HUMBER
NATURE PARTNERSHIP

CASE STUDY: RECREATIONAL DISTURBANCE

OVERVIEW

Location	Within the SSSI boundary
Team Members	Humber Management Scheme, local authorities and police as needed
Duration	Ongoing

1. REASONING

Human recreational activities can have a negative impact on protected species and habitats. For the Humber, this means impacts on the designations of the Humber (SAC, SPA and SSSI), and on the species found in this region. To try to reduce the impact of recreational disturbance on the Humber Estuary, the recreational disturbance workstream records information on disturbance. Monitoring can help to inform the best ways to mitigate and reduce recreational disturbance going forward.

2. APPROACH

Data is being collected with the aim to better understand where, when and who is committing the recreational disturbance. East Halton Skitter is an example where the presence of the police and the local community reduced the incidents of off-roading in the area. Another project related to recreational disturbance was Humber Hounds.

Dog walking, both on and off lead are one of the most frequently reported forms of disturbance around the Humber, so Humber Hounds aimed to encourage and promote better dog walking practice. Survey work took place from 2010-2011, to measure the impact of recreational disturbance on birds.

Recreational disturbance is now monitored at HNP using a public online form, accessible via our website. The form goes to the Humber Management Scheme (HMS) manager, who determines whether the incidents need a response or action, for example, from local authorities, responsible bodies or police. If no response is needed, the data is recorded to continue assessing disturbance around the Humber.

3. OUTCOMES

This is an ongoing work stream for the HMS project manager. It has led to successful outcomes such as the clean up of East Halton Skitter and partnership working with relevant authorities. Due to the nature of the project, outcomes vary, but it is hoped that this form of monitoring will lead to a reduction of recreational disturbance.