

HUMBER



Management Scheme

Part 2: Humber Management Scheme Action Plans 2012-14



Part 2: HMS action plans

Through consultation the HMS has identified 5 key areas for delivery to ensure the sustainable management of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site:

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Key to symbols in action plan tables

→ Ongoing work

⦿ To achieve in year stated

Habitat and species management

What are the issues

The designated features of the Humber Estuary have defined targets, set by Natural England, to be in 'favourable condition', allowing for natural changes or changes beyond our control. In order to achieve favourable condition, research and remediation measures are required. This section outlines measures to be undertaken by both statutory and non-statutory organisations for the management of the Humber Estuary EMS designated habitats and species. This section recognises the importance of carrying out habitat and species management work as well as the management of activities in order to meet the overall aim of the scheme. The actions cover both the EMS and its hinterlands, especially when these actions are seen as important to the functioning of the site. Many of the actions included result from information gathered from Humber Estuary SSSI condition assessments and other monitoring work.

What do we want to do

Overall Objective

To manage the estuary to meet the requirements of the conservation objectives

Detailed objectives

1. Habitat management: To identify and deliver habitat management to meet the conservation objectives
2. SPA birds: To identify and deliver management for SPA birds to meet the conservation objectives including the management of high tide roosting and feeding areas.
3. Sub-tidal: To identify and deliver management for the sub-tidal to meet the conservation objectives
4. Grey seals: To identify and deliver management for the grey seals to meet the conservation objectives
5. Lamprey: To identify and deliver management for the river and sea lamprey to meet the conservation objectives

How are we going to do it

HMS role:

- To help facilitate partnership discussions and working where required in order to deliver actions.
- To deliver actions where appropriate
- To report annually on the progress of actions

Objective	Action	Organisations and individuals involved in delivery (lead in bold)	Timescales			Targets and indicators
			2012	2013	2014	
HSM1. Habitat management: To identify and deliver habitat management to meet the conservation	<i>Humber managed realignment projects</i> (Link to Ongoing management: Flood defence & Development and maintenance) HSM1.1: Share best practice on realignment sites.	Managed realignment group	→	→	→	Humber realignment group meet twice a year

objectives	HSM1.2: Support and encourage, where possible, a long term rolling programme of realignment site delivery.	Managed realignment group	→	→	→	Realignment projects delivered
	HSM1.3: Facilitate dialogue between organisations undertaking realignment to develop larger more cost effective realignment sites	Managed realignment group	→	→	→	Where possible, joint realignment projects are delivered
	HSM1.4: To agree the process to designate realignment sites and include them in the Humber designations	NE, Managed realignment Group	⊙			Process of designation to be agreed and realignment sites become part of Humber designations
	HSM1.5: To disseminate progress on the realignment projects to the wider estuary community	HMS, Managed realignment group	→	→	→	Number of news stories on realignment projects
	HSM1.6: To use information gained from HMS recreational disturbance study to design public access to realignment sites	EA, developers	→	→	→	Realignment projects designed to minimise recreational disturbance
	Stewardship HSM1.7: Natural England works with landowners and farmers to encourage and deliver HLS targets. However, the Humber habitats and species are not included in the target statement for the area. Lobby for Higher Level Stewardship targeting for the management of the features connected with the Humber Estuary EMS and important associated features such as high tide roosting and feeding areas and wintering birds e.g. wet grasslands/grazing marsh, winter stubbles. Work with other sectors e.g. archaeology, to ensure targets are multi-objective.	HERAG, HAG	→	→	→	Engaged with other sectors to develop multi-objective targets. Humber Estuary features and requirements included in HLS targeting.

	<i>Intertidal and land management</i> HSM1.8: Organisations involved in grazing projects to communicate progress to Humber Estuary community through the HMS to share best practice and to consider a whole estuary approach.	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Lincolnshire Grazing Marsh Project , Natural England, HMS	→	→	→	Progress of YWT intertidal grazing project and Lincolnshire Grazing Marshes project communicated through the HMS.
	HSM1.9: Establish a HERAG & HAG sub-group and scope options for a project to summarise historic and current intertidal and HTR management to identify management required for habitats to be or remain in favourable condition e.g. equipment share, flying flock, composting scheme.	HERAG & HAG sub-group	→	⊙		Options scoped for land management project including costs
	HSM1.10: Identify funding sources to support land management projects.	HMS		→	→	Funding identified and obtained
	HSM1.11: Identify mechanisms to make management for biodiversity economically viable and explore options such as biodiversity offsetting	SHG group, HERAG & HAG sub-group	→	→	⊙	Mechanisms identified
	HSM1.12: Encourage cooperative working for land management to provide opportunities for Humber designated species e.g. Breeding Little Tern	HERAG, HAG	→	→	→	Projects delivered as partnership for benefit of designated species
	HSM1.13: Identify approaches on other estuaries (worldwide) to identify innovative solutions	HMS	→	→	→	Approaches identified and shared
	HSM1.14: Awareness raising and engagement with landowners, farmers and associated organisations e.g. FWAG	HMS, HAG, HERAG	→	→	→	Number of landowners, farmers and associated organisations engaged
	HSM1.15: Promote exemplar sites and share best practice e.g. Alkborough	HMS	→	→	→	Promotion through HMS newsletters etc.

	<i>Invasive species</i> HSM1.16: Monitor and put appropriate management in place for invasive species e.g. Himalayan balsam, Japanese Knotweed, Japanese mitten crab	NE, EA HERAG, HAG	→	→	→	Monitoring and reporting undertaken e.g. http://mittencrabs.org.uk/ Appropriate management in place
HMS2. SPA birds: To identify and deliver management for SPA birds to meet the conservation objectives including the management of high tide roosting and feeding areas	<i>Understanding bird population fluctuations to identify management actions</i> HSM2.1: To determine actions required to understand bird fluctuations in order to put management measures in place. To engage and consult with HERAG and HAG as part of the process.	NE with support form HERAG & HAG	⊙			Action plan determined
	HSM2.2: Study to be undertaken to understand national changes in bird numbers.	NE	→	⊙		Information from study used in HSM2.1
	<i>High tide roosts</i> HSM2.3: Update to Natural England Report on high tide roosts	NE, RSPB with support from HERAG and HAG	⊙			Updated HTR report
	HSM2.4: Identify important sites and key areas for HTR enhancement and creation.	HERAG & HAG	→	⊙		Important sites and areas for HTR enhancement and creation identified
	HSM2.5: Identify critical areas for SPA functioning which require designation such as managed realignment sites and high tide roosts.	Natural England, HERAG, HAG	→	⊙		Critical areas identified
	HSM 2.6 To develop a mitigation strategy for the creation and management of high tide roosting and feeding areas in the South Humber Gateway area	South Humber Gateway Ecology Group	⊙			Mitigation strategy produced
HSM3. Sub-tidal: To identify and deliver management for the	HSM 3.1: NE sub-tidal report to be completed and evaluated to understand habitat resource and importance, gaps	NE	⊙			Report produced

sub-tidal to meet the conservation objectives	in information and threats and opportunities					
	HSM 3.2: Draft possible objectives and identify mechanisms to take actions forward	NE HERAG HAG	⊙			Objectives drafted Mechanisms identified to take actions forward
HSM4. Grey seals: To identify and delivery management for the grey seals to meet the requirements of the conservation objectives	HSM4.1: Support continued wardening of the seal population during the seal season	MOD/Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust/HERAG	→	→	→	Conservation objectives met for grey seal population.
	HSM4.2: Gather evidence on disturbance to the grey seal population, especially on the outer bank	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England	→	→		Evidence on disturbance obtained
	HSM4.3: Develop appropriate management measures on access to the grey seal population, particularly relating to photographers	MMO, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England, MOD, HMS	⊙			Appropriate management measures developed
HSM5. Lamprey: To identify and delivery management for the river and sea lamprey to meet the requirements of the conservation objectives	HSM5.1: To obtain funding to undertake monitoring of lamprey. Annual adult sea lamprey spawning monitoring funded by Environment Agency from 2003 through to 2017. Rivers surveyed – Swale, Ure, Nidd, Wharfe, Swale. NE seeking funding for river lamprey monitoring. Environment Agency may be able to carry out some adult river lamprey monitoring internally in 2011/12.	Natural England, Environment Agency	⊙			Funding obtained and lamprey monitoring programme in place.

Links to:

HMS action plan:

Integrated management and forward planning

Communication

Recreation

Monitoring, information and research

Ongoing Management:

Flood Defence

Development and maintenance

Recreation and tourism

What is the issue?

Recreation is largely unregulated and therefore very little information is available on visitor numbers, the types of activities which are carried out and if these activities have an impact on the Humber Estuary designated features

What do we want to do?

Overall objective

To understand if significant recreational disturbance is taking place & to educate users on the impacts of activities

Detailed objectives

1. To understand the impact of recreation on the Humber designated habitats and species
2. Where necessary, to put appropriate management in place
3. To engage with organisations and people undertaking activities to encourage sensitive use of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site and adjacent habitats

How are we going to do it?

Role of HMS:

- To take the lead on understanding the impact of recreation
- To encourage feedback on estuary issues and facilitate discussion on issues raised
- To raise awareness of the impact of recreational activities
- To engage statutory organisations and facilitate discussions on management measures required
- To report annually on the progress of actions

Objective	Action	Organisations and individuals involved in delivery (lead in bold)	Timescales			Targets and indicators
			2012	2013	2014	
RT1. To understand the impact of recreation on Humber designated habitats and species	RT1.1: To take a phased approach to understanding the impact of recreation: Visitor survey work to be undertaken 2011/12.	HMS Project Manager, steering group	⊙			Visitor survey work complete and report produced by June 2012
	RT 1.2: Obtain funding for further work to understand the impact of recreation.	HMS Project Manager, Steering Group, HERAG, HAG	→	→	→	Obtain funding for ornithological work by May 2012

	RT 1.3: Based on results of visitor survey work, performance of consultants and funding, decision to be taken on next stage of work to understand the impact of recreation	HERAG, Steering Group, HMS Project Manager, HAG	⊙			Decision on whether to progress onto further work to understand the impact of recreation by July 2012
	RT1.4: To engage with sectors across the estuary to explore other sources of disturbance	HMS PM, HERAG, HAG	⊙			Other sectors engaged with and understanding disturbance across the estuary explored.
RT2. Where necessary, to put appropriate management in place	RT2.1: Based on results and recommendations of visitor survey work and any feedback from HERAG/HAG on disturbance, implement appropriate management measures	HERAG	→	→	→	Actions to be identified, included in HMS action plan and delivered HMS received feedback from HERAG and HAG on disturbance.
	RT2.2: To develop & take forward best practice when developing projects which may result in an increase in visitors on or around the Humber Estuary	HERAG HAG	→	→	→	Best practice developed to reduce impacts of recreation when developing projects which improve access.
RT3. To engage with organisations and people undertaking and managing recreational activities to encourage sensitive use of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site and adjacent habitats	RT3.1: Identify a number influential organisations, groups and clubs to engage with and increase awareness of designations. Explore opportunities for organisations, groups and clubs to undertake engagement and awareness raising activities.	HMS Project Manager, HAG	→	→	→	Number of organisations and people directly contacted and engaged.
	RT3.2: Encourage and feedback to HMS on recreational disturbance (<i>Link: communications</i>)	HMS, HERAG, HAG	→	→	→	Number and type of feedback HMS received and reported to Relevant Authorities
	RT3.3: Relevant Authorities to understand the implications of HMS recreational disturbance work and engage in development and delivery of actions	HERAG	→	→	→	Relevant Authorities engaged and involved in the delivery of any management required

Links to:

HMS action plans:

Communication

Ongoing management:

Recreation and access management

Communication

What is the issue?

Communication is important for several reasons:

- To raise awareness with estuary users and the local community that the Humber Estuary is internationally important for wildlife and sensitive to human activities
- To educate and engage specific estuary users about the sensitivity of the estuary and the impact of activities
- To engage and promote partnership work for those involved in the management of the Humber Estuary

What do we want to do?

Overall objective

To raise awareness and educate stakeholders about the Humber Estuary European Marine Site and increase participation in its management

Detailed objectives

1. To increase awareness of the existence of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site, its sensitivity and potential impact of activities and to influence behaviour
2. To increase awareness of and participation in the Humber Management Scheme
3. To demonstrate and promote the progress of the Humber Management Scheme partnership in meeting the requirements of the Habitats Regulations and Humber Management Scheme.
4. To increase and promote partnership working around the Humber

How are we going to do it?

Role of HMS:

- To lead on awareness raising of the Humber EMS and HMS
- To encourage HERAG & HAG to raise awareness of the EMS and HMS
- To facilitate and encourage attendance at meetings and workshops to ensure a partnership approach to the management of the Humber
- To facilitate and develop, in partnership with others, projects/activities which raise awareness, engage and educate people and organisations on about the Humber EMS
- To report annually on the progress of actions

Objective	Action	Organisations and individuals involved in delivery (lead in bold)	Timescales			Targets & indicators
			2012	2013	2014	
To increase awareness of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site sensitivity and potential impact of activities and to influence behaviour	C1: Communications strategy with key messages produced and reviewed annually	HMS HERAG & HAG	→	→	→	Communications strategy produced and delivered
	C2: Newsletters: To produce regular e-newsletters to raise awareness of HMS key messages, to encourage engagement and to provide updates on progress of activity	HMS Support from HERAG & HAG	→	→	→	Minimum 4 newsletters per year Number people receiving newsletter
To increase awareness						

<p>and participation in the Humber Management Scheme</p> <p>To demonstrate and promote the progress of the Humber Management Scheme partnership in meeting the aims of the Habitats Regulations and Humber Management Scheme.</p> <p>To increase and promote partnership working in the Humber</p>	<p>C3: Annual report Produced annually to show progress of HMS against actions and delivery of statutory function.</p>	<p>HMS Support from HERAG & HAG</p>	→	→	→	Annual report produced and distributed
	<p>C4: HMS website Regular updates</p>	<p>HMS</p>	→	→	→	Number of updates Number of reports Feedback to stakeholders who have reported information. Action taken following report
	<p>Update and promotion to HMS reporting form Monitoring and follow up on reports</p>	<p>HMS, HERAG, HAG HMS, HERAG</p>	→	⊙	→	
	<p>C5: Events <i>C5.1 HERAG, Management Group and HAG</i> Arrange, hold, support and attend meetings. Raise awareness of meetings. Summarise outputs of meetings in progress report 3-4 times per year</p> <p><i>C5.2: Other meetings, events and conferences</i> To attend and contribute to meetings, events and conferences to raise awareness. To support the annual Humber Conference</p> <p><i>C5.3: Workshops</i> Organise HMS workshops where needed to inform & engage others on HMS priorities & to obtain views on management priorities</p>	<p>HMS HERAG & HAG</p> <p>HMS</p> <p>HMS</p>	→	→	→	% progress against actions and number of meetings and people in attendance Progress report produced 3-4 times per year
<p>C6: Engagement, awareness and education projects Develop and deliver simple projects to engage people and organisations</p>	<p>HMS</p>	→	→	→	Number of projects delivered and people engaged Initial meeting held to discuss awareness raising and	

To develop awareness and education projects	HMS HERAG & HAG	→	→	→	education projects (including volunteer opportunities) Projects developed (2012-13) Number of people engaged in HMS from campaigns
C7: PR & media relations Press releases written and distributed to partners and the media to raise awareness.	HMS	→	→	→	Number of press releases & articles published
To promote the work of the HMS and publish articles on the HMS to raise awareness	HERAG HAG	→	→	→	Number of articles published by other organisations to promote HMS
C8: Materials and merchandise HMS materials and merchandise distributed around estuary to raise awareness e.g. Code of Conduct To produce a leaflet to promote HAG	HMS Support from HERAG & HAG	→	→	→	Location of literature distributed Number distributed Leaflet produced and distributed
C9: Feedback on the management of the Humber Estuary & EMS Consult and report progress on key actions delivered to ensure the estuary is in favourable condition	HERAG, HAG	→	→	→	HMS partnership consulted and kept up to date on key actions
Raise awareness, encourage and feedback on issues e.g. phone, email and website (<i>Link: habitat and species management</i>) Develop other methods to encourage feedback on issues e.g. postcards, posters	HMS, HERAG & HAG	→	→	→	Number of reports to HMS

	C10: Engagement Engage key organisations in HMS (link to recreational disturbance): through talks, PR etc	HMS , HERAG, HAG	→	→	→	Number of new people and organisations engaged
	C11: Managing information Produce a database to manage stakeholder information	HMS	→	⊙		Database produced

Action plan cross cutting against all other action plans

Monitoring, information and research

What is this issue?

It is important that the condition of the estuary, information and research is shared and communicated to the estuary community for the successful management of the Humber Estuary EMS.

What do we want to do?

Overall objective

To identify information gaps and research requirements and to promote sharing and availability of data for the management of the Humber Estuary EMS

Detailed objectives

1. To undertake regular monitoring of designated features and where needed identify and deliver appropriate management measures
2. To undertake regular monitoring of the HMS to ensure appropriate management is in place for the Humber Estuary EMS
3. To facilitate the identification of research gaps and encourage a coordinated approach to future research
4. To widen the availability of research and information by working with partners

How are we going to do it?

Role of HMS:

- To encourage statutory organisations to communicate the Humber monitoring programme and results through the HMS
- To engage those involved in bird counts in the HMS
- To monitor and report on the progress of the HMS
- To facilitate discussions in information and research gaps for the Humber
- To work with partners to develop tools to share information
- To report annually on the progress of actions

Objective	Action	Organisations and individuals involved in delivery (lead in bold)	Timescales			Targets & indicators
			2012	2013	2014	
MIR1: To ensure regular monitoring of designated features is in place and communicated to ensure appropriate management measures are in place.	MIR1.1: Relevant Authorities to undertake monitoring and communicate programme and results through the Humber Management Scheme.	HERAG HMS	→	→	→	Monitoring programme and results shared annually through HMS.
	Natural England to work with HERAG if changes are detected in the EMS condition	NE/HERAG	→	→	→	Partnership approach taken to tackling changes in EMS condition
	MIR1.2: Identify features which need more regular monitoring, agree methodology and identify expertise and resources required	HERAG	◎			Features which need more regular monitoring identified along with methodology, expertise and resources required.

	MIR1.3: To engage WeBS counters/BTO to identify and encourage counts in areas where few or no WeBS counts occur. To encourage recording of weather conditions during counts.	HMS PM, NE, BTO, WeBS Counters, HAG	→	→	→	NE to identify where counts do not take place. HMS to engage with BTO/WeBS counters. Increased WeBS counts.
MIR2: To ensure regular monitoring of the HMS to ensure appropriate management is in place for the Humber Estuary EMS	MIR2.1: Humber Management Scheme to review the progress of actions quarterly and report annually on progress of actions and condition status of Humber EMS.	HMS Project Manager, HMS Management Group	→	→	→	Progress of actions and estuary condition reported to HMS Management Group, HERAG, HAG and in annual report.
MIR3: To facilitate the identification of research gaps and encourage a coordinated approach to future research	MIR3.1: Identify research gaps with HMS partnership groups & through annual Humber Ecological Research meeting MIR3.2: To identify future research/data gathering projects required to fill research gaps with HMS partnership groups & through annual Humber Ecological Research meeting MIR3.3: To identify mechanisms to delivery research/data projects	HMS, HERAG, HAG	→	→	→	List of gaps identified List of research/data gathering project produced 1 Humber Ecological Research meeting held per year Research/data projects delivered by individual organisations/as partnership/as student projects
MIR4. To widen the availability of research and information by working with partners	MIR4.1: To ensure outcomes of research work are communicated effectively through the HMS	Universities, HERAG, HAG	→	→	→	Information on research communicated to HMS & shared with HMS groups
	MIR4.2: Update to regulation 35 (was regulation 33) advice in consultation with HERAG and HAG	Natural England with HERAG & HAG support	→	⊙		Updated regulation 35 advice
	MIR4.3: To update, promote and encourage the use of HEDC metadata facility to record and promote research and information gathering on the Humber estuary. To detail who owns data, what the data is for and if the data is available.	HEDC with support from HMS	→	⊙		HEDC metadata facility updated. % increase in use of metadata facility

	MIR4.4: Promote the KET website as a tool to communicate research and information	Leeds University, HMS		→	→	Amount of information and research promoted on the KET website
	MIR4.5: To work with officers involved in the UK MPA network to ensure sharing of best practice and opportunities for joint working	HMS Project Manager	→	→	→	Best practice shared with HMS partners

Action plan cross cutting against all other action plans

Integrated management and forward planning

What is the issue?

To achieve the conservation objectives for the Humber Estuary European Marine Site, management measures are delivered by numerous organisations. It is therefore important that a coordinated approach is continued for the management of the Estuary whilst also planning for the future.

What do we want to do?

Overall objective

1. To ensure a coordinated approach to the management of the estuary and its hinterlands including planning for the future

Detailed Objectives

1. To ensure long term integrated planning and management across the estuary
2. To ensure the sustainable funding of the HMS

How are we going to do it?

Role of HMS:

- To explore and take forward opportunities for integrated management and forward planning of the estuary
- To secure core funding and obtain further funding for project work
- To report annually on the progress of actions

Objective	Action	Organisations and individuals involved in delivery (lead in bold)	Timescales			Targets & Indicators
			2012	2013	2014	
1. To ensure long term integrated planning and management across the estuary	IMFP1.1: In order to develop an integrated long term management plan for the management of the Humber Estuary EMS, scope options available to create an integrated strategic spatial tool (e.g. GIS mapping tool) to include current and future plans for the Humber Estuary and important areas for the functioning of the Humber EMS e.g. integrating terrestrial strategic spatial plans and marine plans. This will be a valuable tool for the long term management of the Humber EMS.	HMS Project Manager, LPA, HERAG, HAG	→	⊙		Options defined, including costs, to develop an integrated Humber plan

	IMFP1.2: Obtain funding and develop and deliver an 'in combination tool' to assess developments across the estuary	HMS/HEDC with support from HERAG & HAG in particular LA	→	⊙		Funding obtain and the "in combination tool" developed and used
	IMFP1.3: To deliver the Humber Local Nature Partnership (LNP) capacity building project to develop how a Humber LNP would function and to develop an integrated Humber vision which incorporates Humber Estuary ecosystem services and benefits	HERAG & HAG		⊙		Proposal developed on how a Humber LNP would function and an integrated vision developed.
	IMFP1.4: Through marine and terrestrial planning, to understand future pressures and management requirements for the Humber Estuary	MMO, LA HERAG & HAG	→	→	→	Future pressures defined and used to inform the management of the Humber EMS
	IMFP1.5: To ensure any terrestrial and marine plans for the Humber complement the Humber Management Scheme and associated plans e.g. CHaMP, Humber Strategy, WFD, Local spatial plans	MMO, LA, HERAG HMS PM – raise profile of HMS priorities	→	→	→	HMS plan is reviewed when developing plans
	IMFP1.6: To work together to develop the link between terrestrial and marine planning to ensure a complementary approach to management across the estuary e.g. terrestrial strategic spatial plans and marine plans.	MMO, LA	→	→		Terrestrial and marine plans are complementary
	IMFP1.7: Undertake an annual review of the HMS including threat and opportunity analysis to monitor progress towards achieving favourable condition	Project Manager HERAG HAG	→	→	→	Annual review and report produced for HERAG AGM
2. To ensure the sustainable funding of the HMS to achieve favourable condition	IMFP2.1: Core funding to be obtained from contributions from Relevant Authorities	Project Manager HERAG	→	→	→	Core funding confirmed and obtained

	IMFP2.2: Funding: to explore and obtain funding for the delivery of projects to achieve favourable condition of the EMS e.g. grants, S106, community infrastructure levy	Project Manager HERAG HAG	→	→	→	Other funding options identified. To apply and obtain further funding for projects.
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Action plan cross cutting against all other action plans