



*The Newsletter of the Humber Industry Nature Conservation Association*  
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### **VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE**

How will 2011 turn out? We are promised a year of austerity, particularly for the public services. The spotlight is also on the Humber area for the key role it can play in the Low carbon Economy. There are proposals for more biofuel plants, for carbon capture and storage, and for wind turbine manufacture with port developments for their installation, and subsequent operation and maintenance in the North Sea. Projects that deliver environmental benefits also have themselves environmental impacts that must be mitigated. There are great opportunities not only for renewable energy but for enhancing the estuary's wildlife riches for the benefit of the local community and further afield.

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### **WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS**

<b>BOC</b>	Gas production at Immingham and Scunthorpe
<b>Mainstream Wind</b>	Developer of the Hornsea windfarm site
<b>RPM Industrial Services</b>	Redeveloping the former Huntsman Tioxide site at Pyewipe, Grimsby

### **HUMBER ESTUARY CONFERENCE 2011**

A summary of the Conference held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2011 and the PowerPoint slides of the presenters are on:  
[www.humberinca.co.uk](http://www.humberinca.co.uk)

## **RENEWABLE ENERGY A GO**

The Humber area could have over 50% of the UK's biofuels/biomass capacity and benefit from off-shore wind, carbon capture and storage – jobs for manufacturing equipment, construction and installation, operations and maintenance, and supply chain services. The Humber ports are very well positioned for the latest (Round 3) off-shore windfarm zones in the North Sea - Dogger Bank (9Giga Watts), Hornsea (4GW) and Norfolk (7.2GW). Providing support for these initiatives is the **Humber Renewables Network** chaired by Glyn Hughes of Humber Chemical Focus.

A whole series of projects are under construction or are in the planning stage – this summary is by no means comprehensive.

### **Vivergo at Saltend**

The bioethanol plant is due to start production in 2011.

### **Eon's Biomass Power Station at Stallingborough**

The plant has its authorizations and the work before construction commences is in progress. Humber INCA was involved in the mitigation devised to safeguard the roosting areas of the estuaries wading birds

### **Vireol's Bioethanol Plant**

Renewables firm Vireol received planning permission to construct a £150m bioethanol plant in Great Coates, North East Lincolnshire. The development is expected to be completed within two years and create around 1,000 jobs. Part of the site is to be set aside for wildlife and Humber INCA is advising on measures for trees and hedges, and the management of drains for water voles.

### **Able's Marine Energy Park at Killingholme**

Initial consultation took place in 2010 on Able UK's proposed development of a base for the assembly and transport to the North Sea of wind turbines. Neil Etherington's presentation on the project at the Humber Estuary Conference 2010 is on the Humber INCA website. Data from the South Humber Bank Ecological Surveys and advice from Humber INCA has contributed to the planning of the project.

### **Siemens chooses Hull**

This January the German engineering conglomerate announced that it has selected ABP land at the Port of Hull to establish a manufacturing plant for offshore wind turbines. ABP will build a deepwater berth capable of handling vessels for the latest generation of large turbines.

### **Windfarm Operations and Maintenance base for Grimsby**

There are proposals to develop ABP's Grimsby East Dock (formerly the Fish Dock) as a base for boats servicing North Sea windfarms.

## **SMart Wind's Hornsea Windfarm**

An area of the sea off Hornsea and stretching to our country's median boundary in the North Sea forms one of the Zones in the Round 3 Offshore Wind Licensing arrangements of the Crown Estate. Within the Hornsea Zone, four sub-zone areas are to be defined for development. SMart Wind has applied to the Infrastructure Planning Commission for permission for turbines in Zone 1, now known as 'Project One'.

Hornsea wind farm zone has a total generating capacity of 4GW to be achieved by 2020. It has an area of 4735 km<sup>2</sup>. The proposed Project One project is located in the central section and covers an area of 619.6 km<sup>2</sup>. Its aim is to produce up to 61.2GW. The turbine sizes range from 3.6 MW to 8 MW. The number would range from 332 x 3.6 MW turbines to 124 x 8 MW turbines. The proposed turbines will have a maximum rotor diameter of 150 m, a maximum hub height of 120 m, and a maximum rotor tip height of 200m.

There are as yet no designated nature conservation areas within the Project One area. There are, however, candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) and potential Special Areas of Conservation (pSACs) north and south of the proposed development site. Dogger Bank pSAC (30 km north) is identified for its sandbank and the communities it supports including harbour porpoise and grey seal. Fishing takes place in the area; the main fish species being caught are plaice, sole, cod, turbot, sandeel and sprat. Shellfish targeted within the area include Norway lobster, brown crab, lobster and scallop.

The cabling from a string of turbines will be brought to an offshore collector substation platform. The export cable landfall should be between Aldbrough, East Yorkshire and Theddlethorpe, Lincolnshire. It is expected that the onshore cable will mostly run underground to the existing Killingholme substation owned by National Grid.

Construction of the offshore elements of the project is expected to begin in 2014 and continue for up to 3 years.

## **IT'S A BUGS LIFE IN THE BROWNFIELDS**

Scunthorpe is the focus of a new project by Buglife - the Invertebrate Conservation Trust - on insects which occur on brownfield sites. The project will carry out invertebrate survey work and implement habitat enhancement work across the town. This will create habitat links or 'stepping stones', which will allow the dispersal of invertebrates. The project is supported by a £81,000 grant from the SITA Trust and funding from North Lincolnshire Council. Five sites around Scunthorpe have been chosen for inclusion in the project, including the giant Tata Steelworks.

Brownfields, or previously developed land, suffer from the widespread perception of being 'waste grounds' ripe for regeneration or improvement. Indeed current planning policy actively promotes their development in preference to greenfield sites. However brownfields can be of exceptional value to wildlife, in particular invertebrates, due to their range of habitats and lack of day to day disturbance.

In recognition of their value a new category for brownfields was listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) in 2007 – Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land (OMH). Planning authorities are encouraged to take measures to protect ecologically diverse brownfield sites. Simultaneously many are coming under increasing pressure to develop them for housing.

Building on their existing work in the Thames Gateway, Buglife aims to work with local authorities, conservation organizations and developers to identify the best brownfield sites for invertebrates in the Scunthorpe region and promote their protection through the planning system.



**Brownfield sites are often outstanding for insects such as bumblebees.** On the steelworks (right), many are burrowing into a bank where sand was extracted.

### AVOCETS AND SEAL PUPS GALORE

At least 350 young fledged from 250 pairs of **Avocets** this year at RSPB's **Read's Island** nature reserve in the Humber at South Ferriby. This is 25% higher than the previous best and the first time for three years. It was a prime UK breeding site for avocets (RSPB's mascot) but in 2007 strong tides eroded the lagoons. A grant of almost £50,000 from the SITA Environmental Trust has enabled RSPB to rebuild and protect 10ha of the island, create feeding ponds and nesting islets, and repair the existing banks to protect the nests from spring tides.

Another record is the 1,417 **Grey Seal pups** born in the October to December 2011 period at Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's **Donna Nook** nature reserve.

### INCA VISITS HINCA

Bob Pailor and Robert Woods from INCA on Teesside visited us for our annual get to get. This took the form of a site visit to Alkborough led by Tim Allen and Sarah Killick of North Lincolnshire Council (Tim is a Director of Humber INCA).

We were driven across the 440ha site to the breach that lets the high tides in. We discussed the multi-objective project – flood risk management, compensation for sea level rise, wetland and intertidal habitat, bird watching, recreation and education - developed by the consortium of Environment Agency, Natural England, North Lincolnshire and ABP. We were greeted by an array of ducks and waders while a marsh harrier and little egret sailed overhead, before it was time to retire to the Sloop to discuss business.



**Before the Breach:** from left to right: Tim Allen, Darren Clarke, Tania Davey, Bob Pailor, Sarah Killick, Alan Jones, Will Brown, Robert Woods

## **THE WESER ESTUARY: CONTAINERS, CARS, TURBINES, MARSH AND WATER**

Bremen and Bremerhaven on the Weser estuary form Germany's second largest ports complex handling some 75m tonnes of cargo per year. Along with the Humber, Elbe and Scheldt, the Weser is an estuary under scrutiny for the EU **TIDE project – Tidal River Development**.

This September's meeting in Bremen of the Project's teams and the Project Advisory Board included a visit to Bremerhaven. Everything is on a huge scale with recently completed 5km of quay with 40 gantry cranes loading containers on and off vessels. Bright red straddle carriers buzz around like flies taking containers to and from the gantries and stocking areas. Two million cars a year pass through the port including VWs on route to Grimsby. Rank upon rank of wind turbines stride across the flat landscape, and there are plans for another 500m long quay and a construction area for turbines for the North Sea.

The estuary and is of high ecological value and includes Natura 2000 sites. Habitat creation to mitigate for the environmental impacts is on an equally impressive scale. This includes the Luneplate, which is being turned from arable farming into 290ha of wet grassland, a 220ha tidal polder and another 140ha of ponds, reed beds and grassland in an old arm of the Weser. Adjacent to the Luneplate is the 111 Tegeler Plate, which provides compensation for an earlier port extension.

The Luneplate is surrounded by new flood bank (dykes) with flood gates to allow water onto the site (the Sturflutsperrwerk). The gates will only be closed on exceptionally high tides to prevent flooding in the neighbouring area.



**Gantry cranes all  
in a line**



**Tom Jeynes (third  
from right) and other  
TIDE members at the  
Luneplate**

To help turn the former arable farmland into grassland includes grazing with water buffalo, which eat plants other animals would reject. Galloway cattle are another 'landscape gardener' used. The Luneplate is already rich in wading birds, ducks and geese with large gatherings of barnacle geese in winter. We saw flocks of lapwings and another prominent wader is the Grosser Brachvogel, known to us as the curlew - Humber INCA's mascot.

**Edited by:**

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