



Humber Management Scheme

Fact sheet: Grey seals



Industry and nature in harmony in one of Europe's great estuaries

Introduction

Grey seals are the larger more abundant of the two species found in British Waters. In general they have a coastal distribution although they are known to travel considerable distances whilst feeding. The main haul out site used throughout the year by grey seals on the Lincolnshire coast is Donna Nook. The Donna Nook population is thought to have originally been an overspill from the Farne Island breeding colonies and small breeding groups began to establish at Donna Nook in the late 1960s. The seals are protected at Donna Nook due to the beach being privately owned by the MoD and managed by the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust which manages access during the winter breeding season. The site is open access when not being used as air weapons range.

1676 grey seal pups were born during the winter season in 2013, up 10% from the previous year.

Current status and location in the Humber EMS

Grey seals are designated under the Humber SAC and classified under the Ramsar Convention.

Grey seals are in favourable conservation status.

Targets and opportunities

Attribute	Target
Extent of habitat	No significant decrease from an established baseline, subject to natural change
Disturbance	No significant reduction in seal numbers, productivity or displacement of seals attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change

Threats, management and gaps in management

Threat	Management	Gaps in management
Coastal squeeze	Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy and CHaMP	
Recreation and public access	Public access is controlled very tightly by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust who warden the area during the seal pupping season. The MMO can introduce emergency byelaws if concerns are raised over public access.	Unable to stop access to everyone - some disturbance still being caused by photographers going out to outer sand banks group of seals.

MOD activity	The MOD has drafted a management plan which outlines the management of activity to limit impact on designated features.	
Non-native species		Understanding of non-natives present and impacts - action 12



About the Humber Nature Partnership

The Humber Nature Partnership aims to deliver the sustainable management of the Humber Estuary and its surroundings, providing an environment in which new and existing businesses can grow alongside the enhancement of the estuary's wildlife riches.

Our work includes:

- Delivering the Humber Management Scheme
- Providing ecological services
- Supporting economic growth
- Engagement and communication
- Ensuring high quality evidence and data exists



We have delivered projects with industry such as wetland habitat creation and woodland management work. We have also delivered range of research and data gathering projects such as ornithological surveys in the South Humber Gateway area to extensive work to understand the impact of recreation on Humber protected birds. We also deliver a range of education and awareness raising projects such as producing codes of conducts and signage. We aim to work in partnership on the delivery of projects and are always open to hearing new project ideas.

We offer the following skills and expertise:

- Partnership working
- Expertise in ecology and planning
- On site wildlife management
- Managing contracts
- Awareness raising and engagement
- Event organising
- Negotiation and conflict resolution

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