



Project part-financed by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund)

The Interreg IVB
North Sea Region
Programme



'Donna Nook'

Measure analysis 38
in the framework of the Interreg IVB project TIDE

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Part 1: Measure description

Measure category: Biology/Ecology

Estuary: Humber

Salinity zone: polyhaline

Pressure: Habitat loss and degradation during the last about 100 years: Intertidal

Country: United Kingdom

Specific location: North of the village of North Somercoates, Lincolnshire

Responsible Authority:

Costs:

Measure technical factsheet (link):

Downloads:

Links:

Map/Picture:

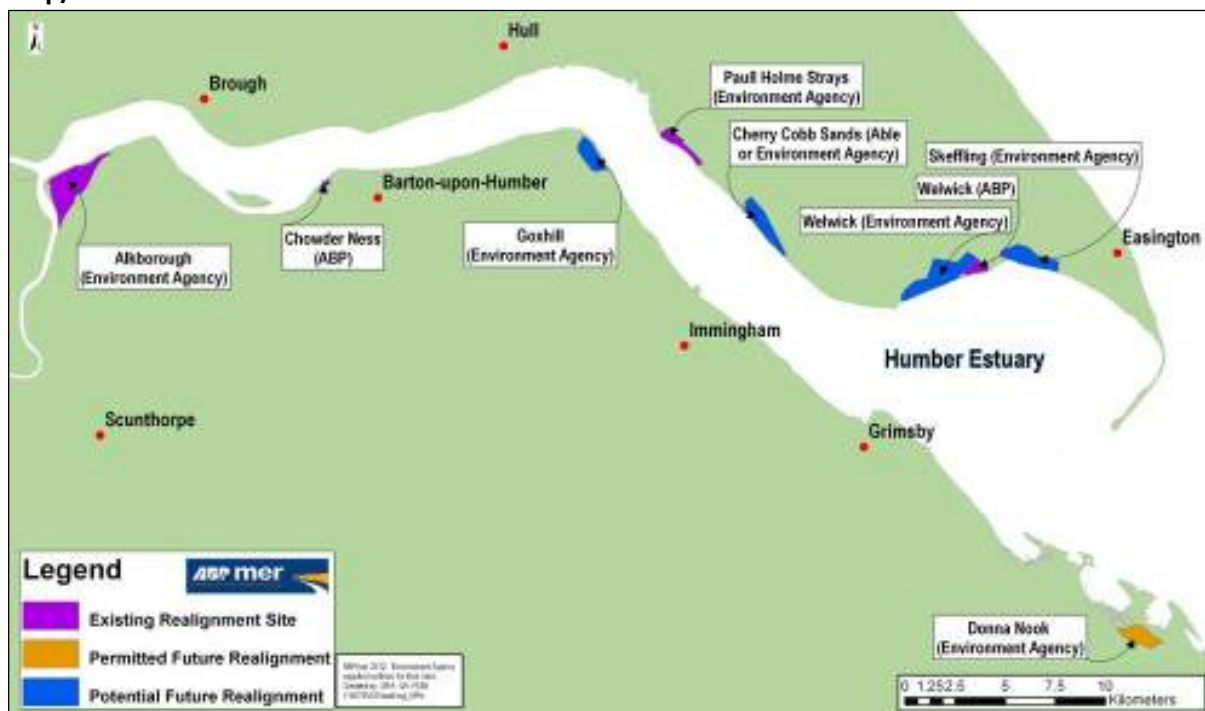


Figure 1: Location of Donna Nook within the Humber Estuary

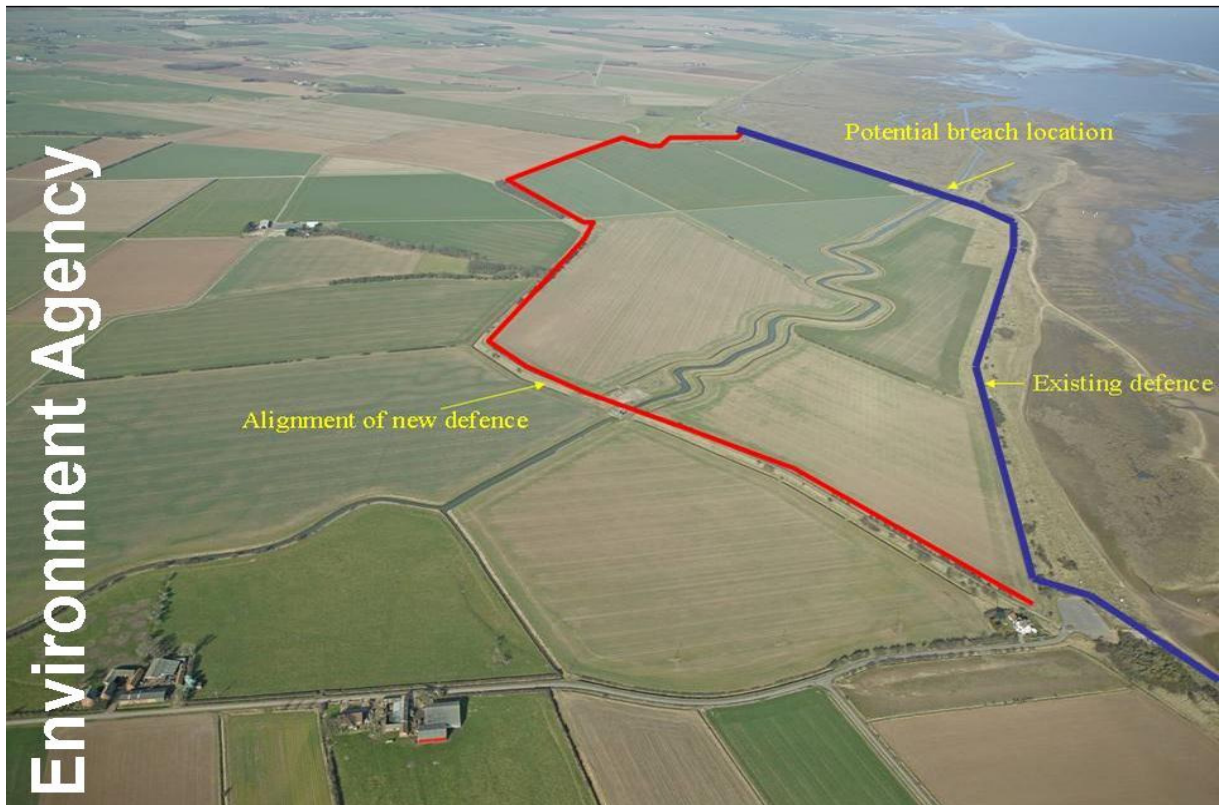


Figure 2: Figure displaying existing defence, alignment of new defence and proposed breach location at Donna Nook

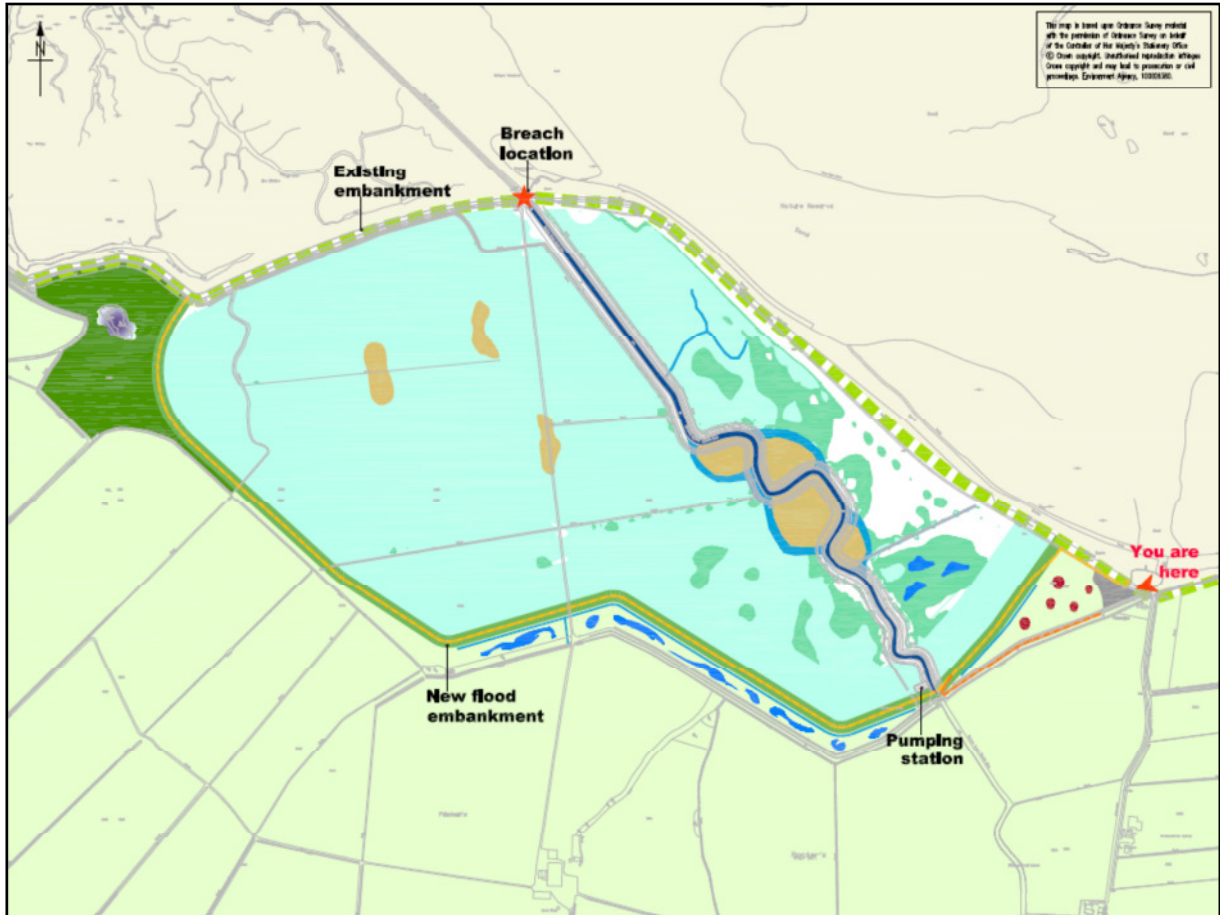


Figure 3: Site Plan and Key

- LINE OF EXISTING FLOOD DEFENCE
- NEW FLOOD EMBANKMENT
- BREACH LOCATION
- LITTLE TERN ISLAND
- SALTMARSH
- EXTENT OF HIGHEST ASTRONOMICAL TIDE
- EXISTING COASTAL GRAZING MARSH
- NATTERJACK TOAD BREEDING POND
- SHALLOW WETLAND SCRAPE
- DUNE AND INTERTIDAL HABITAT
- AGRICULTURAL LAND
- ENHANCED EXISTING POND
- NEW REINFORCED GRASS CAR PARK, TO BE CONSTRUCTED
- EXISTING WATER COURSE
- NEW WATER COURSE
- NEW PERMISSIVE PATH
- PROPOSED NEW PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

Precise locations of features may vary due to local conditions

1.1 Measure description

Proposed by the Environment Agency, the Donna Nook managed realignment scheme is an integral part of the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy and will compensate for habitat losses in the Humber estuary as a result of sea level rise. It is located on the south bank of the Humber Estuary and is the third Environment Agency planned managed realignment site on the estuary.

The site is immediately adjacent to Donna Nook National Nature Reserve, which is managed by the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, and surrounded on its seaward side by the internationally designated Humber Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protected Area (SPA) and Ramsar site. A new flood defence embankment will be built to the rear of the site and the existing embankment will be breached, creating intertidal habitats. Shallow wetland scrapes, breeding islands for little tern and natterjack toad breeding pools will also be created.



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As with Paull Holme Strays and Alkborough, it is intended as replacement habitat to compensate for both coastal squeeze (on a 1:1 ratio of habitat loss to creation for coastal squeeze) and for direct construction related losses from defence improvement works in the upper estuary (on a 1:3 ratio for habitat loss to creation for direct construction related losses). It is not intended as a flood storage site.

In 2010, East Lindsey District Council (ELDC) refused the Environment Agency (EA) permission to create 130 hectares (321 acres) of new intertidal habitat on the south outer Humber Estuary at Donna Nook, Lincolnshire. Unconvinced by the council's reasons given for its refusal, EA lodged an appeal with the Planning Inspectorate. In the meantime, ELDC invited EA to re-submit their original application.

The resubmitted planning application for this project was approved by ELDC in June 2011. Construction was due to start in April 2012 and Donna Nook is set to provide the compensatory habitat required to allow the EA to continue to improve the flood defences along the southern shore of the outer estuary, including Grimsby and Tetney to Saltfleet.

This new compensatory habitat, which is essential for conserving the Humber's nationally and internationally important wildlife, will be created by managed realignment and involves moving the line of the flood defences inland and breaching the old defences, allowing the sea to flow in and naturally create more habitat.

Through this process, 130 hectares of agricultural land would be transformed into a mosaic of saltmarsh, mudflats, creeks and little islands.

Construction works began on site in May 2012 and are expected to be completed in October 2012 in readiness for a sea wall breach in Summer 2013. Ongoing work is being undertaken to minimise the short-term ecological impacts of the scheme and to ensure that the long-term benefits are realised.

Over the next century, a combination of rising sea levels and improved flood defences on the Humber Estuary will result in the loss of its wildlife-rich intertidal habitats. As these habitats are legally protected by national and international law, the EA is legally obliged to replace these areas by creating new habitat.

Part of the EA's Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy, the Donna Nook managed realignment scheme is one of several projects that are necessary to protect the Humber Estuary and its wildlife. A managed realignment at Donna Nook would replace valuable intertidal habitat for wildlife that will be lost elsewhere in the outer south estuary. It will benefit thousands of waders and wildfowl including golden plovers, lapwings and redshanks. The habitat could also be used as a valuable nursery for declining commercial fish stocks.



1.2 Status of the measure

The Donna Nook managed realignment scheme outline construction programme is as follows:

Table 1: Outline Construction Programme for Donna Nook

Construction Activity	Programme
Pre-construction Site Works; Vegetation clearance, ecological mitigation, UXO surveys etc.	February - April 2012
Site Establishment	April - May 2012
Construction;	May - June 2012
Embankments	May - October 2012
Habitat creation; Small ditches, ponds, wetland scrapes, tern islands	May - October 2012
New car park	June - September 2012
Remove existing car park	August 2012
Landscaping	August - October 2012
Porter's Sluice pumping station	May - October 2012
Breach	April - June 2013
Site Demobilisation	May - June 2013



Part 2: Execution of main effectiveness criteria

2.1 Degree of synergistic effects and conflicts according to uses

Further monitoring of the completed measure will need to be undertaken to determine whether the measure is developing as predicted and whether it is consistent with any specific conservation objectives.

There has also been a lot of local opposition and concern regarding this scheme.

Also, as part of the scheme for Donna Nook, public Footpath 18 needed to be stopped up and a new public footpath created. At the same time, the EA wanted to regularise a short diversion of the existing footpath around an existing pond.

Before these works were able to be undertaken on site, the formal process of stopping up and formation, under Section 257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and diversion under the Section 119 of the 1990 Highways Act, needed to be undertaken and informal consultation carried out before Members approval was gained.

However, the diversion around the pond was not part of the original planning application for the re-alignment scheme and has to be dealt with under the Highways Act 1980 (Section 119), which is a lengthy process involving several consultation and advertisement periods on the initial proposal and the draft and final orders.

As a result of this consultation, recommendations were made from various organisations not to divert the existing Footpath 18, but instead stop it up at the breach site with the ends remaining as a public footpath and being fully accessible for those wishing to walk along them. Further suggestions for a new public footpath to be created along the top of the new embankment were also received. The consultation also highlighted consultees concerns regarding the legislative procedures pursued for the proposed works.

Following the comments received, the application was reviewed and legal advice sought. Changes were made to the nature of the application to reflect the comments made and this included the stopping up of Footpath 18 at the breach site with the remaining sections retained as public Footpath 18 and the formation of a new public footpath along the crest of the new embankment. The opportunity was also taken to include the diversion of a short length of Footpath 18 around the existing pond. A second round of informal consultation was undertaken due to the changes made. This all adds to the overall costs, both economic and those related to timescales, for the scheme as a whole.



Part 3: Additional evaluation criteria in view of EU environmental law

3.2 Degree of synergistic effects according to Natura 2000 aims

This measure is all about the creation of new intertidal habitat which provides a much needed habitat in the Humber Estuary to give land back. Additional monitoring as to the effectiveness of this compensatory habitat creation measure will be required in order to determine whether this is working as anticipated in terms of Natura 2000 benefits.

Table 2: Conservation objectives concerning the BHD

Conservation objectives (Humber)	Specification	Effect?					Short explanation
		--	-	0	+	++	
Protected Estuary	Habitats: Intertidal wetland (brackish)					++	Newly created intertidal habitat in Internationally Designated Nature Conservation Site.

