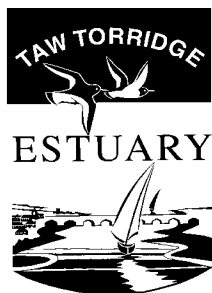


TAW TORRIDGE ESTUARY FORUM

NEWSLETTER UPDATE – 2nd. JUNE, 2008



website: www.ttef.org.uk

- Defra: Draft Marine Bill – Update:
- TTEF Marine Bill Subcommittee – 18th. June:
- Northam Burrows – Erosion and Landfill Site:
- EA: Bathing Water Results to date:
- Knapp House: Update:
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DEFRA: DRAFT MARINE BILL UPDATE

Devon Maritime Forum held its Spring Meeting at the Royal William Yard in Plymouth on 15th. May 2008 to discuss feedback on the draft Marine Bill, and the opportunities the Bill will present for integration in Devon.

The Meeting was attended by 100 delegates, including a large delegation from Defra, and a very interesting day was spent discussing the proposed legislation, and its potential impacts and opportunities for Devon.

The five workshops covered:

- Establishing the Marine Management Organisation
- Marine Spatial Planning and Integration on the Coast
- Nature Conservation and Marine Conservation Zones
- Changing Roles in Fisheries Management – Devon Sea Fisheries to Inshore Fishery Conservation Authorities (IFCAs)
- Streamlining Legislation on Licensing and Enforcement

and there were short ‘soapbox’ sessions on areas of best practice in Devon, including:

Marine Litter
Inshore Fisheries
Fisherman and the National Picture
Plymouth Marine Sciences Partnership
Estuary Partnerships
and
Marine Spatial Planning in Plymouth

A reporter and a camera team from BBC South West were present, and a report on the meeting was shown on *The Politics Show* on Sunday, 18th. May. A video of this programme is available upon request.

Tom Hynes of the Northern Devon Coast and Countryside Service has called a meeting for this coming week to discuss the Coast and Countryside Service’s response to the Draft Marine Bill. The TTEF has been invited.

The Draft Marine Bill is on the agenda of the Devon Area Estuary Officers’ Meeting in Plymouth, hosted by the Tamar Estuary Officer, on Wednesday, 11th. June, where the TTEF will be represented.

The consultation period for comments on the draft Bill concludes on:

Thursday, 26th. June 2008

Comments should be sent to the:

Marine Bill Team

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Area 2C Nobel House

17 Smith Square

London SW1P 3JR

e-mail: MarineBillTeam@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 7238 4399/4422/6560

A copy of the full Draft Marine Bill can be found on the Defra website:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/marine/legislation>

The Joint Committee of the two Houses of Parliament on the Draft Marine Bill has invited written submissions to assist it in its scrutiny of the draft Bill. These submissions must be received by **Monday, 16th. June 2008**. Further details can be found on the Joint Committee’s web pages at:

http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/jcdmb.cfm

Note: Owing to the short timeframe to which the Joint Committee is working, any papers received by the **beginning of June** will be those most likely to influence its work.

TTEF SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ON THE DRAFT MARINE BILL: WEDNESDAY, 18th. JUNE, 2008

As agreed at the recent TTEF meeting, a TTEF Subcommittee has now been arranged for:

Wednesday, 18th. June 2008

at

7.00 p.m.

at

The Crow’s Nest, Marine Parade, Instow. EX39 4JN

in order to prepare a TTEF response to the Draft Marine Bill in time to meet the deadline for comments on 26th. June 2008.

Any TTEF member with an interest in helping to prepare this response to the draft Bill is welcome - please let me know in advance if you wish to attend, so that the numbers of attendees can be accommodated.

For your information, a copy of the:

Summary of the Draft Marine Bill

prepared for Devon Maritime Forum by Jim Masters, the DMF co-ordinator, is **attached** to this Newsletter, and the full text of the Draft Marine Bill can be found on the Defra Website:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/marine/legislation>

**NORTHAM BURROWS:
EROSION AND DISUSED LANDFILL SITE**

A Briefing Note on Northam Burrows has now been received from Adrian Rushworth, Area Flood Risk Manager of the Environment Agency, the text of which is shown below:

“Northam Burrows is located at the southern edge of the mouth of the Taw Torridge estuary. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, designated for its flora, fauna, physical features and natural processes. An unusual pebble ridge separates the beach from the sand dunes behind. In the past, a waste tip operated at the northern end of the site, but this is now closed and the land largely restored.

A joint group of officers are working together to address the sustainable management of the Taw Torridge estuary, including Northam Burrows. The organisations represented are North Devon's Biosphere Reserve Team, Torridge District Council, North Devon Council, Devon County Council, Environment Agency and Natural England.

The second generation of the Shoreline Management Plan for North Devon and Somerset (SMP2) will formalise the management policies for the coast, including the estuary. SMP is led by the Environment Agency with North Devon Council as the promoting authority. It will be developed in consultation with the public and stakeholders. The work has begun and is due for completion in late 2009.

Whilst the SMP is being developed, the 2007 Geomorphology and Management report prepared by Professor John Pethick has been accepted as the best available science on estuarine processes. The report was presented to the public last year; copies are available on the ‘Taw Torridge Estuary Forum’ and the ‘North Devon Biosphere’ websites. Professor Pethick concludes that the pebble ridge is moving back and rotating to a new position where it will be better aligned to the prevailing waves. The science will be used in determining policies for the estuary.

Devon County Council have arranged for site investigations at Northam Burrows. Their partner consultants Parsons Brinckerhoff are currently researching historic and environmental information on the Burrows in general and the landfill in particular. On-site investigations planned for August and September 2008 will help to confirm the extent, contents and condition of the landfill site.

Following the storms that occurred in March 2008 the officers group visited Northam Burrows and the weak point in the pebble ridge. This point appears to be migrating northwards away from Westward Ho! and not increasing significantly in size as it moves. Some erosion of the ridge and dunes is taking place as expected but the current rates of erosion do not present an immediate risk to the landfill site. There could be some impact on the golf course, but there is space available to accommodate changes by adapting the course.

Monitoring of changes to the Burrows will continue. Further study is currently planned to augment our understanding of rates and patterns of change as well as support the SMP.”

For information, Northam Burrows was the subject of a report on the BBC South West programme *The Politics Show* on Sunday, 18th. May 2008. A video copy of this programme is available upon request.

Pictures of the erosion of Northam Burrows over the past two years can be found on the Northam website:

<http://www.northam-devon.co.uk/burrows1/erosion.asp>

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY:
BATHING WATER RESULTS – 2008 SEASON**

Disappointingly, the first sample for the 2008 Bathing Season, taken on 1st. May 2008 at Instow, failed the Imperative (Mandatory) Standard for faecal coliforms. One failure against the standard is allowed so, in order to pass even the lower of the two standards for the year there must be no further failures during the 2008 Bathing Season.

On that same day, Saunton failed both the faecal and total coliform counts against the higher Guideline (Blue Flag) standard, which allows 4 failures in 20 samples.

The Environment Agency is now able to undertake Microbial Source Tracking (MST), which can establish the source of the pollution. On this occasion, approximately 96% of the bacterial source was ruminant in nature, leaving only 4% resulting from human contamination.

There had been rainfall in the two days previous to the testing, but the amount of the rainfall was insufficient for an abnormal weather waiver application to be successful.

The Environment Agency has asked its Environment Management Teams to identify any estuarine/saltmarsh grazing areas which may be potential pathways. The Teams will also be highlighting to landowners the potential that agricultural/field runoff into the Torridge and Taw systems can have on bathing waters.

In addition to the routine samples collected from the Taw/Torridge Estuary (Saunton, Instow, Westward Ho!, River Torridge at Bideford Long Bridge and the Taw Estuary at Fremington Quay) and up as far as Woolleigh Brook (south of Great Torrington) and Little Dart/Hollicombe Water on the Taw, the Environment Agency will also be collecting extra samples for bacteriological and microbial source tracking analysis. In addition, event monitors have been re-installed at the overflow from Instow ‘A’ pumping station.

Confirmed Results for 2008 to date:

	Coliforms:		
Westward Ho!	Total	Faecal	Faecal Strep
01.05.08	10	6	2
10.05.08	10	2	4
15.05.08	10	4	10
19.05.08	18	2	2
Instow Beach			
01.05.08	5,200	2,400	346
10.05.08	10	2	246
15.05.08	63	54	10
19.05.08	200	88	4
Saunton Sands			
01.05.08	636	190	21
10.05.08	10	4	10
15.05.08	10	2	2
19.05.08	10	2	2

Bathing Water Directive Standards (confirmed results):

Guideline Standard:

Total Coliforms not to exceed 500 (4 in 20 allowed)

Faecal Coliforms not to exceed 100 (4 in 20 allowed)

Faecal Streptococci not to exceed 100 (2 in 20 allowed)

Imperative Standard:

Total Coliforms not to exceed 10,000 (1 in 20 allowed)

Faecal Coliforms not to exceed 2,000 (1 in 20 allowed)

LAND AT KNAPP HOUSE, NORTHAM:

You may have seen in the North Devon Journal that, as part of the new Local Development Framework, a scheme has been proposed for the development of the land around Knapp

House at Northam.

The scheme proposes an 150-berth marina, a dinghy park, boat sheds, workshop units, a new home for both Bideford's rugby and football clubs, a hotel, retail and industrial units, and a community centre containing council offices, register office, meeting room and archive library, a sports hall and changing rooms. A skate park and a tennis centre are also envisaged as is an, as yet, undetermined number of residential housing units – detached, semi-detached, and terraced - together with apartments and affordable housing.

This scheme is one of a number of ideas put forward to Torridge District Council for the Torridge area as part of the Core Strategy consultation. Torridge District Council is examining all of these ideas, and will then put forward its preferred options - these will then be subject to a further public consultation period of six weeks in the Autumn.

APPLEDORE FISH DOCK:

The new Appledore Fish Dock is expected to be completed at the end of September 2008, and will include a building for processing the fish, improved landing facilities, on-shore facilities and office space. However, structural problems have been encountered with the quay wall, which will cost a further £375,000 to overcome.

We understand that Torridge District Council has budgeted for this additional cost, but is also talking to the organisations that are helping to pay for the project, to see if they can help with this extra cost; these organisations are the South West of England Regional Development Agency, the Marine Fisheries Agency, the European Regional Development Fund and the Bideford Trawlermen's Co-operative.

DEVON WILDLIFE TRUST: WILDLIFE FESTIVAL – SUNDAY, 8th. JUNE 2008 BARNSTAPLE PANNIER MARKET

Devon Wildlife Trust's 2008 Wildlife Festival will be taking place on Sunday, 9th. June 2008 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Pannier Market in Barnstaple in association with the North Devon Festival.

The Wildlife Festival will feature activities for all ages. Visitors can meet various creatures, learn about wild crafts, find out how to help wildlife in your garden, and play wildlife games. It is hoped that 3,000 people will attend.

www.devonwildlifetrust.org

NATURAL ENGLAND: NEW GENERAL LICENCES

Please note that, in England, Natural England has now set up an additional system of 'General Licences'. These licences allow certain actions to be carried out, which would otherwise have been illegal under the legislation, without needing to apply for a specific licence. The new General Licences cover anyone who keeps dead specimens, or bits of specimens, e.g. otter spraints with bits of white-clawed crayfish in them, other droppings, otter skeletons, stuffed EU protected animals, dead bats or dormice, sand lizard sloughs, etc., - in fact, anything that is, or came from, an EU protected species.

The website below gives details about this new licensing system, and how to apply:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/conservation/wildlife-management/licensing/licences.htm>

NORTH DEVON AREAS OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY: LOCAL LIFE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The North Devon AONB has teamed up with the North Devon Festival to stage a *Local Life* Photographic Competition. Throughout June, photographers of all ages and abilities are being invited to capture on digital camera those places, features, activities, events and people that make the North Devon coast so distinct and special.

The four competition categories offer real scope for creativity and humour, with a focus on people, the local community, and the cultural landscape:

- Village Life
- People at Work
- Hidden Treasures
- North Devon Festival

The deadline for entries is Sunday, 6th. July 2008 and the judges will be shortlisting entries on the basis of originality, humour and technical expertise. The shortlisted entries will be posted on the AONB website, and the public will be invited to vote for the winners online until 30th. September. The photos will also be exhibited at the North Devon Show and votes will be collected there.

The winners will be announced at an Award Ceremony on Thursday, 23rd. October 2008 at the Landmark Theatre, Ilfracombe.

The category winners will be awarded Hoya Summit 7x50 Binoculars (retail value £69.99) and the overall winner will be presented with a Ricoh R7 Digital Compact Camera (retail value £199.99). These prizes have been donated by J&A Cameras and Ricoh Cameras.

Further information and entry forms can be found on the AONB website below, or at J&A Cameras in Bideford, Barnstaple or Tiverton.

www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk

RNLI APPLEDORE ANNUAL MEETING:

RNLI Appledore held its Annual Open Evening at Skern Lodge on 24th. April. It was a most enjoyable and informative evening, and the film of the RNLI's lifeguard operations featured a re-enactment of the successful rescue of two young swimmers at Woolacombe.

The guest speaker was Derrick Jones, Sector Manager of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. He confirmed that Swansea remains one of the busiest Coastguard centres, with 1,378 incidents being co-ordinated from Swansea over the past year.

Derrick spoke about MCA involvement in the recent floods in Tewksbury, and of the need to ensure that communications between the emergency services are sufficient for future emergencies.

The annual RNLI Appledore Station Open Day will take place on Bank Holiday Monday, 25th. August 2008.

CONSULTATIONS:

Boundary Committee for England: Independent Boundary Review

http://www.devon.gov.uk/devon_concept_report_col2.pdf
<http://www.indevon.org.uk/BoundaryReview/index.php?page=lgr-concept-documents>

Defra:

Draft Marine Bill

Deadline for Responses – 26th. June, 2008

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/marine/legislation>

European Fisheries Fund UK Operational Programme

Deadline for Responses – 27th. June, 2008

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/eufishfund-phase2>

Marine and Fisheries Agency:
Dredging Application to Extract Marine Aggregates
Area 472 Culver Sand
Decision Notice and Environmental Impact Assessment
www.mfa.gov.uk

North Devon Council:
RMB Chivenor – 46759 – Case Officer: Mrs. M. Pool
Motor Transport Facility – three replacement buildings

NEWSLETTERS AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

Natural England:
State of the Natural Environment
New publication
www.naturalengland.org.uk

RNLI:
Sea Safety – The Complete Guide: Booklet and CD
www.rnli.org.uk/seasafety

Devon Maritime Forum:
Join us – Leaflet
www.devonmaritimeforum.org.uk

North Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty:
Coastal Life – Newsletter – Spring/Summer 2008
Your AONB – Community Profiling Project – booklet
Outstanding – Magazine – Spring/Summer 2008
www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk

Creative Coasts 2:
Seminar and Workshop Reports
www.devontownsforum.org.uk

Defra:
Access Newsletter: Issue 30 – April 2008
Access Newsletter: Issue 31 – April 2008
Access Newsletter: Issue 32 – May 2008
Access Newsletter: Issue 33 – May 2008
e-mail: access@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.defra.gov.uk/access

Finding Sanctuary:
Newsletter 05 – May 2008
www.finding-sanctuary.org

North Devon Council:
Barnstaple Regeneration e-Newsletter
www.northdevon.gov.uk
regeneration@northdevon.gov.uk

Learn to Sea:
Devon Marine Education Network
www.learnatsea.co.uk

Food News:
May 2008 Newsletter
nick@saltmedia.co.uk

Department for Culture, Media and Sport:
News Release: DCMS brings a sea change
www.culture.gov.uk

Torridge Voluntary Services
Newsletter – Spring 2008
www.torridgecvcs.org.uk

TTEF WEBSITE:

Taw Torridge Estuary Users' Guide: containing
Estuary Code of Conduct
Estuary Zoning System
Estuary Speed Limits
<http://www.ttef.org.uk/Marine/estuary%20leaflet.pdf>
Taw Torridge Estuary Free Registration Scheme:
http://www.ttef.org.uk/Marine/free_craft_registration_scheme.htm

Taw Torridge Estuary Incident Log:
http://www.ttef.org.uk/odds_ends/TAW%20Torridge%20Incident.pdf

Taw Torridge Estuary Moorings Code of Practice:
<http://www.ttef.org.uk/Marine/mooring%20leaflet.pdf>
Taw Torridge Estuary Crab Tiling Code of Conduct:
http://www.ttef.org.uk/Reports_information/crab_tile_code_of_conduct.htm

TTEF Management Study for Braunton Marsh:
<http://www.ttef.org.uk/Study/BrauntonReportDigital.pdf>
Taw Torridge Estuary: Geomorphology and
Management by Professor John Pethick
http://www.ttef.org.uk/odds_ends/TTEFEstuary_Modelling.pdf

All recent TTEF Newsletters:
<http://www.ttef.org.uk/Newsletters/newsletters.htm>
All recent TTEF Minutes:
<http://www.ttef.org.uk/minutes/minutes.htm>
Braunton Burrows – Biosphere Reserve Core Area
http://www.ttef.org.uk/Biosphere/biosphere_reports.htm
Braunton Burrows – 2008 Walks
http://www.ttef.org.uk/Biosphere/braunton_countryside_centre.htm

Bideford Harbour and Estuary Pilotage
http://www.ttef.org.uk/Marine/marine_reports.htm

DATES OF TTEF MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR:

Monday, 21st. July, 2008 at the Civic Centre, Barnstaple
Monday, 20th. October, 2008 at the Civic Centre, Barnstaple
Monday, 19th. January, 2009 at Bideford Town Hall (AGM)

All meetings commence at 7.00 p.m.



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