

# CASE STUDY: PROTECTED SPECIES



## OVERVIEW

<b>Location</b>	Across member sites
<b>Team Members</b>	Humber Nature Partnership (HNP) and its members
<b>Duration</b>	Ongoing

HNP staff will in most cases identify the species in question and advise the member on the best course of action for the protection of the animal, protection against legislation and what impact the issue may have on their business operations. HNP will continue to monitor the issue until the situation is resolved (e.g. young birds have fledged).

Due to the seriousness of this issue, this service is an inclusive benefit of being a member of HNP, and our members are encouraged to call us as often as they wish regarding such issues.

In some cases specialist licenses are required to handle protected species, such as Great Crested Newt. HNP maintains good relationships with specialists who are able to help in these situations.

HNP is also developing a series of free “Toolbox Talks” on protected species legislation that we will deliver in person to ensure our members’ site staff know what to do if they encounter a protected species.

## 1. REASONING

Many species around the Humber Estuary are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). These species include but are not limited to:

- All wild birds, their nests and their young
- Mammals such as Badger, Water Vole and Otter
- Amphibians such as Great Crested Newt

These species can be found not only on the estuary, but in many cases on industrial sites around the Humber.

If protected species are intentionally or carelessly injured or killed, or in some cases even disturbed, the persons and business involved could incur a penalty of an unlimited fine and up to six months’ imprisonment.

## 2. APPROACH

If a protected species is found, HNP members are encouraged to cease operations in the immediate area and contact HNP. Incidents involving suspected protected species are treated as our highest priority and will be dealt with often within a few hours of receiving a call.

## 3. OUTCOMES

Dozens of times a year, HNP are called out to our members’ sites to assess and advise on protected species. In doing so, we have not only ensured the safety and survival of many protected species, but have also protected our members from legal action for breaches in legislation.