

CABINET

DATE	12 th March 2025
REPORT OF	Councillor Henry Hudson, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Net Zero
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Carolina Borgstrom, Director for Economy, Environment and Infrastructure
SUBJECT	North East Lincolnshire Council – Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan
STATUS	OPEN
FORWARD PLAN REF NO.	CB 03/25/07

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

This report introduces a new Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan (Appendix A) which will replace the previous 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

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. Delegates responsibility to the Director for Economy, Environment, and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Net Zero to take all actions reasonably necessary to implement, administer and ensure enforcement of such policy.
3. Receives an Annual Report from the Director for Economy, Environment, and Infrastructure 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 Site of Special Scientific Interest (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.

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 agreed with Natural England that a Management Plan was needed 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 2021-2026 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 the 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 within the 2021-2026 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. Natural England have recently reviewed the buckthorn management targets and management regime, which will be included in the next plan.

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. The Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan supports 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

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, 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

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

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

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

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 the service to review priority workstreams to accommodate the requirements of the plan.

6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

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

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

The proposals for the new Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan have been presented to the Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny Panel throughout development and the final plan will be presented to Communities Scrutiny Panel.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As outlined within section 5, any additional requirements from the plan will be met from within existing staffing and financial resources.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Adoption of the above policy will position the Council to better enable it to meet its obligations.
- 10.2 The delegations sought are appropriate. Ultimately the Portfolio Holder has constitutional authority to approve any future modifications to a policy touching upon the services within the Portfolio Holder's defined remit, even those having a borough wide application.

11. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct HR implications.

12. WARD IMPLICATIONS

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

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND NET ZERO

North East Lincolnshire Council

Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan



2021

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Part A: Habitat Management

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 national and international 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.

2. Site Description and Designated Features

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 24,472km², 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
<u>Humber Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest</u> (SSSI)	Designated as a SSSI for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationally important estuarine habitats of mudflats, sandflats, and saltmarsh. • Nationally important numbers of wintering birds and migrants, and breeding birds • Nationally important for a breeding colony of grey seals, river lamprey and sea lamprey, and invertebrates • Nationally important for plants 	Statutorily protected by UK law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
<u>Humber Estuary Special Protection Area</u> (SPA)	Site classified for rare and vulnerable birds and regularly occurring migratory species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avocet • Bar-tailed godwit • Black-tailed godwit • Dunlin • Golden plover • Knot • Redshank • Shelduck • Waterbird assemblage and others 	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).
<u>Humber Estuary Special Area of Conservation</u> (SAC)	Designated as a special area of conservation for the following natural habitat type: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic salt meadows • Coastal lagoons • Dunes with Sea buckthorn • Embryonic shifting dunes • Estuary • Mudflats and sandflats • Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation • Salicornia (also known as Samphire or Glasswort) 	Protected by UK law under 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"> • Sandbanks • Shifting dunes with Marram grass <p>And for species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey seal • River lamprey • Sea lamprey 	
Humber Estuary Ramsar Site (Site details available online in Designated Sites View)	<p>Designated for being a wetland of international importance with internationally important habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuary <p>And for internationally important species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bar-tailed godwit • Black-tailed godwit • Dunlin • Golden plover • Knot • Redshank • Shelduck • Waterbird assemblage and others • Grey seal • River lamprey • Sea lamprey 	Protected by UK law under Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).
Humber Estuary European Marine Site (EMS)	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	Protected by UK law under the Conservation of Habitats and Species

Designation	Summary of Designated Features which occur within North East Lincolnshire	Legislation
	Ramsar Site (which supports internationally important wetlands and wetland species).	Regulations 2017 (as amended).
Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	<p>Cleethorpes Sands LNR is designated for its diverse habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sand Dunes • Saltmarsh • Wildflower Areas • Mudflats • Sand Banks <p>And the associated wildlife:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Marsh Orchid • Bird's-foot trefoil • Yellow Rattle • Dunlin • Knot • Oyster Catcher • Curlew 	Protected by UK law under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended).

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' 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.

	Humber Estuary SSSI unit																
	173	187	186	186	189	189	188 & 189	171									
Activity	Compartment								NELC activity	Third party activity	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.	NE Advice required & ORNEC no.	Legislation	Regulation			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8					W&CA	Blue Flag	PSPO	ES	
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 Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). 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 District 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.

3. Sustainability and Tourism

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 mean annual 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 mean annual 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 2030. The noted importance of achieving Carbon Neutrality and the need to reduce carbon emissions in the declaration also highlights the importance of the protected saltmarsh habitat to NEL, which not only provides habitat for protected bird species but also provides carbon sequestration.

4. Plans Associated with the Estuary for its Management

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.

It is important to note that while Figure 1 identifies the SPA/Ramsar listed bird sensitive areas, 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 in Figure 2 below. Areas outside of NELC boundary can also be functionally linked to the designated site and these may be at risk due to recreational disturbance.

Humber Estuary SPA and SSSI

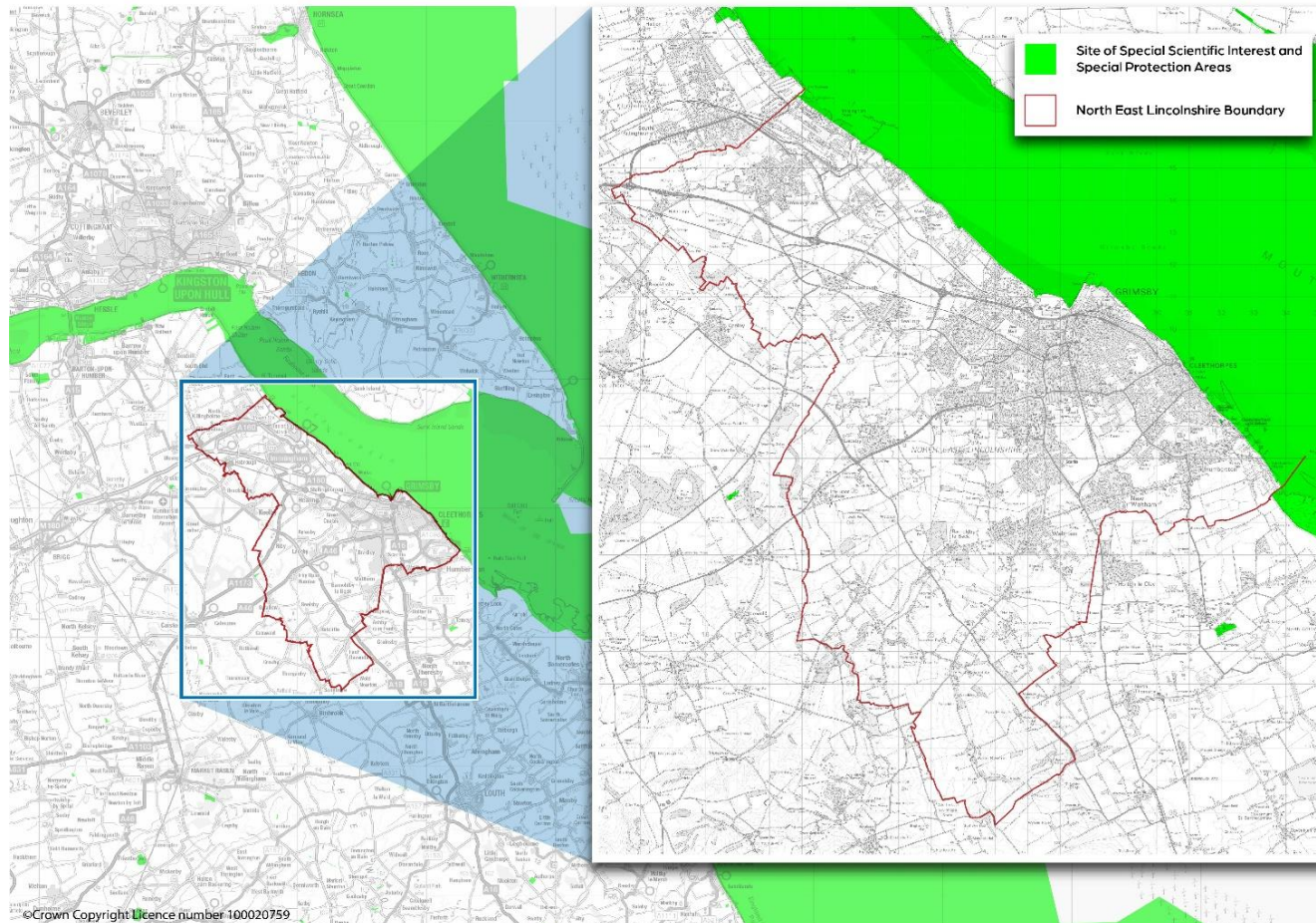


Figure 2: Map of the North East Lincolnshire boundary in wider context of location along the Humber Estuary with a zoom to show more detail of North East Lincolnshire, alongside the SSSI designation and SPA designation zone.

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.

Plan	Description	Relevance to CHMP
Shoreline Management Plan	The Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is a plan for managing flood and erosion risks for particular sections of shoreline, which includes the Cleethorpes coastline. 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. The strategy aims to achieve effective management of the Humber Estuary and establish policies for flood defence for the next 100 years.	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 the policies of the Humber 2100+ strategy once the strategy is developed and published.

Plan	Description	Relevance to CHMP
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 habitats and wildlife across the Humber Estuary region,	The operation has also provided closer links between Local Authorities such as NELC and Police forces such as Lincolnshire and

Plan	Description	Relevance to CHMP
	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.	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.

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 in Figure 3.

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

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of operation	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.
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
Mowing vegetation	3	The Environment Agency sea defence embankment runs adjacent to Marine Walk	September, 1 day	The bank will be cut by a tractor and flail arm from Marine Walk	4

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of operation	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.
on flood banks		<p>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>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>	

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of operation	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.
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	10

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of operation	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.
				removed if not taken. Vehicle access is via established paths and tracks.	
H2160 Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> management - selective removal	3	For the direct management of the designated feature. In Compartment 3, scrub management will continue with a c. 5-year rotational scheme to diversify the age, structure, height, and rejuvenation of <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> within the dunes through a programme of retention, coppicing, and removal, and to restore and conserve the dune grassland in the fixed dunes and dune slacks to meet Favourable Condition Targets (FCT) of the features. The principles of the FCT to diversify the age of <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> are that 10% to 30% should be young scrub, 20% to 40% should	1 st October to 28 th February (in line with scrub management prescriptions for HLS Agreement, avoiding nesting bird season)	Selective removal by hand tools or chainsaw, or flail of young growth. More dense areas may require use of tracked long-arm digger or small digger. Arisings removed. Consideration given to seasonal ground conditions and tidal conditions, avoiding damage to dune habitats and disturbance to SPA birds.	11

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of operation	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.
		be mature scrub, and dune woodland should be no more than 5%. Works covered by this plan have taken place under the Dynamic Dunescape Project in January 2022 (see Appendix 7 for details). The next round of management is expected to be in winter 26/27 in the CHMP 2026 – 2031 with newly revised condition targets.			
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

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of operation	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.
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, including garden escapees from the neighbouring Fitties holiday chalets and invasive and inappropriate species, need removing as necessary when chemical applications aren't sufficient.	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. A tractor and bucket, tracked long-arm digger or small	11

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of operation	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.
				digger may be utilised to remove shrubs.	
Tree or woodland management	6, 8	Compartment 6 has small copses 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

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of operation	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.
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

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of operation	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.
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 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 Cleethorpes Leisure Centre in Compartment 2, both compartments accessed via the slipways.	26
Street cleansing litter picking	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8	Litter picking takes place for public health and safety as well as 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

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of operation	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.
Resort Team vehicle	1, 2, 4, 6	The Resort Team have duties relating to public safety. These duties are to carry out observations along the coast two hours before high tide to check for and avoid potential strandings on sand banks or being cut off from the mainland and assess where mud accumulations are and advise and observe the public in those areas to avoid strandings. They also assist with First Aid matters.	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 Cleethorpes 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 and access the look-out spot in Compartment 6 from the access gate within the Fitties.	26
Education programme for	1, 2	The Resort Team take groups of people, usually school children, on educational walk & talks onto the main beach to explain	All year	The talks take place on the main tourist beach. Groups are no bigger than 30 at a time, last	27

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of operation	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.
promotion of Estuary and NEL's LNR - Resort Team		about safety around tides, estuary mud, and ecology.		between 30 and 60 minutes, and expect no more than 20 visits per year.	

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.

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of Operation	NE Advice required & ORNEC no.
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 30 permits to be issued in one year.	18

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of Operation	NE Advice required & ORNEC no.
				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. Failure to comply results in an on the spot fine of £100.	
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 size and more spacious and safer access in that area. Jet skis are told to use Sea Road slipway in	All year	The use of the slipways for watercraft requires an annual permit issued by NELC and is regulated under a Public Space Protection Order, failure to comply	26

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of Operation	NE Advice required & ORNEC no.
		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.		with the permit conditions results in an on the spot fine of £100.	
H.M.Coastguard and R.N.L.I. vehicle access	1, 2, 4, 6	HM Coastguard and RNLI require access via the slipways in Compartments 1 and 2. Vehicle access is required on established paths in Compartments 4 and 6 for observations of public safety.	All year	HM Coastguard and RNLI boat launch via slipways on the main central beach. Vehicle used on established pathways in non-emergency duties.	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	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

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of Operation	NE Advice required & ORNEC no.
		numerous and frequent than they are now.			
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 Cleethorpes 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.

	Humber Estuary SSSI unit															
	173	187		186	189	188 & 189		171								
Activity	Compartment								NELC activity	Third party activity	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.	NE Advice required & ORNEC no.	Legislation	Regulation		
	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					
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				
Coastguard & RNLI vehicle											26					

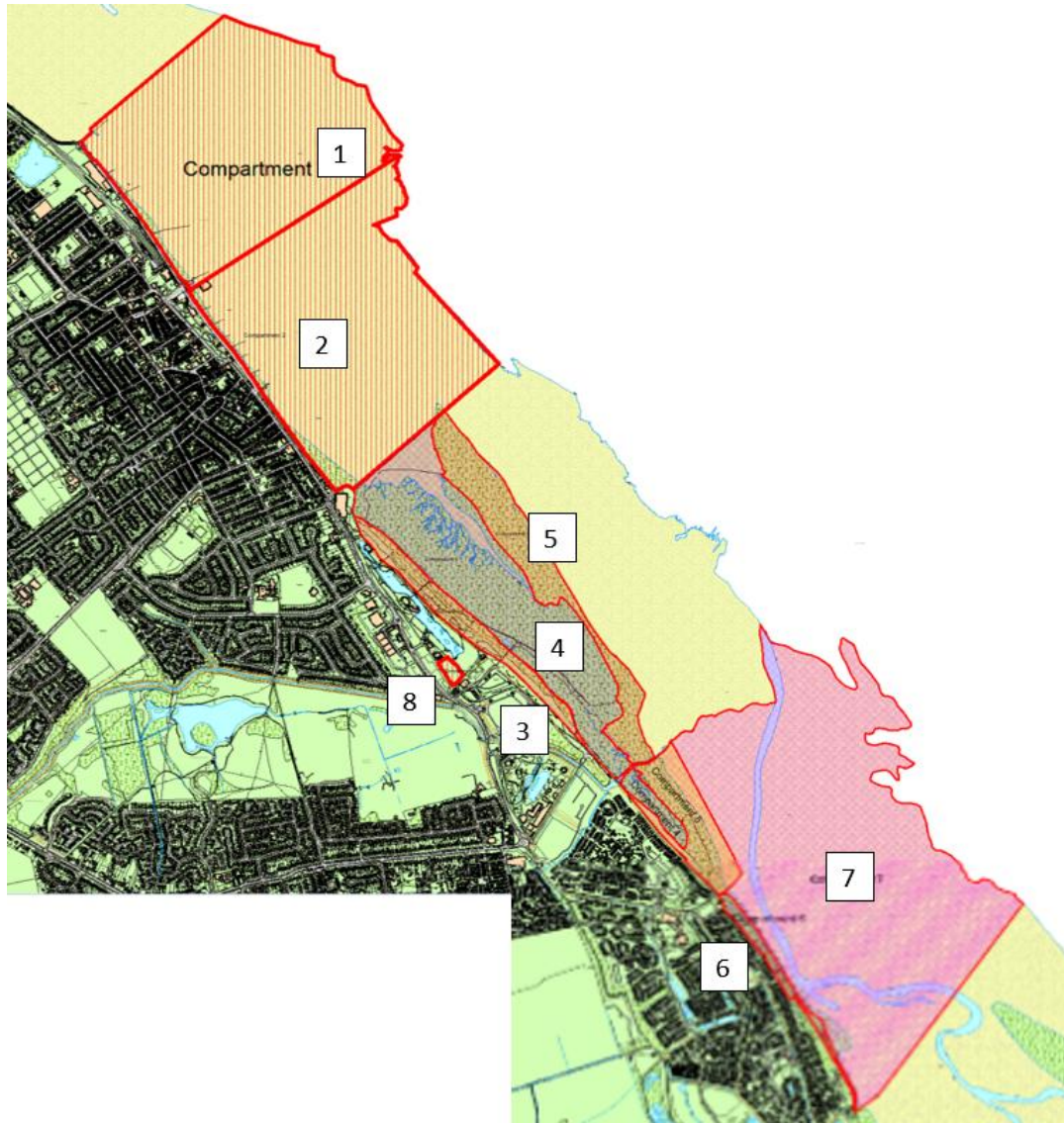


Figure 3: Map showing the locations of all 8 compartments.

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 4: 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:

<u>Humber Estuary SAC features within Compartment 1</u>
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
<u>Humber Estuary SPA features within Compartment 1</u>
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	Timing of activity
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.	All year
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.	All year
Repairs and general maintenance - steps, boardwalks, fences/rails and	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.	All year

Activity	Description	Timing of activity
entrances to the beach, signs		
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.	All year
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.	All year
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.	All year

Activity	Description	Timing of activity
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.	All year
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.	All 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.	All year
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	All year

Activity	Description	Timing of activity
	<p>skis out of the swim safety zone, for easier vehicle parking along Central Promenade, and Sea Road slipway is generally less congested with people.</p>	
Donkey rides	<p>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.</p>	March to October
Fixed amusement rides	<p>NELC licence a fixed amusement operator. The site has had amusement rides for over 50 years. The rides close over winter.</p>	March to October
Dogs banned Good Friday to 30th Sep incl.	<p>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.</p>	Good Friday to September 30th
H.M.Coastguard & R.N.L.I vehicle use	<p>H.M. Coastguard and R.N.L.I require vehicle access and boat launching via the slipways in Compartment 1.</p>	All year

5.3 Compartment 2 – Central Promenade Beach

Humber Estuary SSSI Unit 173

109.5 ha

Compartment 2 is between the pier and Cleethorpes Leisure Centre. 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 groynes between the pier and Brighton Street slipway which has been present since at least 2016. Saltmarsh 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 5: 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:

<u>Humber Estuary SAC features within Compartment 2</u>
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
<u>Humber Estuary SPA features within Compartment 2</u>
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	Timing of activity
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.	All year
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.	All year
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.	March to September, during the growing season

Activity	Description	Timing of activity
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.	All year
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.	All year
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.	All year

Activity	Description	Timing of activity
Street cleansing litter picking	For public safety, litter picking takes place where the beach rake can't get to, against the sea wall.	All year
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.	All year
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.	All 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.	March to October
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.	Good Friday to 30th Sep incl.
H.M.Coastguard & R.N.L.I vehicle use	H.M. Coastguard and R.N.L.I require vehicle access and boat launching via the slipways in Compartment 2.	March to October

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 Cleethorpes 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.

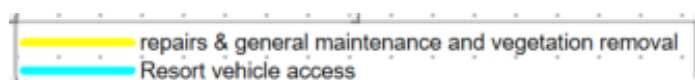


Figure 6: Map of Compartment 3 – North Dunes with activities in the compartment shown. Aerial images are the most recent available from 2006.

The designated qualifying features present in this compartment are:

Humber Estuary SAC features within Compartment 3

H2130. Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); Dune grassland*
H2160. Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> ; Dunes with sea-buckthorn
<u>Humber Estuary SPA features within Compartment 3</u>
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	Timing of activity
H2160 Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> management - selective removal	For the direct management of the designated feature. Scrub management will continue with a c. 5-year rotational scheme to diversify the age, structure, height, and rejuvenation of <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> within the dunes through a programme of retention, coppicing, and removal, and to restore and conserve the dune grassland in the fixed dunes and dune slacks to meet Favourable Condition Targets of the features. The principles of the FCT to diversify the age of <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> are that 10% to 30% should be young scrub, 20% to 40% should be mature scrub, and dune woodland should be no more than 5%. Works covered by this plan have taken place under the Dynamic Dunescape Project in January 2022 (see Appendix 7 for details). The next round of management is expected to be in winter 26/27 in the CHMP 2026 – 2031 with newly revised condition targets.	1st October to 28th February (in line with scrub management prescriptions for HLS Agreement, avoiding nesting bird season)
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.	September, 1 day

Activity	Description	Timing of activity
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.	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.	All year
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.	All year

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.

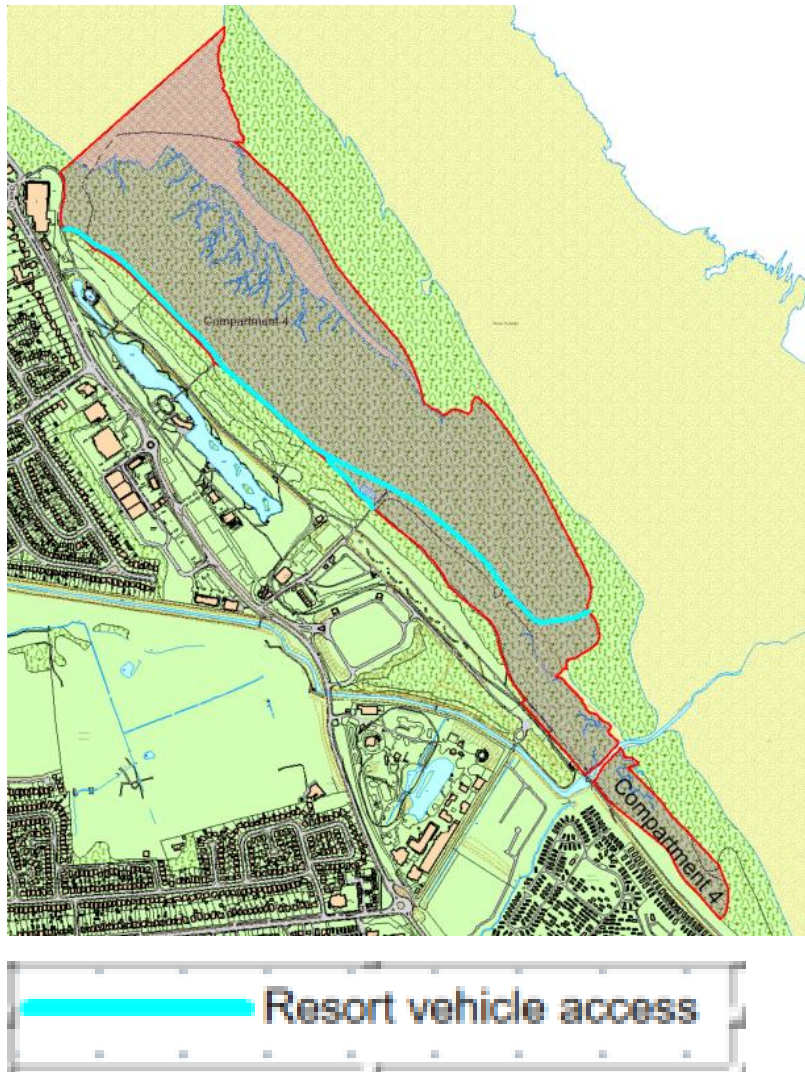


Figure 7: Map of Compartment 4 – Saltmarsh with activities in the compartment shown. Aerial images are the most recent available from 2006.

The designated qualifying features present in this compartment are:

<u>Humber Estuary SAC features within Compartment 4</u>
H1310. Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand
H1330. Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)
<u>Humber Estuary SPA features within Compartment 4</u>
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:

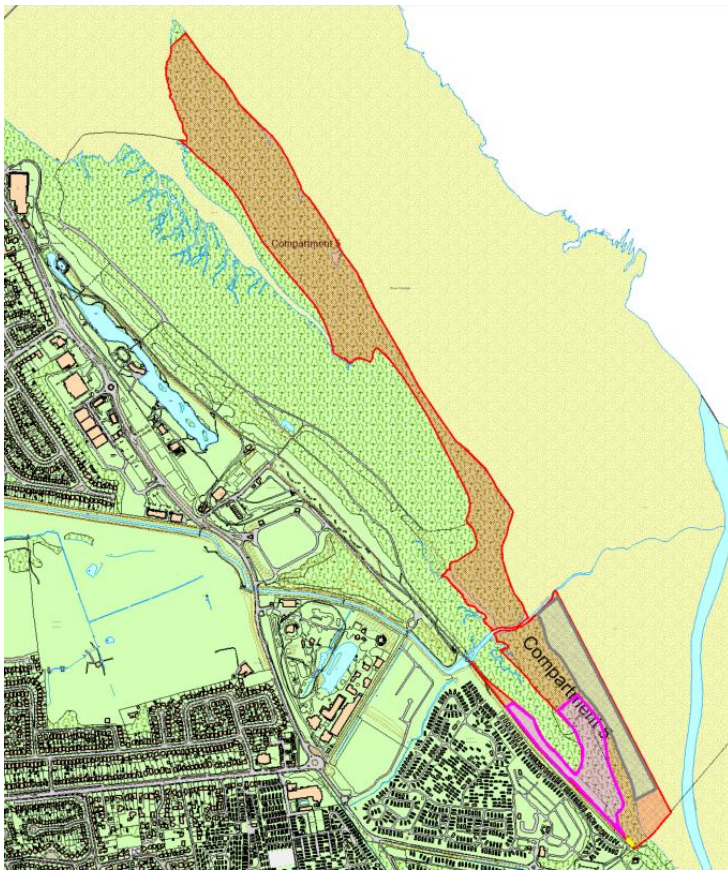
Activity	Description	Timing of activity
Removal of dead animals	For public safety, dead animals washed up on the foreshore, such as seals, small enough to be removed by hand are removed by Resort Team with the use of their beach bikes. Larger animals are removed by Street Cleansing using appropriately 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.	All year
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.	All year
H.M.Coastguard & R.N.L.I vehicle use	H.M. Coastguard and R.N.L.I require vehicle access.	All year

5.6 Compartment 5 – Central Dunes

Humber Estuary SSSI Unit 186

36.35ha

Compartment 5 is the outer dunes on the foreshore between Cleethorpes 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.



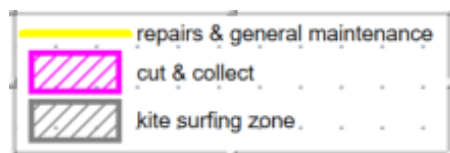


Figure 8: Map of Compartment 5 – Central dunes with activities in the compartment shown. Aerial images are the most recent available from 2006.

The designated qualifying features present in this compartment are:

<u>Humber Estuary SAC features within Compartment 5</u>
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
<u>Humber Estuary SPA features within Compartment 5</u>
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	Timing of activity
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.	September, for approx. 1 week
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.	March to October inclusive
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.	All year
Repairs and general maintenance - steps,	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.	All year

Activity	Description	Timing of activity
boardwalks, fences/rails and entrances to the beach, signs		
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.	All year

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.

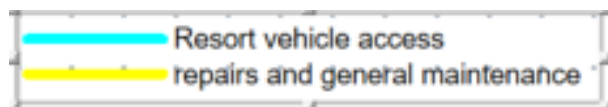


Figure 9: Map of Compartment 6 – Fitties Dunes with activities in the compartment shown. Aerial images are the most recent available from 2006.

The designated qualifying features present in this compartment are:

<u>Humber Estuary SAC features within Compartment 6</u>
H2130. Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); Dune grassland*
<u>Humber Estuary SPA features within Compartment 6</u>
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	Timing of activity
Cut and collect	For direct management of the designated features to achieve Favourable Condition Targets, dune grasslands cut and collected where topography allows.	September, for approx. 1 week
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.	March to October inclusive
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.	September to March unless there is a risk to the public outside of that period.
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.	September to March unless there is a risk to the public outside of that period
Repairs and general maintenance - steps,	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.	All year

Activity	Description	Timing of activity
boardwalks, fences/rails and 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.	All year
H.M.Coastguard & R.N.L.I vehicle use	H.M. Coastguard and R.N.L.I require vehicle access.	All year

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 south western boundary. There are patches of H1310 in the south western area, close to the boundary.

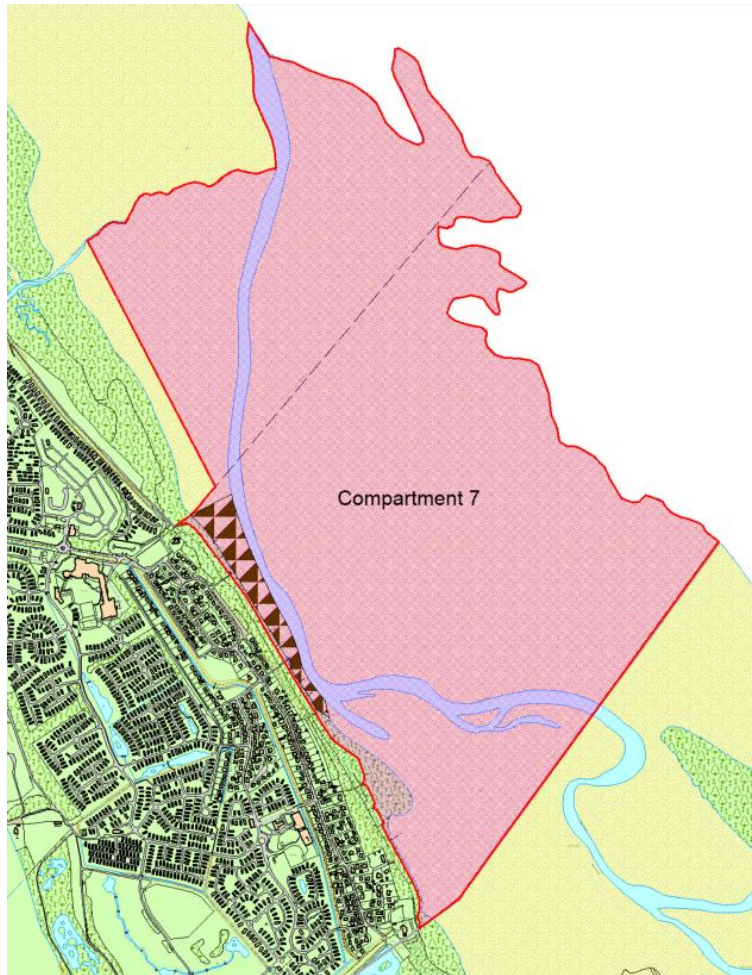




Figure 10: Map of Compartment 7 –Sand Banks and Mudflats with activities in the compartment shown. Aerial images are the most recent available from 2006.

The designated qualifying features present in this compartment are:

<u>Humber Estuary SAC features within Compartment 7</u>
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. Petromyzon marinus; Sea lamprey
S1099. Lampetra fluviatilis; River lamprey
S1364. Halichoerus grypus; Grey seal
<u>Humber Estuary SPA features within Compartment 7</u>
Avocet (Recurvirostra avosetta), Non-breeding
Bar-tailed godwit (Limosa lapponica), Non-breeding
Black-tailed godwit (Limosa limosa islandica), Non-breeding
Dunlin (Calidris alpina alpina), Non-breeding
Golden plover (Pluvialis apricaria), Non-breeding
Knot (Calidris canutus), Non-breeding
Redshank (Tringa totanus), Non-breeding
Ruff (Calidris pugnax), Non-breeding

Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>), Non-breeding
Waterbird assemblage, Non-breeding

The activities in this compartment are:

Activity	Description	Timing of activity
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.	All 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 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.	All year

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.

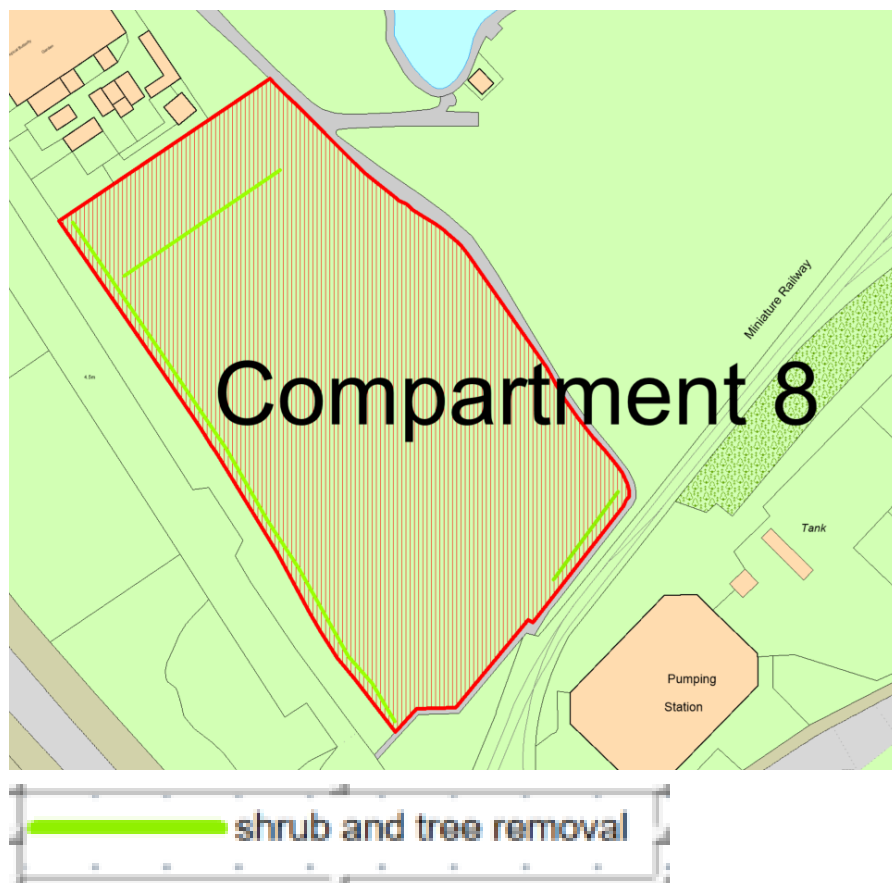


Figure 11: Map of Compartment 8 – Relict Sand Dunes with activities in the compartment shown. Aerial images are the most recent available from 2006.

The designated qualifying features present in this compartment are:

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

The activities in this compartment are:

Activity	Description	Timing of activity
Cut and collect	For direct management of the designated features to achieve Favourable Condition Targets, dune grassland is cut and collected.	September, for approx. 1 week
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.	March to October inclusive
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.	September to March unless there is a risk to the public outside of that period.
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.	September to March unless there is a risk to the

Activity	Description	Timing of activity
		public outside of that period
Street cleansing litter picking	For public safety and maintenance, litter picking takes place.	All year

Part B: Mitigation Strategy to Address Damage and Disturbance

6.1. Purpose

The purpose of this mitigation strategy is to identify measures required to address the existing levels of recreational disturbance to bird and habitat damage.

Current Recreational Pressures

Work commissioned by Humber Nature Partnership (HNP) and carried out by Footprint Ecology via a series of studies between 2010 and 2014/15 provides 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.

The following map (Figure 12) identifies those areas that are the most sensitive for birds:



Figure 12: Map outlining the most sensitive areas, for roosting and feeding, on North East Lincolnshire for SPA / Ramsar birds.

Cleethorpes and Humberston Fitties (adjacent to Tetney) were both identified in the Footprint Ecology Report as 'hotspots'. Within the Footprint Ecology work – dog walking, with dogs off leads, prompted by far the most flight responses by birds

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.

Given the number of issues and target groups involved, an attempt has been made to prioritise the issues and locations, as shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Table displaying prioritisation of issues and locations of recreational disturbance with key.

Priority Key:

High
Medium
Low

Disturbance by	Dog walkers	Walkers	Jet skiers	Paddleboarders/canoeists	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

This plan includes the recommended actions to drive improvement. This plan commits to maintaining these measures in perpetuity, as required. This has included examining the specific recreational disturbance pressures and reviewing appropriate mitigation responses which

will be delivered in advance of impacts and as part of an ongoing mitigation approach in discussion with Natural England and RSPB, and final agreement with Natural England. The Management Plan is reviewed on a five-year cycle to ensure appropriate mitigation is kept under constant review.

Local Plan Allocations

The mitigation approach set out within the Cleethorpes Management Plan covers recreational disturbance related to all aspects of development and resort related activities. There may, however, be specific visitor related development which will attract significant visitors to the resort and be developed in a location close to the SPA. In these circumstances the developer may need to provide additional mitigation to address specific aspects of recreational disturbance.

Measures should be outlined to address recreational disturbance and disturbance as a result of local plan applications. Specifically in relation to:

Policy 12 of the Local Plan commits the council to further develop the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan to manage increasing recreational pressures and access to sensitive areas while the supporting text for this policy states that:

“The Council will need to develop a mitigation strategy which considers potential impacts of development and incorporates improvements to visitor management as the visitor numbers increase, considering in particular the management suggestions set out in the Footprint Ecology Desk Based Study on Recreation Disturbance to Birds on the Humber Estuary 2010... The Plan will also include a framework for future monitoring of recreational impacts.” (North East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2013-2032 para 12.81-12.82).

Policy 13 of the Local Plan repeats this commitment stating that:

“The Council will track planning permissions granted on all housing sites and will identify and secure appropriate, effective and timely mitigation to manage increasing recreational pressures on the Humber Natura 2000 sites when necessary; this includes a commitment to further development of the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan. Any mitigation or management measures identified will be implemented prior to impacts occurring.” (North East Lincolnshire Local Plan Policy 13, criterion 5).

In addition, the following policies within the Local Plan advise on the requirement for suitable green space to be delivered as mitigation for recreational impacts identified within the Local Plan HRA (dated July 2017). Paragraph 5.148 of the HRA states that *“Mitigation will require a multi-faceted approach including the provision of alternative open space and green infrastructure... These measures will be delivered as part of the development of the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan”*. Therefore, the policies stated below should also be used to inform the development of the CHMP.

Policy 40 of the Local Plan states that:

“Development will be expected to maintain and improve the network of green infrastructure. Recognition should also be made to the role such green infrastructure plays in mitigating the effects of recreational pressure on the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar, specifically designing natural green space which is attractive to walkers and dog walkers, particularly in areas where development is most likely to result in increasing visitors to the Humber Estuary SCA/SPA/Ramsar.” (North East Lincolnshire Local Plan Policy 40, criterion 1).

Policy 43

Further to this Policy 43 states that:

“Developers will be required to make provisions for green space, sport and recreation facilities in accordance with the additional needs that the development generates taking account of current local standards of provision and accessibility, (recognising any subsequent review and

revision). Delivery will be secured through planning conditions, obligations or charging levy as appropriate. In making this provision, recognition should be made to the role such green space plays in mitigating the effects of recreational pressure on the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar, specifically designing natural green space which is attractive to walkers and dog walkers, particularly in areas where development is most likely to result in increasing visitors to the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar.” (North East Lincolnshire Local Plan Policy 43, criterion 3).

Design

Developers should have reference to [Green Infrastructure Framework](#) and the [SANGS Guidance](#) as part of the design of green space within their developments.

Local Plan Policy 40: Green Infrastructure and Policy 42: Green Space and Recreation provide opportunities to mitigate increases in recreational pressure, in particular from residential development, by providing alternative locations for recreational activities and adopting a strategic approach to delivery of high-quality open space.

The Local Plan commits to minimum standards with regards to provision of natural green space. Developments of 10 or more units will have to provide, or contribute towards providing, a minimum of 1ha of natural green space per 1,000 of population which is in accordance with current National standards and is in keeping with the approach used by other comparable Local Plans. In addition, such developments will need to meet accessibility standards including a local recreational area within 400m, District Park within 1km, and Major Park within 3km. The Local Plan assumes that a development site of 22ha (equivalent to 1,000 population/455 units) would need to provide 1ha of natural green space; 0.8 ha of children’s play space; 1.6ha outdoor sports; and 0.2ha of allotment provision. Based on the number of houses proposed, the Local Plan equates to a commitment to provide almost 30ha of natural green space during the lifetime of the plan. These standards may be subject to future review to reflect national guidance.

Considering areas with current deprivation with regards to access to green space will be important in focusing the design of strategic provision of green space. It is recommended that the location, design, and accessibility of open space is focused to areas where current and proposed housing is most likely to contribute to increasing visitors to the Humber Estuary SAC (i.e. typically housing developments within 4.42km of the SAC with a lack of existing open space provision). Within the Local Plan, strategic Green Infrastructure corridors have been identified linking between New Waltham, Humberston, Grimsby and Cleethorpes and the seafront. These are the areas where housing growth is most likely to contribute to increased recreational pressures on the SAC and therefore provides a sensible platform upon which specific provision of strategic open space should be focused. It will be important to develop this network further to ensure that the green infrastructure network maximises its function to relieve visitor pressure on the SAC/SPA/Ramsar.

Housing allocations of particular note with regards to their likely contribution to increasing recreation at the SAC, and requirements to link to areas of strategic open space are summarised below:

- HOU074a, b and c (Land West of Humberston Road) – there is an opportunity to link to Cleethorpes Country Park, and Weelsby Woods. The Local Plan includes a commitment to expand Weelsby Woods to the south, creating a strong and extensive area of green infrastructure between Weelsby Woods and Hewitts Avenue; forming green links that will connect to the wider countryside and through the development.
- HOU342 (Grimsby West Urban Extension) – there is an opportunity to create and maintain extensive open space on this site due to its large size and the large number of houses proposed. Also, considerable opportunity to provide linkages to and extension of the existing high quality accessible open space along the River Freshney corridor. The Local Plan includes a commitment to providing green infrastructure, specifically including the expansion of the Freshney Parkway to the west and creation of a Freshney Valley Country Park.
- HOU018, HOU118, and HOU128 (Grimsby West) – there is an opportunity to provide a link and contribute to the existing River Freshney corridor.

- HOU002 (Immingham) – this site should seek to maximise connectivity to Homestead Park and Public Rights of Way and associated open space to north.
- HOU006 (Immingham) - poorly connected to existing green space provision. Given its large size there will be a requirement to provide high quality green space on site.
- HOU146 (New Waltham) HOU092, HOU147. HOU139, HOU084a (Humberston) – Sites in relatively close proximity to accessible parts of the SAC. There is an opportunity to incorporate high quality open space within these sites due to their large size, potentially incorporating strategic links between them via Public Rights of Way to maximise attractiveness to walkers and dog walkers. There is also an opportunity to promote and direct recreational opportunities towards Cleethorpes Country Park which lies in close proximity.

The above list provides an example of the key strategic opportunities and priorities which could help to maximise the provision and accessibility of high quality natural green space. Where the above sites are under development or consented, they will deliver in accordance with their consent.

Walkers and Dog Walkers

Policy 40 of the Local Plan states that:

“Recognition should also be made to the role such green infrastructure plays in mitigating the effects of recreational pressure on the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar, specially designing natural green space which is attractive to walkers and dog walkers, particularly in areas where development is most likely to result in increasing visitors to the Humber Estuary SCA/SPA/Ramsar”.

The effectiveness of providing open space as mitigation will depend on the nature, location and design of open space and green infrastructure and whether it provides an attractive alternative to walkers and dog walkers in particular, which represent the key source of recreational disturbance to the SAC (and SPA/Ramsar). Studies from within the UK indicate that the three most important amenities dog owners seek are:

- Off lead access
- Close to home
- Away from traffic.

Taking into consideration Natural England's guidelines for provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace, the following aims are recommended with respect to the provision or enhancement of green space at sites within 4.42km of the SAC:

- Sites should be semi-natural in appearance.
- They should be a minimum of 3ha (per 1,000 population) and include sufficient sized areas to enable users to walk their dogs off the lead safely. Smaller sites may also be suitable if they are close to and have good links to other smaller sites, to form a larger total area/network.
- Sites should aim to allow a minimum dog walking penetration of 784 m from starting point and a circular dog walk of 2.7km.
- The design of the site, if near to a designated site, should not inadvertently increase access to the designated site, but rather should be self-contained.
- Sites should be within 400-500m of the target audience/new housing, unless a larger fit for purpose site is created which has a larger catchment area, with sufficient capacity for additional users.
- They should have adequate car parking if they are larger than 10 ha.
- Existing green spaces should be assessed to ensure that the proposed use of the site is compatible with its existing use.
- The carrying capacity of the site should be measured to ensure it has not already been reached.

The provision of open space described above, coupled with site-based management and education, will help to reduce the numbers of people visiting the SAC by providing suitable and more readily accessible alternatives.

Approach

This Plan sets 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 and damage when it occurs.
- Provide alternative recreational provision to offset potential disturbance.
- Identify the triggers relating to the actions above.

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 and damage 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 and damage, as the Local Plan sets out the allocation for new housing developments in the borough. 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 and damage 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.

Developers will be required to make provision for green space, sport and recreation facilities in accordance with the additional needs that the development generates taking account of current local standards of provision and accessibility, (recognising any subsequent review and

revision). Delivery will be secured through planning conditions, obligations or charging levy as appropriate. In making this provision, recognition should be made to the role such green space plays in providing supplementary mitigation for the effects of recreational pressure on the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar, specifically designing natural green space, which is attractive to walkers and dog walkers, particularly in areas where development is most likely to result in increasing visitors to the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar. *(Note; Whilst the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan makes it clear that the Council will mitigate through its actions, for both developments and activities within the resort and for all additional trips associated with new housing development across the Borough; any additional significant green space provision, particularly if delivered based on Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANG) principles would supplement this provision and provide additional supplementary mitigation).*

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 and damage 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 and damage 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 and damage 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 Baseline 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 and damage 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 several 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 8: 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. This would rise to **921,266** annual visits if we account for windfall development, however this does not take account of possible demolitions and losses. The windfall housing sites are currently covered within the mitigation approach; however, it is acknowledged that mitigation provision will need to be reviewed if the sum of delivered allocations and windfall (minus demolitions and losses) exceed the number of visits (596,659) planned for. The additional provision will be considered alongside other data such as footfall monitoring and visitor surveys.

Estimating the change in visitor numbers to enable a quantification of the additional recreational impact on the SPA/Ramsar as a result of the Local Plan is difficult to predict because it is affected by a multitude of unforeseeable variables, most notably including weather, changes in British and overseas economies, currency exchange rates, and changes in recreational preferences in the UK. Visitors numbers may increase or decrease over time in response to prevailing factors. For the purposes of this assessment, and in accordance with a precautionary approach, it has been assumed that visitor numbers will increase over time.

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 eighth 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) Wetland Bird Survey (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. Local WeBS data is available to purchase under the terms of release from BTO.

Table 9: 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.

		Bird Count (5 yr Avg)								Current 5yr mean	WeBS alerts - % Δ since baseline
Species	Designations	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
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	-

		Bird Count (5 yr Avg)								Current 5yr mean	WeBS alerts - % Δ since baseline
Species	Designations	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22		
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	-
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	-

		Bird Count (5 yr Avg)								Current 5yr mean	WeBS alerts - % Δ since baseline
Species	Designations	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22		
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	-
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	-

		Bird Count (5 yr Avg)								Current 5yr mean	WeBS alerts - % Δ since baseline
Species	Designations	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22		
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.									-
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	-

		Bird Count (5 yr Avg)								Current 5yr mean	WeBS alerts - % Δ since baseline
Species	Designations	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22		
Snipe, <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	SSSI	148	221	98	96	90	136	73	68	107	-
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 9 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: Bird Data

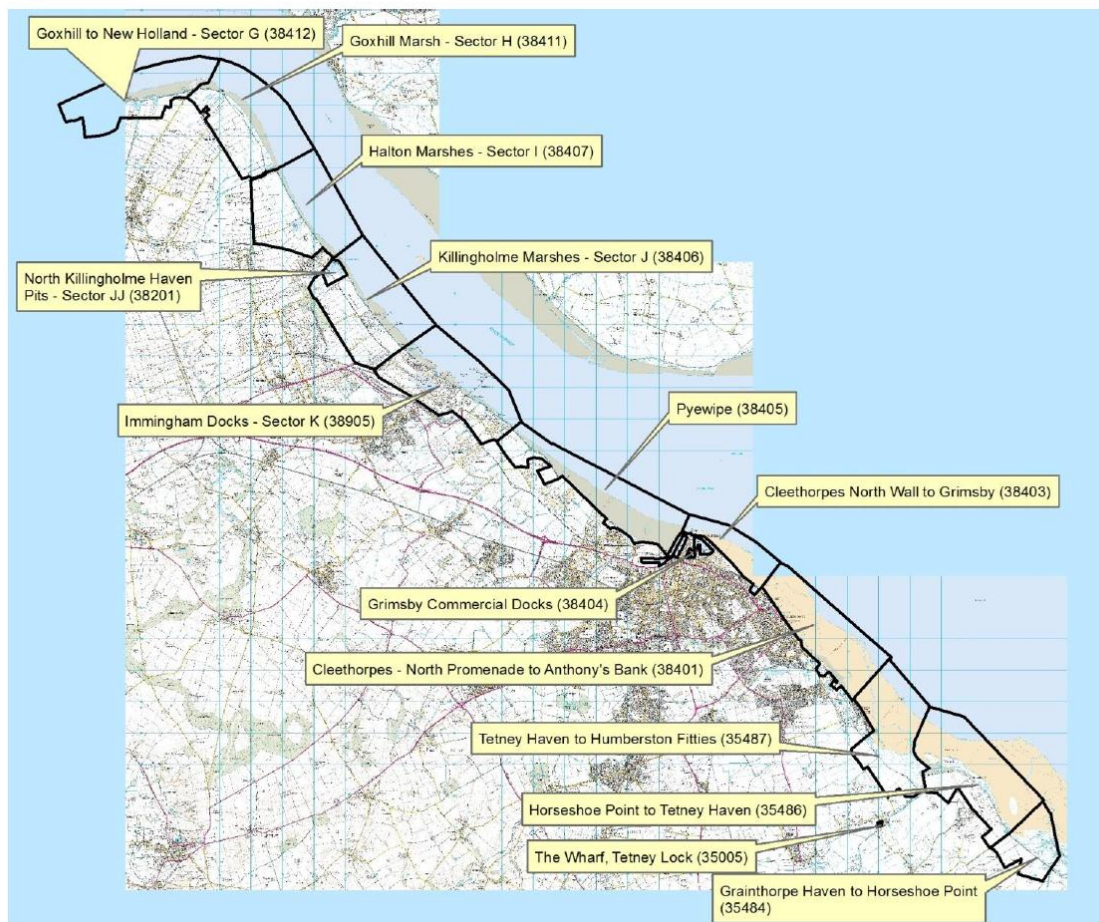


Figure 13: Map of BTO WeBS Sectors. Of the 10 Sectors present in North East Lincolnshire, the Plan covers the sectors from Immingham Docks (Sector K – 38905) to Tetney Haven to Humberstone Fitties (35487).

NELC will request bird data for the relevant four Wetland Bird Survey Sectors from BTO:

- Cleethorpes North Wall to Grimsby (38403)
- Cleethorpes to North Promenade to Anthony's Bank (38401)
- Tetney Haven to Humberstone Fitties (35487)
- Horse Shoe Point to Tetney Haven (Humber) (35486)

Bird Data in these sectors will be compared to the WeBS data above for the whole of the Humber to identify key species which occur in significant numbers in these sectors. This will provide baseline for monitoring purposes.

The tables below show WeBS count data of SPA bird populations in the four sectors outlined above. Curlew are present in significant numbers (exceeding 1% of overall estuary population) in all sectors except Cleethorpes north wall to Grimsby (38403) (Table 11). Numbers of oystercatcher in sector 35496 make up over 20% of the Humber population (Table 13) and exceed 5% in all but sector 38403. Other notable species include knot, with 10.6% of the Humber population in sector 38401 (Table 10); flocks of significant numbers are seen feeding and resting on the sandbanks in this area. This sector has some of the largest shares of the estuary population, with bar-tailed godwit making up 16.4%, sanderling at 9.1%, and grey plover and turnstone at 7.6 and 7.9% respectively.

Table 10. SPA bird populations from sector 38401 as percentage of the population present in the entire Humber estuary.

Cleethorpes North Promenade to Anthony's Bank 38401			
Species	2022 – 23 peak count whole estuary	Most recent 5 year mean whole estuary	% of whole estuary present in Cleethorpes sector
Bar tailed godwit	2130+	1986	16.4
Curlew	2473	2291	1.4

Cleethorpes North Promenade to Anthony's Bank 38401			
Species	2022 – 23 peak count whole estuary	Most recent 5 year mean whole estuary	% of whole estuary present in Cleethorpes sector
Dunlin	16987+	18815	5.9
Grey plover	1439+	2501	7.6
Knot	20419+	23073	10.6
Oystercatcher	10069	6975	6.9
Redshank	2994	2570	2.2
Ringed plover	935	1152	3.9
Sanderling	604+	563	9.1
Shelduck	9783	9362	0.1
Turnstone	216+	275	7.9
Data from 2018 – 2023, comprising 2996 records.			

The Cleethorpes – North Promenade to Anthony's Bank sector are identified as being a key sector for feeding knot and sanderling, which is evidenced in Part A, Section 4, figure 1 of this plan. The data shows that knot tends to concentrate in large roosts and avoids sites with high levels of boat activity nearby and areas close to footpaths. There is also evidence that sanderling foraging times are reduced due to disturbance, with dogs off leads representing a particular issue. WeBS data shows both knot and sanderling in this area exceeding 1% of the entire Humber estuary population, with percentages of 10.6 and 9.1 respectively (Table 9); only shelduck in this sector fail to exceed the 1%

threshold. Rock groynes in this sector function as roosting sites for turnstone and redshank, which make up 7.9% and 2.2% of the estuary population.

The Pyewipe sector is identified as a key sector for both black-tailed godwit and shelduck. For black-tailed godwits there is limited evidence for any impacts of disturbance on populations, but some evidence that this species avoids areas close to footpaths. Data shows that shelduck densities are lower closer to footpaths during the winter.

Table 11. SPA bird populations from sector 38403 as percentage of the population present in the entire Humber estuary.

Cleethorpes North Wall to Grimsby 38403			
Species	2022 – 23 peak count whole estuary	Most recent 5 year mean whole estuary	% of whole estuary present in Cleethorpes sector
Bar tailed godwit	2130+	1986	0
Curlew	2473	2291	0.1
Dunlin	16987+	18815	0
Grey plover	1439+	2501	0
Knot	20419+	23073	0
Oystercatcher	10069	6975	0.02
Pochard	66+	52	1.3
Redshank	2994	2570	0.04
Ringed plover	935	1152	0.03
Sanderling	604+	563	0.2

Shelduck	9783	9362	0
Turnstone	216+	275	1.6
Data from March 2020 – Aug 2021, comprising 50 records.			

WeBS data from sector 38403 (Cleethorpes North Wall to Grimsby) in Table 10 shows only turnstone and pochard as exceeding 1% of the overall Humber estuary population. From the BTO: "the counts in 20/21 were severely impacted by lockdowns, especially in the core winter months and so site totals should be treated with caution as there may be much larger gaps in coverage than in a normal year.". This is a key sector for turnstone, containing suitable feeding areas as well as being adjacent to sector 38401 which contains notable rock groyne roosting sites. Turnstone only exceed the 1% population threshold in this sector and sector 38401.

Table 12. SPA bird populations from sector 35487 as percentage of the population present in the entire Humber estuary.

Tetney Haven to Humberston Fitties 35487			
Species	2022 – 23 peak count whole estuary	Most recent 5 year mean whole estuary	% of whole estuary present in Cleethorpes sector
Bar tailed godwit	2130+	1986	0.2
Brent goose (Dark-bellied – bernicla)	3406	2857	4.1
Curlew	2473	2291	1.1
Dunlin	16987+	18815	0.1
Grey plover	1439+	2501	0.05
Knot	20419+	23073	0.02

Tetney Haven to Humberston Fitties 35487			
Species	2022 – 23 peak count whole estuary	Most recent 5 year mean whole estuary	% of whole estuary present in Cleethorpes sector
Oystercatcher	10069	6975	5.6
Redshank	2994	2570	1.3
Ringed plover	935	1152	0.6
Sanderling	604+	563	1
Shelduck	9783	9362	0.8
Turnstone	216+	275	0.4
Data from 2018 – 2023, comprising 2122 records.			

WeBS data from sector 35487 show brent goose, curlew, oystercatcher, redshank and sanderling populations exceeding 1% of the overall Humber population. The highest populations in this sector are of oystercatcher and brent goose, with 5.6% and 4.1% respectively. This sector is identified as a sensitive area for feeding in Section 4, figure 1 of this plan.

Table 13. SPA bird populations from sector 35486 as percentage of the population present in the entire Humber estuary.

Horseshoe Point to Tetney Haven 35486			
Species	2022 – 23 peak count whole estuary	Most recent 5 year mean whole estuary	% of whole estuary present in Cleethorpes sector
Bar tailed godwit	2130+	1986	0.9

Horseshoe Point to Tetney Haven 35486			
Species	2022 – 23 peak count whole estuary	Most recent 5 year mean whole estuary	% of whole estuary present in Cleethorpes sector
Brent goose (Dark-bellied – bernicla)	3406	2857	4.4
Curlew	2473	2291	2.7
Dunlin	16987+	18815	1.8
Golden plover	8210+	21160	2.2
Grey plover	1439+	2501	8.3
Knot	20419+	23073	2.2
Oystercatcher	10069	6975	20.4
Redshank	2994	2570	2.2
Ringed plover	935	1152	4.7
Sanderling	604+	563	1.6
Scaup	0+	3	5.7
Shelduck	9783	9362	0.8
Turnstone	216+	275	0.7
Whimbrel	52	50	1.1
Data from 2018 – 2023, comprising 2356 records.			

WeBS data from sector 35486 show only bar tailed godwit, shelduck, and turnstone failing to exceed 1% of the overall Humber population. This is a key sector for oystercatcher, with numbers making up over a fifth of the estuary population (20.4%). This is also the only sector where scaup and whimbrel feature in significant numbers, at 5.7% and 1.1% respectively. This sector contains the highest percentage of grey plover at 8.3%. This species is also recorded in significant numbers in sector 38401.

Table 14: SPA species of bird recorded in numbers over 1 and 10% of the overall estuary population (based on the latest 5 year mean of WeBS data) for two sectors: Cleethorpes – North Promenade – Anthony's Bank and Tetney Haven to Humberstone Fitties. Survey data is unavailable for Cleethorpes North Wall – Grimsby and Horse Shoe Point – Tetney Haven sectors.

Sector Name	SPA species that have been recorded in numbers over 1% of the estuary population (based on latest 5 year mean of WeBS data)	SPA species that have been recorded in numbers over 10% of the estuary population (based on latest 5 year mean of WeBS data)
Cleethorpes North Wall to Grimsby (38403)	Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>), teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>).	
Cleethorpes to North Promenade to Anthony's Bank (39401)	Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>), curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>), dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>), grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>), knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>), oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>), redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>), ringed plover (<i>Charadrius</i>	Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>), knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>).

Sector Name	SPA species that have been recorded in numbers over 1% of the estuary population (based on latest 5 year mean of WeBS data)	SPA species that have been recorded in numbers over 10% of the estuary population (based on latest 5 year mean of WeBS data)
	<i>hiaticula</i>), sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>), turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>).	
Tetney Haven to Humberstone Fitties (35487)	Brent goose (dark-bellied – bernicla) (<i>Branta bernicla</i>), curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>), oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>), redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>), sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>).	
Horse Shoe Point to Tetney Haven (Humber) (35486)	Brent goose (dark-bellied – bernicla) (<i>Branta bernicla</i>), curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>), dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>), golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>), grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>), knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>), oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>), redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>), ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>), sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>), scaup	Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>).

Sector Name	SPA species that have been recorded in numbers over 1% of the estuary population (based on latest 5 year mean of WeBS data)	SPA species that have been recorded in numbers over 10% of the estuary population (based on latest 5 year mean of WeBS data)
	(<i>Aythya marila</i>), whimbrel (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>).	

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.

Table 15: 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)

Activity	2021	2022
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

Activity	2021	2022
Paddleboarder	0	2
Side Total	11	10

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 within 6 months, 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 have 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.

Mitigation

6.4 Existing Mitigation Approach

This section of the plan sets out the mitigation approaches for recreational disturbance and habitat damage that NELC already have in place, as of writing this plan, and provides an assessment of the effectiveness of existing approaches. 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 damage to meet NELC's legal obligations. 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.

Roles and Responsibilities are within the Appendix 8.

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

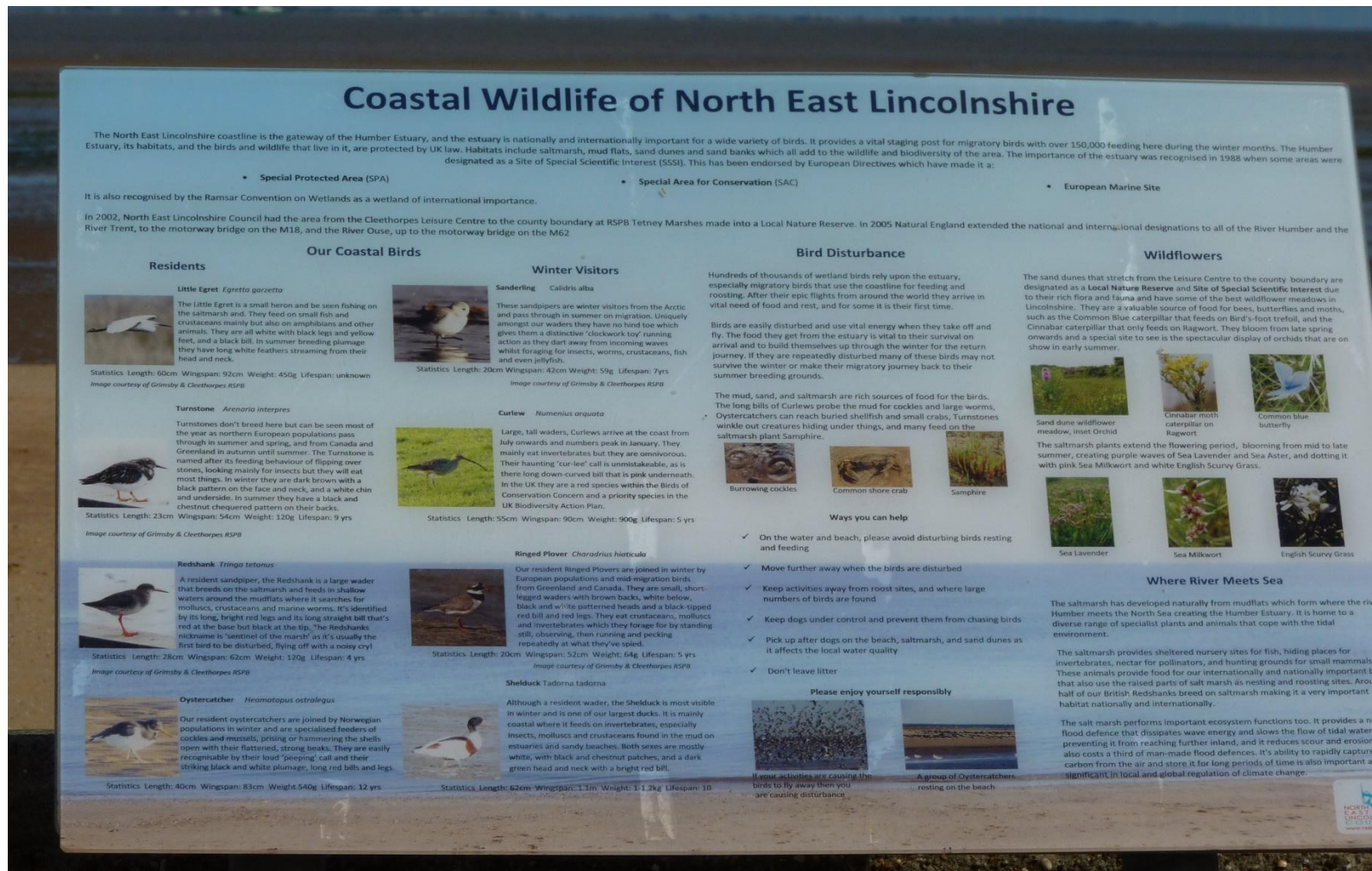


Figure 15: An educational sign in the Cleethorpes Resort which highlights some of the designated features and species of the resort. The sign also highlights what bird disturbance is, why it is important not to disturb the birds on the beach and how visitors/residents can avoid disturbing the birds.

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

Communications and Public Engagement

NELC has produced a Communications Plan to help support the management of recreational disturbance and SAC habitat along the Cleethorpes Coastline. The Communications Plan will aim to encourage people to avoid the most sensitive areas of the coastline. Where areas cannot be avoided, the Communication 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, as advised in the conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) within the Local Plan HRA. 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. We have an effective Communication Plan in place; however, we recognise the limitations of accessing all user groups and we will continue to monitor disturbance effects and review the effectiveness of communications.

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. This is considered effective at targeting specific user groups and addressing specific recreational disturbance events, as the groups have welcomed this engagement.

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. This aims to address the onsite educational mitigation approach outlined in the conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Local Plan HRA. Whilst this is working well, we acknowledge the need to regularly review the information distributed.

Codes of Conduct

As part of the management of the Cleethorpes coastline the 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 removal of their slipway access.

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. While patrols primarily ensure the safety of beach users, they also supplement measures to address the mitigation strategy. This includes:

- Monitoring 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.

- Report any instances of disturbance/damage they witness to the Humberside Police Wildlife Crime Officer where any necessary legal action can be taken.
- Engagement with the public to inform, educate and advise on estuary wide sensitivities and will encourage people who access the site to do so in a responsible manner. Patrols will only operate within the local authority boundary.

This is considered to be partly effective, however we acknowledge the need for further training, the need to establish quarterly meetings with the team to discuss incidents of recreational disturbance and reporting.

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. NELC pay an annual contribution to part fund the Humber Nature Partnership to in part fulfil the Council's statutory responsibilities with regard to the SPA and SAC.

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. This will be secured by a Terms of Reference. 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 to the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan, the group will continue to review recreational disturbance activity between Cleethorpes and Tetney and will advise where necessary to manage recreational

disturbance and damage along the coastline during the lifespan of this plan and NELC will deliver the action within the boundary of North East Lincolnshire and raise cross boundary issues with neighbouring authorities. NELC are committed to working with RSPB, who lead on managing the recreational pressures at Tetney to ensure a co-ordinated approach to managing the pressures outside of these meetings. Any specific projects can be agreed and co-ordinated at the Tetney and Cleethorpes Recreational Disturbance Group, with progress and outcomes fed back to the group. Regular visitor surveys will be carried out at a frequency agreed by the group to establish the number of visitors originating from the NELC area, identifying any changes required to the CHMP. Should any change in recreational disturbance occur that would require a change to the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan, NELC will act to make the necessary changes to the plan.

The group will also look to discuss and seek to identify approaches to resolve cross boundary 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. While looking at these issues, the group uses a strategic approach that involves cross partnership working to try and resolve recreational disturbance issues.

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.

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 30th 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, in line with Local Plan HRA conclusions.

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

If recreational disturbance and habitat damage 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 behaviour change, working with everyone who uses our protected coastline. Any severe disturbance issues will be reported to Natural England and the Police. Two severe incidents of recreational disturbance have been reported to Natural England and the Police in the last 5 years.

Table 16: Existing mitigation approaches for managing recreational disturbance and damage as set out in Part B.

Mitigation	Measures	Effectiveness	Actions	Question of Likely Significant Effect
Cleethorpes Resort signage	<p>Messaging:</p> <p>Bait digging</p> <p>Slipway use</p> <p>Dog control</p> <p>Vehicle use</p> <p>Interpretation:</p> <p>Designated sites</p> <p>Designated features</p> <p>Disturb/damage avoidance</p>	Requirement to modernise and rationalise the signs to improve the messaging and consistency along the coastline, particularly in the Cleethorpes Resort area	Cleethorpes signage review is taking place	No. New signage would replace existing signage.
Communication and public engagement	<p>Communications plan:</p> <p>Targeted user groups</p> <p>Seasonal targeting</p> <p>Engagement plan:</p> <p>Actions for communication plan</p>	<p>An effective communications plan is in place</p> <p>There are limitations of accessing all user groups</p>	Continue to monitor disturbance effects and review the effectiveness of communications.	No. No increased activity by Resort team above operational activities assessed for Part A.

Mitigation	Measures	Effectiveness	Actions	Question of Likely Significant Effect
Recreational user group engagement	Resort Team lead on the ground to engage and actively communicate with local recreational user groups: Codes of conduct Educational messaging resources	Considered effective at targeting specific user groups and addressing specific recreational disturbance events	Expand the network of groups that we actively engage with. Regularly review the information distributed	No. No increased activity by Resort team above operational activities assessed for Part A.
Codes of Conduct	Recreational Code of Conduct Slipway scheme Bait digging Marine Code of Conduct Countryside Code of Conduct	Considered effective. Permit users can be refused use of the permitted activity	Regularly reviewed	No. No increased activity by Resort team above operational activities assessed for Part A.
Resort Patrols	Patrols from 2 hours before high tide up until high tide:	Considered to be partly effective	Further training Establish quarterly meetings	No. No increased activity by Resort team above operational

Mitigation	Measures	Effectiveness	Actions	Question of Likely Significant Effect
	Monitor and report disturbance/damage Public engagement			activities assessed for Part A.
Cleethorpes and Tetney Recreational Disturbance Group	Key stakeholders for the management of recreational disturbance: Revire rec disturbance Discuss plans/projects with potential impacts Advise on managing rec disturbance Achieve cross-boundary issues	Considered effective	Continue bi-annual meetings, Establish Terms of Reference	No. No impact. Any actions or changes identified necessary by the Group will seek assent if assessed as required.
Slipway regulation	Permitted activity	Considered effective	Regularly reviewed	Request for operational activity assent in Part A.
Cleethorpes Resort PSPO	Breach of the PSPO can result in a fixed penalty of £100: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog fouling 	Considered effective	Continued monitoring	Request for operational activity assent in Part A.

Mitigation	Measures	Effectiveness	Actions	Question of Likely Significant Effect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Showing means to pick up dog mess. Dogs not on leads in areas they should be. Dogs in areas where they should not be. 			

6.5 Committed Future Mitigation Approaches

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 implementing 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. Within this period, the Plan identifies future mitigation approaches, which may need to be implemented if additional or new evidence is identified and approaches need to be adapted. 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 meet the requirements of 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.

Policy 43 Green Space and Recreation sets out that developers need to make provision for green space provisions in accordance with current local standards provision and accessibility (recognising any subsequent review and revision). This is found in Table 14.27 of the Local Plan - Current Green Space Standards.

Enhancing the biodiversity value of, or creating new, offsite green infrastructure, such as parks and other green spaces can also be used to increase the attractiveness of developments and can also be used to meet Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements.

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. A signage review by NELC is under way and will aim to provide improved guidance, information, and education for users of the Cleethorpes Coastline in accordance with the conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) within the Local Plan HRA. 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 and damage 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 and damage, 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 17: 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"> • 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.
North Promenade (general footfall)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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.
North Promenade (general footfall)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features. • Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance.
Pier Slipway	Recreational Disturbance (Jet skis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

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

Location	Issues specific to that area	Signage mitigation information
		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"> Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features. Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance. <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"> Pictorial messages to be included to negate any language barrier people may have. <p>Maps of the beach will be included at the locations clearly indicating the risks and their locations.</p>
Leisure Centre	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features.

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

Location	Issues specific to that area	Signage mitigation information
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance. <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"> Pictorial messages to be included to negate any language barrier people may have. <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"> Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features. Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance. <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 (3)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pictorial messages to be included to negate any language barrier people may have.

Location	Issues specific to that area	Signage mitigation information
		Maps of the beach will be included at the locations clearly indicating the risks and their locations.
Embankment (1)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features. Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance. <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"> Pictorial messages to be included to negate any language barrier people may have. <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"> Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features. Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance.

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"> Pictorial messages to be included to negate any language barrier people may have. <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"> Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features. Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance. <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"> Pictorial messages to be included to negate any language barrier people may have. <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
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)	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"> Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features.

Location	Issues specific to that area	Signage mitigation information
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance. <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, in accordance with the Local Plan HRA. Information of the walk length and current position of the walker/beach user would be included with the displayed maps.

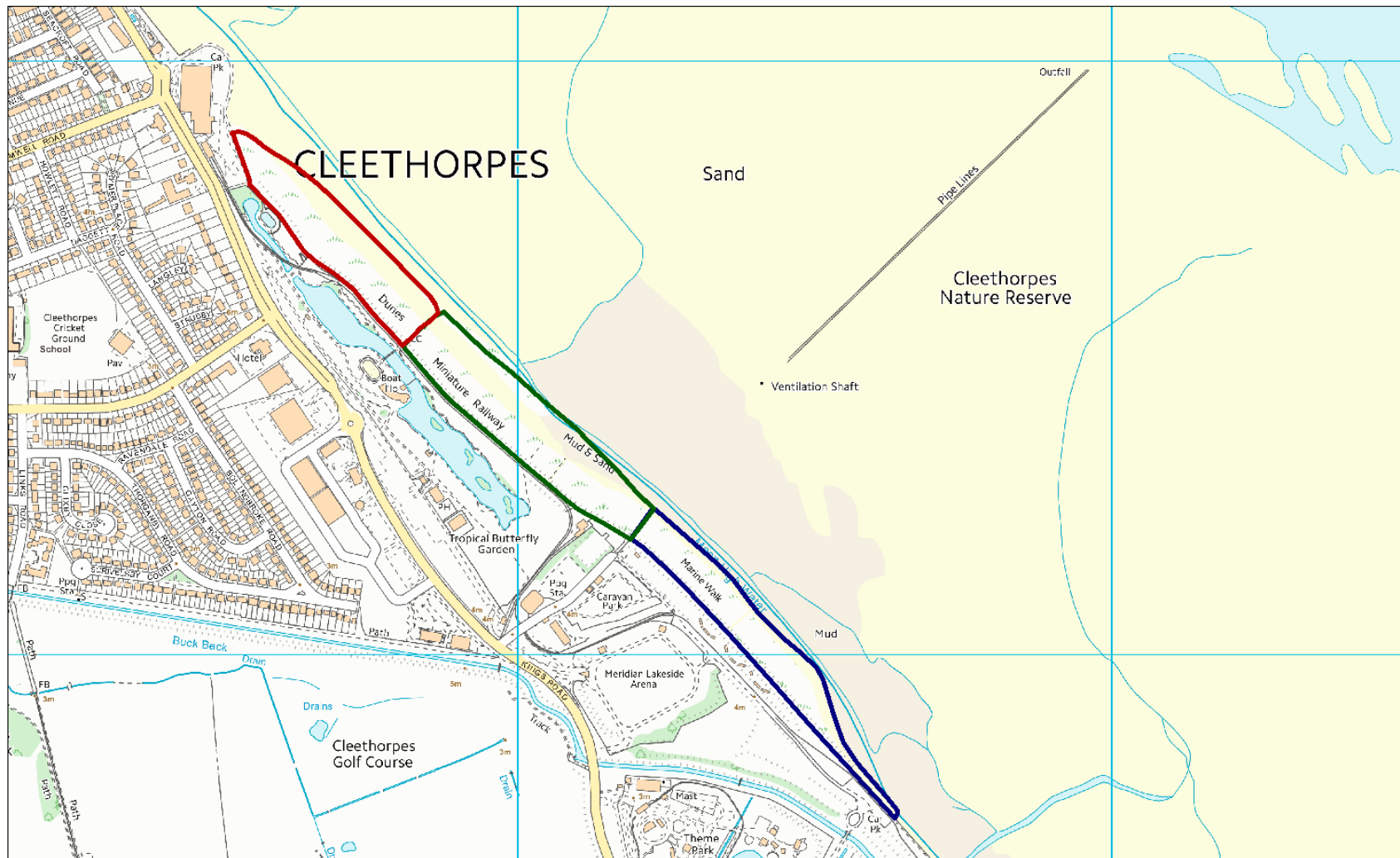


Figure 16: Map of proposed circular dog walking route on already established pathways along the Cleethorpes Resort. Key: Red – 1.02km circular walk, Blue – 1.46km circular walk, Green – 1.16km circular walk.

Figure 16 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 and avoid potential SAC habitat damage. 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 SAC 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 3rd 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. This links back to conclusions and key recommendations of the Local Plan HRA.

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. The review will aid NELC's strategic aim of steering people away from environmentally sensitive areas as outlined in the conclusion of the Local Plan HRA. This includes some of the areas of the Cleethorpes Resort and encourages 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 and damage. 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 and direct them away from these areas, as concluded in the Local Plan HRA. 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 and Sidney which has a designated dog swimming area and fenced dog exercise areas as concluded in the Local Plan HRA. 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](#), which will include guidance on how to behave in certain locations in accordance with the conclusions in the Local Plan HRA. 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. We will also explore the option of working with developers to create ecological packs for new developments, providing information on the designated sites and signposting and promoting alternative recreational space across the borough. 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

The assessment of action will be based on a combination of footfall, ecological monitoring (birds and habitat), incidents of recreational disturbance, overall delivery of green space and enforcement measures. We will identify significant levels in terms of triggers, but no single factor will be considered in isolation for the purpose of introducing additional mitigation measures. This will be derived from an assessment of the combination of factors.

Significant Levels

Footfall – 5% increase on a 5 year rolling average

Ecological Monitoring – potential reduction of 1% of estuary species (cross referenced with available data sourced)

Habitat Assessment – Any habitat loss in SAC / SPA

Incidents of recreational disturbance – 10% subject to revision and establishment of a suitable baseline and efforts to encourage incident reporting.

Delivery of green space – increase of 1 h/a per 1000 population – subject to future review.

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 annual 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.

6.7 Summary of Mitigation Approach

Table 18: Table outlining our approach to prioritising mitigation for the most sensitive features.

Feature	Aims	Mitigation	Monitoring	Potential extra mitigation measures if there is negative impact
High tide roosting SPA birds	Key roosting sites are left undisturbed two hours either side of high tide.	Signage, education, including communication with key water-based user groups, so that they are advised where to go and what areas to avoid minimising the impact.	WeBS counts, disturbance reporting and monitoring. Patrols over the high tide period.	Exclusion of people from the key areas at most sensitive times.
Feeding wintering passage SPA birds	Feeding birds subject to low level disturbance, which impact natural behaviour and survival.	Improved signage and education and targeted communication.	Disturbance monitoring and reporting. Patrols at the most sensitive times.	Increase patrol presence at most sensitive times. Increased control of activities at the most sensitive times.
Dune vegetation communities & Saltmarsh	Reduce trampling, erosion, uncontrolled fires, nutrient enrichment from dog waste.	Signage, education, targeting communication and PSPO enforcement.	Community of vegetation monitoring. Footfall Monitoring	Zoning – restricting access to specific areas. Dog control measures.

Feature	Aims	Mitigation	Monitoring	Potential extra mitigation measures if there is negative impact
Cleethorpes Resort signage	<p>Messaging: Bait digging Slipway use Dog control Vehicle use</p> <p>Interpretation: Designated sites Designated features Disturb/damage avoidance</p>	Requirement to modernise and rationalise the signs to improve the messaging and consistency along the coastline, particularly in the Cleethorpes Resort area	Cleethorpes signage review is taking place	No. New signage would replace existing signage.
Communication and public engagement	<p>Communications plan: Targeted user groups Seasonal targeting</p> <p>Engagement plan: Actions for communication plan</p>	<p>An effective communications plan is in place</p> <p>There are limitations of accessing all user groups</p>	Continue to monitor disturbance effects and review the effectiveness of communications.	No. No increased activity by Resort team above operational activities assessed for Part A.
Recreational user group engagement	Resort Team lead on the ground to engage and actively communicate	Considered effective at targeting specific user groups and addressing	Expand the network of groups that we actively engage with.	No. No increased activity by Resort team above operational activities assessed for Part A.

Feature	Aims	Mitigation	Monitoring	Potential extra mitigation measures if there is negative impact
	with local recreational user groups: Codes of conduct Educational messaging resources	specific recreational disturbance events	Regularly review the information distributed	
Codes of Conduct	Recreational Code of Conduct Slipway scheme Bait digging Marine Code of Conduct Countryside Code of Conduct	Considered effective. Permit users can be refused use of the permitted activity	Regularly reviewed	No. No increased activity by Resort team above operational activities assessed for Part A.
Resort Patrols	Patrols from 2 hours before high tide up until high tide: Monitor and report disturbance/damage Public engagement	Considered to be partly effective	Further training Establish quarterly meetings	No. No increased activity by Resort team above operational activities assessed for Part A.

Feature	Aims	Mitigation	Monitoring	Potential extra mitigation measures if there is negative impact
Cleethorpes and Tetney Recreational Disturbance Group	Key stakeholders for the management of recreational disturbance: Review rec disturbance Discuss plans/projects with potential impacts Advise on managing rec disturbance Achieve cross-boundary issues	Considered effective	Continue bi-annual meetings, Establish Terms of Reference	No. No impact. Any actions or changes identified necessary by the Group will seek assent if assessed as required.
Slipway regulation	Permitted activity	Considered effective	Regularly reviewed	Request for operational activity assent in Part A.
Cleethorpes Resort PSPO	Breach of the PSPO can result in a fixed penalty of £100: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	Considered effective	Continued monitoring	Request for operational activity assent in Part A.

