



DCAN Newsletter December 25

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

Bringing you the latest News and updates...

**We firstly want to say a huge Thank You to all who supported us in 2025
Wishing all our members and supporters a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

Editorial

Now for the serious bit...

Last month has seen the failure of another COP to tackle the climate crisis through reduction of fossil fuel use. As Jonathan Porritt commented, many young people have lost faith in “a roadmap to transition away from fossil fuels” on an intergovernmental level dominated by fossil fuel interests.

The floods in South East Asia have resulted in over 1100 deaths at the time of writing, while the political mood here is swinging against Net zero targets..

November also saw the National Emergency Briefing in Westminster Hall, where the top UK climate experts emphasised the urgency of action on climate change. Please find 25 minutes to watch [this summary video](#) of the talks, or visit the [NE website](#) for full details. It is not all bad news! Please [sign this letter](#) calling on Keir Starmer and public service broadcasters to hold an urgent televised national emergency briefing for the public, and to run a comprehensive public engagement campaign.

In a HOP (Help Our Planet) talk in Bridport, Bob Ward, Comms director at the Grantham Institute, addressed “Why should Dorset care about Net Zero, and what can and should we do about it?” You can view the slides of his presentation [here](#). He emphasised the urgency of cutting our emissions of greenhouse gases, and preparing our food production, flood prevention and housing for warm wetter winters and dryer hotter summers. If the AMOC ocean current, which drives the Gulf Stream, collapses then agriculture will be severely restricted in the UK (the last IPCC report had ‘medium confidence’ that this would not happen by 2100).

While the news can be disheartening, there is much good news about how we can fight climate change and biodiversity loss. Please join us in our campaigns.

The Great Big Dorset Hedge

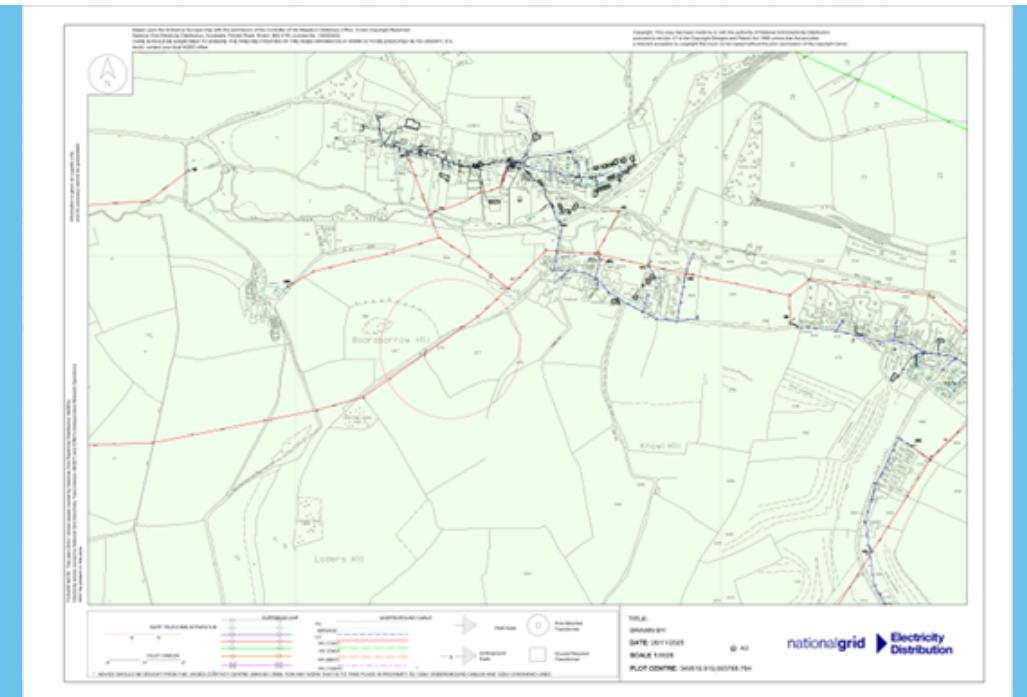
We have hedge planting projects scheduled every week running up to and beyond Christmas resulting from the hedge surveys we undertook over the past 3 years. The hopes are high that we will be planting a lot of hedges this winter - including, and especially, gapping up old hedges.



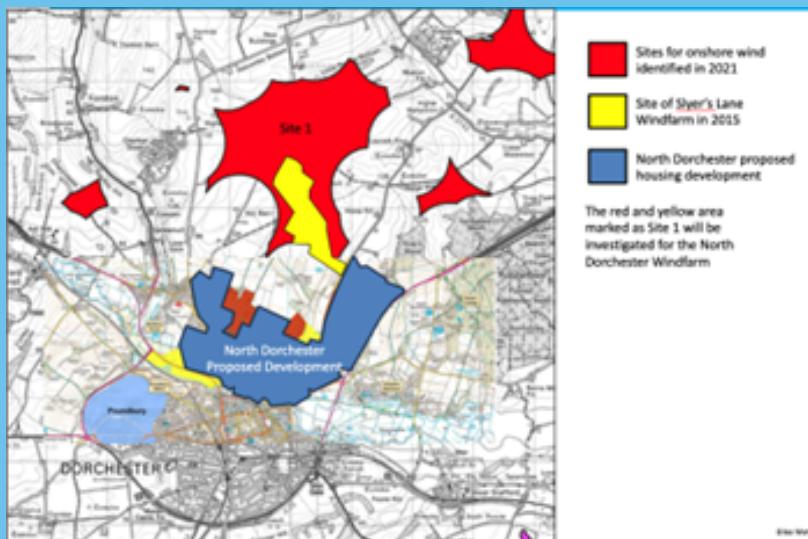
Low Carbon Neighbourhoods Update

Dorset Greener Homes is sending out a survey to everyone who has done some eco-improvements on their house, to get a list of trusted installers in Dorset. If you have had some green works on your home, (PV panels, Batteries, Heat pumps, Insulation) then please could you fill out the survey through [this link](#). It should take about 5 minutes. Thanks.

The **Loders Community Energy Feasibility Project** has been officially started with the signing of the Grant Funding Agreement. Two companies, Adept Management and IPV Flexgen are starting to look at the electrical grid constraints in the area and we are in discussion with NGED who are the local Electricity Network operator.



An application for funding the **North Dorchester Community Energy** Feasibility Project has been submitted to the SouthWest Net Zero Hub (SWNZH). The application is being considered and we will know the result by the end of January.



Green Martinstown's proposal for a community asset transfer of land to the North of the Village as part of their **Green Martinstown Community Project** has initially been turned down. This is very disappointing news and clarification is being sought from Dorset Council to see if there are grounds for review.

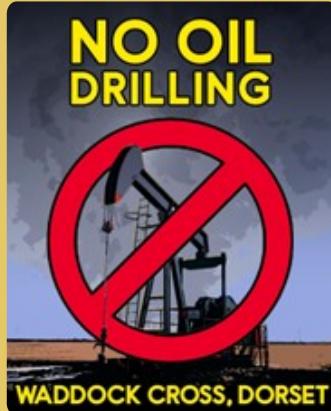


Dorset Council have announced plans for a 500MW **Solar Farm at Higher South Buckland Farm** near Chickerell. This project will be a joint venture between Dorset Council and Source Galileo on land which is part of the Dorset Council County Farms Estate. This collaboration would help towards Dorset Council's decarbonisation targets and help to generate long-term income for the council. View images [here](#)



Dial-up DCAN !

Dorset CAN has taken possession of the old phone kiosk in High West Street Dorchester and we are going to turn it into a showcase for DCAN's activities. If you would like to be part of the group deciding how to dress it up and what to put in it, please contact Tracey Cossey at Traceecossey@gmail.com.



Oil wells in Dorset at Waddock Cross

You might be surprised and horrified to learn that there's an application to drill for oil at Waddock Cross, east of Dorchester, with the prospect of over 500,000 tonnes of carbon being released as a result. At a time of looming climate catastrophe we need Dorset Council to turn this down. The decision is likely to be made in January and the deadline for comments is December 17. [Please read our briefing which](#) you can use as a basis to form your own objection. The briefing tells you how to submit it via the Dorset Council planning portal.

The Council needs to hear this is an issue of huge public interest and that we need to keep fossil fuels in the ground! Many thanks for your support in fighting this application.

Dorset CAN Strategy and Priorities Day in January

In our annual report, we look back at our year and take stock. The S&P day is looking forward, what our aims should be. This is a two-stage process, with a smaller group working on a five-year plan in December, including the key organisations we network with - Help and Kindness, Dorset Community Energy, Sustainable Dorset, Dorset Council, Net Zero Dorset and others.

We have sent out a request to take part in a one-minute one-question survey which you can take part in using this link:
[How can DCAN better support your organisation\(s\)?](#)

On 30 January, we will develop our priorities for the next year or two, work out how we can be most effective with our limited resources.

We would very much like to involve all of our members - if you get this newsletter, please save the date. Venue in Dorchester Town Hall.



Butterfly Conservation joins Shaftesbury's 'triples' campaign

Shaftesbury Town Council, in partnership with SuSAC, has joined a scheme led by Butterfly Conservation to make Shaftesbury a butterfly-friendly town. The Nature Friendly Town, Orchard Town and 'Green Wheel' ambitions are included in Shaftesbury's latest Neighbourhood Plan revision submitted to Dorset Council last month (Nov) and have been submitted to be part Dorset's recent Local Nature Recovery Strategy, Local Plan and Design Code consultations.

[More details](#)





Dorset CAN
Climate Action Network

Wishing our friends and supporters a Happy Christmas!

Please nominate us to win £1,000 today!





BENEFACT
GROUP

Please help us win £1000 for our charity by nominating us using the link below:

[Vote for DorsetCAN to give us a chance to win £1000 of funding](#)

Nominations are open until 15th December!

Dates for your Diary

- Dorchester Christmas Cracker - 14 December 10:00 - 4:00. Come and find our stall under the green gazebo.
- 30 Jan 2026 TBC DCAN Strategy and Priorities Day.

More details of these events will be available on the [events page](#) of our website
If you would like to be involved, please [email us](#).

Help us with a small donation - Follow this link

[Donate Now](#)



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