

North East Lincolnshire Council

Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan



2021

Table of Contents

Part A: Habitat Management6

1. Introduction 6

 1.1. Vision 7

 1.2 Aims 8

 1.3 Delivering the Plan 8

2. Site Description and Designated Features..... 10

 2.1 Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)..... 13

 2.2 Ramsar Site 16

 2.3 Special Area of Conservation (SAC)..... 17

 2.4 Special Protected Areas (SPA) 18

 2.5 European Marine Site (EMS) 18

 2.6 Local Nature Reserve..... 19

3. Sustainability and Tourism 20

 3.1 Visitor Economy and Tourism..... 20

 3.2 Climate 21

3.3 Climate Change 21

4. Plans Associated with the Estuary for its Management..... 23

4.1 Existing Regional Partnerships and Plans Associated with the Estuary and its Management..... 27

4.2 Future Local Plans and Aspirations for the Management of the Estuary 29

5. Compartments and their Associated Activities 30

5.1 Operational Activities30

5.2 Compartment 1 – North Promenade 47

5.3 Compartment 2 – Central Promenade Beach 54

5.4 Compartment 3 – North Dunes 60

5.5 Compartment 4 – Saltmarsh 65

5.6 Compartment 5 – Central Dunes 69

5.7 Compartment 6 – Fitties Dunes..... 73

5.8 Compartment 7 – Sand Banks and Mud Flats 77

5.9 Compartment 8 – Relict Sand Dunes 81

Part B: Mitigation Strategy to Address Damage and Disturbance 85

6.1. Purpose 85

6.2 Scope..... 99

6.3 Baseline Evidence..... 99

6.4 Existing Mitigation Approach 122

6.5 Committed Future Mitigation Approaches..... 134

6.6 Monitoring..... 134

6.7 Summary of Mitigation Approach 153

7. Appendices 158

 Appendix 1: Cleethorpes Habitat Communication Plan 158

 Appendix 2: Slipway Regulation Form 164

 Appendix 3: Photographs of Current Signage across the Cleethorpes Resort..... 173

 Appendix 4 175

 Appendix 5: Suggested Locations for Recreational Disturbance Sign in Cleethorpes Resort 193

 Appendix 6: Bait Digging Permit..... 197

 Appendix 7: Cleethorpes Dune Scrub Management Plan Winter 21/22 201

 Appendix 8: Roles and Responsibilities 209

 Appendix 9: Greenspace Provision 215

Appendix 10: Habitat Regulations Assessment for Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan 2021-2026..... **217**

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: • 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: • 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: • 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
	• Sandbanks • Shifting dunes with Marram grass And for species: • Grey seal • River lamprey • Sea lamprey	
Humber Estuary Ramsar Site (Site details available online in Designated Sites View)	Designated for being a wetland of international importance with internationally important habitat: • Estuary And for internationally important species: • 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)	Cleethorpes Sands LNR is designated for its diverse habitats: • Sand Dunes • Saltmarsh • Wildflower Areas • Mudflats • Sand Banks And the associated wildlife: • 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.

24

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

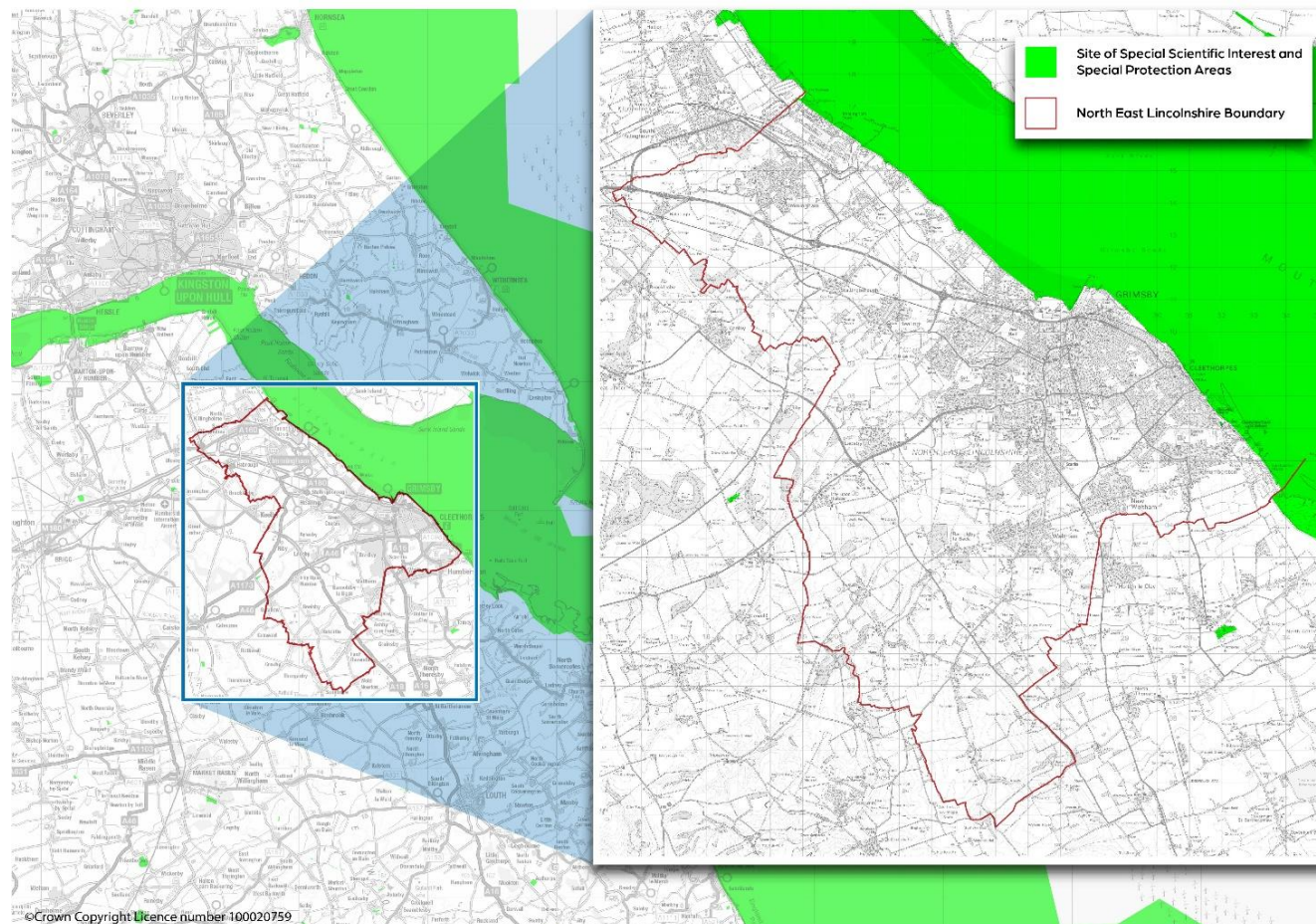


Figure 2: Map of the North East Lincolnshire boundary in wider context of location along the Humber Estuary with a zoom to show more detail of North East Lincolnshire, alongside the SSSI designation and SPA designation zone.

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

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of operation	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.
Mowing vegetation on flood banks	3	The Environment Agency sea defence embankment runs adjacent to Marine Walk footpath on land owned by NELC. Work to remove trees and shrubs within the bank was consented as part of the Dynamic Dunescape Project between 30th Nov 2021 and Feb 28th, 2022. The work was undertaken following Environment Agency recommendations to allow asset inspections. The stumps of the scrub were not treated with herbicide so as not to kill off roots, which may lead to seepage pathways for water through the embankment; a coppice regime will prevent roots from dying off. This management will allow for an EA asset inspection, post scrub	September, 1 day	The bank will be cut by a tractor and flail arm from Marine Walk footpath. There are no likely disturbance effects due to the dunes and buckthorn acting as a barrier in front of the saltmarsh, shoreline and mudflats.	4

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of operation	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.
		removal. Work is carried out as part of NELCs own management regime.			
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	10

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of operation	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.
				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.	
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	1 st October to 28 th February (in line with scrub management prescriptions for HLS Agreement, avoiding	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.
		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.	nesting bird season)		
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	All year	Vegetation removed by hand.	11

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of operation	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.
		recreation away from the more sensitive habitats of the dunes and saltmarsh.			
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	September to March unless there is a risk to the public	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	11

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of operation	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.
		Fitties holiday chalets and invasive and inappropriate species, need removing as necessary when chemical applications aren't sufficient.	outside of that period.	manageable size and removed by hand. A tractor and bucket, tracked long-arm digger or small 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,	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8	These compartments have railings, beach access steps, beach access boardwalks, benches and signage that will need repair	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.
boardwalks, fences/rails and entrances to the beach, signs, benches		and maintenance. Due to their nature, they are all located on main or established paths.			
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	23

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of operation	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.
				back-filled. The last replacement took place over 5 years ago.	
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	26

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of operation	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.
				compartments accessed via the slipways.	
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
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	26

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

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

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

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. 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.	18

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of Operation	NE Advice required & ORNEC no.
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 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.	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 with the permit conditions results in an on the spot fine of £100.	26
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	All year	HM Coastguard and RNLI boat launch via slipways on the main central beach. Vehicle used on	26

Operation	Compartment	Description of operation	Timing of operation	Method of Operation	NE Advice required & ORNEC no.
		paths in Compartments 4 and 6 for observations of public safety.		established pathways in non-emergency duties.	
Kite surfers	5	Kite surfers, although not regulated, use the area mapped due to the flat, harder sand present after the tide has gone out, and lack of footfall. Historically, they have always used that area and were more numerous and frequent than they are now.	All year	Access is from Thorpe Park Car Park where there is a Kite Surfers Code of Conduct sign on entrance onto the beach.	26
Donkey rides	1, 2	NELC licence a donkey ride operator that has two locations in Compartment 1 and one location in Compartment 2. The donkeys are walked onto the beach and to the locations.	March to October	The ride route is only on the soft sand between the sea wall and the groynes and donkey droppings are collected by the operator by hand and taken away.	27
Fixed amusement rides	1	In Compartment 1, NELC licence a fixed amusement operator. The site has had amusement rides for over 50 years.	March to October	The rides close over winter, operating in the tourist season only.	27

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

Activity	Humber Estuary SSSI unit							NELC activity	Third party activity	NE Assent required & ORNEC no.	NE Advice required & ORNEC no.	Legislation		Regulation	
	173	187	186	189	188 & 189	171						W&CA	Blue Flag	PSPO	ES
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8							
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					

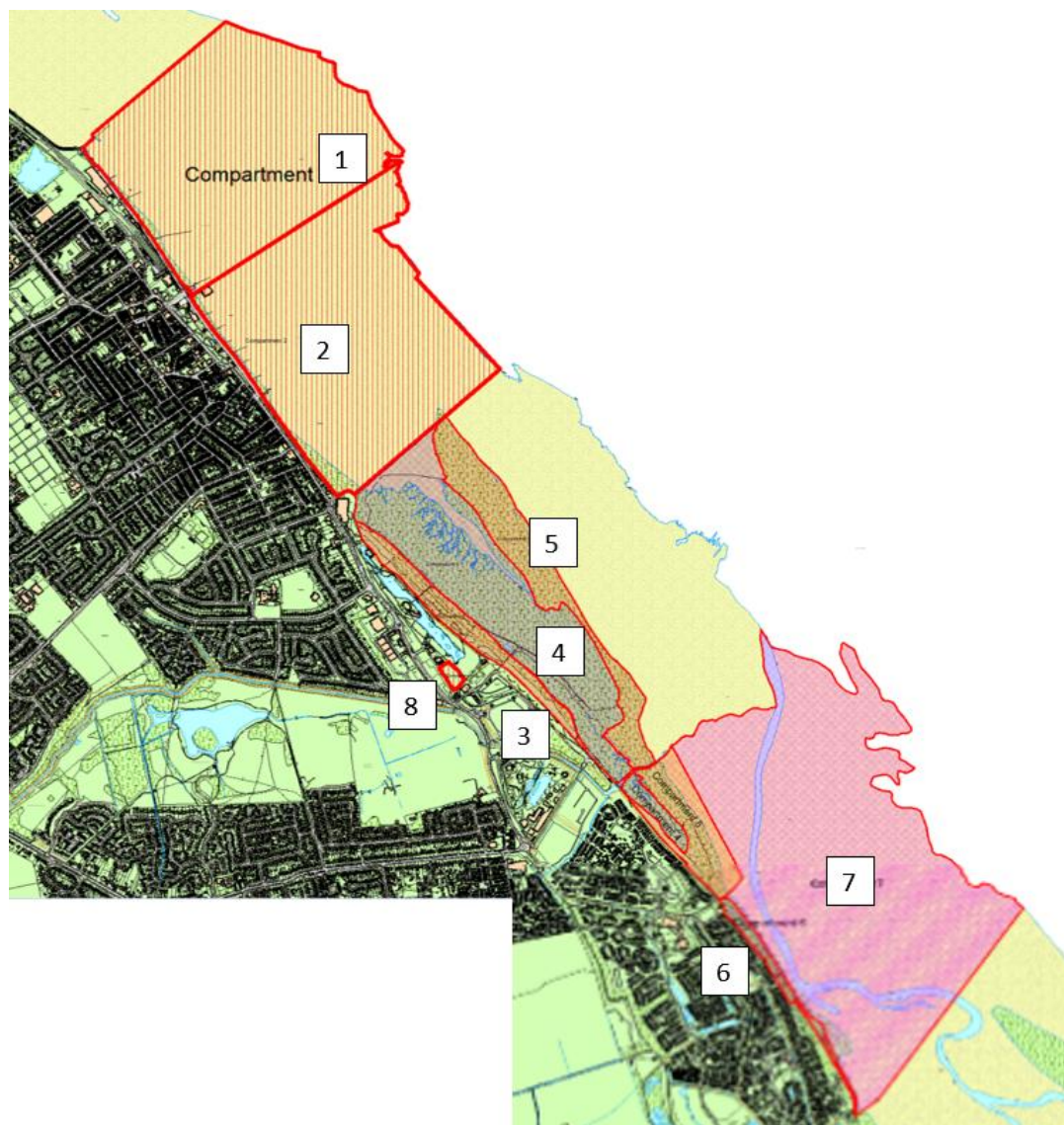


Figure 3: Map showing the locations of all 8 compartments.

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
	skis out of the swim safety zone, for easier vehicle parking along Central Promenade, and Sea Road slipway is generally less congested with people.	
Donkey rides	NELC licence a donkey ride operator that has two locations in Compartment 1. The donkeys are walked onto the beach and to the locations. The ride route is only on the soft sand between the sea wall and the groynes and donkey droppings are collected by the operator by hand and taken away. They don't operate in winter.	March to October
Fixed amusement rides	NELC licence a fixed amusement operator. The site has had amusement rides for over 50 years. The rides close over winter.	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 September 30th
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 1.	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.

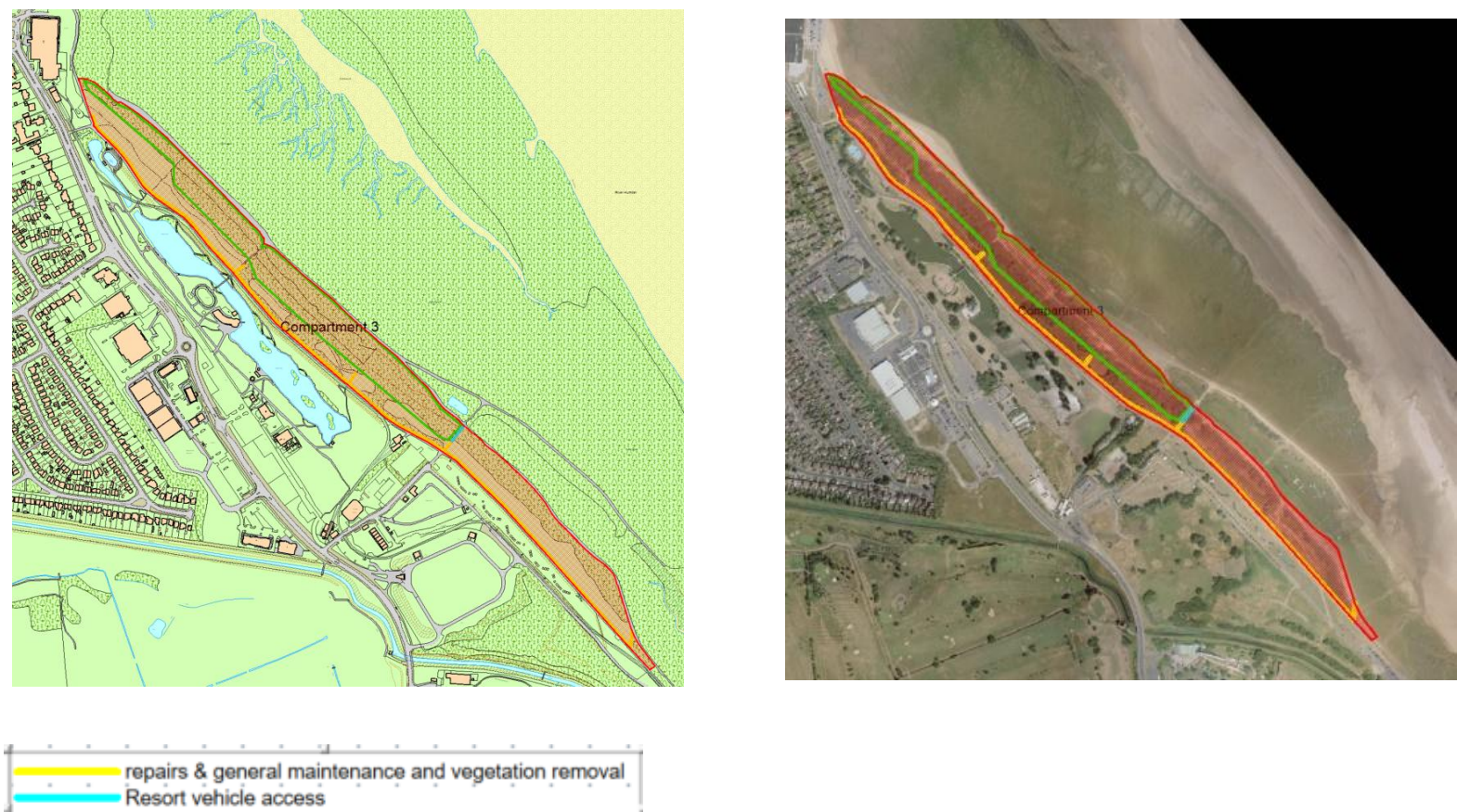


Figure 6: Map of Compartment 3 – North Dunes with activities in the compartment shown. Aerial images are the most recent available from 2006.

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.

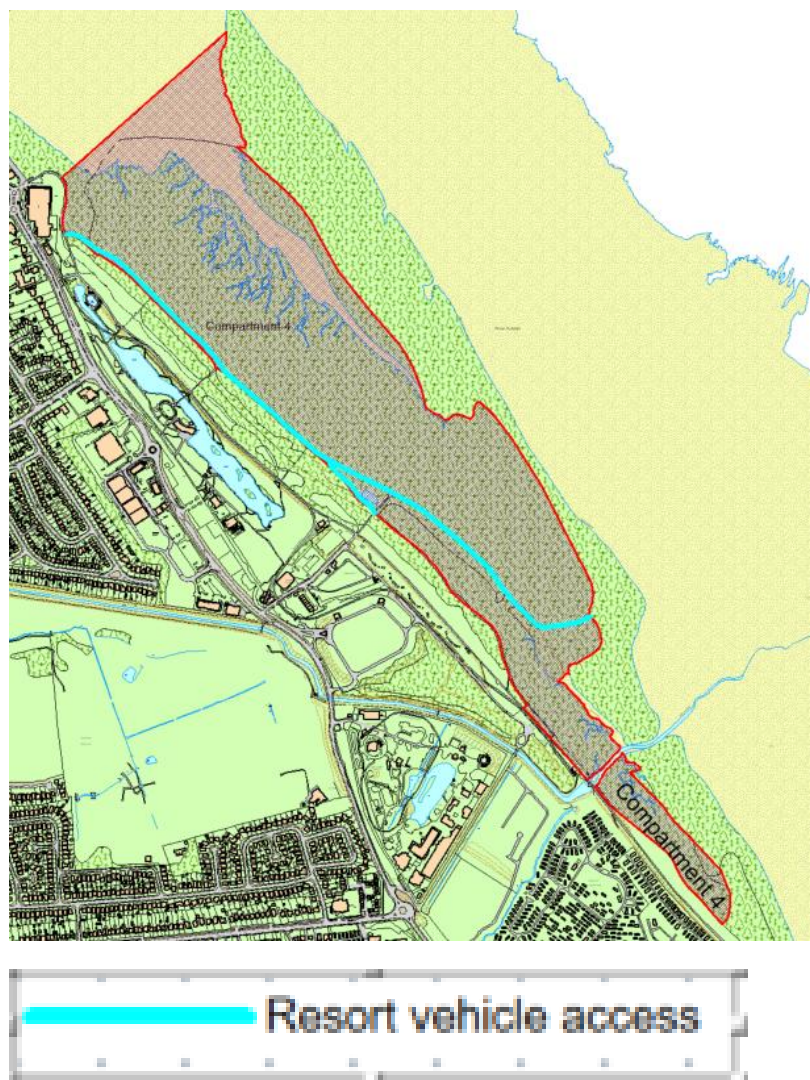


Figure 7: Map of Compartment 4 – Saltmarsh with activities in the compartment shown. Aerial images are the most recent available from 2006.

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 (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)
<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.

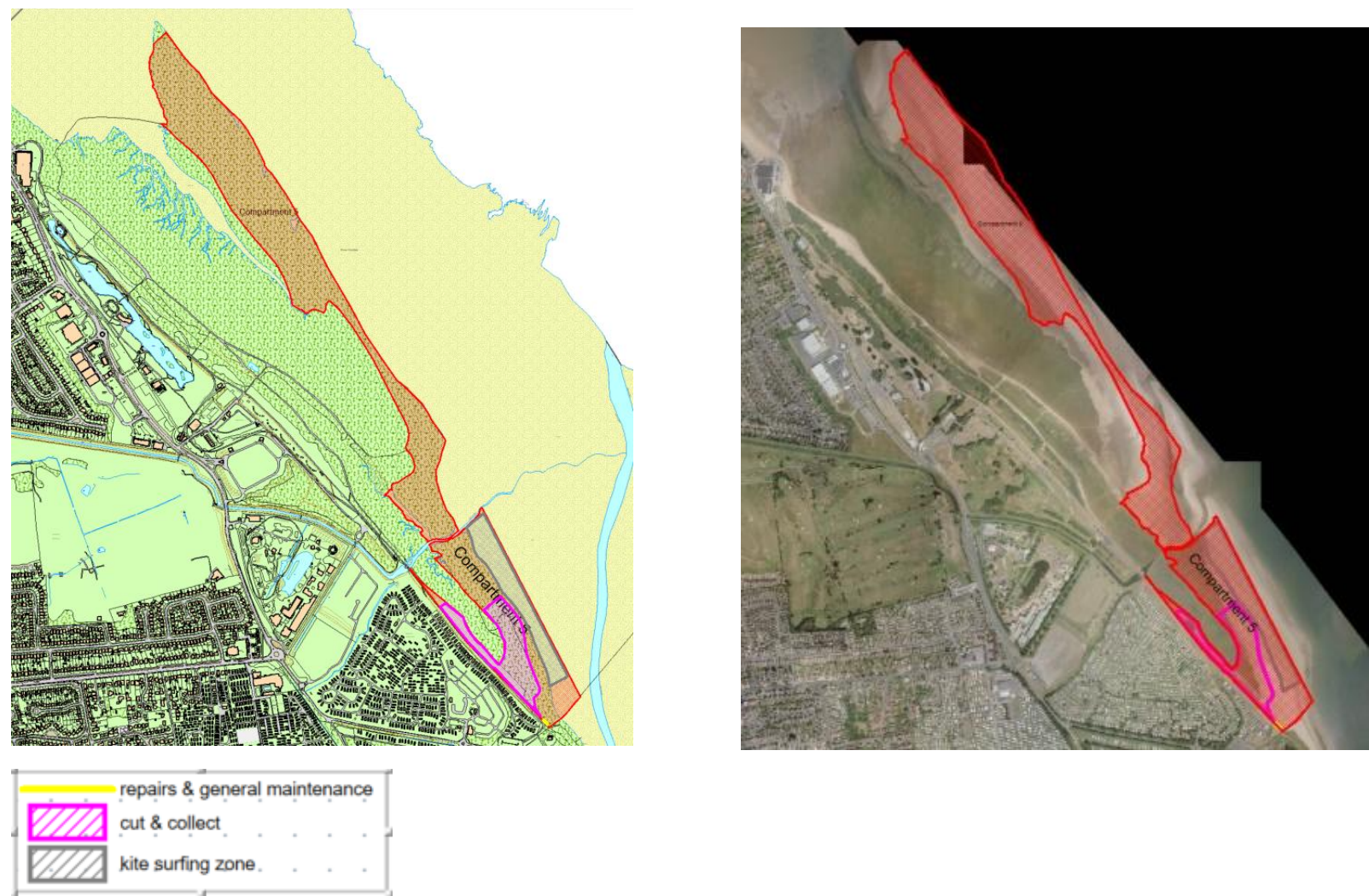


Figure 8: Map of Compartment 5 – Central dunes with activities in the compartment shown. Aerial images are the most recent available from 2006.

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, boardwalks, fences/rails and	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
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.

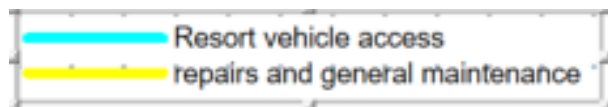


Figure 9: Map of Compartment 6 – Fitties Dunes with activities in the compartment shown. Aerial images are the most recent available from 2006.

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

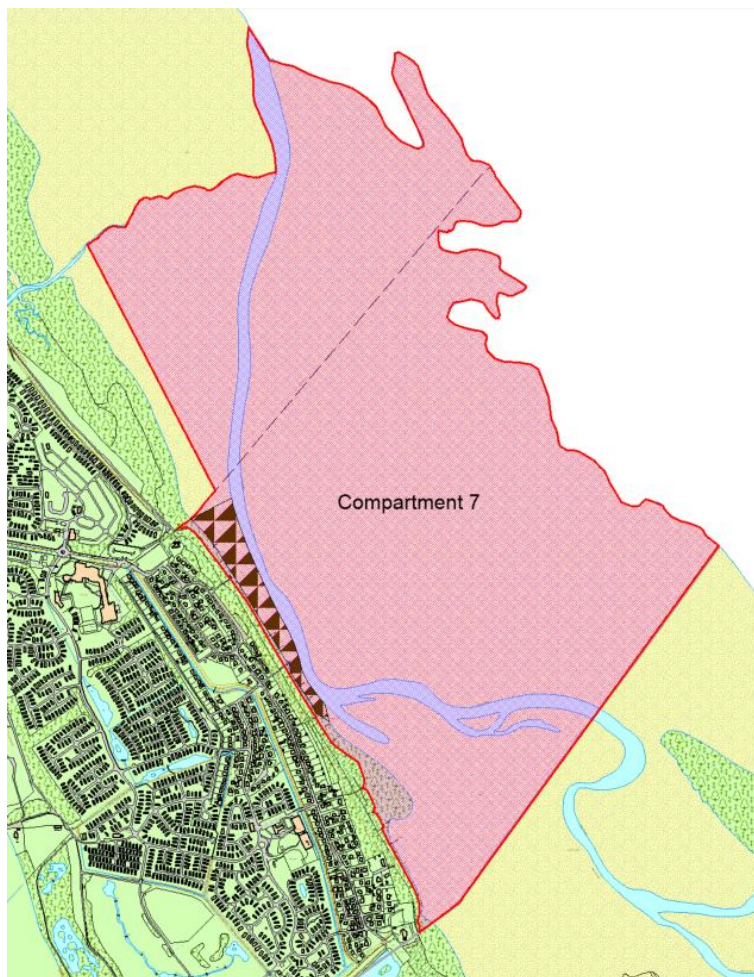
5.8 Compartment 7 – Sand Banks and Mud Flats

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.



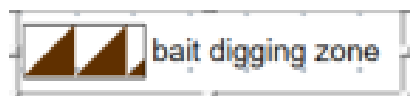


Figure 10: Map of Compartment 7 –Sand Banks and Mudflats with activities in the compartment shown. Aerial images are the most recent available from 2006.

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 (<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
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.

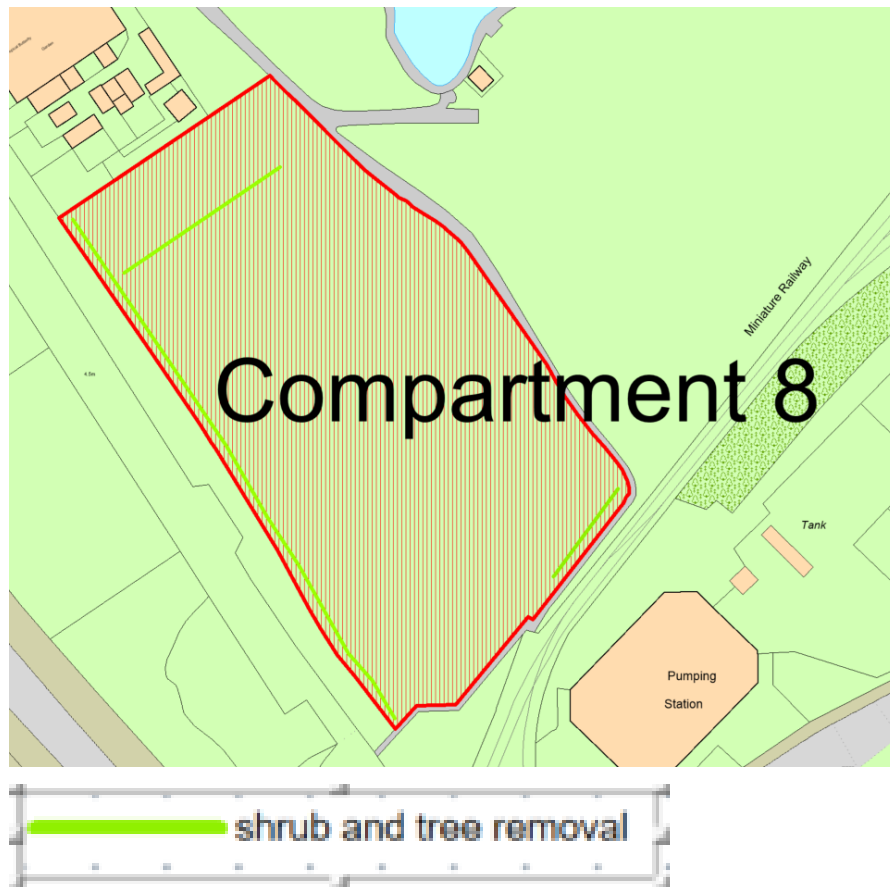


Figure 11: Map of Compartment 8 – Relict Sand Dunes with activities in the compartment shown. Aerial images are the most recent available from 2006.

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.

Activity	Description	Timing of activity
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 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/canoists	Drone users	Paramotors	Light aircraft pilots
Location							
Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Cleethorpes Leisure Centre to Buck Beck	High	High	Medium	High	Low	Medium	Low
Buck Beck to Humberston Fitties	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	High	Low
Tetney	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	High

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	26,358	85,664	24,111

	(736 of which are present for 10 months of the year)			
Population x frequency of visits	34,341 x 365 + 736 x 304	26,358 x 52	85,664 x 12	24,111 x 1
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	-

		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		
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	-
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	-

		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		
Great crested grebe, <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	SSSI	35	45	18	22	13	17	13	16	18	-
Greenshank, <i>Tringa nebularia</i>	SSSI	35	34	42	46	42	68	27	27	46	-
Grey plover, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	SSSI	2128	1938	4388	4434	2277	1618	2554	2673	2985	-
Kingfisher, <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	SSSI	3	4	4	5	2	11	3	5	5	-
Hen harrier, <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	SPA	WeBS data not available.									-
Knot, <i>Calidris canutus</i>	SPA, SSSI, RAMSAR	14987	15025	14646	27112	25743	12871	20402	17022	26428	-16
Lapwing, <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	SSSI	8612	12810	23198	13135	20247	12877	10161	14728	15247	-
Little grebe, <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	SSSI	76	54	44	56	47	42	47	64	56	-

		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		
Little ringed plover, <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	SSSI	7	7	4	2	3	6	6	14	6	-
Little tern, <i>Sterna albifrons</i>	SPA	1	11	10	9	9	10	7	5	8	-
Mute swan, <i>Cygnus olor</i>	SSSI	135	137	158	169	115	171	145	131	152	-
Oystercatcher, <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	SSSI	5848	4543	5256	5392	8544	5344	3942	5211	5806	-
Pochard, <i>Aythya ferina</i>	SSSI	186	153	96	59	40	52	47	24	50	-
Marsh Harrier, <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	SPA	WeBS data not available.									-
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	-

		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		
Sanderling, <i>Calidris alba</i>	SSSI	464	399	697	653	334	812	502	317	575	-
Scaup, <i>Aythya marila</i>	SSSI	1	1	43	2	2	7	2	0	3	-
Shelduck, <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	SPA, SSSI, RAMSAR	3948	4939	5158	4098	5292	3089	6937	13012	6486	-13
Shoveler, <i>Anas clypeata</i>	SSSI	120	139	122	228	244	337	201	463	295	-
Snipe, <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	SSSI	148	221	98	96	90	136	73	68	107	-
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	-

		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		
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

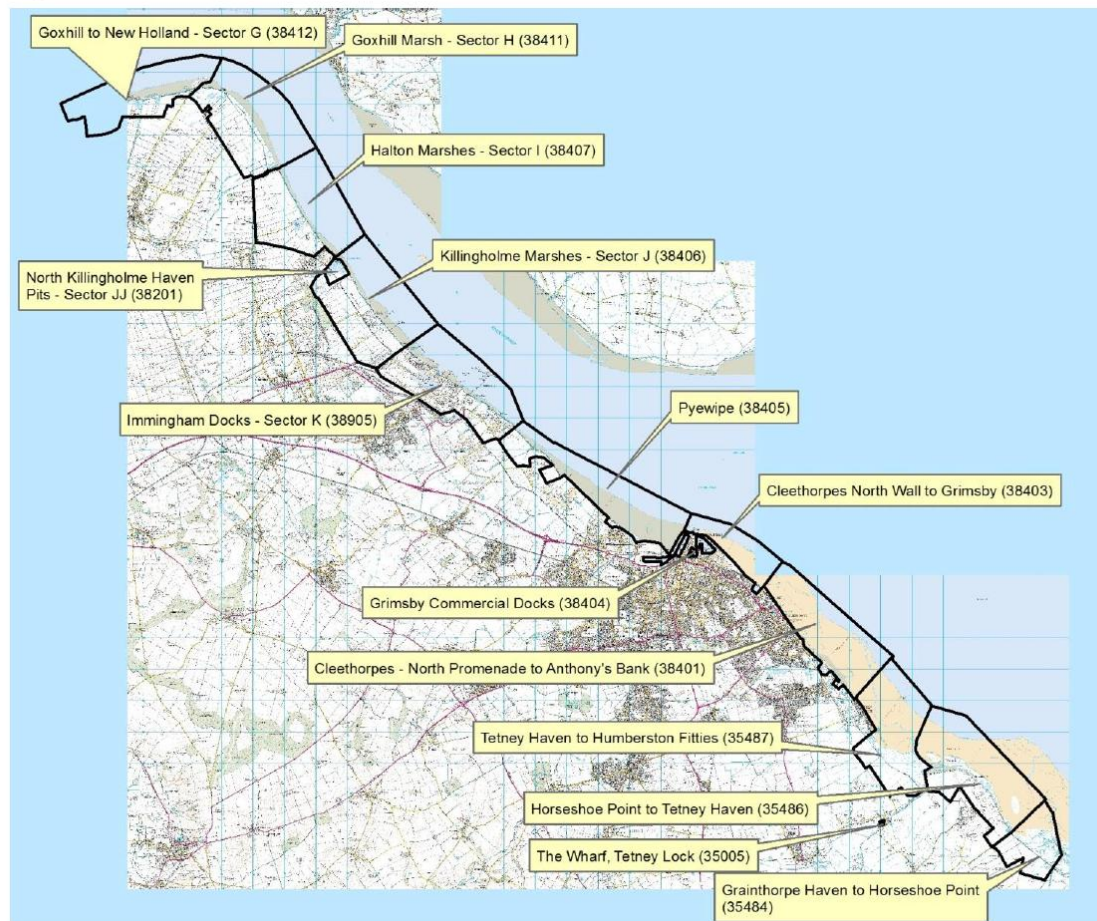


Figure 13: Map of BTO WeBS Sectors. Of the 10 Sectors present in North East Lincolnshire, the Plan covers the sectors from Immingham Docks (Sector K – 38905) to Tetney Haven to Humberstone Fitties (35487).

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.

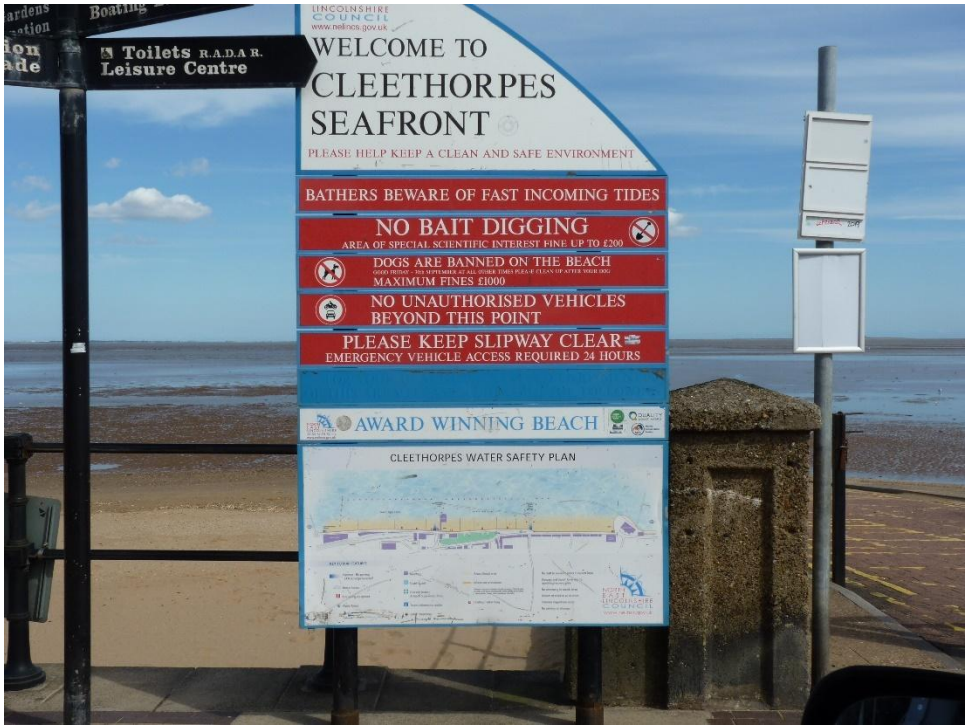


Figure 14: A sign with accompanying map in Cleethorpes Resort

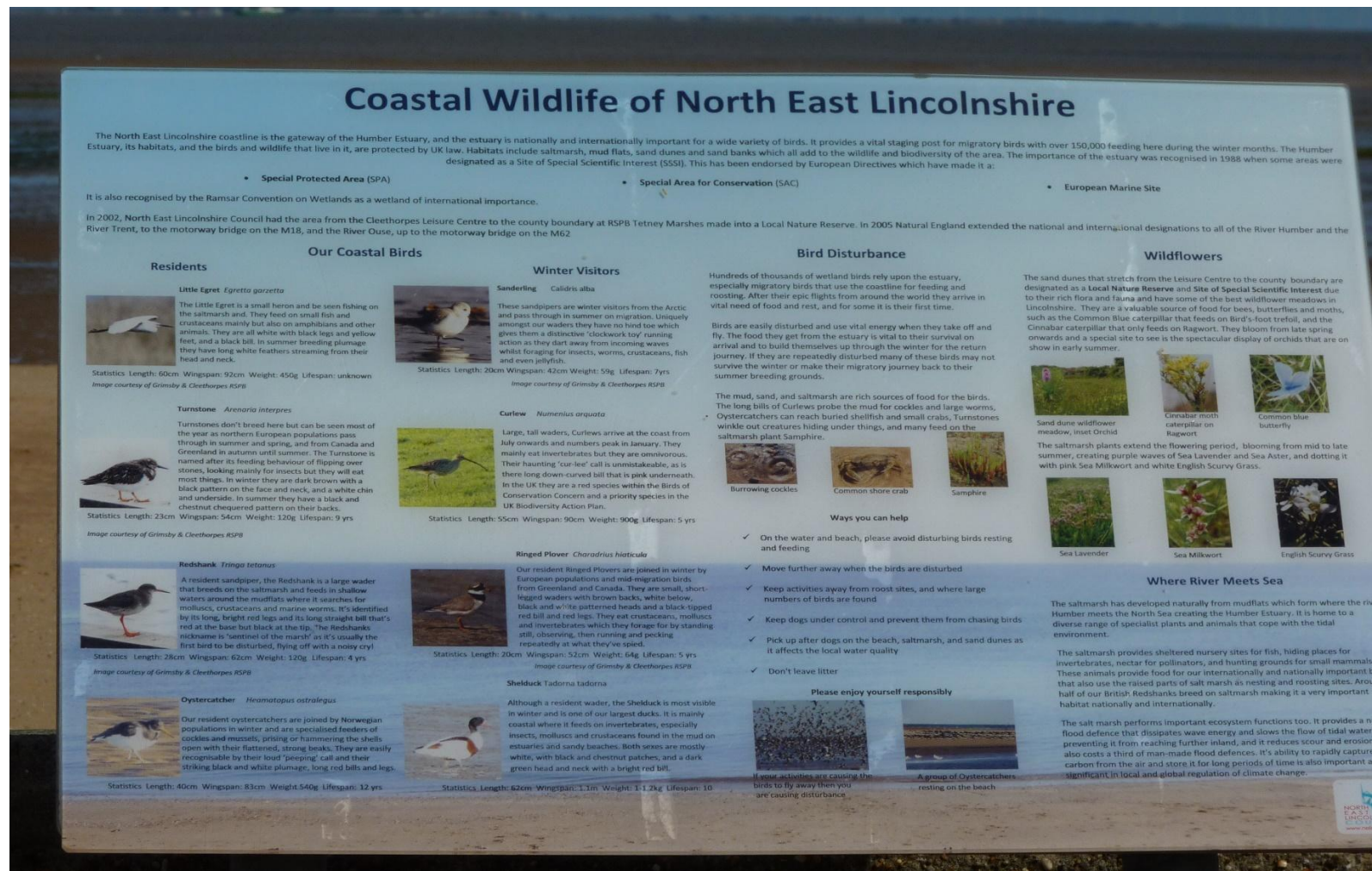


Figure 15: An educational sign in the Cleethorpes Resort which highlights some of the designated features and species of the resort. The sign also highlights what bird disturbance is, why it is important not to disturb the birds on the beach and how visitors/residents can avoid disturbing the birds.

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	Messaging: Bait digging Slipway use Dog control Vehicle use Interpretation: Designated sites Designated features Disturb/damage avoidance	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	Communications plan: Targeted user groups Seasonal targeting Engagement plan: Actions for communication plan	An effective communications plan is in place There are limitations of accessing all user groups	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: Dog fouling	Considered effective	Continued monitoring	Request for operational activity assent in Part A.

Mitigation	Measures	Effectiveness	Actions	Question of Likely Significant Effect
	- 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)	• 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)	• 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)	• 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)	• 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)	Pictorial messages to be included to negate any language barrier people may have.
Pier Slipway	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	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)	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)	- 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)	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.
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)	• 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. 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.
Leisure Centre	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	• 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.
Leisure Centre	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	• Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features.

Location	Issues specific to that area	Signage mitigation information
		Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance. 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.
Meridian Path (1)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	- 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. 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.
Meridian Path (1)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	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.
Meridian Path (2)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features.

Location	Issues specific to that area	Signage mitigation information
		Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance. 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.
Meridian Path (2)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	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.
Meridian Path (3)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	- 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. 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.
Meridian Path (3)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	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)	• 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. 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.
Embankment (1)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	• 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.
Embankment (2)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	• 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
		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.
Embankment (2)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	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.
Embankment nr to concrete steps (3)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	- 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. 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.
Embankment nr to concrete steps (3)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	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.

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)	Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features.

Location	Issues specific to that area	Signage mitigation information
		Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance. 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.

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.

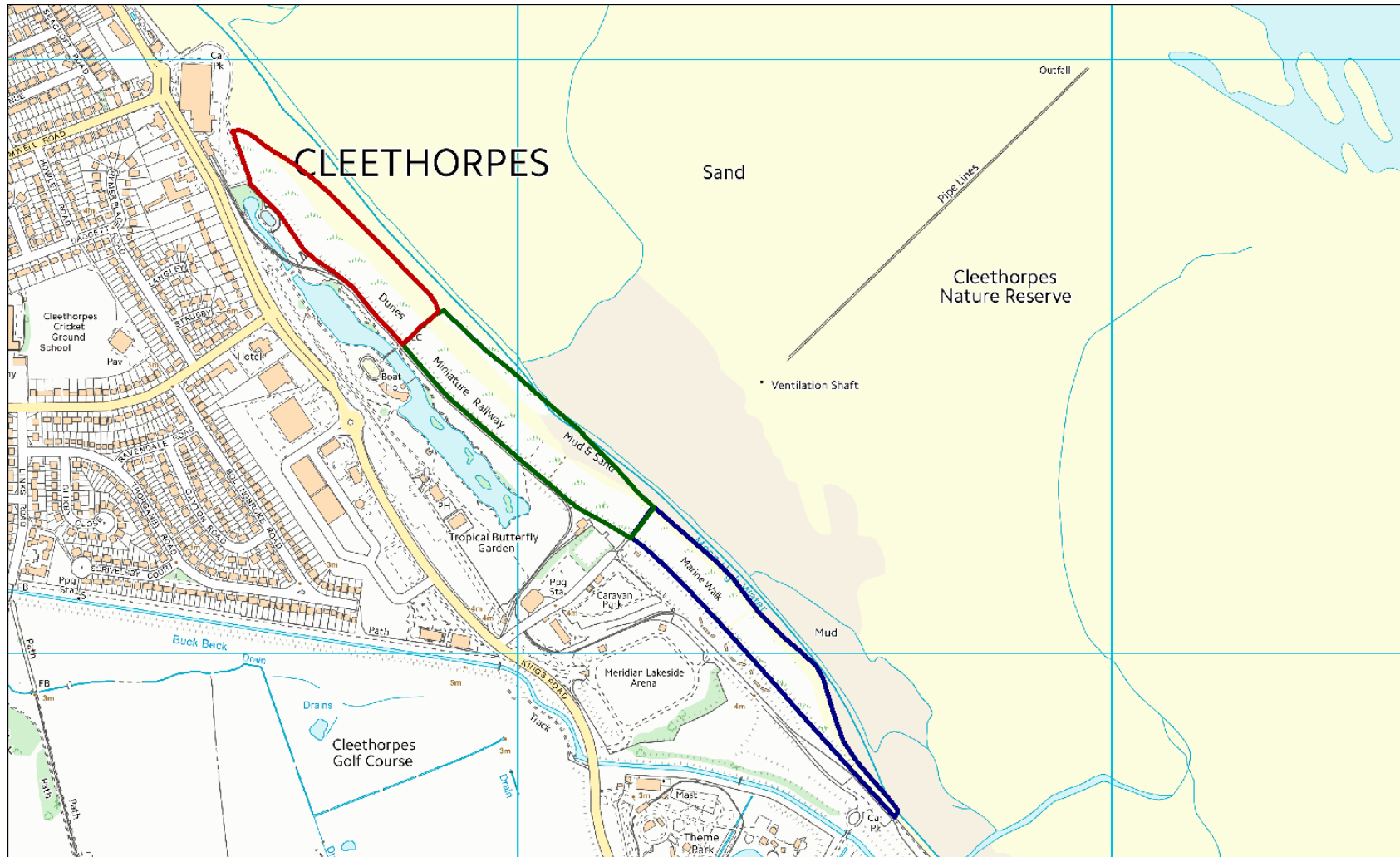


Figure 16: Map of proposed circular dog walking route on already established pathways along the Cleethorpes Resort. Key: Red – 1.02km circular walk, Blue – 1.46km circular walk, Green – 1.16km circular walk.

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.
Cleethorpes Resort signage	Messaging: Bait digging Slipway use	Requirement to modernise and rationalise the signs to improve the	Cleethorpes signage review is taking place	No. New signage would replace existing signage.

Feature	Aims	Mitigation	Monitoring	Potential extra mitigation measures if there is negative impact
	Dog control Vehicle use Interpretation: Designated sites Designated features Disturb/damage avoidance	messaging and consistency along the coastline, particularly in the Cleethorpes Resort area		
Communication and public engagement	Communications plan: Targeted user groups Seasonal targeting Engagement plan: Actions for communication plan	An effective communications plan is in place There are limitations of accessing all user groups	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 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.

Feature	Aims	Mitigation	Monitoring	Potential extra mitigation measures if there is negative impact
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.
Cleethorpes and Tetney Recreational Disturbance Group	Key stakeholders for the management of recreational disturbance: Review rec disturbance Discuss plans/projects with potential impacts	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.

Feature	Aims	Mitigation	Monitoring	Potential extra mitigation measures if there is negative impact
	Advise on managing rec disturbance Achieve cross-boundary issues			
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: • 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.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1: Cleethorpes Habitat Communication Plan

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

Cleethorpes Habitat Communications Plan 2021

CONTENTS

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

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

2. COMMUNICATION AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- Aim: To mitigate the impact of typical coastal resort activities on wildlife and sensitive natural habitat.

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

3. TARGET AUDIENCE

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

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

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

4. KEY MESSAGES

The tone of the communications will:

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

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

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

5. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Behaviour Change campaign

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

- Encourage businesses, community groups and other organisations to share campaign materials.

Other campaign activity

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

6. EVALUATION

Media monitoring

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

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

How do we measure the effectiveness of publicity?

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

Rebuttals and on-going media requests / coverage

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

7. KEY CONTACTS

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

Appendix 2: Slipway Regulation Form

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



NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

Slipway Regulations

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

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

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

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

RULES FOR THE LAUNCHING OF VESSEL / CRAFTS

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

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

OR

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

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

PRIOR TO LAUNCHING

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

No vessel / craft will be allowed to launch if:

- If a valid certificate of insurance cannot be produced for visual inspection
- The launch fee had not been paid
- Proof of identification cannot be given
- Sufficient identification marks are not present on vessel / craft.
- If it is unsuitable for sea usage.
- If it is not equipped with mandatory safety aids.
- If the weather conditions are deemed unsuitable.
- If an excessive number of passengers are to be carried.

- If the person in charge appears to be incapable of operating the vessel / craft
- If the trailer carrying the vessel / craft is no longer, because of deterioration, capable of transporting the vessel / craft in a safe manner.
- If the person in charge has been previously in breach of launch conditions of by-laws relating to water safety.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Paddles or spare engine (boats)

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

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

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

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

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

GOING TO SEA

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

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

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

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

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

Protected species and habitats

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

Bird Sensitive Areas

Bird Sensitive Areas are **to be avoided**. The Bird Sensitive Areas identified are areas that are used by large numbers of protected SPA birds, either as a roost at high tide, where birds rest, or as a feeding or nesting ground. The birds are protected by law because their populations are on the decline and their survival is threatened. They fly very long distances, some travel 1000's of miles, to come here to feed on our rich

mudflats and saltmarsh. Preventing these birds from roosting or feeding, by making them take flight or by causing them distress, is an offence and puts their survival further at risk by preventing them from getting enough food and energy to complete the return journey. The offence applies to any protected birds on the coast and the Bird Sensitive Areas are where the nationally and internationally important largest flocks usually are, but small numbers of birds at any location on the coast are equally **protected by law and must not be subjected to disturbance**.

☐

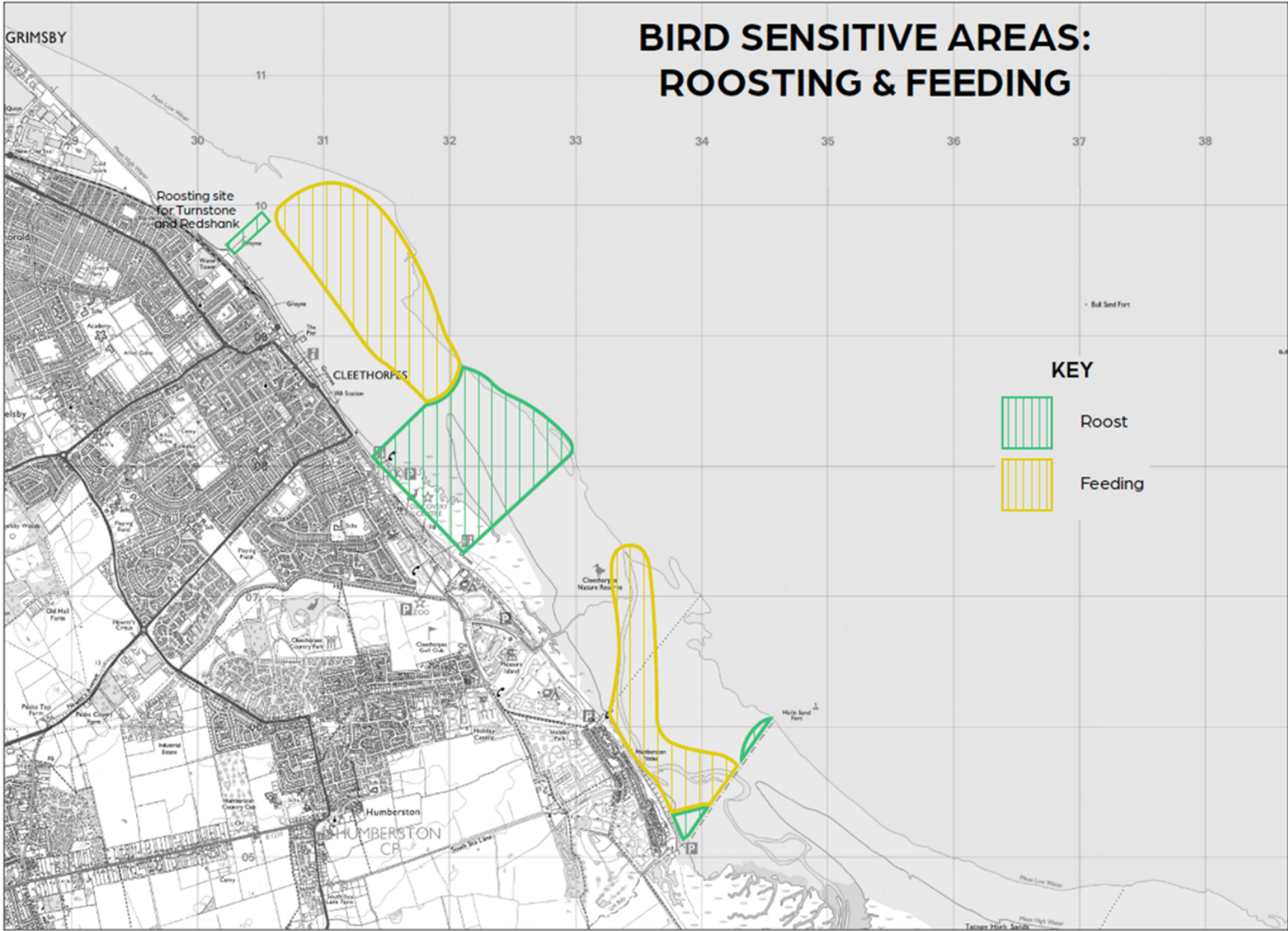
Please tick the box to confirm that you are aware that causing disturbance or damage to the Humber protected species and habitats can result in the launch permit being revoked and puts you at risk of prosecution under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

☐

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

☐

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



GENERAL INFORMATION

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

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

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

GENERAL SEA SAFETY ADVICE

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

VHF RADIO TELEPHONY

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

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

MAYDAY calls MUST also be made on channel 16

Mobile Telephones

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

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

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

Print name

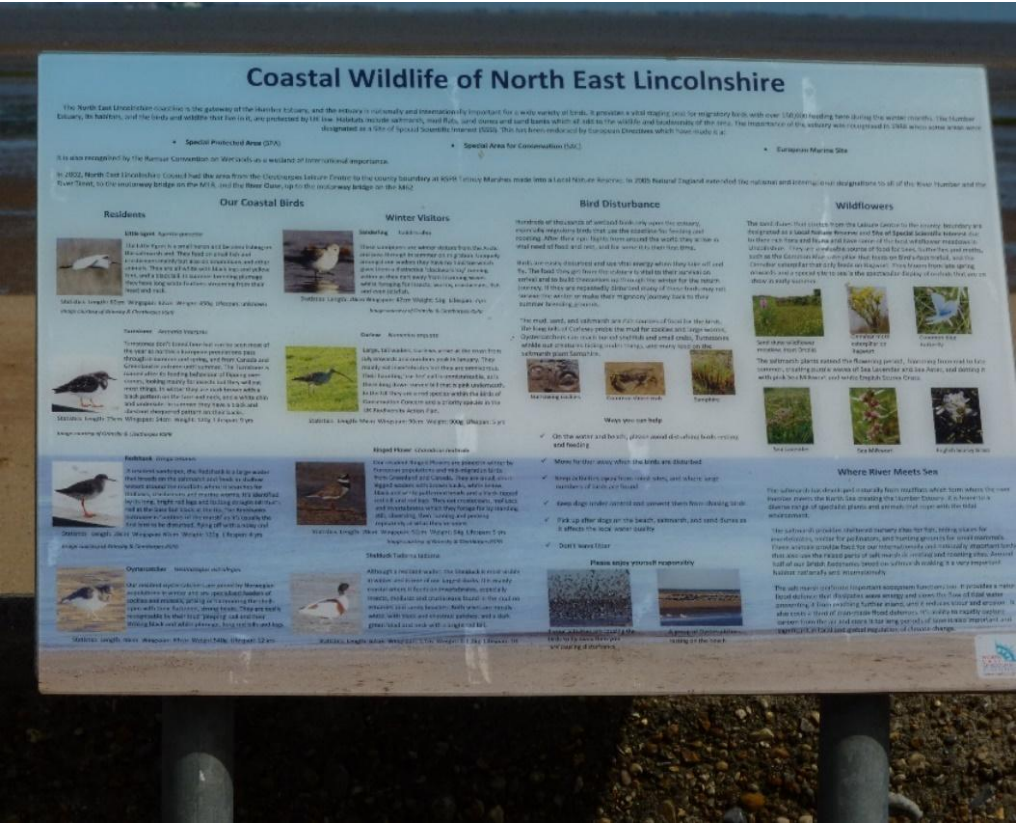
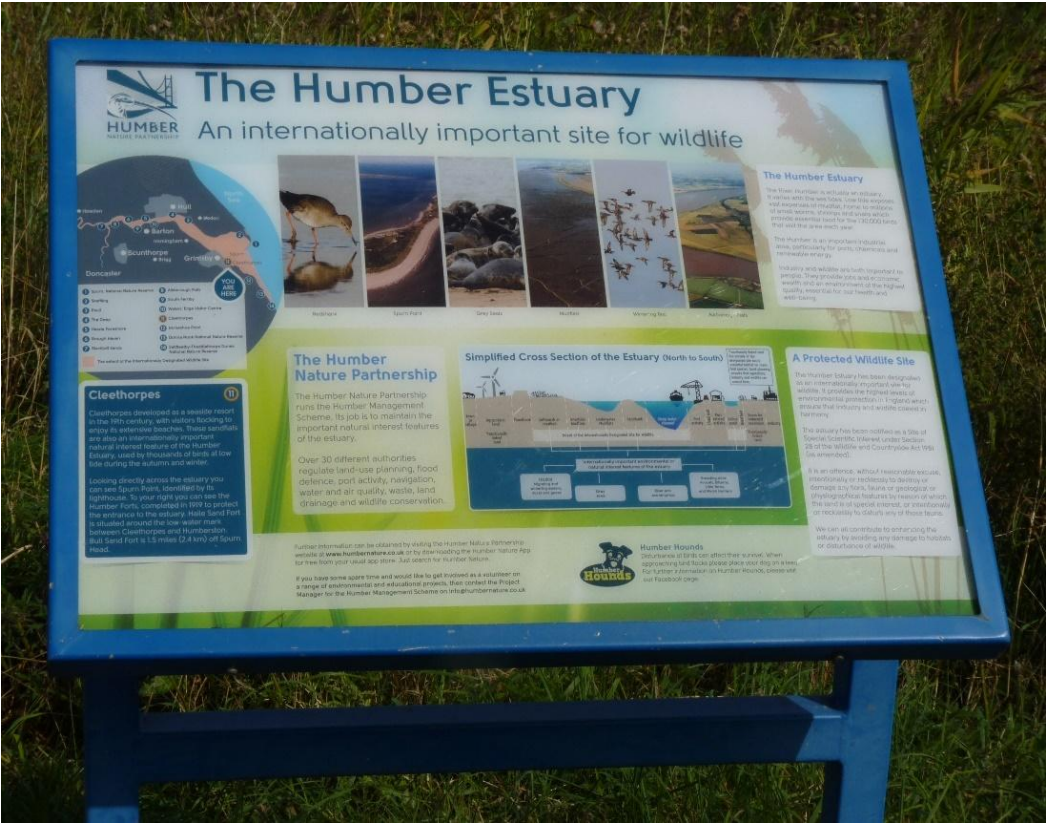
Sign.....

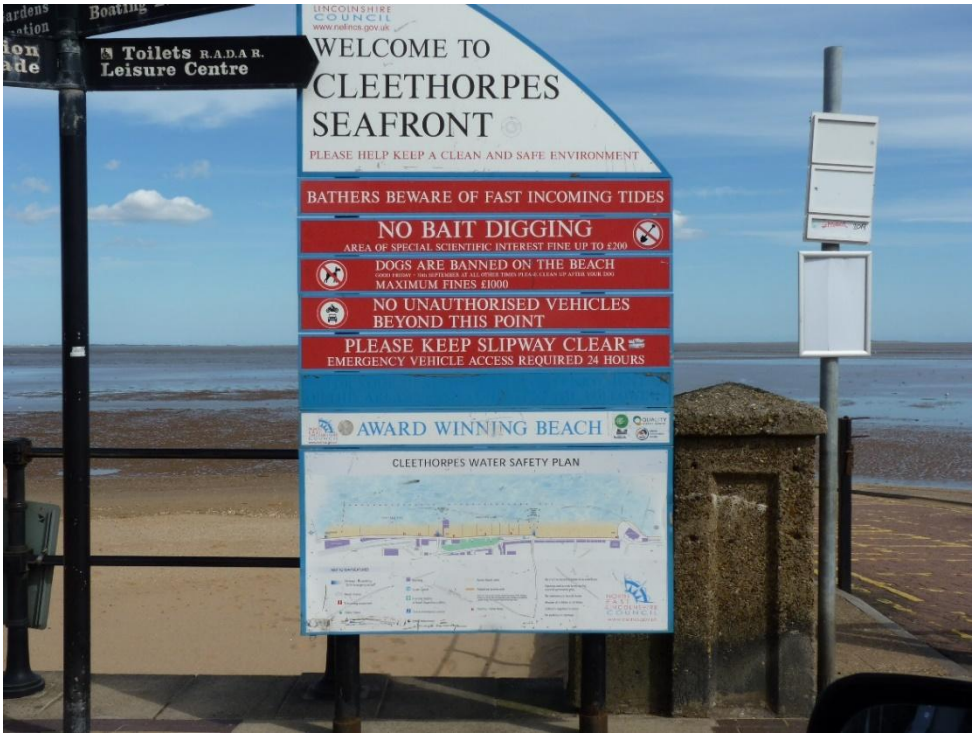
Date.....

Resort Officer Date

Appendix 3: Photographs of Current Signage across the Cleethorpes Resort

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





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

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



Draft Cleethorpes to Tetney
Local Recreational Disturbance
Management Plan
2019 -2021

Cleethorpes to Tetney Local Recreational Disturbance Management Plan

Draft 5 November 2019

1.0 Introduction

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

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 Work commissioned by HNP and carried out by Footprint Ecology via a series of studies between 2010 and 2014/15 provide a detailed inventory and distribution of recreational activity across the estuary and, via counts from key locations, some indication of numbers of people involved in these activities. This work identified key areas where recreational activities impacted on local SPA bird populations and those activities which created the most impact i.e., initiated the most flights by disturbed feeding or roosting birds.
- 2.2 Cleethorpes and Humberston Fitties (adjacent to Tetney) were both identified as 'hotspots'. Within the Footprint Ecology work – dog walking, with dogs off leads, prompted by far the most flight responses by birds
- 2.3 Since the above work, evidence of more recent impact has come from individual reports of large disturbance events at Cleethorpes or from reports from RSPB Reserve Staff at Tetney.
- 2.4 Recreational activities on Cleethorpes Beach are assented by Natural England via Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan a 5 year rolling plan.

2.5 The proposed England Coast Path will almost certainly pass through or adjacent to the key areas to be addressed in this LRDMP.

2.6 A review of dog walking issues was undertaken at Tetney by an Access Consultant (Steve Jenkinson) commissioned by the Natural England Coast Path Team. A draft report with recommendations has been produced.

2.7 NELC undertook a consultation exercise on the issue of dog walking on open spaces across the district.

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

3.0 Statement of issues

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

Cleethorpes

3.1 Disturbance of the major hightide roost site at the eastern end of the Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach by jet skiers

3.2 Disturbance of the major hightide roost site at the eastern end of the Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach by paddleboarders and canoeists.

3.3 Disturbance of the major hightide roost site at the eastern end of the Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach by walkers

3.4 Disturbance of the major hightide roost site at the eastern end of the Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach by dog walkers

3.5 Disturbance of the major hightide roost site at the eastern end of the Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach by drones

3.6 Disturbance of the major hightide roost site at the eastern end of the Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach by paramotors and light aircraft.

Tetney

3.7 Disturbance of breeding waders by dog walkers on the saltmarsh at Tetney

3.8 Disturbance of breeding waders by paddleboarders and canoeists within the saltmarsh at Tetney

3.9 Disturbance of roosting and feeding bird flocks by dog walkers on the outer saltmarsh at Tetney RSPB reserve

3.10 Disturbance of roosting and feeding bird flocks by low flying paramotors on the outer saltmarsh at Tetney

3.11 Disturbance of the major hightide roosts at Tetney by drones

3.12 Disturbance of the major hightide roosts at Tetney by paramotors and light aircraft.

4.0 Map based information

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

5.0 Precise behavioural changes required

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

Cleethorpes

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

Tetney

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

5.10 Pilots of drones, paramotors and light aircraft no longer fly low enough over the outer saltmarsh at Tetney to disturb roosting birds.

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

Table 1 Prioritisation of Issues and Locations

Priority

High
Medium
Low

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

6.0 Recommended actions to drive improvement

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

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

Research and Analysis

6.1 Finalise and simplify map illustrating the most sensitive bird areas

Policy Change

6.2 Create recommendations for changes to dog management

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

Advocacy

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

Signage

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

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

Education

6.7 Create bespoke information for

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

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

Enforcement

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

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

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

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

Monitoring

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

Action Plan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix 1

Review of signage

Cleethorpes Pleasure Beach

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

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

Dog management

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

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

Biodiversity Conservation

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

Map based beach management strategy

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

Buck Beck Car Park

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

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

Humberston Fitties Car Park

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

Biodiversity Conservation

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

Dog Management

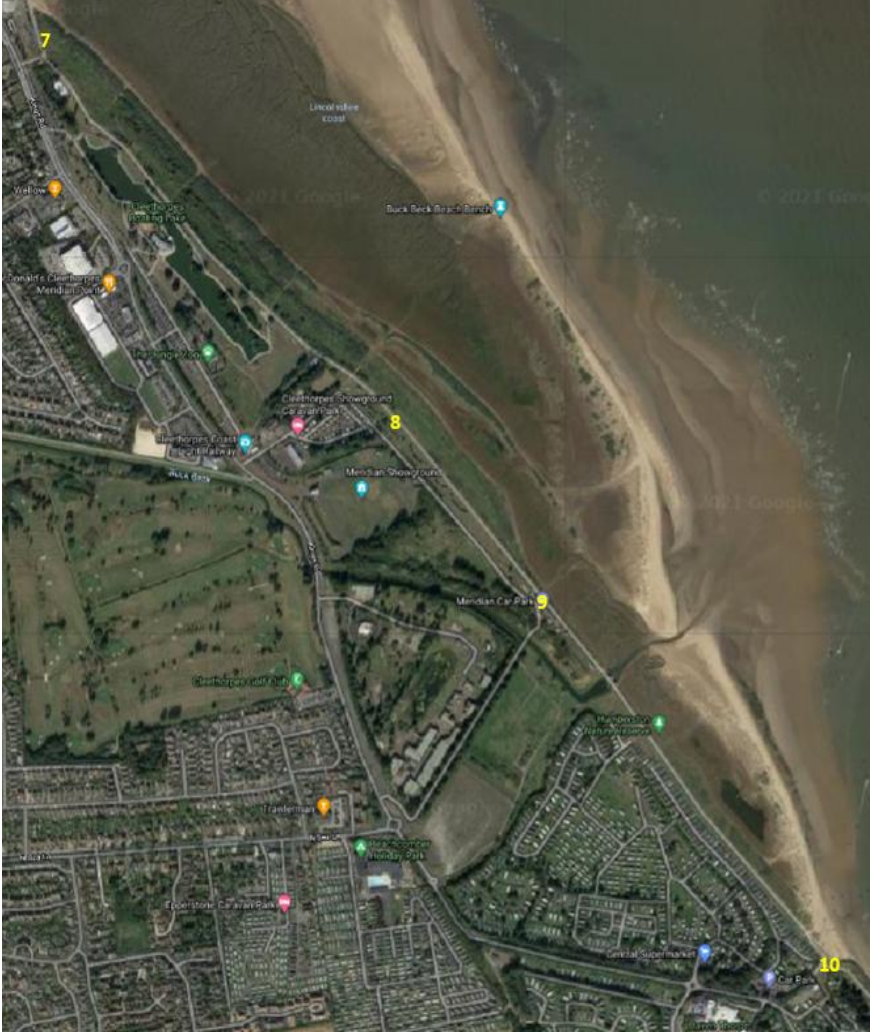
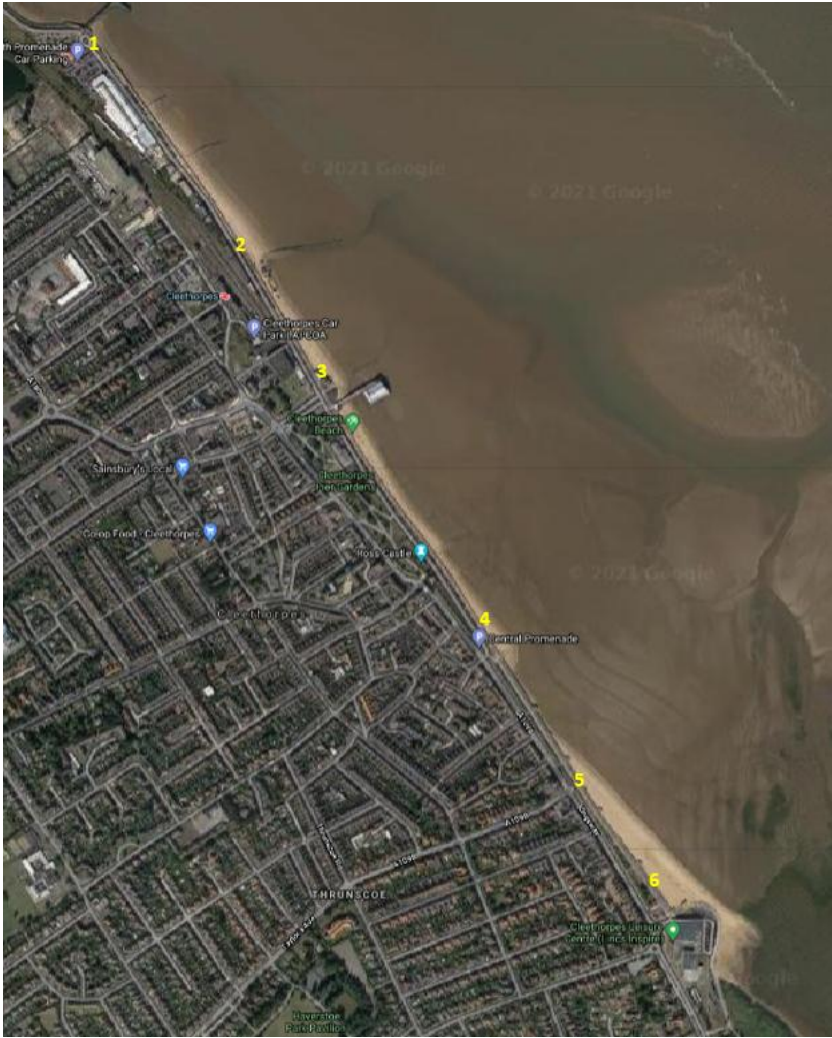
The dog management signage is provided by the RSPB. It lacks consistency of style, message, and presentation to maximise efficacy. The only dog management signage relating to the beach area requires dog owners to pick up faeces.

Conclusions and recommendations

- 1) Old signage should be removed. It serves no useful purpose. It may even downplay the importance of issues in readers minds if the messages appear to relate to the past rather than the present
- 2) Signage should elicit a desired behavioural outcome. Messages should be targeted to key beach users, and be simple, clear, and concise. Supporting educational text and wider strategy should be provided elsewhere with a link to further information on the sign. Message tone should be appropriate. Unduly authoritative messaging may elicit a negative or inappropriate response.
- 3) Signs should be location specific
- 4) Signs should be repeated at all key access points to a sensitive location
- 5) Signage change should be supported by advertising/marketing campaigns to increase general awareness
- 6) Where possible messages should be supported by enforcement or advisory personnel.
- 7) Where multiple messages need to be provided at the same location, they should all be equally clear and targeted to appropriate user groups. Though visitor safety must be paramount.
- 8) Generic signs alerting visitors to the need to check message signs should be located at key gathering points – car park ticket machines, toilets, cafes
- 9) Messages could also be provided by apps on mobile phones and on websites

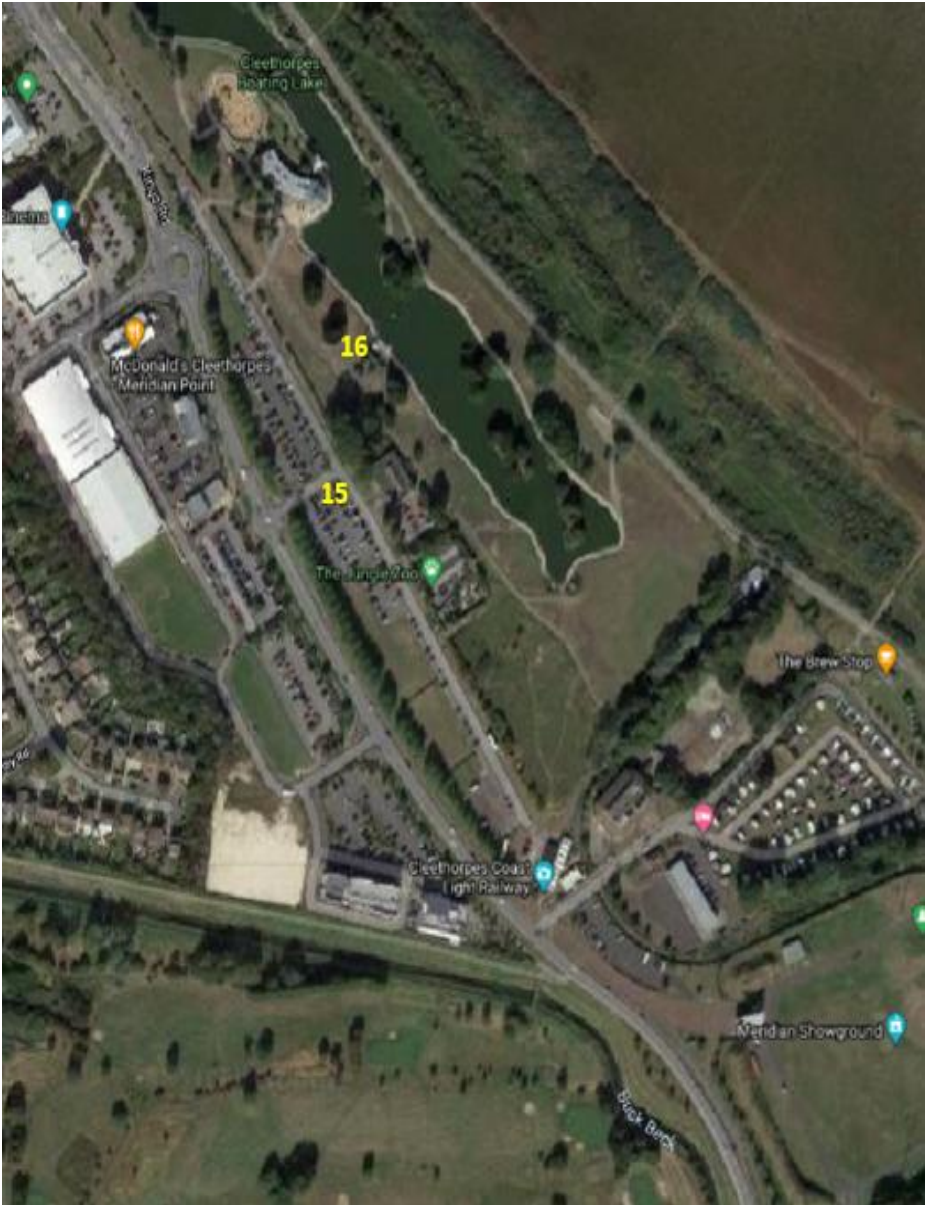
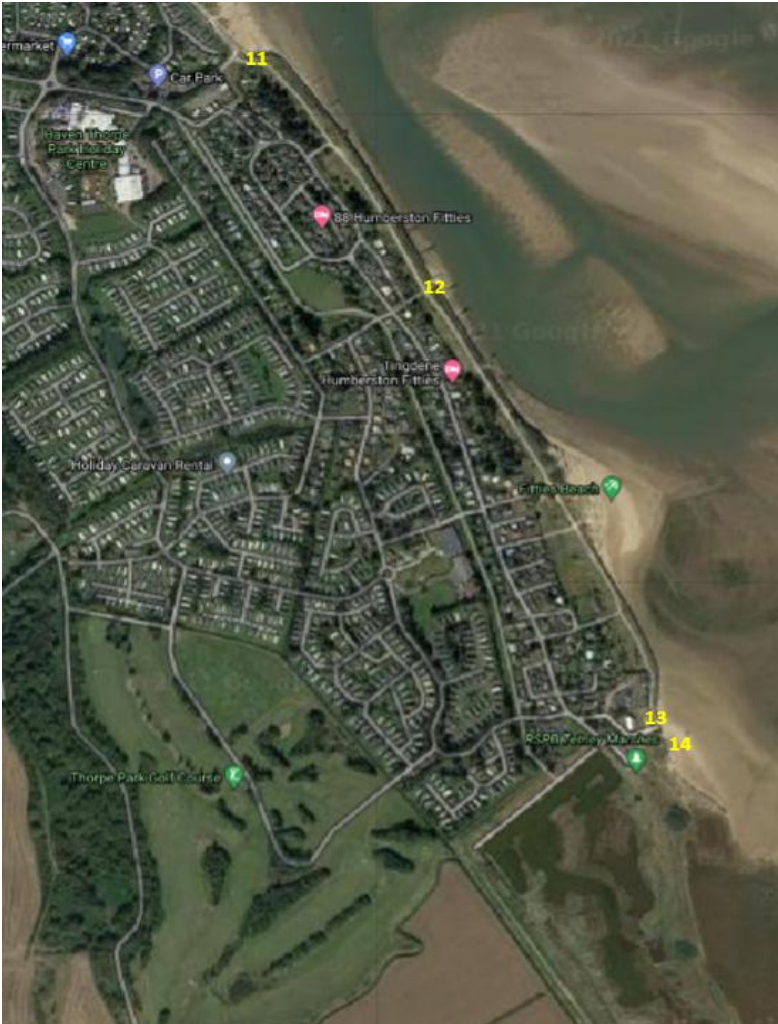
Appendix 5: Suggested Locations for Recreational Disturbance Sign in Cleethorpes Resort

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



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

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



Appendix 6: Bait Digging Permit

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



APPLICATION FOR BAIT DIGGING PERMIT

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

Annual Fee: £18.00

Please enclose two passport photographs of applicant

ANNUAL PERMIT VALID FROM 1st APRIL UNTIL MARCH 31ST

I agree to abide by the North East Lincolnshire Council’s conditions relating to Bait Digging

as set out in the list below.

Signed _____

Date _____

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

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

This permit is strictly non-transferable



North Promenade bait digging area, only within shaded area



Fitties bait digging area, only within shaded area.

Appendix 7: Cleethorpes Dune Scrub Management Plan Winter 21/22

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



Cleethorpes Dune Scrub Management Plan winter 21/22

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

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

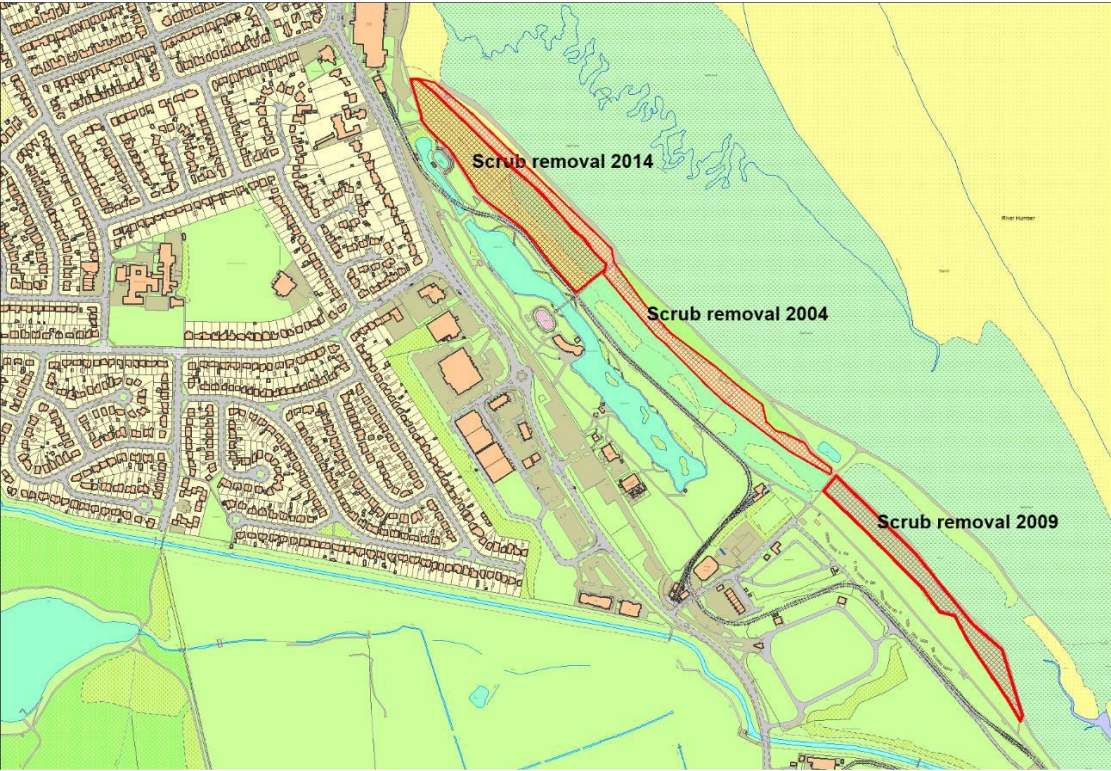


Fig 1. Map of areas where previous rotational scrub management has been carried out



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

The next round of scrub management will take place between November 2021 and February 2022 and will be carried out under the Dynamic Dunescape Project. There will also be a non-conservation element to the work, separate and unrelated to achieving Favourable Condition

Targets, for flood bank management involving scrub removal which is affecting the flood bank integrity, and regrowth prevention to maintain flood bank integrity.

Maps

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

- Colonising scrub, 0.5 – 1m in height

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

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





Unmapped areas – grassland (fixed dunes, dunes slacks)

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

Green areas

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

Red and Blue spotted areas

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

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

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

Yellow areas

- 0.2ha - areas of grassland which remain but have large amounts of colonising Sea buckthorn and without future management will be lost completely.

The Lincolnshire Sand Hills comprise a narrow band of dunes at several locations along the whole length of the Lincolnshire coast between The Wash, in the south, and the River Humber in the north. The Cleethorpes dunes are part of the Humber Estuary SSSI and SAC and are the northernmost dunes in the Lincolnshire Dynamic Dunes Site. Public engagement and information will be provided by NELC Ecology, Resort Team, and Communications, and engagement, activities, and information will be provided by the Dynamic Dunescape Engagement Officer to educate and raise awareness of the work and importance of the habitats to help protect them.

Future management:

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

Buckthorn Management Targets

This document was created in 2021 and is in place until 2026. However, as of 2023, new scrub targets are in place. These targets are outlined below:

Buckthorn Stage	Buckthorn Age	Quantity
Young Scrub	Less than 5 years	10% - 30%
Mature Scrub	5 – 20 years	20% - 40%
Dune Woodland (other species)	N/A	No more than 5%

Appendix 8: Roles and Responsibilities

Roles	Responsibilities
Environmental Sustainability Team	The team, consisting of Ecology and Environmental Strategy have the responsibility for leading the Council's Green Agenda. This includes NELC's Carbon Roadmap and Natural Assets Plan, both approved in 2021. Responsibilities in relation to the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan include: - • Present the Plan for approval to Cabinet, following NELC's governance process • Overseeing the delivery of the Plan, reporting progress and outcomes to NELC's Environment Board • Co-ordinate the work of NELC teams to deliver the actions in the Plan • Work closely with Planning to ensure the mitigation strategy is effective • Liaise with local partner agencies, Nature Partnership (HNP), RSPB and Natural England) to ensure strategic delivery • Attendance at the Cleethorpes and Tetney Local Recreational Disturbance Group • Review the Plan on a 5 yearly basis

Ecology Manager	To provide a technical and operational lead role in the field of ecology and through effective supervision and support of staff, ensure effective operational delivery of the ecology function. Ensure Humber Estuary Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area, Ramsar site, and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are managed in accordance with legislative requirements and have appropriate management plans in place. Providing ecological advice within the strategic planning and development management system, ensuring that any potential impacts to the Humber Estuary designated sites are considered. Provide statutory advice and guidance in relation to the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2017 regarding planning applications. Participate in council projects, ensuring that adequate considerations are given to the impact that these projects have on the Humber Estuary designated features, providing advice and guidance on the mitigation required to avoid and reduce the impact on the designated features from damage and recreational disturbance. Attendance at Cleethorpes and Tetney Local Recreational Disturbance Group
-----------------	--

Ecology Officers	To work as part of the Environmental Sustainability Team to deliver, develop and provide comprehensive ecology advice on behalf of the Council Provide advice and guidance on ecological issues relating to planning applications and ensure that ecological issues are fully considered into the process. Provide advice and guidance on ecological issues relating to planned events through the Event Safety Advisory Group and ensure that Humber Estuary designated features are fully considered and assessed. Assess Habitats Regulations Assessment for proposed developments, NELC planned events, and planned events requiring third party consent. Provide ecological advice to other service areas of the Council, members of the public and organisations as appropriate, with regards to the Humber Estuary designated features. Assist with education and outreach activities for staff, members and the communities with regards to the Humber Estuary designated features. Provide training, guidance and support in relation to the Humber Estuary designated features and the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2017 to the Resort Team, under the direction of the Ecology Manager Contribute to the management and monitoring of the Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area, Ramsar site, and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
------------------	---

Resort Team Managers	Actively engage with businesses and local recreational user groups and water user groups to educate and raise awareness of the importance of the Humber Estuary and its designated features and how and where to avoid the most sensitive areas/features of the Cleethorpes, Humberston and NELC's section of Tetney Marshes coastline. Encourage user groups to report any disturbing/damaging activity to the Humber Estuary designated features via liaising with the Resort Team directly or via reporting it through the HNP recreational disturbance reporting forms. Oversee the regulation of bait digging and slipway user permits Attendance at Cleethorpes and Tetney Local Recreational Disturbance Group Liaise with the Ecology Officers and the Cleethorpes and Tetney Local Recreational Disturbance Group to ensure messaging is accurate, targeted and reviewed to take into consideration instances of recreational disturbance. Evaluate the impact of the approach.
Resort Team	Actively engage with local recreational user groups, water user groups, locals and visitors to educate and raise awareness of the importance of the Humber Estuary and its designated features and how and where to avoid, in particular, the most sensitive areas/features of the Cleethorpes, Humberston and NELC's section of Tetney Marsh coastline.

	Ensure that applicants for bait digging and slipway user permits understand the importance of the Humber Estuary designated features and how their activity can impact those features and need for compliance with the permit requirements at time of issue and continued engagement. Distribute any educational messaging resources and codes of conduct to recreational user groups so that these can be distributed to their users Localised saltmarsh vegetation removal by hand within the assented area. Record and report disturbance incidents via the HNP recreational disturbance reporting form. Report dead or sick birds to the Ecology Team and assist with managing notifiable diseases Record and report any dead, injured or sick grey seals to the Ecology Team and work collaboratively with the British Divers Marine Life Rescue and Cleethorpes Wildlife Rescue charity as appropriate. Report pollution incidents to the Ecology Team and the Environment Agency
Public Space Protection Officers	A PSPO with fixed penalties is in place to deal 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 • No barbeques or fires. • Regulate any bait digging activity outside of the mapped zones PSPO Officers regularly patrol the coastal area, covering 7 days a week, with particular efforts made as and when hotspots are identified for particular activities.
NELC Grounds Maintenance	Application of herbicide Shrub and tree management Vegetation maintenance of Environment Agency flood defence bank along Marine Walk Maintenance of coastal infrastructure, including signage
NELC Street Cleansing	NELC beach cleaning – mechanical rake between Wonderland rock groyne and Cleethorpes Leisure Centre where accessible. Litter Picking by hand Removal of carcasses causing a risk to public health or designated features
NELC Communications Team	Produce an annual communications plan to help support the management of recreational disturbance and damage along the Cleethorpes, Humberston and NELC's section of Tetney Marshes Coastline. The plan will provide actions for targeted and general communication which NELC will complete and review annually. Messaging will also be issued in response to any issues or incidents as they occur.

Appendix 9: Greenspace Provision

HOU Site	Location	Area of Greenspace to date (metres)	Area of Greenspace to date (Hectares)	Play Areas	Complete
HOU002	Pilgrims Way, Immingham	13315	1.3315	0	No
HOU004	Habrough Fields, Immingham	21745	2.1745	0	Yes
HOU010B	Larkspur Ave, Healing	93641	9.3641	0	No
HOU018	Macauley Lane, Grimsby	4481	0.4481	0	No
HOU044	Ladysmith Road, Grimsby	0	0	0	No
HOU062	Cornwall Close, Grimsby	3867	0.3867	0	Yes
HOU068A	Blyth Way, Laceby	8824	0.8824	0	No
HOU076	Scartho Top, Grimsby	45633	4.5633	2	No
HOU092	Humberston Ave, Humberston	62629	6.2629	0	No
HOU095A	Greenlands, New Waltham	23066	2.3066	0	Yes
HOU101B	Par 3 New Waltham	18218	1.8218	0	No
HOU105	Toll Bar, New Waltham	5459	0.5459	0	No
HOU111	Sandon House, Waltham	2011	0.2011	0	No
HOU118	Freshney Green, Grimsby	6649	0.6649	0	No
HOU146	Humberston Ave, New Waltham	78356	7.8356	0	No
HOU150	Grimsby Hospital	0	0	0	No
HOU296	Shaw Drive, Grimsby	12424	1.2424	0	No

		Total Square Metres	Total Hectares		
		400318	40.0318		

Appendix 10: Habitat Regulations Assessment for Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan 2021-2026**Habitats Regulations Assessment
for Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan 2021 - 2026****HRA Summary**

The plan covers 2021 to 2026. There are operational activities in the plan that are directly connected with and necessary to the conservation management of the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA, and Ramsar site features, and operations and strategic management that are not. Operations directly connected with and necessary are habitat management operations for the conservation of the dunes, *Hippophae rhamnoides*, and saltmarsh. Operations not directly connected with nor necessary to the conservation management are for management of the resort and its infrastructure, and strategic management as mitigation for housing developments in the borough and recreational disturbance. Activities are either carried out by North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) or by third parties and permitted by NELC in our duties and responsibilities.

There are likely significant effects on the features of the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site from operations and recreational disturbance.

The directly connected and necessary conservation management operations mitigate against damage and disturbance through timings of operations and equipment. Operations not for the direct management of the features mitigate against damage and disturbance through timings, length of time, location, method, and strategic management mitigates through monitoring, communication, engagement and behaviour change.

The Appropriate Assessment concluded that there would be no adverse impacts on site integrity as the mitigation measures ensure that potential impacts are avoided or insignificant.

Part A: Introduction and Information about the plan and an initial assessment of credible risk to European Sites

A1. Introduction

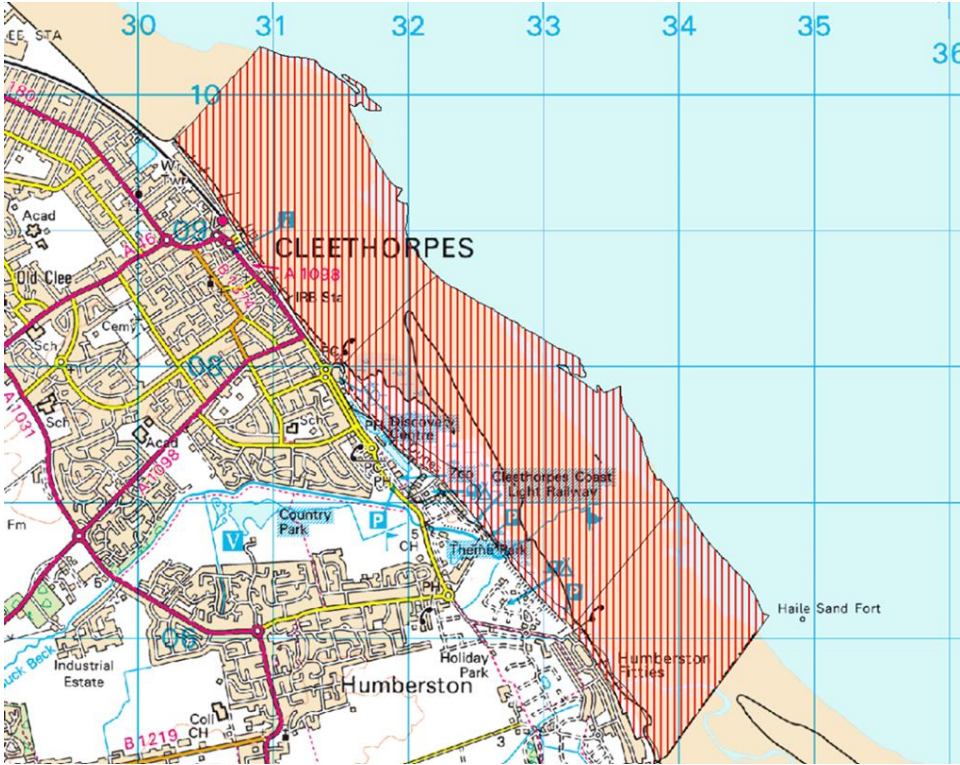
This is a record of the Habitats Regulations Assessment ('HRA') undertaken by North East Lincolnshire Council (in its role of competent authority) in accordance with the assessment and review provisions of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 as amended ('the Habitats Regulations').

This HRA concerns European Sites. The term 'European Site' as used in this assessment should be read as reference to all those sites to which the assessment provisions of the Habitats Regulations apply, either as a matter of law or Government policy. Within the report, this term therefore includes:

- **Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)**
- **Special Protection Areas (SPAs)**
- **Wetlands of International Importance ('Ramsar sites')**

A2. Details of the project

Location: As indicated on the map below (orange cross-hatched area)



A2.2 Description of the plan and its constituent elements:

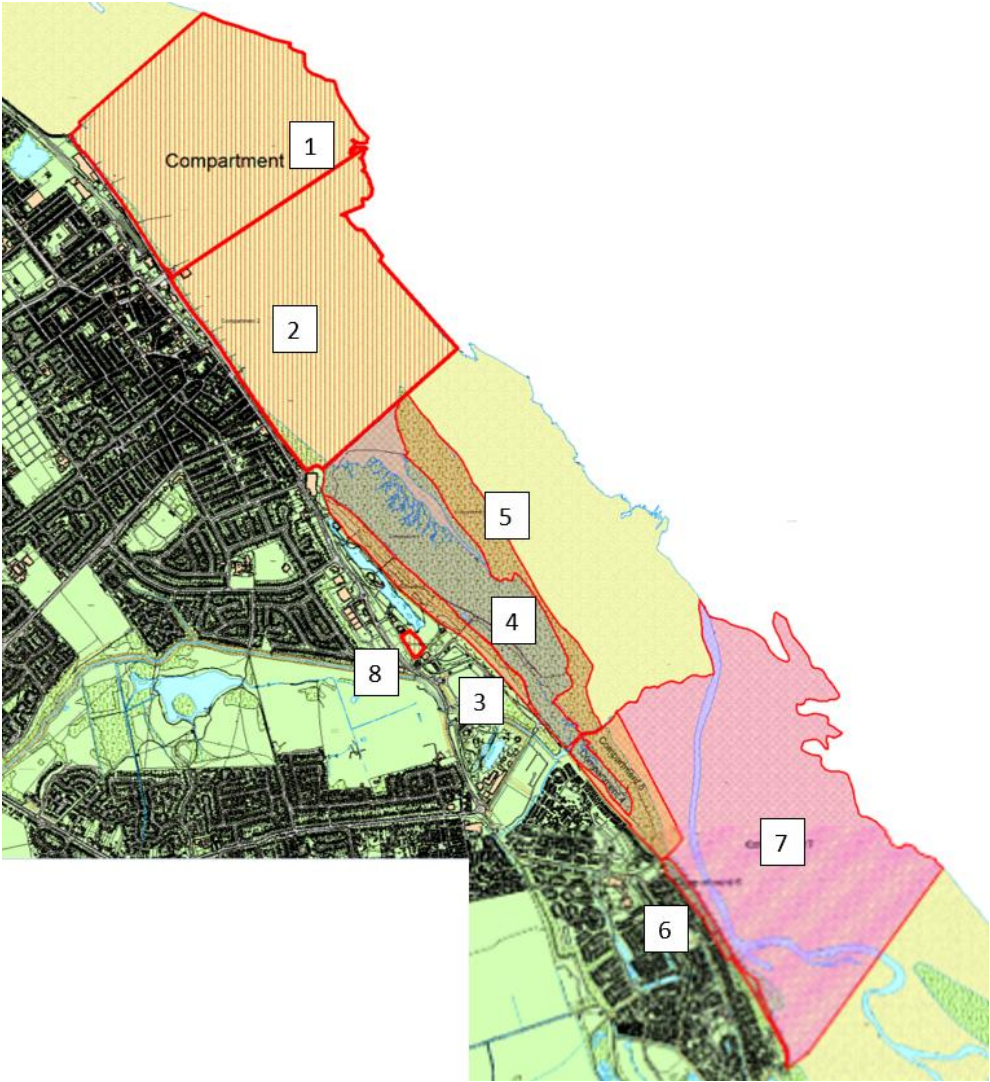


Figure 1. Map showing the locations of all 8 operational compartments, to be used with Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1, below, gives details of the operations that NELC will undertake and in what compartments, refer to Figure 1, above, or the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan 2020 - 2026

<u>Operations carried out by NELC</u>					
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 SofTrak flail harvester. If the SofTrak isn't available, the second option is to use a tractor and flail and Amazone collecting box.	4
Mowing vegetation on flood banks	3	The Environment Agency sea defence embankment runs adjacent to Marine Walk footpath on land owned by NELC. Work to remove trees and shrubs within the bank was consented as part of the Dynamic Dunescape Project between 30th Nov 2021 and Feb 28th, 2022. The work was undertaken following Environment Agency recommendations to allow asset inspections. The stumps of the scrub were not treated with herbicide so as not to kill off roots,	September, 1 day	The bank will be cut by a tractor and flail arm from Marine Walk footpath. There are no likely disturbance effects due to the dunes and buckthorn acting as a barrier in front of the saltmarsh, shoreline and mudflats.	4

		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.			
Application of herbicide	3, 5, 6, 8	For the direct management of the fixed dunes, herbicide application to control undesirable species, Japanese knotweed in Compartment 6 in particular.	March to October inclusive	Herbicide application by weed wiper or by spot treatment	6
Removal of dead animals	1, 2, 4, 5 ,7	For public safety, dead animals washed up on the foreshore need to be removed	All year	Seals, small enough to be removed by hand are removed by Resort Team with the use of beach bikes. Larger animals are removed by Street Cleansing using appropriately sized vehicles, such as tractor and bucket, where access allows. This is done at least two hours before and after high tide to minimise bird disturbance and allow vehicle access. Dead animals are left to be taken out by the next high tides and only removed if not taken. Vehicle access is via established paths and tracks	10

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

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 entrances to the beach, signs, benches	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
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	23

				depth, removal and replacement of the anchor, and then the hole is back-filled. The last replacement took place over 5 years ago.	
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 the 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 and maintenance where the beach rake can't get to	All year	Litter picking by hand on the main tourist beach and main and established paths.	27
Resort Team vehicle	1, 2, 4, 6		All year	The Resort Team use beach bikes on the main tourist beach and a Ranger vehicle on the established track from the main tourist beach from the leisure centre in between the dunes	26

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

Table 2, below, gives details of the operations that NELC give third party consent for and in what compartments, refer to Figure 1, above, or the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan 2020 - 2026

Operations Carried out by Third Parties

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. Bait digging is permitted in the designated areas between the rock groyne and the pier in Compartment 1, and in Compartment 7 between the start of the Fitties and the dune stabilisation zone, as mapped on the permit, subject to the permit conditions (ANNEX). Failure to comply results in an on the spot fine of £100.	18
Watercraft launch-slipways	1, 2	Fishing boats are encouraged to use the North Promenade slipway in Compartment 1, nearest to the rock groyne, due to their size and more spacious and safer access in that area. Jet skis are told to use Sea Road slipway in Compartment 1, next to the pier, for public safety as it directs the jet skis out of the swim	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 with the permit conditions results in an on the spot fine of £100 (ANNEX).	26

		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.			
HM Coastguard vehicle access	1, 2	HM Coastguard require access via the slipways	All year	HM Coastguard boat launch via slipways on the main central beach.	26
Kite surfers	5	Kite surfers, although not regulated, use the area mapped due to the flat, harder sand present after the tide has gone out, and lack of footfall. Historically, they have always used that area and were more numerous and frequent than they are now.	All year	Access is from Thorpe Park Car Park where there is a Kite Surfers Code of Conduct sign on entrance onto the beach.	26
Donkey rides	1, 2	NELC licence a donkey ride operator that has two locations in Compartment 1 and one location in Compartment 2. The donkeys are walked onto the beach and to the locations.	March to October	The ride route is only on the soft sand between the sea wall and the groynes and donkey droppings are collected by the operator by hand and taken away.	27
Fixed amusement rides	1	In Compartment 1, NELC licence a fixed amusement operator. The site has had amusement rides for over 50 years.	March to October	The rides close over winter, operating in the tourist season only.	27

Dogs banned Good Friday to 30th Sep incl.	1, 2	To meet Blue Flag beach criteria, a dog ban exists under a Public Space Protection Order,	Good Friday to September	Dogs are banned between 12am on Good Friday to 12pm 30th September inclusive between the rock groyne in Compartment 1 and the leisure centre in Compartment 2.	27
Recreational disturbance	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Recreational disturbance from public use of the coast, both land and water based	All year	Public recreational activities associated with the coastal environment.	27

A3. Initial assessment of risk to European Sites

This section considers the potential ways in which the project might credibly pose a risk to European Site(s), based on an early and rapid assessment of the location of European Sites, the proximity of them to the plan and the general nature, type and scale of the project in question.

The following European sites have been identified and considered to be capable of being affected by the project:

Humber Estuary SAC

Humber Estuary SPA

Humber Estuary Ramsar site

The plan covers an area within the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar site and therefore has the potential to affect its interest features. International sites are afforded protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 as amended (the Habitat Regulations). The application site is within and adjacent to the Humber Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and is listed as Humber Estuary Ramsar Site 1. The site is also notified nationally as Humber Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The likely impacts from the plan are disturbance to the faunal features of the designation from acoustic and visual impacts from all operational activities and from recreational use by residents and visitors, and damage to the habitat features of the designation from operational vehicles and activities and recreational use by residents and visitors.

There is or may be a credible risk that the project subject to this assessment might undermine the conservation objectives of a European Site. Further Habitats Regulations assessment is therefore necessary and are considered in Part B of the Assessment.

PART B: Information about the European Sites and their Qualifying Features

B1. Brief description of the European Sites and their Qualifying Features

There is or may be a credible risk that the project subject to an assessment might undermine the conservation objectives of the following European Sites;

Humber Estuary SPA

Humber Estuary Ramsar site

Humber Estuary SAC

Humber Estuary SPA Qualifying features are:

Avocet, *Recurvirostra avosetta* - breeding

Avocet, *Recurvirostra avosetta* – non breeding

Bar-tailed godwit, *Limosa lapponica* – non breeding

Bittern, *Botaurus stellaris* - breeding

Bittern, *Botaurus stellaris* – non breeding

Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa islandica* – non breeding

Dunlin, *Calidris alpina alpina* – non breeding

Golden plover, *Pluvialis apricaria* – non breeding

Hen harrier, *Circus cyaneus* – non breeding

Knot, *Calidris canutus* – non breeding

Little tern, *Sterna albifrons* - breeding

Marsh Harrier, *Circus aeruginosus* - breeding

Redshank, *Tringa totanus* – non breeding

Ruff, *Philomachus pugnax* – non breeding

Shelduck, *Tadorna tadorna* – non breeding

Waterbird assemblage – non breeding

All waterbird species contribute to the assemblage, however, within the non-breeding waterbird assemblage qualifying feature the named constituent species on the SPA citation, those present in nationally important numbers, and those present in numbers greater than 2000 are:

Dark-bellied brent goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*

Pink-footed goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Tundra bean goose *Anser serrirostris*

White-fronted goose (European) *Anser albifrons albifrons*

Wigeon *Anas Penelope*

Teal *Anas crecca*

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Little egret *Egretta garzetta*

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*

Bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Green sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Redshank *Tringa tetanus*

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

The species listed above are the main components which should be considered in an HRA. Main component species are defined as all species listed on the citation as well as those, which might not be listed on the citation, occurring at the site at level of more than 1% of the national population (or where more than 2000 individuals are present). These assemblage species are considered to require consideration separately within the following assessment due to their larger contribution to the overall non-breeding waterbird assemblage composition and abundance.

The features of the **Humber Estuary Ramsar** site are:

Bar-tailed godwit, *Limosa lapponica* - Wintering

Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa* - Passage

Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa* - Wintering

Dunlin, *Calidris alpina* - Passage

Dunlin, *Calidris alpina* - Wintering

Estuary

Golden plover, *Pluvialis apricaria* - Passage

Golden plover, *Pluvialis apricaria* - Wintering

Grey seal, *Halichoerus grypus*

Knot, *Calidris canutus* - Passage

Knot, *Calidris canutus* - Wintering

Natterjack toad, *Epidalea calamita*

Redshank, *Tringa totanus* - Passage

Redshank, *Tringa totanus* - Wintering

River lamprey, *Lampetra fluviatilis* - Passage

Sea lamprey, *Petromyzon marinus* - Passage

Shelduck, *Tadorna tadorna* - Wintering

Waterbird assemblage - Wintering

The qualifying features of the **Humber Estuary SAC** are;

H1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time

H1130 Estuaries

H1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide

H1150 Coastal lagoons

H1310 *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand

H1330 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)

H2110 Embryonic shifting dunes

H2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with marram grass *Ammophila arenaria* ('White dunes')

H2130 Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('Grey dunes')

H2160 Dunes with sea buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides*

S1095 Sea lamprey, *Petromyzon marinus*

S1099 River lamprey, *Lampetra fluviatilis*

S1364 Grey seal, *Halichoerus grypus*

B2. European Site Conservation Objectives (including supplementary advice)

The overarching Conservation Objectives for every European Site in England are to ensure that the integrity of each site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and that each site contributes to achieving the wider aims of the Habitats Regulations, by either maintaining or restoring (as appropriate):

- The extent and distribution of their qualifying natural habitats,
- The structure and function (including typical species) of their qualifying natural habitats,
- The supporting processes on which their qualifying natural habitats rely,
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of their qualifying features rely,
- The population of each of their qualifying features, and
- The distribution of their qualifying features within the site.

Where Conservation Objectives Supplementary Advice is available, which provides further detail about the features' structure, function and supporting processes mentioned above, the implications of the plan on the specific attributes and targets listed in the advice will be taken into account in this assessment.

In light of the European Sites which could be affected by the plan, this assessment will be made in view of the following site-specific Conservation Objectives, including any available supplementary advice about those objectives.

Hyperlink to:

[European Site Conservation Objectives for Humber Estuary SAC – UK00300170](#)

Humber Estuary SAC citation <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5279612212871168>

Humber Estuary SPA citation: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4968674834251776>

Humber Estuary SAC supplementary advice

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/SupAdvice.aspx?SiteCode=UK0030170&SiteName=humber&SiteNameDisplay=Humber+Estuary+SAC&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAAarea=&NumMarineSeasonality=8>

Part C: Screening of the project for appropriate assessment

To check whether a detailed appropriate assessment is necessary, there are two screening tests required by the assessment provisions of the Habitats Regulations.

C1. Is the plan either directly connected with or necessary to the (conservation) management (of the European Site's qualifying features)?

Some parts of the plan are directly connected with or necessary to the conservation management of the European Site's qualifying features and some parts of the plan are not, details below, and therefore further Habitats Regulations Assessment is required.

Table 3, below. Showing details of the parts of the Plan that are directly connected to the conservation management of the qualifying features.

Operation	Compartment	Qualifying feature and directly connected management	Timing of Operation	Method of Operation	NE Advice required & ORNEC no.
Cut and collect	3, 5, 6, 8	For the direct management of H2130 Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); Dune grassland. 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
Application of herbicide	3, 5, 6, 8	For the direct management of H2130 Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); Dune grassland. Herbicide application to control undesirable species, Japanese	March to October inclusive	Herbicide application by weed wiper or by spot treatment	6

		knotweed in Compartment 6 in particular.			
Shrub and tree removal	6, 8	For the direct management of H2130 Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); Dune grassland, 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 may be utilised to remove shrubs or a small digger.	11

C2 Is there a likelihood (or risk) of significant (adverse) effects ('LSE')?

This section details whether those constituent elements of the plan which are (a) not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the European Site(s) features and (b) could conceivably adversely affect a European site, would have a likely significant effect, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, upon the European sites and which could undermine the achievement of those conservation objectives referred to in section B2.

C2.1 Risk of Significant Effects Alone

The first step is to consider whether any elements of the plan are likely to have effects upon a European site which may be significant ‘alone’ (that is when considered in the context of the prevailing environmental conditions at the site but in isolation of the combined effects with any other ‘plans and projects’). Such effects do not include those deemed to be so insignificant as to be trivial or inconsequential.

The results of this risk assessment, taking account of each qualifying feature of each site and in view of each site’s Conservation Objectives, are as follows:

C2.1 LSE summary tables

Humber Estuary SPA – LSE summary					
Qualifying Feature(s) (See section B1)	Activity proposed by the plan	Conservation Objective attribute(s) likely to be affected	The potential risk to the feature and its mechanism/ pathway	Excluding mitigation, is there a likely significant effect (alone or in-combination) on	Give your reasons

	(See tables in section A2.2)	(See section B2)		the feature that requires appropriate assessment? [Yes / No* / Uncertain]	
Humber Estuary SPA Non-breeding birds: • Bittern (Non-breeding) • Hen harrier (Non-breeding) • Shelduck (Non-breeding) • Avocet (Non-breeding) • Knot (Non-breeding) • Dunlin (Non-breeding) • Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding) • Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding) • Redshank (Non-breeding) • Golden plover (Non-breeding) • Ruff (Non-breeding) • Non breeding waterbird assemblage (including relevant species which are deemed to be important)	• NELC permitting the launching of watercraft from Council controlled slipways • NELC licensing of bait digging • Fixed amusement rides. • Donkey rides on the tourist beach • NELC Resort Team and Street Cleansing, HMS Coastguard and RNLI vehicle access • Localised saltmarsh vegetation removal – <i>Spartina</i> • NELC repairs and general maintenance of access infrastructure • NELC beach cleaning – mechanical beach rake • NELC litter picking	The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats. The population of each of the qualifying features. The distribution of qualifying features within the site.	Significant disturbance from vehicles, footfall, dogs, and recreation. Reduced availability of food Habitat may be destroyed, damaged or significantly changed from footfall and vehicle use, intentional removal, and increased nutrient loads from dog waste	Yes	Significant disturbance can cause birds to change species distribution within and between sites. Where there is a lack of feeding and roosting sites elsewhere this may lead to a reduction in the number of birds using a site and suffer stress. Habitat may be destroyed, damaged or significantly changed through erosion, compaction, removal, rutting, a change in plant and invertebrate communities and in water quality.

components of the assemblage)	NELC and NELC partnership educational activities				
	Recreational disturbance	The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats. The population of each of the qualifying features. The distribution of qualifying features within the site	Significant disturbance from footfall, dogs, motorised and non-motorised water craft. Housing and recreational developments within the borough	Yes	Significant disturbance can cause birds to change species distribution within and between sites. Where there is a lack of feeding and roosting sites elsewhere this may lead to a reduction in the number of birds using a site and suffer stress. Habitat may be destroyed, damaged or significantly changed through erosion, compaction, removal, rutting, a change in plant and invertebrate communities and in water quality
Breeding birds: - Bittern (Breeding) - Marsh harrier (Breeding) - Avocet (Breeding) - Little tern (Breeding)	- NELC licensing of bait digging - NELC Resort Team and Street Cleansing, HMS Coastguard and RNLI vehicle access - Localised saltmarsh vegetation removal – <i>Spartina</i>	N/A	N/A	No	None of the four listed SPA breeding bird qualifying features are known to nest within the area and will therefore be unaffected by the activity. They are not considered further in this assessment.

	• NELC repairs and general maintenance of access infrastructure • NELC litter picking NELC and NELC partnership educational activities				
	• Recreational disturbance	N/A	N/A	No	None of the four listed SPA breeding bird qualifying features are known to nest within the area and will therefore be unaffected by the activity. They are not considered further in this assessment.

Humber Estuary SAC - LSE summary

Qualifying Feature(s)	Activity proposed by the plan//project	Conservation Objective attribute(s)	The potential risk to the feature and its mechanism/ pathway	Excluding mitigation, is there a likely significant effect (alone or in-combination) on the feature that requires	Give your reasons
(See section B1)	(See tables in section A2.2)	likely to be affected			

		(See section B2)		appropriate assessment? [Yes / No* / Uncertain]	
Humber Estuary SAC: • Estuaries • Subtidal sandbanks • Intertidal mudflats and sandflats • Coastal lagoons • Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand • Atlantic salt meadows • Dune grassland • Dunes with sea-buckthorn • Embryonic shifting dunes • Shifting dunes with marram	• NELC licensing of bait digging • NELC Resort Team and Street Cleansing, HMS Coastguard and RNLI vehicle access • Localised saltmarsh vegetation removal – <i>Spartina</i> • NELC beach cleaning – mechanical beach rake • NELC litter picking • NELC and NELC partnership educational activities	The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats. The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats. The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. The supporting processes on which the habitats of their qualifying features rely.	Habitat may be destroyed, damaged or significantly changed from footfall and vehicle use, intentional removal.	Yes	Habitat may be destroyed, damaged or significantly changed through erosion, compaction, removal, rutting, a change in plant communities and in water quality.

		The population of each of qualifying features. The distribution of qualifying features within the site.			
--	--	---	--	--	--

	Recreational damage or disturbance	The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats. The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats. The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. The supporting processes on which the habitats of their qualifying features rely. The population of each of qualifying features.	Habitat may be destroyed, damaged or significantly changed from footfall and vehicle use, intentional removal, and increased nutrient loads from dog waste. Housing and recreational development within the borough.	Yes	Habitat may be destroyed, damaged or significantly changed through erosion, compaction, removal, rutting, a change in plant communities and in water quality.
--	------------------------------------	--	--	-----	---

		The distribution of qualifying features within the site.			
• Sea lamprey • River lamprey	• NELC licensing of bait digging • NELC Resort Team and Street Cleansing, HMS Coastguard and RNLI vehicle access • Localised saltmarsh vegetation removal – Spartina • NELC beach cleaning – mechanical beach rake	N/A	N/A	No	Both species are not known to be present in the area and will therefore be unaffected by the activities. They are not considered further in this assessment.

	NELC and NELC partnership educational activities				
	Recreational damage or disturbance	N/A	N/A	No	Both species are not known to be present in the area and will therefore be unaffected by the activities. They are not considered further in this assessment.
Grey seal	- NELC licensing of bait digging - NELC Resort Team and Street Cleansing, HMS Coastguard and RNLI vehicle access - Localised saltmarsh vegetation removal – Spartina - NELC beach cleaning – mechanical beach rake - NELC litter picking - NELC and NELC partnership educational activities	The population of each of qualifying features. The distribution of qualifying features within the site.	Significant disturbance from vehicles, footfall, dogs, and recreation.	Yes	Significant disturbance can cause seals to change behaviour and prevent them from resting /digestion during haul outs and suffer stress.
	Recreational disturbance	The population of each of qualifying features. The distribution of qualifying features within the site.	Significant disturbance from footfall, dogs, motorised and non-motorised water craft. Housing and recreational	Yes	Significant disturbance can cause seals to change behaviour and prevent them from resting /digestion during haul outs and suffer stress

			development within the borough		
Humber Estuary Ramsar site - LSE summary					
Humber Estuary Ramsar site: Qualifying Feature(s) (See section B1)	Activity proposed by the plan//project (See tables in section A2.2)	Conservation Objective attribute(s) likely to be affected (See section B2)	The potential risk to the feature and its mechanism/ pathway	Excluding mitigation, is there a likely significant effect (alone or in-combination) on the feature that requires appropriate assessment? [Yes / No* / Uncertain]	Give your reasons
• Criterion 1 - the site is a representative example of a near-natural estuary.	• NELC permitting the launching of watercraft from Council controlled slipways • NELC licensing of bait digging	The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats.	Habitat may be destroyed, damaged or significantly changed from footfall and	Yes	Habitat may be destroyed, damaged or significantly changed through erosion, compaction, removal, rutting, a change in plant and

	• NELC Resort Team and Street Cleansing, HMS Coastguard and RNLI vehicle access • Localised saltmarsh vegetation removal – Spartina • NELC repairs and general maintenance of access infrastructure • NELC beach cleaning – mechanical beach rake • NELC litter picking • NELC and NELC partnership educational activities	The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats. The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. The supporting processes on which the habitats of their qualifying features rely. The distribution of qualifying features within the site	vehicle use, and intentional removal.		invertebrate communities and in water quality
	Recreational damage or disturbance	The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats.	Habitat may be destroyed, damaged or significantly changed from footfall and vehicle use, intentional removal, and increased	Yes	Habitat may be destroyed, damaged or significantly changed through erosion, compaction, removal, rutting, a change in plant and

		The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats. The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely. The supporting processes on which the habitats of their qualifying features rely. The distribution of qualifying features within the site	nutrient loads from dog waste. Housing and recreational development within the borough.		invertebrate communities and in water quality
• Criterion 3 - the site supports populations of animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the biogeographic region: Grey seals and Natterjack toad.	• NELC permitting the launching of watercraft from Council controlled slipways • NELC licensing of bait digging • NELC Resort Team and Street Cleansing, HMS	The population of grey seals only. Natterjack toads are not present within the area.	Significant disturbance from vehicles, footfall, dogs, and recreation.	Yes (Grey seals only)	Significant disturbance can cause seals to change behaviour, preventing them from resting during haul outs, and suffer stress.

	Coastguard and RNLI vehicle access • NELC beach cleaning – mechanical beach rake • NELC litter picking • NELC and NELC partnership educational activities				
	Recreational disturbance	The population of grey seals only. Natterjack toads are not present within the area.	Significant disturbance from footfall, dogs, motorised and non-motorised water craft. Housing and recreational development within the borough.	Yes	Significant disturbance can cause seals to change behaviour, preventing them from resting during haul outs, and suffer stress. Natterjack toads are not present and therefore not considered further within the assessment.
• . Criterion 5 - the site regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds	• NELC permitting the launching of watercraft from Council controlled slipways • NELC licensing of bait digging • NELC Resort Team and Street Cleansing, HMS Coastguard and RNLI vehicle access • Localised saltmarsh vegetation removal – Spartina	The population of each of qualifying features The distribution of qualifying features within the site The supporting processes on which	Significant disturbance from vehicles, footfall, and recreation Habitat may be destroyed, damaged or significantly changed from footfall and vehicle use, and intentional removal.	Yes	Significant disturbance can cause birds to change species distribution within and between sites. Where there is a lack of feeding and roosting sites elsewhere this may lead to a reduction in the number of birds using a site.

	• NELC repairs and general maintenance of access infrastructure • NELC beach cleaning – mechanical beach rake • NELC litter picking • NELC and NELC partnership educational activities •	the habitats of their qualifying features rely.	Reduced availability of food		Habitat may be destroyed, damaged or significantly changed through erosion, compaction, removal, rutting, a change in plant and invertebrate communities and in water quality
	Recreational damage or disturbance	The population of each of qualifying features The distribution of qualifying features within the site The supporting processes on which the habitats of their qualifying features rely	Significant disturbance from footfall, dogs, motorised and non-motorised water craft Habitat may be destroyed, damaged or significantly changed from footfall and recreational use Reduced availability of food Housing and recreational development within the borough.	Yes	Significant disturbance can cause birds to change species distribution within and between sites. Where there is a lack of feeding and roosting sites elsewhere this may lead to a reduction in the number of birds using a site. Habitat may be destroyed, damaged or significantly changed through erosion, compaction, removal, rutting, a change in plant and invertebrate communities and in water quality

• Criterion 6 - the site regularly supports 1% of the individuals in the populations of the following species of waterbird in any season: Shelduck (Non-breeding), Golden plover (Non-breeding), Knot (Non-breeding), Dunlin (Non-breeding), Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding), Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding), Redshank (Non-breeding).	• NELC permitting the launching of watercraft from Council controlled slipways • NELC licensing of bait digging • NELC Resort Team and Street Cleansing, HMS Coastguard and RNLI vehicle access • Localised saltmarsh vegetation removal – Spartina • NELC repairs and general maintenance of access infrastructure • NELC beach cleaning – mechanical beach rake • NELC litter picking • NELC and NELC partnership educational activities •	The population of each of qualifying features The distribution of qualifying features within the site The supporting processes on which the habitats of their qualifying features rely.	Significant disturbance from vehicles, footfall, and recreation Habitat may be destroyed, damaged or significantly changed from footfall and vehicle use, and intentional removal	Yes	Significant disturbance can cause birds to change species distribution within and between sites. Where there is a lack of feeding and roosting sites elsewhere this may lead to a reduction in the number of birds using a site. Habitat may be destroyed, damaged or significantly changed through erosion, compaction, removal, rutting, a change in plant and invertebrate communities and in water quality
	Recreational damage and disturbance	The population of each of qualifying features The distribution of qualifying features within the site	Significant disturbance from footfall, dogs, motorised and non-motorised water craft Habitat may be destroyed, damaged or significantly changed	Yes	Significant disturbance can cause birds to change species distribution within and between sites. Where there is a lack of feeding and roosting sites elsewhere this may lead to a reduction in the number of birds using a site.

		The supporting processes on which the habitats of their qualifying features rely.	from footfall and recreational use Reduced availability of food. Housing and recreational development within the borough.		Habitat may be destroyed, damaged or significantly changed through erosion, compaction, removal, rutting, a change in plant and invertebrate communities and in water quality
• Criterion 8 because it is a migration path on which fish stocks, either within the wetland or elsewhere, depend: migration route for both River lamprey and Sea lamprey between coastal waters and their spawning areas.	• NELC permitting the launching of watercraft from Council controlled slipways • NELC licensing of bait digging • NELC Resort Team and Street Cleansing, HMS Coastguard and RNLI vehicle access • Localised saltmarsh vegetation removal – Spartina • NELC repairs and general maintenance of access infrastructure • NELC beach cleaning – mechanical beach rake • NELC litter picking	N/A	N/A	No	The species are not known to be present in the plan area and will therefore be unaffected by the activities. They are not considered further in this assessment

	• NELC and NELC partnership educational activities •				
--	--	--	--	--	--

* If yes or uncertain carry forward to AA

C2.2 Risk of significant effects in-combination with effects from other proposed plans and projects

The need for further assessment of the risk of in-combination effects is considered here.

Other than the risks identified as being potentially significant (table above in section C2.1) and which are further assessed below in Part D, it is considered that there are no other residual risks likely to arise from this plan which have the potential to act in-combination with similar risks from other proposed plans or projects so as to give rise to a likely significant effect. It has therefore been excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the project is not likely to have a significant effect in-combination with other proposed plans or projects.

Table 4, below. Showing details of planning applications within the last 12 months within close proximity to the plan or considered to have potential impacts due to location or nature of proposal

Application reference	Approximate distance from	Description of scheme	Planning decision	Screen in/out of in-combination assessment
-----------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------	-------------------	--

Number (application within last 12 months)	proposed plan			
DM/1071/22/FUL	4.4km north	Rock revetment repair and reinforcement along a 4.5km section of the Humber Estuary, works to repair, reinstate and enable access to the gravity outfalls at Middle Drain, Oldfleet Drain and Mawmbridge Drain, associated landscape improvements, installation of temporary construction compounds and associated infrastructure	Approved with Conditions	Out – work is localised and short-term with mitigation in place to conclude no adverse effect
DM/0539/23/FUL	1.2 km north	Erection of an onshore aquaculture farm with associated water extraction and effluent discharge from and to Grimsby Docks, alongside ancillary processing, energy centre, access, car parking, servicing, external lighting and landscaping and associated infrastructure.	Pending Consideration	Out – construction impact is localised and short-term. Operations will adhere to water quality regulations and noise assessments and the proposal will have to have mitigation in place to conclude no adverse effect for consent to be given
DM/0722/22/FUL	43m west	Installation of decking and glazed balustrade to form patio area on existing roof and erection of second floor side extension	Approved	Out – work completed
DM/0055/23/FUL	0m	Variation of condition 10 (Working hours) pursuant to DM/1126/14/FUL to allow for extended working hours	Approved	Out – no material impact, working hours extended during summer period
DM/0466/23/FULA	143m west	Demolish existing conservatory and detached garage, erect two storey rear extension, erect two storey front extension to include balcony at first floor, erect detached outbuilding in rear garden to create garage, gym and workshop, alterations to doors and windows, addition of	Awaiting Decision	Out – no impact due to location and scale of residential works

		render and timber cladding to external walls, create additional vehicular access to front and various associated works		
DM/1109/22/FUL	140m west	Demolition and removal of all existing buildings and structures on site, alteration to existing access from Kings Road and formation of new points of access from Kings Road and Meridian Road, installation of hardstanding bases to accommodate up to 272 holiday lodges with associated parking, access roads, servicing, hard and soft landscaping and erection of ancillary holiday resort buildings; erection of 2 x hotels, restaurants and cafes, a leisure unit, 2 x retail units (one with garden centre) and drive thru coffee unit all with car parking, access roads, servicing areas, hard and soft landscaping; and use of the existing lake for fishing	Pending Consideration	Out – potential disturbance and recreational use impacts within plan area will have mitigation in place to conclude no adverse effect for consent to be given.
DM/0188/23/PNSOL	320m west	Prior notification for the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels	Grant Prior Notification	Out – due to location and installation on building
DM/0859/22/TCA	53m west	Poplar tree T4586: reduce lateral limb to SW @16m to point of torn out branch. Scots Pine T146: Fell due to being dead.	Approved	Out – due to location, visual and noise disturbance screened by bund
DM/0358/23/LBC		Listed Building consent for the removal of the existing upper floor structures in the Ice factory north and south buildings, along with a number of columns and loose finishes at the current access levels on the ground floor	Approved with Conditions	Out – due to location at the entrance to Grimsby working dock

C3. Overall Screening Decision for the Plan

North East Lincolnshire Council has considered the plan under Regulation 24(1) or 63(1)(a) of the Habitats Regulations and made an assessment of whether it will have a likely significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

In light of sections C1 and C2 of this assessment above, it is concluded that:

As this plan is likely to have significant effects (or may have significant effects) on some or all of the Qualifying Features of the European Site(s) 'alone', further Habitats Regulations assessment of the plan 'alone' is required.

PART D: Appropriate Assessment and Conclusions on Site Integrity

D1. Scope of Appropriate Assessment

In light of the screening decision above in section C3, this section contains the appropriate assessment of the implications of the project in view of the Conservation Objectives for the European Site(s) at risk.

The Sites and the Qualifying Feature for which significant effects are likely or cannot be ruled out and which are initially relevant to this appropriate assessment are;

Humber Estuary SPA:

Avocet, *Recurvirostra avosetta* - breeding

Avocet, *Recurvirostra avosetta* – non breeding

Bar-tailed godwit, *Limosa lapponica* – non breeding

Bittern, *Botaurus stellaris* - breeding

Bittern, *Botaurus stellaris* – non breeding

Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa islandica* – non breeding

Dunlin, *Calidris alpina alpina* – non breeding

Golden plover, *Pluvialis apricaria* – non breeding

Hen harrier, *Circus cyaneus* – non breeding

Knot, *Calidris canutus* – non breeding

Little tern, *Sterna albifrons* - breeding

Marsh Harrier, *Circus aeruginosus* - breeding

Redshank, *Tringa totanus* – non breeding

Ruff, *Philomachus pugnax* – non breeding

Shelduck, *Tadorna tadorna* – non breeding

Waterbird assemblage – non breeding

Humber Estuary Ramsar site:

Bar-tailed godwit, *Limosa lapponica* - Wintering

Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa* - Passage

Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa* - Wintering

Dunlin, *Calidris alpina* - Passage

Dunlin, *Calidris alpina* - Wintering

Golden plover, *Pluvialis apricaria* - Passage

Golden plover, *Pluvialis apricaria* - Wintering

Knot, *Calidris canutus* - Passage

Knot, *Calidris canutus* - Wintering

Redshank, *Tringa totanus* - Passage

Redshank, *Tringa totanus* - Wintering

Shelduck, *Tadorna tadorna* - Wintering

Waterbird assemblage – Wintering

Humber Estuary SAC:

H1130 Estuaries

H1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide

H1310 *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand

H1330 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)

S1095 Sea lamprey, *Petromyzon marinus*

S1099 River lamprey, *Lampetra fluviatilis*

S1364 Grey seal, *Halichoerus grypus*

(all alone)

See also tables in section C2.1

D2. Assessment of potential adverse effects

This section considers the risks to features identified at the screening stage in section C and assesses whether adverse effects can be ruled out.

The following plays a part in the assessment:

- Consideration of any measures specifically to avoid or reduce the potential for harmful effects that may have been voluntarily proposed and incorporated by the applicant.
- Consideration of extra or additional ‘mitigation measures’ to avoid or reduce the potential harmful effects of the plan or project which might be imposed by formal conditions or restrictions.
- If the effects (from a proposed plan/project) are not themselves considered to be adverse, further assessed will be carried out to determine whether they could have a combined effect with effects from other plans/projects.
- A precautionary judgement must be made where there is doubt or uncertainty regarding the potential for an adverse effect.

Detail of the impacts of the plan, with an explanation of their likely ecological effects as relevant to each European site and each of the qualifying features subject to assessment, is set out in the table below.

Humber Estuary SPA Feature (from the list in section D1)						
Humber Estuary SPA Feature (from the list in section D1)	Project element & impact	Likely effect on attribute(s) of Cons Obs.	Extent, magnitude or scale of the effect	Analysis of measures that can avoid or reduce the effects on the attribute	Can ‘no adverse effect’ on the feature be ascertained? (Y/N) Give reasons.	Degree of uncertainty
Bittern (Non-breeding)	NELC permitting the launching of	Significant disturbance can	Significant	• Slipway use by motorised vehicles is regulated by NELC issued permits	Yes.	Certain

Hen harrier (Non-breeding) Shelduck (Non-breeding) Avocet (Non-breeding) Knot (Non-breeding) Dunlin (Non-breeding) Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding) Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding) Redshank (Non-breeding) Golden plover (Non-breeding) Ruff (Non-breeding) Non breeding waterbird assemblage (including relevant species which are deemed to be important components of the assemblage)	watercraft from Council controlled slipways could impact on the population and distribution of qualifying features within the site by causing visual, acoustic, or physical disturbance	cause birds to change species distribution within and between sites. Where there is a lack of feeding and roosting sites elsewhere this may lead to a reduction in the number of birds using a site.		• Information collected on application of a permit includes personal details and contact information, vehicle registration and photograph of watercraft which enables identification in the water or on land • Watercraft launching with the use of vehicles is restricted to the slipways to reduce disturbance to the qualifying features • Permit holders informed that when they accept and sign for permits, their signature acknowledges that they have been informed about the qualifying features, that they have read and understood the bird disturbance part of the permit and they understand that they risk losing their permit if they are found causing disturbance • Permits include mapped areas of preferred or allowed activity, mapped areas of the most bird sensitive areas, and associated conditions to avoid bird sensitive areas and disturbance • As part of an annual Comms plan publicity will include seasonal awareness campaigns, targeted communication, and regular communication to raise awareness of the qualifying features and expected behaviour of water users to reduce the risk of disturbance and damage • On-going, active, on the ground, public engagement by the Resort Team to reduce the risk of disturbance and damage to the qualifying features • Engagement with local water sport businesses, ensuring they have the correct information that they can distribute, including codes of conduct, to users/members of clubs and people hiring	These measures include regulated access and activity with consequences, and public engagement and education will achieve substantially increased public awareness and engagement which will affect behavioural changes, reducing the risk of disturbance. Monitoring of disturbance events will assess any further necessary measures if recreational pressures change or increase.	
---	--	---	--	---	--	--

				water sport equipment to reduce the risk of disturbance to SPA birds • Resort Team formally record instances of bird disturbance and report to Humber Nature Partnership for data collection and monitoring to assess effectiveness and needs. • Humber Nature Partnership disseminates information about bird sensitive areas and expected behaviour of water users to national regulatory bodies or national and regional activity-specific clubs, associations, groups to raise awareness of people outside of the Borough to reduce the risk of disturbance and damage to the qualifying features. • Continued interaction with community groups and water user groups who self-police their activity and report issues to NELC, 101, and Humber Nature Partnership to reduce the risk of disturbance and damage to the qualifying features.		
	NELC permitting of bait digging could impact on the population and distribution of each of the qualifying features	Bird disturbance could come from footfall causing visual disturbance. Habitat may be destroyed, damaged, or significantly changed and reduce food availability for SPA species	Significant	• Bait digging permits are restricted to 30 issued per year, the number of worms collected is restricted to 50 per visit, mapped areas on the permit show where the activity can take place in low bird-sensitive areas, and dug holes are to be back filled, to ensure food sources for the SPA birds are available and invertebrate populations are not put under pressure, reducing the risk to the SPA birds. • Resort Team will monitor activity	Yes The activity is regulated and monitored.	Certain
	NELC and NELC partnership educational activities could	Significant bird disturbance could come from footfall	Significant	• Activities are regulated by limiting time, numbers of participants, and number of activities, and the location of activity, and will be	Yes. The activity is regulated, controlled, and monitored.	Certain

	impact on the distribution and population of each of the qualifying species	causing visual and acoustic disturbance. Significant disturbance can cause birds to change species distribution within and between sites. Where there is a lack of feeding and roosting sites elsewhere this may lead to a reduction in the number of birds using a site.		monitored by activity leader/supervisor. These measures reduce the risk of disturbance.		
	NELC general repairs and maintenance of access infrastructure Significant disturbance could come from visual and acoustic disturbance, and damage to supporting habitat.	Significant disturbance can cause birds to change species distribution within and between sites. Where there is a lack of feeding and roosting sites elsewhere this may lead to a reduction in the number of birds using a site. Supporting habitat may be destroyed, damaged, or significantly changed, and reduced.	Significant	Work in wintering bird season is avoided thereby removing the risk to wintering SPA species. Access for repair and maintenance will use the existing paths and work will be small scale and localised to the affected asset, avoiding damage to supporting habitat.	Yes. Mitigation measures result in avoidance	Certain

	NELC Resort Team and Street Cleansing, HMS Coastguard and RNLI vehicle access could cause significant disturbance visually and acoustically, and damage to supporting habitat	Significant disturbance can cause birds to change species distribution within and between sites. Where there is a lack of feeding and roosting sites elsewhere this may lead to a reduction in the number of birds using a site. Supporting habitat may be destroyed, damaged, or significantly changed, and reduced.	Significant	Using existing, historically used tracks and use of the main central tourist beach will reduce the impact due to habituation and avoid damaging supporting habitat.	Yes. Mitigation measures result in avoidance	Certain
	Localised saltmarsh vegetation removal, Spartina, could cause visual and noise disturbance as it's carried out on the edge of the northern edge of the saltmarsh, and damage to supporting habitat	Significant disturbance can cause birds to change species distribution within and between sites. Where there is a lack of feeding and roosting sites elsewhere this may lead to a reduction in the number of birds using a site. Supporting habitat may be destroyed, damaged, or significantly changed, and reduced.	Significant	Removal is targeted to the agreed line only and only to be done by hand to reduce noise and visual impacts and can only be carried out at low tide. Most removal is done in the growing season which is outside of the wintering bird season and regular removal will keep on top of the growth ensuring that it can continue to be removed by hand, avoiding damage to supporting habitat.	Yes. Wintering bird season is avoided and work is carried out at low tide for short periods of time on foot and localised to the saltmarsh being removed	Certain

	NELC beach cleaning – mechanical rake could cause visual and acoustic disturbance and damage to supporting habitat	Significant disturbance can cause birds to change species distribution within and between sites. Where there is a lack of feeding and roosting sites elsewhere this may lead to a reduction in the number of birds using a site. Supporting habitat may be destroyed, damaged, or significantly changed, and reduced.	Significant	The beach rake only operates on the tourist beach between the pier and leisure centre on Central Promenade. In wintering bird season, the rake operates on Mondays and Fridays only and Monday to Friday outside of that. The habitat is the main tourist beach and has regular recreational use and disturbance. Timing or activity is regular and historic and should result in habituation.	Yes. The location, regularity and timing reduces the risk to less than significant	Certain
	Donkey rides on the tourist beach and fixed amusement rides could cause visual and acoustic disturbance and damage to supporting habitat	Significant disturbance can cause birds to change species distribution within and between sites. Where there is a lack of feeding and roosting sites elsewhere this may lead to a reduction in the number of birds using a site. Supporting habitat may be destroyed, damaged, or significantly changed, and reduced.	Significant	Donkey rides only operate on the main tourist beaches on Central Promenade and North Promenade, either side of the pier, on the soft sand. The fixed amusements are sited where amusement rides have historically been on the main tourist beach area, next to the sea wall on North Promenade. Both operate seasonally and don't operate in the winter and operate under licence agreements.	Yes Avoidance of the most sensitive wintering bird season is avoided and habituation due to the historical tourist operations will have no significant effect, nor will the activity be occurring on the main central tourist beach with regular recreational use	Certain

	Litter picking could cause visual disturbance	Significant disturbance can cause birds to change species distribution within and between sites. Where there is a lack of feeding and roosting sites elsewhere this may lead to a reduction in the number of birds using a site.	Significant	Litter picking is generally carried out by two operatives walking on the soft sand of the main tourist beach between Terminal groyne and the pier, and along the established paths south of the leisure centre along the sand dune and saltmarsh.	Yes The use of established paths and beach areas used by the public results in no significant disturbance	Certain
	Recreational damage and disturbance	Significant disturbance can cause birds to change species distribution within and between sites. Where there is a lack of feeding and roosting sites elsewhere this may lead to a reduction in the number of birds using a site. Supporting habitat may be destroyed, damaged, or significantly changed, and reduced	Significant	• Signage and interpretation are located on footpaths around the resort and footpaths adjacent the designation, educating and raising awareness of the qualifying features. • A communications plan is in place for general and targeted users of the coast, with consistent messaging around protecting the qualifying features. • Active engagement by NELC with user groups will continue to raise awareness and understanding about the qualifying features and how the user groups interact with the coast for effective management. • Codes of conduct are distributed to help with behavioural management. • The Ecology Team carry out bird disturbance surveys in line with the Footprint Ecology Report 2014 to monitor disturbance levels in comparison to the Footprint Ecology baseline. These surveys are scrutinised by the Cleethorpes and Tetney Recreational Disturbance Group. • The Resort Team monitor recreational disturbance and record instances that get	Yes Disturbance and damage are currently at manageable levels with these measures in place. Monitoring will continue to assess effectiveness and further actions put in place if disturbance or damage increases	Certain

				collated to inform future management and reported to the Humber Nature Partnership. • The Resort Team actively engage with the public to inform, educate and advise about the qualifying features to encourage responsible behaviour • The Cleethorpes and Tetney Recreational Disturbance Group is an advisory group of stakeholders and interested parties that advise NELC on management of recreational issues. • Improving and maintaining the green infrastructure network in the Borough, providing attractive open space to reduce pressure on the coastal area, particularly where development is likely to increase recreational visitor numbers. • Visitor numbers are monitored through footfall data and reviewed. • WeBS data for Immingham Docks (Sector K – 38905) to Tetney Haven to Humberstone Fitties (35487) will be reviewed to monitor sensitive areas. ○ A PSPO with fixed penalties is in place to deal 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 ○ - No barbeques or fires.		
--	--	--	--	---	--	--



Humber Estuary SAC Feature (from the list in section D1)						
Humber Estuary SAC Feature (from the list in section D1)	Project element & impact	Likely effect on attribute(s) of Cons Obs.	Extent, magnitude or scale of the effect	Analysis of measures that can avoid or reduce the effects on the attribute	Can 'no adverse effect' on the feature be ascertained? (Y/N) Give reasons.	Degree of uncertainty
Intertidal mudflats and sandflats	NELC permitting of bait digging could harm, damage or destroy the qualifying features	Habitat may be destroyed, damaged, or significantly changed by hand digging	Significant	- Bait digging permits are restricted to 30 issued per year, the number of worms collected is restricted to 50 per visit, mapped areas on the permit show where the activity can take place in low bird-sensitive areas, and dug holes are to be back filled, to ensure food sources for the SPA birds are available and invertebrate populations are not put under pressure, reducing the risk to the SPA birds. - Resort Team will monitor activity	Yes The activity is small, regulated and monitored and restricted to intertidal habitat that is temporarily disturbed and away from the most sensitive bird-use areas.	Certain

	NELC Resort Team and Street Cleansing, HMS Coastguard and RNLI vehicle access could impact on the quality, distribution and population of qualifying feature habitat.	Habitat may be destroyed, damaged, or significantly changed by vehicle use.	Significant	Using existing, historically used tracks and use of the main central tourist beach will avoid damage to feature habitats	Yes. No increase in damage is expected as established paths and areas will continue to be used.	Certain
	NELC beach cleaning – mechanical rake could impact on the quality, distribution and population of qualifying feature habitat.	Habitat may be destroyed, damaged, or significantly changed by vehicle use.	Significant	The beach rake only operates on the tourist beach between the pier and leisure centre on Central Promenade, on the soft sand which is used daily for recreation.	Yes. The operational location avoids damage to qualifying feature habitats	Certain
	Recreational damage	Habitat may be destroyed, damaged, or significantly changed	Significant	• Signage and interpretation are located on footpaths around the resort and footpaths adjacent the designation, educating and raising awareness of the qualifying features. • A communications plan is in place for general and targeted users of the coast,	Yes Damage is currently at manageable levels with these measures in	Certain

				with consistent messaging around protecting the qualifying features. • Active engagement by NELC with user groups will continue to raise awareness and understanding about the qualifying features and how the user groups interact with the coast for effective management. Codes of conduct are distributed to help with behavioural management. • The Resort Team monitor recreational disturbance and record instances that get collated to inform future management and reported to the Humber Nature Partnership. • The Resort Team actively engage with the public to inform, educate and advise about the qualifying features to encourage responsible behaviour • The Cleethorpes and Tetney Recreational Disturbance Group is an advisory group of stakeholders and interested parties that advise NELC on management of recreational issues. • Improving and maintaining the green infrastructure network in the Borough, providing attractive open space to reduce pressure on the coastal area, particularly where development is likely to increase recreational visitor numbers. • Visitor numbers are monitored through footfall data and reviewed. • A PSPO with fixed penalties is in place to deal with: ○ - Dog fouling ○ - Showing means to pick up dog mess.	place. Monitoring will continue to assess effectiveness and further actions put in place if disturbance or damage increases	
--	--	--	--	---	--	--

				○ - Dogs not on leads in areas they should be. ○ Dogs in areas where they should not be ○ - No barbeques or fires.		
• Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand • Atlantic salt meadows	Localised saltmarsh vegetation removal, Spartina, could impact on the quality, distribution and population of Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Habitat may be destroyed, damaged, or significantly changed by removal of Spartina	Significant	Removal is only done by hand to avoid untargeted damage and is only removed over the mapped line from the corner of the leisure centre north eastwards out to sea on the adjacent tourist Central Promenade beach, by hand and on foot	Yes. Although the restriction in northwards growth of the salt marsh would impact on the resilience and natural adaptation of the salt marsh and associated features, only Spartina is removed in small areas of the tourist beach, encouraging recreational use of the beach which will help reduce disturbance and damage to the main salt marsh areas.	Certain
	NELC Resort Team and Street Cleansing, HMS Coastguard and	Habitat may be destroyed, damaged, or significantly	Significant	Using existing, historically used tracks and use of the main central tourist beach will avoid damage to feature habitats	Yes. No increase in damage is expected as	Certain

	RNLI vehicle access could impact on the quality, distribution and population of qualifying feature habitat.	changed by vehicle use			established paths and areas will continue to be used.	
	NELC beach cleaning – mechanical rake could impact on the quality, distribution and population of qualifying feature habitat.	Habitat may be destroyed, damaged, or significantly changed by vehicle use	Significant	The beach rake only operates on the tourist beach between the pier and leisure centre on Central Promenade, on the soft sand which is used daily for recreation.	Yes. The operational location avoids damage to qualifying feature habitats	Certain

	Recreational damage	Habitat may be destroyed, damaged, or significantly changed	Significant	• Signage and interpretation are located on footpaths around the resort and footpaths adjacent the designation, educating and raising awareness of the qualifying features. • A communications plan is in place for general and targeted users of the coast, with consistent messaging around protecting the qualifying features. • Active engagement by NELC with user groups will continue to raise awareness and understanding about the qualifying features and how the user groups interact with the coast for effective management. • Codes of conduct are distributed to help with behavioural management. • The Resort Team monitor recreational disturbance and record instances that get collated to inform future management and reported to the Humber Nature Partnership. • The Resort Team actively engage with the public to inform, educate and advise about the qualifying features to encourage responsible behaviour • The Cleethorpes and Tetney Recreational Disturbance Group is an advisory group of stakeholders and interested parties that advise NELC on management of recreational issues. • Improving and maintaining the green infrastructure network in the Borough, providing attractive open space to reduce pressure on the coastal area, particularly where development is likely to increase recreational visitor numbers.	Yes Damage is currently at manageable levels with these measures in place. Monitoring will continue to assess effectiveness and further actions put in place if disturbance or damage increases	Certain
--	---------------------	---	-------------	---	--	---------

				• Visitor numbers are monitored through footfall data and reviewed. • A PSPO with fixed penalties is in place to deal 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 ○ No barbeques or fires.		
• Dune grassland • Embryonic shifting dunes • Shifting dunes with marram	NELC Resort Team and Street Cleansing, HMS Coastguard and RNLI vehicle access could impact on the quality, distribution and population of qualifying feature habitat.	Habitat may be destroyed, damaged, or significantly changed by vehicle use.	Significant	Using existing, historically used tracks and use of the main central tourist beach will avoid damage to feature habitats	Yes. No increase in damage is expected as established paths and areas will continue to be used.	Certain
	NELC beach cleaning – mechanical rake could impact on the	Habitat may be destroyed, damaged, or significantly	Significant	The beach rake only operates on the tourist beach between the pier and leisure centre on Central Promenade, on the soft sand which is used daily for recreation	Yes. The operational location avoids damage to	Certain

	quality, distribution and population of qualifying feature habitat	changed by vehicle use			qualifying feature habitats	
	Recreational damage	Habitat may be destroyed, damaged, or significantly changed	Significant	• Signage and interpretation are located on footpaths around the resort and footpaths adjacent the designation, educating and raising awareness of the qualifying features. • A communications plan is in place for general and targeted users of the coast, with consistent messaging around protecting the qualifying features. • Active engagement by NELC with user groups will continue to raise awareness and understanding about the qualifying features and how the user groups interact with the coast for effective management. • Codes of conduct are distributed to help with behavioural management. • The Resort Team monitor recreational disturbance and record instances that get collated to inform future management and reported to the Humber Nature Partnership. • The Resort Team actively engage with the public to inform, educate and advise about the qualifying features to encourage responsible behaviour • The Cleethorpes and Tetney Recreational Disturbance Group is an advisory group of stakeholders and interested parties that advise NELC on management of recreational issues.	Yes Damage is currently at manageable levels with these measures in place. Monitoring will continue to assess effectiveness and further actions put in place if disturbance or damage increases	Certain

				- Improving and maintaining the green infrastructure network in the Borough, providing attractive open space to reduce pressure on the coastal area, particularly where development is likely to increase recreational visitor numbers. - Visitor numbers are monitored through footfall data and reviewed. - A PSPO with fixed penalties is in place to deal 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 - No barbeques or fires.		
Grey seal	NELC and NELC partnership educational activities could impact on the quality, distribution and population of grey seal species	Behaviour change and disturbance caused to resting grey seals	Significant	Activities are regulated by limiting time, numbers of participants, and number of activities, and the location of activity, taking place mainly on the central tourist beach but otherwise using established paths and tracks, and will be monitored by activity leader/supervisor. Leader/Supervisor will avoid areas where resting seals are present	Yes. The activity is regulated, controlled, and monitored.	Certain
	• .NELC permitting the launching of watercraft	Behaviour change and disturbance	Significant	Permits include information about avoiding seals and causing disturbance and is	Yes	Certain

	from Council controlled slipways could impact on resting seals on sand banks • NELC permitting of bait digging could impact on resting seals	caused to resting grey seals		verbally communicated at time of issue. Activity is monitored by Resort Team.	Activities are regulated and monitored by the Resort Team	
--	---	-------------------------------------	--	--	--	--

	• NELC Resort Team and Street Cleansing, HMS Coastguard and RNLI vehicle access could impact resting seals. • Localised saltmarsh vegetation removal by Resort Team, Spartina, could impact on resting seals • NELC beach cleaning – mechanical rake could impact on resting seals • NELC litter picking could impact on resting seals	Significant disturbance can cause seals to change behaviour, prevent them from resting during haul outs, and suffer stress.	Significant	• All NELC staff that operate on the beach are informed about avoiding seals and disturbance. The Resort Team educate and control the public and others around any resting seals.	Yes Activities are regulated and monitored by the Resort Team.	Certain
--	---	---	-------------	---	---	---------

	Recreational disturbance	Significant disturbance can cause seals to change behaviour, prevent them from resting during haul outs, and suffer stress.	Significant	• Signage and interpretation are located on footpaths around the resort and footpaths adjacent the designation, educating and raising awareness of the qualifying features. • A communications plan is in place for general and targeted users of the coast, with consistent messaging around protecting the qualifying features.	Yes Disturbance is currently at manageable levels with these measures in place. Monitoring will continue to assess	Certain

				• Active engagement by NELC with user groups will continue to raise awareness and understanding about the qualifying features and how the user groups interact with the coast for effective management. • Codes of conduct are distributed to help with behavioural management. • The Resort Team monitor recreational disturbance and record instances that get collated to inform future management and reported to the Humber Nature Partnership. • The Resort Team actively engage with the public to inform, educate and advise about the qualifying features to encourage responsible behaviour • The Cleethorpes and Tetney Recreational Disturbance Group is an advisory group of stakeholders and interested parties that advise NELC on management of recreational issues. • Improving and maintaining the green infrastructure network in the Borough, providing attractive open space to reduce pressure on the coastal area, particularly where development is likely to increase recreational visitor numbers. • Visitor numbers are monitored through footfall data and reviewed. • A PSPO with fixed penalties is in place to deal with: • Dogs not on leads in areas they should be. • Dogs in areas where they should not be • - No barbeques or fires.	effectiveness and further actions put in place if disturbance increases	
--	--	--	--	---	---	--

Humber Estuary Ramsar site Feature (from the list in section D1)						
Humber Estuary Ramsar site Feature (from the list in section D1)	Project element & impact	Likely effect on attribute(s) of Cons Obs.	Extent, magnitude or scale of the effect	Analysis of measures that can avoid or reduce the effects on the attribute	Can 'no adverse effect' on the feature be ascertained? (Y/N) Give reasons.	Degree of uncertainty
Criterion 1 - the site is a representative example of a near-natural estuary.	- NELC permitting of bait digging could impact on the intertidal mud flats habitat. - NELC Resort Team and Street Cleansing, HMS Coastguard and RNLI vehicle access could impact on the habitats of the dune systems, intertidal mud and sand flats, and saltmarshes. - Localised saltmarsh vegetation removal,	Habitat may be destroyed, damaged, or significantly changed by, bait digging, vehicle use and <i>Spartina</i> removal.	Significant	- Bait digging is zoned with allowed areas mapped on the permit. A PSPO regulates any bait digging activity outside of these mapped zones. - Using existing, historically used tracks for vehicles and use of the main central tourist beach will avoid damage to feature habitats. - Removal of <i>Spartina</i> is localised and only done by hand to avoid untargeted damage and is only removed over the mapped line from the corner of the	Yes. These measures include regulated activity that is monitored by PSPO Officers. No increase in damage or disturbance to the habitats is expected as only established	Certain

	Spartina, could impact on the saltmarsh habitat. • NELC beach cleaning – mechanical rake could impact on the dune system habitat.			leisure centre to the first yellow marker buoy north eastwards on the adjacent tourist Central Promenade beach. • The beach rake only operates on the main central tourist beach that has frequent recreational disturbance that prevents dune formation.	paths and areas will continue to be used in daily operations. .	
	Recreational disturbance	Habitat may be destroyed, damaged, or significantly changed	Significant	• Signage and interpretation are located on footpaths around the resort and footpaths adjacent the designation, educating and raising awareness of the qualifying features. • A communications plan is in place for general and targeted users of the coast, with consistent messaging around protecting the qualifying features. • Active engagement by NELC with user groups will continue to raise awareness and understanding about the qualifying features and how the user groups interact with the coast for effective management. • Codes of conduct are distributed to help with behavioural management. • The Resort Team monitor recreational disturbance and record instances that get collated to inform future management and reported to the Humber Nature Partnership. • The Resort Team actively engage with the public to inform, educate and advise about the qualifying features to encourage responsible behaviour • The Cleethorpes and Tetney Recreational Disturbance Group is an	Yes Damage is currently at manageable levels with these measures in place. Monitoring will continue to assess effectiveness and further actions put in place if damage increases	Yes

				advisory group of stakeholders and interested parties that advise NELC on management of recreational issues. • Improving and maintaining the green infrastructure network in the Borough, providing attractive open space to reduce pressure on the coastal area, particularly where development is likely to increase recreational visitor numbers. • Visitor numbers are monitored through footfall data and reviewed. • A PSPO with fixed penalties is in place to deal 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 ○ No barbeques or fires.		
Criterion 3 - the site supports populations of animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of the biogeographic	• NELC permitting the launching of watercraft from Council controlled slipways could impact on resting seals on sand banks • NELC permitting of bait digging could impact on resting seals. • NELC Resort Team and Street Cleansing, HMS Coastguard and RNLI vehicle access could impact resting seals.	Disturbance can cause seals to change behaviour, prevent them from resting during haul outs, and suffer stress.	Significant	• Permits include information about avoiding seals and causing disturbance and is verbally communicated at time of issue. Activity is monitored by Resort Team. • All NELC staff that operate on the beach are informed about avoiding seals and disturbance. The Resort Team educate and control the public and others around any resting seals.	Yes Activities are regulated and monitored by the Resort Team.	Certain

region: Grey seals.	• Localised saltmarsh vegetation removal by Resort Team, Spartina, could impact on resting seals • NELC beach cleaning – mechanical rake could impact on resting seals • NELC litter picking could impact on resting seals • NELC and NELC partnership educational activities could impact on resting seals					
	Recreational disturbance	<i>Significant disturbance can cause seals to change behaviour, prevent them from resting during haul outs, and suffer stress.</i>	<i>Significant</i>	• Signage and interpretation are located on footpaths around the resort and footpaths adjacent the designation, educating and raising awareness of the qualifying features. • A communications plan is in place for general and targeted users of the coast, with consistent messaging around protecting the qualifying features. • Active engagement by NELC with user groups will continue to raise awareness and understanding about the qualifying features and how the user groups	Yes Disturbance is currently at manageable levels with these measures in place. Monitoring will continue to assess effectiveness and further actions put in place if	Certain

				interact with the coast for effective management. • Codes of conduct are distributed to help with behavioural management. • The Resort Team monitor recreational disturbance and record instances that get collated to inform future management and reported to the Humber Nature Partnership. • The Resort Team actively engage with the public to inform, educate and advise about the qualifying features to encourage responsible behaviour • The Cleethorpes and Tetney Recreational Disturbance Group is an advisory group of stakeholders and interested parties that advise NELC on management of recreational issues. • Improving and maintaining the green infrastructure network in the Borough, providing attractive open space to reduce pressure on the coastal area, particularly where development is likely to increase recreational visitor numbers. • Visitor numbers are monitored through footfall data and reviewed. • A PSPO with fixed penalties is in place to deal with: ○ Dogs not on leads in areas they should be. ○ Dogs in areas where they should not be ○ No barbeques or fires.	disturbance increases	
	• NELC permitting the launching of watercraft from	Significant disturbance can cause birds to	Significant	• Permits include information about avoiding birds and causing disturbance	Yes.	Certain

Criterion 5 - the site regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds.	Council controlled slipways could cause disturbance to roosting birds on sand banks and intertidal areas • NELC licensing of bait digging could impact on food resource and disturbance • NELC Resort Team and Street Cleansing, HMS Coastguard and RNLI vehicle access could cause disturbance • Localised saltmarsh vegetation removal – Spartina, could cause disturbance • NELC repairs and general maintenance of access infrastructure could cause disturbance • NELC beach cleaning – mechanical beach rake could cause disturbance • NELC litter picking could cause disturbance	change species distribution within and between sites. Where there is a lack of feeding and roosting sites elsewhere this may lead to a reduction in the number of birds using a site. Reduced food availability can affect population and distribution.		and is verbally communicated at time of issue. Activity is monitored by Resort Team. • All NELC staff that operate on the beach are informed about bird disturbance. The Resort Team monitor bird disturbance and permitted activities.	Activities are regulated, controlled, and monitored.	
---	--	---	--	--	---	--

	NELC and NELC partnership educational activities could cause disturbance					
	Recreational damage and disturbance	Significant disturbance can cause birds to change species distribution within and between sites. Where there is a lack of feeding and roosting sites elsewhere this may lead to a reduction in the number of birds using a site. Supporting habitat may be destroyed, damaged, or significantly changed, and reduced	Significant	- Signage and interpretation are located on footpaths around the resort and footpaths adjacent the designation, educating and raising awareness of the qualifying features. - A communications plan is in place for general and targeted users of the coast, with consistent messaging around protecting the qualifying features. - Active engagement by NELC with user groups will continue to raise awareness and understanding about the qualifying features and how the user groups interact with the coast for effective management. - Codes of conduct are distributed to help with behavioural management. - The Ecology Team carry out bird disturbance surveys in line with the Footprint Ecology Report 2014 to monitor disturbance levels in comparison to the Footprint Ecology baseline. These surveys are scrutinised by the Cleethorpes and Tetney Recreational Disturbance Group. - The Resort Team monitor recreational disturbance and record instances that get collated to inform future management and reported to the Humber Nature Partnership. - The Resort Team actively engage with the public to inform, educate and advise	Yes Disturbance is currently at manageable levels with these measures in place. Monitoring will continue to assess effectiveness and further actions put in place if disturbance increases	Certain

				about the qualifying features to encourage responsible behaviour • The Cleethorpes and Tetney Recreational Disturbance Group is an advisory group of stakeholders and interested parties that advise NELC on management of recreational issues. • Improving and maintaining the green infrastructure network in the Borough, providing attractive open space to reduce pressure on the coastal area, particularly where development is likely to increase recreational visitor numbers. • Visitor numbers are monitored through footfall data and reviewed. • WeBS data for Immingham Docks (Sector K – 38905) to Tetney Haven to Humberstone Fitties (35487) will be reviewed to monitor sensitive areas. • A PSPO with fixed penalties is in place to deal 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 ○ - No barbeques or fires.		
Criterion 6 - the site regularly supports 1% of the individuals in the populations of	• NELC permitting the launching of watercraft from Council controlled slipways • NELC licensing of bait digging • NELC Resort Team and Street Cleansing, HMS	Significant disturbance can cause birds to change species distribution within and between sites. Where there is a lack of feeding and roosting sites elsewhere this	Significant	• Permits include information about avoiding birds and causing disturbance and is verbally communicated at time of issue. Activity is monitored by Resort Team. • All NELC staff that operate on the beach are informed about bird	Yes. Activities are regulated, controlled, and monitored	Certain

the following species of waterbird in any season: Shelduck (Non-breeding), Golden plover (Non-breeding), Knot (Non-breeding),	Coastguard and RNLI vehicle access • Localised saltmarsh vegetation removal – Spartina • NELC repairs and general maintenance of access infrastructure • NELC beach cleaning – mechanical beach rake • NELC litter picking • NELC and NELC partnership educational activities	may lead to a reduction in the number of birds using a site. Reduced food availability can affect population and distribution.		disturbance. The Resort Team monitor bird disturbance and permitted activities		
Dunlin (Non-breeding), Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding), Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding), Redshank (Non-breeding).	Recreational damage and disturbance	Significant disturbance can cause birds to change species distribution within and between sites. Where there is a lack of feeding and roosting sites elsewhere this may lead to a reduction in the number of birds using a site. Supporting habitat may be destroyed, damaged, or significantly changed, and reduced	Significant	• Signage and interpretation are located on footpaths around the resort and footpaths adjacent the designation, educating and raising awareness of the qualifying features. • A communications plan is in place for general and targeted users of the coast, with consistent messaging around protecting the qualifying features. • Active engagement by NELC with user groups will continue to raise awareness and understanding about the qualifying features and how the user groups interact with the coast for effective management. • Codes of conduct are distributed to help with behavioural management. • The Ecology Team carry out bird disturbance surveys in line with the Footprint Ecology Report 2014 to monitor disturbance levels in comparison to the Footprint Ecology baseline. These surveys	Yes Disturbance is currently at manageable levels with these measures in place. Monitoring will continue to assess effectiveness and further actions put in place if disturbance increases	Certain

				are scrutinised by the Cleethorpes and Tetney Recreational Disturbance Group. • The Resort Team monitor recreational disturbance and record instances that get collated to inform future management and reported to the Humber Nature Partnership. • The Resort Team actively engage with the public to inform, educate and advise about the qualifying features to encourage responsible behaviour • The Cleethorpes and Tetney Recreational Disturbance Group is an advisory group of stakeholders and interested parties that advise NELC on management of recreational issues. • Improving and maintaining the green infrastructure network in the Borough, providing attractive open space to reduce pressure on the coastal area, particularly where development is likely to increase recreational visitor numbers. • Visitor numbers are monitored through footfall data and reviewed. • WeBS data for Immingham Docks (Sector K – 38905) to Tetney Haven to Humberstone Fitties (35487) will be reviewed to monitor sensitive areas. • A PSPO with fixed penalties is in place to deal 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 ○ - No barbeques or fires.		
--	--	--	--	---	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D3. Conclusions on Site Integrity

Because the plan is not wholly directly connected with or necessary to the management of the European site and is likely to have a significant effect on that site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), NELC has carried out an appropriate assessment as required under regulation 63 of the Habitats Regulations 2017 to ascertain whether or not it is possible to conclude that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of a European Site(s).

This appropriate assessment has concluded that:

It **can** be ascertained that this plan will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the site(s) listed in Section B.1, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

See section D2 above.

References to Science and Evidence

[List the sources of technical information, advice and evidence used and/or cited in the assessment]

Appendix 1

Notice of proposal to cause, carry out or permit operations requiring Natural England's consent on a site of special scientific interest (SSSI)

Owners and occupiers of land within a SSSI should use this form to give notice of a proposed operation on a SSSI that needs Natural England's consent.

Complete all sections including the declaration on the final page, and send this Notice along with any accompanying information to:
ProtectedSites@naturalengland.org.uk

If you need advice or support before you submit your Notice, contact Natural England. Natural England can in some circumstances offer advice if you need help with your proposal, with drafting the notice form, or if you need advice quickly (in less than 28 calendar days).

Part 1: Where you intend to carry out, cause or permit the operations

Name of SSSIs

Name all of the SSSIs where operations are proposed to be carried out. If you do not know the name of the SSSI where you will carrying out your operations, you can find this by visiting the MAGIC map system.

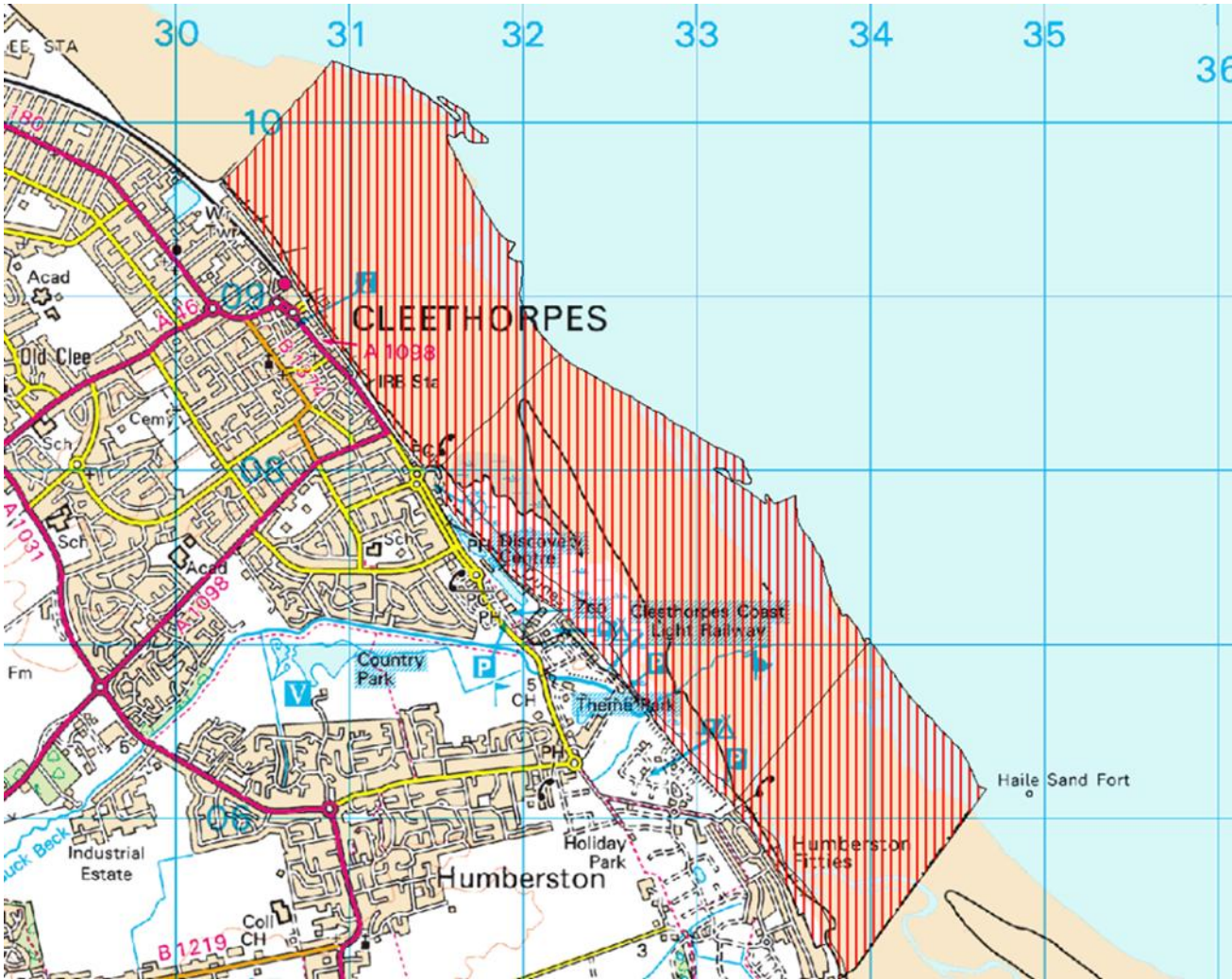
Humber Estuary – 2000480 SSSI

Details of land on which operations are intended to be carried out, caused or permitted.

You should provide details of the exact location of where you will gain access and carry out operations within the SSSI. You can provide one or more of the following:

- • OS grid references (find OS grid references)
- • field parcel details
- • a screenshot of a map or aerial photograph that shows the exact location

SSSI units: 171, 173, 186, 187, 188, 189



Part 2: What operations you intend to carry out, cause or permit

List all operations you intend to carry out, cause or permit

You should refer to the relevant 'List of Operations Requiring Natural England Consent' (ORNEC) for the named SSSIs. If you do not have a copy of the ORNEC list for the SSSIs, you can find this on the designated sites system.

4 Mowing or cutting vegetation and alterations to the mowing or cutting regime (such as from hay making to silage).

6 Application of pesticides, including herbicides (weedkillers) whether terrestrial or aquatic, and veterinary products.

11 Destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant or plant remains, including tree, shrub, herb, hedge, dead or decaying wood, moss, lichen, fungus, leafmould and turf)

12 Tree or woodland management and alterations to tree or woodland management (including planting, felling, pruning and tree surgery, thinning, coppicing, changes in species composition and removal of fallen timber).

18 Bait digging in intertidal areas

26. Use of vehicles or craft other than on made-up roads or tracks.

27 Recreational or other activities likely to damage or disturb the features of special interest.

Part 3: How you intend to carry out each operation

Describe how you, or someone you are permitting, intend to undertake your proposed operations.

Please see Cleethopres Habitat Management Plan 2021 – 2026 and HRA

Part 4: When you intend to carry out, cause or permit the operations

Indicate any specific considerations or restrictions relating to the timing of each proposed operation, such as certain weather or ground conditions

Please see Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan and HRA

Enter the start and end date of the proposed operations

Natural England has up to 4 months to consider a notice and decide whether to grant consent. Operations should not commence until consent has been granted by Natural England. Consider this when you specify your start and end dates.

Start date of operations

01/07.2023

End date of operations

31/12/20226

Part 5: Declaration

In providing this information and signing this form, I hereby give notice to Natural England in accordance with Section 28E (1)(a) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) of my proposal to carry out, cause or permit the operations stated above within this SSSI.

Name of SSSI owner or occupier

North East Lincolnshire Council

Address

Doughty Road Depot, Doughty Road, Grimsby, DN32 0LL

Email

Rachel.graham@nelincs.gov.uk

Telephone number

07730014436

SSSI owner or occupier signature

Rachel Graham

Date

13/07/2023

Agent representing SSSI owner or occupier

If you are an agent representing a SSSI owner or occupier, you should provide your own contact details as well.

Full name

Enter agent's first and last name

Address

Click or tap here to enter the agent's address

Email

Click or tap here to enter the agent's email address

Telephone number

Click or tap here to enter telephone number

Agent's signature

Click or tap here to enter the agent's signature

Date

Click or tap here to enter the date

Privacy notice

Using and sharing your information: The Data Controller is Natural England. For further information on how we process your personal information, read our Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Privacy Notice on GOV.UK.

It is your responsibility to obtain all necessary permissions required to undertake the operations lawfully. You may face enforcement action from other authorities or parties if you carry out the work without permission.