

The Humber Estuary European Marine Site - Not just a muddy river!

The Humber Estuary is recognised as one of the most important estuaries in Europe for wildlife and is designated as a European Marine Site.

Key Features

Intertidal Mudflats and Sandflats

Created by thousands of tonnes of rich sediments washing in and out of the Humber with every tide. Supports immense populations of marine worms, molluscs and other invertebrates.



Darren Clarke



Darren Clarke

Saltmarsh

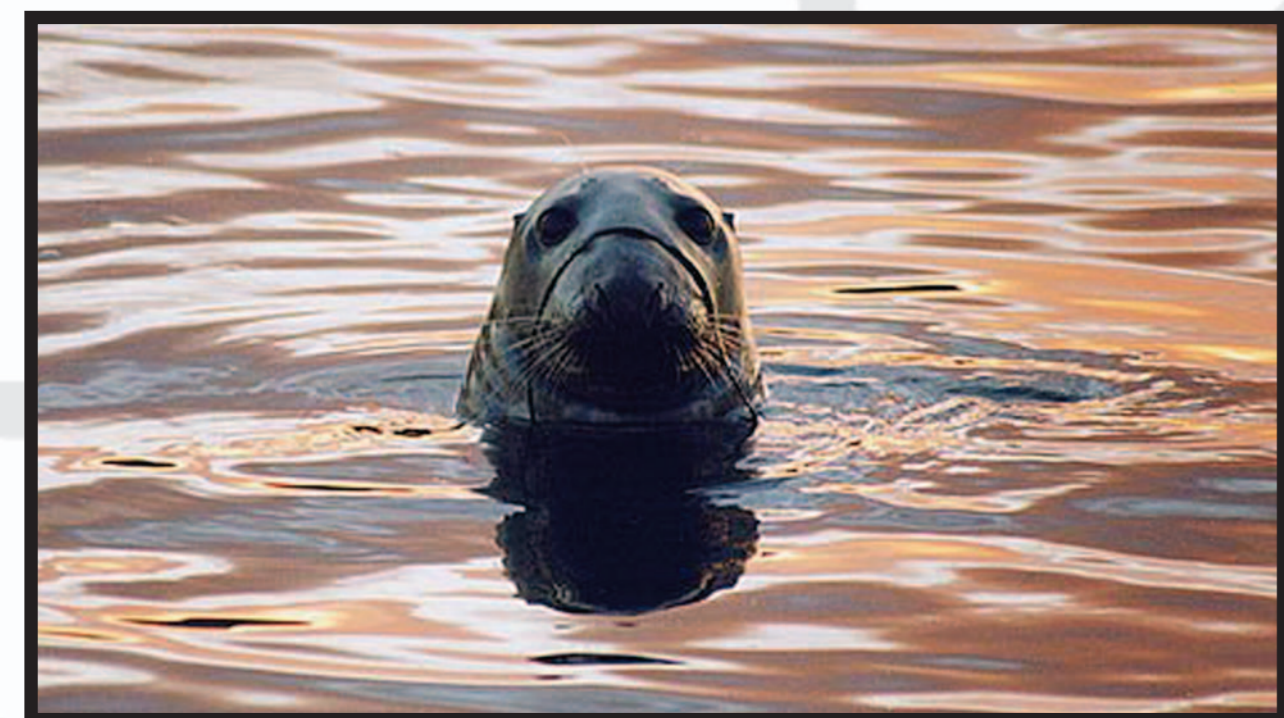
Supports nationally rare plants and wildlife. Develops in characteristic zones, starting with pioneer saltmarsh on the lower shore. Behind the pioneer saltmarsh more stable conditions lead to development of atlantic salt meadows.

Coastal Saline Lagoons

A rare and threatened habitat supporting a rich variety of unique wildlife e.g starlet sea anemone and tentacled lagoon worm. Humberston Fitties is described as the third most important saline lagoon in Britain.



Emma Giles



Kat Sanders

Grey Seals

Donna Nook supports one of the largest grey seal breeding colonies in England with hundreds of new pups born every year.

Birds

The Humber is one of the 10 most important estuaries in Europe for birds. In winter the Estuary supports up to 154,000 waterfowl. In summer it supports nationally important breeding populations of several scarce and declining species including the marsh harrier, bittern and avocet.



Graham Catley, Nyctea Ltd · www.nyctea.co.uk



Brian Morland

River and Sea Lamprey

Endangered or extinct in parts of Europe but thriving in the UK! Use the Humber for migration to and from spawning grounds in the Ouse and Derwent rivers.

Legislation

Ramsar Convention

RAMSAR (Iran 1971)

Ramsar is a global convention. Sites designated under this convention are important for their wetland habitat and species, particularly birds.

Birds Directive

SPA

Special Protection Area

Areas that support internationally important numbers of birds.

Habitats Directive

SAC

Special Area of Conservation

Protected areas for valuable habitats and species.



The marine areas (land covered continuously or intermittently by tidal waters) of the Humber Estuary SAC, the SPA and Ramsar sites together form the **Humber Estuary European Marine Site**.

Management

The Government's advisors, Natural England, provide information explaining why the site is designated and its conservation 'goals' including appropriate management for the site's natural habitats or species. To ensure protection of the Humber and to help achieve these 'goals' a partnership of 34 relevant authorities (organisations with jurisdiction on, or adjacent to, european marine sites) e.g. water, port, and local authorities, internal drainage boards, fisheries committees and the Environment Agency have produced a management scheme that is designed to safeguard the wildlife in perpetuity. The aim of the management scheme is:

“Subject to natural change, maintain the favourable condition of the site through the sustainable management of activities”

The work is supported by the Humber Advisory Group consisting of a wide range of business and interest groups that provide specialist input into the management scheme. The scheme is a wonderful opportunity for key stakeholders of the site to work together using an integrated approach to the management of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site.



ABP

If you would like to receive further information about the management scheme, or you have a particular expertise or interest in an activity, habitat or species on the estuary, Please Contact:

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Management Scheme