



Severn Estuary Forum 2016

Blackfriars Priory Gloucester

Thursday 22nd September

Speaker Summaries

A collection of presentation summaries and biographies from all the speakers at this year's Severn Estuary Forum.

The Severn Estuary Forum 2016 is kindly sponsored by The British Marine Aggregate Producers Association (BMAPA) and Cardiff University. The Forum is also supported by The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), The Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE) and The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM).



RTPI
mediation of space - making of place



Sue Kidd, University of Liverpool



Profile: Sue Kidd is an academic and chartered town planner from the University of Liverpool's Department of Geography and Planning. Sue has acted as an advisor to the EU, government departments, government agencies, regional and local authorities and NGO's. She has a particular interest in integrated planning and much of her work has focussed on sustainable development in coastal and marine areas. She has been at the forefront of the theory and practice of Marine Spatial Planning and is currently engaged in a range of projects assisting the roll out of new marine planning and management arrangements in the Celtic Seas and wider European seas. Sue is a past chair of the North West Coastal Forum, is currently part of the small team that acts as secretariat of the Irish Sea Maritime Forum and has recently taken up the role of Sea and Society lead for the new Liverpool Institute for Sustainable Coasts and Oceans.

Cross-border Marine Planning in the North West: Challenges & Opportunities

After years of stakeholder lobbying we have reached an exciting stage in the development of marine planning in the UK with all administrations busy rolling out their first wave of marine plans. This presentation will start by highlighting the historic significance of this work and by providing an overview of the current position on marine planning in each of the four devolved UK administrations. It will then consider the challenges and opportunities for cross-border marine planning with particular reference to the North West of England which shares some of the complexities that face marine planning in the Severn Estuary. Challenges that will be explored include complex institutional arrangements, ongoing financial restraint, development trends and the uncertain implications of Brexit. However the talk will emphasise the opportunities for delivering more integrated planning and management of our marine and coastal areas that exist and the role that coastal partnerships can play in realising these.

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Lucy Taylor, Severn Estuary Partnership



Profile: Lucy Taylor joined the Severn Estuary Partnership team in March 2015 as the Severn Estuary Partnership & European Marine Site Officer, based in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, Cardiff University. The Partnership works with all those involved in the management of the estuary, from planners to port authorities, and many more with an interest in the future of the estuary.

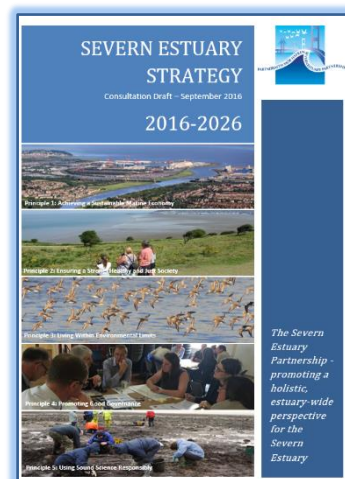
At such an exciting and challenging time in coastal and marine management, the Partnership team is continuing to work hard to keep all Severn Estuary stakeholders informed of the latest estuary projects and developments, policy updates and proposals as they emerge.

Consultation Launch of the Severn Estuary Strategy

The Severn Estuary Partnership is excited to launch the consultation of the 2016 Severn Estuary Strategy. The Severn Estuary Strategy was first produced in 2001 and has now been revised in the context of new and emerging legislation, plans, policies and developments.

The aims of this Strategy are to:

- **update & streamline** the 2001 Severn Estuary Strategy;
- provide a **strategic policy framework** for the Severn Estuary;
- provide **context to inform and support decision-making**; and,
- **facilitate the Marine & Coastal Act (2009)** obligations related to cross-border integration, land-sea integration and taking an ecosystem-based approach to management.



Vision

Principles

Objectives

Outcomes

Actions

The Strategy is guided by a *Vision*, which sets out what we (and you) would like the estuary to look like in the future. The document is split under five key *Principles*, based on the UK High-Level Marine Objectives. Under each *Principle* are a series of *Objectives*, *Outcomes* and *Actions*. The Strategy will have a 10-year timeframe between 2016-2026, but will be flexible enough to change priorities in light of any new and emerging evidence.

Have Your Say and Input into the Strategy!

Think we have missed anything? Make sure you have your chance to input into the Strategy development process and comment on our *Vision*, *Principles*, *Objectives*, *Outcomes* and *Actions*. **The consultation period will be for 6 weeks, starting on 22nd September and ending on 3rd November and will be available on the SEP website: <http://www.severnestuarypartnership.org.uk/sep/strategy/15-16/>**

If you have any further, more specific queries, please get in touch with us at Severn@Cardiff.ac.uk. We look forward to hearing your comments.

Moving Forwards

The *Actions* outlined in this Strategy will be taken forward and incorporated into the new SEP Business Plan (2017-2022). The Strategy consultation process will inform the priorities for SEP to focus on over the next 5-year period. The timeline for publishing the SEP Business Plan is Spring 2017.

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Sarah Clark, Devon and Severn IFCA



Profile: Sarah is the Deputy Chief Officer for Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority. She has a background in marine biology and has worked predominately in molluscan and crustacean research. She currently leads the D&S IFCA Environment Team which consists of a Senior Officer, Libby Ross (who is the current the Chair of ASERA), two Environment Officers and a Research Assistant. The team undertakes evidence gathering and research, including fisheries stock assessments, underwater filming of habitats and assessing the impacts of fishing gears of designated features of MPA within the district.

Chinese Whispers: Misconceptions and Myths Mask True Progress in MPA & Inshore Fisheries Management

I will be presenting on the myths and misconceptions that masks the true work and progress that is being undertaken on management of fishing activities within marine protected areas within the D&S IFCA district. With the formation of IFCAs under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, there has been a real sea change in the management of the inshore waters around England. Now there is a requirement to balance the needs of all users and ensure a sustainable marine environment. Since the designation of European Marine Sites (EMS) and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) there has been criticism that these exist only on paper and that no management of activities is in place to ensure that the habitats and species, for which sites are designated, have some form of protection from fishing activities. My talk will highlight the work that is being done and what progress has been made. Within the IFCA's district there are eight EMS and six Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 MCZ. The IFCA has spent the last two years undertaking research to ensure that fishing activities that occur within MPA are appropriate and do not cause significant damage to the site integrity. This involves undertaking Habitat Regulation Assessments on over 2,000 fishing gear / MPA feature interactions. Alongside this work the IFCA has been reviewing its byelaws and has introduced gear focussed permit byelaws that can be adaptive to incorporate future evidence and further protection where needed. Hopefully my talk will go some way to bust some of the myths that currently focus the press' attention.

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Neal Gray, Marine Management Organisation



Profile: Neal is the local marine plan implementation officer for the South West, based in Plymouth. His role is to engage with stakeholders, and support them through the South West Marine Plan development and formal consultation stages of the emerging plan. He has been with the Marine Management Organisation for the last five years. Before that, he worked in the Government Office for the South West as part of the Regional Planning team.

Stakeholder Engagement for Marine Planning in the South West

Marine Plans are statutory plans which deliver the government's vision for 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas', as detailed in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. They inform and guide regulation, management, use and protection of the marine plan areas, taking into account economic, environmental and social factors to enable sustainable growth and development.

The Marine Management Organisation is responsible for the development of marine plans with the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) having overall responsibility as the marine plan authority for England.

There are 11 plan areas in England which are divided into inshore (tidal limit to 12 nautical miles) and offshore (12 nautical miles to 200 nautical miles). Plan area boundaries are set following expert advice. Due to the fluid nature of water and the complexities of the marine ecosystem each marine area has a strong relationship with its neighbouring plan area.

The seas around England are facing growing competition for resource and use from a variety of users. Marine planning is all about making sure the right activities take place in the right place and in the right way, placing sustainable development at the centre of all decisions. The aim, the same as with terrestrial planning, is for a plan-led system to regulate future use of the marine environment. This provides greater clarity and guidance to developers on what activity should or should not take place. This allows for sustainable economic growth whilst protecting the environment.

Stakeholder engagement is the key driver in formulating marine plans. Public participation is vital to the process, to ensure that there is no "democratic deficit", due process has been followed, and all reasonable steps have been taken to bring the plans to the attention of all people with an interest in the marine area.

Additional links:

Marine Policy Statement (<http://bit.ly/24NMuxV>)
Marine Information System (<http://bit.ly/1ViRnzy>)
Marine Planning: A guide for Local Councils (<http://bit.ly/2ceznpX>)
Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA) (<http://bit.ly/1VWhhbT>)

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Tony Bostock MBE, Severn Rivers Trust



Profile: Chief Executive – Severn Rivers Trust. Former Chairman of the Regional Fisheries, Ecology & Recreation Advisory Committee (RFERAC) for the Midlands. Currently vice Chairman and Trustee of Salmon & Trout Conservation UK, board member of the Riverfly Partnership, Chairman – Teme Catchment Fisheries Association, registered member of the Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM) and Chartered Environmentalist. Worked in numerous roles in Fisheries and environmental management for over 35 years. Guided the Trust from its early beginnings through limited company and charitable status to the present day. Awarded an MBE for services to Fisheries and Environment in the 2016 New Year’s honours list.

The Severn in Trust

The Severn is the UK’s longest and most diverse river and at 11,420 square kilometres has the largest catchment area. The issues adversely impacting the river and estuary continue to grow and the Trust believe that an holistic and catchment based approach from source to sea represents the best way forward to deliver measures to improve water quality, biodiversity, reduce flood risk, protect the estuary and engage local communities in their river. The Trust has an excellent record of completing projects including habitat restoration, fish and Eel passes, reducing run off, diffuse pollution and erosion, holding back the flow initiatives, enhancing water quality, educational programmes, introducing agricultural best practices and land management changes. All of these issues have significant impact on the estuary. The Trust also host or co-host the Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) for all six sub-catchments in the Severn, Teme and Warwickshire Avon areas.

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Rose Hewlett, Advance the Line



Profile: Rose represents Advance the Line which comprises local people with expertise and interests relating to the warthlands at Frampton on Severn and Saul which are at the northern limits of the open estuary. The group came together in 2012 in order to offer advice to the respective parish councils regarding the Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy.

Local Monitoring: A Valuable yet Underused Resource

Advance the Line's report, Gauging the tide, was published in January 2013 (see: <http://www.severnestuarypartnership.org.uk/files/2015/08/Gauging-the-tide.pdf>). It provided a critical review of the methods used to assess and manage flood risk in the upper Severn estuary, and highlighted the relevance and value of local input.

At the top of the list of recommendations was one to extend the Southwest Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme above Sharpness/Lydney where the immediate area upstream shared many of the same characteristics, and consequently the same habitat designations, as the adjoining downstream section to Aust/Beachley which was covered by the programme.

We are delighted that since 2014 the area from Sharpness/Lydney to Maisemore has been included for the aerial components of photography and LiDAR (see: <http://www.channelcoast.org/southwest/>). Gauging the tide also recommended that the local community became involved in the monitoring of habitat and erosion/accretion. Using protocols developed by Advance the Line and agreed by the Environment Agency and Natural England we now undertake the following on Frampton and Saul warths:

- Quarterly fixed point measurements of erosion/accretion
- Regular botanical surveys
- Monthly bird surveys

Adhering to the agreed protocols has meant that our information has become valued and used by government and non-governmental organisations. Annual reports are sent to the Environment Agency, Natural England, Southwest Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme, Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board, Canal and River Trust, District and Parish Councils and, of course, the landowner.

Can similar local monitoring schemes be encouraged elsewhere?

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Alex Bellisario, CITiZAN



Profile: Alex is the CITiZAN Archaeologist for Outreach in Portsmouth, based in the Nautical Archaeology Society offices. She, along with her colleague, works to train new and existing archaeological groups on how to identify, record and monitor archaeology and work to raise awareness of coastal heritage to local communities.

CITiZAN in the Severn

As coastal archaeologists we face processes which are destructive to archaeology but cannot be protected against. The coastal zone does not, and cannot be afforded the protection that terrestrial archaeology, or even maritime archaeology to a certain degree, enjoys. When looking at Historic Environment Records the coast often looks sparse, we have thousands of records which have been identified through development archaeology but coastal development is very limited, for obvious reasons. So how do we work to identify and record an archaeological resource which is unquantified, fragile, constantly eroding and spans thousands of miles? The CITiZAN (Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network) project aims to do just this, with its three regional teams covering hundreds of miles each and working in environments from low lying estuaries to granite cliffs.

This presentation will look at the recording of complex archaeological sites in the diverse coastal zone, focusing on the use of new technologies and their accessibility with a focus on our work in the Severn Estuary.

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Harriet Yates-Smith, Litter-Free Coast and Sea Somerset



Profile: Harriet started working for the Severn Estuary Partnership (SEP) in January 2016 as a Coastal Community Officer. Harriet's role within SEP is to Co-ordinate the Litter Free Coast and Sea project in Somerset (LFCS Somerset). LFCS Somerset is a community led campaign in Burnham on Sea with a goal to reduce marine litter and improve bathing water quality. LFCS Somerset works together with local people to deliver events, campaigns and education to communicate the simple actions people can take to achieve cleaner seas and beaches that everyone can be proud of.

The Power of People – Communities Working Together for Cleaner Beaches and Seas

In 2015 a new bathing water directive was introduced which included a new classification system with more stringent water quality standards. 97 per cent of England's bathing waters passed the tougher standards whilst the remainder suffered a 'Poor' rating.

Burnham on Sea in Somerset was one of 10 beaches across the UK classified as poor, not only threatening the local tourism industry but also causing the cancellation of Burnham's traditional sea swimming race dating back to 1915. Organisations such as Wessex Water and the Environment Agency have been working for over nine years to investigate ways to improve the bathing water quality at Burnham on Sea. Including an investment of £39 million from Wessex Water it was also identified that local community action could also help towards bringing Burnham's bathing water up to 'Sufficient'.

Harriet's talk 'The Power of People' explores the journey of the new community campaign Litter Free Coast and Sea which is designed to bring communities together to run campaigns and events to communicate the simple actions people can take to reduce their impact on the bathing water quality. Harriet explains how she began her challenging and rewarding role of LFCS Coordinator and her progress nine months in!

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Professor Rob Duck, Chair of the Tay Estuary Forum



Profile: Rob Duck has been the Chair of the Tay Estuary Forum (TEF), currently one of six Local Coastal Partnerships in Scotland, since 2001. From 2006 until recently (August 2015) he was Dean of the School of the Environment in the University of Dundee, where he now holds the post of Emeritus Professor of Environmental Geoscience. His research specialises in coasts and estuaries, and furthering the public understanding of science and climate change. He is the author of “This Shrinking Land: Climate Change and Britain’s Coasts” (Dundee University Press, 2011) and “On the Edge: Coastlines of Britain” (Edinburgh University Press, 2015). His presentation today is based on the latter book.

On the Edge: Coastlines of Britain

The building of railways in the nineteenth century has had a profound but largely ignored physical impact on Britain’s coasts. This presentation explores the coming of railways to the fringes of the country and the transformation of our coasts through the destruction or damage to the environment. In many places today, such as along the South Devon and North Wales coasts, and locally near Lydney along the north bank of the River Severn, railways are the first defence against the sea. It is ironic, at a time when climate change is very much favouring rail as a means of transport, that many lines are increasingly exposed to extreme weather and the very actions associated with their construction, such as aggregate extraction from adjacent beaches, have exacerbated attack by the sea and coastal erosion. With the benefit of hindsight, many coastal railways have been built in locations that would not have been chosen today. As our climate changes and storminess potentially increases, what might be the implications for some of Britain’s lines on the edge?

Additional links:

BBC (2015) - The railway lines alarmingly close to the sea - <http://bbc.in/16EysZ8>

Rob Edwards (2015) - Coastal railways around Britain at risk from climate change - <http://bit.ly/2chrMSJ>

BBC (2011) - Meet the author: Professor Robert Duck - <http://bbc.in/2dag3rg>

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Claire Sweeney, Network Rail



Profile: Claire Sweeney has worked in the Environmental Sector for 18 years and is currently Environment Consents Manager for Network Rail's Greater West Programme, which includes the Great West Mainline Electrification Scheme and associated works. She has worked for Network Rail delivering environmental management and environmental consents for 5 years.

Delivering Sustainable Network Rail Improvement Schemes for the benefit of Severn Estuary Stakeholders

My presentation will give an overview of the Network Rail Improvement Schemes underway currently and planned in the region and some examples of how Network Rail is managing the environmental impacts associated with these works.

Additional links:

Network Rail website: www.networkrail.co.uk

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Wendy Jackson, Forest of Dean District Council & Lydney Coastal Communities Team



Profile: Wendy Jackson is the Regeneration Manager at the Forest of Dean District Council and has been in this role for 10 years. Her job is to work with a variety of partners to attract external public sector and private sector investment funding into the Forest to implement the District Council's statutory planning policy ambitions. Over the last two years, this has involved a focus on Lydney, one of the four Forest towns. In 2014/15, Wendy submitted a successful bid to the Government's Community Economic Development Programme to help create a new economic plan for the town centre working in close partnership with Lydney Town Council. A further successful bid was made that year to the Government's Coastal Community Team Programme and Lydney was designated as one of the 118 Coastal Community Teams (CCT) across the country to help drive growth in coastal areas.

The Lydney CCT has 16 stakeholder partners (and counting) and is ably chaired by Dane Broomfield from the Environment Agency (EA). EA currently own the 17 hectare site at Lydney docks and harbour and DEFRA has tasked the Agency to dispose of this cherished historic asset. A preferred bidder was announced in June this year but a lengthy approval process is still needed to complete the disposal – this will require further consultation with DEFRA, the Marine Management Organisation and a Harbour Revision Order.

Wendy is a member of both the Executive Group and Stakeholder Group of the Lydney CCT. The District Council is the accountable body for the £60,000 grant funding already secured and Wendy has provided the project management input to date.

Destination Lydney – The Redevelopment of Lydney Harbour

Her presentation will expand upon how the team is organised and illustrate how the first project to restore the Grade 2 Listed Lydney Harbour Swing Bridge has got off the ground.

She will also touch on Lydney CCT's current £3M bids pending with:

- Big Lottery Fund - Coastal Communities Fund Round 4 - "Eyes Right Project"
- Historic England - to establish a Severnside Heritage Action Zone in Lydney that is aiming to unite the historic docks and harbour with the town's Conservation Area.

Additional links:

Lydney Coastal Communities Team (<http://bit.ly/2dd4XVm>) Economic Plan (<http://bit.ly/2cVXrMk>)

Lydney Neighbourhood Development Plan (<http://bit.ly/2dahjuk>)

Forest of Dean District Council Core Strategy, Allocation Plan & Local Action Plan (<http://bit.ly/2cXEOKJ>)

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