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Autumn/Winter 2012

Newsletter of the Solway Firth Partnership

Issue 37



## **Solway Wetlands**

**Awarded £1.9 million**

See Pages 4 - 5



**SOLWAY CENTRE FOR  
ENVIRONMENT  
AND CULTURE LAUNCHES**

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**THE SHORE THING  
PROJECT**

Pages 12 -13



# CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN



Gordon Mann OBE.  
Chairman Solway Firth Partnership

The shortening days are traditionally associated with a degree of rest and even dormancy. There is no sense of this at Solway Firth Partnership where we seem to be busier than ever.

We are delighted to welcome Nic Coombey to the new post of Coastal Ranger with our Making the Most of the Coast project. Nic will be well known to many of you having worked in Dumfries and Galloway for many years on a wide range of natural, built and cultural heritage projects. Nic is ably supported by Alison Robertson who joins us from RSPB where she has been described as the lynchpin of the organisation in Dumfries and Galloway.

We are fortunate to have two such talented and experienced people join our team.

Our congratulations go to Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and partners in securing the funding for a major coastal restoration and conservation project: the Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme. We look forward to seeing this ambitious project taking shape over the coming months.

Congratulations too, to University of Glasgow, who have recently launched their new Solway Centre of Environment and Culture. Part of the University's Dumfries Campus based at the Crichton, the Centre is already stimulating original research on a wide range of natural and cultural heritage themes. We wish the management panel every success and look forward to working with them.

Change means some departures too, and we thank Councillors Jim Prince and Doreen Parsons for their valuable input to our Board of Trustees. Thanks also to Dave Dobson whose advice and expertise has been greatly appreciated by the Partnership over many years. As Chief Officer of Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee (latterly the North Western IFCA), Dave's knowledge of Solway fisheries is unsurpassed. We wish Dave all the very best in his retirement.

Our events pages give you a flavour of just some of the outstanding places you can visit and activities you can enjoy around the coast. Wishing you a good winter out and about on the Solway Firth.

*Gordon*

Solway Firth  
Partnership

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# SOLWAY WETLANDS

Landscape Partnership Scheme Awarded £1.9 million



The Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) has been awarded £1.9 million by The Heritage Lottery Fund to carry out a landscape wide project on the Solway Plain, north Cumbria. The project will last for 3.5 years, starting October 2012, and is the culmination of years of planning and a year of concentrated development work. This is truly a partnership project involving the host organisation Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Tullie House Museum in Carlisle, RSPB, Diocese of Carlisle, Natural England, the Environment Agency and West Cumbria Tourism. Through the project, physical and intellectual access will be improved, training opportunities created, the community encouraged to participate in the conservation of their landscape and built and natural heritage conserved.

The impetus for the Scheme came from the desire to protect the rare habitat of the lowland raised mires and the surrounding areas, in particular Wedholme Flow, Bowness Common, Glasson Moss and Drumburgh Moss, and the flora and fauna that lives there. Curlew, snipe and lapwing will benefit as will plants including sundew, bog rosemary and bog asphodel. Adders are also resident on the mosses and there is the potential for an abundance of dragonflies, if it ever stops raining.

The Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the surrounding area containing the mosses is a relatively unexplored landscape, in the shadow of the popularity of the Lake District, so we aim to educate people about the values of this environment. A suite of 29 projects has been developed ranging from encouraging landowners into Stewardship schemes; converting a disused barn into an education, visitor and volunteer centre; building a lookout tower over a moss and undertaking comprehensive archaeological research work on sites connected to the Cistercian monks. By the end of the project a Trust will have been established which will ensure the long-term benefits from the project and maintain the public's involvement.

For people who are interested in the Solway Plain there will be a wide range of volunteering opportunities available. The partners' conservation days will continue and additionally there will be opportunities for marsh fritillary butterfly monitoring, archaeological research, reminiscence, and training in heritage skills and the Solway's countryside management techniques. Furthermore there is funding for four Environmental Conservation Apprentices based with Natural England and Cumbria Wildlife Trust for local 16-24 year olds. An Education Officer and a Wetland Officer will also be employed alongside the Project Manager and Administration Assistant to help deliver the project.

The project will be developing a website but in the meantime the Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/solwaywetlands](http://www.facebook.com/solwaywetlands)) will be constantly updated or you can contact Alex Sijpesteijn, the Project Manager at the AONB office on 016973 33055 or email [Alexandra.sijpesteijn@allerdale.gov.uk](mailto:Alexandra.sijpesteijn@allerdale.gov.uk)



The Solway and its hinterland is an area which has long nourished engagements between environment and creativity, from Langholm-born Hugh MacDiarmid's poem 'On a Raised Beach' to Andy Goldsworthy's recent work 'Stone Sea'. Indeed the word 'environment' was created by Ecclefechan-born polymath Thomas Carlyle in 1828, translating the work of German writer Goethe to describe spiritual, as well as physical landscapes.

It seems appropriate, then, that this area should nurture the new Solway Centre for Environment & Culture, part of the University of Glasgow in Dumfries. It brings together eight local academics with diverse backgrounds in the sciences and arts: in sustainable tourism, rural land use and management, environmental studies and ethics. We share an interest in, and passion for, the distinctive experiences of the Solway area, its national and international significance, in the present and in the past.

By Dr Valentina Bold, Director

# THE SOLWAY CENTRE

## FOR ENVIRONMENT & CULTURE

First projects include a Natural Environment Research Council urgency grant to investigate the causes and impact of severe wildfires on moorland carbon dynamics, focusing on the severe spring fires of 2011 and 2012. 'Discovering Dumfries and Galloway's Past', funded by LEADER, the Crichton Foundation and the University of Glasgow, uses geophysical survey - the techniques used by 'Time Team' - to raise awareness of our rich archaeological heritage. We are associated, too, with the multi-university Sustainable Practices Research Group, which is exploring links between the environment and sustainable consumption, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, DEFRA and the Scottish Government.

We are fortunate to enjoy strong support and look forward to developing partnerships with initiatives such as the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere. The Crichton Carbon Centre is a useful ally, along with our Glasgow campus's expertise in Business, Geography, Earth Sciences, Scottish culture and literature. Our advisors include representatives from Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Scottish Agricultural College Rural Policy Unit, the Centre for Research in Environmental History at Stirling and the Universities of Exeter, St Andrews and the Highlands & Islands.

We particularly value the support of the Solway Firth Partnership and hope to work together closely. We have started discussing a project on the fishing cultures and heritage landscapes of both sides of the Solway, in association with the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This would develop knowledge of tangible and intangible traditions, from traditional techniques (haaf netting, for instance) and associated crafts (like creel making) to the language and stories which develop around the coast. We would like to see if this social capital can be used to foster economic growth.

We hope that the Solway Centre for Environment & Culture will, within the next five years, become a leading research hub. We welcome enquiries from students interested in our postgraduate courses in 'Environment, Culture and Communication', 'Applied Carbon Management', 'Environmental Science, Technology and Society' and 'Tourism, Heritage and Development', as well as from potential research students. We also encourage you to attend our events, at which all are welcome, and to contact us with your ideas.

**For further information, contact us at**  
[solway.centre@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:solway.centre@glasgow.ac.uk) and see:  
[www.gla.ac.uk/schools/interdisciplinary/research/solwaycentre/](http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/interdisciplinary/research/solwaycentre/)





# A WORD FROM THE

## Making the Most of the Coast Ranger - Nic Coombey

As the 'new start' Coastal Ranger at Solway Firth Partnership I am already finding that there are many reasons to turn the spotlight on over 200 miles of coastline through the 'Making the Most of the Coast' Project. I have become aware of many people who are passionate about their coast and value the unique combination of rich cultural heritage, special landscapes and diverse wildlife.

Teaming up with the Marine Biological Association means 'Making the Most of the Coast' has enabled us to promote the Shore Thing surveys with local voluntary groups and students who are studying for their Higher qualifications, (see page 12 -13). A similar approach to the SCAPE Trust means 'Making the Most of the Coast' will be providing the vital local link with the Scotland's Coastal Heritage at Risk project (see page 11).

Keeping our seashore clean is important for people and wildlife, and beach cleans and litter surveys have already been undertaken as part of the Marine Conservation Society's UK Beachwatch Big Weekend, the first at Rockcliffe with NTS and the second at Carrick. Over the next two years the 'Making the Most of the Coast' project will be working with communities, landowners, businesses and schools to highlight the importance of clean beaches for wildlife, tourism and business. We are keen to identify the beaches where tides and

currents collect plastic so that we can try and identify solutions to this unsightly problem.

'Making the Most of the Coast' is a project supported by funding from Dumfries and Galloway LEADER, Dumfries and Galloway Council, The Crown Estate and The Robertson Trust. This broad support means we are keen to hear from local people who would like to get involved in improving or learning more about our seashore and making the most of our amazing coastline as well as providing lasting benefits to the area.

Over the next two years the project will be producing a series of publications including guides to seashore life and good beaches to visit. The first publication will be an identification guide to common, and some less common, seashells found on beaches on the Scottish Solway coast and will be suitable for children and those of us who can't resist picking up shells as we explore the fantastic coastline.

If you would like to become involved in 'Making the Most of the Coast' do not hesitate to contact me:

E: [nic@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk](mailto:nic@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk) T: 01387 251991



# A Day in the Life

## OF A COASTAL RANGER IN THE SOLWAY COAST AONB



*Graeme Proud  
Solway Coast AONB Ranger*

Life as a Coastal Ranger can be varied and exciting working within the beautiful Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). With its ever-changing weather patterns, this is a unique little place, an area which is not over-run by the multitudes and often forgotten by those who view Cumbria as the home of the Lake District.

How many places can you visit in the British Isles where the coastal towns and beaches are as they were during Queen Victoria's reign? Unspoilt by industry and the ravages of the twentieth century, long may it remain that way.

The role of the Ranger, along with a group of dedicated volunteers, is to ensure that the area is conserved, protecting and enhancing what is already there. This work has to be carried out in a sensitive manner, often in areas where the flora and fauna are already struggling to survive.

A typical work day with the volunteer group starts at the office. The van gets loaded with the tools required for the task and then the group travels to the job. This is followed

by meeting and greeting the volunteers with a quick Health & Safety talk and explaining what is required that day.

The work day isn't too long with a good break for lunch. There is always the usual banter with the established volunteers with the Ranger getting the thick end of the stick.

One of the favourite parts of my job is talking to the public. Some of the locals have become close friends over the years and it's also nice to get the opportunity to talk to tourists. Visiting the Solway Coast for the first time many comment on how special they think it is.

The Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a unique and special place within Cumbria that I am privileged to work in. Its stunning views are equal to any others in the country and it's free. All you have to do is come and see what all the fuss is about.

For more information on the Solway Coast AONB visit [www.solwaycoastaonb.org.uk](http://www.solwaycoastaonb.org.uk)



# LOVE THE SOLWAY FIRTH?



## Become a Sea Champion!

*In it, on it, under it or by it – however you enjoy the sea, get involved in a brand new volunteering initiative with the Marine Conservation Society.*

From towering sandstone cliffs and undulating sand dunes to extensive saltmarsh, sand and mudflats, the Solway Firth has some incredibly important habitats for coastal wildlife. The estuary provides an overwintering ground for huge numbers of wildfowl including the entire Svalbard population of barnacle geese! It is home to seals, dolphins and porpoise, is a nursery area for skates and rays, and is important for the passage of migratory fish such as sea and river lamprey, as well as salmon and sea trout.

The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) is the UK's leading charity dedicated to protecting our seas, shores and wildlife and has recently launched a brand new volunteering initiative – Sea Champions. With funding support from Marks and Spencer, the volunteer programme is supporting hundreds of people from all walks of life across the UK to take action to help protect the seas that they love. As a Sea Champion, you can get involved in any number of activities no matter what your background is. From online campaigning for marine protection and distributing campaign materials, creating plastic bag free communities and promoting sustainable fish, to organising beach cleans and taking part in wildlife surveys, the volunteer opportunities are endless and are tailored to suit you as an individual volunteer.

Do you have the dedication, passion and drive to become a Sea Champion? Would you like to meet like-minded people, gain new skills and do something worthwhile for the marine wildlife of the Solway Firth? Then you can find out more and register your interest in becoming a Sea Champion at [www.mcsuk.org/seachampions](http://www.mcsuk.org/seachampions)

Find out more!

If you live in Scotland, get in touch with Scottish Sea Champion Volunteer Coordinator Matt on **07891 319268** or email [matt.barnes@mcsuk.org](mailto:matt.barnes@mcsuk.org)

The project is currently being developed in North West England, but if you are interested in becoming a Sea Champion in this region and would like to find out how you can get involved in the meantime, then email [seachampions@mcsuk.org](mailto:seachampions@mcsuk.org)



## CITIZEN ARCHAEOLOGISTS NEEDED — IN THE SOLWAY FIRTH FOR SCOTLAND'S COASTAL HERITAGE AT RISK PROJECT

The SCAPE Trust is actively recruiting citizen archaeologists in the Solway Firth area to join their new project to improve information about the condition of archaeological and historical sites on the coast. Surveys have shown that there are hundreds of coastal sites around Scotland threatened by erosion, ranging from the vanishing remains of former industry and settlement to local landmarks such as the promontory forts around Whithorn, to iconic national treasures such as Skara Brae in Orkney.

Erosion is a natural process, but parts of Scotland's coast are experiencing increasingly rapid change and it is difficult to keep up with what is being destroyed or revealed. Joanna Hambly, a project officer with the project, said: "Local people know their own coastline, so they are in the best position to notice changes to it. We want people to tell us about recent changes to archaeological and historic sites and alert us to new ones. Previous surveys regarded some sites as a high priority for action, but this may now not be the case - or they may now have been destroyed."

You don't need any special skills or experience to become a citizen archaeologist and volunteer with the project. In return for your time and input, the project will provide the training and support you need to confidently carry out coastal surveys. An interactive map and smart phone app have been specially developed for the project, which will make accessing current information about local coastal heritage sites and submitting new information very straightforward.

"We will also be working with the new Making the Most of the Coast Ranger, Nic Coombey, at Solway Firth Partnership

who can provide on-the-ground support for the recording of local heritage at risk. Sites that are of particular interest to us along the Solway Coast include the remains of wrecks around Kirkcudbright, fish traps at Torduff and a prehistoric land surface at Redkirk Point".

In the second stage of the project, practical action will be undertaken at 12 coastal sites identified during the community surveys. Tom Dawson of the SCAPE Trust said that community groups have been vital in the past in taking a local lead in fieldwork and interpretation projects. "We want people to tell us what sites are important to them, and what they think should be done at them. This could be straightforward archaeological recording, but we are also very interested in other types of projects; for example, involving artists, film makers or writers. We will team local groups around Scotland with professionals to help them complete their projects at eroding sites."

If you enjoy being at the coast and would like to find out more about your local heritage, have a look at our new website [www.scharp.co.uk](http://www.scharp.co.uk) where you can find out what's been recorded in your area, along with much more information about the project and how to get involved. We'd also love to hear from community groups who are looking for a challenge to help us with the surveys. You can contact us at [info@scharp.co.uk](mailto:info@scharp.co.uk).

Scotland's Coastal Heritage at Risk is a 3 year national project which will run until 2015. It is generously funded and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland, the Crown Estate and the University of St Andrews. The SCAPE Trust is a charity which works with the public to carry out research into Scotland's eroding coastal archaeology.



# THE SHORE THING



Seashore surveys were some of the first Making the Most of the Coast events to be held on the Dumfries and Galloway coastline. Hosted by Kirkmaiden Natural History Group, the survey took place on the shore at Drummore following a presentation about The Shore Thing Project by Fiona Crouch from the Marine Biological Association.

A key component of the Shore Thing survey is a 20 minute search of the shore looking for species selected because they are either non-native or are sensitive to changing sea temperatures. The 22 species chosen include Honeycomb Worm, *Sabellaria alveolata*, which prefers warmer waters and the Common Tortoiseshell Limpet, *Testudinalia testudinalis*, which thrives in cooler waters. Fiona, a rocky shore ecologist, said "This is an amazing shoreline and the more we can find out about marine species on the Galloway shore the better we can understand the effects of changing sea temperatures".

Fiona provided expert guidance on the many creatures lurking among the rocks or growing on seaweeds at Drummore including colonial animals known as Sea Mat, *Membranipora membranacea*, and brightly coloured colonial sea squirts. The volunteers undertook the 20 minute search and found some of the 22 species such as Sea Oak Seaweed, *Halidrys siliquosa*, and the beautiful Snakelocks Anemone, *Anemonia viridis*. The non-native Wireweed, *Sargassum muticum*, which originates from the seas around Japan, was also found on the shore. The species found will be entered onto the Shore Thing database which is then verified and validated by the Marine Biological Association before being made available to the wider community via the National Biodiversity Network (NBN).

Pupils from Douglas Ewart High School, Newton Stewart and Kirkcudbright Academy also attended a Shore Thing event at Brighthouse Bay. Fiona introduced them to the science behind monitoring marine species before they ventured down to the shore to try their hand at coastal surveying techniques and species identification.

Over the next two years Nic Coombey, Coastal Ranger with the 'Making the Most of the Coast' project, will be working with schools, voluntary groups and ecologists to encourage surveying and recording of rocky shores in Dumfries and Galloway. Nic explained, "We are particularly keen to hear from local people who would like to get involved in improving or learning more about our seashore."

The Shore Thing is a project managed by the Marine Biological Association to gather rocky shore survey data from around the UK to establish the distribution of marine species. Comprehensive time-series data can be used to better understand climate changes in our environment. The project is supported by Scottish Natural Heritage, The Countryside Council for Wales and Natural England.

If you would like more information visit [www.marlin.ac.uk/shore\\_thing](http://www.marlin.ac.uk/shore_thing) or contact the Coastal Ranger on [nic@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk](mailto:nic@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk) or telephone 01387 251991.



# MARINE INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES

## WORKING BETTER TOGETHER IN THE SOLWAY FIRTH

A topic which is increasingly becoming an issue both nationally and locally is Marine Invasive Non-Native Species or Marine INNS. These are species which have been intentionally or accidentally released into an environment outside their native geographical range. Although invasive marine species can be transported in several ways the most significant method is through shipping by attachment to hulls and in ballast water. The results can be terrible, not only in terms of ecological impact but also economically as aquaculture and fisheries can be adversely affected. It can be very expensive to control and eradicate Marine INNS once they become established and therefore more cost effective to concentrate efforts to prevent their arrival where possible.

It is recognised that information sharing and rapid communication is key to a better understanding of the threat of biological invasions. Solway Firth Partnership has set up a project working with conservation organisations, industry and recreation providers across the Solway Firth to take measures to protect native biodiversity from the impacts of Marine INNS. The first step in this process was to bring the stakeholders together at a seminar in Carlisle to share knowledge and hear from the experts who came from all over the UK.

At the seminar it was reported that the five High Impact Species in Scotland are: Common Cord Grass, Pacific Oyster, Carpet Sea Squirt, Leathery Sea Squirt and Wireweed. The Chinese Mitten Crab is also a risk as occasional specimens

have been found just south of the Solway Firth. At present there are several sites with Common Cord Grass on both sides of the Solway Firth, although the National Trust for Scotland is trialling an eradication programme on their site. At least three sites with Wireweed – Loch Ryan, Drummore and Luce Bay, have been identified although there may be further sites as yet unrecorded.

The seminar helped to identify the next steps for the project which include identifying potential threats to the Solway Firth from Marine INNS, working with stakeholders to raise awareness of the Marine INNS, running training courses for established coastal groups to help report species and establishing best practices for all boat users by promoting the 'Check, Clean, Dry' campaign.

And to highlight the value of working in partnership, the Shore Thing Project (see Page 12-13) recently carried out some training for volunteers on the Solway Coast with the Making the Most of the Coast Project and whilst surveying at Ravenshall found some oysters which have been confirmed as Pacific Oyster, a Japanese INNS. At this stage only 6 have been found and so it may trigger a positive action to eradicate them in line with the internationally recognised 3-tier approach to INNS – Prevention, Rapid Response, Control and Containment. Continued and regular surveying of the area will need to be carried out to monitor the level of spread with the hope of confirming that only one small area has been invaded!



For more information on the Marine INNS Project contact [info@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk](mailto:info@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk) or for information on the Check, Clean, Dry Campaign visit <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/checkcleandry/index.cfm>



**UPDATE**

# from the North & West Cumbria FLAG

November 2011 saw the launch of The North and West Cumbria Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) following the allocation of £1.35 million of European Fisheries Fund (EFF) Axis 4 Funding, and this October saw the launch of a number of FLAG funded projects in the region.

The FLAG Board were delighted to back a scheme by Whitby and District Fishing Industry Training School to provide Sea Fishing Apprenticeships in the FLAG area. Selected apprentices will be provided with classroom-based tuition and work-based training on a suitable vessel in the FLAG area, thereby addressing the issue of a lack of new entrants into the fishing profession. By enrolling on this scheme, apprentices receive a robust and industry specific training, gaining better employability prospects and potential for career progression, whilst helping to maintain the stability of the industry. The Apprenticeship scheme is open to anyone aged between 16 - 24 years old with an interest in entering the fishing industry, and details of how to apply will be in the local press shortly and advertised in Job Centre Plus and on the National Apprenticeships website.

Further funding has recently been allocated by the FLAG towards the building of a new £300,000 Boat House and Rescue Station for Maryport Inshore Rescue Boat Association (MIRBA) to include the construction of new classrooms and training facilities for the use of the community. Mike Messenger of Maryport Inshore Rescue said "A new Rescue Station will ensure the long term future of MIRBA, and enable all users of the harbour to access the improved service we will be able to offer. We will be able to attract new members to our organisation and improve visitor numbers to the harbour through school and community group visits". As a vital part of the community in a coastal region, Maryport Inshore Rescue sees itself as first and foremost an emergency service for all users of the Solway Firth, but with the potential to open up educational and tourism activities to the wider community.

If you have a project that you think could be assisted by funding from The North and West Cumbria FLAG visit our website for further details [www.cumbriaflag.org.uk](http://www.cumbriaflag.org.uk) or contact the FLAG office on 01946 67182

*We look forward to hearing from you.*



## FISHERIES FUND OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Dumfries and Galloway Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) is now up and running and is inviting funding applications for projects that will support local fishing communities. The FLAG has a balanced mix of fishing industry, community and agency representatives in line with the requirements of the European Fisheries Fund Axis 4 programme. Given the extent of the Dumfries and Galloway coastline, consideration has also been given to ensuring the group includes a good geographic spread of representation across the region. The composition of the FLAG was considered by the Planning, Housing and Environment Services Committee of Dumfries and Galloway Council earlier in the year and given full approval.

Independent Chairman of the FLAG, Tommy Jacques, says: "I'm delighted to be at the helm of this exciting new initiative. This fund provides a great opportunity for investment in areas where it is much needed. Our local sea fisheries industry plays an important part in supporting coastal communities. We need to ensure it is sustainable long term and that we get the best value we can from local landings. The FLAG would also like to see project applications coming forward that explore opportunities to diversify and strengthen the links between fisheries and other important sectors of local industry such as tourism."

The funding is aimed at delivering the Local Fisheries Development Strategy which sets out local priorities for Dumfries and Galloway. The FLAG would like to see a good mix of projects come forward including those which provide skills training for local people, enhance environmental protection

and improve tourism services to attract more visitors. The private sector can apply, along with third sector and public sector organisations.

Much more information about EFF Axis 4 including examples of projects that have been supported in other places is available on the FARNET website:

[www.webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet/](http://www.webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet/)

Application forms, guidance documents and the Local Fisheries Development Strategy are available on both the Dumfries and Galloway Council and Solway Firth Partnership websites -

[www.dumgal.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=10705](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=10705)  
and [www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk](http://www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk)





# PROJECT INSHORE

Matt Watson, English Fisheries Outreach officer

## Working Towards an Environmentally Sustainable Future for English Fisheries

One of the challenges facing fishery managers is how to protect and promote local fishing communities whilst reducing environmental impacts.

The recently-formed 'Project Inshore' aims to guide management, working towards a more efficient and environmentally sustainable method of inshore fishing, safeguarding fish stocks and fishermen's livelihoods. This project will allow for sound reasoning in future management decisions, further strengthening inshore fisheries' sustainability credentials which are critical for the long-term profitability of the industry.

Seafish, the UK seafood authority, are leading the project and bringing together people with a common interest in the sustainability of the inshore fleet. Gus Caslake, Seafish Project Manager, said, "This exciting project is set to make a huge positive impact on the sustainability of our inshore sector and has united retailers, suppliers, non-governmental organisations and the fishing industry in this common interest."

## What Project Inshore will achieve

On a recent trip to the Isles of Scilly, the local Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) and fishermen were discussing the best management measure for a shellfish species. Would the fishery benefit from having a closed season or would a maximum landing size be better? Both options have the potential to limit the impact of fishing on the mature shellfish population but which is best for the fishery? The results from Project Inshore will help in advising management on difficult questions such as this by ensuring the best available science, fisheries data and fishermen's advice are readily available and specifically focused on inshore fisheries.

Together with a wide range of stakeholders, Project Inshore will bring the environmental sustainability of inshore fisheries to the forefront of discussions whilst addressing trade barriers for local fisheries. In the North West of England, the project will highlight commercially important fisheries working within the North West IFCA's jurisdiction and help to guide management on maintaining these fisheries at a commercially viable level whilst protecting important marine habitats.

## How it will work

By using criteria based on the Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) pre-assessment process, an MSC accredited certifier, Food Certification International, will map and audit all English inshore fisheries. The audits will be based on the MSC Three Principles.

1. *How healthy is the fish stock?*
2. *Environmental impacts of fishing – including impacts on other species*
3. *Effective management. Is it working?*

By assessing all English fisheries against the same criteria, Project Inshore links into wider conservation and management frameworks: the project will draw on ongoing work and its outputs will be used to inform Common Fisheries Policy reform, inshore fishery management reform and the designation and management of Marine Protected Areas. The idea is not to overburden the inshore industry with multiple layers of management but instead, and where necessary, to manage fisheries more efficiently working with the best tools available. Although the project will not involve MSC certification for the fisheries, for those fisheries that indicate a desire and ability to pursue certification, Project Inshore will be the first step on the ladder towards MSC assessment.



If you would like to know more about Project Inshore please contact Matt Watson on [matt.watson@msc.org](mailto:matt.watson@msc.org) or 0207 246 8914



# ACCOUNTS

## — To March 2012

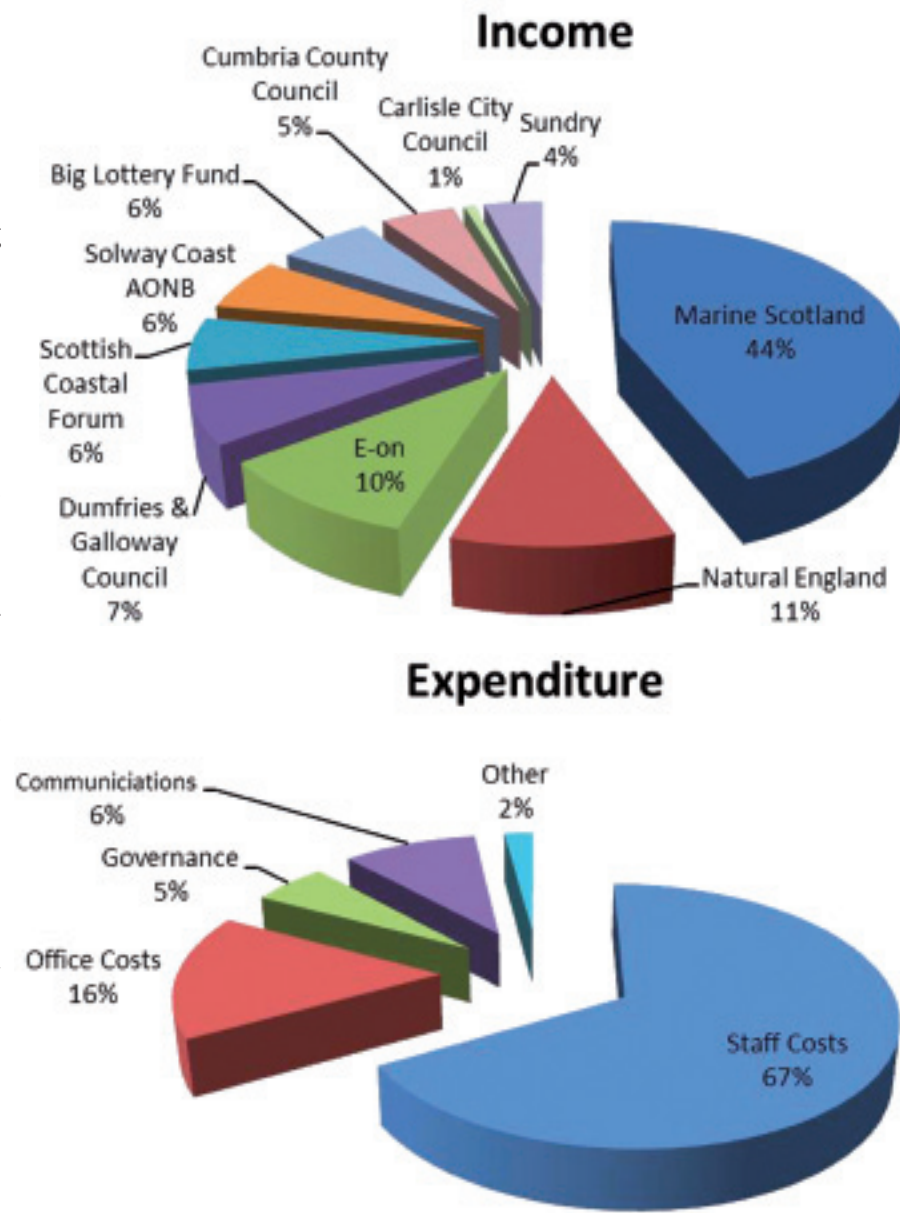
As an independent charitable company, Solway Firth Partnership operates in a similar way to any small business. However, the aim is not to make a profit but to undertake activities in line with our mission statement: To support a vibrant and sustainable local economy while respecting, protecting and celebrating the distinctive character, heritage and natural features of our marine and coastal area.

But we still need to balance the books. Yes, most of our money comes from the public sector, but we are bound by contracts that set out the services and other pieces of work we need to deliver. We have no long term commitment to funding from any organisation; contracts are re-negotiated on an annual basis. In testing financial times, when public sector funding is being axed all around us, it's more important than ever that we provide a high quality and good value service to ensure the organisation stays viable.

Fortunately, our accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2012 show a surplus of £1,158 on total expenditure of £94,882 (£77,362 in the previous financial year). As a result of drawing in additional grants for projects, we have also been able to increase the number of staff, and therefore the scale of the service we can provide for the local area. These are very good results in challenging financial times and represent a great deal of hard work on the part of our team.

We are very grateful to all the organisations who have provided funding in the last financial year: Marine Scotland; Natural England; E-On; Dumfries & Galloway Council; Solway Coast AONB; Scottish Coastal Forum; Big Lottery Fund; Cumbria County Council; and Carlisle City Council.

We would also like to thank the many 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 now available on our website,  
[www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk](http://www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk)  
Pam Taylor: Solway Firth Partnership

dates for your diary

### November

Thursday 1 Friday 2	<b>Barney Walk</b> 11.00am – 1.00pm Booking: Not required	An interactive walk, especially for families, with games to help the whole family learn about the Svalbard Barnacle Geese that overwinter on the Solway Coast. <b>Contact:</b> Liz on 01387 780579 or 780298 or <a href="mailto:mersehead@rspb.org.uk">mersehead@rspb.org.uk</a> <b>Meet:</b> RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Friday 2	<b>Beach Litter Pick at Mawbray Banks</b> 10.30am – 12.30pm Booking: Not required	Come along and spend an hour or two beach litter picking. All equipment will be provided but please wear suitable clothing and bring a packed lunch. <b>Contact:</b> Graeme Proud, Solway Coast AONB Unit 016973 33055 <b>Meet:</b> Seaward side of the B5300 at Mawbray
Saturday 3	<b>Walk on the Wildside</b> 2.00pm – 4.00pm Booking: Essential	Catch the tide with the Warden for an informative walk through the reserve. Learn about the resident wildlife and our ongoing conservation work. Bring binoculars and walking boots. <b>Cost:</b> Members £1 non-members £2 <b>Contact:</b> Paul Tarling 01988 402130 or <a href="mailto:Paul.Tarling@rspb.org.uk">Paul.Tarling@rspb.org.uk</a> <b>Meet:</b> Crook of Baldoon cark park, DG8 9AQ, NX445530
Sunday 4	<b>WWT - What's That goose?</b> 1.00pm – 4.00pm Booking: Essential	Join the WWT experts to find and identify geese and other species of wildfowl on the Reserve. <b>Cost:</b> Charges apply <b>Contact:</b> WWT 01387 770200 <b>Meet:</b> WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, Dumfries, DG1 4RS, NY052657
Sunday 4	<b>WWT - In Focus</b> 10.00am - 5.00pm Booking: Not Required	A chance to try the latest range of binoculars and telescopes available. <b>Contact:</b> WWT 01387 770200 <b>Meet:</b> WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657
Wednesday 7	<b>Crosscanonby Carr Reserve Workday</b> 10.30am Booking: Not required	As part of the ongoing management of this Reserve come along and help carry out routine maintenance and move fallen trees. All tools will be provided; please bring a packed lunch and suitable clothing. <b>Contact:</b> Graeme Proud, Solway Coast AONB Unit 016973 33055 <b>Meet:</b> Crosscanonby Carr Reserve, on the B5300
Saturday 10	<b>WWT- Learn to Digiscope</b> 11.00am – 3.00pm Booking: Essential	Join digiscoping expert and Slimbridge Reserve Warden James Lees for a hands-on introduction to digiscoping, helping you to get the best shots with your kit. <b>Cost:</b> £25 including admission <b>Contact:</b> WWT 01387 770200 <b>Meet:</b> WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, Dumfries, DG1 4RS, NY052657
Sunday 11	<b>WWT - Dawn Flights</b> 6.30am – 9.00am 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. <b>Cost:</b> Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free (catering not included in price) <b>Contact:</b> WWT 01387 770200 <b>Meet:</b> WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657
Wednesday 14	<b>High Tide Bird Survey at Mawbray Banks</b> 10.00am – 1.00pm Booking: Essential	The survey will be for approximately 3 hours, but there is the option of going at any time. Please bring a packed lunch, appropriate warm clothing and binoculars if you have them. <b>Contact:</b> Graeme Proud, Solway Coast AONB Unit 016973 33055 <b>Meet:</b> Mawbray Yard Car Park, off the B5300





November

Friday 16	<b>Crosscanonby Salt Pans: Restoration Work</b> 10.30am Booking: Not Required	Come and help with the continued scrub clearance and weed removal in and around the historic salt pans area. All tools will be provided but please bring a packed lunch and suitable clothing. <b>Contact:</b> Graeme Proud, Solway Coast AONB Unit 016973 33055 <b>Meet:</b> Crosscanonby Road End Car Park on the B5300
Friday 16	<b>Walk on the Wildside</b> 2.00pm – 4.00pm Booking: Essential	Catch the tide with the Warden for an informative walk through the reserve. Learn about the resident wildlife and our ongoing conservation work. Bring binoculars and walking boots. <b>Cost:</b> Members £1 non-members £2 <b>Contact:</b> Paul Tarling 01988 402130 or <a href="mailto:Paul.Tarling@rspb.org.uk">Paul.Tarling@rspb.org.uk</a> <b>Meet:</b> Crook of Baldoon cark park, DG8 9AQ, NX445530
Friday 16	<b>Photography, Birds &amp; Cask Ale, Hawk’s Head Photograph Workshop</b> 11.00am – 4.00pm Booking: Essential	Hawk’s Head Photography has teamed up with WWT Caerlaverock to offer “Photography, Birds & Cask Ale.” This deluxe residential wildlife photography workshop will be based at the WWT Caerlaverock Farmhouse. Enjoy a weekend of photographing wildlife with expert tuition and birding guide, evenings of cask ale and whisky tasting with great food, great company and minibus transport to other local sites. <b>Contact:</b> 01661 886317 / 07866 435084 or <a href="http://www.hawksheadphotography.com">www.hawksheadphotography.com</a> for more information or to book a place
Monday 19	<b>Circular Coastal Walk from the Discovery Centre to Grune Point</b> 10.30am Booking: Essential	This walk takes you along the promenade in Silloth via Skinburness to Grune Point and back to Silloth. The walk is roughly 6 miles and should take 2-3 hours. The terrain is even but stout shoes and suitable warm clothing are advised. Please bring a packed lunch and binoculars if you have them. <b>Contact:</b> Graeme Proud, Solway Coast AONB Unit 016973 33055 <b>Meet:</b> The Discovery Centre, Silloth
Wednesday 21	<b>Wolsty Beach Litter Pick</b> 10.30am – 12.30pm Booking: Not Required	Everyone is well aware of how important it is to improve our beaches and sand dunes and this can be quite easily achieved with a little work from us all. All litter picking tools will be provided, please wear suitable clothing. <b>Contact:</b> Graeme Proud, Solway Coast AONB Unit 016973 33055 <b>Meet:</b> Car Park at Wolsty Banks Car Park (opposite the sign to Wolsty)
Saturday 24 — Sunday 25	<b>Wildlife Photography Weekend Course</b> Booking: Essential	A two day residential wildlife photography course for beginner to intermediate level combining short tutorials with one-to-one assistance photographing the bird life on the wonderful WWT reserve at Caerlaverock. Accommodation is in the farmhouse right in the heart of the reserve. Bob Fitzsimmons and Tom Langlands each have over 40 years photography experience with many hours spent on the reserve at Caerlaverock. <b>Cost:</b> £225 for the weekend with accommodation or £165 without accommodation <b>Contact:</b> WWT 01387 770200 <b>Meet:</b> WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657
Saturday 24 — Sunday 25	<b>Optics Event</b> Booking: Not required	Lochwinnoch RSPB are bringing their range of Optical equipment from Scopes to Binoculars to sell at Mersehead Visitor Centre. <b>Contact:</b> Liz on 01387 780579 or 780298 or <a href="mailto:mersehead@rspb.org.uk">mersehead@rspb.org.uk</a> <b>Meet:</b> RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Wednesday 28	<b>Crosscanonby Carr Reserve Workday</b> 10.30am Booking: Not Required	As part of the on-going management of this Reserve come along and help carry out routine maintenance of the reserve and moving fallen trees. All tools will be provided, please bring a packed lunch and suitable clothing. <b>Contact:</b> Graeme Proud, Solway Coast AONB Unit 016973 33055 <b>Meet:</b> Crosscanonby Carr Reserve, on the B5300
Thursday 29	<b>Walk on the Wildside</b> 11.00am – 1.00pm Booking: Essential	Catch the tide with the Warden for an informative walk through the reserve. Learn about the resident wildlife and our ongoing conservation work. Bring binoculars and walking boots. <b>Cost:</b> Members £1, non-members £2 <b>Contact:</b> Paul Tarling 01988 402130 or <a href="mailto:Paul.Tarling@rspb.org.uk">Paul.Tarling@rspb.org.uk</a> <b>Meet:</b> Crook of Baldoon cark park, DG8 9AQ, NX445530

December

Sunday 9	<b>WWT Dawn Flights</b> 7.00am - 9.30am 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. <b>Cost:</b> Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free (catering not included in price). <b>Contact:</b> WWT 01387 770200 <b>Meet:</b> WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657
Wednesday 12	<b>Walk on the Wildside</b> 11.00am - 1.00pm Booking: Essential	Catch the tide with the Warden for an informative walk through the reserve. Learn about the resident wildlife and our ongoing conservation work. Bring binoculars and walking boots. <b>Cost:</b> Members £1 non-members £2 <b>Contact:</b> Paul Tarling 01988 402130 or <a href="mailto:Paul.Tarling@rspb.org.uk">Paul.Tarling@rspb.org.uk</a> <b>Meet:</b> Crook of Baldoon cark park, DG8 9AQ, NX445530
Saturday 15 — Sunday 16	<b>Wildlife Photography Weekend Course</b> Booking: Essential	A two day residential wildlife photography course for beginner to intermediate level combining short tutorials with one-to-one assistance photographing the bird life on the wonderful WWT reserve at Caerlaverock. Accommodation is in the farmhouse right in the heart of the reserve. Bob Fitzsimmons and Tom Langlands each have over 40 years photography experience with many hours spent on the reserve at Caerlaverock. <b>Cost:</b> £225 for the weekend with accommodation or £165 without accommodation <b>Contact:</b> WWT 01387 770200 <b>Meet:</b> WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657
Monday 17	<b>Pre Christmas Beach Walk, Maryport to Allonby</b> 10.30am - 1.30pm Booking: Essential	Join in a healthy walk before the Christmas excesses! The walk will be approximately 3 hours, but there is the option of catching the local coastal bus in either direction. Please bring a packed lunch and appropriate walking gear. Children and dogs welcome, and invite your friends along. <b>Contact:</b> Graeme Proud, Solway Coast AONB Unit 016973 33055 <b>Meet:</b> The Car Park at Maryport Promenade
Wednesday 26	<b>Boxing Day Walk</b> 2.00pm – 4.00pm Booking: Essential	Need a walk after your festivities? Join the warden for a stroll along the shore and get some fresh Wigtownshire air. Bring binoculars and walking boots. <b>Cost:</b> Members £1, non-members £2. <b>Contact:</b> Paul Tarling 01988 402130 or <a href="mailto:Paul.Tarling@rspb.org.uk">Paul.Tarling@rspb.org.uk</a> <b>Meet:</b> Crook of Baldoon cark park, DG8 9AQ, NX445530

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For further information, to submit an article or to join the SFP mailing list please contact:  
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