



The Newsletter of the Humber Industry Nature Conservation Association

No. 27 September 2011

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

The UK Biodiversity Strategy was published in August with the following mission for the next decade:

“To halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.”

Land associated with industry, including ‘brownfields’, can be very valuable wildlife habitats providing refuges for plants and animals in ‘urban or agricultural deserts’ and stepping stones helping to connect the ecological networks. Working with member companies on site biodiversity plans and implementing them with the help of volunteers is a growing part of our work.

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HUMBER ESTUARY CONFERENCE 2011

10am, Thursday 24th November at the Hull Truck Theatre

Session 1 Taking Forward the Humber Management Scheme

The Scheme has had a comprehensive review and what it means for the protection of the Estuary’s wildlife riches will be outlined.

Session 2 TIDE on TOUR –Tidal River Development

The EU project is researching the integrated management of large estuaries which are for valuable ports, industry and wildlife. This includes the application of the ecosystems services approach and case studies on the Elbe, Weser, Scheldt and Humber estuaries.

Further information and the booking form for this free Conference, sponsored by Humber INCA, HMS, and TIDE, are at the end of this newsletter.

WELCOME TO WYKELAND

The latest company to join Humber INCA is the Hull based developers Wykeland Group, whose interests include Europarc at Grimsby, Melton and the Humber Bridgehead site. Their representative for Humber INCA is Ivan Hinchliffe.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

In recent years, volunteers have played an increasingly important role in the activities of Humber INCA. We have engaged the enthusiasm of local volunteers in partnership with the national charity for voluntary conservation, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, the BTCV. Volunteers are now central to the management of the woodlands, hedges, grassland and aquatic habitats found on industrial sites around the Estuary and are making a big difference to its wildlife.

This year, with the support of a £10,000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund, volunteers from in and around Immingham, Grimsby, Cleethorpes, Killingholme and South Ferriby are now able to access training in habitat management on a scheme organised by Humber INCA, the BTCV and ConocoPhillips' Humber Refinery to give them the skills and organisation needed to conserve their local wildlife.

The Friends of Mayflower Wood, a recently established community woodland are now independently established as part of the BTCV's Local Groups Network and are now benefiting from training and support in woodland management, pond management and hedgelaying. January and February of this year saw two, three day woodland management courses, followed by a programme of hedgerow surveys which lead up to a series of three-day courses in hedgelaying at the end of this year plus training in the management of the small ponds and watercourses at the site.



Spring clean for Sand Martin Nests



BTCV sort out a tree

Other wildlife projects undertaken by Humber INCA include the development of a new, 25-acre woodland Local Nature Reserve at a local power station, the management of a 100-acre woodland adjacent to an oil refinery plus work at ponds, grassland and hedgerows across the sub-region. Special projects seek to protect and enhance declining species such as sand martins, Great Crested Newts and water voles and partners include not just major industrial companies but also the local authorities and charities such as Buglife, where even the smallest invertebrates have been brought into efforts to protect the wildlife of the region.

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HUMBER ENTERPRISE ZONE BID SUCCESSFUL

Humber Local Enterprise Partnership's bid for an Enterprise Zone was approved by Government in August. The aim is to attract large manufacturing companies in the renewable energy sector with also the hope that their supply chains will follow and occupy further sites around the Humber, leading to the development of a renewable energy super cluster unique in the UK and with international scale.

The bid builds on the Humber's existing advantages for companies in the renewable energy sector, including port and transport infrastructure, skills and experience in related sectors including maritime and engineering, and availability of suitable sites big enough for the assembly of large structures. Another key selling point for offshore wind companies is that the Humber has the shortest sailing times of any location to the huge Round 3 sites off the east coast.

By adding in the Enterprise Zone package, which includes tax breaks and a simplified planning process, the Humber LEP believes it can tip the balance towards the UK and away from competing sites on continental Europe. Capital allowances would be particularly attractive to large manufacturers which would be spending significant amounts of money on high-tech machinery.

The Humber's Enterprise Zone is the largest to date, and more than double the size of the next biggest. It covers 375 hectares on three sites:

Green Port Hull (Alexandra Dock)
Queen Elizabeth Dock, Hull
Able Marine Energy Park in North Lincolnshire.

HUMBER MANAGEMENT SCHEME CONSULTATION

The Humber Management Scheme has been under review and the updated aim, objectives and actions are now available for comment at www.humberems.co.uk. These documents set out future priorities for the management of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site and how they will be delivered. The deadline for comment is the 30th September.

Tania Davey, HMS Project Manager

WILDLIFE GARDENS' COMPETITION

The National Wildlife Gardening Competition, as set out in the Government's Natural Environment White Paper 'The Natural Choice', was launched at the end of August. The aim is to encourage more businesses and people to make sure their gardens are providing a good home for animals and birds as well as recreation space for people.

The competition is run by The Wildlife Trusts and The Royal Horticultural Society with funding from Defra. Entry is open to all with categories for both small and large residential gardens, and for educational, community and **business gardens**.

Entries for the Big Wildlife Garden competition – which closes on Sunday 20 May 2012 – can be submitted now. Prizes include a gardening masterclass at the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, where the prize-giving ceremony will take

place, along with membership of The Wildlife Trusts and the Royal Horticultural Society.

See the following website to submit entries:

<http://www.bigwildlifegarden.org.uk/wildlife-garden-competition>.

VISIT TO INCA TEESSIDE

This year's liaison meeting with our colleagues on Teesside included a site visit to the Lucite chemical plant where 'brownfield' land is being managed to benefit invertebrates. This is a companion project by the conservation charity Buglife to the one at Tata Steel at Scunthorpe.



Standing in the rain we inspect a bed of imported slag, all part of the conditioning of the Lucite site for wasps and bees, moths and other insects

NET GAIN DELIVERS

At the end of August recommendations for Marine Conservation Zones for the English North Sea were sent to Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). Net Gain, administered by Humber INCA, is one of four such projects for English coastal waters identifying areas that should be given a level of protection to conserve marine resources.

Since 2009 Net Gain Team, based at The Deep in Hull, has involved and engaged with a wide range of people who have an interest in the future of our seas; and these stakeholders' final recommendations for 18 MCZs are the result of two years' dedicated hard work and collaboration. Stakeholders came together in the North East, Yorkshire and Humber, Lincolnshire and the Wash, and East of England to develop the recommendations, in line with the Government's vision for healthy and sustainable seas.

Joanna Redhead, Project Manager of the Net Gain Project said:

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of our Regional Hubs and Stakeholder Advisory Panel whole-heartedly and on behalf of the whole team for their hard work, dedication and commitment to the process. This project was no easy

undertaking, the first of its kind, with the largest project area and challenging timescales under which to deliver a complex task.

It is also important to thank the thousands of stakeholders who engaged with the project, submitting their information, thoughts, concerns and opinions throughout the process. Our liaison team in particular wish to thank sea users along the East Coast for their help during the data collection process. This information played a vital role in the decision-making process throughout our stakeholder meetings.”

These recommendations will now be reviewed by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (for offshore waters) and Natural England (for English territorial waters out to 12 nautical miles), which will advise on the scientific evidence underpinning the proposed MCZs. Separately, over the coming months, the four groups will also produce detailed assessments on the social, economic and environmental impacts of these recommendations.

Next year Defra will consider the recommendations along with supplementary advice from Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). There will be formal consultation leading to the expected designation of MCZs by the end of 2012. This will then comply with the EU Marine Strategies Directive – similar projects are being undertaken by the other EU states.

This completion of this stage of the project means at the end of September we say farewell and many thanks to most of the Net Gain Team who have been working so expertly over the last two years. There is more work to be done on the Impact Assessment of the proposals and so the Project Manager, Jo Redhead, and a couple of colleagues will be retained for a few more months.

In addition to the MCZs in the Net Gain area, the Government has submitted the UK part of the Dogger Bank, to the European Commission so that it now has candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) status. With over 12,000km² of species rich sandbank, an area almost double the size of Devon, it has become Britain’s latest marine protected area to safeguard important sea life and habitats.

The Dogger Bank is in the middle of the North Sea and crosses the offshore waters of the UK, the Netherlands and Germany. It will be the largest European Marine Site to be submitted by any Member State for protection and links up with the existing sites in Germany and the Netherlands.

See: www.netgainmcz.org.uk www.naturalengland.org.uk

Edited by:

Tony Edwards

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HUMBER ESTUARY CONFERENCE 2011

10am to 4pm, Thursday 24th November 2011 at the Hull Truck Theatre

OUTLINE AGENDA

Welcome and Address: The Lord Mayor of Kingston upon Hull and Admiral of the Humber

THE HUMBER MANAGEMENT SCHEME

The Management Scheme required by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations to ensure the integrity of the Humber European Marine Site was first produced in 2005 by a partnership of 35 organisations with responsibilities for the estuary. It is now being comprehensively revised. The session includes:

- The Conservation Objectives of the Humber European Marine Site
- The Review of the Humber Management Scheme
- Understanding the Recreational Disturbance on Birds
- Dredging
- Marine Management Planning

PRESENTATION OF HUMBER INCA'S ANNUAL AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE

TIDE ON TOUR - TIDAL RIVER DEVELOPMENT

The EU project is examining the integrated management of North Sea Estuaries which have major ports with associated cities and industries, along with fisheries, wildlife and flood risks. The estuaries being researched are the Elbe and Weser in Germany, the Scheldt in Belgium and the Humber. The session will include:

- Introduction to TIDE and an explanation of estuarine ecosystem functioning and services
- Estuarine recovery and restoration measures, management measures pressures/problems – experience from the different estuaries
- integrated estuarine management and the potential for a management toolbox

Sponsored by: Humber INCA, Humber Management Scheme, and TIDE

HUMBER ESTUARY CONFERENCE 2011

**Thursday 24th November 2011
At the Hull Truck Theatre, Hull**

BOOKING FORM

Name:

Position:

Organisation:

Address

Telephone:

Email:

Any special dietary requirements:

Please return to:

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