

**In your words:
Three comments from locals on the work at Knettishall by
Suffolk Wildlife Trust**

Richard (Diss):

“What they have been doing is an absolute disaster. But I have seen their work at other places, so I am not at all surprised. I just call them “environmental disaster organization” – and they are never in the slightest interested in anything anybody has to say. The level of destruction at Knettishall is simply staggering and so is the loss of habitat for many species that depended on those trees they have been felling. It is not only the many woodland birds, it is also certain butterfly species that are losing their home at Knettishall. I have done several butterfly surveys over the decades, as I have a particular interest in them. The White Admiral always had a colony in the woodlands at Knettishall, but last summer was the first time I could not find a single one. The same goes for the Purple Hairstreak, another butterfly that needs a woodland environment. I am also very conscious of the loss of the forest soil habitat, with its abundance of life forms. It has taken the trees a long time to create that soil, and it is very upsetting and sad to see it being discarded like this.”



Charlotte (Bury St Edmunds):

“Glad to see someone is collating the information on the destruction of what was once the most beautiful and diverse wildlife habitat in the area. Not only has there been a decline in biodiversity in flora and fauna across all types, they seem to think that refusing to let nature do its natural process of succession and natural clearing of trees (leaving rotting wood for insects and fungi and everything that relies on those insects, and the cycle of returning the nutrients to the soil) is a good plan. You want to roll back the clock. Ok, this was 90% woodland, natural varied woodland. What they are doing is removing that. And don't get me started on the horses. Suffolk doesn't have a wild horse breed. We don't need horses grazing that land disturbing the wildlife. We certainly don't want the poor horses resorting to eating the abundant bracken and ragwort that is quite palatable to a hungry horse when it dries out over winter. But it's ok to slowly poison them because it's helping some random species they have decided is worth wiping out thousands of others for. If they don't poison the horses they thought they'll try wiping out the dogs, one year hiding hundreds of chocolate eggs at dog head height. Well done to SWT, you have wiped out thousands of species on this plot, threatened to poison resident and visiting animals, made the area unwelcoming to horse riders, dog walkers and those Just wanting a stroll in the beautiful countryside and even made the roads too dangerous to ride horses along.”



Michelle (Barningham):

“It was such an amazing place, where you had all these different types of habitats in one area, with a huge variety of wildlife. We had it all: Open parts with heath and grass and a wonderful range of different kinds of woodlands, scrub and shrubs that provide such a valuable home for so many species.

I have been complaining to the Wildlife Trust ever since they started cutting the trees down but they don't care what anyone thinks. Last year the chap I spoke to, when I expressed my concern for the wildlife in the habitat he was destroying, said that wildlife was inconsequential. Obviously they want different wildlife to what is already there. I did suggest if they wanted an open field they should buy one and not destroy a beautiful and diverse habitat.

Friends of mine, who are bird lovers, used to love going to Knettishall for the rich variety in bird life. They don't bother going there anymore, so many bird species have been lost from the area, and this is going to get even worse, the more trees and woodland they remove.”

