

**Baseline Ecological Surveys for
EIA:
The South Humber Bank**

*Darren Clarke
Humber INCA*



The Humber Estuary



History of Humber INCA

- 1988 – Nature Conservancy Council and ICI set up INCA on Teesside
- 2000 - English Nature announce that Humber is to be designated as a Special Area of Conservation
- Industry and others concerned about impacts on business
- The need for an organisation similar to INCA in the Humber region was identified
- Initially driven by Humber Chemical Focus
- 2001 – 2002 - Development study undertaken
- November 2002 - Conservation Officer appointed



Humber INCA members

Business

- Able UK
- ABP
- Bluestar Fibres
- BP Explorations
- BP Chemicals
- Cemex
- Centrica
- Clugston Developments
- ConocoPhillips
- ConocoPhillips Theddlethorpe Gas Terminal
- Corus
- EON
- Huntsman Tioxide
- Knauf
- Millennium Chemicals
- RWE Npower
- Novartis

- Saltend Cogeneration

- Singleton Birch

- SITA
- Total

- Vireol

Statutory Organisations

- East Riding of Yorkshire Council

- Natural England

- Environment Agency

- Hull City Council

- North East Lincolnshire Council

- North Lincolnshire Council

Voluntary Organisations

- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

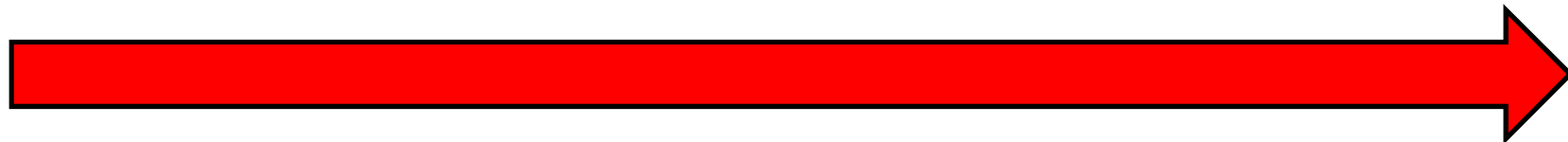
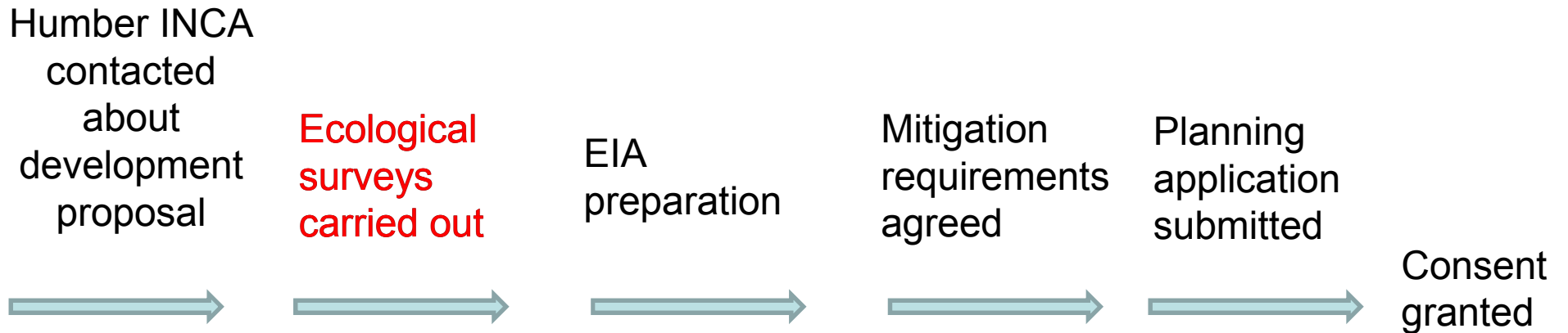
- CPRE

- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

- RSPB



The normal chain of events



DELAY

South Humber Bank: Background

- Land allocated for Port related development in North and North East Lincolnshire local plans.
- Mainly arable.
- Varying standard of flood defences.
- Various landowners.
- Proposals for a range of industrial developments.
- Little background environmental data/information available for the area.
- Funding application submitted to Yorkshire Forward with matching funds from NLC, NELC and EA.

South Humber Bank surveys



HUMBER-ede.org.uk
ENVIRONMENTAL DATA CENTRE



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Humber Environmental Data Centre, Waters' Edge Visitor Centre,
Maltby Road, Barton upon Humber, DN18 5JR.
Tel: (01652) 631 521 / 522*

26/03/2008 HINCA

South Humber Bank Ecological Surveys

Scale 1:100,000

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Data needs and users

- Humber designations = high level of protection
- Developers and their consultants for preparing Environmental Impact Assessments.
- Local authorities for screening planning applications and preparing strategic planning documents.
- Conservation bodies to monitor the status of the Estuary's wildlife.

Surveys

- Wintering and migratory bird surveys (approx 5,000 records)
- Breeding bird surveys (approx 3,000 records)
- Phase 1 habitat survey by aerial photograph interpretation
- Protected species surveys:
 - Water voles
 - Badgers
- Data available from local record centres

How is the data being used?

- To date 49 requests for data submitted to HEDC have resulted in data from these surveys being supplied.
- These data requests have come from a wide range of organisations, including developers and their consultants (most common), individual industries, statutory bodies (NE, EA and Local Authorities), NGO (RSPB).
- Data has been requested for both individual sites (most common) and as entire datasets for strategic development.

How is the data being used?

- Currently work is being carried out to identify strategic mitigation areas for wintering birds. The intention is that these areas will be allocated in the forthcoming Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) for both North and North East Lincolnshire Councils. This is necessary in order to ensure that the LDFs can meet the requirements of the Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations.
- If successful this approach should mean that future development proposals in the area are much easier to deal with as the often complicated discussions relating to the impacts on SPA birds should effectively have been dealt with in advance.

Next steps

- Discussions are ongoing between local authorities, major landowners and conservation bodies to identify areas where mitigatory habitats could be created.
- Once these have been identified a framework will be developed to allow developers to 'buy into' these mitigation areas in order to balance the impacts of their developments.
- Future surveys will be needed to ensure that any decisions continue to be made in possession of accurate data and also to ensure that there is at worst no negative effect on the estuary's bird populations.

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