

Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2013

Issue 3



Lincolnshire

COASTAL GRAZING
MARSHES PROJECT

Photo: Roger Wardle



Welcome to the Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marshes Project

Thanks to a £857,399 Landscape Partnerships Grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, a three year partnership project to regenerate Lincolnshire's coastal grazing marshes is now in its second year, focusing on three target areas in East Lindsey around Burgh-le-Marsh, Saltfleetby and Huttoft.

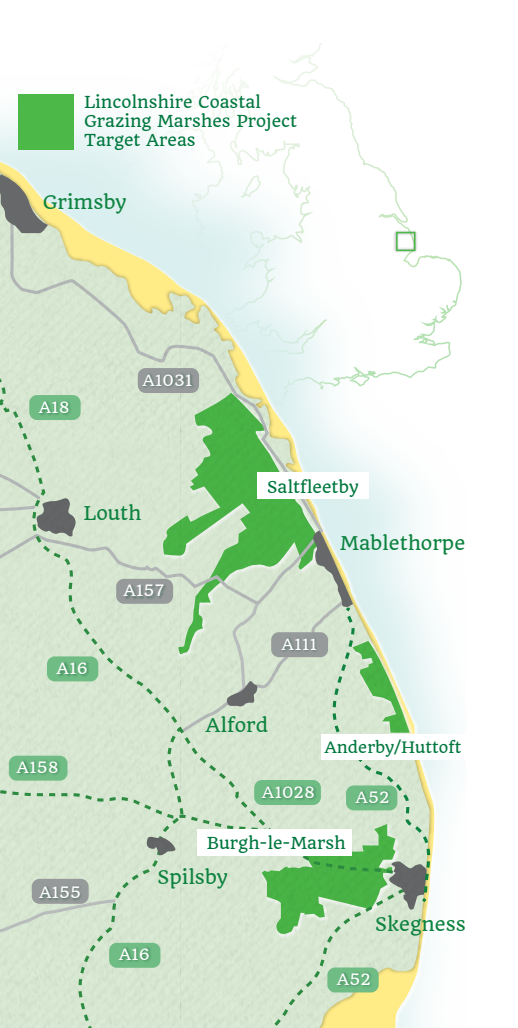
The project is hosted by East Lindsey District Council with partners including English Heritage, Environment Agency, Heritage Lincolnshire, Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board, Lincolnshire County Council, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England and National Farmers' Union. Lying between the coast and the Wolds, the grazing marshes are a nationally threatened habitat supporting a rich variety of wildlife with a distinctive landscape and cultural history. The project supports local farmers and landowners to conserve the remaining

traditional grazing marsh by providing access to grants, advice and training. Local communities are involved through cultural, educational and access projects enabling local people to discover, explore and celebrate the special quality of their own local areas and boost the local economy. During 2012, communities, landowners and local schools have joined the project benefitting from financial support, research and skills development contributing to the project's legacy of rural sustainability once funding finishes in November 2014.



Supported by
The National Lottery®
through the Heritage Lottery Fund





Project News

Project secures SITA Trust grant for birds at Middlemarsh Farm



Photo: Tom Cairns

Middlemarsh Farm

You wouldn't think so with the weather we had last summer, but last March, we were actually in drought conditions with ditches and reservoirs at their lowest levels since 1976. Wading birds of the marshes, which need some open water to successfully raise their chicks, were facing a disastrous breeding season which could have seen some of the rarer birds go locally extinct. We provided a

grant for emergency water pumping at key sites to enable core populations to breed successfully and then it hasn't stopped raining since! To stop this situation occurring again, the LCGM project officers secured a £59,000 grant from the SITA Trust to enable us to pump water from a nearby IDB drain onto the Middlemarsh site in winter, which would otherwise be pumped out to sea when it isn't needed for irrigation. Water is used to top up scrapes and ponds when water levels are low, keeping water on the site during spring to ensure birds can breed successfully even in the driest years. The grant will also pay for installing new gravel islands in the larger ponds acting as safe nesting places to attract more rare bird species such as terns.

Landowner Simon Dodsworth said 'The new investment will build on the site's already high environmental value by improving breeding areas and developing water storage. The reserve of water will ensure that even in drought times scarce and vulnerable populations of waders are able to breed successfully'. Middlemarsh Farm is open to members of the public, has two bird hides and an all abilities access track. If you are interested in finding out how the project can help with environmental improvements on your farm contact the project team.

Free Business Development Support – Breakfast Seminars

The LCGM Project has secured a grant from ELDC for a business diversification/development project in the marshes area. We are working with JHWalter LLP in Lincoln to run a series of free breakfast seminars for farmers and local businesses to provide free advice on diversification and new business opportunities. Business advisors from JHWalter will discuss your individual business ideas with the opportunity for a free one-to-one visit to give a realistic assessment on your plans, help with cash-flows, producing a business plan and securing funding. Breakfast seminars were held in March with further ones to be organised later in the year depending on demand. If you're interested please contact us or JHWalter on 01522 504322.

Why Livestock Farming Matters – Education & Apprenticeships

One of the aims of the project is to support livestock production in the marshes area. With high local youth unemployment we hope to encourage young people to consider an

agriculture related career. We aim to establish educational farm hubs in the target areas that children can visit to learn about food production and land management. We are also working with Riseholme Agricultural College to find two apprentices attending a day release course to work on local livestock farms for a year, receiving at the end, a nationally recognised qualification in livestock management.

Community Heritage and Conservation Grants

Grants of up to £2,000 are available to support local groups within the coastal grazing marshes area with advice and funding for small scale heritage or conservation projects to improve or create habitats, conserve historic and natural features and/or improve their understanding and interpretation, making them more accessible to the public. Please call us to discuss your ideas.

Landscape Enhancement Grants

Don't forget, if you're inside the project target area we can offer you a one off grant of up to £20,000. This may be to help restore traditional farm buildings or help maintain grassland and wildlife on your property by improving fencing, stock control facilities, work on ditches, hedges and tree planting, seed mixes and capital items to benefit wildlife such as owl boxes. To see if you could qualify, please contact the project team.

LIDAR technology for Discovering History workshops

The Environment Agency has given the project access to cutting edge technology to profile the landscape in a way that has never been seen before! The LIDAR data (Light Detection and Ranging) was developed by NASA to scan the surface of planets. Evidence of salt making, abandoned settlements, redundant water courses and land reclamation in the area is clearly visible and makes for compelling viewing. The project will be holding a series of special workshops later in the year. To express an interest please contact the project team.

WIN £500!

Digital Photography Competition

Categories:

The competition theme is 'The Living Marshes'. We would like to show different aspects of life in the Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marshes which will be met by the following categories:

- Working life
- The grazing marshes in all weathers
- Hidden heritage
- Wildlife

Prizes include:

- £500 cash prize for the overall winner
- £150 each for 3 runners up

The best photo will form part of an exhibition and may be used on promotional material which will include a grazing marshes calendar.

Competition details and rules are available at www.lincsmarshes.org.uk

New habitat creation in the Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park

Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust purchased land at Huttoft for the creation of a new wildlife habitat. The 45 acre site behind Huttoft Car Terrace will be known as Huttoft Marsh Nature Reserve. Much of the previously redundant land will be returned to traditional grazed wet grassland, long associated with the coastal grazing marshes and sand dune processes will see the margin naturalised. Some wetland will be created and a footpath will offer views of wildlife in this area, already attractive to migrant birds such as curlew and whooper swan and will offer new habitat for breeding species such as lapwing and marsh harrier.



Photo: Roger Wardle

Iconic lapwing display



Photo: Joe Blissett

Beaver group at Anderby Creek

Get Involved



Events in the Grazing Marshes where this year the Bee is the Key!

Bumble along to our FREE Bee events celebrating the humble bumble bee as an icon of biodiversity and living landscapes. These events support our work with local schools and make a great day out for the family.

Discovering the Natural Environment

Ponds and Pond Life

Saturday 27 April, 10am - 3.30pm
Rimac classroom, Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe National Nature Reserve

Learn how to create and manage ponds for wildlife, investigate the creatures that live in ponds and how to identify them. After the course you will know how to create your own pond and carry out a pond wildlife survey. To book please contact the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust on 01507 526667.

Bats and Churches

Saturday 11 May, 6 - 10pm ish
All Saints Church, Saltfleetby LN11 7TU

The workshop starts with an indoor session on bat ecology and looking for signs of bats within the church. At sunset (weather permitting) we will go outside with special detectors that pick up the echo-location of bats and carry out a survey as they emerge from their roost within the church. After the course you will be able to carry out bat surveys of your local churches. To book please contact the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust on 01507 526667.

Gayton Pumping Station Open Afternoons

12 May, 16 June, 21 July, 25 Aug, 14 & 15 Sept, 2 - 4pm
Gayton Engine Pumping Station, Thacker Bank, near Theddlethorpe All Saints, Mablethorpe LN12 1PE

Anderby Drainage Museum Open Afternoons

26 May, 21 July, 18 Aug, 2 - 4pm
Anderby Drainage Museum, Anderby Creek, Skegness PE24 5XW

Come and see the engines in action powering the pumps that once protected the marshes! Vintage machinery, stationary engines and vintage tools will also be present for these special events. For further information please contact the Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board on 01507 328095.



Photo: Joe Blissett

Pond and bird life at Manby Washlands

The Louth Festival of the Bees

Friday 17 - Thursday 23 May
Activities celebrating wildflowers and bees, raising awareness of the ecology of wildflowers, pollinators and biodiversity of the marshes and Wolds including art exhibitions at various Louth venues. Talks will include Wildflowers by Mark Schofield of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. For more details visit www.bit.ly/LouthBees



Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival



Thursday 30 May, 10am - 3pm

Come and 'Walk to Paradise and Beyond' with us at this year's Wolds Walking Festival. A gentle 7.5 mile walk exploring the Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR and beyond to Saltfleetby St Clement's Church with a guided tour by Natural England's Reserve Manager, Roger Briggs. For more information visit www.woldswalkingfestival.co.uk

Open Farm Sunday with Farmer Brown's Ice Cream

Sunday 9 June, 10am - 4pm
Woodrow Farm, Sutton Road,
Huttoft, Alford LN13 9RL



Join in the fun with live demonstrations, traditional skills workshops, tractor and trailer rides and vintage machinery. The Huttoft Village Carnival will also be organised later on in the year, which will see traditional wooden carnival games from Huttoft's history books come to life once again!

This July is . . . Marshes Month!

Join us for guided walks, workshops and story telling. 'Marshes Month' will be full of celebration, culture and our 'Seven Wanders of the Marsh' walking routes!

Wander 1 – Mid Marsh Walk

Monday 1 July, 6 - 8.30pm
Alvingham, Louth LN11 0QD

Join Lincolnshire Rambler, Geoff Mullett on a 4 mile circular walk along Louth Canal through Alvingham and North Cockerington. Meet 6pm at 2 Churches car park, Alvingham.

Wander 2 - Smugglers Walk

Wednesday 3 July, 11am - 1pm
Poplar Farm, Crabtree Lane,
Sutton-on-Sea LN12 2RS

A 3-4 mile guided walk through coast and marsh bringing to life the smuggling history of the area. Afterwards enjoy a special smuggler's lunch. To book please contact Helen Matthews on 07894 292641.

Wander 3 - Health Walk

Thursday 4 July, 2 - 4pm
Saltfleet Haven, Saltfleet, Louth

A gentle 3-4 mile amble around the Saltfleet area. Meet at Saltfleet Haven. To book contact ELDC's Tracey Richardson on 07825 989418.

Wander 4 - Burgh-le-Marsh Walk

Friday 5 July, 2 - 5 pm
Market Place, Burgh-le-Marsh,
Skegness PE24 5JW

A 5 mile circular walk set in Burgh-le-Marsh and surrounding grazing marsh, with evidence of old farming systems & Burgh's original village settlement. These fields are a scarce remnant of seasonally wet grassland which is a nationally important habitat for rare flowers. Meet at Burgh market place.

Huttoft Strawberry Tea

Saturday 6 July, 2.30 - 4pm
Huttoft Village Hall, Sutton Road,
Huttoft, Alford LN13 9RG

Come along for afternoon tea with local strawberries, homemade scones with jam and cream served with tea or coffee.



Wander 5 - Nordic Walking

Thursday 11 July, 2 - 5.30pm
Saltfleetby St Clements Church,
Main Road, Saltfleetby LN11 7TP

A 3.5 mile circular walk with ELDC's Walking for Health programme, calling at Natural England's eco-classroom at Rimac and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe NNR. Free nordic walking taster sessions are available in Louth prior to this event. Nordic walking poles can be provided on request. To book contact ELDC's Tracey Richardson on 07825 989418.

Festival of British Archaeology - Traditional Craft Skills Fair

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 July,
10am - 4.30pm
St Botolph's Church,
Skidbrooke LN11 7DQ

Find out about traditional craft techniques including bookbinding, calligraphy, pottery and basket making. Have a go and discover your hidden talents! For details contact Dave Adgar at The Churches Conservation Trust on 07733108553. E-mail dadgar@theccct.org.uk www.visitchurches.org.uk/archway



Wander 6 - Butterfly Walk

Sunday 14 July, 1 - 3pm
Anderby Creek, Skegness PE24 5XW

A short 2.5 mile circular ramble along the wildlife walk between Wolla and Anderby Creek. Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's Coastal Ranger will be there to help spot butterflies and other invertebrates such as dragonflies. Meet at Anderby Creek car park.

Wander 7 - Wings and Water Walk

Friday 19 July, 10am - 1pm
Poplar Farm, Crabtree Lane,
Sutton-on-Sea LN12 2RS

A 6 mile circular walk visiting beautiful countryside looking for 'things with wings' that make their home in the grazing marshes and how drainage has shaped the landscape. Please book via Helen Matthews on 07894 292641.

Starry Eyes & Smuggler's Tales Event

Monday 22 July, 7.30 - 11pm
Poplar Farm, Crabtree Lane,
Sutton-on-Sea LN12 2RS

Explore the night sky with astronomer Paul Money and tales of local smuggling heritage under a smuggler's full moon. Enjoy a smuggler's stew (optional) of marsh-reared lamb and crumble. Please book via Helen Matthews on 07894 292641.



The Bee is the Key

Saturday 27 July, 2 - 5pm
Poplar Farm, Crabtree Lane,
Sutton-on-Sea LN12 2RS

Join us to learn about the bee's role in nature and how local flora affects the taste of their honey. Try your hand at weaving a willow bee plus activities and quizzes for children.



Bird Walk

Saturday 21 September, 10am - 12pm
Anderby Creek, Skegness PE24 5XW

A 2.5 mile circular walk from Anderby Creek to Wolla Bank in association with Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park. Meet at Anderby Creek car park.

Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marshes Project partners: East Lindsey District Council, English Heritage, Environment Agency, Heritage Lincolnshire, Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board, Lincolnshire County Council, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England, National Farmers' Union. In association with Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park.

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