



Winter work party Sunday 12 February 2023



Woodland creation at Woods Meadow

This activity was facilitated by the Countryside Team at East Suffolk Norse on behalf of the Greenprint Forum. Our ranks were boosted by a team of scouts, their parents and scout leaders from [14th Lowestoft Scout Group](#), alongside members of the local community, Greenprint members, and the Countryside Ranger giving us a total team of 36 for this activity – a stunning turnout which enabled the planting of around 300 trees, a significant contribution to the ongoing creation of this new mixed native woodland of about 5.8 hectares (including several hazel coppice coupes) which is now in its second winter of planting. We hope that the youngsters who so enthusiastically engaged with this important work will be able to reflect when they grow up on the role they played in helping to create this new woodland to benefit generations to come as well as the local wildlife.

The wider vision for the site will comprise a mixture of habitats including the aforementioned new deciduous woodland, about 2ha of scrubland, a wildflower meadow, a wildlife pond, hedgerow, and a large hay meadow with a late summer cut and restrictions on human access during the skylark nesting season to ensure that suitable habitat for ground nesters such as skylark is retained and enhanced on the site.

In the years ahead visitors to this site on the edge of Suffolk's second biggest urban area will see what was once arable land transform into a wildlife oasis with access improvements and areas to play.



The Countryside Team run a programme of conservation work parties, called Footprints, tackling a wide range of tasks at a number of countryside sites owned by East Suffolk Council. To find out more about becoming a volunteer with Footprints, or to arrange a corporate conservation activity for your workplace, contact Matt O'Connell or Chris Ryde from the Countryside Team: chris.ryde@ncsgrp.co.uk matthew.o'connell@ncsgrp.co.uk

Outdoor volunteering opportunities are also available from [Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB](#), [Dedham Vale AONB](#) and [Suffolk Wildlife Trust](#).

