



ORCHARDS EAST

RECORDING CONSERVING CREATING

December 2019

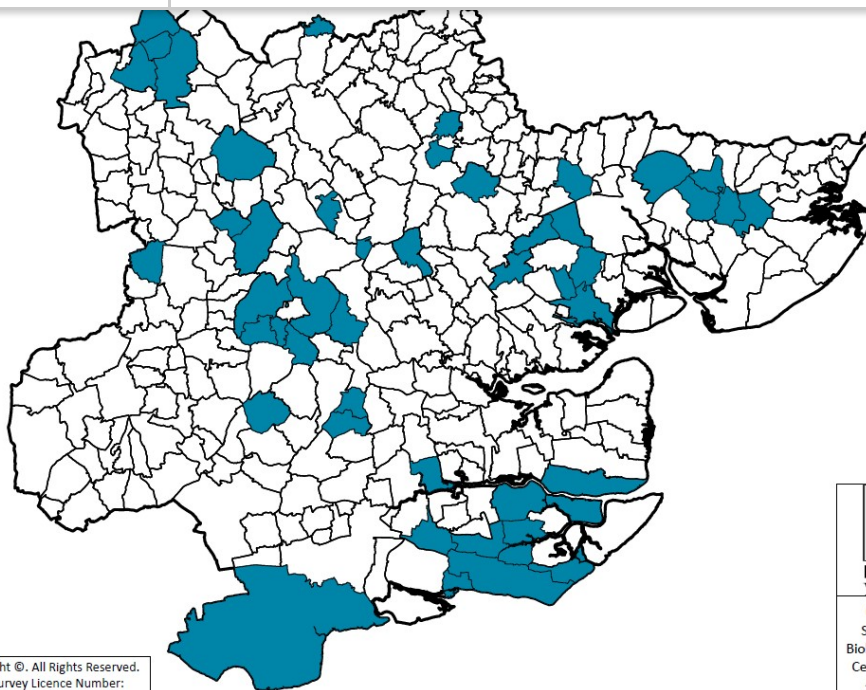
Parish Orchard Surveys

Howard Jones, Project Manager

Our parish orchard survey went into full swing this summer, with results flowing in from our wonderful band of hard-working volunteers across the region! Old orchards are being re-discovered and recorded. Many historic sites have of course been lost – to housing, roads and commerce in the towns and larger villages, and to other crops across the more rural parishes. However, new sites of which we were previously unaware are also regularly recorded, including a number of newly planted orchards.

Great progress has been made as we try to cover as many parishes as possible in East Anglia; as these maps of parishes surveyed so far in Essex and Cambridgeshire show. The maps also show that there is a lot still to do! Many of our volunteers have told us how much they have enjoyed undertaking the survey... giving them a chance to slow down and really look at sites and areas in their locality which they have previously only driven by.

So, if you would like to take on your local parish please let me know. For anyone keen to get further afield I can highly recommend surveys by train and bike; there's nothing much better to do in summer than pedal along green lanes, taking in the countryside, while keeping an eye out for orchards!



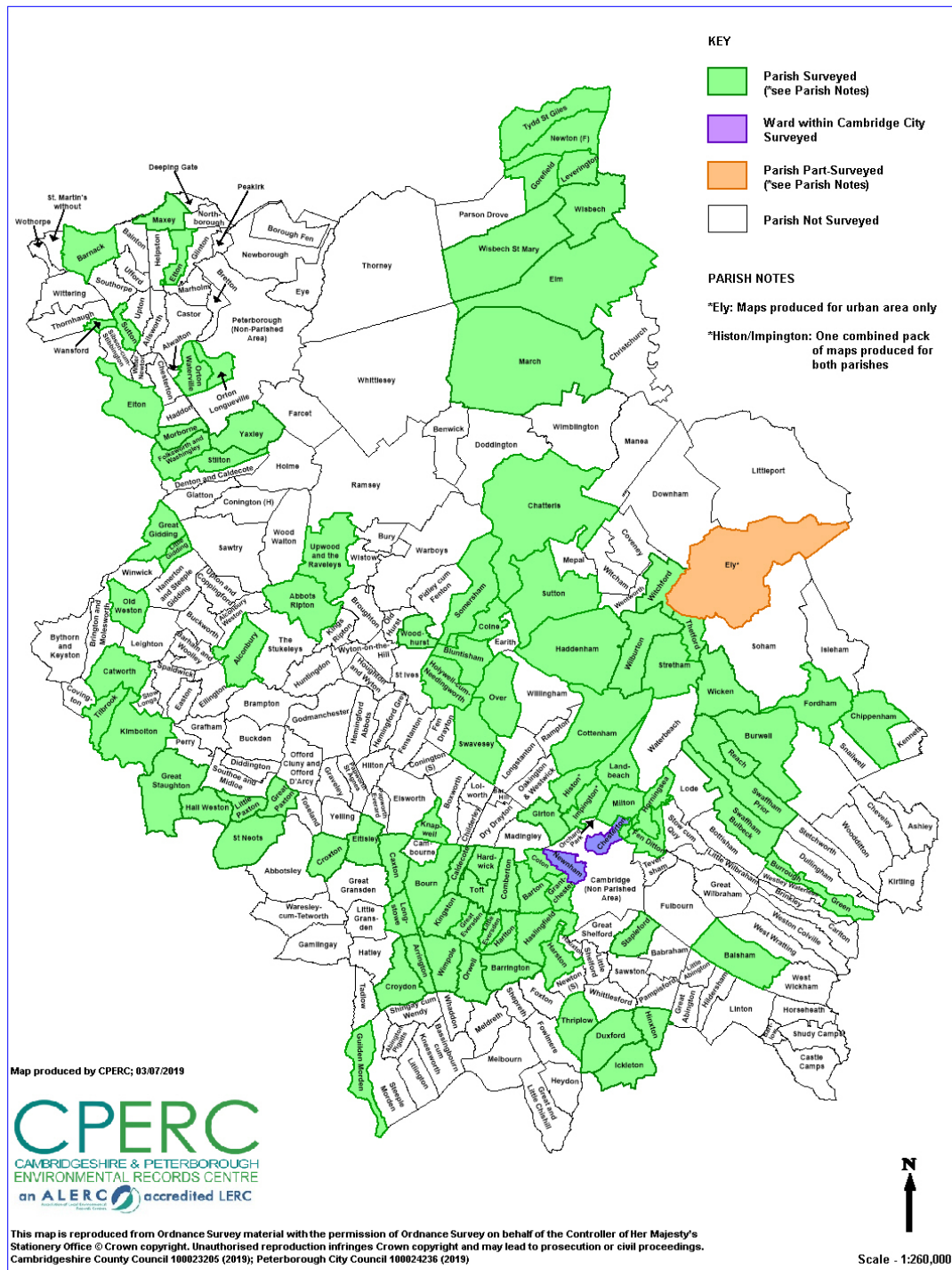
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ESSEX
Wildlife Trust

Created by:
Sarah Binnie,
Biological Records
Centre Assistant
25/03/2019

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, July 2019





It's not often wallabies are used for grazing in the UK! Many thanks to Howard who spotted this unusual sight in north Hertfordshire. During a parish survey in early November, he saw them grazing a small farmhouse orchard, along with chickens, in the parish of Offley.

Henry Kilvert's blog (volunteer orchard surveyor)

It seems that the only apple variety planted in the Wisbech area in the middle of the last century was Bramley's Seedling, but why this was is not clear. Certainly there seemed to be a ready demand both locally with the canners and for transportation around the country, so there would be economies of scale. However, one grower I spoke to believes that the eating apples available at this time came from poor stock and hence prejudiced growers against them. Certainly a very wide selection of eating and cooking varieties are grown today.

Interviewing older and more modern commercial growers, it has been reassuring to learn how many fewer pesticides are used on their crops today. In the past, the orchard owners used to receive a consignment of chemicals at the start of the season and applied them whether they were needed or not. One retired grower talked about how he never used protective equipment. When he applied tar to the trees against spider mites, he returned home with his face stinging at the end of the working day. He also applied Metasystox, an organophosphate, by shaking it through a hessian sack. Today he wonders why he is still alive...

Many of the private orchards are situated in lovely positions inside beautiful walled gardens attached to the large houses. They usually contain a mixture of fruit and vegetables with espalier or fan shaped trees against the walls and free standing trees in about a quarter of the area. You can often see the clear

It has been a great pleasure visiting orchards across the region as we have been universally welcomed by their owners. They are justifiably proud of their orchards and want to share them. Can others be encouraged to learn to love their fruit trees?

Happy memories!

Henry



The owners of Hillfield Nursery in Haddiscoe, Norfolk and some of the 250 varieties available from their orchards. Henry surveyed their orchards for Orchards East.

Orchards East workshops Winter 2019-2020

All workshops are FREE!

Please contact Howard.Jones@uea.ac.uk to book a place

7 December 2019 - Pruning and care of aged apple trees which have already had restorative pruning. Jeacock's Orchard, Cow Lane, Tring, Herts HP23 5NS. 1000-1530. Tutor Anna Baldwin

Ideal for anyone who has attended a previous course on restorative pruning or for those who have trees that have had some restorative pruning work carried out within the last 5 years.

14 January 2020 - Restorative and general maintenance pruning of fruit trees. Greenfield Orchard, No. 41, Mill Lane, Greenfield, Beds MK45 5DG. 1000-1500. Tutor Colin Carpenter

Suitable for those with no pruning experience as well as those with some existing knowledge. The workshop will take place outdoors, and much of the

**19 January 2020 - Community orchard management and Pruning
Stisted Community Orchard, Rectory Road, Stisted, Essex CM77 8AL
1000-1530. Tutor Anna Baldwin**

Includes reformative pruning of half-standard trees more than 10 years old and restorative pruning of veteran fruit trees. No previous pruning experience required. The workshop will take place outdoors, and much of the day will be spent undertaking practical restorative pruning work using hand tools (particularly pole-saws).

**21 January 2020 – Train the Trainer. Fairfield Orchard, Stotfold,
Bedfordshire. 1000-1500. Tutor Bob Lever**

This one-day workshop is only for those with some knowledge of orchard skills who wish to organise and lead orchard work parties and workshops. Content includes site assessment, management plans, resources, practical considerations, risk assessment and practical sessions.

**25 January 2020 - Community Orchard Pruning course. The Red House,
Golf Lane, Aldeburgh, Suffolk IP15 5PZ. 1000-1530. Tutor Anna Baldwin**

Includes reformative pruning of younger fruit trees, and care and restorative pruning of Veteran Fruit Trees.

**1 February 2020 - Community Orchard Pruning course. St Laurence
orchard and nearby allotment sites in Southend. 1000-1530.**

Tutor Anna Baldwin

This one day workshop is aimed at people who care for community orchards, especially those planted in the last 10 years which may contain more mature and veteran trees. Includes formative pruning of young trees and care and restorative pruning of veteran fruit trees, particularly apple trees. No previous pruning experience required. It will not cover establishment of new orchards.

**5 February 2020 - Reformative Pruning on Mature Fruit Trees. Morley St
Botolph, near Wymondham, Norfolk. 1000-1500. Tutors Bob Lever and
Kevin West.**

This one-day workshop is aimed at those with an interest in tackling mature fruit trees which have had little pruning in recent years. The emphasis will be on the care and pruning of apple trees, typically those of between 10 and 30 years of age. No previous pruning experience required.

**10 February 2020 - Train the Trainer. 2 Upper Green, Tewin, Welwyn, Herts
AL6 0LY. 1000-1500. Tutor Bob Lever**

includes site assessment, management plans, resources, practical considerations, risk assessment and practical sessions.

8 March 2020 - The restoration of mature and veteran fruit trees, 40 years and older. Old Hall, Rectory Hill, East Bergholt, Suffolk CO7 6TG.

1000-1530. Tutor Anna Baldwin

This one-day workshop is aimed at those with an interest in caring for older mature and veteran fruit trees. The emphasis will be on the pruning and care of aged apple trees which have already received some restorative pruning. Ideal for anyone who has attended a previous course on restorative pruning or for those who have trees that had some restorative pruning work carried out within the last 5 years.

All tools and Personal Protective Equipment will be provided, although you may bring your own, if you prefer.

Orchard Biodiversity Surveys 2019-2020

Paul Read, Co-Chair of Orchards East

One aspect of Orchards East has been to select up to 20 orchards of different character in various geographical locations and to survey the wildlife that exists on the orchard trees. Some surveys have been done in 2019 and the rest will take place in 2020.

Invertebrates were actively collected on a few mature or veteran trees in each selected orchard over the growing season using branch beating, brushing and, in some cases, powered “pootering” or vacuuming of foliage, and hand searching. The groups found included wood borers, saproxylic invertebrates that live on decaying wood or the fungi of decaying wood, leaf-eaters, sap suckers, pollen and nectar feeders and fruit feeders.

Despite the increasing interest in orchards over the last 30 years, especially the ancient trees typical of traditional orchards, there have been very few detailed species surveys. The survey work by Orchards East will increase our poor knowledge of the wildlife species which inhabit this priority habitat and help to improve management practices.



Adrian Knowles, ecologist, is using a tray of stretched cloth to collect invertebrates that fall from the tree as he beats the foliage with a stick. Some animals are identified easily; others may need to be caught for later investigation. Adrian is using a manual 'pooter' for this. Using a plastic tube he sucks the animals into a storage tube to look at later.



Left: Adrian is using a battery powered vacuum cleaner converted to a “powered pooter”. The vacuum head sucks air and invertebrates off leaves and bark which are then filtered into a special bag.



Right: The invertebrate samples are caught in the filter inside the suction tube.

Cookery activities

Monica Askay ran a cookery session at the Grow Organisation community group in Bowthorpe, Norwich, recently. The group aims to reconnect community and to help Armed Forces and Blue light services veterans, excluded groups and others with mental ill health. Orchards East will be planting a 40 tree orchard for the group in January 2020.



Monica is explaining her selection of apples ready for cooking over a cup of tea

[Follow Grow Organisation on Twitter](#)

Community Orchard Plantings

Listed as Suauesye in the Domesday Book, today's village of Swavesey in Cambridge lies 9 miles to the north west of Cambridge. Thanks to Orchards East, the village now has a new orchard of 40 heritage variety trees, planted on vigorous rootstocks on 25th November.

Orchards East has also helped Holt Country park in Norfolk to establish a new Woodland Orchard and the people of High Town Luton to plant a new orchard in the People's Park. There are 20 trees including the traditional damson Aylesbury Prune and local apple variety Pam's Delight. This variety was first



Swavesey community group

To contact us email howard.jones@uea.ac.uk or g.broad@uea.ac.uk



**Wishing all our readers a
very Merry Christmas and a
Peaceful New Year!**



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