone fully operational (BBC: <http://bbc.in/LAL1Xm>). Lincolnshire residents are accusing a wind farm developer of not providing the local authority sufficient information, allowing the company to appeal on the basis of non-determination (TI Lincs: <http://bit.ly/NiCoJa>). Campaigners in the South West have rejected RWE’s revised plans for the giant Atlantic Array offshore wind farm as a “cynical tactic to soften up the people of North Devon” (NDG24: <http://bit.ly/LqNoH2>). In the Yorkshire Wolds, residents of ‘Hockney country’ are enraged by super-turbines plan (Independent: <http://ind.pn/NIJ6yL>).

Wirescapes

National. The National Grid’s latest update provides an overview of major generation schemes expected to come online by 2025, and the new and upgraded power lines that will be needed. Surprisingly, the update also includes Dungeness C nuclear station, which has been ruled out by the government (<http://bit.ly/KxsneG>; map below; Telegraph: <http://bit.ly/KxtURZ>).



Pylons and masts. The National Grid has decided to bury a mere five miles of the 17-mile route between Essex and south Suffolk (BBC: <http://bbc.in/JLDj8d>). National Grid is consulting on undergrounding part of the Hinkley Point to Avonmouth line (BBC: <http://bbc.in/KUnVM8>). Suffolk and Essex councils have joined forces to oppose a double row of pylons (EADT24: <http://bit.ly/MBejV4>). CPRE warned that without more environmental safeguards efforts to produce more green energy will come “at the expense of the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of the countryside.” Tom Leveridge for CPRE said: “The Government is very focused on increasing generation capacity to achieve its targets and we’re concerned it hasn’t paid enough attention to reducing the need for infrastructure” (Telegraph: <http://bit.ly/KAGfET>; Daily Mail: <http://bit.ly/Ld03Qt>). Vodafone and O2 are to remove 1,850 mobile phone masts to save money (Daily Mail: <http://bit.ly/LDdrNd>).

Campaigns. Around 200 villagers from Somerset climbed to the top of Crooks Peak to demonstrate their opposition to proposed pylons (M24 : <http://bit.ly/LfKyav>). A brewer failed in a high court attempt to block pylons across the green belt near Tadcaster (Wetherby Today: <http://bit.ly/NLbOk0>).

Energy and Climate Change

Tipping point. Research published during the build up to Rio+20 showed that more than 40% of the Earth’s land is used for human needs, including cities and farms. With the population set to grow by a further two billion by 2050, that figure could soon exceed 50% which researchers believe may be a tipping point where over-exploitation leads to mass starvation (Live Science: <http://bit.ly/LbpsZM>; BBC: <http://bbc.in/Lbplxd>; Daily Mail: <http://bit.ly/LbqWDo>).

Rio+20. The United Nations summit earth summit took place in Rio, 20 years after the first Rio conference put the environment on the world’s political agenda. There is common agreement that few of the ambitions at the original Rio summit have been achieved. As the leading science journal Nature put it: “Countries have increased the rhetoric and their political commitments, but there is little to show for 20 years of work, apart from an impressive bureaucratic machine that has been set to indefinite idle” (<http://bit.ly/Lbqchm>; <http://bit.ly/Lbqvc5>). Despite widespread scepticism that little would be achieved at the Rio+20 summit, 10,000 government delegates attended. Not to be outnumbered by policy makers, 40,000 environmentalists crowded out the fringes. Three years ago at the 2009 Copenhagen climate summit (COP15), government rushed to show their enthusiasm for all matters environmental. But at Rio+20 governments abdicated their responsibility for the planet in a collective show of disinterest and self-interest. Businesses, including Unilever, struggled to fill the widening policy vacuum but the general mood at the end of the jamboree was that little of significance had been achieved. Barbara Stocking, the chief executive of Oxfam put it succinctly: “Rio will go down as the hoax summit. They came, they talked, but they failed to act.” Representing the UK, Defra Secretary Caroline Spelman declared: “Rio+20 has shown that there is political ambition for change” (Independent: <http://ind.pn/Lkl3lm>; Telegraph: <http://bit.ly/MmRV1h>; Monbiot: <http://bit.ly/Q2lRRi>; Business Green: <http://bit.ly/OlfyLE>; Defra: <http://bit.ly/rioballs>).

Climate change. In the Guardian, Bill McKibben said that climate change deniers have influence out of all proportion to their science (<http://bit.ly/KcPdcL>). The Local Government Association and the Department for Energy & Climate Change have signed a memorandum of understanding to work together to tackle climate change (LGC: <http://bit.ly/JLCSL1>; Planning Portal: <http://bit.ly/L5YrIQ>). A Defra study showed that households are wasting £1.3 billion in electricity every year (<http://bit.ly/MAAljg>).

Fossil fuels. David Cameron signed a deal with Norway which emphasised the importance of oil and gas production, and also reconfirmed the **massive Forewind 9GW Dogger Bank offshore wind project** (DECC: <http://bit.ly/L5UfZv>; Guardian: <http://bit.ly/L5XDnf>). Green campaigners have dismissed claims by the Policy exchange think tank that building more gas plants would help the UK cut emissions as “ridiculous”, insisting a new “dash for gas” would leave the country locked in to a high carbon trajectory (Business Green: <http://bit.ly/L2ilWI>; Telegraph: <http://bit.ly/KD9z3n>). Viable carbon capture and storage receded further into the future after a plans for a coal fired station with CCS in Ayrshire was abandoned (Herald: <http://bit.ly/LPefQx>; Guardian: <http://bit.ly/NAq37T>).

Fracking. Frack Off protesters blockaded a drilling rig destined for Lancashire (BBC: <http://bbc.in/M2y20t>). Investors have told fracking companies to clean up their methane and other fracking emissions (Independent: <http://ind.pn/MTx0TV>).

Thermal. The UK could meet a fifth of its power needs - the equivalent of nine nuclear power stations - by exploiting geothermal power, according to a report for the Renewable Energy Association. The resource is widely spread around the UK with ‘hotspots’ in Cornwall, Weardale, Lake District, East Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Cheshire, Worcester, Dorset, Hampshire, Northern Ireland and Scotland (Guardian: <http://bit.ly/KD2CNY>; REA: <http://bit.ly/KD2BJQ>). David Cameron signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Iceland, pledging to share information on the development of the UK’s deep geothermal sector and to explore potential electricity interconnection between Iceland and the UK (Edie: <http://bit.ly/LVvpwO>).

Solar. A small solar farm in the grounds of Highclere Castle has gained planning permission (Daily Mail: <http://bit.ly/LaGBSw>).

Green economy. The transformation to a greener economy could generate 15 to 60 million additional jobs globally over the next two decades and lift tens of millions of workers out of poverty (ILO: <http://bit.ly/N092le>).

Water, Recycling and Waste

State of the Nation: Water. A major report from the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) warned that “we cannot continue to be so profligate with our water.” It said that the government must put in place compulsory water metering and differential pricing to preserve supplies and prevent droughts in future. “Metering with discretionary tariffs and social tariffs to protect the vulnerable would mean some people would pay more for water... but that would encourage people to use it more wisely” (Guardian: <http://bit.ly/LbrDfM>; Report: <http://bit.ly/LbrGbA>).

State of the Nation: Water (continued). The ICE is calling for:

- ◆ a UK Water Security Task Force, which will publish national water resource management road maps and an integrated UK water security strategy by spring 2014
- ◆ ambitious changes to reduce domestic per capita consumption by 30%, including universal metering with social and discretionary tariffs, complemented by reductions across agriculture and industry
- ◆ removal of regulatory barriers and disincentives that prevent collaboration and limit transfers between adjacent water companies and river basins
- ◆ removal of regulatory barriers and disincentives that hinder collaboration in investment and development for new regional water resources, particularly the water storage
- ◆ water companies, in collaboration with other water abstractors, to develop new major supply schemes that have multiple uses, such as hydropower, flood control, water for agriculture and public water supply.

Incinerators. Cornwall Council is responsible for 90% of the legal costs incurred by French firm Sita in fighting the council’s rejection of planning permission for the controversial burner. It must also pay £3.55 million for an access road (TI Cornwall: <http://bit.ly/NhjwDo>). A judge rejected a claim by the group PlymWIN that planning permission for an incinerator of Plymouth is unlawful (TI Plymouth: <http://bit.ly/JLADrd>). Caroline Spelman said that to approve funding for the King’s Lynn incinerator, she only needed to ensure there was “broad consensus” for the county council’s overarching waste management strategy, regardless of opposition to the location of any specific infrastructure (NEN: <http://bit.ly/KUnEc6>). The clash between West Norfolk Borough Council, which opposes the Lynn incinerator, and Norfolk County Council continues, with the borough proposing new technology that converts potential landfill into pellets (BBC: <http://bbc.in/N4quuj>).

Roundup. Zero Waste Scotland is to develop pilot ‘deposit return’ and ‘reverse vending’ facilities (LetsRecycle: <http://bit.ly/LVFUOI>). Oxford County Council is consulting on its submission version of the Draft Minerals and Waste Planning Strategy (deadline: 16 July 2012; <http://bit.ly/LkORRz>).

Transport

High Speed 2. The government is to reconsider plans for HS2 to share tracks through Camden (TI London: <http://bit.ly/KhLwAF>). Birmingham Friends of the Earth claims a council survey that showed 53% support for HS2 was misleading and “shockingly biased”. Warwickshire CPRE told the government claims about the speed, frequency and benefits of HS2 “fall woefully short of reality” and said the claim that 18 trains an hour will use the new line is “ludicrous” (Post: <http://bit.ly/KhNj8C>). Justine Greening told the Telegraph that the £32 billion scheme is progressing “full steam ahead” despite opposition from Conservative supporters (<http://bit.ly/LyA3n7>; see also <http://bit.ly/LNIMiD>). Former Transport Secretary Lord Adonis suggested the scheme might not be complete until 2040 (Birmingham Post: <http://bit.ly/MUNTdq>).

Roads. The South East Local Enterprise Partnership is calling for a free flowing toll system to be introduced on the Dartford Bridge before the planned date of 2014 (BBC: <http://bbc.in/MACpCj>).

Campaigns. The controversial Cogges Link Road in Witney has been rejected after a 27-year campaign led by CPRE Oxfordshire and Witney First. Justine Greening agreed with the inquiry inspector that a four-way junction on the A40 at Shores Green, a scheme promoted by protestors, was the better option (Oxford Mail: <http://bit.ly/N4vmzE>; CPRE Oxon: <http://bit.ly/Lsjgf5>).

London's Airports

Policy. The government has produced a planning policy statement on aviation, instead opting for a consultation on airport capacity. That is set to be launched next month, having been delayed from the Spring. Lobbying for the scope of the consultation and for where future aviation capacity should be located is reaching fever pitch. The consultation will consider all options for the South East, including a third runway at Heathrow (Guardian: <http://bit.ly/MPxYkC>). The Aviation Foundation, an umbrella body of aviation companies, businesses and unions, called for government action and leadership on aviation policy and set out "four key tests to secure a credible and lasting aviation policy." The foundation's members support a third runway at Heathrow (Independent: <http://ind.pn/KIMBH6>; AF: <http://bit.ly/Mkj1bm>; see also Guardian: <http://bit.ly/MPyBEk>). Justine Greening criticised the "piecemeal, ad hoc and often rushed decisions which ultimately have got us into a position today where there are really difficult decisions facing us" in the aviation sector. She said the arguments against a third runway at the hub airport were still valid though she accepted that Britain may need a four-runway hub airport in the long-term (LES: <http://bit.ly/KK8YMi>; <http://bit.ly/LNgEel>).

Heathrow. There are conflicting reports on whether the government is weakening in its opposition to a third Heathrow runway. Transport Secretary Justine Greening has made it clear she opposes the option, but David Cameron and George Osborne have been less forthright in ruling it out. In a PMQ exchange with Zac Goldsmith, Cameron left open the prospect that the Conservatives would campaign at the 2015 election in favour of expanding Heathrow (Independent: <http://ind.pn/MxL7Px>; Business Green: <http://bit.ly/MS4wKr>; FT £: <http://on.ft.com/MmP9Lv>; Kent News: <http://bit.ly/Oqjvi4>). Zac Goldsmith told the BBC he will not stand as a Conservative MP at the next election if the party supports a third runway (<http://bbc.in/Mx07LW>). Simon Jenkins was acerbic: "Like some ancient vampire, the "third runway at Heathrow" is the living dead. Born of greed and sucking lobbying cash into its veins, its coffin is hammered shut time and again" (LES: <http://bit.ly/M3ccLO>). After 14 years of protest, the villagers of Sipson, which lies in the line of the third runway, are giving up and moving away as BAA buys their houses at well above market value (Guardian: <http://bit.ly/LkYOm7>). The Independent reported that George Osborne is pushing for "mixed mode" operation which would lead to an extra 1,000 flights a week and a huge increase in noise for nearby residents (<http://ind.pn/LuvJmV>).

South East. A report from Parsons Brinkerhoff for the South East LEP said there was significant potential to increase the number of flights allowed from Heathrow, Gatwick and City airports, and argued for the development of a "two airport hub" between Heathrow and Gatwick, or Heathrow and Stansted. It suggests that Manston and Lydd airports could take more freight transport (Kent Online: <http://bit.ly/NAuMqe>; SELEP: <http://bit.ly/L1injV>). Gatwick airport has also put itself in the frame for expansion (TI Money: <http://bit.ly/MT1S7v>). The BBC's science editor David Shukman looked at the battle over expansion of Lydd airport: "Jobs or birds" (<http://bbc.in/NwE2M6>).

Thames Estuary hub. The London Assembly voted to urge Boris Johnson to drop his plans for a hub airport in the Thames estuary (Advertiser: <http://bit.ly/MT1GRM>; ABTN: <http://bit.ly/MunMOI>). In the Guardian, Ian Jack asked: "Would it matter to the world beyond, other than to birds and ornithologists too, if Hoo became a giant airport and dock" (<http://bit.ly/Mumgrw>). Charles Dickens' great-great-grandson has slammed plans for a the airport, which will be in countryside made famous his ancestor (Kent Online: <http://bit.ly/Mumuih>). Daniel Moylan, deputy chairman of Transport for London, put the case for an estuary hub declaring: "Heathrow can never grow to match its rivals in Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Paris" (LES: <http://bit.ly/MBfZhi>; see also Airport Watch: <http://bit.ly/MBg8Bc>).

Roundup. Birmingham airport says that it can help alleviate the strain in the South East (BBC: <http://bbc.in/Ky1Q0G>; Telegraph: <http://bit.ly/MPCmOH>). Boris Johnson also called for a second runway at Stansted, to the fury of Stop Stansted Expansion, which said it would be "a permanent disaster environmentally" (CEN: <http://bit.ly/KAN3SZ>; Telegraph: <http://bit.ly/MWPIGz>; Daily Mail: <http://bit.ly/QaunOn>).

Town Centres

Reviving town centres. GVA consultancy has published a gloomy survey of town centres suggesting that many town centres are lacking new investment. "The harsh reality is that we have too many shops... Diversification, markets, and niche/independent retailers all have a key role to play. But without significant new investment, many centres face the prospect of a spiral of decline" (<http://bit.ly/KSN2Qf>). The communities department published a best practice guide on how to restore local shops into "vibrant business areas full of local character and at the heart of neighbourhood communities" (<http://bit.ly/Mf4OKR>; <http://bit.ly/Mf4P1p>). The chairman of the British Retail Consortium said radical action including the creation of enterprise zones, the compulsory purchase of derelict stores and rent-free deals, is required to revive the UK's ailing high streets, (Reuters: <http://reut.rs/LftWQ0>; BRC: <http://bit.ly/LPeVFw>).

Portas pilots. Mary Portas has upset some traders in Margate as her camera crews arrive to record the town's makeover (Independent: <http://ind.pn/NFaRe8>; Daily Mail: <http://bit.ly/N4pmqK>; Kent News: <http://bit.ly/M2AxQr>). High street retailers are to join forces with Mary Portas and Grant Shapps, local government and housing minister, to help regenerate some of Britain's beleaguered high streets (FT £: <http://on.ft.com/MLhlog>; DCLG: <http://bit.ly/MvAigS>).

Retail. The Café Nero chain is challenging Skipton's 'tea and pee' policy, which aims to restrict tea and coffee shops on the high street (Herald: <http://bit.ly/MqcQQX>). Sir Terry Leahy, the former head of Tesco, defended the role of supermarkets in town centres, claiming: "The towns that Tesco invests in do better" (Telegraph: <http://bit.ly/JLGMUB>). As 12 pubs close every week, the BBC asked: "Is there a trend for pubs being turned into supermarkets?" (<http://bbc.in/LqJu0U>). M&S has become the first major UK retailer to become fully carbon neutral (Guardian: <http://bit.ly/LbrLvP>). English Heritage is objecting to a new Waitrose in Malmesbury warning it will inflict substantial harm to the Grade II-listed Avon Mills site (TI Wiltshire: <http://bit.ly/K9cgZk>). The campaign against an expanded Waitrose in Storrington continues (SoS: <http://bit.ly/NXCOiM>).

Campaigning

Kent. The new chairman of Kent County Council, Richard King, has selected CPRE Protect Kent as one of his nominated charities (Kent Online: <http://bit.ly/Jc9tct>).

Online campaigning is evolving beyond petitions, pro-forma emails and Facebook 'likes'. An example worth viewing is the Greenpeace campaign against sourcing KFC packaging from rainforests. The site builds 'revolts', encouraging campaigners to build up their own network of revolvers (<http://bit.ly/greenkfc>). A BBC survey suggests that 77% of UK adults are now actively participate in digital media (BBC: <http://bbc.in/IU0vVU>). Housing minister Grants Shapps says that Twitter is allowing ministers a voice that sidelines their over-cautious civil servants (Telegraph: <http://bit.ly/MCXQhd>). The Telegraph looked at "eco-clicktivism" – using the internet to galvanise people into action and help them take on large corporations. It features the campaign to save trees at Whitstable, Kent (<http://tgr.ph/K8XPVS>). Social media agency Headstream has published its 2012 ranking of Social Brands – those featuring most strongly on Twitter, Facebook, blogs and other social media. The top environmental charities, with ranking are: ARKive 6; WWF: 17th; RSPB 23; National Trust 24; Visit Woods – Woodland Trust 71 (<http://bit.ly/socreport12>).

INDUSTRY	BRAND	RANK
Charity	Cancer Research UK	4
Charity	British Red Cross	5
Charity	ARKive	6
Charity	WWF	17
Charity	DoSomething.org	18
Charity	Help for Heroes	19
Charity	RSPB	23
Charity	National Trust	24
Charity	NSPCC	29
Charity	The MS Society	38
Charity	The British Heart Foundation	39
Charity	Diabetes UK	41
Charity	Marie Curie Cancer Care	41
Charity	RAF Benevolent Fund	71
Charity	VisitWoods	71
Charity	Just Giving	86
Charity	The National Lottery	89

Radio. Last month, the BBC reduced its planned cuts to local radio under its Delivering Quality First programme from 20% to 11%. In ordering the reduction, the BBC Trust has insisted that local content in local broadcasting is increased, which is likely to be good news for campaigners wanting to get their message across (BBC Trust: <http://bbc.in/Krty1x>).

Politics. The Independent asked: "Whatever happened to Cameron, the idealistic young eco-warrior?" (<http://ind.pn/LO4gf1>). MP Zac Goldsmith said the intense focus on climate change in the last decade has encouraged politicians and environment groups to drop key green issues like air pollution, biodiversity and food and avoid reform of the economic system (Guardian: <http://bit.ly/LqIW51>). The National Audit Office said that too many government consultations are rushed and timed to take place over holiday periods (LGL: <http://bit.ly/LKSGAI>).

Campaigners. Jocelyn Rawlence, a long-serving member of CPRE Norfolk, died (Diss Express: <http://bit.ly/JLBFmT>). Lord Judd has stepped down as president of the Friends of the Lake District (Grough: <http://bit.ly/Mf5dNm>). Green Party leader Caroline Lucas says she will step down from the leadership in September (Edie: <http://bit.ly/LHHvcB>). Inside Housing profiled Simon Jenkins as chair of the National Trust and campaigner against the draft NPPF. It asked "is he also the enemy of social housing?" (<http://bit.ly/KATDJl>). The Ecologist has been sold by Zac Goldsmith and will merge with Resurgence magazine (Guardian: <http://bit.ly/JLEkx5>). The Independent reviewed the first 50 years of the green movement (<http://ind.pn/MWJO8w>; <http://ind.pn/LZPdRT>; <http://ind.pn/MWK33r>; <http://ind.pn/OlBaq6>). CPRE Sussex has awarded its first environmental journalism awards, with the winner Damien Murphy writing on Rampion Wind farm (<http://bit.ly/LyFZfG>; below).



Finance. The Sunday Telegraph conducted an undercover investigation of chugging, a technique increasingly used by charities to raise funds in the high street (<http://bit.ly/OpMO4u>). George Osborne scrapped 'charity tax' proposals that sought to remove tax breaks from wealthy donors to good causes (Guardian: <http://bit.ly/LC2a4J>).

About the CPRE South East eBulletin

The CPRE South East eBulletin is issued monthly. We cover planning and environmental news with a relevance to the remit of CPRE. Any views expressed are those of the editor, not of any part of CPRE. Our audience is CPRE and its friends. Please feel free to circulate this eBulletin.

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