

From: [REDACTED]
To: [East Anglia ONE North; East Anglia Two](#)
Subject: Deadline 5 Submission
Date: 03 February 2021 10:39:58
Attachments: [Open Floor Hearing 22nd January 2021.docx](#)
[Sizewell Sandlings Heritage Assoc - highlighted.pdf](#)
[Leiston Area Environment Concern.pdf](#)
[Sandlings Walks report 2003 - highlighted.pdf](#)
[Sandlings walk 8 Friston - Sizewell.pdf](#)
[Sandlings walk 7 Blaxhall - Friston.pdf](#)

PINS Ref: EA1N - EN010077 and EA2 - EN010078

My Ref ID No 20024947 and 20024988

from Bridget Chadwick, The Studio, The Common, Leiston IP16 4UL

Attached is my Written Representation plus documents referred to. I have also sent by post two books referred to that were written and illustrated about this affected area in 1949 and 1982 which contain relevant information, together with hard copies of all the attached.

I am also reiterating here my request for additional site inspection(s) that some local people can attend in order to show you the diverse habitat and areas of ecological concern mentioned, which we have been prevented from taking part in due to the coronavirus pandemic limiting numbers of people.

Bridget Chadwick

Planning Inspectorate Ref: EA1N – EN010077 and EA2 – EN010078

Written representation to Open Floor Hearing 22nd January 2021

My name is Bridget Chadwick, reference numbers 20024947 and 20024988

I am disappointed to hear that site inspections are no longer able to include interested parties unless they are landowners. So, local people and businesses who know the area best, and have most to lose, again have no means of pointing out to the Inspectors all the environmental treasures that we know to be at risk from these potential projects. Have **you** ever encountered an adder sunning itself in a hedge or a slow worm on a path? Have **you** ever listened to a nightingale singing on a summer's night, or seen glow-worms in the dark? I hadn't until I started coming here 20+ years ago, living here 17 years, and I was always a lover of nature and the outdoors. Not that you are likely to see adders or glow-worms or hear nightingales this time of year, but we could have shown you the beautiful heathland where they are found, and where bats fly and nightjars call in the dark, owls hunt, & birds sing all day – the rare and fragile Suffolk Sandlings are home to so much. But I'll come back to the site visits later...

Like many other local people, I'm angry to read that East Suffolk Council is suddenly adopting a more neutral position on SPR's windfarm plans, leaving us and our wonderful AONB high and dry again. Why this changed position? Apparently, it's due to SPR offering some mitigation and '**Compensation**' which includes a £150,000 contribution for a tourism fund (that's peanuts! – we heard yesterday about serious losses to our tourism). And what other **compensation** I wonder? Is the reality that we are being sold down the river in exchange for benefits elsewhere in the County? As we know **not one** of the companies listed on the East Anglia ONE Local Supply Chain was located anywhere near the onshore complex related to that windfarm, we expect no benefit to this onshore area either. And since we are no longer Suffolk Coastal District Council but now a minority in the larger East Suffolk Council which includes Waveney, which has all the job benefits and none of the disadvantages, is the AONB just being sacrificed in horse-trading? Lately I've also been shocked to hear about our local councillors being told to shut up with their objections, and of bullying by a misogynistic cabal of other council members. If those with vested interests are able to overrule local representatives then we are now disenfranchised? And our AONB is just collateral damage? If this industrialisation goes ahead it will be looked back on as a tragedy for the whole County to have lost its crown jewels.

These issues are a problem not only in Suffolk, but also in the whole country because it is common to see less developed areas with less population as soft targets for unwelcome development, ugly infrastructure or polluting problems (as we keep hearing about the Lake District being targeted in the endless quest to find a deep geological depositary for spent nuclear fuel). And yet less population is usually less damaging to the environment, better for wildlife, more peaceful and with space for leisure activities, good for health and wellbeing and consequently good for tourism and beneficial for the country as a whole.

So, to return to the subject of site inspections: I don't understand why these are being done now? I don't understand why they were not conducted at the very beginning, at the first suggestion of making landfall in the AONB and Heritage Coast and building infrastructure on greenfield sites, why it was not an immediate consideration to visit and ask two essential questions: 1) Is this location **really** a good one? and 2) if not, why is it considered necessary?

The first, Is this location really a good one? What kind of impact will this have on this specially designated landscape and eroding coastline? Surely investigating those questions should have been asked back in 2018, or whenever it was first mooted, rather than 2-1/2 years later after presumably spending millions on reports and procedures and hearings and presentations by SPR and thousands of letters to **3, now 4**, different Secretaries of State for BEIS. This is important **BECAUSE**, whilst we appreciate the impartiality of the examining panel, we do seriously suspect that this decision has already been made by BEIS and consent will be granted whether it is the right location for industrial development or not! In other words that these site visits are all just about mitigation, when we know that the best mitigation can only be a sticking plaster on gaping wounds to a rare and fragile environment, the Suffolk Sandlings, and to a lovely rural village and its inhabitants. And you may never know exactly where the nightingales sing and nest, or where the deer roam and the badgers and foxes have their dens, and the reptiles bask in the sun, as we do.¹

¹ You indicated after my presentation on 22nd January that another site visit could be requested, which I am now doing please. Another contributor, Paul Chandler of Save Our Sandlings, has already provided you with maps indicating where in the landscape much of the wildlife is to be found.

The Government's own Review on The Economics of Diversity produced this very week, on 2nd February 2021, says: "Our economies, livelihoods and well-being all depend on our most precious asset: Nature" and "Our unsustainable engagement with Nature is endangering the prosperity of current and future generations. Biodiversity is declining faster than at any time in human history."² This Dasgupta Review was commissioned to address the need to rebalance economic analyses to take into account nature's goods and services and the depreciation of those assets, because market prices are not reflecting the real cost to the common good. And that is exactly what is happening in this situation where a private company, National Grid, is being given responsibility for providing a connection to the grid for windfarms WITHOUT this cost to the environment and 'the common good' being taken into account

So what are we to conclude, us local "Interested Parties"? That all the love and passion which has led generations to try and protect this treasured landscape³, the decades of local conservation groups improving the heathland environment⁴, can be destroyed in an instant because the government BEIS Department's policies are blind to the Environment Department's objectives? That there is a complete inter-departmental disconnect? That the years of restoration and investment were a complete waste? I attach the Final Report 1998-2003 of the Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage project, "a £26 million, 10-year, programme managed by English Nature for the Heritage Lottery Fund. It [was] helping to restore and re-create lowland heathland in local communities around the United Kingdom. With 25 separate projects and over 140 partner organisations, the programme [was] making a substantial contribution to the delivery of the Government's Biodiversity Action Plan targets for this rare and beautiful habitat." And here in Suffolk, in July 2002 the creation of The

² https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/957629/Dasgupta_Review_-_Headline_Messages.pdf

³ I attach Minutes of 2 different conservation groups formed in Leiston, and associated articles, showing their attempt to BUY the Sizewell Hall Estate from Mr Glen Ogilvy in 1992 – which was thwarted at the last minute, after obtaining a mortgage to cover the remainder of the agreed £1,000,000 purchase price, by being out-bid by Nuclear Electric (precursor to British Energy) as a strategic acquisition. This matter is still the cause of heartbreak and resentment as it also resulted in a large debt of £10,000 in legal and land-agent fees incurred in the purchase preparations, no small sum for local people in 1992.

I am also sending in the post 2 books, one written by my mother-in-law Lee Chadwick, In Search of Heathland, and the other is one of the classic King Penguin series of books produced in the 1940's and 50's – British Reptiles and Amphibia which was illustrated by my father-in-law Paxton Chadwick in 1949 – please also note the classic cover design! All the paintings reproduced in it (we could show you the fabulous originals on a site visit!) were of creatures, many of them now rare or threatened, found in this fragile landscape.

⁴ I attach (and also send a hard copy of) the Final Report of The Sandlings Project, part of Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage, managed by Suffolk Wildlife Trust which cost £706,548 over five years from 1998 – 2003, and the project's map 8 of the Sandlings Walk from Friston to Sizewell.

Sandlings Walk was celebrated “when 400 people from local community groups took part in a two-week relay of walks along its 60-mile length”.

And now, added to these decades are the days, months and years we’ve spent reading papers, writing letters and going to meetings, the sleepless nights, the depression, the ruination of our daily lives and our health, both physical and mental – it’s not a paid job as it is for you – and older people who are saying “I hope I won’t still be around when all this happens”, that’s some kind of a wish! After all this, are we to be left believing this examination is only a tick-box exercise because you cannot conclude this is a totally unsuitable location for development, because initial visits could never address that essential question at the outset? Or is it worse than that? That despite knowing the location was not a good one, the 2nd question, ‘Why is this considered necessary?’, was never asked. **Of course we support the need for wind energy** but with so many windfarms coming ashore they need a properly coordinated means of connection to the national grid. Abdicating responsibility for creating this, ignoring the fact that National Grid, a private company that does not want to spend money on installing a true National Grid, a central hub, or have the remit to do so, has made this whole consultation exercise a farce of impossible mitigation. I question whether we are not all just made to participate in a cruel charade when the outcome is already decided?

the Sandlings Walks

A step into history



Tomorrow's
Heathland Heritage

FINAL REPORT 1998 – 2003

The Sandlings Walks – a step into history

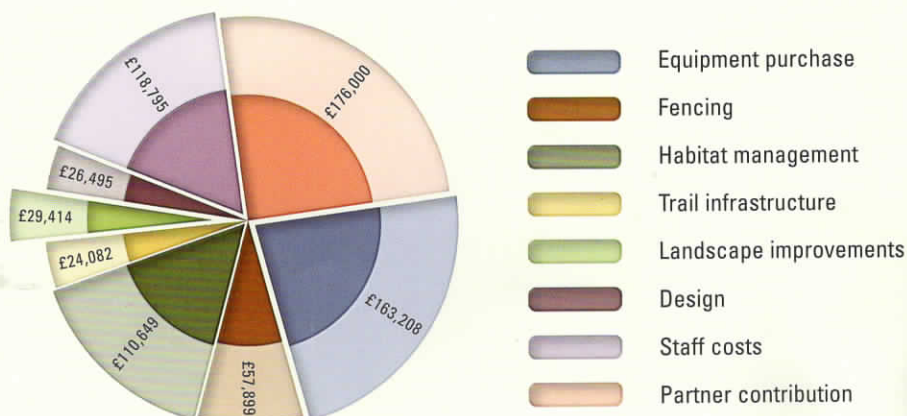
'The Sandlings Walks- a step into history' project has ensured the conservation of the unique Suffolk Sandlings heaths as an important heritage asset. The Sandlings Group has been supported over five years by the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Nature through the Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage Programme. The Group has worked to restore the remaining Sandlings Heaths by:



- reducing the encroachment of invasive species by clearing 130 hectares of scrub and trees and 160 hectares of bracken using newly purchased tools and machinery
- re-creating 100 hectares of new heathland
- installing 16.5 kilometres of new fencing
- managing traditional grazing on 400 hectares of heathland
- linking the fragmented sites together by creating a 60 mile long trail between Ipswich and Southwold and 4 new circular walks including 2.7 kilometres of path improvements, 262 waymarkers, 12 sculptures, 30 cycle racks
- designing and publishing a range of interpretative materials including 'The Sandlings Walk' guide, 4 circular walks leaflets, the 'Sandlings' web site and several public reports
- implementing a programme of landscape improvements including tree surgery/pollarding on 78 trees, 5476m of tree and hedge planting, restoration of 18 other landscape features
- increasing public awareness of heathland through volunteer tasks, events and publicity

The project has cost £706,548 over five years with partner organisations contributing £176,000 of this 'in kind' by recording staff and volunteer time taken to carry out much of the management and support work. Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Sandlings Manager developed and co-ordinated the project reporting to a steering group of Sandlings Group members and the Programme Team at English Nature.

Financial Summary 1998 – 2003



The Sandlings Heathlands

Between the eastern edge of the chalky boulder clay plateau which covers most of East Anglia, and the sea, on a narrow belt of glacial sands and gravels lies the Suffolk Sandlings or 'Sandlands' as they were once known. Set within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty this area was, until recently, dominated by extensive dry lowland heathlands, a mosaic of heather and acidic grassland.

The Sandlings have been shaped by man and nature and have evolved into a landscape that reflects the cultural and ecological changes of the last 4500 years. The heaths were created from natural glades by forest clearances and cropping and maintained by grazing animals. They are littered with signs of Man's passing. Neolithic fire sites, Bronze Age burial mounds, Medieval rabbit warrens, World War II pill boxes, farm machinery, burnt out cars and new stock fences, along with written and photographic records and local heathy place names all show how the evolution of society and the heathland landscape and ecosystem have been intimately linked for thousands of years.

A rich diversity of life can be seen here including birds such as Nightjar, Woodlark and Dartford Warbler; reptiles like Adder and Common Lizard; Natterjack Toads; invertebrates including Silver-studded Blue and

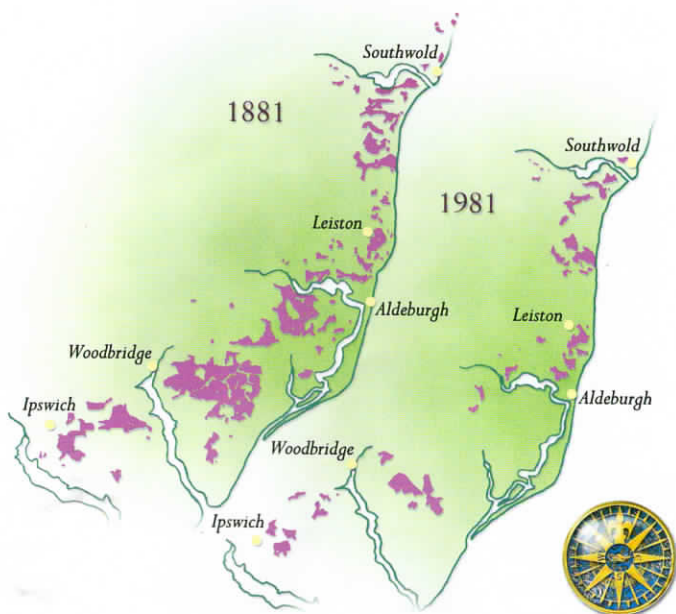
Grayling Butterflies, Antlion and Red-banded Sand Wasp. These species are restricted to or have strongholds on heathland.

Why are they important?

Today these once large areas of heathland are much reduced in size and fragmented. Early records suggest that in the early 1800s there were 16,000 Ha (40,000 acres). In the early 1900s there were some 10,000 Ha (25,000 acres) of heathland in the Sandlings, largely being actively maintained. The pattern of loss was accelerated in the 20th century with arable farming, forestry, building development, formal recreation and military airbases accounting for 80% of the Sandlings heaths lost between the 1920s and 1980s. A survey done between 1983 and 1985 showed that only 2,000 Ha (5,000 acres) were left, and much of this was suffering from serious neglect. This drastic loss of habitat has put the species that depend on it under threat.

Fortunately the importance of lowland heathland has now been recognised: it is a key habitat in the UK and Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plans and a key landscape feature in the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Strategy. Many of the sites are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), with some having extra protection from the European Union as Special Protection Areas (SPA) for rare and threatened birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) for the wider habitat. Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Suffolk County Council have conferred County Wildlife Site (CWS) status on those sites outside these designations, to protect them from adverse development.

The future of heathland in Suffolk is far from secure but today they are far better understood and protected than they have been in modern times. Through people's determination to save them and the management efforts of the Sandlings Group, they are still a vital part of the living landscape of Suffolk.



Habitat Management



Reducing encroachment by invasive vegetation

The traditional Sandlings heaths are early stages in the natural development of woodland from bare ground. Heathland therefore requires active management to maintain its open character.

Historically, grazing coupled with the regular removal of scrub and trees, bracken, and sands and gravels by local communities, prevented the development of woodland. These activities maintained a rich mosaic of wildlife habitats ranging from bare ground through fine leaved grasses and low growing shrubs, to scattered scrub and larger trees.

Although heaths are still an important part of local community life people no longer rely on their products. The future of these special places for wildlife depends largely on land managers continuing these practices, using ancient wisdom combined with modern management techniques and scientific study to restore, re-create and maintain a vibrant heathland habitat.

'Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage' has enabled large scale restoration and re-creation projects to be carried out. It has supported the running costs of operations and the purchase of the new machinery necessary for project partners to carry out management work more effectively in the future.

Bracken management

Bracken has always been found on heathland and was seen as a valuable crop for animal bedding and compost. However when left unmanaged it can form large bracken beds and accumulate a deep layer of leaf litter. Other heathland species of greater conservation importance are out-competed by this vigorous plant.

Today we manage bracken using a combination of cutting and spraying with a specially developed herbicide and stripping off deep litter to expose mineral soils. This lets light reach the ground and stimulates the regeneration of rarer heathland vegetation. In some cases seed is collected from local heaths and spread on these cleared areas to speed up the process of regeneration. Some bracken litter is still used as potting compost or soil improver.



The Sandlings Walks project has funded the clearance of large stands of bracken by paying contractors to use helicopters to spray areas that are difficult to reach by tractor and to clear deep litter using diggers. New equipment has enabled project partners to continue and extend their management work.

160 hectares sprayed
35 hectares litter-stripped

Scrub and tree control

Many people remember local heaths as wide open spaces with few trees. However as people no longer depended on the heaths for firewood, construction materials and grazing, large areas were colonised by scrub and trees, and the species that require open conditions declined.

In order for this rare habitat to survive it is necessary to remove many of these trees as part of the restoration process. This is done in consultation with the Forestry Commission and other organisations. Scattered trees and small copses are however valuable to heathland species and important landscape features.

Clearance work is carried out during the winter by hand pulling or felling using hand tools, clearing saws or chainsaws and mowers or diggers depending on the situation. Birch stumps are normally treated to prevent regrowth.

Wherever possible the wood is put to good use. The smaller birch stems are bundled into faggots for horse



jumps or to protect riversides from erosion. The larger trees are converted into timber or logged for firewood. Some wood is chipped and used as fuel for power stations and garden mulch. In many cases stumps are have been removed to

improve access for future management and these can act as valuable refuges for invertebrates and reptiles when left to rot on site.

'Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage' enabled the purchase of new machinery including hand tools, a tractor

mounted chipper, several chainsaws and brushcutters, a weedwiper and tractor winch as well as supporting the running costs of the operations.

120 hectares scrub and scattered trees removed
10 hectares of secondary woodland have been cleared

Heathland creation

Heathland has tended to be seen as unproductive wasteland since sheep farming and management by local people have declined. Changes in technology have allowed crops to be grown on poor sandy soils generally through the input of water, nutrients and lime to increase fertility and reduce acidity. Large areas of heath have been lost as a result.

'The Sandlings Walks' project not only aimed to increase the total area of heathland, but also to link existing heaths that had become fragmented.

Pioneering projects to create heathland on former arable fields have been carried out by the RSPB at Minsmere and by British Energy/Suffolk Wildlife Trust at Sizewell, supported by this Lottery funding.

Fields have been cropped and grazed to strip nutrients; soil acidified; invasive weeds such as ragwort and thistle cleared and acid grassland and heather species sown where appropriate.

100 hectares have been created

Restoring traditional sheep grazing

One of the key targets of the project was to restore grazing to as many heathland sites as possible. Not only is it the traditional way in which the heaths were maintained, but it creates a varied mosaic of heather and acid grassland in a more sensitive and sustainable way than could be achieved with machinery.

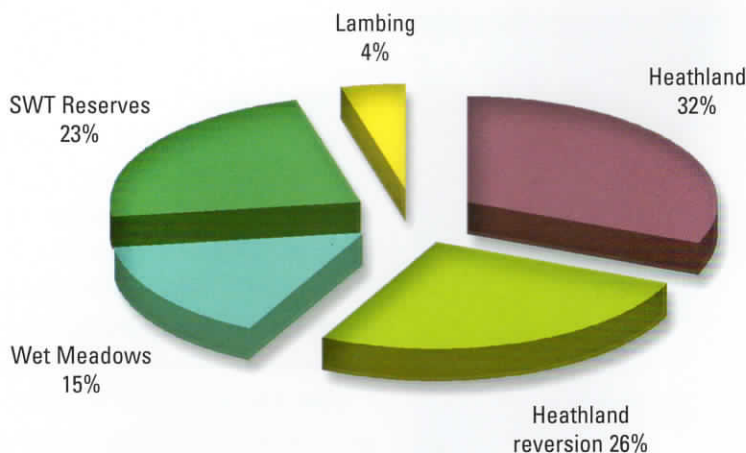
The Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage programme has supported the costs of Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Sandlings flock of sheep. This has covered the purchase of a new vehicle, stock trailer and other equipment. Also, several heaths have been permanently fenced to allow sheep to graze safely over a much larger area than before.

The 'flying flock' is moved from heath to heath from spring and autumn. The 350 Hebridean and Speckle-faced Beulah sheep plus lambs are hardy animals that thrive on the rough vegetation found on heathland and heathland reverting from arable and forestry land. At other times they graze meadows of conservation importance across the Sandlings. The RSPB also own a small flock of Manx Loughton sheep that graze the heaths around Minsmere. Goats have proved effective at controlling scrub and have been used on a small scale at Minsmere and Sutton Heath.

400 hectares of grazing has been undertaken on heathland/heathland reversion.

16.5 kilometres of permanent fencing has been installed on five sites.

Sandlings project sheep grazing



Biodiversity Action Plan Monitoring

The Sandlings Group acts as the focal point for a range of heathland habitat and species planning and monitoring initiatives under the BAP umbrella. Members attend the Heathland Habitat working group, which was created to revise and write relevant plans for heathland habitats and species characteristic of the Suffolk heaths. Surveys are regularly undertaken to monitor the condition of the habitat and species and their responses to management.

Heathland birds

Regular surveys of key birds are carried out on the heathland and forestry sites by staff and volunteers.

East Anglia is a national stronghold for Woodlark and Nightjar.

Both respond well to heathland management, colonising areas cleared of scrub, trees and bracken.

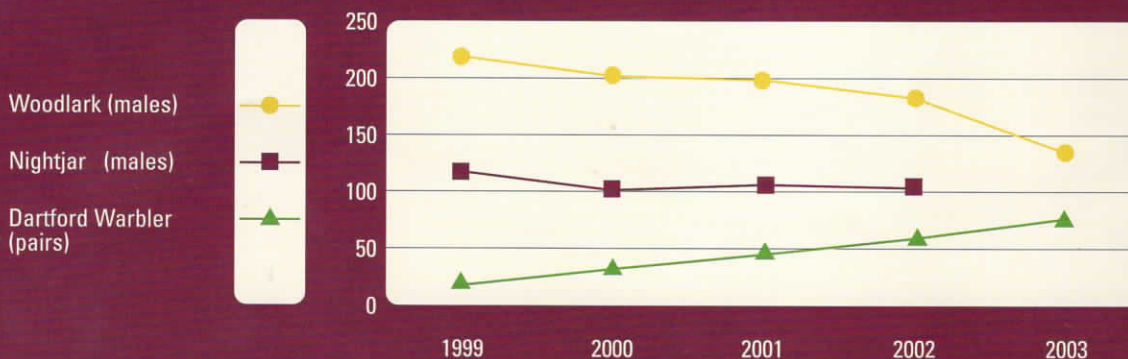
Woodlark favour bare, sandy ground and short turf on set aside farmland, heaths and forests, whereas Nightjar prefer gaps in mature heather or brashy ground in open areas of forestry plantations. Populations, having dwindled due to habitat loss and neglect, were revived by the 1987 gales and subsequent forest clearances.



Numbers of both increased dramatically, but Woodlark are now declining as forest replanting becomes too mature. Nightjars have remained more stable as heathland sites have received increased management in recent years. Forestry clearfell has begun again and heathland restoration is ongoing, so the future of both looks secure. The Sandlings Group will take part in the national Nightjar survey in the summer of 2004.

Other factors such as climate may be significant as shown by the Dartford Warbler, which disappeared from the Sandlings after several severe winters. Since it re-colonised in 1987 numbers have increased year by year to its current level of 77 pairs. This has been helped by a run of mild winters, which has aided their over-wintering survival, but their breeding success is indicative of the health of the open areas of heathland currently under management by members of the Sandlings Group.

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Woodlark (males)	219	202	198	183	135
Nightjar (males)	117	101	105	103	
Dartford Warbler (pairs)	19	33	47	61	77



the Sandlings

The Sandlings Walk

The Sandlings Walk was celebrated in July 2002 when 400 people from local community groups took part in a two-week relay of walks along its 60-mile length. A handcrafted scroll to commemorate the event was passed between the groups and signed by a representative from each one.



Silver-studded Blue

Management involves maintaining and creating areas of bare soil and short vegetation with a high proportion of bell heather. 1 new colony was created and 2 discovered during the project.



Habitat management

Habitat management such as tree, scrub and bracken removal is vital in order to restore, re-create and maintain a vibrant heathland habitat. Species such as Nightjar, Woodlark, Silver-studded Blue butterflies and Adder thrive in open heathland with a mosaic of bare ground, short turf, heather and scattered scrub and trees.



Dartford Warbler

These birds need open heathland with mature heather and short scrub, usually gorse. The population in the Sandlings has increased from 19 to 77 pairs in 5 years.



Grazing

Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage has supported this traditional method of management. Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Sandlings 'flying flock' have grazed 400 hectares of heathland. Sites such as Sutton Common and RSPB's Minsmere have been permanently fenced to improve management.



Community action

Local community involvement is vital to maintain vibrant heathlands. 1000+ volunteer days helped make the project a success.



Traditional Landscapes

Ancient pollards, such as these at Kyson Meadows, are a much-loved part of our landscape. If left uncut the trees become top heavy and topple over.



Invertebrates and reptiles

Invertebrates and reptiles require areas of bare ground and short turf for survival. Disturbance created by management is vital for their survival but their colonies can be localised and fragile and populations easily wiped out. Regular surveys, which can be in depth scientific studies or annual counts, are therefore very important.

Silver-studded Blue

The Silver-studded Blue butterfly has been the subject of periodic intensive study of its ecology and population status and annual counts. In Suffolk it is now confined to a few heathland sites in the Sandlings area, having once been widespread there and in Breckland. During the Walks project two new colonies have been discovered and one successful re-introduction undertaken. A recent in depth survey of several colonies revealed very healthy populations in areas that had received intensive management.



Ant lions

Ant lions (Eulepodes nothrus) are the larvae of a member of the lacewing family that is found breeding nowhere else in the UK. The winged adult mates and lays eggs in loose sand at the base of small South facing sandy 'cliffs' protected by overhanging vegetation where the larvae hatch and feed on small insects that stray into its conical pits.



Since its discovery in the 1990s they have been found on a number of Sandlings heaths with new sites being added all the time as interest in and knowledge of this species increases.

Adder

The Adder (Vipera berus) is one of four reptiles found in the Sandlings along with Common Lizard, Slow Worm and Grass Snake. It is not restricted to lowland heathland but occurs there in quite high densities. They require open basking areas and feed on rodents and lizards. They give birth to live young in August and hibernate in dry burrows and other underground holes. Suffolk Amphibian and Reptile Group has begun a review and survey of adder sites. Surveys have revealed the importance of forestry windrows for this species.



Open sandy cliffs like this at Walberswick Common are ideal for heat loving Antlions and Adders.



The Sandlings Walk

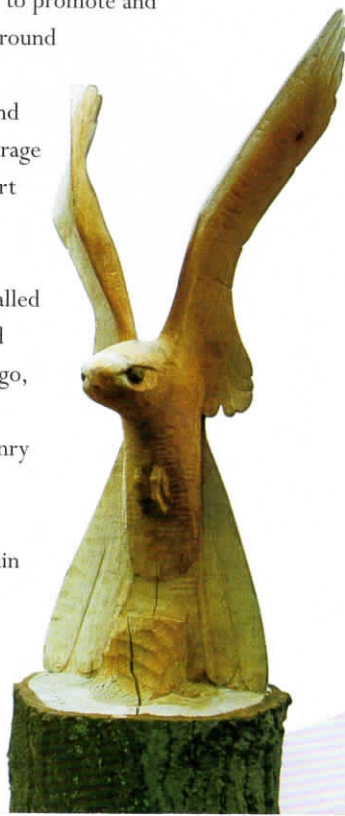
A new long distance footpath now joins the towns of Southwold and Ipswich. The Sandlings Walk stretches over 60 miles and connects many of the remnant heaths that still exist in this part of Suffolk. Four new circular walks link into the main route and provide opportunities for shorter trips through the heaths.

Suffolk Coast and Heaths Unit have used project funds to design and create an experience that is stimulating, accessible and surprising. The aim was to make the route available to as many users as possible and support it with a range of interpretative materials to guide and inform them on their way.



A popular guide to the Walk as been produced with detailed information on ground conditions, useful facilities and transport connections, as well as the cultural and natural heritage to be found en-route. New leaflets, designed to promote and interpret four routes around Leiston, Dunwich, Rushmere/Kesgrave and Martlesham and encourage a new audience, support the circular walks.

Waymarkers were installed incorporating a stylised Nightjar as the Walk logo, along with a series of sculptures by artist Henry Tebbutt depicting the sequence of a Nightjar catching a moth, its main source of food.



The discovery of these along the route evokes some of the magic of seeing and hearing this strange and rare bird in the Sandlings twilight.

Project partners made the route more accessible by: clearing encroaching vegetation; improving the footpath surfaces and installing boardwalks and steps; enhancing car parks by improving surfacing and installing cycle racks and picnic tables.



SC&HU organised the improvement of this section of the walk at Dunwich

Achievements

- 159 waymarker posts installed
- 39 finger posts
- 64 stencils applied
- 12 sculptures installed
- 1.5 kilometres of footpaths cleared of encroaching vegetation
- 30 Cycle racks installed
- 1 Car park improved
- 1.2 kilometres of paths resurfaced.
- 1 guide published
- 4 circular walk leaflets created



Restoration of traditional landscape features

The guiding remit for the management of the Sandlings landscape was to improve the experience of the public on the heaths or using the Sandlings Walk trail and linked circular walks. Management work carried out under this part of the project has encompassed linking habitats including woodland, marshes and wet meadows as well as heathlands along the visual corridor of the trail and beyond.

A number of key Suffolk Coast and Heaths landscape features have disappeared or suffered neglect over the last 40 years. A great many hedges and ponds have been removed or neglected as agricultural priorities have changed. Many pine lines have been lost or allowed to reach over-maturity without replanting. Pollarding has largely ceased, especially on the heaths.

Without urgent remedial works these now ancient trees, often planted as boundary markers, would be lost.

The mechanisms for this part of the bid came in four key stages:

1. Identification of areas which would benefit from landscape improvements.
2. Agreement with landowners that such improvements can be implemented.
3. Assurance that no other funds were available to enable this management to be done.
4. On-site practical management.

Implementation of landscape restoration was co-ordinated by the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Unit. They, along with other conservation organisations, individuals and local communities, carried out much of the work.

Achievements	Target	TOTAL
Tree/hedge planting and aftercare	4500 metres	5476 metres
Pollarding/Tree Surgery	50 trees	78 trees
Restoration of derelict landscape features	No specific targets	6 ponds 1 SSSI lagoon 1 village verge 1 historic building 1 public recreation area 1 habitat fenced to protect from trampling 7 eyesores removed



Planting at Church Farm, Friston: 2191 trees and shrubs were planted to restore hedgerows and assist with organic conversion. This is one of the few remaining mixed farms along the route.

People and Heaths

The Sandlings heaths have been shaped by man and nature and have evolved into a landscape that reflects the cultural and ecological changes of the last 4500 years. Although the harvesting of heathland products is no longer essential for anyone's survival the heaths are still a vital part of the local economy, creating employment and attracting a great many people for recreation and to appreciate the fauna and flora.

People can savour the beauty and tranquillity of the Sandlings and all its special qualities without causing harm or damage to those very things they have come to see, feel and enjoy. Visitor management ensures that the special areas remain peaceful and a balance is maintained at popular places to allow both residents and visitors needs to be met. The emphasis is on quiet pursuits and infrastructure is limited to protect the natural beauty, tranquillity and quality of life in the area.

The access network is managed to a high standard providing routes for all users, which link people and

places, and allow circular trips. It includes open access where it is consistent with AONB objectives. On heathland, open access is managed to avoid conflict with landscape quality and nature conservation. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act allows for greater access to certain types of land but also provides a framework for managing access to sensitive areas.

Raising awareness and stimulating interest

Sandlings Group members invest a significant amount of time and effort into raising local community awareness. Events organised each year include evening Nightjar walks, deer safaris, fungi walks and talks to a number of local groups such as WI, WEA and parish councils, along with school visits and adult courses.

Workshops are organised to examine land management and social issues and these gatherings of the farming community, environmentalists and community groups lead to interesting and useful debate.





Community groups and other volunteers

A considerable amount of the heathland management work and monitoring carried out in the Sandlings is done by volunteers both on Sandlings Group member's reserves and heathland commons. Suffolk

Wildlife Trust and Suffolk Coastal District Council helps to support these commons management groups, providing guidance, insurance, tools and training as well as work party leaders and first aiders. The project paid staff also support volunteers by carrying out management tasks that are beyond most volunteers: using power tools, heavy machinery and pesticides, although some groups are also equipped to do this. Many of the improvements on our heaths seen over the last 15 years would not have been possible without the efforts of these people.

The time contributed by staff and volunteers over the last 5 years has translated into £s, acting as the Sandlings Group's contribution to the Sandlings Walks project.

	Days	Value
Key vol days	107	£16,069
Normal vol days	907	£45,331
Staff days	956	£114,600
Total	1970	£176,000

The Sandlings group members continue to work to encourage volunteers to help out on the heaths. Currently there are local community groups working on Walberswick, Blaxhall, Wenhampton, Martlesham, Westleton, Knodishall, Sutton and Hollesley Commons. Mobile volunteer groups from SWT, Lowestoft Special Needs Centre and Otley College also help out on the Commons. The RSPB, National Trust and Greenways Project run regular volunteer work parties on heathland sites.

Thriving groups at Westleton and Wenhampton have taken further steps to strengthen their links to their local heaths. At Westleton the Parish Council have, with help from HLF, bought their common. They have a new management group and are currently carrying out monitoring to map local species. A community seminar is planned in conjunction with Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Wenhampton Commons Management Group co-ordinate the management work of several volunteer teams on their five commons and are currently developing a local Biodiversity Action Plan, newsletter and monitoring scheme.



The Future

The 'Tomorrows Heathland Heritage' programme has moved heathland management forward dramatically in the Sandlings and nationally. Large areas of habitat have been restored and created and the infrastructure and machinery put in place to maintain it in favourable condition. Further restoration work is still needed however and as heathland is a dynamic habitat funding must be in place to maintain the management systems.

Funding has become available from English Nature's Wildlife Enhancement Schemes for restoration and maintenance including grazing. The Countryside Stewardship and Environmentally Sensitive Area Schemes continue, and will eventually be replaced by new and combined schemes that will tackle environmental issues on sensitive habitats and in the wider countryside. The Heritage Lottery Fund has supported land purchase to secure existing heathland and enable the creation of new habitat on sites at Westleton, Minsmere and Dunwich and provided community grants for nature conservation projects.

Targeting the best places for wildlife

English Nature's 'Lifescapes' project used the knowledge and experience of the members of the Sandlings group to map the current extent of heathland and develop a modelling system that helps to target the creation and restoration of heathland and other habitats in the best places. In the case of heathland, the most relevant information is the current and historic distribution of the habitat and soil type, accessibility by the public, the distribution of heathland plants and animals and land management history.

The computerised mapping and modelling will be a valuable tool to help the work of the Sandlings group in the future.

Land management for nature conservation has tended to follow habitat types and lines of ownership, often missing out the areas between nature reserves or designated sites of importance. Nature however does not respect these artificial boundaries. The future of nature conservation is at a landscape scale across habitats and fences and incorporating the wider countryside.

The Sandlings Group, with its history of working in partnership in the community, is well placed to carry this forward.



Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage is a £26 million, 10-year, programme managed by English Nature for the Heritage Lottery Fund. It is helping to restore and re-create lowland heathland in local communities around the United Kingdom. With 25 separate projects and over 140 partner organisations, the programme is making a substantial contribution to the delivery of the Government's Biodiversity Action Plan targets for this rare and beautiful habitat.

Improved interpretation and access will also allow more people to enjoy and appreciate our lowland heathland sites.

To find out more about lowland heathland and the Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage programme visit the Website: www.english-nature.org.uk/thh



The Sandlings Group represents all of the organisations working to protect, restore, and promote the understanding of the Sandlings Heaths in the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and beyond. Its members include: Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, National Trust, English Nature, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Coast and Heaths Unit, Greenways Project, Forestry Commission, DEFRA. Since its formation in 1980 the Group has worked in partnership across geographical and organisational boundaries for the benefit of the important and threatened habitats which make up the heathland ecosystem. This has ensured that the Sandlings heaths will be available for future generations to enjoy.

If you would like to know more about the Sandlings heaths, contact:

THE SANDLINGS PROJECT MANAGER
SUFFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST
FOXBURROW FARM, SADDLEMAKERS LANE
MELTON, SUFFOLK IP12 1NA

Telephone: 01394 388431
Email: sandlings@suffolkwildlife.cix.co.uk

Or visit the Sandlings Web site at:
www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/suffolk/ca/sp

Sandlings 
W A L K

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Walk 7



BLAXHALL COMMON – FRISTON

The Route – path terrain and conditions

- A – B Sand/grass path across heath & through forest. Mainly flat, sometimes uneven.
- B – C Loose sand path along edge of heath. Mainly flat but sometimes uneven & narrow in places.
- C – D Undulating minor road.
- D – E B1069. Pavements. Flat.
- E – F Minor road. Flat. Crosses A1094.
- F – G Varying rough track/field edges. Basically flat but uneven. Cross-field paths beyond farm to Friston village.
- G – H Minor road.



Blaxhall (¼ mile)

PH C BS YH

Blaxhall Common

Sandgalls

C P

Snape

PO S C BS

River Alde

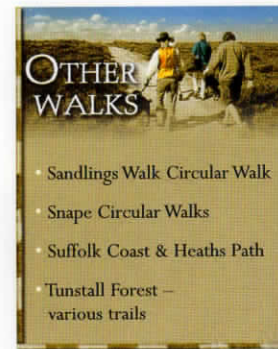
Tunstall Forest

Snape Maltings

C P PH

Friston

PH PO C BS



0 SCALE 1:25 000 1KM

Walk 8



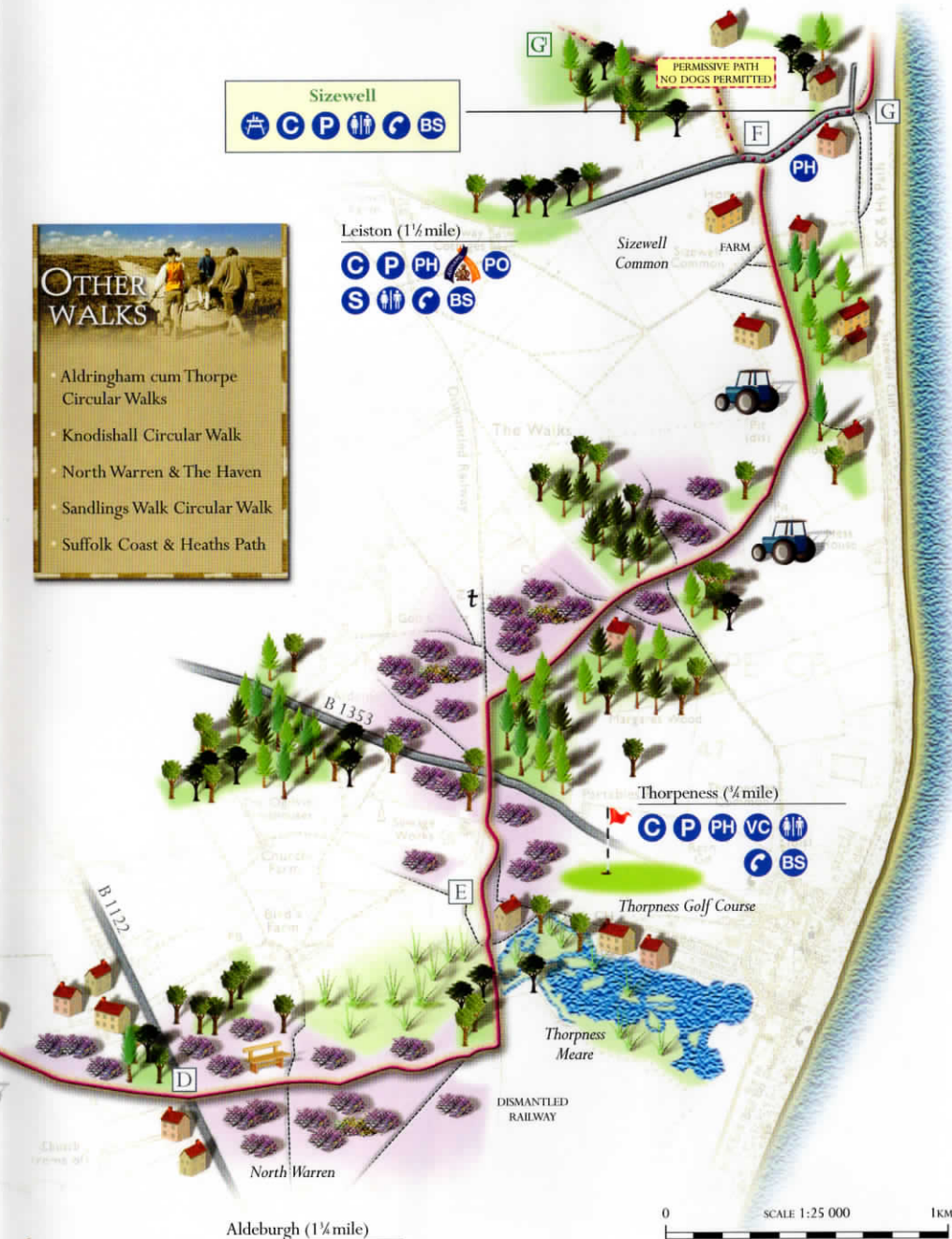
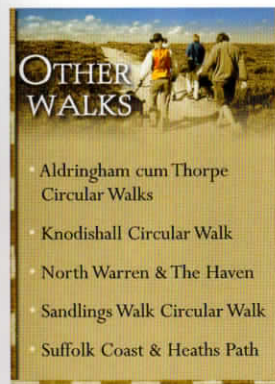
FRISTON – SIZEWELL

The Route – path terrain and conditions

- A – B Minor road.
 B – C Compacted soil. Slight incline. Leads onto flat path across cattle field. Boards across ditch.
 C – D Varying compacted dirt/grass/stony tracks. Mainly flat. Raised verges/pavements at roadsides.
 D – E Grass/compacted dirt paths. Basically flat, frequently uneven.
 E – F Various roughly surfaced tracks/roads/grass paths. Mainly flat, sometimes uneven.
 F – G Minor road with pavement, leading to beach.

Alternative Permissive Route – path terrain and conditions (No Dogs Permitted)

- F – G' Minor road. Pavement present. Leading to loose sand/dirt access track. Uneven.





LAEC

LEISTON AREA ENVIRONMENT CONCERN

Notice of Annual General Meeting

to be held on

Monday 10 February 2002

at the Friends' Meeting House, Leiston
starting 7.30pm

Light refreshments

PLEASE COME IF YOU CAN; this year the evening will be for members only, since the aim is to discuss the future of LAEC. The committee has put forward the following options for discussion:

Dissolution of LAEC; remaining funds to be given to 'a charitable institution or institutions having aims and objectives similar to those of the association', as required by the Constitution
Dissolution of LAEC as above, with retention of small groups to deal with Valley Road Pond, Beachwatch, etc.

Dissolution of LAEC as above, with creation of a telephone tree through which people interested in particular activities (e.g. walks, pond) could be contacted;

Retention of LAEC with a new committee (existing officers and committee to resign)

If you have views you would like to put forward now, which can then be circulated at the AGM, please contact one of us by phone (all have the prefix 01728) or email:

Val Bethell 648 598; vbethell@lineone.net
Joan Huxley 830 415; frhuxley@argonet.co.uk
Anne & Bill Naphthine 832 474; anne@naphthine8.fsnet.co.uk
Norma Pitfield 830 270; pitfield@aol.com
Avi Wells 648 778; aviwells@dircon.co.uk

TEN YEARS OF LAEC

We are now completing the tenth year of LAEC, and feel that a reassessment of its activities is needed.

LAEC originated from an open meeting in Leiston in 1992, called to discuss the failure of the Sandlings project which had aimed to buy the land just sold to the predecessor of British Energy. In particular, the future of the Friends of the Sandlings (who had collected over £2000 to help the Sandlings Project) was discussed. There were some who believed that the environmental aims of the Friends could now best be covered by local groups of the RSPB, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, National Trust etc., and that the Friends should be dissolved. Others among us believed that there was a role for a local group in pursuing environmental issues such as ponds and small environmental jobs that were not main issues for the larger organisations. By general agreement of the open meeting a group was set up to pursue these aims, and, as it included most of the Friends, it was allocated the Friends' funds. The group then met, formed a committee, had a public launch, taking the name LAEC, and initiated the activities which have been LAEC's purpose ever since.

Some of the activities have been purely on LAEC's initiative, such as the popular seasonal walks and talks on environmental matters. Others have been in response to requests for help in environmental work from the SWT, Coast & Heaths, Beachwatch etc. There has, however, been a noticeable slackening in the last year or so of outside requests for help and also of response from LAEC members. Even the last seasonal walk, on a lovely autumn day, was poorly attended.

It is difficult to remain a dynamic organisation with an active few backed by support largely in terms of payment of subscriptions, with infrequent attendance at LAEC events. It could be argued that there has not been enough publicity, but the committee senses that many of LAEC's aims are now seen as being best met through the superior resources of other organisations, which we should now perhaps support directly.

The committee therefore wishes the whole basis of the future of LAEC to be discussed at the AGM, where a decision will be made as to the continuation or termination of the group. We would value individual views before then, and would ask for a good attendance at the AGM to ensure that we make the right decision.

To what extent has LAEC achieved its original aims and objectives?

a) *Preservation of the remaining heathland, wetlands and woodlands, and, in particular, of the dwindling sandlings*

In a sense this was taken out of our hands by the success of SWT and RSPB in either purchasing or taking over the management of these coastal features.

b) *Support for any applications for the designation of additional sites of special scientific interest*

Not relevant

c) *Preservation of and increased access to existing footpaths and bridleways*

There was some activity initially, but no consistent programme.

d) *Liaison with groups such as Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Suffolk Naturalists' Society, Suffolk Preservation Society, Suffolk Ornithologists' Group, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, National Trust and local authorities (parish councils, Suffolk Coastal and Suffolk County Councils)*

There have been fruitful contacts through work parties, speakers at meetings, guides for specialised walks, representation on the Consortium to Oppose Sizewell C (initiated by SCC), representation on the Greenprint Forum. Local parishes were all invited to send a representative at one of the group's earliest meetings and there has been some more recent contact through the Hedgerow Survey. Initial approaches to SPS, SNS and SOG provoked no contact.

e) *Creation of a local body of knowledge on conservation (e.g. the law on animal and plant protection, rights of way, the aims and contact points of other localised conservation groups)*

There has been a frequently updated list of relevant contacts in the area and wider vicinity and there are some useful documents, but little has been done about creating a proper database available to all members.

f) *Promotion of understanding and awareness of the local environment*

There has been real effort in this regard, through the public lectures at the AGMs, the seasonal walks, attendance at local events such as galas and school open days with a stall with information about the group, quizzes, etc.

g) *Possible future development of new conservation areas*

One result here is the work on renovation and upkeep of the Valley Road Pond.

What did we do in 2002?

Seasonal walks: the usual four were organised. This time the theme of the winter walk was birds (although there weren't that many around), the spring walk explored Dunwich Heath, the summer walk looked at flowers on the beach, and the autumn walk identified trees. However, we have covered most of the routes in the immediate area and new variations are certainly needed if the walks are to continue.

Valley Road Pond: it was a very difficult year for the pond, as the long dry period in late summer left it with no water at all. Low water levels are, of course, a regular hazard with a rain-fed pond, but this is the first time it has completely dried out, giving local youths a chance to light bonfires on the bottom. Things are now slowly improving, and with luck we shall have the usual frogs and toads reappearing in spring. The hedge plants are in reasonable shape.

Hedgerow Survey: this has been progressing slowly, and is now nearly complete.

Greenprint Forum: representatives have regularly attended the meetings of this environmental Forum (originally organised by SCDC under the Rio summit's Agenda 21). This year's activities included a visit to Wantisden Hall Farms and a discussion on waste recycling.

Beachwatch: a group of 25 LAEC and SWT members took part in the Marine Conservation Society's annual Beachwatch in September, when we recorded and collected a fair sample of rubbish from Sizewell Beach.

Environmental work: as usual we raked the grass verges of the Middleton roadside reserve, and are, as always, willing to help with any similar work.

As always, LAEC sponsored 4 hanging baskets in Leiston this year.

In his contribution to the recently published book *Save the Earth*, the Prince of Wales places his hopes in human ingenuity and inventiveness to supply original methods of tackling the manifold problems facing the world. A local community here in the Sizewell area of the Suffolk Sandlings has provided one such imaginative initiative. When there suddenly came on the market 1,300 acres of coastal hinterland that have formed part of the Manor of Sizewell Hall since the ancestors of the present owner purchased the land for farming in the middle of the last century, the local inhabitants set themselves the task of raising the £1 million required to buy the lot. People raise money for churches, stately homes and other buildings they love. Why not, they thought, raise money for the land we love? At a hundred-strong meeting in the local cinema, the Sizewell Sandlings Heritage Association was formed, with the Lord Henniker as a patron. Its stated aims are to keep the land as a whole, avoiding fragmentation so as to conserve for this and future generations its unique character and beauty. The Association's bid was accepted.

The Sandlings or Sandlands of Suffolk is a name used in the travelogs of the eighteenth century for the glacial sands and gravels once giving rise to an almost continuous stretch of marsh and heathland along the coast from Aldeburgh to Great Yarmouth. By Tudor times the Sizewell and Thorpeness section of the Sandlings formed part of a vast rabbit warren, owned in the reign of Edward I by the Abbot of Leiston who apparently made a good business out of the rabbits which throughout history, by

their presence or absence, have played such an important part in determining the character of these fast decreasing heathlands.

Since the advent of myxomatosis in 1954 and the decrease in both rabbit and sheep grazing, with the consequent invasion of birch and bracken, much heather land has been lost. Recently however, in line with changes in agricultural policy, some light arable lands on the Sizewell Hall Estate have been allowed to revert to grass heath. At the same time experimental sheep grazing has been carried out, assisted by the Suffolk Wild Life Trust's flock. Already, with two hot summers and a revival in the rabbit population, there are signs of a return to the low close-cropped vegetation crucial for the well-being of many plants and animals including birds of uninterrupted open spaces like the stone curlew, once plentiful around Sizewell. It is hoped one day to entice back onto the heather the increasingly scarce silver-studded blue butterfly, and to retain areas of bare ground beloved by ants and many other insects who make their homes in warm sandy soil. Sunny open ground is essential too for plants like the small annuals that Aldeburgh's poet George Crabbe found in the last century when botanising around the many Crag or shell pits in the neighbourhood, dug by farmers to feed their hungry lands with calcium and phosphates. Among the forty plants the poet added to the Suffolk flora are the pale green little mouse-ear, the suffocated clover and the tiny white petalled shepherd's cress, *Teesdalia nudicaulis*, still found in the area.

Part of the ecological value of the Sizewell Sandlings which the Association seeks to conserve is the large number of diverse habitats existing within a comparatively small space: heath, scrub, deciduous woodland, conifer woodland, arable land, ditches, rivulets, grazing

marshes and extensive reed beds for wild fowl. Adjoining to the north is the internationally famous bird sanctuary of Minsmere, and to the seaward - shingle beaches, dunes and dune slack constituting one of the most precious areas of the Heritage coast in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Of the land for sale, it is the grazing marshes that have of recent years been so highly valued by botanists they they have been named a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Traditional farming over the years with regular summer grazing by cattle has kept in check the coarser growths and helped to create the fine water meadows of the Sizewell Belts with their rich populations of orchids, bog beans and other rare flora. In the words of a past president of the Landscape Institute:

"Each of these coastal marshes is self contained, each different, each a whole. There are few such east-facing, low-lying marshes in the world."

All this means that the area has great possibilities as a future centre for field studies both for schools and further education institutes as well as satisfying the important need for the recreation and refreshment of spirit that local people have habitually found here over the ages.

With management advice and help generously offered from preservation and conservation societies as well as from present farming interests, safe-keeping of the land should be a practical possibility. It remains

to raise the money. Available grants are being sought at a national and European level and a newly-formed Friend's Committee has a lively programme of local money-raising events. Every little counts and the

urgency speaks for itself. For more details contact The Secretary, Friends of Sizewell Sandlings Heritage Association, The Moorings, Sizewell, Suffolk IP16 4U4

Lee Chadwick

SIZEWELL SANDLINGS HERITAGE ASSOCIATION



Dear

We represent the Committee of the Friends of the Sizewell Sandlings Heritage Association. Our Committee has been set up to publicise and inform about the Association and to raise money locally.

You may know that the Ogilvie Estate has recently been put on the market and that a local group, the SIZEWELL SANDLINGS HERITAGE ASSOCIATION, was formed to buy it. Their bid of one million pounds has been accepted by the owner Mr. Glen Ogilvie. The Association aims to preserve the land in its entirety and to conserve its present unique characteristics, both its workable farmland and the beautiful and ecologically precious sandlings area, such a special feature of this part of the Heritage Coast.

It should be stressed that the Association does not represent any pressure or political group. To date its supporters come from a total cross section of the community, both local and national. What they have in common is concern and love for the area and a desire to see it conserved and maintained for its own sake as an area of great ecological interest and for the enjoyment of local people and those many visitors who repeatedly return.

Needless to say the task of raising such a vast sum of money is daunting, especially as the cost will go to 1½ million in order to pay for legal costs and to start the management of the estate. Such a large sum of money could not be raised locally; outside bodies and individuals are being asked to donate on a large scale.

However it is very important that local people show their support. We are asking you, therefore, to explain our intentions to the members of your organisation. We would be delighted if your group were able to organise any fund raising events to help purchase this land for us all. Alternatively your group may wish to make a donation or join the Friends of Sizewell Sandlings Heritage Association as a group or as individuals.

Please bring the contents of this letter and its enclosures to the notice of your members. If you wish Mike Marshall, Warden of the Heritage Coast, is willing to show slides and talk about the estate to your members.

Contact us if you would like further information, and/or to tell us of any offers of help you can give.

We should stress the urgency. The time to achieve this purchase is limited.

Yours sincerely,

Norma Pitfield, Chair, Friends of S.S.H.A. Committee

SIZEWELL SANDLINGS HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

1992



Dear Supporter,

As our last letter to you was in March of this year, we feel it would be appropriate to inform you of the latest developments regarding the Association.

On 20th July a meeting was called at very short notice to discuss the payment of the debt owed by the original members of the steering committee to Henniker-Major (solicitor) and Strutt & Parker (land-agent). This debt was incurred for the work done towards the unsuccessful bid to buy the Sizewell Hall estate.

We heard that:

- a. the steering committee had been told to pay the debt by July 31st or legal proceedings would ensue.
- b. through the good offices of Mike Marshall the debt had been reduced from £13,000 to £10,000.
- c. an anonymous person or persons had offered to pay-off this debt.

Bearing in mind the anxiety and strain being endured by the original steering committee members, it was agreed by the meeting that this offer should be accepted. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the donor(s) of this most generous gift.

It was also agreed at this meeting that the SSHA would be wound down since its aims and objectives (to buy and subsequently manage the Sizewell Hall estate) had failed. The meeting was also told that the RSPB were still negotiating with the owner of the estate, Glen Ogilvie, over the purchase of the remaining land, Nuclear Electric having bought the 440 acres adjoining Sizewell A and B power stations.

At the last meeting of the supporter of the Association on Monday 23rd March 1992 it had been decided that the group should reform as a local conservation group. In connection with this, the committee of the Friends of the SSHA have been asked to organize one more meeting in an attempt to set up this new group.

Minutes of the Meeting organised by the Friends of Sizewell Sandlings Heritage Association on Monday October 5th. 1992 at 7.30 pm and held at Leiston Day Centre in order to discuss the viability of, and to set up if required, a local conservation Group.

Apologies: Susan Seabrook, Bill Howard and Frank Huxley (for leaving early).

Letters: Letters apologising for absence and offering support for any new group were read from Lady Davies, Jean Lord, Rosamund Strode, Lee Chadwick, Ann Broche, Robin Price, Mrs. Strang and Patrick Alexander. Letters were also read from Mr. Sudul, Aldringham cum Thorpe Parish Clerk, and from Winifred Moss suggesting that future energies might be best channelled into conservation bodies which already existed..

This last point, together with a query from the floor, about Para. 1a of the Agenda, (viz: 'This area is an environmentally important area that currently does not fall within the remit of any other conservation group') was answered by Mike Marshall, Heritage Coast Warden. He said that the present Heritage Coast local project finishes in December; that the overview by Heritage Coast is spread very thin, reaching as it does from the Orwell Bridge in the South to Lowestoft in the North. He also said "We do need a lot of help and this is where local groups come in".

Further mention was made of the specific management policies of conservation groups such as Suffolk Wildlife Trust re establishment of sand dunes at Sizewell in conjunction with Nuclear Electric, (involving some 680 acres).

Mike Marshall further emphasised SWT's specific interest is wildlife. They have no interest in access or semi-urban areas, which it is suggested be two of the concerns of the new group. A local group, it was said, need not have the limitations some other broader groups have imposed on them under their constitutions.

The Meeting was also reminded that Rob Maplin, current Warden of the Royal Society for the Preservation of Birds North Warren and Church Farm reserves, has said at a previous meeting that he would be happy to work with and encourage any local group. Steve Barnes, SWT's Sandlings expert reminded the Meeting of the SWT's Sandlings Project. His work requires him to cooperate with local authorities, RSPB etc.. He voiced the need for any new group to avoid duplication of effort.

Discussion on the viability of the establishment of a new group

The above reservations and needs having been discussed the meeting was asked to take the question of viability further.

Norma Pitfield suggested that a personal view of an area is different in kind from that of any statutory, formal, or paid body. She envisaged that this new group, if formed, would be for local people and those many regular visitors who have a love

of the area and a concern for its conservation and also have the time, energy and commitment to get this off the ground.

Joan Girling said that the SSHA had raised the profile of the area in question and were partly responsible for the doubling of the SSSI at Sizewell Belts. She had spoken to several organisations recently including RSPB and the National Trust and they would welcome practical contributions from a local group.

Bill Naphine felt any new group should have a largely 'watch-dog' role.

Anne Naphine voiced the opinion that any future groups aims and objectives should be initially simplified from those expressed in the suggested Aims and Objectives outlined in the Agenda of the Meeting

In answer to a question from the floor asking just what area was envisaged as coming under the auspices of any new conservation group, it was decided this would be up to the committee of the new group, if formed, to decide.

It was asked that, since the original impetus was gone (ie. to purchase the Sizewell Hall estate) are there enough committed people and money to ensure success?

Sandra Coleman, Treasurer of the Friends reminded us that the balance of over £2000 (fundraised and NOT donated), which would hopefully provide a healthy financial start to any new group.

Vote on the Viability of a Local Conservation Group

At this point in the discussion it was decided to take a show of hands of the people present.

The result was 20 FOR, 2 AGAINST, 3 ABSTENTIONS.

Formation of a new Committee

Volunteers were invited to form a working party.

The following people offered and will meet in November to name the group and discuss the aims and objectives further :-

Joan Girling, Anne Naphine, Bill Naphine, Sandra Coleman, Jan Green, Joan Huxley, Norma Pitfield, Sally Ann King, Shirley Varela, Jimmy Girling, Mike Taylor.

Discussion of Aims and Objectives

Janet Fendley, Chairperson, read out the suggested aims and objectives to give people an opportunity for anyone with strong views to voice them so that the working party might take them into consideration.

Joan Girling felt there should be an emphasis on education, missing from the list, backed by Steve Barnes who confirmed Suffolk Watch was unable to do work in schools etc..

Sandra, and others emphasised the need to keep the group Apolitical, proconservation.

A.O.B.

Mr. Gimson recognising the work of the SSHA Steering Com.

felt the new group should be called a 'Working Party'
This was agreed. He felt unable to serve on any committee
but pledged his full support at any time.

The Working Party arranged to meet at 7.30 pm on Monday
Nov. 16th. at 16 High Green, Leiston.

Thanks were given to Janet Fendley for so ably chairing
the Meeting, which ended at approx. 8.50 pm.
and was followed by tea and coffee provided by
the Friends of SSHA.

Footnote: The RSPB are still interested in purchasing
the remainder of the Sizewell Hall Estate, having had three
three offers turned down by Mr. G. Ogilvie.