

## ABLE MARINE ENERGY PARK (TR030001)

Written proof of oral evidence from the Specific Issue hearings held on 12 and 13 November 2012

### A. We wish to comment on:

1. The Development & Operation of the Intertidal Habitat Site &
2. The Development of the Wet Grassland & Roosting Site

Our concerns are that:

1. **the flow from Stone Creek into the Humber will be reduced** by the above developments. This will lead to silting up of the Creek, so that the outflows from the Sunk Island Drain will be adversely affected.
2. **the managers of the Wet Grassland & Roosting Site will interfere with the natural working of the hinged timber pointing doors**, as they wish the Keyingham Drain (KD) to fill up to make more water available to the wet grassland. The pointing doors are designed to open and close as the water pressure changes with the tides. If the doors are interfered with so that they do not open & close with each tide, Stone Creek (which receives this water) will not be scoured out, & thus it will silt up. If Stone Creek silts up, the Sunk Island Drain will not freely empty into the Humber as the water requires a free flow through a scoured out channel.
3. **the Environment Agency will interfere with the natural working of the hinged timber pointing doors** because they are more interested in wildlife and associated habitats than land drainage. By controlling the opening & closing of the pointing doors the EA are able to create a habitat that they consider to be more advantageous to wildlife. But if the EA cause the doors not to open & close with each tide, Stone Creek (which receives this water) will not be scoured out, & thus it will silt up, & so reduce the efficiency of the Sunk Island Drain.
4. **the Environment Agency (EA) does not understand that the main function of the Keyingham Drain is land drainage**; the EA said it was flood defence, which is incorrect. The KD was built to drain a large area of Holderness. The hinged timber pointing doors on the KD at Stone Creek were built so that water is drawn out of the Drain at low tide. The doors' primary function is not to act as a tidal barrier, as insinuated by the EA, nor to drain heavy rainfall from inland. Flood defence is a secondary function. Regular, routine internal land drainage is the primary function.
5. **the salinity of the Keyingham Drain will only be reduced if the EA interfere with the opening & closing of the doors**. Non-saline water is required for the wet grassland, but the water at the Stone Creek end of KD will always be mixed with salty water if the doors are allowed to act as intended.

### B. We also wish to comment on the EMMP: 3. Compensation habitat.....12 NOVEMBER 2012

**1.5 The Ecological Advisory Group 19. The core membership of the group:** We feel that the group should include local people who understand, & are concerned with, local drainage. Local people witness on a day to day basis what is actually happening. In contrast, representatives from the statutory bodies rely on reports and occasional visits. We would like to propose that a local representative is chosen by the Sunk Island Parish Council, or the Sunk Island Drainage Board.

Sally Osgerby

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15 November 2012

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