

**HUMBER ESTUARY EUROPEAN MARINE SITE: HUMBER MANAGEMENT
SCHEME**

HUMBER ADVISORY GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Preamble

- 1.0 The Habitats Regulations¹ give relevant authorities responsibility for the conservation and management of European marine sites². The Regulations require that all local and national relevant and competent authorities with responsibilities in the marine environment exercise their duties to meet the requirements of the Directive.
- 1.1 The Humber Estuary Relevant Authorities' Group (HERAG) has been established to meet these requirements. The Group will work towards an integrated approach to the management of the Humber Estuary European Marine site³, ensuring the sustainable future of the area and will consider measures to avoid the deterioration of habitats and species for which the site was put forward for designation.
- 1.3 HERAG will establish and approve implementation and monitoring of a single management scheme⁴ for the Humber Estuary European Marine Site as required by Regulation 34 of the Habitats Regulations and as outlined in the DETR guidance⁵.

¹ The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994, (SI No. 2716)

² The Habitats Regulations use the term *European sites* to encompass sites requiring protection under the Birds and Habitats Directives (SPAs and SACs) and *European marine sites* for those which are established in the inter-tidal area and at sea to the limit of territorial waters. Also, the issuing by Government of a Policy Statement on Ramsar sites in England (sites requiring protection under the "Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitats") in November 2000, means that, as a matter of policy, Ramsar sites are to be afforded the same consideration as European sites and should be included in both the management scheme and the Regulation 33 advice.

³ The Humber Estuary European Marine site comprises a possible Special Area of Conservation - the Humber Estuary; a Special Protection Area - Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast Phase 1 (classified in July 1994) and a potential Special Protection Area - Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast Phase 2 (yet to be classified). This includes all areas below highest astronomical tide from the M62 bridge near Goole on the River Ouse, down to Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe on the south coast and to Spurn Point on the north coast. Easington lagoons are also included. The existing Ramsar site - Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast Phase 1 and potential Ramsar site - Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast Phase 2 will also be considered as explained in Note 2.

⁴ Note that the Habitats Regulations give relevant authorities the powers to establish management schemes for both SPAs and marine SACs. There will be areas, of which the Humber Estuary is one example, where marine SACs and SPAs overlap. In these cases it is expected that there will normally be a single management scheme to cover both the SAC and SPA.

⁵ European marine sites in England and Wales. A Guide to the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 and to the Preparation and Application of Management Schemes. DETR/WO June, 1998.

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- 1.4 HERAG requires to receive advice from, and to consult with, all stakeholders of the Humber Estuary. To this end the Humber Advisory Group (HAG) has been established. HAG will seek to represent all stakeholders of the Estuary equally and fairly and to work with HERAG in ensuring the sustainable future of the area and to encourage such methods as voluntary codes of practice to fulfil the remit of the management scheme.
- 1.5 The management scheme for the Humber Estuary European Marine Site will:
- (i) Help maintain favourable conservation status and avoid deterioration of the area's natural habitats and species;
 - (ii) Promote the sensitive and sustainable use of this area;
 - (iii) Consider action that will improve conservation interest and reduce conflicts with other activities.

2.0 The Advisory Group

2.1 Membership

- 2.1.1 A public meeting was held on the 19 November 2001 at which individuals and organisations with an interest in the Humber Estuary were invited to form the Humber Advisory Group. This resulted in a list of parties interested in forming HAG, a list of parties willing to participate on an "as needed" basis and a list of parties wishing to be kept informed as to progress of the management scheme.
- 2.1.2 The membership of the Advisory Group comprises of representatives from a wide range of stakeholders from individuals to organisations with an interest in the Humber Estuary. A list of current active members of HAG is appended. As membership is likely to be flexible this list will be reviewed on a regular basis.
- 2.1.3 Other bodies may be invited to attend the Humber Advisory Group meetings from time to time to discuss specific issues.

2.2 Role of the Advisory Group

- 2.2.1 The Advisory Group will represent a wide range of interest groups and provide opportunities for:
- (i) Groups and individuals to provide local and specialist advice;
 - (ii) Dissemination of information to and seeking the views of industry, agriculture, landowners, other interest groups and the local community;
 - (iii) Promotion of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site at appropriate events.

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- 2.2.2 The primary role of the HAG is to advise HERAG. The Group will aim to:
- (i) provide relevant information for the Scheme;
 - (ii) advise on the development and assist in review of the management scheme for the Humber Estuary European Marine Site;
 - (iii) Review and advise on the conservation objectives for the Humber Estuary European Marine Site;
 - (iv) Review monitoring carried out as part of the management scheme providing technical comments and advice;
 - (v) Encourage feedback to HERAG on key issues and aspects of the Scheme as it is prepared and implemented;
 - (vi) Provide scientific and technical advice to HERAG as requested;
 - (vii) Advise, as required by HERAG, on the effects of new and novel activities upon the interest features of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site;
 - (viii) Advise on the implementation of the management scheme;
 - (ix) Monitor implementation of the management scheme;

2.3 Conduct of Business

- 2.3.1 The Advisory Group will meet as often as is deemed necessary until a management scheme is established and thereafter as appropriate to assist in the implementation, monitoring and review of the scheme.
- 2.3.2 A Chairperson and Vice Chair(s) will be elected annually from within the Group. Secretariat and meeting room facilities shall be negotiated within the Group and, where necessary, with HERAG.
- 2.3.3 Any member of the Advisory Group may propose relevant items for discussion on the agenda, and particular notice will be paid to matters raised or to be raised at HERAG meetings.
- 2.3.4 The Chairman or a Vice-Chairman is invited to attend all HERAG meetings and, as agreed by the Advisory Group, may propose relevant items for discussion on the agenda of these meetings.
- 2.3.5 At least one member of HERAG will attend each Advisory Group meeting and, as agreed by the HERAG Working Group, may propose relevant items for discussion on the agenda of these meetings. The Project Manager of the Humber Management Scheme will usually attend.

2.4 Secretariat

HERAG has agreed to fund (to a maximum sum) the cost of employing an individual or organisation to provide secretariat to the Advisory Group and this will be reviewed on an annual basis.

