

## Autumn 2018

### Issue 9

#### Inside this issue:

[East Anglian Planning & Biodiversity Seminar](#) 1

[SusDrain Designers Hub](#) 2

[Brexit White Paper and the Environment](#) 2

[Defra Publish 2018 Update of UK Biodiversity Statistics](#) 2

[Green Infrastructure Resource Library](#) 2

[Green Infrastructure Partnership](#) 2

[Government Announces Strategy for New Generation of Garden Communities](#) 2

[Hear the sound of the House Sparrow!](#) 3

[ILP and Bat Conservation Trust Publish Guidance on Bats and Lighting](#) 3

[AONB Planning Event](#) 3

[Protected Species focus - House Sparrow](#) 4

[Suffolk Biodiversity Planning Group and Collaborative Members](#) 4

## Welcome to the SBIS Planners' Update!

We aim to provide accessible information about biodiversity issues in relation to planning. If we can help with training events, factsheets or in any other way, please do contact us and we'll do our best to provide what you need. Previous Updates are available on the [SBIS Planners' Page](#) >

## East Anglian Planning and Biodiversity Seminar 2018

**Date:** 22nd November 2018

**Venue:** University of Suffolk, Ipswich

This annual seminar focuses on the latest information relating to biodiversity in spatial planning and development management, presenting practical solutions and a wealth of useful facts to support decision-making and helping to ensure that legal obligations are met. It also provides a forum for planners, consultees and ecological consultants in East Anglia to exchange experiences and ideas.

This year we are again delighted to welcome high profile and knowledgeable speakers on a range of topics:

Key biodiversity issues in planning - *Mike Oxford, ALGE*

Green spaces services - *Prof Jules Pretty, University of Essex*

Suffolk Design Guide - *Consultancy team*

Practical mitigation for invertebrates - *Buglife, Colin Hawes (Royal Holloway, University of London)*

Potential uses of existing bird survey data to facilitate planning decisions - *Gavin Siriwardena, British Trust for Ornithology*

People Over Wind case - *Gareth Durrant, West Suffolk Councils (tbc)*

Wildlife crime and developments - *Paul Cantwell, Suffolk & Essex Constabularies*



**East Anglian Planning and Biodiversity Seminar**

Organized by Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service, Norfolk County Council & Pine Services Essex County Council in collaboration with the Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE)

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018**  
9:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.  
University of Suffolk, Waterfront Building, Ipswich IP4 1QJ

**Aims:**

- To provide an overview of the latest national and county-level initiatives in planning and best practice related to spatial planning, development management and biodiversity.
- To encourage an exchange of experience about biodiversity issues in planning amongst planners, consultees and ecological consultants in Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex and neighbouring counties.

This event is free for non-commercial organisations  
£65 fee for all others (includes lunch)

**Topics**

- Key Biodiversity Issues in Development Management and Spatial Planning
- The health and well-being services of green spaces
- Planning for Pollinators
- Suffolk Design Guide
- Mitigation for stag beetles
- Uses of bird survey data to facilitate planning decisions
- People Over Wind case
- Wildlife crime and developments

**Continuing Professional Development opportunity**

- Enhance understanding of biodiversity issues in planning
- Exchange ideas / network
- Gain new insights

Lunch available at £8.00 (pre-order only) or bring your own  
Please car share if possible / travel by public transport (Ipswich station is approx. 20 mins walk)  
Contact: Dave White, Norfolk County Council or Charlotte Keightley, Norfolk County Council - Email: [DET@Norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:DET@Norfolk.gov.uk)

Photo credit: Paul Kitchener (stag beetle)

Places are free for local authorities and charities; a small fee of £65 is charged for commercial organisations.

## Booking essential!

Visit [SBIS Planners page](#) to download the booking form or contact Charlotte Keightley / David White at Norfolk County Council:  
[NETI@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:NETI@norfolk.gov.uk)

## Susdrain Designers Hub

The Susdrain Designers Hub aims to be a one-stop shop for anyone designing SuDS, helping to get the design right first time around and so saving time and money. It provides knowledge, resources and support tools which will benefit the designers, the development and the surrounding areas.

The website provides case studies, fact sheets, evidence, guidance and tools as well as videos, webinars, trainings and updates.

[Visit the Susdrain Designers Hub >](#)

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## Brexit white paper and the environment

A blog by Stephen Hinchley, principal policy officer at the RSPB, assesses the Brexit white paper and the environment, published 12th July. The white paper proposes that both the UK and the EU “should commit to non-regression of standards” and there should be a “reciprocal commitment to ongoing environmental co-operation, including in international fora”. Stephen Hinchley sees these as important steps forward.

[Read more on the Inside Track website >](#)

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## Defra publish 2018 update of UK Biodiversity Statistics

On 19 July 2018, Defra published the National Statistics outlining the UK's progress towards meeting the biodiversity goals and 'Aichi targets' agreed in 2010. The report shows trends in biodiversity indicators across the UK, using data from nearly 100 organisations.

[To find out more, download the pdf >](#)

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## Green Infrastructure Resource Library

The updated Green Infrastructure Resource Library has been published. This is a searchable database of 1,000 documents on Green Infrastructure, green spaces, natural capital and related topics. The database is freely available and can be accessed through the Town and Country Planning Association. It is produced for the Green Infrastructure Partnership by Dr Ingo Schüder of [Brillianto](#).

[TCPA GI Resource Library >](#)

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## Green Infrastructure Partnership

The Green Infrastructure Partnership (GIP) is a rapidly growing network of people and organisations that support the creation, enhancement and promotion of green infrastructure (GI) in the UK to improve quality of life, health, ecological diversity, resilience to climate change and economic attractiveness. Membership is free.



The GIP enables people to share information - research, innovation, news and best practice - via newsletters and events. Its strategic focus is to influence key decision-makers by ensuring they have appropriate evidence about the value of GI to inform their decisions.

[Visit Green Infrastructure Partnership >](#)

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## Government announces Strategy for New Generation of Garden Communities

The government published the *Garden Communities* prospectus on 15th August. This sets out the government's offer of assistance to councils, including resource funding, advice from Homes England and cross-government brokerage to resolve barriers to delivery.

Garden Cities were first outlined by Ebenezer Howard in 1898 in his vision of places where people could work, raise families, travel easily and enjoy green spaces.

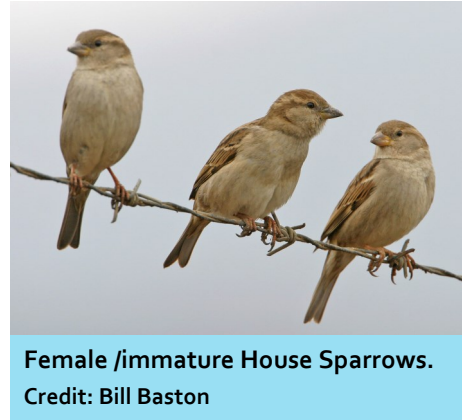
[Read the Garden Communities prospectus >](#)

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## The protected Species focus for this issue is the House Sparrow (see p. 4)

Did you know that the first reference to a sparrow in Britain is by the Venerable Bede (?673 -735) in his History of the English Church and People: "*O King, the present life of men on earth is like the flight of a single sparrow through the hall where, in winter, you sit with your captains and ministers.*"

To hear the sound of a house sparrow on [BBC Radio 4's Tweet of the Day click here >](#)



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## ILP and Bat Conservation Trust publish guidance on bats and lighting

The Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP) has launched the latest practical guidance on considering the impact upon bats when designing lighting schemes.

The guidance has been produced in collaboration with Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and ecologists to replace previous guidance produced in 2009.

The aim of the updated guidance is to avoid or reduce the harmful effects which artificial lighting may have on bats and their habitats, by raising awareness of the potential effects and outlining potential solutions. It also recommends a working partnership between the lighting profession and ecologists.

The full document and further information can be viewed [here](#).

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## AONB Planning Event

The AONB team is organising an AONB Planning Event which will be held at the University of Suffolk on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

The topics for the half day event are:

*Duty of Regard – Section 85 Crow Act 2000*

*Natural Beauty & Special Qualities of the Dedham Vale AONB and the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB*

*Tranquillity*

*Use of Colour in new developments in Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley and the Suffolk Coast & Heaths*

The event is aimed at planners, architects, elected Members, Parish Council's OR any organisation with responsibilities within the Dedham Vale AONB Valley and the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONBs.

The aim of the event is to remind organisations who work within the AONBs about their legal responsibilities under Section 85 of the Crow Act, to provide an opportunity to learn about the natural beauty and special qualities of the AONBs, to find out about the Deben Tranquillity Mapping Project and to promote the new AONB Use of Colour guides that the AONB team has commissioned.

**Please book via [schaonb@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:schaonb@suffolk.gov.uk) or [dedhamvale.project@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:dedhamvale.project@suffolk.gov.uk) letting us know your name, phone number and any special requirements.**

This is a free event supported by the nationally designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.  
(Donations welcome to the Stour Valley Environment Fund/Community Conservation Fund).

## Protected Species focus - House sparrow

### Key facts

- Priority Species under Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.
- Resident breeder in UK, commonly found in towns and villages.
- Diet: seeds, shoots, berries, scraps. Chicks feed on insects, mostly on the ground.
- Nest in thick bushes and the wall cavities of buildings.
- Red listed because of population and range declines. British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Garden Bird Feeding Survey showed populations in urban and suburban habitats have declined by nearly 90% in Eastern England since 1968.
- Declines in rural areas are probably linked to agricultural changes and reduction in food supply - insects for the chicks and an autumn seed supply for the adults.
- In urban and suburban areas, research into the decline is still ongoing, but work by BTO has shown that house sparrows do best in areas where gardens and/or allotments are present.



Male House sparrow. Credit: Jon Evans

### Developments can provide:

- ⇒ Shelter
- ⇒ Nesting opportunities
- ⇒ Feeding opportunities

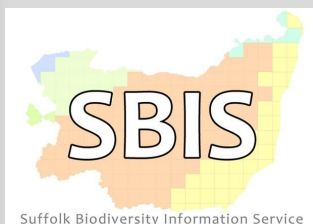
### Mitigation of development impacts:

- ⇒ Construction - method and timing of clearance to avoid damaging nests in shrubs.
- ⇒ Development design
  - include colony nesting boxes (nesting opportunities)
  - connect gardens and hedgerows (shelter and food)
  - include 'wild' areas to increase insect habitat (food for chicks)

### • Further info

- ⇒ [House sparrows in Great Britain \(Defra, RSPB, BTO\) >](#)

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### Suffolk Biodiversity Planning Group members:

Sarah Barker, Ipswich Borough Council (Chair)  
Gen Broad, Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service  
Simone Bullion, Suffolk Wildlife Trust  
Lisa Chandler, East Suffolk Council  
Alison Collins, Natural England  
Clare Dawson, Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils  
Jaki Fisher, West Suffolk Councils  
Beverley McClean, Suffolk AONBs  
James Meyer, Suffolk Wildlife Trust  
Jacqui Miller, RSPB

### Collaborative members:

Sue Hooton, Place Services Essex County Council  
David White, Norfolk County Council  
Charlotte Keightley, Norfolk County Council

*Please send me information about any relevant biodiversity and planning issues that should be highlighted. The update is published twice a year and goes to a wide audience in East Anglia. I look forward to hearing from you!*

*Gen Broad*

Visit us at [www.suffolkbis.org.uk/biodiversity/statutoryobligations/plannerspage](http://www.suffolkbis.org.uk/biodiversity/statutoryobligations/plannerspage)