



# Westleton Common Annual Report 2024



*Gill Wood  
Foxgloves near the steps to Black Slough*

# **WESTLETON COMMON ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

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## Annual Report 2024 – Review of the Year

In spite of some adverse weather and too many named storms 2024 was another successful year for Westleton Common.

Local Residents Gill Wood (see the cover of this report) and Andy Gilmour took photographs of the spectacular display of foxgloves on the bank adjacent to the steps leading to Black Slough.



*Andy Gilmour*



*Andy Gilmour*

Parts of this bank, close to the photographed areas, have been cleared of overgrowing gorse and other scrub so in a few years we would hope that the foxgloves will be more extensive (*see later in this report*).

Yvonne Couch was on holiday in the area for a week in April. She visited Westleton Common looking for invertebrates and sent an extensive report of her findings which is included in the Appendix. Ms Couch commented that; “The common is a very interesting place”.

We appreciate the help of local volunteers on the Saturday morning working parties and the teams of volunteers organised by Neil Lister of Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape. The work of both groups is invaluable and accounts of the work they did in 2024 follow later in the report.

We were also pleased to welcome a visit to Westleton Common and Westleton Village Hall by the Suffolk Naturalists' Society. A report of their visit is also included.

In the report of their survey of the common in 2021 GeoSuffolk advised us to clear the cliff in compartment 13 of gorse and other scrub to expose the underlying horizontal layers of sand and gravel.

We received a generous grant from the Community and Conservation Fund of Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape which enabled us to do this clearance. This work has also restored a site previously used by nesting sand martins. We are grateful to Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape and their grants officer, Oka Last. A report of the work is included in this report.

We also applied to Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape for a grant to install additional seats on the common and to replace damaged seats. At the time of writing, we await the outcome of this application.

Several "housekeeping" jobs were done during the year:

- In August UK Power Networks lowered trees and other "high rise" vegetation on the common that is under their power lines and likely to pose a risk to the electrical power supply and to people.
- The "drop-down" posts on the footpath leading to the common from the "container" car park have now been installed and the access codes given to Leiston Fire Station and the East of England Ambulance Service. This should make access for emergency vehicles easier whilst still preventing casual and non-urgent access by vehicles.
- In November and December granite chips were spread over the surfaces of both car parks to deal with the potholes.

Towards the end of the year the GeoSuffolk notice board was damaged by vandals. This is clearly disappointing, but repairs are in hand.

We couldn't manage the common without the help of our many volunteers. We are very grateful to them. We thank all the people who helped with the working parties and are grateful to Grania Webber, Pam Hargreaves and Liz Pierce for providing the very welcome refreshments.

A number of people contributed to and are credited in this report. Observations were reported by Joyce Burtenshaw, David Rous, Yvonne Couch and members of the Suffolk Naturalists' Society. We are grateful for their help.

We are grateful to the people who took the photographs included in this report and their permission to use them; Juliet Bullimore, Gill Wood, Andy Gilmour, Ann Bebbington, Ian Webber, members of the Suffolk Naturalists' Society and John Bebbington.

Juliet Bullimore helped with much of the organisation and publicity and made some useful and invaluable contributions to this report including writing the "Nature Walks and other Observations" section.

We thank them all.

*Westleton Common Advisory Group*  
*January 2025*

Personal note, John Bebbington

I resigned as a member of and secretary to the Common Advisory Group at the end of December 2024. I have been a member of the group for 10 years and acted as secretary for about 9 of those years. Other people have worked harder and longer but feel that I have passed my “best before date” and that it is best to stop before that becomes obvious to too many others.

I thank the three people who chaired the group with whom I worked, Arlette Smith, the late Roy Jones and Nick Shearme, and all my other colleagues, present and former, for their help and support over the years. I wish them and my successor, Ian Webber, well. I have no doubt that Westleton Common will continue to prosper and be an important part of the Westleton and wider community.

I am grateful to Ian Haines, clerk to Westleton Parish Council, for his frequent help and advice and to Andrew Turner, chairman of the council for his kind words at their meeting on 25 November 2024 and to the whole parish council for their support and the generous “goodbye” present.

*John Bebbington*

*January 2025*

## **Westleton Common Advisory Group 2024**

*(Re-appointed by Westleton Parish Council at its Annual Meeting held on 20 May 2024)*

Nick Shearme, Westleton Parish Council - Chair [nick@gardenend.co.uk](mailto:nick@gardenend.co.uk)

John Bebbington, Co-opted - Secretary [johnannbebbington@outlook.com](mailto:johnannbebbington@outlook.com)

David Rous, Co-opted - Work Party Leader [David126754@outlook.com](mailto:David126754@outlook.com)

Julian Alexander, Westleton Parish Council

Ian Webber, Westleton Parish Council (Secretary from January 2025 [ianjwebber@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ianjwebber@yahoo.co.uk) )

John French, Westleton Parish Council

Joyce Burtenshaw, Co-opted

Barry Banks, Westleton Parish Council

Amanda Freeman, Co-opted

Chris Freeman, Co-opted

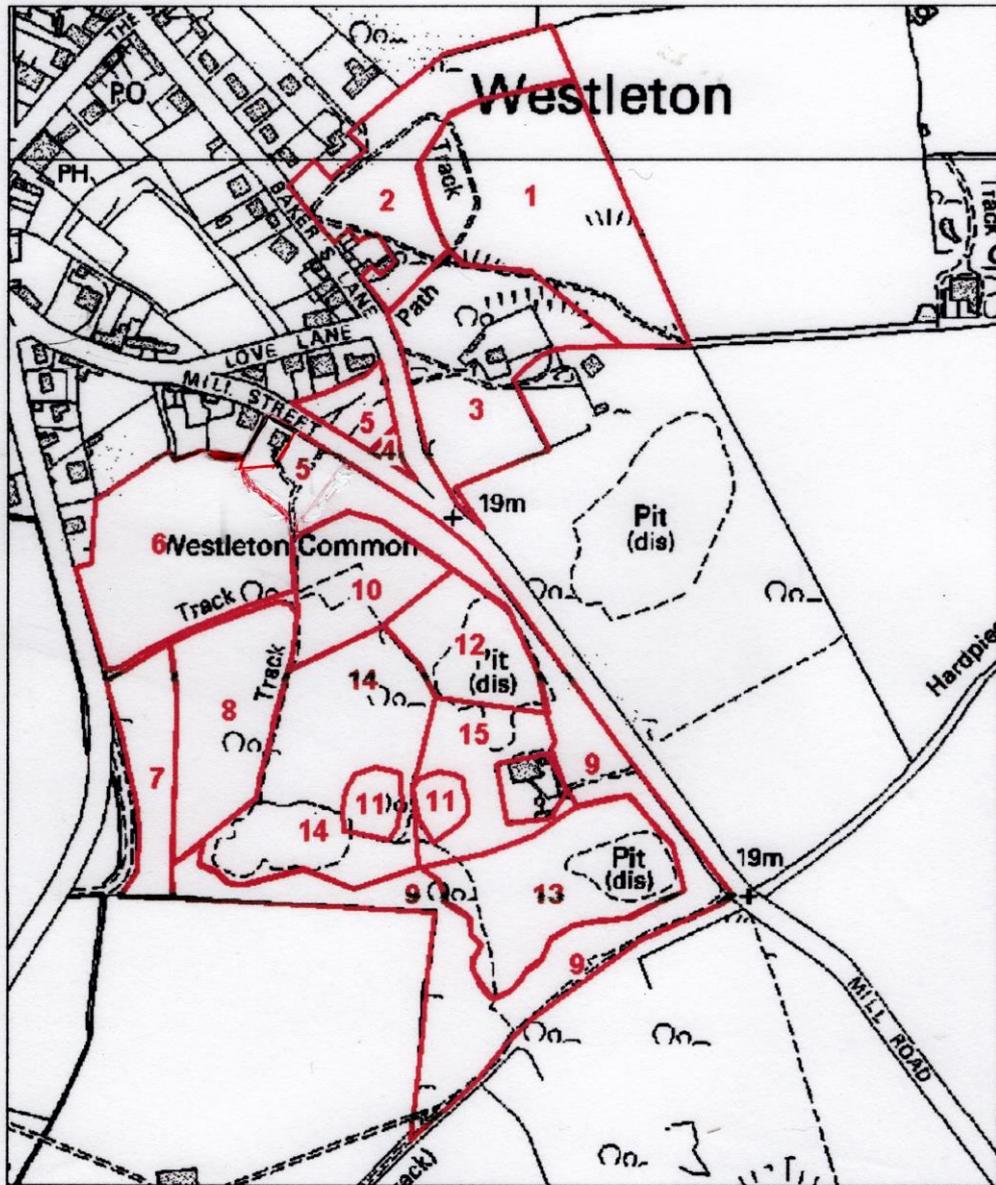
# Westleton Common; Compartment Plan

## Westleton Common

Compartment Map

Scale 1:4000

Suffolk Wildlife Trust  
Brooke House  
Ashbocking  
Ipswich IP6 9JY



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# Westleton Common Programme 2024

## **BONFIRE and FIREWORKS**

New Year's Day at about 6pm

## **WORKING PARTIES 2024**

10am to 12.30

Meet at the Container opposite the Common Noticeboard,

down a short track on the right at the top of Mill St.

Saturday January 20th

Saturday February 17th

Saturday March 16th

Saturday September 21st

Saturday October 19th

Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup>

~

## **NATURE WALKS 2024**

10.30am to 12 noon (approx)

We are as usual having a series of informal walks/strolls covering each season on the Common.

Meet at the Common Noticeboard down a short track on the right at the top of Mill St.

Saturday February 24th

Saturday April 13th

Saturday May 25th

Saturday July 6th

Saturday September 7th

Saturday November 2nd

~

## **New Years Day Bonfire and Fireworks**

Note from the minutes of the January 2024 meeting of Westleton Parish Council

*“The event had once again proved very successful with another good turnout of people despite the adverse weather. In total, £1036.34 had been raised in income via donations, raffle draw etc. Thanks were recorded to all the organising and support team/s – both at the site itself and the helpers who had assisted with refreshments at the Village Hall.”*

The total expenditure allowed for the event was increased to £1966 inc VAT for 2024.

*Nick Shearme included this note in the February 2024 edition of the Yoxmere Fisherman;*

### **NEW YEAR'S DAY FIREWORKS 2024**

*“A big thank you from the Fireworks Group for a great attendance and support. Hope you all enjoyed the fireworks and bonfire. Thanks to the Parish Council for their support and also for everyone who helped with the food and drink. Thanks to Nat Bacon and Warrior Fire and Rescue. See you all January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025.*

*Nick Shearme, Chair of Bonfire Advisory Working Group”*

# Working Party Notes

David Rous led all the working parties.

Saturday 20/01/2024

A team of 11 people, including David Rous, team leader cleared gorse in compartment 15 below Ralph's Mill.

Nick Shearme cleared gorse stumps on the approaches to the wetland area in compartment 11 that was cleared in 2023.

Grania Webber organised the refreshments.



*Getting Started A*



*Getting Started B*



*Getting Started C*



*After A*



*After B*



*After C*



*Clearing Gorse Stumps*



*Area Cleared*

Saturday 17/02/2024

12 workers including David Rous, Team Leader cleared gorse in compartment 1 on the North Common. The gorse was cleared in front of the boundary fence of The Oaks and left on the edge of a pit near the fence.

Nick Shearme cleared young silver birch near the beehives in compartment 5.

No "before" photos near beehives were taken.

Grania Webber organised the refreshments.



*Initial Briefing*



*Getting Started A*



*Getting Started B*



*After A*



*After B*



*After C*



*Cut Material by Pit in Comp 1*



*Cut Birch by Beehives A*



*Cut Birch by Beehives B*

Saturday 16/03/2024

David Rous led a team of 6 workers.

As this was the start of the nesting season it was not possible to do any major clearance work. Various paths were checked to ensure access was satisfactory and they were not overgrown. The main area dealt with was the path leading from compartment 10 to the Reckford Road near the layby. The clear area in compartment 7 was tidied up as was the path leading up from compartment 7 to compartments 14 and 9.

Liz Pierce organised the refreshments.



*Job Done*

Saturday 21/09/2024

9 workers including David Rous, team leader, cleared gorse and young birch in compartment 10. Nick Shearme cleared the Black Slough steps and strimmed the edges of the main access path from the car park.

Pam Hargreaves organised the refreshments.

An unusual feature of this working party was that, unlike many other working parties which were either cancelled or shortened because of rain, this working party was shortened because many found it too hot.



*Gettng Started A*



*Getting Started B*



*Getting Started C*



*Cleared Area A*



*Cleared Area B*



*Cleared Area C*



*Black Slough Steps Cleared*



*Path Cleared A*



*Path Cleared B*

Saturday 19/10/2024

*(Report based on notes from Juliet Bullimore and Ian Webber.)*

The original plan was to clear the gorse left by contractors on top of the bank in compartment 9. (This was subsequently cleared by the Suffolk Coast and Heaths volunteers later **(See under Suffolk Coast and Heaths Volunteers later in this report)**.)

Juliet writes;

*“Unfortunately, the weather turned against us yesterday, and although there was only light rain, it was decided that it would not be safe to work on the steep slope - so the Working Party didn’t go ahead.*

*Thank you so much to those who came along despite the weather, and to Liz Pierce who kindly shared the delicious cakes she had prepared for the refreshments with a lucky few of us!”*

Ian added;

*We had a Common Working Party this morning but work was cancelled due to the weather.*

*We took the opportunity to take a close look at the clearance works on the bank to the left of the path up to Black Slough. **(See under Clearance Work later in this report.)***

*The path up the slope had essentially been removed by the contractor who needed to build a ramp to allow the machine access to the top of the bank.*

*See photo which shows that what was once a flat path (up the slope) is now itself sloped.*

*The path needs to be re-instated, most likely by a contractor due to the unstable materials.*

*We are considering extending the path to the right climbing slowly to the top of the bank where we could place a seat to provide access to the tremendous views across to Theberton / Middleton.*



*We apologise for the decapitation in this photograph, but it illustrates the problem well.*

Saturday 16 November 2024

8 workers including David Rous as team leader cleared gorse in compartment 10 adjacent to the concrete pad.

Nick Shearme removed a dead rowan tree adjacent to the path up to the Noddle.

Grania Webber organised the refreshments.



*Getting Started A*



*Getting Started B*



*Getting Started C*



*After A*



*After B*



*Cut Material*



*Rowan – Before Removal*



*Rowan After Removal*

## Car Park Resurfacing

The two car parking areas (between Bakers Lane and Mill Street and on the container site on Mill Street) had “potholes” filled and were partially resurfaced with granite chips.



*Resurfaced car park between Bakers Lane and Mill Street*



*Granite chips to repair “container” car park.*



*Resurfaced “container” car park.*

## Clearance Work

In October contractors used industrial “diggers” to clear a cliff in compartment 13 and a bank in compartment 9. This work was done with the approval of our advisors from Natural England and Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

In their report in 2021 Bob and Caroline Markham of GeoSuffolk advised us to clear the cliff in compartment 13 of gorse and other scrub to expose the horizontal layers of sand and gravel. Some clearance was done manually in 2023 (see *2023 Annual Report*). In previous years this bank has hosted nesting sand martins. This year the decision was made to hire contractors to do a more thorough job of clearing this cliff to show the underlying geology better and to encourage the sand martins to return. The digger operator had to profile the cliff at an angle as it was so sandy.



*Distant view of cleared cliff.*



*Cleared cliff showing geological banding.*

Bob Markham commented;

*This looks excellent - it shows exactly what your site is based on. We will mention it in the next GeoSuffolk Times (January), as the perfect example of how geological and scientific sites can be looked after for the benefit of not only local people but also for other visitors and geologists (unfortunately we do not send it to sand martins).*

A copy of the January 2025 edition of GeoSuffolk Times is in the appendix (*with the permission of Bob Markham of GeoSuffolk*). Time will tell if the sand martins also appreciate the work.

This work was funded by a generous grant from Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape through the Community and Conservation Fund. We are grateful to them and to their grants officer, Oka Last.

Public notice - displayed;



**Suffolk & Essex  
Coast & Heaths**  
National  
Landscape

## Westleton Parish Council



**Suffolk & Essex  
Coast & Heaths**  
National  
Landscape

Westleton Parish Council has received a very generous grant of £700 from the Community and Conservation Fund of Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape.

This grant will meet most of cost of hiring contractors to clear a cliff on Westleton Common. In the recent past this cliff has hosted nesting sand martins but has become overgrown with gorse and other vegetation. We hope this clearance will encourage the sand martins to return.

In 2021 GeoSuffok surveyed the common and suggested that clearing this cliff would also expose some interested geological features – horizontal layers of sand and gravel. These layers can now clearly be seen.



We are very grateful to Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape for their support.

*Westleton Parish Council and Westleton Common Advisory Group*

*October 2024*

Later in October the same contractors cleared gorse and scrub from a bank to the right of the path approaching the Black Sough steps in compartment 9.



*Cleared bank.*

In order to clear the top of the bank the contractor needed to build a ramp to allow the machine access to the top of the bank. The path to the top of the bank was damaged but was reinstated by contractors in December 2024. As the vegetation recovers this should return to a more natural appearance.



*Reinstated path (photographs taken on the day following doing the work [before removal of orange fencing!])*



*Reinstated path in use.*

The work to clear this bank, together with the clearance work done by the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape volunteers in 2023, has opened up easier access to splendid views towards Middleton and Theberton. We hope to install a path and seat to enable more people to appreciate this view. We have been advised that we should seek the approval of DEFRA and the Rural Payments Agency before we do this work to ensure it does not compromise our High-Level Stewardship grant. We are currently seeking the necessary approvals.



*Top of bank after clearance.*



*View to East*



*View to West*

# Proposed location of new seat

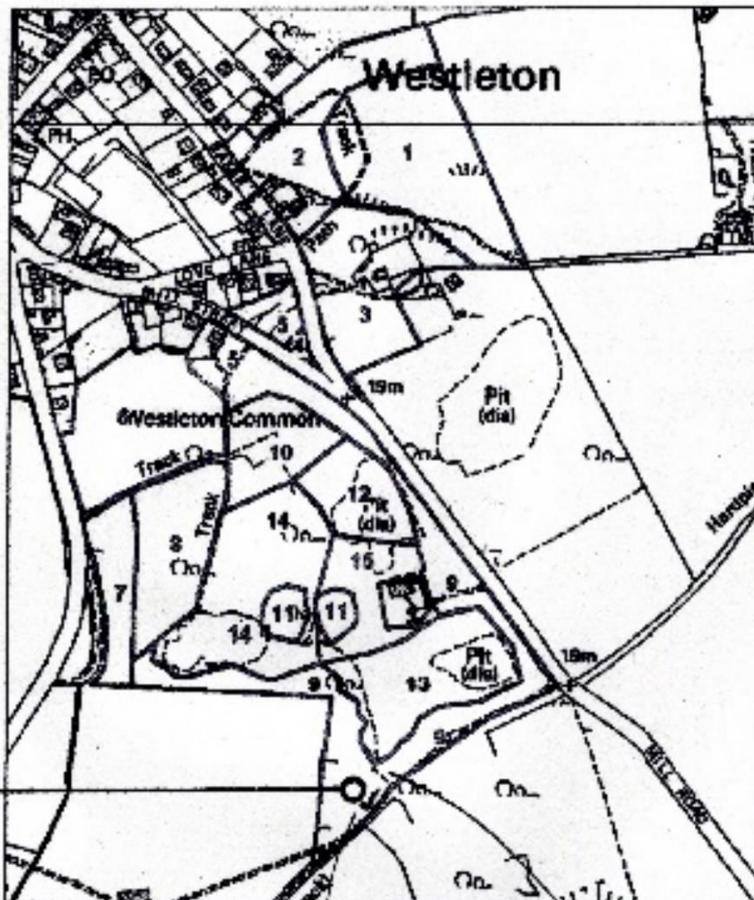
## Westleton Common; Compartment Plan

Westleton Common

Compartment Map

Scale 1:4000

Suffolk Wildlife Trust  
Brooks House  
Aylsham  
Ipswich IP5 5JY



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NEW  
SEAT

NEW  
PATH

DAMAGED  
PATH  
RE-INSETTED

# Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape Volunteers

We had two visits by teams of volunteers organised by Neil Lister of Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape.

We are very grateful for their invaluable help.

## 29 October 2024

The volunteers cleared all the cut material on top of the bank in compartment 9 that had previously been cut by the contractor. Joyce Burtenshaw organised the refreshments.

## 3 December 2024

David Rous briefed the team before starting work. John Bebbington organised the refreshments. The volunteers worked in compartment 14 and cleared gorse from the right-hand side of the path (when facing Black Slough). The amount of gorse they cleared was impressive.



*Getting started*



*Getting started*



*Cleared area at dusk.*



*Cleared area at dusk.*



*Some of the cut material.*

# Suffolk Naturalists' Society

In September the Suffolk Naturalists' Society (SNS) held their Members' Autumn Meeting in Westleton Village Hall and on Westleton Common. A copy of their report of the meeting is reproduced below (*with the permission of the SNS*).

## Exploring Westleton Common – Report for Council Meeting and/or White Admiral

The SNS Members' Autumn Meeting, 'Exploring Westleton Common', was held at Westleton Village Hall and Westleton Common, on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2024. This was a change from previous Autumn meetings, usually held on a weekday evening in November.

It was advertised in White Admiral, on the SNS website, on the Facebook SNS Members' Group page and via email members, which resulted in a very satisfactory turnout.

The meeting started at 1.30pm. Council members arrived early to prepare exhibits and erect the SNS gazebo on the Common for the outdoor activities. Over 40 members attended.

Refreshments were available and members browsed the exhibits which included: Hymenoptera by Hawk Honey, Woodlice by Joan Hardingham, Compost Critters Under the Microscope with Gavin Deans, (microscopes were supplied by Anglia Microscopy) and information about Westleton Common provided by John Bebbington (Westleton Parish Council).

Talks were accompanied by slides: 1) Simon Jackson (from Ipswich Museum) about "The Maidenhall Mammoth", discovered in Ipswich in 1975, and the new displays being developed at the Museum. 2) Howard Mottram spoke about the Geology of East Suffolk with reference to Westleton Common and Westleton Pit. John Bebbington gave a talk about the history and management of The Common.

Howard Mottram, Peter Vincent and Ross Piper introduced the activities on The Common. One member asked which recording Apps fed into SBIS and although it was agreed iRecord. There was a question on how often records should be submitted and it was pointed out that for planning purposes (important where sensitive habitats might be affected by a development) records are not considered if over 20 years old; it is therefore important for records to be input regularly. This applies to common species as well which are very under-recorded.

All proceeded to the Common for the two activities. Peter Vincent and Ross Piper took one group to show surveying methods for invertebrates and basic identification. Howard Mottram took the other group to look at the Geology of Westleton Pit. There was an opportunity to change over at half time, so members could attend both sessions.

Returning to the Village Hall, there was the opportunity for another cuppa, gathering some informal feedback, networking, and a second chance to look at the exhibits.

We all agreed that this was a very interesting site for both heathland species and geology, with an excellent well-equipped venue, particularly the large projector screen, worthy of a repeat visit perhaps at a different season. The meeting finished at 6pm.

This would not have been possible without many hands contributing – so thank you. The new SNS gazebo, tables and banners were used to signpost the village hall and provide a focal point out in the field.

Pictures of the event were put onto Facebook by Hawk Honey and Emma Aldous should be putting them on the website.

Observations recorded: Westleton Common, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2024

<u>Species</u>	<u>Determiner</u>
<i>Nebria brevicollis</i>	R. Piper
<i>Pterostichus madidus</i>	R. Piper
<i>Syntomus foveatus</i>	R. Piper
<i>Psylliodes chrysocephala</i>	P.J. Vincent
<i>Ocypus olens</i>	R. Piper
<i>Stenus brunnipes</i>	R. Piper
<i>Stenus clavicornis</i>	P.J. Vincent
<i>Stenus impressus</i>	P.J. Vincent
<i>Delia platura</i>	P.J. Vincent
<i>Pegomya bicolor</i>	P.J. Vincent
<i>Medetera flavipes</i>	P.J. Vincent
<i>Helina evecta</i>	P.J. Vincent
<i>Helina reversio</i>	P.J. Vincent
<i>Neomyia cornicina</i>	P.J. Vincent
<i>Phaonia valida</i>	P.J. Vincent
<i>Tephritis matricariae</i>	P.J. Vincent
<i>Elasmucha grisea</i>	P.J. Vincent
<i>Kleidocerys resedae</i>	P.J. Vincent
<i>Lygus rugulipennis</i>	P.J. Vincent
<i>Pilophorus perplexus</i>	P.J. Vincent
<i>Stenodema calcarata</i>	P.J. Vincent
<i>Euroleon nostras</i>	R. Piper
<i>Colletes hederæ</i>	H. Honey
<i>Gelis</i> sp	H. Honey

Lichens. Anthony Specca

On soil:

*Cladonia chlorophaea* sens. lat.,  
*Cladonia furcata* subsp. *furcata*,  
*Cladonia portentosa*,  
*Cladonia ramulosa*

On lignum (old gorse branches):

*Hypotrachyna revoluta* sens. lat. (probably sens. str. tbc)  
*Parmelia sulcata*  
*Physcia adscendens*  
*Xanthoria parietina*

*Rhizocarpon reductum* on stabilised flint pebbles, ID (from spores) tbc.

“All of these species have been recorded in the hectad before – but the records are all 15-20 years old. There were certainly many other lichens there, too!”

This report was prepared by Anne Shaw and Joan Hardingham.  
21/09/24



*John Bebbington welcoming the SNS to Westleton*



*An empty Antlion cocoon*



*Antlion larva*



*Antlion pits below Ivy Bee nests*

*(All photographs taken by SNS members and reproduced with permission.)*

Email from the SNS Chair after the meeting.

**From:** Joan Hardingham

**Sent:** 24 September 2024 20:57

**To:** John Bebbington

**Subject:** Suffolk Naturalists' Society

A big thank you for an excellent venue for this our first field meeting in years. We had over 40 people who enjoyed the event so much we would like to return!

It suited our purposes perfectly with a combination of rare (for Suffolk) habitats and geology.

I hope everything was in order when we left.

Kind regards

Joan Hardingham

SNS Chair

*(The hall and common were both left in perfect order!)*

Follow the link below to the SNS website;

<https://sns.org.uk/>

# Nature Walks and Other Observations (reported by Juliet Bullimore)

## Nature Walks and Observations 2024

*(All photographs by Juliet Bullimore)*

### Nature Walks 2024

#### February 24th Nature Walk

10 attendees - led by David Rous and Joyce Burtenshaw and Juliet.

Weather sunny, after a frosty start to the day

Plenty of birdsong

Sightings noted down by Joyce Burtenshaw - see Appendix



Flooded central area after heavy rain



Snowdrops (North Common)



Turkeytail fungus



Yellow Brain fungus on Gorse



Polytrichum moss with male flowers



Shield bug on Gorse

April 13th Nature Walk

7 attendees - walk led by David Rous - Juliet noted sightings (also to be found in Appendix)



Warm sunny day, with a warm breeze.

## Butterflies

Holly Blue, Comma, Small Copper, 2 Peacocks, Speckled Wood, Orange Tips M & F, Brimstones M & F



## Other Insects

Field Cuckoo Bee, Oak Shield Bug, Green Shield Bug, Red-tailed Bumblebee, Buff-tail Bumblebee, Common Carder Bee, Gooden's Nomad Bee, 7-spot Ladybird, Beefly, Chocolate Mining Bee, Red Mason Bee, Gorse Mites.

## Birds - some seen, mostly just heard

Chiff Chaff, Crow, Nightingales - at least 3, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Blackcap, Robin, Chetti's Warbler, Blue tits, Great tit, Blsckbird, Pheasant, Longtailed Tit.

## Wildflowers

Garlic Mustard, White flowered Honesty,

Alexanders, Gorse, Hawthorn, Bird Cherry, White Dead Nettle, Broom, Blackthorn, Green Alkanet, Dandelion, Common Storksbill, Wild Apple, Lords and Ladies (Italian, and normal), White Comfrey, Common Cranesbill, Spanish Bluebells, Native Bluebells, Ground Ivy, Woodrush, Sheep's Sorrell, Spring Beauty, Polytrichum moss M & F flowers, Mossy Stonecrop, 3-veined Sandwort, Willow sp, Changing Forget-me-not, Garden Forget-me-not, Mouse Ear Chickweed, Periwinkle, Red Honesty.

May 18th

Foxglove fest on the Common! :



May 25th Nature Walk

See Joyce Burtenshaw's record in the appendix



Cream-Spot Tiger Moth

July 6th Nature Walk

Rainy walk! 5 of us braved the weather, and enjoyed the beautiful show of Bell Heather



Viper's Bugloss



Moth Mullein

September 7th Nature Walk

6 attendees - walk led by David Rous - Juliet noted sightings, see also in Appendix

Weather warm



Central area of Common now dried out



North Common - looking very dry

## Butterflies

Small Heaths, Large Whites, Red Admirals, Speckled Wood, Small Coppers, Grayling, Meadow Brown  
Silver Y Moth

## Other Insects

Common Darter (male and female), and Migrant Hawker dragonflies, Common Carder bee, Parasitic wasp sp., Heath Bumblebees, White-tailed Bumblebee, Hoverfly sp, Crane Fly, Meadow Grasshoppers, Ants and big anthills, Robin's Pincushion (gall wasp).



Robin's Pincushion, Rosehips and Blackberry flowers.



Rowan berries

## Spiders

Orb spider, Woodlouse spider.

Birds - some seen, but mostly just heard

Swallows, Crows, Rooks, Herring Gulls, Robins, Blackbirds, Blue Tits, Great Tits, Longtailed Tits, Bullfinch.

## Flowers

Hoary Cinqfoil, Evening Primrose, St. John's Wort (perforated, I think), Ragwort, Scarlet Pimpernel, Moth Mullein, Viper's Bugloss, Bell Heather, Ling Heather, Common Storksbill, Creeping Wood Sorrel, Black Moorgrass, Blackberries, Rowan berries

November 2nd Nature Walk

About a dozen attendees and 2 dogs!

Dull day, but not cold

Some interesting fungi seen and mostly identified:

See Joyce Burtenshaw's records in the Appendix.



Yellow Staghorn fungus and a jelly sp. fungus



The Deceiver fungus



Oyster fungus



Fly Agaric Fungus

Juliet Bullimore

---

**Nature Walk 2<sup>nd</sup> November**  
**Additional photographs taken by Ann Bebbington**



*Possibly Leptonia spp*



*Fly Agaric Fungus*



*Deceiver Fungus*



*Oyster Fungus*

## Additional Observations by Andy Gilmour

In the spring Andy spotted this caterpillar on the posts on the path leading up to the Noddle.



With the help of Clive Ireland (a former Westleton resident who was very active in the local moth group) and UK Moths (<https://www.ukmoths.org.uk/>) this was identified as the caterpillar of the Lackey Moth, *Malacosoma neustria*.

# **Safety Audit**

## **Westleton Common Advisory Group**

### **Safety Audit Report**

**Date of Audit** – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**Auditors** – David Rous, Nick Shearme and Ian Webber

#### **Scope of Audit;**

All main paths on both sides of Bakers Lane and Mill Street/Mill Road were walked. All benches, seats, handrails and steps were checked.

#### **Findings;**

The base of the fire notice post at the top of the Black Slough steps has rotted.  
No other problems were found.

#### **Recommendations;**

Ensure fire risk warning signs remain in place during the summer.  
Replace or reset fire notice post at top of Black Slough steps.  
Replace beehive warning signs.

*David Rous, Nick Shearme, Ian Webber*  
*22/04/2024*

# APPENDIX: 2024 Records

## Fungi 2024

In recent years Neil Mahler, the Suffolk County Recorder for Fungi for the Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service has conducted very thorough surveys of fungi on Westleton Common. Unfortunately, Neil has been unwell and was unable to carry out the surveys this year. We wish Neil a speedy recovery and hope he is able to visit the common again.

### Fungus Sightings 2024 *(Reported by Joyce Burtenshaw)*

Common Name	Botanical Name
Amethyst Deceiver	<i>Laccaria amethystina</i>
Birch Knight	<i>Tricholoma fulvum</i>
Birch Polypore	<i>Fomitopsis betulina</i>
Black Milking Bonnet	<i>Mycena galopus</i> var <i>nigra</i>
Brain Fungus	<i>Tremella aurantia</i>
Brown Roll-rim	<i>Paxillus involutus</i>
Butter Cap	<i>Rhodocollybia butyracea</i>
Deceiver	<i>Laccaria lacatta</i>
Ear Fungus	
Earth-Ball	<i>Scleroderma citrinum</i>
Fairy Club	
False Chanterelle	<i>Hygrophoropsis aurantica</i>
Fly Agaric	<i>Amanita muscaria</i>
Lilac Mycena	<i>Mycena pura</i>
Orange Deciever	<i>Laccaria laccata</i>
Oyster Mushroom	<i>Pluteus ostreatus</i>
Parasol Mushroom	<i>Macrolepiota procera</i>
Sulphur Tuft	<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>
Turkey Tail	<i>Trámeles versicolor</i>
Vermillion Wax Cap	<i>Hygrocybe miniata</i>
	<i>Xylaria cinerea</i>
	<i>Crepidotus</i> spp
	<i>Mycena</i> spp
	<i>Russela</i> spp

## **Insects 2024** (*Reported by Joyce Burtenshaw*)

Bee fly  
Birch Shield Bug  
Buff Tailed Bumble Bee  
Chocolate Mining Bee  
Common Carder Bee  
Common Wasp  
Crane Fly  
Cream Spot Tiger Moth  
Early Bumble bee  
Field Cuckoo Bee  
Five Spot Ladybird  
Garden Bumble Bee  
Gooden's nomad bee  
Gorse mites  
Gorse Shield Bug  
Grasshopper Meadow  
Green Bottle Fly  
Heath Bumble Bees  
Honey Bee  
Hoverfly spp  
Lackey Moth Caterpillar  
Minotaur Beetle  
Nomad Bee  
Oak Gall  
Oak Shield Bug  
Parasitic wasp spp  
Red Mason Bee  
Red Tailed Bumble Bee  
Robin's Pincushions  
Seven Spot Ladybird  
Twelve Spot Ladybird  
White tailed bumble Bee  
Winter Gnats  
Yellow Ant

## **Dragonflies 2024** (*Reported by Joyce Burtenshaw*)

Broad Bodied Chaser  
Common Darter  
Four Spot Chaser  
Hairy Dragonfly  
Migrant Hawker  
Norfolk Hawker

## **Butterflies and Moths 2024** (*Reported by Joyce Burtenshaw*)

Brimstone  
Comma Butterfly  
Gatekeeper

Grayling  
Green veined white  
Holly Blue  
Humming Bird Hawk Moth  
Large White  
Meadow Brown  
Orange Tip  
Peacock  
Red Admiral  
Ringlet  
Silver Studded Blue  
Silver Y Moth  
Small copper  
Small Heath  
Speckled Wood

**Additional Insect reports 2024** (*Reported by David Rous*)

**Silver studded Blues 2024** (*Reported by David Rous*)

Silver studded blue numbers down compared with previous years.  
Males 93    Females 15

**Butterflies 2024** (*Reported by David Rous*)

Brimstone, Small Heath, Peacock, Comma, Large White, Green Veined White, Speckled Wood, Small Copper, Common Blue, Holly Blue, Silver Studded Blue, Orange Tip, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Purple Hairstreak, Brown Argus.

**Other Insects 2024** (*Reported by David Rous*)

Striped Hoverfly

And a new bee to Westleton;  
Davies Colletes Bee (*Colletes daviesanus*)

**Reptiles 2024** (*Reported by David Rous [who comments that this was a poor year with respect to all his observations]*)

6 adders total in different places; 2 males 4 females.

**Birds 2024** (*Unfortunately only restricted reports of bird sightings are available for 2024*)

**Bird reports 2024** (*from David Rous*)

Dartford warbler  
Red kite seen each month from April to August.

## Trees and Shrubs 2024 (Reported by Joyce Burtenshaw)

Common Name	Botanical Name
Amelanchia	
Bell Heather	<i>Erica cinerea</i>
Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Bird Cherry	<i>Prunus padus</i>
Blackthorne	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg</i>
Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>
Cherry Prunus sp	
Cherry plum	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>
Dog rose	<i>Rosa canina agg</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Elm small leaved	<i>Ulmus minor agg</i>
Field Rose	<i>Rosa arvensis</i>
Flowering currant	<i>Ribes sanguinium</i>
Goat willow	<i>Salix caperea</i>
Gorse European	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
Gorse western	<i>Ulex gallii</i>
Hawthorne	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Holm Oak	<i>Quercus ilex</i>
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
Japanese rose	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>
Lilac	<i>Syringia</i>
Ling	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>
Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgaris</i>
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>
Sweet briar rose	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>
White willow	<i>Salix alba</i>

## Wildflowers and other plants 2024 (Reported by Joyce Burtenshaw)

Common Name	Botanical Name
Alexanders	<i>Smyrmiium olusatrum</i>
Archangel	<i>Lamium Galeobdolan</i>
Autumn Hawkbit	<i>Leontodon autumnnalis</i>
Bee orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>
Birds foot	<i>Orniyhopus perpusillus</i>
Birdsfoot Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
Biting stonecrop	<i>Sedum acre</i>
Black Horehound	<i>Ballota nigra</i>
Black Medic	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>
Black nightshade	<i>Solanum nigrum</i>
Bluebell (English)	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>
Bluebell (Spanish)	<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>
Bucks-horn plantain	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>
Bugloss	<i>Anchusa arvensis</i>
Bulbous Buttercup	<i>Ranunculous bulbous</i>
Bur Chervil	<i>Anthriscus caucalis</i>
Canadian Fleabane	<i>Conyza canadensis</i>
Caper spurge	<i>Euphorbia lathyris</i>
Catsear	<i>Hypchaeris radicata</i>
Centaury	<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>
Changing Forget-me-not	<i>Mysotis discolor</i>
Chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
Climbing corydalis	<i>Ceratocapnos claviculata</i>
Common Figwort	<i>Srcophularia nodsa</i>
Common Cudweed	<i>Filago vulgaris</i>
Common Mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>
Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>
Common ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Common Toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>
Common vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>
Corncockle	<i>Agrostemma githago</i>
Creeping Bellflower	<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i>
Creeping cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>
Curled Dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
Cut leaf Geranium	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>
Daffodil spp	<i>Narcissus</i>
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
Dame's Violet	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum agg</i>
Dark Mullein	<i>Verbascum nigra</i>
Dovesfoot Cranesbill	<i>Geranium molle</i>
Early forget me not	<i>Mysotis ramosissima</i>
Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera glazioviana</i>
Field bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>
Field Forget-me-not	<i>Mysotis arvensis</i>
Fiidleneck	<i>Amsinckia micrantha</i>

Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>
Great Mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>
Greater Celendine	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>
Greater Periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>
Greater Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>
Green Alkenet	<i>Pentaglottis sempivirens</i>
Ground Ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>
Ground-elder	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>
Hairy Bittercress	<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>
Heath Bedstraw	<i>Galium saxatile</i>
Heath Groundsel	<i>Senecio sylvaticus</i>
Hedge Bedstraw	<i>Galium mollugo</i>
Hedge Bindweed	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>
Hedgerow Cranesbill	<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>
Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>
Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Hoary Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla argentea</i>
Honesty	<i>Lunaria annua</i>
Hop	<i>Humulus lupulus</i>
Hounds Tongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>
Imperforate St. John's- wort	<i>Hypericum maculatum</i>
Italian arum	<i>Arum italicum</i>
Ivy leaved Speedwell	<i>Veronica hedrafolium</i>
Knotgrass	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>
Knotted Clover	<i>Trifolium striatum</i>
Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>
Lady's Mantle	<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>
Lesser Burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>
Lesser Celendine	<i>Fricaria verna</i>
Lesser Trefoil	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>
Lords and Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>
Meadow clary	<i>Salvia pratensis</i>
Mossy Stonecrop	<i>Crassula tillaea</i>
Moth Mullein	<i>Verbascum blattaria</i>
Mouse-ear-hawkweed	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>
Musk Mallow	<i>Malva moschata</i>
Musk Thistle	<i>Cirsium nutans</i>
Navelwort	<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>
Opium poppy	<i>Papaver somniferum</i>
Perennial Sowthistle	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>
Perforate St John's Wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
Pignut	<i>Conopodium majus</i>
Pink Sorrel	<i>Oxalis articulata</i>
Pirri Pirri Bur	<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>
Prickly Lettuce	<i>Lactuca serriola</i>
Prickly Sowthistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>
Procumbent Yellow Sorrel	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>
Red campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>
Red Dead Nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>

Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Rose campion	<i>Lychnis coronaria</i>
Rosebay Willowherb	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>
Rough Chervil	<i>Chaerophyllum temulum</i>
Russian Comfrey	<i>Symphytum x uplandicum</i>
Sand Spurrey	<i>Spergularia rubra</i>
Scarlet pimpernel	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>
Scentless mayweed	<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>
Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
Sheep sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>
Shepherds Purse	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>
Slender Clover	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>
Slender Thistle	<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>
Small Flowered Geranium	<i>Geranium pusillum</i>
Smooth Cat's-ear	<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>
Smooth sowthistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>
Soapwort	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>
Soft rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Spotted Medick	<i>Medicago arabica</i>
Spring Beauty	<i>Claytonia perfoliata</i>
Star of Bethlehem	<i>Ornithogalum</i>
Stinging Nettle	<i>Urtica Ddoica</i>
Storksbill common	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>
Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>
Thale cress	<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>
Three Nerved Sandwort	<i>Moehringia trinervia</i>
Thyme-leaved speedwell	<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>
Tulip	<i>Tulipa (garden escapee)</i>
Weld	<i>Reseda luteola</i>
White bryony	<i>Bryonia dioida</i>
White campion	<i>Silene latifolia</i>
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
White comfrey	<i>Symphytum orientale</i>
White Dead Nettle	<i>Lamium alba</i>
White stonecrop	<i>Sedum album</i>
Wild basil	<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>
Wild marjoram	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>
Wood Sage	<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>

## Grasses 2024 (Reported by Joyce Burtenshaw)

Common Name	Botanical Name
Barren Brome	<i>Annisantha sterilis</i>
Creeping soft grass	<i>Holcus mollis</i>
Field Wood-rush	<i>Luzula campestris</i>
Hairy sedge	<i>Carex hirta</i>
Purple moor grass	<i>Molinia caerulea</i>
Rough meadow grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>
Smooth meadow grass	<i>Poa pratensis</i>
Soft Rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>
Sweet Vernal grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
Wall Barley	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>
Wood Small Reed	<i>Calamagrostis epigejos</i>

## Mosses 2024 (Reported by Joyce Burthenshaw)

Common Name	Botanical Name
Heath Star Moss	<i>Campylopus Introflexus</i>
Roof Plait Moss	<i>Hypnum lacunosum</i>
Southern Hemisphere Liverwort	<i>Lophocolea semiteres</i>

## Lichen 2024 (Reported by Joyce Burtenshaw)

Common Name	Botanical Name
Dog Lichen	<i>Peltigera canina</i>
Chewing Gum Lichen	<i>Lecanora muralis</i>
Madam's Pixie Cup	<i>Claydonia coccifera</i>
Reindeer lichen	<i>Cladonia species</i>

## Other sightings 2024 (Reported by Joyce Burtenshaw)

### Blue Green Algae

Nostoc

### Spiders

Orb Spiders

Woodlouse spider

### Molluscs

Keeled Slug

Leopard slug

## **Invertebrates seen by Yvonne Couch** (a visitor to Westleton.)

### **12 April 2024, main common:**

Gorse Shieldbugs *Piezodorus lituratus*  
Bishop's Mitre Shieldbugs *Aelia acuminata*  
7-Spot Ladybirds *Coccinella septempunctata*  
Pine Ladybirds *Exochomus quadripustulatus*  
Birch Catkin Bug *Kleidocerys resedae*  
Lygaeid bug *Taphropeltus contractus*

### **12 April small area between main common and old football field:**

inconspicuous ladybird *Nephus quadrimaculatus*  
7-Spot Ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata*  
14-Spot Ladybird *Propylea quattuordecimpunctata*  
Gorse Shieldbug *Piezodorus lituratus*

### **18 April 2024: main common, mostly on trees:**

Parent Shieldbug *Elasmucha grisea*  
Hawthorn Shieldbug *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*  
Green Shieldbug *Palomena prasina*  
10-Spot Ladybird *Adalia decempunctata*  
7-Spot Ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata*  
14-Spot Ladybird *Propylea quattuordecimpunctata*  
Harlequin Ladybird *Harmonia axyridis*  
mirid bug *Harpocera thoracica*

### **18 April, old football field:**

Gorse Shieldbug *Piezodorus lituratus*  
7-Spot Ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata*  
Pine Ladybird *Exochomus quadripustulatus*  
Harlequin Ladybird *Harmonia axyridis*  
14-Spot Ladybird *Propylea quattuordecimpunctata*  
Juniper Shieldbug *Cyphostethus tristriatus*.

(For people who may be less familiar with historical descriptions of the common than Ms Couch the "old football field" refers to the heather covered area of the North Common in compartment 1.)

# Observations reported by Suffolk Naturalists' Society

(see the full report of their visit above)

Observations recorded: Westleton Common, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2024

<u>Species</u>	<u>Determiner</u>
Nebria brevicollis	R. Piper
Pterostichus madidus	R. Piper
Syntomus foveatus	R. Piper
Psylliodes chrysocephala	P.J. Vincent
Ocypus olens	R. Piper
Stenus brunnipes	R. Piper
Stenus clavicornis	P.J. Vincent
Stenus impressus	P.J. Vincent
Delia platura	P.J. Vincent
Pegomya bicolor	P.J. Vincent
Medetera flavipes	P.J. Vincent
Helina evecta	P.J. Vincent
Helina reversio	P.J. Vincent
Neomyia cornicina	P.J. Vincent
Phaonia valida	P.J. Vincent
Tephritis matricariae	P.J. Vincent
Elasmucha grisea	P.J. Vincent
Kleidocerys resedae	P.J. Vincent
Lygus rugulipennis	P.J. Vincent
Pilophorus perplexus	P.J. Vincent
Stenodema calcarata	P.J. Vincent
Euroleon nostras	R. Piper
Colletes hederæ	H. Honey
Gelis sp	H. Honey

## Lichens. Anthony Specca

### On soil:

Cladonia chlorophaea sens. lat.,  
Cladonia furcata subsp. furcata,  
Cladonia portentosa,  
Cladonia ramulosa

### On lignum (old gorse branches):

Hypotrachyna revoluta sens. lat. (probably sens. str. tbc)  
Parmelia sulcata  
Physcia adscendens  
Xanthoria parietina

Rhizocarpon reductum on stabilised flint pebbles, ID (from spores) tbc.



Caroline Markham 14.01.25. The GeoSuffolk Archive, and more can be found at <https://geosuffolk.co.uk>

12th C Tournai Limestone font in St Peters, Ipswich

#### Global Warming in Mildenhall Chalk

We were introduced to the Chalk Sea Ecosystem (ChaSE) project at the recent (November) Geologists' Association Festival of Geology in London. The London Natural History Museum is investigating the response of marine ecosystem biodiversity to the major climate warming event in the late Cretaceous about 94 million years ago (Cenomanian-Turonian Boundary Event) - see [www.chalksea.co.uk](http://www.chalksea.co.uk), also try the BlueSky link. This Event is recorded in the Chalk - in Suffolk, the specific horizons underlie the Mildenhall area. Echinoids, brachiopods, and ammonites are some of the Chalk fossils recorded from West Row, at which pit when the Geological Survey officer visited in 1886, one of the workmen said he was the first stranger he had seen there in the 13 years he had worked in the quarry.

Bob Markham (RM)

Westleton Common CGS



The Westleton Common Advisory Group has recently cleared a face of the County Geodiversity Site of undergrowth, giving a much improved exposure of its Westleton Sand and Gravel (of Norwich Crag age). I thank John Bebbington for sending me news and photographs of this valued geological, community (and sand martin) asset. RM

#### Love Mammals Discovery Day

February 19th 10am - 3pm

GeoSuffolk will have a stand at this free event in Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich. Join us to see, handle and discuss fossils of swimming, burrowing, flying and walking mammals.

<https://ipswich.cimuseums.org.uk/events/museum-discovery-day/>

#### Essex Gem and Mineral Show

February 22nd 10am - 4pm

This event at the North Romford Community Centre is well worth a visit - admission £2, refreshments available. [www.erms.org/essex-gem-mineral-show/](http://www.erms.org/essex-gem-mineral-show/)

#### Surveying Suffolk's SSSIs

GeoSuffolk has monitored five SSSIs for the Geology Trusts in 2024. Ramsholt Cliff SSSI (Coralline Crag) was the only one showing geological exposures (see GeoSuffolk Times 63). Two sites could not be accessed - Crag Pit, Aldeburgh SSSI (Coralline Crag) and part of Creeting St Mary Pits SSSI (designated for its stratigraphy - Crag sand, Kesgrave Gravel and Lowestoft Till). Development has been the main pressure on the three sites close to Ipswich - part of Creeting St Mary Pits is traversed by an A14 road cutting, Waldringfield Pit SSSI (Red Crag and Kesgrave Gravel) is being developed for residential use, with a small area reserved for the SSSI. The Ipswichian interglacial deposits at Bobbitshole, Belstead SSSI were discovered in excavations for a sewage works in the 1950s and underlie that site now. Reports have been sent to Natural England. Whilst undertaking these surveys GeoSuffolk has visited all but two of Suffolk's 44 Geological SSSIs in the last six years. CM

#### White Admiral is Online

A big thank you to the Suffolk Naturalists' Society for publishing its Newsletter up to date. Back issues include RM's 'A Red Crag Find' in 103, and CM's 'Fissures at Newbourne Great Pit' in 104. <https://www.suffolkbis.org.uk/publications/wa>

### A Geological Blue Plaque

At the request of GeoSuffolk, the Ipswich Society has erected a Blue Plaque on the Stable Block at Holywells Park in Ipswich. It was 'opened' by Professor Elizabeth Harper of Cambridge University and GeoSuffolk on November 30th.



Elizabeth Cobbold collected and identified fossil molluscs from Suffolk Crag deposits (Red Crag), mostly from the land belonging to the Cobbold family in what are now Holywells and Landseer Parks. Her specimens were first published by James Sowerby of London in his *Mineral Conchology* from 1813. In 1819 Elizabeth Cobbold sent a box of crag fossils to Gideon Mantell and in return he sent her some fossils later that year. In 1829 Gideon Mantell sent his 'Crag shells collected by Elizabeth Cobbold' to Baron 'Georges' Cuvier, French anatomist who has been called 'the father of palaeontology', for the Natural History Museum in Paris. This was after her death.

Such early scientific endeavour deserves to be recorded and celebrated. Indeed, Sowerby named a fossil bivalve *Nucula cobboldiae* (see GeoSuffolk Times 42) after her, "Being desirous of commemorating Mrs Cobbold, whose copious collection obtained with great industry... I have named this rare, and withal elegant shell after her". Thank you to the Ipswich Society for this 21st century commemoration on the 200th anniversary of her death. She laid the intellectual foundations for palaeontology in Ipswich, with the collection at Ipswich Museum designated of national/international importance by the Arts Council in 2023.

If you walk up the valley at Holywells Park, towards Nacton Road, you will come to a viewing point where springs of clear water can be seen bubbling up in the stream bed. The water is issuing from the Red Crag and often contains finely comminuted pieces of fossil shell from the Crag. GeoSuffolk has designated this area a CGS. CM

For more information on Elizabeth Cobbold see the SNS Transactions vol. 56, 2020.

<https://www.suffolkbis.org.uk/publications/tsns>

### Aldeburgh Brick Pit SSSI

On October 15th, GeoSuffolk and the Coast & Heaths National Landscape Work Party convened at Aldeburgh Brick Pit SSSI. This is designated for its unique stratigraphy, with Kesgrave Sand and Gravel, Chillesford Clay, Chillesford Crag and Scrobicularia Crag overlying Coralline Crag. Brambles were cleared to give access to the SSSI (overgrown) faces and a face outside the SSSI was cleared down to the Chillesford Clay. Thank you to the NL Work Party for their hard work on our Suffolk geosites. CM

### Chester Goodwin Doughty -

was the collector of some of the fossil molluscs in Ipswich Museum. He was born at Martlesham Rectory on 26 January 1870, his father was Rector of Martlesham. He worked as a solicitor in London until 1915 when he went to live in Gorleston (then in Suffolk). He also had relatives at Framingham Pigot, not far from the Norwich Crag at Bramerton near Norwich. He died 24 January 1939 and is buried in Martlesham churchyard (marked by a stone cross and kerb in 1945). There is a photograph of him in SNS Transactions vol. 4 Part 2, 1939. Walton-on-the-Naze was a favourite locality – he collected Red Crag fossils including, *Trivia coccinelloides* (cowry) from there in May 1919, and *Cerastoderma parkinsoni* (cockle) in April 1930. More modern specimens include a *C. edule* (cockle) in dredged material from the New Cut, Haddiscoe on 31 May 1930. RM

### More Ipswich Museum

In connection with the redevelopment of Ipswich Museum, the large stones in the south courtyard have been moved a short distance (they are very heavy) to just in front of the former Fine Art Club's picture gallery south of the Museum, so GeoSuffolk Notes no.13 plan of their location is obsolete. The 'puddingstone' (see GeoSuffolk Times 42 and our 'Discover Geolpswich' leaflet) is still easy to see. RM  
Meanwhile a herd of mammoths and rhinos (along with other children's drawings) is enhancing the front of the Museum building! CM

