



National
Trust

BBC Countryfile Live National Trust Theatre

The hot topics in many fields

Thursday 2 August 2018

11.00 – 11.15

Official opening of the National Trust Theatre

We open proceedings with Hilary McGrady, Director General of the National Trust, and Michael Gove, Secretary of the State for the Environment.

11.15 – 12.15

The future of farming in the UK

Hilary McGrady and Michael Gove are joined onstage by Minette Batters, the President of the National Farmers' Union. Our speakers look at how key upcoming events could affect UK farmers and the British countryside. For example, what will replace the Common Agricultural Policy post-Brexit? And how can we make sure farmers are properly equipped to meet challenges like market forces, demanding retailers, or falling incomes?

Our speakers look at how to design a future that benefits both farmers and society, and safeguards the countryside we all love.



12.45 – 13.45

How do we cope with a problem like plastic?

Plastic pollution affects every corner of the planet. Here in the UK, over 40 million items of plastic are estimated to be littering the mainland coast alone. So what can we do?

We discuss how to move away from single use plastics with Dustin Benton, Policy Director of the Green Alliance; Richard Walker, Managing Director of Iceland; Barry Turner, Group Director of the British Plastics Federation; and Lucy Siegle, environment journalist for The Guardian and The One Show.





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14.15 – 15.00

Wainwright Golden Beer Book Prize

The Wainwright Prize rewards the best writing on the outdoors, nature and UK-based travel, and is sponsored by Wainwright Golden Beer. The prize was inspired by Alfred Wainwright's hugely influential walking guides for the Lake District, and it's awarded in association with the National Trust.



Countryfile presenter Ellie Harrison introduces the 2018 shortlist, reflects on her favourite nature books, and will then announce the winner.

The 2017 winner was *Where Poppies Blow* by John Lewis-Stempel.





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15.30 – 16.30

How much countryside should we sacrifice to fix our housing crisis?

It now takes the average Londoner 14.5 times their annual salary to buy a home. It's a similar picture in nearby cities like Oxford and Cambridge.

So how do we make sure there are enough affordable houses where people need them – mainly in the southeast – whilst protecting the beautiful countryside we all love?

We put it to our experts: Andrew Whitaker of the Home Builders Federation; Simon Jenkins, commentator and journalist; Elinor Goodman of Hastoe, sustainable homebuilders; and Wayne Hemingway of Red or Dead.



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17.00 – 17.45

Does Westminster really understand the countryside?



Just over 15 years ago, 400,000 people from rural communities protested in London about feeling overlooked by Westminster. Today, there remains a strong sense that the government doesn't understand the countryside.

Is the countryside being served a raw deal by a ruling metropolitan elite whose views are shaped by a handful of visits to 'chocolate box' Cotswold villages? Commentator Simon Jenkins will discuss this with journalist and broadcaster Anna Jones.