



Biodiversity News in Norfolk

No 27 (June/July 2013)

Photo: Bumblebee queen (*Bombus hypnorum*), Sandy, Bedfordshire © Copyright [orangeaurochs](#) and licensed for reuse under this [Creative Commons Licence](#).

Welcome to our June/July e-bulletin

The weeks are flying by at the moment, and we've all been out and about at summer events meeting lots of people and promoting what we do. We were at the Royal Norfolk Show at the end of June. NBIS were promoting their Species Surveillance Project, with a demonstration plot in front of the Countryside Conservation Advice shed. And the NNNSI game (made by Polly's dad) went down a treat with younger visitors!

Many thanks to those of you who have submitted Elm tree records over June and July. We would still love to receive your records of any remaining large elm trees you've seen in Norfolk. We have a map drawn in 1996 which shows where large elm trees grew then – but how many still survive? You can see the 1996 map and submit your records here: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/Elm>.

Our **species of the month** for August is going to be the **Tree Bumblebee** (*Bombus hypnorum*). This species was first seen in southern England in 2001, and not recorded in Norfolk until 2008 (in Earham cemetery). However since then it has spread widely and we've had many reports of sightings of them this year. We want to find out just how widespread they are and we need your help! Please submit any sightings of *Bombus hypnorum* here: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/tree-bumblebee>.

It seems that summer has finally arrived and our summer wildlife with it. There are lots of opportunities to get out and record wildlife to help scientists find out just how well species are bouncing back from the freezing start to the year. If you own an iPhone, the new invasive species recording app 'That's Invasive', developed as part of the RINSE project, is now available to download from the Apple store - see GETTING INVOLVED. And if you'd prefer to get a bit more active, there are several Action Days coming up to tackle the invasive plant Himalayan Balsam - see EVENTS.

Enjoy the sunshine!

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

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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-bulletinJuneJuly2013.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

Norwich Cathedral peregrine falcon chick dies in collision

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-23030121> This is the second of the four chicks to perish, after one was reported dead not long after fledging earlier in June: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-22926523>

Geodiversity sites ground-truthed

Tim Holt-Wilson has completed ground-truthing geodiversity sites in the Norfolk AONB and has added a brief update to the Norfolk Geodiversity website: <https://sites.google.com/site/norfolkgeodiversity/news/geosites-northwestnorfolk>

Invasive Rhododendron tackled

Over 30 volunteers from the Norfolk Non-native Species Initiative (NNNSI), National Trust and The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) tackled the highly invasive *Rhododendron ponticum* at Sheringham Park on 12th July. See pictures from the event on the NNNSI Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.553037171423714.1073741830.142736259120476&type=3>

Moo recruits at a Norwich nature reserve

A herd of Highland Cattle has been brought in to keep the grass trim at Anglian Water's Taverham Meadow:

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/environment/moo_recruits_at_a_norwich_nature_reserve_1_2242214

Whale calf washes up on Gorleston beach

<http://bit.ly/18NatWx>

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National NEWS

Honey bee losses double in a year due to poor winter

More than one third of hives did not survive the winter.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-22861651>

Maps offer insight into UK bat distribution

The first detailed, large-scale bat distribution maps for a UK region are produced in the Lake District.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-23148612>

RSPB urges British public to create 1 million 'homes for nature'

The RSPB hope to help slow the decline of UK species by encouraging people to create wildlife habitats in their gardens.

gu.com/p/3gjtvtw

Council grass cutting ban to protect bees is planned

<http://fw.to/CZAjQsZ>

Warm summer helps butterflies bounce back in the UK

gu.com/p/3hc95/tw

Imported bumblebees pose 'parasite threat' to native bees

<http://bbc.in/15ILEFI>

iSpot adds a new taxonomical hierarchy feature to it's website

This allows you to see how your observation fits into the scientific classification of species.

spot.org.uk/node/342354

More National news here:

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#JuneJuly2013NationalNews>

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GETTING INVOLVED

NBIS are still looking for volunteers to join our species monitoring project. More at

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/SpeciesSurveillanceNetwork>

Invasive species app available for download

The RINSE app 'That's Invasive' which allows you to report invasive non-native species via your iphone, is now available for free download from the Apple store. Android version to follow...

<http://www.rinse-europe.eu/news/view/it-s-alive/1>

Join the Big Butterfly Count

The survey runs from the 20th July to the 11th August.

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

Flying ants are emerging early this year

And the Society of Biology needs you to record them! Find out how here:

<http://www.societyofbiology.org/news/14-news/560-flying-ants-appear-early>

England's first marine plans go out to consultation

The consultation is open from now until the 8th October 2013.

<http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/news/press/130716.htm>

Public urged to use smartphone app to aid bee scientists

gu.com/p/3gm2v

Roadkill Map: Cardiff scientists ask public to report animal bodies

bbc.in/19CVMoo

Grasshoppers and related insects - new atlas and call for records

<http://nbn.org.uk/News/Latest-news/New-atlas-and-call-for-records.aspx>

Volunteers sought for the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey

shar.es/xTOKE

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SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

More than 300 Little Terns nesting on the beach at Winterton-on-Sea You can watch the

Mustard TV video here:

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/mustard_video_more_than_300_little_terns_nesting_on_the_beach_at_winterton_on_sea

[1 2269878](#)

Silver-washed Fritillaries seen flying at Holt Country Park, reported by Andy Brazil. There has also been a possible report of them in a wood just north of Cranwich, suggesting a possible Brecks population as well as those in North Norfolk. Keep an eye out for them if you're in any wood with wide open rides. See what they look like here:

<http://butterfly-conservation.org/1943-780/silver-washed-fritillary.html>

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EVENTS

Making Space for Wildlife

20 July

<http://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/Home/News/Calling-all-people-who-manage-a-green-space-for-wi.aspx>

There are still spaces available on the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists Society workshops this year.

See the general poster here <http://bit.ly/ZduQFN> and the list of workshops here: <http://bit.ly/18sZWYG>

Himalayan Balsam Bash

Join an Action Day and help to tackle this invasive non-native species!

- 20 July, 10am-4pm, meet at Coldham Hall Sailing Club car park, Surlingham

- 28 July, 10am-4pm, meet at Marlpit car park, Norwich

- 04 August, 10am-4pm, meet at Wensum Fisheries car park, Norwich

For more details, please contact Emily Nobbs: emily.nobbs@norfolk.gov.uk

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AND FINALLY..

Owl on earth did that get there? Eagle Owl takes up residence in King's Lynn churchyard <http://bit.ly/1anZvr8>

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<http://www.nbis.org.uk/e-bulletin-survey>

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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