

Celebrating 100 years
Involving the next generation in our work to protect and enhance the Hampshire Countryside

CPRE Hampshire 2026

100 YEARS CPRE Campaign to Protect Rural England Hampshire

www.cprehampshire.org.uk
Registered charity number: 1164410

THE LINBURY TRUST

COMMUNITY FUND

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK



Introducing CPRE Hampshire

- Founded in 1926, CPRE is a national charity that campaigns to promote, enhance and protect a thriving countryside
- CPRE Hampshire is a branch of CPRE National

Our Priorities



The Hampshire Hedge

Our flagship restoration project. 52% of hedgerows gone in the last 80 years. We planted 16.2km connecting National Parks from 2023-26.



Planning

Helping shape the system by prioritising affordable housing, giving brownfield-first some teeth, protecting the green belt, encouraging rooftop solar & strategic land use.



Magnificent Meadows

Connecting communities with traditional meadow management. Started in Winchester, now expanded to Basingstoke and Andover.



Events

Engaging people of all ages, including younger generations. Free guided walks, meadow sessions, talks and our Creative Countryside Day.

Engaging young people in our Centenary Year

In 2026, CPRE Hampshire set a goal to engage more young people during our centenary year to protect and enhance Hampshire's countryside.

We did this through engaging young people in our project work:

- Hampshire Hedge Project
- Magnificient Meadows Project
- Centenary Projects



Key Achievements in 2026

- Trained 6 young people as hedge layers on our 5 month hedge-laying traineeship programme
- Had 2 work placement students from Sparsholt College join us for six-week placements
- Worked with 13 primary and secondary schools across Hampshire as part of our Hedgerow Heroes project
- Worked with 2 local schools with our Meadows project
- Ran bespoke meadow sessions for 3 young person groups in Winchester as part of our meadows project
- Held two countryside events with a focus on young people and families .
- Took part in a national Hedgentines event designed by young people, for young people.

> "I had an amazing time at Creative Countryside Day. I dragged my teens along and they were the last to leave! … The day was just delightful – so relaxed and inclusive that you felt really able to enjoy the crafts."
>
> - Participant at Creative Countryside Day 2026



Young Hedgerow Heroes

Youngwilders ‘Hedgentines’ hedge planting day

SAT 21 FEB

SANDY LANE, ROMSEY

25 AGE 18-30



Hedgentines Day was a love declaration from young people (18-30) to nature - more specifically, to the beautiful hedges that help prevent soil erosion, tackle climate change and improve local biodiversity.

In Hampshire, 25 young people came together to plant new hedgerow. Combined with events on the same day in Cheshire and Kent, over 600 metres of new hedgerow was laid across three farmland sites.

This event was a partnership project between CPRE and Young Wilders, as part of CPRE’s Hedgerow Heroes project.

Youngwilders seek to accelerate youth-led nature recovery projects in the UK. They aim to remove barriers that stop young people from attending events in the countryside. Attendees carpool from train stations and can get the cost of their train or bus ticket reimbursed.

> Today was lovely. It's a real community and it's been really nice to see how people can make a difference quite quickly and easily.
>
> - Hedgentines Day participant

Our hedge-laying traineeships

NOV 23-
MAR 26

NATIONWIDE

12
AGE 18-30



Our hedge-laying traineeships were set up to equip young people with the skills needed to become a professional hedge layer.

With funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, across three years 12 young people had the chance to train alongside a professional hedge layer for five months each.

The results have been amazing:

- All 12 trainees passed their bronze level Lantra qualification in hedge laying
- 4 trainees taken on permanently by their trainer
- 2 trainees have become self-employed hedge layers
- 2 trainees have got jobs in conservation management
- 1 trainee has followed a career in forestry

There has been lots of interest in replicating this scheme and we hope to run another traineeship in Hampshire in 2026/27.

> The CPRE Hampshire hedge laying traineeship was pivotal in facilitating my entry into a profession where finding your feet can otherwise be difficult. The experience of working full-time in the trade was invaluable, giving me the foundation and opportunity to secure a subsequent season of work. Just as importantly, it introduced me to two fantastic colleagues who have since become great friends. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity and the lasting impact it will have on my working life.
>
> - Josh, Hedge laying Trainee 2025/26

Hedgerow Heroes in the classroom

NOV 23-
MAR 26

HAMPSHIRE
SCHOOLS

30
SCHOOLS



Over the last three years, we have worked with over 30 schools with our Hampshire Hedge project. These have ranged from preschools to large comprehensives. The majority of our work has been with Hampshire primary schools.

We have developed KS1 and KS2 learning resources for schools to use around hedgerows. We offer schools bespoke lessons, weaving work on hedgerows into a variety of topics.

We give each school their own Hedgerow Kit Bag with learning resources and a book ‘The Happy Hedgehog’ to use with their childen.

We run school assemblies on hedgerows.

Where possible, we plant a hedge in the school grounds that the children can look after.

> Thank you for the session Katie ran with our Year 2 children a couple of weeks ago. It's clear from recent sessions I've had with the children that they learned a lot from your visit. The work you did with them fitted really well with their work on habitats and has further enriched the outdoor learning we do here. In particular, while we were doing some birdwatching last week, many children were looking for sparrowhawks and explaining to me the importance of hedgerows for small mammals to escape becoming sparrowhawk prey. I also know the staff learned a thing or two about hedgerows too!"
>
> - North Baddesley Primary School

Sparsholt College & University Centre

MAR 23-ONGOING

SPARSHOLT COLLEGE , WINCHESTER

100 + AGE 18-21





UNIVERSITY CENTRE SPARSHOLT

Sparsholt College & University is a leading specialist land-based college in Hampshire. CPRE Hampshire has also been based there since 2022.

We have developed good links with the college and collaborated on a number of initiatives:

- We have had 4 work placement students from the Wildlife & Ecology Course join CPRE Hampshire for six-week placements
- Lectures on project management. Our Hampshire Hedge project has been used as a real case study. Students attended the launch event in November 2023 and have had lessons and practical sessions associated with the project
- We organised a pollinator workshop with pollinator specialist Steve Bolton. Two students attended the session at Cowslip Field, which is a site we manage using traditional meadow management practices
- A tutor attended a full day of traditional meadow management with us at Winchester Leisure Centre on 16 July. As a result, they signed up for scything training next year and are keen for more of their students to be involved with our Magnificent Meadows project moving forward.

> Wildflower meadows are so important – I grew up with meadow management and it's an art that's been lost. Getting out and doing practical meadow management has been great to get involved with.
>
> - Sparsholt College student



Magnificent Meadows

Winchester Explorer Scouts

MON 6 JULY

COWSLIP FIELD & LEISURE CENTRE, WINCHESTER

21
AGE 14-17





Explorer Scouts are part of the Scout movement, for young people aged 14 to 18 who take the lead on outdoor adventures, community projects, and international expeditions.

We were joined by members of one of Winchester District's Explorer Scout groups at Cowslip Field, then took them to our Leisure Centre site.

ACTIVITIES

Flower and plant ID session, seed collecting, scythe demonstration, grass bookmark making, guided walk to a new receptor site to spread seed

> Thank you so much for hosting our Explorers ... they had a lovely evening and the leaders enjoyed it as much as the young people. We really appreciate the effort you put into organising the activities.
>
> - Winchester Explorer Scout Group leader

Winchester Youth Counselling

THURS
16 JULY

COWSLIP FIELD,
WINCHESTER

6
AGE 11-25



Winchester Youth Counselling is a charity that provides free, confidential mental health and therapeutic support for young people aged 11 to 25 living in Hampshire.

We have worked with the charity to plant hedgerows at some of the sites they use and this year the young people they work with came out to our meadow sites.

It was very hot during this session, so numbers were lower than expected. We created a safe space in the meadow and provided a balance of quiet individual and group activities.

In 2024 the charity won the ‘Health & Wellbeing Category’ of our Countryside Awards

ACTIVITIES

- Hedge activities: Hedge Planting
- Meadow activities: Seed collecting and spreading, creating a meadow collage with different grasses, bookmark making, meadow sound mapping.

Parents for Future Winchester

MON 27 JULY

COWSLIP FIELD, WINCHESTER

25 AGE 4-11





Parents for Future Winchester is a family friendly local group where parents and carers meet to connect and take practical climate action for the future of their children.

We were joined by a group including 23 children age 4-6 and a number of 11 year olds.

ACTIVITIES

Seed collecting and spreading, theatre to explain plant biology, meadow collage with different grasses, bookmark making and cyanotype printing.

> Just to say a huge thanks for Monday - we all absolutely loved it. I really appreciate the effort you put into it.
>
> - A parent member of Parents for Future

Creative Countryside Day

SAT 22 AUG

TILEFIELD NATURE, BROCKENHURST

60
AGE 3 - 18





Tilefield Nature

We hosted a Creative Countryside Day, together with Tilefield Nature, to bring together art, nature and outdoor activities for visitors of all ages. The event, which was free for under-14s, included drop-in activities and bookable artist-led workshops.

Parents, grandparents and children were among those taking part, with the event helping make the countryside accessible across generations.

ACTIVITIES

Leaf printing, pollinator poetry, nature journalling, minibeast activities, clay tile making, foraging, nature puppets (mix of drop-in and pre-bookable workshops)

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>
> - Creative Countryside day attendee

Creative Countryside Day















Milestones Museum Meadow Sessions

1 - 2 SEPT

MILESTONES MUSEUM, BASINGSTOKE

177
AGE 3 - 15



We held a free event, open to the public, outdoors at Milestones Museum, Basingstoke. It was aimed at families and young children at the tail end of the summer holidays.

We worked in partnership with Natural Basingstoke, who we have been working with since the start of 2026 to support traditional meadow management in the area, and 'Cutting and Sticking Kids' who delivered craft sessions. Our meadows specialist Rachel Remnant also joined us on day one, demonstrating traditional meadow management through controlled scything demos and Austrian scythe maintenance.

The event was extremely popular, drawing around 177 people across the two days. Some families from day one returned again the next day.

ACTIVITIES

Nature-based crafts, guided bug hunts, making bug hotels with natural materials, meadow management demo.

> Thanks for such a great learning experience and opportunity today! ... What a fantastic day!! We are still buzzing from all that learning - I can't believe we saw a devil's coach horse beetle!!
>
> - Milestones Museum participant, day one

Milestones Museum Meadow Sessions













The future

Our youth engagement project in 2026 has clearly demonstrated that young people of all ages can be inspired by and connect with nature if given the opportunity. They are not only keen to connect with nature but want a real role in its' future. There is a huge demand for green jobs, along with working and volunteering in conservation management.

The feedback from the different events has been extremely positive and encouraging.

We hope to build on this year's successes, reconnecting with some of the same groups and holding engagement events with them next year, as well as expanding to new groups of young people across Hampshire.

We would welcome being part of a bigger project across Hampshire and love to work with organisations such as Young Wilders, Winchester Youth Counselling, Winchester Scouts and Sparsholt College.

Access to nature on people's doorsteps is extremely important. By linking with locally-based projects like Magnificient Meadows and the Hampshire Hedge, young people can build confidence and get involved without having to travel far.

Involving parents, youth leaders, teachers and young people themselves in developing a wider programme will be essential for success.

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