

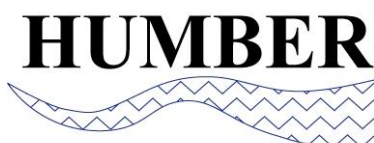


HMS - HUMBER ADVISORY GROUP (HAG)

**Meeting at 6.30pm on Tuesday 26th September 2006
at Waters' Edge Visitor Centre, Barton upon Humber INCA**

AGENDA

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|---|---|---|
| 1 | Introductions and apologies | Chair |
| 2 | Introduction of Kat Sanders, Project Officer for HMS and Humber INCA | Chair |
| 3 | Minutes of meeting held on 26 th July 2006 | Chair |
| 4 | Matters arising from the minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Defra consultation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management- Humber Rural Pathfinder project | Chair, Tony Edwards |
| 5 | Report on the national workshop on European Marine Sites | Emma Hawthorne (English Nature/Natural England) |
| 6 | Any other business | |
| 7 | Date of the next meeting | |



**Management Scheme
HUMBER ADVISORY GROUP**

Minutes of the Meeting - 26 September 2006 at Waters' Edge, Barton upon Humber.

Attendees:

Nev Jones	Chairman of HAG
Tony Edwards	Humber INCA Chief Executive Humber (Chair)
Kat Sanders	Humber INCA -HMS Project Officer
Darren Clarke	Humber INCA – Conservation Officer
Graham Crompton Howe	South Area Joint Council of Wildfowling Clubs
Daryl Burdon	IECS, University of Hull
Mike Sleight	North East Lincolnshire Council
Martin Broadbridge	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
John Rowley	Vice-Chairman of HAG
Emma Hawthorne	English Nature
Adrian Koster	Derwent Valley Conservation Group
Steve Webb	Humber Parascending
Bill Rigby	City of Hull & Humber Environment Forum
Phil Arnott	Yorks & Lincs Association of Sea Anglers
Phil Cowing	Chair of HERAG - ABP

1. Introductions and Apologies:

Apologies were received from:

Jack Hardisty	Department of Geography, University of Hull
Diana Carlick	East Riding County Council
Barry Upton	Hull & East Riding Wildfowlers Association
Steve Walsh	Wooton Wildfowlers
Walter Houlton	Hull Civic Society
Darren O'Toole	East Lindsey District Council
Chris Manning	Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board
Mike Elliott	IECS – University of Hull
Michelle Lindsay	RSPB
Steve Lowe	Alkborough Wildfowlers
Ray Eades	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

2. Introduction of HMS Project Officer

Kat Sanders was welcomed to her first meeting of the Group and was congratulated on her appointment as Project Officer for the Humber Management Scheme.

All attendees were then invited to introduce themselves and their interest in HAG. The meeting welcomed two new attendees: Graham Crompton-Howe and Bill Rigby. It is hoped both members will continue to attend and input into the work of HAG.

3. Minutes of the meeting 26th July

It was agreed that these were a true record of the meeting subject to the name corrections for Rob Stoneman and Rodney Clapson.

4. a) DEFRA Consultation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)

Tony Edwards recapped on the ICZM paper and explained the process agreed by HAG at the previous meeting which resulted in the draft response that had been circulated. As no comments had been received Tony/Nev/John completed the document and it has been formally submitted.

The group was invited to comment further on the paper and respond at the meeting. The primary point that came from the consultation and was echoed by the group at the meeting; was the need for flexibility and not complicating existing plans with another layer of bureaucracy. Overall, it was felt that the response document accurately reflected the opinions of HAG.

b) Humber Rural Pathfinder Project. (HRP)

Tony Edwards explained the background and rationale behind the project, which is an investigation into how best to engage communities in environmental and flood defence issues. The results should enable more efficient and streamlined delivery of services to people living in rural and isolated coastal areas. Tony invited any comments arising from the HRP working paper on HAG, there were no comments to date.

Graham Crompton-Howe commented on the EA's communication with community in regards to the managed realignment scheme at Alkborough. He felt it was extremely good in the early stages but after initial consultation, the dialogue dwindled and responses to questions from the public were not always received.

Nev suggested Graham contact the EA Flood Risk Strategy team directly with his comments but Tony also welcomed feedback from Graham to feed into work on the HRP project.

Martin Broadbridge added to the discussion on the subject of use of acronyms in interpretation and releases aimed at the public. He felt they have little meaning to most that read the literature and can instantly turn people off, not engage them.

Action Point, Kat Sanders: Martins comments prompted a suggestion from Graham to produce/tabulate an up to date collection of all Humber related acronyms and organisations for distribution to HAG members.

Phil Cowing raised the matter of HAG members giving presentations to local groups; he has forthcoming talks to the Nautical Institute and Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport. He also encouraged all members to conduct presentations especially those aimed at school groups.

Action Point, HAG Members: It was agreed that any members who organise and give presentations to notify the Project Officer to make a record of. It was felt this would help spread the message and would be useful for future reference and feedback at meetings.

5. Report on National Workshop on European Marine Sites – Emma Hawthorne (EN)

The workshop organised by English Nature was held in Suffolk 11th -13th September. All Conservation Officers covering European Marine Sites (EMS) were invited. Emma Hawthorne attended on behalf of the Humber EMS.

As an ice-breaker for the workshop each officer was asked to bring a poster displaying information about their site. Emma felt in comparison to other sites, the Humber was lacking in a professional looking display for use as an EMS poster.

However, she also felt that in terms of the Management Schemes, the Humber was ahead of many others. She reported that some sites had real problems with interest from user groups and consequently had weakly functioning or no advisory group.

Action Point: Kat Sanders Investigate with HERAG, design and production of EMS poster for HAG use and public display.

Emma reported on presentations given at the workshop:

a) MESH - Mapping European Seabed Habitats

b) EMS Scorecard – The Scorecard system was originally set up by the World Bank to monitor the management of Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) overseas. The system was presented at the workshop by Jen Ashworth of English Nature as a self assessment tool for management of EMS across the UK. It also allows management schemes to be nationally ranked. To date, a handful of sites are piloting the system

Action Point, Kat Sanders: Investigate Scorecard system, feedback at next meeting to discuss adoption for HMS.

Emma ended her session with a presentation given at the workshop by Bill Ballantyne of NZ on 'No Take Zones' and marine reserves. This sparked a lively discussion on the implication of marine reserves in the UK, especially in relation to fisheries.

6. Any Other Business

- Codes of Practice:

It was felt by the Group that the Codes of Practice need to be advertised and distributed more widely as they act as a valuable tool for engaging the public. They provide an ideal entry level method of putting across the message behind the HMS and raising awareness about the importance of the Humber for wildlife.

Adrian Koster suggested distribution to Trinity House School in Hull and the North Sea Ferries and terminals. Steve Webb also offered to distribute copies of the leaflet directly to his clients who are using the Humber.

- Emma Hawthorne - Natural England Staff structure – See Appendix

An update on the staff structure of Natural England's Yorkshire & the Humber Teams.

- Election of HAG Chair/Vice Chair:

Chairman of HAG, Nev Jones announced his imminent resignation. Having held the position since the conception of HAG he now feels the time has come to elect someone new. John Rowley, vice chair, echoed this and although does not wish to replace Nev as chair would be willing to continue as vice should the group so wish. The matter of election will be an item on the next meeting's agenda.

- Tony Edwards gave a latest brief on the managed realignment schemes at Welwick, Chowder Ness and Alkborough all of which are now operational. With the inclusion of Paull Holme Strays (breached 2003) the four schemes have created approximately 600ha of new intertidal habitat.

- The Group was notified of the Forthcoming Humber Conference, this year on 'Water Quality'. The conference is free and will be held at the Country Park Inn on the 22nd November 2006.

- Phil Cowing assured the group that despite ABP's recent takeover by Admiral there will be no adverse effect on the HMS and the Harbour Authority remains as is. He also reported on the stranding of a Humpback whale in King George dock last week.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was agreed for February on the North Bank. Notice of the date, time and venue will be circulated at a later date.

Appendix 1 – English Nature Becoming Natural England

Following the introduction of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act on 30 March 2006 English Nature, the Rural Development Service and the Countryside Agency's Landscape, Access and Recreation Division are working towards integration as Natural England. Natural England will work for people, places and nature with responsibility for enhancing biodiversity, landscapes and wildlife in rural, urban, coastal and marine areas; promoting access, recreation and public wellbeing, and contributing to the way natural resources are managed - so they can be enjoyed now and for future generations. Natural England came into force on October 2nd 2006.

Yorkshire and the Humber region (Regional Director – Peter Nottage)

Split into 2 sub-regions

1. North

- Covers North Yorkshire

2. South

- Covers South and West Yorkshire, North and North East Lincs, and all of East Riding of Yorkshire. Also covers the entire Humber Estuary and the coast up to Staithes.
- Team Manager is Jeff Lunn.

Within the South Sub-region the Humber Estuary will be covered by a team called *Government and Maritime*.

- Team Manager - Bernie Fleming
- Staff included in Government & Maritime Team:

Emma Hawthorne – Humber Estuary Conservation Officer
Kate Jennings (still yet to be confirmed).

NB. Denice Coverdale will no longer be on the Humber but will now be working inland on the Wolds.