



Protecting the past, shaping the future

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Suffolk Preservation Society
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Shortlist announced for prestigious environmental awards

Outstanding environmental projects ranging from new builds to historic restorations have been shortlisted as finalists in a prestigious awards scheme designed to celebrate the best which Suffolk has to offer.

Suffolk Preservation Society's Awards for a Better Environment were launched earlier in the year to celebrate projects which make an outstanding contribution to the county's environment and sustainability.

A panel of independent judges has now assessed the high quality entries in all three categories and drawn up a shortlist of finalists.

The award categories and the finalists are:

The Duke of Grafton Prize – for exemplary work to protect or enhance the historic built heritage.

Finalists: Abbey West Front, Bury St Edmunds (Nicholas Jacob Architects)
Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds (National Trust)

The Alfred Williams Prize – for modern buildings or extensions of distinction and excellence

Finalists: The Wilderness, Westleton (Paul + O Architects)
New House, Aldringham (Modece Architects)
35, Daphne Road, Orford (Tony Swannell Architect)

The EADT Prize – for exemplary work to manage, protect or enhance the countryside or coastline

Finalists: River Rat Meadows County Wildlife Site (Museum of East Anglian Life)
Connect – various projects along Suffolk coastline (Suffolk Coast and Heaths Unit)

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Richard Ward, director of the society, said: “We were pleasantly surprised by both the number and quality of entries we received, which just go to show how much there is to celebrate in Suffolk.

“This shortlist really does show what can be achieved when schemes are developed with a little bit of care, sensitivity and imagination. They also demonstrate the benefits of an holistic approach to design and the delivery of what is proposed.”

“We are now looking forward to handing out the awards, which will go to those schemes which have demonstrated an outstanding attention to sustainability and improving Suffolk’s environment and heritage.”

The awards have won the backing of comic star and conservationist Griff Rhys Jones, who said: “It is local support and action that really counts in heritage and conservation.

“Really, all the beautiful buildings and landscapes we love have to be looked out for all the time.

“Eternal vigilance can be very tiring, proper maintenance is gruelling and appropriate conservation is expensive. How good it is to see it recognised and supported.”

The awards have also been supported by all the district and borough councils in the county, including Waveney District Council which has provided financial assistance towards the scheme.

Prizes totalling £2,500 will be awarded in each category of the awards, which will be presented later this year.

Ends

Note to editors: SPS, founded in 1929, originally worked to protect the county’s buildings and landscape. Today, the Society has broadened its focus to help shape Suffolk’s future, largely campaigning for sensitive and appropriate development, more and better quality affordable homes and to ensure sustainable infrastructures are in place to support the county’s communities.

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