

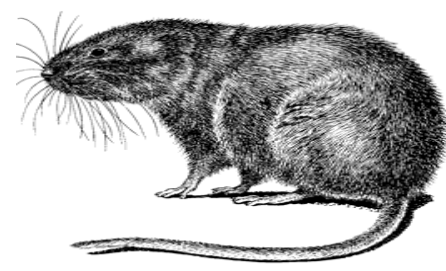
Achievements

This year has seen significant progress made towards achieving the targets set out in the BAP. The following are just a few of the highlights.

- RSPB distributed approximately 150 tree sparrow boxes to farmers in south Lincolnshire. Monitoring is being carried out and the possibility of supplementary feeding is being investigated.
- Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service provided advice and grant aid that resulted in approximately 4km of hedge planting and 1km of hedge slashing.
- DEFRA, through Countryside Stewardship, have provided funding which will result in the following habitat creation and restoration work being undertaken:

Hedgerow restoration	13,685 m
Planting new hedges	2,102m
Lowland Pasture creation	521.32 ha
Lowland Hay Meadow restoration	57.86 ha
Calcareous grassland restoration	14.47 ha
Pond creation	Minimum 37
Creation of scrapes	Minimum 24
Grassland creation	275.31 ha
Creation of 6m grass margins	254,988 m
2m arable margins	165,872 m
Beetle banks	2,187 m

- Lincolnshire's Internal Drainage Boards have produced maps of water vole distribution along IDB managed drains. Records of protected species are kept by some IDBs.



Water vole

- The Environment Agency commissioned surveys of Lincolnshire's Chalk Rivers. 40 springs and headwaters were surveyed for plants and invertebrates to assess their value. Rare flatworms and bryophytes were discovered at some sites.
- Lincolnshire's Internal Drainage Boards undertook surveys of over 100km of drains prior to commencement of work. Data generated is held by the IDBs.
- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's programme of ex-situ propagation of Greater water parsnip has continued this year. 146 flowering plants were recorded from 6 reserves, with 6 flowering plants being recorded from other sites. Over 100 transplants were attempted in 2001.
- The Forestry Commission is providing £128,000 through its JIGSAW Challenge scheme. This will fund the creation of 26 hectares of woodland linked to the Bardney Limewoods.
- The English Nature funded Action for Wildlife grant scheme has entered its third year. 11 projects from around the county have been selected for funding. These range from wildlife area creation schemes in schools to restoring areas of wet heathland.
- The Grantham Angling Association Fly Fishing Section commissioned habitat surveys of an area of the upper Witham under their management. There are plans to undertake work to improve approximately 1km of riparian habitat next year.
- The Environment Agency commissioned surveys for white-clawed crayfish in Lincolnshire. This resulted in the discovery of a 27km stretch of the Upper Witham where crayfish are virtually continuous. The area is thought to be nationally significant for the species.

- BTCV undertook 97 volunteer days work in churchyards and cemeteries around West Lindsey. This work included surveys, dry stone walling and grassland management.
- South Holland District Council produced a display for the Going for Green - Biodiversity Theme month and circulated it around libraries in South Holland. The display raised awareness about general biodiversity issues and also promoted peat free compost.
- The "Hare Today" survey which took place in March/April encouraged members of the public to record and report any sightings of hares. As a result of this survey 'Hare hotspots' around the county have been identified. These hotspots will be the subject of a second survey which will aim to produce an estimate of the county's hare population.

Ongoing Progress

- RSPB has secured the purchase of 773 hectares of land at Freiston shore. This land will be managed to create extensive areas of saltmarsh and saline lagoons.



Birds such as the Water Rail will benefit from reedbed creation schemes.

- English Nature has been promoting the creation of Local Nature reserves and providing funding for management through the newly established Local Nature Reserves scheme.

- Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service is developing a pond

database for the south eastern claylands of the Wolds. Survey work has been undertaken to assess the status of the ponds.

- The Environment Agency's twice yearly monitoring of 8 water vole sites in Lincolnshire has continued. These sites are widely distributed around the county and were selected to give both a good geographical spread around the county as well as a variety of habitat conditions.
- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has begun a project which will result in the creation of 17ha of reedbed at Far Ings by 2003.
- Members of English Nature, Lincolnshire Naturalist's Union and Leeds University released 67 adult and 50 larval stage hazel pot beetles (*Cryptocephalus coryli*) at Whisby Nature Park. Each individual was labelled with a numbered spot of paper about 1.5mm across with a unique number stuck on with nail varnish. Monitoring will be carried out to ascertain how far the beetles move and to gain a better understanding of their habitat requirements.
- British Waterways has commissioned a survey of historic sites for grass-wrack pondweed. Work began in August 2001.
- Lincolnshire County Council grant aid has resulted in the planting of 28,585m of new hedgerows, 3000 new hedgerow trees and the creation of 6 ponds over the past year.

Problems

- Several partner organisations seem unable to come to terms with the prospect of working in partnership and it appears that time and effort is often being wasted in 'reinventing the wheel'.
- The fact that no new partner organisations have joined this year is disappointing.
- The failure to secure long-term funding for both project delivery and management still poses a threat to the success of the BAP project.

Financial Report

BAP funding to March 2001

Item	£
Receipts	
Carried forward	3,481
Funding	24,900
LWT Admin Contribution	2,642
Total Receipts	31,023
Payments	
Coordinator Post (to May 2001)	1,123
Implementation Manager Post	11,797
BAP Printing	3,890
BAP Launch	592
Implementation Manager Recruitment	660
Admin costs	2,642
Travel costs	672
Sundry costs	171
Training	220
Total	21,767
Surplus carried forward	9,256

These accounts have been audited by Streets and Co as part of their audit of Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust for the year to 31 March 2001

BAP funding to March 2002

Funder	£
Balance of funds brought forward	9,256
Boston Borough Council	2,200
East Lindsey District Council	2,000
English Nature	3,000
Lincolnshire County Council	2,500
Lincolnshire IDBs	1,760
Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service	85
North Kesteven District Council	2,200
South Holland District Council	2,000
South Kesteven District Council	2,200
West Lindsey District Council	2,000
LWT Admin contribution (estimate)	2,663
Estimated Total Income	31,864

Costs to 31 August 2001

Implementation Manager Post	7,702
Admin charge	963
Sundry costs	126
Travel costs	837
Total costs to 31 August 2001	9,628

Estimated Costs September 2001 to March 2002

Implementation Manager Post	10,783
Sundry costs	400
Admin Costs	1,700
Travel costs	1,250
Printing report	500
Training	500
Estimated total costs	15,133
Estimated funds carried forward 31 March 2002	7,103

Chairman's Report

This is the time of year when partners, particularly funding partners, look to the annual review to see what has happened and in some way try to assess the BAP in terms of value for money.

You will see from the financial statement that most of the partners have responded to the request for slight increases in contributions. The finances have been audited as part of Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's accounts and figures are produced by its Finance Manager. One effect of the good response has been to give Darren a more secure base upon which to operate and he has reacted by giving generously of his own time.

Value for money can be measured against the achievements and the ongoing progress, covered in other sections of the report. Several achievements are worth special mention.



The Steering Group spent time at several meetings clarifying roles and responsibilities with the aim of ensuring an 'open' relationship. As a result of the discussions, a Partnership Agreement is now in place and as far as I am aware all member organisations have signed up to it. Progress indeed!

The BAP now has a website. Initially it was thought that we would need to bring in an outside consultant to produce the site. In the end Darren produced it and he deserves recognition in this report for his magnificent effort.

The hare survey generated a lot of interest in spite of restrictions imposed by the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease. It proved to be a good vehicle for raising public awareness and we received responses from many sections of the public and from all ages. It generated a lot of deskwork for Darren. How do you cope with a response like "saw lots in the field on the left of the Skillington road out of Colsterworth" It is not easy to measure the project in terms of value for money but we now know a lot about hares in the county!

Partners directly involved in conservation activities continue to work towards targets. Re-creation and restoration projects at Freiston shore, Far Ings, Saltfleetby and the introduction of Hazel Pot Beetle at Whisby Nature Park are examples of on-going work.

Finally, on behalf of members attending Steering Group and Working Group meetings, I thank all the organisations for their continued support. The work is only just starting but the progress is very encouraging.

D F Wright
Chairman Steering Group

The Future

The Lincolnshire BAP has been selected as one of the pilot projects for the national biodiversity monitoring and reporting scheme which is currently in development. When complete, this system will help to ensure that the contributions made by local BAPs to national BAP targets are fully recognised.

The Lincolnshire Rivers and Wetlands Conference will take place on October 18th. This event has been organised by members of the Rivers and Wetlands forum, and will provide an opportunity to 'showcase' the work of the forum to wide audience, as well as playing a part in the BAP partnership's campaign to raise awareness of the importance of conserving biodiversity.

Partners

Anglian Water	Lincolnshire County Council
Association of Drainage Authorities	Lincolnshire Naturalists Union
Boston Borough Council	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
BTCV	Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service
Country Land and Business Association	National Farmers Union
Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	North East Lincolnshire Council
East Lindsey District Council	North Kesteven District Council
English Nature	North Lincolnshire Council
Environment Agency	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group	South Holland District Council
Grantham Angling Association Fly Fishing Section	South Kesteven District Council
Lincolnshire Environmental Forum	Wash Estuary Management Plan
Lincoln City Council	West Lindsey District Council

Acknowledgements

All those organisations and individuals who have in any way helped the delivery of the BAP over the last year deserve thanks.

A special thank you should go to the members of the BAP Working group, whose enthusiasm, guidance and support has been greatly appreciated during this busy year.

Finally, this project would not be successful without the daily help and support of Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Office Staff. Anne Cross, Sue Curtis and Jane Ogle have provided vital secretarial support.

Contact Details

If you would like to find out more about the BAP please visit the website at:
www.lincsbap.org.uk

or contact:

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Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan

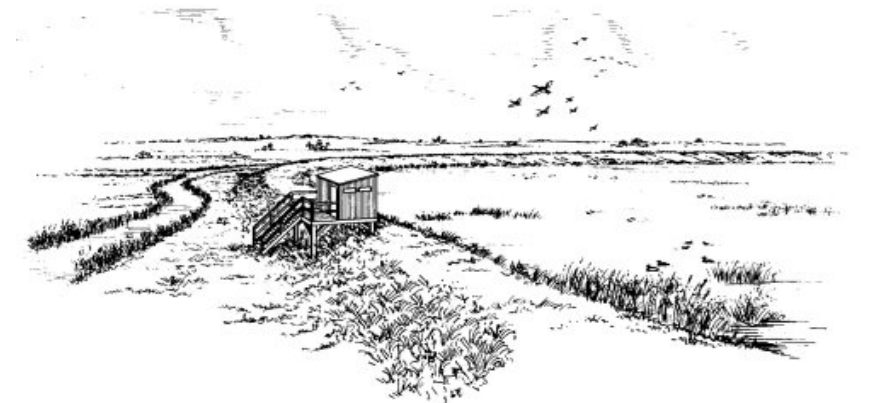
ACTION FOR WILDLIFE IN LINCOLNSHIRE

Annual Report 2001

Introduction

In May 2000 the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan was launched. The major aim of the plan is to safeguard and restore Lincolnshire's biodiversity. Action is currently being undertaken by the 25 member strong BAP partnership.

The past twelve months have seen significant progress towards achieving the aims of the BAP. This report is intended to provide an insight into some of the work that is currently being undertaken by the BAP partnership. However, whilst progress in most areas is excellent, it is also important to ensure that necessary actions are not overlooked in other areas. This is particularly important where there is a scarcity of information about a particular habitat or species. Ensuring that the needs of all BAP habitats and species are addressed will be one of the major challenges for the BAP partnership in the future.



Further large areas of saltmarsh habitat are being created around the Wash.

We must also attempt to involve those sectors which are not currently engaged in the BAP process. The two most obvious sectors currently missing are education and business, both of which have much to offer the partnership. Full engagement and commitment from all sectors must be actively sought and encouraged.

It is important at this early stage to realise the magnitude of the challenge we have set ourselves. However, it is a challenge that we must rise to in order to ensure that past declines in the county's biodiversity are halted and, wherever possible, reversed. This will undoubtedly require a significant input of both time and resources from the whole partnership. I am confident that if we continue to build on recent successes the future for biodiversity in Lincolnshire is a bright one.

Darren Clarke
Biodiversity Implementation Manager