



CPRE NORFOLK AWARDS 2008



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
NORFOLK AWARDS 2008

SUPPORTED BY:





Campaign to Protect
Rural England

NORFOLK



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Introduction from the Judges

This has been an excellent year for the CPRE Norfolk Awards, with numerous nominations reflecting good design in rural areas. The projects also highlight the efforts of individuals, communities and local authorities to improve local landscapes.

The environmental projects include, green spaces on the fringes of Norwich - Cary's Meadow in Thorpe and Catton Park. The local communities have improved access, planted trees and managed woodland, and encouraged wildflowers. These show how local organisations and volunteers with some grant aid can restore open spaces for the benefit of their communities.

Projects to improve access to the countryside are also recognised such as the walks through newly planted woodlands around Burlingham. Eight orchards of traditional fruit have been planted and 10 miles of new hedgerow have been laid. Local artists have worked with children to create a tactile sculpture trail and sundials.

Architectural entries reflect the importance of energy efficiency including two new visitor centres at Sculthorpe Moor Nature Reserve and Fairhaven Woodland and Water Garden which incorporate ground source heat pumps, wind turbines, rainwater harvesting and sheep's wool insulation. A clay lump barn at Great Hockham is a wonderful example of a building with low embodied energy and use of recycled materials.

Conversions and restorations of historic buildings are also recognised such as Bayfield Brecks Barns. Sympathetic conversions of the tithe barn, bullock sheds, cart sheds and stables which have created new workshops for local traders and craftsmen. The project has retained much of the original barn exterior in keeping with its rural environment.

Schools are also featured in this year's Awards with plant, wildlife areas and gardens that support teaching and give children an understanding of wildlife, food production, global warming and recycling. Entries from schools at Erpingham and Banham demonstrate the high standards of Norfolk environmental educational projects.

These are just a few of the outstanding projects and you will find a full list of the winners in this brochure. I thank my fellow judges, the sponsors Targetfollow, and all those Norfolk individuals, communities and organisations that have made such a worthy contribution to the county this year.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Walton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Martin Walton
Chairman of Judges

CPRE NORFOLK AWARDS WINNING PROJECTS 2008

ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS

Roman Catholic Church of the Annunciation, Little Walsingham
Extension and restoration of Oddfellows Hall, Sheringham
GreenGauge Homes, Lingwood
Refurbishment of Daubeney Hall Farm
The Orangery at Burnley Hall
New dental surgery and refurbishment of No 21 Red Lion Street, Aylsham
Marshams Barn, Kenninghall
Straw Barn, Snetterton
Fairhaven Garden Trust visitors centre and tearoom
Mill Hill Gardens, South Walsham
Bayfield Brecks Barns, Letheringsett
Sculthorpe Community Nature Reserve Visitors' Centre
Eeyore's Barn, Great Hockham
Extension to Forncett St Peter C.E. V.A. Primary School

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Catton Park, Norwich
River Glaven Restoration Project
Cary's Meadow, Norwich
Acle, Burlingham, South Walsham and Lingwood Woodland Walks
Norfolk Biodiversity, Heritage and Health Walks
Millennium Woodland, Sprowston
Unicorn Yard, Aylsham
Forest Park Caravan Site

EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

Holt Hall - Roots & Shoots
Banham Community Primary School
Erpingham Primary School

ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS

Roman Catholic Church of the Annunciation, Little Walsingham



The new church of the Annunciation at Little Walsingham replaces a 'temporary' building erected in 1952. Over time, this building had become inadequate for the increasing numbers of visitors to the shrine. The new church has been designed by Norfolk architect Anthony Rossi and has a circular tower, a small covered cloister and a paved forecourt to the street. Norfolk building materials have been used extensively to improve and complement the historic townscape of Walsingham. The church also makes use of renewable energy in the form of a ground source heating system and a 10.5kw photovoltaic grid. The project is a wonderful mixture of contemporary and traditional design and works extremely well in an important setting.

Extension and restoration of Oddfellows Hall, Sheringham



Oddfellows Hall was built in 1867 as a RNLI Lifeboat Station and a gathering place for fishermen and boat builders. The building is a traditional North Norfolk construction with brick and flint walls and a steeply pitched clay pantile roof. After many years of standing idle, the building has been refurbished with a modern 2 storey entrance replacing a 1950s extension. The shape of the new entrance is reminiscent of the bow of a boat and echoes the maritime history of the existing building, while housing a lift for disabled access to the first floor. The external fabric of the building has been well insulated and efficient boiler systems introduced. The refurbishment of Oddfellows Hall has brought a building back into community use and provided a new landmark in this coastal town.

Greengauge Homes, Lingwood



CPRE Norfolk is keen to encourage the provision of social housing in rural settings, where a need has been demonstrated. Greengauge Homes is an innovative approach to social housing and maintains high ecological standards of design and construction. The scheme comprises of fifteen homes for affordable rent or shared ownership. The larch clad buildings are built with good levels of insulation and incorporate mixtures of low carbon technologies and design approaches which are being monitored extensively by the University of East Anglia. The features have been included at a cost of just 5% above standard Housing Corporation compliant schemes and are expected to provide significant savings in running costs for tenants. This is a pioneering scheme which proves that social housing and ecological design can work in harmony.



Refurbishment of Daubney Hall Farm

Daubney Hall Farm is a Grade II listed farmhouse dating from the 17th century and was originally part of the Gunthorpe Estate. Over time, the farmhouse had been left in a poor state of neglect. A sensitive refurbishment project led by the Norfolk architect Charles Emberson has converted the 'bed and breakfast' room layout to one suitable for a family home, while preserving and enhancing the features of the original house. An extension to the rear of property has been designed in a contemporary style using sustainable materials such as sheeps wool insulation, handmade Norfolk pammments, oak window frames, oak cladding and handmade bricks. This project is an excellent example of combining the new and old in a sympathetic way.



The Orangery at Burnley Hall

Burnley Hall is a Grade II* listed house dating from the early 18th century. A new Orangery has been created by remodelling an Edwardian billiard room with the addition of glazed doors and a pitched slate roof. An elegant glazed Vestibule has replaced an unattractive brick link to the main house. A spacious York stone terrace runs under the Vestibule, linking the internal with the external in a subtle way. This project is an imaginative, high quality contemporary extension to an important historic building and provides a flexible living space for the owners.



The new dental surgery and refurbishment of No. 21 Red Lion Street, Aylsham

This complex project involved the erection of a new building in a rear yard space for an established dental practice, together with the sensitive refurbishment of the vacated historic property. The new build is enclosed on three sides with retained brick walls and a zinc and sedum roof has been incorporated. A new access route has been created down a side passageway. The timber frame of the vacated property has been repaired and the building converted to a shop, with a replacement shop frontage. The roof has also been refurbished, retaining 15th century wattle and daub panels and resolving problems of damp. The project demonstrates that sensitive design solutions can be applied creatively in cramped urban spaces.



Marshams Barn, Kenninghall

Marshams Barn was once a redundant agricultural barn in a rural area on the edges of Kenninghall in Breckland. The barn has been partially rebuilt and sensitively converted to residential use. Traditional materials and methods were used in the conversion and existing timber and flint work retained wherever possible. A ground source heat pump has been installed to work with an underfloor heating system and a wind turbine has been erected to the front of the property. Rainwater is also harvested for use in toilets. The project has been led by the owners and the majority of work carried out with their involvement. Marshams Barn provides an inspiring example of how knowledge and enthusiasm can be applied successfully to restoration work on redundant buildings



Straw Barn, Snetterton

The Straw Barn is an exciting new building making best use of local sustainable materials. The building is a timber framed, two storey structure with a straw bale infill (the timber and straw being sourced from within four miles of the site) and a glazed, south-facing front to encourage natural light and views of the surrounding landscape. Built on flint and lime footings, the building is lime rendered and roofed with pantiles. Solar panels have been installed on the pantile roof to heat water. The building provides an affordable, green solution to a new family home.



Fairhaven Garden Trust visitors centre and tearoom

The new ecologically designed visitor centre at the Fairhaven Woodland and Water Garden has improved facilities at the gardens, while providing an excellent example of sustainable construction by a local business. Two 6,500 litre rainwater harvesting tanks provide water to flush toilets and water the plant sales area. A ground source heat pump provides hot water to the kitchen and hand basins and supplies an underfloor heating system. The centre has full disabled access and the Trust have worked hard to ensure that the landscaping is sympathetic to all levels of physical ability. The combination of green and disabled friendly ideas have created a pleasant environment for rest and relaxation.

Mill Hill Gardens, South Walsham



The completion of Mill Hill Gardens involved a comprehensive remodelling and extension of a small three bedroom house dating from the 1930s. The house stands prominently on high ground with lawns and pathways running out into the rural landscape. Two large glazed bays have been added on the south elevation to increase the width of the building and take advantage of the striking views. The building is clad in grey-green timber which works in contrast to the orange-red of the pantiles but blends sympathetically into the surroundings. This project is an excellent example of a sensitive enhancement of an ordinary building in a prominent position in the landscape.

Bayfield Brecks Barns



Twenty thousand square feet of part listed Georgian and Victorian farm buildings have been converted for the use of local businesses on the Bayfield Hall estate. The sympathetic conversions included that of the tithe barn, bullock sheds, cart sheds and stables - areas ranging in size from three hundred to four thousand square feet. The emphasis has been on retaining as much of the original exterior as possible, giving the whole complex the continuing look and feel of a rural environment. Heating is via a centrally positioned woodchip boiler which utilises the estate's timber in a productive way. The project is an excellent example of sympathetic conversion but also of much needed provision of workshops and offices for local traders and craftsmen.

Sculthorpe Moor Community Nature Reserve visitor centre



The new visitor centre at Sculthorpe Moor Community Nature Reserve provides interpretation facilities for visitors and workshop space for visiting groups. The building has been built in an environmentally friendly way using timber from sustainable forests, insulation from recycled newspaper and sheep's wool, guttering from recycled aluminium and plant oils for weather proofing. Sun tubes have been positioned to allow natural light and a 15kw wind turbine has been installed to generate electricity. The centre sits well in the landscape and complements the excellent management of the site.



Eeyore's Barn, Great Hockham

Eeyore's Barn is a workshop building made entirely from re-used clay lump blocks and other reclaimed materials. The clay lumps blocks were salvaged from a garage structure originally built to house the village's first automobile! The cast iron window frames were sourced from a demolition firm in Warwickshire and the roof trusses from a Victorian cowshed about to be demolished in Southburgh. The tiles came from a local reclamation yard. The Barn compliments Eeyore's House, a 15th century three bay hall house with a clay lump extension, and is used as a carpentry workshop for a local tradesman and his apprentices. The project is the perfect example of creating a new building from recycled materials.



Extension to Forncett St Peter Primary School

This one million pound contemporary extension to a Victorian school incorporates 2 new classrooms, a school hall and a main entrance area. The linking between the old and new is subtle and the extension provides a light and airy space for children to learn. The building has a sedum roof and its large windows provide good use of natural lighting. A games area and playground have been provided to the rear of the building linked to an area of natural woodland. This project provides a new educational facility in a Victorian school.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS



Catton Park, Norwich

Catton Park is an historic Grade II* listed 70 acre parkland. Originally designed by Humphrey Repton, the park became farmland after World War Two, and was in need of restoration as a community space. With help from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Catton Park Trust has recontoured and reseeded the park with a wildflower mix, laid fencing on the borders of the park and improved access for the disabled. Trees have been managed, scrub cleared and new planting carried out. A warden was appointed and lives on site in the listed lodge. The restoration has been a true community effort and has restored parkland for the pleasure of the public.

River Glaven Restoration Project



The river Glaven is a small chalkstream in North Norfolk, valuable for habitat and wildlife. The river had suffered over many years from changes in farming and land management practices, and policies for flood management. A lengthy local project, involving large numbers of volunteers, has implemented a range of effective restoration techniques, the impacts of which are being monitored. The main works carried out were the introduction of riffle areas, two lengths of river narrowing, the creation of 3 midstream islands, the removal of spoil and riverbank protection work. The river has been realigned and successfully reconnected with floodplain at one meadow. This was a major community project to improve a degraded river environment while restoring habitat and aquatic life by good management.

Cary's Meadow, Norwich



Cary's Meadow is an idyllic 22 acre site boarded by the railway line, development areas and the River Yare. The site was originally a river meadow but was then used as a tip for building rubbish (concrete, brick and rubble) from the 1960s onwards. Norwich Fringe Project has worked with the local community to recover the site and secure Local Nature Reserve designation. The site is rich in wildflowers and has become an important grassland habitat containing a mix of Calcareous neutral and wet grass lands. Without any sensitive management the grassland habitats could eventually be lost to woodland, so the site is now grazed by small group of cattle to control encroaching scrub. This is an example of how good management of an urban green space can encourage a wide range of flora and fauna and provide a valuable recreational amenity.

Acle, Burlingham, South Walsham & Lingwood Woodland Walks



Burlingham Woods is owned and managed by Norfolk County Council and after some years of neglect, management was resumed in the early nineties. Since then, the woods have been opened for public access. The project has involved local residents, school children and local artists. The walks take in 10 miles of newly planted hedges, a tactile sculpture trail, 11 new woodlands with wheelchair access and 8 new orchards growing traditional varieties of Norfolk fruits. It is an excellent example of a community project encouraging access to new areas of countryside.



Norfolk Biodiversity, Heritage and Health Walks

This Norfolk County Council project aims to establish a series of 150 walks across Norfolk, to enhance physical and mental health, and enjoyment of local heritage. Based around market towns, each area will have 10-15 walks developed, with Aylsham and Thetford the first two areas completed. The project will improve biodiversity, upgrade existing rights of way where needed, and seek to improve communities knowledge of their local area. The walks pass meadows, woodland, rivers, railway cuttings and ancient rights of way. The guide brochures are clear, accessible and provide information about the history and features of the locality. The project is a good example of how local authorities can take a lead in encouraging individuals to engage with the rural environment.



Millennium Woodland, Sprowston

In 1999, Sprowston Parish Council purchased a piece of agricultural land off Church Lane with the aim to establish a range of habitats typical of the local natural landscape. With concerted effort from much of the community, the 2.4 hectare site has been transformed into woodland, marginal scrub, tall wildflower meadow and short flowering sward which is mown short in the season. Native trees such as field maple, hazel, ash, wild cherry, oak, silver birch, hawthorn and crab apple have been planted. Wheelchair access has been included and benches have been positioned to incorporate a varied range of views and aspects. Over time, the project has created a habitat rich area for the benefit of the whole community.



Unicorn Yard, Aylsham

Unicorn Yard is a principle pedestrian access into the historic town centre of Aylsham. For many years, no authority would claim ownership of the route and the way was in a deteriorating state with many potholes. After enquiries were made, Norfolk County Highways committed money sufficient to buy a 2m wide tarmac path and Broadland District Council committed money for a full resurfacing scheme worthy of the conservation area. The project has included resin bound golden gravel finish, cobbled edgings and yorkstone bollards. These simple improvements have improved the quality of an important access route in a market town.



Forest Park Caravan Site

Forest Park Caravan Site is a site of almost 100 acres on the North Norfolk coast. Good management of the site has created well sheltered groves of ornamental trees, paths to hill top viewing points and a variety of wildlife. The caravanning areas are well screened by existing parkland trees and new planting, and meadows are provided for camping. There is also low impact lighting throughout the site. The project provides a good example of providing holiday accommodation without intruding on the existing landscape or coastline.

EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS



Holt Hall - Roots and Shoots

Holt Hall is set in 35 hectares of ancient woodland, lawns, lakes and gardens, close to the North Norfolk coast. The Roots and Shoots project has engaged students from diverse backgrounds in the restoration of a walled kitchen garden at the Hall and facilitates the development of horticultural, teamwork and interpersonal skills. The walled garden produces organic fruit and vegetables which are used to cater for other visiting groups and provides a source of inspiration for schools to replicate in their own grounds. This is an excellent educational initiative which provides opportunities for young people to visit farms, learn practical skills and investigate issues concerning localised food production.



Banham Community Primary School

With the help of Norfolk County Council, the school developed an environmental project to interpret children's ideas about the use of the school grounds. The field was hedged and a pond created with boardwalks, providing an open space for recreation and nature. The children came up with the idea of a nature area, a willow maze and the creation of an artificial hill called 'Banham Peaks'. Tree planting was done by families and raised beds were created to grow fruit and vegetables for the children to eat. The project is an excellent example of how ordinary school grounds can be transformed for environmental learning and recreation.

Erpingham Primary School



Erpingham is a small village school set in the heart of the North Norfolk countryside. The school has adopted a policy of curriculum learning through engagement with the natural environment. Several initiatives are underway to promote first hand practical understanding of the countryside, with help from RSPB and Norfolk Wildlife Trust. The children have their own commercial gardening enterprise to grow and sell their own produce. They manage their own greenhouse, compost area and wormery. A pond and wildlife area has been created and a copse area developed. Children also engage in an Eco-Parliament to develop a more global understanding of environmental issues. This is a first-class example of a school taking the initiative to equip children with a broad foundation of environmental education.



Targetfollow are extremely proud to support the work of the Norfolk branch of CPRE in protecting and enhancing our local environment.

Founded in 1992, Targetfollow is a leading property investment, development and management company specialising in major opportunities in city centres. Since its inception, the Company has grown by acquiring and upgrading its city centre portfolio, with the help of its affiliated companies of RCP Parking and Targetspace.

Targetfollow are based in Norwich and has a staff of 280 people. The Group owns and manages an international portfolio of over 60 properties in the UK, Germany and France including Centre Point, Portman Towers and St Mary Axe in London, Grand Central in Stockport, The Pantiles in Tunbridge Wells, and Baskerville House in Birmingham.

Targetfollow has recently gained planning permission for two new schemes in Norwich. The Duke's Wharf project will regenerate the former Eastern Electricity site into a vibrant mixed use scheme comprising offices, restaurants and cafes together with a new riverside walk, public courtyard and sculpture garden. Consent has also been achieved for Harford Place in Hall Road which will include new shops, restaurants, cafes, a food store, offices and a hotel. There will also be a community arts centre, leisure facilities, and a new public square.

We are delighted to sponsor the 2008 CPRE Norfolk Awards and we congratulate all those entries who have been nominated for delivering their outstanding projects. All these schemes will help to preserve and enhance the unique character and heritage of Norfolk. Targetfollow is proud to be associated with the CPRE and in supporting the hard working Norfolk branch in their drive to protect our local environment.

The Norfolk branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE Norfolk) is a registered charity, a membership network and a voluntary organisation. The branch was founded in 1933 and celebrates its 75th Anniversary in 2008.

CPRE campaigns for a sustainable future for the English countryside; a vital but undervalued environmental, economic and social asset to the nation. We highlight threats and promote positive solutions. Our in-depth research supports active campaigning, and through reasoned argument and lobbying we seek to influence public opinion and decision-makers at every level. CPRE led the campaign to create the town and country planning system, National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and Green Belts.

The CPRE Norfolk Awards scheme is one of Norfolk's longest running Awards schemes, founded in 1979, and provides an opportunity for CPRE to highlight examples of best practice in the countryside and be forward looking. Awards are given on merit for environmental and architectural projects that have made a significant contribution to the quality of the landscape and rural life over the past year. The scheme is very broad based with entries coming from a variety of sources. Historic restoration projects, barn conversions, innovative new building design, landscape management projects and countryside access improvements are all considered. Awards are also given to schools that engage children with the natural environment.

In 2008, the judging panel was Martin Walton, Nancy Legg and Jeremy Stacey. For more information about this year's winning projects, or to enter a project for consideration in future years please visit www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/awards

CPRE Norfolk gives sincere thanks to Targetfollow for their ongoing support of the CPRE Norfolk Awards scheme.



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