



Biodiversity News in Norfolk No.12 (March 2012)



Dikerogammarus villosus (both images from Environment Agency)

We have exciting news this month as the RINSE (Reducing the Impact of Non-native Species in Europe) project gets underway! The project, which has a total budget of over 2.5 million Euros, will bring some £200,000 of European funding to Norfolk and bring about a 'step change' in the work of the Norfolk Non-native Species Initiative (NNSI). It is also an exciting opportunity for Norfolk County Council who, as the Lead Partner for the project, can celebrate having pulled together an application of exceptional quality (it needed to be to secure funding in this increasingly competitive financial environment!).

RINSE will look at ways of managing the threats posed by invasive non-native species (INS) across a large project area spanning much of southern England, northern France, Belgium and the Netherlands. It has been supported through funding from the Interreg 2 Seas Programme, and has nine partners, all with significant experience in the control and eradication of INS. Amongst other things, the project will audit the distribution of INS as well as making predictions about species that could become a threat in the future, carry out field trials of new methods to control some of the most concerning INS found across the project area, develop new methods of recording INS, and conduct training and awareness programmes.

RINSE funding is most timely given the news that killer shrimp has been found in the Norfolk Broads: the need for awareness-raising to prevent its spread is pressing and RINSE will ensure we have the resources to make this happen.

Mike Sutton-Croft

Co-ordinator, Norfolk Non-native Species Initiative (NNSI) and Technical Officer, RINSE

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RINSE



"Investing in your future"

Crossborder cooperation programme
2007-2013 Part-financed by the European Union
(European Regional Development Fund)

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Local NEWS

2.5 million Euro project to tackle alien invaders!

Read more about the RINSE project and how it will help tackle the threats to Norfolk biodiversity posed by invasive non-native species www.norfolkbiodiversity.org <http://www.rinse-europe.eu/>

EMBED report

The Gaywood Valley project was monitored as part of a Defra study on ecosystem services. An Ecosystems Approach can shape relationships between interest groups and add value to decision-making. Read more here: <http://www.sustainablefringes.eu/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=378&SID=68>

Pioneering project to restore rare plants on Forestry Commission land at Breckland Heath

<http://fb.me/VHthLMhg>

Great Crested Newts

Results from Natural England's comprehensive investigation into the distribution of great crested newts has revealed that they although widespread they are uncommon, with habitat decline remaining a cause for concern. <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/41017?category=30014>

They are highly protected under UK and European legislation and populations must be safeguarded when they are discovered at sites to be developed. However, mitigation does not have to be costly or complicated. Contact Norfolk County Council environment section for more information: 0344 800 8020 information@norfolk.gov.uk

NBIS to play key role in two Defra pilots

NBIS is delighted to have been selected to take part in national Defra remote sensing and biodiversity offsetting pilots. Look forward to reading more in our NBIS newsletter which will be available next month. In the meantime, find out more about the biodiversity offsetting pilots at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/biodiversity/uk/offsetting/>

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National NEWS

National Planning Policy Framework released

Read the framework here:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2115939.pdf>

and gauge local reaction here:

<http://tinyurl.com/c634w3e>

Habitats regulations implementation review report

Report concluded that generally, the implementation of the Directives works well. Recommendations were suggested in four areas: complexity of legislation and guidance; complexity of authorisation process for development; availability and comparability of data; culture and capacity of all organisations involved in the process.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2012/03/22/pb13724-habitats-wild-birds-directives>

Fishing skippers fined

Police uncovered serious criminality in a £63million scam to breach European fishing quotas. Read more: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/feb/24/fishing-skippers-fined-illegal-catches>

Consultation on changes to National Park (NPA) governance

Add your voice to suggested improvements on the way NPAs operate.

www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2012/03/08/national-park-governance-1203/

Earth Heritage 37 now available

Includes a summary of Tim Holt-Wilson's pioneering work on Environmental Impact Assessment for geodiversity.

www.earthheritage.org.uk

England faces wildlife tragedy as worst drought for 30 years hits habitats

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/mar/19/england-wildlife-drought>

Find links to more interesting national news stories here:

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#March2012NationalNews>

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GETTING INVOLVED

The Big Spawn Count

Have you got any frog spawn in your pond yet? If so, you can log your record with Pond Conservation:

<http://www.pondconservation.org.uk/bigponddip/BigSpawncount>

Meet the species

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

Flora locale training 2012

Find out more about this programme, which is for people involved in the design, management and restoration of wild plants and landscapes for biodiversity by emailing: infor@floralocale.org

Big Norwich bat project

Do you live in or close to Norwich? If you do – “The Big Norwich Bat Project” wants your help! We are aiming to conduct bat surveys across the whole of Norwich and the surrounding area. If you would be interested in learning more about the bats near your home and are willing to let us conduct a survey on your property for just a single night between April and June please contact us. Importantly we only need one site for each 1-km square, so you need to be quick in expressing interest if you would like to take part! Find out more here:

<http://www.norwichbatgroup.org.uk/project.html>

Consultation on Invasive Alien Species

The National Biodiversity Network is asking for help with a consultation on invasive non-native species. Find out more here:

<http://nbn.org.uk/News/Latest-news/Consultation-on-Invasive-Alien-Species.aspx>

Green Lanes survey

Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society (NNNS) and NBIS are running a survey of green lanes in Norfolk. Find out more here:

<http://www.nnns.org.uk/content/welcome>

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/green-lanes>

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SPECIES NEWS

First butterflies

NBIS has had reports of orange-tips, green-veined white, commas, red admiral and small tortoiseshell.

Don't forget to log your wildlife sightings at: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/AllSpeciesSurvey>

Killer shrimp

The non-native vicious predator shrimp *Dikerogammarus villosus*, has been found in Barton Broad and threatens to damage the delicate ecosystem. Let Mike Sutton-Croft of NNNSI know if you think you've seen it elsewhere in Norfolk.

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/environment/anglers_fears_over_killer_shrimp_on_norfolk_broads_1_1332403

Water users are being urged to follow the "Check, Clean, Dry" campaign to try to stop its spread.
http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Environmentandgreenerliving/Thewiderenvironment/Protectingwildlife/DG_196114

Asian longhorn beetle found in Kent

The Asian longhorn beetle, a non-native pest with the potential to cause havoc for British trees has been spotted in Kent, the Food and Environment Research Agency has confirmed. Read more here:
<http://www.fera.defra.gov.uk/showNews.cfm?id=529>

Big Norwich Bat project

Bat surveys underway soon. <http://www.norwichbatgroup.org.uk/project.html>

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EVENTS

May 13th 2012 Go Wild At Barton, 11am – 4pm

Fun-packed day of walks, talks, boat trips, craft, story telling organised by NWT
Barton Turf Adventure Centre, Staithe Road, Barton Turf, NR12 8AZ More details from
GemmaW@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk

June 23rd to 24th 2012 Little Ouse Headwaters Project Biological Recording Weekend

24 hour biological recording event
More details from Enquiries@lohp.org.uk or 01379 898684/687680

June 9th to June 10th Gaywood Living Landscape Big Wildlife Watch Programme

24 hour biological recording with many other wildlife events organised by NWT over the weekend
More details from GemmaW@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk
Submit your wildlife records to wild@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk

June 23rd to June 24th Dinosaur Park bioblitz

At Great Witchingham Dinosaur Park, 9.30 23rd June to 4pm 24th June.
More information from www.nnns.org.uk/event/list

Apologies - Errata

We apologise for the error in last month's e bulletin in our article about 'Peters Diamond Jubilee Community Wood': the local conservation Group involved with the planting was in fact the [Blofield](#) & District Conservation Group (BADCOG), not Brundall as stated.

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AND FINALLY..

Otters that look like Benedict Cumberbatch
<http://veiledsentiments.tumblr.com/post/19566043580/greenmachine019-redscharlach-otters-who-look>

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Please let us know what you think about this e-bulletin at: <http://doodle.com/r5an6c36czehtc6t>

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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