



The countryside charity
Norfolk



Valuing our green spaces

The value of all green and wild areas has been underlined by recent pandemic restrictions, with people flocking to beauty spots at the earliest opportunity once lockdowns eased. And during lockdown, the need for accessible parks, open spaces, wild areas and green corridors radiating out into the countryside to enable people to escape into a green environment from urban areas for their allotted daily exercise activity became more essential than ever.

Long term, we must protect more green space, open up access to the countryside and have very high standards for development to ensure our needs are met without destroying the beauty we have.

Along with many others, CPRE Norfolk believes that valuing open space more highly than land for development would be a key step, but this must not mean that the county becomes unaffordable for those living here.

Key to this is meaningful consultation and transparency in

all decision making, with policies that enable the required high standards to be met, supported by sensitive long term planning for long term goals with measures that put people, not money, first.

CPRE Norfolk is calling for the creation of a Green Belt for Norwich to provide robust protection for precious green spaces around our fine city. Our vision is for 'green wedges' radiating into the countryside, following existing corridors, such as river valleys, railway lines (used and disused), footpaths and cycleways.

We have just launched a leaflet calling for inclusion of a Green Belt for Norwich within the Greater Norwich Local Plan. We believe this would protect Norwich's special character for generations to come, as well as creating an integrated green network for the benefit of the Greater Norwich area.

Read more inside, and download our Green Belt leaflet here <http://bit.ly/NorwichGreenBelt>

Chris Dady, Chairman of CPRE Norfolk

chairman@cprenorfolk.org.uk

Planning reform

CPRE Norfolk Planning Consultant Michael Rayner, and Trustee David Hook submitted a detailed response to the Government's consultation on the Planning White Paper, detailing the widespread flaws in the proposals to simplify the Planning System. The response was circulated to all parishes in Norfolk to enable them to use in their own submissions.

The Norfolk response highlighted (amongst many points) once again the need for phasing of development to ensure that housing in sustainable and long-standing allocated sites are built on before other less sustainable and more recently allocated sites are developed. This common-sense approach has been supported by 30% of Parish and Town Councils across Norfolk who signed a pledge calling for this.

<https://www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/what-we-care-about/better-places-to-live/parish-council-alliance/>

CPRE's national response, outlined the threats that the proposals place on local democracy, green spaces and the provision of affordable housing.



Onshore cabling for offshore windfarms

There have been some interesting recent developments regarding the distribution of power from the rapidly expanding offshore wind industry, with CPRE Norfolk joining other organisations in calling for a more long-sighted vision in how best to connect with the National Grid.

At present, each new windfarm has to have its own onshore cable running from the landing point to a connection with the National Grid. If a new Offshore Ring Main or other offshore connection system was introduced, it would massively reduce the amount of onshore disruption and long-term costs, but to institute this system, new funding and permissions would have to be set out by central Government. With the publication on 14 December of the Energy White Paper the Government suggests that it will move "quickly" to addressing this issue.

The Eastern Daily Press published an opinion piece by Norfolk CPRE Chair Chris Dady, highlighting the government's current piecemeal approach to onshore cabling, and praising local communities and groups for seeking to ensure the best outcomes for the local countryside. Destroying the countryside is not necessary, and will impact on food production, tourism, wildlife and wellbeing.

<https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/destroying-precious-countryside-won-t-do-us-any-ecological-favours-6568724>

With a coalition of other agencies, CPRE has developed a joint alternative vision for planning (launched on 14th January) which puts people and tackling the climate emergency at its heart.

Read more here: <https://www.cpre.org.uk/about-us/cpre-media/18-organisations-tell-government-to-rethink-planning-changes/>

Green Belt for Norwich

We are continuing to push for a Green Belt for Norwich on the green wedges model, whereby protected green corridors would radiate from the city into the surrounding countryside.

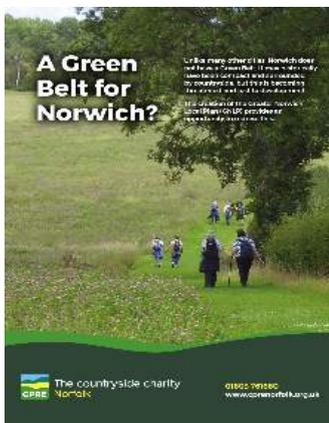
CPRE Norfolk has contacted every councillor and decision maker and will continue to make the case for a Green Belt.

Although this has so far been rejected by the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP), CPRE Norfolk will continue to make the case for a Green Belt, which we believe is essential to ensure long term access to green space for Norwich residents, which has proved so essential to so many during lockdown.

Sign our petition:

<https://www.change.org/p/broadland-district-council-and-south-norfolk-council-green-belt-for-norfolk>

You can download a copy of our new leaflet which has been generously funded by the Tas Valley Society and CPRE Eastern Region here: <http://bit.ly/NorwichGreenBelt>



Watch CPRE Chief Executive Crispin Truman talk about England's Green Belt at the Civic Voice webinar on 20th January <https://vimeo.com/503004583>

Norwich Western Link

Despite a new national Lockdown, planning issues continue to progress with the Norwich Western Link road (NWL) and onshore works associated with offshore windfarms being two of the most high-profile.

CPRE Norfolk remains unconvinced by arguments for the NWL, particularly with the latest research on a Barbastelle bat super-colony being tracked and traced along part of the currently proposed route. This independent research has been led by Dr Lottie Packman of Wild Wings Ecology, who shared her main findings with a large online audience in December. CPRE Norfolk tried to facilitate a meeting with Norfolk County Council's Cabinet where Dr Packman's presentation could have been repeated, but this was turned down.

We hope that the research will soon be in the public sphere and will then be taken into account by NCC.



CPRE Norfolk Awards 2021

Our 2021 CPRE Norfolk Awards are open for entries! Do you know of a local project, person, group or business that has gone the extra mile to make a real difference for the countryside in Norfolk? Show your appreciation for their efforts by entering them for an award!

Awards will recognise achievements made by local people, public sector organisations, schools and businesses, which result in thriving countryside, better buildings, positive impact on the landscape and improvements in rural life across Norfolk. Our awards scheme has been running for over 40 years and over that time, almost 500 projects have been recognised.

Our awards evening takes place on September 16th 2021 which we hope will be possible to run as a live event at Dereham Memorial Hall. If coronavirus restrictions make a live event impossible, we will run the evening on a virtual platform. Winning projects will receive plaques and certificates.

There are 4 entry categories:

- (i) sustainable rural living (for projects that improve sustainability in rural communities, such as reducing energy, carbon, water use);
- (ii) countryside champions (for projects that enhance wildlife, landscapes, or improve countryside access);
- (iii) digging deep (for businesses, local authorities and parish councils that are putting something back to benefit the environment or landscape); and
- (iv) good lighting design (to recognise schemes which keep light pollution impacts to a minimum in the rural countryside). This category is not competitive: all entries demonstrating best practice will receive recognition.



We are keen to support projects that encourage young people and families to get involved with the countryside, so awards will be available under each category to recognise this.

Please help us by nominating schemes - whether you are involved with them or not! Even if you don't have all the details, let us know about any schemes that are important to you, either with enough information so we can track it down, or with your contact information if you are directly involved. Entries can be made between February 1st and May 28th 2021.

Find out more here: <https://www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/awards-2021/>

Download the leaflet here: <http://bit.ly/AwardsInfo1>

Download an application form here: <http://bit.ly/AwardsApp2>

Our awards have been generously sponsored by Brunswick Investment Management <https://brunswickim.com/>



CPRE Norfolk is recruiting!

We are on the look-out for enthusiastic volunteers to help out in important areas of our work to protect and enhance Norfolk's countryside and improve life for Norfolk communities.

If you have experience in any one of the following areas:

- biodiversity,
- trees,
- rural tourism,
- countryside access

or if you could help us through a [networking role](#), developing our relationships with other local environmental organisations and businesses, please get in touch!

More about our five vacancies can be found here <https://www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering/>

For the right candidates, we will fit in around you to offer you a good volunteering experience and will offer training and support where necessary.

We also have a vacancy for Vice Chair of the board of trustees. This is an important trustee and leadership role for CPRE Norfolk, supporting the Chair and Treasurer develop all aspects of the charity. Could you help with the charity's governance, funding, campaigning and promotion? Find out more here <https://www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering/>

Electrification of The Broads

A project exploring how to reduce carbon emissions in the Broads by moving to boats powered by electricity is underway.

Initial scoping discussions have been held by the Broads Authority with local businesses and technical experts, to explore how to deliver power for charging points to such a remote area.

Hethel Innovation and Cleantech East are both partnering the project to work on potential solutions, including: establishing the characteristics for remote electric charging pillars; identifying places where alternative (non-grid) power is needed; and investigating methods to provide power in remote locations.

The use of hydrogen technology to power electric boats from hydrogen fuel cells, with hydrogen delivered to remote sites by barge is also being explored by the Broads Authority with the University of Birmingham.

Read more about the Broads Authority's Climate Change Action Plan here: http://bit.ly/BA_Climate

CPRE Norfolk members enjoy discounts to a number of visitor attractions :

Wells and Walsingham Light Railway
Stody Lodge Gardens
Raveningham Gardens
Plantation Garden

Mannington Estate
Holkham Hall
Fairhaven Woodland Garden

More details at www.cprenorfolk.org.uk

Dark skies

Norfolk's dark skies and dark landscapes which are amongst the least light polluted in all of England are important elements of our county's rural character and deserve greater protection. A recent CPRE survey revealed that 96% of Norfolk villages that currently do not have street lights want to remain unlit.

A large number of respondents emphasised how much they treasured our starry skies and tranquil dark rural nights. Unfortunately, the additional lighting associated with development together with a proliferation of security lights pose a threat to extensive areas of rural dark countryside. This can be seen from the annual 'Star Count' survey run by CPRE and the British Astronomical Association (<https://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-care-about/nature-and-landscapes/dark-skies/star-count-2020-results>).

However, the good news is that light pollution is a problem that can be solved and we can all play a part in tackling this issue.

Public lighting provision such as street lights seems to be moving in the right direction, with the replacement of sodium lights with LED lamps, the introduction of part night lighting and dimming technology.

Private lighting often falls outside planning rules, and remains a major cause for concern. The simplest way you can make a contribution to reducing light pollution is to refrain from installing outside lighting. Lighting can be counterproductive in the fight against crime, even assisting burglars by revealing points of entry, places to hide and things to steal.

CPRE Norfolk has been campaigning for many years to reduce light pollution in the Norfolk countryside and has its own 'Standard Light Pollution Clause' that is added to every planning application response it makes. Many parish and town councils have also adopted this approach - the clause is available for anyone to use.

<https://www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/resources/standard-light-pollution-clause/>

CPRE Norfolk's David Hook took part in the Norfolk Coast AONB's Dark Skies Festival last September to discuss the effects of light pollution on people and wildlife - listen again here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-bpiShNQAc>

If you took part in this year's Star Count, don't forget to check the results here: <https://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-care-about/nature-and-landscapes/dark-skies/star-count-2021/>

Win with us!

Join the CPRE Norfolk 100 Club for the chance to win great cash prizes from £15 to £75 and help us raise funds! Each share in the 100 club costs just £12 annually and there is no limit to the number of shares you can buy.

Winners last month were: £75 to Mr and Mrs M & V Palmer; £50 to Mrs Ruth Hadman; £25 to Finlay Stocker; £25 to Mr P A Warnes and £15 to Mrs Ruth Hadman. Our lottery is fully licensed, and shares make great gifts for friends and family. (It's worthwhile buying a few shares: you could win more than one prize!). Find out more here <https://www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/get-involved/raise-funds/100-club-prize-draw/>

Calculate your carbon footprint!

Do you know how big your carbon footprint is? Or what lifestyle changes you could make to reduce it?

In the UK, on average, each person produces 9 tonnes of carbon emissions per annum*, covering homes, transport, food and services. By 2030, to limit global warming to 1.5C, the average carbon emission per person globally needs to be just 2.5 tonnes of carbon per year.

*data from GIKI

GIKI (Get Informed and Know your Impact) is a social enterprise which is helping people live more sustainably.

GIKI has developed an online tool to help people calculate their carbon footprint by looking at 30 different areas from electricity usage to financial services, from diet to miles driven, to work out the carbon impact of each of these decisions. Adding up all these different areas provides an estimate of a person's overall carbon footprint.

There are a few questions to answer to allow the footprint calculator to estimate your own carbon footprint. If you enter more information into the calculator, you can get a more detailed assessment covering all areas of your life.

The tool also makes suggestions about steps that you could take to reduce your footprint,

save money, improve health, protect biodiversity and reduce plastic waste.

Find out more here: <https://zero.giki.earth/>



The Plantation Garden in Norwich (pictured on the front of this issue) is a beautiful 3 acre Victoria town garden created in a former mediaeval chalk quarry. With many hidden and unique features, it is a haven of peace and tranquility in the city.

The garden is open from 9am to dusk daily - all are welcome for socially distanced visits following government coronavirus guidelines, and entry is £2 per visit (honesty box).

<https://www.plantationgarden.co.uk/>

Coming up

AGM

Our AGM on Thursday 20th May 2021 will be held online again this year. The short formal meeting will start at 5pm and will be followed by a talk from a guest speaker.

Please put the date in your diary - we'd love you to join us! We'll send out a Zoom meeting link to members nearer the time to enable you to join this virtual session.

Website

Helen at CPRE Norfolk has made a great job of our website refreshment to give it a new modern look, improve navigation and help us communicate our messages clearly. Reference documents have been reviewed and updated and the new site is fully mobile device compliant, so you'll be able to access it from your phone, tablet and computer.

If you have any thoughts about website content you'd like to see, please get in touch info@cprenorfolk.org.uk

People

Stephen Picton-Pegg

We said farewell and many thanks to long standing trustee Stephen Picton-Pegg who stepped down in October last year. Stephen was vice-chair of the Vision for Norfolk Committee and was involved over a number of years with the CPRE Norfolk Awards.

Heather Tyrrell

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Heather Tyrrell to the CPRE Norfolk Board of Trustees in January this year.

By joining CPRE, Heather hopes to play a small part in campaigning for some of the things that really matter to achieve an assured and promising future for Norfolk, such as facing the climate emergency and protecting the natural world for generations to come. She has considerable experience as both a trustee and as an educationalist and lives in South Norfolk close to the Broads.

Jia and Zara

We are very grateful to two volunteers who have stepped up recently to help us with our work. Jia joins us to help with our social media streams, and Zara will be working on planning issues. Thank you!



Join in:
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