

HUMBER MANAGEMENT SCHEME

Humber Estuary European Marine Site Relevant Authorities' Group

Terms of Reference

1.0 Preamble

- 1.1 The Habitats Regulations¹ give relevant authorities responsibility for the conservation and management of European marine sites². The Regulations require that all local and national relevant and competent authorities with responsibilities in the marine environment exercise their duties to meet the requirements of the Habitats Directive.
- 1.2 The Humber Estuary Relevant Authorities' Group has been established to meet these requirements. The Group will work towards an integrated approach to the management of the Humber Estuary European Marine site³, ensuring the sustainable future of the area and will consider measures to avoid the deterioration of habitats and species for which the site was put forward for designation.

2.0 The Relevant Authorities' Group

2.1 Membership

- 2.1.1 The membership of the Relevant Authorities' Group will comprise representatives from each of the relevant authorities, as defined in the Habitats Regulations. The Humber Relevant Authorities are listed in Appendix II.
- 2.1.2 Other bodies may be invited to attend the Relevant Authorities' Group from time to time to discuss specific issues.

2.2 Role of the Relevant Authorities' Group

- 2.2.1 The Relevant Authorities' Group will establish and approve implementation and monitoring of a single management scheme⁴ for the Humber Estuary European Marine Site as required by Regulation 34 of the Habitats Regulations and as outlined in the DETR guidance⁵.

¹ The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994.

² The Habitats Regulations use the term European sites to encompass sites notified under the Birds and Habitats Directives (SPAs and SACs) and European marine sites for those which consist of, or so far as they consist of, marine areas. Planning Policy Guidance (PPG9) and the DETR statement Ramsar Sites in England (November 2000) requires that Ramsar sites are given the same consideration as European sites when considering plans and projects that may affect them.

³ The boundary of the Humber Estuary European Marine site is described in Section 1.2 of the Management Scheme.

⁴ The Habitats Regulations gives relevant authorities the powers to establish management schemes for European Marine Sites, only one management plan may be made for each site.

⁵ DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT TRANSPORT AND THE REGIONS (DETR). 1998. European marine sites in England and Wales: A guide to the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations 1994 and to the Preparation and Application of Management Schemes.

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- 2.2.2 The management scheme, to be referred to as the Humber Management Scheme, for the Humber Estuary European Marine Site and Ramsar site will:
- (i) Help maintain favourable conservation status and avoid deterioration of the area's natural habitats and species;
 - (ii) Promote the sensitive and sustainable use of this area;
 - (iii) Consider action that will improve conservation interest and reduce conflicts with other activities.
- 2.2.3 The Relevant Authorities Group will encourage widespread participation in developing, and ownership of, the Humber Management Scheme through:
- (i) Taking into account the aims and objectives of the Humber Estuary Site;
 - (ii) Reviewing and advising on the conservation objectives for the Site;
 - (iii) Links with other initiatives in the area such as the Environment Agency's Humber Action Plan and Humber Estuary Shoreline Management Plan, the Humber Coastal Habitat Management Plan, Agenda 21 Plans, structure and local plans, and Associated British Ports' plans for the navigation and its ports;
 - (iv) Setting up an advisory group made up of interested stakeholders living and working in the area of the Humber Estuary, and establishing consultation and ongoing discussion with this group;
 - (v) Publication of the management scheme and other information appropriate to its development and establishment;
 - (vi) Monitoring and review of the management scheme.

2.3 Conduct of Business

- 2.3.1 The Relevant Authorities' Group will meet at least twice a year until a management scheme is established and at least once a year thereafter to monitor and review management measures.
- 2.3.2 The quorum shall be from 8 relevant authorities and each relevant authority shall have 1 (one) vote. Proxy votes are not permitted.
- 2.3.3 A Chairperson and Vice Chair will be elected annually from within the Group. When Project staff are in post they shall provide secretariat.
- 2.3.4 Any member of the Relevant Authorities' Group may propose relevant items for discussion on the agenda, and particular notice will be paid to matters raised at preceding meetings of the Humber Advisory Group.
- 2.3.5 The Relevant Authorities' Group will not take over any of the individual functions of the Relevant Authorities. However, the relevant authorities will need to establish a management scheme and exercise their functions as defined in the scheme so as to secure compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.
- 2.3.6 The Relevant Authorities' Group will set and monitor the budget for the Humber Management Scheme.
- 2.3.7 The appointment and management of project staff will be delegated to the Working Group.

2.4 Working Group

2.4.1 The Relevant Authorities' Group will appoint a Working Group to progress the preparation of the Humber Management Scheme.

2.4.2 The Working Group will comprise:

- (i) The Chair and Vice Chair of the Relevant Authorities' Group
- (ii) The following organisations (if not already represented by the Chair or Vice Chair):
 - § Two local authorities (one from the north side of the Humber and one from the south), usually East Riding of Yorkshire Council and North Lincolnshire Council
 - § English Nature
 - § Environment Agency
 - § Associated British Ports
 - § Humber Sea Terminal
 - § Two representatives of Internal Drainage Boards (usually Lower Ouse Internal Drainage Board representing the north side of the Humber and Grantham, Brundell & Farran representing the south side)
 - § North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee.

Other members of the Relevant Authorities' Group may be invited to Working Group meetings or ask to attend them. Also, the Advisory Group Chair or Vice-Chair will usually attend.

2.4.3 The Working Group will appoint Project staff, and set and monitor their work and administer the budget.

2.4.4 The Working Group will establish the consultation arrangements, including the Humber Advisory Group.

2.4.5 A communiqué will be issued after each meeting of the Working Group, which will be sent to all Relevant Authorities and Competent Authorities not in attendance at the meeting. This communiqué will also be sent to the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Humber Advisory Group if not in attendance at the meeting. Agendas and papers will be available to all Relevant Authorities on request.

2.4.6 The Working Group will report to the Relevant Authorities' Group, which is the decision-making body for the Humber Management Scheme. Minutes of each Working Group meeting will be on the agenda of the subsequent meeting of the full Group.

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2.5 Humber Estuary European Marine Site Advisory Group

- 2.5.1 The Working Group will facilitate the initial establishment of the Humber Advisory Group.
- 2.5.2 At least one member of the Working Group will attend each Humber Advisory Group meeting to provide feedback to and receive advice from the Group. The Project Manager will usually attend and other members of the Relevant Authorities' Group may attend.
- 2.5.3 The Humber Advisory Group will represent a wide range of interest groups and provide opportunities for:
- (i) Groups and individuals to provide local and specialist advice;
 - (ii) Dissemination of information to and seeking the views of industry, agriculture, landowners, other interest groups and the local community;
 - (iii) Promotion of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site at appropriate events.

2.6 Project Officer

A Project Officer will be appointed to co-ordinate the development of the Humber Management Scheme and to prepare reports and publicise the development of the management scheme. The Project Officer will co-ordinate the work of any other Project staff as appropriate.

2.7 Funding

- 2.7.1 Funding will be sought from the Relevant Authorities to progress the management scheme for the Humber Estuary European Marine Site.
- 2.7.2 The budget will be set in advance of each financial year and allocated amongst the Relevant Authorities in proportions agreed by the Relevant Authorities' Group.
- 2.7.3 Each of the Relevant Authorities will bear the cost of the time and incidental expenses of their officers arising from the work of the Working Group.

2.8 Acceptance and Amendment of Terms of Reference

- 2.8.1 The Terms of Reference can be approved and amended only with the agreement of two thirds of the members of the Relevant Authorities' Group. For this purpose postal voting is permitted
- 2.8.2 The Terms of Reference agreed by the Relevant Authorities' Group:

Chair

Vice Chair

Date