

Benefits of Coastal Partnerships Quantified:

A study looking at the financial benefits of working in partnership at the coast has been completed and the final report published. The study was sponsored by Defra and the Local Government Association. The Coastal Partnerships Working Group (of which the Humber is a member) was represented on the project steering group. The study was carried out by Entec Ltd.

The final report is available at – www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/marine/uk/iczm

This report has been distributed across government and all areas with coastal policy interests. It was also presented to the Cross Whitehall Coastal Towns Working Group in August 2008.

Copies of the summary report have been distributed to the members of all coastal partnerships to disseminate amongst their partners (existing and potential) to promote the benefits of partnership working and to encourage their ongoing support.

Business Plan

The Humber Estuary Relevant Authorities Group has published a three year business plan 2008 – 2010 to plan the future work and expenditure of the Humber Management Scheme. The business plan includes current

and proposed project work which requires the continued support of all partners to complete over the next 3 years. The business plan will be reviewed annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Relevant Authority Group. It is available to download: www.humberems.co.uk

Date for your Diary – The Humber Estuary Conference 2008

The 2008 Humber Estuary Conference will be held at Reeds Hotel, Barton upon Humber on Wednesday 19th November. The theme for this years' conference will be 'Looking towards the future of the Humber Estuary'.

East Riding of Yorkshire Biodiversity Partnership Launched

On the 24th of July the East Riding of Yorkshire Biodiversity Partnership was launched successfully at Bishop Burton College.

Delegates attended from a wide range of organisations, groups and disciplines. They enjoyed some active networking in the breakout sessions and some interesting and informative poster displays and presentations from speakers. The Partnership is looking for as many people to become involved as possible, be they members of an organisation or group or simply an interested individual.

Once a list of partners has been pulled together from those who have expressed an interest in joining the group, the consultation on the development of the East Riding of Yorkshire Biodiversity Action Plan will begin. This document will coordinate, plan and prioritise action for biodiversity in the East Riding focussing on the habitats and species of principal importance.



The East Riding of Yorkshire Biodiversity Partnership Launch at Bishop Burton College (Image courtesy of Jeremy Pickles)

The ongoing role of the Partnership will be to drive forward the implementation of the Action Plan and to coordinate action for biodiversity in the East Riding, adding to what action is already taking place.

The Humber Estuary is a jewel in the crown of the East Riding's varied and special biodiversity and we want to make sure it is well represented in the Partnership and the Action Plan.

For more information on the East Riding of Yorkshire Biodiversity Partnership, please contact David Renwick, Biodiversity Officer, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Tel: 01482 391718, Email: david.renwick@eastriding.gov.uk

The next issue of Ebb & Flow will be published early 2009. If you would like further information about the Humber Management Scheme, please contact; Humber Project Officer, Humber Management Scheme, Waters' Edge Visitors Centre, Maltkiln Road, Barton upon Humber, North Lincolnshire, DN18 5JR

Tel: 01652 631520 E-mail: info@humberems.co.uk Website: www.humberems.co.uk

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EBB & FLOW

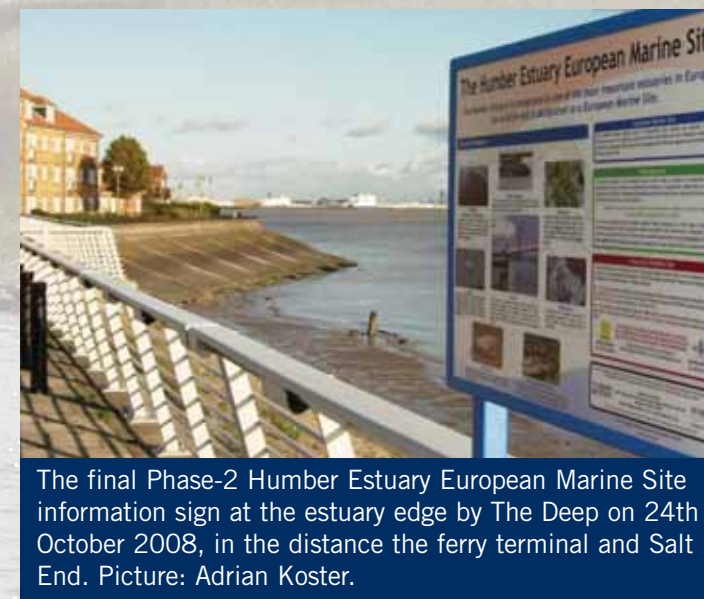
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HUMBER MANAGEMENT SCHEME

No 9 Autumn 2008

Signing the Way to Estuary Stewardship



One of the new Humber European Marine Site signs. Waters' Edge, Barton upon Humber.



The final Phase-2 Humber Estuary European Marine Site information sign at the estuary edge by The Deep on 24th October 2008, in the distance the ferry terminal and Salt End. Picture: Adrian Koster.

The second phase of the Humber Signage Project has now been completed, bringing the total number of Humber European Marine Site signs around the estuary to 14.

The second phase included six signs installed on site at South Ferriby, Marshchapel, Blacktoft, Hull, Skeffling and Kilnsea. This second phase received financial support from the North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee who funded the sign at Marshchapel for its fisheries interest. The other 5 signs were co-funded by The Crown Estate's Marine Communities Fund.

The fund was established in 1999 to provide support to initiatives and programmes which contribute to the development of best practice, and make a significant contribution to the good management and stewardship of the marine estate.

The Crown Estate's Stewardship & Environmental Co-ordinator, Fiona Wynne said of the project...

"The Humber Signage Project has been developed in partnership by the Humber Estuary Relevant Authorities Group and the Humber Advisory Group for the long term sustainable management of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site".

If you notice any damage to any of the Humber Signs, please report it to: Humber Project Officer, (01652) 631520.

HUMBER

Management Scheme

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Coastal Futures: Humber Community Project

This three year project, a partnership led by RSPB, with the Environment Agency, Natural England and sponsored by Defra, is now in its final phase. The idea behind the project is that greater early community involvement in flood risk management decisions, leads to increased awareness and an understanding of the benefits of these decisions, and through using local knowledge, to a better designed, community owned outcome.



EA photo showing local people building their own flood defences on the Humber in the 1950's, clearly demonstrating their understanding of local coastal processes.

Work on the project began in 2005 and had both a national and local angle. The national work resulted in the production of the report 'Economics of Managed Realignment in the UK' by Dr Rob Tinch (Environmental Futures Ltd) in 2006, and the leaflet 'Don't bank on it' based on the report findings. Both of these documents are available on the project website www.coastalfutures.org.uk

At a local level, the project uses the Humber estuary as a pilot, to look at the best ways to address the concerns of local communities about managed realignment and the changing coastline. The Humber estuary was chosen as the local case study because the Environment Agency's 'Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy' took a holistic view of the estuary and was at an advanced stage of development, and because Environment Agency staff on the Humber were keen to try new and innovative ways of working.

Extensive market research was carried out into community understanding at the start of the project (which was repeated in summer 2008 as a measure of impact), and this was used to inform the work of project staff on the Humber. A wide range of methods were used to first build trust and then to engage with community members, such as the usual democratic route of attending Parish Council meetings; work in local schools; working alongside community members at village events and attending wider public events.

The loss of land and heritage are emotive subjects and the project outcomes are being pulled together into a community engagement best practice report together with lessons learned, (see the project website autumn 2008). The report will feature learning from four case studies along the North Humber bank, and make recommendations to professionals involved in delivering work that results in coastal change, and to the communities affected by them.

The Humber Strategy Story Continues

The Environment Agency officially launched the Humber Strategy in March 2008, but this was a beginning, not an end. The Humber Strategy is the Environment Agency's 100-year plan for managing flood risk on the estuary. After the launch the team hosted seven drop-in sessions around the estuary in the fortnight following. These were attended by nearly 400 people.

The strategy identifies the areas which need work to ensure their continued protection. These have been assessed according to the national criteria set down by Defra and split into five-year batches. Work is underway on the schemes the team will deliver between now and 2013.

These are at:

- Stallingborough, between Immingham and Grimsby
- Halton Marshes near East Halton, North Lincolnshire
- Swinefleet near Goole
- Brough, East Yorkshire
- Donna Nook near North Somercotes, Lincolnshire

The Environment Agency is currently in the process of awarding contracts for the companies which will build the schemes on our behalf. The team expects work to start on Halton Marshes and Stallingborough early next year (2009). Work on the other schemes will start between 2009 and 2011.

The Humber Strategy team has also focused on those areas where it may not be sustainable to improve or maintain the current defences.

Surveys have been commissioned for:

- Hessle
- North Ferriby

- Whitton to Winteringham
- Flixborough
- Sunk Island to Paull Village
- Barton to East Halton

These studies will survey the floor levels of all of the houses in the 'at risk' areas by taking a measurement from the doorstep, and conduct a more detailed assessment of the condition of the defences and the level of protection they provide.

The Humber Strategy team are working with these communities individually and once the results of each of the surveys is available, the team will be actively talking to people about what this means.

The strategy itself will be reviewed every five years.

For further information on the Humber Strategy please contact Humber Strategy Manager Philip Winn on 01709 312962 or e-mail humber.strategy@environment-agency.gov.uk

New Fisheries Vessel Enters Service for North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee



North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee (NESFC) was established by statute in July 1890 and is responsible for the management and conservation of marine resources between the River Tyne and the Humber Estuary. Committee Officers regulate local fisheries under powers conferred by Section 5 of the 1966 Sea Fisheries Regulation Act. NESFC plays an active role in the management of fishing activities within the Humber European Marine site.

Following a comprehensive six-month commissioning process a new 'state of the art' fisheries patrol vessel for North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee was formally named and blessed at Bridlington Harbour on Wednesday 9th July 2008.

Unique in its class, the 26 m aluminium hulled vessel was designed and built in Finland. It has top speed of 26 knots and carries a wide range of marine survey and environmental monitoring equipment including a 6.4 m, diesel powered rigid inflatable boat. The vessel undertakes offshore fisheries enforcement work, throughout the region, including the inspection of catches, fishing boats and fishing gear. Other key duties include the assessment and monitoring of fish and shellfish stocks and the mapping and recording of sensitive marine habitats along the

Yorkshire coastline. The vessel also carries a range of sensitive probes designed to monitor the impacts of industrial discharges or any long-term changes in coastal seawater temperatures

Commercial and recreational fisheries remain very important to the local economy. During 2006 over 11,000 tonnes of fish and shellfish were handled throughout the region, representing a total estimated first sale value of over £16 million. In terms of shellfish, the Yorkshire & Humber Coast contributes up to 50% of the total annual lobster catch of England and Wales. The Committee, in partnership with East Riding of Yorkshire Council and other coastal authorities continues to work hard to ensure that these important fisheries remain sustainable. North Eastern Guardian III will significantly further this important work both in terms of improving the current knowledge base of the local inshore marine environment and in the development of more ecosystem driven fisheries management strategies.

North Eastern Guardian III was built at a total cost of £1.5 million funded through a combination of European Grant aid and renewals monies set aside by the Committee during a ten-year period.