

MEETING REPORT

Meeting: Assets Committee, 2nd September 2024
Agenda item: AS24-005
Report subject: Biofluorescent night walks – Longtimber Woods
Report author: K Elliott-Turner, Town Clerk

PROPOSAL

To book [Reveal Nature](#) to hold a Biofluorescent Night Walk in Longtimber Woods, April 2025 and if successful, also October 2025, two walks per evening. ITC to sell tickets, charge to be determined by committee.

(Note comments within Financial Resources section of the report, as to committee budget implications, and potential for any decision under this item to be a recommendation)

Background

The Town Clerk and Assistant Clerk were approached by David Atthowe, Director of Reveal Nature, with a request to hold biofluorescent night walks in Longtimber Woods, providing the following information:

Biofluorescence

Biofluorescence is the ability of certain organisms to reflect light in a different colour than the one they absorbed, usually in response to Ultraviolet (UV) light. Biofluorescence is quite different from the more famous bioluminescence which is light generated by the organism itself, glow worms for example.

Biofluorescence occurs in a variety of organisms including insects, plants, lichen, mushrooms, fish, coral, amphibians, and some species of birds and mammals. Biofluorescence can encourage more people to get outdoors, spend more time in nature and develop a deeper connection with the natural world.

As it is a very visual spectacle, please see the below gallery of images:
<https://revealnature.co.uk/biofluorescent-gallery/>

Biofluorescent night walks

Join us for an unforgettable guided biofluorescent night walk in a diverse range of different habitats. Discover a secret world of colour that has been hiding in plain sight.

All participants will be provided with a special UV torch, redlight headtorch and safety glasses to be worn at all times during the walk. We will explore the local area as a group where we will find a variety of biofluorescent organisms. Depending on the season and location we can expect to find biofluorescent fungi, flowers, insects, lichen, seaweeds and more.

We hold an up to date ITC 16 hour Outdoor First Aid Certificate and Public Liability Insurance up to £10 million.

MEETING REPORT

Biofluorescence in England

Since April 2023 we have been visiting various sites around the U.K. to document Biofluorescence in a range of different habitats. What we have found has blown us away! Countless species of lichens, mosses, liverworts, ferns, trees, flowers, insects, birds, anemones, crabs, fungi and rodents display biofluorescence and light up in an incredible range of colours.

Biofluorescent Night walks in Longtimber Woods

We are searching for new partners who would be interested in working with us to organise Biofluorescent night walks next year. In 2024 we have focused on the West coast of the U.K., delivering walks alongside the RSPB, Natural England, NatureScot, and the Woodland Trust, amongst others.

We are searching for suitable new locations and partners to work with next year. We are planning to be out West in April 2025 and again in October 2025. We would love to work with you to offer guided biofluorescent night walks.

Summary of subsequent meeting

The Town Clerk and Assistant Clerk met with David of Reveal Nature, and obtained the following additional information:

- Walks will start 30 minutes after sunset, and can last 1hr to 1hr 30mins
- David likes to do two walks a night, back to back
- Maximum of 15 people per walk, minimum age 8 and must be accompanied by an adult
- Everyone is issued with a headtorch and safety glasses
- David has first aid training and £10m public liability insurance
- He charges (to ITC) £175 per walk, and then either he sells tickets or we can sell tickets, which would cover cost of his charge to us, plus potentially make a small profit
- Suggested ticket price £12.50 to £20.00
- David likes to gauge his attendees – some like to know all the facts and ask questions, others just like the awe and wonder of what they find. He starts with an introduction to explain the basics of biofluorescence
- David is based in Norfolk, but travels across the country
- Reveal Nature also hosts other 'experiential' activities, such as Microscopic Walks, Aromatherapy Walks, Audio Walks (listening to the sounds of nature)
- The woodland location is great for holding biofluorescent walks all year round, however he can only offer availability this time for Spring and Autumn 2025, and he is very popular and usually sells out

Resources/implications

Financial

Charge to the Council £175 per walk, so if holding two walks in one evening, charge would be £350. If the event is successful, and their diary permits, Reveal Nature could be booked to hold two events next year, April and October, with two walks per evening. Total cost for this would be £700.

If we sold tickets at their minimum suggested price, there would be no cost to the Council if all tickets were sold.

MEETING REPORT

It is suggested that ticket prices could be £12.50 for children between 8 and 18, and £15.00 per adult. This would mean that if all tickets sold, we would more than cover the cost and any additional income over expenditure could be put back into a specific use – such as future general community events, or improvement works to Longtimber Woods.

If the intention is to put money back into future community events, this committee's remit would be to provide agreement to hold the event within the woods, but funding would come from the Community Services Committee, and therefore any decision to book these events would be a recommendation to council to approve expenditure from another committee.

If the intention is to put money back into Longtimber Woods, the expenditure would come from the Assets Committee, with income being earmarked (EMR) for future projects or improvements.

Staffing

Staff involvement would be to ensure correct documents are obtained from Reveal Nature (RAMS and insurance), promote the event, and to sell tickets, providing details of attendees to Reveal Nature.