

## Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) - background information

The National Picture: ([www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk))

CPRE is a national charity which campaigns for a beautiful and living countryside. It works to protect, promote and enhance our towns and countryside to make them better places to live, work and enjoy, and to ensure that the countryside is protected now and future generations. There are 43 branches across England, with one in each English county. The national organisation and each branch are separate and independent charities.

National CPRE is governed by a Board of Trustees supported by professional officers based in National Office in Lavington Street, Southwark. The National Chairman is Su Sayer and the Chief Executive is Shaun Spiers. National Office has an important role in communicating and influencing Government Ministers and MPs, and works alongside other environmental charities.

The National Board is assisted in its work by a Policy Committee which includes a range of people representing different areas of expertise, which recommends policy direction to the Board.

The County Branches' Forum meets around three times a year to help co-ordinate work between branches and National Office. CPRE also holds an annual conference to which branches are invited to send representatives.

### The Regional Picture: About the East of England

The East of England is the second largest English region by area at around 19,100 square kilometres (sq km), smaller than only the South West. It is larger than Northern Ireland but smaller than Scotland and Wales. The region covers 9 per cent of the total area of the UK. It has a diverse urban and rural make-up with many scattered urban, town and fringe areas, and a predominantly rural area in northern Norfolk.

Our region is growing: The region had a population of 5.9 million in mid-2012, an increase of over 8.6 per cent since 2001, compared with an overall increase of 5.3 per cent for the UK over the same period. Projected population changes suggest that by 2021, population will be nearly 6.5 million, and in 2030, 7 million - growing faster than the UK as a whole. Past and projected future growth is mainly concentrated around commuter routes in Cambridgeshire, and in north and west Essex, through to Norwich.

In 1991, net international migration to the East of England was 3000; this peaked at 31,000 in 2007 and was 30,000 in 2010. In 1991, net internal migration to the East of England was 9000 - it was 134000 in 2010.

In 2010 the East had the highest total net migration rate of any region in England. In the East of England there was a 4.3 per cent increase of traffic on major roads between 2002 and 2012.

*(Source: Office for National Statistics)*

There are six CPRE branches in the East of England: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Our branches:

- Have over 6600 members
- Involve around 240 active volunteers

- Employ the equivalent of 4.5 full-time staff
- Have a combined income of around £230,00

Our branches face increasing pressures as our region grows: increasing housing and development, new roads and transport issues, an increasing number of wind and solar energy farms, threats to the green belt.

### The Local Picture: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Branch

Today's Cambridgeshire was formed from the historic counties of Cambridgeshire, The Isle of Ely, Huntingdonshire, and The Soke of Peterborough. It was set up over eighty years ago, to ensure the countryside is protected for all to enjoy for now and future generations. We speak up for the English countryside to protect it from the threats it faces, and to shape its future for the better. It now comprises the Districts of Cambridge City, East of Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire, and South Cambridgeshire, while Peterborough is a separate Unitary Council.

Our county remains predominantly rural, with a wide variety of English lowland landscapes. It contains much of the best quality agricultural land in England. It is a sensitive and fragile landscape of gently rolling clay or limestone hills in the west and south, falling to flat open Fen in the north and east. Wide river valleys with extensive meadows meander across this gentle landscape. Reflecting this variety, the villages and market towns also display widely different characteristics.

It is, however, subject to pressures which threaten its traditional character, particularly from intensive arable farming and development. It is the fastest growing County in the fastest growing region of England. We therefore commit ourselves to protect our landscape and rural communities and to seek out ways in which they can be enhanced. We know we have set ourselves an important and never-ending task to watch over our countryside to ensure that it sustains, enchants and inspires future generations.

### The team of people working on behalf of the Branch:

President: Christopher Vane Percy

#### Branch Officers:

Michael Monk (Chairman), contact for Huntingdonshire, *planning issues*  
Sean Traverse-Healy; Lawrence Wragg - shared Vice-Chair, *planning issues*  
Nick de Chenu (Treasurer), based in Cambridge

#### Committee Members:

Sally-Ann Jackson, based in Peterborough, *planning issues*  
Lawrence Wragg, based in Fowlmere, Hertfordshire, *planning issues*  
Gareth Ridewood, based in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, *Website and Huntingdonshire planning issues*  
Sean Traverse-Healy, based in Steeple Morden, Herts, *planning issues*  
Shirley Fieldhouse, Membership Secretary, contact for Cambridge/S Cambs/East Cambs/Fenland.  
Beryl Perez, Volunteer Manager, based in East Cambridgeshire

#### Non-committee members, but invited to attend meetings - 2:

Ivan Ivanovic, based in St Neots, Cambridgeshire, *transport issues*  
Mike Bratby, based in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire

Paid staff, invited to attend meetings - 2:

Tracey Hipson, (Branch Administrator), based in St Ives  
Alison Sargent, (Press Officer), based in Hinxton, Cambridgeshire

Volunteers - members and non-members, with specialist roles - 3:

James Burton, based in Cambridge - Newsletter Editor  
Michael Hellowell, based in Horningsea - litter picking  
Tricia Rowland, based in Over - e-Bulletin Manager

Lizzie Bannister, based in Wimblington, March  
Jane Williams, based in Waterbeach

Open surgeries:

To be held to provide a forum for everyone to meet on an informal basis with the Chair and other Committee members to discuss local issues pertinent to each District as a way of filling the gap left by the demise of the District Groups. One meeting per District to be held each year, funding permitting, to which both members and non-members will be invited.

Branch Website: [www.cprecambs.org.uk](http://www.cprecambs.org.uk)

Branch contact information:

Tracey Hipson, Branch Administrator: Tel - 01480 396698; e-mail: [office@cprecambs.org.uk](mailto:office@cprecambs.org.uk)