



## DUNE Project Newsletter – 1<sup>st</sup> Edition

Hello and welcome to the first DUNE Project Newsletter!

### What is the DUNE Project?

- The **D**ynamic **U**nderstanding of the **N**atural **E**nvironment Project aims to promote responsible access to our coastline and maintain a sustainable balance between Cleethorpes being a thriving tourist destination and a legally protected site for its species and habitats.
- The DUNE Project started in May 2025 and aims to engage with visitors and residents to promote understanding of the natural heritage of our coastline and to encourage responsible coastal access.
- One of our main focuses is understanding the impacts of *recreational disturbance* which is when leisure activities causes:
  - significant change in wildlife behaviour (i.e. causing birds to take flight and disrupting them from feeding or nesting)
  - damage to habitats
  - physical harm or death of wildlife
- In doing so, we hope to provide advice and guidance on how to enjoy our coastline without causing an impact to the wildlife that calls it home.

### Why is the DUNE Project important?

- All of our coastline in North East Lincolnshire is part of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site and is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Ramsar Site.
- All of this means that our stretch of coastline is significant in its value to wildlife. Its habitats and species are legally protected.
- As a local authority, North East Lincolnshire Council is the [designated body] responsible for the protection of this area.
- Part of the DUNE Project seeks to positively engage with the community to raise awareness of the legal designations, the wildlife value and how we all play a part in protecting our coastline.

### How can I found out more?

Visit our DUNE Project webpage for further information: [Cleethorpes DUNE project | NELC](#)



Meet the Coastal Ranger!

Josh Forrester – Cleethorpes Coastal Ranger



Josh helps people connect with Cleethorpes’ unique coastline, raising awareness of its environmental importance and encouraging respectful enjoyment.

He supports the DUNE Project through public engagement work such as guided walks and school visits as well as the creation of education resources. He also conducts surveys and monitoring work along our coastline to better understand how it is used by people and by wildlife with the aim to promote conservation and responsible

coastal access.

Josh is supported by a Research & Engagement Officer [...]

Upcoming Events

Join Josh for a series of Guided Nature Walks this winter! All events are free but booking is required and spaces are limited. Please visit our EventBrite page for more information: [NELC Ecology Events](#)

When?	Where?
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December, 10:00 – 12:00	Cleethorpes Country Park
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> January, 10:00 – 12:00	Cleethorpes LNR
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> January, 10:00 – 12:00	Cleethorpes Country Park
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January, 10:00 - 12:00	Cleethorpes LNR
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January, 10:00 – 12:00	Cleethorpes Boating Lake



## Cleethorpes Local Nature Reserve: Sightings

### November

As autumn gives way to winter, our stretch of the Humber Estuary again plays host to tens of thousands of wading and wetland birds. Recent counts have seen several thousand **Knot**, hundreds of **Oystercatcher**, **Redshank**, **Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Dunlin**, **Turnstone**, **Ringed Plover** and **Grey Plover** wintering in our area. A single **Purple Sandpiper** was seen at the rock groyne at Wonderland.

The star species of November is a **Glossy Ibis** which was spotted on the salt marsh by on October 24<sup>th</sup>. The bird, a juvenile, has remained around this area since that time.

Seen feeding around the edges of the salt marsh lagoons in the company of Little Egrets this bird likely arrived in the UK around September when a large influx of juvenile Glossy Ibis from the continent was noted. More information can be found here: [Massive Glossy Ibis influx reaches Britain and Ireland - BirdGuides](#)

The first record of Glossy Ibis in the North East Lincolnshire area was in June of this year at Cress Marsh by Stallingborough. Marking the gradually northern spread of this species due to climate change, this bird first bred in the UK in 2022 at a site in Cambridgeshire but attempted to breed in Gibraltar Point, south of Skegness, as far back as 2014.

It remains to be seen whether the Cleethorpes ibis will consider heading back south after the recent cold snap but is undoubtedly likely to become a more familiar species to us in North East Lincolnshire in the near future.

This range expansion draws parallels to that of the Little Egret which, up until 1991, was considered a rarity in Lincolnshire. Nowadays, it can be regularly encountered picking its way through the mudflats and channels on our coastline.

Head over to our webpage to see photos of this bird, kindly supplied by local birder and photographer Mike Pickwell: [Cleethorpes DUNE project | NELC](#)

If you'd like to share your sightings or wildlife photographs with us, you can do so via email to [DUNEPProject@nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:DUNEPProject@nelincs.gov.uk)