



## Humber Nature Forum

2.00 p.m. Wednesday 2nd December 2015  
 Humber Room, The Ropewalk, Barton upon Humber

# Minutes

### 1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Adrian Koster (AK)	IWA
Alan Jones (AJ)	Humber Nature Partnership
Alistair Welch (AW)	Natural England
Andrew Gibson (AG)	HNF Chair/Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Andrew Taylor (AT)	HERAG Chair. North Lincolnshire Council
Anita Franco (AF)	Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies, University of Hull
Barry Longstaff (BL)	HCV
Chloe Morris (CM)	PhD student, University of Hull
Claire Horseman(CH)	Natural England
Cliff Morrison (CM)	HNP board member
Darren Clarke (DC)	Humber Nature Partnership
Dick Shillaker (DS)	Yorkshire Branch of British Dragonfly Society
Fran Smith (FS)	Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership
Gordon Kell (GK)	Humber Nature Forum
James Walsh (JW)	Natural England
Leanne Smart (LS)	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
Lionel Grooby (LG)	North East Lindsey IDB
Pete Short (PS)	RSPB
Peter Rogers (PR)	
Philippa Baron (PB)	Canal and River Trust
Sue Manson (SM)	Environment Agency
Tania Davey (TD)	Humber Nature Partnership
Tim Page (TP)	Natural England
Tim Smith (TS)	North East IFCA
Tom Jeynes (TJ)	ABP
Tony Edwards (TE)	HNP Chair /Humber Environmental Managers Network

### Apologies

Daryl Burdon	HNF Vice-Chair.
Anna Moody	NLC Alkborough Flats
Chris Manning	IDB
Clare Langrick	Humber Environmental Data Centre
Dorothy Fairburn	CLA
Jackie Foy	MMO
John Walker	
Jon Capel	Hull Nature
Rachel Wood	MMO
Richard Barnard	RSPB

AG welcomed the group and chaired the meeting.

## 2. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved by the Forum.

## 3. Humber Nature Partnership (HNP) update

DC summarised that the HNP had been delivering a wide range of both strategic and practical projects. He was pleased to see so many people continue to attend the HNF meetings.

AJ informed the group that he has been working with Novartis, ABP and Lindsey Oil Refinery.

GK updated the group on the following projects:

- Humber Nature app is in its final stages
- A pilot in-combination database is being developed
- A bird tracking project to understand bird movements will be shortly underway. It will focus on curlew and redshank
- Barton claypits group has been reconvened and the group is looking at green infrastructure from the Humber Bridge to the clay pits

TD gave an update on the Humber Hounds project and highlighted that membership was available for dog walkers. Members receive goody packs and invitations to special events. In return members are asked to follow the [Doggy Do Code](#).

DC requested for Forum members to continue share project ideas with the Humber Nature Partnership.

## 4. Presentation: Lamprey in the Humber. Dr Anita Franco, Senior Estuarine and Coast Fish Ecologies, Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies, University of Hull

AF gave an interesting presentation on the ecology of lamprey in the Humber. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

## 5. Humber updates

### 5.1 Hull University

CM is continuing her work on the GIS modelling of the Humber estuary and Holderness coastline.

### 5.2 Intertidal Ltd

JT told the group he was pleased to see the HNP supporting the Claypits Group. There is a great deal of work to be done.

### 5.3 Environment Agency (EA)

SM reported that the government has rejected a call to put further funding into flood defences on the Humber. The Secretary of State has asked the EA to work with Local Authorities to review elements of the strategy. There is an ambitious programme of delivery.

### 5.4 RSPB

RSPB has been in discussion with the HNP on putting information on the HNP website to assist landowners with habitat restoration and management.

## Action 1

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All of Forum to feedback to TD on what sort of information would be useful to be included on the HNP website.</li></ul> |
|---|

- **TD to download information from Natural England website**

PS also reported that there have been just over 20,000 pink footed geese in the upper Humber; the most since the 1950s. There has been 1600 avocet on Read's Island during November

### **5.5 Yorkshire Wildlife Trust**

AG commented that the Spurn peninsular is washing over regularly.

During the autumn, hen harriers have been seen at Welwick.

The Trust are drawing up plans for a visitor centre at Spurn and the plans will be submitted in December.

### **5.6 English Coastal Path**

AJ informed the group that the HNP has made contact with the Natural England team undertaking the coastal path project.

### **5.7 Ecologist Hull City Council**

AG informed the group that Hull City Council now has an ecologist approach called Jennifer Hunt.

### **5.8 Dragonflies and damselflies**

DS handed out an information sheet on dragonflies and damselflies.

### **5.8 Lincolnshire Coast**

CM informed the group that he has seen 1000-2000 pink footed geese travelling down the coast per day.

A dead fin whale was recently beached at Cleethorpes.

As of 02.12.15, 1792 grey seal pups have been born at Donna Nook, an increase of 87 on last year and another record.

### **5.9 Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust**

LB will be continuing in post when Emma returns from maternity leave in January 2016.

### **5.10 Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP)**

FS informed the group that a green tourism report was launched at the recent GLNP conference. It has been reported that green tourism contributes £58m to the Lincolnshire economy annually.

### **5.11 Natural England**

CH reported that NE has been undertaking a sea lamprey tagging project. 47 sea lamprey were tagged but unfortunately none made it to the spawning ground.

Natural England is working on a joint project with the Environment Agency to look at water quality and the dissolved oxygen sag in the upper estuary

JW informed the group that the Humber gas pipeline replacement is at the end of the examination period.

TP was pleased to hear about the positive Barton claypits meeting. GK informed Natural England that they were welcome to attend the meeting.

Wildfowling reviews are now complete.

Condition assessment work: very little has been undertaken during 2015 due to lack of resources. GK asked if there continues to be a 6 year review of condition. TP reported that there will be a more flexible approach to monitoring in the future based on need/threat.

### 5.12 ABP

The Spurn pilot service has been moved to Grimsby and there are plans to move VTS to Grimsby also. Deep sea traffic is down slightly and vessel movement are normal. The Green Port Hull development continues and it is hoped it will be operational by 2017.

### 5.13 NE IFCA

The assessment of the impact of commercial fishing on EMSs is now complete. The Humber assessment is now in draft and being quality assessed. It will then be reviewed by Natural England. The IFCA is reviewing the management of trawling in the Humber due to wider concerns regarding juvenile fish stocks.

There has been a call from government to assess bass nursery areas and the Humber is being included as part of this reviewed.

### 5.14 North Lincolnshire Council

The housing and employment development document is now at the point of adoption. This includes water bird mitigation in the South Humber Gateway area.

Able is working positively on their mitigation and compensation for their developments at East Halton Marsh and Killingholme Marsh.

AT informed the group that local authorities have a duty to review existing permits under the Habitat Regulations. It is possible that as a result of the review, 1 permission may be revoked. Local Authorities need to consider this quite carefully in the future.

### 6. AOB and date of next meeting

DC outlined that the HNP will be working with HCF Catch to bring HNF and Environment Managers Network meetings closer together. The groups will still continue and will benefit from reciprocal invites to the two meetings. TE continues to welcome views on topics and site visits and if an organisation would like to sponsor a future meeting.

Time and date	Presentation	Location
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	TBC	Time and location TBC
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	Joint HNF/Environment Managers meeting	Time and location TBC
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Site visit	Time and location TBC
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	TBC	Time and location TBC