

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust



Annual Review 2010 – 2011





Common Sandpiper
Don Davis

Our vision

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

It gives me great delight to introduce this Annual Review, my first as Chairman of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. The Review highlights some of the achievements during 2010-2011 across the many strands of the Trust's work. Members, volunteers, staff and partner organisations all play a vital role in this work. All make a significant and valued contribution to protecting Lincolnshire's wildlife and wild places from the Humber to The Wash.

Over the year, membership numbers increased to over 25,000. This is a fantastic achievement, especially considering the country's financial situation. We are extremely grateful to each and every one of you.

Your generous support enables us to protect over 3,500 hectares of the county's finest countryside on almost 100 nature reserves, to educate and inspire over 10,000 school children, to campaign for wildlife conservation and influence decision makers.

Partnerships are a hallmark of our way of working and I would like to extend our gratitude to all our

partners for their commitment and support. We work with a wide range of partners with whom we share many of our aims and aspirations including local authorities, government bodies, voluntary organisations, local businesses and neighbouring landowners. The on-going co-operation of landowners and farmers is vital to the success of our own land management for wildlife and people.

At its heart the Trust is essentially a voluntary organisation with activities organised on the basis that volunteers play 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.

My sincere thanks go to all our volunteers for their continued energy and enthusiasm.

*Sir John Mason, Chairman,
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust*

25,025 members and 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,
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

Cover image: Children at the Wildlife Watch Grand Day Out at Snipe Dales
Mary Porter

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 natural world

"Without their help, managing the reserves would almost be impossible."

Kevin James,
Mid-Lincolnshire Warden



Thanking our mid-Lincolnshire volunteers with a Caribbean-themed barbecue at Moor Farm

Inspiring people

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

Searching for minibeasts
Marcus Craythorne

The Trust's nature reserves provide a rich resource contributing to healthy living through the provision of many miles of managed waymarked paths and encouraging an interest in the natural environment.

The Trust maintains strong formal education capacity. At Gibraltar Point, Whisby Nature Park and Far Ings 230 schools, colleges and universities participated in formal educational visits. Over half of these were primary schools with a quarter being secondary, other being higher education and adult. Forty-six schools were visited for outreach work, covering a range of curriculum based topics and engaging with over 4,000 students.

Best practice in outdoor education was promoted through hosting the 'Get Out There' conference at Whisby Education Centre. It attracted 45 teachers and education providers to learn about the use of the outdoor environment as a learning resource. Bishop Grosseteste University College took part in a practical study day looking

at best practice in leading groups safely outdoors.

Providing children with outdoor skills through the Junior Wardens culminated in a 24-hour exploration of Tunman Wood nature reserve including making their own shelters and camping overnight. It was recorded by the BBC for the children's Saturday morning TV programme 'Live N Deadly'.

Throughout the year staff, volunteers and Area Groups organised over 350 wide ranging events including guided walks, reserve open days and children's activities.

A heritage trail for the South Humber Bank with interpretive panels and leaflet packs exploring cultural and wildlife heritage was launched to much acclaim.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Trust and the contribution of perhaps the ultimate volunteer, President Ted Smith, was celebrated at his 90th birthday with the dedication of Gibraltar Point nature reserve to him, a place he has known for over 70 years.

356 events with **10,400** participants

10,455 students engaged in educational visits to nature reserves

12,000 days of work carried out by volunteers

Over **150** wildlife stories covered by the local newspapers

3,706 students engaged with through school assemblies

More than **2,600** subscribers to updates delivered directly to their email inbox

Over **200,000** individual visitors to the website

8 training days held for **129** classroom staff enabling them to deliver environmental and outdoor education

'We went pond dipping and had a fab time. We were shown how to use a net and catch water boatmen, caddis fly larvae and more. I had fun! I went home thinking how good pond dipping was.'

Nine year old Zoe Camplin describes just one of activities of the Whisby Wildlife Watch group



Whisby Wildlife Watch group was selected as the national Wildlife Watch Group of the Year 2010

Adrian Royston

Creating a living landscape

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

99 nature reserves protecting over **3,500** hectares of Lincolnshire countryside

64 roadside verges covering **80** kilometres

75,000 visitors to nature reserves

Over **9,000** planning applications reviewed and responses made to **329**

2,200km of road verge surveyed

28 Higher Level Stewardship schemes (HLS) in operation covering **64** reserves

Grazing and hay cutting carried out on **48** reserves with the generous assistance of **27** farmers

200 Hebridean lambs born and **8** Lincoln red calves born

The weather once again had a significant impact on management activity. The third successive wet summer affected the timing of the hay cutting and clearing, some of which went on into October. This was followed by a freezing winter, heavy snowfall and the coldest December since records began. Whatever the weather, the Trust works to ensure that nature reserves are in the best condition for wildlife and people.

The restoration of the new reserves at **Anderby Marsh** and **Willow Tree Fen** are both very similar – arable reversion requiring cultivation and re-seeding with an associated re-wetting. Both sites benefitted from the construction of tilting weirs to assist with water management. The key element to the success of both of these nature reserves was working in partnership with adjacent landowners and other organisations.

Partnerships are also key to the development of Living Landscape schemes where our nature reserves are an integral part of the wider functioning landscape and not isolated oases.

In the **Humberhead Levels** a small (2.8 hectare) arable field in the north-west corner of Crowle Moor nature reserve was purchased through generous funding from Natural England. Although small in the context of the 160 hectare nature reserve, the impact will be huge. The field contains a significant drain which having been dammed, is preventing water from draining off the reserve. This will have a dramatic effect transforming scrub woodland into peat bog.

In the wider landscape of the Humberhead Levels, national Wetland Vision funds have enabled an advisor to assist landowners to enter agri-environment schemes within the Isle of Axholme.

In the **Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park** partnership working has resulted in a 2.2km continuous strip of land south of Anderby Creek coming into conservation management. This has involved the Trust acquiring a further small parcel of land, a stretch of private land being entered into the Higher Level

Turtle doves were present at Far Ings and Gibraltar Point giving a glimmer of hope after their long term decline

Don Davis



'I have been working in schools for fourteen years, and this was the single most rewarding day so far ...Believe it or not many of the pupils have NEVER been to ANY woods before ...The children had the most amazing, hands on, real, exciting and engaging day we could have wished for.'

Headteacher from a local primary school after visiting Snipe Dales Country Park & Nature Reserve



RAF Cranwell trainee officers help at Moor Farm
Kevin James



Small copper on devil's-bit scabious at Moor Farm
Les Binns

Stewardship scheme, and major works at Wolla Bank Reedbed and Chapel Six Marshes carried out by Lincolnshire County Council.

To help communities learn about, look after and celebrate the heritage of the Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park and Coastal Grazing Marshes the Trust secured a 'Your Heritage' grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This grant is to be used to run a programme of events in the Coastal Country Park throughout the summer 2011.

The **Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marshes** partnership has been successful in gaining funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Landscape Partnership project to run from 2011 to 2014.

During the year the Trust has employed a part-time farm advisor who has gained agreements for the maintenance and restoration of grazing marsh covering 47 hectares. This is a significant achievement for this priority habitat in a time of uncertainty for the farming community.

In the limestone area of south-west Lincolnshire the **Life of the Verge** project resulted in sound up-to-date information on over 2,200km of road verge. Many verges have been found to be rich in wildflowers and 100km of verge have been designated as Local Wildlife Sites. The results of the botanical surveys were used to target management. Over the year 22 hectares of road verge have been cut and baled for hay, and scrub has been removed from 5.5 hectares.

The Trust secured a 'Your Heritage' grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to transfer the project to the chalk landscape of the Lincolnshire Wolds in 2011 and 2012.

Work is continuing and being developed in the following areas: the Witham Valley Country Park, the Trent Vale Partnership and Kirkby Moor and environs where the Trust is looking to extend and connect the existing nature reserves.

Fifty-two of the Trust's reserves are covered by Site of Special

Scientific Interest (SSSI) designations. 83% meet the Government's condition target of favourable or recovering status. We were thanked by Natural England for all our efforts towards this. Unfortunately those deemed unfavourable are due to issues outside the Trust's control predominantly low ground water conditions.

Virtually all our potentially eligible nature reserves have now been entered into agri-environment schemes with Higher Level Stewardship schemes (HLS) covering 64 nature reserves.

The Trust continues to make a significant contribution to the achievement of **Biodiversity Action Plan** targets and play a major role in the **Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership** which is hosted at the Trust headquarters. The records centre achieved the milestone of holding over one million records and was recognised by being one of the first centres to receive a new national accreditation.

'The driving force behind all our work is the legion of volunteers who devote their time and energy to improving the county's wild habitats, protecting its biodiversity and helping others appreciate and enjoy them.'

Lionel Grooby
North Lincolnshire Warden



Orchids were seen in good numbers on many nature reserves including common spotted orchids on the Roadside Nature Reserve at Claxby

Barrie Wilkinson



Sea dipping to discover sea creatures
Joe Blissett

Restoring living seas

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

- 6** marine events
- 40,000** visitors to Donna Nook
- 1,417** grey seal pups born at Donna Nook
- Award winning Lincolnshire's Living Seas themed stand at the British Birdwatching Fair
- 14** bags of rubbish including 120 drinks bottles, 26 drinks cans, 13 balloons and 2 shoes which didn't match collected on the Gibraltar Point beach clean



A rich diversity of wildlife lives off Lincolnshire's 50 miles of sandy coast. But these marine species, and the habitats in which they live, face many threats and have little protection.

The Trust, jointly with other North Sea Wildlife Trusts, appointed a North Sea Advocacy Officer based with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. This role is instrumental in co-ordinating work to identify and safeguard marine conservation zones. Trustees and senior staff are actively engaged in the stakeholder process which is expected to result in designation of these zones in 2012 including a number of sites off the Lincolnshire coast.

The Trust has also secured funding for a Marine Spatial Planning Officer to look at developments in the North Sea including a number of massive windfarm developments.

Staff and volunteers representing all aspects of the Trust's work attended the Wildlife Trust national marine conference. This has enabled and encouraged staff to support marine campaigning and

education work. There are now marine displays at the Trust's three principal nature reserves.

To further understanding and knowledge of the marine environment, the Trust is developing Shoresearch and Seasearch programmes. The programmes develop skills in wildlife recording and identification, and will help gather important information about the species living off our coast. Staff and volunteers attended a Shoresearch training session at Gibraltar Point during which almost 30 marine species were found and identified.

The Shoresearch training technique will be developed for use by schools visiting Gibraltar Point and at public events. Funding has been secured to complete a number of Seasearch dives off the Lincolnshire coast in 2011-2012.

The North Sea Wildlife website (northseawildlife.org.uk) and a wide range of high quality printed material for Lincolnshire and beyond allows greater understanding of this unseen environment.

Shoresearch can provide an insight into the animals which live out at sea such as edible crab
Polly Whyte/earthinfocus



"Shoresearch is perfect for anyone who likes beachcombing. Often we'll see evidence of what lives out at sea rather than the animals themselves: empty shells, crabs claws and mermaid's purses (the egg cases of skates and rays). It illustrates the diversity of wildlife that lives off the coast, even though most of the time it is out of sight."

Rachel Kirby
Head of the Wash Study Centre
Gibraltar Point National Nature Reserve

Financial Overview

2010 - 2011

The current year has been challenging on a number of fronts, with the austerity measures implemented by government having an impact on the level of funding made available by our partners to support ongoing projects. The Trust has worked with its partners to minimise the impact on its operations and it is appropriate to record the Trust's appreciation of the very supportive approach adopted by Lincolnshire County Council, in particular.

During the year, the Trust received income of £3.0 million and expended £2.8 million. An additional £91,000 was spent on nature reserve acquisitions. The Trust has continued to benefit from legacy receipts of £192,398 which has enabled it to cover a small deficit between income and expenditure, maintain the Legacy Equalisation Fund at a figure of £600,000 and make a transfer of £111,466 to the Development Fund. The reserves

maintained within the Development Fund are invaluable at a time when grants to support reserve acquisition are hard to find.

These legacies therefore give the Trust the financial confidence to take advantage of opportunities to purchase or extend nature reserves and during the year the Trust acquired important land holdings at Crowle and Chapel Six Marshes. The Trust is particularly grateful to those individuals who remember the Trust in their wills as this flow of income allows the Trust to budget with confidence and allows it to deliver the wide range of activities detailed elsewhere in this report.

Membership income has shown a modest increase as a result of some specific and well-targeted recruitment and our investment income has also increased following the additional investments completed in the last financial year. The Trust has continued to benefit from a range

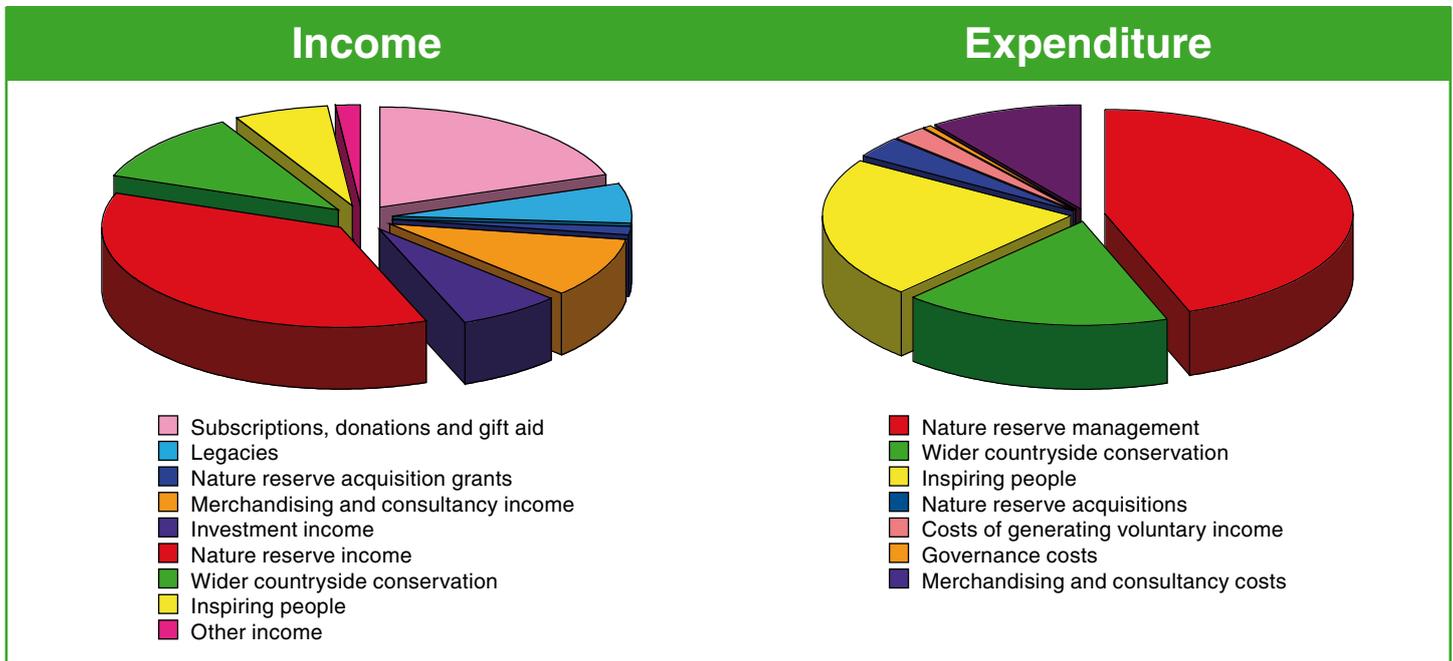
of environmental grants, which have financed essential work on our nature reserves.

In the current year the Trust faces a number of challenges as government continues to review its policies on environmental matters and disposable incomes remain under pressure. However, with the continued support of our members, partners and other stakeholders the Trust is well placed to take advantage of any opportunities that may arise.

David Cohen
Honorary Treasurer

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

A big thank you to everyone who has supported us this year



Future Plans

- Deliver major projects to support Living Landscape initiatives: Willow Tree Fen, Life on the Verge, Trent Vale Landscape Partnership, Witham Valley Country Park, Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marsh and Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park.
- Develop further Living Landscape initiatives and projects including the landscape surrounding Kirkby Moor.
- Deliver Higher Level Stewardship Scheme prescriptions to meet the targets as prescribed by the Indicators of Success.
- Reserve acquisition/extension Humberhead Levels, Kirkby Moor and Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park.
- Advocacy work to ensure effective Marine Conservation Zones and marine spatial planning in the North Sea and associated marine awareness campaign.
- Continue delivery of high quality education and learning including agreed resourcing for Far Ings education programme.
- Strengthen internal communications including Teams, Area Groups and use of IT.
- Increase membership to 26,000.
- Increase sales and profitability from café and shops.

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 2010/2011 through donations, grants and the sponsorship of projects:

Andrew & Co LLP	Environment Agency	North Lincolnshire Council
Biffaward	Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	Rural Development Agency
Boston Borough Council	Forestry Commission	Sibelco UK
Cemex UK	Heritage Lottery Fund	SITA
Centrica	Internal Drainage Boards	South Holland District Council
Conoco Philips (UK) Limited	Lincolnshire County Council	South Kesteven District Council
DEFRA	Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board	Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN)
East Lindsey District Council	Mackintosh Foundation	West Lindsey District Council
East Midlands Business Limited	Natural England	
East Midlands Development Agency	North East Lincolnshire Council	
English Heritage	North Kesteven District Council	

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 2010/2011 the Trust has been notified of bequests from the Wills of the following:

Sheila Margaret Hill	Thelma Bamford	George Ernest Clark
Jean Mitchell	Jeffrey Levi Noble	Audrey Selby
Frances Ann Monks	Sydney O Bamber	Cyril Arthur Johnson
Vera Clorinda Tompkins	Cyril Cooke	

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	Fenland Laundries Limited	Natureland Seal Sanctuary
Alfred Enderby Limited	Gardman 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
Associated British Ports	Humber Bridge Board	Riva Construction
B A Bush & Son Limited	J E Piccaver & Co	S Betteridge Paving Contractor
Badley Ashton & Associates Limited	J W Ruddock & Sons Limited	SCS Technology Solutions Limited
Chapel Garden Centre	John E Haith Limited	Sibelco UK
Cleethorpes Builders Merchants	Kes Building Maintenance	Singleton Birch Limited
Clugston Group Limited	Lafarge Aggregates Limited	Tata Steel UK Limited
Conoco Philips (UK) Limited	Lincolnshire Co-operative Society Limited	TCS UK Spraying
Cray Valley Products Limited	Lindsey Oil Refinery Limited	Truelove Property & Construction
Creative Nature	Lowfields Leisure Limited	W Crowder & Sons Limited
Exeter Street Veterinary Centre	Mortons of Horncastle Limited	Yara (UK) Limited
Cupit Print		

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Fax: 01507 525732
Email: info@lincstrust.co.uk
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

Board of Directors and Trustees

President:

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Vice Presidents:

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Mr D N Robinson OBE MSc

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Mr G L Trinder ARPS

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Mrs C E Harrison BSc
Mrs J Mellor MSc
(appointed 04.11.10)
Mrs A Quigley BA
(appointed 04.11.10)
Mr E J Redshaw FLS

Senior Staff

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Head of Reserves: D Bromwich
Head of Conservation: C Steel
Head of Finance: P Thorpe

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Baroness Willoughby de Eresby