



Local Wildlife Sites – Woodlands

Information for Landowners

Pressures on wildlife in town and country continue to grow. Demand for new housing and roads, and the impact of climate change, all contribute to the decline of wildlife and loss of natural habitats. A well managed network of Local Wildlife Sites is vital for sustaining wildlife in Lincolnshire.

What are Local Wildlife Sites?

Local Wildlife Sites are wildlife-rich areas that have been identified and selected for their nature conservation value. These sites are amongst the best places for wildlife in the county, and represent the local character and distinctiveness of Lincolnshire.

Local Wildlife Sites may support threatened habitats such as chalk grassland or ancient woodland, or may be important for the plants and animals which are present. Many sites contain habitats and species that are priorities under the UK & Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plans: these documents set out strategies for the conservation of our most vulnerable wildlife. Together with statutory protected areas (Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves), Local Wildlife Sites are vital to maintain the current levels of wildlife in Lincolnshire. This network of sites act as reservoirs from which wildlife can spread – something which will become more important as climate change increases the pressure on wild species and their habitats over the coming years.

What does it mean for landowners?

A Local Wildlife Site notification is a recognition of a site's nature conservation value. The owner is not obliged to carry out work to protect or maintain the land's wildlife interest and the notification does not confer any rights of access. However, it is hoped that owners and managers of Local Wildlife Sites will want to consider wildlife when making their management decisions.

The Value of Woodlands

The magic of an English woodland carpeted with bluebells and wood anemones is a rare sight. Only 4% of Lincolnshire is covered with woodland and only a fraction of this is ancient woodland where flowers like bluebells can flourish. The richest woodlands for wildlife are those which are dominated by native tree species such as oak, ash, alder and small-leaved lime. It is in these woodlands that we find the greatest concentrations of bluebells and wood anemones, together with scarcer plants such as yellow archangel and herb-Paris. These woods may also be home to declining bird species such as lesser spotted woodpecker and willow tit.

In Lincolnshire, the dominance of agriculture has left our few remaining woodlands isolated and fragmented. Further loss of their wildlife has occurred with planting within them of non-native species, including conifers and sycamore; overgrazing by deer and rabbits; inappropriately sited game rearing pens and feeding rides (which can prevent the growth of flowers and young trees); and simply through neglect and a lack of sympathetic management.

Woodland Local Wildlife Sites have maintained a value for wildlife. With a little care and appropriate management they will continue to contribute to a vibrant, wildlife-rich and economically valued woodland resource in Lincolnshire.

Woodland

Biodiversity

- The UK's bluebell woods are internationally important and represent 20% of the world's total number of bluebells.
- Many woodland bird species (including woodcock, spotted flycatcher, and willow warbler) have declined over the past 25 years.
- Dead wood is an important habitat for wildlife, but is too often tidied up and removed from woods.
- Several bat species rely heavily on woodlands – the barbastelle lives mainly in broadleaved woodland and is threatened by habitat loss.



Further information and advice

Conservation organisations have information available on their websites or as factsheets and leaflets that can be posted. However, most of these organisations have limited capacity for visiting sites and offering on the ground advice to landowners and managers.

Woodland Habitats:

Forestry Commission

Advice and factsheets on general woodland creation and management, plus grant schemes.
East Midlands Tel: 01673 843461
fc.emid.mrasen@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Yorkshire and Humber Tel: 01904 448778
Fc.yath.cons@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
www.forestry.gov.uk

Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service

Offer on site land management advice and assistance on grants within the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
Tel: 01507 609740
aonb@lincswolds.org.uk www.lincswolds.org.uk

Lincolnshire Limewoods Project

Advice, assistance and grants available within the Limewoods Project area.
c/o Lincolnshire County Council
01522 554831 limewoods@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Local contacts:

Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership

Advice on site management and general wildlife.
Tel: 01507 526667
info@lincsbiodiversity.org.uk
www.lincsbiodiversity.org.uk

Lincolnshire County Council

General management advice, grants for tree planting, ponds etc.
Tel: 01522 552222 www.lincolnshire.gov.uk

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

Advice on site management and general wildlife.
Tel: 01507 526667
info@lincstrust.co.uk www.lincstrust.org.uk

North Lincolnshire Council

General advice and information (including Local Nature Reserves)
Tel: 01724 296296 www.northlincs.gov.uk

Lincolnshire Deer Group

Advice on deer management.
Tel: 01673 843461
www.lincolnshiredeergroup.co.uk

North-East Lincolnshire Council

General advice and information (including Local Nature Reserves)
Tel: 01472 313131 www.nelincs.gov.uk

Natural England

Advice and provision of funds through environmental stewardship.
Lincoln Office Tel: 0300 060 6000
Nottingham Tel: 0300 060 6000
Wakefield Office Tel: 0300 060 1863
www.naturalengland.org.uk

eastmidlands@naturalengland.org.uk
eastmidlands@naturalengland.org.uk
humber@naturalengland.org.uk

Organisations:

Bat Conservation Trust

Information on bats, bat roosts and habitat.
Tel: 020 76272629
enquiries@bats.org.uk www.bats.org.uk

Buglife

Information on invertebrates and their habitats.
Tel: 01733 201210
info@buglife.org.uk www.buglife.org.uk

Butterfly Conservation

Tel: 01929 400209 www.butterfly-conservation.org

RSPB

Tel: 01767 680551 www.rspb.org.uk

Woodland Trust

Advice on planting and managing native woodlands.
Tel: 01476 581135 www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Further Reading:

Agate E 2002 *Woodlands – A Practical Handbook*, BTCV
Agate E 2002 *Tree Planting and Aftercare – A Practical Handbook*, BTCV
Ferris-Kean R 1995 *The Ecology of Woodland Creation*, Wiley
Gilbert O and Anderson P 1998 *Habitat Creation and Repair*, Oxford University Press
Rowell JS & Paterson G 1994 *Creating New Native Woodlands*, Forestry Commission
Sutherland W J & Hill D A (eds) 1995 *Managing Habitats for Conservation*, Cambridge University Press