



The countryside charity
North and East Yorkshire

Local CPRE newsletter

Newsletter | Annual 2024



Looking Back on 2023- 2024

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!

2023-2024 has been an exciting and transformative year for our charity. With new faces joining our team locally and at the National Charity, we've had the chance to reflect on and shape the future of our work. These changes have reinvigorated our mission, allowing us to refocus on our key priorities as we plan for the years ahead.

As October arrives, the vibrant warmth of summer has given way to the crisp, cool air of autumn. The shorter days remind us that another year is quickly drawing to a close, but there's still much to take in and celebrate. Despite the wet, unpredictable start to the year, nature has gifted us with an array of wonders.

Wild orchids continue to thrive in unexpected places, and the skies are filled with swifts and house martins making their final journeys before winter sets in. The valleys and moorlands are alive with the last splashes of colour, with young wildlife preparing for the colder months.

In the midst of nature's beauty, we are also reminded of the shifting political landscape. The recent elections prompted new promises and the intensifications of debate casting a different kind of shadow over the country. No matter what the political climate brings, our charity remains steadfast in its mission to protect and support the causes we care about, knowing that our work is more vital than ever.

As we prepare for the colder months, we look forward to working together to make the most of the opportunities ahead. Thank you for being a part of our journey, and we hope you enjoy this update on the charity's progress.

Chairman's Report

Firstly I would like to thank all you loyal members who have continued to support our work and ambition. It does rather feel like we have a war against the environment at every level. Over the last twelve months we have seen so much turmoil and uncertainty. At least I don't think anyone can possibly dismiss Climate Change as a blip as we see various policies introduced to counter these changes. I am delighted to see the results coming in from our project which was looking at how, by merging seven district councils into one large one, we can illustrate the differences between these previous independent authorities. 'By stitching together all the different climate-change related planning policies from the previous districts, we have made the disparities and issues evident and will now use our planning expertise to seek to influence for positive changes to be made in the new North Yorkshire Council Local Plan

I am concerned at the promises of our new government's massive house building programme and the perceived weakness of the Green Belt protections. We absolutely want to see quality appropriate and affordable homes built where they are needed, not where developers want to put them to maximise their profits. To this end we need to make some serious tweaks to the existing Land use Framework.

Energy for the future is a massive subject. We have seen so many planning applications for ground mounted huge solar arrays, very often on greenfield or agricultural land. This is fraught with long term problems mostly from transmission and connectivity to the grid so I imagine we will see many proposals for new transmission services which will inevitably blight our landscapes for generations to come.

Water quality is a huge problem, with privatised water companies allowing sewage to regularly overspill into water systems. Clearly this cannot continue but I am uncertain just how monitoring and suitable enforcement systems can be put in place, again I see an enormous role for environmental charities to continue to highlight the need for proper management.

The global situation gives us little option for input however will result in even more pressures on our economy and future life style.... a pretty sobering thought and illustrates just how important it is to work together and for charities like ours to try even harder to be effective.

To make a difference, as a membership organisation, our strength comes from our people, their knowledge and skills, our volunteers and our passion to protect our unique environment for future generation. This applies to our productive agricultural fields, our historic and cultural landscape and our wild spaces. We don't want preserved-in-aspic museum life but vibrant, living, valued, quality places where people can live and grow and prosper.

I think the future is challenging which is why it is so important for us to work together and do what we can to promote these values.

Thank you for your membership and please spread the word and encourage people to join our cause



Jan Arger
Chairman of
CPRENEY

Keeping you informed

As a member, are you receiving our quarterly e-Newsletter?

Our e-Newsletters provide the latest updates on our campaigns throughout North and East Yorkshire. If you're not currently receiving these newsletters, please reach out to Fran by sending an email with your email address to info@cpreney.org.uk. Alternatively, you can sign up for our newsletters on our website or by scanning the QR code.

Remember, you can easily unsubscribe at any time if you no longer wish to receive our updates. Thank you for your interest in staying informed about our work in North and East Yorkshire.



Just what do trustees do?

Our dedicated Trustee Board remains committed to meeting every three months, ensuring that every decision made aligns with our charitable objectives and advances our mission.

Tasked with overseeing both the day-to-day operations and future plans of the charity, our Trustees actively engage with various stakeholders and the public to provide assistance wherever needed. Their voluntary commitment and dedication are invaluable, driving the success of our outstanding charity.

While the role demands significant time and effort without financial compensation, the heartfelt gratitude expressed in letters from the public serves as a powerful reminder of the impact of our work. To all those who have taken the time to share their appreciation with us over the past year, we extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you.

Our charitable objectives remain steadfast: to protect and enhance the landscape and countryside of North and East Yorkshire.

In pursuit of this goal, our efforts often involve campaigning for appropriate development in suitable locations, advocating for well-planned and sustainable designs, and lodging objections when necessary.

Our focus areas include safeguarding and improving both nationally designated and equally significant non-designated landscapes, preserving sites of nature conservation interest ranging from local to international importance, conserving sites of historical and cultural significance, protecting our picturesque coastline, preserving the setting and character of settlements, maintaining areas of dark skies and tranquility, supporting sustainable farming and forestry practices, nurturing rural communities, safeguarding village greens and local greenspace, preserving grass verges and hedgerows, and enhancing open spaces within built-up areas.

CPRE North and East Yorkshire: Our Region at a Glance

CPRE North and East Yorkshire covers an impressive 5,366 square miles, stretching from the south of the River Tees to Goole, Bentham, and Flamborough Headland. This expansive area is the only part of the CPRE network with the responsibility to protect two National Parks, four Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), three Green Belts, and three Heritage Coasts!

Our Area of Benefit includes:

- **National Parks:** North York Moors, Yorkshire Dales
- **Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs):** Howardian Hills, Nidderdale, Forest of Bowland, and a small 2.6km portion of the North Pennines (just two fields and trees, but still ours!)
- **Heritage Coasts:** North Yorkshire and Cleveland, Flamborough Head, Spurn Point
- **Green Belts:** Harrogate, York, and parts of South and West Yorkshire

Our region encompasses the local authority areas of the City of York, East Riding of Yorkshire, Kingston upon Hull, Middlesbrough, North Yorkshire (including former district councils), Redcar & Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees (south of the River). Additionally, we support efforts under the North Yorkshire and Hull and East Riding Minerals and Waste Authorities.

We are committed to safeguarding these remarkable landscapes for the benefit of all.



Our Trustees - Familiar Faces

Jan Arger, Chairman

Jan has been a dedicated member of CPRE for many years, actively contributing at both branch and regional levels in the Northeast, as well as serving nationally as a Board Member. She has a strong focus on protecting the Green Belt, preserving Dark Skies, and promoting tranquility. With a deep appreciation for wild spaces and well-designed built environments, Jan is attuned to the challenges of rural isolation and urban issues alike. In her personal time, she enjoys reading Terry Pratchett novels, exploring heritage sites, traveling, and indulging her love for cheese.



Katie Atkinson, Vice-Chairman and Planning Lead

Katie has a deep understanding of CPRE, having previously worked within its former regional structure in Yorkshire & Humber and for the National Charity. In 2018, we were fortunate to have her join the Board of Trustees, where she contributes valuable planning expertise. Katie spent 10 years living in the Ryedale area before relocating to the stunning coastline. Despite a busy schedule, including raising two young boys, she skilfully balances her role as a trustee with her other commitments.

Clair Jones, Treasurer

Clair, originally from the North East of England, trained as an accountant and has spent much of her career abroad, working with various international humanitarian organizations. Now settled in Richmond, North Yorkshire, she is excited to reconnect with the local countryside and explore ways to contribute to CPRENEY's financial management and strategic planning for the future.



Dr Morris Charlton – Dark Skies Lead

Morris brings a wealth of experience to CPRENEY, with a particular focus on Dark Skies, though his knowledge spans a wide range of topics. After moving back to Yorkshire, he settled in the West of the county near Skipton, with easy access to Malham and the Dales. Morris has a diverse background, having served both as a regular and specialist reservist in the military. Following his military career, he became a Headteacher specializing in Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH), later transitioning to work in the Inspectorate. He now runs his own business, conducting specialist ecological, environmental, and safety projects, and is contracted by several government departments to address issues related to COVID-19 and Brexit.

Morris's academic focus includes specialist ecology, history, and crisis management, and he regularly lectures at several universities. In addition, he is a trustee of various military and environmental charities. He hopes to use his broad expertise and experience to support CPRENEY during what promises to be a challenging few years.

Our Trustees - New Joiners

Julie Chapman - Events Lead (Joined in June 2023)

Julie grew up on the outskirts of North Yorkshire and spent several years working in Local Government before transitioning to the Private Sector, where she held various Executive positions. In 2019, she pursued her lifelong passion for nature and the countryside by co-founding a business venture called "Nature to Your Home," aimed at fostering a deeper connection to the natural world and promoting greater appreciation for the countryside.

With extensive experience in organizational and project management, as well as retail and craft events, Julie brings valuable skills to CPRENEY. We are excited to collaborate with her in organizing events that will help make the countryside a better place for everyone to live, work, and enjoy.



Sally Learoyd - Climate Change Lead (joined in June 2023)

Sally, originally from East Yorkshire, has returned to her home county after spending several years working in the South and London. Now based in Richmond, North Yorkshire, she brings a wealth of experience from her 20-year career as a Human Resources Director, where she successfully led change programs and enhanced employer-staff engagement. Currently, Sally runs her own coaching business, helping managers develop leadership skills and build confidence.

A passionate walker, Sally enjoys exploring the Dales with her husband and has embraced solo walking challenges, including completing the Coast to Coast walk on her own in 2022, with more adventures planned. She is deeply committed to the potential for human-driven change, especially in addressing climate change and fostering a harmonious relationship with nature. We are thrilled to have Sally contribute her skills and energy to CPRE's climate change efforts.



Leavers

As a Trustee Board we wish to thank our longest serving Trustee, Ron Healy, for his contributions and service to CPRE, particularly within North Yorkshire

With over 45 years of dedicated service to CPRE North and Yorkshire, Ron has contributed in many capacities. His expertise in rural transport, minerals, waste management, and matters specific to York and Selby is unparalleled. Known as the voice of reason, common sense, and fairness, Ron's commitment to CPRE was recognised nationally in 2019 when he received an award for Outstanding Dedication to the charity and we wish him the very best of health in his retirement.



Our Volunteers

Every volunteer makes a difference to the countryside we feel so passionate about, and we value their contribution enormously. We couldn't do what we do without the support of our amazing trustees and volunteers. Our Trustees and volunteers have been instrumental to our success and with your support we can achieve even more.

Together, with your continued support, we can pave the way for even greater achievements on behalf of our beloved landscape.

Our volunteers are the heartbeat of our organization, and their contributions are nothing short of invaluable. Their enthusiasm is infectious, inspiring more people to become stewards of our rural landscapes.

We cannot emphasise enough the importance of their work. Their contributions remind us that positive change begins with the collective efforts of individuals who believe in a cause and are willing to take action.

Today and every day, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our volunteers. Together, we are not just preserving our countryside; we are shaping a brighter future for all who call it home. For that, we thank you.

Our volunteers are:

- John Bleakley - Photographer
- Rumana Yasmin - Specialist Advisor
- Illiya Vjestica - Specialist Advisor
- Gill Sullivan - Volunteer Helper
- Jenny Pollex - Climate Change Researcher Volunteer
- Milly Metcalfe - Climate Change Researcher Volunteer
- Sarah Hewison - Climate Change Researcher Volunteer
- Rosalind Cooper - Climate Change Researcher Volunteer

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 enlarge and diversify our team at CPRE North and East Yorkshire. Contact info@cpreney.org.uk

Volunteers

Join our team of passionate volunteers and become part of a friendly, like-minded community. Volunteering with us offers the chance to learn new skills, with training provided for your role. You'll also have the opportunity to participate in social events, workshops, and our annual national conference. We offer a variety of roles, but if you have a unique idea that could benefit the charity, we'd love to hear it! Visit our website for more information on volunteering opportunities and how you can get involved.



Trustees meeting our volunteers

Is there a future for CPRE in North and East Yorkshire?

This is the big question that the Trustees are grappling with.

Like lots of charities, we are facing the overlapping and complex challenges of how to:

- fulfil increasing or more complex demands for services whilst ...
- membership and income is dwindling and ...
- do all of this against a backdrop of the UK's cost-of-living crisis.

Membership organisations like ours, which are principally funded through annual fees and donations, have been particularly hard hit.

In short, unless there is a marked improvement in our organisation's income in the next two years, CPRE North and East Yorkshire would most likely have to cease operations and close by the end of 2027.

However, right now we are doing everything we can to try and turn this situation around. As well as continuing to keep our costs as low as possible and prioritise our activities, we have recently embarked on a comprehensive funding review. The review will consider potential opportunities for increasing funding and income from current and new income sources.

The review will also consider how we can attract new members who want to join us in our mission to protect, promote and enhance the countryside. As a consequence, you may see some changes to our website, member and public communications in the coming months.

We will give you an update on the outcomes of the review six months from now, and our fervent hope is that this time next year we will be able to tell you that we see some 'green shoots' emerging in this area!

In the meantime, a huge thanks for all that you have done and still do in helping us to continue our important work. We literally couldn't do it without you.

CPRENEY success in defending key 'green' gateway into Historic Richmond

You may recall from our previous newsletters and e-updates that CPRENEY joined forces with a grassroots initiative to object to the development of a key gateway into Richmond.

We were delighted that the North Yorkshire Council agreed with us and unanimously refused the proposal for the development of 30 residential dwellings on the prominent hillside site which, we argued amount to an unwelcome intrusion into the tranquil rural ambiance that graces the western edge of Richmond, requiring the removal of venerable trees and well established hedgerows, sacrificing integral elements of the landscape and detrimentally impacting biodiversity. Furthermore, the proposal would impact the historic gateway and setting to Richmond and due to topography, be entirely unsuitable for anything other than reliance on private vehicles

The applicant decided to appeal against the decision and CPRENEY made representations to the Planning Inspectorate setting out why the refusal should be upheld. We were thrilled to learn that the Appeal Inspector agreed with us in the summer and dismissed the appeal accordingly.

Ian Hibbert, from Richmond Under Threat, contacted us to say:

"I feel your report was a major contributor to this success and I would like to offer my thanks for producing such a professional response in such a short amount of time, somewhat under pressure! Well done CPRE! Marvellous, thanks again"



Climate Change in the countryside –

How we are making a difference.

Background

This time last year we had recently embarked on a Climate Change Research Project – brand new for CPRE North & East Yorkshire and, we believe, the first of its kind for CPRE across the whole of England! The purpose of our research has been to:

- Understand to what extent ambition, urgency and focus on ‘net zero’ is reflected through planning policy and decision-making on applications across the Councils in our jurisdiction – i.e. not just what is ‘written on paper’ in the Local Plans but what is actually being done in practice.
- Look for examples of great carbon reduction practice that we can showcase and that other Authorities could learn from – in particular where Councils are...
 - Bringing forward new developments with ultra low carbon emissions;
 - Increasing the amount and quality of green ‘carbon store’ spaces and biodiversity on development sites;
 - Diverting development away from the countryside and productive agricultural land to ‘in-fill’ and previously developed sites (known as brownfield) and
- Identify areas for improvement, put forward our recommendations and advocate for positive change that leverages the power of the countryside to reduce carbon emissions and to protect it against the worse effects of climate change.

Update and achievements so far

We were delighted to recruit a number of volunteers to help us in this work – and in particular we want to say a big thank you to Jenny Pollex, Rosalind Cooper, Sarah Hewison and Milly Metcalfe. Thanks to their dedication and support we have now completed research on 42 applications across 8 Local Plans.

We have already submitted our interim report on the Local Plans of Craven, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Selby and Scarborough to North Yorkshire Council. We are looking forward to discussing our observations and recommendations with staff from the Planning Department and Environment and Climate Change team in October and with Council members and Chairs of Planning Committees in November.

Our reports on the Local Plans for the Authorities of Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees and Redcar & Cleveland Councils are in the process of being finalised and will be sent to their staff and Councillors shortly

Next steps

In the short term we will be focussing on completing research on the Local Plans for Harrogate and Hambleton being the final two areas in the North Yorkshire Council (NYC) area and updating our report accordingly.

Towards the end of the year we will let you know how to participate in Local Plan consultation, which is currently due to commence in January 2025, and we will share our research findings and recommendations with you before then so you can take these into account when expressing your views.



Bringing climate and planning together in Yorkshire

By Mia Foord

The climate emergency is the biggest threat facing our countryside. Rosalind, a climate change research volunteer at CPRE North and East Yorkshire, tells us how her research is helping to ensure climate change and biodiversity loss are not forgotten in rural development.

Rosalind 'was fortunate enough to grow up spending a lot of time in a small rural village'. She explains: 'I've definitely observed biodiversity change and loss and the creation of new housing developments over the course of my time living here.'

'I have a real love for the rural countryside, but I know how fragile it is. It's not as resilient as housing developers want us to believe.'

'I'm really interested in how the countryside and developments can co-exist'

This first-hand hand-experience inspired Rosalind's passion for ensuring environmental sustainability is prioritised in planning: 'It's really important to me that biodiversity and climate change don't get forgotten in rural and urban development.'

'The countryside is a beautiful but also fragile thing', she adds. 'There are landscapes you can't replicate if you build over them. It's important that developments are mindful and conscious of this. I'm really interested in how the countryside and development can co-exist and how the right developments can enhance the countryside, and not just fill a tick box.'

Rosalind's childhood fostered her deep connection with the English countryside, but she also believes that we need to look beyond aesthetics. 'We need to put more importance on preserving what is seen as wasteland in urban areas, which can get paved over very quickly. Biodiversity in cities is just as at risk as biodiversity in the countryside,' she says.



Becoming a CPRE climate change researcher

Rosalind first encountered CPRE while reading Bill Bryson's 'The Road to Little Dribbling'. However, her interest in CPRE grew further when she conducted research for her university dissertation on new developments and land use in Cambridgeshire. 'I came across CPRE in one of the books I read, titled 'The Rural Housing Question: Communities and Planning in Britain's Countryside' by Satsangi et al. (2010)', she says. After graduating with a Geography degree, Rosalind noticed a climate change research volunteering opportunity with CPRE North and East Yorkshire that closely aligned with her dissertation.

'I thought that gaining some experience of analysing planning documents would be useful for me and that it looked like something I could be really interested in'. So, in September 2023, Rosalind joined the team of 8-15 other climate change researchers. Rosalind explains: 'Together we help guide the council and raise their awareness about the importance of integrating and embedding climate change mitigation and adaptation into their responses to planning applications, and in their own'. 'We're trying to highlight to them that they should be following their own policies', Rosalind adds.

'I'm a firm believer that planning and land use has a direct impact on climate and biodiversity'

Each volunteer was assigned two local authorities in the area and became responsible for 'reading through their local plans and picking out their council policies that aim to protect biodiversity and address climate change'. They then read through several development plans in each local authority to decipher whether councils 'had been following their own policies on climate change and/or biodiversity, and if this had guided their decision to accept or reject each development'. Rosalind adds: 'We're now writing this up into a report for each local authority that we'll share with them, to show what they've done well and what they could do better in the future'.

'I'm a firm believer that planning and land use has a direct impact on climate and biodiversity. Councils need to make carbon neutrality a priority, so developers will have to change their approach.'

Gaining a new, holistic perspective on planning

Rosalind has found it 'really interesting to read development applications and see what they include and what they miss out...it's fascinating to see how housing developers are approaching the creation of communities. It's also building on the insights I gained from my dissertation into the planning system.'

'It has helped me to see developments holistically and confirmed to me that this is a big issue that I'd like to explore in my career. Hopefully this volunteer experience will also help me to get to that career.'

More widely, Rosalind thinks that 'you can change a lot about the UK's response to the climate emergency and biodiversity loss through planning.' She believes her research could have a big impact in her community; 'because I live in the North Yorkshire County authority, my investigations into local plans could help sway the wider North Yorkshire council plan. I'm hopefully helping to guide councils' responses to climate change through their planning policies.'

'Volunteering has helped to link me up with other people who are interested in climate change and planning, including town planners'

She has also been able to access many networking opportunities in her role: 'Volunteering has helped to link me up with other people who are interested in climate change and planning, including town planners. It's great to put your name out there as someone who is interested in these issues.'

She adds that 'I've been able to go to the CPRE North and East Yorkshire AGM in York and meet some of the local councillors with CPRE'. Overall, Rosalind believes that being part of the wider CPRE volunteering network has allowed her to 'become part of a valued group of people and connect with others from across the country.'

An important and challenging project

Interpreting council documents has presented challenges for Rosalind, including deciphering developer and government jargon. She explains: 'There's quite a lot of reading involved, which I like, but there's a lot of information to comprehend'. 'I had to double check everything, as I can't go in and claim that councils aren't doing something if they are- I can't go in looking uninformed.' She admits: 'Managing my time and being resilient in this process, especially when you're faced with 300 pages of council policy, has been challenging.'

'It's such a big task, so I've also improved my perseverance and time management skills'

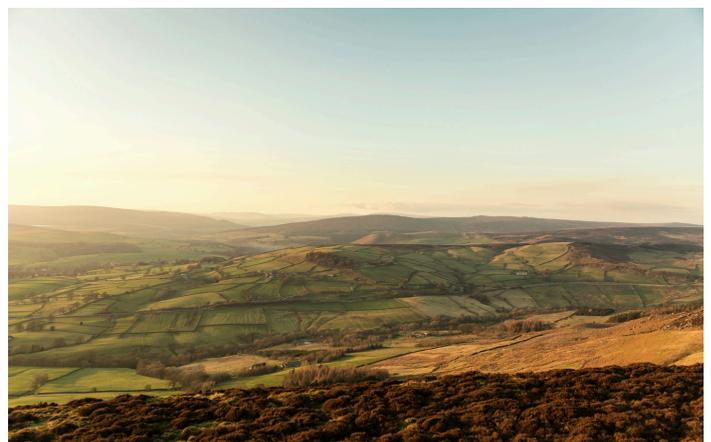
However, this experience has improved her 'objective analysis of planning documents' and 'helps to keep the analytical side of my brain going alongside working part-time'. 'It's such a big task, so I've also improved my perseverance and time management skills.'

A flexible role

Outside of working a part-time job and volunteering with CPRE, Rosalind has many hobbies and really enjoys going on long walks in her local area and exploring Yorkshire; 'there's lots of really great things to see and places to visit.' She also volunteers with a 'local nature reserve, doing more practical conservation, like wildflower planting and ecosystem enhancement.' Yet, she feels 'it has been easy to balance volunteering alongside my other commitments.'

One of the benefits of being part of an extensive project like this, Rosalind says, 'is how satisfying it is to see the course of the whole project.' She has also enjoyed being able to 'get on with something independently'. She adds: 'you're provided with support from your volunteer lead, but also enough freedom to direct and lead your own work.'

Over the course of the project, she's had a number of meetings with her project leads and notes how great it felt 'for them to come back and agree with what I've suggested to councils' after reviewing her work. She's also looking forward to 'presenting my work to councillors in the future'.



Unique, Beautiful, Essential, Precious

Thank you for helping to protect it!

As a valued member of CPRE North and East Yorkshire, you're part of a growing movement fighting for the future of our treasured English countryside.

Each year, a bit more of our countryside is lost to urban sprawl, new infrastructure, and developments. Rural shops continue to close, and more intensive farming practices are altering the landscape we love. But together, we can protect it!

Your support enables us to stand up for the countryside: to shield it from threats and shape a more sustainable future. For nearly 100 years, CPRE has been at the forefront of this cause (and we're excited to celebrate our centenary in 2026 – watch for upcoming events!).

Thanks to CPRE's tireless efforts, ten of England's most stunning landscapes have been conserved as National Parks—two of which, the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors, are right on our doorstep. Our work has ensured Green Belts provide vital breathing space for urban areas, while countless other places across the country have retained their beauty, tranquillity, and unique character.

None of this would have been possible without our members. By joining CPRE, you are part of a shared vision for a thriving, beautiful countryside that everyone can value and enjoy.



A Strong Voice in North and East Yorkshire

As a member of CPRE North and East Yorkshire, your influence is amplified within your local branch. We're a powerful voice advocating for policies, legislation, and attitudes that positively shape our countryside.

How You're Helping Us Achieve Our Vision

Our goal is to see a countryside that's even more beautiful, peaceful, and full of life. A place where everyone—whether from the city or country—can enjoy green, open spaces. Where smart planning ensures villages thrive, urban centres regenerate, and green fields remain untouched. Where farmers are cherished not just for the food they produce, but for preserving the landscapes and biodiversity we all value. And where combating climate change strengthens wildlife and the rural economy without sacrificing our natural heritage.

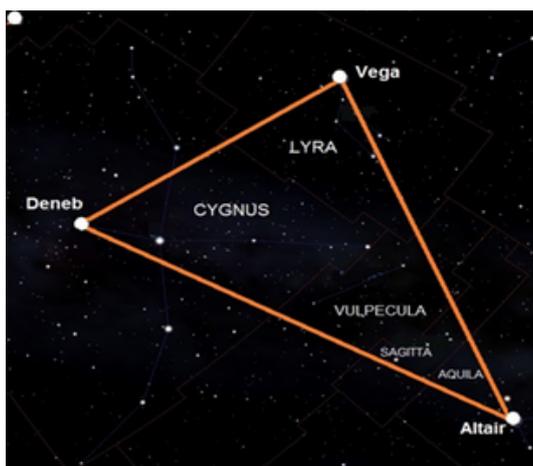
This vision is within reach, but it requires ongoing effort and support. That's why your membership is so vital. We don't own land, and we don't represent any special interests. What makes CPRE powerful is people like you. By being a member, you're already making a difference. Thank you!



Dark Skies through the Autumn and early Winter – October, November and December



During November sights in the dark skies are the constellations. In spite of the seasons early evening in the East should give views of the Summer Triangle.



Rising in the East and moving to due south is Pegasus the Winged Horse (I still struggle to see the horse) Jupiter will be shining brightly between the horns of the Bull and the Pleiades give a good cue point for those unfamiliar with the formation. For those with a small telescope then there is an opportunity to seek out the Crab Nebula.

Late October, November and December allow good views of Cancer.

Into December -18th we have a lunar occultation of Mars as Mars “slips” behind the Moon reappearing in the Lunar south about an hour later.

15th onwards has a good Geminid Meteor shower but this will be diminished by a full moon.

Good viewing – there will be further monthly updates on our website.

Dark Skies Festival

Dark Skies Fringe Festival: 25 October - 03 November 2024

We’re excited to share the news about the upcoming Dark Skies Fringe Festival, offering another chance to immerse yourself in the wonders of the night sky. If you missed February’s festivities or simply want more, this event is perfect for expanding your stargazing knowledge.

The festival will feature a variety of activities including night navigation walks, astrophotography workshops, dark skies watercolour sessions, and star-filled dinners. It’s a fantastic opportunity to kick off the stargazing season. Check out the full programme and join in on the celebration of some of the world’s darkest skies.

Dark Skies Festival 10th Anniversary: 14 February - 02 March 2025

Looking ahead, don’t miss the 10th anniversary of the Dark Skies Festival in early 2025. This event is packed with opportunities to marvel at the night sky in one of only 21 International Dark Sky Reserves worldwide—the North York Moors.

To make the most of your stargazing experience, consider staying at a dark skies-friendly accommodation in the area. Not only will you enjoy more time under the stars, but you’ll also support local businesses that help keep the skies dark and clear.

Get ready for these star-studded festivals and start planning your next visit to the North York Moors!



Scan for more information.

Update from Roger Mortlock

The new government has been keeping us busy at national office, setting a fast pace with a series of new announcements and consultations impacting the countryside. There's a lot on the horizon, but first up has been the review of the National Planning Policy Framework (with the One CPRE consultation allowing us to canvas the views of all branches in our response). I've been quoting Nye Bevan a lot to the new government at the moment, especially what he had to say as a member of the post war Labour government about housing. "We will be judged in 20 years not by the number of homes we built but by their quality" is just as true now as it was then. In the rush to address the housing crisis, our job at CPRE must be to make the case for the right homes, in the right place, built to the right quality standards – creating places, and not just building houses.

During the party conference season, it's clear that some of our issues – housing, energy, climate – are front and centre, while others like nature and the health of rural communities desperately need more focus. As always, we've had an active presence at the three major party conferences and given the NPPF our big focus has been housing and thinking more widely how we think about land use. For example, we joined forces with the Federation of Master Builders at Labour's conference launching a report on how the government can support small and medium-sized housebuilders to deliver more genuinely affordable homes. If we want to meet Nye Bevan aspirations for quality, there seems little hope that the major housebuilders will deliver that, so more diversity in our housing market is crucial.

Elsewhere at Labour conference, we hosted a joint fringe event with nature organisations about planning and nature, and coordinated a roundtable on land use, hosted by Labour Coast and Country. At all three major conferences, CPRE met with a variety of MPs and our partners to talk about rural issues and stress the vital role of a thriving countryside for the future. At the centre of our debates with all three major parties is trying to encourage a more sustainable and joined up approach to land use – stressing that land is a finite resource, and we need our land to work harder than ever for food production, nature, climate adaptation – as well as for homes, infrastructure and energy. With the prospect of a land use framework on the horizon,

On the back of the NPPF consultation, it's been a busy period for us in the media making the case for the countryside, especially in relation to the green belt where the public debate has focused more on what the green belt blocks, rather than its purposes and potential. We've revived our partnership with the King's Foundation, and I am pleased we were able to pull together a series of essays making the case for the green belt.

But there's also a huge task getting to know hundreds of new MPs, including many new rural MPs. We are working hard to contact new MPs, especially those representing rural constituencies, but we need the support of all our members and branches to make the most of our influence. This is a crucial time, especially for new MPs, to introduce them to CPRE and the issues we care about - and share our passion for the countryside. So, if you've got a new MP, do write and let them know about CPRE and the countryside issues you care about. Together I hope we can grow our influence with the new government.



Roger Mortlock
CPRE CEO

CPRE, Delighted to have patronage of His Majesty, The King



Image: Getty Images

We are absolutely delighted and honoured that His Majesty, The King has announced his patronage of CPRE, the countryside charity, following a review of Royal patronages conducted by the Royal Household after His Majesty's accession to the throne.

CPRE has held Royal patronage since we were founded in 1926 and The King will be the second monarch to serve as patron following his mother, Queen Elizabeth II.

The King has shown his love for the countryside for many years. At the age of 21, he delivered his first speech on environmental issues in his capacity as the Chairman of the Welsh Countryside Committee. He went on to dedicate more than 50 years to championing the UK's response to the nature and climate crises.

His advocacy of environmental causes has included banning peat in his gardens in the 1980s, founding the organic brand Duchy Originals in 1990, and promoting sustainable agriculture at the 2020 World Economic Forum.

In 2010 he wrote a foreword to 'Icons of England' (Black Swan), our celebration of the English countryside edited by Bill Bryson.

We were deeply honoured to have Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as our patron throughout her long reign. This makes the news of The King's decision to take on the patronage of the CPRE all the more poignant.

Commenting on the news our CEO, Roger Mortlock, said:

'We're absolutely delighted and honoured that His Majesty King Charles III has been confirmed as the CPRE's new patron. In rapidly changing times, we are working as hard as ever across our networks of local groups to secure and promote positive progress for our countryside. With CPRE's centenary approaching in 2026, His Majesty's support will be hugely valued by trustees, staff, volunteers and our members.'

CPRE Welcomes new President to the Charity Mary-Ann Ochota

Mary-Ann is a broadcaster, author and anthropologist whose expertise has engaged people worldwide with landscapes, heritage and the natural world.

A passionate advocate of our countryside and natural spaces, Mary-Ann is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, a member of Natural England's Landscape Advisory Panel, and a patron of the Ridgeway National Trail. She is also a patron of the Tony Trust, which supports disadvantaged children to access outdoor adventure, and a member of All the Elements, a network driving better inclusion and diversity in the outdoors.



A Year of Adventure: A Child's Joy in the Countryside, Especially in Autumn and Winter

For children, the countryside is a year-round playground, full of adventures that change with each season. But as autumn arrives and winter draws near, the landscape becomes even more magical, offering unique experiences and treasured moments.

Spring and Summer: Discovery and Play

In spring, the fields and woods are alive with new growth. Children can run through blooming meadows, climb trees, and look for birds building nests. Summer brings long, sunny days perfect for picnics, paddling in streams, and exploring the moors, where the sky seems endless and the world feels open and free.

Autumn: A Wonderland of Colour and Adventure

As the leaves turn golden and red, autumn transforms the countryside into a wonderland. For a child, this is the perfect time for woodland walks, collecting fallen leaves, acorns, and conkers. There's something exciting about the crunch of leaves underfoot and the chill in the air that hints at the coming winter. The cooler weather means bundling up in scarves and coats, and the countryside takes on a peaceful, almost magical quality as mist rolls over the moors in the early morning.

Kicking through piles of leaves, building dens from fallen branches, and spotting wildlife preparing for the colder months are just some of the joys of autumn. The days grow shorter, but there's always time for an outdoor adventure before the sun sets in a blaze of orange and pink over the hills.



Winter: A Snow-Covered Playground

Winter in the countryside is where the magic truly begins. Snow transforms the countryside into a sparkling playground, with endless possibilities for sledging down hills, building snowmen, and making snow angels. For a child, winter mornings mean waking up to frost-covered fields and the excitement of a possible snow day.

There's also the thrill of winter walks, where the air is crisp, and the landscape feels almost otherworldly. Wrapped up warm, children can follow animal tracks in the snow, visit frozen ponds, and listen to the crunch of ice beneath their boots. Even the darker evenings bring a sense of wonder, with clear skies offering a glimpse of the stars, making the countryside feel like a place out of a fairy tale.



Timeless Adventures and Cherished Memories

For children, the countryside is a place of timeless adventure, where each season brings something new to discover. But as autumn fades into winter, there's a special magic in the air. From the rustle of leaves in the autumn woods to the first sight of snow on the hills, it's a time for making memories that last a lifetime.

Whether it's racing through a frosty field, watching the trees turn gold, or gazing up at the starry winter sky, the beauty of North Yorkshire leaves an imprint on a child's heart, inspiring a lifelong love for the countryside and its ever-changing seasons.

Local Plan Status – North and East Yorkshire

North Yorkshire Council

CPRENEY are looking forward to the opportunity to comment on the new Council's emerging Local Plan during the official consultation periods. The Council are currently working on the collation of evidence from across the Unitary Authority's combined administrative area and are assessing how the Government's proposed new planning regulations will impact the plan making process. CPRENEY will be directly involved with the emerging Local Plan's production via a series of stakeholder events and workshops run alongside their mandatory public consultation phases

City of York

The City of York is still progressing towards its first ever Local Plan – The Council submitted their draft Plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination in May 2018 and whilst all parts of the proposal have been through examination in public, the Inspectors are still considering a number of issues that have come to light since the hearings were held. It is hoped that once the consultation period has ended the Inspectors will be in a position to make their recommendations to the Council as to whether they can adopt the Local Plan subject to any key modifications the Inspectors propose to overcome any soundness issues. – Watch this space!

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 Council have submitted a partial Local Plan Review to the Secretary of State in March 2023 and the hearings have been held. The Inspector has asked the Council to consult on the 'Main Modifications' suggested to make the plan sound. Once complete, the Council will be in a position to adopt the Local Plan Review. CPRENEY commented in full on all stages of the emerging Local Plan which seeks to combine various existing documents into a single plan whilst updating specific sections on housing allocations. The Council will undertake to a full Plan Review in due course.

Stockton on Tees

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

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, including policies 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. 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.

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.

The Council are due to review their Local Plan and housing figures and CPRENEY intend to comment as required throughout the process.

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

Forest of Bowland National Landscape (formerly 'AONB')

The Forest of Bowland National Landscape 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 for 2019-2024 will shortly be reviewed.

North Pennines National Landscape (formerly 'AONB')

This National Landscape is mostly within the boundaries of five Local Authorities: the Unitary Authorities of Durham and Northumberland County Councils, Cumbria County Council and the districts of Carlisle and Eden, with 2.6 square kilometres in North Yorkshire around Tan Hill. The North Pennines also crosses the boundaries of two English regions – the North East and the North West.

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 and reviewed in 2022 - 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 currently preparing a Design Code to set out the expected Design principles and standards for all new development within the National Park

Howardian Hills National Landscape (formerly 'AONB')

The Howardian Hills National Landscape 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 village 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 covers the period from 2019-2024 and will be reviewed in line with national requirements shortly

Nidderdale National Landscape (formerly 'AONB')

Nidderdale National Landscape is an area of 600sq. km (233sq. miles) located on the eastern edge of the Yorkshire Pennines stretching from the high moorland of Great Whenside 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, and Richmondshire Local Plans determine planning matters. The 2019-2024 Management Plan has been in force, but is in the process of being reviewed for the 2025-2030 period. CPRENEY is a member of the Joint Advisory Committee for this National Landscape which advise local authorities and other organisations about how to best achieve AONB objectives.

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 are in the process of preparing a new Local Plan which will ensure that any development proposal within the National Park will be determined in the same way. CPRENEY has responded to a number of different thematic consultations and have commented on their Preferred Options draft Local Plan. The next stage in the process will be for the preparation of the Draft 'Publication Plan' expected to be subject to a formal period of consultation in late 2024 before being submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination

Planning Campaigns of Note for 2022 -2023

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

94.5Ha Solar Farm near Brafferton Woods, Pilmoor, Hambleton

In April 2024, CPRENEY objected to a proposal for a large scale solar farm at land adjacent to Brafferton Woods and Raskelf in the former Hambleton District of North Yorkshire with an operational life of circa 50years. Brafferton Woods is an Ancient Woodland and a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. Notwithstanding the fact that CPRE advocate for 'rooftop first' in relation to solar farms, CPRENEY strongly objected to the proposed of agricultural land from food production and the impact that the proposal would have on the Ancient Woodland and the SINIC which are both protected from harmful development within the National Planning Policy Framework. We were disappointed to learn that the proposal had been granted permission by the Council.

Aldbrough Hydrogen Storage Project – East Yorkshire

CPRENEY were happy to support one of our member Parish Councils in responding to a pre-planning statutory consultation organised by the applicants before being submitted to the Secretary of State to determine, for a new hydrogen storage project at Aldbrough in East Yorkshire. The project consists of the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of an underground hydrogen storage facility and the anticipated lifetime of the project is 40 years (with the final decommissioning part expected to take place over 6years). The caverns are expected to have a total gas volume of up to 765,000,000 standard cubic metres. Inadequate information was provided by the applicant on the proposed scheme in terms of vehicular movements, including in-combination with other large infrastructure projects already approved and those currently within the planning process, alongside the scale of the infrastructure required for the drilling of up to 9 caverns up to 1.85km below ground level, each connected to a well-head and a wet-well. Further, very little information was provided on the potential impacts of how this project will impact the community, biodiversity and marine-life in the vicinity of the site. CPRENEY expect that the company will submit much more detailed information when the actual information is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State and will respond accordingly at that time.

20m high telecommunication mast at Land South of Cleveland Way, Ingleby Greenhow (North York Moors National Park)

In November 2023, CPRENEY were consulted by the National Park Authority on an application for a 20m high telecommunication mast together with antennas, dishes and remote radio heads together with associated ground based equipment, siting of generator cabinet, perimeter fencing and hard standing parking area at land close to the Cleveland Way National Trail at Ingleby Greenhow. The 20m lattice mast was to be positioned within a section of open remote landscape close to the highest point within the National Park. CPRENEY were particularly concerned that the visual intrusion from the mast would be detrimentally prominent from many viewpoints within the National Park due to its elevated positioning and scale, which despite being of lattice structure, would substantially alter the skyline and impact the sense of place felt by visitors to the National Park. Furthermore, users of the Cleveland Way National Trail would experience prolonged views of the mast in the wider landscape of the National Park and it was considered that the introduction of the mast and associated infrastructure, would impact on the remoteness of the location – one of the special qualities for which the National Park was first designated. CPRENEY objected to the proposals which we considered would be detrimental to the landscape and character of the North York Moors at this specific location. CPRENEY were delighted that members of the Planning Committee agreed with us and refused the proposal.

Revised proposal for 56 new dwellings - Guisborough, Redcar and Cleveland

CPRENEY were invited to comment on a revised proposal for 56 new dwellings at an unallocated site within the development limits of Guisborough. The site was not allocated for development within the Local Plan and the Council had evidence of a strong 5-year housing land supply, therefore, the applicant is required to justify the 'need' for the proposal. The site in question is one of the last remaining green spaces within the built settlement and is easily accessible to the local community. Thus it is a valuable greenspace offering both physical and mental health benefits and a space for leisure and recreational activities, including jogging and dog-walking. The Council's Local Plan team did not support the proposal setting out that there are clearly more sustainable and appropriate housing sites that are already allocated and suitable for change of use. At the time of writing, the application was still to be determined.

Planning Campaigns of Note for 2022 -2023

53Hectare Solar Farm and Battery Storage Facility, Old Malton

You may remember the campaign last year with Save Old Malton Countryside when CPRENEY strongly objected to a large scale solar farm just outside Old Malton (near Eden Camp Museum) in the former Ryedale district. Our objection was for a number of grounds, not least, the significant loss of agricultural land and impact on soils; the detrimental impact on users of the footpath network; the loss of existing biodiversity and the potential impact on an existing visitor attraction. Notwithstanding the above, the agricultural land is currently farmed by a tenant farmer whose livelihood would be drastically altered as a result of the landlords decision to lease the land to the developer, rendering the agricultural enterprise economically unviable. This is one of a many proposals for large-scale solar farms CPRENEY has commented upon this year (spread throughout our large area of benefit). CPRENEY were delighted when the Planning Committee disagreed with their Planning Officer's recommendation and refused the application. Of course, however, the applicant has appealed the decision and at the time of writing, the examination hearing sessions are due to commence shortly. Fingers Crossed!

New Caravan and Camping Site – Terrington, Ryedale (Howardian Hills National Landscape)

CPRENEY joined with local campaigners to object to a proposal for a new caravan and camping site for 24 pitches, 6 motorhome hook-up pitches and an associated permanent toilet block in the Howardian Hills National Landscape (formerly AONB) near Terrington. CPRENEY fully understand the need for farmers to diversify their income streams, especially post BREXIT and the termination of the farm payment schemes, and often support such schemes where there are no detrimental impacts on the landscape and/or surrounding communities and biodiversity. In this instance, the proposed site was located on a farm, away from the village on a particularly narrow road, meaning that any visitors would rely on the use of private vehicles to access the village and surrounding area. The rolling topography rendered the site visible in long range views within the protected landscape and the single-track rural road network was simply not suitable for the number and frequency of large vehicles as proposed by the application which would inevitably cause conflict with other road users. CPRENEY were pleased that the Council and Highways department felt the same way and refused the application as being unsustainable development which would impact on the nationally protected landscape to its detriment.

Light Industrial Units incorporating roof mounted solar panels, Teeside Industrial Estate, Stockton on Tees

CPRENEY were pleased to support an application for several small light industrial units within an allocated site for industrial development at Thornaby in Stockton on Tees. Each unit was proposed to include roof mounted solar and the applicants were proposing to deliver a biodiversity net gain across the site.

142 Dwellings, Hemingbrough, Selby

CPRENEY were asked again by local members to support them in objecting to a large scale residential development on unallocated land in Hemingbrough. We strongly objected to the proposal for 151 dwellings on the same site previously and whilst the applicant has resubmitted an application for 9 less dwellings alongside a new community centre, our reasons of objection remain the same! This is largely due to the loss of good quality agricultural land outside of the settlement boundary which would be contradictory to both the adopted and emerging Settlement Hierarchy proposed by the Council for development and still does not propose sufficient quantities of genuinely affordable housing. The site would also have a detrimental impact on the Hagg Lane Green Site of Importance for Nature Conservation and altogether the proposals are contrary to local and national planning policy. Despite being submitted in January 2004 the proposal is still to be determined.

56Ha Solar Farm, Nether Poppleton, York

CPRENEY strongly objected to the principle of a large scale solar farm on good quality agricultural land at Nether Poppleton within the Greenbelt of the City of York. The purpose of Greenbelt is to prevent urban sprawl and protect important green gaps to avoid the coalescence of settlements and as such a solar farm is described as 'inappropriate development' for Greenbelts in National Planning Policy. The site at Nether Poppleton would not only extend the 'built' development into the countryside but form a coalescence of the overall built environment when looking towards York Minster. The site currently forms an important green space in the historic setting of the City which we believe would be impacted detrimentally by the presence of such a large expanse of solar panels, high security fencing and CCTV poles for a substantial period of over 30 years. The Council Planners recognised that the site is technically 'inappropriate development within the greenbelt' as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, however, consider that as a result of the mitigation measures proposed by the applicant could be otherwise acceptable. They have decided to ask the new Secretary of State to consider determine the proposal for them as a result of its controversial nature. Watch this space!

National Planning Updates

Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The NPPF is a document which acts as the rulebook for planning. It advises local planning authorities (LPAs - usually district or county councils) and developers on what they can and cannot do when planning developments. Developments in this regard can refer to anything from roads and buildings but also changes in land use (such as converting offices into housing). It contains a range of policies that ultimately determine what gets built where.

Although currently non-statutory (not enshrined in law), the NPPF is a vitally important framework. It can shape how we can build the houses and infrastructure we need in a way that protects our countryside and involves local communities.

What's in the NPPF?

The NPPF is a wide-ranging document, available to view on the government website. It sets out national planning policies covering housing, the economy, business, transport and the countryside and natural environment. It covers many policies which are key to CPRE, from the Green Belt to affordable housing and tranquillity.

The structure of the document is quite straightforward. Each chapter covers a different area, for example housing, or communications, and any associated policies and guidance are housed within. For example, one section sets out that developments should be guided by policies which promote social interaction and support healthy lifestyles.

The NPPF and planning

To understand what the NPPF is used for, and why it's important, it's important to understand how our planning system works. In its broadest sense, our planning system is a toolbox which contains the rules, guidelines and democratic process that help us plan for and manage how we use land. In this context, the NPPF forms part of the guidelines. Planning ultimately determines what gets built where, and the NPPF is intended to provide the checks and balances: to make sure developments and plans are sustainable, well-located, and with maximum benefit to people, communities, the economy and the environment.

Development, Local and Neighbourhood Plans

If a developer (or an individual) wants to build something, or change the way a piece of land is used (for example converting a plot of land to a block of flats), they need to get permission from their LPA. To guide the LPA's decision-making, the 'Local Plan' is consulted, which is a document that sets out a vision for the current and future needs of the communities they represent – whether it be economically, socially or environmentally.

Local Plans are critical documents which shape development in a local area. As a citizen, you can feed into the preparation of your area's Local Plan and we'd always recommend you do so – because once they're adopted, many of the big decisions which shape the future of your local area have already been made. Local Plans are also scrutinised by central government, which appoints a planning inspectorate to examine the plan for 'soundness'. This brings us full circle, because the criteria for a 'sound' local plan is set out in the NPPF.

On an even more local level, a Neighbourhood Plan may exist, where communities can set out policies which shape what gets built where in their own neighbourhood. Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans (if 'made') form a major part of an area's 'Development Plan', all underpinned by the NPPF. This is really where we get to the heart of what our planning system is about. The Development Plan guides all planning decisions in a local area, and the NPPF guides how Development Plans are made and enacted.

What's this NPPF consultation all about?

The NPPF isn't a document fixed in time. The government routinely proposes revisions to the NPPF in accordance with its policies, and when this happens, a consultation is usually launched. This is where organisations like CPRE can influence what changes, and try to ensure that the NPPF delivers what we think is needed for a thriving countryside. The new Labour Government has made several recommended changes to the NPPF and thus the current consultation ends in September 2024.

From Green Belt policy and brownfield registers to the protection of national landscapes and green spaces, CPRE has a great track record of influencing the NPPF. We'll be working with alongside National Office and other CPREs across the country to respond to the consultation. Although our response is in progress, some of the key areas we'll be focusing on:

- Pushing for a definition of 'Grey Belt' that isn't so subjective and open to exploitation.
- Incorporating targets for brownfield development and genuinely affordable housing.
- Amending the definition of 'affordable housing' in the NPPF to reflect average local incomes.
- Pushing for the inclusion of rooftop solar targets.
- Ensuring that rural communities get a voice in planning decisions.

Planning is at the heart of so much that affects our daily lives: housing, green spaces, transport and roads, schools, shops, energy, communications and the countryside are all affected by planning policy. Getting the Planning right is our priority!

National Planning Updates – continued...

Pledges...

In July, during her first speech as Chancellor, The Rt Hon Rachel Reeves introduced a swathe of proposed changes to the planning system to deliver Labour's housebuilding target of 1.5m homes over the next five years.

The proposed changes include:

- A revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), prioritising growth and energy infrastructure,
- Mandatory housebuilding targets including a national target of 1.5m homes over the next five years,
- Ending the ban on onshore wind,
- Recruiting 300 more planning officers,
- Delivering more affordable homes,
- Prioritising stalled housing
- A brownfield and grey belt-first approach to housebuilding.

Brownfield “the best place to start”

Commenting on Ms. Reeve's speech, Lizzie Bundred-Woodward, Planning Policy Manager at the National Office of CPRE, said:

‘We support Labour's ambition to build more homes, however we're in the midst of an affordable housing crisis. We need to see ambitious targets for genuinely affordable homes in line with local incomes, including specific targets for rural social homes in national planning policy. For too long, the housing system has prioritised profit over delivering affordable social homes, and this needs to change.

‘We're also pleased to see a commitment to brownfield-first approach. We know there are enough shovel-ready brownfield sites for 1.2 million homes, much of which is close to where people already live, work and go to school. Brownfield sites are the best starting point for housebuilding programmes.

‘We urgently need some clarity on Labour's definition of ‘grey belt’. The Green Belt is the countryside next door for 30 million people in towns and cities across the UK. It is crucial for food security, nature recovery, climate change mitigation alongside mental and physical wellbeing. We'll always advocate for recycling previously developed land than eating away at the Green Belt.’

Graeme Willis, CPRE's long serving Agricultural Lead believes that how we use land in the future and how to use it well may become the defining questions of the next decade.

“Land and its many critical functions is one of if not the most vital resources we have. Yet the limits to the demands we can place on it are quickly becoming much more obvious. Soils are perilously degraded, rivers polluted, nature fragmented and wildlife is in general decline. The UK is one of the most nature depleted countries on the planet, according to researchers at the Natural History Museum. In our complex and long industrialised economy, we seem to have now largely forgotten how intimately we rely on healthy land and the natural services it provides for our very survival.”

A changing climate is making nature and the natural systems we rely on look ever more fragile as they are stress tested by drought, storm, fire and flood. This complex picture is more challenging still when we recognise that the answers to so many of these issues require more land: to help nature recover, to lock up carbon, to farm it in sustainable ways to secure food production for the long term, to replenish our water supplies and better manage the water we get as rain. Add to all that, the housing crisis and the urgent need to build more homes on land where people want to live, in inclusive, sustainable communities.

We need to plan land use in ways we've never needed to before.

Future land demands include continuing current activities in new ways, often requiring more land—without fossil fuels. This involves generating green electricity, fertilizing crops, and producing materials for packaging and construction from renewable resources. A long-term, holistic approach is essential.

CPRE believes current policy fails to address the scale of this land challenge. A promised ‘land use framework,’ which could have fostered coordinated thinking across government, was dropped before the last election. The new Labour Government must now commit to a long-term strategic vision for land use in England to ensure more intelligent land use that meets diverse needs.

This vision should draw on existing evidence of land pressures and future challenges that could affect availability. It must also integrate all policy and financial tools, along with appropriate technologies, to encourage smarter land use. A credible land strategy must include two key elements:

1. Identify how land can serve multiple purposes, such as food production, nature restoration, carbon storage, or renewable energy generation.
2. Ensure meaningful engagement with local people, authorities, and businesses, allowing them to plan together for the best use of their land in the coming critical decades.

Fossil Fuel Extraction Site Proposed in the Setting of National Park

North Yorkshire Council are facing their first test of the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan's hydrocarbon policies after its long awaited adoption.

Europa Oil & Gas Ltd and its partner Egdon Resources, wants to drill a 1.7km lateral well near Burniston in the former Scarborough District and inject fluid and proppant, such as sand, into the surrounding rocks. The injection operation, known as a proppant squeeze, aims to improve the flow of hydrocarbons.

Regulators regard it as a form of low-volume fracking because the injection pressure is high enough to fracture rocks.

It is not banned by the moratorium on fracking in England because the volume of liquid injected into the rocks is below the limit set by law.

But a proppant squeeze does need consent from the Environment Agency and the North Sea Transition Authority. The operator must set out what it would do to minimise the risk of earth tremors from fracking and how the hydraulic fracturing process would be monitored.

The papers submitted to the Minerals Planning Authority requested information regarding whether the Council deemed there would be potential significant environmental impacts as a result of the proposal and if so, whether an Environmental Impact Assessment would be required. CPRENEY commented on the proposals to state our opinion that YES, the proposal would indeed have significant environmental impacts and therefore welcomed the response from the Council who agreed.

The proposed location is within several sensitive landscape sites including the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast, within the setting of the North York Moors National Park and the Coastal SSSI - only 800m away. Furthermore, the Scarborough to Whitby disused railway Site of Importance for Nature Conservation is located 360m from the site which is now also a pedestrian and cycle path (known as the Cinder Track) and the Cleveland Way National Trail footpath is circa 730m.

The nearest residential property is circa 320m from the site, and within close proximity of the villages of Burniston and Scalby, both of which contain a number of Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.



The National Planning Policy Framework determines that Great Weight should be given to the preservation of National Parks and clearly states that

“Development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.”

The adopted Joint Minerals and Waste Plan outlines that a proposed development's scale, nature, and location could undermine special qualities like tranquillity and dark skies, particularly from public vantage points and Rights of Way.

The Minerals Plan includes specific policies regarding hydrocarbon extraction that applicants must meet for planning permission. Currently, the applicants have not provided sufficient details about the equipment to be used, aside from a possible 30m derrick. We know drill rigs can reach around 55m, and operations may run 24/7 for several months, based on experience from similar sites. There is also insufficient information on how emissions will be managed, raising concerns about impacts on the environment, biodiversity, and the protected landscape.

No technical surveys were submitted, aside from an estimate of 330 HGV movements per day. It is unclear if the local road network, distanced from the strategic road network, can handle such traffic alongside regular tourist, agricultural, and residential vehicles.

Moreover, CPRENEY believes the proposal for a new fossil fuel extraction site contradicts the Global Climate and Environmental Emergency and will continue to monitor it. Once an Environmental Impact Assessment is conducted and the planning application is submitted, we will share the details with our members.

North Yorkshire Cllr Steve Mason commented, “I'd like to think NYC has moved on from fracking, as it's clear again that residents simply do not want it. Climate change is at the heart of the new authority's plans, and this application will conflict with that priority.”

CPRENEY will respond to the planning application at the appropriate time.

Children's Writing Competition 2023-2024

As we take this brief pause, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the schools that have been an integral part of the Children's Writing Competition across North Yorkshire over the years. Your participation has not only contributed to the success of the competition but has also brought immense joy to our judges, trustees, and members. The detailed stories and wonderful artwork from the children have left a lasting impression on everyone involved.

We're thrilled to announce that Esther from Picketing Community Junior School has emerged as the winner of last school year's (2023-2024) competition! Esther's vivid description of 'slithering snakes, fierce foxes, and bushy barn owls' truly impressed the judge - Rachael Poole, the Volunteer Development Officer from NYMNP.



**North York Moors
National Park**

Here's a snippet of feedback from Rachael for all the judges

"I was incredibly impressed reading all of your wonderful writing, and now I am very inspired to visit Pickering! I thoroughly enjoyed reading about all the marvellous things that visitors can do, such as riding on the trains, exploring the Beck Isle Museum, walking in Dalby Forest, and taking in the breath-taking views of the lovely countryside. It was a very challenging decision to choose the winner from all of your brilliant entries. Congratulations on some superb writing and illustrating!"

A story to tell?

Have you, or someone you know (individual or group), initiated or completed a project – regardless of scale, which benefits the countryside environment that is worth shouting about?

If so, please get in touch so we can share more widely the successes and inform our members 'how it was achieved' – Our 'Countryside Champions' across North and East Yorkshire, often inspire others to invest their time and efforts in to something rewarding Remember, you read it here first!

Dear The Countryside Charity,

Imagine waking up and seeing wild baby deer prancing through the fields. Imagine hearing the whistle of the gorgeous steam trains. Imagine being a few miles away from the amazing Dalby Forest. Well imagine no further! In Pickering there's space to do all of that. This is not only a place with wonderful wildlife and lots of things to do but it's also got an amazing amount of history. So how about you read on and be inspired to visit today.

Just a short drive away is the adventurous Dalby Forest. Because of its wide area of beauty there's lots of wildlife around such as slithering snakes, fierce foxes and bushy barn owls. So, why don't you come to see all of this breathtaking area!

Perched in the woods of Pickering, is Pickering castle. Since there's a lot of it broken it means that your kids can climb on it. You can rest on the top of the castle and see the stunning view! So there's sign around about the history behind the castle. You must come!

Want to go on a train? Well you don't have to go far in Pickering. It's right round the corner with the most eye-catching trains that go to places like Loring, Leisham, Gillingham, and gorgeous bathlands. You can go on a steam train or a diesel train whenever.

So, will I see you in town or will you miss out on everything here?

Events update 2024

Well, what a year it has been!

Following the huge success of the Poetry for Climate Change project in Middlesbrough by CPRE North and East Yorkshire we have been successful again with our bid to now roll this out into several areas across North Yorkshire and East Riding, covering areas Hambleton, Beverley, Richmond, Craven, Harrogate, Ryedale and York!!

Poetry in Schools

The project, which is aimed at 6 and 8 year olds teaches children about different environments and how we can all grow up looking at ways we might look after the planet. Climate Change is a difficult subject for children to relate to but poetry is a great way to get into the subject. A simple class learning situation but one that might stick in the minds of young children and give them an awareness of the worlds around them and the challenge it faces. If you are interested in the Poetry for Climate Change for a school near you, please just email info@cpreney.org.uk for further information.

Hedges

Hedges or Hedgerows are amazing features of our rural and urban landscapes, providing brilliant benefits to wildlife & humans! They provide shelter, foraging and commuting routes for birds, bees, amphibians, bats, spiders, they capture carbon, filter pollutants, they provide privacy... the list goes on and on...

We recently carried out a Hedges presentation and talk to a group of ladies at the Women's Institute at Thorpe Willoughby which was a huge success and described as fascinating and incredibly interesting! Did you know that Oak trees often found amongst hedges support around 2300 species and that doesn't include all the fungi and micro-organisms which use oak!!..well, now you do...

If you are interested in a talk on hedges, please email info@cpreney.org.uk to arrange.

Here's just a snip of the benefits:

Beach Cleans

Beach Cleans- Every September thousands of people across the UK head to the coast to take part in the Great British Beach Clean. This year's event is taking place between Friday 20th - Sunday 29th September 2024. So, as our Summer season draws to a close, our beaches often bear the signs of busy months, plastic bottles, tins, wrappers and litter are often left behind or simply get washed up. All these have a significant impact on our coastal eco systems and marine life.

Our Beach Clean at North Beach, Scarborough in June partnering with a lovely team of volunteers from North Yorkshire Horizons was a great day, lots of fun and appreciation from locals.

CPRENEY is now partnering with Yorkshire wildlife Trust on 25th September at Spurn Head Discovery Centre not only to celebrate and support the Great British Beach Clean but carry out a beach clean to help maintain such a beautiful coastline. If you would like to volunteer and help please just e mail info@cpreney.org.uk



Events update 2024

Photography Workshops/Walks- Connecting with nature

Are you looking to improve your photography and connect with nature? Well, we will be running photography workshops and walks in stunning locations in the Yorkshire Dales & East riding to help you do just that! Nature to your Home. (Photography and Design by Dean Andrew Photography) is working with CPRENEY (who help to make our countryside a better place for everyone to live and work)

Details of up and coming events for CPRENEY will be posted on Social media and Eventbrite! Do look out for them.



Competition Time:

Would you like to win a beautiful image?

Simply Guess the correct name of this fabulous Glicee Image and you get to win the image (16.x16inch, print 12x12inch).

Send your response to info@cpreney.org.uk by 30th November.

Winner will be notified by 7th December 2024.
Good Luck.



Clue:

On the horizons of our beautiful North Yorkshire and East Riding countryside are hills and mountains.. vibrant, serene and a mass of different colours!

Calling All Conservation Enthusiasts: Become an Eyes & Ears Volunteer!

Passionate about preserving your local countryside?
Worried about development impacts on your community?
Join us as an Eyes & Ears Volunteer with CPRENEY.

Your role is simple but vital: monitor local development proposals and ensure they're appropriate for the area. No planning expertise needed—just a computer and a few hours each week.

Why Your Help Matters

With 14 Planning Authorities and 2 National Park Authorities, timely vigilance can prevent inappropriate developments and protect green spaces.

Missing these deadlines can lead to Green Wedge losses, unsuitable housing, or large-scale solar projects getting approved. Our goal isn't to stop development but to ensure it's appropriate, well-scaled, and in the right location. With your help, we can make a real difference.

How to Get Involved

Email us at info@cpreney.org.uk or call 07983 088120 to learn more. Help us safeguard the countryside for future generations!

Together, we can work towards making our region even more beautiful and sustainable.

Join us in protecting the countryside for future generations.

Wildlife in Winter: Nature's Resilience

As winter approaches, the countryside transforms into a serene landscape, and while many animals become less visible, wildlife remains active and adaptable. Understanding how different species cope with the colder months can enhance our appreciation for the natural world around us.

Birds: Winter Visitors and Residents

Many birds migrate south to escape the harsh winter conditions, but plenty of species remain in North and East Yorkshire. Look out for flocks of fieldfares and redwings, which travel from Scandinavia and Eastern Europe to forage for berries. Backyard feeders become a vital resource during this time, attracting species like robins, blue tits, and goldfinches. Keep your feeders stocked to support these birds and enjoy their vibrant presence throughout the winter.



Mammals: Adapting to the Cold

While some mammals hibernate, others remain active, utilising their fur coats to cope with the dropping temperatures. Foxes, badgers, and deer can still be spotted foraging for food. Hedgehogs will have already found a snug spot to hibernate, so if you spot one, be sure to leave it undisturbed. Creating a wildlife-friendly garden by leaving piles of leaves or providing food sources can help support these animals through the winter months.



Insects and Invertebrates: Nature's Survivors

Although many insects become dormant or die off, some, like certain species of bees, can survive the winter in hibernation. Ladybirds and lacewings also find sheltered spots to ride out the cold. If you have a compost pile or dead wood in your garden, you're likely providing essential habitats for these insects.

Protecting Wildlife

As winter sets in, it's important to remember the role we play in supporting local wildlife. Simple actions, like maintaining a wildlife-friendly garden, creating habitats, and providing food and water, can make a significant difference. Avoid using pesticides during this time, as many beneficial insects may still be present.

Winter is a time of quiet beauty and resilience in the natural world. By observing and supporting the wildlife around us, we can foster a deeper connection with nature and help ensure that our local ecosystems thrive, even in the coldest months. Embrace the season and enjoy the wonders of winter wildlife!



Proposed New Yorkshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: Project Update

Natural England will shortly commence a statutory and public consultation concerning the proposal for a new Yorkshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It will run for 14 weeks from 8th October 2024 to midnight on the 13th January 2025.

AONBs were recently rebranded as National Landscapes. Legally however, Natural England can only designate an AONB until such time that the rebranding becomes enshrined in law. To avoid confusion, all documentation and consultation material refer to AONB throughout. If the AONB is subsequently designated, then it would be branded as a National Landscape.

Natural England has updated their project website in relation to the forthcoming consultation. Further details can also be found on the 'Have your say' section of the project website: <https://www.yorkshire-wolds-designation-project.org/home>

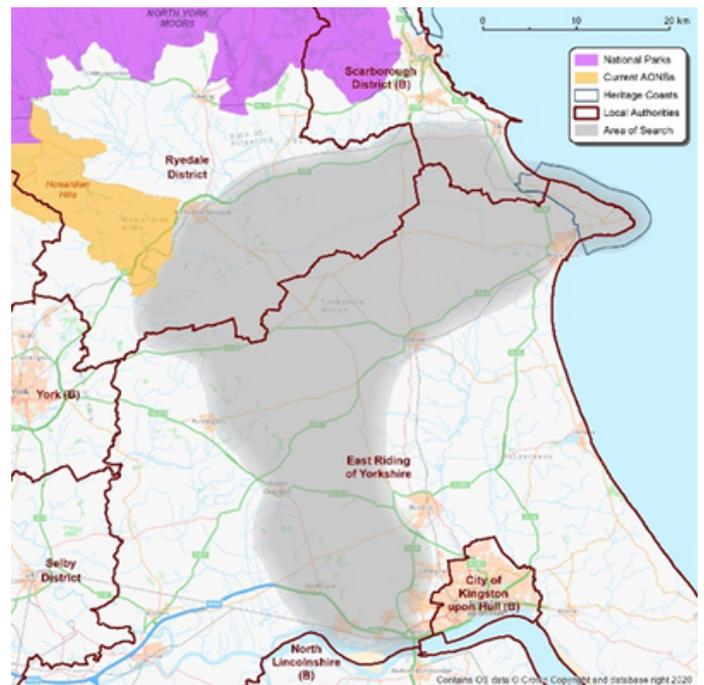
Many birds migrate south to escape the harsh winter conditions, but plenty of species remain in North and East Yorkshire. Look out for flocks of fieldfares and redwings, which travel from Scandinavia and Eastern Europe to forage for berries. Backyard feeders become a vital resource during this time, attracting species like robins, blue tits, and goldfinches. Keep your feeders stocked to support these birds and enjoy their vibrant presence throughout the winter.

Planning Lead for CPRENEY, Katie Atkinson, said: “I would encourage all our members, to look at the website and consider commenting on the plans. CPRENEY needs as much support as it can muster to advocate for the protection of this beautiful and unique part of the country with the designation it so rightly deserves.”

At this stage, however, we do not know the exact boundary being put forward by Natural England’s advisors or the specific details to be contained within the consultation documents. However, CPRENEY will be following the information closely and will respond in due course.

The proposed area of search from which, Natural England will ‘select’ an area to award the designation which will be granted the highest level of landscape protection in planning policy – the same as National Parks. CPRENEY would like to see as much of the grey shaded area designated as possible.

During the consultation period there will be a number of drop in face-to-face events and online webinars. A full schedule of these events is now viewable on the project website along with more details on what you can expect when the consultation launches and how you can have your say.



Heading towards our Centenary in 2026

CPRE, the countryside charity, consists of a network of passionate people working in our communities, coming together to champion and campaign for positive progress for the countryside.

We want a thriving and beautiful countryside for all, that feels like ‘home’ for everyone, wherever they live and whoever they are. We want a countryside rich in nature and playing a crucial role in our response to the climate emergency. We want thriving and sustainable rural communities. And we want more people to enjoy green spaces and the countryside, including those who have not benefitted before.

The next few years and the path to CPRE’s centenary in 2026 are critical and we have focused our strategy to reflect this. Nationally, we will promote bold solutions for the countryside to the new Government and think in a joined-up way about how to manage the multiple, competing demands on it.

Locally in North and East Yorkshire, we will campaign for the most appropriate development in the most appropriate places via the planning system; we shall empower and engage with local communities who face similar challenges; and we shall endeavour to grow our finances and membership to ensure that the charity is still accountable and able to fulfil its charitable objectives for the benefit of future generations and the countryside itself.

And as we approach our centenary, we will bring to life the ambition for our vision for the future countryside in 2035:

Goal 1: Future countryside

We will build a new, collective vision for the future of our countryside, in a time when it faces unprecedented challenges.

We believe in a climate friendly, nature rich, and beautiful future countryside – enabled by dynamic land use change, underpinned by a spatial plan that helps local people and decision makers balance the value and functions of the countryside for us all.

Goal 2: Countryside next door

We will campaign to improve locally valued landscapes and green spaces and for greater access for everyone to their countryside next door.

For most of us the most valuable countryside is that on our doorstep – the countryside next door. It might not benefit from a special designation or protection but the ‘ordinary’ countryside and green spaces close to home are vital for our future.

Goal 3: Build our movement

We will inspire, equip and grow a movement of people taking action for positive change – powered by our network, rooted in people’s love of place, nature and the countryside.

For most of us the most valuable countryside is that on our doorstep – the countryside next door. It might not benefit from a special designation or protection but the ‘ordinary’ countryside and green spaces close to home are vital for our future.

Goal 4: Countryside solutions

We will prove that the thriving, beautiful countryside we all want is possible by demonstrating and promoting solutions to deliver change.

We believe in the ingenuity and passion of our movement. We will continue to proudly protect our countryside and fight decisions that cause harm, whilst also demonstrating what works and promoting and extending ‘what good looks like.’





The countryside charity
North and East Yorkshire

You are invited to attend
CPRE North and East Yorkshire's Annual General Meeting
On Saturday 23rd November 2024 at 10am, online.

Agenda

10:00 Welcome

10:05 CPRE North Yorkshire

The Chairman – Jan Arger

The Chairman will ask each trustee to introduce themselves to Members
Acceptance of Minutes of last AGM 12 November 2022
Vote to endorse current trustee board 2023-2024

10:30 Financial Report 2022

Clair Jones

10:35 Members Questions

10:45: Close and Thanks

Jan Arger

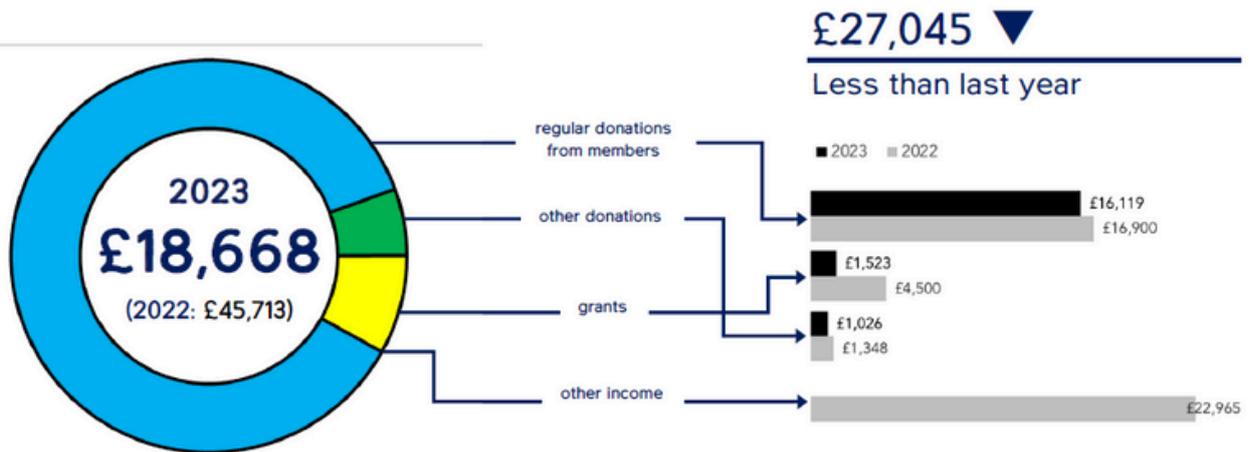
Please note booking is required for zoom details to be sent –
please contact info@cpreney.org.uk or you the QR link below,
if you wish to join us.

All reservations should be made by 15th November 2024

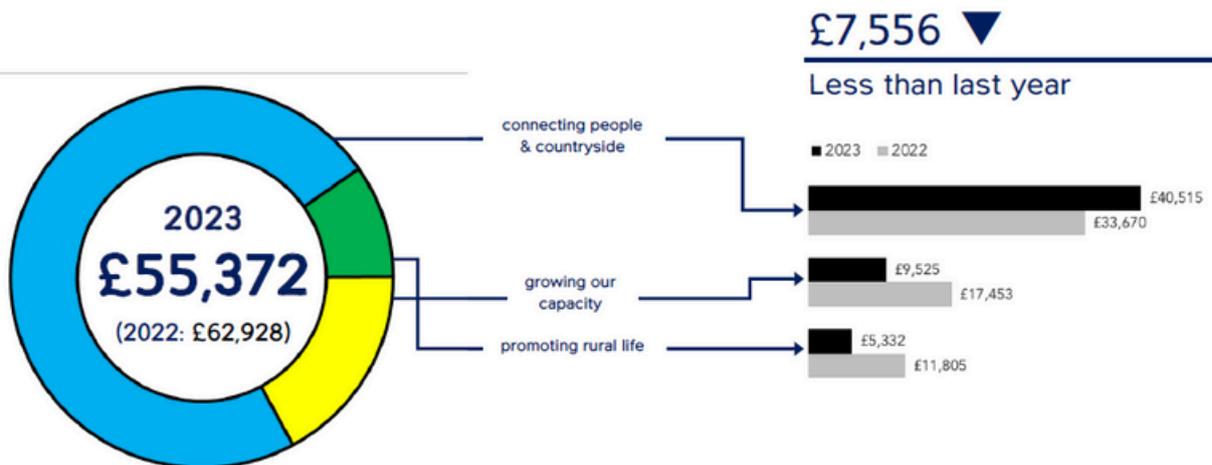


Financial Overview for 2023

Our annual income



Our annual expenditure



Our fund balances

At the end of 2023, we held funds totalling £189,615 (2022: £226,319). These included unrestricted funds of £108,393 (2022: £141,745) and restricted funds of £81,222 (2022: £84,574).

We rely on the generous support of the volunteers, supporters and members of CPRENEY.

Your support helps protect the tranquil landscapes of North and East Yorkshire for future generations.

There are a number of ways in which you can contribute to the work of CPRENEY with your time, your influence, and/or your financial support:

- *Make a donation to support our work
- *Buy a gift membership for family and friends
- *Raise awareness in your community about the issues we care about and lend your voice to campaigns on local and national issues
- * Volunteer in one of our projects or activities
- *Include a gift in your will to CPRENEY as your lasting legacy for the countryside.

You will find more information about how you can make a difference on our website (<https://www.cpreney.org.uk/get-involved/>). Your every contribution helps preserve the countryside of North and East Yorkshire for future generations.

Governance

CPRE North and East Yorkshire or CPRENEY^[1] is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

The CPRENEY constitution requires that the Board of Trustees will comprise between three and ten trustees, including a Chairperson, up to two Vice-Chairpersons and a Treasurer. Trustees may serve for a period of up to six years and are elected and re-elected at general meetings.

The Trustees' annual report and accounts for 2023 were prepared and submitted on time to the Charity Commission. These are available for review at <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/en/> or may be obtained at a cost of £2.50 to cover postage and printing from info@cpreney.org.uk. As income in the year was less than £25,000, the Trustees were not required to arrange for independent examination of the Charity's accounts

Professional Advisors

The Trustees are grateful for the professional services provided by:
Planning Consultant: Katie Atkinson, KVA Planning, Bridlington, East Yorkshire
Heritage Consultant: 1 Voyage Limited, Helmsley, North Yorkshire
Legal Counsel: Robert Nieri, Shoosmiths, Manchester

[1] The CIO was registered with the Charity Commission as The North Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England in 2017.



Join in
cpreney.org.uk

Webpage: www.cpreney.org.uk

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The countryside charity
North and East Yorkshire