

100
YEARS



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
Sussex

RELEASE, 7 Oct 2026: Sussex countryside champions shortlisted for national awards

CPRE Centenary National Awards recognise inspiring people and projects – from innovative housing to young people leading change.

Inspiring people and projects in Sussex have been shortlisted for the CPRE Centenary National Awards. Across England, individuals, businesses and community groups are finding practical, inspiring ways to protect and enhance the countryside.

From innovative housing solutions and rooftop solar to community-led green spaces and champions for countryside access, the awards showcase positive change happening right now.

Connor Carruthers, 17, from West Sussex is shortlisted for Young Countryside Changemaker. Connor began making his first documentary, Minster Marshes, aged 15 after learning about plans for a National Grid converter station on the Kent marshes. He spent months filming its wildlife, composing music and narrating the film.

The film premiered at the Natural History Museum and is now used to bring rarely seen wildlife, including beavers, into public view.

Also shortlisted is the Arundel Gate Partners for a community-led housing scheme in the historic market town. The project delivers 90 new homes and biodiverse open spaces.

CPRE Sussex campaigns and communications manager Nancy Duckels said: " The countryside challenges we face are big. But so are the ideas tackling them. The CPRE Centenary National Awards recognise inspiring the people and projects finding practical, locally-led solutions – from community housing to young people leading change."

The shortlisted nominees will come together at the Centenary Awards celebration at the Houses of Parliament on 29 October when the overall winners will be announced.

[View the full shortlist here.](#)

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Notes for editors:

For press inquiries and interview opportunities call Nancy Duckels on 07795 551852.

About CPRE Sussex

CPRE Sussex is shaping a greener future for Sussex. Our priorities are:

- Beautiful landscapes, rich in nature and greener towns and cities
- Countryside and green spaces which are accessible to all, enriching lives and health
- Sustainable development for thriving communities
- Effective responses to the climate emergency

We engage with decision makers, influencing them and challenging them to protect the Sussex countryside and green spaces. We inform on environmental issues and empower individuals and communities with robust evidence to defend and enhance the green spaces they love. We believe in collaborating with others to ensure a greener future for our county. We research and provide advice on planning issues. Together we can shape a greener future for Sussex.