



# Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership

## Newsletter

### Summer 2015

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Can you identify this Priority species? As a clue: they're found in Thetford Forest and the Sandlings.

Answer on p. 26

## Little Tern Update: Summer 2015

Jesse Timberlake , RSPB

Since June the little tern colonies of Suffolk have seen their ups and its downs. On one hand at Benacre National Nature Reserve we are fortunate enough to have the largest breeding colony in East Anglia. Yet at Kessingland (our most successful site in 2014) the colony was all but abandoned at the end of June, leaving just a few adults and their chicks behind. Preliminary data from the east coast shows that the food base might not be there, with chick feeding surveys showing the young are not getting the nutrients they need to survive. We are still investigating just why these two colonies, only a couple of miles apart as the tern flies, should have such different outcomes this season.



Little tern chick and egg. Photo: RSPB images

Whatever the reason for the poor results elsewhere, we are fortunate to be having a good season at Benacre. Our fledgling count on July 20<sup>th</sup> stood at 75, with many more chicks still running around and being fed. Electric fences were erected early at this site by Natural England and the RSPB little tern team, which in turn is funded by the EU LIFE programme. There is dawn to dusk wardening here, and even a few nights spend guarding the colony for good measure. This site has been very productive, with the average clutch count at 1.85, high for East Anglia this season. Our camera traps have picked up the presence of badger, fox, and otter very near the colony, but so far we have not detected any incidents of predation. We have a higher number of recorded fledglings in Suffolk this year than we have had in the past 16 years, and the efforts of the partner organisations and their volunteers have helped achieve this.



Deben Knoll early in season. Photo: RSPB images



Little Tern chick at Benacre. Photo: RSPB images

Many people have visited the Benacre NNR over the last month and have been thrilled at the sight of 400 little terns fishing, feeding and raising young in a productive colony, a rare sight in Suffolk these days.

Although there is still much to learn and to improve upon in the coming years, I think we can look back on this season with a sense of pride, and look towards 2016 with a feeling of optimism.

## Suffolk's County Wildlife Sites

Leonie Washington, Suffolk Wildlife Trust

A recent Wildlife Trust document entitled '[Secret Spaces](#)' highlighted that County Wildlife Sites (CWSs) cover at least 5% of England's land mass.

Caring for these amazing places is no mean feat and involves a great deal of joined up thinking and partnership work. To date there are more than 50 established partnerships, made up of local authorities, conservation bodies, local record centres and local specialists coordinating and advising on the management of these sites. Many land owners and farmers help to secure the ongoing existence of privately owned sites through sensitive habitat management and an army of dedicated volunteers often care for more publicly accessible sites such as churchyards and village greens.

As part of a drive to reassess Suffolk's County Wildlife Site provision, the regional partnership has been revisiting sites to assess their condition, offer advice to landowners and re-write some of the aging citations. Some sites have been unvisited for many years and have therefore been made a priority.

Over time ownership changes and so can the condition, so it is important to assess their wildlife value by revisiting, resurveying, updating records and re-advicing where necessary. However, with over 900 sites in Suffolk, this exercise will take time.

When visiting some of these sites there is always a little niggling concern at the back of my mind that its status may have been forgotten and its management ceased, that these important and vulnerable refuges for wildlife may have been lost. But it seems that nature often has a way of caring for its own because even those that appear at first sight to be in declining condition still cling on to significant wildlife value by, for example, storing seed which will germinate and help sites spring back into life with minimal management input. A new cutting regime, rotational cutting plan or some simple ground disturbance and a little patience is often all that is needed to re-energise a site.

In my role as Wildlife Site Adviser I am currently focusing on sites within the Forest Heath district whilst at the same time responding to day to day CWS enquiries. A typical day for me could be driving out to an old churchyard designated for particular flora on one side of the county and working independently to survey the flora and assess its overall condition and then meeting with a volunteer management group to discuss concerns about a site on the other side of the county. It's a varied role and no two sites or days are ever the same.

Some of my particular highlights this year have been visiting old churchyard's that boast wonderful flora, birds, lichens and are alive with invertebrates such as:

**St Mary's Churchyard in Coddendam** with its unimproved herb-rich grassland and lowland meadow Priority habitat displaying a carpet of cowslips and buttercups in May and swathes of scabious in July.



**St John the Baptist churchyard in Denham**, where the agriculturally unimproved grassland is noted for its population of early-purple orchids and swards rich with primrose, cowslip, bedstraw and scabious.



**St Peters Churchyard in Moulton.** This neutral/calcareous grassland supports large areas of burnet saxifrage, ox-eye daisy and clustered bellflower within the main sward and wood avens and wood spurge in the adjoining woodland.



**St Stephen's Churchyard in Higham** with its diverse plant community including goldilocks buttercup, meadow saxifrage and salad burnet.

## News from Suffolk Wildlife Trust



### Suffolk's reptiles

[Find out about reptiles and the best places to spot them](#)



### Bees & bumblebees

[An identification guide and bee FAQs](#)



### Photography Competition 2015

[Win a share of £2500 of prizes!](#)

[View the latest entries on our website](#)



### Events this summer

[Guided walks](#)

[Illustrated wildlife talks](#)

[Wildlife courses](#)

## Operation Turtle Dove—The Return of Titan

Samantha Lee, RSPB

### Suffolk turtle dove helps scientists solve migration mystery of UK's fastest declining bird

Last August, thanks to the help of dedicated RSPB Minsmere volunteer Heather Maclean, the RSPB research team were able to fit a small, light-weight satellite tag to a Suffolk turtle dove before it embarked on its migration journey back towards West Africa. We were able to follow the journey of this tagged turtle dove, named Titan by Heather, as he journeyed from Suffolk to Mali and back again covering a distance of 5600km.



Turtle Dove 'Titan' with tag. Photo: RSPB images

Flying mostly under the cover of darkness, Titan flew across landscapes such as the Atlas Mountains, Sahara Desert and the Gulf of Cadiz. The satellite tag also uncovered that he travelled around 500-700km per night flying at a maximum speed of 60km per hour.

Titan's outbound journey to Africa, where he wintered for six months, took around a month to complete. On his return he spent two weeks making his way through France, initially following the Atlantic coast, before leaving from Dunkirk and touching down in Suffolk late June.

Sadly, Heather passed away before Titan returned but we hope that his return and the valuable information he has provided towards conservation efforts to save this remarkable species is a fitting tribute to her legacy.

The information that Titan has provided is a UK science first, as never before has a turtle dove been tracked from our shores. This revealing insight into their migration will help focus efforts to reverse their decline, which the most recent BTO Breeding Bird Survey results has revealed as a 91% decline between 1995 -2013.

For more information on Titan's journey and how the RSPB and Operation Turtle Dove partners are helping to stop turtle dove declines visit: [www.rspb.org.uk/titan](http://www.rspb.org.uk/titan)

*Help us focus our conservation efforts by submitting your Suffolk turtle dove sightings to [Suffolk Biological Records Centre](http://Suffolk Biological Records Centre)*



Titan's route map

## Suffolk's Rare Bryophytes

Richard Fisk, Suffolk County Recorder for Bryophytes

The low rainfall in Suffolk makes life difficult for most bryophyte species, particularly the liverworts, so it is perhaps not surprising that our rarer species struggle to survive. The following account of the present status of our Priority (BAP) species illustrates this. I do not like to use the word extinct and I have hopes that those species not seen for some time are still present; it is a case of being at the right place at the right time when conditions are perfect for them to appear. I have added the moss *Orthotrichum pumilum* to the list. It is not on the Priority Species list, but it is a Red Data Book species and very rare in Britain and so deserves a mention.

### ***Fossombronina foveolata* (Pitted Frillwort)**

This species was present on bare mud at the side of a pool in a ride in Combs Wood in 2004. I revisited the site in 2013 but could not re-find it. The site was flooded and it may well reappear when conditions are more suitable. In 2004 conditions were obviously ideal because two other *Fossombronina* species, *F. pusilla* and *F. wandraczekii*, were also present. Since *Fossombronina* species can only be determined by examining ripe spores those produced in 2004 are likely to present in the soil.

### ***Leptodontium gemmascens* (Thatch-moss)**

First found on Wortham Ling in 1981 and was present there for many years. A number of very hot dry summers made it very difficult to find on some occasions and the last record was in 2003. I made an intensive search in 2013 but could find no trace of it. It was discovered at Barnham Cross Common in 1997 when it was present over a wide area to the east of the A134 near a small car park. It was subsequently found on the other side of the road where it was present in 2003. I searched for it at both places in 2013 and 2015 but was unable to re-find it. At Dunwich it was found in the area to the north of the Beach Car Park in 1998. It has not been seen there again despite frequent searches. However, that area has been flooded by the sea on several occasions recently so it may well have disappeared. Although called Thatch-moss, in Suffolk it has always been found on the matted leaves and stems at the base of grassy tufts which somewhat resemble thatch but make it difficult to find.

### ***Orthotrichum pumilum* (Dwarf Bristle-moss)**

Not on the Suffolk Priority Species list, but a very rare species in Britain with only about seven or eight recent records. Found on willow at Palmer's Heath near Brandon by W. H. Burrell in 1911 and I re-found it on a branch of an oak tree at the eastern end of Lakenheath Warren in February of this year. It has always been very rare in Britain but is fairly widespread on the continent so our plants may arise from wind-borne spores. It was recently found in Norfolk, a number of *Orthotrichum* species are becoming more frequent as a result of reduced air pollution so it may occur more frequently in the future. Is it just a coincidence that the two Suffolk records, although separated by over one hundred years were found only about five miles apart?



*Orthotrichum pumilum*  
(Dwarf Bristle-moss)

### ***Palavicinia lyellii* (Veilwort)**

First found by the footpath in Staverton Thicks in 1958 and seen in subsequent years. A search was made in 1995 and it was found near the base of an oak tree some distance from the 1958 site. An intensive search in 2002 and again in 2013 failed to find it, the 1995 site has become overgrown. There are still suitable habitats in the area and since the two sites where it was seen were some distance apart it could very well still be present.

### ***Sphaerocarpos texanus* (Texas Balloonwort)**

In contrast to our other Priority species *Sphaerocarpos texanus* is fairly frequent in two small areas of the county. It occurs in arable fields, particularly stubble, on the loamy soils in the south east of the county especially on the Shotley peninsula and around Belton and Ashby in the north east of the county. It can only be separated from the other *Sphaerocarpos* species *S. michelii* by examination of ripe spores and since these are not produced until January or February the agricultural practice of ploughing immediately after harvest may have an effect on its future. At the moment enough stubble is being left unploughed and I believe new EU rules will increase this in the near future. Both *Sphaerocarpos* species seem to avoid the boulder clay parts of the county but there are a few records of both species from near Bury St Edmunds, perhaps spores have been carried there by the sugar beet industry.



*Sphaerocarpos texanus* (Texas Balloonwort)

### ***Tortula vahliana* (Chalk Screw-moss)**

A nationally rare species, it was first found in Suffolk in a disused chalk pit at Little Blakenham in 1991. It could not be found there in 2001 as the site was overgrown with brambles but a good population was found close to the original site in 2013. At Tuddenham St Martin it occurs on the steep roadside bank of the hill on the road from Grundisburgh. I have not looked at this site for some time, the road is narrow and the passing traffic make it a hazardous prospect. A completely new site was found at Tunstall in 2012 on the clay bank of a small disused pit and there may well be other as yet undiscovered sites in the county.



*Tortula vahliana* (Chalk Screw-moss)

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Church, J. M., Hodgetts, N., Preston, C. D., & Stewart, N. F. (Eds.) (2004), *British Red Data Books, mosses and liverworts*, JNCC, Peterborough.

Sanford, M. N. & Fisk R. J. (2010). *A Flora of Suffolk*. Privately published, D. K. & M. N. Sanford, Ipswich.

## Suffolk Community Barn Owl Project (SCBOP) update - as at 10th August 2015

Steve Piotrowski, Project Director

### The Project

SCBOP is dedicated to the conservation of barn owls. Its success has been much acclaimed and the project was very proud to receive Suffolk County Council's Greenest County Award in the Landscape and Diversity category early this year. The project's principal partners are Suffolk Ornithologists Group, Suffolk Wildlife Trust and BTO, but a number of smaller independent projects also fall under the SCBOP umbrella including those administered by Dedham AONB and Stour Valley Project, Thornham Owl Project and Suffolk Owl Sanctuary.



Barn owl at Middleton with its favourite prey – the short-tailed vole

Photo: Jon Evans

The project as a whole has advised on the fixing of over 1800 barn owl nest boxes throughout Suffolk, on nature reserves, farmland and on community spaces like village greens and school grounds. In addition, the success of the project has resulted in requests for the fixing of boxes just across the boundaries in Norfolk and Essex. By providing an extended connected network of good habitat and nesting opportunities, we can give the barn owls the fighting chance they need to thrive. The project involves the whole community and the boxes are made by local organisations and monitored by an army of expert volunteers each year. This system of raising awareness, creating nesting opportunities and managing suitable nearby habitat is having a positive effect on barn owl populations across Suffolk. This is a project of which all Suffolk people can call their own and we can be truly proud of our achievements.

In 2015, SCBOP is 10 years old and plans are already underway to celebrate its success by holding a series of special events. This includes a lecture tour and workshops led by Project Director, Steve Piotrowski, that started at the Fisher Theatre, Bungay, on 21<sup>st</sup> January. Steve will deliver further lectures including one at Stowupland Village Hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and the lecture tour will culminate in a fund-raising party at The Cut, Halesworth. Here, the audience are being treated to a special lecture by Colin Shawyer, founder and coordinator of the Barn Owl Conservation Network (BOCN) the UK's leading authority on barn owl research and conservation and author of *The Barn Owl*, published by [Arlequin Press](#) in 1998. Tickets are available from The Cut or on [Halesworth Arts Festival website >](#)



## The ups and downs in the life of the barn owl

Barn owls live a topsy-turvy life and populations are subject to dramatic fluctuations, which are linked to the annual abundance in the short-tailed vole population, the barn owl's favourite prey, which peaks and troughs every 3-4 years. For example, 2013 was a disastrous year for barn owls, but nest boxes were bursting at the seams with chicks the following year! In 2015 we have seen a relatively high number of adult pairs occupying the boxes, although brood sizes are small. This has come as a result of vole populations being extremely high in 2014, with some areas recording numbers close to "plague" proportions, but as could be predicted, vole populations subsequently crashed. The areas of high barn owl density seem to be the worst affected, where food supplies have been all but depleted for local barn owls.

Early signs are that throughout much of England, 2015 has been a disastrous year for the barn owl with little or no breeding at all taking place in normally good barn owl counties such as Lincolnshire. However, Suffolk has again somewhat bucked the trend in Eastern England, with box occupancy, particularly on the coast and in the main river catchments, having been relatively good. The shortage of voles has meant that barn owls have to hunt harder and longer, so this summer many have been spotted quartering fields and meadows in daylight, which is not a common sight in Suffolk. Seeing barn owls hunting in the middle of the day during the late spring and summer months maybe a breath-taking experience for the observers, but it is often not good news for barn owls as it usually means that their food is in short supply!

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	*2015
Barn Owl Pellet	11	25	53	40	54	36	37	30	
Barn Owl Adult	12	34	57	55	50	76	151	57	
Barn Owl Egg	0	17	3	5	4	12	13	14	
Barn Owl Egg Failed	9	19	23	13	16	19	10	9	
Barn Owl Young	77	102	123	149	201	289	66	297	
Barn Owl Young Failed	4	4	3	4	6	12	4	5	
Barn Owl Total	113	201	262	266	331	444	281	412	320
Tawny Owl	8	13	21	25	22	21	11	22	13
Little Owl	1	16	18	16	11	12	8	15	7
Kestrel	12	23	24	25	17	20	14	21	10
Stock Dove	71	112	239	253	317	263	325	289	140
Jackdaw	63	83	141	177	189	206	176	266	196
Grey Squirrel	6	12	17	8	9	25	28	13	9
Inaccessible									43
Empty	90	117	199	239	289	236	340	325	144
Not Checked	203	167	117	163	104	187	353	306	856
Other	4	0	11	9	7	4	9	4	4
Number of Active Sites	571	744	1049	1181	1296	1418	1545	1673	699

**Table 1: interim results showing box occupancy up to August 10th 2015 (\*N.B. awaiting reports for 49.1% of boxes)**

An indication of how barn owls are faring is by the number of chicks ringed. Last year nearly 1,000 barn owls were ringed by the Group whereas indications for 2015 (see Table 2) show that the total is unlikely to exceed 400, roughly a 60% reduction. It should be noted that we await results of nearly half of the boxes that are monitored annually and we are aware of the presence of many broods.



An eight-week old barn owl chick that had made an early exit from its nest at Fressingfield this July  
 Photo: Jon Evans

This year is unusual in that there is a double first-egg laying period, with many laying their first egg around the usual time of 20<sup>th</sup> April and then another batch laying in the second week of June. Boxes containing late broods are being monitored and it will be interesting to note whether these late broods will fare better.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	*2015	Total
Adult Barn Owls	3	16	25	26	14	23	40	21	26	20	206
Chicks	40	179	179	193	297	410	590	106	906	305	3204
Re-trap/Controls		3	20	35	44	38	65	45	42	44	336
<b>TOTAL</b>	43	198	224	254	365	475	695	172	974	369	3746

Table 2: provisional figures showing barn owls ringed as part of project up to August 10<sup>th</sup> 2015 (\*N.B. awaiting reports for 49.1% of boxes)

## What do barn owls need?

To sustain good barn owl numbers there must be enough prey. Short-tailed voles need a particular type of habitat - rough, tussocky grass with a deep litter layer or thatch at its base that they can move through in tunnels and that provides their own source of food and breeding habitat. This habitat, in close proximity to correctly positioned barn owl nest boxes, provides the ideal conditions for the owls to hunt.

Currently, much of the county's grassland is 'managed' by too much grazing or frequent cutting. The project is committed to offer advice to provide the grassland that barn owls favour across the county – with the benefits extending well beyond barn owls and voles. This habitat is scarce and precious, it supports entire ecosystems from diverse flora to many species of invertebrates that use it for overwintering.

Could it be that Suffolk barn owls are able to diversify more than those found elsewhere? When food is plentiful, barn owls will continue to take food to the nest and form larders. This is a form of caching food in times of plenty and allows the barn owl to brazen out hard times such as periods of rain when they would be unable to hunt. Early season larders were few and far between this year, but those that were found showed a good selection of long-tailed field mouse, bank vole, common shrew, pygmy shrew and the far less common water shrew.

## The Future

Adding the word "Community" to our project name worked very well for us and we must thank all those involved for their support. This truly is a "Community" project with every Suffolk parish being involved.

For the future, we are looking at sustainability, but not only for the boxes, some of which are already in need of replacing due to wear and tear, but also for people. Those who were in the project from the beginning are not so spritely now, so to survive the project needs new younger recruits. This will ensure that barn owls are enjoyed and cared for by our children and our children's children for many generations to come. To meet this goal additional training sessions have been organised and applications for grants forwarded to appropriate funders. The next training course is programmed to take place at Heveningham Hall in February 2016 ready for monitoring work next season. Please make contact either by telephone or by email (see contact details below) if you wish to attend the training session. There is no charge.

Suffolk people are fortunate to have two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) running alongside each other. The Dedham Vale AONB stretches upstream from Manningtree to within one mile of Bures whereas the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB runs northwards from the Stour estuary in the south to Kessingland in the north. The characteristic lowland English river landscape of the Dedham Vale inspired the world-famous painters Constable and Gainsborough. The Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB features some of Suffolk's most picturesque landscapes, a mixture of shingle beaches, crumbling cliffs, marshes, estuaries, heathland, forests and farmland that makes this AONB so special. Both AONBs embrace an abundance of wildlife and, where wildlife flourishes, there will always be Barn Owls.

## Funding

As well as protecting our most cherished areas of countryside, the AONB's are able to support projects such as SCBOP through their Sustainable Development Fund (SDF). We are grateful and delighted to announce that the project has been awarded £2,000 from each of the AONB SDF's with an additional £1,000 from Turning the Tide Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme. This money will allow us to repair or replace dilapidated boxes in the two AONB areas. In addition, a further £1,000 has been raised by Waveney Bird Club, so boxes in the Waveney Valley can also be repaired or replaced as and when necessary. Project monitors are currently out there assessing the state of boxes as part of box checking this summer. Work on box replacement should commence this autumn.



Barn owl hunting in daylight at Fressingfield this July  
Photo: Jon Evans

## Acknowledgments

The project is grateful to all the people of Suffolk, south Norfolk, north Essex and elsewhere who have put their heart into saving the barn owl for generations to come.

As well as the funders already mentioned above, we must also thank other principal supporters such as **Chadacre Agricultural Trust, who have supported the project from the very beginning, Suffolk Environmental Trust and SITA Trust. The input of local people should not be underestimated. There have been a number of barn owl parties, garden open days and evening lectures that have been specifically arranged to raise funds for the project. This funding has provided a significant contribution to the project, not only for the financial input, but by getting people involved and allowing them to see barn owls and their chicks close up, a lifetime experience.**

Since the birth of SCBOP, Colin Shawyer and his Barn Owl Conservation Network, which he founded in 1988, have been supportive and inspirational. Thanks are due to him for his guidance and for keeping us up-to-date with the national perspective.

## Lapwing success at Minsmere

RSPB

In March the Suffolk Wader Strategy workshop brought together conservation organisations from around East Anglia to explore ways to improve breeding habitat and success for nesting lapwings and other wading birds in Suffolk.

Following this workshop, lapwings have enjoyed a record breeding season at one of their most important sites in the county, RSPB Minsmere.

No fewer than 41 pairs nested across the reserve's varied habitats – the highest total on record. Although a few pairs did nest within the newly protected Scrape, the majority of the birds nested on the grazing marshes or around pools with the reedbed.

A few pairs also chose to nest on Minsmere's dry grasslands, a habitat mainly managed for stone-curlews, confirming that lapwings can readily adapt to a variety of habitats if they are managed sympathetically.

*For more information about the Suffolk Wader Strategy, contact Ben McFarland at RSPB Minsmere tel: 01728 648085 or email: [ben.mcfarland@rspb.org.uk](mailto:ben.mcfarland@rspb.org.uk)*



Lapwing June 2015. Photo: Ian Barthorpe

## Rosemary Beetles

Ben Heather, Suffolk Biological Records Centre

Have you seen the Rosemary Leaf Beetle on your lavender, thyme, rosemary or sage plants? This very striking looking beetle that feasts on the foliage and flowers of rosemary and other similar aromatic plants is on the increase in the UK. We would like to improve our understanding of just how widespread this species is in Suffolk so have created a recording page on our online recording service (SuffolkBRO). This publicly accessible recording form (you do not need to have an account) that asks the normal questions also asks when you saw your first adult beetle this year and what plant or plants you found it feeding on. Please help us by logging your sightings at <http://www.suffolkbrc.org.uk/rlbsurvey>



## Natural England update

Jonathan Dix, Natural England

### Countryside Stewardship

The scheme is funded by the Government as part of the [Rural Development Programme for England \(RDPE\) 2014-2020](#), with a budget of around £925 million pounds over that period on top of existing scheme commitments.

The RDPE is the second pillar of the [Common Agricultural Policy \(CAP\)](#) with a focus on delivering public benefits from investment in the rural economy.

Countryside Stewardship supersedes Environmental Stewardship (ES), the English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) and capital grants from the Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) programme, although existing agreements under these schemes will continue to be managed until their agreed end dates. Two thirds of the new RDP budget is used to support these existing commitments, and NE will be reviewing and, if needed, amending these agreements to get the best possible results from them. Note that around 70% of existing HLS agreements will not expire during the life of the new programme.

Compared to previous schemes, Countryside Stewardship has:

- integrated forestry incentives and capital grants for water quality.
- [GOV.UK](#) as the main information source.

- Applicants must be [registered with Rural Payments](#) to apply.
- Entry Level replaced by a “Mid-Tier” – still nationally available, but applications will be competitive
- a greater range of capital grants in both higher and mid tiers
- a new wild pollinator and farm wildlife package
- an enhanced requirement on verification and control; better record keeping

### Countryside Stewardship statement of priorities for Norfolk NCAs

[Find out the features and issues that have been identified as priorities for funding in Norfolk >](#)

### Countryside Stewardship Timeline

Countryside Stewardship is being launched in phases, starting with 2 capital grants and the first round of Facilitation Funding, all in early 2015:

February: [Woodland Grant](#) launched

March: [Water Grant](#) launched

March: [Facilitation Fund 2015](#) launched and [statement of priorities](#) published

July: Mid and Higher Tier and Stand Alone Capital application windows (currently planned July - 30 September).

1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2016 – first agreements start

The 2015 grants for woodland and water are being delivered using Forestry Commission/Natural England IT systems updated with the rules required under the new RDP and the latest payments rates. They will be delivered using advisory support within the Forestry Commission and Catchment Sensitive Farming teams.

From summer 2015 water and woodland funding opportunities will be integrated within the 'main' scheme which is expected to be open for applications in the summer.

The focus for local NE teams in 2015 is assessing and converting the HLS agreements that started in 2006 to

Higher Tier, and supporting the key holdings for water quality for Mid-Tier.

Details of the scheme and how to apply are here:

[www.gov.uk/countrysidestewardship](http://www.gov.uk/countrysidestewardship)

Key contacts are the local advisers already known to agreement holders, and in Suffolk Mike Hyde Parker or Steve Gilby.

### Planning casework

Helen Dixon is the planning lead for Suffolk and Andy Millar with regard to coastal issues.

## Other items of interest

### Elizabeth Truss unveils vision for open data

Vast data reserves from Defra are set to transform the world of food and farming in the single biggest government data giveaway the UK has ever seen, Environment Secretary Elizabeth Truss announced in July.

Outlining her vision for the future of British food, farming and the natural environment, Elizabeth Truss said that over the next year, virtually all the data Defra holds—at least 8,000 sets—will be made freely available to the public, putting Britain at the forefront of the data revolution.

Harnessing this open data will help food and farming achieve its full potential and enable the UK to become a one-nation economy, where the productivity of the countryside will be brought up to the level of our towns and cities.

Read the [Defra press release >](#)

### Sharing our data - Impact Risk Zones (IRZs)

Natural England have developed Impact Risk Zones (IRZs): a downloadable GIS layer to help Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), and developer customers alike, understand the potential impacts on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) arising from planning proposals. This simple tool can help LPAs decide whether they need to consult with us about the impact of particular applications. It can also help developers check whether a pre-application discussion with Natural England is likely to be helpful.

The importance of the IRZs has increased since changes to the [Development Management Procedure Order](#) came into force on 15 April 2015. For Natural England, this means the requirement to consult with us on notified 2km consultation zones around SSSIs has been removed, whilst requirements to consult NE on applications "in or likely to affect a SSSI" remain in place. We have been able to support this change in legislation, as the IRZs enable a much smarter approach to help planning authorities decide when they need to consult us on proposals which might affect SSSIs.

A total of 109 Local Planning Authorities downloaded the dataset in their first year (April 2014-15).

For more details visit [Construction near Protected Areas and Wildlife >](#)

### Improving our advice on protected site Conservation Objectives

Improved advice on Conservation Objectives for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and terrestrial Natura 2000 sites has now been published by Natural England for more than 30 sites on [GOV.UK](#) and is ready for use by stakeholders.

For further queries about this and the work of the ISCO Project, contact Natural England's Steve Clifton (for European terrestrial sites) or Jen Ashworth (for Marine Protected Areas).

How to use this guidance visit [Conservation Advice for Marine Protected Areas >](#)

## The 2020 Vision Collection

Since November 2010, a dedicated team of photographers and videographers have been on assignment at 20 locations around the UK with a mission to produce the most stunning imagery that conveys the essential value of restoring our most important but often fragmented ecosystems, not just for the benefit of wildlife but for us all. Simple yet stunning slides and a Roadshow until October this year.

[See the 2020 vision collection >](#)

## Woodland and tree management in the wake of Ash Dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*): Experience from Continental Europe

This report details the findings of a European trip in 2014 to study the serious tree disease, Ash dieback, which is now prevalent across England with the majority of cases being in East Anglia. Meetings were held with a wide range of industry professionals. The contents of the report are a summary of what was learnt and the understanding which was gained. The full report can be accessed [here >](#)

Further details regarding ash dieback including a full description of the disease, its threat to our native ash population and woodlands, susceptible species, spread and distribution, how to spot the symptoms of the disease, what to do for reporting suspect cases and managing infected trees can be found at: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ashdieback>

## National Association of AONBs Landscapes for Life Conference

Details of the recent NAAONBs Landscapes for Life Conference can be seen [here >](#)

This includes the conference presentations (Nature, Health and Wellbeing; Growing Rural Tourism in England; The National Grid and the Natural Grid) as well as interviews with key players.

## Natural England's staffing news

Sarah Dawson is the new Area manager for Norfolk and Suffolk. Sarah replaces Pamela Abbott who has taken up a role with the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

## One year on from the completion of the National Character Area profiles

There were 7,168 downloads of the National Character Area Profiles for England in April this year. This shows that the NCA profiles are being recognised by many as an invaluable source of evidence relating to natural and cultural features that shape landscapes across England.

**In summary:** NCA boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape, which means they provide a useful spatial framework to use when making decisions about the natural environment. Understanding landscape character alongside ecological processes at this scale can help in deciding how we safeguard and enhance the natural environment.

If you haven't already had a look at the NCA profiles and would like to do so, all of the 159 NCA profiles, including those for Suffolk can be accessed from the [UK Gov. Website >](#)

## The value of the natural environment in creating a foundation for economic growth and our health and wellbeing

Back in March Natural England and the CPRE East of England held a free conference which explored the value of the natural environment - how what has become known as "natural capital" supports economic development and health and wellbeing in Suffolk, Norfolk and the East of England as a whole. It also considered the challenges we face for nature to be truly recognised as the keystone of a prosperous economy and healthy society.

The conference was marketed to the business and political worlds as well as the natural environment management world, and it attracted around 100 delegates from across multiple sectors.

Presentations from the conference can be viewed at: <http://www.cpreeast.org.uk/> and a full report from the conference can be obtained from Jonathan Dix at Natural England.

## For further details please contact:

Jonathan Dix  
Lead Adviser, Norfolk and Suffolk Team  
Natural England  
Eastbrook, Shaftesbury Road,  
Cambridge, Cambridgeshire. CB2 8DR  
Direct Line: 0300 060 0203 Mobile: 0777 503 0304  
Email: [Jonathan.Dix@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Jonathan.Dix@naturalengland.org.uk)

## New Minsmere fence leads to successful breeding season

RSPB

As viewers of BBC Springwatch will be aware, the 2014 breeding season on the Minsmere Scrape resulted in almost complete failure due to predation by at least one badger that had burrowed under the anti-predator fence.

Over the last winter, RSPB staff and contractors worked hard to replace the ageing fence around the Scrape with a newer, higher specification fence.

The new fence sits on dry ground, which necessitated constructing a low bank in places, and is dug deep below ground to prevent badgers and foxes from digging underneath it. Trail cameras around the Scrape fence revealed several attempts by badgers to dig underneath it, without success.

Thanks to the new fence keeping the Scrape free of mammalian predators, Minsmere has had its best breeding season for many years.



Avocet chick. Photo: David Tipling (rspb-images.com)

Avocets fledged an impressive 58 chicks from 60 nests, and at least 130 common tern chicks have successfully fledged. It was also a successful season for breeding black-headed gulls, redshanks and shelducks, with higher than usual fledging success.

This is, of course, great news for the conservation of these species, but also ensured that visitors enjoyed some amazing views of chicks and fledglings throughout the spring and summer.

## Westleton Common Pit

Caroline Markham, GeoSuffolk

Holes in the ground are the source of nearly all our energy and raw materials. In the UK we used to supply our own needs, but have now banished most mineral exploitation to other countries. In so doing we risk losing touch with our dependence on geology and we forget how much we owe to times past.

Holes in the ground are our windows on the past, both ancient and recent, and we should strive to retain those that still exist. County Geodiversity Sites not only need designation and condition monitoring, they need to be managed to retain some geodiversity interest. GeoSuffolk is much indebted to Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB for its help refreshing some of its CGS pits.

Most recently, on June 18th we cleaned up some of the faces at Westleton Common Pit. This has a long history as common land with gravel pits used by the local people. Commercial gravel extraction began in WWII and continued through the 1950s and 60s, much being used in construction of the local airfields. It was bought with Heritage Lottery Funding by Westleton Parish Council in 2003.



The site is managed by the Westleton Common Group and, with their approval, we cleared part of the south face of the pit, showing closely interbedded sand and gravel, up to about 1m thick. Individual beds are well-graded - large gravel with rounded, chattermarked flints up to 6cm or small gravel or sand. These exposures of 1¼ million year old Norwich Crag sands and gravels here are locally known as Westleton Beds and have long been studied by geologists. They were named by Joseph Prestwich in *'On the structure of the crag-beds of Suffolk and Norfolk with some observations on their organic remains, Part3. The Norwich Crag*



Westleton Common Pit

*and Westleton Beds'* in the Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society of London in 1871. There has been much subsequent research and publication, resulting in a long list of references in GeoSuffolk's site record. We are still interested - the most recent publication is Howard Mottram's, *'The Norwich Crag Geology of the country around Westleton'* in A Celebration of Suffolk Geology 2012 – Howard was also hard at work with us on June 18th.

**To find out more about Suffolk's geodiversity  
visit [www.geosuffolk.co.uk](http://www.geosuffolk.co.uk)**

## Ash dieback—Chalara

### Woodland trust

A number of counties in the UK have been badly hit by ash dieback (also known as chalara dieback of ash). Sadly, Suffolk is one of the most highly affected areas, and the disease is continuing to spread, with 130,000 hectares of ash woodland now under threat across the UK.

More importantly however, 12 million ash trees outside of these woods are present in the wider countryside; in fields, hedgerows and on roadsides, and it is these which are most at risk and could be lost in as little as 10 years. As gaps in these crucial habitat connections appear, the impact on wildlife and our landscape will be severe.

In response, the Woodland Trust is supporting landowners to fight this risk. With financial support and advice for landowners in the most affected areas, the Woodland Trust is able to offer Disease Recovery Packs made up of alternative native tree species that can be used to plant shelterbelts, hedgerows or areas of small woodland – all of which will help to protect our landscape for the future.

Following a high-profile national event hosted by the Woodland Trust at Pound Farm, Framlingham, Suffolk, Norfolk, and Kent County Councils are now working closely with Defra to better understand and prepare for the impacts of Chalara outside woods.

To find out more about ash dieback, tree packs and how the Woodland Trust can help you, visit [woodlandtrust.org.uk/treedisease](http://woodlandtrust.org.uk/treedisease) or contact the team at [plant@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:plant@woodlandtrust.org.uk) or 0330 333 5303.

Find out more about Chalara on the [Forestry Commission website >](#)

## Wings over the Brecks

RSPB



The RSPB Brecks Team work on a landscape scale across the Brecks, encompassing south Norfolk and north Suffolk. The Brecks is an RSPB Futurescape, where we carry out conservation and community work across the landscape, working with farmers, gamekeepers, landowners, local communities and our conservation partners to make the Brecks a better place for people and wildlife.

### **Wings over the Brecks nest camera project**

The *Breaking New Ground* landscape partnership scheme, hosted by Suffolk County Council forms the umbrella for 37 Heritage Lottery funded projects, aimed at reconnecting local people with the Brecks. The projects include community, access, conservation and heritage projects throughout the Brecks.

We are lucky enough to be involved in one of them, *Wings over the Brecks*. This unique project aims to unlock the door to the secret lives of some of the most rare and iconic species in the Brecks through live nest cameras. The project species include stone-curlew, hobby, goshawk, nightjar and woodlark. *Wings over the Brecks* is a partnership project between the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission, RSPB and the BTO.

Last year the project secured footage of two hobby chicks at the nest and were named, via social media, 'Posh and Brecks' and shown at High Lodge Forest Centre. This year has been an

Even busier one for the project with a wide variety of events taking place at High Lodge including the project launch, and even more footage.



The female goshawk chick dubbed 'Boudica' testing her wings before fledging.



The busy project launch event in May at High Lodge green was enjoyed by all

At Weeting Heath the UK's first ever live on-the-nest camera was set up on a pair of stone-curlews who successfully fledged two young.

In the forest, the Forestry Commission worked hard to secure the nest cameras on a female goshawk dubbed 'Boudica', with fascinating footage shown in the Cafe. This was a brilliant achievement for the project to secure footage of one of the most elusive and impressive forest species. I am pleased to say that she successfully fledged and was ringed by the BTO, so fingers crossed we will see her again.



Female nightjar sitting tight *Photo: Thomas Hyde, Forestry Commission*

Footage of the ground dwelling nightjar was also secured, and although the female sat tight, collated footage captured the emergence of the two chicks. Like Boudica these chicks were also ringed by the BTO and have also fledged, so we hope they will survive their epic migration journey and return to Thetford Forest.

The project is heavily reliant on the brilliant team of volunteers who have made a huge difference, helping to find the nests of the species and helping to inspire local people and visitors to the Brecks by working in the Cafe and at events. This is not only raising awareness of these iconic species but also of Breaking New Ground and Wings over the Brecks; and perhaps most importantly the importance of the Brecks landscape for wildlife and heritage.

To find out more, get in touch on 01842 753732 or email [the-brecks@rspb.org.uk](mailto:the-brecks@rspb.org.uk)  
[Wings over the Brecks Project >](#)



Nightjar chicks *Photo: Thomas Hyde, Forestry Commission*



Busy making nest boxes for February half-term thanks to the help of the volunteer team.

## Orchard owners' advice and grants programme

The People's Trust for Endangered Species have been fighting the traditional orchard corner for nearly a decade since becoming involved with the Noble Chafer beetle in the mid 00s. With the amateur fruit gardener in mind we are developing literature and videos for our new look website which blends practical advice with biodiversity-friendly management of small and hobby orchards. Alongside this is the Orchard Network section with a focus on... exactly what it says on the tin. The Orchard Network is a national steering body for the traditional orchard habitat (formerly known as a HAP – Habitat Action Plan – group). This body includes many organisations in addition to PTES, from local orchard groups to industry and the UK statutory bodies, and its section on the website will continue to provide a place to post and find orchard events and a gazetteer of services and local varieties, alongside various technical information, training courses across the country, and a newsfeed for important orchard related announcements.

## Database of varieties

We are now on a new mission to locate and document the entire canon of UK raised or grown top-fruit varieties still in existence. Across the country there are regional and specialist collections, some public, others held by enthusiasts, but information regarding their whereabouts is fragmented and patchy, and such knowledge is often transient. Moreover, no single collection is complete or exhaustive, not even the National Fruit Collection at Brogdale. Our database will not only keep a record of all known collections in a single place, we will also identify those critically endangered varieties with current records at only one or two sites. We aim to re-propagate them to additional collections and, working in partnership with the National Trust, we are creating new regional heritage collections and duplicating existing ones to secure their future. This network of mother orchards will enable specialist, regional and rare material to be sourced by growers, researchers, professionals and enthusiasts.

## And the best news of all...

We are introducing a small grants fund to help people improve the condition of their orchards. An important part of our survey work involves the assessment and reporting (to Government) of the overall condition of the Traditional Orchard Priority Habitat. By making small changes to their orchards, especially planting new trees in or near old orchards, a condition assessment can go from 'declining' to 'good' or even leapfrog directly to 'excellent'. The grants should be launching in time for the planting season in early winter so check the PTES website for details where an expression of interest can be made.

## Volunteers

The traditional orchard map (available from the links below) remains largely unverified and some orchards have been missed off entirely so, if you have any spare time to survey orchards, please download our surveying app or get in touch with Lauren (email address below).

## Links etc.

[www.Ptes.org/orchardmaps](http://www.Ptes.org/orchardmaps),  
[www.orchardnetwork.org.uk](http://www.orchardnetwork.org.uk)

**Events, news, services:** Please submit your events, news, and orchard and cider related services for listing in the gazetteer. There will be an online form for events and news. Service providers can email [OrchardContact@ptes.org](mailto:OrchardContact@ptes.org) for inclusion in the regional listings.

**Survey volunteers:** contact [Lauren.Alexander@ptes.org](mailto:Lauren.Alexander@ptes.org) or download the 'PTES Orchard Mapper' app. available for Apple or Android devices.

**Office volunteers:** We are slowly going over the historic Ordnance Survey maps to help us find potential relict or existing sites we have missed and to record a digital history of where all the orchards used to be. If you enjoy this sort of work and can get to Battersea Park once a week or so, please get in touch with [Steve@ptes.org](mailto:Steve@ptes.org). Most of the country is still left to do, and four editions to cover!

## SOS Swifts

Kerry Stranix, Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Ben Heather, Suffolk Biological Records Centre

By the time you read this, they'll be gone. The swifts that is.

Synonymous with long summer evenings, their screaming calls fill the sky in our towns and villages from May to late August. Last year, along with the Suffolk Ornithologists' Group, Suffolk Wildlife Trust launched a campaign to raise awareness of the plight of this fast declining species. Titled, for obvious reasons, Save our Suffolk Swifts, the campaign aims to spread the word far and wide about what could be done to help swifts in Suffolk. Actions range from putting up nest boxes to playing their calls over loudspeakers to attract new nesting pairs. To illustrate how successful these actions can be we held events across Suffolk where people came to hear from experts and see swifts in action. We also teamed up with Suffolk Biological Records Centre to create an online survey to record both screaming parties and known nest sites. This information will be crucial as we learn more about the species in Suffolk in the coming years. The final event of this year is to be held in Ipswich on 5 November, where Dick Newell of Action for Swifts will be speaking about the latest developments in swift conservation. Details of this and more information about how you can help swifts can be found following the links below.

*Kerry Stranix*



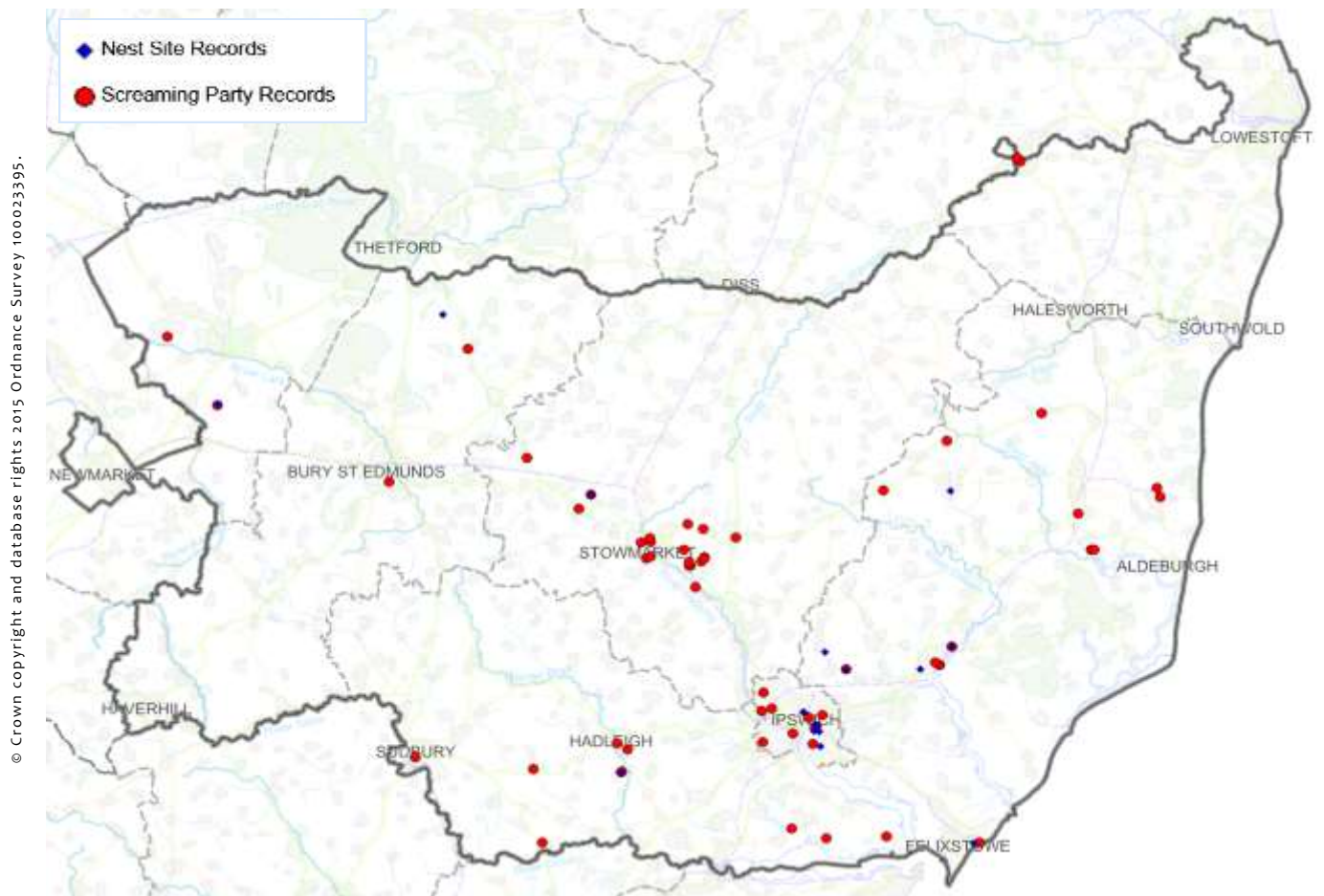
There is still time to log your sightings of both screaming parties and nest sites with the Suffolk Biological Records Centre. As you can see (below) we have had a good response so far but there are still many gaps to fill. Records do not have to be current sightings and in fact we would welcome your observations from the whole summer.

The recording forms have made use of the Suffolk Biological Recording Online service (see later article) and can be accessed by going to the following webpage [www.suffolkbrc.org.uk/swift](http://www.suffolkbrc.org.uk/swift).

Alternatively sightings containing a grid reference or post code, recorder name, date, record type (screaming party or nest site), plus any additional information can be emailed or sent to [ben.heather@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:ben.heather@suffolk.gov.uk)

*Ben Heather (SBRC)*

## Map showing this year's on-line swift records to date



## Keeping Non-native Invasive Species at bay.....the importance of good biosecurity!

### Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project

#### Biosecurity Plan for Norfolk and Suffolk

Since early 2015 we have been working with the Norfolk Non-Native Species Initiative to contribute to their Biosecurity Plan for Norfolk and Suffolk by developing a Biosecurity and Control Action Plan for the River Stour catchment. The Plan has highlighted the need to not only continue with the great control work that has been taking place in the Valley, but also to implement measures to prevent the spread of new invasive non-native species, such as the fearsomely named killer shrimp, into and out of, the catchment.

#### River Stour Biosecurity and Control Action Plan

The Biosecurity and Control Action Plan focuses on identifying the high risk species that could invade the Stour catchment; the pathways for invasion; and provides an action plan for 2015-2019. The plan deals with both reducing the risk of invasion from new invasive species and tackling the existing ones that pose a threat to our native biodiversity. The plan is now available online at [www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org](http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org)

#### Local action

Matt Holden, River Stour Project Officer, has worked successfully with landowners, land managers and community groups to instigate practical control of giant hogweed and Himalayan balsam in the Valley. Matt has now left to travel the world, our new Project Officer Alex Moore da Luz will be in post 2nd September. The Stour Valley Invasive Non-Native Species Local Action Group is also gaining steam and has focused on obtaining information on which species we should target and at which sites.

## Himalayan Balsam on the River Box

The first day of control took place at Primrose Wood, just upstream of Boxford in May. It appears that the balsam on the site has declined since our first pulls in 2013 which is brilliant. In 2014 it took us nearly two days to pull all the balsam at Primrose Wood, this year it took just one day. Either we are getting more efficient or the balsam is reducing in number!

## Giant Hogweed on the River Brett

One day of spray work has already been conducted by Neil Catchpole and monitoring of last year's control is underway. Whilst it is evident that in some areas the hogweed has declined significantly, in others there are hordes of young plants sprouting up in the areas where their parent plant once used to stand. It really has highlighted the invasive capability of this plant and the need for a long term control strategy to eliminate the established seed bank.

## Giant hogweed on the rivers Glem and Stour

We are extremely grateful to the 15 landowners who have continued to support this collaborative control project in 2015. The aim of this project has been to target the source of giant hogweed in the Stour catchment and control work started on the River Glem on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June.



Neil Catchpole spraying Giant Hogweed

## Future Plans

This summer we will be finishing off the giant hogweed control programmes on the Brett and Stour, monitoring the floating pennywort pond at Great Waldingfield (fingers crossed it has gone for good!) and taking on balsam for a final day on the River Box. The Local Action Group will be meeting again in the autumn to discuss how to deliver the actions outlined in the Biosecurity and Control Action Plan. This plan will help guide the actions taken by both ourselves and other stakeholders to tackle invasive non-native species in the Valley from 2015 – 2019. If you wish to learn more about the plan and/or attend the next Local Action Group meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November in Sudbury then please contact us for further details.



Parrots feather *Myriophyllum aquaticum* found in a pond at Monks Eleigh in 2014. This first record in the Stour catchment demonstrates the need to remain vigilant in preventing the

Plan a Himalayan balsam pull for your community!

If you would be interested in doing your bit for the environment then an easy, social and rewarding task is a Himalayan balsam pull. Whether you are a parish council, a community group or an individual with a few friends and you would like to organise a pull, then please contact our River Stour Project Officer who will assist in setting it up.

[Find out more >](#)

Get in touch: email:  
[Dedhamvale.project@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Dedhamvale.project@suffolk.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01394445225

## Looking out for invasive species in estuaries—factsheets

Haidee Stephens, Suffolk Estuaries Officer

Non-native invasive species in estuaries can affect marine operations, block boats' engine cooling systems, foul hulls and lead to costly repairs.

They are of course also a threat to our domestic wildlife (one only has to think of the tiny populations of red squirrels left owing to the introduction of the grey squirrel and the demise of some of our native ladybirds after the introduction of the harlequin ladybird).

Eradication projects are extremely expensive and so it is preferable to spot these problem species early.

The Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB has been involved with an EU project on invasive species covering France, Belgium and Holland and England called SE-FINS. It has produced a number of fact sheets, which can be viewed or downloaded [here](#)>

If you have local knowledge you are the 'eyes and ears' of the estuaries. Please help to spread the word and look out for these species – especially when cleaning/scrubbing boats – and forward these details to your contacts in marinas, sailing clubs and boatyards.



Please report sightings with the ['That's Invasive' app](#) > or at [Suffolk Biological Records Centre](#) > .

If you're not able to use these methods, please report sightings to Haidee Stephens, ideally with a photograph and clear location.

**Contact:** email: [haidee.stephens@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:haidee.stephens@suffolk.gov.uk), tel: 01394 445225, mobile: 07850 575971 , Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB, Dock Lane, Melton, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 1PE

## Rabbits in the Brecks

University of East Anglia

Rabbits are a keystone grazer on the Breck grass heaths. Populations at high enough densities create the short sward and bare ground conditions which many priority Breck species require. Sadly rabbits have declined in the Brecks, reducing the quality and extent of these conditions. The causes of their decline are probably mixed and varied, but a combination of adverse weather, disease, predation and changes to habitat management have likely played a part.

Last year a student from the University of East Anglia, Norwich, Artem Grushchanskiy, supervised by Dr Diana Bell, undertook a partnership study to uncover what factors influence the distribution and extent of rabbit warrens on Breck grass heaths. On the selected study sites, Artem undertook a program of structured warren searches and habitat surveys to answer this question.

This work demonstrated that rabbits select areas with short grass, uneven topography and soft penetrable sands. It is hoped that by re-creating these some of these conditions on a large enough scale (e.g. through sand banks) will allow low density rabbit populations to recover and spread into new areas. In areas where rabbits have become locally extinct, habitat management alone won't be sufficient. In these case re-introductions, in tandem with positive habitat management, will be required. It is hoped that future research will help to ascertain which encouragement/reintroduction techniques work best.



# SUFFOLK BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP NEWS

**Our aim : To provide guidance on Suffolk's Priority Species and Habitats for Local Authorities, community groups and schools**

Suffolk and Norfolk Biodiversity and Planning Seminar 2015

*The seminar has become a well established event in the planning calendar. It provides numerous benefits to participants including the opportunity to exchange ideas with those from other organisations, information on a wide range of biodiversity issues in planning and a **Continuing Professional Development** opportunity.*

**Friday, 27th November at West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3YU**

This year's topics include:

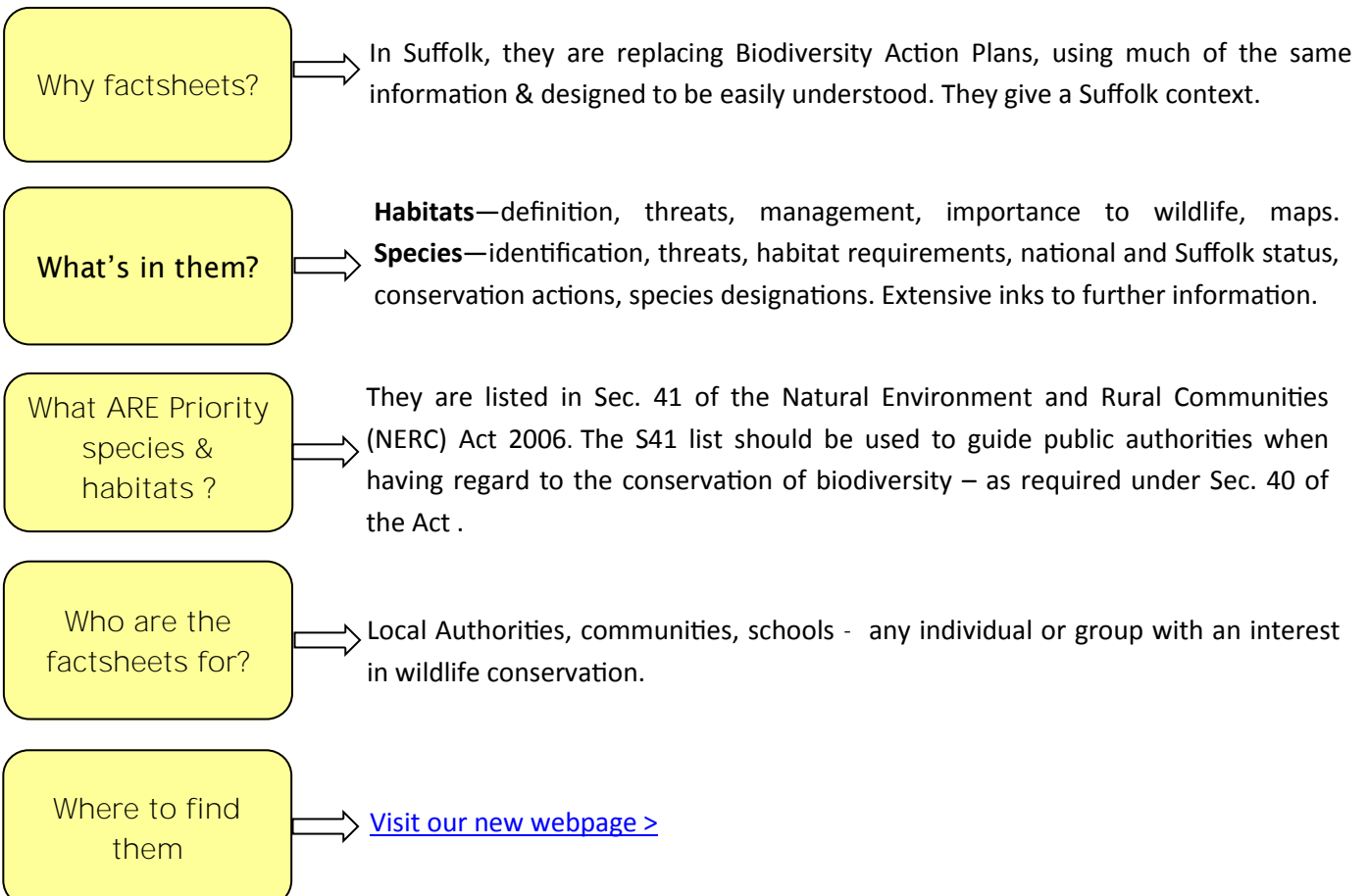
- ◆ Key national biodiversity issues in Development Management and Spatial Planning
- ◆ Norfolk Recreation Project - determining visitor patterns
- ◆ Bio-offsetting in Norfolk
- ◆ Swift nest boxes – how planners can build in success
- ◆ Natural England licensing update
- ◆ Developing a Protocol for Low Risk Protected Species cases
- ◆ Wildlife crime – what do planners need to know?
- ◆ Solar Farm Monitoring – a case study

***This event is primarily for planners in Suffolk and Norfolk, but we are pleased to offer any spare places to others for a small fee.***

***Contact SBP to express interest (p. 26)***

To see the 2014 presentations visit our [website >](#)

Priority species and habitats factsheets—**some questions answered....**



Are you looking for funding?

Check out the SBP web page to see if any of these funds can benefit your conservation or community wildlife project. [Please visit SBP News / Funding >](#) Also, SBP has a small Project Fund. Please contact Gen if you're looking for small amounts for community or research projects, or for match funding for larger projects.

**What's On** is on our website under [News / events >](#)

Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership - Moving Forward

To find out about us and how we can help you, please visit our website at [www.suffolkbiodiversity.org/](http://www.suffolkbiodiversity.org/)

Follow us on Twitter [@suffolkbiod](https://twitter.com/suffolkbiod)



### Newsletter Publication dates

The newsletter is published in Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.

Deadline for Autumn 2015 newsletter articles: **Friday 30th October 2015.**

**Thank you to our readers for supporting this newsletter,  
all feedback is welcome!**

**If you'd like to share what you or your organisation / group is doing to protect biodiversity in Suffolk, please send your article (with photos) for inclusion in the next newsletter to:**

**Gen Broad, Suffolk Biodiversity Officer (contact details below).**

## About Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership

Answer to photo question on p.1 : Nightjar chicks.

Nightjars fly silently, males have a distinctive churring song and there is a myth that they can steal milk from goats! They eat moths and beetles. Find out more - [RSPB >](#)

SBP is a partnership comprised of conservation organisations, statutory bodies, local authorities, businesses, not-for-profit organisations and community groups working together throughout Suffolk to protect biodiversity. To find out more about SBP and its work through Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan, please visit [www.suffolkbiodiversity.org](http://www.suffolkbiodiversity.org)

### Partnership members

Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council, Center Parcs–Elveden, Environment Agency, Suffolk FWAG, Essex & Suffolk Water, Forestry Commission, Forest Heath District Council and St. Edmundsbury Borough Council (West Suffolk), Ipswich Borough Council, National Trust, Natural England, RSPB, Suffolk Biological Records Centre, Suffolk Naturalists' Society, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council, Suffolk County Council.

### Contact us

**Gen Broad, Suffolk Biodiversity Officer**

**tel: 01473 264308, Mobile: 078948 85337, email: [gen.broad@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:gen.broad@suffolk.gov.uk)**