

Dear AONB Volunteer

I hope you are thriving, especially as spring is just around the corner!

We are taking a short break from our conservation work parties across the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB. There may be work parties before June but we are realistically I think hoping to be back in June or July 2018. From now until September at least work parties will probably not be offered twice monthly as before, but as the opportunities occur. I will notify you when conservation work days are happening.

Apologies for any disappointment.

You may already be aware, but if not can I pass on an opportunity to contribute to our knowledge of the pollinating insects and their relationship to plants by undertaking a very simple citizen-science project? The UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme is being organised by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. One thread of the scheme involves a simple count of a defined area, which should take no more than 15 minutes per survey. Full details are here: [https://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/pollinator-monitoring?utm\\_source=Buglife+e-newsletter+Bug+Bites&utm\\_campaign=82eaac7ef4-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2018\\_02\\_20&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_2777351545-82eaac7ef4-140555769](https://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/pollinator-monitoring?utm_source=Buglife+e-newsletter+Bug+Bites&utm_campaign=82eaac7ef4-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_02_20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_2777351545-82eaac7ef4-140555769)

Have a go and improve your knowledge of plants and insects while having lots of fun!

And finally, a reminder that if you have not already returned the information requested for us to comply with the 'General Data Protection Regulations', you need to do so by 30<sup>th</sup> April. We need your permission (by you returning the information) to continue to contact and update you after that time. We hope you will be happy for us to keep in touch! If you did not receive a message from me about this let me know. Many thanks to those who have already gritted their teeth and sent in a return – you deserve a medal!

Look after yourselves and enjoy your volunteering wherever you do it.

Best Wishes

***Neil***

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**Countryside Projects Officer**

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