



News and Events Update

April / May, 2012

Dear Subscriber,

Welcome to the April / May edition of the North West Coastal Forum's News and Events Update. Click the links to read the full articles on our website or download the attached full PDF version, to read at your leisure.

Kind regards,

Caroline

North West Coastal Forum Secretariat

NWCF News

New Chair for the Coastal Forum!

Posted on May 17th, 2012

The North West Coastal Forum is pleased to announce that Professor Ann Worsley has been elected to Chair the Forum from April 2012 – 2014. She succeeds Graham Lymbery of Sefton Council who is to be commended for leading the Forum safely through the sometimes stormy waters of major changes in the region and corresponding changes for the Forum.

Professor Worsley is a Chartered Geographer with an impressive academic background, graduating from and obtaining her doctorate at University of Liverpool where she became a research fellow and

going on to lecture at Edge Hill University, where she was awarded a personal chair in 'Environmental Change' in 2009. She is also an Honorary Professor, University of Exeter and Visiting Professor, University of Liverpool. In December 2011, she joined Strata Environmental as a consultant.

She is a member of several internationally recognised geographical societies, an elected board member of the International Society for Geochemistry & Health, an advisor on several national and international groups, a member of the UK Resource Centre for Science, Engineering & Technology for women and the United States' Graduate Women in Science. She has also acted as a reviewer for the Royal Geographical Society, The Royal Society and the Czech Academy of Sciences. Her particular research interests lie in the relationships between people and their environments, their impacts on each other and their mutual interdependency.

Here in the North West she has worked on the long and short term changing nature of coastal environments, the impacts of human on coasts and the implications of and adaptation to current global climate change within coastal zones. In 2005 she appeared on the BBC programme 'Coast', alongside Gordon Roberts of the National Trust. The programme featured the prehistoric footprints on Formby beach. Professor Worsley's part in the investigative work was to help reconstruct the local environment through a forensic examination of the sediments and organic remains held within the deposits.

She also has experience of coastal partnership work, being involved with the Sefton Coast Partnership since its inception in 2000 and serving on both the Sefton Coast Partnership Board and on the Research Task Group.

Professor Worsley takes over at an exciting time for the Forum as we move towards delivery of our biggest biennial conference yet. Delivering Sustainable Coasts on 18th and 19th September, which she will chair, is also the final conference of the international SUSTAIN project.

On her appointment as Chair Professor Worsley said:

"Coastal zones are amongst the most important areas on our planet, not least because they are where many of us work and live, but also because they are so reactive to changes in climate and human activity. As we enter a period of considerable natural change, the work of the North West Coastal Forum becomes even more important. Interactions between people and coast are critical; coasts both provide for, and respond to, what we do, generating enormous challenges for coastal professionals, practitioners, end-users and academics in terms of management, knowledge-sharing and planning for the future. The future is uncertain; energy requirements are growing, the demand for economic stability is very clear and the need for coastal communities to work together is essential. The scientific evidence for global climate change is clear, with coastal communities at the interface between climate, ocean and terrestrial environmental interactions. This makes the sharing of scientific understanding alongside and in partnership with the wealth of local knowledge and expertise absolutely vital. As someone who is deeply passionate about coasts, mindful of the challenges of global climate change but at the same time, keen to ensure the continuation of the process of sharing knowledge and understanding for which the North West Coastal Forum is well known, I look forward to supporting the work of the Board.

To date the North West Coastal Forum has been very active in bringing together key stakeholders to explore ways in which such knowledge and understanding may be shared, and it has also explored the potential impacts of climate change in its work on adaptation and mitigation. To continue this excellent work is essential and together the Forum will strive to ensure this happens; not only will this help to secure long term security for our coasts but it will also broaden the influence of the partnership and of partners across the UK. Key initiatives include the conference later this year, but I would also like to strengthen the bonds between partners and academic/research institutions, seek out new funding initiatives and set our coastal communities at the heart of coastal science."

Deadline approaching for North West Awards for Coastal Excellence!

Posted on April 26th, 2012

The deadline for entries to the NWACE 2012 is fast approaching. Entries must be in by 5 pm on 31st May 2012. The award categories are: Coastal Champion, Coastal Community Action and Coastal Best Practice. The winners will be announced at the Delivering Sustainable Coasts international conference in Southport on September 18th. For more details For more details and the application forms see: <http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/2012/02/13/the-2nd-north-west-awards-for-coastal-excellence-nw-ace-2012/>

The Case for Marine Planning in the Irish Sea

Posted on April 26th, 2012

The North West Coastal Forum has submitted a document to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to support the case for the 2nd marine planning region to be North West England. An announcement on the next area to be planned is expected in early summer 2012. The case for it to come to the North West was compiled by the North West Coastal Forum but represents input from a wider group of organisations and participants in the March 2012 'A Sea Change: Marine Spatial Planning from Solway to Dee' event which was held in conjunction with the Wildlife Trusts and the MMO. The document can be downloaded at: <http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/2012/04/26/the-case-for-marine-planning-in-the-irish-sea/>

Regional News

BBC Coast in the North West

Posted on May 17th, 2012

Over the next two Sundays (20th and 27th May) BBC Coast, aired at 9 pm on BBC 2, will feature items on the Transatlantic Cable and Birkenhead Park.

Have your say on the Liverpool City Region Local Nature Partnership

Posted on May 15th, 2012

The Liverpool City Region Local Nature Partnership wider engagement forum will be held on 24 May from 9:30am – 2:30pm at The World Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool. A range of environmental, economic, social and health partners are working together across Liverpool City Region to put forward a submission to Government to form a Local Nature Partnership. The Partnership will value and maximise opportunities from the City's Region's natural environmental assets and services to help ensure that the natural environment is a key criterion in all strategic decision-making and that the quality of the City Region's natural assets attracts and engages investors, businesses, visitors and residents.

The forum is being held on 24 May from 9:30am – 2:30pm at the World Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool to provide local stakeholders – businesses, local authorities and other public bodies, environmental organisations, health bodies and community groups – to voice their opinions on the overall aim and objectives of the Local Nature Partnership and its key priorities.

Attendance at the forum is free, but we are expecting a lot of interest and places will be booked on a first come, first served basis so please do get in touch as soon as possible. If you want to book a place or find out more about the Liverpool City Region Local Nature Partnership, please contact Bo White (bwhite@sqw.co.uk or Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service on 0151-934-4951).

More NW Beach Awards News

Posted on May 15th, 2012

Hot on the tail of the Marine Conservation Society's Good Beach Guide results announced last week, Keep Britain Tidy have today released the results of Blue Flag and Quality Coast Award beaches. Both of these awards must be applied for by local authorities and spending cuts in the public sector may have affected application rates this year, but 3 North West local authorities – Copeland, Lancaster and Wyre have applied for QCA and have met the standards required. The qualifying beaches are Haverigg, Seascale, Silecroft and St Bees for Copeland Borough Council; Morecambe North and Morecambe South for Lancaster City Council and Jubilee beach, Cleveleys and Ferry beach, Fleetwood for Wyre Borough Council. For full listings and more information on Blue Flag and QCA see: <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/Programmes/Beaches/Default.aspx> .

Consultation on draft proposals for coastal access in Cumbria – Allonby to Whitehaven

Posted on May 11th, 2012

Natural England has published the Draft Proposals for improving coastal access between Allonby and Whitehaven in Cumbria. The closing date for comments is 5pm on Friday 3 August 2012. The proposals are for an enhanced walking route to be created along the 36 km of coast to provide greater access for local residents and visitors alike. This marks the first stages of implementation of the England Coast Path in the North West England, which was set in motion by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

Natural England is inviting comments from all interested parties including land owners and farmers, residents, businesses and people who use the area for recreation. Your feedback will help to shape the final proposals for the route and ensure that local issues are addressed.

To view copies of the Draft Proposals and comment form see the Natural England website: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/access/coastalaccess/cumbria/default.aspx> .

Hard copies are also available to view at a range of locations along the coast in Allonby, Maryport, Workington and Whitehaven as well as being on display at the Cumbria County Council offices in Carlisle. For more details on these locations, and for information on a series of drop-in sessions running from 28th to 31st May where the consultation documents can be viewed and officers from Natural England and Cumbria County Council will be present to answer any questions or queries, see the Natural England website: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/access/coastalaccess/cumbria/officeandlibrarylocations.aspx>

If you have any queries regarding the consultation process, please call the Natural England enquiry line on 0845 600 3078 or email your query to this address: allonbytowhitehaven.consultation@naturalengland.org.uk

For more general information on the work being undertaken to create the English Coastal Path – a new National Trail around all of England’s open coast – see the Natural England website:
<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/access/coastalaccess/default.aspx>

Good Beach Guide results for North West England

Posted on May 3rd, 2012

The Marine Conservation Society has published its 25th Good Beach Guide. Eight North West beaches are recommended by MCS, which only recommends beaches which achieved ‘guideline’ water quality based on water quality testing which took place in 2011.

The 8 are: Cumbria: Silecroft and St Bees; Sefton: Formby and Southport; Wirral: Meols, Moreton, Wallasey and West Kirby. For more information on 56 North West beaches see the MCS website: <http://www.goodbeachguide.co.uk/> and for bathing water profiles on the 31 North West coastal beaches designated as bathing beaches under the Bathing Water Directive see the Environment Agency website: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/recreation/119111.aspx>.

MCS is also running a series of beach cleans on the Big Beach Clean-up weekend which runs 11th to 13th May. Events are taking place at 5 locations in the North West: Harrington, Workington; Sandylands, Morecambe; Rossall, Cleveleys; Hightown, Sefton and West Kirby, Wirral. For more information on dates and timings and to register click here: <http://www.mcsuk.org/foreverfish/>

Morecambe Bay – one of England’s first Nature Improvement Areas

Posted on April 17th, 2012

Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership has worked with and on behalf of a broad partnership to secure £600,000 from the national Nature Improvement Area Programme. The investment will create a step change for nature around Morecambe Bay by improving and reconnecting the area’s special wetland, limestone, grassland and woodland habitats, as well as inspiring community action and supporting sustainable farming, wood fuel and wildlife tourism businesses.

The RSPB, Butterfly Conservation, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Morecambe Bay Partnership, Forestry Commission, Lancaster City Council, National Trust, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Natural England, National Farmers’ Union, Bay Tourism Association and Wyre Council have played a major role in developing and supporting the project and will act as key delivery partners.

The Nature Improvement Area will see enhancement and restoration of over 1000ha of priority habitat; the creation of ‘corridors’ and ‘stepping stones’ to develop a more robust ecological network; the launch of a nature tourism business network; development of the area’s wood fuel economy; a comprehensive evidence base to enable sustainable development alongside improvements to the natural environment; and a series of inspiring opportunities for people to experience and get involved with their natural world through events and volunteering.

Secretary of State for the Environment, Caroline Spelman, said:

“I’d like to congratulate Morecambe Bay on becoming one of the first 12 Nature Improvement Areas. These exciting wildlife projects are the result of different organisations all working together with a common purpose – to safeguard our wildlife for generations to come.”

Lucy Barron, Arnside & Silverdale AONB Manager, said, “This is important – these habitats are part of our landscape and our shared ‘sense of place’. This will give a much-needed boost to the area’s

wildlife whilst bringing benefits for our local economy, farmers and communities. Partnership working continues to go from strength to strength around the Bay as this latest exciting success shows. Support from farmers and landowners, the wider community and many others demonstrates there is an appetite for collaboration and action on a large scale. ”

National News

Sea Angling 2012 Survey

Posted on May 16th, 2012

Sea Angling 2012 is a government-sponsored project being carried out by Cefas (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science), the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and the inshore fisheries and conservation authorities (IFCAs).

It aims to collect information and data on recreational sea angling to improve scientific understanding of fish stocks off the coast and to ensure that the needs of sea angling are represented as effectively as possible in future marine policy development. The sea angling community will benefit by having information to help them develop their own views and policies.

The project will look at how to provide the most cost-effective information on:

- the number of people who go sea angling during the year
- how often they fish from the shore or from boats in different parts of England
- numbers and sizes of fish caught or released to the sea
- the social and economic importance of sea angling in England

For more information see the project page on the MMO website:

<http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/seaangling/>

Marine Data News issue 22

Posted on May 16th, 2012

The Marine Environmental Data and Information Network's latest newsletter is available to download here: <http://medin.newsweaver.co.uk/1izekuj9k2c1xmred8tfrk?email=true&a=11&p=23967984>

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) – Potential Site Options for Welsh Waters

Posted on May 15th, 2012

Closing date 31st July 2012

The Welsh Government is consulting on the 10 potential MCZ site options in Welsh Waters which have been identified by MCZ Project Wales.

The aim is to reduce the number of sites to 3 or 4 through an iterative, phased, consultation process of which this consultation is the first (there will be two further consultations following this one). A series of public and sector specific events will be held during this consultation phase. A web mapping application is also provided to supplement the consultation document.

To view the proposals and maps, find out how to respond and for more information on the consultation events see the Welsh Government website:

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentandcountryside/mczpotentialsites/?lang=en>

A family of unique trails: Discussion Paper on the Future Management of National Trails from April 2013

Posted on May 11th, 2012

Natural England has written to over 160 organisations and local authorities to ask their views about proposals to alter the ways National Trails in England are looked after in the future. The consultation is aimed at those organisations involved in the current management of National Trails, as well as trail user groups, and will run for 8 weeks from 10th May until 5th July 2012.

Currently National Trails are cared for and managed by 50 local highway authorities and the cost of this work, including the employment of National Trail officers, is mainly funded by Defra via Natural England. The consultation proposes to:

- involve local people and communities in looking after National Trails
- give Local authorities more autonomy over how they manage the National Trail funding they receive. Under the proposals, Local Authorities could receive a single grant rather than a grant for specific items, which will enable a flexible response to each Trail's needs
- develop a flexible management programme for National Trails that recognises the different investment and maintenance needs of National Trails

Liz Newton, Natural England's Director for Access said: "Our National Trails are world-class tourist attractions offering locals and visitors the opportunity to explore England's rich landscapes and diverse wildlife. They are the gold standard for public access but we have to look at how each distinct Trail is cared for to ensure they are all on a sustainable course for the future. The consultation will provide a valuable opportunity for all parties to share views on the way forward"

To view the discussion paper and for information on how to respond see the Natural England website: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/enjoying/places/nationaltrails/review2012.aspx>

Marine Strategy Framework Directive Consultation: UK Initial Assessment and proposals for Good Environmental Status

Posted on May 1st, 2012

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive requires Member States to take measures to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status for their seas by 2020. The UK Government and devolved administrations are carrying out a joint consultation on the early stages of the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

This includes:

- a draft initial assessment of the state of the UK's seas
- proposals for UK characteristics of GES
- proposals for detailed UK targets and indicators of GES
- an impact assessment setting out potential implications of the proposed GES targets and indicators

The consultation closes on 18th June. For more information and to respond see the Defra website:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2012/03/27/marine-strategy-framework-1203/>

Oh – we DO like to be beside the seaside!

Posted on April 20th, 2012

It's official - research by researchers Katherine Ashbulby and Matthew White at the European Institute of Environment and Human Health in Cornwall compared experiences of people at the seaside, in the countryside and in urban parks from 2750 Natural England questionnaires and concluded that the greatest sense of pleasure came from exercising beside the sea – whatever your age, where you come from or who you are with. For more information see the Blue Gym site:
<http://www.bluegym.org.uk/news/being-beside-seaside-good-your-mood>

Solent Forum's Coastal and Marine Consents Guide Edition 4

Posted on April 18th, 2012

The Solent Forum has produced a useful online guide to the coastal and marine consenting process. It was launched at the March 2012 Solent Forum meeting. The guide contains a wealth of useful information and links despite being aimed chiefly at a Solent audience. It is likely to prove useful to anyone undertaking coastal works or development planning at the coast and the considerations which should be taken into account before and during the application process. For more information and to view the guide follow this link to the Solent Forum's website:
http://www.solentforum.org/publications/coastal_consents_guide/Edition_4/

Habitats and Wild Birds Directives Implementation Review published

Posted on April 17th, 2012

On 22nd March the Government published a review of the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives. The aim of the review was to look at existing implementation in England with a view to reducing the burden on business whilst maintaining the integrity of the purpose of the Directives.

The findings indicate that in the majority of cases the existing implementation is working well, allowing key development and at the same time ensuring a high level of environmental protection. There were some cases of delays but the report concluded these 2 Directives may only be one contributory factor alongside others. Four key areas are recommended for improvement: facilitating nationally significant infrastructure projects; improving implementation processes and streamlining guidance; improving the quality, quantity and sharing of data and improving the customer experience.

For more information and to read the review document see the Defra website:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/habitats-review/>

Marine Planning Newsletter Issue 7

Posted on April 17th, 2012

The Marine Management Organisation's latest newsletter is available to view on the following link:

MMO website: <http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/marineplanning/newsletters/newsletter7.htm>

2012 National Flood Forum conference outputs

Posted on April 8th, 2012

The 2012 National Flood Forum was themed on 'Insurance, Communities, Flood Risk – What will the future hold?'. The event was co-ordinated by Communications and Management for Sustainability (CMS). Further details about the National Flood Forum, what the conference discussed and the outputs are now available on the CMS website: <http://www.coastms.co.uk/conferences/456/show>

International News

June 8th is World Oceans Day!

Posted on May 17th, 2012

World Oceans Day is an annual international celebration of our oceans. The 2012 theme is Youth: the Next Wave for Change.

The Day is being celebrated in Liverpool with a day of activities and information stalls: Fish Fest!

The organisers say "Come and celebrate everything marine with us and our crew of marine lovers down at Liverpool 1. We have a little bit of everything to tickle your fancy, from information on how you can help to conserve the worlds oceans and all that live in them, to hands on games and some very fishy arty fun. You can even have a look and feel of some real life sea creatures! Or could get your face painted like a lion fish or a great white and even chat to beautiful mermaid.....

Click <https://www.facebook.com/LiverpoolWOD> for full details" If you want to follow progress on twitter or tumblr use the following links: <https://twitter.com/#!/LivWOD> or <http://wodliverpool.tumblr.com/>

For more information on World Ocean Day, what events are running in other regions and how to get involved see World Oceans Day: <http://worldoceansday.org/>

Environmental Indicator Report 2012: Ecosystem resilience and resource efficiency in a green economy in Europe

Posted on May 16th, 2012

The EEA has published the 2012 Environmental Indicator Report – the first in revived series. It argues that in striving towards a green economy there would be value in considering objectives and targets that explicitly recognise the relationships between resource efficiency, ecosystem resilience and human well-being as well as the different time lags for green economy policy actions to succeed. The report also offers some reflections on indicators to support measuring progress towards such objectives and targets. It concludes that despite progress in some areas, Europe must do more to create the 'green economy' needed for the continent to become sustainable.

Part 1 of the report introduces key concepts such as ecosystem resilience, resource efficiency and green economy. Part 2 provides six thematic assessments building on a selection of over 200 environmental indicators. The themes are:

- Carbon emissions and climate change:
- Air pollution and air quality:

- The marine environment:
- Stress on water resources
- Use of material resources:

The report was presented to members of parliament from more than 20 EU Member States during a visit to the EEA on Monday 14 May 2012.

Joan Walley, MP, Chair of the UK Government's Environmental Audit Committee said: "Everyone understands what is meant by business as usual but few have signed up for the step change now urgently needed if we are to withstand the pressures on the earth's natural resources. The EEA's measured and robust research is the necessary point of departure if we are to safeguard our future. Their work needs to be understood, applied and used by all government departments including the Treasury."

To download a copy of the report visit the EEA website:

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/environmental-indicator-report-2012>

Launch of the Irish Sea Maritime Forum – Inaugural Event 28 June, Belfast

Posted on May 11th, 2012

This free conference at the prestigious new Titanic building in Belfast marks the formal inauguration of the Irish Sea Maritime Forum – a new stakeholder partnership which is being established following two very successful stakeholder workshops in Liverpool and Dublin in 2011. Pump priming support for the new Forum has been provided by the Department of Environment in Northern Ireland, The Isle of Man Government, the Marine Management Organisation and the Irish Planning Institute.

The event is open to all with an interest in the Irish Sea. It will feature a range of presentations including an opening address from Minister Alex Attwood, MLA, Dept of the Environment, Northern Ireland. The morning session will provide stakeholders with an opportunity to hear the latest news on marine planning across all six Irish Sea administrations. The afternoon session focuses on key areas for the Irish Sea Maritime Forum's future activities and includes 2 contributions discussing the emerging European Union Atlantic Strategy and how Irish Sea stakeholders might engage with and benefit from this very significant new development as well as a workshop session where stakeholder views on the focus of future events, website development and financing will be discussed.

The final programme will be available shortly. You can book your place for what we think will be a very popular event by following <http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/events/2012-06-28/> or by following the link on the front page of the NWCF website.

ATTENTION EXHIBITORS: If you are interested in exhibiting at the event please contact Caroline Salthouse on 0151 934 2966 or email her at caroline.salthouse@nwcoastalforum.org.uk

Climate-ADAPT web resource

Posted on April 19th, 2012

The European Commission has developed a major new website to help respond to the challenge of climate change. Climate-ADAPT aims to be the most comprehensive website for information on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in Europe. It is aimed at policy makers and practitioners and enables them to learn from the experience of others facing similar challenges and already carrying out adaptation actions elsewhere. It will be jointly managed by the European

Commission and will be managed by the Commission and the European Environment Agency (EEA).

To highlight the cross-cutting nature of adaptation to climate change, Climate-ADAPT is related to other information systems the EEA manages in close collaboration with the Commission. These include the Biodiversity Information System for Europe, the Water Information System for Europe and the land use data centre.

For more information see the Climate-ADAPT website: <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/>

Open Consultations

See the full articles above for more details.

Marine Strategy Framework Directive Consultation: UK Initial Assessment and proposals for Good Environmental Status

Closing date 18th June

A family of unique trails: Discussion Paper on the Future Management of National Trails from April 2013

Closing date 5th July 2012

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) – Potential Site Options for Welsh Waters

Closing date 31st July 2012

Consultation on draft proposals for coastal access in Cumbria – Allonby to Whitehaven

Closing date 3rd August 2012

Conferences and Events

For information on upcoming relevant conferences and events, please visit the Events page on our webpage: <http://www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk/events/>