

Trinity Broads Newsletter Summer 2013

Changes at the Trinity Broads

Maternity leave

Hannah Gray, Environment Officer largely responsible for the Trinity Broads, is having her second baby this summer, and will be going on maternity leave in mid July. Her colleague Sally McColl, also an Environment Officer at the Broads Authority, will be taking over Hannah's duties during her time off. Sally's contact details are below.

Partnership Review

A message from David Alborough, Essex & Suffolk Water's Estates Manager:

'Thank you to those who took the time to input into the review that we carried out earlier this year on the current arrangements for the management of the Trinity Broads. Essex & Suffolk Water have come to the conclusion that we would like to return to having a single person responsible for the site management aspects of the work at the Trinity Broads. We have had a meeting with the Broads Authority to discuss the points and recommendations that came out of the review. The Broads Authority delivery of the partnership work programme over the last year has not included a permanent site presence, which we believe is very important. A site-based job role is not able to be provided by the Broads Authority, so consequently we will be looking to see if we can bring an additional organisation into the partnership to undertake the site management work. The timescale we are working towards for the Broads Authority to stop running the site management work is the end of September 2013.

The Broads Authority is still involved as a key member of the Trinity Broads partnership, it is purely the site management work where we are looking for a different way of working. We still very much value the Broads Authority's input as a partner providing expert advice and support to the future site management.'



Contact details

Contact: Sally McColl
Mobile: 07971 156083
Email: trinity.broads@broads-authority.gov.uk



Post: Trinity Broads Partnership, Broads Authority, Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich, NR1 1RY.

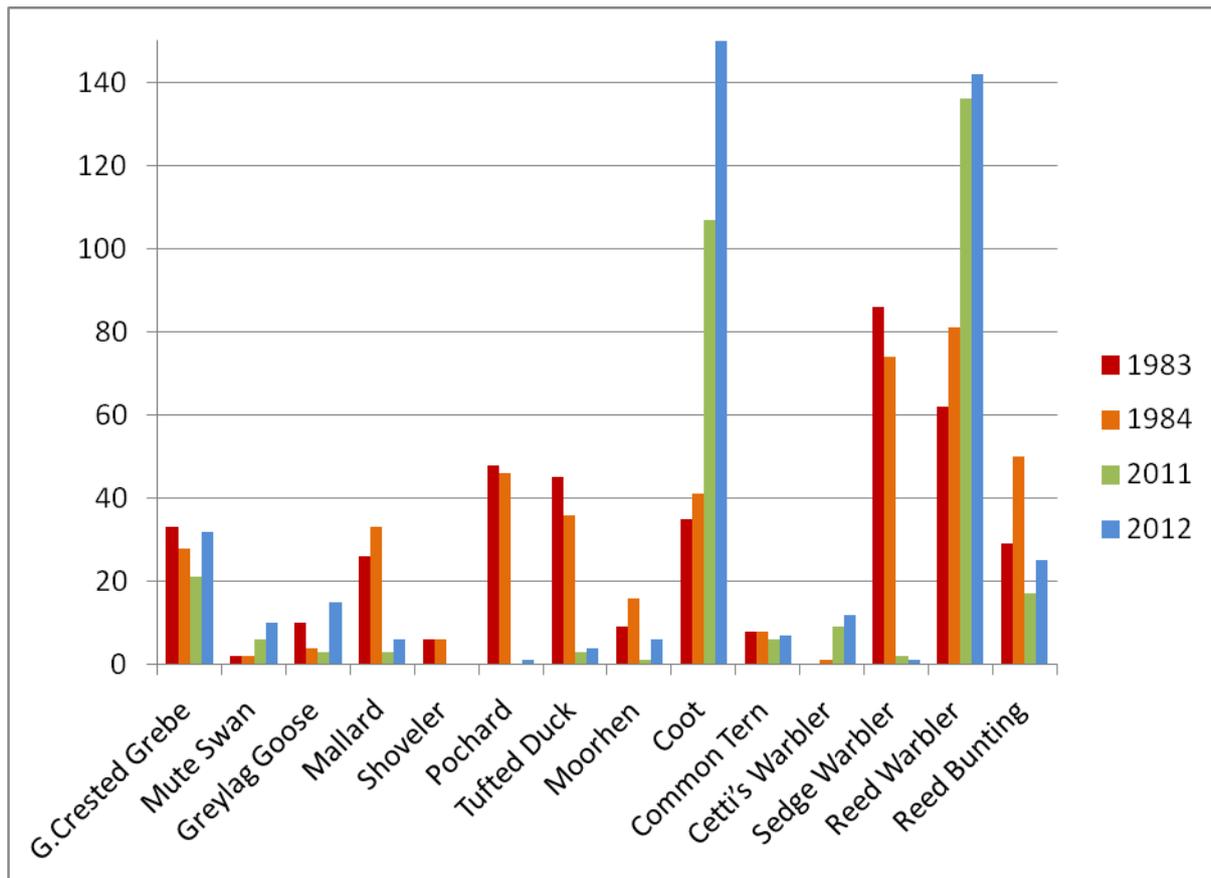
Lots more info on our website:
www.broads-authority.gov.uk/projects/trinity-broad.html

Results from Breeding Bird Surveys

We have started to carry out detailed breeding bird surveys in recent years to establish the current status compared with data collected in the 1980s. The method involves patrolling the perimeter of the Trinity Broads in a boat, and making a note of any nests or young of waterfowl seen, as well as singing of reedbed species. The data shows that some species such as Coot and Reed Warbler have increased in number significantly in the past 30 years, but many species of duck and Sedge Warbler have decreased. The change in warblers is possibly due to the shift to more open reedbed following a long programme of scrub management, but reason for the decline in duck breeding is less clear.

If you have any sightings of duck nests or broods around the margins of the Trinity Broads please let us know.

Breeding Bird Survey Results – comparison of 1983/4 data with 2011/2 data.



Cuckoo tagged!

The cuckoo's call is one of the best known bird calls in this country, though they are not so easy to see. The British Trust for Ornithology is running a research project to understand why cuckoo populations are declining in the UK, particularly in the broads. As part of this research, a cuckoo was caught and tagged in May at Burgh Common. The bird will then be tracked on its migration south to Africa this winter.

The BTO is catching and tagging more cuckoos over the next few weeks. You can follow the day to day positions of the cuckoos on line at www.bto.org/cuckoos. Each tag costs £3,000, but you can donate to the project for a little as a few pounds. The Broads Authority and Essex & Suffolk Water are each sponsoring the tagging of a male cuckoo this year.



Burgh Common Management Agreement

Nestled between the Muckfleet drainage channel and the village of Fleggburgh is a marvellous marshland called Burgh Common, shown below on the aerial photo from 2010. It is one of the most important sites within the Broads due to its wide range of habitats and species, from the classic broadland gems such as bittern, swallowtail and marsh harrier, to the less-well known but very rare water beetles for which the site is noted.

A large part of the Burgh Common SSSI is common land, owned by the Poors Trust, approximately 60 hectares. The Poors Trust has recently started a Higher Level Stewardship Agreement with Natural England to manage their land for the benefit of wildlife. The Poors Trust lets out grazing on the site to a number of local graziers. There is other work which is required on site, such as ditch maintenance and fen cutting, which the Poors Trust has entered into an agreement with the Broads Authority to deliver for the next ten years.



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Rollesby Charity Land Management Agreement

The Broads Authority has also entered into a Management Agreement with the Trustees of Rollesby Charity Lands, north of Lily Broad. This is to carry out scrub clearance on the open fen, rotational gorse coppicing and grazing with some of our ponies.

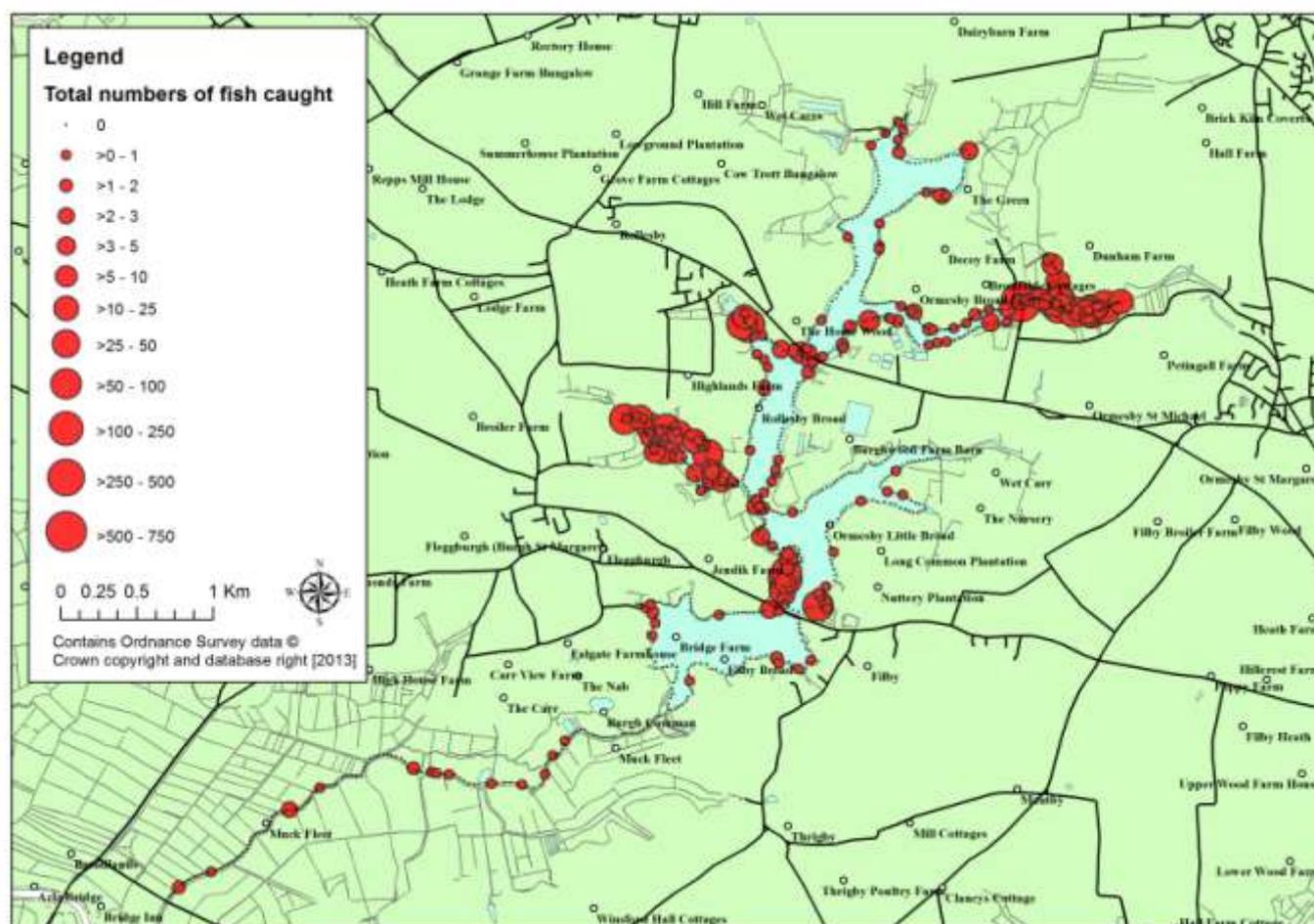
Rollesby Charity Land is a much smaller site than Burgh Common, only 3.5 hectares, but is also very rich botanically, with a transition from dry heath vegetation on the upland edge all the way through to the swamp on the edge of Lily Broad.



Results from Winter Fish Survey, February 2013

Consultants ECON have carried out a survey of fish in the Trinity Broads this winter, and the map below shows where fish preferred to spend the winter months. Spring dyke, feeding into the eastern arm of Ormesby Broad had the highest densities of fish, with Lily Broad and Town Dyke also popular over-wintering sites. Notably, the dyke running alongside the footpath to the viewing platform at Ormesby Little Broad was also well utilised by fish, following its restoration the previous winter. In total nine different species of fish were encountered. These were Common bream, Gudgeon, Roach, Rudd, Tench, Pike, Ten-spined stickleback, Ruffe and Perch.

Distribution map of all fish captured in the survey of the Trinity Broads, February 2013



Dates for your diaries

- Trinity Broads Guided Canoe Trails - Saturday 3rd August, Wednesday 7th August and Sunday 11th August (10am to 12noon and 2pm to 4pm), from The Waterside, Rollesby. Book at Hoveton TIC, Tel: 01603 782281.
- Bat and Moth Evening – Tuesday 10th September, 8pm at The Waterside, Rollesby. Book on 01603 782281.
- Trinity Broads Consultation Group Meeting – Tuesday 1st October, 7.30pm. Venue TBC.

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Please note that the views expressed in Trinity Broads Newsletter are those of the authors and may not reflect the views of the partner organisations.

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