

# Shells hauled to man-made bird paradise

**WIDLIFE** volunteers moved four tonnes of cockle shells to improve an island habitat for Common Tern birds.

Eighteen members of the Bolton Conservation Volunteers group spent a day working at Rumworth Lodge, Lostock to get the shells in place for the birds.

The team were extending a

natural habitat which they created six years ago.

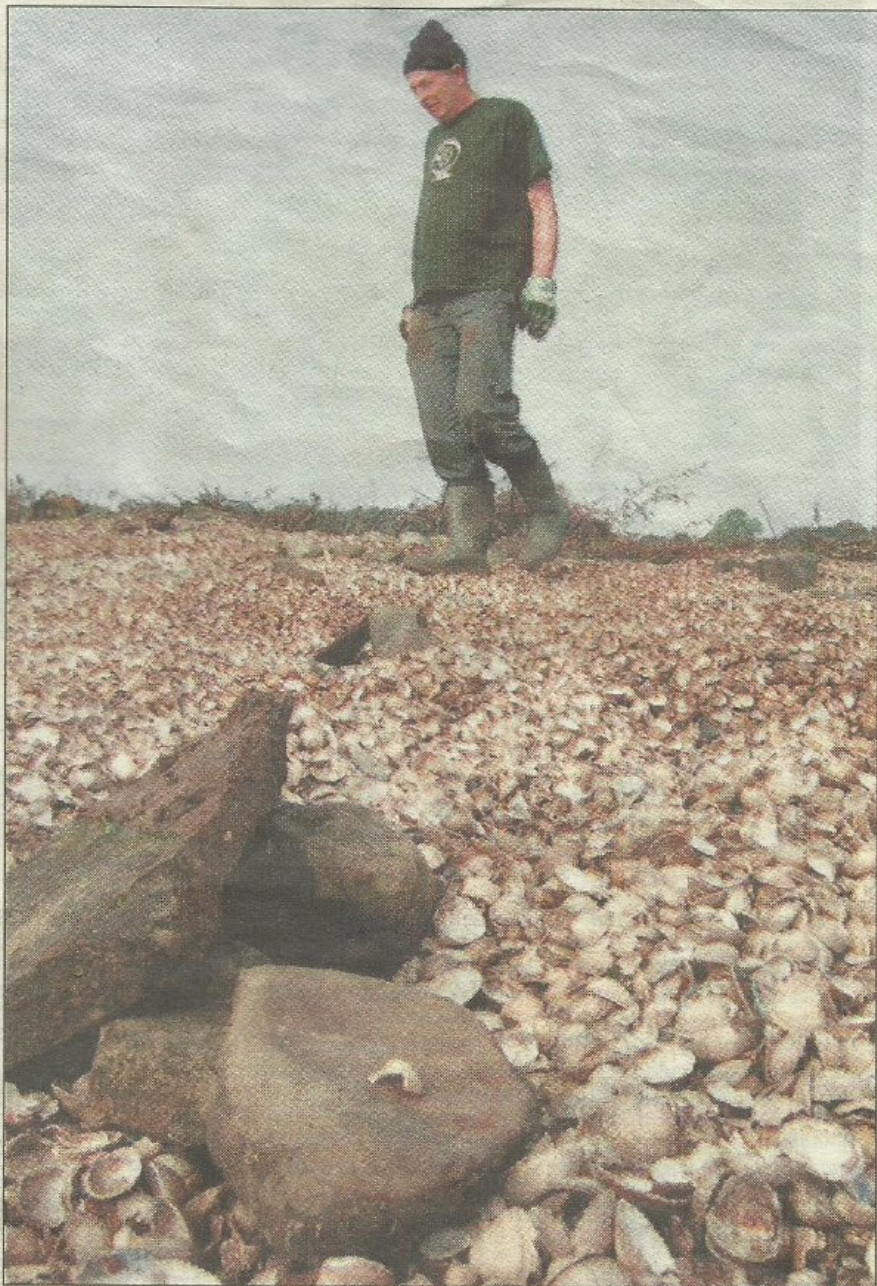
The cockle shells were provided by water and energy firm United Utilities and came from the coast at Southport. They were transported to the water's edge at Lostock by Stan Terry of Seddon Fold Farm.

The volunteers then used an inflatable boat and ropes to pull the shells to the island.

Rick Parker, chairman of BCV, said: "It was a lot of hard work, I think we would have been better off using a helicopter. It was a complicated thing to organise and took a lot of planning. We were very pleased with the turnout of volunteers."

Up to 60 pairs of the birds can now be accommodated on the island.

Terns usually live in coastal areas, nesting on shingle beaches and islands, but they also travel inland to make nests.



**NATURE SITE:** Rick Parker, of Bolton Conservation Volunteers, at Rumworth Lodge