



Newsletter

Spring / Summer 2025

Wildlife Disturbance



Partners on the coast

LIFE WADER and LNNR are working closely with the National Trust (NT) and Space for Shorebirds (SFS) teams to coordinate their conservation efforts and share best practice and resources. The SFS team are developing effective ways with cages and netting to protect Ringed Plover nests from Carrion Crows, and expanding their work south into the more populated parts of the coastline, including Lynemouth and Newbiggin Bay. LIFE WADER is funding an additional seasonal ranger on the NT team, helping to boost their efforts protecting some of the coasts' largest Arctic and Little Tern colonies – particularly between Beadnell and High Newton.

Visitor engagement

LIFE WADER is collaborating on novel awareness-raising initiatives to highlight the importance and vulnerability of the wildlife and encourage more responsible visitor behaviour. We produced a new booklet, **Wild & Wonderful – A guide to the birds of the Northumberland Coast**, and this is the second year we are mobilising a visitor Welcome Wagon, which will travel up and down the Northumberland coast, sharing information, distributing the guide, showing video footage, running activities and workshops and helping visitors spot and care for wildlife. We have also engaged with regional and national press

to promote the work of the LNNR team, securing spots on BBC Look North and Countryfile.

We are working closely with the Northumberland Coast National Landscape Team to engage tourism businesses (and their customers) in our conservation work, and also to establish a network of gateway information points at strategic points across the Reserve.

The new WADER website offers a digital platform to support these engagement activities, including a full Species Spotlight wildlife directory.





Research

LIFE WADER is working closely with LNNR to assess and quantify the impact of visitor pressure, exploring carrying capacities and pressure points. This will allow us to track degradation and the sustainability of land uses and activities, and inform specific management action including the updating of byelaws. In the winter of 2025, a research student will undertake a Grey Seal monitoring programme.

Signage

Tapping into the latest socio-economic research and working with social scientists at the RSPB, LIFE WADER and LNNR are trialing novel alternative signage systems. We have launched a coast-wide survey to explore the effectiveness of different messaging approaches (e.g. direct/polite/ firm/sensitive/ light-hearted) to see which elicits the most effective behavioural change. This will ultimately inform the development of a compelling and persuasive new signage system across the Reserve.

Replication

WADER has facilitated a new partnership between the LNNR and the Lincolnshire Coast conservation team to enable the LNNR team to share their expertise on wildlife refuges and shorebird protection. We have also provided funds for them to boost their own southerly breeding sites for Ringed Plover and Little Terns.



Results so far...

Since LIFE WADER began in Autumn 2021, Ringed Plover numbers alone have increased by 28%. With extra staff on board, the LNNR team have been able to create and manage an additional 64ha of spring and summer refuges for shorebirds, more closely protect and monitor them during breeding time and increase efforts to raise public awareness.

Do you know a Tern from an Oystercatcher?

Take a look at our comprehensive spotters' guide:



Wild & Wonderful - A Guide to the Birds of the Northumberland Coast

Stay connected

Join us on X for the latest LIFE WADER news, events, and volunteer opportunities.



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