

ABLE MARINE ENERGY PARK (TR030001)

Compensation Habitat - Cherry Cob Sands

RTE/ managed realignment site & associated wet grassland area

Observations from discussions during Humber Estuary boat trip

1. Black Tailed Godwits (BTG)

The BTG were doing their bit by feeding on their preferred mud flat. It was explained how important the site is in the specialised nature of the mud in providing the correct amount and type of food. There is a large area of mud flat up & down stream of the proposed new dock site. These mudflats are apparently not suitable or ideal for BTG.

If this small area of mudflat is so specialised in such a massive & dynamic mudflat area of the estuary, I find it difficult to understand how engineers can replicate such a specialised environment with a man-made, and artificially controlled area, on the North Bank where the mud deposits do not seem to be suitable for BTG.

Applying common sense, & in the light of experience at Paull Holme Strays and Outstrays realignment, it is unbelievable that a completely new and untried system can provide consistently, year in & year out, the suitable habitat of mud in the quantity and quality required for BTG.

2. Associated wet grassland area for roosting & feeding

Soil Type – this area is generally a light/medium silt with a lower content of clay fraction making it difficult to reliably & consistently hold water to create a marshy wetland area which will remain wet even in winter when required by BTG. It is not a clay soil which would hold water. Considerable amounts of water will be needed to even carry out the flooding, and maintain levels required to produce the necessary environment. There seems to be an assumption that because it is low lying it will become boggy.

Scouring out Stone Creek Channel – the water coming out of Keyingham Drain scours out the Stone Creek Channel, which keeps the channel open between the gates and the estuary. This last minute proposal has not provided a model showing the amount of water that will be taken from the Keyingham Drain, and how it will affect the scouring of the channel.

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