



Green Ixworth Newsletter August 2025

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A non party environmental group

Bardwell Solar Farm

The planning applicant has responded to further detailed information from consultants. The archaeological report shows that much of the proposed land has valuable archaeological remains. As a result the now proposed area of the array will be halved in size to **53 ha**. The land no longer used is all between the village and the site thus pushing the site away from the village.

Green Ixworth is submitting its concerns over the site which relate primarily to the absence of an emergency access and traffic/travel issues. We are concerned that the Company has made no offers concerning traffic reduction methods or helping fund improvements to the A143, nor contributing to the SCC proposed Footbridge over the same road and additional Public Rights of Way which we have proposed, connecting Ixworth to Stanton.

Other planning news

Bloor Homes – Stanton – 220 homes - delayed by WSC

Equation - Shepherds Grove – Stanton/Hepworth – Commercial - work with WSC continues.

Jaynic – Shepherds Grove – Stanton Hepworth – Commercial – Masterplan submitted

Persimmon – Ixworth 220 homes – Masterplan rejected by WSC

Pigeon – Ixworth 160 homes – Masterplan under negotiation

Grants now available for new EVs.

Government has announced that grants of £3,750 or £1,500 are available for purchasing new EVs priced below £37,000. The grant will be provided to the dealer/manufacture, at the point of sale. The scheme will be funded until at least April 2029. There will be every reason for manufacturers to keep the list price of their new vehicles down to the £37,000 level to benefit from the discount.

[Discount of up to £3,750 on electric cars set to slash costs for thousands - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/discount-of-up-to-3750-on-electric-cars-set-to-slash-costs-for-thousands)

Big increase in public EV charging.

There has been a year-on-year increase of 27% in the number of charge points installed in the UK, according to the latest figures from Zapmap. The charge point mapping and data service found that 8,670 new charge points were installed in the first half of 2025, a year-on-year increase of 27%.

The EV charging infrastructure now encompasses 82,369 devices (110,486 EVSEs – Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment) at 40,479 locations.

Charging hubs – defined as six or more rapid or ultra-rapid devices at a single location – also continues to show the highest growth, with 136 hubs installed across the country in the first half of 2025, bringing the total across the UK to 673.

The combination of new technology batteries and very high capacity chargers can mean a nearly full battery can be charged in 5 or six minutes, similar to fossil fuels.

[Increase of 27% in EV chargepoint installations](https://www.zapmap.com/news/2025/07/27/increase-of-27-in-ev-chargepoint-installations)

Battery News.

New technologies are making big improvements to capacity and rapid charging. Batteries are also being designed for easier recycling. Recycling company, Altilium, are now able to recover 97% of Lithium and 99% of graphite from old batteries, thus in the long term reducing the requirement for what will be increasingly rare materials.

Large heat storage units have also become available using sand to store heat at very high temperatures of up to 600 plus degrees Celsius for electricity generation or water..

Good news: microplastics

Recent research has shown that natural extracts from okra and fenugreek can remove up to 90% of microplastics from water, offering a biodegradable and non-toxic solution to this environmental issue. They can effectively trap and remove microplastics from various water sources, including ocean water, freshwater, and groundwater. The discovery is significant as microplastics have become pervasive pollutants, posing risks to both environmental and human health.

[Common vegetable extract found to remove most microplastics from water](#)

More good news: “Forever Chemicals”

Certain kinds of gut microbes absorb toxic Pfas “forever chemicals” and help expel them from the body via faeces, new first-of-its-kind University of Cambridge [research](#) shows.

The findings are welcome news as the only options that exist for reducing the level of dangerous PFAS compounds from the body are bloodletting and a cholesterol drug that induces unpleasant side effects.

Sewage sludge contaminating our food and water and atmosphere.

After processing sewage the relatively solid material remaining has to be disposed of. It is reduced in water content and often sold or given to farmers who spread it on their land with the inevitable result that much of its chemical contents finish up in ditches, streams and rivers.

The normal processing of waste is very inefficient as many pathogens are untouched in the process, as are the “forever chemicals” and many other substances such as illegal drugs and pharmaceuticals. Poisonous substances from industry and micro plastics also pass through the process largely untouched. So hazardous substances we thought were dealt with safely, recur in even greater concentration in our food and animal crops and our waterways. Such high temperatures also enable microplastic to be destroyed.

What are the alternatives?

Burning to generate heat. Using green crops and food waste with the sludge in bio-generation of gas and then electricity. Finally Pyrolysis which is the most beneficial method minimising toxicity of the remaining pollutants and locking up carbon in a form which will enhance soil quality.

Pyrolysis involves heating to high temperatures in the absence of air or oxygen which causes most molecules to break down into their component parts removing complex and what otherwise may be long life products damaging health and the environment. The process also generates more heat than the process uses, to heat dependent systems; eg. maltings, greenhouses, electricity generation, etc. At the end of the process it is free of organic pathogens, contaminants, plastics, and is largely carbon solids known as Biochar which is valuable as a soil conditioner plus burying carbon. It is much safer to spread or dig in fields, not polluting and improves soil fertility and texture. This is a similar process to that used for the production of charcoal.

The addition of waste vegetation, straw, sawdust, reeds etc. makes the final product even more stable and converts otherwise toxic metals into a less hazardous/toxic form.

[‘Like fly-tipping’: ministers ignoring pleas to cut sludge fertiliser use | Farming | The Guardian](#)

["Pyrolysis is a promising alternative for the treatment of sewage sludge. It is the process of thermochemical decomposition of organic matter under anoxic conditions.](#)

Pyrolysis can kill the pathogens and parasites contained in sewage sludge, and also produce value-added bioenergy. The process effectively reduces the volume and mass of the dewatered sludge and vaporizes organic toxic agents from the sludge into harmless substances in the combustion chamber. The residue derived from the pyrolysis of sludge can be used in the fields of adsorbents, catalysts, and soil remediation agents.”

For those who like a good piece of research, this explains all. [Co-Pyrolysis of Sewage Sludge and Wetland Biomass Waste for Biochar Production: Behaviors of Phosphorus and Heavy Metals.](#)

Heat and how to deal with it.

Current research shows unequivocally the reality of global heating with a growing impact on our climate, weather and our food supply. Cropping levels on land and food from the sea are being reduced by the high temperatures. But the impact on nature and we humans is just as significant.

It is not just temperature which makes us uncomfortable but also humidity, which at high levels will reduce sweating and prevent our natural cooling processes. This can start to effect us at quite low temperatures e.g. approx. 29°C. It puts children, the elderly, autoimmune sufferers and many others at risk. It is why hot weather can substantially increase the death rate. In environments with low humidity, temperatures in the order of 35/6 °C are acceptable e.g. Middle East, desert regions etc. but with relatively high levels of humidity as in much of maritime Europe we need to take care before 30°C. A wet bulb thermometer is able to indicate humidity mediated temperature.

[The ‘silent killer’: what you need to know about heatwaves | Climate crisis | The Guardian;](#)

[Understanding Wet-Bulb Temperature: Risks of High Wet-Bulb Temperatures Explained / ClimateCheck;](#)

How do we protect ourselves against such heat?

There are personal measures we can take: keep in cool place, preferably with a gentle breeze, perhaps from a fan; drink plenty of water and ensure some salt is taken to replace that lost in sweat; block out sunlight with curtains or shutters; use an air conditioner - A/C.

There are two main types of domestic A/C. One is basically a refrigerator with a fan. They can be portable or fixed. There is an outside unit working like a fridge and one or more internal units supplying the cold air. The second is basically a thick pad or sponge in a water bath or Ice over which a domestic fan blows air. Both use cooled air by either a fridge or evaporation.

If you have solar panels, A/C will be much cheaper to operate as when the air is hottest the solar panels will be generating maximum power. A/C is effectively an air to air heat pump and most are capable of being reversed and providing heat as well. Conventional Air Sourced Heat Pumps mostly supply hot water for radiators or underfloor heating. Only those which supply air into ducts in the house are efficient at cooling when reversed and by their nature are best built into new houses. Government has just announced that fitting A/C will in most cases be “Permitted Development”, unfortunately listed buildings will still require permission.

What else?

In the longer term there are many aspects of construction which will help minimise temperatures in the home and around it.

Bodies of ponds, lakes and rivers evaporate water which cools the air and shade reduces the heating effect of the sun. Trees and shrubs will reduce external temperatures by several degrees by transpiration.

Any insulation for keeping heat in will also keep heat out, providing the house is protected against hot air being encouraged in by open windows or doors during the day, especially south facing. Roofs with overhangs can reduce light falling on windows, creation of passive ventilation systems and clever planting of greenery can seriously reduce internal temperatures as can the careful

aspect/direction of roofs, windows and walls. Even painting the walls and roofs white and fitting shutters or external Venetian blinds can seriously help.

What can we do in the medium term?

British homes are generally designed with externally opening windows making hinged shutters difficult. Roller or Venetian blinds are possible to install close or away from the window. The Building Regulations have to be followed and external shutters will generally require planning permission. To operate as a good ventilator, moveable louvres are the best option in most cases as they can let in limited light whilst shading the window open or shut.

In areas with numbers of Regency style buildings shutters are already often fitted to sash windows as the windows slide up to open and would not interfere with the shutter.

We need a new approach to both Building Regulations and planning as many of the things we can do are controlled. We are contacting WS and Suffolk County Council to see if we can arrive at a sensible set of advice on what to do. Meanwhile Green Ixworth is arguing for some of these solutions in new houses in local developments.

[Complying-with-UK-Building-Regulations-Windows-and-Doors-2023.pdf](#);

Heat and food prices

A report just published, found food price spikes can have a wide economic impact, making it harder for economies to keep down overall inflation and so, for example, bring interest rates down. A hot dry spring in the UK this year, for example, partly drove **unexpectedly high UK inflation figures** in July, dampening expectations for further interest rate cuts this summer.

Because of this spring/summer drought, the necessary prohibition on most water abstraction by farmers will undoubtedly lead to smaller harvests of potatoes and other crops, thus price increases.

[Rising food prices driven by climate crisis threaten world's poorest, report finds | Inflation | The Guardian](#)

West Suffolk Local Plan now in operation.

After several years of preparation and consultation the West Suffolk Local Plan has been approved and agreed by WSC and will operate for the period 2024 to 2041, with reviews every 5 years.

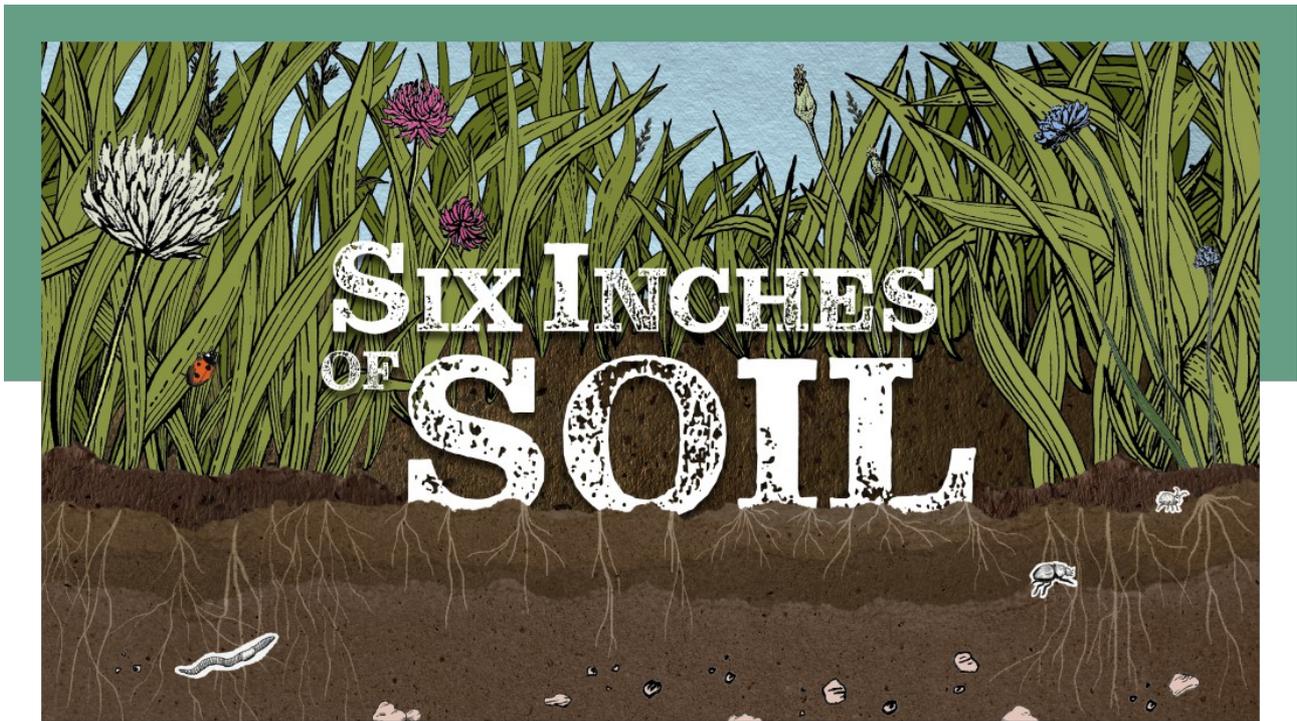
The plan establishes Planning and associated Policies, including environment, biodiversity, sustainability, Active Travel and energy efficiency as well as principled positions on where development should take place. Sites allocated for development are listed, having been consulted over during the plans progress, thus future development has been agreed in principle. Development may take place elsewhere but only if conforming to all the council policies.

The document also includes all the Neighbourhood Plans which have been agreed by referendum, so they have the same protection as the WSC plan itself.

Since the sites for development were agreed prior to the government reintroducing the requirement for specified land for housing growth for each of the next 5 years, the plan will have to introduce a few more sites for development, all of which will have to comply with the WSC Policies in the plan.

The main housing sites approved East of BSE are in Great Barton, Ixworth and Stanton, most of which are in planning process. A total of over 2,000 new homes. In addition Jaynic's industrial/commercial development of Shepherds Grove is in the voluntary Masterplan consultation as we write. Whilst the Equation planning application has been under consideration for two years..

https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/Planning_Policies/local_plans/west-suffolk-local-plan-and-neighbourhood-plans.cfm:



“Despite all our accomplishments, we owe our existence to a six-inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains.” These words were spoken by Paul Harvey, an American radio broadcaster, perfectly encapsulating the often overlooked role of soil, sustaining our civilisation.

Since it screened at Cop28, this Colin Ramsay documentary, [Six Inches of Soil](#), has drawn the attention of heavyweights across the food and farming industries. It tells the story of three young farmers practising **regenerative** agriculture, and examines how to break the monopoly of huge retailers to move towards a set of resilient and localised agroecosystems that benefit both biodiversity and the climate. *The Times*. More info at: [Story of the Film — Six Inches of Soil](#)

“Six inches of soil”.

The demonstration of environmentally sound farming practices is so obvious when illustrated in this magnificent film. Several farmers coming from different backgrounds explain how they came to see the light and why they practice this cultivation method. It saves huge bills on chemicals and diesel, leaves no pollutants behind and produces high quality produce. Most importantly it improves the quality of the soil for future generations and enables agriculture in hotter climates.

To help understand the importance of this method and answer your questions we shall have regenerative farming expertise as well as a local speaker to brief us on beavers.

Green Ixworth are showing this film in conjunction with the **Suffolk Wildlife Trust** and the **Friends of Ixworth Library** at Ixworth Village Hall on **Saturday 13th September at 2.30pm**. (Doors open 2.00pm) Refreshments will be available. Including question and discussion, the showing will finish by 5.00pm. Tickets are available at the door for £6 but to help with refreshment quantities, could you please try and book at:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/greenixworth/1796434>

Please opt for the UK before entering any other info.