

Annual Review **2017 - 2018**



Lincolnshire
Wildlife Trust

Creating sanctuaries for wildlife for 70 years

Gibraltar Point became a nature reserve 70 years ago when the recently formed Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust signed an agreement with the County Council. In March 2018, the lease for Gibraltar Point from Lincolnshire County Council was renewed for another 30 years.

Plans have been developed to re-naturalise parts of Gibraltar Point affected by the 2013 floods. This involves modifying creeks and removing redundant banks to improve tidal flow on the saltmarshes. It is anticipated permissions and funding will be in place for work to commence in 2019.

Gibraltar Point forms part of the Lincolnshire Heritage Coast Living Landscape to the north, links with the Wainfleet Flats immediately to the south and the newly designated Greater Wash Special Protection Area running the length of the coast from the Humber to The Wash.

A message from your Chair

The decision to leave the European Union has again been at centre stage for most of the year under review and some progress has been made in influencing government to honour its pledge to be the first to leave the environment to the next generation in a better state than it inherited it.

The Trust has continued to work in conjunction with The Royal Society for Wildlife Trusts through The Greener UK coalition – an umbrella body, which comprises 13 major environmental organisations with a combined public membership of 7.9 million. This work has focussed on the need for an Environment Act, which clearly identifies the key environmental principles incorporated within current EU laws and establishes a body with sufficient clout and resources to hold government and other authorities to account when these principles are breached.

In addition, much time has been spent in responding to a number of government consultations, including those on agriculture, fisheries, the national planning framework and Marine Protected Areas. Through the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT), the Trust is supporting the campaign “Towards a Wilder Britain” which encourages the creation of a Nature Recovery Network to bring back wildlife to every neighbourhood.

During the year, the Board sought additional Trustees; following an open invitation in Lapwings magazine and after a rigorous interview process four new Trustees were appointed in November 2017. Unfortunately, Amy Rose has found it difficult

to combine her role as a new mum with the responsibilities of a Trustee, so she has reluctantly had to step down from the Board. I would like to thank Amy for her support and wish her well in her new role. The other three Trustees have settled well and are making a very useful contribution to the work of the Board.

As the financial year drew to a close, the Trust started to review its Articles of Association and after reference to our lawyers, the Board expects to place proposals for a new way of operating before members at the Annual General Meeting in October.

At a personal level, I have thoroughly enjoyed my first full year as Chair and would like to thank my fellow Trustees for their support in dealing with some challenging issues. In addition, I have been encouraged by the commitment and energy evidenced by our hard-working and dynamic team of staff, ably supported by a fantastic number of volunteers. In essence, volunteers are at the heart of most of the things we are able to achieve, and it is my pleasure to thank them and the staff for all they do to support the work of the Trust. As we approach the Trust’s 70th anniversary towards the end of this year, I am sure that our former President and founder, the late Ted Smith, would be delighted to see the progress the Trust has made.

Long may that continue!
David Cohen, Chair

A gift to us all

We would like to thank everyone who remembered Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust in their Will.

We are honoured to record our appreciation to the following individuals whose legacies we received or were notified of in the year ended 31 March 2018.

Mary Angela Sarah Bates
John Philip Clough
Jacqueline Cooper
Ida Davis
Richard Alan Hobbs
Doris Lilian Palmer
David Norman Robinson
Geoffrey Arthur Taylor
Olive Muriel Warnes

Making a difference for wildlife and people

28,457

supported the wildlife in Lincolnshire as members

3,850

hectares managed as Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust nature reserves

3,536

km² of the Greater Wash approved by the Secretary of State as a Special Protection Area

70

the number of years that the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has been protecting wildlife

9,900

planning and development control applications screened

Cover image: ringlet butterfly at the Trust’s newest nature reserve Swinn Wood. Note the egg. (Mark Johnson)

Thank you for your support



From worms to waders

Killingholme Haven is an oasis on the South Humber Bank; an area of intense development pressure. But not all of it's important wildlife is as visible as this flock of black-tailed godwits. Killingholme Haven is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) because of the presence of rare worms that live in these saline lagoons. Working in partnership is crucial on a site owned by AbleUK and managed by the Trust under the instruction of Natural England to ensure the mud is in prime condition for the rare worms. Natural England have funded work on the reedbeds and brought in specialists to look at the saline lagoon worms. A skilled volunteer manipulates the water levels under the guidance of the Trust's South Humber Warden. The result is a healthy population of worms and huge roosts of waders.

Black-tailed godwits at Killingholme Haven (Mark Holmes)

Local action for wildlife

We care for 3,850 hectares (9,513 acres) of nature reserves across Lincolnshire. We also champion wildlife beyond the boundaries of our nature reserves through targeted work with local authorities, community groups and landowners and through the planning process.

The transformation of the old **Woodhall Spa Airfield** into a nature reserve is well underway. Positive indicators, across a range of nationally rare habitats include small flowered catchfly, bittern present throughout the summer, breeding marsh harrier, and adders. An expanding livestock operation for conservation grazing includes the Trust's breeding herd of Lincoln Red cattle and a flock of 120 breeding Hebridean sheep.

attention following the discovery of a war time dump of mustard gas. The site remained closed throughout the second half of the year.

At **Far Ings National Nature Reserve** another winter of major reserve management works by staff, volunteers and a team from North Lincolnshire Council has seen further areas of reedbed enhanced for breeding birds such as bittern.

The three year Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) project, known as **Love Lincs Plants**, is underway in partnership with Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union, Sir Joseph Banks Society, Natural History Museum (NHM) and the University of Lincoln. The Project Officer is in post, first plant specimens have been collected and the project is receiving good publicity. The historic herbarium has now been transferred to the NHM for curation.

Area Groups have delivered a huge range of events across the county from nature reserve open days to coffee mornings, representing the Trust 'on the doorstep'. Two Area Groups, Lincoln and Grantham, celebrated their 50th anniversaries.

Baston Fen also celebrated 50 years as a Trust nature reserve. Baston Fen and **Willow Tree Fen** remain focal points for our partnership work in south Lincolnshire.

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. This includes responding to numerous consultations by the government on conservation advice packages for Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and to offshore development consultations working with our North Sea neighbouring Wildlife Trusts to ensure consistency.

The Trust also plays an active role in the **Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership** (GLNP), which it hosts. The Partnership complements the Trust's advocacy work, particularly on planning, agriculture, tourism and health.

Over 5,000 seeds of **tall thrift** were sent to the Millennium Seed Bank. Tall thrift is found in only two sites: Moor Closes nature reserve and Ancaster Cemetery. It was described by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew UK Collections Coordinator as a "highly valuable conservation collection". Propagation to support

the wild population continues. Pasqueflower has been successfully translocated to the newly restored 'event field' at Badger Farm for the first time; a significant step in the long-term restoration of chalk grassland at Red Hill nature reserve.

At a time when it seems children are becoming increasingly remote from the natural world, our commitment to nature **education** has never been more vital. Primary, secondary, university and family groups visited Far Ings, Gibraltar Point, Whisby Nature Park, Snipe Dales and Willow Tree Fen nature reserves.

We are also working directly with teachers. Whisby Nature Park hosted an inset day for the staff of North Scarle Primary School to enthuse and excite teachers to the possibilities of outdoor learning. Bishop Grosseteste University visited Gibraltar Point with students to find out more about how the coast can be used to support their teaching and its benefits for fieldwork skill development.



Meeting a toad at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes



Cotton-grass

Financial review

Reporting on activities and finances for the financial year April 2017 - March 2018

During the course of the year, the Trust received a total income of £4,230,416, a considerable increase from the previous year (£2,812,266), mainly because of exceptional restricted income.

Total expenditure was £3,194,070 against £3,047,187 in 2017. Whilst the overall surplus is very encouraging, the unrestricted expenditure exceeded unrestricted income by £239,519 (£206,843 last year).

During the year, we were fortunate to receive a restricted legacy of £750,000 and £100,000 from the Heritage Lottery (HLF) Catalyst Fund. This lottery grant helped to boost our financial reserves and, at the same time, facilitated the establishment of financial reserves for London Wildlife Trust. In addition, a successful application was made to HLF in respect of the Lincolnshire Plants: Past and Future project. We expect to receive a net amount of approximately £266,000 over three years, but have had to account for total project income of £499,000 in these accounts. This has been provided in Other Debtors.

The ongoing issue of the non-receipt of Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) payments has been a great concern. At 31 March 2018, the accounts included a debtor of £391,621 in respect of outstanding amounts. The situation, which goes back over several years, has been raised with the Chief Executives of both the Rural Payments Agency and Natural England. Reassurances were provided by both organisations and HLS payments have started to come through as the accounts were being prepared, but a large number of agreements have attracted queries and reclaims. These are generally based on poor inspection findings back in November 2016 and when justified, these are being disputed. Immaterial issues, which are not economically worthwhile to dispute individually, will be dealt with collectively when sufficient material has been generated.

Membership at the year-end stood at 28,457 members compared to 28,225 at 31 March 2017. Income has increased by 8% due to higher subscriptions from members.

In addition to the substantial legacy mentioned above, the Trust has benefitted from a number of other bequests. We are indebted to everyone who has supported the Trust’s work in this way. Over the years legacies have enabled the Trust to acquire new reserves, manage them better and improve visitor facilities, whilst building up financial reserves to support the ongoing work.

This year the purchase of land at Rush Furlong near Haxey has been completed at a cost of £103,051. The Trust benefited from grants received of £88,000 in respect of this purchase.

There have been some changes to the Trust’s investments this year with funds transferred from M&G Charibond to the mixed CCLA COIF Investment Fund. The Trustees review performance each quarter and take appropriate advice. The Trust’s advisors have confirmed that in their opinion, the investments are well diversified and support the investment strategy. For this year unrealised gains brought into the accounts amount to £48,568 compared to £451,561 last year.

The agreed contribution of £200,000 towards the cost of the new Visitor Centre at Gibraltar Point was paid using funds from the insurance claim the Trust received following the 2013 flooding. The contribution has been treated as a prepayment in the accounts, which will be written off over 30 years, the period of the lease. Trading at the Centre is now generating profits as shown in the accounts.

Overall, in terms of restricted income, the Trust has enjoyed an excellent year, but the unrestricted position continues to be challenging as does the political outlook. Thankfully, the Trust is well capitalised and has financial resources to meet the future.

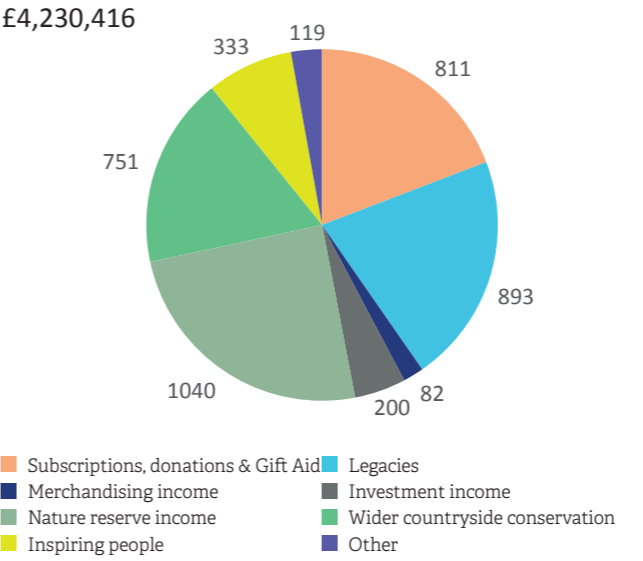
The Trust has spent £2,954,051 on its charitable activities during the year which represents 92.5% of total expenditure. This has been spread across Nature Reserves, Wider Countrywide Conservation and Inspiring People.

Peter Stapleton, Honorary Treasurer

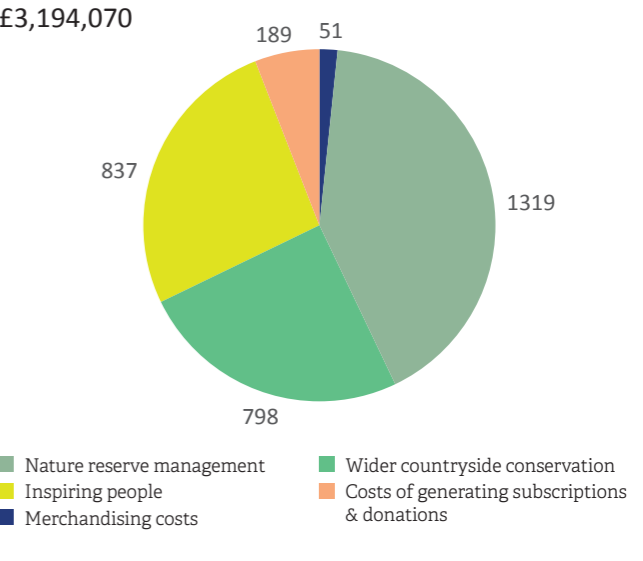


Drifts of primroses and other wildflowers now grow where once there was a dense pine plantation. After five years of trials, the volunteer-led Snipe Dales Woodland Flora Project is showing results. Most of the woodland at Snipe Dales was planted with Corsican pines. Under the management of the Trust, the pines were felled and native broadleaved trees planted. But woods are more than trees. They are a complex of plants, mosses, fungi and animals that has developed over hundreds, even thousands, of years. Starting with seed from the few woodland flowers that survived, hundreds of flowers have been grown and planted out. Best seen in spring when the flowers bloom.

Income



Expenditure



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:

Able UK
Aggregate Industries
Andrew & Co LLP
Anglian Water Services
ARH Tucker & Sons
Associated British Ports
B A Bush & Son Limited

Cargill plc
Cleethorpes Builders Merchants
Clugston Group Limited
ConocoPhillips (UK) Limited
Cray Valley Products Limited
Creative Nature
Crowder & Sons Ltd

F W Cupit (Printers) Limited
Fenland Laundries Limited
Grange & Links Hotel
Holivans Limited
Hornsby Travel Services Limited
J E Piccaver & Co
J W Ruddock & Sons Limited

John E Haith Limited
John Kinch Group
Jolly Common Caravan Park
Lincolnshire Co-operative
Society Limited
Mortons of Horncastle Limited
Natureland Seal Sanctuary

North East Lindsey Drainage
Board
Page Paper Limited
Riva Construction
Rowhire Limited
SCS Technology Solutions Limited
Sibelco UK

Singleton Birch Limited
TCS UK Spraying
Truelove Property & Construction
UK Alternative Energy Limited
Yara (UK) Limited
Woodhall Country Park



UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN

#LoveLincsPlants

Through the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) partnership project with the Natural History Museum, Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union, Sir Joseph Banks Society and University of Lincoln, we are engaging all ages in discovering botany and the wonder of wildflowers. The project also supports skills development: the flower press pictured below is one of over 60 made by Boston college students.

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

Banovallum House, Manor House Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 5HF
01507 526667 info@lincstrust.co.uk
Registered charity no. 218895

Presidents:

Mr D N Robinson OBE MSc (President) Deceased 24.7.17
Mr B Tear BSc (Vice President)
Mr G L Trinder ARPS (Vice President)

Trustees/Directors:

Mr D A Cohen (Chair)	Mr C Morrison CSci
Mrs J Mellor MSc (Deputy Chair)	Mr R Oates
Mr T S Sands (Deputy Chair)	Mr J Purvis BSc FCA
Dr D A Sheppard BSc PhD (Deputy Chair)	Mrs A Quigley BA
Mr P Stapleton FCA (Honorary Treasurer)	Mrs S Round BA MSc (Econ)
Mr M Capper	Mrs A Rose Stepped down 25.4.18
Mrs C E Harrison BSc	Mrs B Tyrrel MIBC
	Company Secretary:
	Paul V Learoyd

Senior Staff:

Chief Executive: Paul V Learoyd
Head of Conservation: Tammy Smalley
Head of Finance: Sarah J Smith
Head of Nature Reserves: David R Bromwich

 **@LincolnshireWildlifeTrust**

 **@LincsWildlife**

 **@LincsWildlifeTrust**

www.lincstrust.org.uk

We are grateful to the following for substantial financial support in 2017/2018 through donations, grants and the sponsorship of projects:

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