



Lincolnshire

Wildlife Trust

Annual Review

2016 - 2017



From the Chairman

The decision to leave the European Union has been at centre stage for most of the year under review and the implications are still clearly very uncertain and subject to much media interest and comment.

From our point of view there are a number of important issues to be resolved:

- the retention of the European Directives which have played an important role in the protection of wildlife habitats on land and at sea and have encouraged a significant improvement in the quality of our water and air supply;
- the retention of agri-environment schemes, which have allowed this Trust to significantly improve the quality of its nature reserves and which also encourage other landowners to manage land in a more environmentally-friendly fashion.

These issues are being addressed through the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) which has linked up with 13 major environmental organisations with a combined public membership of 7.9 million. This coalition, Greener UK, has issued its own manifesto and one of the challenges will be to mobilise support for these plans during the BREXIT negotiations.

Tony Juniper, President of RSWT, made this point very clearly when he addressed members at the Trust's AGM in October, highlighting all the important things the natural world can bring to the table under the heading 'What Nature does for Britain'. Tony will be campaigning on our behalf throughout the UK over the next two years.

Geoff Trinder stepped down as a Trustee and Chairman in November following an involvement with the Trust going back 40 years, allowing me to take on the role of Chairman. Whilst this is a great honour, I am very much aware of the quality of the people who have filled this role in the past and I will endeavour to do all I can to ensure that the Trust continues to prosper. I am delighted that Geoff has agreed to stay in touch by accepting the position of Vice President, which means that we will continue to benefit from his enthusiasm and wisdom as we chart our way through the choppy political waters that lie ahead.

Following the sad loss of Ted Smith in September 2015, David Robinson was unanimously elected as our new President at the Council meeting in June 2016. David's experience with the Trust from the early years was clearly

an influencing factor and made him the obvious candidate. Unfortunately his tenure was all too short and he passed away after a brief illness on 25 July 2017.

One of David's last official duties was to celebrate the formal opening of our new Visitor Centre at Gibraltar Point in 2016, which Simon King supported in his usual professional manner. We are grateful to Simon for the time he committed with members, volunteers, staff and guests on the day and also to members of Lincolnshire County Council for their ongoing support.

After a gestation period of over 5 years, we were finally able to open the Woodhall Spa Airfield nature reserve during the country-wide Heritage Open Days Weekend. We had a good number of visitors on the day; an osprey paid a visit over the lakes and a sighting of a Spitfire rounded off a very successful day. The reserve goes from strength to strength and plans are in hand for further development work over the coming years.

David Cohen, Chairman

Our vision:

Lincolnshire and the neighbouring sea and estuaries to be rich in wildlife for the benefit of everyone



RACHEL SHAW

Tony Juniper was the guest speaker at the 2016 AGM photographed here with Geoff Trinder (former Chairman) and David Cohen (current Chairman)



LES BINNS

The new visitor centre at Gibraltar Point was opened by Simon King, photographed here with Councillor Colin Davie (Lincolnshire County Council) and David Robinson (Trust President)

Cover image: The new Gibraltar Point Visitor Centre seen across the expanse of sea lavender (Aidan Neary)



JAMIE HALL



DEAN EADES



BARRIE WILKINSON



GRAHAM HOPWOOD

Highlights of the year

Creating Living Landscapes – resilient and healthy environments rich in wildlife

Management of the Trust's 3,850 hectare (9,513 acre) estate of nature reserves protected some of the richest areas for wildlife in the county.

The 20 hectare (50 acre) Swinn Wood near Alford was purchased. This important woodland site, located near the existing Rigsby and Muckton Woods nature reserves was put on the open market. With a significant legacy, money from a dedicated appeal and the Trust's Development Fund the purchase was made possible against stiff competition and completed in December 2016. Work to establish access and a management plan are underway.

The major nature reserve in the South Lincolnshire

Fenlands, Willow Tree Fen, continued to amaze. Good habitat management of this young nature reserve pulled in record breaking numbers of birds over winter and a surprise visitor, the unmistakable bluethroat, pulled in a record number of human visitors.

The Trust hosts the South Lincolnshire Fenlands Partnership Project Officer and provides secretariat. This partnership has secured grants for wildlife enhancement for local land managers, worked with the local community to develop an application for 'Nature Improvement Area' status, and delivered numerous events.

The major works to restore the former Woodhall Spa Airfield to a nature reserve were completed. Long term management and ongoing investment in infrastructure will see the establishment of internationally rare habitat over time.

The Trust remains actively involved in forward planning to try to ensure appropriate policies are included in local and national plans and strategies to protect nature conservation sites from inappropriate development and other activity, and achieve more resilience to climate change and other pressures.

During the year the Trust worked closely with all the county's local planning authorities and other strategic planning bodies, and contributed to a number of development documents and reviewed over 370 planning applications.

1. Extensive management was carried out on the reedbeds at Far Ings to improve the habitat for bitterns
2. A bluethroat was an unexpected visitor to Willow Tree Fen
3. Swinn Wood was purchased during the year
4. Alford Wildlife Watch Group were highly commended in the national Wildlife Watch Group of the Year Awards



BARRIE WILKINSON



MARGOT CHARLTON

5. Thousands of Lincolnshire – grown wildflowers were planted in community sites through the HLF funded Meadow Network Project

6. The winter months saw many fantastic starling murmurations like this one at Whisby Nature Park

Restoring Living Seas – where marine wildlife thrives

Despite considerable efforts to promote sites off the Lincolnshire coast, no Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) previously recommended to government have been included in the first two tranches to be considered for designation. The Trust continues to push for designation.

The seal colony at Donna Nook had another successful year with an increase in pups born. Another breeding success for a marine dependent species was little terns at Gibraltar Point. With increased wardening and improved protective fencing, little terns had another good breeding season.

Beach cleans with groups and volunteers were undertaken all year round on a number of Lincolnshire's beaches. Along with East Lindsey District Council the Trust highlighted the issue of littering; this complemented national and international campaigns highlighting the issue of marine litter.

Inspiring people, organisations and communities to value and safeguard wildlife

The highlight of the year was the opening of the new visitor centre at Gibraltar Point. This gateway to the nature reserve offers the opportunity to engage with an estimated 100,000 visitors every year.

Far Ings, Gibraltar Point and Whisby education centres continued to deliver excellent opportunities, particularly for young people to learn about wildlife. Lincolnshire Co-op provided substantial financial support for the Trust's education and community activity as well as engaging with hands-on activities across the county with their staff and members.

A major funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was submitted with the Natural History Museum, Sir Joseph Banks Society and Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union. This new project is planned to commence in late summer 2017 and compliments the work achieved through the HLF funded Meadows Network Project which saw the establishment of 24 meadow sites.



1. Ospreys were seen at Woodhall Spa Airfield and Fiskerton Fen
2. The restoration of the dry stone wall at Rauceby Warren was completed by the team of dedicated volunteers and staff
3. Donna Nook had another successful year with 1,959 pups born



GUY BADLAM

Financial overview 2016 – 2017

During the course of the year the Trust received income of £2,812,000 and spent £3,047,000, which, together with unrealised gains on its listed investments and a further pension provision, produced a deficit of £23,000 for the year. The income sources are well spread with the majority coming from membership income, legacies, a variety of environmental and Local Authority funding and income from investments. The increase in revenue year on year is partly due to the revenue generated from the newly opened Gibraltar Point Visitor Centre.

Membership numbers have risen to 28,225 at the year end, boosted by another excellent recruitment campaign. The Board takes a keen interest in the levels of membership recruitment and retention and ensures that the Trust meets its moral and legal obligations.

The Trust has again benefitted from a healthy number of legacies and is indebted to everyone who has supported the Trust's work through a gift in a will. Over the years, this source of income has enabled the Trust to acquire new reserves, this year Swinn Wood was purchased for £252k, manage them better and improve visitor facilities, whilst building up financial reserves to support the ongoing work of the Trust.

For this year, the value of the Trust's investments has reflected the buoyant state of the stock market. The accounts show an unrealised gain of £452k compared to unrealised losses of £130k last year. The Trustees review investment performance each quarter and have taken advice on the structure of the Trust's investments. In broad terms, the Trust's advisers have recommended that its investments are well spread and support the investment strategy. The Trust does need to generate a high level of income from its investments to continue to fund its work, so

the potential to move funds into cash or a safer form of investment would have a significant impact on the level of income received. The Trust's investment policy does recognise and accept the risk of a short-term fall in value in order to benefit from a higher level of income.

With the opening of the new visitor centre at Gibraltar Point the Trust has reviewed the commercial operations; retail and catering. All retail remains within a subsidiary company (Lapwings Consultants Limited) and the Gibraltar Point catering operates within the main charity. This change, and the significant increase in visitors, is reflected in the financial results. Negotiations for a renewed lease with Lincolnshire County Council are still ongoing and the Trust has agreed to contribute £200k towards the cost of the new Visitor Centre, once the lease is completed.

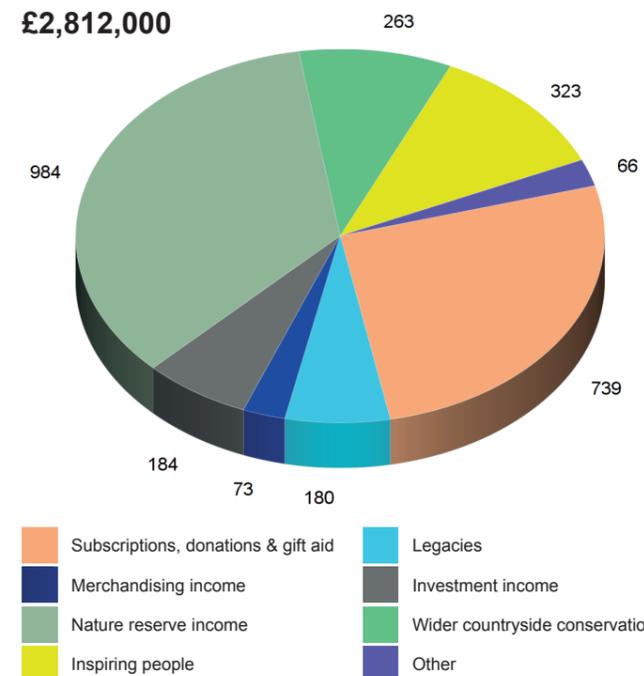
The Trust has spent £2,784,000 on its charitable activities during the course of the year, which represents 91% of total expenditure. This has been spread across Nature Reserves, Wider Countryside Conservation and Inspiring People and details of the split appear in the pie charts and the Notes to the Accounts.

The Trust has experienced continued difficulties with its former pension arrangements, and there is a need to make a further provision of £239,000 to cover the Trust's share of the latest reported shortfall in the scheme.

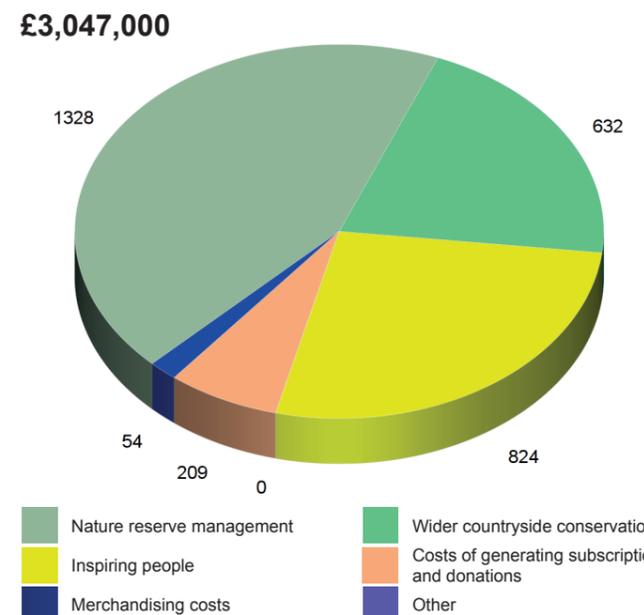
On balance, the Trust can be proud of what has been achieved during the course of the current year and whilst there are issues to address over the next few years, the Trust is well capitalised and has the financial strength to resolve them.

Peter Stapleton, Honorary Treasurer

Income



Expenditure



Future Plans

During the year ahead effort will focus on delivery of the five year Strategic Plan which commenced April 2015. Particular activities in the year and indicative measures of success are:

- Brexit and Government 25 year environment plan - through campaigning and lobbying with partners secure strong commitment to safeguard the environment.
- Heritage Coast - push forward with the partners the coastal strategy and effective implementation of coastal access.
- Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR - implement agreed medium term operational arrangements.
- Lincolnshire County Council - engage with new administration (post-election May 2017).
- Fens - maintain South Lincolnshire Fen as a key element of a regional fenland strategy.
- Lincolnshire's Plants: Past and Future - commence delivery of this Heritage Lottery funded project (in partnership with Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union, Sir Joseph Banks Society and the Natural History Museum).
- Communications and marketing - membership retention and legacy promotion.
- Fundraising - identify and pursue project funding opportunities, particularly time limited EU funds.
- Countryside Stewardship - first tranche of agreements in place. Influence future approach.

Thank you

We are grateful to all the individuals, grant-making bodies and statutory organisations that fund our work. Without your support we could not maintain our existing work or develop new projects

Copies of the full annual report and financial statements may be obtained from the Trust's Headquarters or downloaded from the website www.lincstrust.org.uk

Acknowledgements

The Trust is a voluntary, charitable organisation whose work is dependent on the goodwill, financial support and voluntary input of individuals, businesses, local authorities and voluntary bodies. We acknowledge with thanks the help of all our supporters. We are grateful to the following for substantial financial support in 2016/17 through donations, grants and the sponsorship of projects:

Anglian Water Services	Lincolnshire Co-op
Cargill plc	Lincolnshire Wolds
Centrica	Countryside Service
Defra	Lincs Wind Farm Limited
East Lindsey District Council	Ministry of Defence
Environment Agency	Natural England
Esmée Fairburn Foundation	North Kesteven District Council
European Union, The	RSPB
Forestry Commission	RSWT
Heritage Lottery Fund	Vine House Farm
Lincolnshire County Council	



DEAN EADES

Legacies

Receipts from legacies form a substantial part of our unrestricted income, allowing us to find match funding for a variety of projects and to maintain our Conservation and Development Funds. During 2016/17 the Trust has been notified of bequests from the Wills of the following:

Doris Elizabeth Bullen	Stephen Perkins
Denis Peter Cawdron	Andrew Sang
David Andrew Charles Court	Josephine Edith Sharpe
Florence Vera King	Ted Smith
Rosemary Eileen Lawrence	Frank Arthur West
Barbara Mary Odling	Ralph John Willingham

Corporate Membership

Corporate Membership of the Trust is designed to provide an effective means for companies to demonstrate care for the local environment. The following were Corporate Members during the reporting period:

Aggregate Industries	J E Piccaver & Co
Alfred Enderby Limited	J W Ruddock & Sons Limited
Andrew & Co LLP	John E Haith Limited
Anglian Water Services	John Kinch Group
ARH Tucker & Sons	Jolly Common Caravan Park
Associated British Ports	Lafarge Aggregates Limited
B A Bush & Son Limited	Lincolnshire Co-operative Society Limited
Badley Ashton & Associates Limited	Lindsey Oil Refinery Limited
Cargill plc	Mortons of Horncastle Limited
Chapel Garden Centre	Natureland Seal Sanctuary
Cleethorpes Builders Merchants	North East Lindsey Drainage Board
Clugston Group Limited	Novartis Grimsby
ConocoPhillips (UK) Limited	Page Paper Limited
Cray Valley Products Limited	Riva Construction
Creative Nature	Rowhire Limited
Crowder & Sons Ltd	SCS Technology Solutions Limited
F W Cupit (Printers) Limited	Sibelco UK
Fenland Laundries Limited	Singleton Birch Limited
Grange & Links Hotel	TCS UK Spraying
Growing Wild Limited	Truelove Property & Construction
Hornsby Travel Services Limited	Yara (UK) Limited
Humber Bridge Board	

Headquarters/ Registered Office

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Website: www.lincstrust.org.uk

Far Ings National Nature Reserve and Visitor Centre
Barton-on-Humber DN18 5RG
Tel: 01652 637055

Gibraltar Point National Nature Reserve
Skegness PE24 4SU
Tel: 01754 898057

Snipe Dales Nature Reserve and Country Park
Lusby, Spilsby PE23 4JB
Tel: 01507 588401

Whisby Nature Park

Tel: 01522 500676

Education Centre

Tel: 01522 696926

Thorpe-on-the-Hill,
Lincoln LN6 9BW

Senior Staff

Chief Executive: P Learoyd
Head of Reserves: D Bromwich
Head of Conservation:
C Steel Retired 31.04.17
T Smalley Appointed 31.10.16
Head of Finance: S J Smith

Patrons

The Earl of Yarborough
Baroness Willoughby de Eresby

Presidents

Mr D N Robinson OBE President, appointed 16.6.16,
stepped down as Trustee 16.6.16,
deceased 24.7.17

Mr B Tear Vice President
Mr G L Trinder Vice President, appointed 3.11.16,
stepped down as Chairman &
Trustee 3.11.16

Trustees/Directors

Mr D A Cohen Chairman, appointed 3.11.16
Mrs J Mellor Deputy Chairman
Mr T S Sands Deputy Chairman
Dr D A Sheppard Deputy Chairman
Mr P Stapleton Honorary Treasurer, appointed 3.11.16
Mr M Capper Appointed 2.2.17
Mrs C E Harrison

Mr C Morrison Appointed 2.2.17
Mr R Oates
Mr J Purvis

Mrs A Quigley Retired 3.11.16
Mr E J Redshaw Appointed 2.2.17
Mrs S Round Appointed 2.2.17
Mrs A Rose Appointed 2.2.17
Ms T Smalley Stepped down 12.10.16
Mrs B Tyrrel