



# Biodiversity News in Norfolk

No 47  
(August 2015)

Photo: Bur Medick under the [Creative Commons CC0 1.0 Universal Public Domain Dedication](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

## Welcome to our August e-bulletin

If you live in or regularly visit The Brecks then NBIS needs your help! As part of the Breaking New Ground Landscape Partnership Scheme (supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund) NBIS are leading a project called Wildlife Recorders of Tomorrow. Read more details of this project in GETTING INVOLVED and if you're interested please email [nbis@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nbis@norfolk.gov.uk)

In Local NEWS, Chris the cuckoo has sadly gone missing in action, and it's a bumper summer for Blakeney Point's seals. Plus, the northern pool frog returns to Thompson Common (see SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS). Further afield the Great Britain Non-native Species Strategy has been published and a new app may make it easier to identify birds – find out more in National NEWS.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

---

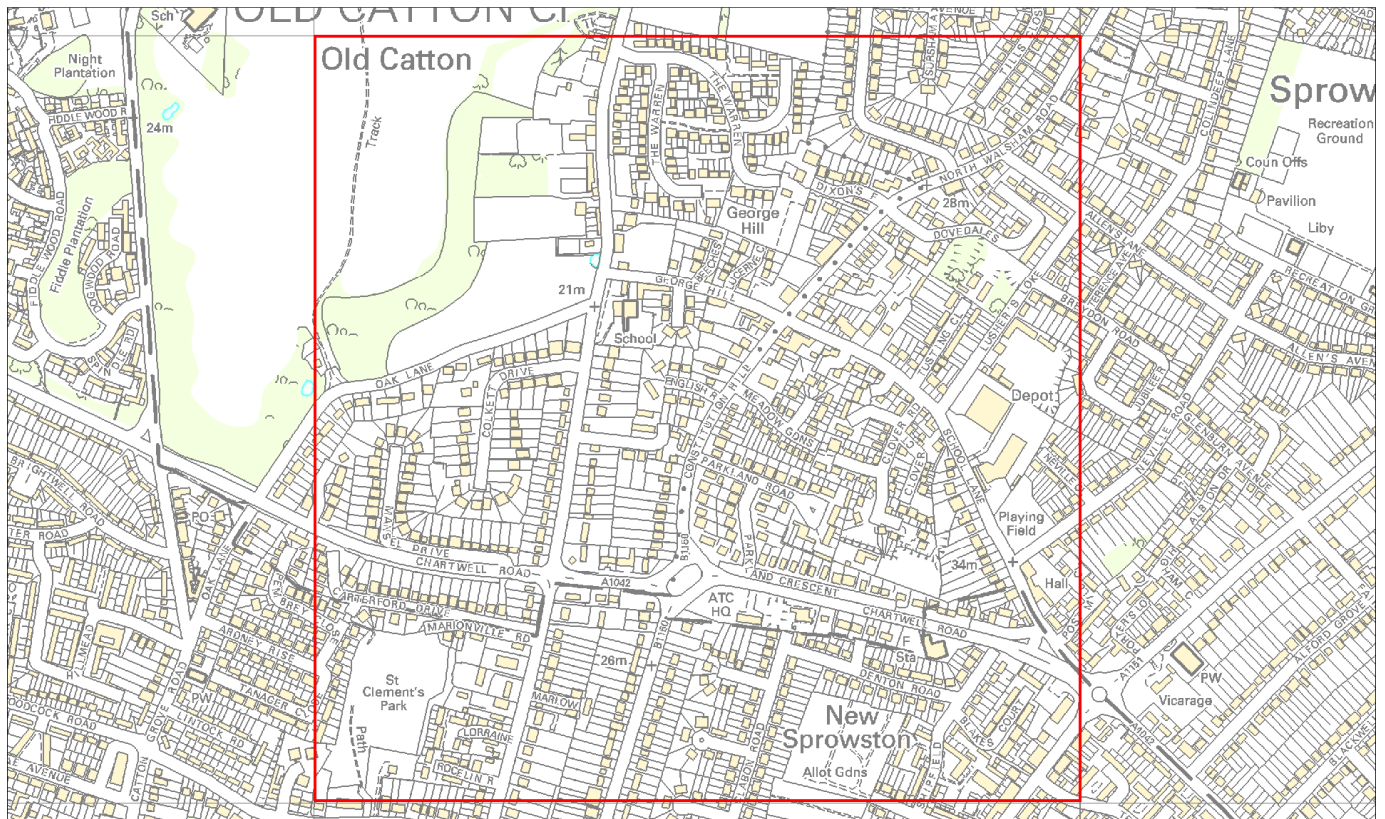
### GRID SQUARE OF THE MONTH

Many thanks to all of you who have submitted records of our Species of the Month over the last couple of years. We are trying something new for 2015 – grid square of the month. Each month we will highlight a 1km grid square somewhere in Norfolk, and ask you to help record as many species as possible from within that grid square. At the end of the year we will see which grid square has the highest number of records submitted. **Of course you can still submit records from other areas of Norfolk as usual on our All Species survey:**

<http://nbis.org.uk/AllSpeciesSurvey>

Thanks to all of you who submitted records for our Grid Square of the Month from the July e-bulletin.

Our next Grid Square of the Month is **TG2311** in **Old Catton**.



This grid square in Norwich contains the south east part of Catton park, as well as some of the residential area beside it. It also extends within the ring road to New Sprowston and St Clements Park.

**You can submit your records at <http://nbis.org.uk/TG2311>**

It doesn't have to be a rare or unusual species – recording common and widespread species are just as important. From blackbirds to oak trees, hedgehogs to ladybirds, let's see how many species can be recorded within the grid square!

Remember, trespassing is a crime, so only go to areas accessible to the public.

---

**Biodiversity and Countryside Team  
Community and Environmental Services,  
Norfolk County Council**  
[nbis@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nbis@norfolk.gov.uk)

Please do email us at [nbis@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nbis@norfolk.gov.uk) if you have any news or events that you would like us to feature in the next or coming issues. And do feel free to forward to anyone you feel would also be interested.

You can download this e-bulletin as a pdf here: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/E-BulletinAug2015.pdf> You can also download past e-bulletins as a pdf here: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/newsletterse-bulletins>

[top]

[Local NEWS](#)  
[National NEWS](#)  
[GETTING INVOLVED](#)  
[SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS](#)  
[EVENTS](#)  
[AND FINALLY](#)

**Local NEWS**

## **Chris Packham cuckoo reported 'missing in action'**

Chris the cuckoo left the UK on July 4<sup>th</sup> but poor signals have led the BTO to conclude the bird is 'missing in action'  
<http://tinyurl.com/q65xd7o>

## **Blakeney Point seals: numbers at National Trust colony hit four-year high**

Figures from the National Trust show that 412 common seals were counted at low tide, the largest number since 2011  
<http://tinyurl.com/o7x3m7z>

## **Norwich City Council respond to calls to make River Wensum a hub of activity**

More than 150 people responded to an appeal for help to breathe new life into Norwich's River Wensum  
<http://tinyurl.com/qvxnnyw>

## **Norfolk's underwater forest: More secret gems revealed**

Divers exploring a 10,000-year-old submerged forest off the Norfolk coast say a shift in the seabed has exposed much more of the hidden treasure <http://tinyurl.com/nob4mdg>

## **Rare breed sheep join cattle in grazing at west Norfolk reserve**

More than 80 rare breed sheep have joined cattle in grazing on a reserve in west Norfolk, to help create perfect conditions for wintering ducks <http://tinyurl.com/qdf5om8>

## **Norwich scientists say garden ponds could be surprising source for new medicines**

<http://tinyurl.com/okx5ckx>

## **Red seaweed brings a mile of colour to our beaches**

<http://tinyurl.com/qd774ow>

[[TOP](#)]

## **National NEWS**

### **Shazam for birds: new app Warblr can identify songs of 220 British birds**

Developed by two scientists, the app which costs £3.99 works in a similar way to Shazam, the music app which identifies songs playing from a huge database of tracks <http://tinyurl.com/p5h7lt9>

### **Creepy-crawly celebrity contest will highlight UK's threatened species**

Royal Society of Biology asks Britons to choose their favourite bug to focus attention on over-use of pesticides, loss of habitat and climate change <http://tinyurl.com/nklm6to>

### **Great Britain non-native species strategy published**

The report provides a framework on how to minimise the risks posed by invasive non-native species  
<http://tinyurl.com/q2rhpmq>

### **Bee count finds school grounds abuzz as their favourite habitat**

Great British Bee Count, involving 6000 people in May, reports schools and gardens – not countryside and farmland – are insects' favourite places <http://tinyurl.com/q2qljqp>

### **Drones freak out animals, say scientists**

Authorities need to take into account the impact on wildlife when setting regulations for drones, researchers say  
<http://tinyurl.com/oxrxwzc>

### **Ecology initiative to encourage more birds, bats and insects to central London**

Wild West End will link parks with green stepping stones to draw wildlife to built-up streets, with beehives, bird and bat boxes being installed <http://tinyurl.com/p9utxwk>

### **Where are the world's ants? First ever map detailing 15,000 species launched**

Four-year project maps location of species, with Australian state of Queensland found to host the greatest number of native species <http://tinyurl.com/nft7m4d>

### **Pitcher plant in France eats bee-killing Asian hornets**

<http://tinyurl.com/ovu9nws>

### **Ash dieback disease: Woodland Trust warning over impact**

<http://tinyurl.com/npz5usw>

**More National news here:**

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#Aug2015NationalNews>

[\[TOP\]](#)

## GETTING INVOLVED

### Wildlife Recorders of Tomorrow

There's a piece missing... we need your help to build up a picture of The Brecks' wildlife!

The Brecks is an important area for wildlife both in a UK and international context. However, many of the species records come from a few well recorded designated sites, with recording often done on an ad hoc basis making detecting changes over time difficult.

Led by NBIS, this project will establish a network of volunteers recording wildlife throughout the Breaking New Ground Landscape Partnership Scheme area (a project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund).

Whether you're a complete beginner or a seasoned surveyor, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved, with lots of support and training.

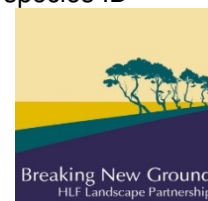
Pop along to an introduction session to find out more about the project. There will also be a variety of species ID courses and photography workshops on offer.

The project will operate at 3 levels:

- Beginner: provide training and encouragement to those new to recording wildlife.
- Species surveillance: help people take the next step into more serious recording of sites. This will allow a number of important sites in the Brecks to be monitored and will also help to ensure sustainable long-term monitoring of sites where work is taking place as part of other Breaking New Ground projects. Data collected will feed into the Norfolk Species Surveillance Network.
- River corridor survey – Little Ouse headwaters to Brandon: A non-native species survey of the Little Ouse river, from its headwaters at Redgrave and Lopham Fens to Brandon.

Whether you are an individual or part of a community group, if you are interested in getting involved, please email [nbis@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nbis@norfolk.gov.uk)

More details at <http://tinyurl.com/ppr7mdq>



### Last chance to sign up for the Norfolk Bat Survey

The Norfolk Bat Survey ([www.batsurvey.org](http://www.batsurvey.org)) is running for its third year. The survey, which uses automated bat detectors to record the presence and activity of bats, needs the help of volunteers willing to put out detectors.

Over the past two years the project was able to survey 786 1-km squares (about 15% of Norfolk), and received over 600,000 high-quality recordings of bats, making this one of the largest projects of its type in the world. The aim is to increase survey coverage to 25% of Norfolk and add to existing knowledge in neighbouring Suffolk. With your help, we can do this.

*We're about to enter the last month of this year's survey so you need to be quick to sign up!* You can do this via [www.batsurvey.org/sign-up](http://www.batsurvey.org/sign-up). After selecting a 1-km square (or squares if interested in covering more than one square), you will be given a web link to a site where you can reserve a detector to use from the most convenient Bat Monitoring Centre to you. If in Suffolk, you can sign up through our Projects in Suffolk page [www.batsurvey.org/projects-in-suffolk/](http://www.batsurvey.org/projects-in-suffolk/). Please note that this survey requires three different points, ideally at least 200-metres apart, to be surveyed on consecutive nights within a 1-km square.

### Nominate someone for a UK award for biological recording

The National Biodiversity Network wants to recognise significant achievement and celebrate success in biological recording and information sharing. Download the nomination form here: <http://tinyurl.com/ndl6zp7>

### Hedgehog Street Big Hedgehog Map

<http://tinyurl.com/prat9b>

### New app to monitor grasshoppers and crickets

<http://tinyurl.com/os4fxll>

## County Wildlife Site of the Month

County Wildlife Sites are often little-known sites of importance to wildlife. While not protected by law they are taken into account during the planning process. Some of them are privately owned and do not allow public access. However there are many which you can go and visit.

The County Wildlife Site for this month is... **Neatherd Moor!**



This valuable open green space is a complex site managed by Dereham Town Council, mainly for informal public access. The original site was registered as common land.

Small meadows to the north and centre of the site, surrounded by hedges support herb rich grassland including the common spotted orchid.

The moor itself consists of several fields of varying species richness, along with a large pond and an area of oak woodland. The discreet area of woodland to the south and east of the site is dominated by mature oak trees along with hazel, sycamore, beech, rowan, hawthorn and field maple. Where the sun penetrates the canopy, several species of fern and woodland herbs can be found.

To the south of the site is an area of recently planted parkland, where lesser stitchwort, ox-eye daisy and twayblade can be found. A wide track, edged with relict woodland links Neatherd Moor to the nearby Etling Green.

Look out for Willow warblers and green woodpeckers on the site. Great crested newts have also been recorded here. Access is from Neatherd Road on the east side of Dereham.

If you visit Neatherd Moor, NBIS would love to know what species you spot there – let us know at <http://www.nbis.org.uk/AllSpeciesSurvey>

Photo: Duck pond at Neatherd Moor, Dereham © [Craig Tuck](#) and licensed for [reuse](#) under this [Creative Commons Licence](#)

[\[TOP\]](#)

## SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

### Rare frogs return to Thompson Common 20 years after becoming extinct

A project carried out by Breaking New Ground in partnership with Norfolk Wildlife Trust and the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust sees the northern pool frog return to Thompson Common after becoming extinct in the UK in the early 1990s. <http://tinyurl.com/puh93m7>

### Chance to see rare species of bumblebee at Welney wetland centre, near Downham Market

For a few weeks in August, Ruderal bumblebees (*Bombus ruderatus*) could be seen at the Welney wetland centre. They had only previously been recorded in the county three times since 2001. <http://tinyurl.com/p3mc9rf>

[\[TOP\]](#)

## EVENTS

### Charles Burrell Centre Open Day 2015, 6 Sept, 10am-3pm, Thetford, Free Entry

Come along and find out from NBIS about how you can become a Wildlife Recorder of Tomorrow!

<http://tinyurl.com/pyonuhp>

### Crowdsourcing Data Capture Summit, 25 Sept, 9.30am-4pm, Manchester Museum

Seeking to kick-start collaborations to mobilise the NBN's extensive undigitised data holdings using crowdsourcing platforms. <http://tinyurl.com/nmajawt>

### Community Action for Wildlife, 26 Sept, 10am-3pm, Green Britain Centre, Swaffham

Do you manage green space for wildlife or are you interested in doing so? Free event but booking is essential. Lunch provided. Contact [wild@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:wild@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk) or call 01603 598333 to book. <http://tinyurl.com/npu26sv>

### Norwich Bat Group Events

Summer bat walks with the Norwich bat group <http://www.norwichbatgroup.co.uk/events/>

[\[TOP\]](#)

## AND FINALLY..

Meet the cute, colourful sea slug that looks like The Magic Roundabout's Ermintrude

<http://tinyurl.com/ogksswt>

If you wish to be removed from this mailing list, please email us: [nbis@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nbis@norfolk.gov.uk)  
Your comments about this bulletin are appreciated - please complete our survey at:  
<http://www.nbis.org.uk/e-bulletin-survey>

Webpages: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/> ; [www.norfolkbiodiversity.org](http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org); [www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/nonnativespecies](http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/nonnativespecies)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NorfolkBiodiversityInformationService](http://www.facebook.com/NorfolkBiodiversityInformationService) ; [www.facebook.com/NorfolkInvasives](http://www.facebook.com/NorfolkInvasives)

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/NorfolkBIS>; <http://www.twitter.com/NorfolkNNSI>

Please consider the environment before printing this email