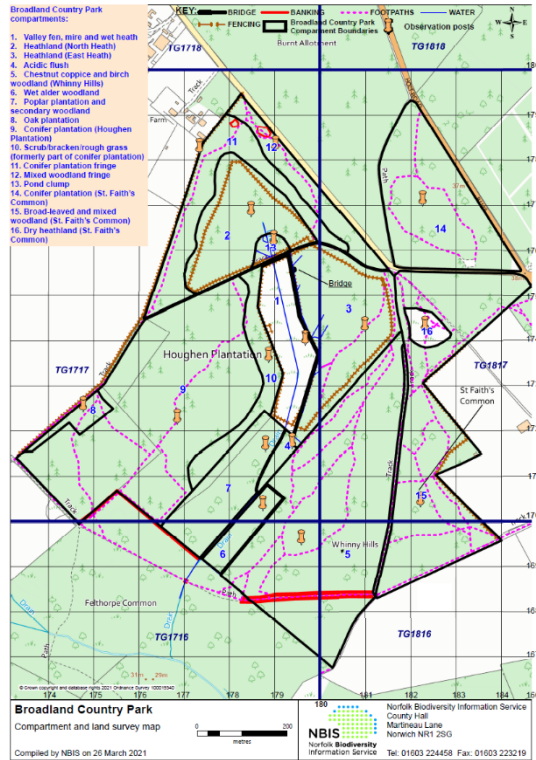


NEW COUNTRY PARK IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR NATURALISTS!

In March 2021 Broadland District Council established Broadland Country Park northwest of Norwich. It's a fascinating area, with 77ha of woodland, heath and marsh situated between Felthorpe and Horsford.



To help with the management of the area, the Council has partnered with the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists Society (NNNS) to carry out surveys of the animals and plants that call the Broadland Country Park (BCP) home. Over the next three years NNNS experts will explore the ecology and biodiversity of the area as a basis for management, restoration and wildlife conservation.

The Park's manager, Sarah Burston, set up a Working Group with NNNS to meet regularly and plan for the work ahead. The group quickly produced a topographic survey showing 16 different habitats and all the major features of the Country Park (left). A series of familiarisation meetings attracted many specialists who have already started telling us about some of the wonderful species to be found here.

The NNNS Photographic Group, led by Hans Watson, has placed Observation Posts in all 16 habitat compartments and quarterly photographs are being taken to record seasonality and change.

The Norfolk Flora Group has already compiled a first list of plants for all compartments. Amongst the rarities is the Yellow Bird's-nest (below left), a scarce parasite of fungi in the woodland soils. The Norfolk Fungus Study Group has also found the rare Bog Beacon (below right), which grows on leaves decaying in shallow water.



BCP is rich in birdlife, including Yellowhammers (below left), Woodlarks and large flocks of Crossbill. Spring has seen the return of a wide variety of warblers and other migrants, including several pairs of nesting Nightjars (below right) and a pair of Hobby, which is a small falcon.



Lists of butterflies, beetles, dragonflies, flies, bees, wasps and spiders are also emerging, including some notable rarities such as the black ladybird *Scymnus nigrinus*, a spider -hunting wasp *Priocnemus coriacea* and the rare Bog Bush-cricket *Metrioptera brachyptera*. Don't be surprised if you see some of the equipment that the NNNS is using to study these secretive species deep in the woods.

In *National Volunteers' Week* 1st-7th June 2021, Broadland District Council praised the work of volunteers at the Country Park and Radio Norfolk interviewed NNNS member Dave Weaver, who has spent many hours working on the restoration of heathland there (below).



Why not get along for a visit and add your support to the project? You will be helping a very good cause! This is a great time for countryside enthusiasts and naturalists to get involved – we need your help! There are regular conservation work parties and casual visits are welcome too. If you want to make regular surveys or observations just get in contact with NNNS Research Committee Chair (email below).

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Images: Hans Watson, NNNS Photographic Group and Dave Weaver, NNNS

Map: Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service