

Beautiful demoiselle
Wardley

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Welcome

Apologies from the Editor for this late edition of Fieldfare.

In the first week of August we held our RNHS Open day, which in previous years has been the Bug/Butterfly hunt, and has taken place the last few years at Ketton Quarry SSSI. This year, we decided to open the event to all members, friends, and families in and around Rutland, mainly to showcase the Society as a beacon for wildlife, but also as a focus for one of our most treasured Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Ketton quarry is one of around 19 SSSI's in the county, with Rutland Water being the largest and Toilethorpe verge the smallest. We also have what are called Local Wildlife Site (LWS) verges - around 359 in all, which have been found to contain something of significant biological interest.

We often arrange visits to SSSI's in and around Rutland for some of our yearly outdoor events such as Rutland Water Eggleton in February and Cribbs meadow just outside the border in May. As well as Ketton quarry, these sites are managed for specific features of biological importance by the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust. Its not hard to see why we are so attracted to such places - after all we are not likely to find thousands of Green-winged orchids growing wild in our back gardens.

It is not just these big charitable organisations that find ways to increase biodiversity in our countryside though. In less lauded ways, many of us do it too. We make bug hotels, hedgehog houses and wildlife patches in our gardens for the beetles, bugs and wild flowers. We feed the birds and make wildlife ponds. Some of us annoy our neighbours by joining Plantlife's "No mow May" - and then continue it into the summer months! Some village volunteers are helping to manage our churchyards and verges for wildlife by joining the Charity "Caring for God's acre". A great example of this will be our first Indoor talk for October. With a change of speaker from the programme, Marian Markham will tell us about how her village of Langham have achieved their remarkable wildlife goals this year.

We look forward to seeing you in October.

DIARY DATES



RNHS Outdoor meetings.

The following events are correct at time of publication but may be changed at short notice. Please book your place with the person who will be leading the walk; phone numbers are beside the listing. Make sure you are wearing appropriate clothing for the time of year and if the weather is bad on the day, please check first by ringing the walk leader. Full details of all these events appear in the Annual programme on the website at www.rnhs.org.uk.

Saturday 13th September, 10.30am. RSPB reserve Frampton Marsh. This is a wonderful place to visit at this time of the year. Enjoy "the wildlife and waterfowl of the Wash" with Craig Howat, who will be leading the walk. **Meet:** Roads Farmhouse, Frampton Roads, Boston, Lincs. PE20 1AY. Grid ref: TF357 390. Entrance is free. Car park fee £5. (Mob: 07926 726055).

Saturday in October. A fungi foray into the woods. Please look at the website for further details of where and when this event will take place.

Saturday 22nd November. A visit to Deeping lakes Nature reserve. Lead by Craig Howat. This is a small 160 acre wetland noted for it's diversity of wildlife, including wetland birds and other wildfowl. **Meet:** Nearest postcode PE6 8RJ will take you to a bend on the B1166. At apex of bend is a gravel road with speed bumps. Follow until designated car park on right. G.R. TF186079.

For any outside walks - don't forget to bring your walk cards with you, so that we do not leave anyone behind

RNHS Indoor evening meetings.

7.30pm – 9.30pm on First Tuesday of every month from October through to March at Volunteer Training Centre (VTC). LE15 8TL Ref: SK883 083. Visitors are asked for a donation of £2.00.

Tuesday 7th October, 7.30pm. This is a change of speaker from the Annual programme. **Marian Markham**, (one of our most prolific recorders for the Society), will talk about the "Exciting wildlife developments and Conservation efforts in Langham".

Tuesday 4th November. 7.30pm. We welcome Henry Stanier back with an update on the progress of the Great Fen Project, a 50 year undertaking to connect and restore the Great Fen of Eastern England.

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust.

Sunday 14th September 2025. 10am - 11.20am at VTC LE15 8TL.

50 years of the Wetland Bird Survey. A talk by Professor Tim Sexton. Senior Species and Recording Officer for LRWT.
Tickets on website.

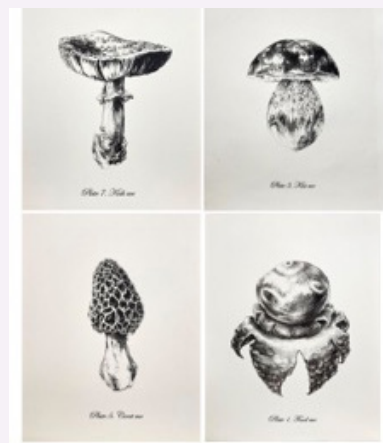
Monday 20th October 2025, 7.30pm - 9.30pm at VTC
A Journey to the Third Kingdom
RNHS Fungi recorder and Artist/Illustrator Kate Fortune Jones will share her work identifying fungi and the inspiration behind her art. £2.00 at the door. No need to book.

Go to the events page on www.lrwt.org.uk/events

Art work below by Kate Fortune Jones.

Notices

We still do not have either an **Insect recorder** or a **Programme Secretary**. These important roles for the society have been vacant for well over a year and it is putting a strain on the committee. If you feel you can help and would like to just have a chat, you can email Carolyn on rnhsfieldfare2@gmail.com



WEATHER

RECORDER Roy Lemmon

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June 2025.

Atmospheric pressure and wind. Essentially a month of high pressures but with a period of 5 days in the first week when pressures were otherwise, and this included the month's lowest at 1005mb. on the 5th. The highest I recorded was 1029mb. on the 16th. Winds were generally SW-NW throughout the month and rather like last month, were often gusty especially in the afternoons.

Temperature. With a mean of 19.16°C this was a warm June, in fact the warmest both in the decade 2016-2025 and also since I started records in 1994. June 2023 at 17.86°C was second in both categories. The last day of this month is perhaps worthy of note as the night-time minimum was 20.4°C and the day-time maximum was 34°C. These are higher temperatures than might be expected due to the secluded garden where my screen is situated, but are valid for purposes of comparison.

Precipitation. A total of 20.5mm.(0.79 inches) equates to 41% of my long term mean. Most occurring as rain, fell between the 2nd. and the 9th. of the month and there were 19 days when none was detected.

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

RECORDER Dr C H Gallimore

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June and July 2025

With the exception of "a biblical plague" of toadlets in Exton it has been a quiet two herpetological months.

The only record of **Common Frogs** was from Ridlington, where three were disturbed when pond weed was being cleared. A **Common Toad** was also reported from the same garden in Ridlington. Hundreds of half-inch toadlets were seen in Exton on 14 June. Exton has always had a thriving toad population, which is likely to continue.

On 4 June a male **Great Crested Newt** was observed in a greenhouse in Fishponds Cottage and in July a female was found in another greenhouse in Barleythorpe.

Grass Snakes were observed in June when one nearly got run over in Egleton and another was found injured in Wet Meadow at Rutland Water Nature Reserve. (There were two Grass Snake sightings from Rutland Water in May, which I did not receive in time, but which are of interest. One was of a snake caught in a pump chamber, which required rescuing and releasing, while another was observed in a sand martin bank).

Finally, Dave Needham reported a female **Adder** from Ketton Quarry on 31 July.

July 2025

Atmospheric pressure and wind. A month of high pressures except for the 14th to the 23rd when they were lower giving rise to a spell of less stable conditions. Winds in this interlude were variable in direction but for the rest of the month were W-N. and between the 4th. and the 7th. they were gusty. There was occasional thunder especially during the afternoons of the 6th. and 20th.

Temperature. A mean of 19.76°C places this July 3rd. in the decade 2016-2025 after July 2018 at 20.66°C and July 2022 at 20.06°C. The lowest overnight minimum was 11.1°C on the 2nd.-3rd. and the highest daytime maximum was 35.0°C on the 11th.

Precipitation. A total here of 68.4mm. (2.69 inches) which all fell as rain, although hail was a real possibility in such unstable conditions but was not seen here. There were appreciable amounts measured on the 6th., 19th. and 20th. but the first of these was the greatest at 24.8mm.(0.98 inches).

My thanks to the following who provided these records:- T Appleton, C Baxter, A&L Biddle, T Mitcham, J Morrell S Pitt-Miller, D Needham, T Sexton and P Trevor.

Below.

Great crested newt found in garden in Barleythorpe.



BIRDS

Recorder Terry Mitcham

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June 2025.

The notes for June and July show the early build-up of wildfowl numbers, especially at Rutland Water, and the start of the autumn wader passage, particularly at Eyebrook Reservoir, where a Caspian Tern finished the month on a high note. My thanks to the following for their records:-

T.P.Appleton, R.F.Baker, T.Barker, N.Coombs, J.Davies, B.Fox, G.Griffin, C.Howat, LROS, N.Messenger, M.Markham, T.Mitcham, B.Moore, C.I.Park RWNr

Highlights. Rutland Water had five Common Scoter (13th) and Little Terns (9th, 13th). A Spotted Flycatcher was at Ridlington (15th-20th). Nightingales were at Quarry Farm (4th – 16th). Eyebrook Reservoir had two Spoonbills (7th) and two Little Terns (17th).

Eyebrook Reservoir. There were eight Great White Egrets (14th). Five Ringed Plover were seen (7th) with two (28th). Four Dunlin were seen (7th). There were two Sanderling (2nd) and a Black Tern (19th).

Rutland Water. The count (15th) produced 73 Egyptian Geese, 19 Shoveler, 901 Gadwall, four Wigeon, ten Teal, seven Pochard and 204 Tufted Ducks. There were also 198 Great Crested Grebes, 34 Little Egret and two Cattle Egrets. There were six Shelducks (21st) and six Great White Egrets (14th). A Marsh Harrier was regular at Egleton with up to four Ospreys on site. Some wader counts included nine Avocets, 34 Oystercatchers, nine Little Ringed Plovers (all 15th), three Curlew (19th), a Turnstone (2nd) and a Spotted Redshank (19th). Yellow-legged Gulls were noted (9th – 15th) and there were 41 Common Terns (15th). Hobbies were regular at Egleton. Three Siskins flew over north arm (28th).

Other Sites. Shoveler, Gadwall and Tufted Ducks all bred at Fort Henry Ponds and Mandarin Ducks in Exton Park. Little Grebes bred at both sites. Barn Owls were at Exton and Preston and a Kingfisher was at Quarry Farm (20th).

July 2025.

Highlights. A Caspian Tern was at Eyebrook Reservoir (29th, 30th) and at Rutland Water (30th, 31st) with a Little Tern (8th), a Black-necked Grebe (22nd), a Bittern (5th) and a Wood Sandpiper (19th – 22nd) all at Rutland Water.

Rutland Water. See also Wildfowl Count. There were breeding Shoveler at Egleton with at least four broods of Tufted Ducks, which had increased to 625 (29th). A Scaup was seen (19th). A Marsh Harrier was regular. Some wader counts included ten Oystercatchers, 155 Lapwings (both 15th), five Little Ringed Plovers (4th), a Curlew (15th, 20th, 24th), ten Black-tailed Godwits (24th), a Turnstone (29th) and a Ruff (10th), two Common Sandpipers (19th) and five Green Sandpipers (15th). There was a Caspian Gull (31st) with up to 15 Yellow-legged Gulls around the reservoir and 78 Common Terns (15th). Two pairs of Barn Owls bred. A Peregrine and three Hobbies were seen (3rd). A Grasshopper Warbler was ringed at Lyndon Top (12th) and Spotted Flycatchers were reported breeding at the Sailing Club. Small numbers of Crossbills flew over on several dates.

Eyebrook Reservoir. See also Wildfowl Count. Osprey and Hobby were seen (13th). A good wader passage produced three Oystercatchers (8th), 237 Lapwings (13th), two Ringed Plovers, five Little Ringed Plovers (8th, 26th), eight Black-tailed Godwits (25th), two Ruff (13th), 12 Common Sandpipers (26th), seven Green Sandpipers (20th) and a Wood Sandpiper (20th – 31st). A Yellow-legged Gull was regular and there were 50 Common Terns (13th). A Barn Owl was seen on several dates. A Stonechat remained (13th) and 17 Crossbills flew over (19th).

Other Sites. A Barnacle Goose was at Banthorpe GP (22nd) with five Little Egrets there (31st). Fort Henry Ponds had 35 Gadwall (29th). A Marsh Harrier was at Banthorpe (22nd). Barn Owls were at Belmesthorpe and Exton and Little Owls at Langham, Belmesthorpe and Normanton (bred in nestbox).

Spotted flycatcher.
Photo Peter Scott



Wildfowl counts for June/July 2025

	Rutland Water	Rutland Water	Eyebrook Reservoir
	15.06.	15.07	13.07.
Canada Goose	1216	1005	69
Barnacle Goose		1	
Greylag Goose	1257	1067	34
Mute Swan	318	382	139
Egyptian Goose	73	52	
Shelduck	2	6	
Mandarin Duck	2	14	
Garganey		1	
Shoveler	19	14	2
Gadwall	901	1422	19
Wigeon	4	2	
Mallard	791	938	344
Pintail		1	
Teal	10	26	16
Pochard	7	3	3
Tufted Duck	204	409	6
Little Grebe	7	44	
Great Crested Grebe	198	224	72
Cattle Egret	2		
Grey Heron	21	12	2
Great White Egret	2	13	
Little Egret	34	116	12
Cormorant	204	581	4
Water Rail	1	2	
Moorhen	19	71	8
Coot	308	680	51
TOTAL	5600	7086	781

N.B. No June count at Eyebrook reservoir.

	Exton	Exton	Banthorpe GP	Banthorpe GP
	14.06	14.07		15.07.
Greylag Goose	3		2	13
Mute Swan	7	5	2	2
Egyptian Goose	3	1		
Shelduck	2	9		
Mandarin Duck	3			
Shoveler	11			
Gadwall	20	20		
Mallard	106	114	26	35
Teal	1	1		
Tufted Duck	44	6		
Little Grebe		3		
Grey Heron	3	2		1
Little Egret	1			
Cormorant	1			
Moorhen	9	11		3
Coot	62	43	7	9
TOTAL	276	215	37	63



Caspian tern at Eyebrook reservoir.
Photo Peter Scott

BOTANY

RECORDER John Rodgers

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August 2025

It seems that no sooner than the blossom in the hedgerows appeared that the fruits are ripe. I suppose that's a sign of old age?

There is a good crop of **haws**, **blackberries** and **sloes** all around. Another plant that seems to be doing well is **Knapweed Broomrape**. Roy Lemmon, (RL) says that he's never seen so much before as is growing on verge 14, by Foster's Bridge. It has also been reported by Carolyn Baxter verge 3, Barrowden to Morcott, and by Jenny Harris (JH) on the road from Empingham towards Tickencote. Jenny also has found **Harebell**, **Clustered Bellflower**, and **Small Scabious** there, as did Marian Markham (MM). Other notable findings were **Star of Bethlehem** and **Goldilocks Buttercup** on verge 1 in Barrowden, reported by Carolyn, Clustered Bellflower

in Bloody Oaks Quarry and at Fort Henry Ponds (Terry Mitcham TM), **Water Mint** on the Lyndon reserve (MM) and **Common Restharrow** on verge 4 and at Bloody Oaks. (JH). Something else not often recorded, probably because it is small and overlooked is **Common Stork's-bill**. This was at Essendine and reported by Linda Biddle. (LB). The Stork's-bills (Erodium) are similar to the Crane's-bills (Geranium) but with pinnate rather than palmate leaves and, as their name suggests, with much longer beaks on the carpels.

Records were received from C Baxter, L and A Biddle, T Caldicott, M Grimes, Jenny Harris, R Lemmon, M Markham, T Mitcham and D Needham. Thank you to all.

Knapweed broomrape on verge 3 Barrowden.
C. Baxter



Star of Bethlehem on Verge 1 Barrowden.
C Baxter



BUTTERFLIES

RECORDER Martin Quinlan

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April/May 2025

April and May were very warm and very dry, making what should have been a good Spring for butterflies but sadly the lack of an abundance was a story that made it into the National media.

GRIZZLED SKIPPER was seen at Ketton Quarry (KQ) with 1 on 9th May, 2 on 11th May and the last were 4 on 20th May.

DINGY SKIPPER was also seen at KQ on 10th May.

A **LARGE SKIPPER** was seen at BOQ on 31st May.

ORANGE-TIP began to emerge in early April with records from Ashwell (A) on 10th, Essendine (ESS) on 11th and 17th, Rutland Water (RW) on 18th and Langham (L) also on 18th. May saw 1 at KQ on 9th and 2 at George Henry Wood (GHW) on 20th.

BRIMSTONE males were seen at L on 2nd April with 7 at KQ on 9th May and with 3 at KQ on 31st May.

Only 1 **LARGE WHITE** was recorded at Uppingham (Upp) on 30th April.

SMALL WHITE was first seen at Mundays Close (MC) on 1st April.

On 9th May 2 were at KQ and 1 was at GHW on 20th May.

The only **GREEN-VEINED WHITE** was at Ridlington (RI) on 13th April.

SPECKLED WOOD was seen at RW on 18th April and 3 were at KQ on 20th May.

SMALL HEATH was seen in May with 3 at KQ on 11th, 6 at GHW on 20th and a single at MM on 31st.

MARBLED WHITE was only seen at BOQ on 31st May.

DARK GREEN FRITILLARY was seen at KQ with 2 there on 31st May and a single at BOQ also on 31st May.

RED ADMIRAL was seen at RI on 12th April, ESS on 17th April and Bloody Oaks Quarry (BOQ) on 2nd May.

PAINTED LADY was recorded in May at Manton (M) with 2 there on 20th May a 1 there on 21st May.

PEACOCK was reported from L on 2nd April and Ashwell (ASH) on 10th April.
There were no further records until May with singles at KQ on 9th and 31st.

One record of **SMALL COPPER** was found with a single at KQ on 31st May.

There was only one record of **GREEN HAIRSTREAK** with 2 at KQ on 10th May.

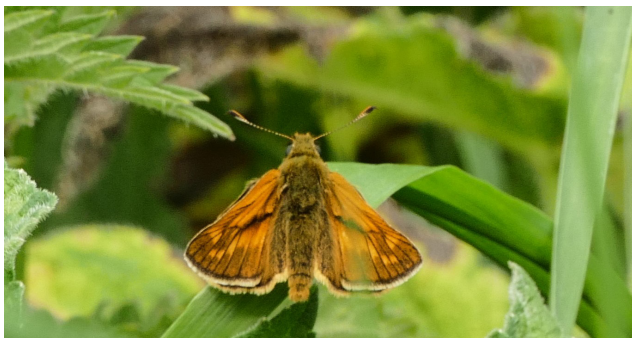
The only records of **SMALL TORTOISESHELL** were singles at Merrys Meadow (MM) and BOQ both on 31st May.

The **COMMA** was only seen at KQ on 31st May.

The first brood of **HOLLY BLUE** was seen at M on 1st May and UPP on 2nd May.

There was just 1 record of **BROWN ARGUS** with 3 at KQ on 11th May.

Finally, **COMMON BLUE** was seen at M on 1st May with 5 at KQ on 9th May, 7 at KQ on 11th May, 2 at GHW on 20th May and singles at BOQ and MM on 31st May.



Large skipper at Barrowden verge. C. Baxter



Small skipper. Beside Stoke woods. C. Baxrer

June/July 2025

June and July 2025 will be remembered for their 3 heatwaves which allowed 'butterflying' to be enjoyed by many. Once again however there were low numbers and the decline of British butterflies sadly continues.

An excellent sighting of an **ESSEX SKIPPER** on 18th June at Ketton Quarry (KQ) was the only record.

SMALL SKIPPER was seen at Egleton (EG) with 2 present on 18th June.

A maximum count of 76 was recorded by Tim Caldecott at Gibbet Gorse Meadows (GGM) on 25th June.

There were 2 at Bloody Oaks Quarry (BOQ) on 18th June and a single at Langham (L) on 3rd July.

LARGE SKIPPER was recorded from KQ with 2 there on 11th June, Uppingham (UPP) on 12th June, 2 at EG on 18th June, 2 at BOQ on 27th June and finally 2 at KQ on 1st July.

LARGE WHITE was seen in UPP on 18th June with 2 at EG also on 18th June. There were 3 at KQ on 1st July and 4 at EG on 2nd July.

SMALL WHITE was seen at EG with 3 there on 18th June. There were 3 at KQ on 1st July and a maximum count of 13 was recorded at EG on 2nd July.

There was a single **GREEN-VEINED WHITE** at EG on 18th June, 4 present at EG on 2nd July and 1 at KQ on 8th July.

There were 4 **BRIMSTONE** at KQ on 10th June, 3 at EG on 18th June and 1 at KQ on 30th June.

Terry Mitcham found a **CLOUDED YELLOW** at Belmesthorpe (BTH) on 31st July. An excellent record.

There were only 3 **SPECKLED WOOD** reports - 2 at EG on 18th June, 3 at EG on 5th July and 2 at KQ on 8th July.

RINGLET started appearing in mid-June with the first record being 2 at EG on 18th, then a maximum count of 120 at GGM and 12 at BOQ on 27th.

In July 22 were counted at KQ on 1st and 3 at EG on 2nd.

MEADOW BROWN also started appearing in mid-June with the first record being a maximum count of 140 at Leighfield (LF) on 16th, then 40+ at EG on 18th and 8 at BOQ on the 27th. In July there was a count of 16 at KQ on 1st and 20 at EG on 2nd with numbers dropping to the last single at BOQ on 22nd.

GATEKEEPER were again plentiful this year appearing in July. The first were 9 at EG on 2nd, then singles at L on 3rd, RW on 5th, ESS on 13th, L on 18th, BOQ on 22nd and the last one at KQ on 31st.

MARBLED WHITE would appear to be continuing its range expansion with records at 2 new sites - Martinsthorpe (MTH) and Pilton (P). The 3 strongholds of this species are still GGM, KQ and BOQ. The first were a maximum of 45 at GGM on 18th June followed by 5 at MTH on 22nd June, 10 at BOQ on 27th June, a single at P on 30th June. The last were 15 at KQ on 1st July.

The only records of **SILVER-WASHED FRITILLARY** were singles at KQ on 23rd June and again at KQ on 28th July.

DARK GREEN FRITILLARY was first seen at BOQ with 4 there on 27th June. In July 2 were seen at KQ on 1st and the last was at BOQ on the 22nd.

A superb record of **PURPLE EMPEROR** was found at KQ by David Needham on 22nd June.

There were 4 **RED ADMIRAL** at EG on 18th June. The maximum count was 10 at GGM on 25th June. In July 2 were at KQ on 1st, 4 at EG on 2nd and singles were seen at BOQ on 22nd and UPP on 23rd.

There were 2 records of **PAINTED LADY** at Manton (M) on 4th June and at MTH on 13th June.

A **PEACOCK** 2nd brood was seen at LF on 16th June when 60+ caterpillars were found on nettles. In July 10 were seen at KQ on 1st and a single was at EG on 2nd.

SMALL TORTOISESHELL was seen at 2 locations in June with 3 at MTH on 13th and a single at KQ on 23rd.

The **COMMA** was recorded in July with 3 at KQ on 1st and 2 at EG on 2nd.

There were only two records of **PURPLE HAIRSTREAK**

with 2 at Pilton (P) on 28th June and 3 there on 30th June.

Tim Caldecott found a **BLACK HAIRSTREAK** at GGM on 25th June.

There were just 3 records of **BROWN ARGUS** with singles at KQ on 1st July and at L on 30th and 31st July.

COMMON BLUE was seen in July with a maximum of 10 at KQ on 8th, and singles at BOQ on 22nd and at L on 18th, 30th and 31st.

I would like to thank the following for their records for April/ May and June/July. Alistair Lawrence, David Needham, Tim Caldicott, Roy Lemmon, Marian Markham, Martin Grimes, Terry Mitcham, John Rodgers and Jacky Morrell. Many thanks to you all.



Small heath. Ketton Quarry. P. Scott



Black hairstreak . T Gibbet gorse meadows. Tim Caldecott

INSECTS & INVERTEBRATES

RECORDER : VACANT

June/July records.

We still do not have an Insect recorder for the society, so I have compiled this report from records received from Craig Howat, Carolyn Baxter and records sent to Naturespot under the RNHS "Project" dropdown. You will need to register to access the menu. Midges, Gnats, and other Gall bearing insects found in Rutland, have been sent to Naturespot by Roy Lemmon and can be viewed on their website. With thanks to Craig Howat, Marian Markham and Roy Lemmon for their records.

Hoverflies (Compiled by Craig Howat).

The Family Syrphus includes the hoverflies of which there are around 270 species in the UK. They are true flies.

01/06/2025. Syrphus sp. Stockerston.

02/06. Syrphus ribesii. Tipula maxima, Stratomys potamida.

All seen in Oakham.

01/07. Volucella zonaria, Eupodes luniger. Oakham.

01/07. Eupodes corollae. Hambleton.

02/07 Melagyna umbellatarum. Oakham.

June 2025.

Highlights. A mild winter, followed by a warm wet spring, can mean a dramatic rise in aphid populations and recent media reports suggest that this is what has led to the significant rise in **ladybird** numbers this year. There have been swarms of larvae, pupae and adult beetles on vegetation on all sites visited. A Beautiful demoiselle was spotted in Wardley woods (W) on 15th June. Four kinds of Longhorn beetles found at the edges of Stoke (S) and (W)

throughout June.

Bees, Wasps, Ants.

The caterpillars of the sawfly *Nematus septentrionalis* were seen at Hebes wood (HW) on (15th). They are a primitive subgroup of Hymenopteran insects, so are listed here. Ichneumon wasps have been seen but are hard to identify to species, so are recorded here only to Genus. These wasps are all parasitic, attacking caterpillars of both moths and butterflies. *Diphyus sp.*, possibly a female seen along the edge of Stoke woods (S) on (16th).

Beetles.

Swollen- thighed beetles seen at (HW) Braunston on (9th). *Rutpela maculata*, one of our larger longhorn beetles and although quite common, its size makes it a nice beetle to spot. Found in vegetation just outside (W) woods (15th). **Fairy-ring Longhorn** beetles found along the edge of Stoke woods (S), (16th). *Grammoptera ruficornis* is one of our smallest longhorn beetles and many were seen feeding on Hogweed (S) (16th). *Pseudovadonia livida*, another Longhorn beetle was found nectaring on Cow parsley in (S) on (16th). A yellowish **Ladybird** without spots on the elytra was seen in (S) on (16th).

Flies. Many species of **Hoverfly** have been seen in the hot weather feeding on Cow parsley and other members of the umbellifera family. *Leucozona lucorum* seen around the edge of Stoke woods is a beautiful easily identified hoverfly, but the black and yellow species are very similar to one another so I will not attempt to identify them here.

Bugs. *Grypocoris stysi*, a brightly coloured plant bug seen just outside (W) on (15th). A **Cinnamon bug** at (S) on (16th)

Leafhoppers. A **Red and Black Frog hopper**, seen at (S) on (4th) and Hebe's wood. (HW) (13th). *Capsus ater*, A common plant bug found at (W) (15th).

Dragonflies.

Beautiful demoiselle (See front cover) was seen at Wardley woods at SP836 996 (15th). This damselfly is apparently a rare vagrant in Rutland. A **Large red damselfly** at (HW) on (13th) and just outside (W) near the stream (15th). Female **Common blue damselfly** spotted at (HW) on (15th)



Leucozona lucorum at Stoke. C. Baxter.

July 2025.

Bees, wasps, Ants.

A **Common carder** bee seen at Mundays close in Langham on (3rd). A **Vestal cuckoo bee** near Wardley woods on (5th). *Ichneumon* wasp possibly a male *Xanthorius* at Stoke woods (S) on (7th). A **Red-tailed bumble bee** was seen on Manor Lane in Langham on 3rd. I am certain it is not the true bumble bee *Bombus lapidarius*, but if it is its cuckoo host *Bombus rupestris*, it is quite uncommon in Rutland. I have yet to send the photographs to Naturespot for confirmation. An extraordinary looking wasp species, probably *Gasteruption sp.*, was seen near some Hogweed plants around the edge of Stoke woods on (7th). See photo. A **Bloomed furrow bee** spotted at Langham on (12th). A **Red-tailed bumble bee** seen by Roy Lemmon at Bloody Oaks on (18th) and a **White-tailed bumble bee** also seen there on (22nd).

Beetles. Many **Harlequin ladybirds** seen near Langham allotments on (2nd). A **Swollen thighed beetle** and a **24-spot ladybird** seen in grounds of St. Peter's church in Langham on (3rd). A **Tortoise bug** was also seen there on (3rd). *Rutpela maculata* and **Common soldier** beetles on Creeping thistle in field near to (W) on (5th).

Flies. *Physocephala rufipes* seen around St. Peter's churchyard, Langham on (14th). The hoverfly *Volucella inanitis* was spotted at (L) on (27th). *Chirosia grossicauda* seen at (RW) on (30th).

Craneflies. The Crane fly *Dasineura urticae* seen at (RW) on (30th). *Dasineura pustulans* were seen at Yew tree avenue Clipsham on (16th) and at (RW) on (24th) and again (30th). *Rabdophaga marginemtorquens* also seen there on (30th) the same day.

Bugs. A **Potato Shieldbug** was seen (L) near the allotments on (2nd). A **Hairy shield bug** found near (L) on (18th) and a **Red-legged shield bug** seen at the same place on (19th)

Cinnamon bug seen around the edge of Stoke woods 13th, and in Langham (19th). Red bug *Deraeocoris ruber* seen at (L) on (3rd) and (S) on (13th).

Dragonflies. A **Southern hawk** dragonfly was seen around Munday's close Langham on (3rd). A **Black-tailed skimmer** was seen at Rutland Water (RW) on (5th).



Wasp possibly *Gasteruption sp.* at Stoke woods. C. Baxter

MAMMALS

RECORDER Linda Biddle

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June July 2025

Reports this month feature two live **badgers**, both seen on returning from glow-worm recording expeditions late at night, one young one at the end of June, which sat at the side of the road between Clipsham quarry entrance and Clipsham village, looking very perky. The second on Little Casterton Road Stamford (still in Rutland!) stuck its head and most of its body out of the hedge and peered at us as we drove by. Sadly, the only other report was a dead one on the A606 just outside Langham. Another treat, and reward for being out late looking for glow-worms, was a sneaky **fox** along the road from Little Casterton towards Ryhall, hugging the hedgerow and stalking along the road. John and Jacky Morrell win the prize for most reports this month, with lots of **brown hares** seen near Ridlington. Others are regularly seen near Pickworth, and 2 leverets were observed near Burley Bushes. **Rabbits** abound at Quarry farm Great Casterton, sometimes up to a couple of dozen disturbed by us dog walking first thing in the morning.

A record from May in Great Casterton concerned a sadly unhealthy-looking **hedgehog**. The observer gave it water and lots of food, and it recovered and now visits the garden regularly. Hedgehogs don't often appear in our garden at Stamford, but as reported in last edition of Fieldfare we did see one on camera back in May, and even better, having left the camera recording while we were away in June, two were pictured together. We were delighted but imagine our dismay when returning home one evening in late July we saw a very recently killed road casualty in Waverley Gardens. Even worse, the next morning there were two dead hedgehogs, and we feared that these were "our" two little hogs. Happily, we are still finding fresh droppings in the garden, so there must be at least one around still. Hedgehogs are still reported from Barrowden village, making a comeback after a long absence.

In July Marian Markham reported **mole** activity from Whissendine, and the footpath at Walk farm Pickworth has a number of mole hills just inside the gate. At the moment

they are like powder, as it's been so dry, and the moles must be having a lean time in finding enough food.

The only **muntjac** report this time comes from Allexton, and a single **Roe deer** report was of three observed along the edge of woodland in Exton park, from the comfort of Hambleton bakery coffee shop! Not a bad place to do your nature watching!

Two **otters** were reported separately from RWNr by Marian Markham near to Manton Bay, on two consecutive Sunday mornings in July. Marian also saw a **stoat** on the old Stamford Road near Egleton, and at Braunston Dr Gallimore observed another crossing Brooke Road. Mustelids have appeared in twos – two **weasels** also seen, one (not in Rutland) at the Stamford Queens Walk allotments, and the other crossed the road in front of a member's bike along the Pickworth to AI road in an area known as Pickworth plains.

Completing the report this time is a single **pigmy shrew**, found dead in the plantation at Walk farm Pickworth at the end of July.

There are no positive reports this time from the camera trapping project at RWNr, mainly because since April and May the harvest mice have resisted the attraction of the baited camera boxes. It may well be because there is plenty of available natural food now that the weather is warmer, so the trapping team, Steve Smalley, Anthony and myself have taken the opportunity for a break from recording, having been recording since 2023 almost continuously. We have still been keeping an eye on the **water vole** population, and after a long gap, in July with delight, we found evidence of activity along the dog kennel stream opposite to Burley fishponds on the A606. Others are still active at the pollards and snipe hide channel but sadly nothing has been seen this year at the Oakham canal.

Many thanks to the wonderful reporters:- A Biddle, Dr Gallimore, Nick Gibson, Cliff Hillyer, Marian Markham, Jacky and John Morrell, Alison Tebbit and Anna Tipping.

MOTHS

RECORDER Paul Bennett

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June/July 2025

A prolonged period of dry, sunny and warm weather were ideal conditions for seeing moths not only in morning traps but flying or resting by day as the settled spring conditions carried on into early summer.

2 battery-operated trap sessions were run at Bloody Oaks with the new battery first put to use there on 29th June with a humid night attracting 49 species including **Muslin Footman**, **Four-dotted Footman**, **Brown Scallop** and **Brown Plume** with the highlight being a fairly pristine female **Oak Eggar** perched on the outside of the

trap, they are primarily seen on heaths and moors but can also appear around woodland edges, scrub and hedgerows feeding on bramble and a wide variety of deciduous trees but, unless there is a nomenclaturist's sense of humour at play here, apparently not on oak! The trap run overnight on 25th July produced 31 mainly regular species on a cooler night with a little precipitation.

Lyndon reserve was trapped on 3 occasions. Among the 75 species on 17th June were **Peach Blossom**, **Pinion-streaked Snout**, **Beautiful Golden Y**, a second site

record of **Blue-bordered Carpet** and an unusually high count of 13 **Mottled Beauty**. 96 species were recorded on 30th June, the highest number of species seen in one trap since recording began there in 2012. High counts included **Coronet** (28), **Smoky Wainscot** (19) and **Elephant Hawk-moth** (13), other species included **Leopard Moth**, **White Satin Moth**, **Dingy Shears** and the aquatic micro **Beautiful China-mark** with single counts of **Lychnis** and **Dark Spectacle** (both second site records) and a first record of **Scarce Silver-lines**. 75 species on 12th July included another first site record with a pair of **Double Lobed** with other highlights being **Black Arches**, **Early Thorn**, **Phoenix**, **Small Phoenix** and a second record of the micro **Common Zebra Moth** *Helcystogramma rufescens*.

Garden records were higher than in recent years, notable species from traps run in 2 Oakham gardens were **Scarlet Tiger**, **Old Lady**, **Small Emerald** and **Plain Golden Y** in June and **Oak Hook-tip**, **Herald**, **Privet Hawk-moth** and **Tree-lichen Beauty** in July while 154 moths of 51 species were seen in a Ridlington garden trap on 17th July. Species seen either day-flying or at rest included

2 reports each of **Mint Moth**, **Hummingbird Hawk-moth** and **Box-tree Moth** while **Toadflax Brocade** was seen as an adult moth in a Manton garden on 11th June on Red Valerian then as a caterpillar on 29th June feeding on Purple Toadflax.

Open countryside reports from June included **Brown Silver-line** at Leighfield and **Large Tabby** at Belton-in-Rutland. In July **Angle Shades** was reported from Langham along with 3 species from the Wing allotment site, **Swallow-tailed Moth**, **Vapourer** and **Dusky Sallow**. **Silver Y** reports were received but it seems a surprisingly quiet year for this species. 3 **Alder Signaller** micros *Stathmopoda pedella* were seen feeding on alder leaves in a wooded area near Pilton on 9th July, these attractive moths can also be tapped from the underside of leaves of the foodplant to reveal their presence.

Thank you to the following for sending me their records:
- C Baxter, P Bennett, C Butler, T Caldicott, R Edwards, C Howat, M Markham, T Marston, J Morrell, J Rodgers, P Scott, T Sexton, W Smith.



Beautiful china mark. R Edwards



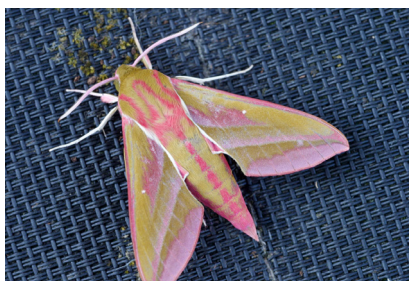
Black arches. R. Edwards



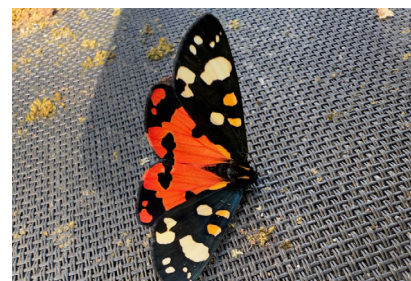
Scarce silver lines. R Edwards



Oak hook tip. R. Edwards



Elephant hawk moth. R Edwards



Scarlet tiger moth. R. Edwards

ORTHOPTERA

RECORDER Phil Rudkin

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June and July 2025

I am delighted to have received many records of our Orthoptera species, from our new chair lady, and Fieldfare editor Carolyn Baxter, Tim Caldicott, and Roy Edwards. The recent heat waves must have benefitted the growth of our grasshoppers and bush crickets! Tim Caldicot, sent in a list of Orthopterans, from his Wing Village Allotments, all regular Sites.



Common field grasshopper. C Baxter

Bush Crickets

Oak Bush Cricket, *Meconema thalassinum*

One adult, found in Lyndon Wood, 16 July 2025, new site: SK904047

Roeseliana roeselii

6 Adults, Martinsthorpe Chater Valley, Regular Site, 8th July

Grasshoppers

Field Grasshopper, *Chorthippus brunneus*

Four, plus, in Stoke Woods, new site, SP848979, 13 July 2025

Lesser Marsh Grasshopper, *Chorthippus albomarginatus*

Two, in Stoke Wood, New site: SP850978, 13 July 2025

One, located in member's garden. 29 July 2025

One observed, The Seek 31st July. New site SK838069

Thank you very much for the reports and some photographs:

Carolyn Baxter, Tim Caldicott, Roy Edwards.

GLOWWORMS

Glowworms June and July 2025.

The survey this year was as last year, jointly recorded by RNHS volunteers and the LRWT as part of their "Lite Lines project". The results were combined for both and used here for our records.

We surveyed the same locations as last year, but Tim (LRWT) took the survey one step further by making light traps for Burley, Ketton and Essendine containing female pheromones, to see how many males were in the area and could be attracted to the light sources, hence a good

indication of possible healthy populations of breeding glowworms. Rutland County Council also set up new Glowworm verge signs on the verges to remind the grass cutters not to mow the verges between the end of May and the end of June, the Glowworm season. The new signs appeared to encourage Barrowden families to go out and do their own glowworm counts this year.

Below is a table of the results. **M=Males. F= Females**

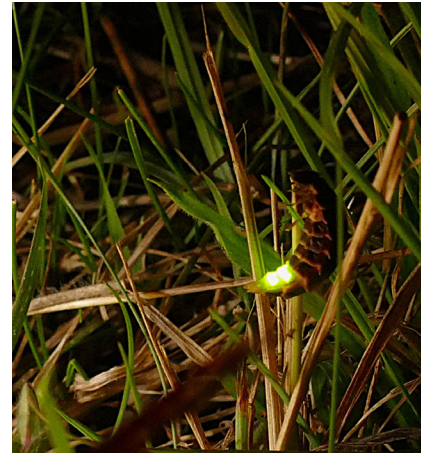
Location	Burley	Essendine	Ketton Q	Barrowden Luff	Barrowden Back road	Pickworth woods	Bloody Oaks
JUNE				F 1	0	Too dark to record	
2 – 8							
9 – 15	F 30	0	0	F 2	0		
16 – 22	M 6 F 17	F 2	F 11	F 12	F 3		
23 - 29	M 59 F 38 M 80		M 7 F 57 M 3	F 11	F 16		
JULY		F 5	F 86	F 8	F 1	Main ride.	
30 - 6			M 8			F 4 M 3 to lure.	
7 - 13		F 21 M 0		F 3	F 4		0
14 - 20		F 7 M 0	F 16 M 0 F 39 M 1	F 1	F 1	0	
21 - 27				0	0		



Light trap to attract male Glowworms. Burley. Photo Tim Sexton



Male Glowworms at Burley. Photo Tim Sexton



Female glowworm at Luffenham Verge Barrowden. C. Baxter

Comments from survey.

Burley. 12/6. 30 glows (6 males on 1 female the highlight.) low in vegetation already mating at 10.30pm but gone by midnight. Tim has made a light trap to count male glowworms on Burley site on 17th June. 17/06. 12 males were counted in one trap. 59 males counted and 17 females. 24th June, 80 males and 38 glowing females.

Essendine. 11 /6. None. Temperature and light play a part as Essendine verge is still light at 11pm. (Linda) 17/06. Two. 01/07. Five glows. 08/07 21 glows but no males on the lure. 16th July seven females with no males to the lure.

Ketton quarry. 11/6. None. Valley was cool. 18/6. 11 females and 7 males on lures. 26th June. 57 females and 3 males with just 1 on the lure. 02/07. 86 females and only 8 males. Tim quite concerned at lack of males. There might be lights at the quarrying works. On the 4th of July, a walk for everyone at Ketton quarry, conducted by The Bat group with leader Jenny Harris and Dave Needham found 15 glows next to the reserve car park. 19th July 39 females plus one male. 16th July 16 females. No males to the lures.

Barrowden. Tim took a LRWT group to Barrowden on Friday 6th June and grass had been mown. 16th. 15 glows. 26 glows. 23rd June. 15 Back Road, 11 luff verge. 30th June. 8 glows but 2 more not glowing but on resident's house wall and on flowerpot. 07/07 seven glows. 14/07. Two glows only.

Pickworth. Surveyed by Linda and Anthony on 4th, Four females and three males to lure. Main ride only as the rest

was too overgrown. 16th July. No glows but not a safe area to record this year as very dark and vegetation overgrown in places.

Bloody oaks. Surveyed by Sarah Bedford on 08/07. No glows.

This year was an exceptional count for female glowworms in Rutland. The addition of light traps (lures) to count numbers of males to females in some areas suggested in the case of Ketton quarry, that the strong industrial lights from overnight quarrying was possibly interfering with male glowworms coming to females to mate. See the table above. This revelation will need future investigation to see if there is a link between population decline and possible light pollution. We hope next year to survey some of the old glowworm sites that were recorded by RNHS in the past using light traps to see if any males turn up. It may mean that glowworms are still surviving in isolated pockets that we were not aware of or thought had died out.

Thanks to Tim Sexton and Sarah Bedford of LRWT for allowing us to use some of their data. and photographs.

Thanks also to all the RNHS volunteers who went out in the balmy night air to do their counts over two months this summer. Linda and Anthony Biddle, Dave Needham, Jenny Harris, Kate Fortune Jones, Nick Gibson, Carolyn Baxter and Sally Cox. Apologies and thankyou if I left anyone else out.

New Glowworm verge signs put up by Rutland County Council



Essendine Glowworm verge



FUNGI

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Fungi Summer Notes. June and July 2025.

This is a summer photo diary of Fungi sightings – which due to the drought have not been hugely abundant. However some lovely specimens were found around the county. Thanks to Tim Caldicott and Peter Scott for sending in their photos and sightings. The highlights are as follows::



A spectacular cascade of **Fairy Inkcaps *Coprinellus disseminatus*** photo K. fortune Jones.



Blushing Rosette. *Abortiporus biennis* Tim Caldicott



Blushing Rosette with blush Tim Caldicott



Cluster of **Pale Brittlestem *Psathyrella candolleana***. Kate fortune Jones.



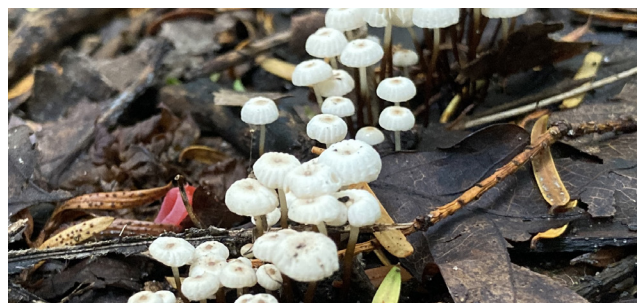
Giant Puffball *Calvatia gigantea* Tim Caldicott.



A young and fresh **Shaggy Bracket *Inonotus hispidus***. Kate Fortune Jones



Top view of same. K. Fortune Jones



Collared Parachute *Marasmius rotula*. Kate fortune Jones.



A sculptural fan of **Chicken of the Woods *Laetiporus sulphureus***. Kate Fortune Jones.



Chestnut Bolete *Gyroporus castaneus* Tim Caldicott.



Silky rosegill at Egleton P. Scott



Spotted by Martin Grimes in Lincs online.

A bizarre alien-like growth has emerged on the banks of the River Welland, Stamford. Measuring 40cm across, it is expanding by the day! Any ideas?

FIELD TRIPS

Visit to Glapthorn Cow Pastures. Saturday 21st June 2025.



Glapthorn Cow Pasture is a small SSSI, managed by the Beds, Cambs and Northants Wildlife trust. It is noted for its rare breeding colony of Black hairstreak butterflies and other important species including Nighthawks. Both these species prefer scrubby habitats and Blackthorn in particular, is managed for the caterpillars of the Black hairstreak which is its foodplant. To the north of the site is an Ash/maple woodland.

The visit to Glapthorn coincided with the longest day, with Dave Needham leading the walk along with other members, all hoping to catch sight of this rare Black hairstreak butterfly. The walk through the glades and rides took around two hours and featured a mixture of habitats providing homes for the diverse wildlife found here. Below is a list of species found. Although the elusive Black hairstreak was not spotted on the day, a walk in this special little SSSI was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Dave Needham for leading the walk.

Bird species recorded. 19.

Red Kite x2	Gt. Spotted woodpecker x 2	Blue tit x1	Great tit x4	Willow Warbler x 4	Chiff-chaff x 10	Long-tailed tit x 17
Blackcap x12	Garden warbler x 4	Whitethroat x1	Goldcrest x 2	Nuthatch x 3	Treecreeper x1	Wren x6
Sng thrush x2	Blackbird x6	Robin x5	Duncock x3	Goldfinch x 5		

Plant species recorded. 19.

False Brome	Hairy Brome	Yorkshire fog	False fox-sedge	Wood small reed	Bush vetch	Hairy St-john's-wort
Cocks-foot	Crested dog's-tail	Sweet vernal grass	Meadow foxtail	Timothy grass	Enchanter's nightshade	Common spotted orchid x1
Common bent	Red fescue	Smooth meadow grass	Rough meadow grass	Wood sedge		

Other species seen.

Banded demoiselle	Southern hawker dragonfly	Meadow brown	Essex skipper	Ringlet	Comma	(?) Fritillary	Longhorn beetle. Rutpela maculata
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This year we invited all members and non members to the event as an Open day for all, and if sufficient children turned up with their families, there would be a morning and afternoon foray into the quarry to see what interesting wildlife we could find there. Displays were set up all around the hall featuring, Botany, Butterflies, Fungi, Moths, Insects etc. and microscopes with live monitoring of pond protozoans with their weird and wonderful shapes.

Amongst the crickets, grasshoppers, butterflies and various harvestment in the quarry, an interesting **Waisted beegrabber**, (see photo opposite) was netted by Craigs daughter. Apparently the larvae of this curiously shaped Conopid fly, parasitises bumblebees. Another interesting fly was a **Kite-tailed robber fly**. This stealthy predator lies in wait for many other species of fly and other insects and then launches its surprise attack from low lying vegetation.

Our thanks to members who came in to support the day, and to those who did come in, stayed and were impressed with our recorders and their displays.

I would like to thank all those who gave their time and expertise to the day - Dave Needham (Butterflies), John Rodgers (Botany), Kate Fortune Jones (Fungi) Jacky Morrell and Paul Bennett (Moths) Craig and Sam Howat (Microscopes) Katy Atkinson (pond life) Donnie and Steve Smalley, (Refreshments and clearing out that awful Fridge!) and to Rob Persani from Rutland and Stamford Sound who also supported us on the day.



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