

UK and Chile urge countries to take ambitious action on climate change

COP26 President Designate Alok Sharma and COP25 President Caroline Schmidt urging countries to come together to tackle climate change

Speaking during the week of the [United Nations General Assembly](#), COP26 President Designate Alok Sharma and COP25 President Carolina Schmidt urged countries to come together to tackle climate change.

The COP26 President Designate also highlighted an invitation to world leaders to attend a special virtual event on 12 December, the five-year anniversary of the Paris Agreement, to come forward with new ambitious commitments.

The COP25 President urged all countries to step up climate action by delivering more ambitious NDCs, adaptation plans, climate finance pledges and long-term strategies to net zero, as soon as possible.

Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing project granted development consent

Press release

Today, Thursday 24 September 2020, the application for the proposed Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing has been granted development consent by the Secretary of State for Transport.



Development consent has been given for the construction of a new highway crossing of River Yare, Great Yarmouth, connecting Harfrey's Roundabout to the west of the River Yare with South Denes Road to the east of the River Yare.

The application was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by Norfolk County Council on the 30 April 2019 and accepted for examination on 28 May 2019. Following an examination during which the Applicant, Statutory Consultees and Interested Parties were given the opportunity to provide evidence to the Examining Authority, a recommendation was made to the Secretary of State on 24 June 2020. This is the 94th nationally significant infrastructure project and the 33rd transport project to have been examined by the Planning Inspectorate.

The Planning Inspectorate's Chief Executive, Sarah Richards said:

The Planning Inspectorate has again demonstrated its ability to examine Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) within timescales laid down in the Planning Act 2008 providing developers and investors with the confidence to build and improve the infrastructure this country needs to secure future economic growth.

The decision, the recommendation made by the Examining Authority to the Secretary of State and the evidence considered by the Examining Authority in reaching its recommendation is publicly available on the [National Infrastructure Planning website](#).

ENDS

Journalists wanting further information should contact the Planning Inspectorate Press Office, on: 0303 444 5004 or 0303 444 5005 or email: Press.office@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Notes to editors:

The Planning Inspectorate, [National Infrastructure Programme of Projects](#) details the proposals which are anticipated to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as applications in the coming months.

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[Commission seeks new trustees at Sikh Channel charity](#)

Press release

The Charity Commission is seeking to appoint new trustees to the Sikh Channel Community Broadcasting Company Limited.



The Charity Commission is seeking to appoint new trustees to the [Sikh Channel Community Broadcasting Company Limited](#) (charity number 1136163).

The charity was established to advance the religious and charitable work of the Sikh religion and community. This work includes broadcasting via the Sikh Channel. The charity is subject to an [ongoing statutory inquiry](#).

To progress its inquiry and address the misconduct and/or mismanagement in the charity's administration, the Commission is seeking to appoint additional trustees to the charity.

The Commission is inviting applications particularly from those with experience in broadcasting, finance, and/or charity fundraising and governance. As the charity is based in Birmingham and exists to advance the Sikh faith, the Commission is also interested to hear from those in or close to Birmingham and familiar with the Sikh faith.

The Commission appointed an Interim Manager to take over the management and administration of the charity to the exclusion of its trustees in March this year. The trustees of the charity challenged this decision and on 31 July 2020 the [charity tribunal](#) quashed the Commission's appointment of the Interim Manager. The Commission's intention is therefore to pursue the alternative approach of appointing new trustees.

Applicants should submit a cover letter and CV to sikhchanneltrustees@charitycommission.gov.uk by 16 October 2020.

The Commission's inquiry continues.

Ends.

Notes to editors:

- The Commission would encourage anyone interested in applying to read its [Trustee Welcome Pack](#), which explain being a charity trustee entails and includes links to key guidance for charity trustees.

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Maxine Mayhew appointed to Low Carbon Contracts Company and Electricity Settlements Company

News story

Maxine Mayhew has been appointed Senior Independent Director of arm's length bodies, Low Carbon Contracts Company and Electricity Settlements Company.



Maxine Mayhew has been appointed as Senior Independent Director of the Low Carbon Contracts Company (LCCC) and the Electricity Settlements Company (ESC).

Dr Maxine Mayhew is MD Natural Resources for Costain, the smart infrastructure solutions company, where she is responsible for the profit and loss (P&L) delivery and continued development of the energy, water and defence markets along with the delivery of the consultancy capability for the group. Previously she was Group Commercial Director at Northumbrian Water Limited where she was responsible for supply chain and marketing functions as well as leading the sourcing, negotiation and delivery of high value commercial contracts and the group energy strategy development and deployment.

Maxine completed a PhD in 1998 and has held a variety of roles in the water industry. During recent years Maxine has focused on commercial leadership and strategy development and implementation and she has held director roles which have covered all aspects of the industry from operations and engineering, through to support services including health, safety, risk, security, procurement and marketing.

She is also an independent member of the Cranfield University Council and a Non-Executive Director at Karbon Homes.

This appointment has been made in accordance with guidance issued by the

Commissioner for Public Appointments.

The LCCC and ESC are arm's length bodies established by the government in 2014 to deliver Contracts for Difference (CfD) and the Capacity Market (CM) schemes. The schemes are designed to incentivise the investment required to transform our electricity infrastructure to deliver clean and reliable electricity supplies, whilst minimising costs to customers.

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Environment Secretary speech on biodiversity: 24 September 2020

I would like to thank Minister Huang and Vice-Minister Luo for hosting this important discussion.

I am pleased to speak to you on behalf of the UK about how we can increase the pace of action to help nature recover.

When we destroy nature, we undermine our very foundations. That is why the UK Government is committed to building back better and greener as we recover from the Coronavirus pandemic.

The scale of biodiversity loss is clear.

By the time I finish speaking, the world will have lost forever forest land equivalent to 150 football pitches.

Reports published this month show that populations of animals have declined by two thirds in my lifetime.

So we need to work together to stem the tide of loss. And all of us can make a difference. At next year's conferences in Kunming and Glasgow, we have the opportunity to bring the world together to commit to reversing biodiversity loss, and to make protecting and conserving nature part of tackling climate change and poverty too.

I am pleased that Minister Huang has agreed with my colleague Alok Sharma, the UN climate COP President Designate, that our two countries should work together as incoming presidents for ambitious, integrated outcomes at both summits.

One of the ways we have committed to doing this is by making 'nature' a major theme of the climate COP in Glasgow.

We are determined to secure international action to tackle biodiversity loss,

and will channel finance into the nature-based solutions that could provide a third of the cost-effective climate change mitigation we need – while helping people adapt to become more resilient. We are committed to the adoption of an ambitious post 2020 global biodiversity framework at COP-15, and the UK Government is asking other governments to bring ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions under the UNFCCC.

And the UK welcomes China's announcement this week on achieving carbon neutrality before 2060 and enhancing its own NDC – so we look forward to hearing more and to working together. Action for nature must also be ambitious.

And we must also put our words into action – and in this area the UK is keen to play its part, both at home and around the world.

We have been working with other nations to create a bold 'Leaders' Pledge for Nature' which commits countries to take ten urgent actions to put biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030.

And I look forward to working with countries around the world to make good on the Pledge's commitments. The UK will be spending more of our International Climate Finance on nature – and we encourage others to do the same.

We are committed to ocean health, and we will establish a £500 million Blue Planet Fund. The ocean supports the livelihoods of one in every ten people, including some of the poorest and most vulnerable worldwide.

So a quarter of our waters are protected, and we are on course to protect an area the size of India around the UK Overseas Territories.

30 countries have already signed up to a UK-led Global Ocean Alliance of countries committed to protecting at least 30% of the ocean in Marine Protected Areas by 2030.

On land, forests are home to 80% of biodiversity. Yet the scale of global deforestation makes it a leading cause of global emissions.

Through the Just Rural Transition, we are helping communities around the world shift towards sustainability. And in the UK, we are replacing destructive agricultural subsidies with a system that rewards environmental stewardship – and encouraging other countries to do similarly.

In the UK, we are also setting environmental targets to accelerate action to improve the state of UK nature and help us make progress towards our commitment to reach net zero by 2050.

And we are committed to shrinking our environmental footprint beyond our shores.

So we are consulting on legislation requiring larger businesses operating in the UK to carry out due diligence on forest risk commodities in their supply chains, to show that they were produced in line with local laws.

And I commend China for taking steps to exclude illegal forest products from its supply chains. In conclusion, at COP26, we want to convene a global government-to-government initiative on sustainable land-use and trade in forest and agricultural commodities between producer and consumer countries.

The first regional events will be held in October and it would be great if China participates.

We encourage every nation to put nature at the core of their recoveries now and to agree an ambitious post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework underpinned by robust implementation and accountability mechanisms.

The UK and China have key roles to play in making 2021 the turning point in our relationship with the natural world – for the sake of every generation to come.

And I hope you will all join us.

Thank you.