



Coral tooth fungus, Whitlingham © Neill Mahler.

Biodiversity News in Norfolk No. 20 (November 2012)

Welcome to our November biodiversity e-bulletin

Biodiversity and Countryside Team staff have been busy at conferences and events over this month. The Association of Local Records Centres (ALERC) held its annual conference at the beginning of November, attracting 90 delegates (see National news) and covering topics from online recording to citizen science. A 'soapbox' session and parallel workshops led to calls for future conferences to be extended over 2 days!

The NBN conference "Biological Recording – fit for purpose?" took place on 23rd November in London, and included an address by Sir John Lawton. Biodiversity Information Officer Martin Horlock took along a poster describing exciting new work NBIS is involved with on a Defra structured surveillance of species pilot (see Local News).

David White, our Green Infrastructure lead attended the IEEM Autumn Conference which focussed on identifying and mitigating for impacts to biodiversity from renewable energy schemes (see National News for more information, including a link to the presentations given).

Closer to home, the Norfolk and Suffolk Biodiversity Partnerships ran their popular annual Planning and Biodiversity Seminar (see Local News) and the Reducing the Impact of Invasive Species (RINSE) team were involved with an "experts workshop" focussing on tackling new threats posed by invasive alien species (see Local News) at Cambridge University.

Wild Anglia, the new nature partnership for Norfolk and Suffolk held its first board meeting at the Orbis Centre in Lowestoft on 16th November. Work to develop a visual brand is underway, and a manifesto for Wild Anglia will be produced early in the New Year. Please contact Haidee Bishop if you'd like to receive the Wild Anglia's e news bulletin: Haidee.bishop@norfolk.gov.uk. Amongst other functions, Local Nature Partnerships will work with and support 12 Government-funded Nature Improvement Areas

(NIAs) and help establish new, locally-determined NIAs. Read more under National News.

Don't forget: the NBIS website has a reports and publications page <http://www.nbis.org.uk/reports-publications> for topical information produced by the local conservation community (there is some national information too). If you would like to post a report on the page, please get in touch <http://www.nbis.org.uk/contact-details>

**Biodiversity and Countryside Team,
Environment, Transport and Development,
Norfolk County Council
nbis@norfolk.gov.uk**

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 will shortly be able to download this e-bulletin as a pdf here: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/E-bulletinNovember2012.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

Annual Planning and Biodiversity seminar attracts over 50 delegates

The annual planning and biodiversity seminar organised by the Suffolk and Norfolk Biodiversity Partnerships in association with ALGE took place this month at the BTO offices at Thetford. Attended by over 50 delegates the seminar provided an overview of national and county-level developments in spatial planning, development management and biodiversity. The presentations will soon be available for download from the Norfolk and Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership websites.

<http://www.suffolkbiodiversity.org/>
www.norfolkbiodiversity.org

RINSE experts' workshop focuses on alien threats

<http://www.rinse-europe.eu/news/view/experts-meet-to-discuss-response-to-alien-threat>

NBIS involved with Defra project to pilot structured surveillance of species

The project is supported by Natural England and funded by the Defra fund for biological recording in the voluntary sector. Read more here:

http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/DefraPoster_7_small.pdf

East Region LRCs join forces to promote services

http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Advocacy_doc_eofe_FINAL26Nov12_small.pdf

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Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF) project report available

<http://www.sustainablefringes.eu/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=519&SID=16>

The Gaywood Valley Project is a SURF project partner:

<http://www.sustainablefringes.eu/ProjectPartners/NorfolkCountyCouncil.asp>

Little Ouse headwaters project wins CPRE award

<http://www.edp24.co.uk/home/1.1695233>

Landowner Barry Brooks celebrates 25 years of environmentally-friendly farming under the Broads ESA

<http://t.co/xTBeVtXo>

British Chamber of Commerce backs New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership's Green Economy Pathfinder (GEP) manifesto

http://www.eadt.co.uk/business/suffolk_norfolk_bcc_policy_chief_backs_new_anglia_lep_s_green_economy_pathfinder_project_1_1699948

Record number of rescued hedgehogs admitted to RSPCA wildlife hospital near King's Lynn

The surge in numbers may be linked to the wet summer.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-20511633#?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

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National NEWS

Version 5 of the NBN Gateway to be launched on 17th December)

<http://www.nbn.org.uk/News/Latest-news/NBN-Gateway-Version-5-%E2%80%93-new-launch-date.aspx>

ALERC 2012 conference report available

The association of Local Environmental Records Centres (ALERC) held its third annual conference at the beginning of November, attracting 90 delegates. <http://t.co/832uPVuX>

Avian pox spreads to great tits

<http://t.co/9RKRQcpU>

Chalara advice

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/crops/plant-health/ash-tree-chalara/>
www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara

Chalara news

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#Chalara>
<http://www.floralocale.org/Ash+news>

Chalara reporting

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

The race to stop a global killer

Amphibians are under attack from a deadly fungus, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*. Researchers in Europe are working out how to stop the spread.

<http://www.bd-maps.eu/>

Biological Recording programme saved

Biological Recording programme at Birmingham University has been saved through transfer to Manchester Metropolitan University, through pressure from a public awareness campaign. Further information on the courses

available from Sarah Whild s.j.whild@bham.ac.uk and Linda Marsh l.marsh@bham.ac.uk

Role agreed for Local Nature Partnerships

Local Nature Partnerships will work with and support 12 Government-funded Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) and to help establish new, locally determined NIAs

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13824-nia-criteria.pdf>

Valuing ecosystem services: 6 case studies published by Natural England

Local Nature Partnerships will work with and support 12 Government-funded Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) and to help establish new, locally determined NIAs

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/2319433>

IEEM Autumn Conference

The IEEM Autumn Conference on Renewable Energy and Biodiversity held at Cardiff in November focussed on cutting-edge research to identify and mitigate for impacts to biodiversity from renewable energy schemes. The presentations are available online at: <http://www.ieem.net/previous-conferences-2012-autumn-conference-318>

More National news will shortly be available here:

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#November2012NationalNews>

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GETTING INVOLVED

Help identify priorities for biological recording (survey)

<http://t.co/vtV387D8>

Send us your sightings of Ray's Bream (washed up on the Norfolk strandline)

<http://t.co/5H4LZxM4>

Save our wildflower meadows (a survey of public perceptions)

<http://t.co/WrDm6NL8>

Communicating message on invasive non-native species (survey for the Broads Authority)

<http://t.co/rcH3UHfI>

Natural history courses from the Field Studies Council

<http://t.co/0Ne335qC>

Don't forget to take part in consultation on coastal access

Public consultation open on improved coastal access for north Norfolk

<http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Environment/index.htm>

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/coastalaccess>

Join the ecosystems knowledge network

<http://ekn.defra.gov.uk/>

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SPECIES NEWS

252 grey seal pups counted at Horsey

<https://twitter.com/NorfolkCoastNT/status/268360865848373248>

<http://www.edp24.co.uk/home/1.1711157>

If you're planning a visit, please remember to follow the advice on the friends of Horsey seals website:
<http://friendsofhorseyseals.co.uk>

Coral tooth fungus spotted again at Whitlingham

Spectacular coral tooth fungus (*Hericium coralloides*) has been spotted again in woodland at Whitlingham. This rare fungus has tooth-like spines that produce spores which hang down like icicles (see picture at top of bulletin)

Study reveals difficult year for British birds

Preliminary 2012 results from BTO's Constant Effort Site and Nest Record Schemes show what a difficult time British birds have had this year.

<http://www.bto.org/news-events/news/2012-11/preliminary-2012-results-tell-bleak-story>

<http://t.co/iKTllleWB>

Dramatic decline in beetles reported

<http://t.co/owm7EcAQ>

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EVENTS

7 - 9th December 2012 - BTO Annual Conference - putting birds on the map

Hayes Conference Centre in Derbyshire

<http://www.bto.org/news-events/events/2012-12/bto-annual-conference-and-agm>

6th February 2013 Local Authorities and Shared Services symposium

Boosting quality, efficiency and value through innovation.

Broadway House, Westminster 1015 - 1630

<http://publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/DB06-PPE.php>

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AND FINALLY..

In pursuit of the ridiculous

Will the search for a rare water beetle found in just a handful of places in Southern England pay off? Radio 4 programme.....

<http://t.co/cpMrZtrP>

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Webpages: 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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