



## Welcome to the late winter/early spring Shropshire Voice!

As I write this, the sun is shining, someone is mowing their lawn – the promise of Spring! It seems to have been a long winter, with no let-up on chilly nights and wet days. But, CPRE Shropshire has been busy with hedge planting – article on this follows. I've been following the work volunteer trainers and hedge layers are doing and met a few of them. They are so enthusiastic.

I have been attending conferences led by Shropshire Wildlife Trust about the pollution in our waterways and what we can do about it. CPRE Herefordshire have for some time been engaged in a Citizen Science project, taking samples of the River Wye waters. I'd like to do the same in Shropshire BUT need volunteers. This is where you come in – either volunteer yourself or ask someone you know who is passionate about cleaning the waterways in Shropshire.

I would also like you to invite someone you know to join CPRE Shropshire, as we need more members to help us save the good farmland and green spaces in our county, otherwise there will be attempts to develop these spaces with houses. CPRE nationally has a campaign “use brownfield first”. As you may know, the results of all the campaigns we champion are then presented to government.

We are gearing up on the campaign “Every Village, Every Hour” which emphasises the need, in rural areas, that there should be a bus every hour in every village. Otherwise, how are we going to give up our cars and achieve net zero by 2030. If you would like to be involved in this campaign, please let us know.

**Susan Lockwood**  
Chair, CPRE Shropshire



## Shropshire Good Food Partnership

The Shropshire Good Food Partnership (SGFP) has been established to create a local food system which is good for people, place and planet. We bring people together from across the County representing all aspects of the food system, from growers to retailers, those involved with food banks and food festivals, community organisations, academic institutions, and the local Councils. Our six working groups represent our scope of action: Sustainable Food Economy; Healthy Food for All; Wise Land Stewardship; Grow Local; Nature Connection and Reducing Food Waste.

Our objectives are to:

- Ensure everyone has access to sufficient nutritious affordable food
- Build community, connecting people through food to each other and the land
- Create livelihood opportunities, forging a strong local food economy
- Enable environmental regeneration and a shift to net zero carbon in food and farming

SGFP supports the work of organisations across the county, catalyses new initiatives and collaborations, and enables joined-up innovative thinking to improve access to Good Food. We're part of the national Sustainable Food Places movement which brings together pioneering food partnerships from towns, cities, boroughs, districts and counties across the UK.

This year marks the launch of our 'Good Food Movement' campaign, which seeks to empower individual citizens to make incremental shifts in their daily choices to influence a better food system.

### Conference in September

We're also pleased to announce the first ever Marches Food and Farming Conference to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September at Linley Farm, Shropshire.

The aim of this event is to bring people together around agro-ecological farming and food systems, to inspire each other, share good practice, build networks and create the community that can bring about the transition we need. Our Call for Proposals can be found on our website (<https://www.shropshiregoodfood.org/post/call-for-proposals-speakers-panel-sessions-marches-real-food-farming-conference>)

Follow along @shropshiregoodfood on Instagram and Facebook to find out how to get involved, and to see the line up of events we have planned for 2023 – including some exciting announcements in the coming days!

**Daphne du Cros,**  
Shropshire Good Food Partnership

## CPRE SHROPSHIRE AGM: \*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\*

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023**  
**Acton Scott Historic**  
**Working Farm**

We are delighted to announce that our 2023 AGM will be held at Acton Scott Historic Working Farm in South Shropshire.

It will include a talk and site tour, so an event not to be missed!

More information in early May when tickets will be available.

### Other events where you will find CPRE Shropshire this year

**Green Fair, Ludlow, Sun 9<sup>th</sup> July**

**Hay Meadow Festival (Craven Arms:) Sat 15<sup>th</sup> July**

**Burwarton Show, Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> August**

**If you would like to come along and help us at events we would love to hear from you. Contact Sarah (see back page)**



The Mines of Shropshire - an online talk by Sally Green, Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March: Book your place now!



The countryside charity  
Shropshire

## The Mines of Shropshire

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 7.30pm**  
**A free online talk by Sally Green**

Shropshire's rich geology hosts many exploitable minerals and there is a long history of mineral mining and six coal fields in the county. In this talk, learn how ores and coal formed, how the mines changed the Shropshire landscape and settlements and what happened after they were worked out and abandoned.

**Free event,  
but donations  
welcome**

To book, go to the CPRE Shropshire events page at [www.cpreshopshire.org.uk/events](http://www.cpreshopshire.org.uk/events) or email Sarah Jameson on [admin@cpreshopshire.org.uk](mailto:admin@cpreshopshire.org.uk)



[www.cpreshopshire.org.uk](http://www.cpreshopshire.org.uk)  
[admin@cpreshopshire.org.uk](mailto:admin@cpreshopshire.org.uk)



# CPRE Shropshire Planning Update

Charles Green, CPRE Shropshire Planning Spokesperson

**Our CPRE Shropshire team continues to work to try to protect our valuable countryside from inappropriate and unnecessary development! Here are some of the areas we have been involved with recently.**

## Shropshire Council Local Plan Review

At last, over six months after the July 2022 hearing sessions, and over six years since the review process began, we have the Inspectors' initial views on whether the Plan is "sound" . . . and the bad news is that it isn't. Apparently, this is usually the case in such Examinations in Public (after all, the Inspectorate has to justify the process). But in this case the Inspectors have given Shropshire Council (SC) so much extra "homework" (in their 10-page letter of 15 February) that SC has yet to say when they think they can produce it all.

Much of the extra work revolves around SC's agreement to take 1,500 homes and up to 30 hectares of employment land as part of the unmet need in the Black Country (BC). This was agreed rather late in the process and the Inspectors think some of the supporting work needs to be revisited. Overall, the Council has at least 15 things to do, including at least five that are major pieces of work. This may involve a further round of public consultation. So we won't be getting an adopted plan anytime soon. In the meantime, some developers are putting in applications based on the as-yet unadopted plan.

The good news however is that the Inspectors have concluded that the contentious "Duty to Cooperate", particularly with the BC Authorities, has been correctly conducted. That is in spite of the fact that the four BC authorities, who were working together, have now decided to go it alone. That does in turn mean it will take longer to agree what overall unmet need there is in the BC, and how much of that it is sensible for SC to take.

The Inspectors are also concerned that "there has been a conflation of housing need and housing requirement" although, rather regrettably, the figures they quote indicate that they too don't understand things. The conflation of "need" and "demand" (or requirement) is one of the problems with the housing need crisis/debate. In Shropshire Council's case demographic need is really for only around 20,750 dwellings in the

Plan period of 2016-38. With a spurious "affordability" uplift the Government's "Standard Method" pushes that up to 25,894. Yet SC continue to want 30,800 homes. Requirement (30,800) is approaching 20% more than Government "need" (25,894). The chart on the next page shows all this.

SC argued at the July 2022 hearings that this extra 20% could subsume the 1,500 BC houses, but the Inspectors seem to imply it should be extra to that, which could be *really* bad news. They really don't seem to have twigged our basic argument that anything over and above need is just going to make climate change, and other things, worse.

## Renewables

There remains tension between the espoused need to replace the current gas-fired power with renewable sources (the cheaper the better) and how we should best use our great English countryside. In Oxfordshire, for instance, plans are afoot for a 1,000 hectare, 840MW complex of solar farms. Nothing approaching that scale has been proposed for Shropshire – you can see all current projects via the fascinating Government map at <https://data.barbour-abi.com/smart-map/repd/beis/?type=repd> if you want to. On the general subject of keeping the lights on during an energy crisis and a climate crisis, one recent article did say that no democratic majority will tolerate the cutbacks in their quality of life necessary to maintain the dash to carbon neutrality by 2050. Food for thought indeed! See also Bridgnorth District's thoughts on page 9.

## National Policy

You may know that a proposed revision to the National Planning Policy Framework, following on from Mr Gove's announcements in early December 2022, is currently under consultation. We and many other CPRE County branches have been taking part in the One CPRE process being run by national CPRE, in order to submit a single national CPRE response to the process. We will have to wait some time before we know whether the changes we are advocating come to fruition, but it is unlikely that it will affect SC's Draft Plan, which is too far advanced to be affected by the transitional arrangements in this new NPPF.

## Flooding, and land use

A recent CPRE County Branches Forum (CBF) meeting raised the spectre of rising sea levels and the possibility of the flooding of the Fens, with the loss of large parts of England's most productive farmland. Flooding from rivers, rather than coastal flooding, remains a recurring threat to large swathes of Shropshire. The Environment Agency and other bodies are actively working on ways to mitigate this more local flooding threat, which is also expected to increase as climate change bites. Some of their ideas involve changes to land management practices, though that might affect Wales more than Shropshire.

The whole flooding issue, as well as the renewables issues, highlights the need for

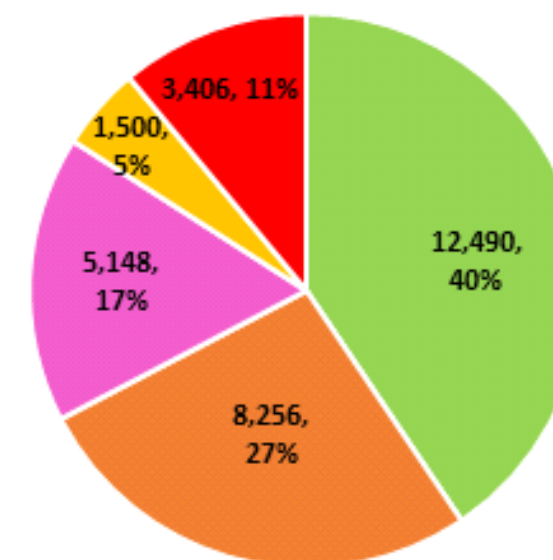
some national land use policies, which are indeed on the cards. In the meantime we will be taking part in the flooding group that the CBF is now in the process of initiating.

## Weekly planning lists and press cuttings

We continue to compile and circulate weekly extracts of mainly planning-related items from the Shropshire Star, and edited lists of planning applications, decisions and appeals. Do let us know if you would like to be added to the circulation lists.

Charles Green  
Planning Spokesperson

Requirement 30,800, OAN 25,894  
2014-base: 2020 to 2030 x 2.2  
Affordability ratio 7.97



- Population change: + 28,380 (12,900: 2020 to 2030 x 2.2)
- Average household size: 2020 - 2.272 people per house; 2030 - 2.215
- Uplift for affordability ratio (house price/earnings): 7.97 y/e 30/9/19
- Black Country housing
- Shropshire Council's further aspiration



## Brief district roundup

### Oswestry District Report

While the examination phase of the Local Plan Review trundles on, plans are being announced for 'the Marches' area transport provision.

The latest plans for Oswestry have been put forward by a group called 'Marches Connect' formed from local Shropshire MPs and others, including Cllr Ian Nellins (Deputy Leader of Shropshire Council and Cabinet member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport). They have just announced grand plans for improved train services to Birmingham and up and down the border linking north and south Wales, plus upgrades to the A483 – the Pant and Llanymynech bypass (though the Welsh Government is again cutting back its roads programme, for climate change reasons).

These plans are supported by local MP Helen Morgan and, to a lesser degree, by Shrewsbury MP Daniel Kawczynski.

Otherwise, work continues at Mile End roundabout outside Oswestry, and a revised planning application for houses below the Hillfort is now in, again being strongly objected to by local and national heritage campaigners. The application is disappointingly similar to the previous incarnation. The Oswestry so-called Sustainable Urban Extension is one step nearer to the actual building process, with the approval in early February of the Fletcher Homes site for 120 dwellings south of Middleton Road.

Oswestry failed in its bid for High Street funding and Levelling Up money, but Shrewsbury did manage to get some – although some say Shrewsbury gets more than its fair share of funds anyway and other parts of Shropshire should be levelled up.

**Elizabeth Jones and Charles Green, Oswestry District**

### Shrewsbury District Report

The group met in January 2023 via Zoom with conversations covering planning, hedge planting, connecting with local organisations such as Shrewsbury Civic Society, and river pollution. The group will meet every other month at Bicton Village Hall during the summer and autumn and revert to zoom meetings in the winter.

**Susan Lockwood, Shrewsbury District**



Train at Church Stretton station

### Rural transport update

CPRE National Office have launched a new campaign building on the 'Every Village, Every Hour' report, called 'Transport Deserts'. It is designed to highlight the paucity of, and future threats to, rural transport, principally buses.

Apparently the subsidies for bus companies put in place during the pandemic are being withdrawn. The £2 capped fare scheme which is currently running has been extended for a further 3 months at the time of writing.

National Office is appointing 'transport champions' for each county so if anyone feels moved to volunteer, please contact us via Sarah Jameson (details on back page). They will be working with CPRE Shropshire but reporting to a co-ordinator in London. It is not entirely clear how this will work but if it highlights the problems of using public transport in rural areas, it is clearly a Good Thing.

The plans announced by Marches Connect have been largely covered under the Oswestry report elsewhere in this newsletter. Baschurch is campaigning for the re-opening of its station and the Oswestry-Gobowen line is still 'on the table', though unlikely to be re-instated anytime soon because of the costs of crossing the A5.

**Elizabeth Jones  
Public Transport**

## Churches and Traditional Secular Buildings versus Energy Efficiency

At first sight there would not appear to be any link between Churches and traditional farmhouses or cottages with thick walls of stone or brick, aside from creating a bit of headache with regard to keeping warm in the coldest months of the year. The link is actually the thick walls. There are other links of course; both types of building are fundamental to our historic environment and countryside and as a former County Planning Officer once said they are both "punctuation marks in the landscape."

When Churches were constructed in any period from early medieval to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, folk never removed their outdoor clothes to come and worship. In fact in early periods folk never removed very much of their outdoor clothing when they were indoors in their traditional houses. Churches were thus never intended to be warm cosy places, although by the Victorian period many were supplied with a coal fired boiler (coal was inexpensive) and piped heating system under grilles in the floor. It simply made wearing the outdoor clothes more comfortable. In houses one suspects that the only cosy place was in the ingle that surrounded and provided a house for the fire, or in a bed pushed up against the chimney breast itself acting as a storage radiator, and surrounded by woollen hangings.

The reason for this is crucial to understand. Churches and stone traditional buildings have mass walling which behaves in a very similar way

to a cave. The inside of the Church or stone/brick farmhouse/cottage more or less retains a constant temperature internally and walls only heat slowly over a long period of time provided that a low constant heat is continually provided. Providing them with internal insulation may actually hinder this happening. By the same token they do not transfer heat from the sun readily in the summer and thus the interior remains cool, (which in traditional stone or brick houses with substantially thick wall is a great boon in the heat of summer). This is referred to as the thermal flywheel effect.

Thick stone or brick walls are both permeable (referred to as breathable) exchanging moisture with the external and internal environment, allowing any rain (which in all events does not penetrate except in the most exposed locations), ground source damp, and moisture generated by humans (breathing, boiling kettles/washing dishes/showers) to be evaporated both internally and externally. Thus anything which interferes with this is detrimental. They also operate as thermal stores, absorbing heat over time, and releasing it internally over a period of time. Insulation thus isolates the internal environment from the benefits of thermal mass. In strong sunlight, the thermal mass cools the interior by absorbing excess heat during the day and releasing it externally at night.

Winter in traditional buildings can be taxing if one does not understand how they perform. There is a



Church interior, Cregneash Folk Museum, Isle of Man



need to get a low constant gentle heat into the structure and retain it there. At today's prices for fuel it seems sensible not to try and do this in every room if the building is very large, although moist air created by modern living does travel into rooms that are not in use so that they must be ventilated on bright breezy days for at least a short time. It is a far better option to create a 'cosy zone' concentrating the constant gentle heat into the main rooms where living (the ever popular live-in kitchen) and sleeping take place.

The only way to get a low constant heat is by leaving any central heating system on a low level continuously, or by installing wood burning stove, or Rayburn/ Aga which traditionally have taken the place of the open fire in the ingle, by emulating its feature of retaining a heat source operating day and night in the winter months. Many traditional buildings have benefited by installing under-floor heating which has to operate in winter months 24/7 (and in Churches is massively destructive to the archaeology of the floor). This option in a Church is only viable if the Church is acting as a community centre during the day and housing shelter for the homeless in the evening/night. Thus this option is uneconomical for most Churches. The most effective method for religious services is to heat the people not the building with overhead radiant heaters. For some obscure reason most Churches have forgotten this simple fact.

If the congregation is very small, as would appear to be the case (very many Churches having a congregation of something in the region of 6-12 persons), then creating a 'cosy corner' would seem to be a possible option e.g. shutting off a transept or side aisle with a well designed screen and utilising a small altar in the winter period. Heating the people and not the walls would still be the answer. Weddings and funerals attracting large congregations even in very cold weather will occur and then the heating must be put on some time prior to the religious service.

A completely wild card suggestion possibly never tested with a Diocesan Advisory Committee is to create an internal 'pod' for the extremely cold winter months, again in an aisle or other suitable location, of a very temporary nature. Something as simple as a small demountable marquee with padded walls and roof slopes (but beware of materials that are not fireproof - SuperQuilt, a foil coated insulation has a Class E surface spread of flame certificate could be used for internal insulation of such a tent although it is not recommended for structures). Such a feature could be made very decorative externally with a

design reminiscent of a medieval military tent. More robust and permanent 'pod structures' can be considered but there is a dangerous zone of potential condensation between the (insulated internally) external face of the pod and the un-insulated internal wall of the building, which would need careful thought regarding ventilation. Condensation is to be strictly avoided.

**For windows** in all traditional buildings the obvious answer would appear to be secondary glazing but unfortunately this has problems in Churches, with occurrences of condensation within the space between the sacrosanct stained glass windows and the secondary glazing so that the saddle bars holding the lead-work of the former corrode which in turn cause the leaded panels to slump outwards. If secondary glazing in Churches has been refused ecclesiastical consent in the past, this may be the reason. It should be noted once again that any alteration that might cause condensation between window panes should be strictly avoided. It is infinitely better to leave decorative/leaded windows alone in Churches. Removing the windows and replacing with sealed units in domestic buildings needs very careful thought. Notwithstanding the loss of historic sashes or casements, the loss of handmade glass is an important factor. Many such windows of great antiquity have been destroyed only to be replaced with an option that lasts a mere ten years. In a domestic building internal shutters or heavy curtains will constitute a more viable option.

**Insulation is actually fraught with problems.** In traditional buildings of all kinds and definitely in Churches it absolutely must be vapour permeable so that warm moist air generated by modern usage (coffee mornings in Churches) is filtered out through the walls. The retrofit enthusiast's usual recourse to Celotex/Kingspan/ aka closed cell urethane, has no permeability, and causes such buildings to develop black mould in cold spots and make people ill with respiratory problems.

**Carole Ryan Ridout  
Historic Environment/Historic Buildings**

**References**

*Historic England Guidance Note- Energy Efficiency and Historic buildings – Insulating Solid Walls*  
*'Traditional Construction for a Sustainable Future', a SPON Technical Series publication published in 2011, written by Carole Ryan, author of all of the above.*

**Energy Policy and Implications to CPRE:  
Summary of conclusions by the Bridgnorth District Group**

We have been looking at the renewable energy developments based on a detailed report produced by CPRE member David Shannon, and below is our summary of his findings.

**The current position**

- 1. Ambitious CO<sub>2</sub> emission targets** are causing risk to security of energy supply.
- 2. Heavy reliance on North Sea oil and gas** where supplies will dwindle and result in greater need for supplies from Europe. Current Government policy proposes to award licences for new sites in the North Sea.
- 3. Nuclear generation suffered from lack of interest** and inconsistent attitude of Government and public. In 2020 nuclear power provided 16% of energy with the aim of raising it to 25 %. A need to replace old plants and create new ones but installation will be very costly and a need to seek assistance from foreign companies. Noted Rolls-Royce pursuit for Smaller Modular Reactors which would be cheaper, more easily installed and with greater flexibility than the traditional nuclear power stations.
- 4. Closure of coal-fired power stations** is a step in the right direction in the desire to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. *There is now greater emphasis on developing renewables energy.*
- 5. Party political pressure** has meant that the emphasis is no longer to concentrate just to expand on off-shore wind farms but to include on-shore ones. It is claimed that on-shore wind power is the cheapest renewable energy, but where is the evidence, and there is a need to know if this includes all related costs.
- 6. UK's global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2021 were just 1.1%.** Great need to influence/persuade massive

emission reductions by China (28%), USA (14%) and India (7%). The threat from China to global climate warming is its continued rapid development of more coal-fired power stations.

**7. There is the belief that the huge expansion of wind and solar power will transform energy systems,** but due to inconsistent supplies through weather variations the shortfall in supply at times will result in greater reliance on gas. Wind power currently provides about 26% of the UK electricity supply (off-shore 14% and on-shore 12%)

**8. At present solar farms produce 1.8% of UK energy supply.** There has been creditable national CPRE pressure to introduce more roof-top installations, and to point out the environmental and economic shortcomings of solar farms.

**9. Tidal and hydro-electric energy currently supplies 2.1% of power.** Tidal has the advantage of being regular and predictable, and could be developed as a vital source of energy. An example of hydro is the Rheidol Hydropower Plant near Aberystwyth, in existence for 60 years, that says it has the ability to generate power for 12,350 homes.

**Conclusion**

1. There is the need to consider all forms of renewable energy
2. Put emphasis on energy saving
3. A need to control and avoid obtrusive wind and solar farms that will harm the countryside.
4. Reconciling net zero and security with supply will remain a formidable challenge.

**Stella & David Voysey  
Bridgnorth District Group**

(c)Calum McGregor





The first hedge creation site this year was a windy, chilly upland farm in the Shropshire Hills AONB at White Grit



# Hedgerow Heroes project

CPRE Shropshire's hedgerow project is coming to the end of Phase 2 after an extremely busy Autumn and Winter. Here is a quick update.

### Hedge Creation

Whilst this newsletter goes to print we will be putting in the last few metres of hedgerow into the ground for this year having achieved our 5.5 kilometre target of new hedgerow. The 'Hedge-o-Meter' to the right shows progress since the end of November.

Planting on 25 hedge sites has been led by several people including Charlie Bell, George Sharp, Jenny Spelling, Rob Rowe, Justin Powell and Chris Parker and I would like to extend a huge thank you to them all for helping us realise our target this year with their dedication, care and ability to turn up in all weathers! Thanks too, to all volunteer planters who came along, some multiple times, to get the trees into the ground and to the two plant nurseries, Bucknell and Prees Heath who unerringly provided lovely quality trees and advice whenever sought. Thanks also of course to the landowners, many of whom provided refreshments and cover for hungry volunteers - and to Rob Rowe for being our steady mentor and adviser throughout. It really could not happen without everyone's input and help.

### Hedgelaying training

We have run 9 hedgelaying training workshops since November at sites in Telford, Much Wenlock, Whitchurch and Church Stretton (this one in partnership with the National Trust) with over 90

trainees learning the basics of this traditional country skill. We would like to thank Richard Clarke of Really Rural and Russell Critchley of Deadwood for being such fantastic tutors. We look forward to hearing how the trainees get on with their new found interest!

### Field Names workshop still to come!

This will take place in Clunton, South Shropshire on Thursday and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April - the final event of Phase 2. Let Sarah know if you would like to book a place on what is likely to be a really fascinating talk and follow-up walk (contact details on back page).

### Partnership working

One of the great things about this hedgerow project has been the chance CPRE has had to partner up with a number of other like-minded groups and agencies, some of whom have kindly funded part of our work too.

Our sincere thanks go to the Stepping Stones project (National Trust), Severn Rivers Trust, Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group, the Dormouse Group and Veolia for helping us fund extra hedge creation sites. We have also enjoyed partnering up with the Shropshire Hills AONB and Caring for Gods Acre on some of the plantings.

### Phase 3?

With the success of Phase 1 and 2 under our belt we have put in an application for Phase 3 of funding via CPRE National Office and we should know more on this in due course. But if all goes to plan we have more in store for next year, including more hedge creation, hedgelaying training, a 2-day hands-on coppicing workshop, hedgerow management workshops (looking at hedgerow management plans), creative hedgerow workshops (art/mark-making/creative writing) and we will work with the young videographer Robin Fellowes-Weir to create a story-based film on a Day in the Life of a Hedgelayer.

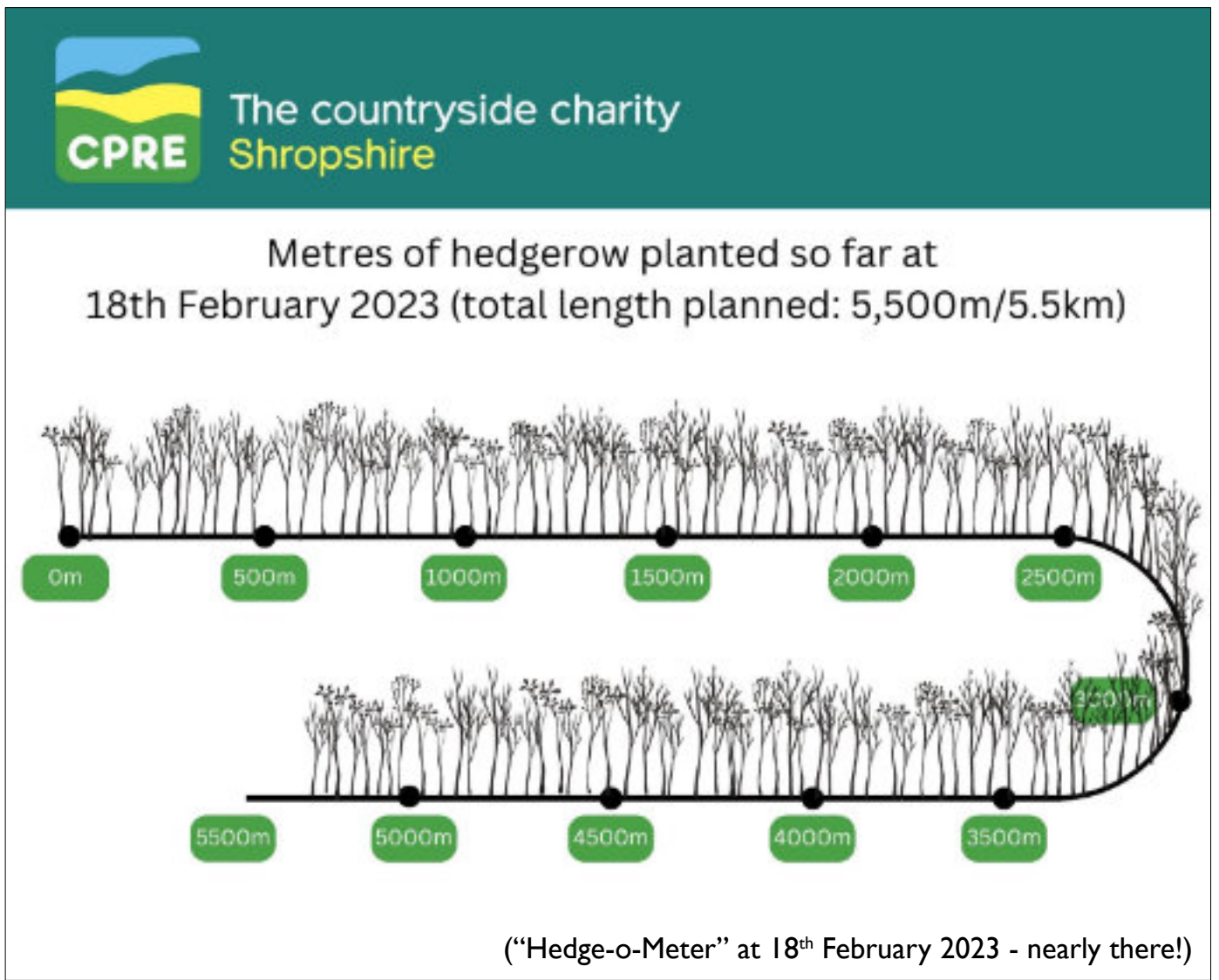
Fingers crossed now we will get our funding through!

As always, to keep up to date with the project, keep an eye on the website at [www.cpreshropshire.org.uk/hedgerow-project](http://www.cpreshropshire.org.uk/hedgerow-project)

**Sarah Jameson**  
Branch Manager & Hedgerow Heroes Project Co-ordinator



Getting them started early! A youngster all togged up and helping his Dad on the hedge we planted at Onibury in January.





# Calling all Shropshire Rock Hounds!

Birmingham has recently 'rediscovered' its Ice Age erratic boulders, first surveyed by the Rev Crosskeys in the 19th century all over the West Midlands. An exhibition at the Lapworth Museum at Birmingham University has displayed his collection of 600 personally collected samples from Ice Age boulders. These were somewhat revered in the Victorian era, to the extent of fencing some in, displaying them in parks and gardens and advertising their whereabouts in journals.

Recently, a small group of enthusiasts have devised a number of walking and cycling trails around the city and its environs to view the best erratics. Those in and around Birmingham mostly arrived from the Arenig mountains in mid Wales and date from the Woolstonian and Anglian Ice Ages (the most recent Devensian ice sheets, which finally disappeared only 10,000 years ago, didn't reach as far as the West Midlands). Wolverhampton by contrast, has many erratics traced to the granite mountain of Criffel in Galloway in southern Scotland, which must have come on an ice flow from the north, probably in a more recent Ice Age.

Now the researchers are keen to expand their search to Shropshire - which lies between the Arenigs and the West Midlands - to try and map more accurately when and whence our ice-derived rocks arrived. New geophysical techniques can identify the 'dumping' dates of ice-derived rocks quite accurately.

It is known that several different ice flows crossed the county at various times, some 'competing' and overlapping and merging, dropping their boulders as they melted.

A citizen science project to survey 'foreign' rocks in your area of the county could prove definitive? Of course, many of the large rocks we see around our fields and villages are likely to have come from quarries or brought in by man from different areas, and genuine local erratics may have become Roman roads, local agricultural buildings and walls. BUT it might be instructive to gather lots of photos of large boulders in your field edges and villages, knock off small shards and send them in to be identified by geologists, and their locations logged by GPS, or OS map coordinates. It is also instructive to just walk through ploughed fields in winter and inspect the array of rock types in 'field stones', as many will have

been dropped there with glacial debris and could indicate the origin. Most of the Birmingham erratics are volcanic 'tuff', readily identifiable and clearly from the Arenigs.

If you are interested in taking part in this endeavour, please indicate your interest to CPRE or to me (Sally Green at [whipplegw@outlook.com](mailto:whipplegw@outlook.com)) with your location in the county, so we can get a spread of areas. Places in the north of the county are more easily surveyed, as the bedrock is easily distinguished, being mostly bright red Triassic sandstones and yellow Liassic mudstones, but elsewhere it may be less easy to differentiate erratic from local rock, but still worth doing. A specimen is preferable, because lichens and weathering tend to disguise the identifiable features of a specimen. So, take a hammer on your walks ...!

The Birmingham group are keen to join forces and will use their professional geologists and experienced team to analyse the rocks. We just have to find them! So if your village has a millennium stone, that is likely to be an erratic. So, make 2023 the year we 'map our ice flows'!

**Sally Green**  
**CPRE Shropshire, Oswestry District**  
**See more on the Birmingham project here:**  
<https://erraticsproject.org>

## CPRE Shropshire contacts

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Join in:

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The countryside charity  
Shropshire