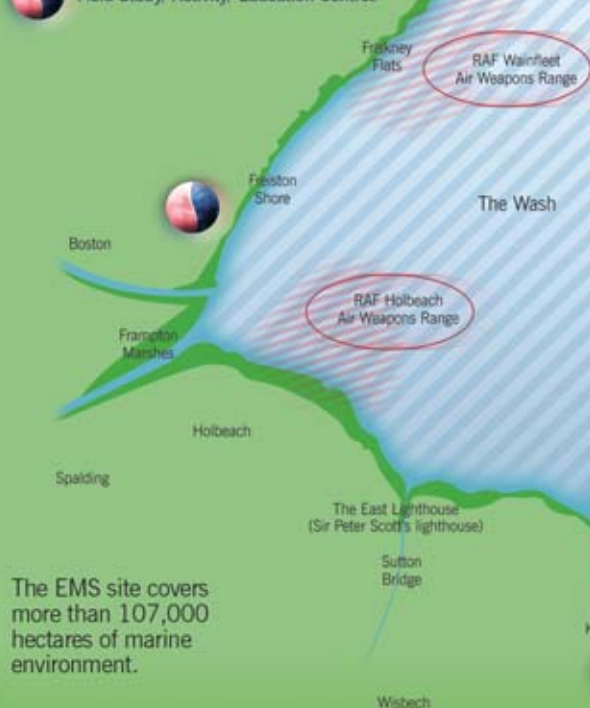


The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site (EMS)

A unique setting for a diverse range of uses and characteristics:

Sea defence, land drainage and agriculture, RAF weapons training, conservation, recreation, tourism, common rights and traditional activities like wildfowling, commercial fisheries for shrimp, cockles, mussels, crab and lobster, and commercial shipping.

Field Study/ Activity/ Education Centres



The EMS site covers more than 107,000 hectares of marine environment.

THE WASH - largest marine embayment in UK - 2nd largest intertidal sands and mudflats

THE NORTH NORFOLK COAST - only UK example of classic barrier beach system; saltmarsh and creeks behind sand and shingle dunes and bars

The Wash and North Norfolk Coast are also rich and varied wildlife areas:

- they support nationally and internationally important wild plants and animals
- are famous for the myriad of migratory, breeding and non-breeding waders, wildfowl and wetland birds that visit throughout the year.
- the seas support marine communities and a breeding colony of common seals, all of national and European importance.



The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site

Management Scheme Progress 2002 - 2005

Management Scheme launched January 2002
Action plan implementation started Spring 2002
Two consecutive Memoranda Of Agreement in place

Project website launched
Communication Strategy developed
Annual reporting on progress

Three years of action plan progress collated including:

- Good practice guide produced by local advisory groups
- Incident recording process and follow up action developed by users and managers
- Co-operation and co-ordination with Norfolk Coast AONB and Wash Estuary Strategy
- Communication enhanced with wide stakeholder network
- Shellfish management plan, fishing policy and new fishery development
- RAF Air Weapons Ranges management plans in place
- Water quality and discharge consent monitoring
- Liaison with civilian flyers and Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)
- Oilspill, counter pollution and response contingency plans reviewed
- General review of consents
- Scientific study and monitoring
- Waterbird study group established
- Co-ordinated site management
- Voluntary management initiatives

Important work underway:

- Review of conservation objectives
- Condition assessment
- Management Scheme and Action Plan Review



Fourth Annual Report Summary

The Wash and The North Norfolk Coast carry National and International conservation designations.

INTERNATIONAL:

Under the EU Birds Directive-1979 and the EU Habitats Directive 1992

- 3 SPAs • cSAC 1996 - full SAC Status Spring 2005
- Natura 2000 and European Marine Site (EMS) 1996

These are the most important areas for marine wildlife in the EU and this designation helps protect the biodiversity that makes them so special.

The Directives aim to: maintain biodiversity through the conservation of important, rare or threatened habitats and species in the EU and ensure that a contribution is made to the sustainable development of sites associated with them.

The Wash is also a Ramsar Site recognised in the 1970's as important for wetland birds.

NATIONAL:

- 3 SSSIs and 6 NNRs

The UK Habitats Regulations 1994 brought the EU Directives into UK law

It put new and stronger responsibilities on authorities and agencies to work closely together to safeguard the nature conservation interests of such sites, whilst encouraging sustainable use and meeting the needs of their many users, both now and in the future

The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site Management Scheme

was developed following extensive consultation with and between the relevant authorities, local communities, advisory groups, organisations and individuals, through a management group.

It was launched in King's Lynn in 2002 by Elliot Morley MP.



Conservation Designations

Want to know more or get involved?.....

Contact

The Wash and North Norfolk Coast EMS Management Scheme
via the Project Manager
6 North Lynn Business Village
Bergen Way
King's Lynn
Norfolk
PE30 2JG

Tel: 01553 772020 Email: mail@esfjc.co.uk
www.esfjc.co.uk/ems.htm

A pdf version of this summary is on our website for those who require larger print.

Photographs generously supplied by Godfrey Sayers, ESFJC, Neil Smith, EN/WESG Marine Slide Pack, Sam Ely & Peter Rushmer, cartoon artwork by Tony Hall



Relevant Authorities for The Wash & North Norfolk Coast EMS include:-

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Boston Borough Council | Lincolnshire County Council |
| East Lindsey District Council | Ministry of Defence |
| Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee | Norfolk County Council |
| English Nature | North Norfolk District Council |
| Environment Agency | Port of Boston |
| Fenland District Council (covering Nene Ports) | Port of Fosdyke |
| Internal Drainage Boards | South Holland District Council |
| Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council | Wells Harbour Commissioners |
| Kings Lynn Conservancy Board | |

The Management Group:-

includes the above, plus The Crown Estate, Defra, the Chairs of 3 advisory groups (comprised of local people and interest groups who work closely with the Management Group) a representative of the Common Right Holders and the Norfolk Coast Partnership and Wash Estuary Strategy project officers.



Who is involved ?

Eastern Tides flow again...

...Eastern Tides was the Newsletter for the SAC prior to production of the EMS Management Scheme. The last edition was published in 1999. It is revived here with the following brief articles.

INCIDENT RECORDING

In 2003, a pilot Incident Recording Process (IRP) was set up with Conservation Site Managers.

The aim: to gain a snapshot of any recreational activity causing damage or disturbance to site features.
 The objective: effective management measures and allocation of resources.

This pilot scheme covered mainly the North Norfolk Coast area. The IRP now includes The Wash coast giving a more comprehensive picture. It now produces coordinated results from a process developed with and run by Site Managers and other volunteers. It has already proved a useful management tool benefitting the EMS.

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE

The Wash and North Norfolk Coast are natural treasures shaped by the interaction between people and their environment. Both sea and land also provide livelihoods for many people. Every year thousands of visitors and local people take part in traditional activities, hobbies and recreational pursuits along the coast.

Voluntary guidelines in the form of a Good Practice Guide have been developed with local advisory groups, representing a range of pursuits.

The aim: To raise awareness and promote responsible use of the coastline.
 The objective: • To encourage users to avoid damaging this special environment and harming its wildlife.
 • Be considerate of other people's enjoyment.
 • Stay safe by following simple guidelines.



Eastern Tides

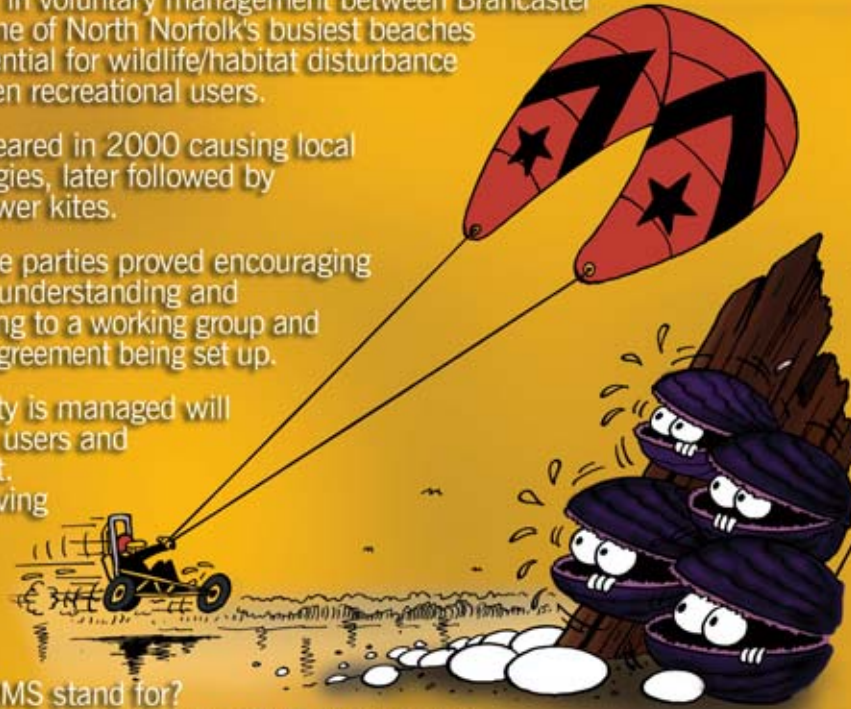
THE NORTH NORFOLK KITERS' WORKING GROUP..

... is an experiment in voluntary management between Brancaster and Titchwell on one of North Norfolk's busiest beaches where there is potential for wildlife/habitat disturbance and conflict between recreational users.

A new activity appeared in 2000 causing local concern - Kite Buggies, later followed by kite surfers and power kites.

Liaison between the parties proved encouraging and demonstrated understanding and co-operation, leading to a working group and voluntary interim agreement being set up.

The way this activity is managed will have an impact on users and on the environment. The results are proving encouraging.



EMS QUIZ

- 1) What does EMS stand for?
- 2) Approximately how large is the EMS in hectares?
- 3) When was the management scheme launched, and by whom?
- 4) What features in the logo for the EMS?
- 5) What is the name given to the most important areas for marine wildlife in the EU?
- 6) Give three examples of the Management Scheme progress.

Send your answers to the Project Manager (address on back page). The prize - at the discretion of the Management Group - a boat trip for two (subject to meeting mandatory health and safety requirements) courtesy of Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee. Winning entries will be drawn in July and December 2006/7.

Eastern Tides

THE WASH & NORTH NORFOLK COAST EUROPEAN MARINE SITE MANAGEMENT SCHEME

