

* **Green Bullet**

29th August 2016

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

We are members of VSNW, the regional voluntary sector network for the North West, whose purpose is to support a connected and influential voluntary and community sector (VCS).

This bulletin is intended to keep NWEL members and wider networks up to date on events and issues that will be of interest to environmental voluntary and community sector organisations in the North West. Please send any items for inclusion in the next bulletin to [andyyuille@gmail.com](mailto:andyyuille@gmail.com) - and feel free to forward all or parts of these bulletins throughout your own networks to help spread the word!

The Green Bullet is also available to download from the [VSNW](http://www.vsnw.org.uk/publications/nwel-green-bullet) website.

**CPRE North West have kindly agreed to continue their support to enable the Green Bullet to be produced throughout 2016 – very many thanks!**

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***Campaigns***

**Climate change**

* The latest “[State of the Climate](https://www.climate.gov/news-features/features/2015-state-climate-highlights)” report by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with input from hundreds of scientists from 62 countries, confirmed there was a “[toppling of several symbolic mileposts](https://www.newscientist.com/article/2099756-record-breaking-year-shows-earths-climate-is-in-real-trouble/)” in 2015 as records were broken for average global surface and ocean temperatures, sea level rise, CO2 concentrations, and extreme weather, and the world hit 1oC above pre-industrial temperatures. The UN predicts that 2016 will continue to see [accelerated rates of change](http://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/global-climate-breaks-new-records-january-june-2016) and more records broken.
* Historical documents and [new analysis](https://www.carbonbrief.org/guest-post-piecing-together-arctic-sea-ice-history-1850) have revealed that Arctic sea ice is disappearing at record speed, and that summer Arctic sea ice is at its lowest since records began over 150 years ago
* A [new study](http://news.yale.edu/2016/04/07/climate-models-have-underestimated-earth-s-sensitivity-co2-changes-study-finds) from Yale has found that climate models have underestimated the Earth’s sensitivity to CO2 rises: the lower limit of the new estimate is actually higher than the top end of the previous best estimate.
* The [UK’s carbon footprint increased by 3%](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/542558/Consumption_emissions_May16_Final.pdf) between 20012-13 according to new figures from Defra. Crucially, these figures take account of UK consumption, not just production, and so are better able to account for the phenomenon of ‘exporting emissions’.
* The Climate Coalition are planning a [week of action](https://weekofaction.org.uk/) around the country on October 8th-16th to celebrate the people, places and things we want to protect from climate change - and make sure MPs feel that love. Find an event near you or create your own, there are already almost 200 planned across the North West!

**Farming**

The [National Trust](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/) and [CPRE](http://www.cpre.org.uk/) have separately called for dramatic changes to the farming subsidy system in the wake of the EU Referendum. The National Trust, England’s largest farmer, has called for an [end to payments for simply owning land](https://ntpressoffice.wordpress.com/2016/08/04/national-trust-calls-for-major-reforms-of-farming-subsides-post-brexit-to-reverse-the-damage-to-the-natural-environment/) and only rewarding farmers who improve the environment and help wildlife. Pointing to significant drops in soil quality and wildlife populations, CPRE’s [New Model Farming](http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/farming-and-food/farming/item/4347-new-model-farming) report argues that we must pursue greater diversity - in farm size, type and people – to secure rewards ‘beyond food’ such as beautiful landscapes, clean water, and better flood management. It calls for a shift away from funding “industrial farms” which damage the environment and put smaller farmers out of business, and for subsidies to be focused on smaller farms, measures to enable new farmers to enter the market, and incentives to ‘green’ farming practices and improve the landscape.

**Microbeads**

These tiny pieces of plastic, found in cosmetics and other bathroom products, accumulate in the oceans and put marine life at risk. There is an [international campaign](https://secure.greenpeace.org.uk/page/s/ban-microbeads) led by [Beat the microbead](https://www.beatthemicrobead.org/en/), the Environmental Investigation Agency, Flora & Fauna International, the Marine Conservation Society and Greenpeace, and supported by 84 different NGOs to ban this pointless plastic pollution. And it’s supported by the UK Parliament’s [Environmental Audit Committee](https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/news-parliament-2015/microplastics-report-published-16-17/)!

**Plastic bags**

Following the years-long campaign by NGO alliance [Break the Bag Habit](http://www.breakthebaghabit.org.uk/#story) and others, the UK introduced a 5p charge for plastic bags at major retailers in October 2015. Within six months, the number of bags handed out [dropped by almost 85%](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-36917174). Result! CPRE are calling for this success to be built on with a [deposit scheme for plastic bottles](http://www.cpre.org.uk/magazine/opinion/item/4346-the-true-value-of-5p).

**Bees**

[New research](http://www.nature.com/articles/ncomms12459) confirms that neonicitinoid pesticides cause [long term decline of bee populations](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-37089385). [38 degrees](https://secure.38degrees.org.uk/bees-email-your-mp) and [Friends of the Earth](https://www.foe.co.uk/blog/brexit-what-next-bees-fight-against-neonicotinoid-pesticides?utm_source=Friends+of+the+Earth+Communications&utm_campaign=a714d47cf1-LM1608024&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_383af65c6b-a714d47cf1-20757677) are asking people to email their MPs to ensure that the UK retains the EU-led ban on these pesticides – the Government is under significant pressure from lobbyists to ignore the science and withdraw from the ban.

**National Parks**

On August 1st, the [Lake District](https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/News/lake-district-and-yorkshire-dales-national-parks-are-extended) and [Yorkshire Dales](http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/about-the-dales/boundary-extension) National Parks’ boundaries were formally extended so that they now almost meet, separated only by the M6, and protecting an additional 50,000 hectares of land.

**Coffee cups**

Only 1 in 400 coffee cups in the UK is recycled. That’s a lot of forest going in the bin. [Friends of the Earth](https://www.foe.co.uk/act/reward-taking-your-own-mug-cafe?utm_source=Friends+of+the+Earth+Communications&utm_campaign=a4e3b4c46a-LM1607028&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_383af65c6b-a4e3b4c46a-20757677) are calling on the Government to bring in changes to incentivize re-usable cups and ban non-recyclable ones.

***Information update***

**Brexit**

* The Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) has called on the new Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union David Davis, and new Minister for the Environment Therese Coffey to [set out how they plan to handle environmental policies during exit negotiation](https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/news-parliament-2015/chair-to-davies-coffey-eu-uk-environmental-policy-16-17/), during the House’s sitting in September. EAC chair Mary Creagh said that “The Committee is particularly concerned and wishes to seek reassurance about the Government’s plans for the large proportion of UK environmental law that originated from EU level, the Government’s approach to ongoing negotiations around EU measures such as the Circular Economy Package and how the Government intends to maintain the benefits of transnational cooperation on environmental issues such as climate change”. The EAC have also opened an inquiry into the [future of the natural environment following the EU referendum](https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/future-of-the-natural-environment-after-the-eu-referendum-16-17/) (see Consultations section). The Committee is calling on the Government to at least maintain existing levels of environmental protection, and a survey by YouGov for Friends of the Earth suggests that over [80% of the British public agree](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/aug/25/british-wildlife-needs-new-laws-to-protect-it-post-brexit-poll-shows).
* Wildlife and Countryside Link are running a [Brexit blog series](http://www.wcl.org.uk/blog.asp) following the EU Referendum result. Issues covered include farming, planning, invasive species, animal welfare, water, impacts on Defra, Brexit as environmental opportunity, and uncertainty for science.
* CPRE’s CEO Shaun Spiers has been looking at the track record of [new Prime Minister Theresa May](https://cpreviewpoint.wordpress.com/2016/07/14/our-new-prime-minister-and-the-countryside/) and the changes in the [Treasury and CLG](https://cpreviewpoint.wordpress.com/2016/07/20/the-new-government-treasury-and-clg/), and [Defra and BEIS](https://cpreviewpoint.wordpress.com/2016/07/21/the-new-government-defra-and-beis/), and considering their implications for the countryside.
* Friends of the Earth also comment on the [shift from Cameron to May](https://www.foe.co.uk/blog/uh-oh-david-cameron-s-record-environmental-policy-theresa-may-s-first-moves?utm_source=Friends+of+the+Earth+Communications&utm_campaign=7421e1ab3c-LM1607026&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_383af65c6b-7421e1ab3c-20757677) for the environment
* A majority of large business energy users are concerned that the abolition of DECC will lead to [climate change being swept under the carpet](http://www.policyconnect.org.uk/wsbf/news/majority-firms-worried-after-closure-decc), although the cross-sector [Aldersgate Group](http://www.aldersgategroup.org.uk/blog/the-environment-a-critical-part-of-theresa-may-s-in-tray) is more optimistic.
* There are [Governmental](https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/140238), [Greenpeace](https://secure.greenpeace.org.uk/page/s/laws-of-nature?source=em&subsource=20160815Brexitem01&utm_source=gpeace&utm_medium=em&utm_campaign=20160815Brexitem01), and [38 Degrees](https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/secure-environmental-protections-gained-from-eu-membership) petitions calling for EU environmental protections to be retained.

**Energy**

* [Government figures](https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Nuclear-power-in-the-UK.pdf) suggest that [wind and solar energy will be cheaper than nuclear](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/aug/11/solar-and-wind-cheaper-than-new-nuclear-by-the-time-hinkley-is-built) by the time Hinkley Point C is built – if it’s built at all. A new report from the Energy and Climate Change Intelligence Unit concludes that [existing alternatives would be cheaper](http://eciu.net/reports/2016/hinkley-what-if-can-the-uk-solve-its-energy-trilemma-without-hinkley-point-c) and as effective. Consultancy [UtilityWise](http://utilityweek.co.uk/news/energy-efficiency-would-be-cheaper-than-hinkley/1265932#.V8Mg1JgrLIW) has produced figures suggested that it would cost 1/3 as much to install equivalent energy efficiency measures as to build Hinkley, while an [Intergenerational Foundation report](http://www.if.org.uk/archives/7925/7925) earlier this year claimed that equivalent energy could be generated by renewables and save £30-40 billion. Friends of the Earth also argues for an alternative emphasis on [energy saving, storage, and renewables](https://www.foe.co.uk/blog/debate-about-hinkley-distraction?utm_source=Friends+of+the+Earth+Communications&utm_campaign=a714d47cf1-LM1608024&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_383af65c6b-a714d47cf1-20757677).
* Improvements in battery technology look set to [overcome the intermittency problems of renewable energies](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2016/08/10/holy-grail-of-energy-policy-in-sight-as-battery-technology-smash/) within a decade by providing viable energy storage options
* Months after the Government quietly dropped its scheme to [bribe residents to accept unwanted development](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/fracking-shale-wealth-fund-thousands-households-families-theresa-may-a7177136.html), it’s back – for now focused firmly on fracking applications, but the PM has indicated she wants to [roll it out to other forms of development](https://www.planningportal.co.uk/news/article/369/households_in_line_for_direct_shale_gas_development_proceeds). It’s estimated that households could receive up to £10,000 each from the “Shale Wealth Fund” for accepting unwanted shale gas drilling. See Consultations section: this is just a proposal at this point!
* Renewables generated [almost a quarter of UK electricity](http://www.edie.net/news/10/Renewables-coast-past-coal-to-source-a-quarter-of-UK-electricity-generation/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%203f4da034e1-dailynewsletter) in 2015, more than either coal of nuclear.
* The RSPB has called on the Government to [support “deep water” renewables](http://www.rspb.org.uk/news/details.aspx?id=423241) to help reconcile a low-carbon future with wildlife protection, as set out in their [2050 Energy Vision](https://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/energy_vision_summary_report_tcm9-419580.pdf).
* Communities secretary Sajid Javid has refused permissionfor a [6MW solar farm in Kent](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovered-appeal-skinners-farm-skinners-lane-edenbridge-kent-ref-3011499-8-august-2016) and a [single turbine in Devon](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovered-appeal-stone-barn-philham-farm-chulmleigh-devon-ref-2217719-10-august-2016), both against his Inspector’s recommendations, while Business and Energy secretary Greg Clark has approved what the government claims would be the [world's largest offshore wind farm](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-windfarm-receives-planning-go-ahead).

**Planning**

* A [new report from Civitas](http://www.civitas.org.uk/reports_articles/planning-approvals-vs-housebuilding-activity-2006-2015/) suggests that land banking by developers, rather than problems with the planning system, is what is preventing housing targets being achieved. They point to the very large increase in permissions granted compared to a very small increase in housebuilding, leading to wide and increasing gap between permissions and buildings started – an average of 77,000 per year over the last ten years, rising to 121,964 last year. The gap has doubled since 2010.
* Around [60 per cent of English councils still do not have an up-to-date adopted local plan](https://www.planningportal.co.uk/news/article/364/planning_round-up_11_august_2016) eight months before a key deadline, according to analysis by Inside Housing. Ministers have warned councils to have a plan in place by next March or face government intervention.
* In a world where a lack of five year housing supply often seems to trump all other concerns, Communities Secretary Sajid Javid [refused permission for 1,500 houses](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovered-appeal-land-east-of-a413-buckingham-road-and-watermead-aylesbury-ref-2219574-9-august-2016) in Aylesbury Vale and [189 in East Cheshire](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovered-appeals-land-off-audlem-roadbroad-lane-and-land-off-peter-destapeleigh-way-nantwich-ref-2197532-and-2197529-11-august-2016) (the latter against Inspector’s advice) primarily on landscape grounds, despite a lack of supply and persistent underdelivery of housing.
* A new report from the RTPI claims that deep budget cuts and continual changes in planning policy have stripped public sector planners of the powers and resources needed to perform leadership and coordinating roles
* As previously reported, a [recent High Court ruling](http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2016/635.html) means that gardens outside of ‘built up areas’ are currently considered brownfield land. Dartford council has been given leave to appeal that ruling in a key [test case for ‘garden-grabbing’](http://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=28129%3Acouncil-wins-permission-to-take-garden-grabbing-case-to-court-of-appeal&catid=63&Itemid=31).

**Waste**

* [Recycling](http://www.adjacentgovernment.co.uk/farming-environment-marine-sustainable-news/councils-wales-hit-60-per-cent-recycling-average/28366/) in Wales has now reached 60%, leaving England lagging 15% behind. However, Welsh total amount of waste and waste per person has also been increasing, showing a lot of scope for improved waste reduction and even higher percentage recycling rates!
* England has also recorded a huge rise in waste being [refused for recycling due to contamination](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-37159581): make sure your home and organisation know exactly what can and can’t be recycled! One of the problems is the wide variety of [different recycling schemes](http://envirotecmagazine.com/2016/08/24/84-rise-in-material-rejected-by-council-recycling-facilities-says-bbc-report/) that accept different things in different ways.

**Transport**

* The Department for Transport has revealed five possible [routes for the proposed new Trans­-Pennine tunnel](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/manchester-to-sheffield-trans-pennine-road-tunnel-routes-shortlisted), which it describes as the most ambitious road scheme undertaken in the UK for more than 50 years. The Campaign for Better Transport say that all of them would generate new traffic, adding to pollution and congestion in communities at either end, and be [hugely damaging](http://www.bettertransport.org.uk/media/18-august-2016-trans-pennine-road-tunnel).
* Think tank IPPR has urged the Government to [prioritise spending on Northern transport](http://www.ippr.org/news-and-media/press-releases/transport-secretary-urged-to-close-1-600-per-person-london-north-spending-gap) links above HS2, Crossrail, or any other major transport projects, citing a massive transport spending gap in which the North will get an average of £280 per person and London £1,870.
* The European Commission has announced [stricter standards for cars and vans](http://www.adjacentgovernment.co.uk/rail-road-air-transport-news/tougher-emission-standards-vehicles-announced-ec/28221/) in order to reduce emissions and tackle air pollution. The UK response is awaited….
* Meanwhile, Client Earth, who are taking the Government to court (again!) over failure to reduce air pollution to acceptable levels, have said that Governmental plans are even less adequate than previously believed due to new figures that show that [diesel cars emit around six times more pollution](http://www.clientearth.org/uk-governments-faulty-projections-mean-dirty-air-decades/) in actual use than in tests

***Publications***

**Devolution**

CPRE have produced a [‘think piece’ on the devolution agenda](http://www.nwtar.org.uk/documents/2016July_L_Burns_CPRE_Devolution_Report.pdf), examining current progress, likely future directions, and providing recommendations to make the process more transparent and sustainable. A stock-take by the Smith Institute of the place of [housing, planning and regeneration in the 11 devolution deals](http://www.smith-institute.org.uk/book/devo-housing-emerging-agenda/) agreed to date has highlighted that the agreements have been patchy and piecemeal, lacking serious funding or new powers. It shows that devolution in housing and planning has widespread support, but the journey so far has been undermined by centralising tendencies from the government as well as inappropriate national programmes and targets.

**Rich in Nature**

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust have produced a report, ['Rich in Nature'](http://www.wwt.org.uk/conservation/saving-wetlands-and-wildlife/publications/rich-in-nature/) that encourages nature to be treated equally and inseparably with the economy and society.  It provides recommendations for the Government’s promised '25 year environment plan', including proposals for 'catchment commissioners' across England, natural capital accounting, green prescribing, and ensuring that environmental protections remain at least as strong as European levels.

#### Natural capital accounting: Duchy of Cornwall annual report

The Duchy of Cornwall commissioned Eftec to scope a [corporate natural capital account](http://www.eftec.co.uk/eftec-news/natural-capital-protocol-training-2) (CNCA) for its rural estate using the framework developed for the Natural Capital Committee. According to Eftec, this is the first application of a CNCA framework to be published as part of annual accounts in the UK.

#### Green Infrastructure and well-being

A new report, ['Green Infrastructure: A Catalyst for the Well-being of Future Generations in Wales'](http://www.wtwales.org/greeninfrastructure) has been produced by the Wildlife Trust Wales.  It explores the connection between green infrastructure and a healthier, more prosperous Wales for both people and wildlife, with transferable lessons for this side of the border.

***Events***

**Post Paris Perspectives**

The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and Greater Manchester’s Low Carbon Hub invite you to join them for an evening of talks, discussion and networking focused on [what the Paris Agreement means](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tyndall-centre-and-low-carbon-hubs-post-paris-perspectives-event-tickets-26243078755) for policy-makers, industry, NGOs and civil society on Monday 12th September at Manchester Town Hall, 5.30-8.30pm (registration from 5pm).

**Valuing Nature Annual conference**

Manchester Town Hall, Tuesday 18th October. This conference will provide a national forum for [sharing knowledge and research about valuing nature](http://valuing-nature.net/event/valuing-nature-annual-conference), bringing together researchers and people who make decisions that affect nature in business, policy-making and in practice. It will include presentations, interactive sessions, posters and networking opportunities.

**Valuing our distinctive landscapes: Pennine Prospects annual conference**

8 – 9 November, Shay Stadium, Halifax, HX1 2YS. For people who live, work or have an interest in [landscapes with unique and distinct character](http://www.landscaperesearch.org/news/pennine-prospects-annual-conference-valuing-our-distinctive-landscapes/) and in finding ways of protecting and enhancing those landscapes. Including site visits, keynote speakers and interactive workshops.

**Outdoor recreation network conference**

[Outdoor recreation and active lifestyles - understanding behavioural change](http://www.outdoorrecreation.org.uk/events/outdoor-recreation-network-conference-outdoor-recreation-active-lifestyles-understanding-behavioural-change/). Pitlochry, Perthshire, 5-6th October 2016. This conference will examine how behaviour influences people’s choices in outdoor recreation and active lifestyles. Aimed at all sectors, delegates will gain insights into models of human behaviour and how to apply behavioural change knowledge to promote outdoor recreation and encourage active lifestyles. Case studies will showcase successful examples of transformational behaviour change and how ‘hard to reach’ communities have been influenced.

**Cumbria Green Build Festival**

The [Cumbria Green Build Festival](http://www.cafs.org.uk/events/) has events and activities running across the county from 19-25 September to upskill and inspire you to 'green up' your home, business or organisation. Virtually all are free but booking is essential for most events and spaces are very limited at many of them.

**Waste Less, Live More Week**

[Waste Less, Live More](http://www.wastelesslivemore.com/) is about rethinking how we live and making changes to reduce our environmental impact whilst improving the health and happiness of ourselves and each other. Throughout the week of 19-25 September, organisations and individuals take part in events and activities, joining the [Waste less, Live more Week Challenge](http://www.wastelesslivemore.com/challenge), to help work towards a future where people understand and actively care for one another and the environment.

**Community Energy Fortnight**

The fourth [Community Energy Fortnight](http://regensw.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=087cfaf09896aa1f0e6c03ffd&id=fe60837a6c&e=3d6467b35f) will run from 3 to 18 September 2016, showcasing inspiring examples of communities who are living more sustainably by sharing their resources, generating renewable energy and wasting less, with events taking place across the UK.

***Resources***

**Outdoor Recreation Valuation Tool**

The Outdoor Recreation Valuation Tool is designed to help government, business and communities understand the benefits derived from accessible greenspace in England. It will allow users to explore the distribution of greenspace, plotting out the locations of recreation sites, like beaches, recreation areas such as parks and nature reserves, paths through the countryside or along river banks. The tool estimates visitor numbers and welfare values of these recreation sites and gives the opportunity to create new sites. It will be [launched at a workshop in London on 6th September](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/launch-of-the-outdoor-recreation-valuation-tool-registration-26699256194).

**Community Woodland Network**

The [Community Woodland Network](https://communitywoodland.org/), run by the Woodland Trust in association with Nationwide, provides advice and guidance on how to successfully create and look after a community wood, from launching your project to transforming your wood for wildlife. You can also share knowledge and discuss your progress with like-minded groups.

**Crowdfunding wildlife**

Top tips video for [wildlife organisations wanting to try crowdfunding](http://www.pjelements.co.uk/2016/06/crowdfunding-nature-2/) for the first time, arising out of the Crowdfunding Nature project.

**Ecosystems Knowledge Network**

Presentations and other materials are now available from Ecosystems Knowledge Network seminars on developing effective working relationships between local organisations in the [health sector](https://ecosystemsknowledge.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/recording/recordAction.do?theAction=poprecord&siteurl=ecosystemsknowledge&entappname=url3100&internalRecordTicket=4832534b00000002c8748f9638842e44ab0290eed5ae550c791c6677aaa9413935058e1c55319155&renewticket=0&isurlact=true&format=short&rnd=4108824447&RCID=28197a7d81e255ebca0543ad14230859&rID=17828112&needFilter=false&recordID=17828112&apiname=lsr.php&AT=pb&actappname=ec3100&&SP=EC&entactname=%2FnbrRecordingURL.do&actname=%2Feventcenter%2Fframe%2Fg.do) and those who can deliver improved access to the natural outdoors (with the Centre for Sustainable Health Care and the North Est LNP) and [making bioenergy work for people and nature](http://ecosystemsknowledge.net/events/energy-for-nature) (with the RSPB), along with recordings of webinars on [a participatory GIS tool to map cultural ecosystem services](https://ecosystemsknowledge.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/recording/recordAction.do?theAction=poprecord&siteurl=ecosystemsknowledge&entappname=url3100&internalRecordTicket=4832534b00000002c8748f9638842e44ab0290eed5ae550c791c6677aaa9413935058e1c55319155&renewticket=0&isurlact=true&format=short&rnd=4108824447&RCID=28197a7d81e255ebca0543ad14230859&rID=17828112&needFilter=false&recordID=17828112&apiname=lsr.php&AT=pb&actappname=ec3100&&SP=EC&entactname=%2FnbrRecordingURL.do&actname=%2Feventcenter%2Fframe%2Fg.do) in Morecambe Bay and [lessons from the UK’s Biosphere Reserves](https://ecosystemsknowledge.webex.com/ec3100/eventcenter/recording/recordAction.do?theAction=poprecord&siteurl=ecosystemsknowledge&entappname=url3100&internalRecordTicket=4832534b0000000212d7ab7f35b3c7f61d38ffe6d300c7d11cfd10b6d06fde3eb16706b901429552&renewticket=0&isurlact=true&format=short&rnd=3555228193&RCID=6f0ebe3c762b61129caaf6e022971ced&rID=17934067&needFilter=false&recordID=17934067&apiname=lsr.php&AT=pb&actappname=ec3100&&SP=EC&entactname=%2FnbrRecordingURL.do&actname=%2Feventcenter%2Fframe%2Fg.do).

**Community rural land use planning**

### Two research reports from the Scottish Government may have useful lessons for land use planning and management in rural communities south of the border, on [engaging and empowering communities and stakeholders](http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/07/9223) in rural land use and land management, and good practice in [overcoming barriers to community land-based activities.](http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/07/7298/downloads)

***Consultations***

**Shale Wealth Fund**

The Government have launched a consultation on how to spend the [Shale Wealth Fund](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/shale-wealth-fund), i.e. a percentage of the taxes raised from fracking operations. It includes a proposal to make payments directly to households in areas affected by planning applications, which some argue contravenes the principle that planning permission should never be bought or sold. And which less delicate commentators have called a [bribe](https://drillordrop.com/2016/08/08/local-people-have-first-call-on-shale-wealth-fund-says-government-as-consultation-opens/). Deadline: 25th October.

**Future of the natural environment**

The Environmental Audit Committee is carrying out an inquiry into the [Future of the Natural Environment](http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/news-parliament-2015/future-of-natural-environment-after-the-eu-referendum-launch-16-17/) after the EU Referendum. It is focused on investigating how future Government agriculture policies can ensure the environment remains protected; and how rewilding can play a role and what its impacts are. Deadline: 9th September.

***Funding***

**Community Woodlands**

The Woodland Trust and Nationwide Building Society are providing funding for communities to either establish new groups, or help existing groups undertake greater care and maintenance of a local wood as part of their [Community Woodlands programme](http://www.woodlandtrust.org/blogs/woodland-trust/2016/08/community-woodland-grants/). Groups can apply for start-up funding of up to £1,000, and established groups can apply for up to £10,000. Deadline: 3rd October.

**Resilient Heritage**

[Resilient Heritage](https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes/resilient-heritage) grants of £3,000-£250,000 can help to strengthen your organisation, and build the capacity of your staff and volunteers to better manage heritage in the long term.

***Awards and honours***

**Awards and honours**

Do you know a person or local voluntary group making an extraordinary contribution to the community or local area? If so, nominating them for an [Honour](https://www.gov.uk/honours) or [Award](https://qavs.direct.gov.uk/) can be a great way to recognise their efforts. Get in touch with the Office for Civil Society Honours and Awards team on 0207 271 6206 if you have any queries and for advice on nominating community groups, volunteers and activists.

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

VSNW is the regional voluntary sector network for the North West, whose purpose is to support a connected and influential voluntary and community sector (VCS).

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