



# Chairman's Foreword



Four-spotted chaser. © Les Binns

## November 2017 marked a significant milestone for the GLNP as we celebrated five years as a Local Nature Partnership.

The annual conference took on a celebratory theme and reflected on what the Team and the Partners have achieved. With so much happening around us, it was wonderful to bring together everyone that has joined us on our journey over the last five years and really important that we took time to remind ourselves that, together, we are achieving more for nature. And of course there was cake! The event also provided an opportunity to look forward and workshop sessions asked Partners to start thinking about their priorities for the next five years – conversations that will continue in 2018-19.

The GLNP Team has expanded this year with the appointment of an additional policy officer, Luke Bamforth. This has enabled work to really get going on both health and tourism and an impressive variety of projects are now underway (page 12) working with Partners old and new to demonstrate the role nature has to play and the value it can add.

Following on from the GLNP's work on maize and pollinators in 2016-17, a second successful grant application to Defra match-funded work to develop a suite of low cost measures to help farmers support wild pollinators (page 11). This innovative project has marked a new approach for the GLNP in working with individual farms to identify where habitat improvements can be made.

It was also another successful year for the Geodiversity Group at the Lincolnshire Show (page 3) and the stand proved popular with all generations. The publication of an updated Geology of Greater Lincolnshire leaflet has added another useful tool for engaging with the public at events. Elsewhere, the translocation of almost 600 native crayfish (page 10) was an excellent example of partnership working in action with representatives from across six organisations coming together for the two-day operation.

As you can see, much has been achieved in 2017-18 and we couldn't reflect on the last 12 months without mentioning another significant milestone – the Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre (LERC) has now smashed the five million records mark. It comes at a time of great change for LERC both internally and externally (page 5) as we continually strive to offer the best possible service to our customers.

As we raise a glass to the last half decade we thank all of our Partners for their ongoing support and commitment to nature conservation in Greater Lincolnshire and let's propose a toast – to the next five years and beyond.

Richard Chadd  
Chairman, Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership



# Financial summary

This financial year bucks the recent trend as a deficit is reported. This is the case on both the GLNP finances and the project finances. These project finances are now represented separately due to the number of projects and to increase clarity. The final figures are a deficit of around £14,500 for GLNP finances and a deficit or investment from project funds of nearly £9,000.

The deficit in the GLNP finances is primarily due to a one year gap in Service Level Agreement from one local authority; in more positive news this authority has now signed up to a three year agreement starting in 2018-19. Even better news is the continued growth in data request income, this is the fourth year of growth in a row and another ground breaking year for LERC.

On expenditure, most items are as expected with only travel costs higher than usual and this can be considered reasonable with the increase in staff and projects.

Considering projects, a small amount of income was received this year for the pollinator project and this was matched with GLNP funds. The LERC digitisation project has continued to add valuable data and the GLNP also invested from the project fund in new policy staff.

This increased capacity has enabled the GLNP Team to begin delivery on a range of health and tourism based projects.

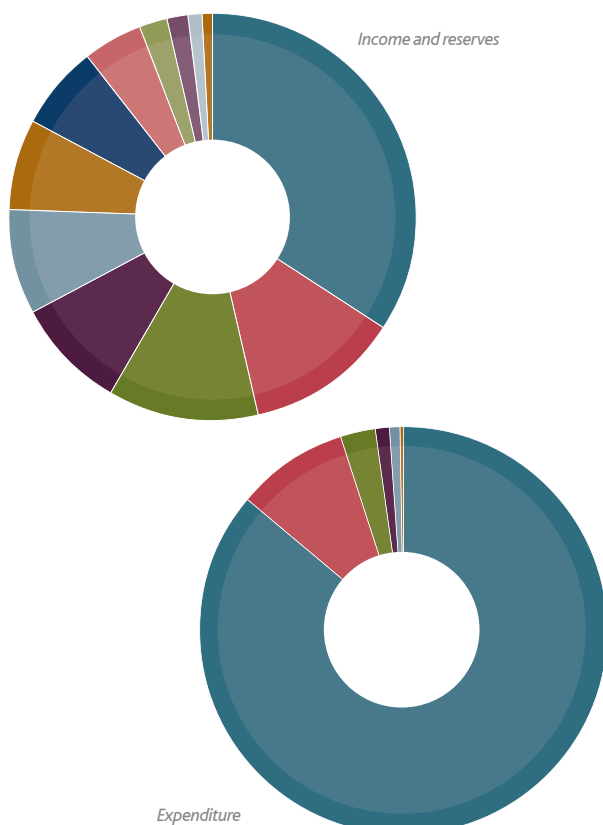
The Team already have a number of projects lined up for the next 2018-19 financial year with a blend of external funding and investment from the project fund in order to deliver these. Returning to wider GLNP finances we remain cautiously optimistic in our funding relationships, especially now that we are delivering on all of our workstreams effectively.

Formal sign off of the annual accounts is at the autumn Forum for Partners following external audit of the accounts via the hosting body; the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

| GLNP income<br>£112,865 | GLNP expenditure<br>£126,927 |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Deficit -£14,062        |                              |

| Project income<br>£3,783           | Project expenditure<br>£12,757        |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Invest from project fund<br>£8,974 | Remaining in project fund<br>£119,577 |

## The breakdown:



| Income and reserves     |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| GLNP project fund       | 119,577 |
| Deficit reserve         | 42,955  |
| Local authorities       | 41,707  |
| Data requests           | 30,495  |
| Winding up reserve      | 30,000  |
| NGOs                    | 25,000  |
| Working capital reserve | 23,000  |
| Unforeseen reserve      | 17,000  |
| Statutory agencies      | 7,440   |
| Other                   | 5,973   |
| Project grants          | 3,783   |
| IDBs                    | 2,250   |

| Expenditure              |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Core functions           | 120,295 |
| Projects                 | 12,757  |
| Data fee                 | 3,782   |
| Publications and website | 1,307   |
| Events                   | 1,278   |
| Local Recording Fund     | 265     |



## Lincolnshire landscapes

The leaflet is dedicated to Malcolm Fry, one of the most active members of the Geodiversity Group who sadly passed away in June 2017. Malcolm wrote much of the text for the previous 'Building stones of Greater Lincolnshire' leaflet and wrote the first draft of this leaflet.

# Geodiversity Strategy

## Bringing back fossils

Once more the Geodiversity Group rocked the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust tent at the 2017 Lincolnshire Show with a great demonstration of fossils and their contemporary counterparts. The display brought back many of the favourites from 2016 including the fish and starfish fossils. Some of the younger visitors struggled to understand numbers as large as the ages of fossils but could easily spot the similarities and differences to modern creatures.

This year the display was even more crowded with the addition of 'find your own fossil'. It did often mean that there was more sand outside the tray than in but children of all ages enjoyed the hunt and the opportunity to take home something they had found. Hopefully a new generation of geologists has already been inspired!

Thanks go to Paul Hildreth and Helen Gamble for their tireless enthusiasm over two days of the Show.



Families learning about fossils. © Robert Enderby

## Interesting faces

In Greater Lincolnshire many of our known geological features are quarries. How to assess these and other forms of geological interest from the single erratic to the dune-scape on a consistent basis has been the eternal question within the Geodiversity Group.



The 1st edition of the Local Geological Sites (LGS) guidelines was published in 2009 and has been pivotal in building a comprehensive and evidenced suite of geological sites in Greater Lincolnshire – currently standing at 95 LGSs. However, more needed to be done and led to a project to revise the guidelines in early 2017.

The project is nearing completion and will see publication of the 2nd edition of the guidelines as a huge leap forward in a quantitative and consistent process that also describes the features of importance in Greater Lincolnshire that should receive designation.

Overall this will give greater clarity and confidence to local authorities and landowners in the process and the reasons for the decisions made, which in turn will lead to greater robustness in the planning system.

How do you know if a rock face is interesting enough? © Helen Gamble



# Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre

The Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre (LERC) collates wildlife and geological information for Greater Lincolnshire and makes it available for various uses. The vision for LERC is to be:  
*The trusted source of wildlife, habitat and geological information for Greater Lincolnshire.*

The data LERC provides is crucial for ensuring sustainable development, aiding conservation management of sites and understanding the distribution of species and trends over time.

## Service upgrades

.....  
Last year LERC's data request service was upgraded with an online system to provide a more efficient, stream-lined service for both customers and staff. This enabled standard requests for data to be returned much more quickly – often within the hour – and reduced the administration associated with processing requests. However, we don't like to rest on our laurels and are always looking to see if we can improve our systems even further.

One of the biggest restrictions with the current system of processing requests is that a member of the Team has to manually start the request off. This means that requests can only be processed during working hours, Monday to Friday. Ecological consultants often have to work outside of these hours and at weekends. Enabling access to our data at any time – day or night – will make the information we provide much more user-friendly.

We are currently in discussion with a local team of web developers about how we can transform our present system into a 24/7 service, with (almost) instantaneous results. It is hoped this system, once up and running, will also act as a demonstrator for other Local Record Centres and ecological consultants around the country to show how we can improve our services nationally.

Although the new system will provide access to the information we hold round-the-clock, safeguards will be in place to ensure that the system is only used by bona fide ecological consultants, especially with regard to confidential and sensitive data.

If you are interested in finding out more about this system, or have any other ideas about we can improve the service LERC offers, do get in touch.

*The new system will allow access to data at any time, day or night, on sites, habitats and species such as the palmate newt. © Amy Lewis*





# Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre

## Busy as bees

This year has been one of LERC's busiest with a record 444 requests for information received during 2017-18. The majority of these requests came from ecological consultants, using the data to inform site surveys and assessments. The data collated by LERC was also used by local authorities, researchers and members of the public interested in the wildlife around them. The streamlined online system has proven popular, processing over 50% of the requests received during the year. LERC continues to offer a 'custom' service which handles the more bespoke requests, for instance involving a particular suite of species or a complex search area.

Not only has the number of requests for information increased, but also the amount of data available in LERC. This year saw the number of species records increase to over 5.3 million, primarily due to data provided by county recorders and groups, national organisations and through the historic data digitisation project run by LERC.



A great tit recorded in Woodhall Spa was the five millionth record entered into the LERC database and was supplied by the Lincolnshire Bird Club. © Les Binns

LERC's database now contains information on over 15,000 species across 82 different taxonomic groups, from acarinae (mites) to zoans (bryozoans and protozoans!). The most frequently recorded groups are birds, flowering plants and butterflies. Particularly underrepresented groups in LERC's database include the lice (Phthiraptera) and silverfish (Thysanura) – both of which are probably present in many homes across Greater Lincolnshire!

## Getting it (copy)right

The NBN Gateway was retired in March and replaced by the NBN Atlas. As part of this transition the decision was taken by the National Biodiversity Network to require all data provided to be licensed with one of four 'open data' licences:

- Open Government Licence (OGL)
- Creative Commons Zero (CC0)
- Creative Commons with Attribution (CC-BY)
- Creative Commons, with Attribution, Non-commercial (CC-BY-NC)

To be able to make data available with one of these licences, permission needs to be sought from the person or organisation that holds the intellectual property rights to the database.

In the case of an individual recorder's dataset this is usually simple – however with aggregate datasets such as county datasets, national datasets and the LERC database as a whole this becomes more complicated with multiple 'layers' of intellectual property rights.

Since the launch of the NBN Atlas, LERC has been liaising with county recorders and other recorders to ensure we have the necessary permissions to make data available on the NBN Atlas. With over 18,000 recorders and 300 organisations in the LERC database this process is expected to take some time!

LERC is currently investigating datasets where the intellectual property rights are clear (for instance, a dataset produced by a single recorder or organisation) and hopes to start making these available on the NBN Atlas soon.



# Local Sites

Local Sites, along with Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), are the most important places for wildlife and geology in Greater Lincolnshire. The vision for the Local Sites system is:  
*To establish an up to date comprehensive suite of sites of substantive wildlife and geological value.*

Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) and Local Geological Sites (LGSs) are selected by the GLNP, based on recommendations made by its expert LWS and LGS Panels. The Register of Local Sites is then submitted for inclusion in local authority planning policy.

Identifying and designating these sites helps local authorities to meet their obligations under legislation and government guidance.

## Local Sites update

The Greater Lincolnshire register of Local Sites now has 1270 LWSs and 95 LGSs listed.

This year only two candidate LWSs were surveyed and assessed by the Panel; both of these were new sites not previously recognised as Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs), and both were selected as new LWSs. Three existing LWSs were extended in coverage following continued positive management of surrounding associated land and surveys being conducted to recognise this.

Ultimately however, the year saw a drop off in survey and monitoring effort due to the increased financial pressure placed on local authorities. The GLNP is now temporarily taking a more hands on approach through a SNCI project to ensure the continued survey effort and robustness of the Local Sites system into the future.

The GLNP has undertaken a desk study of all the data and original citations/reports it holds for the remaining 632 SNCIs. The purpose of this mammoth exercise was to effectively target future surveys of the sites most likely to still be of substantive conservation value.

Following this, around 120 sites have been defined as a priority and the GLNP will be leading on the field investigation of all of these over the next few years. After this, sites that can no longer be evidenced to a defensible level in local planning will be omitted from the Local Sites system although the GLNP will retain their details on record in case new information becomes available in the future.

### Wildlife oases

**In an agriculturally dominated landscape the value of recognising and protecting wildlife hotspots on a local scale becomes increasingly more vital.**

St John the Baptist Church in Temple Bruer, which was made known to the Local Sites system this year, is an excellent example of this due to sympathetic and beneficial management.

Although small in area and isolated amongst farmland, the churchyard hosts a variety of species commonly associated with calcareous soils including small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria* and burnet-saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*.



... Small scabious. © Kieron Huston

The site serves as a demonstration of how many churchyards still contain the remnant grasslands of ancient meadows and provide refuges for habitats and species which have been otherwise lost from the surrounding farmed landscape.



# Local Sites

## Out and about

A recently designated Local Nature Reserve on the outskirts of Scunthorpe was the location of the LWS Panel's late summer outing.

Ashbyville Lake, selected as a LWS in 2010 comprises a mosaic of damp grassland, woodland, acid and sandy grassland and, as the name suggests, a lake. Now well-trodden by the public, the monitoring visit provided an opportunity to assess the impact of heavy public amenity use on the site's biodiversity.

In total 61 species of LWS indicator plants were recorded in 2017 compared to 55 in 2008. The site therefore seems to provide an excellent case study for how compassionate management and locally determined nature reserves can be effective in creating equilibrium between a thriving environment and public enjoyment around our towns and cities.



... LWS Panel members visiting Ashbyville Lake.  
© Jon Watson

Following the visit, the Panel agreed to retain the site as a LWS for freshwater and wetland interest as well as various calcareous, neutral grassland and heathland species. The decision also included an extension to the boundary to include additional areas positively managed by North Lincolnshire Council and wildlife organisations such as Buglife.

## Reporting on Local Sites

Single Data List Indicator 160-00 "Proportion of Local Sites where positive conservation management is being achieved" is a proxy measure of local biodiversity and is used by central government to assess the performance of local authorities.

|   | LWSs | LGSs | Local Sites | Sites in positive management |            |
|---|------|------|-------------|------------------------------|------------|
|   |      |      |             | Number                       | Proportion |
| Boston                                    | 26   | 1    | 27          | 23                           | 85%        |
| City of Lincoln                           | 48   | 2    | 50          | 4                            | 8%         |
| East Lindsey                              | 379  | 20   | 399         | 120                          | 30%        |
| North Kesteven                            | 151  | 8    | 159         | 52                           | 33%        |
| South Holland                             | 56   | 0    | 56          | 41                           | 73%        |
| South Kesteven                            | 228  | 15   | 243         | 93                           | 38%        |
| West Lindsey                              | 182  | 9    | 191         | 54                           | 28%        |
| Central Lincolnshire JPU <sup>1</sup>     | 370  | 18   | 388         | 109                          | 28%        |
| South East Lincolnshire JSPC <sup>2</sup> | 81   | 1    | 82          | 63                           | 77%        |
| Lincolnshire County                       | 1031 | 53   | 1084        | 370                          | 34%        |
| North East Lincolnshire                   | 32   | 6    | 38          | 4                            | 11%        |
| North Lincolnshire                        | 216  | 37   | 253         | 162                          | 64%        |
| Greater Lincolnshire                      | 1270 | 95   | 1365        | 529                          | 39%        |

<sup>1</sup> Central Lincolnshire Joint Planning Unit (City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey)

<sup>2</sup> South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (Boston and South Holland)



# Nature Strategy

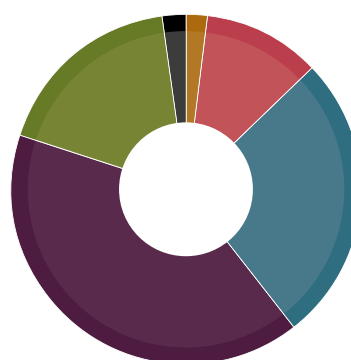
The strategy for nature in Greater Lincolnshire is detailed in the third edition of the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), which builds on the strength of the previous two and continues to be the driving force for nature conservation in Greater Lincolnshire. The vision for the Nature Strategy is: *That Greater Lincolnshire and its neighbouring seas are much richer in biodiversity.*

There has been almost no change to reported progress against the BAP targets during the last 12 months and it is quite likely this trend will continue as we approach the end of the 3rd edition. While just less than one in five targets have been completed at the current time, the number of those which are either on or ahead of schedule as we head towards 2020 remains encouraging.

Of more concern is the significant number of targets which are behind schedule and which in most cases, at the current time, look unlikely to complete. A large proportion of these relate to establishing baselines for both extent and condition of habitats which require comprehensive surveys and will be unachievable unless there are significant resource changes.

What has been notable is that Partner responses for the 2017-18 reporting period have been at their highest level for several years. These responses are vital to enable progress against the targets to be monitored and demonstrate the value still placed by Partners on the nature strategy for Greater Lincolnshire.

|                      | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|----------------------|---------|---------|
| Aspiration/Planned   | 2%      | 2%      |
| No progress reported | 11%     | 11%     |
| On/Ahead of schedule | 27%     | 27%     |
| Behind schedule      | 41%     | 41%     |
| Completed            | 18%     | 19%     |
| Discontinued         | 2%      | 2%      |



## Invasive species training

Recording of invasive non-native species is important to help understand their distribution and impacts in Greater Lincolnshire. This is particularly important for internal drainage boards (IDBs) as many invasive species are aquatic and a connected network of drains is an ideal way for them to move through a landscape.

In June 2017, South Holland IDB contacted the GLNP to ask if the Team could help provide invasive species identification training for some of their operatives. In particular, they wanted 'cab cards' which could be kept in their machines to provide a short summary of the information contained in the invasive species guides produced by the GLNP back in 2013.

Two single-sided 'cab cards' were produced, one for aquatic and one for terrestrial species, designed to help identify the main species likely to be seen by operatives from a distance.

Identification at a distance is particularly important as operatives need time to identify and avoid problem species in their machinery. However this does pose some challenges for identification as the usual methods of leaf or flower shape do not apply!

Instead general guidance about plant form and likely species to be confused with has been the most useful for the IDBs with all of those involved in the training reporting that they felt more able to identify the invasive species.

The cards also include some general guidance on what to do if any of the species are encountered.

# Nature Strategy

## Bearing fruit

A number of traditional orchards in the Lincolnshire Wolds were surveyed in autumn 2017 to help determine conservation priorities for the habitat.



..... Volunteer Trevor Rogers.  
© Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service

At the present time, detailed information about traditional orchards in Greater Lincolnshire is limited. In 2011 the People's Trust for Endangered Species, on behalf of Natural England, produced an inventory based on aerial photograph interpretation and agri-environment scheme data which identified 124ha of the habitat remaining in the area. To date, just 19% has been ground-truthed by volunteers meaning there is still a significant amount to learn about the extent and condition of our remaining orchards.

Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service with support from the GLNP, enlisted the help of orchard expert and volunteer Trevor Rogers and set about contacting the owners of sites listed on the PTES inventory to arrange a survey. So far, a total of 10 orchards have been surveyed with more planned for autumn 2018.

While the project found some traditional orchards have already been lost, it also resulted in the discovery of some hidden gems which were not previously known to exist and enabled contact with a number of enthusiastic landowners. In almost all cases, there was a degree of under management of the habitat and an interest in learning more about some of the simple steps that can be taken to both improve the production of traditional orchards and to encourage their longevity.

Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service and GLNP are now planning an event for orchard owners which will not only provide them with information on management and how to get the most out of their sites but will also help us gauge the level of interest in orchard conservation and determine future priorities.

## Crayfish go in two by two

Efforts to protect white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* in Greater Lincolnshire have resulted in 572 individuals being translocated to secure locations known as Ark sites.

Native crayfish have held a relative stronghold in the Upper Witham for many years but established populations are becoming increasingly vulnerable from the threat of their non-native counterparts, North American signal crayfish *Pacifastacus leniusculus*. This invasive species not only out-competes for food and habitat but also carries a fungal disease that can devastate native populations.

White-clawed crayfish have their own species action plan in the current BAP and the Rivers and Wetlands Habitat Group has been concerned with their conservation by working to ensure no contraction in their current range. To this end, two receptor sites were identified on the basis of their ability to provide suitable habitat, good quality water and importantly an isolated location away from the threat of non-native crayfish. Specimens from two donor sites in the Upper Witham were then transferred to the receptor sites: a chalk stream in the Lincolnshire Wolds and a limestone stream in the County's south west.

The two-day operation in July 2017 was coordinated by the Environment Agency's Analysis and Reporting team and supported by staff from the GLNP, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Lincolnshire Rivers Trust and Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project.

Routine monitoring of the Upper Witham in August 2017 showed healthy populations still present around the donor sites while monitoring of the receptor sites is due to take place in August 2018.

White-clawed crayfish.  
© Sarah Baker





# Farming with nature

Agriculture has shaped the landscape of Greater Lincolnshire. By working in partnership, policies and practices will be developed to ensure that both farm profitability and biodiversity can be conserved now and in the future. The vision is: *Thriving nature in a productive farmed landscape.*

A successful grant application to Defra by the GLNP secured funding through the National Pollinator Strategy to support an innovative project to explore how low budget measures could help farmers support wild pollinators on their land.

Farmer input was central to the project and the GLNP worked with 11 farms - five south of Lincoln and six in the South Lincolnshire Fens - to develop the suite of measures. Initial discussions were held to rule out anything that was impractical within the farm business. Surveys of each farm then took place in summer 2017 and individual pollinator support plans were produced for each farm. Follow up visits were then undertaken to discuss the plans and further identify any barriers to implementation. Resurveys will take place in summer 2018 to see what measures have been put in place and to discuss any issues that may have arisen.

All the information gained throughout the project has been used to develop a suite of 24 measures designed to help improve nesting, overwintering and feeding habitat for wild pollinators on farms across Greater Lincolnshire. All the measures require minimal input in terms of initial cost or ongoing management. A leaflet has been produced



The new pollinator leaflet can be found on the website. ....

to summarise the information and this is supported with an online resource at [www.glnp.org.uk/your-land/pollinators](http://www.glnp.org.uk/your-land/pollinators)

In October 2017, the GLNP was invited to speak about the project at the annual Bees Needs' Champions awards at Kew Gardens. Feedback at the event was very positive and the GLNP will be exploring options throughout the next year to promote the project work and what has been learnt both in Greater Lincolnshire and further afield.

# Planning with nature

Spatial planning is at the heart of landscape and settlement change. By working in partnership, development plans of all types can progress more smoothly, beneficial elements can be incorporated and many issues can be avoided. The vision is: *Planning processes across Greater Lincolnshire make the most of opportunities for nature.*

In this financial year the GLNP has responded to 13 consultations and attended the Examination in Public for one Local Plan twice. The range of consultations is far wider this year with 10 local consultations including those for the AONB management plan, the Lincoln Western Growth Corridor and a large European funding bid and three national consultations. One of the national responses was the House of Lords inquiry into the NERC Act. The results of which have recently been published and the GLNP is mentioned and quoted within the report. This suggests that it is both worthwhile undertaking a response and that the GLNP responses are having an impact.

The GLNP attended the Examination in Public as we felt that there was not an up to date evidence base for the natural environment; specifically that recent evidence on Local Sites had not been included. While this does not impact on the policies of the Local Plan the evidence base has a significant impact on the allocations. The result was very positive with the Inspector agreeing that the local authority should have an up to date evidence base for the natural environment for the entire duration of the Plan period. In addition the Inspector overturned the allocation of one site in particular as there was pre-existing evidence that it met Local Wildlife Site criteria.



## Enjoying nature

Tourism is key to the economy of Greater Lincolnshire. By working in partnership, everyone can realise the contribution that nature makes to the economy and ensure the benefits continue in the long term. The vision is: *For the value of nature and 'nature tourism' to be recognised and embedded within the wider tourism sector.*

The Enjoying nature workstream is now in full flow and sees the GLNP working with existing Partners while also developing new relationships to improve awareness of the role nature plays in Greater Lincolnshire's tourism sector and how it can be used to improve it.

The Team is currently collaborating with the Lincolnshire Coastal Bid to create a network of tourism stakeholders on the east coast, aiming to improve connectivity between the various experiences which make up the destination. The project also aims to promote low cost nature and heritage based activities as 'value added' opportunities that will allow visitors on a budget to easily extend their stays and increase tourism income within the area. It is hoped that a successful pilot could be rolled out along the coast and across Greater Lincolnshire.

In addition to the pilot destination scheme, five journeys exploring the natural beauty of Greater Lincolnshire are in development, bringing together nature and contemporary



Beach chalets at Chapel Point. © Luke Bamforth

tourism for the benefit of both. The project will use online pin board Pinterest to introduce the area's natural environment and aims to draw in visitors, encouraging them to explore parts they may otherwise miss.

## Being well with nature

The evidence that the natural environment is good for us is becoming overwhelming. By working in partnership, organisations can act on this evidence and the benefits are able to be felt by all sectors of society. The vision is: *Increased experience of nature improves public health and wellbeing.*

Health and wellbeing continues to be a key theme for the GLNP through the delivery of three projects in conjunction with Lincolnshire County Council's Public Health Division and their 'Health through nature' initiative.

Heavily urbanised, the Sincil Bank area of Lincoln is the focus of a project which aims to inject some green into the lives of its residents by ensuring that nature is represented in the wider rejuvenation of the area. The GLNP is working with a number of organisations, its Partners and the local community to make sure this can happen.

Improving the role of nature within the social prescribing framework of West Lindsey is another current area of work, in the hope that GPs and other health workers will 'think green'

when prescribing non-traditional treatments or pre-emptive measures to their patients. By utilising nature's health and wellbeing benefits it is hoped to engender a connection between the natural environment and the communities that use it.

Finally, inspired by the level of planned expansion on the outskirts of the City of Lincoln and across Greater Lincolnshire, a third project looks to ensure quality green infrastructure is considered in the development of the Western Growth Corridor. The aim is to improve the health and wellbeing of future residents and to prevent the fragmentation of existing habitats and populations of wildlife. The project also involves the development of a residents' pack to encourage interaction between new homeowners and the open spaces available to them.





# Future look



© Ben Hall

**The next 12 months are shaping up to be very busy for the GLNP and project work in particular will be taking up a significant amount of the Team's time.**

This work will include the development of a new five-year business plan to continue guiding the strategic direction of the GLNP when the current plan expires at the end of 2018. Conversations have already started and the Team will be meeting with Partners to gain their input and ensure the plan reflects a mutual ambition for our natural environment. Partners will be asked to sign off the new plan at the Forum in November.

Natural capital has become a growing theme when describing the benefits of the environment to those more accustomed to making decisions based on monetary costs. It features heavily in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan but until recently has not been fully explored by the GLNP. To address this, a series of case studies will be produced over the next year to gain a better understanding of the benefits to natural capital provided by the GLNP's eight workstreams.

The new LERC data request website should be up and running by late autumn and its launch will mark the exciting culmination of several years of hard work to develop the final product. The current health and tourism projects are also due to complete in 2018 and will see the GLNP make real progress on bringing about tangible benefits for the natural environment through these workstreams. A busy summer is ahead for Local Wildlife Site surveys as the SNCI project gathers pace and elsewhere, efforts to ensure a lasting legacy through improved habitat for wild pollinators in Greater Lincolnshire and further afield will continue.

Alongside all of the project work, it is still unclear exactly how the UK's departure from the European Union in March 2019 may impact upon the sector. The Team are already feeding into national consultations around policy developments and this important work is anticipated to require further input as the year progresses.

**The GLNP is achieving more for nature.**



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The continuing success of the GLNP is down to the hard work of its many Partner organisations and individuals who devote their time to the Steering Group, working groups and other work of the Nature Partnership. *Thanks go to all those that contributed information and/or images for this review.*

*Achieving more for nature*

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