

Media and policy round-up: 26 October 2018

Media Highlights

**Please note The Times, Financial Times, The Sun and some articles on the Daily Telegraph website are now behind a pay wall, meaning you require a paid-for log-in to read them. Where no links are provided below, the coverage is not accessible online. Please contact national office for more details if you require them.*

We said Claire Perry, the energy minister, was making a ‘muddled’ case for fracking by claiming shale gas extraction was needed to ensure the country is not dependent on gas from Russia. Daniel Carey-Dawes, senior infrastructure campaigner, was quoted in [the Independent](#). Daniel was also recently interviewed on BBC Radio Surrey on fast-tracked fracking.

The Government recently launched its call for evidence as part of the Glover review of our National Parks and AONBs. Emma Marrington, senior rural policy campaigner, was quoted in the [Daily Telegraph](#)’s coverage.

On 25 October, the government’s two consultations on fast-tracking fracking through the planning system closed. Petitions against the proposals, totalling 300,000 people, including 200,000 from our 38 Degrees petition, were handed to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government. The [Independent](#), [Daily Mail](#), and some local media covered the event.

Matt Thomson, CPRE’s head of planning, had a letter published in [The Times](#), responding to a report from Transport for New Homes, urging a return to planned developments that are ‘centred around fully funded public transport, and provide easy access to amenities, green spaces and recreational areas.’

We released a [new analysis](#) that shows the Oxford-Cambridge Arc could put an area of countryside the size of Birmingham at risk from development. It received excellent coverage, with [the Guardian](#), [The Times](#), [the FT](#), [Daily Mail](#), [ITV News Online](#), [BBC News Online](#), Daily Express, [the Independent](#), [Daily Telegraph](#) and lots of local media outlets running the story. Paul Miner, head of strategic plans and devolution, was interviewed on Heart Radio and on BBC Television.

Lois Lane, research and policy advisor, appeared on the [Today programme](#) on BBC Radio 4 on Saturday morning, and delivered a stellar performance in the face of some tough questioning.

In the lead up to the government’s Autumn Budget, Tom Fyans, campaigns and policy director, was quoted in [the Independent](#) on the disparity between the sums the government plans to invest in tree planting (£60m) vs new money for road-building (£30bn).

[The FT](#) and [the Guardian](#) picked up our reaction to the Autumn Budget. We issued three soundbites, one with [our overall reaction](#), one on [the Oxford-Cambridge Arc](#), and one on [single-use plastics](#).

Blogs

As we were expecting an announcement on the Letwin Review in the Autumn Budget, Lois Lane, policy and research advisor, had a blog published on [Inside Housing](#) outlining our key asks for the review. We published a similar piece on [our website](#).

Campaigns & Policy

Review of progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals - call for evidence

The UK is reviewing its progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, many of which are directly applicable to CPRE's work. This includes work in neighbourhood planning, affordable housing, brownfield, litter, agriculture, hedgerows and dark skies. As part of this, they are looking for examples of the projects across the country that relate to these goals. We encourage the CPRE network groups to respond individually to this review. For more information about the review, and to download the form, see the [gov.uk website](#). A full breakdown on the individual goals and targets can be found [here](#).

Fracking and Westminster Hall Debate

We have now submitted our responses to the two fracking consultations and await a government response in the coming months. Thank you to the network groups involved for their comments and hard work.

This past week Matt Thomson, our head of planning, gave evidence at an All-party Parliamentary Group on Shale Gas alongside local council representatives and legal experts. This provided an opportunity to express our concerns at the changes proposed to fast-track fracking in front of a group of MPs.

Mark Menzies MP will hold a Westminster Hall debate this coming Wednesday (31 October) to discuss local involvement in shale gas development. CPRE's campaigning has had a key role in keeping fracking on the agenda and this debate presents a further chance for MPs to scrutinise the government's proposals that undermine local democracy and represent a misuse of the planning system.

Review of Designated Landscapes

An independent panel, led by Julian Glover, was announced in May to carry out a review of England's National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). The call for evidence was opened on Saturday 20 October and will be open until 18 December. You can read our media reaction [here](#).

We are developing a 'One CPRE' response and have sent a detailed outline of the schedule and our plan for the response separately to the Glover review mailing list. Please speak to the primary contact for your county group to confirm who the lead contact is.

Killer stats

Find below the top statistics relating to CPRE issues in the past fortnight. If you have any questions, or would like to use the separate statistics as infographics for social media, please Isabel Thomson, campaigns and policy assistant, isabelt@cpre.org.uk

Killer Stats

CPRE's fortnightly



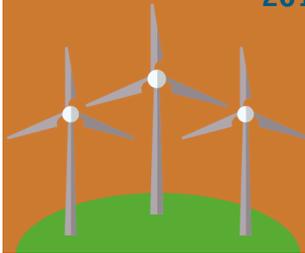
Local authorities spend an estimated £700 million annually on collecting and treating packaging waste, but the businesses producing the packaging contributed just £73 million last year.



**71% of UK land
is used by agriculture**



Renewables' share of electricity generation hit a record high between March and June this year, this marks the quadrupling of the UK's renewable capacity since 2010.



1. Local authorities spend an estimated £700 million annually on collecting and treating packaging waste, but the businesses producing the packaging contributed just £73 million last year to reprocessing the recycling. - [National Audit Office](#)

A survey by the Local Government Association revealed nearly half of councils have seen significant impact on their ability to recycle since China's ban on imported waste. In the UK over two-thirds of plastic packaging waste is exported, however little is being done by manufacturers to limit the financial and environmental impact of packaging. Under the UK

waste system, councils foot the vast majority of the bill for recycling waste largely due to the complex market-based system which requires companies to meet packaging recycling targets. This requirement falls short of council costs and highlights a need to reform the waste system to mirror countries such as Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium where retailers and producers are made to fully fund the costs of household recycling collections.

2. 71% of UK land is used for agriculture - [RSA Food, Farming and Countryside Commission](#)

In the UK, agriculture comprises a small economic sector; however, it is the existing land use of 71% of UK land. As stated in the report, a framework for sustainable land use, the resource is worth hundreds of billions of pounds in current market value, however this statistic under represents the societal value of land in providing a multitude of ecosystem services.

3. Renewables' share of electricity generation hit a record high between March and June this year. This marks the quadrupling of the UK's renewable capacity since 2010. - [Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy](#)

Renewables' share of electricity generation increased to a record 31.7 per cent in 2018 Q2 from 30.6 per cent in 2017 Q2, which had previously been a record. The increased share on a year earlier mostly reflects increased capacity, particularly in wind and solar PV, as well as lower overall generation.