

Chairs and Speakers Notes

Biographical notes and Presentation Summaries

The Upper Estuary:

Session Chair

Martin Quaile - Severn Estuary Partnership Chair

Born in Lancashire, his family moved to Bristol where he went to school and studied Architecture at Bristol University. His architectural career took him to West Africa, New Zealand, Vanuatu in the South Pacific and Hong Kong. After 30 years he returned to the UK, to take life at a more leisurely pace in the Forest of Dean.

Martin's interests in the environment started in Nigeria where the orientation of buildings, the control of sunlight and ventilation, all affected the human comfort zone. These studies proved useful 10 years later in Vanuatu. However, whilst in Hong Kong his interests grew to building design and the environment and on his return to the UK broadened further to an interest in matters such as flooding, contaminated land, foreshore management, waste to energy, climate change impacts and carbon emissions.

And so the interest develops.

Welcome and Introduction to the day

Councillor Chris Witts

As a lad of fourteen, Chris Witts would be seen wandering about Gloucester Docks with his Box Brownie camera, photographing the different vessels that could be seen in the port. Foreign coasters, crewed by men of strange tongues, tugs towing dumb barges and lighters, motor barges and of course, the large estuarial oil tanker barges trading from Swansea to Worcester.

On leaving school two years later it was no surprise that he went to the Gloucester office of John Harker Ltd and applied for a job as deckhand on their oil barges. Soon after joining the company, his barge, the WYESDALE H, was swinging off Sharpness with numerous other barges trying to find the dock entrance in thick fog. Suddenly the sky erupted in flame and that was the end of the Severn Railway Bridge, as two other tanker barges had collided with the bridge and caught fire, killing five crewmen.

Thirty years later he found himself working back on the river. Chris was asked to join the grain barges of Allied Mills Ltd, carrying 250 tonnes of wheat in

each barge from Sharpness to the mill at Tewkesbury. In 1995 he suddenly found himself as skipper of the two grain barges, TIRLEY and CHACELEY. This lasted until 1998 when sadly they were laid up once again.

A Sustainable Severn Estuary (Keynote)
Brian Shipman BA MRTPI, UNEP

Brian Shipman has been a consultant to the Mediterranean Action Plan since 2002. In 2009 he joined the UNEP ICZM Centre for the Mediterranean, based in Split, Croatia.

He is also a consultant for the EU and UN programmes in Europe, the Mediterranean, the Middle East and Africa.

He is currently working on Blue Growth maritime clusters in the Adriatic and Black Sea for DG MARE.

Brian spent much of his career in Cornwall on coastal management and economic regeneration, becoming Cornwall's EU Co-operation Manager from 2002-9, managing EU Co-operation projects across Europe and with third countries on spatial development, flood protection, research excellence, climate change and economic regeneration. He was LGA representative on national and EU coastal and marine policy.

A Sustainable Severn Estuary

Governance lessons from an alternative model

Brian will briefly characterise the UK approach to coastal management - and his critique of that approach over the past twenty years.

An alternative model will be presented based on Brian's recent work with the UN Environment Programme's "Regional Seas Programme" and, in particular, the lessons from the innovative ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean.

Based on the lessons of this model, and returning to the Severn, he will pose a series of governance questions to challenge the fitness for purpose of the current management arrangements to deliver a sustainable future.

Partnership working from a grass roots perspective

Rose Hewlett

Rose has been secretary to Frampton Court Estate, Frampton on Severn, since 2000; a varied job which has enhanced her understanding of the upper Severn estuary. She is clerk to Gloucestershire NFU Severn Estuary Stakeholders and an elected member of the Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board.

Rose's ancestors have lived both sides of the river for centuries. As a local historian she is passionate about ensuring that the past and present knowledge of those living and working alongside the estuary is taken into account by those organisations tasked with its management.

Since Roman times man has used his first-hand knowledge of the upper Severn estuary to manage flood defences, farming and fishing. In the modern world of desktop studies much of this valuable information has been overlooked due to a lack of communication between those organisations managing the river and the people living and working at grass roots level. With increasingly constrained budgets and the predicted effects of climate change, the importance of partnership working is once again being recognised.

Fisheries in the Severn Estuary

Dr Richard Seaby, Pisces Conservation

As an aquatic ecologist, I have over 20 years experience of working on industrial and engineering projects. As the managing director of Pisces Conservation Ltd for the past 17 years, I have overseen the company's growth into the UK's leading consultancy in dealing with the effects of large industry on the aquatic environment.

We have undertaken many projects in the Severn Estuary, including the ecological impacts of power stations, the impacts of outfalls on migratory fish, the efficiency of various methods in reducing impingement and entrainment, the impacts of dredging, the construction of docks and ports and monitoring managed threats.

The talk will focus on long-term trends in species abundance and anthropogenic activities that impact on the fish community of the estuary. The basis for the talk is Pisces Conservation's long-term data set that has been collected at Hinkley Point Power station, for over 30 years.

Hot Topics:

Session Chair

John Buttivant – Environment Agency

John has a BSc in Geography from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. He is a chartered Water and Environmental Manager and a Chartered Environmentalist. Since joining the Environment Agency in 2001 John has had a key role in Coastal Management at all levels from individual flood defence schemes to strategic management planning and regional coastal monitoring.

Currently, he is a Senior Coastal Advisor working for the Environment Agency's Wessex Area, where he maintains a Strategic Overview of coastal activities and works closely with local authorities and other stakeholders to manage the risks of flooding and coastal erosion.

The Coastal Groups play a key role in the integrated management of coastal flood and erosion risks. They are responsible for production of the Shoreline Management Plans and have key roles in the sharing of best practice and overview of coastal issues.

Local Authorities and the Environment Agency are working hard to address the demands of society for effective coastal defences as well as meeting legal obligations to mitigate habitat losses. The challenges posed to the coastal authorities by increasing sea levels adds to the pressure at a time when direct government funding is decreasing. The Coastal Groups have a vital role to play in assisting the coastal operating authorities as they seek external partners and partnership funding to deliver improvements to defences whilst acting as a focus for innovative solutions that meet the demands of society.

Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy Consultation

Graham Quarrier, Environment Agency

Graham Quarrier has over 20 years experience working with the Environment Agency and its predecessor organisations, tackling flood management and other environmental projects. These include appraisal, design, and construction of flood defence works and more recently specialising in long term strategies to prepare for climate change impacts. He also manages a team of project managers that cover other areas of EA work, eg national programmes to comply with EU legislation and improvements to regulatory practises.

Graham Quarrier will give an update on the results of the recent consultation on the flood risk management strategy and the issues raised.

Renewable Energy in the Severn Estuary
Johnny Gowdy, Regen SW

Johnny is a director at Regen SW and leads their work in the marine energy and offshore wind sector, including the programme management of the South West Marine Energy Park. Regen SW is an independent centre of expertise providing support for the renewable energy sector and helping innovative companies to grow their business in this competitive market. Johnny's background is in management consultancy. He was a partner within the energy practice of the global consultancy firm Accenture and has a wide range of business and commercial experience working extensively in the oil and gas and energy sectors both in the UK and overseas.

As a keen diver, Johnny is committed to the conservation of the marine environment. He also believes that offshore energy can provide part of the solution to address the challenges of climate change and energy security, as well as providing future jobs for the UK's marine and engineering industries.

The Severn Estuary and the wider Bristol Channel has the potential to generate significant renewable energy to help the UK meet the global challenges of climate change, energy security and environmental degradation. This can only be achieved however with regional stakeholder support and if a strategic approach is taken which balances the requirements of energy, environment and the economy

The Bristol Deep Sea Container Terminal: Finding Consensus and Win-Win Solutions
Jerry Stanford, The Bristol Port Company

Jerry Stanford has been the Haven Master and Marine Director at The Bristol Port Company since early 2009, where his primary responsibilities are for providing the Port of Bristol Statutory and Competent Harbour Authority functions to the Main Board. Prior to this appointment, he spent 30 years in the Royal Navy, initially as a Lynx helicopter pilot and latterly in command of four warships including the frigate HMS WESTMINSTER and the amphibious assault ship HMS BULWARK.

In March 2010, a Harbour Revision Order (HGO) was granted by the Secretary of State for Transport for the construction and operation of the Bristol Deep Sea Container Terminal (BDSCT) on the site of a former oil

terminal in Avonmouth Docks. This new container terminal will service existing large container ships and future generations of ultra- large container ships bringing cargoes close to the centre of the UK. Its direct links to adjacent motorway and rail networks enable efficient inland transport of freight, reducing lorry miles, emissions and costs.

Constructing this new container terminal will involve some reclamation of the foreshore in the Severn Estuary which is designated under national, European and international law for its nature conservation interest. To compensate for the impacts on designated marine habitats and species in the Severn Estuary, Bristol Port must create new intertidal habitat for birds and other wildlife in the estuary. Earlier this year, planning permissions were received to create over 130 hectares of new compensatory wetlands on the Steart Peninsula in Bridgwater Bay.

It is unusual for a major port development to be approved without the need for a public inquiry to address objections raised by regulators or local interest groups, particularly in an estuary of European conservation importance. This presentation will outline how Bristol Port avoided the need for a public inquiry. Key to this was an intensive programme of stakeholder engagement throughout the planning process, which gradually built consensus and trust. The port worked closely together with regulators and interest groups to develop agreements to ensure any outstanding concerns and objections were fully addressed, such as the Mitigation, Compensation and Monitoring Agreement. The approach adopted to the planning of the compensation scheme demonstrates that partnerships between developers, NGO's and regulators really work, delivering better outcomes for the environment and local communities, whilst enabling the continued sustainable growth of the Port.

Severnside Airport
John Borkowski, MSP Solutions

35 years' experience in civil aviation, transport and the oil industry.

10 years in senior management positions at British Airways as Deputy Planning Director and Head of Strategy. Responsible for the long-term company development, route development, business acquisitions, advising the Board on strategic direction, purchasing aircraft, airport hub development and inventing the airline alliances (now One World).

Managed £3 billion procurement contracts for the Metronet London Underground Consortium.

7 years at BP in senior management positions in oil exploration, refining and marketing and chemicals and capital appraisal.

- Air connectivity vital for inward investment on which the UK now depends.
- Existing Cardiff and Bristol airports unable to meet long term demand, especially for longhaul flights.
- Splitting the traffic between two airports reduces concentration, efficiency and customer choice.
- Building a new state-of-art major airport would transform economic activity for Wales, SW England and the West Midlands as passenger and freight hub for 18 million population catchment.
- Severn estuary site ideal for road rail connectivity and minimising noise nuisance.
- Action needed now due to long time delay for planning approval and construction.

Final Session:

Session Chair

George Ashworth – Severn Estuary Partnership Management Group Chair

George Ashworth has chaired the SEP Management Group since 1998. Following a Geography BA (Hons) degree from Southampton University, he undertook an MSc in Urban and Regional Planning from Strathclyde University and became a Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) in 1978. He has been Head of Planning and Regeneration in Monmouthshire County Council since its formation in 1996 and has always recognised the significance of the Estuary to planning interests around its shore; not least because of climate change and renewable energy concerns. He has promoted such interests in relation to the Wales Spatial Plan and South East Wales Strategic Planning Group, of which he is a past chair.

SevernNet – Sustainability, Community and Enterprise Kate Royston, SevernNet

Kate Royston chairs and co-ordinates SevernNet Limited. She is a research consultant, facilitator and advisor, working with industry, academia and community groups. She specialises in sustainable business improvement and engagement, with a focus on resource and energy efficiency.

Kate worked with the EcoPorts Foundation in 2006/2007 (an NGO established by Ports for Ports and the promotion of best environmental practice) which triggered a passion for the potential that ports, their wider port areas and the logistics chain offer for the development of sustainable low carbon economies and communities.

Since 2008 Kate has been undertaking practical research into Sustainable Resource Management across Ports and their wider areas, initially as part of an MSc in Sustainable Development. This led to the formation of SevernNet (www.severnnet.org).

Contact: kate.royston@severnnet.org (07969-569-444)

SevernNet has developed through increasing co-operation between businesses, the local community, local authorities and other stakeholders since 2009 across the area extending from Royal Portbury Dock through Avonmouth, Severnside to Western Approach Industrial Park.

The organisation has grown from an initial focus on resource efficiency and understanding the potential of co-operation and collaboration between neighbours.

A growing recognition of common challenges has led to an agenda supporting our key pillars of Sustainability, Community and Enterprise:

- Improving transport facilities across the area
- Supporting community engagement and improving access to work for local people
- Promoting resource efficiency and development of a circular economy across the area
- Enabling engagement with the strategic development of the area through the Avonmouth Severnside Enterprise Area

Introduction to LIFE N2K and IPENS LIFE+ Programmes: delivering improvements for the Severn Estuary Natura 2000 site
Jennifer Kelly, Natural Resources Wales

Jennifer Kelly – Marine Coordinator (Natural Resources Wales)

Jennifer is the Marine Coordinator for Natural Resources Wales on the LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales. She leads on the marine elements of the programme and is responsible for delivering improvement plans for each of Wales' marine Natura 2000 sites. Jennifer has a First Class BSc (Hons) Environmental Science from University of Leeds and previously managed Cardigan Bay European Marine Site.

Introducing two LIFE+ funded projects currently working to provide a new strategic approach to managing Natura 2000 sites in England and Wales'; LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales (LIFE N2K) run by Natural Resources Wales and Improvement Programme for England's Natura Sites (IPENS) run by Natural England. The presentation will also introduce the delivery of an Improvement Plan for the Severn Estuary Natura 2000 site, and the opportunities arising from the two project's work.

Avonmouth/Severnside - Progressing the Outline Development Strategy for the Enterprise Area
Ian Steele, Project Manager - Avonmouth Severnside Economic Development Project

Working on behalf of both Bristol City and South Gloucestershire Council's, Ian Steele is employed as the Project Manager for the Avonmouth Severnside

Economic Development Project. Ian's key brief is to lead the strategic implementation of the key priority interventions (detailed within the Outline Development Strategy for the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership Enterprise Area). The Enterprise Area is one of the most important global gateways to one of the most densely populated areas of Europe. The £107m interventions are critical to the area to maintain momentum and achieve sustainable economic growth over the next forty years.

Ian's career spans public, private and charitable sectors – most notably as the Director of what was the UK's largest largest multi-agency physical activity & sports partnership (52 official member organisations represented through over 150 stakeholder groups) and also as the Director of the enterprise arm of the UK charity – Action on Hearing Loss (formally known as RNID). Ian joined South Gloucestershire Council in December 2012.

The Severn Estuary Partnership, An Update
Dr. Rhoda Ballinger, Cardiff University

Dr Rhoda Ballinger gained a degree in Geography and PhD from the University of Wales College of Aberystwyth. As a Senior Lecturer in Marine Geography and Environmental Geoscience in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, Cardiff University, her teaching and research interests include integrated coastal management, coastal policy and coastal risk management. She has undertaken a wide number of research projects both within the UK and Europe and published many articles in this field. She also takes a practical interest in coastal and environmental management, particularly through her involvement with the Severn Estuary Partnership and Flood Risk Management Wales.

This presentation will provide a brief overview of the key work and progress of SEP over the last year, focusing on the development of the State of the Severn Estuary Reporting workstream, outlined at last year's Forum event. The presentation will also discuss the development of SEP's suite of new 'Estuary' web pages, which will provide up-to-date, readily accessible information on a range of key themes, expanding and updating data and topics covered in the State of the Estuary Report 2011.



The Severn Estuary Partnership (SEP) is an independent, estuary-wide initiative providing support to many organisations who have responsibilities or interests in the Estuary. SEP aims to bring together 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.

Benefits of Members:

The SEP provides a wide range of services, projects and events throughout the year. Membership will improve your ability to make contact with people who share your interests and meet others with useful information and keep abreast of Estuary wide developments. Over 15 years of knowledge and Estuary wide contact will be at your fingertips.

Our Work and Benefits to your Organisation:

SEP aims to:

- Facilitate effective communication across and between organisations and individuals
- Establish and embed a set of 'common principles' for sustainable estuary use via Partners' strategies, policies and action plans
- To act as a co-ordinating body to assist the effective & efficient delivery of agreed estuary-wide actions
- To promote and publicise the estuary at local, national and international level
- To add value and fill gaps in effective estuary management, providing extra capacity when required

To register as a member see details online at:

<http://www.severnestuary.net/sep/partnership/join.html>

All of today's presentations will be available on our website at the speaker's digression via: <http://www.severnestuary.net/sep/forum.html>

Become an online follower and access our e-news via the following link

<http://www.severnestuary.net/sep/enews.html>

Contact the Severn Estuary Partnership at:

**The Severn Estuary Partnership
c/o School of Earth and Ocean Sciences
Cardiff University
Main Building
Park Place
CF10 3AT**

**Tel: 029 20 874713
Email: severn@cf.ac.uk
Website: www.severnestuary.net**

twitter

Follow us on Twitter at
<http://twitter.com/#!/SevernEstuary>

facebook

Like us on Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/SevernEstuaryPartnership>

