Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a conservationist working around the Holderness Coast, mostly in Spurn Point. I understand that the government is offering funding to protect an area of coastline and I would like to offer my views on where the money should go. In order to explain to you why Spurn Point needs protection, I will offer you an in depth look at the area, the creatures and habitats that are irreplaceable and my suggestion about how the money could be best spent.

Spurn Point is a spit that will soon be utterly decimated by erosion. It houses a RNLI station and a salt marsh. The spit attached to the main point is very thin and is being breached more often, and hard engineering, like groynes, have limited the amount of material being added to Spurn Point. The salt marsh is irreplaceable as it creates a habitat for many species of bugs. For example, many kinds of hoverfly and butterfly make their home in the area. Linked to this, and possibly the most notable feature of the area, is its importance it for migratory birds. It is used as a stopping point for migration by many species of bird and a range of wader birds inhabit the area permanently. Knowing where they are during migration is imperative to these birds and being sent on the wrong course due to the loss of Spurn Point could cause dangerous alterations to migration paths set in stone long before many of the settlements nearby had even been established.

Although I do understand those claiming that settled areas require protection, the number of birds that will be affected by the disappearance of Spurn Point is around four times that of the number of people who live in Holderness. Also, there is evidence to prove that the rapidly declining coastline is the fault of Global Warming, a problem caused by people. This means that many of those now asking for help were instrumental in causing the rapid erosion, something the wildlife of Spurn Point had no control over. I urge you to take this into consideration when making your decision.

It is likely that very soon the spit connecting Spurn Point to the mainland will be destroyed, making it into an island. In order to prevent this, I recommend allowing more material to build up the spit, so that it is more protected. A sea wall may also become necessary on the east of the island if erosion happens too quickly. In short, I recommend pro-active and potentially artificial defences that will allow Spurn Point to rebuild itself.

The benefits of defending Spurn Point are as follows:

* We will be protecting wildlife and habitats that we have hurt through global warming
* We will prevent the loss of a RNLI station, something important in a coastal region
* We will preserve an attractive and much visited area that is extremely attractive to tourists

Although there are some downsides (hurting people’s livelihoods and losing some tourist sites are potential negative side effects), the benefits of saving this important habitat and the lives of many creatures that have done nothing wrong is surely a preferable path.

Please consider our arguments when deciding how to spend money on flood defences. Many of us have poured our hearts and souls into preserving this important area and we hope you make the best decision for the innocent lives here at Spurn Point.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

Frederick Conyard

Conservationist.