

What is The Campaign to Protect Rural England?



Natural beauty

The CPRE is a national charity that helps people to protect their local countryside where there is threat, to enhance it where there is opportunity, and to keep it beautiful, productive and enjoyable for everyone.

Over-all, we aim to ensure that the future of Wiltshire is sensitively planned. We argue for sustainable numbers and good design in housing. We call for balanced judgements in the provision of an affordable and well designed environment for work and recreation. We press for the natural beauty of our countryside to be protected and improved. We emphasise the need to protect our local World Heritage Site and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The CPRE was formed in 1926. Our Patron is HM The Queen and our President is Sir Andrew Motion. With 43 county branches, 200 local groups, and a national office in London, the CPRE is a powerful combination of effective local action and strong national campaigning, using established procedures and processes. We seek to provide well-researched, positive, practical solutions to problems that affect the English countryside.

We have 69,000 supporters nationally, grouped into county branches; about 1,000 are in Wiltshire, divided into four districts: South Wilts and Salisbury, West Wilts, North Wilts and Swindon, and Kennet. Membership is open to all.



Land-use planning

We argue for sensitive land-use planning. We want as much building as possible on previously developed sites, not on green fields; we want integration of a reasonable proportion of affordable housing in all but the smallest developments; we recognise that Wiltshire has a plan to provide 42,000 new dwellings in the period 2006-2026, and call for local communities to be given a fair say in planning for the places where they live and work. We want more housing – but of good quality and in the right places: that is, in places that minimise traffic growth, encourage regeneration, curb urban sprawl, protect the beauty and tranquillity of the countryside, and safeguard wildlife habitats.



Green Belts

England's 14 Green Belts cover over a tenth (13%) of the land and provide a breath of fresh air for 30 million people. They are a buffer between towns and countryside. Altogether, 60% of the population lives in the urban areas within Green Belt boundaries. Within those boundaries, damaged and derelict land can be improved and nature conservation encouraged. The ever-increasing pressure on land for more roads, housing and industrial development prompts our concern to protect the Green Belts that we have in Wiltshire.



Transport

How we plan transport affects our environment and quality of life. We urge greater care over integration of planned transport schemes into large developments, putting new housing, jobs, shops and services close to public transport or within easy walking or cycling distance.



Energy and waste

We campaign for reduced energy consumption, greater efficiency in usage, sensitive siting of renewable energy developments, less generation of waste, and careful location of waste-management facilities.



Farming and food

Farming isn't just about producing food: farmers maintain the character of the English landscape with its hedgerows, meadows, woods and traditional barns. Buying locally produced food helps farming thrive.

We are concerned with much more than just the building of houses and industrial developments. We try to comment in advance on all proposals related to:

- roads and transport systems
- mineral extraction and quarrying
- forestry and woodland development
- water
- renewable-energy installations
- retailing and the occupation of local shops
- telecommunications
- waste management

Developments in these matters interact and affect the well-being of our villages and market towns. We are always on the look-out for new members who could guide us on the feasibility and value of proposals.



If you are concerned about the future development of Wiltshire, join us in the CPRE. If you are particularly concerned about any of our main focus topics listed above, please contact Geraldine White and she will arrange for a local Committee member to contact you to tell you how you could add strength to our actions.

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