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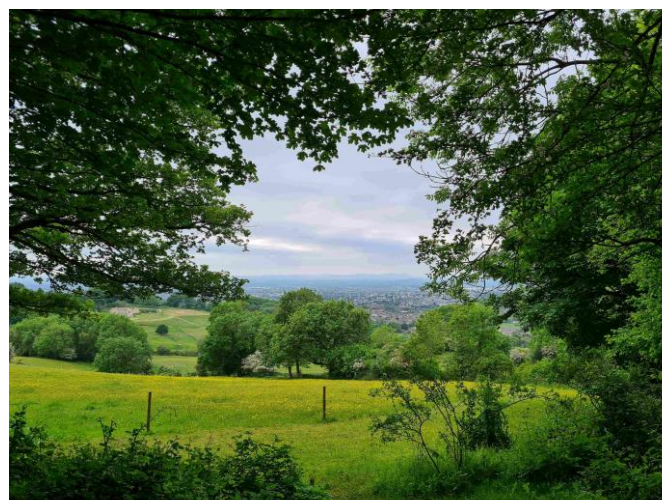
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## On the Edge

CPRE has launched its new 'On the Edge' campaign, which was showcased in the award-winning garden of the same name at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show this year. Together, they celebrate fragile, often-forgotten countryside on the edges of England's towns and cities – and call for urgent government action to protect it.

The campaign invites people across England to pledge their support and contribute to what CPRE believes will be the first-ever interactive map of the English countryside on the edges of towns and cities.

The 'edgelands' around our towns and cities are among the most undervalued landscapes in the country. Under constant threat of development and neglected by policymakers, they are simultaneously vital corridors for nature, critical buffers against climate change and the primary point of contact with the countryside for the 85% of Britons who live in urban areas.



This year, as CPRE marks its centenary, we're turning our attention to these overlooked landscapes: the countryside on the edge of our towns and cities. The grazing land behind new housing estates. The flood meadows, allotments and hedgerows that sit quietly between urban streets and open country.

**The 'On the Edge' campaign calls on government to:**

- **Protect England's Green Belts** by reversing the most damaging impacts of grey belt policy to explicitly exclude Local Nature Reserves and the best agricultural land.
- **Value our edgelands** by setting brownfield-first housebuilding targets, creating a new generation of country parks and establishing five new Regional Parks in areas with limited countryside access.
- **Support edgeland farmers** by providing bespoke support for smallholdings and market gardens – and preventing the further sale of county farms.
- **Involve communities** by backing Community Land Trusts, Local Green Space designations, and committing to the promise that everyone lives within a 15-minute walk of green or blue space.

## BEST KEPT VILLAGE 2026



Towns and villages across Northern Lincolnshire are busy preparing for the annual CPRE Best Kept Village competition, with judging taking place from 11 July until the 1 August.

The judges had a particularly difficult task last year as the standard of the entries was higher than ever, reflected in the consistently high scores that were awarded. The message from the prize winners at the annual Presentation Evening in October was that they are aiming to improve even more this year!

Marks are awarded for general tidiness and appearance, community facilities and features and gardens and community areas. It is always so impressive to see the efforts of local groups and individuals and the judges are always highly complimentary of our delightful villages and towns, especially local residents who work so hard on their gardens and floral displays at the front of their houses.

One of the notable features that judges have commented on in recent years, is the general tidiness of villages and towns and the marked absence of litter. This is not easy to achieve and the result of dedicated litter pickers, whose efforts we have recognised through a special litter champion award (see page 4).

As we indicated in the last newsletter, this year is special, as CPRE Northern Lincolnshire has been organising the Best Kept Village competition for the past 50 years. We are also celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CPRE. To mark the occasion, thanks to the sponsorship of InternetTY, there is a special prize for the best representation of this event and villages and towns are already planning imaginative

displays, which we will report on in our Best Kept Village newsletter, published in September. The newsletter will include all the results and highlights of the competition.

As well as the overall competition, each village and town has the opportunity to enter individual categories, with prizes for the best kept churchyard, cemetery, playground, war memorial and for the best community planting.

Judges give feedback in the form of a written report, which highlights the strengths and most attractive features of the village or town.



What the judges are looking for above everything else is the involvement of the community, taking pride in their local environment, which is the main aim of the Best Kept Village competition.



100  
YEARS



Campaign to Protect  
Rural England  
Northern Lincolnshire

## Celebrating our Centenary – the legacy of CPRE

For one hundred years, the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) - now known as CPRE, The Countryside Charity - has sought to protect the English landscape. England is not an accident of geography. It is the direct result of a century of tireless, strategic campaigning. Founded in 1926, CPRE pioneered the concept of environmental conservation in the UK, transforming public policy and establishing that the countryside was a finite asset requiring urgent protection.

CPRE spent its first two decades campaigning for a democratic, state-regulated planning framework. This culminated in the landmark **Town and Country Planning Act 1947**.

In 1938, CPRE successfully lobbied for the creation of the UK's first **Green Belt** around Sheffield, this policy was later rolled out nationally. Concurrently, CPRE spearheaded a 20-year campaign for wider landscape preservation, resulting in the **National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949**.



In 1985, CPRE successfully campaigned to reform European agricultural directives, cutting funding for ecologically damaging practices and establishing the UK's very first "**green**" farm payments. Decades later, they heavily influenced the **Agriculture Act 2020**, that ensures that public subsidies are tied directly to soil health, hedgerow restoration, and nature recovery.



Over the last few decades, the charity has run campaigns and pioneered new ways to measure and protect the countryside:

- **Tranquillity and Dark Skies:** CPRE mapped the UK's "tranquillity" for the first time in 1995, turning peace and quiet into a measurable planning metric. Their annual **Star Count** campaigns continue to drive national policies targeting light pollution.
- **Brownfield First Policy:** CPRE aggressively campaigns to protect pristine agricultural land from housing developers through its **Brownfield First** policy. The campaign goal is to force local authorities to exhaust all previously developed urban land before releasing any countryside for building.
- **Rural affordable housing:** The campaign goal is to demand that a fixed, high percentage of all new rural housing projects consist of genuinely affordable, low-energy homes earmarked specifically for local residents.
- **Hedgerow Protection:** After a 25-year campaign that secured the Hedgerows Regulations 1997, CPRE's **40by50 campaign** successfully locked in upgraded government targets to expand the national hedgerow network by 40% by 2050.
- **Rooftop Solar First** While CPRE supports renewable energy, it actively campaigns against carpeting productive agricultural fields with massive commercial solar arrays. The campaign goal is to prioritise solar installations on large commercial roofs, car parks, and new-build homes.

Renamed **CPRE – The Countryside Charity** to mark its modern era, we remain dedicated to the belief that the countryside should be a living, breathing landscape accessible to everyone.

## NOMINATE A LITTER HERO

CPRE has campaigned for many years for a litter and waste free countryside that everyone can enjoy.

We are fortunate to have many volunteer litter pickers in Northern Lincolnshire who do such a good job. CPRE has sought to support their efforts with 'Litter Champion' awards at our annual Presentation Evening.



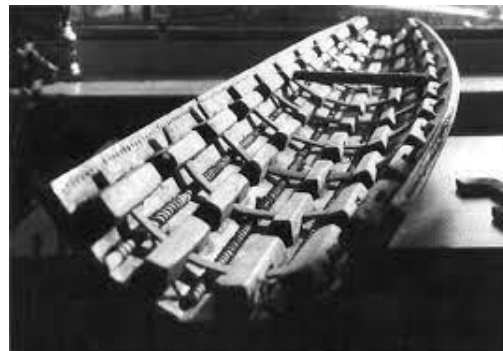
The countryside charity  
Northern Lincolnshire



We are now seeking further nominations for individuals and groups who volunteer to regularly pick litter and help to keep their environment clean and tidy. Nominations can be sent to Jenny Haynes [jenny.haynes@btinternet.com](mailto:jenny.haynes@btinternet.com) or David Rose [davidjohnrose@gmail.com](mailto:davidjohnrose@gmail.com)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

CPRE Northern Lincolnshire's AGM for 2026 will be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October at St John's Hall Brigg, starting at 2.30 pm.



The speaker will be Simon Tomson, local archaeologist and WEA tutor, who will give a talk on Prehistoric Boats in the Humber Region, including the Brigg Craft.

**PLANNING HELP** – If you have any concerns about local plans or potential development in your area, CPRE Northern Lincolnshire can offer professional help or advice using our planning experts. Please contact David Rose [davidjohnrose@gmail.com](mailto:davidjohnrose@gmail.com) or [jenny.haynes@btinternet.com](mailto:jenny.haynes@btinternet.com) giving brief details of your issue or concern.

## JOIN US

Countrywise is the Newsletter of CPRE, the countryside charity – Northern Lincolnshire. The branch is one of over 40 county branches throughout England, with 65,000 supporters nationally. Joining CPRE is open to all and we positively welcome involvement from supporters in all of our activities and campaigns.

If you would like to learn more about us, our website address is [cprenorthernlinincs.org.uk](http://cprenorthernlinincs.org.uk)

If you would like to be more involved, please contact either:

**Chair: David Rose** Tel: 07762056445 Email: [davidjohnrose@gmail.com](mailto:davidjohnrose@gmail.com)

**Secretary: Mary Allen**: Tel: 07977703623 Email: [maryallen491@gmail.com](mailto:maryallen491@gmail.com)