

## **SUSTAINABILTY MATTERS April 2026 Meeting**

### **Nettleham Woodland Trust - Talk by Su Coleman**

At our April meeting, we enjoyed an engaging and informative talk by Su Coleman, a trustee of the Nettleham Woodland Trust, on its history and ongoing work.

Founded in 2006, the Trust arose from the realisation that although the village and nearby areas were well served by public footpaths there were only limited opportunities for people to freely explore, relax and connect with nature. Equally concerning was the decline in native wildlife, largely as a result of intensive agricultural practices.

The Trust began with just a handful of volunteers but momentum soon grew. Over time, the charity succeeded in acquiring and managing several areas of land, transforming them into woodland, meadows, and ponds.

The Trust's most significant achievement is the Ashing Lane Nature Reserve, where a variety of habitats now support a wide range of birds, insects, amphibians, and mammals.

Another notable project is Co-Op Wood, which comprises over 4000 trees planted by staff and members of Lincolnshire Co-op in celebration of the society's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The land is owned by the Co-op but managed by NWT.

We also heard the fascinating story of Cathedral Copse; an initiative to plant oaks for eventual use in Lincoln Cathedral. Members of the public were able to buy a tree for the exact sum of £12.17, so priced to celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Charter of the Forest and the Battle of Lincoln in 1217. Each tree is recorded in the Book of Oaks held at the Cathedral.

Other projects include PC Wood planted in 2008 on land owned by Lincolnshire Police HQ and Bishops Meadow, where native

trees and wildflowers were introduced as part of a wider heritage site.

Education and public engagement are also central to the Trust's work. Through school visits, orienteering events, and volunteer sessions, the organisation encourages people of all ages to learn about and care for the natural environment.

If you would like to volunteer then please take a look at the Get Involved page of the NWT website ([www.nettlehamwoodlandtrust.co.uk](http://www.nettlehamwoodlandtrust.co.uk)).

Julie Guest