

AUGUST 1st BOOTON COMMON (1 mile E Reepham), O.S. map 133, grid ref. TG 110 228

The common contains an interesting variety of plant communities including dry heath, mixed scrub, grassland, alder carr, wet mixed coppice and fen. We will be clearing Himalayan balsam, which is a very invasive alien plant.

AUGUST 8th CATFIELD FEN (16 miles NE Norwich), O.S. map 134, grid ref. TG 367 215

Catfield Fen Reserve is part of the Ant Broads and Marshes National Nature Reserve, which is one of the best and largest remaining areas of fen habitat in Western Europe. Many uncommon and rare plants and animals are found on the reserve, including milk parsley (the food plant of swallowtail butterfly caterpillars) and crested buckler fern, and dragonflies such as the Norfolk hawkler.

We have been asked by Butterfly Conservation to cut some of the vegetation so that scrub can be cleared.

AUGUST 15th SCARNING FEN (1 mile SW Dereham), O.S. map 132, grid ref. TF 981 122

This small and vulnerable valley fen site is one of the finest in the country. It contains a wide diversity of plants including orchids, mosses, liverworts and insectivorous plants. We will be raking and removing mown fen hay to maintain this diversity.

AUGUST 22ND SWANGHEY FEN (2 miles SW Attleborough), O.S. map 144, grid ref. TM 015 933

This reserve is a mixture of open fen, dykes, and wet woodland. It is important mainly for insects and plants. We will be raking and removing mown fen litter to maintain the diversity of the open fen. Please telephone task leader for directions to work site.

AUGUST 29th SUTTON FEN (16 miles NE Norwich), O.S. map 134, grid ref. TG 372 229

This RSPB reserve is a large area of nationally rare and internationally important fen habitat. It contains breeding bitterns, marsh harriers, rare swallowtail butterflies and Norfolk hawkler dragonflies, rare plants and much more. It is not open to the public, so this is a rare opportunity to see this important site. We will be either cutting and burning fen vegetation or cutting and burning some scrub.

SEPTEMBER 5th SWANNINGTON UPGATE COMMON (8 miles NW Norwich),

O.S. map 133, grid ref. TG 143 183

This is an interesting and varied site, with a range of habitats. The variation in soils and wetness has caused a wide range of vegetation including dry acidic heathland, wet heathland, fen, birch and alder woodland, scrub, bracken, rough grassland and ponds. We will be either raking and removing mown fen hay or clearing reedmace (commonly known as bulrush) from a pond

SEPTEMBER 12th LOLLY MOOR (2 miles S Dereham), O.S. map 132, grid ref. TF 992 103

This is a small reserve, but one which clearly shows the effect of our conservation work. When we began working here in 1979, the site was dominated by just a few species of tall plants such as willowherb. The regular mowing has resulted in a large increase in the number of wild flower species, including orchids. We will be continuing this good work by raking and removing mown fen hay.

SEPTEMBER 19th PENSTHORPE (2 miles SE Fakenham), O.S. map 132, grid ref. TF 947 291

Pensthorpe is advertised as "The Natural Centre of Norfolk", and was host to the 2010 Springwatch series on BBC TV. It is 500 acres of ancient fen meadows, woodlands and lakes in the Wensum valley. As well as the Conservation Centre (where rare UK birds such as cranes and corncrakes are bred) and a collection of water and other birds, there is a large area of nature reserve. We will be clearing some scrub.

SEPTEMBER 26th HICKLING BROAD (18 miles NE Norwich), O.S. map 134, grid ref. TG 428 222

Hickling Broad is the largest expanse of open water in the Broads system. The National Nature Reserve contains 600 ha of open water, reedbed, fen, grazing marsh and woodland. It is home to marsh harriers, bitterns, swallowtail butterflies and Norfolk hawkler dragonflies. We will be clearing some scrub.

NB. The map reference is for the visitor centre, but we may be working on another part of the reserve, so please phone the task leader for directions.