

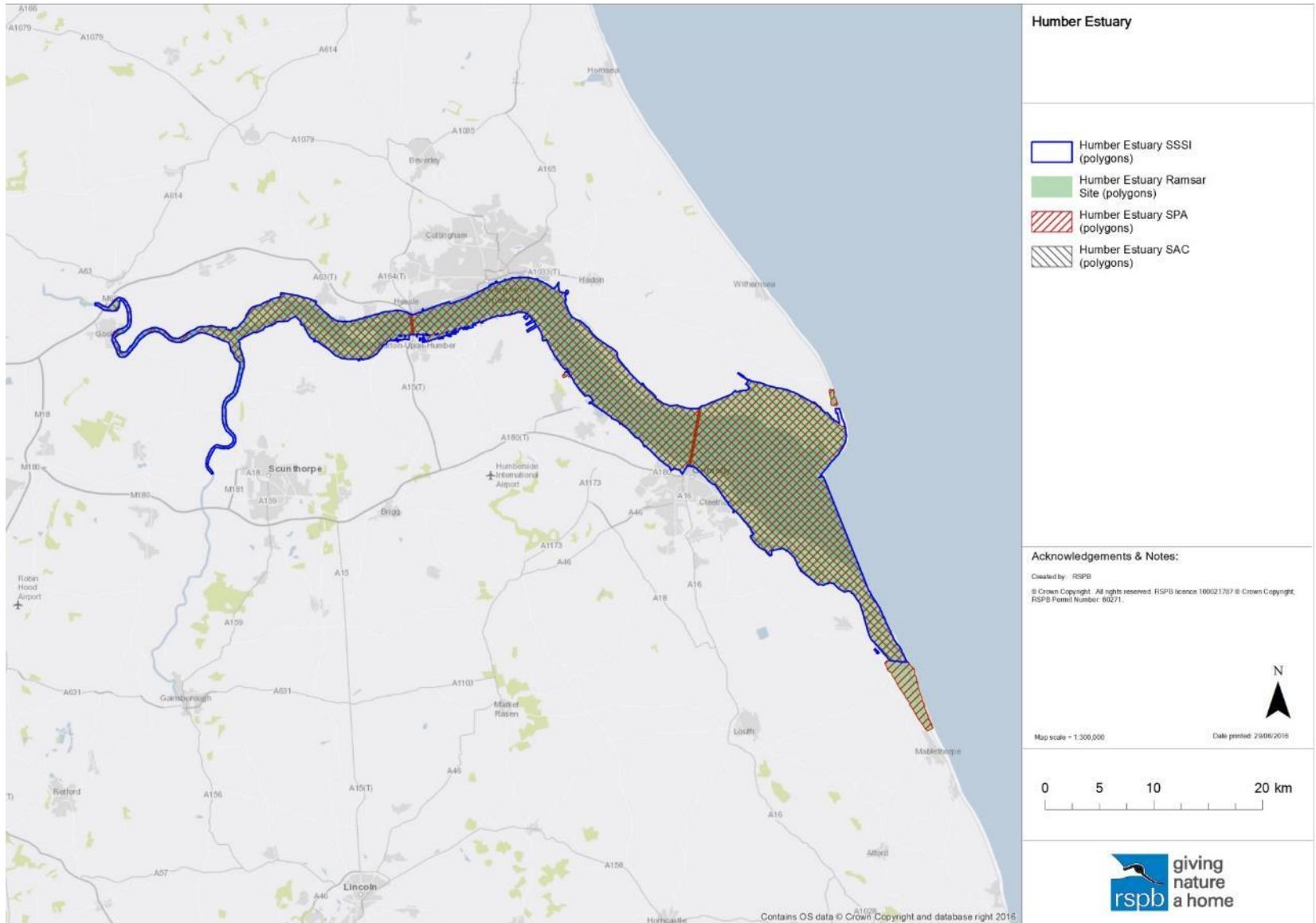


The RSPB's priorities in the Humber

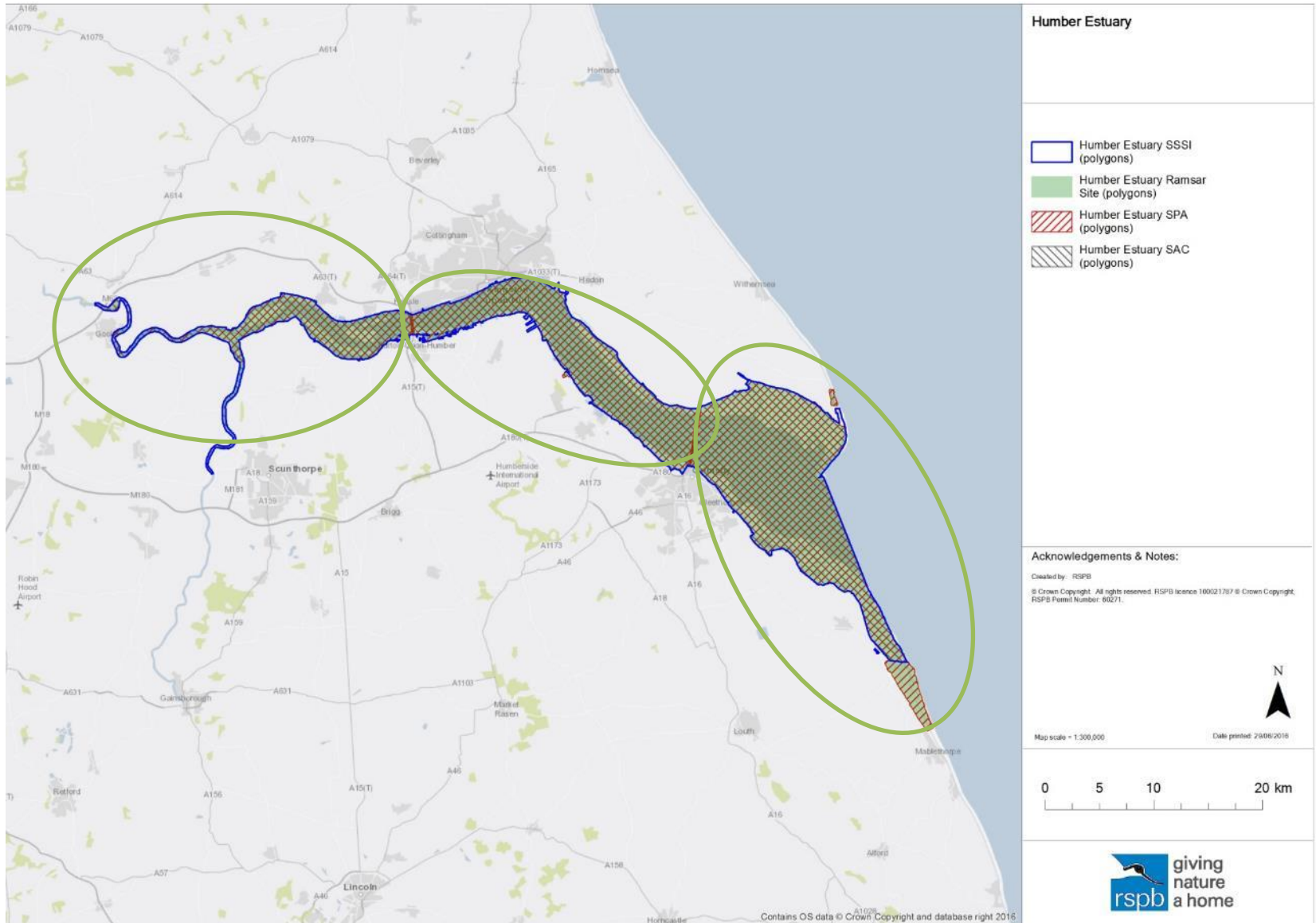
Michelle Lindsay
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Photo credits: Pete Short

RSPB's Humber Programme



RSPB's Humber Priority Landscape



Humber Priority Landscape

- “Land well managed for nature”
- Favourable Conservation Status for overwintering and passage SPA species
- Favourable Conservation Status for breeding SPA species
- Favourable Condition of SSSI, including intertidal habitats and reedbed assemblage
- Increased ecological connectivity between Estuary and hinterland
- Nature friendly farmland incl. for key SPA species and other farmland birds
- Raise awareness of Humber’s wildlife value and a valued and influential voice for nature.

“20% Land well managed for nature”

- RSPB national high level target
- Giving Nature a Home
- Biodiversity 2020/Aichi targets etc.



Favourable Conservation Status for non breeding SPA species - overwintering and passage birds

- Several species recent/ongoing declines
- WeBS red and amber alerts
- Historical losses and known current pressures: coastal squeeze, increasing human activity, development and recreational disturbance
- Joint challenges of restoring/enhancing and maintaining the SPA *and* accommodating further economic development and managing flood risk



Favourable Conservation Status for breeding SPA species

- Avocet
- Bittern
- Little Tern
- Marsh Harrier



Favourable Conservation Status for breeding SPA species



- Historic losses, pressures – habitat fragmentation
- Small vulnerable populations, rare breeding species
- Small number of secure breeding sites/colonies remaining
- RSPB Breeding Bird Vision

Favourable Condition of SSSI, including intertidal habitats and reedbed assemblage

- Intertidal mudflats
- Saltmarsh
- Reedbed
- Breeding Redshank, Bearded tit, Reed bunting, warblers, breeding waterfowl



Favourable Condition of SSSI, including intertidal habitats and reedbed assemblage



Increased ecological connectivity between the Estuary and its hinterland

- Sustainable Water management and Flood Risk Management
- Addressing Coastal squeeze and managed realignment
- Freshwater wetlands
- Opportunities to restore floodplain connectivity and floodplain habitat

Working with farmers and land managers to increase Nature friendly farmland and associated habitats around the Humber

- For key SPA species - Curlew, Golden Plover, Lapwing
- other farmland birds – e.g. Corn Bunting, Willow Tit, Yellow Wagtail, Tree Sparrow, Skylark, breeding waders
- Arable, grassland, wet grassland, wet woodland, scrub etc.

Humber Priority Landscape

Our focus on key conservation priorities and ways of working:

- Reserves
- Partnership working:
- Projects e.g. WfFW
- HNP and advocacy
- Sustainable Development
- Wider aspirations e.g. re working with farmers

RSPB's Reserves



RSPB's Reserves

- Manage current RSPB sites habitats to a high standard so that they deliver positively for birds and wildlife and contribute towards SPA and SSSI conservation objectives and condition targets.
- Create refuges and safe roost sites across the estuary and its hinterland where adverse levels of human disturbance are avoided.
- Increase the number of wetland birds that can breed, overwinter on the Humber and stop off to refuel during passage periods.

RSPB's Reserves



RSPB's Reserves



Reserves Partnership Working

- As a member of the HNP, work with others (farmers and other land owners including industry, local authorities, EA, wildlife trusts) to ensure the Humber SSSI/SPA and the supporting hinterland is delivering as best as possible for birds and other wildlife – work with others to ensure opportunities come to fruition and deliver to the highest standard.



Reserves Partnership Working



Reserves focus

- Create new areas of habitat particularly adjacent and close to the estuary, e.g Island farm and Broomfleet tileworks
- Where feasible take on the management of some new sites, but also work with others on newly created habitat and restored habitat to help ensure they are well maintained and protected
- Work with communities across the Humber and wider Humber area so that they understand what is required to protect the Humber, its birds and wildlife so that they feel a sense of pride in and value the estuary and its wildlife.

Partnership Working

- Work with partners to develop and deliver projects
- E.g. Water for Farmers and Wildlife with the Environment Agency



Partnership Working

Sustainable Development and Net Gain

- Working positively with Local Authorities, developers and Statutory bodies, Agencies
- NPPF: Ecological enhancement and Positive Net Gain
- Not just site protection, opportunities for biodiversity – SPA conservation objectives and wider
- Sustainable development and sustainable FRM and water resource management

Partnership Working

Summary of Future Aspirations and focus

- Open to new opportunities
- Developing new partnerships and projects with partners:

Habitat creation, restoration and enhancement, sustainable water resource and land management

- Going beyond maintaining and protecting to restoring and enhancing
- More working with farmers and land managers to help save nature



Thank you for listening!