

## **TOURISM AND VISITOR ECONOMY SCRUTINY PANEL**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>27/07/2023</b>
<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>Cllr Philip Jackson, Leader of the Council</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	<b>Carolina Borgstrom, Director Environment, Economy and Infrastructure</b>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>North East Lincolnshire Council – Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan</b>
<b>STATUS</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>FORWARD PLAN REF NO.</b>	<b>CB 07/23/03</b>

### **CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS**

North East Lincolnshire's Council Plan sets out our aim to balance economic growth with the green agenda, making sure that we take our community with us and enable the best outcomes for the families that live, work, and visit here.

The report sets out our plan to manage the internationally important designations which encompass the Cleethorpes Resort and coastline. The recommendations in this report move towards achieving an equilibrium between economic growth and protecting and enhancing our natural environment. This supports the delivery of our outcomes framework by ensuring our people benefit from a green economy and high-quality environment and enjoy good health and wellbeing and our strategic environmental priorities in our Natural Assets Plan.

The Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan also enables continued housing development and growth in our area aligned to the objectives in our strategic housing plan.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider and comment on the proposals and recommendations to Cabinet prior to decision making. Cabinet will consider this matter at its meeting to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023

This report introduces a new Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan (Appendix A).

The Plan enables the Cleethorpes coastline to be managed in a way that balances the need to safeguard the economic viability of Cleethorpes as a tourist destination, with the need to respect the biological diversity and protected designation of the Humber Estuary.

The new Plan will replace the previous Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan, which expired at the end of 2021. The Council has been in informal consultation on the new Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan with Natural England since 2019 to ensure the Cleethorpes coastline is managed in a way that balances the need to respect the

biological diversity and protected designations of the Humber Estuary and safeguard the economic viability of Cleethorpes as a tourist destination. Since the expiry of the previous plan, temporary permission has been granted by Natural England for the Council to continue carrying out its day-to-day operations until the new plan is formally approved. The new plan has been developed in consultation with Natural England, Cleethorpes and Tetney Local Recreational Disturbance Group, Humber Nature Partnership (HNP) and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). The Plan has been submitted to Natural England for consideration and approval. Approval of the Plan will enable the Council to get Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) assent for any management activities it carries out, with continued advice and support from Natural England in relation to permitted recreational activities within the resort.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET**

Having regard to the formal consultation with Natural England, it is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Approves and adopts the North East Lincolnshire Council Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan as set out in Appendix A.
2. Implements any management actions which North East Lincolnshire Council Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan details as required for appropriate maintenance and management of the SSSI to enhance the condition of the Cleethorpes section of the Humber Estuary SSSI and its designated features.
3. Requests an annual report to be brought back to Cabinet that provides an update on the Cleethorpes Coastline following implementation of the new Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan.

## **REASONS FOR DECISION**

The Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan outlines the Council's approach to managing the SSSI. This includes our management responsibilities, an agreed approach to managing recreational activities on site and measures required to mitigate disturbance to the SSSI's special features. The Plan ensures that the Cleethorpes coastline is managed in a way that balances the need to respect the biological diversity and protected designations of the Humber Estuary, while safeguarding the economic viability of Cleethorpes as a tourist destination.

The Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider and comment on the proposals prior to decision making.

### **1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES**

- 1.1 The Humber Estuary was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in 2004. As a result, the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended, and Countryside Rights of Way Act (2000) places on the Council responsibilities for the management and enhancement of the section of the SSSI that sits within the North East Lincolnshire boundary.

- 1.2 To ensure the Council meets its management obligations and puts in place measures to prevent damage to the SSSI from any activities that take place, it was decided in consultation with Natural England that a Management Plan was need for the Cleethorpes coastline section of the Humber Estuary SSSI.
- 1.3 As well as a legal duty to manage the SSSI, the Council also has an obligation to manage the other designations of the Cleethorpes coastline:
  - Special Protection Area (SPA)
  - Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
  - Ramsar Site
  - European Marine Site (EMS)
  - Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

The Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan aims to encompass the necessary management measures to maintain and enhance all internationally important designations of the Cleethorpes coastline.

- 1.4 The previous Plan covered the period 2016-2021 and detailed the management and maintenance activities that take place on the designated sites.
- 1.5 The key management issues that the Plan addressed included:
  - Providing appropriate protection for SPA wading birds
  - Actively managing the saltmarsh and habitats southeast of the leisure centre
  - Investigating access to the sand dunes
  - Managing activities on the sand dunes, saltmarsh and mudflats
  - Considering future monitoring and surveys
  - Improving understanding of the hydrological process which continue to shape the coastline
  - Improving the community's knowledge and understanding of the habitats within the designated areas.
- 1.6 Through consultation with Natural England, it was established that the previous Plan could be strengthened to ensure the Council legally fulfils its duties to manage the Cleethorpes coastline section of the Humber Estuary SSSI. Natural England requested a more detailed account of management activities and additional measures to prevent disturbance/damage to the SSSI to ensure the Council meets its local planning obligations.
- 1.7 The new strengthened Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan 2023-2028 will ensure that the Council is legally compliant and meets the Local Plan conditions set out by Natural England in 2018. The new Plan also sets out future aspirations for management of the Cleethorpes coastline and aims to enable the Council to achieve economic growth in Cleethorpes, while protecting the designation of the Cleethorpes coastline. It also includes a section for mitigation measures which set out how the Council will mitigate for potential recreational disturbance impacts to the designated features of the

Cleethorpes Coastline from new housing developments.

- 1.8 Natural England has been consulted on the new Plan, as is required by law, and have approved the draft Plan prior to formal approval by the Council. The Plan now serves as a framework that sets out how the Council will sustain then economic viability of Cleethorpes, whilst being sensitive to the nature conservation status of the Humber Estuary.
- 1.9 Along with existing actions already outlined in the previous Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan, there are also new actions for the Council outlined in the 2023-2028 Plan, which include:
- Improved signage and education boards relating to the designated sites.
  - Continued monitoring of disturbance to the designated features in partnership with Humber Nature Partnership and the Cleethorpes and Tetney Local Recreational Disturbance Group.
  - Continued engagement with users, residents and businesses to ensure awareness of the designated features and how these are best protected.
  - Eco-tourism plan to help promote the importance of the designated features, while encouraging economic growth for Cleethorpes all year round.
  - Annual communications plan, to ensure users, residents and businesses of the Cleethorpes coastline are aware of the designated sites and permitted activities.
  - Development of a Buckthorn Management Plan, in line with the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan and Natural England's Dynamic Dunescape project. This will improve the succession state of the current buckthorn present along the sand dunes in Cleethorpes and will help to improve the habitat condition of the sand dunes.

It is also worth noting that the Council will continue to monitor the progress of the saltmarsh at the agreed management line and will remove any saltmarsh that begins to grow onto the resort beach, beyond the agreed management line.

- 1.10 The Council Plan recognises the need to balance economic growth and the green agenda, making sure that we take our community with us and enable the best outcomes for the families that live, work, and visit here. The Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan supports the delivery of the outcomes framework: setting out an approach to protecting and enhancing the natural environment across the Cleethorpes coastline while enabling economic growth through the visitor economy in Cleethorpes.

## **2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

- 2.1 For activities occurring within the boundary of the Humber Estuary SSSI, the Council (as a designated Competent Authority) is required to obtain consent from Natural England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000, in order to perform certain operations. The Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan is the

proactive vehicle by which permission is obtained and helps the Council to properly consider any impact on the environment and designations of the Cleethorpes coastline from proposed management or recreational activities. Any changes to the Plan will need to be agreed with Natural England.

### **3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

3.1 Do nothing. This is not an option as the Plan is required by law.

### **4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS**

4.1 The Plan has been produced to establish a framework within which all activities that take place along the Cleethorpes coastline can be managed. This framework ensures that activities can be controlled in an environmentally responsible way and in a way that responds to the competing priorities on the protected sites on the Humber Estuary. This includes presenting a plan that secures the economic viability of Cleethorpes as a resort and restricts the gradual expansion of the saltmarsh, north of the leisure centre.

### **5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

5.1 The revenue budgets are in place within the service area to ensure the actions outlined within this report will be delivered in line with the agreed management plan. The updated plan will increase the operational management of this valuable natural asset. The increased financial costs and staffing resource required will need to be met from within existing budgets and will require a review and diversion from of current working arrangements.

### **6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The Plan outlines our approach to protecting and enhancing the natural environment for the benefit of current and future generations. This includes the need to engage with and educate children and young people on the importance of the Humber Estuary for nature conservation and climate change.

### **7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The strategy underpins the Council's environmental priorities by:

- Ensuring that our internationally important designated natural environment sites are protected, maintained and enhanced.
- Recognising and realising the economic, social and health benefits of a high-quality environment.
- Recognising the environmental benefits of the saltmarsh and protecting it to achieve a good management condition. The saltmarsh contributes to our green agenda by providing a natural carbon sink and flood defence. The Plan acknowledges that removal of the saltmarsh on central beach prevents environmental enhancement, however removal will continue as part of a wider aim to balance the needs of people with the needs of the environment.
- Protecting and where possible strengthening protection and mitigation

measures for the designated features of the Humber Estuary SSSI/SPA/SAC/Ramsar designations. This is in line with the aim of the Council's Natural Assets plan to protect and enhance biodiversity within the borough.

- Aligning the Plan's main objectives of habitat management and mitigating the impacts to the designated features of the Cleethorpes Coastline with the strategic objectives of the Council's Carbon Roadmap and Natural Assets Plan.
- Fulfilling all obligations to complete any statutory environmental assessment as part of the Plan's development. A separate Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been completed for the Plan and both the Plan itself and the HRA have been approved by Natural England.

## **8. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY**

- 8.1 The proposals for the new Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan have been presented to the Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny Panel throughout development. The panel's comments and any recommendations from this meeting will be forwarded to Cabinet when it considers this matter on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2023

## **9. MONITORING COMMENTS**

- 9.1 In the opinion of the author, this report does not contain recommended changes to policy or resources (people, finance or physical assets). As a result, no monitoring comments have been sought from the Council's Monitoring Officer (Chief Legal Officer), Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance) or Strategic Workforce Lead. However, monitoring comments will be sought and if applicable included in the report to Cabinet 23 August 2023.

## **10. WARD IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The strategy set out in this report will impact on all wards in the Borough

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[Tourism Visitor Economy Panel Scrutiny Briefing Note](#)  
[Joint Scrutiny Panel - Communities, TVE & Economy](#)

## **12. CONTACT OFFICER(S)**

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**LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

North East Lincolnshire Council

# Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan



2021

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## **Part A: Habitat Management**

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### **1. Introduction**

The Humber Estuary is a North Sea inlet on the East coast of England and is one of the major deepwater estuaries in the UK. The Humber is of ecological importance for various habitats and species and as such, the entire Humber Estuary and parts of its tidal river tributaries have been given several nature conservation designations under UK, European and international law. The Humber is one of the largest estuaries in England, spanning across several local authority areas. This plan outlines how North East Lincolnshire Council will manage the Cleethorpes coastline section of the estuary, encompassing the necessary management measures to maintain and enhance all the internationally important designations of the Cleethorpes coastline. In doing so, we are committed to working with Natural England, neighbouring local authorities, and partner organisations to deliver sustainable management of the Humber Estuary.

Cleethorpes has the unique quality of being a small coastal town which: shares tourism, events, and an active local community, with legally protected nationally and internationally designated habitats. With one-step, you move from the sand dunes, saltmarsh, and mudflats into the urban, seasonally busy tourist hotspots. There are aims of extending the tourism season all year round by valuing the designated habitats through eco-tourism and birdwatching. There has also been a rapid increase in water use and activity within the coastal waters. Activities such as paddle-boarding, kayaking, jet-skis, and para-motors, and continued kite surfing and windsurfing have taken place. With the continued decline in populations of Special Protection Area (SPA) birds that use the coastal habitats for feeding and roosting, there is a requirement to manage the coastline. Management of our coastline is needed to help stop the bird population reduction whilst sharing it with the locals, visitors, and their associated activities, which all provide a valuable income for our coastal town.

## **1.1. Vision**

Our vision for the Cleethorpes area is to ensure the nationally and internationally important designations, that Cleethorpes beach is a part of, are effectively managed and enhanced, while also ensuring that this is balanced with tourism and local residents' use of the natural area. The nationally and internationally important designations, which cover areas of Cleethorpes Beach, are:

- [Humber Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest \(SSSI\)](#)
- [Humber Estuary Special Area of Conservation \(SAC\)](#)
- [Humber Estuary Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#)
- [Humber Estuary Ramsar](#)
- [Humber Estuary European Marine Site \(EMS\)](#)
- [Local Nature Reserve \(LNR\)](#)

We will endeavour to improve the conditions of the species and habitats present, protect our nationally important and significant species and habitats from harm, damage, disturbance, or decline, and improve or enhance the biodiversity of the immediate and surrounding area. Education and public access will be encouraged whilst managing the increasing environmental pressures that are happening in the area. Through education and public access, it is our vision that people (residents, visitors, and businesses alike) will be knowledgeable and proud of the natural assets of the area and keen to preserve them.

## **1.2. Aims**

To achieve the vision, set out in this management plan, North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) has set the following aims.

- To adhere to the legislation that governs the management of the designated areas:
  - [Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 \(as amended\)](#)
  - [National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 \(Amended\)](#)
  - [Countryside and Rights of Way \(CRoW\) Act 2000](#)
- To appropriately manage recreational activities in a way that reduces the risk of disturbance and damage to the designated site.
- Establish an appropriate level of public access and recreational activity.
- To deliver NELC's obligations (arising from its current local plan) regarding the management of recreational pressures on the designated sites.
- Enhance people's knowledge and awareness of the natural assets of the Cleethorpes coastline: helping to create a desire to protect and enhance the natural assets and their biodiversity.

## **1.3 Delivering the Plan**

We will achieve our aims through a combination of site management, engagement and partnership working in the following ways:

- The use of permits for certain water-based activities on site.
- Restrictions on activities such as dog walking at specific times of the year.

- Increased signage across the resort designed to inform and educate about the importance of the site and the risk of recreational disturbance and habitat damage.
- Routine monitoring of footfall data and recreational disturbance at frequencies specified within the Plan.
- Continued engagement with partner organisations and neighbouring local authorities, working together to manage the risk of disturbance and damage to the Humber Estuary.
- To regularly review our approach to management to ensure that our approach to delivering the plan meets the aims.

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## **2. Site Description and Designated Features**

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Cleethorpes is located along the South Bank of the Humber Estuary. The Humber Estuary is the second-largest coastal plain estuary in the UK, and the largest coastal plain estuary on the east coast of Britain. The Humber estuary drains a catchment area of some 24,472km<sup>2</sup>, around 20% of the total land surface of England. The Humber's muddy appearance is due to suspended sediment. Deposited sediment from the Humber Estuary provides essential material to maintain the estuary's important habitats such as mudflats, sand flats, and saltmarsh.

The Humber Estuary is an internationally important wildlife site, and in view of its wide range of habitats, there are local, national, and international designations. Nationally it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a Special Protection Area (SPA), a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a European Marine Site. The estuary and river are also a Ramsar site. The areas of Cleethorpes covered by this management plan fall within the Humber Estuary SSSI, SPA, SAC and Ramsar site. The most southern 3.7km of the N.E. Lincolnshire Coast Line has been designated a LNR (Local Nature Reserve).

Below is a table listing the designations on the Humber Estuary and the coastline of North East Lincolnshire, the designated features and current species within North East Lincolnshire, and the legislation that protects them. Sites are routinely monitored and any additional species found residing on the coastline on North East Lincolnshire will be included in future plans.

*Table 1: Table of designations relevant to North East Lincolnshire with listed features of the designations that occur in North East Lincolnshire and their Legislation.*

Designation	Summary of Designated Features which occur within North East Lincolnshire	Legislation
<a href="#">Humber Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest</a> (SSSI)	Designated as a SSSI for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nationally important estuarine habitats of mudflats, sandflats, and saltmarsh.</li> <li>• Nationally important numbers of wintering birds and migrants, and breeding birds</li> <li>• Nationally important for a breeding colony of grey seals, river lamprey and sea lamprey, and invertebrates</li> <li>• Nationally important for plants</li> </ul>	Statutorily protected by UK law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
<a href="#">Humber Estuary Special Protection Area</a> (SPA)	Site classified for rare and vulnerable birds and regularly occurring migratory species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avocet</li> <li>• Bar-tailed godwit</li> <li>• Black-tailed godwit</li> </ul>	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

Designation	Summary of Designated Features which occur within North East Lincolnshire	Legislation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dunlin</li> <li>• Golden plover</li> <li>• Knot</li> <li>• Redshank</li> <li>• Shelduck</li> <li>• Waterbird assemblage and others</li> </ul>	
<p><a href="#"><u>Humber Estuary</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Special Area of Conservation</u></a> (SAC)</p>	<p>Designated as a special area of conservation for the following natural habitat type:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows</li> <li>• Coastal lagoons</li> <li>• Dunes with Sea buckthorn</li> <li>• Embryonic shifting dunes</li> <li>• Estuary</li> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats</li> <li>• Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation</li> <li>• Salicornia (also known as Samphire or Glasswort)</li> <li>• Sandbanks</li> <li>• Shifting dunes with Marram grass</li> </ul> <p>And for species:</p>	<p>Protected by UK law under Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).</p>

Designation	Summary of Designated Features which occur within North East Lincolnshire	Legislation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grey seal</li> <li>• River lamprey</li> <li>• Sea lamprey</li> </ul>	
<p><a href="#">Humber Estuary Ramsar Site</a> (Site details available online in Designated Sites View)</p>	<p>Designated for being a wetland of international importance with internationally important habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuary</li> </ul> <p>And for internationally important species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bar-tailed godwit</li> <li>• Black-tailed godwit</li> <li>• Dunlin</li> <li>• Golden plover</li> <li>• Knot</li> <li>• Redshank</li> <li>• Shelduck</li> <li>• Waterbird assemblage and others</li> <li>• Grey seal</li> <li>• River lamprey</li> <li>• Sea lamprey</li> </ul>	<p>Protected by UK law under Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).</p>

Designation	Summary of Designated Features which occur within North East Lincolnshire	Legislation
<p><a href="#">Humber Estuary European Marine Site</a> (EMS)</p>	<p>The designation includes the Humber Estuary SAC (which supports natural habitats and species of European importance), Humber Estuary SPA (which supports significant numbers of internationally important wild birds), and Humber Estuary Ramsar Site (which supports internationally important wetlands and wetland species).</p>	<p>Protected by UK law under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).</p>
<p><a href="#">Local Nature Reserve (LNR)</a></p>	<p>Cleethorpes Sands LNR is designated for its diverse habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sand Dunes</li> <li>• Salt Marsh</li> <li>• Wildflower Areas</li> <li>• Mudflats</li> <li>• Sand Banks</li> </ul> <p>And the associated wildlife:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southern Marsh Orchid</li> <li>• Bird's-foot trefoil</li> <li>• Yellow Rattle</li> <li>• Dunlin</li> <li>• Knot</li> <li>• Oyster Catcher</li> <li>• Curlew</li> </ul>	<p>Protected by UK law under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended).</p>

## **2.1 Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**

There are over 4,000 SSSI's in England, covering about 6% of England's land area. As in the case of the Humber Estuary over half of them, by area, are internationally important for their wildlife, and are also designated as [Special Protection Areas](#) (SPA), [Special Area for Conservation](#) (SAC) and [European Marine Site](#) (EMS).

The SSSI citation provides a description of the special interest of the SSSI. The Humber Estuary SSSI citation can be found [here](#).

North East Lincolnshire Council is classed as a 'Section 28G body' so therefore have the responsibility of protecting the SSSI under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. This duty was strengthened under the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act) and the Environment Act 2021, public bodies must "*take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of their function, to further the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs*". Under these acts Natural England may give what is known as Section 28h assent to North East Lincolnshire Council (or other statutory bodies) for activities which they will carry out which could impact on the wildlife or habitats for which an SSSI is designated. If the Council are giving a formal permission (via permits or similar) to a third party for particular activities which could impact on the SSSI, they must first consult Natural England. Natural England will provide what is known as Section 28i advice. The Council are required to take account of this advice when considering the permission, they are proposing to give. Other activities carried out by SSSI landowners which could impact on the wildlife or habitats for which an SSSI is designated but which do not require a permit or other formal permission from another statutory body may require what is known as Section 28e consent from Natural England. Natural England may then consent the landowner or occupier to carry out the activity or to allow it to be carried out.

Table 2: Table of all activities carried out within the Humber Estuary SSSI with SSSI Unit number, the compartment it takes place in, whether it's an NELC activity or third-party activity NELC give permission for, and the associated legislation and regulation.

Activity	Humber Estuary SSSI unit								NELC activity	Third party activity	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.	NE Advice required & ORNEC no.	Legislation	Regulation			
	Compartment													W&CA	Blue Flag	PSPO	ES
	173	187	186	186	189	188 & 189	171	8									
Cut and clear											4						
Mowing vegetation											4						
Application of herbicide											6						
Removal of dead animals											10						
Buckthorn management - selective removal											11						
Vegetation removal (central prom)											11						
Saltmarsh removal - <i>Spartina</i>											11						
Shrub and tree removal											11						
Tree or woodland management											12						
Repairs and general maintenance - steps, boardwalks, fences/rails and entrances to the beach, signs, benches											21						
Siting of marker buoys											23						
Beach cleaning - mechanical beach rake											26						
Street cleansing litter picking											27						
Resort Team vehicle											26						
Education programme for promotion of Estuary and NEL's LNR - Beach Safety											27						
Bait digging												18					
Watercraft launch - slipways												26					
Kite surfers												26					
Donkey rides												27					
Fixed amusement rides												27					
Dogs banned Good Friday to 30th Sep incl.												27					

The full list of Operations requiring Natural England's Consent on Humber SSSI are listed [here](#).

### **Penalties**

Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006:

*"A person (other than a section 28G authority acting in the exercise of its functions) who, without reasonable excuse,*

- intentionally or recklessly destroys or damages any of the flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features by reason of which a site of special scientific interest is of special interest,*

*or,*

- intentionally or recklessly disturbs any of those fauna is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale."*

### **2.2 Ramsar Site**

Ramsar takes its name from a Convention that took place in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran. In 1976 the UK Government ratified the Convention and is fully committed to its effective implementation. One of the main mechanisms of the Convention, which seeks to conserve wetlands and wetland interests, is the designation of internationally important sites as Ramsar sites. In May 2000, there were 1027 wetland sites in the world covering 78 million hectares. At that time the UK had listed 157 sites covering 738,000 hectares with 75 of these sites being within England.

All Ramsar sites in England are protected as SSSIs under national law (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981). The Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Environment Act 2021 substantially enhanced the protection of SSSIs and makes it easier to positively manage their wildlife features.

A Government policy statement on Ramsar sites, published in 2000, requires special consideration to be given to any proposals which could affect their features of international importance, to ensure that sites do not deteriorate or suffer significant disturbance. This means Ramsar sites should be treated the same way as SACs and SPAs, i.e., the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) will apply.

### **2.3 Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**

Special Areas of Conservation are the most important sites for wildlife in Europe. It is a designation that covers animals, plants and habitats and provides them with increased protection and management. The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) provides for the creation of a network of protected wildlife areas across the European Union that are known as 'Natura 2000'. The Natura 2000 sites consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated in accordance with Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). These sites are part of a range of measures aimed at conserving important or threatened habitats and species. The SAC citation for the Humber Estuary can be found [here](#).

## **2.4 Special Protected Areas (SPA)**

Special Protection Areas are the most important sites for birds and their habitats in Europe. It is a European designation, transposed into UK legislation under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) to provide increased protection and management for areas which are important for breeding, feeding, wintering, or migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds.

In England all SPAs are on land protected as SSSI under national law. The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) includes a uniform set of protection measures for habitats, birds, and other species. Where a SPA differs is that birds named in the designation, also have some protection when they are using other areas of land. For example, Humber waterbirds can leave the wetlands at high tide and use any field, these fields are known as high tide roosts and are described as being functionally linked to the estuary and are also protected under the Birds Directive. The SPA citation for the Humber Estuary can be found [here](#).

Though SPAs and SACs originally derive from European Union law, the conservation and protection associated with these designations has been translated into UK law via the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). This means that although the UK has now left the European Union, there is currently no change as regards legislative requirements or statutory duties associated with SPAs and SACs.

## **2.5 European Marine Site (EMS)**

The term European Marine Site (EMS) collectively describes SACs and SPAs that are covered by tidal waters and protect some of our most important marine and coastal habitats and species. The Humber Estuary EMS takes in most of the Humber Estuary SAC and SPA.

## **2.6 Local Nature Reserve**

In 2002, North East Lincolnshire Council declared the area from Cleethorpes Leisure Centre to the county boundary with East Lindsey Council, a Local Nature Reserve. This is a statutory designation. Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are for both people and wildlife. They are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. They offer people special opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply to enjoy it.

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## **3. Sustainability and Tourism**

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### **3.1 Visitor Economy and Tourism**

According to the 2019 annual tourism report, approximately 10.3 million visitors travel to North East Lincolnshire (NEL) annually and account for £642 million of income to the local economy of NEL. This makes up what is known as NEL's visitor economy, with 5,079 people employed directly in this sector. As such the visitor economy makes up both a significant source of income and employment for NEL and is an important sector of the local economy, which North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) intends to maintain and enhance.

However, whilst the visitor economy represents an important part of the economic input of NEL, it also presents challenges for managing the number of visitors that are attracted to the tourist destinations of NEL. The resort of Cleethorpes has historically been and still is a major destination for tourism in NEL and the wider region. But this presents the greatest challenges for management, with the need to manage disturbance to wildlife and damage to the SSSI which covers the resort area. As well as risks present to the SSSI along the Cleethorpes resort due to the large number of visitors, there are also potential risks posed to the other designated sites which are present along the resort. These

designations include the SPA for which consideration into the management of bird disturbance by visitors is needed. It is also important to note that recreational disturbance is not limited by geographical boundaries, so NELC must ensure it delivers in its role to collaborate and contribute to the wider management of the Humber Estuary, where tourism in NEL may be contributing to cross boundary disturbance issues.

Although the number of tourists that visit Cleethorpes present a management pressure and a risk of recreational disturbance to the designated features of the SSSI and SPA it also presents opportunities to embed an appreciation and value for the natural environment, particularly in the context of the international importance of the site. Utilising these opportunities helps manage disturbance to the internationally important areas, by educating visitors of their importance, while also helping to further promote Cleethorpes as a unique destination to visit.

### **3.2 Climate**

Like the rest of the UK, Cleethorpes has a temperate climate with mild summers and cool winters with average temperatures peaking in August and July at 20.7°C and the lowest average temperatures being recorded in January at 1.7°C. As Cleethorpes is located on the East Coast of England, the annual mean rainfall is one of the lowest across England. Climate data collated between 1981-2010 indicates the month with the lowest mean rainfall at Cleethorpes is February (38mm) and the month with the highest mean rainfall being in November (60.2mm). The annual mean rainfall during this period totalled 587.9mm (Source: [Met Office](#)).

### **3.3 Climate Change**

The [Shoreline Management Plan](#) and the [Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy](#) recognise that climate change and sea level rise will increasingly impact the Humber estuary presenting increasing challenges to manage the coastline effectively. This challenge is further emphasised by the ongoing work being carried out for the development of the Environment Agencies [Humber 2100+ strategy](#), which will replace the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy. Based on current trends the Environment Agency predicts possible Sea Level Rise of 1.5 metres by 2100. Sea level rise of this extent along with other effects from climate change, such as ocean acidity change, will have implications for how Cleethorpes is managed in the future. Such effects could lead to potential impacts on food availability for SPA birds and the availability of suitable habitat for overwintering and roosting birds.

While it is difficult to determine what exact impacts these effects will have on the habitats and species present in Cleethorpes, it is important to consider the effects of climate change to ensure effective management of the designated sites. In response to the increasing impacts associated with climate change, NELC declared a climate emergency in September 2019. The declaration of a climate emergency includes the pledge that NELC will become Carbon Neutral by 2040. The noted importance of achieving Carbon Neutrality and the need to reduce carbon emissions in the declaration also highlights the importance of the protected salt marsh habitat to NEL, which not only provides habitat for protected bird species but also provides Carbon Sequestration.

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#### **4. Plans Associated with the Estuary for its Management**

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While NELC recognises that all areas of the Cleethorpes coastline are sensitive to recreational disturbance, given the designations of this internationally important area, there are some areas which are of greater sensitivity due to the presence of designated features. To help manage disturbance in these highly sensitive areas NELC, in consultation with the Cleethorpes/Tetney Local Recreational Disturbance Management Group (which includes members from Natural England, Humber Nature Partnership and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds), has produced two maps which show the most sensitive areas within the management area. Figure 1 shows the most sensitive bird roosting and feeding areas along the Cleethorpes coastline. It should be noted that there are sensitive SSSI/SPA bird areas, not managed by NELC, outside of the Cleethorpes Coast boundary. SSSI/SPA areas outside of or adjacent to the boundary of this plan, along the Humber Estuary, need to be considered as equally sensitive as those areas defined within this plan.



Figure 1: Map outlining the most sensitive areas, for roosting and feeding, on North East Lincolnshire for SPA / Ramsar birds.

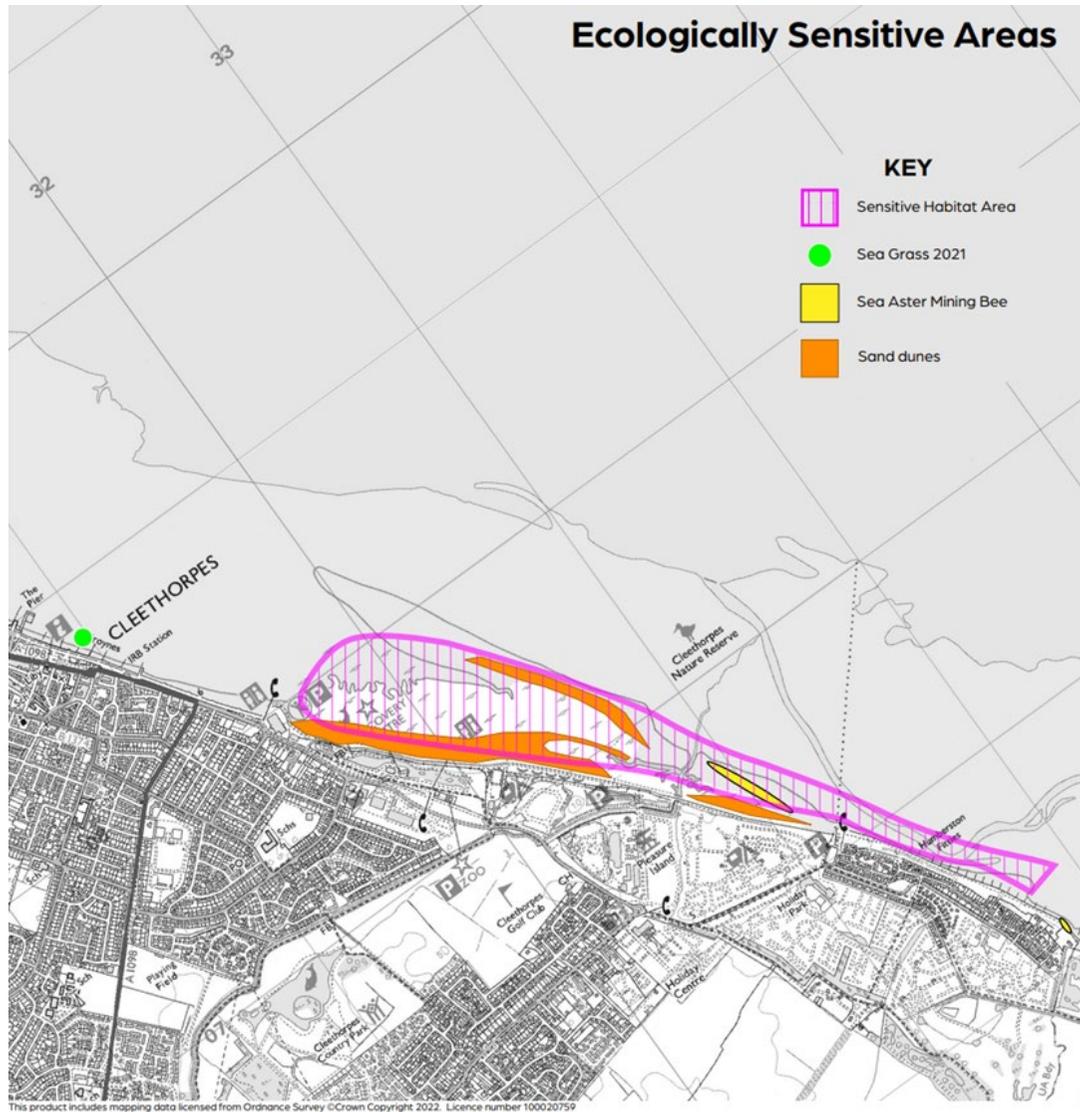


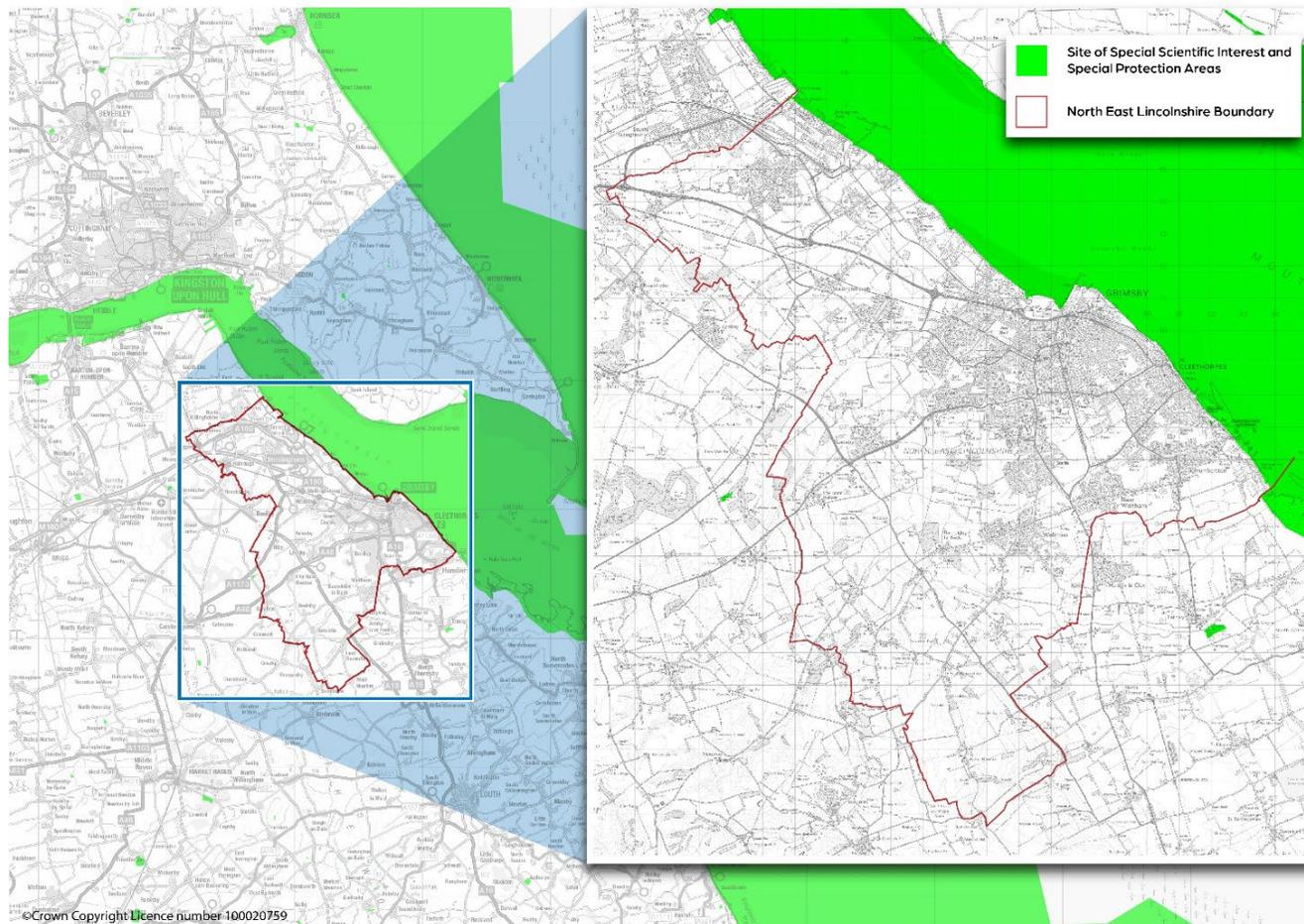
Figure 2: Map of the most ecologically sensitive areas on the Cleethorpes Coast in North East Lincolnshire.

Figure 2 shows the most ecologically sensitive areas on the Cleethorpes Coast. This details any area where there are non-avian designated features of sensitivity. It should be noted there are ecologically sensitive areas, not managed by NELC, that are situated outside the boundaries of the Cleethorpes Coast area covered in the map below.

It is important to note that while the maps above identify the most ecologically sensitive and SPA/Ramsar listed bird sensitive areas, that the entirety of the Humber estuary is a sensitive site for nature and that the sensitive sites are not restricted to North East Lincolnshire but cover the entire area in the map outlined below.

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## Humber Estuary SPA and SSSI



*Figure 3: Map of the North East Lincolnshire boundary in wider context of location along the Humber Estuary with a zoom to show more detail of North East Lincolnshire, alongside the SSSI designation and SPA designation zone.*

#### **4.1 Existing Regional Partnerships and Plans Associated with the Estuary and its Management**

*Table 3: Table of related local partnerships that are relevant to the CHMP with description of each plan and management approach.*

<b>Plan</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Relevance to CHMP</b>
Shoreline Management Plan	<p>The Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is a plan for managing flood and erosion risks for particular sections of shoreline, which includes the Cleethorpes coastline.</p> <p>The aim of the SMP is to develop a sustainable management approach for the shoreline that considers key issues and achieves the best possible value and features that occur around the shoreline. There is currently ongoing work to replace the SMP with the Humber 2100+ strategy. The strategy aims to achieve effective management of the Humber Estuary and establish policies for flood defence for the next 100 years.</p>	<p>The SMP aimed to develop a set of policies that reflect the range of interests on the coast, which includes infrastructure, tourism, communities, and the natural environment, with the intention that an acceptable balance is sought between the competing coastal interests. In Lincolnshire, flooding is a core issue, as there are extensive areas of land at or just above present day sea level. The CHMP needs to support and work in conjunction with the set of principles and shoreline management policies to ensure continued protection of coastal erosion and coastal flooding for assets and habitats in the floodplain. The CHMP will also need to reflect</p>

		the policies of the Humber 2100+ strategy once the strategy is developed and published.
Humber Nature Partnership	The Humber Nature Partnership (HNP) is one of 48 Local Nature Partnerships around England, who work in partnership with organisations, businesses, communities, stakeholders, and individuals to deliver the sustainable management of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site.	The HNP provides a platform to ensure a coordinated approach to the management of the Humber Estuary, which includes stakeholder engagement, research, sharing of available data and promoting partnership working. These efforts facilitate and support the delivery of the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan.
Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP)	The Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP) coordinates the delivery of the Nature Strategy. Coastland marine is one of the six habitat groups that form the backbone of the joint working and action reporting across all the Lincolnshire landscapes and is the main habitat in the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan.	Much like the HNP, the GLNP provides a platform to ensure a coordinated approach to the management of the natural environment in greater Lincolnshire. As the CHMP sits within a Lincolnshire, it is important to consider any management of the estuary and how this will fit into the wider Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership work across the Southbank of the Humber Estuary.
Operation Seabird	Operation Seabird is a multi-agency partnership operation to raise awareness about the importance of	The operation has also provided closer links between Local Authorities such as NELC and

	<p>habitats and wildlife across the Humber Estuary region, including the Cleethorpes Coastline area. Operation Seabird includes days of action, in which the key partner agencies engage with the community on how to enjoy the important coastline responsibly.</p>	<p>Police forces such as Lincolnshire and Humberside Police. These closer links between NELC and local wildlife crime officers will help in undertaking enforcement measures if a wildlife crime has been committed. The operation has also helped raise awareness of the importance of reporting recreational disturbance incidents through official reporting mechanisms such as the HNP's disturbance observation forms.</p>
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## **4.2 Future Local Plans and Aspirations for the Management of the Estuary**

### **Eco Tourism**

NELC aims to improve its visitor economy all year round by promoting eco-tourism in the borough. It is hoped this will have an added effect of improving awareness of the importance of our designated features: leading to a shared sense of stewardship amongst residence and visitors for our internationally important estuary. The initial plans for Eco Tourism along the Cleethorpes Resort are focused on school visits, increasing accessibility to the beach such as improving wheelchair access, improving signage, and providing assisted walks. The project will aim to build the foundations for eco-tourism in the area and will consult with the Cleethorpes/Tetney Local Recreational Disturbance Group to ensure any plans for eco-tourism consider the potential impact for recreational disturbance.

## 5. Compartments and their Associated Activities

### 5.1 Operational Activities

NELC need to carry out operational activities within the Humber Estuary SSSI for direct management of the designated features, management as a tourist area, and for public health and safety. Compartments are mapped below

*Table 4: The activities that NELC require Natural England assent for.*

<b>Operation</b>	<b>Compartment</b>	<b>Description of operation</b>	<b>Timing of Operation</b>	<b>Method of operation</b>	<b>NE Assent required &amp; ORNEC no.</b>
Cut and collect	3, 5, 6, 8	For the direct management of dune grassland and fixed dunes to achieve Favourable Condition Targets, the mowing of dune vegetation and removal of arisings	September, for approx. 1 week	The preferred option is to use a SofTrac flail harvester. If the SofTrac isn't available, the second option is to use a tractor and flail and Amazone collecting box.	4

<p>Mowing vegetation on flood banks</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>The Environment Agency sea defence embankment runs adjacent to Marine Walk footpath on land owned by NELC. Work to remove trees and shrubs within the bank was consented as part of the Dynamic Dunescape Project between 30th Nov 2021 and Feb 28th, 2022. The work was undertaken following Environment Agency recommendations to allow asset inspections. The stumps of the scrub were not treated with herbicide so as not to kill off roots, which may lead to seepage pathways for water through the embankment; a coppice regime will prevent roots from dying off. This management will allow for an EA asset inspection, post scrub removal. Work is carried out as part of NELCs own management regime.</p>	<p>September, 1 day</p>	<p>The bank will be cut by a tractor and flail arm from Marine Walk footpath. There are no likely disturbance effects due to the dunes and buckthorn acting as a barrier in front of the saltmarsh, shoreline, and mudflats.</p>	<p>4</p>
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Application of herbicide	3, 5, 6, 8	For the direct management of the fixed dunes, herbicide application to control undesirable species, Japanese knotweed in Compartment 6 in particular.	March to October inclusive	Herbicide application by weed wiper or by spot treatment	6
Removal of dead animals	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	For public safety, dead animals washed up on the foreshore need to be removed	All year	Seals, small enough to be removed by hand are removed by Resort Team with the use of beach bikes. Larger animals are removed by Street Cleansing using appropriately sized vehicles, such as tractor and bucket, where access allows. This is done at least two hours before and after high tide to minimise bird disturbance and allow vehicle access. Dead animals are left to be taken out by the next high tides and only removed if not taken. Vehicle access is via established paths and tracks	10

Vegetation removal (central prom)	1, 2	Vegetation removed when present around access steps and ramps and along the sea defence wall on the main tourist beach to maintain the tourist beach to an appropriate standard and encourage use of this area for recreation away from the more sensitive habitats of the dunes and saltmarsh.	All year	Vegetation removed by hand.	11
Saltmarsh removal - <i>Spartina</i>	2	Removal of saltmarsh vegetation growing beyond the mapped line from the corner of the leisure centre to the first yellow marker buoy to maintain the main tourist beach and encourage the use of this area for recreation, away from the more sensitive habitats of sand dune and salt marsh	March to September, during the growing season	Vegetation removed by hand where it's safe for the operatives to do so	11
Shrub and tree removal	6, 8	For the direct management of designated features and public safety. Compartments 6 and 8 have mature trees and shrubs within or adjacent to them that may need removal due to loss of integrity, and shrubs,	September to March unless there is a risk to the	Access will be via established roads and tracks and all arisings removed from site. Chainsaws used for limb removal and height reduction with climbing as required. Wood will be	11

		including garden escapees from the neighbouring Fitties holiday chalets and invasive and inappropriate species, need removing as necessary when chemical applications aren't sufficient.	public outside of that period.	cut into manageable size and removed by hand. A tractor and bucket may be utilised to remove shrubs or a small digger.	
Tree or woodland management	6, 8	Compartment 6 has small copes of mature trees and individuals, and Compartment 8 has mature individuals which will need management as necessary for public safety.	September to March unless there is a risk to the public outside of that period	Access will be via established roads and tracks and all arisings removed from site. Chainsaws used for limb removal and height reduction with climbing as required. Wood will be cut into manageable size and removed by hand.	12
Repairs and general maintenance - steps, boardwalks, fences/rails and	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8	These compartments have railings, beach access steps, beach access boardwalks, benches and signage that will need repair and maintenance. Due to their nature, they are all located on main or established paths.	All year	Access for repair and maintenance will use the existing paths and work will be small scale and localised to the affected asset.	21

entrances to the beach, signs, benches					
Siting of marker buoys	1, 2	Compartment 1 has 12 marker buoys and Compartment 2 has 19 marker buoys delineating the swim safety zone where watercraft are excluded from for public safety.	All year	The buoys are permanent and sited approx. 270m from the seawall and 60m apart. Buoy replacement is required as necessary and uses a small digger driven on the main beach to dig a metre square hole to 2 metre depth, removal and replacement of the anchor, and then the hole is back-filled. The last replacement took place over 5 years ago.	23
Beach cleaning - mechanical beach rake	1, 2	A mechanical beach rake is used to maintain the main tourist beach area for public health and safety and encourage use of the main beach away from the more sensitive habitats.	All year	The beach rake operates Mondays and Fridays between October and March inclusive, and Monday to Fridays inclusive between April and September inclusive. It operates	26

				between the seawall and the start of the groynes and between the fixed amusement rides and the pier in Compartment 1, and between the pier and the leisure centre in Compartment 2, both compartments accessed via the slipways.	
Street cleansing litter picking	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8	Litter picking takes place for public health and safety and maintenance where the beach rake can't get to	All year	Litter picking by hand on the main tourist beach and main and established paths.	27
Resort Team vehicle	1, 2, 4, 6		All year	The Resort Team use beach bikes on the main tourist beach and a Ranger vehicle on the established track from the main tourist beach from the leisure centre in between the dunes and the saltmarsh in Compartment 4, and the established path in Compartment 6. The Resort Team also use a Ranger vehicle to monitor high tides around the sand banks	26

				and access the look-out spot in Compartment 6 from the access gate within the Fitties.	
Education programme for promotion of Estuary and NEL's LNR - Resort Team	1, 2	The Resort Team take groups of people, usually school children, on educational walk & talks onto the main beach to explain about safety around tides, estuary mud, and ecology.	All year	The talks take place on the main tourist beach. Groups are no bigger than 30 at a time, last between 30 and 60 minutes, and expect no more than 20 visits per year.	27

NELC also give permission to third parties to carry out activities within the designation.

*Table 5: The activities that NELC require Natural England advice for.*

<b>Operation</b>	<b>Compartment</b>	<b>Description of operation</b>	<b>Timing of Operation</b>	<b>Method of Operation</b>	<b>NE Advice required</b>
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					<b>&amp; ORNEC no.</b>
Bait digging	1,7	Bait digging for personal use only	All year	Bait digging requires an annual permit issued by NELC and is regulated under a Public Space Protection Order. No more than 30n permits to be issued in one year. Bait digging is permitted in the designated areas between the rock groyne and the pier in Compartment 1, and in Compartment 7 between the start of the Fitties and the dune stabilisation zone, as mapped on the permit, subject to the permit conditions (ANNEX). Failure to comply results in an on the spot fine of £100.	18
Watercraft launch - slipways	1, 2	Fishing boats are encouraged to use the North Promenade slipway in Compartment 1, nearest to the rock groyne, due to their	All year	The use of the slipways for watercraft requires an annual permit issued by NELC and is regulated	26

		size and more spacious and safer access in that area. Jet skis are told to use Sea Road slipway in Compartment 1, next to the pier, for public safety as it directs the jet skis out of the swim safety zone, for easier vehicle parking along Central Promenade, and Sea Road slipway is generally less congested with people than Brighton Street Slipway in Compartment 2.		under a Public Space Protection Order, failure to comply with the permit conditions results in an on the spot fine of £100 (ANNEX).	
HM Coastguard vehicle access	1, 2	HM Coastguard require access via the slipways	All year	HM Coastguard boat launch via slipways on the main central beach.	26
Kite surfers	5	Kite surfers, although not regulated, use the area mapped due to the flat, harder sand present after the tide has gone out, and lack of footfall. Historically, they have always used that area and were more numerous and frequent than they are now.	All year	Access is from Thorpe Park Car Park where there is a Kite Surfers Code of Conduct sign on entrance onto the beach.	26

Donkey rides	1, 2	NELC licence a donkey ride operator that has two locations in Compartment 1 and one location in Compartment 2. The donkeys are walked onto the beach and to the locations.	March to October	The ride route is only on the soft sand between the sea wall and the groynes and donkey droppings are collected by the operator by hand and taken away.	27
Fixed amusement rides	1	In Compartment 1, NELC licence a fixed amusement operator. The site has had amusement rides for over 50 years.	March to October	The rides close over winter, operating in the tourist season only.	27
Dogs banned Good Friday to 30th Sep incl.	1, 2	To meet Blue Flag beach criteria, a dog ban exists under a Public Space Protection Order,	Good Friday to September	Dogs are banned between 12am on Good Friday to 12pm 30th September inclusive between the rock groyne in Compartment 1 and the leisure centre in Compartment 2.	27

Table 6: List of all of the activities with SSSI Unit number, the compartment it takes place in, whether it's an NELC activity or third party activity NELC give permission for, and the associated legislation and regulation.

Activity	Humber Estuary SSSI unit								NELC activity	Third party activity	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.	NE Advice required & ORNEC no.	Legislation	Regulation											
	173	187	186	186	189	189	188 & 189	171						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	W&CA	Blue Flag	PSPO	ES
	Cut and collect																	4							
Mowing vegetation												4													
Application of herbicide												6													
Removal of dead animals												10													
Vegetation removal (central prom)												11													
Saltmarsh removal - <i>Spartina</i>												11													
Shrub and tree removal												11													
Tree or woodland management												12													
Repairs and general maintenance - steps, boardwalks, fences/rails and entrances to the beach, signs, benches												21													
Siting of marker buoys												23													
Beach cleaning - mechanical beach rake												26													
Street cleansing litter picking												27													
Resort Team vehicle												26													
Education programme for promotion of Estuary and NEL's LNR - Beach Safety												27													
Bait digging													18												
Watercraft launch - slipways													26												
Kite surfers													26												
Donkey rides													27												
Fixed amusement rides													27												
Dogs banned Good Friday to 30th Sep incl.													27												
Coastguard vehicle																									

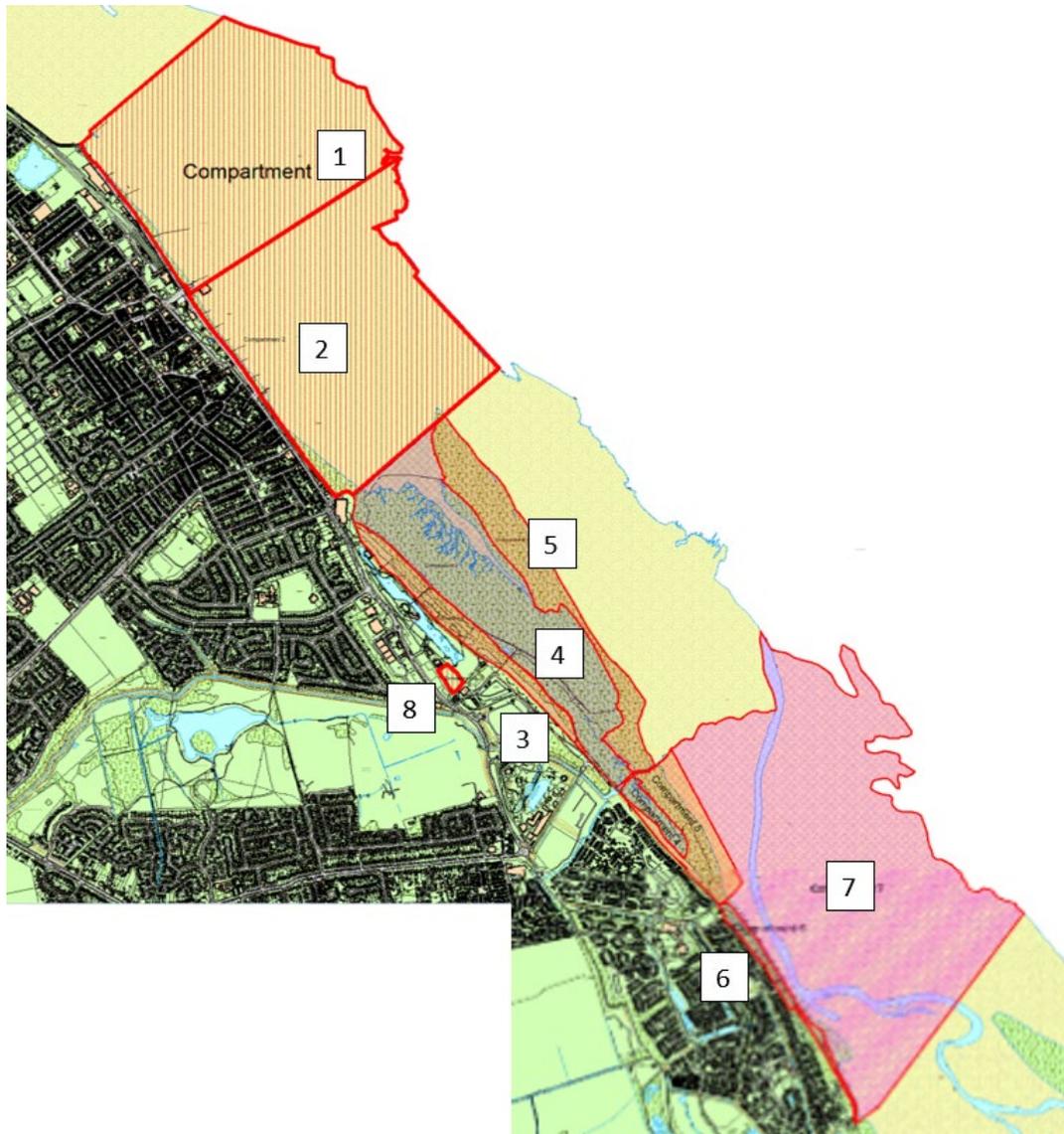


Figure 4: Map showing the locations of all 8 compartments.

## **5.2 Compartment 1 – North Promenade**

Humber Estuary SSSI Unit 173

105 Ha

Compartment 1, North Promenade, stretches from Terminal Groyne, the rock groyne at Wonderland, to the Pier and is a Blue Flag beach. The main habitat within this unit is littoral sediment and is Unfavourable – Recovering Condition. The main beach is a tourist beach. The area north east of the marker buoys is H1140 mudflats and south west of the marker buoys is H1140 sandflats.

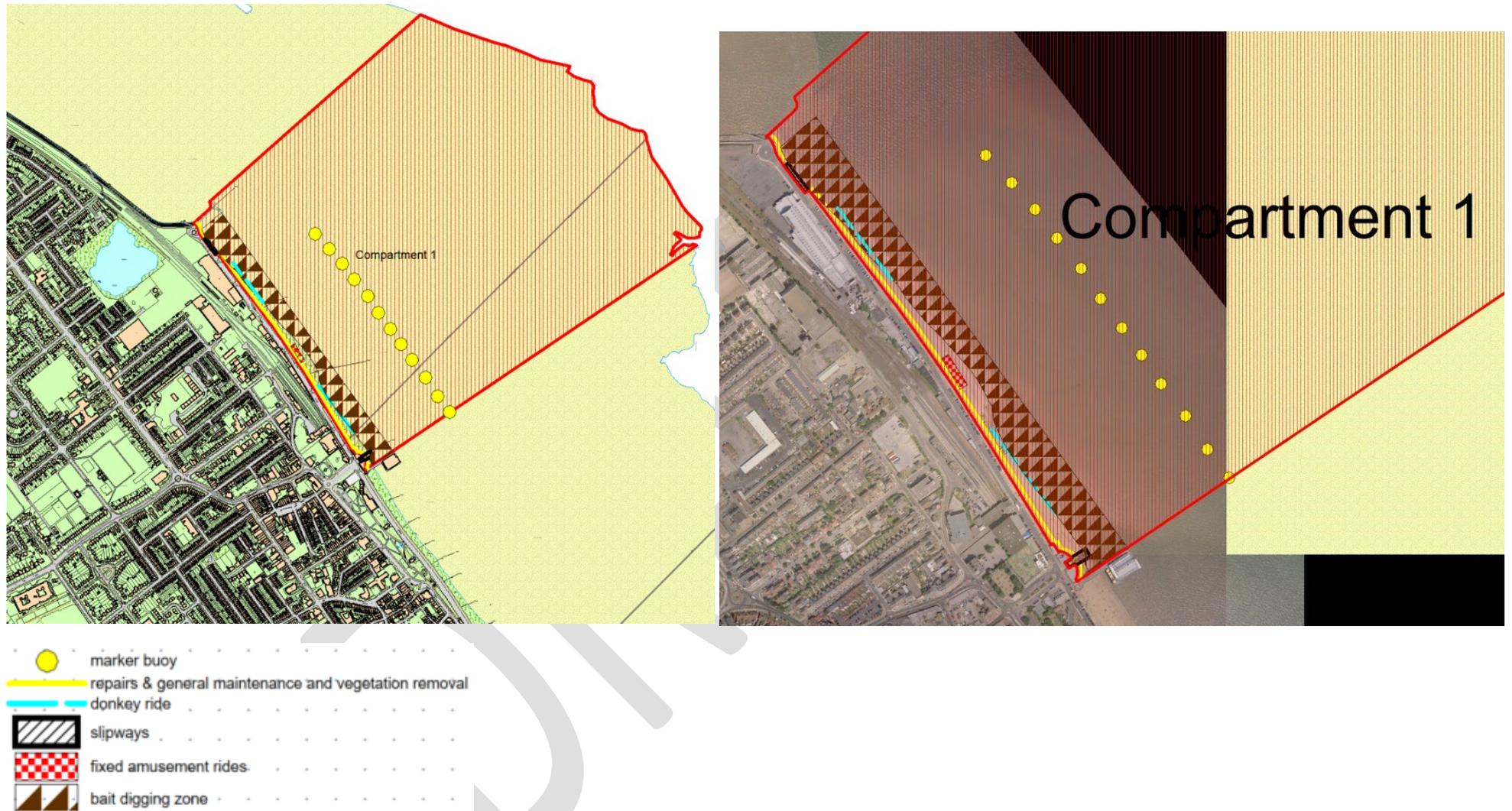


Figure 5: Map of Compartment 1 – North Promenade with activities in the compartment shown. Aerial images are the most recent available from 2006.

The designated qualifying features present in this compartment are:

<b><u>Humber Estuary SAC features within Compartment 1</u></b>
H1140. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
S1095. <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ; Sea lamprey
S1099. <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ; River lamprey
S1364. <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> ; Grey seal
<b><u>Humber Estuary SPA features within Compartment 1</u></b>
Avocet ( <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> ), Non-breeding
Bar-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ), Non-breeding
Black-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> ), Non-breeding
Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> ), Non-breeding
Golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ), Non-breeding
Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ), Non-breeding
Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ), Non-breeding
Ruff ( <i>Calidris pugnax</i> ), Non-breeding
Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ), Non-breeding
Waterbird assemblage, Non-breeding

The activities in this compartment are:

Activity	Description
Removal of dead animals	For public safety, dead animals washed up on the foreshore, such as seals, small enough to be removed by hand are removed by Resort Team with the use of their beach bikes. Larger animals are removed by Street Cleansing using appropriately sized vehicles, such as tractor and bucket, where access allows. This is done at least two hours before and after high tide to minimise bird disturbance and allow vehicle access. Dead animals are left to be taken out by the next high tides and only removed if not taken and only removed from the main beach area which experiences frequent footfall. Vehicle access is via slipways and only remain on the beach as long as it takes to remove the body.
Vegetation removal (central prom)	Removal by hand of vegetation when present around access steps and ramps and along the sea defence wall on the main tourist beach to maintain the tourist beach to an appropriate standard and encourage use of this area away from the more sensitive habitats of the dunes and saltmarsh to the south.
Repairs and general maintenance - steps, boardwalks, fences/rails and entrances to the beach, signs	Compartment 1 has railings, beach access steps, and slipways that will require repair and maintenance. Due to their nature, they are all located off the main road and footpath. The main road has frequent traffic, including HGVs, and heavy footfall. Access for repair and maintenance will use the existing road and footpath and work will be localised to the affected asset.

Siting of marker buoys	Compartment 1 has 12 marker buoys delineating the swim safety zone where watercraft are excluded from for public safety. The buoys are permanent and sited approx. 270m from the seawall and 60m apart. Buoy replacement is required as necessary and uses a small digger driven on the main beach to dig a metre square hole to 2 metre depth, then removal and replacement of the anchor, and then the hole is backfilled. The last replacement took place over 5 years ago. This is done at low tide.
Beach cleaning - mechanical beach rake	The beach rake is used to remove litter for public safety and to maintain the main tourist beach area to encourage use of the main beach away from the more sensitive habitats. The beach rake operates Mondays and Fridays between October and March inclusive, and Monday to Fridays inclusive between April and September inclusive. It operates between the seawall and the start of the groynes and between the fixed amusement rides and the pier with access via Sea Road slipway.
Street cleansing litter picking	For public safety, litter picking takes place where the beach rake can't get to, against the sea wall and north of the amusement rides.
Resort Team vehicle	For public safety, the Resort Team use beach bikes on the main tourist beach to warn people about incoming tides and risks to safety, and as a cordon for specific events such as someone taken ill or to help protect a hauled-out seal from people and dogs getting close.
Education programme for promotion of Estuary and NEL's LNR - Beach Safety	The Resort Team take groups of people, usually school children, on educational walk & talks onto the main beach to explain about safety around tides, estuary mud, and ecology. Groups are no bigger than 30 at a time, last between 30 and 60 minutes, and expect no more than 20 visits per year.

Bait digging	Bait digging requires a permit issued by NELC and is regulated under a Public Space Protection Order. Bait digging is permitted in the designated areas between the rock groyne and the pier as mapped on the permit, subject to the permit conditions. Failure to comply results in an on the spot fine of £100.
Watercraft launch - slipways	The use of the slipways for watercraft requires a permit issued by NELC and is regulated under a Public Space Protection Order, failure to comply with the permit conditions will resulting in an on the spot fine of £100. Fishing boats are encouraged to use the North Promenade slipway nearest to the rock groyne, due to their size and more spacious and safer access in that area. Jet skis are told to use Sea Road slipway, next to the pier, for public safety as it directs the jet skis out of the swim safety zone, for easier vehicle parking along Central Promenade, and Sea Road slipway is generally less congested with people.
Donkey rides	NELC licence a donkey ride operator that has two locations in Compartment 1. The donkeys are walked onto the beach and to the locations. The ride route is only on the soft sand between the sea wall and the groynes and donkey droppings are collected by the operator by hand and taken away. They don't operate in winter.
Fixed amusement rides	NELC licence a fixed amusement operator. The site has had amusement rides for over 50 years. The rides close over winter.
Dogs banned Good Friday to 30th Sep incl.	To meet Blue Flag beach criteria, a dog ban exists under a Public Space Protection Order, banning dogs between 12am on Good Friday to 12pm 30th September inclusive between the rock groyne in Compartment 1 and the leisure centre in Compartment 2.

### **5.3 Compartment 2 – Central Promenade Beach**

Humber Estuary SSSI Unit 173

109.5 ha

Compartment 2 is between the pier and the leisure centre and is a Blue Flag beach. The main habitat within this unit is littoral sediment and is Unfavourable – Recovering Condition. The main beach is a tourist beach. There is an area of sea grass, *Zostera noltii*, at the seaward end of the groyne between the pier and Brighton Street slipway which has been present since at least 2016. Salt marsh vegetation is removed by hand on the southern boundary to prevent encroachment onto the main beach and maintain the tourist beach as the preferred recreational area. The area north east of the marker buoys is H1140 mudflats and south west of the marker buoys is H1140 sandflats. H1310 *Salicornia* is on the south east compartment border which is also the agreed line where saltmarsh can be removed north east of.



Figure 6: Map of Compartment 2 – Central Promenade Beach with activities in the compartment shown. Aerial images are the most recent available from 2006.

The designated qualifying features present in this compartment are:

<b><u>Humber Estuary SAC features within Compartment 2</u></b>
H1140. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
H1310. <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand
S1095. <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ; Sea lamprey
S1099. <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ; River lamprey
S1364. <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> ; Grey seal
<b><u>Humber Estuary SPA features within Compartment 2</u></b>
Avocet ( <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> ), Non-breeding
Bar-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ), Non-breeding
Black-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> ), Non-breeding
Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> ), Non-breeding
Golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ), Non-breeding
Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ), Non-breeding
Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ), Non-breeding
Ruff ( <i>Calidris pugnax</i> ), Non-breeding
Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ), Non-breeding
Waterbird assemblage, Non-breeding

The activities in this compartment are:

Activity	Description
Removal of dead animals	For public safety, dead animals washed up on the foreshore, such as seals, small enough to be removed by hand are removed by Resort Team with the use of their beach bikes. Larger animals are removed by Street Cleansing using appropriately sized vehicles, such as tractor and bucket, where access allows. This is done at least two hours before and after high tide to minimise bird disturbance and allow vehicle access. Dead animals are left to be taken out by the next high tides and only removed if not taken. Vehicle access is via established paths and tracks.
Vegetation removal (central prom)	Removal by hand of vegetation when present around access steps and ramps and along the sea defence wall on the main tourist beach to maintain the tourist beach to an appropriate standard and encourage use of this area away from the more sensitive habitats of the dunes and saltmarsh.
Saltmarsh removal - <i>Spartina</i>	Removal by hand of saltmarsh growth onto the tourist beach north of the mapped line from the corner of the leisure centre to the first marker buoy to maintain the main tourist beach and encourage the use of this area, away from the more sensitive habitats of sand dune and salt marsh
Repairs and general maintenance - steps, boardwalks, fences/rails and entrances to the beach, signs	Compartment 2 has railings, beach access steps, and a slipway that will need repair and maintenance. Due to their nature, they are all located off the main road and footpath. The main road has frequent traffic, including HGVs, and heavy footfall. Access for repair and maintenance will use the existing road and footpath and work will be localised to the affected asset.

Siting of marker buoys	Compartment 2 has 19 marker buoys delineating the swim safety zone where watercraft are excluded for public safety. The buoys are permanent and sited approx. 270m from the seawall and 60m apart. Buoy replacement is required as necessary and uses a small digger driven on the main beach to dig a metre square hole to 2 metre depth, then removal and replacement of the anchor, and then the hole is backfilled. The last replacement took place over 5 years ago. This is done at low tide.
Beach cleaning - mechanical beach rake	The beach rake is used to remove litter for public safety and to maintain the main tourist beach area to encourage use of the main beach away from the more sensitive habitats. The beach rake operates Mondays and Fridays between October and March inclusive, and Monday to Fridays inclusive between April and September inclusive. It operates between the seawall and the start of the groynes and between the pier and the leisure centre, access is via the slipway.
Street cleansing litter picking	For public safety, litter picking takes place where the beach rake can't get to, against the sea wall.
Resort Team vehicle	For public safety, the Resort Team use beach bikes on the main tourist beach to warn people about incoming tides and risks to safety, and as a cordon for specific events such as someone taken ill or to help protect a hauled-out seal from people and dogs getting close.
Education programme for promotion of Estuary and NEL's LNR - Beach Safety	The Resort Team take groups of people, usually school children, on educational walk & talks onto the main beach to explain about safety around tides, estuary mud, and ecology. Groups are no bigger than 30 at a time, last between 30 and 60 minutes, and expect no more than 20 visits per year.

Donkey rides	NELC licence a donkey ride operator that has one location in Compartment 2. The donkeys are walked onto the beach and to the locations. The ride route is only on the soft sand between the sea wall and the groynes and donkey droppings are collected by the operator by hand and taken away.
Dogs banned Good Friday to 30th Sep incl.	To meet Blue Flag beach criteria, a dog ban exists under a Public Space Protection Order, banning dogs between 12am on Good Friday to 12pm 30th September inclusive between the rock groyne in Compartment 1 and the leisure centre in Compartment 2.

### **5.4 Compartment 3 – North Dunes**

Humber Estuary SSSI Unit 187

10.9 ha

Compartment 3 is the grey dunes adjacent to Marine Walk footpath between the leisure centre and Buck beck. The main habitat is supralittoral sediment in unfavourable – Recovering Condition. This is the northern boundary of Cleethorpes Local Nature Reserve and land that is in HLS. H2130. Fixed dunes is the habitat within the whole compartment, including dune grassland and dune slacks, with a linear feature of H2160 Dunes with *Hippophae rhamnoides* in two thirds of the northern part of the compartment down to the Resort vehicle access as shown on the map below.

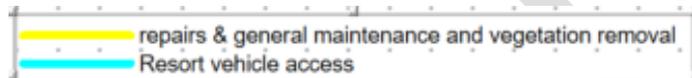


Figure 7: Map of Compartment 3 – North Dunes with activities in the compartment shown. Aerial images are the most recent available from 2006.

The designated qualifying features present in this compartment are:

<b><u>Humber Estuary SAC features within Compartment 3</u></b>
H2130. Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); Dune grassland*
H2160. Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> ; Dunes with sea-buckthorn
<b><u>Humber Estuary SPA features within Compartment 3</u></b>
Avocet ( <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> ), Non-breeding
Bar-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ), Non-breeding
Black-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> ), Non-breeding
Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> ), Non-breeding
Golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ), Non-breeding
Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ), Non-breeding
Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ), Non-breeding
Ruff ( <i>Calidris pugnax</i> ), Non-breeding
Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ), Non-breeding
Waterbird assemblage, Non-breeding

The activities in this compartment are:

Activity	Description
Mowing vegetation on EA flood bank	The Environment Agency Sea defence embankment runs adjacent to Marine Walk footpath on land owned by NELC. Work to remove trees and shrubs within the bank was consented as part of the Dynamic Dunescape Project (appendix 7) between 30th Nov 2021 and Feb 28th, 2022. The work was undertaken following Environment Agency recommendations to allow asset inspections. The stumps of the scrub were not treated with herbicide so as not to kill off roots, which may lead to seepage pathways for water through the embankment; a coppice regime will prevent roots from dying off. This management will allow for an EA asset inspection, post scrub removal. Work is carried out as part of NELCs own management regime.
Cut and collect.	For direct management of the designated features to achieve Favourable Condition Targets, dune grasslands cut and collected where topography allows and avoids embryonic and shifting dunes, in September for approx. 1 week.
Repairs and general maintenance - steps, boardwalks, fences/rails and entrances to the beach, signs	Compartment 3 has railings, boardwalks, and signage that will need repair and maintenance. Due to their nature, they are all located on main or established paths. Access for repair and maintenance will use the existing paths and work will be localised to the affected asset.
Street cleansing litter picking	For public safety and maintenance, litter picking takes place. Only litter is removed from the immediate area adjacent paths and access routes.

## **5.5 Compartment 4 – Saltmarsh**

Humber Estuary SSSI Unit 186

60.6 ha

Compartment 4 is the saltmarsh between the leisure centre and Humberstone Fitties. The main habitat is littoral sediment in Unfavourable – Recovering Condition. This area is included in Cleethorpes Local Nature Reserve and HLS agreement. There are two persistent saline pools. The main vehicle access track is included in this compartment, the track divides the upper saltmarsh and fixed dunes in Compartment 3. H1310 is along the south-west border and the main area habitat is H1330.

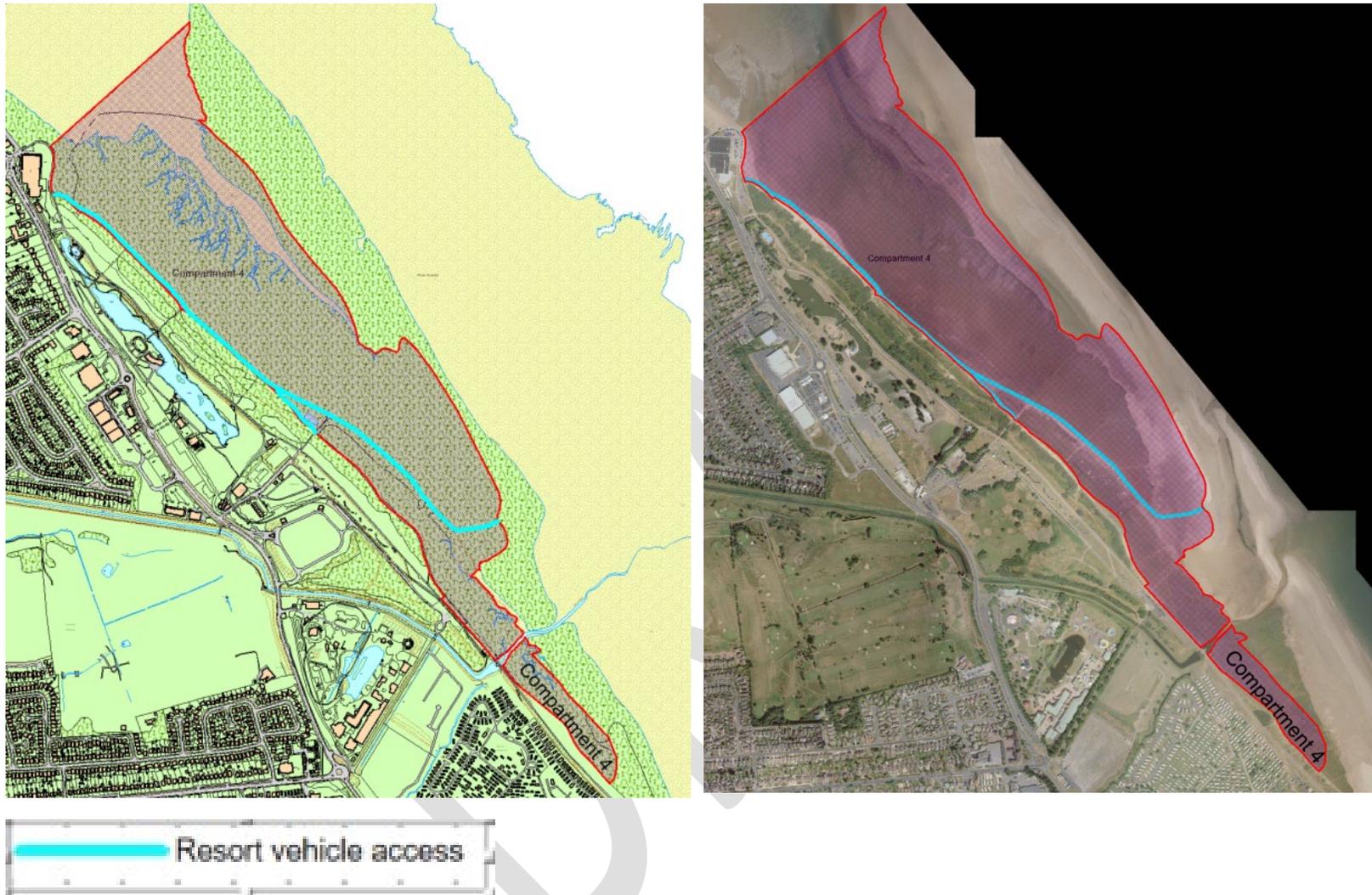


Figure 8: Map of Compartment 4 – Saltmarsh with activities in the compartment shown. Aerial images are the most recent available from 2006.

The designated qualifying features present in this compartment are:

<b><u>Humber Estuary SAC features within Compartment 4</u></b>
H1310. Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand
H1330. Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> )
<b><u>Humber Estuary SPA features within Compartment 4</u></b>
Avocet ( <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> ), Non-breeding
Bar-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ), Non-breeding
Black-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> ), Non-breeding
Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> ), Non-breeding
Golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ), Non-breeding
Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ), Non-breeding
Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ), Non-breeding
Ruff ( <i>Calidris pugnax</i> ), Non-breeding
Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ), Non-breeding
Waterbird assemblage, Non-breeding

The activities in this compartment are:

Activity	Description
Removal of dead animals	For public safety, dead animals washed up on the foreshore, such as seals, small enough to be removed by hand are removed by Resort Team with the use of their beach bikes. Larger animals are removed by Street Cleansing using appropriately sized vehicles, such as tractor and bucket, where access allows. This is done at least two hours before and after high tide to minimise bird disturbance and allow vehicle access. Dead animals are left to be taken out by the next high tides and only removed if not taken. Vehicle access is via established paths and tracks.
Resort Team vehicle	For public safety, the Resort Team use beach bikes on the established track from the leisure centre in between the dunes and the saltmarsh. The Resort Team also use a Ranger vehicle that is only used within the compartments in emergencies and when the beach bikes aren't sufficient.

### **5.6 Compartment 5 – Central Dunes**

Humber Estuary SSSI Unit 186

36.35ha

Compartment 5 is the outer dunes on the foreshore between the leisure centre and Humberstone Fitties. The main habitat is littoral sediment in Unfavourable – Recovering Condition. This area is included in Cleethorpes Local Nature Reserve and HLS agreement. *Colletes halophilus* have nested in the foredunes south of Buck beck. H1140 is on the border along the seaward edge of this compartment, H2110 and H2120 make up the majority of the remaining habitat.

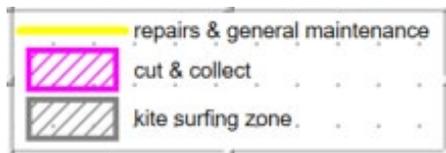
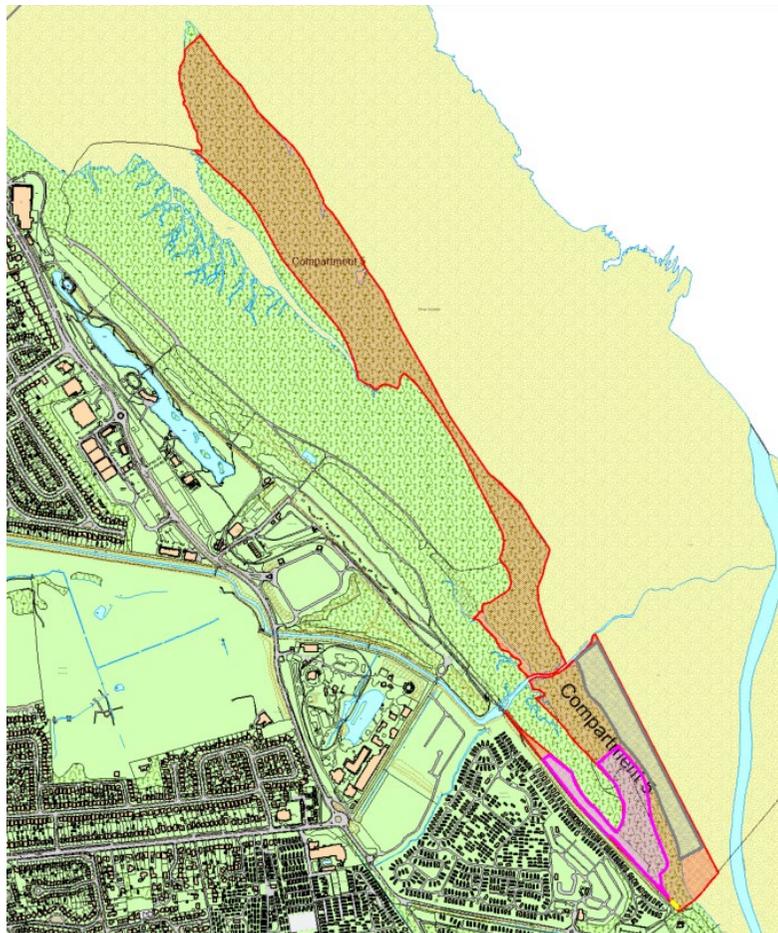


Figure 9: Map of Compartment 5 – Central dunes with activities in the compartment shown. Aerial images are the most recent available from 2006.

The designated qualifying features present in this compartment are:

<b><u>Humber Estuary SAC features within Compartment 5</u></b>
H1140. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats
H2110. Embryonic shifting dunes
H2120. Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes"); Shifting dunes with marram
<b><u>Humber Estuary SPA features within Compartment 5</u></b>
Avocet ( <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> ), Non-breeding
Bar-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ), Non-breeding
Black-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> ), Non-breeding
Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> ), Non-breeding
Golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ), Non-breeding
Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ), Non-breeding
Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ), Non-breeding
Ruff ( <i>Calidris pugnax</i> ), Non-breeding
Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ), Non-breeding
Waterbird assemblage, Non-breeding

The activities in this compartment are:

Activity	Description
Cut and collect	For direct management of the designated features to achieve Favourable Condition Targets, dune grasslands cut and collected where topography allows and avoids embryonic and shifting dunes
Application of herbicide	For the direct management of the dune designated features to achieve Favourable Condition Targets, herbicide application by weed wiper or by spot treatment to control undesirable species and safety of the public, Hemlock grows in the southern area of this Compartment.
Removal of dead animals	For public safety, dead animals washed up on the foreshore, such as seals, small enough to be removed by hand are removed by Resort Team with the use of their beach bikes. Larger animals are removed by Street Cleansing using appropriately sized vehicles, such as tractor and bucket, where access allows. This is done at least two hours before and after high tide to minimise bird disturbance and allow vehicle access. Dead animals are left to be taken out by the next high tides and only removed if not taken. Vehicle access is via established paths and tracks.
Repairs and general maintenance - steps, boardwalks, fences/rails and entrances to the beach, signs	Compartments 5 has railings and beach access steps, and signage that will need repair and maintenance. Due to their nature, they are all located on main or established paths. Access for repair and maintenance will use the existing paths and work will be localised to the affected asset.

Kite surfers	Kite surfers, although not regulated, use the area mapped in Compartment 5 due to the flat, harder sand present and, although footfall is present, the area is slightly wider and accommodates both. Access is from Thorpe Park Car Park where there is a Kite Surfers Code of Conduct sign on entrance onto the beach.
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### **5.7 Compartment 6 – Fitties Dunes**

Humber Estuary SSSI Unit 189

3.8ha

Compartment 6 is the dune system between the Fitties holiday park and NELC's sea defence wall to the borough boundary. The main habitat is supralittoral sediment in Unfavourable – Recovering Condition. H2130 Fixed dunes is the habitat in the whole compartment.

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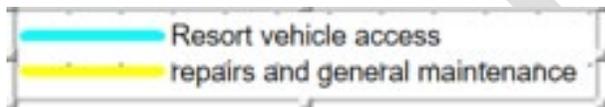
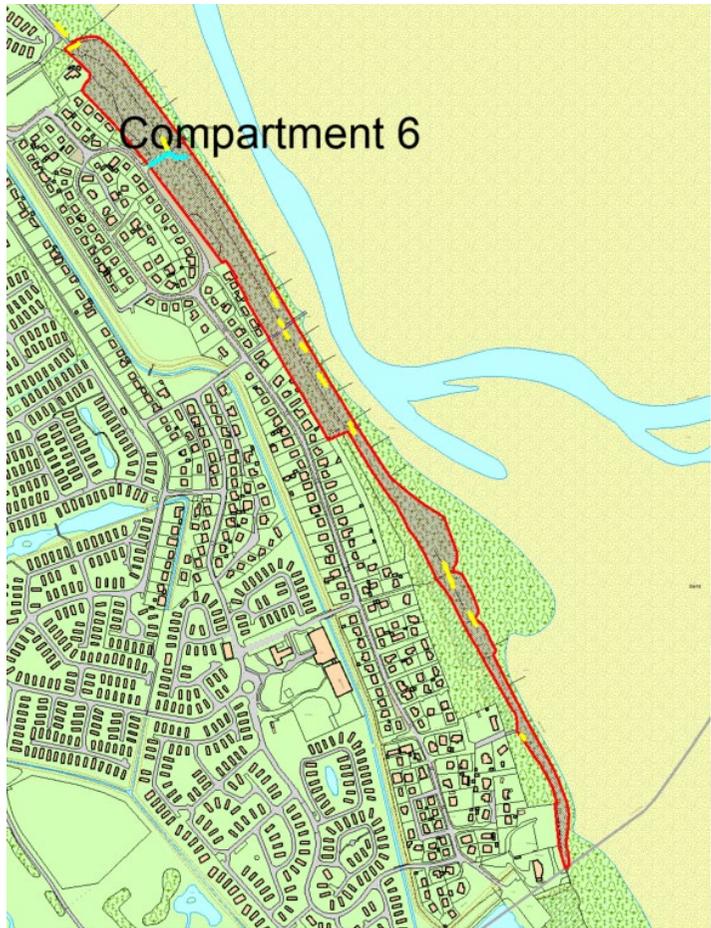


Figure 10: Map of Compartment 6 – Fitties Dunes with activities in the compartment shown. Aerial images are the most recent available from 2006.

The designated qualifying features present in this compartment are:

<b><u>Humber Estuary SAC features within Compartment 6</u></b>
H2130. Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); Dune grassland*
<b><u>Humber Estuary SPA features within Compartment 6</u></b>
Avocet ( <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> ), Non-breeding
Bar-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ), Non-breeding
Black-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> ), Non-breeding
Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> ), Non-breeding
Golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ), Non-breeding
Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ), Non-breeding
Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ), Non-breeding
Ruff ( <i>Calidris pugnax</i> ), Non-breeding
Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ), Non-breeding
Waterbird assemblage, Non-breeding

The activities in this compartment are:

Activity	Description
Cut and collect	For direct management of the designated features to achieve Favourable Condition Targets, dune grasslands cut and collected where topography allows
Application of herbicide	For the direct management of the dune designated features to achieve Favourable Condition Targets, herbicide application by weed wiper or by spot treatment to control undesirable species, Japanese knotweed in particular, along with garden escapees and dumped garden waste
Shrub and tree removal	For the direct management of designated features and public safety. Compartment 6 has mature trees and shrubs within or adjacent to them that may need removal due to loss of integrity, and shrubs, including garden escapees and invasive and inappropriate species, need removing as necessary. Access will be via established roads and tracks and all arisings removed from site.
Tree or woodland management	Compartment 6 has small copses of mature trees and individuals, which will need management as necessary such as limb or height reduction, for public safety. Access will be via established roads and tracks and all arisings removed from site.
Repairs and general maintenance - steps, boardwalks, fences/rails and	Compartment 6 has benches and signage that will need repair and maintenance. Due to their nature, they are all located on main or established paths. Access for repair and maintenance will use the existing paths and work will be localised to the affected asset.

entrances to the beach, signs, benches	
Resort Team vehicle	For public safety, the Resort Team use beach bikes on the established path. The Resort Team also use a Ranger vehicle to monitor high tides around the sand banks and access the look-out spot from the access gate within the Fitties.

### **5.8 Compartment 7 – Sand Banks and Mud Flats**

Humber Estuary SSSI Unit 188 & 189

164.6ha

Compartment 7 is from buck beck to the borough boundary between the dune systems and the low tide mark. The main habitat is supralittoral sediment, at the foot of the sea defence wall, and littoral sediment to the low tide mark, both in Unfavourable – Recovering Condition. *Colletes halophilus* nest in this area and monitoring in 2022 recorded 920 nests and the presence of *Epeolus variegatus*. H1140 mudflats cover the majority of the seaward part of this compartment with sandflats along the soth western boundary. There are patches of H1310 in the south western area, close to the boundary.



Figure 11: Map of Compartment 7 –Sand Banks and Mudflats with activities in the compartment shown. Aerial images are the most recent available from 2006.

The designated qualifying features present in this compartment are:

<b><u>Humber Estuary SAC features within Compartment 7</u></b>
H1140. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats
H1310. Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand
S1095. <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ; Sea lamprey
S1099. <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ; River lamprey
S1364. <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> ; Grey seal
<b><u>Humber Estuary SPA features within Compartment 7</u></b>
Avocet ( <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> ), Non-breeding
Bar-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ), Non-breeding
Black-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> ), Non-breeding
Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> ), Non-breeding
Golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ), Non-breeding
Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ), Non-breeding
Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ), Non-breeding
Ruff ( <i>Calidris pugnax</i> ), Non-breeding
Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ), Non-breeding
Waterbird assemblage, Non-breeding

The activities in this compartment are:

Activity	Description
Removal of dead animals	For public safety, dead animals washed up on the foreshore, such as seals, small enough to be removed by hand are removed by Resort Team with the use of their beach bikes. Larger animals are removed by Street Cleansing using appropriately sized vehicles, such as tractor and bucket, where access allows. This is done at least two hours before and after high tide to minimise bird disturbance and allow vehicle access. Dead animals are left to be taken out by the next high tides and only removed if not taken. Vehicle access is via established paths and tracks.
Bait digging	Bait digging requires a permit issued by NELC and is regulated under a Public Space Protection Order. Bait digging is permitted in the designated areas between the start of the Fitties and the dune stabilisation zone, as mapped on the permit, subject to the permit conditions. Failure to comply results in an on the spot fine of £100.

### **5.9 Compartment 8 – Relict Sand Dunes**

Humber Estuary SSSI Unit 171

0.685 ha

Compartment 8 is within Cleethorpes Boating Lake. The main habitat is supralittoral sediment in Favourable Condition. The whole compartment is H2130.

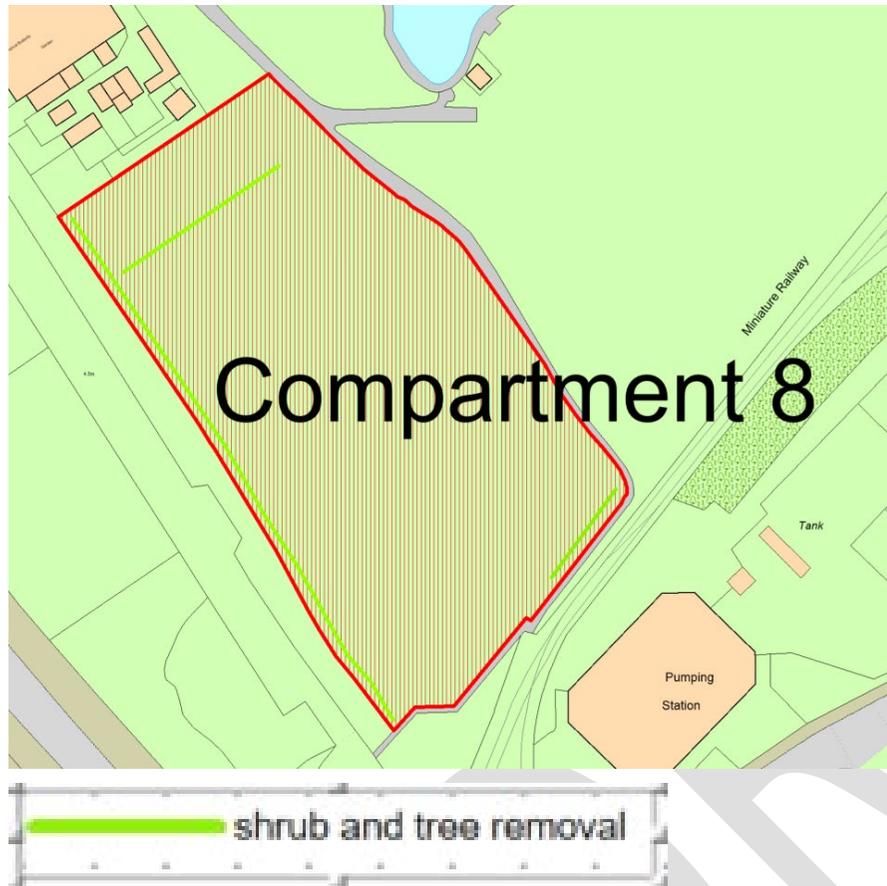


Figure 12: Map of Compartment 8 – Relict Sand Dunes with activities in the compartment shown. Aerial images are the most recent available from 2006.

The designated qualifying features present in this compartment are:

<b>Humber Estuary SAC features within Compartment 8</b>
H2130. Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); Dune grassland

The activities in this compartment are:

Activity	Description
Cut and collect	For direct management of the designated features to achieve Favourable Condition Targets, dune grassland is cut and collected
Application of herbicide	For the direct management of the dune designated features to achieve Favourable Condition Targets, herbicide application by weed wiper or by spot treatment to control undesirable species as needed
Shrub and tree removal	For the direct management of designated features and public safety. Compartment 8 has mature trees and shrubs within or adjacent to them that may need removal due to loss of integrity, and. Access will be via established roads and tracks and all arisings removed from site.
Tree or woodland management	Compartment 8 has mature individuals which will need management as necessary, limb or height reduction, for public safety. Access will be via established roads and tracks and all arisings removed from site.
Street cleansing litter picking	For public safety and maintenance, litter picking takes place.

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## Part B: Mitigation Strategy to Address Bird Disturbance

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### 6.1. Purpose

The purpose of this mitigation strategy is to set out our approaches to address the pressure generated by existing residents and visitors and future challenges arising from an increase in visitor numbers through growth of the local population and increasing visitors. This includes approaches to specifically:

- Guide users of the resort and coastal area to acknowledge the importance of the SSSI, SPA and SAC designated features.
- Manage and monitor recreational and visitor activities within the resort and coastal area to safeguard the conservation objectives.
- Inform and where appropriate use enforcement powers to address recreational disturbance when it occurs
- Provide alternative recreational provision to offset potential disturbance.

This multi-faceted approach enables the Cleethorpes coastline to be managed in a way that balances the need to safeguard the economic viability of Cleethorpes as a tourist destination, with the need to protect the biological diversity and designated features of the Humber Estuary.

### Conservation Objectives

Unmanaged recreation can undermine the SAC and SPA conservation objectives, set out below, and put pressure on the SSSI, SPA, and SAC designated features due to use by local residents and the use of the area by tourists and day-trippers.

The site's conservation objectives apply to the site and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified. The conservation objectives for the SAC ensure that, subject to natural change, the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its qualifying features, by maintaining or restoring:

- the extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of the qualifying species
- the structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- the structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying species
- the supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
- the populations of each of the qualifying species
- the distribution of qualifying species within the site

The conservation objectives for the SPA are to ensure that, subject to natural change, the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:

- the extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features
- the structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features
- the supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely
- the populations of each of the qualifying features
- the distribution of qualifying features within the site

## Events

Events put on by the Council and businesses to encourage people to make use of the area, as well as the development of holiday parks and new housing developments, increases the number of tourists and residents likely to make use of the Cleethorpes Resort and coastline. These additional factors increase the pressure on the SSSI and risk undermining the conservation objectives of the SPA and SAC as a result of unmanaged recreation. The impact that each event can have on recreational disturbance is considered on an individual basis by NELC's Event Safety Advisory Group (ESAG), resulting in the completion of a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA), where necessary. Over the last few years there has been an increase in recreational use of the water, and particularly in 2020 under Covid-19 restrictions, placed on the UK and worldwide, which has meant that more people have stayed and taken holidays in the UK. As part of improving the visitor economy in Cleethorpes, NELC aims to encourage eco-tourism, including during the wintering bird season to extend the traditional tourism season to all year.

Due to these factors, it is expected that more people will visit the resort during the lifespan of the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan and subsequently will pose challenges for the management of recreational disturbance caused by this increase.

## Development Growth

Development growth outlined in the NELC Local plan is also another factor which is likely to lead to an increase in recreational disturbance, as the local plan sets out the allocation for new housing developments in the borough. While it is not a certainty that increasing housing numbers in the wider area of North East Lincolnshire will lead to more recreational disturbance, it is highly likely, with a link to recreational disturbance

from housing development having been identified in other areas around the country. As housing development is likely to lead to increased visitor numbers in the Cleethorpes Resort and coastal areas, and subsequently the potential for more incidents of recreational disturbance to the protected features of the designated sites, it is important that this plan highlights this and identifies a commitment to implement measures which will mitigate against the potential impact from housing development.

The North East Lincolnshire Habitat Regulations Assessment Addendum April 2017 set out in para 1.56 states:

“Mitigation proposals are detailed in the Main HRA Report and are therefore not repeated here but in summary, the mitigation required will require a multi-faceted approach including the provision of alternative open space and green infrastructure, site management and monitoring at the sensitive parts of the SPA outlined in this report, and education of local residents and visitors to increase awareness of key issues and responsibilities. These measures will be delivered as part of the development of the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan, and/or an equivalent mitigation strategy which is adaptive and able to respond to updated monitoring results, thereby ensuring that the measures provided continue to successfully mitigate any impacts identified or predicted, before they are able to result in adverse effects on the integrity of the Humber Estuary SPA/Ramsar site.”

## **6.2 Scope**

To account for the need to mitigate recreational disturbance caused by increased visitor numbers at Cleethorpes Resort and the increase in local housing development through the Local Plan, the mitigation strategy will set out mitigation for recreational disturbance on the SPA/SAC/SSSI designated sites, as well as setting out wider mitigation measures that will tackle the sources of recreational disturbance and reduce their impact on the designated sites. Therefore, Part B of this plan will look to include not only on-site recreational disturbance but will provide a broader approach, looking at how plans and developments from the wider area, both inside NEL and bordering NEL can impact the

North East Lincolnshire section of the SSSI/SPA/SAC/EMS/Ramsar designated sites and how direct and strategic mitigation measures can be used to reduce and prevent where possible and feasible, the impact of recreational disturbance.

### **6.3 Evidence**

To understand what mitigation measures are needed and where they are best placed to be effective, evidence is needed to establish the extent of recreational disturbance within the Borough.

#### **Baseline Evidence: LUC North East Lincolnshire Local Plan HRA Addendum (Theoretical Visitor Numbers)**

In July 2017, Land Use Consultants (LUC) provided a HRA Addendum during the examination of the North East Lincolnshire Local Plan in respect of the effects of recreational pressures on the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar site. The HRA Addendum followed a similar approach to that of the Hull Local Plan HRA Addendum when a similar recreational issue was raised at their local plan examination. The approach taken quantified the visitors to the Humber Estuary SPA adopting a number of key assumptions, the assumptions are stated as being considered extremely precautionary, and therefore represents a worst-case scenario.

- 88% of visitors were local residents with the majority living within 4.4km of the SPA site with dog walking being a primary reason for visiting; 12% assumed to be from non-residents
- Visitors from within 1km assumed to walk to visit the Estuary daily, **from** 1.6km assumed to walk to access the site on a weekly basis, and drive up to 4.4km to access the Estuary on a monthly basis.

Table 7: Estimated number of visits to the Humber Estuary each year generated from within North East Lincolnshire.

Distance from Estuary	< 1km	>1km <1.6km	>1.6km < 4.4km	>4.4km
Visits to Estuary	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
No Households	15,251 (320 chalets only occupied for 10months)	11,460	37,245	10,483
Population (2.3 per household)	35,077 (736 of which are present for 10 months of the year)	26,358	85,664	24,111
Population x frequency of visits	34,341 x 365 + 736 x 304	26,358 x 52	85,664 x 12	24,111 x1
Annual Visits*	12,758,209	1,370,616	1,027,962	24,111

- Theoretical Assumed delivery based on delivery of all allocated housing sites (a worst-case scenario)

The estimated number of total baseline annual visits to the Estuary in North East Lincolnshire is **15,180,898**.

Assuming 88% of visits are made by residents suggests that 12% of visits are from non-resident visitors, extrapolating upwards provides a figure of 2,070,122 for annual visits by non-residents.

This provides a theoretical overall **Baseline figure for the Total Number of Visits of 17,251,020**

Applying the visitor trip assumptions to the housing allocations set out in the local plan the HRA Addendum identified the total number of additional trips that would be generated if all sites were built out over the plan period, this is **596,659**.

The HRA Addendum also applied an assumed 8% increase in annual visits by non-residents over the plan period to 2032. This equates to an assumed increase of 165,610 visits per annum, giving a theoretical overall total increase in **762,269** visits per annum

#### **Baseline Evidence: Footprint Ecology Report (Recreational Disturbance)**

In 2010, the Humber Nature Partnership in collaboration with its partners across the Humber Estuary, including NELC, commissioned a study by Footprint Ecology on recreational disturbance across the Humber Estuary. In 2014 the report on the study by Footprint Ecology was produced and highlighted the incidents of recreational disturbance across the estuary, with 1,304 entries of recorded bird disturbance incidents between October 2013 and January 2014 across the Humber Estuary. Of the 10 sites across the Humber studied in the Footprint Ecology report, three sites were located in North East Lincolnshire: Pyewipe, Humberston Fitties and Cleethorpes Leisure Centre. Of the Ten sites studied in the report, Cleethorpes Leisure Centre was found to have the most incidents of recreational disturbance (668), with Humberston Fitties having the second most (157), and Pyewipe having the 8<sup>th</sup> most incidents (50). With North East Lincolnshire having the top two sites for recreational bird disturbance in the survey, both of which are on the Cleethorpes coastline, it highlights the importance of putting in place measures to tackle recreational disturbance and mitigate against it where possible.

The Footprint Ecology Report shows that as Cleethorpes Resort is located in a major urban settlement and is a tourist hotspot; that recreational disturbance is likely and has the potential to have a significant impact on the SPA/SAC/SSSI designated features. Therefore, the

Footprint Ecology report sets out the need to mitigate against this potential significant impact to ensure the designated sites remain protected and in a favourable condition status. The full Footprint Ecology Report can be found on the Humber Nature Partnership website, [here](#).

### **Baseline Evidence: Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) and RSPB Data**

Previous annual peak counts data of birds from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) WeBS data will form baseline evidence of designated bird counts. NELC will use published BTO data and area specific bird count data as part of our recreational disturbance monitoring alongside other monitoring outlined in Section 6.6 Monitoring.

Table 8: Table of designated species of birds as part of the Humber Estuary along with the annual peak counts data for the Humber Estuary.

'Contains Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) data from Waterbirds in the UK 2021/22 © copyright and database right 2023. WeBS is a partnership jointly funded by the BTO, RSPB and JNCC, with fieldwork conducted by volunteers and previous support from WWT.

Species	Designations	Bird Count (5 yr Avg)								Current 5yr mean	WeBS alerts - % Δ since baselin e
		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22		
Avocet, <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	SPA, SSSI	1608	1429	2555	2199	3143	3070	2638	1831	2576	3550
Bar-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa lapponica</i>	SPA, SSSI, RAMSAR	1072	1763	1119	1123	1369	1801	1838	1990	1876	-53
Bittern, <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	SPA, SSSI	4	1	2	2	4	1	2	4	3	-
Black-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa limosa</i>	SPA, SSSI, RAMSAR	2699	2560	2610	4579	5864	7114	4825	5846	5646	11

Species	Designations	Bird Count (5 yr Avg)								Current 5yr mean	WeBS alerts - % Δ since baselin e
		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22		
Brent goose (dark-bellied), <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>	SSSI	3951	4088	3748	3056	2162	2406	2954	1903	2645	-
Common tern, <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	SSSI	98	505	775	87	63	147	11	742	247	-
Curlew, <i>Numenius arquata</i>	SSSI	2325	2862	3198	3018	2070	2105	2104	2108	2544	-
Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>	SPA, SSSI, RAMSAR	10698	16109	15640	15073	16943	16005	13366	22516	17634	-40
Gadwall, <i>Anas strepera</i>	SSSI	211	181	163	141	265	326	199	310	248	-
Golden plover, <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	SPA, SSSI, RAMSAR	25881	34324	59427	20116	20697	21623	8937	13904	20812	-
Goldeneye, <i>Bucephala clangula</i>	SSSI	55	681	156	183	378	248	172	385	299	-

Species	Designations	Bird Count (5 yr Avg)								Current 5yr mean	WeBS alerts - % Δ since baselin e
		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22		
Great crested grebe, <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	SSSI	35	45	18	22	13	17	13	16	18	-
Greenshank, <i>Tringa nebularia</i>	SSSI	35	34	42	46	42	68	27	27	46	-
Grey plover, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	SSSI	2128	1938	4388	4434	2277	1618	2554	2673	2985	-
Kingfisher, <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	SSSI	3	4	4	5	2	11	3	5	5	-
Hen harrier, <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	SPA	WeBS data not available.									-
Knot, <i>Calidris canutus</i>	SPA, SSSI, RAMSAR	14987	15025	14646	27112	25743	12871	20402	17022	26428	-16
Lapwing, <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	SSSI	8612	12810	23198	13135	20247	12877	10161	14728	15247	-

Species	Designations	Bird Count (5 yr Avg)								Current 5yr mean	WeBS alerts - % Δ since baselin e
		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22		
Little grebe, <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	SSSI	76	54	44	56	47	42	47	64	56	-
Little ringed plover, <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	SSSI	7	7	4	2	3	6	6	14	6	-
Little tern, <i>Sterna albifrons</i>	SPA	1	11	10	9	9	10	7	5	8	-
Mute swan, <i>Cygnus olor</i>	SSSI	135	137	158	169	115	171	145	131	152	-
Oystercatcher, <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	SSSI	5848	4543	5256	5392	8544	5344	3942	5211	5806	-
Pochard, <i>Aythya ferina</i>	SSSI	186	153	96	59	40	52	47	24	50	-
Marsh Harrier, <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	SPA	WeBS data not available.									-

Species	Designations	Bird Count (5 yr Avg)								Current 5yr mean	WeBS alerts - % Δ since baselin e
		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22		
Redshank, <i>Tringa totanus</i>	SPA, SSSI, RAMSAR	3124	3792	2570	3351	2455	2237	2592	2370	2659	-54
Ringed plover, <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	SSSI	788	901	1119	606	606	422	1690	1378	1070	-
Ruff, <i>Calidris pugnax</i>	SPA, SSSI	44	65	74	117	72	74	70	49	76	-
Sanderling, <i>Calidris alba</i>	SSSI	464	399	697	653	334	812	502	317	575	-
Scaup, <i>Aythya marila</i>	SSSI	1	1	43	2	2	7	2	0	3	-
Shelduck, <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	SPA, SSSI, RAMSAR	3948	4939	5158	4098	5292	3089	6937	13012	6486	-13
Shoveler, <i>Anas clypeata</i>	SSSI	120	139	122	228	244	337	201	463	295	-
Snipe, <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	SSSI	148	221	98	96	90	136	73	68	107	-

Species	Designations	Bird Count (5 yr Avg)								Current 5yr mean	WeBS alerts - % Δ since baselin e
		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22		
Teal, <i>Anas crecca</i>	SSSI	2264	2764	3467	3633	5658	2971	4175	9994	5286	-
Tufted duck, <i>Aythya fuligula</i>	SSSI	280	214	209	145	210	305	236	332	246	-
Turnstone, <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	SSSI	424	156	177	358	243	261	257	275	287	-
Water rail, <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	SSSI	14	18	14	21	12	15	8	8	14	-
Whimbrel, <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	SSSI	120	250	101	55	105	37	15	39	58	-
Wigeon, <i>Anas penelope</i>	SSSI	2432	2547	2590	3130	2505	2590	1766	6452	3669	-

Table data is drawn from what is publicly available via WeBS and includes survey data from the entirety of the Humber estuary. Site specific data used in recreational disturbance monitoring is likely to differ from that above.

In their [interpretation guidance for WeBS alerts](#), BTO encourages that alerts for certain species should be “interpreted with caution”, including species that are cryptic, that may leave the site during daytime to forage elsewhere, or that naturally occur in small numbers. For these species the data above may not be truly representative of the state of the population currently using the Humber estuary area. Although declines seen here may be due to site specific pressures, the fact that many of these bird species visit other sites, may not be loyal to one wintering site, and may be under differing pressures at other sites visited, needs to be considered.

### **Current Evidence: Relevant Survey Data**

Consideration will be given to all available data to understand what mitigation measures are needed and where they are best placed. This includes but is not limited to:

- [British Trust for Ornithology \(BTO\) Wetlands Birds Survey \(WeBS\) Data](#)
- [Royal Society for the Protection of Birds \(RSPB\)](#)
- [Footprint Ecology Study](#)

NELC will use our area specific data to monitor bird numbers as part of our active monitoring approach to recreational disturbance and will review the data alongside our consultations with Natural England.

### **Current Evidence: Humber Nature Partnership Disturbance Reporting**

Current evidence for recreational disturbance within the area defined by this plan, is gathered through recreational disturbance observation forms that are collated and reported back to NELC by the Humber Nature Partnership. The observation forms are used by a variety of different

users, such as the public and NELC officers to ensure a record is kept of incidents of recreational disturbance. The form reporting system allows for yearly data of recreational disturbance activity to be collated along the Cleethorpes Coast and around the Humber Estuary. It also allows for NELC, with the support of the HNP, to monitor longer term trends in disturbance and the type of activities which are causing disturbance. Observation forms are not only used to collate and analyse disturbance data but allow for immediate action where there is a disturbance incident which could have caused a significant recreational disturbance event.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Paramotor	5	1
Jet Ski	2	2
Dog off lead	1	2
Fireworks	1	0
Low flying aircraft (Helicopter)	1	0
Photographer	1	0
Off-roading	0	3
Paddleboarder	0	2
<b>Site total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>

*Figure 13 represents the data collected by the Humber Management Scheme (HMS) Recreational Disturbance Forms in 2021 and 2022 of incidents reported to HMS that have occurred on the Cleethorpes coastline.*

*Source: HNP Recreational Disturbance on the Humber Estuary during 2022 (Jan, 2023)*

It is acknowledged that this only includes details of incidents reported and therefore does not necessarily provide a complete picture of recreational disturbance activities on the Cleethorpes coastline during this time. NELC will continue to work closely with the HNP to monitor recreational disturbance through the observation forms. A link to the observation forms can be found here: [observation forms](#).

Should the Humber Nature Partnership no longer be able to collate recreational disturbance reports for the Humber Estuary, NELC will look to resource an alternate method of gathering recreational disturbance reports, so that an active monitoring approach to recreational disturbance on the Cleethorpes Coastline is still in place.

#### **Future Evidence Gathering: Annual Recreational Disturbance Surveys**

Although there is currently active evidence gathering ongoing by NELC's resort team, with incidents responded when significant recreational disturbance takes place, NELC recognises the need to carry out long-term evidence gathering and surveying of recreational disturbance. This gap of evidence and survey data demonstrates the need for NELC to ensure long term surveying/monitoring of recreational disturbance takes place along the Cleethorpes Coastline so that any impacts of increased footfall caused by new housing developments can be identified and mitigated against. A footfall monitoring station is located outside The Pier, the data from which will be used to monitor footfall and visitor numbers along the resort. We will establish a baseline using 2019 footfall data for this station and monitor footfall on a 5-year rolling average, with an increase in footfall of 5% being set as the footfall for potential mitigation action. As part of this plan, we will also an additional footfall monitoring station located adjacent to the Cleethorpes Leisure Centre. Data from both footfall monitoring stations will be collected daily. We will establish a new baseline with this monitoring station in its first year of installation and will adopt the same method of monitoring as the other footfall monitoring station with a 5-year rolling average and a 5% rolling threshold for additional mitigation measures. Data will be shared with Natural England on an annual basis. Decisions resulting from increased footfall will be made in conjunction with Natural England.

Such long-term surveying will enable a longer-term view of recreational disturbance along the Cleethorpes Coastline, and alongside the active monitoring through the HNP disturbance reporting forms, will allow for NELC to provide more appropriate and focused mitigation for recreational disturbance where a long-term issue is identified.

To enable NELC to establish how recreational disturbance is changing and whether there is any increase along the Cleethorpes coastline, which could potentially be caused by increased housing developments, the surveying approach will aim to replicate the one used in the methodology statement of the 2014 Footprint Ecology report. This will also allow for NELC to use the 2014 footprint ecology report as a baseline for recreational disturbance, which future surveys can refer to. NELC's Ecology team will ensure the quarterly surveys are carried out, at 3 sites: Wonderland, Cleethorpes Leisure Centre, Humberston Fitties. Survey reports will be produced on a 5-year rolling basis in line with this plan, with a review of long-term trends and any need for changes to methodology reported back in the update of the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan.

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## Mitigation

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### 6.4 Existing Mitigation Approaches

This section of the plan sets out the mitigation approaches for recreational disturbance that NELC already have in place, as of writing this plan. NELC will continue ensuring the mitigation approaches set out in this part of the plan will continue for the duration of this plan until at least the next plan review.

## Cleethorpes Resort Signage

Currently there are various signs placed around the Cleethorpes Resort and on the footpaths of the designated areas identified in this plan. The signs used display various messages about the designations and health and safety. Messages about bait digging, dogs, slipway access and vehicles are present in the resort and designated areas. There are also interpretation boards and educational messages around the resort area, which are designed to educate visitors and residents about the important features of the designated sites and why these features should not be damaged or disturbed. Examples of signage in the designated areas can be seen in Figures 14 and 15.

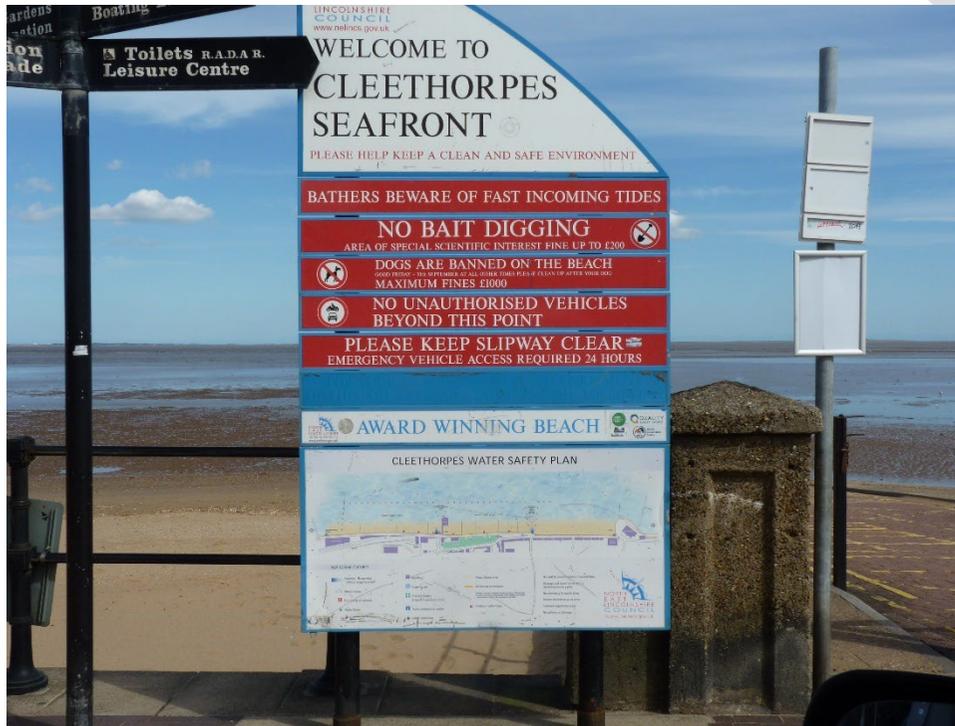


Figure 14: A sign with accompanying map in Cleethorpes Resort

While there are numerous signs within and around the designated areas, identified in this plan, it has been identified that there is a need to modernise and rationalise the signage along the coastline, particularly in the Cleethorpes Resort area.

## Coastal Wildlife of North East Lincolnshire

The North East Lincolnshire coastline is the gateway of the Humber Estuary, and the estuary is nationally and internationally important for a wide variety of birds. It provides a vital staging post for migratory birds with over 150,000 feeding here during the winter months. The Humber Estuary, its habitats, and the birds and wildlife that live in it, are protected by UK law. Habitats include saltmarsh, mud flats, sand dunes and sand banks which all add to the wildlife and biodiversity of the area. The importance of the estuary was recognised in 1988 when some areas were designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This has been endorsed by European Directives which have made it a:

- **Special Protected Area (SPA)**
- **Special Area for Conservation (SAC)**
- **European Marine Site**

It is also recognised by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands as a wetland of international importance.

In 2002, North East Lincolnshire Council had the area from the Cleethorpes Leisure Centre to the county boundary at RSPB Tetney Marshes made into a Local Nature Reserve. In 2005 Natural England extended the national and international designations to all of the River Humber and the River Trent, to the motorway bridge on the M18, and the River Ouse, up to the motorway bridge on the M62

### Our Coastal Birds

#### Residents



**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

The Little Egret is a small heron and be seen fishing on the saltmarsh and. They feed on small fish and crustaceans mainly but also on amphibians and other animals. They are all white with black legs and yellow feet, and a black bill. In summer breeding plumage they have long white feathers streaming from their head and neck.

Statistics: Length: 60cm Wingspan: 92cm Weight: 450g Lifespan: unknown  
Image courtesy of Grimby & Cleethorpes RSPB



**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

Turnstones don't breed here but can be seen most of the year as northern European populations pass through in summer and spring, and from Canada and Greenland in autumn until summer. The Turnstone is named after its feeding behaviour of flipping over stones, looking mainly for insects but they will eat most things. In winter they are dark brown with a black pattern on the face and neck, and a white chin and underside. In summer they have a black and chestnut chequered pattern on their backs.

Statistics: Length: 23cm Wingspan: 54cm Weight: 120g Lifespan: 9 yrs  
Image courtesy of Grimby & Cleethorpes RSPB



**Redshank** *Tringa tetanus*

A resident sandpiper, the Redshank is a large wader that breeds on the saltmarsh and feeds in shallow waters around the mudflats where it searches for molluscs, crustaceans and marine worms. It's identified by its long, bright red legs and its long straight bill that's red at the base but black at the tip. The Redshank's nickname is 'sirenet of the marsh' as it's usually the first bird to be disturbed, flying off with a noisy cry!

Statistics: Length: 28cm Wingspan: 62cm Weight: 120g Lifespan: 4 yrs  
Image courtesy of Grimby & Cleethorpes RSPB



**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Our resident oystercatchers are joined by Norwegian populations in winter, and are specialised feeders of cockles and mussels, prising or hammering the shells open with their flattened, strong beaks. They are easily recognisable by their loud 'peeping' call and their striking black and white plumage, long red bills and legs.

Statistics: Length: 40cm Wingspan: 83cm Weight: 540g Lifespan: 12 yrs

#### Winter Visitors



**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

These sandpipers are winter visitors from the Arctic and pass through in summer on migration. Uniquely amongst our waders they have no hind toe which gives them a distinctive 'clockwork' running action as they dart away from incoming waves whilst foraging for insects, worms, crustaceans, fish and even jellyfish.

Statistics: Length: 20cm Wingspan: 42cm Weight: 59g Lifespan: 7yrs  
Image courtesy of Grimby & Cleethorpes RSPB



**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Large, tall waders, Curlews arrive at the coast from July onwards and numbers peak in January. They mainly eat invertebrates but they are omnivorous. Their haunting 'cur-lee' call is unmistakable, as is their long down-curved bill that is pink underneath. In the UK they are a red species within the Birds of Conservation Concern and a priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Statistics: Length: 55cm Wingspan: 90cm Weight: 900g Lifespan: 5 yrs



**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Our resident Ringed Plovers are joined in winter by European populations and mid-migration birds from Greenland and Canada. They are small, short-billed waders with brown backs, white bellies, black and white patterned heads and a black-tipped red bill and red legs. They eat crustaceans, molluscs and invertebrates which they forage for by standing still, observing, then running and pecking repeatedly at what they've spied.

Statistics: Length: 20cm Wingspan: 52cm Weight: 64g Lifespan: 5 yrs  
Image courtesy of Grimby & Cleethorpes RSPB



**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Although a resident wader, the Shelduck is most visible in winter and is one of our largest ducks. It is mainly coastal where it feeds on invertebrates, especially insects, molluscs and crustaceans found in the mud on estuaries and sandy beaches. Both sexes are mostly white, with black and chestnut patches, and a dark green head and neck with a bright red bill.

Statistics: Length: 62cm Wingspan: 1.1m Weight: 1.12kg Lifespan: 10

#### Bird Disturbance

Hundreds of thousands of wetland birds rely upon the estuary, especially migratory birds that use the coastline for feeding and roosting. After their epic flights from around the world they arrive in vital need of food and rest, and for some it is their first time.

Birds are easily disturbed and use vital energy when they take off and fly. The food they get from the estuary is vital to their survival on arrival and to build themselves up through the winter for the return journey. If they are repeatedly disturbed many of these birds may not survive the winter or make their migratory journey back to their summer breeding grounds.

The mud, sand, and saltmarsh are rich sources of food for the birds. The long bills of Curlews probe the mud for cockles and large worms. Oystercatchers can reach buried shellfish and small crabs, Turnstones winkle out creatures hiding under things, and many feed on the saltmarsh plant Samphire.





#### Ways you can help

- ✓ On the water and beach, please avoid disturbing birds resting and feeding
- ✓ Move further away when the birds are disturbed
- ✓ Keep activities away from roost sites, and where large numbers of birds are found
- ✓ Keep dogs under control and prevent them from chasing birds
- ✓ Pick up after dogs on the beach, saltmarsh, and sand dunes as it affects the local water quality
- ✓ Don't leave litter

#### Please enjoy yourself responsibly




If your activities are causing the birds to fly away then you are causing disturbance.

A group of Oystercatchers resting on the beach.

#### Wildflowers

The sand dunes that stretch from the Leisure Centre to the county boundary are designated as a **Local Nature Reserve** and **Site of Special Scientific Interest** due to their rich flora and fauna and have some of the best wildflower meadows in Lincolnshire. They are a valuable source of food for bees, butterflies and moths, such as the Common Blue caterpillar that feeds on Bird's-foot trefoil, and the Cinnabar caterpillar that only feeds on Ragwort. They bloom from late spring onwards and a special site to see is the spectacular display of orchids that are on show in early summer.





The saltmarsh plants extend the flowering period, blooming from mid to late summer, creating purple waves of Sea Lavender and Sea Aster, and dotting it with pink Sea Milkwort and white English Scunty Grass.





#### Where River Meets Sea

The saltmarsh has developed naturally from mudflats which form where the river Humber meets the North Sea creating the Humber Estuary. It is home to a diverse range of specialist plants and animals that cope with the tidal environment.

The saltmarsh provides sheltered nursery sites for fish, hiding places for invertebrates, nectar for pollinators, and hunting grounds for small mammals. These animals provide food for our internationally and nationally important birds that also use the raised parts of salt marsh as nesting and roosting sites. Around half of our British Redshanks breed on saltmarsh making it a very important habitat nationally and internationally.

The salt marsh performs important ecosystem functions too. It provides a natural flood defence that dissipates wave energy and slows the flow of tidal water preventing it from reaching further inland, and it reduces scour and erosion. It also costs a third of man-made flood defences. Its ability to rapidly capture carbon from the air and store it for long periods of time is also important and significant in local and global regulation of climate change.

*Figure 15: An educational sign in the Cleethorpes Resort which highlights some of the designated features and species of the resort. The sign also highlights what bird disturbance is, why it is important not to disturb the birds on the beach and how visitors/residents can avoid disturbing the birds.*

### **Communications and Public Engagement**

NELC has produced a communications plan to help support the management of recreational disturbance along the Cleethorpes Coastline. The communications plan will aim to encourage people to avoid the sensitive areas of the coastline. Where areas cannot be avoided the communications plan provides educational messages and aims to ensure people use the designated areas of the Cleethorpes coastline in a responsible, non-damaging or non-disturbing manner. An outline of the current annual communications plan can be found in appendix 1. The engagement plan will provide actions for communication which NELC will complete annually.

### **Recreational User Group Engagement**

As part of recreational disturbance management during the life of the plan, NELC aims to continue to engage and actively communicate with local recreational user groups, such as paddleboarding and water user groups, expanding the network of groups that we actively engage with. The primary contact for this will be NELC's resort management team who will link in with local user groups and work alongside the HNP to spread awareness of the importance of avoiding sensitive areas/features of the Cleethorpes coastline. It is hoped that this approach will encourage responsible use of the Cleethorpes coastline and provide a further way to monitor recreational disturbance by encouraging user groups to report any disturbing/damaging activity to the SSSI via liaising with the Resort Team directly or via reporting it through the HNP observation forms.

To help spread awareness to the users of organised recreational activity groups in Cleethorpes, NELC's resort team will work to hand out any educational messaging resources and codes of conduct to recreational user groups so that these can be distributed to their users.

### **Codes of Conduct**

As part of the management of the Cleethorpes coastline these Codes of Conduct are given to any relevant community group which carries out recreational activity along the coastline. The codes of conduct are also distributed as part of the slipway scheme, ensuring anyone who uses the coastline for authorised recreational activity is aware of the codes of conduct that they must follow. When providing people with the codes of conduct it is reaffirmed that the codes of conduct should be followed at all times and any breach of these codes may lead to enforcement action by Natural England or the Police.

### **Cleethorpes Resort Patrols**

The Cleethorpes Resort Team conduct patrols from 2 hours before high tide up until high tide. Patrols cover the entirety of the area specified in this plan and are carried out throughout the year. These patrols are to ensure the safety of beach users, but the Cleethorpes Resort Team also use them to monitor for recreational disturbance, which they record through the Humber Nature Partnership (HNP) [observation forms](#). These forms are collated and used to keep a record of any disturbance events which helps monitor levels of recreational disturbance on the Cleethorpes Coastline. As well as recording disturbance events through the HNP observation forms, the resort team will report any instances of disturbance/damage they witness to the Humberside Police Wildlife Crime Officer where any necessary legal action can be taken.

As part of managing recreational disturbance the resort team engage with the public to promote the sensitive nature of the SSSI/SPA/SAC/EMS/Ramsar designated features and will encourage people who access the site to do so in a responsible manner, where they use only designated footpaths and walking routes and avoid disturbance to any of the designated features.

### **Cleethorpes/Tetney Local Recreational Disturbance Group**

The Cleethorpes and Tetney Local Recreational Disturbance Group is organised and facilitated by the Humber Nature Partnership and brings together key stakeholders for the management of recreational disturbance on the Cleethorpes and Tetney coastal area. Member organisations of the Cleethorpes and Tetney Local Recreational Disturbance Group include Humber Nature Partnership, Natural England, RSPB and North East Lincolnshire Council.

The group have bi-annual meetings and discussions several times a year to discuss any recreational disturbance management issues that occur along the Cleethorpes and Tetney coastal area. As well as current recreational disturbance issues, the group also discuss plans that can impact/manage recreational disturbance along this stretch of the estuary. It also serves to act (where relevant and appropriate) as the advisory group and delivery element to the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan.

As well as acting (where relevant and appropriate) as the advisory group and delivery element to the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan, the group will continue to monitor recreational disturbance activity between Cleethorpes and Tetney and will act where necessary to manage recreational disturbance along the coastline during the lifespan of this plan. Should any change in recreational disturbance occur that would necessitate a change to the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan, the group will act to make the necessary changes to the plan: with NELC ensuring any necessary action on their part, coming from a change to the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan, is implemented. As well as

monitoring recreational disturbance incidents the group will also look to ensure necessary enforcement action is being taken where it is needed and that this is being done through engaging with the relevant enforcement authorities.

The group will also look to solve issues of recreational activities which can cause disturbance to the designated features of the coastline but are not yet fully regulated/legislated for, such as aviation activities like paramotoring and drone flying over the designated areas. NELC does not allow the take-off and landing of paramotorists on its land in line with Planning Regulations and encourages drone flyers/paramotorists to follow the CAA regulations while using a paramotor or flying a drone. The area above the SSSI section of the Cleethorpes Coastline has recently been designated as a Bird Sanctuary, advising pilots not to fly below 500 feet in altitude. This will help to prevent bird disturbance with aircraft and also reduces the likelihood of bird strikes to low-flying aircraft in the area which present a danger to life.

Cross boundary issues are also discussed by the group, where a recreational disturbance incident may have taken place in one relevant authority boundary but have spread to another. While looking at these issues, the group uses a strategic approach that involves cross partnership working to try and resolve recreational disturbance issues.

### **Slipway Regulations**

The Slipway Regulations (Appendix 2) set out how the slipways along the Cleethorpes Coastline are used and set the rules and regulations in which users of the slipways need to adhere to. To use the slipway, members of the public must apply to become part of the slipway scheme and agree in writing to the slipway regulations. The permit application includes information about what disturbance is and why it should be avoided with a box for the applicant to tick to acknowledge that they have read it. Applicants for the slipway scheme must provide a picture of

their towing vehicle, the craft and themselves which we retain for the purposes of identification in the event of anti-social behaviours on the waters. Applications are handled and managed by NELC's Resort Team.

During the application process for the slipway scheme, the applicant is advised by NELC's Resort Team of the SSSI site and to avoid disturbance of features/species of the SSSI site while using the slipways.

### **Cleethorpes Resort PSPO**

NELC also has a [\*\*Public Space Protection Order \(PSPO\)\*\*](#), which deals with:

- Dog fouling
- Showing means to pick up dog mess.
- Dogs not on leads in areas they should be.
- Dogs in areas where they should not be.

People who breach the PSPO can be issued with a fixed penalty of £100. A total of 21 fixed penalties were issued between April 2018 and March 2019 for breaches of the PSPO. Specific to the Cleethorpes Coastline area the PSPO covers the area of Cleethorpes Beach between the Rock Groyne and Cleethorpes Leisure Centre between the dates of Good Friday and 30<sup>th</sup> September every year. This ensures that between the specified dates, there are no dogs permitted on this area of the Cleethorpes coastline: helping to manage disturbance and also footfall on the beach during the tourist season.

We recognise that this may result in increased dog walking activity on the more sensitive areas of the resort. This will be monitored in accordance with the measures outlined in section 6.3, with a view to possibly extending the dog walking ban from the Cleethorpes Leisure

Centre to the end of the Humberston Fitties during the wintering season, or this could also include the requirement for dogs to be kept on a lead in this area.

### **Enforcement and PSPO Measures**

While NELC's aim is to encourage people to use the Cleethorpes coastline in a responsible manner, whereby we move towards reducing recreational disturbance in our area with no significant disturbance occurring, we understand this may not be possible and further measures may need to be taken to stop the impact of recreational disturbance and meet NELC's legal obligations. As such, if recreational disturbance becomes unmanageable and it is deemed that signage, education and other passive mitigation measures for recreational disturbance are no longer able to effectively mitigate recreational disturbance then NELC will look to impose other enforcement measures. While dog walking may currently constitute one of the biggest impacts of disturbance, this may not be the case in the future and enforcement measures may need to be looked at on other activities where appropriate should passive mitigation for them not be achievable.

It's NELC's intention to only use any such enforcement measure as a last resort where other forms of mitigation are no longer effective or possible. We want our primary method for managing recreational disturbance to be through education and working with everyone who uses our protected coastline.

### **6.5 Committed Future Mitigation Approaches - detailed summary (resort specific PSPO measures)**

All actions identified under the existing mitigation measures are to be continued, and the actions set out under section 6.5 are actions that the council are committed to implement now.

The approaches which have been set out specifically to provide a multifaceted approach as referred to in the Local Plan HRA Addendum in respect of Recreational Pressures (April 2017). This includes the provision of alternative open space and green infrastructure, delivered as part of individual housing sites; site management and monitoring at sensitive parts of the SPA, and education of local residents and visitors to increase awareness of key issues and responsibilities.

These approaches provide an adaptive framework able to respond to updated monitoring results, thereby ensuring that the measures provided continue to mitigate any impacts identified or predicted, before they are able to result in adverse effects on the integrity of the Humber Estuary SPA/Ramsar site.

The council is committed to review, and update where appropriate, the CHMP on a 5 year cycle. This process of review will include **Part B: Mitigation Strategy to Address Bird Disturbance.**

#### **Provision of New Open Space and Green Infrastructure**

Developers are required to consider Local Plan policies 40 Developing a Green Infrastructure Network, Policy 41 Biodiversity and Geodiversity, Policy 42 Landscape, Policy 43 Greenspace and Recreation when considering the layout of their development. Their response to these specific policies will be assessed as a material planning consideration. Through the implementation of these policies, local provision will be made for residents to access open space and partake in recreational activities close to their home. This will to a degree offset the visitor pressures on the Humber Estuary SPA/Ramsar site.

### **New Resort Signage**

Currently there are various signs and educational interpretation boards placed throughout the Cleethorpes Resort that highlight the importance of the area and the legally protected designations (see Appendix 3). However, to further assess and support the signage needs on the Cleethorpes coastline the Humber Nature Partnership is facilitating the development of a Cleethorpes to Tetney Local Recreation Disturbance Management Plan (LRDMP), in conjunction with the Cleethorpes and Tetney Recreational Disturbance Group. The plan will address the disturbance issues along the Cleethorpes Coastline and in line with the recommendations being made within it, at the time of writing (August 2021), a signage review by NELC is under way and will aim to provide improved guidance, information, and education for users of the Cleethorpes Coastline. Further Information on the Cleethorpes Resort Signage Review and future planned signage along the resort can be found in section 4.3 of this Plan.

While there are currently signs and education boards placed along the Cleethorpes Resort and coastline, it has become clear that: to meet NELC's obligations of managing recreational disturbance on the designated sites and as part of our Local Plan conditions more needs to be done in terms of educational messaging and signage along the Cleethorpes coastline area. Recommendations for improved signage/education/interpretation are made in the current Cleethorpes to Tetney Local Recreation Disturbance Management Plan (LRDMP) (Appendix 4) and NELC signage review. As part of the NELC signage review, every sign along the Cleethorpes coastline has been reviewed to assess the information it has on it and how effective the design of the signs is. Along with signage to spread awareness of recreational disturbance there also needs to be signage to raise awareness for the presence of Grey Seals on the Cleethorpes coastline. A report is currently being produced; however, this report is not yet complete at the time of writing. Although the final report is not yet complete, some of the findings of the report and suggested actions for signage have been completed. Suggested actions for signage/education/interpretation improvements along the Cleethorpes Resort and coastline area are outlined in this section of the Habitat Management Plan.

Table 9: Table of potential locations for signs along the Cleethorpes Resort and coastline area, with details of the issues in the area and the details of the type of messaging and content best suited to be included on the signs. Maps of where these signs would be located can be found in Appendix 5.

Location	Issues specific to that area	Signage mitigation information
Rock Groyne/slipway	Recreational Disturbance (Jet skis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signage to be specific to each area and to include messaging that will be specific to the designated features and known recreational activity usage of the area.</li> </ul>
North Promenade (general footfall)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maps of the beach will be included at the locations clearly indicating the boundaries of the SSSI and nature reserves with details of how to protect the designated features and behave whilst using the beach.</li> <li>• Signage will also have 'you are here' information alongside suitable walking routes which will reduce the likely impact of disturbance and guide people away from sensitive areas.</li> </ul>
North Promenade (general footfall)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features.</li> <li>• Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance.</li> </ul>
Pier Slipway	Recreational Disturbance (Jet skis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant information around wildlife and the designated features to be included on Education boards at the sites. This will include both the</li> </ul>

Location	Issues specific to that area	Signage mitigation information
		<p>benefits and importance of the site and the impacts of disturbing/damaging the designated features. QR codes will be considered to link to other organisations and useful information sites.</p>
Pier Slipway	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pictorial messages to be included to negate any language barrier people may have.</li> </ul>
Pier Slipway	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Messages around the impact of littering will also be placed with the signage and will accompany the dog walking PSPO signage.</li> </ul>
Brighton Slipway	Recreational Disturbance (Jet skis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will also be specific signage for dog walking asking people to keep their dogs on leads in the outlined most sensitive areas. This will accompany the PSPO signage.</li> </ul>
Brighton Slipway	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pictorial messages to be included to negate any language barrier people may have.</li> <li>• Maps of the beach will be included at the locations clearly indicating the risks and their locations.</li> </ul>
Brighton Slipway	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features.</li> </ul> <p>Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance.</p>

Location	Issues specific to that area	Signage mitigation information
Brighton Slipway	Recreational Disturbance (Paddle Boarders)	Relevant information around wildlife and the designated features to be included on Education boards at the sites. This will include both the benefits and importance of the site and the impacts of disturbing/damaging the designated features. QR codes will be considered to link to other organisations and useful information sites.
Lower Kingsway (general footfall)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	No recreational disturbance signage required here.
Lower Kingsway (general footfall)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features.</li> <li>• Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance.</li> </ul> <p>Maps of the beach will be included at the locations clearly indicating the boundaries of the SSSI and nature reserves with details of how to protect the designated features and behave whilst using the beach.</p>
Leisure Centre	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pictorial messages to be included to negate any language barrier people may have.</li> </ul> <p>Maps of the beach will be included at the locations clearly indicating the risks and their locations.</p>

Location	Issues specific to that area	Signage mitigation information
Leisure Centre	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features.</li> <li>• Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance.</li> </ul> <p>Maps of the beach will be included at the locations clearly indicating the boundaries of the SSSI and nature reserves with details of how to protect the designated features and behave whilst using the beach.</p>
Meridian Path (1)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features.</li> <li>• Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance.</li> </ul> <p>Maps of the beach will be included at the locations clearly indicating the boundaries of the SSSI and nature reserves with details of how to protect the designated features and behave whilst using the beach.</p>
Meridian Path (1)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pictorial messages to be included to negate any language barrier people may have.</li> </ul> <p>Maps of the beach will be included at the locations clearly indicating the risks and their locations.</p>

Location	Issues specific to that area	Signage mitigation information
Meridian Path (2)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features.</li> <li>• Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance.</li> </ul> <p>Maps of the beach will be included at the locations clearly indicating the boundaries of the SSSI and nature reserves with details of how to protect the designated features and behave whilst using the beach.</p>
Meridian Path (2)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pictorial messages to be included to negate any language barrier people may have.</li> </ul> <p>Maps of the beach will be included at the locations clearly indicating the risks and their locations.</p>
Meridian Path (3)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features.</li> <li>• Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance.</li> </ul> <p>Maps of the beach will be included at the locations clearly indicating the boundaries of the SSSI and nature reserves with details of how to protect the designated features and behave whilst using the beach.</p>

Location	Issues specific to that area	Signage mitigation information
Meridian Path (3)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pictorial messages to be included to negate any language barrier people may have.</li> </ul> <p>Maps of the beach will be included at the locations clearly indicating the risks and their locations.</p>
Embankment (1)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features.</li> <li>• Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance.</li> </ul> <p>Maps of the beach will be included at the locations clearly indicating the boundaries of the SSSI and nature reserves with details of how to protect the designated features and behave whilst using the beach.</p>
Embankment (1)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pictorial messages to be included to negate any language barrier people may have.</li> </ul> <p>Maps of the beach will be included at the locations clearly indicating the risks and their locations.</p>
Embankment (2)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features.</li> <li>• Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance.</li> </ul>

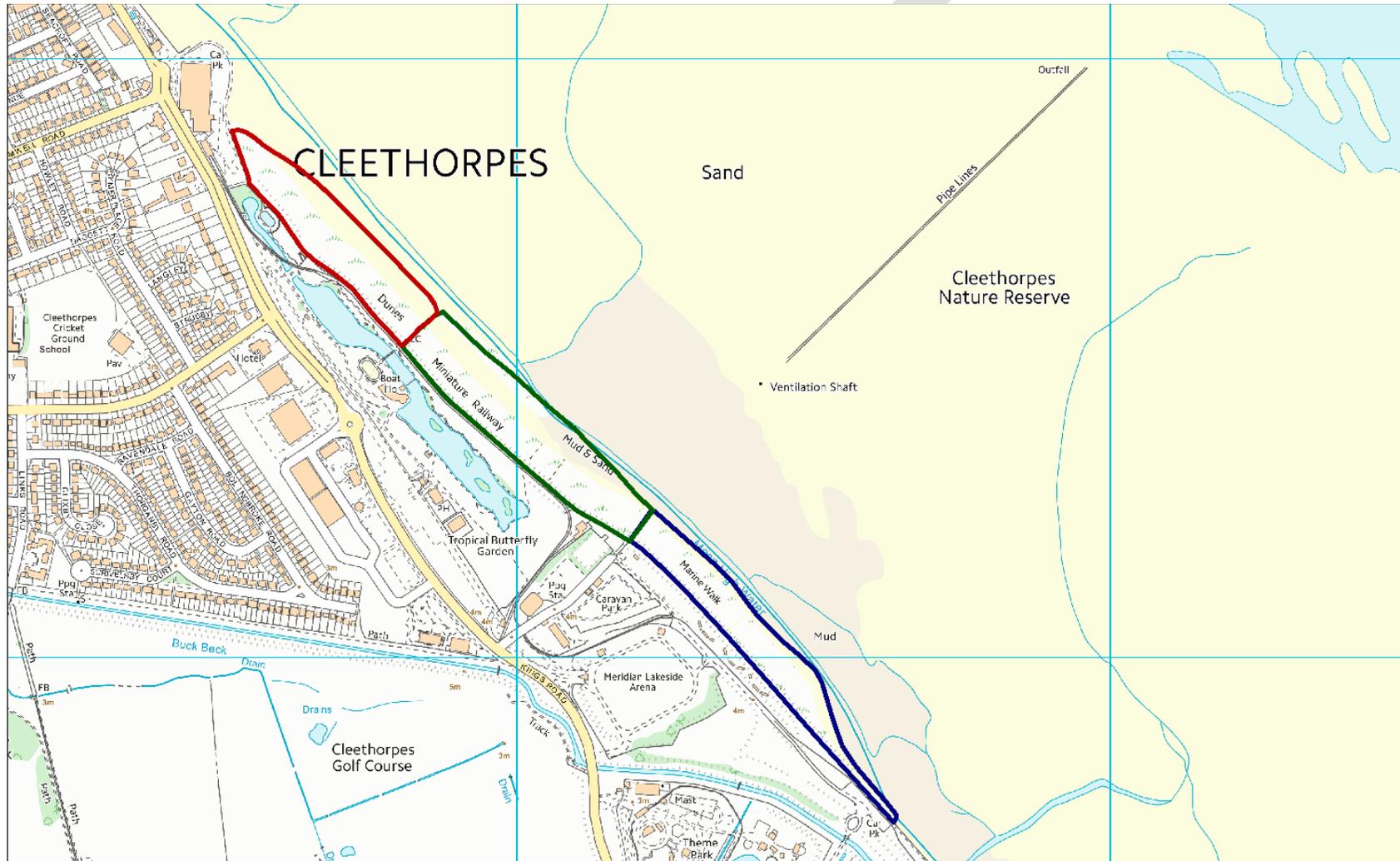
Location	Issues specific to that area	Signage mitigation information
		<p>Maps of the beach will be included at the locations clearly indicating the boundaries of the SSSI and nature reserves with details of how to protect the designated features and behave whilst using the beach.</p>
Embankment (2)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pictorial messages to be included to negate any language barrier people may have.</li> </ul> <p>Maps of the beach will be included at the locations clearly indicating the risks and their locations.</p>
Embankment nr to concrete steps (3)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features.</li> <li>• Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance.</li> </ul> <p>Maps of the beach will be included at the locations clearly indicating the boundaries of the SSSI and nature reserves with details of how to protect the designated features and behave whilst using the beach.</p>
Embankment nr to concrete steps (3)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pictorial messages to be included to negate any language barrier people may have.</li> </ul> <p>Maps of the beach will be included at the locations clearly indicating the risks and their locations.</p>

<b>Location</b>	<b>Issues specific to that area</b>	<b>Signage mitigation information</b>
Embankment nr to concrete steps (3)	Recreational Disturbance (Jet skis)	No jet ski access at this location – however – signage identifying local flora and fauna would be ideal.
Embankment nr to concrete steps (3)	Recreational Disturbance (Kite Surfers)	Relevant information around wildlife and the designated features to be included on Education boards at the sites. This will include both the benefits and importance of the site and the impacts of disturbing/damaging the designated features. QR codes will be considered to link to other organisations and useful information sites.
Embankment nr to concrete steps (3)	Recreational Disturbance (Paddle Boarders)	Same as above.
Yacht club car park (1)	Recreational Disturbance (dogs)	As above.
Yacht club car park (1)	Recreational disturbance (paragliders)	As above.
Yacht club car park (2)	Recreational Disturbance (dogs)	As above.
Yacht club car park (2)	Recreational disturbance (paragliders)	As above.
Kings Road Car Park	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features.</li> </ul>

Location	Issues specific to that area	Signage mitigation information
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance.</li> </ul> <p>Maps of the beach will be included at the locations clearly indicating the boundaries of the SSSI and nature reserves with details of how to protect the designated features and behave whilst using the beach.</p>

The recreational disturbance relevant signage may also include suggested walking routes for visitors onto the resort. Below is a proposed circular dog walking route which goes along the meridian path and an already established coastal footpath route which is regularly used by residents and resort visitors. It is hoped that encouraging people to use these routes would keep walkers away from the most sensitive areas of the resort. Information of the walk length and current position of the walker/beach user would be included with the displayed maps.

Figure 16: Map of proposed circular dog walking route on already established pathways along the Cleethorpes Resort. Key: Red – 1.02km circular walk, Blue – 1.46km circular walk, Green – 1.16km circular walk.



The map above identifies circular walks on already used and established dirt trails and footpaths that have been used by locals and tourists for decades and link to marine walk. These circular walks are an example of walking routes that can be identified to manage footfall along the most sensitive areas of the designated features. Although this may cause more people to use these footpaths in the most sensitive areas, it is hoped that effective signage would encourage proper use of the footpaths and trails. This would then work to encourage people who already use these establish footpaths and trails to stick to the walking routes and avoid walking through sensitive features and habitats, where pathways are not established, potentially disturbing and damaging the habitat. It is through walking routes like this that footfall could be managed, and responsible use of the designated features could be achieved, particularly in the most sensitive areas could be.

### **Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)**

Local Authorities were granted powers to introduce Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) in 2014 through section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. PSPOs provide discretionary powers to deal with nuisances or problems which harm the local community's quality of life. The [Order](#) was introduced on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 and will have effect for a 3 year time period commencing on this date. The Order will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis and any amendments and further measures deemed appropriate, will be introduced following consultation with Natural England.

### **PSPO Signage**

Signage has been installed at key entrances on to the beach to informs visitors of prohibited activities across the resort and the penalty for breaching the order.

### **Educational Signage**

The signage review and implementation will be completed over the lifespan of this plan and will primarily aim to educate people on the importance of the estuary and the designated features. It is hoped this will encourage people to use the Cleethorpes Resort and coastline in a responsible manner which does not have significant impact on the designated features or important features of the estuary.

There will also be promotion of other green and open spaces for use by walkers and dog walkers to encourage the use of other areas and reduce the pressure of recreational disturbance along the coastline. Cleethorpes Country Park is one of the main green spaces that will be promoted for mitigation, as well as other nearby parks and Local Nature Reserves, Public Rights of Way, nature trails, and spaces to explore further afield such as the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

### **Review of Car Park Proposals and Signage**

A planned review of the car parks and signage within North East Lincolnshire is scheduled to take place during this plans lifespan. The review will aid NELC's strategic aim of steering people away from environmentally sensitive areas, including some of the areas of the Cleethorpes Resort, and encouraging more footfall in some of the other visitor parks around the borough. It is hoped that the car park and signage review will enable a greater strategic approach to the management of footfall in the designated areas of the Cleethorpes Coastline, reducing the likelihood of recreational disturbance in highly sensitive areas.

### **Increased Resort Team Engagement**

NELC will increase the engagement of the resort team, with visitors and residents in the resort, on the topic of recreational disturbance. The Resort Team will speak to members of the public daily and engage with anyone who is observed to be causing recreational disturbance. Engagement around sensitive areas in the resort will also be taken up by the resort team with members of the public to try and spread awareness of the sensitive nature of areas in and around the resort. This will actively promote and educate on the need for responsible behaviour while in the resort to ensure the protection of the special features of the designated sites. Regular users of the resort who require permits, such as jet skiers, will also be spoken to when being given their permits about the need for responsible behaviour while out on the water, which will include avoiding sensitive locations and protected bird and marine species.

The NELC Resort Team will also be given 'key point' training sessions on recreational disturbance so that they are fully up to date on the impact of recreational disturbance, what counts as a recreational disturbance incident, and why it is important to manage recreational disturbance in the Cleethorpes Resort.

### **Increased Communications and Engagement**

Communications will be sent out to ensure people are aware of which activities are permitted on the protected designated areas (as outlined in section 5 of this plan) and which activities are not. Communications will also be sent out to encourage people to use other parks and open spaces for recreational activity, such as Cleethorpes Country Park which has a designated dog swimming area, it is hoped this will alleviate the pressure on the designated areas of the Cleethorpes coastline. NELC will continue to produce an annual communications plan which will be enacted. Where communication efforts can be improved and increased, the annual communications plan will reflect this.

### **Review of the Codes of Conduct**

The codes of conduct will be reviewed alongside and in consultation with the [HNP](#). Reviewing the codes of conduct will help provide more targeted and up to date messaging as well as provide a more coordinated approach to tackling recreational disturbance issues across the Humber Estuary. Working with partners such as the HNP, RSPB and Natural England through the Cleethorpes to Tetney Local Recreational Disturbance meetings, NELC will work to ensure codes of conduct are fit for purpose and deliver a consistent message about how to use the estuary responsibly when taking part in recreational activity. The review will also provide an opportunity to ensure codes of conduct educate users of the estuary about its significance and why it is important that we protect the designated features of the estuary.

Those carrying out recreational activities will also be expected to do so in accordance with the codes of conduct specified by the recreational organisations. These are as follows: -

- [British Stand Up Paddle Association](#)
- [British Canoeing](#)
- [The Drone & Model Aircraft Code](#)
- [National Council for Metal Detecting](#)

### **Improved Communications and Public Engagement**

NELC will use more targeted communications on wider issues such as, but not limited to, jet skiing or paramotoring. Targeted communications will also be used on issues where there is an identified need to focus on a certain disturbing/damaging activity that has been identified through the evidence gathering methods set out in section 6.3 of this plan. To ensure targeted communications are effective and cover disturbing/damaging activities that may impact or have originated from other areas of the Humber Estuary, NELC will broaden partnership

working with our other partners around the Humber Estuary: HNP, RSPB, Civil Aviation Authority, Natural England, and other relevant authorities that have a responsibility to ensure the protection of the estuaries designated features. With a broadened partnership approach, it will provide consistent messaging across the Humber Estuary and limit the cross-boundary impacts between relevant authorities responsible for the management and conservation of the estuary.

### **Further Mitigation Measures**

Where there is an identified need from the evidence we collect, that recreational disturbance has become a significant issue for the designated features of the SSSI/SPA/SAC/Ramsar sites of the Cleethorpes Coastline section of the Humber Estuary and other measures have not worked to reduce and prevent the significant disturbance issue, other mitigation measures will be triggered by NELC. These will be measures such as a revision of PSPOs or Bylaws that are in place on the Cleethorpes Coastline and will be specific and targeted measures that will aim to tackle the disturbing activity that is evidenced to be causing significant disturbance and/or damage to the designated features. Such measures will need to go through NELC's formal process to be adopted by the council and will need to be thoroughly evidenced as to why there is a need for such measures to be put in place. However, as a competent authority, NELC is committed to working with our partner organisations and neighbouring local authorities to ensure we meet our legal duty to manage the SSSI/SPA/SAC/EMS/Ramsar sites and will take further actions where it is deemed necessary, such as the implementation/revision of existing legal enforcement measures.

## **6.6 Monitoring**

### **Visitor Numbers**

Monitoring of visitor numbers using footfall data will provide a good indication of the numbers of people in proximity of the protected sites and provides a proxy indicator of the likelihood of disturbance. Data from these counts can be used together with the records of disturbance effects to target specific action linked to increasing numbers or specific activities/events.

Quarterly bird and habitat monitoring will be carried out following the methodology in the Footprint Ecology Report. This will be used alongside recreational disturbance incidence data gathered by the Humber Nature Partnership and the Resort Team. NELC will also use further habitat and species data collected Humber wide to inform our decision making on the necessary measures that need to be implemented to manage recreational disturbance. We will collaborate with Natural England, Neighbouring Authorities and Regional partner organisations where possible to ensure we contribute to an estuary wide approach to managing recreational disturbance.

### **Disturbance**

Monitoring of recreational disturbance will be carried out with the evidence gathering methodology in the 2014 Footprint Ecology Report and will involve NELCs Resort and Ecology Teams as well as collaboration with external partners through the HNP. The Cleethorpes to Tetney Local Recreational Disturbance group will work in partnership to monitor and discuss any recreational disturbance issue across the Cleethorpes to Tetney section of the Humber Estuary. The five-yearly review of this plan will also function to monitor long term trends in data that have been gathered through surveying, to ensure that any longer-term issue that is being caused by recreational disturbance can be identified and appropriate measures can be taken to mitigate against it. This will also provide oversight as to whether increased footfall from housing

developments and increased visitor numbers are causing greater recreational disturbance risk than would normally be anticipated and will allow NELC the ability to identify where there is an increased risk and how best to manage the risk.

Along with the WeBS survey data, we will also use footfall data and the 'active' Humber Nature Partnership monitoring reports so that a continuous evidence basis can be gathered over the duration of this plan. If the surveying and evidence that has been gathered indicates that there is a need for more immediate intervention for recreational disturbance measures, then action will be taken immediately.

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## **7. Appendices**

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### **Appendix 1: Cleethorpes Habitat Communication Plan**

The Cleethorpes Habitat Communications Plan outlines our strategy for engaging and communicating with users of the Cleethorpes coastline around the protection and management of the SSSI/SPA/SAC and Ramsar sites. The Plan acknowledges the challenge of managing a lively beach resort alongside an internationally important designated site. The Plan aims to increase awareness of the importance of the site and encouraging ways in which people can enjoy Cleethorpes without damaging or disturbing our unique environment.

# Cleethorpes Habitat Communications Plan 2021

## CONTENTS

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Objectives**
- 3. Target audience**
- 4. Key messages**
- 5. Communications strategies**
- 6. Evaluation**
- 7. Key contacts**

## INTRODUCTION

Cleethorpes and the Humber Estuary is an internationally important place for wetland birds. The area is a vital stopover on the East Atlantic Flyway, a flight corridor that connects the Arctic, Europe, and Africa. Birds fly thousands of miles to escape the frozen Arctic to winter on the estuary.

More than 150,000 wetland birds rely on the estuary for safe feeding and roosting grounds, especially over the winter and during spring and autumn migrations. The bird populations are so important that the estuary is designated as a Special Protected Area, Special Area for Conservation, European Marine Site, and is recognised by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands as a wetland of international importance.

To meet legislation as the Competent Authority, we must protect and manage potential damage and disturbance to the special interest features of the SSSI, which starts by letting everyone know where it is, why it's important, and how to enjoy it respectfully. This is also an instruction from Natural England who give us the legal assent to carry out any activity, event, planned project in the SSSI or SSSI impact zone.

After covering vast distances from places such as the Arctic and South Africa, birds arrive in urgent need of food and rest. The food provided by the estuary is vital to their survival when they arrive, and to build themselves up for the return journey. Birds are easily disturbed and waste energy when they take off and fly. If they are repeatedly disturbed, many of these birds may not survive the winter or make their journey back to their summer breeding grounds. This can drastically affect the population figures.

Cleethorpes is also a hugely popular seaside resort and a destination of choice for water sport enthusiasts. There are few other places where protected natural habitat is so close to a busy tourist destination. This communications plan supports the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan in balancing the needs of sensitive natural habitat and a lively coastal resort.

## 2. COMMUNICATION AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- Aim: To mitigate the impact of typical coastal resort activities on wildlife and sensitive natural habitat.
- Objective: To deliver a no-to-low-budget, year-round external communications campaign to educate people about the area's international importance for wildlife and to reduce bird disturbance.
- Objective: To deliver internal communication and updates to relevant staff and members on the progress and success of the project.

### 3. TARGET AUDIENCE

The primary external audience is the 73,000 households in North East Lincolnshire.

Other key audiences include holiday makers and day visitors to the resort, accommodation and transport providers, resort businesses, coastal agencies, neighbouring local authorities, water sports enthusiasts, voluntary and third sector groups, dog walkers, wildlife organisations and environmental interest groups.

Internal audiences include council members, Environmental Services staff, resort management team, regeneration team, and tourism officers (Discover NEL).

### 4. KEY MESSAGES

The tone of the communications will:

- Be positive and encourage people to respect wildlife and the local environment;
- Be factual and friendly;
- Use clear and simple language;
- Be action orientated; and
- Encourage behaviour change.

Messaging to support the campaign will be critical. Key messages will be developed to communicate the following:

- The unique environment in Cleethorpes is vital to the survival of hundreds of thousands of wetland birds, let's look after them.
- We want everyone to enjoy what Cleethorpes has to offer in a way that respects wildlife and the unique environment.

## 5. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

### Behaviour Change campaign

- Work with the insights team to research and develop a campaign aimed at encouraging people to enjoy the area's unique environment with respect and without undermining the conservation objectives endangering wildlife.
- Develop a calendar highlighting seasonal activity and events to promote the international importance of the natural habitat for bird migration. Social media and PR activity.
- Generate positive coverage about the natural habitat in local and national media (press, radio & TV) and on social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram), including regular media releases to highlight success stories and action taken.
- Work with ecology and resort management staff to promote the work they do in looking after the environment and wildlife.
- Encourage the makers of Spring watch/Autumn watch or similar national TV programmes to visit the area.
- Use media stories to capture the attention of general audiences, including the public, councillors, and community groups.
- Share relevant campaign material from regional and national ecology organisations.
- Highlight any unusual/newsworthy stories to create fun, engaging content on social media.
- Promote the results of any enforcement action taken against those who cause bird disturbance.
- Mitigate negative publicity. Manage all enquiries from the media regarding the events, especially in respect of news releases and editorial, radio (and TV if appropriate) in liaison with key team members and portfolio holder.
- Update and simplify information on the council website, intranet and Discover NEL website.
- Use creative video content to generate engagement with audiences on social media.
- Encourage businesses, community groups and other organisations to share campaign materials.

### Other campaign activity

- Improved signage and information boards
- Educational visits and guided walks for schools and community groups
- Info packs for accommodation providers (e.g., Thorpe Park and Tingdene) and local business
- Engagement with water sports and beach activity businesses and enthusiasts
- Events and activity days

## 6. EVALUATION

### Media monitoring

Monitor print, broadcast, and online media coverage during the wintering period.

Media coverage which requires urgent attention or consideration will be flagged.

How do we measure the effectiveness of publicity?

- Monitor the effectiveness of campaign activity in reducing bird disturbance
- Monitor the effectiveness of campaign activity in reducing litter
- Positive stories about the area in the media

Rebuttals and on-going media requests / coverage

These will be negotiated through the communications lead. Interview requests will be placed with the most relevant spokesperson.

## 7. KEY CONTACTS

- Rachel Graham, Ecology Manager
- Levi Anderson-Jordan, Environment Strategy Officer
- Dee Hitter, Head of Environmental Sustainability
- Kath Jickells, Assistant Director Environment
- Scott Snowden, Resort Manager
- Sean Topham, Communications Advisor
- Cllr Stewart Swinburn, portfolio holder Environment and Transport

## **Appendix 2: Slipway Regulation Form**

Anyone wishing to obtain a permit to use the slipways in Cleethorpes must abide by the conditions outlined in the Regulations. The following form is presented to each permit holder, which includes specific bird sensitive areas which must be avoided. Permit holders are required to declare that they have read the form and agree to the conditions outlined. Failure to do so may result in the permit being revoked.



### **NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

#### **Slipway Regulations**

The launching of vessel / craft from Cleethorpes slipways is under control by the following organisation.

North East Lincolnshire Council  
Environment  
Resort Management Team  
Resort Office  
139 Central Promenade  
Cleethorpes  
DN35 8SE

It is preferred that all vessel / craft avoid launching from Brighton Street slipway whenever possible, to ensure the slipway is kept clear for RNLI emergency use.

All boats fishing must abide by the Sea Fisheries Regulations set out in the North Eastern Sea Fisheries Byelaws.

#### **RULES FOR THE LAUNCHING OF VESSEL / CRAFTS**

Rules for launching of vessel / crafts and the operation of said vessel / crafts from the controlled slipways in Cleethorpes.

Vessel / crafts are those which can support one or more persons on water and having mechanical device capable of giving propulsion.

OR

Any vessel / craft capable of supporting one or more persons on the water that is greater in size than a topper dinghy, windsurfer board or small inflatable, including jet ski.

**ALL VESSEL / CRAFTS MUST BE COVERED BY PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR AT LEAST £3M**

### **PRIOR TO LAUNCHING**

Day launch vessel / crafts may only be launched from the slipways at Cleethorpes within our working hours (0900hrs-1800hrs). The Resort Officers have complete discretion as to whether any vessel / craft may or may not be launched.

#### **No vessel / craft will be allowed to launch if:**

- If a valid certificate of insurance cannot be produced for visual inspection
- The launch fee had not been paid
- Proof of identification cannot be given
- Sufficient identification marks are not present on vessel / craft.
- If it is unsuitable for sea usage.
- If it is not equipped with mandatory safety aids.
- If the weather conditions are deemed unsuitable.
- If an excessive number of passengers are to be carried.
- If the person in charge appears to be incapable of operating the vessel / craft
- If the trailer carrying the vessel / craft is no longer, because of deterioration, capable of transporting the vessel / craft in a safe manner.
- If the person in charge has been previously in breach of launch conditions of by-laws relating to water safety.

The person in charge of the vessel / craft shall grant the Resort Officers, or any other authorised official, all reasonable facilities to inspect the vessel / craft and any equipment therein.

**THE DECISION OF THE RESORT MANAGER/DEPUTY RESORT MANAGER or NOMINATED OFFICER WILL BE REGARDED AS FINAL**

Notwithstanding the authority of the Resort Manager / Deputy Resort Manager or nominated Officer to prevent launching, it is stressed that the personal responsibility for ensuring the vessel / craft is sea worthy, has the required safety equipment on board and is not overloaded with excess passengers, lies with the person in charge of the vessel / craft. Due regard must be given to all advice from the Resort Manager / Deputy Resort manager or nominated Officer of potential or actual hazards to mariners (exclusion areas, etc.) and weather forecasts.

All yearly permit holders must clearly identify their vessel / crafts with the identification mark allocated by the Resort Officer. The mark should have number(s) at least 15 to 20 cm s in height and be positioned high on both sides of the bow. The allocated mark must also be painted on the trailer just aft of the ball joint.

Recommended Safety Equipment on **ALL** vessel / crafts:

- Lifejackets meeting British Standard Specification for each person on board. Buoyancy aids may be worn when operating at a minimum distance from the tide edge and not intending to cruise in deep waters. Whilst on board children **MUST** wear lifejackets.
- Suitable anchor attached to a chain and minimum length of 25 fathoms (150 feet) of rope (or suitable tow rope for jet skis).
- Flares, handheld type; at least two of which must be within the expiry date shown. Mini flares are acceptable, but we strongly advise that hand help type is available on the vessel / craft.
- Compass - fixed or handheld
- Bailer - if vessel / craft not equipped with self-bailer.
- Whistle on lanyard- preferably on each lifejacket.
- Fire extinguisher.
- Paddles or spare engine (boats)

No vessel / crafts shall be launched or used on controlled slipways, beaches, and sea unless there is in force, in relation to the vessel / craft, an insurance policy covering third party risks. Either unlimited in amount, or with a minimum fixed sum to be advised on booking fees each season, per accident by the major marine insurance companies.

The vessel / craft when in use must be in charge of a competent person, with adequate insurance cover who shall at all times operate the vessel / craft in a careful and prudent manner and not cause any nuisance or danger to any person or vessel / craft. Due regard must be given to the rules of navigation at sea, the local by-laws governing speed restrictions and local "Warning to Mariners" notices.

The person in charge of any vessel / craft, who intends to operate beyond visual range of the observers at Cleethorpes, must notify the Coastguard of their intended route and estimated time of return.

Save in exceptional cases, **ALL** vessel / crafts **MUST** return to the site they launched from. Should it be necessary to beach or seek shelter elsewhere, H.M Coastguard (999) **MUST BE NOTIFIED** of the whereabouts of the vessel / craft and crew.

Motor vehicles are not allowed on the slipways, promenades, or beaches in the authority of the Resort except the vessel / craft / craft-towing vehicle. It shall be condition of consent that the instructions of the Resort Manager/ Deputy Resort Manager are complied with.

### **GOING TO SEA**

All vessel / crafts shall proceed directly out to sea, no more than 8 knots down the Red buoyed channels until well clear of the bathers. A sharp look out for persons bathing, paddling, or using the sea must always be kept, and when approaching the beach. The vessel / craft should approach with only sufficient speed to maintain steerage. Extreme caution should always be displayed, with a readiness to take avoiding action should the circumstances warrant it. Except when launching or approaching the beach via authorised launching channels, **NO PERSONS IN CHARGE OF OR HAVING CONTROL MAY ALLOW THE VESSEL / CRAFT TO ENTER THE PUBLIC SAFETY ZONE, (UNLESS IN CASE OF EMERGENCY) WHICH EXTENDS SEAWARDS FROM THE TIDE EDGE FOR 200 METERS ON ALL BEACHES, AS IDENTIFIED BY THE COLOURED SAFETY BUOYS.**

All vessel / crafts when towing a water skier must have two occupants, one to act as a helmsman and forward outlook, the other to watch the skier.

**WARNING:** Should notification be received from H.M Coastguard that the conditions are likely to become dangerous, the Resort Officers reserves the right to refuse all launching.

Any dangerous incidents or occurrences **MUST** be reported to the Resort Officers.

- At no time will you use your key to let another person(s) through the gate.
- You are responsible of locking the slipway gate behind you on entering and exiting the slipway gate.
- Your permit must be fully visible in your launch vehicle windscreen.
- Your launch vehicle and trailer **MUST NOT** block any part of the slipway and be parked over to the side, so it **DOES NOT** cause any obstruction.
- You will launch your vessel / craft / craft between the red marker buoys at a limit of 8 Knots (9mph), you will not encroach the area indicated by the Yellow marker buoys at any time as this can endanger swimmers and non-vessel / craft / craft users.
- Vessel / craft / crafts will **NOT** go under the Pier.

### **Protected species and habitats**

The coastline of North East Lincolnshire is nationally designated and protected as part of the Humber Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and internationally designated and protected as the Humber Special Protection Area (SPA), Humber Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Humber Ramsar site, and European Marine Site (EMS), all of which protect the species and habitats within them because of their national and international importance.

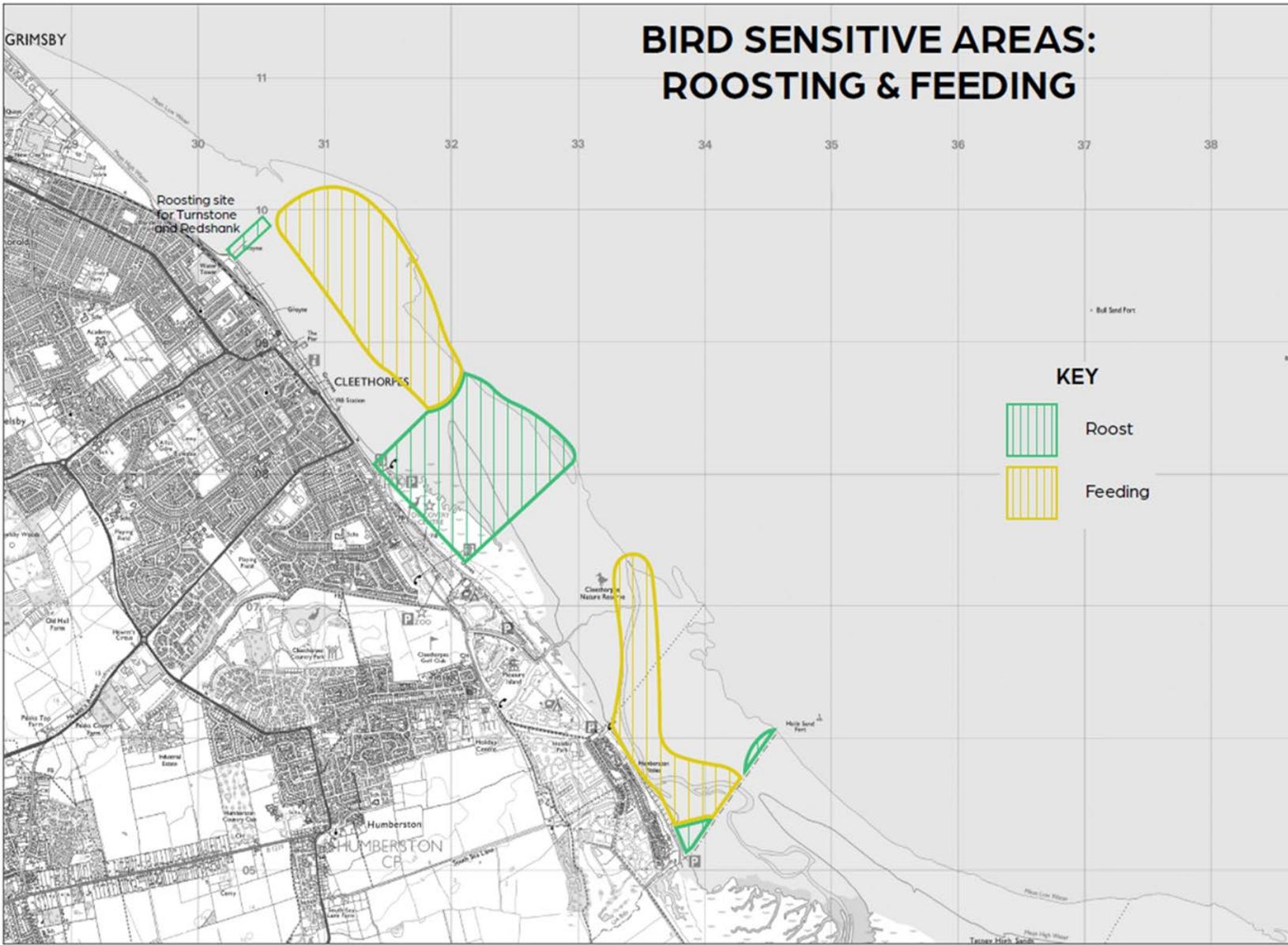
### **Bird Sensitive Areas**

Bird Sensitive Areas are **to be avoided**. The Bird Sensitive Areas identified are areas that are used by large numbers of protected SPA birds, either as a roost at high tide, where birds rest, or as a feeding or nesting ground. The birds are protected by law because their populations are on the decline and their survival is threatened. They fly very long distances, some travel 1000's of miles, to come here to feed on our rich mudflats and saltmarsh. Preventing these birds from roosting or feeding, by making them take flight or by causing them distress, is an offence and puts their survival further at risk by preventing them from getting enough food and energy to complete the return journey. The offence applies to any protected birds on the coast and the Bird Sensitive Areas are where the nationally and internationally important largest flocks usually are, but small numbers of birds at any location on the coast are equally **protected by law and must not be subjected to disturbance**.

Please tick the box to confirm that you are aware that causing disturbance or damage to the Humber protected species and habitats can result in the launch permit being revoked and puts you at risk of prosecution under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Please tick the box to confirm that you have read the above text and agree to avoid disturbing wildlife and damaging habitats.

Please tick the box to confirm that you have read the above text and agree to avoid disturbing wildlife and damaging habitats.



## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Persons using the vessel / craft launching facilities at any of the locations do so at their own risk. The authority will accept no liability for claims, proceedings, damages, charges, and costs howsoever caused, whether in relation to property, the death of or injury caused to any persons, whether directly or indirectly as a result of or in connection with the boat launching facilities insofar as the same results from negligence of the council, its employees, or agents.

These conditions may be suspended, varied, or withdrawn at any time. Any permit issued may be withdrawn or cancelled forthwith should the person to whom it is issued be in breach of any of the conditions set out in this document.

North East Lincolnshire Council will use the personal data you have provided for the purpose of processing your application and managing the slipway launch permits scheme in accordance with the Data Protection Act at all times. We will keep your personal data protected and secure and not use it for any other purpose, except where required or permitted by the Data Protection Act or other legislation. Further information about how the Council use your personal data and your rights can be found on our website.

## **GENERAL SEA SAFETY ADVICE**

The RNLI lifeboat crew based at Brighton Slipway is frequently on hand to offer sea safety advice, publications are also available on request. Call Freephone 0800 3280600 for free RNLI SEA CHECK or visit [www.rnli.org.uk](http://www.rnli.org.uk)

### VHF RADIO TELEPHONY

To owners of small Vessel / crafts/vessel / craft / craft equipped with VHF Transmitting and receiving apparatus for use on International Maritime Band Frequencies.

Calls to HUMBER COASTGUARD= Channel 16- please note that after the initial call you may be requested to switch to channel 67 for routine traffic.

MAYDAY calls MUST also be made on channel 16

Mobile Telephones

Vessel / crafts without VHF radios dial 999 and ask for Coastguard.

All Emergencies ring 999 and ask for Coastguard or relevant service.

I am signing to acknowledge, that I have read and understood these Regulations and that I will adhere them.

Print name .....

Sign.....

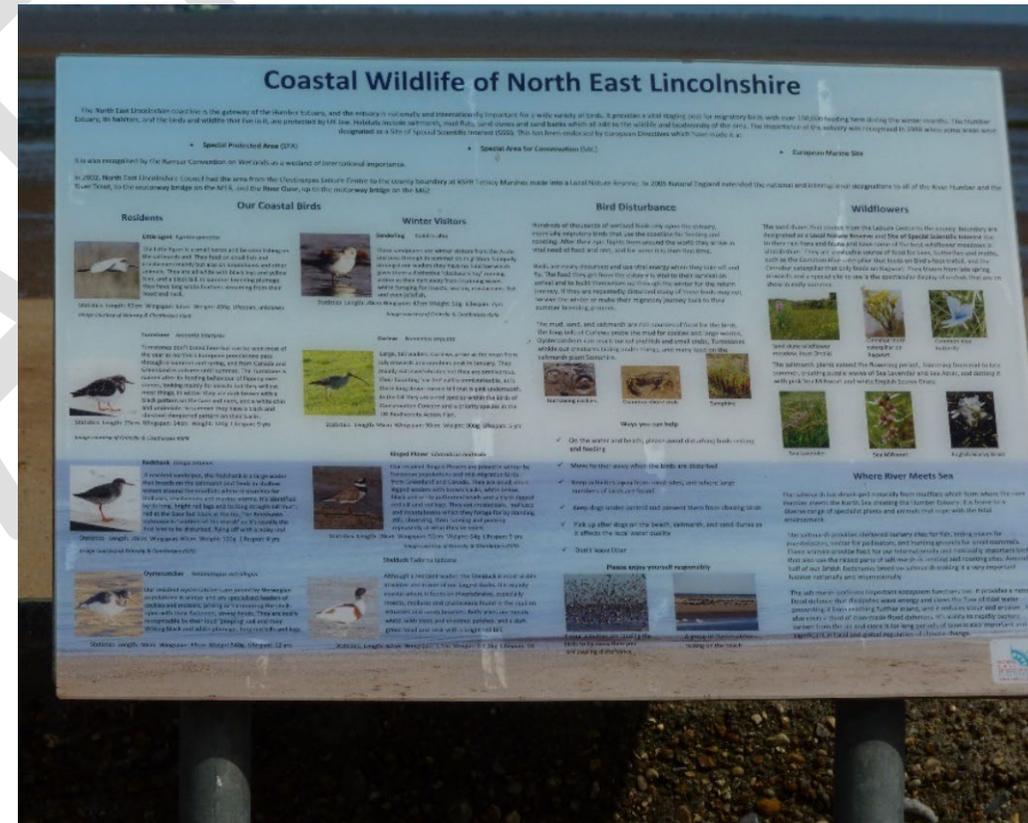
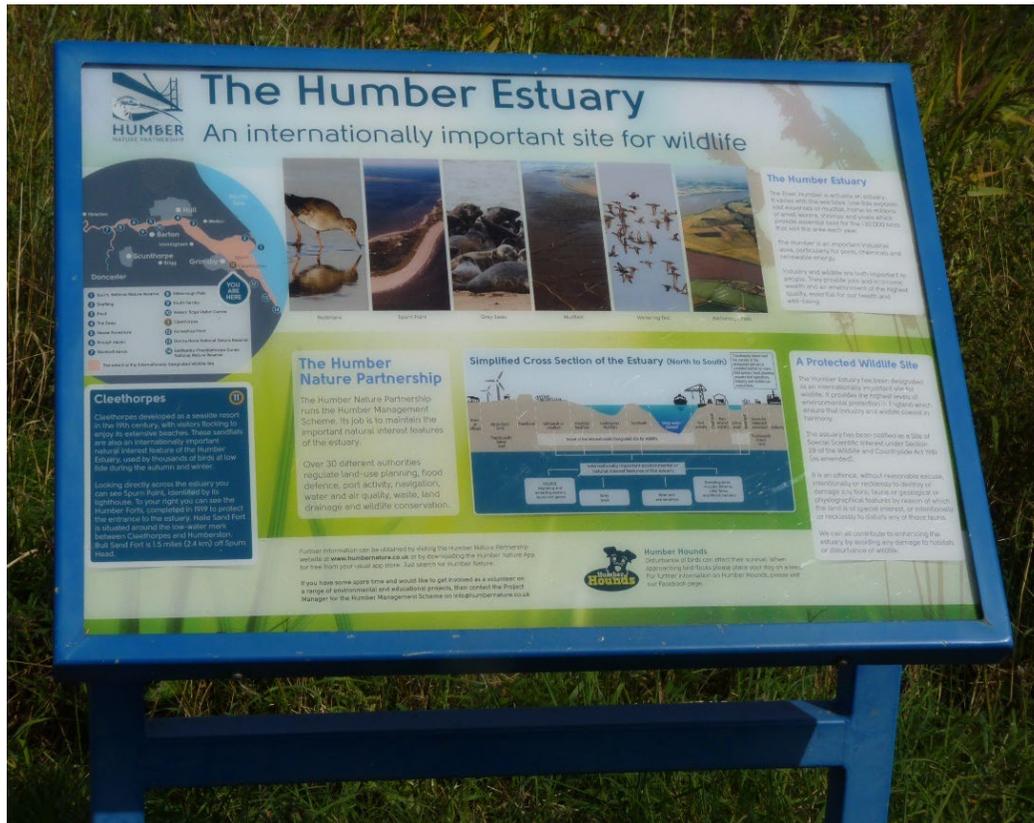
Date.....

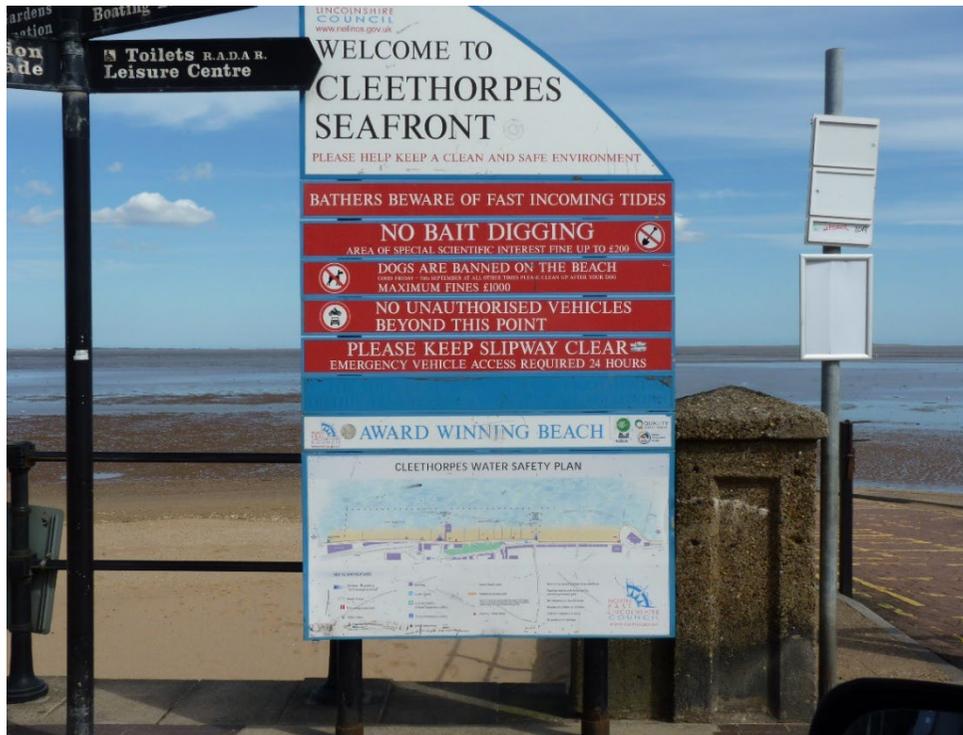
Resort Officer ..... Date .....

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## Appendix 3: Photographs of Current Signage across the Cleethorpes Resort

The following is an example of the signage that is currently in place across the resort. These signs seek to educate visitors to the resort on the importance of the Humber Estuary and outline activities that are not permitted to be carried out in the resort.





**Appendix 4: Humber Nature Partnership: Draft Local Recreational Disturbance Management Plan – Cleethorpes – Tetney**

This Plan has been developed by the Humber Nature Partnership as a strategy for managing recreational disturbance between Cleethorpes and Tetney. This Plan will support the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan.



Draft Cleethorpes to Tetney  
Local Recreational Disturbance  
Management Plan

2019 -2021

# Cleethorpes to Tetney Local Recreational Disturbance Management Plan

**Draft 5 November 2019**

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Humber Recreational Disturbance Management Strategy for the Humber European Marine Site recommends that identified 'hot-spots' where recreational disturbance has been identified as impacting on local SPA bird populations should be subject to a Local Recreational Disturbance Management Plan (LoRDMaP).
- 1.2 Designation of Cleethorpes Beach as part of the Humber SPA has, since inception, created special requirements for dealing with recreational management at this location by North East Lincolnshire Council. In recent years there have been a number of incidents of disturbance to the large roost that develops on the sand bar and saltmarsh at the eastern end of the Pleasure Beach, prompting a call for review of the current arrangements.
- 1.3 A further long-standing issue relates to disturbance of birds on the large expanse of saltmarsh and the coastal lagoons of RSPB's nature reserve at Tetney.

## **2.0 Background Information**

- 2.1 Work commissioned by HNP and carried out by Footprint Ecology via a series of studies between 2010 and 2014/15 provide a detailed inventory and distribution of recreational activity across the estuary and, via counts from key locations, some indication of numbers of people involved in these activities. This work identified key areas where recreational activities impacted on local SPA bird populations and those activities which created the most impact i.e., initiated the most flights by disturbed feeding or roosting birds.
- 2.2 Cleethorpes and Humberston Fitties (adjacent to Tetney) were both identified as 'hotspots'. Within the Footprint Ecology work – dog walking, with dogs off leads, prompted by far the most flight responses by birds
- 2.3 Since the above work, evidence of more recent impact has come from individual reports of large disturbance events at Cleethorpes or from reports from RSPB Reserve Staff at Tetney.
- 2.4 Recreational activities on Cleethorpes Beach are assented by Natural England via Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan a 5 year rolling plan.
- 2.5 The proposed England Coast Path will almost certainly pass through or adjacent to the key areas to be addressed in this LRDMP.
- 2.6 A review of dog walking issues was undertaken at Tetney by an Access Consultant (Steve Jenkinson) commissioned by the Natural England Coast Path Team. A draft report with recommendations has been produced.
- 2.7 NELC undertook a consultation exercise on the issue of dog walking on open spaces across the district.

2.8 Multiple organisations and multiple Council executive departments are involved in management of key coastal locations. All of these sectors should be aware of the key strategies and desired outcomes. Success will be maximised where there are agreed and shared approaches and outcomes.

### **3.0 Statement of issues**

In order to help target actions appropriately and to optimise positive outcomes, it is necessary to identify the issues as accurately as possible in terms of location, timing, and recreation type. The following are identified as the key issues to be addressed.

#### **Cleethorpes**

- 3.1 Disturbance of the major hightide roost site at the eastern end of the Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach by jet skiers
- 3.2 Disturbance of the major hightide roost site at the eastern end of the Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach by paddleboarders and canoeists.
- 3.3 Disturbance of the major hightide roost site at the eastern end of the Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach by walkers
- 3.4 Disturbance of the major hightide roost site at the eastern end of the Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach by dog walkers
- 3.5 Disturbance of the major hightide roost site at the eastern end of the Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach by drones
- 3.6 Disturbance of the major hightide roost site at the eastern end of the Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach by paramotors and light aircraft.

#### **Tetney**

- 3.7 Disturbance of breeding waders by dog walkers on the saltmarsh at Tetney
- 3.8 Disturbance of breeding waders by paddleboarders and canoeists within the saltmarsh at Tetney
- 3.9 Disturbance of roosting and feeding bird flocks by dog walkers on the outer saltmarsh at Tetney RSPB reserve
- 3.10 Disturbance of roosting and feeding bird flocks by low flying paramotors on the outer saltmarsh at Tetney
- 3.11 Disturbance of the major hightide roosts at Tetney by drones
- 3.12 Disturbance of the major hightide roosts at Tetney by paramotors and light aircraft.

### **4.0 Map based information**

- 4.1 A map has been produced identifying the key bird use of the SPA within the areas being considered and the access points and main routes used by recreational activities of concern.

### **5.0 Precise behavioural changes required**

In order to ensure best opportunity for favourable change, the following behavioural changes by site users are to be sought. These relate to the main issues identified above.

#### **Cleethorpes**

- 5.1 Jet skiers no longer approach the main roosting areas of flocks of birds at the eastern end of the pleasure beach causing them to fly off nor preventing them from settling in their usual location.
- 5.2 Paddleboarders no longer approach the main roosting areas of flocks of birds at the eastern end of the pleasure beach causing them to fly off nor preventing them from settling in their usual location.
- 5.3 Walkers no longer approach the main roosting areas of flocks of birds at the eastern end of the pleasure beach causing them to fly off nor preventing them from settling in their usual location.
- 5.4 Dog Walkers no longer approach nor allow their dogs to approach the main roosting areas of flocks of birds at the eastern end of the pleasure beach causing them to fly off nor preventing them from settling in their usual location.
- 5.5 Drone, paramotor and light aircraft pilots no longer fly low enough over the main roost site at the eastern end of the pleasure beach causing birds to fly off.

**Tetney**

- 5.6 Dog walkers no longer encroach nor allow their dogs to encroach upon the saltmarshes at Tetney during the bird breeding season
- 5.7 Paddleboarders and canoeists no longer use the main creeks within the saltmarsh at Tetney during the bird breeding season
- 5.8 Dog Walkers no longer approach nor allow their dogs to approach the main roosting and feeding areas of flocks of birds on the outer saltmarsh causing them to fly off nor preventing them from settling in their usual location.
- 5.9 Jet skiers no longer follow the channel into the saltmarsh disturbing feeding birds in the vicinity.
- 5.10 Pilots of drones, paramotors and light aircraft no longer fly low enough over the outer saltmarsh at Tetney to disturb roosting birds.

Given the number of issues and target groups involved, an attempt has been made to prioritise the issues and locations. See Table 1 below

Table 1 Prioritisation of Issues and Locations

Priority

High

Medium
Low

Disturbance by	Dog walkers	Walkers	Jet skiers	Paddleboarders/canoists	Drone users	Paramotors	Light aircraft pilots
Location							
Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Cleethorpes Leisure Centre to Buck Beck	High	High	Medium	High	Low	Medium	Low
Buck Beck to Humberston Fitties	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	High	Low
Tetney	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	High

### 6.0 Recommended actions to drive improvement

Some key questions used to develop thinking on the key plan issues

- How do we inform visitors of the key sensitive locations?
- How will visitors know how close they can go without disturbing the birds?
- Are these issues sufficiently seasonal or time-limited to enable a seasonal or time-limited approach to the problem i.e., not seeking to implement permanent restrictions?
- Is it possible to address these issues through recreation specific actions?
- Can these issues be tackled by education, or will they require some more enforceable restrictions?

### Research and Analysis

6.1 Finalise and simplify map illustrating the most sensitive bird areas

#### **Policy Change**

6.2 Create recommendations for changes to dog management

6.3 Review the Cleethorpes LNR Habitat Management Plan and embed key recommendations within it.

#### **Advocacy**

6.4 Combine recommendations on dog management from this initiative with those of Steve Jenkinson, Natural England Access consultant for the Tetney section on the England Coast Path (SJ proposals contained in NE internal report to ECP team)

#### **Signage**

6.5 Review the current signage for Cleethorpes/ Humberston Fitties/Tetney in the light of the recommended behavioural changes required. Make recommendations for change.

6.6 Ensure any signage recommendations are shared and integrated with plans for NE ECP Team

#### **Education**

6.7 Create bespoke information for

- Jet skiers
- Paddleboarders
- Paramotors
- Walkers
- Dog Walkers

6.8 Create plan for how to get bespoke information to user groups

#### **Enforcement**

6.9 Review permit system for jet skiers to ensure information is received and understood

6.10 Clarify appropriate dogs off leads areas/times to allow dogs to be exercised without impacting on sensitive sites

6.11 Ensure any changes to dog access on Cleethorpes beach do not result in displacement to equally or more sensitive areas locally.

6.12 Create a wardening system to support policy change and educational messages

**Monitoring**

6.13 Create a system for monitoring change achieved by the above changes

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## Action Plan

	Location	Disturbance Issue	Behavioural Change needed	Action recommended	Output	Lead	Timescale	Priority
1		All		Finalise the bird use/sensitivity data for the LRDMP map	Map	NE		High
2		All		Create a simple map illustrating the most sensitive bird areas	Map	NELC		High
3								
4		Dog walking		Create recommendations for changes to dog management	Recommendation notes	HNP		High
5	Cleethorpes			Review the Cleethorpes LNR Habitat Management Plan and embed key recommendations within it.	Detailed plan comments and recommendations	NELC/NE		High
6	Tetney			Combine recommendations from this initiative with those of Steve Jenkinson for the Tetney section on the England Coast Path	Recommendation Note	RSPB		High

	Location	Disturbance Issue	Behavioural Change needed	Action recommended	Output	Lead	Timescale	Priority
7				Review the current signage for Cleethorpes/ Humberston Fitties/Tetney in the light of the recommended behavioural changes required. Make recommendations for change.	Recommendation notes	NELC		High
8				Ensure any signage recommendations are shared and integrated with plans for NE ECP Team	Recommendation Note	HNP		High
9	Cleethorpes	Disturbance of the major hightide roost site at the eastern end of the Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach by jet skiers	Jet skiers no longer approach the main roosting areas of flocks of birds at the eastern end of the pleasure beach causing them to fly off nor preventing	Create bespoke information for jet skiers	User guide	NELC		Medium

			them from settling in their usual location.					
	Location	Disturbance Issue	Behavioural Change needed	Action recommended	Output	Lead	Timescale	Priority
10	Cleethorpes	Disturbance of the major hightide roost site at the eastern end of the Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach by paddleboarders and canoeists	Paddleboarders and canoeists no longer approach the main roosting areas of flocks of birds at the eastern end of the pleasure beach causing them to fly off nor preventing them from settling in their usual location.	Create bespoke information for paddleboarders and canoeists	User guide	NELC		High
11	Cleethorpes	Disturbance of the major hightide roost site at the eastern end of the Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach by light aircraft	Light aircraft pilots no longer fly low enough over the main roost site at the eastern end of the pleasure beach causing birds to fly off.	Create bespoke information for light aircraft pilots	User guide	NELC		Low

12	Cleethorpes	Disturbance of the major hightide roost site at the eastern end of the Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach by drones	Drone users no longer fly low enough over the main roost site at the eastern end of the pleasure beach causing birds to fly off.	Create bespoke information for drone users	User guide	NELC		Low
13	Cleethorpes	Disturbance of the major hightide roost site at the eastern end of the Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach by paragliders	Paragliders no longer fly low enough over the main roost site at the eastern end of the pleasure beach causing birds to fly off.	Create bespoke information for paragliders	User guide	NELC		Low
	Location	Disturbance Issue	Behavioural Change needed	Action recommended	Output	Lead	Timescale	Priority
14	Cleethorpes	Disturbance of the major hightide roost site at the eastern end of the Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach by walkers	Walkers no longer approach the main roosting areas of flocks of birds at the eastern end of the pleasure beach causing them to fly off nor preventing them from settling in their usual location.	Create bespoke information for walkers	User guide	NELC		High
15	Cleethorpes	Disturbance of the major hightide roost site at the eastern	Dog Walkers no longer approach nor allow their dogs to approach	Create bespoke information for dog walkers	User guide	HNP		High

		end of the Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach by dog walkers	the main roosting areas of flocks of birds at the eastern end of the pleasure beach causing them to fly off nor preventing them from settling in their usual location.					
16	Tetney	Disturbance of breeding waders by dog walkers on the saltmarsh at Tetney	Dog walkers no longer encroach nor allow their dogs to encroach upon the saltmarshes at Tetney during the bird breeding season	Create bespoke information for dog walkers	User guide	RSPB		Medium
	Location	Disturbance Issue	Behavioural Change needed	Action recommended	Output	Lead	Timescale	Priority
17	Tetney	Disturbance of breeding waders by paddleboarders and canoeists within the saltmarsh at Tetney	Paddleboarders and canoeists no longer use the main creeks within the saltmarsh at Tetney during the bird breeding season	Create bespoke information for paddleboarders	User guide	RSPB		Medium

18	Tetney	Disturbance of roosting and feeding bird flocks by dog walkers on the outer saltmarsh at Tetney RSPB reserve	Dog Walkers no longer approach nor allow their dogs to approach the main roosting and feeding areas of flocks of birds on the outer saltmarsh causing them to fly off nor preventing them from settling in their usual location.	Create bespoke information for dog walkers	User guide	RSPB		High
19	Tetney	Disturbance of hightide roosts and feeding bird flocks by low flying paragliders on the outer saltmarsh at Tetney	Pilots of drones, paragliders and light aircraft no longer fly low enough over the outer saltmarsh at Tetney to disturb roosting birds.	Create bespoke information for paragliders	User guide	RSPB		High
20	Tetney	Disturbance of the hightide roosts and feeding birds at Tetney by drones,	Users of drones no longer fly low enough over the outer saltmarsh at Tetney to disturb roosting birds.	Create bespoke information for drone users	User guide	RSPB		Medium
	Location	Disturbance Issue	Behavioural Change needed	Action recommended	Output	Lead	Timescale	Priority

21	Tetney	Disturbance of the hightide roosts and feeding birds at Tetney by low flying light aircraft,	Light aircraft pilots no longer fly low enough over the outer saltmarsh at Tetney to disturb roosting or feeding birds.	Create bespoke information for light aircraft pilots	User guide	RSPB		Medium
22	Tetney	Disturbance of feeding birds by jet skiers in the vicinity of the saltmarsh channel	Jet skiers no longer follow the channel into the saltmarsh disturbing feeding birds in the vicinity	Create bespoke information for jet skiers	User guide	RSPB		Medium
23		All		Create communications plan for how to get bespoke information to user groups	Communications plan	NELC		High
24		Jet skiers		Review permit system for jet skiers to ensure information is received and understood	Revised jet ski permit	NELC		Medium
25		Dog walking		Clarify appropriate dogs off leads areas/times to allow dogs to be exercised without impacting on sensitive sites	Recommendation notes	HNP/ NELC		High

	Location	Disturbance Issue	Behavioural Change needed	Action recommended	Output	Lead	Timescale	Priority
26	Cleethorpes	Dog walking		Ensure any changes to dog access on Cleethorpes beach do not result in displacement to equally or more sensitive areas locally.	Recommendation notes	HNP/ NELC		High
27		All		Monitor changes achieved as a result of these plan actions	Annual monitoring report			Medium
28		All		Create a wardening scheme to support and implement the plan changes	Seasonal wardens			Medium

## Appendix 1

### Review of signage

#### **Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach**

Signage appropriate to Cleethorpes beach has clearly accumulated over a number of years such that

- Signs show a variety of age and wear,
- multiple signs tend to cluster at what are considered key access points,
- signage reflects a number of key messages with background colour and font size being used to provide some forms of differentiation. The majority of signs offer beach safety messages and dog management messages
- A range of message styles are used according to the information provided

#### **Dog management**

The majority of signs relate to dog management. There is a clear sign at every beach entrance i.e. at all of the sets of steps from the promenade to the beach. Single issue signs provide two messages.

- 1) Dogs are prohibited on the beach from Good Friday to September 30th, reflecting the main holiday period and enacted as a means of supporting water quality/blue flag status objectives
- 2) Owners should bag and remove their dog's faeces.

#### **Biodiversity Conservation**

There are a number of signs providing natural history and conservation information. Many of these are now decidedly old and worn and in need of replacement. Some of the signs mention conservation designations but not what these designations mean in terms of appropriate use. Some of the signs offer some guidance on appropriate use but this information is generally a small part of a busy and text heavy sign with multiple images.

#### **Map based beach management strategy**

The Cleethorpes beach has a zonation strategy, and this is presented using maps on some of the signs. This zonation primarily reflects health and safety issues, seeking to separate potentially conflicting recreational uses.

### **Buck Beck Car Park**

All signage at this location is provided by NELC. Most of the information is provided on the standard NELC multiple message sign board, though it is located outside of the car park (in a section behind a locked gate for at least part of the season).

Access from the car park crosses the miniature railway onto a well-used section of coast footpath. A few hundred metres northwest along the path is an old biodiversity conservation sign.

### **Humberston Fitties Car Park**

Signage is scattered around the car park. It has been provided by North East Lincs Council and by the RSPB whose Tetney reserve is directly adjacent. There appear to be no signs reflecting the involvement of East Lindsey Council (The district boundary runs through the car park) or from Tingdene (The current car park owners).

### **Biodiversity Conservation**

Most of the information is provided by the RSPB on a range of very differently styled signs of differing ages. The designation of the area as a SSSI is mentioned **on the back** of the NELC signage.

### **Dog Management**

The dog management signage is provided by the RSPB. It lacks consistency of style, message, and presentation to maximise efficacy. The only dog management signage relating to the beach area requires dog owners to pick up faeces.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

- 1) Old signage should be removed. It serves no useful purpose. It may even downplay the importance of issues in readers minds if the messages appear to relate to the past rather than the present

- 2) Signage should elicit a desired behavioural outcome. Messages should be targeted to key beach users, and be simple, clear, and concise. Supporting educational text and wider strategy should be provided elsewhere with a link to further information on the sign. Message tone should be appropriate. Unduly authoritative messaging may elicit a negative or inappropriate response.
- 3) Signs should be location specific
- 4) Signs should be repeated at all key access points to a sensitive location
- 5) Signage change should be supported by advertising/marketing campaigns to increase general awareness
- 6) Where possible messages should be supported by enforcement or advisory personnel.
- 7) Where multiple messages need to be provided at the same location, they should all be equally clear and targeted to appropriate user groups. Though visitor safety must be paramount.
- 8) Generic signs alerting visitors to the need to check message signs should be located at key gathering points – car park ticket machines, toilets, cafes
- 9) Messages could also be provided by apps on mobile phones and on websites

### **Appendix 5: Suggested Locations for Recreational Disturbance Sign in Cleethorpes Resort**

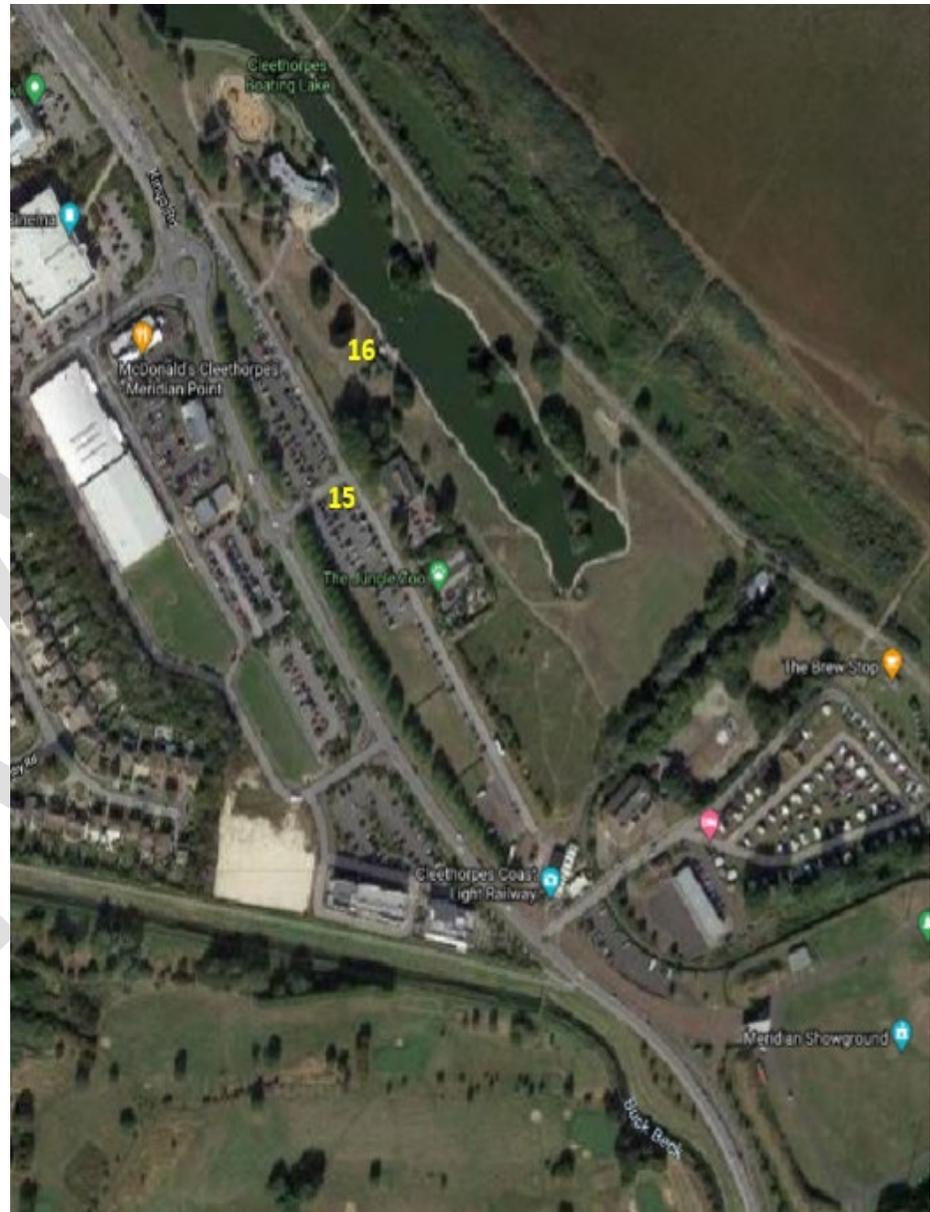
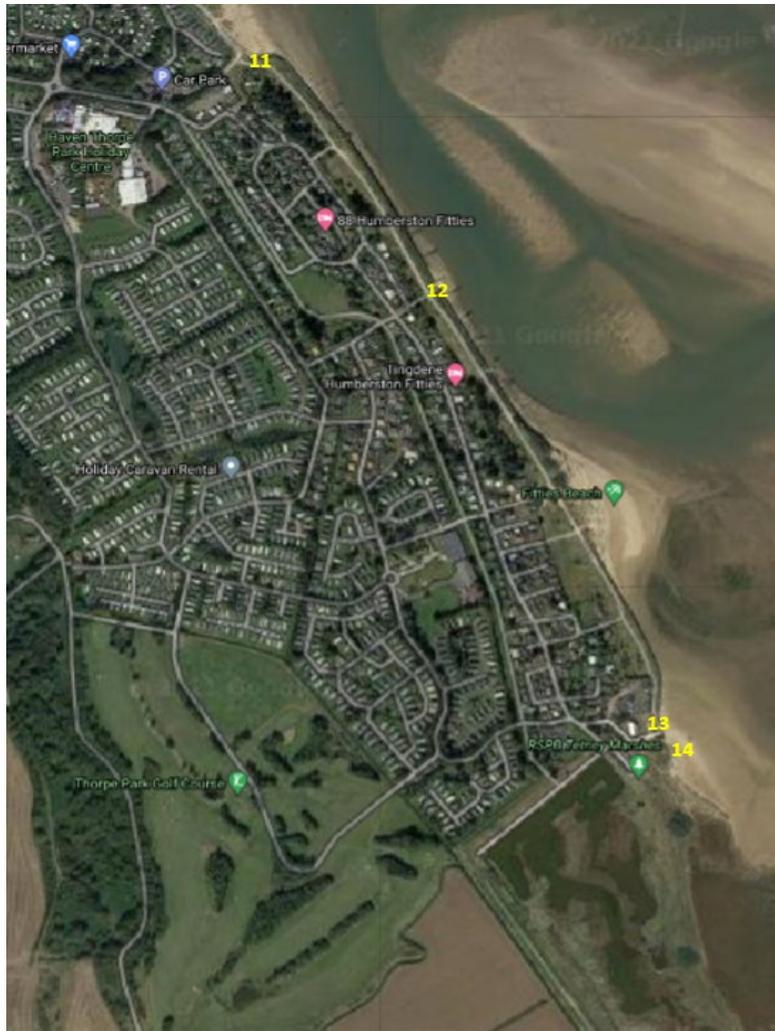
The following maps identify the potential locations for new recreational disturbance signage across the Cleethorpes Resort. Each of the locations (yellow numbering system on the maps below) represent the identified location for new signage. They have been identified as such because they are considered key entry points across the resort. The new signage will include educational messaging as outlined in section 6.5.



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Maxar Technologies, Map data ©2021

Imagery ©2021 CNES/Airbus, Getmapping plc, Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky, Maxar  
Technologies, Map data ©2021

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## **Appendix 6: Bait Digging Permit**

Appendix 6 covers the bait digging permit which is used to permit bait digging in permitted areas along the Cleethorpes Coastline. When applying for the permit, NELC's resort team ensure that the conditions of the permit are read and communicated to the applicant. It is also communicated with the applicant that any breach of the bait digging permitting scheme may lead to the permit being revoked.



### **APPLICATION FOR BAIT DIGGING PERMIT**

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_ for office use only:  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Permit No \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ issued on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Annual Fee: £18.00

Please enclose two passport photographs of applicant

**ANNUAL PERMIT VALID FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL UNTIL MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>**

I agree to abide by the North East Lincolnshire Council's conditions relating to Bait Digging as set out in the list below.

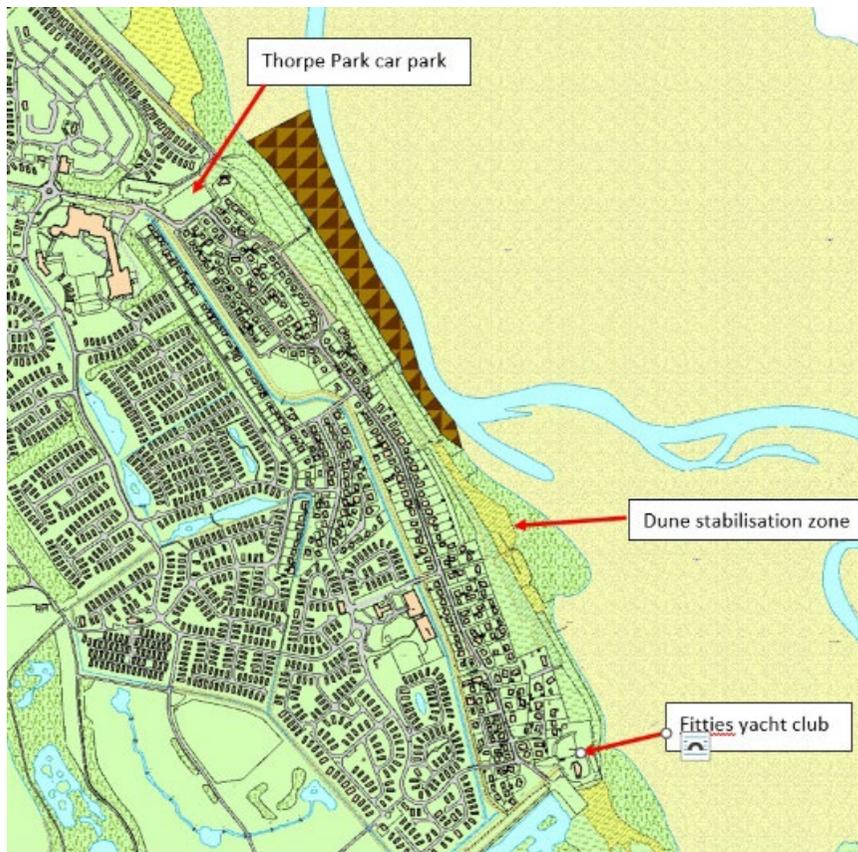
Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Bait digging is only permitted in the designated areas within the SSSI at North Promenade between the rock groyne and the pier, and in Humberston between the start of the Fitties and the dune stabilisation zone, as mapped, subject to the below conditions:

- Digging is permitted only in the areas shown on the map.
- The permit holder must be a resident as recorded in the electoral register of North East Lincolnshire Council.
- The permit holder must back-fill holes for safety and to maintain the intertidal habitat.
- Trenching is prohibited.
- Avoid disturbance of wildlife, particularly seals and birds. Disturbance of birds includes causing them to stop feeding, to move away, alarm call, and take flight. You must move away from the birds if any of those responses happen.
- The permit allows the holder thereof to dig for and carry away only 50 worms for their own personal use and such bait shall not be sold.
- Due consideration must always be given to other members of the public.
- Your permit MUST be carried and produced for inspection by council officials at time of request.
- The permission hereby granted can be revoked at any time on breaching any of the stated conditions.
- Your permit is the property of the council and maybe revoked /suspended at any time if conditions are not adhered to.
- Bait digging is prohibited between sunset and sunrise.
- NO commercial bait digging.
- You must be aware of any disturbance effect you have on the protected habitats and species, paying particular attention to birds and avoidance of any disturbance effect, including causing the birds to distress call, move away from their feeding or roosting site, cause to take flight.
- You must leave enough worms in the mud to recolonise the area you have been digging.
- No vehicles are permitted on the beach.
- Bait diggers must not leave litter on the beach.

This permit is strictly non-transferable



North Promenade bait digging area, only within shaded area



Wonderland Terminal Groyne (rock groyne)

The pier

Fitties bait digging area, only within shaded area

## **Appendix 7: Cleethorpes Dune**

### **Scrub Management Plan Winter 21/22**

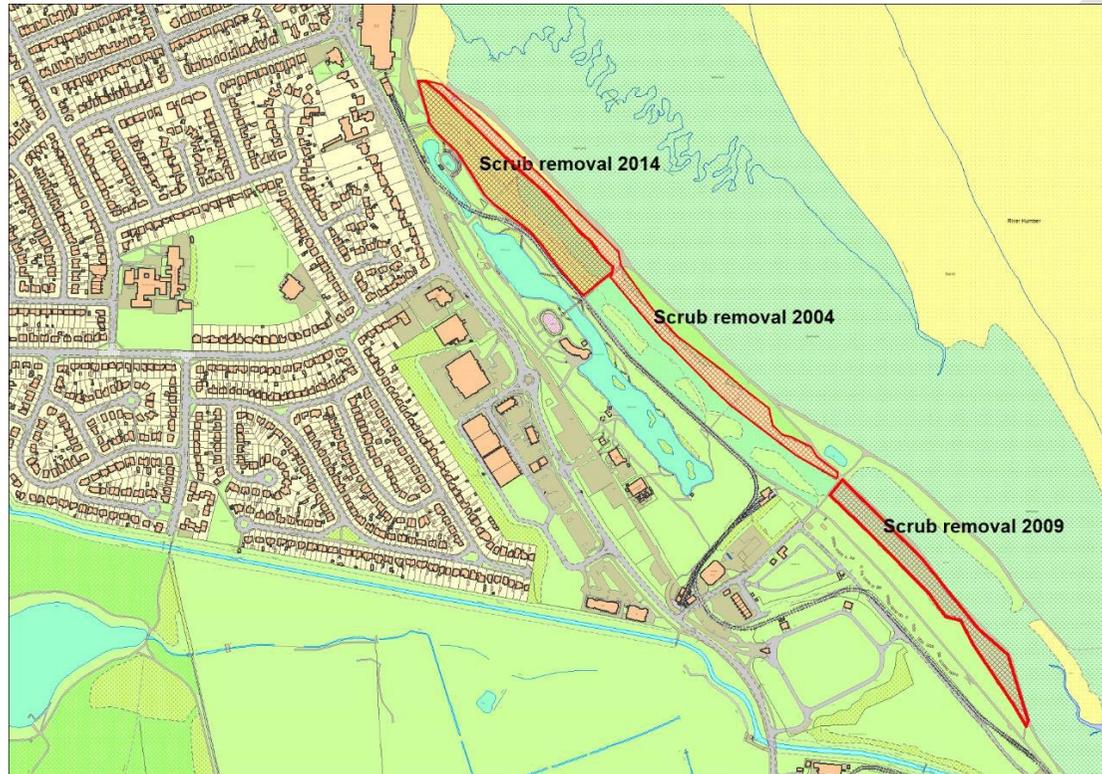
Below is the previous NELC Cleethorpes Dune Scrub management. The plan below details how NELC has undertaken dune scrub management within the Cleethorpes dunes over the last 17 years to ensure the designated features are in a favourable condition. The Cleethorpes Dune Scrub Management Plan winter 21/22 was the plan provided for the Dynamic Dunescape Project.



#### **Cleethorpes Dune Scrub Management Plan winter 21/22**

Management of sea buckthorn scrub on the dunes is a requirement as it is directly connected with and necessary to the conservation management of 'Dunes with *Hippophae rhamnoides* (sea buckthorn)' and 'Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)', both of which are Humber Estuary SAC features. To achieve conservation management and Favourable Condition Targets of these features, management of *Hippophae rhamnoides* is carried out approximately every five years to diversify its age, structure, height, and rejuvenation, through retention, removal and coppicing, and to restore dune grassland.

Previous scrub management has been carried out over the last twenty years at c. five-year intervals, mapped below, and has achieved the desired outcomes of improving favourable conditions of the features. The last round of scrub removal in 2014, closest to the Leisure Centre, has resulted in colonisation by Southern Marsh, Common spotted, Bee, and Pyramidal orchids.



*Fig 1. Map of areas where previous rotational scrub management has been carried out*



*Fig 2. View on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019 facing south west away from Leisure Centre after scrub removal in 2014, including restoration of Southern marsh orchids and Yellow rattle.*

The next round of scrub management will take place between November 2021 and February 2022 and will be carried out under the Dynamic Dunescape Project. There will also be a non-conservation element to the work, separate and unrelated to achieving Favourable Condition Targets, for flood bank management involving scrub removal which is affecting the flood bank integrity, and regrowth prevention to maintain flood bank integrity.

## Maps

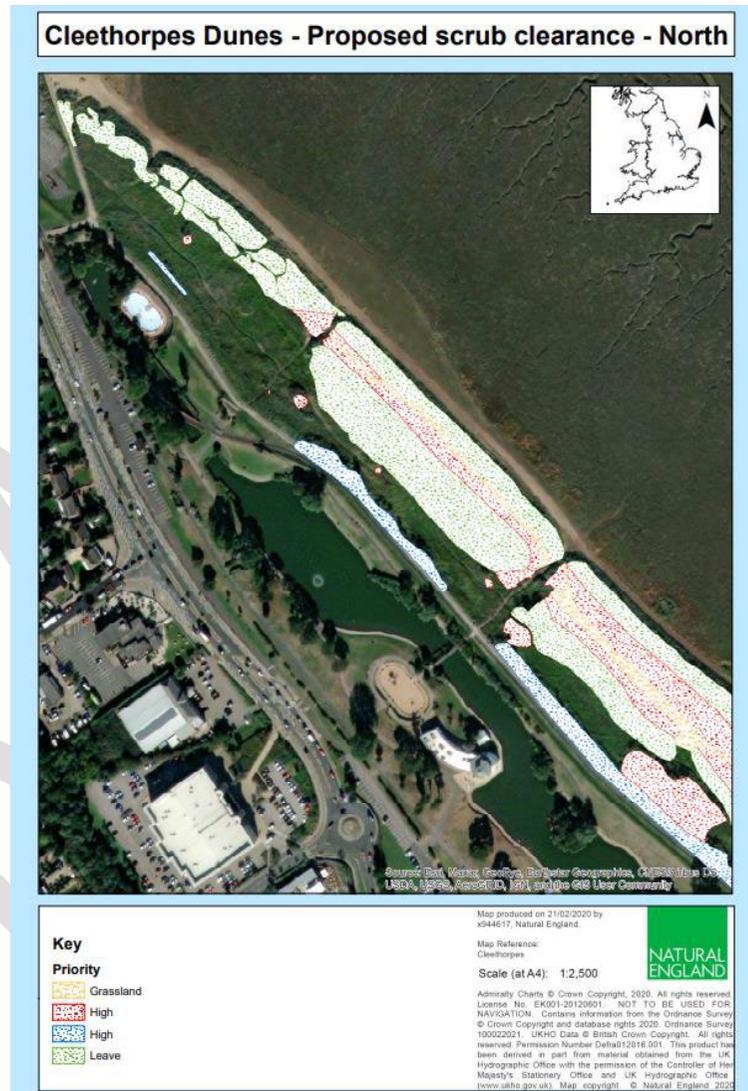
The maps below show the areas for habitat management planned under the Dynamic Dunescapes Project and cover scrub removal of c.2 ha of scrub (incl. EA removal of c. 0.6ha from the EA sea defence within the next 5 years) and scrub retention of c.2 ha which is a mixture of:

- Colonising scrub, 0.5 – 1m in height

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- Young scrub (10 years,) 1 – 2m in height
- Mature scrub to 3 – 4m in height
- Trees present in the scrub

Refer to the map legend for where the planned works are:





Unmapped areas – grassland (fixed dunes, dunes slacks)

- The parallel bands of scrub, which are already diverse in age, structure, and height, are to be retained while efforts are concentrated on the areas where the bands are expanding into the dune grassland and possible dune slack. Retention of these linear features will also retain the natural desire lines and unofficial footpaths that have been created by public access in this area and should therefore carry on being used, continuing to help the prevention of footfall and trampling of the delicate and sensitive wildflower-rich grassland that the paths cut through.

Green areas

- scrub which typically provides function for noise/visual screening or are very mature and will not be easy to remove/restore to dune grassland. There is scope to make small ingresses by cutting into these areas but not to remove entirely. Retaining the majority of these areas will maintain their function to reduce visual and noise disturbance to the SPA birds from public access and activity within the national and internationally designated area, and from activity adjacent to the designated areas.

Red and Blue spotted areas

- 1.8 ha (incl EA 0.6ha) - high priority for clearance (including the scrub along the EA sea defence which is envisaged to be removed during the lifespan of the Dynamic Dunescapes project). All sections marked in red hatching will be coppiced and all scrub removed. The scrub will be chipped and taken off site. Scrub lines marked in blue will be cut and removed with the intention of not allowing it to regrow, this is to remain scrub free which forms part of the sea defence, managed in an agreement between the Environment Agency and North East Lincolnshire Council, and does not form part of the SAC habitat features. Removal of the scrub from the sea defence will allow open access to the dunes and designated area from any point along the footpath immediately adjacent, known as Marine Walk. Increased footfall and disturbance will damage the designated habitats so monitoring of the condition of the sand dunes will take place following the works and measures put in place to restrict access if necessary.

- The removal of the scrub along the embankment is to be undertaken following the recommendation of the Environment Agency to allow for the reestablishment of the grass sward through natural regeneration and also so that regular flood risk management asset inspections can take place to determine the condition and integrity of the embankment. The stumps of the scrub will not be treated with herbicide so as not to kill off roots, as dead and decaying tree and shrub roots may lead to seepage pathways for water through the embankment; a coppice regime will prevent roots from dying off. These works will allow for an EA asset inspection, post scrub removal, to take place and a management plan for the flood risk embankment to be devised in consultation/partnership with the Environment Agency Asset Performance team.

- Cutting into some of the thicker mature scrub in the two central uncut blocks to try and reinstate the priority fixed dunes and dunes slacks.

Yellow areas

- 0.2ha - areas of grassland which remain but have large amounts of colonising Sea buckthorn and without future management will be lost completely. The Lincolnshire Sand Hills comprise a narrow band of dunes at several locations along the whole length of the Lincolnshire coast between The Wash, in the south, and the River Humber in the north. The Cleethorpes dunes are part of the Humber Estuary SSSI and SAC and are the northernmost dunes in the Lincolnshire Dynamic Dunes Site. Public engagement and information will be provided by NELC Ecology, Resort Team, and Communications, and engagement, activities, and information will be provided by the Dynamic Dunescapes Engagement Officer to educate and raise awareness of the work and importance of the habitats to help protect them.

Future management:

Scrub management will continue with a c. 5 year rotational scheme to diversify the age, structure, height, and rejuvenation of *Hippophae rhamnoides* within the dunes through a programme of retention, coppicing, and removal, and to restore and conserve the dune grassland in the grey dunes to meet Favourable Condition Targets of the features. Monitoring of increased pressure and damage by trampling and public access will continue and mitigation measures put in place as necessary.

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