

North West Coastal Forum

Collaborative Coastal Project in North West England

Mersey Estuary Action Planning

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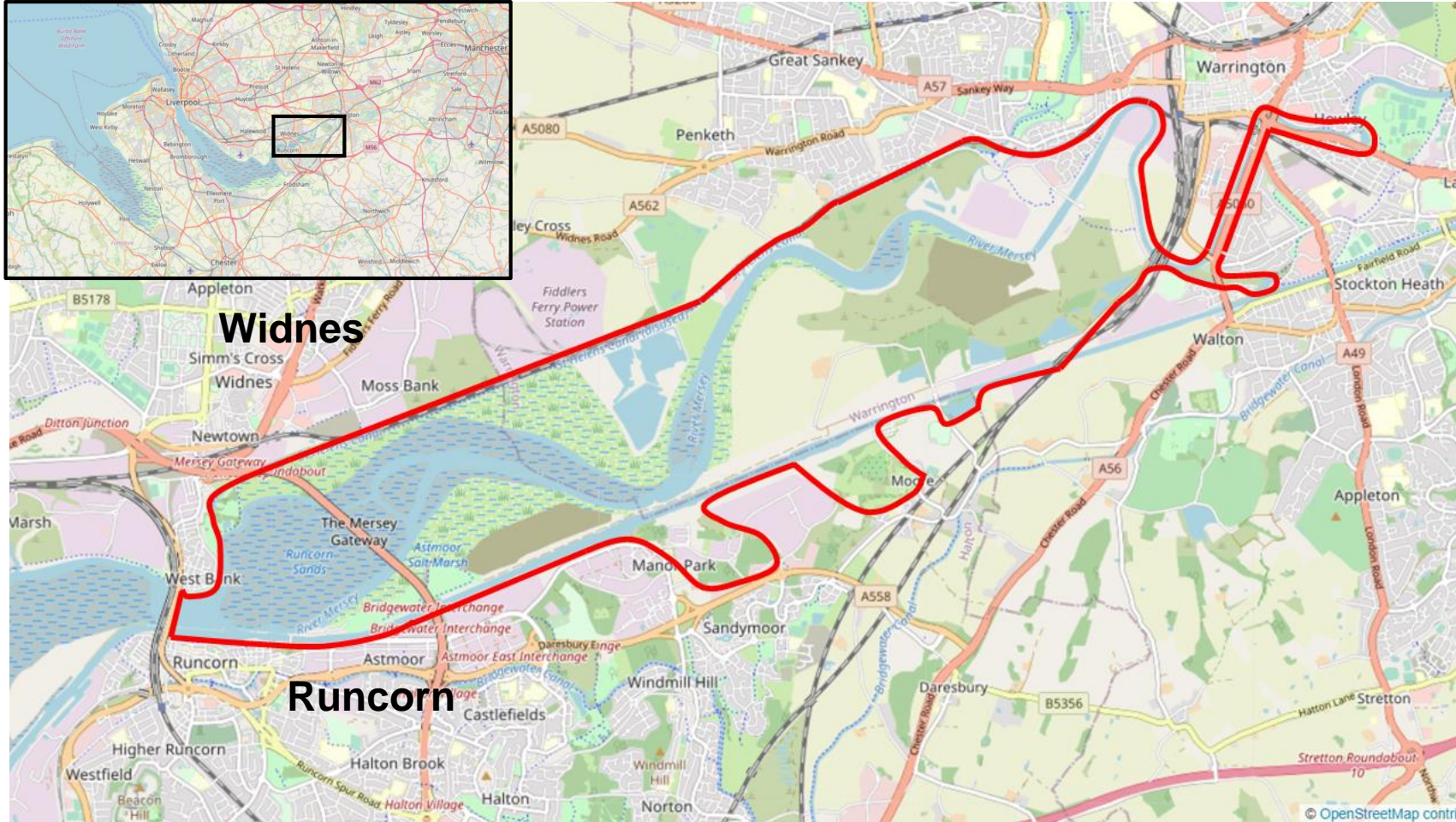


Background



- The Mersey Gateway Bridge is a cable-stay bridge over the River Mersey, opened in 2017 and our cause for existence.
- With the opening of the bridge a charitable trust became active.
- MGET has a key role in discharging some of the planning conditions, i.e. collect data on impact on the natural environment.
- Continued monitoring over a 25 year period.

Background



- Area of the Trust ca 1600 ha
- We do not own any land, but are dedicated to monitoring and improving the estuarine environment.
- A variety of habitats with lots of potential for improvement for biodiversity
- Management of saltmarsh one of MGET's priorities

To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the Upper Mersey Estuary and related areas.

Background



- Set in a peri-urban environment
- The Mersey is squeezed between the Manchester Ship Canal and St Helens Canal
- Legacy of the industrial revolution, still many industries settled in the area.

Environmental Monitoring



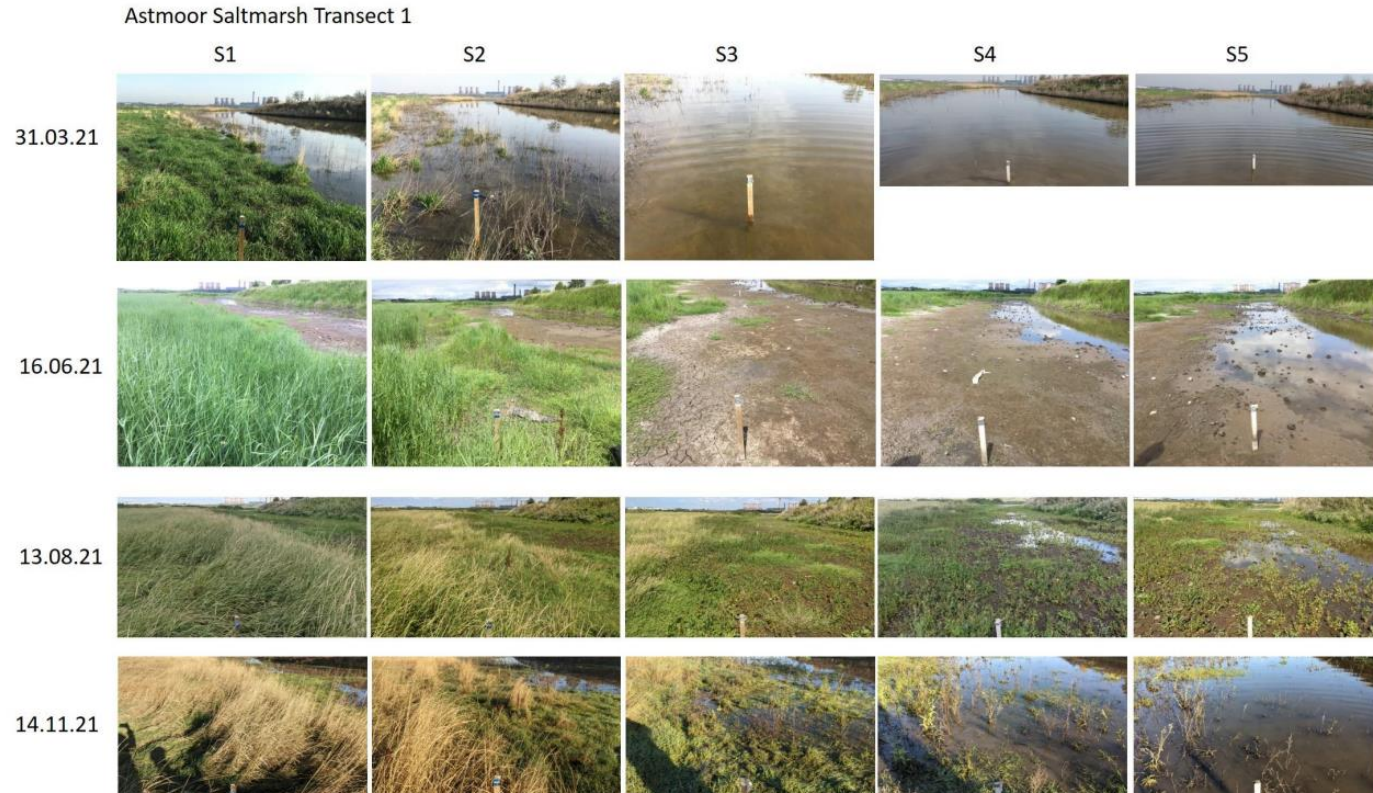
- Water Quality:
 - Estuarine WQ (twice a year)
 - Freshwater quality (twice a year)
- Hydrodynamics
 - Scour
 - Bathymetry/ Channel movement
 - Erosion
- Aquatic Ecology
 - Benthic algae
 - Phytoplankton
 - Invertebrates
 - Estuarine Fish, migratory fish
- Terrestrial Ecology
 - Birds
 - Bats
 - NVC

Saltmarsh Management



- Saltmarsh improvement through conservation grazing at multiple sites in Halton and potentially further upstream
- Biodiversity value as well as cultural value
- Biodiversity Net Gain potential

Research and Projects



- Research and Biodiversity Board pulling together expertise on research and project work in the Mersey estuary
- Continuous datasets as well as unique data collection
- PhD projects on estuarine environments
- Undergraduate and postgraduate research on saltmarsh and estuarine habitats
- Student placements as work experience or data collection for dissertation
- Community work

Championing Coastal Coordination



- Incredible potential to work together
- Pulling together expertise, data and enthusiasm
- Learning from each other and with each other



Thank You!!



@mgenvtrust

