

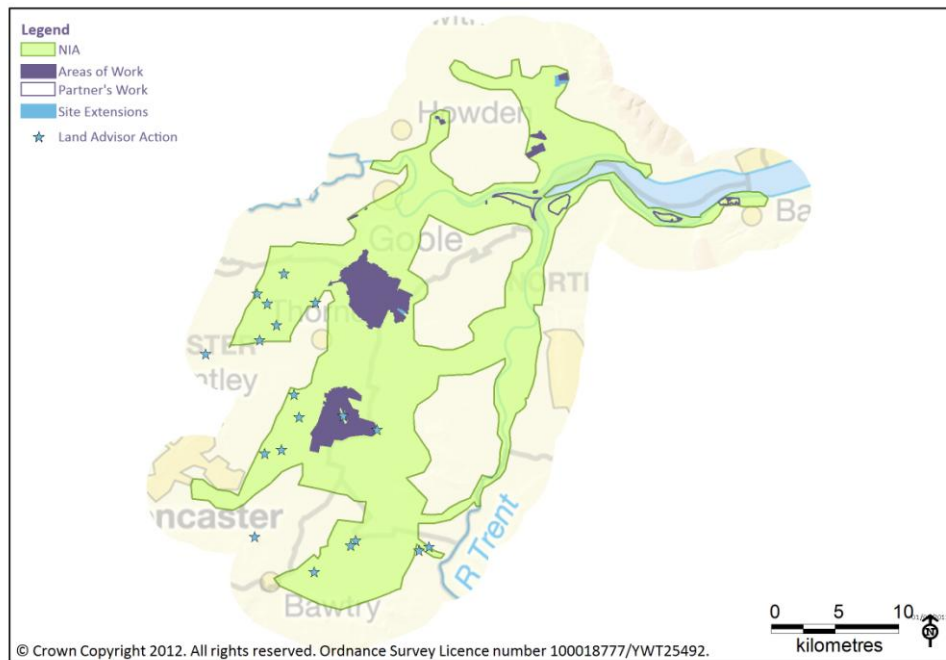
Theme 1 - Creating key habitats

Habitat creation and management provides adaptive capacity for biodiversity allowing movement through the landscape and scope for wildlife to adjust to environmental changes. The synergy of Partnership action is working to achieve Lawton's objectives (2010 'Making Space for Nature') of Bigger, Better, More and Joined up. Achievements in Year 1;

- **BETTER** At Oakhill and Eastrington (East Riding Council) management has started to reinstate reedbeds and lowland raised mire
- **MORE** At North Cave (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust) 9ha newly created habitats on ex-gravel workings.
- **MORE** At Broomfleet local landowners & industry with support from Ouse & Humber IDB and RSPB have undertaken works to rehabilitate wetland habitats including 4ha of reedbed.
- **JOINED UP** The work on the sites listed above adds to the existing reedbed resource on the north of the Humber Estuary along with work funded by other mechanisms at other key sites including Blacktoft Sands, Far Ings and Alkborough to the south of this internationally important estuary.
- **BIGGER** Purchase of land at Crowle Moors (North Lincolnshire Council) bringing more of the Humberhead Peatlands National Nature Reserve into management. Facilitating the creation of lowland raised mire and increasing access onto the old peat workings.

Theme 2 - Achieving sustainable water management in an arable landscape through enhancement of riparian habitats along connecting rivers and drain.

- Working across the whole project area the NIA Land Advisors (Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust & YWT) are currently working with **19** local farmers and other landowners to achieve sustainable wetland management and habitat creation in the wider agricultural landscape. Notable achievements in Year 1 include;
 - Higher Level Stewardship application undertaken for local farmer to bring 20.5ha of land into bog restoration on a site immediately adjacent to Hatfield Moor on the Humberhead Levels Peatlands NNR.
 - Discussions in progress with 5 landowners in the River Idle valley working on a series of existing SSSI habitats and bring others into positive management.
- Funding achieved for the Environment Agency to investigate the potential of utilising small winter storage reservoirs to provide BAP habitats, reduce flood risk and promote the efficient use of water in the River Idle catchment.



*Map showing areas of work in Year 1 and other reedbeds south of the Humber -
Illustrating Bigger, Better, More and Joined*

Theme 3 - Increasing the hydrological integrity of England's largest lowland raised mire system

- Preparation works in Year 1 includes scrub clearance in advance of implementing bunding work and introducing water level controls on Thorne Moors (The Doncaster East IDB part of the Shire Group of IDBs) and Hatfield Moors (Natural England).
- Work will start before the end of the financial year on implementing a Water Level Management Plan – funded via other mechanisms – on Crowle Moors.

Theme 4 - Deliver sustainable management of existing biodiversity assets through the development of the local green economy.

- A Project Officer has been employed to develop a small business model looking at product development and marketing of Biomass fuels using by-products of site management work including harvested reed and tree/scrub felling. The resulting fuel may have the potential to be sold in the local area. The Project officer is investigating and trialling production techniques of 7 different types of biomass fuel products. Working with all NIA Partners the Project Officer is using groundbreaking reed harvesting machinery (match funded by WREN) and tried and tested techniques to generate a consistent source of raw materials to supply the production process.



Credit loglogic



- The Defra Biodiversity Offsetting Pilot with Doncaster MBC has established the policy framework and procedures for the scheme. A Biodiversity Offset provider (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust) has been identified. A number of development projects have been considered against the criteria. However, to date none have proved suitable to be followed through to the implementation of offsetting measures as other mechanisms have been used through the development control process.

Theme 5 - Increase community links to biodiversity sites to increase volunteer support for site management, heritage conservation and interpretation'

- The CONNECT Project is all about getting people involved in their local green spaces within the Humberhead Levels NIA and works across all Partners' 10 Gateway Sites. The project is also promoting training of community leaders and other educators in leading fun and interactive environmental events. It aims to increase the understanding of the Humberhead Levels, its wildlife and its value to people in staying active and keeping healthy.



- Achievements in 6 months of Year 1 include;
 - Production of postcard promoting work of CONNECT and the Partners' Gateway Sites
 - More than 2,500 people and families enjoyed planned events on Gateway Sites, in addition to the normal footfall by visitors
 - Over 5000 hours of volunteer spent on practical management works, wardening, wildlife surveying & monitoring and visitor services
 - 11 training events on natural history identification skills
 - Consultation with the public on what a Gateway Site should provide, attitudes to NIA and the environment



Event at Crowle Moor Gateway credit Ann Flowers (North Lincolnshire Council)

- Further developments at several Gateway Sites will ensure that these sites provide improved access and facilities for visitors. The purchase of land at Crowle Moor completed in Year 1 contributes to this.