

**18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011  
Scarborough**

**Yorkshire & Humber  
Regional Hub Meeting 4  
WORKSHOP REPORT**



# 1. INTRODUCTION

This is the full report of the Yorkshire & Humber Regional Hub workshop held in Scarborough on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011. This was the fourth meeting for this particular Hub, and was the first of four that were held during January to cover the whole of Net Gain's East coast area. Further Regional Hub meetings will be held as work proceeds towards detailed recommendations to Government for the location of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in the Net Gain area.

The overall format for the meeting was developed by Net Gain and incorporated feedback offered by participants at the earlier rounds of Regional Hub and Stakeholder Advisory Panel meetings (StAP). The Regional Hub event included:

## **Day 1 - Full day session**

- ☞ **Welcome and introductions (to all)**
- ☞ **Update presentations**
- ☞ **Natural England Guidance**
- ☞ **Introduce map work**
- ☞ **Plenary sharing/walk about**
- ☞ **Final map work**
- ☞ **Site naming**
- ☞ **Next stages**
- ☞ **Work to be completed overnight by the Net Gain team**

## **Day 2 – Half day session**

- ☞ **Welcome and introductions**
- ☞ **Update – what Net Gain did overnight**
- ☞ **Plenary map work**
- ☞ **Next stages**

## 2. NET GAIN BRIEFING

An introduction and briefing on the workshop was provided by Joanna Redhead, Project Manager.

The purpose of this round of Regional Hubs was to refine the dMCZs from the 2<sup>nd</sup> iteration, making amendments required to meet the ENG and consider feedback received from the last meeting. It was essential that at the end of this meeting site location, boundaries and features was agreeable so that we could move onto the task of management at the next round of hubs.

The Hub was advised that the format of this hub covering a day and a half was as follows:-

1. Day one – Group work looking in more detail at specific sites, making amendments and looking for reference areas.
2. Day two – Plenary, working through the suggested amendments deciding on which, with wide support, could be carried forward.

### **Project updates**

At the end of last year Net Gain were informed that the RSG were now responsible for making recommendations for the type of management measures to be developed for each site recommended. In order to deliver this additional work Defra have granted a slight extension. The deadline for recommendations is now 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011.

In terms of how the meeting was to be conducted it was also stressed that it was extremely important that everyone should get a chance to put their views across and that delegates should respect other peoples' opinions and give everyone a chance to speak.

The Regional Hub members were thanked for their commitment and support given to Net Gain so far.

### 3. UPDATE PRESENTATION

Steve Barnard (Net Gain Stakeholder Manager) gave a short presentation outlining what we did with the October Hub outputs, what had been submitted to the SAP at the 2<sup>nd</sup> iteration (and the targets reached by the network of 22 dMCZs); summary feedback from the SAP; feedback from the StAP, and from the NCS group and other stakeholders. Finally, an update of the impact assessment was provided covering the work done to date, feedback received from Defra and the next stages. A copy of the slides used to support his presentation is provided as Appendix 1.



## 4. NATURAL ENGLAND GUIDANCE



The focus of the meeting overall was on finalising dMCZ site boundaries, suggesting reference areas and identifying which features at each site will be the subject of the site's designation. The features identified for designation will help provide the basis for preparing draft conservation objectives which, in turn, will inform debates on management measures in future meetings.

To provide support to this process, Natural England have prepared draft guidance on Reference Areas and guidance on the development of Conservation Objectives.

Emma Brown from Natural England gave a brief presentation on these two areas of guidance, as well as providing a quick overview of the sensitivity matrix work that is being used to help inform assessments on the need for possible management measures.

## 5. MAP WORK

The remainder of the day was given over to map work in groups. The sites were split up between the groups so that in-depth discussions could be held. Each group was provided with the following:

- A site summary table which showed the features of all sites in 2<sup>nd</sup> Iteration report for quick reference;
- A copy of all feedback received relating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Iteration report;
- A summary of all feedback received, split into ecological and socio-economic factors and sorted by Regional Hub and by site;
- A consensus form for each site with information on features present at the site and associated information relating to additional ecological importance;
- Copies of the PRISM/PISA tools to access and interrogate the features/pressures (sensitivities) matrix and the pressures/activities matrix;
- A reference area checklist;
- An adequacy table, showing what targets have already been met and whether we have habitat 'in the bank'; and
- A regional profile with maps showing all available data layers.

For each of the sites that were worked on, the groups were encouraged to:

1. Use the overall site summary table and the dMCZ/BAI map to determine which BSH, FOCI, AAEL and Geological features were present at the site and to develop an understanding of how it compared to other sites in terms of features and overall 'value'.
2. To consider the reference table to identify which features had limited distribution and therefore which needed to be considered for reference areas within this Regional Hub.
3. To consider the feedback on the site.
4. To take account of 1, 2, and 3 and decide which feedback could be considered.

Groups were then asked to review the site, referring to the regional profile for supporting information. In doing so the groups were instructed to:

- Decide if the boundaries could or should be amended (using the adequacy tables provided to see how much of each habitat was 'in the bank' and how much change could be accommodated).
- Record any changes on the site summary table.
- Decide if the site (or part of it) should be considered as reference area (entering an 'R' in the site summary table against relevant features).
- Decide which features the site should be designated for, adding more features if appropriate or removing features, e.g. if not viable (recording these choices with ticks or crosses against each feature listed in the site summary table).
- Make notes of any changes made to features and why this was done.

Hub members were advised that, during the afternoon session, there would be a short 'walkabout' session to allow each group to see the work being done by the others in the meeting.

## 6. PLENARY SHARING AND WALKABOUT

During the afternoon session of the first day, the groups moved around to see the work that each of the other tables had completed. For each site, a five minute description was given followed by a further five minutes for wider group feedback. The following prompts were asked:

Q. A quick description of the work done

Q. Considerations made?

Q. Level of support from group?

Q. Are there activities which would need managing for most of the sites features?

Q. Did they feel they were lacking input from a sector not in their group - would they like to borrow someone in the next session?

The following records the main points raised during this session.

### Site NG 2.14

The group had queried whether the site was intended to be intertidal or subtidal – but agreed that it was actually intertidal.

They had considered extending the boundaries of the site out seawards to protect foraging birds but decided to leave the boundaries unchanged and to consider redrawing (or at least redefining) the 'inner' and 'outer' boundaries with reference to high- and low-water marks.

The terminology for the high and low water marks was questioned – would we be using MLWS & MHWS (mean low/high-water springs) or LAT & HAT (lowest/highest astronomical tide)? – In response Net Gain suggested that we would take advice from MMO / SFC.

No reference areas were suggested.

### Site NG 2.17 (plus NG 2.18, BAI 10 & BAI 11)

The group unanimously agreed that, as the sites were covered by a pSAC and the new Gap Analysis had indicated that it would protect the broad scale habitat types within its boundaries, the Regional Hub need no longer consider these sites as separate dMCZs or BAIs within its network. All sites were therefore dropped.

No reference areas were suggested.

### Site NG 2.16

The group suggested altering the site boundary slightly to remove the 'triangle' on the site's NW boundary which appeared only to protect an area of moderate energy sublittoral rock (A 4.2). This was agreed within the group subject to changes to sites around the Farnes (which may be subsequently proposed by the North East Regional Hub) not making the inclusion of moderate energy sublittoral rock in the Yorkshire & Humber Regional Hub a necessity.

There was no contention surrounding the site as it stood.

It was suggested that, if necessary, part of the moderate energy sublittoral rock area within NG 2.16 could be used as reference area.

### **Site NG 2.12**

The group had decided to keep the same outer boundary (based on the local SFC no-trawl zone). The site is important regarding its additional ecological importance, with high biodiversity and high species diversity. The site would also protect the geology/geomorphology around Spurn Point and The Binks.

There is the potential for proposed cable routes to have their landfall within the zone, but this was not seen as a reason to restrict the site boundaries.

The comments from the group working on this site were endorsed by the group looking at the adjacent site NG 2.13.

Site NG 2.12 has a 'mirror' site (NG 2.7) to the south, off the Lincolnshire coast; consideration should be given to trying to join these two sites up in terms of management measures. Whilst there was some suggestion that the two sites should be connected it was also suggested that there may need to be a clear gap between the two sites to allow for the Humber Estuary to be easily accessed and its shipping lanes maintained.

### **Site NG 2.09 (plus NG 2.10 & NG 2.13)**

These three sites together form an aggregated area covering subtidal coarse & mixed sediments. The group proposed consolidating all three sites within a single boundary, with some boundary changes to accommodate seabird 'hotspots' and areas of ecological importance. The new proposed shape would be easier to manage and enforce. Where the site lay adjacent to a R2 windfarm a 500m buffer was proposed. On its northern edge the boundary can be changed from that agreed at the October meeting as more advanced planning from R3 windfarm developers now suggests that the area previously avoided (so as to prevent undue impact on the R3 site) can now be incorporated without issue.

It was noted that the southern portion of site NG 2.09 contains part the Inner Silver Pit feature. This area was left out of the modified site – not because it should be excluded but rather that the group felt the LW Regional Hub would be better placed to discuss its future.

Consensus around the table was reached.

A corridor was left between the new consolidated site and NG 2.12 (corresponding to the 3 to 6 nautical mile limits). This would allow for limited and legitimate diversification for inshore fisheries (possibly including scallop dredging) – the additional broad scale habitats that would be gained by 'joining' the two sites was not needed in terms of meeting adequacy targets.

### **Site NG 2.15**

This site is an intertidal area and its ultimate designation would have to follow further consideration of the potential impacts of, and management restrictions on, the activities of the Cleveland Potash Mine. These include subsidence and also the impact of localised maintenance dredging around the clay/brine outfalls to the north of the site. The mining company can provide access to extensive monitoring data relating to the operation of the outfalls and the associated dredging work.

## **Flamborough Head area**

This area was not previously identified as a dMCZ but the area contains Broad Scale Habitats and habitat and species FOCI that may need to be included within the overall network, especially in terms of providing reference areas.

**Littoral chalk communities** – these appear to be already covered by the existing SAC and could be considered as a reference area. May need to extend the area covered for this feature (by designating a new MCZ) extending south along the coast c.300m from the southern boundary of the existing SAC but this (as it would cover the intertidal and immediate subtidal area) this new MCZ would not be considered to have implications for ongoing fishing activity in the area.

**Horse mussel beds** – the group proposed a new MCZ which would also be a reference area for horse mussel. This site would be 500m by 500m and would be sited over the wreck of the 'Headliner' approx 2.2 nautical miles east of Flamborough Head. Another wreck (the 'Pinnacle') lies further east again and may form the eastern limit of the site.

**High energy circalittoral rock** – the available area of this broad scale habitat is very limited at Flamborough and it would not be viable. The immediate area is very important in socio-economic terms (local potting fleet) and would be highly contentious if taken forwards. The group concluded that they would NOT consider having a reference area for high energy circalittoral rock in the Flamborough area.

After the walkabout the groups were asked if they felt whether they needed to 'borrow' someone from another group to help with concluding their work.

The main map work exercise then continued.

## 7. SITE NAMING & NEXT STAGES

Towards the end of the afternoon session, each group was provided with a proforma on which they could record their suggestions of names for each of the sites within the Regional Hub (with a maximum of three options per site). Site name suggestions were collated (to be considered further on Day 2) and the meeting was then concluded with a brief overview of the meeting's next stages.

Hub members were thanked for their work and input to the process and were reminded that comments made during the walkabout session had been recorded. These comments are intended to provide a representation of the ongoing discussions at the Hub and do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Net Gain project team. They will be used to help contextualise the outputs from the meeting and to inform discussions in subsequent Hub meetings.

A brief explanation of the work that the Net Gain team would be undertaking overnight was given – this included the digitising of new site boundaries and the review of suggestions regarding reference areas and changes to designated features.

Finally, those Regional Hub members who were unable to return on the second day were asked to complete a feedback evaluation form.

Completed copies of consensus forms were collected. Scanned copies of the forms, with any additional notes relating to discussions around the groups, are presented as Appendix 2.

Day 1 of the meeting was then closed.



## **8. DAY 2 INTRODUCTION & SHORT BRIEFING**



A quick review of the work carried out overnight was provided, together with an explanation of the objectives for Day 2.

The main objective of Day 2 was to review each of the sites considered on Day 1 in plenary, looking at the suggestions that had been made during the previous days group work. It was intended that, through open discussion and debate, a consensus view could be reached regarding any proposed amendments to site boundaries, to suggestions for reference areas, and to any changes to the list of features for which a site was to be designated.

Hub members were reminded that the focus of the Hub reports would be based on group consensus but that additional or alternative views would also be recorded.

## 9. MAP WORK: MAIN PLENARY SESSION

In turn, the sites for consideration were introduced, explaining which table had reviewed it the previous day. The features of the site were looked at and amendments suggested by the group responsible for the site on Day 1 were presented to the larger group. The Regional Hub as a whole was then asked if it could agree to put these sites forward, as discussed, at this stage. Other suggestions and considerations were taken into account, with pertinent comments being recorded. As sites were agreed upon they were 'locked in' and the discussion moved onto the next site for consideration.

A list of prompts (as below) was used to help direct the debate:

- What are the features of the site? What value does it bring?
- What was the feedback on it?
- Was it a reference candidate?
- What could be done to make this MCZ acceptable (e.g. change boundaries, size, zoning of activities)?
- What do those who value this site for ecological reasons think about proposed changes?
- Can the group agree support?
- Are there any alternatives for the same feature which have not been considered?
- Are the impacts too great for further consideration?

The following records the main points raised during this session.

### Site NG2.14

RSPB would like to record their wish to extend the site seaward to include areas for foraging bird interest. There are c.11,500 breeding pairs of four key species along the coastline north of Filey Brigg. There are no known problems facing the birds at present but would like the issue noted to protect the birds from potential future conflicts.

The group suggested there would not likely be conflicts with activities if foraging and rafting birds received protection, but this area is very important for tourism and recreational activity. The main season for seabird use of the site is April to late summer which would coincide with the main tourism season.

It was also noted that breeding birds may need additional protection, but this would be: (i) seasonal; and (ii) (as the birds nest largely on cliff sites) outside of the MCZ designation process which stops at the MHWST level.

There is a sustainable salmon fishery in this area with T&J nets being operated in the intertidal zone to the South of Filey Brigg (this area is already covered by byelaws and an agreed code of conduct).

The NFFO cannot see the evidence for designating an MCZ site solely for birds.

MCS agreed that even though there is no known impact on the birds now, designation would mean prevention of any future impacts. Also would protect current activities. The key question is 'is it important?' not 'does it need protecting?'

There are outfalls and cables in the area which would need consideration under management measures.

Pete Hansell was asked to provide feedback from his liaison meetings – in response he reported that fishermen are happy given the understanding that mobile gear use (potting) could continue.

The hub agreed to:

- Clip the southern boundary at the base of Filey Brigg – this would exclude the sandy area to the north end of Filey Bay which is an important beach for tourism.
- Include the intertidal BSH types as the feature(s).
- Consider a seaward extension at the next meeting when management implications could also be discussed. It was agreed that RSPB would suggest a suitable boundary to protect bird interests for discussion.

A good level of overall consensus for this site was achieved – the site boundaries will be redrawn as per discussions, reflecting changes recorded on the day.

Going forwards, site NG2.14 will be referred to as NG10. The features that this site would be designated for were suggested as shown in the table below.

<b>Features present within suggested modification to original dMCZ NG2.14</b>	<b>Carry forward for designation in NG10</b>
A1.1: High energy intertidal rock	✓
A1.2: Moderate energy intertidal rock	✓
A1.3: Low energy intertidal rock	✓
A2.1: Intertidal coarse sediment	✓
A2.2: Intertidal sand and muddy sand	✓
A2.3: Intertidal mud	✓
A3.1: High energy infralittoral rock	-
A5.2: Subtidal sand	-
Intertidal underboulder communities	-
Littoral chalk communities	-
Subtidal chalk	-
Subtidal sands and gravels	-
Tide-swept channels	-
European eel	-
Smelt	-

## **Sites NG2.17, 2.18 and BAI 10 and 11**

The members of the Regional Hub group agreed with full consensus that none of these areas needed to be carried forward due to the final gap analysis for the Dogger Bank which has indicated that the BSH features at all of these sites will be protected by the Dogger Bank pSAC.

## **Flamborough Head SAC/SPA**

Although Flamborough was not suggested as an MCZ at the time of the 2nd Iteration, following feedback from the SAP and StAP one of the groups on Day 1 was asked to consider the site for possible reference areas for a number of features with limited spatial distribution in Net Gain.

### ***Horse mussels FOCI***

In addition to the data within the Regional Profile local knowledge was used to suggest two other known locations for horse mussels:

Surrounding two wrecks – of the Headliner and the Pinnacle – lying east of Flamborough Head. These appear to be within the boundary of the existing SAC and their presence appears to be concurrent with our data (although this will need checking against the main GIS dataset back in the Net Gain offices).

Net Gain's Senior Liaison Officer provided feedback from local fishermen that the Flamborough Head area is extensively trawled and that there are also a number of wrecks in the vicinity. Trawlermen are worried that the establishing of a reference area may give rise to a health and safety issue as it may mean them having to deviate from existing trawl patterns and so risk snagging their gear on wrecks. An alternative site approximately 4.2 miles offshore near the wreck of the West Nook was suggested – this alternative site may be preferential to the one closer inshore.

However it was thought that the outer wreck may be too deep to allow the occurrence of horse mussel beds to be confirmed by diving. However, Jon Whitton explained that there is a dive operator out of Whitby that regularly does deep dives and may be able to check location.

Emma Brown (Natural England) made the point that the feature should be horse mussel beds not just patches of horse mussel.

The members of the Regional Hub group agreed to:

- carry forward a reference area of 500m x 500m around the wrecks of the Pinnacle and the Headliner, as the data we have for that area shows horse mussel beds.
- Net Gain has undertaken to find the correct location for these wrecks and to delineate the area after the meeting.

### ***Littoral chalk communities FOCI***

The current No Take Zone (NTZ) at Flamborough runs 1 mile from Danes Dyke to Sewerby Steps and 700m seaward. The NTZ was established through stakeholder process with support from local fisheries. It was agreed that this could be proposed as a reference area for littoral chalk communities FOCI.

There is a licensed dumping ground offshore from the NTZ, but this is likely to have been considered when the existing NTZ was set up. NESFC suggest it is only semi active.

## **High Energy Circalittoral rock**

Members of the Regional Hub questioned whether, if there is only a single example of the feature within the project area, it can be a true reference area (i.e. what is it a reference for?). The Hub requested that clarity on this point is sought from the SAP.

The Hub questioned the viability of the available habitat; there is approximately 3.6km<sup>2</sup> which is not within the existing SAC.

It was felt that a 3<sup>rd</sup> reference area within the existing MPA would have too great an impact on the stakeholders. In particular there would be serious implications for the localised fishing fleet that operates out of Flamborough.

The hub agreed to go forward without this habitat type and record the discussions for the SAP report. The project team would ask the SAP's advice on viability.

A good level of overall consensus for these two suggested reference areas (horse mussel & littoral chalk communities) was achieved – site boundaries will be drawn as per discussions, reflecting comments & suggestions recorded on the day.

Going forwards, these reference area sites will be referred to as RA-YH3 and RA-YH4 (the two possible sites for horse mussel) and RA-YH2 (for littoral chalk communities).

## **NG2.15**

The Hub member representing the Cleveland Potash Mine at Boulby queried whether, if there is a known risk of subsidence in the area, it makes sense to designate the site.

An action was recorded for Natural England and Cleveland Potash Mine to meet to discuss the possible implications of subsidence.

Given we have reached the maximum adequacy targets following the latest Gap Analysis do we need to include this area anyway?

Pete Hansell gave feedback from local fishermen – if potting was allowed to continue then fishermen supportive of site; if not they could not support the site. NFFO also stated that if existing levels of potting could continue in the southern part of the site (an existing No Take Zone; NTZ) then they would support the site. It was suggested that it may be worth clipping the site to the existing NTZ to remove conflicts of interest.

Joanna Redhead raised the point that these broad brush assumptions cannot continue to be made as they are unrealistic. As we move forward from this point we will need to make full use of the sensitivity matrices, and assess the vulnerability of features at each site to activities depending on such as the intensity of use, location within the site, duration of impact etc. The PRISM database was checked and suggested that trawling and potting activity may impact on High Energy and Moderate Energy infralittoral rock features.

The hub agreed that this site remains contentious and a number of points need clarifying to move it forward:

- Existing impact of subsidence due to the activities of the Cleveland Potash Mine
- Possibility to reduce the boundary to match the existing NTZ
- A vulnerability assessment would need to be undertaken to see if static gear fishery could continue

Overall consensus was achieved, albeit with some remaining contentious issues to be addressed. The site boundaries were retained with no changes.

Going forwards, site NG2.15 will be referred to as NG11. The features that this site would be designated for were suggested as shown in the table below.

Features present within suggested modification to original dMCZ NG2.15	Carry forward for designation in NG11
A1.2: Moderate energy intertidal rock	-
A1.3: Low energy intertidal rock	-
A2.2: Intertidal sand and muddy sand	-
A2.3: Intertidal mud	-
A2.4: Intertidal mixed sediments	-
A3.1: High energy infralittoral rock	✓
A3.2: Moderate energy infralittoral rock	✓
A4.1: High energy circalittoral rock	✓
A4.2: Moderate energy circalittoral rock	✓
A5.1: Subtidal coarse sediment	✓
A5.2: Subtidal sand	✓
A5.4: Subtidal mixed sediments	✓
Sheltered muddy gravels	-
Subtidal sands and gravels	-
European eel	-
Smelt	-

*Post Plenary comment*

*RSPB noted that, should the site go forward in any form, they would wish that the AAEI should be listed features of the site (both the pelagic and seabird features).*

**NG2.12**

Members of the Regional Hub concluded that the boundary for site NG2.12 should remain as it is and requested that the LW Regional Hub consider joining the site with NG2.7 on the Lincolnshire coast.

Members rejected the suggestion of a reference area around The Binks (originally suggested to protect the spit at Spurn Point). There is no strong support for this at present, and it was pointed out that the feature itself is highly mobile. It was decided that this position could be reconsidered in future meetings.

JR queried whether the peat and clay exposures in the site should be considered as a reference feature. The members of the Regional Hub concluded that there were better examples of the feature in the LW Regional Hub, and within the Humber Estuary around Immingham. The need to include such sites could be revisited after the LW Regional Hub meeting.

Cable landfall may be an issue for the subtidal coarse sediment; the sensitivity matrix indicates 'M' sensitivity to cable installation, the pressure benchmark being a change to folk class). This would imply that cables would need burying – but this would be a requirement here anyway.

A good level of overall consensus was achieved with no proposed changes to site boundaries.

Going forwards, site NG2.12 will be referred to as NG8. The features that this site would be designated for were suggested as shown in the table below.

Features present within suggested modification to original dMCZ NG2.12	Carry forward for designation in NG8
A2.4: Intertidal mixed sediments	✓
A5.1: Subtidal coarse sediment	✓
A5.2: Subtidal sand	✓
A5.3: Subtidal mud	✓
Peat and clay exposures	-
Ross worm reefs	-
European eel	-
Smelt	-
Spurn Head	✓

*Post Plenary comment*

*SAP had advised to look at estuaries as possible MCZs. The importance of the Humber Estuary for smelt (and for a number of other fish species) for nursery, spawning and juvenile areas was raised, and whether there is need for additional designation of the estuary.*

*An action was taken for Tania Davey to arrange a meeting of the Humber Management Scheme (to be attended by the Environment Agency and Net Gain representatives) to discuss whether an MCZ designation would bring additional value, and whether such a designation would be manageable or not.*

**NG2.16**

Discussion was held on whether the site could be extended south to cover the Flamborough Front feature. This would however take the site into a more heavily fished area, and also into the cable corridor for the Dogger Bank windfarm site.

The hub agreed to redefine the northern boundary to run straight from E to W for management purposes.

The feature to be designated is Broad Scale Habitat A4.2, and there is also a possible reference area within the site for this habitat which would have little contention from this hub. There are some existing communication cables which run in the vicinity of the suggested reference area. The hub agreed that it would be possible to accommodate that by choosing a sensible shaped reference area.

However it was agreed to wait until after the NE Regional Hub has met and discussed site NG2.20, which features the same habitat type. It was felt that this alternative site around the Farnes would be a better reference area due to accessibility for monitoring, however it is likely to be much more contentious. The hub would revisit this at the next meeting.

Overall there was good consensus for the site; the site boundaries will be redrawn as per discussions, reflecting boundary changes recorded on the day.

Going forwards, site NG2.16 will be referred to as NG12. The features that this site would be designated for were suggested as shown in the table below.

<b>Features present within suggested modification to original dMCZ NG2.16</b>	<b>Carry forward for designation in NG12</b>
A4.2: Moderate energy circalittoral rock	✓
A5.1: Subtidal coarse sediment	-
A5.2: Subtidal sand	-
Subtidal sands and gravels	-
European eel	-
Smelt	-

#### *Post Plenary comment*

*It was noted that, in feedback to the 2nd Iteration report, the SAP had asked the Regional Hub to consider the importance of the Flamborough Helgoland front. The Wildlife Trust requested that the project team seek clarity on that advice on how best consider it within an MCZ. It is presumed we would not be protecting the seabed, but pelagic/water column protection – so how would it be managed? Also, did they want it considering as a reference area for scientific interest?*

#### **Sites NG2.10, NG2.13 & NG2.9**

A new consolidated boundary covering a substantial portion of all three sites was suggested. In addition, the table suggested closing the corridor between NG2.12 and the consolidated NG2.10, 2.13 & 2.9.

There was contention from the renewable sectors as the NE corner of the consolidated site would potentially impact on the Hornsea windfarm and the Westermost Rough site which borders the site. If the corridor was closed the resultant would entirely surround the Westermost Rough site.

There was concern over subtidal mixed sediment because of potential management implications for static gear. If that BSH was a designated feature that would impact on static gear and this is a very important ground for shellfisheries.

Subtidal coarse sediment made up the majority of the site so it was suggested to designate for that feature alone (this feature is understood not to be impacted by the use of static fishing gear). One hub member reminded the group that we are working on modelled data and that the actual habitats may vary on the ground. That is, the site may be designated for coarse sediment and, subsequently, surveys may reveal that it is more mixed sediment. Whilst it may not be an issue in itself should the mixed sediment not be a designated feature it may pose problems for subsequent management.

The Regional Hub agreed that if the site is carried forward the designated features would be the subtidal coarse sediment; spawning grounds; area of front covered.

The consolidated boundary as drawn was carried forward but is contentious.

Overall there was good consensus for the site, but a degree of contention remains. The revised site boundaries will be redrawn as per discussions, reflecting boundary changes recorded on the day.

Going forwards, the consolidated sites NG2.10, 2.13 & 2.09 will be referred to as NG9. The features that this site would be designated for were suggested as shown in the table below.

<b>Features present within suggested modification to original dMCZ NG2.10/2.13/2.09</b>	<b>Carry forward for designation in NG9</b>
A4.2: Moderate energy circalittoral rock	-
A5.1: Subtidal coarse sediment	✓
A5.2: Subtidal sand	-
A5.4: Subtidal mixed sediments	-
European eel	-
Smelt	-
Area of front (Flamborough Helgoland)	✓
Spawning grounds	✓

#### *Wider discussion*

*The assumptions that have been used to date are likely to be unrealistic in some cases – this applies to all the regional projects. The need for a reality check over these was raised at the National stakeholder forum last year and little progress has been seen to date on the issue. JR advised that this had been discussed at the latest Project Managers meeting, and that the Regional Projects had requested that the SNCBs (Natural England and JNCC) are available to advise on whether the assumptions being made are acceptable and if the management measures being proposed are realistic and fit for purpose. That is, will they satisfy the SNCBs that the conservation objectives can be achieved? Natural England representative agreed that more support was to be made available to the Regional Projects.*

*An action was taken for JR to raise these issues with the national project team and to request additional expert support from Natural England specialists at the next meetings.*



## 10. AGREED PLENARY MAP OUTPUTS



### **Draft MCZs**

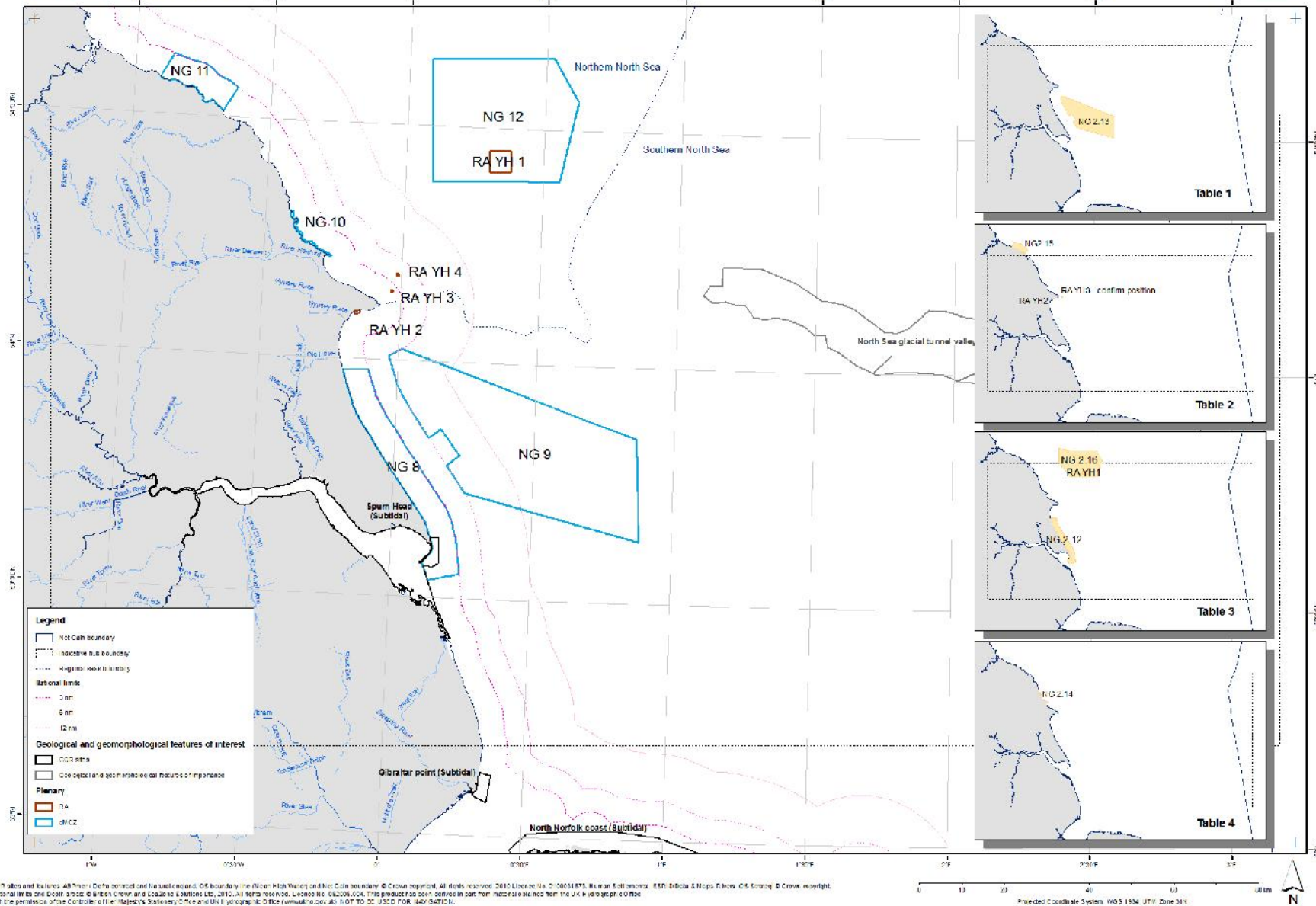
The following figures (overleaf) show the revised draft MCZ sites as suggested by the groups during the map work on the first day (as insets) and as they were agreed to be carried forward following the plenary discussions on Day 2 (the main body of the figure).

The degree to which the network of dMCZs (as agreed post-plenary) meet the requirements of the Ecological Network Guidance (for adequacy, replication, etc.) will be assessed and presented within the 3<sup>rd</sup> iteration report to the Science Advisory Panel.

# Yorkshire and Humber Hub - Stakeholder aggregated outputs of the 3rd iteration



Table work and aggregated outputs from the January hub meeting. (MOC = shell marine conservation zone, RA = reference area. Reference areas have been proposed to protect: RA YH 1 = A&P Medlowe energy conditional rock, RA YH 2 = Lillial chalk communities, RA YH 3 = Horse mussel beds (not very abundant) and RA YH 4 = Horse mussel beds (recent local knowledge).



## 11. SITE NAMING 2

Net Gain had taken the site names suggested on Day 1 and prepared a series of large wall charts to allow for voting.

Each member of the Regional Hub was given a set of stickers and they were then asked, for each site, to each place one sticker against their favourite suggested name.

The resulting scores from this exercise are presented below as Table 1.

These suggested names are, at this stage, indicative only.

**Table 1 Suggested possible site names, with indicative support**

Site	Suggested site name	Votes
2.9	Outer Humber	12
	Rough	-
	Silver Pits	-
2.10	Rough	-
	Westermost Ruff	12
2.11	Markham's Hole	13
2.12	Brid Bay Inshore	-
	East Yorks Inshore	-
	Holderness	3
	Holderness Coast	1
	Holderness Inshore	10
	Owthrone	1
2.13	Brid Bay Offshore	-
	Damnation Alley	12
	East Yorks Offshore	1
	Holderness Offshore	7
	Mestamuss Rough	1
	Rough	-
2.14	Castle Ground	9
	Holbeck	-
2.15	Boulby Zone	6
2.16	Compass Rose	13
Other (ref area for horse mussel)	Headliner	6
Other (ref area for chalk)	Danes' Dike (no take)	6
	Kirk's Own	11

## 12. NEXT STAGES

The Hub members were informed that, following the full round of Regional Hub meetings, reports for each meeting would be prepared and made available to members as soon as possible.

When they meet on the 7th February, the StAP will look in particular at any cross boundary redundancy remaining and where we are still lacking reference suggestions they will be asked to comment and advise.

The next round of hubs (in April or May) is going to be slightly different as we will need to shift the focus onto management options for the proposed sites. We will be working on a site by site basis to review the features, look at existing management and see what else may be needed depending on what activities occur at the site. To facilitate that work, we will go away and develop a 'vulnerability assessment' for each site – using the features you have defined for the site, and what activities occur at the site we will cross reference with the PRISM database to see which may or may not need management.

Before we do that though, we will need to introduce you to the different types of management options available. We plan to hold a joint session prior to the next round of hubs with the MMO – this will be w/c 21 March. Details TBC.

Completed evaluation forms were collected (the data from these are presented as Appendix 3) and Net Gain expressed their thanks for everyone's hard work over the course of the meeting; all inputs were greatly valued and appreciated.

### UPDATE

Since the Regional Hub meeting the dates for the next round of one day meetings, to be held in conjunction with the MMO, have been confirmed as follows:

- North East Regional Hub – 21<sup>st</sup> March;
- Yorkshire & Humber Regional Hub – 23<sup>rd</sup> March;
- Lincolnshire & The Wash Regional Hub – 25<sup>th</sup> March; and
- East of England Regional Hub – 30<sup>th</sup> March.

The subsequent round of Net Gain Regional Hub meetings have been pencilled in as:

- Yorkshire & Humber Regional Hub – 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> April;
- North East Regional Hub – 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> May;
- East of England Regional Hub – 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> May; and
- Lincolnshire & The Wash Regional Hub – 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> May.

In both instances the venues, timings and intended content will be communicated to Regional Hub members once details have been finalised.

## PARTICIPANTS

The list below includes all invitees. We have also included those who sent apologies; they also will be receiving this report.

Name	Sector	Notes
David Adamson	Kayak Anglers	
Sophie Barrell	Forewind	
Helen Bloomfield	Newcastle University	Unable to attend this meeting
Richard Brewer	Whitby Trawlers	Unable to attend this meeting
Robert Briggs	Filey Against Dredging	Unable to attend this meeting
Emma Brown	Natural England	
Daryl Burdon	Hull University	
Jon Capel	Marinet	Day one only
Bob Coates	Bridlington & Flamborough Fishermans Soc <sup>ty</sup>	
Kirk Crimlisk	Commercial Fishing	
Tania Davey	HMS & Humber INCA	
Andrew Finlay	Crown Estate	
Andy Hammon	English Heritage	
Rachel Hanbury	MMO	
Geoffrey Hill	Royal Yachting Association	Day two only
Paul Huteson	Ocean Blue Seafood	
Chris Jenner	Mainstream Renewable Power	
Paul Lane	NESFC	
Victor Leppington	Commercial fishing	
Michelle Lindsay	RSPB	
Henrik Lund	Danish Commercial Fisheries	
Jill McCormick	Environment Agency	
Danny Major	Commercial fishing	
Robin Neale	Recreational angling	
Carrie Pillow	MCS	Unable to attend this meeting
Tony Pockley	E Y Subsea Heritage & Exp Soc	
Nigel Proctor	Recreational angling	
Chris Robinson	Filey Brigg Research Group	
Dale Rodmell	NFFO	
Mark Russell	BMAPA	
Kirsten Smith	Wildlife Trust	
Rob Spray	MCS	Deputising on behalf of C.Pillow
David Swift	Yorkshire Region Angling Trust	
Declan Tobin	JNCC	
Jenny Thomas	Cleveland Potash Ltd	
Ruth Thurstan	BSAC	
Jon Whitton	Whitby Charter Skippers Assoc	

In addition to the invited Hub members, the following members of Net Gain staff were present:

- Joanna Redhead – Project Manager
- Steve Barnard – Stakeholder Manager
- Chiara Polce – GIS Planner
- Ian Rowe – Senior Liaison Officer
- Pete Hansell – Liaison Officer
- Dan Davis – Liaison Officer
- Enock Bamusi - Economist



## APPENDIX 1



### **Net Gain presentation**

The following pages show the slides that accompanied the presentation to Day 1 of the Regional Hub meeting.



## APPENDIX 2



### **Completed Consensus Forms**

The following pages are taken from scanned copies of the completed Consensus Forms for each of the sites discussed during the first day.

In addition, any further notes relating to discussions around the groups are also presented.

Additional comments recorded during the discussions on Day 1 are presented below.

### **NG2.12**

- Also, see proposed changes to site NG2.13 for keeping a 'corridor' for local fishing interests between sites 2.12 & 2.13.
- Complements European Marine Site.

### **NG2.15**

- Agree with comments made previously - the concern will be on the management of the MCZ once designated.
- The presentation from NE [Natural England] this morning made reference to designated features being in favourable condition or not. How would the views on activities as pressures on an MCZ affect activities? If the management is to leave "as is" what is the point of designating the zone in the first place?
- Not enough thought given to CPL [Cleveland potash Ltd] impact on the coastal area (mainly from subsidence). The zone cannot be protected as it is as it will change due to activities. How can/will this be managed? Conservation objectives will prove difficult to manage.
- Potash – dredging takes place every year but try to avoid spawning/juvenile season. Subsidence may be an issue.
- Includes large range of BSH. The area is heavily potted and is a No Trawl Zone. Current activities are expected to carry on. No new evidence [of adverse impacts due to the dredging work] has come to light.

### **BAI 9**

- 'Brown' area – used grids to find it. Just to make numbers up. Nursery areas? Includes species FOCl – rossworm etc.
- FOCl targets met already – no need to extend further south. Seabirds foraging areas. NOT NEEDED

### **NG2.13 & 2.12**

- Discussions around potential join up between the revised sites NG2.13 and NG2.12.

#### Pros

- Affords a level of protection for static gear fisheries - changes the fishing strategy over the year.
- Simplifies boundaries for management purposes.
- Avoids the displacement of static gear fisheries.
- Potential socio-economic benefits for static gear fishing, with increased stakeholder buy-in from this sector.

#### Cons

- Limited ecological justification – we need advice from the SAP as to whether it is better to have two separate sites or one joined up site.
- We have already exceeded our BSH targets for the features within the site [so there is no need for an increased area within the MCZ network].
- The impact on offshore developers is unquantifiable at present – potentially a showstopper for some projects(?)

- Suggestion to open dialogue with DONG Energy [Westermost Rough windfarm site] to enable us to consider fully the potential implications for the offshore windfarm site.

### **NG2.13**

- The revised boundary encompassing dMCZ sites NG2.9; 2.10; and 2.13 provided an additional 75km<sup>2</sup> of habitat. This site should be avoided as a reference area.
- The new boundary lines proposed:
- Encompasses hotspots for wintering birds
- Because of the coverage of these BSH we can be a little more flexible with site boundaries and capture examples of additional ecological importance.
- Altering the shape should allow easier management and enforcement
- Encompasses more areas of additional pelagic ecological importance
- Avoided Westermost Rough offshore windfarm (OWF) and included a buffer (between 500m and 1km) to avoid impact on their operations
- Consolidates the 3 draft MCZs into one – improves management
- Site covers existing oil and gas infrastructure – but assume this will not be impacted by the MCZ designation
- The [Inner] Silver Pit trench geomorphological feature has been omitted (southern portion of dMCZ 2.09) as this was proposed by another hub. We fully expect the adjacent hub to seek to include this.
- Potential implications for Dogger OWF cabling route
- There are aggregate production licences to the south – we have included a 1500m buffer against potential secondary impacts (e.g. sediment plumes), however the nature of the habitats being protected are such that they are likely to be tolerant to changes in turbidity

### **Flamborough - Reference Areas**

- Littoral chalk communities - already present within the Flamborough No Take Zone – c. 700m x 300m of chalk is present – could possibly extend c.300m further south past Sewerby Steps.
- Horse Mussel - 2.2 nautical miles east of Flamborough. No potting, but trawling still takes place in the area so designation would be contentious. Should be able to identify a 500m diameter area in the most easterly of the suggested FOCI locations. Could be sited over a wreck where no trawling takes place. Kirk to confirm details, and latitude/longitude of locations (may be able to source from Ian Rowe. The area between two identified wrecks should be avoided as this is trawled – will need to be discussed with trawlermen.
- High energy infralittoral rock – if designated, a reference area for this broad scale habitat type around Flamborough would put the under 10m (inshore) commercial fishing sector in the Flamborough/Bridlington/Filey area out of business. There are already two proposed reference sites around Flamborough. Does the available area of this habitat type constitute a viable site? Proposals to designate a 3rd reference site may disrupt agreements regarding the other reference sites? The wisdom of co-locating the three reference sites as closely together as possible was questioned – a single manmade or natural event may wipe them out. The broad scale habitat should be 5km in diameter if it is to be designated as a reference area – whilst there is enough in one direction it is not wide enough? The socio-economics relating to the site would mean that the designation of the BSH as a reference area is not viable – its inclusion would be viewed as just a box-ticking exercise.

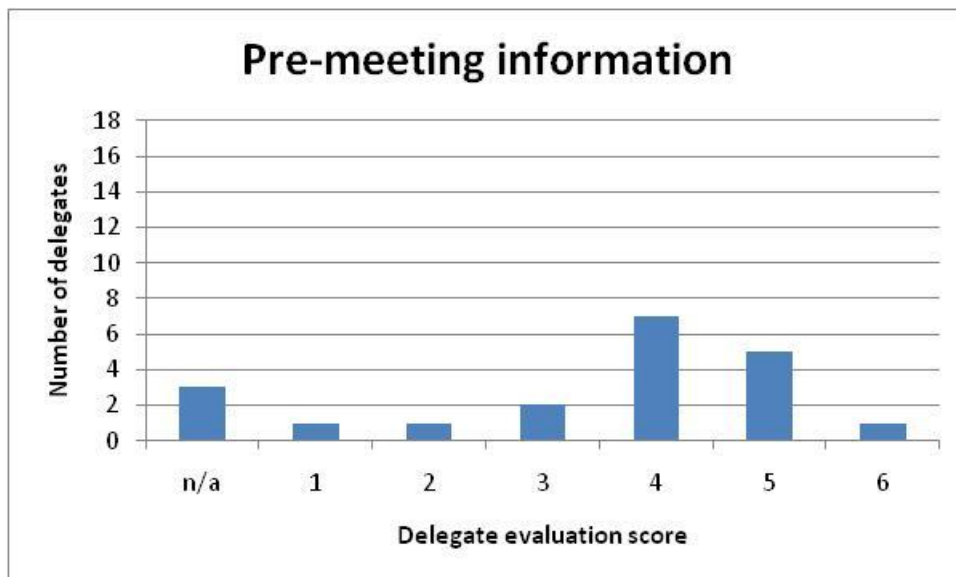
## APPENDIX 3

### Feedback & evaluation

The following figures show the results of the feedback/evaluation questionnaires that were completed by Regional Hub members following the meeting. Where specific comments were received these are presented under the relevant figure (the comment is preceded by the score that was given by the respondent).

Each question/section was rated on a scale of 1 to 6, where 1 was 'poor' and 6 was 'excellent', and feedback was requested in a number of areas:

- Pre-meeting information
- Venue
- Structure of 1<sup>st</sup> day
- Structure of 2<sup>nd</sup> day
- Explanation of tasks
- Quality of resources
- Clarity on progress made to date
- Progress made on the day
- Collaborative group working
- Opportunity to discuss your sector's views
- Net Gain support on the day
- Clarity on next steps to be taken
- How well was the meeting run overall?



(1) Didn't get anything - may have gone to another person. May not have been anything

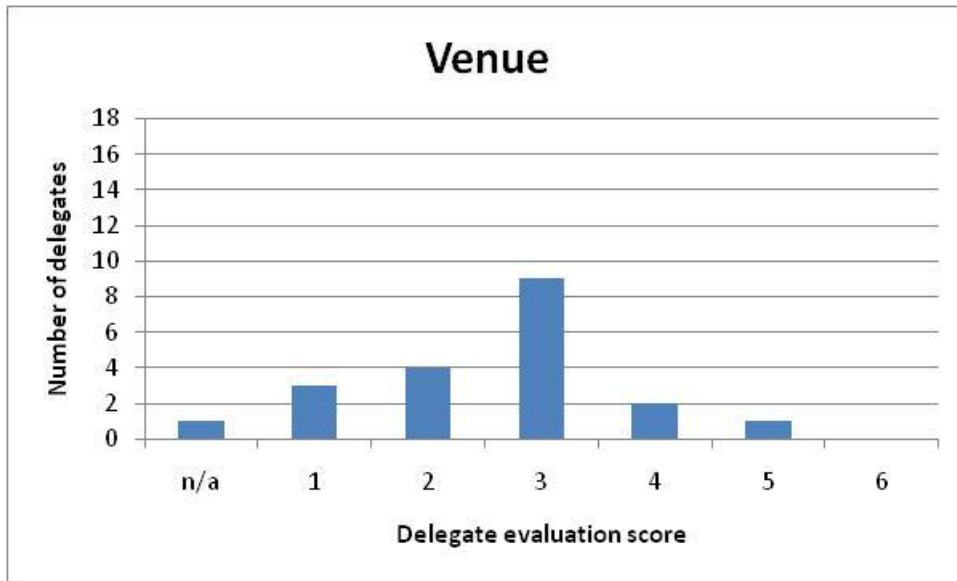
(4) Some info did not arrive before the meeting

(4) Very much information

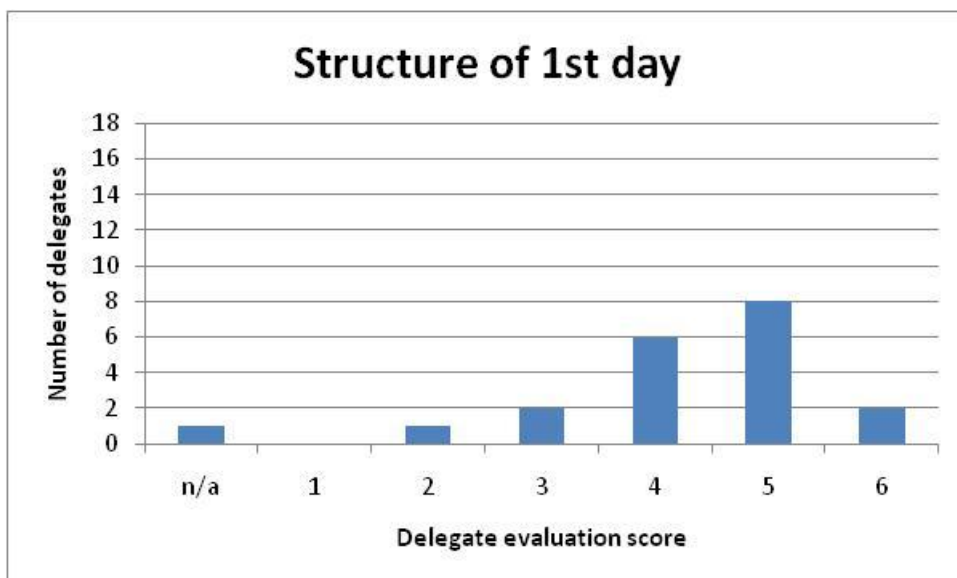
(n/a) Last minute delegate

(n/a) No package as previous meetings

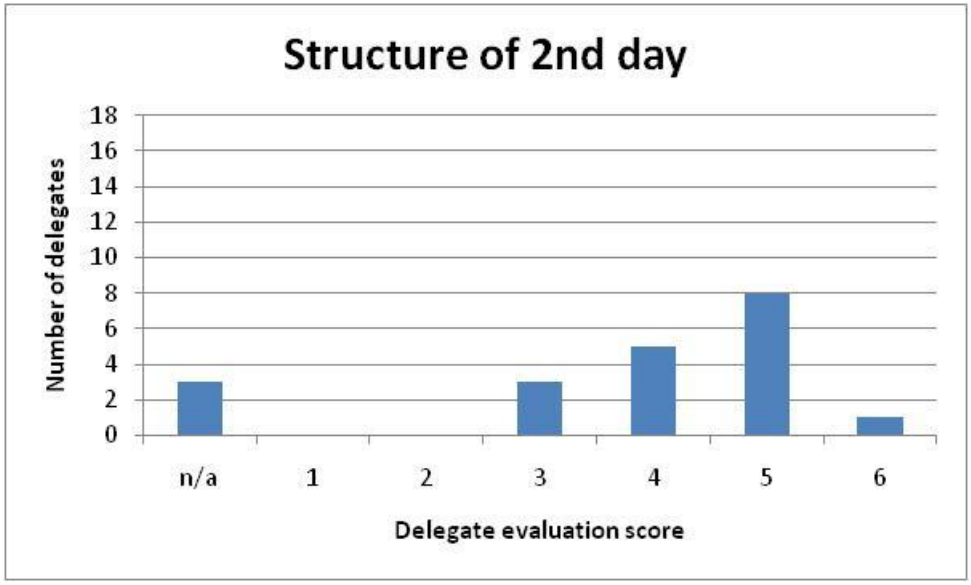
(n/a) OK



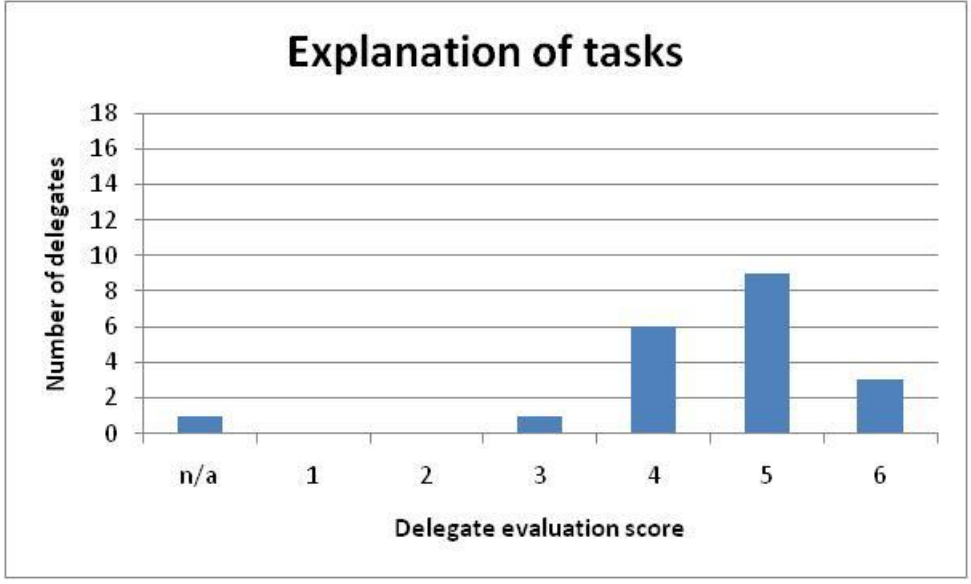
- (1) Cold & stupid parking
- (1) Ongoing works outside made parking difficult
- (1) Poor parking
- (2) Cold and noisy and hard to park
- (2) Limited parking
- (2) Parking problems
- (3) Cold
- (3) Cold room
- (3) Cold room and food not great!
- (3) One first day very cold again and noisy
- (4) A bit cold no heating



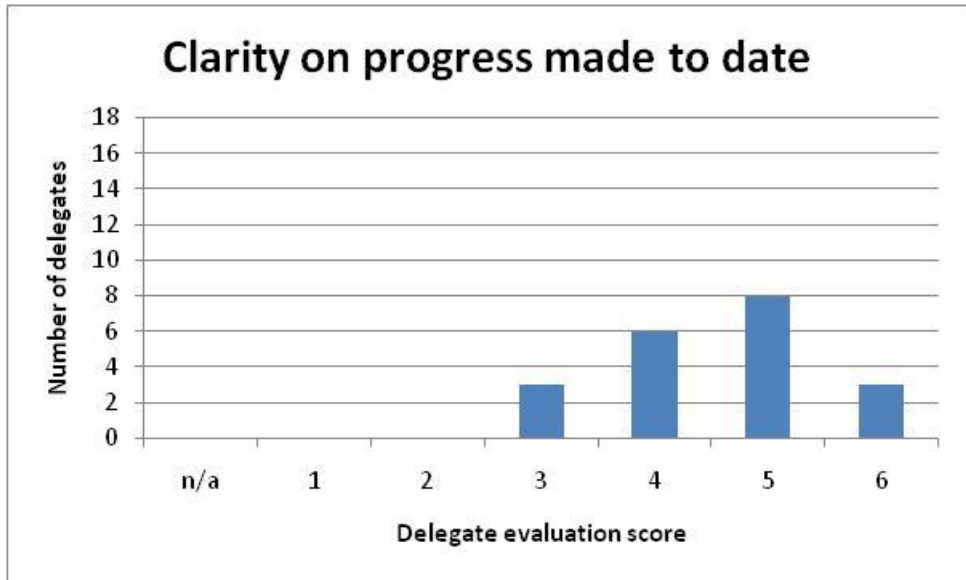
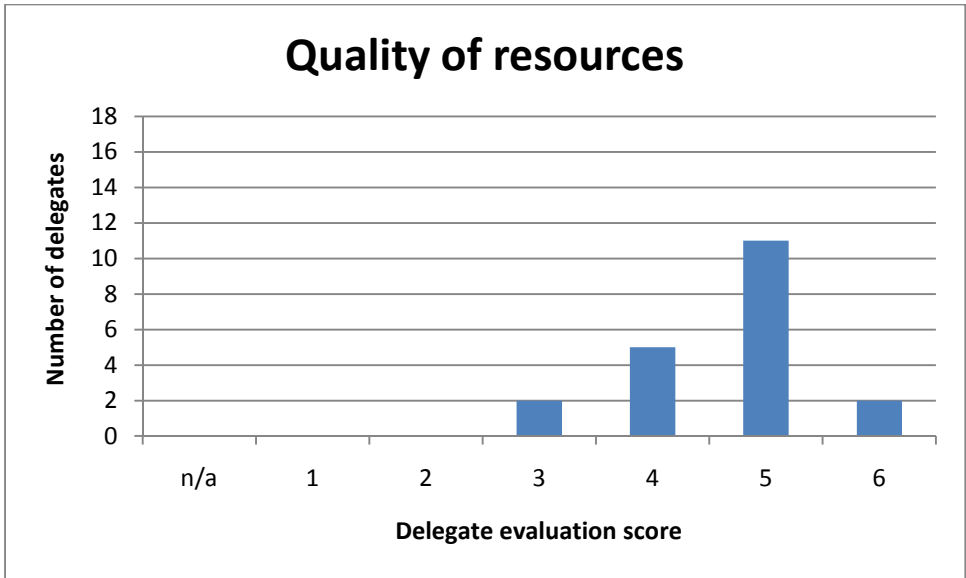
- (2) Almost overwhelmed with data/spreadsheets
- (5) Delegate recorded score of 5.5
- (n/a) Not

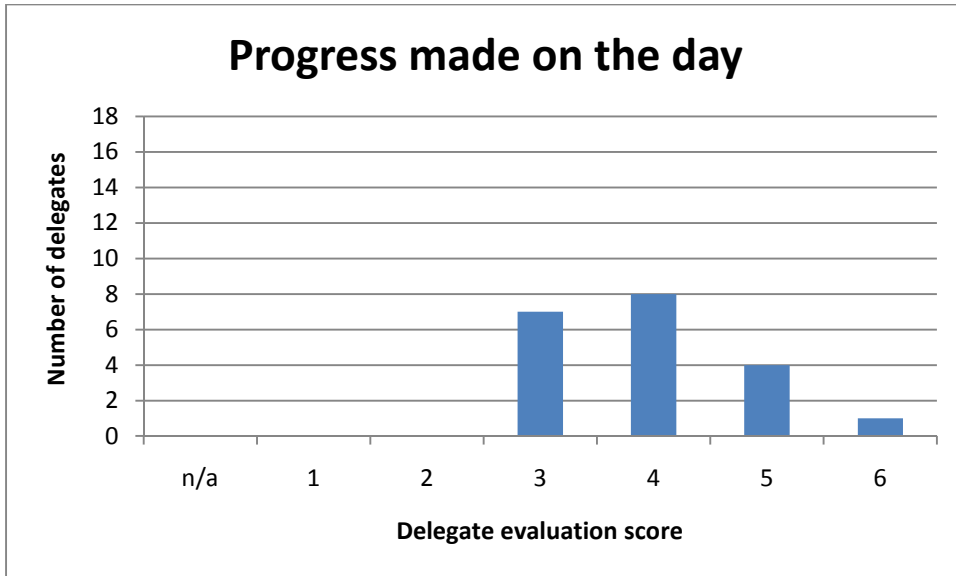


(5) Delegate recorded score of 5.5

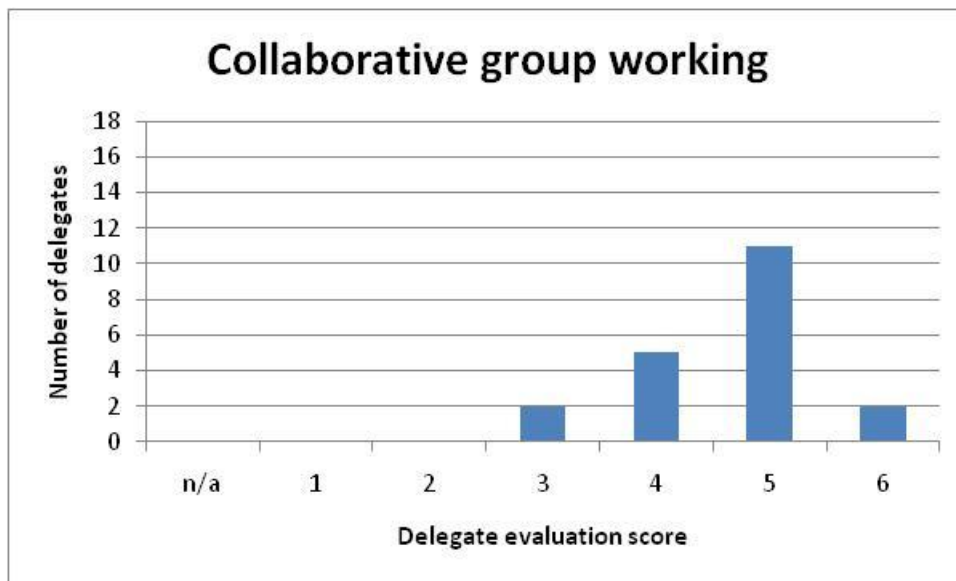


(5) Delegate recorded score of 5.5





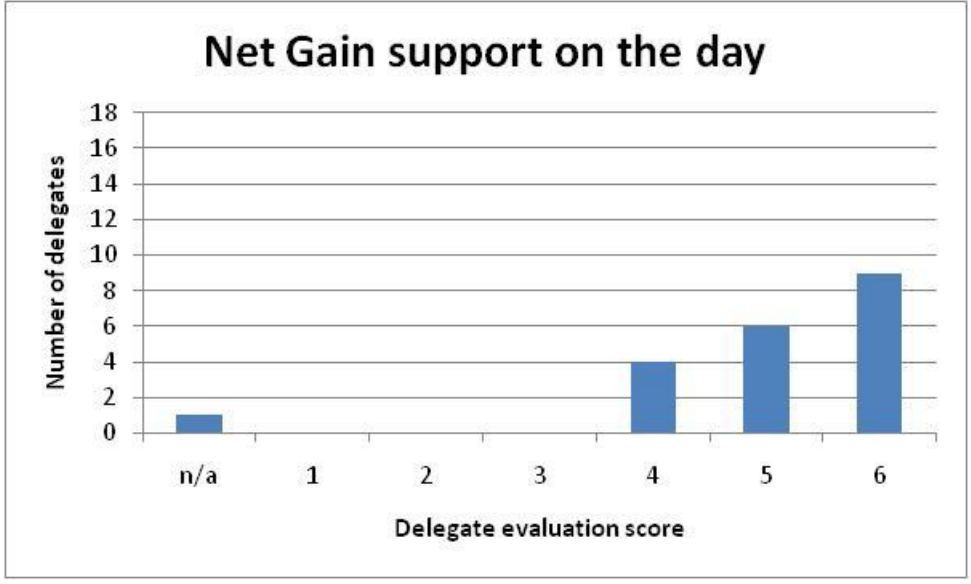
- (3) Needs to be a bit more control over people re-stating things - but better than previously
- (3) Still a problem due o uncertainty of impact to com interests
- (4) Some "new" confusion re compatability offshore renewables & natural resources previously understood as compatible - now unsure



- (3) New members made it difficult to work at first



(5) Good



(6) Very good

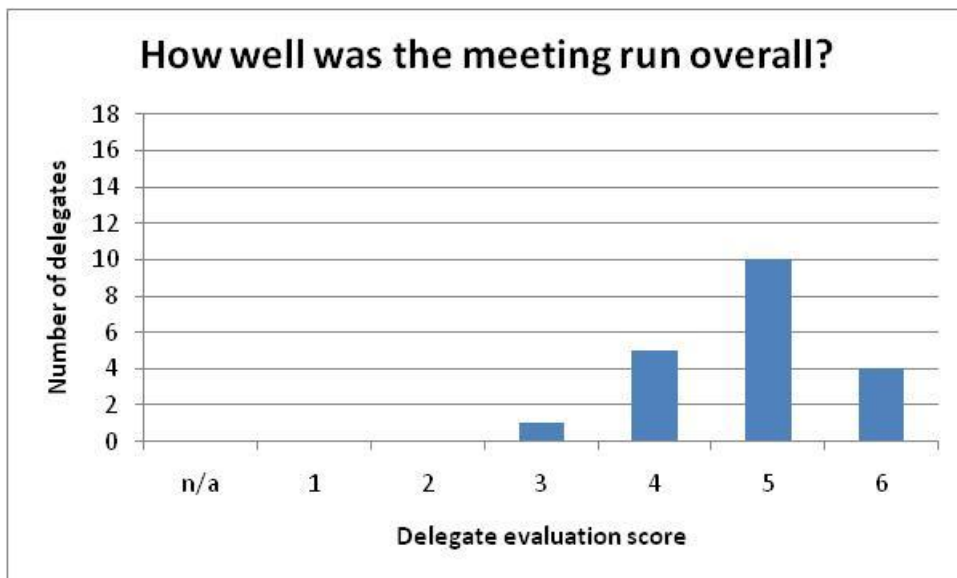


(3) Not really sure...

(4) Delegate recorded score of 4.5

(5) Seems as though some v. important points still to be discussed late in the day

(n/a) Interaction between hubs & overlaps. Needs rationalisation/clarification



(5) Good overall - well done

(5) Delegate recorded score of 5.5