Conservation Volunteers November 2026

Mark Webster writes:

The world turns, the seasons are finally turning too, and we start to turn from grass cutting to pond restoration (Alpington, Longham) and the ancient woodland management craft of coppicing (Smokmill, Reedham). Next month our exciting new woodland-themed project in the Costessey, West Earlham and Bowthorpe areas is also due to start, so do get in touch if you work with anyone living in those areas, as we will soon have lots more happening on your doorstep!

Recent rains will test the new 'leaky dam' flood control measures we have made so far, and perhaps give us the chance to see how they are working before we finish that project off. In fact it's quite a constructive, creative month as we are also weaving 'dead-hedges' (natural fencing) at Queen's Hills and Cantley, as well as making lovingly hand-crafted 'habitat piles' for minibeasts at Harrisons Plantation. Also there will be lots of nurturing of new life at Wensum Park: planting wildflower bulbs and mulching planted trees.

Something for everyone this month then, we hope to see your clients soon!

All the best,

Mark.

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

Norfolk Environmental Action Team November 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 3.15pm 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 we usually have to get move on promptly. 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)**
Mon 2nd	**Tibenham (Tas Valley)**	Beavering away. With bowsaws rather than teeth, we will be chewing away at trees to create 'leaky dams'.	Bunwell Village Hall car park, The Turnpike, Norwich NR16 1SW. [what3words: houseboat.starfish.research] (OS Grid Ref : TM 127 927). **Arriving approx 10.30am.**
Tues 3rd	**Harrisons & Cottage Plantation**	Pile it high (but don't sell it cheap). Creating habitat piles from felled conifers.	Cottage Plantation car park, Blue Boar Lane (near Salhouse Road end), Sprowston, Norwich, NR7 8RZ. [what3words: less.hungry.fakes] **Arriving approx 10.20am. WC in Tesco or Lidl, Blue Boar Lane (5-10 mins walk)**
Wed 4th	**Wensum Park**	The Great Wen(sum). No need to go to London, we've got a lovely trees planted here to look after.	Wensum Park north-west entrance, A1067 Drayton Road, Norwich, NR3 2DF. [what3words: budget.sticky.walks] **Arriving approx 10.15am WC within the park**.
Thurs 5th	**Harrisons & Cottage Plantation**	All Rhodos lead to Rome: an Italian Job? I've got a plan for cutting back invasive shrubs.	Cottage Plantation car park, Blue Boar Lane (near Salhouse Road end), Sprowston, Norwich, NR7 8RZ. [what3words: less.hungry.fakes] **Arriving approx 10.20am. WC in Tesco or Lidl, Blue Boar Lane (5-10 mins walk)**

Fri 6th	**Wensum Park**	Wen Harry met Sally. All welcome to cut around our planted trees and rake up.	Wensum Park north-west entrance, A1067 Drayton Road, Norwich, NR3 2DF. [what3words: budget.sticky.walks] **Arriving approx 10.15am WC within the park PT**
Mon 9th	**Cantley** **Pond**	Can You Dig It? No (Mock) Turtles here, but we can dig out the pond to provide habitat for amphibians.	Strumpshaw Fen RSPB car park, Low Road, NR13 4HS. (OS Grid Ref TG 341 066) [what3words address: sounding.motive.lifeboats] **Arriving approx 10.30am.**
Tues 10th	**Wensum Park**	Wen(sum) Will I, Will I Be Famous? Bros and everyone else welcome to plant bulbs for the Spring. Very limited social media fame may be available!	Wensum Park north-west entrance, A1067 Drayton Road, Norwich, NR3 2DF. [what3words: budget.sticky.walks] **Arriving approx 10.15am WC within the park PT**
Wed 11th	**Cantley** **Pond**	Cant(ley) Live, If Living Is Without You. So says the wildlife that needs us to restore this pond. Extra biscuits today if you are called Ken Lee!	Strumpshaw Fen RSPB car park, Low Road, NR13 4HS. (OS Grid Ref TG 341 066) [what3words address: sounding.motive.lifeboats] **Arriving approx 10.30am.**
Thurs 12th	**Wensum Park**	Wen(sum) The Wind Blows. Nothing bleak about this lovely park, even if windy…bulb planting today.	Wensum Park north-west entrance, A1067 Drayton Road, Norwich, NR3 2DF. [what3words: budget.sticky.walks] **Arriving approx 10.15am WC within the park PT**
Fri 13th	**Wensum Park**	Wen(sum) the chips are down – spreading woodchips to mulch our planted trees.	Wensum Park north-west entrance, A1067 Drayton Road, Norwich, NR3 2DF. [what3words: budget.sticky.walks **Arriving approx 10.15am WC within the park PT**
Mon 16th	**Queens Hills Community Parkland** **COS**	Hedging our bets? Hand-crafting a new 'dead-hedge' by interweaving willow strands between posts. The chance to be creative for wildlife!	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**
Tues 17th	**Tibenham (Tas Valley)**	Beavery careful now...watching our step as we make leaky dams to hold back winter floods.	Bunwell Village Hall car park, The Turnpike, Norwich NR16 1SW. [what3words: houseboat.starfish.research] (OS Grid Ref : TM 127 927). **Arriving approx 10.30am**
Wed 18th	**Alpington Pond**	An Alping hand? Helping out watery wildlife by removing excessive plant growth and mud.	Burgate Lane, Alpington. Please contact Mark Webster 07740 899 691 mark.webster@tcv.org.uk for exact site location details.
Thurs 19th	**Reedham Woodland Walk**	Call the Coppice! No crimes here, just an ancient woodland management craft used to let light in.	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 by Ship Inn (5 mins walk) PT**
Fri 20th	**Rouen Road**	"And So To Bed..." as Pepys would say, at the end of a long growing season, it's time to put this wildflower meadow to bed for the winter.	Rouen Road at junction with Argyle Street, central Norwich, NR1 1QS. [what3words: union.builds.detail] **Arriving approx 10.05am WC at café (5 mins walk).**

Mon 23rd	**Longham Claypits**	Take The Longham Way Home. We are on a Super Tramp over to Longham to clear invasive reedmace from the ponds at a site important for its wetlands.	Longham Village Hall car park, Chapel Road, Longham, NR19 2RN. (OS Grid Ref TF 942 160) [what3words: chapels.litigate.send] **Arriving at approx 10.40am**
Tues 24th	**Smockmill Common**	Look out, it's the Coppice! No need to run, it's perfectly legal to coppice down some sycamores to increase the meadow area.	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**

Wed 25th	**Tibenham (Tas Valley)**	The stakes are high. Crafting stakes from tree branches and hammering them in!	Bunwell Village Hall car park, The Turnpike, Norwich NR16 1SW. [what3words: houseboat.starfish.research] (OS Grid Ref : TM 127 927). **Arriving approx 10.30am**
Thurs 26th	**Redenhall Churchyard**	Let's Rake Back Control. Cutting and raking the churchyard again to keep rank grasses under control.	Junction of High Road and Church Close, Redenhall, IP20 9QS. (OS Grid Ref TM 264 844) [what3words: riverbank.statue.vampire] **Arriving approx 10.45am WC at the church PT**
Fri 27th	**Reedham Woodland Walk**	Coppice and Robbers? Stealing away with hazel poles to create more open habitats for woodland wildflowers.	Reedham Village Hall car park, 5 Pottle's Ln, Reedham, Norwich NR13 3HL. [what3words: marathons.stove.landed] (OS grid ref: TG 415 024). **Arriving ~ 10.40am WC by Ship Inn (5 mins walk) PT**
Mon 30th	**Harrisons & Cottage Plantation**	When Harrison Met Sally. Whatever your name, you'll love creating habitat piles and removing invasive species.	Cottage Plantation car park, Blue Boar Lane (near Salhouse Road end), Sprowston, Norwich, NR7 8RZ. [what3words: less.hungry.fakes] **Arriving approx 10.20am WC in Tesco or Lidl, Blue Boar Lane (5-10 mins walk)**

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 indoor 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). For other sites a camping toilet is usually available.

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 ****

Tasks in the Costessey / West Earlham / Marlpit area are marked **COS** in advance of our new Costessey Woodlands Project starting soon!

Mark Webster
Team Leader

07740 899691

The Conservation Volunteers

TCV Centrum Norwich Research Park Colney Lane, Norwich, NR4 7UG

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