

# Newsletter

## Winter 2017

### In this issue:

	Page No.
<a href="#">SBIS news</a>	2
<a href="#">Suffolk County Council Ecology Team</a>	Andrew Murray-Wood 4
<a href="#">Fish Population Survey Report—River Stour (Middle) 2016</a>	Environment Agency 5
<a href="#">Suffolk Otter News</a>	Richard Woolnough 6
<a href="#">University of Suffolk Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Course</a>	Dr Nic Bury and Chris Turner 8
<a href="#">Urban Buzz Ipswich</a>	David Dowding 9
<a href="#">Two New Records for RSPB Minsmere</a>	Ian Barthorpe 12
<a href="#">Suffolk AONBs Update</a>	13
<a href="#">Suffolk County Council Indicators</a>	13
<a href="#">West Stow Toad Barrier Update</a>	Chris Gregory 13
<a href="#">Suffolk Birds just published!</a>	Suffolk Naturalists' Society 14
<a href="#">The Saltmarsh App</a>	14
<a href="#">Piggyback Pinkgill fungi found at Tiger Hill LNR</a>	Sudbury 14
<a href="#">Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve</a>	Adrian Cooper 15
<a href="#">SBIS contribution to global research mentioned in Tweet!</a>	15
<a href="#">Contact and About Us</a>	SBIS 16

*MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND  
HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!*

## Farewell and Good Luck

to

## Nick Collinson and Ben Heather!

At the beginning of December, we said a sad farewell to both Nick Collinson (Head of Historic and Natural Environment) and Ben Heather (GIS Officer, SBIS), both of whom have been with Suffolk County Council for about 9 years.

Nick has joined the National Trust as East Coast General Manager managing National Trust properties Dunwich Heath, Sutton Hoo and Orford Ness. He can be contacted on [nick.collinson@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:nick.collinson@nationaltrust.org.uk).

Ben will be following a new path using his photography skills to join [Gap Photos](#) as Photographer and Submissions Manager. They are a leading horticultural photo stock library based in Essex. His macro portfolio can be found [here >](#).

We are delighted that Ben will continue in his role as editor of White Admiral newsletter for Suffolk Naturalists' Society; he can be contacted on [whiteadmiralnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:whiteadmiralnewsletter@gmail.com)

***Thank You Nick and Ben - you will be sadly missed. We wish you the very best of luck on your new paths!***



**Nick discussing plants on Sizewell beach.**



**Ben is interested in all wildlife, particularly bees.**



**And he always has his camera at the ready!**

## Planners' Update Summer 2017

The newsletter is circulated to over 350 people involved in the planning process twice a year. The summer 2017 edition included details of free training available for Planning Authorities, Ipswich Wildlife Network, Urban greenspace and health, District level licensing of Great Crested Newts, using the character of landscapes to inform planning decisions and Green roofs and living walls with the Protected Species focus on Great Crested Newts.

If you would like to sign up for the newsletter please email [gen.broad@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:gen.broad@suffolk.gov.uk)

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## East Anglian Planning and Biodiversity Seminar 2017

This year's annual seminar was extended to include Essex, as well as Norfolk and Suffolk, and was attended by 100 planners and ecological consultants. The event has proved its usefulness, growing in audience numbers and the range of the agenda over the past 13 years.

Michael Oxford (Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE)) chaired the day with a sure hand and gave an overview of national news, including Brexit, the Raynsford Review and the innovative Ecological Consultant's and Local Authority biodiversity checklist being developed by the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management.

Our keynote speaker, Dusty Gedge, gave his presentation *Nature-based solutions - green roofs and rain gardens* with such energy and enthusiasm that everyone went away uplifted and inspired. With his relaxed style and showing what could be achieved, often at low cost, and using examples from around the world, Dusty proved a great hit, being described variously as 'an excellent speaker', 'entertaining' and 'brilliant'.

Greg Smith, Natural England, encouraged questions and lively debate from his talk about what Brexit means for the natural environment and Gareth Dalglish, also Natural England, updated the audience on the progress of district level licensing of Great Crested Newts.

We were delighted to welcome Julia Baker from Balfour Beatty who provided expert advice on Good Practice Principles for Biodiversity Net Gain. Natasha Moreno-Roberts (Ipswich Borough Council), Alison Collins (Natural England) and Clare Dawson (Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils) described the excellent progress being made on the ground-breaking Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS).

Practical advice at a species level is essential and was provided with great enthusiasm and authority by Sam Lee, RSPB, for farmland birds and Simone Bullion, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, for dormice.

A big **Thank You!** to our excellent speakers for their contribution to a superb day, to Shefs, the caterers, for a fine lunch and to East Suffolk Councils for hosting the event at their offices in Melton near Woodbridge. The day was organised by Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service, Suffolk Biodiversity Planning Group, Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership, ALGE and Place Services, Essex County Council.

## Suffolk County Council Natural Environment Team

Andrew Murray-Wood

The Ecology team members work constantly to not only meet legal obligations, but also to raise awareness of the importance of protecting wildlife when building developments are being planned and constructed or highway maintenance is undertaken. The focus is on protected species which include bats, great crested newts, badgers, water voles, dormice, otters, wild birds and reptiles. For example, road bridges that need vegetation, such as ivy, removed for safety reasons must be assessed for the presence of bats which may be using the structure as a roost or hibernation site.

In many cases, all that is needed is to tweak the proposal in order to obtain a good delivery for species and habitats on, or near, the site. Enhancement of habitat is key. For example, civil engineering works may be needed to bolster a riverside footpath. In this case, the team may recommend the use of a fallen tree to narrow the river, which improves the water quality by increasing oxygenation and so encourages a greater diversity of invertebrates and fish. The footpath can be supported in a sound and sustainable way, held together with willow, sallow or alder, rather than using sheet piling.

This softer, more wildlife friendly method of maintaining a riverside footpath is not only better for the environment, it is also cheaper! There is only the cost of workforce time, the hire of a JCB for half a day and some natural materials to be considered.

Three other species are high on the list to consider when assessing a proposal: swift, toad and hedgehog. If their needs are met, then conditions will be suitable for many other species. For example, swifts need nesting opportunities (which can be provided by nest boxes in new build houses), ponds and grass nearby which will be home to a diversity of insect life and margin or corridor areas of different types of vegetation, such as tall grass and hedges. All species benefit from having a wide range of habitats including ponds, streams, different grass heights, hedges and orchards. And people enjoy these too!

Seph, Holly and Andrew work closely with Environment Agency, Highways and other colleagues, encouraging an exchange of information and communication with an emphasis on learning from each other.

Please contact the Ecology Team on [ecology@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:ecology@suffolk.gov.uk)

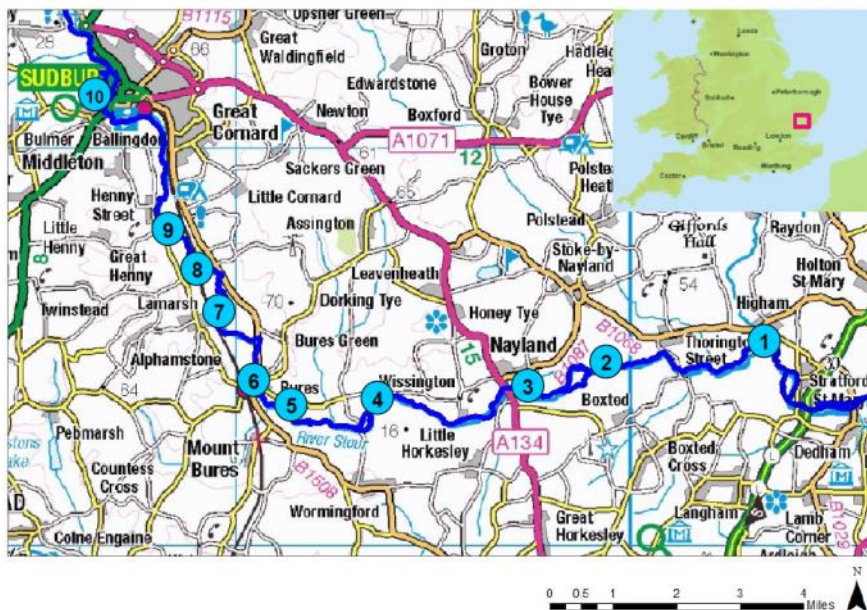


Suffolk County Council Ecology team members (left to right) Seph Pochin, Holly Emmens and Andrew Murray-Wood

This report provides a summary of results from recent fish population surveys on the River Stour between Sudbury and Higham. The surveys were carried out to assess the health of the river and enable successful management of our principal fisheries. To see the full report, please visit the [Angling Trust Eastern Region Forum website >](#)

## Summary

- Ten sites on the River Stour were surveyed by electrofishing between July and August 2016 (Figure 1).
- Sixteen species of fish and one roach/bream hybrid type were recorded during the survey. Species comprised of roach, chub, dace, perch, pike, eel, tench, common bream, gudgeon, minnow, 3-spined stickleback, bleak, bullhead, ruffe, spined loach and stone loach. A total of 5,043 fish were caught.
- Perch, pike and roach were the most widespread species, being recorded at all ten survey sites.
- An average total density estimate of 42.5 fish per 100m<sup>2</sup> and biomass estimate of 1,052 grams per 100m<sup>2</sup> were recorded across all sites. An increase from average total estimates of 9.8 fish per 100m<sup>2</sup> and 709.8 grams per 100m<sup>2</sup> in 2015.
- Roach were the most numerous species with an average total density estimate of 25.8 fish per 100m<sup>2</sup>, and they accounted for the greatest species biomass with an average total biomass estimate of 498 grams per 100m<sup>2</sup>.



**Figure 1 - Site Locations**

Middle Stour temporal survey sites:

1. Highham Hall, 2. Tendring Hall,
3. Anchor Bridge, 4. Wissington,
5. Bures Mill, 6. Bures Bridge,
7. Lamarsh FGS, 8. Pitmire,
9. Shalford Weir, 10. Mill Meadow.

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Ordnance Survey licence number 100024198.



**Members of the general public and local angling club members overlooking the fish measuring process at Mill Meadow.**

# SUFFOLK OTTER NEWS

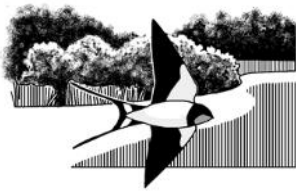


Dennis Brown

## Latest Otter Videos



Once again the Causeway camera at Minsmere has produced some excellent daylight videos of the family. This family first appeared in July and have provided lively entertainment ever since. We have also received an extraordinary video taken by John Trew on the Waveney of two cubs taking to the water at a very early age and another from Gavin Durrant which he captured in daylight at Oulton Broad. These can be viewed on the gallery page of our website: <https://suffolkotters.wordpress.com/gallery/>



## The Little Ouse Headwaters Project

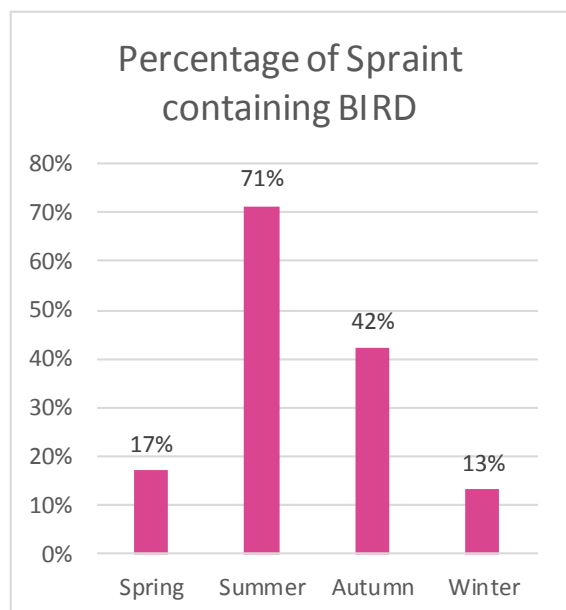
As part of the Little Ouse Headwaters Project, Arthur Rivett has established a Mammal Group. They are collecting and analysing spraint as part of their work on otters and, remarkably, they have a member who enjoys washing and cleaning spraint. As this is the activity that usually breaks the spirit of many students of otter diet this is a resource that must be treasured. Headline findings include no eel because there is a blockage downstream that the Environment Agency are working to remove; and the most common fish remains are of bullhead, a species that has not even been recorded on the River Blyth. Cameras have been acquired and a network of camera sites is already planned.



© R Langston

## Birds on the Blyth

Spraint analysis for an upstream section of the Blyth shows a remarkable surge of bird remains during the summer months of June, July and August from 17% in the spring to 71% in the summer. A similar rise was recorded on the Alde at Stanny Farm and more marked than the summer increase at Minsmere which rises to 50%. The fact that the increase is more marked in the summer than in the spring might suggest that the otters predate on immature birds rather than birds in the nest.



## What the cameras can tell us - The Blyth Family 2017

In February 2017 two very young cubs were seen for the first time on the Chediston Brook arm of the River Blyth. It wasn't until 11<sup>th</sup> April that they appeared on the main river at Halesworth and a further month before they had ventured upstream towards Walpole.

However by the beginning of June it seems she had lost one of the cubs and the mother and one cub were then seen until the end of September by which time the break up of the family seemed to have occurred. The cub would have been about 10 months old by this time and although this is a long time for the cubs to be with their mother compared with badgers and foxes this seems to be a "normal" figure for otters.



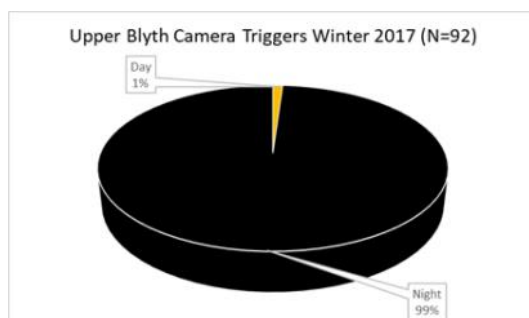
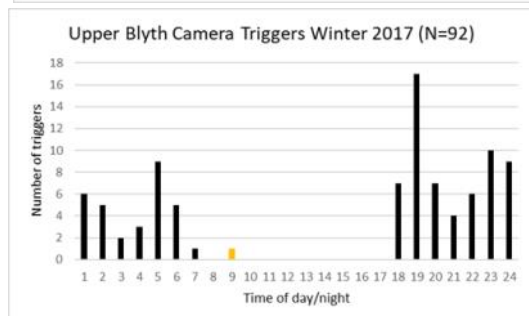
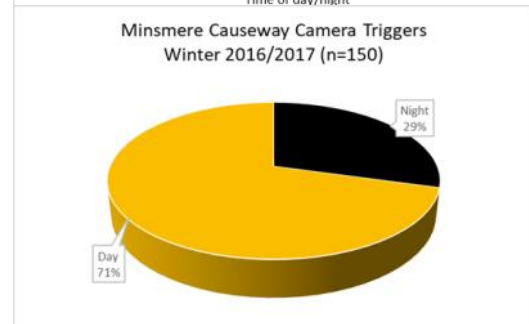
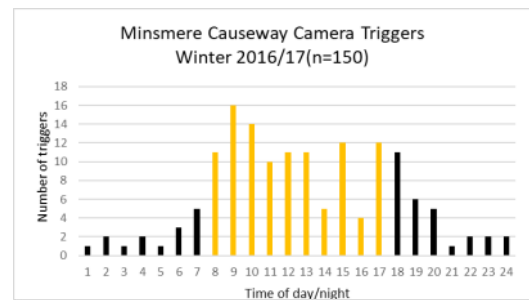
## The drawbacks of spraint analysis

It is well known that large prey can be under-represented in spraint analysis. Fish vertebrae frequently have long spines so with fish over a certain size the vertebrae will be avoided. We should still find distinctive scales from pike or cyprinid species and we sometimes do. This cub was caught on one of our trail cameras making off with the tail half of a sizeable pike or tench.



Specimen fish laying on the bank with only the tastiest bits removed annoy the fishermen, but for the majority of the time otters eat very small fish. In the estuaries they are goby and stickleback; in the upper Blyth, stone loach and stickleback and on the Little Ouse, stickleback and bullhead. We also find significant quantities of water beetle, dragonfly larva and freshwater shrimp, on the estuaries crab and where they occur in the rivers, crayfish.

## What the cameras can tell us—2



# University of Suffolk Wildlife Ecology and Conservation course

Drs Nic Bury and Chris Turner

We would like to let everyone know of two new ventures at the University of Suffolk at Ipswich. Since the University became independent on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016 we have developed new courses and initiatives. From September 2018 a new cohort of students will start the bachelor's degree in Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science and in November 2017 the University will unveil the Suffolk Sustainability Institute. Both new adventures reflect the universities commitment to conserving Suffolk wildlife and habitats.

Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation Science may be a long degree title, and we came up with this following consultation with many groups in the region (SBIS, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Muntons the list can go on and on....), but it was difficult to find a shorter name that encapsulates the ethos of the new course. Ecological scientific knowledge underpins all wildlife and conservation projects and our aim is to provide graduates with these skill sets to meet local as well as national employment needs in this sector. But an emphasis will be on field work and gaining the necessary practical skills. It is far easier to learn about concepts that are taught in the lecture room when you see them in the flesh. Personally, I cannot think of a better county in which to study nature.

This is where we hope many of you can help. The knowledge and enthusiasm of amateur and professional naturalists will help us immensely to develop the course and train the next generation. We would like to integrate into the county's biodiversity and conservation agenda. All of us can help the next generation to develop deep lifelong interests in the natural world, and secure a sustainable future.

Further details: [UOS Wildlife Ecology and Conservation course](#) > or email [n.bury@uos.ac.uk](mailto:n.bury@uos.ac.uk) or [Christopher.turner@uos.ac.uk](mailto:Christopher.turner@uos.ac.uk)



Nic Bury pond dipping



University of Suffolk, Ipswich



Student research



## Introduction

Urban Buzz is a 20-month project which will focus on creating and enhancing pollinator habitat across Ipswich. This can be anything that provides foraging or nesting/breeding habitat for pollinators such as flowery meadows, young trees and bee banks. Parks, highway verges, schools, allotments and community areas will form the majority of the 100 site target.

Urban Buzz is very much a community engagement project, but with a 25-hectare target, it will provide a valuable contribution to wildlife conservation in Ipswich. To tie in with the town's ecological network plan, habitat linkage will be key when choosing sites. It also looks to work in partnership with other local wildlife organisations under the "Wild Ipswich" umbrella. All agreed sites will be managed as wildlife areas for the long term, and habitat management guidance will be passed on to the relevant land owners.



"By 2050 Ipswich will be a nature-rich town that puts wildlife at its heart and on our doorsteps, giving everyone the opportunity to experience the joy of nature every day"

## Wildlife organisations working together under the umbrella of "Wild Ipswich"

### Ground preparation

Wildflower meadows will form the majority of the sites. Sowing wildflower seeds into existing long grass or even a lawn is usually ineffective if no preparation work is done first. The more bare ground is generated, the more opportunities the seeds will get to germinate.

As well as bare ground there is a strong relationship with floristic diversity and nutrient levels. Wildflowers generally do better on poor soils, not so much because they don't like nutrients, but because more aggressive plants such as thistles, nettles and docks (generally indicators of nutrient rich soils) do better and outcompete the wildflowers in these conditions.

There are 4 main techniques that will be used to prepare the ground for seed sowing, each with their own pros and cons.

'Over seeding' is the most straightforward method. This is simply adding seed into an area of meadow after first giving it a hard cut, removing the arisings, and then raking over to disturb the soil. As most existing meadows in the project area receive an annual cut in the autumn, over seeding can be done with less effort and planning than other techniques. This is a very inconspicuous technique which is good for quickly adding in some floristic



Planting plugs in an area of recently mown meadow at Valley Road

diversity to existing meadow. However, because of the high competition from existing plants there is rarely a high germination of wildflower seed. One way to help wildflowers to establish is to plant plugs, although this tends to be a lot more expensive.

Rotavating is the next technique that will be used. This is very good for the short term as it allows a high uptake of seeds through a small amount of machinery work. It is probably the best method for a colourful showing of cornfield annuals and the retained nutrients can allow for some really large plant specimens. Over time though, nutrient loving species will start to take hold, particularly if it is not cut or re-rotavated regularly.

Turf stripping is a great method for meadow restoration/creation. Using an excavator the turf and any remaining topsoil is removed, creating an area of nutrient poor subsoil. Immediate nutrient reduction means a shorter sward so less cutting is needed, and low growing plants such as trefoils and bedstraws can establish. Turf stripping also removes the majority of pre-existing seeds and roots so any wildflower seeds sown have little competition. Because the habitat is low in nutrients, only fine grasses grow, which allows more spaces for wildflowers. It is commonplace for plants such as orchids that were not seeded to simply pop up, now that the conditions are favourable.



**Turf stripping at Landseer Park using an excavator.**

This method can be further enhanced for less competitive wildflowers through the compaction of the subsoil and the addition of hard material such as chalk, or rubble creating similar conditions to brownfield sites which are extremely rich in invertebrate life. Bee banks, mentioned in the introduction, can be created during the site preparation whilst the excavator is on site. If the soil is suboptimal for burrowing, the addition of banks is still beneficial as it increases the range of microclimates present, and the number of niches for different plants to grow.

From a conservation point of view, turf stripping has many benefits over the more traditional meadow creation methods. From a public perception point of view however, the methodology is more challenging. It is a very conspicuous method which looks somewhat destructive to begin with. As a result this method necessitates lots of public consultation and signage. It is also very time consuming and the use of machinery in its creation and in the disposal of unwanted material is relatively expensive. Fortunately, on some sites the turf can be left on site as wildlife habitat, where it is often favoured by reptiles and amphibians.

Soil inversion is a variation of turf stripping, but instead of removing the nutrients they are buried. Its advantage over turf stripping is that there are no nutrients to take off site and no topographical depression is created. However, it requires digging deeper in order to bury the topsoil (underneath the subsoil) so may require an initial archaeological investigation.



An area enhanced by burying rubble underneath subsoil prior to seeding. In the second year the annuals may have gone, but there is now a high density of perennials (32 species) and a low coverage of grass, despite being left unmanaged since December 2015.



Signage at The Dales LNR to explain the turf stripping in the long grass area.

The great thing about the turf stripping methodology is the reversion to an early successional state, something that is uncommon in most wildlife areas. As a butterfly enthusiast, I have noticed how the turf stripping techniques have been particularly good for Lycaenidae such as Small Copper, Brown Argus and Common Blue, which love early successional habitats throughout their lifecycle. It also provides lots of burrowing opportunities for Hymenoptera, of which Suffolk is a hotspot. Ruby tailed wasps, bee wolfs, mining bees and digger wasps have all been observed burrowing in ground turf stripped for wildflowers in Ipswich.

*If you have any suggestions for Urban Buzz sites within the Ipswich area or would like to get involved with the project, please contact me. Tel: 07464828624, email [david.dowding@buglife.org.uk](mailto:david.dowding@buglife.org.uk)  
[Visit Wild Ipswich >](#) [Visit Buglife - Urban Buzz Ipswich >](#)*

## Two new insects added to RSPB Minsmere records

Ian Barthorpe

We've been celebrating Minsmere's 70th anniversary during 2017 by highlighting the incredible variety of wildlife to be found here: about 5700 species, including about 340 birds, 1200 fungi, 1100 moths, etc.

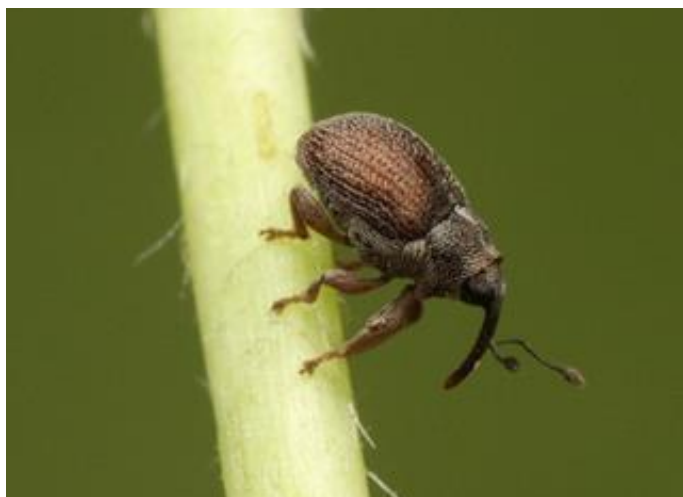
Now, two new insects have been added to the reserve list. One was found during the May 2017 Bioblitz, but its identity has only just been confirmed. The other was found by one of our younger visitors.

During the Bioblitz, we were pleased to welcome two of the RSPB's Ecologists from our headquarters in Bedfordshire.

Mark and Bex spent a day surveying various parts of the reserve on the hunt for invertebrates, specialising particularly in beetles and wasps and bees. One of the highlights of their survey was a beautiful, tiny pseudoscorpion called a marram grass chelifer (*Dactylochelifer latreillii*) that they found in the dunes.

Mark has now confirmed that one of the other species found that day was a first for the reserve. This was a lovely little weevil that goes by the name of *Ceutorhynchus pumilio*.

*C. pumilio* feeds on shepherd's cress, a member of the cabbage family. The foodplant is uncommon and the weevil is very scarce. There are good populations at Dungeness, in Breckland, and the Thames Basin heaths, but that is about it. Mark has looked for it several times on the shepherd's cress along the path to the beach, but never found it there. This one was found on an abundance of closely related thale cress in an enclosure



*Ceutorhynchus pumilio* Photo courtesy of Mark Gurney

where the rare red-tipped cudweed grows, quite close to Bittern Hide.

The second new find was a much bigger, more distinctive insect. It was found on 16 July by my son, Thomas, age 8. We were enjoying a Sunday morning stroll around the Scrape, and decided to follow the upper path through the dunes north of the sluice, when Thomas stopped and asked me what the insect was that was resting on one of the WW2 concrete tank traps.



Steely-blue wood wasp *Sirex juvenus*. Photo courtesy of Ian Barthorpe

My first impressions were that it looked rather like a horntail, or wood wasp, but that species has wasp-like colours. This one was a purple-black insect with brown wings and bright yellow legs. A quick internet search came up with *Sirex juvenus* or steely-blue wood wasp, a close relative of the horntail. As its name suggests, its larvae bore into tree trunks, so it can be a pest species in parts of its range, which stretches as far as eastern Russia. However, wood-wasps are not true wasps, despite their apparent similarity. They are, in fact, a species of sawfly.

Thomas's surprise find just proves how you don't need to be an expert to spot something interesting, or even to add to our knowledge of our wildlife.

[To read Ian's blog, visit RSPB >](#)

## Suffolk AONBs update

### 2016 Suffolk Beachwatch results

*35 surveys, 603 volunteers, 167 balloons, 20,515 items of litter, 79% plastic, 422 items of litter per 100m of beach....*

The results indicate the extent of the challenge, but also the fantastic efforts made by volunteers to help tackle the problem. Help make the beaches even cleaner and improve our understanding of where the litter is coming from by taking part in the Great British Beach Clean 2018! For 2018 Suffolk events, see [Marine Conservation Society >](#)

### Great British Beach Clean 15-18 Sep 2017

A national event organised by the Marine Conservation Society and coordinated in Suffolk by the AONB team. The outstanding work of the volunteers and the issues relating to marine litter were discussed on BBC Radio Suffolk.

- At least 21 teams took part in Suffolk, involving about 600 volunteers.
- Plastic remains a massive problem, comprising between 70-90% of all litter found.
- The largest event was hosted by Suffolk Wildlife Trust on their Trimley Marshes Reserve and joined by Orwell District Scouts and BT. 105 volunteers took part, collecting over 700 kg of litter from 750 m of foreshore.

The AONB team is indebted to all their volunteers. Some of their other achievements include:

- Stour Valley Volunteers built a tree nursery and cut and raked important grassland sites
- Installed new and updated signage on the Stour and Orwell Walk
- Created pollinator patches

The first Community Tree Nursery is nearing completion in the Suffolk Coast & Heaths. The AONB team is working to establish tree nurseries in the AONBs to enable local communities to grow on trees suitable for parish planting projects.

## Suffolk County Council indicators

A new set of indicators has been developed for some of the natural environment work at Suffolk County Council. These will be reported on annually.

INDICATOR	2016
No. of Roadside Nature Reserves in Suffolk	107
No of Local Nature Reserves in Suffolk	36
Total biological records online	2,573,320
No. of AONB volunteer days	1,975 (13,825 hours)

## West Stow Toad Barrier Update

Chris Gregory

The 2017 toad migration went well, we collected a total of 1653 toads which was highest count since 2013. We also counted 195 dead on the road (almost entirely where there was no barrier), a mortality rate of just under 12%.

This year we were also surprised (and pleased) to find no fewer than 28 Common Frogs along the barrier. Normally we only find one or two so this was quite unexpected and I wonder if this might have been because their normal breeding pond had dried after the dry December, January and February we had?

Another bonus was that we had a pair of frogs breeding in our small garden pond. It was not the first time this has happened, but an exceptionally high proportion of tadpoles survived, so we had 100s of baby frogs hopping around the lawn for a while! Later on these were joined by quite a few baby toads so we think the toads did relatively well too.

## Suffolk Birds 2016 just published!

### Suffolk Naturalists' Society

**Cost: £10**

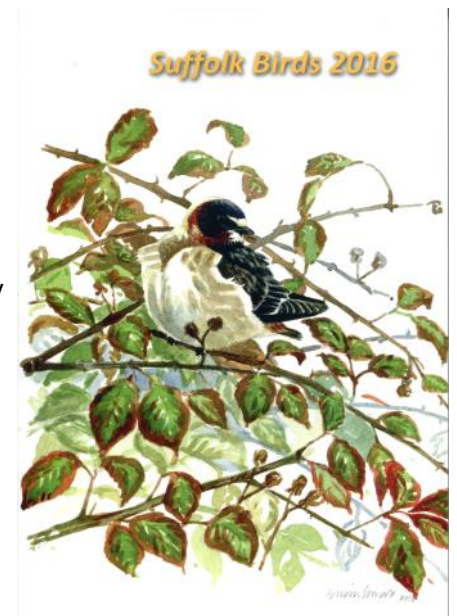
Perfect for Christmas presents!

Collection from Ipswich Museum, High St, IP1 3QH (pay on collection).

Order online from [Suffolk Naturalists' Society >](#)

Or contact Martin Sanford (tel: 01473 433547, [martin.sanford@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:martin.sanford@suffolk.gov.uk)) /  
Gen Broad (tel: 01473 264308, [email gen.broad@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:gen.broad@suffolk.gov.uk))

Also available from [RSPB Minsmere >](#)



## The Saltmarsh App

Do you enjoy spending time outside and exploring the coast of England and Wales? Have you ever explored a salt marsh? They are washed by the tides and are criss-crossed by creeks. They are rich in wildlife and help protect our coastlines against storms and floods. Salt marshes are also a great place for a walk, a run and a range of other outdoor activities.

The Salt Marsh App will introduce you to the unique variety of plants and animals found on salt marshes.

We know a great deal about land environments and have a detailed knowledge of the distribution of most soil types within the UK, with the exception of salt marshes. With the aid of The Saltmarsh App, a UK-wide group of marine scientists are asking interested individuals and groups to investigate the salt marshes which surround our coast. Once you download the free, mobile app, you can carry out an interactive plant and soil survey.

The survey will estimate stored carbon in saltmarsh soil and show how by preventing carbon from becoming the green house gas carbon dioxide your marsh is helping limit climate change. Every marsh survey uploaded will help scientists at [School of Ocean Sciences, Bangor University](#) learn more about UK saltmarsh soils and how they are helping fight climate change.

[Download The Saltmarsh App >](#)

## Piggyback Rosegill fungi found at Tiger Hill Local Nature Reserve

Mycologist Matthew Rooney recorded some fascinating finds from Tiger Hill LNR near Assington. Highlights were the rare Piggyback Rosegill, the Deathcap, the Wrinkled Peach, the Deadly Dapperling and a variety of Waxcaps, Pinkgills and Club fungi - making the grassland at Tiger Hill LNR internationally important for fungi based on the CHEG scale. This scale relates to Waxcap fungi which inhabit ancient nutrient-poor grassland and which are the mycological 'flagships' for this northern European habitat.

## Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve

Adrian Cooper

Felixstowe's Community Nature Reserve has some exciting new plans for 2018! So we wanted to share them with you.

Our main activities of encouraging local people to allocate part of their garden, allotment and window boxes for wildlife-friendly plants will continue to grow across the Felixstowe area. Already, we have over 900 active members – each of whom has bought and planted at least one of the plants we've been recommending.

During 2018, we will increase our work with local young people because they are the next generation of community-based conservationists. In 2017, we worked with First Stop Pre School in Trimley St Mary and Causton Junior School. We hope to develop that work with other local children during this new year.

Many of our adult members have asked us to develop a citizen science approach to our work, so we're happy to oblige. During 2018, this will take the form of a series of Geographical Information Systems projects, the results of which will be shared on our Facebook page.

In 2017, we started to work with local artists whose work is inspired by the wildlife in local gardens, allotments and window boxes. This year, we'll be developing that work in some new film projects which will feature as much of that local art as possible. Those films will have a sound track featuring the work of local musicians such as Three Rivers, the East Coast Horns and the New Magdalen Trio.

Although the core of our work will remain in the Felixstowe area, we always enjoy sharing our ideas and resources with others elsewhere. As a consequence, 2018 will see us using podcasts and other social media to try and 'plant' new community nature reserves around the world. We will use our membership of the National Biodiversity Network to encourage other NBN members to incorporate community-based conservation into their work. We will also share our work with our fellow members of Community Action Suffolk.

For more information about the work of Felixstowe's Community Nature Reserve, please visit our [Facebook page >](#)

## SBIS contribution to global research mentioned in Tweet!



Teresa Frost  
@Zarfrost

Following

Most cited NBN-contributed dataset on gbif is from an LERC, @SuffolkBIS - one of my local LERCs contributing to global research #NBNCnf17



2:57 PM - 17 Nov 2017

3 Retweets 4 Likes





### ***Sharing information about Suffolk's wildlife***

Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service is the One-Stop-Shop for biodiversity information in Suffolk. Operating as an independent and objective centre for biodiversity data we collate, manage and mobilise species and site information for the benefit of Suffolk's wildlife as a whole.

**News** [SBIS website >](#)

**Events** [SBIS News / Events >](#)

**Funding Opportunities** Check out the SBIS web page to see if any of these funds can benefit your conservation or community wildlife project. [SBIS News / Funding >](#)

**Project Fund** We have a small Project Fund available to individuals and communities for research, habitat enhancement or to benefit Suffolk species. Please contact Gen Broad if you're looking for small amounts of funding for your project.

**We welcome species records from the public. You can make a valuable contribution to wildlife conservation - why not try out [SuffolkBro online](#)? It's easy and fun!**

All records are verified via iRecord and our County Recordors and then added to our database for Suffolk (currently 3.25 million). Species records help us to understand the distribution and patterns of Suffolk's wildlife as well as informing the conservation activities of key partners and the planning process.

Follow us on Twitter [@Suffolkbis >](#)

Like us on [Facebook >](#)

Share photos on [Flickr >](#)

**Newsletter Publication dates** : Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.

Deadline for Winter 2017/2018 newsletter articles: **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018.**

*If you'd like to share the work that 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*

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

What people have said: *"a good read as always", "very interesting publication. Keep up the great work."*

#### **Contact Us**

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