



HUMBER ADVISORY GROUP

**Minutes of the Meeting – 23rd September 2008
6:30pm at Waters' Edge Visitor Centre, Barton upon Humber.**

1. Introductions and apologies

Adrian Koster started the meeting by welcoming attendees.

Attendees:

Ray Eades	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Marc Paish	Pulse Tidal
Darren Clarke	Humber INCA
Adrian Koster	HAG Chairman
Daryl Burdon	IECS, Hull University
Jon Capel	Yorkshire Naturalists' Union
Bill Rigby	City of Hull Environmental Forum / MARINET
Andrew Gibson	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (Spurn)
Sgt Chris Hine	Humberside Police, Wildlife Liaison Officer
Tony Newiss	Humberside Police, Withernsea, Neighbourhood Officer
Nev Jones	Ex HAG Chair
David Renwick	East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Biodiversity Officer
Bob Pyle	Humberside Police, Hedon, Neighbourhood Officer

Apologies:

Phil Arnott	Yorkshire & Lincolnshire Association of Sea Anglers
Emma Hawthorne	Natural England
Steve Webb	Humber Parasailing
Gill Webb	Humber Parasailing
Mike Elliott	IECS, Hull University
Anna Moody	Alkborough Flats Site Manager
John Rowley	HAG Vice-chair
Howard Nimmo	Pulse Tidal
Kat Sanders	HMS Project Officer

Adrian informed the group that John Rowley had resigned as Vice-Chair of HAG as he is moving away from the area. The group wished that their thanks be expressed to John for his input over the years and wished him well for the future. Adrian thanked Darren Clarke for acting on behalf of Kat Sanders at the meeting.

2. Matters arising from the last meeting.

Nev Jones noted that HAG had not provided any input to Natural England on Humber Biodiversity Action Plan targets. Nev reported that Natural England are currently considering how to make progress with this issue. Adrian Koster thanked for the observation but he thought that HAG still awaited guidance from Natural England on various details, for example Natural England's target list of fish species. Also there arises the question of availability of HAG's expertise. Progress on HAG's commitment to be discussed by Adrian with Kat Sanders on her return.

Darren Clarke updated the group on progress with installing the second phase of signs around the Estuary. The signs had now been delivered to Waters' Edge and were awaiting installation by the contractor.

Darren stated that he had had some comments on the draft of Ebb and Flow and asked that any final comments be forwarded to him by Friday 26th September. Adrian and Darren to arrange the final photograph when the sign was installed at The Deep.

3. Tidal Power in the Humber.

The group welcomed Marc Paish from Pulse Tidal which is conducting a trial of a tidal electricity generator in the Humber. Electricity will be generated using tidal currents. The generator is being installed in the estuary off Stallingborough with cables being run out along an existing jetty structure in order to avoid disturbance to intertidal habitats.

Marc stated that the company hopes that the generator will be operational by November and will produce a maximum of 100kw, but the generator will probably only be operational c. 10-15% of the time as the aim of this project is to understand and develop the technology rather than to produce electricity. Marc stated that the theoretical maximum capacity of this design is c. 5Mw and Pulse tidal are currently looking at developing a 1Mw system which will produce enough electricity to power about 1,000 households.

Adrian thanked Marc for his input to the meeting and asked him to keep HAG informed of any news with the project. (Following HAG's Meeting, BBC Look North also featured the presentation given by Marc Paish and included Howard Nimmo of Pulse Tidal).

4. Wildlife Crime

This item was added to the agenda due to the presence of 3 officers from Humberside Police.

Adrian welcomed Sgt Chris Hine (1784), Wildlife Liaison Officer, PC Tony Newiss and PC Bob Pyle and asked Chris to describe his role within the Force. Chris informed the group that he is currently working with the National Wildlife Crime Unit and is attempting to develop an environmental role for an individual within the Humberside Force. Chris explained that environmental issues are not given a high priority with the Force at present. He explained his experiences of wildlife crime injuries, also of Hen Harriers, Bats, Peregrine Falcons, the spread of Red Kites. Generally, he said, there is an increase in reporting of poisoned, shot and recovered species. Wildlife crime incidents are being reported to Humberside Police, approximately 10 emails every two to three days which is raising the priority.

Chris encouraged HAG members to report wildlife crime by telephoning 0845 6060222.

Adrian thanked Chris for his input and welcomed continued involvement with the Police.

5. East Riding Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Partnership.

Adrian introduced David Renwick from East Riding of Yorkshire Council to speak to the meeting about the East Riding BAP Partnership. David gave an overview of the East Riding's Biodiversity and explained how the East Riding Plan fits in with national work on biodiversity.

David explained that a previous version of the BAP had been produced, but never really implemented. The decision had therefore been taken to carry out a thorough review of the old document in order to produce a document with clear actions for implementation. The aim of the BAP is to generate new action rather than concentrating on sites where there is a lot of existing effort ongoing (e.g. SSSIs) Some of this work may complement work on existing sites for example by providing buffer zones or extending habitat networks.

The current aim is to focus mainly on habitat action plans (rather than species) as much as possible. David did point out though that certain species action plans would be considered where the species is legally protected, particularly charismatic, a keystone species or where its requirements are contradictory to the normal management of the habitat in which it occurs.

David encouraged HAG, both as a group and as individuals, to become involved in the BAP partnership by commenting on the East Riding of Yorkshire Biodiversity Action Plan by 6th February 2009, preceded by workshops within the ERYBAP Consultation Explanation document.

6. Codes of Conduct Update - review

Adrian informed the group that a meeting had taken place in August to provide input to an update of the Codes of Conduct. A mock-up of the new Codes had been produced, but further input, comment, was required from HAG on the content including on new pictures for each code. Progress would be a priority from Kat Sanders return, January 2009 onwards. Comments, pictures should be emailed c/o Kat Sanders to enable the production of a final draft on her return in January 2009.

Derek Knight the Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) Officer had provided Adrian with some proposed text which he read for inclusion in the Codes following the suggestion by Jeremy Pickles at the Codes of Conduct workshop, 11th August 2008.

7. EA mowing of floodbanks in Holderness.

Andrew Gibson reported that grass cutting on the flood defence banks in the Holderness area had been carried out in mid-July this year. This had caused problems for wildlife and had attracted some attention in the local press.

Working with the EA's ecologist, Andrew had agreed that in the future the banks would not be cut until late July / early August. A guidance note for EA's maintenance workers has been produced.

Ray Eades pointed out that a stand of knotted hedge parsley (*Torilis nodosa*) had been lost during upgrades to the flood defences in the area between Brough Haven and Crabley Creek. Ray felt that with more careful planning this could have been avoided.

8. Any other business

Bill Rigby informed the Group that the Marine Bill will be introduced to the next session of Parliament. MARINET (<http://www.marinereserves.org.uk>). MARINET the Marine Network of Friends of the Earth is concerned about the lack of conservation objectives in the Bill and is planning a campaign to ensure that the opportunity to provide a robust legal basis for the protection of the marine environment is not missed. Adrian suggested that this could form an agenda item at a future meeting.

8. Date of next meeting

The next Humber Advisory Group meeting will be confirmed following Kat Sanders return, to be held late January/early February.

Darren Clarke

8th October 2008