Lincoln Swan Project

June 2026 Newsletter

Dear Data Collector,

Welcome to the latest Lincoln Swan Project Newsletter! We have a few updates, and some interesting resightings.

We hope you find the newsletter interesting, and please don't hesitate to get in touch with us at lincolnswansightings@gmail.com with any comments or feedback. Please do continue to submit your swan sighting to us through the App – these are all incredibly valuable in contributing towards our ongoing research on the Lincoln Swan population.

Thank you for submitting your swan sightings to us!

Jenny & Laëtitia
The Lincoln Swan Project Team

Avian Influenza

Sadly, the Lincoln swan population experienced its first reported outbreak of avian influenza over the winter, with Defra confirming that L021 and L046 – long term residents of the Brayford – died from the virus. We have also had reports of deaths from suspected avian influenza elsewhere in the city. Please do be vigilant, and if you find a dead swan, please do report it.

What to do if you find dead swans

If you find one or more dead swans, please avoid directly touching the birds. Please call the Defra helpline on 03459 33 55 77 (Mon-Fri 8 am to 6 pm) and select option 7. Please also let us know – regardless of whether the bird is ringed. Contact information is below, or you can report this through the App – please say in the comments box that the bird was dead when found. If you can read the ring number, please report this to us as well.

Nesting & the 2026 Breeding Season

We have had reports of cygnets from right across Lincoln. After the outbreak of avian influenza over the winter, we have fewer breeding pairs around Lincoln, so it's especially important for the Lincoln Swan Project to gather accurate information about which pairs have successfully reproduced and how many cygnets each pair is raising. Please do continue to send us your sightings through the App!

Interesting Resightings

L378 was reported to us in early May, having been spotted at Deeping Lakes, a Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust site about 50 miles south of Lincoln! L378 was ringed as a cygnet in November 2024 on the river Witham just south of Altham Terrace. They were last seen on the Witham in January 2025 with their four siblings and parents – ringing birds really does tell us amazing things about how far birds travel!



L312 was reported to us in December 2025, unfortunately having being found with an injury in Sutterton, near Boston, and euthanised. L312 was one of the Stamp Lane/East Brayford brood from 2023, ringed as one of a brood of 6 cygnets in August. L312 was seen around the Brayford until the end of October 2023, and wasn't seen again until April 2025 – when he turned up on farmland near Skegness! In May 2025 he was reported from Cleethorpes Boating Lake (from where we were sent the photo to the left) and we ten didn't have any more sightings of him until December.

New e-mail address!

Now that the administrative side of the Lincoln Swan Project has moved away from the University of Lincoln to Keele University, we have a new e-mail address for any e-mail inquiries or sightings that can't be submitted through the App. Please use **lincolnswansightings@gmail.com**. Our new website is also up and running, at **www.keele.ac.uk/lincoln-swan-project**. So, please do visit and let us know what you think, and what information you would find useful to see on the website that isn't there already!

Donations

We are always seeking donations to support the work of the Lincoln Swan Project, to fund the cost of metal and colour rings – which costs approximately £4.50 per bird. This helps us continue our monitoring programme of ringing and health checking the Lincoln swan population. We appreciate any size of donation. For more information, please check the link below:

Click here

Thank You!!

Thank you for all your support for the Lincoln Swan Project!

Many thanks to all the Lincoln Swan Project data collectors who continually send their sightings of swans. If you're interested in becoming a project data collector and haven't yet signed up for the App, please visit – https://tinyurl.com/lincolnswans or send sightings via our email (lincolnswansightings@gmail.com). Tag us in any photos of Lincoln Swans on Twitter (@LincolnSwans), BlueSky (@lincolnswans.bsky.social) or Instagram (@lincolnswans)