



**Suffolk Biodiversity
Partnership**

Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership Partners' News November 2010

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PARTNERS NEWS

Breckland Grey Carpet Project

Sharon Hearle, Butterfly Conservation

In the East of England Butterfly Conservation has been working with landowners to create bare ground plots in the Brecks of Norfolk and Suffolk to improve habitat for butterflies and moths. The presence of bare ground and early successional habitats is an important feature of heathlands and dry grasslands and vital for many scarce moths such as Grey Carpet and Marbled Clover and butterflies including Dingy Skipper and Grizzled Skipper.

The establishment of conifer plantation on previously open Breckland heathlands has removed much of the suitable habitat this century. In recent years, management by mowing and sheep grazing combined with some very wet summers has contributed to a decline in bare ground on Breckland grass heath sites and forest rides.

With funding from SITA Trust, Butterfly Conservation has been able to create over 60 bare ground plots using a range of techniques including rotovation, turf stripping and ploughing. This SITA funded project was successfully completed in December 2009 and demonstrated that it was possible to create suitable habitat for Grey Carpet moth on forest rides and heathland sites by creating bare ground. The Grey Carpet moth is restricted as a breeding species to the Breckland district of Norfolk and Suffolk in the UK, which is also the main centre of distribution of Flixweed, the larval foodplant. The foodplant, and consequently the moth, depend on frequent soil disturbance. The project also confirmed that cultivated margins around arable fields provided extensive habitat for Flixweed and Grey Carpet moth.

The project was able to demonstrate a range of bare ground techniques and compare costs and benefits of each treatment at 15 different sites. Over 60 plots were established, mostly in late winter/spring 2009, but some in autumn 2009. Most late winter/early autumn bare ground plots were colonised by abundant nectar plants over the spring and summer. Flixweed was confirmed on 12 plots and Grey Carpet moth seen on 4 plots in 2009 and there were records for larvae on 4 plots, including 2 along the southern edge of King's Forest in 2010.

The bare ground plots created in the Brecks have been alive with butterflies and moths this year due to the abundance of flowers and nectar attracting key Breckland species including Marbled Clover, Forester and Dingy Skipper. The Forester, one of the new additions to the UKBAP Priority moth list and already extinct in other counties in the East of England, was confirmed on 7 bare ground plots on forest rides.



Forester recorded on field barn plots Photo: Sharon Hearle

One 150 metre long rotovated plot at Maidscross Hill was covered in Viper's Bugloss, a typical wildflower in the Brecks but usually restricted to small areas of disturbance by rabbits or moles. Underneath the canopy of Viper's Bugloss at other sites other plants have appeared including Common Bird's-foot trefoil – foodplant for Dingy Skipper and Basil Thyme Case-bearer moth. At Barnham Cross Common there were literally hundreds of Tower Mustard plants and an attractive display of Breckland Pansy. The bare ground plots have proved to be attractive to the Brush-thighed seed-eater Beetle *Harpalus foelichii* which was confirmed on plots at Aspal Close and Ramparts Field.



Viper's bugloss at Barnham Cross Common Photo: Sharon Hearle

Monitoring work and habitat creation will continue through a new 3-year project (*Norfolk Brecks Heathland Restoration for Threatened Butterflies and Moths*) funded by Wren Biodiversity Action Fund which started in January 2010.

Over a thousand rare spiders released on Suffolk Broads

Dorothy Casey, Suffolk Wildlife Trust

After being nurtured in a cosy kitchen since the spring, 1600 rare spiderlings have been released at Castle Marshes between Lowestoft and Beccles. The work, grant aided by BBC Wildlife Fund, is a Natural England/Suffolk Wildlife Project project led by Dr Helen Smith.

The spiderlings of the fen raft spider *Dolomedes plantarius* are being released into suitable dykes at Castle Marshes. The tiny 4mm spiders, which are perfect replicas of the 23mm (female body length) adult complete with go-faster stripes, are hybrids between Pevensey Levels and Redgrave and Lopham populations.

Helen has been hand rearing thousands of the spiderlings at home in her kitchen for the last four months. *“I mated the parents from Pevensy and Redgrave populations in the spring and reared around 100 offspring from each brood,”* says Helen who has been up until 2 a.m. on many occasions, 7 days a week, diligently feeding flies to the young. The surplus spiderlings from the broods were reared at the John Innes Centre in Norwich.

When Helen established that there didn't appear to be any deleterious affects of hybridisation, she sought Natural England's approval for release. *“The hybrids bring the advantage of increased genetic variability to the new population. This combined with the use of Pevensy stock, from almost identical habitat in Sussex, should give the new population at Castle Marshes the best potential to adapt to its surroundings and to cope with the impacts of climate change.”*

Castle Marshes on the River Waveney, approx 50km downstream from Redgrave and Lopham Fen, will be the first new site for the fen raft spider in East Anglia. Site preparation for establishment of the new spiders included enhancing the ditch network. Another translocated population was released simultaneously into recently created pools at Redgrave and Lopham Fen NNR which is already well known for its resident natural population (one of only 3 in the UK). *“Castle Marshes has always been our first target for a new site in East Anglia because of the ideal habitat, the fact that it is on the same river as Redgrave and Lopham Fen and the huge enthusiasm of the SWT voluntary wardens,”* says Helen.

Post translocation genetic monitoring will be carried out in collaboration with local SWT volunteers and the Nottingham University spider lab.

Dolomedes plantarius was not discovered in the UK until 1956 when eminent arachnologist Eric Duffey found it around the margins of peat pools at Redgrave and Lopham Fen, at the source of the River Waveney on the Norfolk/Suffolk border. A second UK population was discovered, 180 km away, when Peter Kirby identified *D. plantarius* from grazing marsh ditches on the Pevensy Levels in East Sussex in 1988. In 2003, a third UK population was discovered on a disused canal near Swansea, South Wales, by local naturalist Mike Clark. The fen raft spider is one of only two British spiders that is fully protected by law and has been the subject of a Species Recovery Programme since 1999.



Fen harvester creates more Broads wetland for wildlife

Andrea Kelly, Head of Conservation, Broads Authority

The Broads Authority's fen harvester --- the only one in the UK--- has travelled south to help spread the rich and unique wildlife found in the Norfolk fens to the Suffolk Broads owned by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

The harvester, which can work in wet peaty soil where no other machine can go, has recreated a slice of peat fen the size of a football pitch at Oulton Marshes which will eventually support many more species than spectators in a football stadium. It will be managed on a day-to-day basis by a commercial grazier producing local beef.

The restoration of the fen, owned by Suffolk Wildlife Trust, from an area of scrub to an open landscape was the Broads Authority's contribution to the Suffolk Broads Living Landscape Partnership which is connecting reserves and improving habitats. Already a large number of natural wetland species have returned and we are hoping to see orchids next year. All these plants will in turn attract a wide diversity of wetland wildlife.

This site is a working wetland and is helping to demonstrate that people can make a living by managing these rich wildlife areas for both nature and people. The fen is on the doorstep of Lowestoft from where a lot of people will want to come and admire this classic landscape for many years to come. Significant areas of rank fen and reed dominated areas were cut, some for the first time in many years.

The prototype fen harvester, which was commissioned by the Broads Authority 13 years ago, can negotiate marshy terrain without sinking into the soft surface because it has little ground pressure. The harvested material is chopped into tiny pieces and blown down a high-pressure air-filled pipeline to remove it from the site which avoids repeated journeys over fragile habitat. It is in full time employment cutting fen in the Northern Broads.



The Broad's Authority's fen harvester

Protecting peat is vital in the fight against climate change as it locks up vast quantities of carbon. The hectare of fen meadow restored on Oulton Marshes contributes to the overall carbon locked in the Broads which equals that emitted from a coal fired power station. Fen also provides one of the richest habitats for a wide diversity of plants.

Suffolk community barn owl project – 5-year review

Steve Piotrowski, Suffolk Wildlife Trust

The Suffolk Community Barn Owl Project (SCBOP) has been running since 2006 and already we are seeing some amazing results. The project aims to erect nest boxes in barn owls' hunting areas with a view to providing nesting opportunities. Nest sites have been lost due to a variety of reasons, but principally because of the loss of hollow trees and traditional farm buildings. Project workers also advise landowners on the habitat requirements of this endearing species with a view to providing good quality grassland suitable for small mammals, the barn owl's principal food.



Barn owl in flight
Photo: Mike Rae

The project arose from very humble beginnings when, in 2005, Steve Piotrowski and Colin Carter persuaded the Benacre Estate to buy and install six barn owl nest-boxes. Later, Suffolk Ornithologists Group (SOG) agreed to fund the cost of materials for two nearby farmers to make their own boxes to an A-frame design, and install them in trees. Meanwhile the Lowestoft Bird Club “the Lounge Lizards” put up three boxes on a member’s farm at Mutford.

This low key start resulted in the SOG Barn Owl Project, and publicity in the local press brought a huge demand for boxes from landowners and local community wildlife groups. A charity workshop in Lowestoft, Special Objectives for the Local Disabled (SOLD) started making boxes to the original A-frame design and helped improve it considerably. To date SOLD have made over 300 boxes for the project and, more recently, the inmates of HMP Hollesley Bay have helped with this most important task.

In 2007, Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT) agreed to assume responsibility for the Project with SOG retaining an advisory role. The Trust has set up a regulated system of surveys by SWT Barn Owl Conservation Advisors. The advisors provide recommendations for habitat improvement in response to enquiries from landowners and, if a site is suitable, the landowner is supplied with plans or can purchase boxes which may then be installed by an SWT contracted tree-surgeon. Thus the location of boxes is defined by landowners with suitable habitat rather than a planned even spread over suitable habitats in the county. As shown in Fig. 1, West Suffolk is sparsely covered by nest boxes.

SWT organises the recruitment and training of monitors to check the nest boxes. The monitors then have accredited agent status that allows them to disturb Barn Owl nests which are protected under Schedule 1 of the Wild Life and Countryside Act. The Project has 110 trained monitors, including 20+ ringers. An “Adopt a box” scheme is also available. Approximately 1,200 boxes and nest sites are being monitored and recorded. A few of the boxes have crept over the borders into Norfolk and Essex, see Fig. 1.

The barn owl project has attracted a great deal of publicity, having been featured on Anglia TV, BBC Radio Suffolk and in both local and national newspapers and magazines.

Food shortages

The short-tailed vole is the barn owl’s main prey item, so when vole populations are small, the barn owl struggles to find enough food to raise its family. A sudden decline in Suffolk’s vole population occurred in the late summer of 2008 and a crash in vole numbers coincided with the end of the owl’s breeding season.

Although this was part of a natural vole population cycle, it spelt disaster for barn owls as their food supply became depleted. The situation was exacerbated by the disappearance of thousands of hectares of grassland as a result of set-aside requirements being lifted earlier that year. SWT received many reports of cannibalism and brood sizes were low. The winter of 2008/2009 was wet and cold, so there was no recovery in the vole population in time for female barn owls to gain sufficient weight to breed. In consequence, many failed to breed, and those that did struggled to find enough food. By mid-summer the situation was dire, but then vole populations began to pick up, so that pairs incubating late in the year were able to rear chicks.

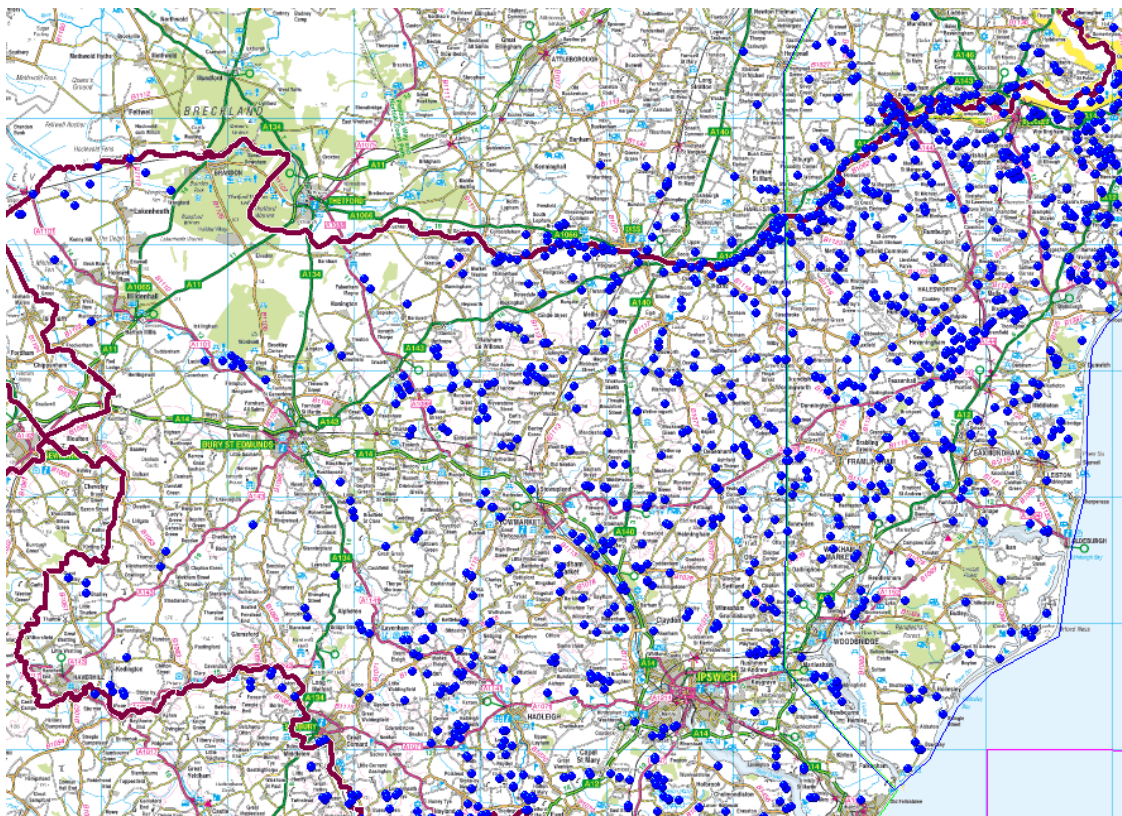
Despite such a difficult summer, the project results for 2009 showed that Suffolk had the highest number of breeding barn owls recorded since 1932 (237 pairs). This meant that we were already well on our way to achieving our Biodiversity Action Plan target of 250 pairs by 2010 from a low point of 125 pairs in 1991. Barn owls have colonised former strongholds and are often seen where they have been absent for over 20 years.

2010 Results

The high number of voles indicated that breeding productivity would be good. Barn owls that nested early were the most successful with bumper broods of six birds fledging from nest boxes at Lakenheath, Pakenham and Flatford and there were many broods of fours and fives. However, the gale force winds which battered the eastern half of England in July prevented adults from hunting. This caused the death of entire broods many of which were only two weeks from fledging.

Some birds were still tending chicks in early November. There is every indication that these late broods successfully fledged and that when these figures are included, overall breeding success in 2010 may not be as bad as originally feared. The 2010 results to date indicate that 242 nest sites show signs of barn owl presence (see Fig 2).

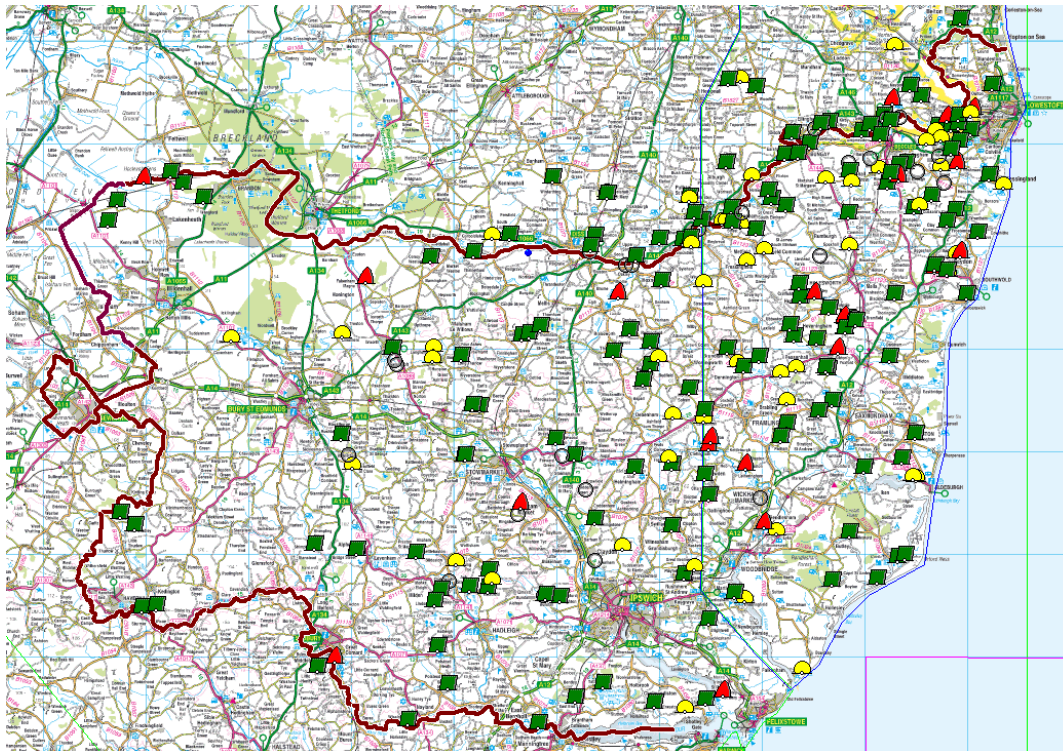
Fig. 1: Barn owl boxes locations October 2010



Focus on West Suffolk

The map of barn owl box locations in Fig. 1 shows clearly the lack of boxes in West Suffolk. However, the barn owl's range is increasing westwards annually and the project's aim for the second phase is to fill in the gaps. This is dependent on funding and the barn owl project team is hoping that our principal sponsors, Suffolk Environmental Trust, Viridor and Chadacre Agricultural Trust will continue to fund the project.

Fig 2: Distribution of barn owl nest sites 2010



Harvest Mouse Project

In a poor vole year, barn owls must vary their diet in order to survive. One additional prey item is the much-endangered harvest mouse. This species has suffered a 70% decline in numbers since the 1970s due to changes in agricultural practices and rural land use and is now listed as a UK Biodiversity Action Plan species. Harvest mouse remains are often found in barn owl pellets, so the project has taken the opportunity to include assessment of barn owl diet by pellet analysis, particularly looking for harvest mice. This is truly groundbreaking methodology in determining the distribution of Suffolk's harvest mice. SWT has trained 115 volunteers to analyse barn owl pellets providing valuable information on all small mammals eaten by the owls. Consequently, we now have a better understanding of small mammal distribution and population densities of rare species such as the water shrew, water vole, pygmy shrew and yellow-necked mouse.

Project aspirations for the next five years

The first five years of the project have been amazingly successful and we have seen a doubling of Suffolk's barn owl breeding population. This success is due, not only to the hard work of the project team, but also to the goodwill of landowners and the community's love of the barn owl. Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley and the Upper Waveney Valley Projects made important contributions to Suffolk's Community Barn Owl Project.

There are huge gaps in Suffolk's barn owl distribution, so the project's focus now is to provide feeding opportunities which will encourage an expansion of the barn owl's range into every corner of the county. The current BAP target is 450 nesting pairs by 2015, the numbers thought to be present in the 1950s. This will require the support of many more farmers who can provide grassland suitable for the small mammals on which barn owls feed.

The loss of set-aside land in 2008 spelt disaster for small mammals and consequently barn owls. It is hoped that agri-environment schemes and The Campaign for the Farmed Environment, a voluntary scheme, may help to encourage farmers to provide suitable grassland habitat in the future.

Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project update

Sue Ellis, Dedham Vale AONB & Stour Valley Project

As Christmas fast approaches, thoughts turn to the hedges and trees that provide the backbone of the winter landscape.

As part of the Heritage Lottery funded 'Managing a Masterpiece Scheme', the Dedham Vale AONB & Stour Valley Project is assisting with a series of projects related to pollarding and hedgerow planting. One of the projects underway involves re-pollarding a stretch of riverside trees over the winter months in the heart of the AONB between Flatford and Stratford St. Mary. Many of the pollards, some of which are upwards of 200 years old, are well overdue for maintenance which will help to reduce the risk of the trees collapsing. Pollarding was a traditional countryside activity carried out to secure short lengths of timber for stakes and poles and any cut herbage, used as animal feed. The old pollards along the River Stour are a key feature of the landscape. 30 new cattle guards will also be built to protect new pollards of willow and ash which will be planted using cuttings from the old pollards to maintain the genetic link.



**Pollard at Flatford,
Dedham Vale**
Photo: DVSVP

Over 1km of new hedgerow will be planted near Dedham Old River. The hedgerow made up of native British hedge species, will re-delineate the boundary between the traditional water meadows and intensive arable land next door. Another section of elm-rich hedgerow at Alphamstone will be restored through coppicing and gapping up.

And finally, there are more encouraging signs that otters are re-establishing themselves along the river. The Project, with the help of the Stour Valley Volunteers, installed a new pipe and chamber otter holt at Daws Hall Local Nature Reserve near Lamarsh in mid-August. In the last few weeks, signs of otter use have been found at both entrances to the holt. We will continue to monitor the otters' progress and look forward to more news in 2011.

Natural England outreach work on Suffolk Coast NNR

Carrie Bewick, Natural England

On two bright, frosty mornings in November, Year 4 pupils from Edward Worledge Community Primary School in Great Yarmouth visited Suffolk Coast National Nature Reserve near Walberswick to help us in our work to restore the heathland.

Staff and pupils got stuck in cutting down young silver birch and pine trees, learning how to use loppers and bowsaws safely and working together in teams. It even became quite competitive at one point counting how many trees each team had felled!

After a couple of hours of hard work we collected different tree leaves to remind us of our visit and the species in this area and then headed into Walberswick for a picnic, making use of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB visitor centre on the green. Re energised we headed to the beach, then across the reedbed, exploring more of the habitats that make up this diverse National Nature Reserve, enjoying the mud and puddles and great views of the NNR along the way.



Pupils from Edward Worledge Community Primary School helping to restore heathland near Walberswick

Photo: Carrie Bewick

This visit was organised with the support of The Country Trust and is one aspect of outreach work taking place on NNRs across the country.

You too could come and enjoy a Wild Day at Walberswick on Wednesday 22 December, instead of a last minute dash to the shops! Choose from an easy two hour walk at 10.30am, exploring the village and its surroundings on the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths AONB Walberswick pub walk, or head over towards East Hill in the afternoon, from 2.30pm, to watch marsh harriers soar and come in to roost whilst starlings, hopefully, paint weird and wonderful shapes against the sunset sky as they come back to the reedbeds for the night. The Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB visitor centre will be open between 10.15am and 2.30pm for free children's craft activities.



Edward Worledge Community Primary School pupils at Walberswick NNR

Photo: Carrie Bewick

For further information please get in touch, or visit our website for a list of family activities and walks taking place on NNRs.

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White-clawed crayfish transferred to second Suffolk crayfish ark site

Julia Stansfield, Environment Agency

The Suffolk crayfish group has been busy establishing the second ark site in the county. The isolated river in the east of the county was checked out during the summer in terms of water and habitat quality and surveyed for the presence of alien crayfish. It passed with flying colours.

Looking at the map, we also found over 20 ponds and lakes near the river or directly connected. These would also pose a risk if alien crayfish were present. Two lakes at Ipswich Golf Club posed a particularly high risk and were intensively trapped. Nearly all the other water bodies were visited and checked for habitat suitability and the risk of crayfish being able to move to the river. Surveys were carried out at 14 ponds but, luckily, no crayfish were found anywhere.

The new site is quite a small river, but has good groundwater input meaning flows are maintained even in dry weather and the quality is good. It has good habitat in the middle reaches, particularly where it flows through woodland and there are lots of nooks and crannies to act as refuges among the tree roots. This was augmented with engineering bricks – the ones with holes through the middle – in the hope these will be attractive ready-made burrows.

So, once all the necessary licences were in place, it was all systems go for transfer. The source water was the River Wensum in Norfolk. Two trips yielded 130 fit healthy white-claws which were carefully transported and released. They decided against the bricks as new homes but readily disappeared into the tree roots. We will be back to monitor formally in the late summer for the next five years or so. Fingers crossed for a happy, healthy new Suffolk population.

In the meantime, the first annual survey of numbers was carried out in last year's ark site. Twenty traps were placed in the lake and checked daily. Twelve were caught in total with the maximum on any one day being five: as animals are released each time we can't be sure we're not catching the same ones! So this shows at least some animals are surviving and provides a good baseline to see if the population increases in future years. Hopefully in a couple of years we will be catching the young of the berried female that was caught earlier in the year.



Above left: **Team member releasing white clawed crayfish to the new ark site.**

Above right: **Native white clawed crayfish ready for release.**

Photos: EA

Suffolk hedgerow survey

Guy Ackers

As surveying is closing down for the winter period, it is appropriate to provide a progress report for the Project at the end of the 11th year. Parish hedgerow survey coordinators are calling in completed survey forms from the surveyor teams in order to wrap up their completed surveys prior to sending them to the Project Chairman for audit and statistics analysis.

In 2010, some 51 parish surveys were completed and yet another, and final, 22 'new' parishes have started after the final training sessions at Lackford and Thornham in May 2010. There are too many parishes to enumerate but there have been great advances in Mid Suffolk and Waveney Districts. Babergh and St Edmundsbury Borough Councils have made good progress and we have the first completed survey just in from Forest Heath District Council.

In total therefore, to date, we have 186 completed parish surveys and these have all been audited and analysed involving 24,428 landscape hedgerows so far. The numbers are increasing daily as at the time of writing there are another 8 parishes in the audit queue and another 6 on the way. We therefore have every expectation of breaking the Mack2 sound barrier with 200 completed surveys before the end of the year. There are approximately another 100 on-going due to complete in 2010 to 2011.

Results from the statistical analysis are showing extraordinary synergy between parishes in the same Landscape Character Assessment types in regard to the ratios of species richness in hedgerows as well as the species frequency.

Consequently we are able to identify areas in parishes where planting and replanting would have optimum effect on connectivity and corridors for wildlife to use in order to reinforce the already bountiful Living Landscape and to underline the proposal that Suffolk is the Greenest County.

New population of dormice discovered in Millenium Wood

Margaret Renault and David Fincham, Suffolk Wildlife Trust

A new and unexpected population of Dormice, *Muscardinus avellanarius*, was discovered in Suffolk last May, just south of Ipswich, when Eric Patrick, a bird ringer working in Millennium Wood LNR found a single mouse staring back at him from a bird box.

Following rather surprised confirmation by licensed Dormouse workers, tubes were placed and surveys carried out over the summer in parts of this woodland and surrounding sites. By October, evidence of a thriving population had emerged with a maximum count of 12 in a 2ha area surveyed, including ancient woodland (Spring Wood LNR), the 10 year old largely natural regeneration site of Millennium Wood itself, and the adjoining scrub and hedgerows.

Prior to this discovery, the nearest known population of Dormice was in Bentley Wood, some 2.5km distant, on the other side of the A14. It seems very likely, therefore, that the newly discovered population has been here all along, centred around Spring Wood, and has simply been overlooked. Since they are nocturnal and live only at very low densities even in optimum conditions, this isn't, perhaps, quite as surprising as it may first appear.

Spring Wood and Millennium Wood are owned by Ipswich Borough Council (IBC) and managed by the Greenways Countryside Project. The site was an SWT reserve until the late 1990s. No previous records of dormice have been reported from this site, although anecdotal tales of them being in the area, and in local gardens, from earlier decades, are now starting to emerge.



Dormouse in Bradfield Woods
Photo: Adrian Hinchliffe

The habitat of these woods is suitable for dormice due to the continued coppicing by volunteers in areas under overhead power lines, together with high canopy in other areas and a restricted amount of deer damage, which in turn is largely because of high numbers of visitors and the presence of the A14 immediately to the south. Millennium wood was partially planted with oak and hazel, but is mostly composed of naturally regenerated woodland. This wood is currently dominated by willow, together with quite a lot of ash – which is certainly not typical dormouse territory. Millennium Wood was originally created to relieve increasing visitor pressure in Spring Wood, due to the encroachment of local housing development.

Both of these sites join with Kiln Meadow – an area of tussocky grassland, young trees and scrub with mature hedgerows also owned by IBC until last month. Despite campaigning by many local conservation organisations, IBC have now sold it for development and at the time of writing the reserved matters planning application is under consideration. Dormice have been found to be resident and breeding in the hedges surrounding this meadow. The effect of any development so close to this population remains to be seen.

RSPB Minsmere Reserve wins the EA's 'Pioneering biodiversity programme' award

Increasing the resilience to climate change of lowland dry acid grassland and lowland heathland on the Suffolk Coast

The project has involved enlarging and linking together blocks of lowland heathland and lowland dry acid grassland (both BAP priority habitats) on the Suffolk Coast by the RSPB. This is part of a wider vision for the Suffolk Coast between the Alde and Blyth Estuaries, involving a range of organisations. The habitat re-creation aims to enlarge, and hence increase the resilience to climate change, of populations of species associated with these habitats, and provide additional habitat for species expanding their range.



Mel Kemp receiving the EA Pioneering Biodiversity Programme award on behalf of RSPB Minsmere Reserve

Photo: EA

Two hundred hectares of acid grassland and dry heathland is being created on ex-arable land at RSPB Minsmere Reserve. This includes 103 ha of land taken out of arable production and reverted to acid grassland and heathland since 2000. An additional 48 ha of acid grassland and dry heathland are being created at Minsmere and Dunwich Forest following removal of conifers. In order to minimise emissions of greenhouse gases, no material has been burnt, and arisings have been made best use of, or left *in situ*. Brash has been chipped and used to make mulch.

The project has driven the recovery of the tiny Suffolk Coast population of stone curlew (a BAP priority species), which was close to extinction in the 1990s. The re-created heathland also supports populations of silver-studded blue butterflies, another BAP priority species, as well as a wide range of other scarce plants and invertebrates. We are grateful to our funders: Suffolk Environmental Trust, SITA, Biffaward, HLF, and Natural England.



Acid grassland created on ex-arable land at Minsmere RSPB Reserve

Photo: Mel Kemp

The Greenest County Awards NEED YOU!

Iain Dunnnett, Creating the Greenest County Delivery Partnership

When will Suffolk be the greenest county? To suggest a timescale in the answer is difficult, but undoubtedly becoming the Greenest County will be dependant upon everybody's innovation in caring for the Suffolk environment.



The fourth year of the prestigious Creating the Greenest County awards has been launched to encourage and celebrate this innovation in areas such as carbon reduction, wildlife conservation and green space development. Warmly referred to as “Suffolk’s Green Oscars” they celebrate fantastic achievements across the themes of communities, business and schools.

Suffolk has some high profile innovators in the county; just recently Channels 4’s Grand Designs programme featured several ambitious green buildings in Suffolk; Adnams Biogroup have just opened a cutting edge anaerobic digester energy plant near Southwold; Gotelee and Jacob Bailey were the first companies to achieve the Suffolk Carbon Charter and the internationally renowned RSPB wildlife reserve at Lakenheath Fen has attracted breeding Cranes. The awards “shout” about such exceptional achievements in Suffolk.

The awards paint a picture revealing a well established care for the county's environment and a passion for developing the county in a sustainable and progressive manner. Many people have told me that Suffolk still has the chance to "get it right", to develop in a sustainable manner and ensure the county is an attractive place to live and to work for future generations.

The Awards have captured the imaginations of all the sectors in Suffolk and are generously sponsored by Adnams, UCS Business School, Port of Felixstowe, Ransomes Jacobsen, Thorpeness and Aldeburgh Hotels Ltd, Carillion, and supported by Suffolk County Council, the Environment Agency and the East of England Cooperative Society. This isn't just sponsorship, it is vitally important to have a broad range of engagement from all sectors of society for the awards. One criticism that can be made of many award ceremonies is that they apply to a narrow field of people with limited broader ownership, we are endeavouring to avoid this with the Creating the Greenest County Awards.

So is it just an awards ceremony? No, it is a lot more than that. If you have a passion for the Suffolk environment and are taking action in some way then please submit an application to these awards, or if you know of another individual or organisation that should apply please inspire them to do so.

The award winners ultimately join a group of organisations and individuals recognised for their efforts to Create the Greenest County and in doing this they put Suffolk firmly on the map of "green innovation".

For further information award, please visit www.greensuffolk.org/ctgc_awards. **Closing date for entries is the 30 January 2011.** *Please feel free to circulate this information to your networks and contacts. Last year we quadrupled the number of applicants and we would like to better that figure this year.*

Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership News

❖ **Brecks Biodiversity Audit – the first biodiversity audit of its kind**

A landmark study in the Brecks has resulted in some astonishing findings and calls for radical new approaches to conservation. This collaborative study's innovative, evidence-based methodology offers a more targeted and dynamic approach to conservation – identifying what biodiversity is present in a region, where it is, and what it needs if it is to thrive. The study is believed to be the first of its kind to consider every single species found in an entire region.

The first report of the BBA, ***Securing biodiversity in Breckland, Guidance for conservation and research***, was launched at a high profile event in Thetford on 30 November amidst great interest by the local and national media.



The Brecks Biodiversity Audit collated nearly a million species records, revealing that more than 12,500 species have been recorded in Breckland. Of these, more than 2,000 are of national conservation concern. The team analysed the ecological needs of these 2,000 rare species enabling them to identify novel approaches for conservation management. The report provides a manual for land managers, showing them what can be done to restore and conserve the unique biodiversity of the region.

The key findings are:

- 28% of all the priority Biodiversity Action Plan species in the UK occur in Breckland.
- 65 species, largely restricted to Breckland, are rarely found anywhere else in Britain. These include species such as Spanish Catchfly, Field Wormwood, Breckland Thyme, the Brush-thighed Seed-eater and the Basil-thyme Case-bearer moth.
- Conservation managers should encourage bare ground and complex mixtures of grazed and ungrazed vegetation. Heather, although thought to be an icon of heathland sites, is less important than disturbed ground.
- Cultivated farmland provides a vital habitat for many important species that need disturbed soil. However, a more tailored approach to stewardship is required.
- Although the planting of Thetford Forest originally destroyed important habitats, the forest now has a rich biodiversity including: rare plants such as tower mustard, smooth rupturewort and red-tipped cudweed; insects such as the marbled clover and grey carpet moth; and declining farmland birds like yellowhammer and linnet.
- Other important habitats revealed by the study were ancient trees, muddy pond edges, ungrazed fields and post-industrial sites such as gravel and sand pits.

Led by the University of East Anglia (UEA), with partners Natural England, the Forestry Commission, Norfolk and Suffolk Biodiversity Partnerships and County Councils, the Brecks Partnership, and Plantlife, the painstaking study pooled information on every plant and animal species recorded in Breckland. The information was gathered from Suffolk Biological Record Centre, Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service, Natural England, landowners and more than 200 naturalists.

“These exciting findings demonstrate beyond doubt what conservationists have long suspected – that Breckland is a unique region and a vitally important hot-spot for rare and threatened species, making it a key area for conservation within the UK,” said Dr Paul Dolman of UEA’s School of Environmental Sciences, who led the study. *“Although much of what conservation has achieved is excellent, new approaches are urgently needed or we risk many of these species drifting towards extinction”.*

Covering around 1000 km², Breckland is one of the driest places in England and encompasses the largest lowland forest in the UK. Because the sandy soil made ploughing easy, Breckland was one of the first places in England to be settled and its unique biodiversity remains dependent on people. The medieval word ‘breck’ means a fallow cropped field and the team found that these lightly cultivated fields are crucial to many species unique to the region - but many of these farmland species are now extremely rare and threatened. Breckland has a range of other important habitats - including the UK’s only inland sand dunes, grazed heathland, pine forests and wetlands.

Bev Nichols, land management and conservation advisor at Natural England said: *“This audit is truly a landmark piece of work. Around 40 per cent of Breckland is protected to help conserve the special wildlife that is found here, but throughout the farms, heaths and forests, nature needs a helping hand. These findings will help Natural England give the best advice to landowners, and ensure funding such as our Environmental Stewardship Scheme, is targeted to ensure a future for Breckland’s special wildlife and wild places.”*

Neal Armour-Chelu, Ecologist with the Forestry Commission said: *“This work is going to help the Forestry Commission conserve the rare wildlife of Breckland. UEA has brought together the knowledge of hundreds of experts about the ecological needs of literally thousands of species. This report is vital as a manual for the conservation of wildlife across Thetford Forest. For the first time, we have a comprehensive insight into what we can do to help the conservation of what is one of the most wildlife rich areas of the UK.”*

Plantlife has launched a new 3-year project to tackle the needs of threatened plants in Breckland through targeting conservation work at around 30 sites and taking forward recommendations from the biodiversity audit. The project will focus on 9 BAP species including Spanish catchfly, spring speedwell, tower mustard and red-tipped cudweed. The project will establish a network of volunteers to underpin and monitor the conservation work, and develop plans with other partner organisations for a landscape-scale conservation project in Breckland.

The BBA report launch included speakers Tom Tew, former chief scientist at Natural England; Victoria Chester, chief executive of Plantlife; Bev Nichols, land management and conservation advisor at Natural England; report authors Dr Paul Dolman and Dr Hannah Mossman of the University of East Anglia. A question and answer panel session was chaired by Jonathan Spencer, senior ecologist at the Forestry Commission.



Left to right, **Jonathan Spencer (Forestry Commission), Paul Dolman (UEA), Hannah Mossman (UEA), Chris Panter (UEA), Bev Nichols (NE), Neal Armour-Chelu (FC), Tim Pankhurst (Plantlife)**

Photo: Gen Broad

Further information and the full report can be downloaded from the [Brecks Partnership](#), [Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership](#) and [Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership](#) websites.

To see the radio and TV coverage go to the following links:

[Science News >](#)

[Radio 4 Today Programme >](#)

[Look East TV >](#)

[Anglia TV >](#)

[BBC News >](#)

❖ **Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership steering group meeting**

The second 2010 SBP steering group meeting was held on 5 October at Sizewell Power Station. Alan Miller of Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT) was the guest speaker, updating the group on the past, present and future of the site and discussing the potential issues posed by the prospective Sizewell C development. SWT and Alan have been involved in managing the Sizewell estate since 1992. It is made up of 1,800 acres of which only 100 acres is currently occupied by power stations. The remainder is split into 700 acres of arable, 250 acres of SSSI Sizewell Belts, 300 acres of conifer woodland Kenton & Goose Hills and various areas of grazing marsh, secondary woodland, shingle beach/dune and heathland. The main aim of the current management is to balance the needs of wildlife against the potential development of the site for new power stations. **“Thank you Alan”** for leading the site visit **and** giving the group a fascinating insight into the peat field trials results and the reptile recreation area.



SBP steering group viewing the peat trials at Sizewell Power Station

Photo: Ben Heather

Other items on the agenda included SBP's response to Defra's consultation 'Shaping the Nature of England', updates on the Suffolk traditional orchard survey, the white-clawed crayfish ark project's 2nd year of fieldwork and the successful Norfolk and Suffolk Biodiversity and Planning seminar in September.

❖ **Waveney Green Web Project**
This exciting new project has just been approved. It aims to create a 'green web for wildlife and people' across Waveney District by enhancing and joining up green spaces. The project is a partnership venture between Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Creating The Greenest County initiative with funding from Waveney Local Strategic Partnership. *We hope everyone in Waveney will feel able to get involved through their communities, schools and businesses.* If you'd like to know more contact the Biodiversity Officer (see p.25)

INFORMATION and NEWS

Outcomes from the Nagoya COP10 Biodiversity Summit

News from IYB-UK, the UK partnership for the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 www.biodiversityislife.net



In the final hours of COP10 (COP – Conference of the Parties), a consensus was achieved on the three main components of the convention. Delegates voted in support of:

- **A protocol on access to and sharing of the benefits of biodiversity**
- **A new strategic plan with targets for 2020**
- **A Resources (finance) mobilisation plan**

While there is still much work to be done, in particular in developing the resource mobilization plan for full agreement and adoption at the COP11, the outcome is considerable better than had been feared earlier in the conference.

Earlier in the week, the UK Environment Minister spoke about UK support for biodiversity while calling for a substantial agreement (see [Caroline Spelman speech](#)). Meanwhile in a major side event organised by Conservation International, [Hollywood actor Harrison Ford](#) urged the United States to fully engage with the CBD pointing to the economic cost to the US if it didn't do so. Elsewhere an independent UN report identified biodiversity loss as a greater financial risk than terrorism for banks and insurance companies (see [The Guardian 27.10.10](#)).

Anglian Water wins global green award for its Biodiversity Field Guide and Intranet site

The field guide is intended to get staff involved in monitoring and maintaining biodiversity on Anglian Water company sites. The company looks after 47 Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The Global Green Awards recognise the most creative and effective efforts to communicate green messages around the world. The Biodiversity Field Guide also won the Corporate Responsibility category of the Institute of Internal Communications awards earlier in 2010. **Congratulations Anglian Water!**

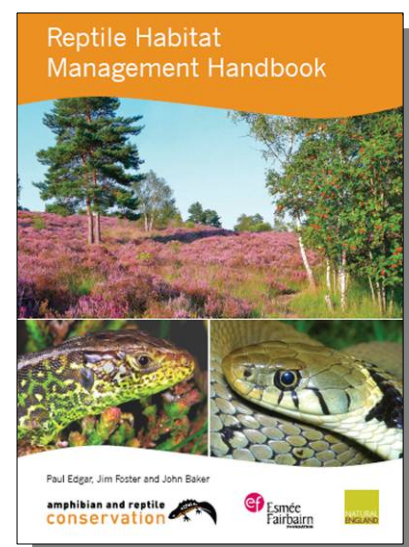
[Read more about the award >](#)

'Reptile Habitat Management Handbook'

Paul Edgar, Jim Foster and John Baker (2010). Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bournemouth. ISBN 978-0-9566717-0-7.

This handbook is the first attempt to bring together habitat management advice for all native UK reptiles. It is aimed at site managers, and those who advise on management. The handbook gives advice for a range of settings, from dedicated nature reserves to farmland and includes a useful appendix of Environmental Stewardship options.

Copies are available from [Amphibian and Reptile Conservation](#), 655A Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH1 4AP, 01202 391319.



The handbook is also available to download in PDF format at: www.arc-trust.org.

‘Norfolk’s Earth Heritage’ published Nov 2010

This new publication provides a concise, readable introduction to Norfolk’s geodiversity, promotes a Norfolk geodiversity action plan and includes a range of useful resources, including advice for planners. Price: £12.00 + £2 p&p. To obtain a paper copy contact Jenny Gladstone tel: 01603 619387, email: jennygladstone@aol.com. For more information, visit Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service website www.nbis.org.uk, Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership website www.norfolkbiodiversity.org or the Geo-East website www.geo-east.org.uk.

Branding Biodiversity

Futerra’s work on the brand and messaging for the International Year of Biodiversity has won a Green Award for Best International Campaign. During 2010, the logo has been used in 146 countries, in 29 languages, by 90 different governments, 21 UN agencies, and over 1000 other organisations. It has also featured on the tail fin of an Airbus A380, sponsored an international football kit and made up part of a floral well in the North of England.

In May 2010 Futerra launched a report *challenging communicators to communicate Love not Loss, and to distil a complex scientific concept into a set of values and promises that will radically increase action* - [Branding Biodiversity](#).

Biodiversity News Autumn 2010

Articles include *Convention on Biological Diversity: Nagoya 2010*, *Parasite threatens many of Britain’s best loved birds*, *Making space for Nature report*, *CEMEX UK and the RSPB launch national biodiversity strategy to enrich nature nationwide*, *An Unusual Bee Orchid at RSPB Weymouth Wetlands*, *A Model to Predict Wildlife Site Sensitivity (Bedfordshire LBAP)* and *Trinity Broads Restoration*.

Biodiversity News # 51 can be downloaded from [UK BAP website \(library\) >](#)

Funding opportunities recently announced

The Big Tree Plant

A £4million community tree planting scheme launched by DEFRA and the Forestry Commission. The aim is to help community groups to plant 1 million trees in towns, cities and residential areas from 2011 to 2015. Grants of £500 to £25K are available and will cover 75% of the costs. Local authorities cannot apply directly but projects in partnership with local authorities are welcome. **Deadline – 15 March 2011**

Further information <http://thebigtreeplant.direct.gov.uk/index.html>

£100 million Transition Fund

Aim is to help small and medium-sized charities in England weather the public spending cuts. Individual grants of between £12,500 and £500,000 are available. The funds can be used to meet up to 50% of the reduction in the taxpayer funded income that organisations use to deliver frontline public services. Open to charities and social enterprises in England. **Deadline 21 January 2011.**

Further information: [National Council for Voluntary Organisations](#)

Jubilee People's Millions Competition

Grants of between £20,000 and £60,000 will be provided for projects that transform local environments and offer opportunities or facilities for people to take part and enjoy their local area. This will include initiatives focusing on buildings, amenities, public and green spaces and natural habitats. Open to voluntary and community groups, social enterprises, local authorities, schools and statutory health organisations. **Deadline 4 February 2011.** Further information: <http://www.peoplesmillions.org.uk/>

British Ecological Society (BES) Public Engagement Grants

The BES Public Engagement Grant is currently open for applications. Individuals and organisations such as members of the BES, researchers, schools, museums, libraries, and community groups can apply for grants of up to £2,000 to organise public engagement events in ecology. The BES aims to support activities that; raise public awareness of and engagement with ecology; stimulate discussion about ecological science and its implications for society; inspire and enthuse people about ecology, especially those not previously interested in ecology. **Deadline: 15 January 2011.** Further information: [BES website >](#)

Pond Digging Fund

Biffaward has announced that the 3rd and final round of the Pond Digging Fund opened for applications on 1 Nov. Funding is available to provide new, clean water habitat for wildlife by creating an extensive network of new ponds across the UK. To qualify projects must target at least one pond-associated Biodiversity Action Plan species; include three or more ponds at one site, or a pond complex (i.e. a cluster of ponds). Single ponds may be considered depending on the target species; the landowner/manager should be eligible to receive Biffaward funding, but public access is not required; and sites should be located within 10 miles of a landfill operation (current or disused) or within 25 miles of a Biffa operation. **Deadline: January 2011.**

Further information: [the Pond Conservation website >](#)

GeoSuffolk Times newsletter October 2010

The newsletter provides an update on GeoSuffolk activities and contains interesting articles including *Crag rhino tooth from Bawdsey, Thorpeness and Brandon Heritage Centre.*

[Visit the GeoSuffolk website to download the newsletter >](#)

Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE) conference 2011

The presentations from this year's ALGE Conference are now available. They comprise *National Ecosystem Assessment -- a practical perspective, The economics of ecosystems and biodiversity, Natural England Standing Advice - after the consultation, New framework for landscape scale biodiversity delivery, The Lawton Review - delivery through a renewed planning system, Future of professional ecologists, Conservation credits and habitat banking, Big society, localism and the natural environment - a senior politician's perspective.* Visit: <http://www.alge.org.uk/publications/resources.php>

Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership (An example of an American landscape scale project)

This project in Portland, Oregon has achieved considerable success as a landscape scale project. The aim is to restore 19,000 acres of wetlands and habitat by 2014 and promote improvements in stormwater management; reduce pollution and provide information about the river to a range of audiences. The project covers a 146 mile segment of the Columbia River and neighbouring land. It provides a regional framework to support and enhance local efforts, for example by providing funds to local bodies.

Read more on the [Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership website >](#)

2020Vision for a wilder Britain

Britain's most ambitious conservation multimedia initiative...ever

20 photographers / 20 assignments / 1 vision to communicate the link between the restoration of the UK's natural systems and our own well being.

2020VISION is not a conservation project; it's about communication...and collaboration. By bringing top flight visual media specialists - photographers, videographers, sound recordists - together with the scientific and conservation community, we can create an unprecedented set of communication resources that would simply not be possible in isolation. Using the power of visual imagery - unique in its ability to communicate on an emotional level - **2020VISION** will inspire and inform a massive audience.

The core output will be a multi-city roadshow comprising of a spectacular outdoor exhibition. This will be underpinned by a series of events and products such as:

- Outdoor AV shows using 3d technology.
- Live concert performances featuring themed AVs
- TV spots and DVD productions
- Mini-videos for YouTube / Vimeo / social network sites
- Flagship book and extensive print media coverage.
- Print / digital media to be used in health centres in conjunction with researchers.

To find out more visit www.2020v.org

Natural Environment White Paper news

Grassroots Engagement

Defra has published some documents to help organisations or bodies who already have a relationship with small groups, societies, individuals or consumers – whether local or national – to facilitate a discussion about the natural environment. There is a Guide for Facilitators, a Briefing Note for Participants and a Feedback Form. Deadline for feedback forms: **31 January 2011**.

Information available at: ww2.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/

Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB winter newsletter 2010

The newsletter contains a wide range of articles including: *New AONB pub walks*, *AONB budget cuts*, *Voluntary code on the Stour and Orwell*, *Climate change and agriculture*, *AONB photo competition winners and Greenest community award – AONB category*. The newsletter is available to download from the AONB's website:

[Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB newspaper and newsletter downloads >](#)

Landguard Photography Competition

The Landguard Partnership is holding a competition to find the best 12 Photographs taken on Landguard Peninsula. The winning photographs will be featured on the 2012 Landguard Calendar. The competition is open to everyone and FREE to enter. **Deadline 30 July 2011**. There are 3 age categories: under 16s, under 25s and 'everyone else'. For details, visit the new [Landguard Partnership website >](#)

Innovative ways to communicate biodiversity

The recent EUROPARC Federation conference emphasised that innovative communication is essential if we are to get the biodiversity message across. The conference drew attention to the following links to an IUCN video about biodiversity and a presentation and document from the communications agency Futerra.

[IUCN link to Love. not Loss](#)

[Futerra presentation](#)

[Branding Biodiversity](#) (PDF 828 Kb):

Visit [Europarc Federation website](#) (Natural England is a member)

International Press Centre for Biodiversity Research

The website is an initiative of ALTER-Net and provides a biodiversity news service.

News story: *Could this kill cancer - Why scientists are heading underwater to search for a new generation of cures.* Newsweek Nov 21

<http://www.biodiversityresearch.net/>

Net Gain news

(Net Gain is the North Sea Marine Conservation Zones Project)

Net Gain has submitted its first Impact Assessment report to Defra. This report focuses on developing a baseline assessment of a number of existing socio-economic factors within the Net Gain; later in the project subsequent reports will provide more detail of the potential impacts of potential MCZ sites within the Net Gain project area.

Net Gain has also submitted its first formal report on progress in identifying potential sites for Marine Conservation Zones to the Science Advisory Panel. To view both reports, go to the Stakeholder Engagement Chart <http://www.netgainmcz.org/scipanel.php>

Find out what species and habitats MCZs will protect

The online catalogue produced by Natural England provides photos and descriptions of the species and habitats listed in the Ecological Network Guidance. The Guidance was recently published by Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) to guide the work of the four regional project stakeholder groups to plan MCZs.

[CLICK HERE TO SEE THE MCZ FEATURES CATALOGUE](#)

Publication of TEEB 5th and final report

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study is a major international initiative to draw attention to the global economic benefits of biodiversity, to highlight the growing costs of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, and to draw together expertise from the fields of science, economics and policy to facilitate enable practical actions. This is an independent study hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme with financial support from the European Commission; Germany, UK, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. The final report (***Mainstreaming the economics of Nature, a synthesis of the approach, conclusions and recommendations of TEEB***) was released at the Biodiversity Conference in Nagoya in October.

To download the report visit the [TEEB website >](#)

First census of marine life completed

This huge 10-year study involved 2,700 scientists from 80 nations and has revealed what, where, and how much marine life there is in the world's oceans. 1,200 new species have been officially named and there are 5,000 more awaiting descriptions. The total number of marine species described is about 244,000, but it is estimated there could be more than 1 million. The census also mapped migratory routes and identified places of high and low diversity. Visit the [Natural History Museum website](#)

Biodiversity in the East of England

To find out what's going on in our region, check the websites for the county Biodiversity Partnerships forum:

[Norfolk, Bedfordshire and Luton](#), [Essex](#), [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough](#).

And the revised [East of England Biodiversity Forum website](#) >

WHAT'S ON

Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition

20 Nov 2010 - 25 Feb 2011 10:00 – 17:00 (Tues to Sat)

Town Hall Galleries, Ipswich. Admission: free

This fantastic exhibition showcases stunning images captured from the natural world. It includes over 100 photographs from the competition's 18 categories in a visually stunning and inspiring exhibition that debuted at the Natural History Museum, London and is now on the first stop of its tour - in Ipswich! This exhibition is co-hosted with the Natural History Museum and the BBC's Wildlife Magazine.

For details, visit [Ipswich Borough Council's website](#) >

Suffolk Wildlife Trust events in January

Bird walks at Lackford Lakes; walks at Redgrave & Lopham Fen; talks including Bradfield Woods, Flowers and wildlife of South Africa, Creating a community owned wildspace, Eagles in Norway and Japan, The role of a police wildlife crime officer and courses on Botanical illustration and Winter birds.

For details visit [Suffolk Wildlife Trust what's on](#) >

HLF Parks for People grant meeting

10 January Christchurch Park, Reg Driver's Visitor Centre, Ipswich

The event offers 1-hour appointments with HLF staff to discuss project ideas informally. You can discuss detailed plans or broad ideas. Awards of £250,000 to £5 million are available. The key priorities are:

- the community values the park as part of their heritage
- the park meets local social, economic and environmental needs
- the park management actively involves local people

Further details available on the HLF website

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/parksforpeople.aspx>.

To book an appointment for the Ipswich workshop, phone 01223 224881 or 01223 224870. Spaces are limited.

Herpetofauna Workers Meeting

29 and 30 January 2011

A 21st anniversary celebration of the Amphibian and Reptile Group Network

Park Inn, Cardiff City Centre, CF10 2JH

Presentations include *Modelling great crested newt status*, *Garden Herps Survey*, *Changing approaches to mitigation*, *Revised protocols for NARRS reptile surveys* and work on natterjacks. Workshops include *Amphibian disease*, *Water quality*, *Non-native species*, *Reptile mitigation*, *County recording for herps* and *Adder swab sampling*

Price: £210 (£180 for ARG members) • Day rates £45 (£30 ARG members).

For full programme and booking form, visit: www.arguk.org

National Riverfly Conference

10 March 2011, Natural History Museum, London

The Riverfly Partnership brings together anglers, conservationists, entomologists, scientists, water quality managers and relevant statutory bodies to increase our knowledge of riverfly populations and actively conserve their habitats.

Delegate fee: £35 including lunch.

To find out more, visit [The Riverfly Partnership website >](#)

IEEM Conference - Invasive Species: New Natives in a Changing Climate?

23 March 2011

Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BD

Conference speakers will talk about the European picture, examine the recent changes to the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), as well as looking at the UK national non-native strategy.

Visit [IEEM website >](#)

Various wildlife events - [Suffolk Wildlife Trust](#), [National Trust](#), [RSPB](#), [Butterfly Conservation Suffolk Branch](#), [Suffolk Moth Group](#), [Suffolk Fungus Group](#), [Suffolk Ornithologists Group](#), [Suffolk Naturalists Society](#)

Thanks for another information packed, inspiring read."

Deborah Wargate
SCDC Environmental Sustainability Officer

Congrats on yet another informative newsletter, it's really helpful to read about what others are doing.

Diane Ling, Suffolk Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group

SBP INFORMATION

If you would like to share information on how your organisation is benefiting biodiversity in Suffolk, please send your article to Gen Broad, Suffolk Biodiversity Officer (tel: 01473 264308, Mobile: 0789 4885337, email: gen.broad@suffolk.gov.uk)

Deadline for January 2011 newsletter: Friday February 4.

SBP is a partnership comprised of conservation organisations, statutory bodies, local authorities, businesses, not-for-profit organisations and community groups working together throughout Suffolk to protect biodiversity. The UK's Biodiversity Action Plan is delivered at a local level by members of the Partnership – for further information visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/Environment/Biodiversity/SuffolkBiodiversityPartnership.htm

Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership comprises:

Babergh District Council, Center Parcs–Elveden, Environment Agency, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Essex & Suffolk Water, Forestry Commission, Forest Heath District Council, Ipswich Borough Council, Mid Suffolk District Council, National Trust, Natural England, RSPB, St. Edmundsbury Borough Council, Suffolk Biological Records Centre, Suffolk Naturalist's Society, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Naturalists Society, Waveney District Council.

Sincere apologies to Jon Evans who provided the stunning photograph of a spotted flycatcher on page 1 of the September newsletter and for which the photo credit was missing.