



Yare Valley Society Newsletter

Issue 62

February 2004

Date for your diary

The annual general meeting of the Yare Valley Society will take place on Tuesday 11 May 2004, 7.30 pm, at St Andrew's Church Hall, Church Lane, Eaton. After the business part of the meeting, Professor Trevor Davies from the School of Environmental Studies, UEA will give a short talk, which will be followed by light refreshments.

Please put this date in your diary. It is an opportunity for members to hear what has happened during the past year and what is going on at the present time, as well as to ask questions and raise issues of concern. As you will see below, the valley remains constantly under threat.

Norwich Replacement Local Plan— Bartram Mowers' site, Bluebell Road

You may remember that back in the summer of last year, a Public Inquiry was held into objections concerning the City's proposals for its next Local Plan. Quite a number of you, as well as your Society, wrote letters supporting the City's plans for the Bartram Mowers' site on Bluebell Road and also attended the hearing into the objections that had been made by the owners of the site.

The Inspector's recommendations for any changes to the proposed Plan have now been published. Whilst he recommends that housing would be inappropriate on the site, he is less definite about high technology development—refusing it but saying that the site 'has some potential' to accommodate it.

He also recommends that the river valley policy should no longer apply to the site! This is the policy which has so strongly been accepted as protecting the valley from inappropriate development both by the City Council and successive appeal inspectors over the years. The Inspector accepts that the urban green space policy that also covers the site is right for it—a policy, however, that is far less effective in protecting the area either from buildings or as part of the river valley landscape than the river valley policy itself.

The Inspector's reasons for these recommendations are

that, in his opinion, the site is not part of the river valley 'in terms of landscape character'. This defies all understanding as far as we are concerned.

We have written to the Planning department, with a copy to the chairperson of the planning committee, strongly protesting about the Inspector's opinion. The City Council will decide shortly whether or not to accept the Inspector's recommendations regarding modifications to the Local Plan. **If you live in the city, it is important to make your views known to your local councillor as soon as possible.**

Subscriptions

The beginning of the year means that subscriptions are due. The amount remains £1 per family. Please send your subscription to the Membership Secretary, 42 Bluebell Road, Eaton, Norwich NR 4 7LG. Alternatively hand it to a member of the committee or the person who delivers your newsletter.

Proposed wind turbines in the valley

There is no further information to report since the October newsletter. We will keep you informed if and when planning permission is sought, so that you can then make your views known to South Norfolk District Council.

Social Evening

Twenty-eight members attended this event in Cringleford Playing Field Pavilion last October. After partaking of light refreshments during which there was a good buzz of conversation, the group split into three smaller groups to raise issues which were then shared with all. Among the issues raised were:

- A hearty debate about the possibility of wind turbines being in the valley.
- What provision exists for a Yare valley walk below Harford Bridge? The Norwich Fringe Project has indicated that there are no plans for one at present though it might be worth organising a meeting with

interested individuals to discuss possible routes.
Any offers?

- What is being done about the giant hogweed in the valley? The answer is that the City Council have been cutting down the weed by Cringleford bridge each May for the last year or two and recently have begun to treat it with GycoSafe. They will go on the attack again in May or early June.
- There is a lot of weed in the river and what if anything should be done about it? The NFP has told us that the Environment Agency has been cutting it each year and we need to contact that agency if we have any concern about it.
- The possibility of a walk in the Whitlingham area? We are hoping to arrange this with Matt Davies (NFP) probably in the summer and the ranger for the Whitlingham Country Park would also join us. Details in our April newsletter.

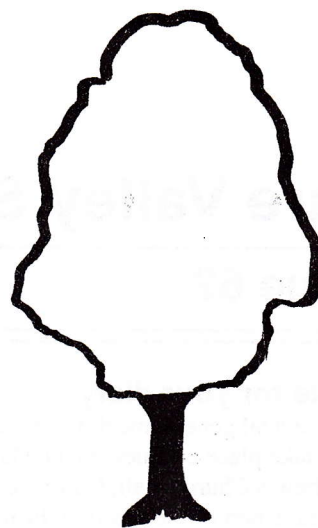
Extension to telecom mast at The Loke, Cringleford

Several years ago many people, including the Yare Valley Society, protested strongly at the erection of this mast. An application has now been made to replace the existing 15 metre column with a new one 20 metres high, carrying 6 antennae and 4 dishes. We have objected to this as even more intrusive in the valley.

Incidentally, the application for the 32.5 metre mast at the A47 end of Colney Wood escarpment, which was mentioned in our last newsletter, was refused by South Norfolk partly on the grounds of being intrusive in the setting of the Yare valley.

Colney Wood Burial Park walk

Please don't be put off by the venue! At the social evening a number of members indicated their interest in a walk around this well designed and very attractive site, especially with the bluebells in bloom. It is in fact a good example of 'appropriate development' within the river valley and one which as Yare Valley Society members we need to see. The walk has been arranged on **Thursday evening 20 May**, meeting at the entrance to the Park at 6.45 pm. We will be shown round by the Services Manager, with the promise of 'no hard sell' but just a pleasant evening. If you are planning to go on the walk, please let Alison Ward know.



Wildlife walk to be led by Glen Collier

The first of the walks led by Glen this year will be on Sunday 25 April 2004, starting at 2.30 pm. Glen will be looking out for birds, particularly migrant visitors and other wildlife. His knowledge of butterflies, as many of you will know, is very impressive. Full details of location and meeting point will be in the next newsletter.

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