



*The Newsletter of the Humber Industry Nature Conservation Association*

**No. 23 May 2010**

### VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

The UN has dedicated this year to Biodiversity particularly focusing on the loss of species by the destruction of habitats. Humber INCA is stepping up its work with Members on managing wildlife habitats on industrial sites – ‘Nature and Industry in Harmony’. Many sites are not fully developed and so provide refuges for wildlife as they are free from intensive agriculture, and *Homo sapiens* and his or her dog. We need these refuges to maintain our basic ecological services. They are also of give joy with green spaces said to benefit our mental and physical well-being. Enhancing biodiversity by the use of environmental assessment and habitat creation will be themes of our conferences this year.

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### DIARY DATES

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 9 <sup>th</sup> June am   | <b>EmPowering the Humber: the Renewables Revolution</b> – conference organised by Humber Chemical Focus for Business Week. Information from Bethan Clayton tel 01469 552841<br>Email: <a href="mailto:bethan.clayton@humberchemical.co.uk">bethan.clayton@humberchemical.co.uk</a> |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> July am   | <b>‘The Practical Application of Environmental Impact Assessment’</b> , joint event between Humber INCA and Humber Chemical Focus at CATCH, Stallingborough  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> November | <b>Humber Estuary Conference 2010</b> at the Hull Truck Theatre  |

## WELCOME

**Brian Morris**, Project Manager for the construction of the RWE Npower biomass power station at Stallingborough, has joined the Board of Humber INCA. He brings knowledge of the power sector and of the implementation of a major development on the South Humber Bank.

**Tania Davey** is the new Project Manager for the Humber Management Scheme based with Humber INCA. She is a marine scientist who studied at the universities of Liverpool and Heriot Watt, and worked on fund raising with British Waterways, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the National Media Museum in Bradford. Tania is working on the review of the Scheme which was originally adopted in 2005. She produced the spring 2010 edition of Ebb & Flow, the Scheme's newsletter – see: [www.humberems.co.uk](http://www.humberems.co.uk).

**Will Brown** is working with us for 6 months as the Seasonal Ecologist undertaking surveys of members' sites as part of preparing biodiversity action plans. Will is an ecologist who has worked for consultants. He is keen on a career as a landscape architect and also becoming a (territorial) paratrooper.



**Will holds up a tree**



**Tania with an HMS display board**

## A WALK IN THE CHASE HILL WOOD

Tom Staff of Eon and Alan Jones of Humber INCA led this year's site visit for our Members to Chase Hill Wood, which adjoins the gas fired power station at Killingholme. We were accompanied by Eddie Smith of the North Killingholme Parish who has had a long standing interest in the wood. The ecological restoration of the wood to increase its diversity won Eon the Humber INCA Award for Environmental Excellence 2009.

The second phase of the project is progressing with funding from WREN (Waste Recycling Environment Limited), supported by North Lincolnshire Council and administered by the BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers).

Thinning of the canopy is allowing more light to the floor of the wood, which will encourage more flowers and shrubs. Between February and March of this year several hundred metres of the roadside verge were cleared on by the Council, which has enabled restructuring of the edge of the woodland. Tree felling has enabled the woodland hedgerow, first planted following Parliamentary Enclosure in 1776, to be

replanted by the volunteers and for a traditional 'Lincolnshire' post-and-rail fence to be installed. Volunteers undertook traditional hedge laying for part of the boundary of the woodland in the regionally-appropriate 'Midland Bullock' style. Humber INCA continues to guide all the work.



**Humber INCA Members view the laying of the 'Midland Bullock' style hedge by a BTCV volunteer, Eon power station in the background.**

**Further information:** Alan Jones: 01652 631523

### **SOUTH HUMBER BANK ECOLOGY STUDIES**

The Yorkshire Forward funding for the project finished on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 and final reports are in preparation. Humber INCA will continue to attend meetings of the South Humber Bank Ecology Group, which is charged with identifying solutions balancing development aspirations for the area with the needs of the Humber's wintering and migratory bird populations. Discussions are also underway about the need for continued bird surveys in the area.

**Further information:** Darren Clarke: 01652 631525

### **TIDE KICKS OFF**

The major estuaries of the North Sea are valuable for ports, industry, wildlife and recreation while flood risks are a threat to the neighbouring low lying land and settlements. The aim of the EU funded TIDE project – 'Tidal River Development' - is to make integrated planning a reality in the estuaries of the North Sea estuaries, with the study area including the Elbe, Scheldt, Weser, Humber and Seine. Information produced will benefit the management of other estuaries, and there will be links to the Seine and other French estuaries.

There are similar challenges in each estuary:

- **Sediment transport** is steadily increasing - in order to keep the ports operating, increased maintenance dredging and improved sediment management is necessary.
- **Estuarine ecosystem functions** are endangered – important ecosystem services - like flood regulation, coastal protection and water purification, and plant and animal habitats are threatened.
- **Decision-makers** are faced with an increasingly challenging legal and global economic framework - EU Directives such as the Birds and Habitats or the Water Framework Directives need to be properly implemented.
- The **large ports** need to be further developed In order to maintain their competitive position and thus ensure the economic prosperity of their regions.
- **Climate change** is likely to exacerbate these problems in the future, unless appropriate compensation and mitigation measures are found.

TIDE brings together scientists, policy-makers and managers representing the various economic, social and environmental interests in the estuaries. The UK end is headed by Mike Elliott, Nick Cutts and Krystal Hemingway of the Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies, Hull. TIDE is supported by a Project Advisory Board which includes Tony Edwards of Humber INCA.



**TIDE Project Advisory Board** members at Hedwige-Prosper visitor centre for the Scheldt realignment near Antwerp - Chair of the Board, Heinz Glindermann of Hamburg Port Authority (with camera) and Beatrice Claus of WWF Germany (looking at photographer).

The project teams are working on:

**Science:** improving the knowledge about estuary functioning and enabling objective comparisons between estuaries.

**Governance:** proving the effectiveness of policy mechanisms and instruments in each region. This will be undertaken by having regional working groups bringing together various stakeholders.

**Measures:** assessing plans for mitigation and compensation measures (eg sediment traps, new dredging methods, restoration of river shores).

**Information:** raising awareness of the issues among the different nations and groups, ranging from EU policy makers to estuary residents. On this basis, understanding should increase and along with the acceptance of necessary changes.

**Experience Transfer:** The experience is to be synthesised in a TIDE toolbox, which will be presented to planners, managers and decision-makers of other estuaries and related ecosystems by “TIDE on Tour” seminars.

**Further information:** [www.tide-project.eu](http://www.tide-project.eu)

## NET GAIN

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 requires the designation of ‘Marine Conservation Zones’ (MCZ) in the British seas. Work for the North Sea from the Scottish border to Essex commenced in the autumn 2009 with the Net Gain project. Stakeholders – fisheries, navigation, marine aggregates dredging, oil and gas, off-shore wind power, recreation, nature conservation, etc. - are working in partnership to advise Defra on where MCZs should be located. They are guided by Natural England and JNCC (the Joint Nature Conservation Committee) with detailed information and maps provided by the Net Gain Team based at The Deep in Hull. The final decision should be made by Defra before the end of 2012.

The Yorkshire coast forms one of the four Net Gain hubs and includes the Humber Estuary. Tania Davey as Project Manager for the Humber Management Scheme is a member of this hub.

**Further information:** [www.netgainmcz.org](http://www.netgainmcz.org)

## LOTS OF NEW ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

- Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009
- Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2010 (replaces the Habitats Regulations 1994)
- Energy Act 2010 (feed-in tariffs and that sort of thing)
- Floods and Water Environment Act 2010
- Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2010
- Environmental Civil Sanctions (England) Order 2010 (gives additional enforcement powers to Environment Agency and Natural England).

**Coming soon: Humber INCA Annual Report 2009**

Hard copy and on our website

**Edited by:**

**Tony Edwards  
May 2010**

## HUMBER INDUSTRY NATURE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

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