



Green Ixworth Newsletter

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'Six lanes of tarmac and vehicles doing 70mph': can 'green bridges' help animals cross the UK's motorways in safety? | Biodiversity | The Guardian



The latest green bridge in the UK, is over the A3 at Wisley and built by National Highways.

The 6 lane plus 2 central reservations, road forming part of the new M25/A3 junction, for the first time in many years, enables the wild life on each side not only to cross over and improve biodiversity but increase the gene pool. The heath lands support a wide range of

reptiles, in particular, Sand Lizards, adders, grass snakes, slow worms, etc. as well as several rare butterflies. The area is also home to nightingales and night jays, whilst they do not need a land connection their prey may, and many mammals will also benefit.

And in Ixworth we can't get something built less than half the length and a quarter the width. With the recent decision of the Reform controlled SCC to abandon all Climate Change "nonsense" support may not be easy to get. However, after unitary authorities are introduced in two years time there may be more hope.

Among the many things the new regime do not seem to understand, is that nearly all the expenditure on Environmental issues by Sustainable Suffolk is funded by direct grants from Government and District and Borough Councils. So they may find that they save no money and make the county's population poorer, what a success.

Some Very Good News.

Increasing regulation and voluntary reduced use of a number of PFAS chemicals, eg non stick surfaces on pans, is beginning to show up as reductions of previous levels in birds eggs. Another example of the effectiveness of regulation of hazardous chemicals.

Sharp drop in 'forever chemicals' in seabird eggs hailed as win for regulation | Pfas
| The Guardian

The National Grid has changed an important policy which will enable many new solar, wind and storage units to be brought on power. The 700 sites will provide 60% of that needed towards net zero. No magic just a change in policy by only allowing sites spade ready to book space on the grid. Now much more green power can be brought on stream.



- Restoring the duck pond / historic moat on the site through leaf litter removal and selective thinning
 - Planting scrub and woodland species as part of enrichment efforts in areas of the woodland suffering from significant ash dieback
 - Surveying the pond most recently on 9th of May to assess the health of the ecosystem through aquatic invertebrate sampling,
 - Carrying out a large litter pick in the northern woodland parcel to remove rubbish and defunct tree guards from the natural environment.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wayfinders-weekend-habitat-surveying-bangrove-suffolk-tickets-1987677297303?aff=oddtcreator>

1) Their requirement to maximise affordable homes is broadly supported by respondents. The new National Planning Policy Framework for which we are awaiting may vary the stress on maximising Social, Affordable (rent or purchase) homes.

2) There are crudely three basic design standards for homes. The first and main one has no additional facilities for addressing disability. There are two types where accessibility is designed in, primarily in affordable homes. M4(2) and M4(3) the latter fit for immediate use. The former after relatively cheap modification. If access by steps/staircase is proposed, then lifts should normally be provided for floors above ground level. There is a provision that M4(2) may in special circumstances be either not on the ground floor nor a lift provided. The new Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Delivery, will include this option, as the installation of a lift may make these unviable, for reasons of cost and maintenance, for many registered providers. In such circumstances where omission of a lift has been fully justified it is expected that ground floor flats will be M4(2) compliant, and the council will apply discretion on the upper stories with the expectation that accessibility will be maximised.

M4(3)(2)(b) wheelchair accessible standard is the council's default preference as this will provide a fully adapted property ensuring all wheelchair users needs are met. When carrying out a needs analysis at the pre application or application stage consideration can be given to reduce this to the M4(3)(2)(a) wheelchair adaptable standard if a need for M4(3)(2)(b) is not identified.

The Councils preference is for M4(3)b wheelchair accessible dwellings where a need can be identified.

Data Centres.

AI companies lie about the damage their electricity and potable water use causes. They have seriously underestimated the pollution (CO2) from non-sustainable electricity and huge use of fresh water of which we have too little.

There is a major shortage of drive to implement some of the very efficient means of heating homes and industry, the one which could work with data centres is community heating. Using the hot wastewater from cooling computers to provide heating for neighbouring buildings is a realistic proposition and is widely used throughout mainland Europe and large cities in the USA.

It does require local/national government to insist that large producers of waste heat ensure it is used for heating. It is not new, Battersea Power station was designed to use its waste heat for homes in Chelsea. Many very large Green Houses use waste heat, sometimes enhanced by Heat Pumps to grow tomatoes, peppers and aubergines, in the case of the two innovative greenhouse developments in Ingham near BSE and near Norwich, covering 13 and 16 hectares respectively – a larger area than London's O2 arena – they use more than five times as much glass as The Shard. They are part of a £120m project developed by Oasthouse Ventures that's backed by asset management firm Greencoat Capital (the UK's largest investor in renewables).

The carbon footprint of the food produced there is expected to be 75% lower than equivalent European greenhouses, and Greencoat estimates they will be capable of producing 20 tonnes of tomatoes a day – some 12% of the UK's needs.

The 7m-high greenhouse structures, rely on a hydroponics-based vertical growing system that includes 177km of growing gutters for a range of plants and vegetables. Conventional gas warming will be replaced with heating supplied via closed loop



heat pumps that use waste heat from nearby wastewater treatment plants run by Anglian Water.

Costs should oblige businesses to use the cheapest options, but lethargy and a lack of initiative seems to beset so many companies. Producers of large amounts of heat should be obliged to find customers for it even paying the customer to use the heat if need. All waste has to be disposed of for which there is a cost, heat should be no different.

For even more info: Growing interest: using wastewater to heat Britain's giant greenhouses - CIBSE Journal

UK's growing green economy worth more than £100bn a year, research finds | Environment policy | The Guardian

The King's Speech introduces Energy Independence Bill

Global sand demand is outpacing supply and threatening ecosystems, UN says | Reuters

All the items below are self-explanatory, just use them for contacting the Guardian web site or receive the free newsletter weekly by going into the website and requesting it. If you care to make a donation, one off or regular I am sure they would be grateful. They are not a "commercial company" but a trust.

UK 'built for climate that no longer exists' and needs urgent changes to survive global heating, report warns | Environment | The Guardian

The English community that brought its river back from the brink: 'If we can get it right here, we can do it everywhere' | Rivers | The Guardian

Climate crisis is accelerating antibiotic resistance across world, study says | Antibiotics | The Guardian

Could nature itself hold the solution to climate change? | Climate crisis | The Guardian

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Climate crisis | something new to worry about.

High temperatures and dry weather is already causing problems of subsidence as clay based soils dry out. The London clay much used for brick making from Bedford to Peterborough, occurs in London some of Kent, Essex, and a strip of land from Oxford to the Wash. In some ways a similar situation to Mexico City where the drying out of what was once marsh is leading to significant lowering of the whole city. Where that happens irregularly the subsidence can cause buildings to topple.

The Guardian Huge rise in factory-style dairy farming of 'battery cows' in UK as costs rise | Farming | The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/jun/05/trump-plan-ocean-monitoring-system-concern-scientists>

Households could save £200 on energy bills in plan to break link between gas and electricity prices, says thinktank | Energy | The Guardian

Nuclear Regulatory Review 2025

This review, led by John Fingleton, an expert in trade, competition and regulation, was requested by the Prime Minister, to consider how nuclear power plants may be constructed more quickly.

From our viewpoint there are three broad issues which must concern us: more sustainable energy production, the safe production and disposal of nuclear fuel and reactors and the protection and enhancement of nature. Nuclear Power is along with some wind and hydro power the only sustainable energy provided by rotating machines. This is relevant because solar and much of the offshore wind generation is produced without "inertia". eg rotation of heavy generators, which is needed to maintain the near constant 50 hertz frequency used throughout the UK and Europe. Yaxley, between Diss and Eye, is the site of a recently installed machine which consists of a motor driven by the grid and a generator all on one shaft helping to maintain frequency where there are or will be a large number of solar panels which require an artificial means of setting and holding the 50 Hertz frequency. There is a lot more to this but the need for rotation of heavy bodies, is crucial in readily smoothing and minimising frequency change. Onshore wind also is useful for this purpose but offshore is primarily converted to DC before coming ashore and then electronically changed to 50 Hertz.

Nuclear is the largest potential supplier of sustainable energy produced by rotating machines in the UK and able to produce baseload when the sun is not shining nor the wind blowing.

There are many arguments against Nuclear Power which have to be set against the likelihood of other green energy not always being available. Storage using batteries and other methods is already available but would need to be enormously expanded to provide a substitute for wind and solar on their own. Once again we are up against the adage "do we seek perfection at the risk of finishing with nothing". This is not an easy debate as there is no correct answer, there are no "no damaging solutions". We do need to be respectful of the arguments of others whose commitment to biodiversity and protection of the natural world is unchallengeable.

Paragraph 291 of the report sets out some of the consequences of the rigid application of many existing regulations.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Regime

291. There has been a growth in the length and complexity of environmental assessments across all kinds of infrastructure projects, as developers and public bodies want to shield projects from legal risk. A 1988 review of EIA regulations found that a third of environmental assessments had fewer than 20 pages and 80% had fewer than 100 pages.(36) The EIAs for Hinkley Point C and Sizewell C ran for 31,401 and 44,260 pages respectively.(37) Changes in environmental standards alone cannot account for such significant growth in length and complexity. Instead, the increase in the volume of information indicates that further process and risk aversion are contributors.

Readers thoughts on these issues would be much appreciated.