



## **Cross Keys Marina Users Marine Wildlife Protection Voluntary Code of Conduct**

Lincolnshire County Council welcome you to Cross Keys Marina, on the River Nene. We hope that you will enjoy your stay at the mooring facilities.

The Cross Keys Marina project was funded by Lincolnshire County Council to give boat users the opportunity to moor their leisure and commercial vessels in close proximity to the abundant natural environment within the Wash. Cross Keys Marina is located within the intertidal area of the Wash which is a very unique part of the British coastal ecosystem and is of national importance. The area provides a very special home to rare plants and animals including three species of legally protected marine mammals including the Harbour Porpoise and both species of British Seal, the Common or Harbour Seal (*Phoca Vitulina*) and the Grey Seal (*Halichoerus Grypus*) and many species of birds including many rare migratory wading birds.

We hope that you will take away many special memories of your time here at this very interesting part of the Wash ecosystem. To help us protect this environmentally important part of our county's waterways, we ask all boat users to follow the Voluntary Code of Conduct during your use of the marina and the surrounding intertidal areas, in order to protect the haul out areas and seal colonies and migratory birds resting in the area.

Cross Keys Marina users Marine Wildlife Protection Voluntary Code of Conduct for all Commercial Vessels and Leisure boat users:

- If seals are encountered during your use of the river entering the water or appearing to move away, particularly females and pups, we ask that you adjust your vessels course and reduce your speed to slow – so that the seals are avoided at all times.
- Vessel speed is limited to 10 knots on the intertidal area of the river, and you must reduce your speed in the presence of seals, particularly when approaching the 100m buffer limit.
- When transiting you must change your course to avoid flocks of resting birds being disturbed. Where possible, the distance to flocks while transiting should be kept at 300m to rule out any disturbance where not absolutely necessary.
- In general we ask that during your stay at the mooring places that you never throw any waste or litter over the side and always take litter home or to the designated waste collection locations.
- We ask dog owners to ensure their dogs are kept under control to reduce the risk of them coming into contact with any hauled out seals on the river bank.