

## February 2014

### Issue 2

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## Welcome to the SBP Planners' Update!

We aim to provide accessible information about biodiversity issues to support your planning work as and when information becomes available. If we can help with training events, factsheets or in any other way, please do contact us and we'll do our best to provide what you need. Previous Updates are available on the SBP [Planners' Page >](#)

### **Workshop: Delivering the British Standard for Biodiversity & Development. 26th February 2014 9am—1 pm**

**South Norfolk House, South Norfolk Council, Long Stratton, Norfolk NR15 2XE**

**Cost £25** (Hosted by Norfolk and Suffolk Biodiversity Partnerships)

**The agenda includes an introduction to the new British Standard 42020, an overview of baseline condition requirements, the mitigation hierarchy and interactive discussions on the assessment of ecological impacts.**

An outline of British Standard 42020 was given in Update No 1. This can be viewed on our website [here >](#)

Space is limited to 50 participants. To secure a place, please contact Anne Casey Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership email: [anne.casey@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:anne.casey@norfolk.gov.uk), tel: 01603 222112.

### **ALGE report : Ecological Competency and Capacity in Local Planning Authorities**

The Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE) has published 'Ecological Capacity and Competence in English Planning Authorities: *What is needed to deliver statutory obligations for biodiversity?*'.

The report shows that many local planning authorities do not currently have either the capacity and/or the competence to undertake the effective, and in some cases necessarily lawful, assessment of planning applications where biodiversity is a material consideration.

[Download the report from the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management website >](#)

### **Brownfield Hub launched**

Buglife has launched the 'Brownfield Hub', a one-stop shop for information on brownfields and their invertebrates. The Brownfield Hub will help everyone including ecologists, planners and developers to understand the value of brownfields for our rare invertebrates.

Buglife has published a series of downloadable PDFs which highlight the importance of brownfields for rare wildlife, how to identify 'Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land' and how to manage them for key invertebrate groups. This is a useful source of up-to-date information on these sites and their invertebrates. [Visit Buglife Brownfield Hub >](#)



BAP species: 5-banded tailed digger wasp. Photo: Nick Owens

## Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership

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Please send us your feedback!

Is this newsletter helpful?

What topics would you like to see covered?



Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership

### SBP Planning Support Group members:

Gen Broad, Biodiversity Officer, Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership  
Simone Bullion, Senior Conservation Officer, Suffolk Wildlife Trust  
Alison Collins, Planning and Biodiversity Advisor, Natural England  
Jaki Fisher, St Edmundsbury Borough Council  
Sue Hooton, Senior Ecologist, Suffolk County Council  
James Meyer, Suffolk Wildlife Trust  
Jacqui Miller, RSPB  
Julie Sheldrick, Forest Heath District Council

Visit us at

[www.suffolkbiodiversity.org/planners-page.aspx](http://www.suffolkbiodiversity.org/planners-page.aspx)

## New licensing process for developers and consultants to be extended to cover bats and dormice

A new licensing process for great crested newts is reportedly saving developers and their consultants time and helping Natural England meet its target to reduce the costs for those it regulates.

The new annexed licensing system for great crested newts, which came into force in April 2013, is reducing the number of newt licence re-submissions by up to 25% and has already produced estimated savings of £85,000.

The annexed licence process enables minor issues to be resolved between the applicant and Natural England without the need to re-submit the entire method statement and supporting documents.

As well as reducing paperwork and process costs, this approach also helps developers avoid delays to projects, which can be critical when dealing with species that hibernate. It also simplifies the process when a change is required to an annexed licence, for example due to unforeseen delays, as the licensee can now complete a specifically tailored modification request form and, in most cases, only needs to make the specific changes to

the associated timetable and maps. It has proved so successful that annexed licences are to be introduced next spring to cover bats and dormice.

[Visit Natural England website >](#)