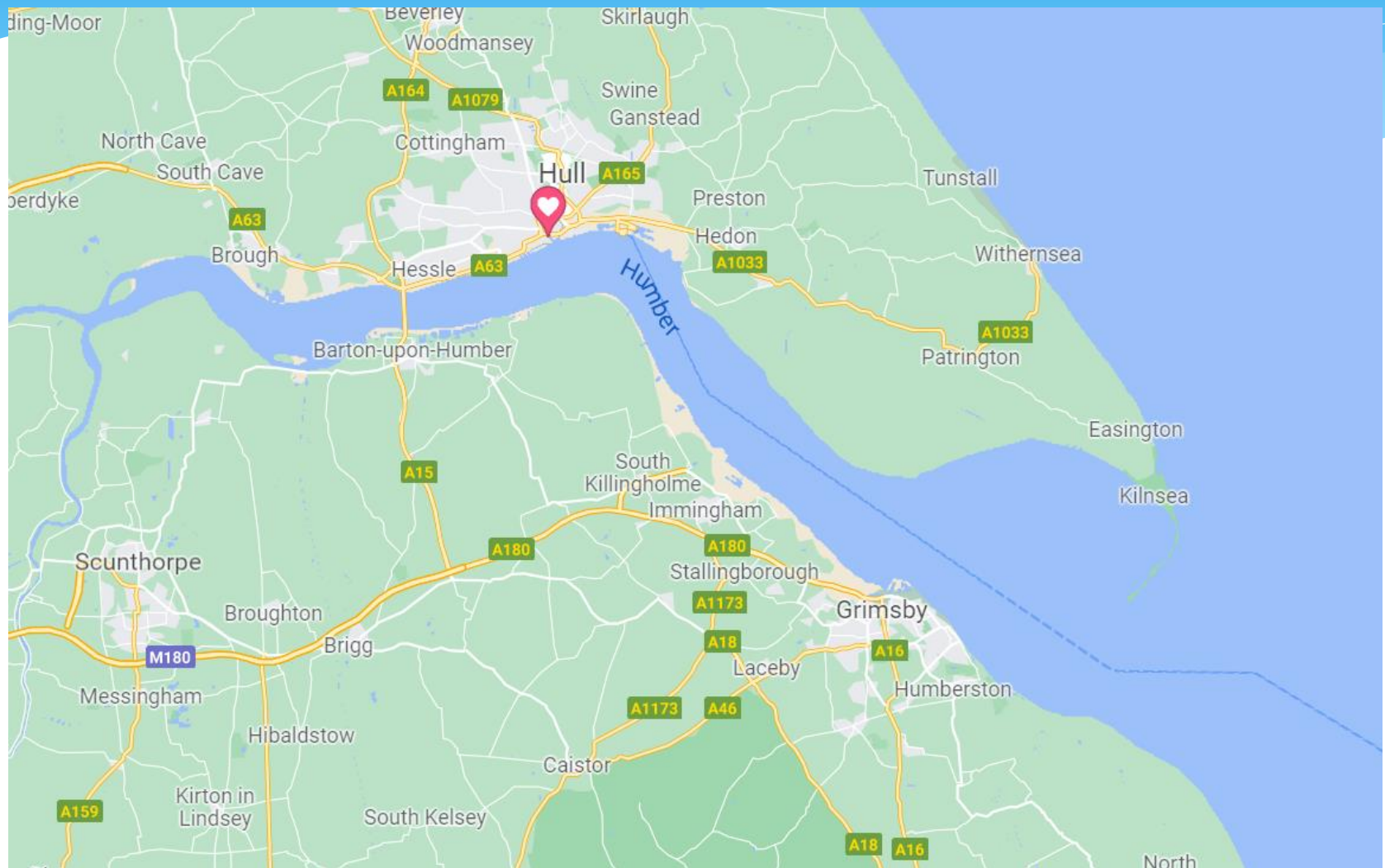


South Humber Mitigation Sites

Working Successfully with
Stakeholders to Promote Local
Biodiversity

South Humber Mitigation Sites

Where are they?



South Humber Mitigation Sites

An important site for SPA birds etc



South Humber Mitigation Sites

balancing economic, social and environmental objectives

- * fulfilling the requirements of the Habitat Regulations through the planning process can be an expensive and time consuming process**
- * the development of greenfield land removes habitat vitally important to wintering birds.**
- * this loss is difficult to mitigate on a case by case basis**
- * it often involves conflict with environmental bodies and uncertain outcomes for developers**

**NELC
Inward
Investment**



**Environmental
bodies**



Developers



**Planning
Team**



South Humber Mitigation Sites

balancing economic, social and environmental objectives

- * This was the starting point for the development of a strategic approach.
- * The key to the approach was
 - * to bring together divergent groups to develop an approach that provided benefits for landowners and developers
 - * but also provided optimum benefits for the environmental bodies;
 - * effectively a “win win”.

South Humber Mitigation Sites

Overcoming challenges using a multi-agency strategy

- * **the frustrations of developers and environmental bodies were very clear to planners**
- * **developers saw the need to address the environmental impacts as a burden**
- * **environmental bodies left frustrated by small parcels of land secured in a piecemeal fragmented way.**
- * **no blueprint for a solution so an innovative approach was required**

South Humber Mitigation Sites

Overcoming challenges using a multi-agency strategy

- * **clear from the outset that developing a strategic approach would need to be embedded as Local Plan Policy.**
- * **the South Humber Bank Ecology Group was set up and led by NELC's Spatial Planning Team**
- * **Planners had been instrumental in establishing the principles upon which the strategy was to be developed**
- * **the approach was tested at Local Plan Examination and considered to be robust**

South Humber Mitigation Sites

Overcoming challenges using a multi-agency strategy

The strategic approach works on the basis that appropriate mitigation land will always be in place ahead of development to offset the consequences of development

- * first the value of each development site was established
- * then the mitigation required was determined from the evidence base and set out in a balance sheet spreadsheet for the whole area
- * this determined the total amount of land required to mitigate all the development sites - 5 sites totalling circa 120ha (300ac)
- * once the sites were constructed they would form a 'mitigation pot' where mitigation land would be 'drawn down' depending on the value of the relevant development site

South Humber Mitigation Sites

Overcoming challenges using a multi-agency strategy

- * **development will be considered to have met the mitigation requirements provided the balance of the ‘mitigation pot’ remains in credit**
- * **under this scheme developers are not required to undertake any wintering bird surveys, identify land for mitigation or develop appropriate management and monitoring**
- * **developers simply to provide an appropriate financial contribution, through a section 106 agreement, as defined by planning policy, which is ring fenced to delivery of the mitigation strategy.**

a ‘WIN WIN’ solution

South Humber Mitigation Sites

supporting other projects to hit biodiversity targets

The first mitigation site was completed in 2018 – Cress Marsh

- * a 40ha(100ac) wetland mitigation site
- * seven wetland cells fed by a large 'lagoon' on a gravity system
- * developed in association with the environmental bodies to ensure the optimal habitat for SPA birds
- * scale of the site also means that wider environmental benefits can be delivered
- * the site has attracted other bird species and wildlife
- * already spoonbills, a rare visitor to the UK, have been recorded on site along with roe deer, water voles and bats to name a few.
- * the next site of 20ha (50ac) is due to be completed in summer 2022

South Humber Mitigation Sites

Cress Marsh mitigation site



South Humber Mitigation Sites

Cress Marsh mitigation site



South Humber Mitigation Sites

Cress Marsh mitigation site – Bird Hide



South Humber Mitigation Sites

Cress Marsh mitigation site - Avocet



South Humber Mitigation Sites

Cress Marsh mitigation site - Redwing

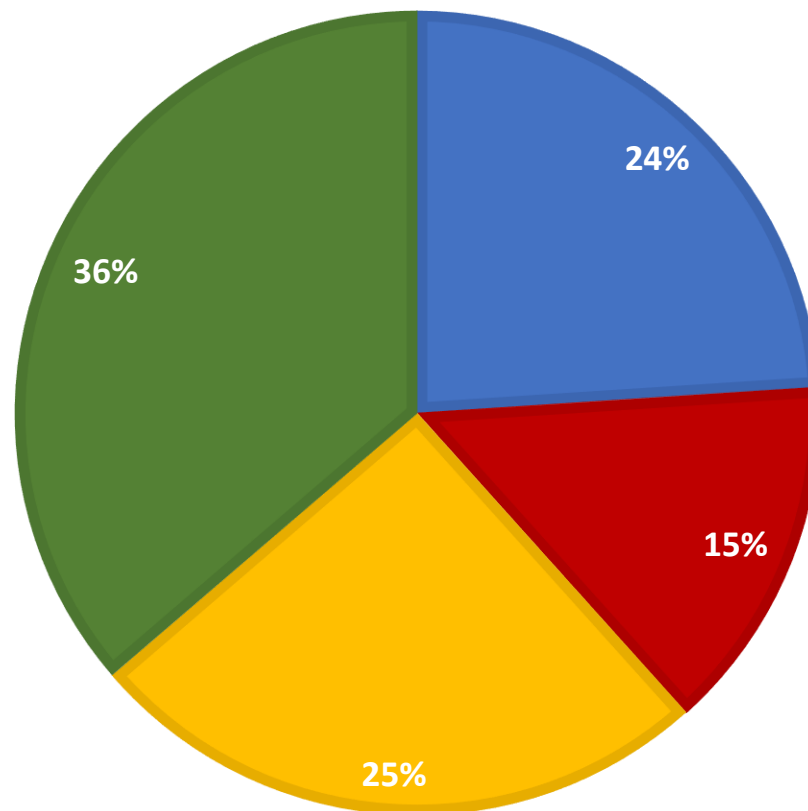


South Humber Mitigation Sites

Cress Marsh mitigation site

PROPORTION OF PROTECTED SPECIES AT THE CRESS MARSH SITE 2020-2021

■ SPA ■ Red list ■ Amber list ■ Unlisted



South Humber Mitigation Sites

Engaging with the local community to gain a better understanding of local wildlife diversity

- * the initial site includes a large hide which is available to book by community and educational groups
- * the ongoing management and monitoring of the sites builds on the network of environmental experts and local volunteers who are already giving time and energy to the project.
- * through planning contacts, the first site is already being utilised to promote environmental best practice.
- * Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust have included a site visit as part of the Northern Area Planning Authority Training Conference covering Biodiversity Net Gain, Nature Recovery Networks and Planning.
- * the proactive approach that has been demonstrated has fostered a good and important working relationship from the outset with developers and statutory bodies when planners are dealing with planning applications

South Humber Mitigation Sites

Summary

- * Strong praise for the project has been received from environmental bodies

“We believe this is the first example in the UK where habitat has been specifically created and managed in advance of predicted impacts from proposed developments.

“We would like to congratulate the council for the forward thinking and hard work in bringing this to fruition. North East Lincolnshire Council can be proud of a ground-breaking example of a fully sustainable development.” Emma Hawthorne, Natural England, Grimsby Telegraph 28 Oct 2018. <https://www.pressreader.com/uk/grimsby-telegraph/20181026/281706910670853>

South Humber Mitigation Sites

Summary

- * Strong praise for the project has been received from developers

"The South Humber Bank mitigation scheme provides confidence to developers on the practical requirements of the Habitat Regulations. We found engagement with North East Lincolnshire Council to be a positive experience and the speed and scale of habitat delivery is impressive. We hope other local authorities set up similar scheme. EP UK Investments, (Secured planning consent to develop a waste to energy recovery facility).

<https://bdaily.co.uk/articles/2019/01/15/plans-in-for-300m-energy-centre-at-south-humber-bank-power-station>

South Humber Mitigation Sites

Summary

- * Strong praise for the project has been received from developers

“Whilst developing our municipal solid waste to jet fuel project, Velocys has been incredibly impressed with the support that North East Lincolnshire Council has provided. In particular, the council’s mitigation model has helped to both speed up our project development and reduce the risk profile for our investors”.

Velocys (seeking consent to develop a waste to jet fuel plant)<https://lincolnshirereporter.co.uk/2019/08/plans-for-uks-first-commercial-waste-to-jet-fuel-plant-in-lincolnshire/>

South Humber Mitigation Sites

Summary – and no more of this

**NELC
Inward
Investment**



**Environmenta
l bodies**



**Developer
s**



**Planning
Team**



South Humber Mitigation Sites

Thank you for your interest
Any questions?