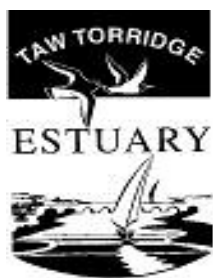


TAW TORRIDGE ESTUARY FORUM

NEWSLETTER UPDATE – 3rd. SEPTEMBER, 2007



- **TTEF Visit to Braunton Marsh:**
- **Northam Burrows – Disused Landfill Site:**
- **EA Bathing Beach Monitoring:**
- **Estuary Geomorphology Study – Braunton:**
- **EA Fish Survey – 13th. September 2007:**
- **Our Coast - Course Programme:**
- **ND AONB - New Volunteer Co-ordinator:**
- **Landmarc: Event at Fremington Camp:**
- **DWT: Staff changes and new address:**
- **Kathleen & May Appeal:**
- **Other Information Items:**
- **Consultations:**

BRAUNTON MARSH INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD:

TTEF INVITATION TO VISIT BRAUNTON MARSH ON: SATURDAY, 15th. SEPTEMBER, 2007

Just to remind you that, following the very successful TTEF Management Study of Braunton Marsh 2007, the Braunton Marsh Internal Drainage Board has generously invited all members of the TTEF to a guided visit of Braunton Marsh on Saturday, 15th. September, 2007.

TTEF Members need to be at the Caen Street Car Park in Braunton, outside the Braunton Countryside Centre, at 2.30 p.m., and a cream tea will be available at the Vivian Moon Centre in Braunton at the conclusion of the visit.

This is a unique opportunity for members to visit the areas of the Marsh that are not open to public access, and to have the opportunity to speak with the members of the Board about farming on the Marsh, about water management issues, and about the marsh environment.

If you (and your wife/husband/partner) would like to take part in the visit, please contact the Clerk to the IDB as soon as possible. Her contact details are:

Mrs. Susan Squire
Clerk to the Braunton Marsh Internal Drainage Board
Haxlea
2, Threeways
Bratton Fleming
Barnstaple
North Devon. EX31 4TG
Telephone: (01598) 710526
e-mail: susan.squire@virgin.net

NORTHAM BURROWS: DISUSED LANDFILL SITE

Stuart Corbett (EA) has kindly forwarded to the TTEF a letter from the Waste Management Section of Devon County Council, informing him that a detailed investigation of the Disused Landfill Site at Northam Burrows is to be undertaken. In the absence of any records of waste received at the Site before 1974, and with only limited records for the period from 1974 until its closure in the mid-1990s, the investigation will ascertain the extent, depth, physical characteristics and chemical content of the waste, and will identify any potential risks to the environment or public health and, therefore, the most appropriate course of action to manage those risks.

The investigation will take place in four phases:

1. **A Desk Study**, looking at all of the information currently available, and also at the evidence visible on the surface of the Site
2. **A Trial Pit Investigation**, involving approximately 32 pits to a depth of 3-4 metres, the collection of samples for laboratory testing, and the verification of the northern boundary of the filled material. Prior to the excavation of these pits, the existing turfs will be lifted and set aside. Following the collection of the samples, the pits will be re-filled and the turfs replaced, ensuring the rapid recovery of the excavated area
3. **A Bore Hole Excavation**, involving drilling bore holes into the site, to determine the thickness of the water, the collection of samples of filled materials deeper than 4 metres, and the installation of standpipes in selected bore holes, to enable ongoing testing of gas and groundwater in the site
4. **Laboratory Testing of Samples**, to establish the chemical and biochemical oxygen demand, Total Organic Carbon, hardness, conductivity, sulphate, chloride, hydrocarbons, phenols and asbestos. In addition, the most contaminated samples will be subjected to a full "red list" analysis, which includes tests for dioxins, furans and chemicals commonly found in pesticides and other agrochemicals

DCC would like to hear from anyone with knowledge of the site during its operational period, who could identify areas where problem wastes are believed to have been deposited, in order that the investigation may be weighted to place a greater emphasis on those areas. If you have any information, please contact:

Adrian Middlewick
Senior Waste Management Officer
Waste Management Section
Devon County Council
Room 21, Matford Lane Offices
County Hall
Topsham Road
EXETER. EX2 4QW
Telephone: (01392) 382725
e-mail: adrian.middlewick@devon.gov.uk
before 14th. September, 2007.

Mr. Middlewick is prepared to meet with individuals and groups on site, in order to discuss these proposals in greater detail. I have written to Mr. Middlewick requesting that the TTEF be kept informed.

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
BATHING BEACH MONITORING:
SAUNTON, INSTOW AND WESTWARD HO!**

Since reporting the failure of Instow Beach to meet the Imperative Bathing Water Directive Standard on 15th. May 2007, Instow has again failed the Imperative Standard on both 11th. and 27th. July 2007. As only one failure of the Imperative Standard is allowed, Instow has now failed for the 2007 bathing season. On 11th. July 2007, Saunton Beach also had its first failure against the Imperative Standard.

Against the higher Guideline (Blue Flag) Standard, three failures are allowed during the course of the bathing season.

On the latest figures published on 30th. August 2007 for Saunton, Instow and Westward Ho! beaches:

- Saunton has one Imperative plus six Guideline failures – one sample is still under analysis. Saunton Beach has, therefore, already failed the higher Guideline (Blue Flag) Standard for the season.
- Instow has three Imperative plus five Guideline failures – three samples are still under analysis. Instow has, therefore, failed for the season against the lower Imperative (Mandatory) Standard.
- Westward Ho! has three Guideline failures – one sample is still under analysis. So far, Westward Ho! is the only one of the three beaches not to have failed a Standard.

During the course of the bathing season, twenty samples are analysed by the Environment Agency. Up to now, in 2007, seventeen samples have been taken, with a further three samples still to come. I will keep you informed of the remaining results when I receive them

**TAW TORRIDGE ESTUARY
GEOMORPHOLOGY STUDY:
PUBLIC PRESENTATION IN BRAUNTON**

As agreed at the TTEF meeting, a further Public Presentation of Professor John Pethick's Taw Torridge Estuary Geomorphology Study has been arranged. As Professor Pethick is no longer available to us, Andrew Bell, Manager of the Northern Devon Coast and Countryside Service and Biosphere Reserve Co-ordinator, will present the Study on his behalf.

The Presentation will take place on:
Wednesday, 14th. November 2007 at 7.00 p.m.
at
Braunton Parish Hall

In view of the importance of this Study to everyone living around the Taw Torridge Estuary at a time of climate change and sea-level rise, and also of the forthcoming Shoreline Management Plan consultation, **please inform all of the members of your own organisations and members of the public about the forthcoming presentation, so that everyone will have the opportunity to attend.** There will be a press release for the local media, and I shall be circulating posters and further information in due course. A copy of the Executive Summary of the Study can be found on the TTEF website:
www.ttef.org.uk

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
FISH SURVEY:**

I have been informed by Paul Carter (EA) that the Environment Agency will be carrying out a fish survey in the Taw Torridge Estuary on 13th. September, 2007. This survey is a scientific investigation of the fish stocks in the Estuary, and will take place at high water, at around 7.00 a.m., near the lifeboat mooring at Appledore. The survey will involve the use of a 14-metre beam trawler.

OUR COAST: COURSE PROGRAMME

Following on from the success of last year's programme of courses under the title 'Our Coast', Paula Ferris, the Coastwise Project Officer, has organised a further programme of courses this autumn, including items on:

- North Devon Landscapes
- Discovery Day at the Beach
- Lundy: Marine Life and Conservation
- From Rocks to Wrecks
- Field Trip to Isley Marsh
- Aspects of the Coast
- Smuggling on the North Devon Coast
- Coastal Plants
- Mini-topics – series of 10-minute talks and displays
- Beyond Old Harry, from South Coast to North Coast

For further information, and for an application form, please contact:

Paula Ferris,
Coastwise Project Officer,
36, Stallards,
Braunton. EX33 1BP
Telephone: (01271) 812789
p.s.ferris@btinternet.com

Paula also informs me that she and Pip Jollands (Hallsannery Field Centre) are looking for a dozen or so volunteers to take part in the MBA/MarLin Project, to carry out transect monitoring and a climate change species search. More details are available on the MarLin website:

www.marlin.ac.uk/shore_thing

The first session will take place at Lee Bay on Tuesday, 25th. September 2007. Please contact Paula (contact details above) if you would like to take part.

**NORTH DEVON AREAS OF OUTSTANDING
NATURAL BEAUTY:
NEW VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR**

Rachel Ackerman has recently been appointed to the post of AONB Volunteer Co-ordinator for the AONB State of the Environment Project. She succeeds Janine Holbert, who has left the AONB to go into teaching. We look forward to working with Rachel, and wish Janine every success in her new career.

You can contact Rachel at the:

AONB Unit,
Bideford Station,
East-the-Water,
Bideford. EX39 4BB
Telephone: (01237) 423655
e-mail: Rachel.Ackerman@devon.gov.uk
and the recent AONB State of the Environment Newsletter can be obtained from Rachel or found on the AONB website:
www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk

LANDMARC: EVENT AT FREMINGTON TRAINING CAMP

Along with local councillors and other guests, I was invited recently by Landmarc to attend a social evening at Fremington Training Camp, to learn more about the role of Landmarc both locally, in supporting military training at Fremington Training Camp, and nationally.

It was a very enjoyable and informative evening, and we were entertained with music and a march past by the Duke of Lancaster's Band, whose bandmen and bandwomen were staying at Fremington Camp at the time.

I am grateful to Graham Lofts, the Regional Operations Manager of Landmarc and to Lt. Col. Michael Portman of Fremington Training Camp for their hospitality.

DEVON WILDLIFE TRUST: STAFF CHANGES AND NEW ADDRESS

Caroline Roberts, the Marine Awareness Officer, left both North Devon and Devon Wildlife Trust on 17th. August 2007 to move on to a new career. I have written, on your behalf, to wish her well, and to thank her for all of her excellent work in North Devon over the past couple of years.

Until a successor is appointed, if you need to contact DWT, please contact Emma Richardson at Head Office. Her e-mail address is:

erichardson@devonwildlifetrust.org

From 20th. August 2007, DWT Head Office has a new address:

Devon Wildlife Trust
Cricklepit Mill,
Commercial Road,
EXETER. EX2 4AB
Telephone: (01392) 279244 (unaltered)

KATHLEEN & MAY APPEAL:

You will have seen in the local press that an appeal has been launched to retain the Kathleen & May in Bideford, and to save her for the nation. She is the only surviving example of a three-masted wooden schooner and is an integral part of the maritime history of the Taw Torridge Estuary. I also understand that she has the only remaining example of an Appledore Reef.

If you wish to support this appeal you can:

- sign the petition by filling out a card available at various outlets locally, by contacting the Friends of the Kathleen & May at Lion House, 19, Barnstaple Street, Bideford, Devon. EX39 4AE or by accessing the on-line petition at:

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/Kathleen-May/>

- visit the Kathleen & May at Brunswick Wharf, East-the-Water, Bideford (Sat. and Sun. 1-4 p.m.)
- visit the website: **kathleen-and-may**

NORTH DEVON'S BIOSPHERE RESERVE: VISIT OF KENYAN DELEGATION

A delegation from Kenya is in North Devon from 3rd. to 9th. September 2007, visiting North Devon's Biosphere Reserve, the North Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Taw Torridge Estuary. The visit has been organised by Andrew Bell, the Biosphere Reserve Co-ordinator, and I have been invited to meet the delegates on Tuesday and on Friday.

NORTH DEVON AREAS OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY:

The Chairman of Cannock Chase AONB and his wife are also visiting North Devon this week. Both Richard Butler (UK MAB and Chairman of the ND AONB Partnership) and I will be assisting Linda Blanchard (AONB Officer) and Dave Edcombe (AONB Project Officer) to show them the North Devon AONB.

OTHER INFORMATION ITEMS:

Devon Wildlife Trust:

North Devon Voluntary Marine Conservation Area Newsletter
<http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/index.php?section=places:vmca:news>

If you wish to be put on the mailing list for this newsletter, send an e-mail to:

dwildlifetrust77@clara.co.uk

with 'VMCA newsletter' in the subject line, and ask to be put on the newsletter e-mailing list

North Devon AONB:

State of the Environment Newsletter:
www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk

Defra and Marine Fisheries Agency:

Fishing Focus Newsletter – Summer 2007 Issue
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/fish/pdf/fishfocus7.pdf>

North Devon's Biosphere Reserve:

Newsletter No.4 – August 2007
www.unesco.org/mab

Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM):

Marine Stewardship Fund and Marine Communities Fund
www.thecrownstate.co.uk

Defra: Access Newsletter:

- Consultation on proposals to improve access to the the English Coast
Local Forum Events

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/coast-access/index.htm>

- Proposed South Downs National Park
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/issues/landscap/natparks/sdowns/index.htm>
- Public Rights of Way (Hearings and Inquiries Procedure) (England) Rules 2007

www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/public/row-hearing.htm

- Natural England consultation on fire restrictions
 - <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/cl/addressopen/nefireconsult.pdf>

North Devon AONB:
State of the Environment Project News:
www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk

CONSULTATIONS:

NDDC:
North Devon District Council
Civic Centre
Barnstaple, EX31 1EA
www.northdevon.gov.uk

Planning Policy Team:
Draft Development Brief for Land east of Parsonage Land and Design Guide on Refuse Storage for new Residential Properties: (01271) 388392 or 388409

Application No: 44971 (Mr. D.J. Heard)
Planning Application for Erection of 124 Flats together with landscaping and related infrastructure works on land at Rolle Quay (former Gliddon & Squire Site)
(01271) 388329

Application No: 44692 (Miss S-J Allin)
Demolition of Factory & Erection of 23 Units of Mixed Commercial Use
Former Sussmans Factory Site, Riverside Road, Pottington Business Park, Barnstaple
(01271) 388291

Application No: 43599 (Mr. K. Bines)
Outline Application for the Comprehensive Redevelopment of the Leaderflush & Shapland/ARC Site, Raleigh Works, Taw Wharf, Barnstaple.
Amended and Additional Information
(01271) 388286

Devon County Council:

Adopted Devon County Waste Local Plan
http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/planning_system/planning_minerals_and_waste/waste_planning/waste_local_plan-2.htm

Defra:
Consultation on Proposals to Improve Access to the English Coast:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/coast-access/index.htm>

Emu Ltd:
Application for Government Permission Area 486 (Western Bristol Channel) Aggregate Extraction Licence for Resource Management Association
www.emulimited.com
Non-technical Summary available from me upon request

I should be grateful to receive any comments that member organisations wish to make on the above consultations as soon as possible

PLEASE NOTE:

Amongst the information contained on the TTEF website, www.ttef.org.uk copies of the following are available:

- **Taw Torridge Estuary Users' Guide:** containing :
 - Estuary Code of Conduct
 - Estuary Zoning System
 - Estuary Speed Limits
- **Taw Torridge Estuary Free Registration Scheme:**
- **Taw Torridge Estuary Incident Log:**
- **Taw Torridge Estuary Moorings Code of Practice:**
- **Taw Torridge Estuary Crab Tiling Code of Conduct:**
- **TTEF Management Study for Braunton Marsh:**
- **Taw Torridge Estuary Geomorphology Study – Executive Summary:**
- **TTEF Newsletters:**
- **TTEF Minutes:**
- **Regular Reports and Information on:**
 - Braunton Burrows
 - Bideford Harbour and Estuary Pilotage Issues

DATES OF FORTHCOMING TTEF MEETINGS:

Monday, 15th October 2007 at Barnstaple Civic Centre
Monday, 21st January 2008 at Bideford Town Hall

All meetings to commence at 7.00 p.m



Rose Day
Chairman
Taw Torridge Estuary Forum
The Crow's Nest
Marine Parade
INSTOW
Bideford,
North Devon. EX39 4JN

Telephone: (01271) 860686
e-mail: Geoff.Rose.Day@ukgateway.net
website: www.ttef.org.uk