



Supplementary Environmental Information

Farmland Disturbance at Cherry Cobb Sands

Explanatory Note EX 35.12

March 2012
Revision: 0
Able UK Ltd

	ABLE MARINE ENERGY PARK FARMLAND DISTURBANCE AT CHERRY COBB SANDS	MARCH 2012
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APPROVAL & REVISION REGISTER

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REVISION	COMMENTS	DATE
A		

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	<p align="center">ABLE MARINE ENERGY PARK FARMLAND DISTURBANCE AT CHERRY COBB SANDS</p>	<p align="center">MARCH 2012</p>
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 Able Humber Ports Ltd has submitted an application to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) for Development Consent for the Able Marine Energy Park (AMEP). As part of this application, it proposes to construct an area of compensatory intertidal habitat 100ha in extent at Cherry Cobb Sands, East Riding of Yorkshire – the area of land to be occupied by this project is shown on Drawing No. AME – 08085 A.
- 1.1.2 The Cherry Cobb Sands compensation site is adjacent to the Humber estuary, separated from it by a flood defence wall. It is currently farmland, and is used by the Humber Estuary SPA/Ramsar Site bird assemblage for roosting and, to a lesser extent, feeding.
- 1.1.3 The impacts of the loss of this farmland on the site assemblage are assessed in Annex G of the Habitats Regulations Assessment report, submitted as part of the application, in which it is concluded that the birds will be accommodated within the existing farmland adjacent to the compensation site, and will require no additional mitigation. The purpose of this report is to support the conclusions of that assessment by assessing the quality of the current site and the adjacent farmland as habitat in terms of disturbance, so that its potential to support the bird assemblage is clarified.


2 THE SITE AND THE ADJACENT FIELDS

- 2.1.1 The Compensation Site comprises 7no. fields currently in arable use and separated by ditches. These fields are bounded to the south-west by the Humber estuary flood defence wall and its soke dyke; they are bounded to the north-east by Cherry Cobb Sands Road. These fields, and those adjacent, are identified as Grade II agricultural land.
- 2.1.2 The adjacent set of fields which are being considered as potential waterfowl habitat (called for the purposes of this report 'the recipient fields') comprise 9no. fields in similar arable use, also separated by ditches. They are bounded to the south-west by Cherry Cobb Sands Road and to the north-east by the Keyingham Drain. The two sets of fields are shown in Drawing No. AME - 08085 A.

3 POTENTIAL DISTURBANCE

3.1 FARMING ACTIVITY

- 3.1.1 All the land in the study area for this report is in the ownership of The Crown Estate (TCE). It is leased on a long-term basis to two agricultural tenants as shown on drawing no. AME-08083: each tenant occupies approximately half each of the Compensation Site and the recipient fields. Both sites have been in arable cultivation for several years, and the fields remaining after the construction of the compensatory habitat are anticipated to remain in the same type of use for the foreseeable future.

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3.2 HABITATION

- 3.2.1 The part of Sunk Island considered in this study is sparsely populated, and dwellings are infrequent. Stone Creek House is a property set within a hedged garden/orchard at the south-eastern end of the study area, effectively screened from both the Compensation Site and the recipient fields.
- 3.2.2 Two properties exist approximately central to the eastern margin of the recipient fields, as evident on Drawing No. AME – 08083 A. Sands Farm is situated on the near side of the Keyingham Drain, and is surrounded by the recipient fields, though it is partially screened from them by hedges and trees. Salthaugh Grange Farm lies on the far side of the Drain, and is screened by the treelines which exist on both sides of the Drain.
- 3.2.3 At the northern end of the study area, Sands House Farm is situated adjacent to the Keyingham Drain, set well back from Cherry Cobb Sands Road. This is surrounded by the recipient fields and partially screened from them. At the point where Sands House Farm’s access track leaves Cherry Cobb Sands Road, Fair View fronts onto the road: this property is screened to the recipient fields, but open to the Compensation Site.

3.3 NOISE


- 3.3.1 A detailed assessment of the baseline noise environment of Cherry Cobb Sands is set out in Volume 2 of the AMEP ES. In keeping with the sparsely-distributed population and very limited road traffic in the area of Sunk Island, the Compensation Site and the recipient fields share a common low level of noise both artificial and natural, and this is very unlikely to change post-construction of the compensatory habitat.

3.4 SPORTING RIGHTS

- 3.4.1 As set out above, the sporting rights for both sets of fields are in the ownership of TCE, but in the hands of the agricultural tenants. As shown on Drawing No. AME – 08083 A, the same two tenants occupy roughly equal proportions of both sets of fields, hence the distribution of sporting rights is common to both areas. Able understands that neither tenant currently regularly exercises their rights to shoot on the land.

3.5 RIGHTS OF WAY

- 3.5.1 The Compensation Site and the recipient fields share a common boundary feature in Cherry Cobb Sands Road. This highway experiences a low volume of traffic, and what little disturbance results from it, both in terms of noise and visual disruption, is common to both sites. This road is, however, partially screened from the recipient fields by a hedge along part of the eastern side of the road. No screening exists between the road and the Compensation Site at present (though construction of the new flood defence wall will alter this).

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3.5.2 Two public footpaths exist in the study area of this report, as shown on Drawing No. AME – 08083 A. Along the crest of the flood defence wall, an elevated public footpath directly overlooks the Compensation Site along its whole river frontage; diversion of this footpath to run along the landward toe of the new flood defence wall is set out in the application for DCO. This would bring the footpath close to Cherry Cobb Sands Road, at ground level, with branches leading up to bird hides on top of the embankment, and screened from the new intertidal habitat with fences where necessary.

3.5.3 A second footpath crosses the centre of the recipient fields area, running directly from Cherry Cobb Sands Road up to Sands Farm along the existing farm track, then skirts the boundary of this property and crosses the Keyingham Drain to lead away to the east. The proportion of the recipient fields which could be subject to any disturbance from the footpath is thus substantially less than the proportion of the Compensation Site similarly affected.

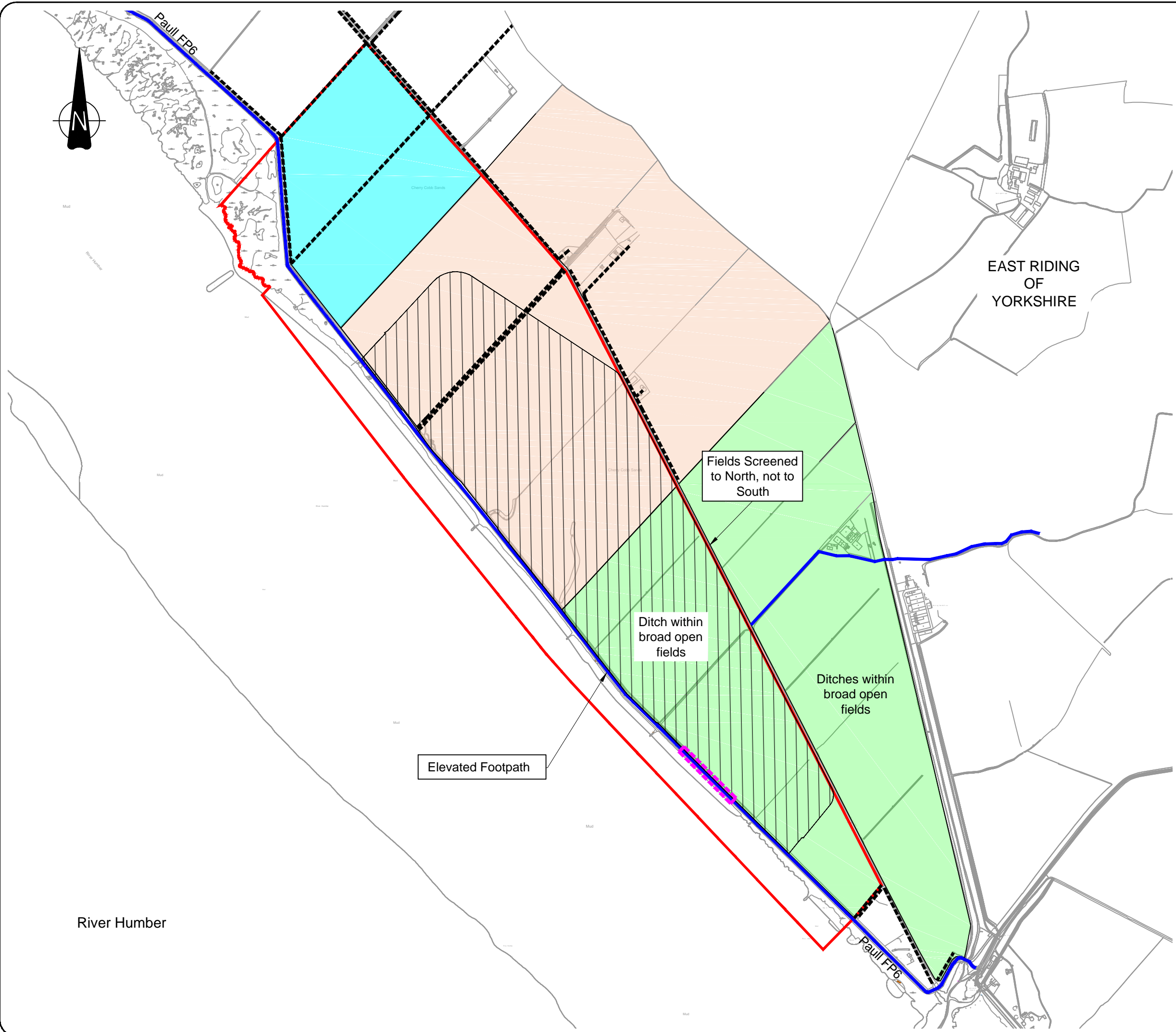
4 CONCLUSION

4.1.1 When the Compensation Site and recipient fields are compared in terms of potential disturbance to birds, it can be seen that many environmental features are common to both sets of fields, and little difference in disturbance is likely. The presence of the elevated footpath along the Compensation Site is the chief difference between the areas: on these grounds, it may be suggested that the recipient fields may be subject to slightly less disturbance than the Compensation Site. It is therefore considered that their suitability for bird use is not impaired.

5 DRAWINGS

AME - 08083 A Cherry Cobb Sands Land Tenants & Hedgerows

AME - 08085 A Cherry Cobb Sands Land Tenants & Hedges Image



KEY

Development Consent Order Boundary

Species - Poor Intact Hedge

Little Humber Farm

Land Holding - 345ha

Land Affected - 37.8ha

Tenant - Mr A P Leake

Sands House

Land Holding - 324ha

Land Affected - 83.7ha

Tenant - Mr S J Kirkwood

Sands Farm

Land Holding - 149ha

Land Affected - 55.2ha

Tenant - Mr R A Robinson

Existing Footpath

Flood Defence Wall Removal

Intertidal Compensation Area (100ha)

A	24/02/12	Preliminary Issue	JH	JM	JM
Rev	Date	Description	By	Chk	App



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Project:	ABLE Marine Energy Park
Client:	ABLE UK Ltd
Title:	Cherry Cobb Sands Land Tenants & Hedgerows

PRELIMINARY

Scale:	Drawn By	Checked By	Approved By
1:12,500 @A3	J Harris	J Monk	J Monk
Date:	24/02/2012	24/02/2012	24/02/2012
Drawing No.	AME - 08083		Revision: A



EAST RIDING
OF
YORKSHIRE

River Humber

KEY

Development Consent Order Boundar

Little Humber Farm

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Land Affected - 37.8ha
Tenant - Mr A P Leake

Sands House

Land Holding - 324ha
Land Affected - 83.7ha
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Sands Farm

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Intertidal Compensation Area (100ha)

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Project:	ABLE Marine Energy Park
Client:	ABLE UK Ltd
Title:	Cherry Cobb Sands Land Tenants & Hedgerows - Image

PRELIMINARY

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1:12,500 @A3	J Harris	R Cram	R Cram
Date:	24/02/2012	24/02/2012	24/02/2012
Drawing No.	AME - 08085		Revision: A