

The South Humber Gateway

Emma Hawthorne, Natural England

- The government's adviser for the natural environment in England, helping to protect England's nature and landscapes for people to enjoy and for the services they provide
- 2,000 staff in offices throughout England

Up to 2020 our priorities are:

- terrestrial and marine biodiversity
- landscape and geodiversity
- access and engagement
- land management
- support to the planning system
- licencing for wildlife management
- evidence

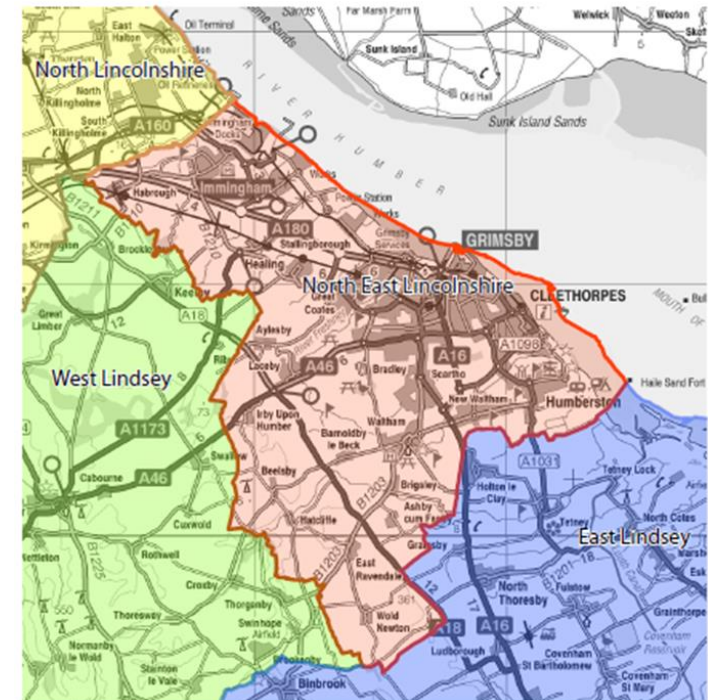


North East Lincolnshire Council



Working in Partnership

- North East Lincolnshire lies on the east coast of England, at the mouth of the Humber Estuary
- Home to 160,000 people and over 5,000 businesses
- The local authority's core priorities are for a 'Stronger Economy and Stronger Communities'
- Growth prospects over the next decade are stronger than at any point in the recent past due to unprecedented levels of investment in the offshore wind industry with the potential to create long-term, skilled jobs in engineering and supporting sectors
- The Port of Grimsby lies at the heart of this expanding industry



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Where is the South Humber Gateway?



Delivering a world class economy alongside a world class environment



Economic ambitions for the South Humber Gateway (SHG):

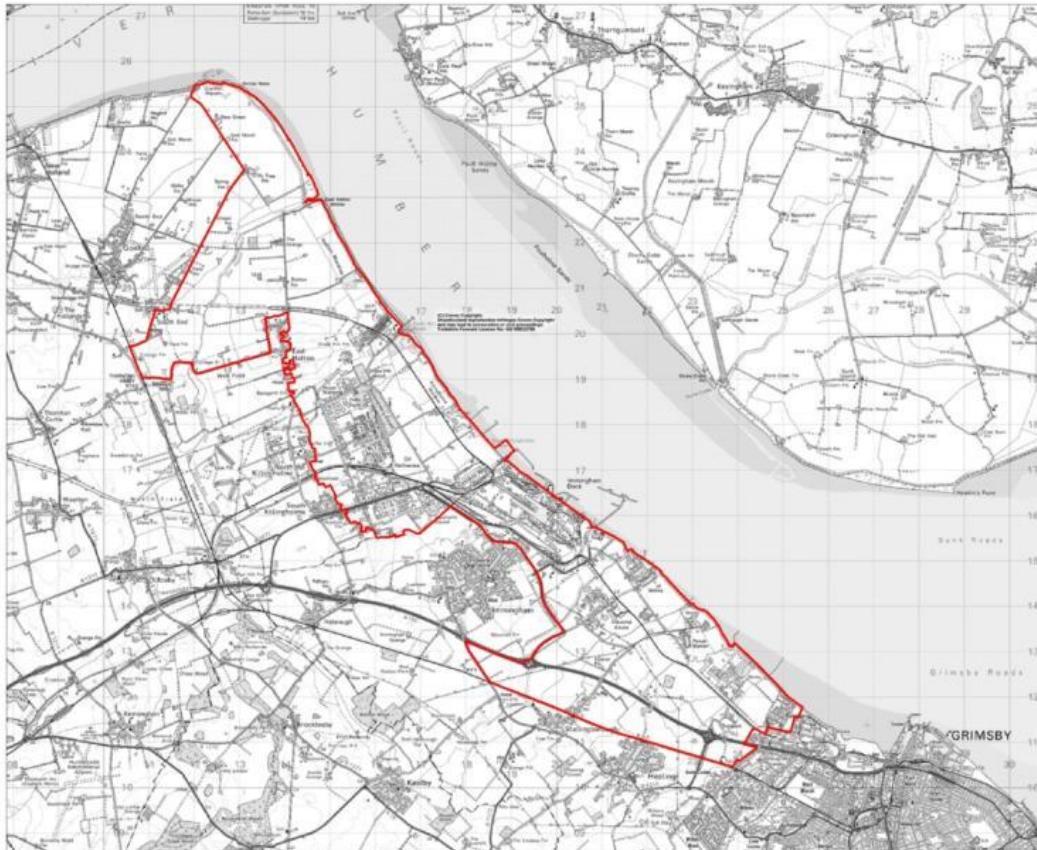
- One of the few large scale undeveloped areas adjacent to a deep water estuary in Europe
- 1,000ha of land allocated for development
- Local planning authorities' "jewel in the crown"; providing an unprecedented opportunity to create high value and substantial employment on a transformational scale
- Aim for the Humber Estuary to be the UK's energy and renewables capital

Land allocated for development



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Client: Humber INCA
Client Ref:
Our Ref:
Description: SHB Entire survey Area v4
Search Area:
Scale: 1:100,000
Date Printed: 26/01/2009

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The challenge



- Much of the land allocated for development is currently agricultural and supports thousands of waterbirds protected by the adjacent designated site – the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar site (functionally linked land)
- Developments were delayed as developers needed to collect bird data to assess impacts - winter, and autumn and spring passage (migration)
- Under the Habitats Regulations, each development site which regularly supported significant numbers of birds needed to mitigate for its impacts by providing new habitat
- The estuary's environmental designations were seen as a key constraint in realising the development potential of the SHG and the local planning authorities reported that investors were deterred

The old way – Helius/ RWE



The new way



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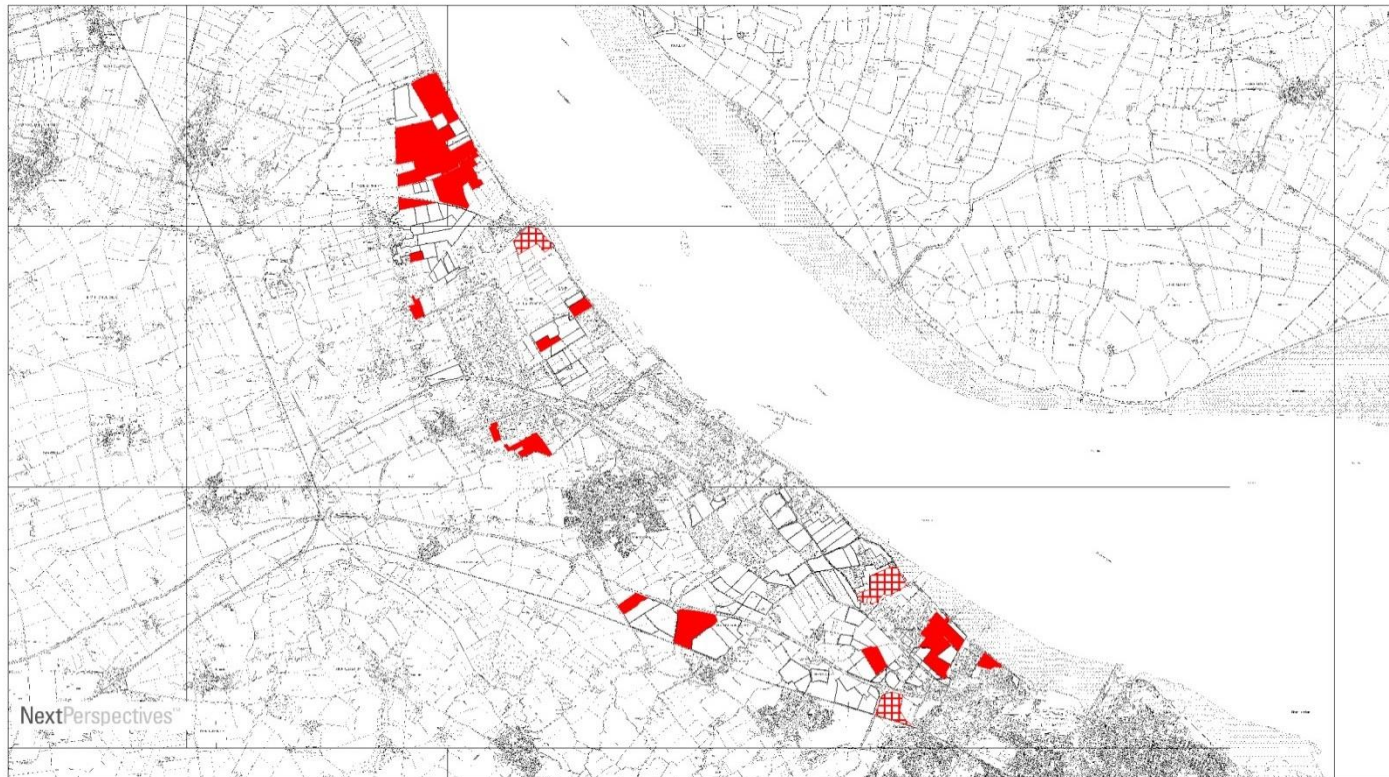
- Natural England and North East Lincolnshire Council have worked together to deliver a strategic solution to mitigation
- This collaborative approach has included statutory bodies, charities such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Wildlife Trust, and private developers such as Associated British Ports and Novartis
- The first step was to agree a survey programme to gather evidence on bird usage of the SHG. This data was collected over the entire SHG for a two year period



Map of bird usage



Summary of bird usage of the South Humber Bank



Scale 1:75000 Map 1 of 1
0 1250 2500 3750m
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- Areas with >1 % of the cited Humber SPA population (Curlew, Lapwing, Golden Plover, Ruff)
- Areas with >1 % of the cited Humber SPA population (Curlew, Lapwing, Golden Plover, Ruff with other uses (ie SSSI or planning permission)
- Fields surveyed with <1 % of the cited Humber SPA population

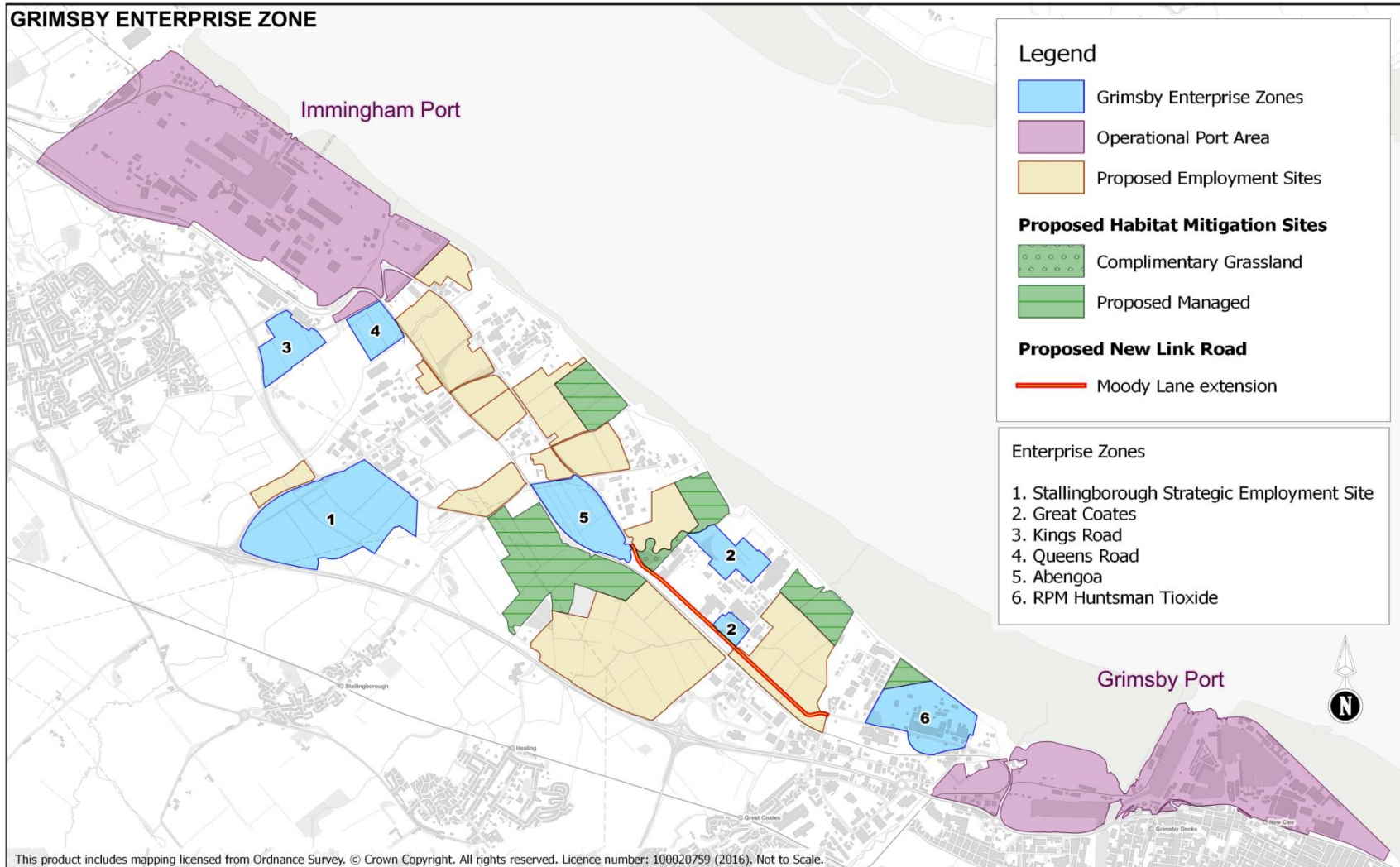
The strategic approach



- The evidence from the bird survey work was used to agree a strategic mitigation plan identifying how much land was required to support the birds displaced by the development of the SHG; the rest of the land can be developed
- The partnership then worked with landowners to agree the mitigation sites



NE Lincolnshire local plan



The strategic approach – who pays?



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- Government funding with a further bid for European money will purchase or lease the mitigation sites and will finance the creation of wet grassland habitat
- Future management costs will be met by developer contributions captured through the planning process – (set amount £ per hectare). This spreads the management costs across all future developments within the SHG
- This money will also be used to monitor the sites to ensure they are achieving their objectives



Speeding up the consenting process



- There is now no requirement on developers to collect bird data because the solution for the loss of the habitat has been assessed at a strategic level
- Mitigation sites have been agreed with the landowners so all future developers only need to contribute financially to the ongoing management and monitoring of these sites. This also makes the process more equitable as all developers contribute regardless of the bird usage on their site
- The mitigation sites have been secured in the local plan safeguarding them into the future
- The strategic solution enables the local plan and individual developments to comply with the tests of the Habitats Regulations

Conclusion

Identifying mitigation sites for the loss of bird habitat at a strategic level, with the agreement of landowners, has unlocked £2 billion of ongoing and planned investment in the SHG, and 15,000 jobs. This will be located alongside 275ha of wet grassland habitat managed for birds.

