

OCTOBER 3rd 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 scrub.

OCTOBER 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.

OCTOBER 17th SURLINGHAM CHURCH MARSH (5 miles E Norwich)

O.S. map 134, grid ref. TG 305 065

This is part of the RSPB Mid Yare National Nature Reserve which is a complex wetland site of 803 hectares. We will be clearing scrub.

OCTOBER 24th 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.

OCTOBER 31st PENSTHORPE (2 miles SE Fakenham), O.S. map 132, grid ref. TF 947 291

Pensthorpe 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 scrub and/or coppicing.

NOVEMBER 7th ALDERFORD COMMON (9 miles NW Norwich)

O.S. map 133, grid ref. TG 127 186

This is an important site because it has a large area of chalk grassland, which is fairly rare in Norfolk. Chalk grassland is usually the most species rich habitat for plants. We will be clearing some scrub which is shading out these plants.

NOVEMBER 14th 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 clearing scrub.

NOVEMBER 21st 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.

NOVEMBER 28th 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 burning cut fen vegetation and/or scrub, or doing some fencing work.