

Middle Marches Community Land Trust – POST CONFERENCE REPORT

VERGES, DITCHES & HEDGES

The importance of these features in our Shropshire Landscape

Friday 18th November 2022



Middle Marches Community Land Trust brought together delegates from across a diverse community across Shropshire and beyond from as far away as Transport for London!

Participants include large estate owners, woodland managers, small holders and farmers all able to network with environmentalists, conservationists, wildlife experts and ecologists.

We were delighted that the conference attracted 120 delegates and was oversubscribed all indicating the high level of interest and expertise available across Shropshire and beyond.

Delegate feedback was very positive see link below.

Thanks to Charlie Bell, National Trust, for her independent analysis of feedback forms post conference and

comments are still welcome to help us plan for future events email:

info@middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk

[Link to conference feedback here.](#)

[Programme and speaker biographies here.](#)

Website information here:

<https://middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/verges-ditches-hedges-conference/>

Web links to speaker presentations (PowerPoint slides) or their websites

Verges, Ditches & Hedges conference are below.

1) Pete Lambert, Head of Land and Water, Shropshire Wildlife Trust

[Wild Waterways, Drains and Ditches \(5.5MB\)](#)



2) Dr Phil Sterling, FCIEEM

[Verge management: how councils can save money and increase wildlife \(15.5MB\)](#)



3) Nigel Adams, website: www.nigeladamscountrysidemanagement.co.uk

You Tube : www.youtube.com/watch?v=8e0bgTPBxQA



We are hoping to have follow up workshops with Nigel. See you tube film and website.

4) **Simon Cooter & Rob Rowe**
[Hedgerow surveys in the Stepping Stones area \(5.8MB\)](#)



5) **Alex Wilcox-Brook, Severn Wye**
[Utilisation of Roadside Verge Arisings \(2.4MB\)](#)



6) **Andy Wilde – Shropshire Highways**
[Maintaining Shropshire's Verges \(376KB\)](#)



2023 events programme

Middle Marches Community Land Trust are planning further events in 2023 so if you haven't already done so and wish to be first in line to receive information from us, please consider joining our mailing list (**FREE**) or better still become a shareholder (**£50 for lifelong membership – a bargain!**) -

<https://middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/>

Further information

- Catering provided by The Gourmet Food Shop (Church Stretton)

www.thegourmetfoodshop.com

Organisations who attended on the day with stalls included:

- Marches Meadow Group
www.marchesmeadowgroup.com/
- CPRE Shropshire Hedgerow Heroes
www.cpreshropshire.org.uk/hedgerow-project
- WI – Shropshire Climate Committee
<https://shropshire.thewi.org.uk/>
<https://www.wi-shropshire.co.uk/whos-who/federation-teams/climate>
- National Trust Stepping Stones project
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/shropshire-staffordshire/carding-mill-valley-and-the-long-mynd/stepping-stones-project-at-carding-mill-valley
- Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project
<https://middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/restoring-shropshire-road-verges/>
- Shropshire Hills AONB Farming in Protected Landscapes
www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/help-to-look-after/farming-in-protected-landscapes
- Kate Chitham Artist Hedge stall
www.katechithamfineart.co.uk/

Many thanks indeed to our sponsors:

Green Recovery Challenge Fund
Restoring Shropshire Verges Project
Stepping Stones project (National Trust)
Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership
CPRE Shropshire, the countryside charity
Natural England

Green Recovery Challenge Fund



The
National Lottery
Heritage Fund



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