

Safety First

THE SHORE CAN BE A DANGER TO YOU – TAKE CARE

- Watch the tide as it can come in behind you – particularly on extensive sand flats (Cleethorpes and eastwards). Check tide times before your visit.
- Check the weather forecast before setting off.
- Wear suitable clothing and footwear - it can be cold, wet and muddy.
- Look after your friends and keep a close eye on children.
- Stay away from soft mud and look out for quicksands.
- Carry a mobile phone, a map and compass. Fog can form suddenly.
- Report any munitions, pollution or canisters washed ashore. For your own safety do NOT touch them.
- Ensure that someone knows where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Observe local beach safety information and byelaws.

Seashore Code

Leave everything as you find it. Do not collect living plants or animals. There are restrictions on the traditional collecting of samphire and shellfish – contact English Nature & North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee for details (see Contact List).

- Check any public notices – they are there for your safety and information.
- Sand dunes and saltmarsh are sensitive environments and vulnerable to erosion. Keep to established footpaths.
- Respect the coastline and other users.
- Keep seashore activities away from birds' summer breeding grounds and winter roosts – for example kite flying can be particularly alarming to birds. Large roosting sites are particularly sensitive between October and March and breeding occurs between April and July.
- Use car parks wherever possible. Park responsibly, avoiding restricting public access, rights of way or gates.
- Reduce the risk of causing a fire by not lighting fires, stoves or barbecues.
- Respect the rights of landowners and obtain permission before entering privately owned land or managed land.
- Please take your litter home.
- Take only photographs, leave only footprints!



The Humber Estuary – European Marine Site

It may be muddy but it is full of life

The Humber Estuary European marine site is an amalgamation of the marine components of the, - Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area and Ramsar Site.

The Humber is one of the largest estuaries in the UK and is a very valuable resource for people as well as for wildlife. It has a long history of human settlement which has resulted in a wide range of urban and industrial developments but it still remains an inspiring and atmospheric landscape.

The Humber as it is today was created by retreating glaciers about 6000 years ago but it has been subsequently modified by engineers for flood protection and land gain. Despite this the Humber remains a very biologically rich and productive environment. The fact that it is a very muddy estuary does not mean that it is dead – mud is great stuff for the animals that have adapted to live in and on it! It is largely because of these plants and animals, that the estuary has been identified by governments as a site of national and international importance for conservation.

The Humber is a:

- Special Protection Area for wild birds.
- Special Area of Conservation for natural habitats.
- Ramsar Site as a wetland of international importance.
- European Marine Site which covers the marine components of the above.

These designations are part of a legislative framework created to maintain wetlands in Europe and beyond.

An environment that has so many uses as the Humber needs to be cared for if we are to pass it on to future generations as a sustainable asset. The Humber Management Scheme has been created by a group of Relevant Authorities with the help of a range of other stakeholders. The main aim of the Scheme is: "subject to natural change, maintain the favourable condition of the site through the sustainable management of activities". We can all play our part and the purpose of this document is to help everyone enjoy the Humber in a safe and sustainable manner. The Codes of Conduct included here are based on those produced by national as well as local organisations but customised for the Humber.

PLEASE READ THEM – AND USE THEM!

It is in all our interests – and the Humber's interests too!

The Humber Estuary - Management Scheme

The Humber Estuary is located on the northeast coast of England and drains a catchment area of some 24,472 km², around 20% of the total land surface of England. Wildlife on the Humber includes large numbers of waterfowl, along with seals, a variety of fish species and marine and coastal habitats of international importance. Protection is provided by the European Union's Habitats and Birds Directives, which are transposed into UK law by the Habitats Regulations 1994. In addition, the Humber Estuary is designated as a Ramsar site, under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.

Alongside the wildlife, the Humber has 40,000 ship movements per year and its ports and wharves handle 14% of the UK's international trade; it is the country's largest port complex. Industrial sites alongside the estuary include, chemical works, oil refineries and power stations that dominate areas of its shores.

To properly protect the Humber a partnership of the 35 "Relevant Authorities" has produced a Management Scheme that is designed to safeguard the wildlife in perpetuity. The work is supported by the Humber Advisory Group, which consists of and liaises with a wide range of interest groups, to provide specialist input to the Management Scheme.

Acknowledgement of photographers.

Pictures were kindly supplied by: Associated British Ports, BASC, English Nature (Paul Glendell & Tim Kohler), Environment Agency, Graham Catley, Ministry of Defence, North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee, North Lincolnshire Council and Roy Harvey.

Contact Info

Emergency Contacts		
All Emergency Services	999	
Environment Agency	0800 807060	www.environment-agency.gov.uk/
Environment Agency FloodLine	0845 9881188	
Humber Police	01482 326111	www.humber.police.uk/
Lincolnshire Police	01522 532222	www.lincs.police.uk/
Maritime & Coastguard Agency	0870 6006505	www.mca.gov.uk

Useful Contacts

BASC	01244 573 000	www.basc.org.uk
British Canoe Union	0115 982 1100	www.bcu.org.uk
British Hanglider & Paraglider Association	01309 673912	
British Horse Society	08701 202244	www.bhs.org.uk
British Kite Surfing Association		www.kitesurfing.org
British Microflight Aircraft Association	01869 338888	www.bmaa.org
British Water Ski Federation	0207 833 2855	www.britishwaterski.co.uk
Countryside Agency	0845 1003298	www.countryside.gov.uk
Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee	01553 775321	www.esfjc.co.uk
English Nature	01733 455000	www.english-nature.org.uk
Hull & Goole Port Health Authority	01482 324776	www.hullandgoolepha.gov.uk
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	01733 562626	www.jncc.gov.uk
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	01507 526667	www.lincstrust.org
Ministry of Defence - Defence Estates	01223 255 000	www.defence-estates.mod.uk
National Federation of Sea Anglers	01364 644643	www.nfsa.org.uk
North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee	01482 393515	http://www.neseafish.gov.uk
RAF Donna Nook	01507 358716	
RNLI Helpdesk	0800 543210	www.rnli.org.uk
Royal Yachting Association	0238 0627 400	www.rya.org.uk
RSPB	0191 233 4300	http://www.rspb.org.uk/
RSPCA	0870 3335 999	www.rspca.org.uk
The Ramblers	0207339 8500	www.ramblers.org.uk
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	01904 659570	www.yorkshire-wildlife-trust.org.uk
Navigation / Harbour Authorities		
ABP Humber Estuary Services	01482 327171	www.humber.com
British Waterways Board	01636 704481	www.britishwaterways.co.uk
ConocoPhillips	01469 571571	www.conocophillips.com
Tourist Information Centres		
Local Authorities		
East Lindsey District Council	01507 601111	www.e-lindsey.gov.uk
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	01482 393939	www.eastriding.gov.uk
Kingston upon Hull City Council	01482 300300	www.hullcc.gov.uk
Lincolnshire County Council	01522 552222	www.lincolnshire.gov.uk
North East Lincolnshire Council	01472 324701	www.nelincs.gov.uk
North Lincolnshire Council	01724 296296	www.northlincs.gov.uk
First Aid Stations		
Cleethorpes Promenade	139 Central Promenade, Cleethorpes, DN35 8SE	
Waters Edge in Barton	Maltkiln Road, Barton Upon-Humber, DN18 5JR Tel 01724 297510	

Humber Management Scheme, C/O JBA Consulting, Denison House, Hexthorpe Road, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN4 0BF.
Tel: 01302 342055, Fax: 01302 329887, email info@humberems.co.uk
web site www.humberems.co.uk

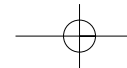


This Good Practice Guide is based on an original concept by The Thanet Coast Project, Margate, Kent Tel 01843 577672



Codes of Conduct
The Humber Estuary – European Marine Site





Safety at sea

- The RNLI website (see Contact List) is an excellent source of safety information - whether you're interested in windsurfing, jet skiing, canoeing, kayaking, dinghy sailing, power boating or kite surfing.
- The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) (see Contact List) provides training courses for many water sports.
- Always wear a lifejacket or buoyancy aid. Ensure you have the skill and ability to handle your craft before venturing on to the sea.
- If you get into trouble, stay with your craft. It will provide some protection and is easier for rescuers to spot. Carry an appropriate means of attracting attention.
- Keep your craft/board/rig well maintained and carry adequate safety equipment - check it regularly.
- Take note of the tide and weather conditions - be aware of their impact on your activity.
- Use the 'buddy' system. Go on the water in pairs or with a group. Always tell someone onshore where you are going and when you are due back. If possible, use a beach with rescue cover.
- Local Authorities issue local safety advice on items such as tides and weather conditions (see Contact List).

Water & Airborne recreation

- Keep to designated activity zones - these are well advertised in relevant areas. If you encounter wildlife, such as seals or flocks of birds, slow down and give them a wide berth.
- Be considerate to other coastal users, particularly swimmers and children in the water.
- To prevent collisions - ensure you understand the regulations on rights of way before taking marine craft onto the sea. Keep to a safe speed and minimise wash - it can be a nuisance to other users.
- It is illegal to pollute the sea. Waste materials should be taken ashore and disposed of properly.
- Many national associations have good practice codes and safety guidelines - please read and follow them (see Contact List).
- Comply with the Humber Navigation Byelaws 1990, available from ABP Humber Estuary Services (see Contact List)

Walking, Dog walking & Horse riding

- Observe Local Byelaws and regulation on rights of access.
- Avoid disturbing wildlife and plants - especially avoid any damage to saltmarsh or sand dunes.
- Keep to recognised rights of way or permitted areas - horse riders keep to bridleways.
- Walkers - use gates and stiles to cross fences or hedges. Always fasten gates, and report any obstacles or broken facilities to the Local Authority (see Contact List).
- Horse riders follow the British Horse Society's guidelines for Riding Responsibility and Road Safety (see Contact List).
- Dogs are banned from some stretches of coastline during the Summer.
- Keep your dog under close control and do not allow it to chase birds and other animals - especially do not allow it to run loose through saltmarsh or inter-tidal areas causing disturbance to wading birds.
- Clear up and dispose of dog excrement.
- If you have to walk near livestock then keep your dog on a lead and under close control.

Bird Watching

- Keep a good distance from roosting birds to avoid disturbing them - especially during the winter.
- Do not disturb breeding birds. Nesting birds are protected by law - bitterns, harriers and little terns are particularly significant - and you could be prosecuted for disturbing them.
- Follow the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds 'Code of Conduct for Birdwatchers' (see Contact List).
- Take care not to harm the habitats that are home not only to the birds you enjoy watching but also to a variety of plants and other animals, some rare or endangered. Environments such as sand dunes and saltmarsh are particularly vulnerable - please avoid them.
- Enjoy birdwatching at nature reserves where facilities, such as hides, make the activity more comfortable for you and minimise disturbance to the birds.
- Be aware that wildfowling is a common legal activity around the Humber between 1st September and 20th February and that it takes place on some nature reserves.



Angling & Bait digging

- Follow the National Federation of Sea Anglers (NFSA) "Conservation Code for Shore Angler's" (see Contact List).
- Keep to the NFSA "Recommended Retention Size Limits" - return undersize and unwanted fish to the sea. Endeavour to apply "catch and release" principles to preserve fish stocks. Carry a disgorger and remove hooks carefully.
- Help preserve the marine environment and protect wildlife. Use line of appropriate breaking strain to avoid lost tackle. Take home all waste and old tackle. Cut line into short lengths before disposal.
- Consider the safety of those around you when casting. Use a shock leader of 10lb breaking strain for each ounce of weight (5kg/30grms). Use a link or swivel to attach the lead. Do not tie line directly to the lead as the knot will be damaged and may fail.
- Recreational anglers may gather bait but digging is restricted in certain areas. Observe local bylaws, such as those at Cleethorpes (see Contact List).
- Help conserve bait stocks. Aid the recovery of bait beds by backfilling holes. Replace rocks and seaweed as they were found. Do not collect immature worms and shellfish. Do not take more bait than is needed and avoid wasting bait by storing incorrectly.
- Avoid digging where it will impact on other users of the shore. Do not dig around moorings, seawalls or other structures as this can cause undermining.
- Be aware of local bylaws - it is illegal to take edible crabs for use as bait.

Motorised recreation on the foreshores

- There are no designated activity zones within the Humber European Marine Site.
- Without the landowner's permission, it is illegal to drive a mechanically propelled vehicle off a road or other public right of way used as a road (Road Traffic Act 1988 (as amended)). Mechanically propelled vehicles include all "off road" vehicles such as 4x4s, scramble bikes and quad bikes. All foreshore land and sea defence banks are included in this Act.
- A small number of permissions are given where a motorised vehicle is necessary for access to the foreshore for another legitimate activity - e.g. fishing. The landowner will need to be contacted and, in addition, consent given by English Nature.

Wildfowling

- Most wildfowling is controlled by local clubs and associations that are affiliated to the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC), which produces recommended codes of practice. (see Contact List).
- Clubs and associations own or lease land and foreshore and each has its own set of rules regulating shooting. Wildfowling within the Humber EMS requires consent from English Nature.
- In severe weather, all shooting of waterbirds may be suspended by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). (see Contact List).

Field trips & Study groups

- See the Safety First and Seashore Code panels and follow your organisation's guidelines on health and safety.
- Check local bylaws and ensure that you have any necessary permissions.
- Respect the plants, animals and habitats you have come to study. Trample as little as possible.
- Do not remove natural souvenirs - leave plants and animals where you find them.
- Return rocks and seaweed - leaving them as you found them. Animals live under them.
- Ensure that you keep together - wandering individuals can be a danger to themselves and to the rest of the group.

