

Planning Committee

7 August 2026

Agenda item number 12

Norfolk Community Safety Partnership: Norfolk Heritage Watch- Strategic Delivery Plan 2026-2029

Report by Planning and Heritage Officer

Summary

Norfolk Community Safety Partnership has produced the Norfolk Heritage Watch - Strategic Delivery Plan 2026/29. This plan sets out the aims of the newly formed Norfolk Heritage Watch and supporting Heritage Crime Partnership, which are to strengthen and improve multi-agency response to heritage crime in Norfolk.

Recommendation

That the Planning Committee endorses the Norfolk Community Safety Partnership - Norfolk Heritage Watch - Strategic Delivery Plan 2026-2029 and note that a Planning Officer will represent the Authority at the Norfolk Heritage Crime Partnership.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document sets out the basis and aims of the newly formed Norfolk Heritage Watch and associated Norfolk Heritage Crime Partnership which have been convened by the Police Crime Commissioner for Norfolk and the Norfolk Community Safety Partnership.
- 1.2. The Norfolk Community Safety Partnership (NCSP) brings together organisations from across Norfolk to tackle crime and disorder. The members of the NCSP represent local councils, policing and fire services, probation, youth offending, health and housing.
- 1.3. In Norfolk, the Community Safety Partnership is hosted and managed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCCN).
- 1.4. Norfolk Heritage Watch and the associated Norfolk Heritage Crime Partnership have been formed to strengthen and improve multi-agency response to heritage crime in Norfolk.
- 1.5. The document defines heritage crime as any offence which harms the value of heritage assets and their setting and goes on to give examples of both designated and non-

designated heritage assets (see page 3 and 4). Of the 11,458 designated heritage assets within Norfolk, only 321 are sited within the Broads Authority Executive Area.

- 1.6. The formation of Norfolk Heritage Watch followed a series of roundtable events with key stakeholders, including the Historic England, English Heritage, National Trust, Norfolk Archaeological Trust, Norfolk Churches Trust, Norfolk Constabulary, County, District, Borough and City Councils as well as representation from the Broads Authority.
- 1.7. The delivery plan sets out three defined pillars of focus for Norfolk Heritage Watch with identified actions, lead organisation and delivery dates. These are set out on pages 7 through to 9 of the document, under the headings of:
 - Pillar 1: Crime Prevention and Security Measures
 - Pillar 2: Communications and Engagement
 - Pillar 3: Children and Young People
- 1.8. Fourteen actions are set out under the three pillars. These vary from the development of a neighbourhood alert system (lead by Norfolk Constabulary), through to recruitment and training of Norfolk Heritage Watch Volunteers to monitor and report suspicious activity (lead by Historic England) and also include working with young people including through Heritage Skills Workshops (lead by the OPCCN, Norfolk County Council and Historic England).
- 1.9. The Broads Authority would not take a lead role in any of the proposed actions, but where appropriate can contribute through engagement with this body. This is not considered to be onerous.
- 1.10. Endorsement of the delivery plan will provide another way in which the Broads Authority can work towards fulfilling one of the aims of the National Parks Joint Statement for Historic Environment, of which the Broads Authority is a signatory. This sets out that National Parks should actively tackle and promote awareness of heritage crime.

2. Financial implications

- 2.1. Biannual representation of the Broads Authority at meetings of the Norfolk Heritage Crime Partnership by either the Heritage and Design Manager or the Planning and Heritage Officer. This would likely take the form of attendance at online meetings twice per year. As such financial implications are limited.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1. It is considered that the Norfolk Heritage Crime Partnership and the Broads Authority involvement should help us to protect the heritage of the Broads and understanding of heritage crime through partnership working.

- 3.2. Through involvement with this body the Broads Authority will work towards the action plan activity ([to]Actively tackle and promote awareness of heritage crime) set out in the Joint Statement on the Historic Environment in the National Parks of England, Scotland and Wales.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1. That the Planning Committee endorses the Norfolk Community Safety Partnership - Norfolk Heritage Watch - Strategic Delivery Plan 2026-2029 and note that a Planning Officer will represent the Authority at the Norfolk Heritage Crime Partnership.

Author: Jack Ibbotson

Date of report: 15 July 2026

[Broads Plan](#) Strategic Objectives: Theme D: Protecting landscape character and the historic environment. (D1 - Record, protect and enhance local built and cultural features, archaeology, geodiversity and potential hidden heritage, including 'at risk' assets)

Appendix 1 – [DRAFT Norfolk Community Safety Partnership: Norfolk Heritage Watch - Strategic Delivery Plan 2026-2029](#)

Appendix 2 – [Joint Statement on the Historic Environment in the National Parks of England, Scotland and Wales – Action Plan](#)

(NCSP Branding)

(OPCC Branding)

Norfolk Community Safety Partnership

**NORFOLK HERITAGE WATCH
STRATEGIC DELIVERY PLAN 2026-2029**



Foreword

Putting Prevention in my Police and Crime Plan, I stated that *“I will Protect Norfolk’s heritage”* and since its publication I have engaged with key stakeholders to understand the scale and issues we are faced with in Norfolk, and what we can do to protect more than 10,000 sites which are of such communal and historical importance, providing invaluable employment and educational opportunities and drawing in visitors from home and abroad.

The only way to safeguard Norfolk’s rich heritage is through collaborative action, community vigilance, and sustainable engagement. Therefore, I have worked with the Norfolk Community Safety Partnership to develop Norfolk Heritage Watch, which comprises a network of key stakeholder organisations committed to working together to enhance the work we already do and develop new joint initiatives to tackle Heritage Crime. The group has identified its objectives, and this plan sets out the activity that will be delivered in support of these. This is supported by a communications and engagement strategy, to ensure the necessary sustainable engagement happens and is effective in raising awareness and encouraging wider community participation in our quest.

Although Norfolk Heritage Watch will work through the Norfolk Community Safety Partnership, to maximise its reach and utilise the opportunities this brings, I will continue to sponsor the programme, remain engaged, support the implementation of the delivery plan and keep up to date with developments and progress, using my networks and influence at a national and local level.



St Benet's Abbey, Ludham ©Norfolk Archaeological Trust

Sarah Taylor
Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

What is Heritage Crime

Heritage crime is any offence which harms the value of heritage assets and their settings.

Some **Heritage assets** such as historic buildings, monuments, landscapes, and archaeological sites, which are vital to our shared history and identity, are protected by laws to prevent damage or unauthorised changes. However, heritage crime is not limited to breaches of heritage-specific legislation. Offences like theft, criminal damage, arson, and anti-social behaviour can also cause significant harm. These acts not only damage the physical fabric of heritage assets but also diminish public access, enjoyment, and understanding of our cultural legacy. Protecting heritage from crime is essential to preserving it for future generations.

A heritage asset is a building, monument, site, place, area, or landscape identified as having heritage significance and contributing to England's historic environment. These assets are valued for their historic, architectural, archaeological, or cultural importance and may be formally designated or locally acknowledged. Heritage assets include: ¹

- Listed buildings – structures of special architectural or historic interest
- Scheduled monuments – nationally important archaeological sites or historic buildings
- Registered parks and gardens – landscapes of special historic interest
- Registered battlefields – sites of significant historic military engagements
- Protected marine wreck sites – historically important shipwrecks
- Protected military remains – aircraft and vessels of historic military interest
- Conservation areas – areas of special architectural or historic character
- Non-designated heritage assets – buildings, sites, or features identified as having local heritage value

These assets are vital to understanding and preserving the story of England's past, and they play a key role in shaping our cultural identity and sense of place.

Norfolk's Heritage

There are over eleven thousand designated heritage assets across the county, with around of quarter of these in South Norfolk.

District	Designated heritage assets
Breckland	1,741
Broadland	1,047
Great Yarmouth	447
King's Lynn & West Norfolk	1,686
North Norfolk	2,449
Norwich City	1,081
South Norfolk	3,007
Broads Authority	321
Total	11,458

¹ Historic England (2025) www.historicengland.org.uk

Norfolk is home to a rich and varied heritage, spanning prehistoric landscapes, medieval churches, and coastal defences. The county's historic environment includes:

- Neolithic and Bronze Age sites such as barrows and causewayed enclosures
- Iron Age hillforts and Roman settlements, including *Venta Icenorum*
- Medieval castles and churches, including Norwich Castle and the round-tower churches unique to East Anglia
- Mansions, gardens and landscape parks, such as Holkham Hall and Blickling Estate
- Coastal heritage, including WWII anti-invasion defences and Cold War installations
- Historic windmills, marshland drainage systems, and flint-built structures
- Protected landscapes, including the Norfolk Broads and designated conservation areas

Norfolk Heritage Partnership

Norfolk Heritage Watch has been created to prevent heritage crime and anti-social behaviour affecting these irreplaceable assets, by championing community crime prevention initiatives that empower the public to monitor and report heritage crime.

Key stakeholders have come together to form a Norfolk Heritage Watch Network, to work better together and where possible strengthen joint action. This plan is the first step for the Network, which will meet twice a year to monitor delivery, share knowledge, drive delivery, and identify new opportunities.

Aims & Objectives

The aims of Norfolk Heritage Watch are to...

- Protect Norfolk's heritage assets and historic environment from the threat and impact crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Prevent and reduce heritage-related crime and anti-social behaviour through intelligence sharing. Support intelligence sharing between heritage organisations, law enforcement, and the public and putting in place effective preventative measures.
- Prevent unauthorised works at heritage sites, with Local Planning Authorities making use of their statutory planning and enforcement powers where appropriate.
- Foster local stewardship by empowering communities, volunteers, and partner organisations to take an active role in safeguarding heritage.
- Raise awareness and appreciation of Norfolk's historic sites and the risks to heritage assets, including theft, vandalism, arson, unauthorised metal detecting, and unauthorised development.
- Encourage vigilance and promote the reporting of damage and theft, vandalism and graffiti, arson and deliberate fires, unlawful metal detecting (nighthawking) and neglect and unauthorised development.

- Collaborate across agencies for effective monitoring, response, and education.
- Promote crime prevention through education, signage, and community engagement.

The Norfolk Heritage Crime Partnership

To support the development of Norfolk Heritage Watch, a Norfolk Heritage Crime Partnership has been established. This provides a voice to all stakeholders, builds a network for knowledge sharing and collaboration, and is the interface between the Police and Crime Commissioner and other seniors leaders in the county and professionals and volunteers working to protect Norfolk's heritage.

The Partnership is Chaired by... and meets twice a year to share insights, best practice and review national and local policy development, and in doing so, monitoring and facilitating the implementation of this plan, keeping it up to date and ensuring it reflects new and emerging priorities.

The Partnership will report into the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Norfolk Community Safety Partnership on a quarterly basis via the Chair, supported by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

		Agreed
Breckland District Council		
Broadland District Council		Y
Broads Authority		N
The Churches Conservation Trust		N
English Heritage Trust		N
Forestry England		Y
Great Yarmouth Borough Council		N
Heritage Youth Partnership		N
Historic England		Y
Historic Houses		N
King's Lynn and West Norfolk District Council		N
National Trust		N

Neighbourhood Watch		N
Norfolk Archaeological Trust		Y
Norfolk Constabulary		Y
Norfolk County Council		Y
Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service		N
Norfolk Churches Trust		?
Norfolk Museums Service		Y
Norfolk Wildlife Trust		?
North Norfolk District Council		
Norwich Historic Churches Trust		N
Norwich City Council		Y
Portable Antiquities Scheme		?
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds		?
South Norfolk District Council		Y

Delivery Plan

In the roundtable events held to develop Norfolk Heritage watch, the nature and scale of heritage crime and the current response in Norfolk was explored. These discussions demonstrated that the police are already working strongly with other stakeholders and many initiatives and much activity is already taking place. However, members of the partnership challenged each other to do more and identify where collaboration could be strengthened and what other opportunities exist to prevent heritage crime and achieve the objectives and ambitions set out in this plan. A range of opportunities have been identified and new activity planned and this is set out in the plan below.

Pillar 1: Crime Prevention & Security Measures

Actions	Lead	Delivery date
Development of neighbourhood alert system	Norfolk Constabulary	TBD
Historic England to deliver a programme of training to... - Heritage professionals - Asset owners and landowners - Norfolk Heritage Watch volunteers	Historic England	26/27
Develop knowledge base of vulnerable heritage sites	- Historic England - OPCCN - Norfolk Constabulary	December 2026
Undertake site security audits and develop and publish toolkits for site owners to undertake their own audits	Historic England	December 2026
Identify opportunities to deploy CCTV, drone patrols and other technologies at high-risk sites	Norfolk Constabulary	26/27

Pillar 2: Communications and Engagement

Actions	Lead	Delivery date
Develop a communications and engagement plan for Norfolk Heritage Watch	OPCCN	July 26
Norfolk Heritage Watch Volunteers: recruit and train local volunteers to monitor condition and report suspicious activity.	Historic England	26/27
Norfolk Heritage Watch Police Support Volunteers (PSVs): review the benefit of introducing expert PSVs and test the feasibility of introducing these in Norfolk.	Norfolk Constabulary Historic England	26/27
Participate in Heritage Open Days to raise awareness of Norfolk's heritage and the threat of crime and anti-social behaviour.	All relevant partners	26/27
Local Heritage Champions: Identify and support community leaders to advocate for heritage protection.	Historic England	26/27

Pillar 3: Children & Young People

Actions	Lead	Delivery date
Work with Police/Fire cadets and other youth groups to utilise national programmes such as <i>'Junior Heritage Watch'</i> and <i>'Heritage Guardians'</i> to engage young people to strengthen their sense of belonging and well-being	• OPCCN • Norfolk County Council • Historic England	26/27
Youth-Led Heritage Site Monitoring: Involve young people in supervised site visits and monitoring	• OPCCN • Norfolk County Council • Historic England	26/27
Heritage Skills Workshops: Partner with conservation experts to teach traditional skills e.g., masonry, archaeology etc	• OPCCN • Norfolk County Council • Historic England	26/27
Digital Storytelling Projects: Encourage young people to document and share local heritage stories	• OPCCN • Norfolk County Council • Historic England	26/27

Monitoring and Outcomes

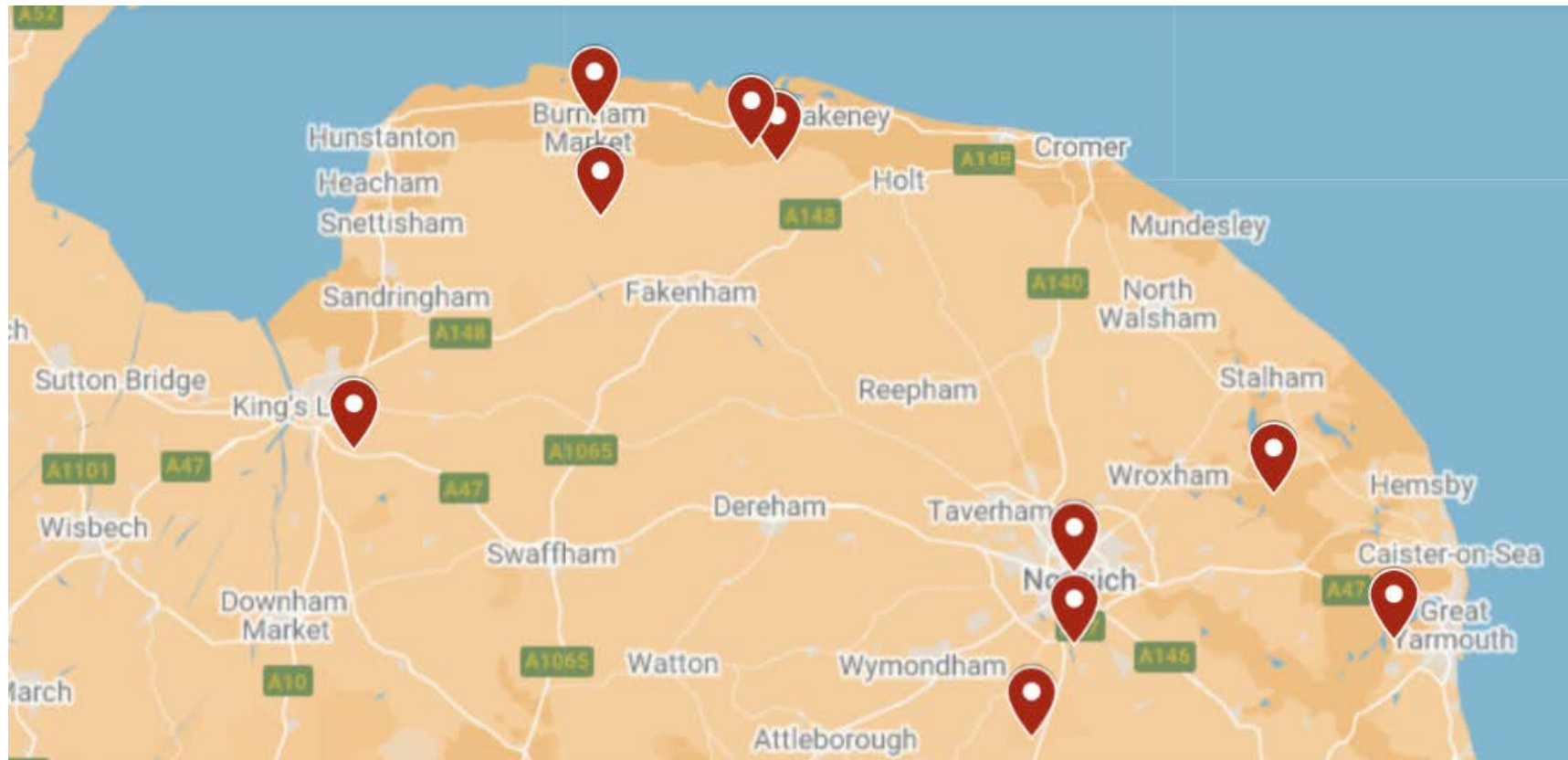
The aim of Norfolk Heritage Watch and the supporting Heritage Crime Partnership is to strengthen and improve the multi-agency response to heritage crime in Norfolk, through leadership and collaboration. It is not a mechanism through which the performance and actions of its members are scrutinised. Therefore, ongoing monitoring will take place to understand the direction of travel in relation to several indicators of heritage crime and the impact of collective efforts. Wherever possible, the impact of specific projects will be evaluated, to improve learning and inform future workstreams.

The following data will be collated and reviewed on a regular basis...

- **Heritage crime reports**
- **Heritage ASB incidents**
- **Numbers of Heritage Police Support Volunteers (PSV)**
- **Number of engagements with children & young people**
- **Community awareness and satisfaction levels**

Appendix A: Agency and Heritage Sites







HISTORIC HOUSES



Kirstead Hall
7 MILES FROM SEARCH
Brooke, Norwich, Norfolk, NR15 1ER



Hoveton Hall Gardens
9 MILES FROM SEARCH
Hoveton Hall Gardens, St Peters Lane, Hoveton, Norwich NR12 8RJ



Kimberley Hall
9 MILES FROM SEARCH
Wymondham, Norfolk, NR18 0RT



Earsham Hall
13 MILES FROM SEARCH
Earsham, Bungay, Suffolk, NR35 2AN



Linden House
22 MILES FROM SEARCH
16 Lambeth Street, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7AG



Hindringham Hall
23 MILES FROM SEARCH
Hindringham, Norfolk, NR21 0QA



Walsingham Abbey
25 MILES FROM SEARCH
Little Walsingham, Norfolk, NR22 6BP



Bedfield Hall
26 MILES FROM SEARCH
Church Lane, Bedfield, Suffolk, IP13 7JJ



Elsing Hall
13 MILES FROM SEARCH
Elsing, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 3DX



Raveningham Hall & Gardens
13 MILES FROM SEARCH
Norwich, Norfolk, NR14 6NS



Mannington
15 MILES FROM SEARCH
Norwich, Norfolk, NR11 7BB



Wolterton Hall
15 MILES FROM SEARCH
Wolterton Park, Norwich, Norfolk, NR11 7LY



Euston Hall
28 MILES FROM SEARCH
Thetford, Suffolk, IP24 2QP



Crow's Hall
29 MILES FROM SEARCH
Crows Hall, Debenham, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 6NG



Holkham Hall
30 MILES FROM SEARCH
Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, NR23 1AB



Houghton Hall & Gardens
30 MILES FROM SEARCH
King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE31 6UE



Somerleyton Hall
18 MILES FROM SEARCH
Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 5QQ



Silverstone Farm
19 MILES FROM SEARCH
North Elmham, East Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 5EX



Stody Lodge Gardens
19 MILES FROM SEARCH
Melton Constable, Norfolk, NR24 2EW



Brinton Hall
21 MILES FROM SEARCH
Stody Road, Brinton, Melton Constable, Norfolk, NR24 2QH



Columbine Hall
31 MILES FROM SEARCH
Stowupland, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 4AT



Haughley House
31 MILES FROM SEARCH
The Folly, Haughley, Suffolk, IP14 3NS



Glemham Hall
32 MILES FROM SEARCH
Little Glemham, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 0BT



Helmingham Hall Gardens
32 MILES FROM SEARCH
Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 6EF



Sandringham
35 MILES FROM SEARCH
Sandringham, Norfolk, PE35 6EN



West Stow Hall
35 MILES FROM SEARCH
Icklingham Road, West Stow, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP28 6EY



Clifton House
39 MILES FROM SEARCH
Queen Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 1HT



The Valiant Sailor
39 MILES FROM SEARCH
2 Nelson Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 5DY





NORTH ELMHAM CHAPEL

10.15 miles from Norfolk

A place with an unusual story told by graphic panels. The small Norman chapel here stood on the site of an earlier timber church, probably the Saxon cathedral of East Angles.

Norfolk, East of England



GRIME'S GRAVES - PREHISTORIC FLINT MINE

13.04 miles from Norfolk

Visit Grime's Graves and explore Britain's only open Neolithic flint mine.

Norfolk, East of England



THETFORD, CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

15.10 miles from Norfolk

The only surviving remains in England of a priory of Canons of the Holy Sepulchre, who aided pilgrims to Christ's tomb: the ruined nave of their 14th-century church, later used as a barn.

Norfolk, East of England



CASTLE ACRE CASTLE AND BAILEY GATE

10.18 miles from Norfolk

The delightful village of Castle Acre boasts an extraordinary wealth of history and is a very rare and complete survival of a Norman planned settlement.

Norfolk, East of England



WEETING CASTLE

14.94 miles from Norfolk

The ruins of a substantial early medieval moated manor house, built in local flint.

Norfolk, East of England



THETFORD WARREN LODGE

15.16 miles from Norfolk

Thetford Warren Lodge was probably built c.1400 by the Prior of Thetford: this defensible lodge protected gamekeepers and hunting parties against armed poachers.

Norfolk, East of England



CASTLE ACRE: CASTLE ACRE PRIORY

10.33 miles from Norfolk

Explore East Angles' biggest and best-preserved monastic ruins

Norfolk, East of England



THETFORD PRIORY

14.94 miles from Norfolk

The extensive remains of one of the most important East Anglian monasteries, the Cluniac Priory of Our Lady of Thetford and the burial place of the earls and dukes of Norfolk for 400 years.

Norfolk, East of England



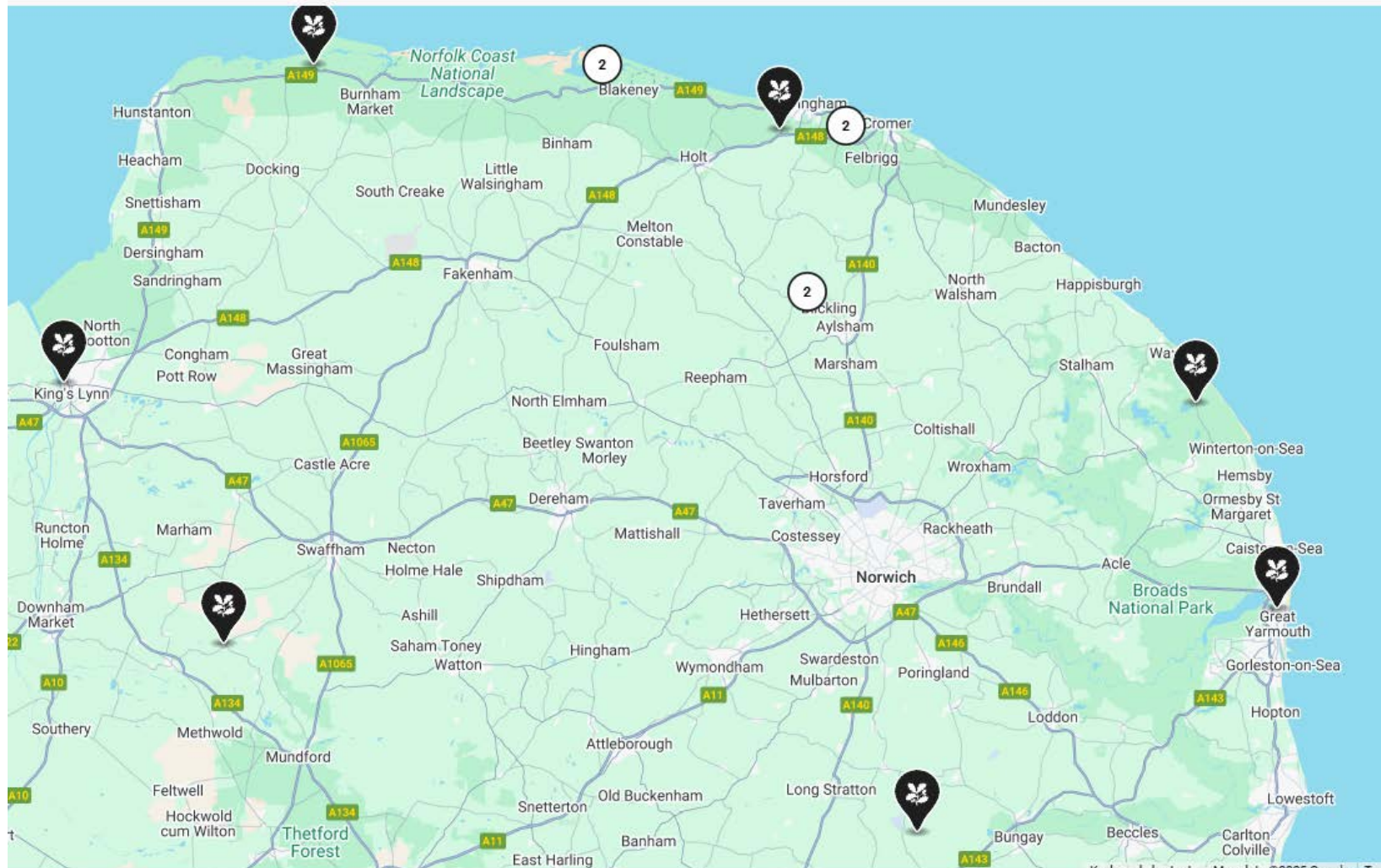
COW TOWER, NORWICH

17.81 miles from Norfolk

One of the earliest purpose-built artillery blockhouses in England, this brick tower was built in c.1395-8 to command a strategic point in Norwich's city defence.

Norfolk, East of England





National Parks Joint Statement for Historic Environment: *Together, championing the past to inform the future*

Purpose one: to conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage

Aim

Signatories show leadership and innovation through:

- championing the historic environment, cultural heritage and creative arts
- partnerships, collaboration and integrated policies
- actively conserving, enhancing, promoting and securing the benefits the historic environment provides for nature, climate, people and place
- finding new ways to tell the stories of our cultural landscapes, past human endeavour and creativity relevant to contemporary communities

Activities

- Maintain Joint Statement including annual meetings, with UK-wide National Park and Agency representation
- Develop partnerships and align delivery with organisations who share our ambitions
- Develop collaborative programmes of research
- Embed the principles of international cultural heritage conventions into policies and plans
- Identify and integrate research, conservation and engagement to inform and respond to local and national policy development and objectives
- Collaborate in innovative approaches and use of new and emerging technologies
- Promote Cultural Heritage Capital case studies and models
- Advocate to raise awareness and benefits of the sector (e.g. attending conferences, Member champions, Minister briefings)

Outcomes

- Joint Statement signatories are connected, aligned and part of a mutually supportive network
- Increased collaboration and mutual understanding between key partners and agencies to further the National Park Purposes and Duty
- Cultural heritage is valued and integrated in National Park strategies and operational delivery
- UK National Parks acknowledged as global exemplars in cultural landscape management
- Culture and Heritage Capital approaches work equally to, and alongside, Natural Capital models
- Innovative and integrated communications champion the historic environment and its relevance and value

Advocacy & Partnerships

National Parks Joint Statement for Historic Environment: *Together, championing the past to inform the future*

Purpose one: to conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage

Places, Planning & Protection

Aim

National Parks will ensure we meet the social and ethical contract as both inheritors and benefactors for our shared historic and cultural story.

The tangible and intangible cultural heritage of National Parks will:

- be protected for the benefit of current and future generations
- help secure benefits for nature, climate, people and place
- support managed adaptation that retains natural beauty, identity, and resilience within living landscapes

Activities

- Maintain continued access to heritage expertise
- Maintain and enhance access to Historic Environment Records (HERs) and use HER data in decision making
- Include intangible cultural heritage in policy and decision making
- Deliver timely and consistent advice through a variety of mechanisms to protect designated and non-designated heritage assets
- Improve monitoring activities to provide robust and reliable evidence on the condition of assets (e.g. Heritage at Risk, QQ survey, H@R, Citizen Science initiatives)
- Periodically review research priorities
- Work with farmers, land managers, businesses and ALBs to enhance awareness and maximise the benefits the historic environment can deliver
- Actively tackle and promote awareness of heritage crime
- Advocate nationally for heritage skills

Outcomes

- Cultural heritage is conserved and enhanced
- Research priorities reflect the needs of National Parks and wider national policy priorities
- Sustainable development of the highest design standards complements and enhances our historic settlements and landscapes
- Intangible cultural heritage is recognised, understood and sustained
- Reliable evidence underpins decision-making
- Fewer designated heritage assets are at risk or vulnerable
- Heritage assets are better recorded, managed and in improving condition
- Effective enforcement and reduction in heritage crime
- Cultural heritage is championed and recognised as a key contributor to the visitor economy
- Heritage skills and traditional crafts are championed and supported

National Parks Joint Statement for Historic Environment: *Together, championing the past to inform the future*

Purpose one: to conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage

Heritage in Nature Recovery & Climate Action

Aim

Contribution to nature recovery and climate adaptation delivered through:

- co-benefits, enhancement, engagement and direction provided by the historic environment which are valued and recognised
- provision of a deep time lens on land use and human impact
- showing how decisions can be informed by the human journey so far and help build the resilient landscapes of tomorrow

Activities

- Integrate the historic environment into National Park Climate Change Adaptation plans strategies, opportunity mapping, habitat creation planning and BNG
- Advocate for early inclusion of historic environment expertise in nature recovery planning, delivery and monitoring
- Promote national guidance on adaptive practice (i.e. sensitive retrofit of historic buildings, historic environment and nature recovery etc.)
- New conservation and management approaches are developed, tested and evaluated in National Parks to support heritage-led climate adaptation
- Provide case studies to support dialogue around landscape change, climate adaptation and managed release
- Invest in carbon literacy skills
- Use historic environment to help communicate climate and landscape change

Outcomes

- The historic environment is integrated into nature recovery programmes, as part of multi-objective landscape scale approaches
- Far-reaching and robust understanding of the contribution of historic environment to nature recovery with partners
- The historic environment is integrated into planning and delivery of climate adaptation, climate action and net zero plans
- There is a wider understanding and recognition of the role heritage assets can deliver in low carbon future
- Conservation objectives are flexible and fit for a changing climate
- Cultural heritage stories increase public understanding of human adaptation over time and help people engage with low carbon futures

National Parks Joint Statement for Historic Environment: *Together, championing the past to inform the future*

Purpose one: to conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage

Landscapes for Everyone

Aim

Deep and meaningful connections are fostered and nurtured between people and landscape through:

- promoting equality, diversity and inclusivity in all our work
- increasing engagement with and access to the historic, cultural and creative environments
- development of a diverse and representative cultural heritage workforce with opportunities at all levels
- supporting routes to employment and skills and creating opportunities and resilience in heritage, creative and cultural sectors

Activities

- Support continuous professional development
- Develop projects and opportunities to provide accessible routes to training and careers in Protected Landscapes
- Through partnership working, understand demographic and visitor profiles and identify opportunities to support and engage under-represented audiences
- Embed the historic environment into access and engagement projects and initiatives
- Work with the creative sector to support socially engaged creative practice responding to National Park landscapes
- Deliver and support health and wellbeing initiatives using heritage, traditional crafts and creative arts
- Support schools to develop locally relevant and curriculum compliant learning experiences that showcase culture and heritage in National Parks
- Support community research

Outcomes

- National Parks have well trained, experienced, and highly qualified staff with a high level of local knowledge
- Young people have better access to heritage-related training and skills development through projects, traineeships and apprenticeships, responding to the national skills agenda and local need
- Cultural heritage is used to tell diverse stories to support and increase custodianship, and contribute to increased wellbeing
- More people of all ages and backgrounds have had positive experiences of cultural heritage and creativity and feel more connected to National Parks
- People are more aware of the time depth over which humans have shaped National Park landscapes
- Physical, virtual, and intellectual access will be improved, and a greater diversity of people will engage with the historic environment

Legislation & Regulation

- National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949
- Environment Act 1995
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- Planning Policy (legislation + regulation) all nations
- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
- Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023
- Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023
- Welsh Language Act 1993 / Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Equality Act (2010)
- Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023
- The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

International Conventions

- Council of Europe Landscape Convention (ELC) 2000 (amended 2016)
- Convention for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage
- World Heritage Convention 1972

Drivers, Strategies and Guidance

- Environmental Improvement Plan 2025 (30 x 30)
- Natural England: Nature Recovery and the Historic Environment (2023)
- Historic England: Delivering on Climate Change Action and Heritage (2025)
- Historic Environment and Climate Change in Wales Sector Adaptation Plan 2020
Historic England Research Strategy for Protected Landscapes (2009, under revision)
- Net zero carbon status by 2030: public sector route map
- Climate Adaptation Strategy for Wales 2024
- Requirement for Statutory HERS (LURA 2023)
- Duty to further the purposes of PLs (LURA 2023)
- Embedding a Culture and Heritage Capital Approach (DCMS 2024)
- Welsh Government Priorities for Culture
- Landscape Review (2019)
- Soil Collective x National Parks (2025)
- Anti-racist Wales Action Plan
- Public Services Boards Well-being Plans
- National Indicators and Milestones
- Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (from EIP 2023)