



Management Scheme

**HUMBER ADVISORY GROUP**

**6pm, Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

**Waters' Edge Visitors Centre, Barton upon Humber, DN18 5JR**

**Agenda**

Tea and coffee available from 5.45pm		
1.	<b>Introductions and apologies</b>	Chair/all
2	<b>Minutes and matters arising from meeting held 17.05.11</b>	Chair/all
3.	<b>Presentation Recreational Aviation: An overview</b>	Mike Speakman, Chairman North Coates Flying Club
4.	<b>HAG feedback on the Humber Estuary European Marine Site (EMS):</b> - Opportunity for HAG members to report any sightings or issues in relation to the EMS	All
5.	<b>HAG consultation on HMS aims, objectives and action plans*:</b> - HAG feedback on HMS aims, objectives and action plans - HAG action plan including: - Discussion on a HAG leaflet to promote the group - Membership of HAG	All
6.	<b>Update on Humber Management Scheme:</b> - Humber Estuary Recreational disturbance study** - Application for Local Nature Partnership funding	Tania Davey/Andrew Gibson
7.	<b>Final discussion HAG Terms of Reference</b>	All
8.	<b>AOB, future agenda items &amp; date of next meetings</b> - Humber Conference 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2011 - Update on Net Gain project	All

**\*HAG consultation on HME aims, objectives and action plans**

The Humber Management Scheme has been under review and the updated aim, objectives and action plans will be available for consultation in September. This is an opportunity for HAG members to comment.

**\*\* Humber Estuary recreational disturbance study**

The Humber Management Scheme has obtained funding to undertake visitor survey work during 2011-12 to understand visitor numbers and patterns around the estuary. HAG has expertise and information on activities that take place around the estuary and therefore input into this study will be extremely valuable and important.

# HUMBER



Management Scheme

Humber Advisory Group

Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011

6pm, Waters' Edge Visitors Centre, Barton upon Humber

## 1. Introductions and Apologies

### Present

Adrian Koster  
Andrew Gibson  
Darren Clarke  
Daryl Burdon  
John Stipetic

Jon Capel  
Lionel Grooby  
Mike Speakman  
Nicola Grey

Pete Short  
Phil Arnott  
Tania Davey  
Tim Page  
Tom Jeynes

### Apologies

Anna Moody  
Bill Rigby  
Chris Manning

Emma Wilmot  
Mike Elliott  
Nev Jones  
Sally Bradley  
Will MacLennan

HAG Chair  
HAG Vice Chair/Yorkshire Wildlife Trust  
Humber INCA  
HAG Vice-Chair/IECS, University of Hull  
Senior Marine Officer, Marine Management Organisation  
Yorkshire Naturalists' Union/Marinet  
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust  
North Coates Flying Club  
LEADER Coast, Wolds, Wetlands and Waterways (East Riding of Yorkshire Council)  
RSPB  
BASS  
HMS Project Manager  
Natural England  
ABP/HERAG

Alkborough Nature Reserve  
Hull Environment Forum/Marinet  
Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board and the Isle of Axholme Internal Drainage Board  
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust  
IECS, University of Hull  
Ex HAG Chair  
Marine Management Organisation  
Natural England/HERAG

## 2. Minutes and matters arising from meeting held 17.05.11

- JC noted that he was not in attendance at the last meeting.
- AK asked if TD could date documents which had several versions e.g. HAG terms of reference.
- The group agreed the minutes as a true record.
- Update on action:

Action	Update
<b>Aviation</b> - TD to raise with HERAG Working Group - AG to speak to Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust about how Gibraltar Point obtained restrictions.	- TD reported HAG comments to HERAG Management Group - AG has spoken to Kevin Wilson at LWT about height restrictions at Gibraltar Point. AG believes it would be useful to progress work in conjunction with aviation users on the Humber to reduce impacts. This would be on specific areas of the Humber and would benefit from the backing of HERAG and HAG
<b>Draft HMS priorities</b> TD to feedback HAG response to Relevant Authorities	Action complete
<b>HAG terms of reference</b> TD to email the draft updated Terms of Reference out for the group for review HAG to email any comments to TD and discuss at the next meeting	Action complete

## 3. Presentation from Mike Speakman: An overview of aviation around the Humber region

- MS kindly gave a presentation on aviation activities that take place around the Humber Estuary/region and explained the opinions expressed through the presentation were his own.

- MS identified the main airfields both north and south of the Humber, of which there are many, and outlined the different types of airfield (licensed, unlicensed, private strips and military airfields).
- There are various aircraft classifications which were outlined.
- MS outlined that the area between South Ferriby to the Trent is used as a training area. LG highlighted that this is a very important area for waders.
- MS outlined aviation low flying rules and exemptions.
- Aviation activity around the Humber includes sightseeing, transit, training, monitoring, pleasure and photography.
- The knowledge of estuary issues amongst aviators is generally limited. Pilots are taught to keep away from birds. Recreational flying is almost completely confined to good weather.
- In conclusion MS outlined the best way to inform aviators is through posters, leaflets and talks.
- MS was thanked for the presentation which clarified a number of issues for the group.

#### **HAG discussion**

##### *Codes of Conduct*

- The group discussed the aviation section of the HMS Codes of Conduct and MS outlined that there were some inaccuracies in the document e.g. flying heights. AK commented that it is important to ensure the text is correct, working with the aviators to do so. DB suggested that the Codes of Conduct should outline best practice and not the low flying rules. MS agreed and suggested a cooperative approach.

##### *Engaging with aviators*

- AG commented that the talk was very useful and that people working on the conservation of the Humber may be failing to convey information to the aviators. AG also commented that it is important to work on common grounds with the aviators and would like to see talks, leaflets and posters taken forward.
- MS outlined that it is important to outline information such as the important seasons for wildlife as the low flying rules do not address the needs of the HMS. MS also outlined that the best way to distribute information is directly with individual flying clubs.

##### *Using aviation language*

- AG highlighted that NE quote in non-aviation terms and it is important that descriptions are developed which keep aviators informed. For example, NE quote information in meters whereas aviators work in feet.

##### *Taking work forward*

- The group agreed that further discussion should take place on how to take forward engagement work with aviators.

#### **ACTIONS:**

TD to contact other European Marine Site management schemes to understand other approaches and best practice to engage with aviators

#### **4. HAG feedback on the Humber Estuary European Marine Site**

##### *Cetacean response plan*

- AG informed the group that a fin whale had been washed up on Spurn. It had previously been washed up on the south bank and if it had been secured, it would have been easier to deal with.
- AG outlined that there was no ownership or response plan relating to dead cetaceans. AG suggested there should be a Humber wide approach to securing and dealing with cetaceans in the most appropriate and cost effective way and would like to explore this through the HMS.
- JS highlighted that the MMO are aware and looking into marine licensing rules with regards to cetaceans.
- AG commented that East Riding of Yorkshire Council have been very helpful in the process.

##### *Road at Spurn*

- AG commented that recently the road at Spurn had eroded away which could have socio-economic implications. The road has now re-opened but a significant tide is expected at the end of September.
- The group discussed the importance of Spurn as an estuary feature for wildlife and for the estuary morphology.
- AK asked that HAG could be kept up to date on progress and changes.

#### **HAG recommendation to HERAG**

- TD to feedback AG suggestion on Humber wide approach to securing and dealing with cetaceans in the most appropriate and cost effective way and would like to explore this through the HMS.

#### **5. HAG consultation on HMS aims, objectives and action plans**

##### *Updated aims, objectives and action plans*

- TD outlined that the updated HMS aim, objectives and action plans were available for consultation until the 30<sup>th</sup> September and can be found at <http://www.humberems.co.uk/projects/review.php>. TD outlined the updated aim and objectives. The group agreed to send any responses on the documents individually.

##### *Potential HAG priorities from updated aim, objectives and action plans (see appendix 1)*

- TD outlined potential HAG priorities for the following year. The group agreed to the priorities and is happy to take them forward and include as discussion points in future meetings.

##### *HAG leaflet*

- TD outlined that AK has suggested the production of a leaflet to promote the HAG.

- AK commented that a leaflet to explain HAG would be useful to distribute. It should fit into a leaflet dispenser and probably be A4 in size split into 6 panels.
- PA asked how it would be distributed and given to groups. TD suggested that the HMS would need to work with HERAG on the distribution (e.g. 6 Local Authorities with tourist information centres/destinations). With regards to groups, some work would need to be undertaken to identify groups and make direct contact.
- LG suggested it would be a good opportunity to encourage feedback from the public on the EMS.
- PA suggested the leaflet should also list representation on the group.
- NG highlighted that she may be able to access funding to help engage people. HAG would need to produce a quote and idea to qualify for the funding. The content is up to the group and the leaflet would have to include the funders logos. The funding would be for distribution in the LEADER area, therefore match funding would need to be sought for distribution in other areas. The funding would need to be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012.
- TD suggested a small group should meet to develop the leaflet which can be consulted upon at the next HAG meeting. AK, JC, AG & TJ agreed to form the group.
- NG also highlighted that funding may be available for an engagement event in 2012. NG also highlighted that she would be happy to display information on the HMS/HAG at events, and AK is happy to participate.

**ACTION:**

TD to explore if other EMS/Coastal Partnerships have leaflets to engage groups and people.  
Group to meet to develop HAG leaflet before next HAG meeting.

**6. Update on Humber Management Scheme**

*Recreational disturbance study:*

- AG thanked TD for obtaining the funding for the study.
- TD outlined that visitor survey work was now taking place between August 2011 and February 2012. It would involve whole estuary visitor counts and surveys at 20 sites around the estuary. So far 1 whole estuary count has taken place in August and visitor surveys were held at Spurn, Cleethorpes, Rimac and Donna Nook and over 100 surveys were completed.
- TD highlighted that HAGs input was very important. If anyone has any information on recreation or visitor information for the Humber or would like to complete a questionnaire, please contact Tania directly on 01652 631520 or info@humberems.co.uk
- TD commented that it may be useful for the consultants Footprint Ecology to attend the next meeting to speak to HAG about the study.
- AG commented that a range of activities have been included in visitor questionnaires. It will be a very useful and interesting study.

*Application for Local Nature Partnership funding*

- TD outlined that the government had released a Natural Environment White Paper in June which outlined Local Nature Partnerships as a way to engage people in the management of landscapes for conservation.
- Funding for Local Nature Partnerships was announced and the HMS entered an application. This would be to develop a vision, engage more people and develop tools for future planning. A decision will be made by the end of September 2011.

*Ebb & Flow*

- AK hoping for length of more important pieces could be more substantial.

**ACTION:**

HAG members to contact TD if they would like to get involved or have information to assist in the visitor survey work to understand the impact of recreation.

**7. HAG update to Terms of Reference Review**

- JC suggested that the term 'stakeholder' should be defined.
- The group was happy with the document.
- TD suggested the adoption of the HAG Terms of Reference should be included as an agenda item for the next meeting.

**8. AOB, Future agenda items. Date, venue of next meeting**

*Marine Planning, Marine Management Organisation (MMO):*

- JS was attending the meeting on behalf of Sally Bradbury, Marine Planning Liaison Officer. Marine planning is a major project for the MMO to map activities that take place in the marine environment. The MMO wants to encourage users to get involved in the process and the East of England inshore and offshore is the first area undergoing marine planning. If anyone has any questions or would like to get involved, please contact Sally on 01472 355112 or [sally.bradley@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:sally.bradley@marinemanagement.org.uk). For further information see <http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/marineplanning/documents/eastengland.pdf>

*Humber Conference*

- The Humber Conference will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> November at the Hull Truck. It will concentrate on the management of the Humber and the EU TiDE project. The registration form can be found on the HMS e-newsletter.

#### *Update on the Net Gain project*

- TD informed the group that the final draft Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) recommendation have now been made and further details can be found at [www.netgainmcz.org](http://www.netgainmcz.org).
- JC commented that the Net Gain MCZ proposals do not include any MCZ designations for the Humber Estuary as it already has protection conferred by its status as a European Marine Site under the Habitats Regulations.

#### *Humber Estuary Low Tide counts*

- TP informed the group that low tide bird counts are planned to take place from this winter until autumn 2012. If anyone would like more information or would like to volunteer to undertake any surveys, please contact Tim Page at [Tim.Page@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Tim.Page@naturalengland.org.uk)

#### *Kilnsea Wetland Project*

- AG informed the group that the Kilnsea Wetland Project for wetland creation is due to complete in October 2011.

#### *Yorkshire Wildlife Trust wetland project*

- AG informed the group that Yorkshire Wildlife Trust have secure £250,000 from Wren Landfill Communities fund for a coastal project from Paull to Spurn to create and enhance wetland habitat.

#### *Update on HMS*

- TD informed the group that she would be going on maternity leave in 2012. DC outlined that Humber INCA are going through the process to ensure cover is in place from January 2012.

#### *New book*

- Successful Shore Angling, Phil Arnott. Medlar Press.

#### *Potential future agenda item suggestions:*

- Presentation from Footprint Ecology on the HMS visitor survey work to understand the impact of recreation on Humber Estuary wintering birds.
- HAG leaflet.
- Aviation.
- Cetacean response plan.
- Adoption HAG terms of reference.

#### **Date of next meeting**

6pm, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011. Waters' Edge Visitors Centre, Barton upon Humber

## Appendix 1

### Potential HAG priorities 2012 (to be agreed by HAG)

- **Engagement and awareness raising**
  - Increasing and diversifying interest in HAG
  - Engagement with WeBS counters to identify and fill gaps in Humber WeBS counts
  - Holding HAG meetings
  - Producing a leaflet to promote HAG
  - HAG members to report at meetings or to HMS on any issues or sightings, and to also encourage others to do so.
  - To assist the HMS in identifying ways to encourage people to report on issues and sightings
- **Contribution to recreational disturbance project:**
  - To support the HMS visitor survey study by providing information.
- **Habitat and species management – to assist with the following**
  - Promotion of stewardship/HLS or similar projects
  - Identification of habitat management required
  - Assistance in identification of important HTR, opportunities for enhancement and creation
- **Communication**
  - To contribute where appropriate to newsletters and articles
  - To provide ideas on engagement, awareness raising and education projects
- **Monitoring and research**
  - To participate, where appropriate, in meetings to identify, promote and fill research and information gaps
  - To communicate research and information on the Humber EMS
- **Integrated management and forward planning**
  - To participate in the development of an integrated Humber Vision
  - If appropriate, to support the HMS in obtaining funds for projects