



Photo: Sheringham (Norfolk County Council)

## Welcome to the second edition of the NBIS newsletter

Many thanks to all who replied to our newsletter survey. The majority of respondents found the newsletter useful and the format accessible. We will be taking forward many of your specific suggestions about content – thank you. Some of you asked for more information about sending in records, so we have included a short article about this inside.

If you have any further comments, please do e-mail us:

[su.waldron@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:su.waldron@norfolk.gov.uk)

Many of you suggested that we should keep to the original newsletter name, so that's what we've done!

### Features inside

- Joint Recorder Event
- New publications
- New Records
- Changes in County Recorders
- Datasets to be supplied to NBN
- Did you know?
- News in brief

## Working in partnership

**NBIS is continuing to forge links with new partners and to strengthen existing relationships.**

NBIS was delighted when North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) signed up for a one-year Funding Agreement recently.

NNDC is the second district authority to do so, joining South Norfolk Council (SNC) which already benefits from the services on offer under a three year agreement. Funding Agreements, where services and fees are defined, describe the nature of specific routine work to be undertaken, such as site enquiries in relation to planning developments and allow bespoke projects to be undertaken at reduced cost levels.

**SNC Ecologist Sonja Seaton** says,

“NBIS allows us to greatly cut our response time in processing planning applications. We are committed to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment and NBIS is helping us meet this aim and our NERC duties through the provision of quality data”.

**Senior Ecologist Mike Padfield** of Scott Wilson multi-disciplinary design and engineering consultancy, has also found how using NBIS provides an easy way to collate data for environmental impact assessments, ecological assessments and risk appraisal work.

“We regularly use NBIS to help us determine the risk of a development on species and habitats,” he said.

“The service provides a very cost-effective way of obtaining the data we need on protected and notable species in addition to information on statutory and non-statutory site boundaries. For example, for a recent wind-farm project, NBIS provided bat data up to 5km from the site to determine the location of bat roosts and species of bats using the proposed site area. This information, coupled with consultation with the statutory authority and using best-practice guidance, helped us to devise a survey method for the site,” he continued.

## Joint Recorder Event

The Abbey Conference Centre was the venue for a successful event for Recorders held jointly in March by NBIS and the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society (NNNS).

The evening gathering was well attended and allowed Recorders and NBIS staff to network. Martin Horlock, Biodiversity Information Officer at NBIS gave a presentation showing the breadth of services now offered by NBIS, emphasising how essential the work of the County Recorders is to the Service.

The meeting also heard from Stephen Livermore, Chair of the NNNS, about a new initiative to produce a Red Data Book for Norfolk, through a web-based on-line collaborative effort.

Over 90% of participants reported that they had found the event useful. Further meetings are planned with a special demonstration session focusing on Geographical Information System (GIS) mapping coming soon.

The event will be open to all those interested in biological recording in Norfolk, please get in touch if you would like to find out more: [nbis@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nbis@norfolk.gov.uk)



*Bombus hypnorum* the Tree Bumblebee, not previously recorded in Norfolk was spotted by Stuart Paston on flowers in Earlham Cemetery, Norwich last June. This distinct bee has a ginger thorax and black abdomen fringed with a white tail. Let us know (preferably with a photograph) if you spot it in your garden!

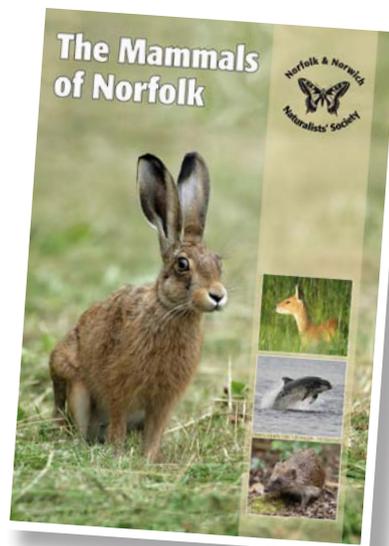
This picture was taken by Tony Irwin.

## Hot off the press . . .

**NBIS mapping expertise is helping with some exciting new partnership publications.**

### Mammals of Norfolk

Work has just started on a landmark publication, The Mammals of Norfolk, which is due to be published in 2011. Using the 40,000 or so mammal records held on the NBIS database, an editorial team is working hard to deliver a definitive book on Norfolk's mammals, their conservation status and history within the county. Norfolk is important nationally for a number of mammal species, from brown hare and common seal, through to Barbastelle and the introduced Chinese water deer. The book is being published by the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society, in collaboration with NBIS and Norfolk Wildlife Trust.



Email: [norfolk.mammals@waitrose.com](mailto:norfolk.mammals@waitrose.com) for more information.

Mike Toms, Martin Perrow, Dave Leech, Ian Keymer & Steve Henson (Editors)

### Arable Plants Report

NBIS is helping with a new partnership project looking at the distribution of important arable plants in Norfolk. The project was initiated by the Farmland BAP Topic Group and will be led by the Norfolk Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) and the Norfolk Flora Group.

Agricultural intensification threatens arable flora in Britain; 54 species are considered rare or threatened, and seven species are already extinct in their native habitat. This new study is funded by the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership and also involves Natural England and Plantlife. It will collate and map existing and new records, and correlate them with soil type. This will help target funding through Higher Level Stewardship to safeguard existing populations and to locate potential sites suitable for re-introductions.

## Events > >

5 July 2009 - Norfolk Non-Native Species Initiative County-wide Day of Action

Contact: Mike Sutton-Croft Email : [Michael.sutton-croft@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.sutton-croft@norfolk.gov.uk)  
[www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/nonnativespecies](http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/nonnativespecies)

## New records

### NBIS is delighted to include two contributions from County Recorders about recent sightings.

#### Re-discovery of Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem

This tiny, yellow-flowered lily (*Gagea lutea*) has been known at just one site in Norfolk, at Wayland Wood, just outside Watton for over 60 years. The first known record being from 1943 when a Mrs G.M.Newton discovered it (the date of 1941 in the 1999 Flora is an error). Since that time, and in spite of recent problems with deer grazing, it is still doing well. The fact that some years have passed without a record, is probably largely because it is not at all easy to find unless it is visited at just the right moment in the season. Once its flowers are over it takes a practised

eye to spot it as its leaves, without close examination, are remarkably like those of the bluebells amongst which it grows. Across the whole of the country, it is not as rare as once thought, particularly in the north of England, less so in the west and scarcest in the east where the drier climate is not so suitable for a plant needing moist soils and shade. In 1883, the first Norfolk record was made nearer to Lynn and was re-found in 1902 by Dr J.Lowe, but since then this colony has not been re-found and was considered lost. In early spring 2009, however, when two visiting botanists were in the area, they discovered a few, non-flowering plants still growing at the same site. The fact that it can survive over a century without being seen gives hope that it might still be found elsewhere in the county! It was a great find.

Gillian Beckett



*Tegenaria duellica*  
Photo: Peter Nicholson

#### Rare spider recorded

A scarce species of house spider *Tegenaria parietina*, was recorded recently in Great Yarmouth. It has been recorded previously in only four other locations in Norfolk, one of which was Norwich Cathedral in 1992. This species gets its common name 'Cardinal Spider' from the legend that the spiders living in Hampton Court used to terrify Cardinal Wolsey. It is the largest of the British *Tegenaria* commonly known as house spiders and can be distinguished from *T. duellica* in Norfolk and *T. saeva* to the west of the country by its notably longer and more hairy legs. It is mainly found in the Eastern and Southern counties of England and males are thought to have one of the longest legs proportionate to their body size of any European spider. Peter Nicholson

## Changes in County Recorders

There have been a few changes of County Recorders for various groups.

- Jim Wheeler has now taken on the job of County Macro Moth Recorder, working alongside Dave Hipperson who is County Micro Moth Recorder.  
Jim's email address is [jim@norfolkmoths.org.uk](mailto:jim@norfolkmoths.org.uk)
- Tim Strudwick has taken on the solitary bees and wasps. His contact address is [tim-strud@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tim-strud@tiscali.co.uk)
- Doreen Wells has taken on the ants. Her contact details are: [wells\\_doreen@hotmail.com](mailto:wells_doreen@hotmail.com)

## Did you know?

It's easy to send in your records to NBIS to help with biological recording in Norfolk. Please capture all the information needed to ensure your record will be useful (what species; where was it; when did you see it; who recorded it). You can submit records on a spreadsheet (there is one to download on the NBIS website - [www.nbis.org.uk](http://www.nbis.org.uk)), or just e-mail us with your information at [nbis@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nbis@norfolk.gov.uk). We will share your record with the appropriate County Recorder and it will be added then to our central NBIS database.

## NBIS to supply data to NBN

As part of Natural England funding arrangements, NBIS is expected to provide records to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Gateway, a website which provides species data to a wide audience. Biodiversity Information Officer at NBIS, Martin Horlock, said, "We are working with County Recorders to develop this for Norfolk data and are pleased to announce that we will soon be sending records for bumblebees and beetles to the NBN." Records will be viewable to all at 10km resolution with access at higher resolution controlled by NBIS. [www.nbn.org.uk](http://www.nbn.org.uk)

**Geological data including Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) will soon be available from the NBIS enquiry service. Information will be supplied initially as point data and citations, with maps to follow over the course of the summer.**



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If you need this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language, please contact us on 01603 224458 and we will do our best to help.

# News in Brief . . .

NBIS has helped to fund a roadside bat recording survey aimed at increasing the number of bat records. The Norfolk Bats and Roadside Mammals Survey will use bat detectors generously funded by Natural England, linked to a GPS and computer, all fixed to the rear window of survey vehicles, to capture bat calls accurately. Over the two year project, some 1600 km of road will be driven. The project is being managed by ecologist Catherine Greenhough on behalf of NBIS and originated from work on the Barbastelle Action Plan.

A draft condition assessment report has been published recently for The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site (EMS). The outlook is good, and work continues to safeguard the conservation interests, whilst encouraging sustainable use of the living working environment. NBIS and EMS staff are working closely to share species and habitat data. Find out more at [www.esfjc.co.uk/ems/pages/ems.htm](http://www.esfjc.co.uk/ems/pages/ems.htm)

Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) has launched a survey of coastal wildlife and is asking for records of grayling butterfly, harbour porpoise, slipper limpet and yellow-horned poppy to be sent in over the summer. NBIS will help NWT map the distribution. All these species are declining, with the exception of the slipper limpet which is an invasive non-native species. Read more, and record your sighting at [www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/natural\\_connections/surveys](http://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/natural_connections/surveys) or phone 01603 598333 for a survey leaflet.

NBIS has been working to forge closer working links with Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) over the last year. A new CD ROM is now available which includes updated Geographical Information System (GIS) site boundaries for the County Wildlife Sites (CWS), Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) and Roadside Nature Reserves (RNRs) as well as citations and other essential information. Copies (charged for consultants) are available from Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) 01603 625540 [admin@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk)

NBIS has also been working with NWT and other key partners including the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership, Norfolk County Council, Natural England and the Forestry Commission to report on progress made in the county towards meeting two indicator targets in the Local Area Agreement. National Indicator 197 measures the percentage of Local Sites (CWS and RIGS in Norfolk) in positive conservation management (PCM). Nearly 50% of the CWS system in Norfolk is currently under PCM. The Local Ecological Networks Indicator measures the area of land entered into Higher Level Stewardship, English Woodland Grants Scheme and Norfolk County Council's Countryside Conservation Grants Scheme for habitat restoration or creation and which contributes to the agreed ecological network map for Norfolk. This indicator, which was developed by the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership, shows that in Norfolk during 2007/8, over 2,500 ha of habitat was restored or created, in addition to 45 km of hedgerow and nearly 10,000 m<sup>2</sup> of pond habitat.

our funding partners

