

Wildlife

Havenside Local Nature Reserve is a great place to experience Lincolnshire's wildlife. There is an superb mix of rough grassland with scrub and brambles, cattle grazed meadows, shallow seasonal ponds, estuary and mud flat.



Oystercatcher

The river and mud banks are a major attraction for wildlife and of international importance, forming part of the Wash. Salt marsh plants such as Sea Lavender and Glasswort colonise the mud and waders and waterfowl feed from spring to autumn. The reason for its importance lies in the incredible number of marine worms and tiny molluscs that thrive in the oozing mud. On most days the distinctive Oystercatcher with its black and white plumage can be seen hunting for molluscs with its long red bill. If you are very lucky you may see a Common seal in the river or sunbathing on the banks.



Goldfinch

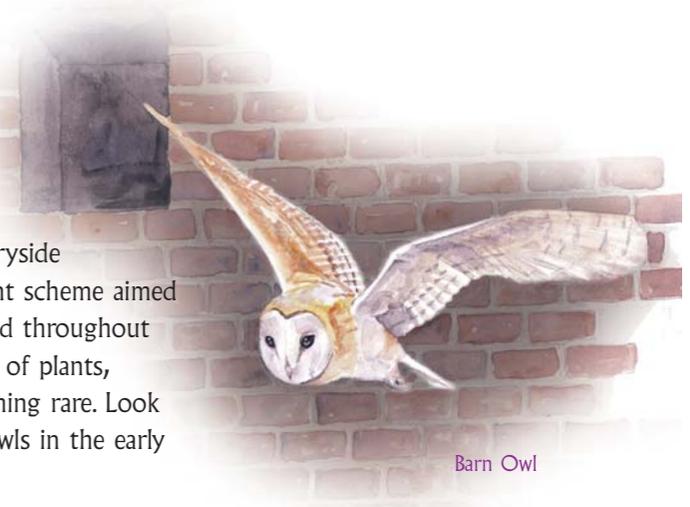
The rough grassland with scrub and brambles is a wonderful place for birds to feed and nest. Look out for the male Yellow Hammer with its bright yellow head and underparts and distinctive song often rendered as *a little bit of bread and no cheese*. Another distinctive bird is the Goldfinch with its red and white face which can be seen in small flocks feeding on the numerous Teasels.

Havenside Country Code

This Local Nature Reserve is here for everyone to enjoy, please respect the area and other visitors. Help keep the area clean and tidy, please take your litter home. Motor bikes disturb people and wildlife, please do not ride them here. Please keep dogs under control and clear up after them. Enjoy your visit

In 2005, Boston Borough Council declared Havenside a Local Nature Reserve, with the assistance of Lincolnshire County Council and an English Nature Wildspace grant

All the meadows are managed under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, which is an agri-environment scheme aimed at improving the environmental value of farmland throughout England. Cattle grazing encourages a wide range of plants, insects and birds many of which are sadly becoming rare. Look out for the ghostly white appearance of Barn Owls in the early morning and at dusk hunting mice and voles.



Barn Owl

Shipping

The Haven is an important river for navigation. Ships up to 120m in length and 4,500 tonnes in weight can regularly be seen heading to and from Boston port.

Ships come from as far as the Mediterranean, Scandinavia and the Baltic to use the port. They bring in goods such as steel, forest products, cereal crops and containers.

The ships are guided through The Wash by 25 buoys marking the approach channels, and 32 lighted beacons along The River Witham allowing safe passage on any tide. All commercial vessels seen from Havenside are conned by a Boston and Spalding Pilot who board from fast launches in The Wash.

Pilgrim Fathers Memorial

This marks the place, where in 1607, the group of puritans, who were to become known as the Pilgrim Fathers, were arrested attempting to flee to the religious freedom of the low countries. The ringleaders were subsequently tried and imprisoned in the Guildhall. Eventually allowed to leave they settled in Holland before travelling to the New World

Pilgrim Fathers Memorial

