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## Celebrating the *International Year of Biodiversity*



In collaboration with Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) and Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service (NBIS), the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership held a special event to mark the International Day of Biodiversity on 22<sup>nd</sup> May at the Forum in Norwich.

This featured the innovative "Conservation Counts – Grains of Truth" display developed by David North, which uses grains of locally-grown barley to represent actual numbers of threatened wildlife left internationally and nationally. The display drew attention to the plight of tigers, blue whales, black rhinos and elephants, which have all declined dramatically over recent years. For example, black rhino populations have dropped from 100,000 in 1960 to just 3,600 recorded in 2005.



The exhibit struck a chord with visitors. Here are some of their comments:

***"Brilliant exhibition – interactive ... visual ... simple!"***

*"Really thought-provoking"*

***"A wonderful but scary illustration of what we're doing to the planet"***

*"When I am older, I will try and help the animals"*

***"Made me pause for thought"***

*"Sometimes the simplest ideas have the most impact"*

***"What an eye-opener and a jaw-dropper"***

*"Stopped me in my tracks – shocking"*

***"This is a fantastic idea – the best way I have ever seen of representing the need for conservation of endangered animals"***

*"Amazing, simple and eye-catching"*

Closer to home, the display

# Welcome

Welcome to the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership's Summer Update! This has turned out to be a bumper issue, with news and updates from many partners. "In these difficult times", it's encouraging to see so much positive conservation action taking place across the county.

I hope you'll enjoy reading the update, and as always, would welcome your feedback

and opinions. We are also seeking articles for our winter edition, so if you have some news that you would like us to include, please do get in touch. If you have a moment, please also check out the NBP website, which has many new articles and reports about recent biodiversity work.

*Scott Perkin, Co-ordinator,  
Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership*



*Working together to conserve,  
enhance and restore Norfolk's  
biological diversity*

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## Norfolk Non-native Species Initiative

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[www.norfolkbiobiodiversity.org](http://www.norfolkbiobiodiversity.org)

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also highlighted some biodiversity statistics from Norfolk, such as the decline of the county's heathland. However, conservation successes were also featured, such as the recovery of the marsh harrier population.

Other exhibits included a 'life-size' alien spaceship which had landed outside the Forum to the surprise of local shoppers! The craft and associated displays drew attention to the threats faced by our native wildlife from invasive non-native species – "aliens" – that didn't originate in the UK. The Norfolk Non-Native Species Initiative (NNSI), which was set up two years ago by the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership, continues to go from strength to strength under Mike Sutton-Croft's management. Read more on the next page.

Additional events to commemorate IYB are being planned, including a biodiversity conference for 6<sup>th</sup> formers (being organised in collaboration with the Castle Museum) and a study day to look at the connections between biodiversity and art (in collaboration with the Sainsbury Centre for the Visual Arts).



Alien spacecraft at the Forum (Credit: Su Waldron)

## Norfolk Non-native Species Initiative Update

A huge amount of progress has been made by the Norfolk Non-native Species Initiative (NNNSI) over the last few months, with a large number of activities now going on across the county to control and eradicate invasive plants at priority sites.

More information about one of the Initiative's flagship projects, the eradication of floating pennywort from the River Waveney, can be found later in this newsletter. Other projects underway include an assessment of the distribution of Himalayan balsam in the River Wensum catchment, the eradication of *Crassula helmsii* at Filby Broad and the control of giant hogweed along a 21km stretch of the River Yare.

Along with these practical projects, the Initiative also held the Fourth Norfolk Non-native Species Stakeholders' Forum on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010, bringing together more than 50 individuals from a variety of organisations with an interest in the impacts of invasive alien species. Delegates heard from a number of local and national level speakers, covering a diverse range of topics including the spread of invasive non-native crayfish in the UK and the Environment Agency's approach to dealing with invasive non-native species. The presentations were followed by a series of workshops, aiming to improve delegates' skill at identifying key invasive species.

Another highlight of the past few months has been the Non-native Species Action Weekend, which was

held on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

Volunteers worked at a number of sites over the weekend, removing invasive plants such as Himalayan balsam and *Rhododendron ponticum*. The weekend also attracted considerable media interest, helping to raise awareness of the issue of invasive non-native species with the public.

Over the coming months, the Initiative will be working harder than ever to deliver strategic action on the ground, working closely with partner organisations. In these 'cash strapped' times, it is important that the Initiative continue to deliver strategic, sustainable and successful control of invasive species across Norfolk, demonstrating that a county-level project such as this can deliver good value for money.

The NNNSI is grateful to the Broads Authority, Defra, the Environment Agency, Natural England, Norfolk County Council and the Water Management Alliance for their continued support.



Work in progress at the Action Weekend (Credit: Kate Dougan)

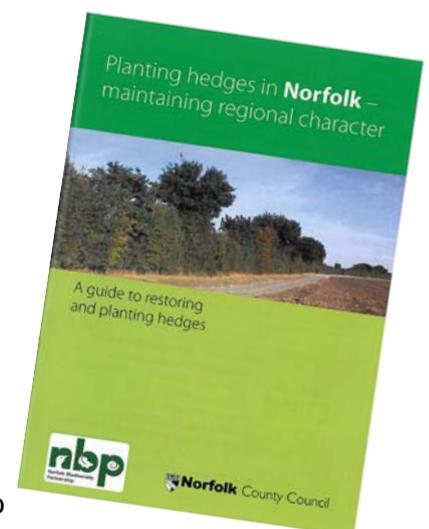
For further information about the Initiative, contact [Michael.sutton-croft@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.sutton-croft@norfolk.gov.uk) or visit [www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/nonnativespecies](http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/nonnativespecies)

## Hedgerows Booklet

**The Partnership has supported the production of a new advice booklet, aimed at those planning to restore old hedges or plant new ones.**

Norfolk's hedges demonstrate a range of characteristics across the county, both in terms of shape (eg. curving, straight, irregular) as well as species (number and type) present. Soil type, original planting, environmental parameters and historical factors all influence Norfolk's hedgerows. This new publication by Prof Tom Williamson and Dr Gerry Barnes explains in depth why the character of hedges varies across the county and offers advice on how this rich diversity – so important to our landscape and wildlife - can be nurtured for the future.

Download the booklet from the publications section of the NBP website: [www.norfolkbiodiversity.org](http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org)



# NBP Highlights

## Brecks Biodiversity Audit

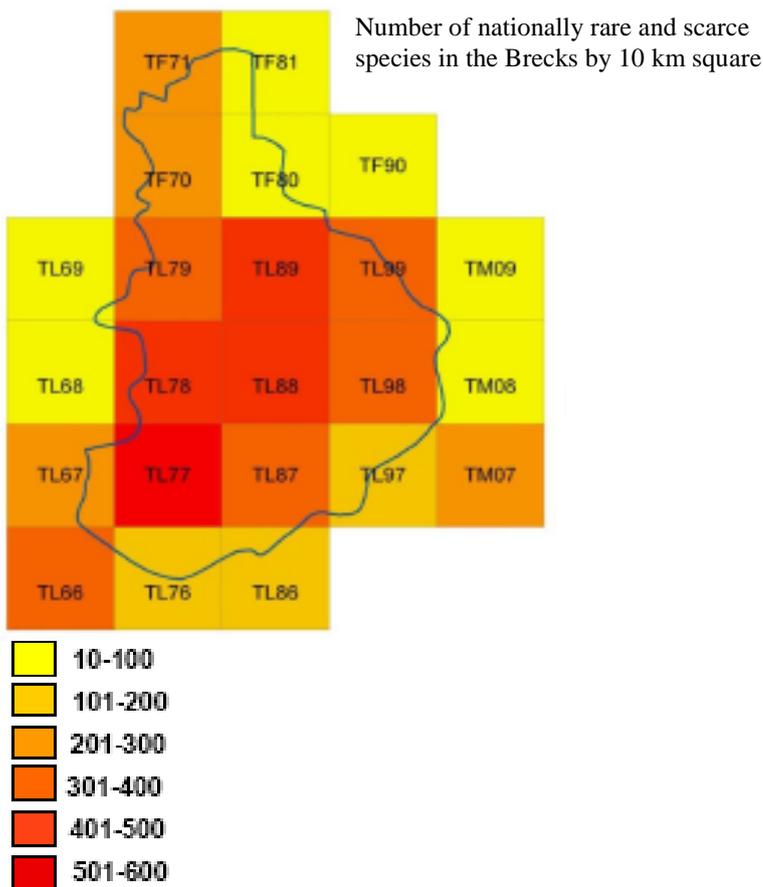
**The Brecks Biodiversity Audit has continued to make excellent progress. To date, over three-quarters of a million records have been collated, for nearly 13,000 species; these include almost 2,000 Red Data Book, Nationally Rare or Scarce, or BAP species.**

Conservationists have long known that Breckland is vital for rare species needing bare sand, disturbance and heavy grazing. The Brecks Biodiversity Audit – launched in 2009 to review the status of Breckland biodiversity and the evidence base for its management – has confirmed that large numbers of species do need this type of management. But the study has also drawn attention to many other groups of species that need very different conditions and management, which have been overlooked.

The audit has shown that an integrated landscape-scale vision is needed which cuts across traditional habitat and ownership boundaries to create resilient networks that

integrate the needs of multiple species. This work has brought together the recording effort of over 2,000 recorders and the expertise of more than 150 natural historians, taxonomic experts, ecologists, site managers, policy makers and conservationists. The project has taken a radical approach to conservation, focusing on the needs and requirements of species groups and assemblages that need common conditions, rather than creating many independent species-based action plans. Now, for the first time, it is possible to see easily, what parts of Breckland are important for which types of species, allowing targeted action, site prioritisation and habitat linkages across the landscape.

The project is being led by Dr Paul Dolman and Dr Hannah Mossman at the University of East Anglia. Funding support has been provided by the Norfolk and Suffolk Biodiversity Partnerships, Natural England, the Forestry Commission, PlantLife International, the Brecks Partnership, NBIS and Suffolk County Council. The final report will be formally launched at a special event in Thetford on 30 November 2010.



Flixweed, a scarce arable plant found in Breckland (Credit: Natural England)

# Biodiversity Project Fund

The Biodiversity Project Fund made awards to nine local initiatives which will deliver important gains for biodiversity in Norfolk:

## Designation of County

### Wildlife Sites in the Broads

This collaborative project by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) and the Broads Authority (BA) continues work started last year to designate County Wildlife Sites (CWS) in the Norfolk Broads area. Together with Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), CWS represent the best remaining areas of semi-natural habitat in the county and are a critical component of Norfolk's ecological network. Last year, five sites in the Waveney Valley were added to the CWS register. Work continues this year to scope out and digitise further sites, concentrating on the Yare, Waveney and Muckfleet Valleys.

### Pingo Project—Phase II

This project is being carried out by NWT and continues work to conserve and manage pingos – landforms that have developed as a result of groundwater freezing and expanding during periods of glaciation and subsequently collapsing to leave a crater. Pingos are important wetland habitats, supporting a wide variety of fen community plants and fauna. Phase I of the project produced a county distribution map and database of 215 known or potential sites, with condition and landscape data. Phase II, which will run for two years, will work with landowners to restore high priority sites; this will include seeking funding from HLS and other sources. A work programme for action will be prepared for lower priority sites.

### Broads Water Vole Conservation Project

This project continues work started in 2005/6 to control mink in the Norfolk Broads, in order to boost populations of water voles, waterfowl and waders. Current

work seeks to maintain the existing network of mink trappers, and to extend the network along the Waveney Valley, maintaining records of rafts, trappers and captures.

### Natural Neighbours Conference

The Communities and Nature Topic Group is proposing to repeat the successful one-day community biodiversity event held in March 2009. The conference will be designed to share local experience and to provide community groups with the information, tools and contacts they require to implement successful conservation action on the ground.

### Wild About Norfolk 2010

Wild about Norfolk will be hosted by Neatherd High School on Saturday 9 October. Now in its tenth year, Wild About Norfolk is one of the county's most successful environmental fairs. It provides a welcoming and informal atmosphere where members of the public can meet the county's naturalists and learn about Norfolk's wildlife and conservation programmes. The contribution from the NBP will help fund activities such as bird box making and children's creative activities.

### Norfolk Brecks Heathland Restoration for Threatened Butterflies and Moths

This project is led by Butterfly Conservation (BC) and has been designed to restore heathland at 15 ecologically-linked sites in the Norfolk Brecks; the aim is to promote the conservation of 15 UK BAP priority species of Lepidoptera. Work to establish and maintain early successional heathland habitat upon which the larvae depend should encourage more widespread colonisation.



The dingy skipper, one of the BAP species targeted by BC's heathland restoration project in the Brecks. (Credit: Sharon Hearle)

### Bat Conservation

The Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) received a grant to run two meetings in the county to identify training and resource needs for local bat workers. The meetings will follow-up topics discussed at the successful Norfolk Bat Workers' Conference held earlier this year with NBIS and NBP support.

### Fen Restoration—Phase II

This NWT project continues work to identify and restore fens of high quality throughout the county. The majority of fen sites in Norfolk receive no statutory protection and are potentially at risk from neglect and inappropriate management - over 160 such sites were identified in Phase I of the project. The current project will work with landowners to develop management programmes for individual sites, seeking to secure grants for capital work, and developing close working relationships with other organisations involved with fen conservation.

### Designation of Coastal County Wildlife Sites (CWS)

Using habitat data obtained in 2007 from a walk-over survey of the east Norfolk coast from Bacton to the Suffolk border, this NWT project will re-survey and designate all areas that meet draft CWS selection criteria for soft cliff and sand dune habitats.

# Topic Group Updates

## Planning & Biodiversity Topic Group



A ninth specialist working group - the Planning and Biodiversity Topic Group - was launched this year by the NBP. The new group, which originates from the Norfolk Association of Local Government Ecologists, will promote the sharing of best practice among planners and ecologists involved in development control and forward planning in Norfolk. At the first meeting in February, topics included the screening of planning applications and local validation checklists. The group also heard how work commissioned by Breckland Council has led to new planning policies, which will help stone-curlew populations. The group is chaired by Andrea Long, the Director of Planning and Strategy with the Broads Authority.

## Coastal & Marine Topic Group



The Coastal and Marine Topic Group has finalised the Little Tern Species Action Plan, which is now available on the NBP's website. It has also begun the process of revising the Starlet Sea Anemone SAP and the Saline Lagoon HAP – both of which have become increasingly important in light of the decision that has been taken to allow the shingle bank at Cley to function more naturally.



Starlet sea anemone (Credit: David North)

## Woodland Topic Group



Gerry Barnes has stepped down as chair after eight successful years, which have seen the development of six action plans and the implementation of a wide-range of innovative projects. These have included: the Wet Woodlands Project, a joint initiative with the Forestry Commission; the Orchards Project, which supported several different surveys of the county's orchards (Phase I, bryophytes, history), the propagation of local fruit varieties, and the establishment of many new orchards; a survey of veteran trees; the Wood Pasture Project; a survey of deer parks; the Woodland CWS Project; and the Black Poplar Project. The Group has also initiated numerous open days, guided walks and training events.

The new chair, local landowner Kevin West, has created the largest, private, new native woodland in Norfolk in the past 25 years. The woodland at Kevin's farm, south of Attleborough, was planted over a period of seven years and now spans 150 acres; the oldest compartment is now nine years old. Seven complete collections of Norfolk apple trees have been planted across the farm, and a wet woodland has also been created.

## Communities & Nature Topic Group



The Communities and Nature Topic Group has prepared a first full draft of the Habitat Action Plan for Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land. This is a new habitat, added to the BAP list of priority habitats in 2007. It is likely to be a particularly challenging HAP, in light of the development envisioned for Norfolk and the Government's target to locate 60 per cent of new development on brownfield sites.

## Farmland Topic Group



A survey of the iconic twisted pine hedges of the Brecks has been completed. The project has led to a GIS layer of the hedges, as well as to some interesting findings about the history

# Topic Group Updates

and origin of the hedges. Under the auspices of the Farmland Group, a new guidance leaflet on planting and restoring hedgerows in ways that are sensitive to regional character has been prepared by Gerry Barnes and Prof Tom Williamson. (See page 3 for more details.)

## Heathland Topic Group



The Heathland Group held a Practitioners' Forum on 8 July at Buxton, looking at a major restoration project led by Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) and delivered through Higher Level Stewardship. The project has seen mature birch and gorse removal, litter-stripping and techniques for dry heathland regeneration



Members of the Heaths Forum at Buxton  
(Credit: Scott Perkin)

deliver benefits for many heathland species, including the silver-studded blue butterfly. A visit to Cawston heath followed, to see progress at a large arable reversion site where seed derived from forage cuttings from the heath has established a grazed grassland/pioneer heather mosaic. Woodlark and silver-studded blue are recent colonists here. The event was led by John Milton of NWT and Dave Weaver of Natural England (NE)

## Waterbodies Topic Group



Prof Gordon Copp and Dr Carl Sayer have been making excellent progress in taking forward the priority recommendations in the Crucian Carp Action Plan. This native fish species, once common in Norfolk, has suffered

widespread declines as a result of drought, lack of pond management, and hybridisation with other fish species such as goldfish and common carp. Current work has involved additional field surveys; a study of crucian genetics; and collaboration with studies of otter diet in the River Glaven valley.

## Wetlands Topic Group



The Fen Orchid Species Action Plan has been significantly revised with the assistance of Plantlife, and a new and updated version of the plan will be published soon. Work has also started on the revisions of Reedbed and Fen Habitat Action Plans. A site visit was arranged to Catfield Fen (organised by Butterfly Conservation), to look at management issues in the field.

## Ecological Networks Topic Group



With help from the Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service (NBIS), the Ecological Networks and Climate Change Adaptation Topic Group has prepared a report on the Year 2 results of the Local Area Agreement indicator on econets. The report shows that targets for habitat creation and restoration in 2009/10 were exceeded, with a total of 1,014 ha of habitat being added to the ecological network for Norfolk (against an original target of 884 ha). This is a tremendous success story, for which all the key partners – NCC, NE, and FC – deserve much credit. There was less good news, however, when it came to ponds and hedgerows, where the pace of creation and restoration has not matched expectations; the reasons for this are still to be analysed. Overall, the indicator has proven to be a viable approach to assessing the development and raising the profile of ecological networks in Norfolk – a valuable achievement in its own right.

The Topic Group has also provided input to Natural England's "Character Area Climate Change Project".

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# Features—BAP Species and Habitats

## Focus on the Norfolk Hawker

**Dr Pam Taylor, Norfolk County Recorder for dragonflies, introduces the Norfolk hawker.**

Norfolk hawker *Aeshna isosceles* is a large, gingery-brown dragonfly with bright, apple-green eyes. Its scientific name describes the yellow isosceles triangle at the top of the abdomen, which is another distinguishing feature of this iconic East Anglian species. Norfolk hawker inhabits the clear, unpolluted grazing marsh dykes of the broads and the coastal wetlands of Norfolk and Suffolk. The species was first added to the national BAP list in 2007 and, with its main breeding areas in the county, now has an LBAP in Norfolk. Populations of Norfolk hawker appear to have remained stable since regular recording began about 25 years ago and the species might even be expanding its range in some parts of Suffolk. However, increased recorder effort may also be responsible for the perceived rise in sightings, so we mustn't be complacent.

Many BAP species are listed because they are in severe decline, but the main threats to Norfolk hawker are habitat, rather than directly species based. Overtopping of banks, so that saline river water enters into freshwater marshes, can rapidly wipe out whole cohorts of larvae. For this reason, tidal surges and high level flood events pose a real threat to the species. Additionally, climate change may bring gradual sea level rise, that together with more severe weather events, could inundate large areas of low lying marshes with saline conditions within the range of Norfolk hawker.

We must take action now to protect freshwater areas and to study the ecology of this localised species. In particular, we need to know where exactly Norfolk hawker breeds throughout its range, so that key sites can be safeguarded. Casual recording has gone on for many years, but a more systematic approach is now needed, so that population trends can be determined. The recently published Norfolk Hawker Action Plan highlights five key target areas for conservation. They are: raising awareness of the species; improved data collection and analysis; promotion of sympathetic land management; habitat creation; and increased research into the species and its requirements. It is hoped that meeting these targets will enable Norfolk hawker both to increase its range and expand its populations within that range.



Norfolk hawker  
(Photo credit: Peter Neal Taylor)

## Norfolk Wet Woodlands Project

**Many promising developments lie ahead for this project, which aims to raise the profile of wet woodland amongst a diverse range of stakeholders and to seek opportunities for the creation and enhancement of this BAP habitat. Future plans include:**

- Restoring and creating wet woodland on a County Wildlife Site in the Nar catchment, utilising the English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) suite of grants. This site, about 30ha in size, has the potential for the development of a mosaic of habitats, including a significant area of wet woodland;
- Restoring a mineral extraction site in mid-Norfolk for nature conservation. This will include the creation of several hectares of wet woodland as well as measures to reduce habitat fragmentation in the landscape;
- Working with site owners to restore wet woodland as part of Environmental Stewardship or to utilise wet woodland for fuel production.

At the start of the year, Mary Russell passed over the coordination of the project to Rory Hart. In the next few months, the project will continue to work with other relevant organisations such as the River Restoration Centre at Cranfield, Natural England and Norfolk Wildlife Trust to investigate other sites with the potential to maintain, restore or create wet woodland. For more information, contact Rory Hart: [rorhart@ymail.com](mailto:rorhart@ymail.com)



## Mud Pumping at Ormesby Broad



Work to remove nutrient-rich sediments at Ormesby Broad – part of the Trinity Broads Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - got underway this spring, reports Beth Williams, Conservation Officer (Waterways) at the Broads Authority.

Funded by the Trinity Broads Partnership, and delivered by the Broads Authority, the mud-pumping will improve water depth and reduce the vulnerability of water plants to uprooting by wind and waterfowl. Other benefits include reduced algal growth, cleaner water and a diverse and abundant aquatic plant community, achieving national and European water quality and ecological targets. Mud arising from the dredging is dried in lagoons adjacent to the broad, and can then be used as fertiliser.

*Beth Williams, Conservation Officer (Waterways), Broads Authority*

## Big Biodiversity Watch



Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) celebrated the International Year of Biodiversity this spring with an event which allowed the public to get involved with recording Norfolk's wildlife.

The "Big Biodiversity Watch" ran over 24 hours from noon on 5<sup>th</sup> June at 19 NWT reserves and involved live data entry of species recorded via a website map. Exciting records included gull-billed tern and osprey at NWT Holme Dunes nature reserve, a moth species new to Norfolk, and a new lagoon site for the globally endangered starlet sea anemone at NWT Cley Marshes. David North, NWT's education manager commented, "*The event involved hundreds of people coming to our reserves and learning about wildlife recording. We had hoped to record 500 species in 24 hours but achieved more than double that total. The event would not have been possible without the help of dozens of volunteers, including many experts who led walks free of charge, and the support of the Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service (NBIS). All the records will be added to the NBIS records and add to our knowledge of Norfolk's wildlife and hopefully more people will be inspired to carry on wildlife recording.*"

Number of species recorded: **1,149**

Total number of records submitted:

Top three reserves with number of species recorded at each:

Cley Marshes: **647** records, **198** species.

Hickling Broad: **839** records, **197** species.

Holme Dunes: **536** records, **260** species.

*David North, Education Manager, Norfolk Wildlife Trust*

Aerial photo showing dewatering lagoons and the mud pump on the water. The darker area in the water near the pump is the newly deepened/dredged section (Credit: Mike Page).

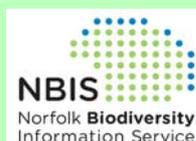
## Glow-worm Survey

Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service (NBIS), which collects biological records for Norfolk, was delighted to receive over 100 records of glow-worm sightings over the summer following a request for records.

As the glow worm season for this year is over, NBIS will now concentrate on collating the records and updating the distribution map.

Glow-worms belong to a family of beetles called the Lampyridae. Just the adult female glows brightly, using a chemical called luciferin (which is also found in fireflies) to attract a mate. Find out more about the survey and download the NBIS leaflet on glow-worms at [www.nbis.org.uk](http://www.nbis.org.uk)

*Martin Horlock,  
Biodiversity Information  
Officer, NBIS*





## Environment Agency Works to Control the Spread of Invasive Alien Species



The Environment Agency is involved with two important projects to control the spread of invasive alien species in Norfolk, helping through the provision of funding and staff time.

The **NNNSI's River Waveney Floating Pennywort Eradication Project** appointed a part-time Project Officer, Paul Sims, in May this year. Paul will survey and remove the highly invasive aquatic plant, which can impact on river ecology, flood risk and amenity value if allowed to grow unchecked. Another important aspect of the work will be to raise awareness about the dangers of allowing pond or aquarium plants to enter the river network. It is thought that the plant was introduced to the river at Diss, leading to the current infestation.

**The River Glaven Signal Crayfish Project** seeks to control populations of signal crayfish, an invasive alien species that threatens fish and other native wildlife such as the white-clawed crayfish. They are present in a tributary of the River Glaven and threaten native crayfish populations in the main river. For several months, a dynamic group of people from statutory and conservation organisations, plus academics and volunteers, has been investigating control methods. Options considered have included: trapping; using fish as predators; changing the pH of the water; using electric current; and releasing sterile males. However, using a biocide is the only option likely to achieve total eradication. The project group is currently considering the benefits of partial treatment in order to reduce the population to a very low level, thus reducing the likelihood of colonisation of the Glaven.

*Julia Stansfield, Technical Specialist, Fisheries, Recreation and Biodiversity, Environment Agency*



## The "Boston Square Bug Hunt"

was launched in June to encourage visitors to the Borough Council Garden in King's Lynn to find out about the insects that help the garden to thrive – from spiders to dragonflies. Aimed at children and families, the initiative, which runs all summer, was developed by the Hunstanton in Bloom Committee to bring youngsters closer to nature and foster an understanding of the importance of biodiversity. Free bug-spotter cards, including descriptions and pictures of the insects, are available from the Hunstanton Tourist Information Centre, along with magnifying glasses to borrow. Participants who return their spotter cards to the TIC will receive a sticker and a balloon. Information about sightings will be collated and used to help the Borough Council's team to monitor wildlife in the area. Find out more at: <http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/pdf/BostonSquareBugHunt.pdf>

*Peter Jermany, Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk*

## Target Met!



An ambitious target, seeking to bring gains in the number of **County Wildlife Sites (CWS)** and **Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS)** under positive management in Norfolk, has been met for 2009/10, following a great deal of hard work by all partners. The target – known as National Indicator 197 - is included in Norfolk's Local Area Agreement (LAA), and sought to increase the number of sites in positive management by **five per cent** (this equates to **66 sites**). Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service (NBIS) helped collate the data for Norfolk County Council (NCC), which is responsible for reporting on this indicator. The target for next year is a further five per cent improvement.

*Heidi Thompson, Biodiversity and Countryside Manager, Norfolk County Council*

# Regional, National and Global News

## Open Mosaic Habitats (OMH) on Previously Developed Land

A report published in March 2010 by Defra has defined a methodology to identify the new UK priority habitat, "Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land." This habitat can be very important for biodiversity (particularly invertebrates) but is at risk of destruction and degradation from a range of factors, including urban development, landfill, reclamation, eutrophication, lack of appropriate management and succession.

The report includes:

- a clear definition for this habitat type;
- methods for identifying the habitat and its ecological value; and
- a methodology to determine the extent, distribution and quality of land in the UK falling within the definition.

The report can be downloaded at: [http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=WC0722\\_9022\\_FRP.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=WC0722_9022_FRP.pdf)

## Review of the Biodiversity Duty in the NERC Act

Public authorities in England, Wales and Scotland were quizzed recently about the impact of the NERC Act on their work. The review of the Biodiversity Duty (Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act) by consultants, Entec, has shown

that much has been done to meet the aims of the duty, although not always knowingly! Many drivers influence biodiversity action within local authorities, and the study identified a number of opportunities for enhancing awareness and implementation of the duty, including:

- encouraging all local authorities to develop a biodiversity strategy, championed by senior management;
- improving access to ecological advice and current biodiversity information;
- Appointing a council member to the local biodiversity partnership where possible.

Additionally, the report recommended that Defra develop a framework for local authorities to review their implementation of the duty.

## TEEB Business Report

A new report from the global study on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) highlights the role that businesses should play to stem the loss of global biodiversity. TEEB – a UN backed project - launched the report at the first Global Business of Biodiversity symposium, held at the London Docklands Excel Centre on 13 July 2010. The *TEEB for Business* report calls for better accounting of business impacts and dependencies on biodiversity, to spur changes in business investment and operations. "Businesses that fail [to do

this]...carry undefined risks and may neglect profitable opportunities," the report warns.

Whilst in some regions - such as Latin America - more than half of business leaders see the loss of nature as a challenge to business growth, the figure drops to just 15 per cent in western Europe. Whilst there are success stories of companies adopting a "net positive impact" commitment to biodiversity, much still needs to be done to integrate the approach into mainstream thinking.

The report recommends that businesses should:

- Identify the impacts and dependencies of their industry on biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- Assess the risks and opportunities for business (associated with these impacts);
- Set SMART strategies to measure and value performance;
- Take action to minimise and mitigate risks to biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- Grasp opportunities for growth such as green markets;
- Seek to integrate business strategy and gains for biodiversity with opportunities to tackle wider social responsibilities (such as poverty);
- Engage with other stakeholders including government to inform the development of policy and guidelines (leading to positive benefits for

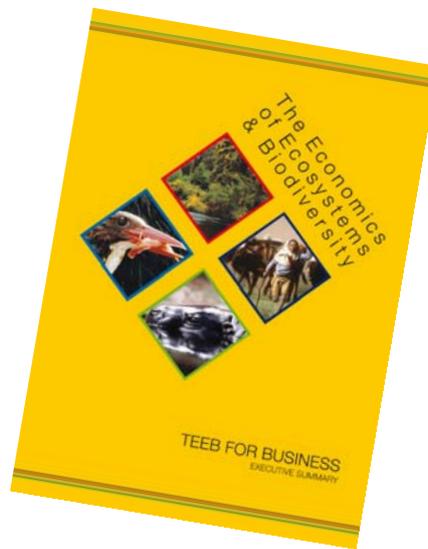
# Regional, National and Global News

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biodiversity and ecosystem services).

Pavan Sukhdev, a former investment banker, and now the TEEB Study Leader, believes that society will also play a large role in helping regulate the behaviour of companies.

TEEB was set up following the 2006 Stern report into climate change, which argued that the cost to the global economy of early action to tackle climate change would be a fraction of that if nothing is done. The *TEEB for Business* report is the latest in a series of reports designed for range of different audiences, including the scientific community, national and international policy makers, local and regional policy makers, and citizens. All the reports prepared to date can be downloaded from [www.teebweb.org](http://www.teebweb.org)



## Scott Perkin

### Biodiversity Co-ordinator

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## Events

### Coming Up

#### 9th September 2010

Annual Planning and Biodiversity Seminar, South Norfolk Council

#### 30th September 2010

Community Biodiversity Awards ceremony, Assembly House, Norwich

#### 6th October 2010

Annual Biodiversity Forum: "Biodiversity and Economics", Abbey Conference Centre, Norwich

#### 9th October 2010

"Wild About Norfolk", Neatherd High School, Dereham

#### 10th October 2010

Apple Day, Banham Barrel (opposite Banham Zoo)

#### 24th October 2010

Apple Day, Gressenhall Rural Life Museum

The Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership is generously funded by the following organisations:



## Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership

Anglian Water | Breckland Council | British Trust for Ornithology | Broadland District Council | Broads Authority | Environment Agency | Forestry Commission | Great Yarmouth Borough Council | King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council | Natural England | Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service | Norfolk County Council | Norfolk Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group | Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society | Norfolk Wildlife Trust | North Norfolk District Council | Norwich City Council | RSPB | South Norfolk Council | University of East Anglia | Water Management Alliance

[www.norfolkbiodiversity.org](http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org)

