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LATEST NEWS

07/07/2011

July 2011

Dear subscriber,

Welcome to the July edition of the North West Coastal Forum newsletter. Click the links to read the full story on our website, or download the full-length PDF attached to this newsletter.

Warm regards,

The North West Coastal Forum

Forum News

[North West Coastal Trail Workshop Held in Morecambe](#)

June 30, 2011

On Monday June 20, the North West Coastal Forum hosted 'Accessing the North West Coast', a workshop to discuss access along the North West coast with stake holders from the region and to promote the [North West Coastal Trail](#) vision.

The event was attended by over 40 local stakeholders, who heard representatives from Sustrans, the British Horse Society and the Ramblers Association shared their perspectives on the current state of coastal access, and Danny Moores from Natural England gave an update on the status of the English Coastal Access Route, where preparatory work has begun on the first development stretch in the North West, between Whitehove and Allonby in Cumbria

The workshop was also interactive and stakeholders were invited to contribute their thoughts to several issues, including 'What is already happening/planned on access around the North West Coast?', 'What can local authorities and others be doing in advance of the national scheme roll out to improve access to the coast?', and are there any 'quick wins' for future development'?

A full report on the workshop and stakeholder responses will be published in August.

[Coastal Access in the North West – Consultation](#)

July 7, 2011

Following the [Accessing the North West Coast](#) workshop in June, the [North West Coastal Trail](#) project has opened a consultation to produce an up-to-date picture of activity and opportunities which are contributing or could contribute to the creation of a continuous route for cyclists, horse-riders and pedestrians when accessing the North West's coast.

The consultation questions are:

- What is currently already happening or planned on access around the North West coast?
- What can local authorities and other organisations be doing in advance of the national scheme roll out to improve access to the coast?
- Identification of particular issues relating to access to or along the coast and key targets for future development – are there any 'quick wins'?

To participate in the consultation, and for more information, please download the document below:

[Accessing the NW Coast Consultation](#)

Regional News

[New Copeland Coastal Partnership](#)

July 7, 2011

Copeland Borough Council have launched a new coastal partnership new venture to bring together a range of organisations that have an interest in promoting and enhancing the coast to encourage more people to enjoy the benefits of what is on offer.

The partnership aims to develop the coast for the benefit of local people, visitors and the local economy as well as protecting the physical and natural environment for current and future generations.

At the launch on 30 June 2011, 28 organisations pledged their support to the organisation. See the [full list here](#).

[Green Infrastructure to Manage Climate Change: Resources Available](#)

July 6, 2011

Resources are now available to help a range of professionals in the North West plan, design and manage green infrastructure and the natural environment so that it can help to combat climate change. They are of use for planners, designers, developers, decision makers, land and green space managers, as well as a wider audience and help to deliver a wide range of agendas.

The resources include Action Guidance, an Evidence Base, an Evidence Report, a Mapping Tool, Community Trainign and a Tool for Developers. They have been developed by as part of the [Northwest Climate Change Action Plan](#) by Community Forests Northwest on behalf of the Northwest Regional Development Agency and Northwest Climate Change Partnership and are summarised in a [downloadable flyer](#), which contains links to the tools and more information.

[Irish Sea Conservation Zones – latest progress report](#)

June 29, 2011

The Irish Sea Conservation Zones project has published its latest progress report, detailing draft final recommendations for Marine Conservation Zones in the Irish Sea which will be submitted to Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservancy Council in August 2011.

The project, which began in 2009, is the first 'stakeholder-led' process in the UK to identify areas for marine conservation. Along with a project team, this work is undertaken by a group of 39 regional stakeholders, each from a different sea use or interest in the Irish Sea, who are tasked with making recommendations to the government on the location and conservation objectives of Marine Conservation Zones that fulfil certain ecological criteria.

The latest progress report and draft final recommendations can be [downloaded here](#) (two documents).

For more information on the project, visit www.irishseaconservation.org.uk

[Peel Energy halt Mersey Tidal Power project](#)

June 29, 2011

After months of consultations and technical studies, Peel Energy have published the 3rd and final stage of the Mersey Tidal Energy feasibility study and chosen a preferred scheme - a barrage between New Ferry and Dingle. However, due to high construction costs, Peel Energy have decided that it is not a financially viable project and will not progress development.

The studies found that construction costs, including the barrage and navigation locks, visitor centre, and transport links, would be an estimated £3.5 billion, resulting in a cost of electricity that is not competitive in the current energy and capital markets.

To read the Peel Energy press release in full, [click here](#). For further information and to download the main report and technical studies, visit www.merseytidalpower.com.uk. Comments are invited on the reports until August 11.

[Mersey Ports Master Plan Consultation Launched](#)

June 8, 2011

Peel Ports Mersey have launched their draft Mersey Ports Master Plan, outlining their 20-year vision for growth and future developments. The plan seeks to increase capacity of Mersey Ports and the Manchester Ship Canal by 70% and would generate several thousand jobs for the region.

The Master plan takes in the planned expansion of the Seaforth River Terminal at the mouth of the Mersey and adds new ports along the Manchester Ship Canal at Wirral, Bridgewater, Ince, Warrington and Salford.

A series of public consultation events are being staged at locations between Liverpool and Salford throughout June and July and responses will help to shape the final master plan, which will be published in December 2011.

Further details, including a link to download the master plan, and a list of consultation events can be found at the [Port of Liverpool website](#).

National News

[Strategic Scoping Report Published](#)

July 7, 2011

The final [Strategic Scoping Report \(SSR\)](#), which provides a snapshot of activities across marine planning areas in England's waters, has been published by the [MMO](#). The report is the first summary of results from the Strategic Scoping Exercise, carried out by the MMO, that examined the spatial distribution of natural resources and activities within England's marine area, and aimed to provide a national context to the national sub-plans as they are developed.

The report can be download from the [MMO website](#).

[Natural Environment White Paper is Published](#)

June 8, 2011 Defra have released the first White Paper on the natural environment to be published in 20 years, outlining the Government's vision for the natural environment over the next 50 years, along with actions to deliver the vision. The plans in the White Paper are directly linked to the recently published [UK Natural Ecosystem Assessment](#), and also acts on the recommendations of 'Making Space for Nature', a report into England's wildlife sites published last year. The White Paper contains several key recommendations, including:

- New Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs), transforming rural and urban areas and providing bigger, connected sites for wildlife to live in and adapt to climate change, with a £7.5 million fund for 12 initial NIAs.
- Biodiversity offsetting
- New Local Nature Partnerships to strengthen joined-up action across local agencies and organisations, with £1 million available this year.
- Green Areas Designation allowing local communities to give protection to areas that are important to them for recreation, the view or their importance for wildlife.
- More children experiencing nature by learning outdoors
- Natural Capital Committee – an independent body to report to the Government's economic affairs committee chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.
- An annual statement of green accounts for UK plc – showing where our economy has withdrawn from the value of nature's bank balance, and where we have invested in it. This will help measure green growth alongside GDP.
- A business-led Task Force chaired by Kingfisher Group Chief Executive Officer Ian Cheshire, to expand the UK business opportunities from new products and services which are good for the economy and nature alike.

For more information, read Defra's more detailed summary on [their website](#), or download the [White Paper here](#).

National Ecosystem Assessment

June 8, 2011

Defra have launched the UK National Ecosystem Assessment (UK NEA), a groundbreaking report that demonstrates the value of nature.

The UK NEA brought together over 500 experts in ecology, economics and social sciences to estimate the value of the natural world by taking account of the economic, health and social benefits we get from nature. The assessment provides values for a range of ecosystem services, which can be used to help fully understand the value of the natural environment and how the benefits to individuals and society as a whole can be better protected and preserved. Examples include:

- The benefits that inland wetlands bring to water quality are worth up to £1.5 billion per year to the UK
- Pollinators are worth £430 million per year to British agriculture
- The amenity benefits of living close to rivers, coasts and other wetlands is worth up to £1.3 billion per year to the UK
- The health benefits of living with a view of a green space are worth up to £300 per person per year.

For more background information on the study and its findings, and to download the [Synthesis of Key Findings](#), visit the [UK NEA website](#)

International News

[Coastal Wiki – Online Coastal and Marine and Encyclopedia](#)

July 6, 2011

The Coastal Wiki – the Coastal and Marine Wikipedia – is an Internet Encyclopedia providing up-to-

date and high quality information for coastal professionals, which is continuously improved, complemented and updated by expert users. The Coastal Wiki also has a community aspect and is a great place to share ideas and learn from others. www.coastalwiki.org

[IMCORE Project Final Event](#)

June 15, 2011

The EU-funded Interreg 4B NWE Project, IMCORE (Innovative Management for Europe's Changing Coastal Resource) has announced its final event: 'Adapting to Coastal Change: local perspectives, an International Conference and Field Trip', to be held September 13-15 2011 in The Hague.

The meeting aims to address the issues of adapting to coastal change with a focus on local level challenges and approaches and is aimed at both practitioners and researchers. The conference will be global in its geographical scope and will include a number of keynote speakers with an international profile in coastal change adaptation.

Registration is £22 with an August 1 deadline

Consultations

[Coastal Access in the North West – Consultation](#)

See above. Closes August 12th 2011

[Mersey Ports Master Plan Consultation Launched](#)

See above. Closes end of July

Conferences and Events

To see a full list of upcoming relevant conferences, events and workshops, visit the events page of our website: www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/events

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