

DUNE Project Newsletter

Welcome to the September edition of the DUNE Project newsletter!

Autumn migration is now underway with coastal birds returning to our shores from afar. Read on to find out how you can help them as they prepare to overwinter here.

For further information visit our webpage: [Cleethorpes DUNE project | NELC](#)

DUNE Project Updates

Although we took a break from the newsletter in August, we have certainly been busy!

In July, we were invited to New Waltham Academy's summer fayre and had a great time talking with the children about the importance of our coast for wildlife, including what they can see and how they can help. We also gave a talk for the Holton-le-Clay Men's Group at the Jug & Bottle which was very well received.

If you would like us to give a talk or attend an event, please get in touch! You can reach us via email at DUNEproject@nelincs.gov.uk

We led a couple of events for this year's Big Butterfly Count, a survey organised by the [Butterfly Conservation](#) charity. Together we learnt how to take part in the count and identify different butterflies. Jazz from White's Wildlife Watch took some photos which you can see at the end of the newsletter.

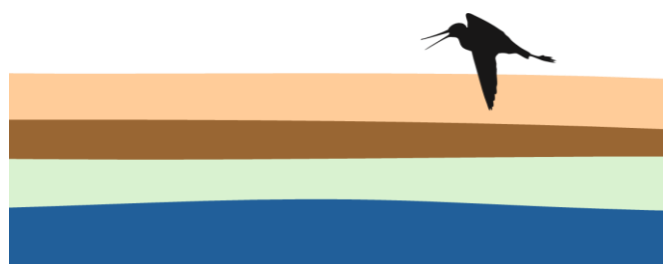
In August, we attended [Grimsby in Bloom's](#) Environment Day. It was very well attended with a range of stallholders and activities, all focused on our local environment. If you have yet to visit the [Pavilion Community Garden](#), we would encourage you to do so! It is a truly inspiring example of how a community can come together to transform a place into a thriving space for people and for nature.

We met with the team behind the [Cleethorpes Townscape Heritage Programme](#), supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, to look at the impressive work they have done to preserve the Victorian balconies and frontages in Cleethorpes as well as the Mermaid Café and Dolphin Hotel. Working with other heritage schemes helps us better understand the value of our place and the work being done to restore and maintain it.

Finally, we had an incredibly busy time at Cleethorpes 999 Day. It was a real pleasure to talk to residents and visitors alike about why our coastline is so important for wildlife and what they can do to help prevent disturbance to it!



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Recent Sightings

As a birdwatcher, summer can be a quiet time in between the frenetic spring and autumn migration periods.

For a migratory bird, autumn begins as soon as they leave their breeding grounds. Wading birds such as **Green Sandpiper**, **Wood Sandpiper** and **Curlew Sandpiper** can be the first to pass along our coast of their long distance journeys to their wintering grounds. This can happen as soon as late July.

Check out our '[Life on the Saltmarsh](#)' story map to find out where our coastal wading birds spend their summers!

During July's [Wetland Bird Survey](#) (WeBS), 3 **Curlew Sandpiper** were seen together at the high tide roost. These small wading birds get their name from their slightly downcurved bill, reminiscent of the **Curlew**. August and September tend to be peak times for birds like **Common** and **Sandwich Tern** to pass through our estuary too, building up their energy reserves for their onward journeys towards southern Spain and Africa's western seaboard for the winter!

When birdwatching is quiet, there are other things to turn our attentions to: insects! Butterfly numbers peak in our summer months and there is one species that Josh, the Coastal Ranger, has been hoping to see for many years: the [Clouded Yellow](#). This is a truly migratory species, a golden-yellow beauty that arrives in the UK in varying numbers each year. It seems that we have had 2 consecutive good years for them with good numbers of them being recorded along the Lincolnshire Coronation Coast NNR.

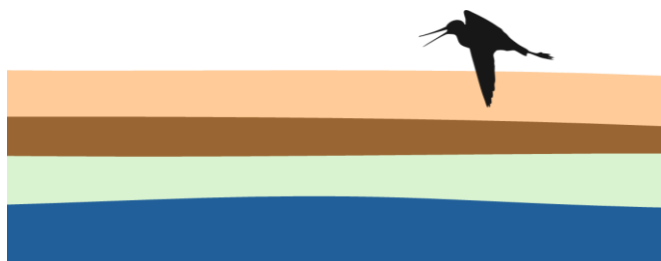
Speaking of which, RSPB Tetney Marshes, a nature reserve that joins Cleethorpes LNR in forming the NNR, now plays host to a fascinating species of spider: the [Wasp Spider](#). Although this spider has a wasp-like appearance for its own protection, it is harmless and highly unlikely to hurt us. Their webs have a distinctive zigzag pattern in them, perhaps to provide camouflage for the spider.

This species was first recorded in Britain in 1922 and has, in recent years, started to spread north. Did you know that spiders can migrate? To help them disperse and find new areas, they release silk threads that catch the wind and allow them to travel great distances! This is known as [ballooning](#).

It is a matter of time before this wonderful species is sighted at Cleethorpes LNR. If you spot one, let us know!



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Get Involved!

We are always looking for ways to promote community science here at the DUNE Project. We want everybody to feel empowered to go out and record wildlife; those records make a real difference to our understanding of populations and species.

You can access our pack of [citizen / community science](#) projects on the [DUNE Project Webpage](#).

Beached! Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust are hosting a new project: [Beached! Lincolnshire](#). They aim to recruit volunteers to record the marine life that washes up on our shores. Visit their website to find out more, below is a brief overview:

This project has been developed to:

- Record species found along strandlines on the Lincolnshire coast
- Monitor seasonal changes in marine life
- Identify invasive, rare and climate change indicator species
- Compare strandline composition between different beaches
- Document mass stranding events

Cleethorpes Polychaete Survey

Have you ever wondered what those worm-like mounds are near the beach? These are made by polychaete (*polly-keet*) worms such as lugworms. We're starting a new survey to map their distribution along our coast.

The first survey is on Friday 11th September and we're looking for volunteers. If you'd like more information, contact us via email (DUNEproject@nelincs.gov.uk).

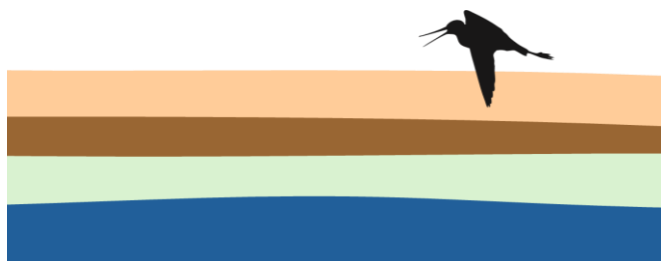
Reporting Recreational Disturbance

Please remember that our coast, as part of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site, is legally protected. If you see wildlife disturbance or habitat damage, you can report it to the Humber Nature Partnership: humburnature.co.uk/contact/observations

This helps us understand where disturbance is happening so we can work with visitors and residents to reduce it. We can all play a part in keeping our wildlife and habitats safe.



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Upcoming Events

We have guided nature walks coming up in September, please visit our EventBrite page to sign up: [DUNE Project Guided Walks](#). Don't forget to click 'Follow' to be notified as soon as new events become available such as the *Coastal Curiosities* activities that will be happening in the autumn!

Photos



Thank you to Jazz from *White's Wildlife Watch* for these photos from one of our Big Butterfly Count walks!

Top left: Small or Essex Skipper | **Top right:** Green-veined White
Bottom left: Grasshopper (*biguttulus* species) | **Bottom right:** Six-spot Burnet



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