

# Severn Tidings

Working in partnership for the future of the Severn Estuary

[www.severnestuary.net](http://www.severnestuary.net)

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# Sharing Experiences of the Severn Estuary

# Welcome!



Cllr Martin Quaile,  
Chair of the Severn  
Estuary Partnership

Another period has passed by in a flurry of activity for both the Severn Estuary Partnership and the

Severn Estuary itself. I have greatly enjoyed being involved as SEP Chair in numerous estuary wide activities and look forward to furthering my involvement throughout the rest of the year.

Significant activities have included continued engagement in flood risk management matters working closely with the Environment Agency and SECC (see page 8), close working with the Marine Management Organisation and Welsh Government on the development of Marine Planning, co-hosting two public engagement events on Welsh MCZs in Partnership with Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum (<http://bit.ly/16JuXum>) and the development of a Wales Coastal Directory on behalf of the Wales Coastal Maritime Partnership in conjunction with Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum.

We also enjoyed our Annual Forum Event last year in Bristol which included discussions on Tidal Power Options, the sedimentary system of the Severn Estuary, flood protection and marine conservation (page 3). Further afield, SEP has continued to share best practices and learn from European Partners through the INTERREG IVC DeltaNet project (pages 4 and 6).

We were also given the opportunity to present evidence to the National Assembly for Wales' Environment and Sustainability Committee on Marine Policy in Wales on the 8th November 2013. SEP represented the views of its Partners and was grateful for the opportunity to do so. A copy of the committee's report and supporting materials can be accessed at: <http://bit.ly/11Y5qdz>

As you can see, it has been a very busy but successful period for the Partnership and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your support. The Partnership relies upon the support and efforts of every single partner and I would therefore actively encourage you to continue to support our joint work in order to assist us in driving forward the sustainable management of our Seven Estuary.



SEP student summer placements, from left to right: Zoe Whitlock (SEP); Emma Evans (SOSER); Claudia Emery (ASERA).

## Sharing experiences of the Severn Estuary

**As Chair of the Severn Estuary Partnership Management Group I am pleased to write the editorial for this, the 15th edition of Severn Tidings. As I reflect back on the 18 years of service that the Partnership has offered and the achievements in this time, I am humbled by the efforts of each and every partner and of what we can achieve together.**

As we have already heard from Cllr Quaile, this year has been no different, with the marine sector developing at pace, the work of the Severn Estuary Partnership diversifying and of course the development of our own estuary.

We have also seen changes within the Partnership with Paul Parker leaving for the Environment Agency after 5 years with SEP – we wish him well for the future!

SEP has been busy continuing its involvement in the European INTERREG IVC DeltaNet project which saw SEP host the final meeting in Cardiff in January 2013. We have welcomed the opportunity to learn from DeltaNet partners, offer our experiences and best practices and discuss the challenges presented by the various Deltas and Estuaries represented within this valuable network. We hope that the project's outputs can be useful in terms of the continued sustainable management of not only the Severn but our shared Delta and Estuary Regions across Europe. Additional details on the DeltaNet project can be found on pages 4 and 6 (<http://bit.ly/1Om7Ys>)

Closer to home, the Partnership hosted a successful Annual Forum on the 11th September 2012 in Bristol. Discussion topics included, Tidal Power, Shoreline Management, the European Marine Site and the sedimentary system of the Severn. Further details regarding this event can be found on page 3. Partnership staff are currently busy organising the 2013 Severn Estuary Forum which is to be held in Gloucester on the 17th October, we look forward to welcoming you (details can be found on the back page).

The State of the Severn Estuary Report, which was launched at the 2011 Severn Estuary Forum has continued to develop with a series of updated report cards and updates. Further details on these report cards can be found on page 5.

The Partnership has also been representing the Severn Estuary on national consultations and marine developments including the Welsh MCZ process and the development of Marine Planning throughout the UK's coastal waters. SEP staff are actively engaged within the Welsh Marine Conservation Zones Stakeholder Focus Group helping to ensure the best interest of the Severn and the views of the Severn's stakeholders are heard. Current developments in this process can be found at: <http://bit.ly/14MAAQ5>

The Partnership also continues to work closely with the Welsh Government, Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs towards the development of Marine Planning for the Severn Estuary. Through supporting the work of the Coastal Partnership

Network (CPN) and Wales Coastal Maritime Partnership (WCMP), SEP has been able to help to develop a report with the CPN for the MMO (focusing on Partnership working at the coast: see page 7) and the development of a Wales Coastal Directory on behalf of the WCMP.

Partnership staff have also been representing the views of the Severn and explaining the merits of Partnership working to the National Assembly for Wales' Environment and Sustainability Committee. Following this, Paul Parker and I had the opportunity to meet with the previous Environment and Sustainable Development Minister for Wales, John Griffiths, to further discuss the work of the Severn Estuary Partnership and benefits of joint working throughout the marine planning process and beyond. We welcomed this opportunity to talk with the Minister and look forward to furthering our close working relationship with the Welsh Government Marine Team.

Partnership staff have also been taking an active interest in the development for proposals of marine renewables in the Severn Estuary. At the time of writing the Energy and Climate Change Committee has just published its report on the proposal for a Severn Barrage. The partnership will update members on the output of this process through its E-News and Severn Tidal Power Resource pages: <http://www.severnestuary.net/sep/resource.html>

It is clear to see that it has been a busy and exciting year for the marine sector and specifically the Severn Estuary and the work of the Partnership. With continued development of the nuclear power industries, proposals for marine renewables, development of Marine Conservation Zones, progression of marine planning and continued industrial and touristic uses of our estuary I am sure that 2013 will be another busy and important year. I therefore would like to thank you all for your support and I look forward to continuing to work closely with you to enjoy, harness and protect our unique estuary. Through your generous support and partnership working we are able to stride towards the sustainable management of the Severn Estuary.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Severn Tidings and I look forward to welcoming you to the 2013 Severn Estuary Forum to be held on the 17th October in Gloucester. If you have any comments or suggestions for future articles, please do not hesitate to contact the SEP office.

*George Ashworth  
Severn Estuary Partnership  
Management Group Chair*

# SEVERN ESTUARY FORUM 2012

Tuesday the 11th September 2012

Armada House, Telephone Avenue, Bristol, BS1 4BQ

91 delegates from around the estuary came together at Armada House, Bristol to attend the 2012 Severn Estuary Forum on Tuesday 11th September. The Severn Estuary Forum is a key annual event hosted by the Severn Estuary Partnership, and attracts a wide range of attendees with interests in the management of the estuary, from local authorities and planners to representatives of port authorities, fishermen and farmers.

Following the format of previous forums, the 2012 Forum was a lively day of formal and informal presentations and debate. Attendees were treated to a variety of talks which explored the unique features of the Severn. Speakers from a range of different backgrounds (from the Solent Estuary Forum, Cardiff University, the Environment Agency, ABP MER, Natural England, Devon & Severn IFCA, the Crown Estate, the Welsh Government and the Coastal Partnership Network) provided a fascinating overview of estuary highlights and perspectives.

Highlights in last year's Exploring Our Estuary programme included:

- An overview of state of the estuary reporting. After an informative explanation of the Solent's well tested approach to coastal reporting from Gemma Conway, the forum learnt of SEP's recent and ongoing



2012 Severn Estuary Forum, Armada House, Bristol

work building on the 'State of the Severn Estuary Report (SOSER).' This is reported on separately in this issue (page 5).

- Exploring the features of the Severn Estuary, both from a physical environment and resources perspective, and from a natural and cultural environment perspective. This included presentations on the potential of tidal energy resources as well as a talk on the characteristics of the Severn Estuary European Marine Site.
- Looking at managing our common resource, with talks from the Crown Estate, the Welsh Government and the Severn Estuary Partnership. These explored possible future changes in estuary planning and also put SEP's work into the wider UK and European perspective.

All in all, 2012 was a successful and memorable occasion. Feedback from the event was excellent, with many people commenting on the extremely high level of knowledge and expertise of the speakers.

Full Severn Estuary Forum 2012 Programme: <http://bit.ly/11FQWEy>

Chair and Speakers' Notes: <http://bit.ly/16uBszl>

For photos of this event, follow this link: <http://bit.ly/18PS4b0>



Taking questions from the audience

## BCYA Blue Book

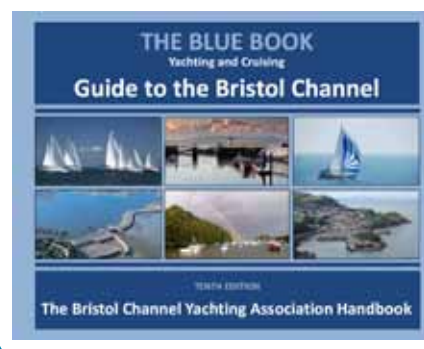
The 10th edition of The Bristol Channel Handbook, affectionately known as the 'Blue Book' was launched at the Bristol Channel Yachting Association's Annual General Meeting.

The Bristol Channel Yachting Association is comprised of clubs and organisations that have a connection with the Bristol Channel. It provides a forum for its members and represents their collective views and interests to the local regulatory bodies and other national/international yachting organisations.

The 'Blue Book' is an essential guide for yachtsman sailing in the Bristol Channel. The 124 page book includes details of the yacht clubs and their facilities, local ports and harbour with sketches of the entrances. It was launched by Professor Mark Horton, a British maritime and historical archaeologist, television presenter of BBC Coast.

The 'Blue Book' is available from local Yacht Clubs in the Bristol Channel, also from Force 4 in Cardiff, Bristol and Swansea or from Watchet Marina.

Alternatively send a cheque, postal order (or cash in person) made payable to The Bristol Channel Yachting Association or B.C.Y.A. for £10.00 which covers the cost of postage to: Susanne Newbold, Bay Marine Insurance Consultants Limited, Cardiff Marine Village, Penarth Road, CARDIFF, CF11 8TU Email: [admin@baymarineinsurance.co.uk](mailto:admin@baymarineinsurance.co.uk)



# DeltaNet Final Project Meeting

## Cardiff 9-11th January 2013



DeltaNet partners' site visit to the Newport Wetlands © Gwilym Owen



DeltaNet meeting at Cardiff University © Gwilym Owen



Male and female tufted ducks, Newport Wetlands © Gwilym Owen

The DeltaNet Project sought to help its partners from deltas and estuaries across Europe work together and share experience and good practice in a number of key areas, such as: the environment; risk prevention; industry; innovation and the knowledge economy. Various themes have been discussed to provide a framework with which to create a coordinated approach to the integrated management and conservation of these vulnerable regions, both from an environmental and economic point of view.

On a series of fine sunny days in January this year, the Severn Estuary Partnership (SEP) hosted the final INTERREG IVC funded DeltaNet project meeting at Cardiff University to discuss the final two theme workshops of Theme 4, Public Awareness and Theme 5, Coordinated Delta Policy.

The DeltaNet partners' visit to the Severn Estuary region began with an opportunity on the first day for a site visit to Cardiff Bay and Newport Wetlands where delegates had an opportunity to learn about Europe's largest waterfront development and the associated compensatory site, the Newport Wetlands, linking to key themes of the project.

During this site visit, partners visited the Cardiff Bay Barrage, which was completed in 1999 to impound the mouths of the River Taff and River Ely, creating a 2km<sup>2</sup> freshwater lake as a catalyst to the regeneration of Cardiff's old docks area (Europe's largest waterfront development at the time), as well as to protect the city from flooding. Here they were able to listen to a series of talks from former Cardiff councillor, Simon Wakefield; Rhys Morgan of Natural Resources Wales, and Rhoda Ballinger of Cardiff University. These were on the historical development of Cardiff; the development of the barrage and reasons for its construction; the political issues in needing to provide a compensatory habitat due to the SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) designation of the bay and the implications of the barrage for migratory fish and the construction of a fish pass.

The partners were then taken by boat to showcase the Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve and its development in the wake of the completion of the Cardiff Bay Barrage, for further talks on the ecological implications and conservation issues compared to the opportunities for tourism and recreation.

After lunch at the historic Norwegian Church, the final part of the field trip included a site visit to the Newport Wetlands where RSPB site staff gave a walking tour of the reserve and a talk about how the site has developed ecologically from its inception as a compensatory habitat for Cardiff Bay into a flourishing sanctuary, on reclaimed industrial land on the edge of the city of Newport. The wetlands have now become an important stopping off point for migratory bird species that frequent the estuary, including bearded tits; dunlin; little egrets; little grebes; shovelers, and even avocets.

The partners were highly impressed with what Cardiff Bay and the Wetlands had to offer the local population from a recreational and conservational point of view:

“Great wetland reserve and view on the Severn Estuary, liked the industrial atmosphere of the power plant in combination with the natural values in the reserve and the accompanying fields outside the reserve!” Paul Swagermakers, Minho, Spain

“The image of a little sailing/fishing boat leaving the sluice, going into the estuary in the sun, pops up.” Jon Coosen, Scheldt, Netherlands

For more information:

Cardiff Bay Barrage: <http://bit.ly/XRGDKG>

Newport Wetlands: [www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/n/newportwetlands/](http://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/n/newportwetlands/)

Site visit images to Cardiff Bay and Newport

Wetlands: [www.flickr.com/groups/2141541@N20/](http://www.flickr.com/groups/2141541@N20/)



Frequent fliers, Newport Wetlands © Gwilym Owen



East Usk Lighthouse © Gwilym Owen

# Tidal Power in the Severn Estuary

**The issue of tidal power in the Severn Estuary seems not to have been far from the headlines for the past three decades. The latest debate has again centred on a proposal for a Severn Barrage scheme from Lavernock Point near Penarth to Brean Down near Weston-super-Mare (frequently termed the Cardiff-Weston Barrage).**

The latest scheme is being promoted by Hafren Power, a private sector consortium including major engineering and construction companies. Following the submission of a business case to Government and representation to the Prime Minister's Office by one of the scheme's key supporters the former Secretary of State for Wales, Peter Hain, the House of Commons Energy and Climate Change Select Committee were tasked with considering the Hafren Power proposal.

The Select Committee, after taking written and

oral evidence earlier this year from relevant organisations and individuals, published its findings 'A Severn Barrage?' on the 10th of June. The report states that although a tidal barrage across the Severn could contribute to energy and climate change objectives, the £34bn Hafren Power scheme had failed to demonstrate economic, environmental and public acceptability. It added that potential environmental impacts had not been adequately addressed, and that although the construction of the barrage was to be privately funded, potentially significant government subsidy for the electricity would still be required for 30 years. The report concluded with the recommendation that the Government should not support the proposed scheme in its present form and that Hafren Power undertake and make available, further assessments.

At the recent Severn Barrage and Tidal Energy conference on the 26th of June in Cardiff

organised by the Institute of Civil Engineers a representative of Hafren Power stated that whilst it was disappointed with the findings of the Select Committee, it will continue to promote its scheme and work towards meeting the recommendations of the report.

In addition to the Cardiff-Weston Barrage proposal, there continues to be support for alternative schemes to harness the tidal power resource both in the estuary and areas of the Bristol Channel. Some of the technologies involved were presented at the Sustainable Severn conference held at the University of the West of England in Bristol, on the 18th of April.

For further information on tidal power in the Severn Estuary, including links to the reports and conferences referred to in this article, please visit our Tidal Power Resource Page: [www.severnestuary.net/sep/resource.html](http://www.severnestuary.net/sep/resource.html)

## State of the Severn Estuary Reporting

**With support from the Environment Agency (Wales), Natural Resources Wales and a number of Cardiff University funded student placements, SEP has begun to develop a system of Severn Estuary reporting, updating the popular 2011 State of the Severn Estuary Report (<http://bit.ly/1bFuUU4>). Following the recommendations of the Autumn 2011 IMCORE workshop with key stakeholders, SEP has initiated the development of a long-term, continuous reporting process including the development of additional themes and indicators.**

Updating trends from the 2011 Report, a draft set of report cards was produced last autumn to provide a concise and user-friendly snapshot on key topics (Population & development; Port traffic; Maintenance dredging; Sea defence & shoreline management; Bathing water quality; The water environment). Following circulation of the draft cards for comment at the Severn Estuary Forum last year and a review of SEP's

website, it has now been decided to merge updates of the report card series with SEP web revision. A suite of new 'Estuary' pages for the SEP website is under development incorporating up-to-date data and information on a range of key themes.

It is hoped that these pages will be refreshed annually with new data relating to specific estuary indicators, following common practice elsewhere. It is also intended that all new updates will be externally vetted by key stakeholders and relevant experts and will be widely advertised via e-news when released on the web. The first new-look 'Estuary' pages will be published and launched at the Forum this autumn – we hope you will like them!

If you have any data or information relevant to the reporting process or would like to be involved in the reporting process in any way (including funding support or even good photos) we'd be delighted to hear from you ([Severn@Cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:Severn@Cardiff.ac.uk)).



State of the Severn Estuary Report, Autumn 2011

# EXPLORE THE SEVERN



Coastal walk view point © Lucy Taylor

Explore the countryside of South Gloucestershire with the fantastic scenery and spectacular views of the Severn Estuary.

By Lucy Taylor, Severn Estuary Partnership

This walk is an opportunity to explore and discover the dynamic and impressive coastal landscape of the Severn Estuary, designated as a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), an SPA (Special Protection Areas) and as an SAC (Special Areas of Conservation). It provides a unique snapshot of the Severn Estuary, using sections of the Severn way, with views down to Aust, across the Severn to Wales and of the Severn Bridge. Oldbury-on-Severn is a small, picturesque and historical village with a thriving community spirit.

**START** at the Anchor Inn, walk down Church Lane, turning right in to Westmarsh Lane. Follow the track ahead (approx. 1 km) until it ends and, upon entering the first field, take the bottom left corner exit. Go through the next field and you will reach the Estuary. Walk along the coastline with the Estuary on your left.

Walk inshore towards the sluice gate, following the track all the way back to the road. Enjoy the boats and activity of Thornbury Sailing

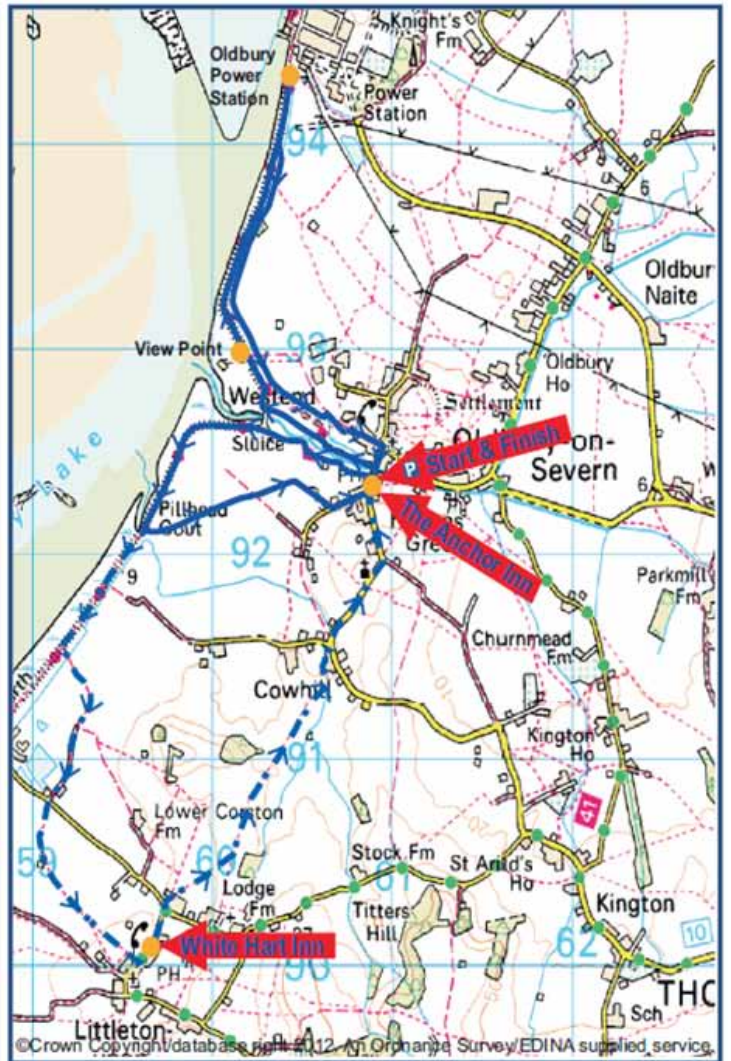
Club, the sailing boats beached at Oldbury Pill at low tide. Turn left and then take the first left on to the Severn Way and back along Oldbury Pill. Continue to Oldbury power station; power generation ceased here in February 2012.

The juxtaposition of the power station with the Estuary's outstanding natural scenery highlights the diversity and multitude of different uses within this unique environment.

Bird watchers frequent this part of the Estuary often as this stretch, with its surrounding coastal fields, can offer excellent opportunities to spot some of the Estuary's important birdlife, from ducks and waders to migratory birds moving through the area.

Turn around and make your way back along the Estuary. Follow the Severn Way until you can turn left down some steps (below). Head to the left side of the field and cross the bridge over the stream. Follow the road and turn right back on to Church Lane.

**FINISH** with a well deserved reward at the end of the coastal walk with a stop at The Anchor Inn. It is a traditional country pub with a large garden for cream tea on warm afternoons or a cosy bar after the sun goes down. (To check opening hours visit: <http://www.anchor-inn->



[oldbury.co.uk/](http://oldbury.co.uk/)).

## A longer route?

Extend the walk for an extra 3 miles by continuing further along the coastline (following the dashed line) and visit the charming Littleton-upon-Severn. Call in at the White Hart Inn, a 17th century farmhouse, for a refreshment en route.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Time: 1 hour 45 minutes.**  
**Distance: 4 miles.**

**Terrain:** The terrain is flat. Can be very muddy.

**Parking:** Road parking by The Anchor Inn, Oldbury-on-Severn. BS35 1QA.

**Public transport:** See <http://traveline.info/> for details.  
**OS Landranger Map: 162 or 172.**

**Take care not to disturb wildlife; especially birds on the Estuary by ensuring dogs are kept on leads.**

## DeltaNet: Final Report

The final meeting of the DeltaNet Project was held in January at Cardiff University, bringing to a close an exciting 3 year project that had brought together a unique and innovative partnership of 8 deltas and estuaries from 8 countries across Europe for a sharing and advancement of knowledge and good practice. This has resulted in the development of a series of coordinated policy plans and recommendations aimed at conserving the sustainability of these sensitive regions in an environmental, social and economic manner.

The first day was devoted to a final theme

workshop on Coordinated Delta Policy, bringing the input of the other themes of the project together into a coordinated policy document. This included a review of individual partner work plans and contributions to the project as a whole, where the Severn Estuary Partnership was noted as being "particularly skilled in organising participation and consultation events with local stakeholders, helping to prioritise the future economic, social and environmental health of the Severn Estuary."

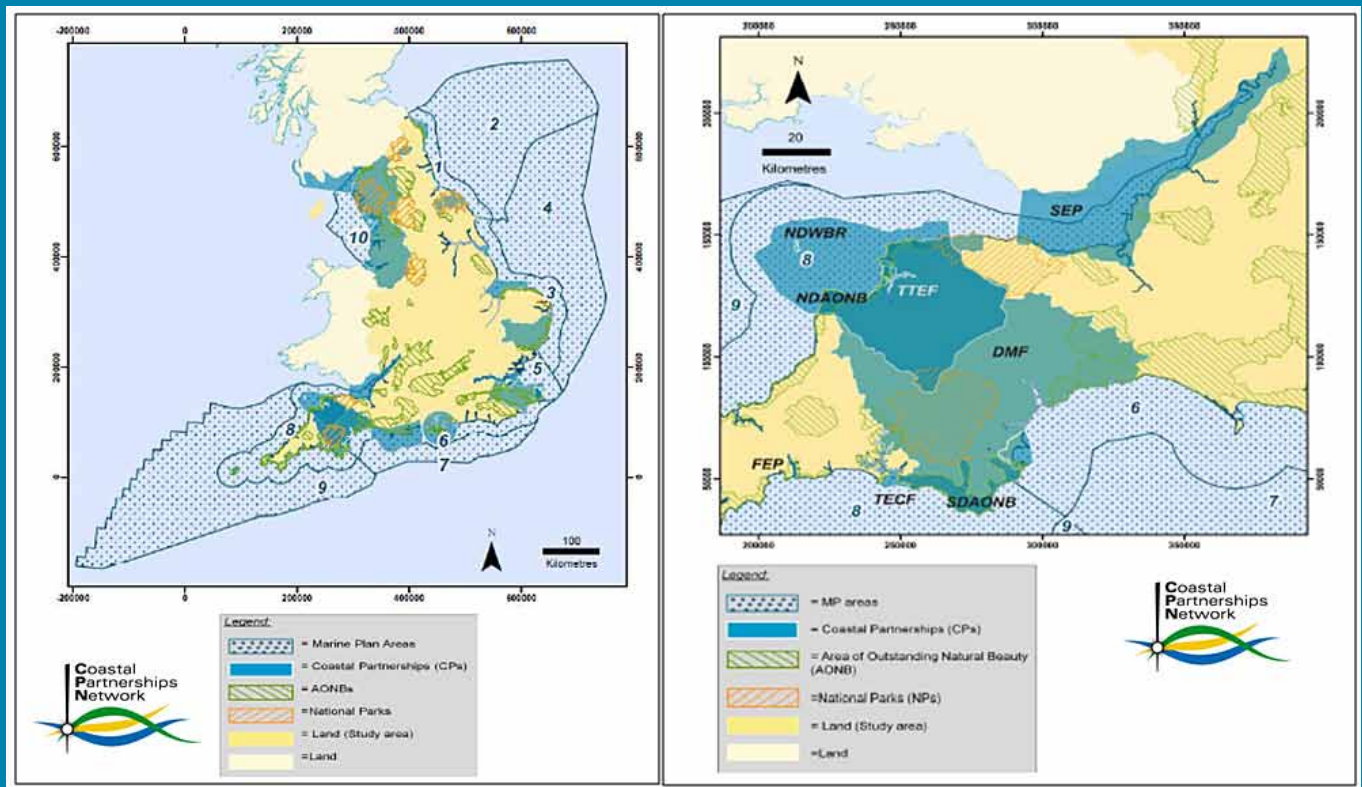
The second day began with a Final Report Review of the DeltaNet Project, followed by a finalisation of project outputs and discussion on the

future successful development of the DeltaNet 'Network of European Deltas and Estuaries' concept.

The final report on the conclusions and recommendations of the DeltaNet Project can now be found on the DeltaNet website, here: <http://bit.ly/14vZcTU>



# Baseline report for developing partnership working at the coast



Coastal partnerships, such as the Severn Estuary Partnership, have been active in the development and delivery of the management of coastal areas for many years. They represent experienced and diverse hubs, particularly at strategic locations along the coast of the UK where intense land and marine activity pose potential conflicts between stakeholders and users.

A new report has just been published by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) 'Baseline report for developing partnership working at the coast' (<http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/marineplanning/key/index.htm#cpnbaseline>). This provides a technical analysis of the levels of activity and engagement within coastal partnerships as well as providing maps outlining the spatial coverage of these organisations in relation to marine plan areas along the English coast.

Commissioned from the Coastal Partnerships Network (CPN), the report describes the potential of coastal partnerships to contribute to marine planning and recommends proposals for future stakeholder engagement. The report was informed by a country-wide

questionnaire (April 2012) to which a total of 42 CPs and coastal organisations responded. This was followed by wide and extensive consultation with all CPN Members.

The report summarises the main services provided by coastal partnerships and outlines the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of such bodies. It suggests that a key strength of coastal partnerships is their neutrality, which it contends facilitates fair and open debate on coastal issues. The wide range of services provided by these bodies has also been recognised as a benefit. Such services include: stakeholder engagement, information dissemination, input to coastal and marine planning, policy and legislation, and facilitation. The report also recommends that:

- coastal partnerships could be commissioned by the MMO as neutral, 'honest brokers' to undertake stakeholder engagement for the marine planning process and other consultations
- the CPN could seek third party funding for the creation of a CPN coordinator to help establish and maximise the contribution of CPs within the marine planning process.

Key features of coastal partnerships identified within the report:

- A business-model that delivers value-for-money to partners
- The ability to identify and reach the stakeholders and communities needed to participate in marine planning.
- A local point of contact for all with an interest in marine and coastal areas
- High levels of social capital together with un-equalled stakeholder buy-in and trust on coastal and marine issues.
- Develop strong links with planning and other Local Government functions
- Have strong links with networks throughout the devolved administrations, thereby aiding cross-boundary integration

With the information provided in this new report, the Marine Management Organisation should now be able to explore future opportunities for coastal partnerships to contribute to the marine planning process and overall sustainable management of marine areas.

## Bristol Channel Standing Environment Group (BCSEG)

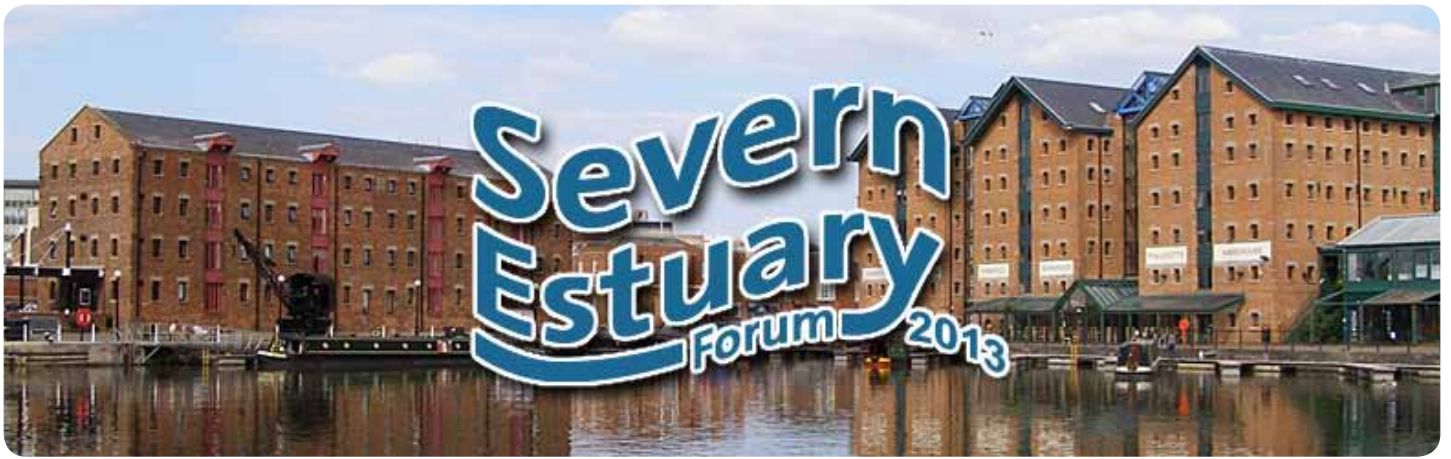
**(Marine pollution incidents)**  
The Bristol Channel Standing Environment Group continues to work on improving its functionality. The group, Chaired by John Harrison, meets three times a year at various locations such as ports and local

**authorities to promote its role amongst key stakeholders and organisations likely to be involved in a marine incident.**

A key work area for the group this year is to be the revision of its Activation Plan. This will follow the launch of the Maritime Coastguard Agency's

revised National Contingency Plan. It will also incorporate any changes to incident response procedures in Wales resulting from the newly formed Natural Resources Wales.

BCSEG Website: <http://www.severnestuary.net/bcseg/index.html>



# SEVERN ESTUARY FORUM SERIES

Thursday the 17th October 2013

Gloucester Guildhall, 23 Eastgate St, Gloucester, GL1 1NS

The 2013 Severn Estuary Forum will be held on Thursday the 17th October at the Gloucester Guildhall, Gloucester – returning to the venue we used for the very successful and memorable 2009 forum.

These engaging and exciting events are intended for all interested in learning about the latest research and policy developments dealing with the Severn Estuary and its future, by offering a lively and informative day of presentations and

talks. They offer unique opportunities to network with and learn from others, share ideas and to help participate in the management of the Severn Estuary.

Details of our exciting 2013 programme will be available soon, but you can rest assured that we plan to tackle hot topics affecting the estuary as a whole, such as the ongoing debate surrounding how best to utilise the tidal resources of the estuary, and the latest flood risk management strategy consultation as covered in this magazine.

Booking, including buffet lunch, at the early bird rate of £30 for members and £40 for non

members is already available online through the Severn Estuary Forum page, via Eventbrite.

Everyone is welcome to the Forum, whether you represent an organisation, live in the area, or simply enjoy lively and informed debate about the Severn Estuary itself. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Gloucester in October – check out the 2013 Forum website!

Severn Estuary Forum: [www.severnestuary.net/sep/forum.html](http://www.severnestuary.net/sep/forum.html)

## Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy

The Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy (SEFRMS) aims to identify the most effective and sustainable way to manage flood risk in the estuary over the next century. It covers the northern coastline from Lavernock Point near Cardiff to Gloucester, and back down the southern coastline to Hinkley Point in Somerset.

The first phase of consultation on our long term Strategy for

managing tidal flood risk in the Severn Estuary took place early in 2011. We took stock of feedback received during that consultation and we have been working closely with the communities and stakeholders that had concerns with the original Strategy. We have welcomed their local knowledge and input into shaping the revised Strategy.

We have set out revised consultation documentation in the

second phase of the consultation which began on the 20th of May, capturing the discussions that have already taken place with communities and stakeholders, and presenting the current flood risk management options and proposals. We are not asking consultees to make choices or state preferences. The aim is to ensure we all have a common understanding of the issues and the choices we might jointly need to make over the coming decades.

The consultation is hosted by the Severn Estuary Partnership website, with links from the Environment Agency website and the Natural Resources Wales website: <http://www.severnestuary.net/index.html>

Paper copies of the key consultation documents will also be available through Parish Councils or by request from the Environment Agency.

### The Severn Estuary Partnership

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Edited by Gwilym Owen

All photographs © Severn Estuary Partnership unless otherwise stated. Cover Photograph: © Gwilym Owen

The Severn Estuary Partnership is an independent, estuary-wide NON-statutory initiative led by local authorities and statutory agencies. We work with all those involved in the management of the Estuary, from planners to port authorities, fishermen to farmers and many more with an interest in the future of the Estuary.

### Coming up...

Cardiff Bay Beach	27/07/13 – 01/09/13
Bristol Harbour Festival	26/07/13 – 28/07/13
Cardiff Harbour Festival	24/08/13 – 26/08/13
Gloucester Schooner Festival	30/08/13 – 01/09/13
Great British Cheese Festival	28/09/13 – 29/09/13
Severn Estuary Forum	17/10/13