



HUMBER ADVISORY GROUP

6:30pm, Wednesday 12th September 2007
Swanland Village Hall

Agenda

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| 1. Introductions and apologies | Chair |
| 2. Matters arising from the last meeting. | Chair & Kat Sanders |
| 3. HERAG report | Phil Cowing |
| 4. Monitoring report | RSPB c/o Kat Sanders |
| 5. Wildlife crime | Sgt Chris Hine/Group |
| 6. Signage | Kat Sanders |
| 7. BAP Targets | E Hawthorne |
| 8. Codes of conduct update | Kat Sanders |
| 9. Any other business | |
| 10. Date and venue of next meeting | |



HUMBER ADVISORY GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting – 12th September 2007 6:30pm Swanland Village Hall.

1. Introductions: Each attendee formally introduced themselves at the meeting.

Attendees:

Phil Cowing	(HERAG Chairman) Associated British Ports
John Rowley	HAG Vice Chair
Kat Sanders	Humber Project Officer.
Hazel Armstrong	British Horse Society
Rodney Clapson	Humber Keel & Sloop Preservation Society
Jon Capel	Yorkshire Naturalists Union
Emma Hawthorne	Natural England
Daryl Burdon	IECS ¹ , Hull University
Ray Eades	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Martin Broadbridge	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
Darren Clarke	Humber INCA
Phil Amott	Yorkshire & Lincolnshire Association of Sea Anglers.
Steve Webb	Humber Parasailing
Jill Webb	Humber Parasailing

Apologies:

Adrian Koster	HAG Chair
Tony Newiss	Neighbourhood Police Officer for South Holderness.
Michelle Lindsay	RSPB
Andrew Gibson	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust – warden at Spurn.
Anna Moody	Alkborough Flats Manager
Helen Hornby	South Humber Bank Wildlife & People Project
Walter Houlton	Hull Civic Society
Bob Dawson	North Lincolnshire Council
Mike Elliott	IECS, Hull University
Nev Jones	Ex HAG Chair

2. Minutes and matters arising from the meeting, 30th May 2007 at Waters' Edge Visitor Centre, Barton upon Humber.

Vice Chair, John Rowley confirmed with the group that the minutes were a true reflection of the previous meeting. Kat Sanders reported that all the action points from the last meeting had been dealt with accordingly excluding contacting Ian Simms. She noted that the misinterpretation of Andrew Gibson's comments at the last meeting and subsequently in the minutes had been corrected via an email to the group. To confirm this point:

¹ Institute of Estuarine & Coastal Studies.

Ian Simms of CSL was mentioned and suggested as a speaker by Andrew Gibson for his involvement with conducting bird movement tracking by radar NOT with brown tailed moths which was raised as a separate point of interest.

Steve Webb queried whether the EMS poster could be used for Humber Parasailing events. Kat noted that although the board is there for all HAG members to use for the promotion of the scheme at public events, the board is only really suitable for indoor use. i.e.) Recently used at the Environment Fair being held at The Deep 2nd – 9th June & the BBC Coast event at The Deep in August.

Action Point HAG (ongoing): Contact Kat Sanders to obtain poster for use at any future talks/presentations

3. Report from HERAG Chair

Phil Cowing (Chair of HERAG) reported back to the group on the HERAG working group meeting held on the 22nd June at Waters' Edge Visitor Centre, Barton upon Humber. He spoke briefly on each of the agenda items and their outcomes, most notably:

- The working group/HERAG meetings refocused to a programme that allows decisions to be made as necessary.
- Project Officer (Kat Sanders) contract renewed for a further 2 years. To continue as part time post with Humber INCA.
- HMS finances in good health and as such a further £2000 allocated towards the signage project giving a total of £5000 for the first phase for signs. This approach will hopefully encourage further sources of external funding to pursue the additional signs at a later date.
- HMS to co-organise this years' Humber Conference with Humber INCA. The conference will be held 21st November 2007 at Reeds Hotel, Barton upon Humber with a theme of 'Working in Partnership'. Phil invited ideas from the group as to how HAG may be represented at the conference.

Darren Clarke added that this years' conference is aimed at illustrating the working in partnership theme from the local level to European/International levels. Steve Webb offered to talk about the working partnership he has with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and the RSPB doing his trips around Reads Island. John Rowley queried whether there would be any items covering the recent floods in the region. Ray Eades remarked on negative press that nature conservation received in relation to the floods, i.e. blamed for aggravating the damage caused.

Phil Cowing ended his report with some feedback from an event he had attended recently regarding the duties on new duties placed on public bodies to consider biodiversity (S40 NERC Act) he, noted that in comparison to many other regions the Humber partnership seems to be ahead of the field and working together well. He championed the ongoing work of HAG and encouraged it to long continue.

4. Monitoring Report

The second monitoring report (first one by Andrew Gibson) had been circulated to the group prior to the meeting. John Rowley invited any comments on the report of which there were none at this time. Kat also explained that another report had since been submitted by Mike Sleight for Cleethorpes. She noted that the production of these regular reports was a positive step forward in fulfilling HAG's role to monitor activities around the estuary. However, Kat added that she felt that although the reports provide interesting information, in order to be measurable and truly useful a different format should be used. With this in mind she suggested developing the reports into a more instantaneous system

to allow any member of HAG to contribute to the records at any time. An online system was described which would allow the user to select the activity from a drop down menu (the 17 activities listed under section 6.5 of the management scheme, Management Actions – undertaken with the Humber Advisory Group). Every entry would include the date, activity, reporter's name (subject to data protection) as well as a grid reference or specific location. These reports could then be compiled over the year and mapped to show geographical grouping, seasonal trends and changes over time. All of this information contributes to the annual report as well as advising the HERAG group on those activities over which they do not necessarily have direct control.

- Daryl Burdon suggested referring to the Marine Conservation Society's website which is currently trialling a similar system for species sightings.
- Hazel Armstrong noted that plant gathering seems to be a particular problem this year in the Welwick and Easington areas.
- Martin Broadbridge encouraged this proactive approach to monitoring by HAG and warned of the risks of schemes often fading into insolvency without clear objectives.
- Phil Cowing emphasised the importance of feeding the information resulting from the monitoring back to the HERAG group so that positive action can be taken to reduce these damaging activities.

Action Point Kat: Design a system to enable regular reporting from HAG members and the public on action plan activities. System to be accessed via the website.

Action Point HAG: Members to report on section 6.5 action plan activities using online system once live on HMS website. In the interim, written reports should be forwarded to Kat for compiling.

5. Wildlife Crime.

Kat Sanders expressed her disappointment that although confirmed to attend, Sgt Chris Hine had not shown up. She reiterated the need to liaise with Humberside Police over the activities that are increasingly being reported around the estuary. Kat forwarded some comments from Tony Newiss to the group regarding the area he covers and said she would continue to contact both Tony and Chris Hine. Hazel Armstrong reported that at a recent coastal access forum meeting, Killingbeck Police Service had done an excellent presentation on their work combating unauthorised vehicles. Hazel suggested contacting them in view of attending a meeting as a means of sharing best practice.

Action Point Kat: Continue to liaise with Humberside Police Force regarding their presence at a future HAG meeting. Enquire as to how Killingbeck Police service's system works and invite to present at HAG meeting also.

6. Signage

Kat tabled a summary of the signage specification and description for each attendee. She elaborated on the HERAG Chairman's report and provided information on the locations chosen for the first phase of signage. Kat invited comments and suggestions in regard to the chosen locations and invited further feedback in the coming weeks from anyone walking in those areas. The frame for the signs is constructed from either timber or steel, steel is more durable over the long term; however timber is by far, more pleasing to the eye. If a maintenance program was in place i.e.) varnishing of timber every 2 years or so then this would be the preferable option, however if the signs are to be left alone once erected then steel would be a more practical choice.

Although a number of the group said they would be more than happy to keep an eye on any signs erected in their area, it was felt that regular maintenance would be difficult to keep up and a steel frame would last much longer. Kat thanked the group for their comments and suggested that a signage workshop for both HERAG and HAG may be organised prior to the next meeting to make further decisions on content etc for each board.

7. BAP Targets

Following a suggestion at the previous HAG meeting, Emma Hawthorne gave a short presentation on Biodiversity Action Plans focussing on how Natural England is planning to streamline the draft Humber BAP (produced in 1999) into existing plans and deliver its targets through existing schemes. Emma specifically explained the problems surrounding the delivery of sub tidal targets² and encouraged a discussion from the group on how HAG may assist.

Emma added that all targets that are set must be “**SMART**” – **Specific, measurable, appropriate, realistic and timed.**

Responses from the group included:

- Phil Arnott noted that targets cannot easily be set without monitoring and an understanding of what is already present on site.
- Jon Capel questioned who currently keeps records of sub tidal species in the estuary. Daryl Burdon explained that IECS hold a lot of this data, however cannot always make it available due to ownership issues.
- Steve Webb offered to report any sightings of noted species whilst operating his boat trips.
- Hazel queried whether the intertidal target of 600ha by 2050 included what has already been done. Emma answered, yes it does.
- Jon Capel emphasised the need to keep the list of species, targets etc simple otherwise it is unrealistic and not deliverable. Phil Arnott noted that some targets would be relatively easy to do whilst others will take much longer.
- The Chairman thanked Emma for her presentation. Emma noted that the link to the BAP website, plus an example of a SMART target would be included in the minutes (see below). She encouraged the group to look at the lists and then report back on any of the species known to be present in the Humber as well as any suggestions for their associated targets.

UK Biodiversity Action Plans: <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/newprioritylist.aspx>

Example of a “SMART” target (intertidal): *“Create by the year 2015, 6,835 ha of intertidal sediment habitat to offset current and historical losses”.*

Action Point HAG: Refer to BAP lists and report back on species known to be present in the Humber. Ideas for SMART targets for those species.

8. Codes of Conduct Update.

Kat explained that this would be a brief item just to flag up that the present stock of codes of conduct were beginning to get quite low. She circulated a copy of the codes to all attendees and requested that everyone came to the next meeting with at least one suggestion for an update to the leaflet. Daryl Burdon noted that Flamborough Management Scheme is currently producing their first set of codes and that it may be

² Presentation available on www.humberems.co.uk

useful to share ideas. Kat agreed and explained that she was in regular contact with Project Officer, Leanne Stockdale.

Action Point HAG: Bring ideas for updating the codes to the next meeting.

9. Any other Business.

- Steve Webb informed the group that Humber Parasailing is holding a charity event all through September called 'The Fly for Free Challenge'. The event is open to all ages and the money raised will be in aid of the RSPB.
- Issue 7 of Ebb & Flow due out second week in October.
- Kat reported that both she and Emma Hawthorne will be attending the Marine Protected Area conference being held Scarborough 2 – 4th October, feedback at next meeting.
- Kat informed the group of a Yorkshire Wildlife Trust run event being held at The Deep on 5th October providing an opportunity to participate in discussion on the future of our marine environment, marine bill etc.
- Humber Estuary now officially upgraded from potential SAC to candidate SAC. (see 'news' on www.humberems.co.uk for more details.)

10. Date of next meeting

The next Humber Advisory Group meeting will be held on the south bank at 6:30pm, Wednesday 16th January at Waters' Edge Visitor Centre, Barton upon Humber.