

Qus

Annual Review 2017/18

CRISPIN TRUMAN OBE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

introduces CPRE

joined CPRE a year ago and it's been a wonderful experience to become part of the organisation that has done so much to protect our unrivalled countryside. The Campaign to Protect Rural England gave the nation Green Belts and National Parks, and we continue to lead the debate on the big issues of the day. Our solutions for eliminating plastic waste, addressing rural housing need and greening farming practices will help revitalise the countryside, while enhancing quality of life for all.

With our committed, professional staff team, and our network of local expert volunteers, CPRE's research

commands respect from parish to parliament. And our proven ability to turn good ideas into government policy will be more important than ever. The challenges of reshaping agricultural policy and restoring democratic planning have created a window of opportunity for positive change in the countryside. We need more and better-designed rural affordable housing; a greater say on development for local people; and farming that goes hand in hand with community-building and complemented by the regeneration of the derelict urban sites that can

CPRE can help make these things happen, but we need your support to help fulfil our vision of 'a beautiful and living countryside valued and enjoyed by all'. Joining our movement is one of the most effective ways to help secure our green spaces for future generations. But don't take my word for it – just consider the value of the impact illustrated in the following pages. If you care about our cause, please become a member, donor or volunteer via www.cpre.org.uk and know that you have helped us stand up for your countryside.



My highlights of 2017/18

WINNING A REPRIEVE FOR THE GREEN BELT

For me, and millions of others across England, the Green Belt (left) provides easy access to green spaces that improve our health and wellbeing. But ahead of the November 2017 Budget, reliable sources suggested that Chancellor Philip Hammond would try to boost the housing market by allowing Green Belt to be built on.

A record number of CPRE letters – over 10,000, reaching all 533 English MPs – helped build up the Parliamentary pressure for a 'u-turn'. We were hugely relieved when the Chancellor's speech focused on 'making best use of our urban land, and continuing the strong protection of our Green Belt.'

JOINING FORCES FOR VIABLE VILLAGES

Throughout 2017, CPRE argued that developers were using a loophole in planning rules to avoid meeting rural affordable housing quotas – simply to maintain a 'viable' profit margin. In March 2018, our joint research with Shelter looked at eight



rural areas, and found that when viability tests were used there was a 48% cut in the number of affordable homes delivered.

The Prime Minister immediately pledged to 'end abuse of the "viability assessment" process', and 'make it much harder for unscrupulous developers to dodge their obligation to build homes local people can afford.' We've put forward practical recommendations to ensure this rhetoric is matched by effective policies.

PROMOTING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR FARMING

I'm increasingly realising that farming plays a pivotal role in creating the beauty, prosperity and society of rural England. And because CPRE owns no land – and thus has no vested interest in future farm subsidies – we've



been able to make the strongest case for post-Brexit support to be linked to farmers' work to maintain and enhance the countryside, rather than their acreage.

We therefore welcomed Environment Secretary Michael Gove's January 2018 announcement that future payments will be made according to the delivery of public benefits, such as improved access and healthy soils.

LAYING WASTE TO LITTER

Having played a leading role in the introduction of the plastic bag charge, CPRE used the success of that scheme to step-up our 10-year campaign for a deposit return system for drinks containers. CPRE president Emma



Bridgewater MBE pressed home our arguments that it would double recycling rates and reduce the plastic litter that defaces our countryside.

So we were delighted when the Government responded in March 2018, by finally agreeing to introduce a comprehensive system. Citing 'the proven success of deposit return systems in other countries', Emma hailed 'this significant victory in the war against the single-use containers that damage our natural environments, kill our wildlife and waste valuable materials'.





WE DEMANDED #PLANNINGFORPEOPLE

We launched our campaign in April 2018, in response to the Government's public consultation on proposed changes to its planning rulebook – the National Planning Policy Framework. We called for improvements that would help meet the housing needs of communities, and protect our countryside through a 'brownfield first' approach to development. A Times editorial from **CPRE vice president Andrew Motion** called for democratically-agreed housing plans to be upheld, so that 'development benefits those who have to live with it'.

Our e-action encouraged over 6,000 activists to ask their MP to demand a system that will benefit people and the environment, while *The Telegraph* published our open letter to the new Communities Secretary James Brokenshire, signed by five other organisations including the RSPB. Together, we urged him to balance the delivery of high-quality homes with the protection of nature.



WE SHOWED 'HOW TO BUILD HOUSES AND SAVE THE COUNTRYSIDE'

A new CPRE book by former chief executive Shaun Spiers was published in March 2018, with a launch attended by *Times* columnist Alice Thomson ('finally a solution to the housing argument'), and Newsnight presenter Evan Davis ('a must-read for anyone interested in housing').

Former RSPB director Mark Avery praised the book's solutions as 'a good basis for progress', while architect Sir Terry Farrell said it showed 'the beauty of the English countryside is compatible with reasonable growth in housing' – if we make good use of previously developed land.

Our February 2018 research proved that 'brownfield' could provide over one million homes, influencing a stronger ministerial tone on prioritising urban sites for housing.



WE HELPED WIN A REVIEW OF LAND BANKING

CPRE has long argued that allowing slow housebuilding rates on land with planning permission simply encourages developers to target more profitable greenfield sites. We therefore welcomed the launch of a Government review of 'build out' in January 2018.

Our submission to Sir Oliver Letwin called for builders hoarding land to be forced to 'use it or lose it'. We argued this would help accelerate housing delivery, relieve the pressure to build on green spaces and give councils the chance to acquire stalled sites for affordable housing.

'Land banking is threatening both the provision of affordable homes for key workers and the protection of the Green Belt'

Architect and CPRE supporter, Lord Richard Rogers, speaking at the October 2017 launch of a Parliamentary group administered by CPRE.

PROMOTING

sustainable infrastructure





WE FOUGHT BACK ON FRACKING

The Government's 2017 manifesto pledged to relax planning rules for some shale development and allow major applications to bypass local councils. We responded by calling for a halt to fracking – unless it could be clearly demonstrated to help reduce carbon emissions, avoid harm to the countryside, and be subject to democratic planning.

The Government's proposals were dropped from the Queen's Speech within a matter of days, but when the industry continued to pressure local councils, we joined forces with Friends of the Earth in committing to help local communities fight fracking.

With the Government resurrecting plans to impose top-down decision making in May 2018, we demanded that communities must retain the democratic right to influence fracking applications. We joined forces with 38 Degrees in June to encourage thousands of online activists to tell the Government not to fast-track fracking.

WE ROSE TO THE ROADS CHALLENGE

Wye Valley

CPRE made a leading contribution to the *Rising to the challenge* report published by the Campaign for Better Transport and 16 other charities. We argued that roads funding should be prioritised for a 'green retrofit' of existing routes, or diverted to improve rail, cycling and walking infrastructure. The new coalition emerged after our landmark 2017 research report, *The End of the Road*, had reinvigorated the environmental and economic case against new roads.

CPRE continues to fight plans for an Arundel bypass set to decimate ancient woodland in the South Downs National Park; campaign for sustainable alternatives to A303 widening that risks the historic setting of Stonehenge; reject the case for a £200m Hereford bypass threatening the beauty and biodiversity of the Wye Valley; and oppose a dual carriageway that would destroy Liverpool's green lung – the Rimrose Valley Country Park.



WE PUT THE SPOTLIGHT ON RURAL ENERGY IMPACTS

Our joint research with the National Energy Action found that rural households are lagging behind in terms of energy efficiency and affordability, with the average rural energy bill more than 50% higher than the urban average.

We called on the Government to establish a new programme of energy efficiency measures and introduce zero-carbon design standards, to help reduce the need for damaging energy infrastructure in the countryside. **CPRE** campaigners in the North East were delighted when they helped stop one such example in March 2018: the then Communities Secretary Sajid Javid rejected a massive opencast mine at Druridge Bay, Northumberland, after considering CPRE's public inquiry evidence on the site's unique tranguillity and landscape heritage.

SHAPING the future of our landscape



WE MADE THE CASE FOR BEAUTY

Our *Beauty Betrayed* report found that over 15,000 homes have been approved within our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the past five years, prompting our calls for AONBs to be given stronger protection from housing developments of more than 10 units. We therefore welcomed the Government's March 2018 proposals that such schemes be defined as 'major development', requiring 'exceptional circumstances' to secure planning permission.

To help communities look after their local beauty spots, we published a well-received guide to creating strong landscape policies in Neighbourhood Plans – *What's special to you*. The guide contained practical advice on making sure future development is in harmony with local character, and ideas for protecting green spaces and landscape features.



WE IMPROVED THE PLAN FOR 'A GREEN FUTURE'

The Government's long-awaited 25 Year Environment Plan was finally published in January 2018. It showed clear evidence of CPRE's influence, with references to 'using our land more sustainably' and the importance of Green Belt as 'breathing space for our urban populations to enjoy'.

In response to a specific CPRE demand, the plan extended the 5p plastic bag charge to all retailers, which will greatly reduce the impact of plastic litter on the countryside. Our concerns that National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty need stronger protection and more investment were also addressed, with a commitment to review how these landscapes can be 'not only conserved, but enhanced for the next generation.'



WE RAISED THE ALARM FOR SMALL FARMS

Our Uncertain Harvest report of August 2017 praised the role of our smaller farms in maintaining landscape character, but warned that a third of them had disappeared since 2005. In response, Environment Secretary Michael Gove's speech at the Oxford Farming Conference acknowledged their *'immense* contribution to rural life and landscapes'.

But when the Government's farming consultation failed to outline specific measures to support smaller producers, we joined an alliance of groups calling for them to be given a fairer share of future subsidies, and easier access to loans and advice. The Government responded in May 2018, stating its intention 'to give smaller family farms adequate time to prepare for the future and to support them in doing so.'



Our work had more impact and engaged more people than ever in 2017/18. We'll let the numbers speak for themselves!

ENGAGEMENT:

40,000

Our Facebook followers

by the end of 2017 – more than doubling during the year. Thanks to help from the Underwood Trust, we're now in touch with many more community groups and individuals concerned about their countryside.

254,534

Unique visits to our website in 2017 – an increase of over 23% on 2016.



10,875 Emails

sent to MPs (covering all English constituencies) calling for Green Belt protection to be maintained – our most successful e-action ever.

£2 MILLION

The advertising value of our media coverage in March 2018.



60,000 _{Views}

of our campaign film for the villagers of Hatfield Peverel in Essex.



SAVING GREEN FIELDS:



383 ACRES

of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty spared from development thanks to CPRE Kent's Supreme Court challenge to Dover Council.

15ACRES

of a landscape celebrated by poet AE Housman were saved from a caravan park at Great Comberton, following CPRE Worcestershire's objection.



17ACRES

of Green Belt protected from an 800-space car park when CPRE Avonside helped defeat a 'park and ride' scheme at Bathampton Meadows.



96_{ACRES}

of the Lake District National Park at Thirlmere rescued from an intrusive 'activity hub' by protests from CPRE and the Friends of the Lake District (our representatives in the National Park).

TIONA

175_{ACRES}

of prime agricultural land near Hinxton defended from a business park for 4,000 employees after CPRE Cambridgeshire supported community concerns.



CAMPAIGNING:

£35 MILLION

Total savings we showed English local authorities could make from the forthcoming introduction of a deposit return system for drinks containers.

30%

The fall in the number of plastic bags found on UK seabeds between 2010 and 2017, thanks to the 5p bag charge CPRE helped introduce in 2015.

44%

The proportion of land used for housing that was brownfield in 2016/17 – up from just 28% the previous year, reflecting CPRE's lobbying for better use of previously developed land.

1.1 MILLION

The minimum number of homes that could be built on previously developed land – according to new brownfield registers introduced after a CPRE campaign. We showed an additional 200,000 homes could be provided on smaller brownfield sites currently ignored by local authorities.

RESEARCH:

16%

The proportion of speculative housing built on Green Belt since 2009 that is classed as 'affordable', demonstrating that urban sprawl is not a solution to housing need.

425,000

Number of houses planned for Green Belt land in 2017 – up 54% in the biggest year-on-year increase for two decades, showing the urgent need for more urban regeneration.

68%

The proportion of affordable housing required by rural authorities.

26%

The proportion of affordable housing developers actually deliver – findings that helped us make the rural housing crisis a national issue.

ONE THIRD

of smaller English farms (under 120 acres) disappeared between 2005 and 2015, prompting our campaign to save them.

82%

The increase in new housing units given planning permission in England's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the past five years, highlighting the case for stronger protection.

5%

Proportion of people who believe the Government is doing a good job of determining local housing needs, according to CPRE's polling.

FUNDING AND FINANCE IN 2017:

£4 MILLION total income

Many thanks to our loyal supporters who continued to respond to appeals throughout the year, and the legacy pledgers who kindly left us £1.2m. We are now working to broaden our appeal to increase membership and attract new sources of income. 84%

Proportion (£3.7m) of our expenditure spent on charitable activities

£32,334 Online donations received



£368,000

Amount reclaimed in tax thanks to our supporters completing Gift Aid forms

giftaid it

£7.2 MILLION Unrestricted liquid reserves at the end of

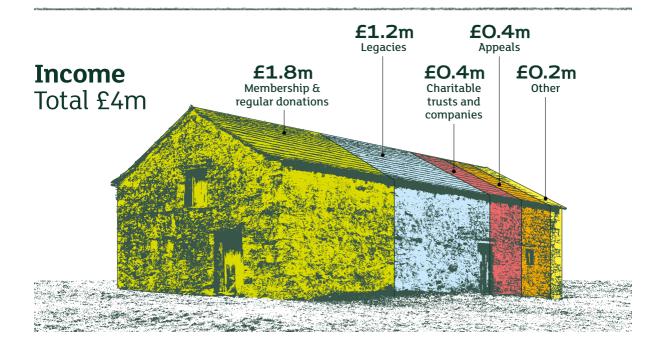
2017, representing a strong base to help finance campaigning activities, invest in CPRE's local network and achieve new strategic objectives.



£591,454

Expenditure passed on to our nine regions and 43 branches who undertake so much valuable frontline work





Expenditure Total £4.4m



£2.6m

Campaigning, communications and other charitable activities



Support to

our county and

regional groups





Raising funds for the future

£0.7m

SUPPORTING Communities

PROPOSING SOLUTIONS

CPRE supported residents of Hatfield Peverel, Essex, in their campaign to rebuff speculative planning applications for 260 houses on valued green fields. Their Neighbourhood Plan proposed a larger and more sustainable site – a derelict dairy next to the local train station.

"CPRE's help has been invaluable in raising the profile of our campaign, and has helped make Hatfield Peverel a test case for all villages under siege from unwanted development. Whatever the outcome of the public inquiry, it's great to know that CPRE will support communities like ours – both nationally and locally." **Kevin Dale**, Stonepath Meadow Residents Group





FIGHTING MEGA-FARMS

CPRE campaigners helped residents of Rushden, Northamptonshire defend cherished countryside from an intensive poultry unit for over half a million chickens.

"Ros Bradbury of CPRE Herefordshire provided us with a tremendous amount of advice, information and encouragement. I do not believe we would have achieved this result without her efforts. We also received support from CPRE Northamptonshire's David Edsall, who sent in an objection to the proposal." Sarah Groocock, local resident



SAVING OPEN SPACES

CPRE Hampshire worked with local people to save valued landscapes at Vale Farm, Pitt from 350 houses that would also have damaged the rural setting of Winchester.

"Sincere thanks to Christopher Napier and all at CPRE for your unstinting support and outstanding professional expertise." **Connie Leach**, local parish councillor

CREATING NETWORKS

CPRE South Yorkshire assisted the villages of Eckington, Harthill and Woodsetts in their fight against fracking proposals. Our campaigners submitted planning objections, provided public inquiry training and worked with Friends of the Earth to strengthen local networks and improve community collaboration in the region.



CHALLENGING PLANS

Plans for 193 badly-sited houses on the edge of Bamber Bridge were rejected after CPRE Lancashire's Audrey Dawson called for more open space for children, and more tree planting to reduce the impact of noise and air pollution from the nearby M61.

"Once again, the input from Audrey Dawson proved to be of real value. We heartily thank her." **GW Richards.** local resident

"Audrey showed great passion and expertise in supporting local residents to oppose an unsuitable development plan for this difficult site." **Martin Topping**, Brindle Road Focus Group CPRE's local network means that people around the country can benefit from the campaigning expertise of our volunteers. Here are just a few examples of the partnerships that have brought positive results for countryside and communities in 2017/18.

VALUING LOCAL ASSETS

CPRE Surrey helped restore Village Green protection for threatened common land after NHS Property Services overturned its status in the High Court. CPRE campaigners had helped with the original application to register Leach Grove Wood, close to Leatherhead Hospital, and supported the successful appeal by local residents.

RESPECTING CHARACTER

CPRE North Yorkshire joined forces with Hampsthwaite Action Group to defeat plans for an unsustainable 80-home estate on the edge of the village. With more applications in the pipeline, our campaigners continue to argue that future development should be affordable and avoid harming local character.

"CPRE North Yorkshire have been very supportive, offering practical advice and tips on taking the fight forwards. They have also provided excellent publicity for our battle and always been willing to discuss various aspects of the campaign." Hampsthwaite Action Group



ENHANCING LANDSCAPES

CPRE Gloucestershire's South Cotswold District worked with two primary schools and a landowner on an educational tree replacement project, 'underplanting' 130-yearold lime trees that have become an integral part of Cirencester's landscape setting. After CPRE's Celia Page spoke about the importance of trees, pupils enjoyed getting stuck into the planting process with Lord Bathurst – who kindly donated the replacements.



DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

CPRE Bedfordshire assisted Bromham Parish Council in successfully fighting an appeal over 93 new houses on open countryside, outside the village boundary. CPRE campaigners argued that the appeal undermined local democracy, as the parish council were in the process of deciding their own housing needs through a Neighbourhood Plan.

SECURING SERVICES

CPRE Northumberland helped save 14 village schools from the threat of closure under county council reorganisation plans. Alerted by Trudi Macgregor, governor of Greenhaugh School, CPRE immediately warned the council of the negative impact the closures would have on the sustainability, social cohesion and educational needs of many villages.

"This is great news – many thanks to CPRE Northumberland for their help. Everyone here is relieved and delighted and we are now busy trying to ensure the small schools continue to prosper." **Trudi Macgregor**

REDUCING INTRUSION

CPRE Norfolk helped local people convince Swedish firm Vattenfall to transmit offshore wind energy to the grid with minimal landscape intrusion – avoiding damage to Happisburgh cliffs and local wildlife sites. CPRE's community engagement also encouraged Mundesley Parish Council to remove cliff-top lights which were causing severe light pollution in the area.



THANK YOU

We would like to thank all of our supporters whose generous donations helped us stand up for your countryside in 2017.

Legacy donations are an essential part of our income, and we are hugely appreciative of the many generous people who remembered CPRE in their will.

Mrs G M Abbott Ms R V Abrams Mrs B D Adams Mr D G Ardagh Mrs F R Bailie Dr H M Beaumont Miss K M Benham Miss A M Bolton Mr J C Brook Miss S M Buckley Ms P J Buckley Mrs P G Burstall Mrs E C G Bushell Miss J A Card Mr R L Collins Miss M Crossley

Mrs E E P Croy Mrs M E A Dadswell Ms L E Dyer Prof H J Elcock Miss O M Elkins Mrs E A Elliott (aka Wood) Mr H J A Fernbank Mrs S Ficken Mrs M M Gowans Ms S E S Griffiths Ms S R Grover Mr J B Hambling Mrs B A Hayler Mr C W Huggins Mr D S Hume Ms S B C Hunt

Ms D M Jenn Miss P R Jennings Mr W B Kirk Mr R E Lester Mrs R A Mann Ms O Mellor Ms M M Miller Mr H R F Mills Mrs C Moore, nee Denholm-Young Mr B C Morley Ms S V Nixon Mrs S E Owen-George Miss A C Perris Mr R G Platt Miss J E Pleasance

Miss J E Price Mr D C Rickets Miss J E Roberts Mrs P M Roberts Mr 1 F Salter Mr J B Senior Mr P J Shefford Mrs J M Sims Mrs J J Slater Mr D B R Smith Mr D R Stoddart Miss D K Strong Mr B F Taylor Mr M A Terry Mrs D G Thompson Mr J Trotter

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We kindly thank those individuals who gave so generously towards our campaigns throughout 2017.

Sir Rudolph Agnew Mrs J K A Atkins Dr C Beels Sir Quentin Blake Mrs A M Bonsor Mrs M Bright Mr M F B Buchanan Dr & Mrs H Cecil Sir Colin Chandler Mr F H Clarke Miss G Colman Mr D Davis Mr J Dean G G Fane Mr R A Foster Mrs M D Hallatt Mr M Harradine Mrs B A Hewitt Mrs J S Hobbis Mr M I Horniman Mrs C Hughes Mrs F E H Hunkin Mr P J James Dr A Jennings Dr B King & Mr H W Hulse Mr E P Lawrence Mrs D Moggach

- Dr T M Parry Mr N W Pearson Mrs K Proudfoot Miss E J Reis Mr M L Reynolds Mr & Mrs J Satchwell Smith Miss S Shields Dr D R Shreeve Mr H R W Smith
- Mr J P B Stokes Mr & Mrs A Temple Miss M Thompson-Mayassi Mr H Webb Mr A Wood Mr J Woolf Mrs M E Work Mrs V Wormsley Mr & Mrs J Wreford

We are grateful for the support of the following trusts, companies and organisations during 2017.

The Hon M L Astor's Charitable Trust Nancy Bateman Charitable Trust The Britten Foundation Amelia Chadwick Trust Leonard Chadwick Charitable Trust The Muriel and Gus Coren Charitable Foundation The Dingwall Trust Miss Hanson's Charitable Trust Henhurst Charitable Trust Henry C Hoare Charitable Trust The Reginald and Edna Hill Foundation JTI The Charles Michael Holloway Charitable Trust B and J Lloyd Family Charitable Trust The Loveday Charitable Trust The LPH Charitable Trust KMF Maxwell-Stuart's Charitable Trust McCorquodale Charitable Trust The Millichope Foundation The Patron's Fund The Peacock Charitable Trust A D Power Will Trust Raphael Trust K S Richer Will Trust The Scouloudi Foundation B A Segal Charitable Trust Philip Smith's Charitable Trust The Steel Charitable Trust John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust The Derek and Clare Stevens Trust The Dacia Tasker Memorial Fund The Constance Travis Charitable Trust The Tuttiett Family Charitable Trust The Underwood Trust The Garfield Weston Foundation Sir Donald and Lady Edna Wilson Charitable Trust

In memoriam

We remember the achievements of CPRE volunteers Howard Elcock, Martin Walton and Audrey Dawson, who made invaluable contributions to protecting the countryside and enhancing communities.

LOOKING FORWARD

With Su Sayer CBE Chair of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

t's been another year of progress at CPRE, underpinned by the volunteers who we proudly recognise as our frontline experts and campaigners. Already in 2018, we've seen their influence on the Government's commitment to introducing a deposit return sustem for drinks containers. Bill Bryson, who started our campaign in 2008, rightly praised CPRE's volunteers who have cleared a quarter of a million bags of litter since then for keeping 'the issue alive in the minds of our politicians, press and public'.

That's why I'm prioritising investment in our volunteer network, so that they can become

even more influential. and build even more effective local partnerships. And in order to attract more volunteers – and thus increase our campaigning impact - we're working on a project to help articulate the positivity of CPRE's core 'purpose' to new audiences. As this Annual Review shows, CPRE exists to improve lives. In protecting the countryside, we're fighting for the beautiful green spaces that improve our physical and mental health, and for the green farming that supports living landscapes and vibrant communities.

But, crucially, CPRE also fights for the good development that can provide the affordable homes and sustainable infrastructure we need. As the writer Simon Jenkins said recently, 'how to reinvigorate the rural economy and chart who will live in it and how, is by far the biggest challenge to domestic politics in Britain – thank god for the CPRE and its clear thinking on the subject.'

I thank all the volunteers and staff who are putting our arguments across with such passion and dedication. And I urge anyone who loves their countryside to find out more about the great work we do at www.cpre.org.uk. Join our campaign today and help ensure that a revitalised rural England can inspire and enchant for generations to come.



CPRE fights for a beautiful and living English countryside that is valued and enjoyed by everyone.

From giving parish councils expert advice on planning issues to influencing national policies, we work to promote, enhance and protect the countryside.

OUR WORK

We campaign for a sustainable future for the English countryside, a vital but undervalued environmental, economic and social asset to the nation. We highlight threats and promote positive solutions. Our in-depth research supports active campaigning, and we seek to influence public opinion and decision-makers at every level.

OUR AIMS

- To promote and enhance the character of the countryside
- To promote a more sustainable approach to land use
- To defend the countryside from damaging development



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IN STANDING UP FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE

