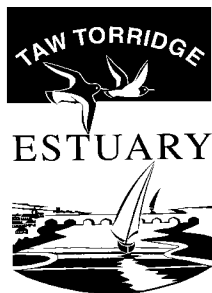


# TAW TORRIDGE ESTUARY FORUM

NEWSLETTER UPDATE – 20th. JANUARY, 2009



website: [www.ttef.org.uk](http://www.ttef.org.uk)

- Northam Burrows: Disused Landfill Site:
- Defra: Integrated Coastal Zone Management:
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## DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL: NORTHAM BURROWS DISUSED LANDFILL SITE:

Over the summer, the consultants, Parsons Brinckerhoff, were commissioned by Devon County Council to carry out an environmental study into the Disused Landfill Site. This Study has now been published and states:

**“The aim of this study is to assess the threat posed to human health, the environment and local amenity if the site was to become flooded by the sea. The study proposes measures that can be applied to reduce or alleviate these potential issues. This study does not assess the likelihood of flooding occurring.**

### Overall Conclusions:

After reviewing all the evidence, it has been concluded that Northam Burrows landfill site represents a typical landfill site, and does not pose a health risk for people using the site as it stands now.

It contains a mixture of biodegradable waste, such as paper, card, wood, etc. and inert waste such as rubble. The combination of waste is a typical blend of household and commercial waste, common to landfill sites in general. As with other landfill sites, as the waste breaks down, there are contaminants, or chemical elements released into the surroundings, but these are to be expected.

Should the site become flooded, it could start to erode, which may mean that waste could become exposed. This is likely to look and smell unpleasant, but any contaminants are likely to be diluted and dispersed by the surrounding estuary waters or into the atmosphere. It is however, a consideration, given the site attracts considerable numbers of tourists and visitors.

### Recommendations:

The groundwater and leachate results suggest that the contaminated compounds may be moving from the landfill to the groundwater. However, it is important to note that

this would be expected on a site such as Northam Burrows as like many other sites, it was filled by allowing leachate to soak into the ground, where it would become diluted and disperse. In this case this assessment does not take into account the likely dilution by the waters of the sea/Taw/Torrige Estuary. As a result of such dilution, contaminant concentrations are likely to be reduced to acceptable levels. However, to confirm this view it is suggested that the Environment Agency is consulted on the results.

Depending on the views of the Environment Agency, further hydraulic modelling may need to be carried out in order to be entirely confident that the contamination in the leachate is not affecting the underlying aquifer.

Whilst present in boreholes, landfill gas will undergo dilution in the surrounding air prior to interacting with people using the site. This dilution effect has not been measured as this is a specialist task using a flux box survey. With respect to the continuing use of the site as a recreational open space, consideration should be given to keeping the current fence in place and therefore preventing access to the areas understood to be producing greater concentration of ground gas until such a time as the flux box survey can be carried out.”

A Public Exhibition on the Study was held at the Northam Burrows Visitors’ Centre on Tuesday, 13th. January 2009.

Copies of both the Non-Technical Summary and the full Study are available on the weblink:

[www.devon.gov.uk/waste\\_disposal.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/waste_disposal.htm)

and copies of the full Study will be available to be viewed within the next few days at Northam, Bideford and Barnstaple Public Libraries, at Torrige District Council, at North Devon Council, and in the Northam Burrows Visitors’ Centre. The Non-Technical Summary is also now on the TTEF website.

## DEFRA: INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR ENGLAND:

‘A Strategy for Promoting an Integrated Approach to the Management of Coastal Areas in England’ setting out the Government’s vision for the process of coastal management, objectives and future actions to achieve this vision has now been published.

This important Strategy sets out briefly how all of the changes currently being taken forward will work together in coastal areas.

A limited number of hard copies are available from Defra. If you require a copy, please contact:

[ICZM@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ICZM@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

The Strategy can also be found on the Defra ICZM Weblink:  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/marine/pdf/environment/iczm/iczm-strategy-england.pdf>

or

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/marine/environment/iczm.htm>

## MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS BILL: PRESENTATION BY BARONESS MILLER

On 8th. January 2009, Baroness Sue Miller addressed the members of Coastwise North Devon and their guests on the draft Marine and Coastal Access Bill, which is at present going through its committee stages in the House of Lords.

Baroness Miller sails in the Taw Torridge Estuary, and is involved in both the North Devon Coast AONB and North Devon's Biosphere Reserve. As a result, she is well qualified as a champion of marine issues in the House of Lords.

She spoke of cross-party agreement in the Houses of Parliament on the need for marine protection and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). Defra has now been strengthened and the EU Marine and Water Framework Directives are concentrating minds across Europe on marine and estuary issues.

The Marine Bill covers the area from 200 miles out at sea to the coast, and up to the tidal limits of estuaries. Within this area, the Marine Management Organisation will balance aspirations for Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) with Renewable Energy Zones, fishing, recreation, dredging, and licensing and with the conservation of sea fish, shellfish, migratory and freshwater fish, and enforcement; it will also balance issues of access as in coast paths and No-Take Zones.

The Marine and Coastal Access Bill is intended to be an enabling Bill, and most of the details will be dealt with in secondary legislation. However, there are still inconsistencies and omissions in the present Bill, and there are areas that will need further clarification.

Subsequent discussion raised many points, including:

- the objectives of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) are still rather vague
- how will the MMO interface with local councils/planning?
- how will land-based and marine planning fit together?
- how much of UK territorial waters will be covered by Marine Conservation Zones?
- what is the precise definition of the UK Marine Area?
- what provisions will be contained in the Marine Policy Statement?
- how will stakeholder involvement be managed?
- will there be too much power in the hands of the MMO?
- what should the criteria be for designating MCZs?
- how will the public know where MCZs are?

Baroness Miller recommended that we should all follow the debates taking place using the on-line Hansard record:

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/marineandcoastalaccess.html>

If there is something you then feel you wish to comment upon, please write to:

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath  
(House of Lords)  
and/or

Huw Irranca-Davies

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

(Minister for the Natural and Marine Environment, Wildlife and Rural Affairs) (House of Commons)

You can also post information and comments on the Downing Street website:

[www.Number10.gov.uk](http://www.Number10.gov.uk)

The committee stages in the Lords will finish on the 28th. January, after which the Bill will move on to the Report stage in mid February. At this point a vote will be taken. Thereafter, there will be the Third Reading in the Lords, where a final vote will be taken and the Bill will then move on to the Commons.

Our grateful thanks to Coastwise North Devon for its invitation to attend this very informative presentation, and to Baroness Miller for her continued support for estuary and coastal issues.

#### **FORESHORE LEASES IN THE ESTUARY: DEFENCE ESTATES**

We have just heard from Defence Estates South Land Management Services that the position has now changed with

regard to its agreement with the Crown Estate. Instead of a lease for the foreshore, Defence Estates South is now seeking to enter into a licence with the Crown, which will give the Marines the right to train on the foreshore. They are hoping to complete the licence in the near future.

#### **DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL: FORMER YELLAND POWER STATION SITE: APPEAL BY NOTTS CONTRACTORS LIMITED - TRANSFER STATION, FORMER YELLAND POWER STATION SITE – 02/27/44588/2007 APPEAL: APP/J1155/A/08/2074759/NWF**

The decision on this Appeal was published on 8th. January 2009. The Appeal was allowed, and the planning permission was varied as follows:

- development limited to 5 years from the decision date
- 18 weeks allowed to agree scheme on contaminated risk
- 6 weeks allowed to agree amended building plans
- 6 weeks allowed to agree Flood Risk Management Plan
- 6 weeks allowed to agree construction of flood defence bund
- 6 weeks allowed to erect direction signs at exit (turning right) onto the B3233
- 6 weeks allowed to agree scheme to control dust emissions (this scheme to run for the life of the planning permission)
- 18 weeks allowed to erect the perimeter fencing
- 12 weeks allowed to construct hard surfacing over whole area
- Lorries allowed to access the site between:
  - 08.00 and 18.00 – Monday to Friday
  - 08.00 and 14.00 – Saturdays(environmental monitoring, security and administration allowed outside these hours)
- All waste to be imported or exported by registered waste carriers
- No more than 30 lorries to enter the site and 30 lorries to leave the site daily
- A maximum of 110 lorries to enter the site and 110 lorries to leave the site during the course of one week.

Copies of the Appeal Decision can be obtained from:

e-mail: [enquiries@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@pins.gsi.gov.uk)

The Planning Inspectorate  
4/11 Eagle Wing  
Temple Quay House  
2, The Square  
Temple Quay

Bristol. BS1 6PN

Telephone: (0117) 372 6372

#### **FLOODING TO FOOTPATH AT APPLIEDORE: PROPOSED WORKS**

Martin Caddy of the Northern Devon Coast & Countryside Service has notified us that the flooding on this footpath close to the shipyard at Appledore has now been drained – the water has gone and the site is much improved after the spell of recent dry weather. A new drain was constructed before Christmas, which should prevent any significant future build-up of water.

As this area will, from time to time, be at risk of flooding, a boardwalk is to be built from the sea defence to the point at which the footpath ascends the slope. It is hoped that once this work is finally completed, this corner will improve dramatically, with small ponds, wet areas, and a marsh-oriented plant community developing over time. It is hoped that the works will be completed by the end of January 2009.

## QUADBIKE INCIDENT ON PENHILL MARSH:

On 4th. January, 2009, the Secretary of the Taw and Torridge Wildfowling Club contacted us concerning an incident on Penhill Marsh involving two young persons driving a quadbike.

This matter was passed on to the relevant authorities.

## TONY PRATT ELECTED AS NEW TTEF CHAIRMAN :

At the TTEF Annual General Meeting last evening, which was held at Bideford Town Hall, Tony Pratt was elected as the new TTEF Chairman.

Tony is a very long-standing and experienced member of the TTEF, initially having served as Tawstock Parish Council's representative. Upon the retirement from the TTEF of the founder Chairman, Captain Jimmy Johnson RN (Ret'd), Tony then took over representation for the North Devon Yacht Club. He was TTEF Hon. Secretary from September 1996 to January 2000, and TTEF Vice Chairman from January 2002 to January 2009.

Not only has Tony been involved in the Taw Torridge Estuary for many years in his professional capacity, he is also a keen dinghy sailor and, at present, the Rear Commodore of the North Devon Yacht Club.

Tony succeeds Rose Day, who retired last evening after fourteen years as Chairman. Rose, who has represented Instow Parish Council on the TTEF for the past twenty years, and now also represents CPRE, will remain as a member of the Forum, and will continue to represent the TTEF on the North Devon Coast Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership (of which she is Vice Chairman) and North Devon's Biosphere Reserve Partnership.

### Editor's Comment:

I have found the past fourteen years immensely rewarding, and have thoroughly enjoyed working with you all.

Thank you to everyone for your help and support during my term as Chairman, and I know that you will continue to support Tony in the future.

Please note Tony's contact details at the end of the Newsletter.

**Rose**

## TTEF HON. SECRETARY 2000 - 2009: ANN HUMPHRIS RETIRES

After nine years as TTEF Hon. Secretary, Ann Humphris also retired at last evening's AGM. When Ann succeeded Tony Pratt as Hon. Secretary in January 2000, she was no stranger to the work of the TTEF, as she had previously served for some years as Westleigh Parish Council's representative on the Forum.

We are very grateful to Ann for her contribution to, and interest in, the work of the TTEF, and we wish her a very happy retirement. We will all miss her (and her tape recorder!)

A new TTEF Hon. Secretary is still to be appointed. Contact details will be circulated when the post has been filled.

## NEWSLETTERS AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY:  
South West Water Framework Directive:  
Newsletter – January 2009**

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd)  
[southwestrbd@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:southwestrbd@environment-agency.gov.uk)

## OPEN SPACES SOCIETY:

### Countdown to Rescue Lost Commons: News Release

The Government has re-opened the common-land registers in Devon after nearly 40 years, and local people can now claim as common land which was omitted in the 1960s and 1970s.

The registers close again on 31st. December 2020  
A do-it-yourself guide is available from the Society.

Please contact: KateAshbrook

01491 638396 (home)

07771 655694 (mobile)

01491 573535 (work)

[www.oss.org.uk](http://www.oss.org.uk)

[stbyr@hotmail.com](mailto:stbyr@hotmail.com)

### FOOD NEWS:

#### Your Guide to the Best Eating in the South West: Newsletter – January 2009

#### CROWN ESTATE; Socio-Economic Indicators of Marine-Related Activities in the UK Economy: Report – January 2009

<http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/newscontent/92-socio-economic-marine-activity-indicators.htm>

### DEVON WILDLIFE TRUST:

#### FREE Wildlife and Tourism Workshops:

These workshops are open to all tourist accommodation providers, as well as to those businesses in the marine leisure or sporting sectors, who would like to encourage 'off season' visitors or develop their own ecotourism niche.

Saturday, 24th. January 2009 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at

Braunton Countryside Centre

and on

Saturday, 31st. January 2009 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at

Hartland Parish Hall

Lunch and Refreshments provided

Cat Jones: (01409) 221 823

[cmjones@devonwildlifetrust.org](mailto:cmjones@devonwildlifetrust.org)

and

#### North Devon Wildlife Trust Website Updated:

<http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/index.php?section=places:ymca:news>

and

#### Full-time Volunteers Wanted:

DWT Marine Awareness Officer for Wembury in South Devon is looking for full-time volunteers to complete a placement this summer, based at the Wembury Marine Centre  
[http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/index.php?section=about:recruitment&job\\_id=00002155](http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/index.php?section=about:recruitment&job_id=00002155)

and

#### PORCUPINE 2009 Sea Shore to Sea Floor: PMNHS Annual Meeting 27th.-29th. March 2009:

University of Plymouth, Davy Building, Main Hall

Registration 9.30-10.00 a.m. on 27th. March 2009

For details, please contact:

[maria.campbell@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:maria.campbell@plymouth.ac.uk)

Telephone: (0044) 1752 232969

### WINKLEIGH SOCIETY:

#### North Devon's World Biosphere Reserve Lectures: 2009 Season – The Future of the Countryside

16th. Jan – Winkleigh in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

23rd. Jan – Climate Change (6.30 p.m. start)

6th. Feb – Working Wetlands Project & Culm Grassland

13th. Feb – Future Woodland Management

27th. Feb – Landscape for Everyone

6th. Mar – Migratory Fish  
20th. Mar – Farming in a Changing World  
27th. Mar – The Dartmoor End of the Biosphere Reserve  
All lectures (except 23rd. January) commence at 7.30 p.m. at  
Winkleigh Community Centre, Castle Street, Winkleigh.  
Contact: Professor Peter Howard – (01837) 83362  
[peterjhoward@btinternet.com](mailto:peterjhoward@btinternet.com)

## CONSULTATIONS:

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY:  
Water for Life and Livelihoods –  
Draft River Basin Management Plan  
South West River Basin District**

This consultation runs until June

[http://www.environment-  
agency.gov.uk/research/planning/33106.aspx](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/33106.aspx)

or access the on-line consultation system on:

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd  
southwestrbd@environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd_southwestrbd@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Telephone: 08708 506 506

and

**‘What’s in your Backyard’ Page on the EA Website:**

containing information on what the Water Framework Directive  
means for you and for your local environment

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby)

## TTEF WEBSITE: QUICK LINKS

**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](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](http://www.ttef.org.uk/odds_ends/TAW%20Torridge%20Incident.pdf)

**Taw Torridge Estuary Crab Tiling Code of Conduct:**  
[http://www.ttef.org.uk/Reports\\_information/crab\\_tile\\_code\\_of\\_condu  
ct.htm](http://www.ttef.org.uk/Reports_information/crab_tile_code_of_conduct.htm)

**TTEF Management Study for Braunton Marsh:**  
by Clare Manning  
<http://www.ttef.org.uk/Study/BrauntonReportDigital.pdf>

**Taw-Torridge Estuaries: Geomorphology and  
Management**  
Study by Professor John Pethick  
[http://www.ttef.org.uk/odds\\_ends/TTEFEstuary\\_Modelling.pdf](http://www.ttef.org.uk/odds_ends/TTEFEstuary_Modelling.pdf)

**Taw Bridge Navigation Lights and Air Draft at MHWS:**  
[http://www.ttef.org.uk/Marine/B.TAW\(3\)\\_D603\\_AB%20A1%20shee  
t.pdf](http://www.ttef.org.uk/Marine/B.TAW(3)_D603_AB%20A1%20sheet.pdf)

**Braunton Burrows – Biosphere Reserve Core Area  
Reports:**  
[http://www.ttef.org.uk/Biosphere/biosphere\\_reports.htm](http://www.ttef.org.uk/Biosphere/biosphere_reports.htm)

**All recent TTEF Newsletters:**  
<http://www.ttef.org.uk/Newsletters/newsletters.htm>

## DCC Report: Northam Burrows Disused Landfill Site: Non-Technical Summary

[http://www.ttef.org.uk/Reports\\_inform  
ation/TTEF%20-%20Northam%20Burrows%20-%20Disused%20Landfill%20Site%20-%20DCC%20Report%20-%202006.1.09.pdf](http://www.ttef.org.uk/Reports_information/TTEF%20-%20Northam%20Burrows%20-%20Disused%20Landfill%20Site%20-%20DCC%20Report%20-%202006.1.09.pdf)

**All recent TTEF Minutes:**

<http://www.ttef.org.uk/minutes/minutes.htm>

**Braunton Burrows – 2008 Programme of Guided Walks**  
[http://www.ttef.org.uk/Biosphere/braunton\\_countryside\\_centre.htm](http://www.ttef.org.uk/Biosphere/braunton_countryside_centre.htm)

**Bideford Harbour and Estuary Pilotage Reports**  
[http://www.ttef.org.uk/Marine/marine\\_reports.htm](http://www.ttef.org.uk/Marine/marine_reports.htm)  
and Shipping Report on: <http://www.boat-trips.org/>

**Ifracombe Harbour:**

[www.northdevon.gov.uk/harbour](http://www.northdevon.gov.uk/harbour)

**HM Coastguard Safety Identification Scheme:  
Form CG66**

[http://www.ttef.org.uk/odds\\_ends/SAFETY%20IDENTIFICATION  
%20SCHEME.pdf](http://www.ttef.org.uk/odds_ends/SAFETY%20IDENTIFICATION%20SCHEME.pdf)

**Taw Torridge Estuary Moorings Code of Practice:**  
<http://www.ttef.org.uk/Marine/mooring%20leaflet.pdf>

**Questionnaire:**

**Is the Taw and Torridge Estuary Safe to Navigate? Could  
it be safer? If so, how?**

**Important:** There is still time to complete and submit a  
response to this questionnaire.

Please contact Eric Evans for a copy by e-mail:

[eric.evans@students.plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:eric.evans@students.plymouth.ac.uk)

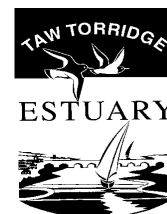
or click on the **Public Notices** page on the TTEF website:

[www.ttef.org.uk](http://www.ttef.org.uk)

## DATES OF TTEF MEETINGS FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

Monday, 20th. April, 2009 - Civic Centre, Barnstaple  
Monday, 20th. July, 2009 - Bideford Town Hall  
Monday, 19th. October, 2009 - Civic Centre, Barnstaple  
Monday, 18th. January, 2010 (AGM) - Bideford Town Hall

(All meetings commence at 7.00 p.m.)



**Tony Pratt  
Chairman**

**Taw Torridge Estuary Forum  
Rose Cottage  
Lake  
Near Barnstaple  
North Devon. EX31 3HU**

**Telephone: (01271) 371340  
e-mail: [tonyp@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tonyp@tiscali.co.uk)  
website: [www.ttef.org.uk](http://www.ttef.org.uk)**