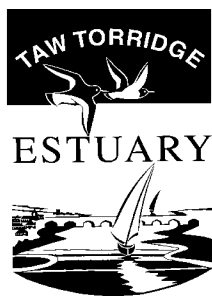


TAW TORRIDGE ESTUARY FORUM

NEWSLETTER UPDATE – 28th. JUNE, 2008



website: www.ttef.org.uk

- **Northam Burrows Landfill Site: DCC Exhibition:**
- **DWT: Lyme Bay – 60 square mile Exclusion Zone:**
- **Devon Area Estuary Officers Group: Meeting:**
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NORTHAM BURROWS DISUSED LANDFILL SITE: DCC PUBLIC EXHIBITION NORTHAM LIBRARY – TUESDAY, 1st. JULY

As previously reported, Devon County Council has appointed environmental consultants Parsons Brinkerhoff Ltd. (PB) to investigate the contents of the disused landfill site on Northam Burrows, and any potential effect it could have on the environment, local residents, wildlife and the surrounding area. Parsons Brinkerhoff will also consider what may happen if coastal erosion were to affect the site.

Adrian Middlewick, Senior Waste Management Officer at Devon County Council, has now written to notify us of a Public Exhibition due to take place on:

Tuesday, 1st. July 2008
at
Northam Library, Fore Street, Northam
from
2.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Experts from Parsons Brinkerhoff and Devon County Council will be on hand to talk about the investigation and to discuss the issues.

An Information Sheet containing answers to some of the most frequently asked questions has been prepared by Devon County Council. Some of the questions and answers are quoted below:

“What is the investigation for?”

Recently there has been considerable discussion about the contents of the site and some concerns have been raised about the impact of coastal erosion on the site. DCC has listened to these concerns and has decided that an investigation into the site will help to identify any potential issues and plan for the future.

What areas of the Burrows are filled with waste?

Waste was used to build the raised part of the access road and fill the area of Greysands Lake, so the fenced area and most of the Burrows to the north of this point, (with the exception of the golf course) is restored landfill. Prior to tipping, the ground was

dug away to create a bigger space, so the waste site is deeper than Greysands Lake.

Why are you investigating the contents of the site?

The landfill on the Burrows was licensed to accept household – or dustbin waste, commercial and industrial waste of a similar nature, and building rubble. Hazardous waste was not permitted at the site. A sampling method will be used that will provide an accurate assessment of the types of wastes in the site and their condition. It will indicate the volume of waste and any other substances, so it will be possible to predict any effects that might follow if the sea were to flood the site. This information will be used to identify and plan the best course of action should such an event become likely.

When will the investigation take place?

The investigation is scheduled to start on 7th. July 2008 and should last approximately 12 working days. Once the monitoring wells have been installed and allowed to settle, a PB Engineer will undertake six rounds of ground gas monitoring and four rounds of groundwater monitoring over a six-week period.

How will the investigation be carried out?

A combination of trial pits and boreholes will be used to collect samples for inspection and analysis. Trial pits will enable a detailed inspection of a large sample of the waste but only to a shallow depth. Boreholes will take a smaller sample of the waste from the full depth of the filled area. Some of the boreholes will be kept in place as monitoring wells to permit ongoing testing for gas or pollution within the site.

Can I watch the investigation take place?

All ground excavation work in the study sites will be supervised by PB engineers; this includes all trial pitting and drilling. For health and safety reasons all working areas will be clearly signed, and surrounded by barriers to prevent access to unauthorised persons. The site works will be clearly visible from behind the barriers and you are welcome to watch from this safe distance and talk to the engineers.

Might the Burrows be damaged by this investigation?

At the start of each pit the turf will be carefully lifted and set aside. Following excavation and examination, the material will be returned to the pit and the turf replaced so the traces of the pit quickly fade. Each pit will be dug, inspected and restored in a single day so no unattended pits will be left overnight.

I'm concerned about coastal erosion. Why is this not being addressed at the exhibition?

The issue of coastal erosion is a very complex one involving many parties: shoreline management requires understanding of complicated processes of erosion together with balancing numerous public, private and commercial land interests. The staff attending the exhibition are not connected with the shoreline management group and do not have the necessary expertise to discuss its policies.

The area was once used as a training ground for the D-Day Landings. Could there be any unexploded ordinance buried under the site?

Our research has found nothing relating to this specific area. However, this issue will not be ignored even if we cannot find any further information on this. We have prepared a contingency plan for the engineers in the event that an explosive item is encountered. This document will form part of the overall health and safety plan.

When will the findings be published?

The report detailing the findings of the investigation is due to be finalised in early October.

Once the report is published we intend to hold a further event to share the results and explain what they mean.”

If you are unable to attend the Public Exhibition on Tuesday, 1st. July 2008, and you wish to make comments, or to ask further questions, please contact:

Adrian Middlewick
Senior Waste Management Officer
Devon County Council
County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter. EX2 4QD
Telephone: 0845 155 1010
e-mail: adrian.middlewick@devon.gov.uk

For further information:

- on the TTEF website, you can find the two recent TTEF Newsletters with information on this matter, dated 21st. April 2008 (report from Adrian Middlewick) and 2nd June 2008 (Statement from Adrian Rushworth, Environment Agency):

<http://www.ttef.org.uk/Newsletters/newsletters.htm>

- the full copy of **Professor John Pethick's Study** on the natural processes in Bideford Bay and the Estuary entitled:

Taw-Torridge Estuaries: Geomorphology and Management can be accessed through the following weblink:

http://www.ttef.org.uk/odds_ends/TTEFEstuary_Modelling.pdf

- a video copy of BBC South West's *Politics Show* on Sunday, 18th. May 2008 featuring Northam Burrows can be viewed 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>

**DEVON WILDLIFE TRUST:
LYME BAY – BAN ON SCALLOP DREDGING**

After 16 years of studying the Lyme Bay reefs to assess their nature conservation value, and to investigate the impact of human activities – in particular, scallop dredging – Devon Wildlife Trust published its report last year, and launched a highly successful postcard campaign and an on-line petition, calling for the protection of the reefs from scallop dredging.

Defra also ran a public consultation last year, with 73% of respondents supporting the Exclusion Zone

As a result, it was finally announced on 19th. June 2008 that Ministers had permanently closed about 10% of Lyme Bay from West Bay to Beer Head to scallop dredgers and bottom trawlers, which drag nets along the seabed, in order to safeguard the area's rich marine life and habitats.

For more information, please see DWT's Website using the link shown below:

<http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/index.php?section=news&id=2429>

**DEVON AREA ESTUARY OFFICER GROUP:
MEETING ON 11th. JUNE 2008**

The Devon Estuary Officers' meeting was hosted by the Tamar Estuary Officer, Kaja Curry, and took place in the Council House in Plymouth.

During the meeting we had a presentation from Tom Hooper of Finding Sanctuary concerning the role of estuary partnerships in regional Marine Protected Area Planning (see below), and we discussed the Draft Marine Bill and the Devon Review of Estuary Partnerships.

At the conclusion of these Estuary Officer meetings, those present always share information on good practice, projects and progress made in their respective areas.

In the afternoon, Kaja led us on a site visit to various locations

around Plymouth Harbour and explained the role of her Estuary Partnership, the Tamar Estuary Consultative Forum.

It was a most enjoyable and instructive day, and Plymouth was at its best in the warm sunshine.

You may remember that the TTEF hosted the Devon Area Estuary Officer Group in June 2007. In the afternoon, following this meeting, Shawn Corin led us on a site visit to look at Northam Burrows, the Pebble Ridge and the disused Landfill Site. Unfortunately, the weather was less than pleasant. We hope that the next time the Estuary Officers visit North Devon the weather will be on its best behaviour!

**FINDING SANCTUARY:
ROLE OF ESTUARY PARTNERSHIPS IN REGIONAL
MARINE PROTECTED AREA PLANNING**

In addition to the FisherMap data that Finding Sanctuary has been researching on fishing grounds around the South West coast, Tom Hooper outlined to estuary officers Finding Sanctuary's role in Marine Protected Area (MPA) planning.

Estuaries are extremely important for the Regional MPAs:

- many of them contain vulnerable habitats and are used intensively by a number of different stakeholders.
- many may already have protective designations, but these may need strengthening
- any surveys carried out by Natural England, Harbour Authorities and Non-Governmental Organisations need to be put onto the GIS database
- management plans incorporating detailed and specific zones and spatial management also need to be included on the GIS database
- activities and knowledge of Estuary stakeholders is being incorporated on the database
- the existence of Estuary forums in Devon provides an excellent resource for the collection of data

In due course, Tom Hooper's colleague, Shaun Lewin, will be contacting us.

This data collected by Finding Sanctuary will be used in making recommendations to the Secretary of State.

**DRAFT MARINE BILL:
TTEF RESPONSE**

Following the TTEF subcommittee meeting held on Wednesday, 18th. June 2008, our response to the Draft Marine Bill was sent to Defra on 22nd. June to meet the 26th. June deadline.

Copies of the response will be made available at the forthcoming TTEF meeting, or are available upon request.

**COASTWISE NORTH DEVON:
NEW GROUP FORMED**

Building on the success of the series of courses entitled *Our Coast* run by Paula Ferris over past years, enthusiasts from the course, wishing to take a more active role in promoting and caring for the marine environment, have now set up a new group entitled *Coastwise North Devon* to champion the natural and cultural history of the coast.

The first Chairperson of the Group is Paula Ferris, and Robert Down is the Deputy Chairperson and Treasurer. The Membership Secretary is Marjorie Heath.

Recruitment for the next course will start in October 2008 and, in addition to continuing to cover the natural and cultural heritage of the coast, the course will also include more coastal

visits and shore monitoring, data collection (incorporating a Beach Profile project), and working with partners such as Devon Wildlife Trust.

If you would like to know more about the Group, it has just issued its first newsletter: *CoastWise News*. Copies of the newsletter and further information are available through Paula.

p.s.ferris@btinternet.com

AREAS OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY: PRESERVING NORTH DEVON'S DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER

The AONB team is enlisting help from the local community to identify and photograph the man-made features, patterns, materials and designs that make North Devon's coastal communities so distinctive and special. There is an incomplete record of buildings and features in the AONB area, so this evidence will be really helpful in identifying the characteristics and features that make the North Devon's coastal AONB unique.

Rather than focusing upon listed buildings and conservation areas, the AONB Unit wishes to find those features that would preserve North Devon's distinctiveness if they were actively conserved in existing buildings or incorporated into new developments.

This project will run throughout the summer so, if you have an interest in the area's buildings and characteristic features, or would like to know more, please contact Dave Edgcombe:

Telephone: (01237) 423655

e-mail: dave.edgcombe@devon.gov.uk

AONB website: www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk

NEWSLETTERS AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

Environment Agency:

River Basin Planning

Water Framework Directive Newsletter – Spring/Summer 2008
and

Significant Water Management Issues:

Consultation Report

and

River Basin Planning

Workshop Reports

e-mail: southwestbrd@environment-agency.gov.uk

Telephone: 08708 506506

website: www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd

Roadford Woodfair:

Saturday 12th. and Sunday 13th. July 2008

www.woodfairsouthwest.co.uk

Annual Coastal Partnerships Forum:

Report of Forum on 10th. and 11th. April, 2008

e-mail: kat.sanders@humberinca.co.uk

website: www.humberems.co.uk

Food News

Your Guide to the best eating in the South West

Newsletter – June 2008

trade@saltmedia.co.uk

Science Daily:

**Coastal Management Cooperation, Enforcement
Key to Avoid Pending Crisis for Millions**

UN Experts Report

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/06/080604141019.htm>

Explore Braunton Project: New Website – Live from 1st. July 2008

www.explorebraunton.org

and will include archive film footage and six downloadable walks.

In the meantime, information on the project is available on:

www.braunton.blogspot.com

Contact details for the Explore Braunton Project are:

Katie James

Explore Braunton Project Officer

Braunton Countryside Centre,

Caen Street Car Park,

Braunton,

Devon. EX33 1AA

Telephone: (01271) 817485/(07815) 162159

e-mail: katie.james@devon.gov.uk

Westleigh, Instow and West Yelland Community on Show:

Instow Beach, Seafont and Parish Hall

Saturday, 5th. July 2008

The Pitt Review:

Lessons learned from the 2007 Floods

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/thepittreview.aspx>

Solent Forum:

New Manager: Karen McHugh

(formerly of the Environment Agency)

e-mail: solentforum@hants.gov.uk

Creative Coasts:

Draft Joint Response to the Select Committee Report into Coastal Towns

info@devontownsforum.org.uk

Devon Towns Forum

PO Box 25

Torrington

Devon. EX38 7WY

Communities and Local Government and

Cross Whitehall Coastal Towns Working Group:

A Register of Events, Conferences, Workshops, Seminars, etc., with particular reference to coastal regeneration, is being compiled. If appropriate, please add the following contact

details to your Distribution Lists:

e-mail: Will.Strong@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Will Strong

Communities and Local Government

Sub-National Economic Development

Local Economic Development and Renewal

Eland House

Bressenden Place

London SW1E 5DU

CONSULTATIONS:

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL:

Appeal by Notts Contractors Limited

Transfer Station, Former Yelland Power Station

Planning Permission: 02/27/44588/2007

Planning Officer: Ms. Jackie Reffell

A temporary conditional permission was given for the development on 14th. February 2008.

The applicant has now lodged an appeal against Conditions 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 19 and 20.

Anyone wishing to make any additional comments should write

by **10th. July 2008** to:

The Planning Inspectorate
Room 3/19A, Temple Quay House
2, The Square, Temple Quay
Bristol. BS1 6PN

quoting the reference: **APP/J1155/A/08/2074759/NWF**

A copy of the Inspectorate's booklet 'Guide to taking part in Planning Appeals' can be obtained from:

www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk

NORTH DEVON COUNCIL:

Change of use of paved area to allow placement of tables, chairs, umbrellas and barriers at The Strand, Barnstaple

Application No: 46759 – Case Officer: Mrs. M Pool

www.northdevon.gov.uk/planning

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:
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

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
Reports:**

http://www.ttef.org.uk/Biosphere/biosphere_reports.htm

Braunton Burrows – 2008 Programme of Guided Walks

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

**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.



**Rose Day
Chairman**

**Taw Torridge Estuary Forum
The Crow's Nest
Marine Parade
INSTOW
Bideford,
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