



National: Planning Guidance

Guidance. The much trumpeted launch of the new planning guidance was chaotic. The new website initially unavailable and then lacking much of the guidance promised in the press release. The online guidance is part of a new 'easy-to-use' guide that replaces 7,000 pages of previous planning documents  . Planning minister Nick Boles said: "This guidance reinforces all green belt and environmental protections and will allow people to understand clearly how they can protect the local green spaces that are important to them" . It includes an affordability test for determining how many homes should be built; and neighbourhood planning and local green space guidance. Guidance on allowing filming of planning appeal hearings is absent. So too is any mention of policies on more town centre parking; an end to "anti-car" traffic calming measures like speed bumps; and encouragement to build more bungalows.

Comment. CPRE said the new affordability test will result in "unnecessary loss of countryside and deliver very little affordable housing." Neil Sinden said: "Not only is the idea of affordability going to be unworkable and won't deliver the desired result of more affordable housing, it's likely to increase pressure on the countryside unnecessarily. This smacks of a nice theoretical idea dreamt up in a think-tank... which has no chance at all of working on the ground in the real world"  . Andrew Lainton believes the lack of consultation on environmental guidance, such as renewable energy, could breach the Aarhus Convention .

Housing design standards. The communities department is consulting on the Housing Standards Review, which aims to cut guidance and regulations, and set standards such as minimum space requirements. It proposes winding down the Code for Sustainable Homes and abolishes the [Merton Rule](#) for onsite renewables. Closes 22 October    .    . The UK Green Building Council said the plans "fail to present a vision for sustainable homes" . The communities department has also published revisions to the Building Regulations for England .

Bins. Eric Pickles announced plans to tackle "bin blight", which he calls "the neighbourhood scourge of middle England." He said the new planning guidance and housing design standards will both require provision to be made for proper waste storage in new homes    .

Fracking. Just weeks after the government issued planning guidance on shale gas exploration and extraction, it is proposing revisions. Under the proposed rules, applicants for planning permission will no longer have to inform landowners and householders of proposals to drill for oil or gas under their land. Closes 14 October  . The move comes after Cuadrilla withdrew its latest planning application at Balcombe having not correctly specified the extent of horizontal drilling   .

South East: Cherkley Court Victory

CPRE Surrey and the Cherkley Campaign have succeeded in their high court challenge to plans to convert the historic building and grounds to a hotel and golf course.

The development. Cherkley Court lies within the green belt, partly within the Surrey Hills AONB, wholly within the Surrey Hills Area of Great Landscape Value and abuts a Special Area of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest. Developer Longshot proposed to convert the historic building into a hotel and construct a golf course across the grounds, including across uncultivated chalk grassland, a UK Priority Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat, a site Nature Conservation Importance and archaeological monuments. As the judge said, it is "about as protected piece of open land as possible under current planning law." Mole Valley councillors approved the scheme against officers' advice and despite it departing from the local plan and core strategy. Eric Pickles decided not to call in the scheme. The Cherkley Campaign, of which CPRE Surrey is a leading member, launched a judicial review.

The judgement. The judge's reasoning has implications for saved policies, interpretation of the NPPF and the conduct of judicial reviews . He said the officers' report was "impressive and lucid reading" and called a decision by councillors to ignore it perverse. He rejected suggestions that the Cherkley Court Campaign, a limited company formed to fight against the development, had insufficient interest in the case to be heard. The judge said that saved policies from the earlier local plan includes the supporting text and any explanatory material. The judge makes a clear distinction between public "need" (i.e. what is in the public planning interest), and private "demand" (i.e. what is in the developers interest by having this particular type of development). The fact that a development brings benefits to some members of the public does not automatically mean that there is a demonstrable public "need". Need "does not simply mean 'demand' or 'desire' by private interests. Nor is mere proof of 'viability' of such demand enough." The judge was forthright: "Longshot's attempt to equate private 'demand' to public 'need' was legally flawed" and the council failed to understand this. He said that if councillors had understood 'need' correctly, they would have concluded that Surrey did not need another golf course. There had been a breach of green belt policy requirements: "The council majority at best paid lip-service to the Green Belt policy but did not apply it. The council majority failed to take a proper policy-compliant approach to Green Belt considerations."

The reaction. Shaun Spiers, CPRE chief executive said: "CPRE's campaigners in Surrey, and others in the Cherkley Campaign, deserve huge congratulations. They have fought a David vs. Goliath battle" . CPRE also complained that the promoters had tried to bully it, after developer Longshot wrote to Shaun Spiers suggesting its fundraising was "at best deceitful and at worst fraudulent." Shaun said: "The developers have sprayed out lawyers' letters and other threats in a clear attempt to intimidate those who are opposing their plans" . The developers claimed to be "amazed" at the decision and said they would appeal . Councillor John Northcott for Mole Valley said the council had: "Vigorously defended its handling of this planning application and we are very disappointed that the challenge has been upheld. This application was the most complex in the council's history and, given the decision, we will now need to take time to consider what our next steps will be and the impact this will have"  .

South East: Planning

Five year land supply. A report by Turley Associates says councils across the South East have land available for around 164,000 of homes required under the five year land supply rule, leaving a shortfall of at least 44,000 homes. At least 41 of the region's 68 planning authorities fall short of their five year land supply targets [\[a\]](#).

County	Five year land supply needed	Identified five year supply	Shortfall
Berkshire	20,297	18,692	-1,605
Buckinghamshire	23,563	18,597	-4,966
Oxfordshire	17,040	14,833	-2,207
East Sussex	10,981	10,714	-267
West Sussex	28,569	16,059	-12,510
Hampshire	42,675	30,207	-12,468
Kent	49,044	41,082	-7,962
Surrey	16,497	14,088	-2,409
Total	208,666	164,272	-44,394

London's deputy mayor Sir Edward Lister said talks have begun with planning authorities in Kent, Surrey and Essex, on providing green belt sites for housing growth that cannot be accommodated in London's boroughs [\[1\]](#).

Berkshire. Windsor and Maidenhead royal borough has won a high court injunction banning caravans from moving onto green belt land after travellers failed to gain planning permission in June [\[L\]](#) [\[P\]](#). The borough has approved redevelopment of the Chapel Arches opportunity area in Maidenhead town centre [\[LG\]](#). Overton parish, Basingstoke is reconsidering whether to develop a neighbourhood plan [\[BGZ\]](#).

Surrey. Oxted residents opposing green belt housing development have succeeded in obtaining tree protection orders. The developers say the TPOs are unlawful [\[TIS\]](#). Guildford planners gave temporary permission for a gypsy and traveller pitch in the green belt, after concluding that the [government statement in July](#) did not amount to planning policy [\[GS\]](#). They also approved redevelopment of an existing gypsy site in the green belt in Chilworth [\[GS\]](#). Mole Valley council has named Barratt Homes as the preferred developer for the 9.5-acre Barnett Wood Lane allotment, Leatherhead, plus a 22.7-acre adjacent site. Andy Smith of CPRE Surrey said: "We are extremely disappointed by the council's determination to dispose of a vital community asset and to allow building on adjacent greenbelt fields. Sacrificing these green spaces will not meet local needs – it is... at the expense of the environment and the community." The council will earn £21 million from the deal and campaigners have been told they will have to raise this sum if they wish to register the site as a community asset [\[GS\]](#) [\[YLG\]](#) [\[BBC\]](#). A bid to build housing at Molesey was rejected by the planning inspectorate "by virtue of the loss of open space and playing field space is considered to result in harm to the character of the area and the total provision of recreational facilities within the borough" [\[L\]](#) [\[GS\]](#) [\[a\]](#). Godalming Collage has been refused permission for 45 green belt houses [\[GS\]](#). Guildford council has published its Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), which identifies sites for nearly 12,000 homes including in the green belt [\[GS\]](#) [\[LG\]](#). The University of Surrey is looking into building nearly 2,000 new homes on green belt land at Blackwell Farm, a site identified in the SHLAA [\[GS\]](#). Kempton Park Racecourse is consulting on plans to build houses in the green belt [\[GS\]](#). A planning inspector has approved 50 homes on a greenfield site in Horley, after arguing that "the unspoilt, open qualities of the site can only be appreciated from limited parts of the public realm" [\[GS\]](#). Decision [\[a\]](#).

Bookham, Surrey. A row has been brewing over the role of neighbourhood planning forum Bookham Vanguard in revising green belt boundaries in the Mole Valley. Villagers in Effingham, which is also preparing a neighbourhood plan, asked their parish council to meet Vanguard [\[TIS\]](#) [\[GS\]](#). Vanguard has defending its review and saying it has Nick Boles' approval and has been working with Effingham [\[C\]](#). A landowner in Bookham is offering two-thirds of his 71-acre green belt site as public green space, if the remainder of the Preston Farm site can be developed for housing, a care home and other facilities [\[TIS\]](#) [\[a\]](#). Another landowner planning houses in the green belt has attacked Bookham Housing Group as unrepresentative [\[TIS\]](#). The neighbourhood plan may be delayed by a year while Mole Valley district council conducts a green belt review [\[TIS\]](#).



Preston Farm Site

South Downs National Park. Andrew Shaxson, chairman of the National Park Authority planning committee said housing targets must be lower in the South Downs National Park in order to protect the landscape [\[L\]](#). More than £5 million is to be spent improving cycle routes in the national park [\[WST\]](#) [\[TA\]](#) [\[SE\]](#). The planning inspectorate has asked the South Downs National Park Authority and West Sussex County Council to form a joint committee to represent their views on the Rampion windfarm but the parks authority is resisting the idea [\[TA\]](#).

Oxfordshire. A 64-acre solar park is planned at Salutation Farm, bordering the A40 between Witney and Eynsham [\[1\]](#). The high court will consider whether CPRE Oxon can launch a judicial review against the student flats overshadowing Port Meadow on 23 October. Helen Marshall said: "the mitigation proposals currently suggested by the university are woefully inadequate to counteract the devastating impact of the buildings on Port Meadow and Oxford's historic skyline. Key issues such as the height of the buildings and light pollution need to be addressed" [\[BBC\]](#). The development topped a Guardian poll for ugliest building of the year [\[g\]](#) and came second in the national Carbuncle Cup competition [\[bd\]](#). North Hinksey is considering whether to develop a neighbourhood plan [\[OM\]](#). A pick-your-own business at Stanton St John outside Oxford has been ordered to remove an unauthorised café and delicatessen after a planning inspector ruled that they caused substantial harm to the green belt [\[OT\]](#).

Hampshire. The leader of Fareham Borough Council said that if the planned new village of Welbourne does not go ahead, green spaces between Portchester and Swanwick will have to be developed to fulfil the pressing need for housing [\[L\]](#). East Hampshire district councillors have approved changes to the Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy, which will now be submitted to the planning inspectorate. The changes are subject to consultation. Closes 20 September [\[1\]](#) [\[LG\]](#).

Sussex. English Heritage is to review evidence for the site of the Battle of Hastings, after a historian suggested that it is at Crowhurst on a site threatened by the Bexhill Hastings link road [TA](#). Property developer St. Modwen is trying to persuade Cophthorne villagers to include a site for 500 houses in its neighbourhood plan. It promises green space, allotments and £2 million from the community infrastructure levy [WS1](#). Storrington and Sullington Parish Council has written to Nick Boles to complain that the planning appeal system is “completely undemocratic, unjustifiable and unfair” [WS1](#). The leader of Horsham council has also written to the minister to complain about “totally unrealistic” housing targets [WS1](#).

Kent. A barrister said that Maidstone councillors have been misdirected by advice that led them to adopt a “working target” of 14,800 new homes for the borough’s new Local Plan. The barrister argues that the council has the necessary five year land supply if windfall housing is taken into account [KO](#). Protesters against expansion of Hermitage quarry into ancient woodland at Oaken Wood have lodged an application for a judicial review. They claim that the planning inspector failed to make available surveys conducted under the EU birds directive and the Secretary of State failed to give adequate reasons for concluding that the need for aggregates outweighed the loss of woodland [KO](#). Nine hectares of ancient woodland at Pembury are under threat from dualling of the A21. The Woodland Trust said: “The A21 is also an important test case of the revised planning laws and their weakness in protecting ancient woodland. It could be the start of a worrying trend” [I](#).

National: Planning

Inquiries. Roundly condemning those councils that threaten residents with arrest for filming, tweeting and reporting meetings, Eric Pickles announced that planning inquiries would be opened up to live broadcast and reporting [C](#) [C](#).

Housing land supply. The Local Government Association said there are 400,000 unbuilt homes with planning permission in England [IH](#) [LGA](#). A planning inspector approved 100 homes in Fylde in countryside CPRE has fought for 15 years to protect, citing lack of five year land supply [L](#). Another inspector rejected an appeal to build 150 greenfield homes in Warrington saying brownfield sites should be developed first and the area had adequate land supply [D](#). A series of reports by Turley Associates says councils across five English regions have land available for around 670,000 of the homes required under the five year land supply rule, leaving a shortfall of at least 160,000 homes. Nearly two-thirds of planning authorities fall short of their five year land supply targets (61%) [C](#).

Region	Five year land supply need	Five year land identified	Shortfall	Councils lacking 5yrs
South West	87,000	110,000	-23,000	16 of 36
North West	178,537	138,318	-40,219	27 of 40
Yorks & Humber	149,931	114,942	-34,989	15 of 21
East of England	154,358	139,963	-14,395	30 of 47
South East	208,666	164,272	-44,394	41 of 68
Five regions	778,492	667,495	-156,997	129 of 212

Roundup. Developers in Ribble Valley are rushing to submit planning applications before the council’s core strategy set to the government for inspection [L](#). Campaigners are seeking a judicial review of the Suffolk Coastal core strategy, arguing the allocation of 2,000 houses at Adastral Park, Martlesham Heath breaches environmental directives [L](#).

National: Permitted Development Rights

Permitted development rights. The communities department said that 165 councils applied for 1,387 areas to be exempt from new rules that allow conversion of offices to homes without planning permission. It approved just 24 areas in 17 authorities. Canterbury and Worthing missed out by a single point [P](#) [C](#). Islington has issued an [Article 4 direction](#) in a bid to overturn some of the new rights. It is also seeking a judicial review of the way the government decided on exemptions [LGA](#). Occupied offices in Brighton are set to be converted to homes under the new rights [P](#).

New rights. The government issued for consultation new permitted development rights for [change of use](#) for retail and agricultural buildings to housing. Closes 10 October [C](#) [C](#).

Retail change of use. Town centre shops of less than 150m² can be converted to a single house or up to four flats. The right will not apply to listed buildings, in conservation areas, National Parks, AONBs, the Broads and World Heritage sites. Shops can also be converted to a bank or a building society but not to betting shops, estate agents or employment agencies. The change of use will require council prior approval to allow assessment of impact on the economic health of the town centre, on essential local services such as post offices, and the impact on the local character of the area. The government advises that local planning authorities that wish to restrict the new rights should issue an [Article 4 direction](#), although this may require compensation if there is less than 12 months’ notice. Nick Boles said: “We want to encourage local councils to concentrate retail activity into the prime shopping streets in the heart of their town centres and adopt a more relaxed approach to under-used retail frontages” [G](#). The LGA said: “This policy could undermine efforts to improve our high streets and lead to some shopping hubs being shut down forever” [C](#).

Agricultural buildings of up to 500m² can be converted to a new state funded school or a nursery providing childcare. Applicants will need prior approval from the council on noise, transport, flooding and contamination. Farmers will also be permitted to convert agricultural buildings to residential use. The right will apply to creating three houses or flats, each of no more than 150m² from agricultural buildings that existed before 21 March 2010. The government says it wants to “avoid high-impact development occurring without the opportunity for local consideration” and “avoid creating the opportunity for over development.” Developers will require prior approval for siting and design to ensure compliance with local plan policies on design, materials and outlook; transport, highways and noise impacts; and contamination and flooding risks. The right will apply to farms of any size, including in conservation areas, National Parks, AONBs, the Broads and World Heritage sites. There is a ten-year lock-in. Farmers that use the rights to convert an agricultural building to housing will not be able to invoke permitted development rights to erect a new agricultural building for ten years. Neither can they convert a building to housing if they have erected an agricultural building under permitted development rights after 7 August 2013.

Other buildings. The government proposes that existing permitted development rights that allow conversion to a state funded school, are extended to allow hotels, residential, non-residential institutions and leisure and assembly will be extended to allow conversion to nurseries providing childcare.

National: Town Centres

Bill Grimsey, the former chief executive of Wickes and Iceland, said that Britain's high streets are in a "deep decline" and condemned the Portas Review as "nostalgic". He accused the government of making policy "in the margins." He says that half of high street retail companies are under threat [T](#) [G](#) [T](#) [P](#). CPRE said Grimsey's analysis provides a sharp wake-up call without being alarmist on the crisis facing town centres [P](#). Civic Voice also welcomed the report [P](#). Mary Portas hit back at Grimsey: "I don't want this to turn into a game of attack and return. But we just don't need another report" [T](#). She told MPs that she had taken a battering for trying to save the high street and said that retailers needed incentives to open stores in town centres. She renewed her call for impact testing for superstore and out of town developments [BBC](#) [P](#).

Comment. Ian Middleton: "Ask any shopper why they don't visit the high street and they will quote high parking charges and a lack of interest in the clone towns that have developed as a result of landlords following the money" [i](#). Ben Clifford: "The high street is not dead, just sleeping" [P](#).

National: Landscapes

Green infrastructure. A report for Defra and English Nature found that green infrastructure contributes to economic growth by increasing inward investment and visitor numbers, and boosting health. An estimated 5% of all the jobs in England are the green space sector [P](#).

AONB. Artists are campaigning for the White Horse at Westbury and the surrounding area to be added to the Cranborne Chase and West Wilts Downs AONB [L](#).

Badgers. The row over badger culling continues, with Labour claiming it "flies in the face of the scientific evidence" and will serve only to spread the disease [G](#) [P](#). Farmers obtained an injunction against harassment as the campaign of intimidation against them increased [PWT](#). The controversial cull is now underway in Somerset and Gloucestershire [G](#).

Woodland. The Forestry Commission has published a new guide to restoring ancient woodlands that have been overplanted with commercial species [P](#). Surrey residents are trying to raise £600,000 to buy 122-acres of woodland in Caterham and bring the site into public use [GS](#).

Light pollution. Northumberland National Park looks set to become Europe's largest Dark Sky Park [L](#) [itv](#) [T](#).

National: Green Belt

CPRE said that councils across England now plan for 150,000 houses to be built in the green belt, compared to 81,000 houses last year. The green belt is also threatened by office development and HS2. Paul Miner for CPRE said: "The extent to which the threat is growing – nearly doubling in a year – is deeply worrying" [P](#). Shaun Spiers said ministers are "deeply divided" over how much protection the green belt should have. He said that Eric Pickles is fighting to preserve the countryside but George Osborne, regards the green belt as an "irritating impediment" to economic growth [T](#) [P](#) [G](#) [G](#).

Traveller pitches. Earlier this summer, Eric Pickles declared that he would personally decide many decisions on gypsy and traveller sites in the green belt. Now he has approved sites at Rugby and Leighton Buzzard despite accepting that the damage to "openness of the green belt is substantial and that the development would result in a considerable encroachment into the countryside." He reasoned that at Rugby, the children's education should not be disrupted and at Leighton there is a lack of five year supply of sites [P](#).

South East: Energy, Water and Waste

Balcombe. Protests gathered in strength during July, temporarily halting drilling when Sussex police said they could not guarantee workers safety due to the growing numbers of peaceful protestors [BBC](#) [BBC](#) [BBC](#) [BBC](#) [P](#) [i](#) [T](#). Green MP Caroline Lucas was among those arrested [R](#) [T](#). Around sixty Balcombe residents have written to the protestors asking them to leave [T](#) [G](#) [T](#). The protests have cost £2.3 million so far [T](#). If Cuadrilla extracts oil and does not frack, the local community could miss out on £100,000 worth of benefits [T](#). Cuadrilla has halted drilling after breaching noise limits [TA](#). Arundel and South Downs MP Nick Herbert said communities need "more information and reassurance" about fracking in the Sussex countryside, saying the impact on the environment "really isn't clear." He said an invasion of protestors from outside the county is not what villagers want [WST](#). In the Telegraph, Charles Moore said: "Industry made Sussex, and I hope it will again" [T](#).

Sussex. Protestors from Fernhurst, where Celtique Energy has plans to explore for shale gas, joined the Balcombe protest [i](#). Celtique Energy also plans to drill an exploratory well at Wisborough Green. Residents are already preparing for a long campaign against the proposal, though they fighting shy of being "labelled as eco-extremists" [WST](#) [BBC](#) [TA](#). Lord Cowdray has joined those protesting against fracking at Fernhurst [BBC](#).

Surrey. A petition has been started against fracking in Surrey [38](#). Reigate Crispin Blunt said fracking is essential and Surrey should "play its part" [TIS](#). Exploration licences have been granted to Northdown Energy Limited across the northern parts of Surrey, including Epsom and Ewell, opening up the possibility of exploration for shale gas and fracking [VLC](#). Amid the protests against fracking, Transition Dorking is to look at the viability of fracking. It said: "We're not absolutely convinced that shale gas is unequivocally a bad thing. It might be a medium-term solution to the growing energy crisis in this country" [GS](#).

Hampshire. George Hollingbery, MP for Meon Valley in Hampshire, warned that fracking could be "disastrous" in his county because of the fragile water supply. He also said that councils should get a greater share of the revenue from the operations [T](#). An anti-fracking group has been launched for Horsham [WST](#). More than 200 objections have been lodged against an application to build six 130-metre tall turbines at Woodmancott Down, near Micheldever [L](#) [BGz](#).

Oxfordshire. Blenheim Palace has become the latest historic property to generate energy from an Archimedes screw [BBC](#). As plans were put forward for four solar farms, CPRE Oxfordshire's Mike Tyce said: "It is madness to take land out of useful food production and cover it in solar panels" [OT](#). David Cameron said that he is happy for fracking to go ahead in his Whitney constituency [OM](#).

Wind. EDF Energy Renewables has submitted a planning application for a temporary wind monitoring mast at its proposed Bullington Cross windfarm [L](#) [P](#). Hampshire Energy Group continues to campaign for the Bullington windfarm, in which its hopes to take a 10% share [BGz](#). Navitus windfarm is holding its fourth and final round of consultation, ending on 11 October [P](#).

National: Energy

Aarhus. A United Nations tribunal has found the UK is in breach of the Aarhus Convention. The tribunal ruled that the UK's National Renewable Energy Action Plan failed to meet its commitments under the convention on public participation, and the right to receive information on environmental issues and projects. The case was filed over windfarm developments and lawyers say that it may mean that windfarms can be challenged [i](#). Renewable UK rejected the suggestion that the ruling would affect windfarm proposals [BC](#).

Infrastructure impact review. DECC and Defra are conducting a review into the impact of renewable electricity infrastructure on rural areas, though it won't look at the impact of fracking [BBC](#) [T](#). The press claimed that DECC was trying to block publication of the study but Owen Paterson said the report will be published [T](#) [T](#) [G](#) [M](#).

Local renewables. MPs on the energy and climate change committee said businesses, cooperatives, local authorities, schools and housing associations should be given financial support to install medium-sized renewable energy generating systems – such as solar arrays, wind turbines and district heating systems. They said ministers should encourage local authorities to develop clear guidance about what is expected from local energy projects, to reduce uncertainty and risk in the planning process. National level planning guidance should be provided on technical issues that hold up planning consent for wind turbines and other low-carbon technologies [M](#) [Q](#).

Solar. The UK will not meet its renewable energy targets if solar farms are restricted to brownfield sites, according to a solar farm developer [P](#) [A](#). The Solar Trade Association has published ten commitments for the industry. They include a promise to focus on non-agricultural or low quality agricultural and to “be sensitive to nationally and locally protected landscapes and nature conservation areas.” Visual impact will be minimised and communities will be consulted. There is no mention of community compensation [A](#) [A](#). For the UK to meet its solar power targets and generate 22 Gigawatts of our electricity by 2020, less than 0.29% of agricultural land in the UK needs to be developed [Q](#). David Hook from CPRE Norfolk told Sky News: “If policy is not changed ... the industrialisation through solar farms and extra wind turbines is going to have a dramatic effect on the countryside, and a very negative effect” [sky](#).

Wind. The Telegraph bemoaned that nine of 14 wind turbine proposals that were opposed by local people have recently been approved by the planning inspectorate, despite ministers claiming that the countryside has been given stronger protection by recent guidance [T](#) [T](#). Ministers have abandoned plans to claw back subsidies from windfarms if returns prove exceptionally high, but they may introduce claw back payments for nuclear generation [T](#) [C](#).

Biomass. From April 2015, the biomass industry will be required to demonstrate its fuel is sustainable or lose financial support [Q](#) [C](#). Green campaigners said the new rules would still allow unsustainable deforestation in other countries [G](#).

Fracking. Writing in support of fracking in the Telegraph, David Cameron said: “If neighbourhoods can see the benefits – and are reassured about its effects on the environment – then I don't see why fracking shouldn't receive real public support. Local people will not be cut out and ignored” [T](#). The Independent looked at arguments for and against fracking [i](#). The Telegraph reviewed the arguments for [T](#).

National and South East: Water and Waste

Water. The government denied a Telegraph report that it is to order water companies in the south and east to install water meters in every home [C](#) [T](#).

Landfill. After it was revealed that Oxfordshire took landfill waste from the Olympics, CPRE Oxfordshire said waste should be dealt with locally. Helen Marshall said: “I'm sure there will be absolute uproar in the county if at some point... there were new landfill sites required just because we'd filled up our existing holes with waste from elsewhere” [BBC](#).

Incineration. Campaigners lost their judicial review against planning approval for an incinerator at Allerton Park, near Knaresborough [LGI](#).

National: Transport

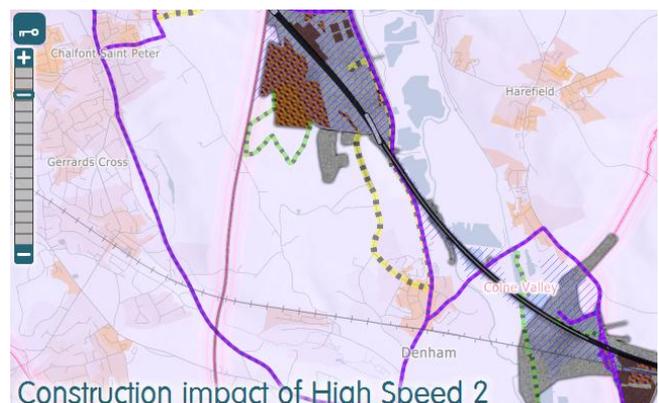
Cycling. David Cameron announced that new funding for improving cycling. £77 million will be divided between Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham, Newcastle, Bristol, Cambridge, Oxford and Norwich, while the New Forest, Peak District, South Downs and Dartmoor will each share a slice of £17 million funding for national parks [C](#). The government also announced a feasibility study to look at creating a new national cycleway following the route of the HS2 rail line [BBC](#). Cycling campaigners expressed disappointment at the government's response to parliament's *Get Britain Cycling* report. MPs wanted 20mph speed limits to become standard in urban areas and the government to appoint a national cycling tsar. Their report also called for cycling to take a bigger share of the transport budget, at least £10 per person per year, rising to £20, with the aim of ensuring one in ten journeys in Britain is made on two wheels by 2025. The government response was that it is already tackling many of the key issues and offered just £1 million a year for two years and dismissed the idea of a cycling tsar [G](#) [Q](#) [C](#).

Roads. The number of vehicles using the Dartford Crossing has fallen to the lowest level since 1998 [L](#) [L](#).

Aviation. Lydd Airport says it is confident that construction of the runway extension will go ahead early next year after work is completed on environmental pre-conditions [KO](#).

National: High Speed 2

Impacts. CPRE published maps showing landscape and noise impacts of the line, and the disruption to towns and communities from construction traffic [RE](#) [L](#) [M](#) [G](#). Ralph Smyth for CPRE said: “Tranquil areas are important to people and nature; we need to defend them. Protecting these special areas may simply mean filling a gap in noise barriers between two villages, so that footpaths benefit as well as back gardens. But it may mean thinking again about the height and alignment of the route” [CPRE](#).



Construction impact of High Speed 2
South Buckinghamshire

Summer of discontent. After a summer of anti-HS2 sentiment, ministers and HS2 Ltd chairman Douglas Oakervee returned from holidays to fight back. George Osborne said he is “passionate” about HS2 [BBC](#). David Cameron has promised a HS2 “fight back” [HP](#). Nick Clegg said the line would “save London’s green belt” [ES](#). Oakervee lamented the name High Speed 2, saying the emphasis should be on capacity and economic benefits [i](#) [i](#). A report commissioned by HS2 Ltd suggested that the line could boost the economy by £15 billion a year. Transport secretary Patrick McLoughlin insisted the line will act as a “heart bypass for the clogged arteries of our transport system” [FT](#). Simon Jenkins said the line has become “the Afghan war of British domestic policy. There is no more debate about whether it makes sense. The only question is how long can its apologists hold out” [g](#). The leader of Kent County Council said the money could be better spent on helping fund transport schemes in the South East [KO](#).

The rising costs. Treasury officials warned that cost of HS2 will hit £73bn and drain money from other projects [FT](#) [i](#). The Institute for Economic Affairs said HS2 high-speed rail project could cost more than £80bn, almost double the current estimate of £42.6bn [BBC](#). Wales is also demanding billions in compensation under the Barnett formula [FT](#). Former Treasury minister Alistair Darling said he no longer backs the line because of the rising cost [T](#) [M](#). After Darling’s intervention, Maria Eagle, the shadow transport secretary, called for HS2’s management to be replaced and for a cap of £50 billion on costs [T](#) [g](#). The Institute of Directors urged ministers to abandon the “grand folly” of HS2, saying the business case is “simply is not there” [g](#) [BBC](#). The Mail said: “Halt this HS2 monstrosity in its tracks” [M](#).

Those in favour. Writing to the Yorkshire Post, Shaun Spiers confirmed CPRE’s continued national support for a well-designed HS2 [YP](#). Former Labour transport secretary Andrew Adonis said: “It would be an act of national self-mutilation for Labour to cancel HS2” [S](#). Train enthusiast Pete Waterman said the line could “inspire a generation” [T](#).

Network Rail said that over 100 towns and cities on Britain’s existing railway lines could benefit from quicker, more frequent journeys and better connections when HS2 phase two is complete, providing HS2 fares is not more expensive than the rest of the network. The options include additional services between the South Coast and Manchester [i](#). The Major Projects Authority still considers the project to be a high risk [T](#).

Campaigning and People

Lobbying Bill. CPRE and the Woodland Trust are among more than thirty charities that have signed a letter to ministers complaining that the [Transparency of Lobbying, etc. Bill](#) will undermine and potentially prevent charitable campaigning during an election period [i](#) [BBC](#). As 38 Degrees joined the campaign warning it faced “its biggest ever threat”, Cabinet Office minister Tom Brake insisted the bill: “Is absolutely not going to restrict charities or campaign groups campaigning to change public policy.” His view was roundly dismissed by critics [B&G](#) [38](#) [i](#) [i](#). The government has accepted the Bill will need amending to clarify the freedom charities to campaign.

Community assets. Pubs minister Brandon Lewis announced that 100 pubs have been registered as Assets of Community Value, which means that the community will have a chance to buy them if they are put up for sale [i](#).

People. Surrey baronet, Sir Laurie Magnus has been appointed Chairman of English Heritage [M](#) [T](#). CPRE is seeking a Planning Officer to work on housing supply [i](#).

The CPRE eBulletins

CPRE South East eBulletin is independently written and edited by Andy Boddington: cprenews@andybodders.co.uk. Views expressed in the eBulletin and its editorial approach are those of its editor and not any part of CPRE.

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