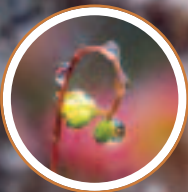


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Issue 47 Winter 2017

newsletter of the Solway Firth Partnership



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Chairman's Column

Alastair McNeill FCIWEM C.WEM MCMI



A three-day oyster festival took place in Stranraer during September and resulted in over 10,000 people visiting the event. Led by the local community and involving other sectors of the fishing industry, the festival saw over 3000 oysters consumed, many by people who had not eaten oysters before. The festival was the first event of its type in Dumfries & Galloway and has helped put fisheries to the fore in a region where agricultural activities generally overshadow the fishing industry. People may be surprised to learn that Kirkcudbright remains in the top six locations in the UK in terms of shellfish landings as reported by the Marine Management Organisation, Sea Fisheries Statistics, 2016.

Although the Solway cockle fishery is currently closed, commercial fishing for other species takes place elsewhere in the Firth. 2016 was the first scallop season since the Luce Bay and Sands SAC conservation designation order was made. While the designation restricts scallop fishing by trawling within much of Luce Bay, a derogation does enable scalloping to continue within traditional safe winter fishing grounds in parts of the Bay.

At the time of compiling this article, the Solway Code of Conduct was being reviewed in advance of the opening of west coast waters for scallop fishing from the 1 November 2017. Aimed at preventing conflict between fishermen deploying different gear types, the Code of Conduct has

successfully minimised events since it was first introduced almost ten years ago. Previously reviewed each year by Solway Firth Partnership in association with fishing industry representatives, the role is now completed under the auspices of the West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (WCRIFG). Generally recognised as one of the best and most effective codes of its type, it encourages fishermen to collaborate and respect other fishing practices in order that different gear types can be used in the same waters without incident.

The WCRIFG offers inshore fishermen on the west coast of Scotland an opportunity to work collaboratively and inform Government of potential fisheries management opportunities. Geographically located WCRIFG subcommittees including Solway, allow individual fishermen to contribute to the management and development of fisheries in waters where they are proactive. The Scottish Government has indicated that it would be prepared to support industry led investigations into the development and establishment of a sustainable management strategy that might allow limited controlled opening of the Solway cockle fishery. Consequently, objectives in this regard together with other potential developments have been included in the recently published WCRIFG Fisheries Management Plan – http://lifgs.org.uk/rifg_wcl/

Oyster Fishermen, Loch Ryan ©Colin Tennant



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Photo Credits: Front Page: Limpets - Nic Coombey, Solway Firth Partnership; Page 2: Oyster fishermen – Colin Tennant/SFP; Page 4-5: Golden Plover, Whooper Swan, Barnacle Geese and Peter Scott Observatory – all Alex Hillier / Caerlaverock sunset - Pavel Handrk / Paintings by Keith Brown; Page 6-7: All photos on Beach Litter & Remembering the Solway - Solway Coast AONB / SFP Advisory Group – SFP; Page 8-9: Bowness Common and Looking south - James Smith / Other images - Ann Lingaard; Page 10-11: Sundew – Rob Grange / Other images – Alastair Brock; Page 12: All images – Solway Coast AONB; Page 13: SIMCelt Presentation – Richard Budd; Page 14-15: Oystercatcher flock – Keith Kirk / Cormorants, Edible crab, Limpets, Rock Dove – Nic Coombey, SFP; Page 16-17: All images – Dumfries and Galloway Council; Page 17-19: All images – Nic Coombey, SFP; Page 20-21: Little Ross Island from the north east - Alistair C. Gillone / All other images – David R Collins; Page 23: Ringed Plover – Keith Kirk; Page 24: All images – Keith Kirk; Page 25: Curlews in Flight – Alex Hillier / Peter Scott Observatory – Tom Langlands; Page 26: Mersehead – Keith Kirk / Barnacle Geese – Alex Hillier; Page 27: Caerlaverock Sunrise – Pavel Handrk / Galloway Coast – Nic Coombey, SFP.



Swan feed at Peter Scott Observatory ©Alex Hillier

Golden Plover ©Alex Hillier



Wildfowl and Wetlands at Caerlaverock

Autumn is an exciting time of year for wetlands with the arrival of thousands of wintering birds. WWT Caerlaverock is a migration hotspot with, among others, ducks, geese, swans and waders arriving from Iceland, Svalbard, Scandinavia and arctic Russia.

The numbers of birds will build from September onwards with thousands wintering here from October to March.

Every day the wardens have the task of counting all the different species on the reserve! One of the most important tasks is counting the Barnacle Geese, which the high Farmhouse Tower is perfect for.

WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre was opened by Sir Peter Scott with the primary concern of giving a safe wintering site for the rare Barnacle Geese, of which the entire population migrates from Svalbard to the Solway Firth each winter. In 1948 the Svalbard Barnacle Goose population was as low as just 300 individuals. Through hugely successful conservation work on the reserve and by working with the Scottish Government, local farmers and land owners to set up the Solway Goose Management Scheme, there has been a significant recovery for the population. Last year over 40,000 Barnacle Geese returned to the Solway Firth, with a top count of 15,980 birds on 7 October 2016 at WWT Caerlaverock. We continue to protect this iconic species and visitors can see and hear the amazing spectacle of thousands of wild geese flying around the reserve each day.



Whooper swan in summer ©Alex Hillier



Barnacle geese in flight ©Alex Hillier

The Lonely Swan

Whooper Swans visit WWT Caerlaverock every winter and return to Iceland to breed during the summer. In our heated Peter Scott Observatory, we hold commentated wild bird feeds at 11am and 2pm every day from October to March, where visitors can get closer to wild Whooper Swans than anywhere else in Britain.

Last April, when all the swans had left, we realised there was one Whooper Swan remaining on the Whooper Pond. It was a young bird, a cygnet, which should have returned to Iceland for the summer but it had damaged the flight feathers on one wing and was unable to fly. All through the summer this lonely Whooper Swan has been on the Whooper Pond with only the local Mallards and Mute Swan family for company. It made friends with a Canada Goose for a while...

But its luck is about to change! As all swans do, in the last few weeks it has moulted its feathers, dropping the damaged ones and growing healthy new ones so it can now fly again. It has made successful test flights around the reserve. As we move into October, the other Whooper Swans will soon be returning from Iceland and we are waiting in anticipation of the reunion with its family!

'Back Again'
by Keith
Brown



Scottish Water Project

Over the summer Scottish Water offered to help us with a project to create a new wetland habitat on the reserve. They dug three new ponds in the paddock area behind the Wildlife Garden which will provide excellent new habitat for amphibians and insects such as dragonflies and water beetles. This will also become a great new space for schools and groups to learn about wetlands, do scientific investigations and explore the pond habitat through pond dipping. In addition, Scottish Water built a new hide looking over the Folly Pond. This gives visitors a completely different view over the Folly Pond to watch ducks such as Teal and Wigeon, and waders such as Redshank, Ruff and Black-tailed Godwits.

Wildlife and Art

Sir Peter Scott was a renowned wildlife artist and at WWT Caerlaverock we have an exhibition space in the centre. Over the winter we have some fantastic exhibitions by local artists, including paintings by Keith Brown, infrared photography by Michal Sur and photo-artwork by Alicia Beesley.

*Faith Hillier,
WWT Caerlaverock.*



Geese by Keith Brown

An Update from the Solway Coast AONB

Beach clean in the Solway AONB



Some litter finds!

Beach Litter Picking in the AONB

After the retirement of our much-loved Ranger, Graeme Proud, earlier this year, we have had a gap in the volunteer work party schedules here at the Solway Coast AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). Thankfully, one of our regular volunteers has stepped in to help. Volunteer John Gorrill is passionate about keeping our beautiful beaches clean, and is now running regular beach litter picking events at a variety of locations around the AONB, including Bowness-on-Solway, Silloth, Wolsty, Mawbray, Crosscanonby and Allonby.

It's a real testament to the value our local communities place

on the Solway coastline that people like John offer to give something back to the area and arrange these kinds of events. We are supporting John by supplying equipment; spreading the word and acting as liaison with Allerdale Borough Council's Street Scene Officers who come and pick the rubbish bags up, and Cumbria Wildlife Trust and the LOVEMyBEACH campaign have also offered valuable assistance.

Anyone can join in on the Beach Litter Picks – see the events page on www.solwaycoastaonb.org.uk for details and please do come along and get involved!

Brian's retirement

After 22 years of managing the Solway Coast AONB, Dr Brian Irving MBE has decided to retire. Brian has worked on the Solway since 1996 when he took over as AONB Officer and Project Manager at Solway Rural Initiative, subsequently becoming AONB Manager when the AONB staff unit became hosted by Allerdale borough Council. He was rewarded for his extensive service to natural heritage and conservation in Cumbria by receiving an MBE in 2013.

Brian has been a member of the Solway Firth Partnership Advisory Group for 21 years and SFP were very sad to say goodbye to him in September at his last meeting on the



Presentation to Brian Irving at his last SFP Advisory Group Meeting

partnership. As recognition for his longstanding input into the partnership, an official vote of thanks was held by the Chair, which included the gift of a lovely bottle of local Solway gin!

An Update from the Solway Coast AONB

Peat cutting implements

Kirkbride School handling objects with volunteer Kathleen Rook



The 'Remembering the Solway' Team

Remembering the Solway

The Remembering the Solway group recently celebrated the culmination of two and a half year's hard work on collecting Solway Plain oral histories.

The group, all volunteers living in the local area, have been working since 2015 to capture and record some of the memories of people living on the Solway throughout the last century, in order to find out what life was like in this area within living memory, and to what extent it has changed over time.

The area that the group decided to focus on was the central, northern section of the Solway Plain, encompassing the villages of Newton Arlosh, Kirkbride, Bowness-on-Solway, Port Carlisle, Drumburgh and Burgh-by-Sands. This contains the largest concentration of lowland raised mire (Moss) and is an area of low-lying coastal farmland interspersed with small villages and hamlets.

In total, 46 interviews were carried out, recording the memories of 52 people. The recordings were passed to the Cumbria Archive Service and can be accessed at the Carlisle Archive Centre, though our intention is for as much material as possible

for be available on the web in due course. A short film was made with the help of Red Onion Video and you can watch it online by visiting Vimeo at this link:

<https://vimeo.com/223637939>

A 34 page book was produced containing clips, snippets and images from the project and featuring people's memories of the area. This is free of charge and can be picked up in libraries, tourist information centres and visitor information points across the Solway Coast AONB and beyond.

To celebrate the end of the project, the group organised a special event and invited interviewees, their friends and family and interested people from the local area and beyond. Members of the group collected a huge range of historical artefacts and photographs from local communities and put on an extensive display about life on the Solway. The local school, Kirkbride Primary, also visited, and the group ran a session for them before the main guests arrived. 180 people attended the event, which was held at the White Heather Hotel, Kirkbride, and a great day was had by all.

Naomi Hewitt, Solway Coast AONB

Extracts from the recordings:

"Sometimes the tide was just coming in. We would stand in the bore, which was quite interesting. Sometimes it was quite strong, you know, you were probably going in at that height, sort of, almost fit enough to wash you down but you used to feel the fish hitting your legs, flounders and that. We used to experiment by going away across the sand when the tides were low. I've been probably a mile across that sand and then it suddenly dawned on us ... I don't know what time the tide comes into, Bryan, but I think we'd better be heading back." (Geoff Hodgson)

"In Burgh there used to be four pubs, you know. There was the Rat Trap at Longburgh, there was the Greyhound, there was the Pack at North End and the Lady Lowther at Old Sandsfield. Well, there was no licensing hours on a Sunday then in Scotland and they all used to come over to the Lady Lowther in boats, on a Sunday especially. And to this day the old bar is still in at Old Sandsfield. And the crockery, it was there until recently anyway, because the men that manage the marsh always have a dinner in July, the first week in July and they use the crockery that was left there from them days." (Margaret Brown)

"I don't really know whether I'd be termed a railway child or a moss child, but I think I would have been quite happy with both. The place, as a small child, was wonderful. It was idyllic. The railway workers were our friends and they'd get off the train and come and buy my baby rabbits and my little dungarees I used to wear were continually covered in creosote from sitting on the British Rail gates, waving at the steam trains... If I could bottle the smells, the scent of Whiteholme in the '50s and '60s, I'd be a millionaire, and if I had a recording of the birds and the grasshoppers and the sway of the cotton grass... I mean, I know it sounds passionate and maybe like a dream, but in a way it was. To recapture that, it would be heaven." (Jean Graham)



Bowness Common and the SJR. Above: looking North; Rogersecugh Farm on its drumlin to the left. Below: looking South from the Bowness viaduct embankment. ©James Smith

Crossing the Moss:

the Solway Junction Railway and Bowness Common by Ann Lingard



In the 1860s, the firm of Brogdens and the engineer, James Brunlees, decided on a major infrastructure project. They would find a shorter, more lucrative, way of transporting West Cumbrian haematite to Lanarkshire than the dog-leg around the top of the Solway Firth at Gretna – they would build a railway, and a viaduct that would cross the Firth directly from Bowness on the Cumberland side to Annan in Dumfriesshire.

At the 'Sod-cutting Ceremony' in March 1865, Alex Brogden predicted the Solway Junction Railway (SJR) would be running within a year, and his company, and anyone else who would like to invest, would make a handsome profit.

Yet surely he and Brunlees were aware of the difficulty of

laying a track across a peatbog, across the Bowness Moss that lay between the Firth and the River Wampool?

Bowness Common (Moss), a dome of peat that developed in a hollow of wetland formed after glacial retreat, is one of the largest 'active raised bogs' in the UK and is part of the South Solway Mosses National Nature Reserve (NNR) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC). In places the peat is still 10 metres deep, and it is a wild and beautiful place, of big skies and hissing wind, dragonflies and lizards, jewel-like sphagnum mosses, and plants like asphodel, cranberry and sundew.

But in the 1860s the peace was shattered. The construction of the SJR across the Moss initially involved the digging of longitudinal and cross-ditches. These drained the

surrounding peat so that its level fell by 4-5 feet, and 'water flowed in river-like streams'. The SJR was dismantled in the 1930s, but the effects of this drainage on the peat still continue.

However, in the late 1990s the RSPB and English Nature (now Natural England, NE) started re-wetting the Common – attempting not only to restore the special sphagnum mosses and other vegetation and animals of the Moss, but also to restore the peatland to do its job of trapping and sequestering carbon dioxide from the air.

It was this dramatic restoration, and the traces remaining of the SJR, that inspired me and photographer James Smith to research the story of the railway and to investigate the re-wetting of the peat.

It soon became obvious that the story of Bowness Common was not only the story of the difficulty of building a railway across the peat – navvies labouring for months in sodden conditions, the hundreds of wooden 'faggots' and the extra-long sleepers that were needed (the stretch of the SJR across the Moss wasn't open for trains carrying passengers until 1869) - but also of Brunlees' extraordinary Solway viaduct, which had 'the semblance of a piece of enchanted workmanship resting on the bosom of the racing waters.'

The story we discovered, told in words, pictures and aerial videos on our website *Crossing the Moss*, takes you through the construction of the viaduct and of the railway track; the disaster that befell the viaduct; the eventual closure and dismantling of the SJR; and the present-day, long-term restoration of the Common. There is a parallel story, too, of tides, sea-levels and climate change, exemplified by the hare stranded on an ice-floe.

James and I thank everyone who was so generous with time and information, especially the railway enthusiasts, and Alasdair Brock (NE) and Dave Blackledge (RSPB). We are very grateful to the Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership and to the Heritage Lottery Fund for their support.



Remaining pillars of the viaduct at Bowness & Sandstone and clinker ballast on the SJR track (photos: Ann Lingard)



Crossing the Moss www.crossingthemoss.wordpress.com
James Smith www.jamesmithphotography.com
'A hare in a fix'
www.solwayshorewalker.wordpress.com/2017/06/16/a-hare-in-a-fix-snippet-13/
Solway Shore Stories www.solwayshorestories.co.uk

Bringing Wedholme Flow back to LIFE



When is the last time you visited a lowland raised bog? Perhaps bog is not a habitat you have ever given much thought to, but it definitely should be!

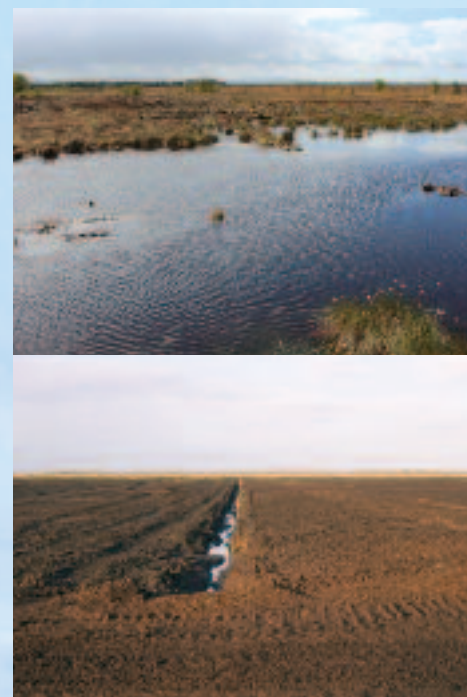
Lowland raised bog is one of Western Europe's rarest and most threatened habitats, with about 94% of this unique habitat being either destroyed or damaged in the UK. This matters because peat bogs are home to a mix of wonderful specialist and rare plants and animals, such as adders, orchids and the carnivorous plant, sundew. Healthy peat bogs also store large amounts of carbon from the atmosphere, whereas damaged peat bogs release their carbon.

Cumbria BogLIFE is a five-year Natural England project that is restoring three lowland raised bog sites within Cumbria: Roudsea Woods and Mosses National Nature Reserve (NNR) in south

Cumbria, Bolton Fell Moss to the north-east of Carlisle, and Wedholme Flow – one of four raised bogs within the South Solway Mosses NNR to the north-west of Carlisle.

The project, which has been 50% match-funded by the EU LIFE+ Programme, will directly restore 507 hectares (ha) of degraded raised bog. As the sites are part of wider areas of bog, this will result in improvements to 751 ha of habitat – that's equivalent to around 1000 Wembley Stadium sized football pitches!

Wedholme Flow has been exploited for its peat for hundreds of years. This even goes back to the time of the monks of Holme Cultram Abbey, who took peat for fuel. The monks built at least one road, with several bridges to transport



Wedholme Flow ©Alasdair Brock



Work on Wedholme Flow ©Alasdair Brock



Adder & shed adder skin ©Alasdair Brock

the peat to salt pans that you can still see at the coast today. Local people who owned “awards” took peat for fuel and animal bedding for many centuries.

This activity continued at relatively low intensity into the last century.

Commercial extraction of peat began in the early 1900s. Initially the peat was cut by hand. Large scale commercial extraction began in 1948, and from the 1980s until 2003, large machines cut millions of tons of peat from the bog. This peat was sold for gardening in the horticultural industry.

Peat extraction damages lowland raised bogs by lowering the water level. This, in turn, leads to the loss of peat-forming Sphagnum mosses and this prevents the bog from growing. Once Wedholme Flow was designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), these damaging activities had to stop



and this opened the way for the purchase of the site and the start of lowland raised bog restoration.

Although most damaged bogs are drained of water and have dried out, Wedholme Flow has a unique problem in that parts of it are too wet! The most damaged part of the bog is in the

centre where peat was extracted on an industrial scale. Here there are large hollows and almost no gradient. This means that it is very difficult for water, which enters the bog as rainfall, to drain away.

Sphagnum mosses and other bog vegetation cannot grow in the open water, except around the edges.

In 2017, work funded by the European LIFE+ programme has opened up drains to allow excess water to run off the bog. The subsequent creation of a myriad of small dams is holding a ‘slick’ of water on the peat surface. The wet surface has been seeded with a mixture of grasses and mosses. A carpet of vegetation is now slowly growing and eventually it will become dominated by Sphagnum mosses. These will begin to form peat and Wedholme Flow will again play its important, historic role of trapping carbon from the atmosphere.

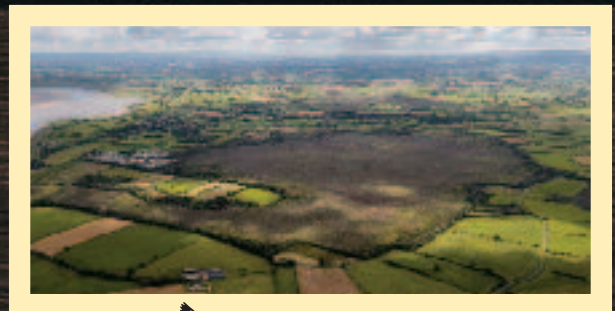
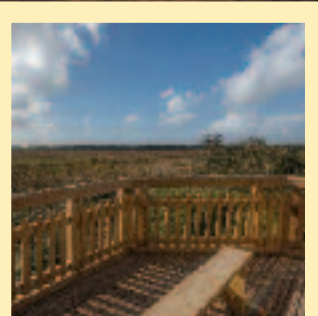
Keeley Spate, Communications Officer,
Cumbrian BogLIFE+ Project
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cumbrian-bogs-life-project>



Sundew ©Rob Grange



Main picture Wedholme Flow
©Alasdair Brock



Views of Glasson Moss, Viewing Platform and Boardwalk ©Solway Coast AONB

New Access on Glasson Moss



Glasson Moss, part of the South Solway Mosses National Nature Reserve, has a new boardwalk linking the current access at the South and North of the reserve along with a new viewing tower giving panoramic views across this very special habitat.

The boardwalk and viewing tower have been developed as part of the Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership, a five-year Heritage Lottery funded project.

The boardwalk and viewing tower allow visitors to enjoy the wild beauty of this lowland raised mire and appreciate the work done to restore the unique ecology of the bog following damage from historic peat cutting and drainage. The boardwalk provides access for all (the boardwalk is designed to provide access for wheelchairs and baby buggies) across a wet Sphagnum moss

carpet that indicates a healthy and growing bog surface. Venturing up the tower you will be treated to a spectacular view of the bog with the Lakeland Fells behind. From the elevated viewpoint you can see the regular grid pattern of the peat cutting along with the pools and bunds used within the restoration process to hold water on the bog and encourage sphagnum regrowth.

Access to the complex of boardwalks and paths across Glasson Moss is from either the Whitrigg – Bowness-on-Solway road or from the coast road via the access to the Cottage and Glendale Campsite where a track leads to a small car park and access to the viewing platform and new boardwalk.

Chris Spencer, Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership



SIMCelt presenting at European Maritime Day in May 2017, Poole, UK ©Richard Budd



Supporting Implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in the Celtic Seas

The SIMCelt project is coming to a close in December 2017. The project which was co-funded by DG MARE is a collaboration between organisations in Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, Ireland and France and sought to improve the implementation of maritime spatial planning, as required under the EU Directive.

The Solway Firth was chosen as one of the project's case studies due to its special nature as a cross border single marine ecosystem. The case study explored the practical application of working within an ecologically coherent unit, for example: how to align marine plans on different sides of a marine border, and how to approach stakeholder engagement arrangements in order to ensure effective 'join up' between planning administrations.

As part of the deliverables for this case study, a series of reports for Across Borders' will soon become available. These reports will focus on marine planning in the area of the Solway Firth but will have key findings and lessons learnt that will be applicable to other Member States with similar estuaries.

Look out for:

Initial comparison of requirements of, and differences between, primary UK legislation pertinent to marine planning

This report sets the scene for the Case Study, by analysing the international, European, UK and devolved legislation that is relevant to consider when marine planning in a cross border ecosystem. Legislation will be considered in the context of the Solway Firth.

Report on Sectoral Interactions around the Solway Firth in relation to marine planning

This report updates the work conducted by Solway Firth Partnership in 2011, using a matrix and a questionnaire to analyse the different interactions between key sectors operating around the Solway Firth. This snapshot-in-time provided by the study illustrates the numerous activities occurring daily in the Solway Firth. The report will highlight key synergies and conflicts, as well as providing a useful indication for methods of conflict resolution when marine planning.

Particular cross border issues for the Solway Firth

The first of two reports looking at the challenges and opportunities when planning for a cross border single ecosystem. This report considers those issues specific to the Solway Firth that will need to be overcome when planning for the Solway Marine Region. Issues include timing of plans, different approaches to planning, marine and terrestrial planning interactions, challenges for stakeholder engagement and the effects of different approaches on the underlying ecosystem.

Options for the Solway Marine Region in terms of marine planning

The second of two reports looking at the challenges and opportunities when planning for a cross border single ecosystem. This report provides options for marine planning in the Solway Marine Region. Lessons learnt from this cross border ecosystem may be applicable to other Member States. The report will cover what is expected to happen for marine planning in the region, how this can be achieved, learning from other marine planning approaches, engaging with terrestrial plans and stakeholders as well as practical options for particular cross border sectors e.g. tidal energy.

Emma Baruah, SIMCelt Project Officer

Place-Names Inspired by Wildlife

Following on from the success of the Coastwise Beach Guide a new Wildlife Guide that links place names and nature is now available.



Oystercatcher flock ©Keith Kirk

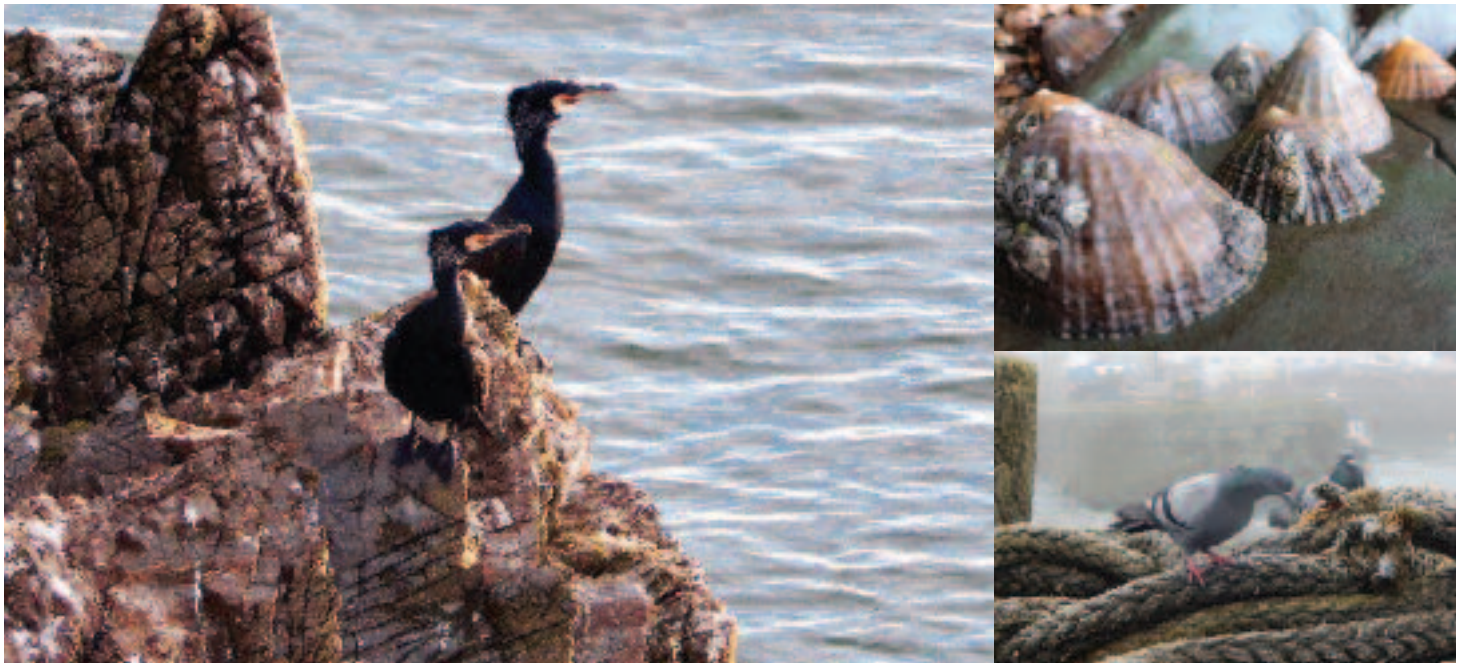


Supported by
The National Lottery
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Dumfries
& Galloway





Cormorants, Limpets, Rock dove, Edible Crab ©Nic Coombey, SFP

The guide is an introduction to the creatures and plants that have inspired place names on the long and varied coast of Dumfries and Galloway. The names we give to places help us describe a location to other people and help us find our way in both the physical and cultural landscape. Place-names often provide a one or two-word description of a landmark and sometimes refer to plants or creatures that were notable in the past and give us clues about where to see wildlife today. With some names, like Juniper Rock, it is easy to make the connection between wildlife and place but other names such as Partan Craig (crab rock) or Pyot Hole (oystercatcher hollow) may need a bit of explaining.

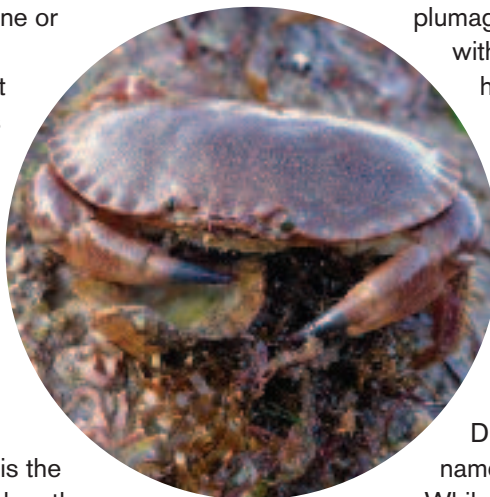
Bird species do not feature in many coastal place names with the exception of the rock dove and cormorant. Dove Cave is the most common wildlife inspired name found on the Dumfries and Galloway coast and refers to the cliff dwelling rock dove that is the wild ancestor of domestic pigeons. Even on the most remote Galloway coast the rock dove has interbred with their domestic cousins resulting in flocks of pigeons that exhibit a variety of colours and patterns. Despite the influence of domestic birds on the flocks of

pigeons found along our coast, many retain the markings of the rock dove with a grey body, two dark wing bars, a blue head and a white rump.

The cormorant is a distinctive bird that has inspired the greatest variety of place-names. With glossy black plumage and habit of standing on favourite rocks with wings spread out to dry the cormorant has been given different local names including Scarts, Black Dookers, Dooky Divers and Duckers. On the Rhins the bird is referred to as a Scart, a name which is probably derived from Skarfr the Old Norse for cormorant and can be seen in place names Scarty Head, Scart Craig and Scart Cave. In the rest of Galloway the cormorant appears on maps as Ducker Craig, Ducker Rock and Ducker Bay with Dookers Bing being a local name that appears in the oral tradition.

While place names can give you a clue to what wildlife you might expect to see on the Dumfries and Galloway coast a visit to one of the many coastal nature reserves shown in the guide is a good place to start.

Solway Coastwise publications are available at many locations including libraries and tourist information centres and can be seen on the Solway Firth Partnership website.



Visit a Beach with Coastwise

Solway Coastwise will be organising a series of beach visits to discover the wonderful coastline of Dumfries and Galloway. The visits will reveal the meaning of place-names and stories linked to the area as well as discovering wildlife, geology and history. The visits will be tailored to the audience so if you are an individual, family, group or business the visit will be a great experience.

If you have a beach that you would like to know more about please contact Nic on coastwise@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk

Guided walk at Piper's Cave





A New Path for the Rhins Coast

The creation of a coast path along the Rhins of Galloway coast line is moving a step closer.

Rhins Coast ©DGC



There has been a long term vision to create a South West Scotland Coast Path to enable people to walk the entire Dumfries and Galloway coast line and experience the varied delights of the Solway at close quarters. The South West Scotland Coast Path has been an ambition for some years but at nearly 500 kilometres, from Gretna all the way to Ayrshire, it is a big task. The South West Scotland Coastal Path Partnership has been established to lead and coordinate the development of the route and the Rhins was chosen as the first section to implement.

The Rhins was selected as it is a more manageable 105 kilometres. Bryan Scott is the Countryside Development Officer at Dumfries and Galloway Council and is leading the project. "The Rhins has superb seascapes, landscapes, historic interest, natural history, beaches and cliffs, the perfect mix for a long distance path. As a peninsular it has an island feel and the route would be a great walk on its own."

The route will use much of the core path network already in place and other sections have been agreed to fill the gaps.



Dally Bay, Rhins Coast ©DGC



Rhins Steering Group Meeting ©DGC



Rhins Coast ©DGC

“About 95 percent of the section from the Mull of Galloway going up the west coast and round the North Rhins is core path but in many places it’s still only a line on a map, sections on the proposed route are impassable due to dykes and fences.”

The route stays as close to the coastline as possible connecting places of interest like the Mull of Galloway, Logan Botanic Garden, Portpatrick, lighthouses and eye-catching beaches. The aim is to give the walker the best experience, while also taking into consideration that it is a working landscape.

Walkers on the Rhins of Galloway Coast Path will have the option to walk it in one go or in sections by linking in with other routes such as lanes and other core paths that criss-cross the peninsula. There is a need for well waymarked and good quality paths where people, less confident of going off the beaten trail, can enjoy the sights. “The Rhins has something for everyone whether you’re looking for superb scenery, landscape, history, wildlife or just the peace and solitude”. The Rhins, coastline is the unique selling point of the area,”

Bryan said. “It has superb sandy beaches, rocky coves and cliffs all in a small area and the best way to explore these gems is on foot.”

“The majority of the improvement work will be required in the north Rhins section and parts of the west coast. The Mull of Galloway Trail will be incorporated, while remaining a separate entity. The basic work to introduce gates, signage, surfacing and drainage will require an estimated £650,000 of external funding. The Coastal Communities Fund has already awarded the project £300,000 and the Heritage Lottery Fund has given a development grant of £64,000 to work up the second stage application for £650,000. A total funding package of £1million would bring most benefits to the area for both communities and businesses. We are at an exciting point for the project as we’re now holding a series of events to gather people’s views on stories, activities and the types of interpretation that will make the route a great all round experience.”

Bryan Scott, Countryside Development Officer, Dumfries and Galloway Council



Marine Litter

What do we do about it?

Scotland has a spectacular and beautiful coastline; however, we have all been to the beach and been disappointed to find rubbish there.

Sometimes we see picnic packaging left behind by visitors; sometimes it is something bigger, a traffic cone or waste bin washed up from who knows where. The sad fact is that our seas and oceans have an enormous problem; litter.

Marine litter is causing environmental, economic, health and aesthetic problems. It consists of very slowly degradable material such as plastics, polystyrene, metals and glass but the most commonly found litter is plastic. Larger pieces of plastic litter in the sea can entangle animals, smother habitats, damage tourism and pose a serious risk to life and livelihood by damaging marine equipment. Smaller plastics such as plastic microbeads used in the toiletries industry, can be consumed by marine animals, affecting their health and potentially making their way through the food chain to the point of human consumption.

The Scottish Government recognises that this is a global issue and we are working with the international commission

OSPAR to reduce the amount of litter entering our seas now and into the future. In 2014 Marine Scotland published our Marine Litter Strategy which contains over 40 action points to ensure that the amount of litter entering

Scotland's marine and coastal environment is minimised. Marine Scotland are involved in many initiatives to reduce litter including; supporting the 'Fishing for Litter' scheme run by KIMO (an international environmental organisation) which facilitates the safe disposal of rubbish collected in our seas by member fishing fleets, supporting KIMO's 'pick up 3 pieces' project, funding Keep Scotland Beautiful and funding Local Coastal Partnerships, including that of the Solway Firth which also contributes to the actions of the Marine Litter Strategy. Marine Scotland, part of the Scottish

Government, is working closely with scientists, Non-Government Organisations and industry to improve the state of our seas. Legislation is also required to promote change and Scottish Ministers are using their powers to ban the





All images – Beach litter ©Nic Coombey, SFP

manufacture and sale of rinse-off personal care products which contain plastic microbeads. This ban is expected to be in place in Scotland and across the rest of the UK on 30 June 2018.

Most recently, the First Minister announced the Programme for Government for the next year and several statements contribute to the aim of reducing marine litter;

- A commitment to a deposit return scheme. Zero Waste Scotland are now considering scheme design options for single use drinks containers which will be put out to public consultation before a final decision is made by Ministers.
- Committing £500,000 to begin to address litter sinks around the coast and to develop policy to address marine plastics, which will involve working with community groups.
- Hosting an international conference to discuss improving our marine environment and protecting our wildlife,

focusing on marine plastics.

- Establishing an advisory group to consider fiscal and other measures to reduce waste and boost the circular economy - for example, a possible levy on single-use cups.

The success of the Scottish Government's efforts to reduce marine litter is dependent on significant behaviour change in our society to valuing our resources and reducing waste to zero. At a local level, you can make a worthwhile contribution to our seas by getting involved in a beach clean, removing litter which would otherwise be washed back out to sea. Together we can improve our marine environment so that it meets the long term needs of people and nature.... and makes our beaches a much nicer place to go on all those sunny Scottish summer days!

Morag Campbell, Marine Scotland

Life and Death On Little Ross

The story of
an island, a
lighthouse
and its
keepers.





Little Ross ©David R Collins



The lighthouse station from the south east ©David R Collins

Small islands have fascinated many people and seem to provide the backdrop to many stories. The island of Little Ross achieved notoriety when it became the setting for the murder of a lighthouse keeper on the 19 August 1960. David R. Collin, the author of *Life and Death on Little Ross*, will always be remembered as the young man who was on the island on the day of the crime and became a witness in the High Court trial that followed. On the 50th anniversary of the murder, when there was renewed interest in the island David Collin decided that it was time to tell the wider story of Little Ross from the earliest inhabitants to the present day.

Life and Death on Little Ross is the culmination of years of thorough research to reveal the story of an island where the lighthouse is the main character. The contorted history of how the landmark came about has been eloquently unscrambled to reveal the persistence of key individuals who dedicated themselves to the task of getting it built. After successfully getting beacons installed on the island by raising money by public subscription and supervising their construction, Captain Skelly spearheaded the petition for a lighthouse. After 20 years of lobbying and the involvement of many other people, the need for a lighthouse in Kirkcudbright Bay was finally recognised. The Stevenson family of lighthouse engineers play a major role in this story, initially as a hindrance with Robert Stevenson repeatedly refuting the need for a lighthouse on Little Ross. Eventually two of Robert's sons were involved with Alan producing the design for the lighthouse and his younger

brother, Thomas supervising the construction undertaken by Robert Hume a builder from Gatehouse of Fleet.



The entrance to the lighthouse tower ©David R Collins

The book successfully brings to life the day-to-day activities of the lighthouse keepers, the special bonds that

developed between the families on the island and the hardships they had to endure. Diary extracts reveal the personalities of the lighthouse keepers and family photographs provide faces to the names of people involved. The motive of the murder remains a mystery and marks a time when the lights were automated. After twenty-five years of neglect the buildings on the islands were restored and the island was once again a home.

The island has recently been up for sale and a new chapter will begin when the next owners add to the fascinating story of the island of Little Ross.

Life and Death on Little Ross by David R. Collin will be published by Whittles Publishing in November 2017 and will be available for £18.99. ISBN 978-184995-359-7

Little Ross Island from the north east ©Alistair C. Gillone



Accounts to March 2016

Solway Firth Partnership aims to undertake activities in line with our mission statement: *To support a vibrant and sustainable local economy while respecting, protecting and celebrating the distinctive character, heritage and natural features of our marine and coastal area.*

Our accounts for the financial year end 31 March 2017 show an income of £184,594 of Restricted and Unrestricted funds (£200,963 in the previous financial year) giving us a surplus of £7,748 in our Unrestricted funds. An Unrestricted Reserve of £54,947 is carried forward into the next financial year.

Projects completed this year included the Loch Ryan improvements, Bringing Burns Back to the Brow Well and the Inshore Fisheries Group funded Lobster v-notching and Creel Escape panels. New projects include the SIMCelt Project and the Solway Coastwise Project, both of which you can read more about in previous pages.

Our thanks go to the staff team who have worked hard to

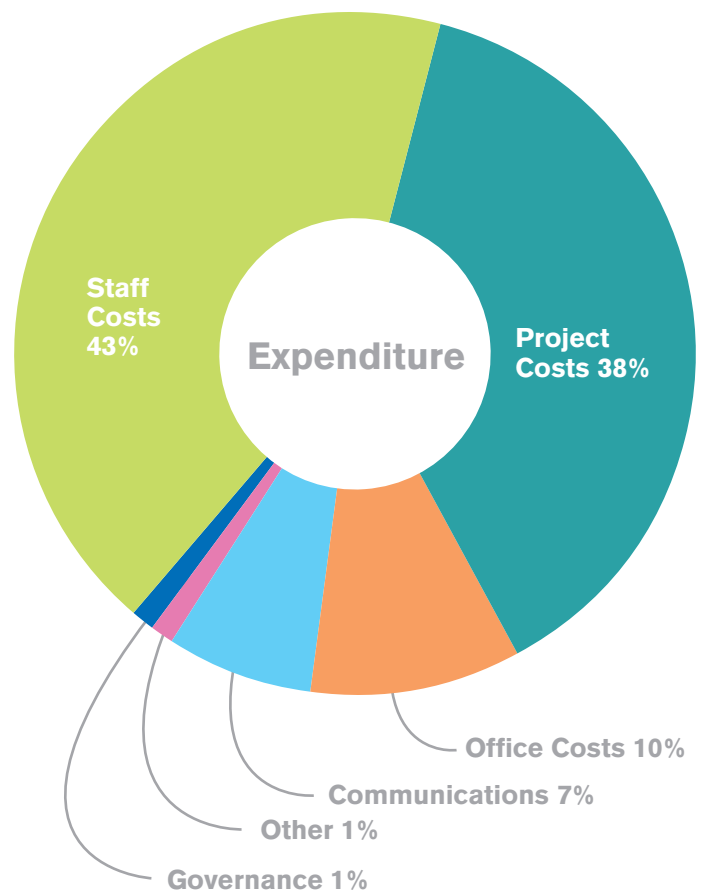
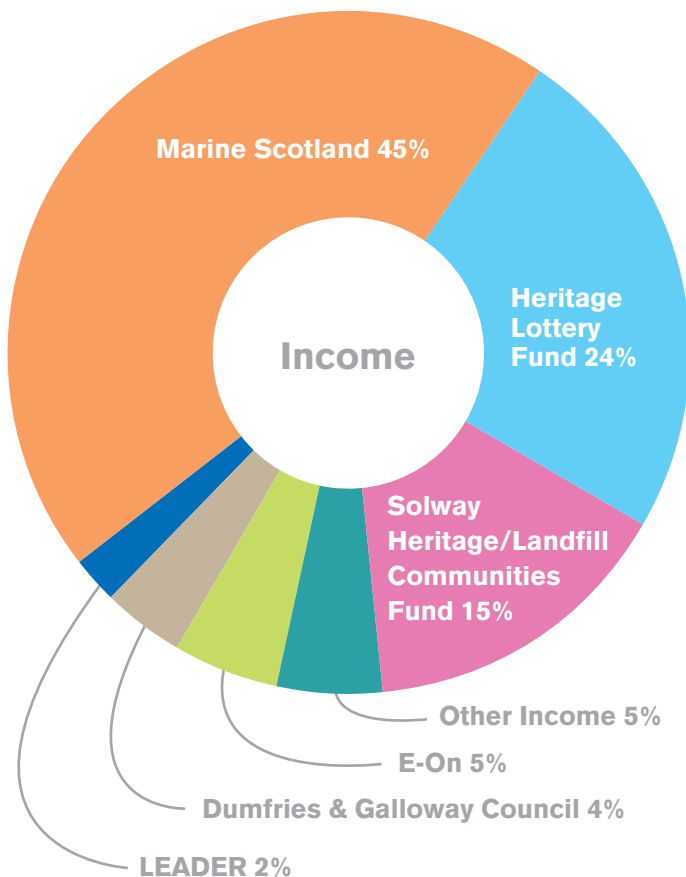
make the projects a success during the year.

We are very grateful to all the organisations that have provided funding in the last financial year: Marine Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway Council, EON, Natural England, Cumbria County Council, Allerdale Borough Council, Carlisle City Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, Solway Heritage/Landfill Communities Fund, Dumfries and Galloway LEADER Programme, EU DG Mare.

We would also like to thank all the people who have given in-kind support in many ways, thereby enabling our core activities to continue as well as allowing a wide range of projects to go ahead. We appreciate that Solway Firth Partnership relies on the goodwill and expertise of many people and organisations in order to be able to carry out the work we do.

Our full accounts for the last financial year are available on our website: www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk

Clair McFarlan: Solway Firth Partnership



Dates for your Diary

November 2017 – February 2018

November

Daily throughout November

Wild Swan Feeds (WWT Caerlaverock) 11.00am and 2.00pm Booking: Not Essential

See wild whooper swans closer than anywhere in Britain from the Sir Peter Scott Observatory, with live commentary by the warden.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges apply,
WWT members free.

Wednesday 1 November

Living Landscape Projects (Scottish Wildlife Trust) 7.00pm to 10.00pm Booking: Not Essential

A talk by Ian Mackenzie, the Scottish Wildlife Trust's Living Landscape Project Manager, about the progress of these ambitious projects in Coigach and Assynt, Cumbernauld and Edinburgh, and plans for the future.

Contact: Graham Smith, 01644 420881

Meet: St Ninians Church Hall, Whitepark
Road, Castle Douglas, DG7 1EX.

Cost: Donations welcome

Saturday 4 November

Crosscanonby Beach Clean (Cumbria Wildlife Trust) 1.30pm to 3.30pm Booking: Not Essential

All tools and equipment will be supplied.
Please wear suitable clothing. Wellies and
waterproofs advisable.

Contact: John Gorrill, 016974 77092 or
nicholas.johng@yahoo.co.uk

Meet: Park beside the minor road to
Crosscanonby village from B5300 coast
road, signposted Mile Fortlet 21, one mile
north of Maryport.

Cost: Free

Sunday 5 November

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

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

Cost: Free

Sunday 5 November

Adult Writing Workshop (WWT Caerlaverock) 10.00am to 4.00pm Booking: Essential

Whether you are new to nature writing, or
would like to develop your work further,
come and join in a day led by Cumbrian
writer Karen Lloyd. This will be a relaxed
opportunity to read and discuss excerpts
from texts by leading nature writers. There
will be time spent out on the reserve
making responses to the birds, the
landscape and the environment, as well
as time to re-write, share or write more.
Lunch and refreshments available in the
Caerlaverock café. Bring a notebook and
pen, binoculars - if you have them, boots,
warm clothes and waterproofs. Karen is
the author of the prize-winning *The
Gathering Tide*; *A Journey Around the
Edgelands of Morecambe Bay* and the
forthcoming *The Blackbird Diaries*, both
published by Saraband. She writes for
The Guardian Country Diary and *BBC
Countryfile* magazine.

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

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

Cost: £30 per person

Sunday 5 November

Bonfire Night at Whitehaven Coast (Wordsworth Country) 6.00pm till 8.00pm Booking: Not Essential

A blazing bonfire, plenty of refreshments,
and fun on the cliff top overlooking
Whitehaven. There'll not be any fireworks
but you will have a very good view of
other people's displays.

Meet: Wellington Lodge/Candlestick area.
Whitehaven CA 28 9A9

Contact the North Lakes Office
on 01768 74649 for more detail.

Cost: Free

Sunday 12 November

Dawn Flight (WWT Caerlaverock) 6.30am Start Booking: Essential

Join the wardens as they open early to
experience the wild geese flighting in
against the dawn sky. The Coffee Shop
will also be open early to provide hot
drinks and bacon rolls. Bring warm,
waterproof clothing, binoculars and a
torch.

Contact: 01387 770200 or
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a
place

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

Cost: Normal admission charges apply,
WWT members free

Tuesday 14 November

Allonby Beach Clean (Cumbria Wildlife Trust) 10.00am to 12.00pm Booking: Not Essential

All tools and equipment will be supplied.
Please wear suitable clothing. Wellies and
waterproofs advisable.

Contact: John Gorrill, 016974 77092 or
nicholas.johng@yahoo.co.uk

Meet: Please meet/park in the free car park
at the south end of Allonby beside B5300
coast road, opposite the church.

Cost: Free

Ringed Plover ©Keith Kirk



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.



Oystercatchers ©Keith Kirk

Wednesday 15 November

**Duck and Goose Walk
(RSPB Mersehead)
11.00am to 1.00pm
Booking: Essential**

Over the winter we are home to hundreds of ducks and geese. Come along and join us and see how many different kinds of duck and geese you can find.

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

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

Cost: £4 Adult, £2 Child, half price for
members

Wednesday 16 November

**Return of the Geese
(RSPB Ken Dee Marshes)
10:00 am to 12:00 noon
Booking: Not Essential**

Join the warden for an informative walk through the reserve. Learn about the wildlife and our ongoing conservation work.

Contact: 01988 402130 or
crystal.maw@rspb.org.uk

Meet: Reserve Car Park, RSPB Ken-Dee
Marshes, Castle Douglas, DG7 2LY

Cost: Adult non-members £4, child non-
member £2, Members half price, Family
ticket (2 adult 2 children) £10

Saturday 18 November

**Wildlife Photography Workshop
(WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 4.00pm
Booking: Essential**

Wildlife photography workshop with Tom Langlands and Bob Fitzsimmons. Learn how to take fantastic photographs of the geese, swans and other wildfowl present on the reserve. This workshop is suitable for beginners as well as more experienced photographers.

Contact: 01387 770200 or
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a
place

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock, Eastpark Farm,
Caerlaverock, Dumfriesshire, Scotland,
DG1 4RS

Cost: £75 per person (includes admission)

Saturday 18 November

**Wildlife Recorders Conference
(CBDC)
10.00am to 4.30pm
Booking: Essential**

This year's Cumbrian Recorders Conference is again hosted by Tullie House Museum, Carlisle. Like previous years the Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre aim to make it exciting, inspiring and educational, with a line-up of top-class speakers, covering a range of subjects with local, regional and national emphases.

Contact: Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre
at info@cbdc.org.uk

Meet: Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery
Trust, Castle Street, Carlisle, CA3 8TP

Cost: Free

Sunday 19 November

**Walk with a Warden
(WWT Caerlaverock)
1.00pm to 2.00pm
Booking: Essential**

Join the warden on a walk around the reserve to see the geese, swans and other wildfowl wintering at this world-renowned wetland reserve.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges apply,
WWT members free

Wednesday 22 November

**Duck and Goose Walk
(RSPB Mersehead)
11.00am to 1.00pm
Booking: Essential**

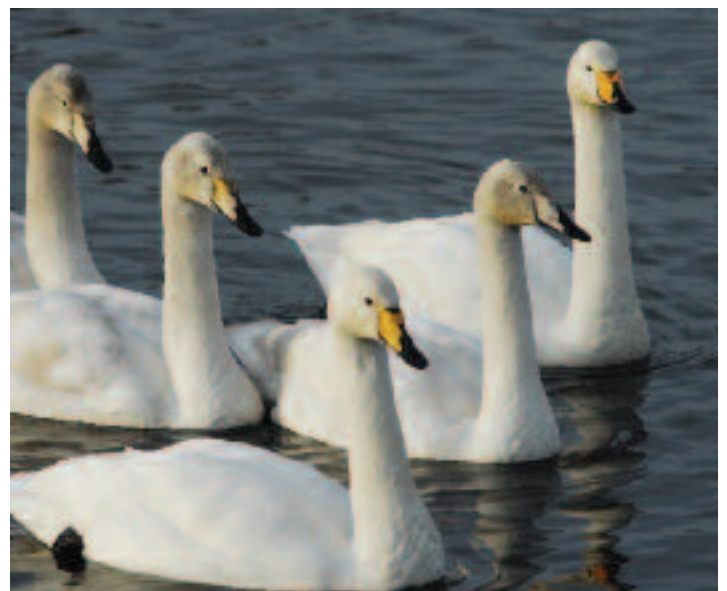
Over the winter we are home to hundreds of ducks and geese. Come along and join us and see how many different kinds of duck and geese you can find.

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

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

Cost: £4 Adult, £2 Child, half price for
members

Whooper swan family ©Keith Kirk



Sunday 26 November

Dusk Flight (WWT Caerlaverock) 3.30pm Start Booking: Essential

Watch the barnacle geese flight out to the Solway mudflats to their night-time roost. Bring warm, waterproof clothing, binoculars and a torch.

Contact: 01387 770200 or info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a place

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

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

Monday 27 November

Conservation Work Party (CWT Bowness on Solway Reserve) 10.00am to 3.30pm Booking: Essential

Bowness-on-Solway is an old gravel pit that has become a wonderful site for wildlife. Join Cumbria Wildlife Trust to carry out some scrub clearance and other maintenance works.

Contact: 01539 816300 or mail@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk

Meet: At the nature reserve entrance gate, Bowness on Solway, Carlisle, Cumbria, NY206617

Cost: Free

December

Daily throughout December

Wild Swan Feeds (WWT Caerlaverock) 11.00am and 2.00pm

See wild whooper swans closer than anywhere in Britain from the Sir Peter Scott Observatory, with live commentary by the warden.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free.

Saturday 2 December

Caerlaverock Christmas Fayre (WWT Caerlaverock) 1.00pm to 4.00pm Booking: Not Essential

Visit a wide range of festive craft and food stall at our Christmas Fayre.

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

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

Cost: Free

Sunday 3 December

Dawn Flight (WWT Caerlaverock) 7.00am Start Booking: Essential

Join the wardens as they open early to experience the wild geese fighting in against the dawn sky. The Coffee Shop will also be open early to provide hot drinks and bacon rolls. Bring warm, waterproof clothing, binoculars and a torch.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

Wednesday 6 December

Duck and Goose Walk (RSPB Mersehead) 11.00am to 1.00pm Booking: Essential

Over the winter we are home to hundreds of ducks and geese. Come along and join us and see how many different kinds of duck and geese you can find.

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

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

Cost: £4 Adult, £2 Child, half price for members



Curlews in flight ©Alex Hillier

Sunday 17 Dec to Saturday 27 Jan 2018

'The Wonders of Nature' by Alicia Beesley (WWT Caerlaverock) 10.00am to 5.00pm daily Booking: Not Essential

Alicia captures through her camera lens the stunning wildlife and landscapes of the Solway Firth during the winter months, combining artwork with digital mixed media.

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

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

Cost: Free

Tuesday 26 December

Boxing Day Walk (RSPB Crook of Baldoon) 2.00pm to 4.00pm Booking: Not Essential

Take a gentle stroll along the flood bank through nature's home. Walk off the excesses of Christmas Day. Bring binoculars and walking boots.

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

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

Cost: Adult members £3; Child members £1.50; Adult non-members £5; Children non-members £2

January

Daily throughout January

Wild Swan Feeds (WWT Caerlaverock) 11.00am and 2.00pm Booking: Not Essential

See wild whooper swans closer than anywhere in Britain from the Sir Peter Scott Observatory, with live commentary by the warden.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free.

Monday 1 January

New Year's Day Bird Race (WWT Caerlaverock) 10.00am to 4.00pm Booking: Not Essential

Start the year by challenging our warden to see how many bird species you can spot in a day.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

Peter Scott Observatory ©Tom Langlands



Saturday 6 January

Lantern Workshop (WWT Caerlaverock) 10.00am to 4.00pm Booking: Essential

Make a flower or bug willow lantern for our big wildflower meadow which we will parade down the streets of Dumfries at the Big Burns Supper Lantern parade!

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

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

Cost: Free

Sunday 7 January

Dawn Flight (WWT Caerlaverock) 7.15am Start Booking: Essential

Join the wardens as they open early to experience the wild geese flying in against the dawn sky. The Coffee Shop will also be open early to provide hot drinks and bacon rolls. Bring warm, waterproof clothing, binoculars and a torch.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges apply,
WWT members free

Sunday 7 January

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

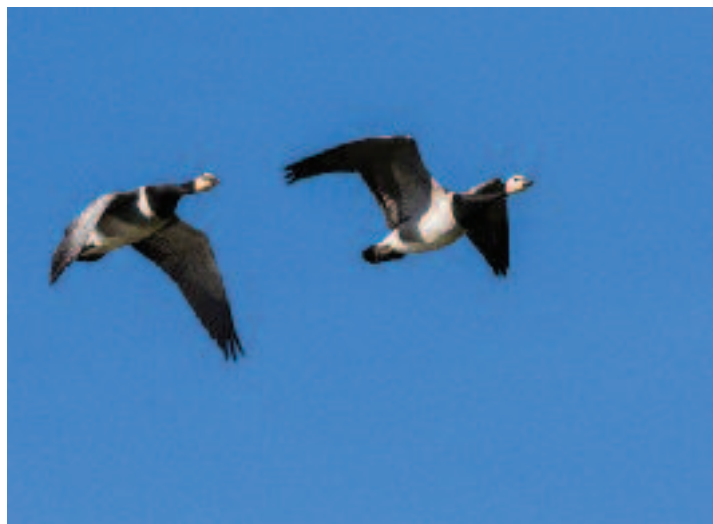
Try before you buy the latest binoculars and telescopes from the huge range available today. In Focus experts on hand all day to give advice. WWT Caerlaverock benefits from every sale.

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

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

Cost: Free

Barnacle geese in flight ©Alex Hillier



Mershead ©Keith Kirk

Sunday 14 January

Dusk Flight (WWT Caerlaverock) 3.30pm Start Booking: Essential

Watch the barnacle geese flight out to the Solway mudflats to their night-time roost. Bring warm, waterproof clothing, binoculars and a torch.

Contact: 01387 770200 or
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a place

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

Cost: Normal admission charges apply,
WWT members free

Friday 19 January

Storytelling in the Yurt (WWT Caerlaverock) 10.00am to 11.00am Booking: Essential

Sit in our cosy yurt and listen to a nature-related story told by one of our excellent volunteers. Then go on a short walk to explore the reserve. Suitable for children aged 4 and under. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Contact: 01387 770200 or
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a place

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

Cost: Normal admission charges apply,
WWT members free

Sunday 28 January

Wildlife Photography Workshop (WWT Caerlaverock) 10.00am to 4.00pm Booking: Essential

Wildlife photography workshop with Tom Langlands and Bob Fitzsimmons. Learn how to take fantastic photographs of the geese, swans and other wildfowl present on the reserve. This workshop is suitable for beginners as well as more experienced photographers.

Contact: 01387 770200 or
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a place

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock, Eastpark Farm,
Caerlaverock, Dumfriesshire, Scotland,
DG1 4RS

Cost: £75 per person (includes admission)

Sun 28 Jan to Sat 17 Mar

Exhibition of paintings by Fraser Irvine Irvine (WWT Caerlaverock) 10.00am to 5.00pm daily Booking: Not Essential

Exhibition of paintings by Fraser Irvine.

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

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

Cost: Free

February

Daily throughout February

Wild Swan Feeds (WWT Caerlaverock) 11.00am and 2.00pm Booking: Not Essential

See wild whooper swans closer than anywhere in Britain from the Sir Peter Scott Observatory, with live commentary by the warden.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges apply,
WWT members free.

Saturday 3 February

Beginners Wader Workshop (WWT Caerlaverock) Time to be confirmed Booking: Essential

Do you know your grey plover from your golden plover or the difference between redshanks and ruffs? Use binoculars and telescopes to see a variety of waders and learn identification tips from our knowledgeable wardens.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges apply,
WWT members free.

Sunday 4 February

Dawn Flight (WWT Caerlaverock) 7.00am Start Booking: Essential

Join the wardens as they open early to experience the wild geese flying in against the dawn sky. The Coffee Shop will also be open early to provide hot drinks and bacon rolls. Bring warm, waterproof clothing, binoculars and a torch.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges apply,
WWT members free

Sat 10 Feb to Wednesday 14 Feb

WWT Scottish Puddle Jumping Championships (WWT Caerlaverock) 12.00noon to 2.00pm Booking: Not Essential

How good are you at puddle jumping? As a wetland habitat, we have plenty of fantastic puddles! Come and show us your skills at the WWT Scottish Puddle Jumping Championships.

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Friday 16 February

**Storytelling in the Yurt
(WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 11.00am
Booking: Essential**

Sit in our cosy yurt and listen to a nature-related story told by one of our excellent volunteers. Then go on a short walk to explore the reserve. Suitable for children aged 4 and under. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Contact: 01387 770200 or
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a place

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

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

Sunday 18 February

**Dusk Flight
(WWT Caerlaverock)
4.30pm Start
Booking: Essential**

Watch the barnacle geese flight out to the Solway mudflats to their night-time roost. Bring warm, waterproof clothing, binoculars and a torch.

Contact: 01387 770200 or
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a place

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

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

March

Saturday 3 March

**Wildlife Photography Workshop
(WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 4.00pm
Booking: Essential**

Wildlife photography workshop with Tom Langlands and Bob Fitzsimmons. Learn how to take fantastic photographs of the geese, swans and other wildfowl present on the reserve. This workshop is suitable for beginners as well as more experienced photographers.

Contact: 01387 770200 or
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a place

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock, Eastpark Farm, Caerlaverock, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, DG1 4RS

Cost: £75 per person (includes admission)

Sunday 4 March

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

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

Cost: Free

Notice Is Hereby Given



of the Thirteenth Annual General Meeting
of the Partnership to be held at
2pm, Thursday 7 Dec 2017

at Dumfries and Galloway Aviation Museum, Former Control Tower, Tinwald
Downs Rd, Heathhall Industrial Estate, Dumfries DG1 3PH

This will be followed by short presentations from:-

Coastal Community Teams: Grass Roots Economic Growth?
Brian Irving, Silloth-on-Solway Coastal Community Team

Remembering the Solway, a Community History Project
Naomi Hewitt, Solway Coast AONB

And a short guided tour of the Aviation Museum

**The event is Free but booking is essential
as numbers are limited.**

NB: No conference is being held this year. Anyone interested in becoming a Member of Solway Firth Partnership and therefore eligible to vote at the AGM should contact: The Company Secretary or Partnership Manager on 01387 702161 or e-mail info@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk

Scottish Company No: SC250012 Scottish Charity No: SC034376

Friday 16 March

**Storytelling in the Yurt
(WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 11.00am
Booking: Essential**

Sit in our cosy yurt and listen to a nature-related story told by one of our excellent volunteers. Then go on a short walk to explore the reserve. Suitable for children aged 4 and under. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Contact: 01387 770200 or
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a place

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

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

Sun 18 Mar – Sat 28 Apr

**Exhibition of paintings by Minette
Bell MacDonald
(WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 5.00pm daily
Booking: Not Essential**

Exhibition of paintings by Minette Bell MacDonald.

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

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

Cost: Free

Galloway Coast ©Nic Coombey, SFP





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

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