

**JUNE 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 heath land, wet heath land, fen, birch and alder woodland, scrub, bracken, rough grassland and ponds. We will be clearing the very invasive Himalayan balsam, cutting bracken, and trimming back the edges of paths. If there is time, we will do some similar work at nearby Alderford Common.

**JUNE 12th 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 small scrub (too small to support nesting birds).

**JUNE 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 Spring watch 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 Himalayan balsam, and removing a fence.

**JUNE 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, reed bed, fen, grazing marsh and woodland. It is home to marsh harriers, bitterns, swallowtail butterflies and Norfolk hawker dragonflies. We will be constructing a reptile hibernaculum, which will be a nice cozy place for adders to hibernate during the winter.

**JULY 3rd 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 common ragwort, which is poisonous to livestock. Hopefully, we will also see some interesting birds. We usually see Marsh Harriers and Barn Owls, and have seen a Goshawk and a Bittern!

**JULY 10th HOLT LOWES (1 mile 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.

**JULY 17th 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 be cutting and burning/stacking some of the fen vegetation to maintain the diversity of the fen.

**JULY 24th CALTHORPE BROAD (16 miles NE Norwich), O.S. map 134, grid ref. TG 410 257**

The main interest of this site is the broad and its plant life. The broad is surrounded by carr woodland, small areas of open fen, and an area of unimproved grazing marsh. The site is a National Nature Reserve used for research, and is not open to the public. So this is a rare opportunity to see an interesting corner of Broadland. We will be clearing rhododendron and/or scrub, and building bridges.

**JULY 31st POTTER'S FEN (1 mile SW Dereham), O.S. map 132, grid ref. TF 982 119**

This site has benefited immensely from the work that we have done, particularly from the annual mowing. Several species of orchid, butterwort, marsh fern, columbine, and many other species now thrive. We will be continuing this good work by raking and removing mown fen hay.