



Gordon Mann OBE.
Chairman Solway Firth Partnership

It's probably fair to say that the only constant for the Partnership at the moment is change. Implementation of the Marine Acts is bringing about fundamental change and we are very pleased to be working with the marine management bodies for the Solway Firth and wider Irish Sea to support the integrated cross-border approach which is so fundamental to our purpose.

The Marine Management Organisation is focusing attention on development of the first marine plans for the East Inshore and Offshore areas and has also recently published a Strategic Scoping Report for the English marine area. Marine Scotland is developing a National Marine Plan and consultation on this can

be expected later this year. More news on the establishment of Scottish Marine Regions can also be anticipated and the Partnership was very pleased to welcome around sixty people to the local consultation event about this earlier in the year.

Meanwhile, back at our Campbell House office, we have been delighted to welcome three new part-time members of staff. Jak Kane joined us late last year and brings strong accounting and administrative skills to the organisation. Following a move from the world of banking, Jak has become much more involved in community and economic regeneration initiatives and is also working part-time for Machars Action based in Wigtown.

More recently, we have been very pleased to welcome Clair McFarlan who will be known to many as the former Ecologist with Solway Heritage. Clair is supporting work on stakeholder engagement and communication – including preparation of this issue of Tidelines. We are also very fortunate to have been joined by Frances Edwards who is studying for an MSc in marine planning at Herriot Watt University on a part-time basis. Frances brings data management and cartography experience to the organisation which broadens our skills base. Both Clair and Frances have been engaged on a temporary basis but we are working hard to attract additional funding to enable us to maintain this team and support effective delivery across our ambitious work programme.

I am delighted that our next conference will be held in Maryport and that we will be co-hosting the event with the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This partnership working, which is such an integral part of our approach, means we can share organisation and get best value for both bodies. We also hope that the new location will enable people to engage with the Partnership who have not previously been able to take up that opportunity.

Wishing you a good summer out and about on the Solway Firth.

Gordon

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MARINE PLANNING

what's happening?

New systems of marine planning are being introduced as a result of the UK and Scottish Marine Acts and equivalent legislation in other administrative areas of the Irish Sea. The shared aims are to balance competing demands on the sea, protect the marine environment and support sustainable economic development.

The Solway Firth falls under the jurisdiction of the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act and the Marine (Scotland) Act as well as being closely linked to neighbouring administrations on the Isle of Man and in Northern Ireland. Taking a joined-up approach to planning for the Solway Firth and the Irish Sea as a whole is imperative if the high level objectives all administrations aspire to are to be achieved.

The University of Liverpool is leading work to support a co-ordinated approach across the Irish Sea and identify areas

for collaborative action. In addition to contributing to this initiative, Solway Firth Partnership is working closely with Marine Scotland and the Marine Management Organisation to ensure a cohesive approach across the England / Scotland border. The Partnership is also building stronger links with colleagues on the Isle of Man and in Northern Ireland working on marine planning, biodiversity and fisheries management.

To ensure marine planning is based on accurate and up to date information, the Partnership is working with local people to gather information about marine based activities. The work will help assess the compatibility of different activities, improve understanding of the way the area is used and identify opportunities for better management. A report on this work - Sectoral Interactions in the Solway Firth - will be produced later this year.

MUCH MORE INFORMATION ON MARINE PLANNING IS AVAILABLE ONLINE BY VISITING:

The Marine Management Organisation: www.marinemanagement.org.uk/marineplanning Marine Scotland www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/seamanagement. A summary of the marine planning approaches being taken by all six administrations in the Irish Sea - National Perspectives on Marine Planning - can be found on the downloads section of the Solway Firth Partnership website. www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk/downloads.asp



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN SCOTLAND

THE BACKGROUND

Scotland (along with the rest of the UK) has designated a number of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) which include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Ramsar sites. The term "MPA" can be used for several different types of protected areas within the marine environment. The Marine (Scotland) Act has established a new power for Marine Protected Areas in the seas around Scotland, to recognise features of national importance and meet international commitments for developing a network of MPAs. This complements the MPA power introduced through the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act for offshore waters around Scotland.

MPAs will protect important marine habitats and wildlife, geology and geomorphology, as well as features of cultural importance such as shipwrecks and submerged landscapes. The Act also allows local communities to put forward proposals for Nature Conservation and Demonstration and Research MPAs.

THE SCOTTISH MARINE PROTECTED AREAS PROJECT

The Scottish Marine Protected Areas Project is a joint initiative between Marine Scotland, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Historic Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage. A wide range of work is being carried out under the project to allow the best possible advice to be provided to Scottish Ministers on the selection of MPAs in the seas around Scotland.

NEXT STEPS

The Scottish MPA Selection Guidelines setting out the approach that will be taken when selecting MPAs in the seas around Scotland have now been published and the first national application of the guidelines is taking place during autumn 2011. SNH are also currently working with partners and stakeholders to produce guidelines for the future management of MPAs.

The assessment of least damaged more natural locations is one strand of work being undertaken by Scottish MPA project partners to identify an ecologically coherent MPA network. It aims to identify locations where there is little known activity and may therefore be in a relatively natural state. Following the Scottish MPA project's recent workshop on the assessment of least damaged more natural locations, a review has opened in order to allow stakeholders to comment on the areas that have been identified as least damaged more natural locations.

The webpage www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork/engagement/workshop2/ldmn contains details of the review and how to respond. All responses should aim to be returned by 13 July 2011 for inclusion in the analysis to inform the first application of the selection guidelines. Any comments received after this date may be incorporated in the first iteration, and will be included in any later iterations and aid the development of an MPA network.

Details of the two previous workshops are also available online at www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork/engagement.

ISLE OF MAN LAUNCHES NEW MARINE CONSERVATION ZONE

A new marine conservation zone in the north of the Isle of Man could benefit the fishing industry, the Manx Fish Producers Organisation (MFPO) has said. After a year-long public consultation the government has brought in a zoning programme to protect about 3% of Manx territorial waters.

A 40 sq km (15.44 sq miles) area including Ramsey Bay is to be closed to scallop and queenie trawling. The measure is intended to help replenish fish stocks. Tom Bryan-Brown, from MFPO, said: "It is for the greater good of the industry."

He added: "There are certain pieces of ground which I think are of more interest and importance to environmentalists than they are to the fishing industry, but there is always that associated benefit that you hope to get from it, where there will be an extra supply of stock in the area to help out the scalloping industry".

Marine Reserve

The MFPO initially suggested the area as a possible protection zone and the idea was supported by the Manx government. Marine Officer, Fiona Gell said: "The build-up of animals which happens naturally in a protected conservation area can have a positive effect on fishing.

"There are no walls around a marine reserve and the plankton will move out into other areas and enrich the sea around the island."

Divers will be checking the area regularly to monitor how the new rules are affecting the Manx marine ecosystem.

MARINE CONSERVATION ZONES UPDATE

The Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) created a new type of Marine Protected Area (MPA), called a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ). A Marine Conservation Zone Project has been set up which is looking at the selection of MCZs in English inshore waters and offshore waters next to England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Sites will be selected to protect not just the rare and threatened, but the full range of marine wildlife.

The Irish Sea Conservation Zone is one of four regional projects set up to make recommendations on MCZs to the government in August 2011. The recommended zones have been identified by the Regional Stakeholder Group of the Irish Sea Conservation Zones project. The Regional Stakeholder Group is made up of around 40 people, each of whom is drawn from a different sea use or interest that occurs in the Irish Sea project area.

Recommended sites include coast and intertidal habitats at St Bees. The bedrock and boulder shores around St Bees Head are nationally important, rich in marine life and unique within the Irish Sea project area. Extensive sandy reefs built by honeycomb worms colonise the cobble scars or skears on the shores to the south of St Bees Head. To the north of St Bees Head dense beds of blue mussels can be found on the rocky shores. Off St Bees Head and extending southwards the seabed is sandy mud or mud. These mud habitats are home to burrowing animals such as

mud shrimps, angular crabs and Dublin Bay prawn. St Bees Head is also a nationally important seabird colony and the sea around it is important for resting and feeding seabirds such as guillemot and razorbill

The last Regional Stakeholder Group workshops were held in July so that the group can finalise its recommendations for potential Marine Conservation Zones in the project area. These recommendations will be sent to the government's nature conservation advisors, Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, on August 31, 2011. At the same time, work will take place on an impact assessment that will form a key part of the project's final recommendations. Liaison officers will also be travelling widely around the region, continuing to meet people with an interest in the Irish Sea, explain the project and gathering feedback from them. The process to identify and designate Marine Conservation Zones will enter a new phase in spring 2012, when a full public consultation will take place. This will give people a further opportunity to comment on the recommended zones before they are finally designated by the government. The government aims to have a substantial proportion of the Marine Conservation Zones in place by the end of 2012.

For more information on the Irish Sea conservation zone visit www.irishseaconservation.org.uk



GREATER PROTECTION FOR SCOTLAND'S SHARKS



Latest news from the Scottish government reports that new rules are being drafted to increase protection of vulnerable species of shark, skate and ray in Scotland.

Fisheries Secretary Richard Lochhead has announced that the Scottish Government will introduce a protection order for the species, collectively known as elasmobranchs. Subject to parliamentary approval, this will give greater protection for 26 vulnerable and endangered sharks, skates and rays, including tope, spurdog and common skate. The proposals will extend the current provisions, which prevent the landing to market of some elasmobranchs by commercial fishermen, to also cover fishing by recreational sea anglers. The new order will also mean that only catch-and-release by rod and line will be permitted, allowing recreational sea anglers to continue to tag these species, increasing our scientific knowledge of Scottish elasmobranchs, whilst ensuring that they are returned to the sea alive.

Mr Lochhead said, "Protecting vulnerable marine species is crucially important. Some shark, skate and ray populations are critically endangered and already protected from commercial fishing. However, these species need additional protection and so Scotland intends to introduce a new protection order to help stock recovery. The measures announced today will support, and clearly demonstrate, our continued commitment to the European Shark Action Plan, following changes to Scottish shark finning policy introduced last year."

Elasmobranchs (sharks, skates and rays) generally have slow reproductive rates, making them highly vulnerable to overexploitation. Consequently, a number of vulnerable,

endangered and critically endangered elasmobranchs either have a zero Total Allowable Catch or are prohibited species for commercial fishermen within the European Union.

Scotland plans to introduce a protection order to include recreational sea anglers in current conservation provisions. This will prohibit all catching, in boarding and landing except for catch-and-release by rod and line of the following species: Angel shark, Birdbeak dogfish, Black dogfish, Blackmouth catshark, Common skate, Deep-water catsharks, Frilled shark, Greater lanternshark, Greenland shark, Gulper shark, Knifetooth dogfish, Leafscale gulper shark, Longnose velvet dogfish, Mouse catshark, Porbeagle, Portuguese dogfish, Sailfin roughshark, Six-gilled shark, Smooth lanternshark, Spurdog, Undulate ray, Velvet belly, White shark, White skate, Kitefin shark and Tope.

The Scottish Shark Tagging Programme (SSTP)

Sharkatag, held annually in South West Scotland, was held on 24/25/26th June this year. Once again it received terrific support with anglers coming from all over the UK and fishing from over 50 boats and over 20 kayaks.

Following an initial analysis of the data, Ian Burrett, Project Director highlighted a major concern, "Evidence from this and previous years' Sharkatag seems to confirm the anecdotal evidence that tope numbers are continuing to fall on an annual basis. We cannot be sure whether this is down to overfishing on their wintering grounds or a change in their Northern migration route. Equally concerning is the data shows thornback ray stocks seem to be improving slightly, but not one cuckoo, blonde or spotted ray has been caught. Twenty years ago these species were abundant in the region"

Despite the low catches and the weather making the last day a washout everyone had a great time and are looking forward to getting back out next year.



For more information visit: www.ssacn.org and www.tagsharks.com

NEW ARRIVAL FOR WIGTOWN OSPREYS

RSPB SCOTLAND TAKES LEAD ROLE IN OSPREY PARTNERSHIP AND NEW STAFF



Joining the team, Ian Brown and Kelly Hunter.

NEW STAFF

There's a new arrival for the Wigtown Ospreys this week, but it's not another chick. Ian Brown, a community and wildlife officer for RSPB Scotland, is joining the project to help show Wigtown's famous birds to visitors and locals. He'll be running events and activities, such as guided walks, and working with volunteers as well as making links within the local community.

Ian, who is originally from Brighton, is no stranger to wildlife projects, having previously worked with the Glaslyn ospreys in Wales. He's also been employed on the Galloway Kite Trail, and is an active member of the Galloway Mountain Rescue Team. Ian said: "It's fantastic to return to the RSPB and have the opportunity to be part of such a dynamic project. I'm really looking forward to working closely with the community and visitors to Wigtown to promote the area's spectacular wildlife and natural heritage. The ospreys are such engaging birds to be working with, and they're having a great season so far. Fingers crossed both chicks are going to be ready to fledge in just a few weeks' time."

Also joining the ospreys project will be a second, part-time RSPB officer, Kelly Hunter, who has worked previously with the ospreys through Sulwath Connections. Kelly has extensive experience working in conservation in the Wigtown area, with organisations such as SNH, Galloway Fisheries Trust and various voluntary positions.

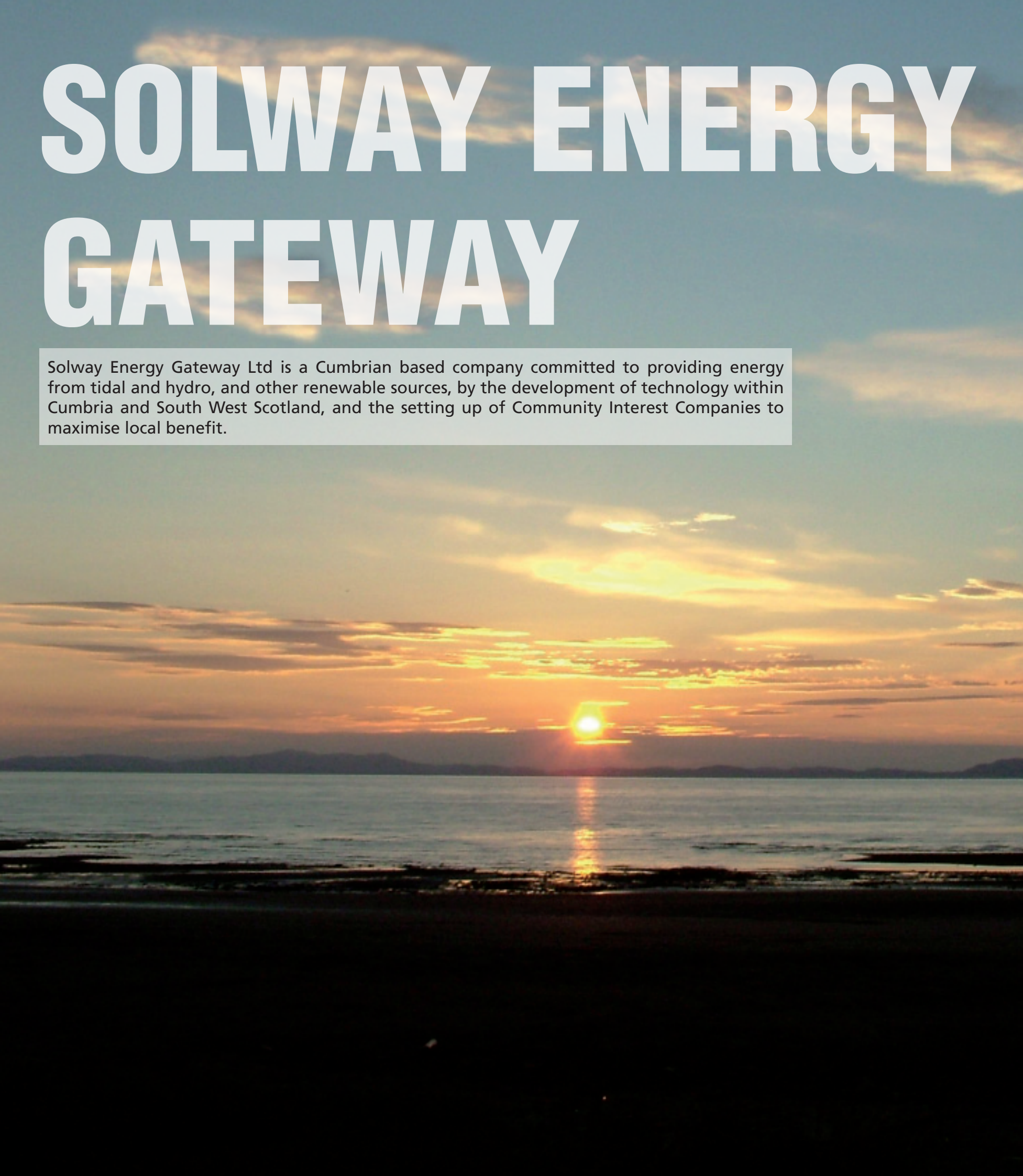
The pair will also be looking for volunteers from the local community to help them tell the osprey story. If you would be interested in volunteering, contact Ian on 01988 402130 or 07919227854.

NEW CHICKS

The Wigtown Bay Ospreys, 'EP' and 'HD', have two chicks in their nest this year, both now approximately a month old. Live and recorded images of the ospreys and their chicks can be seen in the visitor room managed by Dumfries and Galloway Council's Countryside Service and situated within Wigtown County Buildings. If you would like more information, please contact the visitor facilities in the County Buildings on 01988 402673.

The Wigtown Bay osprey group is a partnership between Dumfries and Galloway Council, RSPB Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary, landowners and volunteers. The project is supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund and part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community Dumfries & Galloway LEADER 2007-2013 programme.





SOLWAY ENERGY GATEWAY

Solway Energy Gateway Ltd is a Cumbrian based company committed to providing energy from tidal and hydro, and other renewable sources, by the development of technology within Cumbria and South West Scotland, and the setting up of Community Interest Companies to maximise local benefit.

A FLAGSHIP PROJECT

The flagship project of the company is the proposed construction of a tidal energy generating alignment between Bowness on Solway and Seafield, Annan, at the point where a viaduct once spanned the Firth. The Firth is one mile across at this 'pinch point', with the estuary widening on either side of it, consequently the tidal flow becomes concentrated. It has been calculated (Liverpool University) that there could be a capacity for circa 250MW at this point. And, given the experience of the La Rance barrage at St Malo in France predictable energy could be produced for 14 of every 24 hours. Significantly the preferred site is within 3 miles of a major electricity grid connection at the Nuclear Decommissioning Authorities (NDA) site, Chapelcross Power Station, which ceased generating in 2002. The Solway Firth has enough energy to provide all the power that is needed locally and make a significant contribution to the UK energy requirement.

A 2009/10 feasibility study, by Halcrow, considered a range of options and alignments including: barrages (generating on ebb only and in two-way modes), tidal reefs, fences and lagoons. The Feasibility Study, and ongoing consultation, has made it clear that a scheme entailing confinement of water and permanent inundation of the salt marsh lands and estuary east of the alignment would not be acceptable. SEGL and VerdErg have now combined to design and develop schemes utilising the Spectral Marine Energy Converter (SMEC) technology.

SMEC TECHNOLOGY

SMEC creates a slight rise in the upstream water level as a result of its operation. It is, in effect, a porous weir acting as a venturi pump. This induced head rise (typically around 1m) is amplified around six-fold across the conventional axial flow turbine inside the SMEC. All electrical apparatus can remain above water. SMEC is inherently bi-directional. SMEC only slows the tide ebb and flow thus maintaining the existing biodiversity and ecology. The intention is to design into any alignment structure, future need possibilities such as a flood defence mechanism or the need for conversion to Hydro scheme thus creating a significantly sized freshwater storage area. Although not part of the initial energy scheme it makes sense to consider value enhancing socio-economic add-ons such as road/rail and utilities link improving connectivity between South West Scotland and North West Cumbria, a major visitor attraction and the re-branding and development opportunity for the Solway region. Linking with Cumbria's already established 'Britain's Energy Coast' identity, the 'Gateway' region is the centre of the UK. It could also be seen as the 'gateway' between Scotland, Northern Ireland and England.

HISTORY OF THE SITE

- The Bowness to Annan site was originally considered as the crossing point for the M6 motorway in the early 1960's.
- In 1966 a study was commissioned for an industrial freshwater storage area by the Scottish Office. It was recommended that a barrage be considered utilising siphons to control outflow.
- In the 1980's following a Government backed study the site was considered to be the most suitable to capture tidal energy, by means of a barrage.
- In the 1990's the earlier findings were confirmed by a further study into tidal energy capture.
- Following the Carlisle floods in 2005 retired academics Dr Norman Powell and Dr Martyn Dyer-Smith revisited the 1966 study and suggested that the concept of a barrage could provide a suitable flood defense for Carlisle. They suggested that utilising the technology proposed in the study coupled to turbines could produce useful amounts of renewable energy.
- In 2006 the proposal was developed and promoted by Nigel Catterson suggesting that a community driven project could be an effective way forward. Arranging a cross-border meeting between the relevant statutory agencies interest was expressed and a considered and researched proposal called for - responsibility through demonstrating a new approach to 'ways of working'.
- 2008 the Northwest Tidal Energy Group was formed; specific tidal energy capture proposals were examined and detailed information gathered on existing schemes.
- In 2008/9 it was agreed by the NWDA, Scottish Enterprise and the NDA to seek funding for a technical feasibility study with a view to the study being completed by the end of 2009.
- Members of the Scottish Parliament fully support the notion of a community benefits company. NWDA, Scottish Enterprise and the NDA support the role of Solway Energy Gateway as a 'trusted third party' to help facilitate development of the tidal project, working with local community stakeholders.
- 2010 Halcrow Study published.
- 2010 Solway Energy Gateway Ltd formalised with founding members Nigel Catterson, Brian Dawes and David Schofield being joined by Bill Roberts, Fiona Hammond and David Hayes (all ex NDA).
- 2010 SEGL and VerdErg combine to develop SMEC Technology for Solway Tidal and 12 smaller Hydro schemes throughout Cumbria and South West Scotland.

Nigel Catterson

FIELDTRIP

Dumfries and Galloway National Scenic Areas

Dumfries and Galloway has some of the finest scenery in Scotland. Three of the forty nationally outstanding landscapes, designated as National Scenic Areas (NSAs) are located here. The Fleet Valley, the East Stewartry Coast and the Nith Estuary are living, working landscapes focused on the river estuaries and bays of the Solway Firth.

Over the last seven years Dumfries and Galloway Council, Scottish Natural Heritage and local communities have been working together to deliver actions from the NSA Management Strategies.

The objectives of the NSA project include:

- Raising awareness, understanding and responsibility for the areas amongst local communities
- Encouraging enjoyment of the areas where it is consistent with conserving and enhancing the environment.

The ongoing commitment of communities and volunteers has enabled the development and funding of a series of innovative projects in the NSAs including the recent Fieldtrip project.

ongoing commitment of communities and volunteers

Primary schools within the three NSAs took part in a project that has encouraged the pupils to look at the landscapes they live in with new eyes. Each class of

children went on a fieldtrip to re-discover their local area. Specialists, ranging from geologists to astronomers, were on hand to help the children find out more about the special qualities that make these landscapes so outstanding. An artist and writer accompanied the children and on return to class, helped them to gather and develop responses to their new understanding of the landscape through creative writing and art work. As well as producing individual pieces of work, most of the schools have a lasting legacy of their fieldtrips. Collaborative poems produced by the classes were incorporated into a variety of permanent artworks, realised by the artists involved in the project and located in the school grounds.

An exhibition capturing and celebrating the many and varied experiences gathered during the project is on display at Dumfries Museum until the 23rd July and then will tour the region.

The Fieldtrip project was one of a series to realise the potential of the National Scenic Areas in Dumfries and Galloway delivered through Sulwath Connections Landscape Project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Scottish Natural Heritage and Dumfries and Galloway Council.

For more information, contact Anna Johnson, National Scenic Area Officer, D&G Council, Rae Street, Dumfries, DG1 1LW.



NEWS FROM THE SOLWAY COAST AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

THE SOLWAY WETLANDS PROJECT UPDATE

The Solway Wetlands Project is now in its sixth month and it is taking shape. The top three years at Bowness Primary School have had a competition to design a new wetland area at the RSPB site, Campfield Marsh. In the end, all the children's designs, and not just the winners', will be incorporated into the site and construction will start next summer when full funding for the project comes through.

The heritage focus of the project will start progressing soon when the Heritage Working Group gets going and historical stories of the Solway can begin to be unravelled. Work continues to progress by identifying specific areas for further wetland creation through

Higher Level Stewardship and to look into better access opportunities. When the project gets its full funding early next year there will be plenty of opportunities to get involved through wildlife surveys, heritage skills training, general conservation days, apprenticeships for school leavers and work placements for older students. If you want to know more or you have ideas of what you want to see happening in the North Solway area let Alexandra Sijpesteijn know: phone her on 01697 333055, email her at alexandra.sijpesteijn@allerdale.gov.uk or search for the Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme on Facebook and leave a comment!



WEBSITE REVIEW SOLWAY SHORE STORIES

The attractive and easy-to-use website, set up by Linus Design, has been supported by grants from the Solway Coast AONB's Sustainable Development Fund, Carr's and Iggesund.

And just to give you a taster of one of the Solway Shore Stories:-

WRITTEN IN STONE

I said, 'Oh Dad, you didn't go out with her? She was a horrible woman!'" Judith Beeby laughs as she tells me how she had discovered the words "James McKay loves ..." cut into the red sandstone of the cave in Fleswick Bay. "He said, 'Well, she wasn't so bad when she was young!'" Later, though, James carved the name of "D K McKay" – Dorothy Kathleen – in a more prominent place, for this was the woman that he married, and who became the mother of Judith Mary McKay, Mrs Beeby.

This is a story that is very much part of the Solway coast: for me it started under the cliffs at Fleswick Bay and ends in the port of Silloth, where Mrs Judith Beeby now lives, but her own family's fascinating story is much longer, bound up as it is with the cliffs and quarries and buildings along the coastal margins.....

A NEW WEBSITE SHOWCASING THE SOLWAY COAST

The author of this website is novelist and non-fiction writer Ann Lingard, who, during the course of talking to people who live and work along the coast, has amongst other things; crouched in a creek at dawn to watch wildfowl, eaten raw samphire, managed not to be sea-sick on the fisheries protection vessel, dabbled her fingers in warm molasses and salts, and enjoyed a sumptuous birthday tea at Silloth.

In addition to the Stories, which are illustrated with many images of people, places, paintings and other artworks, there is a section about Ann's guided shore-walks on the coast near Allonby, and a series of photographs of hands holding objects that have been found on the shore. More stories and photographs and other images will be added over time.

WWW.SOLWAYSHORESTORIES.CO.UK



CANDIDATE BIOSPHERE RESERVE GALLOWAY AND SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE

BIGGER BIOSPHERE RESERVE INCLUDES COASTLINE

The proposed 3000 square kilometre Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Reserve moves a step closer to achieving international recognition with the appointment of two new officers, Nic Coombey and Ed Forrest who are tasked with "Building Opportunities in the Biosphere". The positions are part of a joint initiative, managed by Southern Uplands Partnership on behalf of a new community and stakeholder Biosphere Partnership, which has been funded jointly by Ayrshire and Dumfries & Galloway LEADER programmes.

LEADER PROGRAMMES

Galloway and Southern Ayrshire is a candidate for a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve because of its unique combination of special wildlife, rich cultural heritage and communities that care about their environment and want to develop it in a way that makes wise use of their resources.

Although Cairnmore of Fleet, Merrick Kells and Silver Flowe were originally designated in the 1970s it is only recently that UNESCO realised that more was needed to be done to make the Biosphere Reserve designation relevant to the people who treasured these special places. New criteria were drawn up for new Biosphere Reserves and countries round the world were

encouraged to develop them in a way that demonstrated a balanced relationship between people and nature.

After assessing the potential benefits of Biosphere Reserve status and witnessing how other countries had used them to promote tourism and encourage sustainable development the designation was considered worthwhile investigating further. Following consultation with communities across the area it was agreed that an application for an enlarged Biosphere Reserve including much of the Galloway and South Ayrshire coast line should be submitted to UNESCO.

The nomination for the proposed Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Reserve has now been formally submitted to UNESCO and a decision will be made in spring 2012. If successful the new Biosphere Reserve will be the first in Scotland joining two others in the UK. It will be an achievement which will encourage the Partnership to continue to demonstrate how high quality development and nature conservation goes hand in hand.

A small grant scheme is being developed and both Ed and Nic are keen to hear from groups that would like to get involved in helping to shape this next exciting stage of the Biosphere Reserve. They can be contacted on ed@sup.org.uk or nic@sup.org.uk. More information on the proposed Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Reserve can be found by looking at the website on; www.gallowayandsouthernayrshirebiosphere.org.uk/



COASTAL ACCESS

An update on Coastal Access in Cumbria

Work has now started on the England Coast Path - a new National Trail around England's entire open coast which is possible because of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. For the first time people will have the right of access around England's open coast, including, where appropriate, 'spreading room' along the way where they can rest, relax or admire the view.

Work to create the new England Coast Path is starting in Cumbria, along with four other coastal locations in England. The new right of access is expected in these areas within 4 years of starting work there.

Walking the Course

Implementation and delivery of the Coastal Access programme will be led by Natural England working in close partnership with all relevant local authorities. When starting work on a stretch of coast, Natural England will hold strategic discussions with key local interest groups including local access forums, local authorities and local representatives of national body interest groups. During the detailed alignment process, they will then 'walk the course' with owners and occupiers of affected land (wherever they are willing to do this) to discuss the options for coastal access, alignment of the trail itself and the extent of any associated spreading room. This will allow the organisation to understand any specific factors that are needed to be taken account of in future proposals, including infrastructure requirements, and enable owners and occupiers to raise any particular concerns or suggestions that they may have in respect of the route of the trail or the extent of any spreading room.

NB: Under the Act, Natural England must aim to strike a fair balance between the interests of the public in having rights of access over coastal land, and the interests of owners and occupiers of land over which any new rights would be conferred.

Public Consultation

Once Natural England has finished the 'walking the course' process they will publish the Draft Proposals and invite the public to comment on them. After the public consultation, they will give careful consideration to the comments received before preparing a report for submission to the Secretary of State.

Reporting and Representations

After the report has been submitted, there is an eight-week period during which any person may make representations to Natural England about the report; and owners and occupiers of affected land may submit a formal objection if they wish to. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will then make a decision about the report when all representations and objections have been considered. Establishment of the new access arrangements will not begin until that decision is made.

Throughout the implementation process, Natural England will endeavour to keep the public informed of progress at the key stages of implementation and during periods of consultation. They will also be contacting some local people individually in order to have specific discussions about local issues and opportunities along this stretch of coastline (Allonby to Whitehaven).

For further information about Coastal Access and the first stretches of the coast where work will begin visit: www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/enjoying/places/coastalaccess

The Coastal Access Scheme is the methodology that Natural England will use to carry out its coastal access duty. It sets out the key principles on which their access proposals at the local level will be based, and explains how these principles will be applied in the main coastal scenarios. It explains the alignment approach on both the open coast and estuaries, and gives illustrative examples of how this might work in a range of coastal situations. To learn more visit: www.naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/NE269
The Cumbria Coastal Access Delivery Team (Natural England)

FIRST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN SCALLOP DREDGE TECHNOLOGY IN OVER 40 YEARS

The rising cost of fuel prompted Kirkcudbright based Scallop Dredge manufacturers DSM Ltd to design a new type of Scallop Dredge which would be less aggressive to the seabed and more economical to operate than the conventional dredge whose design has not changed in more than 40 years.

Following two years of development DSM Ltd has launched the N-Viro Dredge™ system. A patented development, this is a new concept in trawling for Scallops designed to address the needs for Scallop fishermen to increase their profit margins amid rising costs of fuel.

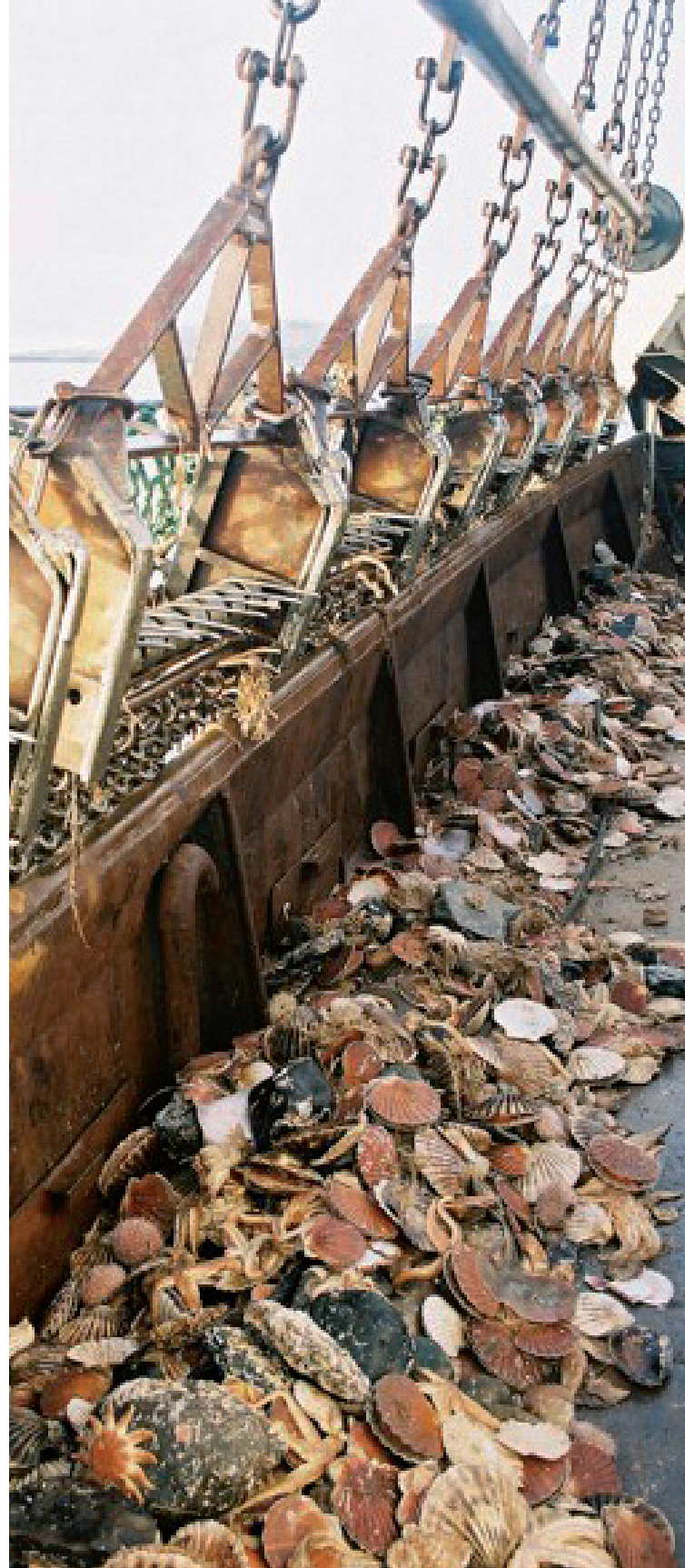
The N-Viro Dredge™ is totally interchangeable with the conventional, New Haven Dredge to avoid added expense for fishermen. The N-Viro Dredge™ has fewer wear parts making maintenance easier and cheaper. It is supported on skis which travel across the seabed instead of the entire weight resting on the aggressive tooth bar which ploughs its path resulting in collecting bulk: stones, rocks etc. and potentially causing damage to the sea bed.

Early development trials were carried out on dry land using a tractor towing a conventional dredge and then the N-Viro Dredge™. Connected in series between the tractor and each dredge was a Crane Scale to measure the difference in effort required to pull each style of dredge. The results were significant as was the difference in ground damage. The N-Viro Dredge™ avoids ‘bulldozing’ along its path, it is less resistant and therefore easier to tow, causing it to be far less damaging to marine flora and fauna and using significantly less fuel.

Chris Bird, DSMs’ Sales and Marketing Manager said “We have trialled numerous materials and various configurations to ensure we obtained the optimum design, addressing such issues for fishermen as durability, cost, fish ability, and ease of use. Our ecological criteria centred primarily on fuel savings but extended to improve selectivity, reduce shell damage, and of course greatly reduce damage to the seabed.”

Extensive sea trials have been carried out around the coast of Northern France. This project, funded by a consortium between Cooperative Maritime, Normandy Regional Council, European Fishing Industry Commission and Caen University has resulted in a detailed and conclusive report when comparing the conventional Newhaven Dredge against N-Viro Dredge. The N-Viro Dredge caused far less damage to the sea bed, showed a conclusive 25% fuel reduction, attracted less stones and significantly there was no damage to the Scallop shells. A cleaner catch means being able to tow for longer periods which together with having to cope with fewer rocks is a major advantage for the men on the deck. Catch rates are comparable and in some cases better than when compared with the conventional dredge and results are consistent in varying types of fishing ground around Scotland.

The development of the N-Viro Dredge™ has also been looked upon favourably by participants in the National Scallop Group and DSM have been praised for their innovative efforts by the group, the members of which include Natural England, DEFRA, University of Bangor and Seafish among others.



Mr John King Managing Director, West Coast Seafoods has also welcomed and endorsed the new development due to the reduction in damaged shells and therefore increased meat yield.

For further information call Chris Bird 07918 715566 or for full technical information, video footage, photo's etc., visit www.n-virodredge.com

DSM Ltd were established in 1996 and manufacture frames, bellies, swords and ancillary equipment for King and Queenie Scallop fishermen of all sizes of fishing vessels throughout UK, Ireland and France. All equipment is designed and manufactured at their factory in Kirkcudbright, South West Scotland.



SUSTAINABLE FISH

Marine Stewardship Council Certification Points to Sustainable Fish

Anyone with an interest in fishing and seafood will have noticed how “Sustainable” is fast becoming the watchword for the industry. Whether you are a consumer or a retailer being asked about sustainable fish, part of the supply chain or in the catching sector, ‘Is it sustainable?’ is the big question we’re all asking or being asked.

In October 2010, fishermen from around the Solway met in Whitehaven and Kirkcudbright to join the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) working in partnership with the Solway Firth Partnership (SFP) at two well-attended events – one either side of the Firth – to find out how they could demonstrate their fisheries’ sustainability through MSC certification. The week kicked off in Whitehaven at The Beacon on West Strand. After presentations by Pam Taylor from SFP and Hannah Arcaro, Claire Pescod and James Simpson from the MSC, the group moved on to discuss the issues facing local fishermen on the Solway Firth and how to overcome potential barriers to MSC certification as the standard for a sustainable and well-managed fishery. The evening finished less formally with fantastic food provided by local restaurant, Zest, on the viewing platform of the Beacon centre overlooking the harbour.

The following day, the road-show moved on to Kirkcudbright to meet Scottish shellfish fishermen and local Salmon Fisheries Interests at the stunning Broughton House. Following a lively discussion of the issues facing the industry, the MSC assessment process and how the Solway fisheries may find funding to enter the MSC programme, everyone was treated to a fabulous supper of local seafood prepared by Tom Kirkpatrick, a Kirkcudbright chef.

The workshops were aimed as an introduction to MSC certification – described by many in the industry as “the gold standard of sustainability.” Every fishery entering MSC assessment faces its own challenges and Claire Pescod, UK Fisheries Outreach Manager for

MSC explained: “These events are about introducing the MSC and putting a face to the organisation. We’re not expecting anyone to rush into assessment straightaway. MSC assessments are a detailed and time consuming activity involving everyone in a fishery so often they have a long build-up as fishermen and other relevant organisations come together to form a group to go through it in partnership. These events were early steps in the journey that – I hope – will one day see Solway Firth fishermen, from both sides of the border, MSC certified. “

“I’m looking forward to my next visit and we are already in discussions with SFP about next steps for those fishermen who are already interested.”

But the task of protecting the oceans for future generations doesn’t only fall to fishermen and governments. Shoppers have a part to play as well. By choosing MSC certified sustainable fish, recognised by looking for the distinctive blue ‘fish tick’ logo, you can help to reward the fishermen who have proved that their fishery is sustainable and well managed. Some great (and reasonably local) examples to look out for next time you’re in the supermarket or eating fish in a restaurant are Scottish haddock and Manx Queenies – both certified recently and now available with the MSC ecolabel showing that they’re from a sustainable and well managed fishery. And if you’re a cat owner, Mars Petcare’s Sheba and Whiskas lines now contain MSC certified fish and are available in stores as part of the company’s wider commitment to using only sustainably sourced fish by 2020 and replacing all wild catch whole fish and fish fillet with sustainable fish by-products. Later this year, MSC hope that the Shetland Islands’ brown crab, velvet crab, lobster and dredged scallop fisheries will also be MSC certified – watch this space! If you’d like to find out more about MSC certification, how you can help, or just some great recipes for sustainable seafood, visit www.msc.org

FLAGS AND FISHERIES FUND

North and West Cumbria have just completed the first hurdle towards seeking funding from the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) by submitting a strategy to obtain FLAG status from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) along with 5 other areas in England: Cornwall, North Devon, Hastings, North Norfolk and the Holderness Coast. The North and West Cumbria FLAG cover the coast from Silloth to Ravenglass.

An allocation of money, called Axis 4, designed to aid the sustainable development of fisheries regions, is being distributed in England through the MMO from the Europe Commission to Fisheries Local Action Groups or FLAGS. The European Commission has created a support unit called FARNET, which will act as a platform for networking between European fisheries areas and will support and guide the FLAGS with their challenge.

A steering group has been set up to help implement the development of the North and West Cumbria FLAG. They have assisted in preparing a local strategy that sets out the issues affecting the area and potential projects to improve the economic sustainability of the area. This was submitted to the MMO for approval at the end of May.

The strength of the strategy, which looks to secure in the region of £1million in grant funding, will depend on the crucial input from all sectors; fishing, processing, tourism, school and further education, food industry etc. Project ideas, under the four themes developed by FARNET, are being welcomed from those who may benefit from them.

The four themes are:

- ADDING VALUE • DIVERSIFICATION
- EDUCATION • EMPOWERING

Ideas put forward so far include developing a Co-Operative, Fish Festivals and Markets; setting up apprenticeships through the local further education college; promoting coastal tourism and working with catering schools to promote cooking with local fish.

Anyone with a project idea for the action plan should initially make contact through the Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners, 27 Lowther Street, Whitehaven, CA28 7DN, 01946 590515 or celia@whitehavenhc.org.uk

EFF IN DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

The situation in Scotland is not quite as advanced as that in Cumbria. However there has been an allocation of approximately €23.49 million for the Highlands and Islands and around €75.04 million for the rest of Scotland secured, varying according to the euro exchange rate.

Dumfries and Galloway Council has just made an application to Marine Scotland with a view to budget allocations being made in the Autumn and possible delivery via the Leader Programme team in New Abbey later this year. There are still a few issues to be sorted out, but hopefully a significant amount of additional money will be made available for coastal communities across Dumfries and Galloway through Axis 4.



NEW PHASE OF FISHING FOR LITTER PROJECT LAUNCHED AT ISLE OF WHITHORN

Fishing for Litter is an international scheme, launched in 2008, involving provision of dedicated disposal facilities at a network of harbours in Scotland and northern Europe. Commercial fishermen are provided with large bags so that any litter hauled in with the catch can be stored until it is landed. The scheme is led by KIMO, an organisation that tackles marine pollution by working with around 150 European local authorities. KIMO also contributes to marine litter policy development and carries out research on the impacts of litter on the marine environment.

A new phase of the Fishing for Litter scheme was launched at the Isle of Whithorn on Friday 27 May and was well supported by fishermen, members of the community and related organisations. Aileen McLeod, the newly elected SNP South of Scotland list MSP, came along to lend her encouragement to the expansion of this innovative international initiative.

Councillor Alistair Geddes said: "I am delighted that a grant from Wigtown Area Committee has enabled this scheme to go ahead on a trial basis for a year. Marine litter is a global problem and I am very pleased that the fishing community at the Isle of Whithorn is playing an active part in tackling the issue."

Tom Piper, KIMO UK Co-ordinator, who gave an informative presentation at the launch event said: "Marine litter can have devastating effects on wildlife, costs the fishing industry money in downtime when gear becomes entangled, and often ends up on beaches where it detracts from scenic coastlines. The vast majority of litter is plastic which never biodegrades; it simply breaks down into small pieces which pollute the marine environment for ever more. This launch marks a new phase of the Fishing for Litter project in Scotland."

Shaun McGuire, Harbour Master at the Isle of Whithorn has been delighted by the uptake at the Isle of Whithorn already with more skippers joining at May's launch: "The first to sign up was Andrew Lochhead, a local crab and lobster fisherman who skippers Bright Horizon, closely followed by James Kyle, Michael McGuire, Domhnall MacLachlainn, Eric McIlwraith and Paul Maguire who all skipper vessels working in the local area."

Friday's event concluded with a buffet showcasing the excellent crab, lobster, scallop and other seafood landed locally - expertly prepared by Alistair Scouler's team at the Steam Packet in the Isle of Whithorn. Pam Taylor of Solway Firth Partnership said: "There is an opportunity to capitalise on the value the fishing sector brings to the local area by making more use of our high quality seafood, increasing understanding of the industry and improving interpretation at our ports and harbours which are such a focal point of coastal towns and villages."

Nic Coombey, well known for his work on community projects in Dumfries and Galloway, kindly loaned his 'Flotsam Faces' to help illustrate the marine litter issue at the event. The weird and wonderful faces are made from beach litter mounted in fish boxes - all collected from the local shoreline.

The Fishing For Litter scheme is sponsored by SNH, The Crown Estate, The Scottish Government, Aberdeenshire Council, The Highland Council, Total E&P UK Ltd, Seagreen Wind Energy and the Scottish Fisherman's Trust. The project also benefits from the time given to the project by the staff at all the participating harbours.



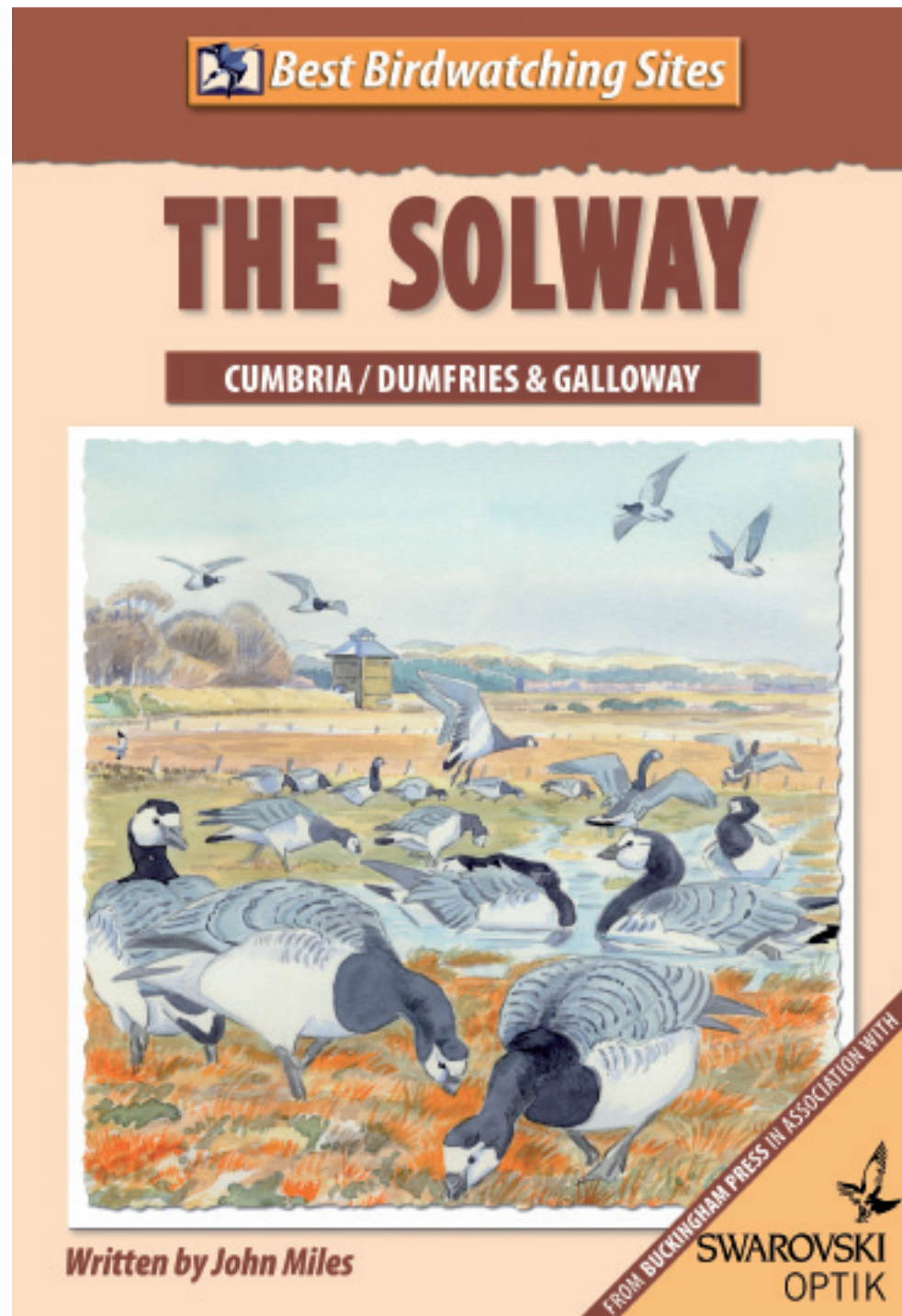
BEST BIRD WATCHING SITES

THE SOLWAY, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY/CUMBRIA BY JOHN MILES

The Author Gives a Personal Insight into Writing the Book

This book has been a great experience to write. The title 'The Solway' represents the divide between the two areas and I have tried to cover the very best in sites for the book. It has meant that I have travelled all over Cumbria and Dumfries and Galloway, finding some new locations I have never visited before but many which I have. I have met many new folk on my travels. Some are now good friends and others I know I can turn to when needing new information. This is the 6th regional guide in the series and to think it comes before such well known birding counties as Suffolk, Northumbria, Dorset and Devon shows how much the publisher feels the area has got to offer. What I hope to prove is that the areas can be visited 12 months of the year and not just when the Barnacle Geese arrive and depart. Sea cliffs, moorland, open water and woodland are very much spring and summer locations. Add on sea watching for Skuas, autumn migration and raptor viewing and the seasons are rolling into exciting times.

In the book, 378 species of bird are covered along with the best 3 sites to find them with dates of last occurrence for the rare species. There are 76 sites covered on the Cumbrian side of which 54 contain walks including 22 circular walks. On the Dumfries and Galloway side there are 84 sites covered with 49 walks of which 22 are circular. This should encourage walkers as well as bird watchers to use the book as there are many location maps in the chapters as well as information on disabled access, best dog walking sites, transport and useful contacts.



How could you not have this book in your library!



A FIVE YEAR SOLWAY COAST PLAN CHAMPIONS HAAF NETTING

A five-year masterplan to secure the future status of the Solway coast will champion the importance of haaf net fishing.

The plan was launched at the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) conference at Silloth's Golf Hotel last Friday. Dr Brian Irving, chief officer for the AONB, said: "It is a smart plan and is very achievable."

The organisation will be collaborating to carry out a project to highlight the importance of haaf netting as a heritage fishery. Haaf netters in the Solway believe over regulation is driving the 1,000-year-old way of life to extinction. The AONB plan states: "The long-term survival of the fishery depends on the sustainability of the salmon population and on the steady recruitment of fishermen from the local community and beyond."

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE — HAAF NETTING

The opportunity to take part in Haaf netting is now available for anyone who would like to try their hand at this traditional fishing technique.

Mark Messenger of the Highland Laddie Inn at Glasson is offering a unique experience to the public of fishing a tide with an experienced Haaf netter and completing the package with a salmon dinner.

Annette Gibbons from "Cumbria on a Plate" was given the activity as a birthday present and found the whole experience

of catching a glossy sea trout thrilling. She was provided with all the waterproof gear needed before setting off for the shore. Lots were then drawn for the positions in the water from the shore to the middle. The Haaf nets are 17 feet beams of pitch pine that can bend in the water and two uprights which sit in the sand. The nets themselves are placed so that they span out behind the fisherman but Annette was taught to catch a piece of the netting around a finger on each hand, so that the slightest touch of a fish would alert her to its presence. Luckily, as a sea trout swam into the net, Mark was on hand to help upright the beam and wrap the net over the beam to prevent it from escaping.

As Annette commented, "What a way to spend a mid-summer's evening even if I did get carried away at one point. The lure of the warm water was too much and I lay back thinking that I was in a pool, only to find cold sea water flooding into my waders and down to the woollen socks! It did get a bit cold after that. However it was worth it - the two and half pound sea trout was so tasty, filleted and cooked very quickly over the hot coals of a barbeque".

To go Haaf net fishing with Mark Messenger contact him at The Highland Laddie Inn, Glasson, Carlisle, Cumbria CA7 5DT, 016973 51839 or highlandladdie@talktalk.net or find out more about cooking local fish from Annette visit www.cumbriaonaplate.co.uk

August

Monday 1	AONB Sign Painting 10.30 am Booking: Not required	Feeling artistic? Why not join the team and help to finish the repainting of the AONB signs along the coast. Paint and brushes will be provided but please bring suitable clothing and a packed lunch. Contact: AONB Unit, Liddell Street, Silloth, CA7 4DD, next to the Solway Coast Discovery Centre. 016973 33055 or email: graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk Meet: Car park opposite Twentymanís shop in Allonby
Monday 1 Monday 15	Crook of Baldoon Guided Walk 12noon - 2.00pm Booking: Not required	Catch the tide with the warden for an informative walk through the reserve. Learn about the resident wildlife and RSPB's on-going conservation work. Take binoculars and walking boots. Contact: Paul Tarling 01988 402130 Meet: Crook of Baldoon cark park DG8 9AQ, NX445530
Tuesday 2	Mull of Galloway RSPB Guided Walk 1.00pm - 2.00pm EVERY TUESDAY IN AUGUST Booking: Not required	Discover the Mull's wild flowers and returning seabirds while keeping your eyes peeled for harbour porpoises. Wear suitable clothing and sturdy shoes. RSPB's Mull of Galloway reserve is by the Lighthouse at Drummore, south of Stranraer. Contact: The Warden 01776 840539 Meet: Mull of Galloway Lighthouse, DG9 9HP NX155304
Wednesday 3	Wild Wednesday 11.00am - 4.00pm EVERY WEDNESDAY IN AUGUST Booking: Essential for the workshops	A family fun day with paper plant pot making and games. Themed workshops will take place throughout the day focussing on different wildlife. Contact: Mersehead 01387 780579 or e-mail mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, Dumfries, NX925561
Wednesday 3	Solway Coast AONB Volunteer Recruitment and Slide Show 2.00pm Booking: Not required	Come along and meet Graeme Proud, the AONB Volunteer Coordinator, who will give a talk about the work that the volunteer group get involved in within the Solway Coast AONB. With many on-going projects we are always keen to talk to anyone who is interested in the conservation of this beautiful area. Contact: AONB Unit, Liddell Street, Silloth, CA7 4DD, next to the Solway Coast Discovery Centre. 016973 33055 or e-mail: graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk Meet: The AONB Discovery Centre, Silloth
Thursday 4 Wednesday 10 Wednesday 17	Beachcomber Walk at New England Bay 11.00am - 12.00noon Booking: Not required	Join an RSPB guide to see what can be found along this beautiful shore. Contact: The Warden 01776 840539 Meet: New England Bay public car park, DG9 9NX, NX119420
Thursday 4	Butterflies, Bugs & Beasties 2.00pm - 3.30pm Booking: Essential	A beginner's guide to who's who in the wonderful world of minibeasts. Explore the Rockcliffe meadows and meet some of the tiny residents. Contact: National Trust for Scotland Ranger Service 01556 503702 Meet: Rockcliffe main car park NX852535
Friday 5	Family Fun Fridays EVERY FRIDAY IN AUGUST 11.00am - 4.00pm Booking: Not required	Treasure trails, beach art competition, face painting and more. Have fun with nature at RSPB Mersehead reserve Contact: Mersehead 01387 780579 or e-mail mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, Dumfries, NX925561
Sunday 7	Beached Art 11.00am - 4.00pm Booking: Not required	All beach lovers are invited to take part in designing and making sand sculptures to illustrate how wonderful our living seas truly are. Basking sharks, starfish, minke whale, cuttle fish and periwinkle are just a few of the amazing creatures that you can create on the day but there are many more to choose from. Bring your spade, your friends and a sense of fun and join Cumbria Wildlife Trust in creating a sand menagerie of marine wildlife on the beach at St Bees. Other fun to be had on the day includes rock pool rambles, bird walks, artist workshops, kiddies' activities and face painting. Contact: Cumbria Wildlife Trust 01228 829570 Meet: St Bees Beach, near Whitehaven

August

Sunday 7	Merse Walk 2.00pm - 4.00pm Booking: Essential	A guided walk with the warden to experience the unique flora and fauna of the Caerlaverock merse. Normal admission charges apply. WWT members free. Contact: WWT 01387 770200 Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657
Monday 8	The BIG Mud Walk 11.00am - 4.00pm Booking: Essential	If you like mud then this is the walk for you. Take a look at Wigtown Bay Local Nature Reserve (LNR), the largest LNR in Britain, from the very centre, rest for a while on a ship wreck and find what you can eat out there. Please wear wellies and be prepared to get muddy. Contact: Elizabeth Tindal 01988 402401 Meet: Details on booking
Wednesday 10	Hay Making at the Beckfoot Quaker Burial Ground 10.30am Booking: Not required	The local burial ground at Beckfoot has an important little meadow which has been cut by AONB volunteers for a number of years. It is hoped there will be a good turnout of volunteers so that the meadow can be cut and the hay re-moved in one day. The site is a wonderful haven for common lizards, as well as stoats and weasels, which feed on the many voles within the reserve. Anyone with a few hours to spare will be welcome to come along and assist and learn about the history of the site. Contact: AONB Unit, Liddell Street, Silloth, CA7 4DD, next to the Solway Coast Discovery Centre. 016973 33055 or email: graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk Meet: Outside the Burial Ground in Beckfoot (between Silloth and Allonby on the B5300), Parking is on the roadside
Thursday 11	Conservation Work Party at Bowness-on-Solway Nature Reserve 10.00am -3.30pm Booking: Essential	Come and join the regular team of volunteers who carry out practical work on this nature reserve every Thursday. This is a fantastic reserve for amphibians, birds, butterflies and dragonflies. We will be carrying out boundary works, bracken control and access. A walk around the reserve with the Honorary Reserve Manager usually follows the practical work. Please bring appropriate outdoor clothing and a packed lunch. Suitable for children aged 16 years and over. Contact: Kevin Scott on 01228 829575 Meet: Nature Reserve entrance gate, NY206617
Thursday 11 Thursday 25	Rough Island 2.00pm - 4.00pm Booking: Essential	Join the National Trust Rangers for a walk to Rough Island and explore the mud flats on the way. Discover more about estuary and island wildlife and enjoy fantastic views of the National Scenic Area. Contact: NTS Ranger Service 01556 503702 Meet: Rockcliffe main car park, NX852535
Saturday 13	Workington Walk 11.00am - 4.00pm Booking: Not required	Come along on this 4 mile walk and learn about the wildlife of the coast and harbour at Workington. Come and see what is on the shoreline and growing on areas of reclaimed land near the river mouth. Please bring suitable outdoor clothing and a packed lunch. The event is free and is suitable for accompanied children aged 8 years and over. Contact: Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Penrith Local Support Group. The Secretary 01768 840122 Meet: Car park at the end of the Harbour Road, near the lighthouse, NX984295
Saturday 13	Maryport Trawler Race 12.00 noon Booking: Not required	Prizes for best dressed boat, best dressed crew, best visiting boat & more. Displays from Maryport Sea cadets, & Maryport Inshore Rescue. All vessels welcome - commercial or non commercial, this is a fun day for all. All proceeds go to charity. Meet: Maryport Harbour
Sunday 14	Powfoot Past and Present 2.00pm - 4.00pm Booking: Not required	A walk through the grounds of the former Powfoot Lakes with the ranger from Hoddom and Kinmount Estate. Contact: Duncan Ford 07711681505 Meet: Powfoot, in front of old bowling green, NY149658
Wednesday 17	Walking at Wigtown Bay 2.00pm - 4.00pm Booking: Not required	Come for a walk in Wigtown Bay with the local ranger. Look out for and learn about the birds that spent time here. Contact: Elizabeth Tindal 01988 402401 Meet: Wigtown Bay Visitor Centre, Wigtown, NX434553

dates for your diary

dates for your diary



August

Thursday 18	The Port to Port Walk with Lighthouses & Shipwrecks 10.00am - 12noon and 1.00pm - 4.00pm Booking: Essential	Take a walk from Kilantrigan Lighthouse to Portpatrick and then from Port Morrich to Portpatrick - 2 half day walks that can be combined as a full day walk. A bus will drop you off at the start of the cliff top walk to Portpatrick. You will learn about lighthouses, ships radios and what happens when they don't work - shipwrecks! Contact: Elizabeth Tindal 01988 402401 Meet: Portpatrick, details on booking
Friday 19	Guided Circular Walk from Old Sandsfield to Edward I Monument 1.00pm - 3.30pm Booking: Essential	Come along and join in a pleasant stroll to the historic Edward I Monument and learn a little more about the history of his life with Volunteer Coordinator, Graeme Proud. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear. Ground can be uneven and distance is roughly 3 miles. Contact: AONB Unit, Liddell Street, Sillloth, CA7 4DD, next to the Solway Coast Discovery Centre. 016973 33055 or email: graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk Meet: Monument car park NY324606
Tuesday 23	Rockcliffe to Sandyhills Coastal Path Walk 10.30am - 3.30pm Booking: Essential	A chance to walk 5 miles along one of Galloway's best coastal paths, with a guide, examining various aspects of natural history along the way. Tide permitting, there may be a chance to investigate the smugglersí caves. Return transport arranged. Contact: Keith Kirk 01556 505479 Meet: Rockcliffe top car park, NX852536
Tuesday 23	Crook of Baldoon Mud Walk 2.00pm - 4.00pm Booking: Not required	A walk out to Wigtown Bay Local Nature Reserve from a different angle. Find out what makes an estuary, learn about mud plants and the wildlife within the beautiful landscape of Wigtown Bay. You will need wellies as you will be going out onto the mud. Contact: Paul Tarling 01988 402130 Meet: RSPB's Crook of Baldoon, nr Wigtown, NX443531
Friday 26	Crosscanonby Salt Pans - Restoration Work 10.30am Booking: Not required	The volunteers will be carrying on with the scrub clearance and weed removal in and around the historic salt pans area. All tools will be provided. Please bring a packed lunch and suitable clothing. Contact: AONB Unit, Liddell Street, Sillloth, CA7 4DD, next to the Solway Coast Discovery Centre. 016973 33055 or e-mail: graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk Meet: Crosscanonby Road End Car Park on the B5300

September

Tuesday 6 Tuesday 13	Mull of Galloway RSPB Guided Walk 1.00pm - 2.00pm Booking: Not required	Discover the Mull's wild flowers and returning seabirds while keeping your eyes peeled for harbour porpoises. Wear suitable clothing and sturdy shoes. RSPB's Mull of Galloway reserve is by the Lighthouse at Drummore, south of Stranraer. Contact: The Warden 01776 840539 Meet: Mull of Galloway Lighthouse, DG9 9HP, NX155304
Wednesday 7	BEACHCOMBER WALK AT NEW ENGLAND BAY 11.00am - 12noon Booking: Not required	Join an RSPB guide to see what can be found along this beautiful shore. Contact: The Warden 01776 840539 Meet: New England Bay public car park, DG9 9NX, NX119420
Sunday 11	Walk to the Dark Age 1.00pm - 4.00pm Booking: Essential	Visit two hill forts on a walk to the Dark Age. Join the National Trust for Scotland archaeologist for a walk exploring the history of the Mote of Mark and Castlehill point. Contact: NTS Ranger Service 01556 503702 Meet: Rockcliffe main car park, NX852535

September

Monday 12 Wednesday 28	Crook of Baldoon Guided Walk 12noon - 2.00pm Booking: Not required	Catch the tide with the warden for an informative walk through the reserve. Learn about the resident wildlife and RSPB'S on-going conservation work. Take binoculars and walking boots. Contact: Paul Tarling 01988 402130 Meet: Crook of Baldoon cark park, DG8 9AQ, NX445530
Wednesday 21	Photo Walk Rascarrel 10.00am - 12.30pm Booking: Essential	Why not join Keith Kirk, Dumfries and Galloway Council Ranger and wildlife photographer on a leisurely walk in the countryside looking at different ways of photographing the natural world. A basic knowledge of your camera and itís functions is the only requirement. Bring a tripod if you have one. Limited places. Contact: Keith Kirk 01556 505479 answer-phone Meet: Rascarrel, details given on booking
Wednesday 28	High Tide Watch 11.30am - 1.45pm Booking: Essential	As the tide covers the mudflats of Caerlaverock NNR, thousands of wildfowl and waders that roost and feed there are forced inland - join NNR staff as this spectacle unfolds. Contact: Reserve staff 01387 770275 Meet: Castle Corner car park, NY018652

October

Sunday 9	Dusk Flight 4.30pm - 6.00pm 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. Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free. Contact: WWT 01387 770200 Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657
Thursday 13 Thursday 27	Crook of Baldoon Guided Walk Booking: Not required	Catch the tide with the warden for an informative walk through the reserve. Learn about the resident wildlife and RSPB's on-going conservation work. Take binoculars and walking boots. Contact: Paul Tarling 01988 402130 Meet: Crook of Baldoon cark park DG8 9AQ, NX445530
Sunday 16	Dawn Flight 6.45am - 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. Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free (catering not included in price). Contact: WWT 01387 770200 Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657
Monday 17 - Sunday 30	Goosey Gander 11.00am- 12noon Booking: Not required	Come along on this daily guided walk around the reserve and find out more about the Svalbard Barnacle Geese that over winter on the reserve. This event is free but donations are welcome. Contact: Mersehead, 01387 780579 or e-mail mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, Dumfries, NX925561
Wednesday 26	Photo Walk to Castlehill Point Rockcliffe 9.30am - 1.00pm Booking: Essential	Why not join Keith Kirk, Dumfries and Galloway Council Ranger and wildlife photographer on a leisurely walk in the countryside looking at different ways of photographing the natural world in Autumn. A basic knowledge of your camera and it's functions is the only requirement. Bring a tripod if you have one. Limited places Contact: Keith Kirk 01556 505479 answer-phone Meet: Rockcliffe, details given on booking, NX852536

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.

dates for your diary

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