

suffolkVIEW

The magazine of the Suffolk Preservation Society



A VISIONARY AND A PIONEER

Muriel Schofield, the High House and the origins of the Suffolk Preservation Society

Dr. James D W Church

Mrs. Muriel R. Schofield was instrumental in the formation of the Suffolk Preservation Society.



Her husband, the artist W. Elmer Schofield, shared her interest in history. However, as noted by Celia Jennings, the acquisition and

repair of the High House, Otley, was surely the initial catalyst behind Muriel Schofield's efforts to form the Society in 1929.

The High House was acquired by the Schofield family in the summer of 1925 at a time when the family had been moving house often and a permanent home was required. Surrounded by a moat on two sides, the High House must have captivated the family from the first.

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Fiona Cairns

Director, Suffolk Preservation Society

Congratulations to the Hedgerow Heroes and the successful 40#50 campaign

As we finally shake off the shackles of winter and move into springtime, we were delighted to meet with James Cartledge MP at our office, Little Hall in Lavenham in March. We were able to share with him the latest work of the phase 2 Hedgerow Heroes Project. Over 3km of new hedgerow and 1km of gapping up has been planted this season by volunteers across 9 farms in the Dedham Vale Farmer Cluster, led by Fiona Wells, advisor to the cluster.

SPS has been pleased to work closely with our sister charity CPRE on the national campaign 40#50, which is seeking to deliver 40% more hedgerows by 2050. The key opportunity to set this target was in the five-year review of the 25-year Environment Plan which was due to be updated late 2022/early 2023.

SPS lobbied all Suffolk's MPs, asking them to support the campaign and sign up as Hedgerow Heroes.

I am delighted to report that the campaigning has paid off and government have recently announced that they will create or restore 30,000 miles of hedgerows a year by 2037 and 45,000 miles of hedgerows a year by 2050.

This is a huge achievement which exceeds the original targets. SPS was fully committed to this national CPRE campaign and we are thrilled with the outcome. It just goes to show what can be achieved by an effective campaign at national level

SPS has been pleased to work closely with our sister charity CPRE on the national campaign 40#50, which is seeking to deliver 40% more hedgerows by 2050.

and a well organised implementation of a project on the ground at home in Suffolk. Congratulations to everybody involved.

This spring edition brings you a breadth of original writing including an article by Dr James Church, great grandson of our founder Muriel Schofield. We look back at the origins of SPS and examine her restoration of High House at Otley.

We also look forward to an exciting initiative, chaired by Terry Hunt, former editor of the East Anglian Daily Times, that seeks to regenerate our county town and commemorate Ipswich's most famous son, Thomas Wolsey.

We look up at the Dark Skies campaign that has been launched by the Dedham Vale Society and learn more about the objectives of the project, from its chair Marcia Brocklebank.

Tony Kirkham, former Head of the Arboretum at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and world-renowned tree expert, considers the choice of trees that we should be planting and gives a fascinating insight into how we can all respond to the challenges of climate change in our own back yards.

Look out for our events over the coming months and don't forget to make the most of your Membership Card which gives you a 2 for 1 entry at Otley Hall, Helmingham Hall, Pakenham Water Mill, Little Hall, Lavenham, and Thelnetham Windmill.

We wish you all a very Happy Easter and hope that the spring sun shines brightly as you get out and about and enjoy the best that Suffolk has to offer.

< Continued from Cover

Muriel Schofield

A Visionary and a Pioneer

This important late-medieval house was evidently chosen for its beauty, surrounding landscape and underlying historical interest, ranging from the 'Cheese Room' to the unusual timber stairs. Charlotte Redmayne, Muriel's mother, noted these considerations and commented to her daughter, 'I don't like to think of your having to dine in the Hall—it sounds as though ... you were sacrificing comfort for a spiral staircase.' Furthermore, as full of noteworthy features the High House was, it was dilapidated and required extensive repairs.

The Schofields were fortunate that their son, Sidney, was training as an architect and shared their interest in historic buildings. After studies at the Slade under Tonks and a brief time in Paris, he had built his skills as an artist before turning to architecture. His approach was careful, seeking an overall ensemble rather than either an academic restoration or a sweeping modernisation. Hidden features were revealed and the removal of the external render revealed the fine timber frame and herringbone brickwork.

A number of notable examples of Elmer Schofield's work depict Suffolk, although it was the house itself which had drawn the family to Otley. By 1927, the house was complete enough to be photographed by Adolphus Tear of Ipswich. In an atmospheric series of photographs, Tear captured the results of Sidney Schofield's work in bringing the High House back to life and illustrated the atmosphere in which the Suffolk Preservation Society was formed.

Understandably, Muriel wished to publicise the project in magazines and journals. It is likely that Tear's photographs had been commissioned with such an end in mind. Muriel wrote to Sidney that she was hopeful that they would be published in Country Life or The Studio. She recorded the reactions of the noted critic, Frank Rutter:

I saw Mr. Rutter yesterday after seeing the photographs of the house... from Tear Ipswich. He was absolutely amazed by the beauty of the whole thing.

It does not appear that the photographs were published in either periodical but they were utilised locally.



Cover Top
High House
interior (1927)
Photo:
Adolphus Tear

Cover Inset
Muriel R. Schofield
(1921, Schofield
Family Archive)
Photo: E. F. Foley

Top
Otley High House
(1927)
Photo:
Adolphus Tear

Bottom
Staircase at Otley
High House (1927)
Photo:
Adolphus Tear

Three of Tear's photographs were reproduced in East Anglian Daily Times, illustrating an article describing an excursion of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology:

In this ancient homestead the owners, with the judicious assistance of their architect son, Mr. Sydney Schofield, have carefully carried out a scheme of renovation, whereby the old house is reinvested with something of its original glory.

Unfortunately, Sidney was still abroad at this time but Elmer, Muriel and her mother hosted the event. It is unknown how many members of the future Suffolk Preservation Society were present but two notable figures in the future Executive Committee gave presentations: Rev. Edmund Farrar and Vincent B. Redstone. The preservation of the High House appears to have been a key moment in encouraging a wider appreciation of Suffolk's ancient buildings and landscape.

Completing his parents' home allowed Sidney Schofield time to take on a new project in the form of Clock House, Little Stonham, in 1927. He had purchased it to save it and intended to resell the property at a profit once the work had been completed. However, his broader frustration with a lack

of career progress appears to have spurred him to travel to the United States to learn to be a commercial pilot in 1928. His family felt that he was squandering his talents in doing so. Muriel mentioned the reactions of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology in a letter written to Sidney in September 1928 and expressed her admiration of his work at Otley:

I am not surprised at all those archaeological people becoming almost lyrical about it. Nothing has been done without the greatest thought and consideration, and the "lay out" is perfect as far as we have gone, and the arrangement inside

is what no one but you could have evolved. Nothing you have done is not well done and good in its way and you have made this house the most talked of house in Suffolk.

The fact that so many preservation-minded figures of Suffolk society saw the High House and became 'almost lyrical about it' surely had a significant influence upon the formation of the Suffolk Preservation Society the following year. Although Muriel would have rightly been proud of her own home, it also illustrates her awareness of the possibility that she could use it as an example for others to follow.

Continued on page 4 >



Muriel Schofield

A Visionary and a Pioneer

The Schofields eventually persuaded Sidney to return home. Muriel hoped that he would be able to work with A. R. Powys and the efforts to save Lymore Hall, Radnorshire. Responding to Sidney's description of the destruction of Exeter's city centre through heavy-handed city planning, she declared:

My heart aches for those beautiful old churches and fine old buildings are so lately looked upon the world is mad – Exeter of all places – where we thought they were so wise!

Such losses of medieval buildings, both in terms of quality and quantity, must have galvanised Muriel's determination to do something in an attempt to prevent the same happening to Ipswich or Norwich.

The later years of the Schofield family's residence at Otley are less well documented. Few letters survive from the 1930s and it is difficult to form a picture of their life at Otley during these.

Sidney managed the farm, including a team of Suffolk Punch draught horses and a herd of Red Poll cattle. However, Muriel and he did embark upon one further architectural project with the purchase of Sun Court, Hadleigh, in 1932. The earlier rear portion of the house had been extended with a fine Elizabethan wing with a jettied first floor and oriel window. Once the work was completed, Sun Court was not immediately sold but was instead leased out. This provided a further model for future preservation efforts, simultaneously keeping buildings in use and generating income for their maintenance.



In 1937, the High House and Sun Court were both sold in order to fund Sidney's purchase of Godolphin, Cornwall. As with the discovery of the High House, it is possible that this important, although fragmentary, country house came to his attention during a painting expedition alongside his father. It is to be regretted that Muriel's ability to direct her energies to furthering wider preservation efforts in Cornwall were hampered by the Second World War, the death of her husband and her own declining health. If circumstances had been different, it is likely that significant victories would have also been secured in preserving Cornwall's history. However, the historic buildings and landscapes of Suffolk have been immeasurably benefitted by her legacy; a legacy continued to this day by the Suffolk Preservation Society.

James Church is the great grandson of Muriel and Elmer Schofield and this article is based on family diaries and letters, and all of the images are taken from the 'Schofield Family Archive'.

Top Right
High House, Otley. Aquatint: Leonard Squirrell

Left
Hall at Otley High House (1927)
Photo: Adolphus Tear



CAN YOU HELP?

If any of our readers know of any of W. Elmer Schofield's paintings remaining in collections in Suffolk do please let us know and we will put you in touch with Dr Church who is compiling a catalogue of his great grandfather's work.

SPS Members will be interested to know that High House, Otley was probably built by a member of the Gosnold family who also built Otley Hall. SPS Members can benefit from 2 for 1 entry to the gardens at Otley Hall and for selected tours of the house. See their website for details www.otleyhall.co.uk

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Founded in 1929, the SPS Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1154806 is working to safeguard the buildings and landscape of Suffolk.

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Designed by Steve Crooks Design, Suffolk Printed by Micropress Printers Ltd, Reydon, Suffolk

SPS Representing CPRE
in Suffolk



A good crop for the farmer, a bleak harvest for the community

Fiona Cairns looks at the worrying loss of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) food growing land to solar factories in Suffolk

In April last year, I wrote in a cautionary mood about the Government's then just-published Energy Strategy. I suggested that the understandable urgency to establish a greater depth of energy security mustn't undermine another national imperative: food security.

For, just as far too many households in this country are having to make the tough judgment call during these winter months as to heat or eat, so the nation as a whole has to get the broader balance right between these two security imperatives.

Four months later, I returned to this particular fray as I reviewed the CPRE's report 'Building on our food security'. This evaluated the worrying loss of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land in this country in the rush to build massive housing developments.

Sadly, there has been growing evidence over the intervening few months that the energy argument is compounding that of housing pressures and so accelerating the loss of BMV land here in Suffolk,

Using the Agricultural Land Classification, BMV normally refers to Grades 1, 2 and 3a. Aside from the sandy soils along the coast, most of Suffolk is covered by grades 2 (very good) and 3 (good). Theoretically, such land is protected by national planning policy. Theoretically, that is.

In both articles, I argued for the need for a sustainable balance between protecting BMV land on the one hand and other demands on the other. I called for a more purposeful focus on using lower grade land, especially brownfield sites for new houses and more imaginative use of existing opportunities, such as office buildings to boost our solar energy capacity. Sadly, it would appear that some local planning

officers think otherwise.

The most notable recent case is that of the Enso Energy development next to the Flowton Brook watercourse and to the north of Hill Farm in Burstall, just outside Ipswich. In February Babergh's planning committee voted narrowly – six to five – to back the application to allow solar panels on a 35-hectare plot of, you've guessed it, BMV land – including a significant amount classified as grade 2.

More encouragingly, nine hectares of the application site extends into Mid Suffolk district. A week later that council's planning committee voted the other way – a resounding six votes to one to refuse the same application on grounds including the loss of BMV land. It will be interesting to see how the developer responds to being granted only half a planning approval!

Rather waspishly, the planning officers recommended approval in both cases, noting that none of the statutory consultees had objected. But plenty of others, including the Suffolk Preservation Society, did just that in an evidenced manner.

No fewer than 186 out of the 189 submissions opposed the development - with the vast majority referencing the loss of very good agricultural land and the impact of the country's weakening food security situation.

In our submission, the Society objected not only to the specific loss of the agricultural land in question for at least 40 years, but to its cumulative loss once two other nearby approved solar farm schemes are taken into consideration.

Interestingly, a Babergh Green Party councillor who APPROVED the plans rather revealed the key issue when he said: "If we insisted that

all developers put solar panels on roofs then perhaps we wouldn't need solar farms. But until we get the Government to insist on this, we are restricted in what we can do."

And that is just what the Society and the CPRE are attempting to do - and quickly. We have responded to the Government's current National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) consultation and in particular the question about the weighting to be given to renewables on highly graded farmland.

Previous versions of the NPPF have progressively reduced the protections given to BMV land. The 2012 NPPF weakened the test on the consideration that should be given to agricultural land from one based on 'where significant development of agricultural land is unavoidable' to one where significant development is 'demonstrated to be necessary'.

We believe that not only should the original wording be reinstated, but the new NPPF needs to explicitly go much further. We are keen to see consideration given not only to the economic value of BMV but the national strategic protection of best and most versatile agricultural land for food production be recognised as a national policy objective.

At the same time, the CPRE has recently launched a consultation on rooftop solar policy with the aim of addressing the very flaws in the planning system highlighted by that Green Party councillor.

Taken together, I believe that these initiatives, if implemented, could significantly help this country, and by implication this county, both heat and feed us in the decades ahead.

This article was first published in the EADT in February 2023



Starry, starry night

Marcia Brocklebank, Chair of the Dedham Vale Dark Skies Project tells us about the campaign to achieve Dark Sky Community status

Dedham Vale contains classic English countryside, with the River Stour winding placidly through scenery that still has the same appeal as when John Constable painted it some 200 years ago. A visit to the village of Dedham itself at night is a delight. No streetlights and the only light shining over the High Street, apart from those of the lighted windows of the shops and houses, is the lantern over the porch of the church.

This is not some cost-cutting exercise – the lack of streetlighting has the blessing of most of the local residents who value their country location. And now we want to make part of the 50-km-long Dedham Vale a designated Dark Sky Area.

The Dark Skies movement, founded in the USA in 2001 by the International Dark Skies Association (IDA), seeks to limit the impact of light pollution on the environment, humans, wildlife and our climate. We formed our own group, the Dedham Vale Society Dark Skies Campaign, in 2020. Our aim as a

grass-roots organisation is to promote the adoption of dark-sky-friendly lighting and planning policies throughout the Vale. We still have dark skies in the area, and want to keep them that way. Part of Dedham Vale, covering 90 sq km, is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which means that there are already restrictions on development, but these don't currently include curbs on lighting.

OUR PLANS FOR DARK SKIES

We are working with the AONB and Stour Valley Partnership. We are drawing up guidelines with the help of a lighting consultant for approved lighting designs for both householders and developers. We aim to spread the word about the impact of inappropriate use of artificial lighting and provide examples of successful lighting schemes in order to help architects, planners, local authorities, households and businesses keep lighting under control.

If necessary, we will employ an energy consultant to help persuade local companies to turn down their lights, and to encourage parish councils to turn their streetlights off between midnight and 6am. We hope to set up business brand partners who will then influence other companies to find ways of improving their lighting usage. We see many opportunities for better strategy and see it as our mission to raise awareness of the benefit of assessing lighting impact.

The Dedham Vale Society has 900 members, most of whom have indicated their support. Community connections are being made and we seek local government support to make sure that planning applications are dark-sky-friendly. We encourage householders to use environmentally responsible outdoor lighting by distributing our leaflets which contain an easy light fixture guide. We have the backing of heritage bodies such as the National Trust and Suffolk Preservation Society, and are

“ We see many opportunities for better strategy and see it as our mission to raise awareness of the benefit of assessing lighting impact ”

enlisting support from local and national environmental groups. Stoke by Nayland Parish Council is on board and we are now seeking the support of all parish councils which come within our AONB. We recently received the endorsement of the Astronomer Royal, Sir Martin Rees.

Children are naturally fascinated by the cosmos and space exploration, and we are delighted to be able to involve local schools. At a recent lecture at Littlegarth School we showed NASA timelapse images of our planet literally burning with bright areas of artificial illumination. The 150 children present were visibly shocked – the gasps were audible. It is gratifying to know that the Littlegarth groundsman has now aimed the sports field lights down, and positioned them so as to shield from side spillage, exactly as the leaflet's lighting diagrams recommend.

Our Dark Skies Campaign has an ongoing programme of astronomy talks and public stargazing events. Local astronomer Mike Barrett and a team of volunteer astronomers organise night-sky viewings at Higham racecourse using large telescopes. A recent daytime event at Polstead hosted over 250 children and adults peering at sunspots, safely under supervision.

We have distributed 3,000 leaflets to pubs, hotels, restaurants, garden centres, churches, wildlife parks and historic houses. We want to promote the growing trend of astro-tourism in the Dedham Vale. This will prove that “good lighting is good business”.

Sky quality meter readings have been taken all over the Vale and combined to get averages. A reading of 21+ (in magnitudes per square arcsecond) is the objective. We found areas of darkness, with a reading above 21, at Henny, Withermarsh Green, Boxted, Polstead and Stoke by Nayland. Some areas which we expected to be dark enough were compromised by skyglow from Colchester. Nayland had readings as poor as 19. A rural sky will generally read between 15 and 20, but a protected or designated area needs to achieve 21 or better.

A streetlight survey has been carried out in the Dedham Vale in order to see if installations are compatible with good lighting practice. We aim to find, explain and, if possible, ensure replacement of problem fixtures. Streetlights must be LED, not high-pressure sodium, and should be on the warm, red-amber spectrum, not blue-white.

Our overall aim is for the Dedham Vale AONB to be designated a Dark Sky Area by the Dark Skies Association. However, they currently have no formula for recognising places like ours, both rural and semi-rural, very dark in places and bookended by very bright conurbations like Colchester, Harwich, Hadleigh and Felixstowe. But we are not unique: there are other similar places, so the IDA is looking to create a new name, a new level. This will give us some authority when dealing with planners and planning applications. It will give us credence with householders and will be part and parcel of what an AONB is all about.

There are more applications for IDA recognition from the UK than from any other country, and we hope that our own request for accreditation will be successful.

Follow the project here:

- 🐦 DarkSkyDedham
- 📌 Dedham Vale AONB Dark Skies

A version of this article first appeared in POPULAR ASTRONOMY

www.popastro.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Our most pressing job is to take light meter readings along the boundary of the area for which we are applying for accreditation from the International Dark Skies Organisation. We are drawing up those boundaries now.

We also need several volunteers to go from village to village and make an assessment of the street lights at night. Are they angled correctly, too bright, LED etc?

Full details will be given to anyone who is willing to help. Please contact Marcia on marcia@brocklebank.info or Mike Barrett Dedhamvaleastronomy@gmail.com

CPRE'S STAR COUNT

In February, to celebrate our starry skies and to help to protect and improve our view of the stars, CPRE, the countryside charity invited the nation to be ‘citizen scientists’ and take part in Star Count 2023 – a cosmic census that will help map our view of the stars and the impact of light pollution across the country.

SPS believes that the remarkable tranquillity that comes with clear skies speckled with stars is something really special, and we advocate for lighting to be well designed, thoughtfully used in the right places and when it's called for.



Trees for the future

Tony Kirkham MBE, VMH FICFor (Hon), former Head of the Arboretum at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew explores choices for a warming world

With the big drive to plant more trees in both urban and rural areas and campaigns like the “Queen’s Green Canopy” planting to mark the platinum jubilee, many of us are working up planting schemes to get trees in the ground. The UK has a net zero carbon emissions target and to meet this, the Climate Change Committee recommends that we plant 1.5 billion trees in the UK by 2050. To achieve this, the UK has set an annual tree planting target of at least 30,000 hectares starting in 2025, that’s roughly 45,000 football pitches. With current annual planting rates at 13,500 hectares, we need to more than double this area over the next 4 years to meet this ambitious target. Are there that many trees in our nurseries to meet that demand, is there the space to plant them and do we have the skilled resources to plant them? The simple answer is no.

With so many threats to our trees in the UK such as a changing climate and the potential of more introduced pests and diseases affecting our existing tree stock, we must begin to build a resilient treescape which means it has to be more diverse and that means introducing more tree species to our available palate. Have we not learnt a lesson from Dutch elm disease and ash dieback, where entire hedgerows and woodlands have been destroyed by these aggressive diseases?

The choice of British natives is becoming ever smaller, with between 35 to 40 true British natives to choose from and we appear to be set on planting the smaller, short-lived pioneer species. These include the birches (*Betula pendula* and *B. pubescens*), alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), cherries

(*Prunus avium* and *P. padus*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and crab apples (*Malus sylvestris*). Probably because they are easier to grow, and quicker to establish, but one thing for sure is that after the record high summer temperatures and excessive climatic events that we are witnessing more frequently, we will need more canopy cover and that means more shade trees, long-lived trees that will make large trees with broad canopies at maturity.

If we stick with purely native or naturalised trees, these will include the oaks (*Quercus robur* and *Q. petraea*.), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), limes (*Tilia cordata* and *T. platyphyllos*), sweet chestnuts (*Castanea sativa*) and horse chestnuts (*Aesculus hippocastanum*).

We know that many of these are already suffering from climate change and decline from pests and diseases. Our two native oaks are affected by acute oak decline (AOD), oak processionary moth (OPM), sudden oak death (SOD), Agrilus and oak longhorn beetle, oak blight, oak lacewing and mildew, to name but a few and the same can be said for many of the other tree species.

So, to guarantee successful, long-term establishment we will need to be thinking outside the box and begin to integrate more non-native temperate tree species into our planting designs.

Before we look at what trees would be suitable, we should first identify what we are planting for. There are so many reasons for planting which include: carbon capture, to improve ecosystem services such as water, air, air temperature quality, food

production, biodiversity conservation, sport and game shooting, biomass, and timber production. At the top of the list for many of us, especially in suburbia, is amenity with seasonal ornamental attributes that help with our wellbeing.

Diversity in our plantings has never been more important and we must avoid monotypic plantings at all costs.

Once we know what we want to achieve from our trees, we can start to look at species and nursery stock selection and with over 3,000 different temperate tree species from around the world that will grow successfully in our gardens and climate, the choice is endless. It’s all about the right tree in the right place for the right reason. Having said that, we can only plant what is available in the nurseries, and it will be the nurserymen that we need to convince to grow more of these species at transplant, whips and standard size for us to use.

If we look at the tree biomes around the world, we can start to identify the plethora of species that will grow well in our climate. These zones include the east and west coast of North America, the Mediterranean basin, Asia, and the Caucasus and the choice is diverse. In no particular order here are a few deciduous broadleaved trees that I think will be good alternatives to integrate with our native plantings to help with structural planting and resilience.



Quercus rubra



Quercus coccinea

THE PIN OAK *Quercus palustris*

This large deciduous oak from eastern US is readily available in a variety of sizes in our nurseries. It doesn't mind being transplanted and will make a height of 25 metres with a pyramidal shaped crown when young, developing into a broad crown with maturity. It is tolerant of drought and moderately tolerant of waterlogging so a good allrounder.

NORTHERN RED OAK *Quercus rubra*

A large deciduous oak from the eastern states of the US capable of making a height of 30 metres with a broad crown which will grow well on acid to neutral soils.

SCARLET OAK *Quercus coccinea*

Another large oak from the eastern states of the US, growing to 25 metres with a wide spreading, dense crown, almost as wide as it is tall. It likes a deep acid soil of low fertility and shows some tolerance to drought. Its main ornamental attribute is the autumn colour as it certainly lives up to its common name with vibrant shades of scarlet.

CHESTNUT-LEAVED OAK *Quercus castaneifolia*

Native to the Caucasus in cultivation this tree can make a very large specimen to 35 metres tall with a wide spreading crown. It will tolerate both acid and alkaline soils and some drought conditions. Unfortunately, it does host OPM, but can be planted outside OPM areas. A good columnar form is 'Green Spire'

ALGERIAN OAK *Quercus canariensis*

Semi-evergreen, this species has a wide native range in the Mediterranean Basin from southern Spain and Portugal to Morocco and Tunisia, where it grows to 30 metres tall. It closely resembles our native oak and is drought and heat tolerant.

NORWAY MAPLE *Acer platanoides*

A tough species of maple with many cultivars from Northern Europe where it makes a height of 25 metres with a round crown. It is a very competitive tree and will grow on most soil types, reliably providing a lovely yellow autumn colour.

ORIENTAL BEECH *Fagus orientalis*

Most of us would not be able to tell the difference between our native beech and this beech from south-eastern Europe and the Caucasus. It reaches 25 to 30 metres, has larger leaves and is more heat and drought tolerant than our native beech.

Continued on page 10 >



Quercus castaneifolia



Acer platanoides



Fagus orientalis



Liriodendron tulipifera



Juglans nigra



Carya cordiformis

◀ Continued from Page 9

TULIP TREE *Liriodendron tulipifera*

This is a large fast-growing tree to 25 metres high with a dense, irregular crown from eastern North America. It makes a good amenity tree when grown on deep fertile soils producing butter yellow autumn colour. One of the best trees for autumn colour.

BLACK WALNUT *Juglans nigra*

Tolerant of heat, this large, deciduous long-lived walnut from eastern US needs a deep fertile soil where it can very easily make 30 metres height. It is very tolerant of heat and most soil types and produces a very valuable timber.

SILVER LIME *Tilia tomentosa*

This linden from south-eastern Europe makes a large tree more than 25 metres tall with a dense, ovoid crown with silver undersides on the leaves that shimmer in a breeze, making it tolerant of heat and droughty conditions. It needs plenty of space to develop its symmetrical crown and produces sweetly scented flowers in spring which are rich in nectar. The cultivar 'Brabant' is popular in the nursery trade.

HICKORIES *Carya cordiformis*, *C. tomentosa*, *C. illinoensis*, and *C. ovata*

The hickories are one of my favourite genera and I would have any species in my arboretum or large garden. They do not like being transplanted as they produce a long tap root, so need to be directly sown in situ or planted at a very small size in a sheltered position.

INDIAN HORSE CHESTNUT *Aesculus indica*

This large tree from the Himalayas reaching 25 metres high has a dense, broad, rounded crown and I believe will be the alternative species to plant to replace our horse chestnuts that are suffering from the leaf miner.

ELMS *Ulmus* 'New Horizon', *Ulmus* 'Fiorente', *Ulmus* 'Rebona', *Ulmus* 'Columella' and several other cultivars.

Who would have thought in the 21st century that we would be replacing our native ash with elms. Now there are several disease resistant clones available in our nurseries in various sizes for planting to match the budget. All these hybrids are the results of specialised breeding programmes and will weather Dutch elm disease.

DAWN REDWOOD *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

This Chinese deciduous conifer is a must for any garden or landscape. It can make a tree to 25 metres high with the perfect conical habit, is fast growing and easy to establish on any soil types and is tolerant of urban stress, so makes the ideal urban tree.



Aesculus indica



Metasequoia glyptostroboides

Cardinal Thomas Wolsey's Ipswich

The cradle of England?

A new project is being launched which will use history, heritage and the inspirational figure of Thomas Wolsey to help improve social mobility and increase pride in our ancient county town.

Terry Hunt, Chair of the Thomas Wolsey 550 Project Board, explains.

When I was editor of the East Anglian Daily Times, many people looked aghast when I told them I lived in Ipswich. "Oh, poor you," their faces seemed to say. That attitude summed up a widespread negativity towards the town. Very sad - and extremely irritating.

Of course Ipswich has its problems - name me any large conurbation which doesn't - but it also has so much to celebrate and to be positive about. Unfortunately, that narrative too often gets drowned out by the very loud critics.

The doom and gloom does no-one any good. Suffolk needs a strong Ipswich. It is by far the biggest town, and therefore the most important economic powerhouse.

The negativity also inevitably rubs off on people who live in Ipswich, including the young. It's easier to keep your head down, rather than stand up and risk being ridiculed. That attitude kills ambition and aspiration.

Over the years, I've tried to counter the critics. I've spoken and written positively about Ipswich, and politely pointed out to the town's detractors that they're wrong.

But now, at long last, there is a powerful platform which has the potential to change the narrative, improve perceptions of Ipswich, and make the residents of the town feel more positive about the place.

The Thomas Wolsey 550 Project aims to use the town's extraordinary history to increase aspiration, and boost self-confidence. Eventually - as I will explain - it will look to use some of Ipswich's many historic buildings to spread the word.

"Suffolk needs a strong Ipswich. It is by far the biggest town, and therefore the most important economic powerhouse"

Ipswich has an incredible history. It is one of England's oldest towns - perhaps even the most ancient? About ten years ago, acclaimed historian and academic Dr. John Blatchly and I tried unsuccessfully to persuade the powers-that-be to incorporate "Oldest English Town" on the "Welcome to Ipswich" signs.

It was, in all honesty, a little bit mischievous. By "Oldest English Town" we meant "Oldest Anglo-Saxon Town," as opposed to Colchester, which proudly proclaims itself "Britain's Oldest City." Roman City, of course. But Ipswich simply doesn't celebrate its history. For whatever unfathomable reason, it chooses to keep that potentially priceless asset well and truly hidden.

Our project aims to change that. In the years to come, we want to create a heritage zone, a visitor attraction, telling the story of Ipswich and emphasising its prominence and importance for almost a millennium and a half.

At the heart of our initiative will be our town's most famous son, Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, the ultimate symbol of social mobility and centuries ahead of his time in his realisation of the importance of education.

Our historical zone will be centred on the existing gems of Wolsey's Gate and, next door, St. Peter's church.

[Continued on page 12 >](#)



Statue of Thomas Wolsey

“ We believe we can create a compelling visitor attraction, working in conjunction with other places which are important in the Wolsey story ”

< Continued from Page 11

The gate was the entrance to Wolsey's ill-fated college for visitors arriving by boat.

The historic building is, sadly, subjected to endless fumes from traffic thundering past on busy College Street. It certainly looks worse for wear, and viewing it from the pavement is rather like being in the front row of the cinema. Much too close.

Obviously, the ideal solution would be to magically get rid of the traffic but, short of that, we hope to create a viewing area on the other side of the road, with a platform, some information boards, seating, and greenery.

Not the perfect solution, admittedly, but it will be better than the current situation and will allow visitors to gain some sense of context when looking at the gate.

Next door stands St. Peter's church. I worked only 400 yards away at the EADT offices for the best part of 40 years, and shamefully I have only just discovered that the church was the chapel for Wolsey's College.

The church received a sizeable Lottery Heritage grant about 15 years ago, and is in good condition and used regularly for

concerts and rehearsals. In our view, it could be used to tell Wolsey's story more effectively, alongside current uses.

Outside the church, and walking towards Stoke Bridge, the area is less than attractive. There is the old Paul's silo, complete with graffiti octopus! Then we have a bomb site car park, a crumbling brick wall, a pavement, a closed-off slip road, and finally a "grassy knoll" before the traffic-clogged roundabout.

Our vision for this area, working alongside the Greener Ipswich project, is to create a Tudor garden, in line with our Wolsey theme. This would be a landscaped area, full of plants, shrubs and trees which Wolsey would recognise. Nothing from the New World, in other words!

This part of the project would provide a significant boost for the Connected Town strategy. In brief, this looks to link beautiful Christchurch Park in the north of the town, with the town centre, and then connect to the up-and-coming Waterfront.

One of the most successful connecting corridors currently is through the area known as The Saints, or St. Nicholas

and St. Peter's Streets. This is a stunning, historic area, dominated by small, independent shops, restaurants and cafes housed in beautiful historic buildings.

However, at the southern end of St. Peter's Street, pedestrians are confronted by four lanes of traffic to cross, with the less than appealing prospect of the silo, car park, brick wall, and slip road. There is absolutely no hint that the Waterfront even exists!

Our plan would create a much more attractive vista, and would provide signage to the Waterfront. Real connectivity, in other words.

Thanks to government support through the Town Fund, there is money to tell Ipswich's story in digital form. For example, Ipswich Borough Council have leisure uses in mind for the old silo. Once this is in place, visitors will be able to access the roof and, using an app on their tablets, will be able to virtually rebuild Wolsey's college, which the Cardinal wanted to use as a feeder for local children to go to his college at Oxford University. The same will apply to nearby Stoke Bridge, where visitors will be able to virtually recreate the port as it was many hundreds of years ago.





Page 12
Wolsey's Gate
Page 13 Top
Area for
development
Bottom left
The Silo building
Bottom right
St Peters Church
All photos:
Terry Hunt



We see the heritage zone stretching along St. Peter's Street, including the Wolsey statue which was the brainchild of John Blatchly, and stretching up to the junction with Silent Street, very close to one of the likely sites of Wolsey's birth.

Those are the heritage zone headlines. There are other smaller, more detailed aspects. Suffice to say, we believe we can create a compelling visitor attraction, working in conjunction with other places which are important in the Wolsey story: Oxford, Hampton Court, Leicester, and York.

The area of Ipswich we are talking about is the oldest part of one of England's oldest towns. Would it be too fanciful to label it "The cradle of England?" Or is that the journalist in me getting carried away?

Preceding the creation of a heritage-based visitor attraction will be the first phase of the Thomas Wolsey 550 Project. This is the activity-based, awareness-building phase. Starting in March this year, and continuing for 550 days until the autumn of 2024, we will have activities, education programmes, performances and celebrations to mark the 550th anniversary of Wolsey's birth.

Using this most iconic Ipswich-born person, we want to re-awaken awareness of just how important Ipswich has been since Anglo-Saxon times. We want the current residents of Ipswich to understand what an illustrious town they are living in.

From across the centuries, Wolsey will inspire today's Ipswich. Given his incredible rise to power from relatively humble beginnings, he is the ultimate example of social mobility.

With his awareness of the importance of education, Wolsey was at least three centuries ahead of his time. Using his example, we want to inspire young people to aspire to achieve, whatever their background, and for the people of Ipswich to gain a greater sense of pride in their town.

Our project will need to connect with the widest cross-section of today's Ipswich community, with all its diversity. That is absolutely essential.

Wolsey's original Ipswich legacy was denied him when he fell from power and his college was pulled down. We believe our project will provide him with a new proud legacy for his home town - nearly 500 years after his death.

For more information simply search the internet for Thomas Wolsey 550 Project.

“ Using this most iconic Ipswich-born person, we want to re-awaken awareness of just how important Ipswich has been since Anglo-Saxon times ”

A review of 2022 Our key achievements



Bethany Philbedge

Planning Officer, Suffolk Preservation Society

SPS has had a very satisfactory year with increased outputs, impacts and successes, all underlined by a 10% increase in membership. We are delighted to welcome our new members and thank all of our members, new and old, for supporting us in our very important work. Our members give us our mandate, help us to raise crucial income, but more importantly help us to raise our voice and increase our effectiveness. Together we are so much greater than the sum of our parts.

The last twelve months has seen a continued growth in major development across Suffolk; SPS planners have been heavily engaged with this. However, we have also widened the scope of our work with a number of exciting initiatives which we are pleased to share with you. Some of our key achievements over the past year include:

NATIONAL PLANNING CAMPAIGNS

A powerful local voice speaking up for Suffolk

Through our sustained campaigning work, we have seen some real successes this year in the proposed changes to the Levelling Up Bill. This sees a major planning breakthrough with the scrapping of housing targets which have so often meant damaging development in Suffolk because of top-down targets disempowering planning authorities and disenfranchising local communities. Other important breakthroughs include a major shift in government policy to prioritise development on brownfield (previously developed) land over greenfield.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

Working with people to make a difference

We are proud that we have been able to work with and offer support to a number of single-issue campaign groups in Suffolk who are actively campaigning against the

most harmful environmental impacts of major energy developments. In particular, we are pleased to have supported the Say No to Sunnica group campaigning against Sunnica, a solar factory in West Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire. We have also worked closely with a community group known as CARE Suffolk who are fighting for the best outcomes from 3 solar farms in and around Bramford. We have continued to support the work of SASES and SEAS, who have campaigned tirelessly against the selection of Friston for an energy hub near the east coast. We have supported their work by writing to MPs and ministers at crucial points in their campaign. Finally, we have been pleased to work alongside the Suffolk group, Coalition of Amenity Groups in the East of England, who are pushing our local MPs to resist the devastating proposals by National Grid for new pylon lines across the county. Together we are standing up for Suffolk, holding our local representatives to account, pushing back on damaging schemes and demanding that affected communities' voices are heard.

BREAKING NEW GROUND

Exciting projects in Suffolk

Our work with communities in Suffolk has recently developed to include exciting project work. This year we were successful in a second round of funding from CPRE, the Countryside Charity, to restore hedgerows in the Dedham Vale AONB as part of the Hedgerow Heroes campaign. SPS has been pleased to work with the Dedham Vale Farmer Cluster to provide vital funding for this important restoration work. See Director's column for latest updates about our meeting with James Cartledge MP.

We have also run a pioneering project with Debenham Parish Council as part of the CPRE's Renewables Done Well Programme. This is an initiative to develop a methodology to help rural parishes

develop a vision for delivering a community led renewable energy project in their village. The vision will be taken forward by the parish council in 2023 and it is hoped that this will set a benchmark for other villages to accommodate renewables in a way that is sensitive to landscape character and acceptable to communities. This will be especially relevant in the light of the recent announced change to government policy regarding onshore wind and the importance of community support for the installation of wind turbines.

SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS THROUGH PLANNING CASEWORK

There when you need us

As usual we have continued to respond to sensitive planning applications affecting protected landscapes, listed buildings and other sensitive locations across Suffolk. SPS Membership offers professional back up that is impartial and clear sighted, always with the best environmental outcomes at the top of our agenda.

OUR OFFER TO YOU

2022 saw a full calendar of training, lectures and social events after the bleak Covid years and we have been lucky enough to secure access to some of the county's most exclusive and beautiful locations. We have also provided the 2 for 1 offer for the first time to some of the finest visitor attraction in Suffolk.

We thank you for supporting us in our work at a time when the challenges, both environmental and economic, have never been greater. We know that the demands and pressures on people's budgets are high and going into 2023 people will be facing tough decisions. We value your commitment to SPS's work at a time of immense change and look forward to your continued support.

SPS CIO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Preservation Society CIO to be held on **16 June 2023 at 6.00pm** at **Little Hall, Lavenham, CO10 9QZ** 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 2022;
- 6 To receive the Trustees' Annual Report;
- 7 Thanks and appreciation to those Trustees who are resigning/not standing for re-election;
- 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 2022 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 2022 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, 16th June 2023 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:

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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:



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/campaign-bulletins

FARMING IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES

The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme has been granted a 12-month extension meaning that the scheme will now run until March 2025. The programme is part of Defra's 2021 Agricultural Transition Plan and offers funding to farmers and land managers in AONBs for projects that provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and its cultural heritage, protect or improve the quality and character of the landscape or place, support nature recovery or mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The funding is administered by the AONB Partnership and around £400K has been granted to over 40 projects within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths and Dedham Vale AONBs since the programme began in 2021. These include a project in North Suffolk to enable an increase in the amount of reed cut

for thatching, and to manage the reedbeds more effectively to ensure a wide range of environmental benefits; and another at Staverton Woods and Thicks to future-proof and manage these internationally recognised

woodlands which are of great biological and historical significance. We hope that Defra's extension of the scheme for a further year will encourage more projects to come forward.

“ Around £400K has been granted to over 40 projects ”



Staverton Thicks Photo: Nigel Paul

UPDATES TO NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

The government has consulted on its latest round of updates to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as well as the preparation of National Development Management Policies. We fed our observations on the proposed changes into CPRE who prepared a full and robust response to this consultation. A major change is that Councils will no longer need to publish a five-year housing land supply until their strategic policies setting

housing requirements are over five years old. Authorities will also now be able to include historic oversupply in their five-year housing land supply calculations. The current requirement to apply a 20% buffer if delivery over the past three years has fallen below 85% of the housing requirement has also been removed.

In addition, a welcome increased emphasis on design, with a focus on 'beautiful design', has been included throughout as well as the

requirement for authorities to bring forward design codes for their area.

We support the greater weight given to energy efficiency improvements in existing buildings but have called for clear advice on appropriate retrofitting measures in historic buildings to avoid perpetuation of the wide-ranging levels of discretion applied by conservation officers. The full response from CPRE is available on our website.

Planning Overview

HERITAGE NEWS

ENABLING DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION



Plans were submitted earlier in the year which should result in vital repair works being carried out on a pair of cottages which have suffered years of neglect. Bridge Cottages which stand in the Peasenhall Conservation Area are now on the Buildings at Risk register and SPS welcomes this initiative to bring the buildings back into a sustainable use. The current scheme is for two new houses to be built to the rear of the cottages as a means to secure funding for the works to the heritage assets. While supportive in principle of enabling development,

however, we have expressed concern about the lack of clarity in the current scheme. If it is to achieve the desired outcomes it is essential that detailed information relating to the condition of the fabric, the extent of repair required and a fully costed schedule of repair are provided, and appropriate legal agreements must be put in place. SPS has highlighted that without these there is a risk that the new development could proceed while further erosion of the significance of the listed buildings as well as harmful impact on the Conservation Area occurs.

NEW LISTING FOR SUFFOLK CATHOLIC CHURCHES

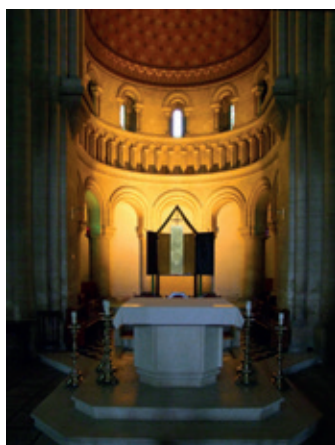
Following the completion of the Taking Stock project of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, two Roman Catholic churches in Suffolk were formally designated by Historic England in January. Taking Stock is a project to provide an architectural and historical assessment of Catholic churches in regular use. It is intended to be an aid to dioceses, parishes, statutory authorities and the general public, so that the heritage significance of buildings may be given due weight when proposals for change come forward. Reviews of around 2,800 churches were undertaken concluding in 2020 with East Anglia.

The Minster Church of St Benet at Beccles has been assessed as: An impressive, large, cruciform church in neo-Norman style, built for the Downside Benedictines in 1898-1901 from designs by the Beccles architect F. E. Banham. Faced in limestone inside and out, it has a three-storey elevation to the nave, substantial crossing tower and an apsidal sanctuary. The barrel-vaulted ceilings have much good quality stencilled decoration. Post-Vatican II reordering introduced some modern fittings in keeping with the original character, with an especially inventive iron and fabric tabernacle by Eric Stevenson. The church is a prominent feature in the local conservation area.

The Minster has now been designated at grade II* both for its architectural interest and also due to its historic interest including its personal connection to the architect F E Banham who was also the Mayor of the town and is buried in the churchyard.

The second Suffolk church to be designated following the Taking Stock project is St Felix at Felixstowe, also designed by Banham. This is now grade II listed and is described as a good Arts and Crafts Gothic design of the early twentieth century with well-detailed additions of the 1930s and completed in the 1950s. The interior retains good early twentieth and twenty-first century stained glass.

“Reviews of around 2,800 churches were undertaken concluding in 2020 with East Anglia”



Exterior and interior of The Minster Church of St Benet at Beccles. Photos: Simon Knott

St Felix at Felixstowe

A FUTURE SECURED FOR THE OLD LOWESTOFT POST OFFICE BUILDING

Plans were announced earlier this year to transform the former Post Office at Lowestoft, one of the town's most historically important buildings, into a new visual arts and cultural space. Readers may recall that the building is the flagship scheme within the London Road, Lowestoft High Street Heritage Action Zone which we covered in the previous edition of Suffolk View. The arts space will be run by Messums, who are recognised for revitalising old buildings and embedding them within communities through artistic enterprise, and Suffolk sculptor Laurence Edwards who began his art education in Lowestoft and subsequently developed an international reputation for large scale public works. Laurence will be working to create a large-scale bronze landmark sculpture for Lowestoft, casting it at his foundry in East Suffolk.

On 20 April SPS is hosting an event at Lowestoft which will include a visit to some of the successful projects which have been completed as part of the HAZ project. We will hear about the work which has been undertaken as part of this important heritage-led regeneration project from the HAZ Project Manager Rebecca Styles. In addition, on 10 July we will be hosting an event at Cockfield Hall where sculptor Laurence Edwards will tell us the fascinating story of his sculpture the Yoxman which is located on the estate. See page 26 for details of these events.



1909 drawing of Lowestoft Post Office
(© National Archives, Kew)

ENERGY NEWS

COMMERCIAL SOLAR FARMS – TEMPORARY DEVELOPMENT?

As covered in our article on page 5 concerning the loss of food producing land, a commercial solar farm near Bramford, known as the Enso solar farm,) was considered by both Babergh and Mid Suffolk Planning



committees in February. This 85-acre site straddles the border between the districts farm and is 1 of 3 schemes currently proposed around Bramford. SPS had objected as we consider that cumulatively these schemes will have a profound effect on the villages of Flowton and Somersham. Moreover, the Enso scheme is largely on land classified as 'Best and Most Versatile (BMV)' with around a quarter being grade 2. In the report recommending approval of the application, the Planning Officer justified the loss of this prime food growing land on the basis that the change would be 'temporary', with the land reverting to agricultural at the end of the 40-year life of the scheme.

Communities impacted by the introduction of 85 acres of solar panels, fencing, concrete access roadways and shipping container sized inverters into the landscape surrounding their homes are unlikely to be reassured that 40 years constitutes a temporary scheme. Even more worryingly, any conditions applied to a planning consent to ensure the decommissioning of infrastructure after 40 years are likely to be easily overturned as proposed amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework will positively encourage the repowering and life-extension of renewable energy plants.

EAST ANGLIA 1(N) AND EAST ANGLIA 2 WINDFARMS

Permission for both offshore windfarms and the associated significant onshore infrastructure were given the go ahead by the Secretary of State in March 2022. However, campaigners fight on. On 31 January the Court of Appeal granted permission for the case brought by Suffolk Energy Action Solutions (SEAS) to proceed in the Administrative Court. SEAS is bringing this claim on ten grounds including evidence of a systemic strategy on the part of the applicant (Scottish Power Renewable) of making secret 'incentive' payments to landowners with the aim of preventing those landowners from giving any evidence to the Examination.

Permission was previously refused for SEAS to pursue this claim, however in allowing the case to proceed, Lord Justice Warby stated that the case "is arguable with a real prospect of success". At the time of writing, we understand that the case will be heard in late April or May.

Meanwhile in December SASES were informed that their judicial review into the consent on a number of claims, including the impact of the substations on the landscape and heritage of Friston, had been unsuccessful. This has subsequently been taken to the Court of Appeal.



Remembering Bryan Haylock

Artist and cartoonist for
Suffolk View

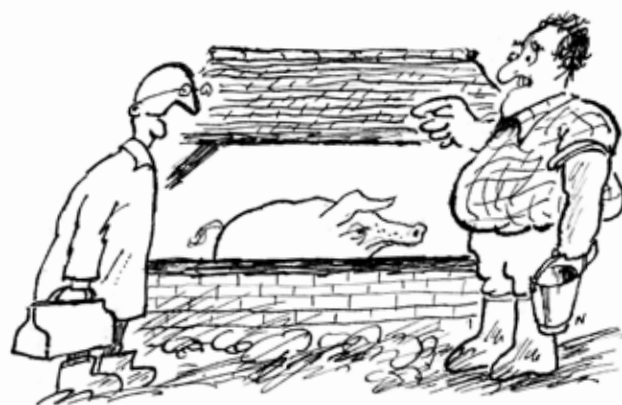
Linda Clapham

Former SV Editor

It was with real sadness that we learnt of the passing of Bryan, aged 91, Suffolk View's cartoonist of many years up until his death in January. In fact, his first wonderful drawings appeared in Issue 97, back in the summer of 2004, which was also my first edition as its editor.

I confess that the bright spot of every edition for me was opening Bryan's little brown package containing his latest batch of cartoons. It was a huge 'ask' to try to put an imaginative drawing, with words, to some of the copy: he used to comment that he would have to have a good think about it – and he came up trumps. In fact, the printers for Suffolk View were amazed that we had such a talented contact.

Looking back through the many issues of Suffolk View to which he contributed, and he never missed an edition, I am not only amused, but particularly struck by his ability to capture the message the Society was trying to convey. Planning topics are of interest to some more than others but come alive with the addition of a cartoon; we are drawn to the subject through the skill and humour of the artist, and Bryan was a brilliant and experienced practitioner.



"She's been right off colour since she learned that her sty isn't Grade Two Listed."



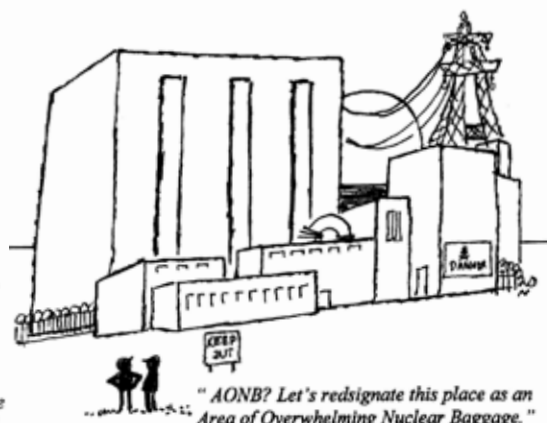
"I'm knitting insulation for the loft."



"This time last year this was all brussels sprouts."



"To assist making the unacceptable acceptable we are issuing these rose-tinted spectacles."



"AONB? Let's redesignate this place as an Area of Overwhelming Nuclear Baggage."



"This objection to the 52page Draft Planning Policy is 1,600 pages long"

As a former commercial artist for a show card and sign company his design ability and creative art work led him to open his own studio in Charing Cross Road in London producing, among other artistic works, posters and flyers for West End shows – he loved the theatre. Bryan designed the poster for the 1971 comedy farce, 'No Sex Please, we're British'. Eventually, in 1981, tiring of London his ambition was to open a bookshop. He and his wife, Jane, found their ideal property in Hadleigh High Street which they named 'The Idler', a fascinating little shop which they filled with old and

new books, artists' materials and greeting cards of character. He had collected all the Richmal Crompton 'Just William' books when young, and later exchanged them for a typewriter, but hoped, when on collecting forays, he might come across his former copies with his name inside. Bryan was at his happiest when sitting on a seat somewhere drawing people as they passed. Jane commented that with just a few strokes he could capture someone. I would like to remember him like that and thank him for his loyal service over so many years. His contributions will be greatly missed.

Dr. Michael Coleman

An appreciation

SPS Chairman 2005 - 2008

Colin Clapham

Hon. Secretary 2005-7

Mike, I believe, would be the first to agree that his strengths lay principally in matters scientific and practical rather than in the purely desk-bound and administrative aspects of life.

His sense of duty is all the more to be admired therefore, in that he agreed to take on the management and administration of the Society as chairman of the trustees in the summer of 2005, at a time when the need for change was becoming urgent if the Society was to remain relevant and fit for purpose in the more challenging planning environment of the 21st century.

The process of change required considerable tact, resilience and sheer determination in order to drive forward the various aspects of change, including a completely revised constitution and a re-alignment of the relationship between the Society and its Historic Buildings corporate entity.

Although it took a later trustee body under the chairmanship of Andrew Fane to bring the process of change to its final fruition,

Mike, as chairman of the trustees at that time, had been the supportive driving force through the difficult early days of doubt and resistance, when the need for change was not appreciated by all.

The strength of the Society as it stands today therefore, as a respected and valued voice on many of the planning and environmental aspects of our beautiful county, is testament to the dogged determination and courage of Mike Coleman and his support for the process of bringing the Society up to date to face the challenges of these more modern times.

Dr. Mike Coleman was a nuclear scientist working at Sizewell, who had developed a great love for the built and natural environment of Suffolk. He strongly appreciated the need for development to be sensible and sensitive, respecting the beauty of the countryside whilst balancing such necessary development against the practical demands of modern living and of population growth.

He saw the Society as the best organisation to achieve this balance, and only resigned his membership in 2008 after he and Marion moved to Devon to be nearer



family members. Even the daunting distance between Barnstaple to Lavenham did not stop Mike from attending meetings of the Society and I know, on occasions, he covered the round trip in a single day, such was his dedication.

I knew Mike as a very kind man, generous in practical ways with his unstinting support for the Society and indeed in his generosity as a member of MCC with Test Match tickets, cricket being another major love of Mike's life.

Mike died at the end of November last year aged 75; his good humour, enthusiasm and practical common sense will be remembered by me and everyone who had the privilege of knowing him as a good friend, supportive work colleague and a lifelong enthusiast for everything he held dear in his life.



"I understand you want us to consider your wheelie bin shelter for the list of important new local buildings."



Suffolk Spotlight

The voice of Suffolk's community groups

SUDBURY SOCIETY

Sam Thornton

The Sudbury Society has in recent years become increasingly concerned over the lack of cohesion in planning matters between Sudbury Town Council and Babergh Mid Suffolk DC.

We met last year with the Director and planning officer of The Suffolk Preservation Society to discuss this issue. This absolutely highlighted the importance to the town of producing a neighbourhood plan to ensure we retain a voice in future planning decisions which will affect the town.

Historically in Sudbury this idea was rejected by the Town Council on the grounds that it would involve too much work. We have therefore started campaigning in advance of the forthcoming local elections to ensure that all potential councillors fully understand and will support the production of a neighbourhood plan to retain the character and vitality and individuality of the town.

We feel strongly that the identity of a town like Sudbury should be given support and protection to ensure the feel of the town for future generations.

A very good example of this was the decision taken to grant consent to demolish an attractive range of Victorian buildings within the Conservation Area, which were locally listed non-designated heritage assets. This was a decision against the advice of the planning authority's conservation officer and we feel could have been avoided if there had been a neighbourhood plan in place.

A neighbourhood plan will also allow the town to have a say in the wider future of employment in Sudbury which is important to maintaining its character and market town role.

We have seen in recent years huge pressure for the provision of housing which includes 1250 homes at Chilton Woods and extra largescale provision in Acton, Great Cornard and Chilton and Long Melford. There has been no focus on employment opportunities and worse than that we have lost the huge Delphi factory that provided 500 jobs. That site is now owned by an investor who at some stage is likely to want to create further housing development.

In effect, this means all the new residents of Sudbury will need to travel to surrounding centres for work along roads that are hardly

adequate for present traffic flows and will struggle with the increase present housing development will impose. We don't want to see Sudbury becoming a dormitory town for our surrounding centres.

Certainly, the role of a civic society involves a strong focus on the old buildings and character of a market town such as Sudbury but we also need to be extremely attentive to current planning policies and how they are framed and impact on the town to ensure that future generations feel the same way about the town as we currently do.

IPSWICH SOCIETY

Mike Cook

Broomhill Open Swimming Pool was opened in 1938 in Broomhill Park, on land that is covenanted to be "recreational use in perpetuity". The pool was designed by the Corporation of Ipswich Architect, largely using ferroconcrete and is listed grade 2.

It was closed in 2000 because it was losing money and needed repairs. In 2001, Ipswich Borough Council set up a scrutiny committee to decide its future and the Broomhill Pool Trust, on which I represent the Ipswich Society, was set up. With IBC and friendly architects, we made our first bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund; which failed.

By 2018, a second NHLF application was made, we succeeded and received £3.5m, the new operators, Fusion £1m and IBC £1.5. Contracts were drawn up and Tenders submitted.

These were to be opened and contracts awarded thereafter in March 2020. Then Covid happened. By the time normal service was resumed, construction costs had risen steeply; we are now £1.5m short.

We had high hopes that the County of Suffolk and Ipswich might get something out of the levelling-up fund but Suffolk got nothing. This pool, restored and heated, a gym and a cafe, open all the year will be a great community centre in the very deprived area of north west Ipswich.

We are now searching for the missing funds; huge enthusiasm has been shown by our two MPs, Tom Hunt and Dan Poulter, but with no positive response so far.

The next year will be critical. Any ideas, anyone?



Sudbury Conservative Club



A jewel in the Town of Ipswich's crown is Ipswich Town Football Club. Whilst there has been a decline in fortune since the Club's heady successes from the 1960s through to the 1980s, in 2021 the club was bought by a US investment group and a new spirit is around. The ground is to have new playing surface and giant screens. It has been able to erect an access to the pitch for HGVs so that the pitch can be levelled, re-laid on a modern sand-based hybrid foundation, drained and heated. The ground is the 28th largest in the country but the pitch is one of the last to be traditional soil based. It will also allow the ground to be used for non-football events such as concerts. It has purchased the former Staples store, which will be demolished, and the land between it and the South (Sir Alf Ramsey) stand thus opening up the view to the Club. The Club has also improved all the facilities at the Rushmere training ground and added three full size pitches.

This serious investment by the new American owner is good news for the Club and thus for the Town because a successful club gives Ipswich confidence and uplift. And the new Northern Irish Manager has improved results; at time of writing, we're third in League One and still hopeful of promotion to the Championship next season and we've had a reasonable Cup run.

And just an ironic coincidence: ITFC's first stadium was on the site of The Lido!

BURY SOCIETY

Russell Cook

Over the past few months the Bury Society has been seeking replacements for senior long serving members of the organisation who serve on its executive committee.

They include secretary Tim Page, treasurer Doug Beardon, interim planning officer Richard Summers and Bury in Bloom co-ordinator David Irvine who are all set to

stand down from their roles at the end of March.

To date there has been some success in filling those crucial positions to ensure the Society functions and represents the long-term wellbeing of the town.

Meanwhile, the group has been active in many other fields including its hugely successful and significant Bury in Bloom association with it becoming 11 times gold award winners of Anglia in Bloom along with collecting a gold award at the Britain in Bloom finals.

It won the Business Improvement District (BID) BID Town Centre and City Centre category competing with seven other towns and cities around the United Kingdom.

Mr Irvine said: "When I took over in 2019 I set myself two goals. To win the Anglia in Bloom Large Town Gold in 2020 and Britain in Bloom Gold in 2021 ... it's very satisfying to come home with both awards.

"As I approach retirement this is a good place for Bury in Bloom to be and I feel happy I have delivered the goods."



The Society has generally welcomed the revised plans for the redevelopment of Cornhill Walk. The massing and building heights are now much more sympathetic with the surrounding townscape and particularly with Moyse's Hall. The more domestic scale and detailing of the elevations to Well Street and Short Brackland are also a significant improvement.

The solution to the problems of access and car parking have been balanced as far as possible with other issues and the introduction of a central glazed atrium facing the Butter Market axis, which the Bury Society suggested, is welcome.

It does not object to the pyramid feature on top of the central glazed atrium but it does query its apparent absence in the main illustration on the front page.

The Abbey 1000 celebrations reached the climax in November on St Edmunds' Day in spectacular fashion with a stunning son et luminaire show telling the Abbey's rise to ruins story.

Enjoyed by thousands of people the show was a fitting finale to the year of events which included talks, exhibitions, activities, art, performances, trials and special ecumenical religious services designed to fire the imagination and bring the Abbey's remarkable history to life.

And finally it has been farewell to the former chairman of the Bury St Edmunds and Beyond chairman Melanie Lesser who has stood down from her role.

A champion of the town she has been a dedicated and passionate supporter of Bury and has been at the leading edge of promoting the area.

Continued on page 24 >

Suffolk Spotlight



STOP SIZEWELL C

Mark Solomons

Despite the government's support for Sizewell C, it is still at least a year away from a definite go-ahead. Here are ten reasons why Stop Sizewell C thinks that should never happen.

Money: The original cost of £20 billion is now widely expected to be around £30 billion. Who will pay? UK Pension funds are wobbling, overseas investors are jittery and the government cannot afford more than a small stake, even if they slap their planned 'Nuclear Tax' on our energy bills.

Technology: Sizewell C's reactor has a disastrous construction record, always late and over budget. One of the two operating examples was offline for a full year with fuel failure. EDF don't plan to build any more in France and are working on an updated design, yet Sizewell C would be the "old" type.

Time: Sizewell C is too slow to help our climate emergency. The UK wants its electricity to be net zero by 2035 but Sizewell C is unlikely to contribute. EDF says construction will take 10-12 years even without overruns, but there are financial and legal hurdles first. EDF once said electricity from Hinkley Point C would cook our 2017 Christmas turkeys, but it isn't due to start until 2027.

Location: Nuclear power stations are usually built near the sea but the Suffolk coast is crumbling. Although Sizewell C will have vast sea defences dug 60 metres deep into the ground, we are concerned the flood risk has not been assessed properly.

Wildlife: Sizewell is in the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and directly adjoins the RSPB Minsmere, once described as the greatest conservation reserve in the world. The RSPB says Sizewell C could be "catastrophic for wildlife".

Water: East Anglia is the driest part of Britain. The lack of drinking-quality water was why the Planning Inspectorate could not recommend planning approval. EDF's proposals for a desalination plant and tentative plans to pipe in water from elsewhere to supply the two million litres needed daily begs the question: why don't they build it where there is water available?

Traffic: Nearly a thousand lorries a day will pass through tiny villages along country roads to get to the site. EDF's intended "Link" road is in the wrong place and will take two years to build. At peak there will be 12,000 extra vehicle journeys each day on the A12.

Jobs: Suffolk has no surfeit of nuclear technicians or construction workers begging for jobs. Unemployment is low, existing businesses struggle to find staff and EDF expects three quarters of Sizewell C's 6,900 construction workforce to come from outside the region.

British Energy Security: Having ousted China, the government may be forced to beg funds for Sizewell C from controversial states like Saudi Arabia. Ironically, now EDF is renationalised, the UK is relying on France to build its critical infrastructure.

Alternatives: We'd get more bang for our buck directing scarce cash at home insulation, responsibly sited renewables and storage. Stop Sizewell C is not wholly ideologically opposed to nuclear energy: Rolls-Royce's modular reactors are potentially cheaper and less impactful, but the expensive challenge of disposing of nuclear waste will remain with us for centuries to come.

Editor's note: A judicial review challenge by Together Against Sizewell C Limited supported by Friends of the Earth and Say no to Sizewell C was heard in the High Court in March. TASC argued in their

legal case that the decision to give the go ahead for Sizewell C is unlawful on a number of grounds including concerns about the maintenance of a water supply. A decision is awaited.

SAY NO TO SUNNICA

Dr Catherine Judkins

Last September the Examination into the ca. 2500-acre solar and battery plant proposed by Sunnica Ltd got underway, headed up by three Examiners appointed by the government's Planning Inspectorate. This scheme, which spans the borders of West Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire and stretches approximately 15 miles from end to end, is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. Although the views of the local authorities and local people will be considered, the ultimate decision will be taken at Whitehall.

The Sunnica Examination closed on 28th March 2023. Examiners will now review the evidence and make a recommendation on whether the project should be approved to the Secretary of State of the newly formed Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (Mr Grant Shapps). He will make his final decision about the proposal in September this year.

Examiners have heard objections from local residents, from the four local authorities that would 'host' this scheme, as well as from nature and heritage groups, etc. over the last five months. They have heard how it would swallow up vast swathes of some of the UK's most productive and versatile food growing land at a time of spiralling food costs and increasing global food insecurity. They have heard how the local communities dispute claims made by Sunnica that the soil quality is "poor" since this is goes against local knowledge and is contrary to reports by three independent soil experts who have verified that the earmarked land is indeed high quality. Newmarket's King Edward VII Memorial Hall hosted December's public hearings with local people packing the room and speaking passionately about how much they value their rural surroundings, which benefit their mental health and well-being and sustain a connection to their neighbouring villages, and how they object to living within an industrial energy plant. Some raised objections about their land being acquired through compulsory purchase.

Potatoes growing on land proposed for Sunnica solar farm



The horse racing community also spoke out against the scheme, which threatens the integrity of its unique and historic Limekilns gallops that have remained unchanged as the ‘showcase’ for Newmarket’s prestigious racing industry for centuries. These gallops would no longer preside over the green surroundings of the historic Chippenham Park, but would instead look down over a vast sea of glass and metal, with huge battery storage containers and a giant substation as its centre piece.

Suffolk County Council expressed their concerns about the scheme, calling it the “poorest application” they had seen. Councillor Richard Rout commented how it would re-write the landscape and would “permanently change a unique part of Suffolk which has been shaped by agriculture and horse racing.” The other host authorities (West Suffolk Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council) shared similar objections.

For now, the battle continues.

Editor’s note: Read SPS’s representation to the Sunnica Examination here

suffolksociety.org/about/our-purpose/energy/solar-energy

EAST ANGLIAN ALLIANCE OF AMENITY GROUPS

John Foster

Update on the many and varied onshore and offshore infrastructure proposals for East Anglia

The contracts say “NO”. This is currently the mantra of Minister of State Graham Stuart who has been defending his refusal to initiate a review of the onshore and offshore infrastructure proposals for East Anglia. His argument rests on the claim the connection agreements between generators and the Electricity System Operator (ESO) are legally unbreakable. A review, which would examine options for replacing extra onshore

transmission with an improved offshore network, has been a demand of a number of MPs, local leaders and campaigners, including members of the East Anglian Alliance of Amenity Groups.

In a letter sent to organisations and individuals across Suffolk, Essex and Norfolk the Minister states:

“In most cases offshore wind developers in the region already have connection contracts in place with National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO) and the Government will not, and cannot, force changes to these contracts; any attempt... would be open to legal challenge.”

Campaign and community groups have responded by pointing out that BEIS has already been encouraging generators and the ESO to modify connection agreements. This is what the offshore coordination (OTNR) Early Opportunities workstream is about and there are other mechanisms by which connection agreements can be surrendered or modified. Setting up an agreement is in any case a process with several stages rather than a

single negotiation. Modifications are possible during the process.

Without a review and with only a possible “study into the implications of co-ordination”, communities fear the existing proposals for multiple landing sites on the coast, numerous cable runs to new substations at Friston and Lawford, along with the overhead East Anglia Green (EAG) power line from Norwich all the way to Tilbury, will be forced through with the aid of draconian revisions to planning policy.

We may soon find out. A number of consultations have been promised for the first quarter of this year. However, the anticipated statutory consultation for EAG will now be replaced with a second, non-statutory consultation. In practice this means the NSIP planning calendar – which has statutory stages of defined duration - moves on a year. On the coast, two judicial review challenges have resulted in further uncertainty around the proposed new energy complex at Friston (see Planning Overview).

Another of the consultations concerns a community compensation scheme. This consultation is already overdue and is highly controversial. It will be very interesting to see what the proposed scheme looks like.

One other interesting feature of the Minister’s letter is his emphasis on the fact he will not be the Minister that makes the decision on the infrastructure planning applications. This means he can engage with the MPs and other campaigners. The Alliance has responded positively, suggesting some initial areas for discussion. At the time of writing, it remains to be seen whether these suggestions will be accepted. So far, an informal meeting organized by an Essex MP between the Minister and local constituents did little to inspire confidence in any future engagement.



Countryside to be impacted by the proposed route of East Anglia Green

Events 2023

suffolk
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Further details on all our events and how to book your place is available on our website, or contact the office on sps@suffolksociety.org.



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Join us to discover the fascinating heritage projects underway in **Lowestoft's Heritage Action Zones**. Our day will start at the East Anglian Transport Museum for a talk by HAZ Project Manager Rebecca Styles. We will visit several heritage projects all from the comfort of a vintage bus before returning to the museum where lunch will be available to purchase from the cafe.

Thursday 20th April
10am – 2pm
£10 per person

Spaces are strictly limited and early booking is recommended.

Note: there will be some walking necessary between sites in the town centre, up to 0.6 miles in total.



This event is kindly sponsored by Reeman Dansie Auctioneers and Valuers.

AN AFTERNOON AT ICKWORTH HOUSE AND GARDENS WITH TEA AT THE ICKWORTH HOTEL

We are delighted to be able to offer a bespoke visit to Ickworth House by kind invitation of the National Trust.

The afternoon will begin with a talk by the General Manager on the history of the house and the current restoration work of the estate including issues relating to sustainability. We will follow this with a choice of a tour of the art collection, led by the Curator of Collections, or a tour of the pleasure gardens, led by the Rangers.

We will end with afternoon tea in the library at the Ickworth Hotel overlooking the beautiful gardens.

Monday 15th May
3pm – 6pm
£30 per person



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Our annual garden party will include the SPS AGM.

All Members are welcome to join us for an evening in the beautiful garden of our head office in Lavenham.

There is no charge for this event but donations on the evening will be very welcome. It would be helpful for catering purposes if you could book your place.

Friday 16th June
6pm – 8pm
FREE



A SUMMER EVENING AT COCKFIELD HALL, YOXFORD

By kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Jon Hunt, we are delighted that our summer event will be held at Cockfield Hall.

We will be joined by internationally renowned landscape architect, **Kim Wilkie**, who will explain the exciting story of the recent landscape restoration project at the Hall. We will also hear the fascinating story of the Yoxman, a 26 foot sculpture at Cockfield, from the artist **Laurence Edwards**. Drinks and canapes will be served.

Thursday 13th July
6pm – 8pm
£30 per person



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office for further details**

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND OLD BUILDINGS TRAINING DAY

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The course will be relevant for owners of period properties, professionals who advise on improving energy efficiency of historic buildings, and students who want to learn more about this growing area of interest.

With opportunities to hear from Historic England on the latest policy position and ask the trainers, Marianne and Roger, questions throughout the course, the event is also an excellent chance to meet and learn from other owners who may be facing similar challenges.

Full details and course content can be found on our website.



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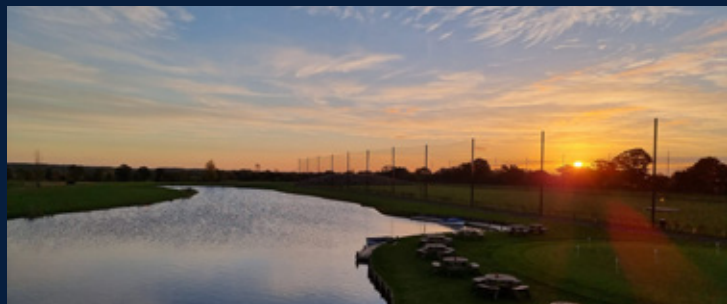
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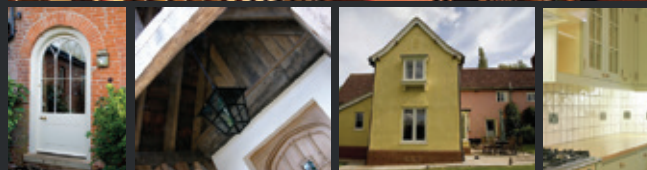
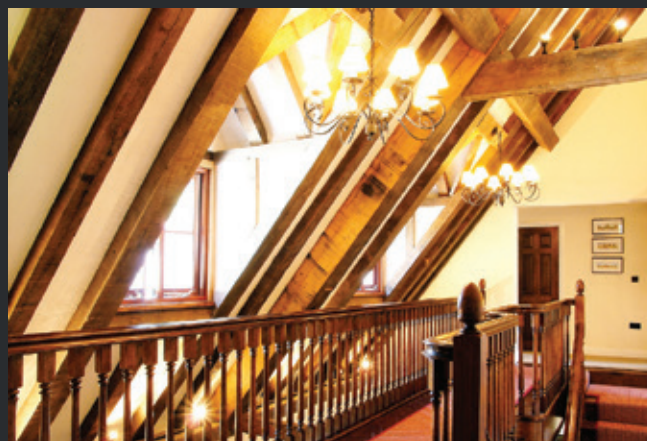


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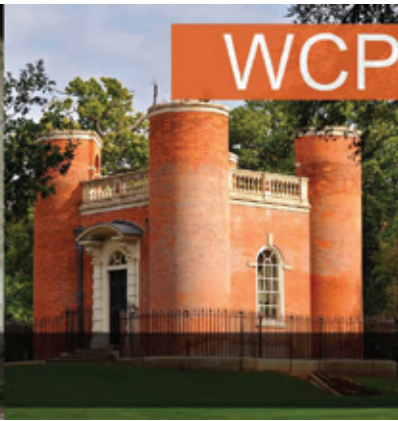
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