SBIS Newsletter

Pantaloon Bee, Dasypoda hirtipes © Paul Kitchener

Summer 2026

Suffolk's wildlife, our stories

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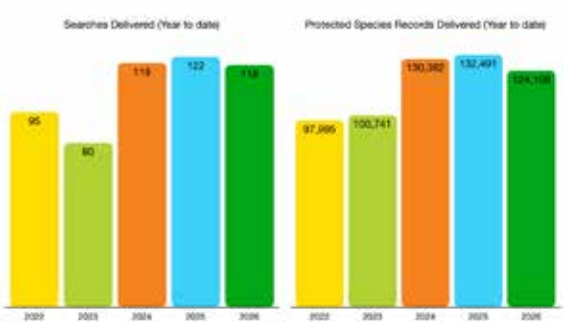
SBIS News

Commercial Data Enquiries

From the start of April 2026 to the end of June 2026, we processed 118 searches, and supplied 124,108 species records. This equates to an average of 9 searches a week with 1,060 records per search.



Projects

Lidar-derived tree canopy polygon data

Data generated for hedgerows is now available on our **Hedgerow Portal**; this includes data on area, height, estimated volume and the total number of tree canopies. We have mapped these quality indicators at parish level and these can be requested free of charge. Additionally, data is available to download in GIS format.

County Wildlife Sites, Roadside Nature reserves, County GeoSites

Suffolk Wildlife Trust continues to rewrite CWS citations, which are regularly added into our database. Behind the scenes we have been working on improving the CWS workspace, creating a new data hub that all our CWS panel members can access and update.

Data updates for SLA Partners

The 6-monthly GIS data updates were made available through our website in June. The next updates will be available in November.

Native Black Poplar Survey

The recording form and map is live and accessible to registered volunteers and Suffolk Tree Wardens. The planted sapling data is now included as a layer on the map, and volunteers are adding new records to this and verifying existing trees. Records of new trees are sent to the Native Black Poplar Recorder, Sue Hooton, to verify.

Ancient Woodland Inventory Update

In October 2025, Natural England approved and published the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Suffolk following work done by SBIS to research and update this dataset.

SBIS Website Knowledge Hub

Explore Ancient Woodland & Trees, in a section that details their importance as rare ecosystems and serves as a gateway to further resources on woodland ecology. A companion section focuses specifically on Suffolk's Ancient & Veteran Trees, offering insights into identifying these remarkable trees and highlighting notable examples across the county as well as signposting you to resources for recording Ancient trees in your area.

Discover the 2023 Suffolk Bat Atlas, a comprehensive publication, produced in partnership with the Suffolk Bat Group, that details the distribution and conservation status of all bat species found in Suffolk, providing invaluable data for conservationists and planners alike. The Suffolk Bat Group have also produced a series of fact sheets for each bat species.

Where do your records go?

Suffolk's Natural Environment Team

Suffolk's natural landscapes – from ancient Breckland heaths to sweeping coastal marshes – are among the most distinctive in England. Safeguarding and enhancing these precious environments is the work of Suffolk County Council's Natural Environment Team.

The team brings together seven areas of expertise. The **Arboriculture** department cares for Suffolk's trees and woodland, while **Ecology** provides expert guidance on wildlife and habitats across the county. The **Landscapes** team works to protect and improve the character of the wider countryside. Two nationally designated areas – **Dedham Vale** and the **Suffolk Coast and Heaths** – are managed through the **National Landscapes** service. The **Brecks Landscape Partnership** champions one of England's most remarkable and rare landscapes, straddling Suffolk and Norfolk. The **Local Nature Recovery Partnership** drives collaborative efforts to restore and connect nature at scale, and the **Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service** underpins it all by collecting, managing, and sharing vital data on the county's wildlife.

Together, these teams form a comprehensive unit, working across boundaries of land, ownership, and discipline to ensure that our natural environment thrives for generations to come.

Team updates

Isolde Cutting, Senior Landscape Officer

Isolde is currently dedicating her time to the Norwich to Tilbury examination, which is rapidly approaching its key milestones. Upcoming dates include Deadline 7 on 21 July and Deadline 8 on 4 August, leading up to the formal closure of the examination on 10 August. In addition, she is preparing feedback for the EcoPower Statutory Consultation following a recent team site visit. Alongside these major projects, Isolde continues to support the enforcement team with aftercare visits and is coordinating an upcoming NEONS (Natural Environment Officers Network Suffolk) outing.

Jen Burlingham, Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Partnership

The LNRS team, in collaboration with members of the Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership (NSNRP), is focusing on embedding the strategy across the region through extensive stakeholder engagement. This outreach includes in-person events, presentations, workshops, and the development of new communication resources.

The team is also actively developing a Monitoring Hub to record nature recovery projects across the counties. This platform will provide greater visibility for ongoing work, demonstrate the positive impact of the LNRS, and show how local efforts feed into national targets. Ultimately, the hub aims to drive collaboration, highlight actions on the ground, and identify future funding potential. To discuss the LNRS or the mapping tools – which can be accessed via the Suffolk County Council website – please contact the team at **lnrs@suffolk.gov.uk**.

Jude Clay, Brecks Landscape Partnership

Bookings for the third annual Brecks Outdoor Festival officially opened at the end of June. Running from 8 to 23 August, the festival will feature 62 events across 25 locations in the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks, all designed to help the public connect with, learn about, and enjoy our natural environment.

The festival is a highly collaborative effort – run in partnership with Wildlife Trusts, town councils, community groups, local farmers, businesses, and volunteers. Following last year's success, which attracted over 1,000 participants, the partnership expects the event to grow by a further 50% this year. The full programme of events, made possible by funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, is available to view and book at **https://brecks.org/brecks-outdoor-festival/**

The SBIS database has grown, and now holds more than

7 million records!

Our 7 millionth record was a juvenile Cuckoo recorded by Robin Harvey at Minsmere on 7 August 2025

The Secret Compass

Bees Tiny Internal Magnets

Emma Aldous, SBIS

For decades, scientists have known that honey bees possess the remarkable ability to sense the Earth's magnetic field. This was first documented in 1977, when researchers observed that placing a magnet near a hive caused female honey bees to alter the orientation of their waggle dances. Because this ability was primarily documented in a few highly social species, scientists assumed that magnetoreception was a specialised evolutionary adaptation linked directly to complex social behaviour.

However, a comprehensive study published in *Science Advances* completely overturns this assumption. An interdisciplinary team of researchers – including Dr Laura Russo, Dustin Gilbert, and Anne Murray from the University of Tennessee – set out to create a definitive catalogue of bee magnetism. They tested 96 different bee species across six families, alongside 47 other insect species, to look for room temperature ferromagnetism. This ferromagnetism acts as the physical signature of microscopic magnetic nanoparticles, such as magnetite, inside their bodies. To achieve this large sampling, the team sourced specimens from extensive global collections, including those of York University and the Smithsonian.

The results reveal that magnetism is nearly universal amongst bees. Out of the 96 bee species tested, 74 showed clear evidence of ferromagnetic particles. Remarkably, this magnetic signature is not restricted to social species. Solitary bees and cleptoparasitic "cuckoo" bees also carry these internal magnets. The team detected similar ferromagnetism in several non-bee outgroups, including wasps and hoverflies. This widespread presence suggests that this magnetic navigation tool actually evolved before bees (the Anthophila) existed, potentially dating back to a common ancestor over 150 million years ago.

While magnetism is widespread, the strength of the magnetic signal varies significantly depending on several traits. The researchers found that larger bees tend to have more and larger magnetic particles. Eusocial species and cavity-nesting bees also exhibited stronger magnetic signals on average compared to their solitary counterparts. This variation implies that whilst the biological machinery for magnetoreception is ancient, different species have likely tuned their magnetic sensitivity to match their lifestyle requirements – such as navigating back to a tiny, hidden cavity in a tree or coordinating complex group foraging activities.

The biological mechanics behind this internal compass present another mystery. The leading mechanistic theory suggests that bees utilise sub-100 nanometre ferrimagnetic nanoparticles derived from iron found in the pollen they consume. However, studying their diets raises interesting questions. While all bees consume pollen during their larval stages, adult diets differ significantly between the sexes. Female bees actively feed on pollen as adults, whereas males consume much less, yet ferromagnetism persists regardless of these dietary discrepancies.

To locate the exact position of these internal compasses, the researchers dissected a subset of the bees. Although previous smaller studies had primarily focused on magnetic particles located in the antennae or the metasoma (the abdomen), Russo and her team discovered that the strongest relative magnetic signals were actually located in the mesosoma (the thorax). Detailed measurements showed that the mesosoma held a significantly higher percentage of saturation magnetisation than both the head and metasoma. In half of the dissected bees, magnetic particles were found distributed across all three main body parts: the head, thorax, and abdomen.

This study suggests that bees navigate their environments using a highly complex, multi-part magnetic map rather than a single sensory organ. It highlights a fascinating, dimension in the lives of solitary bees. It appears these tiny insects may rely on the Earth's magnetic fields for short-range navigation. Showing that even the smallest pollinators in our gardens might be reading the global magnetic field to find their way to and from their home.

Reference

Russo, L., Allen, C., Jorgensen, C. S., Quigley, L., Buchanan, C. C., Winklhofer, M., Brady, S. G., Packer, L., Murray, A., & Gilbert, D. A. (2026). Broad presence of ferromagnetism in bees and relationship to phylogeny, natural history, and sociality. *Science Advances*. **https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.aed7391**

Understanding the River Lark

Why River Restoration Is Never One-Size-Fits-All

Ros Alexander, River Lark Catchment Partnership

Conserving a river isn't quite like other forms of conservation management. A river is an entire system of tributaries and drainage ditches and, in the case of the River Lark, of springs and groundwater. What happens on an upstream stretch of a minor tributary can have profound effect twenty miles downstream on the 'main' river.

Rivers also exist in a landscape, a so-called 'catchment'. This is a word which doesn't quite do justice to the different processes at work, not just on the surface, but underground. The 'morphology', the nature of the bedrock and its overlaying sediments, determines how water flows, and where. In the Lark's case, this morphology is the result of prehistoric forces of glaciation and deposition.

A river thus has a specific prehistory, but also a unique history: what we humans have done to it and its hinterland over the last hundred, two hundred, two thousand years.

Nationally, our rivers share many of the same problems – only 15% are currently classified as being in good health. But because of their unique histories and prehistories, no two rivers are alike. There is therefore no one-size-fits-all solution to their restoration. The recent fads of river restoration – 'dig and dump', 'rewiggling', 'stage zero' – are doomed to expensive failure if the resulting 'restored' river is incapable of maintaining itself. The River Lark Catchment Partnership (RLCP), a registered charity devoted to river restoration, water quality monitoring, and public engagement has been around long enough to realise that one or two projects we undertook ten or more years ago, according to the best advice available at the time, have not worked as well as we had hoped.

This failure is usually because the river is no longer in the right place, morphologically. Old maps such as Hodskinson's fascinating map of Suffolk (1783), show that by the end of the eighteenth century, the Lark had already been straightened, diverted, and impeded by weirs and locks to support water mills and the navigation of coal barges. Since then, it has been regularly dredged and embanked to prevent the natural flooding of the flood plain. It is now chronically over abstracted both from the stream and from the underlying aquifer, for industry, agriculture, and the public water supply. As a result, and ironically, sometimes the only thing that keeps a stream flowing in summer is the treated effluent from Water Recycling Centres (sewage treatment centres).

Meanwhile, the rigorous draining of the landscape to grow arable crops means that in winter those same little streams can become raging torrents, washing large quantities of silt (farm soils, road run-off, and untreated storm overflows from those same sewage treatment

centres), into the river. Fish and invertebrates, the basis of the food chain, can neither move upstream to spawn because of the concrete impediments, or lay their eggs in the silt. So although flood and drought may seem like opposites, they have the same cause: a lack of the natural storage of water in the landscape. Without that water, there are no habitats for wildlife. Unpicking the entrenched human habits that have brought us to this situation is not an easy task.

The River Lark and its landscapes

The Lark headwaters and four of its main tributaries start at about the 100m mark on the eastern end of the Newmarket chalk ridge south of Bury St Edmunds. They then fan out northwards, before converging at various points downstream. The Lark catchment thus occupies four National Landscape Characteristic areas. Three tributaries (the River Kennet, and the Cavenham and Tuddenham streams) cross the chalk grasslands near Newmarket, but the River Linnet and the Lark headwaters, which descend 50m over the course of a mile, have incised themselves deep into the thick alluvial clay deposits that support the grade 1 and 2 farmland south and east of Bury. It is no accident that the town of Bury St Edmunds and its enormous 11th Century Abbey nestle on a slight rise in the ground in the corner where the Linnet and the Lark meet. These waters supported an inland fishing industry, created rich alluvial soils, and supplied a means of transport sufficient to bring huge quantities of building stone for the abbey from near Peterborough.

North of Bury St Edmunds in what is conventionally regarded as the true chalk stream section, the river is supported by springs direct from the chalk aquifer. It crosses the sandy soils of the distinctive Brecks landscape before becoming part of the great fen of eastern England. Due to the drainage projects starting in the seventeenth century there it is now entirely canalised,

Installing a sediment tube

confined and embanked metres above the surrounding drained peat farmland. It ultimately merges with the Great Ouse downstream of Prickwillow. The Lark's peat, however, is not just confined to the fenland section. There are significant peat deposits even in the headwaters, sometimes buried as much as 3 metres deep.

The catchment also has a political history. The nobles who generated the Magna Carta met at the Abbey of St Edmund; the townsfolk who objected to the Abbey's taxes rioted on several occasions. The dissolution of the monasteries resulted in the distribution and sale of its wealthy farmland, resulting in large private estates. The catchment now occupies most of the new unitary authority of West Suffolk.

River restoration therefore exists in a very complex context of ownership, history, and competing expectation. There is of course the question common to any form of restoration: which point in history are you restoring to, and why? But there is also the difficult question of 'how?' because centuries of landscape use and attempted manipulation mean that underground and above ground flow patterns can be disrupted and difficult to determine.

We are therefore immensely grateful to the Environment Agency for funding a Fluvial Audit for the Lark by the inventor of that technique, Professor David Sear of the University of Southampton. Throughout 2025, metre long sediment tubes (simple plastic pipes with a nozzle at each end), secured 10 cm above the river bed at ten sites across the catchment, collected suspended silt particles as they were transported downstream. These silt samples were emptied regularly by us, dried out and packed off down to Southampton, where they were analysed. Although focused on one particularly large, indeed nationally significant area of peat deposit in the chalk stream section of the catchment, the resulting report also included preliminary mapping of the morphology of the entire catchment, including the headwaters. The result has been transformative. It shows that the Lark is in fact four different types of river in one, and that each needs to be approached differently.

The Lark's chalk stream section is of course hugely important. It is, after all, the designated flagship chalk stream for East Anglia, and chalk streams, as everyone knows, are rare natural phenomena, mostly confined to southeast England, and capable of supporting huge biodiversity. But just as exciting to

me, was the report's identification of the section of catchment around and upstream of Bury St Edmunds, as a 'beads on a string' landscape: a river that flows gently across flattish terrain which, when it crosses some underlying glacial depression, spreads out to form instream wetlands, pools, or meres. This evocative description has previously only been identified in the scientific literature in a montane area of North America. But it is this distinctive underlying morphology, which has created the countless potential peat deposits in the landscape around Bury. This is what made the landscape now known as the 'Bury water meadows', and which is preserved in certain placenames, such as Sicklesmere, where the large mere is currently drained almost out of existence.

The Future

For RLCP, 2026 has therefore been a period of planning and preparation. We are talking to landowners and to other potential and future project partners, including the major Heritage Lottery funded project, the 'Abbey of St Edmunds Reborn'. We are developing a programme of public engagement, and of work with local schools, and we are pursuing funding, particularly for the all-important scientific studies, which are crucial to a proper understanding of the catchment, but which are usually very difficult to fund. We now have a small but highly experienced core staff, who are ground-truthing the Fluvial Audit through sediment coring to establish the exact location of paleo-channels, and installing dip wells to test the height of current water tables, both in preparation for a potential large peat rewetting project near Icklingham. Through our loyal volunteers, Citizen Scientists, and some Seneye continuous water sensors, we are monitoring water quality in the river, and as host of CamEO (the Cam, Ely Ouse Catchment Partnership) we are coordinating our region's response to the Environment Agency's 'Programme of Measures' – the RNAGs, or Reasons why so many of our rivers are 'Not Achieving Good'. In addition, we have recently formed a new farm cluster across the 'beads' landscape, the Lark and Little Ouse Headwaters Cluster, to pursue Nature-based Solutions for improvements to water quantity and quality. One of our cluster members is Little Haugh Farm, whose beavers featured in the Spring SBIS newsletter.

We are always ready to welcome new volunteers for both river restoration and Citizen Science monitoring, and are keen to recruit new trustees from all backgrounds and walks of life who would be able to help or advise on the increasing diversity of projects in which we are involved. More details can be found on our website: **https://riverlark.org.uk**, where you can also read the Fluvial Audit. If you would like to get involved, please contact us.

The Rewilding Debate

Ambition Versus Practicality in a Farmed County

Emma Aldous, SBIS

Few concepts in modern nature conservation provoke as much passion, hope, and fierce disagreement as rewilding. To its proponents, it represents a radical and necessary shift away from micro-managing species toward restoring dynamic, self-sustaining natural processes. To its critics – particularly within the agricultural sector – it can feel like an ideological threat to rural food production and land stewardship. In a county like Suffolk, where agricultural land covers over 70 per cent of the total area, this debate is not a distant theoretical exercise. It is playing out across our arable fields, estate parklands, river valleys, and coastal heathlands.

Suffolk's landscape is defined by human hands. From the heavy clay soils of High Suffolk to the light sands of the Sandlings and the Breckland, centuries of drainage, hedgerow removal, and intensive cropping have created one of the most productive agricultural counties in the United Kingdom. Yet this agricultural efficiency has come at a severe ecological cost. The UK's State of Nature reports have repeatedly highlighted historical declines in arable flora, farmland birds, soil invertebrates, and native pollinators. Against this backdrop, the ambition to 'rewild' parts of East Anglia offers a compelling vision for ecological recovery.

The regional catalyst for this vision has been the WildEast movement, launched in 2020 by local landowners including Hugh Somerleyton, Argus Hardy, and Olly Birkbeck. WildEast set an audacious regional goal: to dedicate 20 per cent of East Anglia's land area – roughly 250,000 hectares – back to nature over a 50-year period. Rather than relying solely on government grants or traditional nature reserves, WildEast encourages every land manager, from estate owners and commercial farmers to parish councils, churchyards, and garden owners, to pledge a portion of their land to nature recovery.

At the heart of the rewilding philosophy is the restoration of natural processes. This includes reintroducing lost keystone species – such as beavers, wild cattle, and free-roaming pigs – to act as nature's ecosystem engineers.

At sites like the Somerleyton Estate and several private nature restoration projects across Suffolk, large herbivores like Red Poll cattle, Exmoor ponies, and Tamworth pigs are allowed to range across mosaic landscapes. Their grazing, browsing, root-trampling, and wallowing create dynamic micro-habitats: open glades, bare earth patches for solitary bees, and thorny scrub thickets that provide nesting cover for nightingales and turtle doves.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT) offers another example of this shift, both on its own land and out in the wider community. At Black Bourn Valley, near Norton and Thurston, SWT is letting former arable fields find their own way back to nature. The first field was taken out of production more than twenty years ago and has grown into dense hawthorn, blackthorn and dog rose thicket, a valuable habitat for blackcap and other warblers in summer, and for redwing and fieldfare flocks in winter. Arable farming across the reserve ceased entirely in 2017, and the fields have followed their own trajectory since then: bristly oxtongue and thistle now dominate, drawing in yellowhammer, linnet, and hovering skylark, with grasses and scrub expected to take over in time. Riverside meadows are lightly grazed by cattle, and a series of new

scrapes and ponds has produced striking results: seventeen nationally or locally notable aquatic invertebrates recorded by volunteers, along with the nationally scarce Tassel Stonewort, earning the reserve Flagship Pond Site status from the Freshwater Habitats Trust. Slow-worm and grass snake have since colonised the developing scrub and grassland mosaic.

SWT is careful to frame this as an experiment rather than a fixed plan. The Trust monitors how the habitat continues to change, and treats the results as a working case study for how quickly former arable land can recover its value for wildlife when active management is largely stepped back.

This is just part of SWT's wider work, as the Trust's 50 reserves cannot provide the space nature needs on their own. Its Landscape Recovery team works directly with farmers, landowners, and communities across the county, advising on wildlife-friendly land management and helping reconnect habitat along river valleys, road verges, hedgerows, and woodland so that species can move safely between sites.

The principle that recovery has to extend beyond reserve boundaries, drives SWT's Wilder Communities programme. Towns, villages, schools, and workplaces across Suffolk are encouraged to treat their own green spaces, from churchyards and allotments to village greens, as part of the same connected network. The Trust runs practical courses on churchyard wildlife management and community planning for wildlife, alongside webinars on land purchase for community groups, and provides a map on which people can log their own actions for wildlife, allowing corridors to be traced as they take shape across the county and connecting local activists with one another.

Together, the two strands make the case that rewilding in Suffolk isn't confined to headline reintroductions or large estates: it is also happening quietly, field by field and garden by garden, wherever people choose to give nature a little more room.

However, the ambition of widespread rewilding runs headlong into the practical realities of farming in an eastern lowland county. When landscape-scale rewilding proposals gained prominence, reaction from the farming community was mixed, with many expressing deep reservations. Organisations such as the National Farmers' Union and local tenant farmers raised significant concerns regarding food security, land valuation, and economic viability.

A central point of contention is the argument between 'land sparing' and 'land sharing'. Land sparing – the model often favoured by strict rewilders – advocates taking significant areas of land out of agricultural production entirely to allow wild ecosystems to recover. Critics argue that taking prime Grade 2 and Grade 3a agricultural land out of production in Suffolk simply shifts the burden of food production elsewhere. If grain or root vegetable yields fall in East Anglia, the shortfall must be met by importing food from countries with potentially lower environmental and animal welfare standards, effectively exporting the UK's ecological footprint abroad.

Tenant farmers also face structural barriers. A tenant operating on a short-term Farm Business Tenancy cannot easily pledge 20 per cent of their acreage to natural scrub succession without breaching tenancy agreements or forfeiting the farm income required to pay rent and service debt. For smaller family farms operating on tight margins, taking land out of production without guaranteed, long-term financial remuneration is financially impossible.

In response to these tensions, a pragmatic middle ground is emerging: the integration of regenerative farming and nature-friendly practices into active agricultural systems. Rather than viewing farming and nature as mutually exclusive choices, many farmers are adopting methods that combine food production with environmental enhancement.

The ongoing transition in UK agricultural policy – moving from the EU's area-based Basic Payment Scheme to Environmental Land Management schemes – is accelerating this shift. Through the Sustainable Farming Incentive, Countryside Stewardship, and Landscape Recovery schemes, farmers are incentivised to deliver 'public goods'. These include soil health improvement, herbal leys, cover cropping, integrated pest management, broad field margins, and hedgerow restoration.

This pragmatic approach focuses on functional connectivity rather than wholesale land abandonment. In Suffolk's arable heartlands, establishing 10-metre unsprayed grass margins, beetle banks, floristically enhanced margins, and restored hedgerow networks allows wildlife to move through the landscape without removing entire fields from cereal or sugar beet production. Soil health, too, is a critical bridge between farming and rewilding. Minimum tillage (zero-till) systems, cover crops, and livestock integration restore soil organic matter and fungal networks, boosting worm populations, water retention, and carbon sequestration while maintaining crop yields.

Where full-scale rewilding makes the most practical sense in Suffolk is on marginal land, river floodplains, and coastal transition zones. Along the valleys of the Waveney, Little Ouse, Deben, and Alde, restoring natural floodplains and allowing beaver-engineered wetlands creates vital buffer zones against drought and flood events. Projects led by Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Natural England, and private estates demonstrate that river corridors and

low-yield marshland can yield huge biodiversity returns when natural hydrology and native vegetation are allowed to regenerate.

Ultimately, the debate over rewilding in Suffolk should not be viewed as a binary conflict between wild nature and commercial agriculture. True landscape recovery in a farmed county requires ideological flexibility. WildEast's vision of a connected nature network across 20 per cent of East Anglia is essential for reversing species decline; yet achieving it requires tools that work alongside food production.

By combining process-driven rewilding on marginal soils and floodplains with regenerative, nature-friendly practices on productive arable land, Suffolk can build a resilient, multi-functional landscape – one that produces food for the nation while restoring space for wild nature to thrive.

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Bill Sutherland's Rewilding Playlist

For readers who want to go deeper into the science and practice behind the debate explored in this issue, Professor Bill Sutherland's YouTube channel, Conservation Concepts, offers an outstanding free resource. Sutherland is Miriam Rothschild Professor of Conservation Biology at the University of Cambridge and one of the most influential figures in evidence-based conservation, known for insisting that good intentions are not enough – that conservation decisions should be grounded in rigorous evidence about what actually works.

Conservation Concepts distils decades of research into short, accessible videos covering the mechanisms, history, and practicalities of ecological restoration. Sutherland's Rewilding Playlist, a dedicated strand within the channel, is a particularly rich companion to this issue's feature. It moves well beyond the polarised ambition-versus-practicality framing that so often dominates public debate, and instead unpacks the underlying ecology: how keystone species such as beavers and bison reshape landscapes, why deadwood and disturbance matter to forest health, and what the fossil and pollen record can tell us about the habitats we are trying to restore.

Several videos speak directly to themes raised in our rewilding feature. Sutherland's explanation of conservation grazing sets out, in practical terms, how different herbivores – cattle, ponies, pigs – shape vegetation structure in distinct ways, echoing the grazing regimes now in use at sites like the Somerleyton Estate. His video on beavers and flood prevention offers useful context for Suffolk's own beaver-engineered wetlands along the Waveney and Little Ouse, while his piece on wood pasture and ancient pollards is a reminder that some of the most valuable habitats in a rewilding landscape are also among the oldest and slowest to recreate.

The playlist does not shy away from complexity or disagreement within the field itself. Videos on Clementsian and Gleasonian succession, and on the origins of domestic cattle, dig into long-standing scientific debates about how ecosystems assemble themselves and what a genuinely 'natural' baseline might look like, questions that sit at the heart of the land sparing versus land sharing argument discussed opposite. Others take a broader, more global view: the role of fire in shaping eucalyptus forest versus rainforest, or lessons on wildfire management from the Rockies, are directly relevant given Suffolk's own recent experience with heathland and woodland fires this summer.

What makes the series particularly valuable for a Suffolk audience is its refusal to romanticise rewilding as a simple fix. Sutherland is as interested in the seed disperser crisis and the practicalities of managing inbreeding in reintroduced populations, such as the Przewalski's horse, as he is in the more headline-grabbing successes of large herbivore reintroduction. For anyone weighing up the arguments set out in our feature, whether from a conservation, farming, or purely curious perspective, this is a genuinely evidence-led way to explore the subject further.

Many thanks to Bill for allowing us to share this resource with SBIS readers. **Watch the playlist**

Natural Flood Management in Practice

Jordan Bull and Ed King, River Waveney Trust

The DEFRA funded Diss Natural Flood Management (NFM) project is focused on using natural processes to provide flood relief in vulnerable areas, within subcatchments of the River Waveney around Diss. Types of work include leaky dams, ponds/scrapes, and re-meandering to 'slow the flow' and increase water storage capacity within our catchments. The project works with local property owners (both commercial and residential) to carry out these NFM interventions.

To date the project has completed several deep soil aeration campaigns, which involve injecting organic matter into the soil profile. The aeration creates cracks and fissures within the soil profile, increasing soil porosity and waterholding capacity. This will allow the treated soils to soak up greater volumes of water during flood events.

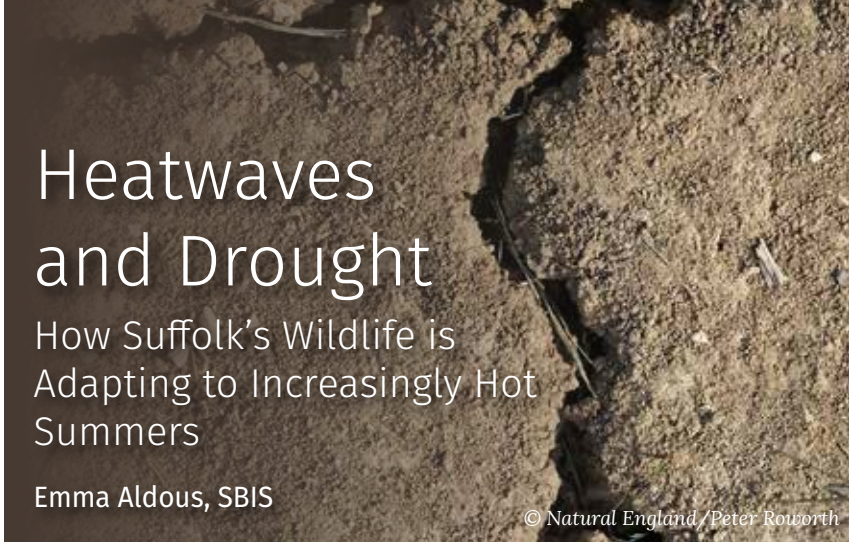
The addition of organic matter will help to maintain the newly created porosity by providing a structural support which will hold open the newly created cracks and fissures, ensuring that the treatments are long-lasting.

A project to increase storage and slow the flow in Gissing has also been completed. This consists of a large scrape, with a surrounding retention bund, and an overflow channel to a nearby scrape. These features work to slow the flow during flood events, and increase water storage capacity by 120 m^3, providing critical flood relief to the village of Gissing, as well as creating new habitats and supporting a more bio-diverse ecosystem.

Looking across the Waveney catchment more broadly, March saw our most recent and fourth gathering of the Waveney Flood Group, and it was very well supported by our partners from the Environment Agency, Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils, the Internal Drainage Board and Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. We were also joined by colleagues from the Wildlife Trusts, the Broads Authority and Catchment Sensitive farming.

Particular challenges that were discussed included difficulty accessing maintenance payments and schemes for landowners; and possible barriers for project delivery caused by permitting and planning requirements, which aren't always designed with Nature-based Solutions in mind. Successes were shared about project funding and delivery for Natural Flood Management in both Norfolk and Suffolk; and exciting opportunities for developing catchment scale projects on the Starston Beck in Norfolk and the River Dove in Suffolk were discussed.

We were delighted to be joined by Richard Powell, OBE, the chair of the Anglian Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, who highlighted the importance of supporting communities to better understand flooding and climate change. Richard encouraged partners to maintain momentum, continue collaboration, and persist in seeking solutions and resources.



Heatwaves and Drought

How Suffolk's Wildlife is Adapting to Increasingly Hot Summers

Emma Aldous, SBIS

East Anglia has long been recognised as the driest region in the UK, receiving an average annual rainfall under 600 mm. However, the climate trajectory of recent years has pushed Suffolk's ecosystems into uncharted territory. Hotter, drier summers, punctuated by prolonged droughts and record-breaking heatwaves, are reshaping the county's natural habitats. From drying chalk streams to desiccated heathlands, Suffolk's wildlife is being forced to adapt, relocate, or face severe local declines.

Water scarcity is the most immediate stressor for local ecosystems. During extended drought periods, river flows plunge to critical levels. In shallow chalk streams and fen dykes, low water levels and elevated summer temperatures reduce dissolved oxygen levels, causing severe stress to native fish populations such as Brown Trout and Bullhead, as well as aquatic invertebrates.

In wetland strongholds, maintaining high water tables has become a primary conservation challenge. Ditches and peat soils shrink and crack when dried, releasing stored carbon and exposing rare aquatic flora. Damp-loving species, such as the Fen Raft Spider, rely on stable water margins to build their nursery webs. Conservation managers have had to install sluices and water control structures to trap every drop of winter rain within reserve boundaries.

Terrestrial habitats face similar pressures. In ancient woodlands shallow-rooted trees such as Beech are showing severe drought distress, early leaf drop, and canopy dieback. Hard-baked summer soils prevent earthworms from surfacing, severely impacting soil macroinvertebrates and cutting off key food supplies for Song Thrushes, Badgers, and Hedgehogs.

The parched heather and gorse of our heathlands also present a dangerous wildfire risk during heatwaves, as shown by the recent devastating fire at Dunwich Heath.

Yet, while hot summers create severe hardship for cold-adapted and wetland species, they are also driving remarkable shifts in species distribution. Suffolk is currently on the frontline of northern range expansions for Mediterranean and southern European invertebrates. A notable beneficiary of warming conditions is the Wasp Spider, whose large, orb-web structures are now a frequent sight across southern and eastern Suffolk grasslands. Insect species with high thermal tolerances, such as the Hummingbird Hawk-moth, are arriving in greater numbers from continental Europe, with evidence suggesting some are successfully overwintering in the county.

Similarly, the Willow Emerald Damselfly, first recorded in the UK near Felixstowe in 2009, has spread rapidly across East Anglia, aided by long, warm summers. The Southern Migrant Hawker and Norfolk Hawker have also expanded their breeding ranges into new sites across Suffolk.

To build ecological resilience against climate extremes, landscape managers are adopting adaptation strategies. The Environment Agency, in partnership with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and local catchment partnerships, is prioritising riparian tree planting along riverbanks. Planting native trees like Black Poplar and Alder along watercourses provides dappled shade, reducing water temperatures by several degrees during summer heat waves and suppressing algal blooms.

Natural flood management and wetland creation are also proving vital. Allowing beavers to establish wetland complexes creates deep, permanent water pools that remain filled even during severe droughts, acting as climate refugia for amphibians, birds, and aquatic insects. On agricultural landscapes, restoring traditional farm ponds – historically scattered across Suffolk's fields – provides essential stepping-stone water sources across dry farmland.

The reality of increasingly hot summers means that conservation in Suffolk can no longer rely solely on preserving historical habitat conditions. Protecting existing water resources, shade creation, and expanding connected habitat networks are essential if Suffolk's native wildlife is to withstand the heatwaves of the future.

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New campaign urges public to help prevent wildfires this summer

Wildlife Wise, a partnership project dedicated to protecting the Suffolk Coast's wildlife habitats, is spearheading a new fire awareness campaign supported by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS).

Launched in May to coincide with Wildfire Awareness Month, the Wildfire Free Suffolk campaign aims to protect wildlife in coastal, heathland and woodland habitats by raising awareness of how fires in the open start and how they can be prevented.

Across Suffolk last year, from January to mid-November, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service attended 310 fires in the open at varying levels of severity - an increase of 105 incidents compared to the previous year.

In response, the campaign will install impactful signage in high fire-risk areas along key tourist routes. Displaying the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service crest, these signs will be placed on roads, in car parks and along footpaths at wildlife sites across the county.

The signage warns of the dangers of lighting disposable barbecues and campfires outside designated areas, reinforcing key fire safety messages developed in partnership with the Fire Service. Additional messaging urges visitors to take all litter home, including cigarettes and e-cigarettes, which can contribute to wildfires during hot, dry weather.

During hot weather, the public is urged to:

- Avoid lighting barbecues and campfires near vegetation such as grass, heathland or woodland - only use them in designated safe areas
- Leave no trace - take all litter home or dispose of it in bins provided
- Ensure cigarettes and smoking materials are fully extinguished and disposed of responsibly - vapes should be taken to dedicated recycling points
- Douse disposable barbecues with water, allow them to cool completely, then dispose of them in household (black) bins - never in public bins

Sam Kench, Wildlife Wise Delivery Manager, said: "As the weather gets warmer – with a heatwave on the way, we want people to enjoy spending time outdoors, but we are asking visitors not to bring sources of fire to our wildlife sites. Dry grass and vegetation can ignite very quickly, and fires in the open can spread rapidly, killing wildlife and destroying important habitats."

He added: "While many people are aware that cigarettes are a common cause of outdoor fires, fewer realise they also contribute to plastic pollution, posing a dual risk to wildlife. Similarly, disposable vapes - which are becoming increasingly common - can ignite if exposed to extreme temperatures. That's why they should only ever be disposed of at dedicated recycling points. We have already lost many hectares of habitat across Suffolk to fires in the open in recent years, and the risk continues to rise as temperatures increase. This is why we've launched this campaign."

Alex Smith, Tactical Wildfire Advisor at Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, said: "Campfires and disposable barbecues should only be used in designated areas, which are carefully selected to be well away from anything that could catch fire, such as dry grass, shrubs, trees or wooden structures.

"It only takes a small spark to start an outdoor fire, which can spread rapidly - especially during prolonged dry conditions.

"By preventing fires before they start, we can protect our communities, preserve natural habitats and wildlife, and reduce pressure on the Service, supporting our wider prevention work across the county."

If you see a fire outdoors:

- Get to a safe place
- Note the exact location - use what3words if possible (**https://what3words.com**)
- Call 999 and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service
- Provide as much information as possible
- If requested, meet fire crews at the nearest access point.

Formally Protected Dark Sky Areas in Suffolk?

Emma Aldous, SBIS

When night falls over East Anglia, Suffolk boasts some of the most tranquil, unspoiled nightscapes in southern England. From the windswept shingle beaches of Orford Ness to the open heathlands of the Sandlings and the quiet valleys of the West Suffolk Brecks, expansive starry skies remain a defining feature of our rural heritage. Yet, as light pollution increases across the UK, questions are being asked: can Suffolk formally protect its night skies, and could the county gain its first officially designated Dark Sky Reserve or Park?

Artificial Light at Night (ALAN) is increasingly recognised by ecologists as a major driver of biodiversity loss. Glare, skyglow, and light trespass disrupt the natural rhythms of nocturnal species. In Suffolk, excessive artificial lighting fragments foraging corridors for rare bats – including the Barbastelle (Barbastella barbastellus) and Soprano Pipistrelle (Pipistrellus pygmaeus). Light pollution also disorients night-migrating birds, suppresses the bioluminescent mating signals of glow-worms (Lampyris noctiluca), and causes severe mortality among nocturnal moths and aquatic insects.

Currently, Suffolk possesses recognised Dark Sky Discovery Sites – public places identified as accessible, safe, and offering clear views of the stars with low ambient light pollution. Key designated locations include Westleton Common, the Suffolk Coast National Nature Reserve at Blythburgh, Dunwich Heath, and the newly established Dedham Vale Dark Sky Discovery Centre at Thorington Street.

However, local conservationists and astronomical groups have higher ambitions: gaining international accreditation through DarkSky International (formerly the International Dark-Sky Association). An International Dark Sky Reserve or Park status requires meeting stringent light-quality standards, conducting extensive night-sky brightness monitoring, and implementing comprehensive lighting masterplans with statutory local planning support.

The teams behind the Suffolk Coast & Heaths National Landscape and the Dedham Vale National Landscape (formerly Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) are leading efforts to protect the night sky. In collaboration with local councils and Darkscape Consulting, they published the Landscape Lighting Design Guide. This document provides practical guidance for planners, developers, and householders, advocating warm-white LED fixtures (under 2700 Kelvin), full cut-off shielding to direct light downwards, motion sensors, and strict curfew controls.

Suffolk County Council has already taken positive steps by implementing part-night street lighting policies across rural areas, dimming or turning off streetlamps between midnight and 6 am. To achieve formal international status, however, tighter planning controls on commercial developments, road infrastructure, and agricultural security lighting will be required.

Gaining formal Dark Sky accreditation for areas within the Suffolk Coast & Heaths or Dedham Vale would deliver dual benefits: safeguarding critical nocturnal habitats for Suffolk's wildlife while boosting sustainable eco-tourism during the winter months. Protecting our night skies ensures that the county's natural darkness remains an enduring sanctuary for both wildlife and stargazers.

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Suffolk's Dragonflies and Damselflies

A Summer Survey Guide

Emma Aldous, SBIS

Ruddy Darter © Bas van Hulst-Kuiper

Summertime in Suffolk brings one of nature's most thrilling aerial spectacles: the emergence of dragonflies and damselflies (order Odonata). With our diverse mosaic of coastal dykes, river corridors, heathland pools, agricultural ponds, and broadland fens, Suffolk supports over 30 breeding species of Odonata. Whether you are an experienced recorder or a curious beginner, conducting a summer dragonfly survey is an ideal way to contribute directly to county conservation data.

Key Species to Look Out For

Suffolk's wetlands hold several regional indicator species, ranging from recent colonisers to specialist fen inhabitants:

Willow Emerald Damselfly *Chalcolestes viridis*: Historically a rare vagrant, this species established its first UK breeding population near Felixstowe in 2009. It is now widespread across Suffolk. Unlike most damselflies, it lays its eggs endophytically into thin, soft bark of overhanging trees (especially willows and alders). Look out for distinctive gall-like oviposition scars on drooping branches over water.

Norfolk Hawker *Anaciaeschna isosceles*: Despite its name, Suffolk is a vital stronghold for this Priority Species, particularly around SWT Carlton Marshes and the lower Waveney Valley. Instantly recognisable by its striking bright green eyes, clear wings, and yellow triangular patch on the second abdominal segment (S2).

Southern Migrant Hawker *Aeshna affinis*: A striking, warmth-loving hawker with vibrant sky-blue eyes and a bright blue mosaic abdomen in males. It is expanding rapidly along coastal marshes and sunny shelterbelts in eastern Suffolk.

Images:
Willow Emerald Damselfly © Nathalie Vansi, Norfolk Hawker © theresfungusamungus, Southern Migrant Hawker © Ian Ballam

Ruddy Darter *Sympetrum sanguineum* vs Common Darter *Sympetrum striolatum*: Common along farm ponds and field ditches. Male Ruddy Darters display a deep blood-red, waist-like constriction on the abdomen and completely black legs, whereas male Common Darters have orange-red abdomens with yellow-striped legs.

Banded Demoiselle *Calopteryx splendens*: Found fluttering along slow-flowing rivers such as the Stour, Deben, and Gipping. Males feature broad dark blue-black metallic patches across the center of their wings.

Surveying Guidelines and Technique

To conduct an effective dragonfly survey, follow these best practices:

1. **Timing and Weather:** Odonata are cold-blooded and require heat to fly actively. Choose warm, still, sunny days between late May and early September. The optimal survey window is between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm, when temperatures exceed 17°C.
2. **Equipment:** A pair of close-focusing binoculars (8x32 or 10x42) is essential for observing skittish hawkers and perched damselflies without causing disturbance. A camera with a macro or telephoto lens aids verification, alongside a notebook and field guide (such as the Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Great Britain and Ireland).
3. **Recording Life Stages:** Look beyond free-flying adults. Record ovipositing females, mating pairs in the 'wheel' position, and inspect emergent vegetation (reeds, sedges, iris stems) for exuviae – the shed larval skins left behind after adult emergence. Finding exuviae provides definitive proof of successful local breeding.
4. **Key Survey Sites:** Excellent public sites for surveying in Suffolk include SWT Carlton Marshes, Lackford Lakes, Redgrave & Lopham Fen, RSPB Minsmere, and RSPB Lakenheath Fen. However, surveys of under-recorded farm ponds, parish churchyards, and local woodland rides are equally valuable.

Submitting Your Records

Biological recording transforms casual observations into actionable conservation policy. Please record the species name, exact location (preferably a 6-figure grid reference or precise GPS point via a smartphone app), date, weather conditions, numbers observed, and life stages.

Submit your survey data directly via the iRecord app/website or send spreadsheet records to the Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service (SBIS) or the Suffolk County Dragonfly Recorder. Your data helps track the impact of climate change, wetland restoration, and habitat loss across Suffolk.

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Images:
Ruddy Darter © Erland Refling Nielsen
Banded Demoiselle © Remco Hofland

Species	Key Identification Features	Preferred Suffolk Habitat
Willow Emerald Damselfly	Metallic green body, pale pterostigma	Overhanging willows on ponds/dykes
Norfolk Hawker	Bright green eyes, yellow S2 triangle	Grazing marsh dykes & fen ditches
Southern Migrant Hawker	Sky-blue eyes, bright blue mosaic	Coastal wetlands & sunny ditches
Ruddy Darter	Blood-red abdomen, all-black legs	Vegetated ponds & still waters
Banded Demoiselle	Iridescent blue, dark wing patches	Slow-flowing rivers & streams

White Tailed Sea Eagle © Wade Tregaskis

The Return of the White-Tailed Eagle to East Anglia

Emma Aldous, SBIS

Soaring on massive, broad wings spanning up to 2.5 metres, the white-tailed eagle (Haliaeetus albicilla) is Britain's largest bird of prey. Often described by naturalists as a 'flying barn door', this apex aerial predator was once a widespread component of lowland England's wetland and coastal landscapes. However, centuries of relentless persecution, egg collecting, and habitat destruction led to its total extinction as a UK breeding species by the early 20th century, with the last English birds shot in the late 18th century.

Today, we are witnessing an extraordinary ecological comeback. Thanks to groundbreaking reintroduction initiatives, satellite tracking, and landscape restoration, the white-tailed eagle is returning to the skies of East Anglia, bringing back a lost wild element to Suffolk's estuaries, heaths, and river valleys.

The catalyst for the eagle's return to southern Britain began in 2019, when the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation and Forestry England launched a multi-year reintroduction project based on the Isle of Wight, licensed by Natural England. Young eagles collected under licence from wild nests in Scotland were released along the south coast. The objective was to re-establish a self-sustaining southern English population that would eventually link up with breeding populations in mainland Europe.

Subsequent proposals were developed to release white-tailed eagles directly in East Anglia at Wild Ken Hill in West Norfolk. Although the direct release plans at Wild Ken Hill faced delays, Natural England issued the necessary licences, and East Anglia's vast wetland networks quickly proved an irresistible magnet for wandering birds released from the Isle of Wight, as well as wild vagrants crossing the North Sea from the Netherlands and Scandinavia.

White-tailed eagles are highly exploratory during their juvenile and sub-adult years, often roaming hundreds of miles across the country before settling into fixed breeding territories around age four or five. Satellite tracking data from the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation has revealed that East Anglia – and Suffolk in particular – has become one of the premier roaming hubs for these young eagles.

Over the past few years, several colour-ringed birds have frequented Suffolk. Young eagles such as male G625 and female G818 have spent weeks exploring the

Tracked Eagle ID	Origin / Project	Primary Suffolk Locations Visited
G625 (Male)	Isle of Wight Project (2023)	Mickle Mere, Brecks, West Suffolk
G818 (Female)	Isle of Wight Project (2023)	Suffolk Coast, Blyth Estuary
WN88 (Female)	Wild European Origin (Netherlands)	Coastal Estuaries & River Meadows

county's rich wetland corridors. High-frequency satellite telemetry shows these birds favouring the Breckland margins around Bury St Edmunds, Lakenheath, and Mickle Mere, before following river channels down to the coastal estuaries of the Blyth, Alde, Ore, Deben, and Stour.

Observations in Suffolk have recorded eagles hunting fish and waterbirds at RSPB Minsmere and Suffolk Wildlife Trust's coastal reserves. In early 2024, birdwatchers and naturalists were treated to the sight of immature white-tailed eagles – including bird G625 alongside a wild Dutch-ringed eagle (WN88) – co-existing and foraging across Suffolk's river meadows.

The presence of an apex predator with a 2.5-metre wingspan inevitably raises questions regarding ecological impacts and interactions with existing land uses. Concerns have been voiced by some members of the farming community, particularly outdoor pig producers and sheep farmers, regarding potential predation on young livestock and lambs.

Addressing these concerns transparently has been central to the reintroduction project's strategy. Extensive dietary monitoring in Scotland, the Isle of Wight, and continental Europe shows that white-tailed eagles are primarily scavengers and opportunistic predators. Their natural diet consists predominantly of fish (such as mullet, pike, and carp), waterbirds (such as ducks, geese, coots, and gulls), rabbits, and carrion.

Project staff work directly with local landowners, farmers, and gamekeepers across East Anglia, providing real-time tracking updates, field advice, and support where eagles roost near livestock operations. Experience from southern England and the Netherlands indicates that when natural prey – particularly waterbirds, fish, and abundant lagomorphs – is plentiful, conflict with livestock is extremely rare.

Ecologically, the white-tailed eagle plays a vital role as a keystone species. By scavenging on deer carcasses and dead fish, eagles perform essential sanitary services within ecosystems. Their hunting activities exert top-down pressure on waterbird populations, preventing over-concentration of waterfowl in sensitive wetland zones and creating dynamic, multi-layered food webs.

Additionally, interactions between white-tailed eagles and other resident raptors in Suffolk have provided fascinating observational science. Local birdwatchers have documented Marsh Harriers, Buzzards and Peregrine Falcons mobbing visiting eagles – a natural territorial reaction to an immense aerial competitor.

The crucial question for Suffolk naturalists is whether white-tailed eagles will move from transient visitors to resident breeding pairs. East Anglia offers ideal habitat conditions: extensive, undisturbed coastal estuaries, large inland lakes, abundant fish and waterfowl stocks, and tall mature woodland stands suitable for constructing massive stick nests (eyries).

As reintroduced populations in southern England mature and pair up, it is highly likely that Suffolk will see its first breeding pair of white-tailed eagles in over two centuries within the next decade.

The return of the white-tailed eagle represents a triumph for British nature restoration. To stand on the Suffolk coast at Minsmere or Blythburgh and watch the unmistakable silhouette of a giant sea eagle soaring over the saltmarshes is a powerful reminder of what our landscape once was – and what, with visionary conservation and community collaboration, it can become again.

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Adders and Other Reptiles on Suffolk's Heathlands

Emma Aldous, SBIS

© Sue Cro

Suffolk's lowland heathlands are habitats of international conservation importance. Characterised by dry heather, gorse, sandy soils, and sunny woodland edges, these open landscapes support all four of East Anglia's native reptile species: the Adder, Grass Snake, Common Lizard, and Slow-worm.

Among these, the Adder holds a special place as Britain's only venomous snake. Instantly recognisable by the bold, dark zig-zag pattern running down its back and its striking red eyes with vertical slit pupils, the adder is a master of camouflage. However, national and local studies indicate that they are facing a population crisis, making Suffolk's heathland strongholds more vital than ever.

The Declining Status of the Adder

Historically widespread across English countryside, adder numbers have plummeted over the last half-century. A landmark national survey, Make Tracks for Reptiles (conducted by Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the UK - ARG UK), revealed that small, isolated adder populations are declining rapidly across Britain, with many predicted to disappear entirely within the next decade without conservation interventions.

In Suffolk, key remaining strongholds exist on protected Sandlings sites – such as Blaxhall Common, Sutton and Hollesley Commons, and previously at Dunwich Heath, and RSPB Minsmere – alongside Breckland reserves like Knettishall Heath and Cavenham Heath.

The primary threats facing Suffolk's adders include:

1. **Human Disturbance and Dogs Off-Lead:** Adders rely on basking in open, sunny spots in early spring (February and March) to raise their body temperature and develop sperm and embryos. Disturbance from recreational visitors and off-lead dogs forces snakes to flee back into cover, draining energy reserves and disrupting breeding cycles.
2. **Habitat Loss and Fragmentation:** Historical destruction of heathland has left remaining populations isolated in island-like pockets, a situation worsened by the recent loss of a significant area of lowland heath to wildfire at Dunwich. Adders rarely cross wide agricultural arable fields or busy roads, so genetic exchange between colonies was already limited, and the reduction in available habitat leaves surviving colonies more isolated still.
3. **Inappropriate Management:** Over-grazing by livestock or sudden, large-scale mechanical clearing of gorse and heather can destroy crucial hibernation sites (hibernacula) and remove essential thermal cover.

Practical Heathland Conservation in Action

In an attempt to halt these declines, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Natural England, the National Trust, and the RSPB are working to deliver targeted reptile conservation across the county's heathlands.

Hibernaculum Structural Design Specifications

Top Layer: South-Facing Turf & Soil Bank for Spring Basking
Insulated Core: Logs, Timber Stumps, Rocks & Loose Organic Materials
Base Layer: Well-Drained Sandy/Subsoil Base above Groundwater Level
Access: Multiple Narrow Tunnels & Crevices facing South-Southwest

A cornerstone of this effort is the construction of artificial hibernacula. Adders hibernate underground from October to February, requiring dry, frost-free chambers above the water table. Conservation teams build hibernacula by digging pits roughly two metres wide, filling them with logs, tree stumps, and rocks, and capping them with soil and turf to create south-facing basking banks.

Landscape teams are also using heatmapping data to identify 'fringe' populations and build habitat corridors. Creating un-mown heather corridors, sunny rides, and field margin strips allows adders, common lizards, and slow-worms to travel safely between fragmented heathland blocks.

Companion Species

The Grass Snake thrives where heathland meets wetland. Identifiable by its olive-green body, black bars, and distinctive yellow or orange neck collar, it is an excellent swimmer that hunts frogs, toads, and newts in pools and dykes.

Common Lizards and Slow-worms are widespread across sunny banks, boardwalks, and heather glades. Both species provide an essential food link for predatory birds such as Kestrels and Hobbies .

How Visitors Can Help Protect Suffolk's Reptiles

When visiting Suffolk's heathlands between March and October, you can play a crucial role in helping reptile survival:

- **Stick to main paths:** Avoid walking through dense heather and grass tussocks where snakes bask and hide.
- **Keep dogs on short leads:** Dogs naturally investigate scents along path edges, leading to accidental bites or severe disturbance to basking adders.
- **Report sightings:** Take a photograph from a safe distance and log your reptile sightings with the Suffolk Amphibian and Reptile Group (SARG) or via iRecord or the SBIS website.

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The Australian landhopper in Suffolk

Arcitalitrus dorrieni (Hunt, 1925) (Amphipoda: Talitridae)

Jerry Bowdrey

On 14th April 2026 I lifted a watering can in a shady corner of my Kelsale garden (TM387650) and was surprised to see some dark, flea-like invertebrates springing into the air!

At around 1 cm in length they were obviously too large to be fleas and on closer examination they looked rather like the sandhoppers familiar from local beaches.

Reference to Gregory (2016) revealed them to be *Arcitralitrus dorrieni* known variously as Land Hoppers, Lawn Shrimps or Australian Mud Shrimps, an Antipodean terrestrial amphipod established in the British Isles.

A. *dorrieni* is a nocturnal detritivore, feeding on dead leaves and other plant material, and was first found in the UK in the Isles of Scilly in 1924, where it is believed to have been accidentally introduced with tree ferns. Since then, it has been found more widely on the British mainland, though more rarely in the east, the first Suffolk record being from under logs in Chantry Park, Ipswich, by Matthew Garnham in 2020.

Whether this exotic introduction will impact our native invertebrates is yet to be established, but in the meantime, next time you are in the garden have a look under your watering cans and flowerpots!

Arcitalitrus dorrieni
© Jerry Bowdry

Acknowledgement: Thanks to Martin Sanford at SBIS for the Ipswich record.

Reference

Gregory, S. J. 2016 On the terrestrial landhopper *Arcitalitrus dorrieni* (Hunt, 1925) (Amphipoda: Talitridae): Identification and current distribution. *Bulletin of the British Myriapoda and Isopod Group* 29, 9-13.

The Pantaloon Bee

Emma Aldous, SBIS

If you have ever watched a bee disappear into a sandy bank and wondered what on earth it was doing, there is a good chance you were watching Dasypoda hirtipes *– the Pantaloon Bee.*

Male Dasypoda hirtipes (Pantaloon Bee) © Paul Kitchener

Pantaloon Bees are one of Britain's most distinctive solitary bees, named after the extraordinary tufts of pale orange hair on its hind legs, which flare outward like old-fashioned pantaloon trousers. These are not just decorative. They are among the most efficient pollen-collecting structures found anywhere in the bee world.

An Exceptional Excavator

The Pantaloon Bee is a mining bee – a ground-nester that excavates its own burrow rather than using a ready-made cavity. But where most mining bees dig modest tunnels, *Dasypoda hirtipes* is an engineer of a different order. A single female may excavate a burrow up to 1.5 metres deep, shifting remarkable quantities of sand in the process. The spoil she deposits at the entrance forms a characteristic fan-shaped mound – one of the most reliable signs of her presence. Once inside, she constructs a series of brood cells, each provisioned with a ball of pollen mixed with nectar, on which she lays a single egg before sealing the chamber and moving on.

The hairy 'pantaloons' are central to this operation. Acting like dust-pans, they carry enormous loads of pollen back to the burrow – far more than the pollen baskets of social bees can typically manage. A single provisioning trip can carry enough pollen to be visible from several metres away, giving the bee an almost comical, heavily-laden appearance in flight.

Where to Find It in Suffolk

The Pantaloon Bee is a specialist of warm, open, sandy habitats – the kind of landscape that Suffolk, with its Breckland heaths and sandy coastal margins, provides in abundance. In Britain, it is largely restricted to the south and east of England, and Suffolk represents an important stronghold for the species. It has been recorded at a number of sites across the county, particularly on well-drained sandy soils where vegetation cover is sparse enough to allow nesting.

The flight season runs from late June through to August or early September. Females are most easily observed during the middle of the day when they are actively foraging or carrying pollen back to the nest. The fan shaped spoil mounds at burrow entrances are often the first clue that a colony is present – look for them on bare sandy paths, embankments, and the margins of heathland tracks.

Record your Sighting

Like all solitary bees, the Pantaloon Bee plays a vital role in pollinating wildflowers – in this case with a particular preference for members of the daisy family, including hawkbits and hawkweeds. Its dependence on open sandy ground makes it vulnerable to habitat loss through vegetation succession, development, and the tidying-up of the kind of 'unimproved' bare ground that many people mistake for wasteland.

Recording sightings of *Dasypoda hirtipes* in Suffolk is especially valuable. Distribution data helps identify which sites support active colonies, informs land management decisions, and allows conservationists to track any changes in range over time. If you find a fan shaped mound on sandy ground with a large, heavily furred bee nearby, note the location – ideally with a grid reference – and submit your record through the SBIS website or the iRecord app.

The Pantaloon Bee is one of those species that rewards a second look. Slow down, watch for the pantaloons, and you will see one of Suffolk's most remarkable insects going quietly about its extraordinary work.

When to intervene

Rescue and Rehabilitation of Birds of Prey

Amber Hanys

Rescue and rehabilitation of animals is a careful process that should not be taken lightly. Helping when it is not needed can be detrimental to the animal and cause more problems than good. Unnecessary intervention can separate animals from their parents, increase stress, or reduce their chances of surviving in the wild.

Birds, especially birds of prey, can be very good at hiding illness or injury. This is why properly assessing the situation is crucial before attempting to help. Taking a few moments to observe the bird from a safe distance can often tell you whether intervention is actually needed.

Adult Birds

In most cases, if an adult bird of prey lets you approach or touch it, there is a high chance that something is wrong. Healthy birds are naturally wary of people and will usually fly away before you get close.

If you find an injured or unwell bird of prey, seek advice from a wildlife rehabilitation centre or veterinary practice before attempting to handle the bird.

Young Birds

Young birds found on the ground do not always need rescuing. The first step is identifying whether the bird is a nestling or a fledgling, as this will usually determine whether intervention is needed.

Nestlings

Nestlings are very young birds that are not yet ready to leave the nest. They may be covered in down feathers, which is the fine, fluffy undercoat beneath the adult feathers. If a bird leaves the nest too early, it is vulnerable to cold, starvation, predators and other dangers, and is unlikely to survive without help.

If you find a nestling on the ground and you can safely return it to its nest, this should always be the first option. If the nest cannot be reached, or the bird appears injured, contact a wildlife rehabilitation centre or veterinary practice for advice before attempting further intervention.

Fledglings

During spring and early summer, many young birds of prey leave the nest as part of their normal development. These youngsters are often mistaken for injured or abandoned birds when, in fact, their parents are usually close by and continuing to care for them.

Fledglings spend time on the ground or in low branches while they strengthen their wings and learn to fly. They may have only a few downy feathers remaining amongst their adult plumage and, although they may appear vulnerable, this is an important stage of their development. Removing a healthy young bird

unnecessarily can separate it from its parents and significantly reduce its chances of survival in the wild.

If the bird is bright, alert and uninjured, the best course of action is usually to leave it where it is and observe from a distance. The parents will often return once people have moved away.

Common Birds of Prey

The following are some of the most common young birds of prey that people contact us about. Although the guidance above applies in most cases, there are some important differences between species.

Tawny Owls

Before fledging, Tawny Owlets leave the nest before they can properly fly and move between nearby branches in a process called branching (*see main image*). They are often mistaken for nestlings as they are still covered in a lot of down, but their parents will continue to feed and protect them during this time, even if they are on the ground. Tawny Owlets are very capable climbers and can make their way back up a tree using their beak and talons.

If you find a Tawny Owlet on the ground, this is normal behaviour and the best way to help is to either leave it alone or place it on a nearby branch or another elevated, sheltered position close to where it was found.

However, if the owlet appears too young to be out of the nest, is visibly injured, weak, or is found close to immediate dangers such as busy roads, dogs or deep water, help may be needed. Always contact a wildlife rehabilitation centre or veterinary practice for advice before intervening.

Barn Owls

Barn Owls are very different from Tawny Owls. Unlike Tawny Owlets, Barn Owl chicks remain in the nest until they are capable of flight. If they leave or fall from the nest too early, the parents will not continue to feed or care for them on the ground.

Barn Owls are a specially protected species under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. While all wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law, Schedule 1 species receive an enhanced level of legal protection, so it is important to seek advice before intervening.

If you find a young Barn Owl out of the nest, it should always be treated as needing assistance. Contact a wildlife rehabilitation centre or veterinary practice as soon as possible for advice.

Other Birds of Prey

Many other birds of prey, including Kestrels, Little Owls, Buzzards, and Sparrowhawks, leave the nest before they become strong, confident fliers. During this stage they may spend time on the ground, on fences, rooftops or in low branches while they build strength and develop their flying skills. Their parents will continue to feed, protect and encourage them as they learn.

If you find a young bird of prey that appears bright, alert and uninjured, the best course of action is usually to leave it where it is. If it is in immediate danger, such as on a road or somewhere easily reached by predators, it can be moved a short distance, where it is safe to do so, to a nearby elevated or sheltered position where the parents can still locate and care for it. However, if the bird appears injured, weak, unable to stand, or has obvious signs of illness, contact a wildlife rehabilitation centre or veterinary practice for advice before intervening further.

If You're Unsure

If you are unsure whether a bird needs help, contact a wildlife rehabilitation centre or veterinary practice **before** intervening. A quick phone call can often prevent unnecessary rescue and give it the best chance of surviving in the wild.

Suffolk Owl Sanctuary
03456 807897 **www.owl-help.org.uk**

Slimy Fruited Stonewort (Nitella capillaris) © jvntd

The largest known Slimy-fruited Stonewort population in the UK

Christopher Roberts, Ilketshall St. Andrew and St John Land Management Company

In the far north of the county between Halesworth and Bungay are the villages collectively known as 'The Saints'. It is within one of these scattered settlements, Ilketshall St. Andrew, where there is a good news story.

The village of Ilketshall St. Andrew is set around 80 acres of Common Land and is unusual in that the surrounding ancient grassland has no known owner, with those known and registered as commoners having 'Rights' which are specifically restricted to grazing. Dotted around the commons are a number of ponds with the parish having 14.2 ponds per km^2 which positions it in the highest 13% or so of pond densities in Suffolk. To put this into context, Suffolk, along with Cheshire and parts of Norfolk, has the highest pond density in the UK. The ponds are a good example of a pond cluster where hedgerows, ditches and grassland, are managed by volunteers of the Ilketshall St. Andrew and St. John Land Management Company.

Once every three years a survey is commissioned on a number of selected ponds with a report produced summarising status and future management recommendations. The report builds on previous surveys which were initiated going back to 2008. Ponds change over even a short period of time and the report highlights just how complex their ecology can be. Furthermore, it illustrates how important it is to be both vigilant and patient when dealing with them.

The most recent survey was undertaken earlier this year revealing that a pond on Great Common held the largest known population of the Slimy-fruited Stonewort *Nitella capillaris* in the UK. This priority plant species was thought to be extinct in the UK until re-discovered 10 miles away and then first recorded in Ilketshall St. Andrew in 2023 along with the Nationally Scarce Clustered Stonewort *Tolypella glomerata*. Both were again recorded in May 2026 with good populations in the shallow water that had been patch-scraped in October 2025.

These are both priority stonewort species which benefit from late summer/early autumn patch-scraping and other disturbance that mimics historical cattle and sheep access to ponds. The stoneworts require clean water and plenty of bare substrate to germinate on. Their oospores can survive 100+ years and germinate when conditions are right. The known distribution of the Slimy-fruited Stonewort in Suffolk (and the UK) is still confined to just seven ponds and this largest known UK

population is certainly the 'jewel in the crown' and something the management company of volunteers is justifiably proud of.

The presence of no fewer than 12 ponds around the commons demands constant attention with general maintenance and restoration carried out primarily during the winter period. Such works include the cutting back of invasive sallows with selected ponds being patch scraped on a rotational basis. This work, which at first glance appears somewhat brutal, is vital in terms of their management and mimics the natural effect of grazing by cattle in years gone by.

With the rotational pond restoration and programme of sensitive ongoing patch-scraping it is hoped that plant diversity will continue to improve and the excellent population of rare species such as the Great Crested Newt are maintained. Pond margins being regularly well maintained by routine summer strimming ensures they do not scrub over which also has the benefit of keeping ponds accessible and aesthetically pleasing.

In 2017 all the commons were awarded the designation of County Wildlife Site (CWS) demonstrating their key role in the conservation of Suffolk's biodiversity. Suffolk has over 900 County Wildlife Sites, amounting to 19,200 hectares and covering 3% of the county. The designation is non-statutory, but recognises the high value of the site being characteristic and supportive of threatened species and habitats. Suitable sites can vary in size and shape from small meadows, churchyards, green lanes, dykes and hedges to larger areas of ancient woodland, heathland, greens, commons and marsh.

The CWS status demonstrates the commitment and enthusiasm involved in the maintenance of the commons and highlights the importance of careful management to protect and enhance wildlife habitats which can all too easily deteriorate if neglected or managed in an unfavourable way.

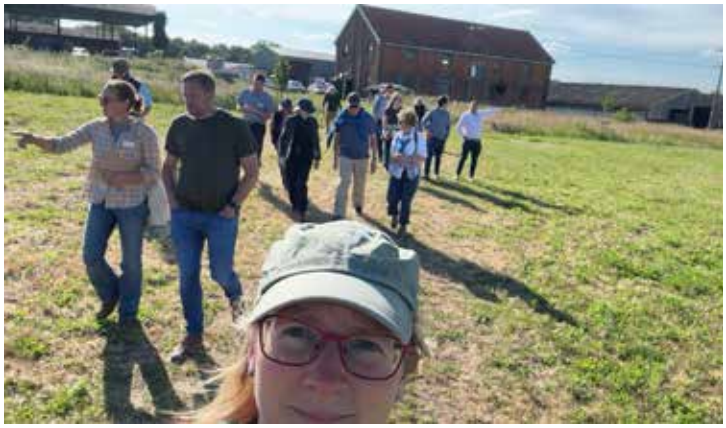
Visitors to the commons of Ilketshall St. Andrew and St. John are encouraged to park at the village hall and walk the various permissive pathways which surround this very special and historic landscape.

Pond 4. Great Common South after removal of invasive Reedmace - October 2025

Field Notes

The People Protecting our County: A Deeper Look

Behind every map, every planning response, and every biodiversity record is a person with a passion for the Suffolk landscape. While many of us know our colleagues by their email signatures, we rarely get to see the "why" behind their work. In this new series, we are going beyond the job description to uncover the stories, the drive, and the occasional mud-splattered reality of life in the Natural Environment team. This month, we sit down with Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership Manager, Jen Burlingham.



The Quick-Fire Round

Wellies or walking boots? Walking boots – always.

Early bird in the field or night owl in the office? Early bird, though not in the field as often as I'd like.

The one Suffolk species that always makes you stop? Oaks in the landscape. There is something about a veteran oak that demands a moment of quiet attention.

Essential kit? A way to demonstrate the mapping. If you can show people what you mean, the conversation changes entirely.

Desk view or site view? Site view – without question. The desk will always be there; the landscape won't wait.

The Deep Dive

How do you describe your role to someone outside the world of local government? My official title is Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership Manager. Now that we have created a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for each county, my role is to work with a wide range of stakeholders and experts to try to deliver nature recovery on the ground – to make a genuine, positive change to habitats and species across the region, and to bring with it the wider environmental benefits that all residents deserve. It is about translating strategy into action, and ensuring that the work we have done on paper begins to show in the landscape.

The "Spark" Moment: Was there a specific memory that set you on this career path? I've always been heavily involved with the natural world, inspired by my parents and family always having an interest and involvement in conservation and working on the land. I think spending many walks with my dad searching for various species, including always looking for slowworms under anything we could turn over, really cemented it.

The Hidden Challenge: What is one aspect of your job that might surprise people? That I had to learn how to update website content. For someone whose expertise lies in landscape-scale nature recovery, suddenly finding myself navigating content management systems was firmly outside my comfort zone. It is a reminder that even roles rooted in ecology and partnership working come with their share of unexpected demands.

The Suffolk Legacy: If you could fast-forward twenty years, what change do you hope your work will have achieved? That the Local Nature Recovery Strategy is still being used and referred to – in whatever form it has evolved into by then – and that significant, visible change has happened on the ground. The real measure of success would be if the conversations have moved on: if we are no longer grappling with the same issues, but dealing with new ones, because the old ones have been resolved.

The Motivation: When the paperwork piles up and the skies are grey, what is your "why"? Getting as many people involved as possible. Nature recovery cannot be delivered by one person, or even one organisation. It requires individuals, community groups, landowners, and institutions all pulling in the same direction. On the difficult days, that sense of collective purpose – of building something larger than any single role – is what keeps the work meaningful.

Dedham Vale Forum 2026

Tom Fairbrother,
Dedham Vale National Landscape

The Dedham Vale National Landscape team is delighted to open up registration for the 2026 Dedham Vale Forum, taking place on Thursday 17th September at the fantastic Firstsite in Colchester.

The annual free event aims to bring together anyone with an interest in the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley, which includes beloved places such as Flatford, Dedham, Nayland, Stoke by Nayland and Bures.

This year's event will feature talks on:

- Wetland enhancements for birds in the Dedham Vale
- Preserving our dark skies and international recognition
- Engaging Stour Valley communities with nature
- The Bottengoms project and Ronald Blythe

Speakers will be from the National Landscape team, as well as the Dedham Vale Society and the Essex Wildlife Trust. There will be lots of time for Q&As, networking and free refreshments.

Tickets are completely free and you can find out more and book online at **https://dedhamvaleforum.eventbrite.co.uk**.

The Dedham Vale National Landscape sits along the Suffolk-Essex border and was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1970 with the purpose of conserving and enhancing the habitats and biodiversity.

Mapping the Senses

Discover Felixstowe's New Local Nature Initiative

Dr. Adrian Cooper

The **Felixstowe Citizen Science Group** has published a new **website** which encourages local people to enjoy local natural environments - and to then create their own maps of those locations. The benefit of this fascinating new initiative is to ask members of the public to engage more thoughtfully with their natural surroundings, and to record the sights, sounds, fragrances, touch experiences and tastes which mean the most to them. Ultimately, the website is aimed at increasing the numbers of people who volunteer to help wildlife conservation in local areas.

To see examples of recently created maps, please check out the **Photo Gallery** section of the website.

In other news from Felixstowe, their Citizen Science Group has recently completed a map of England which shows the influence across the nation which the **Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve** has achieved. The map shows the locations of each community group which has adopted and adapted the ideas of Felixstowe's Community Nature Reserve. The map has been a great encouragement to Community Nature Reserve members.

Webinars, Training and Events

Conferences

Movement Ecology Annual Meeting 2026
Movement Dynamics in a Changing World

2–3 September 2026,
University of Cardiff

Organism movement and biologging

https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/content/movement-ecology-annual-meeting-2026/

CIEEM 2026 Scotland Conference: *Fieldwork Futures: Innovations in Ecological Practice*

29 September 2026,
Glasgow

Exploring how ecological data provision is being reshaped

https://events.cieem.net/events/details/?id=69bc844b-4073-42a2-8f9b-c8ff49107f7d

SNS & NNNS Joint Conference 2026: *Recording for Nature Recovery*

10 October 2026,
Diss Corn Hall

Showcasing new technologies in Bio-recording: AI, Bioacoustics, DNA, Drones, Multi-taxon auditing, Thermal imaging, UV light.

https://sns.org.uk/sns-meetings-and-events/

NBN Conference 2026
Nature as National Resilience

19 November 2026,
Royal Armouries, Leeds

Turning biodiversity data into action for people, place and a changing climate

https://nbn.org.uk/news-events-publications/nbn-conference-2/nbn-conference-2026/

BSBI – Botanical Skills Webinars

Recordings of the BSBI webinars are now available on their **YouTube channel**


Getting started with Flower Anatomy


Getting started with Plant Keys


An Introduction to Equisetum


Grasses and grassland habitats


Getting started with Plant Anatomy


Lepidoptera and Plants


Dryopteris in Northern Ireland


Beginners Grasses, Sedges & Rushes


Getting started with Cotoneasters

Suffolk Wildlife Trust

- Trimley Marshes Bird Ringing Demo • 15 Aug
- Guided monthly walk: Dancing dragonflies • 16 Aug
- Walk at Lackford Lakes • 22 Aug
- Wildlife Wander • 26 Aug
- Nature Walk at Martlesham Wilds • 29 Aug
- Friday evening walk at Orwell Country Park • 4 Sep
- Talk: Discovering lichens • 8 Sep
- Talk: The Willow Tit in Suffolk • 15 Sep
- Talk: Worlingham Marshes • 15 Sep
- Talk: Garden Bird Watch • 17 Sep
- Evening bat walk at Foxburrow Nature Reserve • 18 Sep
- Planning for wildlife in your community • 25 Sep
- Talk: The history of Havergate Island • 30 Sep
- **Wildlife Live Webinar - Soil ecoacoustics • 6 Oct**
- Wilder Communities - Land Purchase webinar • 14 Oct
- Talk: Climate change gardening • 20 Oct
- Talk: Black Poplars: How to Save a Tree • 28 Oct

Details of all SWT events:
https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/events

Field Studies Council Courses

- Birdwatching: Wader Migration • Flatford Mill • 10 – 12 Aug • £245 – £340
- Discovering UK Otters: Biology, Ecology and Conservation • Online • 11 Aug – 15 Sep • £45.00
- Discovering UK Seals: Identification, Ecology and Conservation • Online • 14 Aug – 25 Sep • £20.00
- Discovering Ferns • Online • 17 Aug – 21 Sep • £20.00
- Introduction to Mustelids • Online • 27 Aug – 1 Oct • £20.00
- Botanical Anatomy • Online • 2 Sep – 7 Oct • £60.00
- Bird Field Skills • Online • 7 Sep – 5 Oct • £20.00
- Nature's Omens: The Roman Art of Augury • Online • 7 Sep • £10.00
- Discovering Garden Birds: Identification and Ecology • Online • 8 Sep – 20 Oct • £20.00
- Beginner Identification of Ericaceae with Richard Thompson • Online • 8 Sep • £10.00
- Discovering QGIS • Online • 18 Sep – 30 Oct • £80.00
- Fungi Field Skills • Online • 22 Sep – 20 Oct • £30.00
- Waxcap Identification for Beginners with Richard Thompson • Online • 24 Sep • £10.00
- Mythical Menageries: Decoding the Creatures of Medieval Manuscripts • Online • 5 Oct • £10.00

Natural History Courses
Covering all aspects of the natural world for beginners, enthusiasts, volunteer recorders and professionals.
www.field-studies-council.org/fsc-natural-history-courses

Professional Development for Ecologists and Conservationists
An extensive range of courses that cater to a range of career levels, providing wildlife identification and surveying courses in many subjects.
www.field-studies-council.org/biodiversity/professional-development

Biological Recording Company

- Curlews and Grouse Moors • 14 Sep
- Urban Pond Conservation • 15 Sep
- The Search for German Hairy Snails • 17 Sep
- Lasius Ants • 22 Sep
- Discoveries After Dark: How Insects Connect Us to Nature • 24 Sep
- Identifying Whitebeams • 29 Sep
- Unwelcome Guests: How Insect Pests are Impacting Britain's Forests • 6 Oct
- Robberflies • 8 Oct
- Endemic Whitebeams of the UK and Ireland • 13 Oct
- Tardigrades: The Microscopic Animals with Survival Superpowers • 20 Oct
- Fly Research and Conservation Virtual Symposium • 21 Oct
- Surveying For Flies • 27 Oct
- Endemic Animals of the UK and Ireland • 28 Oct

Details of all BRC events:
www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/the-biological-recording-company-35982868173

The Species Recovery Trust

Online courses

- Summer Tree Identification for Surveyors • 3 Sep
- Botany for surveyors - Part 1 • 7 Sep
- Around Britain in 25 Grasses • 10 Sep
- Botany for surveyors - Part 2 • 14 Sep
- Aquatic Plant ID • 17 Sep
- Botany for surveyors - Part 3 • 21 Sep
- Around Britain in 30 Bryophytes • 24 Sep
- Around Britain in 20 Rushes • 28 Sep
- How to Survey and Assess Hedgerows using the Hedgerow Regulations • 1 Oct
- Grasses Part Two • 5 Oct
- Great Crested Newts - Ecology, Conservation and Survey • 8 Oct
- Badger Ecology, Survey and Mitigation • 12 Oct
- Heathlands and Acid Grassland - Species and Habitat Survey • 15 Oct
- Woodlands - Botanical Survey • 22 Oct

Details of all SRT courses:
www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/the-species-recovery-trust-17335753729

The Brecks Fen Edge and Rivers

brecks.org/events/

London Natural History Society

www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/london-natural-history-society-30790245484

Royal Entomological Society

https://www.royensoc.co.uk/events

National Biodiversity Network

https://nbn.org.uk/news-events-publications/upcoming-events