

South East eBulletin

October 2014

National roundup

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Brownfields and Greenfields

Brownfield. CPRE has called for a return to brownfield first planning policies, among a series of measures it has recommended to encourage housing development on previously developed land. In a Housing Foresight paper, it calls for taxation of uncompleted housing for which planning permission has been granted; improved funding and assistance for brownfield remediation; special planning measures and state intervention to aid redevelopment; and the increased use of tax increment financing [RE](#) [D](#) [P](#). The Land Trust and Buglife said: “Brownfield can be a great place for wildlife, a great place for society to engage with nature and reap the benefits of the open space, as well as being a resource to assist with climate change adaptation” [□](#).

Amberfield. The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors is calling for a category of amberfield sites, alongside brownfield and greenfield. This would be part of the five year land supply and RICS says they must be developed within five years. It also wants greater devolution of powers and funds, bigger than local planning but it opposes a return of the Regional Development Agencies [RICS](#) [P](#).

Greenfield. A research paper from the CPRE shows that steep targets for the amount of land councils must allocate for housing are opening the door to major housing developments in the countryside. Its research found that planning inspectors granted planning permission in 72% of cases where there was no defined land supply – 27,000 houses between March 2012 and May 2014. John Rowley, CPRE’s planning officer said: “These figures show that current policy is encouraging unnecessary house building in the countryside against the wishes of local people. We need to see a more transparent and less punitive system which does not allow unrealistic housing targets to override local concerns” [RE](#) [KO](#).

Green belt. Eric Pickles backed a council decision to approve a football stadium for Cambridge City in the green belt [itv](#) [L](#) [BBC](#). He allowed an appeal for 100 homes on previously developed land at the Building Research Establishment site in the Hertfordshire green belt. Lack of five year land supply was a critical factor in the decision [D](#) [C](#) [L](#). Rochford, South Gloucestershire and West Lancashire councils took bites out of the green belt in 2013/14, reducing the total green belt area by 540 hectares (0.06%) [P](#).

Speaking for the Countryside

Simon Thurley, outgoing chief executive of English Heritage, warned [C](#) [M](#):

“After the next election, whoever is in power will really put their foot on the accelerator and will introduce, I suspect, more draconian measures to effectively force historic towns and cities to double or treble in size. I think the biggest and most worrying threat we have at the moment is these huge identikit slabs of housing being tacked on places like Henley, and King’s Lynn, Dorchester, Worcester, Chichester... without properly thinking about how to do it.”

Simon Jenkins, who has stepped down from his role as trust chairman, said the Prime Minister had broken a promise he made in 2012 to protect the countryside [T](#) [M](#) [TA](#). He told the Sunday Times last weekend that David Cameron had pledged there that he would no more put the countryside at risk than his own family.

“But he has, in that he has allowed his Chancellor, George Osborne, and Eric Pickles, as local government and communities secretary, to ruin the countryside. We have been witnessing the disenfranchisement of rural Britain.”

He accused Nick Boles of being a “recruiting officer for UKIP, making many voters turn to that party because it is more understanding about protecting the countryside.” He called for a new grading system of Britain’s countryside to better protect it, with national parks receiving the highest grade, farmland with scenic significant the second, green belt the third and other land spread across four lower grades.

Planning

Tranquillity. Researchers at the University of Bradford have pioneered a technique to measure how much damage new construction projects would do to the tranquillity of the surrounding area. Professor Greg watts said: “Defining a tranquillity footprint has in the past been difficult due to the lack of a prediction method. Our tranquillity rating prediction tool (TRAPT) has the potential to help planning authorities and conservationists quantify the impact of new developments” [L](#).

Household payments. The communities department has launched a £3.5million pilot for its development benefits initiative. Under the scheme households near sites of housing development would be directly compensated for the short-term impacts, such as “the noise and nuisance of having a building site near their home” [C](#) [C](#).

Special measures. Planning magazine reports that three South East councils are at risk of being placed on special measures due to poor planning performance. Christchurch council says it provided incorrect data. Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes are also at risk for failing to determine county matters, largely waste applications, on time [P](#).

Profitable landscapes. The Landscape Institute launched *Profitable Places*, a case study report that demonstrates that if housebuilders invest in landscape and green spaces, they can increase profits [L](#).

Local plans. Brandon Lewis told the local government select committee that there are no plans to set statutory limits on the time local authorities can take to produce local plans. He said: “You’ve got the risk of local authorities trying to tick boxes rather than going for a proper holistic approach to their housing supply numbers, their housing need and their local plan” [P](#).

Neighbourhood plans. Eric Pickles has rejected proposals for 350 homes at a site not allocated for development in the [Devizes Area neighbourhood plan](#). Wilshire does not have a five year land supply [O](#) [BBC](#) [C](#). He has recently made several decisions to protect emerging neighbourhood plans from speculative housing development [O](#).

Councils warned. Chief planner Steve Quartermain has warned that some councils are failing to plan for an ageing population and to help local groups draw up neighbourhood plans. He said: “Local authorities have a legal duty to support neighbourhood plan preparation. We know this isn’t happening across the piece. In some areas, local authorities haven’t been as supportive as others have.” He also said ministers’ appetite for further change to the planning system is “undiminished” [P](#).

Waste policy. The government has published the *National Planning Policy for Waste*. It replaces *PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management*. The emphasis is on local plans and strengthens green belt policy by making it clear that local authorities should look for other sites before considering sites in the green belt [C](#) [P](#). The Anaerobic Digestion and Bioresources Association said the new policy could hit anaerobic digestion projects in the green belt [O](#).

Metro devolution. The RSA City Growth Commission called for the devolution of powers to promote growth in England’s metro areas. The report calls for metros to take on strategic planning authority powers along the lines of the Greater London Authority. More controversially, it says: “Planning at the metro level will allow authorities to make it easier to reclassify poor quality green belt and promote green belt swaps” [O](#) [P](#).

Infrastructure. Thames Tideway Tunnel chief executive, Andy Mitchell, has been named chair of The Infrastructure Client Group – a group tasked with supporting the government to reduce costs and improve the delivery of infrastructure projects [C](#).

Town centres. The LGA said permitted development rights allowing conversion of offices to homes have led to some existing business being served with eviction notices. “What was meant to provide a new lease of life for empty offices has, in reality, seen organisations kicked out of their premises so landlords can cash in on the higher rents they can charge for flats and houses” [LGA](#). An out of town Tesco in Sudbury, Suffolk has had its business rates cut by 7% because a Sainsbury’s opened two miles away. CPRE’s Graeme Willis said: “It is perverse that the rates system works in reverse to the planning system by benefiting the out of town retailers” [L](#).

Floods and drains. The government is to strengthen planning policy guidance to make clear that sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) should be provided in new schemes of ten or more homes and mixed-use or non-residential developments of a similar scale. It says applications that failing to meet a policy requirement to “normally deliver” SuDS in preference to conventional drainage “could be rejected.” Originally, it had planned for SuDS to be subject to separate consenting regime from the planning system, but it now believes that will lead to extra bureaucracy. It is also worried that local authorities will not be prepared to establish SuDS Approval Bodies as originally proposal [C](#) [P](#). The Environmental Industries Commission said it is concerned over the impact of the revisions on water quality [O](#). The National Audit Office said current government spending is insufficient to meet many flood defence maintenance needs [C](#) [IH](#) [G](#).

Gypsy and travellers. The government published a consultation on changes to planning policies affecting travellers, in part to strengthen green belt protection. It is proposing to change the definition of traveller for planning purposes to exclude those who have permanently ceased travelling. The consultation also proposes to change planning policy so that if a site was intentionally occupied without planning permission, that this would be a material consideration in any retrospective planning application for that site. Closes 23 November [C](#) [IH](#) [P](#). The House of Commons Library has produced a note on gypsy and traveller planning provisions [C](#). See also [O](#).

Wales is aiming to address cross-boundary strategic planning issues by introducing a new tier of strategic development plans. It also wants measures to bypass poorly performing planning authorities and a new category of development, Developments of National Significance, to be decided by ministers [P](#) [C](#).

Housing

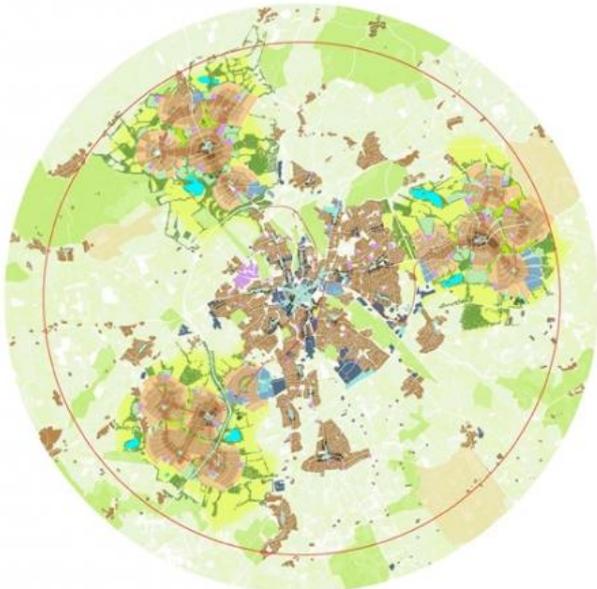
Financing. Eric Pickles announced a new ‘rent-to-buy’ scheme which would guarantee first time buyers low rents on new properties. Housing associations and other providers can bid for a share of £400 million in low-cost loans to build up to 10,000 new homes across the country, mostly one- and two-bedroom flats, from 2015 to 2018 [C](#) [P](#). Brandon Lewis announced 22 councils will be able to borrow an additional £122 million over the next two years to deliver over 1,700 new affordable homes [C](#).

Right to Build. The government is consulting on its new **Right to Build scheme**, under which councils will release land as viable, serviced building plots. The consultation proposes to allow councils to insist that custom builders demonstrate a connection to the local area in order to register an interest in acquiring a serviced plot. Consultation closes 18 December [O](#) [C](#). Cherwell council has committed to deliver 2,000 custom-build homes under the scheme over the next 10 years [C](#).

Housing supply. 238,000 homes were granted planning permission from September 2013 to August 2014, but only 129,000 units actually started construction in the same period [O](#).

Garden Cities

Wolfson Prize winner. David Rudlin of urban design and research consultancy URBED has won the £250,000 Wolfson Prize for a viable garden city [\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#). His entry, modelled on a fictional town called Uxcester, envisages the near-doubling of up to 40 existing large towns. This will provide new homes for 150,000 people in satellites around each town over 30-35 years. Expansion would take the form of town extensions connected to the city centre by a tram or bus rapid transit, with each extension consisting of green, walkable neighbourhoods with primary schools, businesses and local shops. Extensions would be surrounded by country parks, allotments, lakes and other low-impact uses. One-fifth of the housing would be affordable. URBED applies the Uxcester concept to Oxford as a case study. It also said: “We should take a good confident bite out of the green belt to create sustainable urban extensions.” It promised: “For every hectare of land developed another will be given back to the city as accessible public space, forests, lakes and country parks – the garden in which the city will sit” [\[3\]](#).



Uxcester conceptual town

Other Wolfson proposals. Homeless charity Shelter was named runner up for its proposed creation of Stoke Harbour on the Hoo Peninsula [\[4\]](#). Short-listed candidates Barton Willmore had planned a garden suburb south east of Maidstone (below) [\[5\]](#).



Reaction to Wolfson. Housing and planning minister Brandon Lewis said the government will not be adopting the URBED proposal, dismissing the author’s vision as “urban sprawl”. He said: “We are committed to protecting the green belt from development as an important protection against urban sprawl” [\[6\]](#) [\[7\]](#) [\[8\]](#). The LSE’s Henry Overman said he found Lewis’s response “deeply depressing” [\[9\]](#). Wolfson Economics Prize founder, Lord Wolfson attacked the planning system: “Planning has overcrowded our towns and cities, overloaded our transport infrastructure, inflated land prices, underinvested in quality, restricted competition and crushed innovation... Something has to change. Most importantly, new development does not have to take place within the bounds of our existing towns and cities” [\[10\]](#).

TCPA. The Town and Country Planning Association called on all political parties to commit to garden cities [\[11\]](#). It also launched a ‘myth-buster’ on garden cities. It claims one myth is that there is enough brownfield land for housing. Chief executive Kate Henderson said: “Where we build the homes we need is not a question of using either greenfield or brownfield land, but a matter of choosing the most sustainable locations for new and renewed communities” [\[12\]](#) [\[13\]](#).

Ebbsfleet. In the Guardian, Patrick Barkham reviewed plans for Ebbsfleet and asked: “Will the end result be bog-standard suburban housing blighting the green belt?” [\[14\]](#).

Landscapes, Farming and Biodiversity

Green map. Nick Clegg has announced plans for a new map of public green space. He said the Ordnance Survey would compile and release data to enable the creation of a new map of every publicly accessible green space in England and Wales and will allow anyone with access to the internet to find the location of their nearest park. The Parks Alliance welcomed the announcement: “I think it is great that a senior member of the Government has explicitly recognised the value of parks” [\[15\]](#).

Geo and biodiversity. Defra launched the Geodiversity Charter for England, which seeks to inspire decision makers and communities to celebrate and take action for our hidden natural heritage [\[16\]](#) [\[17\]](#). Under the biodiversity duty introduced in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, public authorities must show regard for conserving biodiversity in all their actions. Defra has belatedly published minimal guidance, including the need to promote biodiversity when planning or developing, and when working with planners or developers [\[18\]](#). Kaye Brennan from the Woodland Trust takes a critical look at the “useless”, “bizarre” and “indecent” guidance [\[19\]](#). Over 10,000 people and 67 organisations have signed a letter urging the European Commission not to pursue biodiversity offsetting, calling it a licence to commodify and trash nature which “will only succeed in enabling those that can afford it to destroy nature for private profit” [\[20\]](#) [\[21\]](#).

Light pollution. Spanish researchers said that light pollution harms fledgling birds [\[22\]](#) [\[23\]](#). Researcher Rhian Newman said: “It might be annoying for us to see so much energy wasted on illuminating the night sky, ruining our view of the stars. But for some animals, this same pollution could be life-threatening” [\[24\]](#).

Pollinators. The government launched its 10-year national pollinator strategy . Friends of the Earth said the plan is: “A business-as-usual approach to spraying pesticides and fails to set out a plan for helping farmers turn the countryside into a less barren place for bees” . The Woodland Trust disagreed and said the strategy was “surprisingly good; collaborative and informative” . Joan Walley MP, chair of the Commons environmental audit committee welcomed the report but said she was “disappointed that the government seems stubbornly determined to keep open the possibility of challenging the EU ban on the neonicotinoid pesticides that have been linked to pollinator declines” .

Farming and food. Defra is working on a trial derogation which will allow the cutting of hedges during August for farmers intending to sow oilseed rape or temporary grass . The NFU said the EU suspension of neonicotinoid seed treatments is damaging rape crops  . A University of Sussex researcher said the neonicotinoids are 5,000 times more toxic than DDT . The Commons’ environment, food and rural affairs committee (EFRA) has launched an inquiry into food security  . The number of people engaged in agriculture rose by 6,000 to 302,000 last year, with most of the increase casual workers . Young farmers will be able to claim extra payments under new CAP rules .

Trees. Network Rail has suspended tree removal work at Sunning Common, Berkshire and in Merseyside after failing to consult residents . An independent inquiry will be held into an application to get Smithy Wood registered as a town green, after Sheffield councillors abandoned their own inquiry. Developers want to build a service station on the ancient woodland  . The Forestry Commission said ash dieback shows a consolidation of outbreaks in the north east and north west, with the “front” continuing to move towards the west  . Plans to develop a 31-hectare quarry in ancient woodland at Hopwas Wood near Tamworth have been dropped   . After more than 170,000 people signed a petition, the government has pledged not to transfer any forests to the Homes and Communities Agency under the Infrastructure Bill. Opposition members are calling for an amendment to the bill to write the commitment into law   .

Heritage

Restructuring. The government confirmed plans to restructure English Heritage from 1 April 2015. Historic England will offer expert advice, champion the wider historic environment and provide support for stakeholders in the heritage sector, carrying out the planning and heritage protection duties currently under the auspices of English Heritage. English Heritage will be reconstituted as a new charity, which will manage and promote over 400 properties and sites in the National Heritage Collection, including Stonehenge. All of English Heritage’s properties will remain in public ownership. The government has allocated £8.5 million to implement the new structure, while a further £80 million of capital investment has been provided to restore the properties and improve the visitor experience. The chief executive of English Heritage, Simon Thurley, will stand down once the new structure is in place   .

Solar

Solar and renewables policy. Defra secretary Liz Truss said that farmland used for solar farms would no longer qualify for farm subsidy payments through the Common Agricultural Policy. She said: “English farmland is some of the best in the world and I want to see it dedicated to growing quality food and crops. I do not want to see its productive potential wasted and its appearance blighted by solar farms. Farming is what our farms are for and it is what keeps our landscape beautiful.” Farmers also cannot count this land, or any features on it (such as buffer strips), as an Ecological Focus Area  . Shadow Labour secretary Maria Eagle said Liz Truss had no underpinning evidence for the policy change: “Just an ideological prejudice”   . Farmers said that solar farms still produce food, mainly through sheep grazing . The government also confirmed that it will implement its proposals to bar solar farms with more than 5MW of capacity from taking part in the existing Renewables Obligation subsidy scheme from next April. It has boosted the subsidy available under the contracts for difference scheme for renewables to £300million, including £65million for onshore wind and solar  . The International Energy Authority said solar could be the world’s top source of power by 2050 .

Solar decisions. Shropshire councillors threw out a 54-acre solar farm in the Shropshire Hills AONB and another 43-acre scheme adjacent to the AONB on grounds of damage to the landscape and loss of agricultural land   . Peterborough council is scrapping two solar farms because of reduced tariffs and recent planning guidance .

Windfarms

Best practice for windfarms. New planning guidance declares that community benefits offered by wind farm developers are not a material consideration in planning decisions. It also says that developers should make it clear to all parties that engagement in community benefit discussions “does not affect their right to have a view on the development through the planning process.” The government also published best practice for planning authorities and best practice on community engagement by energy companies  .

Pickles intervenes. Trade body RenewableUK said that 19 decisions on windfarms have been issued by Eric Pickles since June 2013, with 14 of them in line with planning inspectors’ recommendations (12 dismissals and two approvals). The last five decisions have been refusals against inspectors’ recommendations . It said:

“Eric Pickles... has politicised what should be an independent and impartial planning system, with 98% of wind farm appeals now being decided by Mr Pickles himself. His guiding principle seems to be localism – as long as you do what I say.”

Government chief planner Steve Quartermain defended Eric Pickles’ record in recovering windfarm appeals: “The engagement of the secretary of state in decisions at appeal amount to 7% of all decisions on wind farms. I don’t think that’s a disproportionate engagement in the planning system” .

Pickles decides. Eric Pickles rejected an appeal for the six-turbine River Valley Wind Farm, East Riding, saying: “The cumulative effects of the appeal proposal along with existing and consented turbines are particularly important in this case with respect to the likely impact on the character and appearance of the area and on heritage assets” [C] [P]. He rejected two turbines in Norfolk, giving considerable weight to harmful impacts on the settings of two listed buildings. He also said: “The scheme would fail to protect prized tranquillity contrary to paragraph 123 of the NPPF” [C] [P]. But Mr Pickles allowed three turbines near Newark despite their “significant heritage impact” on listed churches [C] [P].

Turbine dangers. Bats may be lured to their deaths at wind farms because they think turbines are trees [C] [P]. The press reported that living close to wind farms may lead to severe hearing damage or even deafness, according to research by the Royal Society. However, the level of low frequency noise used in the study is well above permitted levels for windfarms [C] [P] [U].

Energy and Waste

Emissions and climate change. The EU has agreed to cut emissions across its states by at least 40% by 2030. Energy secretary Ed Davey said: “Make no mistake, this deal is the most significant environment agreement any UK government has ever been involved with” [C] [P]. EU greenhouse gas emissions fell almost 2% between 2012 and 2013, bringing the EU close to its 2020 reduction target [C] [P]. The Global Carbon Project’s annual report warns that if emissions continue to climb the world will soon pass the point at which global warming can be limited to two degrees above pre-industrial levels [C] [P]. The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said climate change is set to inflict “severe, widespread, and irreversible impacts” unless carbon emissions are cut sharply and rapidly [C] [P].

Capacity. Didcot B gas fired station closed after a major fire [C] [P]. Cracks were found in Hunterston-B nuclear power station [C] [P]. For a brief period, wind provided a record 24% of power on 19 October [C] [P]. The National Grid said there will be enough power for the winter despite tighter margins [C] [P]. The chief executive of Centrica said paying to keep coal powered stations open through the capacity market mechanism, while simultaneously encouraging them to close through the rising carbon floor price is “paradoxical” [C] [P]. There are 405 renewable energy projects in the pipeline to 2025, worth £81 billion [C] [P].

Nuclear. The European Commission approved state aid for the £25.4bn Hinkley Point C nuclear power station [C] [P]. Friends of the Earth said: “This shocking decision will funnel billions of pounds of public money into the hands of EDF, and add to the mountain of nuclear waste that countless future generations will struggle to deal with” [C] [P]. Austria has said it will challenge the state aid [C] [P]. In The Ecologist, Keith Barnham said: “The best hope for renewables is that new nuclear will fall at one of the hurdles it still has to surmount” [C] [P]. Cracks were found in the core of the Hunterston B nuclear power station [C] [P].

Gas. The government’s ‘much reduced’ planning guidance has been expanded again to include new guidance on underground gas storage and underground coal gasification, though much of the guidance is descriptive of techniques, not guidance for planning decisions [C] [P].

Fracking. The government is to push through plans to allow fracking firms to drill under homes without the owner’s permission, despite 99% of respondents to a consultation opposing the proposals. The government says that current requirements to get owner’s permission to drill under land are “costly, time-consuming and disproportionate.” It dismissed out of hand 36,582 responses from individuals saying they not address the consultation questions correctly but instead gave their “views in a more open format.” Instead, it is going with the 44 industry respondents that support the government’s proposals [C] [P] [U]. The Scottish government has condemned the plans [C] [P]. A US study suggests that the contamination of drinking water by shale gas is due to faulty wells and not fracking [C] [P].

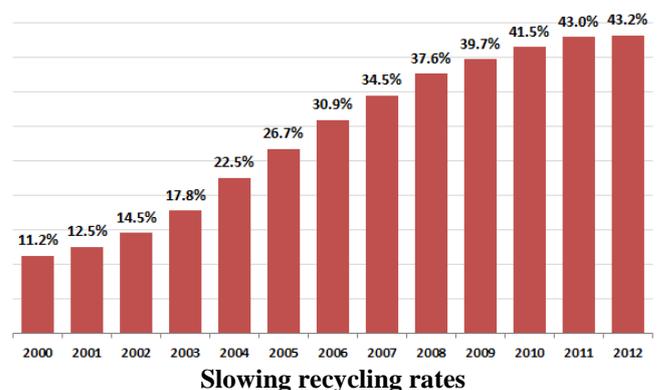
Coal. Greenpeace said up to £2.2bn of consumers money could go on subsidising coal plants in the UK this year through the capacity market, an auction mechanism which pays power stations to remain online to ensure there is an adequate power supply [C] [P].

Waste, Recycling and Litter

Litter. The House of Commons Library has published a briefing on litter, its costs and the legal framework for tackling litter [C] [P]. Keep Wales Tidy and Merthyr Tydfil Council have sprayed grass with a chalk-based yellow spray paint and planted mini flags to draw attention to dog poo that had been left by irresponsible owners [C] [P]. From 20 October, all retailers in Scotland have been charging at least 5p for each new carrier bag they give to shoppers, including eco-friendly bags [C] [P].

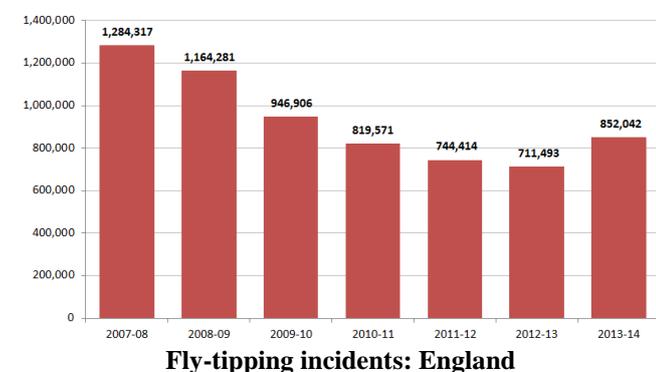
Circular economy. In a report on the circular economy, the environment, food and rural affairs select committee said the government continues to miss opportunities to tackle Britain’s throwaway society. It complains ministers have rejected calls to require new products to be recyclable and stop food waste from going to landfill [C] [P].

Recycling slows. A YouGov poll found that only 57% of 18 to 24 year olds believe it is ‘very important’ to recycle as much household waste as possible. In contrast, almost three quarters (74%) of over 55s said they thought it was important to recycle as much as possible [C] [P]. After the rate of improvement in recycling rates slowed, the environment, food and rural affairs committee said the government needed to take the lead in increasing the rate of recycling and cutting the amount of rubbish thrown into landfill. Under EU targets, households must recycle 50% by 2020 and up to 70% by 2030 [C] [P].



Campaigning and People

Fly-tipping. The Local Government Association said councils in England and Wales should be given new powers to impose on-the-spot fines to tackle fly-tipping [BBC](#). Local authorities in England dealt with a total of 852,000 incidents of fly-tipping in 2013/14, an increase of 20% since 2012/13. The clean-up cost £45 million pounds. Nearly two thirds of fly-tipping is household waste [BBC](#) [R](#).



Transport

Green retrofit. A report by environment and transport groups including CPRE and the Campaign for Better Transport is calling for £3 billion to be invested over the next five years in a range of ‘green retrofit’ improvements for existing roads. Proposals include green bridges to reconnect habitats and landscapes that have been severed; design changes to reduce the visual and landscape impact of roads, including lighting; and new barriers and better management to reduce traffic noise [RE](#).

Roads. Eric Pickles refused to call in the controversial Ely bypass and Cambridgeshire council has now given the road planning permission [L](#). According to the THINK! road safety campaign organised by the Department of Transport, 60% of fatalities occur on Britain’s country roads. CPRE’s Ralph Smyth said it was time to bring the speed limit right down in rural areas with a 50mph limit on most roads and a 40 mph limit on more minor roads [L](#) [BBC](#). David Cameron said the Autumn Statement will launch the “biggest, boldest and most far-reaching road improvement programme” for 40 years. He said: “This will be nothing less than a roads revolution – one which will lead to quicker journey times, more jobs, and businesses boosted right across the country” [C](#).

Roundup. The government is consulting on its 10-year strategy to improve cycling and walking. Closes 13 September [C](#). The government closed its Transport Direct journey planner with just one weeks’ notice [C](#).

Communications. The environment, food and rural affairs committee has launched an inquiry into the adequacy of broadband in rural areas. Call for evidence closes 19 November [C](#). The culture department has launched a consultation on improving mobile phone coverage in ‘partial not-spots’ in rural and other areas. Closes 26 November [C](#).

Charities. CPRE’s chief executive Shaun Spiers said: “There is something deeply illiberal about some of the current sniping at charities, the knee-jerk referrals to the Charity Commission every time a charity says something a politician disagrees with... If we did not campaign, we would not be able to fulfil our charitable mission” [RE](#) [C](#). Ecologist Dr Patrick Moore, one of the co-founders of Greenpeace, said the group had “Lost the concerns for humans... They have turned, basically, into an evil organisation” [M](#).

CPRE Northamptonshire has joined forces with the county council to publish *Icons of Northamptonshire*. CPRE president Sir Andrew Motion declares the book “a long-overdue celebration of one of England’s least celebrated counties... a county which is, at once, on the periphery of things, and yet central to so much of England’s history and identity” [L](#). Andy Tickle, director of CPRE South Yorkshire and Friends of the Peak District, writes on “A battle without end to defend our landscape” in the Yorkshire Post [YP](#).

Freedom of information. The Request Initiative is running a useful series on how to use FoI requests effectively [C](#) [C](#).

The CPRE eBulletins

CPRE South East eBulletin is independently written and edited by Andy Boddington: cprenews@andyboddington.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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