



Biodiversity News in Norfolk No.11 (February 2012)

Killer Whales (*Orcinus orca*) in Uyeasound. ([Mike Pennington](#)) / [CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

Welcome to our February biodiversity e-bulletin

This month's highlights include: the first sighting of a killer whale off the Norfolk coast, Peters Diamond Jubilee Woodland being planted in Lingwood and the opening of the UEA nature trail.

Items of note in this month's bulletin include: giving your opinions in the anonymous questionnaire for the Defra scoping study for a 'decision support tool', nominating a group or individual for a Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership Community Biodiversity Award (both in 'GETTING INVOLVED'), and important guidance for local authorities and consultants on accessing biodiversity information (in 'NATIONAL NEWS').

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.

If you'd rather not receive this in future, please email us at nbis@norfolk.gov.uk, and we'll remove you from our circulation list.

Best wishes,

Martin Horlock

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Local NEWS

First sighting of a killer whale off the Norfolk coast, near Sheringham, gets the media all excited

Just some of the stories that hit the media following the sighting by birdwatcher Giles Dunmore and friend Phil Vines on Thursday 9th. Our very own Martin Horlock was even interviewed for [Wired.co.uk](#)!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-17011462>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/wildlife/9080974/Killer-whale-spotted-off-Norfolk.html>

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/first_ever_killer_whale_sighting_off_norfolk_at_sheringham_1_1206930

<http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2012-02/14/killer-whale-spotted-off-norfolk-coast>

Thirty Years of Norfolk Butterflies and the Flora of Stanta

Nick Owens reviews and discusses these excellent recent publications. Nick and ourselves would like to place on record our appreciation for all the hard work by the Norfolk branch of Butterfly Conservation in producing such an extensive atlas with an unprecedented timespan (30 years of records):

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/NorfolkNatsArticlesWinter2011.pdf>

Peters Diamond Jubilee Community Woodland

On Sunday 19th February, Peters Diamond Jubilee Woodland was planted in celebration of the work of Mrs S Peters, long term Councillor of 30 years and School Governor for 18 years.

The woodland, consisting of 820 trees, was planted by local volunteers, students and members of Brundall and District Conservation Group and was opened by Norfolk County Council Chairman Shelagh Hutson.

The woodland is comprised of a mixture of species with plenty of open space, two coppice areas and a small 'alley crop' area for future planting. See the EDP coverage below (apologies for the poor scan):

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

Recent information about the Norfolk section of the traditional orchard inventory

PTES provide their latest update through a newsletter and Norfolk summary report below:

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/TradOrchardNewsletterWinter2012.pdf>

http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Traditional_orchard_inventory_county_summary_norfolk_ed_2.pdf

Marram grass grown at North Burlingham is heading north to Tyneside dunes:

http://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/business/marram_grass_grown_at_north_burlingham_is_heading_north_to_tyneside_dunes_1_1202795

Norfolk Wildlife trust launches £500,000 appeal to protect rare habitats at Roydon Common, near King's Lynn:

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/environment/norfolk_wildlife_trust_launches_500_000_appeal_to_protect_rare_habitats_at_roydon_common_near_king_s_lynn_1_1198098

University of East Anglia (UEA) nature trail opened by Norfolk author Mark Cocker:

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/environment/university_of_east_anglia_uea_nature_trail_to_be_opened_by_norfolk_author_mark_cocker_1_1188737

Work on wetland area at Pigneys Wood, near North Walsham, will provide new homes for wildlife:

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/work_on_wetland_area_at_pigneys_wood_near_north_walsham_will_provide_new_homes_for_wildlife_1_1206621

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National NEWS

Guidance for local authorities and consultants on accessing biodiversity information

Important information for local authorities on how they should be accessing biodiversity information is contained within this really useful guide produced by the NBN (National Biodiversity Network), in partnership with the Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE) and the Association of Local Environmental Records Centres (ALERC). Also, an excellent article by Paula Lightfoot, from the NBN, was in the December 2011 edition of 'In Practice', called "Accessing Biodiversity Data for Desk Studies":

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

Hedgerows direct the flight of the bumblebee

Bees use hedgerows as motorways, academics have found, which may help future rural planning:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2012/jan/30/hedgerows-flight-bumblebees-rural-planning>

Wildlife recorders: Bingo conservationists?

Following on from the killer whale story, the debate went national to wildlife recording in general - despite rather dramatic title, the article is in general praising the vital hard work of recorders/volunteers: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-17041865>

Status of English Local Wildlife Site Systems 2011

The Wildlife Trusts have just published the above report, download here:

<http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/wt-main.live.drupal.precedenthost.co.uk/files/files/A%20Living%20Landscape/Status%20of%20English%20LWS%20systems%20report%202011.pdf>

Find links to more interesting national news stories here:

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#February2012NationalNews>

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GETTING INVOLVED

A request for your help from Dr Lucy Wright (BTO):

Defra scoping study for a 'decision support tool'

"Are you involved in making or advising on decisions that may affect biodiversity (e.g. decisions relating to land use, planning, policy or other issues)? If so, please help us to help you by completing a short, **anonymous questionnaire**. We're conducting a scoping study for Defra about the potential development of a 'decision support tool' to help people involved in these kinds of decisions to access and interpret information that could help to inform your decisions and take account of the wide range of pressures on landscapes for example from climate, land-use and demographic change. The questionnaire aims to find out what features you would find useful in any potential tool, so that we can make it as useful and user-friendly as possible. For more information about the aims of the work please read the covering letter: (<http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/CoveringLetterExploringtheFutureQuestionnaireforNBP.docx>), or to go straight to the questionnaire click on this link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/H8XYWWZ>. **The deadline for responding to the questionnaire is Friday 9th March 2012. Thank you for your help!**"

Do you know a Norfolk Community Biodiversity Champion?

If you do – groups or individuals who are making a significant contribution to conservation in your area – please do consider nominating them for a Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership Community Biodiversity Award. Find out more here:

<http://www.norfolkbiobiodiversity.org/communityprojects/biodiversityawards.aspx>

Have you seen any black squirrels in Norfolk?

If so, then the Black Squirrel Project wants to hear from you! Check out their website for further info:

<http://www.blackquirrelproject.org/>

It's exactly 100 years since the first black squirrel was recorded in the UK and they need your help to discover how far they have spread since

that first sighting in Woburn, Bedfordshire, in 1912

CPRE Norfolk Awards

The scheme welcomes applications from all sections of the community and for projects (land management, conservation or access) of all types, big and small. All applications must use the official CPRE Norfolk Awards 2012 Application Form and be received by the closing date of 8th June.

<http://www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/awards/enter>

Discover South Norfolk Day at South Norfolk Council on Sunday 8th July

As a charity based company/service and/or public service you are eligible for a pitch free of charge.

If you are interested in attending please fill in the attached booking form:

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/DiscoverSouthNorfolkDayBookingFormforCharitystand.doc> and return by email events@s-norfolk.gov.uk or by post: Active Life Events Team, South Norfolk Council, Swan Lane, Long Stratton, Norwich, NR15 2XE by 28th February 2012. Please note spaces are limited and will be booked on a first come first serve basis. Any queries contact: 01508 533662

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SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

First sighting of a killer whale off the Norfolk coast, near Sheringham, gets the media all excited

The sighting was made by birdwatcher Giles Dunmore and friend Phil Vines on Thursday 9th. See LOCAL NEWS for links to some of the media coverage

Courting peregrine falcons return to Norwich Cathedral webcam:

http://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/courting_peregrine_falcons_return_to_norwich_cathedral_webcam_1_1210777

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EVENTS

March 1st 2012 Cambridge

Identification and Management of Invasive Non-native Plants

Willow Mere House. £95. More details and other courses available from laura.masterson@rpsgroup.com 01480 302751

March 10th CEH Wallingford

BRC workshop for recorders

The focus will be on non-native species and the provisional programme thus far includes talks from Chris Preston (botany), David Aldridge (tbc - freshwater invertebrates), BTO (birds), Tristan Bantock (shield bugs), Alan Stewart (tbc), Jack Sewell (marine) and Nick Isaac (ladybird declines). There will also be lots of opportunities for discussion.

If you are interested in attending, please email Charlotte on chaomb@ceh.ac.uk. They will send you the full programme as soon as it has been finalised, along with a booking form.

March 13th 2012, 7:30pm St. Andrew's Hall, Eaton

Annual General Meeting followed by 'A natural history of green lanes', an illustrated talk by Mike Toms.

Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society

March 13th 2012, London 11am – 3.30pm

The Water White Paper: A Clear Vision for Water Management

Improve your understanding of the legislative framework and implications for the environment of this important paper at this Westminster Briefing event.

Further details from: Matt.demorais@westminster-briefing.com

March 31ST 2012 Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse

Master Gardener Training weekend

More details from Gabby Sharp, gsharp@gardenorganic.org.uk 01362 869286 07584 583803 <http://norfolk.mastergardeners.org.uk/>

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AND FINALLY..

DNA tests on mauled deer give wild cat theorists paws for thought - Tests on corpse of deer seem to rule out idea of a mysterious feline beast being responsible for its death:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/feb/02/dna-test-mauled-deer-wild-cat>

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Webpages: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/> ; www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/; www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/nonnativespecies

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NorfolkBiodiversityInformationService ; www.facebook.com/NorfolkInvasives

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

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