



Sea lavender *Limonium vulgare* at Holkham © David White.

## Biodiversity News in Norfolk No. 18 (September 2012)

### Welcome to our September biodiversity e-bulletin

An important study by ecologists at UEA featured widely in the local and national press this month (see [Local NEWS](#)). Research by authors Hannah Mossman, Anthony Davy and Alastair Grant published in the *Journal of Applied Ecology*, has shown that man-made saltmarshes do not have the same species diversity of natural marshes, a finding which carries important implications for habitats created to replace those lost to coastal development or erosion.

There are hopes that it should be possible to help develop the plant communities that are lacking through further intervention to improve drainage, and by planting species such as sea lavender, thrift, sea arrowgrass and sea plantain.

The study is timely and should help refine the delivery of significant habitat re-creation projects - such as the construction of a vast coastal reserve at Wallasea Island in Essex which is aiming to re-create 3,600 ha of saltmarsh and mudflats by 2015 (see [National NEWS](#)).

In Norwich, David White has been appointed to lead on a Defra pilot study on biodiversity offsetting that will mitigate for biodiversity loss through development, an important area for newly formed Wild Anglia, the Local Nature Partnership for Norfolk and Suffolk (see [Local NEWS](#)).

There are plenty of opportunities for public participation in recording and surveys this month (see [GETTING INVOLVED](#) and [EVENTS](#)). Your help is vital - for example, public support played a crucial role in a recent study on protected areas and wildlife movements - see <http://www.york.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/2012/research/stepping-stones/>

**Biodiversity and Countryside Team,  
Environment, Transport and Development,  
Norfolk County Council  
[nbis@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nbis@norfolk.gov.uk)**

Please do email us at [nbis@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto: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-bulletinSeptember2012.pdf>

[Top]

[Local NEWS](#)  
[National NEWS](#)  
[GETTING INVOLVED](#)  
[SPECIES NEWS](#)  
[EVENTS](#)  
[AND FINALLY](#)

## Local NEWS

### UEA research shows that created coastal habitats fail to match the biodiversity of natural salt marshes

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2664.2012.02198.x/abstract>  
<http://t.co/yNaRcvrf>

### News from Wild Anglia

The name 'Wild Anglia' has been chosen for the new Norfolk and Suffolk Local Nature Partnership. Much work is underway and a manifesto document will be published in early 2013 which will clarify Wild Anglia's aims, explain ways of working and encourage participation. David White has been appointed to a post which will drive the green economy work in the Greater Norwich Development Partnership area – a key topic for Wild Anglia. Read more about Wild Anglia at: <http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org>

### Killer shrimp workshop

A 'drop in' workshop organised by the Environment Agency, Broads Authority and Norfolk Non-native Species Initiative was held at Wheatfen Nature Reserve to raise awareness of and how to tackle *Dikerogammarus villosus*, (killer shrimp) which is threatening native biodiversity. The event which was held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September was attended by over 200 people from many sectors, including teachers, volunteers, anglers and boaters  
<http://tinyurl.com/9naxohz>

### NNNSI organises transfer of native crayfish

Mike Sutton-Croft of NNNSI led the transfer of 400 white-clawed crayfish from the river Glaven to a safe 'ark' site in north Norfolk this September. <http://tinyurl.com/8gcuak5>

### Ponies roam free at last on Litcham Common

A NBP grant contributing to the cost of cattle grids has helped ponies to roam free at Litcham Common a Local Nature Reserve north of Swaffham. <http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/>

### Broads Authority appoints Diss man to tackle Norfolk's killer shrimp invasion

Will Burchnall has been appointed to the post of wetland biosecurity officer, to help stop the spread of killer shrimp in the Broads.  
<http://t.co/1fYn5ky7>

### Community Biodiversity Award winners celebrated

Angel Road Infant School, Norwich and North City Children's Centre, winners of the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership's Community Biodiversity Award (Education category) were featured in the EDP for their work transforming an area of wasteland in the corner of a playing field into a Forest School area.  
<http://tinyurl.com/9oetcsH>

### Tribute to red squirrel pioneer

[www.pensthorpe.com/downloads/27/David\\_Stapleford\\_tribute.pdf](http://www.pensthorpe.com/downloads/27/David_Stapleford_tribute.pdf)

### Two new trails opened to the public at RSPB Titchwell Marsh

<http://t.co/nnnVcjJl>

### Nature Iraq donates to Cley Marshes appeal

<http://tinyurl.com/c7t8f6o>

[TOP]

## National NEWS

### Download the New Smartphone tracker App for invasive plants (it's free)

The new App developed by the Environment Agency, the Nature Locator team at the University of Bristol and the

Centre for Ecology and Hydrology is now available to download free from iTunes App Store and Android Market. The App shows you how to identify and record 14 invasive plant species. For more information and links to the downloads visit:

<http://planttracker.naturelocator.org/>

### **Designations Strategy published by Natural England**

The Strategy takes forward the recommendations of the 'Making Space for Nature' report and will help to deliver the Government's Natural Environment White Paper.

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/designationsstrategyfeature.aspx>

### **Government responds to "A Green Economy"**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmenvaud/568/568.pdf>

### **ALERC newsletter available**

Find out about a variety of topics from the Local Records Centres community.

<http://www.alerc.org.uk/1/post/2012/09/the-alerc-newsletter.html>

### **New Environmental Stewardship schemes available from January 2013**

From 1st January 2013, five new Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) and Organic ELS options will be available. The options will help improve outcomes for the environment and improve value for money.

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/mesmefeature.aspx>

### **View a stunning new image from the 2020Vision image library each day!**

<http://www.2020v.org/wow>

### **Short break announced by NBN (uploading datasets)**

There will be a break uploading data to the NBN Gateway whilst the new database structure and data access controls are implemented.

<http://www.nbn.org.uk/Share-Data/Data-access-controls.aspx>

### **Next phase of the UK National Ecosystem Assessment gets underway**

<http://sd.defra.gov.uk/2012/08/uk-national-ecosystem-assessment-the-next-phase/>

### **Butterfly numbers fell by a fifth in 2011, study shows**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/jun/01/butterfly-numbers-falling>

### **Latest Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF) newsletter available for download**

<http://www.sustainablefringes.eu/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=507&sID=27>

### **Review article exploring the current status of citizen science**

Review article exploring the current status of citizen science published in the International Journal of Zoology

<http://t.co/FQis1xN6>

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

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#September2012NationalNews>

[\[TOP\]](#)

## **GETTING INVOLVED**

### **Defra forestry survey**

Send in your views to help shape the future of our forests.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/forestry/survey/>

### **Free trees available**

Thanks to funding from Defra's "Big Tree Plant" The Conservation Volunteers are offering free trees and all that's needed to plant them, to local communities across East Anglia. Further information from Mark Webster

[m.webster@tcv.org.uk](mailto:m.webster@tcv.org.uk)

### **UK phenology effort 'needs more citizen recorders'**

<http://t.co/wtxrjFA9>

Can you help? Phenology observes the key moments in plants' annual cycles, such as when they come into leaf or flower, and offers insight into shifts in seasons. The UK's record, is co-ordinated by the Woodland Trust. You can register and log your sightings here: <http://www.naturescalendar.org.uk/>

## Do you have slowworms in your garden?

Please send your sightings to <http://arguk.org/recording>

## Help with research to find out how thrushes are faring in the countryside

<http://ow.ly/dGU54>

## Birds and berries to be surveyed

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/19422637>

## Norfolk cetacean website launched for your sightings

<http://norfolkcetaceans.wordpress.com/>

## Push to create a million UK ponds

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-19624009#>

## Help map black tar spots on sycamore

<http://www.opalexplornature.org/TarSpotResults>

[[TOP](#)]

## SPECIES NEWS

### Bumper breeding season from little terns at Winterton dunes

Thanks to the efforts of over 50 volunteers from the RSPB and Natural England, more than 400 little tern chicks fledged this year at Winterton Dunes National Nature Reserve, making it one of the best ever breeding seasons.

<http://t.co/jjtv4UDA>

### Deadly fungus in Ash trees 'could be the next Dutch elm disease' warns the Woodland Trust

The Horticultural Trades Association has called for a voluntary moratorium on importing ash trees to the UK to try to prevent a destructive disease caused by the fungus *Chalara fraxinea* taking hold. The fungus which causes leaf loss and crown dieback has wiped out 90% of ash trees in Denmark in seven years.

<http://t.co/IWNB90CI>

### Destructive larch disease spreads

Destructive larch disease caused by *Phytophthora ramorum* spreads across southern England

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/newsrele.nsf/WebNewsReleases/54E43E8BA6E51BB380257A700031A6D0>

### Geoffroy's bat discovered in Sussex

<http://www.sussexbatgroup.org.uk/batsinsussex/latest-news/geoffroysbatdiscoveredinsussex>

### Scottish wildcat 'extinct within months'

<http://t.co/TW9wexKA>

### White-clawed crayfish released in north Somerset

<http://t.co/i8Jun7Ao>

### UK beetle diversity declines

Alarming evidence of long-term reductions in UK beetle diversity at UK environmental monitoring sites - Journal of Applied Ecology

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2664.2012.02194.x/abstract>

### Butterfly decline blamed on soggy summer

<http://t.co/5pcUM8SN>

### No pesticide ban despite decline in bees

<http://t.co/YAb7tr3V>

[[TOP](#)]

## EVENTS

**6th October - Fossil Roadshow**

Cliftonville Hotel, Cromer 10.30am - 1pm  
Cromer Museum, Cromer 2pm - 4.30pm  
More information at <http://www.norfolk.org.uk/A5%20Flyer.pdf>

**7th October - Glad About the Glaven**

Holt Hall 12 noon —4pm  
More information [www.holthall.norfolkedunet.gov.uk](http://www.holthall.norfolkedunet.gov.uk) and <http://t.co/aGLwLwjh>

**13th October - Wild About Norfolk**

Easton College 10am—4pm  
More information at [www.wildaboutnorfolk.co.uk/wildaboutnorfolk](http://www.wildaboutnorfolk.co.uk/wildaboutnorfolk)

**25th - 28th October - World Whale Conference**

Hilton Brighton Metropole, near London.  
More information at: <http://www.whale-fest.com>

**28th November - Protecting our most precious resource: delivering the Water White Paper**

Central London 10am – 4.30pm  
<http://www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/CK28-PPE3.php>

**29th November - Business and Biodiversity : Engaging with Business to Improve Nature Locally**

Westminster, London 10am - 3pm  
email [Louise.McGough@westminster-briefing.com](mailto:Louise.McGough@westminster-briefing.com)

[\[TOP\]](#)

## AND FINALLY..

### Ouch!

Swimmers in Hampstead Heath ponds where many bathers swim naked, have been advised to wear clothes to avoid being nipped by swamp crayfish, an aggressive non-native species with long claws.....

<http://htl.li/dY5AQ>

If you wish to be removed from this mailing list, please email us: [nbis@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nbis@norfolk.gov.uk)  
Please let us know what you think about this e-bulletin 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)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NorfolkBiodiversityInformationService](http://www.facebook.com/NorfolkBiodiversityInformationService) ; [www.facebook.com/NorfolkInvasives](http://www.facebook.com/NorfolkInvasives)  
Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/NorfolkBIS>; <http://www.twitter.com/NorfolkNNSI>  
Please consider the environment before printing this email