



Campaign to Protect  
Rural England  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

# Our Aims

## In Northamptonshire

**Our aims** are to protect and enhance the character and vitality of the countryside in Northamptonshire for the benefit of all.

In particular

- 1 **Climate change:** we advocate action in response to the challenges of climate change, including measures to reduce carbon emissions and to increase biodiversity;
- 2 **Farming:** we support a prosperous farming community in its stewardship of the land;
- 3 **Access:** we encourage access to the countryside in ways which do not harm its landscape and tranquillity; and
- 4 **Development:** we seek to ensure that all development proposals in the county meet the following criteria:
  - a) proposals are not harmful to the environment;
  - b) the sequential release of land, where preference is given to brownfield sites
  - c) our countryside is protected while our towns and villages are regenerated to make them more attractive places to live;
  - d) proposals are backed by reliable and affordable public transport and realistic alternatives to new roads;
  - e) democracy is put back into planning so that the voice of local communities is heard by local planners;
  - f) adequate infrastructure, including flood protection, is provided in advance of all new developments.

**Urban areas:** We care about Northamptonshire's countryside and villages, but we care equally about Northampton and the other urban areas of the county.

## In England

### Who we are

We are people who care passionately about our countryside. The countryside is one of England's most important resources but its beauty, tranquillity and diversity are threatened in many different ways. We are one of the longest established and most respected environmental groups, influencing policy and raising awareness ever since we were founded in 1926.

Patron	Her Majesty The Queen
President	Bill Bryson
Chairman	Sir Nigel Thompson
Chief Executive	Shaun Spiers

The Campaign to Protect Rural England is registered as a charity, number 1089685 with about 60,000 members and supporters. They live in cities and towns as well as villages and the countryside. Anyone who supports our aims is encouraged to join. We operate as a network with over 200 district groups, a branch in every county, a group in every region and a national office, making CPRE a powerful combination of effective local action and strong national campaigning.

## **What we do**

We are an organisation, which campaigns to protect and enhance the countryside for the benefit of all. As well as highlighting threats to the countryside, we carry out research, canvass opinion and advocate solutions. Through reasoned argument, we seek to influence decision-makers at every level – from individual landowners, developers and parish councils to Number 10 Downing Street. We also try to influence a wide range of opinion formers – from local weekly newspapers to national broadcasters. We often work in partnership with other bodies locally and nationally.

## **Our work focuses on**

- Land use planning
- Transport
- Natural resources
- Farming and food
- Quality, character and diversity of the countryside
- Rural services and quality of life.

Our work in these areas leads us to support sustainable development – achieving a balance between protecting and enhancing the environment on which we all ultimately depend and achieving economic and social progress. Sometimes it leads us to campaign on issues indirectly linked in the countryside; for example, if the quality of life in England's towns and cities is not improved people will continue to leave them in large numbers for more rural areas.

We do not stand for a fossilized countryside – we accept that it has always changed and will continue to do so. It is likely to undergo major changes as global warming affects the temperature and volatility of our climate. But we want change to be managed and to preserve the things we treasure most about the countryside – both its beauty, diversity and tranquillity. and its ability to provide us with food and to support wildlife.

So we fight destructive decisions and encourage positive ones. For example, through lobbying, advice, research, publicity and education, we work to prevent:

- unnecessary building and development on greenfields
- massive road, airport and port developments which destroy countryside
- degradation of landscapes and habitats caused by some intensive farming practices
- pollution – including light and noise pollution – in rural areas.

We work to encourage:

- regeneration of urban areas and better use of empty homes
- protection of quiet country lanes and positive alternatives to road building
- locally grown and marketed foods
- sustainable management of natural resources.

To succeed, we rely on our active volunteers, members and supporters.