



# The Darwell Area Conservation Society

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## PARISH ASSEMBLY REPORT 2021

DACS exists to protect, celebrate and enjoy the special part of the High Weald AONB which has the Darwell Reservoir and Stream as its spine, from Dallington to Mountfield. However, for the second year running, so much has been severely curtailed by Covid-19 which is hugely frustrating.

On the **planning** front, we have had to fight planning applications at three particular sites over the last twelve months. One of these in particular involves serious, multiple planning abuses and has taken a lot of time and effort to fight. Unfortunately, our battles are being fought against a background of near-meltdown of the local planning authority so we are also having to invest energies in trying to ensure no corners are cut in the name of expediency.

On the **conservation** front, we have been planning two major and very important initiatives, both arguably the most important contributions to our local landscape we, or anyone else, have attempted. However, we had to put both projects on hold last year due to Covid-19 before we even got to launch stage — and that is where they are still stuck. So, frustratingly, the message once again has to be to watch this space.

Finally, DACS's remit includes the **understanding, celebration and enjoyment** of our landscape. Once again, all activities on this front have been put on hold while we wait for the pandemic to finally begin to ebb.

Since July 2013, DACS has achieved so much. We have fought planning battles, organised walks and strolls, produced a number of publications, organised talks and lectures, created a real profile to give our voice some authority, and reached out to hundreds of people. Above all, we've spoken up for our special part of the AONB.

The threats to our landscape keep coming but so too do the opportunities. New members are always welcome as the size of our membership is vital part of our credentials. There is no annual subscription, no need for any commitment, and the chance to share in making a worthwhile contribution — if only by showing up in our membership figures.

For more information, to swap ideas, or just to chat, please contact us.

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