

# Conservation

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## RURAL LANDSCAPES



England's fragile rural landscapes face inescapable pressures for change. The challenge for the heritage sector is to work with others to ensure that change is managed in ways that sustain the vital historic character of the countryside on behalf of the millions of people who value it so highly.

Continued maintenance of Cornelius Vermuyden's great 17th-century drainage works, the Old and New Bedford Rivers, is essential to sustain the fenlands of East Anglia. But can this vast historic landscape survive in the face of climate change and rising sea levels?

- 
- 2 Our Evolving Countryside**
  - 3 Why our Rural Landscapes Matter**
  - 3 Landscapes of the hand and mind
  - 5 The view from the CLA
  - 6 CPRE calls for deeds not words
  - 8 Made in England
  
  - 10 Challenges for the Countryside**
  - 10 A turning-point for the uplands?
  - 12 Historic farmsteads
  - 14 Rural places of worship
  - 15 Affordable rural housing
  - 16 Rural World Heritage Sites
  - 18 Minerals extraction
  
  - 20 The Weight of Evidence**
  - 20 *England's Landscape*
  - 22 Mapping the landscape
  - 24 Understanding through archaeological survey
  - 26 Scheduled Monuments at risk
  - 27 Conservation of Scheduled Monuments in cultivation
  
  - 29 Managing Change in the Countryside**
  - 29 RDAs and rural heritage
  - 31 A sort of national property
  - 33 AONBs: managing landscapes of complex value
  - 35 Stewardship of the past
  - 37 Building value in the landscape
  - 38 Beating the Bounds
  - 39 Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund
  


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  - 42 News**

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  - 44 The National Monuments Record**

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  - 46 Legal Developments**

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  - 47 New Publications**

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