



Recreational Disturbance on the Humber Estuary during 2022

January 2023



Industry and nature in harmony in one of Europe's great estuaries

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Introduction

The Humber Estuary is internationally important for wildlife and designated as a Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar Site. Together these designations form the Humber Estuary European Marine Site (EMS) (Figure 1). The Humber Management Scheme (HMS) provides a coordinated and joined-up approach for the management of the Humber EMS. With support from both statutory and non-statutory organisations, actions are developed and delivered to bring the estuary into what is known as 'favourable condition'.

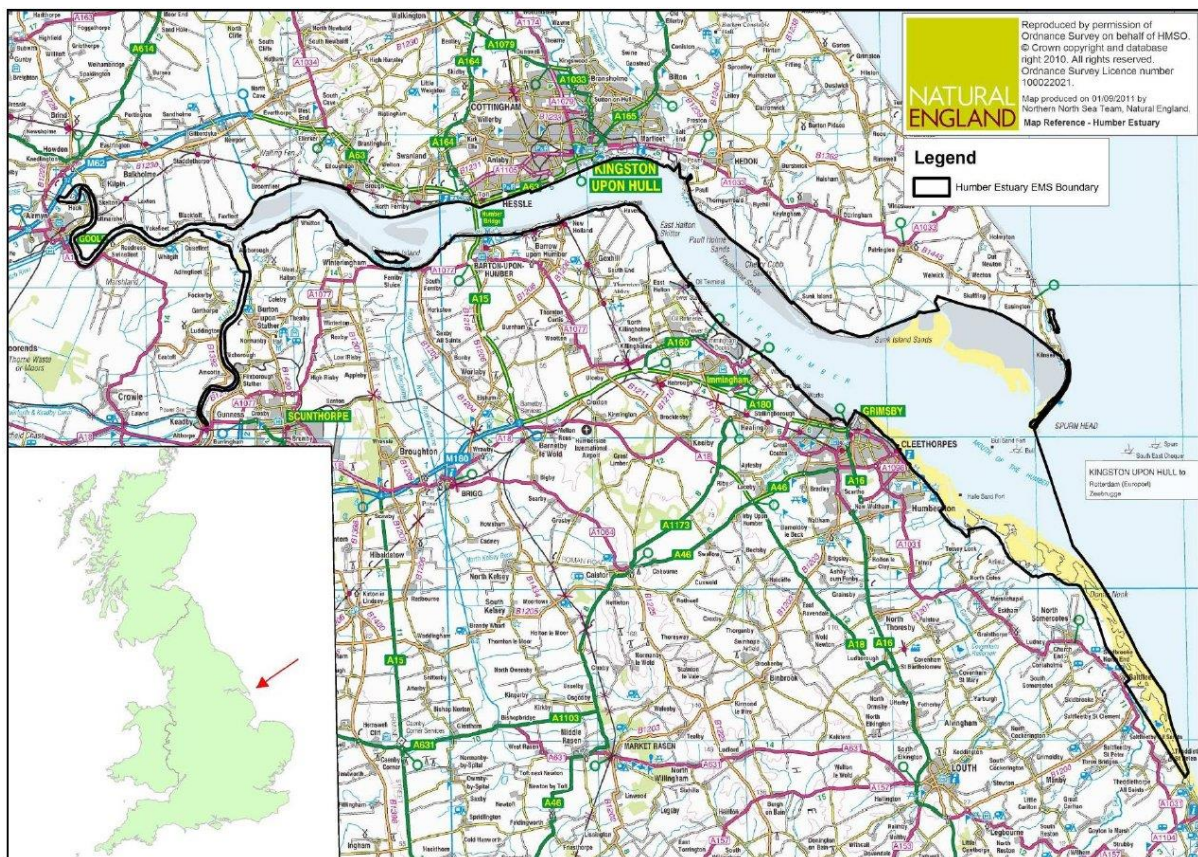


Figure 1: Map outlining the boundary of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site.

Disturbance is defined by the European Commission as “any phenomenon that may cause a significant change in the dynamics of a population or the eco-ethological characteristics of populations” (Harradine, 1998). Here, we refer to recreational disturbance simply as any recreational activity that has a negative impact on wildlife or habitat, such as change in behaviour (stopping feeding, flight response) or damage to habitat.

This report will explain the data collected from HMS’s Recreational Disturbance Forms during 2022 and detail what incidents have occurred at each site for the benefit of relevant authorities and Humberside/Lincolnshire Police. It should be clarified that this report only details incidents that have been reported to HMS, and therefore does not necessarily provide a complete picture of recreational disturbance activities or locations around the Humber Estuary.

Recreational Disturbance Reporting Form

In February 2021, HMS switched from a MS Word reporting form to an interactive form hosted online. This allowed members of the public and relevant authorities to report any disturbance they witnessed from any mobile device/PC in just a few minutes rather than spend time downloading a form to fill in before emailing it back.

The form is hosted on Humber Nature Partnership's website (www.humburnature.co.uk) and asks the following 12 questions

1. Observer name
2. Contact number
3. Disturbance location
4. Date
5. Time
6. Weather
7. State of tide
8. What activity was taking place? Select the relevant answer. If more than one activity was taking place, please complete the form again for each activity.
9. How far away (in meters) did the activity take place from the birds/wildlife?
10. What species and approximately how many were disturbed? If you do not know species name, please try to provide as much information as possible (e.g., type of bird/mammal, colour, size etc.).
11. What was the level of disturbance, if any?
 - a. Extreme: Extreme change in behaviour. Large number of birds take flight and leave the site all together.
 - b. High: Large behavioural change. Flight of more than 50m or agitated behaviour (e.g., staying aloft) for more than 2 mins before returning.
 - c. Moderate: Noticeable change in behaviour. Flight of less than 50m but returned to original behaviour within 2 mins.
 - d. Slight: Small change in behaviour. Alert or vocalising but little change in movement
 - e. None: No change in behaviour
12. Please add any other comments that you feel are imperative to the event you witnessed. This could include information that may help us to track trends/repeat offenders in the future.

An automatic email is sent to the Project Manager of the HMS once completed forms are submitted. The project manager will then review the incident that has been reported and decide whether it requires any immediate action (for example, motorbikes on public footpaths will be reported to Humberside or Lincolnshire Police). The project manager also contacts the reporter after a form has been submitted to find out any additional information that might be required and to thank the reporter and encourage them to report again if necessary.

Overview of recreational activities reported in 2022

The landscape of the Humber Estuary provides members of the public with a wealth of opportunities to partake in recreational activities. Activities such as 'walking' or 'birdwatching' are generally innocuous compared to, for example, inherently loud activities such as off-roading, however both can be equally damaging depending on the circumstances. It should also be mentioned that many of these incidents were unlikely to have been committed by someone with malicious intent, and that education is key to reducing such incidents in future.

2022 saw a significant increase in recreational disturbance being reported around the Humber Estuary with 190 incidents being logged, up from 95 in 2021 and 45 in 2020. Of these 190 incidents, 159 were in the Humberside Police area, with 31 in Lincolnshire Police area.

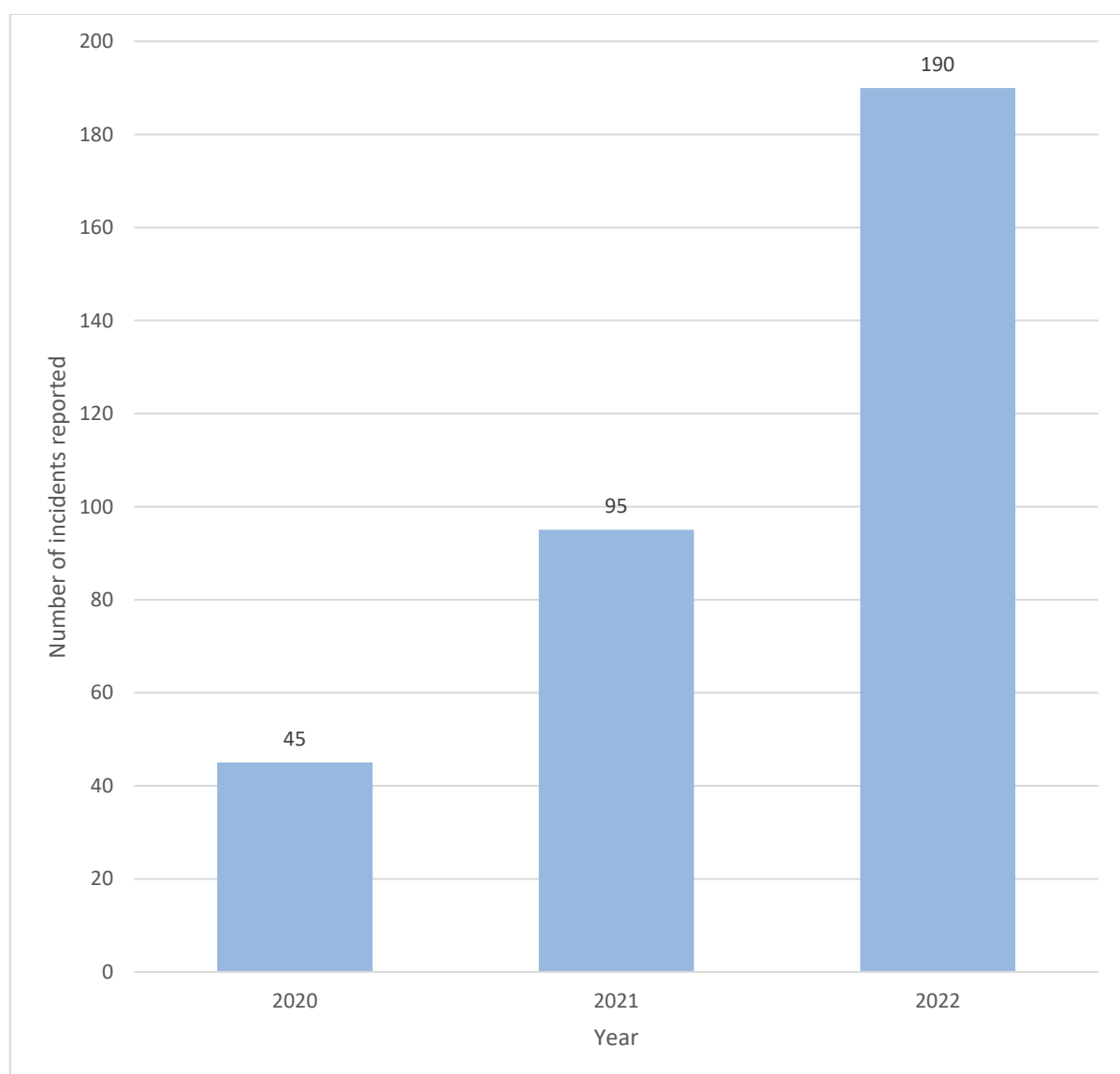


Figure 2: Recorded recreational disturbance within the Humber EMS between 2020- 2022

Activity	Incidents in 2021	Incidents in 2022	Trend	Difference
<i>Angling</i>	2	5	↑	+3
<i>Bait digging</i>	1	2	↑	+1
<i>Beam Trawlers</i>	0	1	↑	+1
<i>Bird watching</i>	5	12	↑	+7
<i>Bomb Disposal</i>	0	1	↑	+1
<i>Camping</i>	0	5	↑	+5
<i>Dog off lead</i>	8	51	↑	+43
<i>Dog on lead</i>	4	14	↑	+10
<i>Drone</i>	5	4	↓	-1
<i>Fire</i>	3	8	↑	+5
<i>Fireworks</i>	2	0	↓	-2
<i>Fossil Hunting</i>	0	4	↑	+4
<i>Golf</i>	0	1	↑	+1
<i>Horse riding</i>	0	7	↑	+7
<i>Jet ski</i>	3	2	↓	-1
<i>Kite surfing</i>	0	5	↑	+5
<i>Low-flying aircraft (fixed-wing)</i>	2	5	↑	+3
<i>Low-flying aircraft (helicopter)</i>	2	5	↑	+3
<i>Low-flying aircraft (military)</i>	0	1	↑	+1
<i>Nudists</i>	0	1	↑	+1
<i>Off-roading</i>	22	17	↓	-5
<i>Paddleboarder</i>	2	2	-	0
<i>Paramotor</i>	16	3	↓	-13
<i>Photography</i>	0	5	↑	+5
<i>Potential egg collectors</i>	0	1	↑	+1
<i>Vandalism/ASB</i>	4	2	↓	-2
<i>Walking</i>	9	22	↑	+13
<i>Wildfowling</i>	2	4	↑	+2
Total	95	190	↑	+95

Table 1: Recorded recreational activities causing disturbance within the Humber EMS in 2022

Location	Incidents in 2021	Incidents in 2022	Trend	Difference
<i>Alkborough</i>	7	0	↓	-7
<i>Beacon Ponds</i>	20	112	↑	+92
<i>Blacktoft Sands</i>	3	0	↓	-3
<i>Brough Airfield</i>	4	4	-	0
<i>Cleethorpes</i>	11	10	↓	-1
<i>Crook Bank, Theddlethorpe</i>	0	1	↑	+1
<i>East Halton Skitter</i>	7	2	↓	-5
<i>Far Ings</i>	5	7	↑	+2
<i>Goxhill Haven</i>	0	1	↑	+1
<i>Haven bank car park, Saltfleet</i>	0	16	↑	+16
<i>Horseshoe Point</i>	0	1	↓	+1
<i>Humberston Fitties</i>	20	3	↓	-17
<i>Howdens Pullover, Saltfleet</i>	0	1	↓	+1
<i>Long Plantation - North Ferriby</i>	0	1	↑	+1
<i>Patrington Haven</i>	0	1	↑	+1
<i>Paull</i>	2	0	↓	-2
<i>Pyewipe</i>	1	2	↑	+1
<i>Reads Island</i>	1	0	↓	-1
<i>Rimac</i>	0	6	↑	+6
<i>RSPB Tetney Marshes</i>	0	9	↓	+9
<i>Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR</i>	2	7	↑	+5
<i>South Ferriby</i>	2	1	↓	-1
<i>Spurn</i>	7	4	↓	-3
<i>St Andrews Quay</i>	0	2	↑	+2
<i>Stone Creek</i>	0	1	↑	+1
<i>Sunk Island</i>	0	1	↑	-1
<i>Tetney Lock</i>	2	0	↓	-2
<i>Waters' Edge</i>	1	1	-	-
<i>Welwick</i>	0	1	↓	+1
Total	95	190	↑	+95

Table 2: Locations where recreational disturbance was recorded in 2022

Level of disturbance

Activity	(1) None	(2) Slight	(3) Moderate	(4) High	(5) Extreme	Total	Avg. disturbance score (1-5)
Kite-surfing				4	1	5	4.2
Low flying aircraft (fixed wing)		1		2	2	5	4
Low flying aircraft (military)				1		1	4
Paddleboarders				2		2	4
Wildfowling		1		1	2	4	4
Low flying aircraft (helicopter)		1		3	1	5	3.8
Paramotor			2		1	3	3.6
Horse-riding			5		2	7	3.6
Jet-ski			1	1		2	3.5
Dog off lead	8	7	18	10	8	51	3.1
Bait Digging		1			1	2	3
Cycling			1			1	3
Nudists			1			1	3
Off-Roading	4	3	2	5	3	17	3
Angling	1	1	2		1	5	2.8
Walking	2	6	12	1	1	22	2.7
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	1			1		2	2.5
Fossil Hunting		2	2			4	2.5
Dog on lead	2	2	8		1	13	2.4
Bird Watching	3	4	3	2		12	2.3
Drone	1	2		1		4	2.3
Fire	4		3		1	8	2.3
Photography		4	1			5	2.2
Camping	1	4				5	1.8
Bomb Disposal	1					1	1
Golf	1					1	1
Metal detecting	1					1	1
Egg Collector	1					1	1

Table 3: Level of disturbance caused by each activity, ordered from most impactful to least.

Work with the Civil Aviation Authority - Paramotors

During 2020, despite the Covid pandemic, HNP received frequent reports regarding large-scale disturbance caused by paramotors. Paramotors fall into a bit of a 'grey area' when it comes to aviation legislation as paramotoring is classed as a 'de-regulated' sport, meaning that licenses, registration or insurance to operate these machines are not required.

The Humber Estuary Relevant Authorities Group (HERAG) held a meeting with representatives of the local paramotor group to understand what they look for to enjoy their sport, and to advise on the potential breaches of wildlife law the paramotorists are causing. Promises were made by the paramotorists, however these were unfortunately short-lived.

In May 2021, following a year of reporting, a submission was made to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to create two 'Bird Sanctuaries' under ENR 5.6 legislation (one around Cleethorpes/Tetney Marsh, and the other over Spurn Point). These Bird Sanctuaries appear on flight maps and advise pilots not to enter the designated area below a certain altitude. Although there is no prosecution or punishment for a pilot breaching Bird Sanctuary airspace, it acts as a tool to advise pilots on birds in the area, and serves as a means to remove the excuse of not knowing about the sensitive nature of the area.

Although it has been over 18 months since the request was sent to the CAA, HNP has received assurances that the two ENR 5.6 Bird Sanctuaries will be appearing on flight maps by April 2023.



Figure 3: Low-flying paramotor over RSPB Tetney Marsh in 2020.

Work with the Civil Aviation Authority – Drones

The sudden emergence of hobby-drones onto the market in the last decade took a lot of policy and law makers by surprise. Although drones can be used to give both valuable scientific monitoring data, along with beautiful cinematic footage, they can also cause disturbance to wading birds who see the drone as an aerial predator, thereby using up precious energy.

When trying to engage with drone pilots about the need for Natural England Consent to fly a drone over a SSSI (as specified in Natural England's ORNEC list), or the disturbance they can cause to legally protected species, the response received was usually something along the lines of "I follow the Drone Code, if it's not in the Drone Code then its not applicable".

In 2021, HNP reached out to the CAA to ask if they could include an amendment to the Drone Code stating "If flying over a SSSI, pilots should first speak to Natural England (or their country's equivalent for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland)" to make it marry-up with wildlife legislation.

At first, the CAA said that they only dealt with air safety and would not include the amendment. However, as the CAA are a Public Body, they are classed as a Section 28G authority under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Once this point was made to them, the CAA agreed and amended both the Drone Code and supporting CAP 722 legislation in 2022 to reflect these points.

Drones continue to be an issue within the Humber Estuary European Marine Site, however much of this can be attributed to both lack of communication with the hobbyists, and perhaps lack of enforcement to act as a deterrent owing to the difficulty in recording incidents of drone disturbance first hand.



Figure 4: Drone in a near-collision over Saltend nr. Hull

Operation Seabird


Operation Seabird is a multi-agency partnership operation to educate the public about the importance of the resident wildlife and the impact that these disturbance events can cause. The aim is to ensure that members of the public, who are using the waters along the Yorkshire coast, do so in a responsible way. The pilot for Operation Seabird was launched in 2020 for the Flamborough area, and was rolled out nationally in June 2021.



Figure 5: Operation Seabird event at Spurn – June 2022.


At Flamborough, Operation Seabird was established to tackle disturbance around the seabird breeding season (Gannets, Puffins etc) from May – July. However, on the Humber Estuary, we have to consider the spring/summer breeding season for birds such as Bittern, Marsh Harrier and Little Tern, but also the autumn/winter migration season that sees the population of birds on the Humber swells to over 150,000. Days of Action for Operation Seabird occur throughout the year at recreation hotspots.

In addition to Days of Action, flyers and posters are displaying in car parks around the estuary to inform members of the public about Operation Seabird, along with double-sided business cards with information on disturbance on one side, and a QR code to the HMS reporting form on the other (see Figure 6 on the next page).



Operation Seabird

Please enjoy, respect and protect our estuary and coastline






Image: Steve Routledge



Image: Jackson Sage




Image: Steve Routledge

The Humber Estuary

The Humber Estuary is regarded as one of the most important estuaries in Europe for its wildlife and habitats.

These habitats and species are strongly protected under UK law. Damage or disturbance to site features could result in a fine of up to £20,000 and/or 6 months imprisonment.

On land...

- Keep to footpaths where possible when walking coastal trails to **avoid damaging sensitive habitats**
- Please do not ride motor vehicles on land you do not have permission to be on
- Quietly observe wildlife from a distance, for **no more than 15 minutes**

On the water...

- Never approach wildlife from head-on, **approach slowly** (no-wake speed) from the side
- Be aware of birds resting on the water or on sandbanks and **move away quietly** if they respond to your presence
- Quietly observe wildlife from a distance, for **no more than 15 minutes**

In the air...

- Follow the Civil Aviation Authority Air Navigation Order or Drone Code
- Be aware that noise can easily disturb wildlife so **keep a safe distance** from sensitive areas
- Keep away from wildlife whilst flying

Call 101...

If you witness **significant disturbance** to wildlife or habitats, please call the **Police on 101** quoting **Operation Seabird**.

In partnership with:










Figure 6: Public information for Operation Seabird and the HNP reporting form.

In the following pages, the report will detail what incidents of recreational disturbance across 29 different sites (up from 16 in 2021) have been reported to the HNP through the Recreational Disturbance Reporting form.

Alkborough Flats

Address: West of Prospect Lane, Alkborough, DN15 9JF

Parking: Small car park signposted from Alkborough

What3Words: ///snuck.bless.odds



Activity	2021	2022
Off-roading (motorbikes/quads)	2	0
Wildfowling	1	0
Dogs off lead	2	0
Vandalism	2	0
Site total	7	0

Site information:

Alkborough flats is a 'managed-realignment' site designed to help store water in a flood event. The extensive reedbeds, wet grassland and pools provides habitat for thousands of migratory birds over the winter months, and nesting grounds for Bittern, Marsh Harrier and other protected species during the spring/summer breeding season. The site is primarily managed by North Lincolnshire Council and Environment Agency.

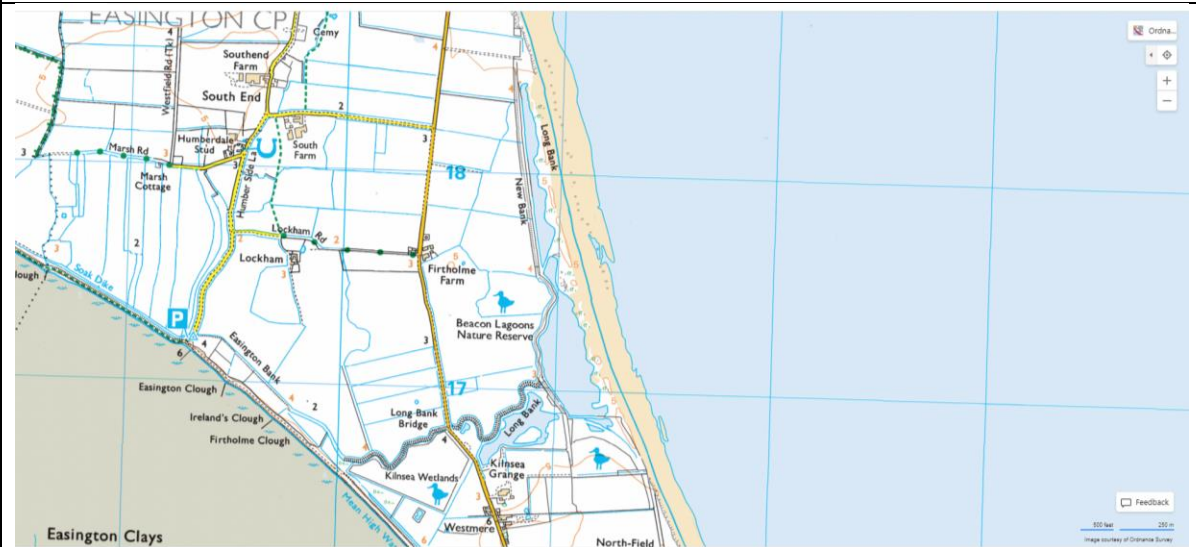
There were no reports officially logged for Alkborough in 2022, however there have been a few issues with wildfowling on site who may not have been following the strict rules in their Natural England consent.

Beacon Lagoons SSSI

Address: East of Kilnsea Wetlands, Easington Rd, Kilnsea, HU12 0UD

Parking: Car park at Kilnsea Wetlands

What3Words: ///eaten.breath.receiving



Activity	2021	2022
Off-roading	1	5
Walking	7	22
Dogs off lead	5	35
Dogs on lead	3	14
Bird watching	2	12
Photography	2	5
Low-flying aircraft (Helicopter)	0	1
Low-flying aircraft (Fixed-wing)	0	2
Horseriding	0	5
Cycling (electric)	0	1
Fossil-hunting	0	4
Angling	0	4
Golf	0	1
Bomb disposal	0	1
Site total	20	112

Site information:

Beacon Lagoons SSSI sits immediately west of the North Sea between Easington and Kilnsea in East Yorkshire. The sand dunes, scrub and lagoons provide year-round habitat for a range of species but is particularly vital for the Little Tern colony (Britain's second rarest seabird) that resides here between May and August.

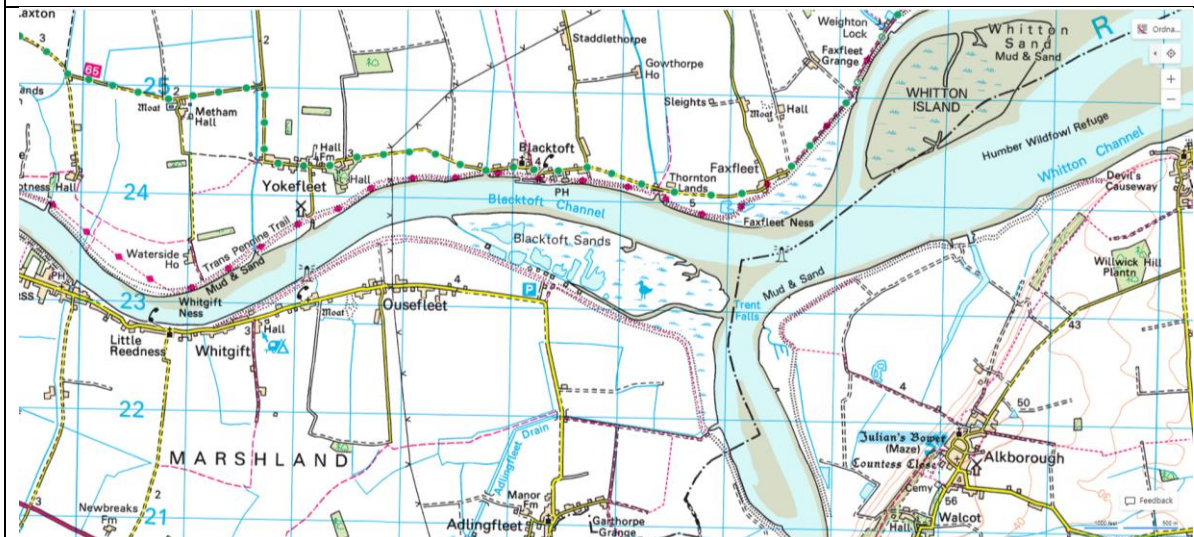
The site is primarily managed by Spurn Bird Observatory, with support from a range of other organisations. During the Little Tern breeding season, the sand dunes are roped off and patrolled by volunteer wardens up to 24hrs a day to protect the colony. The higher number of reports in 2022 is believed to be mostly due to improved reporting rather than increased disturbance.

Blacktoft Sands

Address: RSPB Blacktoft Sands, Goole, DN14 8HR

Parking: Car park at Blacktoft Sands

What3Words: ///gather.delays.talked



Activity	2021	2022
Low flying aircraft (Heli)	2	0
Paramotor	1	0
Site total	3	0

Site information:

RSPB Blacktoft Sands is located approximately 10km east of Goole and the confluence of the River Ouse and Trent. The extensive reedbeds, wet grassland and pools provides habitat for thousands of migratory and breeding birds year-round. As RSPB staff are on site during opening hours, recreational disturbance is not a regular occurrence.

Brough Airfield

Address: Baffin Way, Brough, HU15 1YX

Parking: Car park at Brough Haven, Saltgrounds Rd, Brough

What3Words: ///utter.extreme.contain



Activity	2021	2022
Dog off lead	3	4
Off-roading	1	0
Site total	4	4

Site information:

The Brough Airfield site is located immediately south of Brough in East Yorkshire. The site is currently being developed for housing by Horncastle Group, but also consists of areas reserved for environmental mitigation. The site consists mostly of wet grasslands, with reedbeds and pools and provides feeding, roosting and breeding grounds for a number of waders and wetland birds.

Dogs are walked on site daily by the nearby residents, however monitoring for disturbance is infrequent – meaning that the true number of disturbance incidents is likely much higher.

Cleethorpes Foreshore

Address: Central Promenade, Cleethorpes, DN35 8SG

Parking: Various parking along the seafront

What3Words: Various



Activity	2021	2022
Paramotor	5	1
Jet Ski	2	2
Dog off lead	1	2
Fireworks	1	0
Low flying aircraft (Helicopter)	1	0
Photographer	1	0
Off-roading	0	3
Paddleboarder	0	2
Site total	11	10

Site information:

Cleethorpes foreshore is host to a range of recreational activities, particularly during the summer months. However, the expansive mudflats, sand dunes and saltmarsh support tens of thousands of wading birds, particularly during the autumn and winter.

Jet skis can access the slipways at Cleethorpes through permits available the Resort Team at North East Lincolnshire Council. Vehicle registrations area taken as part of this permitting process, allowing the Resort Team to revoke access to any individuals that cause disturbance or break the rules listed in the permit.

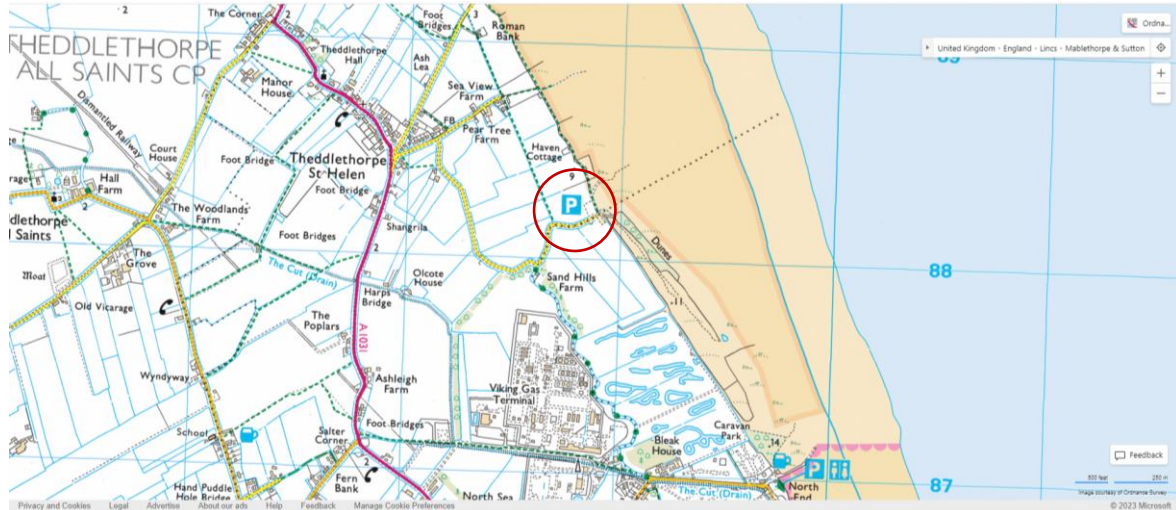
The area is a popular spot for paddleboarders and attracts people from across the region. HNP will try to engage more with paddleboarders in 2023.

Crook Bank, Theddlethorpe

Address: Crook Bank Car Park, Theddlethorpe, LN12 1NP

Parking: Crook Bank Car Park

What3Words: ///shots.variances.summer



Activity	2021	2022
Horseriding	0	1
Site total	0	1

Site information:

Crook Bank lies between Theddlethorpe and Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes National Nature Reserve (managed and wardened by Natural England) to the north, and Mablethorpe and Golden Sands Holiday Park to the south. With its location in such close proximity to Mablethorpe, the site area is popular with both residents and holiday makers.

Only one report of disturbance was reported at Crook Bank in 2022 (and zero reports received by HNP in previous years). At present, a small number of permits for riding on the beach are granted by Natural England.

East Halton Skitter

Address: Skitter Road, East Halton,
Parking: Parking at the end of Skitter Road
What3Words: ///waving.bleak.owner



Activity	2021	2022
Off-roading	6	1
Foxhunting	1	0
Dogs off lead	1	1
Site total	7	2

Site information:

East Halton Skitter is located just north of East Halton, and east of Goxhill in North Lincolnshire. Most of the land is owned by Able UK, with some of the agricultural land being leased by Able UK to local farmers. Despite providing habitat to both migratory and breeding species of birds and mammals such as otter, the site was once described as being a 'no-go area' by local residents due to the high-levels of antisocial behaviour taking place.

Thanks to intervention by Humberside Police, issues with off-roading have decreased from an almost daily occurrence in 2019 and summer of 2020, to just 2 instances throughout the whole of 2022. The decrease in antisocial behaviour also allowed for the creation of East Halton Rivercare, who have removed many tonnes of waste from the site between September 2020 and December 2022. However, due to the rural and isolated nature of the site, disturbance, vandalism and fly tipping does still occur from time-to-time.

Far Ings National Nature Reserve

Address: Far Ings Road, Barton upon Humber, DN18 5RG

Parking: Parking at Visitor Centre, Ness End Farm or Chowder Ness

What3Words: ///arranges.socket.jump



Activity	2021	2022
Angling	1	0
Fire/Arson	3	2
Anti-Social Behaviour	2	1
Drone	0	2
Dog off lead	0	2
Site total	6	7

Site information:

Far Ings National Nature Reserve is operated by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and is located immediately west of Barton upon Humber. Due to its proximity to the town, and because it is encircled by Public Rights of Way along the floodbank, recreational disturbance and antisocial behaviour are a regular issue. Unfortunately, as most antisocial behaviour takes place outside of opening hours, and because the site is made up of a warren of footpaths, identifying and reporting incidents is difficult.

The car park at Chowder Ness (far end of Far Ings Road) is a hotspot for antisocial behaviour most evenings after 8pm, particularly in the summer months.

Goxhill Haven

Address: End of Ferry Road, Goxhill, DN19 7NH

Parking: layby at the end of the road

What3Words: ///frost.pays.visit



Activity	2021	2022
Angling	0	1
Site total	0	1

Site information:

Goxhill Haven lies at the far end of Ferry Road in Goxhill. Due to its remote location, the site does not see a huge amount of visitors, with most recreational activities either being fishing or birdwatching.

Only one report was received about Goxhill Haven in 2022, with no reports received by HNP in previous years. Although most anglers and birdwatchers remain on the landward side of the floodbank, one angler was seen causing an 'Extreme' level of disturbance by fishing far out on the mudflats at low tide; with the report reading *"Becoming more frequent anglers turning up at low tide and walking out across mudflats to get to waters edge; in this instance dead low water on spring tide - key feeding area for Turnstone on Humber and no birds left after one angler had walked across all feeding area to reach water's edge"*.

Haven Bank Car Park, Saltfleet

Address: Just off main road near the marina, Saltfleet, LN11 7SB

Parking: 4x4 required to park at end of track

What3Words: ///nurtures.across.froze



Activity	2021	2022
Camping	0	4
Wildfowling	0	4
Off-roading	0	3
Kitesurfing	0	3
Paramotor	0	1
Beam Trawlers	0	1
Site total	0	16

Site information:

Haven Bank Car Park lies at the end of an unmaintained track (accessible by 4x4 or vehicles with a high ground clearance) and is owned by Lincolnshire County Council and leased to Saltfleet Parish Council.

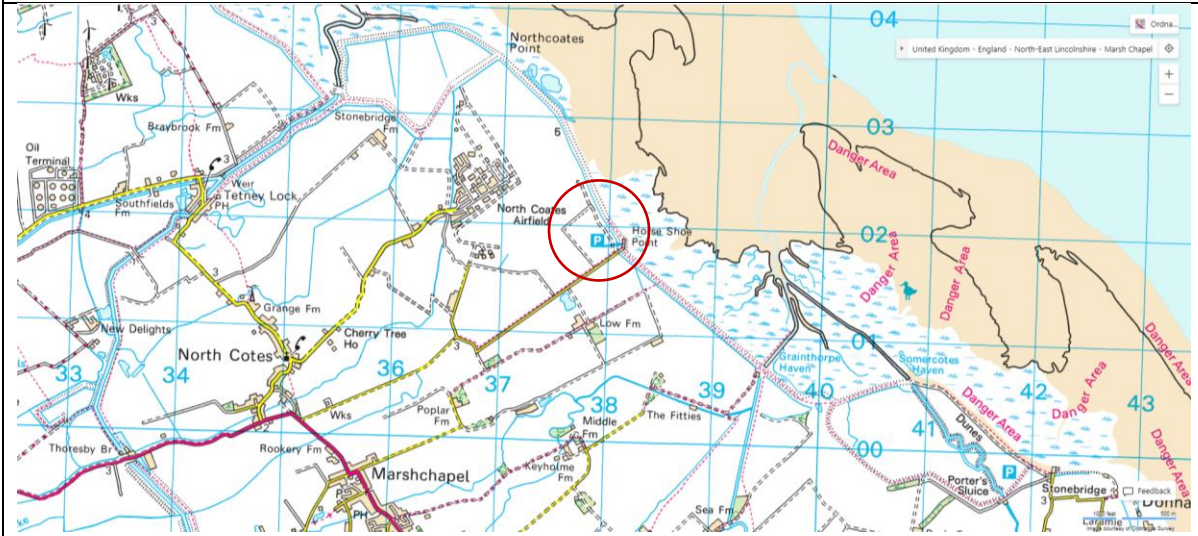
The site is popular with dog walkers, campers (though not technically permitted) and wildfowlers, which have consent to shoot from Natural England in a small area just north of the Haven. Off-roaders have become an issue and are believed to be spilling out from either the campsite or the off-roading centre at Howdens Pullover to the north. Kitesurfers are also thought to launch from the site.

Horseshoe Point

Address: Sheep Marsh Lane, North Coates, DN36 5UF

Parking: Parking at end of track

What3Words: ///rejoined.measures.hugs



Activity	2021	2022
Low flying aircraft (Fixed-wing)	0	1
Site total	0	1

Site information:

Horseshoe Point is located at the far end of Sheep Marsh Lane, North Coates, and although remote it seems to be popular with walkers, dog walkers and wildfowlers, the latter having consent to shoot from Natural England in a small area to the north of the car park. It also appears to be popular with nudists who walk north of the car park before cutting across the dunes (following What3Words codes graffitied onto various gateposts).

The area used to have an active cockle fishery, which was closed by the Eastern IFCA some years ago. The area now has a bylaw which prohibits cockle fishing.

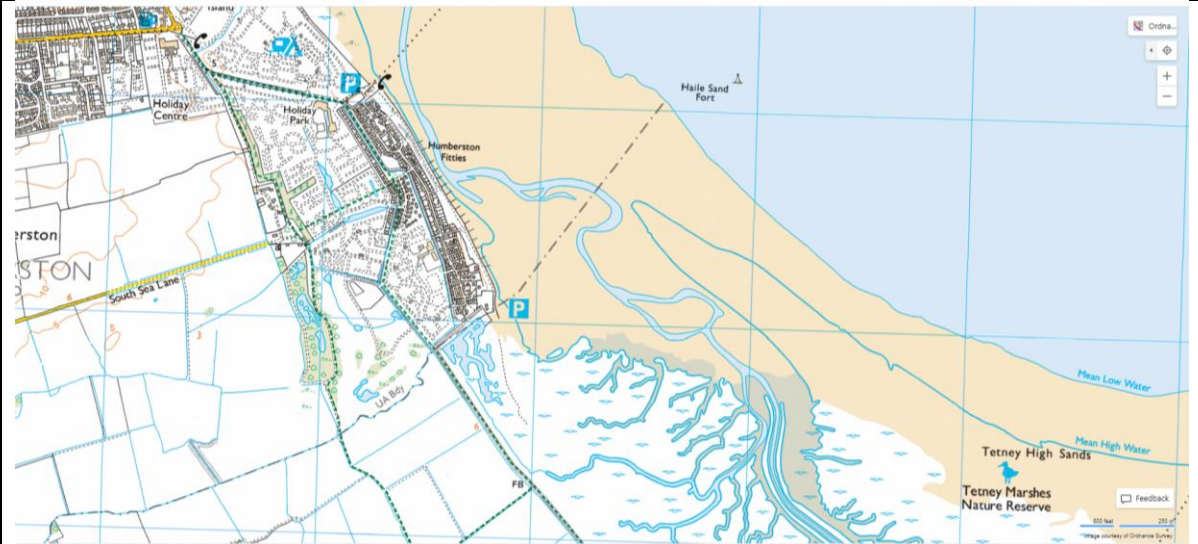
To the north of Horseshoe Point is North Coates Airfield, a semi-active aerodrome for small light aircraft.

Humberston Fitties/RSPB Tetney Marsh

Address: Humberston Fitties, DN36 4HE

Parking: Parking at Humberston Fitties

What3Words: ///paths.panic.living



Activity	2021	2022
Paramotoring	9	0
Off-roading	5	0
Jet Ski	1	0
Paddleboarders	2	0
Low-flying aircraft (heli)	1	0
Dog off lead	1	1
Fireworks	1	0
Camping	0	1
Fire	0	1
Site total	20	3

Site information:

Humberston Fitties is directly south of Cleethorpes. The local authority area boundary between North East Lincolnshire Council and East Lindsey District Council, along with the boundary between Humberside Police and Lincolnshire Police is drawn just before the car park on site. The location of the boundary makes reporting issues to 101 difficult as any incidents occurring (e.g. off-roading) on RSPB Tetney Marsh are technically within Lincolnshire Police's jurisdiction, however access can only be made to the site through Humberside Police's jurisdiction.

Issues with paramotors (also occurring at Cleethorpes) have been difficult in the past, however engagement with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) with both criminal investigations and the potential for the creation of listed 'bird sanctuaries' will hopefully result in these issues becoming less frequent.

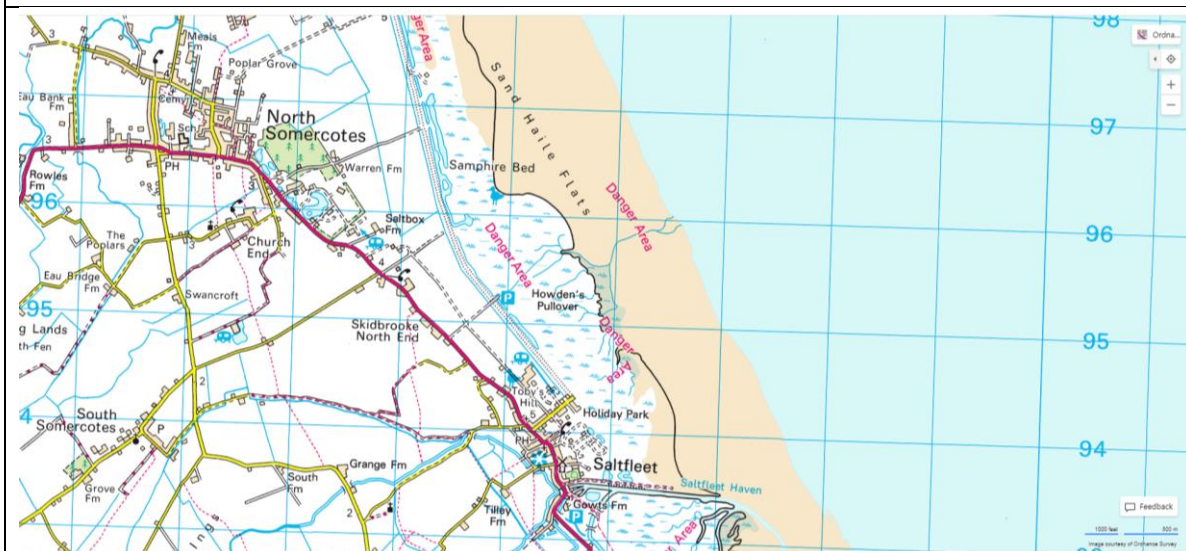
Anecdotal evidence suggests that most off-roading takes place on evenings where there is a full moon when the ground is illuminated for the motorcyclists.

Howdens Pullover, Saltfleet

Address: Howdens Pullover Car Park, Louth, LN11 7DF

Parking: As above

What3Words: ///earlobes.detail.hype



Activity	2021	2022
Off-roading	2	1
Site total	2	1

Site information:

Howdens Pullover is located midway between North Somercotes and Saltfleet in the local authority area of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire and forms part of Donna Nook Nature Reserve. The expansive saltmarsh and mudflats provide an important habitat for a number of birds and mammal species.

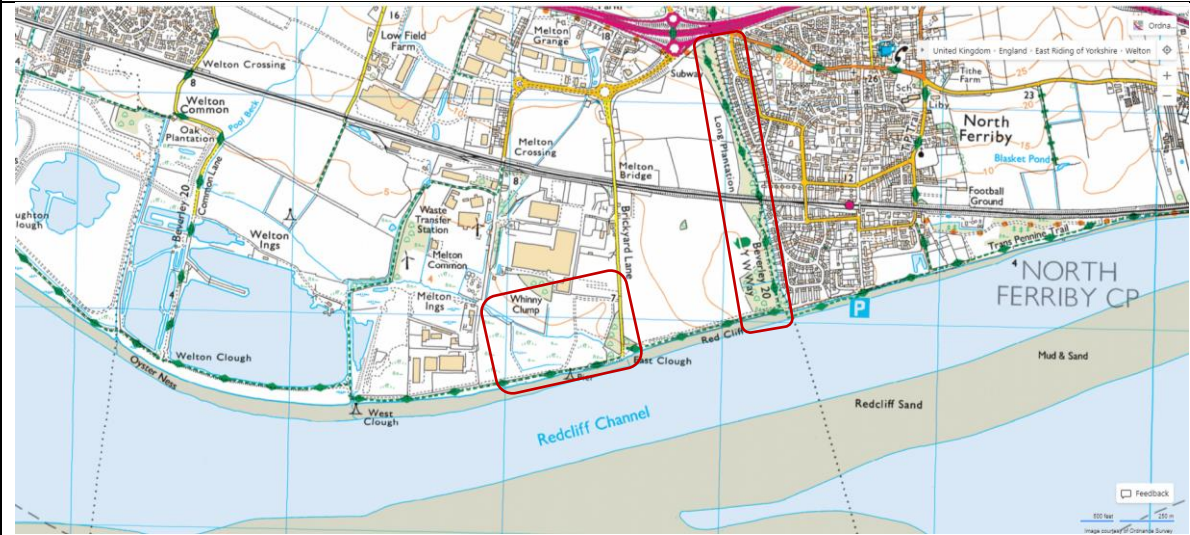
It should be noted that approximately 200m south-west of the car park is an off-roading site, and there have been anecdotal reports of motorbikes coming from this site to ride on the SSSI.

Long Plantation and Capper Pass, North Ferriby

Address: Brickyard Lane, North Ferriby, HU14 3HB

Parking: Parking at the end of Brickyard Lane, North Ferriby

What3Words: ///failed.dispose.progress



Activity	2021	2022
Off-roading	0	1
Site total	0	1

Site information:

At the end on Brickyard Lane, you will find Long Plantation Wood to the east, and the old Capper Pass site to the west. The foreshore in front of both of these sites forms part of the Transpennine Trail.

Although there are a number of regular dog walkers that use the area, there are also a number of anti-social behaviour issues such as off-roading and flytipping. Off-roading is certainly more common on site than suggested by the reports above. The perimeter of the Capper Pass site has had a large bund build around it which has helped to reduce some of the off-roading activity. Conversations a being held with the Council, Police and local landowners about how to further discourage anti-social activity.

Patrington Haven

Address: Patrington Haven, Hull, HU12 0QJ

Parking: End of Outstray Road, Patrington Haven

What3Words: ///arranges.socket.jump



Activity	2021	2022
Dog off lead	0	1
Site total	0	1

Site information:

The mouth of the Patrington Haven is a feeding and bathing area for waders, wildfowl and gulls. To the west is the newly created Skeffling managed realignment scheme. The area is very remote and as such does not have many reports of disturbance.

Paull Holme Strays

Address: off Thorngumbald Rd, Hull HU12 8AX

Parking: As above

What3Words: ///rugs.known.risky



Activity	2021	2022
Drones	2	0
Site total	2	0

Site information:

Paull Holme Strays is located immediately south of Paull in East Yorkshire. The site is managed by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, however it does not have staff based there full time.

Although no reports have been received by HNP for 2022 at this site, there has been drone footage uploaded to YouTube and evidence of the use of disposable BBQ's which have caused damage to the site.

Pyewipe, Grimsby

Address: Moody Lane, Grimsby DN31 2SY

Parking: Limited parking on Moody Lane

What3Words: ///spit.healers.itself



Activity	2021	2022
Off-roading	1	0
Dog off lead	0	1
Fire	0	1
Site total	1	2

Site information:

Pyewipe mudflats are located immediately west of Grimsby Docks in North East Lincolnshire. The expansive mudflats provide vital feeding grounds for a range of wetland birds, particularly over the autumn and winter months.

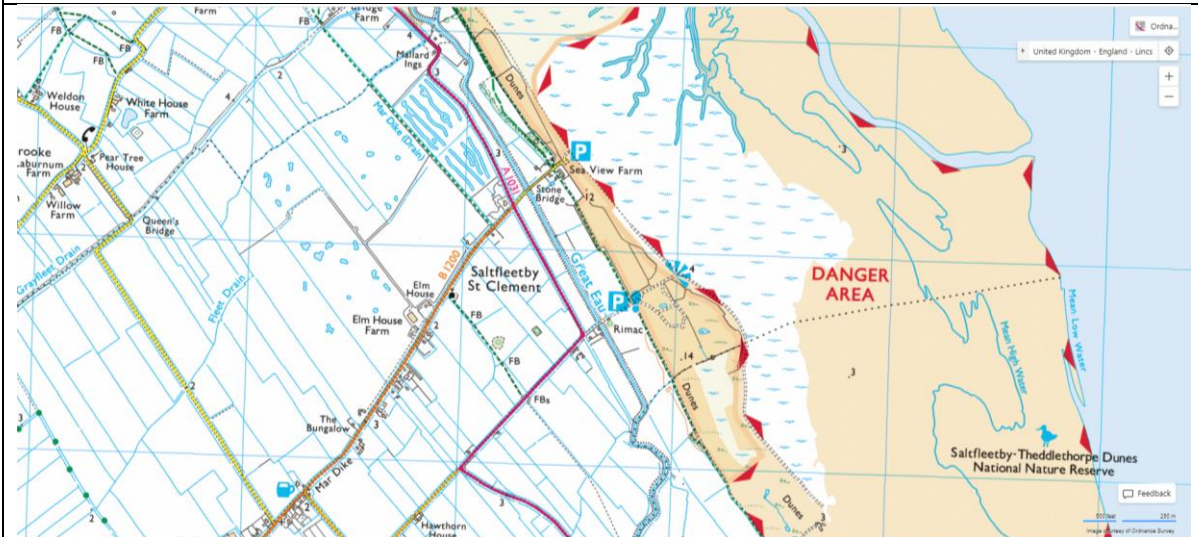
The area is frequented by dog walkers and recreational fishermen, the latter of which drive onto the floodbanks and fish from the boot of their cars. Unfortunately, the area also has issues with antisocial behaviour such as fly-tipping, dog fouling and off-roading. Although only one incident of off-roading was reporting in 2022, it is believed to occur fairly frequently.

Rimac

Address: Rimac Nature Reserve, Saltfleetby, Louth LN11 7TR

Parking: As above

What3Words: ///power.masses.showcase



Activity	2021	2022
Low flying aircraft (fixed-wing)	0	1
Dog off lead	0	2
Nudists	0	1
Paramotor	0	1
Potential egg-collecting	0	1
Site total	0	6

Site information:

Rimac car park lies at the end of a track just off the A1031, south of Saltfleetby, and sits within the Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes National Nature Reserve Complex, which is managed and wardened by Natural England.

There were no reports of disturbance in 2021, but 6 in 2022. The area is popular with both locals and wildlife watchers, who provide a wealth of information on the 'goings-on' at the site as they are often on site most days.

RSPB Tetney Marshes

Address: RSPB Tetney Marshes, Humberston Fitties, North East Lincolnshire

Parking: Parking at the end of 1st Main Road, Humberston Fitties

What3Words: ///string.storm.flap



Activity	2021	2022
Bait digging	0	1
Dog off lead	0	1
Fire	0	1
Site total	0	3

Site information:

RSPB Tetney Marsh is located just south of Humberston Fitties. Although the site is within the East Lindsey and therefore comes under Lincolnshire Police, the main access to the site is through Humberston Fitties and therefore previous issues have been dealt with by Humberside Police. There are also issues when trying to contact the Police from this site as it frequently fluctuates between Humberside and Lincolnshire Police. It should also be noted that the site is the boundary for Natural England's Humber Team to the north, and the East Midlands Team to the south.

The site is managed by RSPB, but is not actively staffed with wardens.

Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR

Address: Brickyard Lane, Theddlethorpe, LN12 1NR

Parking: As above

What3Words: ///labels.kingpin.charts



Activity	2021	2022
Kitesurfing	0	3
Offroading	0	2
Low flying aircraft (military)	0	1
Low flying aircraft (Helicopter)		1
Low flying aircraft (Fixed-wing)		1
Site total	0	7

Site information:

The Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes National Nature Reserve Complex (which is managed and wardened by Natural England) has numerous car parks, including the end of Brickyard Lane, Rimac and Crook Bank.

There were no reports of disturbance in 2021, but 7 in 2022. The area is popular with both locals and wildlife watchers, who provide a wealth of information on the 'goings-on' at the site as they are often on site most days.

South Ferriby/Reads Island

Address: A1077, South Ferriby, DN15 9LY

Parking: Various parking along Sluice Road, A1077

What3Words: Various



Activity	2021	2022
Low flying aircraft	1	0
Drones	2	1
Site total	3	1

Site information:

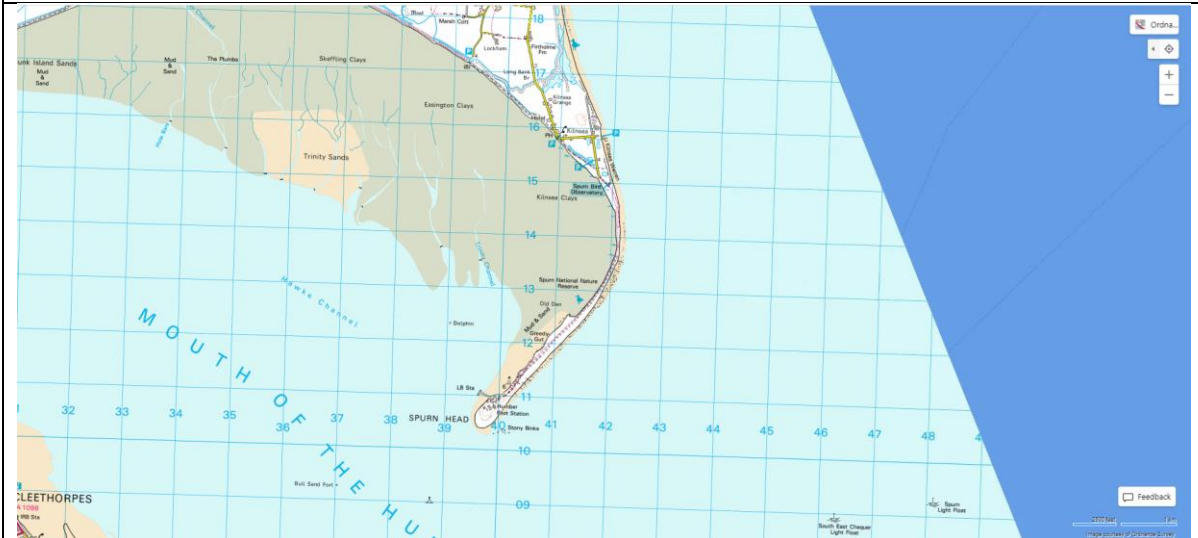
Vast mudflats expand out into the estuary from South Ferriby and encompass Reads Island. The mudflats and the island itself provide a vital habitat for tens of thousands of wading birds and geese. Generally, due to the mudflats being difficult to get to, the area does not experience much disturbance from terrestrial activities.

Spurn National Nature Reserve

Address: Spurn Discovery Centre, Kilnsea, HU12 0UH

Parking: Parking available at Visitor Centre

What3Words: ///laptop.factoring.crazy



Activity	2021	2022
Off-roading	1	0
Drones	1	0
Walking	2	0
Bait digging	1	1
Fishing	1	0
Dog on lead	1	0
Metal Detecting	0	1
Low flying aircraft (helicopter)	0	1
Low flying aircraft (Fixed-wing)	0	1
Site total	7	4

Site information:

Spurn National Nature Reserve is located on the far north-eastern edge of the Humber Estuary and is owned and operated by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. As the site has several staff and volunteers based there throughout the week, reports of disturbance are relatively low.

As with many sites across the Humber Estuary (especially around Cleethorpes), drone flights are under-reported when compared to the number of videos that appear on YouTube. Spurn National Nature Reserve does have some signage requesting that drone flights do not take place.

A bylaw is in place at Spurn to prevent bait digging in certain areas where the activity can damage sea grass beds. Unfortunately bait digging does still occur periodically in these locations, particularly before the European Open Beach Competition (EOBC) which takes place over a weekend in February/March each year.

St Andrews Quay, Hull

Address: St Andrews Quay Retail Park, Clive Sullivan Way, Hull HU3 4SA

Parking: As above

What3Words: ///traded.arrive.sank



Activity	2021	2022
Fire	0	2
Site total	0	2

Site information:

St Andrews Quay is home to St Andrews Retail Park. Immediately to the west behind Makro is a species-rich brown-field site. This site has had issues with off-roading and fly-tipping in the past. During the summer of 2022, two large fires occurred on the brown-field site during a heatwave; though it is supposedly believed to have been caused by the strong sun magnifying through broken glass on the site (though other reports state seeing young boys on site shortly before the fire broke out).

Although the site does not form part of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site, its close proximity means large scale disturbance can still cause a negative impact.

Stone Creek

Address: Stone Creek, Hull, HU12 0AP

Parking: Parking on side of the road

What3Words: ///reseller.claps.clan



Activity	2021	2022
Drone	0	1
Site total	0	1

Site information:

Stone Creek lies approximately 6 miles south of Keyingham, East Yorkshire and is a popular spot for both walkers and wildlife watchers. Very little disturbance has been reported on this site, with only one report of drone activity in 2022.

Sunk Island

Address: Old Hall Road, Sunk Island, HU12 0EE

Parking: Some offroad parking on Old Hall Road

What3Words: ///snack.snowy.foster



Activity	2021	2022
Fire	0	1
Site total	0	1

Site information:

Sunk Island lies approximately 5 miles east of Stone Creek, East Yorkshire. The area is very remote although it is a popular sea fishing spot during the autumn/winter months. Very little disturbance has been reported on this site, with only one report of a fire in 2022.

Water's Edge Country Park, Barton upon Humber

Address: Water's Edge Visitor Centre, Maltkiln Road, Barton upon Humber, DN18 5JR

Parking: Parking available at Visitor Centre

What3Words: ///wire.shocked.eggplants



Activity	2021	2022
Drones	1	0
Dog off lead	0	1
Site total	1	1

Site information:

Water's Edge Country Park is situated in the northern part of Barton upon Humber and is owned and operated by North Lincolnshire Council. The site forms part of a cluster of historic claypits that have been repurposed for recreational use.

Although there were no records of disturbance caused by drones was reported in 2022, several videos showing drone flights around the site have appeared on YouTube.

Other incidents that were reported anecdotally include off-roading on floodbanks and illegal fishing/poaching from the claypits.

Welwick Saltmarsh

Address: Spurn Discovery Centre, Kilnsea, HU12 0UH

Parking: Parking available at southern end of Humber Side Lane

What3Words: ///depth.scorching.belief



Activity	2021	2022
Off-roading	1	0
Wildfowling	1	1
Site total	2	1

Site information:

Welwick Saltmarsh is located directly south of Welwick in East Yorkshire and is operated by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, although no staff are based at the site. The site will be transformed over the coming years as part of the Welwick Managed Realignment Scheme that is being developed by the Environment Agency.

Wildfowling at Welwick Saltmarsh was permitted by Natural England, however aspects of this might change with the Welwick Managed Realignment Scheme.

Contact information:

If you have any queries regarding the Humber Estuary Management Scheme, please contact:

Jackson Sage
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Maltkiln Road,
Barton upon Humber
DN18 5JR
Email: jackson.sage@humbernature.co.uk