



RSPB Freiston Shore

Local Residents Newsletter

December 2023

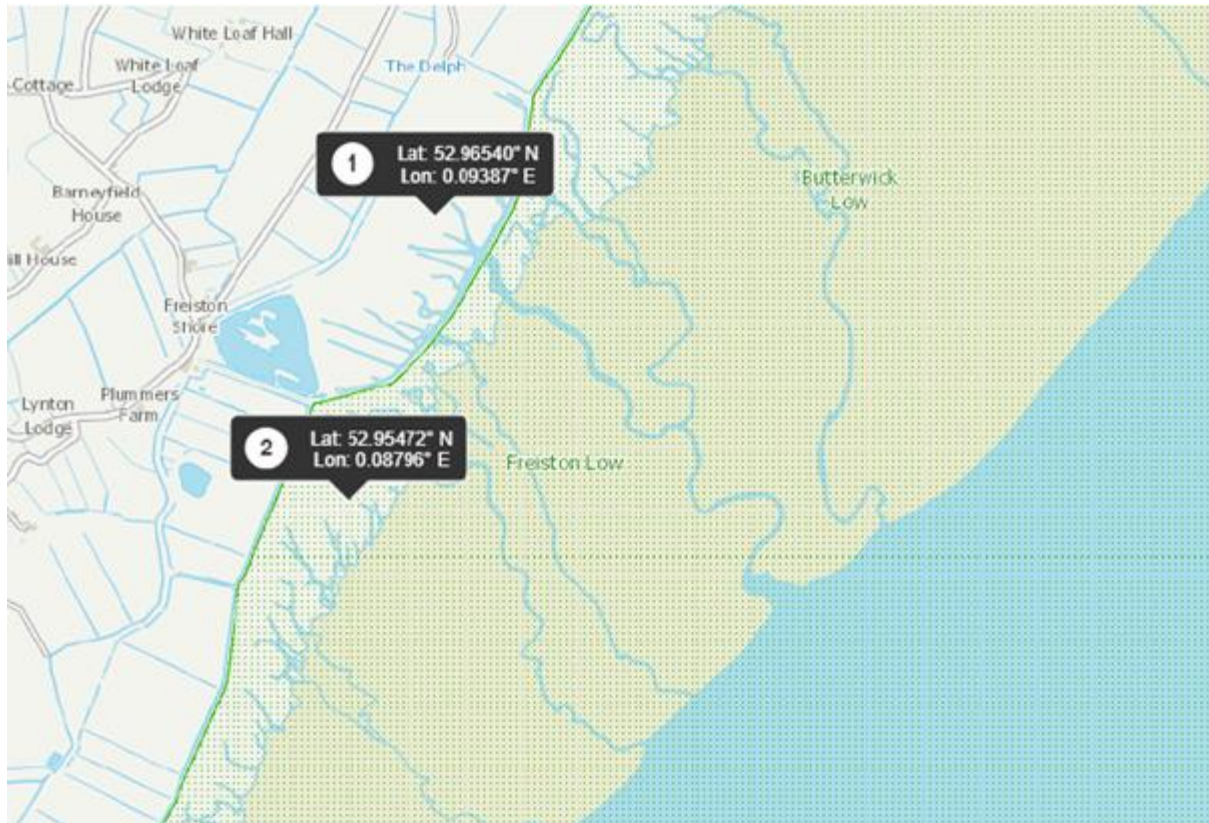
Festive greetings from the RSPB team!

‘Flux Towers’ to be installed on saltmarsh – John Badley

In December two ‘Flux Towers’ will be installed on the saltmarsh on the reserve. One in the ‘Managed Realignment’ area of saltmarsh north of the lagoon and one on the older saltmarsh a little further to the south. The two towers are funded by Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Natural England and the Environment Agency and are designed to capture details on the amount of carbon saltmarshes capture. The two towers at Freiston Shore are part of a network around the UK on different habitats (including farmland, grassland etc) to calculate how good each habitat is at capturing carbon. This will help assess the potential for natural solutions to address climate change and global warming given the international commitments to try to limit global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees. The towers host very sensitive equipment to detect carbon in the air above the habitats and are supported by solar power. It is intended the two towers will be on site for around five years, possibly longer depending on the data they gather.



Contact: Chris Andrews, Visitor Experience Manager
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Anti-social behaviour at the Plummers car park – John Badley

Site Manager John Badley met with Freiston Parish Council and a local resident in October to discuss antisocial behaviour in the main Plummers car park. We discussed options to try to manage noise and other antisocial behaviour, mainly at night, which has been impacting local residents. At the meeting it was agreed that although it was unfortunately impractical currently to physically close the reserve car park at night (eg. with a gate) RSPB would put up a sign to say the car park was closed after dark. It is hoped this will help reduce usage at night and the sign could be referred to in any conversations with those causing a nuisance, if the police were to attend etc. Once this is in place we will review effectiveness and consider other options in the longer term. Local residents are encouraged to continue to report any issues of noise and antisocial behaviour to the Police non-emergency number. Even if the Police are unable to attend registering the incident will enable them to see the scale of the problem and potentially justify visiting the car park at night during routine patrols, which may also help.

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Boston Wildlife Explorers celebrates 18 years – Mick Todd

Boston Wildlife Explorers enjoyed another wonderful year of wildlife based activities.

We started 2023 showing the children how to take part in the RSPB's big garden birdwatch and they even got to build a nest box to take home and put up in their gardens.

Other highlights for the year included looking at fossils and learning all about the dinosaurs in February. April saw a first for the group with an Easter egg hunt around Freiston Shore Nature Reserve. The next three months saw the group participating in everyone's favourite activities. In May we opened moth traps to look at some of our most beautiful night flying insects, in June we took our nets down to our pond for some pond dipping. We caught (and released) newts, sticklebacks and various water invertebrates, including the magnificent great diving beetle. July's meeting saw us venture out onto the salt marsh at Freiston Shore to take a close look at the incredible plants that thrive in such a harsh and dynamic environment. August saw us take a close look at mammals and their amazing adaptations for survival. A close look at fungi followed in September, learning how they actually communicate with trees! With darker days and Halloween approaching in October we ventured into the twilight world of owls, to see what special birds they are. We also took this opportunity to examine their diet when we dissected some owl pellets (pellets are not poo!) to find the remains of mice, voles and shrews which are their preferred prey. In November we had a guest speaker to tell us all about the hedgehog rehabilitation work and how we can help these adorable creatures. We said goodbye to 2023 with our wonderful Wexmas party, playing our favourite games, quiz and craft activity. There was of course party food and a visit from a very special person!

As my headline stated this was our 18th birthday year, so as well as cake, we had a visit from the RSPB's youth officer to make it a double celebration as this year marks 80 years of RSPB youth groups.

Our group meets on the second Saturday of the month and covers a different theme each month. We are starting 2024 with our January meeting "Feed the bird day" which will also cover the RSPB's Big garden birdwatch. The meetings start at 10am until 12.30pm at Freiston Shore Nature Reserve in our classrooms. It is aimed at children between 5 and 15 years of age (parents welcome to stay) and you don't have to be a member or book, just turn up on the day, there is a small charge £2 for members and £3 for non members, any siblings are 50p each. Further details are available on our Facebook page or in local groups on the RSPB website.

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On behalf of Boston Wildlife Explorers may I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best regards

Mick Todd (group leader)

This Quarter's Tides – Chris Andrews

Looking ahead to the tide times and heights over the next three months, the highest (spring) tides are generally in the middle of the month..

There are a second set of spring tides at the very start or end of each month, but they are much lower.

The highest tides for the forthcoming months are:

12 – 15 January, in the mornings and evenings

10 – 14 February, in mornings and evenings, with especially large ones on the evenings of 12 and 13 February

10 – 14 March, in mornings and evenings. With a very big tide on the evening of Tuesday 12 March.

Photo Gallery – Chris Andrews

All the photos below were taken in the last few months at Freiston Shore.



Kestrel by Jeremy Eyeons

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Male Pintail, by Jeremy Eyeons



Guillemot, by Paul Sullivan

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The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity:
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Cattle Egret, by Paul Sullivan



Barn Owl, by Paul Sullivan

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