

## Greenprint Forum newsletter early summer 2024

With the onset of spring and the coming summer, we've been honoured to have already been invited to a couple of landmark events in east Suffolk.

On Saturday 20 April, we attended the launch of the new initiative [Love Green Felixstowe](#) which aims to promote environmentally friendly practice in the town, which also marked the launch of [Edible Felixstowe](#). The event featured the unveiling of the new community garden at The Triangle, which is a new initiative of the new group Edible Felixstowe, whose aim is to develop a network of community growing areas in Felixstowe that are available to anyone who is interested in plant growing, cooking and eating to use and benefit from. Look out for more activities from Love Green Felixstowe later in the summer.



And then on 7 May, our Chair Jane Healey, and fellow member of the Steering Group and swift enthusiast Susan Harvey, were honoured to be invited by [Waveney Bird Club](#) to their grand unveiling of the swift tower at the Eels Foot in Eastbridge, Greenprint having been one of the co-funders of the project. The swift tower, which is 8 m tall and beautifully carved, is the first such structure at a British pub, and will not only serve as a nesting site for swifts but also help to raise their profile and awareness among our communities and visitors. During the unveiling, we were aptly treated to an aerial display of a groups of swifts overhead. To find out more about swifts, and crucially how you can help this red-listed bird, go to [Save our Suffolk swifts | Suffolk Wildlife Trust](#)



Meanwhile, the climate change information service for Europe, Copernicus, confirmed that April 2024 was the warmest April on record globally, making it the eleventh month in a row that is the warmest in the ERA5 data record for the respective month of the year. It also confirmed that April was predominantly wetter than average for much of north-western, north-eastern, and central Europe, which probably won't come as a surprise to many here. [Climate Bulletins | Copernicus](#)



## A new nature reserve for north-east Suffolk

Within the Lower Waveney Valley and the Broads National Park, 154 hectares of land is set to become a new nature reserve under the custodianship of Suffolk Wildlife Trust – the county’s nature charity – who has received a grant of £1,999,832 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to create a landscape-scale nature corridor on the Suffolk-Norfolk border.

Wildlife desperately needs habitats are more expansive, ecologically-rich, and better connected with other natural areas and wild landscapes. The space that will become Worlingham Marshes nature reserve holds a key position within a corridor of wildlife-rich land in the Lower Waveney Valley, stretching from Beccles in the west to Oulton Marshes in the east, including Carlton Marshes – an existing Suffolk Wildlife Trust nature reserve.

Under the care of Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Worlingham Marshes will be restored into a haven for wildlife - where the many rare and declining species that were once abundant here can thrive once again. Species such as lapwing, redshank, and woodcock will find a haven in the wet woodland, whilst otters and water voles will use the restored network of waterways as corridors and breeding habitat.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust’s vision for Worlingham Marshes is to restore a classic Broadland landscape, with a wildlife-rich mosaic of grazing marsh, wet woodland, fen, scrub. Water levels will be managed to restore wet fen on the peat soils, that will lock-up carbon and reduce the impact of flooding - harnessing the power of nature to combat climate change.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust has a vision for a wilder Suffolk – where nature is thriving and abundant, because everyone is doing more to help. To help achieve a wilder Suffolk, the Trust is championing two collective targets in Suffolk that every sector of society needs to help achieve:

- To protect and restore 30% of Suffolk’s land and sea for nature recovery
- To inspire and support 1 in 4 people in Suffolk to take action for nature and climate

By securing Worlingham Marshes for nature, Suffolk Wildlife Trust increases take another step towards its strategic goal of protecting and restoring 30% of Suffolk’s land for nature recovery.

Supplied by Suffolk Wildlife Trust



*Editor’s note:*

On behalf of the Greenprint Forum, we have arranged with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust a **guided tour** of the new reserve at Worlingham Marshes which we would love to invite you along to, on the evening of **Wednesday 26 June**. The visit is free and open to all so please feel free to invite others from your network and community, but as spaces are limited and we need to know who and how many to expect, please ensure you register if you would like to attend, you can register via: [Greenprint Forum event registration - My East Suffolk](#)



## Planting trees in Melton

On a beautiful sunny winter morning in February a group of keen volunteers set out with spades and rakes to help plant trees and seed verges with native wildflowers in the area of Hall Farm Road and Woods Lane. This was part of an ongoing project where East Suffolk Council and Flagship have agreed to work together to increase biodiversity and give residents more access to nature. We planted five trees which were carefully chosen for their lifespan, contribution to the street scene, potential to absorb carbon and of course to increase habitat for local wildlife. It was heart warming to have the support of so many people that day and as you can see from the pictures, all age groups rolled their sleeves up and got involved. We are soon hoping to put Bee Café planters on both verges, they will look fabulous and will be a welcome habitat for bees and many other creatures. Watch this space !



Cllr Rachel Smith-Lyte and Cllr Sally Noble, East Suffolk Council



## Compost Awareness Week – Felixstowe 10 May 2024

In celebration of [Compost Awareness Week 2024](#), residents were invited to bring a bag and a shovel and help themselves to free compost at this Shovel it Yourself event organised by East Suffolk Council with the support of the [Suffolk Waste Partnership](#).

The event was supported by three volunteer [Master Composters](#) who engaged with a great many people about composting, bringing added value to the event.

Residents of Suffolk can get their green fingers on any one of a range of subsidised home composting systems ranging from ordinary compost bins for garden waste and fruit and vegetable waste, as well as other systems that can help deal with some cooked food waste too.

To find out more, visit:

[Home composting - Suffolk Recycling](#)



## Blyth Woods

Blyth Woods is a community woodland group, which over the last 10 years has been planting trees and filling in hedgerows in and around Wenhashton. We bought two non-productive small arable fields, which had existing ancient hedgerows, and adjoined a small piece of ancient woodland.

We now manage about nine acres, including two large ponds, which have been brought back to life. We also manage the community orchard beside Merton Wood, and replanted various fruit trees earlier in the year. We work closely with the local primary school.

We now have the offer of more land, which we hope to acquire later in the year.

Watch this space ! For more info visit: [www.blythwoods.org](http://www.blythwoods.org)

**Ann Edwards, Blyth Woods**



## Engaging with the voice of youth at East Suffolk

Earlier this year I attended a youth take over event called the Model District Council [Council hosts first-ever 'Model District Council' for schools » East Suffolk Council](#). The purpose of the event was to set up an East Suffolk youth council, with participation of a total of 52 students. This was run by East Suffolk Council officers and elected members and chaired by Cllr Anthony Speca.

The students heard from two keynote speakers. The first was from Rhammel Afflick BEM, the Head of Advocacy and Communications from British Youth Council. He spoke about how a youth council can help raise local issues and effect decision making in the local area. He also told the story of how he got into politics. After a break the children then had Beth Derks who is an associate with the UEA. She talked about public speaking giving the participants interactive activities to boost their confidence of speaking to strangers.

The students then formed political groupings, and I then facilitated the editing by one of the groups, of a Motion, whilst remaining politically unbiased.

At the Lunch break a fellow Apprentice and I both had the opportunity to talk to the students about green careers and apprenticeships in the council. The attendees then had a cabinet meeting learning about how the council works and were able to debate on the motion set out in the morning session.

The conclusion from the meeting was that there would be a youth council set up for 13 – 17-year-old school and college students who would meet on a termly basis and would be able to attend cabinet meetings. This was voted for unanimously by the students.

At the end of the day the students had the opportunity to ask questions to councillors Caroline Topping, John Fisher, and Peter Byatt.

Engaging with the voice of young people over environmental matters is a challenge we recognise, and whilst the event was not intended to explicitly and exclusively deal with green issues, we look forward to exploring opportunities for the Greenprint Forum Steering Group to engage on these matters with the Youth Council once it has had a chance to become established.

**Jamie Bretton, Apprentice (Climate & Environmental Sustainability, East Suffolk Council)**



## Funding to enable managing field margins and small meadows in the Blyth Valley Cluster



Hall Farm in Wenhaston was awarded £22,078 from the grant programme [Farming in Protected Landscapes](#) towards the purchase of haymaking equipment for the Blyth Valley Cluster farms to use for cutting, baling, and carting hay on margins and small meadows.

The trailer allows the midi-baler to be transported between the farms, where it is attached to the farmer's own tractor. A grant of £614 has also been provided to make a video to share methods of use and best practice.



Blyth Valley is a farmer cluster planning to take advantage of the benefits of working together and sharing equipment to save costs. They were looking to purchase a midi-baler and trailer to share to be used on field margins and meadows which would benefit from traditional management.

Standard-sized hay / straw balers are difficult to use on margins (typically 4-6m wide) and small areas of grassland, resulting in swards being cut but not collected unless this is a stipulation in individual agreements. This kind of management leads to the degradation of these areas as nutrient and organic matter levels increase leading to proliferation of more competitive species such as nettles, rather than the less common species and wildflowers which we are seeking to encourage.

Purchasing a midi-baler and equipment is not a viable option for many farms, therefore demand for a shared midi-baler and equipment to carry out this work is high among cluster members and local community groups such as Wilder Wenhaston, and the Wenhaston Parish Council. Owning the equipment has provided farmers with independence from contractors and flexibility for users, as hired equipment is frequently unavailable when it could be used to best effect.

Managing field margins in this way has many advantages:

- Promoting biodiversity and providing species-rich habitat. This is particularly important in the farmland adjoining the Dew's Pond SSSI, but encouraging pollinating insects is vital for farming and the environment across the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape and more widely.
- Field margins sequester more carbon than farmed land. Working together as a group of farms is improving the understanding of this and other solutions for climate change more generally too, helping the Blyth Valley Cluster farmers work towards carbon net zero aims.
- Promoting good soil structure and contributing to slowing flow of water into adjacent ditches and other water bodies, contributing to landscape resilience. This is particularly important in areas of low rain fall such as the Suffolk coastal and heathlands.
- The increased numbers of wildflower margins and meadows in and adjacent to the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape enhance the natural beauty of the area and preserve the traditional meadow land use.
- The baled hay can be used for livestock feed, rather than wasted.

Reproduced from [Projects Approved – Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape \(coastandheaths-nl.org.uk\)](#)



## Farming in Protected Landscapes

Farming in Protected Landscapes is a Defra grant programme designed to support your ambitions to create new habitats, restore existing ones, diversify your farm business, get people into the countryside, maintain and conserve historic features and the landscape, and help address local challenges associated with climate change.

This grant programme is entering its final year, closing in March 2025, and funds projects undertaken by or in collaboration with farmers and land managers. It's administered by the team at the Essex & Suffolk Coast & Heaths National Landscape (formerly Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty).

If you have an idea for a project in the National Landscape (AONB) that you would like to explore or discuss with us, then please do get in touch. We'll happily advise on the eligibility of your project, and support you in putting the application together. The grant is a competitive one so please do get in touch now. Contact the FiPL team on 01502 674630 or 01394 445227 or [farmgrants@suffolkandessex-nl.org.uk](mailto:farmgrants@suffolkandessex-nl.org.uk)

In addition to the example of the Blyth Valley Cluster on the page before, more examples of case studies that have received grants to date can be viewed at [Projects Approved – Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape \(coastandheaths-nl.org.uk\)](https://coastandheaths-nl.org.uk)

**The FiPL Team, Essex & Suffolk Coast & Heaths National Landscape**



**Suffolk & Essex  
Coast & Heaths  
National  
Landscape**

## Some current consultations

- **Adapting the UK's transport system to the impacts of climate change** The Dept for Transport are seeking views on the transport adaptation strategy, which includes actions and policies to enhance climate adaptation planning and action across the sector nationwide; deadline 31 May: [Adapting the UK's transport system to the impacts of climate change - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- **Barriers to community energy projects** If you have experience with a community energy project, then your insights could be invaluable as the Dept for Energy and Net Zero are seeking views and evidence on the barriers to progressing these projects in England; deadline 30 June: [Barriers to community energy projects - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- **Consultation on UK REACH** The Government is consulting on changes to reducing costs to businesses moving from EU REACH regime to UK REACH, whilst upholding existing human health and environmental protections. They are also consulting on proposals to introduce further protections against unnecessary animal testing. [Consultation on UK REACH - Defra - Citizen Space](https://www.citizen-space.com)



## Sutton Heath felling application – Habitat Restoration

A felling licence has been granted to East Suffolk Council by Forestry England to clear two hectares of mainly Scots Pine from the 4 hectare area shown below. The trees border a redundant overground power cable ride; the cable now runs underground following Heath Road.

The objective is to create a more ecologically valuable semi-open habitat which will better connect similar habitats and wildlife of the wider Sutton Common and SSSI. This habitat has been lost to self-sewn Scots Pine trees since the WW2 era. The habitat under the pine trees has, in comparison, a very poor diversity of wildlife. The felling will take place in autumn / winter 2024 - 2025

Any Oak trees will be left as will interspersed Scots Pine and Birch to improve the habitat. Bracken will be controlled and the resulting open characteristics will encourage shrub growth, including Heather Gorse, and Bramble. This will provide an ideal habitat for Adders and Common Lizards. Adders in the UK are in steep decline, mainly due to habitat loss. The habitat will also be of benefit to heathland invertebrates such as the Green Tiger and Minotaur Beetles. A good supply of invertebrates will encourage birds such as Dartford Warblers, Nightjars, Stonechats and Woodlarks, among others. These are birds that are in decline and vulnerable.

Heathland restoration areas created through felling in 2010 on Sutton Heath, have greatly improved the habitat for all the afore mentioned wildlife with notable improvements in numbers of ground breeding birds.

In 2012, the Council's heathland restoration plan was revised after consultation with the Sutton Heath Users Group, who had concerns with the extent of the felling plan. An agreement was reached between Sutton Heath User Group, Sutton Heath Advisory Panel and Natural England to reduce the felling hectareage to 4 hectares. The current felling plan covers 2 hectares.

**Chris Ryde, Countryside Officer, East Suffolk Services Ltd and member of the Steering Group of the Greenprint Forum Steering Group**



“In 2009 SCDC intended to restore 33 hectares of Sutton Heath back to heathland from the existing woodland. 4.5 hectares were restored during 2010. Since then East Suffolk Council has taken note of the views of visitors to the heath and this Management Plan sets out to ensure the site remains valued for recreational use whilst continuing to meet its statutory requirements. The amount of heathland restoration proposed in this plan is the minimum amount required by Natural England in order to meet the council's legal obligations and restore the site back to Natural England's favourable condition category.”

(Sutton Heath Management Plan 2016 – 2026)





## Some dates for the diary

### Saturday 1 June St Mark's Oulton Broad Green Day 10:00 – 14:00

Everyone's welcome to pop into our Green Day on 1st June! There will be fun for all as well as lots of information, refreshments and maybe a chance to see some baby hedgehogs! The address of the venue is: **St Mark's Church, Bridge Rd, Lowestoft, NR33 9JX** If you have any questions about the event please call or email 01502 514774, [stmarks.oultonbroad@gmail.com](mailto:stmarks.oultonbroad@gmail.com) or visit [St Mark's Church, Oulton Broad | Lowestoft | Facebook](#)

### Tuesday 4 June 09:00-14:30 East Suffolk Hydrogen Conference

Delivery partners, supporters, and contributors including Conrad Energy, Freeport East, GENERATE, Hydrogen East, Hydrogen UK, Hynamics, and ScottishPower have lined up a series of keynote and plenary presentations that will consider the future for hydrogen and next generation fuels across the east of England. Venue: **Adastral Park, Martlesham.**

[East Suffolk Clean Hydrogen Conference Tickets, Tue 4 Jun 2024 at 09:00 | Eventbrite](#)

### Tuesday 4 June visit to Toggam Solar Farm 17:15

West Suffolk Council would like to invite you to a visit of their 12.4 MW solar farm located near **Lakenheath** in West Suffolk. You can learn about the initial development/construction of the site, ongoing operational and maintenance considerations and how we use the generated electricity.

For more information and to register your interest email [claire.ling@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:claire.ling@suffolk.gov.uk)

### Wednesday 5 June, Community Partnership Event 18:00 – 20:00

The Community Partnership works collaboratively to make a difference in our communities. Representatives of local government, statutory agencies, voluntary sector, community and faith organisations are invited to come together once a quarter for a session looking at a particular local issue or strength. Venue: **Marram Green, Kessingland NR33 7AH**

For more information and to reserve a spot visit: [CCKS Community Partnership Event - Play Areas and Green Spaces Tickets, Wed, Jun 5, 2024 at 6:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

### Wednesday 12 June, Go Green Networking Event 16:30 – 19:30

This is an opportunity to network with other sustainability advocates from our local community and discuss ideas and collaborative opportunities with EEG staff. Venue: XR lab, University & Professional Development Centre (UPDC) campus. 73 Western Way **Bury St Edmunds IP33 3SP.**

For more information and to book a place visit: [Go Green Networking Event - Summer 2024 Tickets, Wed 12 Jun 2024 at 16:30 | Eventbrite](#)

### Saturday 15 June, Try an ebike and get your biked fixed 10:30 – 14:30

Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council welcome you to Eye Community Centre on 15 June, to find out more about how you can get travelling more sustainably.

You'll be able to learn all about the benefits that changing your travel habits can bring - whether it's to your own health and wellbeing, or to the local environment. You can even give an ebike a try!

The event will take place at **Eye Community Centre IP23 7AJ**

For more information visit: [Try an ebike, get your bike fixed and more for free | Facebook](#)

### Sunday 23 June Photography exhibition – Waveney Wildlife and more by Paul Farrow

At **Kirby Cane Memorial Hall, 10:00-16:00.** Cakes and refreshments available. Free entry! [Facebook](#)



## Contributors

As ever thanks are due to all our stellar contributors to this issue: Ann Edwards, Chris Ryde, Jamie Bretton, Rachel Smith Lyte, and Sally Noble, as well as the teams at the Essex & Suffolk Coast & Heaths National Landscape and the Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

Of course, whilst there is as always plenty in this issue, there will be lots more that I have not captured; the environmental world is always an active one especially in eastern Suffolk where we are so lucky to have so many active groups and individuals taking the initiative.

This newsletter is of most value when content is informed by its members. If you have a story about action you are taking that contributes to our shared vision that you would like to share, or would like your project highlighted in our newsletter, please drop me a line on [greenissues@east Suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:greenissues@east Suffolk.gov.uk)

## GREENPRINT FORUM VISION



If you are already a member please share this newsletter with and encourage others in your network to join, and if you have received or found this newsletter and are not yet a member why not join us, **membership is free and open to all.**

The easiest way is to go online and register via: [Greenprint Forum membership form - My East Suffolk.](#)

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