



Biodiversity News in Norfolk No. 14 (May 2012)

Welcome to our May biodiversity e-bulletin

Ickworth House in Suffolk played host to a Springboard event for the proposed Norfolk and Suffolk Local Nature Partnership (LNP) at the end of this month. With over 80 guests and speakers, the event highlighted the wealth of wildlife in the two counties, and how the LNP will help give nature a stronger voice across many sectors such as health and business. The LNP will work to secure new funding and to achieve:

- Better connections (people to nature; wildlife to wildlife; business to environment);
- Landscape-scale change
- Healthy Natural Capital;
- Nature made stronger;
- A strong partnership across sectors

We were delighted at the response to our Springboard event and the level of support for the LNP across both counties. We had some really thoughtful and helpful feedback from delegates on the day, and are now in the process of applying for formal LNP status; we hope to be able to let you know the result next month. If you would like to know more about the Local Nature Partnership, please do get in touch.

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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-bulletinMay2012.pdf>
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Local NEWS

Norfolk Non-native Species Stakeholders' Forum

A wide-ranging programme proved popular at this year's forum which was organised by Mike Sutton-Croft of the Norfolk Non-native Species Initiative (NNNSI). The event which was held on 30th May, covered local and national developments on invasive non-native species (INS) and included talks on: the review of wildlife management law; biological control of Himalayan Balsam; tackling *Crassula Helmsii*; non-native fish and their response to climate change; the status of invasive shrimp in the Norfolk Broads; and an update on the work of the NNNSI. Over 70 people attended with very supportive feedback received.

More information from:

www.norfolkdiversity.org/nonnativespecies or direct from michael.sutton-croft@norfolk.gov.uk

Picture shows delegates at the Forum © Norfolk County Council



Gaywood Valley Project (SURF) summer newsletter

Read about the new Gaywood Valley Walks booklet, and other events planned for this summer

<http://www.sustainablefringes.eu/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=420&SID=28>

Don't leave it too late (to enter the North Norfolk District Council Environment Awards)

Closing date 8th June 2012. Entries welcome from projects which have resulted in an improvement to the natural environment. More at:

<http://www.northnorfolk.org/environment/215.asp>
sustainability@north-norfolk.gov.uk

New website launched for Norfolk Geodiversity Partnership

A new website has been created by Tim Holt-Wilson for the Partnership. Please do link to it from your own websites wherever possible.

<https://sites.google.com/site/norfolkgeodiversity>

Pupils enjoy re-vamped nature area at Harford Manor School, Norwich

<http://tinyurl.com/c9gchz2>

Holkham Reserve set for new era

<http://tinyurl.com/bl4x18l>

Celebrating 100 years of wildlife success stories

<http://tinyurl.com/ctld5eo>

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National NEWS

Geological map "App" from the British Geological Society

The British Geological Society is offering an Augmented Reality geological map "App" for Smartphones. Point your phone at a place and it will tell you what you're looking at (in geological terms).

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/igeology/home.html>

Big Spawn Count results now in

Over 1000 people took part with an average of 12 spawn clumps recorded per pond. An incredible 400 clumps was recorded from an urban greenspace pond in Colchester, Essex. Read more at www.pondconservation.org.uk

Sustainable agriculture should be UK key objective for Rio +20

Caroline Spelman, UK Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural affairs will be attending next month's

UN conference on sustainable development and has given her support to the creation of a set of sustainable development goals which will take forward action when objectives developed at the millennium, expire.

<http://t.co/DFDj42JA>

Rare bumblebee reintroduced to UK

About 50 short-haired bumblebees (*Bombus subterraneus*) from Sweden were released at Dungeness in Kent in an attempt to re-establish the species which became extinct in the UK in 1988.

<http://t.co/BupC2sJm>

Street lighting is changing insect ecosystems, study claims

<http://t.co/h7H0HSdN>

Hedgehog recovering after getting stuck in tin of carrots

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-18195580>

Once rare UK butterflies move north due to hotter summers, say researchers

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/18174452>

<http://t.co/ykL2iIWl>

RSPB condemns plans to destroy buzzard nests

<http://t.co/LmwazYbU>

Find links to more interesting national news stories here (from tomorrow):

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

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GETTING INVOLVED

NBIS carder bee, hornet and hoverfly survey

Help NBIS spot three fascinating insects this spring and summer. Two of the insects in our survey, the European hornet, *Vespa crabro* and the wool carder bee, *Anthidium manicatum* belong to the hymenoptera, a large insect order which also includes wasps, ants, bees, ichneumons and saw-flies. Our third survey species, the hoverfly *Leucozona lucorum*, is a member of the diptera (flies). They are probably quite widespread in Norfolk although we don't know for sure as we don't have many records on the NBIS database.

Find out more here: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/Hymenoptera2012Survey>

Places still available on identification workshops

Sign up for one of Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society's popular identification workshops: Two-winged flies (July 1st); small mammals (August 18th); Crickets and grasshoppers (September 1st); Bugs and beetles (September 8th); Mosses and liverworts (October 21st). Workshops are at various locations, cost £10 per head and are available to non-members: <http://tinyurl.com/csdsxgl> <http://tinyurl.com/cazhp5v>

Get involved in the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey which will run again this July and August:

<http://www.nbn.org.uk/News/Latest-news/Volunteers-sought-for-the-Wider-Countryside-Butter.aspx>

West Runton Geology Walks 2012

Find out more here:

https://sites.google.com/site/norfolkgeodiversity/news/w_runton_geo_walks_2012

Policy and Practice briefing: The National Ecosystems Assessment, Uncovering Nature's Hidden Value. Wednesday 27th June, Westminster, London, 11am – 3.30pm (charge applies)

Open to a broad range of stakeholders interested in protecting the natural environment. The morning policy session will discuss current and future Government measures aimed at protecting the natural environment and supporting the key role plays from the green economy to social integration. The afternoon session will explore good practice case studies. More information at: <http://tinyurl.com/craaxo3>

Agenda and booking information at <http://tinyurl.com/czwak4m>

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SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

Rare grey dwarf moth spotted in Norfolk

A nationally scarce moth, *Elachista bedellella*, the Grey dwarf moth was reported in Norfolk this month. This tiny species has a wingspan of only 7-8mm and is found in dry, open habitats. It was previously recorded in Norfolk in 2003.

For pictures and more information, visit the Norfolk moths website:

<http://www.norfolkmoths.co.uk/micros.php?bf=6160&photoid=1338313492-f>

First record of Bluebell Conch since 1881

Hysterophora maculosana, a moth that feeds on bluebells, was recorded in a garden in Melton on 23rd May. This is the first record in Norfolk since 1881. <http://www.norfolkmoths.co.uk/micros.php?bf=9240&photoid=1337815249>

Illegal crayfish traps kill otters in the Broads

The Environment Agency has highlighted how illegal crayfish traps which have an entrance larger than legal regulations permit, have ensnared over a dozen otters in the Broads, causing immense suffering and death through drowning. Although crayfish traps are widely available, consent from the Environment Agency is required in order to set the traps legally. <http://tinyurl.com/c555w9z>

Peregrines hatch chick

Peregrines nesting on Norwich cathedral hatch third chick. <http://tinyurl.com/cdpkzuw>

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EVENTS

23rd June—24th June 2012 Dinosaur Park bioblitz.

At Great Witchingham Dinosaur Park . More information at www.dinosauradventure.co.uk/general-information/events.php

23rd June—24th June 2012 Little Ouse Headwaters

Project bioblitz. More information enquiries@lohp.org.uk

24th June 2012 Wild About the Brecks

Barnham Cross Common, Thetford, 11am – 3pm. More information from Norfolk Wildlife Trust 01603 625540

27th June—28th June 2012 - Norfolk Show

Norfolk Showground

13th October 2012 Wild About Norfolk

Easton College 10am—4pm

More information at www.wildaboutnorfolk.co.uk/wildaboutnorfolk

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AND FINALLY..

Life-size Lego models of birds

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/gallery/2012/may/18/birds-made-from-lego-in-pictures#/?picture=390328483&index=5>

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