

Newsletter

Summer 2018

In this issue:

| | Page No. |
|---|--|
| SBIS news | 2 |
| River Enhancement Projects helping to Conserve Native Black Poplar in Suffolk | Naomi Boyle, Environment Agency 4 |
| Recently Discovered Grey seal behaviour | Ian Barthorpe, RSPB Minsmere 5 |
| Great British Beach Clean | Marine Conservation Society 5 |
| Citizen Science Project - Hedgehogs | Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve 6 |
| Big Butterfly Count | 6 |
| Suffolk Hedgerow Survey | Guy Ackers 7 |
| Magnificent Meadows Project in the Stour Valley | Emma Black 7 |
| Pliocene Forest Open Day 2018 | Caroline Markham, GeoSuffolk 8 |
| Prioritising Nature Conservation Survey | University of East Anglia 9 |
| East Suffolk is an Environment Agency Priority Catchment! | Trevor Bond, Environment Agency 10 |
| Bredfield Jubilee Meadow and Orchard | Stewart Belfield 12 |
| Suffolk Community Barn Owl Project | Steve Piotrowski and Donna Dean 13 |
| Horseflies are, on close inspection, rather beautiful | Peter Vincent 15 |
| Beach Bonkers | Kate Osborne 16 |
| Stour Valley Environment Fund | 17 |
| A conservationists' bête noire | Phil Brown, Share-with care 18 |
| Learn to survey orchards in Suffolk | Gen Broad, Orchards East 22 |
| Contact and About Us | SBIS 23 |



QUICK QUIZ

Can you identify this butterfly and the plant?

Photographed at the Bredfield Jubilee Meadow and Orchard by Stewart Belfield. See p. 12 for answer.

SBIS contributes to Suffolk Day

To celebrate Suffolk Day 2018 (21st June), Suffolk Record Office and SBIS put together a new A-Z, celebrating Natural Suffolk. This is the second year of 'Suffolk Day', when the county gets together to celebrate what makes Suffolk special. The full list can be found [here >](#)

Suffolk Record Office
travelintime

THE Hold
Connect | Explore | Discover

Suffolk
County Council



Search website and collections...

More

Search



Suffolk Day 2018

A is for Arboretum

B is for Bittern

C is for Coastal Erosion

D is for Deer Parks

E is for Eggs

F is for Field

G is for Graveyards

H is for Henslow

I is for Island

J is for Jelly Making

K is for Kittiwakes

X is for Xanthoria

We tend to think of lichens as being very sensitive to air pollution, but there are some species that are quite tolerant. The yellowy-orange coloured leafy lichen *Xanthoria parietina* is a species that prefers nutrient enrichment, particularly the nitrous oxides and ammonia produced by car exhausts. It is now one of the most common species around and is very noticeable in winter when the bare branches of trees alongside major roads show up as a yellow stripe where the lichens have colonised the polluted bark. It also grows on rocks, walls (the specific name *parietina* means 'on walls') and roofs where the yellow blobs often indicate places where nutrients are increased by bird droppings.



Xanthoria parietina



Xanthoria parietina



Xanthoria parietina

The yellow chemical xanthorin is thought to be produced as a defence against UV radiation, acting as a sunscreen to protect the algal cells inside the lichen. The name *Xanthoria* comes from 'xanthos', a Greek word meaning yellow. Extracts have been used as a dye to colour many things from

Butterfly sightings 2018

There have been some exciting records of butterflies coming in this year. Bill Stone, Suffolk's Butterfly County Recorder, maintains an active page for sightings on the [Suffolk Butterflies website >](#) Please visit the site to find out more or how to submit your own sightings.

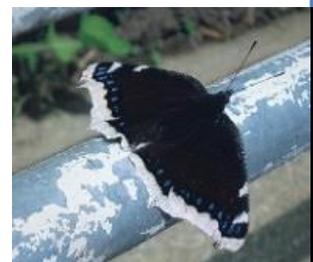
Camberwell Beauty 5th May River Gipping footpath between Needham Mkt and Badley.

Large Tortoiseshell 4th July Mutford near Beccles.

Silver washed fritillary Late June & early July Pakenham Wood, Brimlin Wood (near Hintlesham), Bonny Wood (near Barking Tye), Easty Wood (Cavendish), Bradfield Woods, Groton Wood (Kersey), Hadleigh Railway Walk, Arger Fen, RSPB Minsmere, Gt Barton, Landseer Park Ipswich, Northfield Wood (Onehouse)

White Admiral Late June & early July Tunstall Forest, Brimlin Wood, Bonny Wood, Bradfield Woods, Groton Wood, Arger Fen, RSPB Minsmere, Sutton, Cutlers Hill (Wherstead), Wolves Wood.

Marbled white (extremely rare in Suffolk) Possibly colonising in Haverhill and Stradishall, Landseer Park, Ipswich and Piper's Vale Local Nature Reserve, Ipswich



Camberwell beauty
Photo: Neil Rolph

SBIS Biodiversity Checking Service Pilot Extended

The SBIS Biodiversity Checking Service (BCS) is an innovative pilot project running in [Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts](#) until the end of September 2018. The aim is to streamline the planning process for applicants with low impact developments by avoiding delays, providing certainty about biodiversity requirements and ensuring a lawful decision based on high quality information. This is achieved by checking that the biodiversity surveys and assessments are appropriate and mitigation measures are deliverable pre-submission for an application to the Local Planning Authority. Step by step guidance is provided and a successful application receives a Certificate to be submitted with the Planning Application documents, ensuring a smooth application. The success of this Service will be reviewed in September 2018.

| Key Facts | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Area covered | Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts |
| Schemes covered | Low impact developments (see definition in FAQ) |
| Offered by | Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service (SBIS) |
| Available to | Applicants who wish to get biodiversity survey / assessment requirements and mitigation measures checked <i>pre-submission</i> to the Local Planning Authority |
| What the applicant receives | A BCS Certificate for submission with application documents to the Local Planning Authority. |
| Benefits of the BCS | a) Provides certainty about requirements and avoids delays. b) Speeds up the planning process for applicants with a BCS Certificate. c) Underpins a lawful decision by the Local Planning Authority based on high quality information as required under the British Standard for Biodiversity (BS42020 Sec. 8.1) |

'Mark of Zorro' Sawfly arrives in Suffolk

The 'Mark of Zorro' or Zigzag Sawfly *Aproceros leucopoda*, an invasive pest of elms, has been spotted at a few sites in Suffolk.

Trevor Goodfellow found the characteristic zigzag tracks on elm leaves in Thurston in June and Sharon Hearle noticed them in July in the King's Forest and at Piper's Vale in Ipswich.

This invasive species, native to Japan, has been spreading across Europe since it was found in Poland 2003. It probably reached the UK a couple of years ago with the first record of characteristic leaf damage found in Surrey last autumn being identified by [experts from Kew](#). This year, the zigzag tracks have been noticed in several eastern counties. For further information, including a map of current spread and notes on identification, see the [Observatree website](#).



Characteristic zigzag tracks of the 'Mark of Zorro' sawfly on elm leaves Photos: Trevor Goodfellow

SBIS GIS (digital mapping) News

The commercial data search service is still in demand, with over 120 searches being carried out since April. The species search layers and Natural England layers appearing on the maps, were all updated for the searches, and the process is being automated as far as possible. County Wildlife Site GIS boundaries have also been updated, and re-written citations incorporated into the Access database.

SBIS worked with Orchards East to assign unique codes to the historical and current orchards which are mapped in GIS and then associate them with Suffolk Traditional Orchards Group surveyors' orchard records. We are now producing Parish maps for the Orchards East surveyors' packs which show the mapped orchard boundaries

labelled with these codes, so surveyors will be able to use this on their survey forms to identify their orchards (see p.22)

For the AONBs, we analysed various datasets to produce a Tranquillity Map and associated statistics of the Deben Project Area. More recently we created Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment maps of Dedham Vale AONB, Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB and Stour Valley Project Area. The AONBs needed to provide statistics for the National Association for AONBs, so SBIS GIS was used to calculate Area of land cover of various types, length of coast, rivers and streams, area of Open Access land and numbers of Scheduled Monuments and listed buildings - all within the two Suffolk AONBs. Lastly, we shall be providing MapInfo training for new AONB staff.

River enhancement projects helping to conserve native black poplar (*Populus nigra* spp *betulifolia*) in Suffolk

Naomi Boyle, Environment Agency

The Environment Agency has been working with Suffolk Naturalists' Society County Recorder Sue Hooton to help preserve the native black poplar in Suffolk.

It is one of the UK's rarest trees and there are thought to be less than 8,000 mature specimens in Britain, with around 430 in Suffolk. The mature trees can grow to 30 metres and be identified by their leaning trunks, often with large bosses and arched boughs. The timber was used for carts, cruck-framed buildings and floorboards - especially around fireplaces, as it is highly fire-resistant. The native black poplar has great wildlife value - especially for insects such as the poplar hawk moth - and provides nesting sites for owls and roosts for bats.

It is associated with wet meadows, river valleys, streams, ditches and farm ponds. For the tree to regenerate naturally male and female trees must grow fairly close together, and fertilized seed must fall on bare mud or silt which must remain moist until autumn for the seedling to establish. This habitat has become very rare due to floodplains being drained for agriculture or development and so now the tree is usually generated from cuttings.

We have undertaken a number of river habitat improvement schemes in recent years typically involving habitat creation by creating backwaters and installing in-channel features such as large pieces of woody debris, gravel riffles and in some places narrowing the channel to increase flow velocity. On most of these sites we have also planted native trees along the river bank. Tree cover along rivers is important to provide shade to keep rivers cool and suppress excessive growth of aquatic vegetation. Trees also provide physical habitat diversity that in turn supports a diverse range of animal and plant species, underwater root systems of value to fish and invertebrates and, in the longer term, tree cover can provide a natural source of woody debris, a key component of river systems that is lacking in many lowland watercourses.

With the help of Sue, we were able to plant five native black poplars (four female and one male clones) along the River Waveney between Scole and Billingford. These trees have been propagated by her and other enthusiasts from rare clones that were planted as seedlings on Suffolk Wildlife Trust reserves at Carlton Marshes, Hen Reedbeds, Redgrave & Lopham Fen, Bromeswell Green and Cornard Mere in the 1970's. These noble trees are a welcome addition to the 80 alder, hawthorn, crack willow and field maple we planted in December 2017 following in-channel works the previous year.

Working with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust we planted male and female clones together with other native trees and shrubs on the River Alde at Bruisyard to complement in-channel river habitat improvements that were carried out in April this year.

Sue is keen to encourage enthusiasts to check on mature native Black poplar trees and let her know if they are still alive to bring the Suffolk records up to date. She can be contacted at blackpoplar@sns.org.uk



Planting out black poplars on the River Waveney between Scole and Billingford



Black poplar and scrub planted on the banks of the River Alde at Bruisyard

Recently discovered grey seal behaviour

Ian Barthorpe, RSPB Minsmere

Email from Ian Barthorpe to the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society in April 2018

I am emailing to report an unusual sighting off the coast of RSPB Minsmere, Suffolk recently.

During a lunchtime stroll on Friday 13 April, I spotted the distinctive large head of a bull grey seal about 100 metres offshore. Nothing unusual about that at Minsmere. However, what happened next was certainly most unexpected. The seal submerged, and in virtually the same place a harbour porpoise briefly surfaced, its small triangular dorsal fin clearly visible. Seconds later, the porpoise surfaced again, possibly with a second one alongside. Porpoise sightings are not unusual here (in fact three were seen by visitors today), but I thought it strange that this one was so close to where the seal had submerged.

I radioed the sightings through to the visitor centre, but what happened next will live long in the memory. The seal and porpoise surfaced together, and it looked like they were in combat with each other. This was confirmed when they next surfaced, when the seal clearly had the porpoise's flank in its huge mouth. The porpoise briefly appeared to escape (unless that was the second one fleeing the scene), but next time the seal surfaced it clearly took a large bite from the porpoise, with blood seen in the water.

After further conflict lasting for perhaps as much as five minutes, during which the seal clearly took several more bites from the porpoise, the seal appeared to swim out to sea. The porpoise was not seen and was presumed to have been killed.

The whole incident was watched by myself and one of our volunteer guides, as well as at least ten visitors.

I have heard of bottlenose dolphins attacking porpoises before, but not grey seals. Is this behaviour unusual?

Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society email reply

What you witnessed was an unfortunate, but not uncommon event. Grey seals do attack and eat porpoises. This has only recently come to light (ca. 2014). The following links give further information:

[Scientists confirm that gray seals kill and eat harbour porpoises >](#)

[Wales Online - footage of seal eating harbour porpoise it has just killed >](#)

Great British Beach Clean - Marine Conservation Society 14-17th September

Latest results

Almost 7,000 people took part in the Great British Beach Clean in September 2017. Together, we removed 255,209 pieces of litter from 339 beaches. [See the results>](#) In Suffolk, the AONB helped to facilitate 35 litter surveys on 24 beaches covering 7.5 km of the Suffolk coast and estuaries! 806 volunteers took part and 14,110 items of litter were recorded, of which 75% was plastic.

Great British Beach Clean

Get the dates in your diary now - Great British Beach Clean 14th-17th September 2018. Keep an eye out for more information.

In the meantime, all of our beach clean events are [listed here >](#) - join in or sign up to run your own!

This year is the 25th anniversary of the year-round Beachwatch programme so it's a really significant year for MCS!

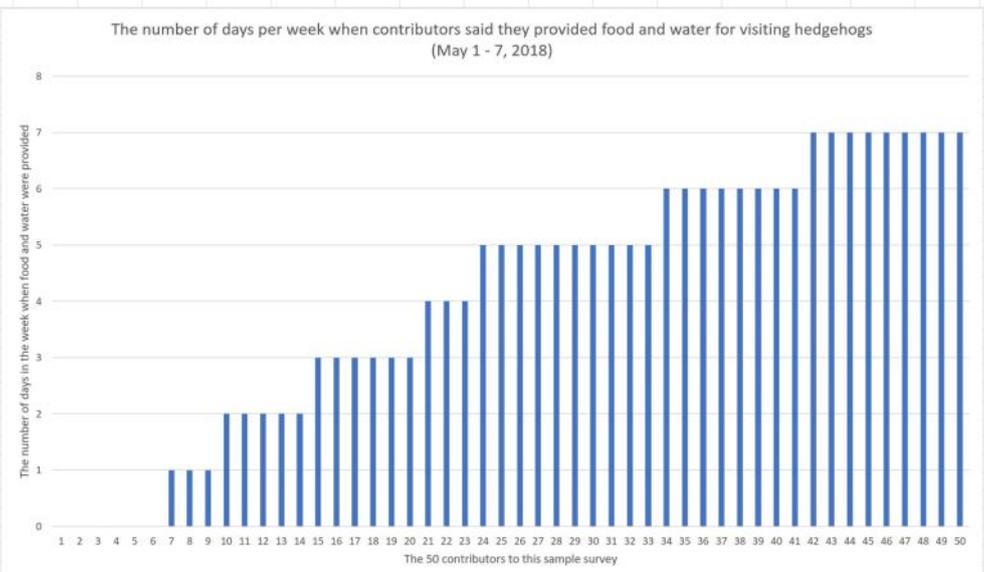


Citizen Science Project - Hedgehogs

Adrian Cooper, Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve

Felixstowe's Community Nature Reserve has started a new Citizen Science Group. In our first project, we received 58 reported sightings of hedgehogs in Felixstowe and created a map to show the distribution of those sightings.

We also took a random sample of 50 of our members for the period 1-7 May and asked them how many days per week they laid out food and water for the hedgehogs which visit their gardens. We then asked those same 50 people how many times during that week they saw at least one hedgehog. The correlation is strong (0.9135), suggesting that it really is true that helping local hedgehogs is a good idea if other local people want to see more hedgehogs. See the bar chart below.



We will soon be adding more data analysis to the Citizen Science Website so [please visit the FCNR Citizen Science Forum to find out more >](#)

Big Butterfly Count Butterfly Conservation

The **big butterfly count** is a nationwide survey aimed at helping us assess the health of our environment. It was launched in 2010 and has rapidly become the world's biggest survey of butterflies. Over 60,000 people took part in 2017, submitting 62,500 counts of butterflies and day-flying moths from across the UK (see [all the 2017 results](#)).

[Find out how to take part >](#)

big butterfly count
20th July - 12th August

Help us take nature's pulse by joining the big butterfly count [find out more about this project](#)

Log my sightings (until end of August)

Step 1: Get ready
Download our handy butterfly chart or free app for iOS and Android to identify and record the butterflies you spot.

Step 2: Join in
Choose a place and spot butterflies and moths for 15 minutes. Good places include your garden, a park, or in a wood. Use our ID chart to make a note of which species you see. Click to watch a video of Nick Baker introduce the big butterfly count.

Step 3: Submit sightings
Record your big butterfly count sightings here.

Suffolk Hedgerow Survey

Guy Ackers

Hedgerows are a livestock barrier, food store, a flood defence mechanism, a soil retainer, a habitat and a valuable part of our farming heritage. They are at risk across the country and the Suffolk Hedgerow Survey has now helped inform action in Surrey.

Hedgerow loss, frequent flailing and poor management has been identified as a contributory factor in the decline of many wildlife species. 130 species of conservation concern are known to rely on them! Since the Second World War more than 120,000km of hedgerows have been lost across the country through “intensive farming and development”, according to the National Trust.

Recognising their importance as far back as 1998, the Suffolk Hedgerow Survey surveyed 317 parishes in Suffolk, noting the location of 38,295 landscape hedgerows and every different species of trees and shrub within them.

In November 2017 the Citizen Scientific Officer from Surrey Wildlife Trust contacted our chairman after finding our report online to ask for advice on how to run their project to get maximum gain.

The Surrey Wildlife Trust “Hedgerow Heroes” project has now begun to train volunteers in surveying and traditional management techniques. Volunteers will also plant new hedgerows in some areas. Information collected will be used to build up a database of the state

of Surrey’s hedgerows similar to our own but with the addition of condition. This is a key way for them to deliver the Trust’s mission of a Living Landscape for People and Wildlife by focussing on the green network of hedgerows in the county.

Whilst the Greenprint Forum is not due to relook at the hedgerow Survey until 2025, it does recognise the importance of hedgerows in its ‘Nature First’ goal. If readers who live in parishes within Suffolk Coastal and Waveney and who have influence with their parish council are inspired to take action they may want to consider the amount of destroyed/severely damaged hedgerows in their Parish over the last five years and the amount of new hedgerows that have been planted. Please consider whether any action can be taken to improve the situation. Please contact the Suffolk Hedgerow Survey chairman (guyackers@btinternet.com) if you wish to make any comment.

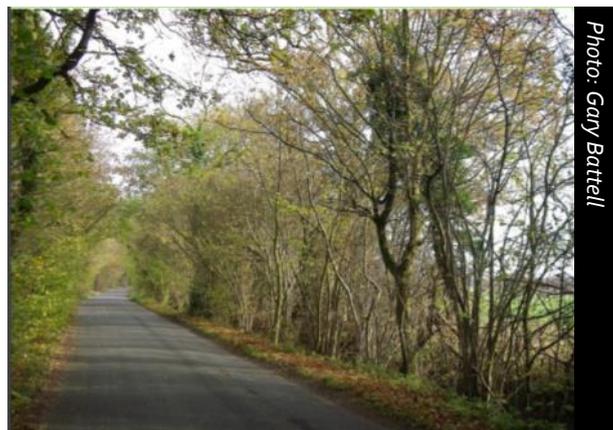


Photo: Gary Battell

Magnificent Meadows Project in the Stour Valley

Emma Black, Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project

Since the Magnificent Meadows project started last spring there has been exciting progress.



Wildflower expert, Stephen Clarkson, helping volunteers to identify wildflowers using keys.

Twelve volunteers spent an enjoyable training day at Abbots Hall, Essex Wildlife Trust HQ, under the guidance of plant expert Stephen Clarkson, who went through basic plant ID skills using keys.

Emma Black, from the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project and John More, from Essex Wildlife Trust, discussed the scheme, demonstrated how to use the survey forms, gave out health and safety advice and details of Suffolk County Wildlife Sites (CWS) / Essex Local Wildlife Sites. Unfortunately, Essex Wildlife Trust have had problems with landowners giving permission so most of the sites surveyed so far have been in Suffolk. This’ll mean we’ll just do more in Essex next year.

Thanks to SBIS for providing landowner information.

Many of the sites have been surveyed either by individual volunteers or by the Lavenham Natural History Group, as part of their summer survey programme, which is wonderful. Ross Bentley, from the East Anglian Daily Times, came out to one of the evening surveys at Kedington Churchyard and wrote a great article about the scheme and Lavenham Natural History Group.

Pupils from Long Melford Primary School have been investigating meadows this term and celebrated what they had learnt by having a whole day of art and poetry. Suffolk Wildlife Trust also ran minibeast related activities with several of the classes. In September the school intend to grow patches of wildflowers to create their own meadows.

To promote the wonders of meadows to a wider audience, various organisations ran activities at Melford Green CWS on 7th July, which is National Meadows Day. There were wildflower surveys, run by Lavenham Natural History Group; minibeast hunts organised by Sarah White, a local environmental education expert; meadow art and craft activities by Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project / Daws Hall Education Centre; a gallery of historic pictures of the Green, provided by Melford Heritage Centre and wonderful art and poetry creations made from pupils at Long Melford Primary School.

At Melford Green CWS a new information board is being produced to explain what County Wildlife Sites are and why they are so important. This site is obvious, as the rest of the Green is cut short compared to the CWS, which only gets an annual cut. Other sites will also have interpretation as part of the scheme.

If you are interested in being part of this scheme,
please get in touch with
Emma Black, Countryside Projects Officer,
Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project.
Email: emma.black@suffolk.gov.uk



Lavenham Natural History Group showing members of the public the wildflowers at Melford Green CWS.



Long Melford Primary School stand at the National Meadows Day on 7th July.

Pliocene Forest Open Day 2018

Caroline Markham, GeoSuffolk

The Coralline Crag, a 4 million year old Pliocene deposit, is unique to Suffolk with the main outcrop stretching from Orford to Aldeburgh. Rockhall Wood SSSI in Sutton is a small outlier of this deposit, expressed in the landscape as an elevated 'knoll' above the surrounding fields. The Coralline Crag contains large quantities of fossil pollen from exotic trees which were expelled from Britain by the great Pleistocene ice sheets, but survived in other parts of the world. GeoSuffolk's Pliocene Forest with 166 trees, representing 49 genera and 25 families is a representation of this lost flora, once native to our land.

Since the inception of the Pliocene Forest, GeoSuffolk has joined in with Sutton village and its biannual Open Gardens event – welcoming the opportunity for the public to view this imaginative project. This year, on June 10th, 60+ people visited Sutton Knoll, stepped inside the deer fence and walked amongst the firs, pines, birches, elms, redwoods, cedars, etc., most of which are much taller than us now after nine years of growth. Many of the visitors, their interest piqued, asked to view the nearest of the geological exposures, visible from the forest. Thus has the Pliocene Forest been established as an ambassador for Suffolk’s geology and an outstanding educational resource.



GeoSuffolk’s Barry Hall guides visitors round the Pliocene Forest.

[Prioritising Nature Conservation Survey](#)

Paul Dolman, Liam Crowther, Daniel Salliss, University of East Anglia



Photo: Andreas Eichler
CC BY-SA 3.0
wikimedia

HOW WOULD YOU PRIORITISE CONSERVATION EFFORT?

We want to know how conservation and land management professionals emphasise different conservation “criteria”, to help us prioritise sites.

[Link to survey >](#)

Are species more
important than
habitats?

Are bigger sites
more important
than joined sites?

How important is
site size relative
to quality?

And what criteria
are best to
measure this?



Our team at the UEA is studying how we might rank the importance of individual sites within ecological networks. To help us, we are examining how conservation and land management professionals emphasise various 'criteria' that could be used to prioritise sites for funding or management.

We would value your contribution to this survey which should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

This research was stimulated by work we are undertaking for Anglian Water (AW). Results will be used to develop criteria weightings to help AW prioritise its sites for conservation management and a journal article exploring how preferences of conservation professionals affect prioritisation outcomes.

East Suffolk is an Environment Agency Priority Catchment!

Trevor Bond, Environment Agency

A new initiative by the Environment Agency is targeting the health of rivers in East Suffolk, which is a local priority catchment. The target area contains 21 recognised rivers and is demarcated by the River Waveney to the north and the River Deben to the south. Nearly half of the rivers within the East Suffolk Priority Catchment are not achieving their required water quality targets and as a result the riverine ecology of the area is suffering. A combination of diffuse pollution from farming and point source pollution from sewage treatment works are thought to be the main issues, with a lack of habitat diversity and increasingly stretched water resources also causing problems.

To address these issues, the Environment Agency has deployed two Priority Catchment Officers to the area - Nicola Robinson and Trevor Bond. Nic and Trev bring a wealth of experience and have a record of delivering projects across Suffolk. Their focus is upon catchment-scale working to deliver multiple benefits, bringing together partners within the Priority Catchment to tackle common problems. They're also keen to raise the profile of the rivers in East Suffolk, many of which are inconspicuous to the general public.

"It's funny because when John Grant from the EADT came to write [an article about our work with the East Suffolk IDB](#) he openly admitted he'd never heard of the River Wang" said Trev. "John worked in the area for decades and even he wasn't aware of this secret river! It really highlights how under-appreciated these watercourses are and why our work is so important."

The work on the River Wang is just one example of the collaborative projects being completed in the East Suffolk catchment. Elsewhere a 1km stretch of the River Alde was recently enhanced just in time for the [Alde Valley Spring Festival](#). Pieces of woody material were added to the river channel to increase the diversity of flows and create more habitat for in-stream organisms.

The Environment Agency are also supporting the Yellow Fish campaign, which is a partnership with Groundwork East that aims to improve river water quality by ensuring "only rain goes down the drain". The main work of the project is getting yellow fish stencilled on to surface water drains to remind people that these often feed directly into streams and not foul sewers. These bright and visible stencils are intended to discourage the disposal of waste and are complemented by work within the local community. Most recently the team has been [visiting schools in Suffolk's market towns](#) and inviting children to be River Detectives, encouraging them to record

the different species they see in and around their local rivers. You may have also seen our stand in Framlingham and Saxmundham, where we've attended a few weekend markets.



The team promoting the Yellow Fish campaign in Framlingham earlier in the year.

Future work is looking at natural flood management opportunities along the River Blyth, implementing effective measures for reducing soil loss from agricultural fields, and developing a network of River Wardens across the area. “One of the best things about this priority catchment work is getting out and speaking to people on the ground” said Nic. “It’s by talking to locals and community groups that we can best understand and tackle the challenges our rivers face”.

Nic and Trev are always looking for new opportunities and would love to speak to you if you have any ideas about how to improve the rivers of East Suffolk. You can get in contact by e-mailing trev.bond@environment-agency.gov.uk or by calling 020 3025 8510.



Reviewing our recently completed habitat enhancement work on the River Wang near Wangford.



The Yellow Fish sign on a drain at Saxmundham Primary School, highlighting that this drain is for rainwater only.

Bredfield Jubilee Meadow and Orchard

Stewart Belfield

Orchids galore! That's what would have greeted you on a June walk through the Bredfield Jubilee Meadow and Orchard. By far the greatest in number were *Southern Marsh Orchid* – a purple haze of over 200 flowers. Closer inspection would reveal *Pyramidal Orchid* and the fancy disguise of *Bee Orchid*. Even closer inspection would reveal a few *Common Twayblade*. No sign, thus far this year, of the meadow's star attraction, *Marsh Helleborine*. With a summer lacking rain, it is probable that this rare orchid will not be seen this year. In addition to the orchids, another noticeable flower to be found, if you search closely, is the delicate pink bloom of *Grass Vetchling*.

Surveys by Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Laurie Forsyth, together with our local recording, have discovered 98 species of flora in our small meadow. With such an abundance and biodiversity of flora, an array of insect-life is attendant. Butterflies to be seen include: *Comma*, *Ringlet*, *Speckled Wood*, *Gatekeeper*, *Meadow Brown*, *Small Copper*, *Common Blue*, *Large Skipper* and *Essex Skipper*. As you may expect, it's a haven for bees too.

Bredfield Jubilee Meadow and Orchard started as a community venture only five years ago. The village purchased a field of glebe land that had not experienced intensive agriculture. The field's susceptibility to becoming water-logged was probably its saving. When the project began, conservation of a wildlife meadow was probably a secondary concern. The major focus was on the planting and cultivation of an orchard. Here, as elsewhere, the orchard has a particular community significance and resonance. Looking backwards, the establishment of an orchard chimed with a sentiment to preserve traditional varieties of apples, traditional ways of cultivating them and, of course, traditional ways of using them. The trees in the orchard are 'adopted' by local people and this provides a view forwards; when the saplings mature and bear fruit, they will be enjoyed both by current and future generations. Every autumn, Bredfield folk gather for their annual 'juicing day'. Young and old participate in the chopping and pressing of local apples (not yet from our community orchard, but soon). You won't buy apple juice as sweet and tasty as this in your local supermarket!



Southern Marsh orchid



Pyramidal orchid



Bee orchid



Topping the meadow

Running a meadow and orchard takes some organising, management and work. One key decision is when to 'top' the meadow. Today's mowing echoes traditional farming methods of preventing the meadow from becoming 'overgrown'. We are fortunate to have the advice of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust on this matter, and they have proved to be a good partner in our community venture.

What is the view of the meadow today? Tracy Housley, of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, has described it as "a fabulous community site" and Laurie Forsyth, of the Suffolk Flora Preservation Trust, has declared it to be "a natural history treasure that has survived into the 21st century".

All photographs taken by Stewart Belfield

The photograph on the 1st page is an Essex Skipper on Spear Thistle.

Project Background

Suffolk Community Barn Owl Project (SCBOP), founded in 2005, is dedicated to the conservation of barn owls, and is now celebrating its 13th year. Its success has been much acclaimed and the project is very proud to have received Suffolk Creating the Greenest County Awards on two occasions.

The project has advised on the fixing of over 2,000 barn owl nest boxes throughout Suffolk, on nature reserves, farmland and in community spaces like village greens and school grounds. In addition, the success of the project has resulted in requests for boxes across the borders in South Norfolk and North Essex. Over 1700 of these boxes remain active.

We have given barn owls the fighting chance they needed to thrive by providing an extended connected network of good habitat and additional nesting opportunities.

We have witnessed a dramatic, year on year, population increase from a low of around 45 breeding pairs in the late 1980s to over 100 boxes occupied by barn owls in 2007, the second year of the project.

As more boxes were fixed between 2011 and 2015, the barn owl population further increased and, in the last six years, an average of 450 boxes have been occupied, a ten-fold increase.

Nowadays, East Anglia hosts the one of the highest densities of barn owls in Britain with coastal Suffolk and the river valleys rivalling North Norfolk, the hinterland that surrounds The Wash, N & E Lincolnshire and SE Yorkshire.

The 2017 Breeding Season

In 2017, SCBOP volunteers monitored over three quarters of the nest boxes and logged the presence of barn owls in over 450 of them. The most significant factor is the high number of young barn owls that



Barn owl at SWT Carlton Marshes Nature Reserve 2018
Photo: Gavin Durrant

reached the fledging stage. A total of 342 barn owl chicks went on to fledge, which is a project record. This clearly shows that 2017 was an extremely good vole year in Suffolk with an abundance of prey available.

This meant that 2017 was also an exceptional year for barn owls with monitors reporting high occupancy and productivity. This was partly due to another mild winter and good feeding opportunities early in the season. The vole cycle appeared to be at a peak and larders in boxes suggested that there was an abundance of food.

Other Species using the Nest Boxes

Barn owl nest boxes attract other species including tawny and little owls, kestrels, stock doves and jackdaws. Grey squirrels also find barn owl boxes cozy enough to build a drey.

Squirrels and jackdaws are nuisance species and will force barn owls out of their homes. We have several examples of barn owls being rescued after becoming incarcerated as the nesting pair of jackdaws placed numerous sticks, used as the base of their nest, on top of a female barn owl as she incubated her clutch.

Jackdaws nest in loose colonies, so it is important that boxes are not placed too close together. We are taking steps to thin out high concentrations of boxes in areas with high numbers of jackdaws.



Photo: Gavin Durrant

Tawny and Little owls nest early in the season, so their broods would have fledged before monitors check for barn owls. However, in 2017 we logged the presence of 27 tawny owls in the barn owl boxes, the highest number since the project began.

The increase in the county's barn owl population is paralleled by stock doves that find the nest boxes very useful. Stock doves normally lay two eggs per clutch, but to compensate for the small clutches there may be four, and sometimes five, clutches each year in a protracted breeding season from March through to November. Last year, over 250 of the barn owl boxes hosted stock doves.

Kestrels too take a liking to barn owl boxes and often nest on the top shelf from where they have a good vantage point to look out for predators. In 2017, kestrels made use of 21 of the boxes.

The Future and Fundraising

The project involves the whole community with boxes being made by local organisations and monitored by an army of expert volunteers each year.

However, working at height to check boxes is not without risk, so we have maintained an extensive training programme to ensure that our volunteers strictly adhere to health and safety rules and have the equipment available to complete the task safely.

Last summer we received worrying news that insurers were becoming nervous about providing cover for ladder work. One way of reducing risk is to minimise this work and we are in the process of developing a "Go-Pro" camera system that can be used to view the contents of barn owl boxes from ground level.

Grants were received from the Dedham Vale and Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB sustainable development funds, prototypes made and tested, so we are now ready for rollout.

Further funding is needed to continue our programme of box repairs and replacement and to ensure that the most urgent repairs and replacements of dilapidated nest boxes take place. The 1,774 boxes being managed under the SCBOP umbrella gives a combined asset value of nearly £250,000! Replacing all the boxes in the immediate future is not feasible, so we will need to prioritise. During 2017, we extended the longevity of many boxes with minor repairs carried out by our



Photo: Gavin Durrant

volunteer repair teams. This is a low-waste, low-cost approach and will ensure that the boxes get the longest life-span possible before replacement becomes essential. The rolling programme of box repairs by our volunteer team will ensure long term sustainability of the work.

SCBOP's current management structure, involving coordinators and monitors, has served us well. However, Steve Piotrowski will retire from the project this year and the project will then be managed by six Area Managers, supported by a number of coordinators for each area. We are looking at each management area being autonomous, so each could continue independently should the umbrella organisation cease to operate.

Our monitors are ready to go and started inspecting boxes in the third week of June. Following the severe weather period popularly known as "The Beast from the East" swiftly followed by "The Mini-beast" we don't know what results to expect. Normally, Barn Owls delay their clutches and some skip a season altogether if they do not attain a good enough condition to breed. Unfortunately, early indications are that it is now looking like a very poor breeding season with many regular boxes failing to produce broods this year.



Photo: Gavin Durrant

Horseflies are, on close inspection, rather beautiful

Peter Vincent, Suffolk County Recorder for Diptera

A walk in the countryside on a hot sunny summer day can be spoiled by the company of horseflies. For an insect that has rather annoying habits, they are at close inspection rather beautiful. In many species the colours and patterns of the eyes of a horsefly are extraordinary – iridescent coloured bands, or brilliant green, purple and bronze wavy patterns reminiscent of watered silk.

Horseflies are the largest and most rapid flying flies found in Britain; the larger species can have a body length of 15mm, a wingspan of 35mm and have been recorded flying at speeds approaching 145km/hr (90 mph).

There are thirty species of horsefly found in Britain, of which just over half are found in Suffolk. These are from five families; Chrysops, sometimes known as deerflies, have banded or dark wings, Haematopota, or clegs as they are commonly called, are grey with mottled wings. The three further families have clear wings, Hybomitra are medium sized flies with hairy eyes and often orange flanks on the abdomen, Tabanus, which are spectacularly large horseflies with bare eyes, and Atylotus.

Atylotus are greenish medium sized flies, with all species being quite rare and associated with particular habitat types. The only Atylotus species that occurs in Suffolk is *Atylotus latistriatus*, which can be found on the saltmarshes of the Stour and Alde.

Only females bite, since after mating the females require a blood meal before the eggs can mature. Female horseflies are active during the day and are attracted to movement, shiny surfaces and the carbon dioxide and warmth from the respiration of living mammals. When the insect lands on an animal, it grips the surface with its clawed feet, the head is thrust downwards and the knife-like mouthparts slice into the flesh. Some of these mouthparts have sawing edges and muscles can move them from side-to-side to enlarge the wound. Saliva containing anticoagulant is injected into the wound to prevent clotting. The blood that flows from the wound is lapped up by another mouthpart which functions as a sponge. Bites can be very painful and there may be an allergic reaction to the salivary secretions released by the insects as they feed. The irritation and swelling from bites usually disappears in a day or so.

The main hosts are farm animals especially cattle and horses although they will attack wild mammals such as deer and, as we all know, humans. To avoid competition, each horsefly genus tends to have a different attack pattern; Haematopota, or clegs, fly silently and prefer to bite humans on the wrist or bare leg; large species of Tabanus buzz loudly, fly low, and bite ankles, legs, or backs of knees; Chrysops flies somewhat higher, bites the back of the neck, and has a high buzzing note. Bloodsucking is not indulged in by males; they only have weak mouthparts and subsist chiefly on nectar: they are, as a rule much less in evidence than females and are usually to be found on trunks of trees, foliage or flowers.

The two main features required for horseflies to prosper are wet soil for the larvae to develop and the presence of animals. In the past when fields were poorly drained and there was more livestock on farms, horseflies were certainly more abundant. Females lay their eggs in masses, often on vegetation overhanging boggy ground. The eggs hatch and the larvae fall into water or wet ground. They are predatory and eat worms, other insects' larvae and crustaceans found in the soil or the water. An unusually big horsefly larvae will even catch and eat fish and amphibians. The larvae take one to three years to mature. When it's time to pupate the larvae crawl to a dry area, pupate and then emerge as adults in the summer. After all this, the adults only live a few days.



Twin lobed horsefly *Chrysops relictus*
Photo: Alistair Coe



Crysops (deer fly) on human arm in Peasenhall
Photo: Howard Jones



Atylotus latistriatus (Saltmarsh horsefly) from Butley
Photo: Gary Lowe

Beach Bonkers takes people beachcombing on Suffolk's shingle beaches. Although our shingle seems ubiquitous it's actually a rare habitat worldwide. Encouraging people to slow down and look at their beaches helps them appreciate the wonderful wealth of wildlife and its evidence that can be found there. And, of course, once something is appreciated and understood, there is a desire to conserve it.

In early summer our shingle beaches are awash with gorgeous yellow horned poppies. A close look at the leaf of one of these poppies reveals scores of silvery hairs which act as a sunscreen, by helping to reflect the sun.



Silvery hairs on Yellow Horned Poppy leaf. Inset: brilliant yellow flower of the Yellow Horned Poppy
© Beach Bonkers



Sea beet roots are immensely long, up to 2 m.
© Beach Bonkers



Sea sandwort *Honckenya peploides*
© Beach Bonkers



The egg cases of small spotted cat sharks.
© Beach Bonkers

The thick fleshy roots of sea kale and sea beet can grow down as far as two metres into the shingle seeking out precious fresh water. They are usually only visible when they are washed out of beaches after stormy weather.

Looking at sea sandwort, people admire the perfect symmetry of the leaves and its ability to adapt and grow despite being buried by sand or shingle. It does this using creeping stolons.

A quick beachcomb of Suffolk shingle reveals evidence of our diverse and extensive marine wildlife. Much of it is dismissed as "just seaweed" but there are wonderful tales to be told.

Empty crab shells do not mean a dead crab because both crabs and lobsters shed their shells as they outgrow them. We find crab shells more often than lobster as the latter eat their discarded shells for the calcium.

"Mermaid's purses" are the egg cases of skates. Skates and rays lie within the group of fishes called elasmobranchs, which also includes sharks. Rays, like sharks, give birth to live young. The cases are anchored into the seabed and, depending on species, may incubate for over a year.

Whelk shells tell gory tales that children delight in. Their egg cases are also known as sea sponges as they were once used by sailors for washing. Unlike mermaid's purses these egg cases are laid without a yolk and so the first emerging whelks eat the nearest available food source – their siblings.

I always say the best way to beachcomb is on your bottom. Sitting down and combing through the shingle is the best way to find fossil sharks' teeth. One little girl found a mysterious cream substance which (with the help of Twitter) I finally identified as the egg ribbon of a sea slug called a sea lemon.



Left: fossil sharks' teeth

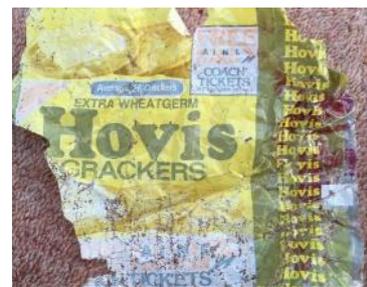
Top right: Whelk egg cases ('sea sponges')

Bottom right: Egg ribbon of the Sea Lemon (a sea slug)

All images: © Beach Bonkers

It's impossible to beachcomb without finding litter. Unusual items prompt discussion about how anything and everything can and does end up on the beach whether through direct littering, having been flushed down toilets, washed down drains, lost from containers etc. I found the illustrated Hovis cracker packet on Bawdsey beach in December 2017. It has an offer date that expires in December 1980. It had been in the environment for almost four decades!

"Nurdles" or pellets of recycled plastic – where someone is trying to do the right thing - engenders discussion about how recycling plastic is not enough. We need to change our habits and consume less.



Hovis wrapper 1980
© Beach Bonkers

To join Beach Bonkers on a beachcomb please see: www.beachbonkers.org.uk where details of all my events and workshops can be found. If you have no internet access please call Kate on 0751 255 7200. And if you can't get to the beach, Beach Bonkers will bring the beach to your school, club or group. Activities include a mini shingle beach, a table full of beachcombed treasures and a giant beachcombing board game.



Beach Bonkers board game

Stour Valley Environment Fund

This outstanding fund supports environmental projects in the Stour Valley. The AONB team now seeks to build on recent contributions from a local landowner, sponsorship from the recent Mayor's walk and donations at the recent Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Forum.

More is needed!

If you can help, please contact the [Suffolk AONB team >](#)

A conservationist's bête noire?

Phil Brown, Nature Conservation Consultant, Share-with care



Max, the author's Labrador. Photo courtesy of East Anglian Daily Times

a Share-with care three-year project to counter dog disturbance at Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Carlton Marshes proves.

This project sought to strike a balance between dog walking access and the site's conservation objectives to ensure both dog walkers and reserve management could happily coexist. How was this achieved?

Contending with dog disturbance

In the summer of 2014 Share-with care's Phil Brown was asked by SWT Carlton Marshes' reserve manager Matt Gooch to examine his apparent "dog problem". For a number of years the site had had a history of dogs disturbing livestock as well as unsettling visitors, especially school children. But that summer Matt felt the situation was threatening to deteriorate.



Dog chasing grazing cattle in 2015. Photo courtesy of Rob Quadling

visitations (this has subsequently increased to around 25,000). In essence the plan was to stimulate peer pressure within the site's dog walking community to adopt more considerate behaviour towards the reserve's wildlife and visitors.

Dogs are a significant conservation issue

Dogs are an issue on many nature reserves as their presence often creates problems. Not only does an often unacceptable level of dog fouling come with them, but there can also be the impact of loose dogs making non-dog owning visitors uncomfortable, plus dogs' adverse impact on ground-nesting birds and grazing livestock. This mix of issues leads, at worst from a dog walker's point of view, to dogs being totally banned or, at best, only admitted to reserves under sufferance and obliged to be kept strictly on leads.

But the reaction of conservationists to these issues need not be this harsh. There is a middle way, as the results of



SWT's Carlton Marshes' expansion has created a 1000-acre Broads reserve

What is more, with dog ownership increasing and the pressure for access to greenspace growing everywhere, plus the possibility of the Carlton Marshes Nature Reserve expanding considerably (which has now occurred), it seemed possible that the marshes could become a 'dog magnet' and the problems further exacerbated. In view of this Share-with care's Nature Conservation Consultant Phil Brown agreed to consider the 'problem' and propose a solution.

A comprehensive package of measures developed

Over the autumn of 2014 a strategy was developed to deal with this site's annual 15–20,000 dog walker

Phil proposed that the key means for creating this pressure should be the recruitment of a team of about a dozen dog ambassadors (initially these were all drawn from members of Lowestoft's largest and oldest dog training club, the Happy Paws Dog Training Society, but subsequently several considerate regular dog walkers volunteered too). All of these dog owners were then trained by Phil, not only to convey to the public the conservation reasons for access measures needing to be applied, but also to deliver news about the reserve and interesting facts concerning its wildlife.



The author with SWT's Carlton Marshes Reserve dog ambassadors in 2018. Photo courtesy of East Anglian Daily Times

Central to the communications programme was the preparation of ambassador's rules of

engagement and the development of a set of prompt materials illustrating the various conservation messages – these were issued to both the ambassadors and the site's volunteers.



Walkers



Dog Walkers



Loose Dogs

The 'Lost habitat' prompt shown above illustrated how Carlton Marshes was subject to a range of disturbance levels determined by the type of user and their degree of site usage - the white area around paths denotes the extent of disturbance by each type of user. Images © Dynamic Creative

The messages were designed to be easily understood by the general public, as it is Share-with care's view that if you want the public to understand and be responsive, plain speaking is the order of the day. So, as illustrated above, messages were both graphic and direct.

As a result of the ambassadors' initial feedback the style of presentation was evolved and the messages modified. For the most recent set of prompt materials it was planned to feature the results of the project's first two years.

Both the ambassadors and volunteers were appraised of these results and were also congratulated for their efforts. Additionally they have been encouraged to pass these positive results on to the visiting dog walkers and in turn convey the management's thanks for their support of the reserve's conservation objectives.

In addition the project spurred:

- the installation of a comprehensive dog fouling control infrastructure (consisting of additional bin capacity, 'poo pipes', 'poo sticks', the appointment of a dog fouling monitor and the compiling of a dog fouling log)
- the introduction of a small 'dog off-lead area'
- more pro-active use of a range of social media
- plus the collection of a detailed log of the ambassador's and reserve's volunteers' encounters with visitors and the outcomes of their efforts – this record has provided a valuable measure of the project's performance.



Over time the combination of volunteers and dog ambassadors has proved pivotal, for their meaningful dialogues with dog walkers has stimulated the necessary peer pressure the reserve’s management sought.

Also during Spring 2017 a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) was enacted by Waveney District Council to cover the site.

The project’s records demonstrate that this measure made an additional contribution. It significantly speeded up the reduction in dog fouling at the site, as owners clearly responded to the threat of being subjected to fines for this inconsiderate behaviour (to date two fixed penalty notices have been issued and one case went to court). As yet no owner has needed to be cited for having a dog off its lead. Additionally this order’s main value was summed up by one ambassador when he remarked that “the PSPO means we’re tooled up” when they talk to visitors.

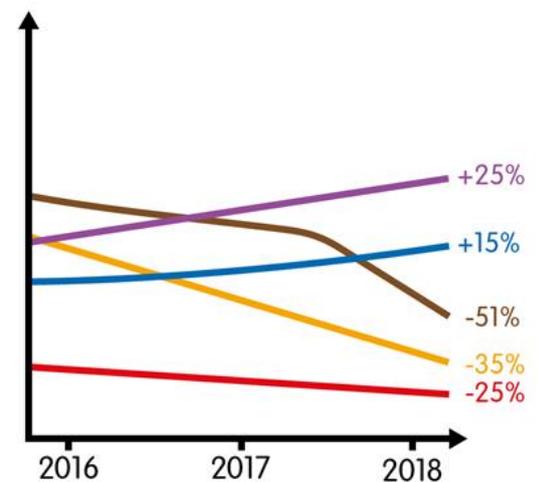
Dog fouling halved

Direct benefits

By the end of February 2018 it was clear the programme had been a real success. The evidence extracted from the log revealed that in 2016 out of 237 entries, 48 visits registered a dog incident, whereas for 2017’s larger number of 299 visits, only 36 featured a dog incident. To put it another way, in 2016 the ratio of reports was 1 in 5, dropping to 1 in 8 visits in 2017, i.e. about a 60% improvement.

Over the two complete years of activity, year on year, the project’s data shows the following had been achieved:

- Visitor numbers had increased by 25% (purple line)
- Dog numbers had risen by 15% (blue line)
- Dog fouling (despite the additional dog numbers) was down by 51% (brown line)
- The numbers of dog walkers needing to be spoken to was down by 35% (orange line)
- While dog related incidents were reduced by 25% (red line)



The combined activity of the volunteers and ambassadors had stimulated sufficient peer pressure as the owners have responded by increasingly policing themselves. It thus appears that a more considerate dog walking culture now exists at SWT’s Carlton Marshes Nature Reserve.

Indirect benefits

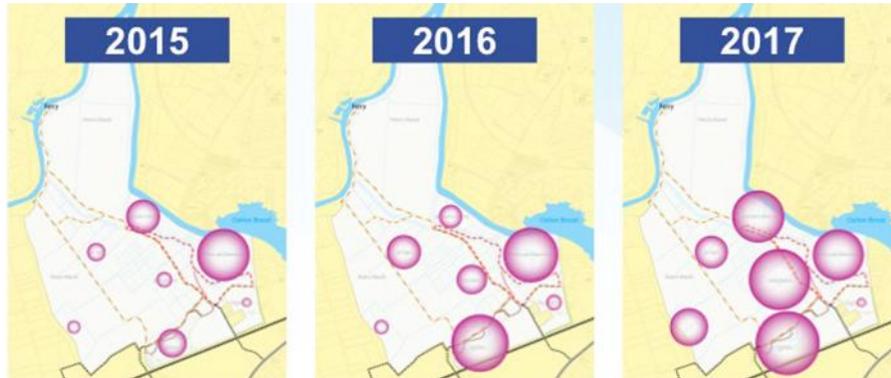
Additionally the project also delivered a number of valuable indirect benefits:

- The reserve management’s time dedicated to the “problem” was reduced by around 8%, freeing them up to tackle other vital conservation tasks
- Volunteers’ morale was restored, for they no longer needed to deal daily with uncomfortable visitor situations
- The visitors themselves also benefited. Because, by acting more considerately, wildlife reacted by becoming more apparent. Further, as incidents of dogs unsettling visitors declined too, the overall visitor experience was significantly enhanced.

We suspect this last point was probably the reason why visitation has increased to 50,000+, as revealed by the most recent visitor study.

Plus a bird bonus

Nature responded positively too, with bird territories in 2016 rising by 17% and then by a further 25% in 2017:



This sequence of Venn diagrams demonstrates the location of the 'bird bonus' arising from some habitat improvements and the ambassador's/ volunteer's activities. Images © Dynamic Creative

The project team then calculated that it was reasonable to assume that about a third of the increase in territories was probably solely attributable to the impact of the dog ambassadors' activities.

Over 200 bird species have now been seen or heard on the reserve, including the highly twitchable American Bittern during spring 2018. Consequently the site is proving increasingly popular amongst the bird watching fraternity too – thus adding appreciably to the site's visitor numbers. But with this increase in birders has come a growth in photographers' presence too, who unfortunately often create unacceptable levels of disturbance when they stray well off the beaten track in pursuit of that perfect shot!

Project televised



Image © BBC

Many of these successful outcomes were indicated during a May 2017 episode of the BBC's Countryfile, when Matt Baker presented the scheme and interviewed some of the dog ambassadors.

Value for money

Solving this dog disturbance issue required an investment of less than £5000. Given the range of benefits this modest funding has delivered, it is felt the scheme will quickly prove to have paid for itself.

Furthermore, although this scheme initially required a significant amount of management input, over time this has reduced considerably.

Also a Share-with care scheme is demonstrably cheaper to undertake than traditional tactics to counter dog disturbance that are reliant on investment in more conventional communications-based activity, exploiting signage, posters and leaflets. Finally there is every reason to assume this approach, where 'refresher' activity is regularly undertaken, should prove to be self-sustaining and thus became a viable long-term solution to this wide scale issue.

Dog disturbance need not be a bête noire

So, in answer to the question posed at the outset of this article, for conservationists there is no longer a reason to suffer Churchillian 'black dog' days any more, because the application of a Share-with care scheme can genuinely resolve a real conservation bête noire!

Share-with care is a Limited Liability Partnership. Since 2010 it has undertaken schemes in North Norfolk, Suffolk and Hampshire as well as supporting Forestry Commission greenspace efforts in East London and the Thames Gateway. To find out more, or to discuss a specific project, visit the website at www.share-withcare.org



Learn to survey orchards in Suffolk! Gen Broad, Orchards East

Orchards East (OE) is building on the foundations of the Suffolk Traditional Orchard Group (STOG) project during 2012-2015. This successful Heritage Lottery funded project signed up 170 volunteers who visited over 1,000 possible orchard sites and created a database of 475 confirmed orchard sites.

OE launches have been held in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire and Norfolk over the past six months and survey work is already underway. We will not be holding an event in Suffolk, thanks to the previous STOG work, so we are now inviting volunteers to sign up to survey the remaining unrecorded parishes. We cannot do this without you - Orchards East needs your enthusiasm and skills!

Volunteers will be given guidance and support to complete local parish surveys. These will help to discover how many orchards still exist, which trees remain and how important they are for wildlife. You don't need any particular skills to become an orchard surveyor, just an interest in your own local area and a willingness to spend a few days outdoors!

What's in it for you?

- The chance to learn more about your local area and its past.
- An opportunity to be part of a friendly, supported team.
- The satisfaction of contributing to a large-scale project which will inform conservation and planning decision making.

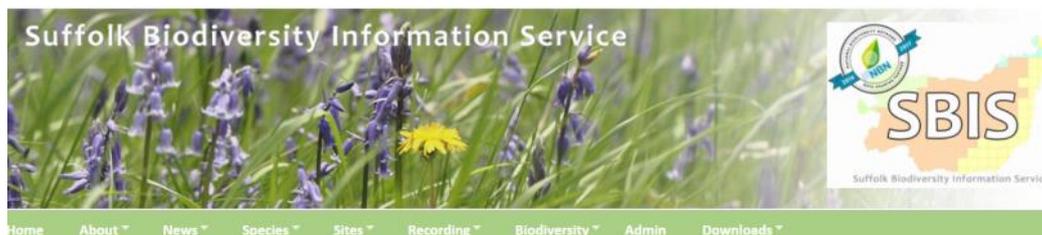
All you need is an interest and enthusiasm for orchards, be keen to walk around your local area using a map and the ability to complete the survey form (we're always on hand to answer questions!)

Please join us - you will be very welcome!

Other volunteering Opportunities

Oral History Project Learn how to do recorded interviews and contribute to our knowledge of peoples' memories, opinions and experiences of orchards in our region. Or, if you have stories to tell about orchards now or in the past and you'd like to be interviewed, please let us know.

Historical Research Project Discovering the historical landscape of orchards can reveal fascinating social and cultural changes over time. **To find out more about volunteering for any of these projects, please contact us:** www.orchardseast.org.uk or g.broad@uea.ac.uk



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 funding for your project.

We welcome species records from the public. You can make a valuable contribution to wildlife conservation - why not try out [SuffolkBro online](#)? It's easy and fun!

All records are verified via iRecord and our County Recorders and then added to our database for Suffolk (currently 4.17 million). Species records help us to understand the distribution and patterns of Suffolk's wildlife as well as informing the conservation activities of key partners and the planning process.

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

Like us on [Facebook >](#)

Share photos on [Flickr >](#)

Newsletter Publication dates : Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.
Deadline for Autumn 2018 newsletter articles: **Friday 19th October 2018.**

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

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

Jane Mason (GIS Officer) email: jane.mason@suffolk.gov.uk, tel: 01473 433571