



Biodiversity News in Norfolk

No 17 (August 2012)

Capt Photo: Blakeney Point ([Hugh Venables](#)) / [CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

Welcome to our August biodiversity e-bulletin

We hope you have been enjoying the summer of sport, especially the fantastic Olympic and Paralympic results that GB have had. Despite all the sport taking our attention, there has been plenty going on in the conservation world.

Highlights this month include:

- A £1.3 million boost for improving the quality of the North Norfolk Chalk Rivers (Local News)
- NBIS continues development of the pilot for structured surveillance of species recording (Local News)
- Norfolk bucks national trend for decline in garden birds (Local News)
- RINSE launches website (Local News)
- Killer Shrimp detected in Wroxham broad (Local News)
- A useful summary of what the NPPF means for biodiversity (National News)
- Norfolk Monuments Management Project is looking for volunteers who are willing to monitor the condition of earthworks in Theford forest (Getting Involved)
- Law Commission launches consultation on the law governing the management of wildlife (Getting Involved)

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Please do email us at 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-bulletinAugust2012.pdf>
You can also download past e-bulletins as a pdf here: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/newsletterse-bulletins>

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Local NEWS

Do we still need nature reserves?

Blakeney Point, a four-mile spit of shingle and sand, celebrates its centenary as Britain's first coastal nature reserve this month. But in an era of cataclysmic climate change, are such places just a parochial irrelevance?

<http://gu.com/p/3axtq/tw>

Defra Fund for Biological Recording in the Voluntary Sector Update

The Defra fund for biological recording in the voluntary sector (DBRVS) is now underway. The Defra fund is part of a funding programme established to deliver part of the published Government commitment in the Natural Environment White Paper to support the voluntary sector's role in engaging with the natural environment and contributing to our understanding of its state and trends. The first DBRVS project was advertised in June and pilots structured surveillance of species recording in collaboration between Local Record Centres and National Schemes and Societies. NBIS in the East and GMEU (Greater Manchester Ecology Unit) in the North West were successful. Both projects started in August and will pilot the use of online recording to capture multi-taxa volunteer data relating to key habitats via structured surveillance methods. NBIS will cover arable, lowland dry acid and lowland calcareous grassland habitats. GMEU will focus on Ancient Woodland.

<http://nbn.org.uk/News/Latest-news/Defra-Fund-for-Biological-Recording-in-the-Volunta.aspx>

Chalk rivers from King's Lynn to Mundesley to benefit from £1.3 million funding boost

A project to improve the quality of nine chalk rivers in north and north west Norfolk has been awarded a £1.3 million grant by Defra.

http://www.northernorfolknews.co.uk:80/news/chalk_rivers_from_king_s_lynn_to_mundesley_to_benefit_from_1_3_million_funding_boost_1_1468820

Final collated results for Dinosaur Adventure Bioblitz (10/08/12)

After publishing interim results in our June e-bulletin, where we celebrated initial results of 616 species seen during the 24 hour bioblitz at Dinosaur Adventure, we now have the final collated results. THE FINAL COUNT IS 699 SPECIES (950 records), which is way over the 500 species target. This total includes 284 flowering plants, 62 moths, 61 birds, 58 beetles and 56 fungi. To see the final results table please visit the results map page:

http://www.nbis.org.uk/DinosaurAdventureBioblitz_ResultsMap.

Hedgehog decline hits West Norfolk

Scientists have predicted hedgehogs could be extinct in less than 15 years and the signs of decline are becoming evident around West Norfolk: <http://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/latest-news/hedgehog-decline-hits-west-norfolk-1-4111804#.UD5GkhVUxSg.twitter>

RINSE website launched

You will be aware of the new European-funded project run by Mike Sutton-Croft (NNSI) and Mel Gillings, as mentioned in our March issue - well you can now check out their fresh new website at <http://www.rinse-europe.eu>

'Killer' shrimp has spread on Norfolk Broads - now detected at Wroxham Broad

<http://goo.gl/SR1qY>

Tests to find out if smartphone technology can help protect Norfolk's rural footpaths

http://www.edp24.co.uk:80/news/environment/tests_to_find_out_if_smartphone_technology_can_help_protect_norfolk_s_rural_footpaths_1_1483113

Norfolk bucks trend in RSPB survey: is your garden a wildlife haven?

A garden survey of baby birds carried out during June shows Norfolk encouragingly bucking a national trend of falling numbers: http://www.edp24.co.uk:80/news/environment/rspb_survey_is_your_garden_a_wildlife_haven_1_1484406

Mousehold Heath Earth Heritage Trail

About 30 people enjoyed a Guided Walk on July 17th. Tim Holt-Wilson introduced most of the points of interest on the Trail. For more information on the trail: <https://sites.google.com/site/norfolkgeodiversity/news/mheht>

Latest GeoConservationUK Newsletter.

On page 4 there is an account of Norfolk's Gt Hockham stone (also a County Geodiversity Site) being rolled over. On page 8 is a short piece on Geodiversity and Local Nature Partnerships, and also a useful short section on Geodiversity and the National Planning Policy Framework
[http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/GCUK_Newsletter_Vol_3_No_2_\(Publisher_2010\)_Emailed.pdf](http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/GCUK_Newsletter_Vol_3_No_2_(Publisher_2010)_Emailed.pdf)

Latest Gaywood Valley project newsletter (Summer/Autumn 2012):

http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Summer_AutumnFinal.pdf

EDP series on the winners of the Norfolk Community Biodiversity Awards

Marya Parker talks about her work launching countless green projects around Norwich.

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/environment/tireless_conservation_champion_marya_parker_wins_norfolk_community_biodiversity_award_1_1480161

Norfolk flower power to produce 'green' gas

A special mix of 20 species of flowers on Norfolk farm could be turned into a super "green" and environmentally-friendly biogas: http://www.edp24.co.uk:80/business/farming-news/norfolk_flower_power_to_produce_green_gas_1_1493319

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National NEWS

Useful summary of what the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) means for biodiversity and the natural environment:

The latest edition of the National Federation for Biological Recording (NFBR) newsletter (no. 44) can be read online via 'Issuu' - There is an especially useful article on what the new NPPF means for biodiversity (from page 15): <http://issuu.com/kitenet/docs/nfbr-44/1>

PlantTracker - new version of invasive species recording app launched

The Environment Agency and University of Bristol have just launched a new version of their PlantTracker app to record the distribution of invasive plant species in the UK. The project involves key partners including the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (BRC) and the Non Native Species Secretariat in order to ensure that the data collected are available to those that really need it: <http://nbn.org.uk/News/Latest-news/PlantTracker-app.aspx>

Why wildlife recording matters (by Ed Drewitt)

<http://meetthespeciesdotorg.wordpress.com/2012/09/02/ed-drewitt-why-wildlife-recording-matters>

Bats threatened by climate change

<http://bbc.in/PBxJLO>

Can city cemeteries be nature reserves?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/0/19272231>

Ecology drones track endangered wildlife

Unmanned 'drones' have many potential uses for ecology and conservation. NBIS are currently involved in a habitat mapping project in the county which involves the use of drones, as well as satellite images and other data sources. <http://gu.com/p/39pdb/tw>

Free online tool helps identify bat calls

<http://bbc.in/NZnamy>

Arable plant species disappearing

Cornflowers, corn marigolds, pheasant's eye and, in some areas, poppies are becoming increasingly threatened species in the face of more intensive agriculture, Plantlife said. Plantlife has produced guides for farmers wanting to help boost wildflower species in the countryside:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/arable-plant-species-disappearing-7998249.html>

Visits to the countryside will improve the UK's health, say MPs

<http://gu.com/p/3943m/tw>

More National news here:

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#August2012NationalNews>

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GETTING INVOLVED

Volunteer Monitoring in Thetford Forest

Thetford Forest contains a large number of archaeological sites, including burial mounds, deserted settlements, rabbit warrens, historic buildings, flint mines and World War Two military remains. Many of the features survive as earthworks, with others known from below-ground remains and surface artefact scatters.

Working in partnership with the Forestry Commission, Suffolk County Council and English Heritage, the Norfolk Monuments Management Project is looking for volunteers who are willing to monitor the condition of earthworks in the forest. If you visit Thetford Forest on a regular basis and are interested in learning more about archaeological sites or if you are keen to become actively involved in archaeology, this could be the project for you! As the monitoring will involve recording information about vegetation, we are particularly keen to recruit volunteers with ecological or botanical knowledge.

For more information visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/Environment/Historic_environment/NCC082087 or contact David Robertson on 01362 869291 or david.robertson@norfolk.gov.uk

Law Commission launches consultation on the law governing the management of wildlife

Law commission website says: "The proposals put forward in this consultation aim to simplify the existing complex framework, placing wildlife law into a single statute. The new regime would reduce the current dependency on criminal law, by allowing an appropriate mix of regulatory measures such as guidance, advice and a varied and flexible system of civil sanctions – such as fines and bans.....This consultation relates to our wildlife project. "

Find out how to respond here: <http://lawcommission.justice.gov.uk/consultations/wildlife.htm>

Close date: 30 November 2012

Bullfrog alert.....Have you seen these frogs around please do let Amphibian and Reptile

Conservation know at: <http://alienencounters.arc-trust.org/reporting.php>

Alien Encounters is part of the National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme (NARRS) Coordinated by Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

Buglife Hornet hoverfly survey

Buglife are asking you to submit your Hornet hoverfly sightings to help them map their distribution and work out if we are witnessing an influx of female Hornet hoverflies from the continent this summer.

<http://www.buglife.org.uk/getinvolved/surveys/Hornet+hoverfly+survey>

Winter Thrushes Survey

Wednesday 12th September 2012 marks the start of the new BTO Winter Thrushes Survey. Over the next two winters, the BTO will be asking people across the UK to record where and when they encounter any of our six species of thrush (Blackbird, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Redwing, Fieldfare and Ring Ouzel), either found here on migration or during the winter months: <http://t.co/vR32LdLD>

OPAL Grants Scheme now open - helping natural history societies and recording schemes grow

Applications should be submitted by email to d.urry@nhm.ac.uk by midday on Monday 8 October 2012, for more information visit the NBN article on the fund here: <http://nbn.org.uk/News/Latest-news/OPAL-Grants-Scheme-%281%29.aspx>

Can blue tits save conker trees from non-native leaf-mining moth? Help with the study to find out: <http://bit.ly/SUclyj>

Take part in the alien moth survey with the leaf watch app for smartphones.
See: <http://www.conkertreescience.org.uk/>

Surveys are still going on in the Big Norwich Bat Project and there are still a few squares left. If you know anyone who may be interested check... <http://fb.me/2l4YmVtxZ>

Sunset / Sunrise Survey - Bat Conservation Trust

http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/sunset_sunrise_survey.html#.UD9rYlwCUKA.twitter

Join Norwich Community Green Gym in September 2012

The Green Gym is a voluntary group improving the green spaces of Norwich. Please see their September tasks list here: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/NorwichCommunityGreenGymSeptember2012.pdf>

For more information please contact 01603 767300 and ask for George or Ernie, or email [norwichcommunitygg\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:norwichcommunitygg[at]gmail.com). Website address: <http://norwichcommunitygreengym.blogspot.co.uk/>

Do you know your butterflies...with their wings closed? Test yourself here: <http://ow.ly/cl3yG>

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SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

Beautiful cream-streaked ladybird record received from Norfolk

First cream-streaked sent to UK Ladybird Survey for sometime (UK ladybirds - 23rd August)

Another new moth for Norfolk (courtesy of @ChristopherRawl, Invertebrates&more, from Twitter)

Cochylis molliculana (Ox-tongue Conch) First for Norfolk. The first Norfolk record of this small Tortrix moth has been taken at Dersingham this week (R. Jones,...)

<http://fb.me/1OA93djd5>

A really great web-guide to identifying feathers - a whole new way of recording birds!

http://www.federn.org/index_en.html

FSC Ladybird Larval identification chart is available NOW: <http://www.field-studies-council.org/publications/pubs/ladybird-larvae.aspx>

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EVENTS

2012 programme of events for Norfolk Fungus Study Group announced (13/08/12)

Please find below the 2012 programme of events for the Norfolk Fungus Study Group. Please distribute freely to anyone who may be interested. Norfolk Fungus Study Group 2012 programme of events:

http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/NorfolkFungusStudyGroup_programme2012.pdf

16th September - Freshwater Snail ID workshop - Wheatfen

Booking essential – contact 01508 538036

<http://www.wheatfen.org/tethtml/events.html>

23 September - Introduction to Algae and Diatoms - Wheatfen

2–5pm. £4 .Booking essential: 01508 538036

<http://www.wheatfen.org/tethtml/events.html>

29th-30th September - Cambridgeshire Bird Club Conference - RAPTORS: CONSERVATION AND ECOLOGY

In association with the RSPB and BTO

Saturday 29th September 2012 0930–1700 at Cottenham Village College

Sunday 30th September 2012 RSPB reserves in Cambridgeshire

Poster: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/CBCconferencePoster8.pdf>

Conference programme: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/CBCconferenceProgramme.pdf>

13th October - Wild About Norfolk

[Easton College 10am–4pm](#)

Wild About Norfolk returns on the 13th October 2012! Check out their website and click on the green 'poster' for more details...www.wildaboutnorfolk.co.uk

Wild About Norfolk is an annual wildlife and environmental fair showcasing the local groups and national organisations who protect, enhance and restore Norfolk's wildlife and landscape.

24th – 25th October Conference for communicators involved in biodiversity

[Bristol Natural History Consortium, Bristol.](#)

Contact ben@bnhc.org.uk for more details

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20th November – Implementing the Green Deal: Engaging Businesses Consumers and Boosting Local Growth

Westminster 11 am – 3.30pm

Key issues will include: legislation: empowering businesses: consumer-protection: partnerships: information-mapping and more.

Details from Louise.mcgough@westminster-briefing.com 020 7593 5738

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23rd November NBN Conference: “Biological Recording – Fit for Purpose?”

The Royal Society

The Sir John Burnett Memorial Lecture, 2012 “Making Space for Nature – the importance of biological recording” will be delivered by Sir John Lawton. Free entry for NBN members, £40 for others (until 21st September).
<http://nbn.org.uk/Events/Events-and-Training/Seminars-and-conferences/NBN-Conference-2012.aspx>

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AND FINALLY..

Rare visitor shocks rangers as Jamiroquai’s Jay Kay lands helicopter on Blakeney Point

[http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/rare visitor shocks rangers as jamiroquai s jay kay lands helicopter on blakeney point 1 1495986](http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/rare_visitor_shocks_rangers_as_jamiroquai_s_jay_kay_lands_helicopter_on_blakeney_point_1_1495986)

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