

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust



Annual Review 2011 – 2012



Our vision

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



Brown hare
Amy Lewis

This review highlights some of the achievements during 2011-2012 that your membership subscriptions have made possible. Each and every success is due to the support and commitment of all our members, supporters, volunteers and partners.

Recruiters, Area Groups, volunteers and staff have worked hard to improve membership recruitment and retention. Despite the economic uncertainty, the number of individual members rose from 25,025 to 25,402. The Trust's membership plays a vital role not only through significant financial support but by strengthening our advocacy position and providing a source of active volunteers.

The Trust is essentially a voluntary organisation with volunteers playing an essential part in managing the charity's affairs, in deciding on its priorities and in conducting a large part of its business. As well as harnessing great resources of expertise, knowledge and energy, our voluntary character has great benefits for involving individuals and communities and lends local grassroots credibility to our work.

Volunteers are involved at every level and in every aspect of the charity's work. Without this support the Trust could not function as volunteers deliver the equivalent in working hours as the employed staff.

The publication in June 2011 of the Government's Natural Environment White Paper, *The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature*, gave further recognition of the importance of the landscape-scale approach to nature conservation.

We have continued to work closely with farmers, landowners, businesses, councils and other environmental organisations to bring wildlife back to our countryside, towns and seas. During the year we have been able to make some important land purchases adjacent to existing nature reserves and develop and strengthen partnerships working on Living Landscape schemes – creating more space for wildlife across Lincolnshire.

Thank you to everyone involved for their invaluable support and commitment.

*Sir John Mason,
Chairman*

25,402 members played a vital role through significant financial support and by strengthening our advocacy position.

An estimated **1,500** regular volunteers engaged in Trust work who contributed more than **12,000** days of work during the year, equivalent to over **50** full-time staff.



Sir John Mason,
Chairman

Cover image: Avocet
Don Davis

Our Mission

Safeguard wildlife in Lincolnshire and in the neighbouring sea and estuaries by:

- protecting existing wild places as reservoirs of biodiversity and by restoring and creating wildlife habitats to contribute to healthy functioning ecosystems and an environment more resilient to climate change and other challenges;
- sharing this vision with others, particularly relevant decision makers;
- encouraging more people to enjoy Lincolnshire's natural environment and to understand the need to conserve it; and by
- encouraging research projects which lead to a better understanding of the complexities of the natural world

"Every kilometre counts. What volunteers have discovered has highlighted potential wildlife corridors that we never knew existed."

Mark Schofield
Life on the Verge
Project Officer



Common blue butterflies on a road verge
Mark Schofield



Collage snail by students from Friskney Primary School

Inspiring people

Our nature reserves and events encourage people to enjoy Lincolnshire's natural environment and understand the need to conserve it

The Trust continues to maintain strong formal education capacity. At Gibraltar Point, Whisby Nature Park and Far Ings 229 schools, colleges and universities, over 10,000 students, participated in formal education visits. Over half of these were primary students with a quarter being secondary, and others being higher education and adult.

A number of post graduate research projects were undertaken on nature reserves on a variety of subjects. A programme of coastal and marine projects is to be undertaken during 2012 supported by the Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park project.

New **Wildlife Watch** groups established in Grimsby and Spalding brought the total number of groups to nine with good coverage across the county. Predominantly run by dedicated volunteers these groups have been shown to be nurturing the conservationists of the future.

The appointment of a Coastal Ranger and Volunteer Coordinator, with European funding through Lincolnshire County Council, gave

increased capacity for volunteer activities across the East Lindsey coast. Seventeen volunteers have been registered into the structured programme with five already going on to employment in nature conservation.

A full suite of **interpretation** is under development for the newly established Willow Tree Fen nature reserve. Working with partners, interpretation is also being developed for the Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park.

The Trust joined forces with Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership and Community Lincs to offer four training sessions for entrants in the Lincolnshire Best Kept Village & Small Town Competition. These were designed to give people ideas and advice on ways to manage community spaces with wildlife in mind.

A number of **school grounds projects** were completed in Gainsborough through the Trent Vale Landscape Project. The Wildlife Watch Organiser continues to support Associate School Members.

Over **350** events held on nature reserves

Over **10,000** students engaged in educational visits to nature reserves

154 pieces of artwork submitted to the minibeast-themed Gibraltar Point Schools Art Competition

Over **230** wildlife stories covered by local newspapers

5,000 students engaged with through school assemblies

More than **2,800** subscribers to email updates

215,000 individual visitors to the website

More than **1,400** people attended summer events in the Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park

'It is a fantastic place to visit, whatever your age: hard surfaced paths, birdwatching hides, facilities in the Natural World Centre. Plus activities with Wildlife Trust Education Officers to get involved and discover wildlife, for everyone from toddlers to teenagers and adults.'

Whisby Nature Park was awarded a gold certificate from Net Mums as the favourite place to visit in the area





Life on the Verge volunteers on a training day at Claxby Roadside nature reserve
Elizabeth Blott

Creating a living landscape

Nature reserves are at the core of new landscapes for wildlife and people

New land purchased:

17 hectares at Huttoft

6 hectares at Sea View Farm, Saltfleetby

13.2 hectares connecting Moor Farm and Kirkby Moor

8.6 hectares at Crowle Moor

Grazing and hay cutting carried out on **48** reserves with grateful thanks to the **27** farmers who assisted with this work

8,500 planning applications reviewed and responses made to **391**

44 sections of roadside verge in the Wolds met the criteria for designation as Local Wildlife Sites

13 singing male nightingales at Whisby Nature Park

75 volunteers carried out roadside flower surveys for the Life on the Verge project

Four acquisitions were made in the year, three of which were strategically important reserve extensions and one constituted a new reserve.

At Crowle Moor 8.6 hectares of birch woodland provides a vital link joining the south and north reserves together.

At Moor Farm 13.2 hectares of conifer woodland provides a link to Kirkby Moor.

On the coast 6 hectares of land at Sea View provides a contiguous 2.4 km strip of land between the River Eau and the dunes of Saltfleetby National Nature Reserve. The purchase was made possible by generous legacies received from Diana Loy of Alford and Neville Thompson of Brackenborough near Louth and funding from Natural England.

Also on the coast, the acquisition of 17 hectares of grassland adjacent to Huttoft car terrace is the only new nature reserve. Now known as Huttoft Marsh, it will be developed into grazing marsh and wetland similar to the Croftmarsh area of

Gibraltar Point. The Trust is grateful to Lincolnshire County Council (joint owners) and the Environment Agency.

An **Endangered Species Panel** was created to look specifically at rare species on the Trust's nature reserves. This has been greatly aided by the excellent record keeping that is now available through the Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre. A list of plants which are now virtually confined to the reserves in the county has been compiled and the panel has started to look at invertebrates.

Of the 40 species of butterfly regularly recorded in the county, all have been recorded on Trust reserves as have the 16 species of grasshoppers and crickets. Only one of the 27 dragonfly and damselflies recorded is not found on a Trust reserve - the white-legged damselfly is confined to the River Welland near Stamford.

Considering Trust reserves cover less than 1% of the county, this dramatically highlights the importance of reserves for species

The drama captured on camera as a marsh harrier carries away a coot chick at Far Ings
Howard Booty



"Wildlife is an amazing (obviously the best) part of the world! Why sit inside all day watching boring old soaps when there is a whole world of drama and entertainment right outdoors, or even on our front doorstep!"

Tom Goodger
Member of the Limewoods Wildlife Watch group



Cattle grazing at Moor Farm nature reserve
Kevin James

conservation and their vital role within Living Landscapes.

The Trust continues to work closely with all the county's local authorities and contributes to various development documents as well as Flood Risk Management Strategies.

The majority of the county now has an extremely good coverage of **Local Wildlife Sites** – the most important places for wildlife outside statutory Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Working with North Lincolnshire and South Holland councils, the Trust has surveyed their candidate Local Wildlife Sites and has also identified important woodlands in the Forestry Commission's estate in West Lindsey.

Volunteers surveying road verges for the **Life on the Verge** project have identified corridors of wildflower-rich verges that connect existing nature reserves. In the South Lincolnshire Limestone Living Landscape sound up-to-date information is now available for 57% of the road verges in the area. The survey results from the last three

years are being used by Lincolnshire County Council and Rutland County Council to target management.

The Life on the Verge project was expanded to cover the Lincolnshire Wolds and in the first year 33% of the area has been surveyed with 44 sections of road verge meeting the criteria for designation as Local Wildlife Sites.

In the Living Landscape of the **Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marshes** breeding and wintering bird surveys continued. A substantial body of evidence is now demonstrating the potential of the marshes if managed with wildlife in mind.

The delivery phase of the Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership scheme in the Coastal Grazing Marshes commenced with the appointment of a team of staff hosted by East Lindsey District Council. Provision of free advice to farmers is a key element of the work.

In the **Humberhead Levels** a partnership bid to become one of only twelve pilot Nature Improvement Areas in England was successful.

£1.7 million will now be used to benefit rare and vulnerable wildlife across the huge flatlands from the north-west corner of North Lincolnshire into Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire.

The main focus of activity in the **South Lincolnshire Fenlands** Living Landscape was at Willow Tree Fen. Despite the drought, the reserve has begun to develop wetland habitats attractive to birds including breeding lapwing. Two hard-working herds of cattle had a successful first year on the newly established grassland.

The Trust continues to facilitate the development of Living Landscape schemes across the county and is working in partnership on the South Humber Bank, to the east of Woodhall Spa at Kirkby Moor, in the Witham Valley Country Park south of Lincoln and in the Trent Vale.

Through these Living Landscape schemes and the practical management of reserves, the Trust is making a significant contribution to Biodiversity Action Plan targets and wildlife conservation from the Humber to the Wash.

“Over the spring and summer I have been privileged to see a magnificent marine mammal the harbour porpoise, the huge white-tailed sea eagle and the intriguing natterjack toad. Where did I have to go to see these sights? Less than 20 miles from my front door in Lincolnshire.”

Paul Learoyd
Chief Executive



In late summer up to 14 spoonbills were present at Gibraltar Point
Paul Neale



Restoring living seas

Where wildlife thrives from the depths of the ocean to the coastal shallows

1,435 grey seal pups born at Donna Nook

68,000 visitors to Donna Nook

First SeaSearch dive carried out off the Lincolnshire coast

15,000 signatures collected on Petition Fish to show public support for Marine Conservation Zones

5,000 school children participated in undersea themed assemblies

6 sites off the Lincolnshire coast recommended as Marine Conservation Zones

159 plastic bags, 58 drinks cans, 1 life jacket, 1 traffic cone and 1 toilet cistern collected by 54 volunteers on the annual Gibraltar Point beach clean

Marine nature conservation work is now well established across all Trust functions. This has been greatly supported by the appointment of a **Marine Planning Officer** with funds from the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) and the North Sea Wildlife Trusts.

The focus of this work has been the significant wind farms proposed across the North Sea including Dogger Bank and the new spatial planning process being piloted.

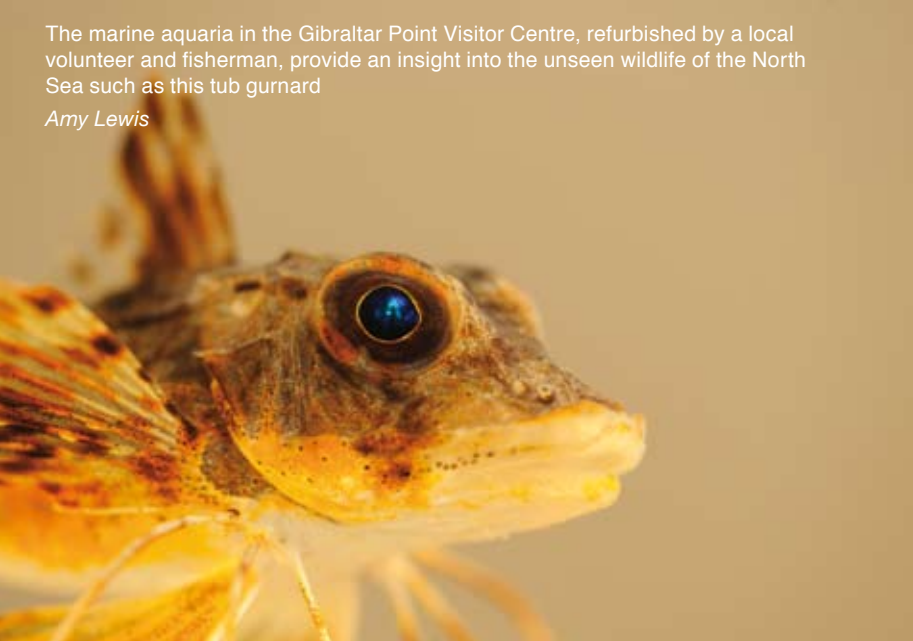
The stakeholder process for the designation of **Marine Conservation Zones** has enabled the Trust to work closely with a wide range of individuals and organisations including commercial fishing, aggregate industry and energy companies. The outcome of this process was the recommendation to Government of 127 Marine Conservation Zones. The designation of these sites, expected in 2012, was delayed. A major campaign to have all 127 sites designated was instigated by RSWT and supported by local activity across Lincolnshire.

The North Sea Marine Advocacy Officer, based with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and working jointly with other North Sea coastal Wildlife Trusts, has been instrumental in co-ordinating the Trust's work to identify and safeguard marine protected areas.

A first **SeaSearch** dive off Lincolnshire produced exciting results; a programme of further dives is planned for 2012. A full programme of ShoreSearch (beach surveys) along the coast has started to establish some good data and will continue in 2012.

In partnership with the charity MARINELife staff and volunteers undertook training in the identification of whales and dolphins. This work will complement the SeaWatch work already underway which has resulted in a significant increase in harbour porpoise sightings along the coast.

The Trust's 2011 Conservation Forum (gathering of key volunteers, staff and partners) had a marine conservation theme with international speakers from all sides of the issue.



The marine aquaria in the Gibraltar Point Visitor Centre, refurbished by a local volunteer and fisherman, provide an insight into the unseen wildlife of the North Sea such as this tub gurnard

Amy Lewis

"It's always rewarding to see a harbour porpoise; it's a rare tantalising glimpse of the wildlife that inhabits our living seas – the vast majority of which, including these large marine mammals, remains hidden from view."

Dave Miller

Coastal Ranger on seeing harbour porpoise on an event at the Round-and-Round Hide at Anderby Creek

Financial Overview

2011 - 2012

Sallow moth
Amy Lewis

Despite the current economic uncertainties, the Trust has enjoyed a successful year and has added a number of properties to its stock of Heritage Assets. The purchase of Sea View Farm is particularly noteworthy and whilst the Trust is extremely grateful to Natural England for its financial support towards this purchase, the majority of the cost was provided by two significant legacies from local people. This indicates the importance of legacies as they allow us to take advantage of opportunities of this nature.

In these difficult times, our Head of Finance has done well to control costs whilst maintaining membership income at a similar

level, following some targeted cost-effective marketing. Investment income has been under pressure but capital values have remained positive and posted a welcome unrealised gain of £68k.

Unfortunately, the area of business impacted most by the economic conditions is our subsidiary company, Lapwings Consultants Ltd, through which the Trust operates the Gibraltar Point Cafe and the retail outlets in Lincoln, Gibraltar Point, Far Ings and Horncastle. Poor weather, lower footfall and reduced spending levels have led to a loss for the year. Remedial action has been taken and whilst current conditions are little changed from last year, there is

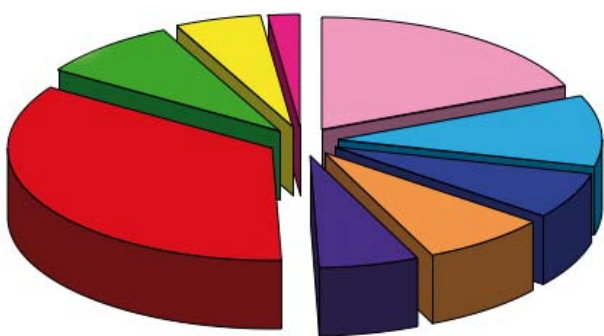
an expectation that the business is capable of being turned round over a reasonable period of time.

During the financial year, the Trust received a total income of £3.2million and had expenditure of £2.8million whilst spending £578k on nature reserve acquisitions. This leaves the Trust well placed to take advantage of further opportunities, whilst continuing to finance its ongoing commitments to the wider environment.

David Cohen
Honorary Treasurer

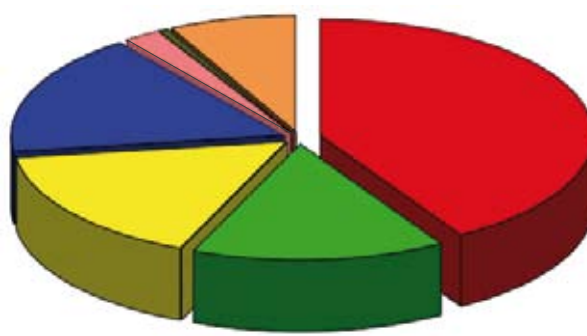
Copies of the full annual report and financial statements may be obtained from the Trust's Headquarters.

Income



- Subscriptions, donations and gift aid
- Legacies
- Nature reserve acquisition grants
- Merchandising and consultancy income
- Investment income
- Nature reserve income
- Wider countryside conservation
- Inspiring people
- Other income

Expenditure



- Nature reserve management
- Wider countryside conservation
- Inspiring people
- Nature reserve acquisitions
- Costs of generating voluntary income
- Governance costs
- Merchandising and consultancy costs

Thank you to everyone who has supported us this year

Future Plans

- Deliver Kirkby Moor extension (airfield acquisition) and commence biodiversity and enhancement and access improvements, a core to the Living Landscape project.
- Continue delivery of Living Landscape projects on which we lead or are a partner: significant input on Life on the Verge 2 (the Wolds), South Lincolnshire Fens, Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marshes and Coastal Country Park, Witham Valley Country Park and Humberhead Levels (including partnership funding applications – NIA & HLF).
- Establish the recently purchased Huttoft Marsh Nature Reserve and integrate new Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park visitor infrastructure.
- Develop Donna Nook facilities and fully engage in the EA's managed realignment scheme.
- Deliver marine planning and Marine Conservation Zone advocacy, Shoresearch and Seasearch, and input to European Marine Sites Humber and Wash.
- Maximise opportunities arising from the Wildlife Trusts centenary celebrations notably membership and legacy promotion.
- Complete extension of Banovallum House.
- Improve profitability of retail and catering subsidiary activities.

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 2011/2012 through donations, grants and the sponsorship of projects:

Biffaward	Environment Agency	North Kesteven District Council
Cargill PLC	Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	Sibelco UK
Cemex UK	Forestry Commission	SITA
Centrica	Heritage Lottery Fund	South Holland District Council
Conoco Philips (UK) Limited	Lincolnshire County Council	Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN)
DEFRA	Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board	West Lindsey District Council
East Lindsey District Council	Natural England	

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 2011/2012 the Trust has been notified of bequests from the Wills of the following:

Anne Naylor	John Martin Keily	Sydney Smith
Audrey Mary Preston	Joyce Fowler	Vivian May Loury
Diana Mary Loy	Mrs H M Osgerby	
Dorothy Margaret Nixon	Robert Trevor Meed	

Corporate Members

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	Exeter Street Veterinary Centre	Natureland Seal Sanctuary
Alfred Enderby Limited	Fenland Laundries Limited	North East Lindsey Drainage Board
Andrew & Co LLP	Growing Wild Limited	Novartis Grimsby
Anglian Water Services	HSBC	Omex Agriculture Limited
ARH Tucker & Sons	Hornsby Travel Services Limited	Page Paper Limited
B A Bush & Son Limited	Humber Bridge Board	Riva Construction
Badley Ashton & Associates Limited	J E Piccaver & Co	Rowhire Limited
Brown & Co	J W Ruddock & Sons Limited	SCS Technology Solutions Limited
Cargill PLC	John E Haith Limited	Sibelco UK
Chapel Garden Centre	John Kinch Group	Singleton Birch Limited
Cleethorpes Builders Merchants	Jolly Common Caravan Park	Tata Steel UK Limited
Clugston Group Limited	Kes Building Maintenance	TCS UK Spraying
Conoco Philips (UK) Limited	Lincolnshire Co-operative Society Limited	Truelove Property & Construction
Cray Valley Products Limited	Lindsey Oil Refinery Limited	W Crowder & Sons Limited
Creative Nature	Lowfields Leisure Limited	Yara (UK) Limited
Cupit Print, Horncastle	Mortons of Horncastle Limited	

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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 and Wash Study Centre

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

The Wildlife Gift Shop

Castle Square
Lincoln LN1 3AA
Tel: 01522 538125

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Head of Conservation: C Steel
Head of Finance: P Thorpe

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