



**GREEN
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Introduction

Climate change, hedgehogs, swifts, Deben Community Farm, Ringsfield Hall action and events. It is a cram packed edition. Enjoy. Do feel free to submit articles or ideas of articles for future editions. This is created by Deborah Wargate. Please note if there are any errors or omissions these are mine and not those of any of the organisations covered.

Our Updates

Our environmental careers leaflet had its first test run at the University of Suffolk Career Day and it has been amended and will undergo further testing thanks to connections made there. Once it has been finalised I will share it and the results of the survey. As it is with most of these things however it is the discussions it generates that are as important as the end product.

Discussions at the stand with approximately 20 students and 6 stallholders were predominantly about recycling, what should and shouldn't go down drains, eco-therapy and active travel. Thanks go to the Anglian Water, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk County Council and the Suffolk Waste Partnership for the giveaways. Bike lights, minibins, sink strainers, rice scoops, and bag sealers were the most popular.

Thank you to all who responded to the event survey— I will analyse the results and feedback to the Steering Group as soon as I can.

Our Planned Events

Thursday 30 March 1pm — 4pm [Materials Recycling Facility \(MRF\) Visit](#) (2 spaces left)

Tuesday, 25 April from 10.00 - 12.00 [Cookpole Greet](#) (7 spaces left)

This walk and talk will take us through a journey of community energy, electric cycles, allotments, plant guardians and take us into a Suffolk farmhouse turned into a chapel for bible believers determined to worship their way at around 1650.

Wednesday 26 April 10.00 - 12.00 [Energy-from-waste \(EfW\) Visit](#) (7 spaces left)

Monday 3 July 7pm - 9pm - [Greenprint Forum—Community Self Builds focus](#)

Monday 25 September 7pm - 9pm - Greenprint Forum—[Waste and water focus](#)



Community Give and Take Day

Monday 19 April 2017 Royal British Legion, 39 Mill Ln, Felixstowe, IP11 2NL

Monday 24 July 2017 Whitton Residents Community Hall, Hawthorn Avenue
Lowestoft, NR33 9BB

Both days: 9:00- 11:00am donations, 12:00-2:00 picking stuff up.

Ringsfield Hall

The money received from Greenprint Forum 20 Celebration Fund was used towards running an Earth Watch program. This is a fully immersive learning adventure, embedded with ecological concepts, to encourage nature connection and engage children in caring for the earth in practical ways. It uses children's senses in to re-engage them to the natural world, with simple joined up knowledge of : air, water and soil cycles, energy flow, connections between living things and changes over time.

This investment in the Earth Watch program will continue to benefit the natural environment and people living, working and visiting the Suffolk Coast because young people leaving this program are more environmentally aware of how their actions affect the natural world and are encouraged to share what they learn with others. To further the benefits to the local area, a new publicity poster advertising Earth Watch will be circulating to all schools in the local area including Lowestoft.



New kettle on fire at pond woods and new canopy

www.ringsfield-hall.co.uk



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Hedgehog Ecology and Management

Long part of our psyche hedgehogs have caught our attention once again and are part of a mainland call for action to improve habitats and connective green corridors. Although common in Europe (a species of least concern) gamekeeper records, roadkill surveys and anecdotal records indicate that they are becoming scarcer in the UK. Indeed they were added to the list of [UK Biological Action Plan](#) species in 2007 and are listed as a species of principal importance under the [Natural Environment Rural Communities Act 2006](#).

On the 9th March 2017, as part of this call to action, Dr Simone Bullion, Consultancy Manager for Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Ali North the Ipswich Hedgehog Officer delivered the excellent [British Hedgehog Preservation Society](#) (BHPS) and [People's Trust for Endangered Species](#) (PTES) training course on hedgehog ecology and management for those looking after land.

Key learning points of interest/value that I noted were:

- [PTES](#) and BHPS have and are actively driving forward [research](#) to improve our understanding of abundance and causes of decline. Research from PTES Hogwatch 2005/6 gives a useful indicator of distribution. To assess abundance annually repeated surveys at the same sites are needed and these must be kept up even where hedgehogs are not recorded for several years. To reduce the risk of non reporting in public survey's multiple species survey's are preferred. Researchers at the [University of Reading](#) and the [University of Nottingham Trent](#) have devised a standardised way of detecting hedgehogs using [tracking tunnels](#) The University of Bristol and [Gower Bird Hospital](#) are looking at parasites common to slugs and hedgehogs to see if this could help determine abundance. For further guidance on tracking tunnels visit <https://ptes.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Guidance-for-detecting-hedgehogs-using-tracking-tunnels.pdf>.
- Hedgehog spines are modified hairs which are highly elastic to strong impact forces. Each spine is bulbous where it grows out of the skin to reduce likelihood of it being pulled out and reduce risk of it being forced back into the body under impact—basically acting as a shock absorber. This means they can climb and drop quite long distances without injury.
- Hedgehogs can swim but can't climb sheer sides, they also have a tendency to follow an edge when in a body of water. This means that ponds, lakes or rivers **should have areas of shallow ground or vegetated sides to clamber**. If this is not possible a platform should be used with steps running parallel to the side. The same is true of any trench or structure that they could fall into.—e.g. cattle grids, sub stations.



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Hedgehog ecology and management continued

- Research indicates that while hedgehogs will travel to a garden with nice food in it they will not gorge and go to be but continue foraging on their set route—so if feeding in one garden is missed for a time it is not an issue. Hedgehogs can be fed meat flavoured dog or cat food (with dried mealworms as a treat!), plus a shallow dish of water for hydration
- Males hedgehogs travel up to 3km a night (Just under 2 miles). But average at 1.8km. This means large safe areas crossing multiple landowners will be necessary. The range also needs to include a variety of landscape types including grass tussocks and leaves for daytime nests, broadleaved trees and brambles or other thorny or stinging undergrowth for breeding nests and hibernacula. At this stage it is not known what types of artificial homes are most beneficial although the assumption is as close to natural as possible. There is also a certain degree of range faithfulness meaning any alterations blocking routes can have an impact.
- You can help by ensuring your boundary markers are permeable—hedges are ideal but fences or brick walls with 13x13cm holes suffice. If you have small dogs that you don't want to escape tunnel 13 x 13cm may be enough to keep them in and allow the hedgehogs through.



Strimmer injury image from [Hedgehog Helpline](#)

- The risk of accidental injuries by strimmers, mowers and other garden or clearance tools can be avoided by checking through undergrowth and grass carefully to ensure no curled up hedgehogs daytime nesting prior to commencing work. Given their tendency to ball up in fright a parting of undergrowth and visual look through is needed. For large sites cut to knee height initially and then carry out the visual check before progressing further.
- Check beneath sheds or in woodpiles or large heaps of anything before demolishing/moving. Put bonfires together **on the day** or put plastic sheeting all around to ensure none get in.



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Hedgehog ecology and management continued

- The most important food source for hedgehogs are the carabid beetles—[earthworms](#), [slugs](#), [earwigs](#), [caterpillars](#) and millipedes. So it is important to ensure that the way you **manage your land** does not reduce populations of these and indeed acts to increase them. For all green corridors are needed for movement. Carabid beetles need a [protected or undisturbed space](#) (e.g. grass left uncut, soil left unturned and areas of shrub) in which to overwinter, mate, and lay eggs with a good source of food (living or dead animal and plant material). Avoid compacting soil. Avoid slug pellets, insecticides, herbicides and pesticides wherever possible. Learn to love a messy, nibbled garden or patch of land and share the food grown.
- Keep netting and barbed wire off the ground to avoid entangling them.
- Hedgehogs naturally foam at the mouth and lick the foam over them in a process called self-anointing. The reasons are not fully understood but thought likely to be linked to communication or in certain cases making themselves unpleasant to predators. Dealing with parasites was another thought raised. **This means that you do not need to be alarmed when you see this and you do not need to take it to an animal hospital.**
- Hedgehogs do come out of hibernation during winter if they need a top up of food or want to change nest. **Unless they are out in the day and look very ill or have been obviously injured** they are best left. Hedgehogs become stressed by handling or confinement and therefore more prone to disease. Tips can be found on www.hedgehogstreet.org/pages/what-to-do-if-you-see-a-hedgehog.html
- Beyond the simple spotting of hedgehogs and signs of hedgehogs surveying does require knowledge, skills and experience. As laid out in this guide: [www.cieem.net/data/files/Resource_Library/Technical_Guidance_Series/CSS/CSS - HEDGEHOG April 2013.pdf](http://www.cieem.net/data/files/Resource_Library/Technical_Guidance_Series/CSS/CSS_-_HEDGEHOG_April_2013.pdf)



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Greenways Project Joint Advisory Committee—Summary of site visit



Anemone nemorosa—wood anemone
and

Euphorbia amygdaloides—wood
spurge

Two of the ancient woodland
indicators seen on our site visit.

Definitely worth a visit now.

[www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/greenways/
greenspaces/belstead-brook-park/](http://www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/greenways/greenspaces/belstead-brook-park/)

For those members who have not come across [Greenways](#) before they manage 39 acres of land in Suffolk Coastal and a lot more in Ipswich for the benefit of people and wildlife on behalf of the Councils and private land owners. On Friday 17 March 2017 the quarterly Joint Advisory Committee meeting included a site visit to Belstead Brook to share land management tips.

Key points of interest:

- Managing the land is a constant balancing act between people, organisations and wildlife. Retaining good relationships is vital for positive long term impacts as is identifying ways to cover core management costs and develop improvement projects. Coppicing and sales of poles is one success story as is dead hedging. Engaging a great team of volunteers is another. Learning on cost effective but low environmental impact ways to manage large wildflower meadows is ongoing as the autumn cut best for wildlife means the product is too 'stemmy' for cattle consumption and the vegetation has to be removed otherwise it becomes too nutrient rich.
- Dogs mess remains a big issue. Dog walkers collecting it in a bag and taking it home or to the nearest dog bin (regardless of how far away that is) is the best way to deal with it. Left in bags along the side or in trees or as bad flicked into hedges or long grasses it affects other walkers and children, countryside rangers and volunteers. It is actually worse for us all when hidden.



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What would our Climate Change school report say?

My summary of a webinar delivered by [Kevin Anderson](#) professor of energy and climate change in the School of Mechanical, Aeronautical and Civil Engineering at the University of Manchester. This was hosted by the [Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment](#). The full webinar is accessible on <https://vimeo.com/208140547>

Past performance poor

The [IPCC](#) Reports on mitigation have changed little in the last 27 years (first published in 1990). So we have had all that data on what action is needed all that time. Positively energy consumption and economic development have been [decoupling in recent years](#), with gross domestic product (GDP) increasing by more than 90% between 1990 and 2014, while total primary energy supply (TPES) only grew by 56%. However as global emissions of carbon dioxide have still increased by 60% it is clear that current actions, offsetting, emissions trading and nudging is not sufficient.

While the climate models have been well researched and are reasonable in their assumptions we have used questionable assumptions to frame climate change within currently acceptable economic growth and social paradigms to create the 2 degree warming scenario – they have assumed that at some point between now and 2050/60 we will have invented and applied a technology which sucks 100s of billions of tonnes out of the atmosphere. One being biomass energy with carbon capture in chimney, liquefaction and storage underground for thousands of years (the coal equivalent is being trialed in Boundary Dam, Canada) this has not yet worked at any scale and will be a challenge due to competing users of biomass and limited land availability (It is estimated that we would need to annually plant area 1-3 size of India). This has led to an underselling of the challenges and the scale of change needed.

Recent efforts show a potential for improvement

Paris Agreement 4 Nov 2016– 194 UNFCCC members have signed the treaty, 134 including UK have ratified it. It is a diplomatic triumph bringing together the best science, equity and efforts to eradicate poverty. One particular commitment is to reduce the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 degrees and aim for below 1.5 degrees.



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However there are gaps which need to be addressed

The Paris agreement does not mention fossil fuels, decarbonisation. It exempts aviation and shipping despite this currently equalling the emissions of Germany and England put together and showing continuous growth.

All of the promises made to deliver will only reduce temperatures to 3 or 4 degrees (remember 5 degree shift is the difference between temperate and ice age that would usually happen over tens of thousands of years) with no mechanism for review until 2023 established (300 billion tonnes of CO₂ from now) and an over emphasis on negative emission technologies.

The challenge

In three to 13 years we will use all of the 1.5 degree warming budget – which will mean major land losses in Bangladesh, the association of small Island states and other poor low lying areas. Indeed some whole Islands will be lost. This will mean movements of people and present society with a humanitarian welfare decision.

Carbon budgets are critical due to the gradual dissipation of CO₂ over time (About 50% of a CO₂ increase will be removed from the atmosphere within 30 years, and a further 30% will be removed within a few centuries. The remaining 20% may stay in the atmosphere for many thousands of years) <http://www.nature.com/climate/2008/0812/full/climate.2008.122.html>.

In 2013 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) included a calculation of how much carbon we can still emit and remain within 2 degrees of warming – which will still increase the losses from 1.5 in less industrialised nations but will not significantly impact the more industrialised ones. They found that the amount of carbon that can be released through carbon dioxide emissions is 800 billion tonnes CO₂ if we want to stick at 2 degrees warming by 2050 and if by then we are at zero annual emissions.



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If we continue to choose to fail where are we headed?

4 degrees will mean:

- 6 to 12 degrees hotter during a heatwave than current heatwave temperatures = increased deaths in vulnerable populations, increased problems with infrastructure that has been designed for temperate zones.
- 30 – 40% drops in maize, wheat yields in low latitudes
- Sea level rise – locking in 7 to 8m sea level rise meaning many over the next centuries city areas across globe will no longer be viable.
- Locking in change that could create an unstable, inhospitable planet.

If we choose to aim for no more than 2 degrees what do we need to do?

We need to recognise that 50% of global emissions come from 10% of the population and if they were to reduce their carbon footprint to average level of a typical EU citizen we would see a 33% cut in global emissions. The 10% is: climate scientists, business leaders, policy makers, famous people, frequent fliers and they are most likely to have the most influence/ catalyse change therefore they need to pioneer this.

In the interests of equity wealthy countries need to make deep cuts in energy demand while we research negative emissions technologies. We need to develop and adopt new economic models that are fit for purpose and focus on intergenerational social equity within three decades.

The UK needs to move to zero CO₂ energy by 2035 (a 12%p.a. cut in emissions year on year from this year on against 1990 levels) - this counters the Integrated Assessment Models which bring economics and climate science together with larger budgets than IPCC (1400 billion tonnes CO₂) and starting at a lower emissions rate that does not match actual emissions).



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- Cut down our demands for energy and transport drastically – 12.5% per year including this one. Efficiency standards tightened year on year to create a strong dynamic market signal with countermeasures to rebound effect (increased costs, stopping perverse incentives e.g. frequent flyer miles) and individual carbon budgets that are fixed and not saleable.
- Reduce flying to the bare minimum by introducing carbon budget/increasing costs.
- Electrify transport and at least three quarters of our energy supply with low carbon sources – geothermal, hydro, solar, wind, biomass (small role carefully used due to particulates and land use implications, nuclear, EFW. Moratorium on all new hydrocarbon development (we need to keep 80% of our identified reserves in the ground to keep to 2 degrees of warming) and airport expansion.
- Retrofit our existing homes and look at changing the way we build and live.
- Roll out smart grids/intelligent metering/community energy
- Improve planning and infrastructure so that it is zero emissions and fit for the higher estimates.
- Research and if possible develop [negative emissions technologies](#)

It is a challenge but also an opportunity

For the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership to build on past progress and complete planned local actions www.greensuffolk.org/about/suffolk-climate-change-partnership/

For us all to:

- Cut back on flying and utilise other leisure and business engagement opportunities.
- Continue and increase pace on the strong growth in renewable energy, electric vehicles and more efficient appliances and buildings.
- Utilize the arts in communicating messages in palatable forms.
- Reskill in zero/low carbon lifestyles and jobs.
- Move to an alternative fairer future with personal carbon budgets, one that changes our understanding of prosperity and well being.



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Swifts in Woodbridge – please contribute to RSPB Woodbridge 2017 survey

Join the RSPB Woodbridge Local Group for the third year of our campaign to Save Our Swifts. In 2017 they are looking for swift nest sites either in roofs or nest boxes. From surveys in 2015 and 2016 they have gathered information from Woodbridge and 10 of the surrounding villages. They have recorded 25 houses with nesting swifts totalling 55 nests.

They are sure that there are many more nest sites in roofs waiting to be recorded. They would like to hear from observers in Woodbridge and any of the nearby villages but, they would particularly like more information from Woodbridge, Wickham Market, Saxmundham, Bawdsey, Bredfield, Shottisham, Orford, Hasketon, Snape, Benhall, Sternfield, Great Glemham and Waldringfield.

Between early May and early August if you see swifts flying in at roof level, particularly around the eaves, this could be a nest site. You may see them flying directly into a hole or through a loose tile into the nest. If it is your house you may hear them from the upstairs rooms. Another sign of breeding swifts is 'screaming parties'. These are the groups of birds which fly around in a tight group, at or just above roof-top height.

RSPB Woodbridge Local Group would like to hear about nest sites and screaming parties.

So send your observations to:

woodbridge.swifts@gmail.com

For more information about swifts, swift websites, leaflets to download and their meetings, visit their website:

www.rspb.org.uk/groups/woodbridge



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Deben Community Farm

Farming is a part of our heritage and this local community farm brings it to life for people at weekends, provides care and inspires future generations whilst looking after nature. Visit this farm on their Easter Open day for Easter Egg fun and to find out more.

Deben Community Farm Easter Open Day

Saddlemakers Lane, Melton, IP12 1PP

Sunday 16 April 2017

12pm — 4pm

Easter Egg Hunt

A prize for all entrants

Meet the piglets, lambs and
other animals

Be a farmer for the day

Build a bird box

Feed the animals



Adopt your favourite animal

Tea, coffee and cake

Launch of our growing project

Planting workshops



@debencommunityfarm



Deben Community farm was set up by volunteers in 2015 after they were inspired by the [2014 Care Farm Conference](#) and a visit to [Clinks Care Farm](#). Following extensive fundraising and networking it is now home to 30 hens, two highland cattle, three sheep and three lambs, two pigs and 12 piglets. The land also includes a woodland area, a newly planted orchard and a yurt which is well used by visiting schools.

The farm has benefitted from a number of different funds including [Enabling Communities](#) and [Melton Parish Council](#) for improvements to the parking area and site entrance. [Tesco Bags of Help](#) which has helped towards the animal shelters and fencing and [Awards for All](#) which paid for the yurt and portaloo.