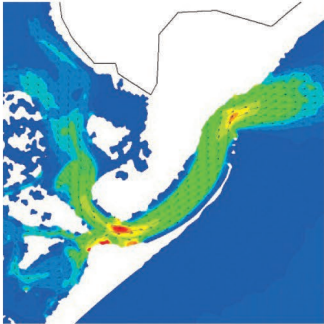
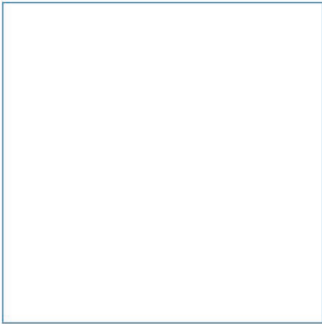
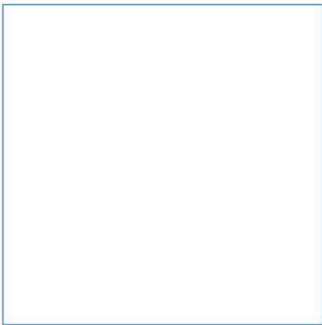


RSPB, WWT and NT

**East Atlantic Flyway – England East Coast Wetlands:
Potential Natural World Heritage Site**

Application for placement on the UK’s tentative list
as submitted 15 July 2022

July 2022



Innovative Thinking - Sustainable Solutions

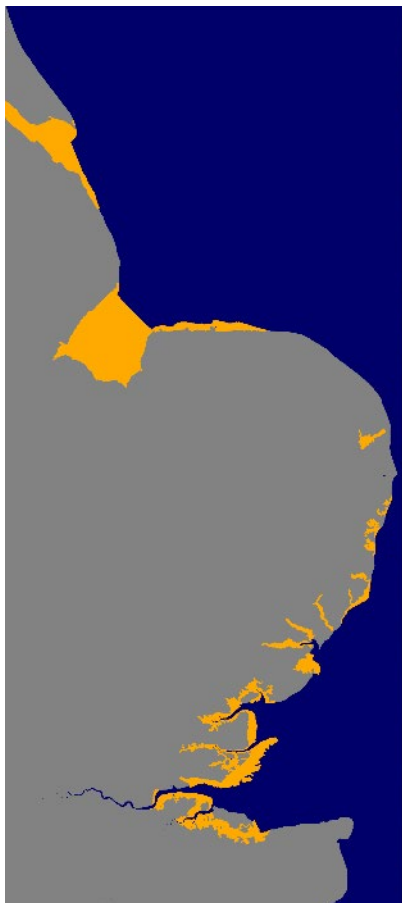


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Document Information

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Colin Scott	Nicky Dewey	Susanne Armstrong

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Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the many organisations and specialists who have informed and supported this application. This includes the RSPB, the National Trust and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) who jointly commissioned the report that underpinned this application as well as The Crown Estate and Local Authorities who have kindly supported it (as listed in the form enclosed). We are also grateful also to many others who provided advice and/or data to underpin the separate technical review which informed this application. This includes Nicola Crockford and Malcolm Ausden of the RSPB, Stephen Grady and Anita Carter of JNCC and Ben Green of the Environment Agency. We are also grateful to Neil Calbrade BTO for his advice and for providing bird data from the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) programme and to Jim Pullen Surveys and Andrew Pearson Photography for their three photographs used.

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Preface

On 26 March 2022, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) began a new review of the UK's 'tentative list' which forms the basis of this country's World Heritage Site (WHS) nominations to UNESCO. Information about this review process are available at this DCMS site <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/unesco-world-heritage-sites-uk-tentative-list-review>.

Recognising the importance of the English East Coast for its biodiversity and the lessons it provides for coastal adaptation, a partnership of organisations (including the RSPB, National Trust and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT)) formed to jointly explore its global value and suitability for nomination as a Natural World Heritage Site (NWHS).

In response to invitations from, and discussions with, the DCMS, an initial Expression of Interest (EoI) for the '*East Atlantic Flyway – England East Coast Wetlands: Potential Natural World Heritage Site*' was initially submitted in April 2022. Then a full application for placement of this England East Coast Natural WHS on the tentative list was submitted on 15 July 2022.

This document contains a full copy of the application form that was submitted. This form has been reproduced by ABPmer in this stand-alone format so it can be shared with all potential partners and all those who have supported this application.

The submitted applications will now be reviewed by an independent panel who will make recommendations for tentative listing to the Government. It is anticipated that this panel will meet in September to review the applications and, if needed, identify areas where they would like more information. This review process is expected to last until January 2023.

It is currently envisaged that the UK will list around ten sites, with the expectation being that five will be progressed to nomination over the next decade. If the England East Coast Natural WHS is selected then any subsequent nomination will require further technical analyses as well as detailed discussions and consultations with partners, supporters and interested parties. The project team is very grateful for the positive feedback received so far and will continue to provide updates on the application's progress as relevant feedback is received from DCMS.

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UNESCO World Heritage Sites - Tentative List Review

Application form

The closing date for submitting this application form is **Friday 15th July 2022**.

To apply to be considered for the UK's Tentative List we are asking for an expression of interest form and the full application form. You must have submitted an expression of interest form and attended an online workshop before submitting this application form.

If you have any questions or would like further information please email tentativelist@dcms.gov.uk

Site details

Name of Proposed World Heritage Site

East Atlantic Flyway – England East Coast Wetlands

Geographical Location

(Name of place / location)

The English East Coast, from the Thames to the Humber

Grid reference to centre of site

TG 10311 43833

Please attach a map preferably A4-size, a plan of the site, and 6 photographs.

Type of Site

Natural Cultural Mixed

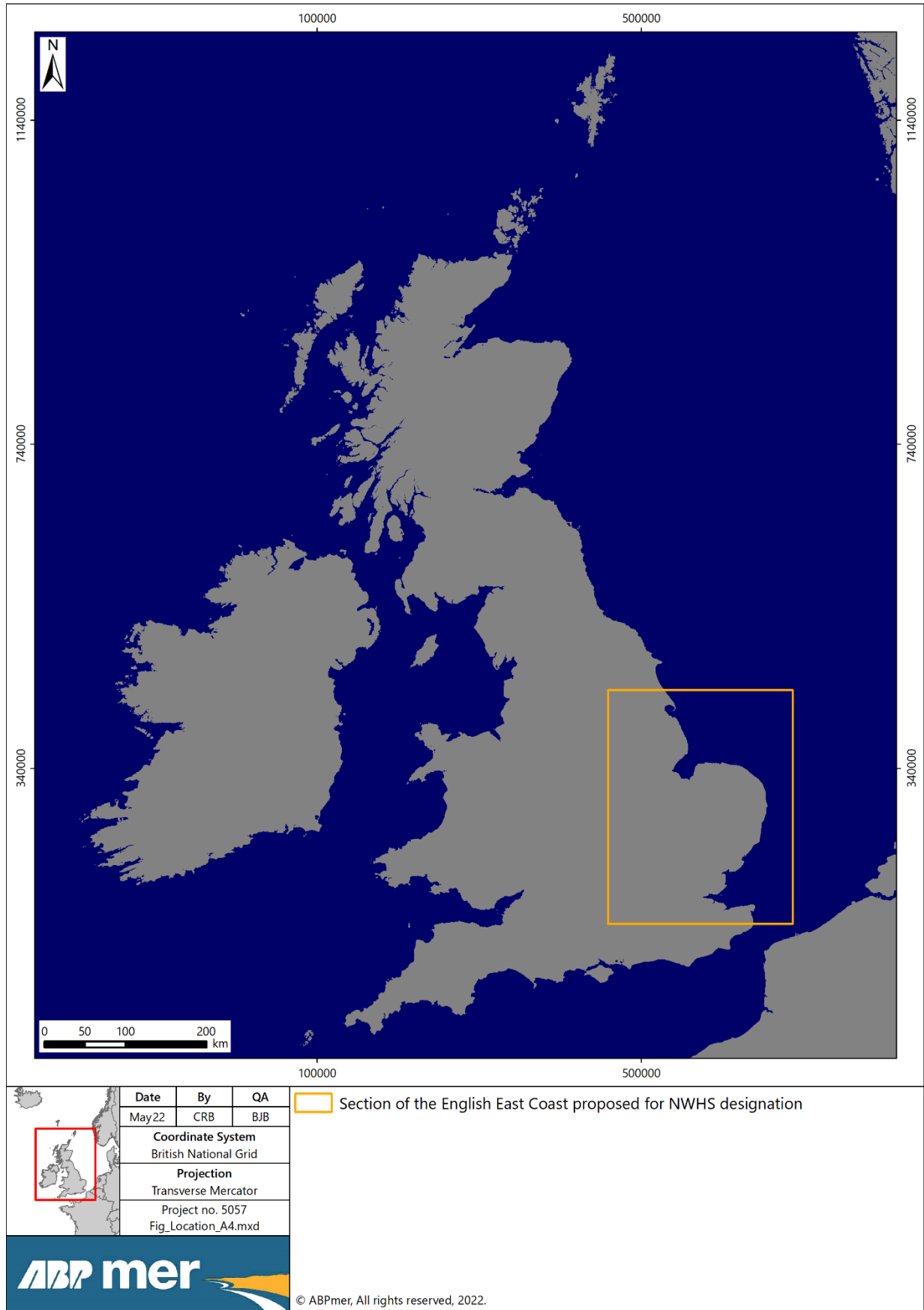


Figure 1 **Region proposed for England East Coast NWHS 15Jul22**

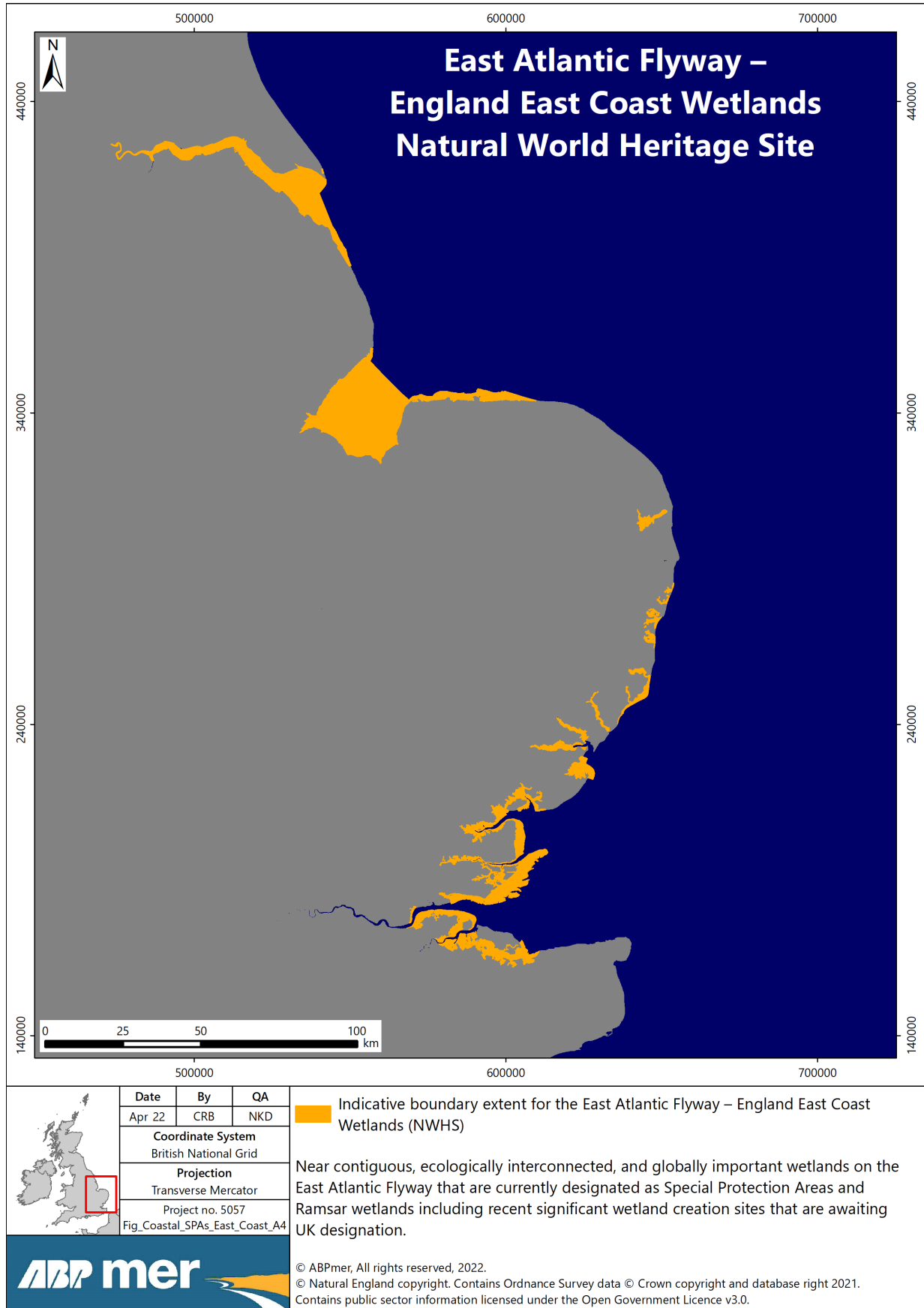


Figure 2 *Indicative boundary of proposed England East Coast NWHS*



Photo 1 ***Spectacular wader flocks on The Wash Snettisham, Norfolk (RSPB)***



Photo 2 ***Geomorphologically Complex Coastline, Burnham Overy-Scolt Head, Norfolk' (RSPB)***



Photo 3 *Flood protection and wetland restoration on Wallasea Island, Essex (RSPB)*



Photo 4 *Coastal protection through habitat enhancement at Horsey Island, Essex (Jim Pullen Surveys)*



Photo 5 *Intricate creek system and yacht moorings around Mersea Island, Essex
(Jim Pullen Surveys)*



Photo 6 *Dunlin feeding on restored mudflat in the Humber Estuary, Lincolnshire
(Andrew Pearson Photography)*

Description

Please provide a brief description of the proposed site, including the physical characteristics. Please pay particular attention to its physical characteristics.

(max 200 words)

The English East Coast is globally important for migratory waterbirds and for its nearly contiguous complex of ecologically connected, coherent and immensely variable coastal wetlands.

It includes many exceptional, extensive and biodiverse habitats located across a range of dramatic and dynamic estuaries as well as open coast ecosystems. These extensive coastal wetlands support over 155 different bird species most of which migrate internationally along the East Atlantic Flyway (EAF) which extends from the Arctic to South Africa.

The extent and boundary of the proposed Natural World Heritage Site (NWHS) is largely defined by a series of existing protected nature conservation areas, designated for their international importance, including 21 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for avian interest, 21 Ramsar Convention Wetlands of International Importance and 19 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for habitats and non-avian species, plus six nationally designated Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). These sites are also underpinned by other national designations such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

The area within the proposed boundary contains almost 170,000 hectares (ha) of coastline including large expanses of coastal grazing marsh and c85,000 ha of intertidal including c17,500 ha of saltmarsh habitat, some reedbeds and c67,500 ha of mudflats and sandflats.

History

Please provide a short summary statement of any significant events in the history of the site.

(max 200 words)

This complex coastline is the product of the interface between man and nature over centuries. It is a dynamic zone where land and rivers meet the sea. Previously, much human effort focused on land claim, drainage and exploiting natural resources.

Since the 1970s, with larger scale bird-ringing and now satellite tracking, the area's true global importance and ecological coherence and interconnectivity as a key hub on one of the world's eight global flyways has been fully understood, bringing with it increasing recognition of the societal and economic benefits (Ecosystem Services) these coastal wetlands provide.

Since the early 1980s the international value of the sites defining the boundary of the proposed NWHS has been recognised through designation as protected areas under UK legislation including the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (1994), and subsequent revisions to these.

This understanding of the biological and wider environmental importance and consequent protection, positive management and restoration of environmental values has thus re-focused effort and innovation. It has created world-leading examples of well-planned and managed shoreline adaptations where flood defence and other public benefits have been delivered alongside the retention and enhancement of the outstanding and interlinked nature conservation value.

Why do you think this site should be inscribed as a World Heritage Site?

Note: Nomination and management of these sites is a major undertaking and can be costly. Bear in mind that although a site may be important in our national context, it does not necessarily follow that it can be a World Heritage Site and this may not be the best means of managing a particular site.

Please indicate the main reasons why you think the site should be a World Heritage Site.

(max 200 words)

The site merits Natural WHS status for its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) as a network of very diverse coastal wetlands fed by rivers and tides that support globally important migratory waterbird populations, on the EAF. It would also benefit those who live in, use and visit (residents and tourists) these coastal areas by raising the level of public recognition of its outstanding value and importance, engendering wider support and engagement in its management.

The EAF, one of eight great global flyways, extends from Arctic breeding areas in Canada/Greenland/Scandinavia/Siberia as far south as South Africa.

These spectacular bird congregations rely on the rich invertebrate food resource of the intertidal flats, especially to fuel birds staging during spring and autumn migrations and to sustain those that overwinter. The upper intertidal marshes are equally vital as high tide roosts and nesting grounds. They provide foraging and nursery grounds for fish and a wide range of other public benefits including recreation, well-being, flood protection and carbon sequestration.

Additionally, the area is a significant global exemplar of coastal adaptation and nature conservation management in the face of a changing climate.

Nomination will facilitate enhanced joined-up sustainable management and restoration across multiple jurisdictions and stakeholders.

Please say why the site has Outstanding Universal Value and specify the main features which underpin its importance.

Note: The importance of World Heritage Sites goes beyond national significance. This means they are important for cultural or natural heritage reasons which are so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and that they have truly international significance for all humankind. They are said to have Outstanding Universal Value, viewed from an international perspective.

You should provide a brief statement to explain how this applies for this site, including the principal features that demonstrate its importance. (OUV is explained in the [Operational Guidelines](#) for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (49-51 and 77-78)).

(max 200 words)

The site has OUV under criterion x because:

- 1) It is a world class complex of diverse coastal wetlands supporting globally important migratory waterbird populations on the EAF making it a critical site within the world's eight major flyways
- 2) It plays a crucial role as a global exemplar of coastal adaptation and nature conservation management on a top flyway site in the face of a changing climate.

Its mid-way location in the EAF makes this a vital rung in the ladder for migratory birds that depend on it as a global staging area to moult and refuel, as well as its importance for breeding and wintering birds.

This coast is, therefore, critical to the EAF in terms of overall numbers of waterbirds (1 million in winter alone, many more on passage), 29 internationally important waterbird populations (1 with >50%, 1 with >30%, 7 with >5% of biogeographical population depending on the site), including 6 globally (near) threatened species.

The site hosts world-leading examples of coastal adaptation with 23 different sea defence 'managed realignment' projects and multiple restoration initiatives created during the last 30 years. These demonstrate how coastal adaptation can achieve multiple public benefits including for flood protection, habitat restoration, recreation, well-being, tourism, fisheries, water quality, and carbon storage.

What distinguishes this site from other similar sites?

Please list other similar sites in the UK and say why the site submitted differs from these.

(max 200 words)

There are no other UK mainland Natural WHS inscribed for their biological features or under criterion x let alone for coastal wetlands of international importance which support globally important migratory waterbird populations.

The only three UK WHS inscribed under criterion x, each with different justifications of natural 'Outstanding Universal Value' and with different biological diversity, are in the UK's Overseas Territories (Gough and Inaccessible Islands in the South Atlantic and Henderson Island in the Pacific) and St Kilda is in the remote westernmost islands of the Outer Hebrides of Scotland.

The Flow Country WHS on the UK's 'Tentative list' is likely to be submitted to UNESCO this year, but the biological value is different – it is a vast 190,000 ha blanket bog in northern Scotland providing breeding bird habitat and storing around 400 million tonnes carbon.

The East English Coast NWHS would be the first in the UK to cover expansive coastal wetlands. It will be similar in size to The Flow County and has ecological connection with it because bird species such as Curlew, Greenshank and Dunlin that breed in the Flows depend on the English East coast during the non-breeding season.

Settings of the potential nominated property

Bearing in mind that attributes and features that convey the potential Outstanding Universal Value should be located within the nominated property, please describe the immediate and wider settings of the potential nominated property (including the management and ownership) and how they support the potential Outstanding Universal Value (including any particular relationship in terms of the values and attributes in the potential nominated property).

(max 200 words)

The settings, management and landownership of this large potential natural WHS are extensive and varied, like the coastal wetlands within it. They include a large expanse of low-lying flood-vulnerable land and varied river valleys that drain a range of catchment sizes.

Some hinterland areas are urbanised but large swathes of the coast are also undeveloped. Much of the intertidal areas and shallow subtidal seabed is owned by The Crown Estate. The hinterland catchments are managed through a range of legislation and policies. This includes River Basin Management Plans and Shoreline Management Plans.

In the longer term, the adjacent hinterland will provide opportunities for further habitat creation as part of well-planned and managed long-term climate change adaptation. This will help to retain the functional and internationally important nature conservation interest.

The proposed Site would reinforce the vital contribution it makes towards the UK Government's commitments to meeting internationally-agreed biodiversity targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the 30by30 commitments (or whatever is adopted under the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework). It will also enhance the contribution to commitments made under other Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as the Convention on Migratory Species and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Outstanding Universal Value

Please state which of the [10 UNESCO criteria for Outstanding Universal Value](#) the proposed site meets, and describe briefly why the criteria were chosen.

UNESCO criterion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Why was this criterion chosen? (100 words max (each))
(i)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(ii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(iii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(iv)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(v)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(vi)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(vii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(viii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(ix)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(x)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The 'East Atlantic Flyway – England East Coast Wetlands' contain globally important and diverse natural habitats which support internationally important populations of threatened and declining migratory waterbirds including those of OUV with respect to science or conservation. It is also a global exemplar of coastal adaptation and nature conservation which provides uniquely important lessons for the world's coastlines about how to adapt to the threats posed by sea level rise and climate change as well as biodiversity decline. This includes both practical lessons from implementing technical solutions and vital lessons for involving communities.

Authenticity (for cultural or mixed sites only)

This only applies to cultural and mixed sites and means assessing the extent to which the site's Outstanding Universal Value is expressed through a variety of its qualities, (known as attributes in this context), such as form and design, or use and function. It also measures the extent to which the important qualities of a site remain undamaged or unchanged over time. The information sources that relate to the site must be credible and truthful. In some cases degradation of the fabric of the site itself, or development, could have affected a site so that it no longer has its original important qualities. For cultural and mixed sites, please provide a short statement to explain how far the original characteristics of the site remain, as this will indicate whether it can still demonstrate it has authenticity.

(max 200 words)

Not Applicable to this application which is for a Natural World Heritage Site

Integrity

For cultural or mixed sites proposed under criteria (i) – (vi) integrity is assessed as the extent to which the original fabric of the site remains as a measure of wholeness of a property. Does the proposed site contain all the key elements which contribute to its Outstanding Universal Value? Integrity takes account of how far the site demonstrates all the significance for which it is considered to have OUV, and is considered in relation to the particular importance, or OUV of the site. Degradation or damage to the property is a relevant consideration. Repair or reinstatement of original fabric is not always a barrier but needs to be taken into account. Please state how much original fabric there is, and its condition. Please note significant works that have been carried out on a site (please refer to the [Operational Guidelines](#) 87-89).

For natural sites the test of integrity is specific to the criterion chosen. For detailed guidance on integrity in relation to sites proposed under criteria (vii)-(x) please refer to the [Operational Guidelines](#) 90- 94.

(max 200 words)

Integrity is indicated by having whole and intact attributes and bio-physical processes, while recognising that natural areas are dynamic, and to varying extents involve contact with people. These characteristics apply to the English East Coast.

Properties proposed under criterion (x) should also be the most important for the conservation of biological diversity. Only those which are the most biologically diverse and/or representative are likely to meet this criterion. The properties should contain habitats for maintaining the most diverse fauna and flora characteristic of the bio-geographic province and ecosystems under consideration.

The England East Coast Wetlands are extraordinarily biodiverse. They encompass a range of different habitats including mudflats, sandflats, marshes, grasslands, gravel bars and subtidal habitats.

There are 33 different high-level EUNIS categorised habitat types (EUNIS is a comprehensive pan-European system for habitat identification). These include at least 600 ha of biogenic reefs and thousands of hectares of subtidal (permanently submerged) areas along the outer edges of estuaries and embayments. Also, around 243 ha of intertidal seagrass have, so far, been mapped across the area. Furthermore, the fact that around 1 million birds use the site every winter alone suggests that the integrity is functionally suitable and of outstanding international importance.

Are there other examples of this kind of site already on the World Heritage List?

Yes No

If yes, please list.

Existing World Heritage Sites will have been compared with other sites in the same category in other countries, and judged to be the best, or at least a prime example, of their kind because of the unique importance, or OUV, that they possess. A full comparative analysis is not required at this stage but will be required for any sites included on Tentative List that are being nominated for full listing.

Please also indicate if the potential nominated property, as a whole or part of it, is internationally recognised as significant under other global conventions and programmes relating to the protection of cultural and natural heritage.

(max 200 words)

There are 257 natural, or mixed, World Heritage Sites globally. Only 50 are marine and coastal of which 40 are designated (solely or in part) under criterion x. As noted above, there are no UK mainland Natural WHS inscribed for their biological values including under criterion x; but a nomination for the Flow Country is likely to be submitted to UNESCO this year.

The East English Coast proposed natural WHS would be the first in the UK to cover expansive coastal wetlands. It will be similar in size to The Flow County nomination and has ecological connection with it because some birds breeding there depend on the English east coast in the non-breeding season.

The English East Coast is comparable to, but distinctive from, other coastal wetland natural WHS. It is also complementary to the Wadden Sea (Netherlands, Germany and Denmark) and Banc d'Arguin (Mauritania) natural WHS also located along the EAF. These are around 1 million ha each and ecologically interconnected with the English East Coast.

The East Coast is comparable in size to the recent serial nomination of the Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats (South Korea) and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf (Phase I) (China).

Are you considering a potential transboundary or transnational nomination?

Yes No

If yes, provide information on whether a nomination strategy has been planned and what will be the proposed approach.

(max 200 words)

Not applicable.

Are there any known threats to the proposed World Heritage Site?

Large scale development, or a range of other issues such as coastal erosion, flooding or other effects of climate change could alter the character of a site, and undermine its value.

Yes No

Please indicate any proposed developments, or other potential impacts on the site.

Impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Please describe (100 words each)
Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Developments are required along this coastline for a range of social and economic reasons. Such development, and any impacts arising within the boundary of the NWHS, are managed under existing national legislation and planning policy. This requires that any development that may threaten the nature conservation integrity of the constituent sites (e.g. SACs/SPAs/Ramsar Sites) must undertake rigorous 'appropriate assessments', and assess impacts on site integrity. In case where development is needed and imperative reasons of overriding public interest are demonstrated, there are legal requirements to provide appropriate compensatory habitat to maintain and protect overall site integrity.
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	The main risks to sections of this coastline are from climate change and sea level rise where there is no opportunity for landward regression of coastal habitats. These issues of maintaining habitat sustainability will need to be addressed through ongoing conservation management. The various approaches used to maintain and enhance the ability of the coastline to meet these challenges is one of the key contributions to (and reasons why this is of) Outstanding Universal Value.

Legal Protection

Please list any legal and other protections, including cultural and natural designations, which cover the whole or part of the proposed site.

(max 200 words)

The majority of the English East Coast is already recognised as being of international nature conservation importance. The boundary is defined by areas protected because of their national and international nature conservation value.

Extending along this 1,300 km long shoreline, there are 67 different Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). This includes 21 Special Protection Areas (SPAs), 21 Ramsar Site wetlands and 19 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).

These designated sites offer protection of habitats and species under a range of national legislation. The SACs and SPAs are included within the Emerald Network of protected sites under the Council of Europe's Bern Convention. Ramsar Sites are designated through the international Ramsar Convention. There are also six nationally designated Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ). These sites are also underpinned by other national designations such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

Ownership

Please list the main owners of the site, where possible.

The main landowner for this site will be The Crown Estate, due to their interest and control of large areas of intertidal land. After The Crown Estate, major landowners would be NGOs (promoters of this application), and then a large diversity of smaller owners and rights holders.

Do the owners support the application?

Yes No

A statement of support from the principle owners of the proposed site should be attached to the application.

Jeff Kew
Projects Development Manager
RSPB England (Norwich)
Stalham House
65 Thorpe Road
Norwich
NR1 1UD

Olivia Thomas
Head of Marine Planning
The Crown Estate

Tel: 020 7851 5084
olivia.thomas@thecrownestate.co.uk
<https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk>

13/07/2022

By email only

Dear Jeff,

Re East Atlantic Flyway – England East Coast Wetlands: Potential Natural World Heritage Site

I am delighted to confirm The Crown Estate's support for this proposal to become a tentative nomination for a potential Natural World Heritage Site.

The nomination of the English East Coast as a Natural World Heritage Site is a fantastic opportunity to recognise the value of this coastline, for its variety of coastal environments, diverse habitats and dynamic seascapes.

We recognise that it is important to understand how the world's coastlines can adapt in response to the threats posed by sea level rise and climate change. We also recognise the need to support net zero targets and help to counter the threats through careful and sensitive development of green energy.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with the RSPB and other proposal partners to assess any developing nomination in detail, considering how best to balance the international importance of the area alongside other policy drivers such as the transition to net zero.

We are, therefore, pleased to offer our support for this proposal, as part of the partnership of a variety of key coastal stakeholders and explore further the shape and refinement of the proposition over the coming years.

About The Crown Estate

As manager of the seabed and around half of the foreshore around England, Wales and Northern Ireland, we work alongside industry and stakeholders to unlock its potential. We award seabed rights, incentivise innovation, build evidence and share data to support the responsible and sustainable development of Offshore Wind, Carbon Capture Usage and Storage (CCUS), cable and pipeline infrastructure as well as other developments and uses of the seabed.

The Crown Estate is committed to develop a leading role in stewarding the UK's marine environment, seeking to address key evidence gaps and convene relevant organisations to broaden our understanding of what is required to ensure a resilient marine environment that supports sustainable development.

Drawing on our diverse portfolio and unique position, we can contribute significantly to how the nation addresses climate change and supports nature recovery, balanced alongside our commitment to achieving net zero targets and contribute to creating thriving communities.

We look forward to working with you to develop this proposal further.

Yours sincerely

Olivia Thomas

Head of Marine Planning

Local Authority support for the site

Sites can cross Local Authority boundaries so you should indicate all those with a responsibility for the site. Local Authorities are the Planning Authority and are in the front line in managing development and infrastructure, both of which can affect any World Heritage Site.

The proposed NWHS lies across the boundaries of six English counties Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Kent, with respective County, Unitary and District Councils.

For this application, with limited time our focus has been on obtaining indications of support from County Councils (given the number of local authorities potentially involved). We have received encouraging and positive support from, Essex, Kent, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk County Councils (as noted below with letters and emails of support attached).

Once on the UK tentative list, the partners supporting this application will continue to engage with all the other authorities and many more coastal partners through existing networks.

It is especially important for local communities, as well as the wider public, to be informed and involved in the processes of coastal adaptation, nature conservation and the challenges posed by climate change.

Does the proposed site have local Authority support?

Yes No

Please attach a statement of support from each one in relation to the application.

Please indicate whether the site is included in the local plan/s by specific policies.

Yes No Partly

Please describe. (*max 200 words*)

All the Local Authorities have specific policies and planning practices in place to take account of the existing nature conservation protections that apply to this Natural WHS area. These planning practices will be robust and enshrined in local development plans, for example, because they apply to sites legally protected for their international value (i.e. Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation and Ramsar wetlands) and national importance (Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI))

As noted above expressions of support have been received from:

- Essex County Council
- Kent County Council
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Norfolk County Council
- Suffolk County Council

In addition, Coastal Partnership East, the coastal management team for North Norfolk District Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council and East Suffolk Council has provided an expression of support.

From: Sam Kennedy - Director, Environment & Climate Action <Sam.Kennedy@essex.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 July 2022 09:26
To: Alan Johnson <Alan.Johnson@rspb.org.uk>
Cc: John Meehan - Head of Sustainability & Resilience <John.Meehan@essex.gov.uk>
Subject: East Coast Wetland UNESCO

Dear Alan

I confirm that Essex County Council (KCC) strongly supports the concept of East Coast Wetland becoming a UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) and can see many advantages from such a designation.

Should you require a more detailed statement of support I would be happy to provide this but trust this meets your initial need to confirm ECC's support.

We look forward to more information on the ongoing application

Kind Regards

Sam

Samantha Kennedy
Director Environment & Climate Action
Climate, Environment & Customer Services
Essex County Council

Mobile:
Email: samantha.kennedy@essex.gov.uk

From: Susan.Carey@kent.gov.uk <Susan.Carey@kent.gov.uk>

Sent: 30 June 2022 10:41

To: Alan Johnson <Alan.Johnson@rspb.org.uk>

Subject: 'East Coast Wetland' World Heritage site proposal

I confirm that Kent County Council (KCC) strongly supports the concept of East Coast Wetland becoming a UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) and can see many advantages from such a designation.

Should you require a more detailed statement of support I would be happy to provide this but trust this meets your initial need to confirm KCC's support.

Susan Carey

Cabinet Member for Environment, Kent County Council

The information you have provided will be held and used by me to respond to your enquiry as an elected member of both Kent County Council and Folkestone & Hythe District Council. I may share your information with relevant Council departments, Parish/Town Councillors, other public authorities and MPs to provide a response to your query. I rely upon the legal bases of 'processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest' and 'processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest' (elected representative responding to requests). Your information will be held no longer than is necessary – after this period, it will be securely destroyed. For more information please visit www.kent.gov.uk/privacy and www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/privacy

Ref: CM/PLACE/ENV

Date: 12 July 2022

Environment
Lincolnshire County Council
County Offices
Newland
Lincoln LN1 1YL

Steve Rowland
RSPB Area Manager, Norfolk and Lincolnshire

**England's East Coast Wetlands: nomination for Natural World Heritage Site status
Letter of Support**

Dear Steve

Lincolnshire County Council would like to express its support for the inclusion of The East Coast Wetlands on the UK's nomination list for Natural World Heritage Site status.

The County Council is committed to protected and enhancing the County's natural land and marine environments and works closely with various partners in promoting the Lincolnshire Coastal County Park to the north of Skegness and supporting both Natural England and the Lincolnshire and Humber Wildlife Trusts in management of the 3 RAMSAR Wetland sites of the Humber Estuary, Gibraltar Point and The Wash and alongside Norfolk County Council and other partners on the Wash and North Norfolk Coast partnership.

Lincolnshire County Council recognises that a UNESCO World Heritage Site status could bring multiple benefits to the region both for the environment and for the coastal communities in Lincolnshire.

Yours sincerely

Chris Miller
**Acting Head of Environment
For Executive Director of Place**



Norfolk
County Council

Dr Katy Owen
Protected Landscapes Team
Norfolk County Council
County Hall, Martineau Lane
Norwich, NR1 2DH

12 July 2022

Steve Rowland
RSPB Area Manager, Norfolk and Lincolnshire

**England's East Coast Wetlands: nomination for Natural World Heritage Site status
Letter of Support**

Dear Steve

I am writing as a representative of Norfolk County Council to express our support for the inclusion of The Wash and North Norfolk coast on the UK's nomination list for Natural World Heritage Site status.

As an organisation, Norfolk County Council has close links with the Waddensea World Heritage Site. We have a long history of partnership working, sharing innovation and information to the mutual benefit of both our regions. We have also collaborated on multiple EU-funded projects, the most recent of which is [PROWAD-Link](#) which seeks to strengthen the connections between protection and prosperity within designated natural areas. Through this project, we have also made new knowledge-sharing connections with Geiringer Fjord World Heritage Site which has deepened our understanding of the benefits of World Heritage Site status.

The Wash and North Norfolk coast already benefits from a high level of legal and regulatory protection with established management frameworks in place. The Protected Landscapes Team at Norfolk County Council hosts both The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership (responsible for The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Protected Area Network), and the Norfolk Coast Partnership (responsible for the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). Through these partnerships we cover the east coast of England from Skegness in Lincolnshire through to Hopton at the Suffolk border. We are particularly interested in how this proposal seeks to envelope and unify the whole east coast from the Humber to the Thames, irrespective of existing designations.

We recognise the value that UNESCO World Heritage Site status could bring and believe that this international accolade would benefit both host environment and communities within Norfolk. We therefore look forward to further discussions exploring how this potential designation could better support recognition of our globally important coastal wetlands.

Yours sincerely,

Katy Owen
Protected Landscapes Manager

From: Richard Rout (SCC Councillor) <Richard.Rout@suffolk.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2022 10:11:22 AM
To: Adam Rowlands <Adam.Rowlands@rspb.org.uk>
Subject: SCC support

Dear Adam,

I confirm that Suffolk County Council (SCC) supports the proposal for the East Coast Wetlands joining the nomination list for UNESCO World Heritage Site status. The Suffolk Coast forms an important component of the wetland network stretching from the Humber to the Thames, internationally important for their migratory bird populations and we recognise the value this designation would provide.

With kind regards,

Richard Rout
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance & Environment
County Councillor - Hardwick Division
Tel:
Email: Richard.Rout@Suffolk.gov.uk

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From: Sharon Bleese <Sharon.Bleese@eastsoffolk.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2022 11:42:49 AM
To: Adam Rowlands <Adam.Rowlands@rspb.org.uk>
Subject: East Coast Wetland

Dear Adam

I am delighted to confirm that Coastal Partnership East, the coastal management team for North Norfolk District Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council and East Suffolk Council, strongly supports the concept of the East Coast Wetland becoming a UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) and can see many advantages to securing such a designation.

We would be happy to provide a full letter of support should this be needed as works progresses to develop a case. I sincerely hope that the case is successful.

With kind regards
Best wishes



Sharon Bleese MCIPR Dip CIPR Chart PR
Coastal Manager (South)
Coastal Partnership East
East Suffolk Council

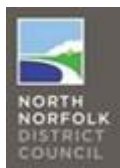
www.coasteast.org.uk

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

www.eastsuffolkmeansbusiness.co.uk

Our ambition is to deliver the best possible quality of life for everyone who lives in, works in and visits East Suffolk.

We are East Suffolk



working in partnership along the coast



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Date: 20 July 2022

Adam Rowlands
RSPB
Minsmere Nature Reserve
Westleton
Saxmundham
IP17 3BY

Dear Adam

I am writing to offer Babergh District Councils full support to the RSPB England initiative to have the English East Coast added to the UK World Heritage Tentative List. I wish this exciting and timely proposal every success.

The biodiversity of the East Anglian coastline is recognised for its importance and our area of the Shotley peninsula is surrounded by internationally important wetlands, recognised as Ramsar and SSSI's. The region already has a well-established group of organisations delivering coastal management activities through Coastal Partnership East and the opportunities for greater funding and partnership project delivery through the addition of the area to the World Heritage Tentative List will be significant.

In conclusion, we fully support the efforts of the RSPB and partners who are exploring world heritage status WHS inscription through inclusion on the UK tentative list based on recognition of the international importance of our coastal wetlands.

Yours sincerely

Jane Gould

Cabinet member with portfolio for Biodiversity, Climate Change and Sustainable Travel

Jane.gould@babergh.gov.uk

- 2 -



Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX
Telephone: (0300) 1234 000
www.babergh.gov.uk www.midsuffolk.gov.uk

Stakeholders

Please list the main parties with an interest in the site. It is important that the stakeholders are involved in managing sites and that there is local support for World Heritage Sites in order for them to benefit the community, at local and wider levels.

(max 200 words)

A partnership of organisations (the RSPB, National Trust, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) has led this work supporting the proposed tentative listing of the English East Coast as a Natural World Heritage Site (NWHS).

This process has generated much further interest and increasingly wider support across stakeholders for the nomination to be pursued. Time will be taken after the tentative listing (if successful) to further build on these partnerships, achieve broader common understanding and agreement, to harness the resources needed to bring forward a full nomination.

How will the Site be managed?

Please outline the management arrangements for the proposed World Heritage Site, including where the responsibilities lie.

(max 200 words)

The management arrangements are essentially already in place. Oversight of management of the integrity of the existing protected areas lies with Natural England. Responsibility for managing development pressure lies with local authorities and the land use planning system, with responsibility for shoreline planning resting with the Environment Agency and Coastal Flood Management Authorities.

These are supported by NGOs through land management, coordination of bird counts, active participation in coastal adaptation planning and implementation. It is envisaged that nomination would bring an additional level of 'coordination' but continue to make full use of the existing management delivery frameworks and partnerships.

Funding: the nomination

The process of preparing for World Heritage nomination tends to be time-consuming and expensive. It would be helpful to have an indication of how the nomination would be prepared and also how this work would be funded.

(max 200 words)

This would need to be agreed after tentative listing. It is anticipated a lead local authority would house a nomination team to undertake the preparation of the nomination. This would be funded and supported by a broad partnership between local authorities, NGOs and other stakeholders.

Funding: management

Please outline how the future management would be funded.

(max 200 words)

Future management would be funded through existing frameworks as described above. It is anticipated a local authority would take on (possibly on a rotational basis) the coordination of reporting from ecological monitoring, partner groups and stakeholders.

Name and Contact Details of Applicant

Name	Colin Scott
Position	Associate Consultant
Address	ABPmer (acting on behalf of NGO partnership) Quayside Suite, Medina Chambers, Town Quay, Southampton, SO14 2AQ.
Telephone	02380 711 860
Email	crscott@abpmer.co.uk

Contact Us

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