

4 October 2022

PRESS RELEASE: Flawed plan will trash our environment

CPRE Sussex condemns Growth Plan for failing to recognise the value of natural resources.

Environmental campaigners in Sussex have condemned the Government's Growth Plan for 'failing to recognise' the financial and societal value of natural resources.

CPRE Sussex said the plan, published by HM Treasury on September 23, made it clear the Government will revoke vital environmental laws.

These laws provide much-needed protection for at-risk and vulnerable wildlife and habitats of national and international importance.

CPRE Sussex trustee Dr Roger Smith said: "Succumbing to a flawed and unproven dogma, the authors of the plan would have it that these laws, and the protections they provide, are obstacles to economic growth, home ownership and the provision of new infrastructure, and must be removed 'to drive higher growth'."

Dr Smith said the Government is reneging on its previous pivotal commitment, made in response to *The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review*.

This included delivering a 'nature positive' future, in which we leave the environment in a better state than we left it, and ensuring economic decision-making supports the delivery of that future.

CPRE Sussex chairman Dan Osborn has today (October 4) written to Sussex MPs outlining how nurturing the environment will help the economy to grow.

He said: "Sustainable prosperity will not happen if the environment is not protected. The Government needs to be nature's friend not its declared enemy."

CPRE Sussex is calling on all Sussex residents to write similar letters to their local MPs.

Supporting documents and background information to help draft letters can be viewed at cpresussex.org.uk/news/dont-let-the-growth-plan-trash-our-natural-environment

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For press inquiries and interview opportunities contact sheena.journalism@gmail.com.

Notes for editors:

About CPRE Sussex

CPRE Sussex is shaping a greener future for Sussex. Our priorities are:

- Beautiful landscapes, rich in nature and greener towns and cities
- Countryside and green spaces which are accessible to all, enriching lives and health
- Sustainable development for thriving communities
- Effective responses to the climate emergency

We engage with decision makers, influencing them and challenging them to protect the Sussex countryside and green spaces. We inform on environmental issues and empower individuals and communities with robust evidence to defend and enhance the green spaces they love. We believe in collaborating with others to ensure a greener future for our county. We research and provide advice on planning issues. Together we can shape a greener future for Sussex.