



The countryside charity
North and East Yorkshire

Local CPRE newsletter

Annual Newsletter 2022



Looking Back on 2021 - 2022

CPRE is “the countryside charity” that campaigns to promote, enhance and protect the countryside for everyone’s benefit, wherever they live.

Welcome to our annual newsletter! 2022 has been quite a roller coaster, with big changes to our structure and team and lots of exciting events happening.

Following a member vote, we merged with the CPRE East Yorkshire local group and formalised our extent to the south of the river Tees, making our area of interest larger and more diverse.

Earlier this we sadly lost George Firth, our GIS specialist to foreign service. However, we have been delighted to welcome in our new Trustee Board. We still have some positions available and are continuing our search for new Trustees to help us in several areas and widen our skillset.

We have of course been able to continue with our planning work and have responded to circa 60 planning consultations (including policy, applications, and appeals) since our last AGM.

This year we are delighted to once again carry out in-person events but still find the virtual facility to ‘meet’ members across the county invaluable. Through virtual calls we have been able to meet new members easily and discuss matters of importance in their areas with

our experts as well as give them the chance to talk with likeminded people.

We were delighted to be able to undertake an Ecological DNA survey in Middlesbrough, to provide accredited information on the range of biodiversity present at the site. The project involved more than 40 volunteers who came out to collect samples from an endangered greenfield site which the Local Authority would like to develop, including more housing and a link road into an existing built-up community who really value its precious open space. We are expecting the report soon and hope to illustrate just how special this site is to biodiversity.

The Best Kept Churchyard Competition has been very well received across both counties and hopefully will inspire others to take part going forward. The Photographic Competition also continues to go from strength to strength. We intend to work with a children’s book publishing company to raise awareness of climate change for primary school children and encourage youngsters to get involved with local environment. Watch this space!

We’d like to take the opportunity to thank you for allowing us to contact you electronically - this has helped us keep you up to date with matters throughout the year with our e-bulletin, but also aid us do our bit for climate change. With your continued support, we can continue to protect and promote our special counties and ensure great things happen for North and East Yorkshire together.

President: Jan Arger

Trustees: Katie Atkinson, Ron Healey, Rosy Eaton, Clair Jones, Christian Mackintosh, Morris Charlton

Administrator: Fran Evans

Accountants: Saffrey Champness

Legal: Shoosmiths

Charity Number: 1174989

Chairman's Report

What an eventful year already, with so many significant changes occurring.

Firstly, I must give a very special thankyou and acknowledge the sad loss at the passing of the Queen. We were honoured to have her as our national patron throughout her long reign and her passing marks the end of a long era for us all. We can't begin to say in how many ways she has supported our charity but that the Queen took a keen interest in our work, sending regular messages of encouragement. Most memorably, Her Majesty hosted CPRE anniversary events at Windsor Great Park in 2001, and St James's Palace, in 1976 and 2006. On each occasion, she was keen to spend as much time as possible chatting to our volunteers about their local countryside.

It is widely recognised that King Charles III is an ardent advocate for the environment, indeed, in 1969, the young Prince of Wales wrote a letter to the then Prime Minister Harold Wilson about the decline of salmon stocks in the Scottish rivers. 'People are notoriously short-sighted when it comes to questions of wildlife,' he wrote. This set the precedent for many decades of environmental campaigning. During his time as a Prince, King Charles used his position to champion positive change, spearheading numerous initiatives for the planet. In January of this year, he wrote an essay calling for urgent Climate Action to the US magazine network stating "The time is now. The eyes of our children and grandchildren are judging us. Let ours be the generation that can. And does." I can but agree with his sentiment.

Turning to the political arena, we have all the unsettling changes of a new regime, with the U-turn on fracking moratorium, which if allowed, could potentially see huge swathes of our area turned into the largest well pad in Europe (as the CEO of INEOS once claimed could happen) and then swiftly followed by Government's desire to

bypass planning procedure to kick start new investment with the designation of 'Investment Zones'.

These are such worrying times for anyone trying to protect the environment as it now seems to be a developer free for all, using energy supply costs as the driver to secure short-term returns and a reliance on fossil fuels, again. At CPRE nationally we are also changing, with a new Assembly in place for there to be much more transparency and involvement between the national Charity policy makers and the grass roots independent CPRE charities across the country, like us.

The newly created authority in North Yorkshire will come into being in March next year, so all the local district councils are preparing for the changes. The new AONB designation for the Yorkshire Wolds is progressing slowly, but again with all the fiscal changes we are uncertain about governmental commitment to make this happen. Last year we celebrated the wonderful rivers we have in Yorkshire, followed by some pretty appalling pollution rates. We didn't expect to see such a dramatic display of climate change indicators this year, with falling reservoir levels, dried up waterfalls and hosepipe bans. No one can dispute the reality of climate change now and we are working with many local environmental groups around the county to ensure that climate change is recognised, and policies are in place to slow down the changes.

Challenging times ahead, and even more need for CPRENEY to be an effective, involved charity so do please spread the word and tell people what we are trying to achieve – we rely on your support to operate!

Thank you all again for supporting us!



Jan Arger
Chairman



Just what do trustees do?

Our Trustee Board continues to meet every three months to ensure all decisions taken by the charity fulfil or work towards our charitable objectives.

Trustees manage the day-to-day operations and future plans of the charity. Trustees liaise with other interested groups and the public to ensure help is given when needed. All Trustees are volunteers who give freely of their time to manage this outstanding charity.

It's a full-time job without the financial reward, however, just one letter from a member of the public who writes thanking us for helping them makes it all worthwhile.

Therefore, a large and heartfelt 'thank you' to all the people who've taken the time to write to us this past year.

Despite enlarging our Area of Benefit this last year, to encompass larger parts of the old North Riding and also East Yorkshire, our charitable objectives remain the same: to protect and enhance North and East Yorkshire's landscape and countryside. This includes campaigning for the right development in the right locations, objecting when necessary and supporting well-thought out and sustainable designs.

Our particular areas of focus include protecting and enhancing our: nationally designated and equally important non-designated landscapes; sites of nature conservation interest – including ones of local, national and international importance; sites of heritage and cultural importance; our beautiful coastline; the setting and character of settlements; areas of dark skies; tranquil areas; farming and forestry; rural communities; village greens and local greenspace; grass verges and hedgerows and open spaces within built-up areas.

CPRE North and East Yorkshire administration covers the areas of North and East Yorkshire boundaries – all 5366 square miles – from South of the River Tees to Goole, to Bentham, to Flamborough Headland.

We are the only part of the CPRE Network to have 2 National Parks, 4 AONBs, 3 Greenbelts and 3 Heritage Coast to protect and enhance! We cover the following:

National Parks:

North York Moors, Yorkshire Dales

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB):

Howardian Hills AONB, Nidderdale AONB, Forest of Bowland AONB;

2.6km of North Pennines AONB (which extends to 2 fields and trees – but they're still ours!)

Heritage Coast

North Yorkshire and Cleveland, Flamborough Head, Spurn Point.

Green Belts

Harrogate, York and parts of the South and West Yorkshire

Local Authority Areas:

City of York;
Craven;
East Riding of Yorkshire;
Hambleton;
Harrogate;
Kingston upon Hull,
Middlesbrough,
North Yorkshire County;
Redcar & Cleveland;
Richmondshire;
Ryedale;
Scarborough;
Selby;
Stockton

Gifting a Membership/Legacy

There are several ways that you can help us to continue to protect, promote and enhance our countryside.

Become/Gift a CPRENEY member(ship):

Stuck for a gift idea? Membership of CPRE North and East Yorkshire makes a perfect gift! Membership perks include discounted entry at various national venues and shops, access to our planning and campaigning specialists, as well as receiving specific quarterly member E-updates direct from us and various National CPRE publications.

CPRENEY is the only independent charity working to protect our precious countryside, green spaces, and unique landscapes – for the benefit of all in this beautiful part of Yorkshire.

Leaving a Legacy:

Leaving a gift in your will to 'CPRE North and East Yorkshire' could be one of the most important things you do in your lifetime to help promote, enhance and protect the countryside for future generations to enjoy. If you share our beliefs about protecting our precious heritage or beautiful countryside, then please chat to us about leaving a gift to CPRE North and East Yorkshire in your will.

Your legacy, no matter what the amount, will help us ensure that developments are sensitive to the countryside, and that housing sprawl is kept in check. With your help, there will be a green, tranquil and beautiful North and East Yorkshire for all of our grandchildren to enjoy. (N.B. we are an independent charity working under the umbrella of the National Charity, therefore, have a different charity number – needed for your gift).

As an independent charity, we rely solely on membership, donations, and legacies.

Please contact Fran at info@cpreney.org.uk or via 07983 088120 for more information.

Our Trustees

Jan Arger, Chairman

Jan has been involved with CPRE for many years in the Northeast, at branch and regional level and nationally as a Board Member, with a specific interest in Green Belt, Dark Skies and Tranquility. Jan appreciates wild spaces and good quality-built environments and understands rural isolation and inner-city problems. She also has a passion for reading Terry Pratchett books, heritage, travel and cheese.



Katie Atkinson, Vice- Chairman and Planning Lead

Katie used to work for the old regional structure of CPRE in Yorkshire & Humber and was employed by the National Charity, so knows our organisation well. We were fortunate to persuade her to become a trustee in 2018 when we restructured as Katie brings a wealth of planning expertise to the Board. Katie lived in the Ryedale area for 10 years before moving to our beautiful coastline. She has two young boys and manages to balance trustee work with a busy schedule!

Clair Jones, Treasurer

Clair grew up in the North East of England. Trained as an accountant, she has spent most of her career overseas, working with various humanitarian international organisations. She is now looking forward to re-discovering the North Yorkshire countryside from Richmond where she has made her permanent home – and also exploring how she can contribute to CPRENY's financial management and strategic plans for the future.



Ron Healey, Infrastructure Lead

Ron has forty years of experience and commitment to CPRE North and Yorkshire in various guises. Ron's knowledge of rural transport, minerals and waste and all issues York & Selby is second to none. Ron is our voice of reason, common sense and fair play. Ron was awarded a national CPRE award in 2019 for outstanding commitment to CPRE.

Rosy Eaton, Biodiversity Lead

Rosy lives on the family farm in Ryedale, along with her partner, young daughter, their cattle and lots of wildlife. Rosy has always worked in nature conservation, from advising on environmental policy to helping farmers to do more for the environment, and now does environmental consultancy with her partner Fraser. They practice what they preach at home on the farm by providing habitat for wildlife and using regenerative farming practices to restore soil health.

Rosy is passionate about grassland, woodland and freshwater habitats, with a particular interest in the health of our rivers. In her spare time Rosy enjoys walking the farm looking for wildlife and searching North Yorkshire for the best outdoor swimming spots and cake.



Our Trustees



Dr Morris Charlton – Dark Skies Lead

Morris is a new Trustee for the Charity with his focus area being Dark Skies, although he knows a bit about everything! When he moved back to Yorkshire he settled in the West of the County near Skipton. Great access to Malham and the Dales. Morris spent a number of years with the military as a regular and also as a specialist reservist. On leaving the military, he became a Headteacher focussed on SEMH as it is now called, moving through to work in Inspectorate. He now has his own business carrying out specialist ecological / environmental / safety taskings. Morris is currently contracted to a number of government departments

working on C-19 and Brexit issues. His principal areas of academic study and lecturing are specialist ecology, history and crisis management. He is attached to and lectures at a number of universities. Morris is a Trustee of a number of military and environmental charities. He hopes to bring his experience and what expertise he has to support CPRENEY over the next few what are likely to be challenging years.

Christian Mackintosh - Campaigns Lead

Christian grew up in Ripon, on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales, and has always loved the precious, varied and unique landscapes of North Yorkshire. He is a firm believer in the enormous potential for rural communities to thrive by working hand-in-hand with nature and the environment. Christian is particularly focused on sustainable agriculture, rural infrastructure, and countryside access.

Beyond CPRE, Christian serves as UK Wealth & Asset Management Technology Innovation Leader for KMPG, the professional services firm.



Some of our volunteers are:

- John Bleakley - Photographer
- Emily Richardson – PR and Communications
- Teresa Andow - Community Engagement Co-Ordinator
- Rumana Yasmin - Community Engagement Co-Ordinator
- Gill Sullivan – Volunteer Helper

We couldn't do it without you all.

Join our team

Trustee

If you are interested in being a charitable trustee, then we would love to hear from you as we are keen to diversify and rejuvenate our team at CPRE North and East Yorkshire.

Contact info@cpreney.org.uk

Volunteers

By becoming a volunteer with us you'll be part of a friendly team of like-minded people. You'll gain new skills, and we'll give you the training you may need for your volunteering role. You can join in with our social events, attend workshops and take part in our annual national conference. We have several roles that you could join in with or even create your own role if you think it may benefit the charity – pitch us the idea! See our website for more information on voluntary roles



Climate Change is the biggest risk to human Health

At CPRE we are well aware that there are multiple threats to our shared interests of the countryside and biodiversity as a result of climate change. We also, however, recognise the impact these environmental changes can have on human health. Polluted air and rising temperatures are linked to health effects ranging from increased heart attacks and strokes to the spread of infectious diseases and psychological trauma.

People around the world are witnessing first-hand how climate change can wreak havoc on the planet. Steadily rising average temperatures fuel increasingly intense wildfires, hurricanes, and other disasters that are now impossible to ignore. And while globally we have been dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, scientists are firmly still of the opinion that climate change is still the greatest threat to human health in recorded history.

World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Ghebreyesus tweeted in 2021 that “the risks posed by climate change could dwarf those of any single disease.” Indeed, following this, more than 200 medical journals released an unprecedented joint editorial that urged world leaders to act stating that: “A global increase of 1.5°C above the pre-industrial average and the continued loss of biodiversity risk catastrophic harm to health that will be impossible to reverse.” They urged world governments to treat climate change with the same urgency as they have COVID-19.

Here’s a look at the ways that climate change can affect your health—including some less obvious but still dangerous effects—and why scientists say it’s not too late to avert catastrophe.

Air Pollution

Climate change is caused by an increase of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in Earth’s atmosphere, mostly from fossil fuel emissions. But burning fossil fuels can also have direct consequences for human health. That’s because the polluted air contains small particles that can induce stroke and heart attacks by penetrating the lungs and heart and even traveling into the bloodstream. Those particles might harm the organs directly or provoke an inflammatory response from the immune system as it tries to fight them off. Estimates suggest that air pollution causes anywhere between 3.6 million and nine million premature deaths per year.

Extreme Heat

Heat waves can be deadly. The human body was not designed to cope with temperatures above 37°C. Heat can break down muscles. The body does have some ways to deal with the heat—such as sweating, but, if you’re exposed to extreme heat for too long and are unable to adequately release heat, the stress can cause a cascade of problems throughout the body. The heart has to work harder to pump blood to the rest of the organs, while sweat leeches the body of necessary minerals such as sodium and potassium. The combination can result in heart attacks and strokes.

Dehydration from heat exposure can also cause serious damage to the kidneys, which rely on water to function properly. For people whose kidneys are already beginning to fail—particularly older adults and vulnerable infants, this can be extremely dangerous.

Food Insecurity

One of the less direct—but no less harmful—ways that climate change can affect health is by disrupting the world’s supply of food. Climate change both reduces the amount of food that’s available and makes it less nutritious. According to an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report, crop yields have already begun to decline as a result of rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and extreme weather events. Meanwhile, increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere can leech plants of zinc, iron, and protein—nutrients that humans need to survive.

Infectious diseases

As the planet gets hotter, the geographic region where ticks and mosquitoes like to live is getting wider. These animals are well-known vectors of diseases such as the Zika virus, dengue fever, and malaria. As they cross the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, mosquitoes and ticks bring more opportunities for these diseases to infect greater swaths of the world. Climate change is also increasing the risk of diseases that can be transmitted through water, such as cholera, typhoid fever, and parasites, for example, when people interact with dirty floodwaters. But drought can have indirect impacts when people can’t wash their hands or are forced to drink from dodgier sources of freshwater. According to the WHO, climate change will cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year between 2030 and 2050 due to increases in heat stress, dengue, malaria, and malnutrition.

Mental health

A common result of any climate-linked disaster is the toll on mental health. The effects of climate change don’t occur in isolation. At any given time, a community might face air pollution, food insecurity, disease, and extreme heat all at once. Climate-anxiety amongst children has risen sharply with children worried about what the future might hold and campaigns such as ‘there is no planet B’ being initiated. Increasingly, universities across the UK are setting out ambitious Net Zero targets spearheaded by students leading by example.

Why there’s reason for hope...

In the Paris Agreement, countries around the world have pledged to limit global warming to below 2°C (3.6°F)—and preferably to 1.5°C (2.7°F)—by cutting their emissions. It was agreed to continue this in November 2021, at COP 26 in Glasgow. When you reduce those emissions, you reduce the impact on health as well as the planet.

The good news is that there are solutions to the climate challenges we face, which in turn could unlock vast health benefits for people around the world. Rapidly curbing greenhouse gas emissions can keep global temperature rise in check and help prevent some of the most severe climate impacts. And doing so will help offset health risks, too, such as those associated with air pollution, food scarcity, disease spread, and mental health impacts. If we collectively take proactive measures to protect nature, limit plastic pollution, and invest in climate-smart agriculture and clean energy, it will benefit the health of our planet and its people. Further, human health and well-being is increasingly recognised in the planning world as being important factors when planning new developments.

25 ways to Reduce your Carbon Footprint

Here are 25 simply, effective, (some slightly tongue in cheek) ways that you could help reduce your personal carbon footprint and potentially save some money in the process.

Seek an alternative to driving where possible -e.g. walk, bike, bus, train.

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2. Drive a low carbon vehicle (if you can).
3. Driving Style - Speeding and unnecessary acceleration reduce mileage by up to 33% pa.
4. Combine errands to reduce miles.
5. Ensure your tires are pumped up!
6. Use apps to avoid queuing traffic wherever possible.
7. Take fewer holidays abroad and consider 'staycations'
8. Don't be a space tourist! – Watch launch events online/ TV instead.
9. Fly economy class (private jets result in highest emissions by far!)
10. Use energy efficiency appliances.
11. Insulate and seal your home.
12. Turn off lights when you're not using or leaving a room.



13. Replace incandescent lighting with LED bulbs.
14. Don't set your thermostat too high or low.
15. Turn off heat/air conditioning when not home.
16. Add solar panels to your home if possible.
17. Eat locally sourced food to reduce food miles where possible.
18. Wash your car less often.
19. Use water butts to collect rainwater.



20. Reuse and recycle anything and everything you can!
21. Advocate for clean alternatives to fossil fuels.
22. Plant greenery where you can at home, from window boxes to gardens.
23. Minimise food waste – consider batch cooking and weekly menu planning.
24. Use a reusable bag.
25. Avoid excess (particularly plastic) packaging.



Government announces U-turn on Fracking...

Members will undoubtedly remember way back in 2015 when fracking was first considered in North Yorkshire at Kirby Misperton. CPRE North Yorkshire, at that time, campaigned long and hard to oppose the scheme and whilst it received planning approval from North Yorkshire County Council, the wells were never fracked!



Again, in East Yorkshire, Members will again be aware that fracking operators have sought permission at various sites, albeit sometimes under the guise of oil/gas extraction and only mini-fracks (we argue they have the same environmental impacts as their big brother) and campaigners have done exceedingly well holding operators back as much as possible.

CPRE has campaigned against fracking both nationally and locally, not least because it contributes to climate change – the biggest threat to our countryside. It can cause air and sound pollution, and the toxic chemicals used to frack can leech into our waterways and harm wildlife. Drilling to extract even more polluting fossil fuels is not the solution to the energy crisis.

‘Even if we lifted the fracking moratorium tomorrow, it would take up to a decade to extract sufficient volumes – and it would come at a high cost for communities and our precious countryside.’ – Kwasi Kwarteng MP, March 2022

This decision is another assault on our countryside and natural spaces. Once again, we will be working with local communities to campaign against yet another attempt to force fracking on local people – and for all the wrong reasons.

The good news is that we’ve beaten fracking before.

In 2019, our hard-hitting campaign helped to stop the government fast-tracking fracking. Leaked documents suggest the new Secretary for State (Rt Hon Mr Jacob Rees-Mogg) for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy wishes to fast track it again, taking decisions away from Local Communities, which would be completely at odds with our Prime Minister’s statement of allowing fracking ‘where local communities support it’. We argued that it was bad for the countryside, local communities and the environment. None of that has changed, and fracking still hasn’t been proven to be any less harmful. Last time, thanks to the collective campaigning of many, common sense prevailed and the government dropped its proposals.

Breaking the 2019 Conservative Party Manifesto pledge to put a moratorium on fracking will not ease the UK’s energy crisis or bring down energy bills – but it will risk the safety and financial security of rural communities. Indeed – here are our top myth-busters about fracking:

- **Fracking is too slow:** the technology used for hydraulic fracturing of shale rocks, and the difficulty of extracting gas from the UK’s shale deposits, have not changed markedly in the decade since fracking was first attempted in the UK. The difficulty of tearing up the UK’s countryside in pursuit of relatively small and hard-to-reach deposits means it is impossible to do so within a timeframe that will respond to the immediate crisis. The fracking industry’s lobby group has publicly admitted that it would take years, not six months, for UK fracking to start producing at scale.

- **Fracking gives access to a limited supply of gas:** the government’s independent climate and infrastructure advisers have said our gas reserves from shale are too small to impact meaningfully the prices faced by UK consumers. Scientists from the British Geological Survey (BGS) wrote in a 2019 peer-reviewed paper that the ‘maximum’ amount of shale gas under the UK was 10 times lower than the level usually cited by fracking advocates, which had been estimated by the BGS in 2013. Moreover, they said the UK’s geology and the depth of its shale deposits made it unlikely we would be able to recover enough to meet even five years of UK gas demand.

- **Shale gas won’t bring down fuel bills:** even if shale gas could be produced in the UK at the scale that’s needed, it would not reduce fuel bills. That is because the gas price is set by international markets, so any gas produced would be sold to the highest bidder and therefore vast amounts would be needed to make even a small change to the gas price. Kwasi Kwarteng, now Chancellor of the Exchequer, acknowledged made this point forcefully earlier this year in the early stages of the Ukraine crisis. He tweeted in late February ‘additional UK production won’t materially affect the wholesale market price. This includes fracking – UK producers won’t sell shale gas to UK consumers below the market price. They’re not charities.’

- **UK fracked gas may not remain in the UK:** lifting the moratorium has come with no guarantee that UK shale gas will be sold to the domestic market.

- **UK fracked oil could be used for plastic production:** we are very aware that some of the UK’s successful oil producers use their extracted oil in the production of plastics – not for heating or cooking fuel.

- **Fracking decreases house prices and pollutes:** entitled Shale Gas Rural Economy Impacts, the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) reported that fracking operations to extract shale gas in Britain could cause nearby house prices to fall by up to 7% – a financial blow to homeowners that will not be made up for via paltry energy bill compensation from fracking firms. In an official assessment of the impact of fracking, Defra warned that leakage of waste fluids could affect human health through polluted water or the consumption of contaminated agricultural products, making these locations an environmental and economic wasteland.

Sacrificing Greenfield for solar farms is also not the solution to our energy crisis, however...

• **Fracking risks safety:** the former Business Secretary, now Chancellor, asked the BGS in April to look into new techniques to help reduce the risk of earthquakes and their magnitude. The report found that reducing and predicting risk ‘remains a scientific challenge’. Furthermore, there was little evidence that there has been enough progress since the fracking ban to meet a 2019 manifesto promise that it would only be resumed if ‘the science shows categorically that it can be done safely’.

• **Fracking would take up large swathes of countryside:** the US is often held up by shale gas companies as the golden example of fracking, with no recognition of the vast differences between UK and US landscapes and geology. While fracking in the rural US can be done further away from communities, the location of shale gas deposits particularly in England requires many of the potential fracking sites to be close to small rural villages. In some cases, they’re near valuable wildlife sites. This has already seen a wave of protests outside fracking sites in the past, and will do so again if pursued. The amount of land we will need if we want to scale up fracked shale gas to address our supply issues would be vast. A 2018 report found that over 6,100 wells would be required to even half our gas imports. That’s approximately 3,500 hectares of land – an area equivalent to around 4,900 football pitches. If the amount of gas produced per well was at the lower end of the range of possibility, that figure rises to an eye-watering 9,600 hectares – more than 13,000 football pitches of UK land handed over to industrialisation.

The generation and supply of low carbon energy will be core to achieving our goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2045 or earlier. This will require a transformation of our energy system over the next 20–30 years.

The scale and immediacy of the threat to the climate and our countryside means that change is necessary now. The countryside will have a key part to play in delivering that change. This will bring with it benefits, but also challenges such as an increased amount of land being needed for renewable energy technologies.

The current model of renewable energy development has resulted in some poor outcomes for landscapes, the environment and rural communities. CPRE wants to change this and believes it is possible to achieve the net-zero transition, including the introduction of new solar developments, in harmony with our wider environmental and social objectives. To achieve this, however, the model of development and planning must be radically different.

This means taking a strategic planning approach to development of renewable energy assets at the local level and ensuring that local communities are empowered to help shape their local energy response. CPRENEY will, therefore, only support solar developments which:

- minimise impacts on landscapes, tranquility and heritage, through appropriately scaled development;
- does not use our Best and Most Versatile agricultural land;
- bring net benefits to wildlife;
- benefit the rural economy; and
- are supported or owned by local communities.

Renewable energy generation and climate change mitigation must also be maximized within urban areas and priority given to using previously developed land in line with CPRE’s ‘brownfield first’ policy.

CPRENEY will continue to advocate for solar schemes to be incorporated into designs for new roofscape, particularly those associated with commercial and office development wherever possible.

Further support for proposals will be offered to suitable retrofitting schemes promoting the additions of renewables to existing building stock ensuring high standards of energy efficiency and climate mitigation are achieved in line with legally binding climate targets.



Local Plan Status – North and East Yorkshire

City of York

The City of York is still progressing towards its first ever Local Plan – although has faced several delays over the past year!

The Council submitted their draft Plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination in May 2018 and the first stage of the examination in public was held in December 2019 regarding Housing Strategy and Green Belt Release. The Inspectors had further questions and asked CYC to provide further evidence on a number of points relating to proposed new housing figures and the need for Green Belt alterations. CPRENEY provided evidence in relation to the importance of retaining Green Belt. Phases 2, 3 and 4 Hearings have now been verbally examined and we await the Inspector's written reports.

Craven

The Craven District Council Local Plan was adopted in November 2019. The Plan covers the period 2012-2032 and sets out the overall development vision for the district over that timeframe.

The Plan sets out that the Craven Local Plan Area, excluding the Yorkshire Dales National Park, will require 230 new dwellings per annum (4,600 dwellings over plan period) are required and sets a variable affordable housing target dependent upon the size of the site. In the past year CPRENEY has responded to various policy consultations covering such topics as Design, Affordable Housing and Rural Homes which will sit alongside the Local Plan to offer developers even more guidance regarding making a successful application

East Riding of Yorkshire

The East Riding Local Plan is the name for the suite of planning documents that together provide the long-term development plan for the East Riding. The Strategy Document (adopted April 2016) and the Allocations Document (adopted July 2016) are the primary documents used to determine planning applications. These documents allocate enough land for 23,800 (net) additional dwellings (1,400 per annum) in the East Riding between 2012 and 2029.

The Council are currently reviewing their Local Plan documents with the aim of creating a single Local Plan document. The Council consulted on their Draft Local Plan in the summer of 2021, before CPRE North and East Yorkshire merged to a single charity. Once the new pre-submission Local Plan is published (expected late 2022), CPRENEY will comment accordingly

Hambleton

Hambleton District Council adopted their Local Plan in February 2022, and the Plan covers up to 2036 allocating at least 6,9305 new homes across the district.

CPRENEY participated fully in the Local Plan preparation and have recently completed a series of responses to

consultations on Supplementary Planning Documents on Housing and Design Guides. CPRENEY has also commented on a number of forthcoming Neighbourhood Plans and were pleased to see Ingleby Arncliffe's adoption earlier this year.

Harrogate

The Council's Local Plan covers the plan period until 2035. CPRENEY participated fully in the local plan preparation process. The Plan sets out a need for 13,377 new homes over the lifetime of the plan, which equates to 637 new dwellings per annum. Following an unsuccessful High Court Challenge, the Plan was adopted in December 2020.

The Council are currently consulting on the details of a new settlement 'Maltkin' and CPRENEY will be submitting a full response in due course.

Kingston upon Hull

The Hull Local Plan was adopted in November 2017 and is to be used to guide new development in the city up to 2032. The Local Plan provides a vision and strategic priorities for the city, and policies with supporting text based around key themes and sets out a minimum requirement of 9,920 (net) new homes during the period 2016 to 2032 (620 dwellings per year) across the City area.

Amongst other things, the Local Plan sets a vision for the Port of Hull area which is a world-class port and a gateway to international trade, operating as one of the UK's leading foreign trade ports. It is the stated intention of Associated British Ports (ABP), who own and operate a large majority of it) to continue to invest in the future growth and development of the Port, responding to market trends and demand. The Port estate within Hull is extensive covering a large part of the city's frontage with the Humber Estuary. It is vital that the economic needs of the city and port are balanced with appropriate protections for the environment and unique landscape/waterscape of this unique location.

Middlesbrough

The Local Plan consists of a series of Development Plan Documents setting policies and proposals for the use of land in Middlesbrough. It includes the Housing Local Plan (adopted 2014), a Core Strategy (adopted 2008), and Regeneration DPD (adopted 2009).

The Council have committed to preparing a new Local Plan which will set out a vision for the future development of Middlesbrough, up to 2037. The Council has however recently announced it has abandoned its draft Local Plan and have committed to 'starting the process again'. CPRENEY intend to fully participate in the process as soon as possible.

In the meantime, the existing Development Plan remains in force which sets out the need for circa 410 dwellings per annum or 6,970 net new dwellings over the plan period.

Local Plan Status – North and East Yorkshire

North Yorkshire County Council

The Joint Authorities (City of York, North York Moors National Park Authority and North Yorkshire County Council) submitted their Joint Minerals and Waste Plan (JMWP) to the Secretary of State in 2017. CPRENEY fully participated over a number of years in the adoption process, including accompanying the Inspector on various site visits. The JMWP was finally adopted in all three Authorities by April 2022.

The JMWP sets out how minerals and waste will be dealt with across the large county area until December 2030 and includes several policies on unconventional hydrocarbon extraction (including fracking for shale gas/oil).

Redcar and Cleveland

The development plan currently consists of the Redcar and Cleveland Local Plan (adopted May 2018) and the Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents.

The plan sets out that there will be a minimum of 234 net new dwellings per annum, or 3,978 for the period 2016-2032.

Richmondshire

The Richmondshire Core Strategy was adopted on 9th December 2014. The Council is currently reviewing the Local Plan (following updates to National Planning Policy) which will update the policies used to consider new development across the district.

The new Local Plan (2014-2035) will also include other detailed policies, a masterplan for Catterick Garrison and site allocations for housing, economic development, retail and leisure and community facilities.

CPRENEY commented on the Council's initial issues and options and their Preferred Options consultation. We are awaiting publication of the final draft Local Plan and intend to comment in full in due course.

Ryedale

The Ryedale Local Plan is made up of several key planning documents. The Local Plan was adopted in June 2019 and sets out the site allocations which sit alongside the Local Plan Strategy (adopted in 2013) and the Helmsley Plan (adopted in 2015). The Council are currently required to deliver 3000 new homes over the plan period (2012-2027) which equates to circa 200pa.

The Council are currently consulting the public on the sites that have been put forward to them in their initial 'Call for Sites' exercise and the results of this will form the next 'preferred options' stage of the Local Plan review. In the meantime, CPRENEY will continue to monitor proposals against the adopted Local Plan policies as necessary.

Scarborough

The Scarborough Local Plan was adopted in July 2017 and covers the period from 2011-2032. The Local Plan area covers the extent of the Borough outside the jurisdiction of the North York Moors National Park Authority and includes the main built up areas of Scarborough, Whitby and Filey, alongside a number of villages and hamlets and also has the responsibility for the onshore stretch of coastline between Cloughton and Speeton.

At adoption, to incorporate the large number of sites already within the planning system, Scarborough allocated a total 9,450 net new homes over the plan period.

The Council have committed to a full Plan Review and are currently consulting on potential new allocations as part of this process to which CPRENEY commented. The new Local Plan aims to put a positive response to climate change at the heart of the planning system. We look forward to seeing their preferred options Local Plan being published in the coming few months.

Selby

Selby Council has a number of planning documents which make up their Local Plan including the Core Strategy (adopted 2013) and the Selby Local Plan (adopted in 2005). After several attempts, the Council has commenced work on a new single Local Plan which will incorporate a review of the Core Strategy and site allocations in line with current national guidance.

CPRENEY commented on the Preferred Options Local Plan last year and have recently commented on the settlement hierarchy paper, additional sites and evidence base consultations. A new draft Local Plan has recently been published for consultation which includes a new settlement at 'Heronby'. CPRENEY entirely oppose this settlement believing there to be much more sustainable options for its location and will be responding in full on this matter and the plan in general.

Stockton

The area of interest for CPRENEY extends to the southern edge of the River Tees, therefore, incorporates the southern area of Stockton on Tees. The northern area is looked after by CPRE Durham.

The Stockton on Tees Local Plan was adopted in 2019 and sets out policies and proposals to guide planning decisions and establishes a framework for sustainable economic growth and development in the Borough up until 2032.

The Local Plan requires that to meet housing need a minimum of 10,150 new homes will be delivered across the district area

Local Plan Status – North and East Yorkshire

North York Moors National Park (NYMNP)

The NYMNP adopted their Local Plan in July 2020. Their development plan consists of the Local Plan, the Helmsley Plan (adopted 2015 - shared with Ryedale) and the Whitby Business Park Area Action Plan (adopted 2014).

The Local Plan policies have been designed to serve and enhance the National Park's natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, and protects special areas and features within it from harmful development including by: protecting and encouraging the understanding and enjoyment of the National Park's 'Special Qualities'; identifying where development can and cannot take place; encouraging redevelopment of vacant buildings or land; and helping to reduce the National Park's contribution to climate change.

The NYMNP are also the joint authors of the emerging Minerals and Waste Local Plan for North Yorkshire.

Yorkshire Dales National Park (YDNPA)

In 2016 the YDNPA boundary was extended and the NPA inherited policies previously prepared by other planning authorities. The policies were all prepared at different times and in different contexts so include a number of differences in approach.

The YDNPA has resolved to bring together all planning policies for the whole of the National Park area by preparing a new Local Plan. CPRENEY has recently commented upon its Preferred Options Local Plan and were impressed by its intentions to reinforce landscape protection whilst mitigating the effects of climate change. We look forward to commenting further on the Publication draft Local Plan early next year.

Howardian Hills AONB

The Howardian Hills AONB covers 204sq. km (79sq. miles) of the North Yorkshire countryside, nestled between the NYM National Park, the Yorkshire Wolds and the Vale of York. It is a unique landscape with its well-wooded rolling countryside, patchwork of arable and pasture fields, scenic villages and historic country houses with classic parkland landscapes. The AONB designation was confirmed in 1987 in recognition of its national landscape importance. Planning is determined by the policies in the Ryedale District Plan and Hambleton District Plan. The Management Plan has recently been adopted and covers the period from 2019-2024.

Nidderdale AONB

Nidderdale AONB is an area of 600sq. km (233sq. miles) located on the eastern edge of the Yorkshire Pennines stretching from the high moorland of Great Whernside south and east towards the edge of the Vale of York. Designated as an AONB in 1994, it is renowned for its farming heritage which has shaped many of its landscapes and includes tranquil expanses of water, open heather moorlands and rolling pastures, to stone walls, farm buildings and villages. Policies in the Harrogate, Hambleton and Richmondshire Local Plans determine planning matters. The Management Plan has been adopted for the 2019-2024 period and CPRENEY is a member of the Joint Advisory Committee for this AONB which advise local authorities and other organisations about how to best achieve AONB objectives.

Forest of Bowland AONB

The Forest of Bowland AONB is situated in North West England, covering 803sq. km (312sq. miles) of rural land in the counties of Lancashire (730sq. km) and North Yorkshire (73sq. miles). Designated as an AONB in 1964 for its important heather moorland, blanket bog and rare birds. In North Yorkshire, planning matters are dealt with by Craven District Local Plan. The Management Plan has recently been reviewed and the 2019-2024 version and has been adopted.



Planning Campaigns of Note for 2021 – 2022

This section highlights a very small snapshot of some of the proposals the CPRENEY Trustee Planning Lead had had involvement in since the last AGM which may be of interest to members.

5Ha Employment site, Dalton, Hambleton

The 5Ha site consists of an area of redundant poultry sheds and scrubland located in part of a wider site known as the Former Dalton Airfield, adjacent to the existing Dalton Airfield Industrial Estate between the villages of Topcliffe and Dalton, and in close proximity to both the A168 and the A167. CPRENEY supported the extension to the existing Industrial Estate which utilised previously developed and redundant land close to major infrastructure links, ensuring that heavy goods vehicles would not be a nuisance to settlements. The proposal was in Outline, therefore detailed design for the site should be forthcoming. CPRENEY would hope the developer would utilise the opportunity to incorporate climate resilient and energy efficient design.

130Ha mixed-use site at Stainsby, Middlesbrough

Earlier this year, CPRENEY supported the local community in providing a response to Middlesbrough Council setting out our strong objections to a large application at Stainsby to the south-west of Middlesbrough. This follows the Council's production of a Masterplan for is one of the last remaining larger areas of greenfield land in the Borough. The proposal is for a large 1670 new dwellings, a new local retail centre and a primary school on a 130Ha site. Whilst there is a lot to be commended in terms of applicants proposal for 'country park living' (i.e. 53% of the site will be green space - incorporated throughout the site rather than on an isolated edge etc) we consider the site is wholly inappropriate given that the premise of the application is built around a new spine road that is proposed to be directed through Mandale Meadows and Bluebell Beck which are local nature reserves and much valued local green space. CPRENEY argued that the site and road is no longer justified given the Council can demonstrate an impressive build out rate and large supply of sites elsewhere in the Council's area so should preserve this large and much valued green space. Middlesbrough Council has not made a decision on the proposal yet.

Oil Extraction at West Newton

CPRENEY responded to a major application at West Newton to extend the life of a planning application by a further 3 years to allow the operator to construct of a temporary well site, erect a 50m drilling rig with associated plant, equipment and access track followed by well site restoration to explore for the potential of extracting oil out of the ground. CPRENEY strongly objected to the proposal to extract a fossil fuel when the climate emergency strongly suggests we should leave all such fuels in the ground and transfer to clean, sustainable energy as soon as possible. Should the operator find oil, they will then seek a further planning approval to extract oil for up to 25 years. They even stated that whilst this technically would not constitute 'fracking', they would effectively undertake a 'mini-frack' to extract the oil. We were extremely disappointed that the Council approved the proposals despite having refused the same one some months previously stating that the war in Ukraine negated all 'green' concerns, despite having declared a climate emergency.

69.5Ha Solar Farm, Richmondshire

CPRENEY have responded to numerous applications this past year for large solar farm development sites across the county, particularly on some of the best quality agricultural land in the country.

This application proposed to split the development into two sites combining to cover 69Ha within an important gateway into Richmond, on a green field site and within the setting of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. We considered that the impact of the proposals on the important heritage and landscape settings of the nationally designated landscape and settlement and the impact of them on the surrounding network of public rights of way was just too detrimental to be outweighed by any benefits of the proposal. The applicant has attempted to overcome objections by submitting more information, therefore, a decision is yet to be made.

Went Edge Quarry Extension, Selby

CPRENEY was asked to support the community in objecting to an application to extend the Went Edge Quarry site by an additional 9.7Ha, which would bring the overall total of the site to over 20ha in size, more than doubling what was originally approved. The site, whilst in North Yorkshire, sits entirely within the West Yorkshire Green Belt. CPRENEY considered that the proposals did not meet the required tests set out in the national planning policy in relation to Green Belt and as such will impact the 'openness' of the designation, furthermore, would impact the landscape at this location bringing the proposals much nearer (within 1km of the nearest settlement and would detrimentally impact the Brockadale SSSI and nature reserve and joined with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust in their objections. We were particularly disappointed that the County Council approved the proposals despite numerous objections from the surrounding communities and various environmental stakeholders.

Events Venue in Howardian Hills AONB, Ryedale

CPRENEY have objected to this proposal in Ryedale for a second time as we believe that the proposal for a 220-person events venue will have a significantly detrimental impact on the Howardian Hills AONB. Whilst we understand the need for farmers to diversify, we do not consider that this should be done at the expense of the environment, landscape or in this case special qualities of the AONB. We are incredibly pleased that the AONB Management Team shared our concerns and strongly objected to the proposals also. At the time of printing, a decision is yet to be made.

215 new dwellings residential development, Yarm, Stockton on Tees

CPRENEY objected to this proposal on the grounds that the site already benefits from planning permission for a Retirement Village comprising 332 dwellings for the over 55's and 68-bed care home facility with related leisure/social facilities ('Community Hub') and associated infrastructure. The application to change the proposals, to remove the restriction for over 55s and allow a mix of open market homes on the site is not in conformity with planning policy which does not allocate the site for development for the ageing population. No other site in the Local Plan does this and the applicant did not provide any justification for the removal of this part of the scheme. The Council is yet to determine the proposals.

Conversion of Marske Hall and Sawmill to a Wedding Venue, Yorkshire Dales National Park

CPRENY first objected to this proposal in May 2020. The proposal was to convert the Grade 2* Listed Marske Hall from 10 open market apartments to an aparthotel and conversion of basement to associated facilities which would include gym, sauna, laundry, retail space, cellar bar and tasting rooms; conversion and extension of the kennels to an events space; conversion of the Sawmill to a further events space. We objected on the grounds that cumulatively the overall level of development would have a detrimental impact on the main Listed Building but also of the many individual listed buildings within the grounds. The Council refused the proposal in line with our concerns. However, the applicant resubmitted a further application which whilst seeking to address some concerns didn't go far enough to remove our objection. The applicant has now appealed the proposal and we await the outcome of the Inspectors report.

73 Houses at Knox Lane, Harrogate

CPRENY first became involved with this application in 2020 following member contact. The proposal was for the change of use of 460m² of agricultural land for residential development. Whilst not the largest site area we deal with and despite some of the site being allocated for development in the Local Plan, we objected based on the fact that the developer significantly increased the proposed yield on site over and above that proposed by the local planning authority, but also because the additional site area is of known importance to wildlife and encompasses an important ecological corridor. Furthermore, as a result of COVID the single-track lane which is adjacent to the site had become a vital source of fresh air and tranquillity to many residents seeking access to nearby countryside. Since 2020, the applicant has sought to address concerns and has submitted amended details, including reducing the number of units on site but retaining the additional space in the redline boundary. Once again, we objected considering this an open door to future development by the applicant in the future. The Council agreed and refused the proposals. The applicant has appealed the refusal... watch this space!



We need your help.

Could you be our Eyes and Ears in North and East Yorkshire and the North Riding?

We are looking for volunteers across the county to look out for development proposals in their areas and get in touch with us to raise any concerns. We can't promise to take up every case but will certainly assess them against National and Local policies as well as our CPRE ones to ensure appropriate action. If we work together, we can help to make things better and do more. Would you like to help? We think there can be no better people than our own members to alert of us to concerns or even highlight really good projects that deserve our support, so would love you to get involved. This does not require any specific planning expertise, and simply means paying attention to issues affecting the countryside or green spaces in your local area, informing the CPRENEY team of your concerns. All you would need is access to a computer, a spare hour or two each week, and a passion for supporting the countryside.

We cover 14 Planning Authorities across our large area and 2 National Park Authorities. We are hoping for an Eyes & Ears Volunteer for each area. Every district is different and publishes planning application lists and consultations to their own timescale and if we don't notice, we could miss the deadline to comment.

We know what that can happen when Green Wedge deletions occur, enormous inappropriate housing schemes and industrial scale solar array fields are approved! We don't want to stop development just make sure it's the right development, of an appropriate scale and in the right location. If you would like to find out more about the role or apply, please email info@cpreny.org.uk or contact us on 07983 088120 to arrange a chat.

Are you worried about Hedgerows?

Hedges are beautiful and full of wildlife all year. In Autumn they really come into their own, full of sloes, haws and hazelnuts and chattering flocks of birds feasting on berries in preparation for winter.



Autumn and Winter are also busy times of year for work being done on hedges, from routine cutting to more dramatic hedge-laying or coppicing. In England we have laws and policies in place to protect hedges and to encourage wildlife-friendly management. How can you tell whether work on a hedge is legal or not and what can you do if you're worried?

If you see someone taking out a hedge on farmland, check with the Hedgerows Officer at your Local Planning Authority if permission has been granted under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. If there was no permission and the hedge is deemed important (e.g. old, a parish boundary, diverse plant species) the Officer has the legal power to issue a retention notice or to make them replant the hedge. Coppicing of a hedge (cutting the hedge close to the ground to encourage new growth) is allowed under the Regulations, but if it doesn't regrow, that would constitute removal.

Farmers receiving Basic Payment Scheme payments are required to not cut hedges between 1 March and 31 August (they can coppice between 1 March and 30 April) and they should not cultivate or spray within 2m of the center of a hedge. If you have concerns try contacting the Rural Payments Agency on - ruralpayments@defra.gov.uk - 03000 200 301



Photo: Richard Knight, FWAG

Many bird species rely on hedges for nesting sites, so work during the nest season (approx. 1 March to 31 August) can be very damaging. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 makes it illegal to intentionally kill or injure a wild bird or to disturb their nests. If you think an offence has been committed, you can contact your local Police Force and ask for the information to be passed on to the Wildlife Crime Officer.

If you want to report damage to a hedge it is useful to provide as much evidence as possible – exact locations, maps, photos (especially before and after photos or photos of any hedges you fear might be removed). It's also important to contact them as quickly as possible.

Hedgeline provide a detailed guide to the protection for hedges

https://hedgeline.org.uk/cms/cms_content/files/489_hedges_and_the_law_updated_april_2015.pdf

You have the power to be the eyes and ears of the countryside and report damage that may otherwise go unseen.

The government's own climate change advisors have said we need 40% more hedges by 2050 – **enough to go halfway to the moon. Can you join us in calling on the government to set this target?**

Please sign the petition: <https://takeaction.cpre.org.uk/page/85848/petition/1>



Natural England's Woeful Proposed Area for the Yorkshire Wolds as an AONB

Natural England has published its first draft of its proposed new candidate designation for the Yorkshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and we simply think it does not go far enough.

The Map below shows the 2 proposed areas as hashed green stripes. This is the area that Natural England (NE) has proposed to be designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) with the highest level of landscape protection in planning terms in the UK, the same level of protection given to National Parks. The smallest area covers a section of the beach around Flamborough Headland.



Whilst the area it covers is indeed special, it falls far too short by not including the majority of the impressive East Yorkshire Wolds, including amongst many other areas, the market town of Driffield known as 'The Capital of the Wolds', the historic 'Wolds Valley' following the Gypsy Race, or the beautiful white chalk cliffs of Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs of renowned bird-life fame, which whilst part of the Heritage Coast, do not benefit from the same landscape protection as AONBs and National Parks. These areas, we're sure you'll agree, are not only rich in natural beauty and biodiversity but also hold such valuable cultural heritage, worthy of protection through the designation.

We at CPRE North and East Yorkshire actually think the majority of the area known as the 'Yorkshire Wolds' should be included in the AONB including all the parts in East Riding, stretching into Ryedale and Scarborough districts shown in grey below in NE's original Area of Search. This would follow the 'extension' of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB northwards from the Humber Estuary and effectively link the two areas which consist of the same chalk stream, before disappearing under the sea at Flamborough and rising again in Norway.



Whilst fully supportive of the AONB designation and the area that has been proposed (mainly within parts of Ryedale District and Scarborough Borough areas), the majority of the Yorkshire Wolds which fall within East Yorkshire, has been completely ignored, including areas immortalised in art by David Hockney's 'Yorkshire Wolds Landscapes' series and the spectacular 400ft chalk cliffs of Speeton, Flamborough Headland and Bempton Cliffs. Natural England have suggested that these areas should not be included as their beauty has been diminished by a proliferation of holiday accommodation sites (amongst other things). – We believe that those visitors come to the area as it is so beautiful and unique in the North of England! Furthermore, whilst we seek to protect the headland (currently a Heritage Coast which lacks the same planning controls as an AONB designation) from further expansion of such holiday parks, we recognise that tourism brings a huge economic boost for the area and as such the designation of the area as an AONB can benefit the visitor economy massively.

CPRENEY hope to work specifically with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, who are equally as disappointed that their area has been side-lined, to create a meaningful response to the next phase of consultation. It is hoped that the initial candidate area will indeed alter in scale and recognise the special landscape, biodiverse and cultural heritage qualities this area has in abundance. We are aware that Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, the RSPB and other leading stakeholders are equally as frustrated with the narrow area considered at present.

Natural England state that 'for an area to be included in the provisional Candidate Area for designation it must have outstanding natural beauty, significant at a national level, and thus be suitable for AONB designation status.' We believe the majority of the Yorkshire Wolds in both North and East Yorkshire demonstrably meets these criteria. Indeed, their own National Character Area which sets out landscape types describes the Yorkshire Wolds as forming 'an arc of high, gently rolling ground extending from the Humber Estuary west of Hull, to the North Sea coast at Flamborough Head, north of Bridlington'.

The engagement opportunity that has just finished was a starting point, to begin the conversation with stakeholders and the public on an informal basis. There will be further, more formal opportunities to submit your views, especially during the formal public consultation process. This will hopefully take place in approximately 1 year, once further detailed technical assessments have been completed and a detailed proposed boundary produced. All the evidence will be available for you to view at that time. There will then be another phase of analysis of consultation responses, which may lead to further changes to the potential designation area. If a proposal for a new AONB is subsequently approved by the Natural England Board, a statutory Notice Period would be undertaken providing a further opportunity to comment. After that any final proposal is submitted to the Secretary of State for confirmation.

We will continue to keep you informed of engagement opportunities when the formal consultation is approaching and hope that as many of you as possible will feel you can support us in responding to the consultation to put across your views with the aim of increasing the candidate area for designation in this extraordinary special area.

Children Writing Competition 2021-2022

Our popular Primary School writing competition has had another successful year.

Children are our future, our work to protect and enhance this county is for this generation and the next and the next....

The theme on this year was “What I love about North Yorkshire”, where children were challenged spend time in North Yorkshire over the Summer Holidays and once back at school, write about what they love about our beautiful countryside.

Age groups have been set to allow for all participants to have a fair chance at winning and have equal skills as their peers. These consist of KS1 and KS2

The main aim for the competition is to allow young people to explore some of the amazing countryside that we see every day and creativity to develop their writing skills.

The over school winner was judged by David Rose, the CPRE North Regional Chairman.

We have had 4 schools that entered with over 230 entries

- Burton Salmon CP School
- Hushwaite Primary School
- St. Mary’s RC School
- Western Primary School

There were lots of excellent pieces of work, making it very difficult for the judges to pick the winners.

“It was such a pleasure to read the entries in the CPRENY competition and so encouraging that children demonstrated their appreciation of living in such an attractive part of the world. Yorkshire truly is a special place.”

David Rose, CPRE Regional Chairman

Our Chairman, Jan Arger, visited the overall winning school -St Mary’s Primary School to present them with their winning cheque and certificate.



Key Stage 1 Winner

Enid’s fantastic entry about Whitby from Western Primary



Key Stage 2 Winner

Jessica from St Mary’s - not only was her story very descriptive of the area, she clearly enjoys exploring the countryside and beaches and provided lots of handy facts and tips about visiting the area.

Highly Commended Awards:

Key stage 1:

- Burton Salmon school – Jessica
- Hushwaite Primary – Niamh
- St Mary’s primary – Max

Key stage 2:

- Hushwaite – Rhys
- Western – Mathilde
- Burton – Ruby

Congratulation to everyone who took part across North Yorkshire.

We have just launched 2022-2023 school writing competition – “What I love about my countryside”

For more information and to read all the amazing stories please visit www.cpreny.org.uk



Photography Competition 2021

We were blown away yet again by the amazing entries. The winners were picked by the number of votes “likes” on Instagram on the 31st of December 2021. Thank you to everyone who entered.



1st Place Winner: Catherine Hardy

Catherine says: “One of the best things about Robin Hood’s Bay is that you can stand in the same spot at different times of the year or even the day and get a wildly different shot. It’s probably my favourite place on earth and I was lucky enough to catch this one as the sun was going down.”

2nd Place: Emma Bruce



3rd Place: Tracy Clayton



Children Photography Competition 2021

Due to the terrific response of our photography competition, we started a Children's Category for the first time.



1st Place Winner: Elia

Cold Shower

2nd Place: Thomas

Evening Cricket at Middleham



2nd Place: Eli

Me and my shadow

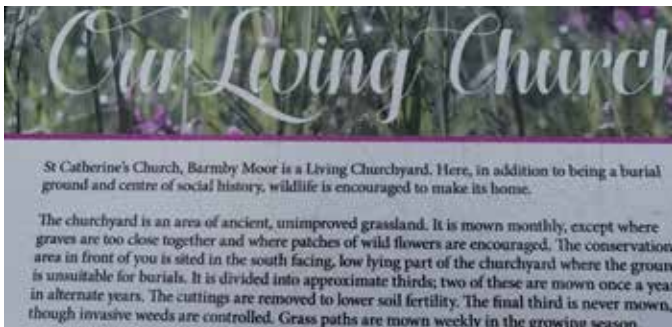


Best Churchyard Competition 2022

What a privilege to be one of the judges again for this year's competition.

This year's competition was enhanced by the inclusion of Churchyards from East Yorkshire – some wonderful visits and interesting conversations. Some churchyards were formal and majestic and of great scale whilst we also had some edgy “guerrilla garden” type churchyards. All rich with wildlife and providing a quite spot for contemplation. The entrants exemplified the diversity and scale that we can find in and across Yorkshire churchyards.

A commonality for all churchyards was the passion and commitment evident of local people, to make them a special place. I appreciated the shade and shelter the great trees offered from phenomenally hot weather. This is perhaps an underappreciated aspect of the peace and solitude in the churchyards. Managing historic and standard trees is costly but they are a quintessential aspect of our landscape and churchyards.



All the Churchyards I visited, as above picture highlights, were living and thriving and this is what puts them into the exceptional category in an exceptionally warm year.

It is always interesting to observe the challenges some churchyards have. Being on a busy main road has issues of noise and pollution but this assuaged by hedges and trees absorbing noise and fumes. Some church and churchyards are down tight little tracks or on packhorse routes making access difficult – fortunately the ford to arrive at Grosmont



was not too deep! It has been a complex aspect of judging the last two years removing the churchyard from its context and focussing just on the churchyard.

Esrick was joy to start the day with, superb trees and well managed churchyard with allotments close by. The churchyard is accessible and safe with a healthily large compost heap and a “resident” Sparrowhawk breakfasting as I entered the wooded area.

Nearby and across country was Barmby Moor, an area I know well, having dug many soil pits in the area many years ago. This is a well-managed and beautiful churchyard with good signage and information boards. There is a stark contrast with the “conservation” area and the well curated Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) area. This gave an addition to the mosaic of habitats – in spite of the wilded areas there were more bees in the CWGC area!

Across country lay Upper Helmsley church, this was a move from busy roads to country lanes and I was worried I was going to miss the church. This is hidden away and is what I would term our guerrilla churchyard as it is bush and exciting and surprising, to say the least.



It is rich on conservation and as a meeting spot – multi use churchyard. It does have gravestones in as well!



It was unfortunate I arrived on a day and time when coffee and biscuits were not for sale – a nice yard to write up your notes and take in the myriad of different projects.

Back onto the busy road and a long travel to Grosmont on the North Yorkshire Moors. Fantastic views on the approach and an unusual split churchyard with a rich flora sited in a popular tourist node. The nearby beck added atmosphere as well as a Dipper. In times of old this Church and Churchyard would have been the focus of the community. It still is and is magnificent and resplendent.



Best Churchyard Competition 2022

From Grosmont, if anyone wants to follow the route I travelled, to Seamer and Hutton Buscel. This is a lovely route to follow on the coastal road. Seamer is a busy village with a great village churchyard, good standard trees, well managed compost and a good balance of conservation and churchyard. The Gravestone arrangement, which is unusual is excellent habitat for invertebrates and mammals.



Hutton Buscel was the great disappointment for the day until I found out I had entered from the back gate so to speak. When I was on the main entrance, what an absolutely splendid churchyard it is, with an lengthy avenue of trees – is there another such avenue? The trees were occupied by at least one curious Tawny Owl).

From Hutton Buscel down the coat road to the magnificent Bridlington Priory. This a conservation churchyard that is enhanced by scale and ornamentation and though slightly” urbanish” is a outstanding site to visit .



There are many and numerous features to explore in Bridlington Priory – it enhances a visit to the seaside!

From Bridlington to Sproatly and a surprise meteorite – keeping up the tradition of unexpected astronomical features in churchyard visits.

Again, a well curated rural churchyard sympathetically managed and carried out to great effect. A good spot to stop on a long journey and appreciate the trees and the grasses.

A factor impacting on all the yards visited was the impact of the record temperatures – plants had finished blooming and gone to seed or grasses bolted. Identification was tested at times, but all churches visited had a rich flora.

From Sproatly back to the north to visit Kirkburn. I really appreciated the hard work and planning that was ongoing in this churchyard – fantastic to see species lists that were developing and the only church visited with a Pipistrelle dropping on the church door. This is an ongoing project given that the information boards are being revised. This is an excellent community project with the project extending beyond the yard – Guerrilla Gardening! What was interesting to have a rationale / context explained – this is a churchyard surrounded by intensive farming. Great that the group have linked in with the Wildlife Trust.



Finally, after 334 miles in total the final church to visit was Walkington. Beautiful just before twilight. As said on the submissions form – tranquil and peaceful on the edge of the village. Great trees and a brief sighting of a Sparrowhawk having fed on Pigeon flying down the edge of the yard. The attached wildlife paddock looked great and will be even better as it matures.

So, who is the winner?

After a lengthy discussion with the judges, we found Barmby met the criteria for this Year’s Best Churchyard for its style, majesty, simple signage and interpretation, Conservation work and gentle management.

We would however highly commend Upper Helmsley – this is different and thoroughly enjoyable experience - We look forward to a return trip to see how it develops.

Bridlington Priory Highly commended for sheer scale and majesty along with Kirkburn for the sheer hard work and effort managing a beautiful churchyard.

There have to be winners in competitions but some many of the features described above will stay in my memory for some time!

Many thanks to all you hard working volunteers for all the work you do to make our churchyards havens of conservation and tranquillity!



Yorkshire Post Conference and Awards 2022

On Thursday 29 September, we had the pleasure of attending the Country Week conference and Awards!

Hosted by the Yorkshire Post at the Pavilions of Harrogate, the event brings together key decision makers, business leaders and political figureheads from the across the Yorkshire rural community.



A series of panel discussions saw thought leaders share insights into key topics such as supporting farmers' mental health, breaking barriers stopping young people entering the agricultural sector, and the importance of farmland for carbon sequestration.

Our very own Trustee, Dr Morris Charlton, delivered a memorable speech at the 'Backing British Farming' panel, on the importance of starting conversations between different sectors, demographics and expertise to share knowledge and encourage people to support and invest in British farming.



The event held a fantastic atmosphere with key issues raised but hope for the future through collective action!



We rounded off the day at the Country Week Awards, at which CPRENEY sponsored the Farm Shop of the Year Award.

Huge congratulations go to this year's winners, Cedarbarn Farm Shop!

Cedarbarn Farm Shop began as a PYO strawberries site from a caravan circa 27 years ago and now is a thriving seasonal PYO with a farm shop, butchers, café, miniature railway, dog field and more - loved by all ages and attracting visitors far and wide. The site has its own array of solar panels, mostly hidden from the road which is used to provide power to the site to enable them to be as self-sufficient and sustainable as possible.

We were delighted to sponsor the retailers working to champion the very best in Yorkshire produce.

Find out more about Cedarbarn here:
<https://www.cedarbarnfarmshop.co.uk/>



Coming up in 2022 - 2023

We are pleased to announce our Events and Competitions for 2022-23.

Instagram Photography Competition

Enter our monthly CPRE North and East Yorkshire Social Media Cover photography competition.

All monthly winners will go into a yearly draw. The overall winner will be announced in September 2023 and be invited to our AGM to receive prize and certificate. Good Luck!! Entry is free and open to everyone (including non-members).

School Writing Competition

Thank you to all the schools that have taken part across North Yorkshire over the years.

We have contacted all primary schools across North and East Yorkshire and invited them to join in by encouraging pupils to get outdoors in the North and East Yorkshire countryside during their break. The main categories are EYFS, KS1 and KS2. Prizes are awarded to the overall individual school and one per each category.

Is your school interested?

Contact us on info@cpreny.org.uk for more information.

Worm Charming Competition

Many children first experience wildlife in their garden by finding and holding wriggling worms in their hands.

Worms are fascinating creatures that are rarely seen, they live in our soil and at night drag dead leaves, and vegetation under the soil to eat, this food passes through the whole length of the worms body and is then excreted in the form of coiled 'worm casts' (poo) which you find on the soils surface, especially on lawns, these 'casts' are highly nutritious and feed the plants. Worms aerate the soil and improve its drainage by tunnelling in the ground. This is also beneficial to plants; a worm burrow can be as deep as 150cm.

Worms can also be found in our Compost Bins where they work their magic transforming our unwanted garden and kitchen waste into valuable soil-enhancing compost, they will make their own way in if the Compost Bin is on soil.

How many worms can you attract from the ground?

Long Lands Common

Last year at our AGM we proudly awarded Longlands Common with the CPRE Enterprise Award.

Longlands Common is a community group that fought long and hard against a bypass which would have brought lots of traffic through a tranquil area of the Nidd Gorge and the Greenbelt surrounding Harrogate.

The volunteers were so concerned about the rate of housebuilding locally, which was eating into the Greenbelt that, when some fields went on the open market they decided to try to buy the land and create a community forest. They managed to crowdfund £380,000 in record time, bought the land, and are now in the process of creating a fantastic resource for the local community having preserved and protected this valuable local green space. Find out more at www.longlandscommon.org

"All of us at Long Lands Common are delighted to receive the CPRE North and Yorkshire Enterprise Award for 2021. We hope winning this award will encourage and inspire other communities to come together to fight environmental destruction, realise their own power and take effective action." Christopher Kitson

The CPRE North and East Yorkshire Charming Championship is an unusual event, during which people of all ages try to extract as many worms out from soil as possible. Charming, grunting, and fiddling are the most popular methods to attract earthworms from the ground. Participants use different techniques, like vibrating the ground by sticking implements into it, playing music, or patting the soil. But importing worms from outside and digging is against the rules. Prizes are awarded for the single heaviest specimen and the largest quantity of worms. After the competition, all the worms are released into the wild.

Please keep an eye on our website for more information



Best Kept Churchyard Competition

After a successful 2021 and 2022 competition CPRE North and East Yorkshire will be holding our third 'Best Kept Churchyard Competition'.

Entries will be invited from churches of all denominations from across our county to enter our North and East Yorkshire's Best Churchyard Competition 2023. Entry is FREE – and entries must be received by 31 May 2023

"North and East Yorkshire has hundreds of churchyards, and they are beautiful places," says Jan Arger, Chair of CPRENY. **"That's why we believe in celebrating them and celebrating the people that look after them – because they are often volunteers and they do a fantastic job."**

Over hundreds of years, North Yorkshire's churchyards have come to form part of the county's rich and varied landscape. Some churchyards have changed little over the centuries. They are much more than burial grounds or simply open spaces around church buildings; they are unique and special havens, green sanctuaries for people and wildlife.

The winning churchyard will receive a cheque for £200, membership of CPRE North and East Yorkshire and a beautiful plaque, to be displayed with pride.

Details can be found on our website and will be sent to Parish/Town Councils to liaise with relevant Churches soon...

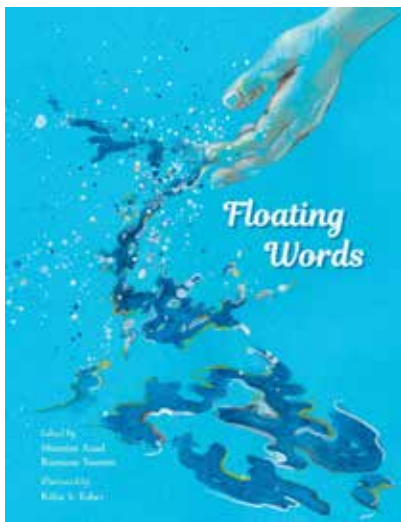
Coming soon...

Events to be launched in spring 2023 watch out for forthcoming e-bulletin for further information



We partnered with an Independent Publisher who uses poetry to raise climate awareness in Primary schools.

Bok Bok Books, an independent publishing house based in Middlesbrough, has started to deliver its 'Poetry for Climate Action' school sessions in collaboration with us at CPRENEY .



This follows the release of 'Floating Words,' a children's poetry anthology compiled by Bok Bok Books with the support of Arts Council England to raise awareness about the climate crisis.

During the sessions, pupils will engage with the poetry in 'Floating Words' to enter a conversation on climate change, led by a member/ volunteer of CPRE North and East Yorkshire. By the end of the sessions, pupils will be writing their own verse about climate change.

'The idea behind this program is to empower future generations to articulate their thoughts on the environmental crises we are facing, and to help them understand that everyone has the ability to take action,' says the founder of Bok Bok Books, Rumana Yasmin.

We look forward to seeing how these sessions progress over the coming year. The book is an ideal Christmas gift – you can purchase it from: www.booksbooksbooks.co.uk

Updates from National CPRE

Following the cost reduction exercise earlier in the year we unfortunately now have a smaller staff team at National CPRE.

In Campaigns & Policy, we now have a Planning & Policy Team led by Paul Miner, and an External Affairs Team led by Sarah McMonagle. All other departments remain as was, albeit with reduced capacity. (Engagement & Income, Volunteering & Partnerships, Finance & Operational Effectiveness).

In terms of priorities, the new government is certainly keeping us busy!

The new focus on 'growth, growth, growth' is something we are very concerned about, as the accompanying narrative is one of deregulation, which as we have seen over the last decade, is usually bad news for our precious countryside. Our priority campaigns at the moment are therefore planning, and energy.

On planning, we are responding to the government's deregulation drive and the likely changes to their legislative programme, as well as the National Planning Policy Framework.

On energy, we will continue to strongly oppose any attempt to restart fracking, and are supporting a just transition to renewable energy, and in particular are calling for more solar to be deployed on rooftops and on brownfield sites, as well as community led renewables done well. We will also continue to lobby the government on continuing to ensure future farming policy delivers 'public goods for public money', including improving soils, more and better hedgerows and nature-based solutions to the climate emergency.

Everybody at national CPRE looks forward to working in partnership with you all to achieve our vision for a beautiful and thriving countryside that enriches all our lives.



Tom Fyans, interim CEO, the countryside charity

Financial Highlights

**TOTAL INCOME IN 2021:
£21,113**

IN 2021, WE RAISED

- Single and regular donations and legacy income totaling £12,972
- Grant and other income totaling £8,141

IN 2021, WE INVESTED

- £35,375 in planning policy and consultation activities
- £8,836 in activities to promote the countryside, including competitions
- £20,730 in governance and administration

OUR AVAILABLE FUNDS

2021: £243,605, of which £89,135 are restricted

2020: £287,044, of which £93,742 were restricted

Planning and Consultation Activities

We invested £35,375 in 74 planning consultations/enquiries and 27 policy consultations across North Yorkshire.

Craven, £1,780 | 5%

Hambleton, £5,785 | 16%

Harrogate, £930 | 3%

Middlesbrough, £2,200 | 6%

Redcar & Cleveland, £400 | 1%

Richmondshire, £8,430 | 24%

Ryedale, £2,855 | 8%

Scarborough, nil

Selby, £5,215 | 15%

York, £3,255 | 5%

North Yorkshire, £3,465 | 10%

England, £1,060 | 3%



The countryside charity
North and East Yorkshire

You are invited to attend

CPRE North and East Yorkshire's Annual General Meeting

On Saturday 12th November 2022 at 10:30 at the Rural Art Centre, Thirsk

Agenda

10:30 Doors Open: Registration and Refreshments

11:00 Welcome

11:05 CPRE North and East Yorkshire

The Chairman – Jan Arger

Introduction to the committee

Acceptance of Minutes of last AGM 13 November 2021

Vote to endorse current trustee board 2022-2023

11:20 Financial Report 2022

Clair Jones

11:25 The Trustee's year 2021-2022

Christian Mackintosh

11:35 Planning and Fracking Update

Katie Atkinson

11:45 A tour around North Yorkshire's Churchyards

Dr Morris Charlton

12:00 Guest Speaker

Ellie Hook – Manager Howardian Hills AONB

'Managing an AONB and looking towards a new designation'

12:30 Questions from Members

12:45 National Office update

Tom Fyans - Acting CEO of CPRE

Close and Thanks

Jan Arger

12:55 Presentation of Photography Awards, Best Churchyard Competition, Recognition Awards

1:00 Lunch

Please note booking is required to ensure catering and seats are limited.
All reservations should be received by 5th November 2021 by email or letter.

Governance

The last stages of the Governance review, completed in 2018, ensured compliance with the charity commission - the body to whom we are accountable. Whilst not compulsory, it is advisable to have clear risk assessment policies and complaints procedures in place. CPRE North and East Yorkshire now produces risk assessments each quarter and has a clear complaints policy.

Accountants

CPRE North and East Yorkshire has continued to work hard to ensure transparent and professional accounting remains in place. In 2018/19 we moved to Saffrey Champness in Harrogate. Saffrey's produce our annual accounts and file them with the charity commission on our behalf to ensure full accountability. Full financial reports for the year are available FOC at the AGM.

Copies may be obtained at a cost of £2.50 to cover postage and printing costs.

Contact admin: info@cpreney.org.uk

Administration

All CPRE North and East Yorkshire correspondence is now on headed paper with ONE emailing address which can be handed on from management board to management board. This ensures continuity, clarity and reduces confusion.

Contact Fran Evans on info@cpreney.org.uk

Facebook

CPRE North and East Yorkshire Facebook is an effective way to alert residents, receive information and post images. CPRE North and East Yorkshire have a strong following on Facebook.

Click on the link on our web site to access.

Legal

Robert Nieri, our lawyer, moved to head Shoosmiths. Robert has always provided support to CPRE North and East Yorkshire and guided us through the transition period. Robert was also legal counsel for the national CPRE charity, therefore, fully understands our remit.

We have continued to retain Shoosmiths and Robert in particular, to continue to advise us when required.

Planning

Our improved finances ensure we can comment professionally on planning issues - our bank of professional planners includes: One Voyage Limited of Helmsley who specialise in Heritage and Conservation impacts of applications and KVA Planning Consultancy of Bridlington who provide us with professional planning advice to deal with specific planning matters.

www.cpreney.org.uk

Traffic increased dramatically through the CPRE North and East Yorkshire website in 2019. Journalists across the county now have a point of reference and we are regularly asked for opinions and contacted via this route. Local communities and individual members of the public, alongside Parish Councils, have a one stop shop to find out what's going on in their area.

Instagram

Instagram is a chance to show off the best of our county through images and is a stunning page to follow.

Have you sent in your photographs in for our monthly Competition- why not consider it for the next month?

For more information contact: info@cpreney.org.uk





Photo: John Bleakley

Webpage: www.cpreney.org.uk
Email: info@cpreney.org.uk
Facebook: CPRENEY
Instagram: cpre_ney
Twitter: @CPRENEY



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