Hesketh Out Marsh: Reversing reclamation on the Ribble Estuary

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Managed realignment in the UK


Site history
Project objectives

- Habitat creation
- Create bird reserve
- Hold the existing line of defence
- Maintain the public Right of Way
Project timeline

- RSPB discuss buying land (2003)
- EA need to repair inner embankment
- Ribble Estuary study
- Project steering group and new partners (2004)
- Project risk register
- Consultation and planning permission
- Work starts on site (2006)
- Site breached
- Begin planning HOME (2007)
- Consultation
- Work starts on site (2010)
- Planning permission (2013)
- 2014
- 2015
- Discussions on HOME continue
- Monitoring of HOMW
# Consultation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HOMW</th>
<th>HOME</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Style of consultation</strong></td>
<td>Decide – defend</td>
<td>Options – Consult – design – consult – decide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consultees</strong></td>
<td>Residents, farmers, anglers, ramblers, shellfishers, wildfowlers</td>
<td>+ Canal and Rivers Trust, Air base, Airport</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Concerns</strong></td>
<td>RoW, drainage, flooding, bathing water</td>
<td>Bird strikes, loss of navigation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Objections</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Bird strikes, loss of navigation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Outcome</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Extra time and cost to resolve</td>
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</tbody>
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Overcoming barriers

- Perception
- Conflict of interest
- Cost

Why are we bringing water closer to homes?

What about bird strikes on aircraft?

Why are we spending taxpayers’ money on useless land?
Conflicts of interest

Gull cull?
- Air travel
- Military Defence
- Recreation
- Fishing
- Protected habitats and species
- Accept bird gardening

Delay breach
- Flood risk
- Navigation

Grazing agreement
- Bathing waters

Upgrade land drainage
Agree to dredge
Cost

ABPMer, 2015. The cost of undertaking managed realignment schemes in the UK. Briefing Note available at
Nature vs people?

Quarrel people not displaced.

UK floods: Environment Agency accused of 'putting birds before humans'

Peers say they were told by officials from the agency that it could not protect the railway line at Dawlish until it had considered the possible impact on local birdlife.
Proposition

Promote human benefits and downplay nature conservation aspects to make managed realignment more acceptable