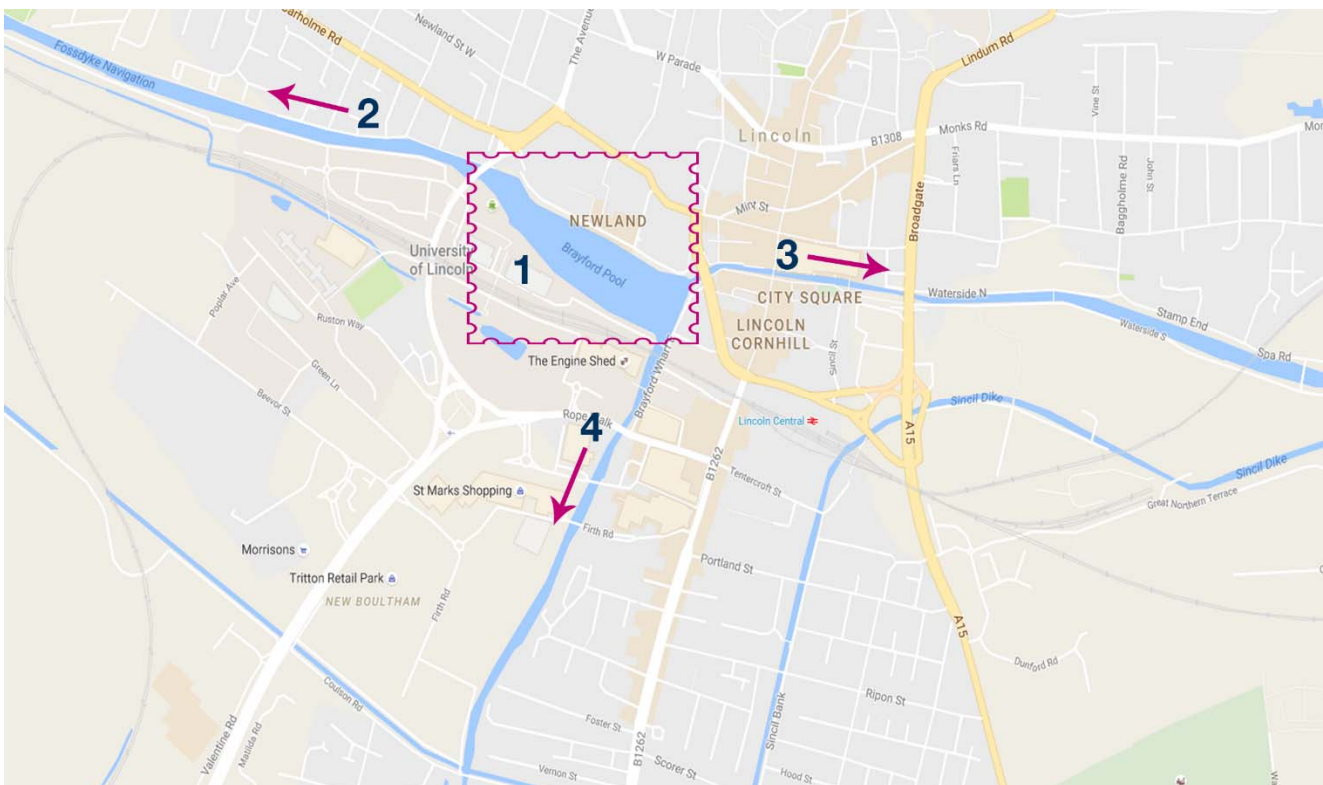


# Swan Watch: The Lincoln Edition

Date of survey:

Start time:

Area	Swans	Cygnets	Nests	Additional Notes
1. Brayford Pool				
2. Fossdyke Navigation towards Pyewipe				
3. Waterside North towards Stamp End				
4. Brayford Wharf East towards Coulson Road				



Name of participant(s):

## *Swan Watch Instructions*

When starting your swan hunt, please note down the date and start time. This will enable us to ascertain whether swans are in certain areas at different times of the day.

Please tally all swans, cygnets and nests in each of the areas. *Do not approach or disturb the swans.*

Use additional notes to mention any broken nests or relevant information about the swan habitat in the area. But try not to disturb the natural habitat.

Once you have finished collecting your data, please hand your form back to the SU.



## *FAQs*

*At what age do swans start mating?*

A juvenile swan normally lives as part of a flock until it is about 4 years old and deemed as being an adult. It then seeks out a mate, most commonly from the flock it's living in, and heads off with the mate to find their own mating territory. If another mating pair is nearby then problems can occur in the form of a territorial battle, the losers of which will have to move on in search of another "patch".

*What time of year do swans breed?*

The mute swan, which is the white swan most commonly seen in the British Isles, will normally mate at anytime from spring through to summer, with the cygnets being born anytime from May through to July.

*How long do swans normally live?*

In the wild, with all the hazards they have to live with (vandals, pollution, dogs, mink, overhead cables, bridges, pylons, lead poisoning, fishing-tackle injuries etc), an average lifespan would be 12 years. In a protected environment this figure can reach 30 years.

*Is it true that a swan's wing can break your arm?*

Yes, but only in exceptional cases. If a wing in full span and velocity were to hit a weak-boned person (such as a child or an elderly person) then it is theoretically possible. In reality it is almost unheard of and is never used as a form of attack as swans are a defensive bird. The only time they become aggressive is when they are protecting their nesting ground or cygnets when they will chase off intruders, be they other swans, geese or humans who get too close.

*What are the biggest threats to swans?*

In addition to the natural threats they face from foxes, mink & botulism, modern society has added several more such as pollution, vandalism, uncontrolled dogs, fishing-tackle and lead poisoning, as well as unmarked pylons, overhead cables & bridges.

For further information, visit: <http://www.theswansanctuary.org.uk/>