



Yare Valley Boardwalk

An update for donors - September 2025

Thank you for helping to restore a nature trail beloved by the community



A place of peace and natural beauty



For local residents, the Yare Valley Boardwalk is more than a path. It is a favourite stroll, a healthy way to get to UEA, and a much-valued connection with the natural world. When safety concerns forced us to close the popular Yare Valley Boardwalk at UEA in February 2024, it was a significant loss to the community.

Your donations have helped us to move closer to the day we can open this beloved nature trail again. To date, we have raised £1,800, made up entirely of donations from local residents. Thank you so much for your generous giving- your donation really is appreciated and has helped us get to where we are now.

We hope you enjoy reading about our work over the past year to bring about the restoration of the Boardwalk, and to ensure that it meets its users' needs.

Partners and friends

Over the past year, we have been privileged to work with local organisations who have invested time and energy into supporting the Boardwalk project, acting as valued partners. Our heartfelt thanks go to Cringleford Parish Council, Eaton Village Residents Association, Friends of Eaton Park, the Golden Guide, Norfolk County Council, Norwich City Council, Norwich Fringe Project, Yare Valley Meadow Makers and Yare Valley Society for their invaluable support, knowledge and expertise.

A major bid

We have submitted a major funding bid to Greater Norwich Growth Board (GNGB) Infrastructure Investment Fund (IIF), sponsored by Norwich City Council, who were invited to visit the site back in April alongside colleagues from Norfolk County Council. The bid was submitted at the end of July, and we will find out if funds are available in March 2026. If successful, the grant will provide a significant portion of the funds needed to restore the Boardwalk. Match funding and community donations play a crucial part in this bid.



Representatives from Norwich City Council and Norfolk County Council visit the Boardwalk

Meeting community needs

An important part of restoring and improving the Boardwalk is making sure that it meets the needs of the people who will use it. In May, we held two community consultations to gain insight into what locals like about the Boardwalk, what makes them use it and what could make it an even more enjoyable and welcoming facility. It was evident from the community consultation that the Boardwalk was a highly valued nature trail used for exercise, dog walking, family walks and as an accessible route connecting Eaton, Cringleford and UEA. The most common suggestions for the replacement centred around improved signage, benches and resting points, bike parking and a continued focus on protecting the natural beauty of the site. A final report from these sessions was factored into the design, ensuring it truly reflects what users want and need.

Design commissioned

Over summer, we commissioned Norwich Fringe Project to complete a fully costed design of the replacement Boardwalk.

Accessibility is a top priority for the restored Boardwalk, so we invited two wheelchair users to consult with Norwich Fringe to ensure a safe, accessible and enjoyable facility for all. Additional passing places with benches, a relocated dipping platform and a new culvert and bank have been included in the final design of the Boardwalk.



Community consultation at the Willow Centre, Cringleford

Can you help us further?

We are so close to reaching our individual donations target!

As part of our major bid to GNGB-IIF, we committed to raising £2,000 from individual donations and £3,000 from corporate sponsorship. To reach our essential match funding target, we must raise a minimum of £5,000 from individuals and organisations by spring 2026. We are very close to our individual fundraising target: just £200 off our goal having raised £1,800 so far. We would be extremely grateful if you could help us reach our crowdfunding target by raising awareness of the Boardwalk project amongst friends and within your networks, helping to bring in the remaining donations needed.

Please share our info page "[Restore our Boardwalk](#)", and our online [Donation Form](#) or contact o.condra@uea.ac.uk for alternative ways to donate.

Are you, or someone you know, part of a local organisation that's committed to supporting the community and the environment? Do you know a company with strong corporate social responsibility values and engagement? Becoming a corporate sponsor of the Yare Valley Boardwalk at UEA could be the perfect fit! UEA can offer unique sponsorship and exposure benefits to companies who support our Boardwalk project.

Please reach out to Orla Condra, Corporate Giving Manager and fundraiser for the Yare Valley Boardwalk at UEA, e: o.condra@uea.ac.uk for information on corporate sponsorship.



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UEA's philanthropic community enables the University to create pioneering change in the world.

We are harnessing the power of philanthropy to fund and further the University's groundbreaking work, adding global reach and impact. Together, we tackle the world's greatest challenges and transform lives.

The funding you provide is put to work on visionary research, education, campus development, student support and much more.

Thank you for helping to make a difference.

HOW TO GIVE

If you would like to get involved, please donate online at www.uea.ac.uk/dare-to-do-different

Or, to discuss your gift, please get in touch with the Development, Alumni and Campaigns Office.

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