

THE WASH & NORTH NORFOLK COAST EUROPEAN MARINE SITE MANAGEMENT SCHEME



Natura 2000 & European Marine Site

EMS Project Briefing August 2011

Executive Summary:

Legal Obligation:

Relevant Authorities (RA) have a legal obligation to conserve designated marine habitats and wildlife under EU/UK Law in The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site (EMS) area.

The EMS Management Scheme:

The EMS Management Scheme sets out ways of meeting these obligations in partnership with other RAs and a wide stakeholder network. It identifies the habitats and wildlife, sets conservation objectives, analyses likely impacts, sets out management measures to mitigate impact and allocates actions to respective partners.

EMS Project:

The EMS Project provides a secretariat for the partnership and a vehicle for initiatives that do not neatly fall to one RA. It co-ordinates the stakeholder network and complementary implementation of the Action Plan and reviews and reports on progress to the partnership.

It Is Cheap and Effective:

The cost of the EMS Project, iro £46k, is shared between approximately 20 RA partners, some contributing more than others, so it is cheaper for individual RAs to keep track of progress and demonstrate they are discharging their legal obligations in a complementary and effective way.

The Management Scheme is a Success:

Natural England reports on the condition of all features every 6 yrs. The most recent (2010) shows that approximately 75% are in the required favourable condition compared with 50% in 2008. This is reported to UK government and the EU. Also, 87% of actions and new initiatives were on track in 2010.

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1. Objectives of EMS Management Scheme:

1.1 Safeguarding marine wildlife and habitats designated under EU and UK law, in The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site (EMS), comprising one Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and three Special Protection Areas (SPA).

1.2 Encouraging sustainable use.

2. Aim:

Meeting statutory obligations on Relevant Authorities to achieve favourable condition, or improving condition status, of designated features.

3. Approach:

Authorities, agencies, local organisations, local people and other projects working in a complementary way and without duplication through the EMS Management Scheme, a Management Board and Project Team.

4. Framework for doing so:

(N.B. all documents referred to below can be found detail on EMS website www.washandnorthnorfolkcoastems.co.uk)

4.1 NE Conservation Objectives (CO):

Qualitative and quantitative targets for all features.

4.2 Assessment of Activities:

Review of ongoing activities, their impacts on features and management measures to mitigate.

4.3 EMS Management Scheme Action Plan:

- listing management measures to meet COs
- time based actions to implement management measures
- those accountable for pursuing them
- annual progress summaries
- resultant changes made to maintain focus

4.4 Monitoring:

Ongoing and comprehensive programme of scientific study and research:

- assessing viability of management measures and initiatives
- assessing effects of activities and initiatives
- assessing trends including natural change
- filling gaps in knowledge
- reporting status of features

4.5 Condition Assessment:

Data gathering, analysis and assessment using monitoring/survey data, with a detailed condition status report every 6 years leading to:

4.6 Review of:

- Conservation Objectives
- Management measures
- Management actions
- Improved effectiveness at meeting aim and objectives

5. Outcomes of First Condition Assessment in 2008 as updated in 2010:

5.1 Key areas assessed throughout the EMS:

- saltmarsh, intertidal and subtidal areas, including shellfish, reefs and sandbanks
- species of breeding, non-breeding and migratory water birds and their populations
- seals
- plants and other key wildlife populations

5.2 2008 Results for the 3 SPAs and the SAC that comprise The EMS:

- the assessment showed the general picture was positive
- 50% of features were in favourable condition, but some were not assessed
- success stories were populations of wintering birds, breeding seals and work done with fisheries
- areas of concern included the lack of data for some features, the decline of beach breeding birds and Wash seal numbers at moult

5.3 In 2010 features that were 'not assessed' in the 2008 condition assessment were reviewed and some others revised:

- this time 75% were found to be in favourable condition
- the following table shows combined 2008 and 2010 assessments
- * indicates amended condition assessments
- all other assessments remain unchanged from 2008
- as at December 2010, 87% of Action Plan actions and new monitoring initiatives were on track

5.4 The next full condition assessment report will be completed at the end of the six-year reporting cycle in 2014. Each condition report is submitted to UK government and the EU. Ongoing assessment is made during the period between reports.

5.5 The following Table is a Condition Status Summary as @ December 2010:

The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site

Gibraltar Point SPA	Condition Status
Breeding Annex 1 birds	Favourable
Regularly occurring migratory birds	Favourable
SPA review additional features: knot and assemblage of > 20,000 waterfowl & seabirds	Favourable
The Wash SPA	Condition Status
Breeding Annex 1 birds	Favourable
Assemblage of >20,000 waterfowl & seabirds	Favourable
Non-breeding Annex 1 birds	Favourable
Regularly occurring migratory birds	Unfavourable declining (13 sub-features: of which 1, shelduck, is unfavourable declining, turnstone is very close to threshold for unfavourable declining, but remainder are all favourable)
North Norfolk Coast SPA	Condition Status
Breeding Annex 1 birds	Unfavourable declining (little tern and ringed plover unfavourable declining, common tern unfavourable no change, 5 other sub-features all favourable or unfavourable recovering)
Regularly occurring migratory birds	Favourable
Assemblage of >20,000 waterfowl & seabirds	Favourable
Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC	Condition Status
Samphire & other annuals colonising mud & sand	Favourable*
Atlantic salt meadows	Favourable *
Mediterranean saltmarsh scrub	Favourable *

Lagoons (Snettisham)	Unfavourable * (Ongoing investigation into concerns over poor water quality & potential impact of unregulated development of new quays / jetties on extent of lagoons)
Intertidal mudflats and sandflats	Unfavourable declining (14 attributes in total, one unfavourable declining due to loss of cockle from le Strange. 13 in The Wash assessed as favourable or unfavourable recovering. Concerns over future loss of habitat through saltmarsh accretion and sea level rise.
Subtidal sandbanks (in The Wash only)	Favourable * (All 6 attributes are favourable in The Wash only. However, potential concerns over apparent significant change in sediment in north-western and south-eastern Wash that will be further investigated in 2011)
Reef	Favourable (but potential impact from towed gears being addressed through ESFJC byelaw)
Large shallow inlet & bay	Favourable *
Common seal	Unfavourable recovering * (Unfavourable recovering due to decline in moult population. The remaining 3 attributes are assessed as favourable with 2010 breeding survey showing increase numbers of pups and adults. Concerns remain over north Norfolk seal deaths under investigation)
Otter	Favourable * (Recent Increase in abundance and distribution resulting in all 5 attributes assessed as favourable)

6.0 The EMS Management Scheme Partnership:

6.1 Partners include:

- **Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (the Lead Authority)
- **Natural England
- ***The Marine Management Organisation
- **The Environment Agency
- **East Lindsey District Council
- **Boston Borough Council
- **South Holland District Council
- **King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council
- **Fenland District Council
- **North Norfolk District Council
- **Norfolk County Council
- **Lincolnshire County Council
- **Port of Boston
- **King's Lynn Conservancy Board
Port of Fosdyke
- **Wells Harbour Commissioners
- **Internal Drainage Boards
- **Ministry of Defence

The Crown Estate

3 geographically based Advisory Groups

Common Rightholders

The Wash Estuary Strategy and The Norfolk Coast Partnership Project
Officers

6.2 Other Stakeholders:

The partnership also works closely with a wide network of other stakeholders, site users, NGOs, etc. who help it achieve its objectives.

6.3 Cost of Running the Partnership:

** denotes Relevant Authorities who are directly responsible for the EMS Management Scheme and who support the EMS Management Project financially (see 7.0 below) with a sum iro £46k. Some contribute more than others and some make payment in kind (PIK), but all sign up to doing so in a Memorandum of Agreement (see project website. See Section 8.2).

*** denotes Relevant Authority's funding status is yet to be confirmed.

7.0 Sample PROJECT JUSTIFICATION Document @ May 2011:
(for use by Relevant Authorities in their bidding rounds)

- **(name of authority/agency)** is a Relevant Authority (RA) under the UK Habitats Regulations 2010 that update and consolidate the 1994 Habitats Regulations. This means they, with other RAs, **have statutory obligations to safeguard the conservation interest features of the European Marine Site (EMS)** whilst encouraging sustainable use. **(name of authority/agency)** co-RAs are noted on the information leaflet (Info Leaflet '08) on the project website (www.washandnorthnorfolkcoastems.co.uk)
- **(name of authority/agency)** can demonstrate it is discharging these statutory obligations in a co-ordinated, complementary and efficient manner through membership of **The Wash and North Norfolk Coast EMS Management Scheme**. This was put together by the EMS Management Group on behalf of the EMS Management Board of which **(name of authority/agency)** is a member. This Scheme identifies the features for which the site is designated an EMS and sets out Conservation Objectives set by Natural England to meet the statutory obligations referred to above. **The Scheme contains an Action Plan with management measures and actions that are reviewed for progress and updated as necessary annually, by the Project Team, through the management group/board.**
- **(name of authority/agency)** financial contribution (*currently £x per annum, but reviewed annually*) or payment in kind (~~strike out which doesn't apply~~) helps support the work the Project Manager and Project Assistant do to carry this out, to provide a secretariat and co-ordinate the stakeholder network on behalf of the Management Board and to take forward initiatives that do not neatly fall to one RA e.g. facilitating 3 geographical Advisory Groups, managing the Incident Recording Process, etc. All of **this is known as The EMS Management Project** and is designed to take implementation, review and renewal of the Management Scheme and its Action Plan forward in an organised and accountable way, publishing Annual Reports and Action Plan Reviews.
- A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) sets out the arrangements for achieving this, the current version (v21) running up until March 2012.
- Similarly, the latest Annual Report (as @ Dec 2009) can be found on the project website under Documents.

End of sample text above.

8.0 The EMS Project Team and Contact Details:

- Project Manager for The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site Management Scheme is Charlie Moffat
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8.1 Project base:

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- www.washandnorthnorfolkcoastems.co.uk

9.0 Summary Comparison of The EMS Management Scheme, The Norfolk Coast Partnership and The Wash Estuary Strategy

Name	The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site (EMS)	Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Wash Estuary Strategy Group (WESG)
Status	Statutory, supported by European and UK legislation	Statutory, supported by UK legislation	Non-statutory, but supported by national planning policy
Overall objective	The maintenance, or restoration at a favourable conservation status, of the marine habitats and species for which the site is designated	To conserve and enhance the essential character of the natural beauty (landscape, wildlife, and built and cultural heritage)	The sustainable use of The Wash and its hinterlands, which recognises the relationship between land and sea, and overcomes various administrative boundaries
Guiding legislation / policy	Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) Habitats Regulations 2010 (the 1994 Regulations)	National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	Planning Policy Guidance Note 20 – Coastal Planning 1992
Guided by	Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site Relevant Authorities' Group	The Norfolk Coast Partnership	The Wash Estuary Strategy Group
Key document	The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site Management Scheme (2002) as revised in part annually 2002-2010	Norfolk Coast AONB Management Plan 2004 – 2009	The Wash Estuary Management Plan, 2 nd edition (2004) and subsequent revisions
Location/ Contact / website	King's Lynn Tel. 01553 772020 www.washandnorthnorfolkcoastems.co.uk	Fakenham Tel. 01328 850530 www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk	Holbeach Tel. 01406 425518 www.washestuary.org.uk

N.B. End of 9 page briefing dated 10th August 2011.