

ALA E-BULLETIN



SEPTEMBER 2026



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AT A GLANCE

Natural England announced the appointment of a **new Chief Executive**, Neil Hornby. Neil will officially join Natural England in the autumn.

The UK government unveiled a **£65 million drought support package** to help farmers cope with prolonged dry weather. This package includes an additional £50 million for the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) and up to £15 million for on-farm reservoirs.

Guidance has been published on completing an **Expression of Interest for the Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier scheme**. The new Expression of Interest (EOI) process for **Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier (CSHT) opened on 21 July, widening access for farmers and land managers**. 650 EOI's have been received since opening.

The Welsh Government is seeking views on its **Rural Proofing and Environmental Sustainability White Paper**. They are seeking views on two related sets of proposals, including a statutory duty on rural proofing and a range of environmental sustainability proposals, that may be taken forward in primary legislation. The consultation period ends on 14 October 2026.

Welsh Government launched a review of **regulatory “red tape”**, with the stated aim of simplifying rules and reducing burdens on businesses. The review will assess the cumulative impact of requirements on farm businesses and examine where there is scope and a need for change.

Welsh farmers are set to benefit from over **£1 billion in multi-year funding certainty**, providing greater financial stability for the sector. The announcement is intended to support long-term planning and investment, as well as the transition to new agricultural support schemes.

ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2027: 4 MARCH 2027

SAVE THE DATE

We're excited to announce that the Agricultural Law Association's Annual Conference will be held at Copthorne Tara in London on Thursday, 4 March. Make sure the date is firmly in your diary. We hope to see as many members and colleagues of the Association there as possible!



POLITICAL UPDATE

Over the past few months, DEFRA has made several important policy announcements, with a clear focus on farm resilience, environmental funding, and long-term business confidence.

Ministerial Changes

Following Andy Burnham's ascendancy as Prime Minister and the July Cabinet reshuffle, there were several ministerial changes at DEFRA. Dame Angela Eagle was appointed Secretary of State and Emma Hardy was appointed as a Minister of State (having previously been Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at DEFRA). Stephen Morgan and Jenny Riddell-Carpenter were both appointed to the position of Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State.

SFI26 Relaunch

The first application window for the **Sustainable Farming Incentive** re-launch closed at the end of August after attracting strong interest from farmers, supported by a £60 million funding allocation. A second application window is expected to open on 22 September with a larger budget of £230 million (including drought budget).

Innovation Funding Still Available

DEFRA continues to encourage productivity improvements through the **Farming Innovation Programme and the ADOPT Fund. New funding rounds opened during August**, supporting projects focused on water management, technology adoption, productivity gains and farmer-led innovation.



Drought Response Brings Additional Support

The prolonged dry weather experienced across the country during summer 2026 has prompted direct Government intervention. In August, DEFRA announced an **additional £50 million for the Sustainable Farming Incentive**, along with greater flexibility within Environmental Land Management agreements and a **new Water Management Grant programme**.

The package reflects growing concern about water availability and climate resilience. Farmers considering investments in water storage, irrigation systems or efficiency improvements should watch closely for further details on grant opportunities.

MENTERA SUPPLIER PANEL

Mentera has opened applications for its Supplier Panel, providing an opportunity for suitably qualified businesses and consultants to become approved suppliers delivering services across its programmes, projects and commercial activities.

The panel includes a range of agricultural support categories, including succession reviews, family succession legal advice, joint venture support, mediation and specialist agricultural advice surgeries.

Applications are open continuously, with suppliers assessed against requirements including experience, capability, compliance and technical expertise. **[Click here to apply.](#)**

SPOTLIGHT: POWERS OF ENTRY

Barstow and Others v Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Ltd [2026] EWHC 1698 (Admin)

We have seen a plethora of large-scale developments in recent years. For agricultural landowners and occupiers, this transition bears considerable practical implications, especially as developers may shift from negotiated access agreements to statutory powers of entry. This case offers a timely clarification regarding the limitations of such powers. It will be of particular interest to those engaged in specific projects who intend to utilise statutory access rights for survey purposes, including those receiving notices.

In *Barstow and Others v Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Limited* [2026] EWHC 1698 (Admin), the High Court delivered a judgment clarifying the scope, notice requirements, and operational limits of statutory powers of entry under Part 7 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 (the 2016 Act). Presided over by Kimblin J, the decision addresses the growing tension between infrastructure development and private land rights.

The court granted declaratory relief clarifying the limits of statutory survey powers under s.174 of the 2016 Act, emphasising that Acquiring Authorities cannot rely on vague or generic “pro-forma” notices. The judgement confirms that notices do not run with the land and must be given to every owner and occupier, while also requiring that sufficient detail be provided about the proposed activities of reasonableness and proportionality; it does not impose binding legal requirements. The decision therefore provides important guidance on the lawful exercise of entry powers, particularly in ensuring procedural compliance and recognising the practical survey activities on agricultural land.

Facts

On 5 July 2024, Ofgem granted the Defendant, Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Limited (GGC), an Independent Distribution Network Operator (IDNO) licence. By virtue of section 6(1)(c) and Schedule 3 of the Electricity Act 1989, it thereby became an “acquiring authority” for Part 7 of the 2016 Act, enabling it to exercise statutory powers of entry onto land for survey purposes. GGC was promoting three major electricity infrastructure projects, Towy Teifi, Towy Usk, and Vyrnwy Frankton, designed to connect renewable energy developments in Mid and South Wales to the National Electricity Transmission System.



These projects involved substantial overhead line development and required extensive preparatory access to private land to conduct ecological, environmental, and engineering surveys.

The claimants comprised a combination of individual, organisational and community interests. The first claimant, Natalie Barstow, was an occupier living at Fforest Farm, Llandrindod Wells in Powys and was directly affected by the survey activity. The second claimant, the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (CPRW), is a long-established environmental charity. Lastly, the third claimant, Land Justice Coalition Ltd (trading as Justice for Wales), is a grassroots organisation representing rural communities. Together, they advanced both site-specific concerns and broader public interest arguments regarding the impact of infrastructure development on rural land and communities.

SPOTLIGHT: POWERS OF ENTRY

Barstow and Others v Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Ltd [2026] EWHC 1698 (Admin)

The claim arose from GGC's exercise of statutory powers of entry to undertake surveys in connection with the proposed development route. GGC issued statutory notices identifying a range of potential survey activities and sought access to land owned or occupied by the Claimants.

The Claimants challenged the lawfulness of GGC's approach, including the scope and operation of the statutory notices, the way access was exercised, and the collection and retention of information and data obtained during surveys. The proceedings also concerned an incident in which GGC surveyors entered land forming part of the Claimants' title while undertaking ecological surveys.

Issues

The claim raises issues which fall into three broad categories concerning the Defendant's exercise of statutory powers of entry under Part 7 of the 2016 Act.

-The first category is the construction of the statutory scheme for entry onto land, which is the power relied upon by the Defendant.

-The second category of issues arises from the way in which the power of entry was exercised: whether sufficient regard had been given to the impact of survey activity on affected landowners and occupiers. This included consideration of the protection of species, habitats and livestock, including biosecurity concerns arising from access onto agricultural land.

-The third category of issues is in respect of data which has been gathered, including questions as to the application of data protection legislation and the lawfulness of retention of the data which the Defendant collated.



Law

Sections 172-179 of the 2016 Act establish a statutory regime permitting and acquiring authority, or a person authorised by it, to enter land to survey or value it in connection with a proposal to acquire an interest or right over land.

Part 7 of the 2016 Act establishes a statutory regime permitting an acquiring authority, or a person authorised by it, to enter and survey land for the purposes of deciding whether to exercise powers of compulsory acquisition.

Section 172(2)(a) provides that entry may only take place after giving notice and at a "reasonable time". The requirement of reasonableness operates as a substantive limitation on the exercise of the power.

Section 174 governs the giving of notice prior to entry. Section 174(1) requires notice to be given to every owner and occupier of the land. The provision does not distinguish between owners and occupiers; both are entitled to equivalent notice before entry is exercised.

SPOTLIGHT: POWERS OF ENTRY

Barstow and Others v Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Ltd [2026] EWHC 1698 (Admin)

Law

Section 174 also requires that notice be given in advance of entry and that it specifies the nature of what is proposed. The statutory scheme therefore imposes procedural safeguards designed to ensure that affected persons are properly informed before the power is exercised.

Sections 175-179 address further matters arising from the exercise of survey powers, including compensation for damage caused by entry, offences relating to obstruction, and procedural provisions governing the operation of the statutory scheme.

The Court's consideration of the statutory framework therefore focused on the proper interpretation of the requirements for lawful entry, including the content and effect of notices, the requirement that entry occurs at a reasonable time, and the limits on how the power may be exercised.

Breakdown of the Judgment

Kimblin J organised the issues into three main categories and addressed them in separate sections of his judgment. The analysis below follows the judgment's structure and reasoning, beginning with statutory construction and the scope of the powers of entry.

A: Statutory Construction and Scope of Part 7 HPA 2016

1. Dual-Notice Obligation: Service on "Every Owner or Occupier" (s.174(1)).

The starting point is the statutory language. Section 174(1) provides:

"The acquiring authority must give every owner or occupier of land at least 14 days' notice..."

The obligation is framed in mandatory terms, "must give", and applies to "every owner or occupier".



A: STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION AND SCOPE OF PART 7 HPA 2016

On the issue of service, the Defendant relied on section 7 of the Interpretation Act 1978, under which service is deemed effective when a letter is properly addressed, pre-paid and posted. The court recorded that, "service of a notice is deemed to be effected by properly addressing, pre-paying and posting a letter...". It was also accepted that a letter addressed to 'The Occupiers' is sufficient to give notice to the occupiers. The Claimant's position was that the notice must be "actually received", relying on UKI (Kingsway) Ltd v Westminster City Council [2018] UKSC 67, [2019] 1 W.L.R. 104, [2018] 12 WLUK 267, for the proposition that "give" connotes receipt.

However, it was accepted that service by ordinary post is deemed effective under section 7 of the Interpretation Act 1978 upon proof of posting to the last known address. The Acquiring Authority is not required to prove actual physical receipt by the addressee, provided the authority has undertaken reasonable prior inquiries into the occupation of the land. (see paras 117, 124, 127 of judgment).

SPOTLIGHT: POWERS OF ENTRY

Barstow and Others v Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Ltd [2026] EWHC 1698 (Admin)

2. Proprietary Nature of Notices: Why s.174 Rights Do Not Run with the Land

A key question was whether a section 174 notice binds successive owners or occupiers. It was held that a section 174 notice does not run with the land. Section 174 notices were not intended to have a long-term effect; the 2016 Act contains no provision for their registration against title, which strongly indicates that they were not intended to run with the land. Why does it matter?

- If notice runs with the land, authorities can serve once and rely on it indefinitely, even if occupiers change.
- If notice is personal and time-bound, authorities must ensure current occupiers are notified before entry, potentially requiring fresh notice.

Furthermore, there was no support in the 2016 Act for the concept of an intermediary (such as a landlord passing notice to a tenant) giving notice. UKI had decided only that receipt of a notice via an intermediary amounted to the giving of notice; it did not decide that notice would run with the land. (explained para.128).

3. "14 Days' Notice" and "Reasonable Time"

Meaning of "14 days' notice" in s.174(1) and "reasonable time" in s.172(2)(a) - Section 174(1) and s.174(3) were to be read in conjunction and coherently with s.172(2)(a), which provided that the entry to the land pursuant to s.172 was only permitted at a "reasonable time". Section 174(1) requires notice:

"at least 14 days' notice before the first day on which the authority intends to enter the land..."

While section 174(1) does not need to specify a particular day of entry, it must instead be structured to enable communication prior to entry and to reflect the Code of Practice. Acquiring authorities cannot treat a notice as an open-ended pass. All that was required was a minimum of 14 days' notice of reliance on the s.172 power. When properly considered by an acquiring authority, the authority was able to state when the notice would expire and, if necessary, give further notices (paras 140, 149).



Serving a notice and attempting entry months or years later, as GGC attempted by relying on an August 2024 notice in July 2025, is ultra vires. Acquiring authorities must evaluate the specific survey requirements, declare a clear expiration date on the face of the notice, and issue fresh notices if schedules overrun.

Crucially, the validity and duration of notice are tied to its substantive adequacy: it must provide sufficient detail of the proposed activities and their location and invite engagement from occupiers so that entry can be carried out reasonably considering the land's circumstances.

The period for which a notice remains effective, and what constitutes a "reasonable time", involve questions of timing, frequency, duration, effect and impact, and the ability to prepare. What amounted to a reasonable time would depend on all the circumstances, including the nature, quality and terms of what had been notified under s.174(3). (see paras 130-131)

SPOTLIGHT: POWERS OF ENTRY

Barstow and Others v Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Ltd [2026] EWHC 1698 (Admin)

4. Level of Detail Required and the Code of Practice

Section 174(3) mandates that where intrusive activities are planned, the notice must contain "details of what is proposed". The meaning of "details of what is proposed" in s.174(3), read consistently with the Code of Practice on Powers of Entry, was that the details were to be provided with such precision as was reasonable and practicable at the time of service of the notice, explaining what was proposed to be done, where, and when. In the instant case, the defendant's notices were pro forma notices and did less than was reasonably practicable to explain what was proposed (para.149)

Key provisions from the Code relied upon in the judgment include:

- Advance notice: "reasonable notice... will usually be not less than 48 hours"
- Notice should include: "the purpose... along with the date and time"
- Authorities should consider: "whether the necessary objectives can be met by less intrusive means."

The Code therefore operates as a guideline informing what is "reasonable" and what constitutes adequate notice and detail.

B: Biosecurity, Biodiversity, and Human Rights

1. Biosecurity must be actively managed, but is not a bar to survey powers

The judgment recognises that biosecurity (including bTB risk) is a real and relevant consideration, but confirms that it can be addressed through protocols and management systems.



The judgment stated that biosecurity risks, particularly disease transmission to livestock, were a central concern raised by the Claimants, supported by expert evidence prior to proceedings. The court highlighted that GGC's initial failure to grapple with the risks of bovine TB transmission represented a failure of foresight. However, acquiring authorities can continue to rely on survey powers, but must adopt formal, risk-based biosecurity procedures (e.g. protocols, training, expert input).

2. Environmental surveying

Baseline ecological surveying is treated as a normal and necessary part of infrastructure planning, not a breach of environmental duties.

Authorities are entitled to enter land to collect environmental data, provided this is done through qualified professionals and structured processes. Biodiversity legislation does not prevent surveying; it frames how it is carried out.

SPOTLIGHT: POWERS OF ENTRY

Barstow and Others v Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Ltd [2026] EWHC 1698 (Admin)

3. Human rights are engaged but not easily breached in this context

The judgment accepts that Article 8 and A1P1 are engaged, but finds no actionable breach on the facts, particularly where intrusion is limited or procedural.

The minor, inadvertent entry on 29 July 2025 at Colwyn Brook was an operational mistake rather than a systematic human rights violation. Challenges based on Convention rights will require clear evidence of substantive interference, not merely defects in notice or administrative handling.



C: Data Protection and Institutional Deference

The Claimants sought mandatory orders compelling GGC to erase personal and environmental data gathered during land entries. The Administrative Court declined to determine data protection issues raised by the claimants. Regulation 2016/679 on the protection of natural persons regarding the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 established a carefully constructed scheme with the Information Commissioner as primary adjudicator and a specialist tribunal.

In any event, processing data from land surveys for infrastructure consenting purposes was lawful under at least art.6(c), art.6(e) and art.6(f) of the UK GDPR (paras 182, 185, 188-189).

Relief and Remedies: Preference for Declaratory Guidance over Quashing Orders

Kimblin J declined to grant quashing orders in respect of the notices. This reflected both the way the claim had been advanced and the court's view that quashing old notices would serve no practical purpose. Instead, the court granted a series of declarations clarifying the proper interpretation and operation of the statutory scheme:

1. Notice under s.174(1) must be given to every owner and every occupier.
2. A s.174 notice does not run with the land.
3. Service by ordinary post may suffice without proof of actual receipt, provided statutory requirements (including reasonable inquiry and proper addressing) are satisfied, and notice may alternatively be affixed to the land.

SPOTLIGHT: POWERS OF ENTRY

Barstow and Others v Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Ltd [2026] EWHC 1698 (Admin)

4. The effective period of a notice, and what constitutes a “reasonable time” for entry, depend on the nature of the activity and the circumstances of the land; authorities should identify the period for which a notice is intended to operate and may issue further notices where required.
5. Notices under s.174 must be framed having regard to the Code of Practice on Powers of Entry, including provision for contact prior to entry, sufficient detail of the proposed activities and their location, and engagement with site-specific circumstances.
6. In relation to Fforest Farm, the notice was lawfully given, but non-compliant with the Code of Practice; the s.172 requirements were unduly broad; and the entry on 29 July 2025 was a minor inadvertent entry.



Taken together, these requirements signal a clear shift away from broad, open-ended notices toward a more structured, time-bound approach to statutory entry. Acquiring authorities must engage more carefully. The emphasis on reasonableness and proportionality reinforces the need to consider the day-to-day realities of agricultural land, including farming operations. The decision provides a useful framework for those advising developers and landowners as these large-scale developments continue to unfold over rural land.

[Click here for the full Judgement.](#)

As a result, compensation may be based solely on the land’s existing use value rather than its potential development value, which may significantly reduce compensation payable to landowners.

Additionally, the Expedited General Vesting Declaration (GVD) process under the 2025 Act enables quicker land title transfer to the acquiring authority. Section 109 introduces flexibility to the previous minimum three-month period, which, before the reforms, required a mandatory three-month wait after executing a GVD before the land could vest in the acquiring authority. This new provision will allow parties to agree an earlier vesting date where appropriate, while retaining the three-month minimum period where no agreement can be reached. This removes unnecessary delays in circumstances where landowners and occupiers are willing for vesting to occur sooner.

The guidance is [here](#).

The government recently closed their consultation on proposed permitted development rights for ground investigations and surveys for electricity network infrastructure, to read more click [here](#).

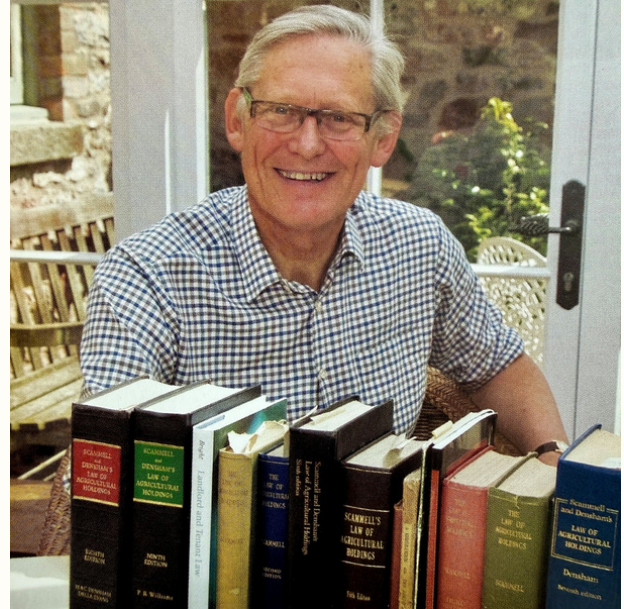
OBITUARY

HENRY ANDREW CRIDLAND DENSHAM

30 NOVEMBER 1940 - 10 JULY 2026

While it is an enormous privilege to be asked to write an obituary for Andrew Densham, I do so with great nervousness because I know that I am not going to be able to capture the magic and the magnetism of the man. He was a truly inspirational person. As one rural chartered surveyor told me last week, Andrew was held in the highest regard by both friend and foe.

Andrew (known to all of us at Burges Salmon by his initials, HACD) was unique. He was simply the best agricultural holdings lawyer to have practised since the enactment of the Agricultural Holdings Act 1948. Nobody else could match his knowledge or the charisma that he brought to being a solicitor practising in this sector.



Andrew was born at the beginning of the Second World War: a member of a Bristol trading family. Andrew was the eldest of four children. He had two brothers and a sister. Andrew's brothers and sister followed Andrew's example in obtaining professional qualifications as a chartered surveyor, accountant and in education, working to diagnose dyslexia in children. Andrew was the only lawyer.

Andrew did his articles at the firm of Stanley Wasbrough, where he told me that his most notable moment was leaving a client's file in a taxi. Andrew then moved to Burges Salmon, where he found himself to the manor born.

After the enactment of the AHA 1948, a Burges Salmon partner, Wilfred Scammell, wrote the first edition of the textbook which continues today. Wilfred Scammell wrote the first four editions of the book. Burges Salmon wanted to keep the agricultural practice at the time of Wilfred Scammell's retirement. Initially, Richard Trevor Johnson was being encouraged to take on the work. Richard was unenthusiastic about it. He wanted to do corporate work, in which he excelled. He went on to be the central figure in the development of Burges Salmon as a firm. As a consequence, the 5th edition of the book moved away from Burges Salmon, before returning upon Andrew taking on the mantle.

In 1978 Andrew wrote the 6th edition, which, quite properly, was titled Scammell & Densham. The book reflected the fact that Andrew quickly became the nation's leading practitioner in the law of agricultural holdings. Two things which were central to Andrew achieving that happened by chance. The first was down to Jim Callaghan.

Jim Callaghan had succeeded Harold Wilson as leader of the Labour Party and Prime Minister. He tried to maintain a minority government with the support of others: the Lib Lab pact was the corner stone of that. However, he also needed the support of Plaid Cymru. The price of that support was the introduction of the law of succession in relation to agricultural holdings tenancies introduced by the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) 1976: arguably the only piece of Welsh legislation. On the death of a tenant, existing agricultural holdings tenancies became the subject of two successions, for someone who was both eligible and suitable for such succession. Suddenly, this produced a raft of legal work, as succession applications were pursued before the Agricultural Land Tribunal.

HENRY ANDREW CRIDLAND DENSHAM

30 NOVEMBER 1940 - JULY 2026

The second thing was the evolution of the UK's motorway network which made countrywide work possible.

Andrew was not only the leading textbook writer and adviser in this area of law, but he also became an advocate. That was not only before the ALT. So many other aspects of the AHA legislation required arbitration as the prescribed means of determination.

Andrew was a fantastic advocate, not only because he really did know his stuff, but he had the charm and charisma to persuade any tribunal.

I remember one particular arbitration which lasted for a very long time when Andrew took on the might of Mr Derek Wood QC (as he then was) and his junior Counsel, Miss Joanne Moss. Andrew emerged from that victorious.

One of the ironies of the reference to Derek Wood relates to appeals. In the good old days, points of law were referred by arbitrators to the County Court, where Andrew would also appear. Some appeals went to the Court of Appeal. Andrew did not have a right of audience in the Court of Appeal. He mostly instructed Derek Wood. When Derek and I spoke at a bash for Andrew's retirement from Burges Salmon, Derek told me that he had never managed to win an appeal where Andrew had succeeded in the first instance. Luckily, such appeals were relatively rare. Andrew was a winner.

On one occasion Andrew appeared before one of the District Registrars (as District Judges were then known) in Bristol, accompanied by one of our team who reported the experience. When Andrew went in through the door, the District Registrar got up and walked across to take Andrew's hand in both of his hands and to say what a pleasure it was to have Andrew appearing in his court. There was only going to be one winner that day.

Andrew was invited to sit as a part-time County Court Judge for a period. He did it, but not for very long. He had no enthusiasm for a judgment summons court list and the like. It was nowhere near as enjoyable and satisfying as his day to day practice. The best bit of the County Court was dressing up.

Very early on in my career Andrew asked me to research something for him and to join him at a meeting with a client and his agent. I still remember it as if it was yesterday. After Andrew had conveyed fairly downbeat news concerning the case, as the meeting reached its end, the client simply said: "It is a pleasure to come and hear you speak". If one could bottle that, there would be no need for firms to have marketing departments. It reflected the respect that Andrew commanded.

The word 'commanded' is a reminder that Andrew's excellence in his area of practice was recognised by the honour of a CBE, as well as the professional recognition that he had in being appointed an Honorary Member of the Central Association of Agricultural Valuers.

Watching and listening to Andrew lecture was another one of life's great pleasures. He managed to make his audience feel as if they were included. It was a special gift, again reflecting his magnetism.

Two things, in particular, stand out for me when I think of Andrew. One is work and one is pleasure.

HENRY ANDREW CRIDLAND DENSHAM

30 NOVEMBER 1940 - 10 JULY 2026

As to work, Andrew had that special gift of being able to look around corners. He could see the angle in a case. Then, something that for the rest would be a grey area, would quickly develop under Andrew's guidance into black and white. He would then present it on that basis and win. That ability to see the angle marked him out from other able practitioners.

Andrew was probably the least politically correct person I have ever met. However, he always did it, as with so much else in his life, with panache and a smile. Andrew could make you laugh until you cried. In the late 1980s and through the 1990s we had a particularly strong, close team of lawyers. We would often have a sandwich together at lunch. Andrew would tell stories and make everyone laugh. It was a fantastic quality.

Andrew did also have a serious side. He had great faith. He was fascinated by other faiths and visited churches of those faiths. He was long time Church Warden in his beloved All Saints in Wrington. At the beginning of my career, I moved to the village of Wrington, not knowing that it was Andrew's home. I looked out one day and saw Andrew out running and sporting an extraordinary neckerchief. He had some ribbing for that. He quickly gave up the running and replaced it with walking the coast paths, which was another of his pleasures.

I am sure that Andrew would want me to say in any piece about him that there was, aside from his family, one person at work who was so important to his success and his practice. That was the late Pauline Edwards. She was a PA before PAs were invented. She was more like a gatekeeper. She was fantastic at organising Andrew and assisting in a role which nowadays might be described as a paralegal. It was entirely fitting that Pauline's last public appearance was at one of our departmental summer parties at my home. Pauline was central to the HACD operation.

Andrew could also not have operated as successfully as he did had it not been for the support of his wife, Fiona. Family was hugely important to Andrew. He and Fiona have three children, Ned, Will (another lawyer) and Lucy, plus grandchildren. As the entry in The Times on 14 July recorded: "Andrew peacefully...Beloved husband, Father, Grandfather and Brother". A marvellous man.

There will be a Thanksgiving at 11am on Andrew's birthday, 30 November 2026 at All Saints, Wrington: entirely appropriately, St Andrew's Day.

P R Williams

Ebery Williams

July 2026

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

RECENT REGIONAL EVENTS

ALA South Central – Tour Talk and Barbeque at Meon Springs on 6 July 2026

ALA Somerset and Dorset – Visit to Camel Hill Farm and BNG Seminar on 13 July 2026

ALA Wales - Royal Welsh Drinks Reception - Royal Welsh Showground on 21 July 2026

ALA London – Visit to Richmond Park on 2 September 2026



CEDR SEMINAR

CEDR is organising a series of seminars in which each country will present the most recent legislative developments in the agricultural sector.

The sessions will take place on the first Monday of each month from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm. Keep an eye on our LinkedIn page for more details.

Click here to read their latest [newsletter](#).



ON THE GROUND WITH ALA HQ

Royal Welsh Show Mike Holland

Our attendance at the Royal Welsh Show has been an annual fixture since I took on the role of Secretary and Adviser in 2016. Ten years on, the Show continues to bring the country's entire rural sector together, and increasingly, Tuesday of Show week is fast becoming a day for the professional sector.

Our annual drinks reception on the evening of Tuesday has proved to be a success and we hope that members will continue to support this relaxed and convivial end to a long day on the showground.

Our day now starts with the equally valuable attendance at the CAAV's breakfast with our friend and ALA Member, Jeremy Moody, giving his thoughts on the sector, its challenges, its opportunities, not only for Wales but for the wider UK sector.

The Chair and I also welcomed the opportunity to discuss the former NFU president, John Davies's red tape review in Wales. Members advising on Welsh matters will have received our survey seeking views on easy wins and long-term changes to help simplify the administration of the agricultural sector in Wales.

If you have not yet responded, we would be very pleased to hear from you to help inform our response to John and his team. The link to the survey can be accessed [here](#).

After a stop on the Farming Connect stand to applaud the winners of a place on the Agri Academy this year, as is traditional for me I took time out to watch the champion beef judging in the cattle ring. As professionals, we spend an inordinate amount of time at our desks, so taking time to appreciate the quality of stockmanship and breeding when you have the opportunity reminds you (if you need reminding!) that the standards of our livestock sector are as high as ever. I only wish I had the eye of my late Father as a cattle auctioneer and agent to be able to judge the Champion correctly!

I was also pleased to spend time with Martin Lines, CEO of the Nature Friendly Farming Network ('NFFN'), to discuss their work across the sector. If you are unfamiliar with the work of the NFFN, the link to their website is [here](#). I'm also delighted that Martin will be one of our speakers at next year's annual conference.

The Royal Welsh Show always marks the end of our spring and summer events calendar before we all take a well-earned break to clear our minds before what will be another busy Autumn and early Winter through to the end of the year.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**15
SEPT**

ALA Oxon & Bucks - Forestry for Farmers and Rural Estates Woodland Walk

ALA South East is delighted to invite you to a woodland walk and tour for a 5:00 pm start

**16
SEPT**

ALA South East - Visit to Little Mill Farm

A visit to Little Mill Farm with Peter Hall, who will provide an interesting insight into the farm and its long history of environmental stewardship.

**18
SEPT**

ALA Cheshire - Visit to Vines of Cheshire

Join us at 3 pm for a visit to the Vines of Cheshire, which includes a vineyard tour, wine tasting, and talks on the alternative uses of agricultural land and what can be achieved.

**22
SEPT**

ALA Cornwall and Devon - Presentation from the Duchy of Cornwall and Walk

A presentation from the Duchy of Cornwall will be followed by a guided walk through the woods and a return to the hotel for sandwiches and cream tea.

**29
SEPT**

ALA West of England - Badminton Estate

Join us for an exclusive visit to Badminton Estate, where representatives of the estate will share their long-term vision for the future. The event will conclude with drinks and canapé.

**6
OCT**

The Sustainable Farming Scheme From Policy to the Farm Gate

This joint Agricultural Law Association and UKELA Wales event will focus on the Welsh Government's Sustainable Farming Scheme and its practical implications for farmers and advisers.

**12
OCT**

ALA South Central Autumn Professional Update

Join us at Moore Barlow, Southampton, for an industry and legislative update seminar at Gateway House, from 3 pm until 6 pm.

**14
OCT**

ALA Somerset and Dorset - Yeo Valley visit

We are delighted to invite you to join us for a farm tour at Yeo Valley, led by Estate Manager Jon Wilson. Discover insights into the farm's operations, current agricultural market conditions from 8 am until 11 am.

For more information about these events, check our **[Eventbrite page](#)**.

Follow us to stay informed about new events as they are added.

We want you to be in the loop!



RURAL PROFESSIONALS

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