

tidelines

Issue 44 Spring/Summer 2016

newsletter of the Solway Firth Partnership



**Capturing
our Coast**
Page 6-7



**Solway High
Tide Roost Study**
Page 8-9



**Protecting Sea Trout
on the Water of Fleet**
Page 18-19



Chairman's Column

Alastair McNeill FCIWEM C.WEM MCMI



Opportunities to seek local grants under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (LEADER) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) will shortly be available in Cumbria and Dumfries & Galloway. These two separate funding packages will run until 2020 or until funds are exhausted and will be managed by local committees in each region comprising relevant interests.

EMFF 2014-2020 aims to support economic sustainable growth of sea fisheries, aquaculture, maritime interests and coastal communities. A key objective of EMFF is to increase the capacity of local fishing communities and business networks by building knowledge and skills as well as encouraging innovation and cooperation in order to tackle local fisheries development objectives. Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGS) are responsible for considering applications for funding and will decide on projects that have the greatest capacity to deliver benefits in line with local development strategies. In England up to six FLAGS will operate and the process for selecting these is currently ongoing. In Scotland eight FLAGS have been established and are in the process of recruiting members. Dumfries & Galloway FLAG will support fisheries in the Solway (Scottish waters) and Loch Ryan. More information is provided on the process on page 16.

Remaining with the fisheries theme, the Scottish inshore fisheries groups (IFGs) have been reviewed by the Scottish Government following a stocktake exercise in 2015. From

April 2016 mainland Scotland will be served by two regional IFGs, one on the west coast and the other on the north & east coasts. The West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group will subsume the roles of the current South West IFG, which includes the Solway, and also the current North West IFG area of the Western Highlands. Recognising the importance of local engagement, the new regional IFG structure will encourage local groups such as the Solway subgroup to proactively develop strategies to ensure the sustainable management of fisheries within their areas. The Regional IFG will work with Marine Planning Partnerships and IFG subgroups such as the Solway will be expected to inform marine planning developments insofar as inshore fishing is concerned. Marine Planning Partnerships have been established in the Clyde and Shetland this year and it is anticipated that marine planning will be rolled out to other areas, including the Solway, over the next few years. More details on IFGs and Marine Planning can be accessed via the following links:

Inshore Fisheries Groups: www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Sea-Fisheries/InshoreFisheries/IFGs

Marine Planning England:
www.gov.uk/government/collections/marine-planning-in-england

Marine Planning Scotland:
www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/seamangement



Contents



Micro Plastics in the Solway	4 – 5
CoCoast Project	6 – 7
Solway High Tide Roost Study	8 – 9
Solway Sand Ripples	10 – 11
Art Preserves History of Loch Ryan's Second World War Flying Boats	12 – 13
Coastal Access on the Solway	14 – 15
European and Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and LEADER 2014-2020	16
A Boost for the Colourful Coast	17
Protecting Sea Trout on the Water of Fleet	18 – 19
Dates for your Diary	20 – 23

Front cover, Grey plover walking by Natural England/Allan Drewitt. Page 4, Nurdles on beach by Solway Firth Partnership/Nic Coombey; Page 5, Sediment samples by Fenne van den Heuvel. Pages 6-7, All images courtesy of CoCoast, SAMS. Pages 8-9, All photos by Natural England/Allan Drewitt except Knot Flock by RSPB Images, Oystercatcher by Natural England/Alison McAleer. Pages 10-11, All images courtesy of Ann Lingard. Page 12, Main image of Donnie Nelson and Henriette Scholz by Colin Hattersley Photography; Old image by Donnie Nelson; Page 13, Top left and bottom left images (Artist, Kenny Mackay; Wide Open, Jan Hogarth; Donnie Nelson; Henriette Scholz) by Colin Hattersley Photography, bottom right image (Kirkcolm Primary School, Kenny Mackay, Jan Hogarth) by GE-Photography, old image by Donnie Nelson. Page 14, Main image Solway Firth Partnership/Henriette Scholz, Solway Coast AONB sign by Natural England; Page 15, top of page images – top right image by Natural England/Angela Harker, top left image by Solway Firth Partnership/Henriette Scholz, bottom left image by Natural England; bottom of page image by Natural England/Alison McAleer. Page 16, Top photos of Isle of Whithorn, All photos by Dumfries & Galloway LEADER. Page 17, Top photo of Birkhams to Whitehaven, bottom left photo of Candlestick and harbour both by Sophie Badrick; Bottom right photo of Fog Horn Station by Jessie Binns. Page 18, Large Fleet sea trout; Page 19, GFT staff and volunteers planting riparian deciduous trees; Surveying drains for peatland restoration; Little Water of Fleet. All photos by Galloway Fisheries Trust. Pages 20-23, All pictures by Solway Firth Partnership/Nic Coombey except Fishermen from Smokehouse by Colin Tennant.



The Plastic Problem

When microplastics was suggested as a topic for my dissertation, I had to do some serious research. What was this (in)famous material, and how would I go about researching it?



Samples taken from beaches along the Solway Firth

Six months later and I can hardly imagine that I was ever not concerned with and intrigued by microplastics. Just as my classmates had become known as 'the glacier guy', 'the Iceland girl', or 'the garbage man', I was suddenly 'the plastic woman'. I have learnt a lot in the past months, and now better understand the threat of plastic pollution and the fragility of an ecosystem.

My study entailed going out to the Solway Firth and taking samples of soil from the beaches to then further analyse them in the lab. This was the first study of its kind in the Solway, and my data will hopefully be a baseline for an ongoing study in the area.

Off I went with my trowel and IKEA sealable bags. I took 5 samples at the high tide line of every beach. The samples were dried over Christmas at the Zoology building in Glasgow while I came up with a system of detachable filters to make my job easier. I set to work in January, and used PVC pipe and couplings to secure 4 different sizes of filter screens. I then made any plastic particles float by mixing them with a saturated salt solution, before pouring the water through the cascade of screens. Using Long Wave UV light (the kind that is also used to check for fraudulent bank notes), I inspected every bit of mesh, looking for particles with a slightly purple glow. In my 25 samples, each weighing around 60 grams, I found 18 particles of plastic. This could mean that, if my samples were representative of all sand in the Solway Firth, the average beach in this area contains around 1 particle per 83.3 g of sand,

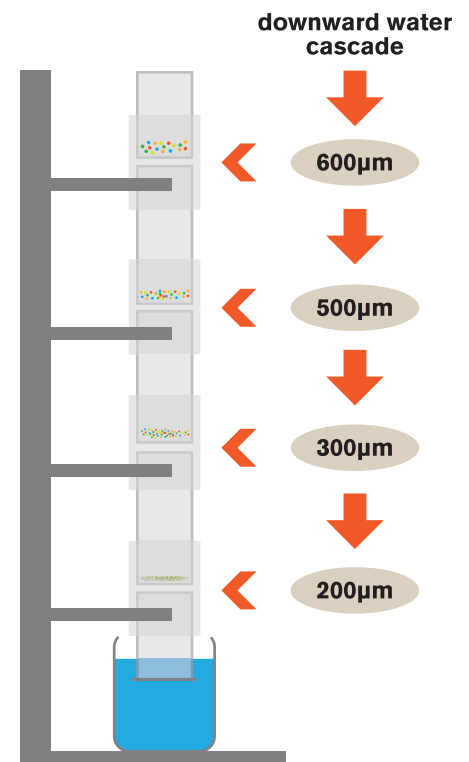
adding up to roughly 12,000 particles of plastic per tonne of sand. While the particles I found were only a fraction of a millimetre in size, nurdles, also known as "mermaid's tears" have also been found on several beaches in the Solway Firth.

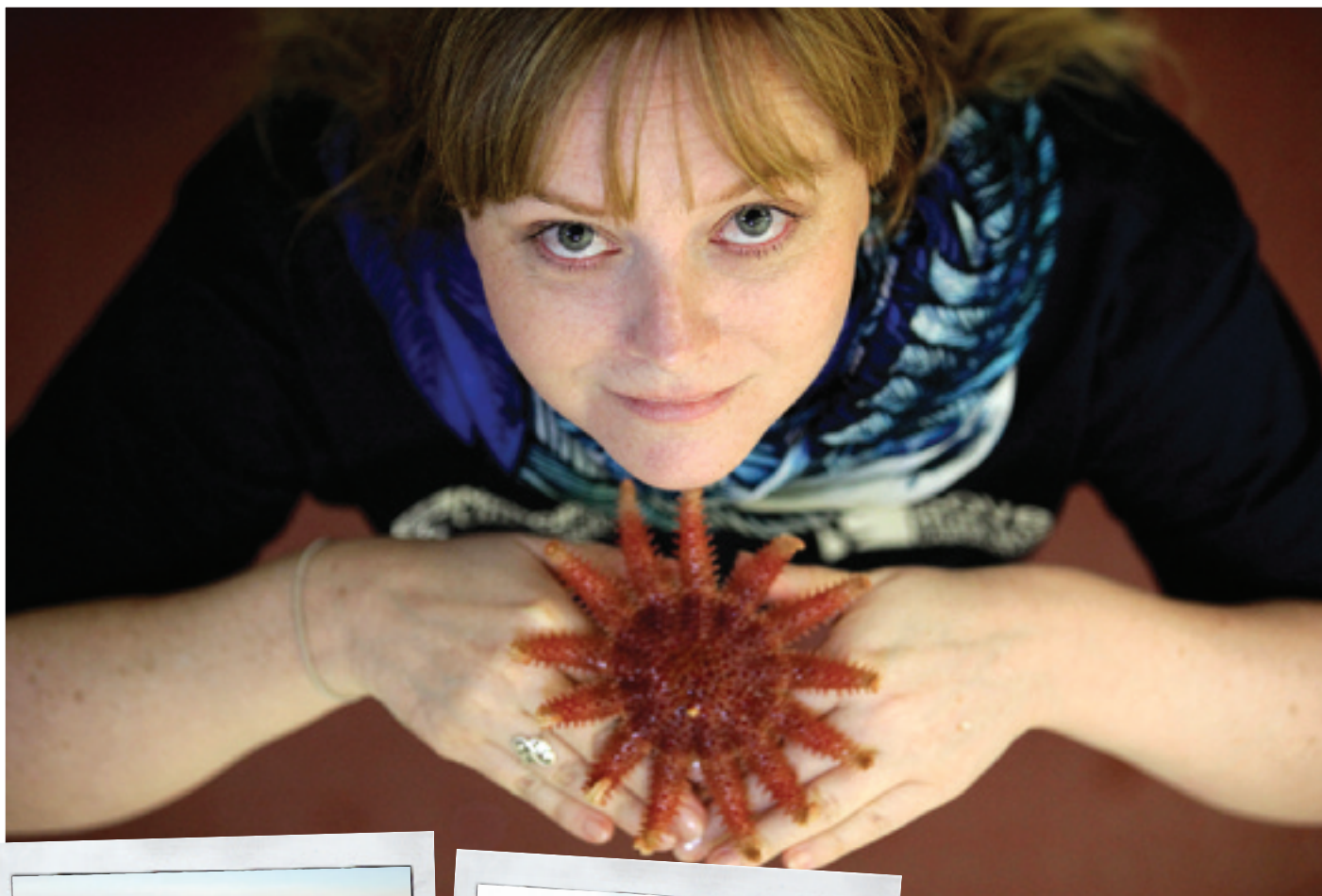
Though these tiny pieces of plastic seem harmless at first, they can be catastrophic to birds and marine species who mistake the colourful pieces for food. Not only does plastic bioaccumulate in a food chain, meaning that the smaller the particles are, the more of them will be taken in by zooplankton and then any species above the plankton in the food web, but plastic also works as a sponge, soaking up DDT and other chemicals and toxins occurring in the sea. Ultimately, this could have serious impacts on marine ecosystems and of course on the humans who consume fish and other

seafood. Greenpeace has created a petition to encourage the ban on microbeads in cosmetic products which I highly encourage you to sign, though this only addresses a fraction of the issue. In order to safeguard the Solway Firth and many other coastal areas like it, we really need to start looking at cutting out plastic as a commonly used material, as well as finding ways to remove it from the natural environment.

Fenne van den Heuvel, University of Glasgow, Dumfries Campus

The filter system used to find micro plastics





Capturing our Coast

Now, more than ever, we need to know about the animals and plants living on our shores

The UK coastline is one of the longest in Europe, and a world-class habitat, recognised by the high numbers of protected areas. However, we know surprisingly little about the species that live there: in the UK National Biodiversity Network wildlife database, only 3% of the records are from marine environments. You might know what is on your local shore, but is it written down anywhere? Without clear records, we cannot know what we have on our shores, and we will not know what we have lost.

Accurately recording the animals and plants on seashores is increasingly important, as human use of the seas and the changing climate start to affect the coastal environment. Species that prefer warmer waters like the purple topshell have started appearing further north, sometimes by hundreds of kilometres, as the sea temperature changes. However, not all species are going to win. Some animals like mussels are affected by the oceans becoming very slightly more acidic, which makes it more difficult for them to build the strong

shells and holding threads that they need to survive. In order to track how species are changing in numbers and range, we need hundreds of pairs of eyes all over the UK.

Capturing our Coast (CoCoast) is a new "citizen science" project that aims to do just that, working nationally to investigate the fabulous diversity of marine life across our coastline. CoCoast builds on other fantastic projects by bringing together seven academic institutes, a range of charities and conservation organisations, all working together with the volunteers. So far, over 2000 people are already involved!

CoCoast volunteers are interested adults who work together with their closest institute to learn more about rocky shore species ID, get provided with all the equipment, and complete surveys of local shores. The advantage of having so many people working together is that each person only looks out for 8 species using the same survey technique; there is no need for prior experience, and between everyone we can build up a detailed picture. It also



means that every survey completed is incredibly valuable: someone needs to record all the bladder wrack!

Since the launch of the project in January 2016, 95 volunteers have attended a training day across Scotland, and a further 300 are signed up to get involved. Capturing our Coast is led by Newcastle University and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund with The Scottish Association for Marine Science in Oban coordinating the project in Scotland. We are working with organisations and community groups to offer training in a

range of locations, including Dumfries & Galloway, to ensure that we can record as much of the over 6,000km of Scottish coastline as possible. For those south of the border, our partner institute at the University of Hull will be organising training in Cumbria in the near future.

If you are interested in registering or knowing more, then please visit the website www.capturingourcoast.co.uk, or email cocoast@sams.ac.uk or call 01631 559313.

Surveying on the beach





Solway High Tide Roost Study

Making sure the Solway's wildfowl and waders have a safe place to roost

A recent study carried out by Solway Firth Partnership (SFP) and funded by Natural England has helped to significantly increase our understanding of some of the most important high tide roosting sites for waterbirds along the Cumbrian Solway Coast.

As one of the largest continuous areas of intertidal habitat in Britain, the Solway Firth is a site of national and international importance for wintering wildfowl and wading birds and forms a vital link in a chain of west coast estuaries used by migrating birds. The habitats of the Solway regularly support well over one hundred thousand wintering birds, including internationally important populations of species such as pink-footed goose, oystercatcher, knot, dunlin, grey plover and many more. Some 30,000 barnacle geese, almost the entire Svalbard (Spitzbergen) breeding population, winter on the Solway.



The importance of roost sites

Whilst the intertidal habitats of the estuary provide essential low tide feeding areas, the birds also require safe and undisturbed areas to roost when the flooding tide covers their feeding grounds and forces them to move landwards. This is when the largest flocks of species such as knot can be seen gathering in their spectacular aerial displays before settling down to rest and wait for the tide to ebb. These roost sites are therefore of critical importance as places for moulting, passage and overwintering birds to rest and save energy following feeding. As such they need to be as safe as possible, with predation and disturbance being two of the greatest risks. Disturbance to these roost sites, for example from recreational activities on the shoreline and especially dogs running loose, can have a major impact.

Birds may have to lift and take flight, move around or switch roosting areas, or even circle on the wing for long periods. This can significantly increase their daily energy expenditure and use up fat reserves needed for spring migration and breeding.

So in order to secure better protection for the waterbird population around the Solway coastline, we need to improve our understanding of the nature, location and sensitivity of these roost areas.

High-tide roost mapping

The study – “High-tide Waterbird Roost Mapping on the Solway Firth” – was produced by SFP in collaboration with RSPB at Campfield Marsh and volunteers for the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS). WeBS is the monitoring scheme for non-breeding coastal and inland waterbirds in the UK co-ordinated and run by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) in partnership with other conservation bodies. Using data and information gathered and supplied by the WeBS counters, SFP have compiled a report on the main high tide roosting ‘hotspots’, including information on species and numbers alongside initial indications of potential disturbance issues.

All of this has been transferred to digital maps which provide a clear picture of the scale and distribution of these key sites along the coast.

Because of the nature of the WeBS data, this study cannot tell us the whole story; for example it cannot identify the smaller and more dispersed roosts used on the smaller neap tides, or those species which tend to be dispersed and hidden, all of which are also in need of protection and sensitive management. However, it is a significant step forward in our understanding of some of the most important roost sites and will have direct benefits

in terms of identifying and addressing the potential impacts from development and recreational activities on the Solway.

For activities such as the establishment of the England Coast Path and other recreational uses, it therefore provides a very valuable tool to help ensure access is appropriate and sensitively managed and opportunities for effective interpretation are identified wherever possible. In this way we can help ensure the remarkable birdlife of the estuary has a safe and healthy future and can continue to be enjoyed by local communities and visitors alike.

A copy of the report can be downloaded from the Solway Firth Partnership website. A GIS layer displaying all roost sites is available upon request: info@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk

Alison McAleer
Marine Lead Adviser, Natural England



P8 above: Knot flock, below: Ringed plover
P9 above: Oystercatcher, clockwise: Knot, Common Redshank, Grey Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit





*'... the tide holds back from the flat wet sands /
That darken from tawny to brown, where little pools
/ Are stranded like starfish in the rippling ribs'.
Norman Nicholson, The Bow in the Cloud*

Some things I didn't know about sand-ripples on the shore

By Ann Lingard



There is a very low Spring tide and I'm in 'low-tide guide' mode, setting off down the Allonby shore with a group of people, all ages. The sand is an apparently featureless expanse that stretches down to the distant rocky scaurs. 'It looks pretty flat and boring, doesn't it?' I say.

But as we walk, we find domes and repeating 'waves', there are hollows and inexplicable smooth-walled channels. In places the domes are smooth; elsewhere the sand's surface is patterned with ripples, patterns that can differ from metre to metre. Some of the hollows between the crests have accumulated finely contrasted grains of coal.

Do the ripple-patterns form when the tide comes in or when it goes out? Do they form and reform all the time they are submerged, according to the ebb and flow of the water?

The shore is a good place for stimulating simple questions. But, as we might expect, the answers aren't always simple.

There has been recent research into the effects of waves on the formation of ripples in both deep and shallow water. This hasn't been merely from an aesthetic point of view. Instead engineers have been interested in the effect of the shape and migration of

ripples on sediment transport on or off a shore, and geophysicists want to know how the orientation of present-day ripples helps understand how ripples in sandstones were formed on ancient shores. The migration of undersea sand-waves has an effect on shipping channels – especially important for ships' pilots here in the Solway Firth.

Much of the research has been done in labs under controlled conditions with single variables. Research which has been done 'in the field' has used acoustic methods such as sonar to measure height, time-lapse photography to measure changes in shape, still photos to examine types, and other measurements to determine grain size, friction and angle.

So what answers to my simple questions did I find? You'll have to read the blog-post to discover!

But here are some related insights.

The shore is not a lab: you can't control the variables. I've learned (from reading) that even if measurements are made at the same place under similar conditions of wind and tide, no two results will be the same.

I've learned (from experience) that the patterns of ripples on the Solway shore are beautiful, and tantalising, and tell stories of the dance between the sea and the sediments across the beach, on

Ann Lingard, dubbed a 'low-tide guide' by Radio4's Open Country

Ann will again be leading informal walks on the Solway shore in the Allonby and Beckfoot areas, between May and August. The purpose is to see what can be found on the lower shore when there's a good low tide, and then to wander back up to the dunes and tidelines.

Allonby Bay is now a Marine Conservation Zone, so shorewalkers can expect to see the very special honeycomb worm reefs for which it is famous, and to hunt for exposures of the 8000-year-old submerged forest. You never know what else you'll find!

Full event details can be found under 'Dates for your Diary' p20-23.

calm days and on windy days: stories that must also include marine organisms that have hidden themselves on the ebbing tide.

And I've learned that such is the diversity of response of the Solway's sediment and sand to the sea that it must surely provide one of the most challenging and potentially fruitful places for further research on ripples.

This is an extract from a post on the Solway Shore-walker blog: <https://solwayshorewalker.wordpress.com/2016/02/08/some-things-i-didnt-know-about-sand-ripples-and-the-sea/>



Donnie Nelson and Henriette Scholz
at the observation post

Art Preserves History of Loch Ryan's Second World War Flying Boats

Wig Bay's years as a vital base for the flying boats that hunted enemy submarines are being commemorated in an art and environment project

The aircraft were scrapped long ago, the RAF camp near Stranraer and its hangers has all but vanished, and even those who were children in the war years have grown old.

But Solway Firth Partnership, with funding from Dumfries & Galloway Council, has teamed up with the local community, environmental art organisation Wide Open, and artist and

designer Kenny Mackay, to preserve the story of this fascinating piece of Scotland's history.

The project is part of the partnership's drive to encourage sustainable tourism by attracting visitors interested in its World War II history and wildlife. A sound installation has been created at the observation post once used to watch out for German mines. Visitors entering the structure will be plunged back to the mid-1940s, surrounded by the noises of aircraft and submarine engines.

Kenny said: "It's really quite ghostly with the sound of a Catalina flying boat, then one of the huge Sunderlands, followed by a U-boat diesel engine and the ping of sonar. The idea is that it's slightly ambiguous, but will add some real colour to people's





From left: Donnie Nelson, Henriette Scholz, Jan Hogarth and artist, Kenny Mackay



experience when they explore the area.”

A large board has been built onto the front of the small brick-built structure where people can sit and play the classic Battleships and Cruisers war game.

The project has also seen the creation of five semi-sunken, concrete, circular seating areas along the bay's coastal footpath, near Kirkcolm, where people can enjoy superb views of the loch. The materials have been chosen to reflect the rough-and-ready building techniques and the design is also reminiscent of coastal gun emplacements.

The area is now quiet, peaceful and scenic but from 1942 into the 1950s it was a place of intense activity. RAF Wig Bay was a maintenance, testing and repair centre for UK and US flying boats that were “hunter killers” deployed to counter the submarines attacking Allied shipping in the Atlantic.

Local residents such as Donnie Nelson, aged 83, remember how there used to be dozens of aircraft floating on the loch, with more in hangars onshore.

He said: “It was very exciting for boys like me, we loved watching these great aircraft taking off and skimming just above the water, then lifting slightly as they reached the land and roaring right over our heads. The noise was incredible and the Sunderlands were absolutely huge.”

The project has also seen the provision of an interpretation panel and a leaflet giving information about World War II sites around Loch Ryan.

The official launch took place on Thursday 24 March, when schoolchildren walked out to the art installation with the artist and then attended a 1940s reception and tea party.

Jan Hogarth, Director of Wide Open, said: “It was lovely for the children to discover so much about the history of the area where they live – and to have a walk to the observation post with Kenny.

“The tea party at the school was lots of fun, with people there in uniforms and civilian clothes from the 1940s, so the pupils could get a real taste of what life was like back then.

“We are really grateful to the school, and everyone else who contributed to the launch, for their help and support in making the launch such a special occasion. And we hope that local residents and visitors alike will enjoy the sound installation and the rest of the project for many years to come.”

Wendy Cuff, Regeneration Manager from Dumfries & Galloway Council, thanked everyone for their involvement in the project at the tea party.

A visit by Kirkcolm Primary School with Jan Hogarth and artist, Kenny Mackay



Coastal Access on the Solway

In the summer of this year, proposals will be published for a brand new stretch of the England Coast Path between Gretna and Allonby



The path between Gretna and Allonby will form the most north-westerly section of a route which by 2020 will form a National Trail almost 3,000 miles long, plus a 'coastal margin' creating open access in most circumstances.

The path will open up many miles of the Solway's spectacular coast to walkers who currently have no public right of access. This is a huge milestone in achieving Natural England's desired outcome of encouraging people to get outside and enhance their awareness and appreciation for the natural environment.

Of course, while the benefits of the path will be enormous, there is a responsibility to avoid tipping the balance so far that it creates undue disturbance in sensitive wildlife areas. At times this is not straightforward, as moving a path inland can face many of its own challenges. Our legal duty is to find a solution with a 'fair balance' for all concerned, and a fundamental part of this is our Access and Sensitive Features Appraisal (ASFA). This process begins early by consulting conservation colleagues and landowners to identify the issues





involved, and ultimately a report will be produced alongside our Coastal Access proposals, which must be signed off by conservation officers at Natural England. Solutions can include route alignment variations, or restrictions and exclusions on areas of sensitive coastal margin, for example by excluding public access entirely or requiring dogs to be on leads at certain times of year.

After publication, objections and representations can be made. In the case of formal objections, the Planning Inspectorate will pass a recommendation on whether we have achieved a fair balance to the Secretary of State, to aid their decision in approving the proposals.

The Gretna to Allonby ASFA is now virtually complete and proposals are being prepared for publication. Gerry Rusbridge, delivery leader for Coastal Access in the North West, expands on the legal requirements involved in this process and how they apply to the Solway:

“The Gretna to Allonby ASFA report considers all levels of protection for species and sites; and for European sites,

represents the Habitats Regulations Assessment screening stage, as required under EU legislation. It demonstrates that our overall package of proposals including route choices, access management measures, and access restrictions or exclusions, where necessary, will not have a likely significant effect on the designated sites and species.

“In some areas, we’ll be proposing entirely new paths with great views over the Solway; however, in other areas, we’ll need to keep our path further back from the coast, in recognition of some of the most sensitive parts of the Solway. We hope that everyone will understand the need for our choices and proposals, meaning that they can really appreciate the wild splendour of the Solway marshes, without risking disturbance to the other inhabitants.”

For more information on Coastal Access, please contact Danny Moores on 07900 608279, email northwest.coastalaccess@naturalengland.org.uk or visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-in-the-north-west-of-england>

View across the Solway to Scotland





Isle of Whithorn



Portpatrick

European and Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and LEADER 2014-2020

Dumfries & Galloway has recently secured £580,000 from the European and Maritime Fisheries Fund to be delivered by the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) and administered by the LEADER Programme team.

The EMFF is the fund for the European Union's maritime and fisheries policies for 2014-2020. The fund:

- Helps fishermen in the transition to sustainable fishing
- Supports coastal communities in diversifying their economies
- Finances projects that create new jobs and improve quality of life along European coasts
- Makes it easier for applicants to access funding

The local implementation of the EMFF Programme falls for the first time to the LEADER Programme team who will be recruiting a dedicated Project Officer to assist applicants through the process. The Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) has been recruited and will be responsible for making funding recommendations to Marine Scotland for the period of this programme. FLAG members have chosen not to open for applications until the necessary staff and systems are in place – further information on the launch date will be published when confirmed. It is



Launch of 'Day of the Region' with Aileen McLeod at Whithorn

anticipated that all systems and processes will be in place to allow the FLAG to consider full applications at their meeting in September 2016

The Fisheries Project Officer will join the existing LEADER team, which has been supporting rural communities for over 20 years and launched the new LEADER Programme in September 2015 after being awarded £5.565M – one of the highest allocations of funding for any LEADER Programme in Scotland. LEADER in Dumfries & Galloway have already invested over £10.5M in grants to 208 projects spanning the length and breadth of the region through previous LEADER programmes and now bring their own considerable experience to the EMFF Programme.

To discuss either the EMFF or

LEADER Programme in more detail, please contact the LEADER team: Nicola Hill, LEADER Programme Manager, tel: 01387 260028, email: DgLeaderTeam@dumgal.gov.uk

While the Community Led Local Development part of the EMFF programme in Dumfries & Galloway will be administered locally by the FLAG, and will be available later in the year, applications to other parts of the EMFF programme can be made to Marine Scotland now via their website. The funding categories open now include:

- fishing gear & energy efficiency
- investments on board fishing vessels
- investments to shore based facilities
- partnerships & advisory services
- aquaculture, processing and marketing
- support for internal partners
- marine environment and inland fishing

For more information visit: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/grants-subsidies>

Or contact the Marine Scotland EMFF grant team on EMFF@gov.scot





Birkhams to Whitehaven

A Boost for the Colourful Coast

The Colourful Coast partnership has appointed a new Project Officer to boost the work of the partnership and awareness of the Copeland coast. Based in Whitehaven, Sophie Badrick will be aiming to increase and improve access, understanding and enjoyment of the coast, with a focus on the area of coast from Whitehaven to St Bees. The Colourful Coast Partnership started in 2009 and is made up of the National Trust, Natural England, The Land Trust, RSPB, Copeland Borough Council, St Bees Parish Council and Cumbria County Council.

Sophie said 'The area is fantastic with far reaching views to the coast and the fells, walks along the headland, the

sights and smells of the seabird colony and a rich industrial history. There's something for everyone and we want locals and visitors alike to get out and enjoy a visit to Cumbria's Colourful Coast.'



One project Sophie is keen to get started on is at the St Bees Head fog horn station. The aim is to improve interpretation at the station, with the ultimate goal of opening this fantastic old building, complete with the old speakers, buttons and machinery, to the public for Heritage Open Days. If anyone has any pictures or memories they are keen to share, about the Fog Horn station or other areas of the coastline then please email Sophie at sophie.badrick@nationaltrust.org.uk

Candlestick and Harbour, Whitehaven



The Fog Horn Station





Large Fleet sea trout

Protecting Sea Trout on the Water of Fleet

Throughout the Solway Firth sea trout can be found. Although these migratory forms of trout spend much of their life in the marine environment, they must also be able to flourish in the surrounding rivers and burns.

These freshwater environments are essential for spawning and supporting juvenile sea trout. Typically when they are two years old, they become 'smolts', silver up and head to the sea where increased food allows them to grow larger and produce more eggs than if they remained in the river.

Around the UK sea trout stocks have dropped significantly in recent decades. There are considerable marine environment problems but it is important to understand the problems that sea trout face in the freshwater environment. Jamie Ribbens of the Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT) explains recent work on the Water of Fleet aimed at increasing juvenile trout stocks again.

The Water of Fleet used to support an impressive sea trout population. The annual reported rod catch peaked at nearly 1,200 fish in the mid 1960s. Through the 1970s and 1980s these trout populations underwent a shocking collapse and rod catches fell to well under 100.

So what explanation is there for this sudden collapse of the trout fishery? It is impossible to ignore the massive land use change which took place over a relatively short period of time with the drainage and planting up of these headwaters with Sitka spruce plantation. Drains were dug straight into

important burns causing siltation problems and conifers were planted right up to the edge of the water leading to heavy over shading. The upper Fleet also has an underlying geology dominated by a granite outcrop which offers very little buffering capacity to neutralise acidic inputs originating from acid rain and the scavenging effects of closed canopy conifers. This resulted in the Fleet headwater streams becoming some of the most acidified in Britain and therefore unable to support fish.

As it has become clear why the rivers habitats and particularly water quality have become so poor for fish, a partnership of the Fleet District Salmon Fishery Board, GFT, SEPA, SNH, Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) and keen volunteers have worked together to improve things. The FCS are restructuring their forestry, replacing the high altitude Sitka with native deciduous trees and leaving wider unplanted buffer zones around waters. SEPA have ensured forest drainage systems are better managed now to reduce silt problems. Riparian zones have been enhanced through the regular removal of natural conifer regeneration and native deciduous trees planted by GFT, volunteers and FCS. GFT have improved instream habitats by the cleaning of gravels and the removal of fish barriers and are also undertaking liming



GFT staff and volunteers planting riparian deciduous trees

experiments to increase pH. Recently the need to restore peatland areas to further improve water quality has been identified and work is ongoing to restore important peatland areas.

There is still much to do and recovery is only at the early stages on the Fleet but it is impressive to see how much has been achieved with a partnership of organisations working together for the good of the river.

To find out more about this work follow GFT on Twitter (@Galloway_FT), Facebook (Galloway Fisheries Trust) or check the news stories on the website www.gallowayfisheriestrust.org.

The improvement measures undertaken have been kindly supported by FCS, SNH, SEPA's Water Environment Fund, Solway Heritage, South West Environmental Action Trust and the Fish Mongers' Company.



Surveying drains for peatland restoration

Little Water of Fleet



Dates for your Diary

May 2016 – September 2016

Whilst every effort is made to check the accuracy of the information given, Solway Firth Partnership cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies or wrong information contained here and strongly recommends that you confirm details/arrangements/charges beforehand.

MAY

Monday 2 May
to Friday 27 May

Solway Seafood Exhibition
(Annan Museum)
11.00am to 4.00pm
Monday - Saturday
Booking: Not required

Seafood has sustained the people of south west Scotland for the past 10,000 years and is now an integral part of local life. Take a journey through time and discover the story of people who have fished the Solway coast, the traditional methods employed and the changes that have taken place.

Contact: 01461 201384

Meet: Annan Museum,
Bank Street, Annan DG12 6AA

Cost: FREE

Throughout summer

Isle of Man Wildlife Adventures
(Manx Wildlife Trust)
Booking: Essential

Let your children take part in a series of rock pooling and river dipping events over the summer. Book a wildlife adventure season pass and choose from 10 events. Dates and venues for the events will be provided once a season pass has been booked.

Contact: Dawn Dickens
dawn@manxwt.org.uk

Cost: £10 for 6 events,
£5 for 3 events per child

Sunday 1 May

In Focus
(WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 4.00pm
Booking: Not Essential

Try before you buy the latest binoculars and telescopes from the huge range available today. In Focus experts on hand all day to give advice. WWT Caerlaverock benefits from every sale.

Contact: Pam Mundy 01387 770200 or
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre,
Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS,
NY052657

Cost: Free

Tuesday 3, 10, 17, 31 &
Thursday 5, 12, 19, 26 May

Seabird Spectacular
(RSPB Mull of Galloway)
1.00pm to 3.00pm
Booking: Not required

The Mull of Galloway is home to thousands of nesting seabirds. Join us for a guided walk to find out more about their ecology and the importance of the reserve in supporting these magnificent birds. Bring binoculars if you have them, suitable clothing and stout footwear.

Contact: 01988 402130 or
mullofgalloway@rspb.org.uk

Meet: RSPB, Mull of Galloway,
Drummore, DG9 9HP, NX155304

Cost: £1.50 members, £3 non-members,
children free



Wednesday 4 May

Caerlaverock Kids
(WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 11.00am
Booking: Essential

Join our group for parents and toddlers. Take part in outdoor and nature activities at the Centre. Contact: 01387 770200 or
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre,
Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS,
NY052657

Cost: £8.20 Adult, £6.30 Concession, £4
Young person, £22.10 Family, Under 4 and
members free

Saturday 7 May

Spring Coast & Woods Foraging Day
(Galloway Wild Foods)
12.00noon to 8.00pm
Booking: Essential

Two sessions designed to introduce you to spring foraging in multiple habitats: coast, woods, hedgerow and marsh. Over the course of the day, you will receive expert tuition from Scotland's only full-time foraging tutor on how to find, identify, mindfully harvest, preserve, cook and enjoy 50+ wild edibles. Highlights include spoot (razor) clam trapping, seaweeds, spring herbs/flowers, and a wild cook-in. This is a fun, informative and truly memorable day.

Contact: mark@gallowaywildfoods.com
or 07900692478

Meet: Cally Woods, Gatehouse of Fleet

Cost: £75 Adult, £40 Child (5-16),
£200 Family

Saturday 7 May

Natterjack Talk and Walk
(WWT Caerlaverock)
08.30pm to late
Booking: Essential

Learn about natterjack toads and why they are the rarest amphibian in Britain. There may be a possibility at dusk, of taking a walk out onto the reserve to try and hear the toad chorus as the male toads come down to the shallow pools to sing to the females to encourage them to spawn. Bring warm clothing and a torch. Booking is essential.

Contact: 01387 770200 or
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre,
Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS,
NY052657

Cost: £7.50 Adult, £5 Concession,
£2.50 Child

Saturday 7 May

High Tide Perambulation
(RSPB Crook of Baldoon)
1.00pm to 2.00pm
Booking: Not required

Take a gentle stroll along the flood bank through nature's home, watching for wildlife that use the mud and saltmarsh to feed being evicted by the advancing tide. Bring binoculars and walking boots.

Contact: 01988 402130 or
crookofbaldoon@rspb.org.uk

Meet: Crook of Baldoon Nature Reserve,
Wigtown, DG8 9AG, NX445530

Cost: £3 Members, £4 Non-members,
Children half price

Saturday 7 May

**Natterjack Nights
(RSPB Mersehead)
1.00pm to 3.00pm
Booking: Essential**

A chance to see the rare natterjack toads and here them break into chorus! Torch and wellies a must!

Contact: 01387 780579 or
mersehead@rspb.org.uk

Meet: RSPB Reserve,
Mersehead, DG2 8AH, NX925561

Cost: £5 Adult, £2 Child,
Members half price

Sunday 8 May

**Cumbria Shore Walk
(Ann Lingard) Starts 8.00am
Booking: Essential**

Ann Lingard will be leading informal walks on the Solway shore in the Allonby and Beckfoot areas. The purpose is to see what can be found on the lower shore when there's a good low tide, and then to wander back up to the dunes and tidelines.

Contact: 016973 21967 or
enquiries@annlingard.com

Meet: Carpark at North end of Allonby
(in front of North Lodge)

Cost: FREE

Tuesday 10 May

**Guided Walk: The Magic of Spring
(Logan Botanic Garden)
Starts 10.30am
Booking: Not Essential**

Come along and enjoy an amazing tour around the Garden with a member of the Horticultural team. See the stunning seasonal displays of floral delights including Primulas, Madderia Rhododendrons, Paeonias and Meconopsis.

Contact: Richard Baines 01776 860231
or r.baines@rbge.uk/logan

Meet: Logan Botanic Garden,
Port Logan, Stranraer,
Dumfries and Galloway, DG9 9ND

Cost: £6 Adults, £5 Concession,
Children free

Friday 13, 27 May

**Nature Tots (RSPB Mersehead)
10.00am to 11.30pm
and 1.00pm to 2.30pm
Booking: Essential**

Whatever the weather, come along with your little nippers for this interactive wildlife trail. Play outdoor games and sing songs, followed by a story and a cup of tea or coffee (juice for the little ones).

Contact: 01387 780579 or
mersehead@rspb.org.uk

Meet: RSPB Reserve,
Mersehead, DG2 8AH, NX925561

Cost: £2 per Child

Saturday 14 May

**Marine Alien Hunt
(Manx Wildlife Trust) Starts 11.00am
Booking: not required**

Join the Manx Wildlife Trust on a hunt for marine alien species and learn about them and why we need to monitor them. Please wear wellies and warm clothes.

Contact: Lara Howe lara@manxwt.org.uk

Meet: Scarlett Visitor Centre, Scarlett Point,
Castletown, IM9 1TB

Cost: Free

JUNE

Wednesday 1 June

**Caerlaverock Kids
(WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 11.00am**

Details as previous

Friday 3 June to Sunday 5 June

**Summer Angling Festival
(SSACN)
Booking: Not required**

This festival will encompass a wide range of exciting activities including SSACN's flagship event Sharktag, boat and shore Species Hunts, a pegged Shore Sweepstake and a fun filled educational Outreach programme for all ages held around Portpatrick harbour and the Sands of Luce Caravan Park.

Contact: contact@ssacn.org

Meet: Sands of Luce Bar

Cost: FREE

Sunday 5 June

**Photography for Beginners
(WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 4.00pm
Booking: Essential**

Special beginners workshop with Tom Langlands and Bob Fitzsimmons. Learn macro photography techniques to take great photographs of flowers, insects and other minibeasts at Caerlaverock.

Contact: Pam Mundy 01387 770200 or
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre,
Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS,
NY052657

Cost: £60

Tuesday 7, 14, 21, 28 & Thursday 2, 9, 23, 30 June

**Seabird Spectacular
(RSPB Mull of Galloway)
1.00pm to 3.00pm**

Details as previous

Friday 10, 24 June

**Nature Tots
(RSPB Mersehead)
10.00am to 11.30pm and 1.00pm to
2.30pm**

Details as previous



Saturday 11 June

**Mull of Galloway Marathon Trail
(Stranraer Rotary)
Starts 10.00am
Booking: required**

Take part in a walk/run from the stunning Mull of Galloway to Stranraer. The trail is 26 miles long, mostly rough path. Alternative walking route of 10 miles from Sandhead to Stranraer over Mull of Galloway possible. Routes are well marked and there will be water and energy stations.

Contact: <https://www.entrycentral.com> for
online registration or gordon.baird@me.com

Meet: Mull of Galloway, Drummore,
DG9 9HP (Marathon) or Tigh na Mara
hotel, Sandhead, DG9 9JF (Walk)

Cost: £25 (Marathon), £15 (Walk) incl.
transport and BBQ

Thursday 16 June

**Wildflower Walk
(RSPB Mull of Galloway & Logan
Botanic Garden)
1.00pm to 3.00pm
Booking: Not required**

Join the RSPB and Logan Botanic Garden staff on a guided walk around Mull of Galloway. Wildflowers are in full bloom so learn more about their ecology and importance to our native wildlife.

Contact: 01988 402130 or
mullofgalloway@rspb.org.uk

Meet: RSPB, Mull of Galloway,
Drummore, DG9 9HP, NX155304

Cost: £1.50 Members, £3 Non-members,
Children free

Friday 17 June

**The Karina Voyage
(Manx Wildlife Trust)
Starts at 6.30pm
Booking: Essential**

Take a trip out to explore the eastern coastal waters of the Isle of Man on MV Karina. Homemade refreshments will be served.

Contact: Clare Bryan cjbryan@manx.net

Meet: Sea terminal in Douglas, Isle of Man

Cost: £20

Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 June

**Mersehead BIOBLITZ Weekend
11.00am to 4.00pm
(RSPB Mersehead)
Booking: Essential**

Join Natural History experts to find and identify as many different plants, birds, insects, amphibians and mammals as possible at Mersehead during the weekend.

Contact: 01387 780579 or
mersehead@rspb.org.uk

Meet: RSPB Reserve,
Mersehead, DG2 8AH, NX925561

Cost: FREE but charges for walks: £4
Adult, £2 Child, £3/£1.50 Members

Thursday 23 June

**Cumbria Shore Walk
(Ann Lingard)
Starts 8.45am
Meet: Mawbray Banks carpark,
opposite Bank Mill Nursery & Bistro**

Details as previous

Saturday 25 June to Saturday 3 September

**Solway Seafood Exhibition
(Dumfries Museum)
10.00am to 5.00pm, Monday –
Saturday; 2.00pm to 5.00pm, Sunday
Booking: Not required**

Seafood has sustained the people of south west Scotland for the past 10,000 years and is now an integral part of local life. Take a journey through time and discover the story of people who have fished the Solway coast, the traditional methods employed and the changes that have taken place.

Contact: 01387 253374

Meet: contact Dumfries Museum,
The Observatory, Rotchell Road,
Dumfries DG2 7SW

Cost: FREE





Thursday 30 June

Fishy Tales Talk
(Dumfries Museum)
6.30pm to 8.00pm
Booking: Not required

Discover the sea fishing history of the Solway through 20 objects; Nic Coombey from Solway Firth Partnership will tell the story of people's ingenuity from 10,000 years ago to the modern day. Using objects held in museum collections the talk will bring to life ancient ways of catching seafood and the changes that have taken place.

Contact: 01387 253374

Meet: contact Dumfries Museum, The Observatory, Rotchell Road, Dumfries DG2 7SW

Cost: Free

JULY

Friday 1 July to Saturday 3 September

Solway Seafood Exhibition
(Dumfries Museum)
10.00am to 5.00pm, Monday – Saturday; 2.00pm to 5.00pm, Sunday

Details as previous

Monday 4 July

Adult only rock pooling
(Manx Wildlife Trust)
Starts 6pm
Booking: Essential

Find out about what lives in coastal rock pools. Nets and buckets will be provided. We will head to the Falcon's Nest afterwards for dinner and a power point presentation.

Contact: Dawn Dickens
dawn@manxwt.org.uk

Meet: Cost Nook café in Port Erin, Isle of Man

Cost: £5

Tuesday 5, 12, 19, 26 & Thursday 7, 14, 21, 28 July

Birds and the Bees
(RSPB Mull of Galloway)
1.00pm to 3.00pm
Booking: Not required

Join a guided walk around a stunning location with views across to the Isle of Man and Ireland. Look out for porpoise, grey seal and a few thousand seabirds too! Bring binoculars if you have them, suitable clothing and stout footwear.

Contact: 01988 402130 or
mullofgalloway@rspb.org.uk

Meet: RSPB, Mull of Galloway, Drummole, DG9 9HP, NX155304

Cost: £3 Adult, £1.50 Child, FREE under 5's, 20% off for Members

Wednesday 6 July

Birds and Plants of St Bees North Head
(Keswick Natural History Society)
10.15am to 12.00noon
Booking: Essential

Take a look at the birds and plants of St Bees North Head, followed by a visit to the disused quarry at Clints to look for orchids and other plants. A walk around Longlands Lake afterwards if members wish.

Contact: David Rayment at 017687 75659

Meet: Tarn Flatts Hall Farm, Grid Ref: NY 948 145

Cost: £2 per day parking charge

Wednesday 6 July

Caerlaverock Kids
(WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 11.00am

Details as previous

Thursday 7, 22 July

High Tide Perambulation
(RSPB Crook of Baldoon)
1.00pm to 3.00pm

Details as previous

Friday 8, 15, 22, 29 July

Nature Tots
(RSPB Mersehead)
10.00am to 11.30pm
and 1.00pm to 2.30pm

Details as previous

Saturday 9 & 10 July

RSPB Treasure Trail
(RSPB Mull of Galloway)
10.00am to 5.00pm
Booking: Not required

As part of the Smuggling themed weekend, find the hidden treasures of the Mull of Galloway reserve to smuggle a prize from the RSPB treasure chest.

Contact: 01988 402130 or
mullofgalloway@rspb.org.uk

Meet: RSPB, Mull of Galloway, Drummole, DG9 9HP, NX155304

Cost: FREE, donations welcome

Tuesday 12 July

Guided Walk: The Magic of Summer
(Logan Botanic Garden)
Starts 10.30am
Booking: Not Essential

Come and enjoy a tour in the company of a gardener. See the vibrant colours and textures of the half-hardy perennials that sparkle and lighten up the garden in a floral firework display. Salvia, Osteospermum, Penstemon and Fuchsia are now in their element.

Contact: Richard Baines 01776 860231 or
r.baines@rbge.uk/logan

Meet: Logan Botanic Garden, Port Logan, Stranraer, Dumfries and Galloway, DG9 9ND

Cost: £6 Adults, £5 Concession, Children free

Thursday 14 July

Gaelic Tree Trail
(WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 12.00noon
Booking: Essential

Each letter of the Gaelic alphabet represents a tree. Learn about the trees present on the reserve and their Gaelic names! Family event.

Contact: 01387 770200 or
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: £8.20 Adult, £6.30 Concession, £4 Young person, £22.10 Family, Under 4 and members free

Wednesday 20 July

Be a Wildlife Warden
9.30am to 12.30pm
(RSPB Mersehead)
Booking: Essential

Hands on experience at becoming a warden for the morning. Learn how we create a home for wildlife first hand. For ages 10-17 years old and a chance to meet other youths with similar interests.

Contact: 01387 780579 or
mersehead@rspb.org.uk

Meet: RSPB Reserve, Mersehead, DG2 8AH, NX925561

Cost: £15 per child

Thursday 21 July

Nature Detectives
(WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 12.00noon
Booking: Essential

Become a nature detective and see what you can discover about the wildlife at Caerlaverock. Family event.

Contact: 01387 770200 or
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: £8.20 Adult, £6.30 Concession, £4 Young person, £22.10 Family, Under 4 and members free

Saturday 23 July

Cumbria Shore Walk
(Ann Lingard)
Starts 9.00am
Booking: Essential
Meet: Mawbray Banks carpark, opposite Bank Mill Nursery & Bistro

Details as previous

Saturday 30 to Sunday 31 July

Family Nature Camp
(WWT Caerlaverock)
Starts 6.00pm
Booking: Essential

Spend a night camping at WWT Caerlaverock. Take part in activities such as a night-time Wildlife Safari, open fire cooking, tracks and signs, and fire lighting. Children aged 8-14.

Contact: 01387 770200 or
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: £15 Adult, £7.50 Child; Includes entry, camping and food.

AUGUST

Monday 1 August to Saturday 3 September

Solway Seafood Exhibition
(Dumfries Museum)
10.00am to 5.00pm, Monday – Saturday; 2.00pm to 5.00pm, Sunday

Details as previous

Tuesday 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & Thursday 4, 11, 18, 25 July

Birds and the Bees
(RSPB Mull of Galloway)
1.00pm to 3.00pm

Details as previous

Wednesday 3 August

Caerlaverock Kids
(WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 11.00am
Booking: Essential

Details as previous

Friday 5, 12, 19, 26 July

Nature Tots
(RSPB Mersehead)
10.00am to 11.30pm
and 1.00pm to 2.30pm

Details as previous

Friday 5 August

Cumbria Shorewalk
(Ann Lingard)
Starts 8.45am
Meet: Carpark at North end of Allonby (in front of North Lodge)

Details as previous

Tuesday 9 August

Guided Walk: The Height of Summer
(Logan Botanic Garden)
Starts 10.30am
Booking: Not Required

Come along and enjoy the Garden before the summer flowers start to fade. See the stunning display of Waterlilies, exotic Cannas and dazzling Dieramas.

Contact: Richard Baines 01776 860231 or r.baines@rbge.uk/logan

Meet: Logan Botanic Garden, Port Logan, Stranraer, Dumfries and Galloway, DG9 9ND

Cost: £6 Adults, £5 Concession, Children free

Thursday 11 August

Small Mammal Trapping
(WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 12.00noon
Booking: Essential

See what small mammals live on the reserve and find out what we have caught in our small mammal traps.

Contact: 01387 770200 or info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: £8.20 Adult, £6.30 Concession, £4 Young person, £22.10 Family, Under 4 and members free

Wednesday 17 August

Be a Wildlife Warden
09.30am to 12.30pm
(RSPB Mersehead)

Details as previous

Thursday 19 August

High Tide Perambulation
(RSPB Crook of Baldoon)
12.00noon to 2.00pm

Details as previous

Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 August

International Lighthouse Weekend
(RSPB Mull of Galloway)
1.00pm to 3.00pm
Booking: Not required

Join in on a guided walk around a stunning location, as part of the International Lighthouse Weekend. Learn about the significance of Lighthouses to migrating birds. Bring binoculars if you have them, suitable clothing and stout footwear.

Contact: 01988 402130 or mullofgalloway@rspb.org.uk

Meet: RSPB, Mull of Galloway, Drummore, DG9 9HP, NX155304

Cost: £3 Adult, £1.50 Child, FREE under 5's, 20% off for Members

Sunday 21 August

Cumbria Shorewalk
(Ann Lingard)
8.45am
Booking: Essential
Meet: Carpark at North end of Allonby (in front of North Lodge)

Details as previous

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 1 September to Saturday 3 September

Solway Seafood Exhibition
(Dumfries Museum)
10.00am to 5.00pm, Monday – Saturday; 2.00pm to 5.00pm, Sunday

Details as previous

Thursday 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 & Tuesday 6, 13, 20, 27 September

Autumn Migration
(RSPB Mull of Galloway)
1.00pm to 3.00pm
Booking: Not required

Flocks of migrating birds can be seen stopping off en-route to their wintering grounds. Join in on a guided walk to meet thousands of seabirds that return to nest. Bring binoculars if you have them, suitable clothing and stout footwear.

Contact: 01988 402130 or mullofgalloway@rspb.org.uk

Meet: RSPB, Mull of Galloway, Drummore, DG9 9HP, NX155304

Cost: £3 Adult, £1.50 Child, FREE under 5's, 20% off for Members

Sunday 4 September

In Focus
(WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 4.00pm
Booking: Not Essential

Details as previous

Monday 5 to Friday 9 September

Stars & Striped Badger Watching
(WWT Caerlaverock)
Starts 8.00pm
Booking: Essential

Watch wild Badgers feeding just outside our comfortable observatory. Fair-trade tea, coffee and biscuits available.

Contact: 01387 770200 or info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: £7.50 Adult, £5 Concession, £2.50 Child. Tickets must be paid for in advance.



Wednesday 7 September

Caerlaverock Kids
(WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 11.00am
Booking: Essential

Details as previous

Friday 9, 23 September

Nature Tots
(RSPB Mersehead)
10.00am to 11.30pm
and 1.00pm to 2.30pm

Details as previous

Saturday 10 September

Ramsey Marine Invasive Survey
(Manx Wildlife Trust)
Starts 11am
Booking: Not required

Help monitor two existing invasive species that can be found on Ramsey harbour.

Contact: Lara Howe lara@manxwt.org.uk

Meet: Ramsey RNLI slipway, Isle of Man

Cost: Free

Tuesday 13 September

Guided Walk: The Height of Summer
(Logan Botanic Garden)
Starts 10.30am
Booking: Not Required

Come and enjoy an early autumnal tour around the garden in the company of one of the gardeners and see the early autumnal joys on offer. See the lovely Agapanthus, Eucryphia & Fascicularia

Contact: Richard Baines 01776 860231 or r.baines@rbge.uk/logan

Meet: Logan Botanic Garden, Port Logan, Stranraer, Dumfries and Galloway, DG9 9ND

Cost: £6 Adults, £5 Concession, Children free

Monday 19 September

High Tide Perambulation
(RSPB Crook of Baldoon)
1.00pm to 3.00pm

Details as previous





For further information, to submit an article or to join the SFP mailing list please contact:
Solway Firth Partnership, Campbell House, The Crichton, Bankend Road, Dumfries, DG1 4UQ
t: 01387 702161 e: info@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk

The Solway Firth Partnership is a Scottish Company Limited by guarantee and without share capital under Company Number SC250012 and a Scottish Charity under Scottish Charity Number SCO34376.
Registered office: Campbell House, The Crichton, Dumfries DG1 4UQ