



The countryside charity
Sussex

Looking ahead: the next year – and the next fifty years!

Paul Steedman, Director, CPRE Sussex

About me...



Lived in Sussex for nearly 20 years.

Masters degree in Leadership for Sustainable Development.

Professional background in policy and campaigning:

- consumer champion the National Consumer Council
- thinktank the Food Ethics Council
- environmental campaigners Friends of the Earth, involved in campaigns on energy, air pollution and saving our bees
- campaign director for Caroline Lucas's 2010 election as an MP

Former local councillor and planning committee member.

Keen cyclist, walker and birdwatcher – and a great supporter of Sussex's many fantastic pubs and brewers.



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50 years of *your* successes



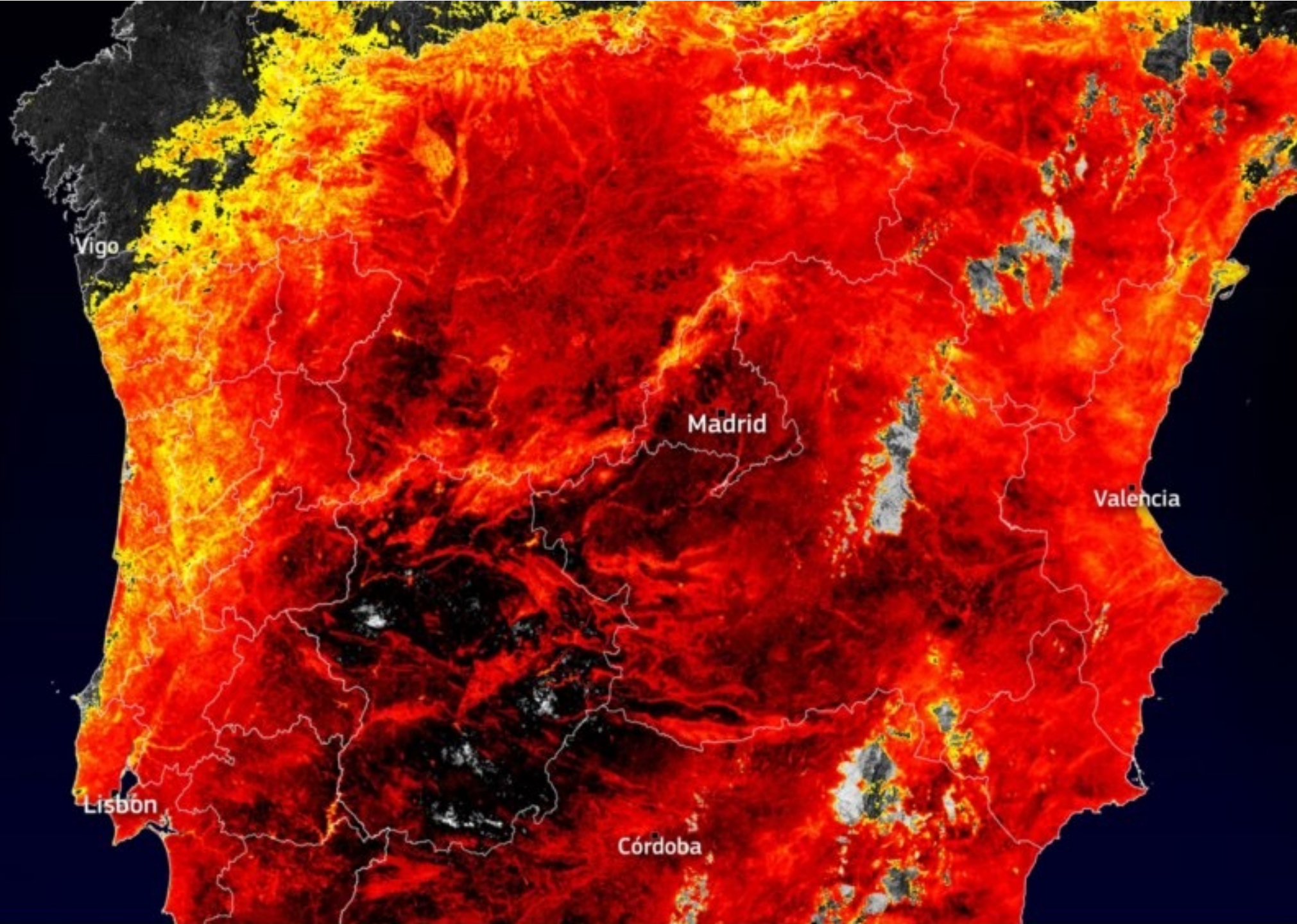
Where do we go next? Priorities looking to the next 50 years

Our purpose

To shape a greener future for us all,
we protect, celebrate and regenerate the
beautiful, thriving Sussex countryside



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Vigo

Madrid

Valencia

Lisbon

Córdoba

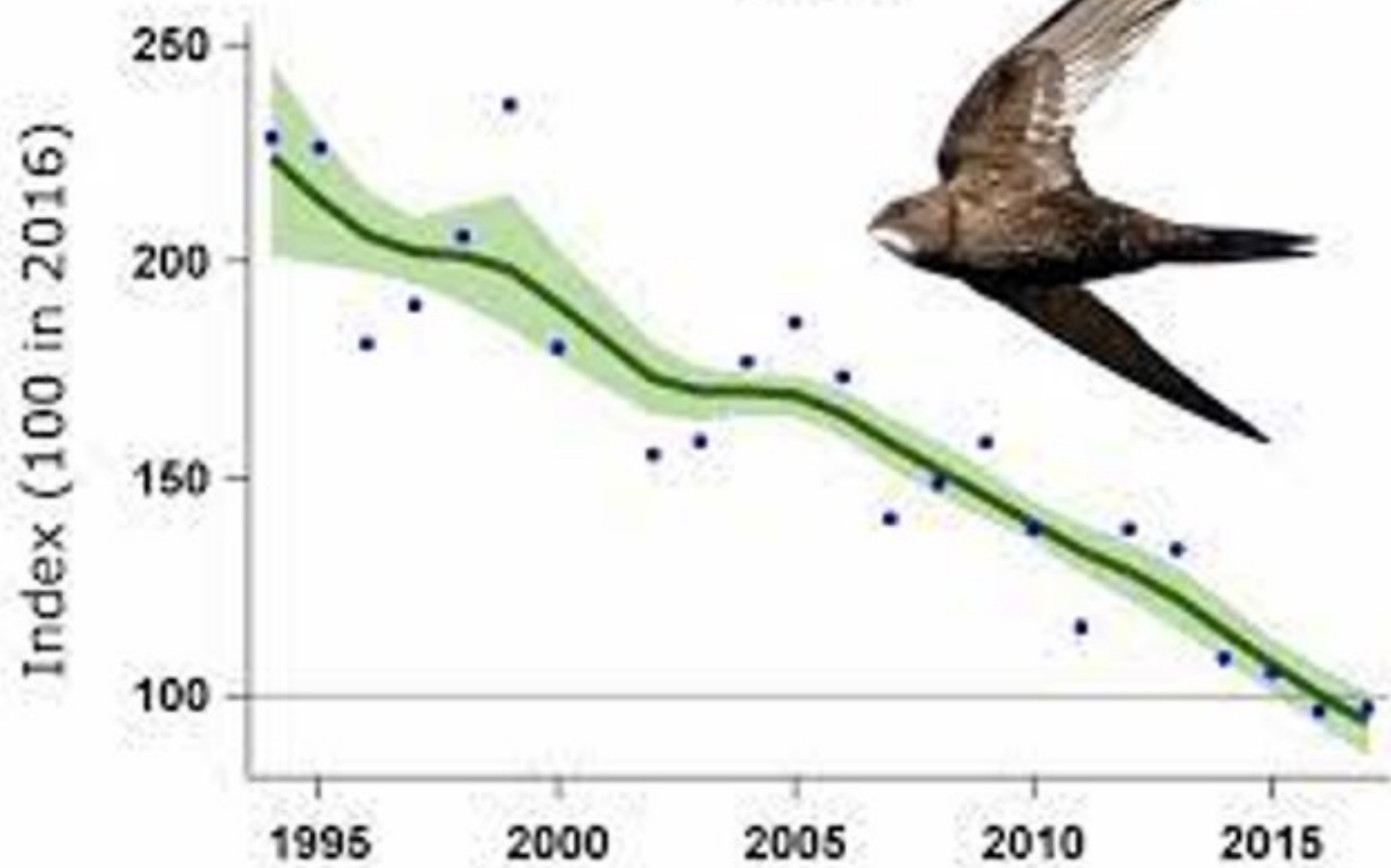
The English countryside can still feel off limits to people of colour. We are working to change that

Dan Guthrie



My grandparents moved to Stroud during the Windrush years. I'm proud to still be here, and to share a love of the outdoors

BBS UK 1994-2017
Swift



Rural Cost of Living Crisis



More than 75% of respondents said their household financial situation has got worse over the last year



More than a quarter of respondents said it is 'alot worse'

82% of those respondents making cut backs to save money, are saving on home heating

Rural residents are saving money by cutting back on travel by car by no longer travelling for leisure or social purposes.



For those without access to public transport this can leave them feeling isolated.



20%

Have no income left after essential spend or essentials exceed household income

A fifth of households where someone is earning less than £10 per hour have more than one job.

The Rural Services Network says the Government must overcome policy silos and develop an integrated strategy that recognises the multiple forms of disadvantage rural areas face.

www.rsnonline.org.uk

What does all this mean for us?





In any case, rushing to tackle climate change or the affordable housing crisis should mean *more and better* planning, not less...

The planning system was introduced by the postwar Labour government to mediate between different interests – local and national; long term and short term; social, economic and environmental – in the public interest. We need rapid growth in renewable energy to combat climate change, but must also tackle the nature crisis, gain public consent and protect beautiful landscapes as far as possible. Achieving these multiple ends will require more planning, not less.

- Shaun Spiers, Exec Director, Green Alliance, ex-CEO CPRE



Getting the beautiful, thriving Sussex countryside we want...

- Beautiful nature-rich landscapes, with nature-friendly farming
- A countryside where people can afford to live, with a thriving economy and the well-designed homes we actually need
- A carbon negative Sussex, adapted to deal with our changing climate
- Nature and green space near to, and accessible to, everyone
- Abundant clean, unpolluted water, air and land, dark night skies and tranquility



...means more people, taking more action!





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What have we been doing?

What's coming up?

Engaging on plans and applications

News

Charity opposes plans for holiday park in East Sussex village

Plans for up to 211 holiday lodges within the grounds of a private estate in East Sussex have been opposed by a charity.



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Influencing national planning policy

 GOV.UK

Menu



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> [Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy](#)



[Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities](#)

Closed consultation

Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy

Published 22 December 2022



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Rolling out national CPRE's rooftop solar campaign



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A rooftop solar revolution, for countryside and climate

[Find out more](#)



Commenting on water issues

News

Time to address 'flawed' water infrastructure, claim countryside campaigners

CPRE Sussex is calling on the Government, water companies and OFWAT to adopt an open, common-sense approach to tackle environmental and water capacity issues.



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New campaign on Gatwick expansion



6th July 2023



Contact us

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What we care about | Get involved | Awards | Discover your countryside |

News from your district | About us | Our Blog |



Sign the petition below – and then why not write to your MP using [this form](#).

Stop Gatwick expansion – no 2nd runway in a climate crisis

Target: Mark Harper, Secretary of State for Transport, UK Government



Gatwick Airport is planning a massive expansion. The company is planning to bring its 'emergency' runway into regular use - giving them a second runway, and thousands of extra flights a year, along with more road-building to get freight and passengers to the airport.

Yet this is absolutely incompatible with addressing the climate crisis, already bringing misery through drought, flooding and extreme weather events both locally in Sussex and across the world. This is on top of the noise, light and air pollution that airport expansion will damage the health and wellbeing of local residents, impact wildlife and further harm the

treasures of the countryside.

Supporting communities opposing new fossil fuels

Stop Oil Exploration in Balcombe, Sussex

by Frack Free Balcombe Residents Association



5

days to go

£25,373

pledged of £35,000 stretch target from 412 pledges



Pledge now



Bringing the countryside into the city

Planting Urban

Trees

'Filling the gaps' in our network

- 'Rebooting' our Brighton and Hove group – with more to follow
- Recruiting new volunteers to keep an eye on planning issues near to them – with an all-day training workshop on Aug 8th



New monthly e-newsletter (plus other digital kit!)



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Celebrating the countryside and reaching new audiences



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Countryside Day

Saturday 2nd September 10am – 4pm



Thank you!



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