

# **JOINT SCRUTINY PANEL: COMMUNITIES, ECONOMY AND TOURISM AND THE VISITOR ECONOMY**

<b>DATE</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
<b>REPORT OF</b>	Sharon Wroot – Executive Director, Environment, Economy & Resources
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan
<b>STATUS</b>	Open

## **CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS**

The recommendations in this report support the council's Outcomes for Investing in Our Future and Economic Recovery and Growth, by ensuring we work towards an equilibrium between economic growth and the protection of our natural environment. The report further sets out our plan to manage the internationally important designations which encompass the Cleethorpes Resort and coastline.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report updates Scrutiny on progress on a new Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan, the draft of which is attached as Appendix A.

The final Plan will enable 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 respect the biological diversity and protection designation of the Humber Estuary.

This Plan will replace the current Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan, which is due to expire at the end of 2021. The council is currently consulting Natural England (the Government's advisor on the natural environment) on the draft Plan and, once agreement has been reached on its final content, it will be put before Cabinet for approval. Having the new Plan in place will enable the council to obtain Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) assent for any management activities it carries out. The council will also receive advice from Natural England on activities the council permits on the Cleethorpes section of the Humber Estuary SSSI.

## **MATTER(S) FOR CONSIDERATION**

Scrutiny is asked to note the progress with production of the new Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan and Members are invited to raise any queries on this matter.

### **1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES**

- 1.1 The Humber Estuary was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in 2004 and as part of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended, and Countryside Rights of Way Act (2000) it placed responsibilities on the council for the management and enhancement of the section of the SSSI that

sits within the North East Lincolnshire boundary.

- 1.2 As part of ensuring that the council meets its obligations to manage the SSSI and put in place measures to prevent damage to the SSSI from any activities that take place on the SSSI, it was decided in consultation with Natural England that a Management Plan was needed for the Cleethorpes coastline section of the Humber Estuary SSSI.
- 1.3 As well as a legal duty to manage the SSSI, the council also has an obligation to manage the other designations of the Cleethorpes coastline:
  - Special Protection Area (SPA)
  - Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
  - Ramsar Site
  - European Marine Site (EMS)
  - Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
- 1.4 The Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan aims to encompass the necessary management measures to maintain and enhance all the internationally important designations of the Cleethorpes coastline.
- 1.5 The current Plan runs from 2016-2021 and is due to expire at the end of this year. The Plan currently details the management and maintenance activities that take place on the designated sites as well as detailing how the saltmarsh is maintained at the agreed management line.
- 1.6 The key management issues that the Plan addresses include:
  - Providing appropriate protection for SPA wading birds
  - Actively managing the saltmarsh and habitats north of the leisure centre
  - Investigating access to the sand dunes
  - Managing activities on the sand dunes, saltmarsh and mudflats
  - Considering future monitoring and surveys
  - Improving understanding of the hydrological process which continue to shape the coastline
  - Improving the community's knowledge and understanding of the habitats within the designated areas.
- 1.7 Through consultation with Natural England it was established that the current Plan was not fit for purpose in its current form and would need amending to ensure the council legally fulfils its duties to manage the Cleethorpes coastline section of the Humber Estuary SSSI. Comments from Natural England indicated that more detail on management activities were needed and more measures to prevent disturbance/damage to the SSSI needed to be put in place to ensure the council meets its Local Plan obligations.
- 1.8 The new Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan 2021-2026 will address the shortcomings of the previous management Plan, while ensuring that the council is legally compliant and meeting the Local Plan conditions set out by Natural England in 2018. The new Plan will also set out future aspirations for management of the Cleethorpes coastline. It aims to enable the council to achieve economic growth in Cleethorpes, while protecting the designation of

the Cleethorpes coastline.

- 1.9 Natural England has been consulted on the new draft Plan, as is required by law. Discussions will now take place to finalise the Plan by the end of 2021. The Plan will serve as a framework that enables the council to respond to the concerns of the public and members over the economic viability of Cleethorpes, whilst being sensitive to the nature conservation status of the Humber Estuary.
- 1.10 Along with existing actions already outlined in the previous Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan, there are also new actions for the council outlined in the 2021-2026 Plan, which include:
- Improving signage and education boards relating to the designated sites
  - Continued monitoring of disturbance to the designated features in partnership with the Humber Nature Partnership and Cleethorpes to Tetney Local Recreational Disturbance Group
  - Continued engagement with users, residents and businesses to ensure awareness of the designated features and how to protect these
  - Eco-tourism plan to help promote the importance of the designated features, while encouraging economic growth for Cleethorpes all year round
  - Annual communications plan, to ensure users, residents and businesses of the Cleethorpes coastline are aware of the designated sites and what is/isn't permitted
  - Development of a Buckthorn Management Plan, in line with the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan and Natural England's Dynamic Dunescape project. This will improve the succession state of the current buckthorn present along the sand dunes in Cleethorpes and will help to improve the habitat condition of the sand dunes.

It is also worth noting that the council will continue to monitor the progress of the saltmarsh at the agreed management line and will remove any saltmarsh that begins to grow onto the resort beach, beyond the agreed management line.

- 1.11 The council's priorities are clear: to invest in a green future and deliver economic recovery and growth. The Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan is placed to contribute to achieving these priorities: setting out the protection of the designated Cleethorpes coastline while also enabling economic growth through the visitor economy in Cleethorpes.

## **2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

For activities occurring within the boundary of the Humber Estuary SSSI, the council (as a designated Competent Authority) is required to obtain consent from Natural England under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) and the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000, in order to perform certain operations. The Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan is the vehicle by which permission is obtained and helps the council to properly consider any impact on the

environment and designations of the Cleethorpes coastline from proposed management or recreational activities. Any changes to the Plan will need to be agreed with Natural England.

### **3. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS**

The draft Plan has been produced to establish a framework within which all activities that take place along the Cleethorpes coastline can be managed. This framework ensures that activities can be controlled in an environmentally responsible way and in a way that responds to the various pressures on the protected sites on the Humber estuary. This includes responding to concerns on the economic viability of Cleethorpes as a resort should the saltmarsh continue its gradual spread north of the leisure centre.

### **4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The revenue budgets are in place within the service area to ensure the actions outlined within this report will be delivered in line with the agreed management plan.

### **5. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

The draft Plan underpins the council's environmental priorities by:

- Ensuring that our internationally important designated natural environment sites are protected, maintained and enhanced
- Recognising and realising the economic, social and health benefits of a high-quality environment.

### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The plans will be managed within existing revenue budgets.

### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The legal implications and reference to statutory provisions have been captured in the above which set out the obligations on the council to manage such designated sites actively and effectively. Clearly the adoption and implementation of a policy to underpin those obligations is prudent.

### **8. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

There are no HR implications contained within this report.

### **9. WARD IMPLICATIONS**

The draft Plan set out in this report will impact on several wards in the Borough

### **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Previous scrutiny briefing on 11/02/2021: <https://democracy.nelincs.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/9.-Cleethorpes-Habitat-Management-Plan.pdf>

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# Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan



2021

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## **1. Introduction**

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Cleethorpes has the unique quality of being a small coastal town which: shares tourism, events, and an active local community, with legally protected nationally and internationally 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, 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:
  - [Countryside and Wildlife Act 1981 \(Amended\)](#)
  - [National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 \(Amended\)](#)
  - [Habitats Directive](#)
  - [Birds Directive](#)
- Manage water users by using permits, maps, education, and guidance, ensuring these do not conflict with the protected areas and cause recreational disturbance.
- Manage beach users and dog walkers by using maps, signage, and education to ensure beach users and dog walkers do not conflict with or misuse the protected areas, cause recreational disturbance, and habitat damage.
- To deliver NELC's obligations (arising from its current local plan) regarding the management of recreational pressures on the designated sites.

- Establish an appropriate level of public access and recreational activity.
- 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.

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## 2. Definition of Designations

Below is a table listing the designations on the Humber Estuary and the coastline of North East Lincolnshire, the designated features within North East Lincolnshire, and the legislation that protects them.

Designation	Designated features within North East Lincolnshire	Legislation
<a href="#"><u>Humber Estuary SSSI</u></a> (Site of Special Scientific Interest)	Designated as a SSSI for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nationally important estuarine habitats of mudflats, sandflats, and saltmarsh.</li> <li>• Nationally important numbers of wintering birds and migrants, and breeding birds</li> <li>• Nationally important for a breeding colony of grey seals, river lamprey and sea lamprey, and invertebrates</li> <li>• Nationally important for plants</li> </ul>	Statutorily protected by UK law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
<a href="#"><u>Humber Estuary SPA</u></a> (Special Protection Area)	Protected site designated under Article 4 of the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC), also known as the Birds Directive  Site classified for rare and vulnerable birds and regularly occurring migratory species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avocet</li> <li>• Bar-tailed godwit</li> <li>• Black-tailed godwit</li> <li>• Dunlin</li> <li>• Golden plover</li> </ul>	Protected by UK law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012 (as amended).

Designation	Designated features within North East Lincolnshire	Legislation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knot</li> <li>• Redshank</li> <li>• Shelduck</li> <li>• Waterbird assemblage and others</li> </ul>	
<p><a href="#"><u>Humber Estuary SAC</u></a> (Special Area of Conservation)</p>	<p>Protected site designated under Article 4(4) of the Habitat Directive (92/43/EEC) for habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows</li> <li>• Coastal lagoons</li> <li>• Dunes with Sea buckthorn</li> <li>• Embryonic shifting dunes</li> <li>• Estuary</li> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats</li> <li>• Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation</li> <li>• Salicornia (also known as Samphire or Glasswort)</li> <li>• Sandbanks</li> <li>• Shifting dunes with Marram grass</li> </ul> <p>And for species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grey seal</li> <li>• River lamprey</li> <li>• Sea lamprey</li> </ul>	<p>Protected by UK law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012 (as amended).</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Humber Estuary Ramsar Site</u></a> (Site details available from</p>	<p>Designated for being a wetland of international importance with internationally important habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuary</li> </ul>	<p>Protected by UK law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as</p>

Designation	Designated features within North East Lincolnshire	Legislation
Natural England on request)	<p>And for internationally important species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bar-tailed godwit</li> <li>• Black-tailed godwit</li> <li>• Dunlin</li> <li>• Golden plover</li> <li>• Knot</li> <li>• Redshank</li> <li>• Shelduck</li> <li>• Waterbird assemblage and others</li> <li>• Grey seal</li> <li>• River lamprey</li> <li>• Sea lamprey</li> </ul>	amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012 (as amended).
<a href="#"><u>Humber Estuary European Marine Site</u></a> (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 Ramsar Site (which supports internationally important wetlands and wetland species).	Protected by UK law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012 (as amended).
<a href="#"><u>Local Nature Reserve (LNR)</u></a>	<p>Cleethorpes Sands LNR is designated for its diverse habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sand Dunes</li> <li>• Salt Marsh</li> <li>• Wildflower Areas</li> <li>• Mudflats</li> </ul>	Protected by UK law under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended).

Designation	Designated features within North East Lincolnshire	Legislation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sand Banks</li> </ul> <p>And the associated wildlife:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southern Marsh Orchid</li> <li>• Bird's-foot trefoil</li> <li>• Yellow Rattle</li> <li>• Dunlin</li> <li>• Knot</li> <li>• Oyster Catcher</li> <li>• Curlew</li> </ul>	

### **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' so 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) 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.

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 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)**

S.A.C. 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 Habitats Directive is European law which 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 under the habitats directive and Special Protected Areas (SPA) classified under the bird's directive. 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)**

SPAs are the most important sites for wildlife in Europe. It is a European designation, classified under the 'Birds Directive' 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 as well as the Birds Directive. The subsequent 'Habitats Directive' amended part of the Birds Directive and introduced a uniform set of protection measures for habitats, birds, and other species. Where a SPA differs is that if birds that are named in the designation leave the wetlands at high tide and use any field, these fields are known as high tide roosts and are also protected under the Birds Directive. 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 though 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 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.

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### **3. Site Description**

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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 24,472km<sup>2</sup>, around 20% of the total land surface of England. The Humber's muddy appearance known as turbidity 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 SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest). Under European Birds Directive it is a SPA (Specially Protected Area) and under the Habitats Directive it is a SAC (Special Area of Conservation) 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).

The designated features within North East Lincolnshire are:

- Sand dunes: including fore dune, mobile, semi-fixed, fixed and dune grassland, dunes with sea buckthorn.
- Saltmarsh: pioneer marsh and low, mid, and upper marsh communities and transitional communities.
- Intertidal mudflats and sandflats, subtidal sediment communities
- Nationally important breeding colony of grey seals (*Halichoerus grypus*)

- Invertebrate assemblages associated with coastal saltmarsh, mudflats and sandflats, sand dunes, including the solitary bee (*Colletes halophilus*), which is closely associated with the flowers of sea aster (*Aster tripolium*).
- Nationally scarce vascular plants: rush-leaved fescue (*Festuca arenaria*) which is found in strandline, embryo, and mobile dunes. Bulbous meadow-grass (*Poa bulbosa*) which is found in fixed dune grassland.
- Sea and River Lamprey
- Wintering and passage waterfowl species.

In addition to the designated waterfowl features, the area is also locally important for a number of wintering, migrant and breeding passerine species including snow bunting, stonechat, linnet, and reed bunting.

### **3.1. Visitor Economy and Tourism**

According to the 2015 annual tourism report, approximately 9 million visitors travel to NEL annually and account for £537 million of income to the local economy of North East Lincolnshire (NEL). This makes up what is known as NEL's visitor economy. The visitor economy also equated to 7.7% of the total local employment in NEL. 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 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 historic resort of Cleethorpes, which has historically been and still is a major destination for tourism in NEL, 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 a 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.

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 most mean rainfall being in November (60.2mm): annual mean 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](#). 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 could 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 of 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 of Cleethorpes. In response to the increasing impacts associated with climate change, North East Lincolnshire Council declared a climate emergency in September 2019. The declaration of a climate emergency includes the pledge that North East Lincolnshire Council will become Carbon Neutral by 2040. The noted importance of achieving Carbon Neutrality and the need to reduce carbon emissions in the declaration also highlights the importance of the protected salt marsh habitat to North East Lincolnshire, which not only provides habitat for protected bird species but also provides Carbon Sequestration.

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#### **4. Plans Associated with the Estuary for its Management**

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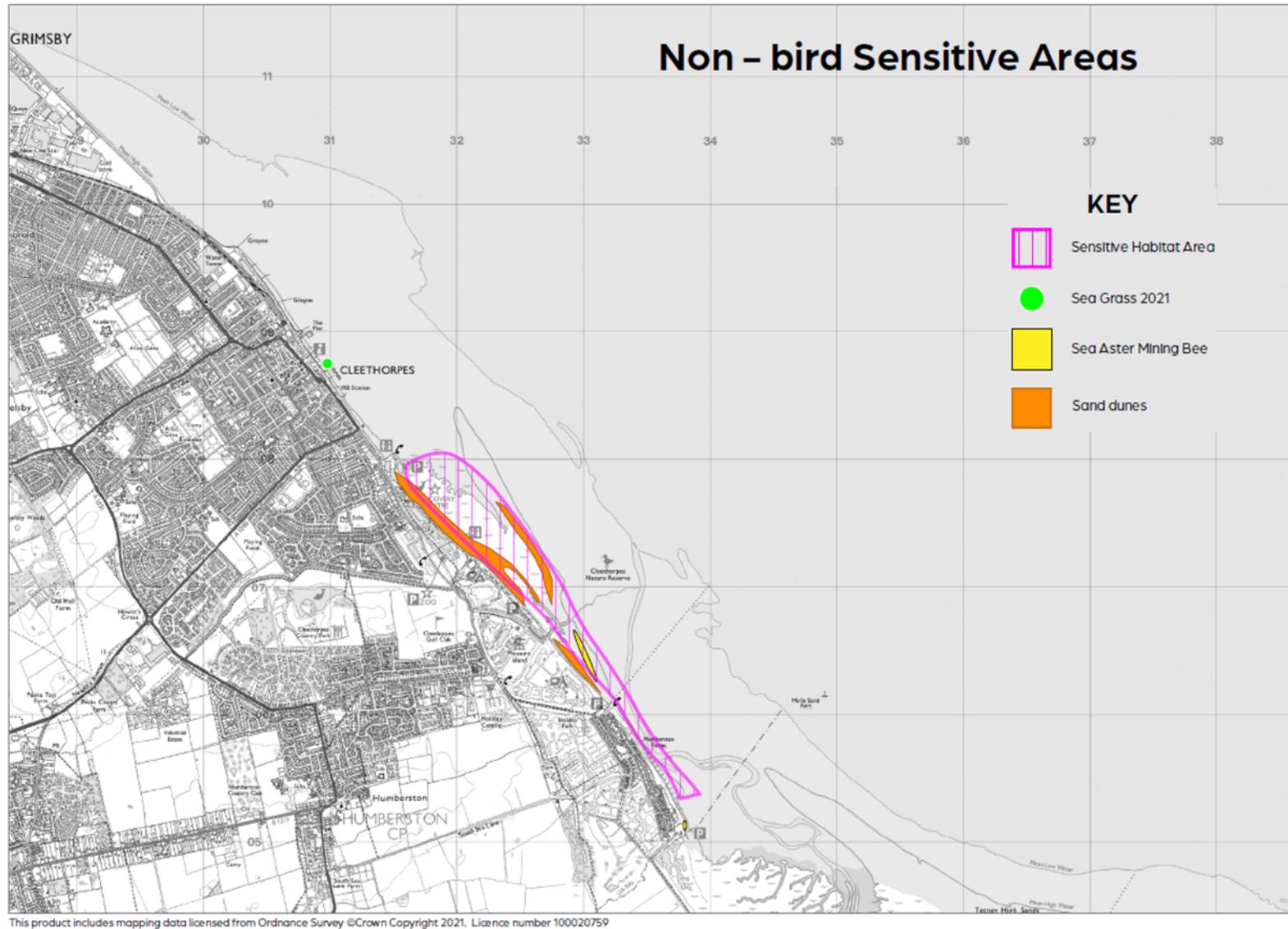
Unmanaged recreation can put pressure on the SSSI, SPA, and SAC designated features due to use by local residents and the use of the area by tourists and day-trippers. Events put on by the Council and businesses to encourage people to make use of the area, as well as the development of holiday parks 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, SPA and SAC from unmanaged recreation. 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 had 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 this plan and subsequently will pose challenges for the management of recreational disturbance caused by this increase.

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. This is due to the presence of particular designated features in these areas. 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. The first map (below) shows the most sensitive bird roosting and feeding areas along the Cleethorpes coastline.



The second map (below) shows the most non bird – sensitive areas. This details any area where there are non-avian designated features of sensitivity:



## **4.1. Local Plans Associated with the Estuary and its Management**

### **Communications and Public Engagement**

NELC will produce an annual communications plan to help support the management of recreational disturbance along the Cleethorpes Coastline. The communications plan will aim to encourage people to avoid the sensitive areas of the coastline. Where areas cannot be avoided the communications plan will provide educational messages and aim to ensure people use the designated areas of the Cleethorpes coastline in a responsible, non-damaging or non-disturbing manner. Communications will also be sent out to ensure people are aware of which activities are permitted on the protected designated areas (as outlines 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 which has a designated dog swimming area, it is hoped this will alleviate the pressure on the designated areas of the Cleethorpes coastline. An outline of the annual communications plan can be found in appendix 1. The engagement plan will provide actions for communication which NELC will complete annually.

### **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. 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. Additionally, a leaflet is provided which reinforces the message to avoid disturbing the features and species of the SSSI.

### **Buckthorn Management Plan**

The Buckthorn Management Plan will cover how NELC currently manages and plans to manage the buckthorn which currently populates the sand dunes South East of Cleethorpes Leisure Centre. The plan will set out how buckthorn will be managed along the dunes in conjunction with the Dynamic Dunescape project: currently being run and implemented by Natural England. Further details of where buckthorn management will be carried out by NELC are provided in the compartments section of this Habitat Management Plan. The Dynamic Dunescape project began in 2020 and is currently expected to run until 2023.

### **Codes of Conduct**

As part of the management of the Estuary, the HNP in consultation with their partners have produced an updated **Codes of Conduct** for different activities that take place along the estuary. As part of the management of the Cleethorpes coastline these 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 could lead to enforcement action.

### **Cleethorpes 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 producing a Cleethorpes to Tetney Local Recreation Disturbance Management Plan (LRDMP). The plan will address the disturbance issues along the Cleethorpes Coastline and in line with the recommendations being made within it, at the time of writing (August 2021), a signage review by NELC is under way and will aim to provide guidance, information, and education for users of the Cleethorpes Coastline. 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.

### **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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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. These patrols are to ensure the safety of beach users, but the Cleethorpes Resort Team also use them to monitor for 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. As well as recording disturbance events through the HNP observation forms, the resort team will report any instances of disturbance/damage they witness to the Lincolnshire Police Wildlife Crime Officer where any necessary legal action can be taken.

As part of managing recreational disturbance the resort team engage with the public to promote the sensitive nature of the SSSI/SPA/SAC/Ramsar designated features and will encourage people who access the site to do so in a responsible manner, where they use only designated footpaths and walking routes and avoid disturbance to any of the designated features.

## **4.2. Existing Regional Plans Associated with the Estuary and its Management**

### **Shoreline Management Plan (SMP)**

SMPs provide a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal processes and present a long-term policy framework to reduce these risks to people and the developed, historic, and natural environment in a sustainable manner. The Flamborough Head to Gibraltar Point SMP was approved in 2010 and covers a time span of the next 100 years. The SMP is a high-level document that forms an important element of the strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management. It also provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal processes and presents a long-term policy framework to reduce these risks to people and the developed, historic, and natural environment in a sustainable manner.

Its aim is to:

- Manage risk by employing a range of methods, which reflect both national and local priorities.
- Reduce the threat of coastal flooding and erosion to people and their property; and
- Benefit the environment, society and the economy as far as possible, in line with the Government's 'sustainable development principles.

Partners within the Humber Estuary Coastal Authorities Group, which oversees the SMP process, are as follows:

- East Riding of Yorkshire Council (lead authority in the SMP process)

- North East Lincolnshire Council
- East Lindsey District Council
- Environment Agency
- DEFRA
- Natural England
- Associated British Ports
- English Heritage
- Marine Management Organisation

The SMP will be essential in securing future funding from Defra for flood/coastal protection schemes within the area covered by the Plan.

### **Humber Nature Partnership (HNP)**

The HNP is one of 48 Local Nature Partnerships around England. The establishment of Local Nature Partnerships has come about because of commitments made by Government in the Natural Environment White Paper 2011. North East Lincolnshire is a key member of the HNP and is one of several local authorities that works with the HNP.

#### **Aim**

To deliver the sustainable management of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site.

#### **Objectives**

The HNP will work in partnership with organisations, businesses, communities, stakeholders, and individuals to:

- To manage the estuary to meet the requirements of the conservation objectives.
- To bring people and organisations together to deliver the sustainable management of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site.
- To raise awareness and educate stakeholders about the Humber Estuary European Marine Site and increase participation in its management.
- To identify information gaps and research requirements and to promote sharing and availability of data for the management of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site.
- To ensure a coordinated approach to the management of the estuary and its hinterlands including planning for the future in respect to the features of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site.

#### **Cleethorpes/Tetney Local Recreation Management 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/Tetney Local Recreation Management Group include Humber Nature Partnership, Natural England, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and North East Lincolnshire Council.

The group have meetings and discussions several times a year to discuss any recreational disturbance management issues that occur along the Cleethorpes and Tetney coastal area. 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.

## **Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP)**

With Government accreditation in 2012, Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership became the GLNP. North East Lincolnshire Council is a key member of the partnership. The Nature Strategy for Greater Lincolnshire was published in 2011 and is called the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP -3rd edition). It identifies the issues facing the habitats and species of Greater Lincolnshire and describes the actions needed to bring about a more sustainable situation. It seeks to meet the needs of those UK BAP priority species and habitats found in Lincolnshire, as well as addressing more local needs. The Lincolnshire BAP was written by, and signed up to by, 44 organisations (including North East Lincolnshire Council) and received a full public consultation before publication. Its vision for the future is 'that Lincolnshire and its neighbouring seas are much richer in biodiversity'.

The work of the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership did not start with the accreditation; however, it began with the Partners. It was their vision for something better, something that delivered more through working together, which created the predecessor organisation in 2007. The Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership was incredibly successful and a unique model that laid the foundations for the GLNP that followed in 2012.

The 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 of the Lincolnshire landscapes and is the main habitat in the Cleethorpes habitat management plan.

The work of the GLNP is divided into two themes:

1. Strategy work streams: working with Partners on strategic issues across agri-business, spatial planning, tourism, and public health sectors.
2. Delivery work streams:
  - Managing the Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre.
  - Coordinating the Local Sites System-Wildlife and Geological.

- Coordinating the Nature Strategy for Greater Lincolnshire.
- Coordinating the Geodiversity Strategy for Greater Lincolnshire.

### **Operation Seabird**

As part of a joint initiative between HNP and its affiliated partners including NELC, Lincolnshire Police, RSPCA, Humberside Police, Natural England, and the Environment Agency; Operation Seabird began on Friday June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and is still ongoing at the time of writing. This initiative is a multi-agency partnership operation to raise awareness about the importance of habitats and wildlife across the Humber Estuary region, including the Cleethorpes Coastline area. Flyers and leaflets have been distributed to locals and local user groups of the coastline areas and press releases and communications have also been sent out such as a [press release](#) sent out by the Humber Nature Partnership during the launch event. It is hoped that this continuing operation and the partnership links formed during it will help people to understand the sensitive nature of the Humber Estuary and its international importance, encouraging responsible behaviour and use of the area especially in areas of high footfall, such as the Cleethorpes Coastline. The operation has also provided closer links between Local Authorities such as NELC and Police forces such as Lincolnshire and 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. The operation is expected to finish in 2022.

## **4.3. Future Local Plans and Aspirations for the Management of the Estuary**

### **Cleethorpes Resort Signage**

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 disturbance 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 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 (August 2021). 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.

The table below outlines where signs could be best placed, but not limited to, along the Cleethorpes Resort and coastline area and details the type of messaging/content that would be included in the signs. Maps of where these signs would be located can be seen in Appendix 5.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Issues specific to that area</b>	<b>Signage mitigation information</b>
Rock Groyne/slipway	Recreational Disturbance (Jet skis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
North Promenade (general footfall)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
North Promenade (general footfall)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs will detail the penalty for any criminal offences committed on the designated features.</li> <li>• Contact details will be placed on the signs to report any offences of recreational disturbance.</li> </ul>

<b>Location</b>	<b>Issues specific to that area</b>	<b>Signage mitigation information</b>
Pier Slipway	Recreational Disturbance (Jet skis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
Pier Slipway	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pictorial messages to be included to negate any language barrier people may have.</li> </ul>
Pier Slipway	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Messages around the impact of littering will also be placed with the signage and will accompany the dog walking PSPO signage.</li> </ul>
Brighton Slipway	Recreational Disturbance (Jet skis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
Brighton Slipway	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	
Brighton Slipway	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	
Brighton Slipway	Recreational Disturbance (Paddle Boarders)	
Lower Kingsway (general footfall)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	
Lower Kingsway (general footfall)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	
Leisure Centre	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	
Leisure Centre	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	
Meridian Path (1)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	
Meridian Path (1)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	

<b>Location</b>	<b>Issues specific to that area</b>	<b>Signage mitigation information</b>
Meridian Path (2)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	
Meridian Path (2)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	
Meridian Path (3)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	
Meridian Path (3)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	
Embankment (1)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	
Embankment (1)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	
Embankment (2)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	
Embankment (2)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	
Embankment nr to concrete steps (3)	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	
Embankment nr to concrete steps (3)	Public Safety Issue (mud traps, tides)	
Embankment nr to concrete steps (3)	Recreational Disturbance (Jet skis)	
Embankment nr to concrete steps (3)	Recreational Disturbance (Kite Surfers)	
Embankment nr to concrete steps (3)	Recreational Disturbance (Paddle Boarders)	
Yacht club car park (1)	Recreational Disturbance (dogs)	
Yacht club car park (1)	Recreational disturbance (paragliders)	
Yacht club car park (2)	Recreational Disturbance (dogs)	
Yacht club car park (2)	Recreational disturbance (paragliders)	

Location	Issues specific to that area	Signage mitigation information
Kings Road Car Park	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	
Boating Lake	Recreational Disturbance (dogs)	
Boating Lake	Access Information Required (i.e., map of SSSI)	

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. Information of the walk length and current position of the walker/beach user would be included with the displayed maps.



Alongside recreational disturbance specific signage there will also be PSPO signage which will enforce the dog ban each year between the Rock Groyne and Cleethorpes Leisure Centre from Good Friday to September 30<sup>th</sup>.

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.

### **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.

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.

### **Cleethorpes/Tetney Local Recreational Disturbance Group**

As well as acting (where relevant and appropriate) as the advisory group and delivery element to the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan, the group will continue to monitor recreational disturbance activity between Cleethorpes and Tetney and will act where necessary to manage recreational disturbance along the coastline during the lifespan of this plan. Should any change in recreational disturbance occur that would necessitate a change to the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan, the group will act to make the necessary changes to the plan: with NELC ensuring any necessary action on their part, coming from a change to the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan, is implemented. As well as monitoring recreational disturbance incidents the group will also look to ensure necessary enforcement action is being taken where it is needed and that this is being done through engaging with the relevant enforcement authorities.

The group will also look to solve issues of 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. NELC does not allow the take-off and landing of paramotorists on its land (except in cases of emergency landing) in line with CAA regulations and encourages drone flyers/paramotorists to follow the CAA regulations while using a paramotor or flying a drone.

### **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.

### **Enforcement and Further PSPO Measures**

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 meet NELC's legal obligations. As such, if recreational disturbance 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. These measures may include a change to the dog walking PSPO. Changes to the PSPO could include extending the dog walking ban from the Cleethorpes Leisure centre to the end of Humberston Fitties during the wintering bird season or could include dogs needing to be kept on leads in the same area. 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 working with everyone who uses our protected coastline.

## 5. Compartments and their Associated Activities

The area south of Grimsby Docks to the Borough boundary through the Fitties car park, is broken down into compartments that relate to the activities or habitats that are within them for appropriate and effective management to be applied. Each compartment section details the recreational and management activities that NELC requires SSSI advice and SSSI assent from Natural England. To accompany this (below) are tables with an overview of all the activities that take place along the compartments and the management that is needed for each activity. The tables also detail the management activities NELC needs to carry out. Details of management practices and future aspirations for recreational management are outlined in Section 4 of this plan.

Recreational activities	Regulated/ unregulated ?	Where should the activity to take place?	Recreational Disturbance Management.	Who's responsible for management?	Additional comment
<b>Walking/dog walking/ Bird Watching/Photography</b>	Unregulated (except where regulated by PSPO).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In winter encourage people onto the resort end (leisure centre to Rock Groyne).</li> <li>• Encourage people to use the Humberston</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place signage raising bird disturbance awareness along Cleethorpes Resort.</li> <li>• Have a Communications Plan (appendix 1) for disturbance management (leaflets/social media/websites etc.)</li> <li>• Time limited awareness campaigns (leaflets/social media/websites etc.).</li> </ul>	<b>NELC</b> with advice from the Cleethorpes and Tetney Local Recreation Management Group.	

		<p>Fitties area to Buck Beck.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage people to keep dogs on lead between Buck Beck and leisure centre.</li> <li>• Keep all people off/away from the Cleethorpes whaleback at hightide.</li> <li>• Encourage people to use the parks rather than the beach – direct them to other parks.</li> <li>• Other areas for dog walkers, exercise areas. Potential for mitigation for dog walking.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-going, active encouragement to avoid bird sensitive areas by Resort Team staff whenever they interact with the public.</li> <li>• PSPO enforcement officers.</li> <li>• Encourage people to stick to established footpaths.</li> <li>• Highlight dog walking routes which link in with cafes.</li> </ul> <p>Relevant Council Officers (e.g., Resort Team Officers) should formally record instances of significant bird disturbance.</p>		
<p><b>Watercraft</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paddle boarding</li> <li>• Windsurfing</li> </ul>	<p>Unregulated (Except where</p>	<p>Look at a map and have some suggestions ready for the group discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signage which will be included as part of the Cleethorpes Signage review.</li> </ul>	<p><b>NELC</b> with advice from the Cleethorpes and Tetney</p>	<p><b>NB</b> – see below for regulation</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kayaking</li> <li>• Jet skis</li> <li>• Kite Surfing</li> </ul>	slipway permit is needed to launch craft, e.g., jet skis).		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publicity of the SSSI and Designated features which will be done through NELC’s communications team.</li> <li>• One off (seasonal) awareness campaigns.</li> <li>• On-going, active encouragement by Resort Team staff whenever they interact with the public.</li> <li>• Engagement with recreational clubs and businesses, ensuring they have a copy of the code of conduct and distribute it to users/members of the clubs.</li> </ul> <p>Relevant Council employees (e.g., Resort Team Officers) should formally record instances of significant bird disturbance. Resort team will record activities taking place on the resort during tide times.</p>	Local Recreation Management Group	associated with slipway permits.
<b>Tourist beach activity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donkey rides</li> <li>• Amusement rides</li> </ul>	Unregulated – licenced		None.	<b>NELC</b>	

<p><b>NELC permit/licence activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bait digging</li> <li>• Recreational fishing</li> <li>• Fishing vessel launching from slipways</li> <li>• Watercraft launching from slipways</li> </ul>	<p>Regulated –  NE Advice required</p>		<p>Relevant Council employees (e.g., Resort Team Officers) should formally record instances of significant bird disturbance.</p> <p>Prospective permit holders will be informed that when they accept and sign for any kind of permit, their signature acknowledges that they have been told about bird disturbance, that they have read and understood the bird disturbance leaflet and they understand that they may lose their permit (at the Council’s discretion) if they are found causing disturbance to significant numbers of birds (exact wording to be worked out).</p> <p>There is a clear enforcement process associated with breach of the above proposed permit conditions.</p> <p>The Council’s ‘Vessels and Small Craft Guide’ will contain instruction regarding the need to avoid disturbance to birds.</p> <p>Members of the public will not be permitted to use the slipway on a ‘day launch’ basis.</p>	<p><b>NELC</b></p> <p>Formal Advice required from Natural England</p> <p>Informal advice from the Cleethorpes and Tetney Local Recreation Management Group</p>	
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			<p>Permit holders will be informed of the rules requiring craft to display identification letters/numbers. Failure to display identification letters/numbers may also lead to the permit being revoked.</p> <p>Permits are given out for bait digging with the limit set at 10. If the demand becomes greater than 10, the Local Recreational Disturbance Group, in consultation with NE, will assess the ecological impact and re-assess the limit.</p> <p>We will continue to monitor Yacht activity, currently there are no issues with disturbance.</p>		
<p><b>Airborne</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light aircraft</li> <li>• Drone flying</li> <li>• Paramotoring</li> </ul>	<p>Regulated –</p> <p>NELC permission is needed as where it is the landowner thus NE Advice required.</p>	<p>Not Applicable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowner permission is required for aircraft take-off (this includes drone flying).</li> <li>• There are currently no permissions from NELC to allow take-off from NELC owned land (this includes drone flying).</li> <li>• Anyone seeking permission to use NELC owned land as a take-off point should consult NELC (this includes drone flying).</li> </ul>	<p><b>NELC</b></p> <p>Informal advice from the Cleethorpes and Tetney Local Recreation Management Group</p>	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to CAA drone code and regulations on aircraft. Any breaches of the drone code will be reported to 101.</li> </ul> <p>Paramotorists should refer to UK rules of the air and air navigation order. Any breaches will be reported to the CAA.</p> <p>NELC does not give permission to fly drones/paramotors on NELC land. Any enquiries must be directed to the NELC contact centre.</p> <p>NELC's Resort Team and the HNP will monitor instances of disturbance from Paramotorists and Drone users and report these to the relevant enforcement authority.</p>		
<b>Beach Fires/Barbecues</b>	In the area covered by the plan, there is nowhere where this activity is approved/permitted.	Not Applicable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular press releases and communication messages are put out to inform people on the dangers of using disposable barbecues.</li> <li>Third Party damage legislation will be used and enforced via the relevant enforcement authorities.</li> <li>If someone knows they're in the boundary of the SSSI and has a fire this is in violation of the legislation.</li> </ul>		

<b>Public Motor Vehicles</b>	Not Permitted.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 59 Road Traffic Act.</li> <li>• NELC is in communication with the Police and has signage up to provide targeted comms.</li> <li>• This will be monitored by Resort Team.</li> </ul>		
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<b>Non recreation activities</b>
<p><b>General maintenance etc carried out by NELC</b>  NB – It is intended that the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan will provide S28h SSSI Assent to NELC to carry out these activities</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resort Team, Grounds Maintenance, and Street Cleansing vehicle access</li> <li>• Repairs and general maintenance</li> <li>• Beach cleaning – mechanical beach rake</li> <li>• Litter-picking</li> <li>• Grass cutting – Fire breaks, rear of chalets</li> <li>• Education programme for promotion of Estuary and NEL’s LNR – Beach Safety</li> </ul>
<p><b>Habitat management carried out by NELC</b>  NB – It is intended that the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan will provide S28h SSSI Assent to NELC to carry out these activities</p>

- Vehicle access
- Monitoring of saltmarsh development
- Saltmarsh management – *Spartina*
- Shrub and tree removal
- Buckthorn management - selective removal
- Dune management – cut and collect
- Dune management – development
- Monitoring of habitat
- Monitoring of sand dune enhancement
- Monitoring of erosion
- Organised Educational visits
- Temporary protective fencing – *Colletes halophilus*

#### **Activities carried out by other agencies**

NB – Regulation of these activities is outside the scope of the Cleethorpes Habitat Management Plan. The relevant agency should consult NE individually

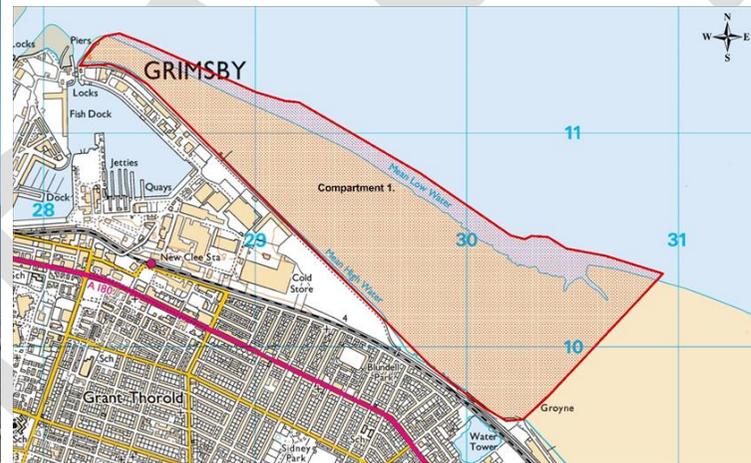
- Vehicle access for HMS Coastguard and RNLI
- RNLI/ HMS Coastguard training, including mud rescue practice.
- RNLI/Coastguard watercraft launching
- MOD for unexploded ordinance.

General Maintenance Activity:		
<p>NELC Grounds Maintenance and Ecology team</p> <p>Risk of bird disturbance and habitat damage or loss</p>	<p>Vehicle access is required for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• direct maintenance of the dune habitats which is cut and collected (collection where topography allows) and c. 5 year rotational management of <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> necessary for the conservation management of dunes <i>with Hippophae rhamnoides</i> in September/October when the weather and ground conditions are suitable, not in severe conditions when damage could occur to qualifying features</li> <li>• general maintenance and repair of steps, boardwalks, railings, signage, which takes place outside of wintering bird season unless there's a risk to public safety</li> <li>• cutting of fire breaks in Compartment 13, at the rear of the Fitties chalets, twice per year in spring and autumn, via access gate on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Fitties Chalet Park</li> <li>• 3 year programme of spot treatment of Japanese knotweed in Compartment 13 with Round-Up/Glyphosate starting in spring 2022</li> <li>• Temporary chestnut fencing installed by hand around known <i>Colletes halophilus</i> nest sites between July and November within Compartments 10 and 13 for the protection of the nationally notable species from footfall and damage of nests while avoiding the creation of fixed dunes and maintaining potential embryonic and shifting dunes</li> </ul>	<p>Some vehicle access is necessary for direct management of favourable conditions. All vehicles use the same established pathways and statutory duties are carried out outside of wintering bird season, unless there's a risk to public safety and/or where visual and noise disturbance won't occur so no disturbance, damage or loss will happen.</p>
<p>NELC Resort Team</p> <p>Risk of bird disturbance and habitat damage or loss</p>	<p>Vehicle access is required for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• public safety and risk to life events with vehicles using existing pathways.</li> <li>• Assisting with pollution events</li> <li>• People requiring assistance on educational visits with vehicles using existing pathways or on the main central tourist beach at low tide</li> </ul>	<p>These measures achieve a reduced risk of damage and loss and disturbance. Pollution or public safety events are unavoidable and override the conservation of the qualifying features (unless it is for the benefit of the qualifying features) but will be short-term and temporary so the risk of disturbance or damage from vehicles is minimal.</p>

<p>NELC Street Cleansing</p> <p>Risk of bird disturbance and habitat damage or loss</p>	<p>Vehicle access is required for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assisting with pollution events</li> <li>• the removal of dead animals at low tide</li> <li>• litter picking and removal of larger litter/waste items at low tide.</li> <li>• The mechanical beach rake operates between Wonderland rock groyne and the leisure centre, every day between April and September inclusive, and Mondays and Fridays between October and March inclusive to remove litter and risks to public health and safety. Litter picking is carried out by hand in areas that the beach rake can't access.</li> </ul> <p>Vehicles use existing pathways</p>	<p>These measures are carried out at low tide and waste removal is unavoidable, but the risk of disturbance or damage and loss is short-term and temporary and as minimised as possible.</p>
<p>HMS Coastguard and RNLI vehicle access</p> <p>Risk of bird disturbance and habitat damage or loss</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both organisations require access for risk to life and public safety activity, including watercraft launching and mud rescue training. Vehicles use existing pathways</li> </ul>	<p>Public safety events are unavoidable and override the conservation of the qualifying features but will be short-term and temporary so the risk of disturbance or damage from vehicles is minimal.</p>
<p>Removal of Spartina north of leisure centre</p> <p>Risk of bird disturbance and damage to salt marsh</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spartina to be removed by non-mechanical means by Resort Team daily as necessary and where safe to do so, between the leisure centre and the pier to prevent saltmarsh growth on the Central Promenade main tourist beach, to maintain the preferred area for recreation and reduce disturbance of the qualifying features to the south. The activity can only be carried out at low tide when birds and seals aren't within distance of disturbance.</li> </ul>	<p>These measures achieve a reduction in the risk of damage, disturbance, and loss</p>
<p>Removal of non-qualifying feature vegetation</p> <p>Risk of disturbance, damage, or loss</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-mechanical removal of amenity vegetation growth along the sea wall on the main tourist beach from Wonderland to the leisure centre to maintain a preferred section of the beach for recreation and reduce disturbance of the qualifying features to the south after consultation with NELC Ecologist.</li> </ul>	<p>These measures will ensure that only non-qualifying features are occasionally removed along the part of the beach furthest from any qualifying features and encourage the use of the tourist beach, so they</p>

achieve no risk of disturbance, damage, or loss.

### Compartment 1: New Clew Waterfront – 145 ha



*Figure 1: is a picture looking out Northwest into compartment 1, towards Grimsby docks, accompanied by a map of the compartment*

Compartment 1 (SSSI Unit 175 & 174), New Clew Waterfront, is from Grimsby Dock Gates south to the rock groyne at Wonderland, known as Terminal Groyne. There is a sandy beach with extensive mudflats that are well used by wading birds for feeding and loafing, including Special Protected Area (SPA) birds. The rock groyne is a high tide roost for SPA birds, regularly used by Knot, Turnstone, and Sandpipers, and should be avoided at high tide.



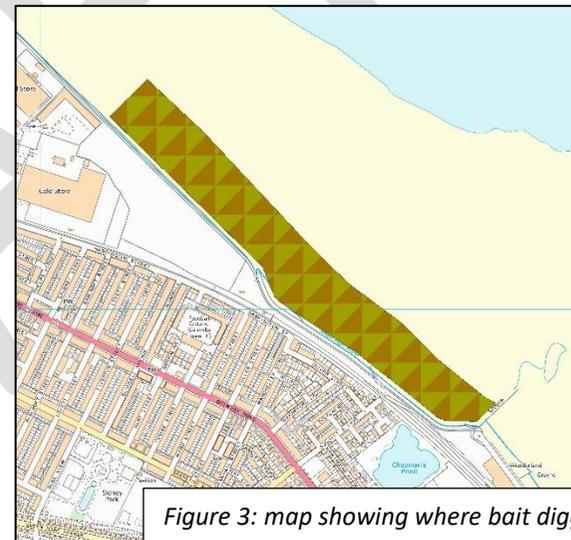
*Figure 2: is a picture showing the rock groyne being used by protected SPA birds as a high tide roost*

#### Recreational Activities:

- Dog walking
- Bait digging
- Recreational fishing

#### Maintenance and on-going management activities:

- NELC Resort Team and Street Cleansing vehicle access
- RNLI and HMS Coastguard vehicle access



*Figure 3: map showing where bait digging is allowed to take place, between Terminal Groyne, Wonderland, and the first buildings adjacent the sea wall.*

## Compartment 2: North Promenade – 112 ha



*Figure 4: is a map of compartment 2 and an accompanying photograph looking Southeast out into Compartment 2 from the slipway adjacent to the new stone groyne at Wonderland.*

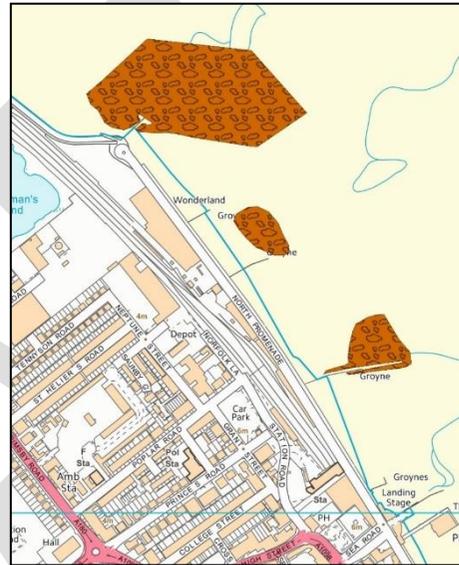
Compartment 2, North Promenade, stretches from Terminal Groyne, the rock groyne at Wonderland, to the Pier, and is a Blue Flag beach. The main beach is a tourist beach with sand, with exposed mud shelves around the groyne to the low-tide mark, the 'Sunken Forest', and there are areas of mud around the ends of the groynes. The Terminal Groyne is a Sensitive Bird Area as it becomes a roost site at high tide, species include Redshank, Turnstone, Knot, and Purple sandpiper. During winter, Grey seals haul out and should be left undisturbed. Boats are advised to launch from Wonderland slipway.

#### Activities:

- Amusement rides.
- Dog walking – only allowed between 12:00am 30<sup>th</sup> September until 12:00am Good Friday.
- Donkey rides.
- Fishing vessel launching from Wonderland slipway.
- Jet-ski launching from Central Promenade slipway.
- Kayaking.
- Paddle boarding.

#### Maintenance:

- Beach rake (litter pick by hand where inaccessible)
- Resort Team vehicle access
- RNLI/Coastguard launching and mud rescue practise
- Repairs and general maintenance



*Figure 5. Map showing areas where mud regularly forms, mainly around the ends of the groyne, especially Terminal Groyne. Areas of mud should not be entered to avoid becoming stuck, creating a risk to life from an incoming tide.*



*Figure 6: Knots roosting on Terminal Groyne at high tide. Knots are a SPA species.*

### Compartment 3: Kingsway Beach – 123.4 ha



Figure 7: is a map of compartment 3 and an accompanying photograph looking North West into Compartment 3 from the slipway adjacent to the Leisure Centre.

Compartment 3 stretches between the pier and the leisure centre and is a Blue Flag beach. The main beach is sand with small areas of mud between the high and low tide mark, which can vary depending on tidal and weather conditions. There is an area of sea grass, *Zostera noltii*, at the end of the groynes north of Brighton Street slipway present in that location since 2016 and it experiences a consistent amount of footfall as it is on the main and central tourist beach. *Spartina anglica* is removed by non-mechanical means by Resort Team daily as necessary and where safe to do so, between the leisure centre and the pier to prevent saltmarsh growth on the Central Promenade main tourist beach, to maintain the preferred area for recreation and reduce disturbance of the qualifying features to the south. The activity can only be carried out at low tide and when birds and seals aren't within distance of being disturbed. There is a deep creek that acts as a natural barrier to northward extensions of saltmarsh. SPA species of Brent goose and Shelduck regularly use the area at high tide adjacent to the saltmarsh. The area adjacent to the saltmarsh is one of the largest and most important roost sites on the coast for Knot, and grey seals haul out on the main beach. All species must be left undisturbed. There are also areas of mud that should not be entered to avoid becoming stuck and create a risk to life.

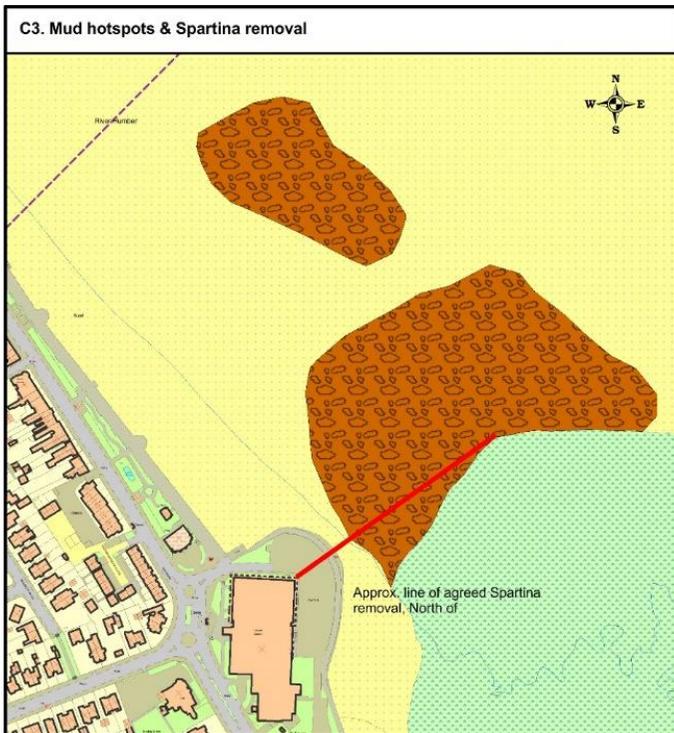


Figure 8: is a map showing where areas of mud are regularly located and should not be entered to avoid becoming stuck and create a risk to life. North of the red line is where *Spartina anglica* is removed. South of the mud is the largest and most important Knot roost site with regularly 20,000 individuals.



Figure 9: is a map showing the areas that are used the most and by the highest number of SPA birds within Compartment 3 which should be avoided on land and water, to prevent disturbance.

Activities:

- Dog walking
- Donkey rides
- Education programme for the promotion of Humber Estuary and LNR – Ecology/Resort Team
- Jet skis
- Paddle boarding
- Windsurfing

Maintenance:

- Beach cleaning – mechanical beach rake and litter picking. Vehicle access for removal of carcasses/large debris
- Resort Team vehicle access
- Repairs and general maintenance – steps and entrances to the beach
- RNLI and Coastguard boat launch and training
- Monitoring of saltmarsh development
- Saltmarsh management between leisure centre and pier – *Spartina*

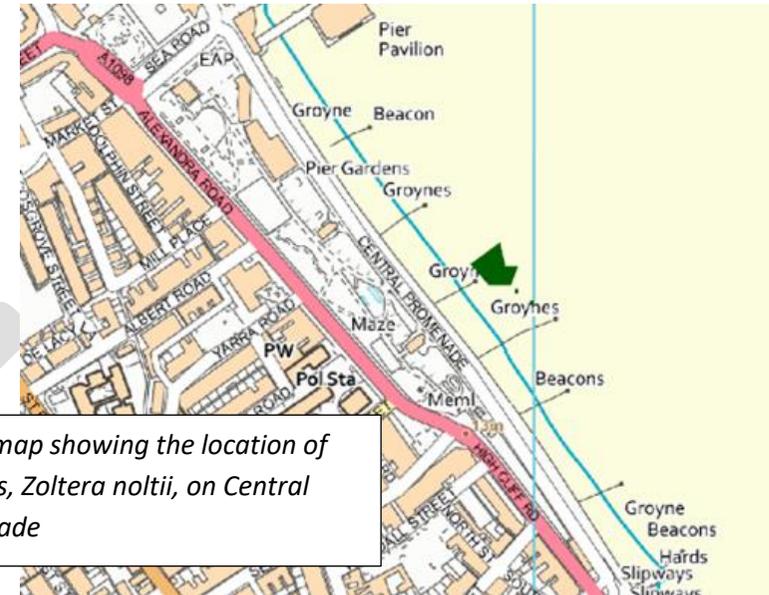
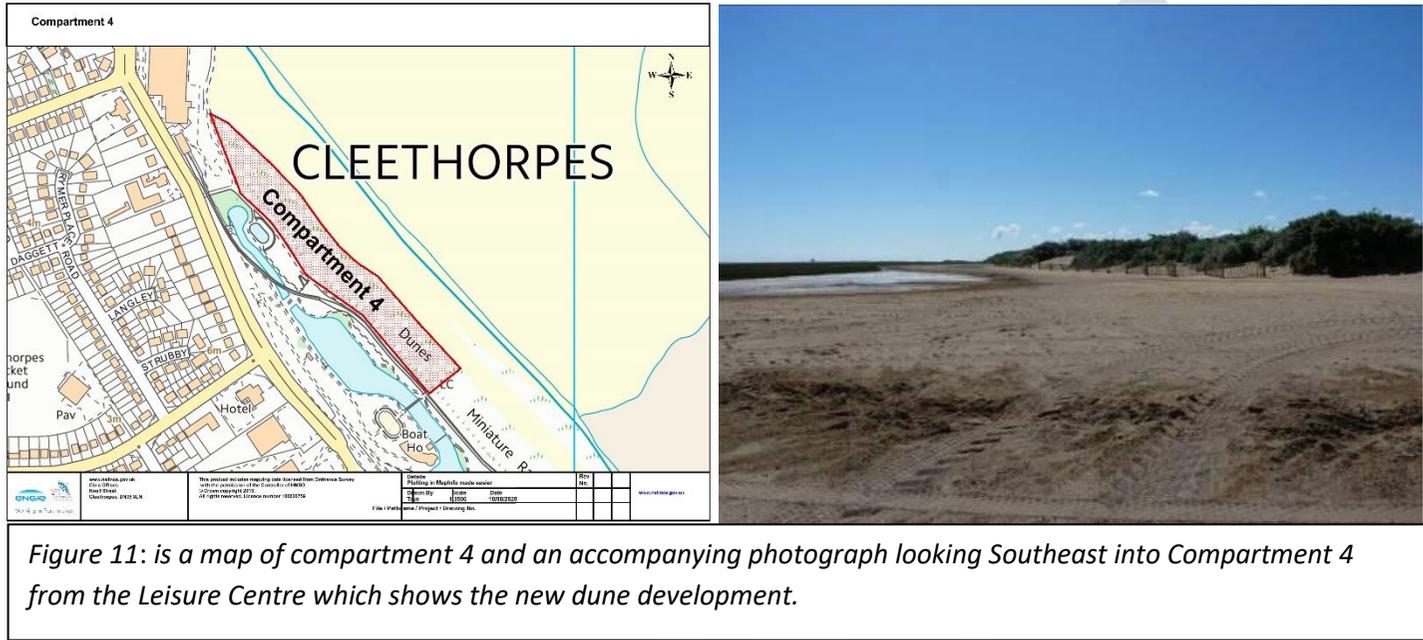


Fig 10: map showing the location of seagrass, *Zoltera noltii*, on Central Promenade

**Compartment 4: North Sand Dune - 2.28ha**



*Figure 11: is a map of compartment 4 and an accompanying photograph looking Southeast into Compartment 4 from the Leisure Centre which shows the new dune development.*

Compartment 4 is from the leisure centre to the Boating Lake green bridge access point and is the start of Cleethorpes Dunes Local Nature Reserve and the habitats include grey dunes, reed beds, and buckthorn. The buckthorn undergoes a c.5-year rotational management regime to diversify its structure and age for biodiversity and longevity. The management will take place in winter 2021 under the Dynamic Dunescape Project. Previous management has resulted in the return of Southern Marsh, Pyramidal, and Bee orchids to the dune grassland. The inner dunes form part of an important wintering area for passerines, including good numbers of Snow bunting, up to 45 Yellow hammer, 40 Twite, and 35 Reed bunting, all Red Data List species having declined by 85%.

Activities:

- Jet skis
- Paddle boarding
- Windsurfing
- Dog walking
- Walking

Maintenance:

- Buckthorn/grey dune management – c. 5-year rotational management
- Cut and clear (where topography allows)
- Dune management - development
- Litter-picking
- Resort Team vehicle access on established path
- Street cleansing vehicle access for removal of carcasses/large debris
- RNLI and Coastguard vehicle access on established path



*Figure 12: is a map showing the areas that are used the most and by the highest number of SPA birds within Compartment 4 which should be avoided on land and water, to prevent disturbance.*

**Compartment 5: North Saltmarsh - 44.14ha**

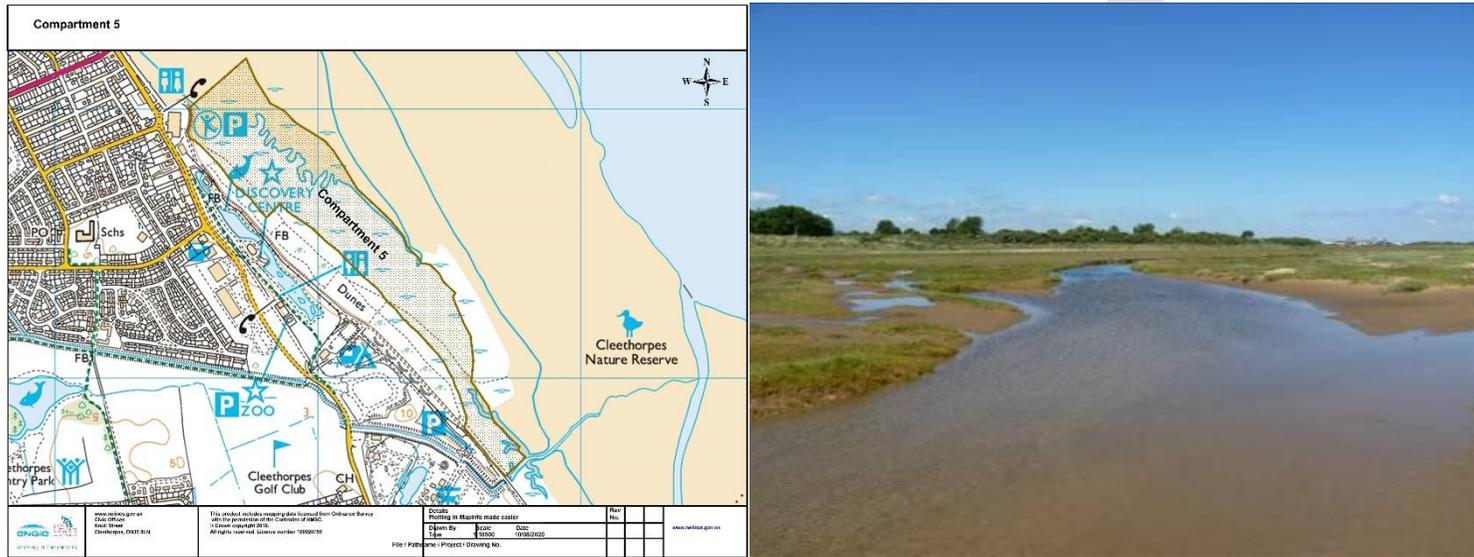


Figure 13: is a map of compartment 5 and an accompanying photograph looking Northwest into Compartment 5.

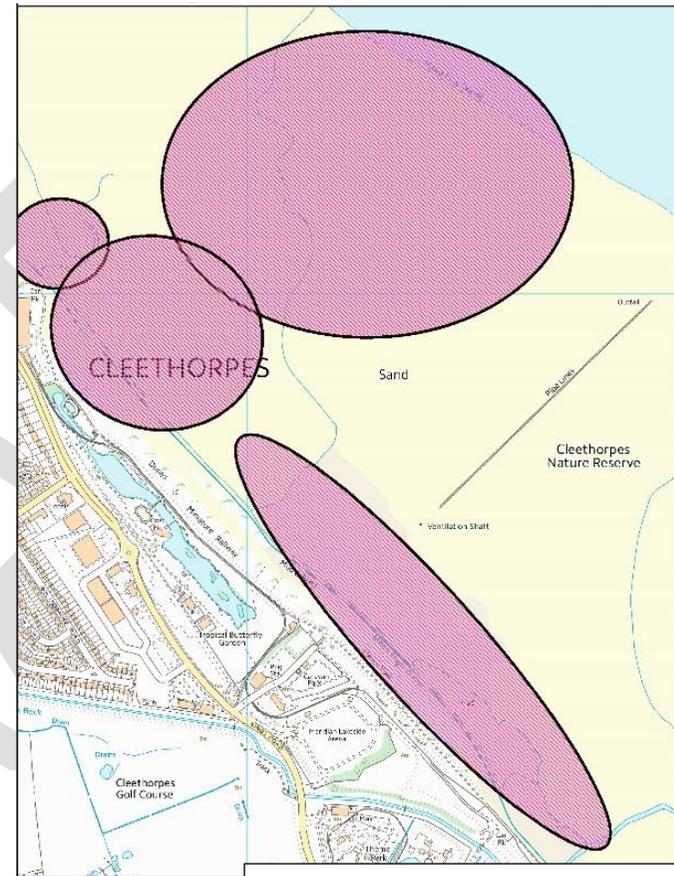
Compartment 5 is the start of the Cleethorpes Dunes Local Nature Reserve and covers the salt marsh area and fore dunes between the leisure centre and Buck beck outfall and includes one of the largest roost sites on the coast for Knot, an SPA species, with 20,000 individuals roosting in the salt marsh behind the leisure centre. This area is also used by other SPA species, including Lapwing, Curlew, Redshank, godwits, and sandpipers and has several of the *most* important areas for SPA species feeding and roosting and must be avoided. The salt marsh from the leisure centre southwards has large extents of Sea aster, both *Aster tripolium* and *Aster tripolium var. flosculosus*, and Sea lavender, *Limonium vulgare*, which may be used by foraging sea aster bees, *Colletes halophilus*. There are two persistent saline pools.

Activity:

- Walking
- Dog walking

Maintenance:

- Resort Team vehicle access
- Litter-picking
- RNLI and Coastguard vehicle access
- Saline pool monitoring



*Figure 14: is a map showing the areas that are used the most and used by the highest number of SPA birds within Compartment 5 which should be avoided on land and water, to prevent disturbance.*

## Compartment 6: Station dune - 7.194ha

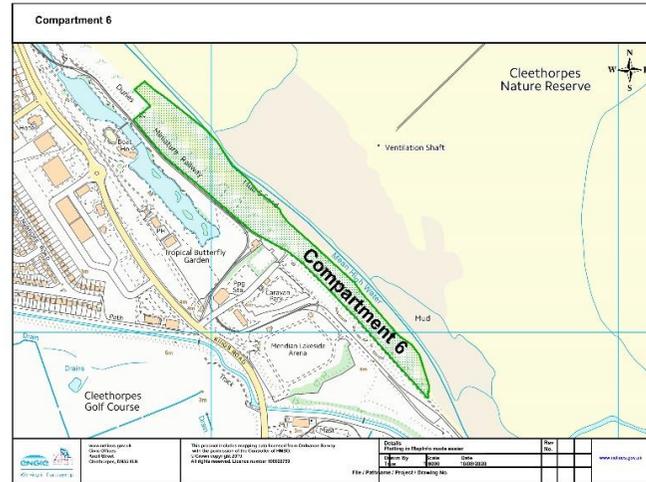


Figure 15: is a map of compartment 6 and an accompanying photograph looking Northeast into Compartment 6.

Compartment 6 is an area from the Boating Lake green bridge access point to Meridian Road car park and is mainly grey dune habitat with corridors of scrub and buckthorn. The buckthorn is managed on a c.5-year management regime to diversify its age and structure for biodiversity and longevity and will be managed in winter 2021 under the Dynamic Dunescape Project. This area is cut and collected where topography and conditions allow. There are reed beds and seasonally wet areas with Southern marsh orchid throughout. Strawberry clover, *Trifolium fragiferum*, is also present, it's most northerly recorded extent. There are important roosting sites and the inner dunes form part of an important wintering area for passerines, including good numbers of Snow bunting, up to 45 Yellow hammer, 40 Twite, and 35 Reed bunting, all Red Data List species having declined by 85%.

Activities:

- Walking
- Dog walking

Maintenance:

- Resort Team vehicle access
- RNLI and Coastguard vehicle access
- Grounds Maintenance vehicle access
- Buckthorn management – c.5-year rotational management regime
- Litter-picking
- Monitoring of habitat
- Monitoring of sand dune

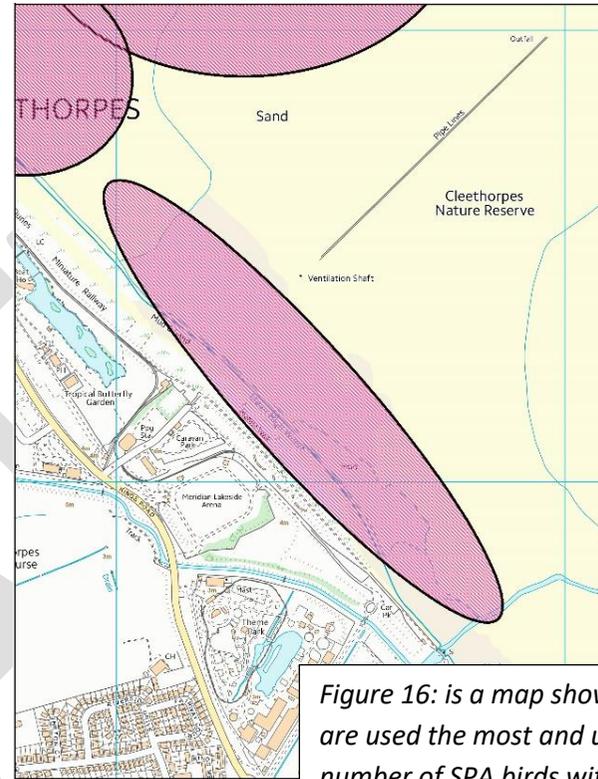


Figure 16: is a map showing the areas that are used the most and used by the highest number of SPA birds within Compartment 6 which should be avoided on land and water, to prevent disturbance.

## Compartment 7: Seaward sand dune - 2.11 ha



*Figure 17: is a map of compartment 7 and an accompanying photograph looking Northwest out into the compartment towards the leisure centre.*

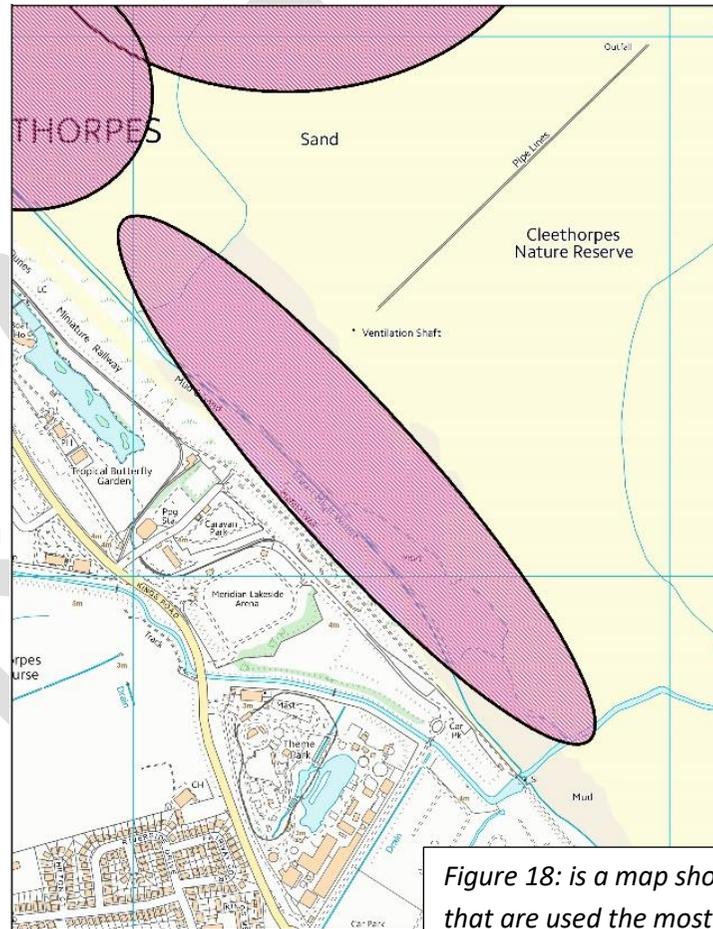
Compartment 7 is a dynamic area of salt marsh edge and sand dune formation with early colonisers turning to secondary species, on the outer dune system from the Boating Lake green bridge access point and Meridian Road car park. There are important SPA bird roosting and feeding sites in this area that must be avoided.

Activities:

- Walking
- Dog walking

Maintenance:

- Resort Team vehicle access
- RNLI and Coastguard vehicle access
- Buckthorn management
- Litter-picking
- Monitoring of habitat



*Figure 18: is a map showing the areas that are used the most and used by the highest number of SPA birds within Compartment 7 which should be avoided on land and water, to prevent*

## Compartment 8: New Sand Dune - 24.4ha



*Figure 19: is a map of compartment 8 and an accompanying photograph looking North west out into the compartment towards the leisure centre.*

Compartment 8 is the outer fore dunes between the Boating Lake green bridge access point and Buck beck outfall which have been forming over the last 25 years and there is the potential for use as Sea aster bee, *Colletes halophilus*, nesting sites. There are important SPA bird roosting sites near this area and SPA birds feed at high tide.

### Activity

- Walking
- Dog walking



### Compartment 9: Humberston Saltmarsh - 7.08 ha

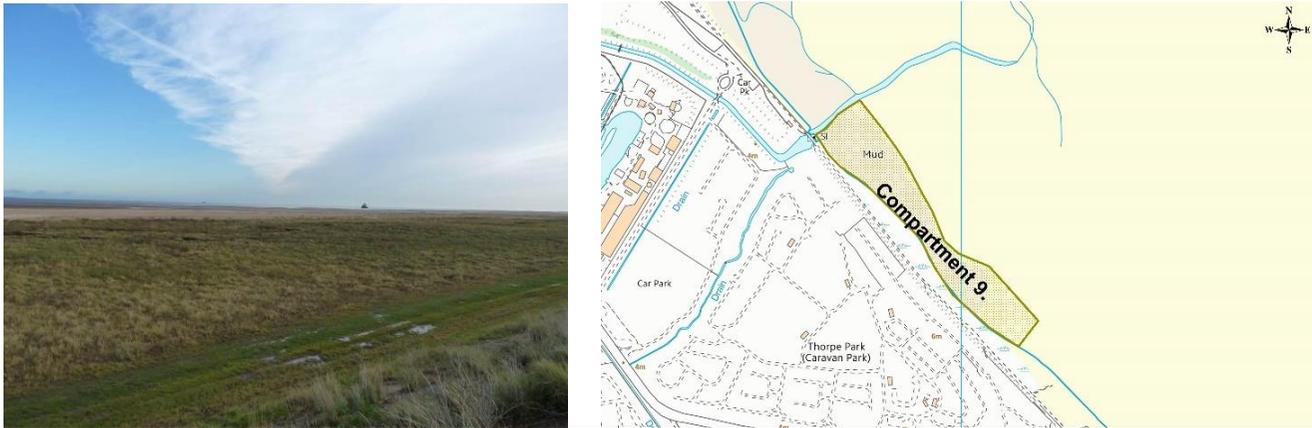


Figure 21: is a map of compartment 9 and an accompanying photograph looking Northwest out into the compartment towards Hailes Sand Fort.

Compartment 9 is the saltmarsh between Buck beck and the Fitties which has dune encroachment from the seaward side and a hard flood defence bank on the landward side. It has deep creeks through it where Redshank can regularly be seen feeding. There is a large permanent pool where Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta*, are very regularly seen. The pool is edged with Sea aster, both *Aster tripolium* and *Aster tripolium* var. *flosculosus*, which is used by the Sea aster bees, nesting in Compartment 12. Curlew can be seen feeding around the pool edge.

#### Activities:

- Walking
- Dog walking

Maintenance:

- Resort Team vehicle access
- H.M. Coastguard/RNLI vehicle access
- Litter-picking
- Permanent pool monitoring
- Sea aster monitoring
- Sea aster bee monitoring

**Compartment 10: Thorpe Park Sand Dune - 1.62 ha**



*Figure 22: is a map of compartment 10 and an accompanying photograph looking Southeast out into the compartment towards Haile Sand Fort.*

Compartment 10 is the sand dune between the saltmarsh and the hard flood defence bank along Marine Walk between Buck beck and the Fitties. The diversity has gradually reduced as some vegetation has become dominant due to difficulties with topography and cutting and collecting. However, there are still good swathes of Hare's-foot clover and Yellow rattle but some enhancement and restoration work are required.

Activities:

- Walking
- Dog walking

Maintenance:

- Resort Team vehicle access
- H.M. Coastguard/ RNLI vehicle access
- Habitat monitoring
- Buckthorn management –removal
- Litter picking
- Cut and clear (where topography allows)

## Compartment 11: Thorpe Park Beach - 0.553ha



*Figure 23: is a map of compartment 11 and an accompanying photograph looking Southeast out into the compartment towards Haile Sand Fort.*

Compartment 11 is the main access to this part of the beach from Thorpe Park Car Park (St. Anthony's Bank) and is flat sand with mud shelves, depending on the conditions.

Activities:

- Walking
- Dog walking
- Recreational fishing
- Kite buggies

Maintenance:

- Resort Team vehicle access
- H.M. Coastguard/RNLI vehicle access
- Litter-picking

**Compartment 12: Outer Fitties Dune System - 6.97 ha**



*Figure 24: is a map of compartment 12 and an accompanying photograph looking North out into the compartment.*

Compartment 12 covers the outer dunes between Buck beck and the Fitties. Sea aster bee, *Colletes halophilus*, is a rare bee and nationally notable species and the total world population of this species is found around the North Sea and Lincolnshire has an internationally important population. It is associated with salt marsh margins as it times its emergence with the flowering period of Sea aster, *Aster tripolium*, and builds its nests in bare sand in the dunes, where it feeds it's young mainly on Sea aster pollen and nectar. The population within this compartment will be protected from trampling by temporary chestnut fencing of their nesting areas as necessary and the nesting site location and population will be monitored annually. Buckthorn is beginning to establish and will be removed. However, it does provide a natural barrier adjacent to the bee nesting site.

Activities:

- Walking
- Dog walking
- Recreational fishing

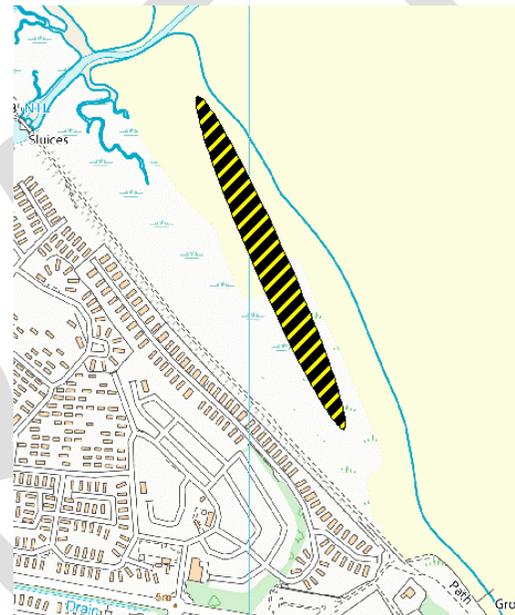


Figure 25: showing nesting site of Sea aster bee, *Colletes halophilus*.

Maintenance:

- Resort Team vehicle access
- H.M. Coastguard/RNLI vehicle access
- Litter-picking
- Temporary protective fencing of *Colletes halophilus* nest site as necessary

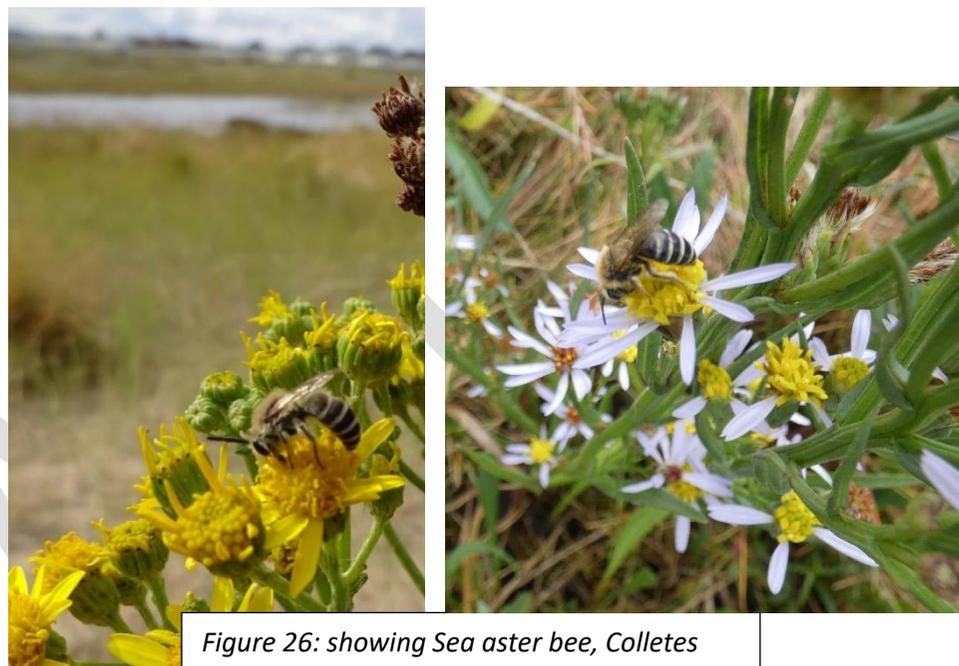


Figure 26: showing Sea aster bee, *Colletes halophilus*, on Sea aster, both *Aster tripolium* and *Aster tripolium* var. *flosculosus*

### Compartment 13: Fitties Sand Dune - 6.57ha



Figure 27: is a map of compartment 13 and an accompanying photograph looking South out into the compartment.

Compartment 13 is the dune system between Thorpe Park and the Fitties Yacht Club at the southern boundary. This part of the sand dune suffers from inappropriate garden escapees, either via accidental means, wind-blown or bird deposited, or deliberate garden waste dumping/fly-tipping. There is some buckthorn growth established at the back of previous dune creation which has some benefit in stabilising the flood bank. The area is cut and collected where topography allows, and fire breaks cut at the rear of the chalets in the south. The southern-most dunes have been used by Sea aster bee, *Colletes halophilus*, for nesting in the last 2 years after bare sand was exposed from slippage. The incline of this area prevents footfall so the nest site currently doesn't need protective fencing but will be monitored and used if necessary.

Activity:

- Walking
- Dog walking

Maintenance:

- Resort Team vehicle access
- H.M. Coastguard/RNLI vehicle access
- Litter picking
- Japanese knotweed – 5-year treatment programme starting spring 2022
- *Colletes halophilus* monitoring

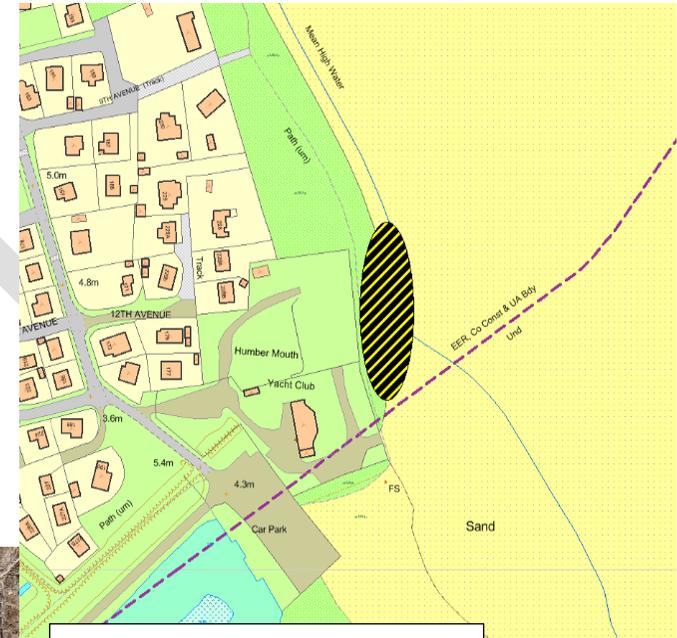


Figure 28. showing nesting site of *Colletes halophilus*, Sea Aster



## Compartment 14: Fitties Whale Back - 134.6ha



*Figure 29: is a map of compartment 14 and an accompanying photograph looking Northeast out into the compartment towards Hailes Sand Fort.*

Compartment 14 is the beach in front of the Fitties and sea defence wall and is a dynamic part of the coastline. There is a sand bank that is an important high tide roost and must be avoided by water users at high tide or when birds are present, and the whole area is a major feeding and roosting site for SPA birds. Saltmarsh is forming to the southern end, and Grey seals haul out and must be avoided and left undisturbed. Bait digging is permitted in this area under permit conditions.

Activities:

- Dog walking
- Recreational fishing
- Bait digging

Maintenance:

- Resort Team vehicle access
- H.M. Coastguard/RNLI vehicle access
- Monitoring of saltmarsh

*Fig 30: map showing area where bait digging is permitted under permit conditions.*



**Compartment 15 – Relict Sand Dunes SSSI unit 171 – 0.685 ha**



*Figure 31: is a map of compartment 15 and an accompanying photograph looking Southeast out into the compartment towards the pumping station.*

Compartment 15 is within the Humber Estuary SSSI but not within the SAC/SPA/Ramsar site and it supports relict sand dunes, old dunes that formed the coastline foreshore, c.14<sup>th</sup> century, and species of interest include Southern marsh orchid, Bee orchid, Lady's bedstraw, Goat's beard, Yarrow, Common restharrow, Crow garlic, Red clover, Hare's-foot clover, Autumn and Lesser hawkbit, Ragwort. There are previous records of the nationally scarce bulbous meadow grass (*Poa bulbosa*) in this compartment

**Activity:**

- Walking.
- Dog walking.

Maintenance:

- Cut and clear
- Boardwalk maintenance.
- Shrub and tree removal.
- Habitat and species monitoring.
- Poa bulbosa monitoring.

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## Appendices

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### Appendix 1

# 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 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 festive 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
- Carolina Borgstrom, Assistant Director Environment
- Scott Snowden, Resort Manager
- Sean Topham, Communications Advisor
- Cllr Stewart Swinburn, portfolio holder Environment and Transport

**Appendix 2**

**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

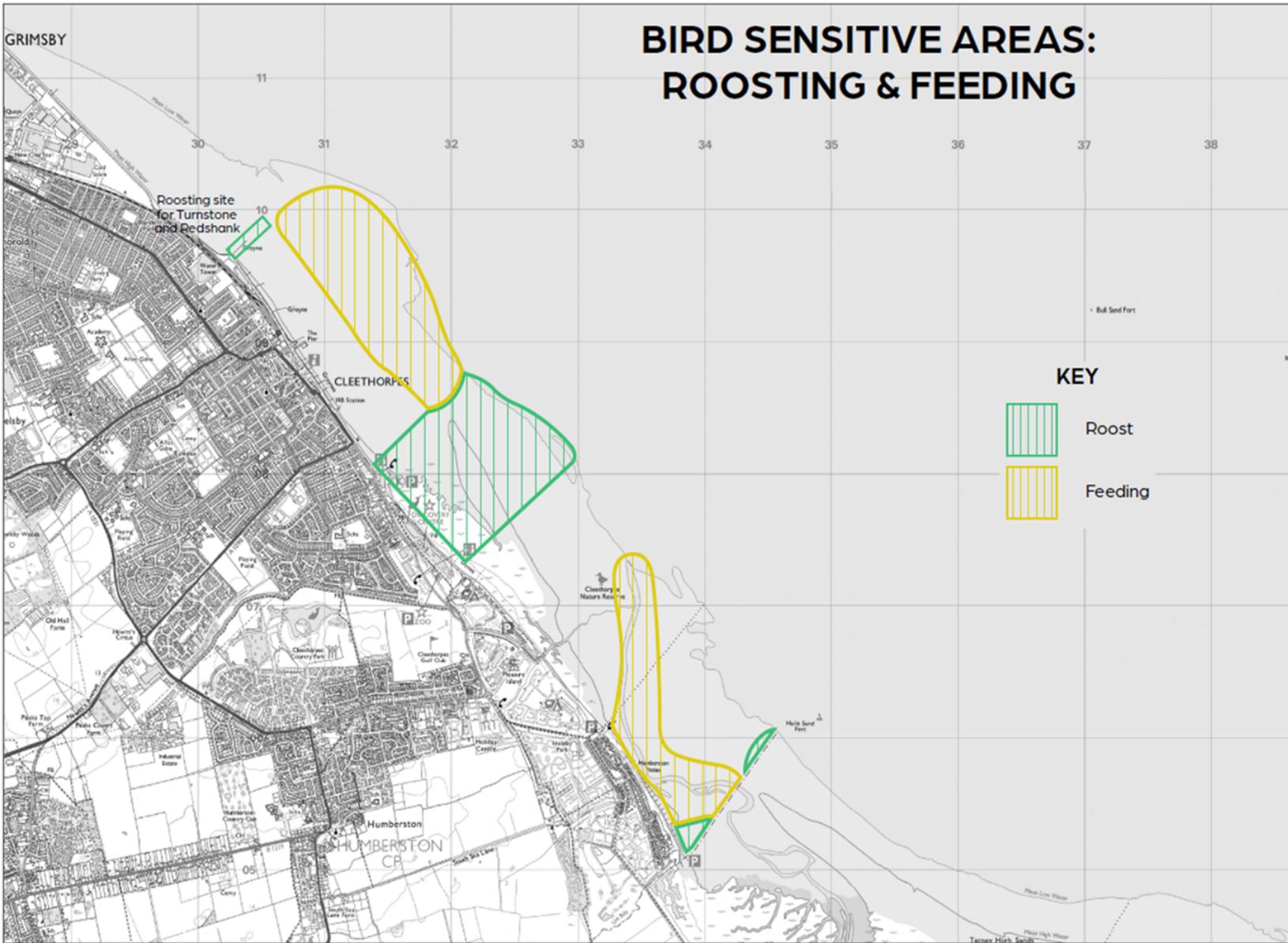
applies to any protected birds on the coast and the Bird Sensitive Areas are where the nationally and internationally important largest flocks usually are, but small numbers of birds at any location on the coast are equally **protected by law and must not be subjected to disturbance.**

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.

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## **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](http://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.....

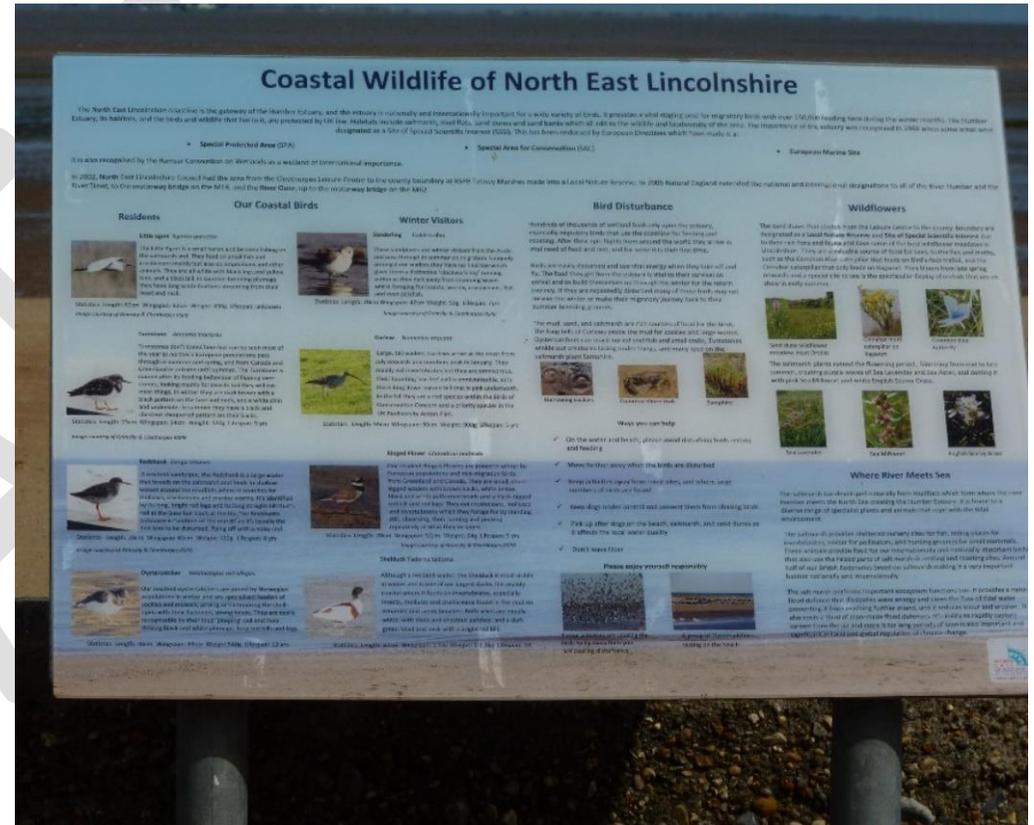
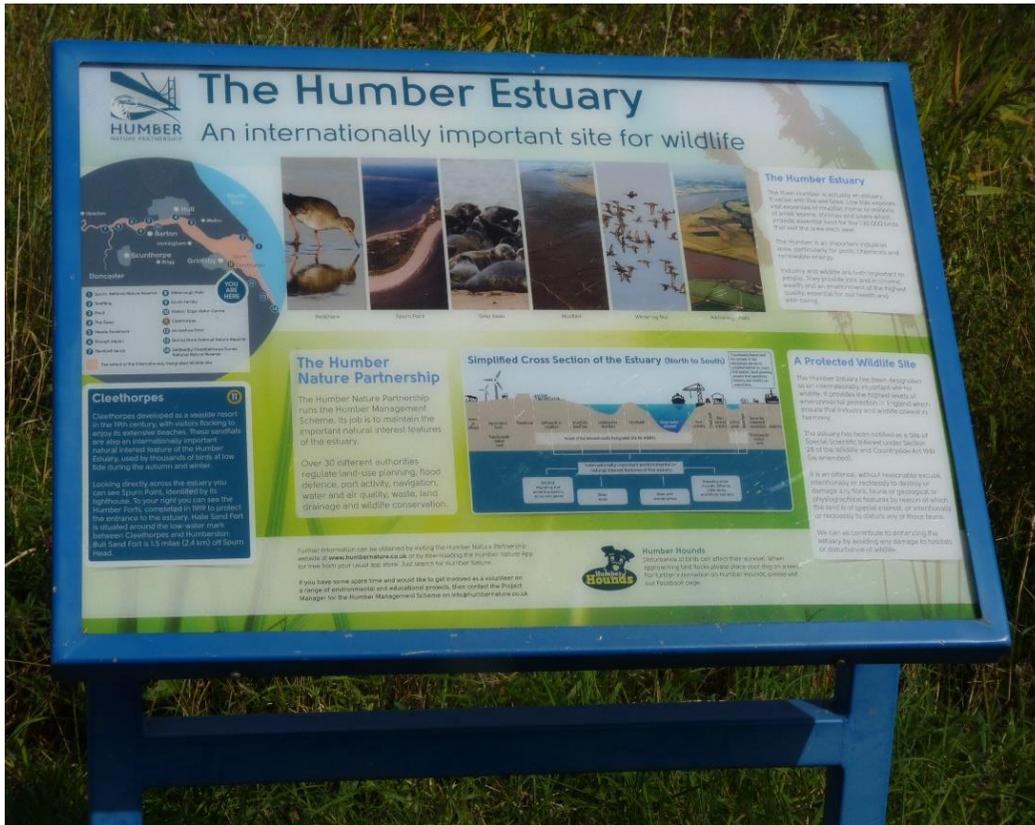
Date.....

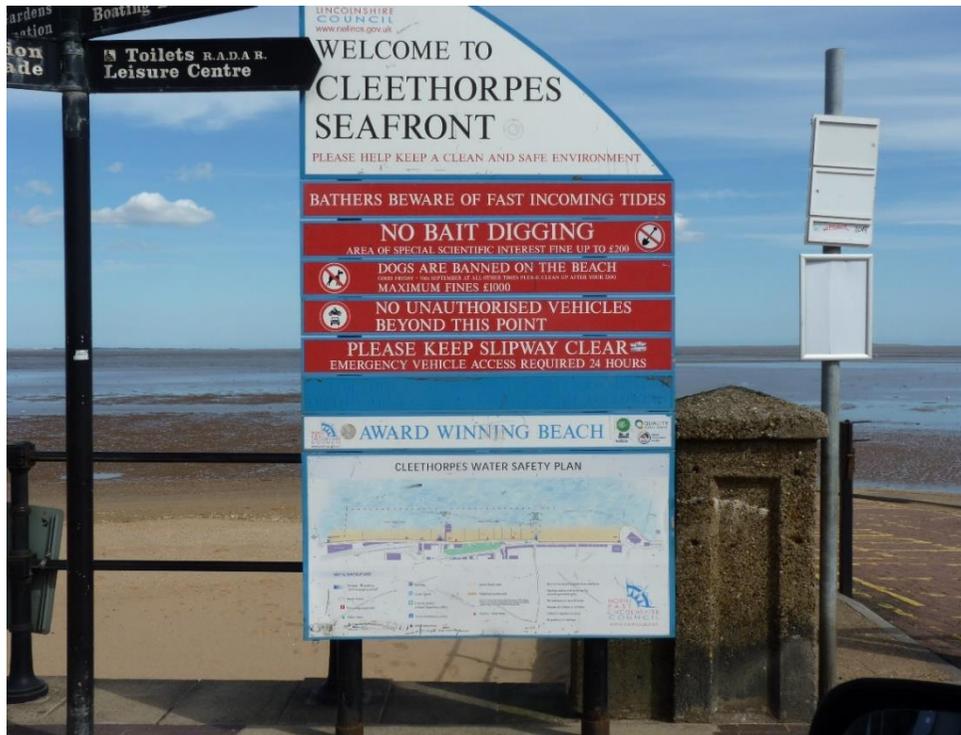
Resort Officer ..... Date .....

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### Appendix 3

Below are some photographs of current signage along the Cleethorpes Resort.





**Appendix 4**



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 LNR 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/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

### 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

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## 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**

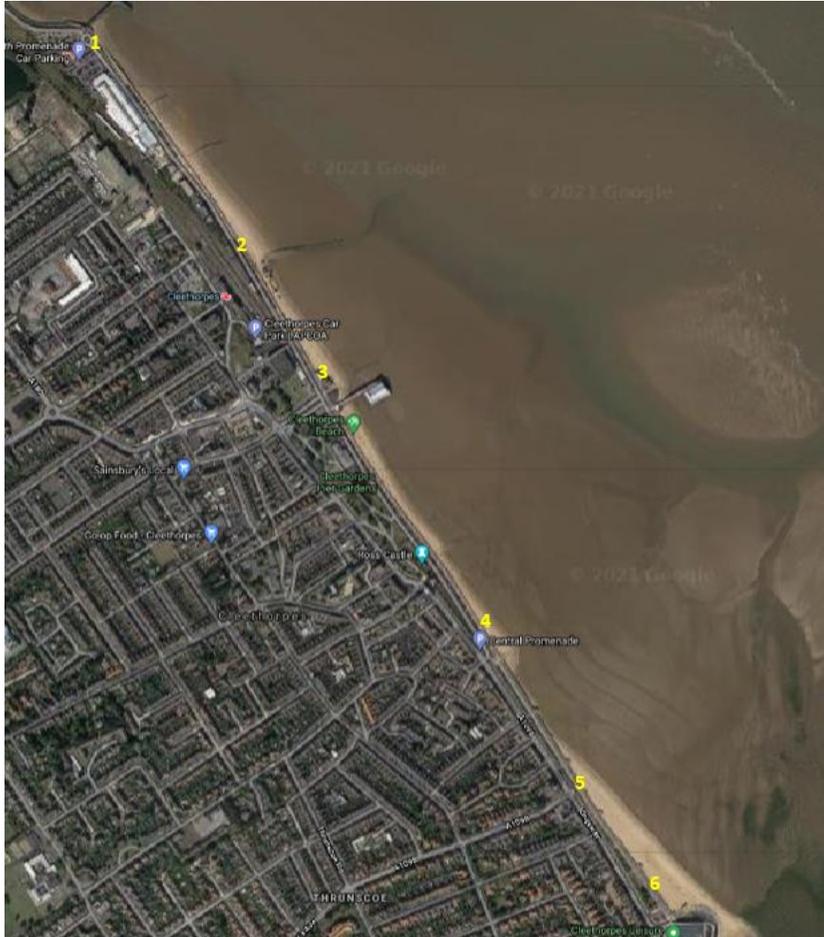
- 1) Old signage should be removed. It serves no useful purpose. It may even downplay the importance of issues in readers minds if the messages appear to relate to the past rather than the present
- 2) Signage should elicit a desired behavioural outcome. Messages should be targeted to key beach users, 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

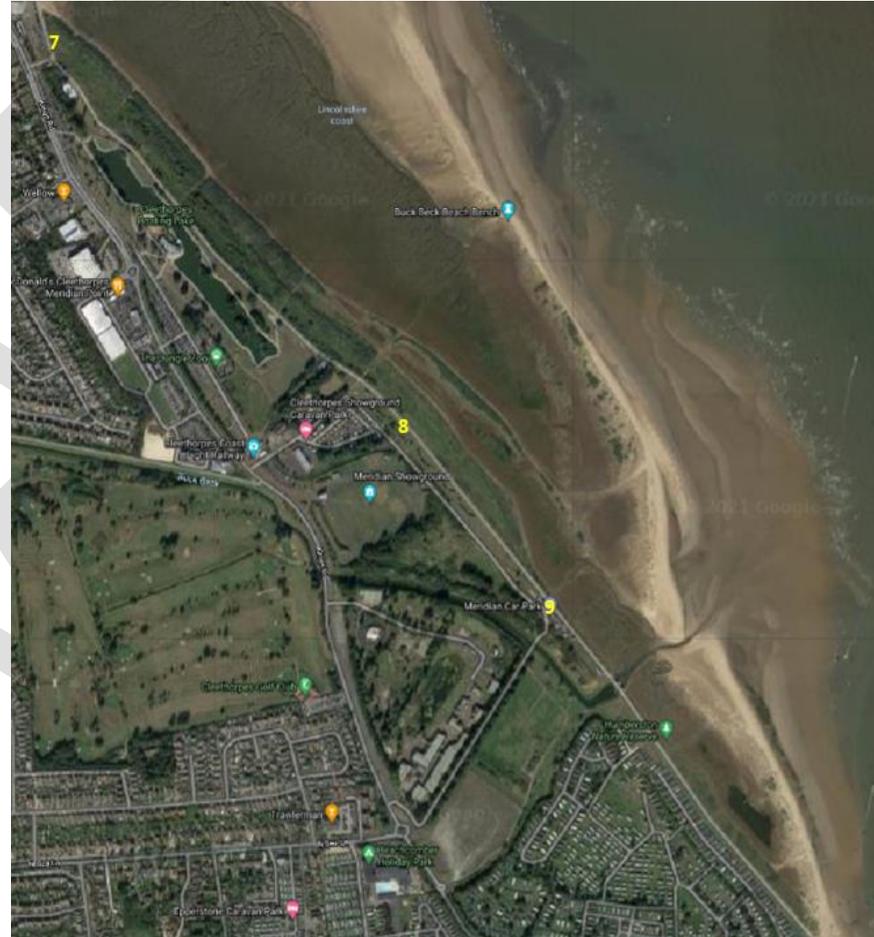
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## Appendix 5

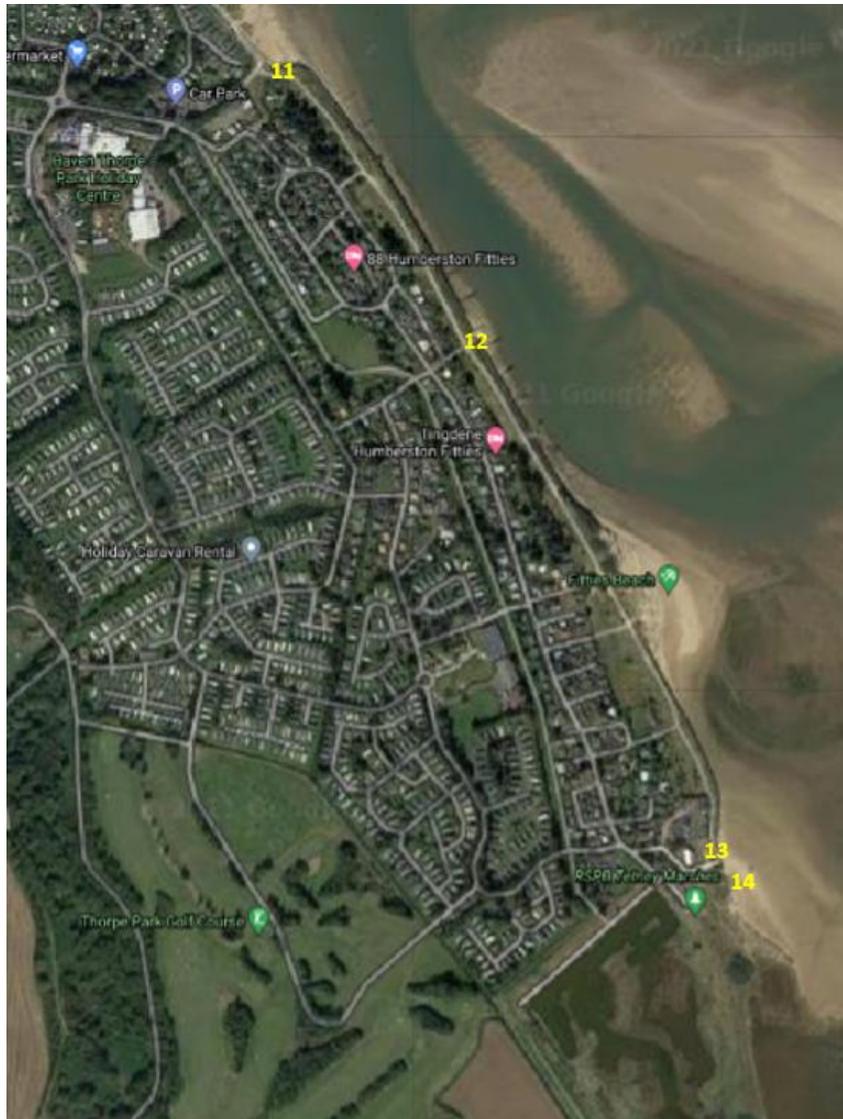
Below are maps of the suggested sign locations for recreational disturbance signs in Cleethorpes Resort.



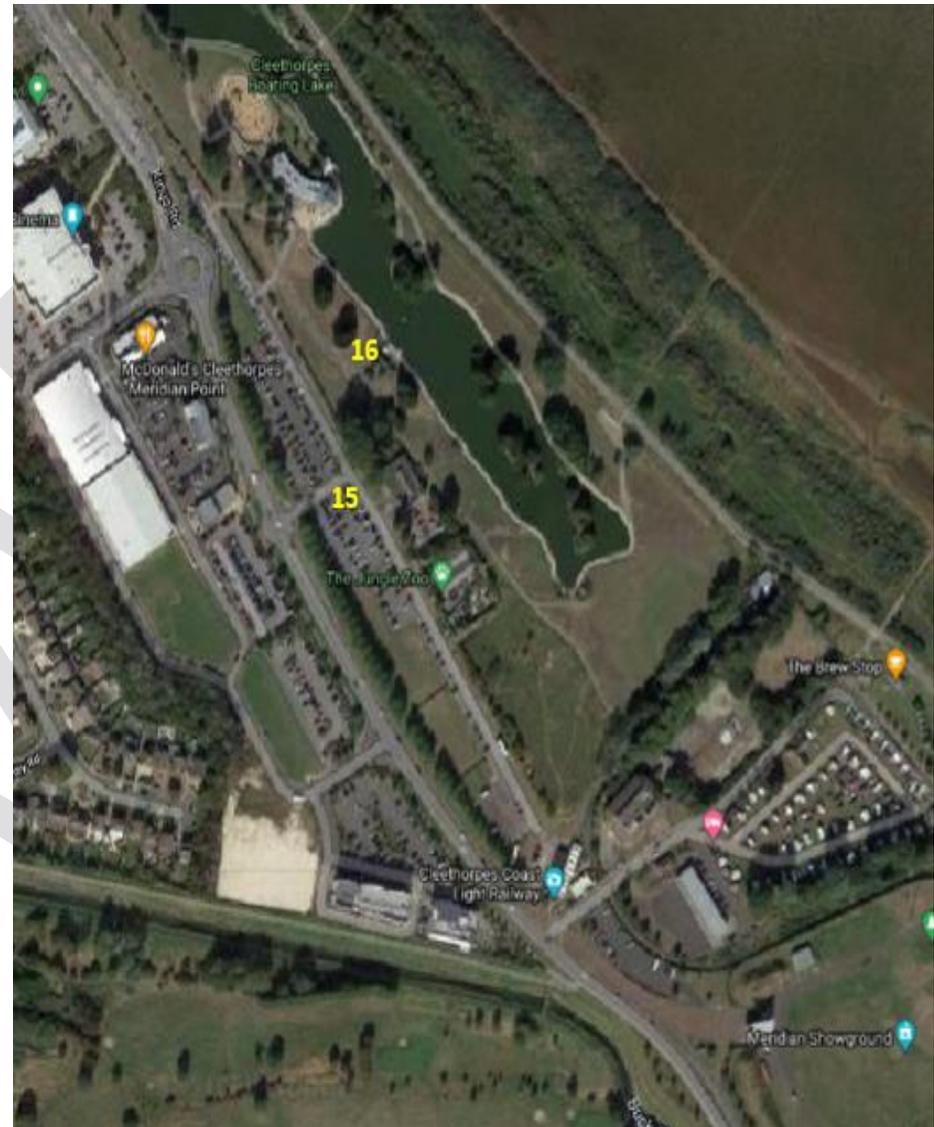
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