



**East of England Biodiversity Forum Meeting Minutes Tuesday 7 October 2014
Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club**

<p>Present</p> <p>Steve Scott ~ Forestry Commission Mark Iley ~ Essex Biodiversity Project Catherine Weightman ~ Natural England Gen Broad ~ Suffolk LBAP Dominic Coath ~ Environment Agency David Hooton ~ Deer Initiative Anne Casey ~ Norfolk LBAP Richard Barnes ~ Woodland Trust Simon O'Dell ~ Greenarc Debbie Gosman ~ Natural England Mike Drew ~ Anglian Water Deb Howard ~ Essex Wildlife Trust (minute taker)</p>	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Stuart Warrington ~ National Trust Stuart Banks ~ National Trust Philip Pearson ~ RSPB Kieren Alexander ~ Essex Biodiversity Project Jennifer Faulkner ~ National Trust Martin Horlock ~ Norfolk County Council Ellie Henderson ~ Woodland Trust Henry Bexley ~ National Trust Liz Anderson ~ Central Bedfordshire Council/Alge rep Martin Hicks ~ Hertfordshire County Council Rebecca Banks ~ Norfolk Wildlife Trust</p>
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	Action
<p>Actions from the last meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve encouraged forum members to keep thinking about subjects for an innovative biodiversity conference. It was agreed that Steve would speak to David Webb at Sustainability East about working jointly on a possible event. • Deb to check with Martin Hicks regarding the mapping system for planning indicating where work can take place showing grasslands and historic parklands in Hertfordshire <p>Minutes from the last meeting Minutes of the meeting from 8 July 2014 were agreed</p> <p>Update from secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £10,000.00 remains in the account. If anyone has a regional project that would benefit from support of these funds please put forward an A4 side proposition to Steve for the Forum to consider. 	<p>ALL SS</p> <p>DH</p>
<p>Landscape partnership applications – Catherine Weightman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several existing HLF schemes are not receiving much interest from the Biodiversity Sector, HLF have had no applications to Young Roots in the East of England, to try to encourage young people into recording, surveying and conservation and there is £20 million available for local more formal park projects • Landscape partnership applications are progressing well with projects in the delivery phase Touching the Tide (final year) Breaking New Ground and Ouse Washes (first year of delivery). • We are waiting for the decision from HLF on the applications for Norfolk Coast, Lea Valley, Essex Marshes and Greensand ridge Landscape Partnerships. • The Broads and a group around Cambridge are working to submit applications to HLF Landscape Partnership for May 2015 – maybe others 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are more successful projects based around community, with a heritage/historic approach rather than biodiversity. We may lead to lobby for a more focussed biodiversity funding stream. • It was agreed that Robyn from the Heritage Lottery Fund would be invited to attend the forum meeting in March 2015 to give guidance on applying for funding. • It was agreed that bids for funding are extremely time consuming without the guarantee of success. • Concerns were also expressed regarding partners that you are working with receiving the funding and not the original applicant. • All forum members are encouraged to invite funding colleagues to the March meeting to hear about applying for Heritage Lottery Funding. 	<p>SS</p> <p>ALL</p>
<p>Natural England's new standing advice for ancient woodland, veteran trees and wood pasture, plus associated checklist – Richard Barnes (see presentation)</p> <p>please see Richards presentation attached and useful links for information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/fepveterantree_tcm6-6492.pdf • http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/ancient-woodland-standing-advice_tcm6-37627.pdf • http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blogs/ancient-woodland/outstanding-advice/ 	
<p>Chalara update on Pound Farm and also mature ash trees and their decline within the wider environment – Richard Barnes/Steve Scott</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Scott showed a map of the wind born spread of Chalara • There is wider infection in Cheshire, Lancashire, South Derbyshire and Northumberland • There are grants available for destroying affected stock if trees were originally planted with Forestry Commission money. • On the continent the disease moved 20-30 km per year on average. • Forestry Commission are concentrating on increasing management for natural regeneration of other species. • Trials are taking place on tolerance rather than resistance. Sycamore has been proven to be one of the best non native tree for associations with other species. • Steve feels that the reality is not all Ash will disappear. • See the Forestry Commission website www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara and www.forestry.gov.uk/treealert • Natural England have a publication on alternative trees to ash http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5273931279761408 • Richard Barnes gave a presentation on Pound Farm in Suffolk (see attached) • The spores rise from the ground and are dispersed by the wind. • No Ash appear resistant to the disease at Pound farm • Unfortunately Ash regeneration is the favourite food for deer, hence the importance of keeping on top of deer control. • An event is planned for June 2015 at Pound Farm 	
<p>PAWS restoration – Richard Barnes presentation (see attached)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of work goes into the bids • Richard asked for the forum to put forward landowners that could work with the Woodland Trust for funding 	<p>ALL</p>
<p>Trees and River catchments – Richard Barnes and Steve Scott (see attached presentation and PDFs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is all about whole valley planning – looking at the top of catchments • The Environment Agency is producing shape maps this year. 	

<p>NELMS update – Catherine Weightman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HLS and ELS applications from 2013 are being finalised now • NELMS are still being finalised, expected early next year. They will include woodland, water and land management. • An email was sent to stakeholders on 24 September • The timeline is subject to sign off and will be shared the first 2 weeks of November. • New agreements will start at an annual start date, the first being January 2016 	
<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simon O’Dell met with Thames Chase and Debra Fox at Essex County Council Country Parks for funding • Simon O’Dell also reported on an Epping Forest community project with Soft Power, there is £100,000 to share with others. • Debbie Gosman has been working on National Character Work focusing on Norfolk and Suffolk AONB. Debbie urged the forum to share examples of the National Character Areas (NCA) with the work that you do and find new partners to spread the word where opportunities are. Debbie would like to hear examples of NCA use. • Catherine Weightman informed the forum that Aidan Lonergan is the new area manager for Natural England, he started in September and he is from RSPB, formally head of the RSPB Futurescapes programme. Aidan is very keen for NE to work in partnership. • The Anglian River Basin management plan is out for a 3 month consultation on 10 October. • Gen Broad reported that the Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership are working with the records centre. The website has information aimed at developers and planners and are hoping to get additional records from developers. • There will be a Norfolk and Suffolk planners conference on 25 November from 9-4. • See attached for information sheet from Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership newsletter. • Mark Iley informed the forum that he is now sitting on the River Basin management liaison committee representing Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk overseeing the roll out of consultation and management plan. • Please see attached information from Phil Pearson RSPB on Little terns. • Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership is more project based not topic based. They have carried out a Norfolk wide visitor survey to understand visitor flows, why they go there, where they go and what they do there. Local community workshops were held to determine interests and understanding management of green land and bids will be submitted to do the work. • Mike Drew told the group of invasive species Quagga mussel in the South East, bio security will be stepped up in reservoirs. More information is on the NNBS website http://www.nonnativespecies.org/factsheet/factsheet.cfm?speciesId=3831 • Steve Scott informed the forum of work that the Forestry commission will be supporting small Forestry work funding business planning process to ideas now. Helping to put bids together. There will be 3 outside demonstration events and 7 pie and pint evenings. 	
<p>Dates and venues for 2015 meetings</p> <p>Tuesday 3 March 2015 – Cambridgeshire HLF meeting Tuesday 7 July 2015 Tuesday 13 October 2015</p> <p>Ideas put forward for next year – if you can host or give ideas for visits in your area please let me know and we can organise a meeting and visit Wicken or Welney Pound Farm Framlingham</p>	

Letchworth River Wensum Would National Trust still like to host a meeting?	
The meeting closed at 13.00, followed by lunch, and a guided walk around Falkenham Saltmarsh Restoration Project led by Haidee Stephens	