



## **Biodiversity News in Norfolk No 22 (January 2013)**

Photos: View from our office on January 15th

**Happy New Year!**

## NBIS needs you!

Are you interested in recording?  
Do you want to develop your recording skills?  
Can you help us monitor Norfolk's wildlife?

NBIS is looking for volunteers to take part in a species monitoring project. We will be recording species across a network of sites in the county and are looking for volunteers to help. We are able to help with training and equipment but you should have a moderate level of skill in at least one of the taxa below. Recording will take place on heathland, calcareous grassland and arable margins, and we will be recording:

Fungi  
Bryophytes  
Lichen  
Vascular plants  
Beetles  
Hymenoptera  
Butterflies and day-flying moths  
Reptiles  
Bats

If you are interested in taking part or would like more details please contact NBIS: [nbis@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nbis@norfolk.gov.uk). 01603 224458

Our latest NBIS newsletter which includes updates from the county recorders is available for download at [http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/NBISnewsletter\\_issue8.pdf](http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/NBISnewsletter_issue8.pdf)



Read on for topical updates and lots of ideas for getting involved.

**Biodiversity and Countryside Team**  
**Environment, Transport and Development,**  
**Norfolk County Council**

[nbis@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nbis@norfolk.gov.uk)

## Local NEWS

### **Killer slug spotted in Norfolk**

<http://t.co/6pSjIRhr>

### **Grey seals at Blakeney Point**

<http://t.co/VLOO9rpi>

### **New Wensum Way will bring benefits for walkers, local communities and the economy**

<http://tinyurl.com/bc4b53t>

### **Read all about the latest news from the Norfolk Recorders in the NBIS newsletter:**

[http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/NBISnewsletter\\_issue8.pdf](http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/NBISnewsletter_issue8.pdf)

### **Have you seen evidence of the hellebore miner in your garden?**

These leaf mines are caused by the fly *Phytomyza hellebori* on stinking hellebore and were spotted recently in a garden in Shotesham. For details of what to look for, see: <http://www.leafmines.co.uk/html/Diptera/P.hellebori.htm> and please submit your sighting (with a photo) to NBIS.

### **Peregrines at Norwich cathedral in the snow**

<youtu.be/cdnYuWui6cg?a> <fb.me/HgL3u5oh>

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## National NEWS

### UK bans sale of five invasive non-native aquatic plants

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-21232108>

### Big Garden Bird Watch – winners and losers

[gu.com/p/3db8f/ff](http://gu.com/p/3db8f/ff)

### Garden worm count finds our underground allies are thriving

<http://t.co/FqIzDFHO>

### NBN Gateway new version release

<http://data.nbn.org.uk/>

### New earth heritage publication: Geoheritage in Europe and its conservation

[http://www.progeo.se/manual\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.progeo.se/manual_flyer.pdf)

### NFBR newsletter out

<http://t.co/OurbowhM>

### Sustainable Urban Fringes toolkit now available

<http://www.sustainablefringes.eu/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=527&SID=16>

### Consultation on planning guidance

The Department for Communities and Local Government has opened a consultation on the recommendations from a report on planning guidance. Details on the consultation and the report can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-planning-practice-guidance>

### New web portal

Natural England, in partnership with the Environment Agency is creating a new web portal service called My Environment. More details here:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/advice/myenvironment/appcompetitionlaunch.aspx>

### **Does Green Infrastructure improvement act as a catalyst for economic growth?**

More information about a Defra and Natural England project available from [tom.butterworth@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:tom.butterworth@naturalengland.org.uk)

### **Landbridge networking website launched to connect professionals working in the rural sector**

<http://www.relu.ac.uk/landbridge/>

### **Online tool launched to establish the links between health and ecosystem services**

<http://www.epa.gov/research/healthscience/browser/introduction.html>

### **Are you interested in ancient trees? If so, you might like the Ancient Tree newsletter**

<http://frontpage.woodland-trust.org.uk/ancient-tree-forum/>

### **e moth newsletter**

[http://www.mothscount.org/uploads/Emoth%20January%202013\(1\).pdf](http://www.mothscount.org/uploads/Emoth%20January%202013(1).pdf)

### **BTO weekly Garden Bird Watch reveals impact of snowy weather on birds**

<http://www.birdguides.com/webzine/article.asp?a=3618>

### **Boost for bee health**

New plans to help beekeepers protect their hives from pests and diseases to reduce bee population losses have been unveiled.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2013/01/10/boost-for-bee-health/>

### **Report from Butterfly Conservation shows that landscape-scale conservation works**

<http://butterfly-conservation.org/3045/landscape-scale-conservation-for-butterflies-and-moths-report.html>

### **More National news here:**

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#January2013NationalNews>

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## GETTING INVOLVED

### **NBIS is calling for volunteers for the Species Surveillance project**

For more details see introduction above, and contact [nbis@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nbis@norfolk.gov.uk) 01603 224458

### **Please send in your Norfolk sightings of the hellebore miner (see local news).**

Please submit your sighting (with a photo) to NBIS [nbis@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nbis@norfolk.gov.uk) 01603 224458

### **Report your Norfolk cetacean sightings here:**

<http://norfolkcetaceans.wordpress.com/report-your-sightings/>

### **Send in your sightings of invasive species**

The Observer Ethical awards, University of Hull and NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology ask you to photograph and send details of Britain's top 10 unwanted non-native invasive species. Details here:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/gallery/2012/jan/15/citizen-scientist-invasive-species-pictures>

### **Record sightings of mitten crab**

<http://t.co/pH9PcDWy>

<http://t.co/OZgkVV1j>

### **Hedgehog hibernation survey starts on February 1st**

<http://www.hedgehogstreet.org/pages/hibernation-survey.html>

### **Could you create an app** that will appeal to mobile device users and help them engage with nature? £5000 prize!

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/advice/myenvironment/mobileapp.aspx>

### **Close encounters of the Amphibian kind**

Take part in the Big Spawn Count <http://www.pondconservation.org.uk/bigponddip/BigSpawncount>

And sign up for the pond conservation newsletter at [info@pondconservation.org.uk](mailto:info@pondconservation.org.uk)

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## SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

**Colonies of Daubenton's bats in the Yorkshire Dales have males and females living alongside each other all year in a 'flexible social system'.**

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0054194>

**Cetacean sighting resume available for UK**

<http://seawatchfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/October-november-2012.pdf>

**Mistle thrushes 'missing' from UK gardens**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/21143664>

<http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs>

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## EVENTS

**NFBR Conference booking open**

<http://t.co/MyWuWMvh>

**Field Techniques for surveying birds module**

University of Oxford online short course in Field Techniques for Surveying Birds to commence 11th February 2013

This course will appeal to a variety of students, practitioners and volunteers in conservation wishing to improve their bird surveying skills and knowledge. Taught part-time, online for five weeks, this course offers an excellent training opportunity for people living in the UK or overseas. The course is tutored by Damien Farine from the University of Oxford, and its flexible mode of delivery will suit those working full time or who wish to study at their convenience. Please visit [www.conted.ox.ac.uk/birds0113](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/birds0113) or email [est@conted.ox.ac.uk](mailto:est@conted.ox.ac.uk) for further information.

**Biodiversity Fellows**

Are you interested in becoming an FSC Biodiversity Fellow? The Field Studies Council is running the scheme to strengthen training in taxonomy. Find out more here: <http://www.field-studies-council.org/supporting-you/fsc-projects/current-projects/biodiversity-fellows.aspx>

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## AND FINALLY..

### Researchers in Denmark investigate how birds sing

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/20935932>

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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)

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