

HUMBER



Management Scheme

HUMBER ADVISORY GROUP

6.30pm, 23rd March 2006

Water's Edge Visitor's Centre, Barton upon Humber

AGENDA

- 1) Introductions and apologies
- 2) Minutes of the meeting, 23rd February (previously circulated)
- 3) Matters arising from the minutes
- 4) Humber Management Scheme – (Chris Manning)
 - (a) Draft Annual Report
 - (b) Publication of annual report and an event
- 5) SSSI Condition
- 6) Signage of the European Marine Site
- 7) Fish retention sizes
 - (a) Guidance on sizes
 - (b) Format of advice
- 8) Promotion 2005/6
 - (a) The Deep Humber event
 - (b) SHWAP events
 - (c) Marine week – 5th to 20th August 2006
- 9) Any other Business
- 10) Next Meeting
- 11) Illustrated talk, The work of Humber INCA and its members – Darren Clarke if time is available!

HUMBER



Management Scheme
Meeting of the HUMBER ADVISORY GROUP
6.30pm, 23rd March 2006
Water's Edge, Barton upon Humber

Attendees:

Nev Jones	Chairman of HAG
Winifred Knight	Cottingham Parish Council
Adrian Koster	Derwent Valley Conservation Group
John Rowley	Humber Chemical Focus
Darren Clarke	Humber INCA
Steve Webb	Humber Parascending
Jill Webb	Humber Parascending
Dave Mouncey	Humber Yawl Club
Daryl Burdon	Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies
Martin Broadbridge	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
Natasha Estrada	South Humber Wildlife and People Project
Hellen Hornby	South Humber Wildlife and People Project
Steve Walsh	Wootton Wildfowlers
Simon Bradley	Wootton Wildfowlers
Ray Eades	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Andy Gibson	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (Spurn Reserve Officer)
In Attendance	
Capt Phil Cowing	Harbour Master, Humber – Chairman of HERAG
Chris J Manning	Humber Project Manager

1. Introductions and apologies

Apologies were received from:

Emma Hawthorne	English Nature
Maurice Labistour	Royal Yachting Association
Frank Priest	Doesn't drive, no transport
Jon Capel	Kingston Upon Hull City Council
Prof Jack Hardisty	Department of Geography
Walter Houlton	Hull Civic Society
Mike Sleight	NE Lincs Council
Steve Lowe	Alkborough Wildfowlers
Prof Mike Elliott	Institute of Estuarine & Coastal Studies

2. Minutes of the meeting 23rd February

It was agreed that these were a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

G1/Angling. It was noted that angling matches cause considerable extra bait digging around Spurn. Local agreement on access has been reached, but YWT are still concerned if disturbance occurs in hard weather, with knot particularly susceptible.

G2/ Airborne recreation. This is also a problem at Spurn with high tide roosts disturbed by microlights and helicopters.

Details of the EN/Lincolnshire Police joint working at Donna Nook were circulated. It was confirmed that HMS had written to the Humberside Police Force and received an acknowledgement. The likely merger of Humberside and the Yorkshire Police was noted, the 3 Yorkshire forces already having wildlife liaison officers, it was thought likely that the merger would bring these posts to the Humber.

G11/ Motorised recreation on the foreshores. YWT reported good liaison with local police at Spurn, and no repeat offenders after participants had been warned by reserve staff. Motor cycling also occurs on the north bank, especially the Wolds Way, and Welwick where it is hoped to install a barrier. It was noted that many of the bikes are bought in on trailers.

Sandboarding, has not been noted at Spurn, however Kitesurfing is occurring and causes considerable disturbance to the waders.

G12/ Personal Water Craft, The Humber Byelaws 1990 require the consent of the Harbour Master before activities such as; water ski-ing or aquaplaning, para-kiting or any similar airborne or waterborne activities are undertaken. The closure of the slipways at Cleethorpes was reported to have stopped the disturbance by jet skiers to waterfowl at Spurn, with the remaining users acting responsibly. Noted that a slipway at Garthorpe was now being used by jet skiers to access the Humber and disturbed wildlife on Read's Island, consent has not been granted for this activity.

4. Humber Management Scheme

A Draft Annual Report Reported that this had now been completed with the Relevant Authorities having 3 weeks to approve it before it was finalised. The report is available on the HMS web site, and hard copies can be supplied on request.

B Publication of annual report and an event The annual report will be produced as a pdf file on the HMS web site. The next issue of Ebb & Flow (due later April) will contain a summary of the last work undertaken in 2005, it might be increased in size, depending on the amount of material to be included, HERAG have agreed to launch the annual report at Water's Edge, in late May/early June as a joint event with HAG. The event will include short presentations, a buffet and a wildlife walk around the park.

Dave Mouncey reported that he will be working with BBC Look North on a 5 night programme on the Humber Estuary and would link this in with the management scheme.

HERAG report The recent meeting had approved the signage project, with both generic and site specific signs. HMS finances are in good order. The Humber Bridge Board Silver Jubilee events are taking place between 13th and 16th July 2006, events include live music, and fireworks display etc. Concern was expressed at the possible scale and location of the events, it was not known if wildlife had been considered in their planning, however the RSPB had been invited to a liaison meeting.

Codes of conduct feedback It was noted that the Yorkshire Naturalists Union Conference had been on Yorkshire's Coast, Seashore & Marine Environment. Copies of the Humber and Thanet codes were available and well received. The Humber codes front cover is visually less attractive and it wasn't until copies were opened out that they were taken up. At Spurn 150/200 copies had been distributed with only 2 subsequently found as litter, indicating they were valued.

5. SSSI Condition

Copies of the English Nature's Target 2010 – Yorkshire and the Humber were distributed. It was noted that most of the sites not in "target condition" (favourable or unfavourable improving) were in the south-west or north parts of the region. That this region is nationally one of the worse with only 58.3% of the SSSI in target condition, even with the recent addition of the entire intertidal area of the Humber Estuary. In the absence of English Nature, a short look at the units not in "target condition" other than those affected by costal squeeze or grazing was delivered by the Project Manager.

Unit 42 Gardens of new houses on Station Lane in Whitton are encroaching saltmarsh, noted that these were likely to be consented activities and so difficult to resolve.

Unit 120 Reedbed is drying out and willowherb is invading.

Unit 124 Pit is used for water skiing and therefore subject to disturbance. HAG wondered if the disturbance was significant, water skiing is a summer activity and this pit lacks sufficient marginal vegetation for breeding waterfowl. It is as a wintering area by waterfowl.

Unit 131 Unconsented fishing activity and vegetation management resulting in little refugia and on-going disturbance. HAG noted that the fishing activity had been continuously undertaken for years.

Unit 134 Fishing pegs around entire perimeter of pit, comments as 131.

Unit 135 Pit largely open water. Poor reed bed and a high water level.

Unit 136 Unconsented fishing activity and vegetation management resulting in little refugia and on-going comments as 131.

Unit 151/152/153 These are part of Welwick drain against ABP's realignment site and against a Yorkshire Wildlife Trust reserve.

HAG was disappointed that EN had again not attended the meeting, giving the impression that the Humber work was given low priority. HMS was asked to write to EN asking for their attendance at future meetings.

6. Signage of the European Marine Site

Not considered further, see HERAG report. New sites for signs suggested include, Hope & Anchor, the admiral steps on Victoria Pier, Hessle Country Park, Humber Wildfowl refuge, East Halton Skitter and Brough Car Park.

7. Fish retention sizes -. A Guidance on sizes/ B Format of advice

No fishing club representatives were present, but it was suggested narrow signs that could be attached to 4" posts would be useful to remind anglers, they might be included in the main signs as well. It was noted that visiting holiday makers on caravan sites often don't know of the current sizes.

8. Promotion 2005/6

A The Deep Humber event it was explained that The Deep had unfortunately left us off the earlier consultations. Nev volunteered to give a talk during their opening. The Deep have secured funding for 2 Humber interpretation boards, and currently have a children wildlife spotting game identifying the Humber's wildlife.

B SHWAP events The back ground to the Project was explained. It is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and aims to get people involved in the area's heritage and wildlife. Helen is employed as a Principal Education Officer and Natasha as Project and Education Officer whose work will include outreach to local communities. A further stage of the project will with Yorkshire Forward funding turn the old outdoors pursuit's centre into a visitors centre, leaving Far Ings as a volunteers base. Work includes; field walks, re-turfing Alkborough maze, and interpretation work on the realignment site. Event will include, bird walks, plant identification, professional courses. British Diver Marine Life Rescue will be holding a training day on the Humber.

C Marine week – 5th to 20th August 2006 Agreed that HMS would give talks during the Far Ings open day on 6th August.

9. Any other Business

The Environment Agency and the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs are conducting a survey to assess the economic impact of freshwater angling across England and Wales. The form is available via the web <http://www.gcal.ac.uk/econsurv/anglersurvey.htm> or can be completed via HMS.

Humber Clean the estuaries oil spill programme has been approved by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency after its 5 year review. It was noted effective communications are paramount to the schemes success, and that HMS had facilitated this.

The Immingham Outer Harbour development is due to open later this year.

Keadby Lock has been refurbished by British Waterways in a £1,400,000 project and will reopen this year.

Contact details of fellow HAG members were asked for, those present agreed to their release.

The Water's Edge surveillance camera project is currently installing cameras at Spurn.

10. Next Meeting

Agreed that this would be in about 3 month's time, probably June.

11. Illustrated talk, The work of Humber INCA and its members—Darren Clarke

Darren talked on his academic background and former work with the Lincolnshire BAP. He explained that an Industry Nature Conservation Association had been formed on Teesside in 1988, and Humber INCA promoted by Humber Chemical Focus during 2000 when the SSSI proposal prompted concern. The partners include; industries such as Associated British Ports and BP Chemicals with English Nature & the Environment Agency, local councils and the Lincolnshire and Yorkshire Wildlife Trusts. Project include:

Sandmartins at Corus's Scunthorpe site have been nesting in the olivine, a material used as a flux during steel production. The options were to destroy the nests or stop steel production. The solution was to profile the material to both attract the birds to certain areas and avoid others, the colony has since increased while steel production continues without hindrance. This work won the Lincolnshire Environmental Award.

Associated British Ports Immingham harbour where landscaping work including hedge planting was undertaken.

The Humber International terminal required compensation at Chowder Ness and Welwick creating 60 hectares of extra habitat for the loss of 22 hectares. The Chowder Ness site had included relocation of water voles to Waters' Edge.

Other work includes;

Monitoring industrial sites and producing management options, with schools involved with this work on the Corus site.

Helping with planning applications and permits, resulting in better quality applications that receive faster approvals.

Providing a co-ordination service during emergencies such as the recent 2004 oil spill and raising awareness of wildlife to industrial operators.

Chris J Manning
March 2006