



Yare Valley Society Newsletter

Issue 49

November 2000

Valley Walks

The **Norwich River Valleys Strategy** group, led by Tom Freeland, is doing much to encourage greater enjoyment of the river valleys. For us there is a Yare Valley Walk working party, on which we are represented. Recently Tom organised a whistle-stop tour of sites where paths are being sensitively improved, ranging from Bowthorpe Southern Park to Cooper Wood, Lakenham. Our Society is grateful for the interest and initiative being shown by this Strategy group as well as for efforts being made by others to make the beauty of the valley more accessible to all.

Currently two new developments need to be mentioned. The new link in the Yare Valley Walk at Eaton Golf Course was officially opened on 3 October by Cllr Judith Lubbock. John Thurman represented our Society at the opening. This will undoubtedly prove to be a popular walk - and the beautifully woven fence alongside it is worth a visit in its own right! Also, UEA Farm has recently opened up its land to the public with yet more paths. There are now two leading down into the valley from gates on Bluebell Road, as well as one linking them along the top of the field. These paths provide more accessibility and also greater opportunity for views of the valley as a whole.

A **Winter Walk** has been arranged, with Matthew Davies, for **Sunday 14 January 2001** meeting at 2.00 pm at Cringleford Bridge car park. Matthew has kindly agreed to walk with us up the valley to Earham Bridge (and back), crossing the highly contentious possible new bus route across the valley. Please ring Alison (452330) or Elaine (458657) if you plan to come or please join us on the spur of the moment if that is more practicable.

In September, approximately a dozen members went on an evening walk around Marston Marshes, again with Matthew Davies, which was much enjoyed.

We are also planning to organise a **bird-watching walk** in the spring to be led by Mike Freer around the heronry in Colney Woods, with the permission of Jim Boddy.

Look out for details in our next newsletter.

Also, look out for an article in the EDP on 18 November, when Jean and Charles Boldero intend to feature a walk out of our Millennium book, with another to come later.

Yet another Bartram Mowers' appeal!

The most recent planning application for another extension of the warehouse building was refused by the City Council planning committee in August. There is now to be an appeal against that decision by a Hearing at City Hall on 21 November next. We have been unable to advise you of this in time for you to write to the Planning Inspectorate by the 17 October deadline. We suggest therefore that if you wish to make any **comments** you write to the **Inspector but then either post or deliver your letter to Elaine Tucker, 1 Yare Valley Drive, Cringleford, NR4 7SD** who will be able to present it to the Inspector at the Hearing. You will need to quote the **reference APP/G2625/A/00/1049068: Bartram Mowers, Bluebell Road, Norwich: extension to provide additional workshop space.**

As we well know, every letter is important as the Inspector takes the volume of public opinion seriously into account. Say what you think in your own words. Apart from it being contrary to planning policies and a development inappropriate to the river valley, the grounds for your Society's objection include the cumulative harm that these continual piecemeal extensions to the premises are having on the valley - this was in fact one of the reasons for the dismissal by the Inspector of the last appeal in May. Also, this proposal takes up even more of the area of hard-standing (already depleted by a previous extension) on the river side of the development that is meant for deliveries, parking and storage. Unsightly pallets from here already continually spill over on to the grassy area that forms part of the landscaping of the building. A reduction in the size of the hard-standing through this proposal would make matters worse. In any case (and again included as a reason for the dismissal of the last appeal), there should be no more piecemeal permissions on the Bartram site until the extent and validity of past

permissions is resolved for the site as a whole.
Remember, your letters count!

Possible bus route across the Yare valley between UEA and the new hospital

A "Member Officer Working Group" (i.e. councillors and local government officers) has been meeting for the last few months to discuss and advise on bus services to the new district general hospital at Colney. It has been discussing a number of options including the construction of a new two-lane carriageway across the Yare valley from UEA to the hospital, together with a separate new cycle and pedestrian route. Such a development would require planning permission (which would be an opportunity for us to protest most vigorously against this desecration of the Yare valley) and would not be ready in time for the opening of the hospital. Initially therefore existing bus services will be extended, but proposals for the cross-valley route, we conclude, could well come soon afterwards.

A small sub-committee of our Society plans to meet the Norfolk deputy director of Planning and Transportation shortly to discuss this issue.

Please make your feelings known when you have the opportunity and keep us informed of anything you hear. Your committee will continue to do all it can.

Bowthorpe Link

For a long time the only entrance to Bowthorpe has been from the Dereham Road, or the narrow lane from Bawburgh. Clearly another link was necessary and this has been provided by the new road from the B1108 which necessitated a bridge over the river Yare.

The road leaves the B1108 at the first traffic lights after crossing Earlham Bridge, being in fact the Old Watton Road (now under a 20 mph speed limit) as far as the second entrance to the BUPA Hospital. It then swings right to cross the river. It was opened, as promised, at the end of July.

Seen from the Yare valley walk at West Earlham, the bridge blends into the bank and trees on the rising ground to Colney and is in no way intrusive. The lighting has been well positioned and avoids any light pollution over Bowthorpe Marsh, the nature reserve. Under the bridge there is a good wide path for the Yare valley walk.

To date, the walk is not open beyond the Marsh, as work is being carried out to make sure that it is safe; to complete landscaping to the approaches to the bridge; and to complete the construction of a small car park at the western end of Three Score Road. This work is due to be completed by the end of October.

Water abstraction at UEA

UEA having received permission to abstract water from a borehole adjacent to Bluebell Road, excavations for a pipeline are now taking place. The land will be reinstated.

The Yare Valley Society

GUIDE TO THE YARE VALLEY WALK

This new 16 page guidebook, published in summer 2000, provides full details of the riverside path between Harford and Bowthorpe on the south west fringes of the City of Norwich. With large scale maps, and illustrated with photographs and original drawings, the booklet also provides walkers with information on the history, architecture and wildlife of the area.



Order form, to: Yare Valley Publishers, 20 Bluebell Road, Norwich NR4 7LF

Please send me a copy of the Guide to the Yare Valley Walk.
I enclose a cheque for £1 payable to the Yare Valley Society and a stamped self addressed envelope (16cm x 22cm minimum, with standard first or second class postage stamp affixed)

Your name and address _____

Date _____

Articles, comments and letters for possible publication in future newsletters can be sent to Alison Ward, 20 Brettingham Avenue Cringleford Norwich NR4 6XG