

FEBRUARY 7th HOLT LOWES (1mile SE Holt) O.S. map 133, grid ref. TG 088 382

This reserve is an attractive mixture of dry sandy heath and valley bog close to the River Glaven. The small tributary valley that bisects the heath contains a fine example of a mixed bog community, as the alkaline water of the feeder stream contrasts with the acidic areas on the valley sides. We will be clearing small scrub from the mire (wet boggy bits)

NB. We will be meeting in the Hempstead Road car park (Map ref above). Not at the Visitor Centre.

FEBRUARY 14th STRUMPSHAW FEN (7 miles E Norwich) O.S. map 134, grid ref. TG 342 067

This RSPB Reserve is beside the River Yare, and contains open water (Strumpshaw Broad), scrapes, woodland, grazing marshes, fen, and extensive reed beds. We will be clearing scrub. Hopefully, we will also see some interesting birds. We usually see Marsh Harriers and Barn Owls, and have seen a Goshawk and a Bittern!

FEBRUARY 21st WAYLAND WOOD (1 mile S Watton) O.S. map 144, grid ref. TL 923 996

This ancient and historic woodland is managed in the traditional way as coppice with oak standards, and has a varied and attractive ground flora. The wood was mentioned in the 11th century Domesday Book, and the medieval boundary banks can still be seen. We will be doing some coppicing.

FEBRUARY 28th BRYANT'S HEATH, FELMINGHAM (1.5 miles SW North Walsham)

O.S. map 133, grid ref. TG 259294

Bryant's Heath is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and is unusual in that it encompasses within a relatively small area a mix of dry heath, wet heath, and fen communities. The different soil types have led to a wide range of plants, including several that are now uncommon in East Anglia. A number of uncommon mosses and lichens have been recorded from the wetter parts of the site. We will be clearing birch scrub from the wet heath.

NB. Access to the site and parking are dependent on weather conditions, so please phone task leader for directions.

MARCH 7th 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 hawker 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 probably be removing an old fence.

MARCH 14th PENSTHORPE (2miles 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 2009 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 improving a dragonfly pond by coppicing the surrounding scrub, and removing some of the pond weed.

MARCH 21st 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 hawker dragonflies. We will be clearing scrub.

NB. The nature and location of the task will depend on water levels at the time. It is essential that you phone the task leader before the task.

MARCH 28th WOODBASTWICK MARSHES (8 miles NE Norwich)

O.S. map 134, grid ref. TG 338 161

This site is part of the Bure Marshes National Nature Reserve. Like many sites in Broadland, it has to be managed to prevent it becoming dominated by alder and willow carr (wet woodland). Although the carr is an important habitat, a lot of wildlife (including the rare Swallowtail butterfly) needs open fen and marshes. We will be helping to maintain this balance by removing some of the encroaching carr.

NB. Wellington boots are usually essential for this site.