

Newsletter

Summer 2016

In this issue:

| | | Page No. |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------|
| SBIS —Rosemary Leaf Beetle Survey | Ben Heather, SBIS | 2 |
| West Stow Toad Rescue Project | Chris Gregory, West Suffolk Council | 4 |
| Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve | Adrian Cooper, FCNR | 6 |
| Sudbury Area Wildlife - New Newsletter | Nick Miller | 4 |
| Purdis Heath Update | Butterfly Conservation Suffolk branch | 7 |
| Mammals on Roads project needs your help | People's Trust for Endangered Species | 10 |
| Do you want to help Suffolk's wading birds? | Suffolk Wader Strategy | 11 |
| Ipswich welcomes its first hedgehog officer | Suffolk Wildlife Trust | 12 |
| Oak Processionary Moth update | Natural England | 12 |
| Thetford Forest survey | Eleanor Tew, University of Cambridge | 13 |
| New App for arable plants | Natural England | 13 |
| Urban Wildlife—A resource that could change our world | Edward Mayer | 14 |
| Biodiversity News Summer Issue | Defra | 15 |
| Open Day at the Pliocene Forest | GeoSuffolk | 16 |
| Suffolk's Fab 40 Adventures | Emma Dixon, Suffolk County Council | 16 |
| What are your priorities? | Groundwork East | 17 |
| Growing up Wild | Suffolk Wildlife Trust | 18 |
| Surveying Minsmere's Otters | David Baskett, RSPB Volunteer | 19 |
| Tree Health News | Defra | 19 |
| Wolves, Pantaloons and Parasites | Steve Everitt, RSPB Volunteer | 20 |
| Children more motivated to learn outside | Natural England | 21 |
| Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership | | 22 |
| Contact and About Us | SBIS | 22 |

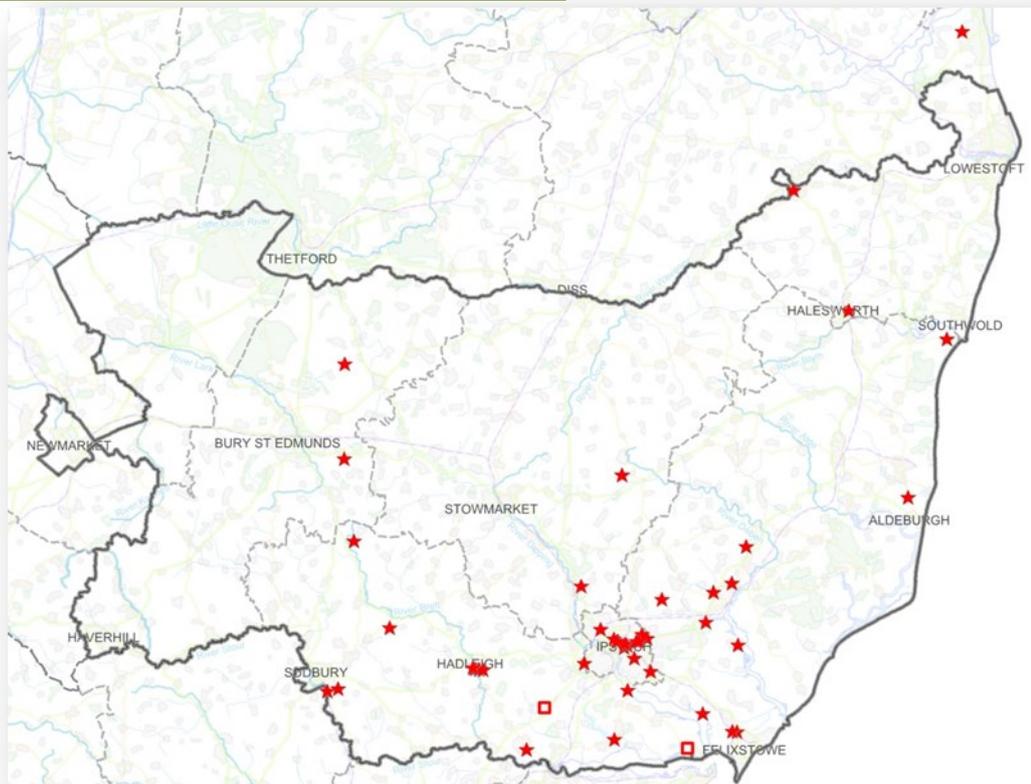
Rosemary Leaf Beetle Survey Update

We have now been running the Rosemary Leaf Beetle (*Chrysolina Americana*) Survey, on our online recording website, for just over a year, so I wanted to publish some of the findings from the survey so far. The survey not only collects the basic biological record information (who, what, where and when) but also gathers information on food plants and first sighting in the year. So far, we have had 48 records submitted throughout Suffolk (and a few further afield) in 2015 and 2016 (see distribution below in Fig.1). The survey is by no means finished and I hope this article also encourages you to visit the survey form and log your sightings from this summer. Anecdotal observations from my garden suggest that the beetles are most active and visible from spring and tend to favour fresh rosemary and lavender growth before moving on to sage plants later on. I have also noticed that there is a short period when they disappear mid-summer before re-appearing again later in the summer/early autumn.



Photo by Ben Heather

Fig.1. Distribution of records submitted online 2015-16



The online survey, available at www.suffolkbis.org.uk/rlbsurvey, has been capturing information on the food plants that the beetle was found feeding on. We do not have enough data to draw any definitive conclusions from the survey yet, but we can reveal that so far the beetle, as its name suggests, prefers to feed on rosemary. 40% of records logged rosemary as the plant being fed on, followed by lavender at 30% and sage and thyme at 9% & 15% respectively (see Fig.2). 'Other plant' equated to 6% of the records and observation comments revealed that one of the other plants being used was lemon balm (near a rosemary bush).

Fig.2. Food plants used by the Rosemary Leaf Beetle

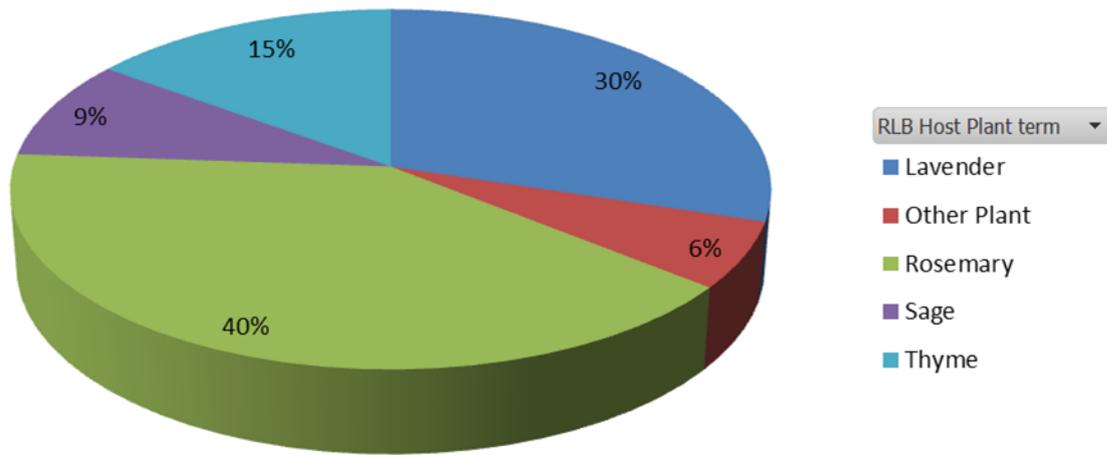
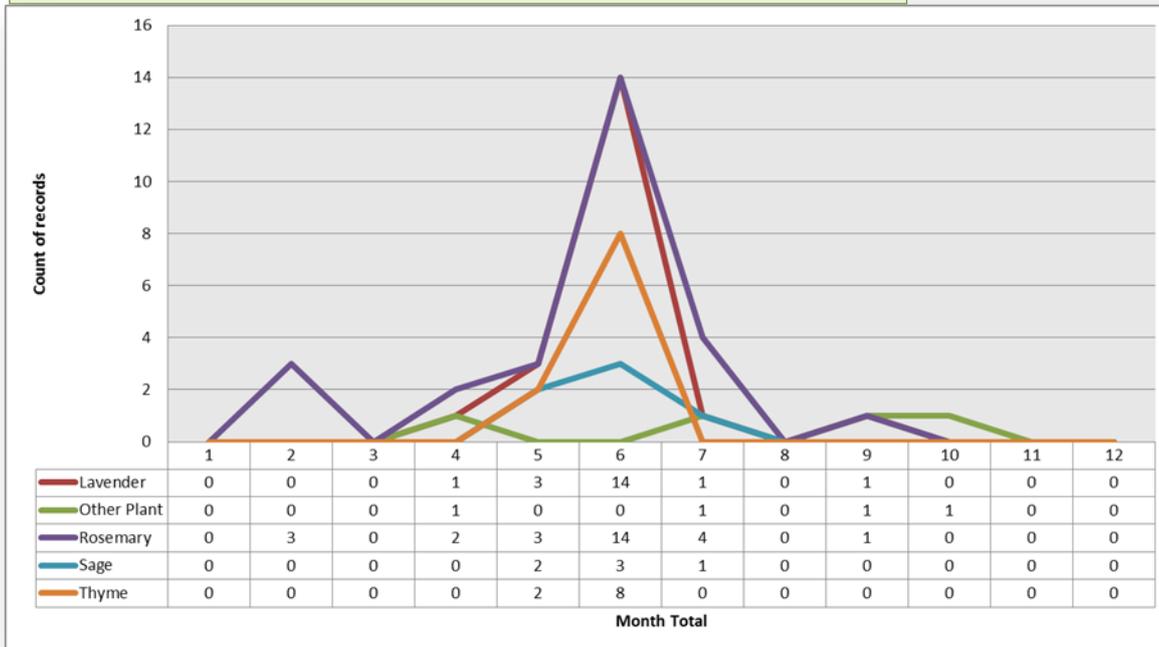


Fig.3. Record dates split between recorded food plant (including first recorded dates)



The survey records the observation date and asks whether this ‘is your first sighting of the year’ and subsequently asks for this date too (if known). Again we need more records to draw any meaningful conclusions from the data, but it is clear that the beetle, which can be seen most of the year, is most active (and therefore visible) between May and August. However, as more people look out for this beetle we are starting to receive records of both adults and larvae in the colder months of the year (see spike in February - Fig.3). If we can gather some more results from this survey it would be good to see if there are any seasonal differences in feeding behaviour to back up anecdotal observations.

If you haven’t yet taken part in the survey or haven’t checked for the presence of these colourful beetles please take the time to check your herb gardens. The survey form is fully open to the public (you do not need an account) and doesn’t take very long to complete. You can find the form at the following address www.suffolkbis.org.uk/rlbsurvey. **Please get recording!**

Ben Heather - Suffolk Biological Records Officer, SBIS

West Stow Toad Rescue Project

Chris Gregory, Heritage Officer, West Suffolk Council

Each spring thousands of Common Toads *Bufo bufo* migrate south across the Icklingham Road in west Suffolk to spawn in the angling lake at West Stow Country Park (TL794712). Many are killed by vehicles as they attempt to cross the road, especially when any movement coincides with rush hour traffic.

The toads cross the road at numerous points between the A1101 and West Stow village, but the majority tend to cross along a 750m the section between Leechmoor Cottage and Wideham Cottages. Pat and Ian Ward who live at Leechmoor Cottage have been monitoring toad numbers and co-ordinating volunteers annually for several years. The site is registered with Froglife as an official toad crossing point (Site no. IP138).

During the late 1990s, toad patrol volunteers walked up and down the road each spring collecting toads in buckets and carrying them across to the Country Park. This project was abandoned when it became apparent that the process of retrieving the toads was becoming too hazardous because of the increasing amount of traffic using the road.

After some research on the internet it was decided to install a length of amphibian drift fencing along the north side of the road. This fence was installed in March 2009 by local Suffolk Wildlife Trust volunteers from nearby Lackford Lakes, plus a handful of local residents. Most of the materials were paid for by St Edmundsbury Borough Council, as was the hire of the single furrow plough and driver. A heavy duty green tinted polythene 'newt barrier' was used which is UV resistant and has a life expectancy of 5 years. The polythene was placed into the 15 centimetre furrow, fixed to wooden stakes at one and a half metre intervals and then backfilled with soil. This formed a 35cm high linear barrier, too high for even large female toads to clamber over. The barrier has proved to be extremely effective in reducing the number of toad mortalities (see Fig 1) and has allowed us to collect the toads safely and monitor their numbers more efficiently.

During the migration period the barrier is inspected at least once each evening and early the following morning. Once the migration is over the barrier is detached from the stakes and laid flat so returning toads can cross it unhindered. The process is then repeated the following spring.

Figures show that in the first spring the barrier was installed, the total number of recorded toad deaths on the road was down from 40% in 2008 to 13% in 2009. The significant reduction in road deaths was even more remarkable given that around a thousand more toads were counted in 2009 than in 2008. In 2010 there was a record count of around 9000 toads collected and the amount killed on the road was down to just 7%, proving beyond doubt the barrier really was effective in significantly reducing the amount of toad deaths. In 2011, like elsewhere across the UK, migration never really got going because of the prolonged dry, often cold weather. As a result the count was significantly down on previous years; nevertheless the proportion of mortalities remained low.

In 2015 it was decided to replace the barrier which had been in place for seven seasons and was largely intact, but had become torn in places and the incremental growth of vegetation over the years had made it more and more difficult to put it up properly. The old barrier was removed and a new furrow ploughed parallel to the old fence-line.

The annual numbers of toads collected and killed between 2010 and 2016 are shown in Fig. 1. Although we do not have counts for the numbers of toads before the barrier was erected in 2008, or for the following year when the barrier was installed, we do have a percentage figure of the numbers killed in those years.



St Edmundsbury Borough Council Landscape team digging the new trench

Fig 1 Numbers of toads rescued and killed at West Stow from 2008 to 2016

| | Numbers rescued | Numbers Dead | Mortality Rate |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2008 (pre barrier) | Not known | | 40% |
| 2009 (barrier installed) | Not known | | 13% |
| 2010 | 9053 | 630 | 7% |
| 2011 | 2323 | 218 | 9.4% |
| 2012 | 1944 | 163 | 8.2% |
| 2013 | 1938 | 228 | 11.8% |
| 2014 | 1563 | 176 | 11.3% |
| 2015 | 2013 | 176 | 8.7% |
| 2016 | 1239 | 109 | 8.8% |

Average mortality rate over eight years - 2009 to 2016 = 9.8%

The 2016 total saw a continuation of the downward trend in the number of toads collected, which remains an area of concern. In a wider context these figures appear to reflect the general drop in numbers at many other sites across the county where road fatalities are a significant factor.

In the mid-1990s literally thousands of young toads covered the various footpaths in the country park each summer and it was difficult to walk without treading on them. On the plus side, the percentage of toads killed on the road was the second lowest after 2015 and even though very few young toads are seen emerging from the lake these days, a significant number of young females are being collected during the toad patrols. An indication perhaps that young toads are surviving and/or the population is being supplemented to a certain extent. Next winter we will be looking into how we can increase the amount of suitable habitats available for the toads to spawn and to give them more protection from predators.



**SWT volunteers resurrecting the old barrier in spring ahead of the toad migration.
 Left: the longer stretch of barrier looking west along the Icklingham Road
 Right: the length of barrier inside the fenced off field, looking west. Photos: Chris Gregory**

We are extremely grateful to Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership which funded the replacement materials and to the volunteers who helped install the new barrier and remove the old one.

Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve

Adrian Cooper

The recent sunny weather has produced a surge of support for the work of Felixstowe's Community Nature Reserve. So far, 445 local people have started to grow the wildlife-friendly plants which our Community Nature Reserve has been promoting.

This is a fantastic achievement for grass-roots people-power in our town.

It's also a major step forward in the aim of Felixstowe's Community Nature Reserve to develop a network of small green spaces in private gardens, allotments and window boxes in the Felixstowe area which are supportive of local wildlife.

The long-term goal of Felixstowe's Community Nature Reserve is to encourage a total of 1,666 local people to each allocate 3 square yards of their land for wildlife-friendly plants and other features (e.g. ponds, nesting boxes, insect lodges etc.). That combination of 1,666 people each setting aside 3 square yards of their land for wildlife would produce an area of 5,000 square yards of new, sustainable community nature reserve in Felixstowe to help to stop the decline of local wildlife populations. That's about the same area as a football pitch!

So far, the 445 people who have started to grow wildlife-friendly plants have covered about 1,335 square yards of Felixstowe.

In only a few years time, we forecast that the enthusiastic people of Felixstowe will have helped to create that football-pitch sized area of new, sustainable wildlife-friendly land.

To learn more about the work of Felixstowe's Community Nature Reserve, please visit their [Facebook page >](#)



Adrian Hine's green roof top

Sudbury Area Wildlife - New Newsletter!

Nick Miller

We hope that this new newsletter will act as a common communication point for enthusiasts and the wider public and so help to conserve wildlife in the Sudbury area.

The newsletter is a non-partisan communal effort which will bridge some of the gaps and encourage active participation by everyone. After all, there is no shortage of wildlife projects in the Sudbury area, but information about what's going on is not always widely accessible.

Sign up for this new newsletter by contacting Nick Miller - nicknewmiller56@gmail.com



Purdis Heath Update

David Basham and Julian Dowding , Butterfly Conservation Suffolk Branch

Purdis Heath was once part of a much larger tract of lowland heath lying on the eastern fringe of Ipswich. Over the course of the last two centuries and particularly post WW2, 'development', forestry and agriculture had whittled down this beautiful habitat to a few isolated pockets. Purdis, which, together with Martlesham Heath, comprise Ipswich Heaths SSSI, is without doubt one of the best remaining examples of this rare Priority Habitat on the outskirts of Ipswich and contains some very interesting and rare species. Notwithstanding statutory protection, Purdis Heath still faces the other threat that most heathlands face, namely, that left to its own devices, it would 'scrub over' and disappear as heathland, ultimately becoming woodland to the detriment of heathland species.

Despite the valiant efforts of various conservation bodies over the past 20 years or so, the tide of birch, gorse and oak began to overwhelm the heathers and other characteristic open heathland plants with a resultant steep decline in the number of Silver-studded Blue butterflies and other heathland species. From the 1000's counted in the 1980s the number plummeted to just 4 in 2010. A report by Dr. Neil Ravenscroft in 2009 commissioned by Suffolk Branch of Butterfly Conservation to assess the state of Silver-studded Blue on the Sandlings highlighted the need for an intensification of management at Purdis in order to help its ailing Silver-studded Blue population. A meeting was called and all interested parties were invited to formulate an emergency plan of action. Those present were unanimous in agreeing to more radical management as the best approach.

In winter 2010 Butterfly Conservation began the Purdis Heath Restoration Project, followed in 2012 by the Ipswich Heaths Project, with the help of volunteer organisations and individuals led by site wardens. The projects pretty much followed the recommendations of Dr. Ravenscroft and have involved the removal of trees and scrub from the centre of the site to open it up, the removal of some of the deep litter layer, and the cutting of mature and degenerate areas of Ling (*Calluna vulgaris*) and Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*) to encourage the re-growth and different ages structures which seems to favour the butterflies. Note: not all mature heather is bad.

In order to increase characteristic heath habitat, sandy scrapes have also been created and these have been strewn with Bell Heather clippings containing heather seed. Bell Heather, the primary nectar source of *Plebejus argus* takes a long time to mature to a level where it provides enough nectar to attract *P. argus* but it germinates readily, along with other characteristic heathland plants, such as Bird's-foot (*Ornithopus purpusillus*) and Sheeps Fescue (*Festuca ovina*) which are also used by heathland butterflies.

The work has not been without attendant problems. Opening up the site has made it far easier for the public to get about, with the unfortunate result that damage is caused to seedling heathers (and other species) from trampling... Therefore, dead hedges made from cut birch and sandy bunds made from the spoil from scraping have been incorporated, to encourage walkers and their dogs to keep away from some sensitive areas and create areas of seclusion.

The result of all this is that today Purdis has a 'superstructure' of young pioneer heathers, foraged areas, and sandy scrapes, all gently merging into the woodland belt and scrubby edges of the site. Of course, more needs doing and there will always be a need to continue work on the heath to maintain the open structure, but the following snippets of recording efforts and casual observations suggest that Purdis Heath is in a much better condition than it was 6 years ago.

Silver-studded Blues have responded well, with a rise to over 50 recorded on one day in 2015 and a much greater spread of butterflies across the site, moving into areas which had been unoccupied since the 1980s.



Silver studded Blue butterfly male
Photo: Matt Berry

Around the beginning of July 2016, a quick look under one of the paving slabs placed on the southern section of the heath a few years ago to encourage ants to nest/colonise revealed a Silver-studded Blue pupa nestled in an ant channel and receiving the attention of ants. Under another slab a single Glow-worm larva was observed.

In the course of one of our Silver-studded Blue transect walks, a female Silver Studded Blue was photographed laying an egg on mature heather.

While assessing the 'impending' 2016 winter work programme a nicely marked male Silver-studded Blue was seen on a scrape created during winter 2010/11. It has taken 5 years to get one on this new area. Many of the young Bell Heather plants on that scrape are now bearing flowers which hopefully will attract more Silver-studded Blues in the future.

Grayling butterflies are also doing well. We've counted more than 10 on two separate visits this summer. Two of those butterflies were a courting pair and another was a female laying an egg in a protected scrape on the southern section of the heath. They certainly like the scrapes and will be utilising the fescues which grow upon them as larval hosts.

We've been monitoring Glow-worms at Purdis for the past two years. This year half a dozen surveys have convinced us of a healthy colony there, so healthy in fact, that most of the females extinguish their 'candles' soon after dark!

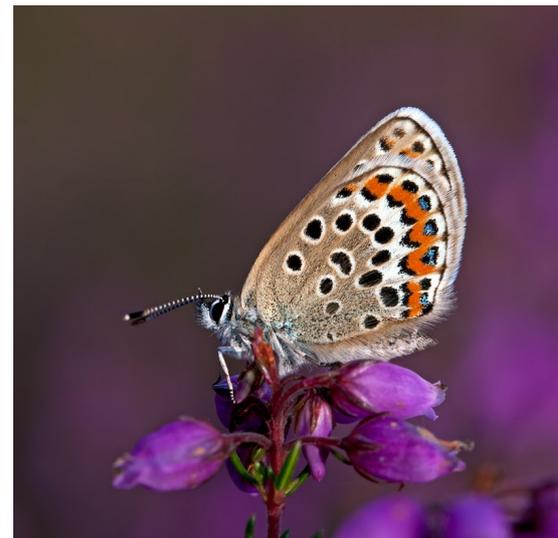
Early in spring 2015, a male Woodlark, a species absent from the heath for many years, was heard singing. This year and for a few months now, 2 Woodlarks have been there. Due to territorial behaviour and the fact that the birds have been seen together, we believe they may have been nesting this year. We've been out on several occasions to experience their wonderful song. They've been seen in various parts of the heath, but ultimately spent a lot of time in between a scrape created in 2010/11 and an area which has been fenced to monitor the effects of rabbit grazing. The birds would appear to have chosen a fairly secluded spot.

Continuing the bird theme, at least 8 singing Nightingales have also been present this year, plus Cuckoo, Garden Warbler, Willow Warbler, Woodcock, Linnet (at least 7 present before nesting began) and Blackcap.

As part of our ongoing survey of site species quite a few interesting records have come to light in the last few years, particularly as we now have a good range of bare earth and sand habitats with plant regeneration at varying stages.

Starting with Hymenoptera there are currently 33 species of bee recorded at Purdis. We have the Nationally very rare *Lasioglossum sexnotatum* which is actually a bit of an Ipswich and surrounds speciality, being found in extremely few other places in the Country. *Lasioglossum brevicorne* is another, that whilst not quite as rare as *L. sexnotatum*, is Nationally uncommon, although thinly scattered across the Sandlings.

With the increasing tracts of flowering Heather present we have a good population of the heather specialist bees, *Colletes succinctus* and *Andrena fuscipes*, and their associated cleptoparasitic bees, *Epeolus cruciger* and *Nomada rufipes* respectively. Another bee keen on the Heather flowers is the frenetic Green-eyed Flower Bee, *Anthophora bimaculata*, which can be seen darting about the Bell Heather flowers with its characteristic high-pitched buzz. Purdis is one of a handful of Suffolk sites for this bee.



Silver studded Blue butterfly female
Photo: Matt Berry



Silver studded Blue butterfly male
Photo: Matt Berry

We have been lucky to find a couple of interesting species relationships.

One of only two known modern county records of the cleptoparasitic bee, *Nomada ferruginata*, came from Purdis in 2014, so a search was made during early 2016 to track down its host, the mining bee *Andrena praecox* which is a very early bee to appear in the year. Sure enough *Andrena praecox* was duly found and this becomes only the third modern record for this bee, although as noted, its appearance early in the year probably means it is under-recorded.

Another rare *Nomada* bee, *Nomada signata*, which has only a few modern records in the County, was also found during 2014. This bee uses the common Tawny Mining Bee, *Andrena fulva*, as its host so its rarity is a bit of a puzzle, but it remains uncommon.

The wasps are represented by 21 species currently with, again, a couple of interesting species relationships noted.

Astata boops is a bug hunting wasp that is common on the heath, digging its nest burrow into the bare sandy soil where the paralysed bugs are deposited prior to ovipositing. One of the tiny but beautiful ruby-tailed wasps, *Hedychridium roseum*, is its associated cleptoparasite and this was recorded for the first time in 2015.

Another couple of rare ruby-tailed wasps have been recorded from the heath. *Hedychrum niemelai* and *H. nobile*, which have only fairly recently been separated as species, parasitise the nest burrows of *Cerceris* digger wasps. We have a couple of common species of *Cerceris*, and quite possibly some of the rarer ones, so presumably some or all of these are being used as the ruby-tails can be quite numerous on some occasions. As with the whole project more work remains to be done to investigate the situation more fully.

The Small Velvet Ant (*Smicromyrme rufipes*) is a Nationally Notable (Nb) species of parasitic wasp with the male fully winged, but the females wingless. She scurries about looking for ground-nesting bee and wasp burrows to lay her eggs in. This species was recorded for the first time from Purdis during 2015.

Recent interesting finds from other invertebrate groups include the small, but good-looking, Blue Rove Beetle (*Ocypus ophthalmicus*) which occurs thinly across the Sandlings. This is like a slightly smaller Devil's Coach Horse Beetle, but is metallic greeny-blue across the head and thorax, with a black abdomen.

Rare bugs found in the last couple of years have been the uncommon Broad-headed bug (*Alydus calcaratus*) along with its ant-like nymphs, and the Heather Bug (*Rhacognathus punctatus*) with Purdis Heath being one of only two known modern Suffolk sites for this Heather Beetle predating bug.



Dune scraping April 2015. Photo: Julian Dowding



Members of the Greenway Countryside Project clearing scrub

Mammals on Roads project needs your help!

People's Trust for Endangered Species

Record your roadkill sightings this summer as part of a conservation effort to protect British wildlife

It is estimated that each year one million mammals are killed on UK roads. Although it's not pleasant to see roadkill, recording sightings of dead mammals is important for conservation. This summer, wildlife charity People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) is asking the public to record sightings of roadkill as part of their ongoing conservation work for British mammals. *Mammals on Roads*, which records sightings of live mammals too, informs PTES as to where mammals are present and helps the charity to monitor changing mammal populations across the UK and take action if needed.

PTES has coordinated *Mammals on Roads* since 2001 and since then, over half a million kilometres of road have been surveyed. *Mammals on Roads* plays a vital role in the ongoing conservation of British wildlife and findings from this and other PTES surveys showed that hedgehog numbers have declined by over a third in the last decade alone. Based on these findings, PTES has initiated campaigns to help protect hedgehogs – such as Hedgehog Street, a joint campaign with the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, which now has thousands of 'Hedgehog Champions' committed to help save the humble hedgehog from further decline.

Mammals on Roads requires the public to record sightings of mammals, dead or alive, any time between 1 July and 30 September. To record mammal sightings your car journey must be 20 miles or more (excluding urban areas, dual carriageways and motorways) and completed in one day - perfect for summer day trips and family holidays! Iconic British mammals that you might spot include foxes, badgers, deer and rabbits, but PTES also wants to hear about any sightings of more unusual mammals such as polecats and pine martens.

David Wembridge, Surveys Officer at PTES says: *"No-one likes seeing roadkill, but recording it as part of a survey like Mammals on Roads tells us about wildlife more widely. Comparing records year to year enables us to build a picture of how a population is changing, which is key to conservation. Without the help of volunteers, it's almost impossible to identify these sorts of changes nationally and to spot population trends. Citizen science is essential to conservation - without the efforts of individuals recording the wildlife they see, we would not have the evidence of the recent decline in hedgehog numbers. If you're going on a road trip this summer, take part in the survey, keep an eye out for mammals and get involved in conservation."*

To take part, you can download the free *Mammals on Roads* app from the App Store and Google Play. Alternatively, the survey can be completed via a printed survey pack. Email mor@ptes.org or call 0207 498 4533 to request a pack to be sent to you.

Mammals on Roads runs until 30th September 2016.



Hedgehog - as we prefer to see them. Photo: Ali Taylor

Do you want to help Suffolk's wading birds? Suffolk Wader Strategy

The Suffolk Wader Strategy consists of a core group of organisations who have come together to reverse the decline in wader populations in Suffolk.

The strategy focuses on three species: Lapwing, Redshank and Avocet and currently concentrates on coastal sites.



Both Lapwing and Redshank have undergone significant declines (nationally 50% and 59% since 1975 respectively). Although Avocet numbers appear to be increasing (1500 pairs in the UK in 2010), productivity varies significantly between years, often falling below the level required to sustain local populations.

Together, as organisations working in partnership, the strategy has the ability to influence land management both on nature reserves and more widely across the countryside. The partnership is made up of conservation charities (RSPB, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, National Trust), a government agency (Natural England) and the private sector (Stanny Field Centre, Iken).

The aim is to have a key set of reserves that complement each other at a landscape scale, which together support exceptional breeding wader populations, underpinned by a long term strategic plan for dynamic habitat management. These will be complemented by key sites away from reserves that support healthy numbers of breeding waders through first class agri-environment support.

The strategy aims to build on the recent success at several sites such as Hollesley Marshes where all three wader species had a highly productive season in 2014.

Accurate estimates of current wader populations and productivity are critical to the success of the strategy; the resulting data can help inform us of potential problems and also where we are doing well, therefore helping us to improve habitat management. There is a need for increased monitoring both on and off reserves and we are looking for volunteers to assist with this.



We are looking for observers who can identify lapwing, redshank and avocet and preferably have some previous survey experience, although this is not essential if you attend the workshop.

We would require volunteers to carry out a minimum of four field visits from April to July. The training workshop will be run at Stanny Field Centre (www.stannyfarm.org) on 21st January 2017.

To register your interest please contact Robin Harvey on 01728 648072 or e-mail robin.harvey@rspb.org.uk

Ipswich welcomes its first hedgehog officer

Kerry Stranix, Suffolk Wildlife Trust

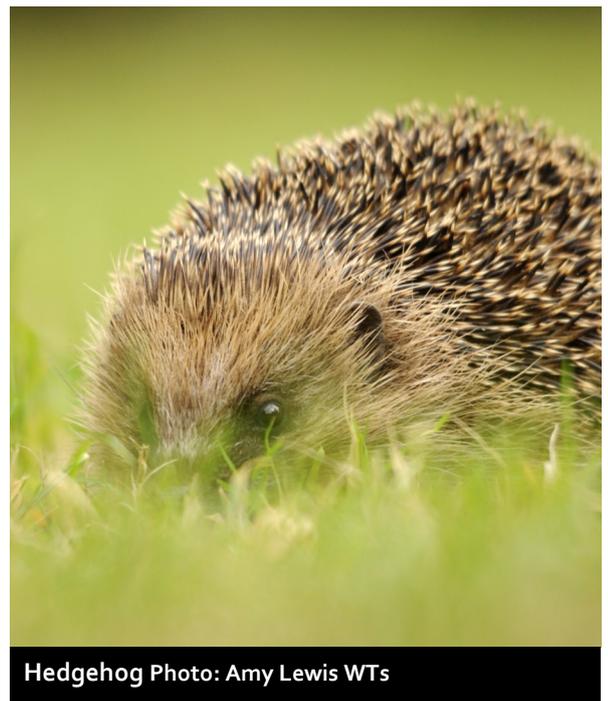
In 2014 Suffolk Wildlife Trust launched a citizen science survey asking the public to record hedgehog sightings. Building on anecdotal evidence that hedgehogs were disappearing from places where they were once common, the Trust wanted to obtain a clearer picture of the Suffolk situation. More than 12,000 records were submitted in the first year alone, detailing sightings of live and dead animals as well as historical and negative records. The records were shared with the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) and Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service. At the Trust the records were used as an evidence base to form its next steps in hedgehog conservation.

In addition, Ipswich Borough Council recently commissioned the Trust to carry out a detailed wildlife audit of Ipswich. This recorded and assessed the quality of the town's green spaces such as parks, allotments and amenity land. The findings showed a rich network of open spaces and green corridors throughout the town. Taken with the hedgehog records it appears that Ipswich is still an urban stronghold for the species, with further opportunity to improve.

At this point Simone Bullion, Senior Conservation Adviser at the Trust consulted hedgehog expert Dr Pat Morris, to discuss what the next steps should be. They identified opportunities to further improve, expand and connect habitat within the town centre and determined that the 'Hedgehog Street' approach could work well. Hedgehog Street, developed by PTES and British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) works by asking whole neighbourhoods to link up gardens, implementing simple steps like putting holes in fences.

With a generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and BHPS the Trust has now embarked on its endeavour to make Ipswich the most hedgehog friendly town in the UK. Pivotal to this is a newly appointed Ipswich Hedgehog Officer. The Trust had an overwhelming response to the job advert, with interest from around the world and was delighted to appoint Ali North. Ali brings a wealth of experience and has the delightful task of delivering the project as the face of hedgehog conservation in Ipswich. Her work in the coming years will contribute not only to local hedgehog conservation, but to our knowledge of the species more widely. Part of her role will be to work with scientists at Nottingham Trent University to determine urban hedgehog populations; the study will be carried out in spring 2017 and will use GPS trackers and camera traps to study populations in a specific part of the town.

If you would like to be kept up to date with the project, or live in Ipswich and would like to help as a volunteer, please contact ali.north@suffolkwildlifetrust.org



Oak Processionary Moth update

Natural England

Oak Processionary Moth *Thaumetopoea processionea* is now appearing in Surrey, spreading south and north in significant leaps. It is at Ockham Epsom and Ashted Common as well as Bookham Common (all in Surrey), but has also appeared in Watford in North London. These are all significant jumps this year from the original sites in London. It is expected that this is a trend that will continue, so please do keep an eye out for it in Suffolk. Land managers and landowners are legally obliged to report any findings of Oak Processionary Moth to the Forestry Commission.



Oak Processionary moth caterpillars wrapped around a twig.
Photo: Forestry Commission



Oak Processionary moth caterpillars.
Photo: Forestry Commission

Oak Processionary Moth was first accidentally introduced to Britain from southern Europe in 2005, and it is possible that it could survive and breed in much of England and Wales. The caterpillars of the moth are a pest because they can affect the health of oak trees, people and animals. They live and feed almost exclusively on oak trees.

For further information please visit the [Forestry Commission website >](#)

Thetford Forest Survey

Eleanor Tew, PhD student, University of Cambridge

Researchers at the University of Cambridge, working with the Forestry Commission, are investigating how people value different areas of Thetford Forest. As part of this work, I would like to invite you to participate in a fun and quick online survey that will help us to understand which places in the forest are really valued. It is a great opportunity to share your opinion and put your experience on the map, as we gather data to help manage the forest for everyone.

The survey will only take about 10 minutes to complete, and incorporates a few, short questions together with an innovative new technique involving maps to indicate the areas that you really care about. You can find the survey here: <http://map-me.org/sites/thetford> (please don't add 'www.' as the survey won't work properly).

The survey will be available until 31st December 2016.

If you need any assistance, please do get in touch.

Eleanor Tew, thetfordsurvey@gmail.com

New App for Arable Plants

Jonathan Dix, Natural England

Ever wondered what Defra research projects are all about? This is the product of project BD5204 which looked at the management of arable plants in Agri-Environment schemes. The app itself is a collaborative project between various partners including NE and contains photographic species ID, management information and the ability to submit records via phone GPS.

To read Emily Swan's (Natural England's Arable Plant Lead Adviser) article about the new smartphone app that's just been released to help protect plants on the brink of extinction, and download the app, visit the [Natural England blog >](#)



A boulevard in central Paris, just outside the Cimetière Montparnasse – a few years ago this was lifeless gravel and paving: Photo: Edward Mayer

I took the coach from London to Stansted at the beginning of July. Running through lush farmland for much of the way, one would have expected to find lots of squashed insects on the windscreen at the end of the trip. But there were none. Time was when I would see Wagtails feasting off the insects stuck to cars in the parking at motorway service stations. So what's happening?

Intensive arable agriculture, where farmers have single crops sprayed over 20 times, seems to be creating wildlife-free zones on a vast scale. What George Monbiot calls "the Chemical Desert" may support Wood Pigeons, Crows and a few Buzzards (the latter species feeding off the corpses of the former, one speculates), but nothing much else. DEFRA figures show a decline in farmland butterfly populations of some 55% from 1990 to 2006, and the BTO reports that a once-common farmland finch, the Linnet, has declined by some 75% since 1965. Indeed farmland birds are showing startling population losses, possibly the result of year-round arable monocultures replacing mixed farming and fallow periods.

Underlining this, recent research has shown greater biodiversity and fertility on allotments and inside towns, than there is now on many farms. That is quite an indictment.

But it is the long distance migrant insectivores, who seem least able to adjust to changes in not just their food supply but the climate too.

Recent Met Office data show that Spring, Summer and Winter have more or less equal rainfall now in the UK, only the Autumn is reliably drier. This, combined with rises in temperature, is thought to be having a notable effect on this particular group of birds, as the warmer weather will advance the hatch dates of many insect species, and the wetter weather affects nest building and food gathering.

To take the best-known example, Cuckoos have lost almost three quarters of their UK population over just the past 15 years, and they eat mostly caterpillars. Another sad case; I have failed to see any Spotted Flycatchers these past two years. As recently as 1998 I found three pairs nesting in my parents' garden outside Wisbech.

If we are to counter this, there is a pressing need to create biocide-free zones on a large scale, to provide suitable feeding and nesting environments to support enough bird and wildlife until, one day, farming changes, and these protected populations can expand to re-populate the countryside. Nature Reserves are simply not enough, too small, too wide apart. It has to be something much bigger.

And that is where you come into the plan; if enough people take action in their own gardens then we could see some very good results, very quickly. Some cities, like Paris, have banned the use of all biocides in their parks and streets, as much for public health reasons as to preserve wildlife. (Apparently Glyphosate weed killer is now a suspect carcinogen, and the metaldehyde from slug pellets ends up in our water supply. The water companies cannot remove it, they can only dilute it, yet it can poison us as well as slugs.)

Right now there is pressure on Hackney here in London to ban all public spraying. Why not ban the use of all agricultural biocides on the streets and in parks, and prevent the loss of wildlife as well as the inherent risks to our health and wellbeing?

But could we take it further? Who really needs to spray their garden, or to lay plastic grass, or pave over their front garden for a car park? Not only does this lose us wildlife, but it can cause subsidence and flooding problems too. Others have dealt with this latter problem; in parts of Germany you have to pay the water company a levy for every square metre of hard standing you have around your property, because they have to deal with the rainwater runoff. What a great idea!

If we are not to find ourselves living in a much-depleted world, devoid of all but the most robust species like the Feral Pigeon and the Brown Rat, and if what the BTO is telling us is right, then there is no time to be lost. Because there is less wildlife to be seen, and because we nearly all now live well-sheltered lives in towns, mostly indoors, we are losing our awareness of the world around us. One gets used to seeing less wildlife, to the point where, when a friend of my late father-in-law told the local paper about walking as a child through meadows full of Skylarks, no-one believed her, they thought she had made it all up, because there were no Skylarks there now.

Here in the UK nature conservation, as a personal interest, tends increasingly to be the preserve of the elderly. We need to do something about that too, otherwise wildlife will die out as its supporters die off. We need to reach out and enthuse the young, as early as possible, and then keep them interested through their teens into adulthood.

For a start, why not keep chickens! They are fun, they eat the slugs, and your children will love them; it gives them an insight into the facts of life with real birds, (not Pixar replicants!) shows them where food comes from, and gives them responsibility for other lives, as well as demonstrating the results to be gained from personal effort.

What else can you do? Here's a little list...

Stop using biocides in your garden – do what I do, if a plant succumbs to bugs, keep planting alternatives until you find something bug-proof. My garden is now full of plants that nothing will eat. The slugs and snails go next door!

Rip up that patio, decking or car parking space – have some plants instead – if you have to have a car park instead of a garden put in permeable paving to let the water through – it will help save your foundations from drying out.

Neglect the lawn, tell the neighbours it's now a wildflower meadow. E-Bay the expensive noisy polluting mower. You can scythe serpentine paths through the new meadow, or put in stepping stones, to give your family somewhere nice to stroll and watch the bees at work.

Biodiversity News— Summer issue

Issue 73 of Biodiversity News is now available to download. To view this edition please click [here >](#) Contents include: *New Nature After Minerals website, Agricolgy Open Day, Bees Needs Week, The UK national tree seed project* and *£39 k for Norfolk Heritage sites.*

To view previous editions (from 2007 onwards) please click [here >](#)

Open Day at the Pliocene Forest Bob and Caroline Markham, GeoSuffolk

Opportunities to view Suffolk's unique botany are always welcome and on Sunday June 26th we went back 4 million years to view GeoSuffolk's interpretation of the Pliocene flora found only in Suffolk. Our Pliocene Forest trees represent fossil pollen found in the Coralline Crag of Orford and Sutton and have been planted on the Geological SSSI at Rockhall Wood in Sutton. Every two years Sutton village organises its Open Gardens Day and GeoSuffolk enthusiastically joins in - the SSSI is on private land so, with the permission of Sutton Hall Farms, we welcome the chance to show our 'forest' to the public. The open day offers visitors the experience of walking among living umbrella pines, redwood trees, hemlock spruces and many more - actually growing on the deposit that contains the pollen of their ancestors. The trees also enthusiastically joined in, looking splendid in response to the unusually wet June - which fortunately gave us a few hours respite on the 26th, allowing some 40 people to visit our site in the sunshine. Copies of the latest edition of Barry Hall's 'Pliocene Plant Profiles' were eagerly snapped up at £5 each.



Open day visitors explore the Pliocene Forest with Barry Hall (second left). Photo: Judith Hall

Suffolk's Fab 40 Adventures Emma Dixon, Suffolk County Council

Suffolk is set to be transformed into 40 shades of green as young and old alike are expected to rise to a challenge that aims to connect them with the county's wonder-filled natural environment.

From enjoying an awe-inspiring shooting star on a clear summer's night to breaking the ice on a winter's day puddle, and from marvelling at mad March hares on a bright spring morning to thrilling to the antler-crashing drama of the autumn's red deer rut, a total of 40 seasonal adventures has been drawn up as outdoor challenges to be experienced and revelled in over the coming year.

Suffolk's Fab 40 Adventures – ten for each of the four seasons – have been drawn up by a partnership of environmental, health and education bodies that include Suffolk County Council's natural and historic environment team, Public Health Suffolk, the county's Being Well in the Wild initiative, the Suffolk Environmental Education Network and Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

The project was launched at Ipswich Borough Council's Holywells Park on 4th August and was hailed as an



innovative way of connecting people - especially families - with nature and offering them the wide-ranging benefits to mental and physical wellbeing that activities undertaken in green spaces can bring.



County council cabinet member for environment and public protection Matthew-Hicks told launch guests the county's natural environment had been described in Suffolk's Nature Strategy as a "key strength" of the county. "It is one of the golden threads holding together what makes this county great," he said.

He cited a survey conducted by the East Anglian Daily Times last year in which 64% of respondents "put Suffolk's countryside and nature way out in front in terms of the best things about living in Suffolk".

The rich diversity of the Suffolk countryside and its green spaces in urban areas such as Ipswich's Holywells Park offered people the chance to "get in touch with nature."

There was a "wealth of evidence to show that those who live close to accessible green spaces are much more

likely to meet recommended levels of physical exercise". Evidence also showed that accessible green spaces, particularly in towns, could facilitate social contact and give rise to strong neighbourhoods and combat loneliness, particularly in older age groups.

"The natural environment isn't just a 'nice-to-have'. It's important to all of us. It's a vital component of our health and wellbeing and the 'natural capital' of Suffolk is the foundation of many businesses, particularly in the tourism and farming sectors," said Mr Hicks.

"No one will look after what they do not care about and no one will care about what they have not experienced," he said. Suffolk's Fab 40 Adventures was "all about encouraging children, with their carers, parents or grandparents to get outdoors and be active and to truly experience what Suffolk has to offer."

County council cabinet member for health, Tony Goldson, said Suffolk people should be proud of their natural environment, where there was "beauty and variety in equal measure".



What are your Priorities?

Maddy Iszchak, Groundwork East

Environmental charity Groundwork Suffolk runs education projects across the county. We know that schools face various challenges and sometimes need external support. We also know that those challenges change regularly.

We're inviting you to tell us what the most important issues are for you at the moment by completing this very short [online survey](#). Your input will shape our projects, so we can offer the right support at the right time. Feel free to invite others in the education field to complete the survey too – the more feedback, the better!

Do you want to know what we're working on now? Read about our [most recent Eastfeast project](#) that we ran with Copleston High School, Britannia Primary School and Sidegate Primary School in Ipswich. If you think Groundwork Suffolk could help with an education project, get in touch: email Suffolk@groundwork.org.uk, tweet [@gwksuffolk](https://twitter.com/gwksuffolk) or call 01473 350370.

'Growing up Wild'

Matt Gaw, Suffolk Wildlife Trust

A campaign called Growing Up Wild has been launched by Suffolk Wildlife Trust to create a unique memory bank of people's childhood experiences of nature.

The pioneering project, which is being backed by the East Anglian Daily Times and BBC Suffolk, is designed to inspire families to spend more time in the county's wild spaces.

The Trust is aiming to collect at least 100 people's stories of Suffolk's summers and winters-gone-by, which will then be uploaded and shared on their website. The memories, which can be submitted to the Trust by post or email – and can include anything from written accounts to photographs and drawings – will then be featured in an exhibition around the county before being lodged with the Suffolk Records Office.

Sara Holman and Tracey Housley who are co-ordinating the Trust campaign, said they hoped Growing Up Wild could help preserve an important part of Suffolk's heritage.

Sara said: "While changes in the physical landscape, or declines in species, have been well documented, the oral history of people's lived experiences of wildlife and wild places remains largely anecdotal.

"We know from our experience with volunteers, staff and close work with the communities of Suffolk that there is a wealth of untapped stories in our region; whether it is swimming lessons in rivers, climbing trees or just running wild until tea time. We believe these tales and images will clearly demonstrate how children in our county have always grown up with a largely outdoor life."

But the campaign, which is supported by Heritage Lottery Fund, will also paint a vivid picture of the lost Suffolk that the Trust is striving to restore; a Living Landscape of flower-rich meadows, furzy commons and expansive wetlands.

"The memories captured during Growing Up Wild", Tracey explains, "will allow people to see how the Suffolk countryside used to be and illustrate the changes that have taken place since World War II. Hopefully not only will this inspire people to get outside, but it will encourage them to take action for wildlife where they live."

A spokeswoman for Heritage Lottery Fund said: "Suffolk's natural heritage is precious and this

excellent project will help people understand and experience this for themselves. It's a great example of how everyone can get involved in the heritage on their doorstep through sharing memories and being outdoors. We are delighted that, thanks to National Lottery players, we have been able to support the creation of this treasure trove of wild memories." The timing of the campaign, which will see stories being shared in the EADT, BBC Suffolk and on the Trust's reserves is also important. Recent research has suggested that the last 40 years has seen children become increasingly separated from nature.

A national YouGov poll, commissioned by The Wildlife Trusts in 2015, revealed that 57% of parents thought their children spend less time outdoors than they did, while 37% of children had reportedly not played outside by themselves in the past six months. One in three children were said to have never climbed a tree.



Suffolk Wildlife Trust would love to hear and see your memories of Growing Up Wild

You can write to: Growing Up Wild in Suffolk, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Brooke House, The Green, Ashbocking, Ipswich, IP6 9JY

Email info@suffolkwildlifetrust.org

Surveying Minsmere's otters

David Baskett, RSPB volunteer

As a regular volunteer at RSPB Minsmere nature reserve, I was invited to a workshop regarding otters and badgers run by the Suffolk Mammal Group just over two years ago. Little did I realise what effect this would have upon my future life.

The workshop fired my imagination and I soon found myself volunteering to look for otter spraints and collecting them from around the eastern area of the reserve. This in turn led to becoming involved with a new group being set up at the time, the Suffolk Coast Otter Project. The aim of the group is to understand more about the ecology of the otter, how it uses its territory, the population size and productivity.

During the last year the Project has been working on at Minsmere and at various places on the rivers Alde/Ore. Latterly work has commenced on the river Blyth catchment too. We have had up to 14 trail cameras in place that have collected valuable information on activity patterns, family groups and aspects of sprainting and grooming behaviour. We have recorded over 500 otter videos.

We have collected, cleaned, dried and analysed over 1000 otter spraints which have given us valuable information on diet, seasonal changes and where they are foraging. At present we are actively involved in ground breaking technology trying to identify individual otters from footprints, which is all pretty exciting.

Little did I realise 2 years ago that I would be able to identify different species of fish by their scales, pharyngeal teeth and vertebrae or tell the difference between frog and newt bones and we are still learning all the time. All of this has come about through volunteering so if anybody is interested I can thoroughly recommend it.

Tree Health News

Defra

Several new and updated pest alerts and factsheets are available from the Defra website.

A web page and contingency plan have been published for **Siberian silk moth** *Dendrolimus sibiricus*. Caterpillars of this species have caused significant damage to conifer forests in central and eastern parts of the Eurasian land mass, and it is spreading westwards although this pest is not yet present in the UK. To see symptoms and how to identify it, please visit [Forestry Commission website >](#) Keep alert for any sign that it might have been accidentally introduced and please report suspected sightings with [Forestry Commission Tree Alert >](#).

How will the risk of future tree diseases affect the decision making of woodland owners and managers?

In recent years, pests and diseases from around the world have severely affected several tree species in Britain, and others are likely to arrive in the coming years. Many woodland owners and managers have started to think about how to plan for the longer-term resilience of woodlands in the face of a range of possible threats. The research project [Forest Resilience Modelling Disease \(FOREMOD\) >](#) being carried out by a consortium of universities and Forest Research and funded by the UK government, addresses this issue.

The aim of the project is to improve understanding of the decisions which woodland owners and managers make in the light of their knowledge of tree disease risks, and their management objectives. The research will help woodland owners understand the economic consequences of different management options. It will also inform policy makers about how to encourage woodland owners to make effective decisions to reduce future tree disease risks.

To take part in a University of St Andrew's survey for Woodland Owners or Managers, please click [here >](#).

Please also get in touch if you would like to participate in the project in other ways, for instance by advising on what woodland management alternatives we should compare in our economic modelling.

Contact [Oleg Sheremet](#) for more information about the choice experiment or [Morag Macpherson](#) about any other aspect of the project.

RSPB Minsmere is a large nature reserve and boasts a range of different habitats, all of which help keep it at the top of the species-diversity list. Years of careful work go into the initial creation and subsequent management of these different habitats, but sometimes the simplest of actions will lead to unexpected and interesting consequences.

The path between the pond and the North Wall has been worn down over dozens of years by the footsteps of thousands of visitors. The result of all this gradual erosion is a path a few inches lower than the surrounding grass – and the sides of this path, sloping towards the sun, are now home to an increasing range of burrowing insects. We only really see them during the summer months, early July through into September maybe, but for those few short weeks they become some of the most fascinating species on the reserve.

It all started with the beewolf *Philanthus triangulum*, a digger wasp that specializes in catching honey bees and stocking its larder with them as a food source for its young. The bee-wolf starts by digging a tunnel up to a metre in length into the sloping sides of the path. The soil is easy to dig here, being so sandy, and the sloping sides help rain to drain away and avoid flooding the burrows.

Along that deep burrow, the bee-wolf carves little chambers – up to 30 – and stocks each chamber with 4-5 bees and a single egg. The bees have only been paralyzed by the wasp's sting, not

killed, as they stay juicier for longer like that and make better food for the wasp's larvae! The bee-wolf also secretes a substance to coat the chamber which reduces fungus and bacteria, thereby keeping the paralyzed bees fresher for longer. The wasp carries the bees to her burrow slung underneath her, holding tight with a pair of legs just like a human child might grasp a giant teddy bear. They're easy to spot flying in, the extra bulk making the flight slower and more ponderous than normal.

All this work is done by the females. The males have a lek, just like capercaillie, showing off to the ladies in a small area along the same path. The views of the bee-wolves digging out their burrows (they're like miniature Jack Russells) covering up or uncovering their hole to avoid someone stealing their home and taking the bees in (and occasionally throwing them out!) have captivated large numbers of visitors.

Whilst the bee-wolves are no longer deemed rare in the UK, they are not that common and have been spreading north and west from our part of the country at a steady rate since the 1980s.

However, that is not all you can find along this stretch of path. To start with, there are other digger wasps inhabiting this area. Wasps specializing in catching spiders, weevils and even shield bugs can be found here, along with sand wasps and even the odd, brave, solitary bee (such as the green-eyed flower bee) digging itself a home.

The "weevil wolves" especially have been plentiful this year and we have found a fair number of abandoned yet still twitching vine weevils to take away and show people under the microscope.

However, all these wasps live in reasonable harmony, apart from the odd argument over burrow ownership. The bullies on the path are the German wasps. These look very similar to the common wasp we are used to, but they attack the bee-wolves, trying to get them to drop their precious cargo and steal it. If they can wrest the bee away, they will efficiently butcher it, chopping off legs, wings, heads – all they're really interested in is the abdomen, which they will carry off, leaving the evidence of their dissection behind.

Other bees have moved in this year too – pantaloons (or hairy-legged mining) bees *Dasypoda hirtipes* are also industriously digging burrows. In their case, it's a 60 cm long burrow sporting chambers stocked with pollen and



Bee wolf *Philanthus Triangulum*
Photo: Steve Everett

an egg, but it's a very similar lifecycle in other regards to their wasp neighbours. The pantaloons are very distinctive, especially when their legs are full of bright yellow pollen (they specialise in collecting from flowers in the daisy family), though they do seem to avoid the worst heat of the day and are best spotted before elevenses and after tea and cake in the afternoon.

Don't think that avoiding German wasps means life is easy for all these insects though. When their back is turned, there are tiny parasitic wasps and flies trying to sneak in and lay eggs on undefended territory. The bee-wolves especially are good at defence; they will fill the entrance with sand when leaving or are busy down the burrow to keep out unwelcome visitors. They will also at times sit at the entrance to their home and the sight of their bright yellow faces peering out at people delights visitors of all ages and drives photographers wild. Get too close and they'll pop back into the hole, but patience brings rewards and most people manage to leave with a photographic memento.

These few weeks of path-side activity don't last long however. As the nectar the adults feed on becomes scarce, they will die, the loose soil will wash away and the path will go back to simply being something to walk on. Until the larvae developing underground pupate and emerge next year to fascinate another group of visitors...



Pantaloon or Hairy legged Mining Bee
Photo: Matt Parrott

Children more motivated to learn outside

Natural England

Children from 125 schools across the South West of England are happier, healthier and more motivated to learn thanks to a new project commissioned by Natural England that has turned the outdoors into a classroom and helped schools transform ways of teaching.

The findings were released on 14th July by the Natural Connections Demonstration project, a 4-year initiative to help school children – particularly those from disadvantaged areas – experience the benefits of the natural environment by empowering teachers to use the outdoors to support everyday learning.



Pupils taking part in an outdoor learning session © Natural England

The project, which is funded by Natural England, Defra and [Historic England](#) and delivered by [Plymouth University](#), is the largest project of its kind in England and has already helped more than 40,000 primary and secondary school pupils get out of their classrooms and into the outdoors – whether that's a maths lesson in a local park or drama out on the school field.

[Read more >](#)

Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership

The Partnership's work has now been integrated into [Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service \(SBIS\) >](#)

The SBP website closed on 31st August 2016 and we are in the process of moving the website pages to the SBIS website. If you need further information, please contact Gen Broad.

Twitter: please follow SBIS—@suffolkbis

An archive of SBP newsletters (2008-2015) can be found [here >](#) This e-newsletter will continue to be published quarterly through SBIS - please send us your news articles! The Spring 2016 issue can be found [here >](#)

Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service

Sharing information about Suffolk's wildlife

Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service is the One-Stop-Shop for biodiversity information in Suffolk. Operating as an independent and objective centre for biodiversity data we collate, manage and mobilise species and site information for the benefit of Suffolk's wildlife as a whole.

News [SBIS website >](#)

Events [SBIS News / Events >](#)

Funding Opportunities Check out the SBIS web page to see if any of these funds can benefit your conservation or community wildlife project. [SBIS News / Funding >](#)

Project Fund We have a small Project Fund available to individuals and communities for research, habitat enhancement or to benefit Suffolk species. Please contact Gen Broad if you're looking for small amounts of funding for your project.

Follow us on Twitter [@Suffolkbis >](#)

Like us on Facebook [>](#)

Share photos on Flickr [>](#)

Newsletter Publication dates : Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.

Deadline for Autumn 2016 newsletter articles: **Friday 28th October 2016.**

If you'd like to share the work that you or your organisation / group is doing to protect biodiversity in Suffolk, please send your article (with photos) for inclusion in the next newsletter to Gen Broad

**Thank you to our readers for supporting this newsletter,
all feedback is welcome!**

Contact Us

Martin Sanford (SBIS Manager) email: martin.sanford@suffolk.gov.uk, tel: 01473 433547

Ben Heather (Biological Records Officer—GIS) email: ben.heather@suffolk.gov.uk, tel: 01473 433571

Gen Broad (Biodiversity Officer) email: gen.broad@suffolk.gov.uk, tel: 01473 264308