

FAO Yare Valley Society

So here it is (again) Merry Christmas, and I hope you are having fun! We certainly have been enjoying ourselves out in the open air all year, and there will be more in January 2026 – see below...

It was great to see many of our volunteers at Zak's for our Xmas meal yesterday, thanks to Will for the lovely food, and a massive thanks to everyone who has participated in over 250 brilliant task days in 2025!

The New Year brings three new sites – a lovely but heavily overgrown former railway line woodland walk in Reedham, our first actual task day (rather than just visiting) at a National Trust site, the wonderful Blickling Hall, and the farmland at Easton College, where we will get the chance to practice the traditional craft of hedge-laying. There's also the welcome return of some old favourites that we haven't seen for years – which basically makes them also brand new for most volunteers! Mile Cross Marshes and Lion Wood are on opposite sides of Norwich, and are very different habitats, but both need a bit of scrub clearance to save the ground flora from being covered up and lost.

Our 'unbelievable' and 'miraculous' (the client's verdict) work at Flordon continues, there's another dead hedge to make, and trees to plant in three locations. So please encourage as many as possible of the people you work with to come and lose the winter blues (and the Christmas calories) by exploring the beautiful green spaces of Norwich and beyond - there's so many new places to both discover and improve.

Happy New Year's!

Mark.

*A programme of Conservation Volunteering to improve local green spaces. Join in whenever suits you.*

**Norfolk Environmental Action Team**      January 2026

**Join us whenever you can, we do not require any regular commitment to attend.** FREE Minibus leaves at 10am from the Corner of Queens Road & Brazen Gate, by the traffic lights and glass canopy next to the big Sainsbury's near Norwich bus station [what3words: single.affair.robe]. If you would like a lift from near UEA, please ask. **Booking is NOT usually needed** - just turn up any day, but to be sure of a place on the minibus for days marked **BM** below, contact [mark.webster@tcv.org.uk](mailto:mark.webster@tcv.org.uk) / 07740 899 691. See end of this document for more info, including details about who can attend (most people). Sessions run from arrival on site (depends on traffic and travel distance) to 3.00pm on site. If you do not need to get the minibus back, **you can leave whenever you need to** (just let the leader know). Minibus returns to central Norwich by



4.00pm. **Mobile number to contact us on the day: 07740 899 691. FREE bus travel for ALL days this month - tickets refunded for all volunteers for any bus journeys to and from either of our meeting points on the day. Meanings of WC PT can be found at the end of this document.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Site Meeting Point (if coming by car or bike) at 10.15am unless otherwise stated</b>
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Flordon Common</b>	Down, down, deeper and down – cutting back the bramble and tall rank vegetation.	Opposite gate marked “Harvey House”, Norwich Road (north of Marsh Lane), Flordon, NR15 1RZ. (O.S. Grid Ref TM 181 974)  [ what3words: sheep.apart.winter ] <b>PT Arriving approx 10.30am</b>
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Queen’s Hills Costessey</b>	The missing link. Cutting back bramble to open out the links between open spaces.	By small waterworks on Alfred Munnings Road, between Longwater shops and Queen's Hills housing area, Costessey, Norwich: nearest postcode NR8 5EY. [ what3words: lows.science.remarking ] (OS grid reference TG 153 117) <b>Arriving ~ 10.25am. PT WC at Sainsburys (15 mins walk)</b>
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Oulton Broad Orchard Walks</b>	So Board of waiting...finally installing the interpretation boards to welcome people to the site.	Near the turning for Nursery Drive on Monckton Avenue (off Normanstone Drive near roundabout with Peto Way), Oulton Broad, NR32 3EG. [ what3words: brush.filed.sparks ] <b>Arriving at approx 10.55am. PT WC in Normanstone Park (opposite).</b>
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Flordon Common</b>	Underground, overground brambling free: cutting back brambles and removing ditch vegetation.	Opposite gate marked “Harvey House”, Norwich Road (north of Marsh Lane), Flordon, NR15 1RZ. (O.S. Grid Ref TM 181 974)  [ what3words: sheep.apart.winter ] <b>Arriving approx 10.30am</b>
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Easton College</b>	East is Easton. Learn the ancient craft of hedge-laying to create a stock-proof and wildlife-rich habitat.	Model Farm, Broom Lane, off Marlingford Road, Easton, Norfolk, NR9 5DT. [ what3words: casual.brain.megawatt ] (OS grid ref: TG 130 102). <b>Arriving at approx 10.25am. WC on site (in model farm buildings).</b>
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>East Ruston Poors Land</b>	East is Ruston. Saving habitat for Silver-studded Blue butterflies.	Car park at Butchers Arms, at junction of Oak Lane with School Road, East Ruston, NR12 9JQ (OS grid ref: TG 345 282). [what3words: inflates.square.victory] <b>Arriving approx 10.45am. PT</b>

Tues 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Flordon Common</b>	When Two Tribes go to Flor. All welcome to a peaceful day removing bramble and alder from the marsh.	Opposite gate marked "Harvey House", Norwich Road (north of Marsh Lane), Flordon, NR15 1RZ. (O.S. Grid Ref TM 181 974)  [ what3words: sheep.apart.winter ] <b>Arriving approx 10.30am PT</b>
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Bluebell Woods</b>	I've got the Brushcutter Blues. Clearing bramble to allow for tree planting sand for bluebells to bloom in spring.	Junction of Bluebell Road and North Park Avenue, Eaton Park, Norwich, nearest postcode NR4 7ED. [ what3words: best.curiosity.charm ] <b>PT WC</b> within the park.
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Woodlands Park</b>	If you go down to the Woodlands today...no surprise that we will be cutting back Holly.	Junction of Winchcomb and Wheatley Road (just off A1074 Dereham Road near Sweet Briar roundabout), Norwich, NR2 3UF.  [ what3words: swing.ledge.fled ]
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Mile Cross Marshes</b>	A Cross the Marshes. Less than a Mile to walk, clearing invasive willow scrub to save the wildflowers.	Far (southern) end of Burnet Road, Sweet Briar Road Industrial Estate, Mile Cross, Norwich, NR3 2BD. [ what3words: candle.racing.ranked ]
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Lion Wood</b>	You're Gonna Hear Me Roar. Champions sought for clearing Holly scrub.	Pilling Park community centre car park, Pilling Park Road, Norwich, NR1 4PA. [ what3words: second.reform.spits ] <b>WC at Town House pub (5 mins walk)</b>
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Blickling Hall NEW SITE</b>	How the other half lives. At possibly the grandest site we have ever been to, saving nibbled trees by finding them and adding larger protective tubes.	Outside 'welcome' barn, Blickling Hall NT car park, Blickling Road, near Aylsham, Norfolk NR11 6NJ. [ what3words: sway.repayment.ladder ] (OS grid ref: TG 176 285) <b>Arriving at approx. 10.35am WC at meeting point.</b>
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Lion Wood</b>	In The Jungle, The Mighty Jungle of Holly. You will probably sleep well after this day's scrub clearance.	Pilling Park community centre car park, Pilling Park Road, Norwich, NR1 4PA. [ what3words: second.reform.spits ] <b>WC at Town House pub (5 mins walk)</b>

Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Norwich Gardens Project site 2 NEW SITE</b>	At a secret location, somewhere in England. Another new secret garden, another dead hedge to create, and some trees to plant.	Car park in front of Zak's Mousehold Diner halfway up Gurney Road opposite the bandstand, Norwich, NR1 4HW. [ what3words: sobs.deeply.charm ] <b>WC at Zak's (5 mins walk from site).</b>
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Bluebell Woods</b>	Blues and Greens. Planting trees to add green leaves to the bluebell woodland.	Junction of Bluebell Road and North Park Avenue, Eaton Park, Norwich, nearest postcode NR4 7ED. [ what3words: best.curiosity.charm ] <b>WC</b> within the park.
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Marlpit Woods</b>	The Green Marl. Planting trees and cutting back bramble to improve biodiversity and public access to their local woods.	Outside the Baseline Centre / Premier Shop / Kebab Shop, Knowland Grove, Marlpit Estate, Norwich, NR5 8YD. [ what3words: strict.teeth.tower ] <b>PT WC</b> in Future Projects' Baseline Centre Café nearby.
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Reedham Woodland Walk NEW SITE</b>	Helping the Poor and the Reedy. A wonderful woodland walk's habitats are in a relatively poor state: work is needed to open out sunny glades.	Reedham Village Hall car park, 5 Pottle's Ln, Reedham, Norwich NR13 3HL. [ what3words: marathons.stove.landed ] (OS grid ref: TG 415 024). <b>Arriving approx 10.40am PT WC opposite Ship Inn (5 mins walk)</b>
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Easton College</b>	Laying Down In Green Pastures. Hedgelaying is a craft that has been carried out for centuries, with great benefits for wildlife.	Model Farm, Broom Lane, off Marlingford Road, Easton, Norfolk, NR9 5DT. [ what3words: casual.brain.megawatt ] (OS grid ref: TG 130 102). <b>Arriving at approx 10.25am. WC on site (in model farm buildings).</b>
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Reedham Woodland Walk NEW SITE</b>	Your Country(side) Reeds You. Step forward volunteers to help improve public access to green space and habitats for ferns, insects and birds.	Reedham Village Hall car park, 5 Pottle's Ln, Reedham, Norwich NR13 3HL. [ what3words: marathons.stove.landed ] (OS grid ref: TG 415 024). <b>Arriving approx 10.40am PT WC opposite Ship Inn (5 mins walk)</b>
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Lion Wood</b>	I'm Gonna be Iron, like a Lion Wood, In Zion. Steel tools in use for cutting back excessive growth of Holly.	Pilling Park community centre car park, Pilling Park Road, Norwich, NR1 4PA. [ what3words: second.reform.spits ] <b>WC at Town House pub (5 mins walk)</b>

**BOOKING** There is usually enough space for everyone on the minibus if we are working in or near Norwich, but for some longer trips the minibus might get full, if you wish you can email or text Mark (details below) to be sure of a place on the bus – this is especially advised on days marked **BM** above. If you would find it helpful to ask us anything before coming on a project for the first time, please do contact us - see below. Otherwise, if you are over 18 and don't have any unspent convictions for serious crimes, you can just turn up and join in. **If you are 16 or 17** you will need a parent or guardian to sign our permission form before you can get started - please contact us if you need one. **If you have unspent convictions** for sexual or violent offences, you will not be able to volunteer with TCV (please contact us for a confidential chat if you need to check if this applies to you).

**MEETING POINTS** If you would like a map, or directions to the site, please contact us. FREE Minibus transport is available from outside stated pick-up points only, returning to the same place at the end of the session. We do our best to keep to time, but due to traffic etc, timings are approximate.

**WE PROVIDE** All tools and protective equipment are provided, please bring your own refreshments (drinks and a packed lunch) for the day, unless a task is marked **L** above, when lunch is provided from a nearby shop or takeaway. If a site has toilets available nearby this is indicated on the programme by '**WC**' in the 'Site Meeting Point' column (if this toilet is more than 5 minutes walk away we will go there by minibus at lunchtime).

**PLEASE WEAR** Old work clothes, suitable for the weather. If you have them, please bring reasonably sturdy shoes or boots, and rainwear. We provide work gloves and everything else necessary for the task. You are advised to check if your tetanus inoculation is up to date. **PT** means petrol-powered tools likely to be in use for at least some of the day: there is usually plenty of space so you can keep well away from them, but extra ear defenders are available for you if you want them. All other tasks are expected to be done with hand tools so should generally be quite quiet.

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