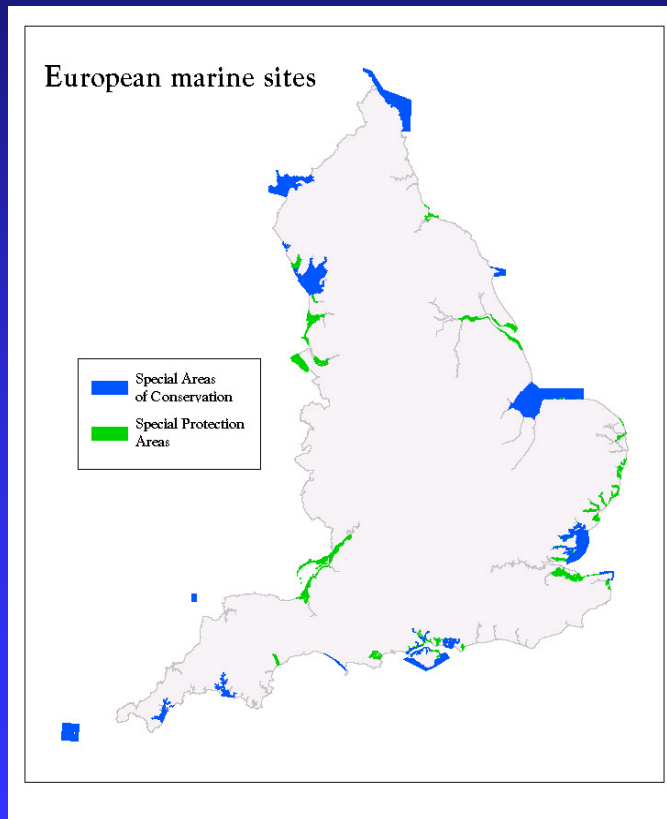


The Wash & North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site UK

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The Wash & North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site



Why is The Wash & North Norfolk Coast important?

- The Wash is the largest embayment in Britain and the second largest expanse of mud and sandflats
- The North Norfolk coast is the best British example of a barrier beach system
- The whole area is important for its marine communities, rich and varied wildlife and plants. It is the only site in Britain designated for reefs built out of the sediment by the riss worm *Sabellaria spinulosa*
- The North Norfolk coast is among the ten most important wetland sites in Britain for numbers of waterfowl
- The North Norfolk coast is the most important site in Britain for numbers of wildfowl
- The Wash has the largest colony of common seals in Britain

The Wash & North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site



UK Habitats Regulations 1994 made EU Directives UK Law

- By 1994 The Wash and North Norfolk Coast carried a variety of national UK conservation designations
- The area also had 3 EU SPA designations and was recognised under the Ramsar Convention as an important wetland site for waterfowl
- Later it was designated a cSAC and a European Marine Site as part of the elite Natura 2000 Series and given full SAC status in Spring 2005
- These are the most important areas for wildlife in the EU and this designation helps protect their special biodiversity
- It puts new and stronger responsibility on authorities and agencies to work closely together to safeguard the nature conservation interests, whilst encouraging sustainable use and meeting the needs of their many users

Development & Implementation of the Management Scheme

- This would not work without wide stakeholder engagement to help understand the area and relevant issues and to encourage partnership working to meet appropriate objectives
- So, after 6 years of working closely with stakeholders and the publication of Conservation Objectives by English Nature (now NE), The Wash and North Norfolk Coast Management Scheme was launched in 2002, but this was only the beginning
- It launched the implementation of agreed management measures and annual reporting on process and progress against an Action Plan
- This continues through a focussed and joined up working relationship with RAs, local advisory groups, user groups and other stakeholders and is co-ordinated by a Project Manager working to a Communication Strategy

Activities covered by the Management Scheme

- Aircraft – military, civilian, recreational, etc.
- Coastal Land Use and Development. Coastal Flood Protection
- Common Rights
- Docks, Ports, Marinas – pollution and waste. Deposits at Sea – dredgings
- Fishing and Mariculture
- Land Drainage
- Longshore Economy, Traditional Activities, Saltmarsh Management
- Nature Conservation Management
- Pollution
- Energy Industries – including renewables
- Monitoring Science and Education
- Tourism and Recreation
- Waste Disposal on land. Water Resources and Water Management

Analysis of Activities & Operations Management Options & Actions

Activity	Impact/ Options	Man: Objective	Proposed Actions	By Whom	Time scale
e.g. Nature Reserve Management	F1-F6 scale				
One of the issues is: Field trips to sites involving large groups & some sample collection	We know this can have an effect so surveillance is needed & possible limitation (=F3)	Ensure sample taking does not damage or destroy the interest features of the EMS	Increase awareness of impacts, promote good practice, record samples taken, monitor activity	Natural England lead plus NGOs & other nominated bodies	On-going & subject to annual review

Conservation Objectives

Habitat type	Attributes	Conservation objectives	Sub-features/biotopes
Example: Large shallow inlet and bay	Extent	No change in extent of whole feature: 63,135ha (Wash SSSI citation)	Subtidal and boulder communities, Subtidal mixed sediment communities, and the following which are interest features in their own right: Reef, Subtidal sandbanks, Intertidal mudflats and sandflats, Samphire and other annuals, Atlantic saltmeadows, Mediterranean saltmarsh scrub, Lagoons.
	Diversity of component habitats	Maintain variety of habitats identified for the site, subject to natural change	
	Distribution / spatial pattern of habitats	Maintain the pattern of distribution of predominant habitats throughout the feature (as identified in Foster-Smith & Sotheran, 1999; Bailey, Coad & Bamber, 2005)	Subtidal and boulder communities: Rich faunal turf dominated by tall and short hydroids (MCR.ByH.Flu), Encrusting bryozoans and coralline algae mixed with short tufted bryozoans (ECR.EFaPomByC), sparse to moderately rich bryozoan/hyroid turf epifauna on silty gravel sand with Sabellaria (MCR.ByH). Subtidal mixed sediment communities: Subtidal mussel beds (IMX.MytX).
	Water quality	National and International standards	

Condition Monitoring & Condition Assessment

- In the UK, the statutory nature conservation agency Natural England (NE) does this
- They use existing monitoring schemes such as Wetland Bird Surveys
- And a variety of other relevant authorities with conservation responsibilities or expertise, such as the Environment Agency and Sea Fisheries' Committees
- NE is also responsible for doing a major Condition Assessment every 6 years for the management scheme, UK government and the EU

Condition Assessment 2008

- Key areas assessed recently include saltmarsh, intertidal and sub tidal areas, reefs , sandbanks, species of birds, seals, plants and other key wildlife
- Success stories include shellfisheries, breeding seals and wintering birds
- Areas for concern are the decline of beach breeding birds, lack of some data, and numbers of seals at moult
- This information is being used to update management measures, with the aim of putting things right and meeting conservation objectives in the future

Compliance Monitoring Action Plan

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE & Organisation involved Italics = lead	MANAGEMENT ACTION - PRIORITY !!! = High !! = Medium ! = Low - PROGRESS Red Stalled/ Amber Problem/ Green On track		
	TIME SCALE (Ongoing/Medium/Short term)		
	Ongoing 2006 – 2012	Medium term 2006 – 2008	Short term 2006 - 2007
1. Agriculture – saltmarsh management			
1.1 Seek to ensure current grazing regimes are effective for wildlife <i>NE</i> DEFRA RSPB LWT CRH MoD	Surveillance / monitoring so as to understand the impacts of the activity on the site PRIORITY – !! PROGRESS – G G		
1.2 Seek to ensure appropriate grazing regimes are maintained in suitable locations within EMS <i>NE</i> DEFRA RSPB LWT CRH MoD	<i>NE</i> to continue to use management agreements and encourage stewardship agreements to maintain appropriate grazing levels and reduce incidence of poaching PRIORITY – !! PROGRESS - G G	Continue to monitor fenced control areas for comparison purposes PRIORITY – !!! PROGRESS – new08	Set up fenced control areas for comparison purposes PRIORITY – !!! PROGRESS - G G
2. Aircraft			
2.1 Assess military activities including military aircraft usage, bombing and gunning, noise, weapons clearance and targetry <i>MoD (OC Holbeach OC Wainfleet)</i> DTE RAF Strike Command DASC Advisory Groups	<i>MoD</i> (Defence Estates), in consultation with <i>NE</i> , to undertake 5 yearly revision of the Conservation Management Plans for Wainfleet and Holbeach ranges. Review will reflect matters arising from EMS management scheme PRIORITY – !! PROGRESS - G G	New and enhanced activities to be subject to proper consultation in accordance with the Habitats Regulations and appropriate assessment if likely significant effect on interest features PRIORITY – !!! PROGRESS – new08	

etc, and including summary tables..

Action Plan Summary

Summary of Action Plan Progress	Actions stalled	Actions with a problem	Actions on track but with issues	Actions on track	Total Number of Actions
as at 31 st December 2008	Red	Amber	Green & Amber	Green	
	2 1.6%	2 1.6%	17 13.5%	105 83.3%	126 100%



ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE WASH & NORTH NORFOLK COAST EUROPEAN MARINE SITE MANAGEMENT SCHEME

**Produced by P D Rushmer
PROJECT MANAGER**

DECEMBER 200?

Some Keys to Success

- Set pragmatic, clear and agreed objectives
- Develop a framework process for achieving them
- Encourage wide and involved stakeholder engagement
- Understand activities and their impact on features
- Respect their importance to the local economy and culture
- Value experience of stakeholders, their place in decision making and achieving results
- Respect individual weakness and collective strength
- Encourage accountability and impetus through an Action Plan
- Operate a communication strategy
- Work in partnership
- Carry out regular reviews of progress and process
- Update action plans and management measures regularly
- Stay committed; it will take time, effort and resources to get results

Progress made since the Management Scheme launch 2002-08

Cutting edge implementation and adaptive co-management involving:

- Ongoing programme of scientific study and monitoring
- Interactive stakeholder, advisory and user group engagement
- Active, networking scientific and specialist groups
- Sustainable shellfisheries policies agreed
- Co-operative site management
- Efficiency review with sister projects
- Common standards applied
- 7 years reporting on progress and 4 years Incident Recording data
- Thorough conservation objectives review
- Major condition assessment for all features
- National and International recognition

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