

NEWS

» Reports of smoke



Firefighters investigated a report of smoke from a Suffolk nature reserve on the hottest day in June.

A crew from Ipswich East attended the incident at Needham Lakes on Friday night at 8.43pm after a caller reported smoke coming from the site, which is home to countless wildlife species.

Upon arrival, crews discovered the smoke was coming from a BBQ.

There are signs at the lakes requesting that BBQs are not used.

A stop was called at 9.01pm and the incident was closed at 11.40pm.

The incident happened on a record-breaking day for temperatures, which soared to more than 37C in Suffolk.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service issued advice on Friday regarding BBQs which said: "With the recent extreme heatwaves we've been experiencing, our countryside, parks, and gardens are bone-dry."

"While a BBQ sounds like the perfect way to spend a summer evening, prolonged dry conditions mean even a single tiny spark can trigger an unstoppable wildfire."

» Dog rescued

A dog has been rescued from a car that was caught in the midst of a blaze on the hottest day of the year.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service was called to Green Lane, in Great Barton, at 12.25pm on Friday.

A spokesman for the service said that reports suggested a power cable had fallen and struck some conifer trees, which caught alight.

A car containing a dog was near the blaze, but the dog was swiftly saved.

Breathing apparatus and hose reel jets were used to fight the flames and power was isolated by UK Power Networks.

The dog was given oxygen following its rescue and a stop was called at 1.35pm.

Officer 'faces dismissal' over unprescribed drugs at work

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A Suffolk police officer found with Class C drugs on her desk had borrowed a family member's prescription drugs for an ongoing medical condition.

PC Alexandra Olding, who joined Suffolk Constabulary in April 2022, appeared before a misconduct panel on Monday.

The hearing was told that on March 24, 2025, PC Olding was discovered to be in possession of Tramadol, a prescription-only opiate painkiller and Class C drug, despite not having a prescription.

She is said to have been in possession of the highly addictive painkiller as a "safety blanket" to deal with her ongoing medical condition, and had borrowed the drug from a family member who had been prescribed it.

Possession of such medication without authorisation from a medical practitioner is a criminal offence.

Victoria von Wachter, the counsel for the hearing, said the case centred on possession rather than use.

"There is no allegation that she actually took the drug," she said, adding that a colleague had spotted the medication on the officer's desk, prompting a consensual search of her home where further tablets were found.

Hair analysis showed no evidence of illegal drug use of any kind.

Despite this, Ms von Wachter argued the matter should be treated as gross misconduct, stressing that public confidence in the police is "a fact of great importance".

She said PC Olding had received drugs training and "knew what she was doing when she picked up those drugs".

"Unless she is saying that she sleepwalked into taking those tablets, it has got to be deliberate," she added.

However, Rina Hill said PC Olding accepted breaching professional standards



but disputed that it amounted to misconduct. She described the incident as "naivety rather than a wilful disregard of the law", noting that

PC Olding had only borrowed the tablets after a GP declined to give her stronger pain medication for her condition, and did not know the medication was classified as Class C. Proceedings will continue later today.

The panel is chaired by former Norfolk assistant chief constable Nicholas Davison, alongside independent members Dr Hope Osayande and John Jones, with Su Sharma acting as the legally qualified person.

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