

## **CABINET**

<b>DATE</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
<b>REPORT OF</b>	Councillor Henry Hudson, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Net Zero
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	Carolina Borgstrom – Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Cleethorpes Country Park Management Plan
<b>STATUS</b>	Open
<b>FORWARD PLAN REF NO.</b>	CB 03/25/02

### **CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS**

North East Lincolnshire's Council Plan 2023-26 sets out our aim to develop economic growth and the green agenda through our vision of 'stronger economy, stronger communities'. One of our five key outcome areas is that people should benefit from a green economy and a high-quality environment. This is supported by our key strategic document the Natural Assets Plan, which was adopted by Cabinet in 2021.

This report sets out the council vision for a new Cleethorpes Country Park Management Plan, which builds on our goals set out in the Council Plan and our Natural Assets Plan to deliver a high-quality environment which supports residents and delivers a green economy.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report details the proposal for a new Cleethorpes Country Park Management Plan 2025-2030, as well as providing a brief update on the management of the park. The report also seeks to commemorate the Council's former Ecology Manager Mike Sleight, who was instrumental in establishing the Cleethorpes Country Park under North East Lincolnshire Council's Stewardship.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Adopts the new Cleethorpes Country Park Management Plan 2025-2030.
2. Approves the proposal of naming the Cleethorpes Country Park island, Mike Sleight Island
3. Approves the extension of Martin Wragg Way into Sleight Way, as proposed in Appendix 2 of this report.
4. Delegates authority to the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Net Zero to take all actions reasonably necessary to implement and administer the above.

## **REASONS FOR DECISION**

Adopting a new Cleethorpes Country Park Management Plan ensures the Council has an active management plan for the park that aligns its management with our strategic objectives. This also allows the Council to explore potential opportunities to further enhance the Country Park with our partners and through funding providers. The establishment of the Mike Sleight Island and Sleight Way ensures the work of the Council's former Ecology Manager, Mike Sleight, in establishing the Cleethorpes Country Park under the Council's stewardship is recognised by future generations.

### **1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES**

- 1.1. The Cleethorpes Country Park is one of North East Lincolnshire's key destination parks and was established in 1988 and is used by both residents and visitors as a public open space.
- 1.2. The Country Park also functions as one of our boroughs most nature rich areas, with an abundance of habitats and wildlife present around the park.
- 1.3. The park is designated as a country park under the Countryside Act (1968) which grants local authorities the power to designate, maintain and manage country parks.
- 1.4. As part of the Council's commitment to managing the Cleethorpes Country Park, a management plan was created and published to note the management and maintenance the Council would commit to the park over a 5-year period.
- 1.5. Much of the work to develop and deliver the previous Cleethorpes Country Park management plans was carried out by the Council's former Ecology Manager Mike Sleight, who recently passed away.
- 1.6. Mike worked tirelessly to promote, protect and enhance the Country Park so that it could be a park for both nature and people. Mike was instrumental in the development of the Country Park under the Council's management and is personally responsible for planting thousands of the trees that now reside within the park. Mike's outstanding contribution to the Country Park and his passion for our local Environment and Ecology have contributed to the lives of generations of people in our borough.
- 1.7. To commemorate Mike's tireless efforts and years of service to this borough, it is proposed that the Cleethorpes Country Park Island be named Mike Sleight Island and Martin Wragg Way be extended into a new section of the path called Sleight Way. These proposals are put forward in appendix 2 of this report.
- 1.8. The current Country Park Management plan 2015-2020, worked on by Mike Sleight, includes the site details of the country park, the condition of the habitats, the sites' infrastructure and facilities, and the public rights of way access across the site. The previous management plan also set out objectives for the country park and its management which included:

- a) To ensure an effective management structure is in place and that the Park and its management are responsive to both community needs and visitor pressure without compromising the Park's inherent wildlife value and interest
- b) To secure adequate annual funding and resources specific to the management and development of facilities and activities within the park
- c) To monitor and review management activities, species and visitors to constantly aim to improve the existing standards and ensure that management objectives are being met
- d) To maximise the biodiversity of the woodland, wetland, scrub and grassland habitats throughout the park; in particular to encourage both locally important and target species.

1.9. Our new management plan, which covers the period from 2025-2030 and is included in Appendix 1 of this report, also provides up to date information on site access, habitat condition, site infrastructure and facilities, and site details. The new plan also sets out our vision for the site which builds on the objectives of the previous management plan, themed around conserving and enhancing biodiversity whilst also ensuring the Cleethorpes Country Park is a place for community recreation and enjoyment.

1.10. The new Country Park management plan will develop on previous iterations of the plan by providing the context to the Council's current strategic priorities and how the park will align with these priorities. This includes enhancing the parks biodiversity and using the park to provide quality green space which improves people's health and wellbeing.

1.11. Another strategic priority highlighted in the new Cleethorpes Country Park management plan is the parks' role in mitigating recreational disturbance from our designated coastline. The park provides important alternative natural green space for people to use for recreational activities which reduces the pressure on the coastline. This supports the council's strategic priorities of delivering the development targets set out in our Local Plan and delivering the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan.

1.12. Alongside providing strategic context our new management plan includes details of the environmental stewardship scheme that several areas, known as compartments, are managed under. The scheme provides funding for agri-environmental management and enables the council to manage sections of the park in a more environmentally beneficial and sustainable manner.

1.13. Although this new management plan only covers routine maintenance, it should be noted that the plan provides aspirations which set out what the Council would like to achieve in Cleethorpes Country Park in the future. The delivery of these aspirations is dependent on our ability to secure funding. Aspirations for the park include:

- Improve water flow of the lake, using nature-based solutions.
- Improve the dog swimming area to provide a quality green space suitable for community recreation.

- Improve pathways and bridges to allow a more accessible route through the park which will enable more people use the park.
- Improve interpretation boards around the site, to showcase the biodiversity and educate the community.

1.14. Future Aspirations may exceed what is contained within this plan and will be added in future management plans as and where appropriate.

1.15. The Council will continue to explore opportunities to apply for funding and enhance the country park in line with the aspirations and management set out in our new Country Park Management Plan.

## **2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Adopting a new management plan for the Country Park provides the council with the opportunity to be able to deliver its strategic priorities at the Country Park and it could also improve our ability to apply for external funding to enhance the Cleethorpes Country Park.

## **3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

**Do Nothing** – To do nothing would mean that the council would not have an active Cleethorpes Country Park Management Plan in place. This would negatively impact our ability to deliver the council's strategic objectives.

## **4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS**

There are potential positive reputational implications for the Council resulting from the decision to adopt the Cleethorpes Country Park Management Plan 2025-2030. An action plan will be agreed with the Council's communications service to deliver the Cleethorpes Country Park Management Plan.

## **5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

5.1. Financial implications from the ongoing routine maintenance outlined within the Cleethorpes Country Park Management Plan will be covered by existing revenue budgets.

5.2. The Cleethorpes Country Park Management Plan does not cover the cost of backlog maintenance or works within the park. Further funding will need to be sought to address backlog works in the park, not covered within the Cleethorpes Country Park Management Plan or the current Capital funding works.

## **6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS**

The Cleethorpes Country Park Management Plan outlines the Council's commitment to continued maintenance and management of the park. This will ensure that children and young people across our borough have access to the Cleethorpes Country Park. This will provide recreational opportunities for children and young people as well as education and health benefits from having access to a large and fully publicly accessible green space.

## **7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no expected negative environmental implications from the Cleethorpes Country Park Management Plan. The plan aims to enhance biodiversity within the Country Park and ensures continued maintenance and management of the park. This will have a positive impact on the environment. There are no Biodiversity Net Gain implications expected.

## **8. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY**

Consultation with Communities Scrutiny took place on 21/11/24. All feedback and comments on the plan were received by officers, with no changes to the plan recommended by Communities Scrutiny.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendation to adopt the new Cleethorpes Country Park Management Plan 2025-2030, with ongoing routine maintenance covered by existing budgets. As stated in the financial considerations above, further funding will be required to undertake backlog maintenance works.

## **10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1. As set out above, adoption of the above plan will position the Council to better enable it to meet its obligations and realise further opportunities.

10.2. The delegations sought are appropriate. Ultimately the Portfolio Holder has constitutional authority to approve any future modifications to a policy touching upon the services within the Portfolio Holders defined remit, even those having a borough wide application.

## **11. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

## **12. WARD IMPLICATIONS**

Haverstoe Ward.

## **13. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny Briefing Note: Cleethorpes Country Park (14/03/2024)

Communities Scrutiny Briefing Note: Cleethorpes Country Park (23/08/2024)

Communities Scrutiny Briefing Note: Cleethorpes County Park Management Plan  
(21/11/24)

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AND NET ZERO**



# **Cleethorpes Country Park Management Plan 2025-2030**

## 1. Forward

Parks and open spaces can be havens for wildlife, places for quiet relaxation and reflection, venues for healthy exercise, areas for play, and focal points for the community. For these reasons, parks and open spaces have a significant role in providing communities with a balanced and agreeable quality of life. North East Lincolnshire is therefore fortunate to have several high quality and accessible parks and open spaces scattered across the area. Each with its own charm; each serving its own community.

Above all, parks make a key contribution to the image and identity of our local area. Our vision for parks is that there will be a diverse network of safe, accessible, and attractive green spaces that are well managed and maintained, through community participation, to enhance the quality of life, sense of well-being, health and learning opportunities for all sections of the community.

The Council is committed to creating spaces that are safe, clean, and maintained. In partnership with the funding bodies and many other partners, North East Lincolnshire Council is pleased to be able to preserve and enhance this special place for future generations to enjoy.

## 2. Table of Contents

1. Forward.....	2
2. Table of Contents .....	2
3. Background and Purpose of the Management Plan .....	4
4. Vision for the Park .....	4
5. Strategic Context of the Management Plan .....	5
6. Site Description .....	6
6.1 Description of Cleethorpes Country Park.....	10
6.2 Environmental Stewardship Agreement .....	12
7. Physical Assets .....	13
8. Historical Heritage .....	18
9. Value Assessments.....	19
9.1. Heritage Value.....	19
9.2. Educational Value.....	20
9.3. Recreational Value.....	20
9.4. Amenity Value .....	20
9.5. Environmental and Ecological Value .....	21
10. Management Responsibilities / Management and Development of the Park.....	24



10.1 Main Entrance 1 .....	24
10.2 Grassland 2 .....	25
10.3 Grassland 3 .....	26
10.4 Lake 4 .....	27
10.5 Grassland 5 .....	28
10.6 Grassland 6 and 7 .....	29
10.7 Grassland 8 .....	30
10.8 Woodland 9 .....	31
10.9 Grazing Area 10 .....	32
10.10 Grazing Area 11 .....	33
10.11 Wildflower/Grazing Area 12 .....	34
10.12 Grazing area 13 .....	35
10.13 Grassland 14 .....	36
10.14 Area 15 .....	37
10.15 Woodlands .....	38
11. Health and Safety .....	39
12. Involving Communities .....	39
13. Marketing and Communications .....	39
14. Monitoring and Reviews .....	40
15. Aspirations for the Park .....	40
16. Routine Maintenance Schedule .....	41
Appendices .....	42
Appendix 1 - Botanical Survey Areas Map .....	42
Appendix 2 – Species List .....	42

### 3. Background and Purpose of the Management Plan

Cleethorpes Country Park is a 64-hectare green oasis, providing a wide range of habitats for the enjoyment of the local community and visitors. Work to establish the park began in 1988, and since then it has become an important habitat for animals and plant life. It is a peaceful stretch of the countryside easily accessible by residents and visitors to the area.

Its main purpose is to provide an area of countryside for informal recreation by the public, primarily for the local communities of Humberston and Cleethorpes. The site is managed by North East Lincolnshire Council.

Cleethorpes Country Park was created under the Countryside Act 1968. The Act states that the purpose of a country park is *‘to provide or improve opportunities for the enjoyment of the countryside by the public.’*

The purpose of this plan is to detail the current state of the site and its management regimes, and to set out how we intend to manage the site for the next five years. The previous plan covered the period from 2015-2020. Since then, there have been some changes in many areas affecting how we manage parks and open spaces:

- External funding availability
- Council’s own budgets
- Knowledge of how to manage habitats and species
- Greater emphasis on the role of open space and nature in positive mental health and wellbeing
- A more strident move towards reducing carbon emissions
- Great emphasis on active travel
- Climate change predictions and a local declaration of a climate emergency
- Changes to the laws for protecting and enhancing the environment

### 4. Vision for the Park

The park was established for the enjoyment of residents, and within that brief we have identified the following as a vision for the next five years:

- Community recreation and enjoyment, and for learning opportunities
- Quality green space to support people’s health and wellbeing
- Mitigation of human pressures on designated coastal sites
- Improvement of existing habitats for greater biodiversity, including rarer species
- Developing the park as a showcase for green assets
- Potential use of the park for provision of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) units.

The motivation for operational management will be based on:

- Increasing biodiversity

- Developing pride in the park
- Using nature-based solutions to enable improvements
- Reducing costs and seeking appropriate external funding

## 5. Strategic Context of the Management Plan

The UK Government set out a 25-year Environment Plan in 2018, and since then has been introducing laws and policies to protect and enhance green assets. In 2021 the Environment Act paved the way for all developments to mitigate for habitat loss and provide a 10% gain; this came into force in February 2024. The Act also requires the creation of area-wide local nature recovery strategies, in our case covering Greater Lincolnshire. Both policies will contribute to the country's nature recovery network and the target of no net loss of species after 2030, with 30% of land being dedicated to nature.

As a result of the Agriculture Act 2020, changes in payments to land managers will see a move towards more payments for 'public goods', such as nature recovery. This is important for Cleethorpes Country Park, as it currently benefits from the mid-tier payments for the Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

Like many other public authorities, the council has declared a climate emergency and has subsequently adopted a Zero Carbon Roadmap. This sets out how the council will reduce its own carbon emissions and identifies opportunities to help others to do the same. Alongside this the Council adopted a Natural Assets Plan, which sets out our strategic positions and actions for land use, nature, trees and woodlands and water and air quality management. Cleethorpes Country Park is seen as an important natural asset for the services it provides.

In the North East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2013-2032 (adopted in 2018) Policy 43 sets out the importance of green space and recreation, Policy 40 covers developing a green infrastructure network and Policy 41 covers biodiversity. These policies serve to maintain and enhance the character of the area. Cleethorpes Country Park is a key feature in the green infrastructure network and provides a valued green space between Cleethorpes and Humberston. The operational actions arising here serve to meet the policy requirements of the Local Plan.

## 6. Site Description

Site Details	
<b>Name</b>	Cleethorpes Country Park
<b>Location</b>	Park Lane, Cleethorpes, North East Lincolnshire, DN35 0UG
<b>Electoral Ward</b>	Haverstoe
<b>Grid Reference</b>	The OS reference for the park is TA305067. Grid reference; 530840406601
<b>Area</b>	Sixty-four hectares
<b>Tenure</b>	Lease hold (999-year lease)
<b>Maintenance</b>	The site is managed and maintained by North East Lincolnshire Council

### Access on foot

There are paths to the country park through the housing estate on Park Lane, as with ordinary car access. Alternative routes on foot can be found on Grimsby Road (A1031) and along the seafront on Kings Road then along Buck Beck, from Links Road, and from Rosemary Way, Cleethorpes.

### Access by vehicle from Grimsby

Travel to Grimsby on the M180 motorway then join the A180. At the fourth roundabout turn right on to Victoria Street A16 'Peaks Parkway' south towards New Waltham, and a left turn down Hewitt's Avenue (A1098) towards Cleethorpes. The A1031 (Humberston Road) is the easiest route to take from here, right at the roundabout after the Tesco superstore. Park Lane where the country park entrance is located is the first left at the next roundabout on this road. Access from the A16 northbound requires a right turn onto the A1098.

### Access by vehicle from Cleethorpes

The most straightforward route from Cleethorpes town centre would be to follow the seafront along Kings Road and take a right at North Sea Lane, and Park Lane will be the third left at the next available roundabout.

### By Bicycle

Cyclists can also access the site from the north and south entrances.

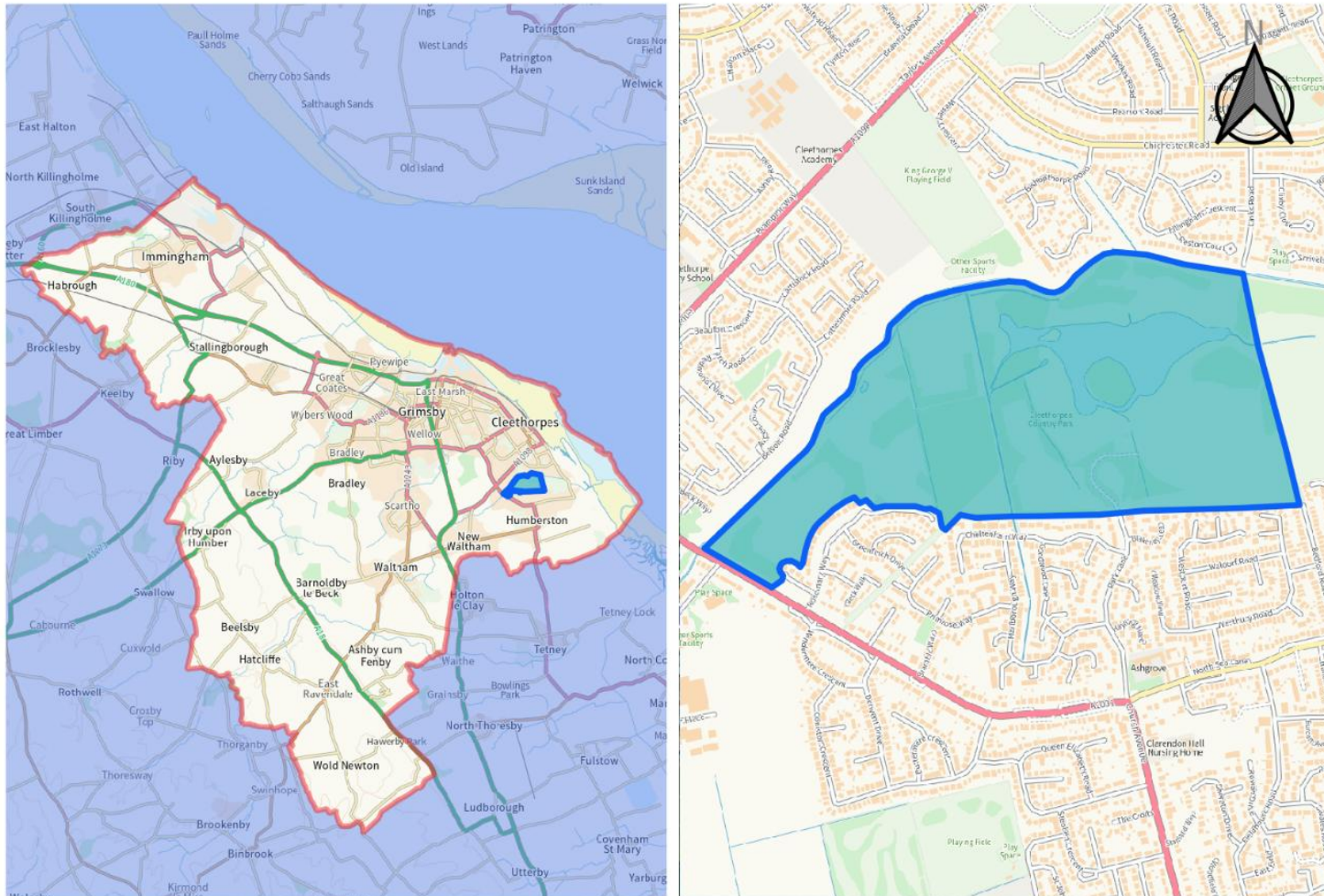
### Public Transport Access

Stagecoach Grimsby-Cleethorpes runs a comprehensive service on the number 9 bus that runs down the seafront. Services 7 and 8 operate on North Sea Lane and the A1031. All operate from Grimsby bus station.

### Access within the site

There is a network of tracks and paths through the park. The main pathways around the site are hard-surface and level to facilitate access, most pathways are suitable for wheelchair users.

## Cleethorpes Country Park Location Map



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## Cleethorpes Country Park Site Plan



## 6.1 Description of Cleethorpes Country Park

The following table of features of nature conservation important to Cleethorpes Country Park:

Area habitats		
Habitat type	Area (ha)	Discrete habitats
Fen, marsh and swamp	0.68	Reedbed
Grassland	39.04	Neutral grassland, modified grassland
Scrub	1.05	Mixed scrub
Urban	1.15	Buildings, built up areas and gardens, other developed land
Water	4.45	Eutrophic standing waters, standing open water and canals
Woodland	16.45	Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland, lowland mixed deciduous woodland

Linear habitats		
Habitat type	Length (m)	Discrete habitats
Hedgerow	1472	Ancient hedgerow, other hedgerows, line of trees
Watercourse	2993	Rivers and streams, standing open water and canals

### Lake

Covering approximately 4.4 hectares, the Lake is the most prominent feature of the country park. It is entirely man made and has engineered banks. The artificial banks include pre-planted coir rolls of varying levels of establishment. Despite such modified elements to the Lake, it attracts a range of waterfowl and waders. Furthermore, it is a popular visitor attraction, with the waterfowl being a main draw. The northwest part of the lake has undergone succession from around 2015 onwards.

The lake's island was separated off after 2008 and is now inaccessible by foot, providing important, undisturbed habitat for many species. Previously having two halves, with grassland and small areas of scrub on the western side and plantation woodland on the eastern side, the island is now covered entirely by broadleaved woodland, a locally scarce habitat.

### Wetland

Wetland habitat at the country park includes three different sub-divisions, namely marshy grassland and scrapes, ditches and reedbed. Ditches and reedbed are both



interconnected, based upon hydrological regimes and the general dominance of permanently waterlogged depressions. Marshy grassland, however, is quite different due to the requirement of grazing management to maintain the desired vegetation structure, and the dominance of seasonally waterlogged, as opposed to permanently waterlogged ground.

Reedbed is present at the northwestern part of the lake and in smaller areas elsewhere in the park, usually associated with ditches and drains. This has a characteristic composition of common reed, together with less frequent species such as reedmace, sea club-rush, soft rush, and false fox sedge.

Ditches are extensive covering over two thousand linear metres. The ditches support a diverse rush and sedge flora. The non-native New Zealand pigmyweed is present in one section of ditch.

Where the water table of the ditches is particularly high, this has resulted in the flooding of adjoining land to form marshy grassland here, locally distinctive species such as slender spike rush and brown sedge may be found. These wetland communities are particularly important for a range of associated priority species. This includes water vole, reed bunting and the legally protected kingfisher. A key factor affecting wetland habitat is its ease of recreation under a suitable hydrological regime.

## **Woodland**

Planted blocks of woodland cover approximately 16 hectares of the site. Species used are typical of woodland planting schemes, with broadleaved species being favoured, and with poplar (*Populus ssp.*). The stands are mostly even aged, with most trees planted within the last 30 years. As such, some are still developing a typical woodland structure, with shrub and field layers and an abundance of dead wood. Woodland was planted as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in the northeast of the park, along Buck Beck, in 2013. Woodland is scarce in Northern Lincolnshire, therefore the developing woodland at the country park has the potential to become a valuable resource in the region.

## **Grassland**

There are four types of grassland habitat at Cleethorpes Country Park all requiring different forms of management. These include hay meadow, grazed rough pasture, ungrazed rough grassland (these categorised under 'neutral grassland'), and modified grassland.

## **Hedgerows**

Ancient hedgerows form one of the most notable features of the country park. They are structurally of immense value, with wide bases and standard trees throughout. This structure is suited to a wide range of fauna, of which the less mobile species can commute along the length of these wildlife corridors, which covers a total of

approximately 530 linear metres. Their antiquity value is considerable, with some of the ancient hedgerows dating back to the 15th Century. Other hedgerows across the county park cover a total of over 3000 linear metres. Although not of equivalent ecological value as the ancient hedgerows described by this feature, the younger hedgerows should be considered as 'tomorrow's ancient hedgerows'. They have an equally important function to play, acting as natural corridors along which species of mammal; amphibian and less mobile invertebrates can disperse. As the woodland coverage of the park has increased many of the hedgerows have grown out or are indistinguishable due to being directly next to woodland areas but still provide valuable habitat and dispersal routes for many species.

### **Scrub**

This important, yet often neglected form of habitat is present across the whole of the country park, either naturally established in discrete patches, or amongst areas of planted woodland. Although the presence of scrub merits conservation effort, this is best achieved by allowing for elements of scrub in both the woodland and grassland features. Amongst these features, scrub provides structural diversity, with a correspondingly broad range of microhabitats. This in turn promotes a greater diversity of associated fauna.

### **Priority Species**

Several priority species have been recorded from the site, including water vole, song thrush, reed bunting, linnet, and skylark. The species of bird could be considered as typical 'farmland birds', associated with open countryside, mosaics of field margins, hedgerows, ditches, and more mature trees, amongst which they can forage and breed. Water vole has a large population, concentrated along the Kingfisher Drain. This species favours the frequent maintenance of the drain by the Internal Drainage Board (IDB), which helps keep the ditches open and free flowing.

## **6.2 Environmental Stewardship Agreement**

An Environmental Stewardship is an Agri-environment scheme that provides funding to farms and other land managers in England who deliver effective environmental management on their land.

The primary objectives of Environmental Stewardship are to:

- Conserve wildlife (biodiversity).
- Maintain and enhance landscape quality and character, by helping to maintain key features such as traditional field boundaries.
- Protect the historic environment, including archaeological features and traditional farm buildings.
- Promote public access and understanding of the countryside.

- Protect natural resources, by improving water quality and reducing soil erosion and surface run-off.

Several compartments within the country park are managed under an Environmental Stewardship Agreement. In 2022 a new Stewardship agreement was set in place, which is delivered by Natural England and North East Lincolnshire Council. The Stewardship Agreement provides some funding to manage areas of the site, and it also funds the grazing of livestock on the park between April and October. This is in agreement with a local grazier. Livestock are only allowed on an area of hay meadow (known locally as Mike's meadow) from August to October.

The management of the site is divided in to compartments to align management practices to those specified within the Stewardship Agreement.

## 7. Physical Assets

It is essential to fully understand the physical assets of the park including both natural and fabricated features. This will assist in determining the strengths and weaknesses in the information base for the park. This in turn will provide a better understanding of the context of the park and inform how we might develop and effectively manage the park for the future.

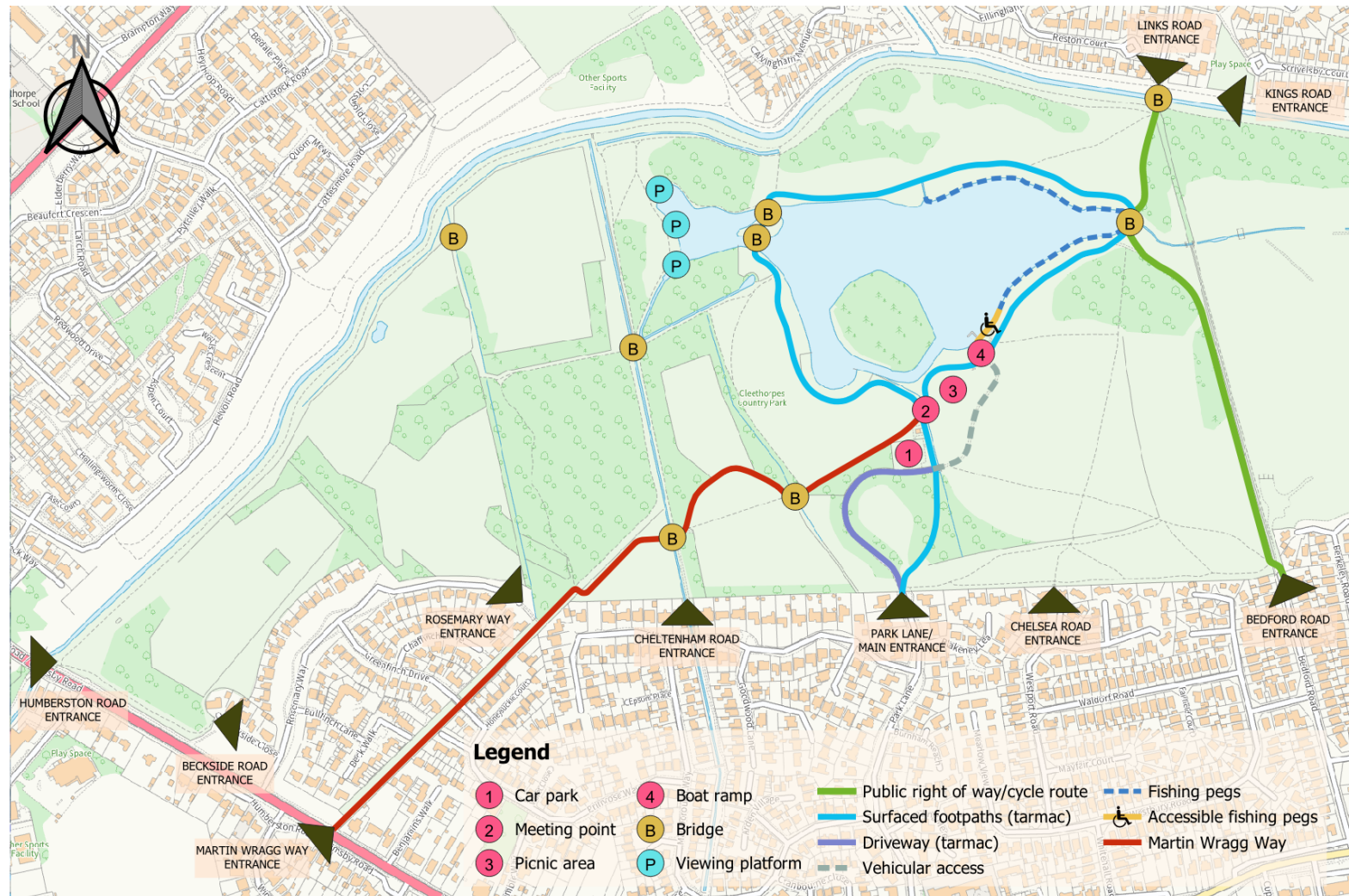
Cleethorpes Country Park attracts regular users from Cleethorpes, Grimsby, and the surrounding area along, with visitors from further afield. There is a varied number of facilities to attract both visitors and regular users of all ages and abilities.

### Entrances

The main vehicular entrance is from Park Lane, Cleethorpes. There are approximately fifty unmarked parking spaces in the main car park, surfaced in tarmac, three of which are designated for disabled drivers.

There is open pedestrian access to the full site, although access from the north is restricted to one pedestrian bridge over Buck Beck. Primary footpaths are surfaced in tarmac. Martin Wragg Way is surfaced with self-binding gravel. A series of informal, auxiliary paths connect to other areas of the site, these are mown paths or desire lines which are un-surfaced and include gates. There are nine entrances to the country park. The following diagram provides information on the site facilities.

## Cleethorpes Country Park Amenities Map



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## Walks

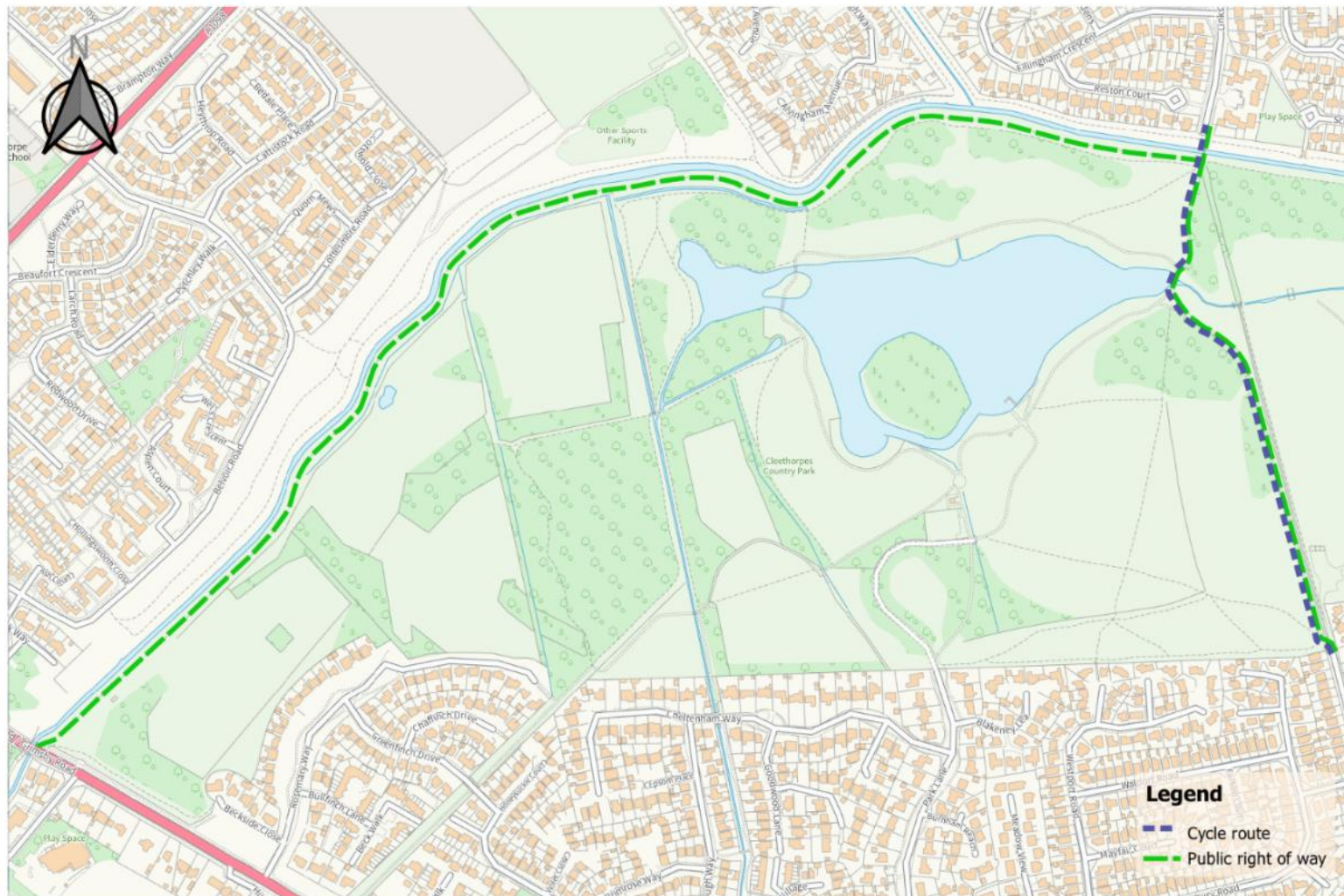
The country park offers a range of walks through different habitats, with excellent views and interesting features. There are three specific coloured walk routes around the site which are provided on the interpretation board located in the park. The walks map highlights these routes around the park.

### Cleethorpes Country Park Walks Map





## Cleethorpes Country Park Public Right of Way Map



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## **Signage**

There is welcome signage at all entrances to the country park and on the car park. There are interpretation boards, which are located close to the lake area.

## **Seating**

There are a several benches and picnic benches located around the park, including an accessible picnic bench.

## **Bridges**

There are several pedestrian bridges located around the country park. These are constructed from timber and anti-skid surfacing. It is important that the bridges are maintained for access and health and safety reasons, as well as to maintain an overall positive impression of the park.

## **Dog Walks**

One of the main reasons for visiting the park is to 'walk the dog', and responsible dog owners are welcome. The dog walks comprise a network of informal mown paths which are indicated around the site by timber marker posts. Dogs are not restricted to being on a lead, although in bird nesting seasons, dog owners are encouraged to keep their dogs under close control. There is also a designated 'dog swimming area' in the lake.

## **Provision for Anglers**

Angling provision is provided within the country park which meets competition standard. There are thirty fishing pegs; three of which are designated for disabled anglers. Anglers must hold a valid rod licence (for ages twelve and over) and a fishing permit (available from Tourist Information Office, Cleethorpes) to fish on the Lake.

## **Viewing Platforms**

There are three viewing platforms located along the western edge of the lake; these can be used formally during educational visits to the park.

## **Fencing**

A variety of types of fencing have been used around the country park, Lincolnshire style timber post and rail, timber post and wire, and timber post and mesh (dog proof fencing). The design of fencing is standardised, and consideration is given to new hedgerow planting alongside post and wire fencing. Other forms of barrier within the site include timber bollards.

## Wildlife

A wide range of bird species can be seen on the lake, particularly during the winter. Species include, grey herons, great crested grebes, mallards, mute swans, tufted ducks, coots, moorhens, cormorants, pochards and teals. Insect life is even more plentiful – butterflies, moths, damsel, and dragon flies thrive. Animal life includes foxes, shrews, amphibians, and water voles.

## The Island

The island was previously an integral part of the country park, however, there was much disturbance in this area by anglers, dog walkers and other users of the site. The area also suffered from vandalism. This had the effect of discouraging birds from using the Lake, either as a stop off (migration route) whilst over wintering or whilst breeding in the spring and summer months. It was for this reason that it was agreed that a specific island should be created to help protect the wildlife.

## 8. Historical Heritage

Prior to the sites designation as a country park and local natural reserve the land was once open farmland.

It was first recognised by Lindsey County Council, in 1972, that there was a need for a country park in the North East Lincolnshire area.

This was then confirmed in 1979 by Humberside County Council. In addition, policies for housing land in Grimsby and Cleethorpes first identified the site and its primary function. Namely that "the area between Buck Beck and Humberston Road shall be for uses primarily of an open nature" and "care will be taken to avoid collision of existing settlements".

More specific proposals appeared in the draft Cleethorpes District Plan of 1980. This report formed the future thinking and development of a country park.

In recognition of these policies, the borough council employed Land Use Consultants to investigate the feasibility of developing a country park between Cleethorpes and Humberston. Their report was submitted with the conclusion that "the protection of the open area can best be maintained by the creation of a country park, which retains an agricultural character and presence".

The next step forward was in 1986 when a planning document was published called "The Way Forward". This dealt with the park in some detail. It also included a brief to "function as a framework for development of a country park".

The objectives drawn up for this brief were: -

- To provide a theme 'Peace in the Countryside' for the park.
- To retain the open nature of the site.



- To improve the choice of leisure facilities available within the borough and provide a contrast with other attractions of the resort.
- To encourage the retention of some agricultural uses on the site whilst providing for public access for informal recreation.
- To provide sufficient access and car parking facilities for visitors and commercial agricultural users.
- To encourage enhancement of the rural landscape and create a sense of separation from the urban areas by sensitive tree planting.

As this framework was developed, negotiations with landowners and interested parties were going on, and 39 ha of land between Cleethorpes and Humberston came up under a long lease. Having acquired this land work began in earnest and, in October 1988, a Master Plan was finally presented to and adopted by the Borough Council.

From the above outline of earlier policy and detailed knowledge of the site and its location, the role and aims of the park were derived in the Interim

### **The Role of Cleethorpes Country Park**

- To avoid the coalescence of Cleethorpes and Humberston.
- To fulfil the sub-regional need for a facility of this type.
- To provide an attractive gateway to the wider countryside.
- To fulfil the sub-regional need for an educational resource for the appreciation and study of the natural environment.
- And mitigate recreational disturbance and damage of the Humber Estuary designated features

Cleethorpes Country Park was formally opened to the public in March 1996 and has since developed into an area in which nature has thrived. In 2008 the ecological and environmental significance of the park was officially recognised by its declaration as a Local Nature Reserve. The park, as well as Buck Beck East, were designated as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) in 2009, passing LWS criteria NG1, Flo3, Sta2, Sw1, and Sw2.

## **9. Value Assessments**

### **9.1. Heritage Value**

Historical features are still evident in Cleethorpes Country Park, namely two of the hedgerows which are of historic interest.

Before the creation of the country park the land was managed as an agricultural holding, with rough grazed pasture across the whole site. Historically the network of ditches would have flooded in places, especially in the winter, providing valuable grazed marsh habitat.

## 9.2. Educational Value

Cleethorpes Country Park provides an invaluable educational resource, complimenting other resources available elsewhere in the locality.

Residents in the Cleethorpes, Humberston, and Grimsby area have access to the park's function as an outdoor classroom, providing an educational resource for local schools, colleges, and communities. Viewing platforms are accessible for educational purposes as the community familiarises themselves with the local wildlife and plants.

## 9.3. Recreational Value

The park's main purpose is to provide an area of countryside for informal recreation for the public, primarily for the local communities of Humberston and Cleethorpes. It serves the community and provides a variety of activities for a diverse interest and age range.

As the main public park serving the area, the park offers visitors opportunities for casual walking, dog walking, bird watching, angling, cycling, jogging, and investigating nature. Dogs have a designated 'dog swimming area' in the lake.

Cleethorpes parkrun takes place in the park every Saturday at 9:00am and is free to join.

## 9.4. Amenity Value

Covering an area of approximately sixty-four hectares the park is recognised as being integral to the heritage, visual amenity, and wildlife value of Cleethorpes, providing a valuable 'breathing space' in a more built-up area.

Particularly given its location it provides an essential amenity resource for the town, offering extensive recreational facilities and forming an oasis within the urbanised community of Cleethorpes and Grimsby. This amenity value can have a significant impact on the health, wellbeing, and quality of life for residents.

The corresponding economic value of the park is also significant as the park provides a resource that will attract economic activity in the area, which supports local tourism to compliment Cleethorpes beachfront.

The amenity value of Cleethorpes Country Park is readily accessible on foot and the country park is crossed by one statutory Public Right of Way (PROW) in the east, which is also an off-road cycle route, PROW reference 'Cleethorpes Footpath No 1'. A second footpath (PROW reference 'Cleethorpes Footpath No 3') runs alongside the northern boundary of the park.

## 9.5. Environmental and Ecological Value

Due to the park's location within the boundaries of several linear wildlife corridors, Cleethorpes Country Park assists in the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of plant and animal species. Previous ecological studies have identified the habitats within the park which support a range of flora and fauna.

Future development, management and maintenance of the park will aim to prevent fragmentation or disturbance of these areas and recognise the importance of the park in the protection of identified habitats and species.

### **Hydrology**

There is no detailed hydrological assessment of the area. Buck Beck flows across the northern edge of the site, just outside the site boundary. An artificial lake is located near the centre of the site. This is fed by the 'Kingfisher Drain,' which flows in from the adjoining housing estate. The outflow from the Lake is at its eastern end, where it flows through the neighbouring golf course and into the Buck Beck, which in turn terminates at the mouth of the Humber. A series of dysfunctional ditches are also scattered across the country park. These are relicts of the former agricultural land-use, now acting as 'linear ponds,' with some sections being seasonally dry.

### **Geology and Soils**

The bedrock in this area is chalk, formed approximately 72-86 million years ago, made from sediment laid down in warm seas, when the land that forms England was about at the position of North Africa. On top of this are many metres of rock and sediment left behind by ice and meltwater during the ice ages.

There is no more detailed geological assessment of the area. Previous excavation to form the lake has revealed a heavy clay subsoil. The surface layer (litter and humus) is poorly developed, as is the topsoil horizon. Waterlogging is a regular feature of the soils across most parts of the country park, largely because of the impervious clay subsoil.

### **Landform and Topography**

The country park is generally low lying, around 5 m AOD. In some areas, the landform within the park has been sculpted to form a varied topography on what was formerly flat agricultural land. In particular, the excavation of the lake has enabled the creation of several raised mounds on the eastern side of the site. The surrounding landscape is markedly flat, which is typical of the Lincolnshire coastal fringe.

### **Habitats**

Given the recent origin of the country park mature established habitat such as ancient grassland or woodland is absent. However, some hedgerows in the eastern part of the

park are an ancient example of a former agricultural landscape. Further, the ditches are also likely to be of some age, especially the Kingfisher Drain and northern perimeter drain.

## Flora

Most flora has been introduced to the country park, with large areas of grassland reseeded to provide instant cover, and trees planted in blocks forming even-aged stands. However, noteworthy plants are present in the ditches and hedgerows, surviving as remnants from the previous agricultural land use, when boundary features played a key role in the functioning of the farm. The ditches and associated wet margins for instance, support a rich flora of sedges and rushes, including the locally distributed slender spike rush *Eleocharis uniglumis*, both species of pond sedge *Carex acutiformis* and *Carex riparia*, false fox sedge *Carex otrubae* and brown sedge *Carex disticha*.

The invasive, non-native plant New Zealand pigmyweed *Crassula helmsii* has taken over a section of ditch close to the lake. Woody species associated with the hedgerow include blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, apple *Malus sp.*, wild plum *Prunus domestica*, rose *Rosa sp.* and copiced ash *Fraxinus excelsior* stools. A small population of the locally distributed southern marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* is located alongside a ditch near the entrance of the country park.

A list of plant species present in the country park can be found in Appendix 2.

## Fauna

The Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre (LERC, Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership) holds records of fauna for the country park. Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*), common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and Daubenton's (*Myotis daubentonii*) bats have been recorded on and around the country park since 2014; this information is held by the environmental records centre.

Historically, a water vole survey was undertaken in March 2000 and the results are held with the Ecology Manager. The most recent record of water vole, held by LERC, was in 2013. A large concentration of water vole was centred around the wetland areas and ditches to the west of the Lake. Due to the consistent biodiversity around the wetland areas we expect there are still water voles in the Country Park. Local naturalists have kept incidental records of birds and invertebrates (namely butterflies) for several years.

## Landscape

Cleethorpes Country Park has an edge of town, rural/agricultural fringe, landscape character. Key landscape features comprise, fields, drainage ditches, mature and not so mature hedgerows, other field boundaries including post and wire and post and rail fences, grasslands, a large lake, earth mounds, and young woodland blocks. The Country Park is currently an open landscape. Existing woodland blocks have not yet reached maturity; most trees are around 5 m in height. The Park is bound by modern

housing estates and local roads; however, built form within the park is limited to a single storey brick building which is adjacent to the car park. Detractors are present in the form of overhead electricity cables and pylons which cross over the park from north to south. The site lies in the Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes National Character Area. This area is characterised by a flat topography, which is under arable cultivation, extending towards the coastal plain.

Habitats that are rich in wildlife include neutral grassland and wet grasslands near the coast, these support large numbers of wildfowl and coastal birds such as lapwing, snipe, and redshank. The increased pressures of urbanisation and agricultural intensification (notably drainage) has caused losses of most of this habitat. Accordingly, freshwater habitats are plentiful, particularly drainage ditches, which, with their associated reedbed habitat, support a great diversity of wildlife. Woodland is restricted to concentrations on the heavy boulder clay twenty-four between the Middle Marsh and the Wolds, this mainly comprises old hazel and ash coppices.



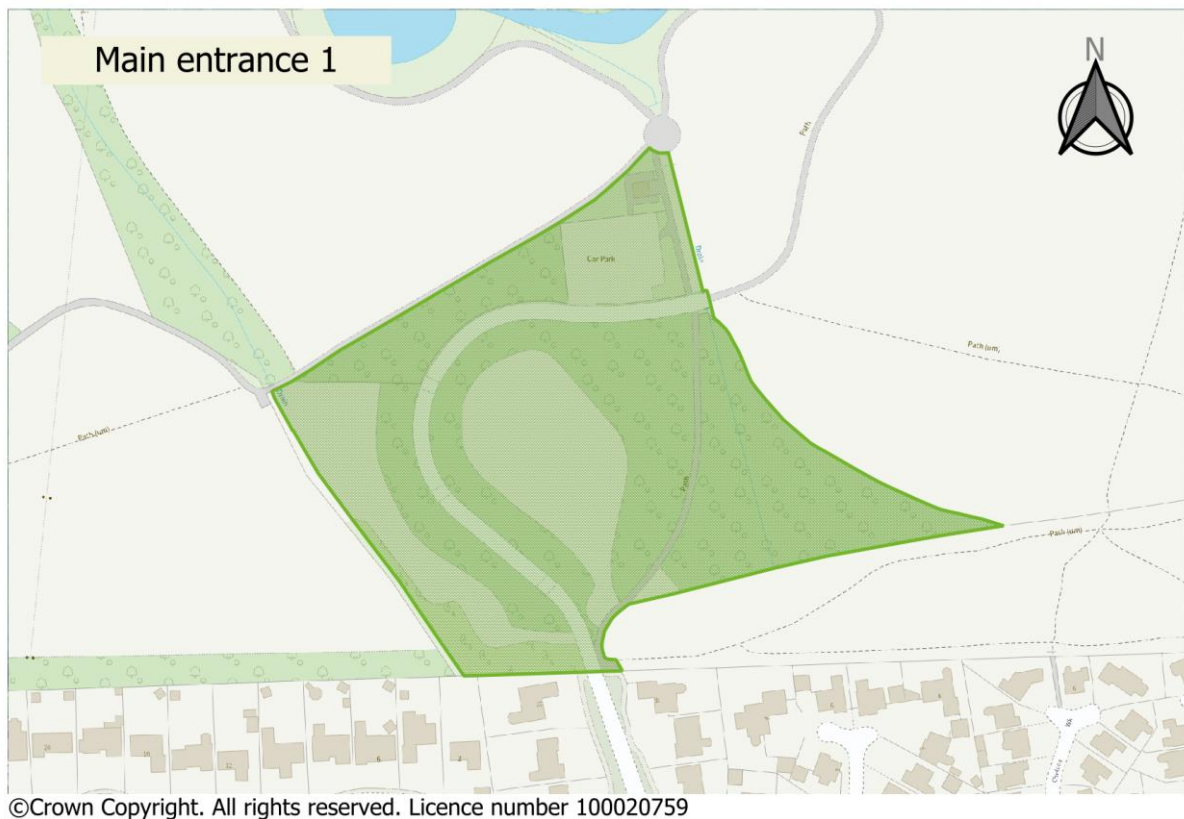
Figure: Collection of photographs of Cleethorpes Country Park (Discover North East Lincolnshire)



## 10. Management Responsibilities / Management and Development of the Park

Management of the various compartments is as follows:

### 10.1 Main Entrance 1



#### Habitat

This compartment is the main entrance and car park, accessible from Park Lane. It consists of woodland, amenity grass, scrub and a ditch. Japanese knotweed is present.

#### Pressure

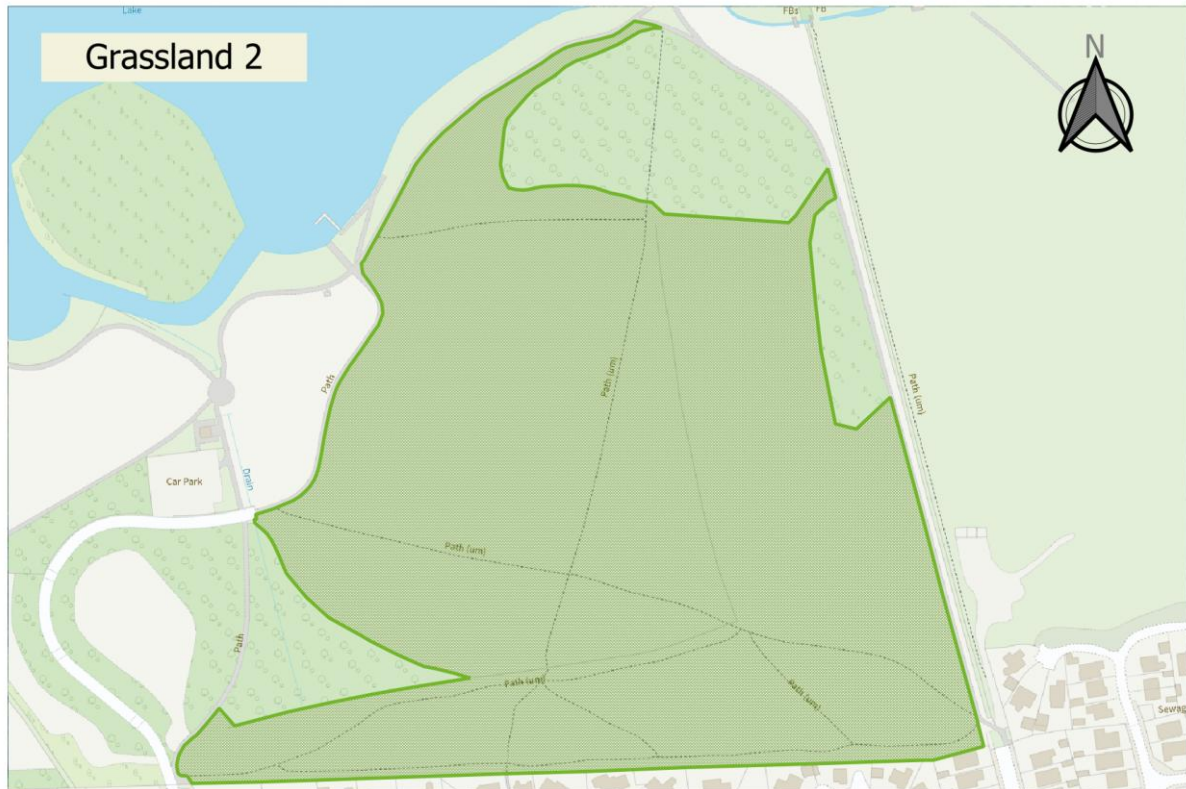
There is occasional damage from antisocial behaviour.

#### Maintenance / Activities

- Cut grass to amenity grass specification.
- Litter pick.
- Maintain 1m breed along hard surfaced path.
- Maintenance of infrastructure
  - Access gates
  - Signage

- Car park
- Fencing
- Bins
- Japanese knotweed controlled by spraying regime.

## 10.2 Grassland 2



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### Habitat

This area is wildflower meadow managed by hay cutting. Ancient hedgerow is present.

### Pressure

There is little pressure on this area.

### Maintenance / Activities

- Litter pick.
- Wildflower meadow to be managed in accordance with stewardship agreement and cut and bailed in late summer.
- Maintain 1m breed along hard surfaced path.
- Botanical surveys will be conducted to monitor the habitat.
- Hedgerows are managed for ecological value.

## 10.3 Grassland 3



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### Habitat

This area is on the north side of the lake and comprises woodland and grassland. Alongside the woodland to the east is a drain and a wet area of grassland.

### Pressure

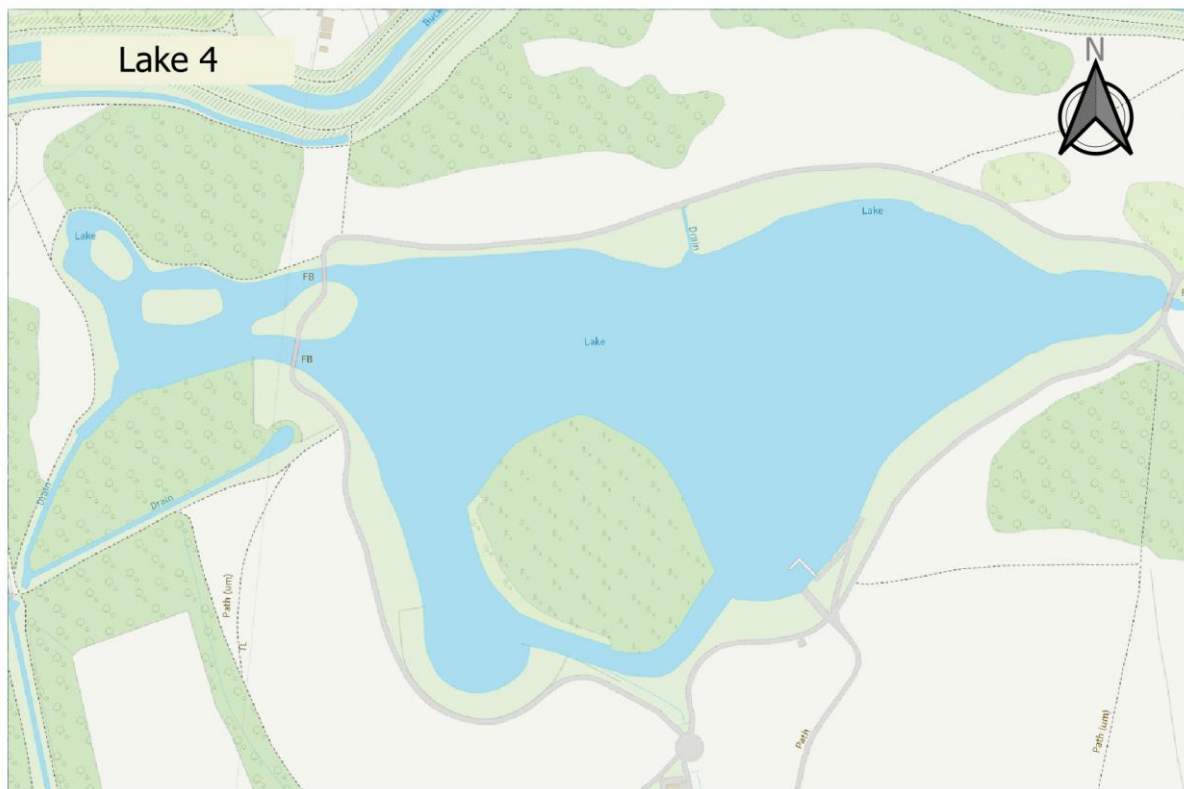
There is little pressure on this area.

### Maintenance / Activities

- Litter pick.
- Maintain 1m breed along hard surfaced path.
- Footpath maintenance.
- Memorial benches



## 10.4 Lake 4



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### Habitat

The lake is in the centre of the main park with reed beds skirting the edges. On the south side, there is an island and two more islands on the west side, in what is known as the nature area. The habitats are water body and reed beds. On the northern bank of the nature area is a small woodland.

### Pressure

The main lake is used for fishing. There could be pressure on the wildlife from these activities with disturbance and litter.

### Maintenance / Activities

- The grass in the area is not to be cut.
- Litter pick.
- Maintain a channel between wooden bridge island and north and south banks.
- Monitor invasive species, such as New Zealand Pygmy Weed and conduct actions as appropriate.
- Fishing peg maintenance – reed and scrub management

## 10.5 Grassland 5



### Habitat

This is grassland with amenity dog walking footpath going through it.

### Pressure

There is little pressure in this area.

### Maintenance / Activities

- Litter pick.
- Grassland to be managed in accordance with stewardship agreement.
- Undesirable species to be treated with weed wiper or spot treatment.
- Maintain 1m breed amenity grass on both sides of the path.

## 10.6 Grassland 6 and 7



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### Habitat

Semi-improved/rough grassland. This area is just before the north south drain. This consists of two fields that were previously managed for donkeys but is now maintained as grassland.

### Maintenance / Activities

- Litter pick.

## 10.7 Grassland 8



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### Habitat

This is a small grassland area with Martin Wragg Way going through it, with another possible ancient hedgerow to the north.

### Pressure

There is little pressure on this area.

### Maintenance / Activities

- Litter pick.
- Grassland managed in accordance with stewardship agreement.
- Hedgerow managed in accordance with stewardship agreement.
- Spot-treat undesirable species
- Maintain 1m amenity grass on both sides of hard surfaced path.



## 10.8 Woodland 9



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### **Habitat**

Scrubland with a good mix of trees.

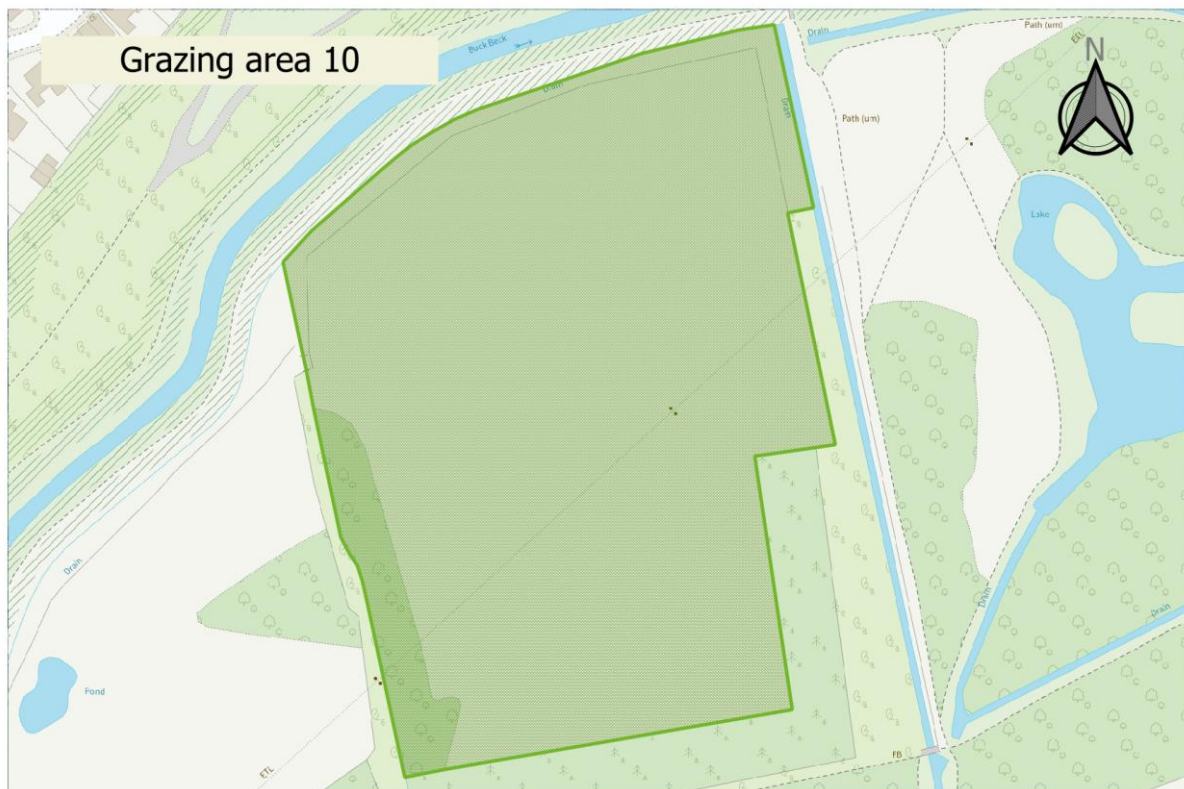
### **Pressure**

There is no pressure on this area.

### **Maintenance / Activities**

- Litter pick.
- Hedgerow managed in accordance with stewardship agreement

## 10.9 Grazing Area 10



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### Habitat

This area is cattle-grazed. To the north side of this area is a scrape. This scrape is developing into a good wetland with a good range of wetland plants. During winter months the area is managed as an over-wintering ground for waders and wildfowl.

### Pressure

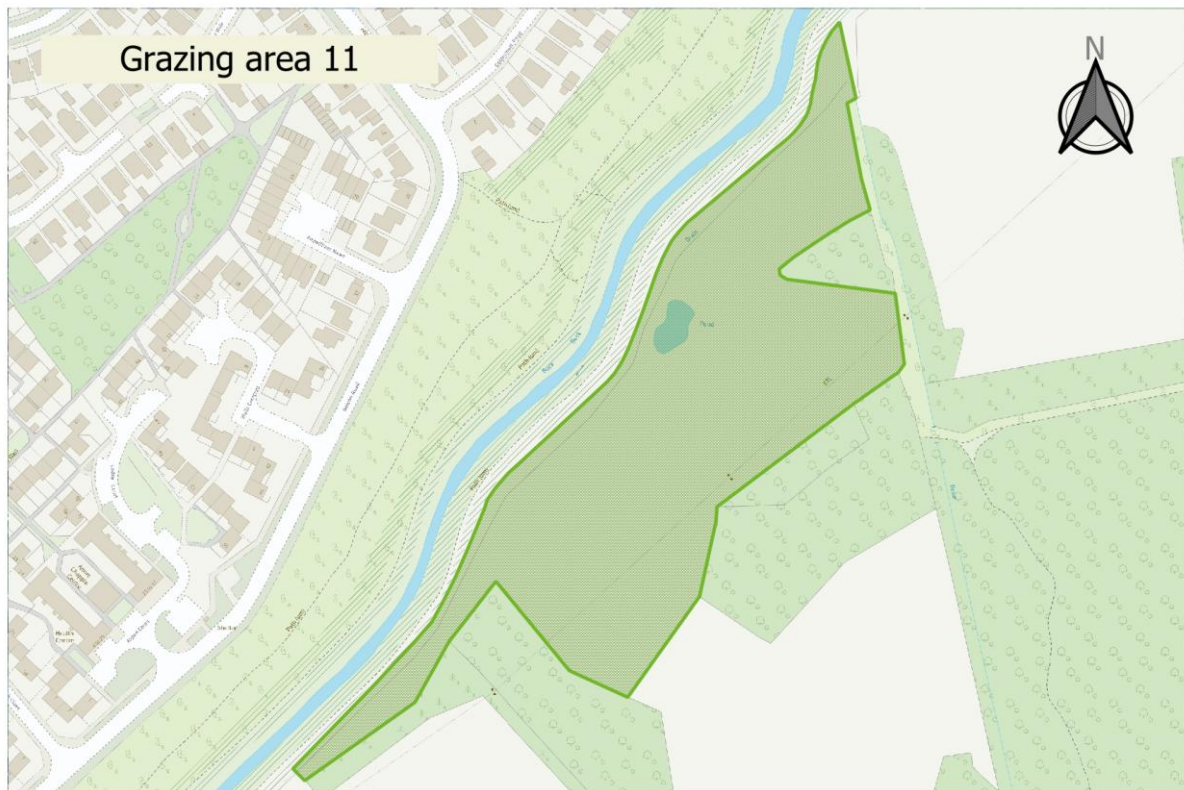
There is no real pressure during grazing; walkers may present a pressure on nesting birds in winter. Dogs off leads affecting cattle welfare and ground nesting birds. Deer also fawn in the cattle fields.

### Maintenance / Activities

- This is one of four fields to be grazed on rotation. The rotation is flexible in accordance with viable sward availability and ground conditions.
- From late autumn through winter the area is left to develop as wetland habitat for wintering waders and wildfowl. The scrape will be allowed to overflow, and the surrounding grounds encouraged to become waterlogged.
- Between October 1<sup>st</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup> walkers must adhere to paths to avoid disturbance of roosting and loafing birds.
- Litter pick.
- Scrub management to maintain grazing area

- Stock fence and gate maintenance

## 10.10 Grazing Area 11



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### Habitat

This area is cattle-grazed and also features a scrape.

### Pressure

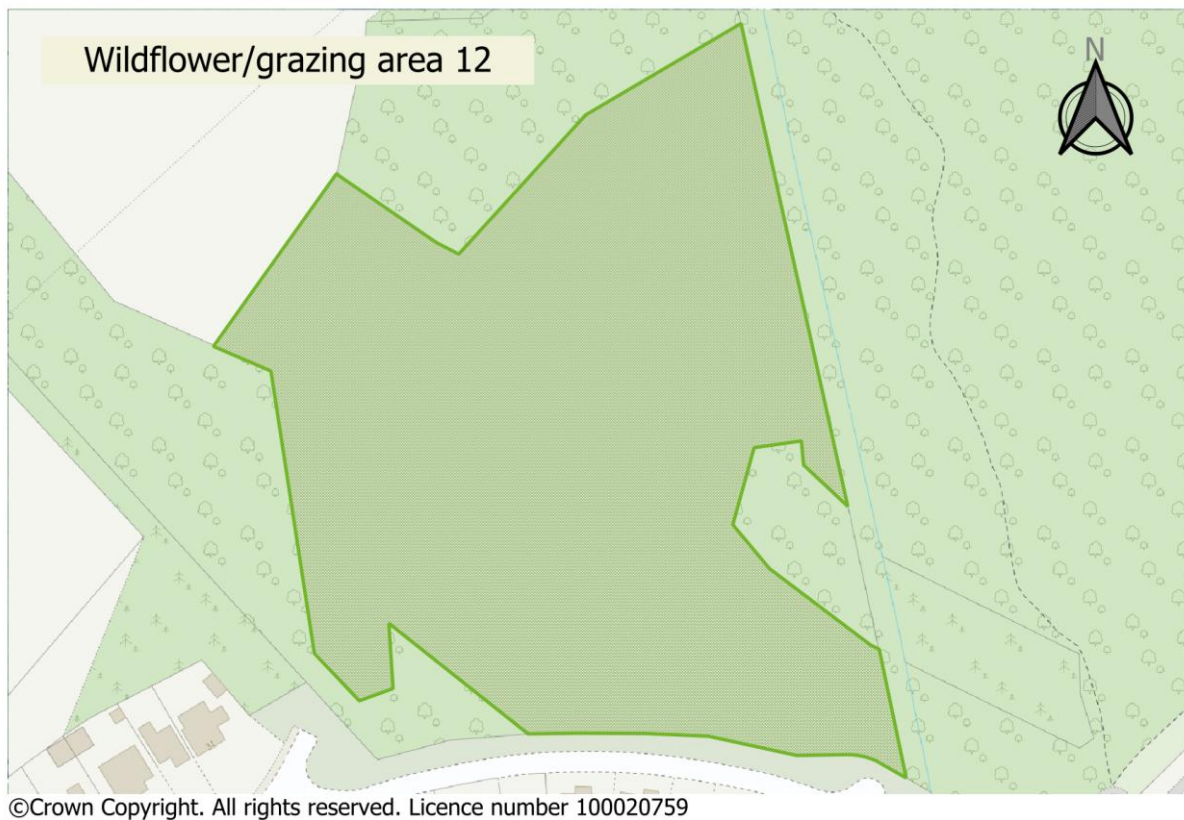
There is no real pressure on this area. Dogs off leads affecting cattle welfare and ground nesting birds. Deer also fawn in the cattle fields.

### Maintenance / Activities

- This is one of four fields to be grazed on rotation. The rotation is flexible in accordance with viable sward availability and ground conditions.
- From late autumn through winter the area is left to develop as wetland habitat for wintering waders and wildfowl. The scrape will be allowed to overflow, and the surrounding grounds encouraged to become waterlogged.
- Between October 1<sup>st</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup> walkers must adhere to paths so to avoid disturbing roosting and loafing birds.
- Litter pick.
- Stock fence and gate maintenance
- Scrub management to maintain grazing area



## 10.11 Wildflower/Grazing Area 12



### Habitat

This area has been seeded with a wildflower mix and is managed as a wildflower meadow with aftermath grazing. This is the main entrance for the cattle to enter the park.

### Pressure

There is no real pressure on this area. Dogs off leads affecting cattle welfare and ground nesting birds. Deer also fawn in the cattle fields.

### Maintenance / Activities

- Litter pick.
- Grassland managed in accordance with stewardship agreement.
- Hedgerow managed in accordance with stewardship agreement.
- Undesirable species to be treated with weed wiper or spot treatment.
- Maintenance of infrastructure fencing.
- Stock fence and gate maintenance
- Scrub management to maintain grazing area



## 10.12 Grazing area 13



### Habitat

This area is the most western side of the park and is grazed through the summer months. There is a small copse in the middle of the area that is fenced off from the cattle. During winter, this area is maintained as wet grassland for wintering waders and wildfowl.

### Pressure

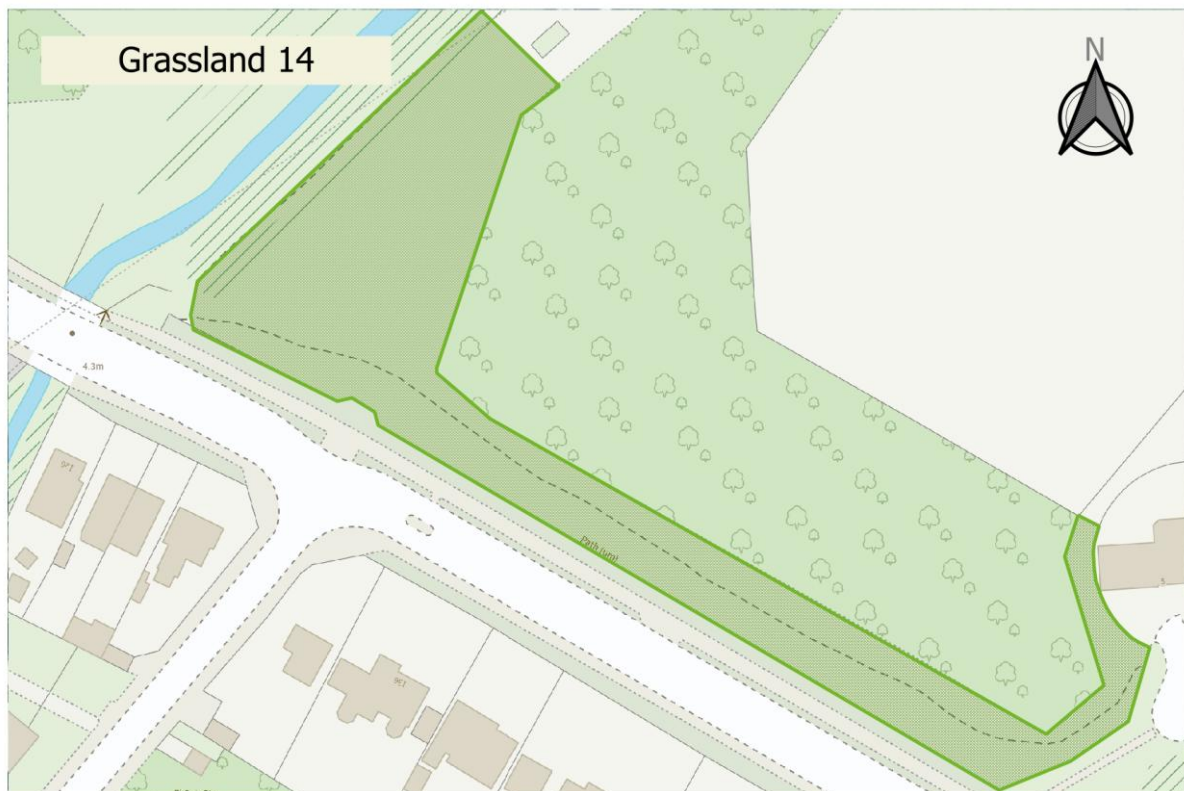
There is no real pressure on this area. Dogs off leads affecting cattle welfare and ground nesting birds. Deer also fawn in the cattle fields.

### Maintenance / Activities

- This is one of four fields to be grazed on rotation.
- Grassland managed in accordance with stewardship agreement.
- Hedgerow managed in accordance with stewardship agreement.
- From late autumn through winter the area is left to develop as wetland habitat for wintering waders and wildfowl. The scrape will be allowed to overflow, and the surrounding grounds encouraged to become waterlogged.

- Between October 1<sup>st</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup> walkers must adhere to paths so to avoid disturbing roosting and loafing birds.
- Stock fence and gate maintenance
- Scrub management to maintain grazing area
- Litter pick.

### 10.13 Grassland 14



#### Habitat

This area of grassland fronts onto Humberston Road.

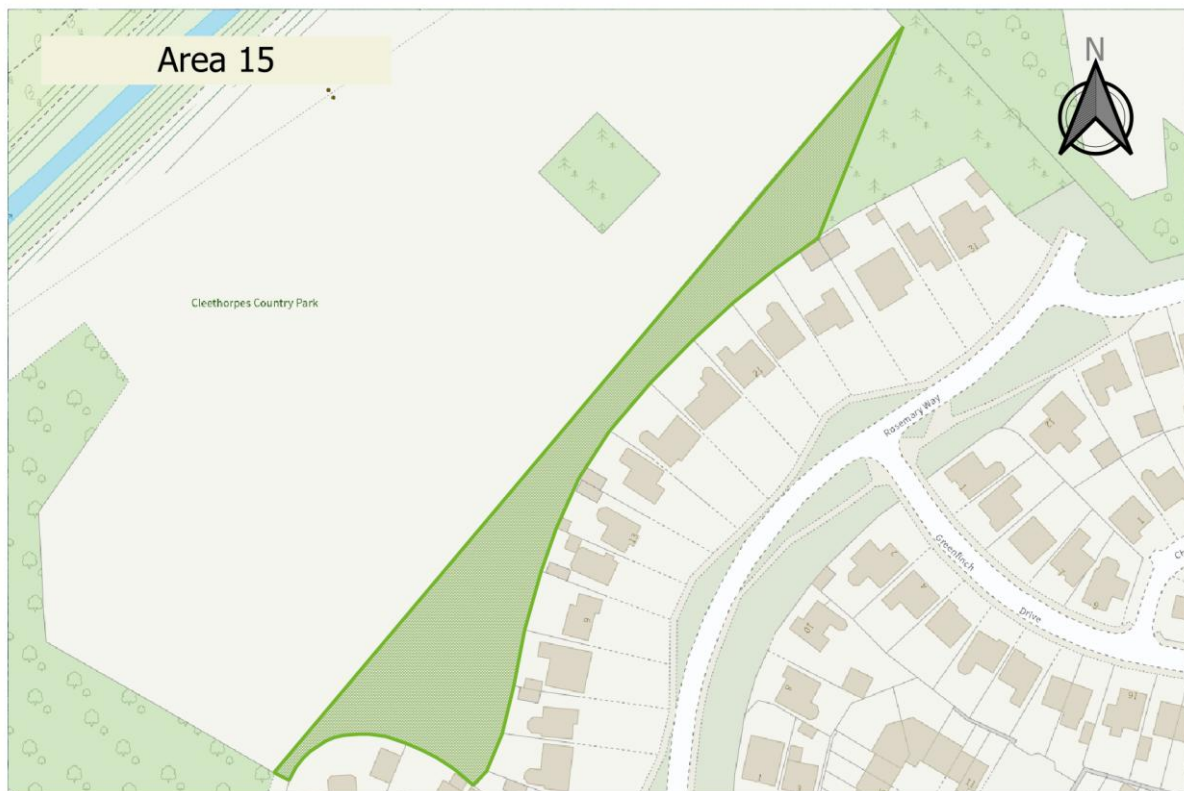
#### Pressure

There is no real pressure on this area.

#### Maintenance / Activities

- Grass cut late summer.
- Litter pick.
- Hedgerow are managed for ecological value.

## 10.14 Area 15



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### Habitat

Area 15 runs at the back of the houses in Rosemary Way and acts as a safety gap between the houses and the cattle fields. This area is left as long grassland, but some areas are cut by residents. This area is part of the park and used as a dog walk by park users. This area is also part of the local nature reserve.

### Pressure

There is no real pressure on this area.

### Maintenance / Activities

- Litter pick.
- Monitor and consult with the possibility of creating a wetland along north boundary.



## 10.15 Woodlands



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### Habitat

All woodlands are new woodlands and have been planted over the life of the park starting in 1987. Due to the park's geology, consisting of boulder clay, the trees have been slow to get going. However, they are now starting to show some maturity.

### Pressure

There is no real pressure on these areas. Ash die back is present and monitored but managed as any other tree disease.

### Maintenance / Activities

- Trees are monitored and managed.
- Litter pick.

## 11. Health and Safety

Site visits take place weekly to monitor our assets and any issues with infrastructure, health and safety, vandalism or litter are raised.

### **Bridges**

There are several pedestrian bridges located around the country park. These are generally constructed from timber and anti-skid surfacing. It is important that the bridges are maintained for access, health and safety reasons, and to maintain an overall positive impression of the park.

### **Fencing**

A variety of types of fencing have been used around the country park Lincolnshire style timber post and rail, timber post and wire, and timber post and mesh (dog proof fencing).

The design of fencing is generally standardised, and consideration is given to new hedgerow planting alongside post and wire fencing. Other forms of barrier within the site include timber bollards. The fencing around the site is generally in a reasonable condition, as are stiles where these have been provided.

## 12. Involving Communities

Our vision for the park for the next five years includes community recreation and enjoyment, and a place for learning opportunities. We welcome local residents and the wider community to visit the park and engage with nature through the variety of walking routes through the park, around the lake and dog swimming area.

Another vision for the park for the next five years includes having quality green space to support people's health and wellbeing. There is parkrun operating in the park.

We want pride to be developed from the community for the park and aim to do this through providing a quality green space and access to the enjoyment of the countryside for the community.

## 13. Marketing and Communications

### **Our Website**

On NELC's website there is information on all our parks and destination parks. The key features of Cleethorpes Country Park can be found on this webpage: [Parks and open spaces | NELC \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/parks-and-open-spaces). There is also a link on this webpage where you can report to us if you spot a problem at our parks or play areas, and a poster on the walking

routes in Cleethorpes Country Park, which can also be found in this management plan on page 14.

We also use our tourism brand Discover North East Lincolnshire, who have a webpage and visitor guide to promote Cleethorpes Country Park: [Discover North East Lincolnshire | The Official website for Cleethorpes, Grimsby and surrounding area](#). Discover North East Lincolnshire advertises things to do in North East Lincolnshire, and has a section focused on the nature and wildlife you can discover in North East Lincolnshire where Cleethorpes Country Park is included. This promotes Cleethorpes Country Park to the local community as well as the tourism visitors to North East Lincolnshire.

### **Social Media**

The Council promotes our parks, including Cleethorpes Country Park, as a place for the community to visit through our posts on North East Lincolnshire Council's social media pages on Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter).

## **14. Monitoring and Reviews**

North East Lincolnshire Council will be responsible for monitoring the progress of the management plan and its subsequent action plan. Performance monitoring of annual management and maintenance will be carried out by the relevant NELC officers, who will track the progress. A botanical survey will be conducted as prescribed in the stewardship agreement to monitor the biodiversity.

A review and update of this management plan and linked action plan will take place every five years, where relevant officers from Grounds Maintenance, Ecology and Environmental Sustainability will review the plan and present to Cabinet for approval from Cabinet Members.

## **15. Aspirations for the Park**

Our aspirations for the management of Cleethorpes Country Park have been derived from our vision statement for the park and are listed below:

- Improve water flow of the lake, using nature-based solutions.
- Improve the dog swimming area to provide a quality green space suitable for community recreation.
- Improve pathways and bridges to allow a more accessible route through the park which will enable more people use the park.
- Update interpretation boards around the site, to showcase the biodiversity and educate the community.



## 16. Routine Maintenance Schedule

Maintenance	
<b>Litter pick</b>	3x per week
<b>Grass cutting - strimming</b>	10-14 day cycle
<b>Weed application</b>	As and when required
<b>Hedge cutting</b>	1x per annum
<b>Shrub pruning</b>	2x per annum
<b>D-mowing</b>	2x per annum
<b>Tree maintenance</b>	As and when required

## Appendices

### Appendix 1 - Botanical Survey Areas Map



### Appendix 2 – Species List

English Names	Scientific Name
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
Annual meadow grass	<i>Poa annua</i>
Apple	<i>Malus domestica</i>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i>
Autumn hawkbit	<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>
Barren brome	<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>
Beaked hawk's-beard	<i>Crepis vesicaria</i>
Bee orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
Bittersweet	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>
Black medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>
Bristly oxtongue	<i>Picris echioides</i>
Broad leaved dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>

English Names	Scientific Name
Buddleja davidii	Buddleja davidii
Bulbous buttercup	Ranunculus bulbosus
Bulrush	Typha latifolia
Butterbur	Petasites hybridus
Cat's ear	Hypochaeris radicata
Celery-leaved buttercup	Ranunculus sceleratus
Cleavers	Galium aparine
Clustered dock	Rumex conglomeratus
Cock's foot	Dactylis glomerata
Common bent	Agrostis stolonifera
Common bird's foot trefoil	Lotus corniculatus
Common club-rush	Schoenoplectus lacustris
Common comfrey	Symphytum officinale
Common couch	Elytrigia repens
Common knapweed	Centaurea nigra
Common mallow	Malva sylvestris
Common meadow-rue	Thalictrum flavum
Common mouse-ear	Cerastium fontanum
Common nettle	Urtica dioica
Common ragwort	Senecio jacobaea
Common reed	Phragmites australis
Common sedge	Carex nigra
Common sorrel	Rumex acetosaa
Common spotted orchid	Dactylorhiza fuchsii
Common vetch	Vicia sativa
Compact rush	Juncus conglomeratus
Corn marigold	Chrysanthemum segetum
Corncockle	Agrostemma githago
Cornflower	Centaurea cyanus
English Names	Scientific Name
Corsican pine	Pinus nigra subsp.
Cotoneaster	Cotoneaster sp.
Cow parsley	Anthriscus sylvestris
Creeping bent	Agrostis stolonifera
Creeping buttercup	Ranunculus repens
Creeping cinquefoil	Potentilla reptans
Creeping thistle	Cirsium arvense
Crested dog's tail	Cynosurus cristatus
Cuckoo flower	Cardamine pratensis
Curled dock	Rumex crispus
Cut-leaved crane's bill	Geranium dissectum
Cyperus sedge	Carex pseudocyperus
Daisy	Bellis perrenis
Dandelion	Taraxacum officinale

English Names	Scientific Name
Dog rose	Rosa canina
Elder	Sanbucus nigra
Elm	Ulmus procera
False fox sedge	Carex otrubae
False oat grass	Arrhenatherum elatius
False-fox sedge	Carex otrubae
Field horsetail	Equisetum arvense
Field maple	Acer campestre
Field poppy	Papaver rheas
Field rose	Rosa arvensis
Flattened meadow grass	Poa compressa
Fool's-watercress	Apium nodiflorum
Germander speedwell	Veronica chamaedrys
Goat willow	Salix caprea
Goat's-beard	Tragopogon pratensis
Grass vetchling	Lathyrus nissolia
Great willowherb	Epilobium hirsutum
Greater plantain	Plantago major
Greater stitchwort	Stellaria holostea
Grey club rush	Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani
Grey willow	Salix cinerea
Ground ivy	Glechoma hederacea
Groundsel	Senecio vulgaris
Guelder rose	Viburnum opulus
Hairy tare	Vicia hirsuta
Hard rush	Juncus inflexus
Hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna
Hazel	Corylus avellana
Hedge mustard	Sisymbrium officinale
Hedge woundwort	Stachys sylvatica
Hemlock	Conium maculatum
Herb-Robert	Geranium robertianum
Hoary ragwort	Senecio erucifolius
English Names	Scientific Name
Hogweed	Heracleum sphondylium
Holly	Ilex aquifolium
Horse chestnut	Aesculus hippocastanum
Hybrid black poplar	Populus x canadensis
Ivy	Hedera helix
Jointed rush	Juncus articulatus
Knotgrass	Polygonum aviculare
Lady's Bedstraw	Galium verum
Large Bindweed	Calystegia silvatica
Large-leaved lime	Tilia platyphyllos

English Names	Scientific Name
Lesser pond sedge	Carex acutiformis
Mahonia	Mahonia sp.
Marsh foxtail	Alopecurus geniculatus
Meadow barley	Hordeum murinum
Meadow buttercup	Ranunculus acris
Meadow Crane's-bill	Geranium pratense
Meadow fescue	Festuca pratensis
Meadow foxtail	Alopecurus pratensis
Meadow vetchling	Lathyrus pratensis
Meadowsweet	Filipendula ulmaria
Meadow buttercup	Ranunculus acris
Osier	Salix viminalis
Oxeye daisy	Leucanthemum vulgare
Pendulous sedge	Carex pendula
Pedunculate oak	Quercus robur
Perennial rye grass	Lolium perenne
Pineapple weed	Matricaria discoidea
Prickly sow thistle	Sonchus asper
Purple loosestrife	Lythrum salicaria
Pyramidal orchid	Anacamptis pyramidalis
Red Bartsia	Odontites vernus
Red clover	Trifolium pratense
Red fescue	Festuca rubra
Redshank	Persicaria maculosa
Reed canary-grass	Phalaris arundinacea
Ribwort plantain	Plantago lanceolata
Rosebay willowherb	Chamerion angustifolium
Rough hawkbit	Leontodon hispidus
Rough hawksbeard	Crepis biennis
Rough meadow grass	Poa trivialis
Rowan	Sorbus aucuparia
Sainfoin	Onobrychis viciifolia
Salad burnet	Sanguisorba minor
Scarlet pimpernel	Anargallis arvensis
Scented mayweed	Matricaria recutita
Scentless mayweed	Tripleurospermum inodorum
Sea buckthorn	Hippophae rhamnoides
English Names	Scientific Name
Sea club rush	Bolboschoenus maritimus
Selfheal	Prunella vulgaris
Sheep's-fescue	Festuca ovina
Shepherds purse	Capsella bursa-pastoris
Silver birch	Betula pendula
Silver maple	Acer saccharinum



English Names	Scientific Name
Slender speedwell	Veronica filiformis
Smaller cat's tail	Phleum bertolonii
Small-leaf lime	Tilia cordata
Smooth hawk's-beard	Crepis capillaris
Smooth meadow grass	Poa pratensis
Smooth sow thistle	Sonchus oleraceus
Smooth tare	Vicia tetrasperma
Soft brome	Bromus hordeaceus
Soft Rush	Juncus effusus
Soft brome	Bromus hordeaceus
Southern Marsh Orchid	Dactylorhiza praetermissa
Spear thistle	Cirsium vulgare
Sweet Chestnut	Castanea sativa
Sweet vernal grass	Anthoxanthum odoratum
Tall fescue	Festuca arundinacea
Timothy	Phleum pratense
Toad rush	Juncus bufonius
Tufted hair grass	Deschampsia caespitosa
Tufted vetch	Vicia cracca
Tufted-hair grass	Deschampsia caespitosa
Upright hedge parsley	Torilis japonica
Wall barley	Hordeum murinum
Water cress	Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum
Water forget-me-not	Myosotis scorpioides
Water mint	Mentha aquatica
Watercress	Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum
Wavy bittercress	Cardanine flexuosa
Wayfaring-tree	Viburnum lantana
Weld	Reseda luteola
White clover	Trifolium repens
White dead nettle	Lamium album
White poplar	Populus alba
White willow	Salix alba
Whitebeam	Sorbus aria
Wild cherry	Prunus avium
Wild carrot	Daucus carota
Wild cherry	Prunus avium
Wild clary	Salvia verbenaca
Wild privet	Ligustrum vulgare
Wild teasel	Dipsacus fullonum
Wood avens	Geum urbanum
English Names	Scientific Name
Yarrow	Achillea millefolium
Yellow iris	Iris pseudacorus

English Names	Scientific Name
Yellow oat grass	Trisetum flavescens
Yellow rattle	Rhinanthus minor
Yorkshire fog	Holcus lanatus
Two spot ladybirds	Adalia punctata
22 Spot ladybird	Psyllobora punctata
Twenty-four spot ladybirds	Subcoccinella 24-punctata
5 Spot burnet	Zygaena trifolii
6 Spot burnet	Zygaena filipendulae
6 Spot burnet caterpillar	Zygaena filipendulae
7 Spot ladybird	Coccinella septempunctata
Azure damselfly	Coenagrion puella
Blue tailed damselfly	Ischnura elegans
Broad bodied chaser dragonfly	Libellula depressa
Buff ermine	Spilosoma luteum
Capsus ater	Capsus ater
Cinnabar Moth	Tyria jacobaeae
Comma butterfly	Polygonia c-album
Comma caterpillar cocoon	Polygonia c-album
Common backswimmer	Notonecta glauca
Common blue butterfly	Polyommatus icarus
Common Blue Damselfly	Enallagma cyathigerum
Common field grasshopper	Chorthippus brunneus
Common froghopper	Philaenus spumarius
Common striped woodlouse	Philoscia muscorum
Crab spider	Xysticus cristatus
Cranefly	Nephrotoma flavipalpis
Forest shield bug	Pentatoma rufipes
Green dock beetle	Gastrophysa viridula
Green lacewing	Chrysopa perla
Green nettle weevil	Phyllobius pomaceus
Kentish snail	Monacha cantiana
Large skipper butterfly	Ochlodes venata
Leaf beetle	Gastrophysa viridula
Liocoris tripustulatus	Liocoris tripustulatus
Lochmaea capreae	Lochmaea capreae
Meadow Brown butterfly	Maniola jurtina
Meadow plant bug	Leptopterna dolabrata
Meadow plant bug	Leptopterna dolabrata
Nemophora degeerella	Nemophora degeerella
Non-biting midge	Chironamidae
Orange tip butterfly	Anthocaharis cardamines
Pond skater	Gerris lacustris
Potato flea beetle	Psylliodes affinis
English Names	Scientific Name

English Names	Scientific Name
Red admiral butterfly	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Red-legged Shield bug	<i>Pentatoma rufipes</i>
Ringlet butterfly	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>
Ruby Tiger Moth Caterpillar	<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>
Rust fly	<i>Psila</i> sp.
Sawfly larvae	<i>Dolerus ferrugatus</i>
Scorpion fly	<i>Panorpa communis</i>
Shield bug, final instar & adult	<i>Deraeocoris flavilinea</i>
Small green nettle weevil	<i>Phyllobius roboretanus</i>
Small Skipper butterfly	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>
Soldier beetle	<i>Cantharis rustica</i>
Speckled wood butterfly	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
The Cinnabar moth	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>
The Cinnabar moth caterpillar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>
The Snout moth	<i>Hypena proboscidalis</i>
Thick-legged flower beetle	<i>Ischnomera cyanea</i>
Thistle tortoise beetle	<i>Cassida rubiginosa</i>
Timothy tortrix caterpillar	<i>Aphelia paleana</i>
Tortoiseshell butterfly	<i>Aglais urticae</i>

## **Mike Sleight Memorial**

Mike started as a part-time park ranger at North East Lincolnshire Council in 1997, managed by Martin Wragg. During his time in the Ranger Service, Cleethorpes Country Park was under his stewardship, Mike worked to fulfil his vision, the creation which included: -

- wildflower meadows
- carrying out community tree-planting events, planting hedgerows and creating reed beds
- foot and cycle path linking Humberston Road with Links Road
- fishing pegs with accessibility, pond-dipping platforms, and a boat ramp
- picnic areas, and dog walks
- working on the agreement to have donkeys and cattle at the Country Park
- Mike was responsible for personally planting thousands of trees within the Country Park himself during his time at the Council.

This is a testament to Mike's dedication and the vital role he played in the establishment of Cleethorpes Country Park.

Mike progressed to become the council's Ecology Manager, he continued to work tirelessly with passion for the objectives and vision for the park. The objectives set were to:

- maintain a freely accessible and attractive open space with the theme of "Peace in the Countryside".
- provide for casual recreational use by visitors to the park.
- increase the diversity of flora and fauna within the park.
- promote the use and enjoyment of the park and the wider countryside
- maximise the educational potential of the park.
- integrate more formal recreational activities where compatible with these aims.

In 2008 a visit from Natural England recommended the park be designated as a Local Nature Reserve as it offered a level of biodiversity and variety of habitats of a good quality, and recreation to the community and visitors, including:

- Appreciating plants, animals, bird watching and experiencing different habitats
- Learning and studying the countryside and wildlife
- Walking, dog walking, fishing, photography, sailing and picnicking

Cleethorpes Country Park now has protected species on site, such as bats, great crested newts, water vole, occasional otter visits, as well as the floral biodiversity and faunal biodiversity of invertebrates, other mammals, red and amber listed birds, SPA birds, and aquatic species.

In 2003, Mike proposed the new foot and cycle path from Humberstone Road to the centre circle to be named after Martin Wragg who had sadly passed away, to commemorate the work Martin did to help improve and establish Cleethorpes Country Park under the council. Martin Wragg joined Cleethorpes Borough Council as the Sustainability Officer in 1995, carrying the same position when North East Lincolnshire Council was formed in April 1996. Martin lived and breathed sustainability and the environment.

Mike continued after his retirement, to frequently check in on the park. Mike spent many years and countless hours working to enhance and protect Cleethorpes Country Park both in his work and outside of it.

The proposals are to dedicate the foot and cycle path, joining Martin Wragg Way to Links Road to Mike for his dedication along with naming the lake's island Mike Sleight Island with an associated interpretation board.

The Sustainability team will work with volunteers, create a lasting legacy for Mike by offering volunteering weeks, one in the spring/summer and in winter/autumn to record habitat and species.

The image below shows the proposed island in Cleethorpes Country Park to be named the 'Mike Sleight Island'.



The image below shows the proposed extension of Martin Wragg (Marked in Yellow) into 'Sleight Way' (marked in red).

