



Humber Nature Forum
9:30 p.m. 03 December 2014
The Guildhall, Hull

Minutes

1. Introductions and apologies

Adrian Koster (AK)	YCF/Inland Waterways
Andrew Gibson (AG)	HNF Chair/Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Alex Thirtle (AT)	NLC Graduate Work Experience
Barry Longstaff (BL)	Humber Conservation Volunteers
Clare Langrick (CL)	HEDC
Cliff Morrison (CM)	HNP board member/Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
Darren Clarke (DC)	Humber Nature Partnership
Daryl Burdon (DB)	HNF Vice-Chair. Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies, University of Hull
Dick Shillaker (DS)	Volunteer naturalist
Gordon Kell (GK)	Humber Nature Forum
Helen Devlin (HD)	NE IFCA
James Duke (JD)	Environment Agency
James Thurlow (JT)	Intertidal Ltd
Jacqueline Foy (JF)	MMO
Jennifer Downs (JD)	Hull City Council
Jon Capel (JC)	Independent member
Peter Rogers	Local artist and sculptor
Nathan Veer (NV)	HNP board member/KAPACITI
Rachel Wood (RW)	MMO
Sally Osgoodsby (SO)	Michael Osgerby (Agricultural) Ltd
Sean Kent (SK)	Lincolnshire County Council
Susan Wilson (SW)	Natural England
Teresa James (TJ)	North East Lincolnshire Council
Tony Edwards (TE)	HNP board member/Humber Environmental Managers Network
Winfred Knight (WK)	Cottingham Parish Council

Apologies

Alex Codd	Hull City Council
Chris Manning	LMDB
Susan Manson	Environment Agency
Rob Foster	Wildflowers
Tim Page	Natural England
Vaughan Grantham	East Riding of Yorkshire Council

2. Minutes and matters arising

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

3. Presentation: Ecosystem Services – What are they? Why are they useful? How have they been applied?

DB gave a comprehensive presentation of ecosystem services which included case studies done by the Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies, University of Hull. The presentation will be circulated to the group. DB agreed to provide a Defra report on ecosystem services which some may be interested in and, for further information, he is to provide a recent article produced for the Environmental Scientist.

4. Humber Catchment Partnership: Update and consultation draft river basin management plans.

JD updated the group on the progress of the consultation process for the River Basin Management Plans which closes on the 31 March 2015. It is intended to hold a multifunctional workshop in the New Year which the group were encouraged to participate in.

JD informed the group that consultation on the Flood Risk Management Plan will close on the 31 January 2015. DC added he had been working with JD on the consultation process. JD also explained that work was being done to tease out information on the Humber Estuary into a single document to simplify communication.

5. Humber Nature Partnership update

DC gave a very positive overview of the work of the HNP over the first year of the partnership. He highlighted the fact that the Humber Nature Partnership and the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership are two of the most well established nature partnerships in the UK.

GK explained that the HMS Action consultation closes on the 12 December 2014 and encouraged members to provide any final comments. The intention was to publish the final version on the website in the New Year. GK added that work was being done with the HNP's web designers to include a dynamic version of the delivery plan on HNP's website. SO said she was impressed by the document and asked if business could be mentioned more prominently in the introduction. GK said this would be done.

GK and JT updated the group on the progress of a series of TV programmes called "Our Estuary" done in partnership with EstuaryTV. The series would be completed by 08 December 2014 and the intention was to broadcast the programmes in the New Year.

7. Humber updates

Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies, University of Hull

DB explained that survey work was continuing across the Estuary and a proposal was currently being written for future funding under the EU initiative Horizon 2020.

Intertidal Ltd

JT explained his survey work for the SSSI condition assessment work was almost complete and his filming with EstuaryTV was nearly finished.

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

CM informed the group that over 1,300 grey seal pups had been born at Donna Nook. The fencing had been restored and improved following the surge in 2013 and the new car park was in operation. Extra staff had been organised to manage the site during the season.

Natural England

SW explained that she was involved in the flood recovery work around the estuary and that Natural England was continuing to work on producing conservation advice for the Humber Estuary European Marine Site.

North East Lincolnshire Council

TJ was working on flood risk advice for an increasing number of renewable energy developments. This advice was now chargeable.

KAPACITI

NV was pleased to be back on the HNP Board as a business representative.

Humber Environmental Managers Network

TE informed the group that the next Humber Environmental Managers Network meeting would be on the 05 February 2015.

Hull City Council

JD informed the group of ongoing work for Green Port Hull and flood risk issues.

Humber Conservation Volunteers

BL outlined his work on woodland sites and bird counts on the Estuary.

Michael Osgerby (Agricultural) Ltd

SO asked if further information was available on the construction of a gas pipeline under the Estuary. JT explained that it was a National Grid project and construction would take 15 months and be completed in 2016. A brief discussion followed about the use of 'arisings' from the tunnelling work and licensing requirement to use this, for example, in the construction of flood defences.

Volunteer naturalist

DS explained he had been writing some articles on ancient amphipods.

Lincolnshire County Council

SK explained that his council was going through significant budgetary constraints but confirmed continuing financial support for the HMS.

MMO

JF/RW updated the group on issues surrounding increasing activity by crabbers and the associated licensing disputes. Work was also continuing on the East Marine Plan.

Inland Waterways

AK referred the group to an article on the 2013 tidal surge in the Geographic Journal, and commented on steam powered trawlers, a visit to Beverley Beck by historic Keels/Sloops and on the legislation controlling emissions from vessels. He also commented of the dangers of plastics to wildlife which developed into a wider discussion in relation to litter picking (see below).

Peter Rogers

PR shared with the group the development of education tools to teach children about the Estuary. He is to discuss further with GK.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

AG updated the group on the management of saltmarsh to encourage greater use by birds and spoke about a machine to cut the saltmarsh which was being piloted. The first cut had produced 160 tonnes of biomass and 20 people had shown interest in the pilot scheme. More work was needed to see if the purchase of the equipment was viable and how the biomass could be used. In the past the saltmarsh had been grazed by cattle but this is now not cost effective and viable by farmers.

John Capel, Independent member

JC raised the issue of litter and a discussion developed on how this could be addressed via the HMS and codes of practice. He passed on, by request, information about a forthcoming meeting organised by Friends of the Earth meeting.

8. AOB and date of next meeting

Future meetings:

Time and date	Presentation	Location
Wednesday 18 th March 2015	Humber surge recovery and flood resilience, Environment Agency	Time and location TBC
Wednesday 10 th June 2015	Site visit	Time and location TBC
Wednesday 16 th September 2015	TBC	Time and location TBC
Wednesday 2 nd December 2015	TBC	Time and location TBC