

* **Green Bullet**

29th September 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 - 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***

**Brexit & beyond**

* A [coalition of environmental groups](https://act.foe.co.uk/dont-let-brexit-break-our-environment?utm_source=Friends+of+the+Earth+Communications&utm_campaign=10011592b6-LM1608025&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_383af65c6b-10011592b6-20757677), including CPRE, Friends of the Earth, the RSPB and the Wildlife Trusts are asking supporters to write to their MPs using a template email to ask them to sign up to a [Pledge for the Environment](http://www.green-alliance.org.uk/pledge_for_the_environment.php) to ensure that existing environmental protections are matched or exceeded, that robust action is taken on climate change, and that farmers and landowners are supported to make environmental improvements.
* Chris Rose urges environmental and countryside NGOs to take this opportunity to [work together to energize the public and disrupt](http://threeworlds.campaignstrategy.org/?p=1333) the likely continuation of, at best, business as usual – a very worthwhile read!
* Greenpeace highlights in new research how [CAP funding benefits the super-rich, often for no public benefit,](http://energydesk.greenpeace.org/2016/09/29/common-agricultural-policy-millions-eu-subsidies-go-richest-landowners/) and calls for reform, while [a new sustainable land management model](http://www.green-alliance.org.uk/resources/New_markets_for_land_and_nature.pdf) that could direct millions of pounds towards farming methods that reduce flooding, restore wildlife and enhance clean water has been proposed by the National Trust and Green Alliance.

**Climate change**

* Sadiq Khan has joined other ‘megacity’ leaders in calling for [stronger action on climate change](http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2469595/sadiq-khan-joins-global-city-mayors-to-urge-g20-climate-action) from the national governments of the world’s largest economies.
* The USA and China - together responsible for 40% of the world's carbon emissions - have both [formally ratified the Paris global climate agreement](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-37265541). The UK, so far, has not. Greenpeace are hosting a [petition](https://secure.greenpeace.org.uk/page/s/uk-government-ratify-paris-agreement-now) to encourage the Prime Minister to do so ASAP; Theresa May has since used her maiden speech at the UN to [promise ratification by the end of the year](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/20/theresa-may-uk-ratify-paris-climate-change-agreement-this-year).
* For the first time in years a council has approved a fracking application, in Ryedale, North Yorkshire, by fracking firm Third Energy. The firm is owned by high street bank Barclays. Friends of the Earth is legally challenging the council, and has teamed up with Frack Free Ryedale, 350.org, People and Planet and SumOfUs to organize a [week of action against fracking](https://www.foe.co.uk/page/stop-barclays-fracking-week-action?utm_source=Friends+of+the+Earth+Communications&utm_campaign=265dadc3e8-LM1609014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_383af65c6b-265dadc3e8-20757677) on October 24 – 29. The Lancashire decision is still awaited.
* The UK Government must take "immediate action" to boost the development of [Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)](http://www.ccsassociation.org/news-and-events/reports-and-publications/parliamentary-advisory-group-on-ccs-report/) technology in order to reduce the cost of meeting Britain's climate change obligations by up to £5bn each year, according to a report by the Parliamentary Advisory Group.

**Air pollution**

Friends of the Earth are launching a [nationwide citizen science project](https://www.foe.co.uk/news/hundreds-get-involved-with-clean-air-experiment?utm_source=Friends+of+the+Earth+Communications&utm_campaign=899942a85b-LM1609044&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_383af65c6b-899942a85b-20757677), providing people across the country with kits to test local levels of air pollution, and have also supported Black Lives Matter UK’s positioning of air pollution (and climate change) as race issues – [find out why](https://www.foe.co.uk/blog/climate-change-air-pollution-are-race-issues-why-black-lives-matters-was-right?utm_source=Friends+of+the+Earth+Communications&utm_campaign=899942a85b-LM1609044&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_383af65c6b-899942a85b-20757677).

**Parks**

Britain’s parks are at risk. There’s no legal responsibility to look after them and squeezed budgets mean our local green spaces don’t have the money they need to maintain them. We could end up being forced to pay to use our parks - or lose them altogether. The [CLG Select Committee](http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/communities-and-local-government-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/public-parks-16-17/) is currently holding an inquiry into the impact of reduced local authority budgets on these open spaces and to consider concerns that their existence is under threat. [38 Degrees is running a petition](https://speakout.38degrees.org.uk/campaigns/1355) to show public support for making protecting parks a statutory responsibility in order to influence the inquiry outcome.

**Marine Protected Areas**

A [joint position statement](http://www.wcl.org.uk/docs/ELUK%20ECN%20joint%20position%20statement%20-%20September%202016.pdf) on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) has been produced by Wildlife and Countryside Link, Scottish Environment LINK, Wales Environment Link and the Northern Ireland Marine Task Force. It sets out their views on the action needed by Government in the UK and the principles that must be adhered to in order to achieve an effective ecologically coherent network of well managed MPAs across the UK by 2020. Meanwhile, the Government has committed to [double the amount of ocean protected](http://www.bluemarinefoundation.com/2016/09/15/uk-ocean-under-protection-set-to-rise-to-over-four-million-square-kilometres/) around British overseas territories.

**Badger cull**

Cheshire Wildlife Trust are urging supporters to add their names to a [new Government e-petition](https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/165672) calling for an end to the badger cull and no expansion to new areas. The Wildlife Trusts’ President Emeritus, Simon King OBE, launched the petition following the announcement on August 30th that seven new licences for badger culling have been granted, covering parts of Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, and Dorset. Earlier this year a badger culling licence was submitted for the first time in [Cheshire](http://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/news/2016/08/31/new-badger-cull-petition-launched-government-website) (an “edge area”) and although Cheshire has not been included in this round, it is likely to be included if there are further expansions.

**“Charity bins” slash litter rates**

Five successful waste reduction trials across the UK has seen [litter in the selected areas reduced by 30%,](http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/-charity-bins-help-keep-streets-clean-/2749/2/1/999/3) leading to charity Keep Britain Tidy and The Wrigley Company to extend the project to four extra places. “Bin it for Good” encourages people to do the right thing and put their rubbish in the bin while at the same time making money for local charities. The more rubbish that goes in the bin and the less litter that is thrown on the ground, the more money is given to good causes.

**Microbeads**

The Government has announced that it will [ban microbeads](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/microbead-ban-announced-to-protect-sealife) in beauty and personal care products from next year. Campaigners are pushing for the ban to extend to a much wider range of products.

***Information update***

**The Anthropocene is here!**

The term “[Anthropocene](http://phys.org/news/2016-08-anthropocene-scientists.html)”, denoting a new geological epoch in which humans are the main factor impacting planetary climatic, chemical and geological systems, has been bandied around since 2000. But this month, after seven years of research, the international working group of scientists tasked with deciding whether this is a ‘real’ phenomenon delivered their [recommendation](http://quaternary.stratigraphy.org/workinggroups/anthropocene/) to the International Geological Congress – a resounding yes. Global human impact is so profound that we are, it would seem, 60 to 70 years into a new era, bringing to a close the 11,700 years of the Holocene.

**Brexit & beyond**

* The environment knows no borders. Our wildlife, air, water, and much more are protected by EU directives and regulations. Our farming practices are governed by the Common Agricultural Policy. There is everything to lose for the environment and countryside protection in the forthcoming negotiations, but also potentially a lot to gain. We need to make sure that the voice of the environment is heard much more strongly than it was during the referendum campaign! So how can we marshal our arguments?
* A good start is to read [Andy Boddington’s comprehensive review](http://andybodders.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/CPRE_SE_eBulletin_August_2016_Politics_and_Brexit.pdf) of the new Ministers in key departments for the environment (CLG, BEIS, Defra and transport, along with the Prime Minister and a few miscellaneous others), their early moves, and the issues and challenges Brexit brings for the environment, food and farming, energy and climate change, planning and infrastructure, and biodiversity.
* Wildlife & Countryside Link continues to provide a platform for members and others to share their views on a range of Brexit-related issues. Recent blogs include one from the British Ecological Society, outlining the significance of the UK’s adoption of the EU’s first list of 37 [invasive non-native species](http://www.wcl.org.uk/uk-adopts-eu-legislation-to-tackle-invasive-species.asp), the Woodland Trust advocating strong environmental protection in a [post-Brexit planning system](http://www.wcl.org.uk/brexit-promises-more-change-for-the-planning-system.asp), and CPRE stressing the need for a more [dynamic and resilient farming industry post-Brexit](http://www.wcl.org.uk/we-need-a-resilient-and-dynamic-farming-industry.asp), as set out in their recent report [New Model Farming – resilience through diversity](http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/farming-and-food/farming/item/4347-new-model-farming).
* In a month where both Defra and BEIS have confirmed that the referendum result will [delay the publication of key environmental programmes](http://www.edie.net/news/11/Defra-and-BEIS-legislation-delays-increase-fears-over-Brexit-impact-on-green-policy/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%206d972139ce-dailynewsletter), Edie have published a two-part feature on the [‘wish-lists’ of some key environmental figures](http://www.edie.net/news/11/What-I-want-from-green-policy--16-hopes-and-expectations-from-environmental-leaders/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%20ae90649738-dailynewsletter) – professionals, politicians, activists and businesses – for the new Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.
* The Chair of the Committee on Climate Change’s Adaptation sub-committee – one of the Government’s most senior adviser’s on climate change – has urged them [not to use Brexit to water down environmental laws](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/sep/27/climate-chief-uk-mustnt-water-down-environmental-laws-leaves-eu).
* Slides and speeches from a high-profile event at the Institute for Zoology on [making Brexit work for ecology and conservation science](https://www.zsl.org/science/whats-on/making-brexit-work-for-ecology-and-conservation-science) are now available.

**Energy**

* MPs on the Energy and Climate Change Committee have warned the Government that, on its current course, the UK will [fail to achieve its 2020 renewable energy targets](http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/energy-and-climate-change-committee/news-parliament-2015/heat-transport-report-published-16-17/) to provide 15% of its energy needs from renewable sources. In particular, urgent action on heat and transport is needed, and they set out some recommendations for this. Policy Exchange also call for a [complete re-think of Government strategy](https://policyexchange.org.uk/too-hot-to-handle-how-to-decarbonise-the-way-we-heat-our-homes/) on decarbonising residential heating.
* The world’s [first grid-connected tidal power](https://www.commonspace.scot/articles/9170/campaigners-hail-first-grid-connected-offshore-tidal-power-scotland) array has started generating energy in Scotland
* The Chairman of the Energy and Climate Change select committee has called on the Government to [reverse its restrictive renewable energy policies](http://www.lowcarboneconomy.com/profile/the_low_carbon_economy_ltd/_news_and_press_releases/uk_government_must_reverse_restrictive_energy_policies_says_ecc_committee_chair/38665)
* The Church is showing its faith in renewables, with 3,500 UK [churches switching to renewables-only](http://www.cleanenergynews.co.uk/news/solar/more-than-3500-uk-churches-make-the-switch-to-renewable-energy) tariffs
* The majority of [energy efficiency](http://www.eevs.co.uk/media/trendsq216.pdf) suppliers fear that it is only a matter of time before consumers are subject to rising prices leading to a slowdown in investment, with suppliers already claiming that the Brexit vote is negatively impacting the sector, while a coalition of industry-leading businesses from the building sector have urged the EU to implement [continent-wide action](http://www.cleanenergynews.co.uk/news/efficiency/building-energy-efficiency-alliance-rallies-europe-over-nearly-zero-energy) to improve the energy efficiency of Europe's building stock.
* The [Hinkley Point C nuclear power station](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/sep/29/hinkley-point-ministers-sign-go-ahead-for-nuclear-power-plant) in Somerset has finally been given the go-ahead by Prime Minister Theresa May, ending months of speculation and dividing opinion among Britain's industry groups and environmentalists. However, the Committee on Climate Change has warned that [energy policy cannot just be about one project](https://www.theccc.org.uk/2016/09/20/hinkleystatement/).
* Labour have pledged to [ban fracking](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-37470549) and to invest £300 million in an [energy research agency](http://utilityweek.co.uk/news/corbyn-pledges-to-create-300m-energy-research-agency-report/1274862#.V-1f2_ArLIU) to combat climate change if they are elected.

**Planning**

* Sajid Javid has made a strong intervention in favour of neighbourhood plans, ruling that even if their policies are technically out of date because their Local Authority lacks a 5-year housing supply, those policies can still carry “substantial weight”. In a [decision to refuse permission](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovered-appeal-land-to-the-south-of-ford-lane-east-of-north-end-road-yapton-ref-2228260-13-september-2016) for an application in Yapton, he over-ruled the Inspector’s recommendation to grant permission, saying that "The secretary of state considers that neighbourhood plans, once made part of the development plan, should be upheld as an effective means to shape and direct development in the neighbourhood planning area in question. Consequently, in view of National Planning Policy Framework paragraphs 198 and 185, and his guidance on neighbourhood planning that this is the case even in the absence of a five-year housing land supply, the secretary of state places very substantial negative weight on the conflict between the proposal and [the] policy". He also agreed with his Inspectors in rejecting two other applications due to conflict with neighbourhood plans, in [Ringmer](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/553548/16-09-19_DL_IR_Broyle_Gate_Farm_Lewes_3133436.pdf) and [Bishop Sutton](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/552515/16-09-12_DL_IR_Cappards_Road_2217216.pdf).
* Philip Robson from St John’s Chambers provides some useful advice on when the [presumption in favour of sustainable development](http://www.stjohnschambers.co.uk/2016/08/the-crown-jewels-footnote-latest-article-from-philip-robson/) may and may not apply.
* The [latest house building data](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/house-building-in-england-april-to-june-2016) shows that 139,030 new homes were completed and more than 144,280 homes were started in the year to June 2016, and increase of 6% on the previous year but still well below the rate that would be needed to meet the Government’s target of a million new homes by 2020. CPRE comments on what needs to be done to get [the right houses in the right places](http://www.cpre.org.uk/magazine/opinion/item/4363-government-must-act-to-get-right-houses-in-the-right-places).
* The Government confirmed its intention to push ahead with a number of changes intended to make it easier and faster for residents to produce a neighbourhood plan, in a [consultation response](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550049/Neighbourhood_planning_-_Gov_response_to_consultation.pdf) published this month. It then swiftly published the [Neighbourhood Planning Bill](http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/neighbourhoodplanning.html), with [explanatory notes](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2016-2017/0061/en/17061en.pdf) – which didn’t explain why the Bill [did not also cover infrastructure](https://www.bdb-law.co.uk/blogs/planning-act-2008/715-government-drops-national-infrastructure-commission-set-bill/) as had originally been planned, although it does also still cover planning conditions, recording the exercise of permitted development rights, and compulsory purchase. The [National Infrastructure Commission](https://www.planningportal.co.uk/news/article/399/infrastructure_body_urges_clarity_on_its_powers) has since asked Government to clarify its role and status.
* A recent report from the [Health Select Committee](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmhealth/140/140.pdf) calls for health issues to be enshrined as material considerations in planning decisions and to give local authorities greater powers to directly improve the health of their local communities and reduce health inequalities.
* New Housing Minister Gavin Barwell appears to be [backing away from the Government’s Starter Homes policy](https://andrewlainton.wordpress.com/2016/09/14/barwell-backs-away-from-starter-homes/), calling instead for an increase in affordable homes of all tenures, and has suggested that he may [crack down on landbanking](http://www.propertyweek.com/news/resi-government-looking-to-penalise-landbanking-developers/5085115.article).
* Plans for hundreds of new homes partly within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) on the edge of Dover in Kent have been struck down by the Court of Appeal. A legal challenge by CPRE Kent has been upheld, which re-affirms the not-always-observed principle that [AONBs have the highest possible level of protection](http://cprekent.org.uk/tag/court-of-appeal/).

**Transport**

* The Government has announced a new fund of £20 million to partially support the [construction of new train stations](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-20-million-fund-for-new-railway-stations). You have until 25th November to convince your local authority to apply for funding if there’s a much-needed station (not yet) near you!
* The [latest report from the Environmental Audit Committee](http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/news-parliament-2015/sustainability-in-dft-report-published-16-17/) has concluded that the Department for Transport lacks, and needs, a clear strategy to increase the use of ultra-low emission vehicles, reduce air pollution and deal with the VW cheat device scandal so that it can meet decarbonisation and air quality targets that should have been hit in 2010 but won’t be achieved until 2020 at the earliest. In 2013 only five of 43 clean air zones in the UK met EU standards.
* New diesel cars are still [emitting many times the official limit for polluting](http://www.transport-network.co.uk/New-diesels-over-emissions-limit-in-real-world-test---except-VW/13231) nitrogen oxides when driven on the road – even though they pass the test in ‘lab conditions’ - almost a year after the Volkswagen emissions scandal broke. Ironically, the only new model to meet the limit when on the road was a Volkswagen.

***Publications***

**UK State of Nature Report**

The UK is now one of the “most nature-depleted countries in the world” with more than [one in seven species facing extinction](http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/nature-wildlife-species-extinct-britain-countryside-state-of-nature-report-2016-rspb-farming-a7256441.html) and more than half in decline, according to the [State of Nature 2016 report](http://www.rspb.org.uk/forprofessionals/science/research/details.aspx?id=363867), produced by more than 50 organisations including the RSPB, the National Trust, the Wildlife Trusts and the Woodland Trust. The NFU was unsurprisingly critical of the report, which places responsibility for the decline largely on farming practices; the NFU’s response has [been criticised](https://anewnatureblog.wordpress.com/2016/09/15/the-nature-of-our-state/) in turn.

**EU Nature directives – fit for purpose**

Nearly two years ago the European Commission began an evaluation study in support of the ‘Fitness Check’ of the Birds and Habitats Directives. The [consultants’ final report](http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/study_evaluation_to_support_fitness_check_of_nature_directives__final.pdf) was finally released by the European Commission this summer. The headline finding of the comprehensive report is that the Nature Directives are “fit for purpose”. The ‘coherence’ section in particular contains detailed information on the interaction of the Nature Directives with other EU policies, and the ‘EU Added Value’ section should be read by anyone thinking about what Brexit might mean for these laws and how we might influence Brexit negotiations.

**Making the Link – building on commuter hubs**

[A new report from CPRE](http://www.cpre.org.uk/media-centre/latest-news-releases/item/4374-new-thinking-on-housing-and-public-transport-can-boost-our-towns) argues that high-density development near to high-quality public transport services could boost businesses and jobs, create more well-designed homes and build more diverse, exciting communities - all while reducing pressure on the Green Belt and the wider countryside. ‘Making the Link’ builds on emerging changes to Government policy, such as the identification of 680 commuter hubs suitable for high density development, and suggests that a similar approach could be adopted for smaller places like market towns.

**Learning outdoors**

A project commissioned by Natural England has shown that [children were happier, healthier and more motivated to learn](http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6636651036540928) when outdoor spaces were turned into a classroom.  The 'Natural Connections Demonstrations Project' project, delivered by Plymouth University, was a four-year initiative which helped schools transform ways of teaching, helping children to experience the benefits of the natural environment.

**Biodiversity net gain**

A new report from consultancy WSP | Parsons Brinckerhof, [Biodiversity net gain – A new role for infrastructure and development](http://www.wsp-pb.com/en/WSP-UK/Who-we-are/Newsroom/News-releases1/20161/Adding-a-biodiversity-obligation-to-planning-framework-would-reverse-natures-decline-in-the-UK-says-environmental-consultancy/), states that a commitment that new developments should enhance rather endanger nature is necessary if the UK is to meet its goal of reversing long term biodiversity loss by 2020. It focuses on the concept of biodiversity net gain, where any damages caused by human activity to wildlife can be balanced with an equivalent gain. It contains a series of recommendations, including requiring net gain in the NPPF.

### Green Belt statistics

The [latest Green Belt statistics](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-green-belt-statistics-for-england-2015-to-2016) for 2015/16 show that overall there was a decrease in the area of designated green belt of some 1,020-hectares as a result of eight authorities adopting new plans with revised boundaries for designated land. This is the second largest annual decrease in the area of green belt reported in the last five years. In 2014/15, 11 authorities made changes to their boundaries resulting in a larger decrease of over 2,000 hectares.

***Events***

**What Nexit?**

What is the future for the North West’s environment post Brexit? The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside invite you to join them to discuss. October 7th, 2-4pm, at [Brockholes](http://www.brockholes.org/) (accessible off J31 of the M6: alternatively, they can provide a mini-bus shuttle from Preston rail station if requested). A number of short addresses will be followed by a panel question and answer session and networking opportunities, with refreshments and an optional guided tour of the site at the end. Speakers will includeEdwin Booth (Booths Supermarkets and [Chairman of the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership](http://www.lancashirelep.co.uk/about-us/meet-the-board/edwin-booth%2C-chairman.aspx)); Chris Davies (President of The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside);  [Professor David Hill](http://www.gresham.ac.uk/professors-and-speakers/professor-david-hill/) (recently retired Vice-chair of Natural England); Christopher Price (Director of Policy & Advice at the Country Land & Business Association (CLA)) and [Stephen Trotter](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/blog/thewildlifetrustsblogger/2016/08/05/wildlife-trusts-call-new-integrated-environment-policy) (The Wildlife Trusts’ England Director). To reserve a place please email ddunlop@lancswt.org.uk or call Monica on 01772 317242.

**Transition Liverpool symposium**

[Radical Shift: Building sustainable futures for a devolved Liverpool City Region](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7Vkjj1y54AYdzRackNiZHAwcUk/view). Saturday October 15th, 9:30-16:30, Friends Meeting House, School Lane, Liverpool, L1 3BT. Transition Liverpool invite you to join their [symposium](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/radical-shift-building-sustainable-futures-for-a-devolved-liverpool-region-tickets-27245423796) with guest speakers Anna Watson from Friends of the Earth and Larch Maxey from Network of Wellbeing, along with a host of inspiring facilitators who will encourage discussion leading to a People's Plan that will be co-created on the day. There will be free local food and drink prepared for a shared feast mid-way through the day. And please share their [poster](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7Vkjj1y54AYSHlyZ1JmRTlaSlk/view) or [flyer](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7Vkjj1y54AYdzRackNiZHAwcUk/view) in community venues in the Liverpool City Region if you can!

**Climate change communication**

**Campaigners, academics, museum curators and others are tirelessly communicating about climate change with everyone possible in a range of ways.  What have we learned from our successes and is there more we can do to effectively engage that will make even more of a difference? How can such complex ideas be most effectively shared? Steady State Manchester are hosting a “**[cafe conversation](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/communicating-and-influencing-decision-making-about-climate-change-tickets-27893626588?aff=utm_source%3Deb_email%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3Dnew_event_email&utm_term=eventurl_text&mc_cid=86c097ac8f&mc_eid=d44b746384)**” which aims to bring together a diverse range of people involved in communicating about climate change with all sorts of people to reflect on where we are now and what we can learn.** [Cross Street Chapel, Cross Street](http://steadystatemanchester.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a2108f905435cce5bb68a17f3&id=0532e5f655&e=d44b746384) Manchester M2 1NL, **Thursday 20th October 6.30- 8.30pm. Free but booking essential.**

## ****Apple Day****

## **Apple Day, 21 October, was launched in 1990 by** [Common Ground.](https://www.commonground.org.uk/apple-day/) **From the start, Apple Day was intended to be both a celebration and a demonstration of the variety we are in danger of losing, not simply in apples, but in the richness and diversity of landscape, ecology and culture too. It has also played a part in raising awareness in the provenance and traceability of food. There are now hundreds of Apple Day events throughout October all over the country – find and support one near you!**

**Writing Morecambe Bay**

Inspired by Morecambe Bay? You can join poet Sarah Hymas in a Morecambe Bay-inspired [flotsam and jetsam](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/writing-the-flotsam-jetsam-of-the-bay-tickets-26921702537) creative writing workshop on 9 October at Bardsea, or Jeff Wallcook for a family storytelling workshop of [fishy tales](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fishy-tales-family-storytelling-workshop-tickets-26922361508) woven around fishing in the Bay on November 21st in Morecambe library. And there are many more [events in and around the Bay](http://www.morecambebay.org.uk/events) in the middle of the North West!

**British Food Fortnight**

It’s not too late to participate in [British Food Fortnight](http://www.lovebritishfood.co.uk/), the biggest annual, national celebration of British food and drink, which runs until October 2nd.

***Resources***

**Local Nature Partnerships**

In response to the 2011 Natural Environment White Paper for England, an array of [Local Nature Partnerships](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/map-of-local-nature-partnerships/locations-and-key-contacts) (LNPs) were established throughout England, including eight wholly or partly in the North West. They are co-ordinated by a range of organisations including local authorities and Wildlife Trusts and work at a strategic level to improve the range of benefits we get from the environment. They are involving different groups, such as healthcare organisations, that would not traditionally think they have a direct interest in the environment. The Ecosystems Knowledge Network is gathering [a set of case studies](http://ecosystemsknowledge.net/resources/national-initiatives/LNP) about the kinds of work LNPs are doing and the impacts they are having.

**Planning applications affecting protected areas**

Defra has produced guidance on what must be considered when deciding whether a [proposed development might affect a protected site](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-sites-and-areas-how-to-review-planning-applications) or area when reviewing a planning application – an essential for planners or those holding planners to account! It states that applicants must include plans to avoid affecting a protected site or area. When it isn’t possible to avoid affecting protected sites or areas, applicants should have a mitigation strategy to reduce the negative effects of their proposal and show how they will implement risk reduction measures.

#### Integrating an Ecosystems Approach into Strategic Environmental Assessment

#### The Scottish Government have produced a briefing on how to [integrate the Ecosystems Approach into Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Environment/environmental-assessment/sea/SEAGuidance/Ecosystems-Approach).  It provides information on ecosystem services, the stages of SEA and how best to integrate them. It also provides a range of case study examples, and is as applicable south of the border as it is in the north.

#### The Natural Capital Hub

The Natural Capital Coalition have set up a ['hub' of information on Natural Capital](http://naturalcapitalcoalition.org/hub/), which includes resources, case studies, news and events. The Hub aims to contain everything that’s currently going on in the world of Natural Capital, and provide everything that companies need to understand and consider it. Elsewhere, the director of the NCC [defends the Natural Capital concept](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/natural-capital-coalition-/when-it-comes-to-natural_b_12043244.html) against some of its most frequent criticisms.

**Payments for Ecosystem Services**

Payments for ecosystems services is a concept that is bandied about a lot, but is little understood in practice. The Ecosystems Knowledge Network has compiled a collection of [guidance, advice and examples](http://ecosystemsknowledge.net/resources/tools-guidelines/pes) that will help you navigate your way through this tricky field.

***Consultations***

**Neighbourhood Planning**

The Government are consulting on the detailed regulations that will be used to implement the neighbourhood planning elements of the [Neighbourhood Planning Bill](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/implementation-of-neighbourhood-planning-provisions-in-the-neighbourhood-planning-bill), until 19th October.

***Funding***

**Lush Charity Pot**

Cosmetics company Lush provides funding to small, grassroots groups that are often best placed to make a real difference with limited resources and often struggle to find funding, working in the areas of environment, animal protection and human rights, through their [Charity Pot](https://uk.lush.com/article/charity-pot-funding-guidelines) and [other funding initiatives](https://uk.lush.com/article/charity-support).

***Miscellaneous***

**Survey: Third Sector Trends in the North West 2016**

All voluntary, community and social enterprise groups in the North West are invited to take the survey, which is conducted by Durham University. The survey should take around 15 minutes to complete. To complete the survey please follow [this link](http://vsnwdata.org.uk/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=3990&qid=63836).

**Competition: Voluntary Action in Action**

Voluntary Sector North West are going to showcase the best images of voluntary action from the North West on their new website, and are running a competition for 'Voluntary Action in Action' photos. The winning photo will be judged by delegates at their Annual Conference (5th December, save the date!), and the organisation that submitted it will win £200. If you have a suitable image (or up to five) which you'd like to be shown on the new website, please send it to sam.popper@vsnw.org.uk. Please make sure the images are high resolution - ideally above 2MB, and let them know that you have the appropriate permissions. While there will only be one winner, they will use all appropriate images, so please do send them in.

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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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