

suffolkVIEW

The magazine of the Suffolk Preservation Society



UP ON THE ROOF

Pantiles in East Anglia - what do rooftops tell us about the history of our county?

Edward Martin

Edward Martin is an archaeologist specialising in historic landscape studies. He has written and lectured widely on gardens, buildings and the landscape. He is the Chairman of the Suffolk Gardens Trust and is a Vice President of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History. Here he explains how to read the fascinating story that our rooftops can tell us when we know what to look for.

Roofsapes are often the unconsidered component of our perception of our towns, villages and countryside. Lifting your eyes to the roofs while walking through the historic parts of eastern and northern Suffolk towns, such as Aldeburgh, Bungay or Eye, and you will frequently be rewarded with sights of tiles with an undulating profile, some red, some with a black glaze. These are pantiles.

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UP ON THE ROOF



But walk through a south Suffolk town, such as Haverhill, Lavenham or Sudbury, and you will see many plain tiles, but rarely a pantile. Such an imbalance calls out for an explanation!

So, what are pantiles? The name is actually a bit of tautology, the 'pan' part being derived from the Dutch word *pan* 'a tile' – so a 'tile tile'! In contrast to the smaller 'plain tiles', they are 'single lap' tiles, overlapping in a downward direction only one other tile, unlike plain tiles which overlap two. The wavy shape of the pantiles does however enable them to overlap their neighbours transversely – the down-bent edge of one tile hooking over the upward edge of its neighbour. The 'lock' between the tiles can, however, be less than precise. I had a variety of pantiled roofs on one of my first homes and I was rewarded, one winter's night, with the sight of snow blowing in through my roof! It is therefore common to find that some form of sub-roofing is provided. Nowadays it is a waterproof, breathable membrane, but in the past, it could be 'torching' with a layer of reed or straw and mortar. A pantiled roof uses less tiles than a plain-tiled one, and is both lighter and cheaper, meaning that the technique can be used on a wider range of buildings. Pantiles can also be used on roofs that vary from steep to shallow in their pitch. These characteristics mean that pantiles were frequently used to replace thatch.

One of my pantiled roofs at Haughley was quite steeply pitched, which suggests that it was originally thatched. Most pantiles are an unglazed orange-red colour, some are matte grey-black, but many have a shiny bluish-black glaze, a not uncommon variant, particularly in the eastern parts of the county.

As their name suggests, pantiles originated in Holland, with prototypes emerging in the late 14th or early 15th century. The Dutch adopted pantiles,

both unglazed and black-glazed, on a large scale and they are still a major feature of roofscapes in Holland, as in cities like Amsterdam. Interestingly, they are frequently employed on steeper roofs than in England. There was also a brisk export trade to neighbouring countries, including England, where the imports were frequently termed Flanders, Flemish or Dutch tiles. They were arriving here by the late 16th century and continued to be imported in large quantities for the next couple of centuries.

There is only limited evidence for the manufacture of pantiles in England before 1700, but in the 18th century numerous works sprang up along the east coast, from Hull southwards. In Suffolk, Mr Taylor's 'new Brick-Kiln' at Holbrook near Ipswich was making pantiles in 1758 that were 'esteemed by those that have made Tryal of them to be extreemly good'.¹ By 1760, Philip Walker's kiln at Gunton, near Lowestoft, was producing both 'common and black-glazed pantiles' that were '(by good Judge) thought equal if not superior to the Holland ware'.² And in 1767 Gabriel Frost at his Whelnetham brick kiln, near Bury St Edmunds, wanted a man to make pantiles.³

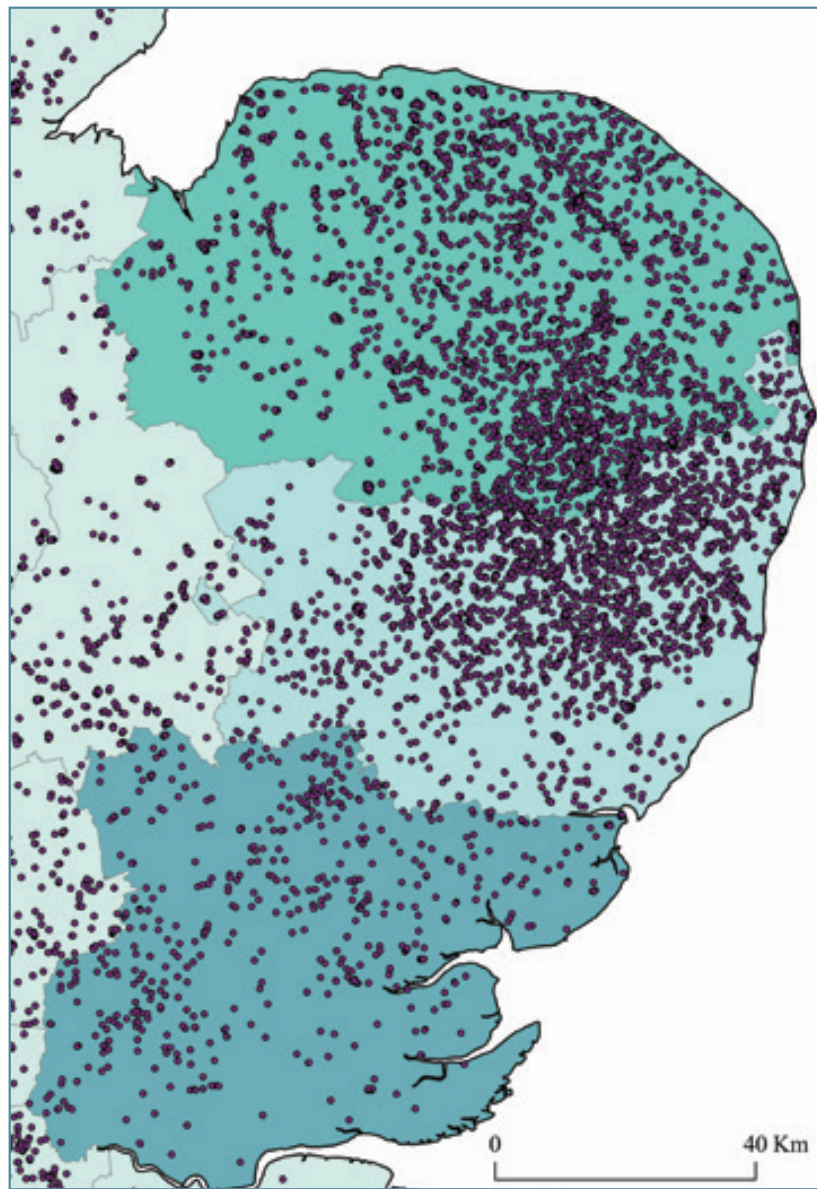


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The map on the right, kindly prepared by Dr Nat Alcock of Warwick University, shows all the Listed Buildings in East Anglia that have pantiled roofs. Curiously, instead of clustering thickly in the coastal zones, where we know that the imported pantiles were being landed, the strongest cluster is in the flat claylands of north Suffolk and south Norfolk. This makes us consider the nature of our evidence. What are being mapped are Listed Buildings, i.e. buildings of some architectural significance. As already noted, pantiles produce relatively light and cheap roofs, therefore they tended to be used on cottages and the like – the types of buildings that are less likely to be listed. But they also frequently occur as replacements for thatch on barns, a type of building that does have a higher likelihood of being listed.



The clayland cluster may therefore be more truly reflecting the incidence of pantiled (and listable) farm buildings, rather than the overall distribution of pantiled roofs. There are, of course, many farm buildings in south Suffolk, but the barns there are often more substantial and more likely to have plain-tiled roofs, reflecting an old farming economy that was more concerned with arable crops (and the need to store them). This contrasted with the strongly pastoral economy of the north Suffolk claylands – the area that the 18th-century agricultural writer, Arthur Young, labelled as the ‘seat of the dairies’ in Suffolk.⁴ This is reflected in the distribution of aisled barns (large barns with additional storage in side aisles), which are numerous in south Suffolk, but absent from the dairying region.⁵



Listed buildings with Pantiles in East Anglia

To be SOLD at HOLBROOK new Brick-Kiln.
MOST Sorts of RED WARE, as Common and Well-Bricks, plain, rough, and Pantiles, esteemed by those that have made Tryal of them to be extreamly good.
 Also to be Sold, A considerable Quantity of BILLET-WOOD, now upon Stacks.
 Enquire for further Particulars of Mr. Taylor in Holbrook, (who lives near the Spring where the Stack-Wood lies) or of Mr. Joe Pooley at Holbrook Hall.

So, it seems that pantiles do have a story to tell, one that connects with the deeper history of our fascinating region.

Cover
 Aldeburgh
 roofscape
 Photo:
 Alamy

Page 2 top
 Glazed and
 unglazed pantiles
 on an outbuilding
 in Orford

Page 2 bottom
 A pantiled
 roofscape in
 Amsterdam

Top right
 Map of Listed
 Buildings with
 pantiled roofs in
 East Anglia

Middle left
 Author's former
 home in Haughley,
 showing a variety
 of pantiles and roof
 pitches

Bottom right
 From the Ipswich
 Journal 1758

¹ Ipswich Journal 23 and 30 Dec. 1758.

² Lucas, R., ‘Dutch pantiles in the county of Norfolk: architecture and international trade in the 17th and 18th centuries’, *Post-Medieval Archaeology* 32.1, 1998, pp. 87-8.

³ Ipswich Journal 25 Apr. 1767.

⁴ Young, A., ‘Minutes relating to the dairy farms &c of High Suffolk’, *Annals of Agriculture*, 27, 1786, pp. 194-5; D. Dymond and E. Martin (eds), *An Historical Atlas of Suffolk*, 3rd ed., Ipswich 1999, pp. 134-5.

⁵ Dymond and Martin 1999, pp. 176-7.



Fiona Cairns

Director, Suffolk Preservation Society

A Grand Day Out!

Welcome to our bigger and better version of Suffolk View, all made possible by a generous donation from a very special member. We are enormously grateful!

We have been working hard to refresh our **Membership Offer** and are pleased to launch our new 2 for 1 discount on entry to some of the county's most beautiful visitor attractions. SPS members will soon receive a membership card which can be used to receive free entry for a second person when paying full price for one adult. See page 5 for details of the destinations taking part in the offer. After such a bleak and difficult time for so many, SPS is happy to be able to share

with its members the chance to discover, or simply reacquaint yourself and your companion, with some of our county's most glorious attractions. Come and have your Grand Day Out with the SPS!

As the world finally moves away from the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, we can all once again enjoy more familiar ways of spending time together with friends and family.

SPS is therefore delighted to be able to resume our calendar of **social events for 2022**. We begin with our spring event in May at The Orangery, Sibton Park to celebrate our Heritage Champion Awards presented by Sir Laurie Magnus CBE, Chair of Historic England. We also have a summer garden party to look forward to

in June at Gothic Farm, Heveningham.

It is very exciting to once again be able to offer our members the opportunity to come together to enjoy some first-class events. See page 23 for more details and how to book your place.

And finally, in this edition of Spotlight, we have given our regular column over to a number of flourishing local campaigners, who are coming together, working hard to scrutinise major projects that have the potential to damage their communities, countryside, towns and villages. See pages 24-27 for a round-up of some of Suffolk's most active local groups and campaigners.

I hope you enjoy our bumper edition.

“ We are pleased to launch our new 2 for 1 discount on entry to some of the county's most beautiful visitor attractions. ”



Robert Townshend

Chairman, Suffolk Preservation Society

I was delighted to take over from Andrew Fane as Chair of the Suffolk Preservation Society at the last Annual General Meeting. Andrew is a remarkable act to follow, he transformed the Society during his tenure, putting it on a professional footing with the help of our Director Fiona and her team. As a result, the SPS can face the challenges posed by the ever-increasing housing demand and the drive for Net Zero Energy with the confidence that our voice will be heard in the right quarters. To put that in a wider context, Suffolk currently faces more applications for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects than any other county in England, in addition to the many and varied highway improvements which accompany them, as well as the more normal stream of planning applications, all of which need reviewing and responding to. To cope with all of this, as the SPS

does, we owe Andrew a vote of thanks for all the time and resources he has invested over the last nine years to ensure the infrastructure is in place to allow Fiona and her team to respond with the high degree of professionalism that they do on every occasion. We are extremely lucky to be in this position, and it is clear Andrew will be a tough act for me to follow.

Inevitably the SPS, along with virtually every other charity, has suffered during the pandemic. The strict constraints on opportunities to meet and engage with our membership, the talks, training events and visits have all been put on hold, and that has severely impacted our finances, as well as leading to little face to face contact with the membership. My ambition over the next year is to redress that, to meet and reengage with our existing membership, as well as expand it so that we are confident

our voice represents a broad church across the county. To begin with, a series of events and talks are being scheduled where I hope to see you.

In May, Sir Laurie Magnus, the Chair of Historic England, will be giving a talk at Sibton Park. I encourage you to come, not least because I would like to meet and introduce myself to as many of you as possible. I also hope you will help the Society by spreading the word of what we do, to attract new members of all ages. A strong membership is our lifeblood, and it is only by having strength in numbers that we can confidently support Fiona and her team and press the case for a more informed debate on the archaeological, heritage and landscape issues currently facing us, and to ensure better design outcomes are achieved along with the preservation of all that is best in the county.

“ To begin with, a series of events and talks are being scheduled where I hope to see you. ”

Have a day out with the SPS



Elizabeth Coughlin

Suffolk Preservation Society

With rampant energy tariffs and inflation hitting the family shopping basket, many of us are having to keep a close eye on our household finances and are keen to ensure our hard-earned money is well-spent. And at the Suffolk Preservation Society we understand that we must use your membership subscription wisely.

For over 90 years, SPS, a self-funding charity, has stood up for Suffolk communities that love their heritage and landscape. We support community groups, parish councils and individuals who are concerned for the future of their towns and villages, providing advice and guidance.

Our professional planners engage with the planning system to protect our heritage and seek to ensure that new development is both sustainable and beneficial. Of course, none of this can happen without funding and that is why your membership is vital.

We operate on a stringent budget to remain affordable which means that you can join us for as little as £30 per household. As well as supporting our work, previously members have benefitted from access to lectures, visits and newsletters as well as receiving Suffolk View Magazine. Having had to curtail so much over the last couple of years, we were therefore keen to introduce

an exciting new offer for 2022. By teaming up with the selection of historic properties below we are now able to provide **2 for 1 ticket entry as an additional benefit of SPS membership**. With longer days and warmer weather on the horizon, what could be better than exploring the delights of our glorious home county? Well, doing it half-price obviously! So, if you care about your environment and want your voice to be heard, please come and join the SPS – then grab your membership card and have a great day out on us!

Helmingham Hall

This spectacular moated brick manor house was completed in 1510 and lies within a 400 acre park where both red and fallow deer graze under ancient oaks. In this beautiful and tranquil setting, Chelsea Gold Medallist Lady Xa Tollemache has created a garden of both elegance and complexity. A classic parterre leads to a walled kitchen garden where tunnels of sweet peas, runner beans and gourds provide structure to the vegetable beds and herbaceous borders. Herb and knot gardens lie adjacent as well as a beautiful rose garden. Further from the house, the orchard and wild flower garden provide a transition from formality to the wildness of the Tudor deer park.



Home to the Tollemache family for centuries, the hall itself remains a private residence with the two drawbridges being raised every night since 1510, keeping intruders firmly at bay. In contrast the stunning gardens are open to the public every day during summer, drawing countless delighted visitors. With a tea room,

ice cream parlour and shop, not to mention the picturesque St. Mary's Church on the edge of the park, there is plenty at Helmingham for visitors of all ages. The gardens are open this year from 1st May and SPS members can take advantage of 2 for 1 entry throughout the season, not including special event days.

Pakenham Water Mill



Pakenham Water Mill has been voted one of the best landmark sites in Britain by BBC Countryfile Magazine and it's not hard to see why. A short hop from Bury St Edmunds, this imposing 18th Century building sits in an idyllic rural setting on its beautiful millpond. Although the current structure dates from 1780, the site has been in use since before the Normans arrived at Hastings and the same simple technology of water power is still in use to produce stone-ground flour, making it the oldest surviving mill in the county.

As well as the magnificent sight of the mill itself in action, there is a programme of special events on Sundays. This year's dates include a Wildlife Day on 8th May, a Vintage Power Day on 26th June and a Traditional Crafts Day on 11th September, all offering free entry for children and included in the SPS 2 for 1 offer. Ample parking, a tearoom, gift shop and guided tours on request are also available. So, whether you have a passion for engineering, want to stock up on baking supplies or simply enjoy a slice of cake while your children feed the swans, why not step back in time and sample a thousand years of history this Summer?

Otley Hall Gardens

An impeccable example of late medieval architecture, Otley Hall has intriguing connections with a panoply of historical figures including Cardinal Wolsey, Shakespeare and the Earl of Oxford. Not to mention renowned resident and nautical captain Bartholomew Gosnold, who pioneered the first direct route to America in 1602, naming both Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard, the latter after his infant daughter. Surrounded by 10 acres of tranquil and diverse gardens, this is a special place with a serene and magical ambience which new owners, Steve and Louisa Flavell, are keen to share. Having moved in with their young family in 2020, they have embarked on a sensitive programme of renovations to reinvigorate and ensure the Hall's future, with a focus on wildlife and conservation. The restored Martha's Barn houses a spacious and quirky artisan cafe featuring seasonal local produce, and a series of events showcasing the performing and visual arts is in development.



The gardens themselves remain the jewel in the crown, however, providing a veritable feast for the senses with vibrant borders, wooded areas and charming

water features. Majestic blue or white peacocks stroll through a succession of inviting spaces which are sure to delight visitors old and young.

Thelnetham Windmill

Standing on the edge of the fens and dating from 1819, Thelnetham Mill is one of only four preserved tower mills in Suffolk.

Having undergone decades of painstaking restoration by volunteers it is now open to the public on a number of specific dates from April to September. Guided tours are offered and, weather permitting, the sails will be turning, with stone-ground flour available to purchase. The mechanically inclined will appreciate the vintage Ruston and Hornby diesel engine on display and outside there is a new granary building and adjacent wildflower meadow to enjoy.

The nearby Thelnetham Fen Nature Reserve is a beautiful remnant of the wetland landscape which once swept along this valley and is free to visit to round off your trip.



Little Hall

As the only example of domestic medieval architecture open to the public in Lavenham, Little Hall is a highpoint in an already extraordinary place. One of the oldest buildings in this important Suffolk wool town, its history mirrors the changing fortunes of the town. Built in the 1390s, it was enlarged in 1425 and then “modernised” in Tudor times with the addition of a fireplace and upper floor. The collapse of the wool trade and consequent poverty brought investment to an end for several centuries. Little Hall slowly fell into dilapidation until it was rescued and restored by twin brothers in the 1920s and 30s. Keen artists and collectors, as well as soldiers, the Gayer-Andersons made it their home and their eclectic collection of antiques, pictures and porcelain remain on display.

The seven fully furnished rooms give a fascinating insight into domestic life over the past half a millennium.



One of these is the “Dormitory”, so-named for having housed five London boys during WWII. A concise display refers to the tragic bombing of Bethnal Green which the evacuees had escaped and, more positively, the adventures they went on to enjoy in later life. Today children are still welcome but are now provided with quizzes and stickers rather than chamber pots!

The Hall is complemented by a traditional walled garden and its central location means that it is easy to explore the rest of the town on foot. With over 300 buildings listed as of architectural interest and a thriving array of boutique shops, galleries and restaurants, Lavenham makes an excellent day out and Little Hall is not to be missed.

How to take advantage of this new offer

For full details of opening times, facilities, accessibility and special events please refer to the particular property's own website. And don't forget to take along your SPS Membership card!

All existing SPS members will receive their membership card under separate cover. If your card should not arrive, please contact the office sps@suffolksociety.org or call 01787 247 179.



Bethany Philbedge

Planning Officer, Suffolk Preservation Society

Planning Overview

Update and comment on local planning issues

For details on all SPS's planning campaign work, see our monthly bulletins available on our website at

suffolksociety.org/about/our-publications/monthly-bulletin

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

SPS congratulates Thurston Parish Council on its successful challenge of a Mid Suffolk decision to approve 210 dwellings on a site not allocated in the Neighbourhood Plan. The High Court found that councillors had been "materially misled" by a planning officers' report which failed to correctly interpret and advise on the question of whether the development

was in accordance with, or in conflict with, the Neighbourhood Plan. This is an important decision as SPS has previously raised serious concerns over the insufficient regard being paid to 'made' neighbourhood plans in officers' reports in a number of other locations including Stowupland and Fressingfield.

Meanwhile in Southwold, their

Neighbourhood Plan, aims to address the increasing number of properties being used as second or holiday homes by including a policy requiring all newly built houses to be used as primary residences. The Plan was supported at the community referendum and has been approved by East Suffolk Council. It now forms part of the local development plan.

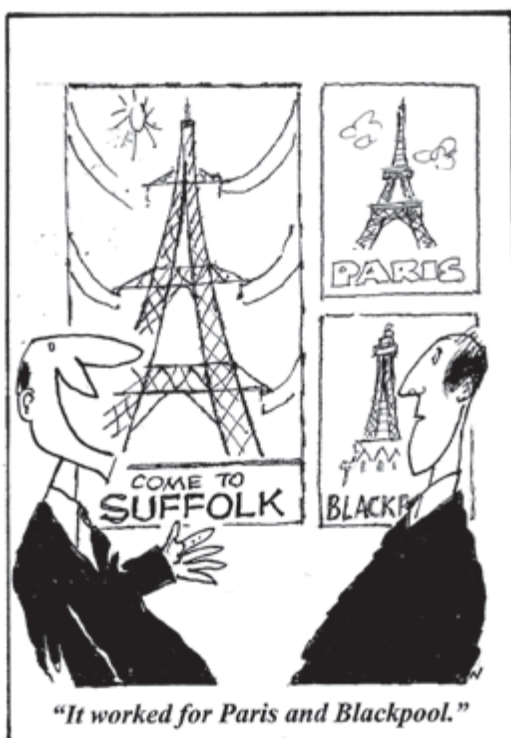
PYLONS AND MORE PYLONS

National Grid's statutory consultation on plans to upgrade the existing electricity transmission along 29km of its network from Bramford to Twinstead closed in March. The plans include an additional 400kV pylon line in place of the existing smaller 132kV line, with 10km of the new transmission line to be placed underground through the

Dedham Vale and Stour Valley. Sealing end compounds measuring around 75m by 35m containing gantries over 12m tall will be required at each end of an underground sections, inevitably in a sensitive landscape. SPS is pushing for further measures to mitigate the harmful landscape impacts of this project.

Meanwhile National Grid has announced

that an additional 400kV pylon line from Norwich to Tilbury, first announced in January 2021, will not form an additional line along the Bramford to Twinstead route. Although the new line will run through Bramford, we await further details of the precise route to be taken through Suffolk.

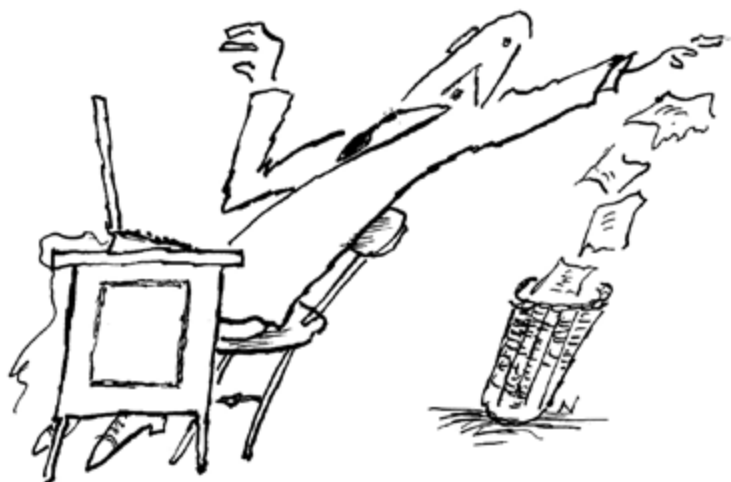


BABERGH/MID-SUFFOLK JOINT LOCAL PLAN – A FURTHER DELAY

In the last edition of Suffolk View we reported that the Examination of the Babergh Mid Suffolk local plan in the summer had been abandoned due to

difficulties relating to the proceedings taking place virtually. It was rescheduled and should have been completed mid-autumn. However, in October, due to

issues highlighted by the Inspectors, the Examination had stalled part way through in order for the Councils to undertake further work. It has since been agreed to progress the current Joint Local Plan as a 'Part 1' without site allocations or a spatial strategy. This will be followed by 'Part 2' once additional work regarding the Plan's spatial distribution and the housing site selection process has been carried out. This is likely to take over a year to complete which is a disappointing further delay to the delivery of an up-to-date local plan which would give some certainty to communities over the future development of their local area.



"This was an 'up-to-date' local plan, but owing to a series of delays it's no longer an 'up-to-date' plan."

“ This is likely to take over a year to complete which is a disappointing further delay ”

WINDFARMS APPROVED BY SECRETARY OF STATE

We were very disappointed that the East Anglia 1(N) and East Anglia 2 windfarms were granted approval by the Secretary of State on 31st March. The Examining Authority and the Secretary of State acknowledged that the Applicant had widely underestimated the harmful environmental impacts and agreed that the proposals gave rise to a medium level of harm to the landscape and historic environment. However, they gave greater weight in the planning balance to the need for renewable

energy. We extend our sincere regret to all those affected by this decision and offer our continuing support to the local campaign groups who ran such a compelling and powerful campaign.

Concerns were raised throughout the Examination into the windfarms that approval of the substation site at Friston would result in more industrialisation of the countryside in this location to support future projects. Therefore, it was no surprise that the

Nautilus Interconnector project plans to feed into the National Grid at Friston. Nautilus is a new 1,400 MW link between the UK and Belgium comprising offshore infrastructure as well as underground cabling and a converter station onshore. A typical footprint for a converter station covers an area of five hectares (12 acres) with a maximum height of 24 metres. SPS has responded to National Grid's consultation on five potential sites for a converter station around Friston.

SPS LOBBIES THE OFF SHORE ELECTRICITY GRID TASKFORCE

The Off Shore Electricity Grid Taskforce (OffSET) has been formed from a group of the region's MPs, under the chairmanship of Sir Bernard Jenkin, to scrutinise the emerging proposals of the government's Offshore Network Transmission Review (OTNR). OffSET supports the government's target of Net Zero by 2050, but recognises that this will have significant impacts on the environment and communities of the region and that meeting this ambition cannot be on an "at any cost" basis.

In supporting the nation's current and future energy requirements, it is clear that East Anglia is being disproportionately affected by the combined environmental impact of infrastructure including substations, cables,

solar farms and pylons routes. Therefore, SPS has joined forces with CPRE Norfolk and CPRE Essex in raising our concerns with OffSET, asking for a meeting to discuss the unprecedented challenge of achieving Net Zero facing our landscapes and communities. In particular we have asked that all current and emerging energy Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) in East Anglia be assessed on the grounds of the cumulative impacts between the various schemes coming forward in the next five years; for support in our call for the Onshore/Offshore integration of energy NSIPs to come forward much faster; and for an Holistic Design and Strategic Plan to be brought forward at speed.

“ This will have significant impacts on the environment and communities of the region and that meeting this ambition cannot be on an “at any cost” basis. ”

Planning Overview

SOLAR ENERGY

The long-awaited application from Sunnica to create the country's largest solar farm on sites spanning the Suffolk/ Cambridgeshire border has been accepted for Examination by the Planning Inspectorate. This is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and Interested Parties were given until March to register their interest. SPS has submitted its views on

the proposals and will continue to support local campaigners with aspects including the landscape and visual impacts, impacts on the historic environment and adequacy of mitigation.

Elsewhere in the county smaller, but still commercial scale, applications for solar farms continue to come forward which are determined by the local authorities.

Currently multiple schemes at Bramford, Rickingham and Wickham Market are under consideration. SPS, appreciative of the positive role solar can play in the move towards Net Zero, considers each application on its merits, taking into account the landscape and heritage impacts, and local support for the scheme.

PROTECTING SUFFOLK'S HERITAGE

SPS consistently champions the humble heritage of Suffolk, its historic buildings and features which are unprotected by designation and yet often instrumental in giving an area the special character that we all value, but perhaps take for granted.

The White Cottage at Framlingham is a case in point. In Suffolk View in 2020 we were pleased to report on the well-considered scheme that had been approved by East Suffolk Council to restore this humble 19th century weatherboarded cottage. The cottage does not have the impact of Framlingham Castle, the College buildings or the many other listed buildings within the town and in fact is currently in such a state of disrepair that it is considered an eyesore by some. But this rare example of surviving Suffolk weatherboarding is highlighted within the Conservation Area Appraisal for its townscape value. SPS is therefore very disappointed that two years later no work has been carried out and the structure has been allowed to deteriorate further, jeopardising its future. SPS has acted by calling on East Suffolk Council to safeguard the future of the building. The Council has powers under section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act to protect the amenity of land, especially where it is in a conservation area and we urge the council to use them.

We have also urged Essex County Council to rethink its plans for the replacement of a much-loved bridge over the River Stour on the Essex/ Suffolk border at **Boxted**. The 19th century humped back bridge is a non-designated heritage asset on the Local List which highlights its cultural connections with the artists Sir Alfred Munnings and John Nash. It is in a tranquil location within the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley AONB and overlooks



a listed Mill House and mill pond. The highways authority plans to replace the bridge with one considerably wider and to straighten the carriageway to allow larger vehicles to pass over. The raised parapet height will also remove the opportunity for pedestrians and cyclists to pause to enjoy views of Mill House, the mill pond and the river. SPS has strongly objected as we are unconvinced that complete replacement of the bridge is necessary. Without clear justification, a more sensitive, conservative approach should be taken.

Meanwhile at **Wherstead Park**, outline plans have been submitted for development of up to eight houses in the Park's historic walled garden, as well as commercial units on land outside the garden. Wherstead Park has been used for commercial uses for some time and its heritage significance has been harmed by the erection of modern

office and industrial units as well as its location close to the A137/ A14 interchange. SPS recognises that this is a sustainable location in terms of its access to the road network. A residential development may also be an opportunity to establish a long-term sustainable use and safeguard the future conservation of the substantially intact garden wall. We have however raised the question of whether a detailed assessment of the wall should be carried out to determine its condition, intactness and historical significance for potential designation. At the very least we consider that an outline application is not appropriate and that detailed plans which reflect the historic layout of the garden, and incorporate the historic water tower which is integral to the wall, must be brought forward.



"We've not been evicted from White Cottage yet, so carry on nibbling."

Hedgerow Heroes Project

A landscape restoration project in the Stour Valley

Fiona Wells

Project Facilitator of the Stour Valley Farmer Cluster

Suffolk Preservation Society (SPS) representing CPRE in the county has delivered a fabulous 2.5 miles of new hedgerow and restored a further 1.5 miles during this past winter.

SPS has been working with the Stour Valley Farmer Cluster (SVFC) to deliver the Hedgerow Heroes Project in and around the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This is one of five Hedgerow Heroes projects delivered nationally by CPRE, funded by Marshall Wace LLP.

Twelve farms have participated in the project to extend and link existing habitats for locally and nationally important species such as dormouse, hedgehog, farmland birds and insects. Hedges in need of restoration have been managed by a mix of coppicing and conservation laying.

It is not just the farmers at the heart of the project, they have been assisted by a fabulous team of Dedham Vale AONB volunteers who surveyed candidate field boundaries during the summer months. To facilitate this, a couple of the volunteers led by a retired software engineer developed a bespoke phone app for the surveys, negating the use of paper in the field, the data transferring to a central mapping system at the touch of a button! Volunteers have also helped with planting on a farm in Stoke by Nayland and spent a day with a professional hedge layer to restore one of the project hedges.

The project very carefully considered the use of plastic spiral guards on what is predominantly light free draining land much favoured by rabbits. With no truly biodegradable tree protection yet available commercially, the decision was taken to use conventional spirals with all farmers in the project committing to removing these by year seven at the very latest. They will be re-used where practical or recycled. Dedham Vale AONB volunteers have an on-going "Free the Tree" project removing spirals from established hedges – this

is something we could all be doing in our own locality. Do talk to your local parish council and farmers to action this where you live.

Hedges define rich historic field patterns in the landscape, provide shelter, and a fabulous resource of pollen, nectar and fruit for both wildlife and of course, foraging.

Hedgerows also have a fantastic role to play in helping to protect our soils, and of course, carbon sequestration. Through the project farmers are being encouraged to not only plant hedges but also to change management to restore a cycle of coppice management where hedges are allowed to grow tall and wide with a restorative cut every 20 years or so rather than cutting back to the same place every 1-3 years. Such a change in management can deliver a staggering 800% increase in tonnes of CO2 equivalent sequestered each year when compared to short hedges cut annually.

CPRE recognises this benefit and is actively promoting the role of hedges through the #40by50 campaign aiming for a 40% increase in the hedgerow network by 2050 - equivalent to about 120,000 miles in Britain. Here in



Suffolk, we have made a start and are delighted that our recent bid for further funding to continue the project through to 2023 has been successful!

If you would like to join the volunteers on the project in 2023 please contact the SPS office.



Suffolk Heritage Champions Award

Celebrating Suffolk's heritage heroes

Following our article in autumn's Suffolk View introducing some of the winners of our Suffolk Heritage Champions Award, this second instalment completes the set and demonstrates the wide range of projects and involvement by volunteers across the

county. We are delighted to recognise the contribution they have made to Suffolk's heritage. All award winners will receive their certificate in recognition of their achievements at the award ceremony to be held at The Orangery, Sibton Park on May 6.

Sir Laurie Magnus, Chair of Historic England will give a talk aptly entitled *The power of heritage to transform places and improve lives* and present the awards. If you would like to join us please book your ticket by visiting our website, places are limited.



BUILDING CONSERVATION CATEGORY

HADLEIGH LOCAL LIST PROJECT – RICHARD FLETCHER

Richard was nominated in recognition of his work through the Hadleigh Society to create an extensive and interactive Local List of Non-Designated Heritage Assets. This will be incorporated into the Hadleigh

Neighbourhood Plan and placed on the national Historic Environment Record (HERs). The SPS is delighted to recognise this important initiative, which will provide a permanent record of Hadleigh's local heritage and will become a material consideration in future planning decisions which affect the town's heritage.



LITTLE BEALINGS COMMUNITY HUB AND KITCHEN - HELEN CLARKSON-FIELDSSEND, TONY FEAR AND CORINNE JARVIS-FEAR

Helen, Tony and Corinne were nominated by Jocelyn Saunders as part of the Bealings Community Hub and Kitchen Group for their work in raising over £200,000 towards much needed repairs and upgrades to All Saints Church in Little Bealings. A multi-use community hub has been created allowing residents to meet together to foster neighbourliness, alleviate loneliness and provide financial stability to allow proper maintenance of the 700-year-old church. SPS is delighted to recognise their work in ensuring that this important historic building will remain at the heart of the community.



Page 12 Top
Garry Farm

Bottom left
Richard Fletcher

Page 13 Top
Little Bealings
Community Hub
and Kitchen

Middle
Ipswich Unitarian
Meeting House
Trustees

Bottom
Ipswich Unitarian
Meeting House



IPSWICH UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE RESTORATION

The Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House Trust was nominated by the Ipswich Society for their work to bring about the restoration of the grade I Listed Unitarian Meeting House in Ipswich. This is an invaluable addition to the heritage of Ipswich's built environment and SPS is delighted to recognise the Trustees' achievement in securing the building's future and ensuring that it is accessible for all.



Suffolk Heritage Champions Award

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION TO HERITAGE

TONY BONE

Tony was nominated by the Aldeburgh Society for his outstanding contribution to Aldeburgh's heritage. This includes his role as Chair of the Aldeburgh and District Local History Society, Chair of the Aldeburgh Museum and his contribution as former Chair, and now President, of the Aldeburgh Society. His nomination made special reference to his work relating to the restoration of the Moot Hall and Museum. The SPS is delighted to recognise Tony's significant contribution to the protection and promotion of Aldeburgh's heritage.



DAVID FINDLEY

David was nominated by Ufford Parish Council for his work in revising the Ufford Heritage Trail and producing an extensive library of detailed information about many sites and buildings in the village. This has enabled local people to discover more about their historic environment and in a format which also engages young people. The SPS is pleased to recognise David's contribution to the better understanding and enjoyment of Ufford's unique heritage by the local community during a time of national lockdown.

JOHN POPHAM

John was nominated by the Bury Society for his longstanding service to the care of the historic environment, including his role as former Chairman of the Bury St Edmunds Town Trust, co-ordinator of the Bury St Edmunds Rail Station Group and founder of the BTT/ BTEC Level 3 course on Construction and Conservation in the Built Environment at the West Suffolk College. The SPS is delighted to recognise John's extensive contribution to the protection and appreciation of the county's heritage over many years.



John Popham (pictured far left) at a Bury Town Trust award presentation



Fiona Cairns

Director, Suffolk Preservation Society

What's in a name?

Some names are very direct and unambiguous, aren't they? They explain exactly what the organisation stands for - or aims to achieve.

Think of the Church of England, the US Food and Drug Administration or the People's Republic of China.

That said, the last few decades have seen a trend towards the use of compacted names or portmanteau words or even terms that frankly mean next to nothing, especially in the case of large corporate entities. I offer Cadent (a gas distributor), Consignia (briefly used as a replacement for the Royal Mail) or Accenture (the old Andersen Consulting).

The reason I ask is that this pertinent question was raised recently as regards us.

Now, the Suffolk Preservation Society is pretty certain about why we are here - and have been 'here' for some 93 years and counting.

Our purpose is clear in that "SPS supports individuals, community groups, parish councils and amenity societies on heritage and landscape issues. Working through the planning system, we aim to influence planning outcomes for the benefit of the special qualities of our county - its landscape, historic buildings, towns and villages.

We call for new development to be sustainably located and well designed. We scrutinise and challenge applications for inappropriate development from new housing to large energy projects, and feed our views into consultations on draft national and local planning policy."

The 'Suffolk' part is self-explanatory: we are the only countywide charity delivering such services. The 'Society' part is also well-defined: we are a non-statutory body - a charity - reliant on the combined efforts of a very small team of planning and design experts and a larger group of volunteers to carry out our work. We do not receive a penny of taxpayers' money in delivering our charitable objectives.

The third part of our brand troika is more troublesome and has periodically been up for review. The dictionary definitions of 'Preservation' are relatively consistent. The Cambridge definition is "the act of keeping something as it is, especially in order to prevent it from decaying or to protect it from being damaged or destroyed."

Merriam Webster concurs: "preservation is the act of keeping something in its original state or in good condition: the act of keeping something safe from harm or loss."

As does Macmillan: "The process of working to protect something valuable so that it is not damaged or destroyed."

The Society was founded in 1929 expressly to stop the demolition of both individual historic buildings and whole streets of interest and to arrest the slow, neglectful decline of others.

But as times have changed, in part thanks to protective legislation lobbied for by the likes of the Society, so have our challenges.

We are nowadays much more focussed on working with local authorities, community groups and, as and when they allow us, developers not to stop demolition or neglect, but to manage change in a way that works for current and future generations.

In an age of crises: a climate crisis, a housing crisis, a mental health crisis and an energy crisis our role and focus inevitably continue to shift.

So we define preservation as our protecting what is special about Suffolk, so that its special qualities are not damaged or destroyed. We understand that in today's world preservation cannot mean keeping the county exactly as it is or has always been.

Therefore, most of our most recent work, whether that be about major energy projects such as proposed off shore wind farms, Sizewell C or the Sunnica solar farm, or countywide proposals for the many new housing estates being applied for, has been about seeking community and environmental improvements and mitigations beyond those currently on offer.

We articulate the importance of controlled growth, why it is more necessary than ever to look after the countryside, (by planting hedges and trees and to encourage access to all), to locate houses in the right places that don't flood and are not car dependent and that are well designed to create successful communities (incorporating sustainable construction techniques and including meaningful, connected open spaces).

We also recognise and welcome the growing importance of the culture, hospitality and tourism sectors as economic and jobs drivers in the county. All of these will be imperilled by inappropriate development if it overwhelms our historic visitor centres and treasured landscapes.

So, does our name fully reflect and explain the extent of what we do and how we do it? We'd welcome the views of our members.

We understand that in today's world preservation cannot mean keeping the county exactly as it is or has always been.



The Queen's Green Canopy

Plant a tree for the Jubilee
- how Suffolk is playing its part



Elizabeth Coughlin

Suffolk Preservation Society

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree-planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. But what, you might ask, does that have to do with me? Well rest assured, you don't need to be an avid gardener to get involved, this is an invitation to everyone across the United Kingdom to "plant a tree for the Jubilee". From communal gardens to suburban plots to the largest estates in the country, we are all invited to take part in the creation of a sustainable environmental tribute which will be a lasting benefit for generations to come.

Eager to hear more about the scheme, I was lucky enough to speak to both Sir Nicholas Bacon OBE, appointed by Her Majesty as Chair of the project, and Robert Rous of Dennington Hall who is a major contributor here in Suffolk.

They were able to share specifics of how the scheme is operating and how we can all do our bit.

Having spent much of his life championing horticultural and agricultural endeavours, President Emeritus of the RHS, Sir Nicholas Bacon, was the ideal candidate to take on the momentous challenge of delivering the QGC. He chairs a small Board of committed and experienced professionals, with HRH the Prince of Wales as Patron, but is quick to emphasise that a project of this magnitude needs the support of us all if it is to achieve its ambitions. Just as a mighty oak depends on a network of roots for nurture and support, the QGC Board, its partners and corporate sponsors are depending on grassroots enthusiasm.

The plan is for the project to be delivered across the country via the

Lord Lieutenants thus devolving responsibility and control to those with local knowledge and connections. As well as inviting the planting of new trees, the QGC will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the Country and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

The plan encompasses trees and shrubs of every variety so whilst we might not all have the space for a spreading oak or towering poplar, a little strip of native hawthorn or a dwarf apple tree in a patio pot also have their place. And for those who don't have the space or opportunity to plant at home, there are many initiatives to enable everyone to become involved in community schemes - information is available from Parish Councils and the Tree Warden Network. Whether your contribution is as an individual or as part of a group effort, you can upload a photograph onto the QGC website map and have it recorded for posterity.

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, the QGC will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the Country and identify 70 Ancient Trees

Robert's goal is for a tree to be planted for every inhabitant of the county, somewhere in the region of 750,000 and in as many diverse situations as possible.

Back at home in Suffolk, Robert Rous farms at Dennington Hall and is well-known for his commitment to wildlife and the environment. With conservation at the heart of his land management, he leapt at the chance to be involved with the QGC. Despite having planted many hundreds of English Oak saplings and with more projects in the pipeline, he was keen, like Sir Nicholas, to emphasise that this is project isn't just for those with rolling acres. Robert's goal is for a tree to be planted for every inhabitant of the county, somewhere in the region of 750,000 and in as many diverse situations as possible.

The importance of greening our landscape cannot be over-estimated. Plants provide not merely essential practical benefits such as food, shade and carbon capture but also the less tangible but still valuable qualities of beauty and tranquillity. Access to the natural environment is vital to our mental health as the last

two years have demonstrated only too clearly and whilst Suffolk has a reputation for many as a picturesque rural county that is far from the whole story. Of the many inequalities in our society, the ability to access green space has been one of the most overlooked and only recently has its role in health, child development and social cohesion been properly recognised. And if the sociological arguments aren't compelling enough, a well sited urban tree provides shade, absorbs pollution, reduces flood risk, sequesters carbon and supports wildlife. Recognising this, Ipswich Borough Council has committed to increasing the tree canopy in the town to 20% and is supporting the QGC via the Ipswich Oasis Project. This was set up to increase planting in open public spaces, gardens, highways and developments and address the inequalities in access to quality green space by focusing on areas of green deprivation.



Page 16
Tree top canopy
Photo: Shutterstock

Page 17 Top
Her Majesty and
The Prince of Wales
planted the first
Jubilee tree in the
grounds of Windsor
Castle in March, to
mark the launch of
the QGC

Bottom
Suffolk bluebell
wood
Photo: Shutterstock

As you read this, spring is underway and conditions for tree planting are becoming less favourable but the coming months give the perfect opportunity to assess how best you can become involved in shaping our county for the better. If you plan to get your spade out this autumn, The QGC website has practical advice on choosing, planting and maintaining your specimen or you can support the cause by gifting a tree which will be used to create green space in deprived urban areas. There's also an interactive map enabling you to "pin" your own tree and mark this occasion for generations to come.



Responding to climate change

is Planning doing enough?



Bethany Philbedge

Planning Officer, Suffolk Preservation Society

For all the wrangling, compromises and PR set pieces, the UN Climate Change Conference or COP26 did advance the global efforts to keep worldwide temperature increases to no more than 1.5C.

In this important endeavour, a number of specific commitments – not least on reducing methane emissions, reversing forest loss, the reduction of our reliance on the internal combustion engine and the phasing down of coal to generate energy – were agreed by participants.

For many, though, these were not ambitious enough and great systemic shifts still need to be made. For others, there remain deep concerns as to the seriousness with which signatories to those measures approved at COP26 will take their obligations.

This is where non-governmental bodies and ordinary mortals such as you and me have a role to play in holding our government to account.

A small token of the Johnson Administration's intent was revealed when the Prime Minister announced plans to require all new developments to include electric vehicle charging points.

My concern, and that of the Suffolk Preservation Society, is that this and other similar gestures are simply not enough. The broader public sector does not seem joined up enough in how it operates to effectively deliver even these modest ambitions.

For just as in a major war situation, where everyone's efforts, however great or small, must be focussed on contributing to the final, vital outcome, addressing climate change must also be the responsibility of everyone.

And that is why fundamental changes to the current planning system are most desperately needed. The required shifts in reducing car usage, ensuring that our homes are energy efficient and that our workplaces no longer contribute to pollution can only be significantly delivered through a responsive and dynamic planning infrastructure.

Whilst the overarching ambitions of planning – expressed in the National



Planning Policy Framework – require the system to 'shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions', the reality from one planning application to the next, in our experience, is that this is just not the case.

In Suffolk, local councils continue to earmark land, through their local plans, for new housing and commercial development in places which are dependent on people using their cars to access. Equally, there seems no end to announcements about new roads or upgrades to existing roads, such as the £53m earmarked for the A12 between the Seven Hills and Woods Lane junctions, being approved.

“ The broader public sector does not seem joined up enough in how it operates to effectively deliver even these modest ambitions. ”

This focus on homes and roads is embedded into the whole local plan system. So, when local plans are examined by government-appointed inspectors, the remit is considered on a very narrow criterion.

The core focus of the inspectors is to ascertain whether a local plan will provide enough new houses to meet the council's housing target. If not, the council must go away and find more development land.

But there are no such penalties for not having a convincing strategy to reduce carbon emissions – and there should be. For example, councils must embrace sustainable construction techniques, requiring renewable heating systems and solar panels in major housing allocations as standard. It is not enough to include a few cycle racks and some flood water measures.

The £67m handed out in the recent Comprehensive Spending Review was an encouraging start, but we would like a far more generous and longer-term settlement to help address climate change, ensuring planning is



proactively embracing a ‘no stone unturned’ approach to reaching net zero.

This funding should be used to enhance local plan capacity, with climate change policy elevated and supported by additional and senior planning staff.

One suggested use of this additional money has been to ensure that every planning authority has one planner tasked exclusively with climate proofing policy and development management.

But we think that more is needed to ensure that all of Suffolk's planning functions are expressed through the lens of how best to deliver net zero compliant developments. We need an urgent planning focus on issues relating to sustainable development including: flood risk and management, building fabric and energy efficiency, sustainable transport and active travel.

This must include a more robust and strategic evaluation of all of the energy projects that are in the queue to be built in Suffolk. These range from the various offshore windfarms and the massive onshore infrastructure required to support them to a plethora of ad hoc solar farms. These include the 2800-acre Sunnica development along the Suffolk and Cambridgeshire border and three solar farms at Bramford, none of which are allocated in the local plan and will result in significant loss of farmland as well as impact on the landscape and experience amenity of those living nearby. By proactively planning for renewable energy schemes in local plans, councils can ensure that these are sited in the best possible locations which in turn will result in greater support from the local communities hosting them.

Only in this way, will the planning system be able to do its bit in tackling the climate emergency.



SUFFOLK
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Net Zero webinar

In March SPS hosted an online webinar focussing on retrofitting traditional buildings. The speakers were Morwenna Slade from Historic England and Alex Whitcroft - one of the authors of the Climate Emergency Design Guide (London Energy Transformation Initiative), which outlines requirements of new buildings to ensure our climate change targets are met. Around 150 people attended from across multiple professional disciplines to hear the latest from experts in the field. A recording of the event is available. A further session concentrating on new buildings is planned for 6th July - see page 23 for details.

Round-up of 2021 activities



Fiona Cairns

Director, Suffolk Preservation Society

Our small team of planners pressed ever harder for good planning outcomes in 2021. We responded to over 60 complex or controversial planning applications, submitted 6 statements on national energy infrastructure proposals and prepared 18 responses to national and local policy consultations. In this way we operate at the front line of both planning policy formulation and decision making that directly affects the way Suffolk is changing.

We have worked closely with our sister charity CPRE responding to government consultations on new guidance on the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects process and the National Policy Statements relating to Nuclear, Renewables and Transmission Networks. All will directly impact upon communities across Suffolk in the coming years as we work together to respond to the climate emergency and the race to Net Zero.

We have also recognised and celebrated the work of Suffolk's unsung heritage heroes in our Suffolk Heritage Champions Awards, who have, during the most challenging of times, achieved amazing things cherishing and protecting the heritage in their local communities.

Every week we provide advice and support to individuals and communities who need a helping hand through the labyrinth that our planning system has become. In these ways we have campaigned for a better planning process and promoted good stewardship of our natural and historic environment.



Erwarton Hall – SPS objected to the residential development of the farmyard site as it would harm the setting of the grade II* Hall and grade 1 gatehouse.

The pendulum between the need to rapidly achieve a decarbonised energy system, address the housing crisis and make an economic recovery from the global pandemic versus careful environmental conservation and protection, has swung decisively towards the former. However, we take every opportunity to contribute to environmental programmes that can make a real contribution to our natural and built heritage.

To that end we have collaborated with CPRE and five other county branches, on the Hedgerow Heroes Project. With our partners we have secured £50,000 for the planting and restoration of 6km of hedgerows in the Dedham Vale; representing the largest output of any

of the counties involved. Working with the Stour Valley Farmer Cluster and the AONB Partnership volunteers we have played our role in facilitating important landscape restoration and increasing essential biodiversity and habitat creation.

There has never been a more important time for the SPS and our professional and balanced judgement between competing forces. We support the nation's vital march towards Net Zero, and recognise the economic realities that the country is facing, but we can seek to mitigate the most harmful environmental impacts, push proposers and decision makers much harder to recognise the importance of our beautiful county, and support those who work to protect it from insensitive change.



White Horse pub, Felixstowe – SPS objected to the demolition of this 20th century pub by Thomas Cotman, an important local architect



Long Melford – SPS responded to the public consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan

SPS CIO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Preservation Society CIO to be held on **10 June 2022 at 6.30pm** at **Gothic Farm, Heveningham, Halesworth, IP19 0EH** for the following purposes:

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome;
- 2 Apologies for absence;
- 3 President's address;
- 4 Director's report;
- 5 Trustees' Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021;
- 6 To receive the Trustees' Annual Report;
- 7 Thanks and appreciation to those Trustees who are resigning;
- 8 To re-elect those Trustees who are retiring by rotation in accordance with the CIO Constitution;
- 9 To elect Trustees who have been co-opted during the year by the CIO Trustees in accordance with the Constitution;
- 10 To re-appoint a registered auditor to the CIO, to hold office until the conclusion of the next general meeting when accounts are laid before the meeting;
- 11 Members' questions to the Director and Trustees.

The CIO accounts ended 31st December 2021 will be made available on the website and at the AGM.

A personal profile of the proposed Trustees offering themselves for election will be on the website and available at the AGM. Copies of the 2021 AGM minutes will be available at the AGM. AGM papers will not be mailed out to Members unless requested.

The AGM is taking place at our summer garden party. To inform us of your attendance at the AGM, please book your place at the Garden Party via the SPS website or the SPS office - 01787 247179 or sps@suffolksociety.org.

SUFFOLK PRESERVATION SOCIETY CHARITY INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

Registered Charity No. 1154806

Members of SPS CIO (including Suffolk CPRE members resident in Suffolk who gain automatic membership of SPS CIO) may attend and vote in person at the AGM by registering at the beginning of the meeting. Voting by members will take place by a show of hands. Members who are unable to attend the AGM in person may appoint the Chairman or another person to speak and vote in their place at the meeting by using the proxy form below.

FORM OF PROXY

for use at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday, 10th June 2022 in accordance with the Notice of Meeting

To be valid, this form of proxy must be signed by the Member and received at the registered office of the CIO at least 72 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting

I/we the undersigned, being a Member/Members of Suffolk Preservation Society CIO, hereby appoint the Chairman of the meeting or the person hereby named as my/our proxy to attend, speak and vote in respect of my/our voting entitlement at the AGM of the CIO as set out in the Notice of Meeting:

--

Resolutions:	FOR	AGAINST	VOTE WITHHELD
1. Apologies for absence			
2. To receive the Statement of Accounts			
3. To receive the Trustees' Annual Report			
4. To re-elect those Trustees who are retiring by rotation			
5. To elect Trustees who have been co-opted during the year			
6. To re-appoint an Auditor to hold office until the conclusion of the next AGM			

Name of Member:

Signature of Member:

Date:

DIARY DATES



AN EVENING WITH SIR LAURIE MAGNUS CBE

THE ORANGERY, SIBTON PARK

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

Join us for a lecture by Sir Laurie Magnus, the Chair of Historic England on *The power of heritage to transform places and improve lives*, hosted by Mr and Mrs Jon Hunt in the beautiful Orangery at Sibton Park. We will also be presenting the Suffolk Heritage Champion Awards to the worthy winners. Please visit the website to book or contact the SPS office. Tickets are strictly limited.

6TH MAY 2022

6pm for 6.30pm

£30



SPS ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

GOTHIC FARM, HEVENINGHAM

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

Our annual garden party will be hosted by Mr and Mrs Thomas Seymour at Gothic Farm, Heveningham, Halesworth, IP19 0EH. We are delighted that our sponsor for this event is Reeman Dansie, Auctioneer. The AGM will take place at 6.30pm. Please join us for a summer's evening in one of Suffolk's loveliest locations. Visit the website to book your ticket or contact the SPS office.

10TH JUNE 2022

6pm

FREE EVENT



SUMMER WORKSHOP WEBINAR NET ZERO - NEW BUILD

ONLINE

This session will look at what the government's carbon targets are for the UK and what we need to do in practical terms to achieve them with new ways for designing buildings. The discussion, led by Simon Sturgis, will look at how we assess the carbon emissions in buildings and what practical steps can be taken to reduce them. See website for further information and booking details.

6TH JULY 2022

10pm - 11.15am

FREE EVENT

TENDRING HALL ESTATE - ITS HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT - A WALKING TOUR OF THE PARKLAND

11TH JULY 2022 | 2pm - 3.30pm | £15

THE SHOOT ROOM

TEA WILL BE SERVED

Our host, Emily Holden will talk about the history of the now lost country house and surviving parkland, Soane's first country house and a Repton landscape. Robert Townshend will take us through the programme of restoration of the parkland and its buildings, including the Folly. The walk will include an opportunity to view the hedgerow restoration scheme, as part of the Stour Valley Farmer Cluster Hedgerow Heroes Project.

AUTUMN EVENT:

'SEA SAGAS OF THE NORTH - TRAVELS AND TALES AT WARMING WATERS'. BAWDSEY MANOR.

Join us at the evocative Bawdsey Manor to hear Jules Pretty, Professor of Environment and Society at the University of Essex, and Director of the Centre for Public and Policy Engagement to talk about his latest book about refugees who fled Doggerland when the seas encroached. Date, time and cost to be confirmed - see website.

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Suffolk Spotlight

The voice of local campaign groups

As Suffolk is facing up to unprecedented levels of change, communities are coming together to have their say. The following contributors have taken the opportunity to share the challenges that their communities are facing and how they are responding.

Edited by Elizabeth Coughlin



Our views are simple: the land is a crucial resource for tackling climate change – protecting food supplies, biodiversity, and rural life. Turning farms into industrial sites for low levels of electricity is counter-productive and damaging. Whilst our campaign efforts are focused on the area of Bramford we have also joined the East Anglian Alliance of Amenity Groups, supporting a holistic approach to energy infrastructure development, and the Solar Campaign Alliance, campaigning for smarter renewable decisions. If you are facing a solar PV proposal in your nook of countryside and want to discuss please reach out to us via our website

www.caresuffolk.org

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOR A RURAL ENVIRONMENT - CARE SAMANTHA MAIN

"Is then no nook of English ground secure from rash assault?"

William Wordsworth

Communities across the county of Suffolk, and indeed the country, are lamenting the loss of large swathes of English countryside, whether it be from housing estates, business parks, or the latest commercial addiction of solar PV. From greenfield productive farmland, to the once most safeguarded Greenbelts, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Sites of Special Scientific Interest, it seems that no nook now appears safe.

CARE Suffolk is currently active defending the area of Bramford which - although there is already a significant amount of industrial energy infrastructure - remains an overwhelmingly beautiful part of rural England.

Yet the beauty and tranquillity that remains, for people and wildlife alike, is now under attack from three proposed large scale solar PV sites, a third utility battery storage unit, plus three more twin overhead transmission lines. This would in practice lock four villages together into what would amount to a 600+ acre industrial park in English countryside.





SAY NO TO SUNNICA

CATHERINE JUDKINS

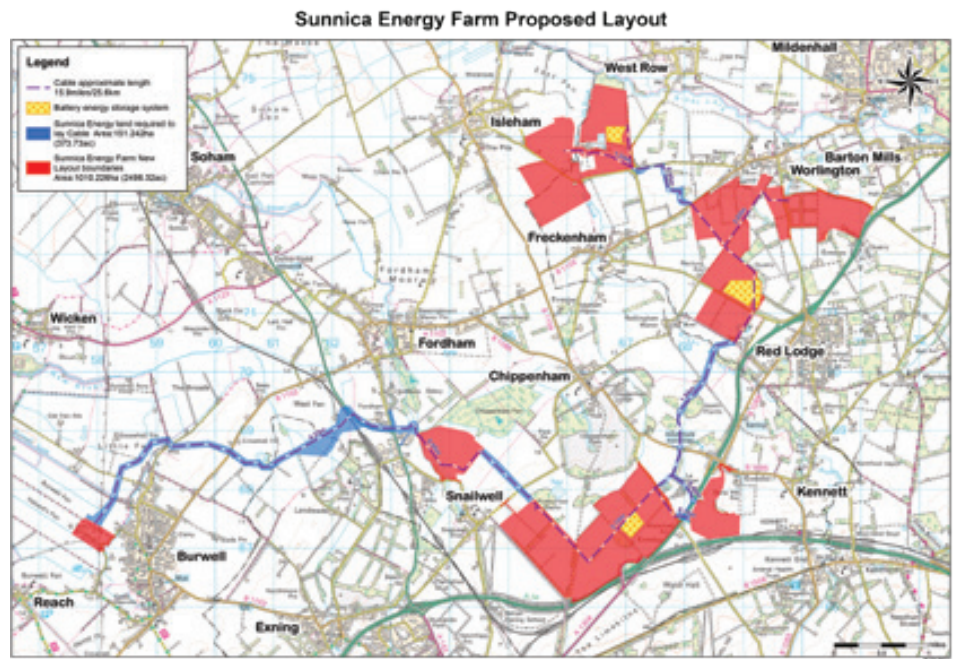
Sunnica Ltd's application to build Europe's largest solar and battery plant around villages in Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire is now live.

Plans by Sunnica Ltd to build what would be Europe's largest solar and battery plant on ca. 2,500 acres of greenfield land are now under consideration. The sheer scale of the scheme, which would surround 16 villages in West Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire and span over 15 miles, means that it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). As such, the plans are being examined by the Government's Planning Inspectorate (PINS), rather than by local authorities. A final decision on the proposal will be made by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy later this year.

The scheme has met with considerable opposition by the local communities who, despite being pro-renewables, question the 'green' credentials of the proposal. The Say No to Sunnica Community Action Group Ltd understands that the carbon footprint of this huge development will most likely hinder the UK's ambitious Net Zero targets, adding more carbon than it can ever save in its lifetime (projected 40 years). And, while adding to the carbon burden, it would destroy vast swathes of highly productive, irrigated farmland, as well as valued wildlife habitats.

"This is a very poor example of a solar scheme," says Action Group chair, Dr Catherine Judkins. "What we need to meet our Net Zero targets are sustainable, truly green solutions. Not destruction of the local environment to generate quick profits for developers."

The Sunnica proposal comprises four giant swathes of land which would be fenced off and covered in over 1 million solar panels. These solar fields would then wrap around 16 historic parishes, including Worlington, Freckenham, West Row,



Isleham, Chippenham and Snailwell, with panels reaching right up to peoples' gardens. The solar fields would then be connected to each other via an extensive cable network continuing to the National Grid at Burwell in East Cambridgeshire.

demonstrates just how many fields could be lost to this giant plant and how it would essentially re-write the current open and tranquil agricultural landscape into an industrialised setting. Environmental groups have raised concerns over the poor mitigation revealed with regards to fauna and flora, and the SPS and CPRE Cambs have both expressed concerns over the loss of greenfield land on this scale and the potential impact on heritage assets. These include the world-renowned horse racing town of Newmarket and its historic gallops, the Limekilns, which lie adjacent to one of the largest areas in the Sunnica scheme that would be covered in solar and battery plant.

Agricultural experts have united to raise concerns over the UK's rapid loss (over 100,000 acres per year) of highly productive farming land at the hands of these and

other developments, and have called for government action to regulate this as a matter of urgency – see the Government petition (petition.parliament.uk/petitions/606663). They argue that the loss of some of the UK's most valued farming land at this rate is not sustainable and could have a huge impact on the country's food security.

In addition, expert engineers and scientists have also come together to express their concerns about Sunnica's proposed installation of giant 500 MW, lithium-ion battery energy storage systems (BESS) across the site, which pose a well-known fire hazard and are currently inadequately regulated. Lithium-ion BESS on this scale have never been attempted before so close to residential areas, and Sunnica Ltd has no previous experience in such developments of this size. Needless to say, the communities across Suffolk and Cambridgeshire are not exactly thrilled at being the 'Guinea Pigs' in their potentially devastating experiment. See website for further updates.

www.saynotosunnica.com

SUFFOLK ENERGY ACTION SOLUTIONS

FIONA GILMORE

Suffolk Energy Action Solutions is a community group fighting to protect our rare habitats, communities and livelihoods against the unchecked greed of developers under the guise of green credentials.

Scottish Power Renewables and National Grid are threatening to bring the largest onshore wind energy infrastructure hub to coastal Suffolk with potentially devastating environmental and societal effects.



This hub could cover hundreds of acres in concrete and consist of at least eight substations and connectors, each the size of Wembley stadium. We are in favour of offshore wind energy, but demand a long-term strategy that ensures sustainability rather than simply maximises corporate profit.

Unlike other North Sea countries which have integrated offshore grids to deliver energy to the consumer via brownfield sites, the UK does not have an independent National Grid operator to make planning decisions. Instead the Government has allowed a developer-led green energy gold rush to rush through ill-considered plans with no thought to the long term effects.

With the escalating cost of energy, it is not just the irrevocable and unnecessary destruction of our coastal landscape that it at risk; as consumers we will be paying the price too. Putting short term commercial gain first means we miss the potential of new efficiencies available from integrating power at sea, using brownfield sites and upgrading existing pylons.

Increasingly, it seems that local communities are more imaginative and

progressive in their thinking than the big players. We feel we should be pioneers in all kinds of renewable energy, not only solar and wind, but also tidal, algae, secondary crops and new approaches to energy conservation. Suffolk could lead the way on future energy innovation with projects such as the proposed research and development for renewables at Lowestoft offering much needed investment and employment in a deprived area.

Suffolk can play an important part in the supply of clean energy but that does not mean that our coast should be the dumping ground for Scottish Power and National Grid.

We have only one chance to halt this "stupid vandalism" (The Times: Janice Turner 2020) and to do that, local communities must make their voices heard. Please join us before it's too late.

For more information go to

www.suffolkenergyactionsolutions.co.uk

Editor's note: 31 March 2022

- the Secretary of State consented the EA1(N) and EA2 windfarms - see page 9

SUFFOLK'S SCRUFFY ROAD SIGNS - A LOCAL RESIDENT MAKES A PLEA

The simple fact is that the highway authorities cannot be bothered to adhere to their own rules, and unlike for you and me who would face enforcement notice action, there is no way of compelling them to do so. Pointing out faulty workmanship rarely does any good. I have even offered to modify one recently erected sign (in an AONB and opposite a Grade II Listed Building) myself and had this refused. I then offered to pay SCC to do it and this has been ignored!

So why does this attitude exist? It seems highway authorities have been able to operate in an unaccountable way for years and have got into some very bad habits.

Looking at the wider picture, is it acceptable that Suffolk County Council, the lead political, promotional and planning authority behaves in this way?



In this era of ever greater focus on environment issues, is it right that SCC Highways should continue to ignore them? Is it right that public money (contributed by you and me) should be wasted in this way?



Doesn't our beautiful county deserve better? Please let me have your views – and details of any signs that concern you.

david.lowe@dcandcmllowe.net

DAVID LOWE BSc FRICS ACI Arb

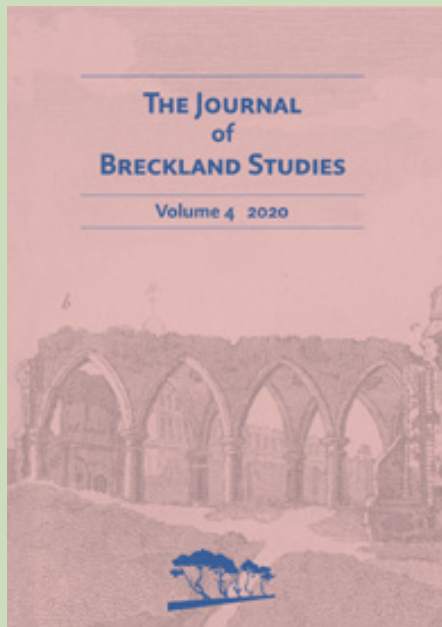
If you have a local campaign that you would like to share, please contact us at sps@suffolksociety.org

The Journal of Breckland Studies

Members' Special Offer

Dr Richard Hoggett

Issue Editor of the
Journal of Breckland Studies



I hope that members will be interested to hear about the publication of the latest volume of the Journal of Breckland Studies, which commemorates the millennial anniversary of the foundation of the Abbey of St. Edmund in AD 1020. The abbey exercised a considerable degree of control and influence over the Suffolk landscape throughout the last 1000 years and each of our authors focuses on a different aspect of Bury's rich history.

Contributors to the volume include Michael Lewis, Head of Portable Antiquities and Treasure at the British Museum, who brings together the growing corpus of St Edmund pilgrim badges which were procured by visitors to the abbey, and examines what their distribution tells us about the extent of its influence. Francis Young, a noted historian who has published extensively on Bury St Edmunds, examines the rebellion of the townsfolk against the abbey in 1327-9 and explores the strained relationship between the monks and the town's residents. Mark Bailey, Professor of Late Medieval History at the University of East Anglia, analyses the how the abbey managed and exploited its main Breckland landholdings during the medieval period. The important roles which topography and hydrology play in the development of settlements is explored by Libby Ranzetta, Chair of the Bury Water

Meadows Group, whose paper on the Rivers Lark and Linnet, which converge within the abbey precinct, highlights the significance and value of these globally rare chalk streams. Finally, local historian and author Martyn Taylor, Chair of The Bury Society, presents a fascinating guide to some of the individuals and events commemorated by plaques and inscriptions to be found on buildings and memorials throughout the town. Many have historical connections to the abbey, the abbey and the town having benefited from (but not always enjoyed) a symbiotic relationship which spanned some 500 years until the events of the Dissolution unfolded.

Like many of the planned celebrations of the abbey's millennial milestone, the appearance of this volume has been delayed by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Journal's editorial panel would particularly like to thank the Suffolk Preservation Society, without whose generous contribution publication would not have been possible.

The cover price of the Journal is £12.50, but SPS members can buy copies for the special discounted price of £8 (which includes postage and packing). Any members wishing to do so should email their order to info@brecsoc.org.uk and details of payment options will be sent by return.



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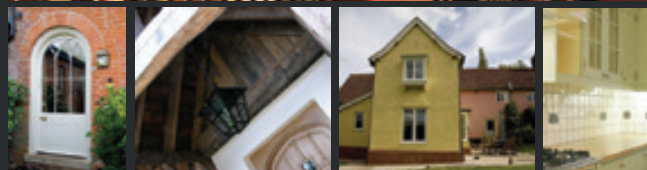
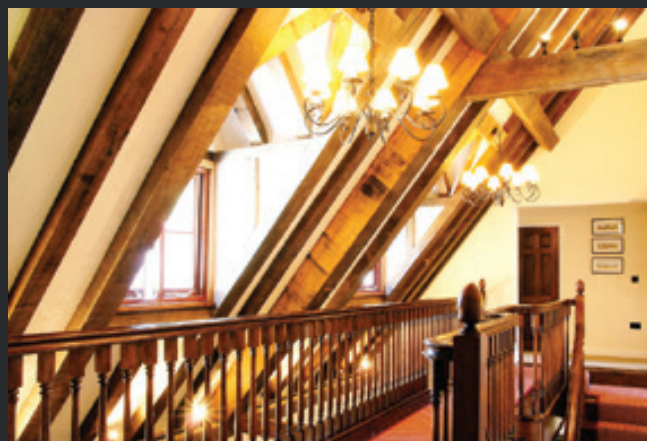


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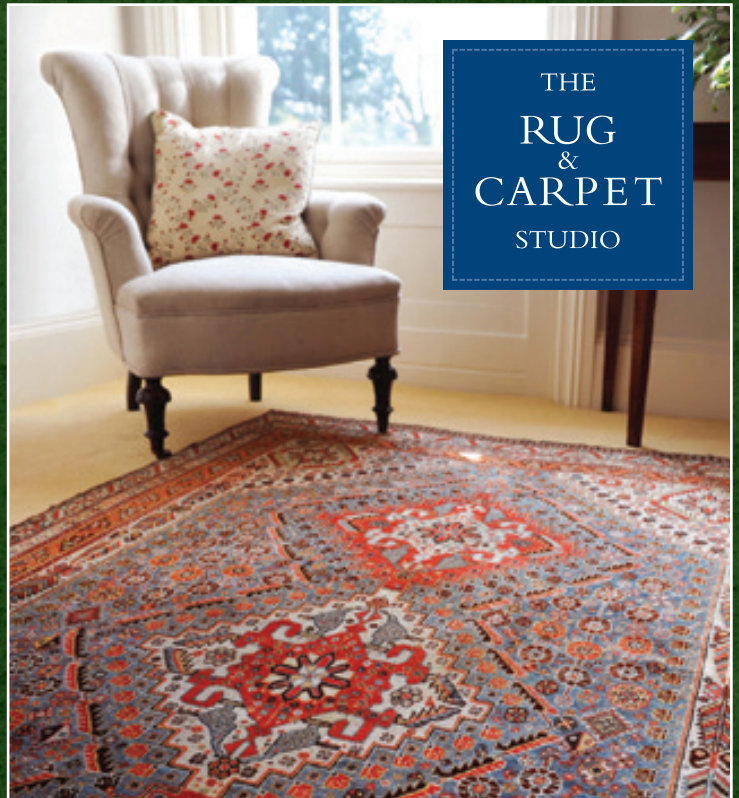




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