Mark Webster to Yare Valley Society

After a fire and brimstone summer, we are already moving into a sort-of autumn with leaves falling from the trees, the football is back already (did it ever go away?) and so here and now is your September activity programme, packed with useful things to do, but also the chance to discover much more about our threatened wildlife. We always try to include a little bit of learning on our sessions (whether that's how to use traditional tools, the history of the places we work at, or a bit about the animals we spot) but this month we will especially focus on the flora, as from 9th September our **Wild Plant Wednesdays** will include a look at the varied plantlife of the sites we are working at in a bit more detail.

As for the actual practical action, we will be doing several task days to help look after Mousehold Heath, where the remaining habitats there are even more precious after a devastating fire, and we will also be paying some extra attention to Smockmill Common, expanding the central meadow area by cutting back encroaching brambles etc. There's a welcome return to Alderford Common, a site packed with historic interest and nationally significant levels of biodiversity, plus everywhere from a small hidden, private woodland glade (Alpington) to some very popular and vital green spaces right in the centre of Norwich (Ketts Cave, Netherwood Green) all of which have lovely meadow areas amongst their important trees.

Please do encourage anyone who you think could benefit from getting out to join us whenever they can: wildlife needs all the help it can get right now, and we really appreciate anyone giving a few hours to help out. Oh, and they will definitely* enjoy it too!

Best wishes,

Mark.

* *Enjoyment guaranteed - or your money back!*

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

Norfolk Environmental Action Team September 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.**

Date	Site	Activity	Site Meeting Point and time (if you are coming by car or bike)
Tues 1st	**Mousehold Heath**	Burnt Offerings? Helping Mousehold's habitats to recover after the recent devastating fire.	Car park in front of Zak's Mousehold Diner halfway up Gurney Road opposite the bandstand, Norwich, NR1 4HW. [what3words: sobs.deeply.charm] **Arriving at approx 10.15am. WC next to Zak's PT**
Wed 2nd	**East Hills Costessey** **COS**	East is East, and...East is best as far as we are concerned as we keep the woodland pathways clear.	***NOTE WESTERN MEETING POINT FOR THIS SITE *** Woodland car park, other side of the road from Russen Hill estate agents, Longwater Lane, Costessey, Norwich, NR5 0TQ. [what3words address: baker.flagpole.drift] **Arriving at approx 10.20am. WC at Costessey Centre (5-10 mins walk)**
Thurs 3rd	**Alderford Common**	Into the Limelight? At the site of an old lime kiln, we will be managing the grassland for wildflowers.	Small car park on Reepham Road (between Hall Road and Broad Lane), Alderford, NR9 5NG (OS grid ref: TG 128 184). [what3words: spoils.urban.collected] **Arriving approx 10.25am. PT**
Fri 4th	**Alderford Common**	You bunch of Limeys! Whatever your nationality, help us look after this Site of Special Scientific Interest	Small car park on Reepham Road (between Hall Road and Broad Lane), Alderford, NR9 5NG (OS grid ref: TG 128 184). [what3words: spoils.urban.collected] **Arriving approx 10.25am. PT**
Mon 7th	**Earlham Cemetery**	Kula Raker. It's not a Hush job, you can tell all your friends we will be raking up to save wildflower areas.	Meet within the cemetery, on the access road from Earlham Road to the chapel, NR2 3RG. [what3words: noses.storm.swaps] **Arriving at approx 10.15am. WC in chapel, or in café behind Co-op opposite.**
Tues 8th	**Mousehold Heath**	Can the Cannell. Let's get this great little area cut and raked up now that the wildflowers have set seed.	Car park in front of Zak's Mousehold Diner halfway up Gurney Road opposite the bandstand, Norwich, NR1 4HW. [what3words: sobs.deeply.charm] **Arriving at approx 10.15am. WC next to Zak's PT**

Wed 9th	**Alderford Common** **WP**	Lime, cordially. We politely invite you to a friendly cutting and raking session by old lime kilns. **Includes wild plant ID session.**	Small car park on Reepham Road (between Hall Road and Broad Lane), Alderford, NR9 5NG (OS grid ref: TG 128 184). [what3words: spoils.urban.collected] **Arriving approx 10.25am. PT**
Thurs 10th	**Earlham Cemetery**	A Rake's Progress. Getting further along with looking after the best of the wildflower areas.	Meet within the cemetery, on the access road from Earlham Road to the chapel, NR2 3RG. [what3words: noses.storm.swaps] **Arriving at approx 10.15am. WC in chapel, or in café behind Co-op opposite.**
Fri 11th	**Horsford Horsebeck Way**	Horsford, Horsford, Don't You Stop…let's clippety-clop over to clear the banks of the stream.	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 14th	**Alpington Meadow**	An Alp-ine meadow? No need for mountain climbing to reach this lovely private grassland site.	Burgate Lane, Alpington. Please contact Mark Webster mark.webster@tcv.org.uk or 07740 899 691 on the day for exact site location details. **PT**
Tues 15th	**Dunston Common**	Dun, Dun, Deeper and Dun? Going right into the woods to keep pathways open and spot invasive species.	Dunston Common car park, Stoke Road, Dunston, Stoke Holy Cross, just south of Norwich, NR14 8PF. (OS grid ref TG 227 025) [what3words: rationing.plunger.petulant] **Arriving at approx 10.15am. PT**
Wed 16th	**Queens Hills Community Parkland** **COS WP**	Lake, Placid. The brushcutters may be noisy but you may still see a heron on kingfisher. And of course some wildflowers as it's a **Wild Plant Wednesday!**	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) PT**
Thurs 17th	**Smockmill Common**	Run of the (Smock)mill. Explore around the common and its streams as we cut the meadow.	Smockmill Common small car park, Cargate Lane, Saxlingham Thorpe, Newton Flotman, NR15 1TU. (OS grid ref: TM 218 980) [what3words: jump.intruding.adopters] **Arriving at approximately 10.25am. PT**

Fri 18th	**Hellesdon Old Station** **COS**	Hellesdon's Bells! A ding-dong battle with the tall grasses? We will be weeding the historic platform and cutting the meadow.	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] **Arriving at approx 10.15am WC in Baseline Centre, Knowland Grove (10 mins walk) PT**
Mon 21st	**Mousehold Heath**	In the firing line? Helping Mousehold's habitats after large areas have been damaged.	Car park in front of Zak's Mousehold Diner halfway up Gurney Road opposite the bandstand, Norwich, NR1 4HW. [what3words: sobs.deeply.charm] **Arriving at approx 10.15am. WC next to Zak's PT**
Tues 22nd	**Blue Boar Lane**	On the Bonny, Bonny Banks of Loch lowland. You can take the high road, but we must get down low to clear the stream banks.	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**

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Wed 23rd	**Netherwood Green Woods** **WP**	Meadow cutting and also learn to identify some more flora in these interesting woodlands as it's a **Wild Plant Wednesday!**	At the entrance to the woods near Webster Court, Lakenfields (take Stratford Drive off Long John Hill), NR1 2HB. [what3words: effort.left.pills]. Or minibus from Brazen Gate at 10am as usual. **Arriving at approx 10.10am. PT**
Thurs 24th	**Smockmill Common**	Smocking Pink? Wear any colour you like to expand the habitats for wildflowers.	Smockmill Common small car park, Cargate Lane, Saxlingham Thorpe, Newton Flotman, NR15 1TU. (OS grid ref: TM 218 980) [what3words: jump.intruding.adopters] **Arriving at approximately 10.25am. PT**
Fri 25th	**Sloughbottom Meadow**	At the (Slough)bottom of the pile? No, this site is far from the last place I'd want to be for the chance to find nature in the heart of the city.	Far (southern) end of Burnet Road, Sweet Briar Road Industrial Estate, Mile Cross, Norwich, NR3 2BD. [what3words: candle.racing.ranked] **Arriving at approx 10.15am WC in park, or at Shell Garage (15 mins walk) PT**

Mon 28th	**Smockmill Common**	The (Smock)Miller's Tale. No need to go to Canterbury to hear some travellers' stories about local wildlife.	Smockmill Common small car park, Cargate Lane, Saxlingham Thorpe, Newton Flotman, NR15 1TU. (OS grid ref: TM 218 980) [what3words: jump.intruding.adopters] **Arriving at approximately 10.25am. PT**
Tues 29th	**Ketts Cave**	Place Your Ketts. What are the odds that we can get all this orchard meadow cut and raked in one day?	Allotment gates, by Ketts Cave park sign and play area, corner of Balfour Street (near Old Allotment Court), Norwich, NR3 1NH. [what3words: merit.animal.puzzle] **Arriving at approx 10.15am PT**
Wed 30th	**Sloughbottom Meadow** **WP**	From Top to (Slough)bottom. Getting all the meadow areas cut and raked, but also **looking for wildflowers and other plants** to identify.	Far (southern) end of Burnet Road, Sweet Briar Road Industrial Estate, Mile Cross, Norwich, NR3 2BD. [what3words: candle.racing.ranked] **Arriving at approx 10.15am WC in park, or at Shell Garage (15 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.

Contact: Mark Webster 07740 899 691 mark.webster@tcv.org.uk www.tcv.org.uk/norfolk

TCV, Centrum, Norwich Research Park, NR4 7G.

**** 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 ****

WP Wild Plant Wednesdays: these tasks include a plant ID session where we learn a bit more about local trees, shrubs and wildflower