

DUNE Project Newsletter

Welcome to the October edition of the DUNE Project newsletter!

Autumn migration continues and coastal bird numbers are swelling. Read on to find out how you can help them as we launch the 'Cleethorpes Coastal Code'.

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

The Cleethorpes Coastal Code

The Cleethorpes coastline is at the heart of our community. It's where we walk our dogs, meet friends, enjoy family days out and connect with nature. Every autumn and winter, it's also home to thousands of migratory birds that rely on the Humber Estuary's mudflats and saltmarshes for food, shelter and rest during their extraordinary journeys.

The **Cleethorpes Coastal Code** is all about helping people and wildlife thrive side by side. Through a few simple actions, we can all play our part in protecting the birds that share our shoreline while continuing to enjoy everything our coast has to offer.

Together, we can help keep this special place welcoming for both residents and wildlife alike.



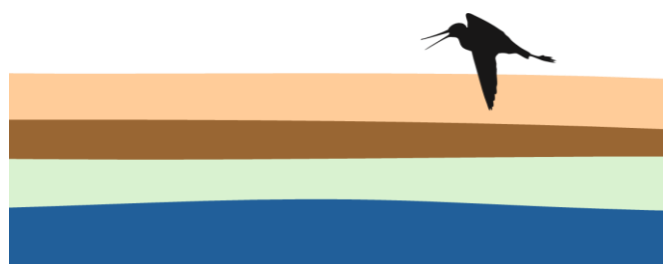
DUNE Project Updates

September has been a busy month with lots of engagement work including guided nature walks and talks. Here are some highlights!

- Local mental health group [A Platform to Talk](#) requested a guided nature walk at the Fitties. We were delighted to support the group and the valuable work they do within our community.



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- Josh delivered a talk at the [National Coastwatch Institute \(NCI\) Cleethorpes](#) highlighting the importance of our coastline for wildlife and the role it plays in supporting internationally significant bird populations. He also led several guided nature walks, helping the watchkeepers to develop a deeper understanding of the coastline they help to keep safe for people.
- Josh also visited the Scartho Methodist Friendship Group to give a talk on the natural heritage of our coastline, exploring the wildlife that depends on the Humber Estuary and the importance of protecting these special habitats.
- A group of volunteers joined us to survey lugworm populations between Cleethorpes Leisure Centre and the Pier. This community science project will help us better understand where wading birds are feeding along the shoreline, providing valuable information that can support efforts to reduce disturbance.

Interested in a bespoke guided nature walk or a talk? We would love to hear from you!

Please get in touch via email at DUNEproject@nelincs.gov.uk

Recent Sightings

As wading birds return to the Humber Estuary for the winter, keep an eye out for the magnificent murmurations that can often be seen just offshore from Cleethorpes Leisure Centre. The best time to witness these breathtaking aerial displays is around high tide when thousands of birds gather on the sandbanks. Vast flocks of Knots, Bar-tailed Godwits, Grey Plovers, Dunlin, Sanderling and other species gather and form mesmerising shapes across the sky. An iconic local spectacle!

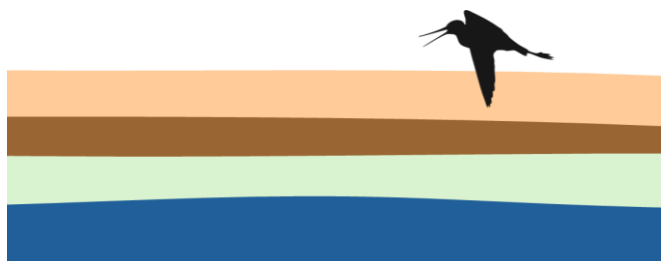
Each autumn also marks the return of one of our most recognisable migratory visitors: the [Pink-footed Goose](#). From September onwards, large skeins arrive in distinctive V-shaped formations, their characteristic “wink-wink” calls carrying overhead as they fly. These skeins (pronounced to rhyme with “rain”) have travelled from Greenland and Iceland to spend the winter along the Humber Estuary and wider Lincolnshire coast. Their arrival is an important way of marking the changing of the seasons.

The arrival of another goose marks another autumnal milestone. The [Dark-bellied Brent Goose](#) arrives here from Siberia in autumn, flying thousands of miles along the East Atlantic Flyway. Smaller and darker than Pink-footed Geese, they can be seen feeding on saltmarsh vegetation and nearby arable fields.

Both Brent and Pink-footed Geese are truly migratory and are very unlikely to be seen at the Boating Lake or Country Park.



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Some species come from further afield still and, in the last 2 weeks, we have had avian visitors from North America and Siberia!

Yellow-browed Warbler: Siberia to Cleethorpes

Monday 28th September, footpath along Pleasure Island. One heard calling Tuesday 29th September from the Haven Golf Course.

When autumn winds blow from the east, birdwatchers along the coast eagerly anticipate the arrival of rare migrants that have drifted off course during their journeys south. One such species is the Yellow-browed Warbler, a tiny bird that breeds thousands of miles away in the forests of Siberia before wintering in Southeast Asia. Once considered a great rarity in Britain, this diminutive warbler has become an increasingly regular autumn visitor to the east coast. Listen carefully for its high-pitched "tse-u-weet" call as it moves restlessly through coastal scrub and trees, often favouring sycamores, in search of insects among the leaves.

Pectoral Sandpiper: North America to Novartis Ings

Monday 23rd September.

A brief but exciting visit came from a wading bird hailing from across the Atlantic. The Pectoral Sandpiper breeds on the Arctic tundra of North America and Siberia before migrating south to spend the winter in South America. Each autumn, however, a small number appear in Britain, often young birds that have been displaced by weather systems during migration. Slightly larger than the more familiar Dunlin, it is named for the brown band on its breast. This individual was discovered at Novartis Ings, a 37-acre wetland mitigation site managed by North East Lincolnshire Council for the benefit of wading birds and wildfowl.

Well done to Andrew Dove for this excellent record! Such sightings remind us of the international migration that birds are capable of!

Reporting Recreational Disturbance

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 happens so we can work with visitors and residents to reduce it. We can all play a part in keeping our wildlife and habitats safe.

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.



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