

100
YEARS



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
Cheshire

Lancashire, Liverpool City Region & Greater Manchester Viewpoint

Newsletter | Spring/Summer 2026



Salmesbury Hall, Preston

View from the Chair

In CPRE's centenary year, we would like to invite you to join us at our event on Sunday 12th July in Ainsdale - tea, cake and countryside matters as well as the installation of an information panel celebrating the achievements of our very own!

We're encouraging you all to walk, cycle or drive to our event and take in the accessible coastal walkway in Ainsdale. Find out more in our local news section.

Share your memories with us...

We're asking our members to share their memories of CPRE. We know that many of you have been members for a long time (although perhaps not 100 years...) and will have been involved in landmark campaigns and witnessed the Branch evolve over time.

My own memories of CPRE Lancashire date from the 1970s, when my parents were members and we came to the amazing photographic presentations produced by Stanley Jeeves, who was CPRE's Manager at the time, based at Salmesbury Hall. Decades later I can still remember the images of Antarctica, set to music, gliding across the screen. Low tech to people today, but mesmerising then.

We are inviting you to share your memories in person over tea and cake at Salmesbury Hall on Sunday 18th October, and then to ask you for your thoughts on how CPRE should approach our next 100 years: what should be our priorities?

We will send more information and booking details nearer the time; in the meantime, please put the date in your diaries.

Successes to share...

Thrilled that we have been successful in securing £245,000 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. The money will be used to manage an exciting new project to deliver a 200-mile Liverpool City Region (LCR) Circular Walking and Cycling Trail.

Finally, we are delighted to have played a pivotal role in the rejection of a planning application to build 1,300 houses on Lancashire farmland. The proposed "Cuerdale Garden Village" along with industrial units, commercial development and major infrastructure, would have consumed vast areas of productive farmland east of the M6.

Lindsay Beaton, Chair, CPRE Lancashire

Meet the Team



Retiring Chair and Trustee Debbie McConnell

We've had a few changes in our team and would like to use a bit of space to introduce ourselves and update you.

Firstly, the wonderful Debbie McConnell has stepped down as Chair and, after kindly staying on for a 12 month handover, will also be stepping down as a Trustee at the end of this year. However, she has promised that we can always call on her legal expertise when we need to.

Debbie has done a fantastic job leading the Branch, and her contribution has been recognised in this year's CPRE national volunteer awards.

Our new chair Lindsay Beaton has been a trustee and Vice Chair for 10 years. For the past 20 years Lindsay has worked in environmental conservation for Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Mersey Rivers Trust. Prior to that she was a management consultant and before that a diplomat. Lindsay lives near Leyland where she keeps sheep and hens and has a strong interest in the role of agriculture in our countryside.

CPRE Lancashire, Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester also has two part-time paid staff members.

Debbie Janney handles all our admin and is the first point of contact at info@cprelancashire.org.uk or on 01772 378831. She also does the same role for Cheshire Branch and is a great font of knowledge about how CPRE functions at branch and national level.

Eddy Taylor took over as Planning Manager when Jackie Copley moved on to become Campaigns Lead at National CPRE. Those of you who are planning volunteers will know Eddy. As well as working at CPRE, Eddy lectures at Manchester Metropolitan University. He lives in Liverpool and is a keen cyclist.

All the rest of the management team are volunteers, responsible for organising events, setting the direction for the Branch, contributing to national policy initiatives, raising funds, developing and overseeing projects (such as the GM Ringway project and now the Liverpool Ringway!).

Hedgerow Heroes success

CPRE's Hedgerow Heroes campaign has been running for the past three years. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the importance of hedgerows in our landscape. By the end of our centenary year, CPRE nationally will have exceeded our aim of planting 100 miles of new hedgerows.

In our area we have contributed to this by planting two miles of hedges in Sale and Oldham, involving local volunteers and schoolchildren.

But protecting existing hedgerows is just as – and perhaps more – important than planting new ones. They support wildlife with food and shelter, are defining characteristics of our landscape, and are often of historical importance.

Since 1997 hedges have been protected by the Hedgerow Regulations, which list the criteria hedges on agricultural land must meet to be protected: they must be at least 30 years old, longer than 20m, and (in the north of England) contain at least five woody plant species. Such hedges cannot be removed without planning permission.

Local authority planning departments are responsible for enforcing the Hedgerow Regulations, although if you see a hedge being removed or damaged it is a good idea to also contact the local authority tree or arboriculture officer as well as the planning department. In many cases the local authority will not prosecute but will negotiate with the landowner to replant a hedge.

This is not a perfect solution but it does mean that a hedge will remain in the location and makes the landowner aware of the need to follow the law – and importantly, that people are watching when they do not.

Our members have been active in supporting our Hedgerow Heroes campaign locally. Thanks to their vigilance and action in the past few months we have been contacted by members in two areas about old hedges being pulled out or damaged by agricultural operations and have contacted the relevant planning authorities on their behalf. Both authorities have been responsive and followed up on these complaints.



Young Wilders at work

The National Lottery Heritage Fund Secured



After months of hard work and consultation we were thrilled this to be awarded £245,000 to deliver a new 200 mile Liverpool circular cycling and walking trail scheme.

The LCR Walking and Cycling Trail will be a new distinctive, accessible and environmentally sustainable 200-mile walking and cycling trail that joins all six LCR local authorities (Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens, Wirral). The trail will be a permanent resource for the Liverpool City Region.

CPRE Lancashire President Nick Thomson comments: “By bringing to life pathways and linking urban, coastal and rural landscapes, this lottery funded heritage project will have a positive economic impact on the region and on approaches to sustainable travel.”

“We are now urgently looking for three talented individuals to help us to deliver on this ambitious project for the people of the Liverpool City Region over the next 12 months.”

We’re seeking to appoint:

- an experienced Project Manager
- a Project Officer
- a Community Engagement and Heritage Officer.

Previous charity sector experience or delivery of Lottery funded projects will be advantageous for these flexible, rewarding roles.

If you’re interested in finding out more about these roles please visit the jobs section on our website.



Proposed ‘Cuerden Garden Village’ plan

The rejection of a planning application to build 1,300 houses on Lancashire farmland

CPRE Lancashire is proud to have played a key role in a major victory for Lancashire’s countryside, providing detailed planning evidence and reinforcing the case for refusal.

The proposed “Cuerdale Garden Village” would have consumed vast areas of productive farmland east of the M6, alongside industrial units, commercial development and major infrastructure.

Many residents whose families have farmed the land for generations spoke out against the plans. Tenant farmer Richard Eastham told the BBC his family had farmed Walmsley Fold Farm for 80 years and that the site supports food production across the Ribble Valley and beyond.

CPRE Lancashire first objected to the scheme in 2022. When the developer returned in 2025 with revised arguments around so-called “Grey Belt” land, our Planning Manager, Eddy Taylor, robustly challenged the claims and reaffirmed the case that the development was unsustainable and failed the test of Very Special Circumstances.

Thank you to everyone who joined CPRE Lancashire by objecting, campaigning and standing up for our local countryside.

Other Planning News

In recent planning activity we have:

- Objected to 174 residential dwellings at Bagganley Lane in Chorley on the grounds of the loss of valuable agricultural land
- Commented on Oldham’s Local Plan on the need to ease the pressure on greenfield sites and build on brownfield land first
- Had a useful meeting with LCR about their Green Belt Review
- Supported the development of a New Town at Victoria North in Manchester in preference to building on Green Belt.

You can find the most up to date information about our planning work on our website.

CPRE Centenary Awards

The national CPRE Centenary Awards are setting out to recognise people, projects and ideas helping today's countryside and its communities thrive.

There are six categories, and anyone can send in a nomination (you can even nominate yourself or a group you are involved in). Nominations close at noon on 24 June. Find out more online at www.cpre.org.uk/cpre-national-centenary-awards/.

CPRE GM #FestivalofWalking



Goyt Valley Viaduct Walk

During the #NationalWalkingMonth of May we joined fellow walkers and our @GMRingway Stage Guardians for the #FestivalofWalking.

The circular route from Marple station took in part of Stage 7 of the 200 mile #GMRingway, winding through beautiful countryside on the edge of Greater Manchester. Led by two knowledgeable Stage Guardians the group enjoyed well-signed paths, varied terrain and a highlight — the picturesque viaduct spanning the Goyt Valley.

Could you be a volunteer?

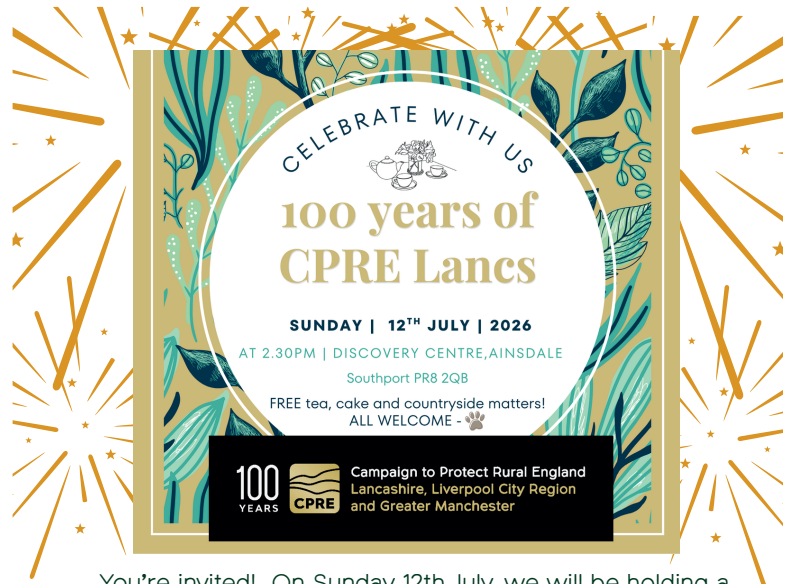
We are looking for new volunteers to help drive Lancashire CPRE forward.

If you are passionate about protecting the countryside, we may have a role for you!

For full details, visit the 'Get Involved' section of our website.

Join in: Tell us your news!

Email: info@cprelancashire.org.uk



You're invited! On Sunday 12th July, we will be holding a members' celebratory centenary event at:

The Ainsdale Discovery Centre
Promenade, Ainsdale
PR8 2QB

We will have a guided walking group setting off from Birkdale Railway Station at 1pm and a guided cycling group setting off from Hightown Railway Station also at 1pm. If you're bringing the whole family (including dogs) there is also car parking (charges apply) on the beach.

The event runs from 2.30pm to 4.30 pm. It's free, but please let us know how many places you would like by contacting info@cprelancashire.org.uk or 01772 378831.

Giving for a Green Future

Our centenary has been a wonderful year of celebration so far, with 100 miles of hedgerows and the winning garden at the Chelsea Flower Show. As we celebrate our achievements we are looking forward to the future and how we can continue to stand up for our beloved countryside.

One way we can all help to ensure CPRE Lancashire is still campaigning for our local countryside in 100 years' time is by leaving a legacy. In recent years legacies of all sizes have helped our branch. Please consider leaving us a gift in your will so we can protect the countryside on our doorstep for future generations.

CPRE Lancashire, Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester c/o Rushtons Accountants, Shorrock House, 1 Faraday Court, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9NB.
Charity number: 1107376



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