



Humber Management Scheme

Action plan

January 2015



Industry and nature in harmony in one of Europe's great estuaries

How was the action plan developed?

The Humber Management Scheme (HMS) action plan was developed by reviewing the [conservation objectives](#) for each Humber Estuary designated feature, outlining the potential threats to the objectives and any existing management that is in place. Gaps in management were then identified which now form the actions within this plan.

The action plan is split into 5 main themes:

1. Policy and legislation
2. Site safeguard and management
3. Research and monitoring
4. Advisory
5. Communications and publicity

Some actions are very broad and will be determined and defined over the action plan period. Other actions are very specific. Actions have been prioritised based on the condition of the protected habitat or species e.g. the protected habitat or species is not in favourable condition, or those actions which will have most impact.

Who will deliver the actions?

The majority of actions identified are those which require partnership support for their delivery. The key partners have been identified in the action plan.

Humber Nature Partnership staff will administer and drive forward the action plan, with support from the whole partnership.

The delivery of the actions will be supported, overseen and supported by the HMS Management Group. This group is made up of representatives of the Humber Estuary Relevant Authorities Group (HERAG) and the Chair of the Humber Nature Forum. The HMS Management Group will review the progress of the HMS action plan and deliver plan quarterly in conjunction with HNP staff.

In some cases where a range of partners are required to deliver an action, a steering group will be set up.

How will the plan be monitored and updated?

The Humber Nature Partnership will use two main indicators to measure the success of the HMS action plan:

- Condition of the Humber SAC, SPA and SSSI, taking into account natural change and factors outside the control of the action plan and
- Outputs identified in the HMS action plan

The Humber Nature Partnership has also developed an annual delivery plan which will be reviewed quarterly by the HMS Management Group.

The HMS action and delivery plan will be reviewed annually and updated using the information as identified in diagram 2.

Current estuary condition

The action plan and its associated delivery plan address the protection and enhancement of the Humber Estuary EMS. The SAC, SPA, RAMSAR and SSSI designations are constantly monitored and as information is updated we will share this with partners.

The HMS uses condition information to inform the action plan and measure its success. Where information is not in place on the SAC or SPA feature condition, SSSI condition assessment information can be used to inform management actions. The Conservation status of the Humber Estuary SPA and SAC features can be found in table 1. Table 2 provides a summary of the Humber Estuary SSSI condition.

Feature	Conservation status
Estuary	SAC feature in unfavourable recovering condition.
Mud and sand flats	SAC feature in unfavourable recovering condition.
Saline lagoons	SAC feature in favourable condition.
Saltmarsh - Atlantic salt meadow and pioneer saltmarsh	Annex 1 (Habitats Directive) feature assessment not recorded at site level.
Sub-tidal sandbanks	SAC feature in favourable condition.
Breeding birds	No current SPA condition assessment.
Wintering and passage birds	No current SPA condition assessment.
Grey seals	SAC feature in favourable condition.
River and sea lamprey	Annex 1 (Habitats Directive) feature assessment not recorded at site level.

Table 1: Conservation status of Humber SPA and SAC features (provided by Natural England July 2014)

% Area meeting PSA target	% Area favourable	% Area unfavourable recovering	% Area unfavourable no change	% Area unfavourable declining	% Area destroyed / part destroyed
98.82%	7.54%	91.28%	0.20%	0.98%	0.00%

Table 2: Humber Estuary SSSI Condition (June 2014)

Lifetime of the plan

No fixed timescales have been given to the lifetime of this plan. This plan will be reviewed and updated annually depending on the progress of actions.

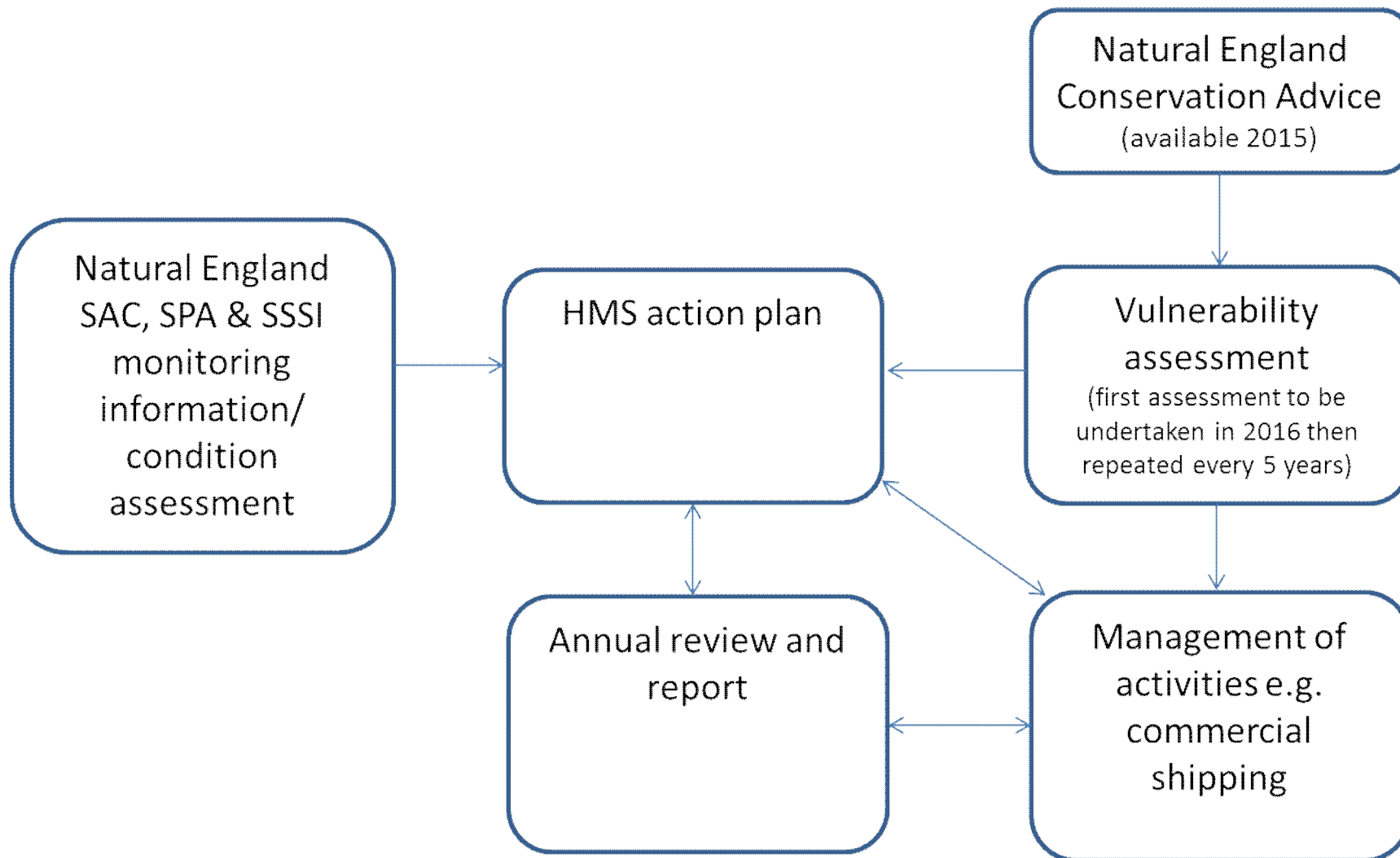


Diagram 2: Review and update of the HMS action plan

Actions have been prioritised based on the status of the feature e.g. Actions which will improve features which are currently in unfavourable recovering/unfavourable condition are considered high priority.

Actions highlighted in blue are process actions.

Action No	Action plan area	Action	Timescales	Geographical focus	Lead Partners	Monitoring indicator & source of data	Output	Priority
Policy and legislation								
1	Wintering and migratory birds	Ensure protection of any other important sites for SPA functioning such as high tide roosts e.g. through planning policy and by working with relevant land owners (link to action 10 and 29)	2025		Natural England, Local Authorities Task and finish group	Bird population numbers - WeBS data and Natural England condition assessment	Sites identified and afforded protection	Medium
2	All features of managed realignment sites	Designate managed realignment sites as SSSI, SAC and SPA	2025	Managed realignment sites	Natural England	Overall site condition - Natural England condition assessment	An agreed process in place to designate managed realignment sites and sites designated.	Low

Action No	Action plan area	Action	Timescales	Geographical focus	Lead Partners	Monitoring indicator & source of data	Output	Priority
Site safeguard and management								
3	All features	To identify opportunities for habitat improvement and creation: To produce a strategic habitat opportunity plan. The plan will also highlight how the opportunities can be implemented. This plan should link to the Humber LEP work.	2017		HNP with support from all partners LEP Single Conversation Group	Extent of habitat- Natural England condition assessment	Strategic opportunity map produced with delivery strategy	High
4	Wintering and migratory birds and Saltmarsh	To ensure appropriate land management is delivered both within and outside the Humber EMS to meet favourable condition through such projects as: - Countryside	Ongoing 2015-2020		Natural England HNF steering group	Population numbers - WeBS data and Natural England condition assessment	Countryside Stewardship projects supporting EMS feature Estuary wide grazing marsh project developed and implemented.	High

Action No	Action plan area	Action	Timescales	Geographical focus	Lead Partners	Monitoring indicator & source of data	Output	Priority
		Stewardship - Development and implementation an estuary wide intertidal management project (e.g. expansion of YWT grazing marsh project). As part of this produce a guide on farming and land use adaptation.					Farming and land use adaptation guide produced.	
5	Wintering and migratory birds	To produce a recreation strategy following the findings of the 2013/14 Footprint Ecology recreational disturbance report. The strategy will outline steps which need to be taken to manage any recreational issues.	2015 2016-2026		HNP HNP and other partners (to be identified)	Disturbance and population numbers - WeBS data and Natural England condition assessment, HNP visitor monitoring data	Recreation strategy produced and implemented	High

Action No	Action plan area	Action	Timescales	Geographical focus	Lead Partners	Monitoring indicator & source of data	Output	Priority
		<p>The strategy should outline timescales, costs and key delivery partners.</p> <p>Implementation of the recreation strategy. This action should be updated once the strategy is in place</p> <p>Recreation projects: Promote the Humber Hounds project to promote positive dog walking. Produce a paper and online interactive map to promote good dog walking areas and areas to avoid around the Estuary. Review and update the project at the end of the action period</p>	2015		HNP		<p>Humber Hounds project continued and map produced. Monitoring suggests impacts reduced.</p>	

Action No	Action plan area	Action	Timescales	Geographical focus	Lead Partners	Monitoring indicator & source of data	Output	Priority
6	All features	To produce an annual report to review and report on progress against Action Plan actions and Fact Sheet targets. Based upon the results of the annual report, review/update as necessary the Action Plan and produce an annual delivery plan that addresses incomplete actions and missed targets while building on successes as appropriate.	Annually		HNP	All targets - Natural England condition assessment	Annual review and update of the Action Plan. Production of the annual delivery plan including positive measures to achieve Action Plan actions and Fact Sheet targets. Annual State of the Estuary report produced.	Medium
7		To review and update the activity management plans based on new activities/new information.	Annually		Relevant Authorities	All targets - Natural England condition assessment	Annual review and update of activity management plans. Annual State of the Estuary report produced.	Medium

Action No	Action plan area	Action	Timescales	Geographical focus	Lead Partners	Monitoring indicator & source of data	Output	Priority
8		Vulnerability assessment to be undertaken once Conservation Advice has been produced (2015). This will take into account feature sensitivity and the level of activities which take place in the estuary. This will allow actions to be prioritised. To repeat this process every 5 years	2016, 2021, 2026		HERAG with support from HNP	All targets - Natural England condition assessment	Vulnerability assessment undertake within agreed timescales.	Medium
9	Wintering and migratory birds	Work, including funding, is required to improve water levels within North Killingholme Haven Pits.	2018	Killingholme Haven Pits	LWT, NE, EA, Able UK	Population numbers, food availability - WeBS data and Natural England condition assessment,	Improvements made to North Killingholme Haven Pits	Medium
10	Breeding birds	Funded, active management of all existing and potential breeding sites/colonies	2018 for existing sites		Relevant landowners/managers, Natural England, RSPB, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Spurn Bird	Bird population numbers - WeBS data and Natural England condition assessment	Well managed breeding sites	Medium

Action No	Action plan area	Action	Timescales	Geographical focus	Lead Partners	Monitoring indicator & source of data	Output	Priority
					Observatory			
11	Saline lagoons	Explore creation of physical barriers at Humberston Fitties Lagoon to reduce input of rubbish.	2016	Humberston Fitties Lagoon	RSPB	Lagoon condition - Natural England condition assessment	Barriers implemented	Medium
12	All features	Understand the impact of non-native species on designated features. If appropriate, develop a bio security plan which should identify actions to control invasive species.	2020		HNP T&FG with support from Natural England. Local, regional and national invasive species research, monitoring and management programmes.	All features: Habitat communities, presence of biotopes - Natural England condition assessment	Non-native species assessment. Bio security plan produced if required.	Low
13		Undertake a climate change vulnerability assessment and put actions in place. Consider outputs from the Humber Climate Change	2020		Natural England with support from the HNP	All targets - Natural England condition assessment	Climate change vulnerability assessment undertaken.	Low

Action No	Action plan area	Action	Timescales	Geographical focus	Lead Partners	Monitoring indicator & source of data	Output	Priority
		Risk Assessment (2011).						
Research and monitoring								
14	Wintering and migratory birds	IPENS desk based study to research reasons for bird declines on the Humber Estuary. Recommendations for further work to be considered and taken forward if possible.	2014		Natural England	Bird population numbers - WeBS data and Natural England condition assessment	IPENS desk based study complete and where appropriate recommendations adopted in HMS plan.	High
15		Research is required to understand bait digging locations, frequency, intensity, target species and impacts on birds.	2016		NE and E IFCA	Bird population numbers - WeBS data. Recreational Disturbance report.	Habitat regulations assessments delivered.	High

Action No	Action plan area	Action	Timescales	Geographical focus	Lead Partners	Monitoring indicator & source of data	Output	Priority
16	Lamprey	Undertake investigation to further understand the migration of lamprey through the Humber estuary and determine if water quality issues (DO sag) effect migration. To update on the management requirements for lamprey and implement actions where necessary.	Ongoing	Upper estuary	Natural England Environment Agency	Lamprey: water quality/population structure - Natural England condition assessment	Investigations delivered	High
17		Review of permits and abstractions to understand if activities are impacting on the dissolved oxygen sag in the upper estuary	2027	Upper estuary	Environment Agency	Lamprey: water quality/population structure - Natural England condition assessment	Review completed	High
18	All features	Feature monitoring to take place and be provided to the HNP to a)inform management actions and	Monitoring information: as soon as available.		Natural England - EMS condition. HERAG.	Overall site condition - Natural England condition assessment	Monitoring information provided.	Medium

Action No	Action plan area	Action	Timescales	Geographical focus	Lead Partners	Monitoring indicator & source of data	Output	Priority
		b)create an annual summary of site condition, issues, threats and progress						
19		To update the Conservation Advice for the Humber Estuary EMS. Identify which attributes of features do not have baselines and set where appropriate. To support Natural England to ensure consultation with the partnership	2015	Whole estuary	Natural England Humber Nature Partnership	Overall site condition - Natural England condition assessment	Conservation Advice produced	Medium
20		Undertake an audit of estuary monitoring and gaps in data and create an estuary wide monitoring strategy. Delivery of the	2018 2018-2023		HNP with support of partnership Range of partners to be identified	Overall site condition - Natural England condition assessment	Audit of estuary monitoring and strategy produced, implemented and reviewed.	Medium

Action No	Action plan area	Action	Timescales	Geographical focus	Lead Partners	Monitoring indicator & source of data	Output	Priority
		monitoring strategy to ensure more joined up monitoring and to fill gaps. Undertake a review of the strategy after the delivery period.						
21		Create a system to act as a central source of information (including maps) on monitoring, research and plans and projects which take place on the Humber Estuary. Develop an 'in-combination tool' to assist with the Habitats Regulations Assessment as part of the planning process. Ensure these systems will be kept up to date.	2016		HNP, GLNP, HEDC, Humber LEP	Overall site condition - Natural England condition assessment	Develop In combination database	Medium

Action No	Action plan area	Action	Timescales	Geographical focus	Lead Partners	Monitoring indicator & source of data	Output	Priority
22	Breeding birds	Improve little tern evidence base through annual provisioning monitoring using standard methods and food stock/foraging range studies	Annual/2015		Spurn Bird Observatory, Natural England, Environment Agency, RSPB, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	Evidence gathered	Improved evidence base	Medium
Advisory								
23	Breeding birds	Promote habitat restoration and management by providing species and habitat management advisory material to landowners.	Ongoing		RSPB	Bird population numbers - WeBS data and Natural England condition assessment	Advice provided	Medium
24	All features	Identify and deliver advice and training required on EMS management for decision/policy makers and land managers.	2016		HNP & members including Relevant Authorities	Overall site condition - Natural England condition assessment	Requirements identified, advice and training delivered	Medium

Action No	Action plan area	Action	Timescales	Geographical focus	Lead Partners	Monitoring indicator & source of data	Output	Priority
Communication and publicity								
25	All features	Produce and deliver a communications strategy	2015		HNP	Customer satisfaction	Strategy produced	Medium
26		Production of codes of conduct to promote best practice: Produce an updated code of conduct to raise best practice when undertaking recreational activities around the estuary. Produce a code of conduct for land managers on the management of samphire picking Promote the code as widely as possible. Review at end of action period and update	2015		HNP	Bird disturbance and habitat communities - WeBS data and Natural England condition assessment, HNP visitor monitoring data	Code produced and promoted	Medium
			2015		HNP			
			2015-2020					

Action No	Action plan area	Action	Timescales	Geographical focus	Lead Partners	Monitoring indicator & source of data	Output	Priority
		if required.						
27		Ensure all organisations are aware of their responsibilities in relation to the Humber EMS (121 meetings, literature and reports, meetings and workshops)	Ongoing		HNP, HERAG, HNF	Overall site condition - Natural England condition assessment	x number awareness methods used and delivered	Medium
28		Gain funding and deliver a project to raise awareness of the Humber EMS designations and best practice when using/visiting the estuary: involve signage, app development, Estuary TV programme and events	2014-2017		HNP	Bird disturbance and habitat communities - WeBS data and Natural England condition assessment, HNP visitor monitoring data	Funding obtained and project delivered	Medium

Action No	Action plan area	Action	Timescales	Geographical focus	Lead Partners	Monitoring indicator & source of data	Output	Priority
29		Determine the ecosystem services and benefits of the Humber Estuary. Communicate ecosystem services and benefits and incorporate into action plans where possible.	2020		HNP	Overall site condition - Natural England condition assessment	Ecosystem toolkit produced and promoted	Low