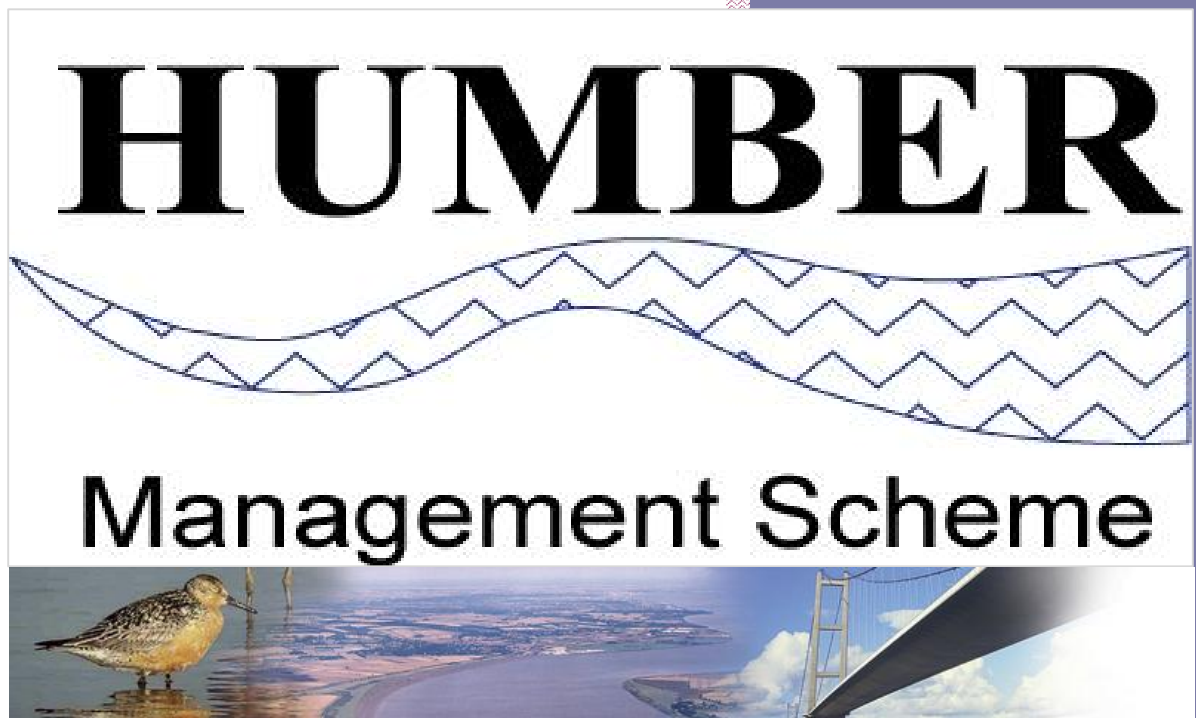


2007

Annual Report



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document is the annual report of the Humber Management Scheme. It provides an account of the Humber Estuary Relevant Authorities contribution to the management of the Humber European Marine Site for 2007. The report was formally approved following the Humber Estuary Relevant Authorities Group Annual General Meeting held in March 2008.

The action plan developed during the scheme's formation was implemented fully, building on the considerable work that had already taken place, to secure a viable future for the Humber Estuary European Marine Site's wildlife, in parallel with its national economic importance.

CONTENTS

1.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	2
2.	PROMOTION	2
2.1.	Media Coverage.....	2
2.2.	Talks	2
2.3.	Website	2
2.4.	Codes of Conduct.....	2
2.5.	Ebb & Flow.....	2
2.6.	Other	3
2.6.1.	Humber Conference 2007.....	3
2.6.2.	Financial Benefit Assessment of Coastal Partnerships Project	3
3.	MANAGEMENT SCHEME REVIEW	4
3.1.	Humber Management Scheme Review Process.....	4
3.2.	Revisions to the Management Scheme.....	4
3.3.	Codes of Conduct	4
3.4.	Marine Protected Area Scorecard	5
3.5.	Action Plan Review.....	5
3.5.1.	Annex A - Fisheries	7
3.5.2.	Annex B - Flood Defence & Land Drainage	8
3.5.3.	Annex C - Water Resources.....	11
3.5.4.	Annex D - Water Quality	13
3.5.5.	Annex E - High Tide Roosts.....	17
3.5.6.	Annex F - Saltmarsh Management	19
3.5.7.	Annex G – Tourism & Recreation	21
3.5.8.	Annex H Science & Education	29
3.5.9.	Annex I - Shipping & Navigation.....	31
3.5.10.	Annex J – Ministry of Defence.....	34
4.	CONDITION & COMPLIANCE MONITORING.....	38
4.1.	Condition monitoring.....	38
5.	OPERATIONAL ISSUES.....	38
5.1.	Legislative Issues.....	38
5.2.	Conservation Objectives.....	39
5.3.	Signage	39
5.4.	Student Placement.....	40
5.5.	Monitoring Questionnaire.....	40
5.6.	Business Plan	40
5.7.	Humber Estuary Relevant Authorities Group (HERAG).....	41
5.7.1.	HERAG Changes in membership.....	41
5.7.2.	HERAG Meetings and Programme of Work.	41
5.8.	Humber Estuary Relevant Authorities Working Group (WG).....	42
5.8.1.	Working Group changes in membership	42
5.8.2.	Working Group Meetings.....	42
5.9.	The Humber Advisory Group	42
5.9.1.	HAG Changes in membership:.....	42
5.9.2.	Election of New Chair/Vice Chair.....	42
5.9.3.	HAG Meetings and Programme of Work	43
5.10.	Appointment of new staff	43
6.	FINANCE AND OPERATION.....	43
6.1.	Financial Report	43
6.2.	Review of Contributions	43
7.	REFERENCES.....	44

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to all the members of the Humber Estuary Relevant Authorities Group and the Humber Advisory Group for their continued support for the scheme and commitment to its ongoing implementation.

2. PROMOTION

2.1. Media Coverage

- o Environment week – The Deep 2nd – 10th June.
- o BBC Coast Event 23 & 24th August.

2.2. Talks

- o Beverley Bird Club: Talks by Project Officer. "Humber INCA and the Humber Management Scheme" (22)
- o Kirton in Lindsey Gardening Club – 'The Humber Management Scheme' (18)
- o Humber Conference – Working in Partnership – presentation by HERAG Chair, Phil Cowing, HAG Chair, Adrian Koster and Project Officer, Kat Sanders. (105)

The estimated attendance at talks during 2007 was 145 people.

2.3. Website

The website continued to be regularly updated throughout the year and was used to provide general information, post news and minutes of meetings. It is now also linked into the network of UK European Marine Sites via the Marine Protected Area Centre website¹ which was launched at the Marine Protected Area conference in October.

Due to a takeover of the original website provider; Tilt in early 2007, the annual statistics for 2007 were not available. The website experienced problems during the changeover of the host and alternatives were investigated as a result. These options were discussed by the working group during their meeting in June and it was decided that the website provider would be changed in March 08 before the next annual fee was due, this would also provide an opportunity to update the content and design.

2.4. Codes of Conduct

The codes of conduct were developed by the Humber Advisory Group in 2005. They continued to be promoted throughout 2007 providing advice on issues such as safety, angling, recreation, walking and wildfowling and were designed to allow people to continue to enjoy these particular activities while minimising any adverse effects.

From the initial printing of approximately 25,000 copies in 2005, supplies have been replenished at all major sources e.g. Humber Bridge Board and Waters' Edge Visitor Centre and at the end of the year, there were approximately 400 copies remaining.

2.5. Ebb & Flow

In 2007, the timing of Ebb & Flow was reviewed. Previous issues of the newsletter have been produced in an A4, 8 page format on an annual basis. Following the results of the scorecard workshop in January in which HERAG assessed their own management success, it was highlighted that 'stakeholder awareness and concern' was one key area in which more work needed to be done. With this in mind it was suggested that changing Ebb and Flow to a twice annual production would be a simple but effective way to improve this area of the schemes implementation.

¹ www.ukmpas.org.uk

Humber Management Scheme Annual Report 2007

The first issue in 2007 was published in March to coincide with the publication of the 2006 Annual Report and the HERAG AGM. The second issue was compiled in October. The twice yearly productions of the newsletter in spring and autumn will hopefully enable the management scheme to engage a wider audience and raise general awareness of the European Marine Site and partnership working.

Issue 6 included articles on:

- o Completions and launch of Alkborough Managed realignment Scheme (Environment Agency)
- o Completion and launch of Chowder Ness and Welwick mitigation schemes (ABP)
- o Marine Protected Area Scorecard
- o Humber Conference 2007
- o Humber Environmental Data Centre
- o New Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan launch
- o Natural England launch
- o Marine Bill
- o Coastal Futures

Issue 7 included articles on:

- o Humber candidate SAC approval.
- o Management Scheme update
- o Changes to the Partnership
- o Fish Variety in the Estuary
- o MPA Centre
- o Humber Conference 2007
- o Humber Signage
- o Humber Sea Terminal Extension
- o Humber Flood Risk Strategy update.

Help with distribution was provided by the Environment Agency and Natural England who both keep current mailing lists. Following changes to the Environment Agency's technology systems, a complete update of the Ebb & Flow mailing list was completed prior to the October issue's mailing. In total (issues 6 & 7), 4000 copies were printed and distributed.²

2.6. Other

2.6.1. Humber Conference 2007

The Humber Conference has been an annual event held most years since 1992. In recent years the conference has been organised by Humber INCA and each one has been centred on a topical theme. At the working group meeting in June, Tony Edwards³ discussed the idea of the 2007 conference being a joint venture between Humber INCA and The Humber Management Scheme. This idea was approved and £1000 of the HMS budget was allocated to assist with the costs. The conference's theme was 'Working in Partnership' and provided an excellent opportunity for Humber INCA and HERAG to work together to host the event. The Chairman of HERAG and HAG alongside Project Officer Kat Sanders provided a presentation on the day about the scheme, past, present and future.

The Humber Conference has been included in the HMS business plan⁴ and funds allocated within the budget for co-hosting the event in future years.

2.6.2. Financial Benefit Assessment of Coastal Partnerships Project

² A comprehensive update of all mailing lists was undertaken in September, following changes to the EA's IT systems.

³ Chief Executive – Humber INCA

Humber Management Scheme Annual Report 2007

In October 2007, Entec Ltd carried out the project "*Financial Benefit Assessment of Coastal Partnerships*" in England, on behalf of Defra, the Local Government Association (LGA) and Coastal Partnerships Working Group (CPWG).

A response to the study was submitted on behalf of The Humber Estuary Relevant Authorities Group and subsequent contact from Entec showed great interest in using the Humber as a case study to highlight best practice of where the partnership is equally representative of all sectors, particularly industry.⁵ Our response provided a basis for the attendance and presentations from Stephen Collins (Marine Planning & Coastal Integration – Defra, London) at the Humber Conference as well as Natasha Barker from the Coastal partnerships Working Group on the Severn.

Entec Ltd has remained in contact with two of the individual relevant authorities' from the Humber using them as case studies. A summary of study's results will be presented at the national Coastal Futures Conference in London in January 2008 with the final report due to be published in March 2008.

3. MANAGEMENT SCHEME REVIEW

3.1. Humber Management Scheme Review Process

The 2007 Annual Report was drafted and compiled by Project Officer Kat Sanders.

A reminder was given to the Humber Estuary Relevant Authorities Group during their meeting in October and the pro-forma's for the annexes A - J were subsequently sent out to lead authors in November 2007.

These forms were completed by the individual relevant authorities and returned to the project officer early in 2008. The final report was approved by the HERAG group at the AGM in March 2008.

Annex G:

In the 2006 annual report, there were noticeable gaps in the information received for Annex G – recreation and tourism. The reasons for this were partly to do with changeovers of staff within some authorities. Feedback from the lead authors (HERAG reps for local authorities) put the problem down to the fact that they had found it extremely difficult to locate the requested information and in many cases reported that it was not available due to little or no monitoring for these activities.

A meeting was held on 30th November to get together the lead authors on Annex G and discuss how this section of the report could be improved for 2007 and future years. It was agreed that HAG's role in monitoring had a key role to play although ultimately it had to be the local authorities who formally reported on the activities for the action plan review. For the use of the 2007 reporting; the key activities were prioritised in consultation with Natural England to assist the authorities focus their efforts. More long term solutions are being developed to ensure that this section of the report can be improved and provide useful information to inform changes in management and action.⁶

3.2. Revisions to the Management Scheme

There were no significant changes during 2007.

3.3. Codes of Conduct

The production of the codes of conduct by the Humber Advisory Group in 2005 covered the following Management Actions:

A1 Angling

F2 Plant Gathering

A3 Cockle Gathering

F5 Access

⁵ Many other partnerships are heavily in favour of the environmental sector.

⁶ See ? Signage and ? Monitoring Questionnaire.

Humber Management Scheme Annual Report 2007

G1 Angling

G3 Bait Digging

G8 Horse riding

G11 Motorised Recreation on the foreshores

G13 Samphire Collection

G16 Wildfowling

H17 Guided walks and activities

G2 Airborne recreation

G7 Dog Walking

G10 Motorised access to foreshores.

G12 Personal Water Craft

G15 Walking

H16 Field trips – universities/schools

Due to limited numbers (approx 400) of the original leaflets remaining, the matter of updating the codes was tabled at the September meeting of the Humber Advisory Group and it was agreed to bring ideas for this update to the next meeting in January 2008. The costs of the update were discussed at the December working group meeting and it was agreed to budget money to complete the task during 2008.

The update of the codes will be another method in which to improve the monitoring of Annex G activities. The new codes will sit alongside the interpretive signage as a tangible means of engaging the public in good stewardship of the estuary.

3.4. Marine Protected Area Scorecard

- In January,⁷ HERAG and HAG members were invited to a workshop to complete the Marine Protected Area Scorecard for the Humber Estuary European Marine Site. The scorecard is a self assessment tool that can be completed as part of a team building exercise between area managers and local stakeholders to report on progress from a given baseline.⁸ It provides a way to show accountability and identify the strengths and weaknesses of current management.
- There is no target score for the exercise and although it is aimed at all marine protected area managers, it is not designed to form a league table between individual sites.
- The Humber was only the fifth site in the UK to complete the exercise and the results will contribute to a UK wide network of EMS management data which is particularly relevant for the marine spatial planning and marine reserves sections within the Marine Bill. It also has wider benefits in helping the UK as a contracting party to OSPAR achieve its aims of 'ensuring that by 2010 there is an ecologically coherent network of well managed marine protected areas for the maritime area of both HELCOM⁹ and OSPAR.¹⁰

The overall score of the Humber EMS Scorecard was 68%. The analysis¹¹ showed the key areas of weakness to be:

- Stakeholder awareness and concern
- Law enforcement
- Integrations within a larger coastal marine management plan.

The scorecard will be repeated in 2 – 3 years time (Jan 09/10) to enable improvement to be measured and to reassess current management. In the mean time, the work of the management scheme focussed on projects that will address the areas highlighted during the first scoring. i.e.) Ebb & Flow, signage and HAG's monitoring.

3.5. Action Plan Review

The Action Plans are reviewed alongside the Management Scheme. The following sections details the work undertaken during 2007.

⁷ Following feedback from EMS sites, Natural England have updated the scorecard for future use.

⁸ There was no existing baseline as this was the first use of the scorecard.

⁹ (Helsinki, Baltic convention)

¹⁰ (NE Atlantic convention).

¹¹ In depth analysis completed by Angela Kelham (Hull University) on placement with HMS.

Humber Management Scheme Annual Report 2007

Fisheries	Annex A
Flood Defence & land Drainage	Annex B
Water Resources	Annex C
Water Quality	Annex D
High Tide Roosts	Annex E
Saltmarsh Management	Annex F
Recreation and Tourism	Annex G
Science & Education	Annex H
Shipping and Navigation	Annex I
Ministry of Defence	Annex J

Humber Management Scheme Annual Report 2007

3.5.1. Annex A - Fisheries

Lead Author: North East Sea Fisheries Committee - Giles Bartlett, Environmental Officer.

Additional Input: David Hopkins (EA),

Activity & Proposed management actions	Progress during 2007	Future timetable	Review of Management Action/Timescale etc.
<i>A1/ Angling</i>	Production of Code of Conduct for intertidal Fisheries including bait gathering	Continue to monitor	Continuing input from HAG
<i>A2/ Long-lining for skate and cod</i>	Ongoing monitoring – Report update - CEFAS Review of Inshore Fisheries (see http://www.cefas.co.uk/3621.aspx)	Continue to monitor	
<i>A3/ Cockle gathering</i>	Ongoing monitoring Report - CEFAS Review of Inshore Fisheries	Continue to monitor and asses management options.	Decision taken to hold Regulating Order until after Marine Bill
<i>A4/ Netting</i>	Ongoing monitoring Report - CEFAS Review of Inshore Fisheries	Monitor and enforce activity after new byelaw is introduced	New fixed engine byelaw awaiting sign off from DEFRA
<i>A5/ Potting for crab</i>	New Shellfish Byelaw introduced 2007.	Fully implement shellfish byelaw.	Monitor impact of new legislation and impact of tagging requirement
<i>A6/ Trawling (shrimp)</i>	Ongoing monitoring Report - CEFAS Review of Inshore Fisheries	Continue to monitor	Low level of activity, observe impacts if level increases, particularly regarding discards
<i>A7/ Trawling (sole)</i>	Ongoing monitoring Report - CEFAS Review of Inshore Fisheries	Continue to monitor	
<i>A8/ Bait Digging</i>			
<i>A9/ Salmon & sea trout angling</i>		Continue to monitor	
<i>A10/ Eel trapping</i>		Continue to monitor	
<i>A11/ Fish impingement</i>	<p>Under review of consents, impingement of river & sea lamprey & other cSAC features has been assessed. Within the Estuary, impingement of these species at the Saltend Power Station and the two Killingholme Power Stations has been considered to have No Adverse Effect on site integrity.</p> <p>At Stallingborough (South Humber Bank Power Station) it has been unable to conclude that impingement has No Adverse Effect On Site Integrity.</p>	<p>Licences to be affirmed as they stand.</p> <p>Appraisal for options which would eliminate or reduce the impact of impingement of lamprey at Stallingborough to be carried out.</p>	Formal monitoring at Stallingborough to assess the effectiveness of any measures implemented to reduce or eliminate adverse effects on lamprey.
<i>A12/ Barriers to fish movement</i>	Steve Bailey or other (EA)		

3.5.2. Annex B - Flood Defence & Land Drainage

Lead Author: Environment Agency – Andrew Barron

Activity & Proposed management actions	Progress during 2007	Future timetable	Review of Management Action/Timescale etc.
<p><i>B1 Capital schemes</i></p> <p>The Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy and CHaMP provides a sustainable long-term management strategy for flood defence investment</p> <p>Assessment of schemes under the Habitats Regulations 48-53/</p>	<p>The Environment Agency's strategy gained approval from Defra and the Treasury in March 2007.</p> <p>Appropriate Assessments will take place as individual schemes are considered. A shadow appropriate assessment of the strategy is supported by Natural England</p>	<p>Publication and launch of the Final Strategy is expected in March 2008</p> <p>As individual schemes are submitted for approval.</p>	<p>To be reviewed every 5 years.</p> <p>Schemes reviewed as approvals are gained and funding released.</p>
<p><i>B3 Discharge of surface water from: Pumping stations, Clough doors and flap valves.</i></p> <p>Review current regime when monitoring information becomes available</p> <p>Monitor impact at outfalls at high drainage periods</p>	<p>See B1 adoption of the Humber Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy will determine the programme of works on the estuary and inform all aspects of work.</p>	<p>As B1</p>	<p>As B1</p>
<p><i>B4 Maintenance</i></p> <p><i>Desilting of outfalls</i></p> <p>Review current regime when monitoring information becomes available</p> <p>Monitor impacts at outfalls,</p>	<p>De silting works undertaken at Stone Creek and Burstwick drain as well as other locations to improve water flow following the June significant rainfall event.</p>	<p>See B1</p>	<p>See B1</p>

Humber Management Scheme Annual Report 2007

particularly the effects on saltmarsh habitat, where hold back and flush regime used			
<p><i>B5 Maintenance Grass cutting and vegetation management</i></p> <p>Development of an annual maintenance programme and formal discussions with Natural England are continuing</p>	A methodology to gain a 5 - 10 year programme of approved works continues to be agreed Natural England.	Further refinement of maintenance programme and investment	
<p><i>B6 Maintenance Stoning</i></p> <p>Development of a stoning strategy is continuing Habitats Regulations 48-53</p> <p>Draw up programme of works.</p>	Erosion protection survey to establish the extent and form of erosion protection throughout the Humber were undertaken	A strategy of maintenance and improvement works will be produced by the end of 2008.	
<p><i>B7 Maintenance Repairs to banks and other structures.</i></p> <p><i>Surveillance of the continuing regime – i.e. carry out repairs as required particularly after floods and minimise and mitigate against impacts</i></p> <p><i>Consult with Natural England prior to works unless impractical during an emergency</i></p>	<p>See B1 adoption of the Humber Flood Risk Management strategy will determine the programme of works on the estuary and inform all aspects of work. See B4.</p> <p>NE were consulted on the Humber Flood Risk management strategy and they support the proposed overall strategy.</p>	<p>See B1</p> <p>Individual schemes are likely to require appropriate assessments as they progress to implementation stages</p>	<p>See B1</p>

Humber Management Scheme Annual Report 2007

	Works carried out by drainage boards as required.		
<p><i>B8 Maintenance</i> <i>Removal of rubbish and obstructions</i></p> <p>Carry out removal and disposal of rubbish as required, particularly after floods and minimise and mitigate against impacts</p> <p>Monitor areas where visual and noise impacts may be high</p>	<p>Undertaken as needed</p> <p>No high impact sites identified</p>	<p>On going</p> <p>On going</p>	
<p><i>B9 Maintenance</i> <i>Vermin control.</i></p> <p>Carry out as required and review.</p>	<p>Undertaken as needed during the year</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
<i>B10 Monitoring and surveying</i>	(Annex H)		
<p><i>B11 Operation of River Hull Tidal Surge Barrier and flood gates</i></p> <p>Carry out existing operation</p>	<p>Modifications to the barrier's operating systems were assessed to determine necessary improvements to the reliability of operation</p>	<p>Design and Build contract to be let early summer 2008 with construction starting 2009</p>	

3.5.3. Annex C - Water Resources

Lead Author: Environment Agency – Andrew Barron

Activity & Proposed Management Actions	Progress during 2006	Future timetable	Review of Management Action/Timescale etc
<p>C1 Abstraction of Water</p> <p>(Annex A11) New or Varied Abstractions</p> <p>Determine licences for abstractions under Water Resources Act 1991 and the Habitats Regulations 1994. Undertake appropriate assessment where there could be significant impact on site and set conditions to protect uses including for quality and nature conservation.</p>	<p>Licences are determined in accordance with legislation as they are received.</p>		
<p>C1 Abstraction of Water (continued) Existing Abstractions</p> <p>Review existing licences for abstractions under Water Resources Act 1991 and the Habitats Regulations 1994, which may lead to variations in permit conditions where significant impact occurs.</p>	<p>Since 2001 work has been ongoing to produce Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies that will inform decisions. New 'permanent' abstraction licences are being granted in accordance with the Hull and East Riding CAMS, with a common end date (31/3/13). This is consistent with the six-year review cycles that are required for River Basin Management Plans under the Water Framework Directive. Three tests are applied to all renewals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued environmental sustainability • Demonstration of continued justification of need <p>Efficient use of water.</p>	<p>In process of developing the Hull level Dependent CAMS</p> <p>All consents have been reviewed at stage 3 of Habs Regs but have yet to be signed off by Natural England</p>	
<p>C2 Monitoring of Abstractions</p> <p>Monitor to ensure water not being extracted illegally</p> <p>Illegal Abstraction (including breaches of licence conditions)</p>	<p>(Annex H)</p> <p>Monitoring of abstractions and enforcement continue in</p>		

Humber Management Scheme Annual Report 2007

Enforcement in line with legislation	line with current policy. As above.		
--------------------------------------	--	--	--

3.5.4. Annex D - Water Quality

Lead Author: Environment Agency – Andrew Barron

Additional Input:			
Activity & Proposed management actions	Progress during 2006	Future timetable	Review of Management Action/Timescale etc.
<p><i>D1 Effluent Discharges & Atmospheric Emissions from Prescribed Processes.</i></p> <p>Determine permits under Environmental Protection Act 1990, Water Resources Act 1991, Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999, Habitats Regs. Undertake appropriate assessment where there could be significant impact on site. Set conditions to protect uses including for quality and nature conservation.</p> <p>Enforcement of permit conditions in line with legislation and prosecution policy.</p> <p>Review permit conditions where significant impact occurs (Reg. 50 of Habitats Regulations – Applications for new or to vary existing permits, existing permits, breaches of permit).</p>	<p>Permits are determined in accordance with legislation as they are received.</p> <p>Enforcement continues in line with current policy.</p> <p>Following a screening process assessment of consents is continuing.</p>	<p>Re-permitting process Electrical Supply Industry (ESI) ongoing to assess impact on Humber.</p>	
<i>D2 Outfall maintenance</i>			

Humber Management Scheme Annual Report 2007

Surveillance of the continuing management.	See B1, this will determine future management	As B1.	
<p><i>D3 Agricultural runoff from rivers</i></p> <p>Implement pollution control powers to reduce the risk of pollution and spillages of agro-chemicals/wastes including measures on storage of silage, slurries, oil and chemicals, promotion of good agricultural practice, influence land use management.</p> <p>Enforce much of the Humber catchment is a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone</p>	<p>The Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative was launched in December 2005. The aim over 2 years is to encourage catchment sensitive farming that keeps diffuse pollutants to levels that are consistent with the ecological sensitivity. It includes limiting the use of fertilisers, manures and pesticides; promoting good soil structure, protecting watercourses from faecal contamination, sediment and pesticides. Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative officer appointed for area roughly Tetney Lock to Boston. http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2006/061031a.htm.</p> <p>Compliance visits carried out on a risk basis</p>	<p>Assess in 2007 as project concludes</p> <p>Officer in post until March 2008</p>	Assess in 2007 as project concludes
<p><i>D4/Leaching from Contaminated land</i></p> <p>Identify 'special sites' (ie. those which could affect the Humber) and gain remediation</p>	No other sites are currently undergoing work.		
<p><i>D5/Clean up of contaminated land</i></p> <p>Apply Habitats Regulations 48-53.</p>	A screening process assessment of consents has been completed.		
<i>D6 Mobilisation of contaminated sediments</i>			

Humber Management Scheme Annual Report 2007

Assess significance and determine whether there is any practical intervention.	Monitoring of contaminants is undertaken by CEFAS on behalf of DEFRA. Samples are taken on a 3 year cycle.		
<i>D7 Dredging*</i>	(See Annex I10/15).		
<i>D8 Waste Management Licensed Operations</i> Review existing licences (Reg 50) and determine new application under Habitat Regs.	Impact of consents have been determined.	Need to inform permit holder of decisions about permit by 2008	
<i>D9 Waste Management Illegal waste disposal.</i> Enforcement action against flytipping and gain removal of waste, identify hotspots.	Enforcement continues in line with policies		
<i>D10 Leaching of anti fouling paint.</i> Enforce international legislation banning application of products with TBT. Enforce international legislation requiring that no TBT to be found on hulls.	No known use of TBT has occurred. As above.		
<i>D11 Oil and Chemical spillages from vessels and harbour installations.</i>	(Annex I1) Humber Standing Environment Group (EA, NE, Defra, RSPCA, RSPB, wildlife trusts). Contingency plan for marine based spills. Exercised as part of HUMEX – Nov' 06.		
<i>D12 Spillages/leakages/deliberate pollution (other than from ships)</i> Enforcement of pollution prevention and enforcement	Enforcement continued during 2006.	Ongoing work with Hull Uni, LA's to develop site specific	Continuing review.

Humber Management Scheme Annual Report 2007

<p>powers and conditions on planning consents for bunding, storage, sustainable urban drainage systems, etc.</p> <p>Promotion/education on good practice, waste minimisation, environmental management systems, etc.</p>	<p>See above.</p>	<p>clean up plans.</p>	
<p><i>D13 Monitoring and surveys</i></p>	<p>(Annex H)</p>		

3.5.5. Annex E - High Tide Roosts

Lead Author: Natural England - Emma Hawthorne

Additional Input: Nick Cutts, IECS. Ian Higginson & Michelle Lindsay, RSPB

Activity & Proposed management actions	Progress during 2007	Future timetable	Review of Management Action/Timescale etc.
E1/ Changes in land use and/or vegetation type			
Monitor and review high tide roosts around the Humber Estuary.	Natural England commissioned a report by IECS at Hull University 'Review of High Tide Waterfowl Roosting and Foraging Sites on the Humber Estuary'.	Completed	
Promote the development of further high tide roosts on the estuary by liaising with colleagues to inform and target new HLS applications.	Work with advisors to ensure that applications are received from sites adjacent to the estuary with opportunities to focus on the maintenance or enhancement of high tide roosting and foraging sites. Natural England has established an HLS targeting group for the estuary.	Ongoing	
Monitor bird numbers landward of the sea wall via revised WeBS counts to provide separate data for the estuary and the terrestrial habitat.	Continue to promote the need to separate out data for high tide roosts from main WeBS data with local bird recorders	Ongoing	
Review the need for a buffer zone between the estuary and industrial development where appropriate.	Continue to advise North and North East Lincolnshire Councils on monitoring programmes to determine the location and extent of high tide roosting and feeding habitats in the South Humber bank area. Liaise and input into the monitoring project led by Humber INCA	Ongoing	
Advise competent authorities on Habitats Regulations	Continue to advise competent authorities on their responsibilities under the Habitats Regulations when consulted on developments and Local Development Frameworks	Ongoing	

Humber Management Scheme Annual Report 2007

<p>Develop and implement Biodiversity Action Plan targets for creating coastal grazing marsh and other relevant habitats.</p>	<p>The Lincolnshire BAP has recently been updated and HMS has input into this. Managed realignment sites around the estuary are contributing to the national BAP target 'intertidal habitat creation'.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
<p>New activities for 2007</p>			
<p>Develop solutions for the sustainable development of the South Humber Bank</p>	<p>Continue to liaise with North and North East Lincolnshire Councils regarding the development zone along the South Humber Bank. A number of meetings and conferences have been held to discuss the possibilities of taking a strategic approach to mitigation land and how to achieve and maintain this in the long term.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	

3.5.6. Annex F - Saltmarsh Management

Lead Author: Natural England - Emma Hawthorne

Additional Input: Ian Higginson, RSPB.

Activity & Proposed management actions	Progress during 2007	Future timetable	Review of Management Action/Timescale etc.
<p><i>F1/ Stock grazing</i> Surveillance and promotion of ELS and HLS to support low intensity grazing.</p>	<p>Liaison with colleagues to target ELS / HLS applications adjacent to the estuary, or those with saltmarsh which was historically grazed, where applicable. A number of these applications are being progressed.</p> <p>Natural England HLS targeting group has been established for the Humber Estuary.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
<p><i>F2/ Plant gathering</i> (Annex G13) Erection of signs explaining the nature conservation importance of the site and information on third party damage</p>	<p>Funding has now been secured to erect signs at key locations on the estuary. The first stage of this will commence in 2008.</p> <p>Natural England assisted with the mapping of proposed sign locations and the Project Officer has contacted the local planning authorities regarding permissions for sign erection.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
<p><i>F3/ Reed cutting</i> Surveillance, research and trial management</p>	<p>There has been no progress on this proposed estuary-wide project due to staff shortages at Natural England, although it has been proposed to local university students as a possible BSc/ MSc project - undertake a review of past and present reedbed management on the estuary. The RSPB and LWT continue with reedbed management on their sites. Natural England continue to advise individual owner/ occupiers on reedbed management</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
<p><i>F4/ Sea defences</i></p>	<p>(Annex B)</p>		
<p><i>F5/ Access through Saltmarsh</i> Surveillance of areas where this is known to be a problem. Monitoring to inform management options</p>	<p>Monitoring is continuing through liaison with owners and occupiers.</p> <p>Proposed signs will assist where access is causing damage and/ or disturbance</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	

Humber Management Scheme Annual Report 2007

New activities for 2007			
Study of the historical management of the Humber Estuary saltmarsh.	Natural England is undertaking a study of the historical management of saltmarsh on the Humber Estuary to identify how and where management practices have changed.	Ongoing	

3.5.7. Annex G – Tourism & Recreation

Lead Author: - Local Authorities: East Lindsey District Council – Roy Ormsby, East Riding of Yorkshire Council – Jeremy Pickles, Hull City Council – Craig Boxshall, Lincolnshire County Council – Alan Freeman, North East Lincolnshire Council – Chris Holliday, North Lincolnshire Council – Andrew Taylor.

Additional Input: Humber Advisory Group.

Activity & Proposed management actions	Progress during 2007	Future timetable	Review of Management Action/Timescale etc.
<p><i>G1/Angling</i></p> <p><u>East Riding</u> A beam trawler/shrimper appears annually in the river and numerous small boats in or around the deep water channel. All appear to be from the south bank.</p> <p>There are one or two casual boats at Sammie's point, activity not known. Occasional fixed gill nets appear pegged on the mud. Beach fishing is all year, targeting Different species depending on the season. Line and tack is lost which is an accepted product of the hobby. Some anglers leave a lot of rubbish on the beach and in the designated parking areas.</p> <p><u>Hull City</u> Informal angling only along the foreshore.</p> <p><u>North East Lincolnshire</u> Cleethorpes: Angling takes place at most high tides and on around 3 occasions a year there is a 100 peg fishing match. This is organised by the fishing clubs.</p>	<p>Codes of Conduct continue to be made available at reserve. Good uptake so far.</p> <p>No events promoted by the City Council.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	

<p><u>East Lindsey</u> Lincolnshire Foreshore not suitable for angling, families regularly go 'crabbing' at Fitties lagoon</p>			
<p><i>G2/ Airborne recreation*</i></p> <p><u>East Riding</u> Light aircraft and micro lights are regular In good weather all year and 50% are under 1000ft. High Tide wader roosts and feeding areas on the flats are often disturbed as a result.</p> <p><u>North East Lincolnshire</u> Most activity results from the military flying into Horseshoe Point although we do have the odd micro light from North Coates.</p> <p><u>East Lindsey</u> Light aircraft and microlights are regular In good weather all year, with a small airfield adjacent to the site at Northcotes. The effects of this disturbance are unknown.</p> <p><u>North Lincolnshire</u> There have been problems at Alkborough Flats, with low-flying helicopters disturbing the waterfowl and waders.</p>	<p>Site managers have pursued the matter with the Civil Aviation Authority</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
<p><i>G3/ Bait digging</i></p> <p><u>East Riding</u> Bait digging on the mud flats all year,</p>	<p>This is very difficult to police and currently not attempted.</p>		

<p>there are 6 -12 commercial/semi commercial diggers. The majority dig for lugworm but some rag are taken,though these are more difficult to dig and generally each digger only tacks 20 or so. No obvious effects on the availability of worm. The distribution of worms seems to be greater affected by weather and season. Diggers do cause some disturbance to birds on the mud but this is only really a problem during periods of hard winter weather when large numbers of diggers come out for a number of consecutive days, some 60 to 70.</p> <p><u>North East Lincolnshire</u> Bait Digging is kept to designated areas and done under licence issued by N. E. Lincs Council. This is restricted to NEL's residents and only for personal use NOT commercial.</p> <p><u>East Lindsey</u> Bait digging is largely restricted to the Areas near the car parks at Horseshoe Point and Humberston Fitties and is reasonably low levels compared to sites such as Spurn. Signs are in place around Fitties lagoon to try and stop digging within lagoon and these are largely effective.</p>	<p>Codes of Conduct continue to be made available at reserve. Good uptake so far.</p>		
<p><i>G4/ Beach recreation</i></p> <p><i>North East Lincolnshire</i> <i>There is only one school that use the Beach and the mainly use the sand bares and stay away from the sensitive</i></p>			

Humber Management Scheme Annual Report 2007

<p>areas.</p>			
<p><i>G5/ Birdwatching</i> <u>Hull City</u></p>	<p>Monitoring is continuing through liaison with owners and occupiers. Proposed signs will assist where access is causing damage and/ or disturbance</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
<p><i>G6/ Cycling</i> <u>Hull City</u> Legally no cycling is allowed along the foreshore footpath (transpennine trail) although it does take place. (particularly east of The Deep).</p>			
<p><i>G7/ Dog walking</i> <u>East Riding</u> Dogs not permitted on the nature reserve. They are allowed on the bank and spend a lot of time off the lead and roam widely over the waters edge and vegetation causing considerable disturbance. <u>North East Lincolnshire</u> The area is well used for dog walking. This is restricted in the summer months on Cleethorpes front but permitted from the Leisure Centre south. <u>East Lindsey</u> Large numbers of dog walkers use Foreshore and dunes at Humberston Fitties, with lesser numbers walking along flood banks and accessing Horseshoe Point and along the foreshore towards Northcoates Point.</p>			

Humber Management Scheme Annual Report 2007

<p>Dogs are regularly seen off the lead and probably cause serious disturbance to the ground nesting birds in saltmarsh near Fitties Lagoon.</p> <p><u>North Lincolnshire</u></p>	<p>A footpath creation/diversion is being considered at Whitton (Footpath 13) and at Alkborough flats, both are near the floodbank. It may be necessary to consider noise and visual disturbance to birds in the form of an appropriate assessment before a decision is made.</p>		
<p><i>G8/ Horse riding</i></p> <p><u>East Riding</u> Only one riding school locally, they stay off sensitive areas and cause little or no disturbance.</p> <p><u>East Lindsey</u> Tetney: Regularly on the beach, they often cross the Tetney haven channel at low tide and although they probably cause little disturbance there is potential for disturb/trampling of ground nesting birds in the 'Hilbre' area.</p>			
<p><i>G9/ Motor cruising</i> <i>G10/ Motorised access to foreshores</i> <i>G11/ / Motorised recreation on the foreshores.</i> <i>G12/ Personal Water Craft</i></p> <p><i>East Riding</i> <i>Reports of unauthorised G10 at Spurn, Brough and other areas.</i></p> <p><i>Formal letter to Humberside police superintendent written by HAG to encourage designation of a dedicated</i></p>	<p>Contact made with Humberside Police Officer Tony Newiss and regular dialogue and reporting now established.</p>		

Humber Management Scheme Annual Report 2007

<p><i>Wildlife Crime Officer for the force and joining up of practices with Lincolnshire.</i></p> <p><u>Hull City</u> Access available from Hull Marina at Relevant states of the tide (via lock gates).</p> <p><u>North Lincolnshire</u> Barton Claypits Advisory Group members regularly report motorcycle offences to the Police.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Motor cycle problems reported to the Police from Goxhill Haven down to East Halton Skitter. Physical damage to SAC habitat. Police have seized some motorbikes.</p>		
<p><i>G13/ Samphire collection</i></p> <p><u>East Lindsey</u> None known, have never seen anyone gathering salicornia at Tetney although present in abundance on site</p>	<p>Natural England is undertaking a study of the historical management of saltmarsh on the Humber Estuary to identify how and where management practices have changed.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
<p><i>G14/ Seal watching</i></p> <p><u>East Lindsey.</u> Donna Nook nature reserve has one of the largest and most accessible breeding colonies of grey seals in the UK. Oct – Dec is the peak season for visitors who come to see the new pups on the beach. During November and December the Trust mounts a wardening service to protect the seals and to organise watching facilities for visitors.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>East Lindsey council prompted discussion during 2007 in regards so improving access to the reserve and to relieving the growing pressure from visitor traffic in nearby villages.</p>		

<p><i>G15/ Walking</i></p> <p><i>North Lincolnshire</i> Plans for new footpath and ramp being created at the Outdoor Pursuits centre near Far Ings. Project Appropriate Assessment showed no Adverse Effect on Integrity</p> <p><i>East Riding</i> There is small amounts of walking over To access bait digging areas; education groups some times work on the marsh, say 5 – 10 groups or individuals per year.</p>	<p>See G7 Ongoing</p> <p>Transpenine trail information board erected adjacent to The Deep.</p>	<p>Planned for completion in 2008.</p> <p>Review of trail signage planned for early 2008.</p>	
<p><i>G16/ Wildfowling</i></p> <p><i>East Lindsey</i> There is a wildfowling agreement with the Humber Wildfowlers over an area of marsh north of Tetney Haven. The bag returns are usually between about 100 and 200 birds. Winter wildfowl numbers in this area are reasonably stable with wigeon numbers having increased in the last few years. Wildfowling also occurs on land adjacent to the south side of the reserve.</p> <p><i>North East Lincolnshire</i> Review of consents.</p> <p><i>North Lincolnshire</i> <i>Ruddy Duck cull taking place in Barton and Barrow Clay Pits (Defra/Central Science Laboratory project).</i></p>	<p>Completed.</p> <p>No reports to date of disturbance to SPA listed species.</p>		

<i>G17/ Yachting and sailing</i>			
<u>Hull City</u> Access via Hull Marina.			

3.5.8. Annex H Science & Education

Lead Author: Natural England - Emma Hawthorne, Humber Project Officer Kat Sanders.

Additional Input: Hellen Hornby - HAG.

Activities & Proposed Management Actions	
H1/ Aerial surveys H2/ Archaeological surveys H3/ Bird and mammal surveys H4/ Fish/ shellfish surveys H5 Monitoring of fishing activity H6/ Geological surveys H7/ Geomorphological surveys H8/ Habitat condition assessment	H9/ Hydrographic surveys (Annex I) H10/ Sampling of intertidal and sub-tidal sediments by grab, coring, trawling etc. H11/ Invertebrate surveys/studies H12/ Monitoring of pollutant concentrations H13/ Seismic surveys H14/ Vegetation surveys

Activity & Proposed Management Actions	Progress during 2007	Future timetable	Review of Management Action/Timescale etc.
H1 – H14 Above Surveillance (Maintain watching brief) by the organisations involved to ensure that there is no disturbance to the habitats or species of the EMS. Assessment of new activities if they are likely to cause significant effect.	Work Included: WeBs counts on high and low tides. Assessment of new activities is ongoing. Condition assessment and monitoring of Humber (cSAC, SPA, Ramsar) scoping study were restarted following a break in 2006 for the reorganisation of English Nature to form Natural England.	These are ongoing projects and are expected to continue through 2007. Natural England are currently organising a programme of work for 2008/2009.	These reports produced as a result of these projects determine the need for further action/research.

<p><i>H15/ Water sampling</i></p> <p>Surveillance (Maintain watching brief) by the organisations involved to ensure that there is no disturbance to the habitats or species of the EMS</p>	<p>Undertaken by the Relevant Authorities as required.</p> <p>Liaison with the Environment Agency to link the Water Framework Directive monitoring requirements with ecological monitoring requirements</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
<p><i>H16/ Fields trips universities/ Schools</i></p> <p>Ongoing education programme implemented by the South Humber Bank Wildlife and People Project (SHWAP). Talks and other activities aimed at schools, colleges and universities.</p>	<p>Comprehensive programme of events undertaken by SHWAP at Far Ings, Waters' Edge Visitor Centre where HMS is based and Alkborough Flats.</p> <p>A new visitor centre and education facility was opened for Lincs Wildlife Trust at Far Ings by David Bellamy in June.</p> <p>3rd year undergraduate student placement with Project Officer completed Jan - April 2007. Student worked on scorecard project and produced final report.</p>	<p>Increased awareness of the EMS through signage and media such as Ebb & Flow.</p> <p>Use new centre to host educational activities, events and provide interpretation for members of the public.</p> <p>Provide offer of suitable projects for future hosting of Hull University placement scheme.</p>	
<p><i>H17/ Guided walks and activities</i></p> <p>Erection of notices on site, explaining the nature conservation importance of the site.</p> <p>SHWAP conduct a wide range of events in North Lincolnshire; especially during the summer months.</p>	<p>£5000 allocated for phase 1 signs in 6 locations. Funding granted by the Crown Estate (£1500) and match funding partners – NESFC and ABP (£3000) to develop a second phase of another 6 signs. Sign design consulted on and developed, permissions applied for and order for signs placed with producer.</p>	<p>Phase 1 to be completed by Easter 2008. Phase 2 locations consulted on early 2008. Phase 2 to be completed by March 2009. Phase 3 funding to be investigated.</p>	

3.5.9. Annex I - Shipping & Navigation

Lead Author: Associated British Ports - Capt. Phil Cowing & Brian Nickson.
Development during 2007

Building of the Hull Riverside Container Terminal has been delayed. An announcement is expected in early 2008 on prospects for the scheme.

The Environment Agency is currently assessing four potential schemes for flood defence works at Swinefleet. Work is expected to commence in 2008 and will take approximately 18 months to complete.

A prototype, one-fifth scale, tidal power generator is to be installed behind the No. 10 Upper Burcom Buoy. The system uses high-performance hydrofoils to take energy from tidal stream currents. The device will remain in situ for 12 to 15 months.

A further tidal power project is currently being developed by the University of Hull based on the Venturi tube effect. A potential site for these floating devices is close to the St. Andrew's Quay complex on the north bank.

Activity & Proposed management actions	Progress during 2006	Future timetable	Review of Management Action/Timescale etc.
<i>11/ Spillages from vessels and harbour installations</i>	12 reports received during the year, including possible sightings of oil in the water. Spills were of a minor nature with the exception of one. This involved the failure of a marine breakaway coupling from the vessel Rangrid on 1/7/2007, whilst discharging at the Tetney Monobuoy. Approx. 2.5 tonnes of crude oil were released. Humber Clean was activated and oil was dispersed following spraying. The MCA was informed.	Humber Clean is updated on a regular basis and is valid until 2011.	Annually
<i>12/ Spillage clear up operations</i>	None in 2006		
<i>13/ Maintenance of structures</i>	None in 2007		
<i>14/ Movement of Floating Marks</i>	Sand End Buoy moved 250 metres to the north-east. Upper Humber – 21 moves plus one buoy established. In addition there was one major upper channel change involving 8 buoy movements.		

Humber Management Scheme Annual Report 2007

	Skitter Channel established using 4 buoys and one float		
<i>15/ Discharge of effluents at sea (ships)</i>	None in 2007		
<i>16/ Discharge of ballast water</i>	Clean ballast water is permitted to be discharged in the Harbour Area. No instances of dirty ballast being discharged in 2007.		
<i>17/ Dock, port and marina development</i>	Plans & projects are assessed under relevant legislation.		
<i>18/ Harrowing/ Ploughing/ Bed Levelling of river beds</i>	<p>Surveillance and survey Plough dredging undertaken at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Holland Dock entrance. • Dock entrances at Hull, Grimsby, Immingham and Goole • Victoria Dock Basin • Humber Sea Terminal • N. Killingholme Haven • River Terminal 1 		
<i>19/ Hydrographic Surveying</i>	135 Annual surveys and 507 other surveys were carried out in 2007		
<i>110/ Sunk dredged channel 111/ Goole dock and dock entrance 112/ Dock Entrances 113/ River Humber 114/ Berths at North Killingholme (HST)</i>		<p>MAINTENANCE DREDGING PROTOCOL Maintenance Dredging Protocol is expected to be signed off early in 2008.</p>	
<i>115/ Hull Marina</i>	No dredging took place in the Marina during 2007		
<i>116/ Vessels transits</i>	Continuous monitoring by VTS Humber.		

Humber Management Scheme Annual Report 2007

117/ <i>Navigation lighting</i>	Continuous monitoring by Vessel Traffic Services	<p>Damaged or unreliable navigation marks are listed in the annual Harbour Master's Report, available from April 2008.</p> <p>The Trinity House Lighthouse Service conducts an annual tour by launch and motor vehicle of all navigation marks on the Humber, Ouse and Trent. Defects are reported to the Harbour Master who arranges for the defects to be rectified by ABP or third party owners.</p>	
118/ <i>Smoke-stack emissions/engine operations</i>	Regulated under MARPOL 1973/78		
119/ <i>Tank Washings</i>	Monitoring by Vessel Traffic Services - not allowed by statute		
120/ Discharge of liquid effluents	Monitoring by Vessel Traffic Services		

3.5.10. Annex J – Ministry of Defence

Lead Author: Ministry of Defence – David Batchelor
Additional Input: Sqn Leader Linda Bourne.

Brief History of RAF Donna Nook Air Weapons Range (AWR)

Development of Air to Ground target facilities from 1926 onwards in support of No 1 Air Gunnery Training School at RAF North Coates. The airfield at Donna Nook became operational in 1936 as a relief landing ground for RAF North Coates. Plans were made by the Air Ministry in 1938 to develop Donna Nook as a 3 concrete runway bomber airfield but these were shelved due to lack of funding.

At the start of WWII RAF Donna Nook initially acted as a decoy site after the fall of France. (Sir) Winston Churchill visited on 8 August 1940 during his tour of the coastal defences. Full development of the airfield took place in late 1940 as the satellite to RAF North Coates. Donna Nook had 2 grass runways of 1,500 yards, extensive buildings with 1,435 personnel. Aircraft types included Blenheim, Beaufort, and Hudson from Coastal Command. Tragedy struck on 22 January 1942 when 5 Hudsons from 407 Sqn returned from a shipping strike. One crashed on landing hitting the Air Traffic Control Tower. All bombs on board exploded resulting in 16 personnel killed and many injured. As a result, the base was non-operational for a week.

When concrete runways were installed at RAF North Coates, all aircraft (2 squadrons of Beaufighter from 16 Group Strike Command) deployed to Donna Nook. In late 1944, the airfield became No 292 German POW Camp. Circa 3,000 POWs were held, mostly Poles and Ukranians from Polish 1st and 2nd Divisions German Army captured in France. Many POWs remained after 1945 as displaced persons. The Donna Nook airfield closed in 1945 and the camp in 1948. The site was destroyed in the Great Floods of 1953. The AWR continued to operate on the southern part of the range at Theddlethorpe. The range targets were re-sited to the original Donna Nook site in 1974 when the gas terminal was built at Theddlethorpe and the range now occupies the 1926 site-full circle. In April 2006 the ownership of the range was transferred to Defence Estates (DE) and makes up part of the Defence Training Estate (DTE) which serves all three services.

Activity & Proposed Management Actions	Progress During 2007	Future Timetable	Review Management Action/Timescales etc.
J1/ Low Flying Fixed Wing Aircraft J2/ Military Helicopters J3/ Bombing and Gunnery J4/ Weapons Clearance J5/ Military Target Repair			
J1-J5 Above Review Military activities include military aircraft usage, bombing, gunnery, trials/flare drops, noise weapons clearance and targetry.	Military activity is recorded in detail, i.e. including military aircraft usage, bombing and gunnery, flares dropped, noise weapons clearance and targetry.	Ongoing	Comprehensive Data collected from 2000 to 2007

Humber Management Scheme Annual Report 2007

<p>Develop a Conservation Management Plan Action – MoD (Defence Estates) in consultation with NE and LWT.</p> <p>Surveillance to assess impact of military helicopters on bird activities within the range.</p>	<p>The Conservation Management Plan is awaiting the development of the Defence Training Estate Environment Management System.</p> <p>Defence Training Estates have commissioning a study to assess the impact of helicopter activity on birds within the ranges.</p>	<p>Completion due April 08</p> <p>Report due Aug 08</p>	
<p>J6/ Maintain/Replace: Warning Flage/Notices/Beacons</p> <p>Monitor impact on pioneer saltmarsh</p> <p>Review transport routes have been changed to avoid saltmarsh wherever possible</p>	<p>No warning flags or beacons replaced during 2007. Flags are raised daily, however, new route on farmers track avoids saltmarsh.</p> <p>Vehicles only go across saltmarsh twice a year on existing tracks wherever possible.</p>	<p>Warning signs at Howdens Pullover still to replace no affect on saltmarsh as they are in a car park.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	
<p>J7/ Visiting Rapier Units</p>	<p>Rapier Units no longer use RAF Donna Nook</p>	<p>None Planned</p>	
<p>J8/ Non-Military Flying – Light Aircraft</p> <p>Research low flying activity causing disturbance</p>	<p>Letter of Agreement in place between RAF Donna Nook and North Coates.</p> <p>Continue dialogue with North Coates Airfield and flying clubs to highlight regulations, sensitive areas and explain impact they may have on EMS interest features, and advise their membership of advisory groups.</p> <p>Promote letter of agreement whereby Donna Nook controls all aircraft movements over the range during range opening times from North Coates Airfield. Develop network with conservation site managers to record incidents.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	

Factors Arising From the Activity

Humber Management Scheme Annual Report 2007

Effects on Bird Populations – Birds are tolerant of fixed wing aircraft and annual counts over a 20 year period show no correlation between the numbers of birds observed within the range and the level of aircraft activity. However, studies show that birds are particularly sensitive to helicopters, however, the level of helicopter activity at Donna Nook is low. During severe weather, all flying use of the range is suspended.

Activity	Location	Present/ <i>Historic</i> Levels of Activity	Existing Management Responsible Organisation	Relevant Authority Bold=Lead	Possible Effect on Feature	Significant Effects
Military Activity						
J1/ Low Flying Fixed Wing Aircraft	RAF Donna Nook AWR	12,513 passes in 2007/ <i>14,423 in 2004</i>	MoD	MoD	Non-Physical Disturbance – Noise and Visual Disturbance to passage and wintering birds and breeding rookery of Atlantic Grey Seals within flight path. Birds and seals are tolerant of fixed wing aircraft and appear to have become habituated to movement of aircraft at this location.	No
J2/ Military Helicopters	RAF Donna Nook AWR	Low 4.9% of established hours 2007/ <i>1.1% 2004</i>	MoD	MoD	Non-Physical Disturbance – Noise and Visual Moderate disturbance to passage and wintering birds and to seals when rotary aircraft are close.	No
J3 Bombing and Gunnery	RAF Donna Nook AWR	Moderate	MoD	MoD	Non-Physical Disturbance – Noise and Visual Localised disturbance to birds. Strafing targets not used during seal breeding because of seals at target points. No known disturbance to rookery.	No
J4/ Weapons Clearance EOD	RAF Donna Nook AWR	High	MoD	MoD	Physical Damage-Abrasion Surface damage within 150ft radius of each of the 5 targets to un-vegetated areas. Minor damage to intertidal areas. Clearance obligatory for environmental and safety reasons.	No
J5/Military Target Repair	RAF Donna Nook AWR	Low	MoD	MoD	Physical Damage-Abrasion Vehicles (tractor/JCB) damage to intertidal areas.	No
J6/Maintenance/ replacement: warning flags/notices /beacons	RAF Donna Nook AWR	Daily for flags lower for remainder	MoD	MoD	Physical Damage-Abrasion Abrasion to pioneer saltmarsh from base to saltmarsh warning boards. Vehicles for Northern flags now use farmers track on sea bank to avoid saltmarsh.	No
J7/Rapier Units	RAF Donna Nook AWR	No longer occurs	MoD	MoD	Nil days.	No

Activity	Location	Present/ <i>Historic</i> Levels of Activity	Existing Management Responsible Organisation	Relevant Authority Bold=Lead	Possible Effect on Feature	Significant Effects
Non - Military Activity						
J8/ Non-Military flying – Light Aircraft	North Coates Airfield	Low	Civilian Aviation Authority – MoD	CAA MoD LA	Non-Physical Disturbance – Noise and Visual Max flight height for aircraft arriving and departing is 500ft. Minor disturbance to Little Terns at Skidbrooke Ridge within southern part of range. Minor disturbance to Little Terns just outside the Danger Area at Saltfleet if aircraft fly very low but no instances known. Minor disturbance to roosting birds in the winter.	No

4. CONDITION & COMPLIANCE MONITORING

4.1. Condition monitoring

For condition monitoring, the Humber Estuary SSSI has a total area of 37,000.59 hectares. For condition assessment purposes it is divided into 185 units. Units vary between 0.13 and 2787.35 hectares in size and they are assessed on an individual basis on a rolling basis every 6 years.

In 2007 condition monitoring resumed following a gap in assessments (during 2006) whilst Natural England was formed. 38 units were assessed through out the year.

	%
Area meeting PSA ¹² target	97.32
Area in favourable Condition	94.09
Area in unfavourable recovering condition	3.23
Area unfavourable no change	0.20
Area unfavourable declining	2.48
Area destroyed/part destroyed	0.00

The primary reason for unfavourable condition is coastal squeeze with some areas also subject to inappropriate grazing, other reasons include:

Unit	Reason for Unfavourable Condition
24	Illicit vehicle use.
27	Erosion and fly-tipping
36	Areas of tarmac on saltmarsh
42	Encroaching by gardens
120	Reedbed is drying out
124	Public access/disturbance
131	Game management (fishing)
133	Unconsented construction of fishing pegs
134	Public access/disturbance
135	Reed not vigorous in growth
136	Unconsented fishing activity
151	Inappropriate scrub control
152	Illicit vehicle use
153	Illicit vehicle use

5. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

5.1. Legislative Issues

On Friday 31st August 2007, the Humber Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) was classified by the Secretary of State for the Environment, and at the same time the Humber Estuary Ramsar site was designated. This marked the final stage in the extension and renaming of the former Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast SPA and Ramsar site which began in 2004, when all owners, occupiers and other interested parties were formally consulted on the changes to the designations.

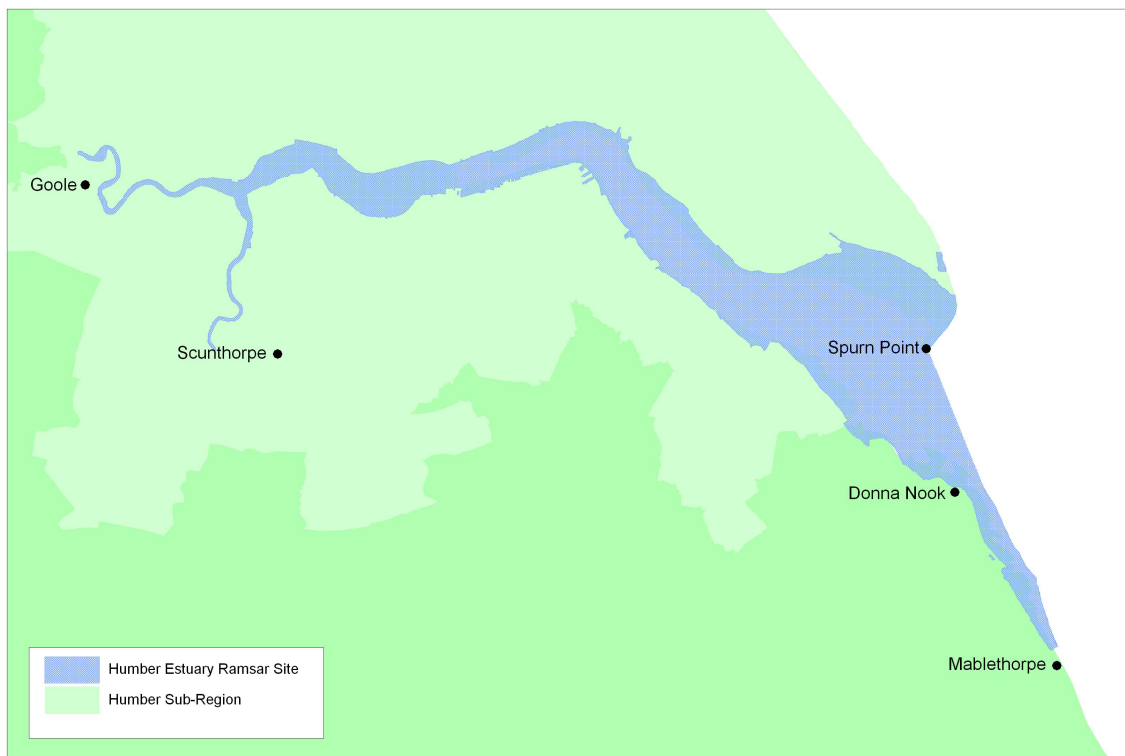
Also on Friday 31st August, the Humber Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC) was submitted by Government to the European Commission. This means that the SAC now has candidate SAC status, and is

¹² The Public Service Agreements target is for 95% of SSSI to be in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition by 2010.

fully protected by law. (This designation was also subject to consultation with the SPA and Ramsar proposals in 2004)

On 14th September, Natural England formally wrote to all owners, occupiers and other interested parties to inform them of the progression of these three designations on the estuary. Figures 1 (below) shows the area covered by the biggest of the three designations – The Humber Ramsar site. The SPA and cSAC cover, in most part the same area with some small sections excluded.

Figure 3: Humber Estuary Ramsar Site.



5.2. Conservation Objectives

The Regulation 33, interim advice published in April 2003¹³ by English Nature¹⁴ provides both the conservation objectives and advises on activities that may cause deterioration to the Humber Estuary. The advice currently excludes parts of the River Trent that are included in the Special Area of Conservation and Ramsar citations. The Relevant Authorities intend to include these parts of the European Marine Site within the Humber Management Scheme as soon as the advice is produced. Due to the reorganisation of English Nature, Countryside Agency and parts of the Rural Development Service in 2006, the updated Regulation 33 advice has not been progressed.

5.3. Signage

Regulation 33 provides for the marking of the site, but does not make this a statutory obligation of an individual relevant authority. Appropriate signage is required to indicate the existence and extent of the European Marine Site, to inform and secure compliance with the HMS Action plan, inform on the site features and as a prerequisite to pursuing actions for third party damage.

The signage project made considerable progress during 2007, discussions with the working group resulted in £5000 being allocated to use for the first phase of the project. Six locations were identified in

¹³ Given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations 1994.

¹⁴ English Nature became part of Natural England in October 2006.

consultation with Natural England as priorities for this first phase and an order was placed with a sign producer to start work on the content and design. The first phase of the project will include signs at Barton upon Humber, Cleethorpes, Alkborough, Brough, Hessle and Paull. The MOD offered to fund two additional signs which will be located in the Donna Nook area. Permissions for the first phase of the project were sought and in most part agreed by the end of the year. In December, the Humber Management Scheme received notification that its application for funding from the Crown Estates' 'marine Communities Fund' had been accepted. The funding of £1500 will be received in April 2008 and used to match fund the second phase of signs at priority locations around the estuary. Completion of the first phase and second phase of the signage project will be reported in the 2008 annual report.

5.4. Student Placement

In December 2006, the University of Hull contacted Project Officer Kat Sanders to enquire if there was any current project work within the Humber Management Scheme that would be suitable to host an undergraduate student. It was felt that the Marine Protected Area Scorecard provided an ideal opportunity to involve a student and a weekly placement for a 12 week period was confirmed in early January for Angela Kelham. Angela began the placement by attending the workshop organised to complete the scorecard and continued by working with the Project Officer every Friday at Waters Edge. Angela's placement focussed on analysing the result of the workshop, identifying key areas of weakness and strength and making management recommendations based on her findings.

Angela submitted her final report and her recommendations have been used to help focus work this year and as a guideline in writing the business plan for the next 3 years. The request to host another student next year has been granted and suitable project work will be identified in the New Year.

5.5. Monitoring Questionnaire

Section 6.5 of the Humber Management Scheme (management actions undertaken with the help of the Humber Advisory Group) lists the management actions within the action plan over which the relevant authorities do not have direct control. HERAG have agreed to work with the Humber Advisory Group to reduce any adverse impacts that may be occurring on the site following advice received from HAG through their ongoing monitoring of these activities.

One method of providing a more structured way of monitoring the section 6.5 activities was by designing a simple questionnaire. It would be used primarily by HAG to help them fulfil their role of monitoring but also be made available for self completion via local authority websites, visitor centres etc. The objectives of the questionnaire are to gather information/evidence of:

- Which activities are most frequently practised on the estuary.
- Where on the estuary they take place.
- Demographic of people who undertake the activities.
- Level of awareness of the Humber's conservation status.
- Level of awareness and uptake of the codes of conduct.

This questionnaire will also contribute to providing answers to the questions on the scorecard to which we were unclear (public awareness and concern).

The questionnaire was developed towards the end of 2007 with formal adoption planned to take place at the Humber Advisory Group meeting in January 2008. It will be implemented throughout 2008 with response forwarded to the Project Officer for collation. The analysis will be carried out Dec 2008 and data used to assist in the annual report; specifically, Annex G reporting.

5.6. Business Plan

Following discussions at the HERAG meeting in October, it was felt that a more long term business plan was needed to assist in setting goals for the HMS delivery and also show individual RA's evidence that their financial support is required for planned projects and not merely accruing in the HMS account. It was agreed that for 2008/9 the contributions would

be increased with inflation at 3% as in previous years. The following 2 years 09/10 and 10/11 contributions' will be levelled with no increase.

The draft business plan was reviewed by the working group in December 2007. A list of proposed project work and its associated costs was included and it was agreed that this list should be prioritised before the final plan was adopted. The plan was to be amended in early 2008 and reviewed again by the work group in early March before formal adoption by the full HERAG group at the AGM.

5.7. Humber Estuary Relevant Authorities Group (HERAG)

5.7.1. HERAG Changes in membership

- o At the March 2007 AGM, Roland Guest of Associated Petroleum Terminals Ltd, announced his forthcoming retirement. His replacement as company secretary and representative to HERAG is Michelle Nicholls who was also in attendance at the meeting.
- o Darren O' Toole left East Lindsey District Council on the 27th April 2007. Ray Ormsby took his place as HERAG representative.
- o Cllr Bud Shields attended the October HERAG meeting representing East Lindsey District Council and continues to contribute to HMS business.
- o Dr Jon Capel, City Ecologist from Hull City Council took his retirement in April 2007. John remains actively involved in the scheme through The Humber Advisory Group, on which he now represents Hull Naturalists Union.
- o Cassie Hart-Fisher was employed as the Sustainable Development manager in February 2007. Cassie represented East Riding of Yorkshire Council until July when Jeremy Pickles was appointed.
- o Jeremy Pickles was appointed in July as East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Senior Sustainable Communities & Coast Officer. Jeremy also replaced Jon Capel as the local authority representative on the Humber Estuary Relevant Authorities' Working Group.
- o Ottringham, Skeffling & Winestead were renamed the South Holderness Group of Drainage Boards – Their HERAG representative is Mr Ralf Ward.
- o In October 2007, Giles Bartlett, Environment Officer for North East Sea Fisheries Committee announced his resignation. His replacement is not expected to be in post until April 2008.
- o Brian Nickson, conservancy manager for ABP, retired at the end of the year. Brian has always been actively involved in the management scheme alongside Humber harbourmaster and HERAG Chairman, Phil Cowing.
- o Patrick Burstall was replaced by Ralph Ward as clerk of Thorngumbald IDB.
- o The Isle of Axholme IDB is now represented by Chris Manning, who continues to also represent Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board.

5.7.2. HERAG Meetings and Programme of Work.¹⁵

In 2007 there were HERAG meetings in March (AGM) and October.

¹⁵ Full minutes are available on the website www.humberems.co.uk

March 22nd – ABP, Port House, King George Dock– 15 attendees

Business Included:

- o Election of Officers
- o Financial Report
- o Project Officer's Report
- o Annual Report adoption
- o Humber Advisory Group Report

October 12th Environment Agency Offices' Willerby - 13 attendees.

Business Included:

- o Financial Report
- o Humber Advisory Group
- o Project Officer's Report
- o Signage Specification
- o Marine Protected Area Conference

5.8. Humber Estuary Relevant Authorities Working Group (WG)

5.8.1. Working Group changes in membership

- o Jeremy Pickles replaced Jon Capel as the local authority representative on the working group following Jon's retirement from Hull City Council.

5.8.2. Working Group Meetings.

There were two working group meetings in 2007 in June and December.

5.9. The Humber Advisory Group

5.9.1. HAG Changes in membership:

- o Anna Moody joined HAG Feb 2007 as the newly appointed site manager of Alkborough flats.
- o Dave Mouncey, HAG's rep for The Humber Yawl Club was elected as the safety officer for the Royal Yachting Association in October 2007.

The base membership for The Humber Advisory Group remains constant. There is often attendance at meetings from guest members who may have a specific interest in one or more items on the agenda; however the core group of around 20 members continue to attend meeting regularly and provide input and advice on HMS matters.

At the end of 2007, the Humber Advisory Group had a core membership of around 28 members, with an estimated additional 25 members who provide comments on specific issues and request to be kept up to date on the scheme's progress.

5.9.2. Election of New Chair/Vice Chair

In September 2006, the first and only Chair of the Humber Advisory Group Dr Nev Jones announced his resignation from the post.

It was agreed at the November HERAG meeting that notification of the position would be sent out to all HAG members inviting interested candidates to stand. This action was completed in November 2006 and

the elections took place at the next HAG meeting in February 2007. Adrian Koster a long standing member of HAG was proposed and seconded as the new chairman. John Rowley was re-elected as Vice Chair.

5.9.3. HAG Meetings and Programme of Work

Meetings were held on 20th February, 30th May and the 12th September.

Topics covered:

Humber Management Scheme, Codes of Conduct, Signage of the EMS, fish retention sizes, Incident reporting, Wildlife Crime, Sub-tidal targets, SSSI condition, ICZM, Marine Protected Areas – No Take Zones & the marine bill.

A response to the Marine Bill White Paper was submitted on behalf of HAG in June 2007 and they continue to follow the consultation on ICZM following their response submitted at the end of 2006. Forthcoming consultations on offshore SAC's, coastal access and the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy may also be subject to a formal response from HAG.

5.10. Appointment of new staff

There were no new staff members appointed during 2007; however, Project Officer, Kat Sanders received a renewal of her contract for a further 2 years (until Sept 2009) following approval at the working group meeting in June. Kat will continue to work on a 50:50 basis on The Humber Management Scheme and for Humber INCA. A further review of her contact conditions will take place in Sept 2008.

6. FINANCE AND OPERATION

6.1. Financial Report

Invoices for contributions totalling £38,687.00 were issued to individual relevant authorities on the 5th April 2007. All contributions were received by the end of the 2007 calendar year.

6.2. Review of Contributions

Historically, not all Relevant Authorities have contributed to the Humber Management Scheme. Previously this was not an issue, due to generous contributions from some Relevant Authorities during the Management Schemes development. The Management Scheme is now operational with HERAG agreeing "in principle" that all RA's should contribute to the Humber Management Scheme's budget. HERAG recognises the difficulty in apportioning contributions between Relevant Authorities, and constructive discussions have been undertaken.

The Habitats Regulations¹⁶ requires that all Relevant and Competent authorities with responsibilities in the marine site shall exercise their duties to meet the requirements of the Habitats Directive. This requirement is additional to any requirements or duties contained with in other legislation that may include Relevant Authority interaction, including the payment of fees/licenses. Mechanisms to secure funding are not designated in the legislation, although advised in official guidance.

There are currently 34 relevant authorities' members of HERAG. In 2007; 24 of them contributed financially to the scheme and 10 did not. However, from the authorities that are not currently committed to an annual contribution, North East Sea Fisheries Committee and the MOD pledged 'one off' payments for match funding towards the signage project in 2008.

Arrangements were made at the end of 2007 for the HMS accounts to be audited by a qualified third party. The 2007 accounts will be audited in January 2008 and letter of confirmation made available for HERAG members at the AGM in March 2008. This audit will be carried out annually henceforth.

¹⁶ The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994.

7. REFERENCES

- Environment Agency, 2005. Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy, Environment Agency.
- English Nature, 2003. Advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations 1004. English Nature.
- Statutory Instruments, 1994 No.2716. The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994. London: HMSO October 1994