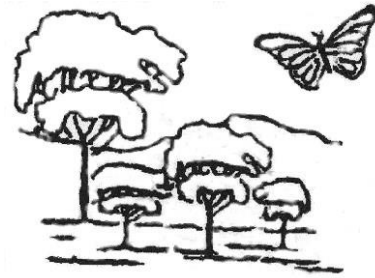


# Yare Valley Society

Enhancing the Valley  
for wildlife and Informal recreation



Newsletter 115 October 2022

Two appeals for your support and action.

## Resist the shrinking of the green space of the Valley

### Proposed building development of Colney Hall Estate

#### Where is it?

The Colney Hall Estate is on slightly higher ground in the Yare Valley to the south of Bawburgh Lakes and west of Bowthorpe Southern Park. It is a key contributor to the landscape character and biodiversity of the Valley. (Access to the estate is from the B1108 Watton Road.)

#### What is proposed?

A developer has submitted an **outline** planning application for part of the Estate, with **all matters reserved** except access, to South Norfolk District Council. The application proposes a retirement living community of up to 210 extra care units with associated communal facilities, a 20 bed care home, an Innovation Centre to include; academic spaces, flexible office/ research and development spaces and administration offices and 20 student resident 6-bed flats. Details of the development can be found at South Norfolk Planning by searching under reference 2022/1547.

A good starting point for understanding the proposals can be found under the documents tab: **Landscape & visual appraisal**.



River Yare in foreground, development proposed in wooded area in background: looking WNW from Bowthorpe Southern Park

## What is the Society doing?

The Yare Valley Society committee is seriously concerned about this threat to build on the green space of the valley. The development can expect to impact on the visual landscape and biodiversity of the valley, and on the effectiveness of the valley corridor in mitigating the effects of climate change. The Society will respond to the application, and its comments will include:

- This is a major development on an environmentally sensitive site. The requirements of South Norfolk District Council Policy DM 1.4 Environmental quality and local distinctiveness should be strictly enforced.
- The site is outside the areas approved for development in the current Greater Norwich Local Plan.
- The development is contrary to South Norfolk District Council Policies that are intended to safeguard the green landscape around Norwich. These include Policy DM 4.5 Landscape Character and River Valleys, Policy DM 4.6 Landscape Setting of Norwich and Policy DM 4.8 Protection of Trees and Hedgerows.
- The development would reduce the green space of the Yare Valley Green infrastructure corridor and impact on its ability to sustain biodiversity in a time of climate change.
- Its development would impact on the effectiveness of the valley corridor in mitigating the effects of climate change, in particular in relation to carbon storage and reducing flooding downstream.
- Much of this part of the Yare Valley, because of the presence of shielding trees and scrub, has a sense of remoteness that would be destroyed by the sight of buildings on the Colney Hall Estate.

## What can you do?

**Please add your voice now to that of the Yare Valley Society by writing to South Norfolk District Council Planning Department giving your own personal view on this proposed development in the green space of the Valley, and how it might impact on you.**

(Technically the deadline for responses has passed, but the South Norfolk Planning Department have assured YVS that comments will continue to be accepted up to the time of determination of the application. Please submit your comments ASAP)



Tranquillity on Bowthorpe Southern Park. Colney Hall Estate in background right

# People's Plan for Nature

## The Bad News

The recent government statements on fiscal policy have grabbed most of the attention in recent days, but environmental groups including the Wildlife Trusts, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the National Trust, and the Council for the protection of Rural England have all voiced their concerns about the Government's recent statements on environmental policy.

From the Wildlife Trusts:

“Over the last few days, the Government has:

- Announced the Retained EU Law Bill – threatening to revoke hundreds of laws that protect wild places and ensure standards for water quality, pollution and the use of pesticides
- Announced a new planning and infrastructure bill as well as investment zones as part of the growth plan, which threaten to weaken vital protections for habitats and wildlife
- Launched a ‘review’ of the long-awaited Environmental Land Management schemes – which were meant to reward farmers for restoring nature, preventing pollution from entering rivers and climate-proofing their businesses
- Lifted a ban on fracking in England, despite there being no evidence that proves fracking is safe”



River Yare at Eaton Watermeadow

Kate Stephenson



On Marston Marsh

Editor

Joan Edwards, director of policy at The Wildlife Trusts, says:

“This is the most destructive set of policies I have seen in over 35 years of working in nature conservation. At a time when nature needs us most, the Government is threatening to turn a very bad situation into a complete disaster. Pursuing a dangerous agenda of deregulation will push much-loved species such as water voles and hedgehogs to the brink of extinction even faster than we'd feared. We depend on the natural world for everything from clean water to food – this has to be respected.”

See <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/news/public-urged-defend-nature-policies>.

## The Good News

A recently announced YouGov Poll commissioned by the National Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the World Wildlife Fund found that 81% of adults believe that nature is under threat and that more needs to be done to protect and restore it.



On Eaton Watermeadow

Kate Stephenson

## What can we do?

The figure of 81% raises the hope that the public will support the environmental charities' campaign to get the government to act to improve the environment, rather than acting to degrade it. The environmental charities invite people to develop a set of public demands to protect nature's future by visiting **People's Plan for Nature** at <https://peoplesplanfornature.org/> before **30 October**.

**Norfolk Wildlife Trust** urges us to other actions as well, and provides easy routes to do this on their website: <https://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/support-us/defend-norfolk-s-nature-we-need-you?viewmode=0?fbclid=IwAR169h5JyQROCKeY1kUJJ2JDDNjK7Dxd9MnfniViP6IH9xDrhgKwQfOZCv4>

## Connections with Nature

A thank you to YVS member Kate Stephenson for two of the above three photos put in to cheer us up and to inspire us to action after reading about the government's intentions. Her Blog [kateonconservation](http://kateonconservation.com) was highlighted in the August Newsletter. She has also written a book:

“In this new anthology; *Connections With Nature: 50 moments of meeting the wild*, join the collective of nature-loving storytellers, known as ‘The Wildlife Blogger Crowd’, on a journey to meet the wild.

Through 50 tales of memorable moments with nature, this anthology serves to remind us of the wonders of the natural world, the benefits of making connections with wildlife and wild spaces, and highlights how our lives are often a lot more entwined with ‘the wild’ than we might immediately realise.”



Stories, pictures and news of activities for possible publication in the Newsletter and/or on the YVS website and Facebook are always welcome at [yarevalleysociety@gmail.com](mailto:yarevalleysociety@gmail.com).