



# #LoveLincsPlants

## Quarterly Report Sept-Dec 2017



Each quarter we will be providing a short update from project partners. We hope this will give you a taste of the work we doing as part of the Lincolnshire Plants: Past and Future HLF funded project....now known as 'Love Lincs Plants'.

### Project Launch Week

After 40 years of temporary storage at 6 different locations within Lincolnshire, the LNU historic herbarium was finally collected from the University of Lincoln's Riseholme campus and delivered to NHM in London (left) on the 2nd October by the project officer. Approximately 9300 boxed specimens were immediately transferred into museum freezer storage for pest control and decontamination. Project partners and University Of Lincoln MSc student, Liberty Gray, ventured to London for the official herbarium handover photo and museum tour with senior curator Fred Rumsey on 4th October. This included a behind the scenes tour of the British and Irish herbarium collection, Hans Sloane historic collection as well as meeting the microbiology team and press and administration staff.

**Quote:** I would like to thank you all for such a brilliant day. It was such a privilege to witness just how extensive the NHMs collections and projects are, and yours (PO) and Tammy's enthusiasm for your project with the NHM was very evident - and somewhat infectious too...I feel very much spurred on and encouraged with my own research (Liberty Gray. MSc student)

### Press Coverage

To capture the story of the project, the initial project press release was delayed to coincide with the herbarium handover. This was covered by local media including Horncastle News, The Lincolnshire Reporter and picked up by BBC Look North on social media as well as promoted through project partner websites and the LNU e-bulletin.

**Media Stats:**

Tweets viewed **35,000** times on Twitter

**5,400** Facebook post views

**4** press articles

LWT Lapwing article circulated to **28,000** members

**LINCOLNSHIRE** **COLLAGES**

**Robert Enderby: Botany is ace! Unlocking the secrets of Lincolnshire's plants**

Robert Enderby · October 20 at 11:28 AM

Plants are really important. We eat them, build with them, wear clothes made from them and breathe the oxygen they create. Their value is incalculable.

Botany is the science of understanding plants. At the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust we think #BotanyIsAce. Plants can tell us so much about our history, environment, climate and medicine.

Earlier this month the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund of £489,000 to preserve Lincolnshire's botanical heritage and inspire and train future botanists. This project is called #LoveLincsPlants and also involves the Natural History Museum in London, the Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union, the Sir Joseph Banks Society and the University of Lincoln.

**Lincs Wildlife Trust @LincsWildlife** · Oct 6

Thanks to National Lottery players our project to inspire new botanists has begun! #LoveLincsPlants #HLFSupported [lincsust.org.uk/news/2017/10/06...](https://lincsust.org.uk/news/2017/10/06...)

**Lincs Wildlife Trust @LincsWildlife** · Oct 4

#BotanyIsAce We're working with @NHM\_London to preserve Lincolnshire's botanical heritage as part of the new #LoveLincsPlants project



Supported by  
**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



## Initial events

To raise awareness and engage and recruit potential young botanists (18-35) the project officer attended the University of Lincoln's annual Bioblitz event on the city campus on 10th October. Attended by 12 'A' level Lincoln University Technical College students, and 10 undergraduates; this also provided an opportunity to raise the profile of the project with BBC Springwatch presenter and University visiting professor Chris Packham (left). To form part of the '30 Inspirational Plants' campaign, Chris collected and pressed a red clover specimen taken from the Sir Joseph Banks laboratory meadow that was created through the former HLF Meadow Network Project (2014-17).



*Quote: 'I have a few specimens at home and really think that when mounted and displayed are a work of art. What a great project idea and a wonderful way for the next generation to learn about botany' (Chris Packham).*

Other engagement events included a Tall Thrift planting session at LWT Moor Closes reserve in Ancaster (above left) . With the help of three under thirty five volunteers and the reserve warden 107 propagated pot plants were planted to help boost the survival of this vulnerable plant known only to Lincolnshire within the UK. To demonstrate traditional plant uses, hazel poles for the Banovallum House botanical garden were harvested with local volunteers at LWT Snipe Dales reserve as part of National Coppice weekend.



## Art workshop

LWT Education Officer Adrian Royston hosted 22 Lincoln College Arts students aged 18-30 on the 26th September. This environment themed workshop focused on plants and fungi to develop an awareness of the natural world.

*Quote: When attending the planting session, I learnt how to use specialised tools, this improved my practical skills which will help me in my future. I learnt that gently pulling on the roots of the plants stimulated their growth. I plan to study wildlife biology in university. Some of the course content involves biodiversity and ecology and sessions like this will help me in my studies.*

(Keira . Tall Thrift volunteer)

## Events: Summary Stats

**17** Events (Talks/Training/Workshops)

Total number of volunteers/ trainees at events **78**

**36** No of 18-35 volunteers/trainees at events  
(no duplication between events)

Estimated audience reached at talks: **145**



## Developing BV botanical garden

Work has started on the development of the Banovallum House botanical garden with twice monthly practical sessions with Prime life residents at Clarence House, Horncastle (left). Volunteers with learning difficulties have helped to prune hedges, clear the cornfield annual plot and replacing damaged trees (left). The project has also started a new volunteer relationship with St. Lawrence school in Horncastle; part of the Lincolnshire Wolds Federation that caters for children aged 2-19 with moderate to severe learning difficulties. It is hoped that the children will be involved with garden tasks as well as future educational events with project community and education officers.



## Inspirational Plants

Given that the project started at the end of the flowering season, work commenced immediately to collect the first set of inspirational plants to help with project promotion in 2018. A total of 10 plants have been collected that have a personal story and human connection with the individual collector. Here we see (right) young George Blanchard with the Bowthorpe Oak, near Bourne. Reputed to have the widest trunk diameter of any Oak in the UK, this veteran tree is now a key farm visitor attraction and a valuable part of the farm outdoor classroom. A further 20 plants with inspirational stories to tell will be collected during the first and second year of the project as stories emerge.

## Training with NHM

Senior NHM curator Fred Rumsey delivered a fantastic herbarium collection and specimen mounting workshop at Whisby Education Centre on 7th November. Attended by key LWT staff as well as potential young botanists, curation volunteers and local botanical county recorders the day was an opportunity to learn the entire herbarium creation process. Using feedback gathered through Google Forms (online survey) this early session will be used to refine future training events.



## News from partners.



### Natural History Museum

The recruitment process for a herbarium technician (Full time) and Lincolnshire Plants project officer (part time) will begin in early 2018 with staff aiming to be in post by spring 2018. Initial tasks will include processing the historic herbarium and coordination of initial training events for NHM volunteers and ID and collection training for Lincolnshire volunteers. NHM led collection and mounting training sessions held in Lincolnshire will be coordinated in Jan 2018.

### Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union (LNU)

The LNU are currently developing a series of field meeting visits to tie in with plant collection activities in 2018. Refining the collection strategy will be in late 2017 to be discussed at the first Collection Management Group meeting scheduled for 12th January 2018.



### Sir Joseph Banks Society

Two society volunteers attended the initial NHM herbarium collection and mounting training in November. It is envisaged that these volunteers will be actively involved in the mounting and curation of the contemporary Lincolnshire herbarium. Space has been allocated within the SJB centre in Horncastle for mounting tasks as well as display cabinets. A definitive list of materials, equipment and furniture will be drawn up in late December for orders to be placed in January 2018. All equipment should be in place by February 2018. Recruitment of potential mounting and curation volunteers will be ongoing in advance of 2018 training sessions.



**BSc (Hons) Ecology and Conservation**

Introduction Modules Features Careers Fees Related Courses

Full-time Duration: **3 years**  
 School: **School of Life Sciences**  
 Campus: **Lincoln Campus [L]**  
 Validation Status: **Subject to Validation**  
 Entry Requirements: **BBB (120 UCAS Tariff points) (or equivalent qualifications)**  
 UCAS Code: **C180**

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**Introduction**  
 The BSc (Hons) Ecology and Conservation degree at Lincoln is taught by research-active staff who take part in internationally-renowned research. The degree aims to provide a broad understanding of the subject, encompasses the study of the diversity of modern ecology, includes

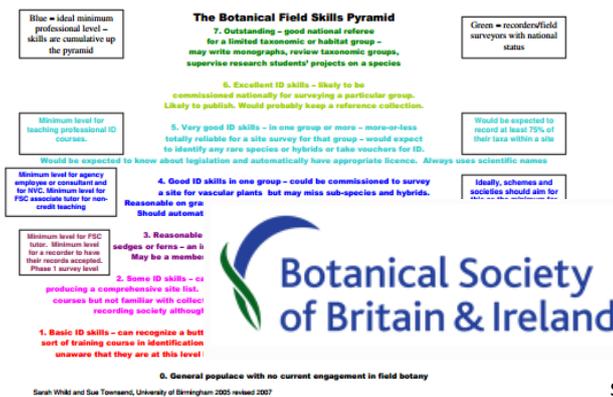
### University of Lincoln

Following a course development meeting with Dr Carl Soulsbury of the University of Lincoln the content for the BSc (Hons) Ecology and Conservation degree course has now been finalised and validated by the university and will commence in autumn 2018. Love Lincs Plants will engage with existing life sciences students in the first year of the project and will link to field ecology modules included in the new course in years 2 and 3 of the project. On a long term basis it is envisaged that the project will link research students into LWTs evidence and monitoring strategy that will be underpinned by academic research; providing opportunities for student progression and therefore a valuable project legacy.

## Upcoming events:

### Project promotion

A series of filming engagements will be developed over 2018 with Paul Murphy of BBC Look North. Footage and interviews will be collated over a series of events i.e. collection days, training events to form part of a special news feature that tell the project story to be broadcast during the peak activity period in 2018.



### BSBI Assessment

As part of monitoring progression of young botanists the project will host the first ever Lincolnshire Field Identification Skills Certificate Test (FISC) in July 2018 with Natural England field staff. This is a nationally recognised qualification, established by the Botanical Society of the Britain and Ireland (BSBI) and is becoming the industry standard for assessing botanical survey skills. From this starting point it is hoped that young botanists can track their development over the next three years and equip themselves with a valuable qualification.

### Photography workshop

South Lincs vice county botanical recorder and expert photographer, Sarah Lambert, will be leading a botanical themed digital photography workshop at Whisby Education Centre in early March 2018. This will be aimed at beginner-intermediate photographers of all ages with a particular interest in botany and opportunity to start an online Flora of Lincolnshire Flickr account for people to share their photos. The workshop will be advertised on social media in mid December 2017.



### Great Lives talks

To promote the cultural and scientific role of plants in our lives a series of lectures is currently being developed to form part of the 'Great Lives' lectures hosted by the University of Lincoln. Discussions with Head of Events at the university are underway. Initial ideas include hosting these events at other non-university venues such as [Gibraltar Point visitor centre](#) and [Stamford Arts Centre](#) to appeal to a wider audience and to 'spread the wealth' of the project across the county.

### Recruitment

Recruitment has begun for two full time Education and Community project officers with job advertisements released on the 9th November. The deadline for applications is the 5th December with interviews scheduled for Monday 11th December. Start dates will depend on notice period but likely to be late January 2018.