

To the Yare Valley Society

The May blossom (hawthorn) is out already, so whether “casting a clout” (leaving your coat at home) is wise as yet remains to be seen, but whatever the weather – with the exception of nearby lightning – we will be out and about looking after Norfolk’s wildlife pretty much all month. Just don’t send anyone out on a bank holiday Monday as we won’t be there!

I have already seen Himalayan Balsam plants rearing their ugly heads, and we will be on to them soon, as well as dealing with other invasive plants including variegated yellow archangel and bracken. We will also be doing a lot to help look after our newly planted trees in various locations. In fact we are at some very scenic locations this month, along the Rivers Wensum and Tas, at the tranquil Flordon Common with its rare wetland wildflowers, and enjoying visiting several different woodlands with their spring bulbs hopefully still in bloom.

It’s arguably the most wonderful time of the year, so I hope you can persuade someone you work with to join us soon.

Best wishes, Mark.



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

Norfolk Environmental Action Team May 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]. There are toilets in the Sainsbury’s, so do go before we go. 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 / 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 about 4.00pm.

Please try to make sure you arrive at the meeting points (Sainsburys or on-site) BEFORE the published times as the minibus usually has to get going on time. However, if you are lost or running late, please use **mobile number 07740 899 691 to contact us on the day.**

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Date	Site	Activity	Site Meeting Point (if coming by car or bike) at 10.15am unless otherwise stated
Fri 1 st	Jolly trip 5 BM (8 SPACES)	The fifth of our treats for our volunteers this year: boats galore at the Museum of the Broads.	Booking essential, if not enough spaces priority goes to longest-serving volunteers. Please contact Mark Webster 07740 899 691 mark.webster@tcv.org.uk if you wish to join us on site. L WC
Mon 4 th	* NO TASK *	Bank Holiday Monday, sorry NO TASK today. May the 4 th be with you!	*** BANK HOLIDAY - NO TASK TODAY *** But it's the perfect opportunity to watch all the Star Wars films, my young apprentices!
Tues 5 th	Queens Hills Community Parkland COS	Yaaass Queens! Yes we will be continuing to look after habitats at Queen's Hills, keeping the sandy heathland open for rare insects.	By the small waterworks on Alfred Munnings Road, between Longwater Shopping Centre and Queen's Hills housing estate, Costessey, Norwich: nearest postcode NR8 5EY, OS grid reference TG 153 117 [what3words address: lows.science.remarking] Arriving approx 10.25am. WC at Sainsburys (15 mins walk)
Wed 6 th	Cringleford Willow Centre	That Don't Impress Me Mulch! Have you got the touch to nurture our lovely Miyawaki Forests with more compost?	Willow Centre car park, junction of Dragonfly Lane and Willowcraft Way, Cringleford, Norwich, NR4 7JG. [what3words address: glaze.again.edges] WC on site at Willow Centre.
Thurs 7 th	Wymondham Rothbury Park	Snowdrops Keep Falling On My Head...nothing's bothering me as we plant snowdrop bulbs.	Outside Rothbury Community Hall, 18 Rothbury Rd, Wymondham NR18 0LD. [what3words address: mankind.cushy.archive] Arriving at approx 10.30am. WC on site in community centre.

Fri 8 th	Blue Boar Lane	I'm Still So Blue Boar. Don't be a silly Billie, do make sure you do join us to help maintain this sloping site.	Junction of Hall Wood Lane (off A11551 Wroxham Road) and Jobie Wood Close, Sprowston, NR7 8UL. [what3words: lake.erase.link] Arriving approx 10.20am. WC at nearby large Tesco. PT
Mon 11 th	Flordon Common	Seedlings to the left of them, seedlings to the right of them...hunting down invasive alders.	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] Arriving approx 10.30am
Tues 12 th	Mulbarton Meadows	MulBarton Finks. Aftercare for planted trees.	Co-op shop car park, Cuckoofield Lane (near junction with Birchfield Lane), Mulbarton, NR14 8BA.[what3words address: playful.victory.trombone] Arriving approx 10.25am. PT
Wed 13 th	East Ruston Poors Land	East-y Riders. Take a ride to East Ruston for bracken and/or gorse control. Harley Davidsons optional!	Car park at the Butchers Arms, at the junction of Oak Lane with School Road, East Ruston, NR12 9JG. (OS grid ref: TG 345 282) [what3words address: cove.relies.fonts] Arriving at approx 10.45am. PT
Thurs 14 th	Bluebell Woods	Don't Let The (Blue)Bells End! It's not Christmas Time and there's no Darkness, so we can see the planted trees to weed around them.	Junction of Bluebell Road and North Park Avenue, Eaton Park, Norwich, nearest postcode NR4 7ED. [what3words address: best.curiosity.charm] WC within the park. PT
Fri 15 th	Horsford Horsebeck Way	At your Beck and call. When we are called in to control weeds on the path and the banksides, we will be there.	Horsebeck Way (by the junction with Beckside), Horsford, NR10 3SY (OS grid ref: TG 189 159). [what3words: spellings.thirsty.meaty] Arriving approx 10.25am. WC at village hall (15 mins walk). PT
Mon 18 th	Poringland Woods	Poring over the pathways. Giving some close attention to this site, looking for invasive plants and vegetation growing over the paths.	Poringland Woods car park, B1332 Norwich Road (near Caistor Lane junction), Poringland / Framingham Earl, Norwich, NR14 7QP. (OS Grid Ref TG 261 035) [what3words: mount.inspected.transmit] WC at pub (5 mins walk) / community centre (via minibus at lunch). PT

Tues 19 th	East Hills Costessey COS	The East Hills Have Eyes. We will be looking closely for yellow archangel and encroaching brambles.	Play area car park, Grove Avenue (between Farmland Road and Oak Close), Costessey, Norwich, NR5 0HZ. [what3words: reader.kind.diner] WC at Town Council offices (10 mins walk)
Wed 20 th	Smockmill Common	By The Rivers of Babylon Smockmill. There we'll sit down for lunch after tracing the River Tas and its tributary looking for balsam.	Smockmill Common small car park, Cargate Lane, Saxlingham Thorpe, Newton Flotman, NR15 1TU. (OS grid ref: TM 218 980) [what3words address: jump.intruding.adopters] Arriving approx 10.25am. PT
Thurs 21 st	Dunston Common	Will It Be Archangel, Will It Be Balsam, You'll Have To Wait And See. Whatever invasive plants are there, we will tackle them.	Dunston Common car park, Stoke Road, Dunston, Stoke Holy Cross, just south of Norwich, NR14 8PF. (OS grid ref TG 227 025) [what3words address: rationing.plunger.petulant] PT
Fri 22 nd	Netherwood Green Woods	Nether 'Tis Nobler In the Mind. No slings nor arrows, just looking after planted trees.	At the entrance to the woods near Webster Court, Lakenfields (take Stratford Drive off Long John Hill), NR1 2HB. [what3words address: effort.left.pills]. Or minibus from Brazen Gate at 10am as usual. PT

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Mon 25 th	* NO TASK *	Bank Holiday Monday, sorry NO TASK today.	*** BANK HOLIDAY - NO TASK TODAY ***
Tues 26 th	Flordon Common	It's The Final Cut-Down. The last chance for a while to remove alders, bramble etc from this special site.	Opposite gate marked "Harvey House", Norwich Road (north of Marsh Lane), Flordon, NR15 1RZ. (O.S. Grid Ref TM 181 974) [what3words address: sheep.apart.winter] Arriving approx 10.30am
Wed 27 th	Wensum Riverside (Norwich)	By the Bonny, Bonny Banks of The Wensum. Walking the scenic riverside to remove invasive Himalayan Balsam.	By the garages at the end of Sycamore Crescent (Sycamore Crescent is reached from Maple Drive, off Waterworks Road near the junction with Dereham Road) NR2 4HD [what3words address: passes.thus.retire] WC in Sloughbottom Park (10 mins walk)

Thurs 28 th	Reedham Woodland Walk	Ready, Steady, Go get that invasive yellow archangel. Controlling weeds and improving the paths ready for a wildflower walk event.	Reedham Village Hall car park, 5 Pottle's Ln, Reedham, Norwich NR13 3HL. [what3words: marathons.stove.landed] (OS grid ref: TG 415 024). Arriving approx 10.40am WC in Ship Inn (5 mins walk) PT
Fri 29 th	Hellesdon Old Station COS	Station to Station. Travelling along the old railway line to seek out and remove the dreaded Himalayan Balsam.	Hellesdon abandoned train station, on Marriotts Way path, just west of Hellesdon Road, Norwich, nearest postcode NR5 8XN, OS grid ref TG 197 100 [what3words: plans.larger.bars] WC in Baseline centre, Knowland Grove (10 mins walk) PT

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.

**** 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 ****

Tasks in the Costessey / West Earlham / Marlpit area are marked **COS** in advance of our new Costessey Woodlands Project due to start in the autumn.

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