

[View this email in your browser](#)



Dorset Climate Action Network - Newsletter Oct 2026



DCAN Newsletter - October 26

*Community-led action to cut carbon emissions,
adapt to our changing climate and restore nature across Dorset*

Bringing you the latest news and updates...



Dorset COP: How to impact Climate and Nature:

14 November at Kingston Maurward, near Dorchester

This year's Dorset COP, held during the same week as the international COP in Turkey, is focusing on leadership and how ordinary people can help communities adapt to the drastic changes climate change and nature loss will bring in the years immediately ahead.

Organised this year by DCAN in collaboration with Sustainable Dorset and Coastland College, it's a unique opportunity for community-led groups to share experiences, build networks and promote a common vision for tackling the environmental and climate crises.

"The theme, 'Making an impact on climate and the environment', will run through a packed programme covering rivers and beaches, nature recovery, community energy, climate-ready communities, sustainable agriculture, food resilience and Dorset's 'greenways'."

The day will feature over 20 separate workshops, talks and sessions, including energy planning, resilient gardens, 'flowscapes,' and the introduction of beavers into Dorset's rivers. A special 'Young Voices' session will follow the first Dorset Youth COP, taking place at Kingston Maurward the previous day.

The event will culminate in a BBC-style 'Question Time', with the public able to put questions directly to three Dorset MPs, the leaders of Dorset and BCP councils, and three independent climate experts, including General Nugee. [More....](#)

Dorset COP 2026 is open to everyone, with pre-registration essential. Tickets are available on a 'pay what you like' basis, with a suggested price of £10.

For tickets and information, visit <https://dorsetcop.info>



Event organisers: (l to r) DCAN chair Giles Watts, Coastland College's Martin Oliver, DCAN energy specialist Sam Wilberforce, Kingston Maurward principal Kate Wills, and Sustainable Dorset chair Jenny Morisetti.

2026 Programme has now been finalised (may be subject to some changes) click on image for larger image

Room	Entrance Hall & Common Room	Maurward Hall	Pengelly	Old Library	Whatmore	Coach House	Room	Lulworth (T10)	Durdle Door (T11)	Kimmeridge (T4)	West Bay (T3)	Chesil (T5)
Capacity		230	90	40	40		Capacity	30	25	25	25	20
Time	Ground Floor						2nd (Top) Floor					
08:00-08:15	Registration and refreshments						08:00-08:15					
08:30-09:15							08:30-09:15					
09:15-10:00							09:15-10:00					
10:00-12:00							10:00-11:00					



Mike Stephenson discussing his inverter.

Most of the homes require booking in advance. Visit a home near you - but plan your tours early. www.dorsetgreenerhomes.org
Another 10 homes are open all the year round by appointment.

The Great Big Dorset Hedge

John Calder, GBDH project manager, featured in a Down in Dorset podcast recently. Here he is explaining the huge benefits of hedges as 'linear forests', and the magnificent work of the GBDH team. (Listen especially from 26:30). [Apple Podcasts](#); [Spotify](#); [Website](#):

After a great September with lots of surveys completed, we start a new month with an ambitious amount of opportunities for everyone to get on a survey!

This month we have another couple of new farms to survey, mainly around the centre of the county and one very north.

The GBDH team continue to look at options for planting sessions over the winter season, so we should have some more information on that later in the autumn.

If you are interested in signing up as a Volunteer to complete surveys or winter planting please visit [HERE](#) for more information.

Mon 5th Oct Springwood Farm, Buckton Newton DT2 7DJ Helen	Tues 6th Oct BCP Bournemouth Greenspace BH8 0AJ Mel	Tues 6th Sept Mappercombe Farm Nettlecombe DT6 3SS Helen	Thurs 8th Oct Child Okeford House Child Okeford DT11 8DX Dirk	Thurs 8th Oct Canada Farm, Winterborne Stickland DT11 0LU Mel	Fri 9th Oct Manor Farm, Winterbourne Steepleton DT2 9LG Helen
Mon 12th Oct Cardsmill Farm, Whitchurch Canonorum DT6 6RP Helen	Tues 13th Oct Ewleaze Farm, Dorchester DT2 9JN Helen	Tues 13th Oct Abbey Ford Farm, Buckhorn Weston, SP8 5HR Dirk	Weds 14th Oct Longmoor Farm Partnership Gillingham SP8 5QW Dirk	Weds 14th Oct Herrington Farm, Herrington, DT2 9PU Mel	Thurs 15th Oct Minterne Estate, Minterne Magna, DT2 7AU Helen
Fri 16th Oct Mappercombe Farm Nettlecombe DT6 3SS Helen	Mon 19th Oct Minterne Estate, Minterne Magna, DT2 7AU Helen	Tues 20th Oct Abbey Ford Farm, Buckhorn Weston, SP8 5HR Dirk	Tues 20th Oct Canada Farm, Winterborne Stickland DT11 0LU Mel	Weds 21st Oct Herrington Farm, Herrington, DT2 9PU Mel	Weds 21st Oct Lower Barton Farm, Dorchester, DT2 7AJ Helen
Weds 21st Oct Abbey Ford Farm, Buckhorn Weston, SP8 5HR Dirk	Thurs 22nd Oct Home Farm, Little Durnford, Salisbury, SP4 6AH Dirk	Fri 23rd Oct Tonerspuddle Farm, Turners Puddle, DT2 7JA Mel	Fri 23rd Oct Mappercombe Farm Nettlecombe DT6 3SS Helen	Mon 26th Oct Ewleaze Farm, Dorchester DT2 9JN Helen	Tues 27th Oct Longmoor Farm Partnership Gillingham SP8 5QW Dirk
Tues 27th Oct Canada Farm, Winterborne Stickland DT11 0LU Mel	Weds 28th Oct Minterne Estate, Minterne Magna, DT2 7AU Helen	Weds 28th Oct Herrington Farm, Herrington, DT2 9PU Mel	Thurs 29th Oct Home Farm, Little Durnford, Salisbury, SP4 6AH Dirk	Thurs 29th Oct Mappercombe Farm Nettlecombe DT6 3SS Helen	Fri 30th Oct Abbey Ford Farm, Buckhorn Weston, SP8 5HR Dirk
Fri 30th Oct Tonerspuddle Farm, Turners Puddle, DT2 7JA Mel	Sat 31st Oct Canada Farm, Winterborne Stickland DT11 0LU Mel				

The Great Big Dorset Hedge Survey Schedule for October

Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience

If the extreme weather this year hasn't brought home the urgency of the need to recognise and adapt to climate change, then not much will.

With a record-breaking Super El Nino developing this year, we can expect an even hotter summer next year, and a very wet winter. You may look back at 2026 as the coolest summer of the rest of your life! Crop failures around the world are likely to raise food prices, and we will be reading stories of famine, floods and wildfires around the world in the coming year.

This is where Community resilience is so important, developing ways in which we can adapt to the new climate. We can build on much of the brilliant work done in our communities through volunteers and others.

DCAN is very excited to be invited to join the Dorset Climate Adaptation Steering Group. We would like you to consider putting yourself forward to join a DCAN working group on climate adaptation and developing community resilience, ready to support working groups on:

1. Built environment and communities
2. Land, nature and food
3. Infrastructure
4. Economy
5. Health

If you think you can contribute to one of these strands, please [contact us](#) with some background on your skills, experience and interests.

Read Cllr Belinda Bawden's article [here](#)



Among other inspiring and practical workshops at the Dorset COP, Dorset Council's Climate Adaptation team will be presenting a workshop on 'Climate ready communities: Building Dorset's resilience together'.

You could join the [The Great Collaboration](#) (TGC) for their the [weekly Banter sessions](#) every Wednesday at midday. TGC will be at Dorset COP and will be holding their AGM in Dorchester on 13 November.

Contact [Belinda](#) for further details.

Community Energy Projects

Loders Community Energy Project

This exciting project is investigating how a rural village with a highly constrained electricity supply might be able to decarbonise its energy supply and reduce bills for residents. The feasibility study, sponsored by the South West Net Zero Hub has narrowed down 5 potential renewable energy sites to two: a rooftop Solar PV array on the primary school plus another potential site close by.

The project has employed a specialist contractor to carry out the technical work and permission to apply for a grid connection has been granted by the owners of both

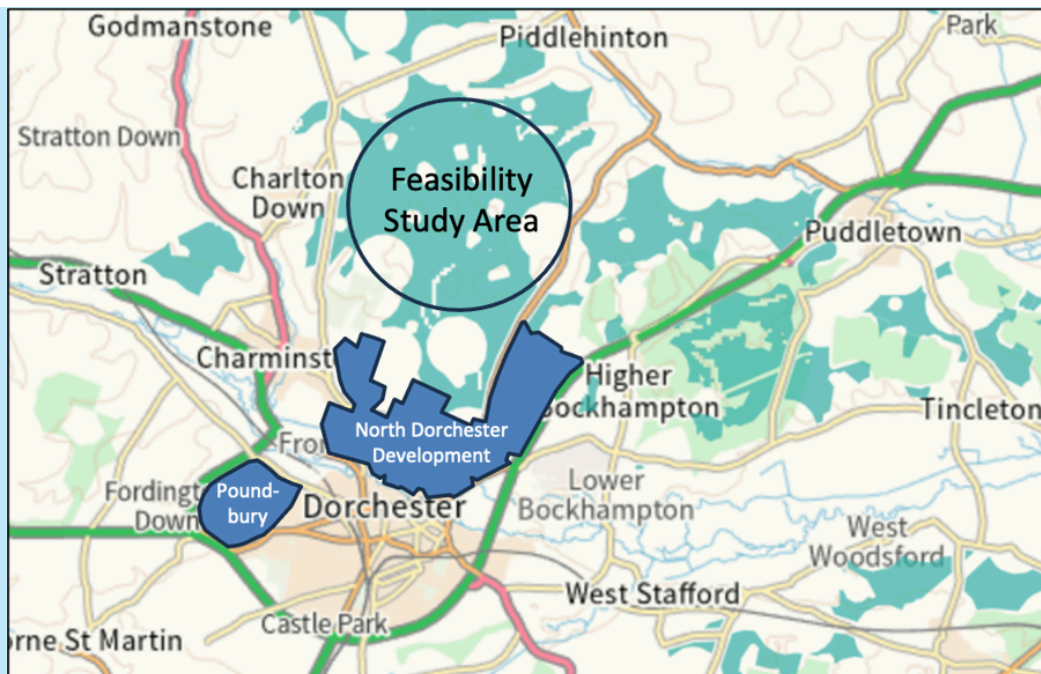
sites. The project will be completed by the end of the year when a decision will be taken whether there is a strong enough commercial case and enough support from the residents and site owners to continue to the next stage.



North Dorchester Windfarm Project

The feasibility project, also sponsored by the South West Net Zero Hub is being conducted as a collaboration between DCAN and Dorset Community Energy. The technical work is being carried out by Bristol-based Community Power Solutions. After a brief regional study looking at alternative locations, we have concentrated on a large site area North of Dorchester and southwest of Piddlehinton.

A number of technical alternatives are being considered to minimise the number of turbines and the visual appearance. The project is expected to complete in the spring of 2027 when we will make a decision whether to apply for Stage 2 funding.



Dorset Council Local Plan: Scoping consultation 2026

Dorset Council is preparing a new local plan. This 'scoping' stage focuses on identifying the issues the local plan should address, and how people would like to be involved in future consultations.

The local plan will guide how Dorset changes in the future and where new homes, jobs, infrastructure, community facilities and environmental improvements should happen.

We are asking questions about:

- what the local plan should cover
- its proposed vision and priorities
- how Dorset should grow
- the evidence needed to inform the plan
- how people should be involved

To read more and take part in the consultation please follow [this link](#).

NATURE: Public backs nature restoration to protect Britain from extreme weather, new polling reveals

A major national YouGov poll has found that 62 per cent of people believe the UK Government should invest more in nature restoration to address future extreme weather, and 74 per cent believe the government is not preparing the country well enough for such events.

Almost two-thirds of the public want the UK Government to invest more in nature restoration, according to the poll carried out by YouGov for Rewilding Britain. The poll, carried out online at the end of August, also showed that 74 per cent of people believe the UK Government is not preparing well for events such as flooding, droughts and heatwaves.

This compares with just 15 per cent of the public who think enough is being done already to address future extreme weather and only 3 per cent who want less to be done.

Richard Thomas

WILDLIFE: Shaftesbury becomes a Butterfly Friendly Town - official

Shaftesbury is now officially a Butterfly Friendly Town after the town council agreed at its September meeting to a request from its Sustainable Shaftesbury advisory committee (SuSAC) to support for an invitation from the charity Butterfly Conservation.

Shaftesbury joins Gillingham and Wimborne to become only the third town council in Dorset to win the BFT accolade.

Famously championed by TV naturalist Chris Packham, the national Dorset-based charity is campaigning to get town and parish councils all over the country to declare themselves 'butterfly friendly' to help turn back the dramatic reduction in butterfly numbers in the country.

Richard Thomas

Local screenings of the People's Emergency Briefing

See our screenings list for a full [up to date list of screenings in Dorset](#)

Check the NEB Screening map for further details - [National Emergency Briefing](#)

Dates for your Diary

- 10 October Planet Wimborne [Green Festival](#).
- 17-18 and 24-25 October [Dorset Greener Homes](#)

- 3 and 11 November Carbon Literacy for community groups & councils
- 13 November - Dorset Youth COP 26, Kingston Maurward
- 14 November - Dorset COP26 climate and nature conference Coastland College, Kingston Maurward campus.

To help us with a small donation

Donate Now

Please follow us on our socials



Dorset CAN
Climate Action Network

Copyright (C) 2026 DorsetCAN. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)